Writer Charles Baxter ’69
and the stories he can tell
There is a lot of talk around the Twin Cities these days about new stadiums. I can recall the excitement when the Metrodome opened as a new state-of-the-art facility for the Vikings and Twins in 1982. Now we hear that it is obsolete and may be ripe for replacement, or at least major renovation.

In the New Year's Eve just past, the venerable dropping of the ball in Times Square was shouldered aside by the celebratory demolition of a 40-year-old hotel in Las Vegas — a city that essentially didn't exist 50 years ago.

Events like this make one wonder: What really does last in American society? What was around a hundred years ago and will still be around a century hence? Here's one good answer: Macalester College.

In this my first year as president, I have felt strongly the generational reach of this college as I have met with alumni across the country. During a visit to San Francisco, I met with members of George and Wilma Leonard's family spanning the era from Wilma herself (Class of '77) through her granddaughter, Katie Robben Fox (Class of '84), who is married to Thomas Fox '86 (formerly Johnson) — and I think we may have signed up two great-grandchildren, Bjorn Fox and Anders Fox, for the Classes of 2015 and 2017, respectively. In Los Angeles, Dick Schall '51 and his wife, Maryan, hosted an alumni brunch that included alumni from every decade between the 1920s and the 1990s. To see such a span of history gathered in one room is a moving event; even more moving is the fact that those folks were gathered together not mainly to reminisce about their days at Mac, but to learn about and to help contribute to building the college's future.

Our alumni, I've quickly learned, are not afraid to ask tough questions — no surprise there! From the fortunes of the football team to the ending of Intersession; from the financing of student aid to the planning for women's bathrooms in the new Campus Center — Mac alums are as alert, as inquiring and as skeptical as we taught them to be as undergraduates. And that is an important role for alumni: to ask the best of those of us who work at Macalester.

But it's equally easy to see that these questions about the college's plans and its future grow out of vivid and powerful memories of what their own undergraduate experiences meant and continue to mean to them, and their desire to preserve the best of those traditions.

All of us here at Macalester, and I'm sure all alumni around the world, were thrilled at the recent election of Kofi Annan '61 as secretary-general of the United Nations. It is arguably the world's most demanding job. In interviews since his election, Kofi has spoken fondly of his days at Macalester and how the college helped shape his view of the world. His remarks make inspiring reading for all of us connected to Macalester.

In one sense, of course, the Macalester that existed in 1920, or even in 1970, is no more — we've demolished and replaced our share of buildings, and we've revamped and reinvented our academic and residential programs repeatedly as the educational needs of our students have changed.

In another and deeper sense, though, the Macalester of those past generations lives on, and does so most meaningfully in its commitments to generations to come. The abiding commitments of Macalester — to academic excellence, to the education of capable students from the widest range of social and cultural backgrounds, and to an education that fits young people for a life of service in an increasingly interdependent world — these commitments span the generations and extend to a future beyond our own lifetimes.

I'm delighted to have the opportunity to play a part in keeping these commitments. I look forward to working with each of you in the years ahead. I welcome your thoughts and comments on how together we can best achieve our common goals for the college.
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Small world: Mac graduate leads United Nations
As a student from Ghana, Kofi Annan ’61 already showed ‘something special’

Fifty years after the college began flying the United Nations flag on campus, a Macalester alumnus earned the ultimate job for a Mac grad: secretary-general of the U.N.

The Dec. 13 election of Kofi Annan ’61, a native of Ghana and a current Macalester trustee, made front-page news — and delighted Macalester alumni — around the world. A career U.N. civil servant and previously head of U.N. peacekeeping operations, the 58-year-old Annan succeeded Boutros Boutros-Ghali as secretary-general.

“My highest priority will be to work with all member states to redefine the objectives of the organization in the post-Cold War world,” Annan said after his election by the Security Council. “It is time to agree on what the United Nations can and must do, and what it cannot do. Those choices will require consensus and cooperation among all member states.”

Annan (pronounced ANN-an) was born into a prominent family among the Fante people of Ghana’s Ashanti region. He spent two years at the University of Science and Technology in Ghana, and then qualified for a Ford Foundation program that placed foreign nationals in U.S. colleges and universities. He enrolled at Macalester in 1959, graduating two years later with a degree in economics.

Professor Roger Mosvick ’52 recalled how Annan impressed everyone with both the content and delivery of his speech in a campus oratory contest. "You could sense that there was something special about this young man," Mosvick said.

Jack Mason ’60 of Minneapolis, a U.S. magistrate judge, recalled his longtime friend’s participation on the speech and debate team. “Six of us would pile into some student’s clunker and drive for hours and hours to out-of-state competitions,” Mason told the Star Tribune. "Kofi was usually quiet, but he had a self-deprecating

Bob Gavin’s crystal ball

The election of a Macalester graduate to head the United Nations was foreseen by Bob Gavin, although even he didn’t expect it to happen before the millennium.

In remarks he made to the Board of Trustees in 1992, President Gavin offered a “vision of the future” at Macalester on March 5, 2024, the 150th anniversary of the college’s charter.

Gavin imagined a ceremony at Macalester in which “the president of the college, Maria Gutierrez, is introducing Zhu Di, the secretary-general of the United Nations, as the keynote speaker. Both President Gutierrez and Secretary-General Zhu graduated from Macalester in the Class of 2004.”

Gavin, president of Macalester for 12 years, is serving as interim president of Haverford College during the 1996-97 academic year. He wrote to Annan the day his election was announced and told him “how his election had beaten my prediction by almost 30 years!”

“Kofi exemplifies all the best of what a Macalester education stands for — the highest of standards in an international, multicultural role of service to society,” Gavin added.
Annan, who earned a master's degree in management from MIT, has spent more than 30 years with the United Nations. As head of peacekeeping operations, Annan oversaw 17 operations, with a budget of more than $3.8 billion, mandated to keep or restore peace throughout the world.

In an interview for the August 1994 Macalester Today with David Kansas '89, a reporter at the Wall Street Journal, Annan said his life was not quite what he dreamed for himself growing up in Ghana. "I figured that after my schooling, I would make some money in the business world, then I would — at, say, 45 — enter politics in Ghana and help develop the country," Annan said in the interview. "And at 60 I would retire to become a farmer. And I would die at 80 in bed. But it's one of those things God does. Our most intricate plans don't always turn out as we expected."

Annan came to Macalester on Sept. 9, 1994, to receive the annual Board of Trustees Award for Meritorious and Distinguished Service at the college's opening convocation of the academic year. He was accompanied by his wife, Nane Cronstedt Annan, a lawyer and painter who once did legal work for the U.N. Her uncle, Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg, saved thousands of Hungarian Jews from the Nazis during World War II.

"It is a joy for me to be at Macalester again," Annan, who was elected a college trustee in late 1994, told the Macalester convocation. "The years I spent here as a student were one of the most enriching experiences of my life...." Thirty years before the end of apartheid, a decade before the civil rights movement in this country, there was a celebration of diversity throughout this student body unlike any other I have known. Macalester's academic excellence was deeply rooted in a reverence and respect for other cultures. Students from a wide range of backgrounds and nationalities lived, worked and grew together. We were not merely greeted with tolerance; we were welcomed with warmth. I felt immediately at home."

For his Macalester audience, Annan also recalled his first encounter with a Minnesota winter, and what he learned from the experience. Although he dressed warmly, he refused to wear earmuffs, believing they looked ridiculous.

He repeated his 1994 story in an interview in the New York Times last month. "I resisted as long as I could, until one day, going to get something to eat, my ears nearly froze," he told Times reporter Barbara Crossette. "So I went and bought the biggest pair I could find. But even in that I learned a very important lesson. You never walk into a situation and believe that you know better than the natives."

"It is a joy for me to be at Macalester again. The years I spent here as a student were one of the most enriching experiences of my life."

—Kofi Annan in 1994
First-year courses
Students build stronger ties in studying, living together

When Matthew Abts arrived at Macalester last fall, he joined 15 other first-year students who were strangers to each other but immediately found they had a lot in common.

They all moved into Turk Hall, third floor. They all took one course together, “Three Great Modernists: Kafka, Hesse and Thomas Mann,” taught by Professor Ellis Dye of the German and Russian Department. All 16 will have Dye as their adviser for their first two years at Macalester. Many of them are meals together, and many studied together as a group for final exams.

Not surprisingly, friendships blossomed among the 16 first-year students.

“I think it was a really good experience, partly because of the residential component,” said Abts, who is from Findlay, Ohio. “It was really easy to get to know people pretty well right away. I still hang out a lot with a lot of the people on the floor, and I know some other people on the floor have bonded pretty tightly. Some [went] this Intersession in January on trips to San Diego and Mexico. People have definitely made connections, and they’re taking advantage of those.”

