Winter 2022

Macalester Today Winter 2022

Macalester College

MACALESTER

TODAY

WINTER 2022

10

14

24

ON THE COVER: As businesses aim to reduce their environmental impacts, circular practices that can be traced back thousands of years are gaining momentum.

ILLUSTRATION: BORJA BONAQUE

FEATURES

FROM LEFT: DANTE TERZIONI; JAKE ARMOUR; DAVID J. TURNER; JORDANA BERMÚDEZ; THERESA SCARBROUGH


32


34

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40

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Timeless lessons

Thank you for the article recalling Mary Gwen Owen ("Nine Timeless Lessons from *MacDo*," Fall 2021). Let me add another timeless lesson from an inspiring educator. She found an ethical question in the nature of debate. Focus on "pro" or "con" could become immoral by its nature. Discussion was to be preferred with its consideration of varied viewpoints. She taught a discussion class. Each student was required to subscribe to two current events magazines—one conservative and one liberal. We learned to listen and acknowledge various viewpoints. In the current political climate, the tools for that process and its usage seem even more badly needed!

Alison Mossler Wright '58
Dallas, Texas

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PHOTO OF THE DAY

In the campus community's Mac Daily *newsletter, students, faculty, and staff share photos of Macalester's people and places.*

A September thunderstorm produced a rainbow over campus.

English professor James Dawes and political science professor Michael Zis met US Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland at the COP26 Climate Summit in Glasgow, Scotland.

The GEOL 101 Dinosaurs Extravaganza is an end-of-semester celebration of student creativity and science (semiformal, too).

German studies students channel their inner Max Beckmann at Mia, the Minneapolis Institute of Art.

Imagine, Macalester

DAVID J. TURNER

Visit the Imagine, Macalester website to get involved.

In October, at the first Big Questions conversation we were able to host in person since my arrival, we announced the launch of Imagine, Macalester—a strategic planning process that invites the entire Mac community to dream together about the future we want for the college. At that event, Provost Lisa Anderson-Levy and I talked with three distinguished Macalester alumni about the relevance and vitality of the liberal arts, and the steps we must take to ensure that a Macalester education is accessible for tomorrow's students.

Our panelists, trustees Mihir Desai '90 and Michael Sneed '81 and trustee emerita Shelley Carthen Watson '82, provided different perspectives about the role a Macalester education played in their own success, and offered their thoughts about how the college should think about preparing students to enter the workforce of the future. It was striking to hear an entrepreneur, a nonprofit CEO, and a corporate executive all describe similar tools and skills acquired at Mac that enabled their success in work and in life. That conversation was the perfect springboard for embarking on a process to design Mac's path forward.

We are approaching this strategic planning process from a position of strength. Mac has a long history of balanced budgets, high graduation rates, extraordinary faculty and staff, and a strong network of nearly thirty thousand active, engaged alumni. We received more applications last year than ever before, making our admissions process highly selective. In addition, the college's foundational values are especially suited to attracting and preparing students who will seek lives of purpose in their communities and around the world.

Despite those strengths, this is a time of uncertainty and transition for many colleges and universities, and we face a number of challenges. There is increasing pressure on four-year institutions, and especially liberal arts colleges, to articulate persuasively the value of the experience we provide. Rising costs of tuition and fees outpace inflation, making college difficult for most families to afford. Macalester's budget relies heavily on tuition revenue, and yet our commitment to access has resulted in a discount rate that makes fundraising an increasingly important imperative. This is made more difficult by lower levels of philanthropic support through alumni giving than are seen at wealthier peer institutions. And we know that as soon as 2026, fewer traditional-age students will be applying to four-year colleges, and fewer international students applying to US institutions.

To face these challenges, we must plan with eyes wide open and a keen focus on our core values. Effective planning will require that all who participate are well informed and willing to consider the possibilities with an open mind. This is not a process with predetermined results. As we delve into this work, our canvas is blank, and we will rely on the good thinking of Mac's students, faculty, staff, alumni, parents, and friends to help us create a future for the college that will resonate with tomorrow's students and prepare them for careers we may not yet even be able to imagine.

We will arrive at a plan we can support and execute if we reflect thoughtfully, together: on campus, in the alumni community, and among our Twin Cities neighbors and community partners. Now is the time to dream big. We want to hear your ideas—small and large—about how to make Macalester stronger, more vibrant, more distinctive. We want to hear what you've loved about Macalester, where you've been challenged, and where you've struggled. Through these conversations, we will develop a vision that will keep and amplify what's special about Mac while preparing to serve future generations of students.

So, please, get involved. The Imagine, Macalester website is a hub through which you can learn, follow our progress, and provide suggestions. We also are holding several town hall-style listening sessions throughout the spring to solicit feedback. You can find information about those events as well as more ways to get involved at macalester.edu/strategic-plan.

I look forward to hearing from you about your vision for our shared future.

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

1600 GRAND

Hometown Organizer

Before Sami Banat '24 (St. Paul) stepped onto Macalester's campus, he was already a seasoned organizer. "I tell people I was organizing before I knew what organizing was," he says. In middle school, he led organizations to engage fellow students on issues such as climate justice and queer rights. In high school, he interned on Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign and realized that he enjoyed the energy of a campaign office and the opportunity to engage with neighbors and the community. He worked on state and national campaigns and founded the Minnesota High School Democrats.

As Banat continued his campaign work, though, he became more passionate about working at the local level. As he made decisions about where he wanted to go for college, he decided to stay within the communities he'd been working with for years. "Growing up in St. Paul, I knew that Macalester was a beacon of high community engagement," he says.

After beginning his studies at Macalester, Banat continued advocating for political and social causes. When St. Paul Mayor Melvin Carter formed the Community-First Public Safety Commission in 2020 to reenvision emergency response in the city, he appointed Banat as one of the forty-eight members of the team, which also included Macalester President Suzanne M. Rivera. Banat used this opportunity to mobilize Macalester students around the issue, putting together a panel with Rivera to involve students with the commission's work. Within the commission, he spearheaded the effort to recommend ending pretextual traffic stops by police—which allow officers to stop a driver for a traffic violation in order to investigate a suspected, unrelated criminal offense—in response to the police shooting of Daunte Wright in April 2021. While these recommendations went beyond the scope of the commission's original purpose, they were passed into the final report submitted to the mayor and city council.

This year, Banat is working on implementing these policies with the mayor's office. And on campus, he's digging into newly declared majors in political science and classical Mediterranean and Middle East—he sees a synergy between the two subjects, with classics providing a foundational understanding of political science, as well as helping him engage with his identity in new ways. "My studies at Macalester have been crucial to becoming a better, more confident organizer," Banat says. "They've broadened my understanding of my community and helped me to see the bigger picture."

For people who want to get involved with local organizing, Banat's advice is simple: "It can always seem intimidating, but especially at the local level, just showing up can be incredibly rewarding." *–Rachel Rostad '15*

KURT STEPNITZ

Dr. Crystal Marie Moten

Lessons From Changemakers

In November, former Macalester history professor Mahmoud El-Kati sat in the Alexander G. Hill Ballroom's front row, surrounded by family and many former students, as the Mac community celebrated his legacy at the eighth annual El-Kati Distinguished Lectureship in American Studies.

"In African culture, the griot is the wise elder who shares the history, traditions, and aspirations of the clan and community," Melvin Collins '75 said at the event. "Mahmoud has been that for Macalester, and for the Twin Cities community, for over fifty years."

In 2021, more than three hundred donors raised $90,000 during a twelve-day campaign to endow the lectureship, which brings notable Black scholars to St. Paul every other year to share their knowledge with Macalester and the local community. The lectureship was established by Stanley M. Berry '75, Bertram M. Days '74, and Ava B. Days to honor El-Kati's career—including at Macalester from 1970 to 2003—as a lecturer, writer, and commentator on the African American experience.

The program in November featured Dr. Crystal Marie Moten, a former Macalester history professor who is curator of African American history at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History's Division of Work and Industry. Her research focuses on Black women's struggles for economic justice in the twentieth-century urban North. Moten's lecture lifted up the work and legacies of Bernice Copeland Lindsay and Nana Reed Baker, changemakers who fostered opportunities for Black women and girls in 1940s Milwaukee, "in hope that we might learn from their examples of strength, courage, resilience—their determined decisions to create during crisis."

"Being invited to give the El-Kati lecture holds tremendous meaning for me, especially having taught African American history in the same department where Elder El-Kati taught, literally traversing the path he cleared," Moten told the audience. "It's amazing."

Watch Moten's lecture
macalester.edu/el-kati-2021

FROM LEFT: RYAN STOPERA; MINDY DEARDURFF

macalester.edu/strategic-plan

WHAT SHOULD MACALESTER BE?

This year, the college is delving into a strategic planning process designed to engage many perspectives on that big question, around campus and beyond. One way that's happening is through a group of twenty-three volunteer Strategic Planning Champions—including students, faculty and staff, parents, and alumni—that replaces a traditional committee. Selected through an application process, these volunteers are liaisons between their constituents and the college's senior leadership team. In the months ahead, their work will involve reading and learning, gathering input and feedback, organizing findings, identifying themes emerging from the process, meeting with leadership, and communicating updates back to their constituents.

"IT'S GREAT TO SEE THE COLLEGE EMBARK ON THIS JOURNEY THAT WILL GUIDE ITS FUTURE. IT SIGNALS THAT THE INSTITUTION BELIEVES IN CHANGE."
-SUVEER DASWANI '18

In November, the Strategic Planning Champions gathered on campus to make plans for 2022; watch for more ways to get involved and share your input.

November 2021 through January 2022
Gather input
Community gatherings

January–April 2022
Identify themes
Share draft themes with Board of Trustees and community
Hold Champion listening sessions

April–September 2022
Draft strategic plan
Share draft plan with Board of Trustees and community

October 2022
Submit plan
Send plan to the Board of Trustees for approval

BIG WINS

ATHLETICS In September, three hundred fans cheered from the Leonard Center stands for the volleyball team's conference opener against Carleton—and the boisterous crowd got to witness a thrilling highlight in what would become the program's best season in fifteen years.

Down two sets and trailing in the third, the home team—led by first-year head coach Mary Johnston—came all the way back to beat Carleton by winning the set 25-23 and then triumphing in the next two sets to take the match.

"After the final point, everyone on the court ran together and started hugging each other and jumping up and down," says Eliza King '23 (Novato, Calif.), who earned all-conference accolades as an outside hitter. "I could hear the crowd cheering and stomping on the bleachers, and I knew that they were just as excited as we were that we pulled it off. It was so exciting to see everything coming together that we've been working toward. And that was the start of what I knew this season could be."

The victory was the team's first MIAC win since 2016, ending a streak of forty-one conference losses. It marked the first of four MIAC victories this season, which ended with a 13-12 record, the program's first winning record since 2006.

CHRISTOPHER MITCHELL '01

ATHLETICS

THE WRAP-UP

With a team GPA of 3.905 for the 2020-21 academic year, Mac softball posted the highest average among all NCAA softball programs, across all divisions. "I could not be prouder of the commitment, determination, and resiliency shown by our student-athletes," says head coach Jody Gabriel.

In the first MIAC game in any sport with two Black head coaches, the football team beat Hamline 23-13 in the annual Paint Bucket matchup. Before the game, head coaches KiJuan Ware from Macalester and Chip Taylor from Hamline participated in the coin toss with their captains to commemorate the milestone.

Men's soccer competed in the MIAC playoffs, advancing to the semifinal round after a thrilling comeback against Augsburg in the first round before losing to Carleton to end the season. The Scots posted the third-highest GPA (3.76) in Division III, and Will Orser '22 (Eau Claire, Wis.) was named an Academic All-American.

Women's soccer marked its first winning season since 2017 with a 10-6-2 record. Hannah Conner '22 (Madison, Wis.) and Dana Gustafson '22 (Ames, Iowa) were named to the Academic All-District team.

JESS PEARSON

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

Professor Ernesto Capello's Latin American history courses emphasize the intersections of local and global identity, racial difference and power, and the relationships among arts, politics, and the state.

Any standout books you've read recently?

En el espejo haitiano. Los indios del Bajío y el colapso del orden colonial en América Latina, by Mexican historian Luis Fernando Granados, rethinks the Mexican War of Independence from the perspective of Indigenous communities in the wake of its 2010 bicentennial. It's a fascinating way of thinking about the past through the lens of the present while also trying to center Indigenous peoples' experiences within a cosmopolitan worldview.

What's one of your all-time favorite reads?

Every five years or so, I read *Foucault's Pendulum*, by Umberto Eco. It's a masterful, brilliant piece of work—like what *The Da Vinci Code* wanted to be but couldn't. It's also inspirational for my latest book project about representations of the Andean equator within geographic science and visual culture since the eighteenth century. I'm pretty convinced I'm actually trying to write a decolonial version of *Foucault's Pendulum*. And failing.

What book is crucial to understanding your academic niche?

I study the cultural history of Latin America from the eighteenth to twentieth centuries and am interested in the interplay between local processes, identities, geographies, and global ideas of belonging. Mary Louise Pratt's *Imperial Eyes: Travel Writing and Transculturation* and Julio Ramos's *Desencuentros de la modernidad en América Latina: literatura y política en el siglo XIX* both have that interplay surrounding questions around travel.

Any guilty-pleasure reads?

I really enjoy mysteries. Years ago, I inherited fifty Agatha Christies, and during the pandemic, my partner and I have been reading them out loud, which has been a fun project. I also recently read a fabulous new translation of *The Three Musketeers* by Alexandre Dumas.

What book would you recommend to everybody at Macalester?

The Swallow and the Tom Cat: A Love Story, by the Brazilian writer Jorge Amado. It's kind of hard to find, but worth it. It's a fable about a doomed love story between a swallow and a tomcat and contains some beautifully evocative musings on what love is about and how it can transform an individual.

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

ANIMAL BEHAVIOR

Departments: Biology and Environmental Studies | Professor: Stotra Chakrabarti

Why take this class?

To explore the fundamentals of animal behavior and use that foundation to understand how we can better manage and conserve animal biodiversity. This course asks: Why do animals behave the way they do? Why do lions have manes while leopards don't? Why do elephants and bees live in groups? Why does your friendly neighborhood squirrel get so busy late in the fall and again in the spring? Why do certain wolves "fish" but others never learn the technique? Labs and field trips include hands-on experience to quantify behavior, develop ethograms, and understand species' repertoires.

Motto

Watch and wonder! There are no stupid questions in Animal Behavior.

Fun fact

We make multiple visits to the Wildlife Science Center in Stacy, Minnesota, to observe, handle, process, and immobilize wolves, pumas, bears, and coyotes. Students observe these carnivores and learn how to quantify behavior in the wild through scan and focal sampling similar to what they have learned in class by watching videos of meerkats and lions. With staff assistance, students learn how to chemically immobilize wolves, take body measurements (weight, length, neck and chest girths, etc.), record vital signs (respiration, heart rate, capillary fill, temperature), and perform surgeries in the field by implanting heart rate-monitoring biologgers subcutaneously into the wolves to gather heart rate data and assess different behavioral states remotely.

