LETTERS

The policy of Macalester Today is to publish as many letters as possible from alumni, the primary audience of this magazine, as well as other members of the Macalester community. Exceptions are letters that personally malign an individual or are not related to issues at Macalester or contents of the magazine. Please send letters intended for publication to Letters to the Editor, Macalester Today, Public Relations and Publications Department, Macalester College, 1600 Grand Ave., St. Paul, MN 55105-1899. We reserve the right to edit letters for conciseness and clarity.

Health care

As a physician, I would like to respond to the article “Health Care: State(s) of Emergency” [May issue]. Lois Quam’s efforts to reform health care in Minnesota missed the point.

Any effort to control health care costs must address the underlying “disease.” The symptoms include defensive medical practices, high administrative costs, over-utilization, fraud and inappropriate use of health care technology.

An “anti-physician” bill, such as HealthRight, does little to treat the disease. I predict the “patients” of Minnesota will see fewer hospitals, fewer physicians, longer waiting times and less quality health care.

Alan S. Weingarden ’75
St. Paul

All-Conference

My congratulations to Jane Ruliffson ’92 for becoming Macalester’s all-time leading scorer in basketball. I had that honor for 35 years. I knew it would not last forever.

Your article stated that Jane is “Macalester’s first three-time All-Conference performer,” but should have said “for women’s athletics.”

I was a three-time All-Conference basketball player, with honorable mention my freshman year. I believe Dennis Tetu ’57 got All-Conference honors three years in football.

Gerald L. Dreier ’57
Minnetonka, Minn.

Favorite professors

As I look over my prized 1990 edition of The Great Books of the Western World, I strongly link Boswell’s Life of Johnson with Joel H. Baer’s great teaching. Joel could virtually act out the roles of the sage and eccentric Johnson and his sidekick Boswell, showing what was humorous or poignant about each and giving us a good sense of the time frame that made up their world.

I see now that the book is vast and a real joy, and I find it contains the humane values Dr. Baer assured us we would find represented there. What I especially appreciate now as I dig into the text is that Dr. Baer obviously had an intimate knowledge of the text, knew it as one would know a friend, so what I learned in 1967 rings completely true today as I work on Boswell.

That has to be a great tribute to a teacher, and I’m sure Dr. Baer’s course on Samuel Johnson would be a great one to take today.

William B. Hunt ’68
Longmont, Colo.

Dr. Emil Slowinski, chemistry, served as my adviser for four years. He instilled in me the importance of excellence in the scientific as well as the psychosocial aspects of our society.

I had fairly high aspirations in 1969 when I came to Macalester from St. Paul Central. Those were somewhat troubled times for me as well as for this nation. I believe my experience at Macalester in...
ABOUT THIS ISSUE

“Mac has changed the way that I look at myself,” says Terry Overbey '92. For a look at him and three other members of the Class of '92, turn to pages 10-14. Rebecca Ganzel, former managing editor of this magazine, interviewed the students and Greg Helgeson photographed them.

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Four seniors earn Fulbright Awards

Thomas Dohrmann '92 (Fayette, Iowa) plans to return this fall to Sierra Leone. He will spend an academic year studying the personal papers of a national hero of the small West African nation.

Dohrmann is one of four Macalester students who received prestigious Fulbright-Hays Awards this year for graduate study abroad. Since 1971, Macalester graduates have received 57 Fulbrights, including 31 in the past six years.

The other 1992 Fulbright scholars are:

- James H. Shore (Denver). He is going to Australia to do ethnographic field research into the philosophy and methods of alcoholism treatment programs targeted at the aboriginal population. He spent the summer of 1991 as an intern at the tribal alcohol treatment program on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation in Montana.

- Jenny K. Nagaoka (Chicago). A third-generation Japanese-American, she spent her junior year in Japan. She plans to return there to examine the social and academic difficulties faced by the kikokushijo—Japanese children who live abroad with their families and then must readjust to Japan and their native culture.

- Rhodri C. Williams (Fort Thomas, Ky.). He plans to study two university towns—one in the former East Germany and one in West Germany—to see how their respective governments responded to housing needs during the Cold War and what implications German reunification may have for housing policies in the U.S. and abroad. As a sophomore, he studied in Germany and Austria, and last year he did a month-long independent study of a run-down neighborhood in Cincinnati.

Dohrmann, who had a triple major in political science, international studies and African studies, spent six months in Sierra Leone in 1990–91. While studying West African history in the former British colony, he discovered valuable papers belonging to the late I.T.A. Wallace-Johnson, an early nationalist leader in Sierra Leone. The documents—poetry, essays and personal papers that contain a critical perspective on colonialism—belong to Johnson’s family and were rapidly deteriorating. Dohrmann plans to preserve, organize and write an introductory analysis to the documents, which will be stored in Sierra Leone.

After he returns from Sierra Leone, Dohrmann will attend Princeton University’s Woodrow Wilson School of International and Public Affairs, where he has received deferred admission. He intends to pursue a master’s degree in public policy studies, focusing on sub-Saharan Africa.

The Rosenberg era

Emily and Norman Rosenberg, professors of history at Macalester since 1974, received this year’s Burlington Northern Foundation Faculty Achievement Award for outstanding teaching. The Rosenberg era

Two of Macalester’s “coolest” professors, Emily and Norman Rosenberg, received the Burlington Northern Foundation Faculty Achievement Award in May. The foundation, representing the Burlington Northern Railroad, set up the awards program to recognize outstanding teaching.

Macalester's “coolest” professors, Emily and Norman Rosenberg, received the Burlington Northern Foundation Faculty Achievement Award in May. The foundation, representing the Burlington Northern Railroad, set up the awards program to recognize outstanding teaching.
Mink honored

Macalester psychology Professor Walter D. Mink has won the 1992 Teaching Excellence Award of Division Two (Teaching of Psychology) of the American Psychological Association.

Mink will receive the award Aug. 16 during the APA convention in Washington, D.C. The award winners will also be announced in the October issue of Teaching of Psychology.

Mink, who came to Macalester in 1958, was cited for his demonstrated influence in getting students interested in psychology, his development of effective teaching methods, courses and materials, and his outstanding performance as a classroom teacher.

"Walt Mink is without peer in his understanding of the individual student, the subject, himself, the school and the world," said Gerald Weiss, another Macalester psychology professor. "He is a witty, sophisticated and intelligent man who possesses unparalleled teaching skill, enormous knowledge of psychology and a profound commitment to humane values."

Jobs and Japan

It may be a sign of the times, or just a sign of Macalester's international outlook. But when Takuya Masamura '92 gave a talk at the college in February about job hunting in Japan, four of the six students who showed up to listen were Americans.

"I was expecting only Japanese students," said Masamura, one of 15 students from Japan enrolled at Macalester. The job market in Japan "is good compared to this country, but tight compared to last year's market in Japan."

