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Macalester Today November 1994

Macalester College

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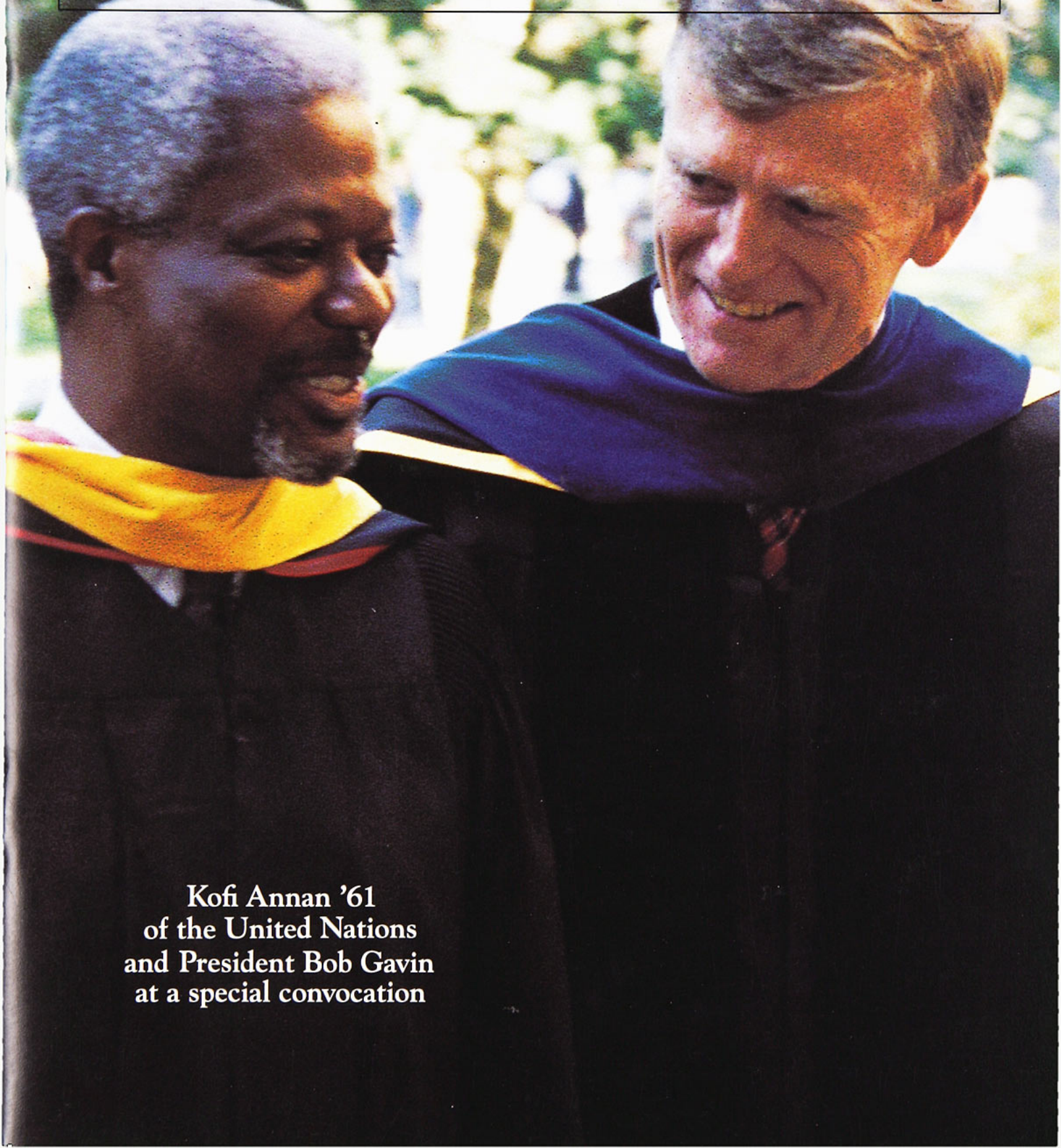
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Macalester Today

November 1994



**Kofi Annan '61
of the United Nations
and President Bob Gavin
at a special convocation**

The policy of *Macalester Today* is to publish as many letters as possible from alumni, the primary audience of this magazine, as well as other members of the Macalester community. Exceptions are letters that personally malign an individual or are not related to issues at Macalester or contents of the magazine. Please send letters intended for publication to Letters to the Editor, Macalester Today, College Relations, Macalester College, 1600 Grand Ave., St. Paul, MN 55105-1899. Or send your letter by fax: (612) 696-6192. We reserve the right to edit letters for conciseness and clarity.

A great journey

Greetings to Macalester and all our friends in Minnesota. My wife, Betty Wright Bennett '60, and I met at Macalester in the fall of 1959, and we have been together ever since. Through the years, Mac has continued to play a subtle but important part of our lives, which sometimes we did not recognize.

The professors that I had were sometimes wise and sometimes foolish, as we all are, but their thinking, views and imprints still stay with Betty and me.

I remember our religion teacher, who will go unnamed, who prophesied that the pope would take over the country if John F. Kennedy were elected president of the United States.

I remember one of my English professors, "Wild Bill" Thompson, who plastered every square inch of his little classroom on the top floor of Old Main with the great works of art from every country in the world. Each morning I would come into his classroom, and he would be playing Beethoven on his little record player. Being from a family without musical experience, I came to know classical music through his class. Getting a B from him was the toughest job I ever had. Still, his intensity, passion and fire for English set me on the road to being an English teacher. I learned from him, and teach others today with the same fire.

I remember Roger Blakely, a quiet, compassionate man, who let me discover English authors with a gentle assurance. I remember how his favorite passion was to introduce art history into his English classes, and expose us to Picasso, Monet, Cezanne, Rembrandt and Michelangelo. He opened my eyes to the humanities.

I remember men like Richard Dierenfield '48 in English education, who

gave me the practical knowledge of how to teach; Ray Livingston, who taught the psychology of what made authors and great works of literature really fascinating; Hildegard Johnson, who taught geography like it was the center of existence. I remember the chaplain, Russell Wigfield '43, a man who treated me with care and concern when I needed it. He never uttered a word that was not measured with respect and dignity.

Without Macalester and its convocations, I never would have met W.H. Auden, Hubert Humphrey, Harold Stassen and Vincent Price. Meeting those men influenced how I think and see the world today. Macalester, even in my brief time there in 1959-60, intensified my life and set me on the track I am on now. Thanks for a great journey. Carry on, Mac.

John Bennett '60
Kalamazoo, Mich.

Quality

Congratulations on the quality of *Macalester Today*. Kudos for the great Alumni Directory 1992-93, and special thanks for including our deceased classmates and the names of the "lost."

June Torrison Tillman '40
Springfield, Mo.

Life itself

The obituary of Virginia Dupre in August's *Macalester Today* brings back memories not only of the Dupres, but of a whole era at Macalester which some of us still cherish as one of the most vibrant times of our lives.

Professor J. Huntley Dupre and his wife, Virginia, came to Macalester in 1946, as did the Armajanis, the Hills, the Bryans, other faculty members and the (my) Class of 1950.

There was already in place at Macalester a tradition of personal friendship on the part of faculty members and their families toward students, and the newcomers to the faculty in 1946 built upon that tradition. Macalester gave me a fine academic experience. But I remember, just as warmly and appreciatively,

the manner in which we students were made to feel so welcome in the homes as well as the classrooms of faculty members and even of the deans and president.

The Dupres, living on campus in the old duplex east of Wallace Hall, were especially accessible, and the Turcks, who lived across Macalester Street, were gracious to us in so many ways. Many faculty and their wives made a point of getting to know our parents, our siblings, our backgrounds. They gave us personal support and encouragement as much as classroom instruction. They cared deeply about the individuals we were and the individuals we were becoming. They opened to us not only the doors of the mind, but the doors to the rich potential of life itself.

My own four years at Macalester were both a very special privilege and one of the most powerful influences in shaping the person I have become and the life I have led. I will never cease being grateful to the Dupres and other special members of the Macalester community who gave so generously of themselves.

As we note Virginia Dupre's passing, I write to declare a continuing "thank you" to them all.

Robert A. Morgan '50
Austin, Minn.



Virginia and Huntley Dupre made students feel welcome

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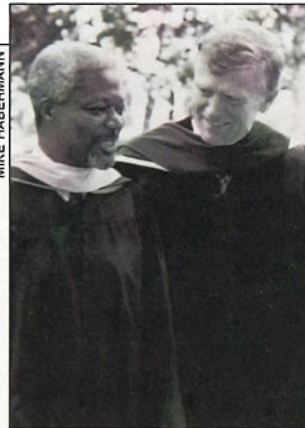
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A new graduate reflects on the Macalester community.
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MIKE HABERMANN

On the cover

President Gavin and Kofi Annan '61 walk together Sept. 9 at the opening convocation of the academic year. Annan, undersecretary-general for peacekeeping operations at the United Nations, was honored with a special award from the Macalester trustees. Turn to page 8.

Macalester Today

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To submit comments or ideas, write: *Macalester Today*, College Relations, at the above address. Or call (612) 696-6452. Or fax: (612) 696-6192.

Olin-Rice science renovation will be biggest single project

Next summer, Macalester hopes to begin the largest single project in college history — the renovation of Olin and Rice Halls of Science.

The work is expected to take two and a half years, until late 1997.

The total cost of \$17 million surpasses even the DeWitt Wallace Library, which was completed in 1988 for \$15 million (including a \$5 million endowment).

The college must raise \$2 million in alumni and private contributions by February if the Olin-Rice renovation is to proceed on schedule. The remaining funds will come from a combination of internal sources and tax-exempt bond proceeds.

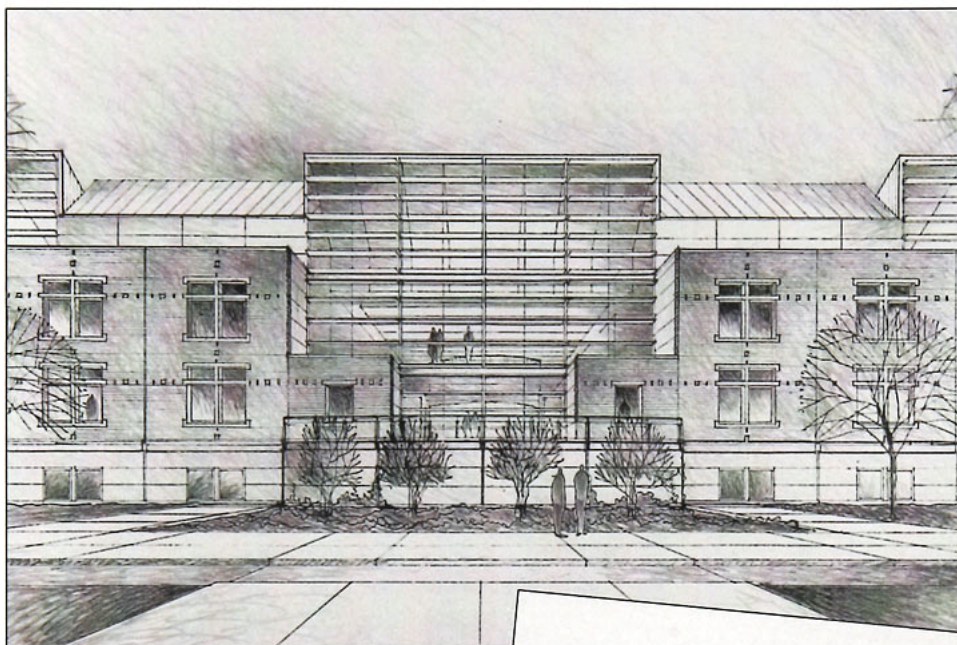
"This is going to be a wonderful part of the overall forward movement of the campus," said Provost Dan Hornbach, who is also a biology professor.

The most important single reason for the renovation is to enhance student-faculty collaborative research in the sciences. Since Olin Hall was built in 1963 and Rice Hall in 1969, both buildings have become outdated. Changes in the past 30 years include:

- the shift toward highly interactive, research-based learning of sciences, contrasted with the older lecture-demonstration plus lab exercise approach;
- the need to attract and retain strong science faculty who will work closely with students in expanded research areas;
- the vast increase in the technical complexity of science teaching and research;
- and developments in the sciences that continue to blur the traditional boundaries between disciplines. The existing walls in Olin and Rice inhibit collaboration between the science departments.

When construction begins in 1995, Rice Hall will be closed first. While Rice is undergoing renovation, all science departments will be housed in Olin Hall, except for the Mathematics and Computer Science Department, which will move to the Lampert building at Snelling and Grand, and Psychology, which will move to 30 Macalester St.

Once work on Rice is completed, Olin Hall will be closed so it can be renovated



An artist's sketch shows the south end of Olin and Rice after renovation. Right: a current view from the new athletic fields.



and the science departments in Olin will then move to Rice.

Since 1985, the Science Division at Macalester has received 25 Laboratory Instrumentation Grants from the National Science Foundation — more than any other liberal arts college in the U.S. The college has also received major grants from the Pew Charitable Trusts, Howard Hughes Medical Institute and the W.M. Keck Foundation to support instrument acquisition, curriculum and faculty devel-

opment, and student-faculty research collaborations.

Olin-Rice renovation

Cost: \$17 million

Private support needed: \$2 million

Construction:

summer 1995 to late 1997

opment, and student-faculty research collaborations.

The W.M. Keck Foundation funded a new electronic instrumentation lab that allowed Macalester to pull together into a single lab suite various electron microscopes and the x-ray diffractometer that had previously been scattered throughout the building. The new lab allows geologists and biologists to use the instruments much more efficiently.

However, the percentage of all Macalester graduates earning degrees in

mathematics or the natural sciences dropped from 22 percent in 1989 to 19 percent in 1993. At comparison colleges, the percentage of graduating students with math/science degrees averaged 23 percent in 1993.

The Olin-Rice project is a key part of the college's strategic plan, which calls specifically for the renovation of academic buildings and an increase in the number of science majors.

"For most of us, [the renovation] will mean we have a real research space adjacent to our office," said John Craddock '80, an assistant professor of geology who works in Rice Hall. The renovation will also make faculty-student collaboration "much more interactive and probably much more productive."

Craddock isn't looking forward to the peripatetic years of construction while Olin and Rice are being renovated. "But I think the long-term improvement will be pretty spectacular for everybody," he said.

"I know what renovated space can do for the curriculum and for student-faculty interaction," said Jan Serie, a professor of biology. Three years ago, she began working in a lab renovated by funds from the

Deluxe Foundation and the National Science Foundation.

"It has dramatically improved my ability to teach immunology, my accessibility to students, because of the way that the architecture supports student-faculty collaboration," Serie said.

"We've so changed the way we teach. We used to do all this classroom, canned-lab kind of stuff. And now students do interactive work with professors. They put in long hours and they do their own research. It's so important that the architecture provides them with an environment that's comfortable and user-friendly and gives them access to the equipment that they need and access to the professor in a timely and reasonable fashion. I think the new building will do all of that."

How alums see Mac

Macalester alumni believe the college is academically excellent, but most do not rate social life on campus highly, according to an extensive perception study.

Communications consultant Mark Edwards briefed about 100 alumni and staff on the results of the study at the annual Alumni Leadership Conference on campus in September.

Edwards conducted individual interviews with alumni in the Twin Cities and Boston, held focus groups in both cities and conducted 300 telephone interviews during the past 18 months. He also interviewed 375 prospective students before and after they completed their college applications.

The purpose of the research is to help the college understand what alumni think of Macalester, whether the college is meeting their expectations and what their attitudes are about giving back to the college. The research on prospective students is intended to determine what factors influence student decisions about where they apply to college, what students think about Macalester and how student attitudes change over the course of the application process.

