March 1989

A SYMBOL OF COMMUNITY
New library opens doors on high-tech learning

The high cost of college:
Who decides? Who pays?
LETTERS
We welcome readers' opinions of recent articles. Please send 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. We reserve the right to edit letters for conciseness and clarity.

In 'Class Notes' news, need only the hetero apply?
Several months ago I submitted a short blurb about myself for publication in "Class Notes," mentioning that I was doing AIDS-related work and living with my partner, Nancy. Last week I received the January edition of Macalester Today, which included my blurb but excluded the part about my partner. Surrounding the short piece about me were other pieces about alumni and their heterosexual spouses.

Ironically, on the basis of the piece I submitted to you, you decided that my life was interesting and dispatched Kevin Brooks ['89] to interview me for a longer story to appear in the May edition of Macalester Today. I was flattered that you chose to interview me and pleased that you will be highlighting a career involving AIDS. I was most disappointed, however, that you apparently intentionally omitted another aspect of my life (the sharing of it with another woman) in what I submitted to you to print.

Next time I submit a blurb, I hope that you will print my submission in its entirety. Perhaps, at that time, other alumni living with same-sex partners or in other alternative families will feel free to share that aspect of their lives with the Macalester community.

Lauren Poole '75, R.N., N.P. San Francisco

Our omission was inadvertent rather than intentional. We encourage all alumni, regardless of sexual preference, to submit any news they like to "Class Notes."

—Editors

So what if it doesn't fit in the file cabinet?
Since "non-Macites" are expressing opinions regarding Macalester Today [January "Letters"], I would like to enter mine.

As a Mankato alumnus, '50, and husband of a Macalester graduate, '46, let me assure you there is no format anger in our household when your publication arrives at the mailbox. Macalester Today exudes creativity and an artlike grace that need not conform to the bland dictates of the so-called periodical giants in the publishing world. The white 1½-inch margin is most pleasing to the eye and enhances the quality text, photographs, and artwork.

The creative and the great are not shackled by the strict dictates of practicality, filing cabinets, and inconvenience.

On behalf of Mrs. Johnson and myself, do not permit criticism and bluntness to discourage your efforts. Macalester Today is a gem.

Bryce G. Johnson (husband of Phyllis Anderson Johnson '46) Faribault, Minn.

Another spouse for space
Referring to Ernest Bragg's letter of complaint about the size of your well-designed Macalester Today, I know that it is the only periodical that fits neatly into my Ikea-brand (a Swedish department store, found throughout the country) cardboard file containers—9½x13-inch. The New Yorker, Gourmet, Consumer Reports, National Geographic, etc., fall short of the mark.

On the other hand, we usually "recycle" Macalester Today by sending them to prospective students or friends who would be interested in specialized articles, so perhaps this retort makes no sense.

Marilyn Steeg (wife of James Steeg '55, and mother of Amy Steeg Lundeen '84) Philadelphia, Penn.

Inspiring before his time
I am writing to bring to your attention an error in the January Macalester Today. In reading the very interesting article about Mrs. Zylpha Morton ['16] on page 25, I noticed a mistake in the last paragraph. You state that Ian Morton ['37] was professor of music at Macalester from 1951 to 1957. I was a student at Mac from 1964 to 1968, and Mr. Morton was my teacher, choir director, inspiration, and friend. I know he left the faculty before I graduated, but most certainly not in 1957.

Leslie Merner Duke '68 West Lafayette, Ind.

A slip of our researcher's fingers brought about the error. Ian Morton taught at Macalester from 1951 to 1967.

—Editors

MACALESTER YESTERDAY

With the opening of the new library (see pages 16-21), many alumni and longtime faculty recall Macalester's last building boom 25 years ago. The 1960s saw the rise of two new science buildings, a dormitory/dining complex, and the Janet Wallace Fine Arts Center. In this 1963 photo, Mary Gwen Owen '23, then professor of dramatic art—she taught at Macalester from 1928 to 1968, and now lives in Wisconsin—stands in front of the nascent Fine Arts Center.

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AT MACALESTER

Soccer team ‘seizes day’—and field—this fall

Two years ago, no one cared much that the Macalester men’s soccer team was once again at the bottom of the state conference, with only two victories during the entire 1986-87 season. As four-year player Rob Penney ’89 says, “We never really expected to win.”

But in fall 1987, John Leaney was hired from the University of California at San Diego to coach the ailing team, and expectations changed. During Leaney’s first year, the team placed fourth in the conference. This year, the team’s undefeated 7-0-3 conference season led to an unprecedented trip to California to compete in the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division III West playoffs.

In two short years the soccer team has become a focus of Macalester athletic pride, even overcoming such obstacles as two players’ serious injuries during the 1988-89 season. Tri-captain and all-conference goalie Mike Cohen ’89 broke his left leg in a game against St. Mary’s College. Two weeks later, Ayal Frank ’90, a strong left midfielder who “had the best cross [pass] on the team,” according to tri-captain Paul Young ’89, also broke his left leg, though in a different place, during a game against Bethel College.

“I thought that losing Mike would cost us the championship,” Leaney says, “and we became a one-sided team after losing Ayal.” Indeed, at the playoffs, Macalester lost to the University of California at San Diego 1-6—but it had been a glorious season.

The sudden conference success of the soccer team has many factors. Former midfielder Sam Pickering ’90 notes that despite the poor records of previous teams, Macalester has always been competitive—the 1986-87 team lost most conference games by only one goal.

Leaney was responsible for the recruitment of many outstanding first-year players, several from overseas. Mark Abboud ’92, a Minnesota all-state player, Matt Jackson ’92, a player with the New Zealand under-19 national team, and fellow New Zealander Roger Bridge ’92 were critical to the team’s success, Leaney says, noting that the coach of the New Zealand national team, his longtime friend, brought Jackson and Bridge to his attention.

“There were these two guys who wanted to go to school in the States,” says Leaney, “and Macalester’s internationalism brought them.”

Team members praise Leaney’s coaching.

“He commands respect,” says three-year player Matt Mulcahy ’90, “and that’s crucial in a coach.” Cohen remarks that Leaney “instills a level of confidence in the players.”

Others cite Leaney’s methods, which had effected a similar turnaround for San Diego’s once-troubled women’s soccer program. “He has a big theory of defense—that was key,” Penney says.

“If we’re sound defensively, we’ll start the game at a tie,” Leaney says. “We start defending with our forwards; that might be a bit different from most teams.” He adds that Macalester’s defense was fairly strong when he arrived.

“He [Leaney] taught us fundamentals and how to work as a team,” Penney says, “and we have had basically the same core of people for the last three years.”

Players are quick to acknowledge the program’s considerable support from the Macalester administration throughout the year. President Robert Gavin and his family were frequent spectators—Gavin even travelled to California for the playoffs. Leaney says Gavin told him that, if he couldn’t get away from work, he would “watch practices from his window in Old Main.”

Even with the departure this spring of four seniors, the future of the team looks bright. “The core of the defense is still there,” says Penney, “and I think we’re only going to get stronger.” And, Leaney says, a strong season makes recruiting next year’s freshmen easier; there’s been “widespread interest from top-level [high-school] players throughout the country.”

“The toughest thing will be remembering what it was like to not win,” Cohen adds rather nostalgically—motivating players who don’t know how far the team has come.

One team tradition has been around as longer than any current player can remember. Before every game the players huddle up and shout “Carpe diem!”—Latin for “Seize the day!”

This year, it seems, their day is dawning.

—Kevin Brooks ’89
Ex-President Turck dies; he had planned to attend 100th Commencement

Charles Turck in 1958.

Charles J. Turck, president of Macalester from 1939 to 1958, died Jan. 12 in Washington, D.C. He was 97.

Turck is revered as the president who led the college into its strong commitment to internationalism and a global perspective; he was deeply committed to international peace and understanding. It was he who began the college’s tradition of flying the United Nations flag as a daily reminder of Macalester’s commitment to those values.