Masamura, an economics and math major who plans to graduate in December, spent last January in his native country where he had job interviews with eight companies. By February, he had one certain job offer, from a supermarket chain. But his ultimate goal is to be a pilot, and he planned to take exams this spring and summer for a Japanese airline company.

Among the tips he offered to Macalester students—particularly Japanese students—looking for work in Japan:

- Start early, as much as a year before graduation.
- A high grade point average is not essential.
- Make sure you tell employers one positive thing about yourself that's unusual. "I played football for three years—that's my strong point. Not many people [in Japan] do that," said Masamura, a wide receiver at Macalester.

Give a hand to the Class of '92

Macalester's 103rd Commencement saw 450 students graduate on May 23. No one appeared more joyous than the trio at the center of this photo: Gillian C. Scott (Shorewood, Wis.), left, Alene M. Pearson (Princeton, N.J.) and Kristin L. Beckmann (Omaha, Neb.). The college also awarded honorary degrees to journalist Thomas L. Friedman and St. Paul educator Delores Henderson.
Teachers who left a mark
Six faculty members retired this year. They are:

- Roger K. Blakely, English. He was named a 1992 Distinguished Citizen by the Alumni Association board (see page 25).

- William P. Donovan, classics. Known as a lively lecturer, Donovan came to Macalester in 1966 to head the classics department, where his focus has been Greek history and language. After three years of postdoctoral study, research and excavation in Greece, he returned there several times to take part in excavations and direct the summer program of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens. He also served on the advisory committee of the American Academy in Rome. Donovan’s breadth of knowledge plus his undergraduate degree in art history and archaeology also made him a welcome addition to the art department, where he has taught medieval, classical and Renaissance art. He is past chair of the Minnesota Society of the Archaeological Institute of America and has lectured nationwide for that group. He coauthored two books on archaeology and has been editor of *Ereito*, the newsletter for classicists from ACM and GLCA colleges. An ordained Episcopal priest, he is honorary canon of the Episcopal Cathedral of St. Mark in Minneapolis and has preached in the U.S. and Great Britain.

- Allan M. Kirch, mathematics. Since joining the math department in 1966, Kirch has been an unstinting contributor to campus life. Curriculum design, committee assignments (including the curriculum committee and Faculty Advisory Council), and introduction of the computer into undergraduate education all have occupied his nonteaching hours. He was the college’s first computer expert, available for both consultation and repair when the college first began using computers. He wrote software to accommodate his department’s needs, and he built a speech synthesizer and wrote extensive software to enable a blind student to learn programming. Author of two books, including *Introductory Statistics* with FORTRAN, Kirch has developed courses in computer graphics and applied statistics as well as courses using various programming languages. Department chair Wayne Roberts said Kirch’s contributions to the department have been extensive: “Virtually every initiative I have taken in the past 20 years depended in some way on Allan Kirch.”

- W. Scott Nobles, speech communication. Throughout his 22-year career at Macalester, he has been known for his dedication to teaching, contributions to campus life and lively wit. But his reputation extends far beyond campus as one of the nation’s foremost experts on debate analysis, and he has often been called upon by national media to analyze presidential debates. Nobles came to Macalester in 1969 as Wallace professor of speech communication and director of forensics. His classes have consistently received high ratings from students. And under his guidance, the college’s debate teams have steadily ranked in the top 10 nationally and twice won national championships. In honor of Nobles’ distinguished 45-year involvement with collegiate debate programs, the Cross Examination Debate Association last spring named him “The Grand Master of Debate”—the only time it has given such an award. Says Roger Mosvick, speech communications chair, “He is the pre-eminent debate coach in the United States.”

- Karl C. Sandberg, French. During his 24 years at Macalester, Sandberg has taught French language and literature, humanities and linguistics. He has been chair of the French department, acting chair of Spanish, and coordinator of the humanities and linguistics programs. As project director for a National Endowment for the Humanities grant, he helped expand the curriculum with interdisciplinary humanities classes. He also initiated courses—taught in foreign languages by visiting international professors—in fields such as geography and economics. A respected author of texts, Sandberg has written widely in his field, most recently a lively first-year text, *Ça Marche*. In addition, he has extended the reach of humanities instruction by serving as associate director of an NEH institute that prepared high school teachers to teach humanities and as an NEH consultant to programs at several other colleges. His colleagues named him the 1992 Jefferson Award winner; department chair Virginia Schubert calls him “the best teacher I’ve ever seen.”

- Sherman W. Schultz Jr., astronomy. Schultz has helped focus national attention on Macalester and its astronomy program. Recognized as one of the leading amateur telescope builders in the U.S., he has pursued that interest since coming to the college in 1954. He has constructed much of the equipment students use, including a solar telescope and a 25-inch reflector telescope—the second largest of its kind in Minnesota—for the campus observatory. He has fostered student interest in astronomy and has supervised construction of hundreds of student-built telescopes through a popular Interim class. Trained as an optometrist, Schultz has written widely on telescope design and construction, built a 16-inch telescope for the Hibbing Community College planetarium and traveled as far as Africa to observe a solar eclipse.
Tenure granted to six

Six faculty members were given tenure in May. They are:

- Galo F. González, associate professor, Spanish. A native of Ecuador, he moved to the U.S. in 1970. He came to Macalester in 1986 from the University of California at Berkeley, where he received a Ph.D. in Hispanic literatures. Among his interests are the fiction of contemporary Latin American authors from the Andean region and creative writing, especially poetry and short stories. He is working on a book that explores the narrative discourse of contemporary Ecuadorean authors.

- Ruthanne Kurth-Schai, associate professor, education. Before coming to Macalester in 1986, she taught science in an alternative public school program for "at risk" youth and served as an adjunct professor at the University of Minnesota, where she earned her Ph.D. in social and philosophical foundations of education. Her research interests include the development of child-centered social and educational policy, and the role of education in promoting social reform.

- Linda S. Schulte-Sasse, associate professor, German. She earned her Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota in 1985. She specializes in 20th century German literature with an emphasis on German cinema, especially of the National Socialist era.

- Stan Wagon and Joan P. Hutchinson, professors, mathematics and computer science. The two, who are married, share a single position and came to Macalester in 1990 after sharing an appointment at Smith College. Wagon, who has a Ph.D. from Dartmouth, is the author of several books—most recently, Mathematica in Action and Old and New Unsolved Problems in Plane Geometry and Number Theory. Hutchinson, who has a Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania, has co-written one book and numerous research articles in graph theory.

- Karen J. Warren, associate professor, philosophy. She obtained her Ph.D. in 1978 from the University of Massachusetts and came to Macalester in 1985 from St. Olaf College. Her areas of specialization include ethics and social philosophy, environmental ethics and feminism. She has edited several publications on ecological feminism, including the ecofeminism section of a textbook on Philosophy and Ecology. Currently she is completing a co-authored book, Ecological Feminism: A Philosophical Perspective and co-editing a special issue of Hypatia: A Journal of Feminism Philosophy on feminism and peace.

