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Founders' Day 1958

A. Phil Beedon

Charles Turck

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Macalester College Archives
Audio Reel #36
Founders' Day 1958

[Macalester Choir Singing]

[00:42]

[Phil Beedon]: Founders' Day greetings from the campus, fellow Mac-ites. This is Phil Beedon speaking to you from Dear Old Mac. Greetings and music [unclear]. We are delighted that your clan is meeting to honor the Founders' of the college. I sincerely believe that it is good for Macalester and good for her sons and daughters to meet this way, to strengthen college loyalties and to renew friendships. Wherever you may be, I hope that this tape recording may bring you back to Mac, for the next few minutes.

[Macalester Singing continues]

[01:36]

PB: Edwin V. Coulter, Class of '34, president of Multi-Clean Products Incorporated, St. Paul, is a mighty busy person. He has, however, given freely of his time and talents to Macalester, both as president of the Alumni Association and as chairman of the Alumni Fund Committee. We are grateful, Ed, for this loyalty. And now, may we have a word from you.

[02:02]

EC: My association with Macalester College in recent years as a member of the Alumni Association Board and as president of this association, has been both pleasant and inspiring. My wish would be that each of you could have the opportunity of seeing how your college has

progressed in recent years. Macalester has always had pride in her graduates, and if you have not been particularly proud of your association with Macalester, you can now assume your share of the greatness which is fast becoming recognized throughout the world. The faculty, the administration, the alumni, the friends of Macalester, have all had a part in the progress. And we all must strive for a still greater part in the destiny of our college and our nation.

[02:59]

PB: Thank you, Mr. Coulter. Mr. Benjamin G. Griggs, Macalester Trustee, Vice-president of nationally known insurance brokerage firm of Marsh & McLennan, is chairman of Macalester's new Development Council. Alumni have met Mr. Griggs through the pages of the alumni bulletin. But those articles do not begin to tell of the selfless leadership he has given to this challenging project. The college and the alumni body are in his debt. We should be glad to hear from you about the development program, Mr. Griggs.

BG: Thank you, Phil. As chairman of the development program, I am often introduced as a Mac grad. The designation is indeed complementary. But my interest in the college has roots of a different origin. I've been a trustee for many years. But, more than that, every thinking American realizes, quite literally, that the future of our country is intimately related to the abilities, training, and understanding of the students coming out of our colleges. Macalester is a sound and important college of liberal arts. That it may continue to progress and become an increasingly outstanding center of learning is the function of the alumni and of all those associated with the college. Our aims are primarily these: 1. To make Macalester the center of

an outstanding faculty and carefully selected student body. 2. To provide the highest possible faculty salary scale consistent with available resources. And to create named professorships and lectureships for distinguished scholars. 3. To provide for new needed buildings and to modernize the old, including having the best possible facilities and equipment and a beautiful campus. 4. Finally, to make Macalester as important as possible, both educationally and culturally in the life of the community and in the lives of its students from all over the world.

[05:08]

Many of these objectives are well on the way to realization. With your continued interest and enthusiasm as alumni, there is no doubt whatever that we shall achieve our goals. It is an exciting adventure, one in which I feel privileged to have a part, and thus be a member of the Macalester family. So, if I may, I greet you as fellow Mac-ites across the nation and abroad. Thank you.

PB: The Macalester choir, under the direction of Ian Morton, Class of '37, has an enviable record. It has appeared with the Minneapolis Symphony Orchestra at seven concerts, and this April makes two appearances with that world famous group, singing Beethoven's Ninth Symphony. O Praise Ye God by Tchaikovsky is their musical offering to you this Founder's Day.

[Macalester Choir Singing]

PB: Now we are pleased to present, as a fitting conclusion to this salute to Mac-ites everywhere, our prexy, Dr. Charles J. Turck, with a Founders' Day message.

[08:45]

CT: My friends of the alumni, fellow Mac-ites, as I report to you on this the seventy-third session of Macalester College, I am sure that no one can be more aware than I am of the fact that this college is the product of many minds and many hearts. It must never be regarded as the work of one man. It is for this reason that the transfer of the presidency from my hands to the hands of Dr. Harvey M. Rice, is less significant to me than it may be to some of you. Because Dr. Rice will depend, as I have depended, on a continuing Board of Trustees, a continuing faculty, and a continuing alumni body. The individual changes, [unclear], but I don't feel withered, let us say the individual changes, but the college is more and more.