Abts’ experience is the result of a relatively new requirement that recognizes how critical the first year at college is for most students and how it lays the foundation for everything that follows. Starting in the fall of 1993, all first-year students at

Wall Street comes to Macalester Street
Hotel securities analyst Joyce Minor ’88 tells students about ‘getting connected, being savvy’

The class assignment: Perform the duties of an equity research analyst at a major Wall Street investment bank. For example:

• Find the earnings per share estimate for Promus Hotels stock.
• Compare Promus’ future earnings prospects to the other companies you follow.
• Calculate a target price for Promus.
• Taking these and other factors into account, assign a recommendation for the stock.

The assignment in Professor Karl Egge’s finance class this past October was provided by Joyce Minor ’88, a hotel securities analyst with Lehman Brothers in New York. Invited by Egge to talk to the students about her position, Minor decided to give the class a more complete understanding of what her job is like. “I thought if you had the chance to do my job and understand it, that might really help you,” she said.

Minor also chose the assignment because it provided an example of the method of teaching used at the Harvard Business School, where Minor received her M.B.A.

Class discussion centered on the factors that are examined in order to rank a stock. The students were asked to assign Promus Hotels stock one of the five categories of equity ranking: “Buy,” “Outperform,” “Neutral,” “Underperform” or “Sell.” According to Minor, “there is always going to be a strong case one way or the other. What you have to do is make your case as strong as possible.”

In addition to discussion of the assignment, Minor also provided some tips for students who might be interested in this line of work. She strongly recommended that they gain work experience before attending graduate school. “Don’t even try to go to business school without getting some work experience,” she said. “You really need it.”

Minor also stressed the importance of networking, making contacts and hard work. “It’s more than working hard. It’s getting connected, being savvy, impressing people that you meet. You have to get people that are really going to sponsor you and who are going to help you get into the organization. Once you get in, you have to work hard.”

Speaking of Egge’s invitation to address his class, Minor said, “Karl was always great about bringing people into class and having them give us a sense of what we could look forward to when we got into the real world. I was kind of excited when Karl wanted me to come do this.”

Student reaction to the class discussion and assignment was positive. “I really enjoyed it when she came,” said Shannon Weber ’98 (Wellston, Ohio). “Most speakers who come to class just say, ‘Here’s what I do.’ It’s kind of like show and tell, but she gave us a case study.”

Joyce Minor ’88 speaks to Professor Karl Egge’s finance class: “Karl was always great about bringing people into class and having them give us a sense of what we could look forward to when we got into the real world.”

‘It’s more than working hard.
It’s getting connected, being savvy, impressing people that you meet.’

... — Maia Werner ’98
Professor Ellis Dye, center, and students in his first-year course enjoy dinner at the home of Macalester alumnus Jim Schowalter '85.

Macalester have been required, in their first semester, to take one course in which:

- no more than 16 students are enrolled;
- the instructor is usually assigned as the students' adviser for two years;
- writing is emphasized.

The residential component is included in about half of the first-year courses offered each year. The idea for the residential component was developed as part of a project called "Strengthening Teaching and Learning in the First Two Years," funded by the Pew Charitable Trusts.

Professor Dye invited the students to his house one evening, and they all spent another evening having dinner at the home of a Macalester alumnus, Jim Schowalter '85 of St. Paul. It helps to create a sense of community and "a kind of vertical solidarity" between generations of Mac students, Dye says.

Dye says that "it makes a big difference to he the adviser of these students. One feels a lot more responsible to each of them." Although a class with 16 students is not small to language teachers like Dye, "it is conducive to creating better rapport and a greater feeling of comfort for each student in the group."

Two other first-year students spoke of their experience fall semester in terms similar to Matt Abts.

"I really enjoyed it," said Brooks Thomas (Chaska, Minn.). "Partially, it was just the course content. The size of the class really was an advantage. I also enjoyed living on the same floor as my classmates.... It was a good way to meet people, a good way to build. I'd recommend it."

"The residential component helped out a lot," said Nick Balster (Worthington, Minn.). "It was very good for the class in general, because all of us were in the same area and we were all able to, you could say, adjust a little easier. Out of that core 16 people, there's a really tight-knit group right now because we've all had that experience of the same class together for the entire first term. I really liked the first-year course, too."

African American studies
Faculty approves creation of minor

The faculty has approved creation of a minor in African American studies.

President Mike McPherson and Provost Wayne Roberts both spoke in favor of the proposal at the Oct. 9 faculty meeting. The faculty approved it in a unanimous voice vote.

The African American studies minor is being developed by a subcommittee chaired by Anthony Pinn of the Religious Studies Department. It is envisioned as being independent of and yet not isolated from the American studies program in particular or the faculty in general.

"After long discussions with the American Studies Committee and invited experts in the field, we have designed a minor that is independent, yet supportive of that of American studies," the subcommittee wrote in a Sept. 26 memo to the Curriculum Committee. "We have come to realize that African American studies and American studies programs on small campuses contribute to each other forming larger and stronger programs. A strong African American studies minor in which faculty can make independent decisions on the content of the minor
will further strengthen the program and better serve the students."

The introductory class will focus on African American history and will be team-taught by several faculty members.

The minor is being developed in response to a faculty resolution in April 1995. Students staged a peaceful protest at the Board of Trustees meeting the previous December to demand an ethnic studies program.

Two lives
College honors French couple who saved 5,000 Jews

The late Magda and André Trocmé led a movement by the people of the French village Le Chambon-sur-Lignon that saved 5,000 Jews, mainly children, from the Nazis during World War II.

Macalester honored the couple in a special tribute, "Triumph of the Human Spirit," Dec. 8 in Weyerhaeuser Chapel.

Magda Trocmé died last Oct. 10 in Paris at the age of 94. Her husband, André, died in 1971. Their daughter, Nelly Trocmé Hewett of St. Paul, who has taught at Macalester, participated in the college's tribute, remembering her parents' unassuming, quiet campaign to save the Jews. The Trocmés' son, Jacques, attended Macalester in the 1950s and now lives in Spain.

The evening also featured remarks by Pierre Sauvage, one of the children rescued during the war. Sauvage is the producer of the critically acclaimed documentary on the heroic actions of the people of Chambon, "Weapons of the Spirit," which originally aired on PBS. A shortened version of the documentary was shown during the Macalester event.

Others who took part in honoring the Trocmés included Macalester President Mike McPherson and Rabbi Bernard Raskas, a visiting distinguished professor of religious studies and associate chaplain at Macalester.

Mellon grant
Computer technology will enrich learning of foreign cultures

Macalester and Carleton College will share a three-year, $600,000 grant for foreign language education awarded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation of New York.

The colleges will use the award to develop and implement computer technologies that enrich student learning and understanding of foreign languages and cultures.

The grant will allow both colleges to build on their previous progress in applying computer technology in the classroom. Professors from the colleges' Spanish, Russian, German, French, Japanese and Chinese departments will collaborate on the project. They will share ideas and look at a full array of electronic technologies that can provide students with access to worldwide resources and help them learn more efficiently. The grant will give faculty the financial and technical support they need to learn how to use the technology effectively.

The project builds on the similarities and common needs of Macalester and Carleton. For example, more than 50 percent of the students at both colleges study abroad. The grant will eventually provide students more opportunities to prepare for study abroad by immersing themselves in the culture and language of the country in which they will study.

During the program, faculty will participate in large workshops featuring presentations by national experts and take part in hands-on demonstrations and activities that enhance teaching. Smaller workshops will also be held. In addition, mini-grants will be available for pairs or teams of teachers to explore a specific topic in depth or implement a specific kind of software application.

The Mellon Foundation grant will be administered by Macalester Spanish Professor Leland Guyer.
Inaugural week
Schedule of activities, March 10-15, leading to inauguration of President Michael S. McPherson

ALL EVENTS are free and open to the public.

