Washington Works:
Alumni activists in the capital
Recycled paper, a new format and eight more pages.

These changes, which we introduce with this issue of Macalester Today, are meant to help your alumni magazine serve you better.

Recycled paper is something you and we have long desired. We held back until we could find a paper that would print well and be readily available at a good price. Our selection, Warren Recovery Matte, seems to meet those criteria well.

The most noticeable feature of the new format is probably the page size, which has narrowed to the traditional — and more economical — eight-and-one-half inches. We’ve selected lovely Goudy typefaces, eliminated distracting rules and introduced shaded boxes to set off feature photos, all in an effort to improve readability.

Eight more pages per issue will help us accommodate the ever-increasing numbers of Class Notes — always the best-read section of the magazine — while continuing to cover college news of potential interest to alumni (like this issue’s piece on admitting the children of alumni by Dean of Admissions Bill Shain), and to present thought-provoking features focusing on your fellow alumni (such as Jon Halvorsen’s piece on alumni who keep alive a college tradition of activism in the shadow of the Washington Monument).

The additional space also allows us to introduce a few regular features:

• “Giving Back” reappears after an extended absence to showcase the many ways in which alumni and friends share in the work of the college.

• “Quotable Quotes” presents commentary by visitors and by members of the Macalester community in a variety of public forums.

• “Macalester Yesterday” expands the single photo that has appeared in each issue to an entire page of history and nostalgia.

• “Macrocosm” will present a new way of looking at Macalester’s world — an essay, a photo, a piece of art or a bit of commentary selected by the editors because it is stimulating, provoking or edifying.

Speaking of the editors, the team that put together Macalester Today’s new look — Executive Editor Nancy Peterson, Managing Editor Jon Halvorsen, and Art Director Elizabeth Edwards — welcomes your comments and ideas on the format, the content or any other aspect of your alumni magazine. Call, write or fax us. Be sure to let us know whether your letter is intended for publication.

— The Editors
2 At Macalester
Nine new tenure-track faculty; Hall of Fame adds four; faculty-student research on the St. Croix; and other campus news.

7 Quotable Quotes
Remarks by and to the Macalester community.

8 Washington Works
Macalester alumni are making a difference in government and politics in the nation's capital.
by Jon Halvorsen

16 Hildegard Johnson's Path
A visit with the professor emerita who built Macalester's Geography Department.
by Jon Halvorsen

On the cover
Peter Fenn '70, a Democrat, and Robin Carle '77, a Republican, were photographed near the Washington Monument by Mark Charette. The two are among the many Macalester alumni active in government and politics in the nation's capital. See pages 8 - 15.

17 Who Should Apply to Macalester?
The dean of admissions offers guidelines to help parents who are planning for their children's education.
by William Shain

20 The Class of '96
Facts about and photographs of a remarkable first-year class.

24 Giving Back
Two members of the Class of '64 define 'volunteer.'

25 Macalester Yesterday
Historical facts and anecdotes about the college.
by Robert Kerr

26 Alumni News
The president of the Alumni Association outlines the journey from validation to participation to ownership.

28 Class Notes
News from the worldwide Macalester community.
by Kevin Brooks

40 Macrocosm
A new department that will feature essays, opinion pieces and other articles. In this issue, Michael Obenz writes about how to raise non-violent children in a violent world.
College hires nine tenure-track faculty

The college has hired nine new faculty members for tenure-track positions. All are outstanding teacher-scholars; three are women, two are Americans of color and one is an international scholar. They are:

- **Thomas D. Varberg**, chemistry. He comes to Macalester from the National Institute of Standards and Technology, where he was a post-doctoral associate. His research interests are in physical chemistry, molecular electronic structure and laser spectroscopy. He earned his Ph.D. degree in chemistry in 1990 from MIT. His appointment will be delayed one year so he can accept a prestigious fellowship to Oxford University.

- **Julie Ann Bunn**, economics, received her Ph.D. from Stanford last summer. Her research and teaching interests include resource and environmental policy, U.S. and international economic development, population studies, economic history and labor economics.

- **George McCandless**, economics. His major fields of concentration are monetary theory, international trade, macroeconomics and econometrics. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota in 1981 and has taught at Dartmouth and the University of Chicago. He joins Macalester as an associate professor.

- **James R. Doyle**, physics, is a post-doctoral associate from the Coordinated Service Laboratory, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He received his Ph.D. in 1989 from the University of Colorado at Boulder.

- **Hung T. Dinh**, mathematics and computer science. Among his many interests are history of mathematics, writing textbooks, and directing undergraduate and graduate research. He received his Ph.D. in 1989 from the University of California, Berkeley.

- **Karen Saxe**, mathematics and computer science. Her research interests are in operator theory and functional analysis. She received her Ph.D. from the University of Oregon in 1988 and had a post-doctoral position at St. Olaf before joining Macalester's faculty last year in a temporary position.

- **Rachel May**, Russian, comes to Macalester from the State University of New York at Stony Brook, where she occupied a tenure-track position. She earned her Ph.D. in 1990 from Stanford.

- **Robert L. Morris**, choral music. He comes to Macalester from Jackson (Miss.) State University, where he was an associate professor of music, director of choral activities and coordinator of the vocal area. He joins Macalester as an associate professor.

- **Yue-Him Tam**, history. A visiting professor at Macalester since 1990, he has a Ph.D. in Japanese history from Princeton and previously taught at York University in Ontario and the Chinese University of Hong Kong. He was named a full professor at Macalester.

Fulbright winner

Rebecca A. Brenner '91 has won a German government teaching assistantship and Fulbright travel grant. She is spending the 1992–93 academic year as an assistant teacher of English, American studies and American literature at a high school in Germany.

Four Macalester students who graduated last May won Fulbright research grants for graduate study abroad. They are Thomas Dohrmann, who went to Sierra Leone; James H. Shore, who is in Australia; Jenny K. Nagaoka, who is in Japan, and Rhodri C. Williams, who is in Germany.

Foundations of success

The continual improvement of teaching is the goal of a new endowed fund that the college is establishing.

The G. Theodore Mitau Junior Faculty Sabbatical Fund, named after one of Macalester's most inspiring professors, will provide promising young Macalester teachers in the social sciences a one-semester sabbatical and summer stipend. The Lucius N. Littauer Foundation has provided $50,000 as a base for the fund, and at least $200,000 more will be needed to endow it fully.

The Mitau fund—and companion funds for faculty in the humanities, fine arts and natural sciences—will help to continue a successful program initiated in 1987 through the Joyce Foundation. Past Joyce recipients have used their sabbaticals to complete books and papers, pursue new avenues of research, visit library collections essential to their work and learn...
College honors a friend of education

John B. Davis Jr., president of Macalester from 1975 to 1984, greeted many friends and admirers outside Cochran Lounge Sept. 11 after receiving the first Macalester Board of Trustees Award for Meritorious Service to Education. The award honored his more than 40 years of service and leadership at virtually every level of education.

new teaching techniques from pre-eminent mentors at other institutions. Foundations play a key role in supporting Macalester's mission. For example:

- In 1989, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation gave $250,000 in a 3-to-1 "challenge" grant. The grant required Macalester to raise $750,000 in new gifts from other sources by January 1992, a goal the college met. The challenge grant achieved its purpose by stimulating a broad base of support for Macalester. The Booth Ferris Foundation contributed $100,000.

  The $1 million total supplements a $700,000 endowed Presidential Discretionary Fund, originally established in 1981 by the Hewlett Foundation and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. The fund helps keep the academic program vital and responsive to a changing environment.

- A $250,000 challenge grant from the Knight Foundation of Miami, Fla., awarded in 1989, required the college to raise $250,000, which it did by June 1991. The grant has supported a three-part program aimed at diversifying the student body and faculty while incorporating minority scholarship and perspectives into the curriculum.

Four join Hall of Fame

The M Club inducted four new members into the Macalester Athletic Hall of Fame Oct. 9 during Homecoming Weekend. They are:

- Ralph J. Colaizy '43 of White Bear Lake, Minn. A four-year letterman in both football and hockey, Colaizy was a durable athlete who rarely missed a game due to injury. In football, he played quarterback and linebacker on Mac teams which went 18-9-4 during his four years of duty. He was the hockey team's captain as a junior and player-coach as a senior. He was also the hockey coach at his alma mater in 1946-47. Colaizy helped organize the Scots Club as a charter member and in 1948 became president of the M Club. He currently serves the M Club as fund drive chairman. From 1947 until 1981, he worked as a 3M Co. industrial engineer in human resources.

- John D. King '54 of North St. Paul, Minn. The first member of the Class of '54 inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame, King made a name for himself in track and field, both as a competitor and later as a coach. He was a member of Mac's 1932 mile relay team which set a conference record. He won the 1954 conference championship in the 880-yard run and set an indoor school record in the 880-yard run. King served as cross country captain at Macalester twice, in addition to being track captain once. He also achieved success in the coaching profession, leading his alma mater to conference cross country titles in 1956 and 1957. His 1957 Mac track team finished second in the conference. He went on to the high school ranks and between 1958 and 1988 achieved great success at North St. Paul High School. King coached at North from 1962 until retiring in 1989. He was honored as Minnesota Coaches Association Cross Country Coach of the Year in 1979-80.

- William L. Severson '72 of Brainerd, Minn. Macalester has had a tradition of having great swimmers, but perhaps no one has achieved more success than Willy Severson, a 12-time All-American and 15-time MIAC individual champion. His school 100- and 200-yard freestyle records stood until this past winter, a tremendous feat considering how much faster times are now than 20 years ago. Severson led the Scots to four MIAC championships and a fourth-place NAIA finish in 1972. A dedicated athlete, Severson competed primarily in the freestyle events. For the past 18 years, Severson has been swimming coach for the highly successful Brainerd High School program.

- Gerald J. Shaughnessy '64 of Mendota Heights, Minn. Shaughnessy was a football and baseball standout for the Scots. A four-year letterman in both sports, he was co-captain of the baseball team twice and the football team as a senior. He made All-MIAC twice in baseball and received the department's Primrose and Scotton Scholarship Awards. Since graduating, Shaughnessy has been involved in many civic organizations, including coaching youth sports. He is currently the branch manager for both the Minneapolis and St. Paul offices of Paine Webber.