When Turck drew fire for hiring some professors considered to have controversial political leanings, he defended their teaching ability and ethical standards. He appointed G. Theodore Mitau, a Jewish-German immigrant, to head Macalester’s political-science department despite a rule barring non-Christians from such an office.

Turck also encountered some criticism when he introduced several vocational programs, such as business administration, engineering, and nursing, into Macalester’s curriculum. He believed that such programs served societal needs, while others believed the college should adhere to its traditional liberal-arts curriculum.

Believing that former presidents should stay out of the way of their successors, Turck finally returned to campus twice: during the 1985–86 Centennial observance and again for last year’s alumni reunion.

In fact, Turck was planning to return to campus—at age 98—for the college’s 100th commencement ceremony this May. In a letter to President Robert M. Gavin, Jr., which Gavin received a few days before Turck’s death, he wrote, “The 20 years I spent as president of Macalester I regard as the most important and useful of my life.”

Turck is survived by his wife, Nancy Lee. A memorial service was held in Washington on Jan. 22; he was buried in Danville, Ky., next to his first wife, Emmy Lou Turck. The college will hold a memorial service during Reunion Weekend (June 9–11).

—N.P.

Slip-sliding away

Five skateless students try the ice at the skating rink (the summertime tennis courts) just south of the Macalester gymnasium.
Stewart resigns as provost; will return to teaching

"Jim would really like to go back to teaching and writing," said President Robert Gavin Dec. 16 in a special meeting with the faculty, announcing the resignation (effective this summer) of Provost James B. Stewart.

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Provost James Stewart: He'll devote next year to writing a book.

Stewart, who was appointed provost in February 1987, has been a member of Macalester's history faculty since 1969; as provost, he continued to teach one class each semester. He plans to return to teaching full-time in fall 1990, spending 1989-90 on a leave of absence largely devoted to completing a book on William Lloyd Garrison, a 19th-century American abolitionist. Stewart has written three other books, most recently (1986) a biography of 19th-century reformer Wendell Phillips, and he edited a 1987 collection of essays from Macalester's 1986-87 Wallace conference, The Constitution, the Law, and Freedom of Expression.

Gavin praised Stewart's leadership over the past two years: "I want to publicly say how much I agree with everything he's done," especially with regard to academic planning, hiring minority faculty, and examining the Macalester curriculum. A search committee for Stewart's replacement is being formed, Gavin said.

— R.L.G.

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First-year students, we've got your numbers

These two charts give statistics on Macalester's six most recent freshman classes. Admissions dean William Shain notes that students who transferred to Macalester from another college, or who enrolled during spring semester, are not included here; for instance, an additional seven minority students joined the college this year as transfer students or spring-semester freshmen.

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Art in motion

Santa Cruz—based choreographer Tandy Beal, the fourth of Macalester's five 1988-89 Wallace Visitors, had a three-day campus residency in February. In addition to conducting student workshops and a lecture-demonstration, Beal—shown at left in a previous performance—gave a concert performance that included such works as the witty "Mysterious Barricades; or, The Plot Without Thickener" (with music by François Couperin).
The old Weyerhaeuser Library, vacant since last summer, is turning its face onto Macalester Street. Here, the west elevation of the new facade.

Old library's conversion to office space begins

Weyerhaeuser Library's transformation into administrative offices began in December, when construction workers surrounded the 47-year-old building with chain-link fence and began demolishing the old stacks—the large square wing (windowless on the west side) facing Macalester Street. In its place by the end of next summer will be a three-story classical facade that will become a focal point for visitors to the campus. (See drawing above for an elevation of the remodeled building.)

The exterior of the old library will remain unchanged except on the Macalester Street side. Inside, extensive renovation is planned to accommodate a consolidation of 10 administrative offices—academic programs, admissions, the alumni office, the dean of students, development, financial aid, the minority program, the president, the provost, public relations and publications, and the treasurer. Those offices now occupy farflung quarters in Old Main, 77 Macalester St., and 30 Macalester St. The move is scheduled for the end of this summer.

"The old stacks represented space that was unusable," says Sandy Hill, assistant to the president, who oversees campus construction projects. Low ceilings and inflexible structural supports made a conversion to office space virtually impossible, he says.

Once Weyerhaeuser is completed, renovation will begin on a series of buildings housing academic and student-residential space. At this writing, those plans are under discussion by the trustees.

—R.L.G.

State academy honors chemistry professor

Students in Olin Hall applauded as Truman Schwartz, a member of the chemistry faculty since 1966, was honored with the Minnesota Academy of Science's "Teacher of the Year" award last November.
The Worth of an Education

Why does a college education cost so much?

In this sobering look at what has become high finance, the people who determine Macalester's tuition tell you what factors go into their decision—and what today's parents can do to prepare for tomorrow's prices.

by Jack El-Hai

To an outsider, the economics of higher education today are a puzzle. Treasured financial axioms like the law of supply and demand do not apply: Although the pool of college-aged Americans has fallen throughout the 1980s, eager applicants have inundated many selective private colleges in unprecedented numbers with requests for admission.

Furthermore, rising prices do not seem to overly daunt prospective students and their families. As the cost of tuition increases at a rate well above that of other consumer commodities, "the facts are that the most expensive schools are the most popular and sought-after," says David Busse, Macalester's director of financial aid. Meanwhile, colleges and universities pursue a practice virtually unknown in other areas of commerce and business—charging the "haves" more and the "have-nots" less for identical services.

These enigmas are typical of the complexities that now convolute the economics of college tuition.

In setting its annual fee (in 1988–89, $13,800 for tuition, room, and board), Macalester undergoes a process each year that weighs the intricacies of college finance and Macalester's specific position as a selective, private liberal-arts institution.

Last year, for instance, President Robert M. Gavin, Jr., and his staff of officers, including college treasurer Paul Aslanian, arrived at a tentative price based on Macalester's $30 million budget and the fees of competitors—among them Carleton, Oberlin, and Grinnell. At the same time an advisory committee of faculty, students, and staff met to independently determine its own recommended tuition figure. "They have a refreshing view of things since they're not so caught up in the numbers the way we are," Aslanian explains.

Gavin then selected aspects of each proposal with which to formulate a final recommendation for the board of trustees—who launched, according to Aslanian, "one lively discussion."

Labor costs, equipment purchases, the maintenance and development of Macalester's physical plant, and the college's financial-aid responsibilities figured prominently in the board's discussion. On a national scale, these costs partly account for a 141 percent increase in tuition at private institutions during the past decade, while the Consumer Price Index has climbed only 87 percent.

Personnel expenses claim half of Macalester's budget. Unlike manufacturers and other businesses, Aslanian says, Macalester cannot economize by using mass-production techniques or by substituting cheap machine labor for its human instructors. He argues that efforts to heighten teaching efficiency on college campuses translate only into crowded classes and high student-faculty ratios.

"When Macalester is represented to prospective 'frosh' and their families," explains Aslanian, himself a member of the economics-department faculty, "what those people hear is that this is college on a human scale. Your son or daughter is going to be in small classes; he or she is going to receive personal attention.... We've got faculty members teaching the same way that faculty members stood in front of their classes at the University of Paris in the

Jack El-Hai, who paid roughly $11,000 for a Carleton education in the 1970s (he's still paying off his loan) is a free-lance writer based in Minneapolis. In the past few months, he has published articles in American Heritage, Minnesota Monthly, and Mpls.St.Paul, and written on assignment for The New Yorker.
In his office at 77 Macalester St., financial-aid director David Busse explains a point to a student.

12th or 13th century—the learned individual working with a small group of eager students.”

Although the college continues to cut costs by boosting the efficiency of its record-keeping, heating, and air-conditioning systems, no prospective student selects Macalester because of the speed and accuracy of, say, its accounting network.

“In every place on the periphery which doesn’t affect the student’s day-to-day life with his or her teacher, or time in the library, we have tried to automate and enhance our technology,” Aslanian says. “But in the basic essence of the institution—the [relationship between the] faculty member and the student—there have been no increases in productivity as industry traditionally defines it.”

