



MACALESTER COLLEGE  
Macalester College Archives, DeWitt Wallace Library  
*Oral History Project*

**Interview with:** **Patti Young**  
Class of 1965

**Date:** **Wednesday, June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2007, 1:00 p.m.**

**Place:** Macalester College DeWitt Wallace Library, Harmon Room  
**Interviewer:** Laura Zeccardi, Class of 2007

**Interview run time:** 1:07:05 minutes

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**Agreement:** signed, on file, no restrictions

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## Subjects

0:00 Introduction  
1:11 Parents' history at Macalester  
Life as a freshman  
7:19 Transition into nursing program  
9:15 Last year at Macalester  
Liberal arts experience and intellectual change  
Reaction to Vietnam protests  
16:37 Minorities at Macalester  
17:52 Memories of President Turck  
20:39 Decision to come to Macalester  
22:59 Trajectory at Macalester from nursing to liberal arts  
25:30 Summer sessions  
26:12 Class sizes and memorable professors  
27:34 Serving on the reunion committee  
Reactions to changes on campus  
33:00 School events: football, Homecoming, Winter Carnival  
Religion in Life Week's personal effect  
37:30 Social life at Macalester  
The Par Four Quartet  
41:15 Involvement in music

43:12 Food on campus  
44:54 Living off campus  
46:54 Off-campus service, then and now  
48:26 Study abroad programs  
    Time abroad after Macalester  
51:05 Graduation  
53:19 Macalester's financial situation  
54:00 Balancing work and family after Macalester  
    Work with art therapy and PTSD  
1:00:06 Vocational programs at Mac vs. liberal arts  
1:03:46 Professor Thomas Hill  
1:06:03 Children's relationship with Macalester

**Interview with Patti Young**

**Laura Zeccardi, Interviewer**

**June 27, 2007  
Macalester College  
DeWitt Wallace Library  
Harmon Room**

[0:00]

Laura Zeccardi: My name is Laura Zeccardi and I am a new graduate of Macalester College conducting interviews for the Macalester Oral History Project. Today is Wednesday, June 27<sup>th</sup> 2007, and I am interviewing Patti Young, Class of 1956, in the Harmon Room in the DeWitt Wallace Library. Why don't we start by just if you would like to state your name, and then where you're originally from, and then what year you came to Macalester.

Patti Young: Okay. My name is Patricia Cochran Young, and it says Patti on the interview because I was called that many years ago. [laughs] And that was my—as a freshman at Macalester I sang with a band for the college dances, and they called me P-A-T-T-I because they thought that sounded more professional for a singer, I think. So that's where Patti came from. And I grew up in Minneapolis, in town, in an apartment near Loring Park, and I still love the inner city. And I live in the suburbia now but I go in town often.

[01:11]

LZ: So let's begin maybe by talking about your parents, and kind of what you know about their time at Macalester, and then kind of go from there.

PY: Okay. I'm happy to say that their pictures are in the Alumni House library, because it's dedicated to them. I had some money to give to Macalester and not quite enough to give to an endowed scholarship. So I came to Sandy Hill, Class of '57, who knew a lot about development. And I said, "Where can I spend this money?" And he was excited about redoing the Alumni House library at the time, had his eye on an oriental rug, and decided that he would use my money to refurbish the library. So then it was dedicated to my parents. And the picture of my mother is when she was in college, and she's very beautiful. And the picture of my father is when he was inducted into the Hall of Fame when he was a good deal older. [Laughs] So it looks like a May-December kind of romance! But it was, in fact, *the* romance on campus in those years. And they both came from very poor families, he from a farm, and she from Rushmore, Minnesota, southern Minnesota. They met at Macalester and hit it off. And he was a big-man-on-campus, college athlete: track, basketball, and football. And she was very—both very serious. Out-of-the-Depression couple. And hit it off. And when we did the video of the dedication I looked up in their yearbooks, and there was a cartoon which shows the two of them sitting on a couch with their backs to the viewer. And it says, "Yes, Edith. Miss Doty says that as long as your home isn't in town we can sit here until two o'clock." And underneath it, the cartoon, it says, "Things that never happen at the hall." And Miss Doty was the Dean of Women at that time and a very elegant lady who kept us rabble-rousing types elegant—sort of [laughs]. So anyway, my mother worked on the newsletter, which was called the Mac Weakly. W-E-A-K-L-Y, Mac Weakly. That's supposed to be funny. I guess it was supposed to be funny. And he was an actor and also kind of a ruffian off the farm. And there was—I can't remember the name of the faculty member that adopted him, but kind of helped him, you know, get with it and get with the college and start doing some work besides football and basketball and track. Mother

