International admissions bring worldwide friendships

Are on-the-job drug tests justified? You decide

Newsroom memories:
the unflappable Ivan Burg
We welcome readers’ opinions of recent articles. Please send signed letters intended for publication to Letters to the Editor, Macalester Today, Public Relations and Publications Department, Macalester College, 1600 Grand Ave., Saint Paul, MN 55105. Letters for the November issue must arrive by Sept. 1; others will be held for February. We reserve the right to edit letters for conciseness and clarity.

Search further to profile international alumni, too

Each successive Macalester Today embodies greater levels of editorial achievement and improved graphic format. It’s gratifying to learn of fellow classmates who have reached the top. To think, today’s skilled cinema actors, lieutenant governors, and court judges all spent time in the library stacks looking for a quiet place to study! With the new library, Macalester will double the number of prominent alumni.

Clearly, those feature articles demonstrate the effect of hard work, learned academic pursuit, and the recognition of the need of a good sense of humor when confronting seemingly insurmountable obstacles. The vividness of the third variable comes to mind when remembering Minnesota’s glacial winters or when counting sources of graduate-school tuition monies! Hard work pays dividends.

I’d like you to search further and find the Macites who excel as Brazilian artists, Istanbul newspaper editors, or Mexican craftsmen. A Swedish inventor or two will do nicely too! May each of my fellow classmates and alumni exercise their destinies.

Doug Denzel ’75
Indianapolis, Ind.

Spokesman bases his case on outdated evidence

It is disappointing to see our alumni publication featuring Scott E. Stapf ’80 as another success story (February).

As the Washington Post article that you excerpted says, Mr. Stapf is “the leading spokesman for the tobacco industry.” I have watched him on national television and read his statements in the press and was sad to find that he is a former Macalester debater.

Dr. John D. Potter, University of Minnesota School of Public Health, commented recently after reading one of Stapf’s articles in the Minneapolis Star and Tribune that “an emissary of the tobacco industry demonstrated, yet again, the capacity of that industry to be selective with the evidence, to quote out-of-date findings, and to accuse those concerned with public health of distorting the evidence.”

Your excerpt omitted a quote [from the original article] that sums up the role of Mr. Stapf and the American Tobacco Institute very well. It came from John Banzhaf, head of Action on Smoking and law professor at George Washington University. He said he wouldn’t mind if hired guns such as Stapf used their skills “to get people to choose McDonald’s over Burger King,” but “when the consequences are illness and death, I think it’s despicable.”

Richard L. Johansen ’40
Saint Paul

The editors of Macalester Today attempt to profile alumni who are doing a variety of interesting things. When we reprint a piece originally run in another publication, we often must cut for length. In those cases—as in the Stapf profile—we retain as many of the subject’s own words as possible.

— Editor

Student in 1930s library was Professor Mitau

While reading the May issue of Macalester Today, I was surprised and pleased to find a picture of my late husband, Ted, when he was a student at Macalester ("A Century of Libraries," p. 9).

I believe it was taken in 1938 or 1939. (I first met him in June of 1939.) I have that same picture somewhere among my many photos and memorabilia.

Charlotte Mitau-Price
Saint Paul

During his tenure at Macalester, Professor G. Theodore Mitau ’40 (M.A. 1942, Ph.D. 1948, University of Minnesota) became one of the college’s most respected and distinguished teachers. Born in Berlin in 1920, Mitau, a Jew, escaped from Nazi Germany in the mid-1930s, enrolling at Macalester in 1937. He was a member of the Macalester department of political science from 1940 until 1968, when he resigned to become chancellor of the Minnesota state college system. Mitau died in July 1979 and is memorialized by Macalester’s annual Mitau endowed lecture series.

—Editor

From the Editor

Alumni magazine saluted as one of best in country

Macalester Today has won gold medals in two categories from the national Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE).

The first salutes overall improvement of the magazine over our previous effort, the alumni newspaper we published until summer 1986. Frankly, we expected to do well in that category.

The second gold medal is for “all-around excellence in college magazines,” including content, writing, design, photography, typography, and printing. This award in effect identifies Macalester Today as one of the five best alumni magazines in the country. We’re very pleased to be in that company; we thought it would take longer to get there.

Our most important evaluation, of course, comes from you, the reader. We hope through these pages to introduce you to—or reacquaint you with—some of the many fascinating people associated with Macalester as alumni, faculty, and current students. We hope to reflect your memories of Macalester, and to provide fresh insights into the life of the college.

We hope to demonstrate that Macalester continues to foster informed discussion of important issues.

Your letters and comments have been telling us that you find the magazine interesting, and you have given us many useful suggestions for future stories. We welcome your ideas and comments—our gold medals are meaningful only if we are really serving you.

—Nancy Peterson, Editor
The photo behind the cover. Sophomore Hidekuni Fujioka (lower left) watches as Wallace 104, the room he shared this year with Robert Stone '89 (who took this picture), turns into a photo studio. Clockwise from upper left: photographer Ed Bock, whose photo of Fujioka and Stone is on the cover; photo assistant Elaine Caldwell; and graphic designer Marnie Lilja Baehr. Our stories on Macalester's international students begin on p. 4.

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AUGUST 1987
AT MACALESTER

Trustees re-examine college investment policies

A trustee committee is re-examining Macalester's investment policies as they relate to companies doing business in South Africa, with recommendations to be considered at the Oct. 23 trustee meeting.

Faith Ohman '64 chairs the ad hoc committee; other members are the Rev. Donald M. Meisel '45, Bruce Williams, and Ted Weyerhaeuser.

Macalester's investment policy was adopted in 1979 and strengthened in 1986. It says the college will hold stock only in companies that do not make loans or provide strategic goods (e.g., goods used by the police and military to maintain apartheid) to the South African government.

In addition, it calls for Macalester to divest the stock of any company that does business in South Africa and is not making progress in abiding by the Sullivan Principles, which govern business practices such as fair hiring, promotion, and compensation in South Africa. Insufficient progress is indicated by a rating of III in reports issued regularly by the Arthur D. Little company.

The committee has been asked by trustee president David A. Ranheim '64 to review the policy and its implementation in light of several developments. In June, the Rev. Leon Sullivan announced that he no longer considered the principles he had created—widely used a benchmark by socially conscious investors—to be strong enough measures to fight apartheid.

In addition, investment of $8 million in college endowment funds in a mutual-fund instrument known as the Common Fund has been questioned by some students and trustees who see it as conflicting with the college's investment policy. The Common Fund does not automatically divest stocks of companies who earn a III; the fund gives such companies about a year to improve their performance. As of May 22, the Common Fund held stock in about eight corporations rated III under the Sullivan Principles.

Running star Kirtland graduates with glory; team fourth in nation

Macalester's remarkable Julia Kirtland ran her way to her eighth national title on May 23—the same day she received her B.A. degree (cum laude) in biology. She is also a member of Phi Beta Kappa, and was saluted in the July issue of Good Housekeeping magazine as one of the country's 100 most promising women college graduates of 1987.

As a sophomore, Kirtland became the first woman in NCAA history to win national titles in three different sports (cross country and indoor and outdoor track) in a single academic year. Having won the outdoor 10,000-meter title May 20 and the 5,000-meter title May 23, she left Macalester with eight Division III national titles and 16 All-America certificates.

For the second consecutive year, the women's track and field team finished fourth in the nation in the Division III national meet. Mary Schlick '87 of Wauwatosa, Wis., finished fourth in the 1,500-meter event; junior Janis Raatz of Duluth, Minn., finished fourth in the javelin; and junior Francene Young of Port Gibson, Miss., finished sixth in the 55-meter dash.

Kirtland, who is from Aurora, N.Y., plans to work on environmental issues when she completes graduate school. "I am going to rest for a while and eventually enroll in a graduate school somewhere in the East," she said in a May 28 article in The New York Times. "I will run only informally and for fun in the next year or so. But when I'm ready, I'll get back into serious training with the idea of running in the 1992 Olympic trials for either the marathon or the 10,000-meter run. It'd be thrilling to compete in either of them."

Fundraising exceeds goals in donors and dollars

Despite a shortened campaign, Macalester raised more dollars and drew more donors in 1986-87 than last year. Volunteers and development staff raised nearly $4.5 million from all sources, including individuals and organizations.

(1986-87 fund year was shortened to nine months, ending May 31, to bring the fund-raising year into alignment with the college's fiscal year.)

Overall, 4,739 alumni gave $1.65 million to the college—70 more donors in nine months than in last year's 12 months. Among other individuals, the number of parent donors—566—represented an increase of 30 percent from last year.

Much of the money raised goes toward the new library building. A significant portion also goes to the college's Annual Fund, which provides operating support to the college each year (it represents about 8 percent of the college budget). Strong Annual Fund support each year helps sustain the excellence of Macalester's programs, including the new library. It does so by enabling the college to direct resources to areas of highest priority—for example, student financial aid, faculty salaries, and laboratory equipment.

For the 1986-87 Annual Fund, Carol Eichhorn '56 and Richard E. Schwartz in The New York Times. "I will run only informally and for fun in the next year or so. But when I'm ready, I'll get back into serious training with the idea of running in the 1992 Olympic trials for either the marathon or the 10,000-meter run. It'd be thrilling to compete in either of them."