Adding to the college’s expenses are new electronic fixtures in faculty offices—machines unimaginable 25 years ago, when most instructors needed only a manual typewriter and a set of bookshelves. Keeping up with today’s students requires that professors be technically literate as well as knowledgeable in their field.

“Today they all have access to word-processing,” Aslanian notes, “and many of them have network word-processing with which they can sit down and communicate [with] colleagues in other institutions. . . . The nature of pedagogy has changed; there’s more capital involved.”

Much of the new technology, especially scientific and lab equipment, is short-lived, Aslanian says: “If you make a huge investment in something, the faculty member is back in your office a couple of years later saying, ‘That was great, but it’s no longer state-of-the-art.’ . . . If we have high expectations [of faculty] and want them to be able to work out there with their peers, we can’t say, ‘Here are the expectations, but we won’t give you any tools.’ I’m glad we’ve got a faculty in here nipping at us, a faculty that wants that kind of support.”

Macalester also reinvests a sizable chunk of its income into its facilities: maintenance, some renovations, and new construction projects—not yet on the drawing board, for example, is a new residence hall. (A special narrowly focused fund-raising effort was responsible for the new library, which opened in September, and similar efforts may support some upcoming construction projects.)

With some 16 percent of its budget returning to the 70 percent of students who are on financial assistance, Macalester leads another national trend that affects tuition rates.

“The real news about college costs and financial aid,” Kenneth Green of the Higher Education Research Institute at UCLA told the San Francisco Examiner last summer, “is that the nation’s colleges and universities are funding a growing share of student financial aid.”

Federal grant support for college students has plummeted since 1980, and Macalester has bolstered its own aid programs to compensate. The only alternative, Aslanian says, would be a more homogeneous group of students on campus and perhaps a lowering of admissions standards. (All students, however, receive a subsidy of 25–30 percent from the considerable portion of the college’s income derived from endowment earnings, contributions from alumni and friends, and other sources.)

With so many students dependent on financial aid, the $13,800 annual fee frequently becomes a benchmark rather than an indicator of actual cost. Along with their students’ composite ACT and SAT scores, colleges’ faculty-student ratios, National Merit Scholars, libraries, availability of computers on campus, and many other factors, a college’s tuition figure is perceived as a measure of its quality.

By commanding a higher-than-average price and backing it up with top-quality instructors, students,
and facilities, Aslanian explains, Macalester establishes a reputation as one of the most selective private colleges. Naturally, other institutions follow similar strategies.

"Harvard and Stanford announce their fees and the rest of us follow pretty closely," Busse says. Aslanian agrees: "If your price isn't about the same [as the other colleges], then that's a piece of information that people will really notice. They'll wonder, 'Are you really as good as my other college choice if you're $3,000 less expensive?' There is clearly some effort to keep our price right in the ballpark."

That requires study of the market. "I meet with other college treasurers and find out what they are planning," Aslanian says. "We also need to know whether the demand for our institution is relatively strong or relatively weak, because the demand does have an influence on pricing. Fortunately for us, we're in the vicinity of [having] five students apply for every student who matriculates."

Everyone agrees that rising expenses for colleges and the increased value placed on a first-rate education have combined to financially pressure students and their families.

"It used to be that a car and a home were the two biggest investments that a family made," Busse says. "Now the children's education has surpassed the automobile."

At Macalester, financial aid is available even to families with incomes up to $70,000, but a considerable proportion of the assistance comes in loans. Nationally, 30-50 percent of all undergraduates finish college substantially in debt.

"There's no question that if a family wants their son or daughter to go to an independent college, they have to bite the bullet and assess whether they're willing to borrow more than they would at a state university," Busse says. "Most of our students are borrowing between $8,000 and $12,000 to get a Macalester education—they have it as a top priority. If a family doesn't want to do that, they ought to face it up front."

He observes that one effect of the nationwide rise in tuition costs may be that middle-class students are squeezed out of selective colleges. "I never quite [believed] it before, but I must admit that I'm now concerned," Busse says. "The low-income people tend to get quite a bit of financial aid from the federal, state, and institutional groups, and the high-income people don't have to worry... The middle-income [people] might be a dwindling group."

Regardless of their income level, however, most students and their families can prepare for the financial bite of college.

"It's pretty evident that most families don't plan for college financing," Busse says. He suggests that families set aside college money over a long period of time—including the years before matriculation as well as the period during and after college. "People who save for college are in a much better position because they have some choices, some options—whereas people who haven't... invariably have to borrow a lot more than other people, and they don't have any choice."

He calls the prepayment plans instituted by some colleges "a little hokey. To make an assumption at the time of birth that a child is going to go to its parent's alma mater is ridiculous." Instead, Busse favors proposals for federal education-savings plans that give families tax benefits and allow the student the freedom to choose any college. (For other tuition-paying strategies, see related story, page 9.)

"The future is uncertain, but today's children may face tuition hikes similar to those now confronting college students and their families. "We have stated that so far as we can see, the price of college is going to go up at this rate for-
How to Save for Tomorrow's College Education

Some say that the parents of today's fifth-grader, tallying the projected costs of a bachelor's degree from a private college, can expect tuition, fees, room, and board to run upwards of $100,000—a financial burden roughly equivalent to the present cost of buying a house. How do you come up with that kind of dough?

Colleges' financial-aid officers can direct a prospective student's family toward a variety of grants, scholarships, loans, and work-study opportunities. But because the choices of potential investments are so varied—ranging from opening a simple savings account to purchasing treasury bills to venturing into the stock market—the services of a professional financial planner could be invaluable. With or without these services, many experts advise people to seek security and diversity in their college-directed investments.

Look for Local Scholarships
The student's own legwork can uncover many unexpected sources of aid. Scholarships, some based on need and others on academic or community achievements, are often offered by local civic and religious groups: PTAs, fraternal organizations, labor unions and employers.

Salt Away a Savings Account
A recent survey by the National Institute of Independent Colleges revealed that only half of American families with college-bound children are putting aside money for future educational expenses. Many families, of course, find it difficult to salt away the lump sum of $48,000 which, accruing an after-tax return of 8 percent annually, would reach $100,000 in eight years (the time it takes our hypothetical fifth-grader to reach college age). But there are other ways of saving and investing.

Some of the most effective savings plans involve avoiding the long arm of the Internal Revenue Service. Under current IRS regulations, the investment income of any child under 14—if it exceeds $1,000 yearly—is taxable at his or her parents' tax rate. Children 14 and over are taxed in their own bracket. Be warned, however, that financial-aid offices (Macalester's included) assess students' assets at a much higher rate than their parents'—too large a savings balance may exclude your child from financial assistance.

Buy into Uncle Sam
The Technical Corrections Act, signed into law last November, makes U.S. Savings Bonds an attractive way to save for college. The income from EE Bonds purchased after Jan. 1, 1990, will be exempt from tax when used to pay for the future college expenses of the buyer (who must be at least 24 years old) or the buyer's dependents. But beware of the restrictions: for a full exemption from taxes on these bonds, a single buyer must have an annual income of under $40,000, a couple $60,000. At this writing, EE Savings Bonds yield 7.35 percent annually, with a guaranteed minimum of 6 percent if held five years, and are available in denominations from $50 to $10,000. Other tax-free investments include municipal bonds and municipal-bond funds.

Don't Overlook CDs
Some college-directed investments, like the "CollegeSure" certificate of deposit offered by the College Savings Bank of Princeton, N.J., are fully taxable but still merit investigation. Unlike other CDs, the "CollegeSure" certificate boasts an interest rate linked to the average annual increase in the cost of some 500 colleges and universities. During the 1987-88 academic year, the "CollegeSure" CD yielded 6.4 percent, somewhat less than many standard CDs earned. —J.E.


ever," Bruce Carnes, deputy undersecretary of the U.S. Department of Education—and a critic of tuition increases—said last August.