had the lead in the senior class play. He was president of the YMCA and she was president of—not president of, she worked with the YWCA. Both of them had to work, of course, because they didn't have much money. I don't know where they got any money, actually. She worked in the dining room at Wallace Hall and then she would go in summers back down to Iowa to work on a resort or something. So then he was left crying [laughs] during the summer. But he had a good friend named Helen Kienitz, who was a graduate of '29, and both she and her husband went to Macalester. And they were good friends and stayed good friends. The family still is friendly with me. My parents have passed on, of course. Anyway, we had some of the same teachers, most especially Dr. O.T. Walter. I started in pre-med because my father was a doctor and was sure I ought to be a doctor. And that was my freshman year in 1950. And, um, Dr. Walter, on the first day in Zoology, read through the class list and he said, "Cochran? Is that Ray Cochran's daughter?" I mean that's a memory [laughs]. And he was a wonderful teacher, I absolutely adored him, and memorized all those bones and all those ligaments and tendons and parasites and everything that zoology had to offer. So I did that class well. I was somewhat of a bridge player and beer drinker in my freshman year, and was kind of a rebel. I lived in Summit House. And that no longer exists as a dorm, of course. It's on the corner of Summit and Snelling. And it was that year given over entirely to the freshmen, which was a *big* mistake. Our dorm mother had really no way of keeping us under control. I mean, you know, we let each other in after twelve o'clock, and did all manner of things like that. And they never again had all freshmen in the dormitory. There were *no* upperclassmen.

[07:19]

LZ: And this would have been all women, right?

PY: That was 1950. It was fun. We had a good time. But my parents, at the end of that year, said, “We are not going to continue to spend money for beer drinking and bridge playing and incompletes,” which I had a couple of incompletes. And so, “What are we going to do with you?” I didn’t really have any thought. I was kind of neutral with the whole thing [laughs]. So my father said, “Well, there’s always the nursing programs.” So Abbott Northwestern, it was Northwestern hospital at the time. And there were, I think, three or four hospitals involved in the connection with Macalester and I was at Northwestern. And—I think it was Swedish and Abbott nurses came over. We were bussed across the Mississippi to our classes.

LZ: Oh, so you didn’t actually have classes—

PY: We didn’t have classes here. We had classes here, but we didn’t live on campus because in those years, the three-year program, you spent a good deal of time working in a hospital. Nowadays, it’s pretty much an intellectual game to get an RN and a BS. But in those years there was a lot of working. Which was good. I loved it. You had to be in at 10:30 and I was just fine with that. The discipline made sense. Working with the patients made sense. I loved it and so I got good grades from then on. And...I’m trying to think where I am in my notes.

[09:15]

LZ: Was that difficult for you, going from kind of your first year in the entire class and then... Sounds like the nursing program was pretty off to the side...

PY: Structured. Yeah, it was off to the side and it was quite structured. I think in some of the following years, there were—I can't remember how many years the nursing program actually existed. It wasn't more than four, or five at the most. And the year, well, I came - I of course wanted to finish a degree, had science credits from the years coming over to Macalester for the science courses. And the faculty for that was separate from the Macalester faculty. It was specifically a chemistry teacher and a microbiology teacher and so on. So Charlie Miller, I don't know if that's a name that makes any sense to you at all. He was one of the faculty, a very funny man. And I don't think that the academics were probably up to the standard, exactly, of Macalester. I'm not sure. I breezed through with all A's and had no problems and I learned a lot. And so there was no problem in that regard. But there was no liberal arts as far as the nursing courses were going. So, when I came back to Macalester I had two incompletes. One was from English, which I just - freshman English I went to for a couple of times, and there was a really weird woman on the faculty. Whose name I've forgotten. And I said, "I don't think so." So I went to Zoology. I got an A in Psychology and then an A in Zoology. And B in Spanish, because I went on a ski trip that spring with Macalester students to Colorado and came back with my knee in a cast. And so we had classes on Old Main, in Old Main, on the third floor for Spanish. And I couldn't get up the stairs with my crutches. So I made a deal with the Spanish teacher and I said, "I've had a lot of Spanish in high school and I think I can pass your final. [laughs] So can I do that?" It was a literature course. And she let me do that, but she wasn't about to give me an A, of course, because I didn't ever show up in class. So anyway, when I came back, I was just absolutely thrilled because I could take all the liberal arts I wanted. I just gulped down the liberal arts. Philosophy of Science and American History with Donald Warner, who was a great favorite of the people of the Class of '56, as I found out when I looked in my

