

TODAY

"I ended up working in a field that didn't exist when I graduated."

WHEN LIFE

Alumni share stories of grit and grace

"I learned that creating and defining meaning and fulfillment for myself is the most important thing."

THROWS

"Everything will come back and be useful to you in your life at some point."

detailing how they responded to unexpected challenges

YOU A

"We need to value our wonderful multidisciplinary education, which makes us creative problem-solvers, and adaptive, and resilient."

"A lot of times we have perceptions of what success looks like and that it has to look the same for everyone."

when their lives didn't unfold as they had planned.

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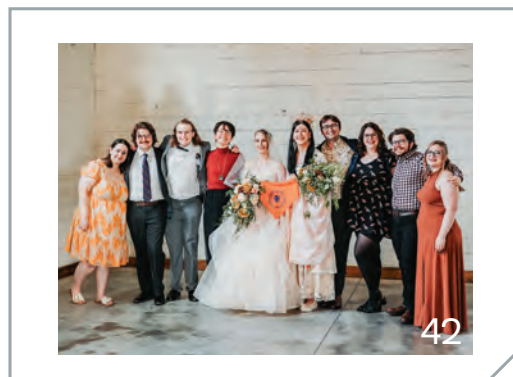
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Welcome Developments

I appreciated very much the winter 2024 issue of *Macalester Today*. The article regarding the Ordway Natural History Study Area was superb: informative and comprehensive with artful illustration. It is a very welcome addition to Mac's curriculum. I am certain there are many more alumni of the '60s era who, like me, did not know of its existence.

Second, credit to Mac for establishing an Idea Lab ("How It Started, How It's Going") that, as Director of Entrepreneurship and Innovation Jody Emmings says in the article, "pairs their entrepreneurial drive with a grounding in the liberal arts." Again, a very welcome development that represents quite a change from '60s when the emphasis was prep for post grad.

Mike Davidson '65

A Swimming Dynasty

Page nine of the 2024 winter edition highlights the success of women's soccer winning the 1998 NCAA Division III National Championship. It further makes note as the only team in the college's history to win a NCAA Division III National Championship. Technically both statements are true. However, NCAA Division III came into being in

1973. Prior to that, Division III athletics were conducted under the aegis of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics. The men's swimming team won the NAIA Division III National Championship in 1964, 1965, and 1966 and placed second in 1967. David Halberg was the coach. Mention of the men's swimming dynasty of the '60s would make the article more inclusive of the successes in Macalester's athletic programs.

J.E. Bachman PhD '69
Trustee Emeritus 1989–2002

Class Notes

As a professor, I am a longtime reader of *Macalester Today*. Hands-down my favorite section is Class Notes. It is always such a delight to see something from a former student. If you're an alum and you haven't ever written anything, please do. Your professors would take such pleasure in it. It doesn't have to be anything dramatic. It can just be an update on where you are and what you're enjoying. We would be grateful!

James R. Dawes
DeWitt Wallace Professor of English

MACCONNECT

Have you moved or changed emails? Stay up-to-date on events and connect with classmates by visiting macalester.edu/macconnect or by scanning the code to update your contact information in MacConnect.



CONNECT WITH US



Visit Mac's social media hub at macalester.edu/macsocial and join in by using the **#heymac** hashtag when you post on Twitter or Instagram.

CORRESPONDENCE POLICY

We invite letters of 300 words or fewer. Messages may be edited for clarity, style, and space and will be published based on their relevance to issues discussed in *Macalester Today*. Share your thoughts:

- Email: mactoday@macalester.edu
- Tweet: @macalester using the hashtag #macalestertoday
- Mail: *Macalester Today*, Macalester College, 1600 Grand Ave., St. Paul, MN 55105

Preparing for Lives of Purpose

Each spring, when the crocus and daffodils pop up in Minnesota, our graduating seniors start to imagine their lives after Macalester. But the planning for what comes next is a process we begin in each student's first year at Mac, and it involves deep exploration of questions about purpose and vocation.

The desire to make the world better is important. But students also need tools to pursue their interests effectively. Mac's liberal arts curriculum positions our students well to consider a wide range of options after graduation, including jobs in the corporate, nonprofit, and public sectors; graduate school; and entrepreneurship. The evidence is clear: six months after graduation, 95 percent of Mac grads are employed or in graduate school.

Career exploration is woven into every student's experience. For the Class of 2024, that looked a little different. Because of pandemic safety protocols, our graduating seniors missed some of the traditional early interactions we typically offer, such as in-person visits by Career Exploration staff to first-year courses, informational interviews with alumni, and Orientation tours with career resource guidance. These students had to catch up on career planning, with thoughtful and intentional support from staff and faculty to address their needs and help them acquire the preparation they missed.

Yet, even in the face of those challenges, we saw how the Class of 2024 sought out and made the most of opportunities to develop skills that will serve them for the rest of their lives: working together in teams, thinking critically, communicating effectively across differences, setting ideas in motion, and advocating for their values. They learned with and from classmates representing a wide range of backgrounds, perspectives, and lived experiences. And they broadened their horizons through career exploration opportunities—like the following examples, designed to prompt reflection about what happens after they leave Mac:

- **Our annual Mac2Med program**, where students interested in health professions gather for roundtable discussions with alumni representing various healthcare specialties and paths.
- **An on-campus networking and job fair called Mac Launch.** At this year's event—reworked with a more casual, “come as you are” invitation for students—we saw more engagement, richer conversations, and lines at employer tables.
- **Monthly employment fairs arranged by theme and location**—for example, STEM-focused employers met with students in the Olin-Rice Science Center, and employers in the arts gathered in a packed Janet Wallace Fine Arts Center.
- **Internships that capitalize on our Twin Cities location.** Last year, our Macalester Summer Internship Grant program pro-



Through MacExplore, students, staff, and faculty traveled to Washington, DC, over spring break to meet with alumni working in nonprofit and advocacy organizations.

vided advising, group support, and funding for internships that otherwise would be unpaid, for thirty-eight students.

- **Scheduled and drop-in sessions**—in Kagin Commons and the Olin-Rice Hub—with Career Exploration staff who bring expertise tailored to students' academic focus.
- **Connections with alumni in specific fields.** This year, student groups met with New York City alumni in finance and banking; Twin Cities alumni in urban planning and public health; and Washington, DC, alumni working in nonprofit and advocacy organizations.

We're amplifying these kinds of opportunities through our *Imagine*, Macalester strategic plan: expanding Career Exploration touchpoints, ensuring access to high-impact practices (like internships, collaborative research, and study away), and evaluating our processes to make sure every student connects with a Career Exploration staff member before graduation. This fall, we're launching a program to include faculty and staff in career conversations with students.

Finally, these efforts extend way beyond our campus community. Our alumni all over the world play a pivotal role in welcoming our graduates into the global Mac network and helping them find their next steps. They hire fellow alumni, engage on our MacConnect platform, host students for job shadowing, and facilitate connections in their own networks. Our alumni can seek out support and advice from Career Exploration staff long after graduation, and connect and reflect on their journeys together through Alumni Engagement programs like our Curveball series (read more on page 22). That support applies to every career stage, and illustrates Mac community members' deep care for one another.

As we imagine what Macalester's next 150 years will hold, that's exactly the spirit and connection we want to help drive for our newest alumni—and for *all* alumni. No one charts a path entirely on their own. Whenever you graduated, the Mac network is yours for the rest of your life.

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



GET INVOLVED Sign up for MacConnect, our one-stop shop for connections among alumni, students, and the Macalester community: macalester.edu/macconnect. Send internship or job postings to careereexploration@macalester.edu. Share your hiring contacts with Associate Vice President of Student Affairs Jennifer Guyer-Wood: jguyerwo@macalester.edu.

1600 GRAND





FOUNDING DAY @ 150

In honor of the college's sesquicentennial, this year's Founding Day featured expanded festivities. Students celebrated on March 1 with a traditional Pushball contest (won by the Class of 2024), Mac Family Feud, live-band karaoke, and a sesquicentennial dinner with entertainment provided by Macalester student organizations, including Mac Swing, which teaches members to dance West Coast swing through weekly lessons and practice dances. Pictured from left are: Issaka Van't Hul '24 (Armed Forces Europe), Ruben Schneiderman '24 (Southampton, N.Y.), Sophia Esquenet '25 (Bethesda, Md.), Mikayla Giehler '24 (Naperville, Ill.), Seamus McCarthy '24 (Moraga, Calif.), and Christine Li '26 (Beijing).

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Pictured from left: Sidnie Layesa '25, Yoandri Hernandez '24, Adrian Aguilar '25, and Janine Preko '25 (with team leader Maggie Bianchi).

INNOVATION SCHOLARS

Students tackle real-time challenges with teamwork and innovation.

The Innovation Scholars program offers a unique opportunity for multidisciplinary teams of undergraduate liberal art students from Macalester and twelve other institutions in Minnesota to explore the intersection of science, healthcare and medicine, economics, business, and entrepreneurship.

Led by MBA students, teams of undergraduates analyze real innovations and challenges in real time, researching and recommending next steps for inventions and new products in development at Mayo Clinic and at early-stage medical companies in Medical Alley.

This year, Macalester's multidisciplinary team included Adrian Aguilar '25 (Oakland, Calif.), an economics and chemistry major;

Yoandri Hernandez '24 (Liberty Township, Ohio), an economics major; Sidnie Layesa '25 (Victoria, Philippines), an economics and biology major; and Janine Preko '25 (Lakewood, N.J.), a neuroscience major.

The six-month program began in October with an in-person orientation session in the Twin Cities. Led by graduate student team leader Maggie Bianchi from St. Catherine University, the team completed extensive research, developed recommendations, prepared their final report, and delivered their final presentation for Minneapolis Heart Institute Foundation (MHIF) leaders in March.

Among other professional skills, students developed collaborative teamwork and leadership skills while wrestling with the ambiguity of a real-time, real-world project for MHIF.

"My greatest takeaway from the program is that it takes a diverse village to tackle big problems," says Layesa. "Working with a multidisciplinary team not only leads to better solutions, but it also makes the work exciting and rewarding. I could not have asked for a better team. Somehow, our skills complemented each other and it was a humbling experience to learn from my teammates."

The team received guidance and support along the way from Macalester staff and faculty members Liz Jansen, Pete Ferderer, Felix Friedt, Elena Tonc '13, Liz Karlen, and Sasmita Tripathy.



STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE



On March 5, Alumni Board Chair Abby Dos Santos '01 and Vice Provost and Associate Dean of the Faculty Dr. Paul Overvoorde shared an update on the implementation of the college's strategic plan, including physical changes to campus, upcoming first-year courses, and other plans and priorities.

If you missed the presentation, you can watch a recording by clicking on News and Updates at macalester.edu/strategic-plan.

The strategic plan homepage also includes a link to a new, in-depth report of our strategic plan implementation progress to date.

Ever wonder about all those books lining professors' offices? We're with you.

Kerry Alexander '12 is the lead singer of the band Bad Bad Hats, which she formed alongside two other Macalester graduates during her time at 1600 Grand Avenue. This spring, she is back teaching "Three Chords and the Truth: Introduction to Songwriting" as a visiting instructor in the English Department. Bad Bad Hats has received critical acclaim from *The New Yorker*, *Rolling Stone*, and NPR and released their fourth studio album, *Bad Bad Hats*, in April.

What have you been reading lately?

I accidentally read two books in a row about elderly women assassins: *Killers of a Certain Age* by Deanna Raybourn and *The Old Woman with the Knife* by Gu Byeong-mo. One I bought while I was in Amsterdam, and the other I got as a Christmas gift, because people know I do enjoy older adults and I love a mystery.

What book stands out from your time at Macalester?

As a creative writing major, my honors project was a book of poetry about tragic women in history, so I was reading a lot of mythologies and biographies. I also think about reading *The Bell Jar* by Sylvia Plath and walking around campus, working on my poetry.

Has there been a book that influenced your songwriting?

Six-Word Memoirs, which was a blog where people submitted six-word stories, made a compilation book that I loved when I was at Macalester, and continue to love. Great songwriting is often about "less is more" and figuring out how to express and encapsulate a whole life, a whole human existence into six words. The six-word memoir concept is perfect for that and when it works, it's really quite beautiful and impactful.

Do you have a favorite music book?

There's a book called *Yeah Yeah Yeah: The Story of Modern Pop* by Bob Stanley that's a history of pop music. It's about the development of what we now think of as popular music, starting from blues and folk music to Elvis to the Beatles to Motown and everything that followed. For me, so much of songwriting is an appreciation for the craft.

What's something people might not expect you to read?

I do love reading the comments on recipe blogs. There is amazing drama, amazing stories—the human condition is all right there.

—Catherine Kane '26



Whose shelf should we visit next?
Email mactoday@macalester.edu

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GRAND

AN INSIDE LOOK AT COP28, THE WORLD'S LARGEST CLIMATE-CHANGE CONFERENCE

BY CAMELLIA NAI SCHWARTZMAN '25

The Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is the largest climate-change conference in the world. The twenty-eighth conference, COP28, took place in Dubai in November. Physics major Camellia Nai Schwartzman '25 (Galesburg, Ill.), along with eight other Macalester students, attended COP28. Here she shares details and photos from her firsthand experience.

I was part of the first-week delegation led by environmental studies professor Roopali Phadke. A second group of students, led by environmental studies professor Louisa Bradtmiller, attended the second week. Our place at COP28 was as conference observers, representing the public to monitor the accountability of the negotiations.

The first week had a lot of speeches made by heads of state and the second week was mostly negotiations. Each of us had a topic to focus on throughout our time at the COP. My topic was on sustainable cities and development, but I also have a personal interest in energy and just transitions (the transparent and equitable transition to clean energy while ensuring those most impacted have a say in the decision-making process) so I attended many events to look at both.

In terms of location and people, COP28 was the largest COP ever. It was held in Expo City, site of the Dubai Expo 2020. This also was the first year that lobbyists had to declare who they represented. Some 2,450 lobbyists attended, which was much larger than the top ten most vulnerable countries' delegations combined.

The conference had two sides, the Blue Zone and the Green Zone. The Blue Zone, where negotiations took place, had limited access. The Green Zone was open to the public and had a lot of booths with start-ups, and museum-like attractions. This year, the number of Blue Zone attendees nearly doubled compared to the previous record set last year at COP27 in Egypt.

Our badges gave us access to the Blue Zone. I was lucky enough to get a ticket to see a talk on energy and just transition given by heads of state including presidents and special envoys representing countries across the world.

There, I saw the makings of history and breaking news. It is hard to describe what it felt like to hear the speeches in person and see the headlines of the *New York Times* containing pieces of that very same speech. I saw the COP president give the speech on the global pledge to double energy efficiency and triple renewable energy capacity by 2050 with 218 signatories.



A view from inside COP28, with the massive dome in the middle of Expo City.



Al Gore giving his plenary speech about climate trends and the new Climate TRACE website.



Exploring a bit of downtown Dubai.



Author and physics major Camellia Schwartzman '25.



A meet-up with four alumni who talked about their experiences living in or growing up in Dubai.



A falafel meal with some of Minnesota's big delegation, including people from Macalester, Climate Gen, and the University of Minnesota.



Vice President Kamala Harris giving a talk on energy and the Inflation Reduction Act.



