

# TODAY

## BEYOND THE BORDER

---

At UnidosUS, Cristobal Ramón '06 fights for immigration policies that are driven by accurate data.





14



16



22

## FEATURES

### Beyond the Border 12

As immigration emerges as a top election issue, Cristobal Ramón '06 ensures that accurate data informs the discussion.

### Code of Conduct 14

With a grounding in history and political science, B. Todd Jones '79 has navigated high-profile roles in law enforcement, government, and the National Football League.

### Biography of Old Main 16

The beautiful, chaotic life of Macalester's most iconic building.

### Presidential Panel 22

Macalester's past and present leaders reflect on their years at the college.

### From the Classroom to the White House 24

Award-winning biology professor Devavani Chatterjea lends her expertise to the White House.

### A Not-So-Retiring Retirement 26

After a successful career in health care analytics, Erin DeRuggiero '96 is focusing on supporting up-and-coming entrepreneurs.

### Values Driven 28

Meet the eleven alumni honored for alumni achievement at Reunion 2024.

### Software Design and Development 34

Professor Joslenne Peña believes that developing empathy and inclusiveness is just as crucial as learning code.

#### ON THE COVER:

Cristobal Ramón '06 at UnidosUs, the nation's largest Latino civil rights and advocacy organization, in Wash., DC.

PHOTO BY STEPHEN VOSS.





24



26

## DEPARTMENTS

**Correspondence** 2

**Sounding Board** 3

**1600 Grand** 4

Our Heilan Coo, labors of love and literature, Reunion 2024, and more

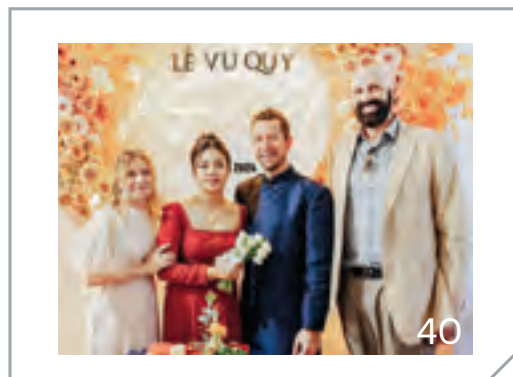
**Class Notes** 36

**Books** 38

**Weddings** 40

**In Memoriam** 44

**Last Look** 48



40

## STAFF

### EDITOR

Julie Hessler '85  
jhessler@macalester.edu

### ART DIRECTION

The ESC Plan / theESCplan.com

### CLASS NOTES EDITOR

Robert Kerr '92

### CONTRIBUTORS

Kelsey Fox '17  
Ashli Cean Landa  
Joe Linstroth  
Alexandra McLaughlin '16

### INTERIM ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT FOR MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

Rebecca DeJarlais Ortiz '06



MACALESTER

### CHAIR, BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Carrie Norbin Killoran '94

### PRESIDENT

Dr. Suzanne M. Rivera

### VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADVANCEMENT

Joanna E. Curtis '97

### ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT OF ENGAGEMENT

Catie Gardner Smith

### MACALESTER TODAY (Volume 112, Number 3)

is published by Macalester College. It is mailed free of charge to alumni and friends of the college four times a year.

Circulation is 32,000.

### TO UPDATE YOUR ADDRESS:

Email: [alumnioffice@macalester.edu](mailto:alumnioffice@macalester.edu)  
Call: 651-696-6295 or 1-888-242-9351  
Write: Alumni Engagement Office, Macalester College, 1600 Grand Ave., St. Paul, MN 55105-1899

### TO SHARE COMMENTS OR IDEAS:

Email: [mactoday@macalester.edu](mailto:mactoday@macalester.edu)  
Phone: 651-696-6443



### College in the Age of AI

Thank you for the Spring 2024 article “College in the Age of AI” by Erin Peterson. It was informative and thought provoking. In recent weeks, the topic of AI has been in sensational headlines so I read the *Macalester Today* article with great interest. I am appreciative of Peterson’s overview and focus upon the academic environment. I especially enjoyed the illustrations by Marcos Chin. All five of his images utilized visual metaphors—a wave, a bucking bronco, and a dirigible—to name a few of the ways he symbolized AI. In contrast, the three images generated by Adobe Firefly from prompts were simplistic. I hope readers of *Macalester Today* noticed the limited meaning of the AI images despite how attractive and polished they were. With the colorful printing and the slightly larger format used for the AI images, the AI images could be considered more impressive; more visually striking. But, careful observers and critical thinkers notice that the AI images are vacuous. I am reminded of the comparison between our media diets and our actual food consumption: we can choose to eat empty calories or satisfying, nutritious meals. A little bit of processed junk can be fine and even fun, but do not let it ruin your appetite for the truly good food that we need. Chin’s art feeds our imaginations more complex ideas and enriches us on a deeper level.

Monica Lewis P’24  
Richmond, Virginia

CONNECT WITH US   

Visit Mac’s social media hub at [macalester.edu/macsocial](https://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](mailto:mactoday@macalester.edu)
- Tweet: @macalester using the hashtag #macalestertoday
- Mail: *Macalester Today*, Macalester College, 1600 Grand Ave., St. Paul, MN 55105

### Presidential Portraits

When the college’s four most recent presidents gathered for a sesquicentennial panel discussion at Reunion 2024, we were reminded of a photo from the centennial celebration of the college’s opening, held in 1985.



Macalester’s six living presidents at the 1985 centennial celebration of the college’s opening. Seated: Harvey M. Rice (1958–1968), Charles J. Turck (1939–1958). Standing: James A. Robinson (1971–75), Arthur S. Flemming (1968–1971), John B. Davis Jr. (1975–1984), Robert M. Gavin Jr. (1984–1996).



From left: Presidents Emeriti Robert M. Gavin Jr. (1984–1996), Michael S. McPherson (1996–2003), and Brian C. Rosenberg (2003–2020) with President Suzanne M. Rivera (2020–present) at Reunion 2024.

COURTESY OF MACALESTER ARCHIVES; DAVID J. TURNER



### Correction

On the Last Look page of our spring 2024 issue (Bands @ Mac), we left out a crucial member of Walt Mink: bass player Candice Belanoff ’90. We regret the error.

WALT MINK

# Our Obligations to Foster Respectful Dialogue

Right now on campus, our newest Scots—the Class of 2028—are beginning their Macalester journeys. They're participating in pre-season athletics training, unpacking suitcases, making Target runs, and meeting new friends whose world views are very different from their own. Collectively, the Class of 2028 holds citizenship in sixty countries and speaks forty-nine languages. Among our first-year students, 21 percent are international, 16 percent are first in their families to attend college, and 40 percent of domestic students identify as people of color. The entering group of students also represents a broad variety of faith traditions, political viewpoints, and cultural practices.

Across 150 years of Macalester history, creating an intentional community of thinkers and doers has been woven into the fabric of our identity. We believe we are stronger because of the diversity of perspectives on our campus. We aspire to cultivate an environment at Macalester to which every person brings not only their life experiences but also the individual spark that makes them unique.

As I reflect on the turbulence experienced on college campuses across the country over the last year, I'm thinking deeply about what our students need from Macalester this fall and beyond. We know we will continue to face significant challenges as we strive to affirm the importance of freedom of expression, prepare students to engage actively in civic life, and uphold our responsibility to ensure that campus spaces are respectful and welcoming—especially when we passionately disagree with one another.

Forming a supportive campus environment doesn't happen by accident. Living and learning together in community requires open-mindedness, patience, compassion, courage, humility, and kindness. It sometimes involves navigating vehement disagreements about important issues. To make it work, we ask every member of the community to accept the personal obligation to practice deep listening, extend grace, and consider multiple perspectives.

Sadly, it seems these are not tools that students consistently acquire in the K-12 system, nor are they seeing them modeled in society. More and more, students arrive on campus without meaningful experience practicing how to work through disagreements in healthy and productive ways. It's our goal to help the Class of 2028 understand the responsibilities we all share in creating the community we want for ourselves and for others.

Effective and respectful communication across ideological and other differences is vital to a quality liberal arts education—



and to success in life. At Mac, we believe teaching these skills is as important as teaching students how to write papers or present capstone research. So, we're building opportunities for our newest Scots to explore and develop these skills, in and out of the classroom, as soon as they arrive on campus. This year, Orientation sessions include:

- "Supporting Members of Our Community," which emphasizes the importance of care, communication, and respect, and how we hold one another accountable to community standards;
- A "This Matters at Mac" session that explores principles of equity, inclusion, and justice as they relate to creating a sense of belonging for all; and
- Residence hall meetings during which students are introduced to expectations for living in community with others, including conversations about how to approach conflict and communication.

To make sure Macalester is a leader in this work to build skills for dialogue across differences, we are involved in numerous national and regional programs. Last spring, we joined the College Presidents for Civic Preparedness national initiative, which brings together campus leaders who are committed to preparing today's young people for effective participation in our democracy. Several faculty members are engaged in deepening their skills on how to best support students in these efforts, and how to incorporate this work into their pedagogy. We'll continue our Critical Dialogue Series (led by the Lealtad-Suzuki Center for Social Justice), and our Congress to Campus program, which brings former elected officials to campus to discuss issues from different perspectives. In a new initiative this fall, we'll partner with the University of Northwestern in a Reduce the Rancor project, a statewide campaign led by Braver Angels to reduce hostility and increase respect in public and private life.

Our goal through these initiatives is to create pathways for every member of our community to practice the messy, uncomfortable, and crucial work of advancing pluralism. I believe we are capable of having complicated conversations, with both courage and kindness—this fall, and for years to come—as our students carry their Macalester experiences with them into communities and workplaces around the world.

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

## LEARN MORE

Learn more about our work: [macalester.edu/life-at-mac/dialogue-across-differences](https://macalester.edu/life-at-mac/dialogue-across-differences)



# 1600 GRAND



## COMMENCEMENT

After Angelina Dodge '24, left, and Maksim Smith '24 climbed down from the tree on the Great Lawn, they joined their classmates for Commencement at the Macalester Stadium on May 11.

Laura Coates, CNN anchor and chief legal analyst, gave the Commencement keynote address. Anna Diagne Sène '24, right, was selected by her classmates as the student speaker.

“ So, graduates, I only have one ask as we embark on a new journey to build other homes,” said Sène. “Whether you end up an entrepreneur, a local teacher, a corporate analyst, a nonprofit manager, or whatever path life takes you, remember to bring others with you. *Remember to bring others with you.*”





## Faculty research in a nutshell.

**Researcher:** Dr. Kristi Curry Rogers, DeWitt Wallace Professor of Biology and Geology

**Subject:** Growth patterns among the earliest-known dinosaurs.

**Abstract:** Famous dinosaurs, like the long-necked giant sauropods, duck-billed hadrosaurs, and fearsome carnivores like *T. rex* grew up fast, but all of these icons evolved millions of years after dinosaurs originated. When dinosaurs first evolved, different groups of reptiles ruled, many of which are more closely related to living crocodiles than to dinosaurs. Near the end of the Triassic Period around 230 million years ago, dinosaurs became more common. Scientists have long surmised that uniquely rapid growth patterns may have helped them rise to dominance. Until now, exactly how fast the very first dinosaurs grew compared to other animals has remained a mystery.

In a groundbreaking new study published in the journal *PLOS ONE*, lead researcher Kristi Curry Rogers, DeWitt Wallace Professor of Biology and Geology, and her colleagues (including Ray Rogers, DeWitt Wallace Professor of Geology) offer a first-ever look at growth patterns among the earliest-known dinosaurs. Their results pave the way for paleontologists to better

understand how dinosaurs came to be the ultimate survivors of multiple mass extinctions, and eventually rose to rule the earth for hundreds of millions of years.

**Takeaway:** “We’ve always wanted to know something about how and when dinosaurs may have originated some of their most special characteristics, and which of their many traits might have been critical to their survival,” says Curry Rogers. “One feature that is often thought to set dinosaurs apart is their rapid growth rates. Studies of many species reveal that dinosaurs, as a group, grew more like mammals and birds than like reptiles. But when did dinosaurs first evolve these rapid growth patterns?”

“In our study, we took a look at growth in the oldest known dinosaurs, as well as a suite of non-dinosaurian reptiles living at the same time and in the same ecosystem. We wanted to know whether at this earliest moment of dinosaur evolution, the first dinosaurs grew any differently than their non-dino sidekicks. It turns out that, at the start, there was a lot of overlap in the way all of these animals grew! When dinosaurs first arrived on the scene, their growth rates really didn’t set them apart, but were just one of a suite of new adaptations that helped dinosaurs survive and thrive in a world decimated by extinction.”

## STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE



This summer, the college is advancing many elements of the strategic plan, including moving forward with the early stages of planning for a new residence hall and welcome center building at the intersection of Grand Avenue and Macalester Street in St. Paul.

The project is part of the college’s comprehensive campus plan, developed after the new strategic plan was completed in 2022.

“The new residence hall and welcome center is an important investment in Macalester’s future,” says President Suzanne M. Rivera. “The building will serve as a new front door to our college, provide a residential experience to more of our students, and enhance our presence in the neighborhood.”

The green infrastructure will include state-of-the-art geothermal technology, rooftop solar, and stormwater retention. The new building is expected to be completed in 2027.

Visit the [Imagine, Macalester](https://www.maclester.edu/strategic-plan) page to learn more: [maclester.edu/strategic-plan](https://www.maclester.edu/strategic-plan).





# Labors of Love and Literature

**W**hen English professor Andrea Kaston Tange announced to her nineteenth-century British literature class that they would be sewing mourning dresses for two fifteen-inch dolls, she was pleased to discover that most of her students were excited by the idea.

So she was surprised by how quickly the enthusiasm faded once needles were in hand.

“After one day of working, there was kind of a rebellion,” she says. “They were like, ‘this is hard! We don’t want to do it!’ and I was like, ‘hard is the point!’”

The “Ladies and Monsters” class was studying *Mary Barton*, an 1840s novel set in the textile-industrial north of England. Tange wanted the project to help “make the past less of a foreign country” by having students participate in common labor of the time.

“If you’re talking about a time before sewing machines, it’s almost impossible to get your head around the actual labor of living unless you try your hand at it,” she says.

In the book, a character is tasked with sewing four (human-sized) mourning dresses in roughly thirty-six hours. Tange estimates that it took the class forty to fifty hours to finish the two doll-sized recreations, which included a quilted petticoat, skirt, and bodice.

“We’d be sitting in discussion talking about the

book, and people kept raising their hands and [Tange] would say, ‘Book question or sewing question?’ and they’d sheepishly say ‘Sewing...’ and we’d all giggle because we had no idea what we were doing,” Gavia Boyden ’26 (Seattle) says.

Tange also designed the project to encourage students’ engagement with the novel through a contextually comprehensive lens.

“Thinking about material processes and day-to-day lives is crucial for understanding the conditions in which these books were written,” she says. “The conditions in which they would have been originally read—who has the luxury of reading them and who doesn’t, who’s represented and who’s not—it changes how you read.”

Tange’s students say the lessons were received loud and clear. Peyton Williamson ’27 (Austin, Texas) was “completely baffled” by the amount of work a character her age was expected to do.