NOVEMBER 1992
Athletes turn out
The class that entered Macalester this fall — both first-year and transfer students — included 102 athletes, by far the highest number in several years.

The new students included 30 football players, giving the football program its best recruiting results in many years.

Patricia Kane retires
Patricia Lanegran Kane '47, DeWitt Wallace Professor of English, is among the faculty members who retired earlier this year.

A widely published scholar, she wrote more than 30 essays and book chapters on American and contemporary literature. A member of Macalester's English Department for more than 40 years, she was the first woman to serve as the department's chair. She was a frequent consultant and participant in Minnesota Humanities Commission programs, a panelist for the National Endowment for the Humanities programs and one of the first two National Humanities lecturers for Minnesota. A recipient of Macalester's Thomas Jefferson Award in 1980 for her excellence as a teacher, scholar and advocate of human rights, she also was selected as an alumni member of Phi Beta Kappa and received a 1992 Distinguished Citizen Citation from the college.

"Patricia Kane's accomplishments as a scholar and teacher are widely recognized and admired," said Harley Henry, a longtime colleague on the English faculty. "But we in literary studies also know that she was an extraordinary pioneer whose foresight, taste and determination introduced her students and colleagues to so many new writers and works."

A grim reminder of the Cold War
A two-ton chunk of the Berlin Wall was shipped to Macalester as part of an exhibit entitled "Breakthrough: The Fight for Freedom at the Berlin Wall." Designed to note the Wall's place in history, the exhibit was displayed this fall in the Janet Wallace Fine Arts Center and will tour the U.S. through 1994. Standing beside it are, in sunglasses, Vesna Krezich Kittelson, whose paintings are part of the exhibit, and three former East German students now studying in Minnesota.

Events: 696-6900
Macalester now has a telephone number you can call for information about upcoming campus events: (612) 696-6900.

This is a recorded information network for use with a touch telephone. You will be able to listen to recorded messages about upcoming athletic events, theater, dance, music, art exhibitions, alumni activities, public lectures and other events. Each message will include a phone number to call during business hours for more information.

Career fair
Macalester's Career Development Center is sponsoring an International Career Information Fair Wednesday through Friday, Nov. 18-20.

The three-day event will provide students and alumni the opportunity to talk with representatives of international organizations about typical kinds of careers (not jobs) and ways to build international experience. Workshops and related events will also be presented.

Programs will run from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day. Each organization will have an information table in Cochran Lounge. Workshops and programs will be held in Cochran and Weyerhaeuser Chapel.

- Wednesday will focus on programs and opportunities for study abroad.
- Thursday will feature public sector organizations and graduate programs such as the Peace Corps, Women of Nations, Earthwatch and the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service.
- Friday focuses on business organizations with international connections and graduate programs. Among the confirmed participants are the World Bank, U.S. Customs Service and CDS International.

The fair is free to Macalester students, faculty and staff. Macalester alumni and ACTC students are invited, with a $1 admission fee each day. For more information, call the Career Development Center at (612) 696-6384.

Alumni service
The Campus Life Committee of Macalester's Board of Trustees is considering the topic of community service and would like to hear from alumni about their experiences serving society.

Specifically, the committee would like to hear how much, and in what ways, alumni are serving, and also ideas about how Macalester can best promote the service ethic on campus.

Please address your responses to: Cynthia Crossen, 79 State St., Brooklyn, N.Y. 11201.
Summer of soybeans

For his summer job, Vygandas Juras '93 of Lithuania helped his country obtain $5 million worth of U.S. soybean meal.

Juras spent last summer working as a commercial representative for the Lithuanian embassy in Washington, D.C. Upon his arrival, he had a month of intensive training to learn the job because the other commercial officer was leaving for Lithuania. "The load of work was so extensive that I probably did two years' worth of work," said Juras, the only commercial representative in an embassy that usually has several.

Through Lithuania's participation in the U.S. Department of Agriculture program called Food for Peace, the country initially received $5 million in soybean meal credits. From his research, Juras learned that an additional $5 million in meal credits could be obtained because of the reallocation of funds at the end of the fiscal year. He met with USDA officials and discussed the severe drought that Lithuania had experienced and inquired about obtaining additional credits. On behalf of the president of Lithuania, he drafted a letter to the U.S. secretary of agriculture formalizing the request. A week later, he learned that Lithuania had been given the additional credits.

Juras, who worked on other projects as well for the embassy, said he "learned a lot about the different aspects of business and dealing with people." After graduation in May, he plans to attend graduate school and eventually hopes to work in Lithuania's foreign service.

—Karen Hanson '95

On the fast track to varsity sports

Macalester has a new $1.5 million track and field facility, one of the best in the nation.

The track was completed this fall. The European-style wide turns make it one of the fastest tracks in the Midwest and Macalester expects to host major competitions, including the Division III national meet.

The nine 48-inch lanes have a very wide radius. Pole vault events may be run in all four directions and there are two long jump/triple jump runways as well as two javelin runways. High jump, shot put and discus areas are in place, as well as a teeplechase area inside the south end of the track. Macalester will also purchase all new track and field equipment, such as hurdles and high jump bars.

A new scoreboard will be built for use in football, soccer and track. Also, a new lighting system will be installed, making viewing conditions at Macalester Stadium much better for night football and soccer games.

The track replaces the nation's first tartan track, which was torn up in July after serving the college for nearly 30 years. The old track was in such bad condition that the college was unable to host meets.

Because of the wide turns, there will be a larger playing area for soccer, giving Mac one of the top soccer fields in the area as well.

The game field at the stadium had to be torn up before construction began and a new drainage and sprinkler system installed. As a result, early season football and soccer matches were moved off campus, but the field was expected to be ready in late October.

Playwright in progress

Robert Kerr '92 won a Jerome Playwright-in-Residence Fellowship to the Playwrights' Center in Minneapolis for 1992-93.

Funded by the Jerome Foundation, the program awards six fellowships a year to help emerging playwrights across the country. Fellows receive a $5,000 stipend and make use of the center's developmental programs of workshops and readings with professional actors and directors.

Kerr has had work produced in the Young Playwrights Festival in New York and was an American delegate to Interplay '91 in Australia. Previous recipients of Jerome Fellowships include August Wilson and Lee Blessing.

No. 1 with a bullet

Macalester is ranked No. 1 among the "Up-and-Comers" in national liberal arts colleges, according to the 1993 U.S. News & World Report guide.

The magazine's well-known annual guide to "America's Best Colleges," which came out this fall, listed five colleges which were "most often named as up-and-comers" in its survey. Macalester was listed first, followed by Rhodes College (Tennessee), Centre College (Kentucky), Connecticut College and Earlham College (Indiana).

Although Macalester was not listed among the top 25 national liberal arts colleges, it was ranked 24th in the nation in the category of "academic reputation."
Of zebras, quads and the winged maple leaf: Researching the river
by Kevin Brooks

Huck Finn wouldn't approve.

A beautiful river and a summer day normally inspire thoughts of leisure. But for the past three summers, a serene bend in the St. Croix River has been the site of vigorous research by Macalester biology Professor Daniel Hombach and five student assistants.

They have been studying freshwater mussels, gritty, rock-like creatures that provide an important food source for muskrats. Using Macalester's pontoon research craft, the research team gets down to business over a section of the river that harbors an unusually diverse community of mussels. Hombach and his researchers have been making the 45-minute drive from St. Paul to the Wisconsin border twice a week during the summer to measure sediment composition and flow rates, dig up "quads" (roughly 1.5-by-1.5-foot sections of the river bottom) and collect as much ecological information as possible.

"Most ecological work is interpretive," said Lindsay Powers '92 (Des Moines, Iowa). "We are trying to get a better understanding of the factors influencing the mussels in the river." With enough data, the team hopes to draw conclusions about conditions that affect mussel communities and, by extension, the productivity of a river.

Powers, the only member of the team who has spent three summers with the project, co-authored a paper with Hombach. Her expertise was evident as she picked through a bucket of mussels sifted from a quad and casually identified each type. She shouted measurements to Aleria Jensen '94 (Seattle), who scribbled the numbers on a tablet.

Their work has been funded by the Minnesota and Wisconsin natural resources departments, the Blandin Foundation and grants to Macalester from the Pew Charitable Trusts and Howard Hughes Medical Institute. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is now supporting the work for the next three years.

In addition to Powers, Jensen and March, the on-site research team last summer included Emily Mugnolo '93 (San Francisco) and Scott Villinski '94 (the Philippines). Two other students, Todd O'Brien '92 (Moose Lake, Minn.) and Sara Floyd '93 (Hanover Park, Ill.), focused on lab work back at Macalester.

So far, speculation has it that the controlled flow from the nearby hydroelectric dam creates a unique environment for mussels. Perhaps by regulating releases, humans can enhance the biodiversity of waterways around the world and save countless species from extinction.

"That's what we hope," said Hornbach.

Why study biodiversity?

Scientists are finding many uses for rare species. For example, Hornbach points to the bark of the yew tree in California which has been used to treat cancer patients. "We need a diversity of organisms to maintain a healthy ecosystem," he said. "There's so much we don't know."
“There is a certain meanness of spirit loose in this country today, something I am afraid we as journalists have contributed to. All you have to do is look at the current presidential campaign to detect it, but it is apparent elsewhere as well. The minute anyone rises on the American stage, whether in politics, entertainment or the arts, we try to pull them down, or tear them apart. I implore you in whatever endeavor you go into, don’t succumb to this trend. Never be afraid to be fair. It takes so much more courage to write or voice something good about someone than it does to criticize.”

Thomas L. Friedman, Pulitzer Prize-winning author and New York Times reporter, addressing the Class of ’92 at Macalester’s Commencement on May 23.