For the first time in the college's history, all four officers on the board of trustees are alumni of Macalester.

Barbara Bauer Armajani '63 of St. Paul took over as chair in May, succeeding Mary Lee Dayton. The other officers are Timothy A. Hultquist '72 of New York City, vice chair; James E. Bachman '69 of Bedford, N.H., treasurer, and Doyle E. Larson '52 of Burnsville, Minn., secretary.

Book awards

Two Macalester professors won 1992 Minnesota Book Awards in April.

Jack Weatherford, anthropology, received the non-fiction award for Native Roots: How the Indians Enriched America.

Diane Glancy, English, won the poetry award for Lone Dog's Winter Count.
Bronzed again


Best in the nation

Nelson Jumbe produced the highlight of Macalester's spring sports season. The sophomore from Harare, Zimbabwe, became a national champion when he won the triple jump competition May 30 at the NCAA Division III track and field meet at Colby College in Waterville, Maine.

Jumbe, who placed second at nationals last year, won the title by leaping 51 feet, 10 inches. His figure was the third highest ever posted by a triple jumper in a Division III championship competition.

Jumbe is Macalester's first track athlete to win a national championship since Janis Raatz '88 won the women's javelin title four years ago.

Two members of the women's track team qualified for nationals following strong spring campaigns. Jen Tonkin (junior, Bellevue, Wash.) won the MIAC 10,000-meter race and went on to place 11th at the national championships, while school record-holding hurdler Karen Goodrich (senior, McMinnville, Ore.) participated in the NCAA meet in the 100-meter and 400-meter hurdles.

No Macalester softball player had batted over .400 in seven years before this season. This season, however, the Scots had a pair of .400 hitters in Susie and Leslie Plettner, sophomore twins from Des Moines, Iowa. Susie, a catcher, batted .439, while Leslie, a shortstop, hit .415. Each hit for power and played steady defense. Senior Kim Lyrek (see page 12) pitched every inning of the season, batted .366 and was named to the All-MIAC team for the third time.

Two baseball players had outstanding seasons and were named to the All-MIAC team. Outfielder Scott McKinney (sophomore, Madison, Wis.) was second in the conference with a .490 batting average, and pitcher/first baseman Chad Kienstra (junior, Muskegon, Mich.) batted .333 with four home runs in just 48 at-bats.

Three Macalester tennis players compiled winning records in singles. Peter West (junior, Fairmont, Minn.) went 14-9 at first singles for the men's team. Posting winning marks for the women's squad were Juli Stensland (senior, Austin, Minn.) at No. 1 singles and Lucy Bendova (first-year, Prague, Czechoslovakia) at No. 2.

Omodt, Ruliffson shine

Seniors Mark Omodt (Minneapolis) and Jane Ruliffson (Fargo, N.D.) were named the M Club's Male and Female Athletes of the Year in May. They will be honored Friday, Oct. 9, at the M Club's Hall of Fame banquet during Homecoming Weekend.

Omodt was a four-year starter in football on the offensive line. All-Conference as a junior and senior, he was also selected to the Academic All-America team. He also threw the discus for the track and field squad in the spring.

Ruliffson averaged 19.9 points per game for the women's basketball team and finished her career as the school's all-time leading scorer with 1,762 points. A three-time All-MIAC performer, she holds nearly every Macalester scoring, free throw and three-point shooting record. She was also Athlete of the Year for 1989-90.
Building on Strengths
College Adopts Ambitious New Strategic Plan

President Robert M. Gavin Jr. has announced several major new initiatives that seek to move Macalester well into the ranks of the nation's pre-eminent liberal arts colleges.

The initiatives made front-page news in the Minneapolis Star Tribune and St. Paul Pioneer Press when they were announced May 22 following approval by the college's board of trustees. They are the result of a strategic planning process that began last October and was organized to set the direction of the college into the next century.

Among the important planning assumptions used in the process were: Macalester will remain a residential, undergraduate liberal arts college emphasizing academic excellence, internationalism, multiculturalism and service to society; the college will maintain its need-blind admissions policy, and the college seeks a diverse faculty composed of outstanding teacher-scholars from throughout the U.S. and around the world.

Among the specific objectives approved by the trustees which the college plans to reach by the year 2000 are:

- Increase the size of the faculty from 137 (full-time equivalent) to 165 FTE. (The 20 percent expansion will bring the college's student-to-faculty ratio from 12-to-1 to 10-to-1.)
- Increase the size of the support staff from 260 FTE to 290 FTE.
- Provide every student the opportunity for an international experience prior to graduation. (Currently, 50 to 55 percent of Macalester students have an international study-abroad experience before graduation.)
- Increase the five-year graduation rate to 90 percent. (Currently, 73 percent of Macalester students graduate within five years.)
- Construct a new campus center/student union, renovate several academic and residential buildings, and expand athletic facilities. (Overall, plans call for spending more than $40 million on capital improvements during the next eight years.)
- Attract a student body which reflects the socioeconomic, racial, cultural and religious diversity of the U.S. and expand the number of international students. (Currently, international students from more than 63 countries make up 10 percent of the college's enrollment, and Gavin has proposed increasing that to 20 percent. Likewise, the 1991 incoming class was 15 percent U.S. minority students, and in accord with demographic projections that will increase to about 30 percent.)

"We feel fortunate that Macalester is able to move forward confidently during very uncertain times in higher education," Gavin said. "These new initiatives will make Macalester even better by building on the college's already strong traditions of academic excellence, internationalism, diversity and service."

As part of the planning process, the college has spent the last year gathering ideas and information from students, faculty, staff, alumni and trustees. In addition to alumni representation on the Strategic Planning Committee, alumni have been involved through a nationwide series of "Alumni Soundings" meetings, which began last November and will continue this fall.

Various proposals for structuring the 28 new faculty positions are still being discussed. Gavin has proposed hiring 10-12 visiting distinguished international professors to spend one to two years on campus. The increased number of international faculty members will add depth to the international aspects of the curriculum and give the college increased flexibility in educating students for a global society and marketplace, he said.

The new faculty, Gavin added, are also needed to implement the most comprehensive academic reforms at Macalester in more than 30 years. An enhanced curriculum, which was approved by the college faculty last December and will take effect in 1993-94, will increase classroom hours by 20 percent, require proficiency in a second language and
include a senior capstone experience to enable students to more thoroughly integrate their four years of learning.

The new campus center initiative grew out of a recommendation by the Strategic Planning Committee to enhance the sense of community on campus and to centralize and expand space for the college's international, multicultural and community service programs. The new center will also likely include expanded dining facilities and performance space. Gavin said the center will provide a strong architectural statement of the college's historic commitments to internationalism, multiculturalism and service, similar to the way that the DeWitt Wallace Library, completed in 1988, provides an architectural statement of the college's commitment to academic excellence.