Welcome Back book. This is our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary book. Warner was wonderful, and I had had a high school teacher that taught American History that wanted to be the coach. He was the football coach, and he was not a history teacher. And he divided our class up into segments and each one of us had to prepare the lectures, and make the tests out, and do the whole job. So naturally I was not thrilled about American History. But Donald Warner was wonderful, he was just a stunning professor. So I really, really liked him. And one of the—my favorite professor was Roger Blakely. And he taught literature and English and poetry and so forth. And I signed up for his poetry class, and he agreed to be my mentor, to help me with my incompletes. So I wrote a paper for him—a considerably long paper to get over the incomplete in freshman English. And his poetry class was just so stunning that, having been kind of an anti-intellectual—I'd always loved theater and art and so forth, but I had not taken liberal arts courses. And so his poetry class just astounded me. He was so good and it was so interesting. And because I was a little bit of a—not so used to reading long books, and so on and so forth, poetry worked really well. Because I could get something in a short period of time and then move on to something else in a short period of time. And he got angry with me because he had a final on T.S. Elliot's *Wasteland* and I got a hundred on it. And he said, "I didn't make that test so anybody could get a hundred on it." [laughs] So, he was—I don't mean to hype my abilities, but I was just that... it turned me around intellectually. That one class, that one mentor, moved me into the liberal arts thing that Macalester does so well. And I was not really very active on campus because I was working full time in the evenings, but I had a number of friends that I still have that live in the Twin Cities from the Class of '56. And good friends. Really. Probably my best friend, Donna Gunderson-Rogers, is an alum of '56. And she sort of took me in and she was—she played Hedda Gabler in the theater and was, you know, kind of introduced me around

to the poet friends that she had. And David White. Who was—I'm sure you've heard about Dave White, who was our idol [laughs], because he was a conscientious objector and a Quaker. And somewhere in your questions it says, "What did you think of the protests against the Vietnam war?" And I thought they were excellent. I was just thrilled and delighted. Last year I spent six months on the corner of 96<sup>th</sup> and Lexington with a peace sign. "Honk for Peace." So I'm still that way.

[16:37]

LZ: Have you found that to be true of some of the other people that graduated around that time?

PY: Um-hm. Absolutely, yeah.

LZ: There's a real break there then, between people who went in the 40's and the 50's.

PY: Yeah. Yeah, I think so. And in the 50's...I've lost my train of thought. I didn't really look at this and prepare it very well. What was I going to say about the 50's? Oh! Somewhere in your questions it asks about minorities. And there were—my recollection is an amazing number of minorities for that time. And there was very definitely the international flavor. And the service flavor. Because when I was fifty-six, I decided to live and work in the third world, even with a family. And that was because of my years at Macalester.

[17:52]

LZ: Did that focus have a lot to do with Charles Turck being president during that time?

PY: It did, it did. No question about it. He was either the first or the only flyer of the UN flag, very early on. And he—his secretary was my mother's best friend, all those years. And so I knew him quite well, and we had him home for dinner, and all that kind of stuff. So, yes, it had a great deal to do with him.

LZ: What was he kind of like as a person? Because not many people have had this very close...

PY: Well, he was, he was a very delightful man, elegant man, polite man, but very strong international flavor. Very strong opinions about the government and about how things should operate [laughs]. My father would get into some arguments with him. My father came out of the Depression and was an FDR lover, because FDR fixed the Depression, and got us through the Second World War, and all that stuff. But my father began to shift, because he was a doctor and he was terrified about socialized medicine. He would, you know, he would go mad today with all the commentary about single-payer plans, single-payer healthcare. So he became a—my father became a Republican. So he and Dr. Turck had some lively discussions [laughs]. And I was pretty young then, and sort of naïve in 1950, because I was sixteen when I came to Macalester. So I was not a political animal like I am now, and like I know Macalester students are. And that pleases me. And as far as the question of my relationship to the college, I'm just so impressed with what the college has done and with what President Rosenberg has... When he has his broadsides on liberal education and what should happen in the world. But Dr. Turck was very, very good. And, as I say, I was a little naïve, so I'm not sure how much I knew of him. But he was around a bit.

LZ: So then you graduated from high school at sixteen?

PY: Yes, yes.

[20:39]

LZ: So just out of curiosity, was there ever a decision about going to Macalester or was that kind of something...?

PY: Oh, yeah. Well, that's kind of an interesting story because my father, who thought I was the intellectual, brilliant child of the—as one always does think about one's children. But I was sixth in my high school class. I wasn't valedictorian but... Anyway, he was impressed with my abilities and my creativity, because I did a lot of art. So he wanted me to go to Sarah Lawrence. And he was bound and determined I was going to go to Sarah Lawrence; and he's, you know, he's a Mac lover. And they both were. But he thought that's what should happen. My mother's sister, who lived in Buffalo, New York, wrote a hurried letter. It would have been an immediate email nowadays, but it was a letter when she heard that he was considering Sarah Lawrence. And she said, "That's a play school. They live—they're right outside of New York. They go into New York every weekend. They're..." [laughs] She didn't say loose-jointed, but you know, they're...I can't think of a word that describes. But very, very liberal; very, kind of, for creative people. She said, "Do not send her. *Do not* send her to Sarah Lawrence." So he came to me and said, "Would you like to go to Macalester?" and I said, "Sure, that sounds good. You guys liked it, so I'll do that." So, and pre-med. He talked about Dr. Walter and said, "You'll get a very

good pre-med launching.” And at the end of that first year I just, I decided that...with my personality, I could not be both a doctor and have a family. I could not—now people do that, but I knew I couldn’t do that. So that’s one of the motivations for shifting to nursing.