For the 1986-87 Annual Fund, Carol Schwartz Hayden '56 and Richard E. Eichhorn '51 directed the efforts of alumni volunteers; Kenneth Rice, Phyllis Ellis and John B. Davis, Jr., led parent volunteers; James Jeffers and Daniel Hornbach led the effort among faculty and staff; and David Ranheim '64, Mary Lee Dayton, and Peter Heegaard led trustee efforts.

A complete report on gift and volunteer support during 1986-87 will be included in the November issue of Macalester Today.
Three Nobel laureates to visit campus this fall

Three distinguished Nobel Prize–winning scientists will each spend several days on campus during fall term as part of the DeWitt Wallace Distinguished Visitors program. Along with three spring-term visitors, the fall Wallace visitors will participate in classes in many disciplines and will work with students and faculty members in various settings outside the classroom. Each will give a public lecture.

Rosalyn Yalow (Sept. 9–11) developed a system for measuring minute amounts of substances—particularly hormones—in blood and body tissues. The technique, which uses radioactive isotopes, is used in thousands of laboratories around the world to address scores of medical problems, such as screening blood for the virus that causes hepatitis.

Murray Gell-Mann (Sept. 28–30) changed the course of particle physics when he developed new ways to describe and to classify the properties of subatomic particles, the basic units of energy. He won the Nobel Prize for work first published when he was 24 years of age.

Yuan T. Lee (Oct. 28–30) implemented use of the molecular beam—accelerated beams of molecules that collide with one another—to enable chemists to study chemical reactions in a dynamic way that had not been possible before. A colleague has called him “an astonishing experimental genius.”

The Wallace Distinguished Visitors program is made possible by and named for Macalester’s late benefactor, DeWitt Wallace, founder of the Reader’s Digest. The program each year brings to campus scholars who are in the forefront of their disciplines. Visiting scholars during 1986–87 represented a variety of disciplines and addressed issues relating to freedom of expression.

On-campus autumn events liven up your calendar

This partial list of Macalester events in the coming months is worth adding to your datebook—all are open to the public and most are free. Call to get ticket prices.

Since this schedule is subject to last-minute changes, we urge you to double-check dates and times before making plans. A T in the listing indicates the theater box office, 612/696-6359; a C, the campus programs office, 612/696-6297.

Thurs., Sept. 10, 11:30 a.m. Rosalyn Yalow, who developed the use of radioactive isotopes to measure minute substances in blood and body tissues, discusses positive uses of radiation as a DeWitt Wallace Distinguished Visitor (Chapel) C

Tue., Sept. 29, 11:30 a.m. Nobel Prize–winning physicist Rosalyn Yalow, who developed the use of radioactive isotopes to measure minute substances in blood and body tissues, discusses positive uses of radiation as a DeWitt Wallace Distinguished Visitor (Chapel) C

Fri.—Sat., Oct. 9–10, call for times Homecoming weekend; special events include football game vs. Concordia at 1 p.m. Saturday. Alumni office, 612/696-6295

Fri.—Sat., Oct. 9—10, 8 p.m. Thurs.—Sat., Oct. 15—17, 8 p.m. Terra Nona by Ted Tally (Theater) T

Fri.—Sun., Oct. 16—18 Parents’ Weekend begins 3:30 p.m. Friday and ends at noon on Sunday. Contact the alumni office, 612/696-6295, for more information

Thurs., Oct. 29, 11:30 a.m. Yuan T. Lee, who won a Nobel Prize in 1986 for developing use of the molecular beam to study chemical reactions, speaks as part of the DeWitt Wallace Distinguished Visitor series (Chapel) C

Mon.—Fri., Nov. 2—6, call for times Program on AIDS awareness sponsored by chaplain’s office, 612/696-6298

Wed., Nov. 4, 8 p.m. San Diego mayor Maureen O’Connor discusses her city’s approach to solving mass transportation problems as part of Macalester’s Mayor’s Forum. Sponsored in part by the geography department, 612/696-6291 (Chapel)

Sun., Nov. 8, call for time Open house at the admissions office, 612/696-6357

Fri.—Sat., Nov. 13—14, 8 p.m. Thurs.—Sat., Nov. 19—21, 8 p.m. The Hot L Baltimore by Lanford Wilson (Theater) T

—David Eddleston ’89
IN DEPTH

It should, Jimm Crowder’s office seems a little like home. With its low, comfortable sofa, the room still retains the atmosphere of the 19th-century parlor or bedroom it once was, and birds chirp noisily outside. Crowder fills two sets of shoes at Macalester: As assistant director of the International Center, Crowder works in a Macalester-owned house on Summit Avenue; as coordinator of international admissions, he works out of the admissions office half a block away.

The homey air of his International Center office fits Crowder’s job, which in large part is to persuade promising students around the world that they can feel at home at Macalester. “What makes Macalester different from most institutions,” Crowder says, “and what the international students see as different, is that [Macalester] not only provides an excellent education—it provides a nurturing, caring atmosphere.”

The word must be spreading. Although Macalester’s international enrollment of 180 students from 70 countries represents only a tiny share of the 344,000 foreign students in the United States, the college holds a unique position among highly selective liberal-arts colleges. “I know of no college that has anywhere near the diversity that we do,” Crowder says. “In fact, we have more countries represented here than a good number of state universities 10 times or more our population. There are other schools, of course, that [also] have an international aspect, but Macalester is truly among the most international of all the schools.”

Macalester’s interest in internationalism began early in the century with its involvement in the Presbyterian church’s overseas missionary activity. Charles Turck, who became president in 1938, strengthened the college’s focus on international affairs; during his tenure, for example, Macalester first flew the United Nations flag—four months before the first meeting of the U.N. General Assembly.

Foreign students have come to Macalester for decades, and they now form an even more significant chunk of the student population than they did 10 years ago. During the 1986-87 academic year, international students made up about 11 percent of the college’s enrollment. By comparison, Grinnell has a 5 percent international enrollment, Swarthmore 4 percent, Amherst 2 percent, and Carleton 1.5 percent. Since 1977, the number of countries represented at Macalester has swelled nearly fivefold to 70 in 1986-87—including Bhutan, Mauritius, Namibia, Rwanda, Sri Lanka, and other Third World nations.

None of this happened by accident. In 1980, four members of Macalester’s administration and faculty attended a planning session in Colorado under the auspices of the Lilly Foundation. “We set several goals,” recalls associate German professor David by Jack El-Hai
'I know of no college that has anywhere near the diversity that we do,' Crowder says. 'In fact, we have more countries represented here than a good number of universities 10 times or more our population.'

Sanford, then director of the International Center. "One was to maintain approximately a 10 percent foreign-student population on campus. Another was the goal of diversity among the foreign students.... We were becoming increasingly aware that we needed to work on certain world areas in which the representation wasn't as high as we had hoped it would be."

The group's recommendations hinged on an important assumption: that a large and diverse international community at Macalester would heighten the quality of the education the college offers. "When our American students find it difficult to understand why Germans have three ways of saying you," Sanford says, "it's nice to turn to the Malaysian student and say, 'Okay, how many ways do you have in Malay?' and they say, 'Well, about 20.' It is, in terms of the classroom, a really good resource."

William Shain, Macalester's dean of admissions, gives other reasons for seeking international students. "What I'm most interested in is that we bring in people who are able to speak first-hand about world issues that American students need to know about," Shain says. He can name students with first-hand knowledge of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan; of last year's terrorist attack on a synagogue in Istanbul; of the dispute between Greeks and Turks over the control of Cyprus. Contact with these students, Shain says, "[makes] you learn how ethnocentric you really are, how much of your world view is based on a set of casual assumptions."

Finally, the presence of international students at Macalester attracts outstanding American students. "We have a tremendous number of American applicants who list internationalism as one of the reasons to go to Macalester—and that seems to be growing each year," Crowder says.

Michelle Scullard '87, a Minnesota native, singles out the international atmosphere as a crucial factor in her selection of a college. "That was definitely a reason why I chose Macalester," she says. "I wanted to major in international studies, and it's hard to do that if you can't be exposed to a lot of internationalism."

Hired in 1980, Crowder adopted the Lilly group's goals as his own, as did the Board of Trustees. The result is now visible at Macalester. Claudia Hsu '88, who has lived in Taiwan, Brazil, and Argentina, remembers noticing many "foreigners" on campus when, as a high-school student, she visited Macalester for the first time: "I was really interested, because each one in a way represented the countries where I came from," she says.

The diversity benefits the international students themselves in several ways. "We know it's better to have students from more countries [for the sake of] their eventual assimilation into the community," foreign-student advisor Lynne Ackerberg says. "I think the students like it better when there are not many people from their country, too."

Crowder's experience supports this view. Some international students, he says, "are convinced that if there are too many people from their country or from their language group, they won't have the rich experience they're looking for."

In fact, schools court trouble when they draw large segments of their enrollment from just one or two countries, Crowder says. "Some institutions have made mistakes by depending on these large groups; once they're gone, there's no one to replace them. What we've tried to do—maybe it's a bit like the tortoise and the hare—is to try to diversify ourselves as much as possible, to make contacts in as many places as we can."