Construction projects already under way or planned at the college during the next two years include: a $5.5 million two-story addition and other renovation to the Humanities wing of the Janet Wallace Fine Arts Center; a $3.6 million renovation of Old Main; a $1 million renovation of Rice Hall of Science (financed by foundation grants), and more than $2 million in improvements to athletic facilities and residence halls. Additional projects will be developed during the next eight years.

The new initiatives are possible in part because of increased income from the college's endowment. Macalester has the largest endowment of any undergraduate liberal arts college, with a market value of more than $450 million, including more than $320 million in the DeWitt Wallace Fund for Macalester College. The fund is an independent support organization based in New York City. DeWitt Wallace, who founded the Reader's Digest and whose father, James Wallace, served as Macalester's president from 1894 to 1906, gave the college Reader's Digest Association stock valued at about $10 million before his death in 1981. The stock is now worth more than $300 million, making his gift one of the largest ever given to any college or university.

Income earned by the endowment supported $12.8 million of the college's total 1991-92 budget (operating and capital); that same figure is expected to increase to $15.5 million in 1992-93, with larger increases anticipated in subsequent years. College budget forecasts estimate that budget income from the endowment will reach approximately $32 million by the year 2000.

Although income from the college's endowment is substantial, it won't pay for all of the new initiatives. To help fund the improvements, Gavin said, the college will seek to increase alumni and other private support to the college from the current $5.5 million per year to $11 million annually by the year 2000.

The college has begun working on specific ways to accomplish all of the new initiatives, Gavin said. •

Major goals of strategic plan

□ Add 28 new faculty and 30 new staff
□ Give every student the opportunity for an international experience
□ Increase five-year graduation rate to 90 percent
□ Build a new campus center/student union, renovate several buildings and expand athletic facilities
□ Increase U.S. minority and international students

Assumptions behind strategic plan

Macalester will:
□ remain a liberal arts college emphasizing academic excellence, internationalism, multiculturalism and service
□ maintain need-blind admissions
□ seek a diverse faculty from throughout the U.S. and the world
Global Community: A Vision of Macalester in 30 Years

by Robert M. Gavin Jr.

The following is adapted from President Gavin’s remarks to the Macalester Board of Trustees on April 3.

In any strategic planning process, the most difficult aspect is to remember that the purpose of the process is to bring into focus the vision of the institution and to identify the key elements necessary to accomplish that vision. Since I asked the Strategic Planning Committee to devote much of its time to the vision, it is only fair for me to provide my vision of the future.

Let us assume that we are at Macalester on March 5, 2024. That date will be the 150th anniversary of the granting of Macalester’s charter. Let’s take a trip into the future to see what the sesquicentennial celebration might look like.

The opening ceremony is being held in the Macalester Center, built in the 1990s to be a strong architectural statement of Macalester’s themes of internationalism, multiculturalism and service. In the auditorium of Mac Center, the president of the college, Maria Gutierrez, is introducing Zhu Di, secretary-general of the United Nations, as the keynote speaker.

Both President Gutierrez and Secretary-General Zhu graduated from Macalester in the Class of 2004. President Gutierrez completed her doctorate at the University of California-Berkeley, where she continued a distinguished career in her field of Latin American history. Secretary-General Zhu majored in political science and, after graduate work in international affairs at Georgetown University, entered the foreign service in his home country, China.

The address of the secretary-general will serve as a prologue for the three major themes for the Sesquicentennial Symposia: (1) environmental problems of the next decade; (2) cooperation between major trading blocs to bring about more equitable sharing of world wealth; and (3) intercultural dialogues to promote better understanding of the contributions from the peoples of the world. Macalester alumni who have played major roles in these fields have been invited to campus to give presentations and to discuss ways to solve these problems.

The secretary-general’s address will be heard by students and faculty gathered in the auditorium, and also carried live to students and faculty worldwide through satellite conferencing. About 25 percent of the current students come from outside the United States, representing many of the major ethnic and religious traditions of the world. Students from the U.S. come from varied socioeconomic, ethnic and religious backgrounds. The faculty on campus are outstanding teacher-scholars with broad international experience.

Wallace International Faculty, who now number 300, are linked to the campus through satellite conferencing. These faculty members are from universities around the world and have all spent one or two years on the Macalester campus in St. Paul working with Macalester faculty and students. Since returning to their universities, they have hosted Macalester students as visiting scholars. Macalester’s state-of-the-art communications system will allow campus participants to interact with those around the world, whether they are in London, Tokyo or Paris, or are working on projects such as ancient civilizations along the Silk Road or ecological developments in the tropical rain forests of Costa Rica.

The Sesquicentennial Symposia are modeled on the Ivey Symposia, named after Provost Emerita Elizabeth Ivey, which have been held at Macalester for more than 30 years. Symposia dialogues are carried out in several languages, with English serving as the lingua franca. With the discovery by leading colleges in the 1990s of the importance of internationalism and multicultural education, Macalester has become known worldwide as a leader in 21st century education. The campus is not a "peaceable kingdom," but there is a strong sense of community and an active intellectual atmosphere.

Macalester’s curriculum emphasizes both depth and breadth. Courses, like the Symposia, are taught in many languages, with English as the lingua franca. Each student completes a two-part senior thesis which culminates his/her studies—a research-quality paper in the student’s major field and an extensive essay on an important aspect of a culture other than the student’s own. The thesis is defended in May before a committee of faculty.

Macalester graduates are known as persons who can think clearly, who have had both an in-depth major and a broad education in cultures, and as persons who are self-educating. They assume leadership roles in society—in education, business, public service, social services and professions—and are responsible citizens wherever they live. Most importantly, they are proud of their Macalester degree and strongly supportive of the college.
There are no 'typical' students at Macalester.
Each brings something special, and each grows in his or her own way.
This spring, four seniors talked about their lives before and at Macalester.
The words are their own, condensed from interviews
with writer Rebecca Ganzel.
Alexander (Alex) Mutebi

Hometown: Kampala, Uganda
Major: Philosophy and international studies; graduated in May
Age: 24

Macalester activities: Organizer of International Geography Program, which arranges for Macalester students to speak about their international experiences in the public schools; internship with Minnesota Lawyers International Human Rights Committee; resident assistant for two years; wrote honors thesis about discrepancies in U.S. refugee-asylum law; winner of Sherman Prize in fiction for short story "The Prayer Rug"

Career plans: Has one-year research fellowship at Indiana University's Center on Philanthropy, after which he hopes to attend law school in the U.S. before returning to Uganda

"He is a diplomat. He's gentle. He has enormous integrity. I would vote for him for president of the world."

— Lynne Ackerberg, foreign student program coordinator, Macalester International Center

My mom always told me, "People don't want to listen to your dark side. People will run away if you dwell on these things." But I grew up in poverty—poverty like you've never known. One meal per day, sometimes. There was a war with Tanzania, then a guerrilla war. Between 1971 and 1985, more than 300,000 people were killed in Uganda by different governments.