[22:59]

LZ: Just so I can get a better understanding, so you started in 1950 and went for a year, but I guess I’m confused at how...what was your, I guess, your actual degree when you did graduate from Macalester?

PY: The degree was Bachelor of Science in Nursing.

LZ: Okay, it was.

PY: Yeah. I moved, I believe, in the summer. Maybe it was over the summer we decided I would go into Northwestern’s three-year program.

LZ: Oh, okay.

PY: And I suppose my father was pleased with the idea that they were giving, busing us to Macalester for credits. And so I graduated in ’54 from nursing. And then worked right away at, it was—it’s now Regions. It was then Old Anchor hospital. And I taught student nurses there. Got a chance to teach even though I didn’t have a bachelor’s degree at that time. And then I attended classes at Macalester in the morning.

LZ: So in order to get your degree, then, you needed to come back to Mac and finish?

PY: Oh, yeah. That's when I came back and was thrilled about liberal arts. And I think that took me a year and half, by the time I got enough credits. And I wanted to take a lot of classes, so.

LZ: You took a lot of courses. I mean, to have done both.

PY: Yeah, I took—I don't know if the oral history wants to hear this, but I'm bipolar. And in those years I was at the high end. Not psychotic, but just high. And I took something like 20 or 24 credits and got all A's [laughs]. So there are benefits to being bipolar, but not a lot [laughs]. So it was—I'm sure it was a year and a half, somehow. I can't remember. Well, the dates are '54 to '56. And so then I think it was a college year and a summer session.

[25:30]

LZ: Oh, okay. Were summer sessions pretty typical during that time?

PY: They were lots of fun. A lot of lying out on the grass, and sunning yourself, and pretending to study. Or really studying. And having conversations. Lots. I loved Macalester's ability to find students to have good conversations with. And they were not in blinders, they were not rigid, but always interested in what's happening in the world. So that got me into what was happening in the world.

[26:12]

LZ: Do you remember about how large a class, I guess maybe...?

PY: Well, the nursing classes were probably only thirty. Twenty or thirty. I'm trying to remember. I took Genetics the year after DNA was discovered, which Dr. Walter, bless his heart, didn't know a lot about [laughs]. The classes—let's see, my Philosophy of Science class, I think, was only fifteen. I forgot to mention I did get a grade in Max Adams, Dr.—you know, Maxwell Adams, who was Joan Mondale's father. Who was the chaplain, and he taught Old Testament history. And he did a great job of funny, uproarious descriptions of prophets from the Old Testament, just really fun. I'm jumping around here, but I can't help it...anyway...

[27:34]

LZ: Did you have to go to—Chapel would have still been required?

PY: Yes, Chapel was still required. And I saw Charles Johnson's commentary in here about the time somebody locked the Chapel with the people inside, with the students inside it, and [laughs] people on the sidewalks outside were watching students climbing out of the Chapel windows. So Charlie Johnson wrote—who's a 1956 graduate—yeah, and distinguished it as... wrote fifteen, I think fifteen, remember we talked... I was part of the class reunion committee. Yeah, and this year for fiftieth reunion and we had things called "remember when's." And Charlie Johnson wrote seventeen of them. [laughs] So there's two pages devoted to Charlie Johnson. He was sort of a peripheral friend, because I didn't have a lot of friends because of working. But,

anyway. The reunion committee was fun. I enjoyed that because, having not met a lot of people in 1956, because they had all started in '52, obviously. And so nursing school was—we did not have time to socialize with Macalester students at all. It was get off the bus, take the classes, get back on the bus. So we did not meet a lot of people, but the reunion committee, I believe our reunion committee had forty-seven people on it.

LZ: Oh, wow.

PY: [Laughs] So. And it lasted two years. And I hope they're not doing that again, because I was part of the Marketing Committee and Darrell Gubrud, who was chairman of the Marketing Committee, decided we had to have a meeting every month. So we had monthly meetings for two years! [Laughs] By the time we got to reunion I was sort of boggled, but we had a great website and it was lots of fun. And I then met, not forty-seven people, but I met a number of people. So when I did come to reunion, other than my very good friends, I had some other people to hang around with.

[30:20]

LZ: Did the majority of people, did you find, tend to come back to that 50<sup>th</sup> year anniversary?

PY: Oh, yeah, it was, it was...I forgot to wear my Golden Scots medallion today. It's too bad that won't get on the tape.

LZ: Oh! Isn't that—you get that, what, at the fiftieth anniversary?

PY: Yeah, yeah. You're inducted into the Golden Scots, which I had never heard of, [laughs] but it's a very nice medallion and you can come back and have a free lunch every reunion.

LZ: Oh, okay.

PY: Okay, I thought I could find out how many people of the class came back, but a lot of people. It was probably a hundred and twenty...

[31:10]

LZ: What were people's reactions to the campus and, kind of, the college as a whole?