Highlights of the alumni research:

- **Macalester's success:** Most alumni believe Macalester has successfully lived up to its goals of academic excellence, diversity and internationalism and, to a lesser extent, service. Academic excellence is the quality most alumni believe describes Macalester.

- **Connections:** A large majority of alumni keep up with events at the college

through *Macalester Today*. A majority say they return to campus every few years.

- **Student life:** Most alumni do not rate social life at the college highly, although they would describe Macalester as having a small, friendly community atmosphere.

- **Goals for the future:** Alumni identified several goals as the most important. They include: improving the academic quality of the school; teaching tolerance and awareness of other cultures and ethnic groups, and maintaining a need-blind admissions policy.

- **Changes in programs and policies:** Alumni do not necessarily relate "pre-eminent liberal arts college" with raising admission requirements or academic standards. The factors they consider important to pre-eminence include academic excellence, a diverse student body and prominent professors. They favor offering more upper-level courses, improving the student-faculty ratio and offering a wide variety of courses.

- **Endowment:** Almost all alumni are aware of the contributions DeWitt Wallace made to the college. They say that the mere fact of the endowment will not change their giving habits.

- **Giving:** At the same time, most alumni do not perceive a need for them to donate to the college. The endowment supports the alumni perception that Macalester is financially sound, but it is not the only reason alumni do or don't donate more to the college. Most alumni do not perceive a great need by Macalester compared to other organizations requesting their donations. When asked about priorities of giving and where they rank Macalester, a large majority say the college is a middle or low priority.

The research showed that prospective students were well aware of Macalester's strong reputation for community service, diversity and internationalism. But they ranked these factors as less important in deciding which college to attend than academic quality, financial concerns and physical characteristics of a college. Students define academic quality by the college's academic reputation, the quality of the faculty, what they have read about the school, the courses and majors offered, and what happens to graduates and admissions standards.

The Advancement, Alumni, College Relations and Admissions offices are continuing to work with Edwards to better



College preview

Twenty-six high school students of color from the St. Paul area took courses in critical thinking, oral communication and written communication at Macalester last summer. They were part of the college's four-week "Maccess" summer program. The program, which has been presented the past four summers, is designed to help promising students think about and prepare for college.

communicate Macalester's strengths. These efforts should be enhanced as the college moves ahead with the implementation of the faculty hiring plan and continued improvements to academic programs and residential facilities.

U.S. News rankings

Macalester ranks 20th in academic reputation, 22nd in student selectivity and 35th overall among national liberal arts colleges in the latest *U.S. News & World Report* rankings.

In a separate survey by *U.S. News*, Macalester ranks 15th among liberal arts colleges in one of its "best value" rankings, which the magazine defines as quality education at a reasonable cost.

The first survey appears in the magazine's well-known annual guide to "America's Best Colleges," published in September.

In 1993, Macalester ranked 18th in academic reputation and 34th overall. In 1992, the college ranked 24th in academic reputation and 39th overall.

Macalester received the following rankings this year among 160 colleges in the regular survey:

- academic reputation: 20th
- student selectivity: 22nd
- faculty resources: 67th
- financial resources: 38th
- graduation rate: 67th
- alumni satisfaction: 78th (based on the average percentage of a school's living alumni who gave to its 1992 and 1993 fund drives)

U.S. News gives the following weight to its categories:

- academic reputation: 25 percent
- student selectivity: 25 percent
- faculty resources: 20 percent
- financial resources: 10 percent
- graduation rate: 15 percent
- alumni satisfaction: 5 percent

In the other survey, *U.S. News* said it devised the "best value" rankings in an effort to provide families with a realistic measure of value by relating the cost of attending an institution to the quality of education.

The "best value" rankings are determined in two ways: in relation to a college's stated or "sticker" price (tuition

plus room, board and fees) and in relation to its "discounted" price (tuition plus room, board, fees, books and estimated personal expenses, minus the average of its need-based grants). With as many as three out of four students receiving grants at some schools, including Macalester, the discounted price is the more relevant measure, the magazine said.

In the two "best value" rankings, Macalester ranks 15th in "discount tuition price" and 20th in "sticker price."

Keeping students

A campus-wide task force led by Registrar Dan Balik spent the 1993-94 academic year studying ways to improve student retention and graduation rates.

The task force is continuing this academic year to implement the many recommendations made in its final report last spring.

Colleges throughout the U.S. commonly measure their graduation rates by five-year periods. Macalester's most recent five-year graduation rate is about 78 percent; that is, 68 percent of the first-year class that entered in the fall of 1989 graduated within four years, and another 10 percent graduated within the following year.

The college's goal is to increase the graduation rate to 90 percent by the year 2000. Again, most Macalester students will graduate within four years; a small percentage will take up to five years to graduate.

The task force made more than 40 recommendations covering every aspect of campus life, from admissions and recruiting to orientation for first-year students to the senior year experience and commencement.

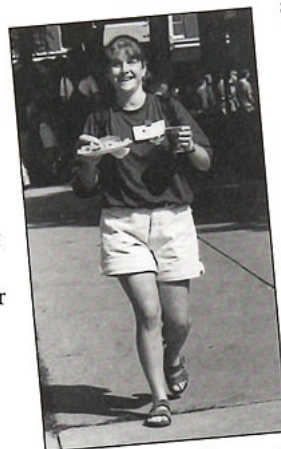
The Class of '98

Jennifer (12) and Daniel (11) are the most popular first names in the Class of '98, followed by Emily for women and a tie between Matthew and Michael for men.

The class also includes individuals who have made an AIDS commercial, organized a human rights day, founded a city-wide student handgun control group and served on a United Way Youth Board.

Here are a few other facts about the Class of '98:

- 2,752 applicants (2nd only to 2,939 in 1993);
- 455 entering students;
- 58 percent admission rate;
- 62 U.S.



students of color, 13.6 percent of the class;

- 82 international students, all-time high 16.6 percent of the new student total, from 48 nations;



Scenes from new-student orientation: Top, Kim Cole '96 (Shaker Heights, Ohio), who assisted with orientation, carries her lunch to a picnic (bottom photo). Opposite page: new soccer players gathering before practice include (from left) Stine Larsen '98 (Stavanger, Norway), Carrie Wafer '98 (Camden, N.Y.) and Elly Searle '98 (Minneapolis).

- 23 percent from Minnesota;
- 50 percent listed one or more commitments to some form of community service (56 students pursued environmental issues, No. 1 on the list);
- 97 students served as captains of a varsity sport.

Dean of Admissions Bill Shain compiled these and many other statistics about

point average of 3.50 or higher. The average cumulative GPA earned by the class members was 3.34;

- about 42 percent studied off-campus for at least one semester on a study abroad or domestic program;
- about 31 percent completed at least one fall, spring or summer internship;
- almost 12 percent of the class was

made up of U.S. students of color; another 10 percent were international students by citizenship;

- history was the most commonly completed major, followed by psychology, economics, international studies, biology and English. About 31 percent of the class completed more than one major;

- among international students, the most commonly completed majors were international studies, economics and mathematics;

- the four-year graduation rate for students entering in 1990 was 68 percent, an increase of 3 percent from the rate of the prior class. The five-year rate for students entering in 1989 is about 78 percent,

an increase of 2 percent from the rate of the prior class.

Hornbach, Griffith depart

Provost Dan Hornbach is leaving his job as the college's chief academic officer, at the end of the 1994-95 academic year, and returning to his former job as a tenured biology professor at Macalester.

"I'm being pulled out of this position, not pushed," Hornbach told the faculty Sept. 14. "I was pulled by all the right reasons: by the students I teach and by the scholarship I miss so much. I feel it has been a good year and that there is greater communication between the faculty and the administration."

He emphasized that he and President Gavin worked well together and said he

was giving up the job voluntarily because he missed the research work he has been doing as a biologist. He has been engaged in a major study of the impact of the zebra mussel on indigenous mussels in the St. Croix River.

Hornbach became provost in August 1993, succeeding Elizabeth Ivey. He took the job as a two-year appointment, with the understanding that he would decide after one year whether he wished to continue permanently as provost.

"Dan has done a terrific job," Gavin said. "He is dedicated to the college, to the faculty and to the students. He will be a tough act to follow."

David Griffith, vice president for college advancement, announced in July that he was resigning, effective Dec. 1. He joined Macalester in 1989 as director of development, becoming vice president in 1990.

President Gavin thanked Griffith for the leadership he provided in helping develop the college's strategic plan, the Advancement Office strategic plan and the Alumni Soundings. He also credited Griffith with developing a sound base in the Advancement Office for moving into a fund-raising campaign.

Searches are under way to fill both positions.

North Shore history

A Macalester team of faculty, staff and students created "A North Shore Portrait," a video and program about Minnesota's North Shore environment and its people.

The project combines history, art and technology to explore the legends of the Ojibwa people and the North Shore. It focuses on the work of artist and environmentalist Dewey Albinson, who traveled up Lake Superior in 1922 to capture, through his paintings, the wilderness and the native people of Grand Portage.

Albinson later became a vocal spokesman against the over-development of northern Minnesota.

The project was led by English Professor Diane Glancy, an award-winning writer, and Kristi Wheeler '69, a media resources specialist at Macalester.

The research team also included students Christopher Boulton '96 (Richmond, Va.), Lisa Smieja '97 (Worthington, Minn.) and Douglas DeGaetano '97 (Hales Corners, Wis.).

Glancy won a fellowship from the Blandin Foundation to support the faculty-student research project.

GREG HELGESON PHOTOS



the class for his welcoming remarks to new students and their families in September.

"It is important to remember," Shain said, "that each of you comes to Macalester not as a demographic curiosity, but as an individual, and as such the Class of 1998 represents an extraordinary range of talents, perspectives, experiences and achievements which no statistical portrait can adequately represent."

The Class of '94

The paperwork has been completed on the 400 or so students who graduated in May in the Class of '94. Here are a few facts:

- about 41 percent earned Latin honors by virtue of having a cumulative grade

Sports of all kinds benefit from expanded athletic fields

Macalester completed the expansion of its athletic fields and the construction of a new Campus Drive this fall.

The physical changes took place in the southwest corner of the campus. Completion of the field expansion project means the addition of:

- 3,000 square yards of lighted field space for intercollegiate practices, club practices and competition, and intramural activities;
- six tennis courts;
- a baseball field with an artificial turf infield;
- a hammer- and discus-throwing area;



GREG HELGESON



GREG HELGESON

Macalester's new baseball field, above, as seen from the third-base side, and adjacent tennis courts, top. Opposite page: A view of the new Campus Drive.

• an entrance to the south end of campus, off St. Clair Avenue, which offers a striking initial impression of Macalester. Campus Drive serves as a main artery through campus.

"The new space and facilities give us much more flexibility in all the programs we offer," said Athletic Director Ken Andrews '72. "There is a direct benefit to seven of our intercollegiate teams — football, the two soccer teams, the two track teams, baseball and softball. Their facilities will be as good as any college's in our conference.

"For intramural and club sports, and just for open recreation, the athletic field expansion has given students and the whole community many more opportunities to participate.

"Another thing, which most people don't realize yet, is that the south side of the campus is much more pleasing aesthetically," Andrews said. "That will be especially true when the Olin-Rice renovation is completed. A picture is worth a thousand words, and that will have a major impact on athletic recruiting and on visitors to the campus generally."

Four join Hall of Fame

The M Club inducted four new members into the Macalester Athletic Hall of Fame Oct. 14:

• Stephen P. Hicks '50 joins his late brother, George Hicks '48, to give Macalester its second set of siblings in the Hall of Fame. Hicks was a two-year letterman in football and three-year letterman in basketball, but it was track and field where he excelled. A key member of four conference championship teams, he was a consistent medalist in the shot put, discus and high hurdles. His Macalester high hurdle record, set in 1947, stood for nearly 30 years. He also established the high hurdle record in 1946 at the Aberdeen Relays and set an MIAC discus record in 1948. Active in alumni events, Hicks is also a community leader in Pipestone, Minn.



Stephen P. Hicks '50

• Shirley Held '40 stood out in basketball, golf and football. He placed second in 1939 at the state golf tournament and won letters as a member of winning football teams in 1938 and '39. Held was



GREG HELGESON

especially strong in basketball, winning all-state honors and ranking among the conference scoring leaders as a junior and senior. He was also chosen to represent Minnesota college



Shirley Held '40

players at a national AAU tournament. A captain in the Air Force during World War II, Held went on to become a teacher, coach and administrator. He spent 30 years as a school superintendent, 20 of them in Worthington, Minn., where he retired in 1982 and where he is a pillar of the community.

• Linda Zeman Laktasic '84 was the first woman athlete at Macalester to earn All-



Linda Zeman Laktasic '84

American honors and is the first woman to be inducted into the Hall of Fame as an athlete. She was an All-America performer three times in cross country and three times

pair of third-place efforts in track and field, both at 10,000 meters. After graduation, Laktasic became a nationally competitive marathoner, winning the Houston Marathon in 1988. She earned an M.B.A. from the University of New Mexico in 1991 and is an executive assistant at Cell Robotics in Albuquerque, N.M.

• James DeWeerd '68, one of the top swimmers ever to compete at Macalester, was an NAIA All-American all four years of college. He won the 1967 national championship in the 200-yard freestyle and the 1965 national championship in the 400-yard



James DeWeerd '68

medley relay, with teammates James Anderson '66, Darwin Klockers '66 and Joseph Mannikko '66. DeWeerd earned All-America honors eight times in individual events and seven times in relays. He also established NAIA national records in two events. DeWeerd consistently won conference championships in freestyle events and relays. Since 1978, he has practiced orthopedic surgery in Stevens Point, Wis. In January, he will become president of the St. Michael's Hospital medical staff; he is also president and chair of the board of Rice Clinic in Stevens Point. He has served as a Boy Scout counselor, YMCA Partners in Youth coach and youth hockey officer.

in track. In cross country, Laktasic placed 12th nationally in 1980 and 1981 and finished fourth in 1983. As a senior, she joined with teammate Julia Kirtland '87 to place first and second, respectively, at the NCAA Central Regionals. Her best national finishes were a

Athletes of the Year

Jenny Scanlon '95 (Fullerton, Calif.) and Chris Link '95 (Sparks, Nev.) were honored Oct. 14 by the M Club as Macalester's Female and Male Athletes of the Year for 1993-94.

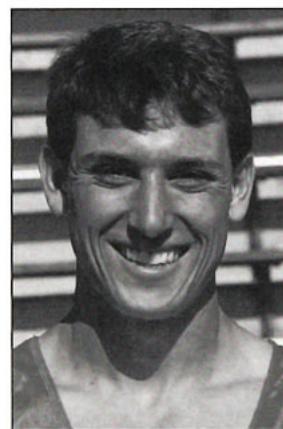
Both are two-sport standouts.

Scanlon has rewritten the Macalester women's soccer record book. Going into this fall's season, she had scored 53 goals and assisted on 26 others while leading the Scots to a 38-15-1 overall record. She has twice been named to the All-America team. Playing softball at Macalester for the first time last spring, she batted .296 and fielded well at short-stop to help the Scots finish at 16-16.



Jenny Scanlon '95

Link competed in football and track. A starting defensive back, he recorded 79 tackles in 1993, third most on the team, and was the Scots' top punt returner. He excelled in track and field last season, establishing a school record in the 200-meter dash after setting the 400-meter record as a sophomore. He was also a



Chris Link '95

member of two relay teams which set school marks.