Under Idi Amin, we had a kakistocracy—government by the worst citizens. These were soldiers with grade-school educations who had taken power. My dad was not a politician; he was just the governor of the central bank. He had gone to school both at New York University and at Yale, way back in the '50s. And, when Idi Amin came to power, they told my father to print more money because there was a lot of military spending. Economics doesn't work that way; you don't just print more money! He refused.

And that's how he was killed. I was 4. He had just gotten me from kindergarten. There were two cars waiting for us in front of our house. They lifted me out of the car and dropped me at the gate, and took my father away. My mother was upstairs watching. I didn't know what was going on. We never saw him again, but it is certain that he was killed.

Life was never the same after my dad was killed. While he was alive, we were, I would say, really affluent. I can tell by looking at the pictures. But after that, we lost everything, and my mom was just a churchmouse—poor. I remember crying almost every day, because my mom was crying. When I was growing up, every time she made some savings, someone would steal it.

I have one older sister, and two younger brothers. My youngest brother, Joseph, never knew my dad; my mom was pregnant when our dad was killed. In Uganda, religious rivalries cut across ethnic ties. Both my parents are Baganda, which is the largest tribe in Uganda. I went to the "best" Catholic school, the one that churns out the politicians there. At one time, I was going to go into the priesthood myself. But I changed my mind. Now, I consider myself very spiritual, but not religious anymore.

Like many international students, I'm under pressure to study something practical. When I first came here, I planned to major in economics. Then, during my sophomore year, I thought, "Do I really like this? I want to study things that move me." I became a philosophy major by accident. I like the way that studying philosophy makes me think—more analytically. I proceed from A to B very logically. In general, though, the world doesn't move in a logical way. You've got politics, which is very emotive, and advertising, which plays on our desires.

I'm definitely going to grad school in the United States after I leave college, if I can get the money somewhere. I'd gotten into law school in Uganda—which would have been free—when I got [Dean of Admissions] Bill Shain's letter and decided to come to Macalester. I've really loved this place. It's shaped me. My interest in international politics has been strengthened here; I've been able to live things that, growing up, I only read about in books.

In grad school, I probably will have to study something different from philosophy. Something like law or government. I need to go into something that makes money. I mean, there's no Social Security in Uganda, and my mom has sacrificed her all—for my sister, for my brothers and for me. I have to pay her back, so she can have a comfortable life at the end. It's an obligation I will never forfeit.
Kimberly (Kim) Lyrek

Hometown: Maple Plain, Minn.
Major: English; graduated in May
Age: 22

Macalester activities: Pitcher on softball team; forward/off-guard on basketball team; work-study job as trainer for football team; two off-campus jobs; an independent study on how female athletes are portrayed in American magazines
Career plans: "My mother's question!" After working a year or so, would like to get her teaching and coaching certificates

I'm a small country-town girl, and I didn't think I'd like the city when I came here. I love animals, and I love being outdoors. But here you've got the river, and I've had a car since I was 16. I used to think the drive home was far, but it's only 45 minutes west. I do it all the time now.

My father's family is all Catholic farmers, except for him and two of his brothers. My dad works in construction, with heavy machinery. My brother, Paul, and I—he's at St. Cloud Tech—are the first people in our family to go on to college.

It's really hard, coming from a small town. I have many good black friends here at Macalester, and I've always been really open about things, but a lot of people in my hometown bother me with their narrow attitudes. We don't have anyone who lives there who's black. In the bar where I work summers, they'll say stuff. It drives me nuts.

My younger sisters play softball, and they're both pitchers like me. But they're not as into sports as I am. I play two sports here. In softball, I've always been the pitcher, because I can't throw overhand. (Laughs.) I'm strong enough that I can get the job done, but it isn't pretty.

At Macalester, I often pitch doubleheaders, which takes a lot out of you. It's more mentally than physically exhausting. There was this one game against Augsburg this spring that we lost 13-0, and I walked people in, which I never do. I thought, "How am I going to pitch another game?" But there was no choice, because there was no one else. I thought, "There's hope—anything can happen." (Laughs.) We still lost, but not by as much.

Sports are frustrating here because people don't follow you unless you're successful. The other team usually has more people than us, no matter how far away they're from. My parents pretty much come to every game, though. I'm really glad I went some place where I can play, where I'm not just sitting on the bench. We do get tired, but we learn that there's more than winning. I'm still fiercely competitive, but now I'm more realistic.

My best single moment in sports at Macalester was in basketball two seasons ago—beating St. Thomas. We were the only Division III team to beat them, and they went on to win the national championship. It was the second time we'd played them, and they'd killed us the first time. But the day we beat them, we did everything right: great defense, slicing down their big people. A major team effort.

It was never a question whether I was going to go to college or not. My parents have always been very supportive. Though now they kind of worry about what I'm going to do. Every time I'm home, it's, "What are you going to be?"

I've always, always loved reading. I don't like writing. But I like analyzing. At home, in the summer, I'd lock myself in my room and read until 3 o'clock at night. Last year, I took an existentialism class, and I found it really interesting—Kafka, Camus, The Brothers Karamazov. I'd never read that type of book before.

But I've always been intrigued by things and people that are different. Coming from a high school where everyone's the same, I like meeting foreign students and people from different states. My roommate is from Little Rock, Arkansas, and three of my resident assistants have been from different countries. You get different accents, different perspectives. I've become a lot more accepting.

Before Macalester, I used to be a real wimp. I'm still not really into politics, though I have a lot of the beliefs I was raised with. I'm Catholic and I was adopted, so I'm pro-life, though I can understand how abortion might be the right choice for someone else. I don't force my opinions on other people, but if something really offends me, I'll speak out. You've got to learn to listen and be open.

'She's a smart and heady player—a self-made athlete. Whatever she does, she goes at it full tilt.'
—John Hershey, women's basketball coach
Terrence (Terry) Overbey

Hometown: Minneapolis (at 16, moved to Cleveland Heights, Ohio)
Major: Psychology; graduates in December
Age: 28
Macalester activities: Resident assistant in Dupre; tennis team sophomore and junior years; writing honors thesis on how Euro-American images affect self-concepts of African-Americans
Career plans: Ph.D. in clinical psychology, then possibly college teaching

My father was black, and my mother was a full-blooded Indian—the Tohono O’Odham or “Papago” tribe, in Arizona. I think of myself in terms of both racial identities. Growing up, I wasn’t aware of any racial tension, even though we were the only black family in Kenwood [south Minneapolis] for a long time.

My parents split up when I was 11, before I was fully aware of the differences between people’s cultural backgrounds. By the time I was ready to need this information, when I was just turning 16, my father died.

He died of heart disease, but I think what really killed him was himself. He became a very bitter man. My mother was an alcoholic, and after they divorced, she abandoned the mother role and the housewife role and was in the alcoholic role for the rest of her life. That killed her. My father was an idealist, but he was a black man in a white society, raising three kids on an extremely limited income. Those pressures—they’re real pressures. And he responded by becoming more dejected and more bitter.

