MACALESTER

TODAY



HAPPENS

The Gospel According to Kate Bowler '02

MACALESTER

TODAY

FALL 2024



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"I am forever changed by what I discovered: life is so beautiful and life is so hard. For everyone." —Kate Bowler '02





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MACALESTER TODAY (Volume 112, Number 4) 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 Call: 651-696-6295 or 1-888-242-9351 Write: Alumni Engagement Office, Macalester College, 1600 Grand Ave., St. Paul, MN 55105-1899

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CORRESPONDENCE

Cow: Fact or Fiction?

Your story "Biography of Old Main" (summer 2024) contains an error. The characterization of "Did a student-maybe even DeWitt Wallace-really bring a cow to the top of Old Main" as a tall tale is wrong. My father, James Hall '39, (who, by the way, grew up "cowboying") regaled children and grandchildren with a story of obtaining a key to Old Main, then, with some friends, finding (stealing?) a cow and taking it to the top of Old Main, noting that "cows will go upstairs, but not down." Evidently, getting the cow down was a major challenge for staff. There are also rumors of a group taking a Model T apart and reassembling it on the top floor.

James W. Hall '65

I was so interested in "Biography of Old Main" (summer 2024). It stated that the cow in the dorm was fiction. I would raise some doubt about that.

My grandfather, Hawley William Claflin (1870-1943), was a student in one of the first classes at Macalester. He often told this story to all of his grandchildren, and we still laugh about it when we get together. He said that the dorm was on the fourth floor in the building (since torn down) alongside Old Main. One night, Hawley and his friends took a young cow to the fourth floor and left it there. He always laughed heartily when he described how much harder it was to get the cow back down. After his death, my grandmother would tell us of our family history, this story repeated almost every time.

Mrs. Harlean Claflin Petersen '57

In "Biography of Old Main" (summer 2024), author Erin Peterson implies that notwithstanding DeWitt Wallace, the idea of a cow in Old Main is a "tall tale." My late uncle, The Hon. Milton D. Mason '26, onetime judge of the District Court in Mankato, and occasional substitute judge for the state Supreme Court, would politely refute this assessment. He claimed to be a leader in the escapade and when questioned about it, did not deny his involvement in the procurement of the ungulate, nor of its transport to Old Main.

It is inconceivable to me that he would have lied about this; it would simply not



have been the honorable thing to do. On the other hand, leading a cow up to the chapel in Old Main was not exactly an indication of the upright judgments for which Milton was later so admired. Perhaps there was a learning curve.

And so the Cow in the Chapel rests as fable. Or was it?

Monte Mason '71

Job Well Done

In "Code of Conduct" (summer 2024) the writer states that "Perhaps [B. Todd Jones '79] has done his work too well." I would counter that inference by taking into consideration that Mr. Jones did precisely what he was tasked with, in the time he served as senior vice president and special counsel for conduct in the National Football League. All of us are here to serve various purposes. Some of us get to the tasks set forth and some do not. Others get down to the business at hand, within an extraordinary timeframe. I'd like to tip my hat to Mr. Jones for a job well done. CONNECT WITH US 👩 😭 🕑

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

CORRESPONDENCE POLICY

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

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



Hope of a Better Tomorrow

Every year at Macalester, we commemorate Constitution Day on September 17, with our Community Engagement Center and Library co-hosting a program on a timely topic related to constitutional rights. This fall, that event featured a panel of Mac students and two employees from Minnesota's Secretary of State office (including communications director Peter Bartz-Gallagher '05). Their conversation focused on voting as a tool to build the world you want to see. Some students were preparing to vote for the first time in a presidential election; others were ineligible to vote but passionate about helping their friends make a voting plan.

This Macalester Today edition went to print in October and, by the time it is in your hands, Election Day in the United States will have passed. Thanks to our "Mobilize Mac" group of students, faculty, and staff coordinating plans for election engagement and learning across campus, our students will have had many more opportunities to discuss, ask questions, and take action. Those experiences will have taken place in many classrooms, including in courses like "US Campaigns and Elections," "Politics in Action," and "Environmental Politics/Policy." They'll also happen outside the classroom, through engaging with campaigns, learning about local races, and attending events such as Congress to Campus, a national program that sends former elected leaders from opposite sides of the political aisle to colleges and universities to model communicating respectfully.

The work we do at Macalester to bolster the strength of our democracy should not be visible only during presidential election cycles, nor should it wane after votes are tabulated. Colleges and universities have a powerful opportunity—and a unique responsibilityto prepare students to become engaged voters. Our democracy works well only if we each assign ourselves the responsibility for taking care of it. At Mac, we guide students in building crucial skills for this work: learning how to ask important questions, articulate their perspectives, listen deeply with curiosity, and develop a sense of purpose around creating positive change. The years our students spend on campus are formative in developing and understanding their own identities and priorities, as well as our shared Macalester values.

No matter the results of this year's United States presidential election, democratic values are increasingly contested and at stake around the world. We're mindful that dictatorial, totalitarian impulses are taking root in many regions. On campus, our emphasis on global engagement and cross-cultural relationships will continue a longstanding tradition of preparing our students to advocate for freedom and liberty, wherever they go after graduation.

This work is part of Mac's legacy, built over the college's first 150 years. Our emphasis on civic responsibility won't fade as we build toward our shared future together. Since the 1990s, we have concluded major campus events with the Macalester Peace Prayer. Those words echo across our work this election season and always: "As we continue together in our journey at Macalester, may we be nourished along the way by our years of friendship and learning. And may we draw upon them to create a more just and peaceful world, a world filled with fellowship and kinship, with respect and kindness for one another and with the hope of a better tomorrow."

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

1600 GRAND

SUMMER RESEARCH: **REDLINING AND WATER QUALITY**

Throughout the summer, some 250 students took part in faculty-supervised research projects with 84 faculty members. One project took students into Twin Cities' lakes.

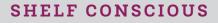
Redlining was a racially discriminatory US policy that restricted residential loans in underserved, often Black, neighborhoods.

Using long-term data from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, environmental studies professor Anika Bratt and her students found that concentrations of nitrogen and phosphorus, the most common water pollutants, were higher in redlined neighborhoods compared to non-redlined neighborhoods in the Twin Cities. The project goal is to compile historical records of both investment and disinvestment in water bodies across Minneapolis and St. Paul.

From left: Professor Anika Bratt, Sophie Carpenter '25 (Englewood, Colo.), Ollie Branch '25 (Minneapolis), and Georgia Akins '26 (Atlanta) take water samples in St. Paul's Como Lake in August.



MIGHTY MACONTRACTION MARCONTRACTION MARCONTRACTIONA



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

Dr. Sumeet Patwardhan is an assistant professor of philosophy. His research interests include ethics, moral psychology, feminist philosophy, and social philosophy, and South Asian moral and political philosophy. He studies questions of how consent and blame are navigated in close relationships.

Are there any standout books you've read recently?

This summer, for my research, I read Green Light Ethics: A Theory of Permissive Consent and Its Moral Metaphysics by Hallie Liberto. It's a good book about consent.

What book is crucial to understanding your academic area?

Green Light Ethics addresses a lot of fundamental philosophi-

cal questions about consent. The colloquial way to think about it is when you give consent to a sexual interaction, what exactly is happening in that interaction of consent? What does it mean to give consent? Does it mean that you have now waived a right for them not to touch you, or is there a better way of understanding what's going on in the moral world when you consent? One of the biggest contributions the book makes is giving a new and better view of the dynamics of consent.

What is one of your all-time favorite reads?

Dune by Frank Herbert. I love all of the inner dialogue and the ways in which it connects psychological and political dimensions of experience.

What's one book you would recommend to everybody at Macalester?

Femininity and Domination: Studies in the Phenomenology of Oppression by Sandra Lee Bartky is one of the books that started me on my trajectory in philosophy. Her essays explore ordinary life experience through a Marxistfeminist lens. One essay is about shame. In traditional depictions of shame, she writes, you may feel a sense of disappointment about your character, and then that feeling of shame motivates you to take action to improve and get through the shame. But in cases that are affected by sexism, shame can be less of a momentary condition, and more of a permanent feeling. She finds a lot of young women who seem to feel perpetually ashamed of themselves. And if shame is a perpetual feature, in what ways does it affect your motivations?



In general, Bartky not only illuminates our understanding of the world, but also improves our perception of it; her book helps us see the world as feminists.

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

STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATE

Over the summer, renovation projects in the Ruth Stricker Dayton Campus Center (pictured) and second floor of Weyerhaeuser Hall expanded dining services, updated gathering spaces and meeting rooms, and relocated Student Affairs and Macalester College Student Government offices—all efforts responding to student needs and feedback.

Imagine, MACALESTER

It's one of the first physical signs of progress made toward goals in our Imagine, Macalester strategic plan.

Learn more about other achievements, pilot initiatives, curriculum renewal process, and institutional Key Performance Indicators to track progress: macalester.edu/ strategic-plan.





CELEBRATING THE ESSENCE OF LIBRARIES

Mickey Smith's Morphologies, on view at the Law Warschaw Gallery through December 15, explores the life cycles of library collections and the dedicated labor of those who care for them. The exhibition reflects Smith's deep engagement with her longterm subject, as well as her collaboration with exhibition curator Heather Everhart, gallery student assistants, and DeWitt Wallace Library staff during her residency from 2022 to 2024. We are inspired by Mickey Smith's work, which highlights the collective efforts of those who have come before and after us to ensure libraries continue to thrive for the benefit of democracy and society. Morphologies celebrates the essence of libraries, while acknowledging the hard work required to ensure their continued survival for the greater good."

- ANGI FAIKS, LIBRARY DIRECTOR

Visit macalester.edu/gallery to learn more.

Empowering Entrepreneurship

Basir Talayee '25, his sisters, and Mac students are helping young Afghan women continue their educations.

In 2021, four days after Basir Talayee '25 moved to the United States to enroll at Minneapolis Community & Technical College, his hometown of Kabul, Afghanistan, fell to the Taliban. Talayee's three younger sisters were also in the US, attending boarding schools on scholarships.

Talayee recalls asking his sisters, who had remained in contact with their former schoolmates back home, about their schoolmates' lives now that the Taliban enforced restrictions on education for women. The young women were no longer able to attend classes.

"Some of them got married and some were just sitting at home," he remembers hearing from his sisters. "But some of them asked us if we could help them get scholarships to go to school abroad." Seeing the need, Talayee and his sisters—Adela, Rahila, and Nadira—decided to launch a program to help young Afghan women continue their educations abroad.

After Talayee transferred to Macalester the following year, these conversations spurred over a year and a half of work by Talayee, his sisters, and Macalester students to support Afghan women who wanted to continue their studies despite the significant obstacles facing them. With this ambitious—and difficult goal of empowering young, oppressed women through education, EmpowerED was born.

In summer 2023, Talayee and Tim Delventhal '26 (Hillsboro, Ore.) received joint funding from the Entrepreneurship and Innovation Department's Live It Fund and The Zia and Priti Fund for Innovation and Impact to tutor Afghan women in English, math, and twenty-first-century skills. Nadira, now at Smith College, secured funding from Smith's Entrepreneurship Department to coach the students applying for scholarships.

With the help of his sisters, Talayee convinced their uncle, Shawkat, to take a risk and assist with program logistics and dayto-day operations in Kabul. Every day, Talayee and his sisters, working out of the Twin Cities, and Delventhal, working out of Oregon, beamed in to a residence in Kabul via video conferencing. Their work was extraordinarily dangerous, as girls attending classes past primary school is illegal in Taliban-ruled Afghanistan, and teachers have been imprisoned.

"We worried that the Taliban would come knocking on the door of the safe house and ask what we were doing," Talayee says. "My sisters and I were teaching them about the West, about the Internet, and trying to bring them to the US—it was high risk."

That summer, EmpowerED's first phase engaged a class of eighteen Afghan students in an intensive course of study to prepare them for applying for scholarships overseas. Talayee enlisted the help of Mac students at the Idea Lab and in the Educational Studies Department to serve as language partners.

