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## Macalester Today August 1997

Macalester College

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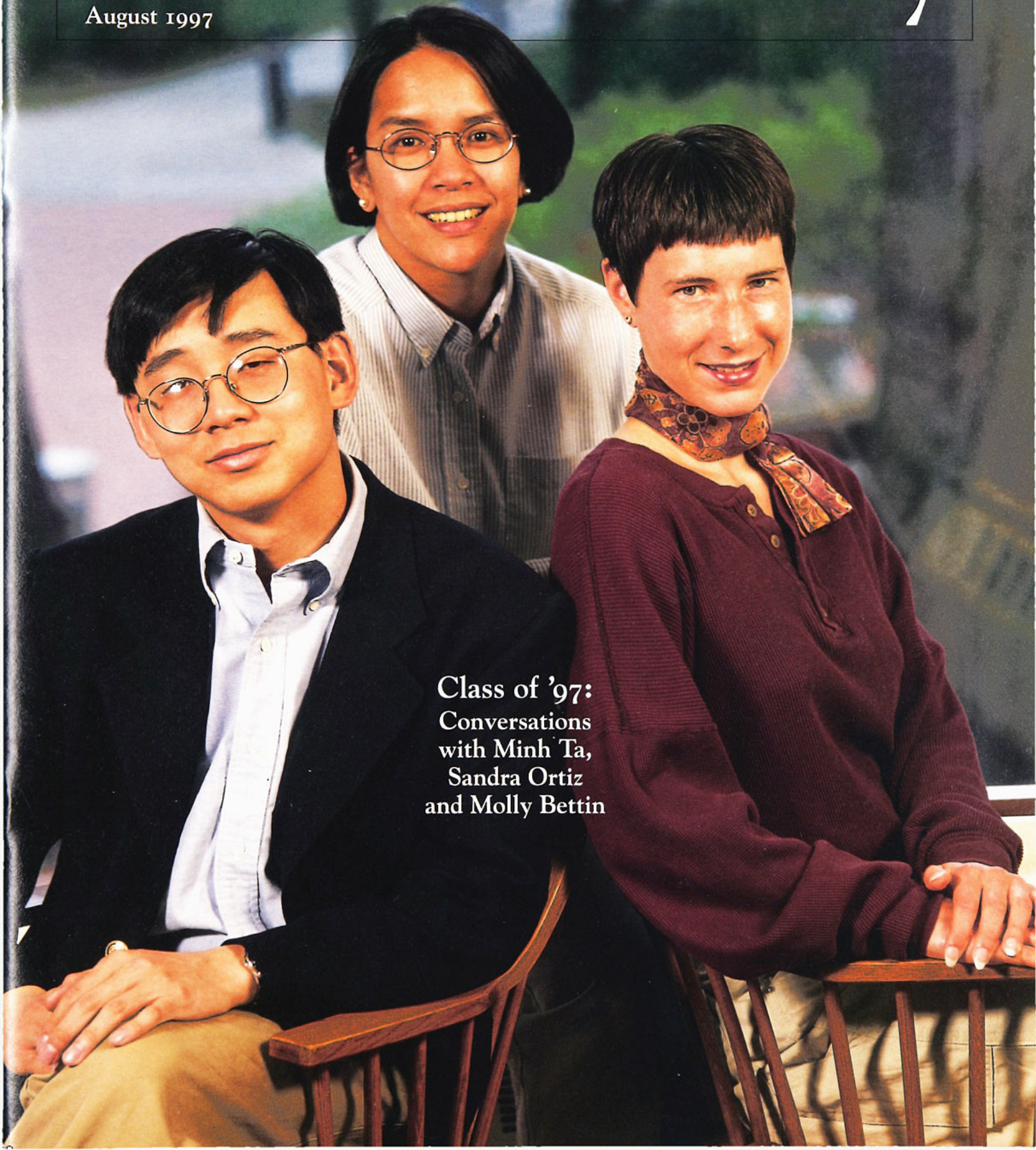
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# Macalester Today

August 1997



Class of '97:  
Conversations  
with Minh Ta,  
Sandra Ortiz  
and Molly Bettin



**M**ACALESTER TODAY welcomes letters 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. You can also send your letter by fax: (612) 696-6192. Or by e-mail: mactoday@macalester.edu. We reserve the right to edit letters for conciseness and clarity.

## Mary Gwen Owen

THANKS SO MUCH for the article about Mary Gwen Owen in February's *Macalester Today*.

Although I was not a speech or theater major, I did perform in some of the drama productions when I was a student. Professor Owen was certainly one of the great personages of my life. Why, I still say "Tuesday," not "Toozday," and "get," not "git." She made sure of that! She was a great lady with real panache.

For 27 years I taught at Carlmont High School in Belmont, Calif., the source of the movie and TV series *Dangerous Minds* and the site of President Clinton's important speech on education in 1995. In the early '60s I ran into the head of the music department and he asked me, "Have you ever heard of Macalester College?" I nearly shouted, "You're damned right! That's my alma mater!" "Well," he said, "they want to bring their Drama Choros here for an assembly."

They came and you can imagine my pride as I had the opportunity to introduce the Choros to the faculty and student body as the pipers marched in with pipes skirling. The amazement of the audience was almost palpable. That assembly is still talked of today as one of the best ever held at Carlmont.

Recently I have also chanced upon articles about other distinguished alumni. Our local paper carried an article about the local Congressman, Rep. Tom Lantos, and

his friendship with the new secretary-general of the United Nations, Kofi Annan '61. I went to the theater in San Francisco and you can imagine my pleasant surprise at opening the program and finding an article on the Sounds of Blackness, the creation of another alumnus, Gary Hines '74. We are everywhere!

Thanks for keeping us in touch with the alma mater with your excellent magazine. I always read it cover to cover.

Gordon L. Deegan '46  
San Carlos, Calif.

## A friendship

IN 1968 my husband Fred Worman '64 and I went to work with a community development project in La Mosquitia, a remote area of Honduras. Professor Atho



Mary Gwen Owen, "a great lady with real panache," pictured here with President Harvey Rice in the 1960s

Wood, headmaster of a boarding school in Brus Laguna, the village where we lived, was our constantly enthusiastic co-worker. He gave of his time to help with gardening projects, experimental rice plots, courses in animal management, literature translation, a marketing cooperative — whatever his Miskito people wanted and needed to improve their lives. For five years we worked together with Atho, in the process developing a close friendship.

When our first son, Scott, was born in 1971, Atho presented him with a fine young bull calf sired by one of the Brahma bulls our project had imported. "When this calf grows big," Atho promised, "he will be sold, and Scott will have that money for his college education." This was in keeping with Miskito tradition, as cattle

were a person's bank account, and the gift of a calf was a large gift indeed.

We left La Mosquitia in 1973. Scott was nearly 2, his adopted Honduran sister just a year old. At the time, the bull calf hadn't been seen for months. Cattle roamed free in the plains of La Mosquitia; some fell prey to thieves, predators and disease. We assumed the calf had disappeared.

Scott finished his high school course work ahead of schedule, and decided to travel in Central America during the spring semester of his senior year. He wanted to go back to La Mosquitia, where he was born, to meet the people we'd known and kept in touch with since he was a baby. On the day Scott arrived in Brus Laguna, Atho was there to welcome him. Scott stayed with the family for several days, catching up on 16 years' worth of news. As he was saying his goodbyes,

outside their humble tin-roofed wooden home, Atho said, "Wait a moment." He disappeared into the house, and returned to press into Scott's hand 300 lempiras (then worth about \$150). "This is from the sale of your bull," Atho told him. "It's for your college education." In the autumn of that year, 1989, Scott entered Macalester College.

F. Scott Worman, Mac Class of '93, is currently production manager of Heads Up Landscape Contractors in Albuquerque, N.M. He has started graduate work in archaeology at the University of New Mexico. Fred teaches agricultural economics at Central Missouri State University.

Mary K. Worman  
Warrensburg, Mo.

## Proud to be plaid

LET ME congratulate you on a fantastic November issue. As I read it, my chest swelled with pride and my blood ran plaid — and it wasn't because the football team finally won.

The theme of "service" rang true as alumni spoke of their activism from the perspectives of a CEO, a labor organizer, a nonprofit board member and a gay donor.

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## Macalester Today

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### On the cover

Steve Voit took the cover photograph of three Macalester seniors in The Link joining the second floors of Old Main and DeWitt Wallace Library. See pages 17-22.





# Teachers to cherish: Michael Keenan and Chuck Green

*Two exemplary faculty members honored for their enduring impact on students*

**M**ICHAEL KEENAN AND CHUCK GREEN, who both joined Macalester's faculty in 1965, were honored this spring for their longtime excellence as teachers.

Keenan, who retired as a professor of English at the end of the academic year, won the Thomas Jefferson Award from the college. Since his arrival at Macalester, Keenan has become "synonymous with good writing, both as a writer yourself and as a teacher of students and other teachers," the citation said.

Keenan "always championed the cause of excluded groups" in his selection of works to teach and his career choices. His range of interests included Milton, Renaissance lyric poetry, American black writers, "Writing for Outsiders," and theories and practices of teaching writing. He recently team-taught in the Women's and Gender Studies Program, and in the 1960s, when Macalester had an exchange program with historically black colleges, he taught at Bethune-Cookman College in Florida.

"For many students," the citation said, "you have deftly linked the aesthetic dimension of literature with the exploration of new concepts and the illumination of familiar themes. You have taught an extraordinary range of students to write more effectively. You are perhaps the only Macalester English professor who, by choice, works regularly with the students in most desperate need of writing instruction, and you also developed a

senior seminar, designed as a capstone project for English majors, to write polished essays on complex topics.

"Beyond the traditional classroom, you have become the teacher of us all through your 'Teaching Writing' workshops for faculty and, since

1980, as director of the All-College Writing Program. You have also brought your writing expertise to the larger community through programs for teachers in primary and secondary schools. You have served the profession of English by membership on the board of the directors of the Minnesota Council of Teachers of English and as a curriculum consultant. In addition to serving on various faculty committees, you have chaired a large and diverse department through a critical period of change.

"You became something of a legend as the author of the 1986 and 1996 North Central Association accreditation

self-study reports. The 1986 report was selected by the North Central Association staff as an 'exemplary model' to be emulated by other four-year liberal arts colleges.

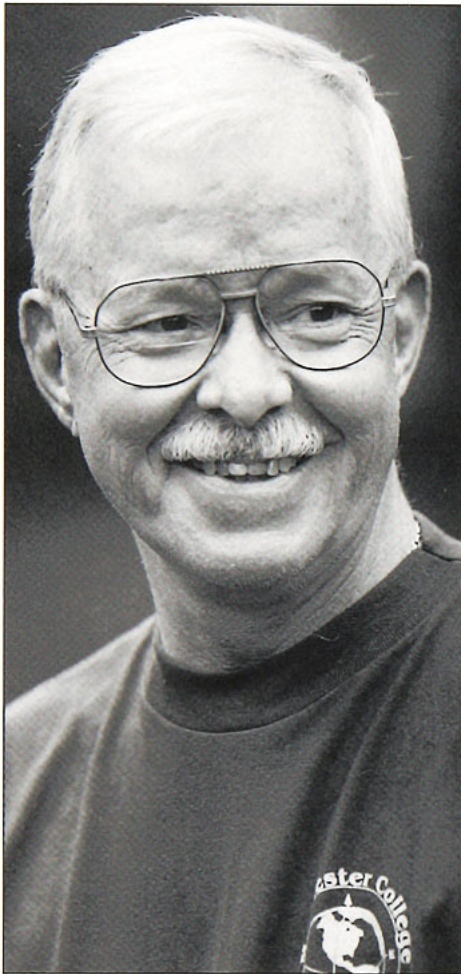
"Michael Keenan, as a writer, teacher and colleague, who has been effective in making the community we call Macalester more inclusive, you truly are a model for our time and a cherished teacher and colleague."

Keenan's new address: 1113 Ironwood Circle, Cottonwood, AZ 86326. His e-mail address remains: keenan@macalester.edu

Green, a political science professor who has "long been recognized as one of Macalester's teaching legends," received the Macalester Faculty Excellence in Teaching Award.

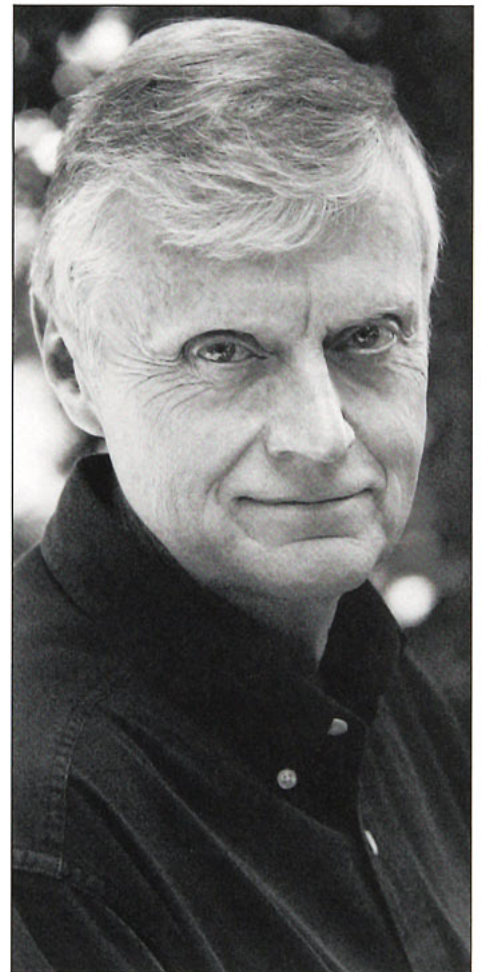
"Current students and alumni have repeatedly and consistently cited him as an outstanding teacher who has had a major impact on how they learned to think and what they decided to do with their lives," the citation says. "Faculty regard him as the benchmark according to which excellence in liberal arts teaching might be locally judged.