"Making contacts" sounds easy, like calling partners for a bridge game—but, as Crowder often tells administrators at other colleges, the business of finding highly qualified students abroad is not simple. "It's a very complex formula," he says. "A program like this cannot be created overnight. It really takes a great deal of work, and it takes a considerable amount of time."

Over the years, Macalester has developed three main components in its formula for finding a diversity of accomplished international students. Word-of-mouth communication, cooperation with foreign governments, and (perhaps most important) a creative approach to overseas recruiting—all have made Macalester a leader in international education.
Despite their linguistic and cultural handicaps, in many respects international students academically surpass Macalester's American students — no academic slouches themselves.

"I came here through a former Macalester student who knew my parents pretty well," says Thomas Pinto '87, a native of Kenya. "He recommended that I apply and come to Macalester College."

Pinto's story is typical. In foreign countries as in the U.S., advice from acquaintances strongly influences many students in choosing a college.

"If we accept [an international] student and the student comes over here and has a positive experience," Crowder says, "we often get calls or letters from other families," asking if their child can apply.

Ackerberg, too, finds word of mouth a good way for international students to learn about Macalester. "Maybe that's why they're not so panicked when they get here," she says. "They've been told about the place, so it may be less a blind decision that yours or mine was."

Above all, the success of such referrals depends on Macalester's reputation. "We probably have as good and perhaps even a better reputation overseas than we do in the U.S.," says Crowder, who also works to make Macalester known to agencies in foreign governments that sponsor students for education in the United States. An agreement over several years with Malaysia, for example, has made that country quite well-represented at Macalester: The 21 Malaysian students on campus in 1986-87 made them the largest national group (besides Americans) in the college.

If diversity is part of the purpose, Crowder's overseas recruiting trips admirably fit the bill. Using relatively economical round-the-world airfares, he circles the globe to meet with students and officials in many countries. These journeys demand a variety of uncommon talents.

"You've got to have a tremendous combination of human skills to work with people from a wide variety of backgrounds," Shain says. A lot of curiosity, for one, together with physical stamina and "an understanding of the educational aims of people in other countries."

International recruiting has changed since Crowder took his first trip. "Five years ago you could go overseas and never see another U.S. admissions rep. You would be treated quite like royalty," he says. A diminishing pool of American high-school graduates has increased competition among U.S. colleges overseas, however. "Last year, over 550 college reps were in Hong Kong alone," Crowder says. "It's not only four-year institutions [now] — technical institutes and community colleges are out there vying for these students."

This jostling and clamoring of American schools confuses many foreign students. Through it all, they tend to pin their hopes on the few U.S. schools whose names they easily recognize. "Everyone wants to go to Harvard, to Yale, to Stanford," Crowder says. "That's all you hear. It's sad in a way, because many times those schools are not appropriate for the students, and certainly not all of them are going to get in there."

To help students and to cement its position as a leading international college, Macalester takes a distinctive approach to its recruiting. "Most of the students, and really most of the officials, know very little about the United States' educational system and policies," Crowder says. "They may be in a country where there are only two, three, or four universities [to the U.S.'s 3,000]. We conduct workshops to inform those people what is appropriate for particular students."

Of course, a student might attend one of Crowder's sessions and decide that Macalester is the wrong choice for him or her. "To my way of thinking, that's the best of all possible things," he says. "There's nothing worse than having a student come here and feel uncomfortable, unprepared in the classroom and socially. Nothing could be worse, for the student or for the college. We try to find the students who are appropriate for Macalester and encourage them to come here. For those who are not, we try to help them understand that there really are differences in colleges, and perhaps the better road to take would be going to another school."

Crowder's philosophy is paying off. During his tenure at Macalester, only two degree-seeking international students have left before graduation.
Macalester is one of few U.S. schools that offer financial aid to international students—with the great majority of international scholarships going to students from the Third World.

Teaching prospective foreign students about the nature of a liberal-arts education is part of Crowder's job too—sometimes a difficult one. "There is a tendency in some countries to be trained rather than educated, and I think that some students are shocked at the broad nature of U.S. education," he says.

Kenya was like that, Pinto says. "If somebody was majoring in art over here, people at home in my country would come up and say, 'What did you major in—art? You wasted all that money—art? You can't even find a job.' " (Some American students, of course, have the same experience.)

Even so, Macalester's rigorous liberal-arts program draws students from all over the world. In 1987, more than 200 international applications came to the admissions office. To maintain an international population at around the 10 percent level, Macalester must enroll 40 to 45 of these applicants.

In most respects, the process of selecting international students for admission matches the method used for American applicants. The international application forms have become more like their domestic counterparts over the years, and the same criteria separate the accepted students from those turned away.

"[International admissions] becomes complicated," Crowder says, "because we not only have to find qualified students, but we also have to work within a budget. Macalester is one of the few schools that offers financial aid to international students. We have done this for quite a long time now, and it has helped us to reach the diversity we want. The great majority of our [international] scholarships go to students from the Third World, and all of them go to students who have need.

By all accounts, the students emerging from this process as members of Macalester's student body are remarkably capable. "To get over here, to be an international student, means that you're real special to begin with," Lynne Ackerberg says. "They're highly motivated.

Shain is equally impressed with their motivation. "[Before they come to Macalester,] a lot of international students have never been out of their country. They get on a plane in Calcutta and head here. That takes more courage than I've got," he says.

Despite their linguistic and cultural handicaps, in many respects international students academically surpass Macalester's American students—no academic slouches themselves. The composite grade-point average for international students was 3.34 in 1986 (about a B-plus), higher than the average for the student body as a whole. Adds Shain, "Most of them speak three, four, or five languages. Probably, technically speaking, their credentials are stronger than our U.S. students'—and our U.S. students are already darn strong.

Maybe it's because foreign students take their responsibilities so seriously. "Many of these students feel that there's a great deal on their shoulders—that they are not just here for themselves, but for their families and their countries," Crowder says. "We have students coming from countries where there are fewer than 100 college graduates, where they are in every sense the future of their nation.

Crowder's voice softens with pride. "We have had students who graduated from Macalester—and within two years represented their country at the United Nations.

The presence of such international ambassadors heightens cultural awareness on campus. "The American students here take an interest in other cultures, and so do the professors," Pinto says. "They're very patient and try to help foreign students adjust.

Fellow student Michelle Scullard quickly interjects: "I would say that the foreign students are very patient with us."

They're both right.

Freelance writer Jack El-Hai lives in Minneapolis.
He writes fiction and nonfiction for several publications.
The presence of international students improves the quality of a Macalester education—not only in the classroom, but in the friendships, both casual and deep, formed among students. One pair of roommates last year developed an unusually strong bond, absorbing one another's culture to a surprising degree.

They are a striking pair of young men, these sophomores from opposite sides of the globe. One is scholarly, retiring, slightly formal, pleased to explain the finer points of Japanese language and culture. The other is a strapping six-foot soccer player, quick to laugh, impatient with formalities. They met for the first time last September. And, after rooming together at Macalester for nearly two semesters, they are the best of friends.

Certainly it would be hard to find better representatives of American and Japanese culture to share a room in Wallace Hall. But it is not quite as neat as you think. For Hidekuni Fujioka, an exchange student from Tokyo's Waseda University, is the happy-go-lucky soccer player, quick to laugh, impatient with formalities. From September to May, Robert Stone—never “Bob,” although everyone abbreviates Fujioka’s first name to Hide, pronounced HE-day—was one of Fujioka’s chief guides to American culture. The two even spent Christmas with Stone’s parents in Colorado. Next year, their roles will be reversed: Fujioka will return to Tokyo to finish his four years at Waseda University, where he is majoring in economics, while Stone will be a Waseda exchange student, continuing his study of Japanese history.

“He’s really good at being concerned about other people. Sometimes I’m not.... I [left Japan] to get away from those social structures.”

From September to May, Robert Stone—never “Bob,” although everyone abbreviates Fujioka’s first name to Hide, pronounced HE-day—was one of Fujioka’s chief guides to American culture. The two even spent Christmas with Stone’s parents in Colorado. Next year, their roles will be reversed: Fujioka will return to Tokyo to finish his four years at Waseda University, where he is majoring in economics, while Stone will be a Waseda exchange student, continuing his study of Japanese history.

“T’ll be in the international division, which happens to be in the same building as a lot of Hide’s econ classes,” Stone says. Although they won’t be living together (in Japan, Fujioka commutes four hours a day from his parents’ house in Yokosuka to his Waseda classes; Stone will be placed with a host family in the Tokyo metro area), they do expect to continue their friendship.

Fujioka finds life in the United States vastly different from Japan, and he clearly relishes the difference. At a Japanese university, he says (and Stone elaborates), you can’t even greet a fellow student without knowing his class year. The Japanese language joins forces with etiquette to require differ-
It is Stone, not Fujioka, who explains the themes of popular Japanese films; Fujioka prefers American movies like *Rambo* and *The Secret of My Success*.

ent forms of address for those older and younger than you are.