“It really puts into perspective how much technology we have at our disposal now to do hard labor,” she says. “Sewing is easier talked about than done.”

As difficult as learning to sew and discussing literature at the same time was, students and professor both say the final product—and the shared experience of creating it—was well worth the effort.

“When they suddenly had the whole doll in their hands and were able to look at the layers, the finished edges, the teeny little stitches on teeny tiny hems—there was this quiet that went around the room,” Tange shares. “They all looked a bit in awe by what they’d accomplished.”

“My favorite aspect was getting to know and connect with my classmates as we sat in a circle, pricked our fingers, and laughed as we struggled to thread a needle,” says Boyden. “It amazed me how possible it is to form a community over even a small labor of love.”

—Ashli Cean Landa





# EXPLORING URBAN AGRICULTURE

**T**he Twin Cities are home to a wide variety of international cultural cuisines. This summer, Reece McKee '25 (Charlottesville, Va.), was able to explore their literal roots in urban agriculture around the metro.

After taking "People, Agriculture, and the Environment" with DeWitt Wallace Professor of Geography Bill Moseley in his sophomore year, McKee was inspired to research urban agriculture systems closer to home. By conducting interviews with local immigrant gardeners for his research, McKee gained a deeper understanding of creative approaches to farming under limited space and resources.

"The best thing about this research is learning about crops that would never have been grown in Minnesota without immigrants from around the world," he says.





1600  
GRAND



DAVID J. TURNER (8)





KURT STERNITZ

# REUNION • 2024 •

A sesquicentennial music performance by Sounds of Blackness in front of a full house was just one highlight of Reunion 2024, June 6-9. More than 1,300 alumni and friends came back to campus to reconnect and celebrate their time at Mac. President Emeritus Brian Rosenberg was honored with a portrait painted by Professor Chris Willcox and joined the college's three other most recent presidents for a panel discussion. Guests celebrated our 150th year by mak-

ing commemorative artwork in Mac's letterpress studio with DeWitt Wallace Professor of Art Ruthann Godollei, and enjoyed Tartan Lager and Rebel Rock IPA beers (including non-alcoholic versions) brewed for the occasion by St. Paul's Dual Citizen Brewing Company, owned by Kevin Filter '76. At the Grand Celebration, eleven alumni were honored with Alumni Awards, and the college celebrated giving with \$6,045,987 by the Class of 1974 in honor of their 50th Reunion, and \$22.4M in total commitments, which included a new record \$5.3M to the Macalester Fund.

**Make plans to join us for  
Reunion 2025, June 5-8.**







### Facts about Highland Cattle

- » They are known as Heilan Coo and Hairy Coos.
- » They are known for their distinctive horns—which both males and females have. Horns can span four feet across on a full-grown male.
- » Some breeds have woolly orange coats, which helps them withstand extreme weather conditions in the Scottish Highlands.
- » Though they are considered even-tempered animals, they are fierce when it comes to protecting their herd, called a fold.
- » These hardy animals have the ability to thrive in poor pastures that other cattle would surely die in.
- » The first herd book was created in 1885, which also is the first year Macalester held graduation.
- » They are native to Scotland but can now be found all over the world.

## CAN YOU SAY HEILAN COO?

In May, Macalester announced that the Highland Cow (Heilan Coo) is our newest Scot and official mascot.

The Highland Cow was selected with input from thousands of Macalester alumni, students, faculty, and staff. Close to 7,500 people weighed in with their preferences throughout the spring semester. The feedback was then reviewed by the Mascot Selection Committee, which is composed of faculty, staff, students, and alumni.

During the initial submission process, when community members were asked to suggest ideas, the Highland Cow received the most mentions. “Hardy,” “Scottish” and “horns” were words that came up often, alluding to the competitive nature of our Scots. Many noted that Highland Cattle are both imposing as well as “steadfast” and loyal to their herd. The cattle also can be found all over the world, much like our alumni.

“It’s gender-neutral in appearance, hardy, and can live outside in the cold Scottish weather. They also have even temperaments and are friendly,” noted one entry.

The Mascot Selection Committee deliberated over the results of the final feedback round, which narrowed the options to the Highland Cow and the Loch Ness Monster. Ultimately, the Mascot Selection Committee decided the Highland Cow would become the mascot.

The Highland Cow costume will be introduced this fall at MacFest, September 27-29. “Mac the Scot,” our current mascot, has retired to Scotland, where he will watch Macalester’s Pipe Band perform in the World Championships in Glasgow in August.



Mac the Scot, with Madeline Franklin '74, on his farewell tour at Reunion 2024.





Madeleine Salunga '27  
in action at nationals.

## ATHLETICS

# THEY LOVE TO DISC

ULTIMATE FRISBEE  
CLUB TEAM TAKES  
FIFTH AT NATIONALS.

Macalester's Pursesnatchers, a women's/gender-inclusive Ultimate Frisbee club team, took fifth place at the Division III Women's College Nationals in May, in Milwaukee, Wis.

The team's season included wins against top-ranked Carleton and St. Olaf. "This year, we made a huge effort to change the way that we think about each game," write co-captains Nora de Rege '24, Elise Gautier '24, Else Gerber '25, May Kinnamon '26, and Claire Knopf '24 in a joint statement. "We worked on not counting ourselves out and recognizing that we are a team that can compete at a high level, especially because we play in one of the toughest regions in D-III, going up against top Frisbee programs. While doing this, we continued to prioritize our love of the game and our teammates so that we can be a team that other teams enjoy playing."

Founded in the 1990s, the Pursesnatchers are one of fourteen club teams at Macalester. The Macalester Club Sports Program is designed to provide opportunities for students to participate and compete in a variety of sports activities not offered at the varsity level at the college. Club sports are competitive and are initiated, organized, and operated by Mac students who share a common interest in these activities.

# BEYOND THE BORDER

BY LAURA BILLINGS COLEMAN

As the number of migrants crossing the border from Mexico into the US surged in 2023, so has the American public's concerns about immigration. In a recent Gallup poll, 28 percent of respondents ranked immigration as the country's single biggest problem, far above the government, the economy, or even inflation. The White House has sought to address this situation through a range of measures. In June, President Biden announced an executive order limiting nearly all asylum access at the US-Mexico border; a few weeks later he made a policy announcement directing the US Department of Homeland Security to make it easier for undocumented immigrants married to US citizens to apply for legal residence.

"The border is on the ballot this year," says Cristobal Ramón '06, senior advisor on immigration for UnidosUS, the nation's largest Latino civil rights and advocacy organization. Whenever the topic comes up for debate, Ramón, who leads the organization's immigration research and policy analysis, wants to make sure that lawmakers on both sides of the aisle have their facts straight.

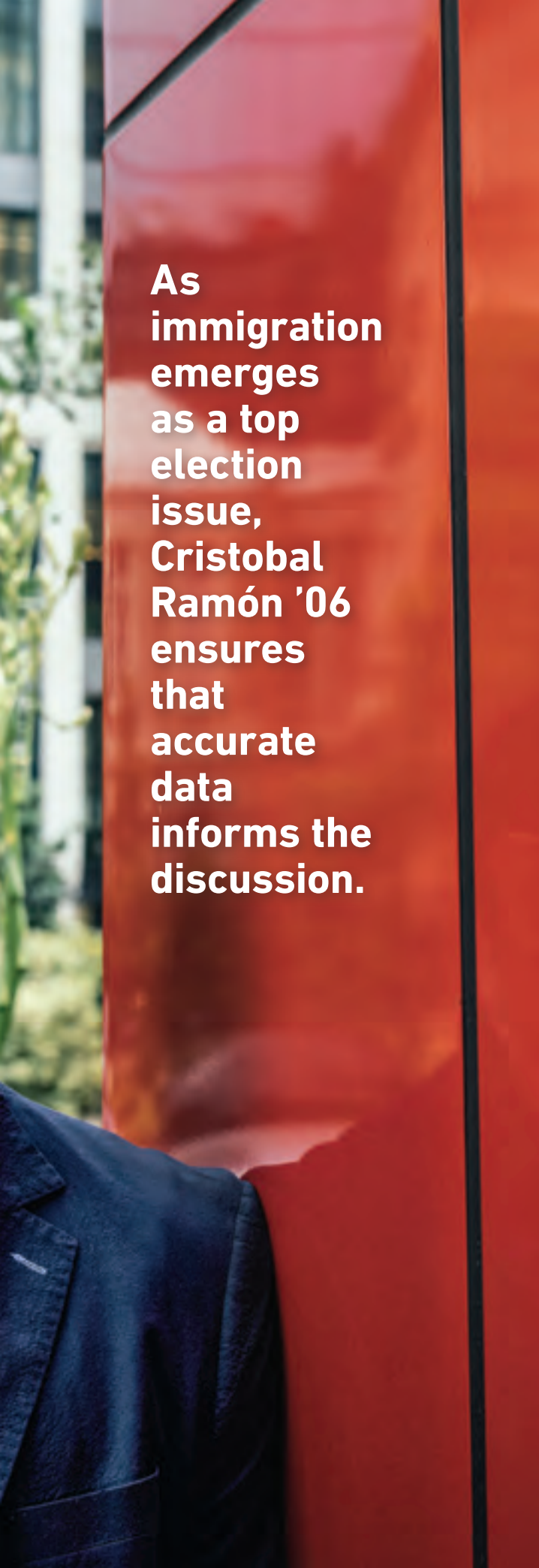
In a new "Immigration by the Numbers" series Ramón writes for UnidosUS, his data analysis regularly debunks persistent myths. One recent post highlighted how Latino asylum seekers and refugees have a history of strengthening the US economy, and referenced Congressional Budget Office predictions that migration will add \$7 trillion to the US gross domestic product in the next ten years. Another post explained that Latinos favor policies to protect asylum seekers fleeing violence, but they also share many of the concerns the broader public has about border security.

Ramón believes the country's long-standing ambivalence about immigration is one reason that a facts-based approach is vital for better policy outcomes. "The best way to describe the United States is we're a country of immigrants that's wary about immigration. The individual migrant is fine, but immigration as a process can feel threatening to the established social order," he says.

He believes that that dichotomy and political polarization contribute to our current legislative stalemate on meaningful immigration reform. "The last time we updated our legal migration system







**As  
immigration  
emerges  
as a top  
election  
issue,  
Cristobal  
Ramón '06  
ensures  
that  
accurate  
data  
informs the  
discussion.**

was in 1990. Just think about the labor and job market that existed then and compare it to now," Ramón says. "Employment-based immigration literally has not changed since the dawn of the Internet. And the question you have to ask is, Why isn't Congress doing something on this one?"

Exploring how policy decisions affect families, workers, and the wider economy has been a longtime passion for Ramón, who grew up in Pasadena, Calif., and whose parents immigrated from El Salvador. After starting his college career at Northwestern University, he transferred to Macalester to pursue a more dynamic classroom experience. The history and sociology major recalls vibrant discussions in courses taught by now-retired history professor Peter Rachleff and Sociology Department chair Erik Larson.


A year after graduation, Ramón decided to apply for a Fulbright award and found enthusiastic support from the college's Office of Academic Affairs. "Everyone wants to feel seen, heard, and valued at college, but I saw that Macalester really cares about its students even beyond when they graduate," he says. "And that Fulbright experience changed my life forever." As a Fulbright Fellow, Ramón went to Universidad Carlos III de Madrid to explore how Spain, with relatively new immigration patterns, was responding to the new arrivals.

After earning a master's degree in international relations from The George Washington University, Ramón worked hard to break into immigration policy work in Washington, DC. His lucky break came in 2017 with the Bipartisan Policy Center, studying what was then a new trend in immigration. Vulnerable families, not just single male workers, from Central America had begun finding their way to the US-Mexico border seeking asylum and economic stability. "My international relations background made me realize you can't run away from the fact that immigration policy is foreign policy," Ramón says. "We need to be working with other countries to manage migration, because the scope of the challenge is so large that the US can't do this on its own."

Ramón moved into his current position at UnidosUS in 2023. He meets regularly with interest groups, members of Congress, and White House staff to share key findings about current immigration trends and explain UnidosUS's policy recommendations. In May, for instance, the group called on President Biden to use existing authorities to provide lawful status to long-residing undocumented individuals; it was thrilled to learn of Biden's June 18 policy announcement directing DHS to do so. In June, UnidosUS also released a poll, which Ramón designed, examining Latino voters' views about the border situation and their policy preferences so the border policy debate takes their views into account.

While some voters may see a duality in the White House's recent announcements, Latino voters do not. According to the poll, they see relief to undocumented immigrants "as an integral part of how you address the challenge at the border," says Ramón.

Meanwhile, the outcome of the 2024 election may present new policy challenges. Donald Trump's campaign promise, if elected, to begin the "largest domestic deportation operation in American history" presents an unprecedented crisis for the country's 11 million undocumented immigrants.

"The challenge is huge," says Ramón. "Anti-immigration sentiment is nearly as old as this country—just read what Benjamin Franklin wrote about the Germans." But he says he finds comfort in knowing how previous immigration crises have come to look in the rearview mirror. "It's easy to burn out in this sector, and you need a lot of persistence, but one of the things I learned at Mac is I was meant to do this work, and this is the way I can make the world better." 

STEPHEN VOSS

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

# Code of Conduct

BY CHRIS HERRINGTON '96

**I**n 2015, when the National Football League hired B. Todd Jones '79 for the newly created job of senior vice president and special counsel for conduct, essentially the organization's chief disciplinary officer, America's biggest sports league hired someone whose career résumé was well suited to the task.

They hired a two-time former US Attorney, who served in the District of Minnesota in both the Clinton and Obama administrations. They hired the nation's first Black head of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives. And they hired a football fan, someone who had suffered through hard-luck seasons of his hometown Cincinnati Bengals and adopted home-state Minnesota Vikings.

And also four rough seasons while a student football fan at Macalester during the late '70s.

"The four years I was there, the football program did not win a game," says Jones, who maintains a family home in St. Paul with wife Margaret Samanant '80.

But the NFL also hired someone whose deeper credentials, whose life experiences before those august appointments, perhaps made him temperamentally, intellectually, and socially suited to help the league through what's been a notable transition—from the domestic violence crisis that led the NFL to create the position through a complicated period of social justice and activism issues and into new challenges spurred by the rise of online sports betting.

"I'm very proud of my Macalester experience, particularly at the time that I was there, where social justice issues were at the forefront at a very granular level," says Jones, whose journey from Macalester to becoming a US Attorney included a law degree from the University of Minnesota, a stint in the Marine Corps, and private practice at several law firms.

A political science and history major at Mac, Jones counts history professors Norm and Emily Rosenberg and Peter Weisensel and economics professor Karl Egge as favorites. History professor Mahmoud El-Kati was a particular influence.

"Mahmoud was very supportive. He was very active," says Jones.

The late '70s was a challenging period for Macalester financially, but Jones credits then President John B. Davis and Dean of Students Earl Bowman for aggressively recruiting Black students.

"It was a pretty tight community and Mahmoud was right at the center of it. Given the high school that I went to in Cincinnati was sort of suburbanized, with a small Black student population, Mac is where I got the deep dive into African American history."