Here are the previous M Club Athletes of the Year:

- 1993: Matt Highfield '94 and Jennifer Tonkin '93
- 1992: Mark Omodt '92 and Jane Ruliffson '92
- 1991: Roger Bridge '92 and Cindy Nelson '91
- 1990: Tom Kreutzian '90 and Jane Ruliffson '92
- 1989: Mike Vidmar '89 and Kathy Korn '89

Macalester honors a man of peace, Kofi Annan '61

On Sept. 9, Kofi Annan '61 was presented with the third annual Macalester Board of Trustees Award for Meritorious and Distinguished Service at the college's opening convocation of the 1994-95 academic year.

Annan, who came to Macalester from his native Ghana, is the United Nations' undersecretary-general for peacekeeping operations. He oversees 17 operations, with a budget of more than \$3.8 billion, mandated to keep or restore peace throughout the world.

Here are excerpts from his remarks at the convocation:

IT IS A JOY FOR ME TO BE AT Macalester again. The years I spent here as a student were one of the most enriching experiences of my life . . .

"My arrival in St. Paul marked my first trip outside Africa, my first experience of the changing seasons, my first encounter with winter.

"To a child of the tropics, bundling up in the endless layers of winter wear was a nuisance. Most of it seemed necessary enough, but one odd item seemed both

Arriving here, I had no way of knowing what vast diversity and beauty the seasons here would offer. I was tremendously impressed by the way they co-existed in one place, each complementing the other. What I realized rapidly, however, was that, at Macalester, this diversity did not apply only to the weather.

"Thirty years before the end of apartheid, a decade before the civil rights movement in this country, there was a celebration of diversity throughout this student body unlike any other I have known. Macalester's academic excellence was deeply rooted in a reverence and respect for other cultures. Students from a wide range of backgrounds and nationalities lived, worked and grew together. We were not merely greeted with tolerance; we were welcomed with warmth. I felt immediately at home . . .

"Each of you here today will remember the Los Angeles riots; each of you should



GREG HELGESON



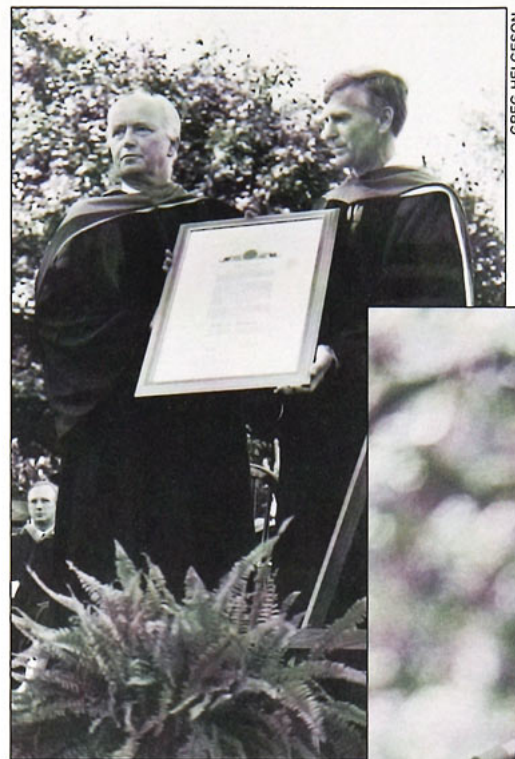
GREG HELGESON

strange and inelegant: ear muffs. I was determined not to wear them. Only when I returned from a brisk winter walk with my ears nearly frozen did I have to conclude that the natives probably knew what they were doing. This was an early lesson that Macalester taught me: never walk into an environment and assume that you understand it better than the people who live there. That lesson has been useful ever since . . .

"The climate here taught me one other crucial lesson: the beauty of diversity.

realize how close — and how quickly — chaos can come. In the midst of that chaos, however, there was one crucial question: 'Can't we all just get along?'

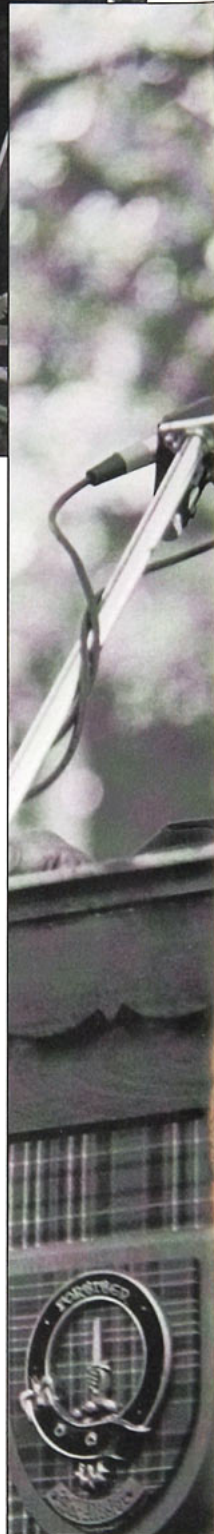
"I believe that we can get along, but only if we get together. I believe that we can respond to crises effectively and save many lives, but only if we follow the courage of our convictions rather than the



GREG HELGESON

limits of our interests. I even believe that our cooperation will one day be strong enough for us to prevent many of the crises which have tested our will and drained our resources. Reaching that level of cooperation will depend on your generation. It is a challenge well worth pursuing.

"As you enter this complex and interdependent world, you will find that many elements of your Macalester experience will greatly enhance both your understanding and your contribution. The languages, the history and the cultural diversity which the college offers you will all be vital. You will be sorely tested; many of you have been already. But overcoming each adversity will give you a surer sense both of your goal and of yourself. With determination, effort and time, you will develop inner strength and the



confidence to follow the line of your own inner compass. And as the years pass, that compass will become ever more exact.

"That compass will guide and aid you at the most difficult of life's moments, when you will have to act alone. I have had to turn to it often, and I can tell you that the focus which I found here has never failed me . . ."

President Gavin:

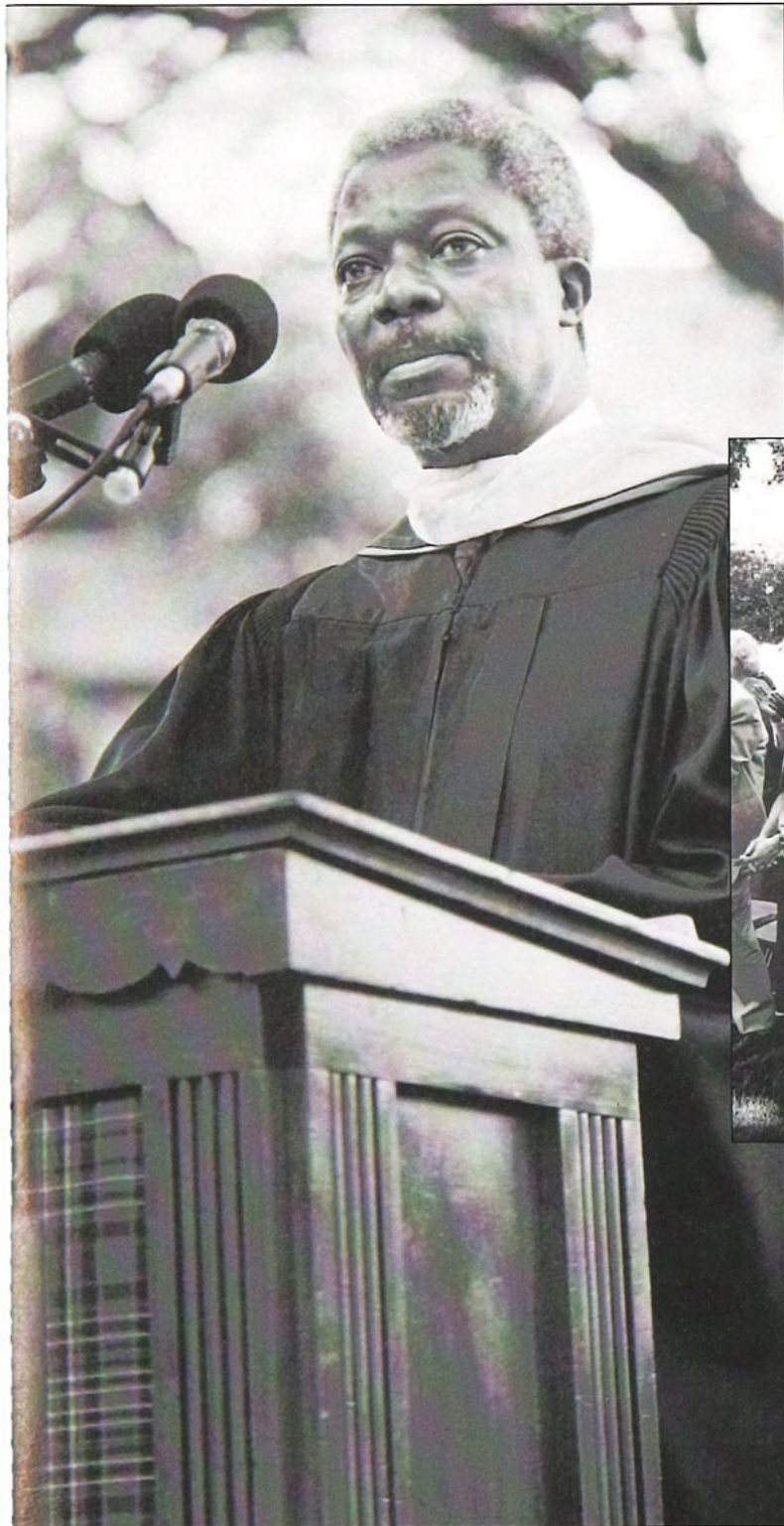
"If I imagined what path a Macalester graduate would take during 30 years after he or she left here, what contributions he would make to the world and what value he would place on the importance of education, and how he would reach across national boundaries to find the common good, I would envision someone like Kofi Annan. For he has devoted his entire adult life to service and the pursuit of the most elusive goal, world peace."

Thorvald Stoltenberg, a veteran Norwegian diplomat and a friend of Annan:

"There is a Spanish proverb that says, 'Traveler, there are no roads. Roads are made by walking.'

"I can assure you, dear friends, Kofi Annan walks, and he walks out new roads. It is a blessing to all of us that the United Nations and the world have a personality like Kofi Annan in this central position at this very moment. Another person might not have had the same dedication and the same willingness to build up peacekeeping as the important tool for a future order." ●

GREG HELGESON



The convocation was held on the lawn in front of Old Main. Below and opposite page: the audience responds to Kofi Annan's remarks. The audience included Annan's wife, Nane, at far right in photo below. Top, opposite page: President Gavin and Thorvald Stoltenberg with the award they presented to Annan.



MIKE HABERMANN

Free transcript

For a free copy of the transcript of the Sept. 9 convocation, send a postcard to:

College Relations Office,
Macalester College, 1600 Grand Ave.,
St. Paul, MN 55105-1899

The fact is, facts aren't what they used to be

Tainted Truth:

The Manipulation of Fact in America
by Cynthia Crossen '73 (Simon & Schuster, 1994. 272 pages, \$23 cloth)

A reporter and editor for the *Wall Street Journal* since 1983 and a Macalester trustee, Crossen examines "the explosion of corrupted information" in the U.S.

Her book shows how studies sponsored by industry and advocacy groups can be made to "prove" virtually anything, to the detriment of the public good. "Numbers bring a sense of rationality to complex decisions — the ones we once made with common sense, experience and intelligence," she writes. "Yet more and more of the information we use to buy, elect, advise, acquit and heal has been created not to expand our knowledge but to sell a product or advance a cause."

Crossen examines a variety of questionable or manipulated studies, statistics and polls, such as the Anita Hill-Clarence Thomas public opinion polls conducted during the confirmation hearings for Thomas; the information supplied by Dow Corning about silicone breast implants, and the research produced by an environmental group that resulted in a public panic over the safety of apples.

In the concluding chapter, Crossen suggests a number of ways "to clean up each part of the information stream and to restore, at least partially, people's faith in numbers, fact, reality and truth."

El Tigre: Historia Grafica de un Pueblo Petrolero (The Tiger: Graphic History of an Oil Town)
by Juan Raydan '77 (published in Venezuela, 1993. 304 pages, hardcover)

Juan Raydan spent a decade researching and writing this history of his hometown in Venezuela. El Tigre was founded in 1933 following the discovery of oil in the area, and it is now a substantial city which depends mainly on the oil industry. The book contains numerous photographs.

The Translator in the Text: On Reading Russian Literature in English
by Rachel May (Northwestern University Press, 1994. 220 pages, \$49.95 cloth, \$15.95 paperback)

The popularity of Russian literature in the English-speaking world rests almost entirely upon translations. The many

BEVERLY HALL



Cynthia Crossen '73

competing versions of major works and the continuing publication of new and revised translations suggest the complex interplay between language and literature.

In this book, Rachel May, assistant professor of Russian at Macalester, analyzes Russian literature in English translation, treating it less as a substitute for the original works than as a special subset of English literature, with its own cultural, stylistic and narrative traditions. She explores the translator's role as mediator between cultures and among the voices within literary texts.

May is the translator, with Larry Joseph, of Abram Tertz's novella *Little Jinx*.

Losing Absalom

by Alexs D. Pate (Coffee House Press, 1994. 256 pages, \$19.95 hardcover)

In his debut novel, Pate writes about a contemporary African-American family in Philadelphia. They are pushed into tragedy by the impending death of their father, Absalom Goodman, and their struggle amid the obstacles of racism and inner-city life.

An author and performance artist, Pate teaches writing at both Macalester and the University of Minnesota. His stories, articles and essays have appeared in such publications as the *Washington Post*, *Utne Reader*, *Essence* and *USA Weekend*.

Sifting through the Ashes: Lessons Learned from the Painted Cave Fire

by Andrew J. Schmidt '89 and three other authors (University of California, Santa Barbara, 1993. 194 pages, \$6.95 paperback)

This study is the work of students in the Graduate Program in Public Historical Studies at the University of California at Santa Barbara. In part, it is a narrative account of the wildfire that swept down upon Santa Barbara on June 27, 1990. The book also recounts the history of wildfires in Southern California



GREG HELGESON

Rachel May, assistant professor of Russian



An American family portrait, taken at Easter in 1932 in Portland, Ore.: Esther Torii Suzuki '46, left, with her parents, Tokichi and Tomae, and sisters, Lucy and Eunice. In 1942, they fell victim to anti-Japanese war hysteria. Just hours before a guarded train took the rest of her family from a detention center in Portland to an internment camp in Idaho, Esther was released when Macalester accepted her as a student.

and, on the basis of historical perspectives, offers a series of policy recommendations.

Calling the Circle:

The First and Future Culture
by Christina Baldwin '68 (Swan,
Raven & Co., 1994. 252 pages,
\$14.95 paperback)

The circle has been used as a spiritual and social form since the first campfires. In her new work, Baldwin introduces a structure for "calling" the circle and exploring its potential to empower people in their ordinary lives.

Using three principles — rotating leadership, sharing responsibility and attention to "Spirit" — Baldwin constructs a model for circling that she has named "PeerSpirit." She shows how the model may be applied at home, work, school, and in civic and religious organizations.

Promise Me Heaven
by Constance Howard
Brockway '76 (Avon
Books, 1994. 372 pages,
\$4.50 paperback)

This is the first historical romance novel by Connie Brockway, who lives in Edina, Minn. It tells the story of Lady Catherine "Cat" Sinclair, who must wed a wealthy man to help her impoverished family.

Reflections: Memoirs of Japanese-American Women in Minnesota
edited by John Nobuya
Tsuchida (Pacific Asia
Press, 1994. 434 pages,
cloth, about \$30)

The 14 women who undertook this book project did so for three reasons, their editor says: to document their deep appreciation for Minnesotans who had welcomed and accepted Japanese Americans from the West Coast; to record, for the sake of posterity, their experiences and the struggles of their immigrant parents from Japan; and to recount how they were affected by the war between their native country

and their parents' homeland.

