

Spring 2009

Megaphone Spring 2009

Macalester College

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ATHLETIC DIRECTOR'S

Message

After seven months at Macalester, here is one thing I

know for sure: Our athletes are second to none when it comes to their academic accomplishments. At the last men's basketball game of the season, we recognized over 150 scholar athletes who earned academic honors based on grade point average, including three teams that are top in the nation:

- Women's Water Polo—Ranked as the #1 team in the nation among all divisions. The team's 3.54 GPA edged out Harvard, ranked #2, and Stanford, ranked #5.
- Women's Soccer—Ranked #1 among all NCAA Division III institutions and fourth highest nationally among Divisions I, II and III. Cumulative team GPA 3.62.
- Women's Softball—Received top honors for their #1 ranking in Division III. Cumulative Team GPA 3.55

Also honored for their exceptional GPAs were the men's soccer team, women's volleyball team, and both men's and women's cross country, track and field, and swimming & diving teams. For teams of 18 to 30 members to *average* these GPAs, it takes extraordinary collaboration by athletes, coaches, and faculty, and a president who reinforces the value of striving for excellence in both mind and body.

Even more remarkable, is the fact that many of the Macalester athletic teams have been nationally recognized for these amazing academic accomplishments on an annual basis for the past decade. For example, this is the *ninth* time in ten years that the women's volleyball team has

received the American Volleyball Coaches Association Team Academic Award. It is the 28th consecutive semester in which both men's and women's swimming & diving teams have earned All-Academic Honors.

Macalester student athletes are perennial academic leaders among NCAA Division III schools. The conventional wisdom is that those seeking both academic excellence and an outstanding experience in intercollegiate athletics will have to sacrifice one. But the Macalester Scots know better and they prove it year after year. Macalester student athletes want the best of both worlds; a world class education and excellence in their intercollegiate athletic experience. So wherever you find Mac students providing community service, studying abroad, engaging in the classroom, discussing the topics that face the world, or competing for the Scots, you'll find our student athletes, and we couldn't be more proud.

NEW WATER POLO

Coach

Jennie Charlesworth has assumed her position as Macalester's new head women's varsity water polo coach and assistant aquatics coordinator. She also serves as assistant swimming coach for the Macalester men's and women's teams.

Previously, Charlesworth was the head girls' water polo coach and swimming coach at St. Joseph High School in Lakewood, California, a position she has held for seven years. She also was employed as Aquatics Specialist for the city of Anaheim, California, where she oversaw the operation of three pools. Charlesworth began her swimming and polo coaching career as head coach

for the boys' program at St. John Bosco High School in 2001.

A 2001 graduate of San Jose State University, she played for the No. 5-ranked NCAA Division I program in the nation.

Charlesworth swam for the San Jose State varsity for one season before concentrating on water polo only for her final three collegiate seasons.



ALUMNI TRACK & FIELD

Meet Held

The first indoor track and field meet at Mac's new Leonard Center was the alumni meet on January 24, featuring the current members of the team competing with former Mac standouts. Alumni turnout was excellent and the facility drew rave reviews.



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STUDENT ATHLETES

Excel in the Classroom

Over the past year, several Scot teams and individual athletes have been recognized by national coaching groups and organizations for their high academic achievement. At halftime of the men's basketball game on Feb. 18, these scholar athletes were honored during the Macalester Student Athlete Recognition ceremony.



Macalester Athletic Director Kim Chandler presents the water polo team academic award to Captain Sofia Shaw '09 (center) and Coach Jennie Charlesworth, with the team standing behind them.

M CLUB ON FACEBOOK! Join Macalester M Club on Facebook! It's a great way to connect with current and past Mac athletes. Join facebook.com and search for "Macalester M Club" for all the news and views.

VANESSA SELJESKOG HONORED

on National Girls and Women in Sports Day



Macalester College Associate Athletic Director **Vanessa Seljeskog** was honored during the 23rd annual Minnesota Girls and Women in Sports Day celebration on Feb. 4 at the state capitol, where 21 athletes and sports leaders were recognized for their contributions. Seljeskog was one of four recipients of the Special Merit Award.

For more information: www.athletics.macalester.edu

BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL

Return to Campus

Due to the wider dimensions of the Leonard Center, Mac's softball team needed to find a new home away from Shaw Field. The Scots played the last two seasons at nearby Dunning Field but are now back on campus, playing on Macalester's new baseball/softball complex on the south end of campus, west of the stadium. The baseball team also

returns to its new field, just adjacent to the softball facility, following a year off campus. With the teams returning to campus, all home softball and baseball games will be webcast. Live stats will also be available. Check the Macalester athletics web page www.athletics.macalester.edu for more details.



STUDENT ATHLETE

Career Night

A student athlete career night dinner on March 5 was once again well attended. This event was designed to facilitate networking between students and alumni, and to give students an idea of what to expect after graduation.

M CLUB

Coming Events

M Club Invitationals: Remember to show your M Club card and get a free popcorn!

Sat., Apr. 4

Alumni Tennis Match

Sat., Apr. 18

Spring Sports Day

11 a.m. Women's Softball vs. Concordia
(doubleheader)

2:30 p.m. Baseball vs. St. Olaf
(doubleheader)

4 p.m. Women's Tennis vs. Gustavus

We'll serve Scot dogs between the softball and baseball games and honor attending athlete parents with "Proud Parent of a Future M Clubber" t-shirt.