"A former student, now a celebrated professor of political science at Yale, credits Chuck with having had more impact on how he approached the study of social life than any of his other teachers. He gives three reasons. First, he said, Chuck taught him to think critically: to uncover unexamined assumptions, to pit rival arguments against each other, and to ask why



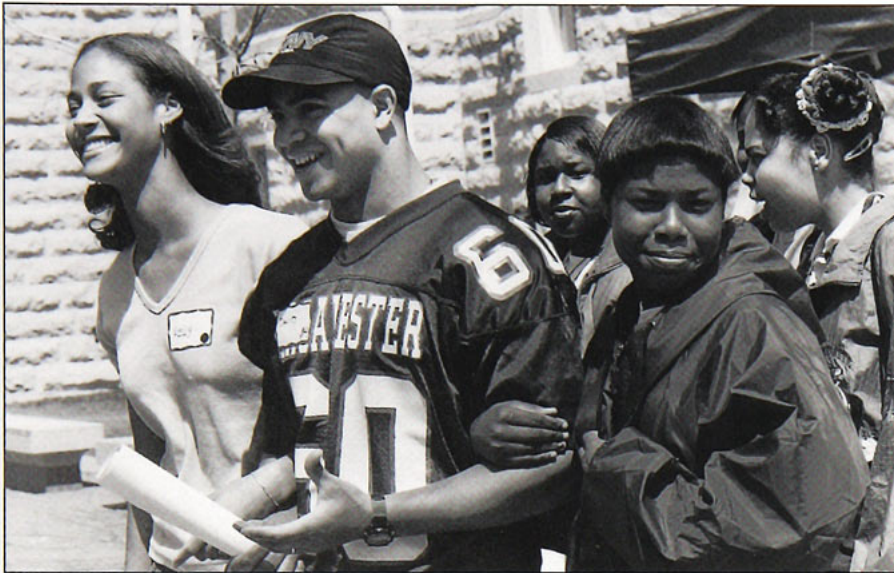
Michael Keenan: "synonymous with good writing"

GREG HELGESON PHOTOS



Chuck Green: "life-long mentor"





GREG HELGESON PHOTOS

## Good day at the fair

**Top:** Emily Hawes '00 (Matteson, Ill.), left, and David Smith '00 (Golden Valley, Minn.) escort several St. Paul teen-agers around the campus during the Scottish Country Fair in May. Hawes, who plays volleyball at Macalester, and Smith, who plays football, were among the Macalester student-athletes who spent the afternoon showing the campus to 25 teen-agers



from the Boys and Girls Club of St. Paul. They talked about their Macalester experiences and the process of applying and getting into college. "It was definitely worthwhile," Smith said, "because they had lots of questions and we were able to answer them. It was a nice afternoon." **Above:** Bagpipers attract a boy's attention.

people would argue the way they do. This encouraged him to be pluralistic and tolerant in his intellectual style, without being unprincipled. Second, Chuck encouraged him to think in interdisciplinary terms; that disciplinary boundaries were there to be crossed, not respected as impediments or barriers to broader ranges of reflection. Third, Chuck taught him to regard education as a process whereby students actively learned to discover and clarify their own ideas, not passively master those of their teachers."

Green's "former students have risen to positions of prominence in the academic and policy world; they stay in touch with him and still today rely on his professional, intellectual and personal guidance," the citation said. "The copious amount of time he devotes to students, the sincere belief he holds in their self-development and the

genuine concern he has for their welfare, all have made Chuck a life-long mentor and adviser. To these students, as well as his faculty colleagues, he is an exemplary man as well as an exemplary teacher, a credit to our profession as well as to our community."

## Mock trial

FOR THE SECOND YEAR in a row, Macalester's mock trial teams finished in the top 10 at the American Mock Trial Association's national championship tournament.

The tournament, which was held in Des Moines, Iowa, brought together 60 teams that had earned berths at nationals by doing well at one of the 15 regional qualifiers held in February. One Macalester team brought home the third-place trophy while the other finished in a tie for eighth place.

The students on the third-place team included Toby Heytens '97 (Superior, Wis.), Jennifer Hunter '99 (Grinnell, Iowa), Marie Zemler '99 (Sauk Centre, Minn.), George Ramsden '00 (Nicosia, Cyprus) and Robert Haun '97 (Ooltewah, Tenn.). The other Macalester team was composed of Katie Wiik '00 (Shoreview, Minn.), Nicholas Heikkila '98 (Guilford, Vt.), Amanda Rudolph '00 (Bloomington, Minn.), Monica Tuttle '98 (Lauderdale, Minn.), Stacey Lasky '99 (Brooklyn Center, Minn.), Dave Hancock '00 (DePere, Wis.) and Danielle Heck '99 (Urbandale, Iowa).

Both Hancock and Wiik also received individual honors at the tournament. Hancock won an All-American award for his efforts as a witness and Wiik won All-American honors as an attorney. Wiik was also selected to participate in the Honors Trial, AMTA's version of an all-star game.

## Four Fulbrights

FOUR MACALESTER SENIORS who graduated in May were awarded Fulbright grants for graduate study and research abroad. They are:

- Amy Griffin, a geography, chemistry and art major from St. Paul, who will spend the 1997-98 academic year in Germany working on spatial analysis. She will use Geographic Information Systems to study changes in the economies, cities and cultures of Europe as a result of the European Union.
- Ann La Tour, a German major from Shakopee, Minn., who will also spend next year in Germany, where she will study the philosophy of German educator Rudolf Steiner. Steiner's philosophy became the backbone of the Waldorf School system.

- Katie Kelley, a geology major from Mankato, Minn., who will study in the Philippines, where she will research volcanic rocks near Mount Pinatubo and Mount Arayat.

- Rena Levin, a sociology major from Arlington, Va., who will travel to Norway to do a comparative study of the way two of the country's most widely read newspapers have covered the recent arrival of large numbers of non-Western immigrants to Norway.

The Fulbright program was approved by Congress in 1946 to develop mutual understanding between nations through



educational and cultural exchanges. It is named for the late U.S. Sen. J. William Fulbright of Arkansas.

## Karl Egge's class

*Economics professor donates \$7,500 award for creating 'Entreprementors' course*

**ECONOMICS PROFESSOR** Karl Egge received the Leavey Award for Excellence in Private Enterprise Education, given by the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge in Pennsylvania.

Egge was honored for the course "Entreprementors," which he created. He donated the \$7,500 award to Macalester.

"Entreprementors" is a course in which Twin Cities business owners who are part of a network of entrepreneurs called "The Inner Circle" serve as mentors to students in Egge's class. Students visit their men-



**Karl Egge**

tor's business, interview the owners, do research on the industry or firm and invite the mentor to class as a guest speaker.

Students then write papers which are published in a book format.

The course gives students the opportunity to analyze how to identify a business opportunity, write a plan, find resources, launch a new firm and keep it operating.

Egge has taught economics and business courses at Macalester since 1976. He was one of 19 educators around the nation to win the Leavey Award, which recognizes individuals for innovative or unique courses and projects that help educate students on the workings of America's private enterprise system.

## Science fellowships

**FIVE RECENT** Macalester graduates — a record number for the college — have been awarded National Science Foundation Graduate Fellowships.

The fellowships fund three years of graduate study. The five graduates and the fields they are studying are:

tor's business, interview the owners, do research on the industry or firm and invite the mentor to class as a guest speaker.

Students then write papers which are published in a book format.

The course gives students



## Smithsonian collects a Macalester artist

Gary Erickson, a lecturer in Macalester's Art Department, achieved the distinction of having one of his abstract ceramic sculptures acquired by the Smithsonian Institution. The Smithsonian recently purchased his 1996 work "Dualidad," above, for the permanent collection of the National Museum of American Art's Renwick Gallery. See "Quotable Quotes" on page 6.

- Katherine Howe '94, a biology major at Macalester. She is studying in the field of ecology at the University of Minnesota.

- Casey Owens '96, a chemistry and neuroscience major at Macalester. She is studying biophysics at Rockefeller University.

- Anna Rath '96, a biology major at Macalester. She is studying human genetics at the University of Michigan.

- Toni Schaeffer '96, a biology major at Macalester. She is studying ecological/molecular plant physiology at Penn State University.

- Glenn Whitener '95, a chemistry major at Macalester. He is studying inorganic chemistry at the University of California at Berkeley.

## World Press Institute

*Ten international journalists begin American odyssey*

**THE MACALESTER-BASED** World Press Institute has chosen 10 international journalists to be WPI Fellows for 1997.

The fellowships are designed to increase international understanding of the United States by offering journalists around the world an intensive introduction to the country and its people.

Following a month of backgrounding at the college with members of the Macalester faculty, other experts and individuals, the WPI Fellows will spend three months traversing the U.S. on a vigorous schedule of meetings and interviews with Americans in all walks of life. The program began in June and continues until Oct. 10.

Since its founding at Macalester in 1961, WPI has offered 425 outstanding opportunities to gain first-hand knowledge of the U.S.

WPI's 1997 Fellows:

- Ding Zhaolin, correspondent, *Xinhua*, Beijing, has served as a resident correspondent in Manila and Hanoi.

- Sahar El-Bahr, feature writer, *Al-Ahram Weekly*, Cairo, covers all aspects of Egyptian life for the country's leading English-language newspaper.

- Bela Dajka, foreign news editor, *Magyar Hirlap*, Budapest, covers both international and domestic political affairs for the national daily in Hungary.

- Rohit Saran, assistant editor, *Business Today*, New Delhi, oversees coverage of Indian economic affairs, produces analytical articles and writes editorials.

- Biranit Goren, reporter, *Ha'aretz*, Tel Aviv, is a feature writer and investiga-



tive reporter for Israel's most highly regarded daily.

- Denis Mzembe, reporter, *The Nation*, Blantyre, has been a key media player in the struggle for democracy and human rights in Malawi.

- Angela Ureta, associate producer, ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp., Quezon City, works for a top-rated weekly news and current affairs television program in the Philippines.

- Malgorzata Rzepka, business writer, Reuters, Warsaw, covers Polish financial news for the international news agency.

- Edwin Naidu, night news editor, *The Star*, Johannesburg, writes a column and covers education, politics and pop culture in South Africa in addition to editing.

- Luis Alonso, political reporter, *El Nacional*, Caracas, covers politics, crime, the courts, human rights, drugs, the military and border affairs in Venezuela.

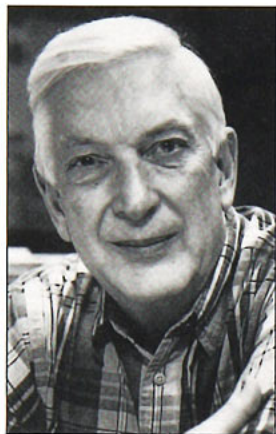
## Honoring Walt Mink

*Friends and former students will celebrate the life of a beloved teacher*

"WALTS DAY," a get-together honoring the memory of Macalester Professor Walt Mink, will be held Saturday, Sept. 27, in

the newly renovated Olin-Rice science complex.

Activities begin at 1 p.m. They will include talks, performances and other presentations by many of Professor Mink's former students, tours of the Psychology Department's new quarters in Olin Hall, a festive dinner, and opportunities to share anecdotes and reminiscences. The department promises "a varied and entertaining program, one suggesting the breadth of interests Walt helped his students to discover and pursue, and one he would have enjoyed."



Walt Mink

More details can be found on the Psychology Department's Web page at: <http://www.macalester.edu/~psych/whathap/WaltSymp.html>. Or by phone: (612) 696-6108. Or by fax: (612) 696-6348. Or e-mail: [torrey@macalester.edu](mailto:torrey@macalester.edu)

The registration fee, covering events in the afternoon, is \$5 per person. Dinner is an additional \$25 per person. If you plan to attend, for part or all of the day, your check must be received by Aug. 25. Checks — made out to Macalester College — for the full amount, along with your name and address, the number of persons attending in the afternoon and the number for dinner, should be sent to: Charles Torrey, Psychology Department, Macalester College, 1600 Grand Ave., St. Paul, MN.

A discount on air travel is available through Northwest Airlines. Call Northwest's Meeting Services Reservation Desk at 1-800-328-1111 and refer to WorldFile NM7UA. Discounts on housing for Macalester events are available at Holiday Inn Express (612-647-1637) and at Sheraton Midway (612-642-1234).

Professor Mink, who died June 25, 1996, taught at Macalester for 38 years.

## Outstanding staff

CHARLIE JUERGENS, Central Stores clerk at the college since 1984, received the Macalester Outstanding Service Staff Award for his "dedicated, unselfish and friendly service to Macalester."

"Faculty, staff and students benefit daily from the work Charlie does," the citation said.

"A student may be waiting for a package of cookies from home, a faculty member may be waiting for chemicals for a lab experiment or a staff member may be waiting for office supplies or repair parts, but Charlie always comes through with the delivery, and he does it with a smile and a hearty hello. . . ."

"Charlie makes outstanding service an everyday part of his job."

Juergens and his wife, Barbara, have two sons. The family lives in St. Paul.

## McConkey departs

KAREN MCCONKEY, alumni director at Macalester for the past 11 years, announced her resignation at the end of July.

McConkey is going to work with her husband, Jim, in a family business and manage a commercial property they own.

"While we are sad at her leaving, we are excited for her and Jim as they set out to 'live some of their dreams,'" said Richard Allen Ammons, vice president for college advancement.

"Karen's leadership of the alumni program has had a profound impact on



GREG HELGESON

## A century of savvy at center court

Three members of this Macalester foursome have been playing tennis together on summer mornings since 1973 — the "latecomer" joined them in 1978. "We plan to continue until we get it right," says political science Professor Chuck Green, second from left. The others are Russ Wigfield '43, left, Macalester chaplain emeritus, and Professors Jack Rossmann, psychology, and Ray Mikkelson, physics.



alumni involvement at the college," Ammons said. "The Macalester Alumni Association Board has become more national in scope, reflecting the wide diversity of the Macalester alumni body. Alumni programs have become more sharply focused to represent the interests of our constituents. They have enhanced opportunities for young alumni and many senior alumni have found new ways to connect with the college and each other.

"Karen has also worked hard to follow through on her notion that good, loyal alumni begin as students, and there have been many ways in which student-alumni relationships have been enriched and strengthened. Karen leaves a wonderful legacy and a firm foundation upon which we can build."

A search began this summer to appoint her successor.

## Farewell to Lewie

LEWIS "LEWIE" DOHMAN, who joined the Macalester staff in 1959 and has served as the college bursar since 1976, has retired.

As bursar, Dohman has been responsible for billing and collecting all student revenues, depositing all college funds, and disbursing and collecting student loans. He was known for performing his job with a kind and personal touch.

"Lewie has been incredibly successful at helping students and their families deal with the financial realities of attending Macalester," Treasurer Craig Aase '70 said. "He has done so with a sensitive and caring approach, but also with results that the most hard-nosed collection professionals would envy."

Dohman said he "loved my time at Macalester. The student body is great and I have really enjoyed the staff I work with." He plans to remain a part of the Macalester community.

## Saving energy \$\$\$

MACALESTER RECEIVED electric and gas rebates from Northern States Power Co. totaling \$446,190 during the 1996-97 academic year.

The rebates covered additional costs incurred by Macalester to design and install energy-efficient equipment in the renovation of Olin-Rice Halls of Science and a new chilled water plant. It is the single largest rebate paid out by NSP at a single location during the past year, according to Robert Schommer, NSP's electrical representative.

Macalester benefits both through the rebates and reduced operating costs for its new facilities. Holabird & Root, the architectural and engineering firm for the Olin-Rice renovation, estimates that in addition to the \$213,000 in NSP rebates received for Olin/Rice, the energy-efficient equipment and design should save the campus annual utility costs of \$100,000.

Ericksen, Ellison Associates, the engineering firm for the new central chilled water plant, chose ice storage to reduce

long-term operating costs. In conjunction with a new and larger energy-efficient boiler, this provided an additional \$233,190 in NSP rebates. The ice storage reduces peak load demand, but more importantly avoids the necessity of investing in a third cooling tower and chiller at an approximate cost of \$400,000.