"Part of the volunteer work was helping the students get com-



fortable expressing their ideas," he says. "Along the way, we developed a curriculum considering cultural needs based on which skills they can keep building up later and use abroad—English being the main one, along with navigating the Internet, leadership, and various forms of communication."

In spring 2024, around a dozen students were accepted into schools abroad, securing \$1.2 million in scholarships. However, after the Taliban took over, many countries abandoned their embassies in Afghanistan, leaving the students without the ability to obtain student visas. Talayee and Shawkat worked with these students to obtain the necessary documentation and travel documents to be able to leave Afghanistan—a tricky task as their status as women restricted their ability to travel without an older male companion. Most had to travel to Islamabad, Pakistan, the nearest US embassy, in order to apply for student visas.

Talayee says his ambition to support the young women in his home country was inspired by his parents' great sacrifices, which allowed him and his sisters to access better education, and by his "life-changing" boarding school experience at Keystone Academy in Beijing, where he began to reflect on access to education and gender inequalities in Afghanistan.

In Beijing, girls played on school soccer teams, but at home, his sisters received pushback from school administrators when they wanted to set up a soccer program for girls. He intervened, convincing the boys' coaches to start coaching a girls' team too. Talayee recalled the coaches being hesitant, unsure of what the community's reaction would be.

But Talayee was no stranger to controversy—he liked to prod his school instructors on the meaning of religion, earning him a rebellious reputation at school. His mother also held a job outside the home, a rare arrangement for which she faced criticism. "My mom didn't care about what people thought of her working outside the house, despite the criticism," he says. "That changed my life."

In summer 2024, Talayee worked with fellow students, faculty members, and resources from the Entrepreneurship and Innovation Department's MacStartups to create a structure through which additional cohorts of students can engage.

So far, Talayee and a dozen fellow students have helped around thirty-five Afghan women gain access to education, and secure scholarships for boarding schools and colleges in China, Canada, and the US. Fatima Wakili '28, one of the women who received help, now attends Macalester.

This year, Talayee and his team are working to support the second cohort of students throughout their college applications. —Catherine Kane '26



The Fest of Mac

Families, alumni, faculty, staff, current and prospective students, friends, and neighbors celebrated the spirit of Macalester at Mac Fest, Sept. 27–29. Festivities included a student summer research showcase, 5K run, scavenger hunt, county fair (with a beekeeping demo) at the Katharine Ordway Natural History Study Area, the big reveal of our new college mascot, Coo, and much more!











ATHLETICS SCOTS FIND SUCCESS ON THE PITCH

The Macalester men's soccer team had earned a 10-4 record and a ranking of twentyfourth in the Division III NCAA Power Index when this issue went to press. Pictured here is sophomore forward Cody Da (Rockville, Md.) in action in September against UW-Whitewater. Da scored the game's only goal in the seventysixth minute to lift the team to a 1-0 victory at John Leaney Field at the Macalester Stadium.

Follow all of Macalester's teams and stream games by visiting athletics.macalester.edu.

Lions and Tigers and Pigeons

BY ROBYN ROSS

Although she was raised in the heart of Chicago, Dr. Jo-Elle Mogerman '92 grew up surrounded by nature. On warm evenings, she sat on the porch of her family's bungalow, watching squirrels forage for food. She dug up worms in her tiny yard and listened as her father identified the neighborhood birds: blue jays, robins, house sparrows. Hear that song? he would ask. That's a cardinal. It didn't matter that her father didn't have a high school diploma. He knew how to appreciate the wildlife in his own front yard.

Last year, Mogerman became the president and CEO of the Philadelphia Zoo—the first female and first Black chief executive in its 150-year history. Throughout her career, she has leveraged people's fascination with exotic animals to inspire their curiosity about nature closer to home—like the urban wildlife she grew up watching with her father.

"People may not come to zoos for our conservation mission," she says, "but they're coming to show their little kids, 'This is what an elephant looks like. This is what a cheetah is.' It's our job to grow that into empathy and action for wildlife." For Mogerman, that means extending the zoo's mission beyond its walls to reach communities of all cultural and educational backgrounds, and helping zoogoers appreciate the sparrows and squirrels that surround them every day.

Mogerman chose Macalester partly because her sister, Erica Hardiman George '73, had attended. She had always loved animals and science and majored in biology, taking courses from Mark Davis, now the DeWitt Wallace Professor of Biology Emeritus. She interned twice at the Minnesota Zoo—once as a keeper and once in education—and spent a January term working at a sea turtle research and conservation facility in the Cayman Islands. Mogerman found she was happiest when she worked around animals but interacted primarily with people.

At Macalester she also was influenced by history professor Mahmoud El-Kati, who taught his students that stories are always shaped by their tellers' perspectives. Mogerman became attuned to which viewpoints were present, and whose voices were missing, from any discussion, a skill she carried into her career. "That has been a hallmark of my brand," she says. "Not coming in and telling, but coming in and listening and learning, and then developing solutions together."

She earned a master's in conservation biology at the University of Minnesota and, later, a doctorate in biology from the University of Illinois–Chicago. She started her career at Chicago's Brookfield Zoo, where she developed a program that brought nature education into branches of the Chicago Public Library in Black, Polish American, and Mexican American neighborhoods. Drawing on what she'd learned in El-Kati's classes, Mogerman created advisory boards in each community. As president and CEO of the Philadelphia Zoo, Dr. Jo-Elle Mogerman '92 helps people appreciate the wildlife all around them.



"We listened because they knew best about their culture," she says. "They may not be, on the surface, 'experts'—about an animal, an education program, or zoos—but they still are an asset because of their lived experience."

Mogerman launched another program based on public input in her next job as vice president of learning and community at Chicago's Shedd Aquarium. Chicagoans feel deeply connected to Lake Michigan, she says, but aquarium staff learned that many residents didn't know anything about its fish. A few locals came up with an idea: Could Shedd build a mobile aquarium—like an ice cream truck to travel the city and show people what's in the lake?

Mogerman and her colleagues found a giant mobile aquarium, stocked it with the fish of Lake Michigan, and towed it to seven parks across Chicago. Curious onlookers learned to identify the fish, and kids discovered they could pursue a career as an aquarist. Families realized that litter and chemicals they disposed of improperly could end up in the lake and harm the fish.

"As zoo and aquarium professionals, a mobile aquarium never would have occurred to us," she says. "But because we listened and said, 'What's of interest to you?,' we were able to get that idea from the community."

Mogerman has spent her first year in Philadelphia learning from colleagues and locals as she considers how the zoo can connect with a diverse population.

"Conservation has to be a platform for social good," she says. For a zoo, this means diversifying the workforce by introducing first-generation college students like herself to the profession and offering them paid internships. It means making the zoo accessible to families from all backgrounds and income levels. And it means partnering with vendors from underrepresented businesses to create opportunities and expose those businesses to the zoo's conservation mission.

In each of her jobs, Mogerman has helped the public cultivate an appreciation for animals they might otherwise overlook. When she lived in Chicago, she co-developed an online science course for DePaul University. She loved asking her students whether they'd ever seen a baby pigeon. Hardly anyone had. What does that mean? she prodded them. Her students realized that pigeon parents were raising their young somewhere out of human view—somewhere safe. Pigeons were smarter than they'd thought. They began to view the urban birds with more respect and curiosity.

Mogerman hopes to help Philadelphians pay closer attention to the animals they see every day, just as her father encouraged her to do.

"There are things to learn from the nature that is all around you," she says, "if you just take the time or are taught to look at it."

Robyn Ross is a writer in Austin, Texas.









HOW HIGH-IMPACT PRACTICES BUILD BETTER SCOTS

BY ERIN PETERSON

Significant experiences outside the classroom, including student leadership opportunities, internships, and study away programs, contribute to a student's success in college and beyond. While Macalester has supported and encouraged these practices for decades, the Imagine, Macalester strategic planning process identified opportunities to do more. Currently, a working group is creating an inventory of existing experiences and identifying barriers to expanding the number of these opportunities available to students. When the college's campaign kicks off, alumni and friends will be able to support these experiences for all students. Here, five students explain how high-impact practices have changed their lives.





When Mathilda Barr '25 arrived at Macalester from Los Angeles as a first-year student in the fall of 2021, she admits she felt a bit adrift. "Covid had placed many Mac experiences on pause, and it was hard to feel a sense of community with my class," she says.

On a whim, she joined the Macalester College Student Government's (MCSG) Student Services and Relations Committee as an at-large member. The committee focused on improving equity, inclusion, and the student experience at the college. She knew almost immediately that she'd found a fit. "When I noticed something that frustrated me, I knew I could take initiative to change it—or at least make a difference," she says. "It gave me a feeling of contributing back to campus. I wasn't just passing through."

By her sophomore year, she'd been elected vice president of MCSG. In that role, she worked closely with campus leadership, including Dr. Kathryn Kay Coquemont, vice president for Student Affairs. Barr gathered and responded to student feedback about campus services. And she worked to restructure the roles and responsibilities of student government itself to make it more accessible to students. Thanks to her efforts, Barr saw an impact not just on campus, but on her own sense of adaptability and competence. "Before student government, I used to think that ideas were only valid when they were fully thought through and all of the details were organized," she says. "But leadership doesn't mean that you have to know everything. It means that you have to communicate and delegate things to people during different steps of the process. And that you have to be open to everybody's ideas."

Barr's experience fits into a category of activities known in higher education parlance as "high-impact practices," says Jen Guyer-Wood, associate vice president of life design and innovation. Such experiences can include leadership roles in on-campus organizations or athletics, summer research, internships, and study away programs.

What connects them? They're time-intensive projects and activities that happen outside of the classroom. They're also challenging, they often require students to work closely with faculty and staff, and they demand that students respond to constructive feedback. Research from the Association of American Colleges and Universities has shown that high-impact practices lead to improved critical thinking and writing skills, an increased likelihood of persisting in college until graduation, and greater overall engagement in student life. They also have shown that those who have participated in highimpact experiences as students are more likely to say they are satisfied with their career a decade after graduation than those who did not.

Guyer-Wood says the stories she frequently hears from Macalester alumni mirror these findings. "When I've asked alumni about some of the most important things that happened to them outside of the classroom at Macalester, I often hear stories about high-impact practices," she says.

These national trends and alumni experiences are among the reasons that Macalester continues to encourage and support high-impact experiences for today's students. So far, it's working: Guyer-Wood notes that 94 percent of recent Mac graduates engaged in community-based learning, service, or applied research; nearly three in four had an internship or a mentored research experience.

For Coquemont, the positive impact of these experiences goes beyond a student's future career success and satisfaction: they fuel a healthy and nuanced approach to communication and problemsolving more broadly. "High-impact practices are critical to student success, but we want more for students than just a career," she says. "We want them to be good people who can stand on their own and be in community with each other—whether those people think like them or not. That's what highimpact practices can teach."

These outcomes also are why Macalester has centered this work as part of its strategic plan, and seeks to push its students' already excellent participation rates in these activities even higher by expanding support and resources through its upcoming campaign.

Barr, for her part, is already seeing the world in more expansive and collaborative ways: she now serves as the media and outreach coordinator for MCSG, and she used the lessons she's learned and the network she's built to launch a daylong "public policy hackathon" called MacGPT in the fall of 2023. The event attracted more than fifty students, alumni, and faculty. Her plans for the 2024 event are even more ambitious.

To learn more about how these experiences are supporting student growth, we talked to five current seniors about the activities they've chosen, how they've made the most of them, and what might come next.



66 Leadership roles help me hold myself to a higher standard."

Justin Potts '25 (Bloomington, Ill.) is a double major in mathematics and physics, with a minor in computer science. He is president of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) and plays cornerback for the varsity football team.

When I was looking at colleges in high school, I was interested in going to a place where I could play football and get on the field. When I visited Macalester over the winter, it was negative 17 degrees, but I still liked it.

