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Founders Day 1959

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Harvey Rice

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Macalester College Archives
Audio Reel #121
Founders Day 1959

[00:35] [Drums and bagpipes]

Phil Beedon: Founders Day greetings, fellow Mac-ites. This is Phil Beedon speaking from the campus. A message from President Rice, greetings from Alumni President Fred Cook, and music follow in just a moment. We're delighted that your clan is meeting to honor the founders of the college. I sincerely believe that it is good for the college and good for her sons and daughters to meet this way to renew friendships and strengthen college loyalties. Wherever you may be listening, I hope that these voices from the campus will bring you back to Mac for the next few minutes.

[01:10]

[Drums and bagpipes continue]

[01:24]

[Speaker?]: Mr. Fred H. Cook, Class of '33, President of the National Alumni Association, has given unstintingly of his time and energy to the college. He is especially active in the Alumni Fund program where he is heading up the special telephone solicitation project. We are grateful for this loyalty, Fred, and now may we have a word from you.

[01:45]

FC: Thank you Mr. Beedon. Fellow alumni and friends, greetings and best wishes to each one of you from the officers and directors of your alumni association. We hope you enjoy your Founders Day program and that it brings back pleasant memories of your days at Macalester. The founders, whose memory we honor, made many sacrifices and developed a sound education and development program which has expanded throughout the years and left an impression on each of our lives so that today the influence of Macalester alumni is felt throughout the world. Education today is more important than ever before and your alumni association is interested in helping Macalester maintain its dominant position in the liberal arts college field. We hope that all of you will continue to support the alumni projects, offer suggestions, serve as public relations representatives when talking to prospective Macalester students, and assist when called upon to participate in alumni activities so that together we may see Macalester grow to an even greater educational institution than the founders we honor today envisioned.

[03:23]

PB: Thank you Fred. From among the membership of the Macalester Choir which has sung with the Minneapolis Orchestra at some ten concerts, director Ian Morton, Class of '37, has selected a group known as the Little Choir. We shall hear as their musical offering on Founders Day "The Laughing Song" by Earl George.

[03:46]

[Choir sings]

[05:28]

Now as a fitting salute to Mac-ites past and present, we are pleased to present our new president Mr. Harvey M. Rice, whom many of you have met in the pages of the alumni bulletin and whom many of you will meet in person as your clan is included his itinerary in the months ahead. Though President Rice has only been on campus little more than seven months this Founders Day, his infectious energy, his challenging convictions about Macalester's place among the top liberal arts colleges, his keen organizational sense, and his outgoing personality have already offered convincing evidence to faculty and student body of the quality and scope of his leadership. Dr. Rice.

[06:11]

HR: Hello Mac-ites, wherever you are. Greetings and best wishes from the campus. Thank you for your many Christmas cards and letters and for your expressions of goodwill to me as Macalester's tenth president. I look forward to meeting many of you as you return to the college for alumni day and other activities and as I visit with you over the course of the coming years at your clan meetings. This spring it is my privilege to meet with several clans in Minnesota, the Middle West, and the East. Next year I hope to meet other Middle Western clans and also to get to the clans on the West Coast. Let me tell you something of the plans that we have for Macalester. At a faculty conference in September 1958, we took as our goal for the year ahead the theme "Improving the excellence of Macalester." Thus we recognize the significant place the college has reached and we resolved to seek continually to improve its posture. There are really only two factors that contribute to the greatness of a college: one is the quality of its

graduates, the other the quality of its faculty. You who are our graduates have contributed a significant part of the college's present reputation. To ensure a continuation of that which you have achieved requires on our part at the college a policy of continuous upgrading of our incoming students. This I am happy to report to you is being done. In September of 1958, our freshman class included among its members a larger number of National Merit Award winners than all the other colleges and universities in Minnesota combined. As a matter of fact, figures recently released by the National Merit Scholarship Foundation indicate that only twenty colleges and universities in the United States have a larger number of Merit Scholars than Macalester. When you consider that there are more than one thousand and eight hundred colleges and universities in the country, and that without regard to the size of them, Macalester is twenty-first on the list as far as the number of Merit Scholars is concerned, this statistic becomes even more meaningful. Moreover, in order that no high quality student will be turned away from Macalester because of financial need, the college has inaugurated a greatly expanded program of grants and aid and scholarships. From regular operating funds of the college, assistance to our students will have been increased by September 1959 over 1958 by more than twenty percent. What is even more exciting and thrilling, fifty-two additional endowed scholarships have been added to our list during last year and this year, making a total of seventy-six supported by four hundred sixty eight thousand dollars. With these we are awarding almost nineteen thousand dollars annually to qualified students. Generous members of our alumni have also contributed significantly in the area of scholarships. Last year and this year your contributions have amounted to six thousand seven hundred and eighty nine dollars. This is a great beginning and

the alumni giving program is now better organized than it ever has been and as a consequence it is reaching more of you and you are responding more effectively than ever before.

[10:00]

Last September, we admitted nine Merit Scholars and we now have seventeen freshman applications from award winners for September 1959. The second important factor in the greatness of a college is its faculty. We are improving and are following a policy for continuing to improve the quality of our faculty in several ways. Two outstanding scholars have been added in the posts of F.R. Bigelow Distinguished Professorship of Economics, and the James Wallace Distinguished Professorship of History. We shall seek to replace those faculty members who retire with others of equal or greater qualifications also by providing sabbatical leaves for further study and research by providing grants and aid for research and summer study and travel and by encouraging the completion of advanced degrees we are making it possible for present faculty members to improve their qualifications and stature. In addition, the college is seeking to provide for faculty members the free, enquiring, participating intellectual climate in which they can work most happily and significantly. We also are seeking to improve the quality of the facilities in which and with which they live in order that their work can be the most productive possible. For able faculty members to render their most effective service to students, adequate facilities are a necessity. With this in mind, we are looking forward to the construction of an addition to the library which will make available more study space, seminar rooms, offices, and stack space for more volumes. We foresee a new science building that will be adequate for the present and future exciting development in the sciences, and we look forward to the construction

of a fine arts humanities building that will adequately provide for the great work we are doing and can do in these areas.

[12:15]

We at Macalester also believe that leadership opportunities and athletic activities for students are important and significant parts of the educational program of a college. We are planning for and looking forward to expansion, development, and improvement in these fields. Many of our faculty members and trustees see in the future a vision of greatness for our college. We actively seek your enlistment as alumni in this great adventure. Will you join with us? We ask for your support and your help.

[12:56]

In the meantime, all here at the college join with me in sending greetings to you, our alumni. We urge you to write to us and give us your ideas as to how we can improve our excellence. We invite you to become even more active participants in the significant financial campaign we are carrying forward to improve our excellence and we hope you will come back to the campus as often as you possibly can to see us and to mark the changes that are taking place. For all the Macalester family, I say to you at this Founders Day, God bless you.

[13:38]

PB: Thank you, President Rice. And now, goodbye from the campus of dear old Mac.

[13:48]

[Choir singing "Dear Old Macalester"]