## Annual Fund exceeds goal

A RECORD NUMBER of donors helped the college's Annual Fund achieve 110 percent of its goal for 1996-97.

In all, 8,073 donors contributed \$1,233,725, the second-highest Annual Fund total in the last 11 years. During the 1993-94 fiscal year, \$1,262,282 was raised, due in part to a special "challenge" that had been initiated. The amount raised this past year was without that special program.

Alumni gifts to the Annual Fund totaled \$863,513, the highest amount ever for alumni giving to the fund, said Annual Fund Director Marcia Freeman.

The 8,073 donors included a record number of alumni donors — 6,225 — as well as a record number of parents — 1,741.

## Quotable Quotes

HERE ARE SOME of the noteworthy comments made recently on and around the campus:

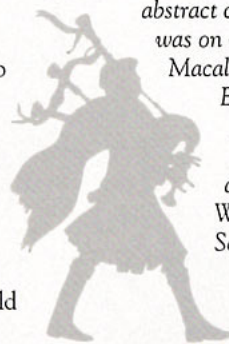
"IF WE STOPPED printing and minting money today, it would cause virtually no disruption other than to government workers who would be moved to other jobs and the highly profitable makers of ink and paper who lobby the government to keep their lucrative contracts. The money already in circulation could certainly sustain the needs of the economy for a whole generation as people became accustomed to using electronic money.

"Some people think a cash-free world would be too strange; but, in fact, we had money for many centuries before we had cash. Money is a system of thought, a way of organizing social behavior and an integral part of modern culture, but money need not necessarily be an object."

Jack Weatherford, professor of anthropology at Macalester, writing in the April 24 USA Today. His most recent book is entitled *The History of Money*.

"I LISTEN TO SALSA all the time and dance at least once a week to Latin bands in town. [My] sculpture is called 'Dualidad,' which is Spanish for 'duality,' and the piece is about bodies joining into one and about the subtle contact you have with your partner when dancing."

Gary Erickson, lecturer in art at Macalester, in an interview in the May 18 Minneapolis Star Tribune. His abstract ceramic sculpture, which was on view in January at a Macalester exhibition of Erickson's art, was purchased by the Smithsonian Institution's decorative arts museum in Washington, D.C.  
See page 4.



"HISTORICAL re-enactments have become one of the best ways for Americans to participate in a collective experience that is important to them."

Jim Stewart, Macalester history professor. He was quoted in a May 28 Christian Science Monitor article about aviator historian Linda Finch's attempt to re-create Amelia Earhart's 1937 flight around the world. •



## Spring sports review

**STANDOUT MACALESTER GOLFER**  
Kathy Spalding (junior, Brandon, Manitoba) was selected for the NCAA Division II/III women's golf championships, where she placed 29th out of 63 participants.

Spalding, who was named Honorable Mention All-America, posted a four-round total of 352 on the difficult El Campeon Course in Orlando, Fla. That was the 12th-best score among all Division III golfers.

The NCAA Championships capped a great spring season for Spalding, who earlier won the Wisconsin-Eau Claire Invitational and took second in the Mankato State Invitational. Last fall, Spalding won medalist honors in the Concordia-Moorhead Invitational.

Other Macalester teams and individuals also enjoyed good spring seasons:

### Women's tennis (11-6)

MIAC Coach of the Year Kathy Kehoe had her team on a roll at the end of the season as the Scots won six of their final seven matches (four straight by 9-0 scores) to wind up with an impressive 11-6 record. Macalester closed out the spring by taking sixth out of 12 teams at the MIAC Tournament, its top finish ever.

Julie Colby (senior, Roseville, Minn.) played No. 1 singles for the fourth year in a row and was joined at the top of the lineup by sister Betsy Colby (first-year, Roseville, Minn.), one of the league's best newcomers. Betsy Colby posted a team-best 14-5 record at No. 2 singles. Macalester also received winning singles records from Susanna Styve (senior, Afton, Minn.), Leela Lavasani (sophomore, Minnetonka, Minn.), Brooke Bush (first-year, Lenexa, Kan.) and Jamie Patterson (junior, Bainbridge Island, Wash.).

### Men's tennis (11-9)

Macalester went 11-9 in men's tennis and closed the season with a fifth-place fin-

ish at the conference tournament. The Scots' 6-4 MIAC record marks their second straight winning conference season. Tats Kanenari (sophomore, Tokyo, Japan) enjoyed another good season as Mac's No. 1 singles player. He finished 13-6, bringing his career record at first singles to 27-7. Matt Crosby (junior, St. Paul) was consistent for the Scots at No. 2 singles

Alo, Macalester's only All-Conference selection, hit .401 with seven homers and 36 RBI, while Young hit .311 and eight home runs, stole 25 bases in 26 attempts and scored a school-record 47 runs.

Together, Alo and Young have established just about every school single-season and career record. Alo finished his career with 26 home runs and 125 RBI, while Young scored 126 runs and stole 72 bases. Macalester had one of the best infields in the MIAC. Along with Alo at first base, the Scots received big seasons from Tom Patras (junior, Cherry, Minn.) at second base, Matt Kessler (sophomore, Medford, Ore.) at third and Rick Van Pelt (junior, Creston, Iowa) at shortstop. Kurt Hebgen (junior, Highland, Wis.) went 6-4 as the team's pitching ace. The highlight of the spring for the Scots was an 8-5 win over league power St. Thomas — one of just three conference losses in two years for the Tommies.

### Softball (22-17)

Macalester played excellent softball over the second half of the schedule, winning nine of 10 at one point, and finishing with a 22-17 record. Macalester's third-straight winning season was highlighted by the emergence of first-year center fielder Kathryn Miles (Surrey, British Columbia) as one of the top players in the MIAC. Miles led the Scots with a .411 batting average, and was also the team leader in runs (28) and RBI (35).

Pitcher Lisafe Aying (senior, Livermore, Calif.) earned her fourth All-Conference award by going 13-8 with a 1.53 ERA. She finished her brilliant career with 59 wins and 328 strikeouts. Kerstin Buettner (senior, Rochester, Minn.) hit .368 with 21 RBI while playing first base and also made the All-MIAC team. Jaimi Stejskal (sophomore, Spring Valley, Minn.) and Amie Radenbaugh (senior, St. James, Minn.) also enjoyed excellent seasons.

and finished with a winning record. Kenji Uemura (sophomore, Tokyo, Japan), Mads Sorensen (first-year, Lyngby, Denmark), Greg Luloff (sophomore, Southborough, Mass.) and Philippe Duliere (senior, Namur, Belgium) also had good seasons in singles competition.

### Baseball (17-25)

Seniors Kawika Alo (Honolulu, Hawaii) and David Young (Omaha, Neb.) capped brilliant four-year baseball careers by leading the Scots to a 17-25 record.



Pitcher Lisafe Aying '97 (Livermore, Calif.) earned her fourth All-Conference award.

ERIC MILLER



### Women's track & field

Outstanding seasons from numerous first-year collegians indicate that the women's track program is on the way up. Several frosh played key roles in the team's success, most notably Holly Harris (Redondo Beach, Calif.), one of the MIAC's best sprinters. Harris placed fourth at the conference championships on her home track in the 100-meter and 200-meter dash events, losing only to three graduating seniors in each race.

Megan June (New York City) took second in the MIAC in the high jump, Jen Hodges (Juneau, Alaska) was sixth in the 800 meters, and seventh-place MIAC finishes were registered by first-years Courtenay Penwell (Salem, Ore.) in the javelin and Liz Connors (Albany, Ore.) in the 1,500 meters. Two athletes who will be hard to replace are graduating seniors Martha Sarpong (Juaso, Ghana), a 10-

championships, placed third in the triple jump at the outdoor meet.

Andres Leza (sophomore, Muscatine, Iowa) and Bob Elsinger (senior, Guttenberg, Iowa) were reliable 800-meter runners, while Brandon Guthrie (first-year, Salem, Ore.) took quickly to the 3,000-meter steeplechase after trying that event for the first time midway through the season. Larry Griffin (sophomore, Bellevue, Ill.) was strong all season in the long jump, as were Robert Rosenthal (senior, Lake Bluff, Ill.) in the shot put and Nate Hedtke (first-year, Duluth, Minn.) in the 400-meter hurdles.

— Andy Johnson, *Macalester sports information director*

selection, as picked by the National Soccer Coaches of America. Farkas led the Scots to one of their best seasons ever as Macalester went 16-3-2 and reached the Final Eight of the NCAA playoffs. An All-Conference defender, Farkas always marked the other team's top scoring threat and went through the entire season without allowing a goal by the player she was in charge of stopping. She was



Eva Farkas '97

one of the few Division III players selected to play last winter in the Umbro College Soccer All-Star game in Florida.

## Athletes of the Year

SENIORS Kawika Alo (Honolulu, Hawaii) and Eva Farkas (Seattle, Wash.) were named the M Club's 1996-97 Athletes of the Year.

They will be honored at the M Club's Hall of Fame dinner in October.

Alo was a standout in both football and baseball and is a repeat winner of the Male Athlete of the Year Award. A starter at outside linebacker for the fourth straight year, Alo regis-

tered 66 tackles for the football Scots and was an All-MIAC pick for the second year in a row. In baseball, Alo was again one of the premier power hitters in the MIAC and was named to the All-Conference squad for the second time. He hit .401 with seven homers and 36 RBI while playing outstanding defense at first base. He finished his brilliant baseball career with 26 homers and 125 runs batted in.

Farkas is the fourth soccer player to be named Female Athlete of the Year in the last four years. She was a Division III All-America

## New basketball coach

CURT KIETZER, associate head coach of the men's basketball team, was named head coach in July by Athletic Director Ken Andrews.

Kietzer was a standout player at the University of St. Thomas and was named the most valuable player in the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference in 1988. He also is the career scoring average leader at St. Thomas and was named to All-Conference teams in 1987 and 1988, as well as Academic All-Conference both years.

Kietzer played two years for the Horsens Professional Sports Club team in Denmark. He was the head boys' basketball coach at Bemidji High School in 1994-95. In addition to serving as an assistant coach at Macalester, he has worked in several

campus offices, including the Admissions Office.

"Curt has very strong Minnesota connections and excellent coaching skills," Andrews said. "I believe he is an excellent candidate to continue building our basketball program."

Kietzer replaces Andy Manning, head coach the past three seasons, who resigned but will continue to work at Macalester in other capacities. ●



David Young '97 (Omaha, Neb.) stole 25 bases in 26 attempts.

time All-MIAC long and triple jumper, and Erin Donald (Portland, Ore.), who placed third in the conference in the javelin throw.

### Men's track & field

Macalester will host the 1998 NCAA Division III Championships next May, and two Scots with a good chance of qualifying for that event are first-years John Shepard (Absarokee, Mont.) and Bengo Mrema (Garbarone, Botswana). Shepard was superb all spring, often winning high jump and hurdle events, and closed out the season by placing second at the MIAC meet in the high jump and fifth in the 110-meter hurdles. Mrema, who emerged suddenly at last winter's indoor conference



Kawika Alo '97



# What's happening in the English Department

**Editors' note:** Starting with this issue, *Macalester Today* will feature brief updates about faculty members in each department. This first column is devoted to full-time faculty in the English Department.

ON SATURDAY, NOV. 1, the English Department will host its first English Majors Career Day in the Weyerhaeuser Hall Board Room. Alumni representing a wide range of fields will speak to junior and senior English majors about potential careers. The career day could become an annual event. For more information, call the English Department at (612) 696-6387.

The English Department's home page: <http://www.macalester.edu/~english>

Joel Baer has added courses in Anne Sexton and in pre-professional writing to his standard offerings of Jane Austen, the early novel, 18th century satire and modern literature with religious themes. His research in 18th century piracy and its fictions has recently been published in U.S., British and Canadian journals, and he is currently working on a long study of the arch-pirate Henry Every. In addition, he is assisting junior Marisa Brandt in the preparation of a concordance to the poetry of Anne Sexton.

John Bernstein recently completed a play on Lorenzo de Medici. "My interests are pro football, wine, dogs, tennis, traveling, Melville, Yeats, Camus, Ingmar Bergman, 20th century British literature and modern drama," he added.

The fourth-floor Media Services studio in the Humanities Building was formally dedicated May 23 as the Blakely Production Studio in honor of the late Roger Blakely '43. The studio will provide high-quality audio and video recording facilities for faculty, students and staff. Professor Blakely was a professor of English and art from 1947 to 1992, then worked as a Media Services archivist until not long before his death on Nov. 13, 1996. Members of the English Department traveled to his hometown, Barnum, Minn., on June 14 to bury his ashes.

This past year, Ruth Burks did postdoctoral work at UCLA to complete her book on images of African American women in Hollywood films. She is a fellow at the

W.E.B. Du Bois Institute at Harvard this coming academic year.

Giles Gamble continues to divide his teaching between medieval literature and contemporary fiction, and maintains his interest in folk music of the American South. He spent part of his latest sabbatical tracking down Arthurian sites in the west of England. His article, "John Cheever's 'Expelled': The Genesis of a Beginning," appeared in *American Literary History*, Winter 1995 issue.

In June, Diane Glancy read from her books, *Pushing the Bear*, *The Only Piece of Furniture in the House* and *The West Pole*, at Prairie Lights in Iowa City, Square Books in Oxford, Miss., and the National Federation of State Poetry Societies Conference in Biloxi, Miss. In July, she served as evaluator at a National Endowment of the Humanities Summer Conference on Native American Literature at the University of Oklahoma.

Alvin Greenberg has been doing research on the life and writing of his great-grandfather, the poet David Greenberg, who wrote in Yiddish under the pen name

Ben Yishai. Al has some poems about his literary ancestor in the Spring 1997 issue of *Prairie Schooner*. He also has an essay in the Spring issue of *The Georgia Review*. As usual, Al and his wife, the poet Janet Holmes, are spending this summer at their writing retreat on the North Shore of Lake Superior.

Harley Henry, who was a Redfield Visiting Professor at the University of Chicago in 1993-94, is

now serving as department chair. He will be team-teaching a course with Norman Rosenberg this fall on "Containment Culture: America, 1945-63," which will include materials presented to the Chicago and Boston alumni groups in 1993.

Howard Huelster '49, professor emeritus, and his wife, Mary Ann MacDonald Huelster '47, live in the same house near Macalester where they have lived since 1958. He joined Diane Glancy and Robert Warde in reading from Roger Blakely's posthumously published novel, *Schubert's Daughter*, at Reunion (see page 25).

Patricia Lanegran Kane '47, who retired six years ago as DeWitt Wallace Professor, said: "Since I retired, there have been three things I've been interested in doing: traveling out of the crowded summer season; reading, especially novels with a Twin Cities setting; and doing occasional talks, most recently to my graduating class at our 50th reunion."