My first year, then head coach KiJuan Ware picked a few people from each class, including me, for the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee. It's a committee of varsity athletes who develop programming, including toy drives and cookouts, and support student-athletes by promoting attendance at on-campus competitions and other initiatives.

I went to meetings and I reported back. My sophomore year, I was an atlarge member of the board, where I was put in charge of a competition called Kofi Kup to encourage Mac athletes to support one another at competitions. I was vice president my junior year, and I supervised three other students who did work on social media and database management. I'm president this year, and I'll be spearheading events including a SAAC career social and the Scot Ball Final Four basketball watch party.

One of the things I like about athletics, and these leadership positions, is that they teach me to be level-headed. I can be a perfectionist when it comes to academics, but with sports, I can understand that I can have a lot of goals, and I might fall short at some of them. But it's how I react to them, rather than the initial results, that matters.

It's been really rewarding. It's not easy to balance school life, social life, athletics, and these other activities. But the leadership roles also help me hold myself to a higher standard. I know that there are more eyes on me. It puts a little fire under me to keep doing better in everything that I can.



Camille Samuel '25 (Tampa,

Fla.), first row, second from left, is an American studies major. In 2024, she participated in the "Blacks in Paris, Noires á Paris" study away trip over spring break. The trip, part of a semesterlong course co-taught by American studies professor Duchess Harris and French professor Juliette Rogers, brought twelve students to the city to examine the relationship Black people, both American and African expatriates, have had to France in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

66 Experiencing something is so different from learning it from a text."

I knew when we went to Paris that we would learn about the relationship that France has to all different kinds of Black people. We'd learn about how Black people brought over jazz, and about how people like dancer Josephine Baker, writer and civil rights activist James Baldwin, and novelist Richard Wright, lived in France.

I didn't realize how different being there would feel. Living it and experiencing it is so different from learning something from a text, or going on to Google Maps to look at a place. Being there helped personalize it and humanize it for me.

For example, before the trip, we read Rendezvous Eighteenth, a novel written by Black expatriate Jake Lamar. It's a vibrant portrait of life that follows the story of a Black man in Paris who formerly lived in the US. We had the opportunity to meet him at Café le Saint-Jean, a location where the novel is set. It felt like we were, in a small way, experiencing being in the book.

We also went to Little Africa, a neighborhood in the city where there are many immigrant families and shops. We visited an African restaurant called Mama Kossa.

Yes, we saw the Eiffel Tower and the Louvre, but it was so much more than touristy things. We got to see the life and culture that makes Paris, Paris.

I learned that France approaches the discussion surrounding race differently and, while I cannot wait to return, I also understand the implications that the way identity is perceived is not as colorblind as Parisians believe themselves to be. That's not to conclude the way the US approaches the conversation is perfect. Finally, I grasped an even greater admiration for the prominent Black figures who made a name for themselves in France. I will always remember and be grateful for this trip. I will be telling this story for years to come.



66 I could bring a perspective to a topic in a way that felt valuable."

Joel Sadofsky '25 (Eugene, Ore.) is a

geography major and president of Macalester College Student Government.

When I started at Macalester, I made a point to meet and learn from as many people as I could. That's one reason I decided to run to become a first-year representative for Macalester College Student Government.

As a representative, one of the things I did was serve as a liaison between the student body and the faculty governing bodies. That meant I went to the monthly faculty meeting, the Educational Policy and Governance Committee meeting, the Academic Affairs subcommittee meeting, and the Board of Trustees meeting. It was like having a fifth class on how higher education governs itself! It was a really cool thing, and also its own world.

Sometimes, I would realize that I was the only person in the room who had the knowledge to contribute to a specific topic.

For example, there was a change to the registration process that influenced how AP and IB credits were recognized. It was minutiae, but I also knew I could advocate for what I thought was right. I could be a bridge between faculty and students, and bring a perspective to a topic in a way that felt valuable.

This work requires a lot of hours. But it also feels important and worthwhile.

66 I was out of my comfort zone."

Mathilda Barr '25 (Los Angeles) is an economics major who is a member of Macalester College Student Government and is a founder of the public policy hackathon MacGPT.

I was one of nine founders of MacGPT, a public policy hackathon. "GPT" stands for Generating Policy of Tomorrow. It's an all-day event, where teams of up to six people with interdisciplinary majors and interests create a policy solution for an issue that's presented that morning. This past year, participants developed a water-related policy solution to an existing or future environmental crisis to present to a state, national, or international governing body.

Putting it together was intimidating! I was thinking about funding, logistics, communicating with academic departments and student organizations, and encouraging busy Mac students to commit an entire Saturday to public policy.

The event included faculty mentors and a panel of judges who were knowledgeable in environmental policy. It ended with a networking dinner. We also had a speaker, Catherine Neuschler '02, the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board executive director.

Nine teams participated, and the winning teams received a cash prize.

It all came together, and it was popular. I was



out of my comfort zone, but it also made me feel more competent. After the event was over, I walked around the room and saw all of the brainstorming people had done: PowerPoints, giant Post-it Notes—people were full of ideas, and it was so cool.

I'm already invested in MacGPT for this year: We started planning last spring, and we have sophomores and juniors on our planning team. We want this to be something that will grow and grow. We want this, someday, to be a reason that people want to go to Macalester.

66 There are real-world consequences to this work."



Below, Aahanaa Tibrewal and her 2022 Macathon teammates Juliet Cramer '24 (Denver), and Issaka Van't Hul '25 (Lome, Togo).



Aahanaa Tibrewal '25 (Kolkata, India) is a computer science and studio art double major. She has interned at four companies during her time at Macalester, including St. Paul-based Horto-Logic, and DOCSI in northeast Minneapolis.

In the summer of 2023, I interned with the startup Horto-Logic, which makes a bottlecap that you can attach to a cola bottle, tip it upside down, and use to water your plants for sixty days. I got connected to the company through MacNest, supported by the Entrepreneurship and Innovation Department, where students receive funding for internships with Twin Cities startups. Both the students and the startups have to apply.

I did about one-hundred different things for Horto-Logic that summer! I created a website, packaging, videos, blog posts, and posters. The founder trusted me to do a lot, from selecting color schemes for the website to testing the product itself.

This past summer, I interned with DOCSI, an opportunity I learned about from Connor Valenti '17, who is DOCSI's director of engineering. I met him at Macathon, the Entrepreneurship and Innovation Department's twenty-four-hour idea-building competition, where he was serving as one of the judges.

DOCSI is an eight-person startup in the healthcare industry that optimizes preference cards for surgeons. These are the lists that specify equipment, supplies, instruments, and the room setup required by a surgeon for a specific procedure. There can be a lot of material waste when surgeons request items that they're unlikely to ever use, so DOCSI provides surgeons with recommendations based on the surgeon's own historical data and industry data, which can help prevent waste. When the founder and I would go out and talk with someone for a meeting, I could feel the impact of my work.

At DOCSI, I worked on software features to help physicians see more of their data, but I also learned so much about working with coworkers and coordinating across departments. Because this project was in health care, we had high standards—I was held accountable for the things I made, because there are real-world consequences to this work.

Erin Peterson is a Minneapolis-based writer.













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EVERYTHING

HAPPENS



THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO **KATE BOWLER '02**

Duke Divinity School professor, author, and podcaster Dr. Kate Bowler '02 takes aim at our toxic positivity and cultural obsession with perfection.

BY LAURA BILLINGS COLEMAN

If you've ever suffered a devastating personal loss, a death in the family, a terrible diagnosis, or a defining moment that will forever mark the turning point between what came *before* and what came *after*, there's a good chance you've discovered Dr. Kate Bowler '02 in your Instagram feed.

While other social media megastars are posting videos of five-star vacation finds and humblebrags about gifted kids and limitless possibilities, Bowler, the forty-four-year-old Duke Divinity School associate professor and host of the award-winning podcast "Everything Happens," is here to challenge the popular notion that we can manifest health, wealth and happiness through good vibes and positive thinking. With her bright red lipstick and irreverent laugh, she trolls the culture of toxic positivity with blessings for people who are having the worst days of their lives, helpful thoughts about what to say when others are suffering ("Try not to start a sentence with the words 'At least,") and occasional advice about finding joy in unlikely places. (She finds some of hers by visiting monumental roadside attractions. Akeley, Minnesota's Paul Bunyan is a favorite.)

"One of the things I really love about social media is you get to go to the place which is designed to make you feel like you are failing to 'live your best life now' and just remind people of the humanity that they forgot the second they opened their app," Bowler says during a video call from her office at Duke, against a rainbow-hued backdrop of self-help titles she's planning to dissect in her next scholarly work. "I want to help take away the untrue stories that our culture gives us, especially women, about how we should have it all together, and give back some reassurance that most of life will be about endless reinventions, that things will come apart again and again and again, and that we owe each other things that we need to be reminded of."

A Macalester religious studies major who went on to earn graduate degrees from Yale and Duke, Bowler came by these life lessons the hard way, through lived experience. In 2015, at the age of thirty-five, she was diagnosed with stage IV colon cancer and given less than a year to live, a crisis she chronicled in two bestselling memoirs: Everything Happens for a Reason (And Other Lies I've Loved) and No Cure for Being Human (And Other Truths I Need to Hear). Written with real-time urgency, under the fluorescent glow of chemo infusion rooms and airport lounges, both books explore the sudden sense of exile that often accompanies illness and uncertainty. "That flurry of writing was really about feeling claustrophobic and eclipsed by something I hadn't chosen," she says. "I think the work of having to decide how scared to be is what changed me the most. But since then, it's also been about the feeling of being part of this unlimited community of people who, like me, know that the world can come apart in a second. It really cracked open my world view."

Last August, after years of treatment, managing chronic pain, and "spending fifteen hours a week on the phone with someone named Linda, who did not want to solve my billing problem," Bowler posted a video of herself waking up from anesthesia to announce that she was finally cancer-free, thanks to the success of an immunotherapy clinical trial. "But there's no going back," she says. "I am forever changed by what I discovered: life is so beautiful and life is so hard. For everyone."



With recent New York Times bestsellers like Have a Beautiful, Terrible Day, and a TED Talk that's been viewed more than 9 million times, Bowler has become the kind of cheerful public intellectual who gets invited back to Good Morning, America again and again. "But she's also recognized as a very serious scholar of American religious culture," says Jim Laine, Mac's Arnold H. Lowe Professor of Religious Studies, a former professor who remembers her flair for writing and acute cultural criticism. "Coming from Canada probably helped."

The daughter of academics, Bowler grew up in Winnipeg, Manitoba, where she learned about the American college admissions process by watching Saved by the Bell. "My father always said there were a few things that Americans did really well, and that's national parks, smooth roads, and small liberal arts colleges," she says. Arriving at Macalester in 1998, her first real visit to the US, she remembers advice from the college's required international student orientation programming: "They told us that when Americans say 'See you later!' they may not actually want to see you later. That was very helpful." "I am forever changed by what I discovered: life is so beautiful and life is so hard. For everyone."

During her time at Mac, Bowler sampled widely from the liberal arts, grumbling through physics-for-poets, playing cello in the orchestra, working in the Weyerhaeuser Chapel, and eventually finding her place in Macalester's Religious Studies Department. "It was one of the best religion departments in the country, and the professors were all highly trained, highly specialized researchers who also loved teaching undergraduates, which was an unbelievable gift," she says.

Religious studies also emerged as the right place to explore some of the central questions she had about how America works. "I think I gravitated toward history and religion because I really just couldn't figure out Americans," she remembers. "I couldn't figure out why they thought health care was so terrible. I couldn't figure out why they were so committed to stories about risk and reward. I couldn't understand American civil religion in particular, the way that they felt chosen by God and by the world to be a beacon—that always was such a puzzle. Feeling like an outsider definitely informed my scholarly identity."