"When I meet a student [in Japan], I ask him what year he is, or just talk to him in a fairly polite way, trying to tell what year he is," Fujioka says. "Then, when I've found his year, I can use the correct form. Here, I don't have to know what year they are to talk—it's really easy. So that means more freedom. It's really much easier to make friends here than in Japan."

This formalized etiquette is one of the things Stone is bracing himself to handle next year. "It's one of the most difficult things for a foreigner to learn in Japanese," he says; "first of all, trying to figure out how this structure is organized, and then trying to remember which one of these multitude of forms you're supposed to use."

Ironically, Stone thinks he'll enjoy living under such constraints more than Fujioka does. "I like having—I don't know—a guide as to how I deal with the next guy," he says.

Fujioka's experience of Western culture this past year has not been limited to Minnesota, or even to the United States. In addition to spending two weeks in December with Stone's family ("He went to some of the prime skiing spots in the country," says Stone, who doesn't ski himself) and spring break in New York City, he traveled to Germany and Austria over Interim.

Fujioka found being in Europe eye-opening for more than aesthetic reasons. Japanese, he says, tend to lump all Westerners together (much the same way that Americans view all Asian cultures as essentially the same). "But I found Americans and Europeans were totally different," he says. "Europeans are more conservative, and more quiet, and in a way not so friendly as Americans."

It was exhilarating, too, to be seen, through European eyes, as part of the American group he was traveling with. "Right now, you know, I am a foreigner. But once we were in Europe, other American students were also foreigners, and I was looked at as an American," Slyly, he adds, "I also found that Americans are not that good at foreign languages."

It is Stone, not Fujioka, who explains the structures of Japanese social life, the rules of Japanese chess (one of the first mutual interests the two roommates discovered), the themes of popular Japanese films—Fujioka prefers American movies like *Rambo* and *The Secret of My Success*. In short, Stone and Fujioka seem drawn as equals to the other's culture.

Their friendship, nurtured over the academic year, did not emerge overnight. Both began the year a bit apprehensive of the new roommate assigned to them, sight unseen, by Macalester's dean of students office.

Once classes began, their lives became too busy for either to pay much attention to the other. Fujioka, especially, had his hands full, with a hefty economics class and a geography class (both taught...
Early on, Fujioka asked Stone to be alert to his spoken mistakes, grammatical or idiomatic, and correct them. But the gap between American and Japanese humor proved more troublesome than the language barrier.

in English), plus two classes in English as a second language. Then again, his outgoing nature and his place on the soccer team brought a lot of new friends, leaving little time for deep meaningful conversations with his roommate—"except at two in the morning," Stone says.

Nor did Stone, then in his second year of studying Japanese, apply to Fujioka for help on his assignments. "I try not to rely on him too much for those things," Stone says. "I realize that if I wanted to, I could take an awful lot of advantage of him and my situation here. But that wouldn't be fair to the other students. It especially wouldn't be fair to him, because he's got other things to do."

More troublesome than the language barrier, for Fujioka, was the gap between American and Japanese humor. Asked what he found the hardest thing to adjust to in his new surroundings, he gives an unexpected reply: "Sarcasm. We don't have sarcasm in Japan. [The language allows it,] but it's not common. And there are some floormates over there, Greg and Mike—"he gestures across the hall—"they are sometimes really sarcastic. At first I was really confused: 'What are you talking about?' Then they said, 'Hide: sarcasm.'" He laughs. "Now I really like it. I can sort of say I've got the hang of it."

By coincidence, both Fujioka and Stone studied Spanish and German in high school. It was Fujioka's interest in international culture, in fact, that drew him into economics. An early ambition, and one he still nurtures, was to be an interpreter for English-Japanese conferences and the like.

"In order to interpret a conference or meeting, you must know the stuff—you must know the things discussed in the conference, like politics or history," he says. "And right now, you can't talk about politics without economics. Always. Most [foreign policy is] related to economics—economic sanctions, for example. In a way, you can see the real world through economics." He laughs. "I know that some economic theory isn't realistic, but I think it helps to understand things happening in this world."

Stone, who says he regards economics as "fan-cified magic," saves his own eloquence for the subject of Japan. "I guess I'm just sort of fascinated by a culture that's been in existence for 2,000 years or more and yet is functioning at a modern level—whereas 150 years ago it was still basically comparable to medieval times," he says. "Examining the whole process of how that change took place is really fascinating."

Each hopes eventually to assimilate the other's culture more completely. In Fujioka's case, he'd like to live in the United States, perhaps after he goes to graduate school here (he's not sure where, or in what subject). And, although Stone's trip to Japan next year will be his first, he suspects he, too, may want to live there—"although a year from now, I may have completely the opposite opinion, and be pretty glad to get back on American soil."

Rooming with Fujioka has changed him, Stone says. At Christmas, his mother took him aside to tell him how glad the family was that he was taking himself less seriously. "I wasn't quite as serious about 'life, the universe, and everything' as I used to be, and she was pleased," he says.

"Robert's really sensitive to lots of things," Fujioka says. "He's really kind. He's willing to take care of others. In a way, he's not as sociable as I am, but he knows how to deal with other people."

"Hide is real outgoing, real honest," Stone says. "It sounds strange, for two people as different as we are, but we've got so many things in common. I can't describe it, but there are some people that, as you go through life, you meet them, and something clicks: 'This is someone who knows me, and I know them.' I don't know if you want to look at it from the Buddhist standpoint of karma and rebirth, that this is somebody you've met in a former life—I don't know. It just really clicked, right from the beginning."

Rebecca Ganzel is managing editor of this magazine.
FORUM:

Drug Testing in the Workplace

For the second year in a row, two members of the Macalester debate team won a national tournament—the largest open-division debate tournament ever held in the United States—this spring. Molly McGinnis and Paul Benson, both seniors, emerged undefeated from the Cross-Examination Debate Association tournament held April 4–6 in Baton Rouge, La. Their topic? Whether or not testing employees for controlled substances is an unwarranted violation of privacy.

By coincidence, a former Macalester debating star now makes his living in part by arguing this very issue. As an attorney with the appellate staff of the U.S. Department of Justice, Dwight Rabuse ’79 considers drug abuse “an international crisis” and supports drug testing in the workplace. When one of our editors heard him speak on the subject at a recent convention, we couldn’t resist the chance to let Macalester’s national champions “debate” their distinguished predecessor.

We asked Rabuse to write 1,000 words on “the case for drug testing,” McGinnis and Benson to argue “the case against.” The opinions they express are their own. It is up to you, the reader, to judge who wins. Weigh their arguments, then fill out the ballot at the end of this article and send it to Macalester before Sept. 15. We’ll publish the results in the November issue.
The Case For Drug Testing

by Dwight G. Rabuse '79

So just what is life at Macalester like these days? From my infrequent visits to campus, it appears that a few things have changed since the 1970s. Hair is shorter. The football team wins. Students actually wear something other than jeans occasionally. Fortunately, some things remain the same. As the recent success of my counterparts on the facing page demonstrates, Mac is still turning out first-class rhetoricians.

Most of my memories from my Mac days of the late '70s are good. Some are not. I remember, for example, attending my first freshman dorm party and finding everyone stoned.

For people who came of age in an era when drug use was winked at, if not ignored, the current national effort against drugs—of which drug testing is but a part—has come as something of a shock. Following an era of drug tolerance, it is no surprise that proposals for drug testing in the workplace have ignited a firestorm of controversy.

As Molly and Paul point out, testing is opposed for many reasons. There is concern about the accuracy of drug tests. Other objections are couched in constitutional terms. Understandably, there are also people who object because they're simply afraid of being caught. Many Americans, however, oppose drug testing simply as a matter of principle. A lot of folks who couldn't tell a joint from a red-and-white aluminum can, see testing as an infringement of liberty. One of the best parts of the American tradition is the freedom just to be left alone.

But however much we may disagree on whether drug testing is appropriate, we should all agree that drug use poses a serious threat to the American workplace. Drugs threaten safety, lower productivity, and impose serious costs on businesses, government, and society as a whole.

Statistics tell part of the story. Drug users in the workforce are three to four times more likely than nonusers to be involved in on-the-job accidents. They are absent from work twice as often, incur three times the average level of sickness costs, and are only two-thirds as productive. Compared with their nonaddicted counterparts, substance abusers on average consume three times the medical benefits, are five times as likely to file workers' compensation claims, experience seven times as many garnishments, and are repeatedly involved in grievance proceedings. According to the Research Triangle Institute in North Carolina, illegal drug use cost the American economy a staggering $60 billion in lost productivity in 1983 alone.

Recently I spoke at a Minneapolis symposium on drugs in the workplace. An executive from a Minnesota-based electronics company told a story about a forklift driver high on cocaine who drove his machine through several assembly lines, doing hundreds of thousands of dollars in damage. In another incident, a computer operator high on marijuana failed to load a crucial tape into an airline-reservation system, causing a loss to the company of almost $19 million. As one official remarked, "That was an awfully expensive joint."