Roy Kay joins the department this fall in a tenure-track position. A Minneapolis native, Kay is a graduate of Hamline and completed his doctoral work at the University of Geneva (Switzerland). His thesis is entitled "Rewriting the Self in Emergent Literatures." His teaching interests include African American literature, literary theory, Judaic literature, and history and emergent literatures.

This past year, Michael Keenan finished his fourth year as department chair. He also completed 32 years as a full-time member of the faculty and is now in the college's early retirement program in which he will work half-time. His office is his new home in Arizona, and he will "send in sun-drenched pages from there." His address: 1113 Ironwood Circle, Cottonwood, AZ 86326. His e-mail address remains the same: [keenan@macalester.edu](mailto:keenan@macalester.edu). See page 2 of this issue for news of his Jefferson Award.

Peter Murray's fourth book, *Shakespeare's Imagined Persons: The Psychology of Role-Playing and Acting*, was published in spring 1996, and last fall he participated in a symposium on *The Tempest* held in connection with a Macalester production of the play. Murray is now engaged in a study of empathy in Shakespeare, "a subject with interesting psychological, political and cultural implications," he notes. This coming year he will teach courses in poetry, Shakespeare and literary theory, and also a topics course on the transformation of plays into films.

*England for All Seasons*, the latest book by Susan Allen Toth, was published by Ballantine earlier this year.

Robert Warde will be teaching during the 1997-98 academic year at the Newberry Library in Chicago. He will also be doing research in the Newberry's collections of Western Americana in connection with a memoir he is writing about Southern California in the 1940s and '50s. ●



Roger Blakely '43





GREG HELGESON

Mike Carr '73, center, has endowed four scholarships at Macalester. One scholarship honors Gerald Line, left, his retired St. Paul social studies teacher. Recipients of the scholarships, photographed at the Student Union in April, include, from left, Roselyn Trice '98 (San Francisco), Wendy Guyot '97 (Portland, Ore.) and Sarah Reid '97 (Ashland, Ore.).

## Pass it on: Scholarships to Mac can change lives

by Mike Carr '73

**W**ITHOUT THE SCHOLARSHIP I received in 1969, I would not have had the opportunity to enjoy a Macalester education. It truly made the difference.

During my time here, I often heard the expression that a Macalester liberal arts education would prepare a person to do any number of things in their life. I'm glad that has turned out to be true, because I'm just one more example of that fact, having worked in several different fields since my graduation.

Upon reflection, I realized I had been fortunate in many ways. Over time, I was able to endow several scholarships, and in doing so I chose to honor three outstanding teachers who had made a difference in my life.

One of them was Macalester's distinguished professor of history, Dr. Boyd Shafer, who was my academic adviser. His love of teaching and of history were obvious, and he made a very positive impression upon me. I'll never forget how he introduced himself on the first day of class: "My name is Boyd Shafer, and besides my wife Carol, I have three great loves in my life: history, baseball and Paris!" We learned a lot about history in his classes, and a thing or two about the American pastime and the City of Light, as well.

It's important to know why scholarships are valuable, and why they are worth sup-

porting in the future. Scholarships are a way of bridging the gap for many students, and they are a key factor in Macalester's "need-blind" admissions policy, where

worthy students are admitted without consideration of their family's financial status. This allows Mac to attract top-caliber students from all backgrounds, and adds diversity along with excellence.

Scholarships are also something that last. They are truly

the gift that keeps on giving, because they grow over time and will exist in perpetuity. Every scholarship grows along with the college's endowment, even as a

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Scholarships are also a way to give back, and to acknowledge that there is something special about Macalester that we want others to share in.

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GIVING BACK *continued*

portion is awarded annually to a student.

Scholarships are also a way to give back, and to acknowledge that there is something special about Macalester that we want others to share in. By helping to bring others here, we provide opportunities that might not otherwise exist, especially for those less fortunate or in great need. College can be a life-changing experience, and the value of that in human terms cannot be overestimated.

Scholarships are a way to fulfill a purpose. They can be unrestricted, or designed to aid a particular type of student, or one in a particular field. This kind of giving is also a way to honor others: teachers, loved ones, business associates, community leaders. Whatever the purpose, a scholarship can be the answer.

There is a mistaken impression among many that because of Macalester's relatively large endowment, it may have less need for their financial support. I would challenge anyone holding that opinion to consider that the need remains great, and the opportunity to make a difference still exists.

The other notion that needs correcting is that scholarship giving might not be for the average person. It might take a considerable sum to endow a scholarship of your own, but that doesn't preclude anyone from joining together with others to start one, or from contributing to an existing scholarship.

Our alumni rolls are full of generous donors, and many more potential givers. I hope each one of them will consider the impact they could make — and the satisfaction they would receive — in making a scholarship gift now, or in the future. Macalester people are well-known for "making a difference," and this is one of the best ways to do that, now and ever after. ●

*Mike Carr '73, an investment manager specializing in commodity futures, lives in Oconomowoc, Wis. Since 1988, he has endowed four scholarships at Macalester, which have benefitted more than two dozen students. Last year, he was honored as a recipient of the J.C. Penney "Golden Rule Award" for his work as a "Gentle Man" volunteer at the Women's Center shelter for children in Waukesha, Wis. This article includes excerpts of his remarks as keynote speaker at this year's Macalester scholarship dinner on April 23.*

## These are eventful times for Washington, D.C., alumni

by Shelley Churchill '89  
and Peter Gross '90

**T**HE PAST 18 MONTHS have seen a rebirth in the life of the Macalester Alumni Club in Washington, D.C. More than 200 alumni have participated in events ranging from Wednesday "happy hours" at local bars to cultural and social events around town.

The highlight of the year was a group trip to the Round House Theatre in Silver Spring, Md., on May 16 for a production

Churchill '89, Tami Nading '90 and Cara Woodson Welch '89. They hosted a planning meeting at which the format for the happy hours were decided. Since that time, nine happy hours have been held in locations throughout the District and Virginia.

The planning group also formed committees to plan cultural and educational programs.

In addition to the Round House event, 10 alumni and friends participated in AIDS Walk D.C. in October 1996. More than \$500 was raised for the Whitman

Walker Clinic and other D.C. organizations fighting AIDS.

The planning committee is focusing on maintaining the long-term momentum of the D.C. organization. Shelley Churchill, who has been organizing the events, is stepping down and Cara Woodson Welch is taking the lead.

Among the activities in the planning for the next year: a lecture by Macalester Trustee Joan Adams Mondale '52 and a talk by Chuck Green, political science professor and D.C. favorite.

For more information on

D.C.-area alumni events, contact Cara Woodson Welch, either via e-mail: [Welches@erols.com](mailto:Welches@erols.com), or by phone: (301) 587-3125. ●



Alumni in the Washington, D.C., area gather in May at the Round House Theater for a play starring Conrad Feininger '82. They include (front row, from left): Mary Tripp Chenoweth '40, Conrad, Angie Sturgeon Skinner '28 and Alison Morris '86. Middle (from left): Cara Woodson Welch '89, Tami Nading '90, Shelley Churchill '89 and Ramona Burks '76. Back: Wilson Varga '76, left, and Peter Gross '90.

of *Travels With My Aunt*. Starring Conrad Feininger '82, the play received rave reviews from *The Washington Post* and other area critics.

Wilson Varga '76 and Ramona Burks '76 organized the event, which brought nearly 20 Macalester alumni, family and friends to the theater. Conrad, along with his wife, Kathy, and other Round House staff, hosted a reception for the alumni after the performance with the cast.

The D.C. Alumni Club reorganized formally under the direction of Shelley

*Shelley Churchill '89 and Peter Gross '90 are married and live in Washington. She is enrolling in the M.B.A. program at Duke University this fall. He is a senior development associate at the Aspen Institute in Washington.*



# Australia's wildlife inspires awe in travelers

by Lynda LaBounty

Lynda LaBounty, a professor of psychology at Macalester, will lead a trip to Australia Jan. 6–19, 1998 with Macalester alumni, parents and friends. Here, she explains her fascination with that country.

**W**HEN I WAS A CHILD, I remember learning about the strange animals that lived “Down Under.” They were merely novelties, then, matters of passing interest.

But as I began to learn about evolution and evolutionary theory as well as more about marsupials and egg-laying mammals, my fascination with the amazing evolutionary history of Australia began to grow, as did my desire to see what a few millennia of reproductive isolation can create.

I made my first trip to Australia in January a few years ago with my mother, from whom I inherited my love of wildlife. We traveled on our own, exploring the wildlife and the cities from Melbourne to Cairns at our own pace and loving every minute of it.

I completed a second two-week trip with 27 students this past January term. The course focused on evolutionary theory and wildlife observation (what else?). A highlight of that trip was Tasmania as seen through the eyes of a remarkable man, Androo Kelly, who manages a sanctuary and shares both his knowledge and his love of the animals he cares for in a most personal and engaging way. By all counts, that trip, too, was a great success.

But, you may still be wondering, what exactly is the fascination with the wildlife there? Perhaps a bit about one of my favorites, the echidna, will make it more clear.

The echidna or spiny anteater is one of two remaining egg-laying mammals. The other is the better-known duck-billed platypus. The echidna is something to behold. The common form is about the size of — hmm, a large turtle — and is about as round, with a long “beak” adapted for finding and eating ants and termites. It is covered with fur and sharp spines for defense.

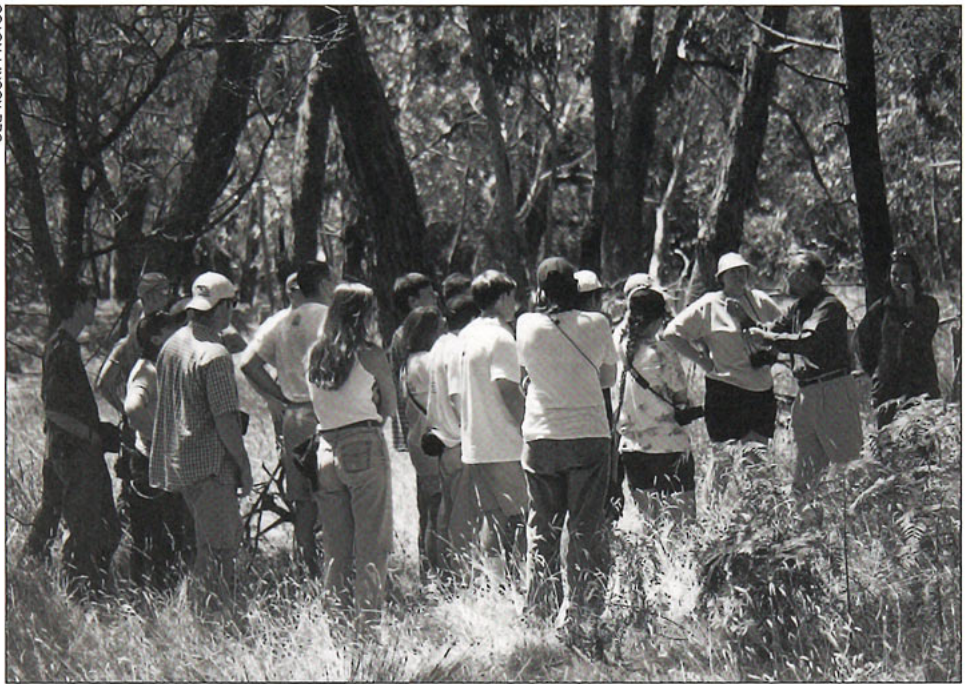
To me, what is most fascinating about the echidna is that it is almost as much reptile as mammal. For example, its skeleton is quite reptilian; its shoulders and forelimbs are put together in the same way,

causing it to walk with a reptilian gait. Its eggs are reptilian, too, with a tough, leathery shell as opposed to a hard-shelled bird egg. Make no mistake, though, it is a mammal. Although it has no breasts, mammary glands on the underside of the female ooze milk like sweat glands secrete

sweat, and the newly “hatched” baby licks the milk off the mother’s fur.

So there it is, this cute little creature just going about its business of making a living and reproducing — all any creature does, really — and quite oblivious to the fact that it exists in a time warp between

DEE KOSKI PHOTOS



Professor Lynda LaBounty, a guide and 27 Macalester students look for koala bears in the Brisbane Ranges National Park west of Melbourne.

## Alumni, parents and friends invited to go Down Under,

**Y**OU CAN JOIN A TOUR OF AUSTRALIA, sponsored by Macalester and hosted by Macalester Professor Lynda LaBounty.

LaBounty, who has taught in the Psychology Department since 1973, has a long-standing interest in wildlife and evolution. She has been to Australia twice before, most recently last January with 27 Macalester students.

Alumni, parents and friends will spend Jan. 6–19, 1998, observing wildlife in Australia, often in the company of expert naturalists. Among the highlights of the 14-day trip:

- observe the duck-billed platypus and other remarkable animals on the island of Tasmania;
- see koalas, kangaroos and other wildlife in Healesville Wildlife Sanctuary in Melbourne;

- travel by catamaran to Green Island, a 6,000-year-old coral cay of exceptional beauty in the Great Barrier Reef;





modern placental mammals and the ancient reptiles. Being in the presence of such an animal makes me acutely aware and in awe of the eternal forces that produced us both.

Protected as they were by the oceans from competition against new and improved versions of mammals that emerged and wiped out marsupials on other continents, kangaroos, koalas, bandicoots, wombats, Tasmanian devils and many species of less well-known marsupials (they give birth to embryonic young) also still survive in Australia and occupy a variety of herbivorous and carnivorous niches. Their diversity in itself is fascinating to me and they have so many unique adaptations among them that awe mounts again in their presence.

There is not enough space here to comment about Australian society. To be sure, Australia has its share of social and environmental problems, but anywhere I have



Androo Kelly, who manages a sanctuary in Tasmania, holds a Tasmanian sea eagle. Kelly "shares both his knowledge and his love of the animals he cares for in a most personal and engaging way," LaBounty says.