One worldview that struck her as distinctly American was the Prosperity Gospel, the charismatic faith movement exemplified by leaders like Oral Roberts and Joel Osteen, that views material wealth as a sign of God's will. When she found that some friends had fallen under the spell of a charismatic minister ("who requested a motorcycle from the congregation," she adds), her curiosity eventually grew into a doctoral dissertation and the 2013 release Blessed: A History of the American Prosperity Gospel. During the decade it took to write, Bowler interviewed charismatic church leaders in private jets, and traveled with parishioners who'd paid thousands for miracle cures, a process that "created this push-pull that is core to my identity, of feeling deeply critical, especially of exploitative leaders, and then simultaneously, totally in love with the people in the pews." Her second scholarly work, The Preacher's Wife, delved into the lives of evangelical women celebrities, offering a sympathetic take on the challenges of claiming power within conservative, male-dominated faith cultures.

"She has a wonderful way of not being judgmental about people, and trying to see the humanity in people, and in herself," says Laine. Though her work is deeply critical of the Prosperity Gospel culture, "she's also able to write about how there are aspects of that belief system that she kind of bought into, or wanted to. Like all of us, until you have a major tragedy in your life, you feel kind of immune."

While Bowler now describes herself as a "cancer alumnus," her experiences still inform her revealing and wide-ranging conversations on her podcast, "Everything Happens." Now in its thirteenth season, with more than 18 million downloads, recent guests have included *New York Times* columnist Nicholas Kristof; Charles Spencer, brother of Princess Diana; and "America's Government Teacher" Sharon McMahon of Duluth, Minn.

Civic engagement and structural injustice have emerged as themes of the show, and "every single conversation this season is largely about the small ability we have to make a difference," a notion of limited agency that Bowler believes is more effective for change-making than the extremes she calls "everything-ispossibleism and nothing-is-possibleism." From the rise of election denial, to the growing distrust of scientists and experts, to the nearly 40 million Americans who've left their church over the last generation, she says, "the fragility of the structures that hold up how we trust each other, how we keep power in check, and how we care for each other beyond our own individual needs are openly deteriorating."

Yet, as she tells people on her frequent speaking engagements, she sees plenty of cause for hope. "I think one reason I really care about pastors, and journalists, and doctors is because they're not sure they can believe in their professions anymore," she says. "But I believe that professional expertise is actually one of the most load-bearing things we can contribute."

As we recover from the election season, "I just think it's the right time to turn the volume down on our individual anxiety and our apocalypticism enough to remind ourselves that there are meaningful acts of love, trust, and courage that we can do right now that will help us rebuild a stronger sense of self, and a stronger sense of our belonging and value again in our communities," Bowler says.

"And, as always, one of the fastest ways to get over yourself is to serve other people." \blacksquare

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

BY MICHAEL HOUSEHOLDER

The

or seventy-five years—roughly half of the college's history-the Macalester College Pipe Band has provided the campus's signature sound, piping in graduates at Commencement, inspiring Mac's athletes, and leading alumni to their Reunion dinners. It also embodies a distinctive feature of Mac's culture, one rooted in Midwestern attitudes toward achievement: it's OK to strive, but don't take yourself too seriously.

From its inception in 1948, the Pipe Band has been viewed as both a kind of cultural cosplay curiosity and as a source of pride. "Anybody who can dash up to the third floor Old Main without panting like a hound after the chase," an announcement in the Mac Weekly began, "is urged to join the bonnie lassies and laddies who will blow the bagpipes in a proposed College kiltie band." It concluded on a more serious note. "If such a band can be organized... Macalester will be able to boast of a feature for which there is nothing comparable at any other college in the state."

Bigger and better than ever, the Pipe Band today is not only unique among colleges in Minnesota, it just might be the best darn college pipe band in America. As the college concludes its sesquicentennial year, here is a look at the Pipe Band's origins and long history.

Before 1948, when journalism professor Ivan Burg '34 pitched the idea of a pipe band to his class, the college didn't embrace its Scots identity the way that it does today. There are few references to bagpipe music or other aspects of Scottish culture on campus.

If anything, bagpipes were viewed as an oddity. An item in the May 1897 College Echo noted that "a daylight serenade... of several bag-pipes" had been heard on campus. To underscore the ridiculousness, the report noted that the "wanderers" were accompanied by a monkey.



The first reference to bagpipes as an instrument of school spirit appeared in a January 1938 letter to the student forum section of the Mac Weekly. The writer called on their fellow students to "show our athletic opponents that Macites have as much pep as the best of them" by adopting a few "Scotch yells" and dressing their "bonnie rooter kings in plaid kilts," even suggesting—perhaps tongue only lightly in cheek—that bagpipes could be added to the pep band.

What started as a joke, however, quickly garnered genuine interest. The next week, the Mac Weekly reported that a "Hoot Mon" yell had been introduced "in accord with the recently advanced Scotch theme" and that additional Scots-themed cheers were being prepared. As evidence of the popularity of the new theme, the paper quoted a student who was at the game: "The Scotch yell went off big last Saturday night—it really 'kilt' 'em."

The faculty and administration were also looking toward Macalester's Scots heritage as a way to boost school pride. In March 1938, the very first Founding Day celebration was organized. In its announcement of the celebration's program, the Mac Weekly noted that, in addition to the speeches and presentation of a birthday cake "big enough to serve 400 people," the event would include the "introduction of Scottish tradition in the form of wearing Scottish bonnets and ties [and the] singing of Scotch songs." Attendees were asked to wear "plaid neckties, dresses, or any other plaid effects available."

As for Scots music, the article noted that "A search of the Twin Cities for bag-

pipe players" was underway. While there is no record of pipes at the inaugural celebration, they quickly became established as a key component of future Founding Days. In 1939, the fifty-five-pound birthday cake was carried by four students in Highland dress, accompanied by a piper. In 1941, a first-year student and native of Scotland, William Knowles '48, played the pipes during the procession.

World War II suspended campus frivolity. Knowles left Macalester to serve three years with the Army's 90th Infantry Division in Germany and later graduated with the Class of 1948. He often returned to campus to play as an alumnus.

With the war now behind them, Macalester community members were eager for lighthearted fun. By the time Burg pitched his idea to his journalism students, the campus was ready. What a decade earlier had appeared as a kind of quaint novelty now felt like an essential component of the school's identity, and the idea of using bagpipes to promote school spirit returned.

To grow that spirit, the college could not rely on scouring the Twin Cities for guest pipers, or count on having an accomplished piper enrolled as a student every year. It needed a student organization that could figuratively blow new life into these traditions and sustain them, even as classes of students graduated and tastes evolved over the decades.

In its proposal to form the Pipe Band as a formal student club, the organizers noted this need. "[F]or more than twenty years," they wrote, "the faculty, alumni, friends, and students have been looking for something that will typify and emphasize the Scottish tradition associated with the name of the college. [A] SCOTCH BAGPIPE BAND presents a unique opportunity for everwidening service to Macalester College."

In addition to inspiring his students with his vision, Burg was instrumental in securing the resources they needed. He requested funding from President Charles Turck, who in turn persuaded the Board of Trustees to purchase instruments and uniforms. Burg also wrote to the chief of Clan Macalester, Lt. Col. Charles Macalester, who gave the college permission to wear the official clan tartan. He even referred Burg to his personal kiltmaker so that the band could get its first set of outfits.

While Burg worked on acquiring equipment, students had the harder task of learning how to play. [See sidebar page 26.] To get the band going, students with no prior experience playing bagpipes or drums were encouraged to join. The only requirement was that they attend weekly practice and make the band their primary extracurricular activity. For the first several months, they learned tunes on practice chanters, basically the blowing and fingering portion of the instrument. Only later would they be ready to graduate up to the full Highland bagpipes with their fiddly drone reeds and hard-to-keep-inflated bladders. Student participation helped the band survive, despite having to replenish its membership every year.

The 1956 Pipe Band boasted a corps primarily made up of women.





Learning the Language of Bagpipes

When President Suzanne M. Rivera and her spouse, Dr. Michael Householder, arrived at Mac in 2020, he jumped at the chance to take free bagpipe lessons offered by director of piping Mike Breidenbach '96. "The sound of bagpipes has always fascinated me," Householder says. But even with professional instruction, it's not an easy instrument to learn, as he shares below.

I sometimes joke that I have learned two languages out of my love for Sue: Spanish so I could communicate with her beloved grandmother, and bagpipes so I could be a part of the Mac family.

For the first six months, I learned on a practice chanter, which is similar to a recorder that kids play in school. I graduated to the full pipes and joined weekly rehearsals with the full band.

My first night with the band was a humbling experience. After I bumbled my way through "Amazing Grace," Mike smiled reassuringly. "Don't worry if it wasn't perfect," he said. "Everyone here has gone through the experience of playing with others for the first time. And we're all excited that you're here."

In the three years since, I have been on the other side of this welcoming ritual at least a couple dozen times with brand new first-year students, soon-to-graduate seniors, alumni who played previously and returned to the band after years (sometimes decades) away, and people with no prior connection to the college who just want to learn the pipes.

For me, the highlight of our year is piping in the Commencement procession. There is nothing cooler than a graduating piper temporarily trading in their kilt for a cap and gown, and filling the air with "Scotland the Brave" for themselves and their classmates. In that moment, they embody something beautiful and so characteristic of Mac: a love of learning, pride in their growth, and a love for community that drives them to bring more joy into the world. William "Bill" Williams '52 was named the band's first pipe major. Adam Mitchell, a local bagpiper, volunteered to direct the band and instruct new pipers. Under their leadership, the band quickly established itself. They accompanied the now traditional presentation of the Founding Day birthday cake in May 1950. They made their first appearance at the head of the Commencement processional that June. That fall, the band played in its first homecoming parade.

In addition to adding energy to the campus, the band attracted attention in the wider community. The Minneapolis Sunday Tribune ran a feature story with color photographs. A sidebar noted that, due to the creation of the band, Roy Richardson '52, a "national junior bagpipe champion of US and Canada, transferred from Northwestern to Macalester."

The band became a mainstay of campus life. On top of its regular cycle of ceremonial performances, it played at football games and offered occasional concerts.

While most pipe bands of that time, partly due to their martial roots, were dominated by men, the band at Macalester attracted women from the outset. Photographs of the band in the early 1950s show an almost all-female pipe corps, led by pipe major Pat Freeburg '56. She applied to Macalester specifically so that she could join the band, having been inspired by a performance of *Brigadoon* featuring a Macalester piper at St. Paul Central High School. Asked about the novelty of a pipe band composed mostly of women, Freeburg notes that because the band was still new, it was open to everyone. "We [women] wanted to be part of something!" she laughs.

Throughout the fifties and sixties the pipe band continued to provide the sound for ceremonial events, as well as serve as community ambassadors, playing at St. Paul's Winter Carnival, marching in various parades,





and even performing at a 3M event celebrating its signature Scotch Tape.

Despite the cultural changes that swept college campuses in the 1970s, the pipe band played on. In 1973, a new tradition was introduced to campus when for the first time it hosted the Minnesota Scottish Fair and Highland Games. Although the band had participated in some piping competitions previously, the availability of a local contest further developed this aspect of the band.

The eighties and nineties witnessed some other changes as well. First, following the practice of other competition bands worldwide, the band swapped out its traditional Highland dress, with its heavy jackets, sweeping plaids, and bulky belts, for the more lightweight kit members wear today.

Second, to ensure sufficient membership and consistent playing, even as students graduated and new players learned their instruments, the decision was made to merge the band with another local outfit, the City of Minneapolis Pipe Band. This merger established the mixed membership of students, alumni, faculty, staff, and local community members that characterizes the band today.

Beginning in 1989 under the direction of Andrew Hoag, the revitalized Macalester College Pipe Band quickly emerged as one of the best competition bands in the state, rising from grade five, the lowest in piping's five-tier competition system, to grade three. By the late nineties, the band had grown such that it could create an additional grade five band, giving more opportunity for novice players, especially those students with no prior piping or drumming experience, to perform and compete. Further progress was temporarily interrupted when some of the community members broke away to form a new band not affiliated with Macalester.