Stories and statistics like these are disturbing. More frightening, however, is the threat drugs on the job pose to worker and public safety. A drug hotline received a call one evening from a pilot for a major international carrier, who confessed he was exhausted and paranoid after snorting coke for three consecutive days. He was scheduled to fly to Europe that night, but told the counselor that he "was sure that he could stay awake and alert if he just kept taking drugs." Drug use has also been implicated in the tragic Amtrak rail crash outside Baltimore last fall that claimed so many lives.

Clearly, drugs on the job are a major problem. Nonetheless, serious people raise serious objections to drug testing as the solution. They deserve answers.

Let's begin (in this bicentennial year) with the Constitutional questions. There is no Constitutional barrier to employee drug testing. Indeed, recent court decisions have upheld the constitutionality of federal testing programs.

Then there is the question of accuracy. No one wants to see an employee branded as a drug user as a result of faulty testing. But testing can be conducted in a reliable and accurate manner. In the federal program a second, confirmatory test is always required for a sample that tests positive. The Office of Technology Assessment has determined that this second test—known as a "GC/Mas Spec" (GC/MS)—is completely reliable.

Of course, testing makes no sense if it doesn't get results. But the best evidence comes from the military's experience. The Navy's random drug-testing program helped cut drug use in that service from 48 percent to 17 percent in just 18 months. By August of 1986 it was down to 10.2 percent. Overall, the military has experienced an across-the-board 67 percent reduction since instituting its testing programs.

In the private sector, some 30 percent of the Fortune 500 companies have instituted detection programs, and they have found them to have a dramatic effect in curbing drug use, boosting productivity, continued on page 14
The Case Against Drug Testing

by Molly McGinnis '87 and Paul Benson '87

Life at Macalester is great! As we wrap up our senior year, we find that things haven't changed all that much in the eight years since Dwight Rabuse graduated. Our class, like his, is concerned about myriad social issues: divestment, gender studies, academic freedom, Contra-gate, Reaganomics.

In comparison with such issues, drug testing may seem insignificant. But Mac alums and Mac students need to look carefully at the contemporary issue of drug testing. Twenty-five percent of Fortune 500 companies routinely test employees to detect drug use, and while some of them exercise care in conducting these tests, many do not. In this article, we will advance two major objections to drug testing—privacy issues, and concerns about test accuracy.

Our first objection to drug tests is that they are an unwarranted invasion of privacy. We legitimately expect to urinate alone, not in front of our employers. Advocates of testing say that a mere sample is a small price to pay for removing the scourge of drug use from the workplace, but efficacy should not be sufficient reason to usurp constitutional protections of privacy. "The success of massive testing [cannot] justify its use," Judge H. Lee Sarokin of the New Jersey District Court wrote last fall. "We would not condone the beating of suspects...merely because a larger number of convictions resulted."

The Fourth Amendment maintains that a citizen is innocent until proven guilty. In the kind of testing programs Dwight advocates, all employees must succumb to urine analysis, without presumption of innocence. Judicial decisions in recent months have been increasingly critical of government testing schemes. As Columbia University law professor Alan Westin says, "The courts are turning a hostile face to random testing of government employees." He goes on to say that "at least 13 of 17 cases have found that the tests violate Fourth Amendment protections against unreasonable searches and seizures."

Perhaps the most distressing aspect of drug testing is the precedent it sets for the private sector. As the long arm of corporate law reaches millions of American workers, it puts their careers and reputations into jeopardy. Although the Constitution does not extend to the acts of private employers, we must not condone such occurrences. Representative Don Edwards of California warns: "Every little erosion of our civil liberties leads to another; every little intrusion lowers society's expectation of privacy. If liberties can be lost by increments, then surely this latest challenge must be resisted."

Our second objection to drug testing is that the tests are horribly inaccurate. When we divide people into the guilty and the innocent, we had better be accurate. Unfortunately, even under the best of circumstances, drug tests can falsely accuse millions of innocents. A federal petition highlighted the drawbacks of drug testing. The U.S. Navy's experience was not one of success, the RTI economist who conducted the study, admits that these figures do not establish a causal relationship between drug use and productivity decline, and do not indicate on-the-job impairment. When asked if his study justifies drug testing, Harwood said, "I would no sooner see mandatory drug testing than I would a camera in every bedroom."

Some of the other data Dwight cites—absenteeism, medical expenses, and compensation claims—come from Peter Bensinger and Robert DuPont. Both are consultants for companies that market drug-testing kits! Furthermore, their claims are based almost entirely on the flawed RTI study.

Rather than serve as an example of success, the U.S. Navy's experience highlights the drawbacks of drug testing. Since the Department of Defense has switched to a drug-testing procedure with a high number of false negatives (dirty
reducing job-related accidents, and improving employee morale.

Testing can be carried out in a way that both respects privacy and protects the confidentiality of test results. Those who see it as a draconian sanction should note that, in and out of government, employers are generally more interested in rehabilitation than in punishment. First-time positive test results usually bring about referral to treatment and counseling rather than loss of users' jobs. Most importantly, the reality of a testing program can force abusers to confront one of the biggest hurdles on the road to recovery: the denial that they have a problem.

In the final analysis, of course, testing is only one facet of the broader effort to stop the production, sale, purchase, and consumption of illegal drugs. It should be evaluated in that light. Winning the battle against drugs depends on fostering a sense of personal responsibility. Education, counseling, and the power of good examples must all play a part. Together, employers and employees can devise policies to ensure every American the right to a drug-free workplace in a manner that respects the dignity, privacy, and principles of everyone.

Dwight G. Rabuse '79, a former Macalester debater (in his senior year, he won a national championship in extemporaneous and impromptu speaking), is an attorney on the appellate staff of the U.S. Department of Justice's civil division. Among other duties, he writes speeches for attorney general Edwin Meese.

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**BALLOT**

☐ I agree with Dwight Rabuse; testing employees for controlled substances is not an unwarranted violation of privacy.

☐ I agree with Molly McGinnis and Paul Benson; testing employees for controlled substances is an unwarranted violation of privacy.

Please send this ballot to Rebecca Ganzel, Managing Editor, Macalester Today, 1600 Grand Ave., St. Paul, MN 55105. Votes that reach us before Sept. 15 will be tabulated in the November issue.

As a team, Molly McGinnis '87 and Paul Benson '87 are two-time winners of CEDA (Cross-Examination Debate Association) national debate tournaments. Both are double majors—McGinnis in economics and political science, and Benson in speech communication and political science—and both are entering law school.
The smiles of May

For a lawnf of Macalester seniors, four years’ work came to fruition May 23 with the college’s 98th commencement ceremony. The approximately 360 graduating students represented 39 U.S. states and 32 countries.

Four people received honorary doctoral degrees and gave brief addresses: John M. Fife, refugee champion and Arizona minister; Laura B. Gowen, founder of the National Scoliosis Foundation; David M. Mason '46, retired chief European correspondent for the Associated Press; and Franklin H. Williams, former U.S. ambassador to Ghana.
Wholeheartedly or not at all
A storytelling musician who believes that ‘everything we do shapes our destiny’ retires from the Macalester faculty. by Jeanyne B. Slettom

The study of music is difficult,” he acknowledges, “but I tell my students they should be grateful for the difficulty. Otherwise, how meaningful would it be? Difficulty requires improvement in a person, and that is why the study of music is so important. Music teaches chords and intervals, but it also teaches discipline and patience.”

The son of “a wholehearted singer and a half-hearted farmer,” King grew up in the Mennonite Church, in rural Ohio. No musical instruments were allowed in the church, so when he arrived at Ohio State University in the late 1930s, he was an accomplished singer but played no instruments.

Standard wisdom says the man would have majored in voice, but King saw things differently. As he explains it, “I didn’t play the piano, so I decided to major in piano. I believe in going after weaknesses.”

King received his B.A. in 1941 and went back home, working briefly as a composer and music director at the local church. Eventually, though, he joined the war effort as a U.S. Army medic in World War II, a choice which led to his break with the pacifist Mennonites but also led to postwar study at the Paris Conservatory, by invitation of the French government. There he studied with Olivier Messiaen, one of the most idiosyncratic and influential composers of this century.

Many of King’s best stories come from this period—and, like Aesop’s fables, they all illustrate a point.

There is the boot-camp story, for instance, which is likely to be told when the classroom assignment is a tedious but necessary exercise requiring little in the way of creativity.

At Camp Robinson, in Arkansas, King’s repeated assignment was scouring pots and pans. Making the best of it, King decided to make them cleaner than they had been in years. When it was time to ship out, the other medics were sent to the Pacific. King, however, had been observed at his scouring and instead was offered the chance to stay and train new recruits. When he finally did ship out, it was to Europe and eventually the Paris Conservatory.

The moral? “Whatever you do, do it wholeheartedly or not at all. Everything we do shapes our destiny.”

Other stories come without the moral, providing instead a connection to the world of music and composers outside the classroom. For example, there was the time that King (a part-time pilot) flew Karlheinz Stockhausen over the Grand Canyon, and the avant-garde German composer wanted to go below the rim. “It’s your life,” King shrugged—and flew the plane between the rock walls of the canyon. There was the time he visited Harry Partch in his chicken coop of a studio, filled with all the instruments the eccentric composer had invented. And there were his studies with Paul Hindemith, the formidable composer who always made students undertake what they could not quite do yet.