Jones became involved in the Carter-Mondale presidential campaign while on campus and interned in the office of Hubert Humphrey, the former vice president who had then returned to the US Senate and was a visiting professor at Macalester. There, he learned the importance of developing political connections.

Jones's political, military, and law enforcement credentials led him to an unexpected opportunity with the NFL. At the time of Jones's hire, the league was struggling with a series of domestic violence incidents involving star players.

In addition to overseeing the enforcement of league policies for off-field conduct, Jones put more focus on education and prevention, counseling incoming players ahead of the league's annual rookie draft, balancing discipline with guidance in approaching a league composed entirely of young men, the majority of whom are Black.

"That's always been my view for better or worse," says Jones. "I was a prosecutor during the 'war on drugs' and you'd see the downstream ramifications of strictly focusing on incarceration and discipline as compared to intervention and prevention."

In 2016, the league became the center of national controversy, with San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick taking a knee during the national anthem as a form of protest.

With the protest effectively ending Kaepernick's career, the NFL found its relationship with its players strained, something underscored a few years later in 2020 when George Floyd was killed by a police officer in Minneapolis and a group of NFL players posted a video criticizing the league's commissioner for not speaking out.

Jones's law enforcement and military background has garnered him the ear of the NFL's leadership, but as a Black man comfortable with activism and calls for social justice, he respects the players' urge to use their public platforms for more than football.

In Jones's office, he keeps a photo of football player Jim Brown, basketball players Bill Russell and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, and boxing legend Muhammad Ali together at a press conference related to Ali's resistance to the Vietnam War.

"The league is in a completely different space since the Kaepernick experience, on social justice issues and just sort of general broader societal impact," says Jones. "Everybody has learned over the last six or seven years here at the league that it's not just about what happens on the field. It's community. And I think it's sincere."

Now, a different challenge has become paramount: the increasingly widespread legalization of online sports betting. This spring, baseball and basketball made headlines with gambling scandals.


Jones and the NFL had already confronted this problem. After ten players were suspended last year for violating the league's gambling policy, the NFL pivoted into building systems, monitoring, and promoting the game's integrity, he says.

When Jones started the job, he estimates the NFL was dealing with sixty to seventy off-field incidents a year that resulted in player arrest. Since 2020, he says the number is down to twenty to thirty a year, in a league that employs more than 1,600 players.

Perhaps Jones has done his work too well. In May, as he entered his ninth season with the league, he was notified that his position had been eliminated. In September, he'll return to his old law firm, Robins Kaplan, as a partner, working in their Minneapolis and New York offices. **M**

Chris Herrington '96 is a sports and culture columnist for *The Daily Memphian*.





With a grounding in history and political science, **B. TODD JONES '79** has navigated high-profile roles in law enforcement, government, and the National Football League.



BIOGRAPHY OF

# OLD



# MAIN

The beautiful, chaotic life of Macalester's most iconic building.

BY ERIN PETERSON





...

# It was 1884, and Macalester College was in trouble.

Enrollment was low. The college had recently wrapped up a three-year campaign that failed to achieve its goal of creating a \$45,000 endowment (about \$1.4 million in 2024 dollars), and the trustees had not reliably met the payroll obligations of its six-person faculty for two years. With assets totalling just \$160,000—a single building, a 160-acre tract of land, and a tiny endowment—the trustees could have decided on a course of belt-tightening.

Instead, they took the biggest swing imaginable. They approved a \$68,000 contract to add a wing onto the west side of the original building. The addition, they reasoned, would help the ten-year-old college look more established. With a little luck, this sleight of hand would lead to more students, more tuition dollars, and more financial stability.

By 1889, the new wing, known today as Old Main, was open for use.

While the new building did not immediately turn the college's fortunes around, it became an integral part of the college's identity. "When you think about Macalester's campus, Old Main is probably the first thing most people imagine," says Andie Walker '23, who wrote about the building's history as part of her senior honors project. "It's an iconic building, and it inspired a lot of the other campus architecture."



Today, Old Main is home to six academic departments and the backdrop for countless viewbook photos and Instagram posts. It's also earned a spot on the National Register of Historic Places and is part of the West Summit Avenue Historic District. But Old Main has always been about more than its bricks and mortar. For decades, it embodied the joyful messiness and aspirations of a growing college. It continues to be a vibrant gathering place for students and faculty today.





## Built for work (and play)

The wing that opened in 1889 included new classrooms, a museum, a reading room, and a gymnasium. It supplemented the original facility's classrooms, student housing, chapel, and cafeteria.

Both wings of the building were built in a style described by the architects as "modern Elizabethan." The stately brick exterior and graceful arched windows suggested a seriousness of purpose. It would be home, the trustees hoped, to deep study and lively debate. Certainly, it was.

But Macalester being Macalester, Old Main also immediately saw an assortment of shenanigans. Students surreptitiously hosted late-night dances in the building against administrative policy and snuck into one another's rooms after curfew. They once brought a goat into psychology and logic professor Andrew Anderson's classroom. "I invited Mr. Goat to leave," Anderson recalled in a *Mac Weekly* article many years later. "He balked, looked at me woefully—and finally accepted my invitation to leave."

As the college's physical plant grew, offices, classrooms, and other campus spaces shifted in and out of Old Main like a sliding puzzle. The building became home, at least temporarily, to the school's post office, a ticket booth, and the student union.

No matter what Old Main housed, the space was always bustling with lectures and student club gatherings. For students meeting to go to an off-campus activity, it served as a central spot to gather before their departure, and it was a common backdrop for class photos.

Although Old Main was always lively, its limitations were clear. An article in one *Mac Weekly* lamented the building's inefficient design, noting that "much of the space is occupied by hallways, stairways, and pillars." Another article reported that the college radio station was broadcasting from an oversized Old Main closet in which "the only comfortable position was an ape-like crouch." By the 1960s, architects saw Old Main not as a historic asset, but as an aging liability. A comprehensive campus plan unveiled in 1968 slated the building for demolition by 1970.

Ultimately, cooler heads prevailed. That portion of the plan was never implemented, and instead, Old Main was nominated and accepted for placement on the National Register of Historic Places. At the time of its listing in 1977, it housed primarily administrative and staff offices.



Professor Beth Severy-Hoven in her office, Old Main 318

## A space for everyone

By 1985, Macalester was determined to develop a more modern library, and initially planned to renovate the original, east wing of the Old Main building. However, engineering analyses concluded that the century-old structure could not withstand the stresses of a significant renovation. The original Old Main building was torn down in 1986, replaced two years later by the DeWitt Wallace Library on the same site. Only the west wing of Old Main remains.

A few years later, Old Main got significant updates, which included airy, bookshelf-ready faculty offices. The improvements also made better use of the fourth floor, with a new, large lounge space featuring skylights, angled walls, and cozy niches. The space is now often used for student gatherings, faculty talks, coffee houses, and literary salons.

If the construction materials and furnishings give the interior a generally contemporary feel, the quirky corners and alcoves reveal the building's history. Students often find the building's unusual spaces inviting, says Beth Severy-Hoven, professor of the classical Mediterranean and Middle East. "I always tell first-year students that they should find a space to go to when they're not in their dorm and they're between classes. I think a lot of people find 'their space' in one of the nooks of Old Main."

For Walker, Old Main is beloved in part because it's never been preserved in amber: the space has shifted with the needs of the college, students, and faculty. "Old Main is an important part of Macalester's history and community, but it is sustained for the people who use it," she says. "If we care about these buildings and put energy into them, they'll continue to be places that are important for us."



Old Main Chapel





## Old Main Building Basics

**Built:** 1884-89

**Cost:** \$68,000 (approximately \$2,250,000 in inflation-adjusted dollars)

**Added to the National Register of Historic Places:** 1977

**Home to:** The departments of Classical Mediterranean and Middle East; English; History; Philosophy; Religious Studies; Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

### ■ ■ ■ The morning routine of a centenarian

Two custodial staff members are assigned to a 5:30 to 9:30 a.m. weekday cleaning shift in Old Main, where they handle everything from disinfecting surfaces to removing snow, says Nathan Lief, AVP for Facilities Services.

### ■ ■ ■ 37 seconds

The time it takes to travel from the basement to the fourth floor in Old Main's elevator. "You can have a reasonable-length conversation," jokes classical Mediterranean and Middle East professor Beth Severy-Hoven of the elevator's notoriously leisurely pace. "It's not just, 'Hi, how are you?'"

### ■ ■ ■ Critchett Fund supports Old Main's popularity

The Critchett Fund, named in honor of the late Thomas Critchett '79, who earned an English degree at Macalester, supports a range of initiatives for the English Department. The department primarily uses the fund to support academics, for example class theater trips. But what may be more visible is funding for treats for English majors and friends. "I think our bagel Mondays are famous across the whole campus," says English professor Daylanne English. "We have a vibrant snack culture that matches our vibrant academic culture."



### ■ ■ ■ But do they know about the English Department's bagel Mondays?

"There were no squirrels in Tehran where I grew up, but lots of street cats. I would always feed them. I could not have pets when I moved to California, but I saw many squirrels and birds around my apartment and started feeding them. I continued the habit when I moved to Minnesota. I cannot describe the joy watching animals brings me. I think almost every student who's ever walked into my office has seen the squirrels."

—Ahoon Najafian, assistant professor of Islamic studies, feeds squirrels from her office, Old Main 116

### ■ ■ ■ Gardens of knowledge

"I came to Macalester in 2018. At one point, I brought in three or four medium-sized plants, and these 'mother' plants grew and grew. I ran out of shelf space in the departments' office and snuck some out into the hallway window areas.

Initially I worried someone might tell me they had to go, but I try to take care of them in ways that don't cause any additional work for anyone else, and I have observed the increased use of the plant-laden areas for student study. It has now become rare to find these spaces unoccupied and this connects our departments to college life and adds to the vibrancy on our floor."

—Sara Dion, department coordinator for philosophy and religious studies, Old Main 108



FROM TOP: DAVID J. TURNER; PHOTO PROVIDED: ERIN PETERSON



■ ■ ■  
**Tea time**

"Three or four times a semester, I make Indian-style chai for an event called 'Chai time.' I boil up a big pot of water, and add milk, tea leaves, and sugar to make about thirty cups of tea. I always add spices—cardamom, ginger, cinnamon—for 'special chai.' It's open to the public, and we might have as many as twenty-five students. It's nice! We hang out, we chat. My new innovation is vegan chai made with oat milk. But I'll never make non-sugar chai. It's got to have sugar to be authentic."

—Jim Laine, Arnold H. Lowe Professor of Religious Studies, Old Main 103

■ ■ ■  
**Accounts of their swordplay skills were inflated**

"This past fall, I took a history class, 'Pirates, Translators, Missionaries,' in Old Main from history professor Karin Vélez. She's always encouraging students to be creative, and she knew I could make balloon animals. So she asked me if I could make balloon swords for everyone in class so that when we talked about pirates, we could actually duel with real weapons. I think there's just something about Old Main—it looks like a castle, and I think it encourages students to fill those spaces with creativity."

—Liam Athas '26

■ ■ ■  
**Behind the locked door, treasure: a copier**

"There's a secret Xerox machine on the ground floor, tucked in an alcove behind the elevator; it used to be behind a locked door that required a special key. It was like a Harry Potter closet! I remember fighting to get one of those extra keys. The copy machines always break the first week of school, but if you've got a key to that room? You'll still get to class with your copies."

—Karin Vélez, associate professor of history, Old Main 306

■ ■ ■  
**A beautiful home for the humanities**

When I came to Macalester in 2003, I remember walking into Old Main—the fresh carpets, the stunning offices, the beautiful bookshelves. It was a building that housed mostly humanities, and it was literally in the center of campus! It was, to me, a sign that the college really valued the humanities and the liberal arts. It made such a big impression on me."

—Daylanne English, professor of English, Old Main 201

Did a student—maybe even DeWitt Wallace—really bring a cow to the top of Old Main?

Nope. That's a tall tale. **M**

Erin Peterson is a Minneapolis-based writer.



Professor Karin Vélez's classroom

PHOTO PROVIDED



# PRESIDENTIAL PANEL

**A chemist,  
an economist,  
a Dickens scholar,  
and a bioethicist**

gathered on the Mairs Concert Hall stage at Reunion 2024. As part of the college's sesquicentennial celebration, Presidents Emeriti Robert M. Gavin Jr., Michael S. McPherson, and Brian C. Rosenberg joined President Suzanne M. Rivera to discuss their tenures at Macalester, guided by moderator and Trustee Emeritus Jeff Larson '79. Here, we share edited excerpts of their wide-ranging conversation about some of the joys and challenges of leading a liberal arts college.

DAVID J. TURNER



# Macalester's past and present leaders reflect on their years at the college.

**Robert M. Gavin Jr.**  
President: 1984–1996



## On experiences with students

Before we came here, my wife, Charlotte, and I had relatively little international experience. We talked about how nice it would be for us to visit the country of every student who was here. And in the twelve years we were here, there were 124 different countries. We made it to sixty of the countries. The most exciting part of it was not only to go to the country and see the alumni, but to go to the country and meet the parents of current students. The World Press Institute was here for a number of years, and so every country we went to had a journalist who was very well-connected with the country and would get us into all kinds of places. The combination of WPI, our international alumni, and the current students really enriched our twelve years. We failed miserably by getting to only about half of the countries, but we went to a lot of places that we never would've gotten to if it hadn't been for Macalester.

**Michael S. McPherson**  
President: 1996–2003



## On student-led protests

I've come to think that the reason students press us is because we are their friends. It's much more comfortable to explore that space of assertion and hopefully not violence, but of strong disagreement with people whom you know respect you and care about you. And even, to some degree, understand that you do have to test these boundaries. If you come to a place thinking you're going to change it, thinking you're going to change the world, you have to see where there are limits, and what limits make sense. We had an institutional tradition that was reasonably tolerant of protest, but not of lawlessness. Laurie Hamre, who was a brilliant dean, helped me very much in finding our way through these things. She always said, "Let's turn this into a teachable moment," and I think sometimes we were able to do that.

**Brian C. Rosenberg**  
President: 2003–2020



## On campus building and improvement projects

David Wheaton (former vice president of Administration and Finance) and I had the great privilege of being able to replace all of the campus boilers and chillers. And together, those things cost as much as a supersonic jet. I lobbied to have them name the boilers after me, unsuccessfully.

I love the Janet Wallace renovation. It took a long time. We had to do three buildings. I had two great provosts during that time who oversaw the process. And I had David during all of that time who kept it all running. Every single one of those buildings came in under budget. And they're beautiful and functional. I love coming into this space every time I walk in here.

**Suzanne M. Rivera**  
President: 2020–present



## On the next 150 years for higher education

I could hold forth for a long time on how bullish I feel about Macalester's future. There are a lot of headwinds facing the higher education sector right now. Specifically, small, private, liberal arts colleges are under a lot of pressure to justify their existence and demonstrate what the value proposition is for the kind of education we provide. And, for students who are fortunate enough to get accepted into Macalester from whatever walk of life or whatever country they're coming, they're going to get a toolkit to set them up for success, not in the one job they get right after graduation, but in a whole career's worth of changes. Because we're giving them skills and tools that are transferable, that allow them to be flexible and nimble and adjust to new technologies.