Aslanian says: "If you ask me if it can continue forever, the arithmetic answer is, Obviously not. But when is it going to end? I've had some preliminary conversations with some of my colleagues at other institutions about what their plans call for in the way of fee increases, and they're talking long-range annual increases of seven, eight, nine percent again."

He forecasts a faculty salary war that might hoist prices for the entire decade of the 1990s: As the bulk of professors hired during the 1960s baby-boom years retire, a scarcity of replacements will develop. "There are going to be some high prices paid for young assistant professors coming out of graduate school," Aslanian says. To make matters worse, veteran professors will resent the high salaries of the newcomers, "so the whole salary scale is going to go up because of that shortage."

Busse also finds a break in the pattern unlikely. "As long as the colleges are using the [higher] prices responsibly, to make their institutions better or to keep pace, and the clients don't get upset with it or change their behavior, nothing much will change."

If smaller price hikes do occur, Busse says, they must begin with the most influential of the private institutions.

"If Stanford and Harvard decide to go up only the amount of the Consumer Price Index—then you're going to see some changes."
How can Macalester balance its strong tradition of emphasizing individual goals and values with educating students to pursue the common good—to be citizens of the world? The answer involves more than just the curriculum.

by Robert M. Gavin, Jr.

At my inauguration four years ago, I set forth several measures for academic excellence in a liberal-arts college: A broad basis in Western culture; knowledge of American minority and non-Western cultures; the ability to think clearly and analyze problems from diverse perspectives; the ability to communicate ideas; a clear ethical basis; and an understanding of the great driving force for change in the world today, the scientific method.

Since that time, we have made considerable progress in dealing with the question of diversifying the curriculum; we are now very actively looking at everything from faculty-hiring plans to college-wide course requirements as a way to measure our progress toward excellence.

That dialogue will continue. The faculty are enthusiastic about taking fresh looks at our disciplines. I believe that we now have a broad consensus that academic excellence by definition includes American minority perspectives, women's perspectives, and non-Western perspectives. I am not at all sure about the consensus regarding natural science and technology, but I continue to urge that component.

Over the years we have talked about Macalester's objective to be a national liberal-arts college with a preeminent academic program. Such a program requires a special emphasis: global awareness, and commitment to society.

Macalester's commitment to good citizenship and societal values is very much in accord with a strong liberal-arts tradition. Our global perspective not only makes us unusual among leading national liberal-arts colleges, but it also offers us an excellent opportunity to provide leadership for other institutions.

While the areas covered in a liberal education have varied over the last two millennia, the common purpose has always been to develop good citi-
One at a Time

zens. At Macalester, we see this obligation as one to develop citizens of the world, rather than citizens of a city, state, or nation.

A key issue we all need to address is the question of citizenship in a diverse multi-cultural environment. What does it mean to be a citizen of the world? How do we at Macalester prepare students for dealing with society, for making contributions to society?

All across the nation, people are talking about the disintegration of a sense of community on college campuses. Many attribute this situation to the elimination of traditional elements that provided community in the past—weekly chapel, weekly convocation, a common core curriculum, a homogeneous student body.

Few academic institutions today have one set of courses that all their students are required to take. Similarly, compulsory chapel and compulsory convocation were eliminated between 15 and 20 years ago at virtually every leading institution.

In addition, colleges and universities have become much more diverse in their students' backgrounds—and Macalester has certainly been in the forefront of these changes.

With the great diversity in the student body, with the elimination of common curricular experiences, and with growing pressures for specialization, what can and should be done to develop a sense of societal responsibility and community commitment? How does the liberal-arts education contribute to making good citizens for the 21st century?

Up to this point we have answered the question on the intellectual side: The purpose of a university is to develop students' intellect. With this view, one can emphasize broad cross-cultural relationships, and the importance of cultures other than the one in which the individual student was educated before coming to Macalester. One can include in the curriculum direct educational experience with the diversity of American minority groups that make up our country and with the diverse cultures that make up the world.

All of these are excellent academic activities, ones very much in accord with our definition of a quality liberal-arts education. However, developing the academic program is only part of the answer.

If we are truly concerned with developing good citizens, we need to talk seriously about how the educational experience at Macalester prepares one for good citizenship, for giving to society rather than living for the individual.

I enter this dialogue with a great deal of trepidation, since I realize that for many it will be considered an assault on Macalester's traditional emphasis on individualism. I, too, value and respect that tradition. However, we all know that often the good of the community, the common good, the common-weal, can be in conflict with an individual's good.

I believe that we ought to emphasize both individual freedom and social responsibility. Our goal ought to be to develop thoughtful persons who are aware of the delicate balance between individual freedom and being a responsible citizen. There are times when each of us must bridge our own individual desires for the good of others, be that one other or many others.

We have been successful in bringing to campus a very diverse student body and an increasingly

This article is taken from remarks made by President Robert M. Gavin, Jr., to the Board of Trustees in November. Gavin was inaugurated in 1984 as president of Macalester College; a former chemistry professor, he had previously been provost of Haverford. A recent grant from the Kellogg Foundation—intended to give college presidents an international perspective—is providing him and his wife, Charlotte, with unusually extensive travels this year: to Costa Rica and Mexico from Nov. 30 through Dec. 12; Argentina, Bolivia, and Peru Jan. 16-Feb. 2; Japan, China, Hong Kong, and Thailand Feb. 9-March 6; and Kenya and England March 12-April 1, ending up in London for a Macalester reunion.
If we bring together a diverse group but do not allow these intellects to interact with each other and develop an appreciation for their diversity, then we have done little.

diverse faculty. We need to ensure as we plan ahead that in our curricular and co-curricular activities we take maximum advantage of this diversity. If we bring together a diverse group of intellects but do not allow those intellects to interact with each other and develop an appreciation for the diversity, then we have done little. We might as well have a homogeneous student body and faculty.

Developing this sense of community is extremely important for us as an institution. In order for us to survive, we must have alumni and friends who remain committed to this community for an entire lifetime. This development of community is important for alumni relations, student education, and campus morale.

During Macalester's spring semester, curricular discussions will get at this issue from one perspective—how we might bring together our very diverse students through some common curricular experience. I myself have urged that Macalester offer at least one course to be taken by all students at some point in their careers. Such courses should bring students into contact with many different cultural perspectives, building on the central theme of a Macalester education.

We also need to discuss governance issues and how we relate to each other on the campus. Four years ago I had the audacity to suggest that establishing an honor system, under which students are given the responsibility to regulate their own behavior, would be an excellent way to build a sense of social responsibility. That suggestion was greeted with a slogan painted on the rock [outside Old Main]: "This isn't Haverford."

I agree; this isn't Haverford College. But I do think that Macalester ought to be able to develop a governance system that emphasizes the social aspect of our existence. We do not want someone else to be our "keeper," but we have to realize that our actions always exist in a social context. We need to develop an awareness of that social context and a willingness to listen and respond to others in our society.

A n honor system is only one way that one might think of doing this. In the past, we have had a number of other ways—our emphasis on community government, our attempt to bring world awareness through "United Nations Day" and other U.N.-related conferences, a commitment to voluntary service through the student group MACTION, and other programs.

Our discussions need to integrate Macalester's recent volunteer activities and our traditional commitment to service to others. A tradition of service is integral not only to liberal-arts education, but also to the American tradition of philanthropy. We need to emphasize again the theme—which was heard so often in [the late political-science professor] Ted Mitau's classes—of our obligation as recipients of a quality education to give to our society.

The society of today is very different from the society in which Ted Mitau urged service. However, the change makes his message even more important today than it was then.

During my travels over the next several months—I will be visiting Latin America, Asia, East Africa, Pakistan, and England [on a Kellogg grant]—I hope to find out more about how different societies and cultures view both the individual within society and the ways in which an individual can contribute to the good of the community. On each of these trips, Charlotte and I will work with alumni and friends of the institution to arrange for meetings and opportunities to meet with citizens, government officials and education leaders.