• Monday, March 10, 7 p.m.: Reliving the Bosnia Story: A Documentary and Discussion
  Macalester alums and journalists Stephen Smith ’82 and Michael Montgomery ’86 share their experiences producing a radio documentary on the life and death of a Bosnian Serb fighter. At Weyerhaeuser Chapel. See article on page 14.
• Monday–Saturday, March 10–15: The Faces of Macalester: An Exhibit of Student and Faculty Research
  Faculty and students display a sample of their academic work. At Weyerhaeuser Chapel. A reception for the exhibit and the Bosnia program speakers (see above) will be held in the Chapel Lounge immediately following the Bosnia program at 8:30 p.m. March 10.
• Thursday, March 13, 4:30 p.m.: Views from The Presidents’ Windows
  College presidents, including Macalester’s Michael S. McPherson, share their perspectives on the future and importance of a liberal arts education on the eve of the 21st century. At Weyerhaeuser Chapel.
• Saturday, March 15, 1 p.m.: Inauguration of President Michael S. McPherson
  The inauguration ceremony of Macalester’s 15th president will feature an academic procession, Macalester’s international flags and remarks by both President McPherson and William G. Bowen, president of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and former president of Princeton. The ceremony will also include a poem written for the inauguration by English Professor and poet Diane Glancy. In the Field House. For more information, call 696-6203.
• Saturday, March 15, 2:30 p.m.: Inaugural Reception
  A gathering to toast President McPherson and his family. In the Gymnasium.
• Saturday, March 15, 7 p.m.: Inaugural Celebration
  The Post-Inaugural Pre-Millennial Party will include live music, entertainment, food, and a cash bar for wine, beer and soft drinks. A variety of musical groups will play, including Catfish Blue, featuring Steve and Sean McPherson, with guest appearance by Mike McPherson. Cash bar. At the Field House. For information, call 696-6203.
• Monday–Saturday, March 10–15: Faculty Art Exhibit
  Recent works by members of the Macalester Art Department faculty. The exhibit begins Feb. 20 and runs through April 12. At the Macalester Galleries, Janet Wallace Fine Arts Center. For information, call 696-6416.

Quotable Quotes

Here are some of the noteworthy comments made recently and around the campus:

"Jerry [Rudquist] was a wonderful teacher. I learned a great deal from him about process and the work ethic, not to mention content and how to conduct yourself in the community."
Wayne Potratz ’64, chair of the University of Minnesota art department, quoted in a profile of Macalester Professor Jerry Rudquist in the Nov. 5 Minneapolis Star Tribune. Rudquist’s portraits, abstractions and landscapes have been featured in shows at Walker Art Center and the Minneapolis Institute of Arts as well as in Germany, Finland and elsewhere in the United States.

"[Roger Blakely] acted as though I was his favorite English major. The hitch was, I never took a class from Roger and didn’t graduate in English. He just had this way of adopting people…. I think the finest skill a reporter hones is listening with the rapt and often compassionate attention that Ron [Ross, a Macalester journalism professor] displayed. He heard it all, everything said and unsaid. He knew when to advance and retreat, when to prod, when to tease. He just knew. My early skepticism toward him melted, replaced by respect and a little awe…. "Roger, Ron, thanks for the help."
Deborah Locke ’90, editorial writer for the St. Paul Pioneer Press, writing in a Nov. 21 column about the influence that two Macalester professors, both now deceased, had on her. See page 47 for obituary of Professor Blakely.

"I remember Thoreau saying of Harvard, ‘I learned tremendously from my classmates.’ That became true of Macalester when we got foreign students — the enormous mix, not just from European nations but Islamic people, native Africans and Orientals. This college has always favored discussion over straight lecture. Just by living together and talking with one another, we have learned more than we could have imagined."
The late Professor Roger Blakely ’43, in a 1995 interview with Kristi Wheeler-Hale ’69 of Macalester’s Media Services Department for a video history of the college. His words were quoted at his memorial service — see page 47.

"Government dollars to support higher education are really precious. Any dollar that goes for a tax break could instead go toward funding these programs [Pell grants and other programs restricted to needy students]. And there’s every reason to think that funding those programs is a more effective and better focused way of spending those precious dollars than tax cuts."
Macalester President Mike McPherson, criticizing President Clinton’s plan combining tax breaks and tax credits to help Americans pay for college. McPherson, a widely quoted authority on the economics of higher education, was interviewed in December on National Public Radio. He and co-author Morton Owen Schapiro made the same criticism in an opinion piece in the Nov. 30 New York Times.
Fall sports review

Macalester's soccer teams have been successful for a long time, but the fall of 1996 may have been the best season yet for the Scots. Coach John Leaney, who runs both the men's and women's programs, led each team to the NCAA Division III playoffs with a combined 30-7-3 record.

Both the men and the women tied school records for most wins in a season. Leaney earned his 100th men's soccer coaching win at Macalester in mid-October and picked up his 100th women's victory two weeks later.

Women's soccer (16-3-2)

The women shut out 10 opponents in a row and outscored their foes 77-8 en route to a 16-3-2 record and a No. 7 ranking in the final national Division III poll. Macalester beat Gustavus Adolphus and Heidelberg in the NCAA playoffs before bowing out with a 1-0 loss to the University of Chicago.

Defender Eva Farkas (senior, Seattle) and forward Brook Epperson (junior, Sandy, Utah) were named to the National Soccer Coaches Association of America/Umbro Division III Women's Soccer All-America Team. Epperson was named to the First Team and Farkas to the Second Team. The two joined midfielder Mandy Brettingen (junior, Eagan, Minn.) on the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (MIAC) team. Farkas anchored a defense which kept 17 of the 21 opponents off the board, while Epperson and Brettingen scored nine goals apiece. Farkas was also chosen to play in the Umbro Select College All-Star Soccer Classic Jan. 28-Feb. 2 in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

NCAA playoffs. In front of a large and supportive home field playoff crowd, Macalester's season came to a disappointing end with a penalty kick shootout loss to MIAC rival Concordia. Adams and fellow All-MIAC pick Jae-Won Huh (junior, Plymouth, Minn.) led the league's most dangerous scoring attack. Adams and his 14 goals were followed by Armin Heuberger (sophomore, Augsburg, Germany) with 10 goals and Larry Griffin (sophomore, Bellevue, Ill.) with six.

Men's soccer (14-4-1)

Nick Adams (senior, Elm Grove, Wis.) led the men's team to a 14-4-1 record by scoring 14 goals and assisting on 12 others. The school's all-time assist leader, Adams became Macalester's fourth MIAC Player of the Year selection, joining past standouts Roger Bridge '92, Matt Jackson '92 and Matt Highfield '94. Macalester responded to a mid-season slump by winning its final eight regular-season games to place second in the conference and earn a berth in the NCAA playoffs. In front of a large and supportive home field playoff crowd, Macalester's season came to a disappointing end with a penalty kick shootout loss to MIAC rival Concordia. Adams and fellow All-MIAC pick Jae-Won Huh (junior, Plymouth, Minn.) led the league's most dangerous scoring attack. Adams and his 14 goals were followed by Armin Heuberger (sophomore, Augsburg, Germany) with 10 goals and Larry Griffin (sophomore, Bellevue, Ill.) with six.

Football (3-7)

Under Coach Tom Bell, the Scots earned a conference win for the first time since 1990 and finished as the MIAC's most-improved team at 3-7. Macalester had won more than a single game in any season since 1988 before posting victories this past fall over Crown, Gustavus Adolphus and St. Olaf. Many of the team's losses were close games before the final quarter. A hard-charging defense was the key to Mac's football turnaround. Ranked among the MIAC leaders in every defensive category,
Scots use tough defense to improve in football

Football fortunes at Macalester took a big step in the right direction last fall as the Scots enjoyed their best season since 1988. Winless in Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (MIAC) play for five discouraging years, Macalester turned things around in 1996. Under third-year Coach Tom Bell, the Scots won three games, defeating conference rivals Gustavus and St. Olaf.

The Scots, who allowed 40 points a game in the early years of this decade, had one of the best defensive units in the MIAC last fall.

"Our defense did an outstanding job, giving up 10 points and 100 yards a game less than last year," Bell said. "There has been a steady trend of defensive improvement over the past three years, and this past season things really came together."

"The situation was pretty gloomy and it was difficult to be a football player here three years ago," Bell continued. "We were able to recruit some excellent players and the players who were here have matured. Retention has been crucial and this year's seniors deserve a lot of credit for overcoming all the adversity they faced. They're the ones who led the way."

Bell likes the future of football at Macalester. "We have a lot of good people returning next year. If we aren't hurt by losing coaching staff, which is a concern, then 1997 should be a big season for us."

— Andy Johnson

Tom Bell

the Scots were led by All-Conference picks Ben Harris (junior, Boulder, Colo.) at tackle, Kawika Alo (senior, Honolulu, Hawaii) at end and Eddie Ray (sophomore, Three Rivers, Texas) at linebacker. Harris set a school record for most tackles for loss of yardage, and finished with 76 total tackles. Alo, a repeat All-MIAC pick, made 66 tackles and Ray led the team with 131.

Volleyball (12-25)

Macalester continued its volleyball rebuilding effort with a 12-25 record and conference wins over Carleton and Augsburg. The 12 victories were the most in 10 years. Second-team All-Conference hitter Jennifer Jorgensen (sophomore, Glendale, Wis.) came on strong over the season's second half and led the team with a .282 hitting percentage. Her 246 kills were second to teammate Courtenay Penwell (first-year, Salem, Ore.), who spiked 297 kills — the most by a Macalester player in a decade. Betsy O'Neil (first-year, Corbett, Ore.) was one of the league's best setters.