Up to the point that I came to Macalester, I would describe myself as a loser. I dropped out of high school at 17 and never graduated. From then until I was 22, I lived to drink. That was all I did from the time I got up until I passed out. Every day.

How I got out of that way of living sounds really strange, but I swear to God it’s true. One evening, I woke up after drinking all day, and I put on my shoes to go get some more beer. I was standing at the top of the stairs and I heard this voice, or something, This thought. It kept on echoing in my mind: “I can’t do this anymore.” It didn’t sound like my voice. I remember becoming more and more frightened. Finally, I screamed it as loud as I could: “I can’t do this anymore!”

And that was the last time I took a drink. The next morning I got out the Yellow Pages and looked for a treatment center. The last one I tried was the county hospital. The guy said, “We won’t have a spot for you for three weeks.” I said, “In three weeks I’ll be dead.” They asked me to come down that afternoon.

What was that voice? For me, it was God. A miracle. Something besides myself intervened. I know I would have been dead in three weeks.

Vic—he was younger than me, but he’d been sober longer—was what they call my sponsor. We were in the car once, and all of a sudden he blurts out, “What’s your dream? What’s your dream?” I was really embarrassed, but I said, “OK. My dream is to be a psychologist.” He told me what I needed to do to get there. I got into Cleveland State University, and when that wasn’t challenging enough for me, I transferred to Macalester at the end of my freshman year.

I’ve always had an interest in psychology. Why do people do what they do? And why do I do what I do? And, more than that, I figured it was a good way to serve people, to make a difference.

But by the time I got here, I still didn’t know a whole lot about the world and about myself. I was very limited in how I interacted with people. I was good at hiding out, being afraid and getting my way by manipulating people. Macalester taught me how to deal with being a black American in a white society—and how to look past all that stuff when I need to and connect with somebody as a human being. I learned how to be responsible. We’re talking about simple things, like how to be a friend.

Mac has changed the way that I look at myself. It’s taught me how to find out about me, essentially. I didn’t realize how much I was limited until I came here. I’m indebted to the people at Mac who helped me learn these lessons. I honestly believe I couldn’t have learned them anywhere else.
Allison Mitchell
Hometown: Vaughn, Wash.
Major: Math; graduates in January
Age: 21
Macalester activities: Work-study job as preceptor in math department; past chair of Macalester chapter of Amnesty International; oboist in woodwind quintet and trio; did math research last summer at Worcester (Mass.) Polytechnic Institute, funded by National Science Foundation; planned to spend this summer doing research at Oregon State under another NSF-funded program
Career plans: After a semester studying math in Budapest, Hungary, plans to graduate from Macalester in January, then work toward Ph.D. in math; “I hope to become a professor eventually”

I grew up in a little town. My mom teaches kindergarten—she just graduated from college herself my freshman year—and my dad is now a middle-school principal. He’s always been really into math. I think he wanted either my brother or me to be an engineer.

Women just don’t go into science generally—there’s a lot of discouragement. I took calculus in high school from a teacher who wouldn’t even call on girls in the classroom. Even though I was doing really well in his class, he told me there was no way I could succeed in math.

I was pretty much ready to chuck it all when I came to Mac. But I retake Calculus I here, and then I figured I might as well finish the sequence and take Calc II. That was how I ended up in [instructor] Jean Probst’s class. She’s a really good teacher—almost grandmotherly in the way she teaches—and she cares a lot about her students.

Math is considered a science here at Mac, and in most places, but after a while it becomes more like philosophy. My area is pretty much theoretical. I’ve done a lot of work in something called “domination,” which is part of graph theory. And there’s a related subject called “bondage,” which of course everyone finds very funny. At Worcester Polytechnic Institute, I did my research in domination and bondage, trying to find new proofs and new theorems. You look at examples, you create examples, and then you sit and figure out, “Well, what if I did this—or this?” You’re trying to discover the rules on which the mathematical universe is built.

And once you think you’ve found the pattern, you have to prove that the pattern always works. You’re looking for something definite. One guy I worked with kept saying, “It’s solid! It’s solid!” I like the idea that you can completely prove something is true by using rational thought.

I started playing the oboe in sixth grade. I had to teach myself, really, since there aren’t many oboists out there in small-town Washington. There’s definitely a mental connection between music and mathematics. Maybe it’s that music and math both have a lot of basic recurring patterns that you look for and analyze. Or rhythm—I like counting rhythm.

I also do a little bit of Amnesty International stuff. I worked with a really intense Amnesty group in high school where we “adopted” a prisoner of conscience in Syria. Everyone in my group wrote one letter a week—to the president, the minister of transportation, everyone in the Syrian government—demanding the prisoner’s release. And you send small CARE packages once in a while, like a comb in one package, a bar of soap in another. You just hope that something might get through. At the start of the Persian Gulf War, Syria released 20 prisoners of conscience as a nice little gesture towards the United States, and ours was one of them. Ironically, because of the war, I don’t know what happened to him.

Macalester has given me a different perspective. Believe it or not, it’s made me more conservative politically. In high school, I was much more liberal in reaction against the conservative people around me. Here, I’ve learned to listen to people, because they listen to me.

And the people here are really nice. I’m especially glad I got to know [Professor] Joan Hutchinson. We have a very friendly relationship that goes beyond just working together—I’m a preceptor in her class, and I babysat her cat, Milo, over Thanksgiving break. She gives me hope whenever I’m down in the dumps about my major. Every once in a while you get the feeling that you don’t understand math at all, and you start wondering if you’re good enough to be a math major. She lets you know that this time of confusion will pass.

‘She’s a very strong student who pursues her studies inside and outside the classroom with energy and enthusiasm’
— Joan Hutchinson, mathematics and computer science professor
About 1,100 alumni, family members and friends—a record number—returned to campus June 5–7 for Reunion Weekend. Our photographers captured a few moments from three special days.

Left: The 60th Reunion luncheon brought together (from left) Dorothy Neibel Whitson '31, Stanley J. McComb '27 and James M. Brack '47. Above: Enjoying a moment before the Class of '87 dinner were (from left) Gavin Patterson (husband of Sarah E. Kopf '87), Wendy M. Lissick '87, Durjoy Mazumdar '86 (husband of Rachelle Gardner Mazumdar '87) and Barbara Bolstarff '87. Bottom left: Roger A. Hultgren '42, standing, and James C. Harris '42 at the Class of '42 brunch. Bottom right: Twin sisters Sally Watkins Dennis '52, left, and Hally Watkins Tenney '52, center, talk with Ruth Chalsma Ranum '52 before their class dinner.
Top left: Peter H. Latson '82 and Catherine Johnstone Latson '82 enjoyed a family picnic during the big Reunion picnic with their sons William (in dad's lap) and Benjamin. Above: Ann Mills Leitze '53, left, and Mardene Asbury Eichhorn '53 at the Heritage Society dinner, which kicked off the weekend. Left: Barbara Owen Schwartz '67 was one of those who attended “Everything You Always Wanted to Know About the Class of ’67,” a discussion of the class survey. So was Steven D. Johnson '67, right.