Science communication

The course allows students to learn science communication through developing gists of reading papers and presenting them in six to seven tweets that include the use of memes, GIFs, etc. Students also develop creative lab reports. Examples include "dating profiles" of certain species to showcase mating systems and Zillow rental IDs for beaver dams to illustrate wolf/beaver predation. Science communication is as crucial as doing science.

Building community

In the lab, students work together in groups, which percolate through the whole class, so students work together as a community. We watch animal behavior/nature documentaries such as *Jane*, have dinner together, and work on assignments together. Class conversations regarding societal connotations such as race, ideologies, and inherent human biases are as important as the course content.

At the Wildlife Science Center, Professor Stotra Chakrabarti teaches students how to take body measurements and vital signs from a tranquilized adult wolf.

‘These Are Ideas of Hope’

The Macathon challenge is simple: Working with a team of three to six students, invent a unique and original service or product that solves a real-world problem. The twist: You only have twenty-four hours.

Nearly one hundred students on seventeen teams participated in the ninth-annual Macathon in November, fortified by pizza, snacks, a hot brunch, and a taco bar. Twenty-four alumni entrepreneurs also participated, some serving as mentors who provided advice and support to students throughout the night via Slack, and others joining in person to judge the presentations and select finalists.

After brainstorming and refining ideas, each team delivered a seven-minute video presentation of its product or service. Judges evaluated students on their identification and understanding of a real-world problem, their solution, and their presentation.

“These are ideas of hope,” Entrepreneurship and Innovation’s interim director Jody Emmings told Macathon competitors. “We love and are inspired by what we see you think about.”

First place: Team Mac & Cheese (Rola Cao ’23, Hanna Kong ’25, Rachel Christensen ’25, Huihui Jiang ’25, Aahanaa Tibrewal ’25, and Melissa Ballin-Cardona ’25) won the $1,000 top prize with a product that uses TPU (thermoplastic elastomer) to create an eco-friendly sustainable packing material that could be used to ship heavy machinery and help reduce the millions of tons of single-use products that go into landfills each year.

Second place: Team InterAJA (Jonas Costa ’23, Alice Bruno ’23, and Alessandra Rosa Policarpo ’24) designed a smartphone app disguised as a calculator that can be used by people who are experiencing domestic abuse. The app includes links to 911, shelters, and crisis chats and can be quickly viewed as a calculator if the user is in danger.

Third place: The Prince of Denmark team (Katie McCarthy ’22, Natalie Parsons ’23, Justin White ’22, and international exchange students Alex Rössel and Lucas van den Heuvel) developed Spēd, an all-natural, substance-free, oral spray sensory stimulant that helps students and others fight fatigue without relying on addictive or unsustainable products.

FROM LEFT: COURTESY OF STOTRA CHAKRABARTI; DAVID J. TURNER

An Opening for Transformation

Mni is the Dakota word for water. The three letters are also the acronym for the new Macalester Native and Indigenous (MNI) Initiative, which received a $1 million grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation in December. Combined with a financial commitment from Macalester, the grant will enable the college to create a multifaceted initiative dedicated to engagement with and scholarship around Indigenous peoples, cultures, and histories.

“This is a moment to be proud of the work we have been doing and will continue to do as we deepen our commitment to scholarly and pedagogical innovation and inclusion,” Provost Lisa Anderson-Levy says.

Courses across divisions and departments have long centered Native and Indigenous studies, and the MNI Initiative builds on the efforts of a faculty group that has been working on a proposal for a concentration in Native and Indigenous studies. The proposed concentration, which will be brought to the faculty for approval to follow shared governance practices, will deliberately take a multidisciplinary approach.

History professor Katrina Phillips, a citizen of the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Ojibwe, notes that this historic moment for the college is a continuation of years of work by faculty, staff, and students, especially the student group Proud Indigenous People for Education (PIPE), to make Indigenous peoples and issues more visible on campus.

Activities in the MNI Initiative will include four postdoctoral scholars; an annual residency program for Indigenous experts; the creation of an Indigenous Voices series featuring speakers, artists, and activists; and paid student internships with community partners. In the coming months, the college will seek wide-ranging input in the MNI Initiative’s direction and development, including listening sessions with Indigenous students and alumni, as well as local organizations.

“The Twin Cities has a long history of being home to Native people,” Phillips says. “We are not that far from Fort Snelling, which was an internment camp for Dakota people, and we are close to the Minneapolis American Indian Center and the American Indian Cultural Corridor. This is not just what Macalester should be doing; it’s what Macalester needs to be doing and is uniquely suited to do.”

‘Lucky to Be Here’

Georgia Cloepfil ’14 reflects on her professional soccer career in a prize-winning essay.

After garnering MIAC Player of the Year and All-American honors at Macalester, soccer standout Georgia Cloepfil ’14 embarked on a pro career in Australia, Sweden, South Korea, Lithuania, and Norway. When that chapter began to close, the English major turned to writing to process the transition and move forward.

In 2020, her reflection opened new doors when Cloepfil found out her essay “Lucky to Be Here” had won the literary journal *Epiphany*’s Breakout 8 Writers Prize. The news came with a surprise Macalester connection: Willard Cook ’79, also a former Mac soccer player, founded the print journal in 2001 while teaching at New York University. *Epiphany* has since become an independent nonprofit arts organization dedicated to lifting up and creating opportunities for unpublished, emerging, and established writers of diverse backgrounds.

In the past year, Cloepfil expanded her prize-winning essay into her University of Idaho master’s thesis, and she’s shopping around the manuscript while doing a yearlong mentorship with *Epiphany* editor Rachel Lyon. And although her own competition days are done, she’s back on the soccer field—this time as an assistant coach at Whitman College.

Here, Cloepfil shares an excerpt of “Lucky to Be Here.”

DANTE TERZIGNI

When I was offered the contract in Norway, it was to take the place of a teammate who had torn her ACL and would have to miss the rest of the season. Her name was Freja and she became a close friend. A week after we met, we went on a long hike together. She hadn’t had surgery yet, so she could still walk. By the time we got to the peak she was talking to me about the decisions that lay ahead of her: surgery, rehab, travel, recovery. We sat on a rock that looked out over Bergen. As we talked about her options, she massaged her knee. The city was green and compact and mingled with pockets of ocean. Norway was the most beautiful place I’d ever been. Finally, she said aloud what we both already knew: *If I hadn’t gotten injured, you wouldn’t be here.* Our opportunities so often come at someone else’s expense. Our fortunes are balanced on a weighted scale.

I had waited a long time to feel professional enough. In Norway I was playing in a top league. My teammates and I had the accommodations we needed. I had a contributing role on the team. We got paid on time, were flown on planes to our games, had lockers in our locker rooms where our jerseys were hung, our names etched onto plaques. Someone did our laundry for us; someone always refilled the snacks. I took a picture each time I saw my carefully folded pile of uniforms in the locker room before a game. The feeling that I would need proof, the feeling that it would all go away.

My dad watched my last-ever professional game in Oslo. I limped through the first sixty minutes, slowly tearing a hamstring. Each sprint was increasingly excruciating. Each time I readied to run I told myself that I’d have no use for my body after this. I wanted to use it all up. By the sixtieth minute I was done. I waved up at him near the stadium’s heights as I limped off and took a seat on the bench. I still struggle to relearn that it is okay to save something for later.

After I stop playing, I see another doctor about the knee that has been bothering me now for years. *Injections like the ones you were given can cause damage,* he says. *Many doctors would refuse to administer those injections to someone your age.* I nod. I did know this, do know this. *I am a different person now,* I assure him, laughing. I try to balance my respect for this former self while demonstrating my newfound maturity. I have all the time in the world now. *But back then,* I tell him, *I had to play.* I can hear his patience wearing thin when he replies: *And many sports medicine doctors would agree that there is no such thing in this world as* had to play. It occurs to me that I might still be discovering the extent of my sacrifice, the ways in which my body has been damaged. I am still trying to teach it that I can be kind, I have to remind it that I know and respect its limits, that I want to live a long life together.

The phrase *arrival fallacy* is used to describe the illusion that once you have accomplished a goal, you will feel satisfied or at peace with where you are, that you will stop desiring. What really happens is that you become adjusted to your new state and a fresh disappointment creeps in. It is hard to distinguish between wanting, the idea of wanting, and the habit of wanting. Is there an end point? Not where one has played the best soccer, but where one has played *enough*? Throughout my career I sensed there was some threshold I hadn’t crossed, some door I hadn’t yet opened. Behind it, I imagined, was a room in which everything I desired took shape, a room in which I’d have arrived. I thought it would feel like being welcomed into a warm home, fireplace burning, the murmuring voices of everyone I admired. The word arrival is derived from the Latin *arripare*, to touch the shore after a long voyage. Arrival is an ending, a return. Arrival is coming home.

Landing in Bergen for my final season. The plane dipped down and I felt the shadow of a truth: my days were numbered. At times I really was overwhelmed by unmitigated gratitude. Ambition, negotiation, tough-minded feminism, these gave way to moments of childish joy. I was getting paid to do something I had loved since I was four years old. What else had I loved so unconditionally, for so long? I was so lucky to be here. From the plane I could see green islands scattered across the sea. I marveled at each tree as it came into view, a solid green mass soon recognizable as thousands of individual conifers. I saw soccer fields lit up from above, little beacons announcing themselves over and over again. Four lights and an unnatural green ringed by a track pulsing with activity, even at night when the streets had gone dark. Cars like ants, houses like boxes, people invisible, fields like beacons. The shape, the outline, called to me, still calls. *We are here, we are still here.* M

The September 11 terror attacks brought Tyler Robinson '93 from a career as a US trial lawyer onto a new path in international dispute resolution.

SERENA BOLTON

Finding Common Ground

BY JOE KUTCHERA '92

ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2001, Tyler Robinson '93 was working for a law firm near Grand Central Terminal in midtown Manhattan. When a colleague told him in the elevator that a plane had crashed into the World Trade Center's north tower, they both assumed it was an accident. But when a second plane hit the south tower, as they watched from the top floor of his building with a clear view of lower Manhattan, Robinson knew it was an act of terrorism. When he returned to the top floor later that morning, he was shocked to see that both towers had disappeared entirely from New York City's skyline.

Like many New Yorkers, Robinson felt a mixture of horror and grief in the weeks after the attacks. It was balanced by a new sense of community in the enormous, diverse, and sometimes cynical city. "There was this unspoken sense of connection that was truly powerful because it cut across everything that otherwise made us all so different," he remembers. In a roundabout way, 9/11 led Robinson to a new career in international dispute resolution—a field where he finds ways to bridge cultural and legal differences.

In the weeks after the terrorist attack, Robinson began working—with a team from his law firm, Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP—on a case representing Swiss Reinsurance Company (Swiss Re). The firm's client had written the largest insurance policy (among many) on the World Trade Center for developer Larry Silverstein. Just six weeks prior to the attack, Silverstein had signed a $3.2 billion 99-year lease on the Twin Towers.

The stakes were high: Swiss Re argued that the terrorist attack constituted a single event, worth a maximum of $3.5 billion, while Silverstein believed that each plane crash represented a unique insurance loss, entitling him to recover twice the policy limit, or $7 billion.

The case lasted nearly five years including appeals, but the firm's client ultimately prevailed. In the process, Robinson traveled frequently to London, where much of the insurance had been purchased, and used his skills as a US trial lawyer, doing all of the pretrial preparation required before presenting the case to a jury: writing arguments to the court, preparing and defending witnesses for giving testimony, cross-examining adverse witnesses, and piecing together evidence to construct a timeline of the relevant facts. But because of the international nature of that case, his career evolved to cross borders, ultimately all over the world.

"International dispute resolution requires all the same skill sets as being a trial lawyer in the US," Robinson says. "The difference is dealing with clients, courts, and other lawyers who may come from other legal and cultural systems that are different from your own. The basic skills of being an effective, persuasive advocate for your client's case remain the same, but they need to take account of those legal, cultural differences—otherwise you may not be effective or persuasive to your audience."

After its victory, Simpson Thacher asked Robinson to bolster its international litigation practice in the London market so that the firm could better serve clients with international disputes. Today, Robinson and his Italian wife, whom he met during one of his trips abroad for the Swiss Re case, live in London with their two bilingual daughters. He spends much of his time supervising and mentoring younger lawyers working on international disputes.

Robinson's work brings him before courts, arbitrators, and corporate boardrooms in France, Singapore, Brazil, Indonesia, the UK, and back to the US, to name a few. As an international advocate, he says, "you look for the common threads that can help resolve conflict. Commercial legal problems, including amongst large multinational corporations, ultimately boil down to human individuals—their faults, foibles, and mistakes. And those tend to look familiar across cultures and continents."

Robinson emphasizes the importance of being able to break down highly technical, complex subjects into straightforward narratives that can be understood by a neutral lay judge or arbitrator who most likely knows very little about each case's products or industry. "That requires finding simplicity and key message points in an otherwise enormous morass of conflicting and difficult information," Robinson says. And then, after all of the preparation, he and his team need to persuade the judge or arbitrator that their client's version of the story is the better one.

In order to resolve conflict, Robinson has learned how fundamental it is to build credibility and trust. "If you listen to other people, they'll listen to you," Robinson says. "If you are able to articulate to them their position in a way that acknowledges it and shows you understand it, you're more likely to get them to do the same for you."

Robinson says that, broadly speaking, he is using his Macalester psychology degree when negotiating with people.

"Personal connection isn't just about language," he says. "It includes one's attitude, behavior, nonverbal communication, and using the documentary evidence to direct the conversation. But with that said, common sense, reason, and a sense of humor are universal human traits that are accepted everywhere."

Joe Kutchera '92 is the author of three books and the founder of Latino Link Advisors, a Hispanic marketing and content development firm.

CHANGING THE SCENE

For actor, dramaturg, and arts leader Faye Price '77, theater can play a leading role in promoting social justice.

BY LAURA BILLINGS COLEMAN / PHOTOS BY JAKE ARMOUR

When George Floyd was murdered by a police officer in May 2020 just blocks from the Pillsbury House + Theatre, longtime co-artistic producing director Faye Price '77 prepared herself for the worst. As store windows were smashed, restaurants and businesses were boarded shut, and the nearest police precinct was burned to the ground, the theater and community center she's helped lead for more than two decades transformed into a triage site for a city in turmoil.

"There were so many people hurting that we were able to use our corner of Chicago and 35th as a kind of exchange for the public," Price says. As the murder site three blocks south became the focal point for mourning and demonstrations, Pillsbury House + Theatre became a de facto clearinghouse for community donations of food, water, and other necessities for neighbors displaced by night after night of protests, vigils, and confrontations. "If you needed cereal, if you needed diapers for your baby, people were bringing us donations, and we were putting them out for the public to get what they needed," Price says. "It was a hard time, and I was worried about so many things, including that our building would be destroyed. But as time went on, I began to realize that wouldn't happen—people were leaving us alone. I think there's a respect for this place that comes from how many people have been touched by it."