Sat., Apr. 25

Macalester Invitational

9 a.m. Men's and Women's Track

9:30 a.m. Men's Tennis

Fri., June 5

Mac Hac

Oak Marsh Golf Course

Time TBD

Sat., June 6

Reunion Weekend

4:30 p.m. Alumni Awards Convocation



PRESIDENT'S

Message

Greetings M Clubbers,

The M Club has been busy this winter hosting events for our athletes, parents of athletes, and local members. We kicked off the season with our Winter Sports Day in December featuring a fundraiser to make the holiday season nicer for needy St. Paul families, distributing "Proud Parent of a Future M Clubber" t-shirts to parents of basketball players, and hosting a reception for fans in between the basketball games. Another premier event was the Alumni Track Meet in January, which brought current athletes, coaches, and M Clubbers together in the new fieldhouse. These gatherings strengthen the connection between current athletes, their families, and our membership. Thanks to everyone who made these events happen and to those who attended.

Throughout the winter it's been great to see M Clubbers attending swimming and diving competitions as well as basketball games. As former collegiate athletes, we know the difference that cheers from the stands can make. To those who came to the Leonard Center as M Club super fans, *hats off to you!* As the spring calendar gets under way, be sure to check the Macalester athletics web site to see which meet, match, or game you can make.



Lastly, I again urge everyone to show your support for athletics, recreation, and wellness at Macalester by giving a gift to the Annual Fund. Your gift not only allows the college to provide students with an outstanding education, but helps support financial aid and yes, athletics and the M Club. Let's join together to promote health, wellness, intercollegiate athletic competition, and recreation by giving to the Annual Fund.

Again I am honored to serve you.

LET'S GO MAC!

STEVE COX
M CLUB PRESIDENT

SAAC HOSTS

Hoops for Hunger Event

Macalester's Student-Athlete Advisory Council (SAAC) sponsored Hoops for Hunger Day on Jan. 31 and raised money and food for the Second Harvest Food Shelf. Fans at the basketball doubleheader between Macalester and St. Thomas donated over 100 pounds of food and \$160 in cash. This is an annual community service event organized by Macalester's

SAAC. For every \$1 donated, Second Harvest can distribute more than \$9 worth of food to those in need.



SECOND HARVEST
HEARTLAND

MACALESTER HOSTS

National Swimming & Diving Championships

Macalester College hosted the NCAA Division III men's and women's Swimming & Diving Championships at the University of Minnesota Aquatic Center March 18–21. The Scots also hosted the national meet at the U of M in 1999 and then as this year ran a successful week-long event.

SCOTS HOST

Pink Zone

On Feb. 7, the Macalester SAAC and M Club hosted Pink Zone during the women's and men's basketball games against Augsburg College, and the men's tennis match against Martin Luther College. Macalester was one of over 1,250 teams and organizations participating in the WBCA Pink Zone initiative in February, and raised over \$900 for the cause.

Donations for breast cancer research were collected during the games in the Leonard Center, with all donations going to the Minnesota chapter of Susan G. Komen for the Cure. The event included a clinic prior to the women's game, "Little Dribblers," for elementary girls in the St. Paul area and was coupled with "Take a Kid to the Game Day." The women's basketball team wore pink uniforms, and the men's tennis team wore pink t-shirts to highlight the event.



Lots of "Little Dribblers" turned out for the day's basketball clinic.



**Athletic Department
Contact Information**

Phone: 651-696-6260

Fax: 651-696-6328

**Web:
athletics.macalester.edu**

1600 GRAND AVENUE
SAINT PAUL, MN 55105-1899

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FORMER FOOTBALL PLAYER
to be Honored

On Saturday, June 6, at the Macalester Reunion, former football player Chuck Harris, M.D. '75 will receive the Catharine Lealtad Service to Society Award. Be there as Harris is recognized for his military service, his work as a medical missionary in Haiti, his mentoring of young men, and his surgical practice in southwest Virginia.

Mac Hac JUNE 5

Save the Date

The 20th annual Mac Hac golf tournament will be held Friday, June 5, at the Oak Marsh Golf Course. Mark your calendars for this fun event and check the Mac athletics web site for more details soon.



20th annual
Mac Hac
Golf Scramble

HOME ATHLETIC EVENTS FREE

Macalester home athletic events during the 2008-09 school year will be free of charge. The Athletic Department appreciates the support of alumni and neighbors, and their patience during the time of construction of the new Leonard Center.

ANNUAL ALUMNI TENNIS EVENT

Saturday, April 4

Last spring the fifth annual Mac alumni tennis event was held at the Macalester outdoor courts, right after the Macalester vs. St. Benedict match, and was again was a big success. The sixth annual alumni event will

be held April 4, 2009. For information or to sign up, please contact Mike Vidmar '89 at: mikeandsj@msn.com. Double play will be combined into the following:

- Varsity vs. Alumni (men's/women's/mixed)
- Alumni vs. Alumni (men's/women's/mixed)
- Alumni/Varsity vs. Alumni/Varsity (men's/women's)