Right: An informal get-together at Alumni House reunited these members of the Class of '67 (from left): Kristen Acker Lund, Timothy M. James, Pat Whitney Erskine, Tracy Donaldson Mannikko, Mary Rondeau Westra and James B. Early. The Class of '67 raised $38,553, from 48 percent of the class, as its 25th Reunion gift to Macalester.
Macalester is striving to build a stronger relationship with its alumni of color, and many of them returned to campus during Reunion Weekend for a special gathering. Lower left: James E. Carlson '86 (center) makes a point during a discussion on how Macalester can recruit more students of color and how alumni of color can be involved both in that process and in the college as a whole. Listening are (from left) Karol L. Parker '77, Masashi Nagadoi '87, Nelson H. Soken '86 (seated) and Jim's wife, Peggy Evans-Carlson.

Below: More participants in the discussion. Top left: Henrietta Bonaparte Ridley '32, attending her 60th Reunion, talks with another alumna. Top right: Kim E. Walton '79 shares a laugh with Anthony Gully '77.

Left: Hildegard Johnson, professor emerita of geography, was honored during Reunion by the geography department, which she founded and built during her 28 years at Macalester. The seminar room in Carnegie Science Hall was dedicated as the "Hildegard Binder Johnson Seminar Room." It will eventually have a bronze plaque near the door and a glass case inside to hold some of her books, papers, maps and photographs. Psychology Professor Gerald Weiss, left, was among the colleagues, alumni and friends who gathered to pay tribute.
Right: Louise Heinemann Havlik '42 and her husband, Quentin F. Havlik '41, at the Class of '42 brunch. Below: The Class of '42 brunch was hosted by Betty Flad Tiffany '42 and her husband, Frank Tiffany, at their St. Paul home. The Class of '42 raised $11,232, from 90 percent of the class, for its 50th Reunion gift to the college. Below right: Members of the Class of '87 examine the class booklet. They are Joseph Smith II, Gail A. Brown, Troy E. Wilderson and Phyllis J. Cohen.

Left: Sports at Macalester was the subject of a discussion featuring (from left) Kenneth Andrews '72 (the college's athletic director), Stephen Cox '76, Scott McCallum '72, Karen K. Moen '88 and Karen J. Houghton '89.
"Paving the Way," a panel discussion, brought together five alumnae who have made a mark in the fields of journalism, law, science, health and art. They are (clockwise from top left) Eleanor Ostman Aune '62, staff columnist and food writer for the St. Paul Pioneer Press; Harriet M. Lansing '67, the first woman judge in the history of Ramsey County; June Lomnes Dahl '52, a professor of pharmacology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison who has won numerous teaching awards; Ruth DeBeer Stricker '57, who is known for her work in promoting wellness and who founded The Marsh, a health center in Minnetonka, Minn.; and Cecile Ryden Johnson '37, an artist known for her watercolors, serigraphs and limited editions.

Left: Members of the Class of '64, armed with noisemakers and balloons, joined in celebrating their 50th birthdays. It was the Class of '64 which started the tradition of 25-year reunion gifts to the college. Above: John F. Hansen '52 addresses the class dinner. The Class of '52 raised $26,728, from 44 percent of the class, for its 40th Reunion gift to the college.
Right: Mario Lee '87, husband of Francene Young Lee '88, with their daughter, Patrice, at the picnic. Below: Andrew Nagel Gockel '87 (husband of Lizabeth Nagel Gockel '86) holds son Sam as he talks with Ruth Bixler Gregory '82. Below right: The 1992 Distinguished Citizens and Alumni Service Award recipient were all honored at the president's award dinner. They are (from left): Kathryn Huenemann Habib '69, Eric H. Clamons '42, Frederick M. Coates Jr. '42, Lowell A. Gess '42, Patricia Lanegran Kane '47 and Roger K. Blakely '43. For more on the award winners, see the Class Notes section.

Right: Acclaimed choral director Dale Warland returned to Macalester, where he began his notable career, to direct the Alumni Concert Choir in a Sunday morning service in Weyerhaeuser Memorial Chapel. Among those taking part in the choir was Lynn Wagenhals Hodulik '70, left.
The Sweet Kiss of Freedom in the Frozen Land

by Naveed Alam

Azad was born in the ghetto of a city called Kaiynat. His parents named him Ghulam, but he named himself Azad, an unknown name in the city. His childhood was spent listening to rap, reggae, raga and Rossini. Probably it was the influence of music or the works of Rousseau, Rilke and Rushdie which he read in his teens that led him to declare his love for Azadi. His parents and friends tried to convince him there was no such thing as Azadi. Eventually, sick of his importunate demand, they decided to send him away.

In Shakespeare's most famous play, the grave-digger tells us Hamlet was sent to England because, "There the men are as mad as he." For similar reasons, Azad boarded a plane to America.

His unending search for Azadi brought him to a colossal Statue in New York City. He walked round and round the Statue, hoping to get a glimpse of his Azadi. While sitting under the lonely symbol of liberty, a stranger in a foreign land searching for something he had never seen, he heard the Statue whisper, "Go to the chosen land."

Call it a misunderstanding on Azad's part—English was not his first language—or the hand of Providence, Azad thought he heard, "Go to the frozen land." So, he came to Minnesota and Macalester College.

At Macalester he came across brown, yellow, black and white men and women speaking different languages. He had never seen such a diverse range of colors. Finding some on each other's arms, he inquired, "Are you guys acting for the United Colors of Benetton's commercial?"

"No, stupid, we are posing for Macalester's admissions brochure." What was Macalester? Why was he here? Was he at the right place? What did Azadi have to do with this strange place? All these questions circled our Azad's head. After watching what in American terms could be described as a cheesy display of diversity, he was truly surprised when he stepped into Kagin Commons. Here he saw Greeks talking to Turks, Pakistanis and Indians joining tables, the white and black South Africans laughing together, and the Jews and the Muslims having a good time. In the real world, things weren't supposed to happen this way.

A quiet and shy Azad, always told to keep his mouth shut, obey and listen, entered the classes. The opposite was demanded of him there. Hesitantly in the beginning and vociferously later, Azad started to express opinions and ideas which he had never dared to utter before. He came across teachers who taught about this civilization, bastion of capitalism, with a Marxist twist, without the fear of censure by the McCarthyites; who simplified Western thought in their down-to-earth language; who might have been Jewish, but helped him find his Islamic roots.