With programs that range from early drop-off day care to experimental late-night theater, the Pillsbury House + Theatre is respected not only by its neighbors and nearly thirty thousand annual clients, but also as a national model for what's possible when an arts organization embeds itself deeply into a neighborhood in need. Located in the heart of one of Minneapolis's most diverse communities, Pillsbury was founded in 1992 in the tradition of the nineteenth-century settlement house, urban community service centers like Chicago's famous Hull House, which often featured their own community-focused theaters for citizen artists. In the wake of the 2008 recession, Pillsbury's professional theater merged with Pillsbury United Communities as a one-stop shop for everything from truancy prevention programs to tax and legal services. Now the holding place for hundreds of offerings brought to the George Floyd memorial over the last year, Pillsbury House + Theatre has also become a case

study for how the arts can help communities heal, says Price's Macalester classmate Jack Reuler '75, founder of Minneapolis's Mixed Blood Theatre. "At Pillsbury, Faye has found a way to make the arts, social service, and most importantly social justice all one conversation in ways that others have only talked about."

Minnesota's arts community has had a lot to say about Price herself this season since she was named the McKnight Foundation's Distinguished Artist of 2021, an award that also comes with a $50,000 cash prize. As the first Black female artist ever to win the award, she has been the subject of headlines that have highlighted her success bringing seminal Black voices to the stage and originating new pieces that have entered the canon of African American theater literature. She has also been applauded for playing a critical supporting role as chair of Minnesota Citizens for the Arts during the 2008 passage of the Minnesota Legacy Amendment, a law that's infused millions into arts organizations across the state. But Price admits she's been uncomfortable in the spotlight: "I've been joking with my African American female friends that this is a reward for being the only one in the room for so many years."

Price grew up in Chicago's South Side, an only child who says she "entertained myself by entertaining the invisible audience in my backyard." She got her first break in third grade, when her classmates chose her for the role of Dorothy in *The Wizard of Oz*, the first of many experiences on stage and behind the scenes while she was a student at the University of Chicago Laboratory Schools. But when she came to Macalester, she found far fewer opportunities for actors of color.

"I would have thought about majoring in theater, but I didn't see any role for Black people in the theater department at that time, on stage or off," says Price, who majored in psychology instead. During her four years at Mac, she saw no Black faculty members in the theater department, no plays or pro-

ductions focused on people of color, and little notion of the color-blind casting that's become increasingly common over the last generation. She had a small role in *Member of the Wedding* that she remembers came about only because someone else got sick. "Now there are a lot of alumni of color who are here making a living in theater and making the arts such a wonderful part of the culture of this state. But I have to say it was *despite* the theater department, not because of it. I have to say it like that."

> "I would have thought about majoring in theater, but I didn't see any role for Black people in the theater department at that time, on stage or off. Now there are a lot of alumni of color who are here making a living in theater and making the arts such a wonderful part of the culture of this state."

Instead, Price turned her focus off campus, auditioning for a new play at St. Paul's Hallie Q. Brown Center and becoming a founding member of the Penumbra Theatre, Minnesota's first and only African American theater. The same year, she also became a founding player in the Mixed Blood Theatre, originally a summer project that's since gone on to stage forty-five seasons of performances. In spite of her success, Price wasn't convinced it was possible to make a living in the arts. "I remember sitting in Dayton Hall with graduate school catalogs all over my bed, trying to decide: psychology or theater? And I opted to go with what I thought at the time was the safest bet, psychology."

After graduating from Mac in 1977, Price studied for a master's degree in counseling and student personnel psychology, and tried to balance full-time work with after-hours acting, first in Minneapolis and then in New York City. "Like any good Macalester student, I thought I could do both," she says. "But when I lost a role in *for colored girls [who have considered suicide/when the rainbow is enuf]* because I had a full-time job as a therapist in a domestic abuse program, it really stung. I think that's when I realized this theater stuff was really important to me."

When she learned that Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright August Wilson, also a Penumbra veteran, was endowing a new dramaturgy fellowship at the University of Minnesota focused on African American theater literature, she applied and won the prestigious award. She left New York City for internships at Penumbra and the Guthrie Theater, where she eventually joined the artistic staff as a full-time dramaturg. The utility players of the theater world, dramaturgs act as editors and fact-checkers of theater texts, Price says, collaborating with directors and producers and advocating for a play's artistic vision.

After several years at the Guthrie, Price joined the Pillsbury House + Theater in 2000 as co-artistic producing director. "She recognized talent when it was young and undiscovered, and she was really good at nurturing it," Reuler says. "She found voices in people who didn't know they had voices." Co-artistic director Noël Raymond also credits her with making PHT an artistic home for a host of acclaimed artists, including director Marion McClinton, actor Laurie Carlos, and playwright Tracey Scott Wilson. "Her leadership style wasn't about being the assertive, charismatic, out-front, 'I'm doing this' person," Raymond says. "Instead, she's all about identifying, supporting, highlighting, and rallying around other artists. She herself made a way for herself in the arts where there was no way, and one of the brilliant things she always did was to open a way for others."

When the recession hit in 2008, Price and Raymond also presided over the merger of the ninety-six-seat theater with Pillsbury House Neighborhood Center, a move that made it possible to infuse the arts into everything from theater programs for youth who are incarcerated to Full Cycle, a social enterprise bike repair garage that supports youth experiencing homelessness. While the scope of the work extends far beyond the stage, Price says that's part of the settlement house theater tradition. "I think the mission was always there; we just embraced it fully," she says.

After more than twenty years at PHT, Price was planning to step down in 2020 to pursue more personal projects. But as the pandemic surged, she stayed on to help steer the organization through the crisis, announcing her retirement only after vaccines began to promise the possibility of gathering in theaters once again. This past fall, she returned to Macalester's campus to direct Tony Kushner's *Angels in America: Part One*, a title she picked in part to honor several Macalester classmates who died of AIDS. With a multicultural cast that better reflects the full spectrum of talent at the college, the production made Price consider how much has changed since she was a student.

"Just thinking about me being in a department that didn't have any Black people in it, and now look at what I'm doing," she says before breaking into the *Hamilton* lyric "how lucky we are to be alive right now." *Angels in America* marked the first full indoor staging of a play at Macalester since the pandemic started, and she reflected on the moment as theaters everywhere began raising their curtains again. "When you're in a darkened theater with people you don't know, and something powerful is expressed and it hits you, or it hits the room, there's just no feeling like that," Price says. "The humanity that is expressed and absorbed by a bunch of people at the same time … that's what I love about theater. We've all been missing that." M

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

FULL CIRCLE

Across industries, alumni are working to build more sustainable, circular systems.

BY ALEXANDER GELFAND / ILLUSTRATIONS BY BORJA BONAQUE

If aliens were to visit Earth two thousand years from now only to discover that humans had already vanished, what might they find in our place?

"A lot of toxic and nuclear waste," says Anya Shapiro '16, "because it will still be here." As a graduate student in the University of Michigan's dual MBA/MS program in business and sustainability, Shapiro spent nearly three years figuring out how to transform that problem into an opportunity. Her goal: to see if the most intrepid of all wastes, nuclear wastes, could be used to create something beneficial—a source of clean energy.

The spent fuel rods from nuclear reactors are held in enormous steel and concrete containers called dry casks. The half-lives of those radioactive materials are measured in thousands of years, and there are thousands of such silo-sized casks spread across the United States, all requiring careful and costly long-term storage. The situation holds considerable personal resonance for Shapiro, whose grandfather was from Chernobyl and who grew up acutely aware of humanity's impact on the environment.

But in addition to radioactive emissions, spent nuclear fuel also generates harmless, non-radioactive heat. Shapiro and a group of fellow graduate students wondered: Could that energy be put to good use?

The team answered that question by developing a sustainable business model with an unusual twist: using the heat from dry casks to turn sewage sludge into fertilizer or fuel. The sludge is a mud-like byproduct of wastewater treatment that is typically sloughed into landfills, where it generates methane and other greenhouse gases. But there is value buried in that muck.

Some waste processors already use heat from natural gas to transform sewage sludge into useful biomass. But that process involves extracting and burning a fossil fuel. The system devised by Shapiro and her colleagues uses one kind of waste (i.e., heat) to transform another (i.e., sludge) into valuable products without generating any emissions. The process effectively turns two environmental negatives into a positive. The group founded a startup called Sustainium to commercialize their idea, won various business competitions, and attracted potential investors and corporate partners.

As often happens with business school startups, Shapiro and her cofounders ultimately decided to dissolve the company and pursue other career opportunities after graduation. But for a time, Sustainium represented an elegant example of a circular economy: a self-contained, sustainable system of production whose origins can be traced back thousands of years but that has only recently begun to attract widespread attention in the business world.

Circularity emphasizes three interrelated elements: eliminating waste; keeping materials and resources in circulation; and regenerating nature. Many veteran sustainability advocates, among them more than a few Macalester alumni, are helping to establish circular systems in industries ranging from food to fashion. Their efforts are vital to altering the negative environmental trajectory of a warming and resource-scarce world.

Circularity, past and present

Circular economies have been around for millennia. Scientists recently discovered evidence that three thousand years ago, inhabitants of the Persian Gulf region turned broken ceramic vessels into tools. And Roopali Phadke, a Macalester professor of environmental studies who researches sustainable development initiatives, notes that circularity remains a way of life in places where resources have historically been scarce.

"Minimizing waste is something you see in day-to-day practices all around the world," says Phadke, who points to neighborhoods in India where scrap workers collect all kinds of discarded items and resell them to businesses. "There are many communities that still recycle every scrap of everything to make something new."

But circularity only recently entered the contemporary lexicon of sustainability as companies began creating closed-loop manufacturing systems for making physical products. In 2017, for example, Apple announced its intention to build all its devices using only renewable resources and recycled materials, many of them harvested from its own product lines.

On its face, the business case for circularity is simple: Although adopting circular practices requires initial investment, eliminating waste and turning outputs into inputs ultimately allows companies to cut costs, boost efficiency, and create new sources of revenue.

Yet until recently, says Chris Cloutier '89, people who talked about circular systems were on the margins: "They were the voices in the wilderness."

After leaving Macalester, Cloutier spent more than ten years leading the state of Minnesota's recycling, pollution prevention, and waste reduction efforts, and he has spent the last twenty helping businesses become more efficient while reducing their environmental impact.

Since 2019, Cloutier has led Target's high-value salvage programs, which recapture items such as used or returned electronics and kitchen appliances and send them to vendors to be refurbished or remanufactured. The products are then resold either in-house or through external channels.

Early in Cloutier's career, such "reverse logistics" systems—which play an essential role in circular economies by shepherding used or defective goods back to sellers and manufacturers for refurbishment and remanufacturing—were largely unknown. Today, the global market for reverse logistics is estimated to be worth more than $600 billion, and the potential it holds to combine profit with impact is enormous. Every item captured by these kinds of salvage programs, for example, represents a source of revenue for companies. It also represents an expense the company no longer has to incur by buying fresh inputs or trucking waste to a landfill. And beyond the bottom line, the programs mean the company doesn't have to extract as many virgin materials from the Earth or dump as many processed ones back into it.

Yet circularity has been slow to gain traction in business circles, in part because circular practices represent a significant departure from the linear production model that continues to dominate modern manufacturing. Linear production represents a take-make-waste approach: Extract finite resources from the Earth, turn them into disposable products, and throw them away once they come to the end of their useful lives. And despite its manifest flaws, it remains deeply entrenched.

"The linear path we're on isn't working: We've got giant plastic patches in the ocean; we've got landfills that are leaking and on fire," Cloutier says. Making matters worse, "we have trillions of dollars of investment across

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>
> —CHRIS CLOUTIER '89

the globe designed to create feedstock for single-use products." Those dollars support entire industries devoted to turning petroleum into plastic, mining metals for use in TVs and tablets, and harvesting wood to make paper and particleboard.

As a result, moving from a linear model to a circular one at the scale required to significantly reduce the global environmental impact of manufacturing won't be easy.

"It actually requires changing the entire system, including the labor that is required to produce things," says Shapiro, who developed new circularity initiatives for companies such as Etsy and Under Armour and hopes to bring the kind of innovative circular thinking that fueled Sustainium to a larger stage.

Corporations and even entire industries will need to find ways of collecting, processing, and reusing existing materials instead of mining, harvesting, or synthesizing virgin ones. They will need to design products that are meant to be recycled or repurposed and figure out how to market and sell items that no longer meet the traditional definitions of "new" or "unused." And they will have to embrace a brave new world where everything goes on to serve as fuel or feedstock for something else, much as the stillsuits worn by the Fremen of *Dune* turn bodily fluids into drinking water in an endless cycle of use and reuse.

Yet as the existential threat posed by climate change becomes increasingly clear to investors, shareholders, and consumers alike—and as more and more companies adopt decarbonization targets and environmental, social, and governance (ESG) guidelines designed to boost sustainability—businesses that once considered circularity too difficult or expensive have begun to see it as a useful tool for achieving their broader sustainability goals and strengthening their brands.

"The market has moved, and it's moved fast. Companies are all looking for ways to reduce their environmental impacts," says Kevin Wilhelm '95, founder and CEO of Sustainable Business Consulting, a firm that provides sustainable business guidance to 240 clients across thirty-seven different industries.

A decade ago, few clients were interested in hearing Wilhelm talk about how they could go circular. "Now they are more ready for it and want to see if they can implement it," he says.

Recently, for example, Wilhelm helped a client turn escaped heat into a source of revenue for their business and a money-saver for someone else's, neatly illustrating the waste-not, want-not aspect of circular economies.

The client, a brewer, was burning natural gas to brew its beer and venting the surplus heat into the atmosphere. Next door, meanwhile, a struggling Bikram yoga studio was trying to figure out how to lower its heating bill. The brewer devised a way to pump the excess heat to the studio next door, at half the rate of what the utility charged. What had been a form of waste became a revenue stream for one business and a cheap and reliable source of energy for another, all while lowering emissions.

In the course of his career, Miguel Nieto '04, a senior management consultant at South Pole, a business consultancy that promotes decarbonization and climate action, has helped a wide range of businesses save and make money by applying circular practices.

Prior to joining South Pole, Nieto, who is based in Mexico City, cofounded a social enterprise, Sustenta Estrategia Ambiental (Sustained Environmental Strategy), which helps companies make more efficient use of resources such as water, electricity, and heat.

The firm's flagship project involves a system for transforming the organic waste produced by restaurants in Mexico City into biogas, a form of renewable energy that those same restaurants can then use to generate their own heat and electricity onsite.

Sustenta Estrategia Ambiental is also developing a regenerative water-treatment system for a hotel under construction on Yelapa Bay, in the Mexican state of Jalisco. Rather than rely on the local waterworks for potable water, the hotel will collect, treat, and recycle its own water, contributing any surplus it generates to the surrounding community. Such "water-positive" systems are considered essential to protecting depleted watersheds.

"When you engage in these regenerative schemes, you have more than you actually need," Nieto says. "The principle is to switch from the existing paradigm of depending on local infrastructure to one of not just independence, but abundance."

Circularity's challenges

Despite their many advantages, circular economies do have limits.

As Professor Phadke observes, circular manufacturing systems can still be energy- and water-intensive, which undermines the goals of regeneration and resource efficiency.

"If you recycle your end products but you leave a trail of hazardous practices behind you, are you really an honorable, responsible business?" she asks. "If you have a manufacturing process that degrades water quality, is it still circular?"