One of the women is Esther Torii Suzuki '46 of Minneapolis, a retired social worker. Her chapter includes her November 1991 *Macalester Today* article about how she came to Macalester from a detention camp in Portland, Ore. She also tells in greater detail the story of her family before and after her college years. Her chapter features many family photographs.

Reflections is distributed by Multicultural Distributing Center in Covina, Calif.; call 818-575-1000 for information. Or contact Urban Traveler, 1655 West County Road B2, Roseville, MN 55113; phone (612) 631-9655

In the Lake of the Woods

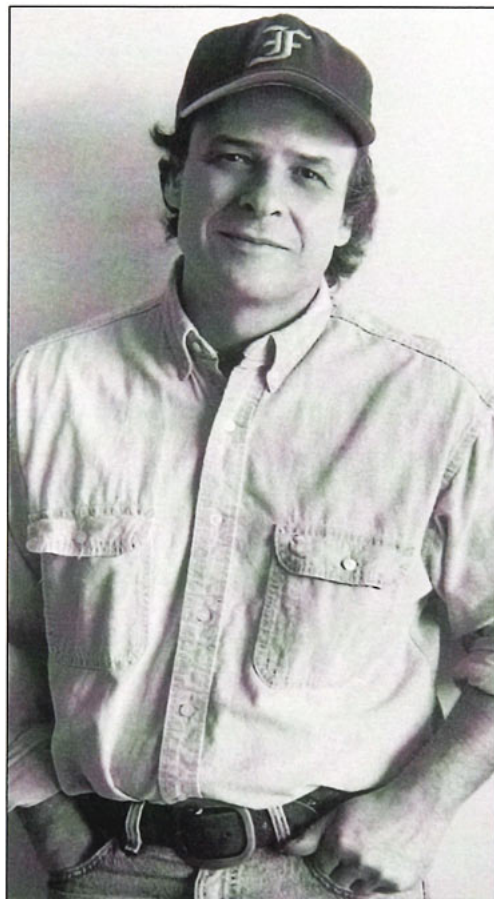
by Tim O'Brien '68 (Houghton Mifflin,
1994. 320 pages, \$21.95 cloth)

John Wade, an ambitious Minnesota politician, suffers a devastating loss in his

bid for the U.S. Senate after the news media learn about his role in a Vietnam War massacre years before. With his wife, Kathy, he retreats to a cabin in northern Minnesota to lick his wounds. Their marriage, it turns out, is deeply troubled.

Then Kathy disappears. A massive search is launched. Did she drown? Did she run away from John? Is she simply lost in the wilderness? Did John, still haunted by his demons from Vietnam, murder her?

The author of *Going After Cacciato* and *The Things They Carried* returns again to



Tim O'Brien '68

Vietnam for the themes of his new novel. Real people and events — including Lt. William Calley and the My Lai massacre — are mixed with fiction in O'Brien's own distinctive style.

"I spent 365 days and more in that hellhole," O'Brien, a foot soldier in Vietnam in 1969–70, told Macalester graduates at commencement in 1993. "In my writing now, and probably for the rest of my life, I'll be returning to the theme of choice, moral value, human courage. America gave me Vietnam, and all I'm doing is giving it back." ●

MPR:

*Just
Call It 'Macalester
Public Radio'*

'Broadcasting' originally meant the scattering of seeds. A generous handful of Macalester alums has found broadcasting a fertile field of endeavor at Minnesota Public Radio.

by Deborah Alexander

All things considered: Radio reporters Stephen Smith '82, Michael Mulcahy '84 and Tom Fudge '82

THREE EARLY 1980S MACALESTER graduates are heard regularly on Minnesota Public Radio, covering everything from African native healers to the latest committee hearing at the state Capitol. All three research and write their news reports, and sound-mix their stories in the studio.

After 10 years at MPR, reporter-producer Stephen Smith '82 devotes his energies to long-form documentaries, juggling half a dozen projects at a time. His in-depth looks at such topics as hate crimes, Indian boarding schools and physician-assisted suicide air nationally on "Sound Print" and "All Things Considered." He has won major awards, including the prestigious Robert F. Kennedy Award for "Children in a Cocaine Cage," about the so-called crack kids of the '90s.

In contrast, Michael Mulcahy '84 is more the harried beat reporter, facing three daily dead-

lines. Covering state government, he customarily puts in 60-hour weeks during the legislative session, dogging lawmakers through the halls for quotes and facts.

Tom Fudge '82 falls somewhere in between. As a general assignment reporter, he may chase down news at City Hall or cut together an arts feature. He likes variety.

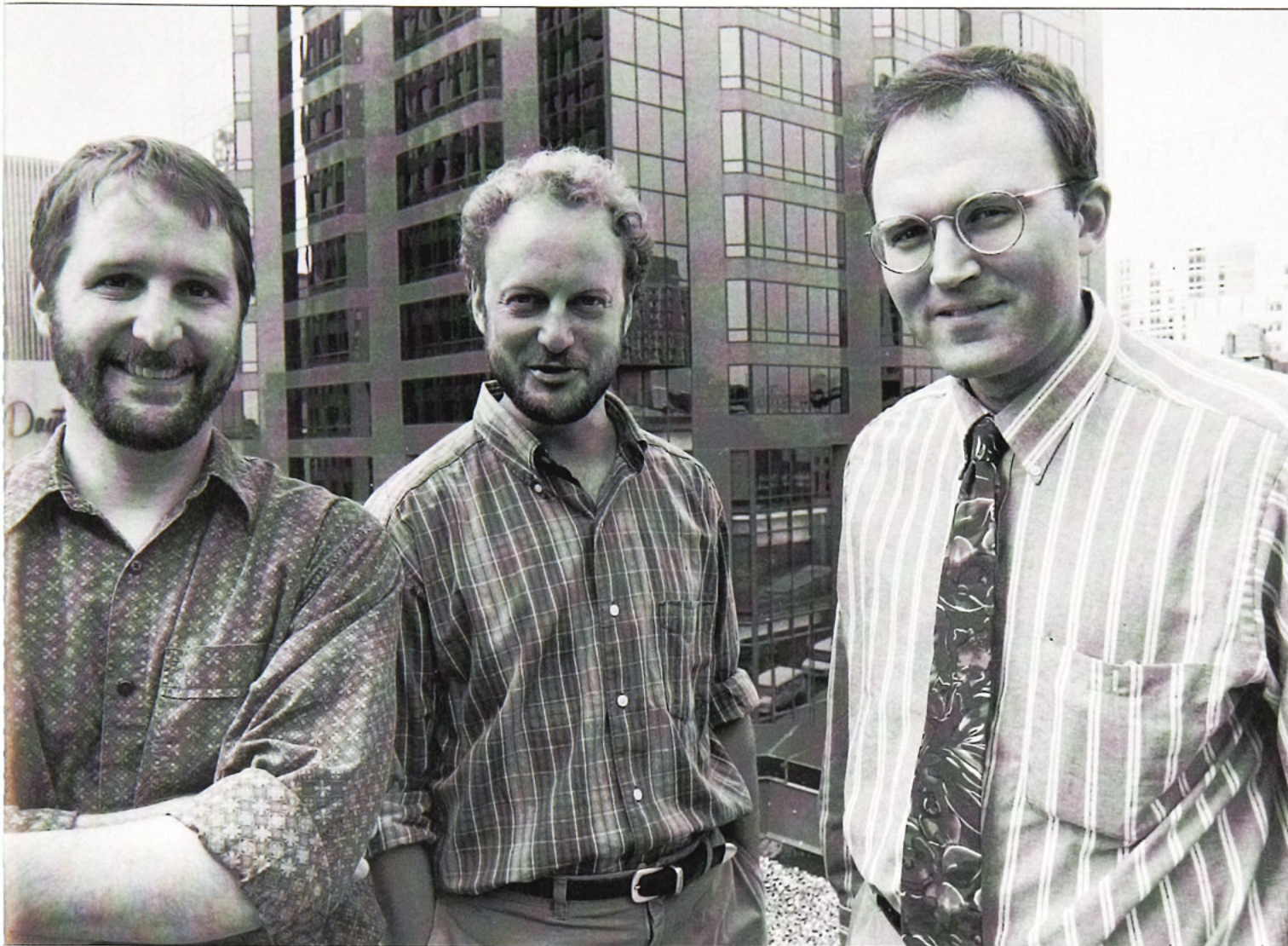
According to Smith, public radio is increasingly the last bastion of serious radio. "We have the time to tell important stories in a creative and substantive way. That's essential. Some stories can't be told in 60 seconds."

Smith adds, "If you look at the continuum of my work, it tends to focus on people who — I don't want to say dispossessed, because that sounds too preachy — but it tends to be about people whose stories are less often charted in detail."

For instance, on a recent day Smith was delving into a complex discussion of mental depression, illustrated by both Jane Kenyon's poem "Having It Out with Melancholy" and the playing of a cellist afflicted with the illness. At the same time, Smith examined how depression affects a hairdresser and a person for whom depression means not being able to hold down any job.

Smith also went to South Africa to chart the progress of voter registration in Natal province, visiting Macalester classmate Doug Tilton '82, who was in Durban helping run voter education projects for the Presbyterian Church. More recently, Smith traveled to Sarajevo to study how average people





there were coping with the trauma of the siege. His documentary, "Surviving the Siege," was broadcast nationally as part of "All Things Considered."

Fudge, meanwhile, pursued a story about a 17-year-old Vietnamese expatriate skilled at playing native instruments. She lived next to a freeway, so Fudge used traffic sounds cross-faded with her playing to connote the contrasts in her world.

These are hardly the type of projects that would turn up on a local commercial radio station.

Of the three, only Mulcahy caught the radio bug at Macalester. He used to host the "Tuesday Night Fish Fry" from 8 to 10 p.m. on WMCN. "It was great fun," he says, "which is probably why I'm still in radio. It's never been quite as much fun as it was then, but I had the vain hope that it would be, and then they started paying me. Now I can't stop." Mulcahy worked at KSTP Radio briefly before joining the start-up MPR station in Rochester. His coverage of the Hormel strike in Austin brought him to the attention of MPR's KNOW, where he's worked for eight years.

Deborah Alexander is a free-lance writer. She lives in St. Paul.

Fudge studied theater as an undergraduate, earning his M.A. in mass communications from the University of Minnesota. He likes radio because of the writing: "It's an opportunity to write every day, and I enjoy that." Fudge is the relative newcomer; he's been with MPR four years. He thinks it's appealing work for a person with a liberal arts education.

A PERFECT EXPRESSION OF [the liberal arts] in the real world is journalism," Fudge says, "where you do go out and learn new things every day, by attending the classroom of the world, if you will. It's entirely possible that tomorrow I might be asked to do a story on nuclear waste storage or housing or politics or science. And when you're a reporter, you know you have to go out there and make a quick study of it."

Smith's journalistic instincts in college leaned more toward photography: He toted a camera around campus for the *Mac Weekly*. Key professors such as Robert Warde and the late Ron Ross urged him toward writing. "George Moses got me hooked," he says. "He was teaching his last year

Reporters Tom Fudge (left), Stephen Smith and Michael Mulcahy take the broad view from the rooftop patio at Minnesota Public Radio in downtown St. Paul.

before retiring to his trout stream in Montana. He made it clear to me that it was possible to be a journalist and actually do something intelligent.”

As Smith sees it, public radio allows him the opportunity to speak to issues that society tends to neglect or ignore, and to present these issues to an audience both educated and engaged.

“It’s a wonderful audience because if you take something that needs to be changed about our world, and put it in their faces, these people may be able to do something about it.”

MACALESTER ARCHIVES



Garrison Keillor’s talented ‘Prairie Home’ companions

**Producer
Chris Tschida
'75 and writer
Ken LaZebnik
'77**

IT’S VERY MISLEADING. MOST PEOPLE tend to have a misconception that his humor is somehow downhome humor. It’s actually extremely sophisticated,” says Ken LaZebnik ’77.

Since the subject is Garrison Keillor, LaZebnik should know. One of two mid-70s Mac alums who arrived at Minnesota Public Radio through theater, he joined the traveling circus of Minnesota’s home-grown humorist — Keillor’s radio show “A Prairie Home Companion” — as a contributing writer.

Both LaZebnik and producer Christine Tschida ’75 hooked up with Keillor’s merry band not in St. Paul but during the radio show’s East Coast sojourn, when it went by the name “American Radio Company.”

LaZebnik, like Keillor, was a successful writer who had decided to trade the Minneapple for the Big Apple. After five years of playwriting for Mixed Blood Theater in Minneapolis, which is run by Mac alum Jack Reuler ’75, LaZebnik left to go it alone, forming his own theater company, Dear Knows, in New York.

Keillor, meanwhile, was searching for a simpatico writer. He hired his fellow Twin Cities expatriate in 1989. LaZebnik ran into Chris Tschida — then working at Brooklyn Academy of Music — and gave Keillor her name at a low point in the show’s history.

As producer, Tschida wound up overseeing the move of PHC back to its St. Paul home base. Today she lives less than a mile from where she grew up in the Macalester-Groveland neighborhood.

As a child, she always expected to go to the college down the block, and she didn’t apply anywhere else. After one semester as a math major, she



On July 6, 1974, Garrison Keillor and his “Prairie Home Companion” comrades made their first “live” broadcast from Macalester’s Janet Wallace Fine Arts Center. Left: Ken LaZebnik: “Writing for the radio is such a wonderfully liberating experience.”

switched to theater with a core concentration in classics — a major that makes parents nervous.

“They wonder what you’re going to do with it. But I had a sort of business head — I always had a kind of practical side — and while I was doing things in the theater department and appearing on stage, I’d do things like manage the box office and figure out a new system for ticketing.”

After a brief stint in children’s libraries, she began arranging national tours for the Guthrie Theater, then international booking for performing-arts impresario Peter Sellars in Washington, D.C. It was excellent training for the peripatetic PHC. From its St. Paul anchor, PHC tours the country for eight of its 32 shows a year, spending another eight at its New York satellite. Fortunately, Tschida loves to travel.

The day of an interview, she reigned calm in an MPR studio, while cutting together several best-of-PHC segments with a sound engineer into a special fund-raising format for the record 311 member stations that now carry the broadcast. That morning, she’d squired a C-SPAN camera crew around the World Theater (renamed the Fitzgerald Theater in September), a quieter routine than when Keillor prepares for a live show. Then, Tschida might be found taxing the capacity of the station photocopiers, trying to get script revisions into the hands of actors in time for Saturday’s curtain. Keillor rewrites to the last minute, then delivers his monologue with his notes in his pocket.

Most people know PHC from the public radio broadcast. From Tschida's standpoint, it's live theater, too. Purely mechanical details remain to be dealt with, from renting theaters to hiring stagehands to selling tickets. While Keillor demands 110 percent of his crew, he gives 150 percent of himself, she attests. It never feels like working too hard, even when Friday rehearsals run long, or when she realizes it's the 10th weekend invitation she's turned down lately. "I absolutely love working with him," she says, beaming. "He's a genius."

The similarity that links all her jobs thus far is excellence, working with the best in the business. "In this position, the level of talent has been so terrific. I'm privileged."

SHE OCCASIONALLY WONDERS, however, what will come next. "I don't have that kind of career path laid out," she says. "I don't know what the next learning experience will be." If she were more of a self-promoter, maybe she would have mapped out her mid-career next step, she feels. "Sometimes, frankly, I'm scared about that. Garrison once said, 'These are not tenured positions.' I think you have to allow for change, in all of the arts and this business too . . ."

"I'd love a sabbatical," she laughed. "Boy, wouldn't that be great! A year living in Europe, that would be absolutely my dream."