Cross country

Carmen Hurd (first-year, Brandon, Manitoba) established herself as the latest in a line of nationally competitive runners to join the Macalester women's cross country program. Hurd placed 12th at the conference meet, 20th at Central Regionals and qualified for the NCAA Division III national meet, where she placed 69th out of nearly 200 competitors. She was the 12th-fastest runner at nationals among first-year collegians. Liz Connors (first-year, Albany, Ore.) was the team's second runner all season and also has a bright career ahead of her.

The men's cross country program boasted two of the top new faces in the league in Brandon Guthrie (first-year, Salem, Ore.) and Kevin Shively (first-year, Seattle). Top-25 finishers at the conference championships, Guthrie and Shively were among the six fastest frosh at the MIAC meet. Sean Campanella (senior, Eugene, Ore.) and Tim Pavlish (first-year, Shakopee, Minn.) were steady in the third and fourth positions.

Golf

Macalester's golf programs continued their steady rise this past fall, with the men finishing seventh in the conference and the women coming in fourth. Three-time All-MIAC performer Kathy Spalding (junior, Brandon, Manitoba) was especially impressive. Spalding, who could receive an invitation to the NCAA championships this spring, captured medalist honors at the Concordia-Moorhead Invitational with a 139 two-round score, and took sixth at the conference meet.
The inimitable lady in red: Mary Gwen Owen

by Rebecca Gonzalez-Campoy '83

SHE HAD PRESENCE and style. Mary Gwen Owen, the grande dame of Macalester's Speech and Theater Department for 40 years, was a cross between Auntie Mame and Emily Post.

However, she was not a professionally trained actress. Instead, she was enrolled at Bryn Mawr, but not run or manage a farm. Macalester made more sense financially. Her first loves were political science and agriculture. But women of her generation were expected to teach, not run for office or manage a farm. Owen started her career at Macalester teaching history. "I majored in political science at Macalester and took Chinese at the University of Wisconsin," Owen said in one of the many articles written about her. "Then Miss [Grace] Whitridge—who taught 'expression' and directed the theater at Macalester—asked me to be her assistant. So that was how I got into theater. But, if the chairman of the history department had asked me to be his assistant, I would have gone into history." Karlyn Kohrs Campbell '58, chair of the speech-communication department at the University of Minnesota, describes Owen: "She was tall, big boned, and large. She wore a red smock and enormous jewelry. She made her own clothes and they were distinctive, functional and attractive. She was formidable as a result."

Her creation of Macalester's Drama Choros, a dramatic-reading group, was one of Owen's most notable contributions to the college. Consisting of 80 students accompanied by Macalester's bagpipe band, the Choros toured throughout the United States and won national acclaim. "It was my own special thing to use ideas dramatically and stage them," Owen once said. "The idea came to me after seeing a group of readers that I didn't like in England; it was missing something. But you should have seen the Drama Choros! The color and the movement and the dance were gorgeous!"

Owen demanded professionalism from herself, her students and her colleagues. "She had a sense of what it meant to be a professional," recalls Kohrs Campbell. "You just trembled when she called on you. She wanted high quality—her work reflected that."

Mary Reeves Pruitt '46 of West St. Paul, Minn., was one of countless students influenced by the dynamic professor. "Mary Gwen Owen helped me to discover who I was and how to use my talents. From her also came my lifelong love of theater," Pruitt wrote in 1996 for her class' 50th reunion booklet.

Owen called herself a "compulsive activist." "She had a big bulletin board outside her office," says Kohrs Campbell. "She posted articles covering important issues and marked them up. She wanted us to be aware of world events."

In many ways, Owen was a pioneering feminist. "When I got out of college, I got the highest-paying job — $1,400—teaching high school in North Dakota," she recalled one time. "Men almost always got more money. When I taught at Macalester, I was one of the lowest-paid professors. There should be more women and there should be equal pay for equal work."

About Emily Post: Owen was a widely quoted authority on social manners. And for years, she delighted freshmen during Orientation Week with her talks on etiquette. In 1965, she finally put her directives into book form, called the MacDo Book. Covering good manners from clothes to conduct to conversation, the little guide was intended "for those mature students at Macalester who recognize that social grace and style are among the marks of sensitive, aware, cultivated human beings. It is not recommended for those adolescents seeking a shot of Instant Charm as an aid to Social Status."

Owen retired in 1968. Her favorite expression—a passage by William Saroyan—sums up her life philosophy: "In the time of your life, live—so that in that good time there shall be no ugliness or death for yourself or for any life your life touches."

Rebecca Gonzalez-Campoy '83 is a free-lance writer who has profiled Margaret Doty, Huntley Dupre and other great figures in the college's history for Macalester Today. She lives in Shoreview, Minn.
Coming soon to your mailbox: A survey for Reunion '98

To all alumni whose class years end in "3" or "8":

This fall, classmates will begin contacting you about your Reunion in May 1998. In the meantime, we want to be sure that you don't miss any of the news about your class, so we are asking you to complete a survey.

The survey is being mailed out in a few weeks to all alumni whose class years end in "3" or "8."

Unless you tell us differently, we'll include your current address and home phone number in a 1998 Reunion Class Directory that will be sent to all of your classmates before Reunion Weekend.

The information you provide on the survey is confidential. It is solely for official Macalester College and Alumni Association use, and will only be given to Macalester alumni for individual communication of a personal nature. Your information will also provide the college with important outcome data used in Macalester's admissions efforts.

Our thanks in advance for taking the time to complete the survey.

See you at your Reunion in May 1998.

Warm regards,
Karen McConkey
Alumni Director

P.S. If you would like to be part of your 1998 Reunion Planning Committee, please call the Alumni Office: 1-800-662-6374, or (612) 696-6295.

Meet Mike McPherson

Alumni in three more cities across the country will have the opportunity to meet Mike McPherson, Macalester's new president, at a series of receptions.

Receptions have already been held in San Francisco, San Diego, Los Angeles and New York.

Here is the schedule for the other receptions:

- April 3 or 4, Seattle, location TBA
- April 14 or 16, Washington, D.C., location TBA
- April 29 or 30, Chicago, location TBA

In addition, receptions are being held in the Twin Cities and elsewhere in Minnesota.

The inauguration of McPherson as Macalester's 15th president will take place at 1 p.m. Saturday, March 15; see page 7 for the complete schedule of events.

For more information, call the Alumni Office's toll-free number: 1-800-662-6374; in the Twin Cities, call 696-6067.

New York meets Mike

Left: Timothy Hultquist '72, right, chair of Macalester's Board of Trustees, and Kofi Annan '61 talk at a special reception that Hultquist and his wife, Cynthia, hosted for President Mike McPherson Dec. 3 in New York City. Ten days later, Annan was elected secretary-general of the United Nations (see page 2). Below: President McPherson and Beverly Bater O'Reilly '38 at the reception.

"Just for Fun"
Mac Tennis and Golf Tournaments

Come solo or bring a group for two just-for-fun tournaments: "Mac Hac" golf/lunch at Keller Golf Course Friday, May 23, and "Mac Racq" social tennis at Macalester's courts Saturday, May 24.

It's part of Reunion-Commencement Weekend, May 23-25, and you're invited!

Watch your mail for details, or call (612) 696-6261.

CELEBRATE!
S H I N E W E E K C O M M E N C E M E N T R E U N I O N ' 9 7
Calendar of alumni events

Here are some of the events scheduled for alumni, parents, family and friends. More events are being added all the time. For more information on any of the following, call the Alumni Office, (612) 696-6295, except where noted. The toll-free number is 1-800-662-6374. You may also call the campus events line, (612) 696-6900.

Please note: Music, dance, theater, visual arts events and lectures are all listed in the Spring 1997 Arts & Events Calendar, which was mailed in January to all Twin Cities area alumni. If you did not receive the Spring Arts & Events Calendar and want a copy, please call (612) 696-6295.