PY: Oh, just mostly the physical changes are tremendous. I mean, we had most of our classes in Old Main or the science hall. And, you know, some people hadn't been back. I had been back because I live near Saint Paul. But still, it seemed like there was a building a month [laughs] that came up. So there was—it was mostly the physical thing. The students were the same. When I come back to reunions, I still see a 1970 graduate who was a daughter of a friend of mine, and she's an architect now in Philadelphia. Laura Blau. And she, I met her just by accident at a reunion. She was having a 25<sup>th</sup> and I was having a 45<sup>th</sup>, or something like that. So we spent the whole afternoon in Stricker Center having coffee and talking, you know. It's lots of fun to meet old grads. I don't have my picture in the Macalester Today very often, because I'm not out of town having reunions. You know, Macalester Today is full of weddings and reunions. But I did

get a chance to have my story of my work in Guatemala told in the Macalester Today about twenty, about ten, about five years ago.

[33:00]

LZ: To go back a little, and I'm not sure, considering that you were in the nursing program, do you remember kind of some of the big college events? And I know you might not have gotten to go to probably a lot of them...

PY: Well, during the nursing program, of course we weren't in on them, and I didn't always come back for Homecoming. In our years the football team was zilch. We went to all the games [laughs]. I mean, I did as a freshman. I didn't as a nursing student because I was too busy working in the hospital. But football and Homecoming. And Winter Carnival one year, we trapped the Vulcan in—what hall was it? One of the buildings on campus, and barred the door. And the Vulcans came and the, you know, you know what the Winter Carnival thing is?

LZ: No, I...

PY: Oh, well, Winter Carnival has a king and queen, Saint Paul Winter Carnival has a king and a queen—

LZ: Oh, okay. The Saint Paul carnival.

PY: And princesses and whatever's, and there are the devils. The red-clad Vulcans who ride around on a fire truck and do prankish things. [Laughs] And so we decided, several of us, that Vulcan was—had gone into—it was some meeting, I can't remember what. And we just closed and barred the door. [Laughs] And the Vulcans came after him, and they were not nice people particularly, they were macho men dressed up as devils. And they just absolutely *decimated* our—well it was just about five of us, all women, barring the door and just...I don't know whether that's an important thing for an oral history or not.

LZ: No! We love these little stories.

PY: [laughing] That's right. That's one of the events on campus I remember. You had some questions about, little, let's see... All of these, Mexican Caravan, and SPAN, and Canadian American Conference I was not involved in, so. But Religion in Life Week, when I was a freshman, changed my religious orientation. Because I came into it as a Presbyterian. My mother was very active in Westminster Church in Minneapolis, and she was also involved with Sandy Hill in the first Alumni House. I forgot to mention that one when I was talking about my parents. Boy, Alzheimer's is kicking in. What was I talking about? You were asking me... aw, I'm jumping around so much.

LZ: No, that's fine.

[36:19]

PY: Oh! Religion in Life Week. Religion in Life Week. Arthur Foote, who was the minister at Unity Unitarian Church in Saint Paul, came to speak. The Religion in Life Week had people from—rabbis come. And you don't know anything about...?

LZ: No one's really talked in depth about Religion in Life Week. It comes up all the time. But not very much in depth.

PY: What was—it was interesting, because they had speakers from all different religions. And Arthur Foote was the minister at Unity Unitarian Church in Saint Paul. And he came to speak and he just absolutely blew me away. It made so much sense, more than what I had been brought up to believe. And so when I moved to North Oaks there's a branch of Unity Church, White Bear Unitarian Church, and I raised my children in that church. So Religion in Life week really changed my orientation [laughs].

[37:30]

LZ: That's interesting considering Mac is, you know, a Presbyterian school... Can you talk with me maybe a little bit more about Homecoming, and what kind of went along with all those activities?

PY: Well, I can't remember much about it. It seems to me we had a parade and floats, but I don't remember being active. In my freshman year, again, I lived in Summit House with a lot of freshmen [laughs], and we did a lot of partying and a lot of bridge playing. And I don't remember. I know I went to Homecoming, but I can't remember. I'm sure I went to the dance.

I can remember dressing up for the dance but, obviously, it didn't affect my brain much [laughs]. So. Political Emphasis Week, I was not, in my freshman year, a political animal in those days. I became one when I came back for my degree. But I don't remember being involved in that at all. The Mac Grille...hmp [grumbles].

LZ: Nobody's talked at all about the Mac Grille. Maybe there's a reason for that [laughs].

PY: Smoking and bridge playing and conversations. *Tremendous* conversations about the state of the world. And I said I was not a political animal, but I, you know, was not totally anesthetized about what was happening in the world. And spent a lot of time in the Mac Grille.

LZ: Was that kind of the meeting point then, for students?

PY: Yeah, yeah. And we were all smoking then, [laughs] and I have emphysema now. So I'm glad people aren't. How you heard about the Par Four quartet?

LZ: No.

PY: You haven't heard about the...? Oh my...