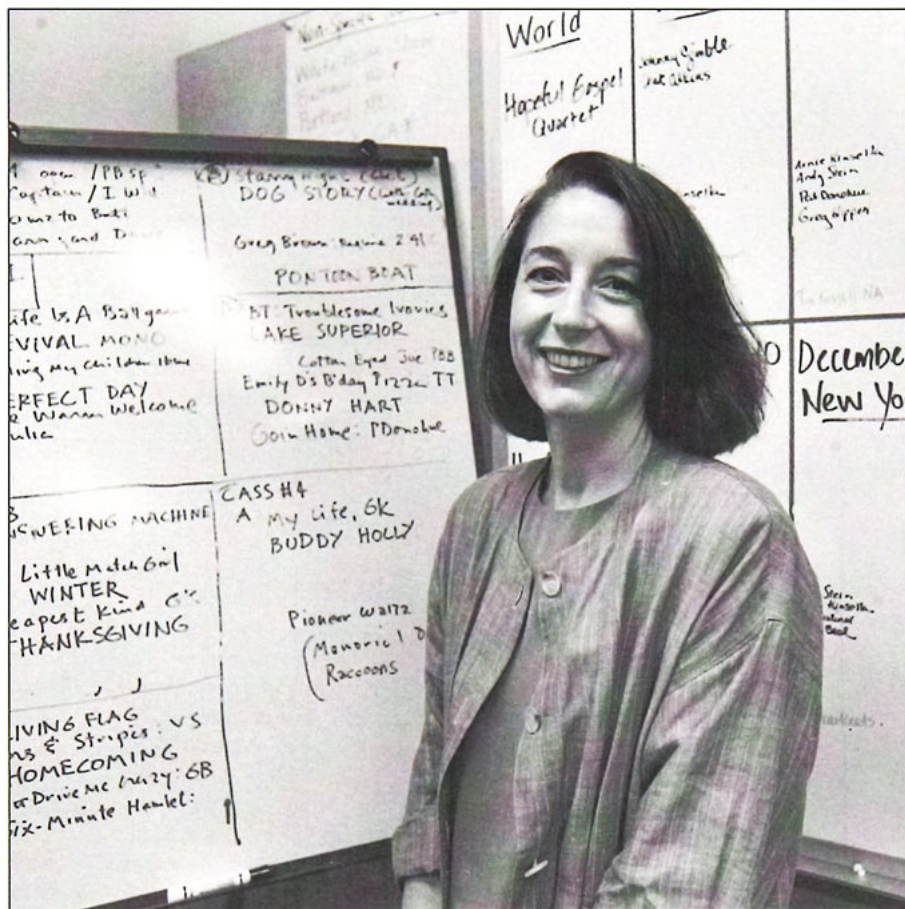
LaZebnik didn't return to the Twin Cities with the show. He followed his two brothers out West; all three write for television in Southern California. Ken still sends regular submissions to Keillor.

"Garrison is the real thing," says LaZebnik. "He is unbelievably prolific. I always try to tell people, I write the four minutes of the show he doesn't." This means LaZebnik may be called upon to research a short item about a city being visited that week, whether it be Spartanburg, S.C., or Bloomington, Ind. Or he'll contribute a comic bit on some topical subject — Whitewater, for example.

"At this point, I've done it so long now I know what the needs of his show are," he says. "I just

kind of write the things I think he'll find interesting. I send him stuff, and he either uses it or he doesn't."

So far, LaZebnik's only staff writing jobs have been for television shows that were canceled. Any way you look at it, writing for Keillor sounds more



GREG HELGESON

Chris Tschida: "I'm privileged."

fun than scripting, say, Tom Arnold's short-lived sitcom, "The Jackie Thomas Show."

"Writing for the radio is such a wonderfully liberating experience," says LaZebnik. "There's nothing quite like it. And of course writing for Garrison, the great joy is you can be literate, which you can't always be writing for TV. You can assume a certain intelligence on your audience's part. It really is wonderfully fun."

Another wave in broadcasting

These other Macalester alums also work at Minnesota Public Radio:

Jon Gordon '87 recently became a reporter after working as an associate producer at MPR. **Andrea Matthews '83** is a senior writer in marketing and communications. **Studio engineer Jeffrey Conrod '92** delivers continuity breaks and occasional newscasts. **Mary Strasma '89** works as an administrative assistant in the Minnesota Communications Group, the non-profit parent of MPR. **And Anne Voglewede '73** is senior development officer of major, individual and planned gifts.

Being Gay Is No Sin, Two Presbyterians from '34 Tell Their Church

by Rebecca Ganzel

WHEN CHARLOTTE BAILEY SINDT was growing up as a preacher's kid, her father had a set children's sermon that commanded attention. To illustrate the evils of the world, he would lay three objects in front of his young Presbyterians: a deck of cards, a bottle of port wine and a pair of dancing slippers.

Gambling, drinking and dancing were still frowned upon by the Presbyterian church when Charlotte entered Macalester as a sophomore in

1931 — and Macalester was a very Presbyterian college. (All four of Charlotte's brothers and sisters — Ernest, Frances, Claire, and Arthur — had preceded her there.)

So it is all the more ironic that when Charlotte met

Wilbert Gustav Sindt, her husband of 57 years and counting, it was dancing that helped bring them together: the first-ever dance held on the Macalester campus, sponsored by the Alumni Society during their senior year.

Another irony is that Charlotte and Gus have spent the last 30 years working to reform the Presbyterian church's policy toward another "evil," one that Charlotte's father would probably have considered unmentionable even in an adult sermon: homosexuality.

It was around 1965 when their son, David, an ordained Presbyterian minister working on a master's in social work, drove from his Michigan graduate school to his parents' house in St. Paul with one prepared sentence: "I am a homosexual." After their initial bewilderment wore off during the ensuing all-night discussion — "I didn't even know what the word meant," Charlotte remembers — the Sindts rallied behind their son.

The church's policy, then as now, was to refuse to ordain ministers who were openly gay. "David decided he was going to open up the church," Charlotte says. He began by going to synod meetings in his clerical collar with a pin that asked, "Is Any-

body Else Gay?" When the church denied him ministry on another pretext, he became a social worker in Chicago, founding the group Presbyterians for Lesbian and Gay Concerns.

Then, in 1985, David found out he had AIDS. The Sindts drove the 16 hours roundtrip to Chicago every weekend he was ill. He died in December 1986.

"Reforming the church has become our mission," Charlotte says. "Presbyterians have got to get on the ball — we are denying access to gifted, valuable people."

"Everyone [in our congregation in North St. Paul] knows where we stand, no question about it," Gus says.

"But," Charlotte says, "nobody discusses it."

They have found Macalester's attitude a welcome contrast. The Sindts have been involved with the college throughout the 60 years since they graduated — as class agents, as Phonathon volunteers, as a past Alumni Board member (Charlotte), as donors, as members of the Heritage Society and as an M Club member (Gus, a proud veteran of three MIAC-champion track teams).

They have served as a host family with the International Center, to Kenyan student Nyaguthii "Mary" Gichuru '64, with whom they still keep in touch; Mary stayed at the Sindts' home in Afton, Minn., for a week after her 25th reunion.

In fact, Gus figures he owes his very livelihood to Macalester: It was a chemistry professor, R. Uriah Jones, who sought him out for the job that eventually led to Gus' career as an expert in the chemical properties of printers' ink. He retired from 3M's printing division in 1976.

The Sindts' daughter, attorney Claire Sindt Weber, is a 1964 alum, as is Claire's husband, Ronald; their grandson, Andrew Weber, graduated in 1991. So it was not surprising when, at a recent Parents Weekend at Macalester, Charlotte and Gus found themselves part of a group discussing lesbian and gay issues with current students.

PEOPLE ASSUME THAT THE OLDER generation is most resistant to acceptance, but that isn't always true," Gus says. He remembers one young woman whose parents were outraged at the news that she was a lesbian, but whose grandmother simply said, "So what else is new?"

Eventually, the Sindts hope, this attitude will prevail, and the "sin" of homosexuality will go the way of gambling, drinking and dancing in the eyes of the Presbyterian church. After all, Charlotte remembers when her father stopped giving his children's sermon — after one prop, the wine bottle, mysteriously disappeared during the family's move from Virginia, Minn., to Estherville, Iowa.

Years later, Charlotte asked her brother, Art, about that wine, and the memory of his reply still brings tears of laughter to her eyes:

"It tasted like vinegar." ●



GREG HELGESON

Charlotte and Gus Sindt of the Class of '34 at home in Afton, Minn.

Rebecca Ganzel is a free-lance writer and graduate student who lives in St. Paul.



Measuring
Macalester

1984-
1994

- **An interview with President Gavin •**
- **The college in a decade of change •**
- **Mac people look to the future •**

M

Measuring
Macalester
1984-1994



The Gavins' daughter Anne teases her parents at the inaugural dance in 1984 after they spent a long day being photographed.

On Oct. 20, 1984, Robert M. Gavin, Jr., was formally inaugurated as Macalester's 14th president. In a recent interview, he reflected on the past and looked to the future of Macalester.

AS YOU LOOK back over the past decade, in what three broad areas do you believe Macalester has made the greatest gains?

I think the most important thing is that we have taken a look at what we have done well in the past, and decided to focus on being the best Macalester we can be. We have come up with a mission statement that is clear, consistent and to the point. ["Macalester is committed to being a pre-eminent liberal arts college with an educational program known for its high standards for scholarship and its special emphasis on internationalism, multiculturalism, and service to society."] Those are the distinctive elements which our faculty and staff have emphasized over the years, and which our alumni have appreciated.

Two things have come out of the focus on our mission. One is an emphasis on developing support for and building the faculty. Ten years ago, faculty compensation had deteriorated. Our first strategic plan was to try to provide adequate compensation so we could keep the good faculty that we had and also attract the best new faculty.

The second emphasis is the environment in which faculty teach. Some of our buildings were in deplorable condition. You just can't teach well under those conditions. So we worked to improve the campus facilities.

Luckily for us, everybody now is looking to what Macalester has emphasized for a long time as the key elements for educational excellence. When we talk about wanting to be the best Macalester we can be and wanting to have an outstanding academic program, we are talking about building upon the elements that have been part of the Macalester tradition, elements that are crucial today and will be crucial for the next 10, 20, 30 years.

Is it important for Macalester to move into the ranks of the U.S. *News & World Report* list of top 25 national liberal arts colleges? If so, why?

In our strategic plan, our goal is to be pre-eminent among liberal arts colleges. That does not mean being rated one of the top 25 by *U.S. News* or the *Fiske Selective Guide to Colleges* or anyone else. It means to be among a select few that are the leading institutions of our type in the country.

We want to be the best Macalester we can be, and we think in doing so, others will recognize that. I think the *U.S. News* top 25 list is biased in a number of ways toward Eastern schools. But overall, it is not a bad list. They are the same colleges that Fiske gives a five-star rating and that other guides rate highly. I do think it is important for us to have external evaluation if we are to continue to attract

outstanding students, and external evaluation is what leads to many of these rankings. So sure, even though I can criticize the *U.S. News & World Report* methodology, in some ways it is important for us to have outside reference points. Those outside reference points evaluate academic quality, and we ought to be able to stand up to the very best institutions in terms of academic quality.

That goal is not new here. Our founder, Edward Duffield Neill, said he wanted Macalester to have the standards for scholarship equivalent to the very best

academic institutions in the country. That was in 1874. The theme has been around for a long time.

Occasionally you hear alumni express concern that as Macalester attracts more and more top students and becomes better known for high academic standards, the college runs the risk of becoming "elitist" or somehow losing its distinctive character. What is your response?

GREG HELGESON





John B. Davis, Jr., who became president of Macalester in 1975, shakes hands with his successor in 1984.

It seems to me that the character of Macalester is something which is connected to academic excellence, to developing global citizens, to a commitment to diversity and multiculturalism and service to society. If those qualities are elitist, then I plead guilty. But I do not think they are elitist in the pejorative sense. I think it is important for society

most important things Macalester has done in the sciences in the past 10 years? And what must the college do in the next 10 years?

Whenever anybody asks about the sciences, I like to discuss the topic in the overall context of Macalester. Science is a crucial element in driving change — for better or for worse. A top-quality academic institution has top-quality science — there's no getting away from that. I also think that if you want to be a strong liberal arts college, that college has to have equal strength in the humanities, the social sciences and the natural sciences.

Most importantly, our faculty must be able to do science and science education in a way that's most effective. All sorts of national studies have indicated that the way people learn science is not so much through lectures and reading textbooks as through hands-on, lab-rich, experimentally based science programs. The faculty and administration have worked together to purchase the equipment necessary for labs that are up to date and that will allow our students to learn science in the best way.

If you want to know what the science faculty think is important and where the curriculum is going, all one has to do is look at the planned renovation of Olin Hall and Rice Hall. The big emphases are opportunities for students to have hands-on, experimental laboratories as a way to learn about science.

A program that [Professors] Jan Serie and Lin Aanonsen developed is a national model for doing that with introductory biology. The students really learn science by doing science, not reading about it. The science facilities are being modified in such a way as to emphasize many more opportunities for doing that, at the introductory level right up to the senior level. Of course, by the time they get to the

to have educated people who are committed in these ways.

To be sure, anybody who goes to an undergraduate liberal arts college has a very special privilege. And at Macalester, we say, "Because of that privilege, you have an obligation to give back to society." If that is elitist, it is elitist in a very positive sense.

As a former chemistry professor, what do you think are the

Alvin Greenberg,
English professor:

"We'll have a wonderful opportunity to shape the long-term future of the college through the new faculty we'll be bringing in during the next decade. The large portion of our present faculty that joined the college during the Sixties (myself included) will be retiring over the coming decade, creating openings for exciting new appointments in many fields. Our national reputation continues to grow, and there are a great many highly qualified individuals who could make a fit with our undergraduate liberal arts focus."



COURTESY OF JENNIFER MCKEAND

Studying abroad: Jennifer McKeand '92, right, originally from Bloomington, Minn., went sightseeing with a friend near Munich, Germany. McKeand participated in a Biology Department-sponsored program in 1990 at the Goethe Institute and the University of Munich.

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senior level, students are doing research projects with faculty members that often result in publication in the scientific field. That is the way I see science education changing — it is going to be more research-based. The thrill of discovery is the exciting part about science, and that should not be reserved only for those who go to graduate school.

Is Macalester's large endowment sometimes as much of an obstacle for the college as an opportunity?

1984-1994: Enduring values in a world of extraordinary change

You could draw a host of comparisons between Macalester now and Macalester a decade ago. Consider a few:

- In 1984, a citizen of South Africa told Macalester students about the low turnout by voters of all races in parliamentary elections in the land of apartheid.

In 1994, South Africa held its first free election, and the voters included six Macalester students who call South Africa home. The Macalester student body in 1994 also includes several students who grew up in a country, Yugoslavia, which war has erased from the map.

- In 1984, Macalester alumni and students left their mark on national and state politics. Some campaigned for presidential candidate Walter Mondale '50, while others worked for the re-election of U.S. Sen. Rudy Boschwitz (father of Dan Boschwitz '86, Kenneth Boschwitz '82 and Thomas Boschwitz '90).

In 1994, the man who defeated Sen. Boschwitz in a subsequent election, Paul Wellstone, has several Macalester alumni on his staff.

- In 1984, when Macalester had nine faculty of color (five full-time and four part-time), the campus debated — not for the first or the last time — how it could hire more.

In 1994, students are being taught by 31 faculty of color (19 full-time and 12 part-time), and the college began implementing its plan to

When I say, "Yes, that is the case," to other college presidents, they laugh at me and say I'm making fun of them. We are fortunate to have a strong endowment. It is something Mr. Wallace wanted us to use to build an outstanding academic institution, to build an international student body and faculty, to keep this institution accessible, especially to middle-income students, through financial aid. So we have an endowment that can help us in just the directions we want to go.