Fortunately, an alumnus of the band, Mike Breidenbach '96, happened to be living in the area at the time. He had taken up the bagpipes as a first-year student, soon establishing himself as one of the best young pipers in the Midwest. Breidenbach agreed to take over as director in 1999, and he has directed the band ever since. In addition to directing the band, he plays at various campus events and gives free lessons to students, laced with his signature deadpan humor. "I've been involved with piping at Macalester for more than thirty years," he likes to say, adding, "that's twenty percent of the college's entire existence!"

Today, thanks to his stewardship, the Pipe Band has enough pipers and drummers to compete in both grades three and five. The grade three band is widely recognized as one of the best on the competition circuit. On August 11, at the European Pipe Band Championships in Perth, Scotland, they placed sixth in a group of fifteen. At the World Championships in Glasgow, Scotland, the following weekend, they competed against some of the best bands in the world, cheered on by blueand-orange-clad fans, including President Suzanne M. Rivera and a cohort of trustees and alumni who were in Scotland as part of the sesquicentennial celebrations.

Justly proud of the band's achievements, Breidenbach is equally pleased with the band's role in supporting campus life and providing a community for Macalester students, alumni, employees, and friends to create community by making music together.

The future looks even better. At its spring concert, more than a dozen students made their piping debut. "This," Breidenbach said, looking through misty eyes at the line of new pipers stretched across the stage, "is maybe the thing I'm most proud of."

Dr. Michael Householder is a scholar of American literature and a member of the Macalester College Pipe Band. He is married to President Suzanne M. Rivera.

SNAPSHOTS: STUDY AWAY

From Egypt to Panama to New Zealand to Ireland and many points in between—Macalester students immersed themselves in new cultures and customs in study away programs around the world. Here, we share snapshots from their journeys.

YVONNE MOREIRA-ANDRADE '25, Panama

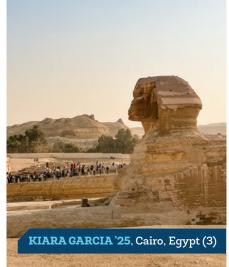
















CONDUCTING

BY JULIE HESSLER '85

In Italy, says Christopher Franklin '90, even the butcher who thinly slices your prosciutto knows opera.

In the US, that's not always the case. Franklin, who majored in music and German, has built a formidable reputation as a conductor, and last December he was named principal conductor of the Minnesota Opera. When he spoke with Macalester Today in July, he was preparing for two performances with the company—a November production of Gounod's Romeo and Juliet, and a May 2025 production of Rossini's The Barber of Seville—and many other performances across the globe. From his home studio in Lucca, Italy, he spoke to us about the life of a conductor, his love of opera, and where to start if you are new to opera.

What's your process for preparing to conduct an opera?

Long. The performance is the tip of the iceberg: most of the preparation process is hours spent alone working through the score.

I'm currently working through the third act of Romeo and Juliet. The opera is in French, which I do speak, but not as fluently as English or Italian, so the work with the text is at times laborious. I have a piano in my studio, and so much of the process is playing and singing through the opera, even though I'm neither a great pianist nor singer. The important thing is that when you conduct the reading rehearsals with orchestra alone, to give the orchestra an accurate depiction of the drama on stage. From their place in the pit they can't always see nor hear so well, so they depend on the conductor to keep it all together. If you've done your homework, by the time you get to first rehearsals with singers and orchestra, you know the opera inside out.

How do you balance tradition against your own interpretation?

It comes from going back to the score. The score for a conductor is your bible, it's what the composer wrote and intended. Even if listening to CDs from the golden era of opera recordings in the second half of the twentieth century gives you an idea of what the piece sounds like and any traditions that are out there, what's often missing is what's behind the notes.

When looking at scores of Gioachino Rossini, for example (Italian opera composer 1792–1868), much of what we would expect from musicians nowadays in terms of performance practice is not actually in the parts. With him, a lot has to do with dynamic shadings and articulation. In spending time marking the score and parts, and thinking about the overall context of that piece historically, especially with earlier works, it brings you that much closer to the actual time period of that composer, and what they might have intended.

As an opera conductor, the most vital aspect of your music making is to accurately follow the drama onstage. At times the music relaxes in more tender moments, or surges forward in more dramatic confrontations, sometimes quite suddenly, which is why complete mastery of the text and drama are such an important part of the preparation process.

What are some other upcoming projects?

This fall, during the production in Minnesota, I'll do a gala concert in Spain with Anna Pirozzi and Jorge de León—two big romantic singers—and a lot of Puccini and duets from Madama Butterfly and Tosca.

After Romeo and Juliet, I have a couple of concerts with Juan Diego Flórez in Budapest. Then Otello in Novara and Cavalleria Rusticana/Pagliacci, a double bill of two operas, in Saint-Étienne. Then there's a recording project with The Orchestra of the Maggio Musicale Fiorentino (Florence), which is right near where I live. And then I'm coming back to the Twin Cities for The Barber of Seville in the spring.

What is one of your career highlights?

When I first conducted Turandot in 2017 with the San Francisco Opera at the War Memorial Opera House. It was an experience I'll never forget. The space is enormous. The voices you need for Turandot are just gigantic voices. We had an amazing cast. My wife came with our older son from Italy and my parents came and a bunch of my Macalester friends came as well. Most of my friends are not necessarily music lovers, or even art lovers, or opera lovers, but coming to see their friend who played on the Macalester soccer team with them conduct an opera is fun for them, too.

What do you love about opera?

I love that it's still a live acoustic performance, and one of the last art forms where that's actually the case. If you go to a rock or pop concert, it's all amplified. Opera singers train their voices for years to basically shout over the orchestra, but in a controlled musical way. That a human being can sing over a live orchestra like that is actually incredible, and in that sense opera goes a step further than other arts—it combines many elements that the others don't have. The German composer Richard Wagner had a wonderfully descriptive word to describe opera—Gesamtkunstwerk—in English, "a complete work of art."

If someone is new to opera, where might they begin?

I would start with Opera buffa, which in Italian means lighthearted or fun. The Barber of Seville is a perfect example. Other favourites are La bohème, Carmen, or to witness something bombastic, listen to Verdi's Otello or Cavalleria Rusticana or I Pagliacci, which are Italian grand operas. Speaking as a musician, that kind of music needs to be heard live, and there's no better place than down at the Ordway with your own Minnesota Opera.

Julie Hessler '85 is managing editor of *Macalester Today*.

The Minnesota Opera's production of *The Barber of Seville* runs May 3-18, 2025, at the Ordway in St. Paul.

US Constitutional Law and Thought

BY JOE LINSTROTH

Following a contentious presidential election season and a recent series of Supreme Court decisions upending a number of legal precedents, the need to understand our nation's constitution and the laws that have emerged from it seems more urgent than ever.

In political science professor Patrick Schmidt's course, "US Constitutional Law and Thought," students examine political dialogue in and around the idea of "the constitution" in an attempt to grasp fundamental questions about how American government is organized and operates.

You remark that "US Constitutional Law and Thought" is the "oldest course in political science." What do you mean by that?

A century ago, the way we thought we understood countries was to begin from the study of their constitutions. That's a reflection of where political science was in 1900. We thought that the constitution creates the society and that there's some relationship between the structures that you have and the kinds of politics that you produce. Over time, political scientists inverted that by thinking that the big picture of what a country is about begins by how it grows up culturally and the norms you have, and how those become embedded in the constitution and the legal system.

This course is a way of understanding what we think the rule of law is. It's also a study of the history, culture, and traditions of the United States as a political system.

What is a constitution?

One of the things I hope students will take from this class is confusion about what we think a constitution is, because Americans have a very fixed mindset. We are taught from a very early age that the constitution is our sacred document that writes down, in 4000-ish words, the core principles of American democracy. So we first take the idea that it has to be a written document. Then we think that it actually answers the questions that we want to ask of it like a Magic 8 Ball. Then we debate the right way to interpret that document. But we still think that if we only just get it right, we're going to find the answers in it. And that is wholly ineffective as a way of explaining how we think our country operates and the rules it has.

What are the primary forces that have historically shaped the constitution's development?

The most important thing we study is the way that Supreme Court justices have given interpretations that they believe, or at least pretend to believe, come from the text of the constitution. We rarely amend the document, yet it changes in unbelievable ways. And at times in American history, possibly 2024 as one of those years, the justices decide to take a radically different approach than they had taken for decades before.



Then you have to ask: How did they get there? And that's where political scientists have a lot to understand. Presidential administrations change, and presidents appoint justices. How did the presidents get there? Who are the interest groups bringing the cases that the court is deciding? How do the American people, and our attitudes and our norms, affect what the constitution is? Understanding the way we make meaning in a political system is not about starting from a text and interpreting it. It's about understanding how all these forces come together to collaborate in making the country that we have.

The one thing I want students to leave with is that what everyday people do, including what people can do through protests or movements, actually has a significant role in shaping the way the constitution gets interpreted and understood in practice over time.

Students who have taken this course have consistently remarked that it is "challenging but rewarding." What aspects do students find rewarding?

Students find rewards at many different levels. At a liberal arts college level, it's about constructing persuasive arguments from different kinds of resources that you have available to you. I think the mental map that it provides about the sweeps of American history is also really helpful. And in contemporary

terms, it tells us what we're fighting about. To be smart and savvy in making political arguments today, it's very helpful to know what's been tried and the hazards that lie down certain directions. It's just like music. If all you knew was today's pop music and you didn't know how pop and rock emerged, you'd be worse off for it.

As a legal scholar, what interests you most right now with the Supreme Court?

What's most satisfying is seeing all the law professors saying that the political scientists were right. Law professors almost need to have faith that there is a right answer for making constitutional judgments. But at some point, it seems to a lot of people, the recent court stopped caring about whether it was going to remain faithful to the old answers, and simply said: We've got new ones. Law professors have struggled with what that means for them. Many are saying explicitly that the only way to understand this court is with the toolkits that historians and political scientists have brought to this discussion—seeing where debates emerge, how they get constructed, how they get resolved, and how the fight continues. Not starting with the idea that there is a single answer, but instead looking at the constitution as a continuing struggle over the big questions of American government.

Joe Linstroth is director of media relations.

BY ROBERT KERR '92

CLASS NOTES

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

CLASS NOTES PHOTO POLICY:

We publish one photo per wedding.

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

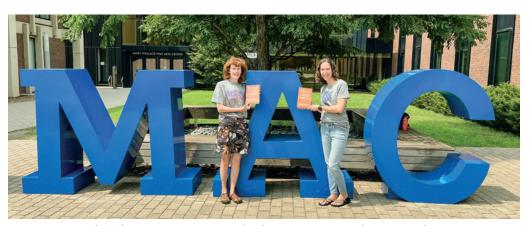
Photos must be highresolution, approximately 2MB or greater in file size.

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

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



Seth Lipshie '86, Tom Marks '87, and Art Kowitch '86 hiked Oregon's Columbia River Gorge in June.



Anna Cavallo '05 (right), Myra Kueker Wick '86 (left) and Brad Wick '84 (not pictured) connected at Mac in August. Anna is managing editor of the *Mayo Clinic Guide to a Healthy Pregnancy*, Myra is medical editor, and Brad serves as a "support person." Anna and Myra have worked together on the second and third editions of the book.



Kim Shaffer '75 and Jan Flagg Shaffer '75 celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in June. Several alums joined them to celebrate. From left: Judy Shaffer Ruud '84, Carol Shaffer '83, Cynthia Smith '76, Jan, Kim, Mary Kitchell '75 (in whose Turck Hall room Kim and Jan met during their firstyear week), Scott Shaffer '08, and Catherine Biringer '08.

Dan Schned '05 and Melissa Colgan of Washington, D.C., recently welcomed daughter Lilah Nancy Schned into the world.





Macalester roommates, housemates, and soccer teammates Chris Ward '76 (left) and Steve Cox '76 took a road trip to Little Bighorn National Monument in southern Montana and spent two days there. The highlight was a "fascinating horseback tour" led by two members of the Crow Tribe of Montana.