Feb. 1-8: Virgin Islands cruise for alumni and friends (sold out)
Feb. 25: Monthly meeting of Macalester Book Club, 7-9 p.m., Alumni House, 1644 Summit Ave., St. Paul (call Laura Robertson Rasmussen '85 at 483-0647, or Ann Samuelson '85 at 927-7471)
Feb. 25: Happy hour for recent grads in Boston, 6-8 p.m., Brew Moon, 115 Stuart St., Boston (call Brew Moon at 617-523-6467 or Carrie Norbin '94 at 617-864-1869)
Feb. 26: Happy hour for recent grads in Washington, D.C., 6-8 p.m., Buffalo Billiards, Dupont Circle Metro, walk around circle to 19th, under The Front Page (call Shelley Churchill '89 at 202-333-0751 or e-mail: shelleyWB@aol.com)
March 2: Seattle alumni event with Professor Lynda LaBounty, 2-4 p.m. at Seattle Zoo (call Nancy Schatz '92 at 206-325-0159 for more information)
March 8: Great Scots event (for alumni 55 and older), with Professor Roger Mosvick '52, 8:30-11:15 a.m., Weyerhaeuser Hall (696-6026)
March 15: Inauguration of Mike McPherson as Macalester's 15th president, 1 p.m., Macalester Field House (see page 7 for complete schedule)
March 19: Happy hour for recent grads in Boston, 6-8 p.m., Grendel's Den, 89 Winthrop St., Cambridge (call Grendel's Den at 617-439-1050 or Carrie Norbin '94 at 617-864-1869)
March 26: Happy hour for recent grads in Seattle, 5:30-7:30 p.m., The Attic Ale House & Eatery, 4226 East Madison (call Amy Kirkman Brim '89 at 206-725-4755)

Sounds of Blackness
President Mike McPherson introduces Russell Knighton '72, a founding member of the Grammy Award-winning Sounds of Blackness, at an alumni reception before the gospel group's Dec. 17 performance at the State Theater in Minneapolis. The group began in 1969 as the Macalester College Black Choir before changing its name in 1971 to the Sounds of Blackness. The ensemble is led by Gary Hines '74.

March 26: Happy hour for recent grads in Washington, D.C., 6-8 p.m., Art Gallery Grille, 1712 I St. NW (call Shelley Churchill '89 at 202-333-0751 or e-mail: shelleyWB@aol.com)
April 6: Macalester Sunday, 10:30 a.m., Westminster Presbyterian Church, Minneapolis
April 24: Happy hour for recent grads in Boston, 6-8 p.m., Boston Beer Works, 61 Brookline Ave., Boston (call Boston Beer Works at 617-536-2337 or Carrie Norbin '94 at 617-864-1869)
May 3: 25th Annual Scottish Country Fair, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., rain or shine (696-6239)

"It's been such a long time...."

Class reunion events for all the 2s and 7s

If your class year ends in a 2 or a 7, this is your special year. Class members will gather on campus for their own social hours on Friday and dinners on Saturday, May 23-24, 1997.

It's part of Reunion-Commencement Weekend, May 23-25, and you're invited!

Watch your mail for details, or call (612) 696-6261.

Celebrate! Senior Week Commencement Reunion '97
May 13: Happy hour for recent grads in Seattle, 5:30-7:30 p.m., The Leschi, 102 Lakeside (call Amy Kirkman Brim '89 at 206-725-4755)

May 18: Minnesota AIDS Walk from Minnehaha Falls in Minneapolis

May 21: Happy hour for recent grads in Boston, 6-8 p.m., Cambridge Brewing Co., 1 Kendall Square (call Cambridge Brewing Co. at 617-494-1994 or Carrie Norbin '94 at 617-864-1869)

May 23–25: Reunion and Commencement (Commencement is at 1:30 p.m., Sunday, May 25, during Memorial Day Weekend)

June 3–16: "Westering Home," alumni trip to Scotland and England with Mary Smail and Sandy Hill '57 (sold out)

July 12: 30th anniversary of Minnesota Institute for Talented Youth; Mac alums who attended its programs are invited to call (612) 696-6590 for more information

Aug. 22–24: Alumni event at Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Ashland, Ore., with Professor Sears Eldridge (call Associate Alumni Director Jen Patti '91 at 696-6026 or 1-800-662-6374)

Sept. 12–14: Alumni Leadership Conference at Macalester for alumni leaders throughout the country


Oct. 17–19: Fall Festival and Parents’ Weekend •

And the winner is...

Marge McPherson, left, wife of President Mike McPherson, picks the winner of a Macalester t-shirt in a drawing at Kagin Dining Commons during Fall Festival/Parents’ Weekend in October. Associate Alumni Director Jen Patti ’91, center, and Brooke Foster of the Development Office display the prize.

Walk in Washington

Among the people who took part in an Oct. 6 walk in Washington, D.C., to benefit the fight against AIDS were (from left) Shelley Churchill '89, Peter Gross '90, Mani Mokalla '96, Clea Rome '96, Wilson Varga '76, Cara Woodson Welch '89, Chuck Szymanski '91 and Tami Nading '90.
Why Did a Good Man Become a Killer?

‘Face of Mercy, Face of Hate,’ a documentary by two Macalester alumni, investigates the life and mysterious death of a Bosnian Serb who preyed on civilians.

by Jan Shaw-Flamm ‘76

Michael Montgomery ’86 and Stephen Smith ’82 are both seasoned reporters whose interests in journalism and international affairs date back to their days at Macalester. But the two had never collaborated until the suspicious death of a Serbian friend of Montgomery’s brought them together.

The result was “Face of Mercy, Face of Hate,” Smith and Montgomery’s compelling documentary for Minnesota Public Radio. Originally broadcast nationally last September, the 20-minute program presents a portrait of a cosmopolitan Serb who once counted Muslims among his friends, who may have defended Muslims, but who also preyed upon civilians. By focusing on one man’s transformation during the war, the documentary illuminates the fragility of peace, the nature of ethnic hatred and the choices individuals face in the maelstrom that is Bosnia.

During a year of study in Yugoslavia, Montgomery met Predrag Bundalo — “Gaga,” the diminutive for Predrag, to his friends — at the 1984 Winter Olympics in Sarajevo. “Gaga was a bon vivant,” said Montgomery. “We became friends through our love of the mountains. With him as my guide, I also trekked through Sarajevo’s frenetic café life. Gaga lived each day as a separate adventure.” The friendship deepened when Montgomery returned as a Fulbright Fellow in 1987.

Knowledgeable and well connected from his years of study in the Balkans, Montgomery covered the disintegration of Yugoslavia for the London Daily Telegraph for six years. In 1994, when Montgomery was in Pale, the Bosnian Serb headquarters, Smith was covering the siege of Sarajevo for National Public Radio. “We hoped then to be able to work together,” said Smith, “but after NATO’s first air strike against the Serbs, they retaliated by cutting off Sarajevo. Although we were only 20 miles apart, it was impossible.”

While covering the war, Montgomery heard rumors that Bundalo was fighting with the Serbs against Sarajevo. In July 1993, he visited Bundalo’s...
Serb-held neighborhood of Grbavica only to hear that his friend had been killed by a gunshot in May, on the eve of his 36th birthday. Bundalo died in the apartment of an aging Muslim woman, Fikreta Ramic. It was a suicide, according to the official records of the Bosnian Serb army. But a mutual friend claimed that other Serbs killed Bundalo for protecting Muslim neighbors in the building.

"Fikreta told me that Gaga intervened when Serb police harassed her and her daughter," Montgomery reported, "and that he brought them valuable provisions like coffee and cigarettes."

"I've been investigating what happened to Gaga ever since I heard he was dead," Montgomery said, "but at every point the war prevented me from finding clues or talking to the Serbs and Muslims closest to him. It was only after the Dayton peace accord that I was able to talk frankly with the key players."

In January 1995, Montgomery left the Daily Telegraph and moved to San Francisco, where he works as a free-lance writer, intending to investigate and write about the puzzle of his friend's life and death. "I never considered doing it for radio until I was talking with Stephen, who said it would make a great radio documentary."

"It took until May [1996] to put together the coalition to produce the documentary," said Smith, senior reporter and producer-national projects for Minnesota Public Radio. "Michael worked on it in his spare time for months, and I joined him in Sarajevo for three weeks during the summer."

Even with Montgomery's many contacts, the investigation was difficult. "There was no autopsy," said Smith, "and when you talk with people, first you have to sit with them for hours and drink Turkish coffee and smoke cigarettes. We talked with Gaga's brother, with his cousins and with former neighbors. He had little family left — his parents are dead, his brother is dying of leukemia, and his only marriage was brief and unhappy. One of the challenges was that so many people had so many reasons to lie to us."

Amid all the uncertainties, there is apparent agreement on one thing. During the course of the war, Montgomery's urbane, easygoing friend had become a combatant who preyed on civilians.

When Montgomery talked with Bundalo's neighbors, he learned of a Gaga who terrorized Muslims during his frequent drinking sprees, looted their apartments and sold the goods for booze. Perhaps even more disturbing is the evidence that Bundalo

'I'm fairly convinced that he shot himself — possibly accidentally. He must have been in a terrible state."

— Michael Montgomery

had become a sniper, shooting civilians from a sniper's nest above the streets of Sarajevo.

"Bundalo had the AK-47 that's issued to the Serbs conscripted into the army," said Smith, "but he also had an M-48 sniper's rifle with a scope and was being investigated by the Bosnian War Crimes Commission as a suspected war criminal."