The challenge for us, acknowledging that that cost is prohibitive for many, is to continue prioritizing the importance of expanding access to a Macalester education so that every talented student who wants what we provide can find their way here and have this extraordinary experience that we all are so devoted to giving our students. So, while I accept the responsibility to explain why what we do is so great—and to make sure the experience we're providing is an excellent one—none of that happens without the support of our tremendous alumni community and other friends and donors who make it possible for us to meet the full demonstrated need of every student who's admitted and give them a world-class education. **M**

Watch the Presidential Panel at Reunion 2024.



FROM THE

# Classroom

TO THE

# White House

BY HANNAH WALLACE

**W**hen Devavani Chatterjea came to Macalester College as a biology professor in 2006, she never imagined she'd one day be working at the White House. "I love science and figuring out puzzles and solving mysteries," Chatterjea says. "But I always wanted to explore that connection of science to policy—the impact of science in people's lives." In 2020, she received the prestigious American Association for the Advancement of Science's Science & Technology Policy Fellowship to serve a year-long assignment in the federal government.

After six months in the Secretary of State's Office of Crisis Management and Strategy as science and technology advisor and a crisis management officer, she moved to the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) to serve as a senior advisor on the Chemical Safety and Plastic Pollution Prevention Team. In July 2023, she was promoted to deputy director for chemical safety while continuing her leave from Macalester College.

Part of her work at CEQ is helping to lead the coordination of an all-of-government effort to deliver on the Biden-Harris Administration's strong commitments to environmental justice and critical action to protect communities from PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) pollution. These "forever chemicals," used in products ranging from dental floss to rain gear and fire-fighting foams, end up in our drinking water, soil, and air, and are linked to cancer and other serious health issues. The Administration recently announced the first-ever Safe Drinking Water Act standard to address PFAS in drinking water. The rule, which the Environmental Protection Agency finalized in April, will require public water systems to monitor and reduce PFAS in drinking water to near zero levels.

For the first seven years she was at Macalester, Chatterjea's undergraduate-powered research lab investigated the links between allergy-causing mast cells and inflammatory and chronic pain. Then, while getting a master's in public health at the University of Minnesota, she heard epidemiologist Bernard Harlow

Award-winning biology professor Devavani Chatterjea lends her expertise to the White House.





ABBY GREENAWALT

describe the risk for developing vulvodynia, a chronic pain condition of the vulva with no known cause, as higher in women who experience allergies. “I had never heard of vulvodynia until that moment,” she says. There was evidence from some clinical studies that mast cells might be involved in vulvodynia, but no one had tested that in the laboratory.

Since then, Chatterjea’s team has identified a common preservative called methylisothiazolinone (MI) as a potential trigger for vulvodynia which may put those working in the beauty and lawn care industries at a particularly higher risk of developing this and other types of chronic pain. Chatterjea’s undergraduate collaborators, a highly diverse collective of students numbering well over a hundred, participated in all aspects of research from study design, grant writing, experiments, data analysis, and co-authoring manuscripts for publication in peer-reviewed journals. Her approach to teaching and research is grounded in STEM justice—building capacity, broadening representation, and cultivating belonging in the sciences, and her work was recognized with the Janet Andersen Award for STEM mentorship by the Midstates Math and Science Consortium in 2023.

“Devavani had a very different approach to teaching than a lot of my other science professors,” says Professor Elena Tonc ’13, Chatterjea’s former student who recalls that students read books and made art in her biology classes. “The assignments weren’t dry.” Tonc, an immunologist who did honors research in Chatterjea’s vulvodynia lab, and worked as the lab manager for a year after graduation, now teaches at Macalester and leads the research lab as Chatterjea’s collaborator.

During one of her sabbaticals, Chatterjea collaborated with physicians and veterinarians in Uganda engaged in research on infectious diseases and environmental health. For a “Projects in Global Health” class developed with fellow Macalester faculty, she asked her students, including Tonc, to write “white papers” on topics useful to these researchers. The class took a two-week trip to Uganda to visit research sites. “We got to meet the researchers we had collaborated with and presented the findings from our white papers,” Tonc recalls. They also got to experience how a health care system very different from the US works. Tonc still recalls this trip as one of her best college memories.

Chatterjea, a graduate of Mount Holyoke College, exemplifies the interdisciplinarity of a liberal arts education. At Stanford, while earning her PhD in immunology, she studied poetry with Christian Wiman and Phyllis Koestenbaum. In 2014, she met choreographer Donna Sternberg at an artists’ residency in California. The two have collaborated on science-inspired dances ever since, launching a series called *Awe and Wonder* in 2017. Their 2021 dance film, *Earth Body*, tackled climate change and plastic pollution and was shown at the Toronto International Dance Film Festival.

Chatterjea says that a liberal arts education is more crucial now than ever. “We need the core skills of deep listening, critical thinking, and generous, generative exchange,” she says. She sees this play out in her work at CEQ, where a diversity of backgrounds and viewpoints are represented at the decision-making table. “And we all need to talk to one another, and see why all the other perspectives are there. The liberal arts provide a sandbox, a kind of a practice space for this kind of collaborative, cross-cutting work.” Chatterjea, who also is a yoga teacher, says, “It’s like a yoga mat—a space where you can practice your skills again and again, and then carry your tools into the world.” **M**

Hannah Wallace is a journalist based in Portland, Ore.





A NOT-SO-RETIRING  
**Retirement**



## After a successful career in health care analytics, Erin DeRuggiero '96 is focusing on supporting up-and-coming entrepreneurs.

After she sold TI Health, the predictive analytics company she founded in 2018, for more than \$100 million, Erin DeRuggiero '96 could have luxuriated on one of the Maine beaches near her home for the rest of her days. But while retirement has given her the ability to cut back on her exhausting work schedule and spend more time with her wife and kids, DeRuggiero, 49, is instead using her time to empower other entrepreneurs and share the expertise she built through her business career.

When she created TI Health, a predictive analytics and insights platform, DeRuggiero leaned into her background in sales and digital marketing—combined with her lifelong interest in medicine and health care.

The company, now part of Swoop, a precision health care targeting and data company, supports pharma with commercialization, says DeRuggiero, harnessing the Internet's power to identify the issues medical professionals are focusing on and then deliver information on those topics to them.

### Guiding a new generation of entrepreneurs

In retirement, DeRuggiero has been flexing her creative muscles with her podcast "Corporate Confessions." DeRuggiero and co-host Andy Lesh offer humorous-but-helpful career advice on submitted listener questions about everything from how to respond to a treat-stealing boss to how to deal with a co-worker's flatulence.

When she's not dishing out advice, DeRuggiero is offering another form of support for up-and-coming entrepreneurs through Short Sherpa, a private-equity consulting LLC that, she explains, works with funds to "pick apart health technology and predictive analytics businesses to advise and guide them into the right investments."

Short Sherpa's latest project, Lumiinus, is a good match for DeRuggiero's health-and-technology expertise. It's an early cancer detection platform that monitors users for colon cancer. The software looks for hemoglobin using hyper-spectral light in our cell-phone cameras. It's still early days, she cautions: The company is in "stealth" mode, setting up clinical trials for humans while exploring how the patented technology can be used immediately to support the animal- and pet-health market.

"I want to stay involved in the data and predictive analysis and early-cancer detection space but through a different angle," DeRuggiero says. "I like working at the edge of an industry that still has multiple challenges to solve to meet consumer demand."

From her years in the business world, DeRuggiero knows all too well that women and members of the GLBTQ+ community, especially

women of color, receive a shockingly small percentage of all venture capital money, "something like 2 percent," she says with a sigh.

"I want to be more of a guide, more of an advisor, an investor," she says. "I want to help other women in particular who have startups that need coaching and support to raise money from VCs and private equity."

### "I could see myself there"

DeRuggiero grew up in New Jersey, the fourth of five siblings. When she was a junior in high school, she visited a number of colleges, but, after a fateful campus tour, decided Macalester was the place for her.

"It was the only school where I saw two women walking across campus holding hands," DeRuggiero recalls. "So that was my criteria. Academics were important, of course, but I just loved that I could see myself there because I already knew I was gay."

At Mac, DeRuggiero majored in English and minored in Spanish and educational studies. She reveled in the support and encouragement she received from faculty, who, she says, told her what she had to say was important and encouraged her to pursue her dreams.


A confident natural performer with a sly sense of humor, DeRuggiero particularly enjoyed acting in Black Box plays and being a member of the Sirens, Mac's all-female a capella singing group. She also was inspired by Linnea A. Stenson, a visiting assistant English professor and out lesbian who, DeRuggiero recalls, once said at a Queer Union event, "Coming out is not something that you do once when you're 17 and you never do it again. It is something you consciously decide to do over and over and over again."

DeRuggiero, who has been partnered with wife Yvette Webster since 2008 and married since it became legal in 2013, has taken Stenson's words to heart: She's always been unapologetically out in her personal and professional lives.

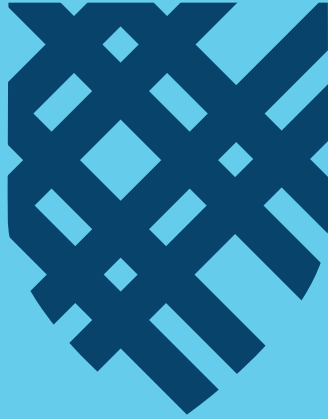
"It's something that I took with me to my corporate worlds from my quirky little Macalester world," she says. "I wanted to make sure people felt comfortable being out at work, being who they were."

After graduation, DeRuggiero worked for a time as a restaurant server and in customer service gigs before landing an ad-sales job at Utne Reader magazine in Minneapolis, where she cut her teeth in the digital sphere. That job led her to form a consultancy and land a job at Facebook. At 38, she founded Social Reality, a programmatic advertising and data marketing company that became the early building blocks of what would later transform into TI Health. All this led to the company's sale and then to DeRuggiero's unique kind of retirement.

Now, DeRuggiero has time to think about her future while reflecting on her past. She'll always look back on her considerable business successes with pride, but she says that her greatest accomplishment is much more humble.

"I know it sounds corny," DeRuggiero says, "but I'm proudest of being a mom." And with an eight- and a twelve-year-old still at home, this particular startup won't be going up for sale anytime soon. "Co-parenting," DeRuggiero says with a laugh, "is not for the faint of heart. But we're in it for the long haul." 

Andy Steiner '90 is a Twin Cities-based writer and longtime *Macalester Today* contributor.



# VALUES DRIVEN

## CELEBRATING ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT

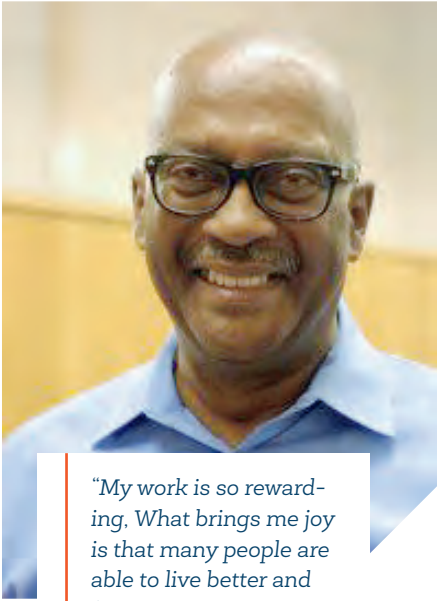
BY JULIE HESSLER '85, ASHLI CEAN LANDA, AND ALEXANDRA MCLAUGHLIN '16

Eleven alumni were honored with Alumni Awards during the Grand Celebration breakfast at Reunion 2024 in June.

Nominated from across the global Mac community, and then selected by the Alumni Board, these award recipients exemplify the college's values through their active involvement in their local communities, achievement, and leadership.

**Meet this year's honorees.**





*"My work is so rewarding. What brings me joy is that many people are able to live better and fuller lives by the close relationships that serve as living examples of how to get there."*

### Larry Chatmon

CLASS OF 1974

#### CATHARINE LEALTAD, CLASS OF 1915, SERVICE TO SOCIETY AWARD

San Francisco owes much to Larry Chatmon '74. Rarely does one find an individual with a more multifaceted influence on the health and well-being of the San Francisco Bay Area.

Chatmon created programs for workforce development, food stamp expansion, and improved housing access. A longstanding Permanent Deacon of the Archdiocese of San Francisco, he has held multiple leadership roles supporting the Black community, often serving on boards of civil rights and social action organizations.

"I owe as much to San Francisco

for providing me the opportunities to improve the quality of life for all residents, especially the marginalized," Chatmon says.

At Mac, Chatmon excelled in basketball and was involved in the Black Liberation Affairs Committee and the Sounds of Blackness, committed to uplifting Black students on campus and in the community.

"My work is so rewarding," he says. "What brings me joy is that many people are able to live better and fuller lives by the close relationships that serve as living examples of how to get there."

### Henryka Manès

CLASS OF 1974

#### CHARLES J. TURCK GLOBAL CITIZEN AWARD

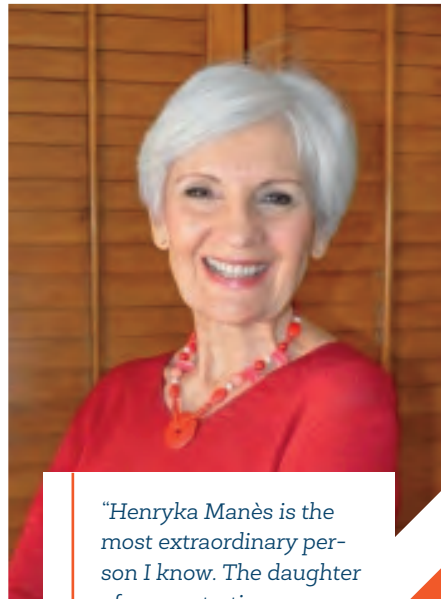
For thirty-five years, Henryka Manès '74 has partnered with rural communities worldwide in efforts to collaborate on regional economic growth, strengthen the social fabric, and protect the environment. She also responds to natural disasters and supports victims of genocide.

In 2009, Manès founded EcoWorks International to work in Haiti. She launched Talia Farms, a regional development initiative to help farming families earn a living wage through training subsistence farmers to become agri-entrepreneurs in agricultural cooperatives farmers own and manage.

Recently, local leaders in northern Haiti invited her to start a regional program that prioritizes farmers' needs to increase production, adopt new technologies, retain young people in rural areas, and build regional capital to increase entrepreneurship.

Manès has collaborated with renewable energy firms and advised Fortune 500 companies on Corporate Social Responsibility.

Writes her nominator, "Henryka Manès is the most extraordinary person I know. The daughter of concentration camp survivors, she was raised with a passion for social justice, a profound commitment to defend the voiceless, and the staunch belief in the overwhelming power of the indomitable human spirit."