Seven alums who work at Child Trends, a nonprofit research center, gathered for a photo at an all-staff convening in March. Back row, from left: Kate Fahje Steber '08, Julianna Carlson '11, Luc Jamous '23, and Rowan Hilty '16. Front: Meg Bredeson '09, Joselyn Angeles Figueroa '21, and Kathryn Tout '91.

YOU SAID

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.

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.

1973

Rick Treece retired from teaching French at the University of Minnesota on Jan. 10, 2024. Rick and his wife, Debby Croker (also retired), are "enjoying life" in Edina. "Please don't judge us," Rick writes. "It was the best school system when we moved here." They have traveled to 120 countries and continue to sing with the Minnesota Chorale while pursuing many other musical projects.

1975

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

1976

Howard County, Md., district court associate Judge Pamila J. Brown received the 2024 Margaret Brent Women Lawyers of Achievement Award in August. The honor recognizes outstanding women lawyers who have achieved professional excellence and paved the way for other women in the profession.

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.



ON BUILDING COMMUNITY

Last winter, we asked alumni to share updates about their lives and/or how they are making their communities better. Sandy (Siegel) Bly '62, Cynthia Holley Brewster '64, and Marcia Mittelsted Maguire '58 responded to our question.

"First, I would like to keep alive among the Mac community the memory of Dr. J. Huntley Dupre. To many younger Macites Dr. Dupre is probably known just as a person for whom a hall is named. However, to those of us who knew him he was a true inspiration. His world view, his sense of moral justice, his encouragement of his students' efforts, made a deep impression on me my freshman year, when I luckily enrolled in his "History of Western Civilization" class. My admiration for him led me to take several more classes from him and major in history.

I also was very involved in international activities at Mac, forming friendships with several international students, including Kofi Annan '61. During my senior year I was one of twelve American students lucky enough to be picked to participate in an American studies seminar with the twelve international journalists in the first World Press Institute.

No doubt following in Dr. Dupre's tradition of world service, upon graduation I spent two years in Peru in the fledgling Peace Corps. During my service and shortly thereafter I received a couple of letters of appreciation and encouragement from Dr. Dupre, letters I have kept to this day. Upon returning home in 1964 I earned my master's degree in Latin American studies. With my fluency in Spanish and thanks to Bob Dassett, I returned to Mac to teach Spanish from 1968 to 1970. The remainder of my teaching career was in Spanish and in teaching English to refugees and immigrants from over thirty countries. I believe I owe my career path to Dr. Dupre's influence as well as to Macalester's atmosphere of internationalism and social justice.

And a postscript: I am extremely proud of how Macalester has continued to grow in diversity, justice, and international service." —Sandy (Siegel) Bly '62

"I am president of the Board of Trustees of the Fair Housing Resource Center serving four counties in Northeast Ohio: Lake, Ashtabula, Geauga, and Trumbull. We have a great staff that works to promote equal housing opportunities for all persons, and advocates for diversity through education and involvement of the public, governments, and the business community. We operate a landlord/tenant hotline service, and an intake complaint service for victims of housing discrimination. We are certified by HUD as a Housing Counseling agency providing counseling on foreclosure prevention, predatory lending, home financing, and repairs. We enforce the Fair Housing Act and HUD'S Equal Access Rule."

-Cynthia Holley Brewster '64

"I live at Marsh's Edge, a senior living community on St. Simons Island, Ga. I am active in our recycling program, learning about the warming permafrost, and tending my sevenyear-old Meyer lemon tree which produced over 100 juicy lemons last December."

-Marcia Mittelsted Maguire '58

CLASS NOTES

1986

After enjoying the summer at his house in Palmer, Alaska, David Chidsey returned to Maine to begin his thirty-ninth year of teaching middle school. He invites anyone in Portland on a Tuesday evening during the school year to drop by Gritty's on Fore Street and say hello. "Tommy Adams '85 did, and he had a blast," David writes.

1990

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

1995

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

1999

Josh Collins is returning to Minnesota state government to serve as communications director for the new Office of Cannabis Management. He reports that he is "high on the goal of building a foundation of social equity in the local industry."

2000

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

2004

Tyler Simmers began working with the Minneapolis Water Department last December as an electrician associated with IBEW Local Union 292. While working on "everything from optic fiber cables to 13.8kV equipment," Tyler writes that he "tries to keep the electricity away from the water."

2005

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

2008

Etie-Lee Z. Grunfeld Schaub received the 2024 Rhode Island Bar Association Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Trailblazer Award. As a senior assistant city solicitor for the City of Providence, she focuses on litigation and legislative support. She earned her JD from Cardozo Law School and her MBA from the University of Rhode Island.

2010

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

2015

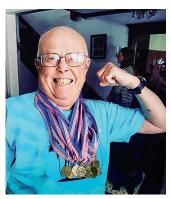
The Class of 2015 will celebrate its 10th Reunion June 5–8, 2025.

2016

Jakob and Grace Putka Ahlqvist of Boston welcomed a baby boy, Henry, in April.

Joshua Sosa was named a distinguished teacher by Noble Schools, a public charter school system that operates seventeen high school campuses in Chicago.

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



Bill Kansas '58 was inducted into the Minnesota Senior Sports Hall of Fame in May for his many achievements as a competitive swimmer. He has broken thirty Minnesota state records, twenty of which he continues to hold, and has achieved numerous top-ten finishing times nationally and internationally in individual and relay races. Still competing at the age of 88, Bill holds All-American status in both individual and relay events and has been named Best in Nation ten times.

MacConnect Discover new connections with MacConnect Groups. You can now come together in online community groups. Find people in your region, profession, or interest areas—and join the conversation in discussion groups by sharing advice or articles or asking for tips. Log in again to find groups you'd enjoy, or log in for the first time to check it out! **Questions?** Email alumnioffice@macalester.edu **Community Group Discussion** boards My Groups Arts Career Community Baltimore Regional Chapter Boston Regional Chapter Legal Professions Career Community London Regional Chapter Seattle Book Club macalester.edu/MacConnect



Patrick Drigans '81 joined other Mac alums for a small golf tournament in July at Bunker Hills Golf Course in Coon Rapids, Minn. From left: Dave Smith '81, Mark Gobel '80, Jennifer White Gobel '81, Bernadette Samanant McCormick '81, Art Guetter '81, Jean Ann Swanlund Guetter '81, Patrick, and Gregg Herrick '81.



Five classmates who studied abroad in Avignon, France, their junior year returned there in 2016 and again last year. From left: Linda Ziegahn '70, June Noronha '70, Laurence Doxsey '70, Jane Echternacht Hallas '70, and Randy Knepper '70.



Ajuawak Kapashesit '13 and some Washington, D.C., Renegades teammates competed against other inclusive club rugby teams in the Bingham Cup Rugby Tournament in Rome in May. From left: Caleb Driker-Ohren '19, Robert Strickling '12, Nathan Patrash '11, and Ajuawak.



Present at a mini-Macalester reunion in February at Strawberry Hill Park in Berkeley, Calif., were (from left): Sam Shonkoff '06, Anava Wren '06, Jake Seltzer '07, Devin Homme '06 with partner Lily Rachles, Craig Moodie '06, Olivia Rogers '07, Kenyon DeVault '06, and Christina Houghton '06 with partner Colin Webster.



Robin Kleffman '69, at left with brother Roger, was the 200-yard butterfly national champion in the 75–79 age group in a masters swimming competition held in Indianapolis in June. He also placed second in the 200yard backstroke, third in the 50- and 100-yard butterfly, fifth in the 50-yard breaststroke, and fifth in the 100-yard individual medley.



Pediatric dentist Xu Han '10 gave students from Macalester's Pre-Dental Club a tour of The Dental Specialists in Rosemount, Minn. He writes that the Pre-Dental Club is "an outstanding resource for students interested in the field, and I'm so glad I am in a position to help support it today."



Several alumni gathered for lunch at Tommy Bahamas in La Quinta, Calif., in March. From left (and clockwise): Jim Schatz '68, Jane McKinley Sweet '70, David Berg '69, Lynn Berg, Linda Swanson Svidal '70, Kurt Svidal, Clark Sweet '69, Bill Harper, Mary Gebhard Harper '68, Dick Anderson '68, Laurie Hazen Anderson '69, Jim Jordan '69, and Lou Schatz '69.

The Sociology of Cardi B: A Trap Feminist Approach

By Shantee Rosado '09, Aaryn L. Green, Maretta Darnell McDonald, Veronica A. Newton, and Candice C. Robinson. (Routledge, 2024)

> Dr. Shantee Rosado '09 is an assistant professor of Afro-Latinx Studies in the Africana Studies and Latino and Caribbean Studies Departments at Rutgers University-New Brunswick. We asked her to tell us more about trap feminism and hip-hop artist Cardi B.

What is a trap feminist framework and why is it important?

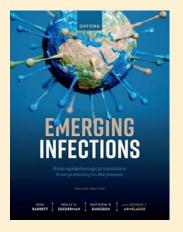
Trap feminism, first coined by author Sesali Bowen, is a feminism that centers the most marginalized women in our society-the hood chicks, ghetto girls, and ratchet women. In our book, we use a trap feminist framework to center these women and to acknowledge and celebrate their knowledge. Our work, and this framework, show the importance of Black women defining themselves for themselves-most of the authors identify as trap feminists and see themselves reflected in the artistry of Cardi B and women like her. We use this framework to better understand hood chicks' lived experiences in or adjacent to the trap, their engagement with hip-hop cul-



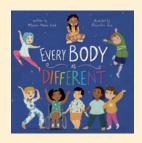
ture, their ability to hustle, and how they proudly own their sexuality.

How does your exploration of Cardi B expand conversations about sociology and feminism?

By examining sociological topics through a trap feminist lens, and through Cardi B's public life and artistry, we ask academics to question their own biases regarding hood chicks. Sociology has historically excluded the voices of poor Black women, often regarding them as subjects to be studied but not as knowledge producers and theorists. Our work, in contrast, honors women like Cardi B to show the importance of knowledge produced in the hood and the trap. The book also pushes the boundaries of feminism, which tends to center white women, and Black feminism in particular, which can often center middle class, or "respectable," Black women. We wanted to show readers that you can twerk and be civically engaged, that you can unabashedly talk about your sexuality while being a great mother, and that you deserve respect even if others don't view you as respectable. The book is a recognition of poor Black women's multifaceted brilliance and, we hope, a contribution toward our collective liberation.



Ron Barrett, professor of anthropology; Molly Zuckerman; Matthew Ryan Dudgeon; and George J. Armelagos. Emerging Infections: Three Epidemiological Transitions from Prehistory to the Present (Oxford University Press, 2024)



Miriam Moore-Keish '19 with illustrations by Alejandra Ruiz. Every Body Is Different: Celebrate You! All About Our Differences (Capstone Editions, 2024)

Erika Reich Giles

'70. Becoming

Hungarian: A Memoir (Montiron

Press, 2024)

Becoming Hungarian

a memoir



Erika Reich Giles

TOUTHE

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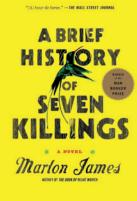
A Memoir of Politics, Leadership, and Love

Marlene M. Johnson '68. Rise to the Challenge: A Memoir of Politics, Leadership, and Love (University of Minnesota

Press, 2024)



MARLON JAMES, professor emeritus of English, earned #42 on the New York Times' list of "100 Best Books of the 21st Century" for his novel A Brief History of Seven Killings. The list was assembled with the votes of 503 novelists, nonfiction writers, poets, critics, and other book lovers. About the book, the Times wrote, "To skip even a paragraph, though, would be to forgo the vertiginous pleasures of James's semi-historical novel, in which the attempted assassination of an unnamed reggae superstar who strongly resembles Bob Marley collides with C.I.A. conspiracy, international drug cartels and the vibrant, violent Technicolor of post-independence Jamaica."