Bundalo's friend Zoran, a fellow Serb who fought on the front lines with him, showed Montgomery a photograph Gaga had taken of himself holding a rifle with scope: Gaga as a sniper. "Snipers were the scourge of Sarajevo," Montgomery reported in the documentary. "They were the worst kind of evil in this war. There were a lot of times during the war when I watched the fire come into buildings. You could see it at night — you could watch the tracer fire — and I would often think, 'Where is Gaga? Is

Circa 1992:
Gaga as a sniper.
"Snipers were the scourge of Sarajevo," Montgomery reported in the documentary. "They were the worst kind of evil in this war."

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he up there? Is he firing on the city? Is he firing on his city? Is he firing on me?"

Many questions remain unanswered, but Montgomery continues his travels to Bosnia and more evidence may come to light.

Smith and Montgomery still ponder what happened to Bundalo and why he did what he did. "Hate movements prey on the weak among their followers, encouraging them to blame their problems on outsiders," Smith said. Referring to the lack of discipline, he added, "Gaga was not a trained soldier. All Serb men were mobilized; he never went to boot camp or served in the army. He was just issued a uniform and a gun."

"I'm fairly convinced that he shot himself — possibly accidentally," Montgomery said recently from San Francisco. "He must have been in a terrible state. The symptoms of violence and the drinking were there before the war, but the war brought out the violence in him, and gave him a taste of absolute power. One way to use power is to save people, one is to terrorize them."

Apparently, Gaga did both.

"One of the challenges was that so many people had so many reasons to lie to us."

— Stephen Smith

Face of Mercy, Face of Hate: Monday, March 10, at Mac and on MPR

MICHAEL MONTGOMERY AND STEPHEN SMITH will present their multi-media documentary "Face of Mercy, Face of Hate," at 7 p.m. Monday, March 10, in Macalester's Weyerhaeuser Chapel.

The presentation, sponsored by Macalester in cooperation with Minnesota Public Radio, is part of a week of activities leading to the inauguration of President Mike McPherson at 1 p.m. Saturday, March 15.

First broadcast in September 1996, their documentary is scheduled to air again at noon Monday, March 10, on Minnesota Public Radio's "Midday."


The video images were provided from Sarajevo by film and video artist Jeanne Finley; Smith directed the still and video editing.

Amid the ruins of Sarajevo, July 1996: journalists Stephen Smith '82, left, and Michael Montgomery '86. They are in the Serb-held neighborhood of Gricavica, where Montgomery's friend, Gaga, lived and died.
With his new collection of fiction, entitled Believers, Charles Baxter '69 adds to his growing reputation as one of America's best writers

by Anne Valentine Martino '75

photographs by Bill Jordan

Morning light sifts through the Michigan woods outside Charles Baxter's writing room, which sits on top of his garage. Inside, the author sits in his big brown rocker, where on other mornings he imagines scenes before writing them.

Baxter is laughing about his Midwestern roots. "I could no more write a novel set in Los Angeles than a clam could learn to play an accordion," he says.

Baxter, who directs the M.F.A. writing program at the University of Michigan, has made a career writing about middle America, steadily spinning tales about mostly small-town, small-time lives. His characters—a bank officer, a mechanic, a teacher, a medical school dropout—walk gracefully through his latest work, Believers, speaking and thinking in startlingly engaging ways, often leaving readers agape at the simple beauty of their words.

Believers, a novella and seven short stories, is being released next month by Pantheon. As luck and Baxter's new agent would have it, Baxter's new collection of essays about fiction, Burning Down the House, is coming out about the same time. Two earlier books, Harmony of the World and Through the Safety Net, also are set for re-release this year, in Vintage paperbacks.

We understand our lives in terms of stories," says Charles Baxter, whose short stories have been widely anthologized. He is shown in the book-filled writing room of his home in Ann Arbor, Mich.
mine and read it," he says. Baxter, who struggled for years to get his first stories published, knows the despair of rejection and self-doubt. Like many of his characters, his life seems almost a daily exercise in survival. "I feel that I am not a fraud, I am not a blow-hard. I've really worked at this, and I think these stories have value," he says.

Although he will turn 50 in May, Baxter could easily pass for a graduate teaching assistant. His casual clothes — a black turtleneck and jeans — do nothing to dispel this image. For Baxter, storytelling is more than a livelihood, it is essential to the health of the human psyche. "We understand our lives in terms of stories," he says slowly, deliberately. "When people are emotionally sick, they go to a therapist for help figuring out the story of their lives," says Baxter, who says he has never been to a psychologist.

In his head, a life data recorder seems to have been whirring for years, feeding his imagination. When he tells the story of his own life, it sounds like a novel: A bright, strong-willed young man has a consuming desire to write, but must struggle to find a voice that is widely appreciated.

Baxter was born in Minneapolis in 1947. His father, John, died when he was 18 months old. (He says that Father Pielke, a character in the novella Believers, was his effort "to reconstruct a father I did not have.")

When Baxter's mother, Mary, remarried, the family went to live on a 40-acre estate outside Excelsior, Minn., a former summer hotel with the unworldly name "World's End." In the well-stocked library, young Charlie read and read. When Baxter later in life read The Turn of the Screw — the Henry James novel set in a country house — he was reminded of his childhood and quipped that it was the first "realistic" piece of fiction he had read. Growing up, he and his brother did think there was something "creepy" about their house.

As a teen, Baxter went to a boys' preparatory school. He was groomed for Williams College, but
chose Macalester. There he found that “my ambitions as a writer were taken seriously for the first time in my life. [The late Professor] Roger Blakely was an exemplary teacher and reader: he had a gift for paying close attention to student work, for treating such work as if its complexity might be worth close study.” Baxter also became friends with Professor Alvin Greenberg, a poet and fiction writer. “Al Greenberg was wonderfully supportive as well: alert, funny and always generous. I think ‘generosity’ is the watchword here, generosity without sentimentality. I’m more grateful to my teachers at Mac than I can easily say.”

At Macalester, Baxter brushed shoulders with fellow writer Tim O’Brien, a political science major from Worthington, Minn. Today, Baxter claims that O’Brien, as student council president, once reduced a request for money for a campus literary magazine Baxter was co-editing. “I should tell you that Tim vigorously denies that,” he says with a laugh.

After graduating in 1969, Baxter taught fourth grade in Pinconning, Mich., near Lake Huron, where he met the couple who would become the inspiration for his three “Saul and Patsy” stories. He earned a doctorate at SUNY Buffalo, and in 1974 was hired to teach at Wayne State University in inner-city Detroit.

His early years in Michigan, he says, helped him grasp the reserved Midwestern character. “And at Wayne State, I saw the sorts of hard lives some people have to live,” he says.

Although he published poetry as a young man, Baxter struggled from age 27, when he earned his Ph.D., until his late 30s to get his fiction published. He says he produced “some wildly lyrical stuff,” before finding his voice in “Midwestern realism.”

“I learned it is fantastically difficult to write a good story,” Baxter says. Feelings of failure and despair dogged him. Baxter recalls being told that perhaps his imagina-

Charles Baxter’s work: A literary chronology

• *Harmony of the World:* The short story of the title features a musician who, not unlike Baxter at the time, is torn between creative and critical work (1984, University of Missouri Press; re-released this year in Vintage paperback).

• *Through the Safety Net:* The title short story features a psychic who warns Dinah, a dentist, that calamity is coming. Also in the book are the well-known stories “Gryphon” and “Saul and Patsy Are Getting Comfortable in Michigan” (1985, Viking Penguin; re-released this year in Vintage paperback).

• *First Light:* Dorsey Welch, an astrophysicist, leaves the town of Five Oaks, Michigan, while her older brother, Hugh, stays behind and becomes a car salesman. In this, Baxter’s first published novel, time rolls backward to Dorsey’s birth (1987, Viking Penguin).

• *A Relative Stranger:* The short stories give readers jarring surprises — an empty wheelchair by a beach towel, for example (1990, Norton).


• *Shadow Play:* Set in Five Oaks, Baxter’s second novel stars Wyatt Palmer, who tries to live an ordinary life but ends up snared in a moral dilemma when, as assistant city manager, he helps a slick entrepreneur build a biotech factory that ultimately kills his cousin (1993, Norton).

• *Burning Down the House:* This April, Graywolf Press will release his collection of essays about fiction.