1-800-662-6374; e-mail to: patti@macalester.edu)

Aug. 31: Garrison Keillor at Ravinia, Macalester Club of Chicago, 7 p.m.; call Molly McGinnis Stine '87 at (773) 327-1851

Sept. 12-14: Alumni Leadership Conference at Macalester for alumni leaders throughout the country; opening convocation at 3 p.m. Friday, Sept. 12, with speaker Charles Osgood of CBS

Sept. 21: Don Diri Don, youth choir from Poland, concert at 7 p.m., Janet Wallace Fine Arts Center Concert Hall (696-6520)

Sept. 27: "WALTS DAY," to honor the memory of Professor Walt Mink, in Olin-Rice Halls (see page 5)

Oct. 2-4: Fourth Annual Macalester International Roundtable on the theme of "Nature, People and Globalization," with keynote speaker Thomas Lovejoy of the Smithsonian Institution (696-6332)

Oct. 4-5: Macalester Spanish Instructor Juanita Garcigodoy '74 speaking on "Días de Muertos (Days of the Dead)," Oct. 4 in Portland, Ore., and Oct. 5 in Seattle (1-800-662-6374)

Oct. 17-19: Fall Festival and Parents' Weekend (696-6295 or 1-800-662-6374)

Oct. 25: Great Scots event (alumni 55 and older) with author Billie Young discussing "Risk Taking: Getting the Most Out of Life," 8:30-11:15 a.m., Weyerhaeuser Hall (696-6026)

Oct. 26: Joan Adams Mondale '52, speaking on art in public places, 6-8 p.m., Washington, D.C., location TBA (1-800-662-6374)

Oct. 26: Tour of Renoir exhibit at the Art Institute of Chicago, with Professor Robert Warde (1-800-662-6374)

Nov. 7: Alumni event at Macalester with actor Peter Berg '84 and Hollywood agent Ari Emanuel '83 (1-800-662-6374)

Nov. 22: Twin Cities alumni event, "The 1940s Radio Hour," theater with pre-performance reception at 7 p.m., Janet Wallace Fine Arts Center (696-6295)

Dec. 13: Sounds of Blackness concert, 8 p.m., Orpheum Theater, Minneapolis, preceded by alumni reception (696-6026)

Jan. 6-19, 1998: alumni trip to Australia with Professor Lynda LaBounty ●

traveled, both in rural areas and in the major cities, the people have been most friendly and hospitable. Australia also offers modern, clean, safe and vibrant cities. These things have always added to the pleasures of traveling Down Under, and I look forward to many happy returns. ●

## Calendar of alumni events

**H**ERE 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. The toll-free number is 1-800-662-6374. You may also call the campus events line, (612) 696-6900.

*Please note:* The Fall 1997 Arts & Events Calendar will be mailed to all Twin Cities area alumni in late August. It will list all the music, dance, theater, visual arts events and lectures on campus.

Aug. 22-24: Alumni event at Ashland, Ore., Shakespeare Festival, with Professor Sears Eldredge (call Associate Alumni Director Jen Patti '91 at 696-6026 or

## Jan. 6-19, 1998

- take the Kuranda Scenic Railway on a spectacular day trip into the Kuranda rainforest;

- explore the cities of Melbourne and Sydney and the resort town of Cairns.

Depart: Jan. 6 from Los Angeles on Qantas Airways for an overnight flight to Melbourne.

Cost: \$3,899 per person from Los Angeles (based on double occupancy). Includes round-trip airfare and all intra-Australia flights, hotels, ground transportation, breakfast daily, plus lunches and/or dinners. Air add-on of \$310 from Twin Cities. Single-room supplement of \$625. Airport departure tax is \$46, gratuities \$14, visa fees \$10.

Questions? For more detailed information and a descriptive brochure, call Associate Alumni Director Jen Patti '91 at 1-800-662-6374 or (612) 696-6026. Or fax: 612-696-6192. ●



# Intrepid Tartan Travelers

*Alumni of every decade, from the Class of '38  
to the Class of '95, enjoy a Mac-flavored fortnight  
in Scotland and England*



*Don't keep off the grass:* Visitors are usually forbidden to step on the manicured grass here, but alumni were allowed to enjoy a social hour on the lawn in front of Pembroke College in Cambridge. The social hour and following dinner were arranged by John Keith Rose '50, who recently retired from the biology and medicine faculties at the University of Cambridge but continues to tutor and teach.



*Men in kilts, always a stirring sight:* Graham Baird '95 strikes up a tune on Scotland's Isle of Skye.

## Poetry in motion

'A tour group of chums from ol' Mac  
From Glasgow began the great trek  
As London drew near  
It soon became clear  
They suffered a severe sleeping lack.'

*— one of the limericks composed  
by the Mac group on the bus*



*I say, it's the Wig and Pen Club!:*  
A dozen alumni in London joined the Mac group for a private dinner at this London club for lawyers and journalists, founded in 1625. Brian Berkopec '91, left, dropped over from Paris and Anne Harbor '64 of Boston, second from left, stopped by on her own trip to England. Also visible are Jayne Niemi '79 (St. Paul), Steve Pitkin '82 (London) and David Nelson '82 (Hudson, Ohio), right. Rich Mahony '82, who also works in London, served as host for the evening.

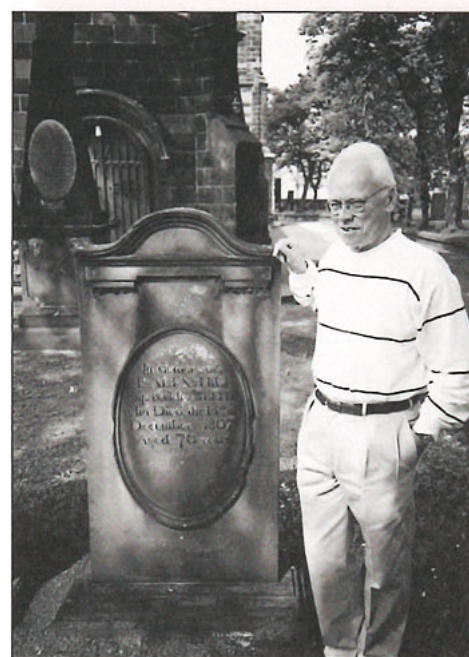




*Americans think 100 years is a long time, Brits think 100 miles is a long way: En route from England's Lake District to York, the group visits the ruins of Fountains Abbey near Ripon in North Yorkshire. Founded in 1132, the former abbey is set in 100 acres of woodland with ornamental gardens.*

*'It was an extraordinary, Macalester-flavored trip. All ages were represented, and everybody got along very well.'*

*— Mary Smail, retired associate alumni director and leader of the tour*



*Forefathers and foremothers: Sandy Hill '57 revisits Leith, Scotland,*

*where some of his ancestors are buried. Sandy, assistant to the president of Macalester, helped his wife, Mary Smail, retired associate alumni director, lead the Macalester tour of 37 alumni and friends, June 3-16. See the back cover of this issue for a group photo.*

*This must be the place: Dave McLaughlin '59 (Oklahoma City, Okla.), whose name suggests he might have a Scot or two in his background, takes over as tour guide at the Duke of Argyll's castle in Scotland.*





# Understanding the Wallaces' gift to Macalester

by Michael S. McPherson

**D**EWITT AND LILA WALLACE'S gift of about 10 million shares of Reader's Digest stock for the benefit of Macalester College has had a transforming impact on the college's capacities and aspirations. It is not surprising that a gift of this magnitude — one with few, if any, precedents in American higher education — should bring some complications with it.

One such complication arose a few months ago, when the Reader's Digest Association announced a downward revision in its earnings projections for the remainder of 1997. Although the Digest remains a profitable company, this downward projection produced a sharp drop in the price of Reader's Digest stock. Because Macalester still includes in its endowment some six million shares of Reader's Digest stock, this drop in price caused a "markdown" in the value of our Reader's Digest holdings of \$82 million between June 30, 1996, and June 30, 1997.

**T**HOSE WHO CARE about Macalester will want to understand the significance of this development for the college. Perhaps the most important point is that the Wallace gift continues to provide a strong underpinning to Macalester's finances. Even after a markdown of \$82 million, our endowment of about \$450 million (as of June 30) remains one of the strongest among the nation's liberal arts colleges. At this writing, about \$170 million of the college's endowment is held in Reader's Digest stock, with the remaining \$280 million held in a diversified portfolio of equities and fixed-income assets. While Digest stock has performed poorly in the market of late, our diversified portfolio has done well.

Also of significance is the fact that the terms of the Wallaces' gift limit the college's ability to exchange Digest stock for other assets. It was the aim of DeWitt and Lila Wallace that the income from the company they founded would be devoted in perpetuity to support charitable causes they believed in. The Wallaces created

seven "support organizations" — charitable foundations whose sole purpose was to benefit non-profit enterprises the Wallaces valued. Macalester is among the benefiting organizations, along with the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Lincoln Center, Colonial Williamsburg and others. Each supporting organization was endowed with non-voting shares in the Reader's Digest Association, which was, at the time of the Wallaces' deaths, privately held. Additional stock was provided to two foundations. As long as the company was privately held, the stock was not listed on any public exchange and sales of stock were not a realistic option.

Some years after the Wallaces' deaths, the company was reorganized and taken public, in part to provide liquidity for the charitable shareholders. At this point, diversification of the RDA stock in the support organizations and foundations became an option. The prospect of moving large blocks of non-registered stock onto the market plainly required cooperation among the support organizations and foundations, as well as the active cooperation of the company's management in presenting the stock to the market. In the early 1990s, two such coordinated sales of stock resulted in each of the support organizations and foundations selling 40 percent of its Digest holdings. Further public offerings were suspended when the operating performance of the company began to weaken.

**C**LEARLY, Macalester's ability to control sales of the Reader's Digest stock in its endowment is constrained. First, the stock is not owned by the college, but by the DeWitt Wallace Fund for Macalester College, a non-profit entity with its own six-member board of directors. (It is important to underscore that because the fund's whole reason for existence is to benefit Macalester College, the assets of the fund are properly included in our endowment; nevertheless, Macalester's Board of Trustees has no authority to buy and sell assets owned by the fund.) Second, there are obviously strong reasons for the various support organizations to coordinate their sales of Reader's Digest stock, and to plan such offerings for times when the market will respond favorably.

Macalester's long-run goal — shared with the directors of its support organiza-

tion — is to continue to diversify its holdings of RDA stock. We must, however, do this deliberately and prudently, attending to the state of the market for the stock and aiming to act cooperatively with our fellow support organizations.

Meanwhile, the college must manage its finances in full awareness of the special vulnerabilities created by having a significant share of its assets held in a single stock. Macalester's strategic planning has, in fact, been carefully thought through with this issue in mind. We have consistently held our spending on current operations to a figure several million dollars below our total flow of operating revenues, including dividends from the Digest. By running planned surpluses, and devoting part of those surpluses to building projects, we have shielded our ongoing operations from the risk of a decline in income from Reader's Digest stock. Indeed, the college began last spring to develop contingency plans for a cut in the Digest dividend — a cut the Digest in fact announced in mid-July.

**J**UST AS IMPORTANT as careful management of income from the Digest holding is the fact that the college's planning has always recognized that Macalester cannot realize its full potential for high-quality education and service on the basis of its endowment alone. Our strategic plan recognizes our continued reliance on tuition income, even as it allows for substantial funding of student aid to keep a Macalester education affordable. Moreover, our plans have consistently recognized the need for increasing financial support from our alumni and friends. Our efforts to carry this message to our supporters have resulted this year in a record number of contributors to our Annual Fund, as well as one of the best years ever for total giving to the college. These efforts will remain important to the college's success, regardless of fluctuations in the value of Reader's Digest stock.

As I noted at the outset, our gift from DeWitt and Lila Wallace has not been without complications. Nonetheless, the gift has brought enormous blessings, and we are happy to live with the complexities. ●

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*With this issue, Michael S. McPherson, the president of Macalester, begins a regular column in Macalester Today.*





# Class of '97

## REFLECTIONS ON MACALESTER



*Nine seniors were honored in May with the second annual Presidential Student Leadership Award in recognition of their outstanding contributions to the Macalester community throughout their college careers.*

*All nine students are pictured on the following pages.*

*We asked three of them — Molly Bettin, Minh Ta and Sandra Ortiz — to reflect on the past four years. The words are their own, condensed from lengthy interviews with writer Andy Steiner '90 and Jon Halvorsen*

*of Macalester Today.*



PHOTOS BY GREG HELGESON



*President McPherson, far left, with the recipients of the Presidential Student Leadership Award. Top: English Professor Diane Glancy, President McPherson and Thien-Bao Phi. Right: Pamela Gozo and Martha Sarpong.*



## Jennifer Berger

Hometown: *New York City*

Majors: *political science and English*

Some Macalester activities: deeply involved with both Admissions Office, leading campus tours and hosting prospective students, and Community Service Office, coordinating volunteers for the Simpson Emergency Shelter and working for Maction

Those who know her say: "In my 11 years at Macalester, I have known no other student who has demonstrated a greater commitment to service or given more of herself to the college. If I were to pick one member of the

Macalester community who embodies both the spirit and the values of the institution, Jennifer would easily be my choice."

— Daymond Dean '91, *assistant director of admissions*

"Jennifer's wonderful personality, sense of self and integrity have added a great deal to my experience here at Macalester. . . . I have learned an enormous amount about how to be a leader, what commitment is and why service is important through Jennifer's example."

— Betsy Hearn, *program coordinator, Community Service Office*

## Yun Jae Chun

Hometown: *Seoul, Korea*

Major: *sociology*

Some Macalester activities: student representative on the Presidential Search Committee that recommended Mike McPherson as Macalester's president; administrative assistant for the Multicultural Affairs Office; teaching assistant for Professor Karen Warren's "Critical Thinking" course; coordinator for children and education at the Community Service Office in St. Paul; hall administrator and resident assistant

Those who know her say: "Yun Jae Chun is a delightful, emotionally mature, thoughtful and considerate person. She is wonderfully self-reflective, a good and active listener, a well-versed scholar and a

PHOTOS BY GREG HELGESON



Jennifer Berger

socially conscientious citizen. . . . She is proof that, as a student at Macalester, one can excel academically, engage in meaningful service, and commit oneself to multicultural awareness and education in ways that are mutually reinforcing."

— Karen Warren, *professor of philosophy*

## Pamela Gozo

Hometown: *Harare, Zimbabwe*

Majors: *economics and international studies*

Some Macalester activities: winner of this year's Macalester Internationalism Award (see May's *Macalester Today*), the Dean's Award for community service in 1996 and the Multicultural Leadership Award in 1995; manager of Cultural House for students of color; programming assistant for Residential Life; mentor to other international students; president of Afrika!, an organization that seeks to bring a greater awareness of African issues to campus

Those who know her say: "Pam is a very mature student. In each aspect of her life here, she is a positive role model — good grades, successful leader in student organizations and in departments. I think Pam lives the values of the college each day . . . and strives to make each day better than the previous one in all she does."

— Mary Beth Carstens, *central program coordinator, Residential Life*



Pamela Gozo



Yun Jae Chun



## Julia Knoll

Hometown: *Portland, Ore.*

Major: *biology*

Some Macalester activities: a four-year starter, two-year captain and two-year Academic All-Conference on the women's soccer team; teaching assistant for Professor Lin Aanonsen's neuroscience course and introductory biology; one of 40 students nationwide chosen to present her work in a poster session on Capitol Hill to demonstrate the importance of undergraduate research



*Julia Knoll*

Those who know her say:

"As captain, Julie coordinated the entire preseason orientation for the team. She has also served as the ultimate team leader." — *soccer Coach John Leaney*

"Julie has a strong interest in internationalism. She is a biology major with a Spanish minor and spent a semester in Costa Rica. Her goals there were to become involved in and study health care practice, and to hone her Spanish-speaking ability. . . . Her ultimate goal is to work in the area of international public health. Her interests and goals perfectly match the values of the college — internationalism and service." — *biology Professor Lin Aanonsen*

## Martha Sarpong

Hometown: *Juaso, Ghana*

Major: *chemistry*

Some Macalester activities: four years on the track and field team; 10-time All-MIAC long and triple jumper, and Macalester record holder in both events; tutor for general, organic and physical chemistry classes; worked with elementary students to encourage their



*Martha Sarpong*

interest in science; delivered meals to people living with AIDS; served as nursery caregiver at Macalester Plymouth Church

Those who know her say:

"Martha has been the evening supervisor for the Learning Center, and by doing so served as the person who gives the younger tutors the example they need to grow in their work. Her everyday example has turned on her unfailingly positive demeanor, her ability to maintain others' emotions at an even pitch and her patient teaching as a Learning Center tutor."