The more he learned from his teachers and the longer he stayed at Macalester, the more he came to understand the words long forgotten in his language. Azadi, which he fell in love with at home, was the word for freedom; the name given him by his parents and society, Ghulam, meant slave; and his self-given name, Azad, meant free: words and their true meanings, omitted in the dictionaries of his land by the guardians of thought who feared losing their monopolies over truth. Azad also discovered that since he belonged to Kaiynat or the Universe, his ghetto could have been any place where dictators, dearth and disease threatened his beloved freedom. Free of any particular nationality and color, he could claim to be a resident of Harlem, the Indian reservations, the slums of Calcutta or the poverty-stricken sections of San Salvador. Search for Azadi was a remembrance of long-forgotten words, and Macalester was the right place.

Freedom, as Azad came to know it, was found not in the grandiose monuments, not in the enviable political institutions of this nation, but within the walls around him. It was here that he felt the sweet kiss of freedom and redeemed his love. In the words of Nehru, "A moment comes which comes but rarely in history, when we step out from the old to the new; and when the soul... long suppressed, finds utterance." This was Azad's moment.

Today is our moment, too, because the story of Azad is the story of each one of us. We came here from Morocco and Minnesota, Occident and Orient, with a personal baggage of words and ideas to be explored. We leave today carrying our own guides of self-discovered meanings.

When we step into the new, our mettle will be tested by how strongly we hold to our dreams and meanings. In the outside world they will tell Azad his words are archaic. They will tell us our meanings are naive, our dreams too idealistic, too inconsistent with the harsh realities of the so-called real world.

In the face of it all, let us learn to say: Dare, still to dare, ever to dare.

Naveed Alam '92, who majored in both history and international studies, graduated with honors. He is from Jhelum, Pakistan. This article is adapted from his Senior Prize Essay, "Remembrance of Words Forgotten," which he read at the Class of '92 Commencement on May 23.
LETTERS continued from inside front cover

general, and specifically under the guidance of Dr. Slowinski, helped me to raise my aspirations to a level that allowed me to become very successful in later years.

Joel S. Prawer '73
St. Petersburg, Fla.

Emil Slowinski presided over his chemistry classes with a twinkle in his eye, but with the understanding that science is a serious undertaking. His rigorous understanding of physical chemistry was daunting to us neophytes. However, his patient, good-humored explanations slowly opened our eyes to the world of advanced science.

Dr. Slowinski made a point of getting to know each of us as individuals, and he has continued that interest long after graduation. I am indebted to him for imparting his love and knowledge of science, for his friendship and for showing me that scientists can be wonderful, warm, humanistic individuals.

Hal Holte '73
Spokane, Wash.

The first day that I met Gerald Weiss, professor of psychology, I noticed the three large poster-photographs that hang in his office — of Freud, Einstein and Russell.

On that first day Jerry talked to me about Franz Brentano and Edmund Husserl, among others who were completely foreign to me. But there was something about his style that captured me. Although I could not articulate it then, I was able to sense that when Jerry discussed the ideas of these various individuals — he talked about intellectual issues — he was sharing an intimate part of himself. It was Jerry’s ability to reach into the high clouds of abstraction through the roots of his own heart that touched and inspired me as a student.

The discussions we shared included psychology, logic, mathematics, religion, music, physics and sociology, among others. Generally, after I had studied a subject for several years on my own, I would recall a comment that Jerry had made in passing and realized that Jerry clearly understood what the fundamental issues of the subject were and how those issues related to one another.

But it was not merely the range and depth of Jerry’s discussions with his students that is so impressive. It is the distance he will go to help a student. Jerry Weiss, like many other fine professors at Macalester, views the educational process as an attempt to facilitate the autonomy of the student. What Jerry emphasizes in his classes is helping students to find facts and interpretations on their own rather than accepting facts and interpretations from some authority.

Lawrence A. Brier '82
St. Paul

It was with great sorrow that I read in the February issue that former physics professor Edward N. Strait Jr. passed away on Nov. 12, 1991.

I first met Dr. Strait in the fall of 1966, when I came to Macalester from Athens, Greece, to major in physics. Dr. Strait was a superb teacher, a well-known scientist and a very kind man. I was always impressed by his willingness to take the time to explain to a frustrated freshman, who could hardly speak English, the intricacies of modern physics.

In 1967, I managed to get enough courage to walk into his office and ask whether I could do my honor thesis with him in the Accelerator Laboratory that he had established. To my greatest surprise, he smiled and agreed. He and I spent long hours in the physics machine shop during the summer of 1967, manufacturing a target chamber out of a steel cooking pot that we purchased for $15.

He led by example. He worked 60 to 70 hours a week. He never criticized my many mistakes, but always praised the few successes. He taught me the most valuable lesson that I keep on repeating to my students at the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Medicine: “Science is 99 percent perspiration and 1 percent inspiration, so work hard and you will be successful.”

He also taught me the importance of being the first one to criticize my own work and being totally unbiased in interpreting the results of scientific data.

Twenty-five years later, I still vividly remember the excitement of the first late-night experiment when the deuteron beam from the neutron generator bombarded the carbon target, safely housed inside our homemade cooking utensil. The excitement of performing an original experiment stayed with me and truly inspired me to become an experimental scientist.

I last saw Dr. Strait 10 years ago, during a brief visit to Macalester. He was working in the usual place, the newly renovated Accelerator Laboratory, with another physics student. “It is good that you are here” he said, “we need another pair of hands.”

Sadis Matalon '70
Birmingham, Ala.

My memories of Dr. Armajani are very fond, since my 87-year-old father was his high school teacher in Iran in the 1930s at a Presbyterian mission school in Tehran.

Dr. Armajani was my history adviser. He tried to explain to me how to approach philosophy of history so it wouldn’t sound like a foreign language. Like my own father, he would present an issue or problem so it would be a learning experience. As a guest at his home on weekends, I recall gatherings of students in 1962–63 to talk of problems in Iran. I grew up with Persian rugs on our floors, but I was in awe of the pure silk Persian carpet that graced the entry wall.

One humorous event was his stern response (in look only) when, during a formal dinner, he discovered the two dozen strips of Scotch tape I had left stuck hanging out from the dining room table, forgotten after taping together an art project for Anthony Caponi, another favorite teacher of mine. He exclaimed, “What is this?” I meekly explained.

In 1987, I visited Dr. Armajani and his wife, Ruth, in San Diego and was delighted to discuss with him world concerns as well as proud to see my dad’s signature on the high school diploma in his study.

Sara Hoffman Aeikens '63
Albert Lea, Minn.

I read the articles on Dr. Ward and “Wild Bill” Thompson, two of my professors. I, too, shared the experiences described and have enjoyed savoring the memories.

Joyce Ziwisky Pohl '58
Chicago
A Nice Place to Fall Back On

Dates to remember this fall:

Leadership Weekend, Friday-Sunday, Sept. 18-20
Alumni leaders plan for the coming year.

Homecoming and Parents Weekend, Friday-Sunday, Oct. 9-11
Parents and alumni are special guests.
The weekend includes the M Club banquet and induction into the Athletic Hall of Fame, football and soccer games, a theater presentation, a mini-college with faculty and much more.

For more information, call the Alumni Office, (612) 696-6295.