“Every successful developing society, without exception, succeeded by violating [free-market] rules. . . . From England starting in the 17th century, up to South Korea and Taiwan, success resulted from violating radically these rules that are taught you in economics departments, and worse than that, that hotshot economists tell the Third World they have to follow. Those rules are for the purpose of robbing people. . . . The reason that the U.S. had textiles in the early 19th century and then a steel industry in the late 19th century and computers in the mid-20th century and so on, is because of following exactly the policies that we say are unacceptable in the Third World: import substitution, protectionism, high tariffs, subsidies . . . .”

Noam Chomsky, professor of linguistics and philosophy at MIT, speaking March 30 at Macalester on “The Colombian Era: The Next Phase.”

“Cutting the work week would create millions of decent, good-paying jobs. . . . Today, inner-city residents, young men and women of color, desperately need access to good jobs. Union members desperately need to have their workplace loads lightened, and the labor movement equally desperately needs a rallying point that can energize its rank-and-file, build unity among all working people, and be addressed on both economic and political fronts. . . . Has there ever been a better time to launch a movement for shorter work time?”

Peter Rachleff, labor historian at Macalester, in a June 27 column in the St. Paul Pioneer Press.

“. . . I live in the Arab world whose people, for centuries, have been misunderstood and victimized by the West—from the time of the Crusades to the colonial era and the establishment of the state of Israel to today’s post-Gulf War ‘New World Order’ situation.”

Henry Cisneros, second from right, a national leader in urban and Hispanic issues, spoke at Weyerhaeuser Chapel on “Minority Participation in the Next Century.”

“My husband and his family come from Lebanon, which has become the symbol of violence and incomprehensible conflict. Press reports I saw this week are asking whether Sarajevo is becoming another Beirut. And yet, the Lebanese often interpret the war they have suffered as ‘mini-world war by proxy.’

“It is from within this setting that I am committed to international exchange as an essential part of education in today’s world where there are more wars going on simultaneously than any time in history.

“I believe that education involves a search for knowledge, and that knowledge is based on truth, and that truth can lay the ground for justice, and justice goes hand in hand with peace.”

Kathryn Hueneemann Habib ’69, speaking at Macalester last June upon receiving a Distinguished Citizen Citation for her work toward peace and justice in the Mideast.

“We spend a lot of time describing how unique each of us is (and that is true), how what we are has been influenced by our gender, race and class (and this is true), but far less about what we share in common. I suggest that unless we remind ourselves more often about our common sharing and the commonweal, we will not be the community we claim—international, multicultural and service-related—except in a statistical sense.

“If the Macalester community is to better realize its ideals, we need to start with a description of our common identity. I believe we need to start with a more inclusive definition, such as ‘We are thinking, feeling human beings who wish to know, understand and interact with other thinking, feeling human beings.’”

President Gavin, speaking at Macalester’s Opening Convocation on Sept. 3.

“You should have a sense of the world. Put yourself in situations where you can meet people who are not like yourself. There is no substitute for really looking into another person’s eyes and really getting to know them. It’s critically important you work at opening your minds, and even more important, at opening up your hearts to what’s out there, to our people and country. Much of the doubt and pessimism can be erased if we decide we really can come together and find value in each other.”

Henry Cisneros, Hispanic leader and former mayor of San Antonio, Texas, speaking to Macalester students at a Sept. 17 convocation.
Washington Works

Carrying on the tradition of Mitau, Humphrey and Mondale, Macalester alumni are making a difference in government and politics in the nation's capital

by Jon Halvorsen

In 1958, more than 40 Macalester students and faculty gathered on the steps of the U.S. Capitol to have their photo taken with Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey, a former and future Macalester faculty member.
This is the age of political cynicism. Nearly every measure of public opinion finds Americans profoundly distrustful of their government and the whole political process. A 1991 Gallup Poll reported that public confidence in both Congress and the Supreme Court was at an all-time low. Some 44 percent of the American people think all candidates for public office are corrupt (34 percent say honest), according to a recent New York Times/CBS News Poll. Cynicism feeds and is fed by apathy: Only 50.1 percent of the voting-age population bothered to vote in the 1988 presidential election—the lowest percentage in at least 60 years. Even many politicians express their disillusionment. "The system, the government, this country, have become fundamentally flawed," declared Sen. Warren B. Rudman, R-N.H. He joined six other senators and more than 45 representatives (some tarnished by bouncing checks) who quit rather than seek re-election this year.

At a time when journalists compete for the gloomiest metaphor to describe the American political system—"paralysis" and "gridlock" are especially popular—does anyone still believe the cliche that one person can make a difference?

For Macalester alumni who work in government and politics in the nation's capital, that's a rhetorical question. None has held elective office (with one prominent exception). But in a variety of ways, small and large, many have left a mark on the nation's public policies. For example:

- Don Wortman '51 played a key role in setting up Head Start, the educational program for disadvantaged pre-school children, while working in President Johnson's War on Poverty in 1965 (see page 11). Now greatly expanded, Head Start is universally praised for its success in preparing millions of children for kindergarten, and for success in later life.

- Peter H. Fenn '70 worked with Sen. Frank Church of Idaho to help older people of modest means whose assets consist largely of the equity in their homes. The resulting tax reform, which continues to benefit millions of Americans 55 and older, gives them a once-in-a-lifetime exemption from paying capital gains on the sale of their homes.


"As a professor and scholar, I have attempted for nearly 40 years to encourage people to become actively involved in politics."

— G. Theodore Mitau
Betsy Rosen '85 worked for a Minnesota congressman and South Dakota senator before joining a Washington lobbying and consulting firm.

Concerning a rape victim's prior sexual history. The rules, designed to give more protection to rape victims by placing limits on the admissibility of such evidence, have served as a model for many states.

- Because of Betsy J. Rosen '85, who brought their plight to the attention of a South Dakota senator, American Indian tribes were included in federal aid to drought-stricken areas in the West.
- Thomas L. Adams '85, as a staff member for a Florida congressman, helped bring about a law to protect the coral reefs in the Florida Keys.

'I walk out and I'm wearing a suit. The students look like protesters. They're probably looking at me like I'm some old bat.' — Betsy Rosen

• Last year, Patrick L. Dober '85 shepherded legislation through Congress that establishes an important national housing program. It requires property owned by failed banks and S&L's to be sold to low- and moderate-income people.

• Sandra Casber Wise '69, staff director of the House Ways and Means Committee's Social Security Subcommittee, takes pride in what she's prevented: the drastic cuts in Social Security and Medicare that were proposed by the Reagan administration throughout the 1980s.

Political activism is, of course, a Macalester tradition. "Get into politics, regardless of party," a political science professor, Hubert H. Humphrey, urged Macalester students in the early 1940s, before winning his first election. Another legendary political science professor, G. Theodore Mitau '40, reflected in 1978, near the end of his life: "As a professor and scholar, I have attempted for nearly 40 years to encourage people to become actively involved in politics, and to include in their public service careers a deep concern for justice, for peace and for human liberties...."

A fter losing the 1968 presidential election, Humphrey returned to Macalester to teach in 1969, bringing three staff members with him. Listening to Humphrey and his aides, Wise saw that "politics wasn't just a job, it was a life. I got the sense that I could take the things I believed and work at them, rather than doing a 9 to 5 job. I had never been involved in politics before." Mitau indirectly influenced her to add law school to her resume. In a pre-women's movement era, "he was encouraging to women as well as to men."

Robin H. Carle '77, another Humphrey admirer, was drawn to Macalester partly because "the school had such a strong political thread to it." Like Wise, she's found a rewarding life in politics—as a Republican who helped elect Ronald Reagan and George Bush. Carle now holds an important post in President Bush's administration (see page 14).

To many Americans, it may seem government is gridlocked and ineffectual. That's not how it looks to those who have worked from within. Wortham, who was drawn to Washington in 1975 partly because she had so many Macalester friends there, says the legislative process in Con-
Mitau's legacy: A 'good citizen' makes a mark

When Alison Morris '86 went looking for a job in the nation's capital, she knew where to begin: "I heard from a classmate of mine that Don Wortman ['51] was the person to talk to."

Wortman did more than talk to Morris—he helped hire her as a researcher at the National Academy of Public Administration, where he is vice president. In all, six Macalester alums have recently worked for or served as fellows of NAPA, a nonprofit research institution chartered by Congress to assist government on all levels with problems of public administration.

Wortman joined NAPA 10 years ago. Before that, the native of Lakota, Iowa—inspired by Ted Mitau to be a "good citizen" and enter government—spent 27 years working for the federal government, a career distinguished for both its scope and its depth.

Starting as a management intern with the Atomic Energy Commission in 1954, Wortman worked his way through the federal alphabet, from OEO to HEW to CIA, among other agencies. In 1965, he joined Sargent Shriver at the Office of Economic Opportunity, where he helped launch Head Start, Upward Bound, the Community Action Program and other weapons in President Johnson's War on Poverty. Under President Nixon, Wortman was enlisted in the fight to control inflation. As director of operations for the Price Commission, Wortman was the official whose signature was needed whenever a corporation wanted to raise prices.

During President Ford's administration, he played a major role in resettling 60,000 Vietnamese refugees in the U.S., earning a presidential citation for his work. Later, as a respected senior executive who had worked for both Democrats and Republicans, he was appointed to high-ranking jobs in other agencies, including acting commissioner of Social Security. He ended his government career as a deputy director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

A frequent visitor to the White House, a participant in setting national policy, a close associate of powerful figures like Shriver, Frank Carlucci and Cap Weinberger, Wortman experienced Washington from the inside. "As a civil servant and as a patriot, you cannot help but have some rush of emotion when you go to the White House." But he cautions that reaching high positions in Washington as youthful idealists, he is "a little more cautious about thinking that there are easy solutions" to some of the nation's problems. The War on Poverty, although it launched several programs of lasting benefit, failed to make much of an impact on poverty.

Yet he believes government can make a difference. True to the country's democratic traditions, Americans routinely express skepticism about "big government" in national polls, he says. "But when you ask people, in more sophisticated polling, what do you think about the National Institutes of Health? The Centers for Disease Control? The FBI? The National Park Service? and all those old-line agencies, then you get quite a different response."