We were a strong institution before the Reader's Digest stock went public and the value of the endowment went up considerably. The endowment

hire 28 additional, full-time faculty over the next five or six years; at least 10 will be faculty of color.

- In 1984, Bill Shain, the dean of admissions at Macalester, told the *Mac Weekly* he had left an Ivy League job because "Mac is smaller and infinitely more personal." He added, "I wish more people would stop by [the Admissions Office]. Students tend to think to themselves, 'I'm not a star; they won't remember me.'"

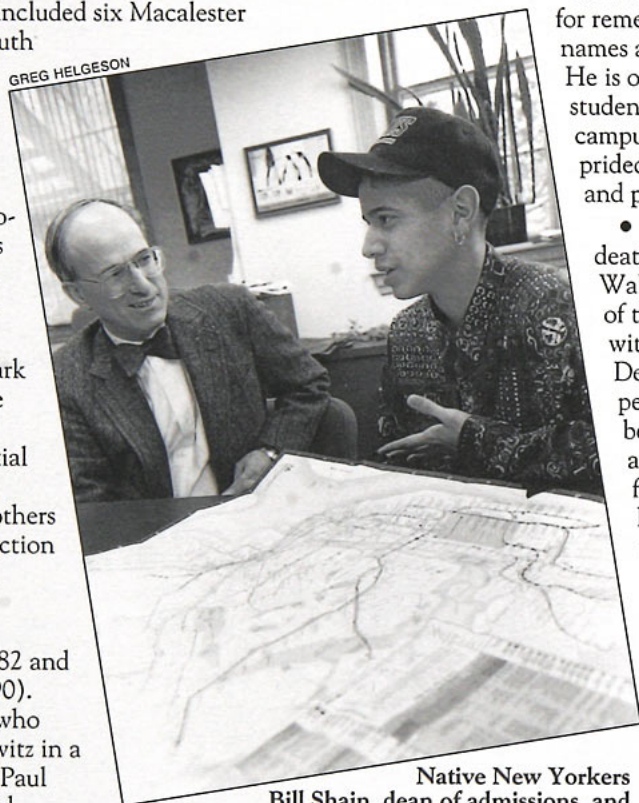
In 1994, Shain is renowned for remembering students' names and personal histories. He is one of the people students often seek out on a campus that has always prided itself on being small and personal.

- In 1984, the death of Lila Acheson Wallace, co-founder of the Reader's Digest with her late husband, DeWitt, ended the long personal relationship between Macalester and the Wallace family. The family had played a major role in the life of the college since 1887, when DeWitt's father, James Wallace, arrived on campus to teach Greek and courses on the Bible.

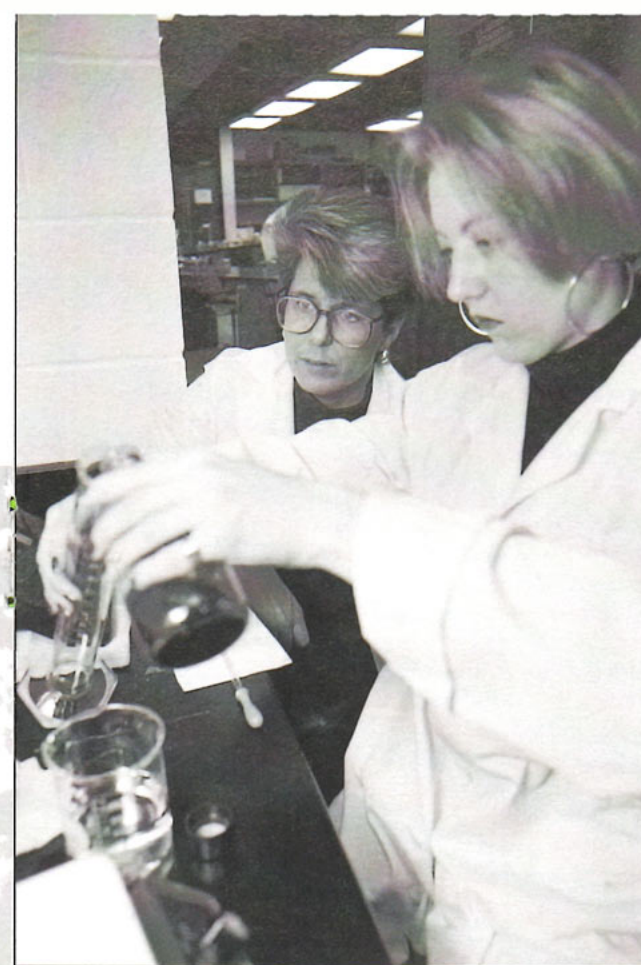
In 1994, assured of its financial stability by the Wallace legacy, the college is striving to transfer "ownership" of Macalester to its more than 23,000 living alumni.

- In 1984, the college was profoundly committed to academic excellence, multiculturalism, internationalism and service to humankind.

In 1994, it still is.



Native New Yorkers Bill Shain, dean of admissions, and Angel Rodriguez '94 study a subway map of their hometown.



Faculty-student collaboration in research: biology Professor Lin Aanonsen, left, and Christie McNickle '93.

places a great responsibility on us. We should be one of the best institutions in the country, given the resources we have. If you look at the institutions that have the strongest support from alumni and friends, those are the same ones that have the largest endowments per student. And the reason is that those institutions are committed to do things that the other institutions cannot afford to do.

We want the very best students, regardless of their ability to pay. If we simply took ability to pay into consideration, we would have a lot more net revenue from our students and our families than we have. We deliberately choose students on the basis of their academic qualifications and what they can bring to the student body here. So, we need an endowment of that size, and we need continued alumni support, if we are going to continue all the Macalester traditions we have talked about.

You and others have spoken of the need to strengthen a sense of "community" at

The faculty

1984-85: 118 full-time faculty
women faculty: 25 (21%)
faculty of color: 5 (plus 4 part-time)
average salary (all ranks): \$30,671

fall 1994: 131 full-time faculty
women faculty: 45 (34%)
faculty of color: 19 (plus 12 part-time)
average salary (all ranks): \$52,790

Macalester, and you quoted from historian Arthur Schlesinger to that effect at the opening convocation two years ago. Why is it so important to have a stronger sense of community at Macalester?

Any institution that has a strong commitment to social concerns must be concerned about community. As an academic institution, we must have an active, committed group of people who are engaged in discourse. In order to be engaged in that discourse, we need to know each other, to have ways of dealing with each other.

If we have students from 68 countries and virtually all 50 states, as we did this year, and all kinds of diversity — geographic, ethnic, racial — and yet when they come to campus they do not interact with each other, then it means absolutely nothing as an academic institution. As a student once wrote in the *Mac Weekly*, we must avoid the "zoo" syndrome, where everyone has a label and each person is in his or her own cage and we never interact with each other.

The quote that I took from Schlesinger's book, *The Disuniting of America*, had to do with whether



Alumni involvement: Stephanie Smith '90 (Chicago), left, an alumni admissions coordinator, and other alums talk with Bob Gavin at the Alumni Leadership Conference this past September.

Jeremy Hanson '95
(Ada, Minn.), student
government president:

"The greatest challenge facing Macalester in the next decade can be summed up in one word: identity. We have established the college as an academic community worthy of respect. Nonetheless, often our image is flimsy and our identity weak. It is time to not only say what we are, but to prove it. It is time to realize that the values of academic excellence, multiculturalism, internationalism and service are not products we own, but processes we build. Our values will shine through only when we adhere to them and work together to truly build a community of diversity, cultural acceptance and respect for others."

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or not one can have an intellectual community without having some common discourse on ideas. That is essential.

How do we achieve community? What steps can we take in a society, not just this campus, that has so many divisions?

I thought Walter Mondale stated this very well when he gave his acceptance speech for the Trustees' Distinguished Service Award last year. He said no matter what our differences, we all begin from the same point — we are all

human beings. And we have far more in common than the accidental differences that separate us. Those themes have to be reinforced here. After all, if you think about the international, multi-

Anne Sutherland,
professor of anthropology and dean
of international faculty development:

"Macalester enters the 21st century as one of the best liberal arts colleges in the country. We still face numerous challenges. For me the overriding question is:

How do we take the fortuitous and timely endowment from DeWitt Wallace and create an academic program of the highest quality without endangering Macalester's particular character, which embraces the spirit of free thought and individual choice?

An ongoing threat to that Macalester spirit is the suffocating small-mindedness of political correctness on campus, which stifles debate and demeans the academic program."

cultural and service elements in the Macalester mission statement, they are all premised on common human characteristics. We make certain assumptions and we have to admit that we do: that all human beings are created equal, that they are

endowed with certain rights and so on. The reason we are concerned about people in Rwanda or Cambodia or Bosnia is that they are human beings. They may have different religions and philosophical backgrounds, and may have different goals and ambitions. But it is that human tie that makes them part of us.

You've spoken of the gains that Macalester has made in the past 10 years. As you look ahead to the next 10 years, what are Macalester's top three priorities?

I think it is very clear that, first of all, we have to find a way and have the courage to maintain leadership in internationalism and developing global citizens. That is probably the No. 1 need for higher education — to develop a new way of doing business in a global scholarly community. This will involve everything from being aware of different parts of the world and different traditions to using technology. Satellite communication, the Internet — that is just the beginning of that communication. We must be in that dialogue, we cannot be bystanders.

We also need to find ways to continue to build alumni ownership of Macalester. Institutions are



Internationalism: Ozlem Ersin '94 of Turkey dishes up a plate for young Andrew Morley at the International Student Organization's annual International Dinner in 1992.

The student body

Freshman applications	Percentage admitted
fall 1984: 1,197	79 percent
fall 1994: 2,752	58 percent

Ethnic group enrollment

	FALL 1984	FALL 1994
American Indian	13	13
Asian American	23	97
African American	70	68
Hispanic	45	74
TOTAL	151	252

International student enrollment (by citizenship)

1984: 233, from 69 countries
1994: 171, from 68 countries

Five departments with most graduates (majors and cores)

1984

Economics (57 graduates)
Political Science (37)
Psychology (31)
English (30)
Mathematics (30)

1994

History (43 graduates)
Psychology (38)
Economics (33)
International Studies (33)
Biology and English (27 each)



This pedestrian path connects the new Campus Drive to Princeton and Vernon streets in Macalester's "Tangletown" neighborhood.

composed of individuals. If we only talk about the individuals and never talk about the institution, those individuals do not have anything to be a part of. So that is a major challenge for us — to continue the Alumni Soundings and other activities that we are engaged in to have the alumni more involved with the institution.

I think the third and most difficult challenge is to see if we can serve the kind of student body that

reflects the full diversity of the population of this country. Over a third of the high school graduates 10 years from now will be persons of color. Our student body hopefully will reflect that. I have also suggested that we expand our

College finances

Operating budget

1984-85: \$20.4 million

1994-95: \$49.4 million

Student financial aid

1984-85: \$3.3 million

(16% of budget)

1994-95: \$11.1 million

(22% of budget)

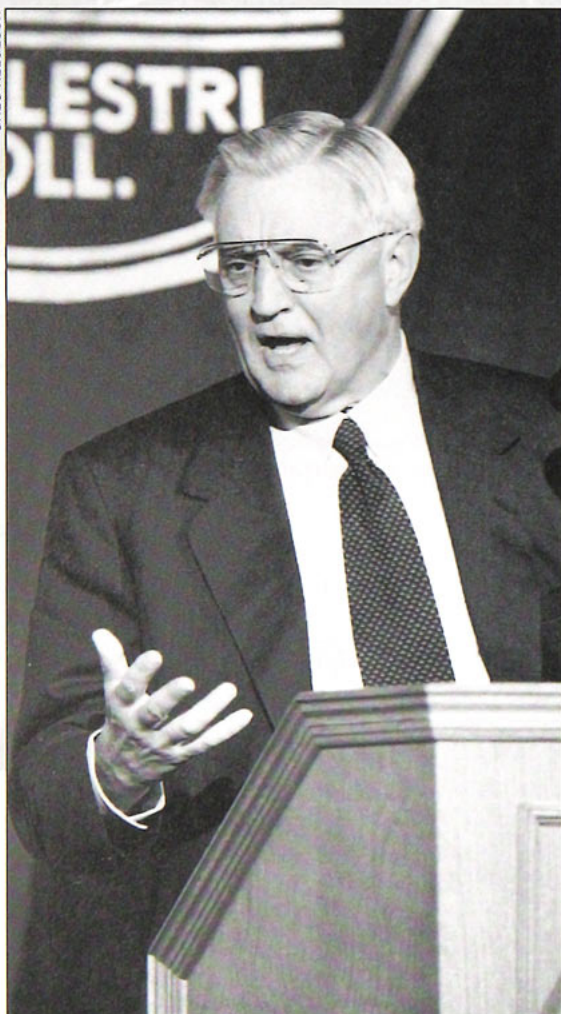
international tradition so that international students make up, say, 20 percent of the student body instead of 10 to 12 percent. That way, our campus will be more representative of the world at large and of our United Nations flag. In order to do that and to have all the resources, we need to have alumni support and financial support. Those things all tie together.

As the president of Macalester, you've had countless conversations with alumni and students over the past 10 years. Macalester people pride

"The most important challenge facing Macalester over the next 10 years is to recognize, honor, encourage and strengthen the spiritual, the 'soul' dimension of human existence across the whole life of the college, including the academic side.

The college, if it is to breathe life into its commitment to internationalism, multiculturalism and service, leading to a greater sense of community on campus, needs to be in touch with the Source of Life in a way that is true to the faith of the college's founders and sensitive to the variety of religious persuasions among students and faculty."

Ties that bind: When he was honored at Macalester in 1993, Walter Mondale '50 spoke of the bonds between people — "the joy which flows from discovering that common humanity which is to be found in all of us."



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themselves on being individuals, but how would you describe the “typical” student or alum?

The typical Macalester student with whom I interact is, first, very bright. And second, they are people who really live, in their daily lives here and after graduation, our international, multicultural and service commitment.

These are people who want to make a difference after they graduate, and that difference is always expressed, at least to me anyway, in a social context. They are not interested in just their own private gain. They see their time at Macalester as valuable in terms of broadening their perspective, getting a good education, and they see the importance of being able to share that in a society which is an international society. The students I see on campus today embody what I think is the Macalester tradition, but it is expressed in terms of the 1990s.

If you meet alumni from the 1920s, '30s, '40s and '50s, moving closer to the present day, I find many of the same elements were present when they were on campus. They left Macalester with greatly broadened perspectives, with interests that were

Janice Dickinson '64,
assistant to the
director of Macalester's
International Center
and a 1993 recipient
of the Alumni Service
Award for her
contributions
to the college:

“One of our biggest challenges and opportunities is to increase alumni involvement in the college. We need to do more for alumni and, in turn, ask more of them. The college has a worldwide network that alumni can tap into — for such things as job opportunities, internships for current students, continuing education, admissions and fund-raising. Macalester must use its endowment wisely, but it's just as important for alumni to participate in the life of the college if we're going to grow and build on the Macalester tradition.”