And as Kim van der Weerd '09 has learned, circular

economies simply cannot solve certain problems—at least not yet, and not alone. Some of these arise from economic inequities that circularity was never intended to address—inequities that land most heavily on the workers who make the things we buy, and that cannot be erased by finding new uses for organic waste and escaped heat.

For five years, van der Weerd worked as a garment factory manager in Cambodia. "If you had told 'Macalester me' that I was going to end up managing a garment factory in Cambodia, I would've told you that there was no chance," she said via Zoom from the Netherlands, where she has lived since 2020.

But van der Weerd had a long-standing interest in human rights issues and the global supply chains that underpin the fashion industry. So after earning a master's degree in human rights from the London School of Economics and working at a London-based nongovernmental organization, she decided to get some firsthand experience in apparel production to better understand the business and its social and environmental impacts. She has since put those insights to work as a consultant and sustainable fashion critic: A frequent blogger, she also hosts *Manufactured*, a podcast about sustainability and the making of fashion.

One of the production facilities van der Weerd ran in Cambodia was owned by the San Francisco-based brand Tonlé, which practices zero-waste production. Every bit of clothing Tonlé makes and sells, from dresses to jumpsuits, is made from reclaimed textile waste collected in the remnant markets of Phnom Penh. Leftover scraps are turned into yarn that is handwoven and knit into new pieces, and whatever waste remains is mixed with used paper to create handmade paper products. "Nothing goes to landfill," van der Weerd says.

Tonlé's methods adhere admirably to the first two principles of circular economics: eliminating waste and extending the lives of products and materials. The company, for example, tries to decouple production from the extraction of virgin materials such as cotton. Scaling such a system up, however, would not be easy—partly for technical reasons and partly because of how clothing production is currently organized.

For one thing, the apparel industry currently lacks the capacity to recycle all the materials that are used to manufacture textiles and clothing—and repurposed fibers don't always match the quality of virgin ones.

The second garment factory van der Weerd managed produced primarily for luxury eyewear brands, which rarely put down deposits when they make forecasts for the next season. Instead, the factories must front all the manufacturing costs with few guarantees about how many pieces the brands will buy—and absorb all the losses when orders are smaller than expected. Consequently, factory owners have little incentive or spare capital to invest in the technology that might make circularity possible. But they have every incentive to trim costs by paying workers low wages and keeping them on short-term contracts: When a factory has no idea how many orders it will get and must disproportionately front the costs of production, cheaply flexible labor is a way of coping.

And circular economics, which focuses primarily on minimizing waste and maximizing resource efficiency, has very little to say about any of this.

"It's really blind to the social and governance structures that sustainability embraces," says Cloutier, who explains that while a circular system would ideally treat workers well, that isn't really part of the technical definition.

Instead, such matters must be addressed through other means. Van der Weerd, for example, argues that requiring brands to assume their fair share of financial risk on clothing orders would do more to protect garment workers than a circular supply chain ever could. Attempts to make such changes are underway: The STAR Network, a regional association of Asian garment manufacturers that promotes sustainable production, is the first supplier-led call for reformed purchasing practices in the garment and textile industries. Yet by and large, worker rights and circular production remain somewhat separate pursuits.

Looking ahead

Every company, industry, and sector that seeks to embrace circularity will have to confront its own version of these challenges.

It is a truism in entrepreneurial circles, however, that a challenge is merely an opportunity in disguise. And those in the Macalester community who deal in circular solutions remain optimistic about the good that circularity can do and the momentum that it is gathering—especially among younger professionals who are beginning to assume positions of power and influence in business and finance.

"There's a brand-new cohort that is taking leadership positions within big firms as well as smaller firms," says Nieto—a cohort that believes in using every available tool, including circular practices, to minimize and perhaps even reverse humanity's negative environmental impacts.

Given the urgent need to find new and innovative paths toward sustainability and resource efficiency, they are taking the reins not a moment too soon.

"The private sector needs to really roll up their sleeves and get to work," Nieto says. "If we don't figure this out, we're going to be in deep, deep trouble." M

Alexander Gelfand is a journalist in New York City who often covers science, business, and sustainability.

"The future of health care [is] listening and deeply responding and seeing the community as equal partners," says Family Tree Clinic executive director Alissa Light '03 (right) with the clinic's cofounder and first executive director, Karla Ekdahl '69.

Family Tree Clinic Has Never Stopped Listening

A renowned community health clinic that got its start at Macalester has a constellation of Mac connections and a luminous future.

BY JULIE HESSLER '85 / PHOTOS BY DAVID J. TURNER

Family Tree Clinic's fifty-year legacy of providing comprehensive, sliding-fee sexual health care and education is bookended by the leadership of two Macalester graduates. Karla Ekdahl '69 cofounded the clinic in 1971 and served as its first executive director. Alissa Light '03 has led the clinic since 2010 and oversaw its recent move from St. Paul to a new facility in south Minneapolis. We sat in on a conversation between the two friends about the clinic's evolution, the state of health care, and the many Macalester connections behind Family Tree.

KARLA: Family Tree grew out of Mac in so many ways. John Beattie '70 was hearing from local college students about the services they needed and wanted: good information about sexual health, sexually transmitted infections, and birth control, and competent, honest care, delivered without judgment at a price that is affordable or free. The answer was Family Tree. It was all about listening, being respectful, and being on the cutting edge. I was hired to make that happen.

ALISSA: The way that you talk about the founding roots of Family Tree blows me away. Here we are fifty years later considering the community-connected innovations that are necessary for actual equitable health strategies, and it's all about listening. I found a box in the Family Tree building's basement with the first newsletter that you and some of the original board members wrote about Family Tree's first months. The words were from patients describing their care experience: "I felt listened to"; "I felt the environment was warm and safe"; and "I felt like I was respected and a partner in my care." That was 1971! If I were to pull up a Family Tree patient survey right now, it would say those exact same things. We have a broader reach now, but the through line is that experience. That is the future of health care: listening and deeply responding and seeing the community as equal partners. What were some of the conversations about where health care needed to go at that time?

KARLA: Fifty years ago, we were not talking about specific communities like the LGBTQ community. What we were talking about was equitable health care. We didn't have the trans care that Family Tree has today, but we knew that health care had to be changed to make it available and accessible to *all* people and provided with respect and dignity. We had a very small paid staff and a doctor and medical volunteers from St. Paul Ramsey Hospital, one of our early partners. The rest of the team—this is another Macalester legacy—was made up of student volunteers who did intake and counseling.

ALISSA: It just says to me the power of individual people, committed to something greater than themselves—or maybe even what they could individually vision—combining their perspectives, expertise, and political commitment; understanding what isn't working for themselves or in their personal experience; and coming together to create something that has so much more power because of that interconnected woven fabric of people.

KARLA: What drew you to Family Tree? We have never talked about that. How did you get there?

ALISSA: I was a patient at Family Tree when I was a Macalester student. I was just stepping into my own identity, and I needed a place to get reproductive health care. People told me to go to Family

Tree, and I had a tender and beautiful health care experience. Then I became a volunteer and then an intern, through the Civic Engagement Center, and then joined the staff in 2005, working at the front desk and on our hotline as a sexual health educator. It feels very interconnected with what I was learning as a women's, gender, and sexuality studies major—you're going to be learning these theories, and you need to go out and have some practice and commitment to engaging in social change. An avenue for that was Family Tree—really trying to push the envelope on how we advance health equity, especially with a reproductive health focus. Karla, I don't know your major!

KARLA: I was an English major. My first job out of Mac was working for two magazines in Boston. Then I did a little traveling and came back home to Minneapolis. I heard about the idea for the clinic and that they were taking applications for the job of developing the clinic. We were all just learning as we went.

ALISSA: So many of Family Tree's employees, students, interns, and board members are Mac alumni or current students. Our real estate advisor for the new facility is Tanya Bell '83, and one of our campaign co-chairs is Chad Kampe '04. And so many interns and employees of Family Tree and from Mac continue on to become medical providers, public health professionals, medical researchers, and health care visionaries. The ripple is global. The connection back to Macalester as a multicultural and civically engaged institution, very much aware of its location in the Twin Cities and on the planet, has afforded Family Tree tremendous opportunity to learn and be guided by how Macalester has evolved over the years, too.

KARLA: The new facility at Franklin and Nicollet is actually our third location. Our first was on Selby near Snelling. We transformed that space—we had some wonderful carpenters build unique furniture for our basement space. And then on Dayton Avenue, in a former school building. And now we're in an area that has the second-largest patient growth ZIP code, and is on multiple transit lines. The new space is trauma-informed and art-infused and says: "You deserve the very best. We thought about you and we listened to you." And it is gorgeous. Bravo to you, Alissa.

ALISSA: And bravo to you, Karla: None of this would be possible without you and the visionaries in our Macalester community who made this clinic happen. Family Tree is a restless organization. We are striving, and deep listening is part of our founding and ethos—we can't turn it off; we just keep turning up the volume. Our staff and patients are constantly advising us as an organization on how to do better and where the gaps are. In 2009, some amazing staff said, "We can do better by our LGBTQ community, and we need to start by listening." We did a series of listening sessions, patient surveys, and data collection. We learned that 9 percent of Family Tree's patients identified as LGBTQ. Today, over 60 percent identify as LGBTQ. We recognized that we needed to start building some relationships through the energy of our staff and our patients around understanding—where were the trust ruptures between the health care system and LGBTQ folks?

We heard there was a profound dearth of competent providers who understood the basic identity-based oppression that our LGBTQ community was experiencing within just regular access of health care. From the moment people were accessing a clinic, the forms, the intake process—all were creating barriers to people taking the next step to get care. We overhauled our health history forms, and how we asked people about their identities, and distributed more power back to patients to say who they are, how they prefer for body parts to be identified. That opened up this feedback loop, and led to more staff joining us who identified as LGBTQ. And that led to the launch of our affirming trans hormone care program in 2014, which has really catalyzed some significant growth.

KARLA: Every inch of the new clinic was designed with patients in mind. It will now serve 33,000 people per year, up from 22,000 this past year. One of the things I learned when you led a tour a couple weeks ago was that people who have experienced trauma need to always see a way out. Every hallway in the new clinic has windows at each end so you see light.

ALISSA: The new facility is a beacon of what a trauma-informed facility looks like when you listen to communities' definition of what trauma-informed means, incorporate that feedback, and combine it with the skill and expertise of an architect partner, Perkins + Will. We now have patients who travel from a seven-state, Upper Midwest region and Canada to get care at Family Tree. And the care is delivered in much the same value-forward place that it was in 1971.

FIFTY YEARS of Activism and Engagement

THE ACTIVIST
John Beattie '70

John Beattie '70 says it was all about solving a problem.

As director for the Community Involvement Program (CIP), precursor to the college's Civic Engagement Center, Beattie kept hearing from female students at Mac and elsewhere that they didn't have easy access to birth control and other sexual health care.

Creating Family Tree Clinic was the solution. "It was entrepreneurship and inventing things as we went along," he says. Working with campus leaders and alumni, Beattie put together a business plan and a small board, recruited volunteers, partnered with Karla Ekdahl to lead the clinic, and raised around $25,000 from community partners to support the clinic when it opened.

"I'm not sure the project would have happened without the support of Chuck Green [then political science professor], Sandy Hill [then associate director of alumni affairs], and Roger Swardson [then director of information services]," says Beattie, now an attorney in Minneapolis. "They gave me the freedom to spend time on it. Macalester is a wonderful incubator for developing ideas."

Fifty years ago, Family Tree Clinic's mission took shape: "We knew that health care had to be changed to make it available and accessible to all people and provided with respect and dignity," Karla Ekdahl '69 says.

THE CHUCK GREEN FELLOW
Annabel Gregg '22

Political science professor emeritus Chuck Green, who died in December, was one of Family Tree Clinic's original board members. Last summer, Annabel Gregg '22 (Stillwater, Minn.), a geography major and statistics minor with a global health concentration, helped carry on Green's legacy. Gregg, a 2021 Chuck Green Fellow at Family Tree, undertook a comprehensive community health needs assessment related to the clinic's new location.

"I did data collection and cleaning and made maps to determine the health needs and implications of being in this new location," she says. "Who is living there and where do they celebrate? Where do they grieve? What are the issues that are inhibiting health and health access?"

Gregg also analyzed publicly held data and spoke with community stakeholders. "Talking with folks to learn what the needs are is something you just can't gather from quantitative data," she says. "I'm putting it all together into a report that will influence strategic planning at the clinic."

Alissa Light '03 (left) with Annabel Gregg '22, a 2021 Chuck Green Fellow, at the clinic's new location during construction in 2021.

Karla, that approach you mentioned earlier of creating a framework that benefits everyone—that says, "Your health matters because of your identity and regardless of your identity"—that approach has brought us so far in really needing to be so culturally specific and responsive, and contend with how people's identities are so deeply impacted by a health care system and an education system that has a history of white supremacy. And that leads to more equitable care in our LGBTQ community, in our communities of color, and in Indigenous communities. There are many different strategies, but it's that root that we have to get real about.

KARLA: Everybody wants to be seen. Everybody wants to be heard. That is the bottom line for all human beings. Those who aren't seen and heard get angry—and rightly so. You have to combine being kind and open and understanding and nonjudgmental with really competent care. And, to me, Family Tree combines all of those things.

ALISSA: One of the most profound gifts of being in this role is getting to know you, Karla. You are an eternal optimist. Coming to you and doing things that sometimes feel hard around trying to grow a community health clinic that's boldly queer- and trans- and sexual health-forward, and face challenges because of that—every time I've come to you, your optimism has buoyed me and reminded me why this matters so much.

KARLA: Ditto back at you. At my ripe old age I get to have a new best friend whom I admire so much. I've learned so much from you. Before COVID I attended the Tony Awards. André De Shields won for *Hadestown*, and in his acceptance speech, he said, "Surround yourself with people whose eyes light up when they see you, and for whom your eyes light up when you see them." That's you, Alissa.

ALISSA: It's been fifty years of this interconnected Macalester legacy, and we're looking toward this next fifty years. We invite this broad, amazing Mac community to join us in this next chapter in whatever ways feel meaningful. There is such a deep story of how Macalester and Family Tree Clinic are intertwined. I believe we are one of Mac's great legacies.

THE Professor Who CHANGED MY LIFE

Macalester alumni share stories of faculty members who transformed them.

By Erin Peterson

They start as professors.

But over the course of a class, a student's four years at Mac, or even a lifetime, students say that faculty members become much more than that.

They become mentors and coaches, students' biggest cheerleaders and fiercest champions. Professors' teaching upends the way students see the world, and their mentorship often changes the trajectories of students' lives.

At Macalester, faculty members take their responsibilities for teaching and to students seriously. When we asked alumni to share their experiences of professors who had changed their lives, we were inundated with responses, even from alumni who had graduated many decades earlier.

Here are just some of those stories—and a few of the ways that professors themselves seek to share their enthusiasm for their subjects and reveal new possibilities for their students.

ISTOCK

Who Changed Your Life?

We want to hear about the professor who changed your life. Send your stories to mactoday@macalester.edu.

'Jaine Strauss saw me as more than just a student in her class'

Jinci Lu '20 is a student at the University of Minnesota's medical school.