Given the country's problems, "the federal government needs highly talented and idealistic people like the type Macalester produces," Wortman says. "There should be no reduction in the stream of people who come to Washington from Macalester, because this nation needs them. If you work hard, it can be extremely rewarding and fulfilling and exciting." — J.H.

Don Wortman '51 worked for the CIA, OEO, HEW and other agencies during his 27-year federal career. He is now vice president of the National Academy of Public Administration.
I fault not only Reagan and Bush but Carter, too. They did a cynical, expedient thing in saying government was the problem.
— Leah Wortham

Sandra Casber Wise '69, staff director of a congressional subcommittee: "Unlike many people these days, I'm still willing to say I'm a liberal.

Tom Adams '85 with his boss, Florida Congressman Dante Fascell. Adams worked on legislation to protect coral reefs in the Florida Keys.

What Macalester did, however, was make her a quick study, able to research an issue overnight and speak or write knowledgeably about it the next day. "It's like the test you forgot to study for until the night before," Rosen says. Alison Morris '86, who works for the National Academy of Public Administration in Washington, says Macalester produces "all these great generalists who know how to write and can do analytical work. Which is exactly the kind of people they need here" at NAPA.

Dober agrees. He had been on Capitol Hill less than a year, working for Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., when he guided the affordable-housing bill through Congress. Given the popular perception of Congress as "a place of inertia, self-interest and pork-barrel spending," Dober was surprised to be involved in such a major and hopeful program.

Not everyone has an immediate impact, of course. Newcomers to Washington usually do a lot of menial work. Rosen, now deputy director of research for a Washington lobbying/consulting firm, The Duberstein Group, spent countless hours writing form letters and folding envelopes when she began working for a Minnesota congressman. "You think, 'I went through four years of college and I'm doing this?'"

A lot of Democrats who wish to become important, or at least win important jobs, turn to Fenn. A Washington-based political media consultant, he has advised more than 100 Democratic candidates for governor, U.S. Senate and House, and other offices in 45 states in the past decade. CBS News has interviewed him, The New York Times quoted him on its front page, the Rev. Jerry Falwell debated him on a national TV program hosted by Mike Wallace. "If you let this stuff go to your head—that you're always going to be in these situations or that you're such a brilliant, terrific, wonderful person—you've got another think coming," Fenn says. "You can work hard, you can do all the things you would do in a normal job. But who you
Patrick Dober '85: Less than a year after going to work for Rep. Barney Frank of Massachusetts, Dober guided a major housing bill through Congress.

are is often where you sit. Washington can be a very tough town.

It was a fact of life Fenn already knew but learned all over again when Frank Church lost his 1980 re-election bid. As campaign manager, Fenn took it hard. "Those people who invited you to parties or returned your phone calls in five minutes when you were chief of staff to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, the moment that he lost—funny how they weren't around."

Those who have seen the federal government from the inside tend to reject the anti-Washington rhetoric that's always been at least an undercurrent of American politics but is especially in vogue now. They contend that Congress is simply a microcosm of the country—America at its best and its worst. The seeming paralysis at the top is a reflection, in part, of how divisive and intractable many of the nation's problems have become. The failures of government, many believe, stem from the failures of political leadership—by both parties.

"The president sets the parameters of the debate, the tone of the country," says Wortham. "And here I fault not only Reagan and Bush but Carter, too. They all ran against the government. They did a cynical, expedient thing in saying government was the problem. Government isn't the problem—government is a tool to serve the people.... There's been a real vacuum of leadership, of a sense that we should be trying to do something about the problems of the country."

"You need a strong government and a strong private sector, too. There's a symbiotic relationship between them," says Carole Marolt Neves '66, who has a Ph.D. in public policy and administration. She researches public policy issues and directs studies in her job at the National Academy of Public Administration. "The government does many things as well as or better than the private sector. Just look at Social Security or the national highway transportation system."

"We need some leaders with vision," says Fenn. As a Macalester student, he led protests against the Vietnam War and a political system that permitted it. "Now, it's funny, because I'm part of the system myself, I suppose. And some would say that I, as a media consultant, am part of the problem, though I couldn't do what I'm doing if I felt I was. My belief is that I can be very helpful in electing people I believe in and helping mold the public debate." A year ago, Fenn and a few other political consultants met with more than 20 Democratic senators to discuss the politics of health care reform. Fenn urged the senators to seize the leadership on the issue. He argued that the American people were already ahead of Congress on the issue, and that health care reform made not only good sense but good politics.

Going to Washington with the hope of changing things, alums find that Washington—and experience—changes them, too. Rosen still calls herself "a liberal Democrat," even though, or rather because, the term has gone out of favor. But she is "a

Leah Wortham '70, now associate dean of a law school in Washington, once worked as an aide to a New York congresswoman: "You can really have an impact."

Who you are is often where you sit. Washington can be a very tough town.

— Peter Fenn
Humphrey’s legacy includes Republicans, too

Robin Carle ’77 at home in Washington: A longtime Republican Party official, she is now chief of staff to President Bush’s secretary of Health and Human Services.

Ask Robin H. Carle ’77 to name her political heroes and the first one she mentions is Hubert Humphrey, the liberal Democrat of his time. “He truly was one of the reasons I went to Macalester,” she says.

Yet ever since college, Carle, who grew up in Idaho, has worked in Republican Party politics, eventually rising to chief of staff of the Republican National Committee. Last April, she became chief of staff to Louis Sullivan, President Bush’s secretary of Health and Human Services. As a “moderate to conservative” Republican who believes in less government, she finds herself the No. 2 person in a federal bureaucracy with a $5.5 billion budget and 115,000 employees that touches the life of every American in some way.

Such are the paradoxes of a life in politics.

Carle met Humphrey twice, and admired his commitment, leadership and compassion. “Now, my cynicism kicks in, and I will tell you that he was a great politician because he looked you right in the eye and you felt you were the only person in the room. Then,” she continues, laughing, “I wasn’t as cynical as I am now, and I will tell you that it was a wonderful experience because he looked you right in the eye and you felt you were the only person in the room.”

At Macalester, English Professor Patricia L. Kane ’47 was a big influence. “I think she was very secure in herself and she gave me a lot of encouragement and support that, quite frankly, I didn’t find in a lot of other professors I had.... She was a very strong woman, and she made me cognizant that you have a responsibility to those who come after you. I’ve been the first woman chief of staff twice now at the organizations where I’ve worked, and I always have a double-edged feeling about that. On the one hand, it obviously makes me proud that I’ve gotten someplace. But on the other hand ... it’s sort of depressing that I’m still on some cutting edge and it’s 1992.”

Although a political veteran, Carle is a newcomer to government. Before she assumed her current post, her previous government experience was a couple of years as executive secretary at Health and Human Services. She believes Ronald Reagan deserves credit for reducing the burden of the federal government on individuals. “There is a role for government,” she says, “and I think Republicans—Ronald Reagan included—believe that. The question is how much of a role.”

At HHS, “we see lots of bad things,” she says. But the department also oversees the National Institutes of Health, the Food and Drug Administration, the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta. “So there are some really wonderful, forward-looking research things going on, too, that balance it out. And hopefully, people are in this to make it a little better world. I’ve been rather fortunate because nine times out of 10 my work is real rewarding that way. I don’t have to find some other place to give back to my community.” — J.H.
Alison Morris '86 says the National Academy of Public Administration needs the kind of people who come out of Macalester: "great generalists who know how to write and can do analytical work."

Wise has worked on Capitol Hill since 1975 (she married Rep. Bob Wise, D-W.Va., in 1984). “Unlike many people these days, I’m still willing to say I’m a liberal,” she says. Yet because her work with the Social Security Subcommittee has made her all too familiar with the constraints of the federal budget, she acknowledges that she has become, in one sense, more conservative. “In terms of Social Security and Medicare benefits, very often my focus has to be whether something that one would like to do is affordable.” Although that can be frustrating, “I, for one, don’t feel defeated at all. I’m going to try to do as much as I can in areas that are important to improving people’s lives.”

For other alums, time has brought about a sea change in their political views. Wortman, Fenn and Dober, each from a different generation, would all once have fit into the neat and simple category of “liberal Democrat.” Long an honorable term—the one Walter Mondale and Hubert Humphrey used to describe themselves—it is now widely perceived as a political handicap at worst or irrelevant at best. Wortman, Fenn and Dober all remain Democrats, but with a difference. While they believe the federal government plays an essential—even critical—role, none would argue that government can or should do everything.

“There are some real problems now with being an old 1960s and ’70s liberal Democrat,” says Fenn, whose family moved from Boston to Washington when he was 13 so his father could take a job as a White House aide to President John F. Kennedy. “The fact is, many of the government programs that we put into force did not work. Many of the concepts of helping the poor have not worked. Many of the approaches have been condescending and patronizing. Liberals—some liberals—lack a sense of toughness.”

On a number of issues—crime and welfare assistance, for example—Wortman, Fenn and Dober argue that society has a right to insist on a measure of individual responsibility. While they believe it is government’s obligation to help the disadvantaged, they also share what has long been regarded as Republican property: a belief in a strong free enterprise system. “I’m glad to see that nearly a critical mass of thoughtful Democrats and liberals are challenging liberal orthodoxy,” says Dober, who has a master’s degree from Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government. “That’s what’s really going to lead us to break both the policy logjam, on the one hand, and Democrats getting shut out of the White House, on the other hand.”

If it’s true that one person can make a difference, perhaps a corollary applies: In the long run, people in a democratic society get the government they deserve.

“Don’t you think we all share responsibility?” asks Carle. “Nobody votes.... People sort of want it to be done for them.” Turning hopeful, she says, “Maybe people are so fed up that they’ll have to do something. People have to re-engage.”

‘I’m glad to see that nearly a critical mass of thoughtful Democrats and liberals are challenging liberal orthodoxy.’

— Patrick Dober

Carole Marolt Neves '66, who also works at NAPA, has a Ph.D. in public policy and administration: “The government does many things as well as or better than the private sector.”
Hildegard Johnson built a path for geography

by Jon Halvorsen

Hildegard Binder Johnson, who founded Macalester’s Geography Department and then put it on the map, always warmed to her subject. Geography teachers, she wrote in 1967, must “take a stand for the glory that is geography.”