Camellia with Professor Roopali Phadke at one of the heads of state sessions on energy and just transition.

Language use was critically important at COP. Knowing the difference between phase-out or phase-down of fossil fuels, whether it means to truly get rid of fossil fuels or get rid of a few slowly, truly made all of the difference in understanding the full meaning behind the words.

One of the best speeches that I heard was by former vice president Al Gore and Gavin McCormick, co-founder of Climate TRACE (ClimateTrace.org). The website takes images of landfills, power plants, and other means of CO₂ production and combines it with satellite imaging, estimating how much CO₂ is produced more accurately than ever before, and in places all around the world. Gore and McCormick talked about the latest climate-change trends and data while also showing the newest updates to the website.

When I wasn't in these high-level events, I listened to presentations by countries and NGOs that had side events on sustainable cities and energy. I heard city leaders discuss what they are doing to improve their cities, from increasing access to natural parks to

promoting public transportation and better building weatherization.

The COP experience showed me how difficult it is to get all countries to agree on the same policy. The implementation of these policies is even more difficult. I can understand why there are so many people losing confidence with the process. At COP, it was impossible not to run into people who had lost hope for reaching 1.5 Celsius or, on the other hand, were trying to promote false solutions like carbon capture and storage (CCS) or increasing nuclear power capacity. I consider these false solutions because they have so many other associated problems. I believe we should be putting our resources behind other opportunities that could really help us reach the targets outlined in the Paris Agreement.

Even though the outcomes of this and other COP conferences have not changed policies at the scale that we need, it was incredible to see the number of people representing almost every country and Indigenous nation in the world working towards policies to avoid the worst effects of climate change.

PROFESSOR BILL MOSELEY ELECTED TO LEAD AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF GEOGRAPHERS



In its 120-year history, the American Association of Geographers (AAG) has never been led by an expert from a (non-Research 1) liberal arts college. The long wait is over, however, with DeWitt Wallace Professor of Geography Bill Moseley's recent election to lead the organization.

"It's important to have people at the highest levels in the association coming out of different institutional contexts," says Moseley. "Historically, all the past presidents have come out of R1 institutions, but there are geographers at liberal arts colleges, community colleges, tribal colleges, HBCUs, and other places, as well, and it helps to have a seat at the table."

The AAG is the largest national geographical association in the world with more than 10,000 members. Moseley will serve the first year of his three-year term as vice president, the second year as president, and the third as past president.

"This is a huge professional honor and an even bigger deal for the college," says fellow Macalester geography professor Dan Trudeau.

Moseley echoes his colleague's sentiment.

"It speaks volumes about the strength of our department, and how it's viewed more broadly within American geography," he says. "We have an exceedingly strong reputation, and a great collection of geographers here. Such a talented and collegial department is not just a mark of distinction for Macalester, but it serves as a foundation which allows many of us to go on and serve in national-level leadership roles."

Among his priorities as a new officer will be to encourage more public scholarship. As a past recipient of the AAG's media award, Moseley is well positioned to lead this effort at a crucial time.

"Public conversations about the issues of the day are enriched by geographical perspectives. I think we're entering a potentially challenging period in US history where democracy is under attack and authoritarian tendencies are on the rise," says Moseley. "We need people in the academy, including geographers, to stick their necks out."

Moseley also wants to encourage more geographers to serve on important international committees like the UN Committee on World Food Security, on which he served for four years.

Lastly, he plans to lead the organization to think more about the pipeline of future geographers.

"We are a relatively small discipline in the United States, and historically, people who go through K-12 education don't have a lot of exposure to geography. So we need to support our K-12 teachers, and also think about the 'farm team' at the undergraduate level," he says.

If not for historical biases within the AAG, Moseley likely would not have been the first geographer from Macalester to lead the organization. In the 1960s, Professor Hildegard Binder Johnson, who founded Macalester's Geography Department in 1947, came close. But according to Moseley, she was pushed out because she was not from a large research institution and because she was a woman.

When Professor Emeritus David Lanegran, who had the opportunity to work with Professor Johnson, spoke with Moseley about his recent election, Lanegran said: "Somewhere, Hildegard is smiling."



ATHLETICS

DASHING HONORS

Diarra Chatham '27 (St. Paul) competed in the 60m dash on March 8 at the NCAA Division III Indoor Track & Field Championships, held in Virginia Beach, Va.

Chatham finished twentieth, running a time of 7.83. She earned All-Region honors this season, with a time of 7.68 at the M City Indoor Classic in December. This mark broke the school record and ranked third in the North Region. Chatham was also MIAC Champion in the 60m at the MIAC Championships in February, where she ran a time of 7.73.

The team's outdoor season began in April.

PASTORAL ENCOUNTERS





What Chaplain Kelly J. Stone has learned about Macalester's heart and soul when she commemorates our community's lives.

BY JULIE HESSLER '85

One alumnus's family asked Chaplain Kelly J. Stone to include the music of Metallica as part of the celebration of his life. The heavy-metal notes jangled around the interior of Weyerhaeuser Memorial Chapel's distinctive glass hexagon.

For Ruth Forbes Turner '45, who deeply loved the natural world, Stone traveled to Wisconsin to lead the funeral service and read *Finally*, a poem by Wendell Berry that begins:

Finally will it not be enough,
after much living, after
much love, after much dying
of those you have loved,
to sit on the porch near sundown
with your eyes simply open,
watching the wind shape the clouds
into the shape of clouds?

Another alumnus loved literature. For her memorial service, her family brought a box of her books to the chapel, and guests were invited to take a book to keep in her memory.

Stone estimates that in her ten years at Macalester, she has presided over thirty celebrations of life, memorial services, and funerals for alumni and other members of the Macalester community. Along the way, she's gained insights into what this place means. "This place has a soul that people take with them and preserve," she says. "A former colleague of mine, Rabbi Barry Cytron, once said, 'Some people go through Mac; for others, Mac goes through them.' For some people, this place lingers as a place of importance, and depth, and meaning in their life." As our community continues to reflect upon our 150 years, Stone shares what goes into honoring our lives, and what she has learned about us in doing so.

"So many people think of me working with students alone," says Stone, whose official title is associate dean for Institutional Equity and college chaplain. "I am chaplain to the entirety of the college community in different ways."

Her alumni-related contacts often start with a phone call: Can we use the chapel for a funeral? Can someone play "Amazing Grace" on the bagpipes at our celebration of life?

If loved ones are looking for help in creating a ceremony, Stone takes time to sit down with them and do some deep listening.

"As much as death is not a season where people think about creativity, for me it's an opportunity to co-create with people and to create a ritual that has room for tears and laughter, for stories and song, for all the things that humans need to mark, and celebrate, and grieve," she says. "It feels outside and totally in line with my job at the same time."

As part of her training to be a chaplain, Stone undertook clinical pastoral education, a summer-long internship in which students practice having what are called pastoral encounters. Stone worked in a hospital and says the experience provided a deep look at herself and how she relates to others, and affirmed her love for stories and for the complexities that make up each life.

As she prepared for Ruth Forbes Turner's funeral, she learned that Turner, like many other alumni, was a voracious learner. "Macalester was part of their unceasing desire to learn and be truly a citizen of this world, and digest what the world has to offer them," she says. "That's come up again and again, especially for some of our oldest alums in their funeral moments, that they continued to devour poetry, and literature, and newspapers until their final days."

Honoring the lives of beloved staff and faculty provides another dimension. Their influence is often part of just how Macalingers in our lives. Thad Wilderson, who worked at Macalester from 1969 to 2000, was a counselor, associate dean, coordinator of community relations, and "a steadfast presence for students that were part of the EEO program," Stone says. She describes his 2022 homegoing celebration in the chapel as also a homecoming for many in the audience.

One of the things Stone likes best about Macalester is that, as she puts it, "none of your life needs to be hidden." The warm and welcoming words she uses to open an end-of-life ceremony can be adapted for various faith traditions, as well as for those who don't believe at all. "We honor a lot of intersectionality," she says. "There is also this trust and confidence that this place can handle the complexity of identities that people hold."

Recently, Stone spoke with a student who was struggling with the meaning of the college's Presbyterian roots. "The reality is that Macalester was founded to educate and broaden people's worlds," she says, "not to narrow and define people's worlds." She describes the college's original seal which depicts two women, one holding open a book with sacred text, and the other with a telescope, gazing towards the heavens.

"There was already, at the very core of this place, the truth that both could exist together," she says. "And that is very in line with the Presbyterian values, that those things never had to be at odds with each other. That this progressive revelation of the world and our understanding of it was always part of the fabric of Macalester."

In conducting ceremonies for yesterday's students, she sees today's. "Our Macalester students have always been up to good trouble, decade after decade after decade," she says. "I think that's beautiful, and that's something they share across generations." **M**

Julie Hessler is the managing editor of *Macalester Today*.

NEUROSCIENCE

with a Twist

How neuroscientist Zainab Mansaray-Storms '09 turned a failed kitchen experiment into a lucrative passion project.

BY BRITTANY KING

On Valentine's Day in 2011, Zainab Mansaray-Storms '09 set out to bake a cake for her fiancé. The doctoral student in neuroscience was looking to relieve some stress and surprise her partner. Unfortunately, what started as a sweet gesture for a loved one, ended in disaster. She had overfilled the baking pan. "The cake exploded and there was red food coloring everywhere," she recalls.

Mansaray-Storms didn't let the mess she made deter her. Instead, she took a baking class, then a cake-decorating class, and once she'd learned the basics, she decided to give baking another try. Not everything she baked was a success, but as a student in a challenging neuroscience program at Upstate Medical University in Syracuse, N.Y., she was looking for a hobby that engaged a different part of her brain.

She began documenting her baking attempts on her blog, *A Classic Twist* (aclassictwist.com) showing what recipes worked well and which fell flat (or exploded). The site is filled with recipes that are familiar and easy to follow, often including step-by-step pictures. "I was sharing my life and newfound love for baking, and it became a community of people who loved baking or who were also learning to bake," she says. "It made me feel like I wasn't alone." Twelve years later, she has plenty of company: *A Classic Twist* draws 200,000 monthly visitors, and Mansaray-Storms has turned it into a business. She monetizes the blog through ads on her site and partnerships with food and kitchen brands like King Arthur, KitchenAid and Bob's Red Mill.

A native of Sierra Leone in western Africa, she didn't grow up baking. She got curious about it at Macalester when she noticed that her peers would regularly receive care packages from home, something she didn't receive often as an international student. She remembers her classmates opening their packages together and sharing what was inside. "Those boxes always had baked goods from home—chocolate-chip cookies and other comfort food—and I started to realize baked goods are integral to American culture and society."

Mansaray-Storms arrived at Macalester with her heart set on becoming a doctor, but classes with biology professors Lin Aanonsen and Paul Overvoorde shifted her interest to scientific research.

"They had a passion for what they were teaching and gave me a good idea of what type of path I could take with science beyond going to medical school," she says. "They encouraged me to go to grad school versus med school because of the opportunities I'd have as an immigrant studying in America. I could go the academic route or do scientific research for drugs. I picked this path because it was closer to the patient."

After earning her PhD, she began her pharmaceutical career,

making medicines and submitting them to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Now, she's on the other side of the industry as a regulatory scientist for the FDA. For the past two years, she has reviewed biologics license applications submitted to the FDA for different drugs. She thinks of that shift as a way to live the values she cultivated at Macalester.

"I wanted to do something that would make an impact on people," she says. "I know people don't always think of big pharmaceutical as having a positive impact, but working in this way allows me to be closer to patients, bringing lifesaving medicine to those who need it."


There's not much crossover between her day job and her work as a content creator—and she likes it that way. The jobs allow her to tap into different skills and fulfill her in different ways.

"If you're not getting that creative outlet or passion from your job, you must find it outside of that job; it'll make you a more well-rounded person," she says. "It makes you a better employee because you have these other things that drive you and keep you going."

Most seasoned bakers will tell you baking is a science, but Mansaray-Storms pushes back on that. For her, the "science" of baking isn't about precise measurements, it's about experimenting with new flavors, incorporating traditional African flavors she grew up with like coconut, mango, hibiscus, and passionfruit into quintessential American dishes. Like her coconut banana cream pie recipe that takes a beloved classic and adds unexpected coconut sweetness to the crust and filling. It's that kind of adventurousness that has become integral to her brand.

"I always start by making the recipe as written, then I begin to experiment adding or changing one or two ingredients and building from there," she says of her recipe creation process. She takes inspiration from cookbooks and magazines as well as "OG" baking influencers and recipe bloggers like Joy the Baker and Smitten Kitchen. "I like experimenting, so I guess that's the scientific connection. It doesn't always work, but I like trying."

When Mansaray-Storms first started *A Classic Twist*, she did it all: photography, food styling, writing blog posts and social media captions. Now the neuroscientist and mother of two has a team of people behind her 140,000 (and counting) followers on social media.

"I keep going because I want to teach my kids. I want to ensure they experience these milestones that are hallmarks in American culture," she says. "It's crazy to think this all unexpectedly started at Macalester. I'll always be grateful for that." 

Brittany King is a Chicago-based writer and independent journalist.



College in the Age of AI

Generative artificial intelligence has come on strong. What does that mean for teaching and learning?

BY ERIN PETERSON
Illustrations by Marcos Chin







Spanish and Portuguese instructor Claudia Giannini remembers the moment when a new artificial intelligence tool upended her teaching.

It instantly translated short texts, giving students in language classes a potential shortcut. “Although still imperfect, it was such a huge jump from previous machine translation systems. It was impressive,” she recalls. “But it was also a problem in the classroom.” She knew she’d have to change some of the teaching techniques she’d relied on for years, and fast.

Giannini’s experience may sound like many professors’ reaction to the November 2022 launch of ChatGPT, an artificial intelligence chatbot that communicates by text in uncannily human ways. Instead, it was 2016, the year that Google released its neural machine translation service with the support of deep learning, the model on which today’s generative AI technology is based.

While it was true that Google Translate couldn’t artfully translate a poem or literary work (or even a newspaper article), it could quickly translate some of the written assignments students typically tackle as they learn the basic building blocks of a foreign language. And for some of these students, it could seem like an easy way out of assignments.

Giannini quickly adjusted her approach. She started weighting class participation more heavily in student grades. She swapped out many written assessments with oral ones. She had students write the first draft of their essays in class. And she strategized with her colleagues, who were facing similar challenges.

In some ways, Giannini has had a head start on understanding the transformative impact of AI in the classroom. She sees both the technology’s challenges and its potential. And as a new crop of generative AI tools—from ChatGPT to GitHub Copilot—affect education in nearly every discipline, it’s a topic that almost no one in the classroom can avoid today.

At Macalester, professors and students are not digging in their heels against the changes these tools will bring, but are instead stepping mindfully into this new world.

The future starts now

Generative AI—artificial intelligence that creates new material based on patterns it identifies in data—was barely on the radar for most faculty and students as late as October 2022. But it wasn’t long before higher education as a whole was on high alert. “I read the *Chronicle of Higher Education* and *Inside Higher Ed* every morning,” says professor of international relations and political theory Andrew Latham. “And the level of anxiety around AI, on a scale of one to ten, is an eleven.”