*"Henryka Manès is the most extraordinary person I know. The daughter of concentration camp survivors, she was raised with a passion for social justice, a profound commitment to defend the voiceless, and the staunch belief in the overwhelming power of the indomitable human spirit."*



**Dr. Karen Kaufman-Codjoe**

CLASS OF 1974

**ALUMNI SERVICE AWARD**

*“Staying connected is important in order to continually look at ourselves and see how we can best address the issues that the college is facing, and how alumni can be assets for the college.”*

Dr. Karen Kaufman-Codjoe '74 is an adaptive and curious student of the world who has contributed her service to a variety of alumni initiatives. Since joining the Alumni Board in 2018, she has chaired the diversity working group, served on a college committee on naming policies, and currently chairs the Virtual Programs Task Force.

During the pandemic, Kaufman-Codjoe helped organize Zoom panels on topics that provoke conversation and engagement. Even after alumni activities could resume in person, she recognized the reach and potential of virtual

programming and has continued to organize speakers, current students, professors, and other alumni to bring conversation and connection to alums around the world.

Kaufman-Codjoe—a longtime pediatrician currently working in western Tennessee—has also served as a Mac in Your City host and was part of the Class of 1974's 50th Reunion Planning Committee.

“Staying connected is important in order to continually look at ourselves and see how we can best address the issues that the college is facing, and how alumni can be assets for the college,” she says.

**Dan Rippy**

CLASS OF 1989

**ALUMNI SERVICE AWARD**

The spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship has driven Dan Rippy '89 throughout his career in life-science technology companies and in his service to the college as a mentor and volunteer.

Rippy, an Alumni Board member from 2011 to 2017 and current Boston alumni chapter leader, has contributed to Reunion and admissions initiatives, and holds alumni events in his hometown. His belief that entrepreneurial skills are crucial across career paths has motivated his steadfast support of the Department of Entrepreneurship and Innovation, including participating as a Macathon judge and as a member of the Macalester Entrepreneurship Task Force.

Currently the executive director of business development at University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School and a former CEO of several life-science companies, Rippy's desire to help patients through medical and technological innovation has steered his over-thirty years of experience in the life sciences. He brings that same dedication to fostering the lives and careers of Macalester students, always saying “yes” to opportunities to support the college.

“Macalester helps facilitate the American dream,” he says. “It gives opportunities to those who might not otherwise have it, and its alumni—who are amazing people—pay it forward.”



*“Macalester helps facilitate the American dream. It gives opportunities to those who might not otherwise have it, and its alumni—who are amazing people—pay it forward.”*





*"Niloy is a dedicated volunteer that wears Macalester orange and blue inside and out. His infectious passion encourages others to get involved. Niloy's generosity, service, and commitment epitomize the spirit of Macalester pride."*

**Niloy Ray**  
CLASS OF 1999  
**ALUMNI SERVICE AWARD**

Niloy Ray '99 has been a devoted and deeply effective champion of both Macalester and its forensics program for nearly three decades, returning as a volunteer coach in 2014 to help lead the team to championships. He is a zealous advocate for Macalester students, always ready to offer mentorship and encouraging fellow alumni to support the continued success of forensics.

Beyond his forensics involvement, Ray has been a member of the Alumni Board, first as a student and then as an alum. He has served as chair of the Macalester Career Connections Working

Group and on the Executive Board. Ray also is a member of the High Winds Board and was a strategic planning champion proposing innovative ideas to connect with international alumni. He has hosted webinars, spoken at Commencement, and been a part of the 150th Advisory Taskforce.

"Niloy is a dedicated volunteer that wears Macalester orange and blue inside and out," writes his nominator. "His infectious passion encourages others to get involved. Niloy's generosity, service, and commitment epitomize the spirit of Macalester pride."



*"The tools of the heart, like empathy and deep listening, combined with the tools of the mind, like logical frameworks and impact evaluations, can drive innovation and a better future for all."*

**Allan Martinez Venegas**  
CLASS OF 2014  
**YOUNG ALUMNI AWARD**

While interpreting a meeting between an individual seeking asylum and a lawyer, Allan Martinez Venegas '14 learned a defining lesson about balancing a clear mind and a caring heart.

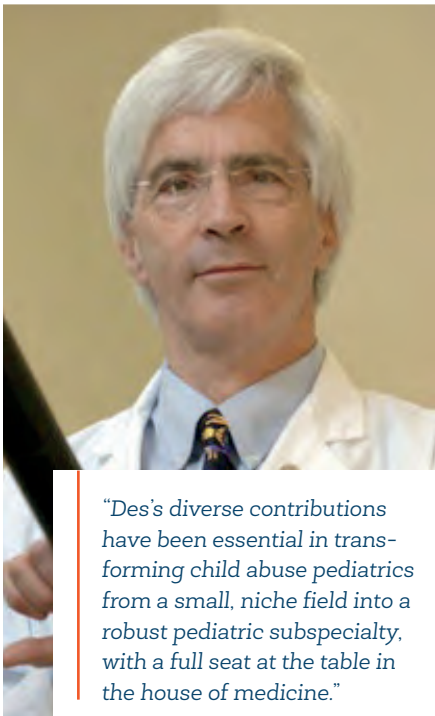
"The tools of the heart, like empathy and deep listening, combined with the tools of the mind, like logical frameworks and impact evaluations, can drive innovation and a better future for all," he says.

This philosophy has guided Martinez Venegas as a human-centered design specialist during the Ebola outbreak in Liberia, COVID-19 school closures in Uganda and Kenya, and in exploring the role of trust in health interventions in Nigeria.

As a first-year student, Martinez Venegas recalls asking Jimm Crowder, the late director of international admissions, how he could fulfill his scholarship of over \$200,000.

Crowder replied, "Just be yourself. Do what you plan to do now and after Mac. That's all we ask."

Leveraging his Macalester education to tackle critical issues worldwide, Martinez Venegas is living up to the charge.



*“Des’s diverse contributions have been essential in transforming child abuse pediatrics from a small, niche field into a robust pediatric subspecialty, with a full seat at the table in the house of medicine.”*

**Dr. Desmond Kimo Runyan**  
CLASS OF 1972  
DISTINGUISHED CITIZEN AWARD

Dr. Desmond Kimo Runyan '72 has changed the prospects for children around the world. His research transformed the study of child abuse, most notably through LONGSCAN, a twenty-year longitudinal study of abused or neglected children across multiple states to study long-term outcomes. He led the development of tools to measure abuse now being used in eighty countries. Runyan's work has shaped more informed interventions and improved outcomes for victims of child abuse.

“My patients have a great prognosis,” Runyan says. “Child abuse victims can heal

and prosper; most do.”

Today, he is one of the most cited researchers in his field. At the prominent Kempe Center at the University of Colorado, he strengthened the center's focus on research and created a national training program on child abuse and neglect research.

His colleagues write: “Des's diverse contributions have been essential in transforming child abuse pediatrics from a small, niche field into a robust pediatric subspecialty, with a full seat at the table in the house of medicine.”

**Gerri Ego Allen**  
CLASS OF 1969  
DISTINGUISHED CITIZEN AWARD

For decades, Gerri Ego Allen '69 has shaped the lives of tennis players of all ages. “It is not just teaching and coaching tennis,” Allen says. “It is teaching life lessons, values, and how to deal with challenges through sport.” From beginners to the most skilled, she ensures every player feels valued.

In Alaska, she transformed tennis by establishing and coordinating USTA Adult Leagues for many years. As a high school coach, her no-cut policy meant coaching four-and-a-half hours daily to work with all fifty-seven players. For her contributions to Alaska tennis, she was inducted into the Alaska Tennis Association Hall of Fame.

In Oregon, Allen's passion became coaching Special Olympians. For nineteen years, the program has thrived under her innovative leadership. She recruits and trains volunteer coaches and creates lessons that focus on the needs of each athlete by honoring their abilities, not their disabilities. It has become a model for Oregon Special Olympics.

In Georgia, as a volunteer leader, she ran the neighborhood swim team, growing it from 42 to 104 swimmers and creating a real sense of community.

Reflecting on Macalester, she writes: “It was the only college I wanted to attend. I knew I would get a great education that would serve me well throughout my life. It has.”



*“[Mac] was the only college I wanted to attend. I knew I would get a great education that would serve me well throughout my life. It has.”*



## Marie Zemler Wu

CLASS OF 1999

### DISTINGUISHED CITIZEN AWARD

Sparked by her background as an adoptee, Marie Zemler Wu '99 has dedicated her career to enacting wide-scale change benefiting children in foster care and their families, among the most vulnerable groups in the nation.

"Scrutiny by child protective services is far more pervasive and racially biased than many people realize," Zemler Wu says.

The effects of investigation and family separation—which Black and Indigenous families are twice as likely to experience as white families—are traumatic, multigenerational, and preventable. Zemler Wu co-founded Foster America in 2016 to ensure families receive the support they need before encountering child services. Through fellowships and collaborations nationwide, Foster America works alongside state and local governments to drive transformational change.

Participating in mock trial at Macalester boosted Zemler Wu's confidence in public speaking, rigorous preparation, and quick thinking—skills she now uses daily.

She says, "Ultimately, Foster America works to make the wonderful but very challenging job of raising children—and of being a child—a little easier."



*"Ultimately, Foster America works to make the wonderful but very challenging job of raising children—and of being a child—a little easier."*

## Rinal Ray

CLASS OF 2004

### DISTINGUISHED CITIZEN AWARD

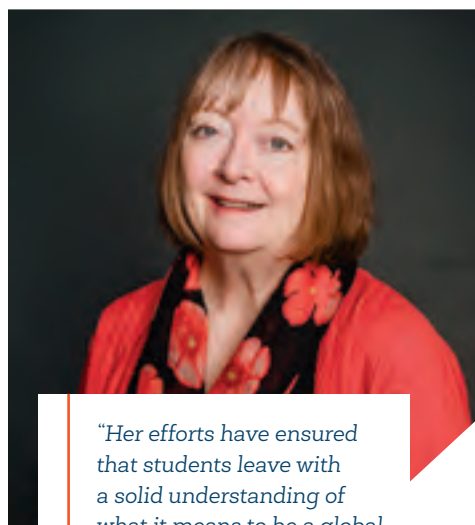
Rinal Ray '04 works to improve the lives of Minnesotans facing housing instability and homelessness. The key to advancing better solutions? Active listening, curiosity, and a willingness to change, Ray says.

With a career rooted in justice and equity, Ray leads Minnesota Housing's new Housing Stability Division, aiming to prevent homelessness and elevate housing stability for vulnerable populations. Previously, Ray served as CEO at People Serving People, an organization that works with families experiencing homelessness. Whether addressing budget or human resources issues, she considers the impact on the people involved and extends respect to everyone.

Writes her nominator, "I will always admire Rinal for unflinchingly staying true to herself, especially in rooms, organizations, and situations where she is one of the only women, one of the only people of color, and one of the only people listening to community. Being our unique selves is an important lesson fostered at Mac and Rinal continues to foster that in others by modeling the way."



*"Being our unique selves is an important lesson fostered at Mac and Rinal continues to foster that in others by modeling the way."*



*"Her efforts have ensured that students leave with a solid understanding of what it means to be a global citizen in a diverse and changing world."*

## Kimberley Brown

CLASS OF 1974

### DISTINGUISHED CITIZEN AWARD

How can learning a language help you understand those who speak it? This question fuels Kim Brown '74. Her career began as an English as a Second Language instructor at Macalester and later in Tehran. Since the 1980s, she has taught at Portland State University in Oregon, with roles in applied linguistics, the Middle East Studies Center, and international and global studies.

Brown co-authored the popular textbook *Introduction to International and Global Studies*, hailed as "a blueprint for gaining a global mindset." She also helped develop the Intercultural Knowledge and

Competence VALUE Rubric, a widely-used assessment tool around the world.

Married to Ahmad, whom she met in Tehran, they raised a bilingual daughter while maintaining strong ties to Iran.

Guiding more than 3,000 students throughout her career, Brown has been recognized for her outstanding teaching in both her departments on five different occasions.

One nominator writes, "Her efforts have ensured that students leave with a solid understanding of what it means to be a global citizen in a diverse and changing world." **M**

# Software Design and Development

BY JOE LINSTROTH

Software development is not just about code and functionality. The process also requires a human-centered approach that relies on collaboration and communication. When Joslenne Peña, assistant professor of mathematics, statistics, and computer science, teaches “Software Design and Development,” she takes great care to ensure that students understand that empathy and inclusiveness are just as crucial to developing the next great piece of software as knowing Python and JavaScript.

## You describe creating software as both an art and a craft. What do you mean by that?

Generally, people don't tend to think about creating software as an art and a craft, not just in the finished product but also in the process. In the class, we try to emphasize that the design process—the ideation, the brainstorming—is really important. And in each step, you have a lot of agency and autonomy independently but also in collaboration with other people, like the stakeholders for whom you're actually building the software.

## In the course, you divide students into teams that each come up with an idea for a software project and then implement it. How do these longer-term projects differ from more garden-variety homework assignments?

What really sets this course apart is that it is a semester-long project where the instructor is really just a facilitator. The other difference is that we don't tell students what to do or what project to choose, which is why I think it's really rewarding at the end when they're finished. We don't lecture, and there is no homework besides just reading up on software techniques and tools and having discussions about what makes software collaborative and impactful. Students are not used to having a class where it's a free-for-all, but it's a great learning experience because in industry, I'm not going to be there and someone's going to give you a task and they're not going to tell you what to do. You have to figure it out and ask questions.

## What makes a new software product a success in your view?


It depends on the problem you're trying to solve and on who the audience is. I also think it depends on the process, like what happened between A and B, from the conceptualization of an idea to when it's actually completed and released. Was there careful thought and consideration throughout the entire software engineering life cycle? Did you actively talk to community partners and stakeholders and not assume the user's needs? That is a big thing.

The second part I'll throw in there is consideration for things like reducing and preventing harm. A lot of software that gets put out into the world is harmful to people, whether we're talking about surveillance apps or apps that include some form of AI that hasn't been ethically considered in some way. If there's a level of consideration for social justice and ethical issues, that's important. Hopefully the products that get released will actually be effective, but also show some humanity too.

## What aspects of designing new software tend to challenge students the most?

A big part of the class is about team dynamics, conflict resolution, and communication. The big learning piece of this class often isn't really the technology or the software, or even the building and programming of it, it's the human aspect. You can't build good software without talking to other people. We put them into teams because that's what they're going to experience in the real world, and navigating team conflicts and getting consensus are some of the most challenging parts. What does it mean to have a productive meeting and to move forward on tasks? I think students often struggle with communication and coming to a consensus about a project idea and the best approach.

## Your work as a computer science researcher focuses on understanding how to solve design and computing problems through the lens of the user. Is there an example that comes to mind from your career that crystallizes this importance for you?

An example I like to share is that my last name, Peña, has a tilde over the “n.” It's a special character, and many computer systems and apps do not recognize my last name with that tilde. It will actually say there's an error or that it's unrecognized. One of my diplomas didn't have it, and I had to contact the registrar to let them know that it's a part of my last name. I make that connection to tell students that this is what happens sometimes when you are building something and you don't have the foresight to think that other people have last names with tildes or other special characters. Something as small as that doesn't seem like a big deal, but it is to certain people when it feels like you're erasing their identity. This is what happens when you build software without talking to people and collaborating and making sure you are intentional about inclusivity. 