— *Charles Norman, director, and Darlane Kroening, science counselor, Learning Center*

## Thien-Bao Phi

Hometown: *Minneapolis*

Major: *English (creative writing)*

Some Macalester activities: active in the Asian Student Alliance for four years, working to build a strong Asian and Asian American community; went to Vietnam on a study-abroad program, resulting in a photo and poetry project; twice winner of the Academy of American Poets Award



*Thien-Bao Phi*

Those who know him say: "For four years, he has gone back to South High in Minneapolis to speak, discuss, perform and workshop. Over the years, these engagements have included speaking about Asian American history and issues, speaking about how his racial and class identity inform his writing, performing his own poems, and workshoping creative writing around the issues of home, identity, 'space and place,' and language. . . . I think the effects of Bao's talent, perseverance and excellence will be long-lasting. He will be a credit to Macalester in the future as much as he is now."

— *Diane Glancy, professor of English*



# Molly Bettin

Hometown: Rochester, Minn.

Major: neuroscience

**Some Macalester activities:** resident assistant and programming assistant for Residential Life; student health educator at Winton Health Services, educating students about healthy lifestyles; preceptor for the late Professor Walt Mink's course on "Brain, Mind and Behavior"

**Career plans:** to be a doctor; was accepted by the University of Minnesota Medical School at the end of her sophomore year

**M**ACALESTER WAS DEFINITELY an eye-opening experience for me. At first, I remember thinking that people here were very different from people at my high school, more willing to question everything and be true individuals. I remember being shocked by people with green hair, and thinking that I could walk outside in my pajamas or wear the same clothes for a week straight and no one would have said anything. So it was a new environment for me, but also very fascinating.

My first year, I took a class from [psychology Professor] Walt Mink called "Brain, Mind and Behavior," and I knew instantly that this is what I loved. Luckily, the official neuroscience major was developed, so I was able to choose that as my field of study. We're the first class to graduate as neuroscience majors, so that's kind of exciting.

I remember my sophomore year when I was taking a lot of neuroscience classes at once, and all of us "neuro study buddies" would get together to study. But the material was just so fascinating that we would get into great conversations about the mind and consciousness and reality and how the brain works. Studying wasn't work, it was fun, and everything was just clicking. Even my English and music classes were starting to relate to things we talked about in my neuroscience classes. I think that's what true learning is: making connections between otherwise non-related things.

My interest in being a doctor evolved from there, my psych and biology classes, and the summer experiences I've had. After sophomore year, for example, I worked at the Mayo Clinic in their summer research program. I worked in the lab of a neurologist who was looking at the expression of a certain protein in rat brains and how it might be involved in epilepsy and stroke. I loved it.

Last January, I did an internship at a residential nursing home for eight women with Alzheimer's. Partially, my interest came from a more biological

understanding of Alzheimer's, like what they have found in a petri dish or a test tube. I didn't know very much about what the disease looked like in a human being.

So I went every day and saw the progression of the disease and the families' reactions to it. My job was to engage the women's minds as much as possible. At first, I met great resistance. "What? You want me to draw? Make crafts? Do this game? No, I don't want

to do that." It was like trying something unfamiliar would be risky for them and put them in a position where their failing memories would be painfully obvious. But soon they started to recognize me as someone who was ready to devote all my attention to them and play fun games with

them. One of the residents even started to recruit the other women to join in our activities. Anything with music was successful. I play the piano, so we'd have sing-alongs. Dancing and chair-aerobics were also big hits. I like to think that I saw a difference in the residents, that I broke the monotony of their days and made them come out of their shell. It was one of the most rewarding experiences I've had at Macalester.

My family has always been supportive of everything I do. They never pushed me into or out of being a doctor. I'm looking forward to med school. Of course, I watch "ER" and I wonder if I can stay up for 68 hours straight and work like crazy. But I thought that about Macalester, too. I thought it was going to be so hard. But I made it, and I know people who have gone to med school and survived. So I can do it, too.

As graduation gets closer, I think we all naturally slide into this reflective, retrospective mood. On one hand, I am really sad to leave Macalester. But I'm also really looking forward to everything in my future. Just like when I graduated from high school, I'm definitely excited about what will happen next and what great things await.



GREG HELGESSON

*'While maintaining a flawless academic record, Molly is dedicated to service.'*

—Professor Lin Aanonsen



# Minh Ta

**Hometown:** born in Saigon, grew up in Philadelphia

**Majors:** political science and history

**Some Macalester activities:** helped to create minors in African American studies and comparative North American studies, starting fall '97; vice president of student government; legislative aide to state Rep. Matt Entenza '83

**Career plans:** work in politics and public policy

**M**Y FAMILY IS ETHNIC CHINESE, but we were born in Vietnam. I'm the youngest [of four children]. We escaped from Vietnam in 1978. We were part of the boat people. I was only 2 or 3 so I don't remember anything, except for the fog and getting seasick.

Philadelphia is pretty diverse but also quite segregated, along class but primarily along race lines. Some people are saying we [Asian Americans] still don't know where we figure within this black-white race notion of America. [I heard] lots of standard "Chink" insults — that whole plethora of bad Monty Python-ish insults. You just get used to it.

But one incident was weird. I was trying to get my driver's license and I was discriminated against by a black state police sergeant. He made so many assumptions because apparently the first three numbers of my Social Security card were [unusual]. The sergeant looked at me and said, "Where did you buy this card, kid?" — sort of implying that my dad and I were illegal immigrants. [It was] his whole disrespectful treatment, confiscating my Social Security card, not listening to my father. My dad learned English when he was 50; he's a very smart man; he knows five or six languages. But in our society, when someone speaks English with an accent, automatically they're "dumb." So you have to talk louder or you have to talk slower to the person.

So the sergeant did the same sort of thing. He just took my card and then sort of kicked us out of his office. I got on the phone and I called an attorney, my city councilman's office, my state representative's office, my state senator's office, my U.S. congressman and my U.S. senator. And everybody except the U.S. Senate office called to complain about what had happened. [State police] asked, "Will you accept an apology?" So I did.

I've got a lot out of Macalester. Macalester has also got a lot out of me [he laughs]. There have been a number of issues I've worked on here that

have been dear to my heart. One specifically is ethnic studies. I really started on that issue in the second semester of my freshman year. So now I'm in the second semester of my senior year and I can actually see we've gone through the process and we have something to show for it in terms of two new programs: comparative North American studies and African American studies. It's been a very enriching experience: organizing [student protests], then sitting on the [campus] committees and going through that whole process the last three years.

I hate to be corny about it, but this is one seed. And I'm hoping this will develop into majors later. It will provide students with the option of taking courses and learning about racial and ethnic minorities and issues of multiculturalism and diversity.

I've gotten a lot of crap from some students who thought I was compromising too much with the administration and faculty. But for some reason I've always been

the middle person, the honest broker, trying to cut a deal or work something out.

I love politics and I love public policy, and I really like the intersection between the two. You really need to know both to be able to function in the other. People always ask me, "Are you

going to be an elected official sometime?" How can one answer that? I try to be as sincere and upfront as possible. I made a decision to stay in Minnesota for at least the next two years and work in the political scene here.

I'm [state Rep. Matt Entenza's] legislative aide at the capital. It's almost been a full-time job since January. In this day and age, like most people in my generation, there are very few people that I respect, particularly politicians. I genuinely respect him and look to him as a role model.

I also like helping out people, not in a condescending way. I worked very closely on a bill with a number of community-based and nonprofit organizations. I helped to get them more money for adult literacy and ESL programs. It's an egotistical feeling. But it's also a really nice feeling, to be able to do that in a job situation.

*'Minh's persistence, hard work and enthusiasm have propelled the faculty into action and supported its work [on ethnic studies]. He has provided us a model from which we can all learn.'*

— Professor Janet Carlson



GREG HELGESON



## Sandra Ortiz

Hometown: Manila, Philippines

Majors: economics, political science and international studies

Some Macalester activities: Asian Student Alliance co-chair; student representative on Alumni Board's Development Committee and on Multicultural Affairs Evaluation Task Force

Career plans: undecided; continue to work in the private sector after two years as financial analyst at Bear, Stearns & Co., Inc., in New York; eventually enroll in grad school



GREG HELGESON

I'M THE YOUNGEST OF FOUR CHILDREN. I felt like I grew up much faster than my peers. At an early age I was engaging in conversations about serious issues with my family.

Having grown up in the Philippines, I think we're part of a small privileged class in a developing

country. How do you make sense of that? Also, having gone to an outstanding international

school with privileged kids — expatriates' and diplomats' kids — how do you deal with being sheltered in an ivory tower amidst poverty?

I got a scholarship to the International School in Manila. The school is meant for foreign students and it's not geared towards local Filipinos, but they do have two slots every year that Filipino fifth-graders compete for through rigorous tests and interviews. It felt like "reverse diversification" because I was a local in the school's host country.

I think to a certain extent I came to Macalester saying, "There's a lot at stake here, I'm taking a risk and a lot of money's involved." There was definitely a part of me that said, "I better make something out of this education and get a job."

I guess my idealistic self thought, "I'm going to be a development economist. I'm going to go to school in the U.S. and then come back and help my country." After a while I decided it wasn't so simple. I haven't completely changed my opinions or goals, but they have become more informed and I have developed a sense of perspective.

apartments but a bed and an exercise bike. It's crazy. The company pays for your dinner once you're there past 7 p.m.; at night they drive you back home because it's so late. You don't get much sleep. New York is one city that's going to be alive when I get out of work. I look forward to that.

Maybe because I went to high school with kids from all over the world, I always thought, "I'm an international student. That's neat." I never thought it was such a big issue. In the U.S., a lot of people just look at your appearance and make many assumptions about where you come from and what you're like.

It was never really an issue until I came here. I didn't even know what "person of color" meant. I started to think, "I hope people don't think I'm uneducated or I can't speak English because I'm 'foreign-looking.'" I feel defensive. I've always thought of myself as international, not Asian American, but I realize that we have similar issues.

Being with other people of color is really gratifying for me. I took solace in the Asian Student Alliance, and I have made very good friends from there. We have issues that other people may not understand. People often say, "Why do those international students or people of color always stick together?" Often it's because we understand and are most comfortable with each other.

My favorite memories of my first year at Macalester are the times I shared with other students who were going through similar culture shock and the same transitions. I also fondly remember dinners at professors' homes. It is precisely the ability to interact with people on a more personal level that I was hoping to have in a small school.

Those moments were very crucial for me that first year, and they still are. Going to the U.S. for college and attending Macalester, in particular, are two of the most important decisions I've made in my life. I really like what I've become because of the past four years. ●

*'Sandra is active, responsible and willing to take leadership roles. All that and her affable style and personality make her an outstanding role model.'*

—Richard Ammons, vice president for college advancement



# REUNION & COMMENCEMENT

## 1997

About 1,100 alumni —  
a record number — joined hundreds of parents

May 23–25 to celebrate Reunion and Commencement.

We present a few photos  
from the family album.



GREG HELGESON



JIM HANSEN

Above: The 50th reunion class led the way at the Class of '97 Commencement procession. The '47 graduates who marched included (from right) Roberta Campbell Perkins (Wichita, Kan.), Maxine Amundrud Tenney (Knoxville, Tenn.) and Marian Andersen Lones (Pine City, Minn.). "Reunion was wonderful," Maxine declared. "Roberta and I said we felt like kids again." Right: Alec Jordan (Los Angeles), right, and Regan Curtis (Dallas, Texas)

are all smiles at their graduation. Below: Mark Sherman '72 (St. Paul), left, and Mel Duncan '72 (St. Paul) share a joke at their class reception.



GREG HELGESON





# REUNION & COMMENCEMENT 1997

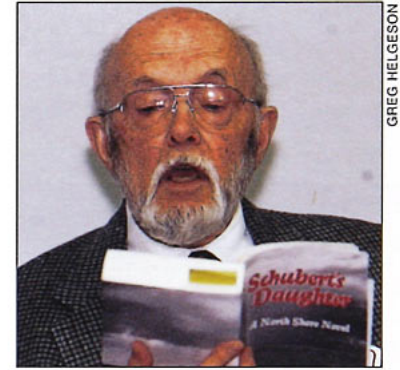
Right: How often do a father and daughter have the chance to celebrate a college reunion during the same weekend? Bruce Christie '62 (Mounds View, Minn.) and Wenona Christie '92 (St. Paul) did just that in May. Below: Students in the Commencement procession with a few of the flags of the nations represented in Macalester's student body. Below right: Sonia Noronha Mykletun '72 (Oslo, Norway), left, Connie Klein Kozlak '72 (Minneapolis) and Minhchau Nguyen '72 (Washington, D.C.) get together after attending a talk by Professor David Lanegran '63 in Weyerhaeuser Chapel.



GREG HELGESON



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Top left: Lynette Holloway '87 (New York City), left, and Troy Wilderson '87 (West Hollywood, Calif.) were among those attending the picnic lunch inside the Field House. Above: Professor Emeritus Howard Huelster '49 (St. Paul) joined Professors Diane Glancy and Robert Warde in reading from their colleague Roger Blakely's posthumously published novel, *Schubert's Daughter*, before the dedication of the Blakely Production Studio in the Humanities Building. Left: The campus was blooming for Reunion and Commencement Weekend. This view looks across the lawn toward the DeWitt Wallace Library.

Emeritus Howard Huelster '49 (St. Paul) joined Professors Diane Glancy and Robert Warde in reading from their colleague Roger Blakely's posthumously published novel, *Schubert's Daughter*, before the dedication of the Blakely Production Studio in the Humanities Building. Left: The campus was blooming for Reunion and Commencement Weekend. This view looks across the lawn toward the DeWitt Wallace Library.

GREG HELGESON



GREG HELGESON



JIM HANSEN





# Macalester's 1997 Distinguished Citizens

## Elizabeth Flad Elliott Tiffany '42

**I**N UNTOLD HOURS of volunteer work over the past 55 years, Betty Tiffany has enriched the lives of countless people. In her cheerful, witty, tactful way, she is living out her values as a member of House of Hope Presbyterian Church. "The examples of her compassion are, like her commitment and her energy level, limitless," writes Connie

Bowers-Capen of the YWCA staff in St. Paul. A former member of the YWCA's Board of Directors, Tiffany, a mother of seven, works tirelessly with and on behalf of homeless women and children. She was the driving force in the Y's scholarship program, which has helped more than 3,000 children. She serves on the board of DARTS, a social service agency whose mission is to help seniors remain independent, sharing her time and talents in training volunteers to help seniors live with dignity and purpose. Under her leadership, the St. Paul Garden Club has brought beauty to all sections of the city. She has been a faithful supporter of the Schubert Club of St. Paul and its programs. Her neighbor, Elizabeth

Driscoll, recalls that when a child in the neighborhood suffered a devastating illness, Tiffany organized a support group for the mother. The group has since changed and grown, but it continues to enrich the neighborhood and Betty is still the leader. Driscoll cherishes "Betty's energy and enthusiasm for doing what's right and good, healing and helpful, enlightening, worthwhile and beautiful."