Although robust data is still relatively rare and change is happening quickly, early surveys suggest that AI is already influencing higher education. Two surveys conducted in August 2023, for example, found that anywhere between 20 and 38 percent of American college students were using AI tools at least monthly. Meanwhile, a survey of hundreds of Harvard University faculty members in the spring of 2023 found that just 21 percent believed AI would have a positive impact on education; 47 percent believed the impact would be negative.

At Macalester, attitudes continue to evolve. Professor of environmental studies Chris Wells, for example, admits he was dismissive of ChatGPT when he first tested it. “I had it write a bad poem—it was like a parlor trick,” he recalls. When he gave ChatGPT one of his own assignments, it returned nothing more than “slick sounding BS” that wouldn’t pass muster in his classes.

But he kept tabs on the technology, and he began to see examples of more meaningful uses of the tool.

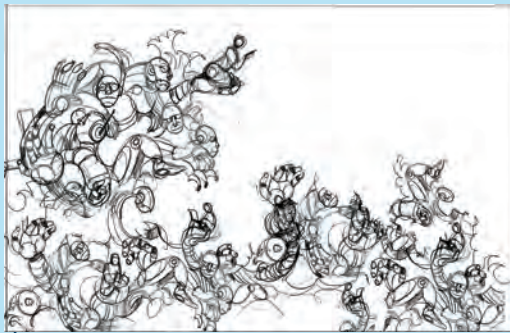
He finally was convinced to take ChatGPT more seriously when he heard a podcaster frame resistance to the new technology as a liability, not a moral high ground. “They said that in academia, they call the use of generative AI cheating, but in business, they call it creativity and innovation,” he says. “I just don’t see a future in which AI doesn’t become a standard part of

AI attempts to replicate a human artist.

We hired illustrator Marcos Chin of Brooklyn, N.Y. to illustrate artwork for this story. Then we fed AI image generators a prompt to see what they came up with, and compared the two approaches on this page.

Chin wrote about the experience: “I saw this as an opportunity to dig into what my strengths are as a human being—an artist. I knew that I wouldn’t be able to compete with AI in regard to speed and the amount of sketches I could make in a short period of time. But what I did have was just that—time. I had time to feel, to remember, to think, to ruminate. I spent some days thinking about concepts while pacing around my apartment, walking my dog, and having conversations with my partner. Moreover, I also knew that I had lived experiences, and opinions about this topic which informed my approach.”

Sketches by Marcos Chin



Responding to the headline, “AI has come on strong,” the image of a wave constructed of robots came to mind. I liked the suggestion that the wave can be an impending symbol, but in this sketch it’s supporting the students as well.



I embodied AI as a bucking horse. I responded to the phrase in the story about “harnessing power.” I thought harness could be synonymous with taming, which I think in a way is what’s happening at the moment. We’re scared and excited about generative AI.



I’m showing the duality that exists with AI: that it assists the student, or that the student can take advantage of AI to do the work for them.

On the left, robot arms extend beneath the student’s armpits and hold the desktop, on which the student writes a paper.

On the right is a similar scene; however, the robot arms/hands do the work, while the student plays a hand-held game.

Images generated by Adobe Firefly



Prompt: Create a horizontal image representing the story headline: “Generative artificial intelligence has come on strong. What does that mean for teaching and learning?”



Prompt: Illustrate the concept of “harnessing the power of artificial intelligence,” representing how we’re both scared of and excited by generative AI.



Prompt: Show the duality that exists with artificial intelligence. AI can assist the student, or the student can take advantage of it by allowing AI to do the work for them.



This is a riff off of Salvador Dalí's Eccentric Genus, inspired by one of the AI platforms "DALL-E." The students are trying to harness the power of the hovering robot, or perhaps tame it. Either way, I'm showing the push and pull of this topic.
—Marcos Chin

how people think, write, and communicate. We have to figure out what it means to live in this new world."

This past spring, in his upper-level research and writing course, "US Urban Environmental History," he and his students have had in-depth conversations about the ethics and opportunities of using these generative AI tools.

In one class, for example, he asked students to share what made them most uneasy about using ChatGPT and similar technology. They identified a range of issues: its significant energy use, large language model training practices that benefit from copyrighted work in unethical ways, and its facilitation of plagiarism, for starters.

But they also discussed reasons to be excited about these opportunities, as well as the ethics of avoiding a technology so powerful that it could fundamentally disrupt society. "There's a lot of hype to generative AI, but there's also a 'there' there," Wells says. "And we're all just trying to figure that out."

Finding the right balance

After ChatGPT's public rollout in late 2022, Macalester faculty were immediately interested in grappling with the challenges of generative AI. By January 2023, the Serie

Glossary

Artificial intelligence (AI). Technology that simulates human intelligence, often by mimicking communication and decision-making.

Generative artificial intelligence (GenAI). Technology that searches for patterns in large amounts of data to generate new material, such as text, code, and images.

Hallucination. Incorrect or nonsensical information generated by an AI system because of limitations in its training data or algorithms.

Large language model (LLM). A type of generative artificial intelligence that is focused on text-based data and algorithms.

Prompt. A specific instruction or question humans give an artificial intelligence system to guide an AI tool to generate a response, create content, or perform a task.

Center for Scholarship and Teaching had organized a panel and faculty discussion about AI and teaching. Britt Abel, director of writing and a co-organizer of the event, describes the turnout for the event as "massive."

The interest encouraged Abel and associate library director Mozhdeh Khodarahmi to form a working group and faculty and staff learning committee on AI. That led to a report on AI literacy and critical thinking. The report includes robust guidance for faculty and students, and has been praised by the Macalester community—as well as national and even international audiences.

The working group has hosted ongoing presentations with energetic discussions about the ways that instructors and students can harness the power of these tools effectively to improve their teaching and learning.

For students, AI tools can make beginning an assignment less intimidating. Ada Bruno '24 (Cranston, R.I.), who teamed up with two students to write a paper about the use of AI at Macalester for a news reporting and writing course, says she has used AI to help her do early thinking on some projects. "If I need an idea for a project, it can be helpful for brainstorming," she says.

Still, she admits that its limitations are abundantly clear, even with relatively simple, clearly delineated tasks. "It'll come up with ten ideas, but it doesn't have the same kind of energy or collaborative spirit as a face-to-face interaction," she says.

Faculty, too, have found ways to use the tools to support their teaching. For example, Giannini has been using ChatGPT in her advanced classes. First, she asks students to analyze an issue or a text related to a class topic the way she did before the advent of generative AI.

Then, she has them ask ChatGPT the same questions she posed to the class and critique its output. “They can see how much better they do in their own analyses—and they can also see how much ChatGPT ‘hallucinates,’” she says, referring to the false information that can be created by these large language models.

Abel, who also is a professor of German, says the tools can be very valuable to faculty who are early in their teaching careers. For example, a professor could ask an AI tool to provide them a detailed list of potential classroom activities, such as a movie analysis or a cooking class, to support student learning at a specific language level. They could also ask ChatGPT to create a rubric to help assess student learning for this activity. “It’s pretty powerful at putting together a rubric if you’re using nationally accepted standards and coming up with specific activities related to those standards,” she says.

Wells says he finds ChatGPT most useful when he imagines it as another person. “If you use the analogy of an intern, you can think of ChatGPT as someone who works very hard and very quickly, and who is so eager to please that they will make stuff up in order to try to satisfy you,” he says.

With that mindset, he says, faculty and students can reorient their approach to the technology. For Wells, that means that he spends a significant amount of time defining the task or question in clear and often excruciatingly granular detail. He’s even developed a seven-point template that he uses for prompts that includes identifying the audience, specifying style and tone, and using examples for clarity.

This is work that requires its own unique type of thinking and analysis, and students benefit from learning these skills, says Wells. “There are so many details we don’t think to stipulate, but the AI still has to decide for you,” he explains. “It’s when those default decisions don’t line up with what you want that you often get a bad output.”

Of course, there’s a fine line between getting help from an AI tool and plagiarism. It’s why the Macalester working group developed an updated academic integrity statement that bars the unauthorized use of generative AI tools in coursework.

Still, while AI-facilitated plagiarism has been one of the most significant concerns for many educators and institutions, Abel says that Macalester’s structure, philosophy, and processes give the institution distinct advantages in an AI world. “Our faculty design really good writing assignments. We have small class sizes. We have students free write and brainstorm before they write an essay, and we have them write what writer Anne Lamott calls ‘sh***y first drafts.’ We spend a lot of time on writing, which is an iterative process, and as a result, we know our students’ voices.”

And while professors are quick to acknowledge that they would be hard pressed to detect AI cheating, they

also know that the students who come to Macalester are typically hungry to do the kind of rigorous academic work that the college requires.

Latham says he often uses an athletic analogy when he talks to students about their use of AI. “If you decided that you were going to do a triathlon, and you had access to the best gym and the best coaches in the world, and you paid a bunch of money to do it, why on earth would you have someone else do the workouts for you?” he asks. “I tell them: Your education is a big investment, so make the most of it.”

I am not a robot

If AI tools have shaken up teaching and learning, they have also opened up opportunities. In some cases, they’re leading professors to rethink how they teach.

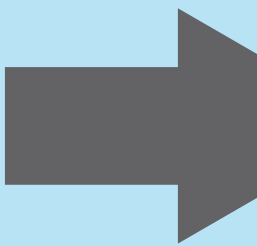
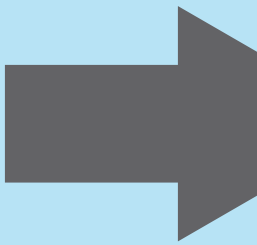
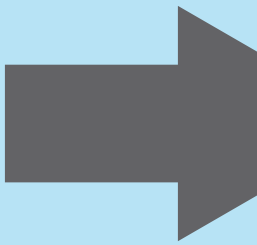
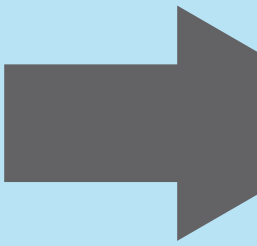
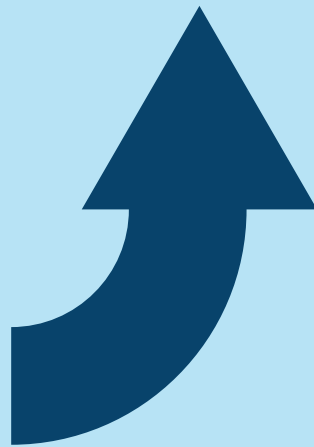
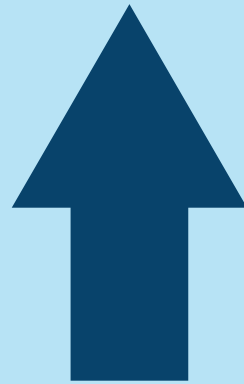
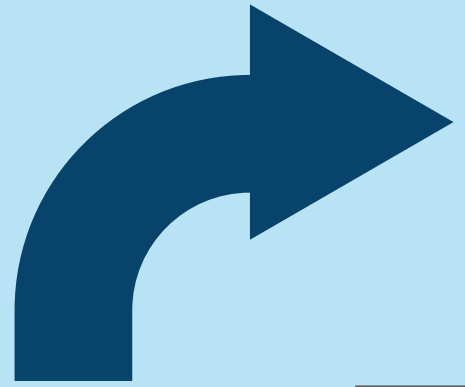
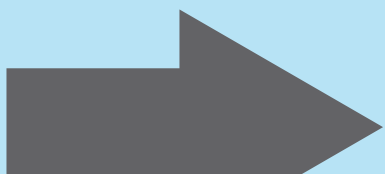
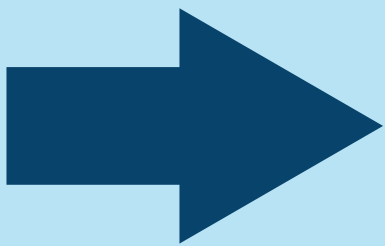
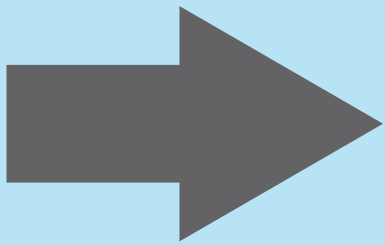
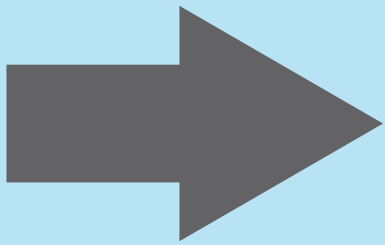
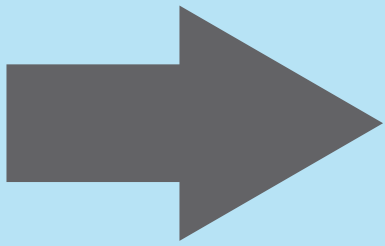
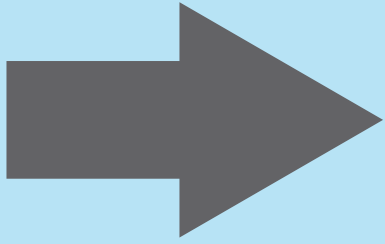
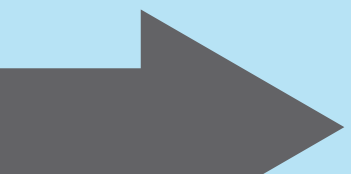
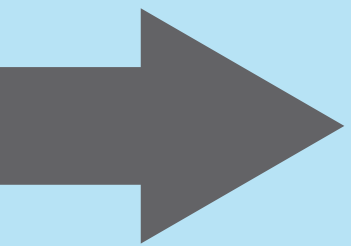
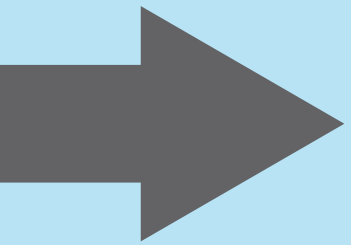
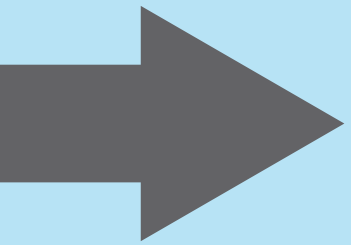
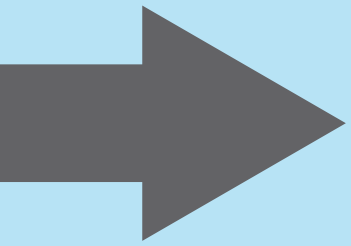
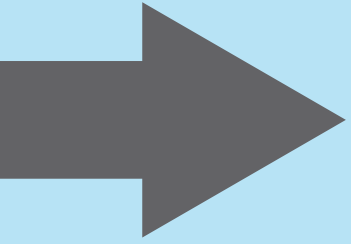
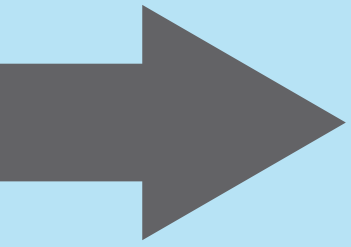
Before ChatGPT, for example, Latham had focused on having students complete traditional writing assignments. He has since replaced many of these projects with reflection papers and invitations for his students to come to his office to discuss their growth as scholars and as people. “I tell them that this is not a moment for me to judge you and to grade you. This is a moment for you to reflect on what you have actually learned,” he says. “And these papers and conversations are fantastic. I get the strong sense, in a way that I never have before, that they’re experiencing real growth as human beings. They’re not just ticking boxes and pretending that they know what I talked to them about three weeks ago.”