I am extremely happy to say that in this second year of our new Development Council program, the results to be announced in June will again be a glorious success. We have for the second successive year received cash gifts in excess of one million dollars. The total reported by the Development Council on June 30th, 1957, last year, was one million, one hundred and sixty-one thousand dollars. But this year, the total as of March 1st, 1958, is one million, thirty-four thousand dollars, with four months to go. There are also well established expectancies of more than eight hundred thousand dollars. Mr. Benjamin Griggs, trustee and chairman of the council, has gathered together a hundred and four volunteer workers, assembled them into fifteen major committees and has been in touch with two thousand persons who gave to Macalester this year. Of these givers, seventeen hundred are alumni, and the greatest of them all, for the second year,

is an alumnus, Mr. DeWitt Wallace, son of our great president Dr. James Wallace, who served Macalester College for fifty-three years. How fitting it is that we celebrate our Founder's Day on Dr. Wallace's birthday, a tribute to his matchless leadership and to his son's unbounded generosity. Most of our gifts have gone into endowment and into faculty salaries.

[11:08]

[The] present endowment has a market value of more than five million dollars. Faculty salaries have reached a maximum of eight thousand dollars for nine months of teaching service. The result of this type of advance will be with us for generations to come. We can also report two new buildings, but these were not built out of gifts, but by a loan from the federal government, which, by the way, will also be with us for generations to come, forty years to be exact. But the loan is self-liquidating, I am glad to say, to be paid out of the earnings of the dormitories. This is the important thing that we are doing: we are building for the future. And I am convinced that we have built wisely for a student body of fifteen hundred men and women, seven hundred and fifty of whom can live in our college dormitories and seven hundred and fifty will live off campus at home.

[12:00]

I have never wavered in the opinion that this type of college is a much more wholesome and creative institution than the college in a little sleepy town to which the aristocrats of a bygone age were accustomed to send their sons. We are in the midst of a great metropolitan area with industry, transportation, production of all kinds of things, banks, museums, libraries, churches, orchestras, theatres and the seat of government. Each one, contributing something to the intellectual and spiritual growth of our young people. Last fall, we drew thirteen hundred and

ninety-two students from twenty-five states and nineteen foreign countries. Our students from abroad number fifty. And next fall we should have fifteen hundred students, our maximum capacity. Time would fail me to tell you of the distinguished visitors who have made this year a memorable one for us. Niels Bohr, the Danish physicist, Elton Trueblood, Norman Vincent Peale, George Rowland Collins, Antal Doráti, the undersecretary of state, Christian Herter, and for our commencement speaker, there will be General Carlos Rómulo.

You are all invited to another great event to be held on our campus this spring, the celebration of the one-hundredth anniversary of the Presbyterian Synod of Minnesota, an event which will be observed in our field house on May 14th and 15th by a pageant, *The Quickening Power*, written by Professor Royal A. Moore and produced by Professor Mary Gwen Owen and a large college cast. With the stated clerk of our general assembly, Dr. Eugene Carson Blake, as the narrator.

Come one, come all.

I would like to make two other announcements. One first is the appointment of the first James Wallace Professor, Dr. Winton U. Solberg of Yale University, who will occupy the Chair of History as a permanent member of our faculty, beginning September 1958. The other announcement is that on March 29th, fourteen Macalester students will leave by train for a tour of the United Nations and the capital, spending five days in New York and two days in Washington. The tour was arranged by the Political Science department, Dr. G. T. Mitau, chairman, and Dr. Dorothy Dodge in charge of the tour. Thus we conclude our outreach to the world: Canada, Mexico, SPAN, and now the United Nations tour.

Finally a word about the intellectual life of our college. The faculty has worked hard this year on a redefinition of our college, chiefly through a committee with which I did not meet. Imagine

my great personal joy, therefore, that when the report was made, it selected the four main points of emphasis that I have talked about all these nineteen years. Macalester College, a Christian liberal arts college, in a metropolitan environment of the American Middle West, helps its students grow through a liberal education in the arts and sciences of our heritage affording a foundation for: 1. Personal growth, 2. Service in the community, 3. Vocational preparation, and 4. World minded Christian citizenship. I am grateful to our faculty that has sustained my hands and rejoiced my heart. May God bless them. And may God bless you, my fellow Mac-ites, wherever you are and whatever your goals may be. Goodbye.

[Macalester Choir singing Macalester Hymn]

PB: And now, as the student choir sings the Macalester Hymn, goodbye from the campus.