Prominent, longtime Macalester soccer coach John Leaney retired from coaching at the conclusion of the 2009 season. While he will remain on staff part-time in the area of recruiting, he has decided to retire from coaching to devote more time to raising his four-year-old son Jack. John’s wife Carrie passed away from cancer three years ago, and he has decided that full-time coaching takes too much time away from his family.

“Raising a four-year-old requires a great deal of energy, as does coaching a college team full time. Right now, my son is the most important thing in my life and he deserves my undivided attention,” said Leaney.

Coach Leaney came to Macalester as head men’s soccer coach in 1986 and he subsequently took control of the women’s program, which won the NCAA Division III national championship in 1998 and finished second the following year. He gave up his men’s coaching duties to concentrate on the women’s team in 2006.

In recognition of his outstanding achievements, Leaney was inducted into the M Club Hall of Fame on Oct. 24. See the Hall of Fame story for more highlights of his coaching career.
Gary Davison ’65 Basketball

Gary Davison was a dominant basketball player in the MIAC in the early and mid-60’s and got his career off to a great start by being named conference Freshman Player of the Year in 1962. He made the all-conference team that season, leading the team in rebounding. Davison also picked up All-MIAC honors as a senior in 1965 when he led the Scots in rebounding. He finished his career with 1,118 points, which is now No. 8 on the school’s all-time scoring list. Gary’s career scoring average at Macalester was 17.6 points per game, the second-highest scoring mark in the program’s history.

A small business owner for nine years, Davison was then elected city clerk/treasurer of International Falls, Minnesota, and held that post for 20 years. He was appointed to the International Falls Charter Commission.

JoAnna Diebel Hesse ’87 Soccer, Track & Field, Softball

JoAnna Diebel Hesse was a standout for Macalester during all three sports seasons, earning four letters in soccer, three in track & field, and one in softball. She made the 1983 and 1986 All-MIAC and all-region soccer teams and is the No. 11 all-time goal-scorer in the program’s history with 24. In her first season, Diebel Hesse was voted the team’s top defensive player and as a senior she led the Scots with nine goals while being selected best attacking player.

A star as well on some of Macalester’s best women’s track & field teams ever, Diebel Hesse ran to several school-record and all-conference performances, running mostly from 200 to 800 meters. Her 1600-meter relay team placed second in the MIAC in ’86 and she helped set a school record a year earlier in the 800 relay. In 1987 she made the All-MIAC softball team after hitting .295 with 18 runs batted in.

She served as a director in the M Club for two successive terms and was the first female to do so. JoAnna is a true ambassador for Macalester College both professionally and in the community, pointing prospective students to the college and working with her employer’s human resources department to recruit from Macalester.

John Leaney Soccer Coach

Coach Leaney came to Macalester as head men’s soccer coach in 1986 and two years later also took control of the women’s program, which went on to win the NCAA Division III national championship in 1998 and finish second the following year. He will retire from coaching following this season as one of the most accomplished winners in Division III history.

Leaney’s men’s and women’s teams at Macalester were usually among the top teams in the conference and regular participants in the NCAA playoffs. He guided his teams to 17 MIAC championships and 22 national playoff berths, while coaching 19 All-Americans and an MIAC Player of the Year 14 times. He coached eight men’s MIAC title teams and seven women’s conference champions.

The women’s soccer teams at Macalester have posted a 292-75-31 record under Coach Leaney to date, and the men’s teams went 236-89-36 under his guidance. His combined record to date is 528-164-67 for a winning percentage of .740. Leaney is ranked 14th in career wins among all NCAA active coaches and sixth among Division III coaches.

LeRoy Martin ’62 Track & Field

A star sprinter on four MIAC track & field championship teams as Macalester was beginning a string of 11 straight league titles in the late 50’s and early 60’s. LeRoy Martin served as team captain for the conference-winning squads in 1960 and 1961.

Martin, who recently became a regional director on the M Club board, wasted little time establishing himself as a premier sprinter, winning the conference championship as a freshman in both the 200-yard dash and 440-yard dash, while also running on the first-place mile relay team. He was on three MIAC-winning mile relay foursomes and as a junior claimed the conference crown in the 100 dash and 220 dash. Martin was also champion as a junior at the Carleton Relays in ’60 and ’61.

A generous donor of his time for community building, Martin served as board president of the St. Paul Urban League (1976–78). He has been active in the Port Angeles, Washington, United Way and in American Cancer Society projects.

Jeremy Steiner ’70 Track & Field, Cross Country

Jerry Steiner was a four-year letter-winner for some outstanding cross country and track teams at Macalester. The track teams won MIAC championships in all four of his seasons at Macalester and the cross country squad claimed a pair of conference crowns with Steiner in the lineup.

Steiner won the 1969 MIAC outdoor track championship in the one-mile run, setting a school record 4:11.3 time. He was named the team’s Most Valuable Athlete as the Scots claimed their 12th straight MIAC championship.