I am very anxious to undertake these travels. I feel that they will provide an important chance to learn how to provide leadership for Macalester as we redefine our commitment to global awareness and social service.
by Paula M. Hirschoff

International service has changed profoundly in the nearly two decades since Jim Graham, class of '65, began working for the U.S. Agency for International Development. Created in the Kennedy administration by the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, AID works with the U.S. State Department and other agencies to carry out economic-assistance programs in more than 60 developing countries.

Graham is now directing an AID mission in Africa, where he and his wife, Susan Moxley Graham '65, have lived for a total of 16 years.

Graham doesn't know Cindi Stanton, who graduated from Macalester 14 years after he did (with similar aspirations), but she too is devoting her career to African development. Overseeing health and population surveys in AID-funded programs in Mali, Senegal, and Togo, she shuttles between her home in Washington, D.C., and West African capital cities several times a year.

When the flight attendants on Air Afrique started greeting Cindi Stanton '79 by name, she knew she was traveling too much. As a researcher in Third World population and fertility trends, Stanton commutes between the United States and West Africa, where she oversees teams of interviewers who conduct surveys in the Sahelian villages of Mali, Senegal, and Togo. (The Sahel, an arid region on the fringes of the Sahara Desert, stretches from Mauritania to Chad.)

A typical survey lasts two years and brings in data from 5,000-10,000 people. After a year's preparation, Stanton and two or three "team members" from the country's census bureau train 30 citizens to hold lengthy interviews with African women, ranging in age from 15 to 49, on a range of topics—contraceptive practices, fertility preferences (ideal family size, for instance), their children's health. The actual surveys take four to five months; analyzing the data lasts nearly a year.

Preparing for one of the surveys is like organizing a five-month wilderness expedition for 40 people, Stanton says: "You have to plan for everything—spare tires and starters for the cars, extra food. "You spend a year in preparation, but when the survey starts, everything has to happen at once," she continues. "There's a direct relationship between your attention to detail and the quality of the data."

And there are a lot of details to scrutinize. Surveying a country's citizens is an expensive propost-

Paula M. Hirschoff '66, a former Peace Corps volunteer in Kenya, is a free-lance writer based in Washington, D.C., who often covers development issues; since 1986, she has travelled to Africa four times to research articles. Other stories have appeared in The Christian Science Monitor, WorldView Magazine, and Hunger Notes. She was formerly an editor at Africa Report magazine, published in New York City.
tion—more than $200,000 for one survey—and many developing countries simply can't afford it. Yet, paradoxically, it is developing countries that most need such information for national planning. That's where the U.S. Agency for International Development comes in. AID provides the funds for Stanton's employer, the Institute for Resource Development (IRD), to train Africans to conduct their own national surveys. Under Stanton's supervision, local people collect, tabulate, and analyze data in the country; the project leaves behind not only a data bank, computer hardware, and software, but also a cadre of trained personnel.

For these reasons, Stanton believes her work is the ideal vehicle for foreign assistance. Instead of fostering dependency on outside countries, her surveys create a resource base that African governments can use either to conduct smaller-scale surveys, or for national-level planning—population projections and provisions for urgent health needs, for instance.

In providing contraceptive information, too, Stanton sees her work as a way of furthering women's rights. "A woman has the right to at least have the knowledge that she can control her fertility, that she can have the number of children she wants when she wants them," Stanton says. Even if women choose not to act on that information—and, in Stanton's experience, they often don't—knowledge gives them the freedom of choice that American women take for granted.

It is easy to understand why a Sahelian woman wants to have a large family, Stanton says. "It's a very rational decision on her part: Her offspring are the only insurance that she'll be taken care of when she grows old. Her girls will go live with their husbands' families, so she has to have sons. And since some [children] will probably not survive, she has to have many. It's also her means of achieving status in the community."

So birth control per se is not a popular idea among the African women Stanton works with. The idea of spacing children's births a few years apart, however, has a ready reception, partly because spacing techniques have been embedded in African tradition for centuries (though they have declined with the culture's move from rural to urban living). In the past, for example, women would live with their mothers for a couple of years after the birth of a child. "They knew that longer intervals between pregnancies meant that more children survived," Stanton says.

Stanton never really planned a career in population statistics. "I was at the tail end of the generation that went to school to read good philosophy and literature rather than to prepare for a career," she says. "It's amusing that I wound up as an applied statistician—the only math course I took as an undergraduate was described as 'math for poets.'"

Her major was French literature—in retrospect, an astute choice, since she now works exclusively with French-speaking countries. A semester in the Asian country of Nepal during her senior year at Macalester convinced her that she wanted to work in the developing world.

Stanton says she loves the work, but she sometimes wishes she could live life one continent at a time. "It's the dilemma of work in the international field. There are two kinds of positions: Either you have interesting work in which you travel a lot, or else you take care of the administrative details for the people who do the traveling."

Someday Stanton would like to have a contract that keeps her in Africa. "I truly enjoy being there, and I do my best work there," she says. She deeply appreciates many aspects of the Sahelian culture—the playful use of language, the extroverted interaction among people, the value they place on family and community, their warmth and spontaneity.

"As a consultant, I feel like the luckiest person in the world," Stanton says. "I arrive at a hotel in Bamako [Mali] or Dakar [Senegal] and find notes of welcome waiting for me. I'm invited into homes at least three nights a week. It's much easier to make friends in Africa."

Workers in Rwanda construct a 1983 road, sponsored by the U.S. Agency for International Development. The 150 workers were paid in food—46 kilos of rice per month.

Until she was a teenager, Elizabeth Graham did not think of herself as an American. During her early childhood, she lived in Zaire and Mali, where her father worked for the U.S. Agency for International Development (AID). In 1979, when the family headed back to Africa after three years in the United States, she thought she was going home.
When James A. Graham '65 tells that story about his daughter, now college-age, he could be talking about himself. As he prepared last August to take over the post of AID mission director in Rwanda, he was clearly relishing the prospect of going "home" to Africa.

Graham became interested in Africa as a student at Macalester. He had returned to India in 1964 on the Student Project for Amity Among Nations (SPAN), but, he remembers, he was discouraged by conditions there.

"The 'Green Revolution' [modern agricultural techniques that made India self-sufficient in food production] had not caught on yet. They'd just lost a war to China; the economy was going nowhere; population was exploding."

So after college, he headed for Uganda and a graduate degree in African studies at Makerere University. In those days, half a decade before Idi Amin's reign of terror, Uganda was considered "the nearest thing to heaven," Graham says.

Back in the States, he rejected a State Department job (civil reconstruction in Vietnam) in favor of an AID offer that took him—and his wife and Macalester classmate, Susan Moxley Graham—to Zaire (then the Democratic Republic of the Congo). After four years, he was transferred to Mali, where he helped the government rebuild the country after the Sahelian drought of the early 1970s.

Following three years of what he styles "boring paperwork" back in Washington, Graham was sent to Sudan as a project officer, then to the East Africa regional office in Kenya, where for the next five years he helped design and implement projects in Djibouti, Madagascar, Rwanda, and Sudan.

His recent promotion to directing a mission is as high as one can go in the agency without becoming a political appointee, he says. In September, he and Susan departed for Rwanda—the tiny, densely populated, mountainous country in east-central Africa made famous by primate researcher Dian Fossey, author of Gorillas in the Mist.

Development work is an inexact science with many variables. One unfortunate variable, Graham says, is that AID workers tend to be transferred after two- or four-year terms, whereas a given AID project generally takes three to five years.

Graham recalls a project he oversaw on the banks of a river delta in Mali: AID provided the village with better strains of wheat and rice to plant, as well as pumps so villagers could use river water to irrigate their fields.

It seemed like success was assured. "They've grown irrigated wheat there for 1,000 years," he says. "It's a rich alluvial soil 30 to 40 feet deep. And we were not introducing something new—just improving the methods."

But the project was "a disaster," Graham says. He's not certain what went wrong, since his assignment in Mali ended while the project was still in progress, but an equipment malfunction may have contributed to it: "They didn't procure the right pumps; they fell apart."