Joe Linstroth is director of media relations at Macalester.





# CLASS NOTES

Send **MAC TODAY** your class note through MacConnect via email at [mactoday@macalester.edu](mailto: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](mailto: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**.

## 1955

*The Class of 1955 will celebrate its 70th Reunion June 5–8, 2025.*

## 1960

*The Class of 1960 will celebrate its 65th Reunion June 5–8, 2025.*

## 1963

An expert report by Howard Mielke was cited by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights in its ruling on a case brought on behalf of people exposed to industrial pollution from La Oroya Metallurgical Complex in Peru. The court found that the ongoing crisis constituted a human rights violation and ordered Peru to provide the victims medical assistance and financial compensation. "Human rights are becoming a legal basis for judgments about pollution and climate issues," Howard wrote.

## 1965

*The Class of 1965 will celebrate its 60th Reunion June 5–8, 2025.*

## 1970

*The Class of 1970 will celebrate its 55th Reunion June 5–8, 2025.*

## 1972

Peggy Davis is completing her second year as president of Temple Israel in Greenfield, Mass. She plays flute with the Wholesale Klezmer Band and has organized klezmer classes,



**Bridget Anderson '95 (right) and Caryn Muellerleile '95 lived in Dupre Hall 5E in the fall of 1991. Now they both work for the Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Policy.**



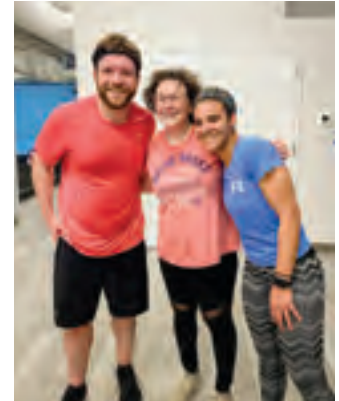
**In April, Wayne Markman '91 of Sydney, Australia, returned to Macalester for the first time since 1998 to visit with his former soccer coach, John Leaney. Leaney has been using medical devices from Wayne's company, SYMBYX Biome, to assist with his short-term memory. Said Leaney, Wayne's support at this stage of my life "means everything to me."**



**Debbie Schilling '84 (right) and Vanessa Saenz '84 learned that they were shipmates near the end of a cruise around Africa last December. "We hadn't been in the same place since our graduation nearly forty years ago, so it was a huge surprise to learn that we had been on the same ship for two and a half months," Debbie wrote.**



**Macalester Trustee Emeritus Annette Mortinson Whaley '75, Jerry Woelfel '76, and Melissa Stock Bayard '75 celebrated at the wedding reception of Melissa's daughter, Margaret, in Philadelphia in May.**



**Joe Shearer '11, Jane Robinson '10, and Alex Lawrence Cano '14 met up at Burn Boot Camp in Montgomery County, Md.**



**Heather Crawford '00 and Ben Mayhew '14 happened to meet at a hostel in a small mountain town in Bahia, Brazil, in February. They enjoyed sharing some "Mac spirit" while hiking up rivers and reflecting on their life journeys since college.**





Three Macalester alums report that they “share memories of the Mac campus while immersed in providing service” at the Technical Services Department of Yale University Library. From left: Angela Sidman '99, director of electronic resources and serials management; Charles Riley '94, catalog librarian for African languages; and Maria Cecilia Caride '06, metadata librarian for Spanish and Portuguese.

concerts, and workshops. In addition to continuing her calligraphic artwork and operating her Etsy shop, PegathusDesign, Peggy upcycles cloth into new forms and creates “junk journals” from excess paper.

## 1975

**The Class of 1975 will celebrate its 50th Reunion June 5–8, 2025.**

## 1976

Katherine Parrish Patterson became a “GREAT Grandparent” on Oct. 31, 2023, with the arrival of Cayson Gary Fogarty.

## 1980

**The Class of 1980 will celebrate its 45th Reunion June 5–8, 2025.**

## 1985

**The Class of 1985 will celebrate its 40th Reunion June 5–8, 2025.**

## 1986

Grant Killoran practices law with the firm of O’Neil Cannon, focusing on business and health care litigation. A member of the American Bar Association’s Board of Governors, Grant also serves in the ABA’s House of Delegates. He is a director of Milwaukee Film, Inc., and a Community Advisory Committee member and volunteer disc jockey with WMSE-FM. Grant and his wife, Carrie Norbin Killoran '94, live in Milwaukee with their two children.

## 1990

**The Class of 1990 will celebrate its 35th Reunion June 5–8, 2025.**

## 1992

A Turkish adaptation of Robert Kerr’s play *Have You Seen Boomer?* (about a missing cat, a time loop, and a disintegrating marriage) opened at Bahçe Galata in Istanbul in January. The American premiere is scheduled for August with the experimental/absurdist theater company LakehouseRanch-DotPNG in Miami.

## 1993

Jeremy Allaire was named to the *Boston Globe*’s Tech Power Players 50 List, which features leaders who have “demonstrated innovation and resourcefulness and made significant contributions to keeping their sector thriving during challenging economic times.”

## 1995

**The Class of 1995 will celebrate its 30th Reunion June 5–8, 2025.**

## 1998

In memory of Prof. Harley Henry, Dan Roy and Tony Zumpano reread Henry James’ novel *The Ambassadors*. “[We] followed Lambert Strether on a series of cerebral adventures through Europe, remembering, along the way, how Harley guided us through this and other literary thickets, deepening our love of literature,” they wrote.

## 2000

**The Class of 2000 will celebrate its 25th Reunion June 5–8, 2025.**

## 2001

Andrew Kaufteitl looked forward to working on a project in Lesotho as part of the Fulbright Specialist Program.



Ashley Kile '05 (left) was at Proof on Main, a bar in Louisville, in early March when she overheard the woman next to her tell the bartender she was from Minnesota. After striking up a conversation, Ashley learned that she was speaking to fellow Mac grad Sarah Hilton '04. “We became instant friends,” Ashley wrote.

*Class Notes continues on page 41.*

# MAC FEST

SEPTEMBER 27–29, 2024

Join the entire college community—students, alumni, parents and families, faculty and staff, and prospective students—for Mac Fest, featuring special events showcasing the best of the season at Mac.

**Mark your calendar to join us!**  
[macalester.edu/mac-fest](http://macalester.edu/mac-fest)

Kathleen Pinkett '75

# PLANNING THE BIG 5-0



Kathleen Pinkett '75 will visit Macalester four times between 2024 and 2025 to co-chair her 50th Reunion planning committee.

She began her career as a social worker, then spent thirty years in human resources, ultimately becoming the chief HR officer for Securian Financial Group. Giving back to Macalester is “motivating and fulfilling,” she says.

### Decades of dedication

In 1999, Pinkett co-chaired the first Alumni of Color Reunion with good friend Melvin Collins '75. Over the years she served on various committees, including the one that appointed President Brian Rosenberg. She joined the Alumni Board and served for six years as a trustee. During that time, her family hosted international students and held class dinners. She was an early donor to the Mahmoud El-Kati Distinguished Lectureship in American Studies.

Pinkett, who played basketball on the inaugural women’s intercollegiate team in 1974-75, now serves on the Athletics Advisory Board. She praises Donnie Brooks, associate vice president for student affairs and director of athletics, for his work in recruitment and strategy. As part of the engagement committee, she works to integrate athletics into the broader student body, boosting game attendance and promoting athletics as part of overall health and wellness.

### Why she gives

“It’s all about the students,” Pinkett says, expressing gratitude for the critical thinking skills and broad worldview she gained at Macalester. “I want all students, especially students of color, to have similar opportunities.”

She recently supported Macalester’s “Blacks in Paris/Noires á Paris” course, co-taught by Professors Duchess Harris and Juliette Rogers. This class explores the relationship between France and Black people. During spring break, students toured Paris, including the eighteenth arrondissement, known as “Little Africa.”

### Small contributions, big impact

“Giving back to Macalester doesn’t have to be arduous,” Pinkett says. “I participated in career panels and ensured we had Macalester interns at my company. There’s no effort too small.”

—Alexandra McLaughlin '16



Novelist, essayist, and poet **Charles Baxter '69** was elected into the Department of Literature by The American Academy of Arts and Letters in May. The 300 members of the Academy are divided into Departments of Architecture, Art, Literature, and Music, and are elected in recognition of notable achievement in their fields.



**Margaret “Peggy” Kottner '72.** *Cosmic Lightworker* (Perfect Paperback, 2024)



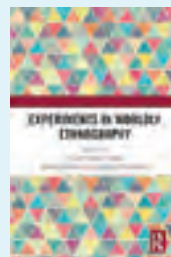
**Lynne Spriggs O'Connor '82.** *Elk Love: A Montana Memoir* (She Writes Press, 2024)



**William Gordon Childs '93.** *Recreation and Risk* (Carolina Academic Press, 2024)



**Roger S. Peterson '67** and Timothy J. Tobin. *The Clarity Advantage: Overcome Ten Communication Pitfalls and Boost Your Influence* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2024)



**Rachael Stryker '94,** Sevasti-Melissa Nolas, and Christos Varvantakis; editors. *Experiments in Worldly Ethnography* (Routledge, 2024)



**Claudia Setzer '74.** *The Progressives' Bible: How Scriptural Interpretation Built a More Just America* (Fortress Press, 2024)

PHOTOS PROVIDED





**Mark Salzwedel '84.** *The Miraculous Life of Rupert Rocket* (Rebel Satori Press, 2024)



**Maria Dylan Himmelman '83.** *Sundry Abductions* (Hanging Loose Press, 2023)



**Patrick J. D'Silva '03** and Carl Ernst. *Breathtaking Revelations* (Suluk Press, 2024)



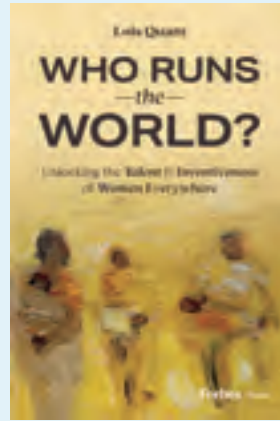
**Bea Rendón '13** and Olga Baumert. *The Sunflowers Babushka Planted* (Capstone, 2024)



## WHO RUNS THE WORLD?

*Unlocking the Talent and Inventiveness of Women Everywhere*

by **Lois Quam '83**  
(Forbes Books, 2024)



We caught up with Pathfinder CEO and former Fortune 50 executive and US State Department official Lois Quam '83 to learn about her new book.

### What inspired this book?

At Macalester, I learned the importance of making a difference in the world. Through my work in global health, especially at Pathfinder, I've seen the difference women can make when supported. I had three kids under two—access to maternal and reproductive health services allowed me to play different roles in my life. The greatest untapped resource in our world is the talent and inventiveness of women. In this troubled, beautiful world, we need a “many-fix” approach. If necessity is the mother of invention, we need more mothers and women as inventors, for their sake and for the sake of all of us.

### How can unlocking women's talent and inventiveness address global challenges?

Women are half of all humanity, bringing half the talent and new ideas. In difficult situations, such as climate change or armed conflict, women often ensure basic needs like water, food, and health care are met.

That skill set and resiliency is crucial. Research shows that when women play central roles in peacekeeping and climate work, outcomes improve.

### You share many examples of individuals supporting and advancing women around the world. Who particularly inspired you?

Marie-Claude Mbuyi, Pathfinder's leader in the Democratic Republic of Congo, stands out. She shifted from thinking she would be a doctor caring for individual patients to working at a broader level to empower women. Another inspiring figure is Collin Mothupi '00, a Macalester graduate and Pathfinder's board chair. He grew up as a refugee during apartheid in South Africa and embodies creativity, courage, and a relentless drive for positive change.

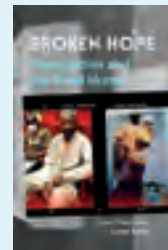
### What do you hope readers will take away from your book?

I hope they will invest in women and girls, looking to organizations like Pathfinder, and decide that committing their time and money to that work is part of the way they can change the world.

—Alexandra McLaughlin '16



**Georgia Cloepfil '14.** *The Striker and the Clock: On Being in the Game* (Penguin Riverhead, 2024)



**Suma Setty '09** and Lynn Tramonte. *Broken Hope: Deportation and the Road Home* (Ohio Immigrant Alliance and the Center for Law and Social Policy 2024). Available online for free at [reunite.us/read](https://reunite.us/read). All proceeds from purchases of the hard copy support the Ohio Immigrant Alliance in their efforts to reunite immigrants with their families in the US.

## WEDDINGS



1



2



3

1. **Mariah Blegen '13** and **Jon Dachenhaus '13** were married Aug. 27, 2022, in Crosslake, Minn. From top right: **Hannah Anderson-Dana '13**, **Rachel Gunsalus '13**, **Ryan Schleeter '13**, **Palmer Fliss '11**, **Audrey Groce '13**, **Paul Runge '13**, the bride and groom, **Camille Cauchois '13**, **Eric Dodd '13**, **Melanie Rivera '13**, **Emily Davis '13**, **Ian Henderson-Charnow '13**, and Sam Schuermann. From bottom left: **Tommy Symmes '13**, **Freddy Kamps '13**, and **Ellen Toobin '13**.

2. **Amelia McNamara '10** and Jason Gorton were married Aug. 12, 2023, in Minneapolis. From left: **Rachel Diamond '11**, **Morgen Chang '11**, the groom and bride, **Alice Gerard '09**, and officiant **Dale Handeen '76**.

3. **Mark Sorenson '02** and Khuyen Nguyen celebrated their wedding in Vietnam in January. They were joined by Mark's friend **Andi Newcombe '02**, as well as Mark's work-study supervisor, former International Center Director **Aaron Colhapp**.

### CELEBRATE WITH MAC!

Email [alumnioffice@macalester.edu](mailto:alumnioffice@macalester.edu) to request a Mac banner for an upcoming wedding or other gathering.





4



5

4. **Sarah Corzo Halloran '10** and **César Bernal-Corzo** were married Oct. 12, 2024, in Greenfield, Mass. From left: **Ann Baltzer '10**, **Colin Williams '10**, **Kayla Richards '10**, **Jordan Cline '11**, the bride, **Tom Lisi '10**, **Nate Haltom-Irwin '10**, **Sarah Mercado '10**, **Kitty Elmer-DeWitt DeWitt-Littlejohn '10**, **Lee DeWitt-Littlejohn '10**, and **Julian Littlejohn**.

5. **Alice Gerard '09** and **Ben Versteegt** were married in Tiel, the Netherlands, on April 17, 2022, with **Adam Troidahl '09** in attendance. They later held a ceremony in St. Paul on July 24, 2022, attended by, from left, officiant **Hannah Pallmeyer '09**, **Zack Mensinger '05**, **Andrew Bonadio '09**, **Brooke McAdam '09**, the groom and bride, **Amelia McNamara '10**, Macalester Professor Daylanne English, **Hannah Kinney '09** (with Ernest), **Charlie Ballard '09**, and former Macalester Professor Gisela Peters (not pictured). Alice and Ben live in Vienna, Austria, and teach at "rival international schools."