Steiner just missed All-America honors in track by one place and All-America honors in cross country by three places. He was a member of the first-place 3200-yard relay team at the Kansas Relays and won the one-mile run against University Division runners at the Howard Wood Relays in Sioux Falls, S.D.

Steiner serves as the Hopkins, Minnesota, city attorney.
Greetings M Clubbers,

On October 2 I had the pleasure of attending Macalester’s Step Forward event, which promoted participation in the college’s ambitious $150-million campaign designed to allow students to continue, as President Rosenberg stated, “to make their mark on the world.” The Step Forward campaign began with the successful effort to fund construction of the magnificent athletic and fitness complex, the Leonard Center. This initiative now will broaden to encompass Macalester’s focus on the arts, global citizenship, academic quality, and increased financial aid.

I also attended Reunion 2009 and at the Awards Convocation I proudly recognized several M Clubbers receiving awards for various civic achievements they have accomplished in their professional careers. This was not an exceptional year for M Club representation in this ceremony. This was a traditional year for M Club representation. Our current athletes historically graduate from Macalester and go on to do great things. We want this to continue and now is the time to show it.

An increased Annual Fund gift contributes to the Step Forward campaign and not only supports the objectives described above, but also provides funding to enhance the athletic experiences for our current athletes. In addition, your gift will allow the M Club to continue to engage alumni across the country in the name of athletics, recreation, and wellness.

Join me, as we demonstrate our loyalty and gratitude to Macalester athletics, the M Club, and to the college itself as it prepares amazing students to make their mark on the world.

LET’S GO MAC!
Steve Cox ’76, M Club President

**Events**

**Softball Alumni Game Held Oct. 3**

The annual alumni softball game was played on Oct. 3 at the new Macalester Field. A large group of alumni players, representing 10 different graduating classes, enjoyed a great afternoon of softball. A barbeque was held at the conclusion of the game.

“It is great fun for our players to talk to our softball alumni and see their success,” said Coach Tom Cross.

**Swimmers Host Alumni Meet**

The annual alumni swimming meet was held on Saturday, October 17, in the Riley Pool. A great time was had by all as some non-traditional events were contested. Lunch was served following the competition and some great stories from the past were shared with the current team.

**Alumni Men’s Soccer in the Snow**

On a snow-covered Macalester field a group of men’s soccer alumni formed to play against 33 of the current Mac squad on Oct. 10. The double occasion of Andrew Wissler’s ’06 nuptials later that afternoon made for a good turnout of former greats.

**MAC MEN’S SOCCER**

**Wins MIAC Playoffs**

The Scots pose for a team picture after winning the MIAC men’s soccer playoffs. (Matt Ten Haken photo)

Tired bodies, pre-marriage celebrations from earlier in the week, and the massed force of the current, and younger, team saw the alums go down 2–0. Spirits were high, soccer skills still apparent, and a good time was had by all, especially after the group retired to the Groveland Tap.

**Scots Past & Present Meet for September Baseball**

The current Scots knocked off the alums 4–0 in the second annual alumni baseball game Sept. 27.

“I find it very satisfying so many alums want to play in this game,” said Head Coach Matt Parrington. “It really helps our current players to see the passion these alumni have for the game of baseball, as well as giving their time back to the program. … Heck, many of these guys are still playing summer baseball. The alums were a bit rusty with the bats, but solid with the gloves and threw plenty of strikes.”

**Women’s Soccer Alumni Match Held Oct. 25**

The annual Macalester women’s soccer alumni game, a longtime tradition during the fall season, was played Sunday, October 25, at the Macalester stadium.
**SAAC Sponsors**

**Successful Food Drive**

The Student-Athlete Advisory Committees (SAAC) from Macalester and St. Thomas staged a very successful food drive during their Sept. 5 football game. Proceeds benefited Second Harvest Heartland in St. Paul, the largest food bank in the upper Midwest. The SAAC food and fund drive generated 844 pounds of food and $210 for Second Harvest. For every $1 donated, the organization can distribute more than $9 worth of food to those in need. Last January, Macalester’s SAAC sponsored a Hoops for Hunger Day and over 100 pounds of food and $160 in cash was raised for Second Harvest Heartland.

**Dig Pink/Kick Cancer**

**Night was Oct 9 at Mac**

Macalester’s Student-Athlete Advisory Council (SAAC) raised over $1,700 to help fight breast cancer Oct. 9 at volleyball’s “Dig Pink Night” match with Augsburg and the women’s soccer “Kick Cancer Night” match with UW–River Falls.

Dig Pink Night contributions totaled over $1,300 for the Side-Out Foundation. Contributors gave at the gate and also online. At soccer’s Kick Cancer Night, a silent auction for the three pink game balls plus contributions at the gate brought $400 for the Susan G. Komen Foundation.