MARLENE M. JOHNSON

Press, 2024)

Buff Whitman-Bradley '66. A Friendly Little Tavern Somewhere Near the Pleiades (Finishing Line

WEDDINGS







- Emily Brinkman '17 and Alex Rogers were married on March 24, 2024, in Chicago. They are both changing their last names to Bogaert. From left: Matt Hagen '18, Hannah Mira Friedland '17, Emily, Alex, Charmaine Runes '15, and Sarah Kolenbrander-Thao '18.
- 2. Colin Kennedy '04 and Dr. Emily Swafford were married October 7, 2023, at their home in Ann Arbor, Michigan. In attendance were Andrew Broughton '03, Brook Carpenter '03, Morgan Feigal-Stickles '04, Jesse Ruuttila '05, John Knefel '05, and MJ Knefel '08.





- 3. Louis Hunter '18 and Giulia Girgenti '18 were married in St. Paul on July 7, 2024, joined by family, friends, and several fellow alumni. From left to right: Erin Webb '21, Sarah Kraatz '18, Dylan Bontrager '18, Guido Girgenti, Giulia, Louis, Sam Hunter, Colin Churchill '19, Caroline Wofford, and Hannah Maycock '19.
- 4. Nikhita Jain '19 and Matthew Yang '19 were married on June 14. Top row, from left: Peter Willenborg '19, Michael Lockhart '20, Camilla Bendetti '20, Joshua Doyle '18, Suveer Daswani '18. Middle row, from left: Jongwon "Hans" Han '22, Jeong-Won Tak '21, Della Brown '19, Sarah Aldama '18, Ayushi Modi '21. First row, from left: Isaac Liu '19, Tianyou Li '19, Matthew, Nikhita, Taneeya Rele '19, Anandi Gupta '18, and Saakshi Daswani '18. The couple held a sustainable wedding by using used wedding candles, compostable plates, and bubbles instead of confetti.
- Sarah Kolenbrander-Thao '18 and Vince Thao were married at Weyerhaeuser Chapel on June 22. From left: Officiant and Chaplain Kelly Stone, Suzanna Jack '19, Brian Fox '18, Emily Nadel '18, Spike Sommers '18, Julia Sullivan '18, Mara Steinitz '18, Maggie Weber '18, Matt Hagen '18, Sarah, Vince, Jake Ramthun '17, Abby Massell '18, Mariah Shriner '18, Joe Novak '09, Carlye Sikkink Novak '09, Emily Bogaert '17, Tate Maki-Waller '18, Isabel LaBonte-Clark '18, and Greg Zacharia '18.





- 6. Myles Ambrose '17 and Sydney Keiler '17 were married on Sept. 23, 2023, in Washington Grove, Md. From left: Cody Jahrig, Molly Stark-Ragsdale '17, Meghan Storlie '17, Sophie Nadler '19, Catriona Leckie '17, Elle Weeks '17, Kate Rhodes '17, Olivia Stern '17, Eloise Terry '17, Sara Ludewig '17, Remy Eisendrath '17, Jenny Grischuk '17, Nick Guo '17, Sydney, Grady Johnson '17, Myles, Henry Kellison '17, Valerie Cardozo '17, Austin Parsons '17, Eva Larsen '17, Aidan Cowan '17, Natalie Prescott '17, Eliana Langer '17, Jared Sousa '17, Jake Meltzer '17, Jeff Perala-Dewey '17, Michelle Buse '18, Pradyut Bansal '17.
- 7. Camille Garcia-Flahaut '17 and Alexander Abramson '18 were married on May 18 in Philadelphia. Pictured are: Paul Vivian '17, Beenish Riaz '17, Lucius Kelton Wilmerding '17, Anna Bebbington '19, Sean Mock '17, Jacquelyn Sieck '18, Meg Hinson '19, Henry McCarthy '19, Elizabeth Abramson '19, Madeline Gerrard '17, Talia Young '17, Elizabeth Hutchins '16, Kevin Fortune '17, Mira Ensley-Field '17, Emily Crnkovich '17, Britta Lyew '17, Joshua Doyle '18, Camille, Alexander, Eben Johnson '17, Clara Von Dohlen '18, Olivia Newman '17, Austin Ahlman '21, Noah Nieting '17, Lynda Chao '18, Elena Siegel '17, Dylan Smith '17, Zoe Geisen '17, Gabriel Barrett '17, Fangze Li '19, Kassandra Munguia '18, and Annika Sanora '18.





- Andrea Grimaldi '16 and Omar Mansour '16 celebrated their wedding in San Rafael, Mendoza, Argentina. From left: Valentina Hidalgo Mendoza '18, Elise Ong '16, Omar, Andrea, Lia Hansen '16, Emily Ahmed TahaBurt '16, and Yoni Saltzman.
- Hannah Deutschlander '22 married Lance Benick in Austin, Texas, in May. From left: Pablo Monterroso '22, Katie Kelbrants '23, Daniel Park '23, Ed Deutschlander '93 (father of the bride and Macalester trustee), Hannah, Lance, Jason Min '22, Ella Behnke '22, and Emma Wasserman '22.

CELEBRATE WITH MAC!

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WORK WISDOM

Maggie Abeles '17

Growing up abroad with parents working in finance, Maggie Abeles '17 arrived at Macalester expecting to major in political science and enter the Peace Corps: "After sixteen years living across Japan and Singapore, pursuing a job on Wall Street was the last thing I thought I would do."

Those plans changed after taking her first economics class. "The raw passion I ended up feeling for economics really took me off guard," Abeles says. "I attribute a lot of that to my professors and the way they approached subjects that I grew up doubting my capacity to learn and enjoy."

Later, a junior-year internship at the investment bank Piper Sandler & Co. (previously, Piper Jaffray & Co.) cemented her path. Abeles returned to Piper after graduating, moved to a private equity fund, and today is a vice president at NewBound Ventures, an investment firm founded by an early-career mentor.

At NewBound, Abeles leads the firm's Beauty and Personal Care investment sector, among other roles. "My role encompasses the responsibilities of an investor, operations specialist, and a chief digital officer," she says. In a male-dominated profession, Abeles credits fostering—and maintaining—supportive mentors for her success.

Now living in Chicago with her husband, Danny Halloran '16, Abeles supports entrepreneurs from diverse backgrounds through her work at NewBound, as well as angel investments and advisory work, and uses her expertise to open doors for people of underrepresented identities who are traditionally locked out of the finance industry. Here is some of what she's learned in her career journey.

Find mentors...

The best advice that I can give is to find people you can be vulnerable with and to continually build your relationship with them throughout your career. Regardless of your environment, lean into people who appreciate what makes you, you.

...and nurture them.

Something that has served me well is to seek out people that invested in me personally—and it takes years to build those relationships. My partner at NewBound was my first boss and we weren't necessarily close back then. He was head of the group and difficult for me to access as a young junior banker. We had a couple of projects where we spent personal time together, and I remember being purposeful about trying to get to know him. It built the foundation for a relationship that eventually became a strong partnership through our work together at NewBound.



Invest in yourself.

Find small ways to invest in yourself. Remember that you are more than your job, and you deserve to dedicate time to your personhood as well as to your career. Sometimes it's easier than others—and I did not always feel this way—but I've continued to build that muscle throughout my career.

Take a walk.

After I sign off from work every Friday, my favorite thing to do is to go on a long walk before I start my weekend. It gives me time to digest the week. Not just the work I did, but how I did. Did I have the opportunity to teach somebody something? How does what I learned impact my next moves? Taking that time to take stock and leave the week with that in perspective has been transformative.

Follow the plot.

The best life advice I've received is to "remember the plot." Stanford University professor Deborah Gruenfeld talks about this in her book, Acting With Power: Why We Are More Powerful Than We Believe. I've had other people frame this in different ways, but basically it means to be self-reflective, take stock of everything going on around you, and remember the context of the role that you're playing in the broader theater of life. Doing this has helped me better understand where other people are coming from, to find a lot more common ground, and, over time, build significantly more empathetic partnerships.

Trust your gut.

Most of the bad work advice I've received boils down to this idea of "play it safe" or "stick to the script." I say, never forget that no one knows you as well as YOU—trust your gut, take the leap.

1946

Marilynn Ellis Curry, 99, died June 20, 2024, in Ames, Iowa. She and her husband, Bob, owned a Coast to Coast Hardware store in New Hampton, Iowa. She was also a homemaker, an employee of Sundstrand Corporation for fifteen years, and a performer with the Octagon Tappers. Curry is survived by a daughter, a son, two granddaughters, and two great-grandchildren.



Helen Hawkinson Baker, 99, of Stillwater, Minn., died May 26, 2024. She was a planning commission member and zoning administrator for the city of Afton, Minn. Baker is survived by three children, as well as grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

1949

Alyce Falconer Gibson, 95, died July 21, 2024. She worked as a librarian and taught English and social studies at the junior high, high school, and college level. She retired from Cass Lake High School in 1988 as a media specialist. Gibson is survived by a daughter, two sons, and two grandchildren.

1951

Harry Char, 95, died Jan. 7, 2024. He taught high school and was an elementary school principal in Hawaii from 1962 to 1983. He retired as a US Coast Guard captain in 1988. Char is survived by a daughter, a son, five grandchildren, and a great-grandson.

Mary Provan Gilstad, 94, of

St. Paul, died July 16, 2024. She worked for the Head Start program in St. Paul in the 1960s and trained childcare and foster care providers at the University of Minnesota. Gilstad also developed training materials for the US Army's Child Development Services and trained the program's providers in Japan and Germany in child abuse prevention. She is survived by three children, eight grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

Dorothy Palmgren Matthews

died recently. She volunteered in local schools, led Girl Scout troops, and served on the board of the Friends of the Moraga Library. Matthews is survived by her husband, Jack, three children (including Nancy Matthews '75), five grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren, and two sisters (including Louise Palmgren Brandt '58).

1952

Donald Ramstad, 94, of White Bear Lake, Minn., died Oct. 23, 2022. He served in the US Navy. Ramstad is survived by five daughters, nineteen grandchildren, and twenty-two greatgrandchildren.

Mary Nenadich Young, 94, died March 31, 2024. She taught physical education in Minnesota before raising her family. She was also a part-time candy distributor for JJ&E. Young is survived by two daughters and four grandchildren.

1953

Marilyn J. Lewis, 92, died June 28, 2024. She worked in real estate sales, in modeling, and at an accounting firm. Lewis also sang with the Sweet Adelines in Bemidji, Minn., and performed in Great Britain and Europe with the Colonial Chorale of Edina, Minn. She is survived by four children, six grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, and a brother.

1954

Dorothy Lough Orr, 92, died July 22, 2024. She worked for Glacier National Park, Grand Teton National Park, and Swedish Hospital, and taught conversational English to foreign exchange students at Bellevue Community College. Orr is survived by her husband, Curtis, two children, and two grandchildren.

Jay C. Rusthoven, 90, of St. Paul died Oct. 7, 2020. He managed Liberty Plaza for Dayton Avenue Presbyterian Church for thirty-one years. Rusthoven is survived by his wife, Karen, a daughter, three sons, four grandchildren, four greatgrandchildren, and two sisters.

1956

May Andrewson Anderson, 89, died Oct. 23, 2023, in Grantsburg, Wis. She taught in St. Paul and Shafer, Minn., and helped her husband run a family store in Alpha, Wis., until 1994. Anderson is survived by a daughter, a son, three grandsons, and a brother.

Fanchon Linville Conway, 90, died July 5, 2024. She briefly taught elementary school and was a homemaker and volunteer. Conway is survived by her husband, Patrick, three chil-

husband, Patrick, three children, nine grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, a sister, and a brother.

Carol Schwarting Hayden, 90,

Macalester trustee emerita, died July 27, 2024. After working with her husband at their construction equipment business. Havden turned her attention to promoting social justice, women's rights, and reproductive rights. She served on the boards of the Women's Foundation of Minnesota and the Advocates for Human Rights and promoted adherence to Title IX standards in the Minnetonka, Minn., schools. In 2015, she traveled to Geneva to attend the United Nations Human **Rights Committee's review** on women's rights in Croatia. Hayden is survived by her husband, Bud, two children, and five grandchildren.