I was a neuroscience major and psychology minor, and the first class I took with Jaine Strauss was "Distress, Dysfunction, and Disorder." It was a big, upper-level class with sixty people. It started at 8 a.m., and everyone—*everyone*—showed up to it. Her lectures were so good. I could sit and listen to her forever.

She became my advisor. For someone like me—first-generation, person of color, low-income—sometimes Macalester could feel lonely. I had so many things to figure out.

Jaine was there every step of the way. Her office door was always open for me. She helped me navigate how to apply for med school and how to set up my application for success. She showed me the research and clinical opportunities to apply for.

She also offered emotional support. She saw me as more than just a student in her class, but as someone who was working through many other things in life. She understands that all of us have families and friends and entire lives outside of college academics. If I was struggling, she was there to listen. If I put too many things on my plate, she reminded me to value and protect my mental health.

I vividly remember my senior year when I was applying to med school and I was doing interviews. It was a very emotional process for me. There was one school that rejected my application that really broke my heart. I just showed up at Jaine's office. She knew. She could just tell. And she gave me that space.

Today, I'm in my second year of med school at the University of Minnesota. I still keep in contact with Jaine, and she still checks in on me.

When I started at Macalester, I was told: You need to have five people at Mac who can be your "go-to" people when things come up. Jaine was one of them.

'It is a privilege when a student lets me see them'

Jaine Strauss is a professor of psychology.

I really value my relationships with students.

For me, it is a privilege when a student lets me see them—when a student is comfortable enough to help me understand more of their experience. I never take that for granted.

It can be scary to reveal parts of yourself, especially with someone who is going to be giving you a grade! But I try to match their vulnerability with my own vulnerability. The payoff is that we get to know each other as real people.

'When I started teaching econometrics, I fully appreciated what Gary Krueger had done'

Tim Classen '96 is an associate professor of economics and an associate dean in the Quinlan School of Business at Loyola University Chicago.

I took econometrics—basically, empirical data analysis—with Gary Krueger. Today, I teach an econometrics class.

He gave us the freedom to work on whatever projects we wanted to work on. I remember being very interested in air travel and looking at how certain models of competition affected pricing at the Minneapolis airport. We had to come and talk with him about the projects we were doing, and he clearly relished those conversations. I liked the class at the time, but it wasn't until I started *teaching* econometrics that I began to fully appreciate what he had done and how he had approached the classes. And I've been able to do some of those things with my students.

One thing he always used to say was, "Your model should be parsimonious." In other words, do the most you can with as few variables as you can. Every year in my class, students often ask me how many variables to include in their models. And that's exactly what I tell them.

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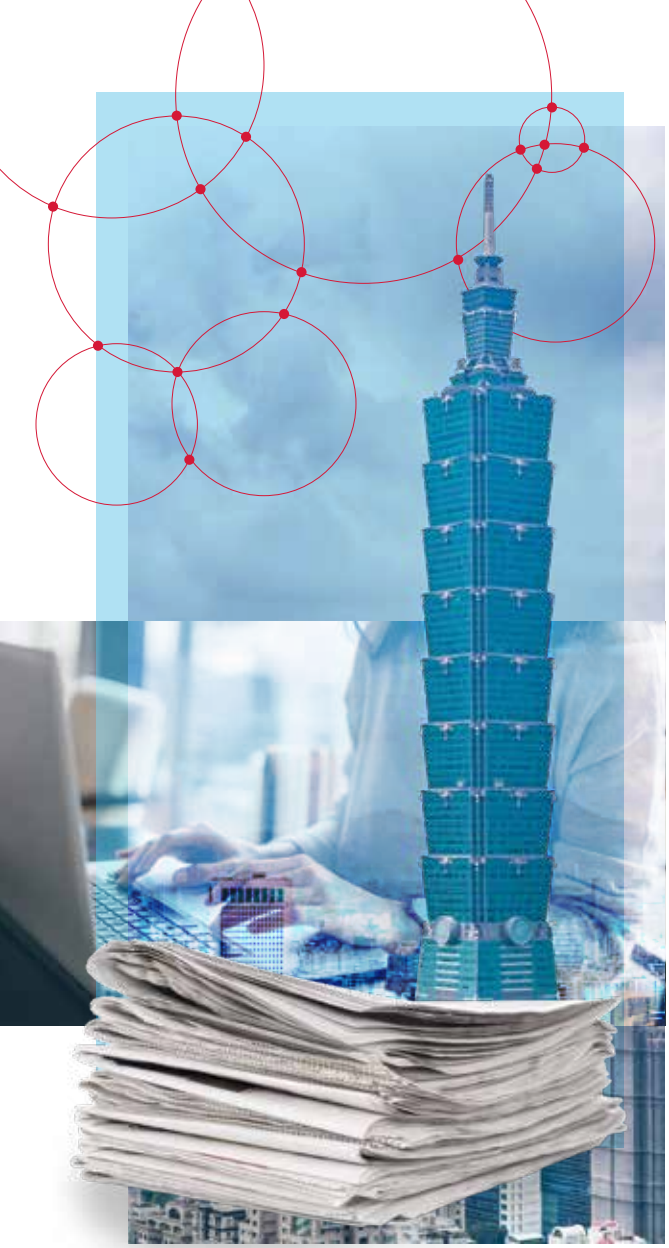

'I-Chun Catherine Chang is a huge cheerleader in my life'

Rachel Wong '19 is a 2021 Charles B. Rangel Fellow; the program prepares individuals for careers in the foreign service.

I struggled in my first class with Catherine. It was really challenging, and I thought it was too hard for me.

But I remember going to her office hours and feeling reassured when she said she often assigned readings that are generally appropriate for graduate students, and that she also knew that I was capable of doing them.

I am 110 percent certain that at times, Catherine believed in me more than I believed in myself. During my Fulbright year in Taiwan, I wrote an article on LinkedIn that compared and contrasted the COVID responses between Taiwan and the United States. She reached out and asked if I had considered getting it published. I hadn't, but she reached out to her networks, and the article was later published as an op-ed in the *Taipei Times*.

I was really nervous to apply for my current fellowship because I had applied previously and didn't get it. But she was very supportive. She said, "I'll write the recommendations. I believe in you; you can do it." When I was notified that I became a fellowship recipient, I was really excited to tell her.

I was genuinely touched when Catherine shared the news on her personal Facebook page. I knew then that she was very proud of me.

'Challenges are such an important part of college life'

I-Chun Catherine Chang is an associate professor of geography.

You can inspire students to higher levels of achievement, but you also need to give them the tools they need to do that.

Challenges are such an important part of college life. It's not just about enjoying every moment of your four years, because there will be moments that you struggle and that you fail. But it is important to go through this process because you learn that you can expect more of yourself, and you can reach a higher level of achievement.

'Robert Morris's passion for music is palpable and contagious'

Christine Mueri '00 is a senior writer for Project7 Design.

Choir director Robert Morris taught me so much about singing, but also about being part of a community and trusting each other. His dry humor was offset by his intensity—his passion for the music was palpable and contagious. When that big hand shot up in the air, it was positively electric. That passion for singing and being in community with other musicians is still with me today, and I am forever grateful.

'I wanted to take every class Leola Johnson offered'

Katie Izzo '04 is a rule coordinator at the Pollution Control Agency for the state of Minnesota.

I thought I wanted to be a communications major. Really, I just wanted to take every class Leola Johnson offered.

One course that she taught that I've been reflecting on recently is "Blackness in the Media." It covered some of the stereotypes, lazy shorthand, and racist dog whistles by white-dominated media. As a white kid from suburban Chicago, this was nothing I had ever been introduced to before. Even now, so many years later, I see it. It's so painfully glaring.

God, I wish I could go back and retake that class now.

It wasn't just the ideas, though. She would assign reading that would present big ideas, and always assume we had done it. There was always forward momentum from the reading: "What does the reading mean in terms of right now? In terms of today?"

Of all the things I picked up from my liberal arts education, it's the things like her courses that make me feel more connected to my Macalester education. Because I can turn on the news every night and go, "Oh, this is still very present in the world and in my life as an engaged citizen of the world." That has been tremendously important to me.

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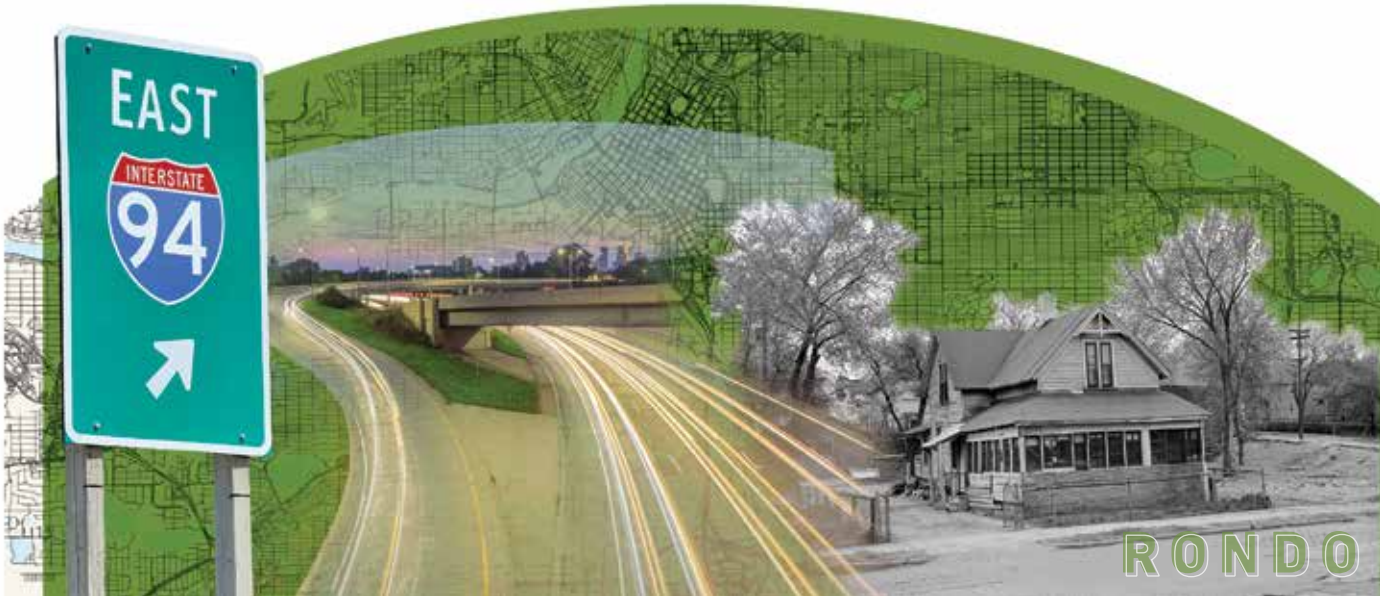


'David Lanegran forever changed the way I look at cities'

Jake Avidon graduated from Macalester in 1996.

In his urban geography class, David Lanegran sent students out into many locations in the Twin Cities and asked us to document what we saw and what we thought. Those assignments enabled me to see what happens after governments make certain decisions.

For example, when I-94 was rammed through the Rondo neighborhood in the 1960s, that had a significant impact on a predominantly Black community. Anytime I'm in a city, I notice where they built the freeways through in the 1960s.

As a professional later on, I could understand those historic decisions, how they created the existing spatial relationships, and how that might necessitate new ways of thinking to support individuals and communities.

In one of my first jobs, I assisted in the development of plans and programs to enable people entering or reentering the workforce to access job opportunities. But the places they were likely to live were often far away from job-rich, suburban areas, and transportation services were not designed to help people connect to entry-level jobs that pay a decent wage.

When I was trying to help solve that problem, I was going back to the ideas that I learned in the urban geography class.

I didn't even know what a geography class was when I walked into his classroom for the first time, but I'm pretty damn grateful that I took that class. David Lanegran forever changed the way I look at cities.

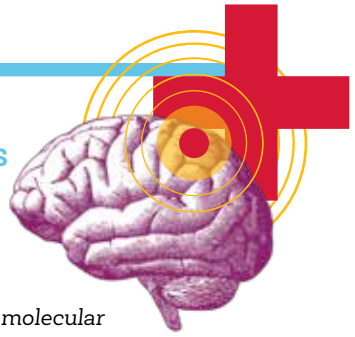
'Geography starts right outside the classroom door'

David Lanegran '63 is professor emeritus of geography.

When I started at Mac, I was given a whole lot of intellectual freedom to step outside the classroom. I didn't throw away the textbook, but I incorporated a huge amount of direct observation. It wasn't about being in an ivory tower. We worked with neighborhood associations. We worked with the Grand Avenue Business Association, West 7th/Fort Road Federation, St. Anthony Park, Lake Street people.

In many people's minds, geographers study places far away. And my notion was that geography starts right outside the classroom door.

'Lin Aanonsen's support was foundational'



Okunola Jeyifous '95 is a molecular neurobiologist at the University of Chicago.

I matriculated as a pre-med bio major. By my third year, after having a course or two with Lin [Aanonsen, O.T. Walter Professor of Biology] and doing summer research in her lab, I realized that I didn't want to go to medical school and had a strong interest in a research career. She encouraged me to apply for research funding and to attend a couple of research symposia and conferences.

Today, I am a Black research scientist and work in an academic and professional world characterized by a severe lack of BIPOC representation. To increase the participation of students from underrepresented populations, it is critical to identify students that have an interest in science early in their training and education, and provide them with mentoring resources and research opportunities.

Lin provided this to me, and it was foundational in terms of my desire and determination to enter graduate school. She was approachable, encouraging, and enthusiastic about helping students navigate their undergraduate course of study as well as post-graduate aspirations and goals.

Her example, in terms of mentoring, advocating for students, and fostering their self-confidence, is something that still resonates with me. M

Erin Peterson is a Minneapolis-based writer.

ISTOCK; HISTORIC RONDO IMAGE: MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SKATING ONWARD

Skateboarding brings big lessons—and big possibilities—for Kava Garcia Vasquez '17.

BY TINBETE ERMYAS '08

To call Kava Garcia Vasquez's love of skateboarding expansive would be limiting. It's more like a vast web that begins with a kernel of excitement. During our conversation, it came as she started describing her first board: "It was a Sector 9 cruiser with a fishtail, clear grip tape, and big blue wheels," she reminisces longingly. "I learned how to ollie and pop shove-it on that. It was fire!"

Vasquez's passion for skateboarding (and the airborne tricks she's describing) is infectious, but there's also urgency. And for good reason: She's been able to use it to traverse many worlds and think about big problems.

She found skateboarding during a major life transition, when she returned to her Bronx, New York, home after three years away at a Connecticut boarding school and wanted to meet new people. "I made friends who would let me borrow their boards until I got my own," she says. "Once I got that cruiser, skateboarding started to take up more space in my life."

When she got to Macalester, her passion grew, but not necessarily from being *on* a board. Vasquez says college taught her how to think differently about connecting with others: "If there's anything I learned from my time at Macalester, it's that community is a verb. Both the grand gestures and in-between moments count. Bringing this principle into spaces like skateboarding opens up a lot of doors."

One of the doors Macalester opened was to a better understanding of her place in the world—as a Black person, a daughter of immigrants from the Dominican Republic, and someone who didn't always see herself as part of the American social fabric.