In the 1950s, King completed an M.A. and Ph.D. in music at the University of Colorado, studying for a year between the two degrees with Arthur Honegger at the Ecole Normale in Paris. He also
taught extensively, composed, and conducted.

In 1967, King was invited to join the music department at Macalester. In the 20 years since then, he has seen inevitable changes—in the students, the college itself, and in styles of music.

Musically, the late 1960s at Macalester were a time of the “noncert,” a free-spirited, adventurous approach to programming that attempted to do away with concert-hall clichés and redefine the role of art music in a contemporary world. It was also a period when the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra performed regularly at Janet Wallace Fine Arts Center, bringing world-famous composers to the school and offering unheard-of opportunities to students.

“Bill McGlaughlin, then associate conductor of the SPCO, would play student compositions with the chamber orchestra,” King recalls with some amazement. “And composers like John Cage would regularly wander into a theory class.”

At one point, the music department even staged one of Cage’s celebrated circuses, which King still recalls with glee:

“Fifteen groups were in the same room, each performing something different. At one spot, a group was singing Messiah without making a sound. Another group had those circular saucer sleds painted with phosphorescent rims, and they were whirling them on sticks. It was a mass of sound.”

Experiences like these became the grist for more stories, especially for those students who came long after those turbulent years. But in listening to these, one senses that King is not just recalling fondly a crazier time in American music. He is subtly nudging his students to be more daring; also, to not take themselves quite so seriously.

There was “a certain wildness” in the students of the ’60s, and King admits that he misses it. “Today’s students have lots of creativity,” he says, “but they are more practical and businesslike now.”

Relationships with students remain important to King. “Those relationships are a lifeblood for me,” he acknowledges. “They go far beyond the student years.” In his composer capacity, King has written several compositions for his students, and after graduation they have continued to commission works from him.

He minimizes this, however, observing that “if composers see a place for music, they generally want to fill it.”

Now that he has retired from teaching, there will be more time for composing, for putting stories into the lines and spaces of the musical staff.

There will also be time for such favorite occupations as playing chamber music, gardening (“I have cultivated a country atmosphere around myself”), and hang gliding.

Yes, hang gliding. King is a member of the Red Wing Soaring Association, and he enjoys the sport as an outgrowth of his early and enduring love of flying. As a child, he remembers the mail plane flying over the barn as “the most transcendent and romantic thing.” Later, when he started teaching, one of the first things he did was buy a blue and grey Luscombe and get a commercial pilot’s license. Now he enjoys the ethereal nature of hang gliding, the silence, and the presence of only the wind and the birds.

Many of these influences are present in the music he composes. Not surprisingly, many of his compositions reach back to the early Mennonite influence in his life: there are Psalm settings, variations on hymn tunes, a “Nunc Dimittis.” There are also chamber pieces and such dramatically different works as the provocatively titled “Thirteen Acts for an Adult and Consenting Piano”—one of King’s personal favorites. As he observes, “Composing seems to bring out either the monkish or the raunchy side of me.”

King will also continue to devote time to chamber music. Already he spends 10-20 hours a week as a violist with a chamber group.

“Chamber music is the cream of music-making,” he says. “It’s a symbol of the ideal society—a small group of interdependent people who have no leader and must work together cooperatively. With a large group it’s different; the individual is overrun.”

King will miss teaching. As he explains, “I love to teach. Only a small percentage of people do what they love to do, and I feel I have been privileged to be one of them.”

Jeanyne B. Slettom is an adult scholar at Macalester, majoring in humanities, who has written extensively on the arts for many Twin Cities publications. She is also a classical-music critic for the Rochester (Minn.) Post-Bulletin, and she is the Twin Cities arts stringer for USA Today.
Memories of Ivan Burg
by Mary Ann Grossmann ’60 and Eleanor Ostman ’62

Ivan Burg would have loved the recent party when some of his former journalism students gathered to share old college photos and reminisce about working until dawn to put the Mac Weekly and the yearbook “to bed.”

He would have grinned his endearing smile and then hauled out a beat-up camera—maybe his trusty old Speed Graphic—to take pictures of the group.

From 1937 to 1969, Ivan Burg ’34 (who died three years ago) was teacher, mentor, job finder, and father confessor to hundreds of Macalester journalism students.

“He lived Macalester and he loved his students. Journalism became our lives,” says Delores Burg, Ivan’s wife of 41 years.

“There has not been a single week in the past 35 years that I have not used one or another of the things Ivan Burg taught me,” says Roger F. Olson ’52, senior vice president of university relations for the University of Southern California. “My only regret is that I was never able to achieve his considerable ability to share his great compassion and kindly manner.”

From a cluttered office in the east wing of Old Main, where the phone rang constantly and there was generally an air of subdued crisis, Burg juggled his roles as professor of journalism, director of the college news bureau, advisor to the yearbook and the Mac Weekly, and editor of the faculty-staff newsletter. He did it with humor, with honor, and with the help of Marie Hannahan—secretary, ever-present organizational force, and mother hen to the journalism brood.

It wouldn’t be possible in today’s high-pressure communications world for one person to hold all those jobs. And it was a heck of a big job. But Ivan Burg did it competently in those simpler days, offering his students the practical experience of writing college news releases and
Burg (right) demonstrates the Speed Graphic camera to two 1940s students.

shooting pictures to accompany them.

Ah, how we loved thinking that the releases we pounded out on those clanking upright typewriters were going to be read by a Real Editor at one of the Twin Cities daily newspapers.

"If you were a journalism student, you were a News Bureau 'employee,'" recalls Richard L. Melin '58, who edited the Mac Weekly. "That meant you put the intellectual classroom material into practice. Ivan put us at typewriters early on; we composed in our heads, rewrote and revised later. The typewriter became a third hand for his journalism students."

Burg's love of writing, his commitment to accuracy and honest reporting, and his unflappable style are all remembered by his former students who responded to a request for their memories. (Since he left Macalester in 1969, the college has offered a journalism minor, but not a major.)

One Burg student whose name became legendary around the Old Main "city room" is photojournalist Thomas J. Abercrombie '52, a member of the National Geographic Society's foreign editorial staff. With his wife and partner, Marilyn (Lynn) Brette Abercrombie '54 (also a Mac journalism student), he has been on assignment in 75 countries, from the Antarctic to Israel.

"Ivan made sure we included broad classroom experience in writing and editing as well as in our primary field, photography," Thomas wrote in the midst of negotiating to get into Western Tibet earlier this year.

"It would be five years before a typewriter would begin to crowd my cameras, 20 years before it dominated them, but how glad I was for those basics Ivan drove home. Lynn slipped out of active journalism for a generation to raise a son and daughter, but she never forgot her 'Burg Basics.' They helped her adapt to a whole new camera technology and the exotic demands of photojournalism in the Himalayas and the Arabian Peninsula."

Burg's students in the 1940s and '50s learned photography on the boxy old Speed Graphic, with its four-by-five-inch plates. By the '60s, though, Burg was using a different camera—one that was recalled by former Mac Weekly photo editor and yearbook editor Donald L. Breneman '65, now a communication specialist for the Minnesota Extension Service.

"Ivan's best-liked and most-used camera in the 1962-65 era was an old, battered Minolta Autocord twin lens reflex," Breneman says. "I don't know how he was able to get a sharp picture with it, because he had the focusing hood taped over and he would just guess at the distance. He was a good judge of distance—he seldom shot an out-of-focus picture."

C. Stanley Rude '46 was Burg's graduate assistant in journalism in 1946-47, with responsibility for turning out news releases about students and sending them off to their hometown newspapers.

Every day Ivan's question was the same: How many did you send out yesterday?" recalls Rude, now retired from Norwest Bank's public-relations department. "Any answer under 10 got an arched eyebrow. His acquaintance with Twin Cities newspaper editors and staff was phenomenal. He knew precisely where every story should go. And he believed in the personal touch—so I spent a good bit of time on streetcars delivering releases."

Burg's understated sense of humor lingers in many memories.

"He was always able to see humor in even the most dire situations," Melin recalls.

Don Breneman remembers that Burg's "favorite most-despised word" was
“lovely,” which he always used when he wanted to pay an insincere compliment. “We all knew how he felt about the word, so we knew what he really meant when he used it,” Breneman says.

Phyllis Bambusch Jones ’44, a judge in the Minnesota’s 10th judicial district, says she has no memories of classes, as such, with Burg.

“We had many informal discussions on every aspect of writing while seated around the city desk in the news bureau,” she writes. “We built our own darkroom with flotsam from the attic in the east wing of Old Main. Much of our contact with our mentor was on a one-to-one basis.”

A. Phillips Beedon ’28, emeritus professor of journalism and former director of alumni affairs at Macalester, says of his colleague Burg: “His untiring efforts as director for the news bureau resulted in a top-drawer public-relations program for Mac that was unequalled by any other college in the area.”