Major construction and renovations, 1984-2005

1984: five-year capital campaign, completed in 1984, raised more than \$33 million for physical and academic improvements

1984-85: Old Main exterior renovation

1988: DeWitt Wallace Library opened

1992-93: Carnegie Hall interior renovation; Kirk Hall exterior renovation; two-story addition to and renovation of first two floors of Humanities wing of Janet Wallace Fine Arts Center

1993: interior renovation of Old Main; track and field facility renovation

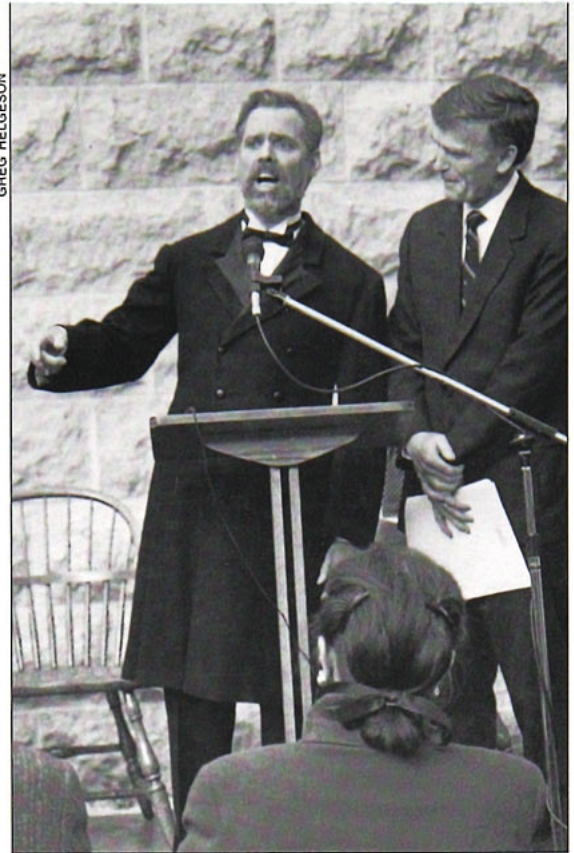
1994: Campus Drive/athletic field expansion; Alumni House renovation

1995-1997: renovation of Olin/Rice science buildings

1997-1999: construction of Campus Center

2000-2005: renovation of Field House; renovation of Janet Wallace Fine Arts Center complex

GREG HELGESON



Macalester's fifth president, James Wallace (actor Michael Miner), showed up in October 1990 to help the college's 14th president dedicate the library in honor of Wallace's son, DeWitt.

far-ranging. Generally, they went out well prepared. Whatever field they went into — business, law, various professions, public service, education — they went out to make a difference.

One of the nice things about coming together with alumni in Alumni Soundings — I think I attended 54 of them — was to have the opportunity to meet a group which would have, typically,

Alumni giving

1983-84

Total giving from alumni: \$697,908

Alumni participation: 31%

1993-94

Total giving from alumni: \$1,533,933

Alumni participation: 37%

one or two alumni who graduated in the last three or four years, and alumni who graduated as far back as 40 or 50 years ago. At the start of the conversation, there would be much concern about whether or not things today had changed, whether current students had lost their values. At the end of the conversation, almost every time the group agreed that the traditions we were talking about today were the ones that had really made a significant difference for them in their lives and careers and were the things that we ought to be emphasizing at Macalester. ●

Macalester's New Digs

**Professor Andy Overman and
a dozen students
break through
ancient barriers
on the Black Sea**

by Jon Halvorsen

FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL dig in the former Soviet Union, classics Professor Andy Overman and 12 Macalester students brought a profound curiosity, a can-do attitude and \$30,000 in small U.S. bills.

The Macalester Black Sea Project began last summer in Ukraine. Although Ukraine has the world's third-largest nuclear arsenal, its economy is in shambles. If you want to do business there, American cash paves the way. "A really nice bucket costs 11 cents," Overman said.

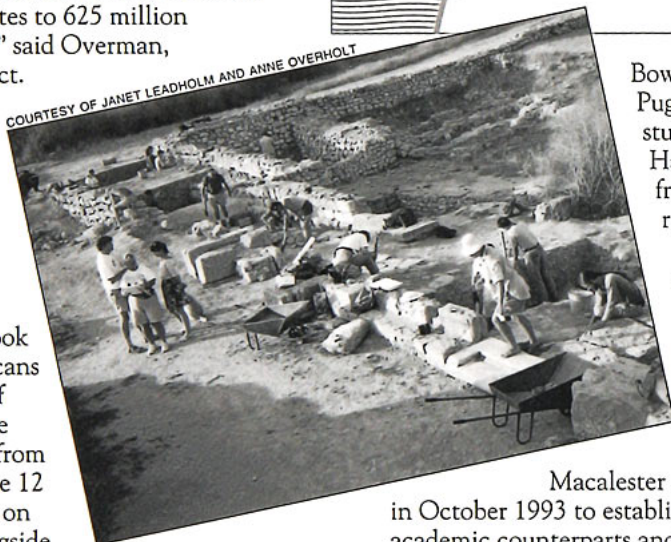
Three weeks of room and board for the archaeological team cost \$11,500 in U.S. currency. "That translates to 625 million Ukrainian coupons," said Overman, a leader of the project.

Macalester is one of the first Western colleges to conduct research in the Crimea since the Bolshevik Revolution.

The Macalester Black Sea Project took a team of 34 Americans to the north coast of the Black Sea on the Crimean peninsula from July 9 to Aug. 2. The 12 Macalester students on the dig worked alongside 17 students and scholars from Zaporozhye University of Ukraine, a co-sponsor of the project. The group also included students from Brown,



MARK MATHEWS



COURTESY OF JANET LEADHOLM AND ANNE OVERHOLT

Bowdoin, the University of Puget Sound, and graduate students from Princeton, Harvard and Yale. Scholars from Zaporozhye and Kiev rounded out the team.

The project is expected to continue for at least five years. Overman and two American colleagues — including Robert MacLennan, now adjunct professor of classics at

Macalester — first visited the area in October 1993 to establish contact with their academic counterparts and prepare the way.

The excavations are focusing on the multi-cultural nature of the ancient city of Chersonesus,

The Macalester Black Sea Project, a joint venture with Zaporozhye University in Ukraine, is based outside Sevastopol, on Ukraine's Crimean peninsula. Ukraine declared its independence from the Soviet Union in 1991.

near modern-day Sevastopol, during the Greco-Roman period. Earlier, the team found evidence of a diaspora Jewish community in Chersonesus. The first season of excavations focused on a 6th century A.D. basilica that appears to stand upon an earlier building. The archaeologists believe — in light of their survey and the earlier discovery of a Jewish Menorah and Hebrew inscriptions in the basilica — that the building

underneath is a 1st-3rd century A.D. synagogue. No diaspora synagogue has ever been found that dates to this period.

This summer, the team found evidence of a public building beneath the basilica. "This was the most successful first year of excavation we've ever had," said Overman, who also leads archaeological digs in Israel. "There are a lot of people who don't think there were Jews there, at least in

COURTESY OF JANET LEADHOLM AND ANNE OVERHOLT



Search for a buried synagogue uncovers anti-Semitism

WHEN SHE WASN'T DIGGING through dirt with a trowel, Kelly Church '95 (Oxford, Ohio) was digging for other kinds of historical evidence at the Macalester Black Sea Project. What she found was colored by a legacy of anti-Semitism.

Church, who speaks Russian, spent five hours or more a day for two weeks last summer poring through documents in a Ukrainian archives, near the site of the dig on the outskirts of Sevastopol. Her job was to translate reports compiled by Soviet archaeologists who

had information, but they didn't want to be clear about it.

"In several of the reports, you would find conflicting statements about the same thing on two different pages, and you would have to figure out

'The fact that they had found Jewish inscriptions could have gotten them in trouble if they had been specific about it.'

— Kelly Church '95

which one they meant, or if it was something in the middle. Dr. Zolatarov [a Ukrainian archaeologist and a director of the site who is himself Jewish] came in and helped me read through it at one point. I said to him, 'This doesn't make any sense.' He said, 'Of course it doesn't make any sense — it's politics.'

"Basically, they were hiding their tracks."

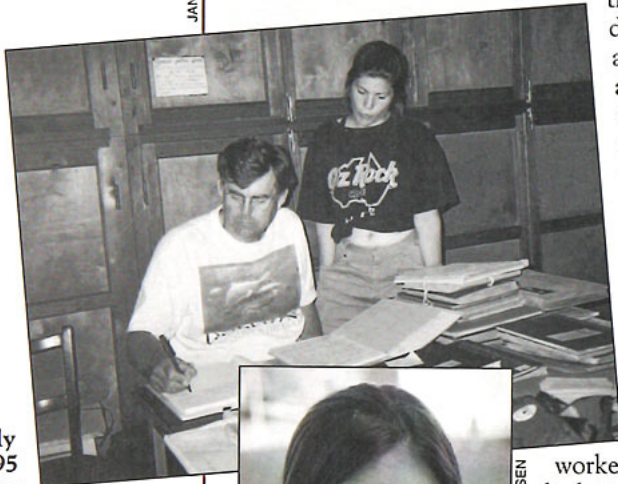
Overman noted that the legacy of anti-Semitism "is a powerful subtext of everything we do over there" in Ukraine.

For Church, who is majoring in Russian language, history and international studies, it was her second trip to the former Soviet Union. She spent four months in 1993 living with a Russian family in St. Petersburg on a study-abroad program. She relished the chance to work with Ukrainian students last summer on the Macalester project. Because they all speak Russian and she was often called upon to translate, she came to know them well.

"They're wonderful people," says Church, who would like to work in Russia, perhaps with a non-profit organization, after she graduates. "... They also got to see Americans in a light that isn't MTV — and they have MTV. They got to see us in a learning situation, which is really good. They made personal contacts. That's the way to break down political barriers, from the ground up."

— J.H.

JANET LEADHOLM AND ANNE OVERHOLT



Kelly Church '95 translates

Russian documents in the archives for Robert MacLennan of Princeton, N.J., a co-director of the archaeological team. Top: Sue Thompson '94 (Minot, N.D.), center, who took part in the dig, with Claudia Espinosa, a Seattle architect interested in historic preservation, and Jack Olive, the American field supervisor of the dig.



JIM HANSEN

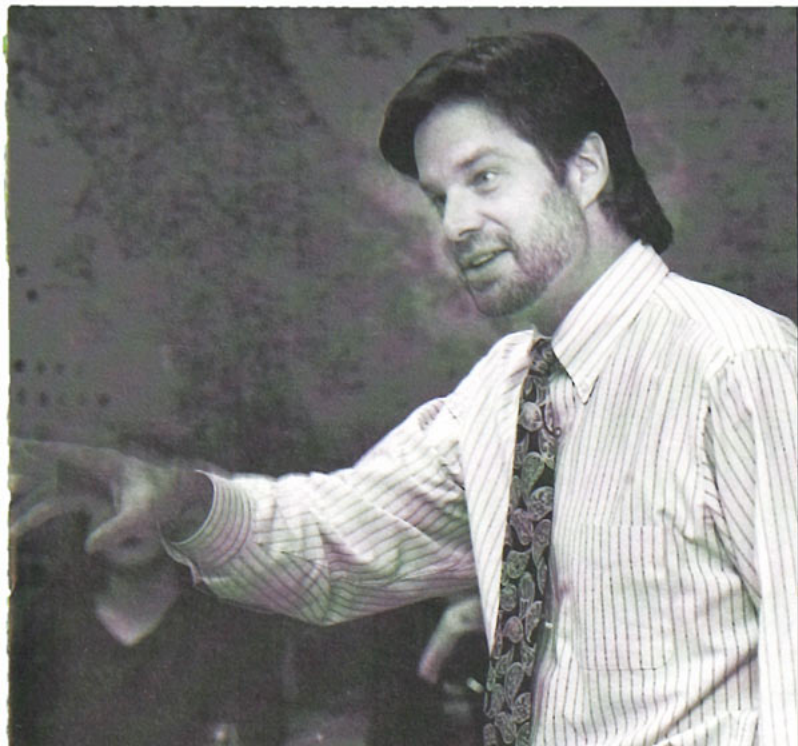
worked at the same dig between 1935 and 1957.

What gave the Soviet reports a strange twist was their contorted, confusing nature. One document — critical to Professor Andy Overman and

others working on the dig — detailed exactly where on the site the Soviet archaeologists had found two plaster Jewish inscriptions.

But in the era of Joseph Stalin, and in a land with a long history of anti-Semitism, no Soviet archaeologist wanted to call attention to any "Jewish" evidence.

"The fact that they had found Jewish inscriptions could have gotten them in trouble if they had been specific about it," Church said. "They



JIM HANSEN

Classics Professor Andy Overman: "We are in the process of proving there was a sizable diaspora Jewish community in the Roman period. This may be the earliest Jewish community outside Babylonia that we know of."

this period. We suspected otherwise . . . We've started to build our case, and that will take five years [of archaeological work]."

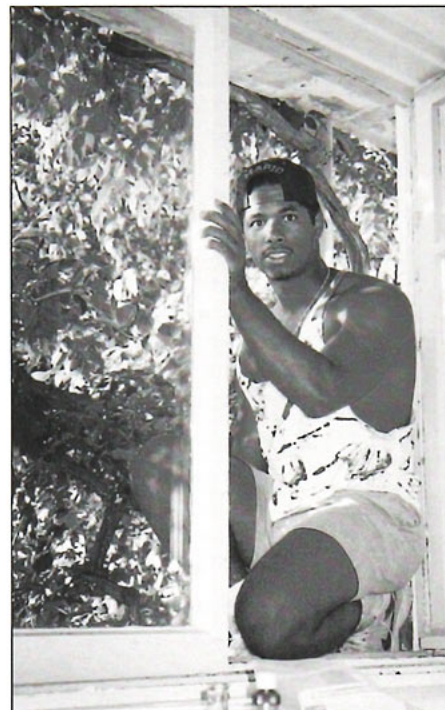
Ultimately, Overman said, "We're going to learn more about the nature of Judaism, more about the ancient world. This is an area of the world where diverse cultures, religions and races mingled, and apparently did so successfully. That's how I'd characterize that city — a melting pot or salad bowl."

Macalester students made up their own salad bowl. The ethnic/religious makeup of the people involved in the project included Americans, Ukrainians, Russians, Jews, Christians and — as Overman put it — "none of the above."

Eva Reid '96, a geography major from New York City, became friends with a Ukrainian student named Olga. "Coming together for one thing, being able to work together, was a really good experience," Reid said.

She and Olga, who speaks nearly perfect English, share an interest in such topics as pop and classical music, dancing and questions of ethnicity.

"Because of my own ethnic background, I see a lot of this from both sides, in a sense," said Reid, who is half Norwegian-Irish and half Jamaican-Native American. In



COURTESY OF JANET LEADHOLM AND ANNE OVERHOLT

Rolando Rosas '96, above, shown helping to fix a window at the dormitory on the site, was one of 12 Macalester students who joined the Black Sea Project. Left: Ships of the Russian-Ukrainian Black Sea fleet sail past the 6th century basilica at the site of the dig. Many of the ships are based in nearby Sevastopol, which has been closed to visitors from both the West and the East for most of this century.



COURTESY OF JANET LEADHOLM AND ANNE OVERHOLT

Ukraine as much as New York or America as a whole, she found, questions of identity — of who belongs where — are common. “One group, the Tatars, was in an area and was then removed,” Reid said. “Other people, who are considered Ukrainians, moved into the area. Now the Tatars want to come back, and the issue is, whose territory is it now?”

The relationships that developed between the Macalester and Ukrainian students more than made up for a lot of mediocre food, poor sanitation and lack of running water.

“I got a lot out of it,” said Rolando Rosas '96, a psychology major from Orlando, Fla. “I learned a lot, I saw a lot.” He hopes to return some day to Ukraine, where he made friends and found people “very warm, very sensitive, very open.”