At Macalester, she not only grappled with her own identity, but was also better able to understand her upbringing and think about it critically. "A lot of Latin American countries consider themselves a melting pot, and they use that narrative as a way to obscure their prejudices. This cognitive dissonance is baked into politics and culture," she says. "Before Mac, I didn't have the language to engage with or challenge the myths and stories we tell about ourselves."

With a better sense of identity and community, Vasquez explored both after college through a prestigious Thomas J. Watson Fellowship, a one-year grant to pursue independent research abroad. For her project, Vasquez explored "how women are personally, politically, and economically empowered through skateboarding." Her project took her all over the world, including India, South Africa, Sweden, and Mexico.

While abroad, Vasquez noticed two phenomena. The first: how important skateboarders are to their communities. She met skateboarders who were architects, filmmakers, activists, and artists, "making meaningful contributions to these different cities and spaces."

The second thing she noticed was more troubling: Women and girls assumed skateboarding wasn't for them. "Girls all over the world would say, 'Oh, I didn't know girls could do this,' or, 'I didn't know this was possible for us.'" In South Africa, Vasquez says, race added another layer to what she witnessed: a racialized understanding of skateboarding as a white import that Black people just don't do.

Witnessing both of these things got her thinking about the big ideas—and the big challenges—around skateboarding. There are the *personal* aspects of learning to skate: a willingness to fall and make mistakes, move on wheels surefootedly, and take up space. And then, of course, there's the *physical* aspect of the sport: you need a place to do it. "Skateboarding requires a certain level of infrastructure—it's all about the concrete and being able to engage with the urban environment," she says. "And so questions around public space came up a lot."

Although I'm only a skateboarding observer, much of this resonated. Where I live in Washington, D.C., there aren't many public skating parks, and so young skateboarders use public monuments to practice their craft or just to hang out. The skaters—almost always young and largely of color—often have run-ins with law enforcement for occupying those spaces. They're treated like problems to be solved rather than citizens to be served.

In almost every way, Vasquez is working to confront that reality. Last year, she cofounded Bronx Girls Skate. The group's mission: to cultivate and celebrate women's skateboarding in the borough. She envisions creating a skate park and community center where women and girls can learn the basics of skateboarding, make art, and have access to a computer lab.

She wants to provide a space for girls to just be—and possibly soar. "I'm even thinking we could sponsor girls—not just with products, but also workshops and professional development," she says. "If they want to learn how to be a photographer, if they want to be a software engineer, how can we connect them with those resources so they can be fulfilled not just with skateboards, but in a more holistic way?"

By the end of our conversation, I began to see the skateboard as something that could possibly transport us to a better place—a space to fix problems, especially ones facing communities of color in urban areas. Vasquez then chimed in, chuckling: "A friend recently said to me, 'Boy, that skateboarding is taking you places.'" Her excitement went up a notch, as if her journey's just getting started: "And I'm like, 'Yeah, where do we want to go? And what are we going to do to get there?'" M

Tinbete Ermyas '08 is an editor at National Public Radio in Washington, D.C.

JORDANA BERMÚDEZ


“GIRLS ALL OVER THE WORLD WOULD SAY ‘OH, I DIDN’T KNOW GIRLS COULD DO THIS,’ OR, ‘I DIDN’T KNOW THIS WAS POSSIBLE FOR US.’”

Global Health Pro Goes Local

The COVID-19 crisis drove disaster responder Mark Jackson '07 back to lead Ramsey County testing and vaccine efforts.

BY KATE HAVELIN '83

As a disaster responder, Mark Jackson '07 has hopscotched the globe. His wanderlust and sense of urgency to help in crises have taken him from Haiti and the Philippines to East Timor and Afghanistan. Since April 2020, Jackson has focused on fighting the pandemic in Minnesota—working for Saint Paul-Ramsey County Public Health, leading COVID-19 testing and vaccination programs in Minnesota's second most populous county.

Jackson's scientific training and international experiences guide his approach to COVID-19's surges and setbacks. He was born in Kenya and spent two years in Liberia while his parents served in the Peace Corps; later, his family moved to Minnetonka, Minnesota, where he graduated from high school. At Mac, he majored in biology and considered medical school but didn't want to commit to living in one place for several years. Instead, he worked in labs, including the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland, studying Parkinson's disease, and in Madison, Wisconsin, studying gene sequencing in cervical cancer.

When a 7.0-magnitude earthquake slammed Haiti in 2010, Jackson left his lab work to jump into direct action. He joined actor Sean Penn's volunteer group at a makeshift hospital. Jackson quickly realized that a medical certificate would boost his effectiveness, so he flew to Wyoming for an intensive six-week emergency medical technician training at the National Outdoor Leadership School. Then he jetted back to Port-au-Prince to oversee emergency patient transports. "That's the thing," he says. "Whatever needs to be done, just figure it out."

After a few more international assignments, Jackson enrolled in a one-year graduate program at McMaster University in Ontario, Canada, earning a master's in global health. The week before his November 2013 graduation ceremony, Typhoon Haiyan swept across the Philippines. Within hours, the Minneapolis-based American Refugee Committee called Jackson asking if he could help. The next day, Jackson and the rest of the rapid response team flew to the island nation.

He ended up working a year in the Philippines, mostly on contract with the World Health Organization. For months, he co-led a team tasked with finding, recovering, and, when possible, identifying more than six thousand typhoon victims buried in rubble and mass graves. He learned to tread carefully between rival powers—the Aquino administration and Imelda Marcos's powerful family. "Mixing politics and health never works," Jackson says. "We learned this right off the bat in the Philippines that anything related to politics can interfere with life-saving work and care."

By year's end, Jackson was burnt out. Back in the United States, he was diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder. Now, when he leaves disaster assignments, he takes time to take care of himself—at a Nevada cowboy ranch, "a pretty perfect place to disconnect and unwind."

Jackson's next WHO assignment was in East Timor, where he and five doctors spent several months organizing a measles, rubella, and polio immunization campaign. Then, in three weeks, the team inoculated five hundred thousand children under the age of fourteen—approximately 40 percent of the

THERESA SCARBROUGH

population. "Women would come over the mountain on horseback with their kids to get them vaccinated," Jackson says. "They understood they had to get their kids protected."

When COVID-19 halted Jackson's next planned international posting, he landed his Ramsey County job the same way he found many international postings—"All my jobs can be connected back to Mac, seemingly," he says with a laugh. A classmate, Dr. Blair Brown '07, called Jackson to talk about her work to create a new isolation and quarantine unit for people with COVID-19 who didn't have a place to live. Within the week, Jackson was on the job, working with Brown to launch Ramsey County's respite shelter for people experiencing homelessness, the first and now only program of its kind in Minnesota.

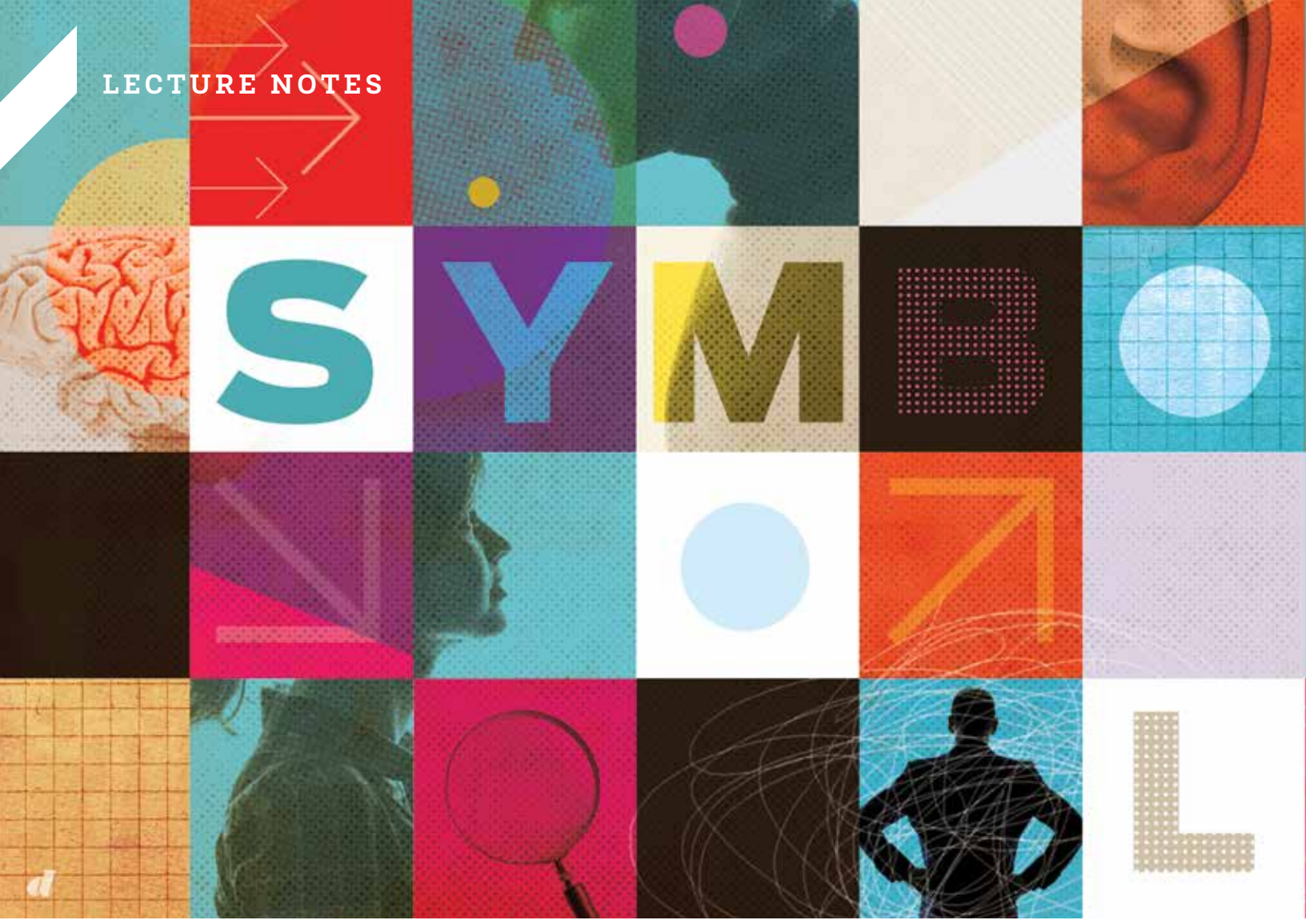
Since then, Jackson has continued to work for the city and the county, coordinating more than 20,000 COVID-19 tests in drive-through parking lot sites, the State Fair horse barn, and many other locations, often amid snow and rain. By last fall, Jackson was promoted to planning manager for a longer-term position with Saint Paul-Ramsey County Public Health and will continue as director of COVID-19 testing and vaccination support. Since January 2021, his team has administered around seventy thousand doses of vaccine at 450 clinics.

His overseas experiences contrast with the vaccine hesitancy he has encountered in the US. "Coming from an international perspective, it is almost embarrassing that we're having to convince people to get the vaccine with enticements like lottery tickets," says Jackson. "Overseas, you have significant barriers to getting vaccinated against COVID-19, and the line is long for that. That's the most disturbing thing about what's going on in the US right now. Most people in lower-income countries would kill for some of the access we take for granted to these mRNA vaccines—any vaccine against COVID."

Jackson delayed his own COVID-19 shot to get it in front of hesitant shelter workers, a persuasive strategy he learned with WHO. He devotes much of his time talking individually to people doubtful about the vaccine. "Trust is the main currency that we need these days," he says.

At age 37, Jackson considers his first completely full passport one of his most valuable possessions. He hasn't plotted his next move but figures eventually he'll do long-range disaster planning—and expects to always be open to the next call for help. "For me, it's just instinctual," Jackson says. "Mixing a sense of adventure with helping people: I can't ask for anything more." M

Kate Havelin '83 is a freelance writer in Minneapolis.



BY JOE LINSTROTH / ILLUSTRATION BY DAVID VOGIN

Not a day goes by that we don't hear, make, or assess arguments. From political punditry and advertising campaigns to social media feeds and dinner-table banter, arguments come at us from seemingly everywhere. Often, the ones that resonate most are those that align with how we feel. But how we feel is separate from whether an argument is factually correct. So how can we avoid being taken for a ride? Philosophy professor Janet Folina and her "Introduction to Symbolic Logic" course offer tools to help us sift through the rhetorical cacophony.

There's a tendency to judge an argument's effectiveness based on how persuasive it is, but being persuasive isn't the same thing as being correct. Can you talk about the difference?

When I think about an argument's persuasiveness, that's a psychological property. It's descriptive: When are we, in fact, persuaded or convinced?

What logic gets at is whether we are right to be convinced. It's not descriptive; it's not psychological; it's normative. What logic studies is the correctness of an argument. Logic helps us get past what resonates with us—what we like to hear—to focus on what's rational and correct.

What types of arguments come to mind that are really persuasive but incorrect?

I think we've all witnessed one type of persuasive pattern: repetition. If someone says something ten times, our brains are induced into recognizing the pattern, and we may think, "It's got to be true, right?"

Another example is when someone speaks with authority, which can also be very convincing psychologically.

Then there are fallacies like a misplaced appeal to authority. For example, a toothpaste ad featuring a football player: A football player is not an expert on dental health, yet somehow we're persuaded because of the star power.

Another troubling one is when we're persuaded to quickly make a general conclusion. So, someone might say, "Well, I haven't been vaccinated, and I haven't gotten sick, so I don't need to be vaccinated." That's a fallacy illustrated by the "donkey example": I haven't fed my donkey for five days, and he's fine; after thirty days, he's still fine. But on the thirty-first day, the donkey dies. Sometimes we can be too quick to leap to a conclusion.

So where does symbolic logic come in?

There are many ways to correct our psychological bad habits. One is to just be more critical in general. Another is through symbolic

logic, which helps us to step back and think about the format of an argument—for example, merely distinguishing between an assumption and a conclusion can help. Symbolic logic can make us more cautious about argumentation because of its focus on structural properties. It takes the content and emotion out of the equation, so if you're just looking at the form of the argument, it allows you to be critical of what you already believe and wary of accepting what other people say.

How would you describe what symbolic logic is?

Put simply, it's a fun, puzzle-solving activity that studies the forms of correct arguments. It improves our critical reading and writing skills, which helps us be more objective and less psychologically confused. We use symbols to focus on those forms just like we use numerals to do arithmetic. The symbols make it more efficient to study arguments because when you're studying the forms, every argument of that form is going to have the same properties. Finding your way from the premises to the conclusion is like finding the best way to navigate to the top of a climbing wall.

How did you develop your interest in logic?

Kind of by accident, but it changed my life. I was a math and religious studies major as an undergrad. When I studied abroad at St. Andrews University in Scotland, I couldn't find a math class that fit, so I took logic. Someone asked me, "Why don't you come back and do a master's?" My first response was, "Why would I do that?" Then I thought, "Huh. I really like this stuff." So I went back to St. Andrews for my master's degree, and that's how I discovered philosophy and my career.

What advice would you give to help others avoid being deceived by a poor argument?

