

MACALESTER COLLEGE

1600 Grand Ave.
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DAVID J. TURNER

Class Notes Extended Play: Remembering David Mao '97

The 2023 Macathon, the college's overnight innovation and creativity contest, was dedicated to David Mao '97, who died on July 15. He is pictured above, center, at Reunion 2022. At Mac, Mao was a member of the Traditions a capella group and a founding member of the Fresh Concepts comedy improv group. A beloved and longtime Macathon judge, Mao was remembered by Jody Emmings, director of Entrepreneurship and Innovation, at the Macathon awards ceremony in November. "During the three years he was at Macathon Dave brought pure joy to this event, making us laugh with his wit and hilarious stories and goofy shenanigans," she said. "Dave reflected back courage in every person he met—to help others see it in themselves. He was the one exuberant judge who would stay all night long to keep working with students." Mao also created and funded his own special Macathon cash prize called "Keeping It Real," awarded to the Macathon team that best demonstrates a spirit of playfulness, joy, and possibility that reaches beyond campus walls. The 2023 Dave Mao Keeping It Real award was bestowed on "The Goonies." Mao is survived by his wife, Laura Phillips-Mao '99, daughter Lucy, son Leo, his mother, his sister, and a vast global community of friends.