If AI tools have shaken up teaching and learning, they have also opened up opportunities. In some cases, they’re leading professors to rethink how they teach.

He pauses. “Are these reflection papers AI-proof? Probably not. But it’s pretty hard to ask an AI to write about what you’ve learned,” he says. “These are wonderful pedagogical moments, and I wish I would have done this twenty-five years ago.”

It’s this part of the AI transformation—the thoughtful analysis about what teaching and learning can look like, the re-engineering of classes to encourage critical thinking in new ways, and the increasing focus on human connection that is central to a Macalester education—that gives Latham hope about what lies ahead. “It’s not all rosy,” he says. “We’ll have to change things. We’ll have to adapt. But we can be true to our liberal arts heritage and tradition. Even in an AI world.” **M**

Erin Peterson is a Minneapolis-based writer.

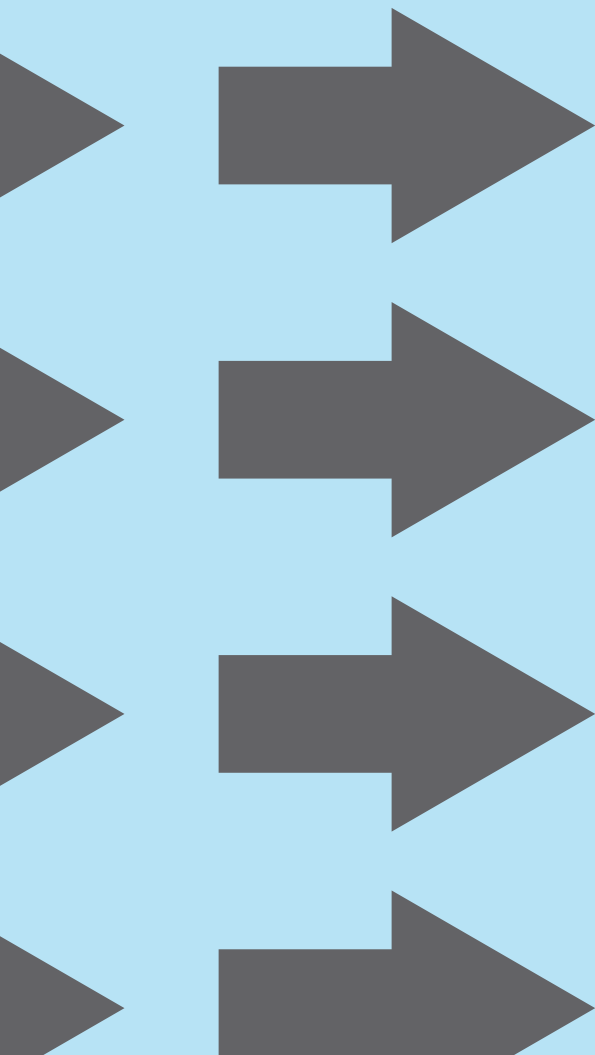




CURVEBALL

STORIES OF STRUGGLE,
PAUSES, WRONG TURNS, RIGHT
TURNS, AND REINVENTION.

BY JULIE HESSLER '85



Curveball (baseball): a slow or moderately fast baseball pitch thrown with spin to make it swerve downward and usually to the left when thrown from the right hand or to the right when thrown from the left hand. (Merriam-Webster Dictionary)

Curveball (life): when you are presented with a difficult and perhaps unforeseen problem, situation, and/or question that alters your path and, sometimes, changes your life.

WHEN LIFE THROWS YOU A CURVEBALL OR TWO, HOW DO YOU REACT?

Last spring, Macalester Engagement hosted its first on-line Curveball conversation. Eight alumni, including Marie Deschamps '04, who inspired the program, shared stories of life and careers post-Mac: the struggles they faced, including loss and mental health challenges, and the often surprising steps they took to make a more meaningful life.

Throughout, alumni leaned into their liberal arts degrees, critical thinking skills, and their own courage and resilience. Some found support from members of the Macalester community. In that spirit, we share edited excerpts of their stories for anyone in need of encouragement, wisdom, and inspiration.



Marie Deschamps '04

Houston, Texas

When Marie Deschamps was at Macalester, she had a big plan. She was going to become an ob-gyn and work at Doctors Without Borders. She designed her academic experience around that, studying pre-med, political science, and gender studies and doing every clinical internship possible. There was, she says, no plan B.

But once she got to medical school, she was miserable. She made the really tough decision to leave. What followed was years of not feeling comfortable with her decision and an increasing toll on her emotional and psychological health. "I was living in the basement of my parents' home, suffering from severe depression," she says. "My mom, thinking she was going to do something good for me, said, 'Look, the *Macalester Today* magazine arrived. Don't you want to read it? It's your lovely school that you love so much.' And I remember I just cried and I said, 'I cannot look at this magazine right now.' And she said, 'But why is that?' 'Because I cannot be reminded that everyone else is doing so well, and I'm the only one who is not.'"

Looking back, Deschamps says it wasn't her reality, but it felt like it. Eventually, she reached out to her Macalester community, finding support from other alumni who were struggling and others who were willing to help, like Datra Oliver '04 and Dev Oliver '04, and Leonardo Barquero '04. With their friendship and lots of art therapy, she built up her emotional resilience and in turn her life, a career, and a family. Today, she is an artist and art psychotherapist, a visiting scholar at New York's New School, and finishing her PhD in expressive arts therapy. Her research, inspired in many ways by her mental-health journey, focuses on distress detection and technological art-based innovation.

But her earlier experience stayed with her. She decided to do something to make sure other alumni knew it was OK to reach out, that life happened, up and down and full of unexpected turns. "I went to campus and I told my story—my failure story, my human story," she says. Her story was the genesis for Curveball, and her hope is that conversations like this bring self-care and well-being into the conversation when alumni plan for life post-Mac. As Deschamps puts it, "We need to value our wonderful multidisciplinary education, which makes us creative problem-solvers, and adaptive, and resilient. It is up to us to shift our academic narrative from individual success to collective wellness."

GENDER STUDIES

OB-GYN

ART THERAPY

Dion Cunningham '06

Nassau, The Bahamas

Bahamians, says Dion Cunningham '06, are taught at a very early age to do something that you can take back to your community. Cunningham says he was expected to choose a career path that was useful and could help some of the main industries of his country, such as tourism, banking and finance, law, or medicine.

Even though music had been a part of his life from an early age, he decided it would be a hobby, not a career. He studied biology, but halfway through his second year the piano player added a music degree. "Everyone at Mac was double or triple majoring, so I said, "Why not?"

After graduation, Cunningham returned home to The Bahamas to take a year off before taking the MCATs and going to medical school. He landed a year-long position as a biology teacher in the public-school system. His first curveball was a phone call from the school. They couldn't hire him as a science teacher after all. Would he consider teaching music instead? He wasn't thrilled, but he accepted, and a one-year position turned into five years.

Cunningham continued to study and took the MCATs, but he wasn't getting into his preferred schools. Even while he was teaching music he felt disappointed. "I had to use the science degree that my parents had paid for to do something that's practical," he says. He chose a new field—marine science—and earned his scuba certifications.

But doors were opening for him in music. He began accompanying local choral groups, and when the late opera singer Carmen Balthorp came to The Bahamas, she asked Cunningham to accompany her for a series of concerts. "Dion, why are you here on this island?" she asked him. Cunningham said, "I have a science degree, but I'm here as a music teacher and that's the only door that's opening for me right now." She said, "No, you have to keep on studying."

Inspired, Cunningham decided to seriously devote himself to the piano. "I could play, but I didn't believe I had enough talent to pursue a performing career," he says. "But I said, 'I'm going to go for this.'"

Cunningham was later accepted into the Peabody Institute of The Johns Hopkins University where he earned his master's degree. He then earned a doctorate of music from the University of Maryland, College Park.

Now in his fourth year as an assistant professor at the University of The Bahamas, he says that curves sometimes turn into full circles. His dissertation wasn't a performance CD. Rather, it's about intersections of instrumental performance and human neuromechanics—a convergence of science and music. He continues to research the intersections of piano playing, injury prevention, and brain development.

He says, "In the words of many Bahamians, 'I'm a testimony of the fact that nothing is ever wasted. That it will come back and be useful to you in your life at some point, even if not immediately.'"



BIOLOGY

MED SCHOOL

TEACHING

MARINE SCIENCE

MUSIC

Maya Benedict '17 Minneapolis

Maya Benedict assumed that after graduation she'd take her degree in international studies, move to Washington, DC, and work for the State Department or the Foreign Service. "But when I graduated, it quickly became clear that despite all of my big plans, I couldn't afford to move to DC," she says. "My resume wasn't very attractive because I couldn't afford to do a lot of the unpaid internships that other students did. None of the places that I applied to work at ever responded."

Her first curveball was deciding to continue working as a butcher at the St. Paul Meat Shop, where she had worked as an undergrad. "For a while, I was frustrated that I was working in food service after graduating," she says. "I felt like I wasn't an 'ideal' Mac student, and even though I learned so much and really enjoyed my job, I felt like I wasn't one of the alumni that Mac as an institution was proud of. I felt judged sometimes about being in food service, and I felt like I didn't measure up to my friends and classmates." Not knowing her future, she says, was scary and alienating.

But after four years and some solid reflection, Benedict realized she wanted to go to graduate school in public health. Even though she didn't have experience in the field, she was admitted to the public health administration and policy program at the University of Minnesota. As a first-year she got a research job assessing food system employment

issues in Minnesota's meat processing industry, which covered her tuition.

That was her second curveball. "I never expected that I would continue to do some sort of meat work," she says. "I got that job because of my food service experience. That was the unexpected moment that made my master's degree possible." Benedict says she's still friends with her Meat Shop bosses and coworkers and proud of her work and what she learned. "I want to be very clear that I don't consider myself 'more successful' because I left food service," she says. Rather, the takeaway of her curveball story is that it was a defining period in her life and it opened up a whole different career path, she says. "I learned invaluable skills that I still use to this day." Benedict is now a senior state program administrator at the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, where she administers statewide grant programs for food producers and meat processors.

"The work that I'm doing now to support local food systems is really fascinating to me," she says. "I learned that creating and defining meaning and fulfillment for myself is the most important thing. That is going to change over time, and I should afford grace and understanding to myself and an openness to the unexpected."



Hillary Drake '03 Minneapolis

Two weeks after graduating into a recession, Hillary Drake didn't know what she was going to do. A temp agency sent the political science major to a third-party logistics company that needed someone to file and answer the phones. Two weeks later, Drake was the customer success manager for their second-biggest customer. "I figured out that I love operations, I love the pace, I love the new problems every day," she says. "Sometimes I don't love what the problems are, but they're always interesting things to solve."

She finished her MBA in 2008, graduating into another recession. Over the past twenty years, she's worked at seven or eight companies. Last spring, as this Curveball panel was being identified, Drake had quit her job, and was trying to figure out what she was going to do next.

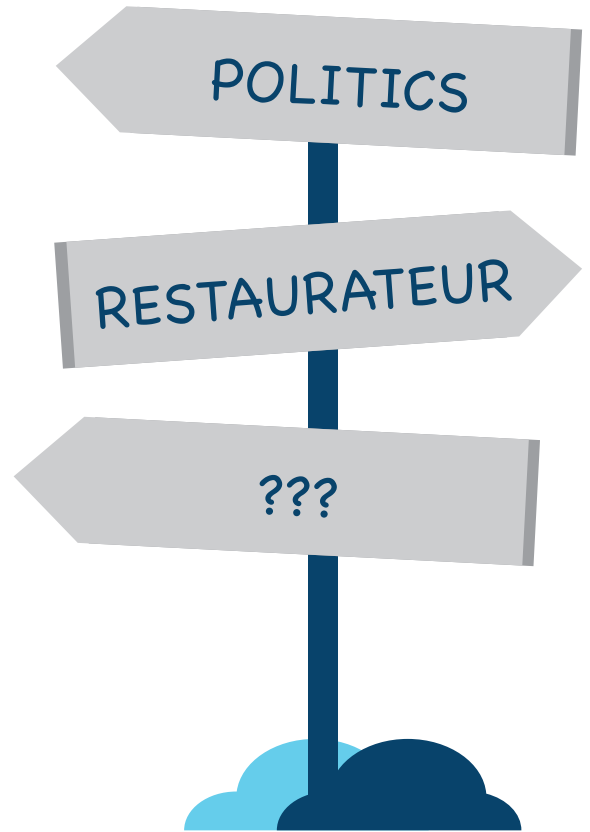
Her partner encouraged her to explore the "entrepreneurial thing" that she'd been talking about for months. She reached out to fellow alum Josiah Carlson '02 for coffee. Several months later, they launched a cloud services company called Liminal Network that makes it easy for businesses to implement APIs. Drake serves as co-founder and CEO.

"The real point is I've been on this huge journey," says Drake. "Every time I thought I knew what I was getting into it was the wrong choice. Every time I have listened to the universe, I have been open to that possibility. I've grown through that and I ended up working in a field that didn't exist when I graduated, working with technology that had barely been invented, and it's a lot more fun now."

One of the biggest lessons Drake says she has learned is how to let go, which can feel at odds with the high-achieving, perfect Macalester student ethos. "I can quit my job," she says. "I don't need to stay here and fix something they don't want to fix. For me, learning that has been many years and a lot of therapy, and coming to that realization has helped me enormously. So I'm saying it out loud because sometimes you can kickstart things."

And if you want to talk business careers one-on-one with Hillary, she's happy to do so: "Hit me up on LinkedIn at Hillary Drake," she says.





Danny Schwartzman '04 Minneapolis

When Danny Schwartzman '04 graduated he wanted to be part of creating something positive in the world. The political science major was doing political organizing work, and he worked on a series of political campaigns. But a few years in, he says, "I felt like I should do something that I really wanted to do."

He wanted to start a restaurant, even though he didn't know how and he didn't have any experience. He leapt in anyway, meeting with about 100 people, many of whom he knew from Macalester networks and student organizing, and got their feedback on his plan.

His plan was ambitious: open a local restaurant that is welcoming; makes everything from scratch; offers a creative community space to meet; has high labor standards; sources its food with integrity and uses local farmers whenever possible; and rejects the standard food system that almost every other place seems to use.

A week before his restaurant, Common Roots Cafe, opened in south Minneapolis, Schwartzman experienced his first curveball. His general manager, whom he had hired to be in charge day to day while Schwartzman learned the ropes, was relocating. Schwartzman was on his own. "For the next fifteen years, I ran a restaurant

without much professional experience," he says, "and I quickly got it."

More curveballs followed. Making money running a restaurant is hard. Running a restaurant the way Schwartzman wanted to—even though it felt like the right thing to do—was much harder. "I kept on pivoting," he says. "I added levels of complexity, including a large catering business, and a second location to manage catering. We were doing up to five simultaneous weddings and had over 100 staff. It was extreme, and I realized that was the path to being significantly profitable."

It also made running his business ridiculously complicated, he says. He reached a point where it was no longer manageable. The triple challenges of reemerging after the COVID-19 pandemic, dealing with a very difficult hiring climate for filling higher-level positions, and navigating a unionizing process made Schwartzman realize that it was all just too much.