Charlton Dietz ’53, vice president for legal affairs and legal counsel for 3M Co. and a Macalester trustee, says Ivan Burg changed his life. “He got me a job as a copyboy on the Minneapolis Tribune and [it] allowed me to continue my education at Macalester,” Dietz writes. “He was an outstanding teacher, but, more than that, he took real interest in his students. He taught the fundamentals of practical journalism while at the same time he was a helpful, interested friend and mentor. I would not be where I am today if it were not for the fact that Ivan Burg was interested in my life.”

Delores Burg, who studied journalism at the University of Minnesota, has thought a lot about her husband’s relationship to his students. “I feel what he really did was to show kids how to do something,” she says. “They might say they couldn’t, and he’d say, ‘Do it.’ ”

She is especially proud that he was ahead of his time in promoting the careers of his women students and helping them get good jobs. “He touched a lot of lives,” she says, “and he was so proud of his kids.”

Susan Aho says it most simply: “Most important was that he taught me integrity in reporting, because that quality must come from within: a person must believe in him or herself and fight for the truth.”

In 1966 Ivan Burg learned that he had cancer, and three years later he left the college. The students of his era, who use the journalism skills he taught them, are a continuing memorial to the strength of Ivan Burg’s character and teaching.

Mary Ann Grossmann ’60 and Eleanor Ostman ’62 both work for the Saint Paul Pioneer Press Dispatch. Grossmann as book editor and social columnist, and Ostman as a food writer. Grossmann is married to Thomas Thomsen ’60.
Alumni Weekend draws a crowd

Sunny weather, familiar faces, and lots of activities greeted Macalester grads returning for Alumni Weekend 1987 (June 11-14). Six "alumni college" seminars focused on world views: history professor Emily Rosenberg discussed women in international development, for instance, while physics professor Sung Kyu Kim elaborated on the "Big Bang" theory. Class dinner parties (every fifth class from 1927 to 1982) lit up the campus Friday night, and the all-alumni banquet honored new Distinguished Citizens Saturday. A children's program culminated in a Saturday-evening musical drama depicting a child's-eye view of the reunion.

The Distinguished Citizen Citation—Macalester's highest alumni award—was conferred upon five individuals for "unselfish and effective service to the community, the nation, and humanity": from left, international-student expert Dennis Peterson '65; university dean L. Lee Knefelkamp '67; pastor Milton A. Combs, Sr. '52; wellness pioneer Ruth DeBeer Stricker '57; and Air Force veteran Doyle Larson '52. The five will be profiled in the November Macalester Today.
Alumni club activities circle the globe

Macalester alumni and friends are renewing their special ties with the college. Coast to coast, alumni admissions volunteers are telling high-school seniors about Macalester life. In Kenya, 20 years ago, alums are wondering how to start a Macalester club. In Tucson and San Francisco, they are requesting help in finding new jobs. And from Seattle, they let us know that they are reading every word of Macalester Today. Here is a brief summary of what alumni clubs have been doing since our last report in May:

Phoenix alumni and friends gathered at The Chimney’s restaurant in March for an evening of food and fun. Classmates from 1925 to 1974 got an inside view of what Macalester is like today from vice president for development Catherine Day and President Robert M. Gavin, Jr., while alumni director Karen McConkey led guests through a light-hearted survey of lesser-known facts about those attending. Quentin Havik ’41 and Louise Havik ’42 coordinated festivities.

Host Barry Knight ’70 introduced “Biotechnology: Its Present Impact and What Lies Ahead” as the theme of the Minneapolis Alumni Club’s March luncheon. Dr. Franklin Pass, co-founder of Molecular Genetics, Inc., described new developments which are revolutionizing biotechnology.

Macalester’s football team concludes its 1987 season Sat., Nov. 14, with a game against Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas. Twin Cities-area alumni are planning a weekend trip (leaving Friday, returning Sunday). Book reservations through Krug Travel, 299 N. Snelling Ave., Saint Paul, MN 55104, 612/646-1814. $290.70 covers airfare, two nights at a Holiday Inn, and Saturday-evening buffet supper. For more information, call the Alumni Office, 612/696-6295, or football coach Tom Hosier, 612/696-6286.

Fort Worth—Dallas alumni are also making plans to attend the Macalester-Trinity football game in San Antonio Nov. 14. To get in on the action, contact Peg Sundermeier ’72 at 904 Woodcreek Court, Euless, TX 76039.

The “Renewal in Work” series drew Twin Cities alumni and friends out this spring for a lively look at career-planning and job-seeking skills. In the May 14 session, a panel of alumni discussed negotiating strategies: Ronald Bole ’62, Jordana Tatar ’82, C. Robert Jones ’61, Deborah Ogle Haggerty ’69 (Randolph, N.J.), Kathryn Houston ’76, Daniel Berlin ’78, and Joni Marie Kelly Bennett ’78, moderator.

Boston alumni and families laid plans to savor the music of English composers Ralph Vaughan Williams, Peter Warlock, and Sir Arthur Sullivan at the New Hampshire Music Festival in August. Macalester alumni and faculty are a strong presence among festival staff, with Joel Johnson ’64 conducting the August concert, Karen Johnson ’61 as rehearsal pianist, and Thomas Nee, former Macalester professor, as music director.

Elaine Laughlin Colby ’31 hosted visiting alums at her Blueberry Hill Farm in Meredith, N.H.

Alumni clubs are taking a fresh look at new services and programs. To participate, contact Macalester’s Alumni Office, 1600 Grand Ave., St. Paul, MN 55105, 612/696-6295.

NSF, Fulbright grants go to seven Mac graduates

Five Macalester graduates have received Fulbright grants for graduate study abroad, and two have won National Science Foundation fellowships in 1987 competition.

Patricia Rosel ’85 and Bradley Harper ’79 are among 505 outstanding students nationwide who have been offered National Science Foundation graduate fellowships for three years of study in the natural and social sciences, mathematics, and engineering.

Rosel, a biology major from St. Paul, will study at the University of California at Santa Cruz. Harper, a sociology major from St. Cloud, will study at the University of Minnesota.

Fulbright grants for graduate study abroad will be awarded to about 700 individuals this year. Receiving the grants from Macalester are:

Ann J. Bunnell ’87, anthropology major from Poughkeepsie, N.Y. (for study in Indonesia); Christiane Olivo ’87, international-studies major from Bonners Ferry, Idaho (Federal Republic of Germany); Pamela LeLand ’86, German major from Elk River, Minn. (Federal Republic of Germany); Michael Montgomery ’86, international-studies major from Portland, Ore. (Yugoslavia); Daniel Klooster ’87, geology major from Grand Rapids, Mich. (Colombia); Russell Burbage ’87, an English major from University City, Mo., is an alternate for a grant to study in Japan.
Luce Foundation offers Asia-experience grant

Highly qualified young Americans with an interest in Asia but no prior experience there are targets of a national scholarship program operated by the Henry Luce Foundation.

Participants in the program are placed in a broad range of assignments designed to match their own interests, e.g., in the atelier of a leading Japanese architect, a forestry project in Indonesia, a pediatric hospital in Bangkok, an English-language newspaper in Singapore. In spite of the program's name, participants do not enroll in a college or university and no academic credit is extended.

A candidate must be an American citizen who has earned at least a bachelor's degree and is no more than 29 years of age. Candidates should demonstrate high academic achievement, leadership ability, and potential for professional accomplishment within a specific career field.

Candidates must be nominated by their colleges. For a full description of the program, contact Ellen Guyer, associate provost, 1600 Grand Ave., Saint Paul, MN 55105. Macalester's deadline for receipt of applications will be in early November.

Association officers, fund leaders named

Leading the Macalester Alumni Association in its first year under new bylaws is a group of officers elected at the first annual meeting at Alumni Weekend in June:

Christina Baldwin '68, president, West Saint Paul, Minn.; Julie L. Stroud '81, president-elect, Saint Paul; Thomas C. Olander '67, vice president, Maplewood, Minn.; and Ford J. Nicholson '78, secretary-treasurer, Eden Prairie, Minn.

Richard Eichhorn '51 and Janet Rajala Nelson '72 will lead an army of alumni volunteers for the 1987-88 Annual Fund. Eichhorn, a Macalester trustee, is serving his second year as alumni Annual Fund co-chair. Nelson, an Alumni Association board member, is serving her first year of a two-year appointment as co-chair.

From the President:
Reshaped Alumni Association will emphasize service, reflect diversity, play stronger leadership role

The library wasn't the only ground-breaking on campus this spring. The board of directors of the Alumni Association has spent the year breaking new ground for itself—and for you.

Our commitment for the year has been to restructure the way the Alumni Association operates so it can be of wider benefit to all Macalester alums.

The year started with a small fire—arson, actually—set by the board in the Alumni House basement fireplace during our September orientation. We had decided to begin this restructuring by writing down all our assumptions about what the board is or should do and what the association is or should do. We then read these assumptions aloud to each other and threw them into the fireplace.

They made a lovely flame. From these ashes we have undertaken the serious task of redefining ourselves.

We had several major goals:

- **To rewrite the bylaws** of the association to better reflect the needs of the alumni for a working policy- and direction-setting board.

- **To provide a national umbrella** for local alumni clubs, for the alumni admissions program, career networking, and fund development.