"I wish I had been there," he says now. "I'm sure that project could have worked."

Recalling a happier outcome, Graham describes a clinic his team constructed as part of a family-planning drive in Zaire in the early 1970s. The clinic provided health care for mothers and children, relieving the overcrowding of a nearby hospital. This was the most successful AID project in which he has been involved, Graham says.

Graham says he has watched the agency's philosophical shift from the "basic human needs" emphasis that was in vogue in the early 1970s. "When we didn't materially improve the lot of the peasant and solve the problems of the world, we reverted to the old trickle-down theory," Graham says. "For the last six to eight years, we've been heavily into policies to stimulate private enterprise, under the premise that if we help the elite class—the wealthy people—they will create jobs."

Graham cannot imagine any other work that would give him as much satisfaction. But he notes that international service has at least one very significant drawback: If you're married, it's a two-person career. While he speaks with pride of Susan Graham's accomplishments (including a number of teaching positions, a master's degree in public health, and two years' management of the Northern Virginia Folk Festival), he notes that, in his business, one marriage partner generally has to give up a career. "If that spouse can come to terms with that and do something useful, then it's wonderful," he says—"but there are many young people today who can't handle that. I'd advise them not to [enter this field]; it will destroy either them or the marriage."
Macalester's new library opened in September: a place of learning, a meeting of minds, a rich resource for coming generations of scholars. It houses information in forms as historic as a well-preserved book, as instantaneous as a database connection, as visual as a map, as audible as a recording. The 92,000-square-foot building provides 600 seats in individual and group settings, and will house up to 450,000 volumes, catalogued by computer. Designed by the Boston firm of Shepley, Bulfinch, Richardson and Abbott, the library pays architectural tribute to Old Main, to which it is linked.
Keynoting the dedication Sept. 17 on the Old Main lawn was New York Public Library president Vartan Gregorian; listening were chaplain Brent Coffin, alumni president Julie Stroud '81, library director Joel Clemmer, trustee fund-raising chair Mary Lee Dayton, president Robert M. Gavin, Jr., and provost James B. Stewart.

Libraries are the diaries of the human race," said Vartan Gregorian, keynoting Macalester's library dedication in September. Gregorian, then president of the New York Public Library, is the new president of Brown University.

"Libraries contain humanity's collective memory," he told an audience of 700 alumni, donors, students, faculty, and staff, "but they are not repositories of human endeavor alone.

"They are instruments of civilization. They provide tools for learning, understanding, and progress. They are a source of information, a source of knowledge, a source of wisdom; hence they are a source of action.

"They are a laboratory of human endeavor, a window to the future, a source of hope, a source of self-renewal, the symbol of our community with mankind....

"Above all else, the library presents and embodies the spirit of humanity."
Reading rooms enjoy warm light and scenic views (as well as access to computer terminals), while books, periodicals, and other holdings are housed at the center of each floor.

English professor Patricia Lanegran Kane '47, noting that the library stands where the East Wing of Old Main once stood, fondly recalled faculty members who had taught there: Yahya Armajani, G. Theodore Mitau, Hildegarde Johnson, James Wallace, and many more. As the intellectual focal point of the campus, the new library fittingly continues the tradition of those great teachers, she said.

Community Council president Brian Lindeman '89 thanked the college's trustees and donors for the new facility, saying students had deeply felt the need for expanded library space. He promised that it would be well used.

"The Culture of the Book," a three-day symposium preceding the dedication, explored issues of literacy and power in the Western world, the roles of translation and of oral literature in transmitting culture, and ways in which technology might affect the future of books. A panel of authors, including Charles Baxter '69 and Tim O'Brien '68, shared their thoughts about the process of writing. The symposium was supported in part by a grant from the Minnesota Humanities Commission.
Traffic in the new library was up 65 percent in its first quarter; reference questions tripled. Several faculty members reported immediate improvement in the quality of students' library-research papers, thanks to the new facility.
Trustees dared to break ground without the needed funds, then exceeded the $15 million goal ($10 million for building, $5 million for endowment) before construction ended. A $5 million challenge gift came from the DeWitt Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund; major gifts followed from corporations, foundations, and individuals. Mary Lee Dayton chaired the trustee fund-raising task force.

—Nancy A. Peterson
From birdwatching to student recruiting, Boston offers new breed of alumni club

Macalester's alumni clubs are a bit more complicated than they used to be.

"Alumni-club events have to tie in with admissions, fundraising, and continuing education. They also have to be fun," says Karen McConkey, who became alumni director in 1986. "The message is that the connection to Macalester doesn't end when you graduate—Macalester is a lifelong experience."

The old clubs (the term "Clan," meant to symbolize the college's Scottish heritage, is less popular today) are taking on new vitality as they reach out to promote alumni networking, to attract younger alumni members, and to help in student recruitment.

"When we first started attending [Boston Clan] events—close to 15 to 20 years ago—we met about once a year. And they were fairly stiff meetings," says Douglas Lowe '40, a native Minnesotan who's lived in the Boston area for 33 years. "Now, the meetings are much better attended, and—from my point of view—there's a lot more variety."

From any point of view, the 380-plus Macalester alumni who live near Boston have had a lot of club events to choose among in recent years. The club holds three annual events—a summer picnic, a fall gathering to welcome recent graduates, and a winter ski outing to Maine or western Massachusetts—plus other outings as they arise. One recent expedition sent alumni birdwatchers to a Cambridge cemetery known both for its extensive grounds and for the famous writers buried there; last spring, a trip was organized around a Picasso exhibit at the Institute of Contemporary Art.

The Boston club, one of a dozen Macalester clubs in urban areas across the country, owes its recent revitalization to the efforts of Anne Harbour '64, an indomitable volunteer who made reorganizing the club her mission after she moved to Boston in 1979. In her other life, she's a textbook editor for the Boston publishing firm Houghton Mifflin.

"When Anne surfaced in Boston, we were able to encourage her [to organize the club]," says Alexander (Sandy) Hill '57, Macalester's alumni director from 1964 to 1975, now assistant to the president. A model existed in the New York alumni club, then under the 40-year leadership of Beverly Batzer O'Reilly '38 ("the mother of Clan activities—she's
Five members of the Boston committee at a fall 1986 gathering: Barbara Carpenter '72, Harbour, John Burkhardt '81, Hermine DeBoer Makman '58, Doug Lowe '40. Missing are Patricia Hurley '82, Dale Johnson '69, and Tom Lincoln '73.

run a club longer and better than anyone,” Hill says). New York had pioneered many aspects of Macalester’s modern alumni clubs, notably a sense of community among graduates. With that in mind, Harbour went to work.

“It was working together on the ‘Campaign for the ’80s’ [the 1979–84 Macalester capital campaign that raised $33 million] that first brought many of the [Boston] group together,” Harbour says. Some 80 alumni attended an initial event in October 1980 at the recently opened Kennedy Library. The club’s next event, a year later, was a buffet dinner to raise funds for the campaign. Over six months of in-person solicitation, Harbour recalls, they persuaded alumni throughout New England to donate about $30,000 to the cause.

“The networking started then,” says Barbara Carpenter ’72, a Boston banker who coordinates Annual Fund phonathons for the club. “A lot of these people had never been called on [for pledges] in person, much less for $1,000. It was an interesting way to make contacts.”

That mission accomplished, Harbour, Carpenter, and half a dozen other alumni who’d worked on the campaign got together to plan more strictly social events. “You don’t want people to feel that the school is always asking for handouts,” Harbour explains. “It’s a difficult balance to achieve.”

As Harbour describes it, the 11 people who form the Boston club’s nucleus have little formal organization, meeting roughly every couple of months to plan events and phonathons. “We don’t elect officers; we don’t have formal meetings or pay dues,” she says. Harbour is the club’s convener or president; Carpenter oversees its fundraising aspects, working with the Macalester development office; Patricia Hurley ’82 and Thomas Lincoln ’73 organize admissions volunteers to help recruit students.