Twenty-five years later, the professor emeritus would like to rewrite her declaration. “That sounds a little bit — bombastic?” she said. “I wouldn’t say that today. I would say, ‘for the necessity that is geography.’ ” Recent world events, such as the breakup of the Soviet Union, have “made geography a pretty necessary subject. I can hardly wait to get a new globe; the one that I have is really of no use anymore.”

Like her friends, G. Theodore Mitau and Yahya Armajani, two other celebrated professors who also grew up overseas and joined the faculty in the 1940s, Johnson enriched Macalester with her scholarship, teaching and wider view of the world. Retired since 1975, she lives alone (her husband died in 1960) in a comfortable apartment near the Mississippi. Now 84, she is physically frail but speaks with passion, in her distinct German accent, on a host of topics.

Hildegard Binder left her native Germany in 1934, the year after Hitler came to power. She was 26, with a Ph.D. in history and geography from the University of Berlin. “I always had a lot of Jewish friends — that was one thing. I left because I didn’t want to be where Hitler was.” After teaching at a girls’ school in England, she came to the U.S. in 1935 and taught at Mills College in California. The next year she married Palmer O. Johnson, a University of Minnesota professor whom she had met in London.

Partly because the university would not hire faculty wives, Johnson’s career didn’t begin in earnest until 1947, when the mother of two young daughters wrote Macalester President Charles J. Turck, offering to teach geography and modern European history. “I had never seen Macalester when I wrote him. I was so absolutely taken by Macalester and Turck because of the United Nations flag. I thought that was fantastic.”

That fall, she began teaching geography, two courses a semester for $1,500 a year. For an introductory course, she took her students outside to Macalester Street and posed a question: Are the trees here naturally grown or are they planted?

“I liked to see their faces. ‘My God, she’s gone crazy.’ They expected something much different. It took, on the average, five to 10 minutes until I got it out of them why they thought the trees were planted. [They were] the same kind of trees, a straight line, regular distances apart, same age. In other words, you had [several] factors which revealed some human intervention, right?” She sought to make her students “approach the environment with thought, with curiosity.”

Johnson’s conservation field courses became legendary. “When you teach geography, by golly, you get the kids out into the open! It’s good, old-fashioned, German geography teaching.” For her first overnight field trip, she took 22 students — all of them GIs — to Whitewater State Park in southern Minnesota. Johnson herself had to stay alone in a cabin designed for four people. “I begged women to come, but none would.”

During her 28 years at Macalester, Johnson taught her students respect for the land and concern for natural resources, and her subject grew in importance. In the mid-1960s, geography became a major and the department moved from a temporary office in the gym to — at Johnson’s repeated insistence — “the whole first floor” of Carnegie Science Hall. Geography now has three tenure-track, full-time positions and several part-time positions, and last May graduated 15 students who earned majors, cores or minors. Last June, Johnson returned to Carnegie for the dedication of the department’s newly refurbished seminar room in her name.

Although pleased by the attention, she wishes Macalester would remember other faculty members of her era, particularly women like Georgiana Palmer, Anne Blegen and Borghild Sundheim, to name a few. “I want to put in a plug,” Johnson said, “for the women who carried this college through and who never got much recognition.”
Who Should Apply to Macalester?

The college's dean of admissions offers guidelines to help parents — especially alumni — who are planning for their children's education

by William M. Shain

As Macalester has returned to the level of admissions selectivity we experienced two decades ago, I've encountered from alumni a lot of uncertainty about the admissions process in general. Because we value highly our connections with alumni families, we welcome their questions about the admissions process or anything else we do at Macalester.

The media have done a great deal to obscure how college admissions works at selective colleges like Macalester. Surveys like the one by U.S. News & World Report make the process seem much more statistical than it really is. In fact, selective college admissions is a holistic discipline. We do look at numbers. But we also look at three recommendations, two writing samples and a wide range of other factors.

Of course, we are looking for able students. But beyond that, we seek students with a love of scholarship, with curiosity, creativity, tenacity and other intellectual qualities indicating that they are well matched to the lively give-and-take of the Macalester classroom. And when we must choose among students who are otherwise similarly talented, contributions to school and community activities may decide whose application is stronger.

It is clear in the college's new strategic plan — as it has been for about two decades — that Macalester does not intend to grow in enrollment. This ensures continuation of the intimacy which has long characterized a Macalester education. When the college stays the same size and applications grow, it is inevitable that we must deny admission to many qualified candidates in a given year.

Macalester has — and has always had — an extraordinary student body. In the Admissions Office, we are bringing together on campus the community that Macalester wants, in keeping with the college's traditions. That means, for instance, that we have a multicultural presence, an international presence and a "legacy" presence (that is, the children or grandchildren of Macalester alums) which we cherish. Not all colleges share all of these commitments.

Macalester continues to have a philosophy of looking broadly at applications, and each year we find students who have a special quality that goes beyond the numbers. Each year, at least a few stu-

William M. Shain has been dean of admissions at Macalester since 1980. A native of New York City, he received an A.B. in history from Princeton and a law degree from Columbia. Before coming to Macalester, he was the social studies chairman at Cold Spring Harbor (N.Y.) Junior-Senior High School and served as an admissions officer at Princeton.
Admissions research shows that high school grades are the best predictor of how a student will do in college. So the transcript is the single most important part of our process.

Tradition, of course, adds depth and richness to any institution. Children of Macalester families can provide continuity of the college's historic strengths. Their presence on campus helps to keep their families and communities in close touch with today's Macalester. Loyal and enthusiastic alumni are indispensable to any college, and the presence of the child of a graduate—or the child of a classmate—does much to keep alumni connected to the college.

Although we are still admitting a large majority of legacy candidates who apply, fairness to the applicant pool as a whole means we must deny admission to some alumni children who could probably succeed here. On the other hand, we admit transfer students in higher numbers than most other highly selective institutions. So if the child or grandchild of an alumnus/alumna is not admitted but does well at another college, there is a very good chance he or she can transfer to Macalester.

To help parents—especially alumni—who are planning for their children's education, here are some things to know about admissions at Macalester in general:

- By and large, students we admit have B's and A's in a broad-based curriculum from 10th through 12th grade, and have taken at least some of the honors or advanced courses available in their schools. Admissions research shows that high school grades are the best predictor of how a student will do in college. So the transcript is the single most important part of our process, for children of alumni as well as for all candidates for admission. What this means is that the combination of great grades and modest testing is usually competitive for us. The combination of great testing and modest grades is less often competitive.

If you are the parent of a 14- or 15-year-old who scores very well on aptitude tests but whose grades are off, you have the challenge of trying to motivate your child to perform at a higher level sooner. With alumni children, we would be especially open to a "late bloomer." In fairness to other candidates for admission, we must expect the blooming to have begun before senior year. Generally speaking, we look for at least a full year of good work—strong semesters in the spring of junior year and the fall of senior year.

Our own sense of fairness means that we would not turn down a student with straight A's to make room for an alumni child with B's and C's. On the other hand, if one student has straight B-pluses and an alumni child has straight B's, those cases are close enough that in comparing the files we may find a lot of reasons why we would prefer to offer admission to the alumni child.

- If you look at the middle 50 percent of each entering class at Macalester, you will find SAT scores on each test between 550 and 680, and an ACT composite between 27 and 30 or 31. If a student's testing falls in the bottom quarter of our entering class, that is often a liability in the admissions process; if a student is in the top quarter, that is usually a strength, assuming his or her grades are solid. I would particularly welcome a chance to talk with families and children of alumni who are concerned about testing. It would be relatively rare that we turn down an alumni/alumna child with strong grades—meaning more A's than B's—and a challenging curriculum, regardless of test scores.

- Our catalog conveys to students the recommendations of Macalester's faculty that in high school they should take four years of English and three years each of math, science, social science and a single foreign language. That's a good prescription for everybody, because most selective colleges look for that. In addition, we expect students to take at least some of the honors or accelerated work available at their high school.

Admission of Alumni Children, 1982–1992

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<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>WHOLE CLASS %</th>
<th>WHOLE CLASS APPLIED</th>
<th>WHOLE CLASS ADMITTED</th>
<th>ALUMNI CHILDREN %</th>
<th>ALUMNI CHILDREN APPLIED</th>
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<tr>
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As alumni will certainly remember, Macalester has always had a dynamic campus atmosphere. Our traditions of service and political and ethical awareness are tremendously important, and much of that occurs outside the classroom. We have about 60 organized student groups. We seek students who show the potential and interest to support a wide range of campus organizations. We don't favor certain groups but do value contribu-
Three reasons why some alumni children don't apply to Macalester

For the past decade, the number of applications to Macalester from alumni children has been pretty constant: usually 40 to 55 each year. We would like to see more alumni children apply. Typically, there seem to be three reasons why they don't.

First, the most frequently cited reason for alumni children who live in the Twin Cities area is that they want to "go away" to college. It may be worth considering, however, that students are indeed away from home when they attend Macalester. At 2 a.m. in a residence hall, a student may be talking to people from eight states and five countries—a breadth of perspective that's probably greater than might be found at schools farther from home. And for students from Hennepin County, the St. Paul side of the Mississippi is usually as "new" as any other city they may visit!

Second, alumni often tell me, "I couldn't get into Macalester now," and I fear they may discourage their children from applying based on this perception. It is true that admission to Macalester is very competitive. Still, each year I hear from a number of new students (both children of alumni and others) that "My parents said I could never get into Macalester." If a student has done well during junior and senior year and responds to Macalester's strong traditions of internationalism, multiculturalism and service, I'd hope that Macalester would be a school he or she would investigate seriously.

Third, some alumni may wonder, "Is Macalester as good as the nation's best colleges?"