As exciting as the excavation is to archaeologists, it is just one link being forged between Macalester and Zaporozhye University by the Black Sea Project. For example:

- Overman, MacLennan and history Professor James Stewart have agreed to teach intensive, two-

week courses in English at Zaporozhye. The courses begin in the spring of 1995;

- an exchange of scholars and students between Macalester and Zaporozhye appears just a matter of time;

- Overman and Macalester

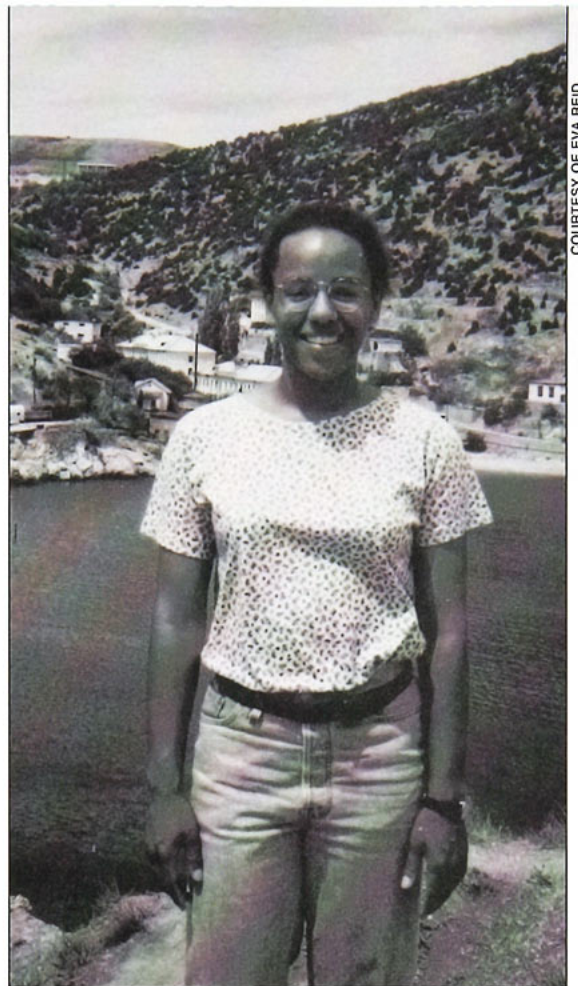
Volunteers welcome

Macalester alumni and members of the community are welcome to participate as volunteers in future phases of the Macalester Black Sea Project. Previous archaeological experience is not necessary.

For more information, please call the Macalester Classics Department at (612) 696-6376.

have been asked to consider helping the Crimean Archaeological Institute to develop “scientific tourism” — similar to what Americans call “eco-tourism” — in the Crimea.

Before last summer, Overman said, there was no certainty the Black Sea Project would get off to such a promising start. Although many Ukrainians were isolated intellectually after the Bolshevik Revolution and those working on the Macalester project saw it as a bridge to the West, “we didn’t know if we would agree on larger goals,” Overman



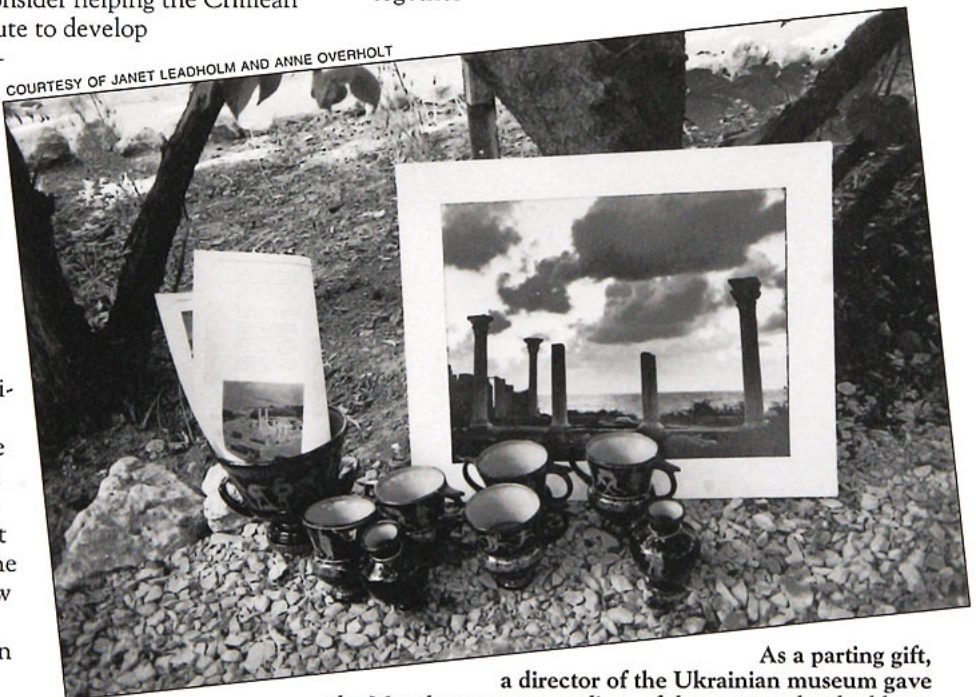
COURTESY OF EVA REID

Eva Reid '96 beside a Black Sea inlet, outside Balaklava

said. “What if we couldn’t get along? What if there was nothing to share?”

“Somebody [from the West] had to go there. I think all deals — business, cultural, educational — start when two people look at each other across a table and say, ‘Let’s work together.’” ●

COURTESY OF JANET LEADHOLM AND ANNE OVERHOLT



As a parting gift, a director of the Ukrainian museum gave the Macalester group replicas of the pottery that had been found at the dig as well as a photograph of the basilica.

Alumni board works to strengthen Macalester community

The Alumni Association Board of Directors, which represents the college's 23,000 alumni, has set several major goals during the 1994-95 academic year.

The 35 members of the board, who come from throughout the United States and represent every age group, met on campus Sept. 16-18. They agreed to work on:



Peter Fenn '70

- Involving more alumni and increasing their commitment to the college. One idea is to hold two major events — in the fall at the beginning of each academic year

and in the spring at the end — which will bring more alumni to campus. Special convocations honoring Walter Mondale '50 and Kofi Annan '61 (see page 8) launched the past two fall semesters and provided indications of the great potential of an all-Macalester event.

"We're also studying the possibility of combining Reunion with Commencement," said Peter Fenn '70 of Washington, D.C., the new president of the Alumni Association. "The college couldn't possibly do it before 1997, even if we decided on it. But it would be a great way to bring alumni together on campus with faculty and students."

- Increasing alumni giving. Although the rate of giving to the Annual Fund hit a high of 40 percent in 1992-93, the percentage of alumni who gave dropped to 37 percent in 1993-94. "We must reinvigorate alumni giving," Fenn said. "Macalester falls far below comparable colleges. Foundations, corporations and those that rate colleges give tremendous weight to alumni participation. We've come a long way over the past decade, but we have to do better."

- Enhancing student interaction with alumni. In 1992 the Alumni Board added student members for the first time. The student members this year are Adam Benepe '95 (St. Paul), who joined the board last year, and Sara Reid '97 (Ashland, Ore.), Mike Mason '98 (Minneapolis), Rafael Carrillo '95 (Mexico City) and Cynthia Ryberg '96 (Baldwin, N.D.). In 1993-94, eight members of the Alumni Board were paired with eight senior students in a pilot career mentoring pro-



JIM HANSEN PHOTOS



Top: The opening address of the Alumni Leadership Conference, "Global Communications: Three Challenges," featured political science Professor Chuck Green, left, shown talking with Joe Marty '82, a member of the alumni admissions network in the Washington, D.C., area. Above: Lara Levitan '91 (Chicago), left, who is co-chair of the alumni admissions committee in the Chicago area, and Elaina Bleifield '90 (Minneapolis), who is helping to plan the Class of '90 reunion June 2-4.

gram. It was so successful that more than 50 alumni and 50 students are matched in career mentoring this academic year. Expanding career placement and internships is a key goal for the board.

- Adding new and exciting continuing education programs. One special event aimed at alumni is the trip to Japan from March 29–April 6, 1995, with President and Mrs. Gavin and Jerry Fisher '59 and Aiko Hiraiwa (see page 34). The board is organizing other programs, such as alumni seminar retreats with faculty members in places like Williamsburg, Va.

- Increasing alumni involvement in developing policy for the future of the college. "We want to make concrete contributions to the college," Fenn said. "The alumni have a strong voice and we are eager to participate fully in committees and boards that set the direction of Macalester."

Alumni leadership

The Alumni Board's meeting was part of Macalester's Alumni Leadership Conference, held each fall at the start of the academic year.

It brings together scores of alumni who give back to the college as leaders of alumni programs throughout the country. In addition to the Alumni Board, they include class agents, the M Club Executive Board, class reunion planners, alumni admissions program coordinators and others.

This year's conference focused on effective communication in a changing world. Alumni heard a presentation of the results of a perception study, which took a comprehensive look at how the college's primary constituencies perceive the college (see page 3).

Calendar of events

Here are some of the events scheduled for alumni, parents, family and friends. More events are being added all the time. For more information on any of the following, call the Alumni Office, (612) 696-6295, except where noted. You may also call the campus events line, (612) 696-6900:

Macalester Galleries, Janet Wallace Fine Arts Center: Nov. 5–30, Don Doll, S.J.: Vision Quest; Dec. 8–Jan. 5, Student Art Exhibit (696-6690)



Alumni admissions coordinators Ned Sherrill '79 (Concord, N.H.), left, Kevin O'Connor '77 (Silver Spring, Md.) and Paul Gillin '79 (Birmingham, Mich.). They coordinate the alumni effort to assist the Admissions Office in recruiting students in their areas of the country.

Nov. 1–10: Annual Fund Phonathon
Nov. 11–12: Dance Ensemble Concert, 8 p.m. (696-6359)

Nov. 12: Boston alumni event with Professor Harley Henry

Nov. 13: Phoenix/Tucson alumni cruise
Nov. 15: Twin Cities recent grads' career networking event

Nov. 18: Mac Jazz for combos and big band, 8 p.m. (696-6382)

Nov. 19: Symphonic Band, 3 p.m. (696-6382)

Nov. 19: Chicago alumni event with Professor Harley Henry

Nov. 19–20: Macalester Festival Chorale, "Music of the African Diaspora," 8 p.m. Nov. 19 and 3 p.m. Nov. 20 (696-6382)

Nov. 20: Pianist Joseph Zins, 8 p.m. (696-6382)

Nov. 29: Alumni event and Macalester men's basketball game at George Mason University in Fairfax, Va.

Dec. 2: Macalester Symphony Orchestra, 8 p.m. (696-6382)

Dec. 2–3: Macalester Concert Choir, 18th Annual Festive Evenings, 8 p.m. (696-6382)

Dec. 3: African Music Ensemble, 8 p.m. (696-6382)

Dec. 4: St. Paul Civic Symphony Holiday Concert, 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. (696-6382)

Dec. 6: Macalester Chamber Ensembles, 8 p.m. (696-6382)

Dec. 7–11: Bread and Puppet Theater (696-6359)

Dec. 9: Flying Fingers, folk concert, 8 p.m. (696-6382)

Dec. 10: "Theater in Context" Symposium, 2 p.m. (696-6359)

Dec. 16: Sirens and Traditions, a cappella vocal ensembles, 8 p.m. (696-6382)

Dec. 28: Drop-in for recent grads, 7:30 p.m., O'Gara's, St. Paul

Jan. 14: Winter Sports Day, Macalester Field House

Jan. 31: Macalester Book Club for recent grads at Alumni House

Feb. 11: Great Scots alumni event
March 29–April 6: Alumni trip to Japan (see page 34)

April 23: Macalester Sunday, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Minneapolis

April 29: Great Scots alumni event
April 29: Track dedication on campus

May 20: Commencement

June 2–4: Reunion Weekend ●

College life, a parent's death: A student finds community

by Amy Jensen '94

When I arrived at Macalester for my first year, I had never seen the campus before or many of the types of people who attend Macalester. Having grown up in Brookings, S.D., I was a little surprised by some of the things that I saw, but not nearly as surprised as my mother.

I walked her out to the car after she helped me move in. She gave me a big hug and said, "Amy, if you ever, ever want to come home, you just call me."

I came to Macalester intent on studying communications. But my adviser, Roger Mosvick, encouraged me to look at other departments in addition to his. He joked that a type A personality like me would need more than one major to keep busy.

I ended up in Gary Krueger's "Principles of Economics" class. I was terrified that I would not be able to keep up with other students. But every time I had any problems, Dr. Krueger was available to help. And no matter how many questions I asked or how silly they were, he seemed to have limitless faith in my skills. After taking all of Dr. Krueger's classes that I could, I was only a few classes short of an economics major.

My freshman and sophomore years were very happy. I loved my classes and my professors. I made many friends — friends whom I know will be my friends for life.

My carefree life came to an end the summer before my junior year, when my mother passed away. I lost the only parent I had ever had, the one person who had always been there for me and who had always been so proud of me. I felt confused and lost.

I also realized that I had no financial means to come back to Macalester. I called the Financial Aid Office and told Karen Lee, the associate director, what had happened. She told me not to worry, and she increased my financial aid award enormously. I cannot begin to describe what a relief it was to know that at a time when everything else in my life seemed certain to change, I could be sure my college would not.

I had a very difficult semester that fall. I could not concentrate on my classes, and as the holidays approached, I found myself just staying in my room and crying. I finally told Dr. Mosvick what was wrong. He told me that I should go home for a week and not worry about school; he



Amy Jensen '94

would contact my other professors and take care of everything. The final thing he said was that I had to promise him that I would return at the end of that week.

I felt better after going home. But I am not sure whether it was being at home or knowing that there were still people who cared if I finished college.

My senior year was very busy and also a bit confusing. While I knew what I was

My carefree life came to an end the summer before my junior year, when my mother passed away. I lost the one person who had always been there for me.

interested in doing, I did not know what graduate degree would be appropriate. One day I ran into Peg Schultz, a former economics professor who is now assistant director for academic computing. I told her that I had no idea where to go to graduate school. Dr. Schultz took me into

the faculty lounge and spent her entire lunch talking to me. It was her advice that led me to the Humphrey Institute at the University of Minnesota.

Graduation, which is focused on parents and families, was a very difficult time for me. The one person to whom all this would have meant the most was not there to see it. Just when I was feeling my worst, I went to a meeting of the Trustees Buildings and Grounds Committee, which I was a member of my final two years at Macalester. I had become close friends with Margaret Marvin, a trustee, during those two years. She told me that she had gone to the honors convocation the night before just to see me and that she was very proud of me.

Before this moment, I could never express how much that meant to me, to know that even though my family could not attend, there was someone in the audience clapping for me and thinking of me. Thank you so much, Mrs. Marvin.

Besides those I've already mentioned, there are many other people who made my four years at Macalester very special. First, the people at the Physical Plant with whom I spent my first three years of work-study. They are truly wonderful and underappreciated.

There's Dr. Karl Egge, who not only gave me a job that has given me the confidence I always lacked, but also allowed me to spend a great deal of time with his wonderful family.

Last but certainly not least is another student at Macalester who is here with me tonight — Magnus Leslie '94. On Sept. 17, 1994, in a Presbyterian Church in Brookings, S.D., he will become my husband.

Many people made it possible for me to attend and graduate from Macalester. I appreciate this opportunity to express my gratitude. ●

Amy Jensen '94 majored in economics and communication studies at Macalester. She is now working on a master's degree in public affairs at the Humphrey Institute at the University of Minnesota and hopes to become a trade policy analyst. This article is adapted from remarks she made last June to alumni, trustees, faculty and staff at the Heritage Society dinner during Reunion Weekend.

Under the Tower

On a crisp autumn afternoon, what better place to study than under Macalester's historic Bell Tower? The 139-year-old bell was cleaned, and the tower rebuilt, last year.



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