1959

Mary Davidson Coulter, 87, died July 22, 2024, in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. After staying at home to raise her children, she worked in medical technology. Coulter is survived by a daughter, a son, three grandchildren, and a brother.

Timothy D. Hayes, 92, died May 22, 2024.

1960

Joyce Mickelson Nelson, 86, died June 7, 2024. She taught fourth grade for two years before starting a family. Nelson also served as an elder, sang in the choir, and was a children's choir accompanist with her Presbyterian church. She is survived by her husband, Doug, three children, nine grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, sister Karen Mickelson Caine '63, and brother Peter Mickelson '67.

1962

Martha "Marty" Hogoboom Jacobsen, 84, of Bloomington, Minn., and Sarasota, Fla., died July 26, 2024. She taught third grade before starting her family. Jacobsen is survived by her husband, Ron Jacobsen '62, a daughter, a son, two grandsons, and a sister.

Lois L. Ramberg, 83, died March 4, 2024. She began a long career in public education after moving to Milwaukee in 1973. She was a special education teacher for elementary and middle school students, and she homeschooled students through the public school system.

1963

Karen L. Koeper, 79, of St. Paul, died July 8, 2020. She is survived by a daughter, a son, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and a sister.

Jeanie Coffin Snell died recently. She worked in microbiology for the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., and later worked as a medical technologist at Miller Hospital and in 3M's adhesive technology center. Snell was married to John and had three children and two grandchildren.

1965

Jay C. Werner, 82, died June 1, 2024. He worked in computers and programming, served as a scoutmaster, and was a foster parent for more than thirty years. Werner is survived by two children, five grandchildren, and three siblings.

IN MEMORIAM

1967

Robert E. Carter, 77, of Grand Marais, Minn., died March 10, 2023. He served in the Vietnam War before joining his family's business, Bob Carter Ford, in Inver Grove Heights, Minn. Carter also worked as a real estate agent in Cook County and served as director and Prince of the Southwind of the St. Paul Winter Carnival. He is survived by his spouse, Helen, two children, seven grandchildren, and three siblings.

E. Barnard Hall, 79, of Hudson, Wis., died May 18, 2024. He taught high school AP American history in Edina, Minn., for more than thirty years and worked with more than 400 gifted junior high and high school students. Hall is survived by his wife, Sandra Cheesbrough Hall '68, two daughters, three grandsons, a sister, and a brother.

Miriam Broberg Moen, 78, of Rochert, Minn., died June 14, 2024. She taught English as a second language with the Peace Corps in Bangkok, Thailand, worked in the sports department at WTCN-TV in the Twin Cities, and taught English and German in Gibbon, Minn. Moen is survived by her husband, David, two children, and three grandchildren.

1969

Karen Windland Anderson, 77, died Dec. 21, 2023, in Portland, Ore. After working as a high school teacher, a buyer for Donaldson's Department Store, and a caseworker for Hennepin County Family Services, Anderson earned a master's degree in journalism from the University of Minnesota. She then worked freelance for Minnesota Monthly, Minnetonka News, and other publications in the Twin Cities area. Anderson also launched a bed and breakfast reservation business. She is survived by her husband, Jeffrey.

Leslie Griswold Berry, 76, died May 20, 2024. She served her community through city planning and organizing parades. Berry is survived by three children and six grandchildren. **Elizabeth M. Brekke**, 80, of Northfield, Minn., died Oct. 22, 2023. She is survived by a daughter and a brother.

Elmer Pladers, 73, of Blaine, Minn., died Oct. 22, 2020. He worked for the Minnesota Department of Transportation for forty-eight years, retiring in 2017.

Lois Hendricks Saul, 85, died Dec. 3, 2023, in Denver. She worked as an elementary school teacher and librarian with the Denver Public Schools for more than thirty years. Saul is survived by a daughter, a granddaughter, and a sister.

1970

Judson Barker, 75, died Aug. 1, 2024. He worked for Commercial Union Insurance Company and The Hartford Insurance Company and volunteered with the American Association of Retired Persons to help individuals prepare their taxes. Barker is survived by his wife, Linda, a daughter, two grandchildren, and brother Eldon Barker '73.

Kathleen McPherson Junek, 75, of St. Louis Park, Minn., died June 5, 2024. She managed offices in Italy and Hong Kong for American **Express International Bank and** launched EMPEP, a business providing computer skills training. Junek then earned an M.Div. from Luther Seminary and a JD from William Mitchell College of Law and worked as a public defender in Anoka County, Minn. She also served on the boards of the ACLU of Minnesota and the Minnesota Orchestra. Junek is survived by her husband, John, five children, nine grandchildren, and a brother.

John A. Lampland, 75, died June 14, 2024. He served in the 364th Public Affairs Detachment of the Army Reserve based at Fort Snelling for more than twenty years and worked at Diamond Lake Hardware. Lampland is survived by his longtime companion, Judy, and a sister.

// COMMUNITY LOSSES



Macalester trustee emeritus **E. Peter Gillette** died July 30, 2024, at the age of 90. He served in the US Marines in Asia and stateside and retired from the Reserve as a major. While working at Northwestern National Bank (later Wells Fargo), Gillette attended William Mitchell College of Law and was admitted to the bar in 1963.

He was elected CEO and president of the bank in 1980. He also served on the Federal Advisory Council to the Federal Reserve Board, worked in corporate finance at Piper Jaffray, and became president of Piper Trust Company. Gillette was one of the original appointees to the Metropolitan Council and was Minnesota Governor Arne Carlson's Commissioner of Trade and Economic Development. In addition to serving on several nonprofit and corporate boards, Gillette raised funds for community and arts organizations and served as a trustee of the Blake School, Princeton University, and the Marine Corps University Foundation. He is survived by his wife, Scotty, three daughters, six grandchildren, and a sister.



Former St. Paul mayor and Macalester visiting professor **George A. Latimer** died Aug. 18, 2024, in St. Paul. He was 89. He worked as a labor lawyer and served on the St. Paul School Board before becoming mayor in 1976. Latimer occupied the office for fourteen years and remains the city's longest-serving mayor. In 1995, he joined Macalester's faculty as Distinguished

Visiting Professor of Urban Studies. He collaborated with what is now the college's Community Engagement Center on neighborhood-based projects and, according to Macalester Professor Emeritus David Lanegran, "delighted in connecting students to people working on urban issues." The Geography Department presented Latimer with its Crystal Globe Award in 2017 in recognition of his contributions to the department and the college. He also served as a University of Minnesota regent, dean of the Hamline University School of Law, and an undersecretary for Housing and Urban Development during the Clinton administration. Latimer is survived by five children (including Faith Latimer '83 and Tom Latimer '90), eleven grandchildren, and a great-grandchild. Stewart C. Loper, 76, of Eden Prairie, Minn., died June 26, 2024. He practiced law for fifty years and served as president of the William Mitchell College of Law Alumni Association. Loper is survived by his wife, Nancy Johnson Loper '70, a son, and a sister.

1971

Carol L. Cook, 73, of Livermore, Calif., died Nov. 17, 2022. After working as a team leader in technical publications for Apple Computers, Cook became one of the first women to be ordained as a priest in the Episcopal Church and served several congregations in California.

1972

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

1974

Jane E. Conklin, 71, of West Lebanon, N.H., died March 27, 2024. After earning a master's in social work, she worked at a senior center, at United Development Services, and at Service Link of Grafton County. Conklin is survived by three sisters.

Sue Ellen Jeffers, 71, died June 10, 2024. She was manager of collections for the Blanton Museum of Art at the University of Texas for almost forty years. Jeffers is survived by her husband, Jerry Lopez, two sons, a granddaughter, and a brother.

1977

Lyndon M. Johnson, 68, of Eden Prairie, Minn., died April 2, 2024. He is survived by a brother and former wife Terri Kidd.

1980

Susan Tilly Morris, 67, of Richfield, Minn., died May 30, 2024. She worked in child support for Hennepin County, retiring in 2019. Morris is survived by her husband, Marshall, a daughter, a granddaughter, her mother, a sister, and a brother.

Bill Zimniewicz, 62, of St. Paul died April 18, 2021. He founded the South St. Paul Community Learning Center and River Heights Charter School. Zimniewicz retired as director of Jennings Community School in 2020 and served one term as president of the Minnesota Association of Alternative Programs. He is survived by his wife, Liz Chudzik, three children, six grandchildren, a greatgrandchild, and five siblings.

1981 Barbara Borg

Barbara Berglund, 65, died June 16, 2024. She worked for the Minnesota Public Interest Research Group and Utility System of America before establishing a law practice in Ely, Minn.

Darcel Stueven Fode, 64, of Greeley, Colo., died July 11, 2024.

She did wedding photography, taught and sold stitchery, and operated a licensed daycare facility. Fode was also an activity director at a senior center and nursing and retirement home, as well as a substitute elementary school teacher. She is survived by her husband, Mark, three children, two grandchildren, and three brothers.

2004

Andrea G. Halverson, 42, died recently. She worked as a therapist, teacher, and astrologer, and traveled extensively. Halverson is survived by her mother, her father, and a sister.

2006

Sara L. Dueñes, 40, died June 7, 2024. After working at Mayo Clinic for two years, Dueñes earned her DDS degree and began practicing dentistry. She is survived by her partner, Gerald Houle, her parents, two sisters (including Becca Dueñes Cuellar '03), and a brother.

NATIONWIDE **TARTAN TRIVIA** FEBRUARY 19, 2025

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

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



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

LAST LOOK





Sandy Zimmerman and her caricature



HOMECOMING

With the leaves turning brown and a chill in the air, the Archives opens its collections to take a look back at Homecoming, a tradition stretching back over one-hundred years here at Macalester.

Macalester's first large-scale Homecoming celebration was in 1916, featuring a football game against Hamline in June of that year. The May 30th edition of the Mac Weekly wrote that it was "sure to be a victory...because the Methodists...have already brought firewood for a celebratory bonfire." And, sure enough, it was. Macalester defeated Hamline 20 to 13 and St. Thomas students were on hand to help celebrate.

With the US entering World War I, Homecoming was put on pause. The celebration resumed in 1921 almost three years after Armistice Day, and evolved into a full day of celebration with activities, food, and a "miniature blizzard" during the big game when Mac beat St. Johns. As years passed, Homecoming would feature dances, plays, parades, trike races, pickle-eating contests, and other festive events.

In 1937, Macalester crowned its first Homecoming Queen (or Queen of Scots), Margaret Greig '37. This tradition continued until 1969 with its final recipient (among much controversy), Sandy Zimmerman '70, an "avant-garde"-loving art major, and the first married Queen, who submitted a caricature of herself for the program. That next year signaled the end of the thirtythree-year tradition with a Court of Princesses selected rather than a singular Queen.

In an October 24th, 1969 Mac Weekly letter to the editor, Chuck Horton '72 lamented the waning popularity of the event by saying, "It isn't hip or sophisticated enough for everyone to...have community fun without...drugs or psychedelic lights or sounds," and he may have been right. The rapidly changing landscape of the American college campus had rendered the annual fête a relic of a bygone era. In the decades following, Homecoming scaled back and returned to a focus on athletics and tailgate parties throughout the 70s, 80s, and 90s.

Today, a spirit of homecoming infuses September's Mac Fest—an annual weekend of programming and events for all members of the Mac community that showcases campus life. Learn more at macalester.edu/mac-fest.

Last Look strives for accuracy, but there are often gaps in the archival record. If you have a correction, context to add, or a suggestion about what to cover next, please email us at archives@macalester.edu.





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CLASS NOTES EXTENDED PLAY

A Family Send-Off

While on Martha's Vineyard, Barbara Phillips '71, wearing her Golden Scots medallion, wished her niece Ella Cohen-Richie "all the best" as she joins Macalester's Class of 2028.