“This group of alumni really represents the college,” Harbour says. “None of us graduated in the same year, but it turns out we have a lot in common. We’re outgoing people interested in service to the community and supporting higher education—all the things that Mac represents.

“Most of our alumni [in the Boston area] are either retired, or graduate students. It’s important to have events that fit in with these stages in people’s lives. Chances are that wherever they [Boston’s younger alumni] live in the future, they’ll keep in touch with the college.”

Like all alumni-club events, Boston’s pay for themselves. The college provides printed invitations and first-class postage, but other costs associated with throwing a party (or a skiing vacation) are covered by charging those who attend—typically $6–$10 for a party held in someone’s house, or $15–$20 for dinner in a hotel.

Clubs don’t make money on such alumni gatherings—they’re simply a way to help alumni feel closer to the college. Volunteer fundraisers are welcomed in other ways. The Boston club, for example, has raised some $15,438 in five phonathons (covering all of New England but Connecticut) over the past six years.

Admissions recruitment is another growing area. Boston-area applications for admission to Macalester have increased threefold in the past seven years, as have applications from throughout New England. The Boston club has contacted numerous high-school students in the area with information about Macalester, and new freshmen are routinely invited to the club’s summer parties.

Harbour downplays her role in the Boston club, but those who work with her say otherwise. (Carpenter’s testimonial is typical: “She is absolutely the key. If Anne didn’t organize things, they wouldn’t get done.”)

For her part, Harbour traces her commitment to the college back to the days when, as a full-scholarship Macalester student from western Iowa, she observed DeWitt Wallace ’11—the source of her chief scholarship—on his occasional visits to campus.

“I thought that DeWitt Wallace’s type of philanthropy was admirable, but of course I didn’t have that kind of money,” Harbour says. “So I chose volunteer work.

“There’s a saying that if you want something done, you get a busy person to do it. But you have to have someone ask. I’m willing to be that person.”

—Rebecca Ganzel

For information on alumni clubs in your area, or a booklet on how to start one, call the Macalester alumni office at 612/696-6295.
Macalester gatherings reach out to alumni, parents around the world

Macalester’s fall and winter alumni gatherings reflected both the diversity and the common interests of Macalester alumni and parents:

Anthropology professor Jack Weatherford was “on the road” during fall 1988 with alumni-program stops in New York, Boston, Chicago, and Phoenix. Through observation and anecdote, he described the extensive contributions of American Indians to world civilization—and the price the Indians have paid—as told in his recently published book Indian Givers (see the January Macalester Today).

Minneapolis and Saint Paul alumni renewed their international perspective by gathering on campus for the American premiere of Masakazu Yamazaki’s play Zeami, presented by Japan’s Institute of Dramatic Arts and starring one of Japan’s most famous actors, Kohshiro Matsumoto. Sears Eldredge, chair of Macalester’s dramatic arts and dance department, previewed the play for alumni prior to its performance.

Saint Paul alumni and friends explored the question, “Do better schools make better neighborhoods?” Saint Paul city planner Steve Grochala ’73 organized the panel of educators, school board members, and volunteers. Saint Paul alumni organizers are also identifying community-service opportunities for Twin Cities alumni.

Alumni, parents, and friends in Philadelphia gathered to discuss “Translating the Macalester Experience,” a look at how Macalester shaped the lives and values of three alumni. Panelists were Joel Goldstein ’87, Myrvin DeLapp ’40, and Catherine Corby ’79.

Denver alumni and parents initiated the holiday season with a festive evening hosted by Matt Flora ’74, Caryn Hanson ’71, Tom and Theresa Niemi ’78, Diane Dranginis ’84, Kate Raabe ’73 and Jim Borgel ’79.

Alumni and parents in Washington, D.C., featured Paul Light ’75 in a luncheon discussion of the postwar generation, a new breed of Americans who are the subject of his new book Baby Boomers (to be reviewed in the next issue). Peter Fenn ’70, campaign media strategist, and Lee Knefelkamp ’67, academic dean at Macalester, will be featured speakers this spring.

The New York club has presented a series of specialized books and periodicals to the college library in memory of Bruce J. Bergman ’54, longtime secretary-treasurer of the club. Bergman was a career librarian; the volumes chosen are resource guides for the college’s library staff to use in evaluating and expanding Macalester’s collection of books and periodicals.

Geography and urban studies professor David Lanegran discussed his extensive studies of city neighborhoods at a February event in Seattle.

Boston alumni sponsored their annual winter weekend in February at a quaint New Hampshire inn. Excellent food, skiing, conversation, hiking with friends, and even nearby art museums were highlights of this informal event. In March, alumni will discuss career renewal with Macalester career consultant Carol Weeks.

President Robert M. Gavin, Jr., with his wife Charlotte and son Sean, joined Costa Rica alumni, parents, and friends at a party in San José sponsored by Kevin Rees ’86 and by the Associated Colleges of the Midwest, which sponsors a study-abroad program there.

The Gavins were also guests at a gathering of alumni, parents, and friends at the Cuernavaca, Mexico, home of Felipe Garcia Beraza ’44. World Press Institute alumni also were on hand for the event.

Alumni and parent events are being planned throughout the year. Cities with active alumni conveners include Minneapolis, Saint Paul, Phoenix, Tucson, Chicago, Los Angeles, Seattle, San Francisco, Atlanta, St. Louis, Cleveland, and Washington, D.C. Invitations for events will come to you directly if the college has your current address—or you may call the alumni office at 612/696-6295 for information on what is happening in your area.

Last October Chris Kudrna ’76 organized a party for the 30-some Macalester alumni who work at Minneapolis-based IDS Financial Services. Front row, left to right: President Gavin, Kim French ’80, Kudrna, Eben Dobson ’51, and Stephanie Greene ’87. Kudrna is a vice-president at IDS Life Insurance Co.
Twin Cities' recent grads are meeting special needs

The youngest of Macalester's alumni—those from the past six graduating classes—tend to spend their energy deciding on careers, choosing graduate schools, and adjusting to life after college. They're no longer undergraduates, but they don't always feel like alumni yet.

That's why a group of young Twin Cities alumni has organized a "Recent Grad" group, planning four events each year—in February, April, June, and September.

John van Hecke '85, an organizer of the group, explains, "The same things that brought us to Macalester have brought us together again as recent graduates... We came to Mac because we value diversity in our lives. The 'Recent Grad' group is as important to our careers as Macalester was to our educations."

The group invites members of the senior class to its functions "to ease their transition to life after Mac."

Other organizers are Ann Samuelson '85, Shelly Collins '87, Paul Damberg '87, Greg Thompson '84, and Bruce Smith '86.

To get on the group's mailing list, contact the alumni office, 612/696-6295.

' Strategic decisions' focus of early-career series

Strategies for managing the first five years of a career are the subject of a four-part series being presented by Macalester's career development center and the alumni office.

January's topic, "Breaking In," focused on moving from a job that "pays the rent" to one that uses one's talents.

In February, "Moving Up" advised participants on ways to prepare for advancement—including finding mentors, understanding office politics, building skills, and reading the work environment.

On March 7, a panel of alumni will talk about their own career paths in "Exploring Careers."

"Moving Out," on April 11, will address questions about the timing, selection, and financing of graduate school.

The March and April sessions begin at 7 p.m. in the Alumni House, 1644 Summit Ave.; for information, call the career development center, 612/696-6384.

'It's for you!'

A record number of phonathon callers raised a record total of Annual Fund pledges from a record number of donors—all in nine November nights of dialing from the student union's Cochran Lounge. Some 3,525 alumni and parents pledged a total of $256,639—a 28-percent increase over last year. Volunteer students, faculty, staff, and friends made the calls. The 1988-89 Annual Fund runs through May 31, with a goal of raising $590,000 from alumni and parents.
Macalester alumni board ties grads to college, career, community

by Julie Stroud '81, President,
Macalester Alumni Association

For some people, the word “alumni” means an emphasis on the past, and an “alumni event” is a time when people gather to reminisce about times gone by. Okay—we do some of that! It’s fun to get together with old friends to share stories and catch up.