LZ: Not everyone's so willing to...

[39:35]

PY: Oh, really, the Par Four quartet. A barbershop quartet of mostly Central High graduates who were Macalester students in 1950, my freshman year. And a couple of them were in the band that I sang with for the class dances. And they were well known on campus through 1956, because when we had our '56 reunion we put out a CD of the Par Four quartet. And they sang at every reunion that I came back to through the years, and they were still... It was like all of those situations. Some people came in and out of it. It wasn't always the same four, but there were a core couple of, of... And they were golfers, so that was what Par Four [unclear]... And they were just a college institution for six years.

LZ: I suppose kind of like, I don't know if you're familiar with the Trads and...

PY: The what?

LZ: The Trads, they're like an all-male a cappella group.

PY: Yeah. Well, they were an item throughout the-'50 to '56.

LZ: There might actually be a picture of them somewhere, but...

PY: Oh, I'm sure.

[41:15]

LZ: They may not have put the two together... Was music kind of a—I mean, were there things that kind of a lot of people gravitated towards, in terms of extracurricular activities?

PY: I don't remember. I know there were a lot of people in our memory book that commented about Herman Straka, who was the head of the music department at that time. But I was not a musician, per se, I was just—I had a good voice. And these couple of guys from the Par Four quartet were part of the band, which did—we played for not only college dances, but also other dances. And that was my music orientation. I was not—well, I loved classical music, but there was not what there is available now, with the Fine Arts Center and the rehearsal halls, and so forth and so on. My freshman year I danced with a modern dance class, which was headed off by Nancy Hauser, who, in Minneapolis had—until she died, and her daughter continues to run the group. The Hauser Dance Studio. And Michael Hauser is a flamenco guitar player. Do you know him?

LZ: No.

PY: Oh, okay. He's my guitar teacher and I play flamenco guitar. So that's my music orientation now. So. I didn't have much other than singing jazz. Yeah, let's see.

[43:12]

LZ: One thing about—now the Mac Grille wasn't where students ate, in terms of their everyday, like, I guess—

PY: No, it was—

LZ: I guess I'm curious...the cafeteria style...

PY: You could get sandwiches and you could have lunch, a short lunch there. But I was thinking on the way over how my father would be so amazed at the menu at the Stricker Dayton building, because of the international students. And you know, I just think that's just so great and so exciting. But nothing like that happened at the Mac Grille. It was mostly coffee and cigarettes. [laughs] I'm sure this is not very great for oral history.

[44:02]

LZ: So then, were students on a meal plan then, like they are now?

PY: Yeah, there was a...the dormitories had cafeterias—no, was there a cafeteria? I went to a cafeteria when I was a freshman, from Summit House. There was no food in Summit House. It was just a residence hall. And the food, as I recall, was pretty much macaroni and cheese and then chicken, [laughs] which is fine. You know, I had no concern about that. And I'm sure it was even simpler when my mother worked in the Wally Hall cafeteria.

[44:53]

LZ: You never actually lived in a dorm, then, right?

PY: Never lived in a dorm. When I came back for my bachelor's degree, I lived in an apartment with other ex-Mac students. And, so, I don't know why particularly except that it was—by that time I was out in the world and doing nursing and teaching. You could teach nursing with a Bachelor's degree in those years, so I taught at what is now Regions. I taught student nurses pharmacology and medical nursing.

[45:32]

LZ: Were there a lot of students that lived off-campus? Or were most people...?

PY: Hmm...yeah, well, there were a fair number. I don't—I don't know. There were eight of us in the building where I lived, and then switched to another apartment where there were a couple of really bright Mac graduates who were in on the beginnings of IBM's computers [laughs]. They were, you know, sort of—well they were just really smart, and I was a lowly nurse [laughs] who taught pharmacology.

LZ: Were those two apartments pretty close in the neighborhood then?

PY: They were, yeah. They were—one was near St. Thomas and one was closer than that. I took the bus...or the Snelling Snail. You've never heard of...?

LZ: No.

PY: There used to be a streetcar on Snelling.

LZ: Oh, in the days of the streetcar...

PY: No one knows the Snelling Snail because it never, never seemed to be available! [laughs]

[46:54]

LZ: Did—and I guess this could have been different for you because you would have been busing a lot—did Mac students tend to, kind of, go out and, I guess, I don't know, I guess maybe not go to parties, but were they kind of fairly active in the community in terms of getting off campus? Doing things?

PY: I think not so much as they are now. I don't think, although the service factor was emphasized, there were not what I see when I come back. We had some really—when we did this, the reunion committee, they did some really good orientation weekends for us. And so I found out a lot about what was going on at Macalester now. And they talked about the various departments, and Lanegran's studies on University Avenue, and some of that kind of thing that you could get more involved in. And I—really talking about how things have changed, the research that is available to students now was certainly not available in my years. That, I think, is very exciting. So I think, I think we were fairly insular.