He closed down the business he loved and is figuring out what's next. He'll tap the wide array of skills and large network he grew at Common Roots. "I know that I don't want to run a restaurant," he says. "I don't actually know what the curveball leads to yet, but I feel good about it."

Emily P.G. Erickson '08

St. Paul

When Emily P.G. Erickson '08 graduated with degrees in psychology and geography, she was jazzed about her honors project on the psychology of urban sustainability. Geography professor David Lanegran told her she should be an urban planner, and she listened. She eventually served as the City of St. Paul's first sustainable transportation planner. Her work became central to her identity.

"I was one of those alumni that you see in the two-page spread of *Macalester Today*," she recalls. "In summer 2012, at the same time I was featured in the magazine, curveball number one came my way via this growing sense of unease."

Even though she knew that urban planning was important, her real passion was psychology. "I made the really hard choice to step away from the extrinsic motivators like promotions and press and take the leap to honor what drove me intrinsically," she says. "It was thrilling and genuinely frightening."

She left urban planning, intent on a doctoral degree in psychology. Once again, she worked hard and thrived professionally, landing a plum research job with the US Department of Veterans Affairs.

A month after she completed the master's portion of her education, she gave birth to her first child with husband Lance Erickson '04. After she returned from parental leave came her second curveball. Motherhood really put into perspective that the demands of continuing down the path to an academic career weren't a fit with her family situation. Moreover, academia wasn't the only place to pursue her passion for psychology.

When Erickson's son was nine months old, she quit her research job to stay home with him. "People really do begin every conversation with 'What do you do?'" she says. "And when you're not comfortable with your answer or, in my case, didn't have paid work to answer with, that was a hard space to be in."

But Erickson says she also felt elated to be building a life closely aligned with her values and priorities. While caring full-time for her children (she now has three sons), she read, talked to people, tapped her network, took a lot of different classes, and found her way to writing. "And now, writing about mental health and parenting is work that I genuinely love," she says. Her work has been published in the *New York Times*, *American Psychological Association*, *Wired*, *Verywell Mind*, *Everyday Health*, and other publications.

Erickson says she's flexible about what's to come in a way that she wasn't when she began her working life. "I honestly feel less certain about exactly where I'll be in ten years," she says. "But at the same time I'm more confident I'll be able to handle any more curveballs to come."



GEOGRAPHY

URBAN PLANNER

PSYCHOLOGY

WRITER

Danica Surman '14

Texas City, Texas

When Danica Surman was in college, she knew that politics was going to be her path. She recruited a classmate to run for state representative and ran their campaign as an independent study for her political science degree. In 2014, she was recruited to run for state representative. At the same time, she was running a political action committee targeting young voters and serving as party staff for the state Republican Party.

"It wouldn't have been that difficult to find political work in Minnesota," she says. "But I had one thing that happened right after graduation that really threw me a curveball: I flew home to Texas and went on a single date with a girl that I had been talking to online."

They hit it off and began a long-distance relationship. Surman returned to Minnesota for the election season, working what she describes as a "miserable political call-center job. One of those jobs where you make the same call for about thirteen hours a day." She was chronically depressed. The only thing going well was her relationship. When the job ended, she returned to Texas. She and her girlfriend have since married.

The only trouble was that as she applied and interviewed for jobs in Texas, she found that her political skills didn't really translate. "After a few months of that I realized I was in what I called 'fun-employment,' as a way to make myself feel better about it," she

says. "Spoiler alert: fun-employment is not fun. It's just unemployment but adding fun to the name to make yourself feel better, and I was really getting down again." Even though her relationship was good and she was back home with family, she didn't have a fulfilling career. She realized she needed to make a pivot.

Surman decided to try education. She got her teaching certification and became a social studies teacher teaching US history to eighth-graders. "This was the first time that I was really able to get excited about my job, start in the morning, make it to the end of the day, and not feel miserable doing it," she says. A few years later she was promoted and became an instructional coach mentoring other teachers.

But recently, Surman faced a couple more curveballs. "Last year, I came out as trans and it definitely has made being a teacher in Texas more difficult," she says.

At work, her school was realigned and Surman was demoted back to a classroom teaching position. "I have a job for next year," she says. "I know I still want to work in education if I can. I've already made one big pivot that was huge for me, and now I'm trying to figure out what's next."



Datra Oliver '04

Johns Creek, Georgia

Datra Oliver '04 experienced a shattering curveball at Macalester. In her junior year, her dad died. "That was my first major loss," she says. "When we are late teenagers, young adults, there is just so much navigating of identity, new things, new problems, new adulting—whatever it is. This was just not something I was prepared for; I don't think anyone could be prepared for it."

At a loss for trying to manage her grief, Oliver did something her family in The Bahamas didn't really understand: she decided to take a break and withdraw from school. She was on track to be the first person in her household to graduate with a four-year degree. "I was on a scholarship to Macalester, and that was a really big deal," she says. "I needed space to process my grief." She tapped into formal mental health services, including a grief support group on campus, but struggled with her own expectations to keep performing at a high level.

She returned to Mac the following semester and, "in Macalester fashion," worked to graduate on time, condensing a bunch of her courses, adding an economics major to her art major—and continuing to deal with her grief.

The experience led her to reflect on the idea of perfection, and on the compartmentalization of personal and professional life. "We really hold ourselves to these expectations sometimes that you go through things privately, but still need to show up in the same way

in the same spaces all the time," she says. "So, I release that. As a mom of two, I don't subscribe to this notion of work-life balance generally. It hasn't worked for me. Just the sound of it gives me anxiety, like walking on this tightrope of balance all the time." Oliver reframes her choices now as "trade-offs" and seeks to prioritize what is most essential for the current season of her life.

Oliver's second curveball was a combination of graduating into a tough economy, and another personal loss. Navigating the US job market as an international job seeker, she faced immigration questions and uncertainty. At home, her maternal grandmother had recently died and Oliver's mom, a single parent in her 50s, was living alone for the first time in her life. Oliver decided to return home to The Bahamas.

"It was a reckoning for me," she says. "Is this a failure that I'm returning to my home country as privileged as I was to be here in the US? There is an expectation that the US is the place to be, that's where the dreams happen."

But returning home, she says, was wonderful. "I heard some advice that was really good for me, and I take it forward even now," she says. "Go where you are rare. I think a lot of times we have perceptions of what success looks like and that it has to look the same for everyone." She stayed for two years, and helped support her mother through a family transition. She worked in the foreign service, traveled, and became interested in the law and business. She eventually completed a law degree and a few years after that her MBA. She's now back in the states helping organizations transform, most recently with Coca-Cola in Atlanta.

"I'm not sure I would've gotten those types of opportunities had I only stayed in the states," she says. **M**





FINDING THE MIDDLE WAY

A leader of the Macalester Alumni of Moderation, Charlie Birge '15 believes greater viewpoint diversity could help overcome political polarization.

BY LAURA BILLINGS COLEMAN

According to a September 2023 survey by the Pew Research Center, when asked to describe politics in the United States these days in a single word or phrase, 79 percent of Americans expressed a negative sentiment. The word “divisive” appeared most frequently, followed by the term “polarized.”

On college campuses, a survey by the Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression (FIRE) of students from 254 institutions, including Macalester, found that more than half of today’s students nationwide fear reputational damage from misunderstandings of what they’ve said or done, while more than a quarter of students report they feel pressure to avoid discussing controversial topics in their classes.

In these polarizing times, how do we speak openly with and learn from each other in our classrooms and in our communities?

It’s a question that Charlie Birge '15, St. Paul, has been asking with growing interest since graduating from Macalester with a degree in American studies. Now a fundraising writer for FIRE, a nonpartisan group committed to advancing free speech and First Amendment rights on college campuses, Birge also is the youngest leader of the Macalester Alumni of Moderation (macmods.org), an alumni group founded in 2004 by Roger Peterson '67, Bob Spaulding '64, and Jim Burho '70, that promotes free speech, academic freedom, and viewpoint diversity.

“I’m not someone who believes that academia needs to be perfectly split, 50-50, between liberals and conservatives,” he says. “But if we want to find solutions, we need to be able to have conversations across lines of difference.”

Birge, who spent two years at Northwestern University before transferring to Macalester, says a class on race and law taught by American studies professor Duchess Harris was the first college course to introduce him to conservative political views. “She assigned us a book that was critical of critical race theory, and our final project was to analyze it and put it into conversation with everything we’d read up to that point,” he says. “It was a cool opportunity, but at the time, I didn’t see anything of value in these more conservative ideas.”

But Donald Trump’s presidential victory soon after Birge graduated was a political turning point. “I didn’t feel like his election could only be explained by right-wing populism, racism, and xenophobia, though I felt like those things were definitely part of it,” he says. “I just thought, Something is wrong here. We’re not talking to each other as a country. We don’t understand each other. And we need to figure out ways to build bridges.”

Since then, Birge has been trying to understand the growing partisanship of US politics, and promote bipartisanship. After earning a master’s degree in cultural studies at The Ohio State University, Birge served as an AmeriCorps volunteer in Orange County, Calif. There he got involved with a local chapter of the Citizens Climate Lobby, an environmental group that stresses the importance of bipartisan support for pushing new climate policies. A growing interest in Buddhism also made him more committed to seeing the humanity in people whose views are challenging. “In Buddhism, you have to try to extend your goodwill to everybody,” he says. “It can sound like a cliché, but on a deeper level, it’s something we need more of in our culture.”

Inspired by the writing of Jonathan Haidt, the social psychologist known for *The Righteous Mind: Why Good People are Divided by Politics and Religion*, Birge got involved with Braver Angels, a cross-partisan, volunteer-led movement to teach people to talk across differences. Birge has participated in the group’s signature Red/Blue Workshops, civic discussions about divisive issues that are modeled on the principles of couples therapy. Self-identified liberals go into one room, conservatives another, and both discuss the stereotypes the “other side” holds about them. What do the stereotypes get wrong, and in what ways do they hold a kernel of truth? Then the groups reunite, and each shares its insights. “It’s such a powerful thing to do, because you’re not shying away from the conflict and the nasty things that people say about each other,” Birge says. “But as you reflect on it, you realize there are people on the other side who share your concerns about their side. Not everyone agrees with everything on their side, which really makes clear that this is all more complicated than we thought.”

In March, Macalester became a co-sponsor of Braver Angels of Minnesota (mn.braverangels.org). Birge applauds the college’s sponsorship as well as new programs like the Congress to Campus project that’s bringing retired lawmakers to campus to discuss how they overcame divisions to broker bipartisan policy.

While Birge credits his liberal arts education with developing his critical thinking capabilities, he will continue to work with the Mac Mods, including at Reunion 2024 during the group’s annual alumni discussion, to encourage viewpoint diversity and vigorous debates. During an already fraught election year, he hopes other alumni will join him.

“More free speech is important for overcoming our political divides,” he says. “It’s important to seek out what people are saying on both sides, and see what I agree with and what I don’t agree with and where we might find common ground.” **M**

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



CLOUDED WATERS

— CLEAR VISION —

For author Dianna Hunter '71, a search for justice fostered at Mac has fueled all of her wide-ranging incarnations.

BY HILLARY MOSES MOHAUPT '08

In *Clouded Waters*, a new thriller by Dianna Hunter '71, a lesbian Iron Range newspaper publisher in northern Minnesota fights to learn the truth about copper nickel mining in the region and tries to solve the disappearance of a local water scientist.

Although the Duluth-based writer's novel is set in a fictional Minnesota town, the environmental, social, and political impacts the book explores are very real. Pro- and anti-mining residents continue to be fiercely at odds over proposed mining projects near the Boundary Waters Canoe Area (BWCA). The book's plot is informed by aspects of Hunter's own life and a call for justice that she honed at Macalester.

Raised in Minot, North Dakota, Hunter learned about Macalester from a recruiter who came to her high school. Her parents worked for the Great Northern Railway so she used to ride the train back and forth between Minot and St. Paul. She became a history major, and took as many journalism classes as the college offered.

Hunter remembers the moment during her junior year when she first discovered feminism thanks to conversations with her dorm's resident assistant and her history professor Steve Trimble. After one such conversation about the injustice of male privilege, Trimble offered to lend her a copy of the new *Redstockings Manifesto* pamphlet. It detailed the ways in which women had been oppressed by men, and called for women, as a group, to develop consciousness-raising as a key tool for liberation from male supremacy.

"It opened me up to thoughts that have become essential in my life but which hadn't even occurred to me, or to very many people in our culture," she remembers now.

She began reading everything she could from the rising second wave of feminism, and then approached her advisor at the time, James Stewart, about pursuing a formal course of study. Stewart worked with her to create an independent study in fall 1970 that allowed her to delve deeper into radical feminist work. When that course ended, she applied to give an interim-term student-led course in January 1971, perhaps the first women and gender studies course at the college.

"We had some really formative discussions that changed our lives a lot," she remembers. "It changed how we saw reality in a way that was very affirming and empowering for women who needed it very much at the time."

After Macalester, she lived for a time on collective farms. "People were talking about self-sufficiency, growing our own wholesome food, and sidestepping materialism," she remembers. It was important to her to find a community where she could build skills, raise feminist consciousness, and live as an out lesbian. "Living collectively takes commitment and follow-through to virtues like patience, care, and empathy," she says now. Yet the reality was not without contradiction. Hunter is still grappling with the fact

that the farms where she lived in Minnesota were only possible because white settlers had violently and systematically displaced local Indigenous people decades before and, more recently, struggling farmers had been pushed out by those with more money.

She went on to work as a dairy farmer, and, during the Reagan-era farm crisis, she helped local farmers understand their rights and protect their farms. She worked alongside farm activists Lou Anne Kling, who went on to become director of the federal Farm Services Administration, and Anne Kantan, who had been appointed Minnesota's deputy commissioner of agriculture.

Hunter decided to document the movement by working with another writer to conduct oral-history interviews with lawyers, advocates, and farmers trying to survive. That collection, which she edited, became her first book, *Breaking Hard Ground: Stories of the Minnesota Farm Advocates*, published in 1990.

She says the Farm Advocate program helped her learn how to legally protect herself on her farm and help her community. That learning spilled over into writing, farming, and, lately, gardening and foraging. "I'm for work that's trying to restore the world, work that makes it more equitable, safer, and more peaceful and fairer," she says. "And that goes back to my Macalester days."

In her forties, Hunter earned a master's degree in English with an emphasis in creative writing from Iowa State University. She taught first-year comp at a number of institutions, then joined the University of Wisconsin-Superior to teach advanced writing classes and to run the university's gender equity program.

She retired in 2012 and wrote a coming-of-age memoir about her collective farming days titled *Wild Mares: My Lesbian Back-to-the-Land Life* in 2018. Like *Breaking Hard Ground*, it was a finalist for a Minnesota Book Award.

In *Clouded Waters*, she was drawn to strong characters who are the story's protagonists. "To be a strong character," she explains, "means they are the one who's telling the story, fully accepted and not seen as an exotic or a sidekick, but rather the person who's at the heart of the story and who's doing things to make the story happen."

In many ways her characters reflect the essence of her time at Macalester, when she helped lead consciousness-raising discussions, sold feminist books in the student union, and found her own identity as a lesbian while teaching the interim course.