My answer is an unequivocal "Yes." A detailed response would require a conversation with alumni families about what they value most. But briefly: What goes on in the classroom and in student and faculty research here is extraordinary; our strong traditions of internationalism, service and ethical awareness are distinctive, even in the context of the other top colleges; our urban location is both extremely pleasant and culturally rich; and we have financial resources to maintain and strengthen this college that virtually no other colleges in our class have. The Admissions Office annually hosts visits by groups of college counselors from around the country, and their response to Macalester—after visiting hundreds of campuses—is typically inspiring because they remind us how good we are.

—William M. Shain

Dean of Admissions
William M. Shain
The Class of '96: Scholars, activists, athletes, artists — and individuals

Photos on these pages were taken during orientation events for new students. Top: Abraham Wheeler '96 (Winnebago, Ill.), left, learns how to serve a volleyball from Carey Levet '96 (Medfield, Mass.) and Paul B. Anderson '96 (Mountain View, Calif.). Right: Cristina Sandoval '95 (Denver, Colo.), left, and Chinezeekw Gure '96 (Zimbabwe) talk about their different backgrounds during a workshop on cultural diversity. Below: Elizabeth Turner '96 (St. Joseph, Mo.), left, gets a little help from her mother, Barbara Turner, as she moves into Dupre Residence Hall.

Three students who serve as mentors to international students led discussions during the diversity workshop. Left photo (clockwise from top left): Rajiev Mareachealee '96 (Mauritius), Monica Scardiff '93 (Sri Lanka, a mentor), Matthias Zinn '95 (Greenfield, Mass., a mentor), Dameun Strange '95 (Washington, D.C.), Sepia Kim '94 (Blaine, Minn., a mentor), Patrik Muzila '96 (Czechoslovakia) and Raphael Casseus '96 (Brazil). Below: Engrossed in conversation are (from left) Lakshmi Muirhead '96 (Bloomington, Ill.), Heidi Mueller '96 (Wausau, Wis.) and Jo Anna Villone '96 (Chevy Chase, Md.).

The Class of '96 comprises students from 46 of the 50 states, and the numbers from each are shown here. New international students come from 49 nations, a record high.

Applications 2,741 (from all 50 states except Nevada and 74 other nations), a record high (surpassing previous record, set in 1988, by 15.7 percent)

New full-time students 476, largest entering class since 1989

Admission rate 53.1 percent, fourth lowest in Macalester history

National Merit Scholars 49, second highest total in 20 years (and likely to ensure that Macalester continues to rank second among all U.S. undergraduate liberal arts colleges in number of National Merit Scholars enrolled)
New international students
47 (5 short of 1991 record); 67 (from a record-high 49 nations) counting U.S. permanent residents and dual citizens, or 13 percent of first-years and transfers.

Sharing their experiences during the diversity workshop are Okunola Jeyifous '95 (Nigeria), left, and Andrew Magill '94 (Milwaukee, Wis.).

U.S. students of color
79, or 18 percent of U.S. first-year students, far surpassing previous record set in 1983
- 23 African-American
- 30 Latino
- 5 Native-American
- 21 Asian-American

Scholar-athletes
102, highest number in years (98 students served as captain of a varsity sport)

Gender
54 percent female

By region (probably most geographically balanced class Macalester has ever enrolled)
- 47 percent from Midwest
- 12 percent from Mid-Atlantic
- 10 percent from New England
- 9 percent from Far West
- 7 percent from South
- 7 percent from Southwest/Rockies
- 9 percent from overseas

Remembering Timothy
The most courageous member of the Class of '96 may have been Timothy W. Strickler of Villanova, Pa.
Tim was diagnosed with leukemia in 1987 and received a bone marrow transplant in 1988. He suffered a recurrence last May. In June, while undergoing chemotherapy, he left the hospital to attend graduation at Radnor High School. He received his school's award for courage, friendliness and his love of his high school, as well as two standing ovations.
Tim, who had been admitted to Macalester and kept a Macalester pennant on the wall of his hospital room, died July 23 at the age of 18. He was buried wearing a Macalester T-shirt and cap.
"While you never had the chance to meet Tim, I hope his memory stays with you throughout your years on campus," William M. Shain, dean of admissions, told the Class of '96 in his welcoming remarks. "His courage, unfailing good humor and loyalty are worthy models for us all."

Forming a semi-circle for a discussion in the gym are, from left, Monica Scandlen '93 (Sri Lanka), Matthias Zinn '95 (Greenfield, Mass.), Patrik Musila '96 (Czechoslovakia), Rajiv Mareachele '96 (Mauritius), Heather Cox '96 (Brazil) and Anna Raselius '93 (Sweden).
One of a kind
Members of the class have also:
• created illuminated manuscripts
• helped run a school forest
• served as assistant zoo keeper
• had a story published in Seventeen magazine
• been offered a performance role with Disney on Ice
• translated “Monty Python” into Latin
• played professional percussion in a prominent Twin Cities band
• been a Ninja turtle in a 20th Century Fox production

Special talents
• 24 pianists, 20 guitarists, 12 violinists
• 13 leaders of school theater groups
• 12 captains in speech and debate
• 5 disc jockeys
• 3 playwrights
• 3 who have written novels
• 2 composers
• 2 cartoonists
• 1 unicyclist
• 1 juggler
• 1 clown
• 1 magician
• 1 blacksmith

Admissions counselor Karen Dye, left, with two first-year students from Houston—Sofia Baca, center, and Laura Sanchez.

From Minnesota
19.5 percent, most in four years

Community service (partial list)
• 49 students founded or headed a compassionate organization
• 43 worked to combat hunger and homelessness
• 42 worked for Amnesty International
• 42 worked for environmental causes
• 10 or more worked to stop drunk driving, promote racial understanding or took part in politics
• 9 active in issues related to AIDS
(40 percent of the class listed one or more commitments to some form of community service)

Extracurricular activities
• 19 student body presidents
• 14 class presidents
• 41 editors in chief of school publications
• 24 attended Girls or Boys State
• 12 presidents of National Honor Society chapters
• 18 presidents of foreign language clubs

Solveig Asgeirdottir ’94 (Iceland), a transfer student, looks pensive as she and her roommate, Mary Frances Woerner ’95 (Clear Lake, Iowa), listen.
At Macalester, 'volunteer' is spelled 'Dickinson' and 'Swanson'

Janice K. Dickinson '64 and Edward Swanson '64 pitched in to help organize their class' 25th reunion. They were there, too, for the Class of '66 and the Class of '67. Plus the Class of '86 and '87.

And the Class of '68 and the Class of '88 can count on them, starting this fall and continuing through their respective reunions June 4–6, 1993.

That's the thing about Dickinson and Swanson: Macalester can count on them.

"They are top volunteers," says Karen McConkey, director of the college's Alumni Office. "They've built up wonderful relationships with other alumni and have fun, creative ideas. They will tackle anything and make it a success."

Dickinson and Swanson had such a rewarding time preparing for their own class' successful 25th reunion in 1989 that they kept going. Since the fall of 1990, they have served as informal advisers and helpers to every class planning a 25-year or five-year reunion.

Dickinson, a staff member at Macalester since graduation, is assistant to the director of the college's International Center. She and Swanson, principal cataloger at the Minnesota Historical Society in St. Paul, donate untold hours to the college. Both enjoy renewing old friendships and making new ones during reunion planning.

Both also volunteer in other ways, such as making calls and working behind the scenes during the college's annual Phonathons. Dickinson is a member of the Heritage Society and a former class agent. Swanson, who is also a member of the Heritage Society, has served as class agent since 1984. He also helped initiate the Class of '64's extraordinary 25-year reunion gift to Macalester, setting a challenge for other 25-year reunions.

Both lead active lives in other ways. An avid theatergoer and fan of barbershop quartets and choruses, Dickinson serves on the board of deacons for House of Hope Presbyterian Church in St. Paul and is involved in the church's oral history project. Swanson has served as president of the Minnesota Library Association and held numerous other offices. Last December, he was one of only four members to be honored with an MLA Centennial Medal in recognition of his outstanding service to the association. He is also a benefactor of St. Hugh's College at Oxford University in England.

Of her work on reunions at Macalester, Dickinson says: "It makes me feel good—a feeling that I'm giving something back to other classes. I've gotten a lot out of it from faculty and staff I've worked with as well as alumni."

"I could never really put into words what I felt about Mac 30 years ago," Swanson says. "It was the right place for me at the time. I found it very warm and accepting." Despite all the changes that have taken place, "it is still a small liberal arts college that offers a great education. It's just a wonderful place."
Humphrey’s marathon

In the spring of 1944, Hubert Humphrey presided over the longest classroom session in Macalester history, according to a biographical sketch of Humphrey in the June 1948 issue of Survey Graphic magazine.

Veteran Minneapolis newspaperman Bradley L. Morison wrote that Humphrey, a professor at Macalester in 1943–44 (and again in 1969–70), “called his class in political science to order late one afternoon, became involved in a discussion of American fascism centering around John-Roy Carlson’s book Under Cover, and skidded past the 5 o’clock bell right up to supper time.

“On that point professor and students adjourned for a quick snack and reassembled at 6:40 to pick up the sizzling argument. As the other lights in Old Main blinked off, Humphrey’s classroom was still afire with debate.…

“At 9:40, after more than four hours of it, the class finally adjourned, but not before Professor Humphrey had wagged an exhorting finger at it. ‘Get into politics,’ he pleaded, ‘regardless of party. Take an interest in your local government. Get out and pitch for the best team. Don’t just be peering from the bleachers.

Humphrey won election as mayor of Minneapolis the following year.

No food for thought

The Macalester student body came out of final exam week in 1938 over half a ton lighter, according to a study by the Bureau of Educational Surveys in New York City. The bureau said a representative group of students reported an average weight loss of two pounds. Multiplying two pounds by the 90 percent of students who “engage in intensive study before and during examination periods,” the bureau concluded that Macalester students lost a total of 1,158 pounds while cramming for finals.

A subject as big as all outdoors

In 1949, this summer school art course moved outside. Old Main was the subject of the students’ drawings. At right is Marguerite Saufferer Mahoney ’52, who now lives in Glendale, Ariz. A similar photo appeared in the 1950 Mac yearbook.