But the Alumni Association board of directors is working to bring the association into the future by offering alumni programs that reflect the experience that was and is Macalester. Our emphasis is on programs that promote continuing exploration of issues and lifelong learning. They highlight the accomplishments of Macalester alumni; through visits with professors, students, and administrators, they acquaint alumni with the campus today. Alumni are very much a part of Macalester’s present.

Your alumni board—an elected group of 30 alumni from diverse class years and regions of the country—meets three times a year (September, February, and April) to plan programs and activities that underscore the continuity of the Macalester community. The board’s areas of focus mirror the opportunities available to our 16,000 alumni worldwide for involvement with Macalester:

Admissions. More than 600 alumni across the country and around the world stand ready to contact prospective students and talk with them about Macalester.

Clubs. Alumni in over 20 cities offer educational, community-service, and social programs to connect alumni with each other and with the college.

Career Networking. Hundreds of alumni across the country serve as resources to students and other alumni, available to talk about starting a career, changing course, and job-hunting in a new locale.

Nominations. An active committee selects and recognizes distinguished alumni citizens, and recruits new members and officers for the Alumni Association board.

Development. Volunteers for Macalester’s Annual Fund help in formulating fund-raising strategies, presenting the college’s financial needs to alumni, and recognizing alumni who contribute steadily and generously to the college.

The Alumni Association board is also working to increase the number of Macalester gatherings throughout the country. If you attended Macalester, you are automatically a part of the Alumni Association—no dues to pay, no applications to make. Getting involved can be as easy as accepting an invitation to an event.

The board’s motto is “The Macalester Experience Never Ends.” As you continue to discover the value of your Macalester education, remember that you can keep in touch with the excitement of this “small but lively” college community through contact with other Macalester alumni. The alumni office staff is always ready to help you get more involved. Call them at 612/696-6295 or write to them at the college’s address.

Stay in touch with Macalester and with other alumni wherever you put down roots. Remember, “The Macalester Experience Never Ends.”

WE’VE MARKED YOUR PLACE

...at Macalester College’s Reunion 1989

Come join us as we bring back these ‘classy’ special editions: 1924, 1929, 1934, 1939, 1944, 1949, 1954, 1959, 1964, 1969, 1974, 1979, and 1984. (Alumni with class years close to 1974, 1979, and 1984 are also cordially welcomed.) Enjoy your special class party, and join with all alumni for much more programming throughout the weekend.

Here’s a digest of activities:

Check out the new library. Library and campus tours will run often during the weekend, as well as bus tours of Saint Paul and Minneapolis.

Join the writers’ block. Alumni and faculty writers will discuss their works as part of the weekend’s informative and educational programming.

Enjoy a children’s story. Children of returning alumni will create and perform a special show.

Dust off your jacket for class parties on Saturday night.

And much more!

A McMahon for all seasons

by Magda Krance

It used to be that show biz, politics, and news were three different disciplines. That was before cue cards, coaching, heavily scripted photo opportunities, carefully crafted punchlines, makeup artists, and spin controllers became de rigueur in all three.

That blurring of distinctions may be troubling to some, but it dovetails nicely with the interdisciplinary interests and abilities of Michael McMahon ‘82. He’s been hopscotching among these fields with ease since his student days at Macalester.

At 28, the Chicagoan has written television screenplays, produced television news, and worked as a photographer on movie sets and behind the scenes with political heavies. In short, he’s traveled all over the media map.

Early on, McMahon had a strong sense of where he was heading. He is the youngest of nine children, and creativity and interest in current events run in the family: his father, Franklin, is an artist, reporter, and filmmaker; one brother is a freelance photographer; another is an illustrator; a sister is a sculptor.

“I went to Macalester because of the Twin Cities—I wanted to go into television or film,” he recalls, leaning back in a thronelike chair in his family’s downtown-Chicago studio. “One of my sisters was at Hamline [University], I liked the area, and there were lots of good television opportunities up there.” While majoring in sociology, McMahon found internships in CBS-affiliated television news—one at WCCO-TV in Minneapolis, the other during his sophomore Interim term at Chicago’s WBBM-TV.

In 1983 (“the year the White Sox were in the playoffs,” says McMahon, who seems to mark time by the fortunes of Chicago sports teams), he shifted gears and fields. He moved back to Chicago and applied for jobs with all three contenders for the mayor’s job. Harold Washington—the eventual winner—hired McMahon as an official photographer during the campaign. As he recalls, it was “a weird job; I made it up as I went along. It was kind of a Macalester thing to do.”

McMahon hoped to continue working for Washington after he was elected, but it didn’t work out that way. So he became a photographic assistant for an advertising-production firm. That lasted about a year; then he enrolled in the graduate program at the Medill School of Journalism (at Northwestern University) the summer of 1984—“the year the Cubs almost won,” he says with wry wistfulness. As part of the school’s one-year program in broadcasting, he spent time in Washington, D.C., where his beat was the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

“It was during the first Department of Defense mission with the space shuttle, so there was kind of a news blackout on it—but in Washington, everything’s a news blackout,” he recalls. “It was a great assignment. The highlight was covering a Reagan press conference in the East Room.” For a change, the tall and lanky McMahon was in front of the camera instead of behind it.

Late in 1985—“the year the Bears won the Superbowl”—McMahon got back behind the camera, or at least behind the scenes. As a wire editor for WLS-TV, the ABC network affiliate in Chicago, he scanned and edited wire-service stories for use on the local news. He also did a lot of field producing, which frequently took him to the office of his former boss, Mayor Washington.

But McMahon still felt drawn to the entertainment side of filmmaking. So in mid-1987 (about the time the Twins were working their way toward the World Series, but he doesn’t mention that), McMahon left WLS and began turning out a few scripts for the CBS comedy “Kate and Allie.” Unfortunately, the several-seasons-old show failed to make the fall roster, and McMahon’s scripts were not aired.

“It was disappointing,” he admits. “And then the [scriptwriters’] strike came up”—dragging on through the summer of 1988. “There was no work and no contacts for five months. I did anything, mostly freelance photo jobs, but nothing consistent.

“During the strike I couldn’t submit, I couldn’t talk [to producers], but you don’t stop thinking,” McMahon says. Now he’s finished two screenplays, “and I’m working on a third—al comedies.”

McMahon is confident his current scripts will fly. “Because of my background in sociology and journalism, I have a feel for the audience,” he says. “My client list is pretty good, but it’s all in the writing. You can go out to L.A. and shake hands and look good, but if you can’t write, it’s just b.s.

“I think I’ve had success getting into the studios because I’m in Chicago, and because I’ve got editorial content behind my work. It’s important for me to be where I am—I’m like a correspondent for the studios here. Also, I tend to write fast—a legacy of his news experience. “You don’t stop unless you have to. You gotta keep going—it’s like a marathon.”

The work of Chicago-based writer Magda Krance ’76 appears frequently in such magazines as Spy, Vis à Vis, Playboy, and People (she covered Eleanor Mondale’s wedding in an April 1988 feature), as well as in the Chicago Tribune. She is married to photographer Steven Leonard ’74, who took McMahon’s picture for this article.
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Please return to Chuck Wolsky, Planned Giving Officer, Macalester College, 1600 Grand Avenue, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55105-1899—or call him at 612/696-6261.
A Slide Rule Is Not Enough

State-of-the-art scientific equipment—enormously expensive and quickly outdated—is essential to the work of Macalester's science faculty. At home in Olin Hall, for example, are a nuclear accelerator, a nuclear magnetic resonance spectrometer, a scanning electron microscope, and six reflector telescopes. New just this year are an integrated microcomputer lab in biology and a laser spectroscopy lab in physics. The rising cost of such equipment is just one of the factors driving up tuition and fees. See story on page 6.