"I have a commitment to trying to support social justice and environmental justice and to be part of refreshing the earth, which seems to be in really mortal danger," she says. "I think it's the responsibility of all of us to fix that, if we can. It's particularly the responsibility of writers, because it's through stories that we learn what others are like. We learn some empathy in the process." **M**

Hillary Moses Mohaupt '08 earned a master's degree in public history and is a freelance writer in the greater Philadelphia area.

Sports Geography

Sports are about competition, personal growth, and entertainment. Sports can also be about identity and belonging, forces for good and not-so-good, and economic might.

It's this deeper end that Eric Carter, Edens Professor of Geography and Global Health, wanted to dive into with students when he created his new course, Sports Geography. Together, they examine sports culture as a reflection of a society, both what ails it and what makes it so special.

How do concepts in human geography intersect with sports?

We talk a lot about place identity. Often sports teams are what really hold communities together. If you think about small towns across the US, their high school football or basketball team is an institution that can bring people from the community together.

Nationalism is a related theme. International sporting events like the World Cup and the Olympics are where fans allow themselves to openly express their national pride. Why do people invest so much emotion into their national teams?

And then from a different angle, we can also think about sports as a major part of the economy that really influences the way that urban development happens, in particular around professional sports teams.

What is so powerful about sports in instilling a sense of individual and collective identity?

Everybody plays games or sports when they're a kid. And so I think there's a nostalgia factor that's very strong. And then there is the history of teams within particular cities. The kind of lore that gets passed down from one generation to the next is an important anchor for people's passions. For some people, an allegiance to a sports team can be almost as strong as a sense of national identity. And the third reason is the passion of the crowd. A stadium, an arena, or even a sports bar, is a permissive space that allows people to show a more uninhibited side of themselves, rooting for their teams together.

You spend some time in the course examining the connections between race, sports, and class in the US. What about these connections might surprise someone who doesn't think so deeply about sports in America?

It might be surprising, but many people see sports as a vanguard for inclusiveness in society—for desegregation, for overcoming prejudices, and so on. This is a theme that's come up a lot already. Journalist Dave Zirin '96 visited class to talk about his book on Colin Kaepernick, and how Kaepernick's protest of kneeling during the national anthem had a ripple effect, changing the national discussion about police brutality and violence against Black Americans in particular. A lot of my students have also pointed out

that being on a team can often help to bring people together across divides of class and race, although that sense of unity doesn't always translate off the field.

Having said all that, in some ways the sporting world continues to be really segregated. Take baseball, for example, where the number of US-born Black players has declined significantly over the last few decades. Part of that has to do with economic divisions tied to race, and how expensive it's become to get kids involved in elite youth sports teams.

This strong connection to identity often translates into economic power. Take sports stadiums and their effects on urban development and the justifications for using public funds to build them. What are the best ways to measure whether they're worth the investment?

There are two big ways to think about this topic. One is in terms of the quantifiable benefits that flow to a city from having a sports team. Think about a place like downtown Minneapolis, which has had its ups and downs over the last few decades, like many downtowns. Building Target Field for the Minnesota Twins, having that downtown stadium that provides pretty reliable crowds at least eighty days or nights out of the year, brings a lot of business to local bars and restaurants that might not be there otherwise. So there are these economic multiplier effects potentially from having these sports teams.

Then again, if you're just doing a cost-benefit analysis based purely on the numbers, it still might not be worthwhile for taxpayers to subsidize stadiums. But there are these intangibles about what it means to be a major-league city, to feel like you live in a place that's part of the action. Small-market teams have just as good a chance of winning the championship as teams in New York or Los Angeles, at least in theory, and that feeling of pride is very hard to quantify. I think that's why most of the time team owners end up squeezing more out of cities than maybe a rational person might say is necessary.

What do you hope students take away from this course?

I want them to take away the benefits of looking closely or methodically at something like sports, to understand how you could take academic concepts and get more meaning out of the mundane, to see things that you might not have seen before.

Take, for example, controversies over sports mascots. On the one hand, few topics could be as trivial as a sports mascot. But at the same time, many team names and mascots have been very offensive to Native Americans, and it took years to overcome resistance to getting rid of those mascots or changing those names. A lot of that change started with the work of activists and academics who understood that sports are actually really meaningful in the culture, and to have these representations repeated over and over again creates a degrading image of Native Americans. So, social change can happen through sports. [M](#)

Joe Linstroth is director of media relations at Macalester.



CLASS NOTES

1954

The Class of 1954 will celebrate its 70th Reunion June 6–9, 2024.

1959

The Class of 1959 will celebrate its 65th Reunion June 6–9, 2024.

1964

The Class of 1964 will celebrate its 60th Reunion June 6–9, 2024.

Connie Eckhoff Charles is a mentor to young Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank whose voices are being lifted through a program called We Are Not Numbers (wearenotnumbers.org), giving talented writers a platform to tell their stories of life under occupation, and showing them as normal, lively, and interesting human beings. Her awareness of the situation of Palestinians was found in the summer of 1963 when she visited Jerusalem after working at the Nile Hilton in Cairo as a participant in the Student Work Abroad Program (SWAP).

1969

The Class of 1969 will celebrate its 55th Reunion June 6–9, 2024.

Michael Feiler has retired after performing more than 47,000 anesthetic procedures over the course of his career.

1971

Social justice feminist and emerging writer Barbara Phillips delivered the Richard T. Greener Lecture at the Southern History of Education Society's annual conference at the

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

CLASS NOTES PHOTO POLICY:

We publish one photo per wedding.

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

Photos must be high-resolution, approximately

2MB or greater in file size.

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

If you have a question about your class note, call editor Julie Hessler at **651-696-6443**.



Macalester Professor Juliette Rogers (right), was delighted to run into Amelia Fedo '13 at the Nineteenth-Century French Studies conference in Baltimore, where they were both presenting research. Prof. Rogers writes, "Congratulations to Amelia on successfully defending her doctoral dissertation in French this year with highest distinction at New York University."



Kim Brown '74 (right) discovered she was taking a Jin Shin Jyutsu workshop from a Macalester alum when the teacher, Susie Plettner '94, noticed a Mac sticker on Kim's phone. "For the last two days of the five-day workshop we shared all kinds of Mac tales," Kim wrote. Susie is a licensed homeopath and acupressurist.



Lucy Lind Hogan '73 (left) reports that it was "great fun to have lunch with Vicki Glenn '67 wearing our Golden Scots medallions!" They met fifteen years ago, when Lucy and her husband, Kevin Hogan '73, moved to Frederick, Md., and Vicki and her husband went to the dermatology practice Kevin opened there. Vicki helped Lucy become involved in the local arts scene. Kevin died of COVID-19 in March 2021, and Vicki's husband died recently. The friends plan to meet several more times before Vicki moves to Kansas City.



Evelyn Adkins '06 and Mark Hammond announced the birth of their first child, Rufus Henry Adkins Hammond, on Sept. 6, 2023, in Cleveland.

University of South Carolina in March. She also gave a lecture in April titled “Imagine and Create the Third Reconstruction” during the Clifford and Virginia Durr Lecture Weekend in Montgomery, Ala. Barbara’s memoir excerpts and essays have been published by the *New York Times*, *Southern Cultures*, *The Citron Review*, and elsewhere. She is a former civil rights lawyer, law professor, and Ford Foundation program officer, and lives in Oxford, Miss., and Oak Bluffs, Mass.

1974

The Class of 1974 will celebrate its 50th Reunion June 6–9, 2024.

1977

Paula Goodman Maccabee, advocacy director and legal counsel with the environmental nonprofit WaterLegacy, was named one of *Minnesota Lawyer’s* “Attorneys of The Year.” The magazine cited her role as one of the lead attorneys who convinced the Minnesota Supreme Court to reverse the water pollution permit issued

for the controversial PolyMet copper-nickel mine.

1979

The Class of 1979 will celebrate its 45th Reunion June 6–9, 2024.

1984

The Class of 1984 will celebrate its 40th Reunion June 6–9, 2024.

Mark Salzwedel began working as copy supervisor at Razorfish Health in New York City last December.

Ron Simoncini stepped down as board chair of Meadowlands YMCA in December after eleven years of service. Highlights of his tenure included the \$14 million construction of the Meadowlands YMCA facility in 2017, an increase in the organization’s membership from 500 to more than 14,000, and an increase in enrollment from 17 to 141 at the Mara Center for Early Childhood Learning. Ron’s public relations firm, Axiom Communications, will continue to provide pro bono service to the organization.



During a casual get-together on the rooftop of the Washington, DC, apartment building where Max Kent '20 lives, a group of Macalester alums experienced a “small world moment” when they began talking to another nearby group and discovered it included Dr. Robert Nobles of Emory University, a friend and former colleague of President Rivera. Pictured from left: Samba Dia '20, Michael Lockhart '20, Meera Singh '19, Camilla Bendetti '20, Robert, Max Kent '20, and Nick Moore '20.

Class Notes continues on page 41.

WELCOME BACK TO MAC!

Join your fellow alumni for Reunion 2024, June 6–9.

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

Reunion 2024 will include sesquicentennial celebrations, affinity celebrations, and recognition of milestone class reunions.

Everyone is welcome, regardless of class year.

Register now at macalester.edu/reunion.

REUNION JUNE 6–9, 2024





Dalton Greene '22

Dalton Greene '22 is a Class Agent and a member of the Young Grand Society. He is currently pursuing a PhD in English at the University of Maryland after completing a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship in Greece last year.

What do you do in your role as a Class Agent?

As a fairly recent alum, it's about rallying folks to the cause around Give to Macalester Days. I think for the younger alumni, there is some nostalgia around the spring semester, graduation, and how many years it's been already. I've found it's a really good way to reconnect with people.

What calls you to give and volunteer with Macalester?

It's rooted in my life experience: I come from a small, working-class community in West Virginia and going to college was not a given for me. Coming to Macalester was a whole new world for me and truly opened so many doors—I wouldn't have had the Fulbright experience or gone to graduate school without it. For me, it's a way of giving back both to the institution that helped propel me, but also I think about students like myself, for whom the financial support Macalester is able to offer is really life-changing. That speaks to me.

What does being a member of the Young Grand Society mean to you?

For me, it's about the monthly, ongoing show of commitment and putting my money where my mouth is. I do believe that Macalester is doing good things in the world for students, and supporting that work in a concrete, material way feels meaningful. Being able to designate money towards financial aid aligns with my gratitude for the institution. The \$17 a month is affordable, even on a graduate student's razor-thin budget.

—Catherine Kane '26



Even the River Starts Small: A Collection of Stories from the Movement to Stop Line 3

Published by Dio Cramer '19 and Haze (Emma) Harrison '21 (Haymarket Books, 2024)

This 300-page collection published by Dio Cramer '19 and Haze (Emma) Harrison '21 features anonymous writing, art, and photos spanning nearly a decade, capturing diverse experiences in the grassroots resistance against the tar sands oil pipeline in northern Minnesota. The anthology team began the project in fall 2021. The first edition of the book was distributed for free as a gift to those involved in the resistance.

"This was a meaningful way to give back to the diverse community of people involved in the fight and to celebrate the power of storytelling as a way to commemorate social movements," say Harrison and Cramer. "We were both heavily involved in the movement to stop Line 3 throughout our time at Mac and had the opportunity to translate what we were learning in the classroom about decolonization and grassroots movements into action."



Les Hunter '01, Carolyn M. Dunn, Eric Micha Holmes, editors. *Decentered Playwriting: Alternative Techniques for the Stage* (Routledge, 2023)



Brent Neilsen '91. *The Joy Cycle: The Surprising Science Behind Leading a More Fulfilling Life* (Able Leadership Consulting, 2023)

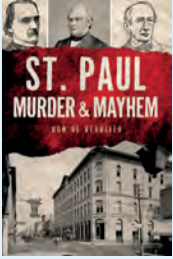


Marisella Veiga '79 and Lewis Carlton. *Famous Florida Recipes: Centuries of Good Eating in the Sunshine State* (Pineapple Press, 2023)

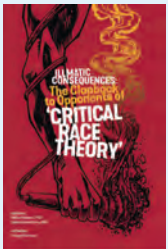


Andru Peters '63. *History of Camp Lakeview National Guard Training Camp 1881-1931, Lake City, Minnesota* (Dorrance Publishing Co., 2023)

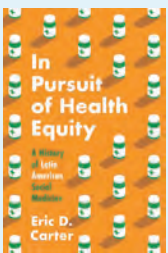
PROVIDED



**Marie Veronica
"Ron" Wu (Ron
de Beaulieu) '09.**
*St. Paul Murder &
Mayhem* (Arcadia
Publishing, 2023)



Walter Geason,
DeWitt Wallace
Professor of His-
tory, and Danian
Darrell Jerry,
editors. *Illmatic
Consequences:
The Clapback
to Opponents
of 'Critical Race
Theory'* (Universal
Write Publica-
tions, 2023)



Eric D. Carter,
Edens Professor
of Geography. *In
Pursuit of Health
Equity: A History
of Latin American
Social Medi-
cine* (University
of North Carolina
Press, 2023)



THE SAINT OF EVERYTHING

by **Deborah Keenan '74**
(Lynx House Press, 2023)

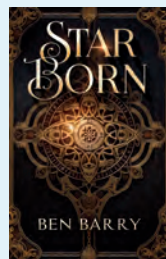


ONE OF THE OLD SONGS

The guy walked past singing *white bird in a golden cage* on a winter's day in the rain. One of the old songs, by the group It's a Beautiful Day. Whatever songs the radio assigns me, whatever songs strangers sing as they pass me, those are my songs for the day. This is my creed, my gospel, my way of trying to stay in the world I was born into. I sang the song doing the dishes that night, and it felt right singing *white bird in a golden cage*, on a winter's day in the rain. It was winter, I was white, as I always would be, I understood myself to be in a golden cage, large enough to live a whole life in. I understood it was a beautiful day, and I lived the song in my body and mind that whole beautiful day.



Dianna Hunter '71.
Clouded Waters
(Holy Cow! Press,
2023)

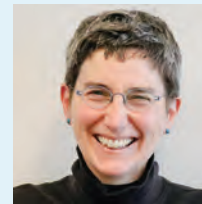


Ben Barry '99.
Star Born (Drabar
Publishing, 2024)



Global Anti-Asian Racism

Edited by Jennifer Ho
(Columbia University Press, 2024)



Dr. Rivi Handler-Spitz, associate professor and chair of Asian languages and cultures, contributed to

Global Anti-Asian Racism, and she also created the book's cover.

"I'm thrilled to be part of this volume," she says. "The past several years have seen a sharp uptick in the number and severity of anti-Asian hate crimes. This volume, which brings together the work of scholars in many fields, addresses the history of anti-Asian hate, its root causes, and the resilience of Asian diasporic communities worldwide."

Her chapter, "Savage Script: How Chinese Writing Became Barbaric," grew out of her course "The Art of Writing in China."

"My student, Maya Schaefer-Fiello '23, did a series of graphic responses that allowed me to appreciate more fully the visual richness of the material," she says. "The classroom conversations among students also inspired me to return to the material and probe it more deeply."