... and all the students are above average

Garrison Keillor broadcast his first “Prairie Home Companion” radio show from Macalester’s Janet Wallace Fine Arts Center on July 6, 1974.

The performers on stage outnumbered the people in the audience for the initial broadcast over Minnesota Public Radio. “Prairie Home Companion” eventually became a national phenomenon with an estimated audience of 4 million listeners.

Free speech for racists?

A controversy played out in the pages of the Mac Weekly in October and November 1962 was sparked by a visit to Macalester by American Nazi Party leader George Lincoln Rockwell.

After addressing more than 1,000 students at Carleton College, Rockwell spoke at a press conference Oct. 2 at Macalester’s International House which was open only to that year’s World Press Institute journalists and a reporter from the Mac Weekly. Rockwell discussed his political plans and his philosophy of white supremacy. Initially, a group of students protested because most members of the Macalester community were excluded from the press conference. The faculty on the WPI Advisory Committee defended the decision, citing the difficulties posed by the last-minute decision to bring Rockwell to the campus.

Subsequently, English Professor Ray Livingston questioned whether Rockwell should have been invited to speak at Macalester at all. “Is not Nazism an issue settled for all sane persons by the sufferings and deaths of millions?” he asked in a letter to the Mac Weekly. “… Would we profane in the name of free speech, education, or information, the privileges of the classroom by allowing a man to advocate rape and to distribute leaflets about his theories and practices?”

Livingston’s letter brought this response from psychology chair Paul G. Jenson: “Even the reprehensible must be afforded these rights [of free speech] lest the just and decent lose them, too. … Unless we want to make a mockery of academic freedom and freedom of speech, we have no alternative but to let all sides be heard and, in the tradition of Thomas Jefferson, trust an enlightened public to decide the outcome.”

Robert Kerr ’92 is a Jerome Fellow at the Playwrights’ Center in Minneapolis.
Alumni and Macalester: From validation to participation to ownership
by Jane Else Smith

Macalester’s admissions staff seeks individuality in prospective students. As a result, the college has a student body that is made up of true individuals. A Macalester education nurtures the ability to think for one’s self, valuing one’s individuality at all times.

As the student body values individualism, so the Alumni Association comprises true individuals. Individual alumni do not necessarily value thinking alike but enjoy the intellectual stimulation that they were offered as students. They now seek it in their lives after college.

My vision of the function of the Alumni Association is to validate each individual student and alum and his or her chosen journey in life, whatever that journey is. As the spiritual writer Henri Nouwen expressed it in his book Reaching Out: “Recognize the divine in each other. Then the ground between you is sacred.”

To implement this vision, the Alumni Association should serve as a support and networking organization for every student—past and present—from the moment each steps foot on campus throughout his or her life. Much of this support and networking activity is carried out through alumni all over the world, acting through five working committees of the Alumni Association board. The committees are: Clubs, Continuing Growth, Admissions/Student Life, Nominations and Development.

With such validation, we may trust that a desire to participate in Macalester’s work—providing an excellent liberal arts education at the undergraduate level—will develop in an increasing number of alumni.

Just as validation will lead to participation, the third and final step of this process is for Macalester’s alumni to take ownership of the college.

The “Alumni Soundings” program is consistent with this vision of the Alumni Association. The Alumni Soundings meetings, which began in the fall of 1991 and will continue into 1993, are part of Macalester’s strategic planning process. They are designed to emphasize alumni involvement in the college. At evening gatherings throughout the country, college officials invite alumni to share who they are, what they value, their memories of Macalester, and their concerns and hopes for the college.

The views of alumni then become part of the planning processes of both Macalester and the Alumni Association. I and other members of the Alumni Association board look forward to learning from the Alumni Soundings meetings and to working with alumni in other ways. Our ultimate goal is to have the alumni of Macalester take true, meaningful ownership of the college.

Jane Else Smith ’67 of St. Paul became president of the Macalester Alumni Association in June, succeeding Janet Rajala Nelson ’72. Smith, who will serve until June 1994, is a lawyer specializing in corporate and international law.

Support at 40 percent
A record number of alumni supported the college during the fiscal year that ended May 31.

A total of 6,569 or 40 percent of Macalester alumni contributed a record $659,397, surpassing the goal set at the beginning of the fiscal year. The figures represent a growth of 11 percent in alumni financial support (or $64,061) and a growth of 14 percent in the number of alumni donors—an addition of more than 800 new donors.

The growth is attributed to a number of factors, including an increased awareness by alumni of the important role they play in the overall health of Macalester’s fund-raising efforts, and increased contacts by students, staff and volunteers.

Leadership Weekend draws a crowd
Two new members of the Alumni Association board, James Bennett ’69 of Seattle and Sara Floyd ’93, a current student from Hanover Park, Ill., chat at a reception in Janet Wallace Fine Arts Center during Leadership Weekend Sept. 18–20. The gathering brought to campus alumni volunteers from throughout the country.

26 MACALESTER TODAY
Internationalism Bolivian-style

Macalester alumni and friends from the Washington, D.C., area gathered last April to celebrate internationalism at a party in the Bolivian Embassy. Brian Berkopec '91, left, and President Gavin talked with Jorge Crespo, the Bolivian ambassador to the U.S. Two of the ambassador's children are recent Macalester graduates and the third is a current Macalester student.

Yesterday and today:
The view from a '91 alum

The more than 30 people who make up the Alumni Association's board of directors come from all age groups and areas of the country. One of the youngest is Anne E. Hale '91 of St. Paul, who attended her first board meeting last January.

After listening to alumni from the 1940s through the '80s talk about what Macalester meant to them, she offered her thoughts (slightly adapted here):

At this point, I feel far more like a student than an alum. It is interesting to hear all of your feelings on the needs you see for Macalester as well as the path you wish its growth to take.

You would like internationalism and multiculturalism to be an integral part of our education. The college's strength in these two areas heavily influenced my decision to attend Mac.

Participation in community service is alive and well, evident in the fact that MACTION—a student volunteer organization—is probably the strongest student organization on campus.

While it seems that most college faculties aren't always there for students due to the pressure to "publish or perish," my professors at Macalester were always around and made it possible for us to contact them at home if we needed them. They really cared about the campus community and were an important part of it. They would participate with us in intramural sports and other activities, and would support us by their attendance—there were always faculty at our softball games.

Although the student body is a highly diverse group, we were never the popular "in" crowd in high school, but more of the "eggheads." We still tend to follow our own interests.

However, I don't think additional support for a specific area such as athletics (one of my interests) will change the overall image of Macalester (to that of a "jock" school, for example). We are still the same people we were when we arrived in our first year; Mac has just given us the opportunity to participate and develop skills in areas that we may not have been comfortable in while attending high school.

There is always room for improvement at any school. But the Macalester you attended and loved—and the one you want it to be—seems to be the same Mac I attended.

Your Macalester is still here.

They're Great Scots

Great Scots, a new series of programs for older alumni in the Twin Cities area, is drawing a strong response.

Betty Haan '43 of St. Paul, who recently stepped down from the Alumni Association board, said she and other organizers realized "there are a lot of alumni in the area who are close to or past retirement age. We wanted to come up with special programs that would be of interest to them."

The first two programs were held in February and March in Weyherheuser Hall (the old library). They were hosted by Nancy Brown Kachel '55, a licensed social worker and coordinator of the Senior Connection at Methodist Hospital in St. Louis Park, and the Rev. David B. Kachel '53, director of education and community relations services to the elderly at the Amherst H. Wilder Foundation of St. Paul. He is also a former president of the Minnesota Gerontological Society.

They led discussions on such topics as the spiritual dimension of life for older adults, making a living will and the crucial factors in a positive aging experience.

Each seminar attracted about 80 alumni and friends.

"It was a very positive reaction. They seemed to hit topics that people were interested in," Haan said.

The third Great Scots event, which was scheduled Oct. 10, featured grandparents who are alumni taking a grandchild on a tour of Macalester's Ordway Natural History Area. Other ideas are in the works.

In addition to Haan, other alumni involved in Great Scots include Kenneth P. Awsumb '49, Frederick M. Coates Jr. '42, Roland B. De Lapp '43, Samuel W. Cook '43, Marjorie Dixon Maki '43, Doris Fuller Pylkas '43, Esther Torii Suzuki '46, Russ Wigfield '43 and Walter J. "Jack" Rock '53.
World of nightmares: Doug Johnson helps heal the victims of torture
by Gary McVey

On his application to Yale graduate school, Douglas A. Johnson '71 labeled himself an "entrepreneur for social justice." The label still holds, more affixed now than ever.

Johnson is the executive director of the Center for Victims of Torture in Minneapolis. He and the center's staff of doctors, psychologists, social workers and others have helped hundreds of men and women from all parts of the world work to overcome the physical and mental pain suffered at the hands of government-sponsored torturers such as military and police.

The center, established in 1985 at the initiative of former Minnesota Gov. Rudy Perpich, was the first treatment center of its kind in the U.S. and the third worldwide. This year, it will assist more than 125 victims through medical treatment and psychotherapy, as well as providing assistance with housing, living expenses and legal status. The average length of its intensive treatment is about 14 months.

"Torture is the most effective weapon against democracy," Johnson says. "Governments which use it target opposition leaders, or those they think could become leaders, with the purpose of scaring the community into submission. By helping the victims, we're not only helping the individuals recover from their nightmare, but we're also helping their communities recover their leadership."

Torture can take many forms, he says. Victims the center has treated have suffered such physical torture as rape, electric shock to the most sensitive areas of the body and burning of the skin with cigarettes or red-hot irons. But the center emphasizes that the purpose of bodily torture is as a weapon against the mind. Psychological torture has become increasingly sophisticated. It now includes such tactics as sleep deprivation, blindfolding, exposure to a constant noise, mock execution and forcing a victim to watch the torture of others, especially loved ones. Twenty-five percent of the survivors who have been treated at the center were tortured as children, often as a weapon against their parents.

"Torturers are very adept at using your values and beliefs as weapons against you," Johnson says. "Suddenly, your life history is no longer a source of strength but one of pain. The purpose of healing is to rebuild the links of solidarity internally to the family and to the community."