## 2005

*The Class of 2005 will celebrate its 20th Reunion June 5–8, 2025.*

## 2006

Evelyn Adkins has been promoted to associate professor with tenure in Case Western Reserve University's Classics Department.

## 2010

*The Class of 2010 will celebrate its 15th Reunion June 5–8, 2025.*

Amelia McNamara has been promoted to associate professor and awarded tenure at the University of St. Thomas, where she teaches statistics and data science.

## 2012

Lindsay Morehouse successfully defended her PhD in archaeology at the University of Amsterdam in February.

## 2015

*The Class of 2015 will celebrate its 10th Reunion June 5–8, 2025.*

## 2018

Ilse Dippenaar was awarded a fellowship by the National Science Foundation's Graduate Research Fellowship Program for her PhD work in computational neuroscience. Ilse is researching how muscle memory is developed, using birdsong as a model.

## 2020

*The Class of 2020 will celebrate its 5th Reunion June 5–8, 2025.*

Hannah Gilbonio was awarded a fellowship by the National Science Foundation's Graduate Research Fellowship Program. She is enrolled in a joint biomedical engineering PhD program at Georgia Institute of Technology and Emory University.

# Achal Sondhi '07



As a child visiting extended family in India, Achal Sondhi '07 wondered why there were frequent blackouts. He thought, "This region should have enough power for everyone." The immense need for energy was clear.

On later visits, the smog made him cough, and more recently, his son experienced coughing. He thought, "This is horrible." Worse, this issue wasn't limited to India but affected many parts of Asia.

"From working on wind projects early in my career, I know there's an economical way to change this," Sondhi says. "I want to be part of that story."

As chief investment officer at Aquila Capital, Sondhi expands the team's clean energy portfolio across the Asia-Pacific region, aiming to achieve multiple gigawatts of renewable energy like solar, wind, and batteries.

His career in finance and energy has spanned Washington, DC, London, Hong Kong, and Singapore. Recently, he played a key role in advancing battery energy storage systems in the Asia-Pacific. This technology enables more renewable energy by balancing the grid. Here, he reflects on his career journey and lessons learned.

## Trust is crucial

I grew up in Hong Kong and India. Classmates above me went to Macalester, and a teacher spoke highly of the school. Minnesota was a shock, especially seeing snow for the first time, but I'd do it all over again.

With a knack for economics, I planned to pursue investment banking. A close friend from Macalester ended up in Washington, DC, at an energy consulting firm. He said, "You should check this out." He was one of the smartest, most down-to-earth guys I knew. I trusted him and got a job in Hong Kong but chose to stay in DC. It was a good start to my career because I entered an environment where everyone was caring and open to teaching.

Everything takes unexpected twists. A visa issue arose, and I didn't get my US work visa. I thought I would lose my job, but the company felt I had more to give and moved me to the London office. Working in different geographies and experiencing new kinds of projects was amazing.

Then the recession hit, and my job was made redun-

dant. My old boss in DC said, "No worries, I want him back in the DC office." Fortunately, visa arrangements were easier this time. Trusting and being around people who care about you helps during both good and tough times.

## Follow people—not the job

I met two people who were doing a solar startup in Hong Kong. They said, "Join us. Do it for a year. If you don't like it, you can move on. If you like it, you'll learn a lot." I stayed for two years and loved it. We were building a solar organization around Southeast Asia. The business was run by a few entrepreneurs and a local Hong Kong family who were hospitable, nice, and good at doing business in the region.

I follow people and their values, not the job. I got the most out of that job in terms of dealing with people and managing negotiations in Asia. I learned how to read people, react to people, and most importantly, show respect.

## Get stuff done

Be the person who knows how to get things done. Junior team members sometimes are shocked when I create a working document or financial model from scratch. Sometimes you can't delegate and need to push things yourself. This ability is crucial.

## Learn from the annoying habits

I've worked with many difficult people. At GE Capital, there were many who resembled Louis Litt from *Suits*—very rigorous. I hated sitting in a room for hours till midnight, going through a financial model step by step. I thought, "This is annoying and a waste of time." But now, I appreciate how it made me more detailed.

Looking back, you can take annoying traits positively. A pushy, borderline micromanaging colleague kept everyone on their toes. I appreciate every kind of person I've worked with. They got stuff done with those methods. Think about how you can do that and still be collaborative. If you take certain traits of people and find a way to extract their effectiveness, you can grow a lot.

## You can never plan it perfectly

I try to plan ten years ahead, but you can never plan perfectly. I never expected to be in London or Singapore, but I'm loving it. Always be open. Have a long-term view, but follow the opportunities that come your way.

—Alexandra McLaughlin '16



# NEW ALUMNI BOARD MEMBERS

The Alumni Board builds and strengthens the Macalester alumni community by fostering meaningful relationships between alumni and the college, connecting with current students, helping the college achieve its strategic priorities, and acting through its members as ambassadors of the college. Learn more about the newest members of the Alumni Board.

## Jasmine Ball '13

### What was the most beneficial thing you experienced at Mac?

Meeting my lifelong friends and being exposed to new cultures, places, and people I would've never met outside of Mac.



## Kate D. Gallagher '16

### Who was your favorite professor and why?

Joan Ostrove of the Psychology Department was my advisor from my very first to my very last day at Macalester and left an indelible mark on how I view the world and myself. I worked with her on multiple independent study projects including my senior project on establishing a disability studies concentration at Macalester that students and faculty after my graduation have continued to pursue. I am so lucky to have been able to keep in touch after graduating and was blessed to have Joan officiate at my wedding (in front of Old Main) to my fellow Macalester '16 alumna, Emma Swanson.



## Nicki Groves '94

### What have you carried with you from your Mac days?

An ability to learn with and learn from a variety of people from different backgrounds. I studied abroad at the University of Lancaster in England during the fall of my senior year. In a study abroad program, you are tossed into a completely new group of peers, often only sharing the one common interest of choosing the same study abroad program. I was fortunate to find a group of five others who were willing to explore and travel together, enriching our time abroad.



## Pamela Mazza '92

### What advice do you have for incoming students?

1) Take advantage of the great liberal arts education available to you, and add a second major or minor unrelated to your primary major. 2) Pick a study away program sophomore year, because sophomore year can feel a bit rudderless, and double-majoring makes leaving campus junior and senior year more complicated. 3) Take those free bagpipe lessons! Literally everyone who doesn't later regrets it!



## Eliza Rasheed '06

### How has the Macalester community helped you since graduation?

During my time at Macalester, I made many lifelong friends who have become my chosen family, supporting me through various stages and aspects of my life. I am deeply grateful for these enduring friendships, as they have shaped who I am today.



## Max Wang '15

### What gives you passion or motivation in your current occupation?

The values of a liberal arts education from Mac. As an educator and manager, my mission is to promote these values. To quote our sixteenth president, Brian Rosenberg: "The ability to step away from one's own history and biases, at least for a moment, and see the world through the eyes of another whose history and biases are quite different...and the ability and willingness to listen with care and respect to the appropriately expressed opinions of those with whom one disagrees and to express one's own opinions with similar care and respect."



## 1941

**Evelyn Forus Melum**, 104, died May 10, 2024. She became the first high school special education teacher in Bloomington, Minn., in 1959. After earning a master's degree in counseling, Melum worked in adult education as a teacher and counselor. She also operated a resort on Gull Lake for many years. Melum is survived by her daughter, Kristine Melum Anderson '72, five grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren.

## 1946

**Wendeline Otto Carey**, 98, died April 11, 2024. She volunteered at the Maine Medical Center Flower Box for thirty-seven years and was a founding member of the Give a Child a Chance education fund. Carey is survived by two daughters, five grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

**Leatrice Vold Reeve**, 98, died March 1, 2024. She worked for Northwest Airlines and was a bookkeeper for several small businesses. She is survived by two sons, two grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, and brother Jack Vold '59.

## 1947

**Elizabeth Lamb Boyd**, 100, died April 20, 2024. She served in the Women's Army Corps during World War II, taught in the Peninsula School District in Washington State, and worked for the Purdy Correctional Center for Women. Boyd is survived by six children, fourteen grandchildren, and many great- and great-great-grandchildren.

## 1948

**Ruth Powers Yaffe**, 96, died Feb. 11, 2024. After earning a PhD in nuclear analytical chemistry, Yaffe worked at Oak Ridge National Laboratory and the University of Tennessee. She was the first woman faculty member of San Jose State College's School of Science to receive tenure and retired in 1990

after thirty-two years with the Chemistry Department. Yaffe was a recipient of Macalester's Distinguished Citizen Award. She is survived by a daughter, a son, and a grandson.

## 1949

**Muriel Lindvig Gorham**, 96, of Mora, Minn., died March 19, 2024. She was active in the Mora community and served on the boards of the American Legion and HUD. She is survived by three children, four grandchildren, and a great-granddaughter.

**Lornell Gilstad Kopp**, 99, of Marine on St. Croix, Minn., died May 5, 2024. She is survived by four sons, six grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, and sister Shirley Gilstad Broos '49.

## 1950

**Wayne H. Garlid**, 98, of Boca Raton, Fla., died March 16, 2024. He served as an airman with the US Navy in the Pacific during World War II. Garlid spent his entire professional career with H.B. Fuller, retiring as senior vice president of the company's international division. He is survived by a daughter, a son, and two granddaughters.

## 1951

**Joyce Nelson Crosby**, 94, died March 26, 2024, in Seattle. She worked as a secretary for the US Foreign Service in Frankfurt, Germany, and did accounting and administrative work for the retail gift store James Crosby's. She began working at Seattle University in the early 1970s and retired in 1991 as executive assistant to the university's president. Crosby is survived by a daughter, a son, and five grandchildren.

**Carol Lee Johnson**, 93, of South St. Paul, Minn., died Dec. 26, 2022. She worked for more than fifty years as a librarian in South St. Paul. She is survived by three children (including Laurie Johnson '76) and three grandchildren.

**LuJean Groskreutz Swanlund**, 94, died April 18, 2024, in Oak Park Heights, Minn. She worked for several years at Miller Hospital in St. Paul and cared for her husband, the late George Swanlund '51, after he was paralyzed in a bicycle accident. She is survived by four children (including JeanAnn Swanlund Guetter '81, along with son-in-law Arthur Guetter '81), nine grandchildren, and fourteen great-grandchildren.

**Joan Nelson Voigt**, 95, died May 3, 2024, in Spring Park, Minn. She worked as an X-ray technician, a shorthand instructor, an artist, a project assistant with the SLP World Religions Department, and a tour guide at Betty Crocker Kitchens. Voigt is survived by three children, six grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

## 1952

**LeRoy J. Hart**, 94, died Feb. 12, 2024, in Wayzata, Minn. During a thirty-nine-year career in education, Hart worked as a principal and teacher at schools in Chicago, Arlington, Va., and Sheboygan, Wis. He is survived by his wife, Doris, three daughters, two grandchildren, a great-grandson, and a sister.

**Charles R. Herrmann**, 96, died May 22, 2024, in Owatonna, Minn. He was a veteran of the US Navy and worked for Jostens for many years, becoming a vice president in 1970. Herrmann also served on the Owatonna School Board for more than twenty years. He is survived by two sons, five grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

## 1953

**Janet Anderson Brandon**, 92, of Grand Rapids, Minn., died Feb. 19, 2024. She taught elementary school for two years and later worked as a substitute teacher and taught English as a second language. With her husband, she operated the Brandon Christmas Tree Farm. She is survived by three daughters, a son, nine-

teen grandchildren, and twenty-six great-grandchildren.

**Mary George Hood**, 92, died April 12, 2024. She taught first grade at Klondike Elementary School for more than twenty years, retiring in 1995. Hood is survived by three children, seven grandchildren, and eleven great-grandchildren.

## 1954

**Don P. Amren**, 91, of Bloomington, Minn., died April 4, 2024. He served for two years with the US Army as a pediatrician in Heidelberg, Germany. In addition to practicing pediatrics in St. Louis Park, Minn., for twenty-seven years, Amren taught and conducted research at the University of Minnesota. After retiring from pediatric practice in 1990, he served as medical director at Methodist hospital until 1997. Amren received Macalester's Distinguished Citizen Award in 2004. He is survived by his wife, Nancy, a daughter, a son, and five grandchildren.

## 1955

**Donald D. Bergquist**, 90, died April 2, 2024. He began working for Bethesda Hospital in 1969 as controller and eventually became chief financial officer. Bergquist is survived by his wife, Nina, two children, five grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, and a brother.

**Ronald D. Erickson**, 91, died Feb. 14, 2024. He was stationed with the US Army in Japan and worked for the American Baptist Churches. Erickson subsequently was business manager and director of financial aid at Keuka College and vice president of administration and finance with Literacy Volunteers of America. He is survived by his wife, Betty, a daughter, a son, a grandson, and a sister.

**Janet Holloway Mattson**, 90, died March 26, 2024, in Minneapolis. She became a US Figure Skating judge in the early 1970s and received the Twin City



Figure Skating Association's Champion for Skating Award and a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Rochester Figure Skating Club. Mattson is survived by three children, seven grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

**Richard G. Rautio**, 91, of Denver died March 13, 2024. After serving as associate pastor at Andrew Presbyterian Church in Minneapolis and director of a special ministry to young adults, Rautio began a career in job training in Colorado. He was director of a federal job training program in Boulder County, and also worked with Vail Associates and the Governor's Job Training Office. Rautio is survived by his wife, Ann, two daughters, a son, and four grandchildren.

## 1956

**Anders Christenson**, 93, died May 21, 2023. He served with the US Army during the Korean War and began a career as a flight instructor in 1958. In 1965, he became chief flight instructor for Thunderbird Aviation in Eden Prairie, Minn. The author of many articles in aviation journals, Christenson was inducted into the Minnesota Aviation Hall of Fame and the National Flight Instructor Hall of Fame. He is survived by his wife, Mary Jean Fowler Christenson '50, a son, a granddaughter, four great-grandchildren, and a sister.

## 1957

**Harold L. Carlson**, 88, died April 24, 2024. He served in the US Army and worked for the Department of Public Examiner, a public accounting firm, and the Minnesota Department of Unemployment Security. Carlson retired in 1996 after thirty-one years as an IRS revenue officer. He is survived by nine children and eighteen grandchildren.

**DeMaris Nelson Davenport**, 88, died April 4, 2024. She worked in public education, direct sales, spousal abuse intervention, adult education, and child advocacy. Davenport helped launch

the first spouse abuse shelter in Chattanooga, Tenn., and the Chattanooga Community Kitchen. She is survived by her husband, Jim Davenport '54.

**Bruce S. Johnson**, 88, died July 21, 2023, in Cokato, Minn. He taught history in the Anoka Hennepin School District, where he also coached cross country and track. He was named Minnesota Cross Country Coach of the Year in 1975, and served as mayor of Cokato for twelve years after retiring from teaching. Johnson is survived by his wife, Gloria, a daughter, a son, three grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

**Loris Nelson**, 88, died Dec. 16, 2023. She worked for Children's Home Society of Minnesota and the St. Paul Public School System.