Dan Sullivan '96



rication, I met five other guys about my age doing similar work and founded the Dock 6 Collective. We rented a large space and compiled the necessary machinery to make a full-service wood shop and metal shop. It takes years of practice to get good in this field, being in a supportive community of like-minded people interested in design and fabrication was transformative. Later, we bought an old building on Chicago's west side and retrofit it for our needs. We've been there since 2016.

Find a Coach

About three years ago, I realized I needed to learn how to run a small business beyond just covering my overhead, so I started working with a business coach. We meet weekly and drill down on performance metrics. This relationship and the work we do together has been critical in ensuring the business is sustainable.

Persevere

After graduation, I felt adrift. My dad told me, "Life's long. Don't feel like you need to be in such a rush to accomplish everything." What I found was that I was very productive that year. I stayed busy, engaged in things that interested me. Perseverance is really important in learning your craft, getting good at what you're doing, convincing other people that you know what you're doing, and being able to back it up.

Check Again and Again

I built a beautiful bookshelf for a client in a Chicago high-rise. The designer convinced me it needed to be as big as possible, so I measured the size of the doorway openings and elevator to make sure I could get it up to the unit. It just barely fit into the elevator. When the doors opened on the right floor, we couldn't get it out because they had installed new tile in the hallway, adding about a half-inch. There was the designer, there was the client, and they're looking at me. "I'm taking it back to the shop," I said. We had to start over. What I learned is to always advocate for what you need, and despite best efforts sometimes it's impossible to foresee everything.

Trust Folks

Collaboration is intrinsic in both running my business and making music. Micromanaging people's decisions is often counterproductive. Trust your team to apply their talents to the greater vision and set them up to succeed. I remind myself of this every day.

Around the time Dan Sullivan '96 turned thirty, he realized he didn't have to stop playing music, but he wasn't going to make a living doing it, he says. At Macalester, the East Asian studies major and music minor had spent much of his time doing "extracurricular" music things, including singing in the Festival Chorale and playing in a campus heavy metal band. After graduation, he moved to Chicago, drawn to its active music scene.

Taking a job at the School of the Art Institute, he met his wife, the conceptual artist Edra Soto. He left that job to tour the US and Europe in a band. When he returned, he found work as a preparator for art galleries and other work in the trades. "I found I really enjoyed it," he says. "People are judged on their reliability, on their skills and attitude." Plus, he had "decent" wood-shop skills learned in high school shop class.

In 2005, he started his own general contracting business and was helping his wife build her installations and sculptures. Eventually, Sullivan steered his business out of remodeling and into custom fabrication. Today, Navillus Woodworks specializes in fine furniture, high-end millwork, and museum and artist fabrication. Sullivan's original designed furniture is featured on the hit series *The Bear* (he's pictured above on the set) and in restaurants around the country. He still plays in two bands, Arriver and Nad Navillus. Here, he shares career lessons learned from woodworking—and music.

Build Your Hive

As I was transitioning from remodeling into custom fab-



During a recent visit to Switzerland with her husband, Carl, Mary Kagin Kramer '69 reconnected with members of the family she got to know while participating in the Student Work Abroad Program (SWAP) in the summer of 1968. Mary's time working on the family's farm near Zurich was the highlight of her time at Macalester. Pictured from left: Köbi Guyer, Mary, Vreni Schmid, and Hans Guyer.



Macalester friends gathered in New Rochelle, N.Y., in late 2023 to "compare their kids and share uncomfortable anecdotes from their college days." From left: Nathan Mckee, Jenny Wickens '03, Hanna Stirling Palm '03, Mary Beth Holknekt '02, Mark Flynn '02, Zach Howenstine '02, Marcus Holknekt '02, Chris Stirling Palm '02, Joelle Ruben, Andy Levin '02, and Lilly Engel. Not pictured: Aaron Lundberg '02.



Sophie Nikitas '14 (center) co-produced the "spooky anthology podcast" *Out Cold*. Macalester Associate Professor of English Matt Burgess provided editorial support for the series, and Anna Van Sice '16, Bo Lopez '14, and Diana Chao '14 did voice acting. "Many more alums showed up for the premiere," Sophie writes.

1989

The Class of 1989 will celebrate its 35th Reunion June 6–9, 2024.

Millie Webb moved to Rochester, Minn., more than five years ago and works part time as a nanny for two families. "It's been a boon to enjoy 'honorary grandchildren' in this way," she writes. Millie has three adult children in their 20s, two of whom are Mac alums who majored in biology.

1990

Christopher Franklin was named principal conductor of the Minnesota Opera last December. He began his three-year contract conducting *The Elixir of Love* in February. He plans to conduct *La bohème* in May, and will stand behind the podium for most Minnesota Opera performances through the rest of his tenure.

1993

David Pacheco has been promoted to lieutenant at the Minnetonka, Minn., Fire Department, where he has worked since 2020. He was previously a firefighter in St. Louis Park, Minn. David writes, "If you are in the area and would like to schedule a fire station visit or even a ride-along on one of the engines, feel free to reach out!"

1994

The Class of 1994 will celebrate its 30th Reunion June 6–9, 2024.

1997

Kristen Nelson Sella received a PhD in oceanography last August from Florida State University in Tallahassee. Her dissertation focused on the impact of coastal construction on marine turtle nesting grounds in Florida. "This was eight years of hard work (while working full time for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission)," she writes. "I considered this my midlife crisis PhD, LOL."

1999

The Class of 1999 will celebrate its 25th Reunion June 6–9, 2024.

2004

The Class of 2004 will celebrate its 20th Reunion June 6–9, 2024.

In March 2023, Lauren Flanagan Gaffney became co-owner of Mastel's Health Foods, located on St. Clair Avenue just blocks from Macalester. She began working at Mastel's during her junior year at Mac, subsequently climbing the ranks from the sales floor to become a buyer and then general manager. Under Lauren's leadership, Mastel's was named Retailer of the Year by *Vitamin Retailer Magazine* in 2021, and Lauren was recognized as a Top Woman in Grocery by *Progressive Grocer* in 2023.

2009

The Class of 2009 will celebrate its 15th Reunion June 6–9, 2024.

2014

The Class of 2014 will celebrate its 10th Reunion June 6–9, 2024.

2019

The Class of 2019 will celebrate its 5th Reunion June 6–9, 2024.

2023

Ronan Wallace was named an Alice Rowan Swanson Fellow by the School for International Training. For his fellowship project, Wallace plans to return to Nepal to document the impact of Himalayan flooding through 3D modeling and ethnographic interviewing in two communities threatened by the floods.



1. Wayne Lee '14 and Karen Camacho were married Sept. 2, 2023, in East Palo Alto, Calif. Pictured (from left): Omar Leal '15, Jocelyne Cardona '14, the groom, the bride, Erica Martínez '12, Jessica Muñoz '14, and Isela Gómez '13.

2. Kai Peterson '13 married Tara Cantwell on Nov. 18, 2023, in St. Paul. In attendance were Patrick Leppink-Shands '13, Brian Utz '16, Max Edwards '13, Mike Coleman '11, Cailin Rogers '13, Ben Faulkner '16, Jayne Discenza '13, Silka Schreiber '13, Joe Nagel '12, Justin Margolies '11, Amanda Wenzel Kalstabakken '10, and Wyatt Coleman '14.

3. Erica Solomon Collins '13 and Jackson Collins were married May 7, 2023, in Minneapolis. Several of Erica's classmates joined the celebration, including Annie McBurney '13, who served as maid of honor. Pictured (from left): Christina Getaz '13, Elizabeth Nelson '13, Natalie Camplair '13, the bride, Shaina Kasper '13, Sean Ryan '13, and Emma Kalish '13.



4



5



6



7

4. **Molly Brookfield '09** and Giovanni Román-Torres were married Sept. 30, 2023, in Chattanooga, Tenn. The newlyweds celebrated with Molly's mother, **Kimerly Miller '72**, and friends from both Molly's and Kimerly's eras at Mac. Alums pictured include: **Héctor Ramos '09**, **Caroline Rendon '09**, **John Austin '72**, **Jim Bach '72**, **Gabrielle Lawrence '73**, **Kathy Steiner '72**, **Cynthia Buckingham '73**, and **John Callahan '71**.

5. **Mark Salzwedel '84** married Jesus Soto Villavicencio in Brooklyn, N.Y., on July 17. They will have a second reception in Tampico, Mexico, this spring.

6. **Kaila Chan '15** and **Inti Chomsky '13** were married Oct. 21, 2023, in Oaxaca de Juárez, Mexico. Pictured from left: **Vincy Chan '15**, **Alizrin Menninga '15**, **Charlotte Yaqing Wen '13**, **Hannah Gemrich '15**, **Inti**, **Kaila**, **Micah Mumper '13**, **Stephen Pardy '13**, **Riley Carlson '13**, and **Justine Sigel '15**.

7. **Emma Clink '19** and **Robin Brooks '20** celebrated their marriage on Oct. 6, 2023, in Hastings, Minn. Several Macalester friends joined them. Pictured from left: **Jessica Wilson '21**, **Erik Larsen '21**, **Andrew Taylor '20**, **Rosie Chittick '20**, **Robin**, **Emma**, **Alex Hilton-Watson '20**, **Kira Drew Pollack '18**, **Riley Yawn-White '19**, and **Hope Reznicek '20**.

CELEBRATE WITH MAC!

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

VIRTUAL PROGRAMMING TASK FORCE

Dr. Karen Kaufman-Codjoe '74 is chair of the Alumni Board's Virtual Programming Task Force. A biology major, Kaufman-Codjoe went on to practice medicine in Texas, Ohio, and Tennessee. She spoke with *Macalester Today* about some of the task force's ongoing programming and what she's looking forward to when she celebrates her 50th Reunion, June 6-9, 2024.

How did the Virtual Programming Task Force come about?

We first did some virtual programming during the pandemic. The programs were well received and we realized how virtual programming reached so many people, even alumni living outside the US, despite the time difference. This proved to be an effective tool for fulfilling our mission to engage alumni.

What are some examples of virtual programming?

We presented an anti-racist parenting session which had over 200 participants. We had panelists and several breakout rooms where aspects of the topic were explored further.

With the strategic plan, everybody's looking at the importance of a liberal arts education. In March, we had an online panel discussion called "Liberal Arts at Macalester: What Still Fits Under the Big Tent." Panelists from the Class of 1973, Class of 1998, Class of 2022, and a current student discussed how important Macalester was to their career/future career (because everything *does* fit under the big tent). The age contrast provided a fruitful discussion.

What are you looking forward to at your 50th Reunion?

I'm looking forward to being inducted into the Golden Scots Society. That will be special. The Sounds of Blackness will be having a concert, which I am also excited about. It is always nice to visit with friends. Minnesota weather is so pleasant during the summer.



Why is staying connected to Macalester important to you?

I think our process of continually looking at ourselves and seeing how we can best address the issues that the college is facing is important. President Rivera says alumni are the biggest branch of the college tree. We number in the thousands. That is a lot of assets. Being an asset is important to me.

—Catherine Kane '26



To learn more about the Alumni Board and upcoming events and opportunities, visit macalester.edu/alumni/alumniboard.

1942

Elise Mahlum Johnson-Hoffman, 103, died Nov. 28, 2023. She served on the Redwood City, Calif., School Board and Planning Commission and worked at Stanford University from 1966 to 1985. She is survived by four children, five grandsons, and eight great-grandchildren.

1944

Laurie "Joy" Ekstrand Lutzi, 100, of Mankato, Minn., died Feb. 7, 2024. She was a homemaker and school board member. With her husband, she operated Mankato Hobby Craft for fifteen years. Lutzi also held various clerical positions before retiring from North Mankato City Hall. She is survived by three children and a brother.

1947

Betty Stanberry Webb, 98, died Jan. 26, 2024, in Durham, N.C. She worked part time at county libraries and headed Burton Memorial Library in Burton, Mich., retiring in 1987. Webb is survived by three children, three grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

1950

Claereda M. Dethmers, 96, died Dec. 23, 2023, in St. Paul. She worked for the University of Minnesota–Duluth. She is survived by two brothers, including Gordon Dethmers '60.

1951

Barbara Higgins Miles, 94, of Mandeville, La., died Dec. 29, 2023. After a career in social work during the 1950s and 1960s, Miles worked as a real estate agent in Baton Rouge, La. She is survived by four children.

Lois Wendt Peterson, 93, died Feb. 27, 2023. She is survived by a daughter, a son, eight grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

1952

Donald L. Erp, 94, of Canby,

Minn., died Jan. 10, 2024. He served in the US Army's finance office from 1952 to 1954. Erp began his teaching career in Chaska, Minn., and taught math at Hopkins (Minn.) Senior High School from 1956 until his retirement in 1987.

Charlotte Hanson Peterson died Dec. 8, 2023. She was a schoolteacher in Brownton, Minn., and Great Falls, Mont., and later worked as a real estate agent. Peterson is survived by her husband, Paul, two children, and four grandchildren.

1954

John W. Cunningham, 93, died Jan. 18, 2024, in Aiken, S.C. He served with the US Army Combat Engineers in Korea and worked in accounting and finance with US Gypsum Chicago and Graniteville Company. He later was president and chief executive officer of Palmetto Federal. Cunningham is survived by four children and many grandchildren.

Mary Winkler Fullerton, 91, of White Bear Lake, Minn., died Dec. 6, 2023. She taught in the White Bear Lake School District for thirty-five years. Fullerton is survived by two sons, four grandchildren, and a great-grandson.

Merlin Garlid, 91, of Chandler, Ariz., and Chisago City, Minn., died Dec. 24, 2023. He worked for the University of Minnesota as director of research contract administration. Garlid is survived by three children, eight grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

Dorothy Watkins Noecker, 91, of Clinton, Iowa, died Jan. 26, 2024. She taught in the Clinton Community School District for twenty-two years. She is survived by five children, eleven grandchildren, and sixteen great-grandchildren.

Marilyn Clark Sanchez, 93, of Edina and Golden Valley, Minn., died Jan. 18, 2024. She taught English and speech at Edina High School, was assistant

director of McConnell Airline School, and worked for twenty years as an adult probation officer with Hennepin County Corrections. Sanchez also tutored migrants privately and through the YWCA. She is survived by a brother.

1955

Doris Russell Yeingst, 89, died Jan. 22, 2023, in Denver. She is survived by her husband, Lee, a daughter, a son, and four grandchildren.

1956

David P. Edstrom, 85, of Shoreview, Minn., and Sun City West, Ariz., died July 22, 2020. He retired after thirty years with Northwestern National Life. Edstrom is survived by his wife, Vicki, four children, twelve grandchildren, a great-granddaughter, and a sister.

Robert R. Helmerichs, 91, died Nov. 19, 2023. He served as a paratrooper in Korea. He was president of Bank of Minneapolis and launched a

property management company. Helmerichs is survived by two sons, three grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, and partner Norma Quine.

1957

Gerald R. Dokka, 92, died Nov. 10, 2023. He served in the US Air Force from 1949 to 1953 and was a vice president at Methodist Hospital in St. Louis Park, Minn., from 1967 to 1990. Dokka is survived by his wife, Margaret, two daughters, a son, and five grandchildren.

Nancy Flannery Pedersen, 88, of Oak Park Heights, Minn., died Dec. 6, 2023. She taught elementary school and was active with the Stillwater Public Library Board. Pedersen is survived by her husband, Kenneth.