It's estimated that about 8,000 victims of torture live in Minnesota, Johnson says, noting that the state has one of the largest per capita populations of refugees. Most of the center's clients left their native countries to escape torture and repression. Almost half come from Africa, with others coming from Southeast Asia, Latin America, the Middle East and Eastern Europe. A few of the clients are U.S. citizens who have been tortured abroad.

Since Johnson took over as executive director in 1988, the non-profit center has increased the number of clients it serves each year from about 22 to 125, its staff from two to 22 and its annual operating budget from about $200,000 to $800,000. The center, which receives most of its income from foundation grants and individual contributions, moved into a new, larger home on the University of Minnesota campus last January.

Other Macalester alums have also been instrumental in the center's success. Joanne Porter Meehan '53 is the center's director of social services, and several Mac students have worked or continue to work as interns.

Johnson says his work allows him to combine his interests in social justice and organizational management. He became fascinated with the latter while co-founding and working with a hunger organization, the Infant Formula Action Coalition in Minneapolis. He watched it grow from a grassroots movement into an international group that successfully lobbied the World Health Organization to adopt the world's first international marketing code and forced the Nestle corporation to agree to abide by it.

After eight years of directing INFACT and two years working with human rights groups in Latin America, he enrolled at Yale's School of Organizational Management in 1986 and earned a master's degree in public and private management.

"In the world of social change, most people are moved by the issues—by alleviating the suffering of others," Johnson says. "I saw a need to go beyond that and also pay attention to the organization. As I see it, your organization is your weapon against injustice. These problems are caused by institutions, and they require an organizational response; our strength comes from working together."
How to Raise a Non-Violent Child in a Violent World
by Michael Obsatz

More than 150,000 Iraqi children, women and men died during the Persian Gulf War in an attempt to solve a political problem. Our own children learned that war is an acceptable way to resolve differences.

If a culture is inundated with messages about violent solutions to complex problems, many will see no other way. And violence is all around us. Children are flooded with it—on television, in rock videos, in advertisements. Our culture rewards certain athletes handsomely for engaging in violent sports (and then criticizes them when they carry that violence into interpersonal relationships). Books about “swimming with sharks” make the best-seller lists. The model of cutthroat competition—winning at all costs, taking what one wants—is everywhere. Some adults choose to excuse males who act violently, saying “boys will be boys.”

There are many theories about the nature of violence and what causes people to lead violent lives. Some say it is the result of feelings of powerlessness. Others claim it is due to a felt scarcity of resources: People strike out to take what they are kept from having. Still others blame families for modeling violent or abusive behavior.

We need to counteract the harmful messages children receive. We need to teach children how to love and nurture each other and themselves. Over the last 10 years, I have taught workshops on this topic in churches, schools, community service organizations and anywhere else I could. Here are some suggestions:

- Value them for who they are, not just what they achieve.
- Teach them how to cooperate and share.
- Help them understand what it feels like to be judged, criticized, shamed, humiliated or emotionally abused, so they won’t do those things to others.
- Help them learn how to select friends who will be caring and supportive.
- Teach them to have clear boundaries—about space, time, feelings, touch, privacy—and how to assert those boundaries and stand firm.
- Help them learn negotiating skills so that they can see that compromise is not wimping out.
- Teach them to respect themselves and others of the other gender, other races and classes—discourage stereotyped thinking.

Michael Obsatz is an associate professor of sociology at Macalester. He often speaks, writes and leads workshops on the subjects of family and men’s issues, how to raise successful children, interpersonal relationships and gender issues. He is the father of three children.

- Help them differentiate healthy competition from cutthroat, aggressive competition.
- Help them develop compassion for those less fortunate than they are.
- Teach them that masculinity and femininity are about feeling good about who you are, not having to conform to macho roles or passive roles.
- Don’t be afraid to share your spiritual values.
- Help them learn the difference between courage and bravado.
- Help them to be cautious and protective of themselves and to protect others who are endangered.
- Help them learn that sexuality is only one of a hundred aspects of the person, to put it in perspective.
- Teach them the importance of self-discipline, and the pride that comes from following a task through to completion.
- Teach them respect for the earth, for others, for themselves.

- Do not accept sexist behavior and comments—react with clear messages that both men and women are to be respected.
- Teach them how to forgive others.
- Limit their viewing of crime and violence on TV.
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.

Letters

The Shafers’ gift

It was with great sadness that I learned Professor Boyd C. Shafer died Feb. 10. One of few African-American students at Macalester in 1967 (I believe there were about 10 of us), I had the great fortune for the duration of my years at Macalester (1967-71) to be taken under the wing of Dr. Shafer and his gracious, lovely wife, Carol. Working as his research assistant, I learned research and analytical skills and methods which I still use in my work as a civil rights attorney. But the truly precious gift from Professor and Mrs. Shafer was that of abiding friendship and intellectual challenge unmarred by racism.

The biographical information provided in the May issue of Macalester Today omitted one aspect of his life in which he took deep satisfaction. Dr. Shafer sponsored the membership of John Hope Franklin as the first African-American member of the American Historical Association. That sponsorship and his deep friendship with Professor Franklin reflect Dr. Shafer’s life of both doing “the right thing” and his ability to personally reach across potential barriers because he saw humanity in each person.

Dr. Shafer very much wanted me to continue my education as a graduate student in history. But it was 1971 and, to his disappointment, I was much too eager to go off on the adventure of life as a community organizer. We continued to correspond for many years and I treasure his letters. I wish he were around today to learn that he influenced my recent decision to follow in his footsteps as a scholar and teacher. I am returning to school, having recently been awarded a graduate law fellowship from Stanford University to pursue a doctor of the science of law (JSD) degree.

Dr. Shafer and his wife were extraordinary “mentors” who enriched my Macalester experience and have continued to influence my life.

Barbara Y. Phillips ’71
San Francisco

Favorite profs

While I was at Macalester (1970-73), I had the good fortune to take three courses each from Drs. Ernest R. Sandeen, Henry Bair (both history) and Duncan H. Baird (political science).

My experience with these fine teachers in lecture classes led to my later taking a tutorial from each of them. In my tutorials, each of these kind gentlemen let me do what I wanted to do, and with great good humor monitored my progress. The result was that I studied the subject matter involved with enthusiasm and learned.

Each in his own way knew what it was to be a teacher, i.e., one who guides a student to knowledge rather than deluding him/herself that they are imparting it. I am extremely grateful to them and think of them often.

John B. Davenport ’73
St. Paul

Nancy Gerth was a professor in philosophy for part of the time that I attended Macalester. She had a breadth of knowledge in her field that ranged from symbolic logic to Eastern philosophy. She had read and knew how to interpret each with integrity. She also could translate from one area of philosophy to another. That made her truly exceptional.

Ms. Gerth applied real-life experiences to what she taught. I always have remembered the examples that she gave from conversations she had with a mechanic who was a friend of hers.

Finally, Ms. Gerth was tough. She set expectations and limits in her class and stuck to them. She expected the best from students and had high grading standards. I am grateful to have known her.

Kenneth A. Lawrence ’84
St. Paul

Memories: The patient gentleness of Dr. Yahya Armajani as he presented us with the beginnings of Arabic language, though he’d rather have taught us Persian.

Dr. Thomas Hill, who introduced me to the history of philosophy and to an entirely new—to me—concept of entertaining ambiguities.

Beloved Dr. O.T. Walter, who helped me see the uncertainties beyond the certainties. I wish I could share with him my joy at my daughter’s new career in medicine—something for which I was too afraid to reach.

The exhilaration and exuberance in Mary Gwen Owen’s choral reading: “Ne you! Not ‘noo!’”

Dave White and his wife, Bev, who introduced me to “bean cuisine.”

Candace Dornblaser Steele ’53
Ashland, Ore.

Newspaper stories by former journalism student shouted from a wall near Ron Ross’s desk in Old Main. The bylines were broadly circled.

During office advising hours he’d lean from his chair to crack open a window, light a cigarette and listen intently. His compassion and ability to size up came in handy as an academic, in much the way they serve a reporter. Ron’s knack was to hear everything said, and sense most of the unsaid.

He taught journalism with great enthusiasm, and edited assignments with a heavy hand. Green inked comment weighed down the page. Often I thought he wrote more in the margins than I wrote in the text. “Be specific,” he scribbled. “Let’s have more description here,” he commanded. “Ugh!” he hollered. I’d add up the green comments mournfully, certain that I had no future in journalism. Ron tossed it off. Writing is always up and down, he’d say. You’ll be all right.

Ron’s optimism was boundless. He walked briskly into media law class, arms heaped with lecture notes and books. Hello, hello, he’d greet us, stacking his papers at the podium, opening windows, reaching to rearrange classroom chairs that pointed the wrong way. Those misplaced chairs made him nuts. So did misplaced words, we quickly learned.

Gifted with skill and humor, he made the transition from working professional to classroom teacher look easy. He’d catch us off guard and abruptly shift sides in an argument, defending the media with one breath, criticizing with another. No point in the world need take more than 250 words to write, Ron preached. Keep those comment papers short and concise.

Gifted with skill and humor, he made the transition from working professional to classroom teacher look easy. He’d catch us off guard and abruptly shift sides in an argument, defending the media with one breath, criticizing with another. No point in the world need take more than 250 words to write, Ron preached. Keep those comment papers short and concise.

I’ve surpassed your word limit, Professor Ross.

But please permit a final sentence. You made a difference, and you are missed.

Deborah Locke ’90
Milwaukee, Wis.
On the River with Redford and Company

You don't have to be a Macalester alum to make a movie with Robert Redford. But heck, it doesn't hurt.

Two alumni took part in the making of Redford's new movie, "A River Runs Through It," filmed in Montana. For more about John P. Bailey '69 (in photo with Redford), Ian Elliot '74 and the movie, see page 33 in this issue.

Macalester alums lead interesting lives. To keep in touch with your friends and classmates, be sure to fill out the Alumni Directory Survey that was mailed to all alums in August. For more on the survey and the new directory, turn to page 34.