Don't believe everything. Be skeptical and bring a critical lens to the things that people tell you. Consult real authorities on issues, not just those who speak with authority or act like they have it. It's important to step back, pause, and evaluate because I think people are responsible for their own beliefs. Some people say, "Well, I have the right to believe whatever I want," and that's ridiculous because beliefs have consequences. Your beliefs determine what you do, and what you do has consequences that affect other people. We have a responsibility to try to believe the truth, and logic can help. M

Brianne Harrison Moore '05, *A Bright Young Thing* (Alcove Press, 2021)

Lesson learned

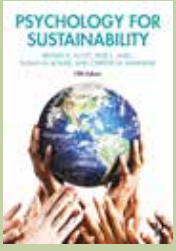
Writing funny is hard—harder than writing drama or tragedy, I think. I have even more respect for comedy writers now than I did before I wrote this book (and I had quite a bit of respect for them already)!

Advice for writers

Don't get too caught up in working out every little detail of your story before you start writing. I smooth out a lot of narrative snags in the drafting or revising stages—I think it helps to just start getting your ideas on paper. Also, don't let yourself get bogged down in trying to perfect your first draft as you go. The first draft is terrible. It's meant to be! It's rough; you're just trying to get the bones of your story down. You'll fix and rewrite and pretty things up on the second, third, or sixth go-round.

Long journey

The story was originally inspired by one of the subplots in Robert Altman's 2001 film *Gosford Park*. The main character, Astra, was built up from the name, which I thought sounded rather lovely. I imagined what the woman who had that name would be like, and realized she'd be the perfect heroine for this story idea I'd had. I began writing it my senior year at Mac, almost 20 years ago now! It has, of course, undergone some major revisions in that time—I was even revising it as my agent was submitting to publishing houses, working off feedback we were getting from editors. Some of the biggest elements of the story weren't present at all in the first several drafts.



Christie Manning, director of sustainability and professor of environmental studies, with Britain A. Scott, Elise L. Amel, and Susan M. Koger, *Psychology for Sustainability,* 5th Edition (Routledge, 2021)

Bethany Catlin '19, *Theme & Variations: Poems in Four Movements* (self-published, 2021)

John Koenig '06, *The Dictionary of Obscure Sorrows* (Simon & Schuster, 2021)

In his *New York Times* best seller, an original dictionary of made-up words, John Koenig fills gaps in the language with hundreds of new terms for emotions. He shares three:

immerensis *n.* the maddening inability to understand the reasons why someone loves you—almost as if you're selling them a used car that you know has a ton of problems and requires daily tinkering just to get it to run normally, but no matter how much you try to warn them, they seem all the more eager to hop behind the wheel and see where this puppy can go.

lilo *n.* a friendship that can lie dormant for years only to pick right back up instantly, as if you'd seen each other last week—which is all the more remarkable given that certain other people can make every lull in conversation feel like an eternity.

sonder *n.* the realization that each random passerby is living a life as vivid and complex as your own—populated with their own ambitions, friends, routines, worries, and inherited craziness—an epic story that continues invisibly around you like an anthill sprawling deep underground, with elaborate passageways to thousands of other lives that you'll never know existed, in which you might appear only once, as an extra sipping coffee in the background, as a blur of traffic passing on the highway, as a lighted window at dusk.

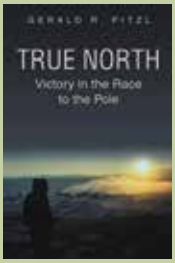
Jessica M. Smith '03, *Extracting Accountability: Engineers and Corporate Social Responsibility* (MIT Press, 2021)

FROM LEFT: VICKI WATSON; ALLIE LAURITSON

Email book publication news to mactoday@macalester.edu.

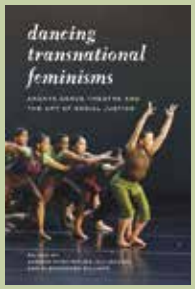
M.V. Montgomery '83, *Cosmological Sonnets and Lectures* (Winter Goose, 2021)

David Blaney, G. Theodore Mitau Professor of Political Science, and Naeem Inayatullah, *Within, Against, and Beyond Liberalism: A Critique of Liberal IPE and Global Capitalism* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2021)



Gerald R. Pitzl, professor emeritus of geography, *True North: Victory in the Race to the Pole* (Page Publishing, 2021)

PHOTO COURTESY OF ALESSANDRA WILLIAMS



Alessandra Williams '07, Ananya Chatterjea, and Hui Wilcox, editors, *Dancing Transnational Feminisms: Ananya Dance Theatre and the Art of Social Justice* (University of Washington Press, 2021)

How it started

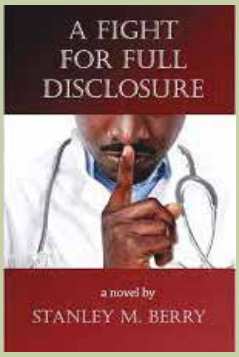
I connected with Ananya Dance Theatre (ADT) through my American studies coursework and as a Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellow (MMUF) at Macalester. My professor at the time, Peter Rachleff, took MMUF students to ADT's first performance at the Southern Theater in Minneapolis in 2005, *Bandh: Meditation on Dream*, as well as *Duurbaar: Journeys into Horizon* in 2006. I was struck by how choreographer Ananya Chatterjea crafted a dance ensemble of diverse Black, Native, Brown femmes and women toward storytelling about access to vital resources such as water and global experiences of race and gender. In 2006, I joined ADT as an apprentice artist while I was beginning my senior year.

Collaborative effort

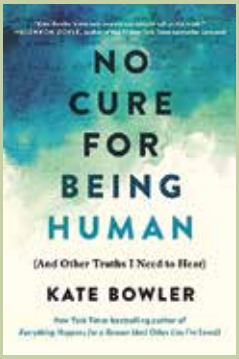
Ananya Chatterjea, Hui Wilcox, and I began putting this anthology together in 2012 while I was still a PhD student in culture and performance at the University of California, Los Angeles. All three of us were also ADT artists over the course of those many years, so we would work on the book after hours of grueling rehearsal, then hold heated debates over how to best convey our ideas in the introduction. Working with my colleagues inspired me, challenged me, and really catapulted me forward with my own ideas.

The power of dance

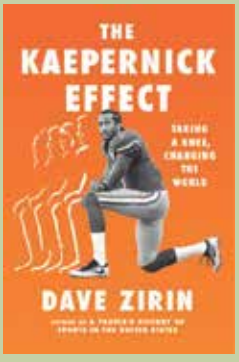
Dance plays a critical role in highlighting the stories and movements for social justice in Black, Indigenous, and communities of color. When dance is intentionally and critically rooted in practices of Black and Brown women and femmes, it offers a meaningful example of how choreography uncovers the human impact of—and offers a vision of hope amidst—transnational concerns such as environmental injustice and systemic gender-based violence. This anthology seeks to unearth how artists hold themselves accountable to movements for social change.



Stanley M. Berry '75, *A Fight for Full Disclosure* (Moonshine Cove Publishing, 2021)



Kate Bowler '02, *No Cure for Being Human (And Other Truths I Need to Hear)* (Random House, 2021)



Dave Zirin '96, *The Kaepernick Effect: Taking a Knee, Changing the World* (The New Press, 2021)

CENTERING YOUR STORIES

The Alumni Board strives to connect alumni with one another and with Macalester, and each board member supports those efforts by joining a working group focused on athletics, career connections, or diversity.

In 2021 and 2022, the Alumni Board's athletics working group is delving into how stories from the past can inform the present and shape priorities for the future—and how alumni athletes' experiences reverberate far beyond in-game memories. "Athletics is a lens into broader political discussions that were happening at each step in the college's history," says chair Matthew Bergeron '08. "There are lessons to learn from stories from the past."

Last year at Reunion, alumni shared their experiences as BIPOC athletes at Macalester in the 1970s at a panel put together by Eric Anderson '75. This year, the working group will again center stories from that decade, but this time with a focus on the fiftieth anniversary of Title IX, which ensures equal access to activities at institutions that receive federal funding. At Macalester, Title IX's impact included launching varsity women's athletic teams for the first time in the college's history.

Alumni Board members are working with the Athletics Department and Archives to learn more—and they want to hear from athletes who were involved in building the women's athletics program at both the varsity and club levels. "We want to tell that story as part of Reunion this year—the first decade of Mac women's athletics—but we don't yet know the story we need to tell," says Bergeron. "I have no doubt that steps forward were contentious and incremental. What did the college do in the '70s and '80s that led to the current programs? What lessons from early successes and mistakes can we apply to other endeavors today? It's important to be honest about how we got to where we are today."

Share your story

Were you part of women's athletics at Macalester before or after Title IX and the rise of women's athletics? Email interim director of alumni engagement Erin Updike at eupdike@macalester.edu.

Learn more about the Alumni Board

macalester.edu/alumni/alumniboard

COURTESY OF MACALESTER COLLEGE ARCHIVES

Laura Rasmussen '85

Ask Laura Rasmussen '85 to describe her days as co-owner at 3 Kittens Needle Arts, a yarn and needlepoint store in Mendota Heights, Minnesota, and her focus is clear: "I'm all about the numbers," she says. For fourteen years, Rasmussen has handled payroll, accounting, vendors, and all of the buying for the shop's yarn department. And numbers show up in her nightly knitting sessions, too. "It's a weird juxtaposition that floors people sometimes—a numbers person who's also creative," she says. "But people often don't realize that there's a lot of math involved in knitting and crochet, from simple counting to some algebraic-type equations that get thrown in as you move along. It's one of the reasons why I think teaching kids how to knit and crochet is such a good idea: They're practicing math at the same time." We asked Rasmussen to share what else she's learned as a small-business owner.

COURTESY OF LAURA RASMUSSEN

Follow your own path.

I tell my kids that everyone has their own path to lead, and theirs may not look like the one they expected. I majored in economics and history, and I thought that I would go into the corporate world. But I deferred my MBA and worked in marketing, then for a student loan guaranteeing organization, then for my husband's small business for eighteen years. Then the opportunity to buy 3 Kittens happened. My eventual business partner said, "Are you interested?" and I said, "Probably not." She said, "Do you want to meet?" Six months later, we owned the store. It was always a little bit of a dream to own a yarn store, but it wasn't where I thought my life was going to go.

Try new things.

When our store was closed for in-person shopping early in the pandemic, I started doing Facebook Lives—at the beginning almost daily—because I just needed to get my products in front of people. I learned that on social media I could pull a skein of yarn out and explain why it's my favorite yarn in a way that doesn't happen when people are browsing websites. I was also part of organizing a Zoom yarn shop crawl with thirty-six stores across North America. People around the world joined in, and it brought new customers to all of us. Small-business owners have to constantly try new things. If it doesn't work, then move on to something else.

Help each other.

Before we bought the store, my business partner and I talked with the owner of a Minneapolis yarn and needlepoint shop. I had known her for years, and we were upfront with her that we were thinking of buying 3 Kittens. And she talked with us, even though our businesses would be in direct competition. I was impressed by that. Since then, I've had people ask me about buying a yarn store, and I've tried to emulate her approach. Even though we're all in competition with each other, it doesn't mean we can't work together—a rising tide lifts all boats. I think it's very important to practice kindness in all aspects of running a small business: your customers, employees, vendors, and competition. It will pay off in the long run.

Navigate group work gracefully.

When I'm working with other yarn store owners, there's a spectrum of scenarios—from a really collaborative effort to one strong personality who runs the whole thing. Some people are always going to volunteer for everything, and some want to be there for idea generation but not the grunt work. And that's okay! You've got to let that go because otherwise, you can create tension and drama that's just not worth it. But if it's really, really bugging you: Get out of that collaboration.

Watch your numbers.

My biggest piece of advice to small-business owners is that the numbers matter. If your numbers don't work, your business isn't going to work. My son is a serial entrepreneur and recently started a business with a great idea, but the numbers just weren't playing out, and he decided to close it. So many people, especially in creative industries, think that all they need is a good idea. But you've got to have the accounting to back that up.

1942

Dorothy Fethke Nestegard, 101, of Eau Claire, Wis., died Aug. 20, 2021. She served in the Navy during World War II and retired as a legal secretary.

1946

Kenneth C. Erickson, 96, died June 22, 2021. He served in the Navy during World War II and later practiced dentistry and worked in a dental school. Erickson was also a national target shooting champion and a violinist with the St. Paul Civic Orchestra. He is survived by three children and four grandchildren.

1947

Jean Hafermann Haemig, 94, died May 26, 2020, in St. Paul. She was a social worker with the Campfire Girls and Big Sisters and worked part time for the US Census Bureau. Haemig is survived by a daughter, two sons, two grandsons, and two great-granddaughters.

Evelyn Hausker Wood, 96, of Bloomington, Minn., died Nov. 17, 2021. She taught piano and played as an accompanist for her late husband, tenor soloist Charles Wood '47. She also worked in a middle school library in Bloomington and was recognized as volunteer of the month at Presbyterian Homes of Bloomington. Wood is survived by two daughters and a sister.

1948

Dorothea Johnson Heimark, 95, died Aug. 13, 2021, in West St. Paul, Minn. With her husband, Charles, she ran a family farm in Clarkfield, Minn., and launched General Dryer Corporation, which produced grain dryers and equipment for harvesting sunflowers. Heimark is survived by two daughters, a son, six grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren.

Lydia Shen Lee, 92, of South Bend, Ind., died April 20, 2017. She taught elementary school for more than twenty years in South Bend. Lee is survived by a son, three grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, and a sister.

1949

Patricia Bergen Baustian, 93, died Oct. 7, 2021, in Alexandria, Minn. She worked as an English, literature, and Spanish teacher in Staples, Minn., for 25 years. After retirement, Baustian worked in stores at Yellowstone National Park and Mount Rushmore. She is survived by her husband, Donald, a daughter, two sons, seven grandchildren, thirteen great-grandchildren, and a sister.

Eileen Pearl Will Kimball Gutzman Low, 95, died Sept. 10, 2021. She worked for the Pinellas County, Fla., schools for twenty-eight years as a teacher, counselor, and dean of women students. She is survived by two daughters, a son, four grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

1950

Portia Johanson Johnson, 92, of Owatonna, Minn., died Oct. 3, 2021. She retired in 2003 after teaching piano for sixty years. Johnson also played organ in the churches her husband served as pastor and was a founding member of the Owatonna Keyboard Guild. She is survived by five children (including Daniel Johnson '76, Andrea Johnson '82, and Matthew Johnson '89), eight grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

Lloyd R. Thompson, 95, died June 27, 2021, in Hughson, Calif. He served in the Army Air Corps from 1944 to 1945. During a forty-one-year career, Thompson taught elementary school in California and taught and supervised future teachers at California State University-Stanislaus. He retired from education in 1994, but continued operating an almond ranch until 2013. Thompson is survived by two children, eight grandchildren, eleven great-grandchildren, and a sister.

1951

James E. Christopherson, 94, of Ishpeming, Mich., died Aug. 31, 2021. He served with the Air Force Office of Special Investigations and investigated former Nazis in Bavaria during the Allied occupation. Christopherson later became ordained as a Presbyterian minister, serving congregations in North Dakota, Iowa, and Michigan. He is survived by daughter Caron Christopherson '82, two sons, and two grandsons.