• *Believers:* In March, Pantheon will release this collection of seven stories and a powerful novella. In “Flood Show,” a town gathers to watch a river flood. In “The Cures for Love,” a broken-hearted classics scholar finds solace in Ovid. In “Kiss Away,” a young woman must decide whether a new boyfriend is a winner or a loser. “I thought it was time to start writing about younger people,” Baxter says. Other stories include “The Next Building I Plan to Bomb,” “Reincarnation,” “Time Exposure” and “Saul and Patsy Are in Labor.” •

‘He starts at a small point, and moves up to a very large, cosmic world. And he is just one of the best human beings on the planet. What is in his soul, is in his work.’ — Jonis Agee, University of Michigan colleague and novelist
tian was poisoned. He began to lose confidence, and to believe that "apart from my marriage, and from being a parent — despite all my gifts — it [his writing] just doesn't seem to be any good. It was like a black box in the middle of the living room."

The mystery, he says, is why he kept writing. "I was starting to think I could learn to write fiction by writing short stories, by paying attention to the small things and giving up some of the grand designs."

As a final effort, he penned "Harmony of the World," about a musician leaving creative work for criticism. It was a breakthrough.

Robert Solotaroff, a University of Minnesota English professor who is writing a book about Baxter, suggests that as a young man, Baxter may have needed to accumulate a certain number of experiences as a husband, parent and teacher before he found the voice that would bring literary success. "In his early fiction, he kept readers at a distance from his characters. But there was a realist in the back room of his imagination," Solotaroff says.

In the mid-'70s, Baxter met his wife, Martha, a teacher with a background in psychology, at a mixer in an Ann Arbor apartment complex. Twenty-two years later, "she can read me," Baxter says, smiling openly. Says Martha Baxter: "He's very psychoanalytic. I like the way he handles characters, and the way he interacts with other people."

They have a 17-year-old son, Daniel, who will graduate this spring from a private high school in Ann Arbor.

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For Baxter, much of life revolves around finding time to write. "I do have caller ID, and I can do what it takes in order to get my time at the keyboard," he says. When time permits, favorite activities include swimming and listening to music.

Among friends and colleagues, Baxter is admired for a gentle, warm personality and a consistent generosity of spirit — gifts he acknowledges may be rare among successful fiction writers. "We always expect writers to be slightly dreadful, egomaniacal drunks — not to put too fine a point on it," he says. "I don't consider myself a moral paradigm... but I don't yell at people, and I'm a pretty good listener."

In Believers, Baxter says he wrote "about the articles of faith you must have to get out of bed in the morning. And I wanted to write about the tendency of Americans in the Midwest to get fanatical, about the rising tide of fanaticism."

Fanaticism shows up in the novella, which is the story of Father Franz Pielke, a priest whose parents emigrated from Germany to Michigan in 1906. The story is told by Pielke's devoted son, Johann, as a sort of exercise in self-discovery. In 1937, when Father Pielke is hunting for wild asparagus in the woods, he happens upon Burton Jordan, a wealthy lawyer, and his wife, Mary Ellen, whose hair is "the color of gold coins." When the Jordans invite him to travel with them to Nazi Germany in 1938, Father Pielke does so, and becomes a witness to power and corruption, leading to his fall from grace.

"My stepfather went to Germany in 1938 with his first wife," Baxter says. "Some of these family stories have been sifting around for a long time, and I wanted to get them out."

What does the author believe in? God? "Not a personal god," he says, "but I do believe in a spirit, in something that is utterly beyond us." Hard work? Certainly, but Baxter isn't going to get preachy about it. Love? "Yes, but if you're really interested in it, I think you have to acknowledge the sinister and destructive aspects of it." Himself? Yes, firmly, as he works on a third novel, Feast of Love.

Becoming a well-known writer has not changed Baxter's life dramatically. "Getting a little bit of success just solves the small things," he says. "The big things — love, income, whether people are going to respect you or be nice to you, how to face your own death — these things are still there." ©1997 by Charles Baxter
As chair of Communication Studies the past seven years, Professor Roger Mosvick has led the department through enormous changes. The TV monitor shows him being interviewed on CNN.

Excellent teachers, the merger of Journalism with Speech/Communications and a revitalized curriculum have created a highly popular Communication Studies Department

by Carolyn Griffith

In Macalester's Communication Studies Department, the ascendency of the Information Age is anything but abstract. "Last May, we registered 64 majors," says Professor Roger Mosvick, "and we contemplate graduating 24 majors this year. This is triple the average number of majors registered in the early '80s." Communication Studies is now one of the fastest-growing departments on campus.

"The field of communication has been growing all over the United States for about 15 years, and the growing enrollment at Macalester reflects this surging interest," notes Mosvick, a 1952 Macalester graduate. During the seven years of his chairmanship, thoughtful restructuring and careful faculty additions have resulted in renewed vitality in a curriculum that addresses the
needs of a media-sawy world, and strengthened an already formidable forensics program.

"I think our communications studies curriculum now reflects mainstream currents in the field, but with a heavier focus on the interpersonal, gender and multicultural concerns that are emphasized here at Macalester," says Mosvick.

**Strengthening the curriculum**

Mosvick describes two organizational changes that have enhanced the discipline's growth and popularity. First, in 1990, the directorship of the forensics program, which formerly involved teaching duties, became a staff position. This made it possible to bring in new teaching expertise in film and television analysis; intercultural, interpersonal and gendered communication; criticism of political rhetoric; and the effects of electronic technology on media, message and audience participation.

"We did not have a gender and communication course before hiring Adrienne Christiansen in 1990," notes Mosvick. "And when Clay Steinman joined the faculty in 1993, that opened up the whole film and media studies area." Sally Caudill, hired this year as full-time instructor, is finishing her dissertation on multicultural communication for a Ph.D. in speech communications from the University of Georgia.

Second, in 1991 two departments — Journalism and Speech/Communications — were merged, creating a new department whose purview spans the spectrum from interpersonal to mass communication, from the fundamentals of persuasion and argumentation to consideration of rhetorical acts in American protest movements and electronic media in an international age.

In the years since the two departments merged, total course offerings have increased from 16 to 23. Some of the other new topics covered include:

- three courses in film analysis and history;
- cultural studies and the media;
- non-verbal communication;
- freedom of speech in a mass media society.

New offerings are in the works. During his 1996 sabbatical, Steinman developed coursework on ethnicity and racism in the media, to be offered starting in 1997–98. While on sabbatical in 1997, Christiansen is building a class called "rhetoric and the digital arts," exploring how communication and persuasion function in a fluid, interactive electronic environment.

**Teaching excellence and a sense of community**

It's not just the renewed currency of the curriculum that's drawing students to Communication Studies. Its faculty are widely regarded as excellent teachers.

"Clay Steinman came to us having been voted the outstanding graduate teacher at Florida Atlantic University, and has certainly lived up to that billing at Mac," Mosvick says. "Adrienne Christiansen enjoys a widespread reputation as one of the most engaging and innovative teachers on campus. And Sally Caudill won not one but two awards as outstanding teacher at the University of South Florida and the University of

Georgia." Mosvick himself received Macalester's 1995 Thomas Jefferson Award, recognizing, among other things, long-standing excellence in teaching.

The journalism component of communication studies benefits from the expertise of two veteran journalists. Doug Stone, director of Macalester's College Relations Office, teaches part-time and specializes in media writing. Former communications director for Senator Paul Wellstone, he was assistant news director at WCCO-TV and a reporter for the Minneapolis Tribune. Howard Sinker '78, now an editor and a former reporter at the Star Tribune, teaches news writing and reporting part-time. Both are following in the footsteps of such respected journalism teachers as Ron Ross, George Moses, Ivan Burg '34 and A. Phillips Beedon '78.

Communication Studies, say its students, is a department that engages them both inside and outside the classroom. Jeremy Hanson '95, for example, discovered that he shared an interest in the rhetoric of social movements with Professor Christiansen; a joint project evolved into a co-authored article, "Comedy as Cure for Tragedy: ACT UP and the Rhetoric of AIDS," published last year in the Quarterly Journal of Speech. "Working one on one like that on the research and paper was a great experience, one that few undergraduates get," Hanson says.

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I think we’re learning skills that can be used in every field.” — Julie Lehnhoff ’97, majoring in both communication studies and political studies

Professor Roger Mosvick: A wonderful window on the world

Roger K. Mosvick ’54, chair of the Communication Studies Department, is a specialist in corporate communication and co-authored We’ve Got To Start Meeting Like This: A Guide to Successful Business Meeting Management. He remembers Roger K. Mosvick, known to his friends as “the Mom,” because of the impact his debate teaching and coaching had on his career. David Bell ’65 wrote in these pages five years ago, “I look back on his in-class and out-of-class contribution with great fondness. He was willing to lead, to befriend, to teach, plead, demand and push,” added Bell, who is now chairman and CEO of DDB Inc., the 12th Mosvick has announced he will give up at the end of the current academic year, he has reshaped Mosvick’s approach to communication studies to reflect the rapidly growing quantity, complexity and importance of communication and information technology in the world today. “Roger’s leadership through this transition has been a wonderful example of academic stewardship,” says longtime colleague Dick Lesicko ’75.