[48:26]

LZ: Did students tend to go abroad in any sort of regular way?

PY: Well they, you know, to Canada, Canadian American Conference, but did not go abroad to the extent that students do now. Everyone I know didn't have enough money to do that, [laughs] so. But I also think the opportunities were not available. That's why, when I was 56 I decided I wanted to live and work in the Third World, and that's why I went to Guatemala. But no, they did not go abroad much.

[49:04]

LZ: Do you think that the desire to go to Guatemala, you know, much later after Mac, do you think that kind of started with the atmosphere that was—

PY: Oh yeah, absolutely. Because the Civil War in Guatemala was just winding down, more or less. Although there were still—the month before I got to Guatemala the priest in the neighboring community was murdered in his basement, due to his helping the indigenous people. So, yeah. Macalester was very instrumental in my desire to live and work in the Third World. I couldn't go to the Peace Corps because I was working full time at Abbott Northwestern in psychiatry. But the psych population diminishes in the summer, surprisingly—or did in those years, because people that live under bridges are not as stressed and don't have as many problems [laughs]. So they, Abbott Northwestern, gave me three months a year for four years off in the summer, and that's when I went to Guatemala. Yeah. Macalester's international flavor. Even, probably, Dr. Turck's influence. Not to mention my passion to find out. I had done—my husband and I had done a lot of traveling in Europe and in Africa and so forth, but never with the people, just always tourists. And I wanted to see how it was to live there and work. So that's what I did.

[51:05]

LZ: Very cool. One thing we didn't, and I—you graduated in '56, and did you do the whole cap and gown, I guess...?

PY: Oh yeah.

LZ: Okay. What was graduation ceremonies like, I guess?

PY: [laughs] The one I participated in had a lot of sun. I understand there have been some rainy ones recently.

LZ: Yeah, we got a nice one this year, but...

PY: Yeah, it was cap and gowns and it was... My biggest recollection is that my father came to the graduation. And he did not even go to his own medical school graduation. He just didn't, he thought those ceremonies were nonsense. But of course being a Mac-ite and being pleased with my having graduated from Macalester. And it was a lot like they are now, doctorates given and speakers.

[52:02]

LZ: Do you remember what your parents' reaction was, kind of coming back to Mac, you know, I guess 25, 30 years after they had been there?

PY: I know you asked that question and I was trying to remember. All I could think of was, even in those years there was more physical plant to Macalester, but... I don't seem to think of—they didn't make any comments about how things had changed or... I think they probably kept up with what I was doing, and knew about the changes, so it wasn't a big surprise. They were not concerned with the—I think they were concerned with the financial problems that occurred in the years with Harvey Rice as president. That was after the Vietnam War. And I think they were concerned with problems that Macalester was having at the time.

[53:19]

LZ: Have you kind of followed—I guess you had said that your reaction towards the Vietnam War protests, but were you kind of aware of the financial difficulties that Mac had and, kind of, the withdrawing of Wallace money?

PY: Yeah, yeah. And I have got what there is left of the money my father left me as going to Macalester in my will. So that was my, you know, my feeling about the concern, the financial concern at that time, although I haven't felt it since then.

[54:00]

LZ: Yeah, it seems to be solid [unclear] [laughs]. So now, after you graduated, you were basically a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. Did you continue to work as a nurse after Macalester?

PY: Right. I taught nursing students at Old Anchor Hospital, pharmacology and medical nursing. And I did that for three years and then I was pregnant and just decided that I couldn't... When I worked as a nursing teacher I was also supervisor of the medical wards. And that was like having two jobs. And it was very useful because I could say when I was discussing medical conditions in the classroom, "You all know Mrs. So-and-so on Ward 6 who had exactly these symptoms," you know. The relationship was great, but it was two jobs. And I was exhausted by the time I finished being pregnant and had my first child. And so the problem was in those days that I had to write my lectures after I got home. And pharmacology was probably not as complicated then as it is now, but it was a fairly complex thing to teach. And so I was married and came home from these two jobs and wrote my lectures and went to bed and my marriage was [laughs] somewhat rocky at that point. And so I just decided to leave nursing for a while. So I did that. And I am and have always been an artist, and so I got a job when my daughter was eleven with an art gallery, an art gallery and art supply store. So. Had shows at that gallery. Then my father was muttering about why I wasn't in nursing [laughs] and so I took a refresher course and went back to nursing. And I didn't license in psychiatry, but I did a lot of reading and research in psychiatry. So when Regents Hospital, it was Ramsey then, closed the psychiatric unit I was working on I switched to Abbott Northwestern. And that was when I had those three months in the summer off to go to Guatemala. So I'm interested now in the possibility—because I worked with orphans of the civil war right after the diagnosis of post-traumatic stress disorder came to be talked about. And the orphans in Guatemala had seen their parents shot, and their houses burned, and were traumatized. And because I was an artist and a psychiatric nurse, although I'm not a licensed art therapist, I took a seminar at Center for Victims of Torture about post-traumatic stress disorder. And that's what I was doing in Guatemala, was art therapy. And