1958

Bruce J. Hedblom, 87, of Minnetonka, Minn., died Jan. 30, 2024. He worked for the Federal Reserve Bank in Minneapolis

// OTHER LOSSES



Beth C. Hillemann, a reference librarian and coordinator of library instruction at Macalester, died Jan. 18, 2024, at the age of 62. She lived in St. Paul. After working at the Crete, Ill., Public Library and the University of Wisconsin–Whitewater, Hillemann joined Macalester's staff in 1993

and played a key role in developing the library's research and instruction program. She also advanced the library's reference and consultation strategies and helped integrate information literacy into the college's curriculum. An endowed scholarship fund at Macalester will be established in her name. Hillemann is survived by her brother.



Former Macalester faculty member **Colleen Kelley** of Tallahassee, Fla., died Nov. 12, 2023, at the age of 69. An associate professor of psychology at Macalester from 1990 to 1997, Kelley also taught at Williams College and Reed College. She retired after 26 years as a professor of

psychology at Florida State University. She is survived by her husband, Mark Seidenfeld, a son, a sister, and two brothers.

IN MEMORIAM

and Helena, Mont., retiring in 1990 after attaining the rank of vice president. Hedblom also served as president of Rotary Clubs in Helena and Minneapolis and as bandmaster of the 451st Army Band at Fort Snelling. He is survived by his wife, Carol Cline-Hedblom, a daughter, and a son.

Wilson G. Henderson, 94, died Nov. 27, 2023. He served in the US Army during the Korean War and taught physics at the high school level. Henderson later taught physical science classes at the College of Eastern Utah for more than thirty years. He is survived by his wife, Evelyn, two children, numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren, a great-great-grandson, a sister, and two brothers.

Kaye Lehmkuhl Roth, 87, of Austin, Texas, died Dec. 6, 2023. She taught at the junior high and high school levels and served as director of children's music at Covenant Presbyterian Church for more than thirty years. Roth is survived by two sons, three grandsons, and a brother.

1959

Ivan J. Hansen died Nov. 20, 2023. He worked as an administrative assistant for Massachusetts General Hospital.

1960

Virginia Anderson Rubbright, 85, of Orlando, Fla., died Jan. 5, 2024. During a thirty-four-year career in education, she was an elementary school teacher, a school administrator, and a gifted reading specialist. Rubbright is survived by two daughters and three grandchildren.

1961

Mary Holden Olson, 84, died Nov. 7, 2023. She worked as an educational assistant at Highland Park Junior High and High Schools and volunteered as a piano accompanist. Olson is survived by a daughter, a son, and two granddaughters.

Joan Symons Rosetter, 84, of Granite Falls, Minn., died Feb. 10, 2024. She taught for a few years in Minnesota and farmed with her husband near Granite Falls. Rosetter is survived by two children, grandchildren, a sister, and a brother.

Thomas K. Thompson, 83, died Dec. 2, 2023. During his career as a chemical engineer, he worked for 3M, INEL, Energy Incorporated, and LASL. Thompson founded his own engineering consulting company in 1979 and retired in 2002. He is survived by his wife, Allie, a daughter, a son, and three grandsons.

1962

Judith Eichinger Heffron, 83, of Shoreview, Minn., died Jan. 21, 2024. She taught in the North St. Paul/Maplewood, Minn., School District until 1974. Heffron is survived by a daughter and two granddaughters.

1963

Justine Broberg Boots, 82, died Jan. 27, 2024, at her home on Big Sugar Bush Lake in Minnesota. She taught French at Luther College, Concordia College, the University of Chicago, Phillips University, the University of Foreign Languages in Dalian, China, and at Thomas Jefferson Independent Day School in Joplin, Mo. Boots is survived by her husband, John, two daughters, and a sister.

Judith Miller Flatt, 82, of St. Peter, Minn., died Jan. 8, 2024. She taught in Virginia, Minn., worked as a librarian with the Military School System in the Philippines and Germany, and worked for the Minnesota Regional Library. Flatt is survived by six grandchildren.

1965

James H. Aamodt, 81, died Jan. 18, 2024. As a musician, he played with the Skeets Trio and appeared twice on *The Lawrence Welk Show*. Aamodt later sold trucks for the Ford Motor Company and was named the nation's Most Knowledgeable

// OTHER LOSSES



William J. Reed, a voice studio instructor at Macalester, died Jan. 12, 2024, at the age of 65. In addition to teaching at Macalester from 2006 to 2024, Reed also taught at the University of St. Thomas, Bethel University, and Minneapolis Community College. He is survived by his wife, Michelle, three sons, two grandchildren, and five siblings.



Former Macalester trustee **Mary W. Vaughan** died Nov. 20, 2023, at the age of 95. She served in leadership positions on the boards of numerous organizations in addition to Macalester, including the Ordway Theater, the Minnesota Opera, the Guthrie Theater, Northrop School, Abbott-Northwestern Hospital, and Stevens Square Community Organization. She is survived by four children (Charlotte Winton, Carol Bemis, former Macalester biology professor Dr. Peter Vaughan, and Angus Vaughan '80), twelve grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, and two sisters.

Ford Truck Salesperson in 1988. He also operated an equipment leasing company for more than forty years. Aamodt is survived by his wife, Marcia.

Joachim B. Jaehne, 80, died Nov. 30, 2023. He served as a base photographer in the US Air Force, but after receiving orders to photograph bombing sites in Vietnam, he deserted and emigrated to Canada with his wife and infant son. He worked as a teacher in Winnipeg, owned a hardware store, served as a theater inspector for the Film Board, and opened the Good Wool Shop. Jaehne also made jewelry, forged ornamental ironwork, and exhibited Shaker-inspired boxes and baskets at the Winnipeg Art Gallery. He is survived by his wife, Virginia, a son, two granddaughters, and two siblings.

1966

Janet R. Lindquist, 78, died Oct. 29, 2023. She did social work in New York City and at the VA Hospital in St. Louis, worked as a juvenile parole agent for the State of Minnesota, and was a therapist at a residential treatment center and in private practice in Eau

Claire, Wis., and Littleton, Colo. After earning an educational specialist degree in school psychology, Lindquist worked in the Littleton Public Schools. She is survived by her wife, Kim Joseph, a daughter, three grandsons, and sister Barbara Lindquist Miller '60.

1967

Cathryn Cornell, 78, of Bridgeport, Conn., died Jan. 28, 2024. She was a social worker.

Leslie Hart Lawrence, 78, of Long Prairie, Minn., died Nov. 11, 2023. Lawrence and her husband, John Tiegen, operated Hart Trailer Sales until their retirement in 2014. She is survived by her husband, a daughter, fourteen grandchildren, and a sister.

David A. Posthumus, 78, of Excelsior, Minn., died Dec. 3, 2023. He worked in international logistics and transportation. Posthumus is survived by his wife, Gayle, two sisters, and two brothers.

1968

Lorna Grindell Bell of Minneapolis died Dec. 27, 2023. She was a professional writer. Bell

is survived by her husband, Rick Bell '68, two children, two grandchildren, and her siblings.

Dennis C. Stromberg, 78, of Bradford, Pa., died Jan. 13, 2024. At Macalester, he was part of Ambassadors for Friendship and participated in the Student Work Abroad Program (SWAP). He began a career in executive sales and marketing with the Caterpillar Corporation in Peoria, Ill. For twenty years, Stromberg worked for construction equipment companies in Switzerland, Spain, England, and the Netherlands. He is survived by his wife, Patricia, two sons (including Erik Stromberg '98), two grandsons, a sister, and former wife Sandra Fredde Stromberg '68.

1969

Nancy Jo Dillman, 76, of Baraboo, Wis., died Nov. 15, 2023. After working with the Central Intelligence Agency from 1969 to 1981, Dillman moved to Baraboo, where she established a stained glass studio and opened Cornerstone Gallery. Dillman was also active with the Sauk County Humane Society and self-published four

time-travel romance novels. She is survived by her husband, Helfried.

1972

Thomas P. Ross, 75, died Jan. 3, 2024. He worked in health care and sang in choirs and played organ at churches around the Twin Cities. He is survived by four sisters and a brother.

1976

David R. Rosewall, 69, died Jan. 14, 2024, in Minneapolis. He worked in human resources with NCS, The St. Paul Companies, Cargill, and Children's Hospitals. Rosewall was also an active volunteer and served on the boards of CASA Minnesota and Minnesota Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. He is survived by his partner, Anne Walsh, two daughters, a son, five grandchildren, his mother, a sister, a brother, and former wife Janet Fitzgerald '76.

Levin P. Tull, 69, died Jan. 25, 2024. He worked in radio broadcasting in Rhode Island and Texas and taught high school science. He retired to Blountville, Tenn., in

2018. Tull is survived by his wife, Candace, three children, four grandchildren, and two sisters.

1983

Andrea Matthews Clark, 61, died Oct. 21, 2023. She worked at the Walker Art Center and the Minneapolis *Star Tribune*, wrote for Minnesota Public Radio, and served on the Minnesota State Arts Board.

1992

Thomas W. Cullinan, 53, of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, died Nov. 30, 2023. He worked in theater as an actor, director, designer, and educator in the Twin Cities, Chicago, and Cleveland, focusing on puppetry and improvisation. He was a founder of Bad Epitaph Theater Company, with which he performed the title role in Hamlet, and founded the improv troupe at the Houde School of Acting. Cullinan was active in the recovery community, serving as an employment counselor with Community Service Alliance and volunteering with the Cleveland Clinic, where he informed pre-transplant patients about

the benefits of sober living. He is survived by his wife, Joanna.

2006

Theodore D. Clement, 40, died Jan. 5, 2024. He worked as a city planner for New York City and as a land use and real estate attorney with Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson. Clement served on Macalester's Board of Trustees, following in the footsteps of his father, Stephen M. Clement III; his grandmother Mary Lee Dayton; his great-aunt Ruth Stricker Dayton '57; and his great-grandfather Dr. Arnold Lowe. Clement joined the Board in 2019 and chaired its Governance Committee beginning in 2023. In addition to giving generously to the college through the Macalester Fund and the David A. Lanegran Geography Fund, he volunteered as an admissions interviewer, an alumni chapter leader, and a member of his Reunion planning committee. He was also a member of the board of his family's business, The Okabena Company. Clement is survived by his wife, Diana, his parents, a daughter, a son, and a brother.



This year at Macalester, we are celebrating the 150th anniversary of our founding. Throughout 2024, we're reflecting on our history, who we are today, and where we're headed as we implement our strategic plan. It is a year of reflection, celebration, and joy—and you're invited.



To see upcoming events and links to register, visit macalester.edu/150 or scan the code.

SESQUICENTENNIAL EVENTS

- June 6–9** **Macalester Reunion**
Campus
- July 13** **Scottish Fair and Highland Games**
Campus
- Aug. 6–18** **Scotland Heritage Trip and World Pipe Band Championships**
Scotland
- Aug. 16** **150th Reception with Pipe Band**
Scotland
- Sept. 27–29** **Mac Fest**
Campus
- Oct. 16** **Imagine: How is Macalester advancing opportunity?**
San Francisco
- Oct. 24** **Imagine: What is the role of activism in changemaking?**
St. Paul

Bands@Mac

From punk rock to hip-hop, electronic to gospel, some of the brightest minds in music have come out of Macalester. Grammy Award winners like Gary Hines '74 with the Sounds of Blackness as well as Amanda Warner '01 of MNDR; Bob Mould '82 of Hüsker Du and Sugar; Kerry Alexander '12 and Chris Hoge '12 of Bad Bad Hats; Ghanaian rapper M.anifest (Kwame Tsikata '05); Walt Mink's Candice Belanoff '90, John Kimbrough '90, and Joey Waronker '92; Dwindle's Bruce Templeton '95, Jeff Gillam '94, and John Sanders '95; and Will Sheff '98 of Okkervil River are just some of our graduates who have made a name for themselves in the world of sound.

You can stream the Macalester playlist, with many songs hand-picked by the artists, by scanning the Spotify code.

For the first time ever, you can now stream the following Sounds of Blackness albums on Soundcloud: Stream *The Night Before Christmas: A Musical Fantasy*; *Images 2*; and *Images of Blackness* by scanning the Soundcloud code. —John Esh, archives specialist, and Dave Collins '85, research and instruction librarian



Mac Music—Spotify



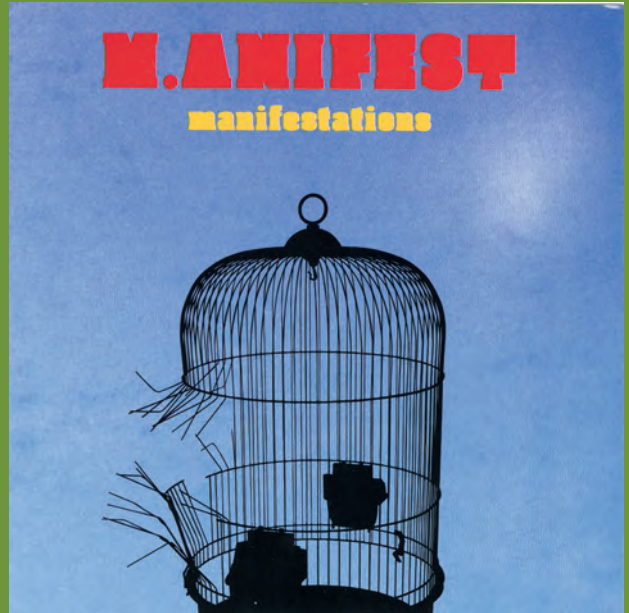
Sounds of Blackness/
Soundcloud



Were you a singer, rapper, musician, or in a band during or after your time at Mac? Do you remember seeing Macalester-based acts play on or off campus?

Bands@Mac is a sesquicentennial project created to assemble Mac music-related resources and materials. You can be a part of history by contributing stories, imagery, and artifacts (like fliers, records, and photographs) to the archives for inclusion in our collections and the forthcoming Bands@Mac website.

Contact us at archives@macalester.edu for more information or to arrange a donation.





“Friends of Macalester build for the generations of tomorrow.”

In 1959, our outlook on the Macalester Fund was clear: “Improving the excellence of Macalester’s educational performance requires new friends who believe in this goal. Therefore, the College is turning to you for not only material, but moral and community support. Here is an opportunity for you as a friend of Macalester to join in an exciting ‘Adventure in Greatness.’”

In the 150 years since the college's founding in 1874, collective support has propelled the Macalester mission forward. As we celebrate our sesquicentennial, we are honoring the past while contributing to the next 150 years. **You’re invited to join this journey and continue the legacy of philanthropy, generosity, and progress by making a gift to the Macalester Fund by May 31.**

Thank you for investing in the future of Macalester and uplifting the impact of generations to come.

MACALESTER FUND

macalester.edu/giving



MACALESTER COLLEGE

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CLASS NOTES EXTENDED PLAY St. Paul 1969 | San Sebastián 2023

In October 2023, members of the Class of 1970 gathered in San Sebastián, Spain, to restage a photo taken on Grand Avenue in 1969 by Dale Shuster '71. Longtime Madrid resident Erik Baum '70 coordinated the re-creation. Pictured (from left): Paul Sherburne '70, David Opp '70, Erik, Lee Pierce '70, Laurence Doxsey '70 (standing in for the late Bob Douglas '70), and Eric Wheeler '70.