Emily Hindman Herrmann, 92, died Nov. 5, 2021, in Owatonna, Minn. She taught high school Spanish and English in Watertown, Wis. Herrmann is survived by her husband, Charlie Herrmann '52, two sons, five grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

John B. Winter, 91, died Nov. 14, 2021. He served in the Marines for fifteen years, including thirteen months of active duty in Korea. He later worked in insurance as owner of John Winter Agency and Midwest Hearing Industries, selling hearing aid insurance nationally. Winter served three terms as mayor of North St. Paul and was a member of the Minnesota House of Representatives from 1967 to 1971. He also served in the Civil Air Patrol and provided flights for medical patients through Angel Flight and LifeLine Pilots. Winter is survived by his wife, Win, three children, numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and two brothers.

1952

C. Paul Faraci, 90, died May 13, 2021.

1953

Mary Anne Dahl Ferrin, 90, of Red Wing, Minn., died Sept. 15, 2021. She worked as a home economist for Northern States Power Company, wrote a weekly column for the *Republican Eagle*, and hosted a radio program on KAAA. Ferrin was also active in various community organizations. She cofounded Goodhue County's information and referral service and Volunteer Action Center and served for five years as volunteer director for the Minnesota Correctional Facility. Ferrin received Macalester's Distinguished Citizen Award in 1981. She is survived by her husband, Frank, five children, six grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

James F. Marshall, 92, of Grand Rapids, Minn., died Sept. 10, 2021. He served in the Army and developed six patents during his thirty years as an electrical engineer at Honeywell. Marshall is survived by two daughters, two sons, nine grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

Marcia Young Sayles, 88, died July 8, 2019. She was survived by her husband, Creighton Sayles '54 (who died May 23, 2021), two daughters, a son, four grandchildren, and a great-granddaughter.

Shirley Petersen Utzman, 90, died Aug. 23, 2021, in Lakeland, Fla. After working as a social studies and American history teacher in Marshall, Minn., she became a supervising social worker with the Lyon County Welfare Department and received a Bush Leadership Fellowship for her work as Lyon County Chair of the Countryside Council. Utzman also served on the Metropolitan Council's Committee on Aging and was director of welfare services for Dakota County before retiring in 1987. She is survived by her husband, Donald, two sons (including Mark Utzinger '81), three grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

1954

David B. Castrodale, 88, died Aug. 18, 2021. He was ordained as a Presbyterian pastor in 1957. During his sixty-two-year career, Castrodale served pastorates in Missouri, Michigan, Illinois, and Iowa. He also helped launch a Christian radio station in Sitka, Alaska, started a

television ministry, and received numerous awards, including the ESTARL International Award for Excellence in Ministry. Castrodale is survived by his wife, Patricia, three daughters, four grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, and a sister.

Nancy Reitz Rotenberry, 88, died Aug. 21, 2021. She worked at Macalester as assistant alumni director and manager of the Dale Warland College Concert Choir and also taught English as a second language at the college. Rotenberry also sang with and served on the boards of various choral groups, and she and her husband, Everett Rotenberry '52, were the first recipients of The Singers Eschweiler/Rotenberry Advocacy Award. She is survived by her husband and her daughter, Jan Rotenberry de Gutierrez '79.

1955

Henry Lederer, 88, died Oct. 17, 2021. After retiring from Control Data Corporation, Lederer launched a tax preparation business. He is survived by his wife, Ann Jensen Lederer '56, three children, three grandchildren, a great-granddaughter, and a sister.

1956

Robert S. Spong, 87, died Oct. 3, 2021. After teaching vocal music in public high schools in Minnesota, Spong began a career as a financial advisor and stockbroker with John G. Kinnard and Piper Jaffray. He sang with numerous vocal groups, including the Happiness Emporium Quartet, which won the 1975 International Barbershop Quartet championship. Spong also directed the Minneapolis Commodores Barbershop Chorus and served on the board of the Minnesota Orchestra. He is survived by his wife, Jean, two daughters, a son, eight grandchildren, and a great-granddaughter.

William K. Swanstrom, 86, of West Duluth, Minn., died Sept. 7, 2021. He was an owner and manager of the Dwight Swanstrom Insurance Agency and served in the Minnesota Air National Guard for six years. Swanstrom also ran in numerous marathons, including the New York City Marathon. He is survived by three daughters and four grandchildren.

1957

M. Victoria Jacobson, 87, of Roseville, Minn., died Sept. 19, 2021. She worked as reading coordinator for the Roseville public schools and served as president of the International Reading Association. After her retirement, she adopted two daughters and opened Accel Academy International. Jacobson is survived by her daughters and three grandchildren.

1958

Sharon Pedersen Ledeboer, 84, of Medicine Lake, Minn., died July 28, 2021. She is survived by a daughter, a son, six grandchildren, and a sister.

Patricia Holland Stotts, 85, died Oct. 31, 2021. She taught English, speech, and theater in Kerkhoven, North St. Paul, and Edina, Minn., and was named the first female moderator at Edina Morningside Congregational Church. Stotts is survived by her husband, Larry Stotts '58, two sons, eight grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and sister Jeanne Holland Erickson '43.

1961

Mary Ball Browne, 82, died Nov. 7, 2021. She was a United Methodist minister in Northern California and Nebraska and a board member of multiple charities. Browne is survived by a daughter, sons Bill Tyler '83 and Mike Tyler '88, and seven grandchildren.

James P. Hansen, 86, of West St. Paul, Minn., died Aug. 5, 2021. He served in the Air Force and worked for various pharmaceutical companies before joining the Minneapolis Public Schools' Environmental Health and Safety Department. Hansen is survived by his wife, Helen, and a sister.

Janet Kohler Rosenquist, 81, of Tempe, Ariz., died Oct. 25, 2021. She taught elementary school music for many years, retiring from the Tempe Unified Elementary School District. Rosenquist is survived by a sister.

Marilyn Hancock Wooldridge, 81, of Edina, Minn., died Aug. 9, 2021. She is survived by her husband, Hugh Wooldridge '59, two sons, four grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

1962

Diane Sinks Rossi, 80, of Denver died Nov. 27, 2020. She taught in schools in New Jersey and Colorado. She is survived by her husband, Richard Rossi '61, a daughter, three sons, six grandchildren, and a sister.

1963

Phoebe Crouch Shaw, 80, of Aptos, Calif., died Aug. 27, 2021. She volunteered in her community and produced a syndicated show centered on political cartoonist Mike Peters. She also built and renovated homes across the country and wrote a one-woman show that she produced in New York City in 2004. Shaw is survived by three children, seven grandchildren, two sisters, and a brother.

1964

Kathleen Burch Patchen, 79, of Duluth, Minn., died Aug. 11, 2021. In addition to working as a draftsperson, law office administrator, customer service trainer, and graphic designer, she was a business owner. Patchen is survived by a daughter and three grandchildren.

Barbe Meinders Pike, 79, died Aug. 14, 2021, in Kilmarnock, Va. She worked in public libraries in New York state and was director of public libraries in Pasco County, Fla. In addition, she put in more than 1,600 hours of volunteer work for the library at Vero Beach Museum of Art. Pike is survived by two sisters and three brothers.

1966

Lynn D. Maruska, 76, died Oct. 18, 2021, in Chandler, Ariz. After serving in the Army with the Joint Chiefs of Staff at the Pentagon, Maruska worked in business management at Control Data and Allen Bradley-Rockwell. He is survived by three sons, two sisters, and a brother. Maruska also had eight grandchildren.

1968

Mary Gregerson Pellauer, 75, of Framingham, Mass., died Nov. 16, 2021. She was a religious social ethicist, professor of women in ministry at Union Theological Seminary, and director of research and studies for the Commission on Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Pellauer also wrote a column for *Christianity and Crisis* and focused much of her professional and volunteer work on sexual and domestic abuse. She is survived by her husband, David Pellauer '65, a son, and a granddaughter.

1969

Carol Cina, 74, of Eden Prairie, Minn., died Sept. 27, 2021. She retired after working in human resources at SuperValu for twenty-six years. Cina is survived by a brother.

1970

Lynn K. Maderich, 72, of St. Paul died Aug. 19, 2020. She was an award-winning painter and commercial artist who taught at the Atelier Studio Program of Fine Art and led workshops across the country. She also did design work for Department 56. Maderich was recognized for the fine draftsmanship, rich color, and luminosity she brought to her work. She is survived by a sister.

Margie Campbell Stoup, 73, of Monroe, Wis., died Sept. 10, 2021. Stoup and her husband, Kenneth Stoup '70, operated Albany House Bed and Breakfast for twenty-five years. She served as secretary of the Wisconsin Bed and Breakfast Association. Stoup is survived by her husband, sisters Susan Campbell Noran '74 and Diane Campbell Payne '78, a brother, brothers-in-law Jim Noran '74 and Steve Payne '78, niece Rebecca Noran '99, and nephew Jason Noran '06.

1972

Peter J. McDonald, 70, died Jan. 22, 2021. He was a professor of psychology at the University of North Georgia for twenty-eight years.

1973

Howard J. Parker, 70, of Harrisburg, Pa., died Oct. 17, 2021. He was active in his community, serving as president of the Pennsylvania Jaycees from 1988 to 1989 and working with Riverside United Neighbors and the Dauphin County Democrats. Parker also spent much time at the Historical Society of Dauphin County and the Harris Mansion researching the 1839 Whig Convention in Harrisburg. He is survived by his wife, Marcia Richardson Parker '74, a sister, and a brother.

1975

Mark M. Surles, 69, died Oct. 18, 2021. In addition to pursuing a career as a high-tech sales representative and manager, Surles performed as a kit drummer with many bands. He is survived by a sister.

1983

Margaret Kimble Martinson, 61, of Hugo, Minn., died Oct. 23, 2021. She is survived by her husband, Lyle "Bud" Martinson '81, three sons (including Tyler Martinson '12), two grandchildren, and a sister.

// OTHER LOSSES

F. Douglas Bolstorff, associate professor of physical education and coach of several sports at Macalester, died at his home in Eagan, Minn., on Dec. 3, 2021. He was 90. After playing on the University of Minnesota, US Army, and Detroit Pistons basketball teams, Bolstorff began his career at Macalester in 1957 as an assistant coach. During his thirty years as the college's basketball coach, he racked up 264 wins and was named Minnesota's small-college coach of the year three times. During Bolstorff's tenure as track and field and cross-country coach at Macalester, his teams won a combined total of nineteen Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference championships. Bolstorff also coached the college's baseball and golf teams. He retired in 2000 and was inducted into Macalester's Athletic Hall of Fame in 2003. Bolstorff will be remembered by many alumni, faculty, and staff as a mentor and friend. He is survived by his wife, Helen, three daughters (including Barbara Bolstorff '87), five grandchildren, and a brother.

Chuck Green, professor of political science from 1965 to 2005, died Dec. 12, 2021, in Maryland. He was a pioneer in student-centered curriculum, civic engagement, and faculty-student collaboration in the classroom. Green believed deeply that the capabilities of undergraduates were routinely underestimated by schools and employers. Based on his own consulting work, he discovered and experimented with ways to support students in offering their talents, work ethic, and open-mindedness to local organizations. Green's limitless capacity for investing in students attracted legions of loyal advisees. Today, the Chuck Green Endowed Fund for Civic Engagement, created by former students, enables current students to use their skills and passions to work for social change. Chuck Green Fellows engage in a spring political science seminar and receive a stipend to work in the summer to complete a full-time, on-site project at a community-based organization. Green received the college's Thomas Jefferson Award in 1981 and the Macalester Excellence in Teaching Award in 1997. His service to the college included several years as Political Science Department chair. He is survived by his wife, Marilyn, daughters Ann Green and Karin Green '86, and their families (including Julia Hirsch '20).

Mary Claire Schultz of Minneapolis, coordinator of Macalester's Psychology Department for 13 years, died Aug. 11, 2021, at the age of 80. A Macalester employee from 1992 to 2009, Schultz also worked in market research at Pillsbury, volunteered for various organizations, and edited the *Hill and Lake Press*, a neighborhood newspaper. She is survived by her husband, Eric, daughters Julie Schultz '93 and Ginna Schultz '96, four grandchildren, and two siblings (including Todd Swanstrom '70).

The Cokenfloete

"A 'pop concert' filled Olin Hall last night—though it's hard to know which drew more people, the pipe organ built out of Coca Cola cans or the offer of free Coke," Ann Sargent '73 wrote in *The Mac Weekly* fifty years ago.

It all started when David Dreis '72 and Barry Crawford '72 had a glimmer of an idea in their music appreciation class: Could their giant collection of Coke cans serve as the starting point for an organ? They pitched the concept to Hubert Kuehl '73 and Jim Persoon '73. "When they stopped laughing," Sargent wrote, "they arranged for an interim project through the physics department. Dr. Russell Hastings, professor emeritus, agreed to be their advisor."

More than seven hundred hours (and more than 1,400 cans) later, the electric organ was ready for its debut, with a new name: With a sound similar to a calliope, the group chose "Cokenfloete"—Dutch for "Coke flute." And the concert was a success: "Olin Hall was full for the 8 o'clock concert, and the audience was bubbly, applauding often."

From left: guest organist Angela Gill Saunders '73, builders Hubert Kuehl '73, David Dreis '72, James Persoon '73, and Barry Crawford '72, and the group's advisor, professor emeritus Russell B. Hastings.

COURTESY OF MACALESTER COLLEGE ARCHIVES

HELPING STUDENTS LIKE ARON SMITH-DONOVAN '22 FIND THEIR DESTINATION

Aron's day takes him from his apartment to the Ruth Stricker Dayton Campus Center to the Joan Adams Mondale Hall of Studio Art—and everywhere in between. Your gift to the Macalester Fund supports Aron and other students every step of the way. When you give to Macalester, you empower the people who share your values and magnify your impact on the world.

CHOOSE HOW TO DIRECT YOUR GIFT:

- Financial Aid
- Program Support
- Faculty Support
- Athletics
- Student Emergency Aid
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- Support It All

MACALESTER FUND

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RUTH STRICKER DAYTON CAMPUS CENTER

LUNCH & STUDYING
Support the creation of study spaces on campus—like the comfy chairs in the campus center—through your gift to the Support It All designation.

CHANTER
What makes the Macalester experience special are the many opportunities for growth, which can be funded through the Program Support designation.

OLD MAIN

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KIRK HALL

JOAN ADAMS MONDALE HALL OF STUDIO ART

PRINTMAKING
Gifts to the Financial Aid designation fulfill Macalester's commitment to meeting the full financial need for every admitted student and provide access to classes like Printmaking.

HUMANITIES BUILDING

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Mac students learn from outstanding faculty. Help fund their work through gifts to the Faculty Support designation.

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DAVID J. TURNER

At December Commencement, graduating senior Mohamed Abdi Mohamed (Dadaab refugee camp, Kenya) celebrated with his cross-country teammates, who practiced on their own earlier that day so they could surprise Mohamed at the ceremony. "I enjoyed every little moment that I have had with my wonderful teammates," Mohamed says. "I'll miss them dearly."