- **To see that the board itself** better reflects the make-up of the alumni body in geographical distribution.

Very nice, you may think, if you are in a generous mood, but what has this got to do with me? As a result of the board's work, and accomplishment of these goals, the Alumni Association of Macalester College has the opportunity to look and act very differently from the past.

First of all, the board is finally clear about its role. In the past, the board has often functioned as a local club, and has not had the additional resources to tend to its wider role as a representative of a large, divergent national and international body of alumni. Now there is a Twin Cities Alumni Club. This has freed the board to assume its real role.

So, secondly, in cooperation with the admissions office, the career development office, and the development office, the board has set its bylaws the structures needed to maintain a network between these areas of primary alumni concern and involvement, as well as to act as a central body to which all the alumni clubs are connected.

Thirdly, the college's commitment to this change is reflected in our alumni office budget, which now includes funds to compensate outstate board members for attendance at meetings, and in the change in the meeting structure itself to three meetings each year, all of them long enough to tackle long-term planning and be responsive to the concerns and issues raised by alumni.

If you attended this year's Alumni Weekend, you have already seen evidence of these changes in the first annual meeting of the Alumni Association, held as part of Alumni Weekend, and in the opportunity to vote directly on changes in the bylaws and the new slate of officers.

The Alumni Association, consisting of all former students of Macalester College, is now nearly 17,000 in membership, with 360 more joining us from this year's senior class. This makes us a population somewhat larger than Lake Wobegon and somewhat smaller than Chicago. Whatever this population wants to do, we are ready to do. Part of our new direction is up to you. Please let one of your association officers or representatives know what's on your mind. We look forward to working with you.

—Christina Baldwin '68  
President, Alumni Association
Six years adrift, she returns an anchor

Former exchange student Kaori Arimura is now the Jane Pauley of Japan.

by Jack El-Hai

Like many alumni, Kaori Arimura was curious to see her old dorm room, a triple in Dupre Hall, when she came to Macalester for a visit last spring. Unlike most, however, she shared her return visit with thousands of television viewers. The crowd in her Dupre room that day included a director, a camera operator, and two technicians from Tokyo Broadcasting System, all toting sophisticated video and sound recording equipment.

Arimura is co-anchor of "Hotline"—Asa No in Japanese—a news and information program broadcast on weekday mornings over a network of 33 Japanese television stations to 10 million viewers. Her return to Macalester was part of a 35-day, 12-city tour of the U.S. that was broadcast via satellite. Other stops on the tour included New York, Washington, New Orleans, Nashville, Denver, San Francisco, and Los Angeles.

Arimura, who considers Saint Paul her American hometown, pushed to bring "Hotline" to Macalester because of her happy memories of the 1980–81 school year she spent as a student. "It was really the best time of my life," she says. "I had a lot of friends, I fell in love, I studied quite a bit, and I saw a lot of things I'd never seen or thought of. In my mind, it's still shining."

Dressed for her on-camera appearances in a maroon blazer and black jeans, she delivered a bubbly commentary while leading her viewers on a campus tour that swung through the library, Old Main, the International Center, the food service, and her host family's home. She interviewed history professor Jerry Fisher in Japanese and some old friends from her student days in English—providing instant translation from English to Japanese for the benefit of her Japanese viewers.

Increasing her fluency in English was one of Arimura's main reasons for attending an American college. She wanted an academically strong school with relatively few Japanese students. When the choices narrowed to Macalester and a college in Florida, her preference for midwestern English and a snowy climate gave the nod to Macalester. "I really wanted to see a lot of snow because I was from the south of Japan" where little snow falls, she explains.

Once she was a student at Macalester, she reveled in the international atmosphere. "I had one friend from India, one from Cyprus, one from Germany," she says. "To know people from different countries, who have different back-grounds and cultures and languages: that's fun."

Although she didn't realize it at the time, Arimura now believes her year at Macalester strongly influenced her future. "If I hadn't come here, I probably wouldn't be doing this television work right now," she says. "I learned how to express my emotions and to be honest with people. The Japanese have a lot of rules in communication, and sometimes you have to be quiet. In this country, I could let people know what I was thinking. It really helped me."

For Tokyo Broadcasting System's rigorous audition process, the self-expression that Arimura had learned at Macalester became crucial. "I had to make a five-minute speech about friends and friendship," she recalls. Later, interviewers asked her to ad-lib narration for some TV footage, "scenes that I had never seen and had no information about. I just needed to keep talking." She landed the job and eventually began work on "Hotline."

Some aspects of the job frustrate her. "In Japanese broadcasting, men are still the hosts and women are just supposed to be supporters," she says. "I don't think that's a good idea. I want to be equal, and I'm struggling with that. It's changing a little, but [American broadcasting] is in far better condition."

Arimura has developed a philosophy and some goals in broadcasting. "TV is not like a textbook, [just] presenting information," she says. She believes Japanese television hosts should have more opportunity to ruffle their viewers and stray a bit off the path of total objectivity. "Newscasters aren't supposed to say how they feel: no opinions, neutral. But I have some feelings; I have some opinions."

She eventually wants her own evening program that presents more than straight news. "I want to make some stories and documentaries. I want to express how I think, how I feel. viewers, she says, will benefit by thinking more about the news and forming their own opinions."

Although Arimura's visit to Macalester was brief, she enjoyed sharing the campus with her viewers. "It's wonderful," she says. "Every memory comes back."

And her old residence-hall room—how did she feel, revisiting it? "It was so messy, I couldn't believe it was mine," she says.
Underdogs' champion fights poverty

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by George Monaghan

When it comes to sifting through the ashes of old lost causes, Mel Duncan ('72) is probably without equal in Minnesota.

He digs and digs and he won't stop until he finds that lingering spark, that dying ember. Soon, he'll have a little flame of interest flickering. It attracts attention. An organization begins growing. And suddenly the lost cause is found.

Duncan has been making that sort of thing happen for years.

When he was a freshman at Macalester College in the late '60s, someone [offered] him a free Twins ticket if he would wheel some people with cerebral palsy around at the game. He took the ticket because he's a baseball nut, but when he got to the game and started talking to handicapped people, he got more interested in them than in the game.

They told him the same thing he had heard from a lot of poor people and minorities: a sense of hopelessness, powerlessness, of not having money.

He began volunteering at day-activities centers for retarded people. When he graduated from college in 1972, he started teaching the retarded basic money skills, how to take the bus, how to do the laundry, basic food preparation, even dramatics. He was astonished to see how they changed.

“They cared more about themselves and what they were doing once they saw they could make a difference over what was going on,” Duncan says.

When he wasn't teaching, he lobbied the state legislature to improve conditions for the retarded. He found he didn't have to tell their story. They could tell it themselves and tell it better. So he began taking them to the offices of senators and organizers.

He's never made more than $800 to $1,000 a month, he says. That counts what he makes at Metropolitan State University [in Saint Paul], where he teaches people—mainly women, minorities, and the poor—how to lobby effectively with very little money.

It's a subject he knows. He's never had much money for lobbying, and his expenses usually don't exceed $200 a quarter.

Duncan, 36, lives in Saint Paul with his wife, Georgia, a school social worker, and their adopted son, Brad, 17, who is legally blind and mildly retarded.

Their home is open to a lot of people—people from ACT, street people, university intellectuals. A little Guatemalan girl lived with the Duncans for 16 months while the political climate for her parents back home settled down. Other children have lived with them when their own homes have been disrupted.

The Duncans live economically. They buy most of their clothes used, the one exception being the suit Mel wears for lobbying.

“It gets frustrating,” Georgia Duncan says, “but what is important to him is important to me. If my income subsidizes him now, I think in the future his will subsidize me.”

At Metro U, Duncan and his friends are planning a “peace and justice” curriculum that would include a broad range of educational opportunities.

“I see myself in the struggle for peace and justice for the rest of my life now,” Duncan says. “And I don't know where it will take me.”
October on Campus

Two fall weekends planned especially for alumni and parents

Homecoming
October 9–10, 1987

Friday, October 9
- Men's Soccer vs. St. Mary's, 7 p.m.

Saturday, October 10
- Soccer Teams Reunion Brunch, 11 a.m.
- Tailgate Picnic with entertainment for all alumni and friends, 11 a.m.
- Macalester vs. Concordia Football Game, 1 p.m.
- Meet the President Reception at Alumni House, 4 p.m.
- Women's Soccer vs. St. Benedict's, 6 p.m.
- Other special campus events

Parents' Weekend
October 16–18, 1987

'Discover Macalester'
Sample Macalester student life from 3:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 16, through noon Sunday, Oct. 18. Spend time with your daughter or son, visit with faculty, meet college officers, attend a Macalester theater production, and more. Watch your mail for details in the next few weeks.
A reunion with class

Hundreds of alumni—including these members of the Class of 1977—returned to campus for Alumni Weekend June 11-14.

Participants enjoyed “alumni college” seminars, a fun run, tours of Saint Paul, the all-alumni banquet, reunion-class dinners, a dramatic presentation by alumni children (depicting their view of the reunion), and more.

For more photos of Alumni Weekend 1987 and the college’s newest Distinguished Citizens, see page 21.