so I'm interested now, concerned about the number of veterans coming back from Iraq and Afghanistan with post-traumatic stress disorder. And I'm considering going back, although I'm seventy-four. And I'm not absolutely sure. I certainly don't want to work full time, but with my experience it seems like I would have something to offer. So I'm hoping to do that somehow. Either as a volunteer or as a... I'm concerned about if I'd have to work at the V.A. Hospital and my carbon footprint would not be very good, coming from North Oaks, but... You know about carbon footprints? No? No. Oh, okay. Well with the greening of America, the thought is that carbon emissions cause problems with global warming and your carbon footprint is how much you drive, how much you drive alone. How much, you know, in going five days a week from North Oaks to Fort Snelling is a big piece of stuff—emission. So, I don't know. But I have got an appointment with the human resources person at the V.A. and what I'm hoping is that maybe they might have some groups in Saint Paul, rather than having all the groups at the V.A., and I could be a group leader. I've taken—because I maintained my nursing license. And the CEUs that I get, you know CEUs? Okay. I've taken seven daylong courses in post-traumatic stress disorder or in the new therapies that have to do with it. So we'll see.

[1:00:06]

LZ: My question was, because you're in this unique position that you went through the nursing program, but you are also a huge supporter of, you know, liberal arts, and loving that. And so for you, as Macalester has dropped the nursing program, and there's no longer secretarial courses, or home ec—I mean, was that a decision that you felt was a positive one that needed to be done for the college?

PY: Well, I suppose it needed to be done as I see the contemporary liberal arts, the needs of liberal arts education in our world. I think it was probably...how can I put it? Not something that could continue as a part of Macalester. I think, as I've said, we did a lot of working in the hospital in the nursing program, and there are some things that you miss from not being in the working world. And the Miss Woods program was functional at the time, that was another vocational-type program. And I think at the time that was useful. Now, just you have to have so much more education and I think that it was probably logical to drop the vocational. Part of it was, as I remember, the Miss Woods students were not too heavily involved in Macalester activities either. So you have people coming in from the outside and going away, and not involved in the stimulation that the liberal arts degree affords. I think it's really good that Macalester has not become like Hamline University with all this happening, because I think liberal arts is so important. I just, I can't emphasize that enough. And I think the vocational programs, I'm glad I was involved and it was great. But...I think community colleges can do vocational programs and Macalester is unique in that it's—it hasn't moved into the university status, but international students come here. And have this tremendous interaction among students. And I guess that's how I feel about vocational programs. I'm happy that it was there when it was available to me, but I certainly would have been very unhappy with my life if I hadn't come back to Macalester and gotten the liberal arts stuff, because it did change my intellectual orientation from a beer-drinking [laughs], bridge-playing freshman, jazz singing, to, you know, being serious about the world. So my story about Professor Hill, have you heard anything about Thomas Hill at all?

LZ: Not anything in particular, no.

[1:03:48]

PY: He was a philosophy professor at the time. And he's from North Carolina. And is back there now. And I believe, when we were getting our reunion committee going, he published a book called *The Good Life*. And I was all for buying it and having us read it, having that be the campus read. And turned out to be a hundred and twenty dollars. [Laughs] So I have not bought Dr. Hill's book. But he was a wonderful professor, and, as I say, from North Carolina. And I had a good friend—can we use names? Yeah, I guess we can use names. Jim Bransford, a black student at Macalester, in Class of '56. And he stormed into Dr. Hill's office one day. And he said, "Dr. Hill, you're prejudiced against blacks. You come from North Carolina, and you come from the South and you're giving me this poor grade because you're prejudiced." And Dr. Hill said, "Jim, you didn't do the work!" He said, "I'm not prejudiced. [Laughs] You have to do the work to get the grade." And he turned Jim around at that point by...this is not a very long story, but he was such an interesting and wonderful man. Was not about to give in to the prejudice game. And so Jim did the work and got the grade, and wasn't able to use that as an excuse. So that's my story about Tom Hill. You got anything else that you...?

LZ: Nothing comes to my mind as anything...

PY: Okay, well, I'm pleased and I'm sorry that there isn't a third generation of our family.

[1:06:03]

LZ: Yeah, I guess I was curious about your...

PY: But my son wanted to be an engineer and wanted to go to the University of Minnesota and do that. And my daughter wanted to be an engineer. My husband's an engineer. And she went to the University of Wisconsin at Madison and got scholarships there, and so nobody came to Macalester. So now whenever, well not whenever, but occasionally when my—her family lives in South Carolina now, she went there with 3M. And when they come back I drag them over to the Alumni House library [laughs] to see the pictures of their great-grandparents. So that much is intergenerational about Macalester. That's about all. So thank you. I'm glad you're doing this project. This is a delight.

LZ: It's pretty neat to talk to people.

[End of Interview, 1:07:05]