## 1958

**Richard P. Ackerman**, 89, of Minneapolis died April 24, 2024. He began a career in sales in 1963. Ackerman later took over his family's office supply business and worked for Business Essential for ten years. During retirement, he made Bavarian wax art and sold it at craft fairs. Ackerman is survived by his wife, Sally, two children, four grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, a sister, and a brother.

**Lorraine Nelson Wald**, 88, of Oak Park Heights, Minn., died Feb. 23, 2024. She taught Sunday school for more than fifty years. She is survived by her husband, Leon, two daughters, four grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

## 1959

**Joanne Chadwick**, 86, died March 3, 2024. She served as a counselor at Jamestown Learning Center in San Francisco, downtown director for the San Francisco YWCA, and executive director of the ELCA Church-wide Commission on Women. Chadwick mentored women both inside and outside the ministry and participated in Pride, justice, and civil rights marches.

# // COMMUNITY LOSSES



**Sears A. Eldredge**, former chair of Macalester's Dramatic Arts and Dance Department, died March 26, 2024, in St. Paul, at the age of 87. He designed the theater program at Michigan State University and taught at Earlham College before joining Macalester's faculty in 1986 as chair of the Department of Dramatic Arts. Eldredge taught classes on directing, mask improvisation, and Asian theater, and aspired to introduce his students to theatrical traditions beyond the United States. He was the author of *Mask Improvisation for Actor Training and Performance: The Compelling Image* and the multimedia digital book *Captive Audiences/Captive Performers: Music and Theatre as Strategies for Survival on the Thailand-Burma Railway, 1942-1945*. He retired from Macalester in 2007.



**John A. Meslow**, a friend of Macalester, died April 28, 2024, in St. Paul, at the age of 85. He worked for Medtronic for thirty-one years, served on the boards of directors of educational and medical organizations, and helped launch Arrowood Girls Basketball Camp. In 2006, Meslow founded the Innovation Scholars program, which offers students at Macalester and other private colleges in Minnesota real-world opportunities to research and recommend next steps for products in development at the Mayo Clinic and Medical Alley startups. He is survived by his wife, Karen Bangsund Meslow '61, two children, five grandchildren, and a brother.

**Mary Hegge Fish**, 86, of Gilbert, Ariz., died Nov. 23, 2023. She taught kindergarten, worked as a homemaker, and operated a home-based business, Cobblestone Creations, which offered handcrafted gifts. Fish is survived by a daughter, a son, and two sisters.

**Lee W. Gibbs**, 86, died Feb. 14, 2024, in Springfield, Va. He was professor of religious studies and associate dean at Cleveland State University. He published academic work on such Anglican religious scholars as John Calvin and Richard Hooker. Gibbs is survived by his wife, Joan, three children, eight grandchildren, and a great-grandchild.

## 1960

**Judith Frederickson Gerrish**, 85, of Warner Robins, Ga., died May 12, 2024. She was a schoolteacher, a piano teacher,

and a church choir director and pianist. Gerrish is survived by three children, four grandchildren, and four siblings.

**David V. Keith**, 85, died April 19, 2024. He served in the US Air Force as a flight surgeon. Keith joined the Department of Psychiatry at Upstate Medical University in Syracuse, N.Y., in 1988 and retired in 2017. He was the author of four books and served as a resource for family practitioners around the world. He is survived by his wife, Noel, four children, five grandchildren, and two siblings.

**Anthony A. Ritacco**, 89, of West-erly, R.I., died March 31, 2024. He served in the US Army during the Korean War, launched several weekly newspapers in Rhode Island, and operated Beacon Press Corporation, a web printing company. Ritacco is survived by four children and five grandchildren.

## IN MEMORIAM

**C. William "Bill" Williams**, 85, died June 7, 2023, in Valley Spring, Texas. He worked for Sandoz Pharmaceuticals for thirty-six years, beginning as a sales representative and retiring as manager of government affairs. Williams is survived by his wife, Christie, two children, four grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and three siblings.

### 1961

**Floyd "Gary" Hubley**, 84, of Randolph, Maine, died March 1, 2024. During a sixty-year career in ministry, he served Lutheran, United Church of Christ, and United Methodist congregations in Maine, Minnesota, Iowa, and South Dakota. Hubley also did missionary work in Liberia. He is survived by his wife, Judy, three daughters, six grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, a sister, and a brother.

**John G. Weins**, 86, of Mesa, Ariz., died April 3, 2024. He taught in Hinckley and Coon Rapids, Minn., and was communication/public relations coordinator for the Anoka-Hennepin School District in Minnesota. Weins also was activity director for the Longville Chamber of Commerce and operated a small resort on Heffron Lake in Minnesota. He is survived by his wife, Sandy, a daughter, and two grandsons.

### 1962

**Michael C. Jensen**, 84, died April 2, 2024. He began his academic career as assistant professor at the University of Rochester Graduate School of Management and became a professor at the Harvard Graduate School of Business in the mid-1980s. He was a co-founder and editor of the *Journal of Financial Economics*. Jensen is survived by two daughters, four grandchildren, and a sister.

**Virginia Raymond Sall**, 83, died Feb. 22, 2024. She taught elementary school and was engaged in numerous philanthropic causes. Sall is survived by four children and eight grandchildren.

### 1963

**Wynn W. Anderson** died June 6, 2023. He worked as an educator in Orange County, Calif. He is survived by his partner, John Ehrke, a sister, and a brother.

### 1964

**Kathleen Daniels Center**, 82, died May 5, 2024. She taught in the Roseville and Little Canada, Minn., school districts for more than thirty-five years. Center is survived by her husband, Richard, two children, and a granddaughter.

**Josephine Wheeler Green**, 81, of Dubuque, Iowa, died March 1, 2024. She served the United Church of Christ as an interim pastor at twelve churches over seventeen years. She is survived by her husband, Merlin, a son, five grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren, two great-great-grandchildren, and a sister.

**Gerald J. Shaughnessy**, 83, died April 10, 2024. He worked in St. Paul, Chicago, and Minneapolis for more than sixty years as an investment advisor and manager. Shaughnessy is survived by his wife, Mary, three children, and six grandchildren.

### 1965

**Marilyn "Marti" Martick Myers**, 80, died March 21, 2024. She worked for a bookstore in Florida. Myers is survived by two children, six grandchildren, a great-granddaughter, and a brother.

**Elizabeth Templeton Simons**, 80, died Feb. 13, 2024, in Tucson, Ariz. She taught kindergarten for eighteen years and was chief financial officer of her family's business. She is survived by five children, thirteen grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and two brothers.

**David G. White**, 81, of Little Canada, Minn., died March 18, 2024. He is survived by his wife, Dawne; brother, Dr. Daniel White '73; sisters Ann Foxen '68 and Jane White '82, and niece, Anna Foxen '91.

### 1967

**Gordon A. Cochrane**, 79, died Feb. 9, 2024, in Haliburton, Ontario. He practiced law in Olympia Fields, Ill., for forty years. Cochrane played basketball into his 60s and mentored at-risk youth in Chicago and Ontario. He is survived by two daughters, four grandchildren, and his ex-wife, Christine.

**Maggie Merriam Suckow** died recently. She was a traveling carnival worker who owned and operated her own carnival game, the Crazy Ball. Suckow later worked for the Iowa Department of Transportation, retiring in 2018 after seventeen years with the agency. She is survived by a daughter, a son, and four grandchildren.

**Robert L. Thompson Jr.**, 79, of Minneapolis and Tucson, Ariz., died Feb. 25, 2024. Thompson worked for Novartis Corporation as executive vice president and general counsel and for Novartis India Limited as managing director. After retiring from the law firm of Lindquist & Venum PLLP in 2012, he served as president of the Tucson Committee on Foreign Relations, Inc. Thompson is survived by his wife, Candy Foss Thompson '67, and three daughters.

### 1968

**Paul M. Dressler**, 77, of Waseca, Minn., died March 20, 2024. He was an attorney with the Waseca County Attorney's office. Dressler is survived by his wife, Carol, two sons, four grandchildren, a sister, and a brother.

### 1969

**Karen Windland Anderson** died Dec. 21, 2023. She retired to Portland, Ore. Anderson is survived by her husband, Jeffrey.

**Paul S. Bauer**, 76, died March 11, 2024. He pursued a career in commercial real estate banking. Bauer is survived by his wife, Lee, two sons, two grandchildren, and three siblings.

**Kazuko Sato Hellickson**, 76, of Denver died Dec. 31, 2023. She was a longtime employee of Lockheed Martin Corp. Hellickson is survived by three siblings.

### 1970

**Roger L. Larson**, 75, of Lansdale, Pa., died April 22, 2024. After working for GMAC Mortgage Corp., Larson launched a consulting service and spent many years in project management before his retirement. He is survived by two sons and a sister.

### 1972

**Richard G. Brown**, 73, died May 10, 2024. He worked for Thomson Reuters for thirty-nine years. Brown was married to Mitzi and had three children, five grandchildren, a sister, and a brother.

**Kurt A. Schroeder**, 74, of Pembroke, N.H., died March 10, 2024. He taught geography at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, the University of Minnesota-Duluth, and Plymouth State University. Schroeder's research focused on military geography, and he served as president of the Association of American Geographers' Military Geography Specialty Group. He is survived by his wife, Elaine, two sons, a sister, and a brother.

### 1973

**Judith L. Johnson**, 72, of Sarasota, Fla., died Feb. 25, 2024. During a thirty-year career, she edited books, magazines, and newspapers, including the Sarasota *Herald-Tribune*. Johnson is survived by her husband, Stuart Smith '73, two daughters, two grandsons, two sisters, and a brother.

### 1974

**Sandra J. Shaw**, 68, died June 16, 2021. While pursuing careers in teaching English as a second language, intercultural communication, teacher



training, writing, and editing, Shaw lived, worked, and did research in Costa Rica, Brazil, and Azerbaijan. She is survived by a sister.

## 1977

**Susan L. Pflieger**, 68, died April 28, 2024. She practiced for many years as an obstetrician gynecologist at Aurora Sinai Medical Center and retired after working in women's health at Planned Parenthood. Pflieger is survived by a daughter, a son, and two grandsons.

## 1979

**Kim M. Pavlik**, 66, died April 25, 2024. She practiced as an independent clinical social worker, retiring from the VA Medical Center in 2019. Pavlik is survived by two sisters.

## 1981

**Carol Delano Quick**, 66, died April 8, 2024. With her mother,

she operated the St. Paul-based travel agency International Tours. She is survived by her husband, Rod, a son, and her mother.

## 1983

**Margaret "Peggy" Enchil Kahng** died June 10, 2023, in Iowa City, Iowa.

## 1984

**Ann L. Kulenkamp**, 72, of St. Paul died April 29, 2024. She was head teacher at a day program for adults with developmental delays and later ran Project Cheer and taught piano with the organization. Kulenkamp began a new career in freelance writing in 1994 and worked as communications director for the Minnesota Safety Council for more than twenty years. She is survived by her husband, John Wilson, a sister, and a brother.

SEPTEMBER 19–22, 2024

# MAC IN YOUR CITY

**Let's reconnect,  
share memories, and  
start new conversations!**

At Mac in Your City, alumni all over the world reignite that Macalester energy by gathering to engage in their communities, connect with one another, and celebrate their Macalester pride. *Interested in hosting a gathering for your city?* Let us know. It's easy to do, and as a host, you'll play a vital role in this annual tradition for our global Mac community. Wherever you are in the world, join us in creating a special moment for alumni where you live.

**A little bit of Mac, wherever you are.**

[macalester.edu/macinyourcity](http://macalester.edu/macinyourcity) • [macinyourcity@macalester.edu](mailto:macinyourcity@macalester.edu)

**Allan Martinez Venegas '14**  
Young Alumni Award 2024



## ALUMNI AWARD NOMINATIONS

**Think about your  
Mac network.**

Who exemplifies Mac's values of internationalism, multiculturalism, and service to society?

Help us celebrate our alumni. Each year, Macalester honors graduates with Alumni Awards—and nominations are now open for 2025.

To learn more about how to nominate a friend or classmate (especially in honor of an upcoming milestone Reunion), visit [macalester.edu/alumni/alumniawards](http://macalester.edu/alumni/alumniawards) or email [alumnioffice@macalester.edu](mailto:alumnioffice@macalester.edu).

The nomination deadline is Sept. 25, 2024.



View archival photos.



Dorothy Holstrom Schneider '49 (left) and classmate.

## A Boat of Their Own

In a canoe dubbed “Mac I,” purchased in 1940, professor of physical education Ruth Schellberg began teaching canoe and water safety classes for Macalester both in the college pool and on the St. Croix River. That following June, after hearing about the popular extracurricular course, the Minnesota State Tourism Department contacted Schellberg to participate in an eight-day journey by canoe, accompanied by students Floreine Kelly Echternacht '41 P'68 '70 and Norma Penschuck, alongside two guides and a photographer from *Life Magazine*. After the trip, disappointed at being relegated to bow paddling, washing dishes, and carrying gear, Schellberg made plans to become a wilderness guide herself.

The next year, and every following summer from 1942 to 1946, female students who had successfully completed the requisite courses could request to join Schellberg’s trips to the Boundary Waters of northeast Minnesota. A large network of waterways and boreal forests that straddles the Minnesota and Ontario border to the west of Lake Superior, the Boundary Waters (also called the Quetico-Superior Country) were—and remain—a popular destination for outdoor recreationists.

Over those five years, Schellberg led fourteen groups of women, both students and colleagues, on week-long expeditions, teaching them outdoor survival and camping skills. She showed them that contrary to popular opinion at the time, they didn’t need a man along to ensure their safety and success. In the summer of 1946, her last year at the college, the *Chicago Tribune* flew in a photographer to document her final trip for Macalester alongside her largest group ever of twenty-one students.

—John Esh, Collections Archivist



Ruth Schellberg





Throughout Macalester's 150-year history, generous gifts of time, expertise, and financial commitments have propelled the college's mission forward. As we move into the future, we depend on everyone's support to help us provide an educational experience that's accessible, diverse, transformative, and inclusive.

Thank you, Macalester family, for your collective support and inspiration: this year and every year.

**MACALESTER** **FUND**



# MACALESTER COLLEGE

1600 Grand Ave.  
St. Paul, MN 55105-1899



Non-Profit  
Organization  
US Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 1339  
Madison, WI

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



## CLASS NOTES EXTENDED PLAY

### Mac in the Minnesota Senate

With graduates ranging from the Class of 1973 to the Class of 2022, Macalester College is well represented in the Minnesota Senate. From left: Senator and Assistant Majority Leader Nick Frentz '84; Sergeant at Arms Hugh Gordon Deane '73; Senator and President of the Senate Bobby Joe Champion '87; Sergeant at Arms Randy LaFoy '74; Committee Assistant Elspeth Cavert '12; Legislative Assistant Ayana Smith-Kooiman '22; and Committee Assistant Fabian Bean '19.