## Grace Prechtel Young '57

**I** REALLY FEEL this is where God has sent me," Grace Prechtel Young said shortly before she retired in 1995 from Earle Brown Elementary School in Brooklyn Center, Minn. In 31 years at the school, as a teacher, special education director, associate principal and principal, Young earned renown for her compassion, skill, fairness and zest for life.



Betty Flad Tiffany '42



Grace Prechtel Young '57

"She practices the policy of being totally honest while being totally kind whether dealing with parents, students or teachers," two supervisors wrote in 1991. As Earle Brown School became more culturally diverse — one-third of its 900 students are children of color — she viewed its diversity as a strength and helped the school achieve a Minnesota School of Excellence Award. Her empathy does not stem from an easy life: she lost her first husband to cancer when she was 28, and her daughter was born profoundly handicapped. Two of Young's many enduring friends recall her love and concern as their classmate. "I came to Macalester

**T**HE DISTINGUISHED CITIZEN CITATION recognizes alumni who have exercised leadership in civic, social, religious and professional activities. It is given because the Alumni Association, the Board of Trustees and the faculty of Macalester hold that a college education should be the training and inspiration for unselfish and effective service to the community, the nation and the world. Recipients demonstrate a practical acceptance of these obligations in their lives and work. To nominate an alumnus or alumna for the 1998 Distinguished Citizen Citations, please write the Alumni Office no later than Nov. 1, 1997. •





Dean R. Edstrom '62

with a very severe physical disability, but Gracie accepted me the very first time we met," wrote Katherine Morrow '57. Rosalind Santos Moldwin '57, who came from the Philippines, recalls that Young was "my oasis" in times of need and once insisted on giving her a portion of Young's carhop earnings for her voice lessons. "Gracie is a true, beautiful, generous friend," Moldwin wrote. "She embodies Anne Frank's statement: No one has ever become poor by giving."

### Dean R. Edstrom '62

**M**Y PURPOSE IS TO BUILD a better world for our children," says Dean Edstrom. He began to acquire his sense of service and international outlook from Rotary International, of which his father was a member, while he was growing up in Glencoe, Minn. Macalester reinforced those values: Edstrom visited the Soviet Union with SPAN (Student Project for Amity among Nations) and traveled throughout the U.S. with international journalists from the World Press Institute. Since the 1970s, when he returned to Minnesota after practicing law in Paris and New York, Edstrom has given generously of himself while maintaining a demanding law practice in Minneapolis. Edstrom contributed to the commercial, industrial and residential development of Eden Prairie, his home, as a City Council member and founding president of the Eden Prairie Foundation. He was district chair of a Rotary International fund-raising campaign that aims to eradicate polio worldwide. The former Rotary district governor remains very involved with the Rotary Foundation, which provides scholarships for

1,200 students throughout the world each year. Having been active on behalf of Macalester in a variety of ways, Edstrom currently chairs the University Children's Foundation, which works with the University of Minnesota's Pediatrics Department to raise money for pediatric research. Characteristically, Edstrom plays down his part in good causes. "It's heartwarming to see how many people can really get committed to some of these things," he says.

### Kim Hines '77

**S**INCE SHE joined the Children's Theatre Company at age 12, theater has been Kim Hines' place to shine. As an actor, director and playwright, the Minneapolis native is a vibrant figure at Twin Cities theater companies, including the Guthrie, Penumbra, Illusion and Mixed Blood. "Theater was the vehicle that brought all my interests together in one place," says Hines, who helped found Mixed Blood while a student at Macalester. "It's also one of the best ways to educate, entertain and inform people — and you can make it quite painless." In recent years, Hines has won wide praise for her thought-provoking plays, especially on social issues. Struggling to come to terms with the death of a close friend from AIDS, she wrote "Do Not Pass



Kim Hines '77

Go," a play about a black gay man, angry and demanding, who is dying of AIDS. For its New Visions/New Voices theater workshop, the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., showcased "I Believe I'll Run On... and See What the End's Gonna Be," her work about the deterioration of the black community and Americans' lack of groundedness in their own history. Her one-person show, "Who Was I the Last Time I Saw You?," offers strong portraits of four black females ranging in age from 10 to 80. Hines' growing stature as a playwright and screenwriter earned her a prestigious Bush Artist Fellowship for 1997. ●



# REUNION & COMMENCEMENT 1997

## Reunion class gifts

ALUMNI FROM THE 10th, 25th, 40th and 50th reunion classes presented class gifts to Macalester.

Class of '87: \$7,993

Class of '72: \$684,382

Class of '57: \$1,147,637

Class of '47: \$22,284

In addition, the Class of '97 raised \$4,286 for a class gift to Macalester: a mosaic of the globe to be placed in front of the new Campus Center. The amount includes a \$500 "challenge" contribution from President McPherson. •



GREG HELGESON

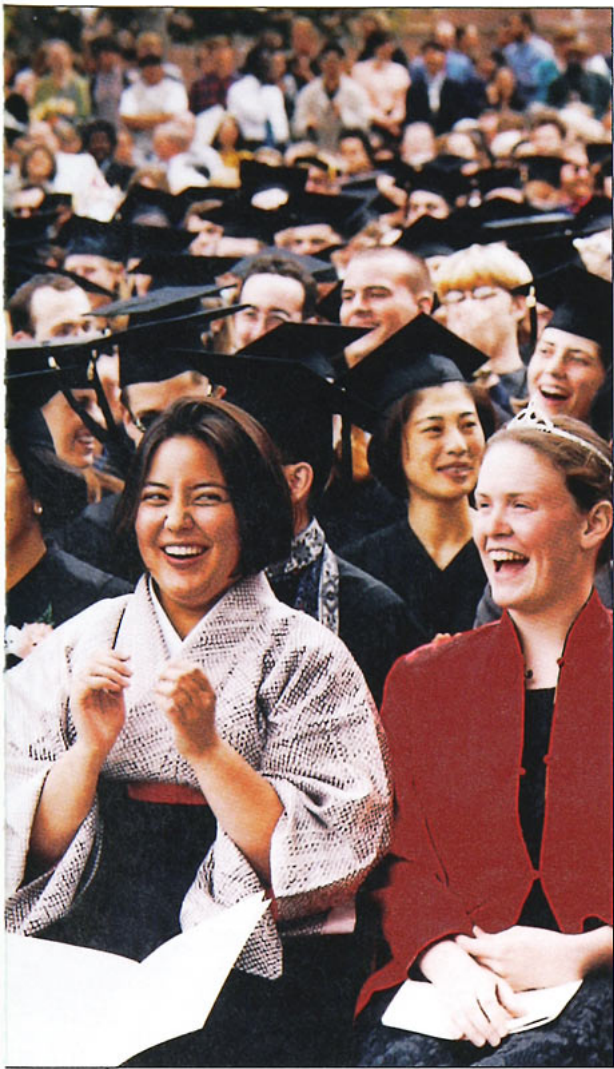


Top: Some faces from the Class of 1997. Above: Among those attending the Class of '72 dinner were, from left, Cindy and Tim Hultquist (Greenwich, Conn.), Barbara and Geoffrey Maruyama (St. Paul), and Desmond Runyan (Chapel Hill, N.C.). Right: Leontyne Mbele-Mbong '97 (Gex, France) shared the great day with her grandparents, John and Elizabeth Hale, left, and her parents, Helene and Samuel Mbele-Mbong, right.



GREG HELGESON





JIM HANSEN



JIM HANSEN

Above: Fred Coates '42 (Edina, Minn.), left, and Roger Rohrbacher '42 and Mary Johnson Rohrbacher '42 (Kennewick, Wash.) enjoy one of the seminars held during the weekend. Below: The Class of '57 finds a lot to laugh about in their class survey results. In the foreground are Alan Naylor (Minnetonka, Minn.), left, his wife Dena and Norman Stanton (Hartsdale, N.Y). In back, also enjoying the moment, are Kay Klinkerfues Batchelder (Rochester, Minn.), second from left, and her husband, Christopher, left.



JIM HANSEN





# REUNION & COMMENCEMENT 1997



JIM HANSEN



JIM HANSEN

Above: New graduate Mariam-Sena Haile (Avon, Minn.) is congratulated by Marika Pfefferkorn '96 (Madison, Wis.).

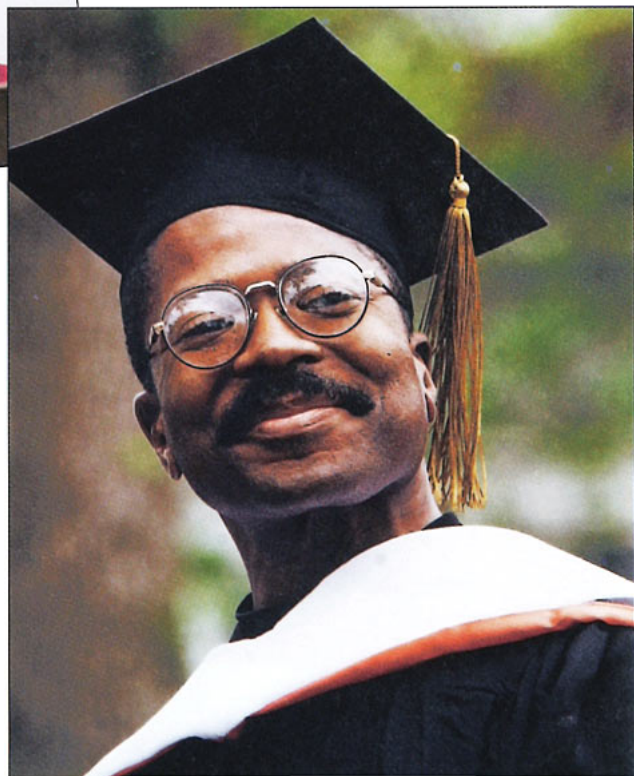
Top left: President McPherson and Ruth Stricker-Dayton '57 (Wayzata, Minn.) at the Class of '57 dinner, held in the newly built residence hall near the Alumni House.

Left middle: Attending the 50-Year-Plus Club induction ceremony are Class of '47 members (from left) Carol Hauser Burstein (Lakeville, Minn.), Margaret Uppgren Ely (Woodbury, Minn.), Dorothy Otness Bartels (Bloomington, Minn.), Virginia Lawrence Elmer (Mendota Heights, Minn.) and Helen Hawkinson Baker (Afton, Minn.).



JIM HANSEN

Right: Gary Hines '74 (St. Paul), founder and director of the Grammy Award-winning Sounds of Blackness, received an honorary degree. The group, which began in 1969 as the Macalester College Black Choir, seeks "to glorify God by uplifting people of all nationalities through African American music," Hines says. Also receiving honorary degrees were Howard Gardner, a Harvard educator who has done pioneering work in human behavior and intelligence, and Geri Joseph, former journalist, adviser to Hubert Humphrey and U.S. ambassador to the Netherlands.



GREG HELGESON



# 'EVER the Same'

*Although separated*

*by 50 years, Phyllis Lofgren Comiskey '47 and*

*Ryan Scott '98 find common themes in their experiences*

*at 'dear old Macalester'*

*by Ryan Scott '98*



**E**XACTLY ONE YEAR ago today, I was stepping off a plane in Berlin with 30-some members of the Macalester Concert Choir. Our director, Dr. Robert Morris, had been invited to lead a series of seminars on African American choral

tradition at the Legnica Cantat, a national choral festival in Poland. As we walked into the main plaza of Legnica, there was a huge yellow banner that read: "Macalester College. St. Paul, MN USA." We were headlining this prestigious event.

It floored us. Our concert was held in a vaulting cathedral that was packed with Polish people, music critics and choirs, directors. We were broadcast live on Polish national radio. Dr. Morris gave a bunch of interviews right after the concert. At one show in the small town of Meissen, school kids asked us to autograph their programs. They thought we must be movie stars. The choir trip to Poland taught me more about cultural politics and the Americanization of Eastern Europe than five textbooks.

I mention these lessons from Poland because they are at the heart of the Macalester experience. What I admire about this place, something that sets it apart from most colleges and universities, is that Macalester is an outward-looking institution. More than just our commitment to the value of internationalism, the educational experience at Mac is outward-looking. We have a sense of the world and of the community that goes beyond our walls and beyond our classrooms, and I think that's essential.

On my residence hall floor my first year, my best friend was a woman who went to high school in

*continued on page 32*



*by Phyllis Lofgren Comiskey '47*

**F**OR MANY OF US who graduated 50 years ago, it seemed like our entire family was graduating with us, for we were the first in our households to attend, let alone graduate from college.

Each day when I arrived at Macalester, after riding the bus or the streetcar, I felt like I had found an oasis. In the springtime, the oasis was green, in the wintertime it was white. For me, it was always serene and yet it was never tame.

My day began after checking the noteboard in Old Main. After the first two weeks at Macalester, it

## FRIENDSHIPS:

*'At Macalester we form relationships which will last far beyond the time we spend here.'*

*— Ryan Scott '98*

*'Thanks to Macalester for reminding us that human connections are the most important investment we will ever make.'*

*— Phyllis Lofgren Comiskey '47*

dawned on me that some people actually lived outside St. Paul. I met classmates who lived in Redwood Falls, Brainerd, South Dakota, Tennessee. The world got bigger by the moment.

Then one night I attended a dinner at Professor [Yahya] Armajani's and ate a strange dish called chicken curry. I saw students wearing a caftan, a sari — things I'd never seen before. Macalester

*continued on page 33*



Ryan Scott '98 *continued from page 31*

India. There were students on my floor from Cyprus, Lithuania, Canada. Actually, the best intercultural

## PERSPECTIVES:

*'I met classmates who lived in Redwood Falls, Brainerd, South Dakota, Tennessee. The world got bigger by the moment.'*

— Phyllis Lofgren Comiskey '47

*'There were students on my floor from Cyprus, Lithuania, Canada. Actually, the best intercultural experience I had was with a woman from the Bronx. The Bronx? I didn't know anyone from the Bronx.'*

— Ryan Scott '98

experience I had was with a woman from the Bronx. The Bronx? I didn't know anyone from the Bronx. The point is, Macalester brings together minds from all over the world.

Another way we look outward at Macalester is through our curriculum. The Concert Choir's trip to Poland is not unusual; roughly half of Macalester students spend a semester or more studying abroad. Even more spend time around this community with the internship program. I

## TEACHERS:

*'Many of us enrolled in Mary Gwen Owen's Speech 101. After that first class from her, I knew I had to find a red smock.'*

— Phyllis Lofgren Comiskey '47

*'Dr. Adrienne Christiansen took me under her wing my first semester and has been incredibly inspiring to me.'*

— Ryan Scott '98

been invaluable. Macalester does a great job of integrating classroom and non-classroom learning.

Finally, at Macalester we form relationships which will last far beyond the time we spend here. We are an outward-looking college in that this

experience and this education will shape our lives no matter where we go. I came to Macalester more than anything because my high school debate coach and mentor was Steve Kult, Class of 1994. I have a group of six or seven close friends who will be graduating Sunday. Some are staying here, some are going to graduate school, one is going backpacking around Europe. But they have been an enormous influence in my life.

I spent a couple hours rehearsing this speech with Dr. Adrienne Christiansen, my academic adviser and my favorite professor. She took me under her wing my first semester here and has been incredibly inspiring to me, both academically and personally. These people are not tiny blips at the front of a lecture hall or a bunch of faces on a campus of eight zillion undergraduates. At Macalester, first

and foremost, we make strong personal connections which transcend the boundaries of the school. We look outward. ●

Ryan Scott '98, who is from Marine-on-St. Croix, Minn., is majoring in political science and communication studies. This article is adapted from his May 22 remarks to Macalester's Heritage Society.



GREG HELGESON

Ryan Scott makes a point in his remarks to Macalester's Heritage Society

spent this last semester interning at the state capitol with state Sen. Jane Krentz. I felt so important walking up the grand stairway to the capitol every day, like I was personally upholding democracy. Politics is always something I've wanted to do, but it's ugly sometimes. Whether or not I decide to do something at the capitol, my semester there has





*Macalester memories: Phyllis Lofgren Comiskey speaks to her 50th reunion classmates in Weyerhaeuser Chapel.*

Phyllis Lofgren Comiskey '47 *continued from page 31*

taught us about exotic places and we didn't even leave the campus.

That evening at Professor Armajani's prompted me to take a job in the English Department tutoring several students from foreign countries. I, of course, learned more from them than they did from me.

When we started at Macalester in 1943, there were eight girls to one boy. We did everything we could to sit next to that one boy. Many of us enrolled in Mary Gwen Owen's Speech 101. After that first class from her, I knew I had to find a red smock and I was certain that Tweed cologne would always be my favorite.

Our imaginations were stretched by Miss May, Dr. Ward, Hubert Humphrey, Dr. Young, Phil Beedon, Dr. Turck and so many others.

It is said that "good beginnings" never end. Those beginnings were frosh week, frosh camp, Dean Doty's "Tea for New Women" and friendships

that grew and grew. Sitting in the front rows of Weyerhaeuser Chapel today are my friends that I met in frosh camp — thanks, Round Robins.

I want to say thanks to Macalester:

- for the natural beauty of the campus and for the spirit of this college;
- for caring about us for 50 years and then inviting us to come Home again and stay in our old dorm rooms. Like dotting parents, you're fixing our favorite food and making sure we get to see all of the family;
- for teaching us to accept what is new and different without repudiating what is old and dear;
- for giving us a first-class education from a first-class school;
- for teaching us to believe in something larger than ourselves and to become a source of action;
- for reminding us that human connections are the most important investment we will ever make;
- and finally, for putting your reputa-

tion on the line 50 years ago and declaring that we were capable of living up to the ideals symbolized by the Macalester diploma.

Macalester, we hope you're proud of us because we in the Class of 1947 are surely proud of you. ●

*Phyllis Lofgren Comiskey '47, who grew up in St. Paul, has lived in Long Beach, Calif., since 1950. She is a professor in the Child Development Department at Long Beach City College. Since leaving Macalester 50 years ago, she has raised four children, traveled throughout the world and remained good friends with 16 other Macalester alumnae who formed a "Round-Robin" letter in 1948 and have kept it circulating ever since. This article is adapted from remarks she made May 23 to her classmates and others at the "50-Year-Plus Club Induction" in Weyerhaeuser Chapel.*

## LEARNING:

*'That evening at Professor Armajani's prompted me to take a job in the English Department tutoring several students from foreign countries. I, of course, learned more from them than they did from me.'*

— Phyllis Lofgren Comiskey '47

*'The Concert Choir's trip to Poland taught me more about cultural politics and the Americanization of Eastern Europe than five textbooks.'*

— Ryan Scott '98



# Family Matters

*For the four*

*Samanant siblings, Macalester offered an exceptional education,  
new perspectives and a lasting home*

*The siblings Samanant in St. Paul (from left): Paul, Toi, Margaret and Bernadette. The photo was taken this summer at Margaret's home.*



GREG HELGESON



by Jan Shaw-Flamm '76

**B**ERNADETTE Samanant McCormick '81 had traveled extensively in Asia and the Middle East, but she first saw the U.S. as a Macalester student. Her recollections are still vivid: "Pop machines around every corner — what a luxury! Look at these neat rows of homes — they look like dollhouses. And look at the butcher and the mailman — they are Americans! Overseas, the Americans were diplomats, missionaries and businessmen, and here they were doing other [blue-collar] jobs."

Bernadette is one of four siblings in the Samanant family. All of them attended Macalester and all of them married Macalester classmates. As the children of a United Nations diplomat father and a highly educated mother descended from Thai royalty, they were — in Bernadette's words — "diplomatic gypsies."

They were born in Thailand to a broad worldview. Their father, Peter

Samanant, is Portuguese, Ceylonese (Sri Lankan) and Thai, and their mother, Vannalak Hiranyasthiti, is Thai. Orphaned at 12, Peter was educated at Assumption College in Thailand, run by the French mission there, and became fluent in French, Thai, English and Chinese. When the children were all under age 10, their father was assigned overseas. He worked in various trouble spots — Israel, Cyprus, Kashmir/India, Pakistan, Korea, Beirut, Egypt and South Lebanon — and his family accompanied him.

"When civil war erupted in Lebanon in 1975, we were first evacuated to Thailand and then back to the Middle East, again to Cairo," Margaret Samanant Jones '80 recalled. "Our mother was very good at packing up the four children and our belongings. During 1965–66, when we lived in

Srinagar/Kashmir, India was at war with Pakistan and there were air raids. At one period, we were all awakened nightly by fully armed soldiers in combat gear who escorted our father to work in the office during the night, and he would often have to use passwords. There were different passwords every night, and if one did not give the correct password upon demand at the checkpoint, soldiers waiting

in the dark were under orders to open fire immediately."

Wherever they lived, the Samanant family sought out the American system of education. "When we lived in Jerusalem," Margaret recalled, "my parents were the only U.N. family to hire a private taxi daily to take us an hour and a half each way to the American school

in Tel Aviv. They thought it was very important to graduate from an American school."

None of the family had ever traveled to the U.S. before Theresa "Toi" Samanant Niemi '78 arrived at Macalester. "When I landed, it was all so green and there were trees. I had expected white. In fact, my first winter I was warmer in Minnesota than we had expected because there was an excellent heating system at Mac."

**A**MONG TOI'S Macalester experiences was holding her first job. "Part of my scholarship was to work in the post office," Toi explained. "It was all very challenging, but I relished it because it was something I did on my own. I got to know all the zipcodes of the U.S., and that was really something because I understood then how organized the U.S. is. Everything was new to me."

After earning a B.A. in biology, Toi completed an M.B.A. at the University of Wyoming and is now CEO of a finance company in Colorado. She is also a board member of the Asian Chamber of Commerce and a partner in RESULTS, a group promoting micro-enterprise loans to women in Third World countries.

Toi was soon joined at Macalester by Margaret, who, like her sister, could have gone to any number of schools, but considered a smaller college to be a good choice. "We would have dinners at the International Center and a lot of Americans would come, and I felt good that there was that much interest on campus in our culture," said Margaret. "We had a talent show in the Chapel, at which my

## THERESA "TOI" SAMANANT NIEMI '78

Home: Aurora, Colo.

Occupation: CEO, Cambridge Mortgage Co.

Spouse: Thomas Niemi '78, dentist and health care consultant •

## MARGARET SAMANANT JONES '80

Home: St. Paul

Occupation: homemaker and mother of five

Spouse: Todd Jones '79, prosecutor, U.S. Attorney's Office •

Jan Shaw-Flamm '76 is a Twin Cities writer and frequent contributor to Macalester Today.



sisters and I did a folk dance, and we had a nice turnout. There was a lot of interest in international students."

With a B.A. in biology, Margaret went on to the University of Minnesota, earning a B.S. in medical technology. She worked as a medical technologist and lived on both coasts before returning to St. Paul, where she focuses on family and community life centered around her five children.

Like her sisters, Bernadette had heard good things about Macalester from counselors at their high school, American Community School in Beirut. "Although none of us had been to the U.S.," said Bernadette, "the associations with Humphrey and Mondale meant something

to us overseas." It was Macalester that introduced Bernadette to the joys of participation in team sports. She was captain of the varsity softball team, helped revive cheerleading and played in every intramural sport at Mac.

After majoring in art with strong course work in journalism and economics, Bernadette earned a master's in general design at the University of Minnesota. Since then she has worked in commercial

design, and sales and marketing. She is currently the regional manager of Business Wire, an international media relations wire service.

Paul Samanant '86 chose Notre Dame for his B.S. in aerospace engineering, which he received in 1983, and came to Macalester to add a B.A. in computer science. In addition to the degree, Macalester offered "more diversity, liberal arts in a real city."

"Macalester's internationalism offered a refreshing change from Notre Dame," said Paul, who arrived at Mac as an older student.

The diversity of their interests and personalities makes it even more remarkable that all four siblings attended Macalester, but it made sense to the Samanants, for a variety of reasons. "Toi came here first, and she really loved it," said Margaret. "Being my first time in the States, I thought it would be nice to be with her. I chose Macalester finally, in part, because they gave us a very good work-study package. It was a lot easier, too, for my parents that we were all in one place."



The Samanant sisters in 1960: Margaret, left, Toi and Bernadette.

## BERNADETTE SAMANANT MCCORMICK '81

Home: Eagan, Minn.

Occupation: regional manager, Business Wire

Former spouse: Varon Thomas '88, artist •

## PAUL SAMANANT '86

Home: Eden Prairie, Minn.

Occupation: research scientist, Honeywell

Spouse: Julie Snow Samanant '87, legal assistant, Dorsey & Whitney •

Peter and Vannalak Samanant are now retired and living in Aurora, Colo., not far from Toi.

While it's an unquestioned understanding that international students greatly enrich the experience of U.S. students, it is less often asked what Macalester offers international students in return.

**T**OI VALUES the perspective that the college engenders in students. "One of the most invaluable experiences is that you make political connections all over the world. I would never understand the situation [in Congo] now if it wasn't for the African students who were bringing my attention to the situation. When you do that, you create people who don't always see things from their country's perspective, but can see other people's points

of view, looking beyond cultural lines and borders."

From her perspective, Bernadette offered this answer: "An incredible education, scholarships, acceptance of your culture — and you don't have to just be with others from your own country. Macalester cradled you and accepted you until you figured out your niche in the American environment. Macalester is where I got a taste of 'the sky is not the limit — there is no limit to what you can do.'" •



# Professor Borghild Sundheim and the joy of French

by Rebecca Gonzalez-Campoy '83

**C**OMMUNITY" might well be the buzzword of the 1990s. Borghild Sundheim knew the true meaning of the word more than 60 years ago.

A professor in Macalester's French Department during the Great Depression, Sundheim worked to retain faculty about to lose their jobs. "Borghild and a few other tenured professors dug in their pockets to help younger colleagues whose jobs were in jeopardy," says H el ene Peters, professor emerita of French at Macalester. "That was community."

Sundheim was also far ahead of her time in her sense of global community. Besides French and English, she was fluent in Norwegian and spoke German, Spanish, Italian and some Turkish. In addition to her degrees from the University of Minnesota, she studied at the Sorbonne in Paris and at the National University of Mexico. The French government named her Chevalier in the Order of Academic Palms for her work in inspiring French students at Macalester. The award was established by Napoleon in 1808 to acknowledge the accomplishment of teachers in passing on the French language and culture.

"It was Dr. Sundheim who encouraged me to become a French major," recalls Ruth Milanese Lippin '65, a former French teacher and an active Macalester volunteer. "She was a comfortable, kind of grandmother figure when I had her. She was very encouraging, yet demanding. She tried to



MACALESTER ARCHIVES

lishing, a publisher of high school textbooks based in St. Paul. "I owe it all to Dr. Sundheim. The joy she brought to the teaching of French was inspiring. I hoped to follow in her footsteps."

As chair of the French Department, Sundheim provided a rich learning experience for students. "She allowed staff to be innovative," recalls Peters. Peters developed Macalester's program for study abroad in France with the blessing of Sundheim.

Colleagues playfully called Sundheim and her close friend and colleague, Anne Blegen, the "Heavenly Twins," referring to the Macalester seal with its two figures, "Nature and Revelation." Sundheim and Blegen "held the French Department

together, laying the groundwork for a first-rate bachelor's degree in French," says Peters.

In the early 1960s, as the college was overhauling its curriculum, Sundheim made sure Macalester retained its language requirement.

Upon her death in 1968, Pastor

## Borghild Sundheim, 1904-68

**Born:** July 9, 1904, Minneapolis

**Education:** bachelor, master and doctoral degrees, University of Minnesota

**Macalester career:** professor and chair of the French Department, 1927-67

**Died:** April 9, 1968, Minneapolis •

create a situation where you could succeed."

"I've used French every day of my life since 1961," says Sarah Thate Vaillancourt '65, who taught French for 23 years and is now an editor of French at EMC Paradigm Pub-

Maynard Iverson of Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Minneapolis said in his eulogy: "Wherever she could go to sharpen her tools — whether in this country or abroad — there she would go." Her "circle of concern and caring reached out so that colleagues became treasured associates and students became friends. Even the financial needs of these students, in many cases, became her personal concern and involvement . . ."

Alumni and friends established an endowed scholarship in her name to be awarded to an outstanding French major. The annual prize is still awarded today. •



Borghild Sundheim and her colleagues in French and Spanish, circa 1965. Seated, from left: Sundheim, Virginia Schubert and H el ene Peters. Standing, from left: Marianna Forde, Jasmine Keller and Anne Blegen.

*This is the fifth in a series of profiles of great figures in Macalester's history by Rebecca Gonzalez-Campoy '83, a writer who lives in Shoreview, Minn. She previously wrote about Charles Turck, Mary Gwen Owen, Margaret Doty, and Huntley and Virginia Dupre.*





## Home to the Highlands

Stonefield Castle in Tarbert, Scotland, is where Clan "MacAlister" began. A group of 37 Macalester alumni and friends enjoyed dinner and an overnight stay at the baronial home on Loch Fyne along Scotland's west coast. For more photos of the Macalester clan's June 3-16 tour of Scotland and England, see pages 14-15.

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