“I see these incredible changes happening right in front of us,” says Mosvick, noting, for example, the impact that video conference and computer-mediated conferencing have had on small-lecture management. “I used to ask people how much time they spent reading and writing, at two distinct activities — but

How do you ask that with e-mail, in which encoding and decoding are nearly simultaneous?” he muses. After earning his B.A. at Macalester, Mosvick received a Ph.D. in organizational communication from the University of Minnesota, and returned to teach at his alma mater in 1956. He has conducted communications seminars for more than 20,000 managers in the U.S., Europe, Australia and South America, and is now studying comparative communication styles among European companies. He has also taught in the M.B.A. program at the University of St. Thomas for 10 years.

The former debate style dominant in the U.S. and parliamentary debate widespread throughout Britain and its former colonies, the addition of the latter has made it easier for national students to participate successfully in forensics. "For the longest time, we were trying to put the Paliarian national champion into an American debate," Lesicko says ruefully. Mock trial, now in its fourth year at Macalester, is exactly what it sounds like — a two-to-three-hour "trial" in which six to eight team members

Professor Clay Steinman started out as a working journalist. Nominated outstanding graduate teacher at Florida Atlantic University, he came to Macalester in 1993.

Clay Steinman involved students in his research and writing, and listens intently to their astute criticism. "Often our roles of student and teacher are reversed — and that feels right to me," he says. "Macalester students want to change the world in positive ways," Christiansen says, "and faculty have been gathering together in several groups this year to find ways to improve teaching and learning. It's an exciting place to be. Colleagues from graduate school tell me that I won the 'employment award' at Macalester, with virtually every major and minor. I'm always looking for new ideas on their part time, he says. "It's an exciting place to be. Colleagues from graduate school tell me that I won the 'employment award' at Macalester, with virtually every major and minor. I'm always looking for new ideas on their part time, he says. "It's an exciting place to be. Colleagues from graduate school tell me that I won the 'employment award' at Macalester, with virtually every major and minor. I'm always looking for new ideas on their part time, he says. "It's an exciting place to be. Colleagues from graduate school tell me that I won the 'employment award' at Macalester, with virtually every major and minor. I'm always looking for new ideas on their part time, he says. "It's an exciting place to be. Colleagues from graduate school tell me that I won the 'employment award' at Macalester, with virtually every major and minor. I'm always looking for new ideas on their part time, he says. "It's an exciting place to be. Colleagues from graduate school tell me that I won the 'employment award' at Macalester, with virtually every major and minor. I'm always looking for new ideas on their part time, he says. "It's an exciting place to be. Colleagues from graduate school tell me that I won the 'employment award' at Macalester, with virtually every major and minor. I'm always looking for new ideas on their part time, he says. "It's an exciting place to be. Colleagues from graduate school tell me that I won the 'employment award' at Macalester, with virtually every major and minor. I'm always looking for new ideas on their part time, he says. "It's an exciting place to be. Colleagues from gra
Dick Lesicko: The transformation of a debate coach

Dick Lesicko '75, head of Macalester's forensics program, has to know a little about a lot of subjects to help his debate teams research each season's topic and prepare to take affirmative and negative positions in competition. This year's subject is domestic environmental pollution. "I now know more about farm animal waste in Chesapeake Bay than I ever thought I wanted to — and ask me about depleted uranium bullets!" he says wryly.

In recent years, he's learned just as much about the issues of changing U.S. foreign policy on Mexico, developing ocean resources, military intervention to promote democracy, and increasing punishment for violent felons. "I'm a darned well-informed generalist," Lesicko says.

His release from teaching duties in 1990, when his position was changed from co-curricular to stall, gave Lesicko the opportunity to experiment and broaden the forensics program, adding mock trial and parliamentary debate to traditional debate and individual speaking competition.

Lesicko spent the three years after finishing his B.A. as a graduate assistant with Macalester's forensics program, then earned an M.A. in speech communication from the University of Texas at Austin before returning to Macalester as associate director of forensics in 1984.

Dick Lesicko helps his debate teams research each season's topic: "I now know more about farm animal waste in Chesapeake Bay than I ever thought I wanted to."

argue one side or another of a case, taking roles as attorneys and witnesses. "It's a combination of debate and acting — and participants learn some very practical lessons in small group communications," Lesicko says. Macalester finished in second place at the 1996 National Mock Trial Tournament. Macalester continues to be a powerhouse in traditional debate, reaching the quarterfinals at last year's national championships after making it to the elimination rounds in all the competitions attended. "And this year's top team is better than last year's," Lesicko says.

"In an average year we'll have teams making the elimination rounds of most of our competitions," he explains. "In a good year, we're recognized as contenders for the national title." About 60 students participate in forensics every year.

The forensics program plays an important role in the Admissions Office's recruiting efforts, Lesicko says, giving Macalester an edge in the eyes of high school speech-and-debaters who want to have the option of competing at the college level.

"We attract a lot more people with debate experience than we can ever use on the team," he says. "But even if they never debate at Macalester, these students are very skilled in research and expression, and they often take leadership roles in other areas. They add a lot to campus."

Using the tools of communication studies

A strong forensics program was part of Macalester's appeal for both Jeremy Hanson and Toby Heytens — but different factors drew them into a communication studies major, and they see themselves using the tools they've gained in different ways. Hanson, who came to Macalester from Ada, Minn., decided to combine communication studies and political science majors primarily because of his shared interest with Adrienne Christiansen. He began interning with the Minnesota AIDS Project during his senior year, and now works there, managing the grassroots lobbying efforts of the organization's statewide, 2,000-member AIDS advocates network and researching legislative issues.

"A lot of people expect me to go on to graduate school in public policy. But in political organizing, the tools I use most often are communications tools — developing themes and messages that audiences like community networks can grab onto and want to be a part of," Hanson says, explaining that he intends to continue his education in speech and communication.

Heytens, on the other hand, realized at the end of his sophomore year that he'd taken five communication studies courses — each of which attracted him
on its own merits — and might as well add another major to his history major, which he'd chosen much earlier. In the process now of applying to law schools, Heytens says, "I think what I've taken away from comm studies that will help me most is the ability to analyze large amounts of material and organize them in such a way as to make the most compelling argument possible."

Julie Lehnhoff '97, a political studies and communication studies double major from Greybull, Wyo., is also applying to law schools. Lehnhoff, who, with Heytens and other students, helped create the mock trial program as a freshman, is the first elected president of Macalester's recently formed chapter of Lambda Pi Eta, a communication studies honor society.

"I work in the Communication Studies office," Lehnhoff says. "I see ads for all kinds of internships, asking not for experience but for strong communication skills, like the ability to interact with people and to think critically. I think we're learning skills that can be used in every field."

And then there's Julie Wilson '97, a double major in communication studies and religious studies from Memphis, Tenn. She sees her role in the world not in terms of constructing powerful messages but in deconstructing and laying bare the implicit assumptions and messages, rarely questioned, that drive Western culture and discourage people, especially young people, from full participation.

"I've always been critical of my environment, and had these grand ideas that our culture was messed up. Communication studies gave me a way to talk about that," says Wilson, who has interned in local public schools and is considering a teaching career.

Interning in a "mostly white" writing class at Minneapolis' South High School, Wilson saw how an essay assignment failed to capture the interest and involvement of an African American student named Roosevelt. "The topic was open-ended, but the examples that were given seemed to reinforce an 'invisible whiteness' in the class," Wilson relates. One day, she brought in a poem called "What is Hip Hop," by Greg Tate. Knowing of Roosevelt's love for music, she asked him what he knew about the poem, its author and its subject.

"A good argument is a good argument, regardless of who makes it," says Adrienne Christiansen. She tries to impose the same level of analysis and criticism of her own preferred political positions as she does to those with which she disagrees. "A good argument is a good argument, regardless of who makes it," she says. In her "Argumentation" course, for example, the final exam requires that students analyze a speech or essay that challenges their examples that were given seemed to reinforce an 'invisible whiteness' in the class,"

Professor Adrienne Christiansen: 'War talk' and advice from Mom

ADRIENNE CHRISTIANSEN hastens to explain the presence of the large color glossy of plump-cheeked, beaming Newt Gingrich on her bookshelf — right next to a Paul Wellstone poster.

"I study right-wing political movements, so I'm on a lot of conservative mailing lists," the self-described liberal says with a mischievous grin, acknowledging that she enjoys the way students do a double-take when they see the two political icons juxtaposed. With wit an essential component of her teaching style, she leavens the seriousness of her subject matter with playfulness and irony.

"What got me interested, originally, in studying the New Right in 1980 was my mom's dictum to 'know your enemies,'" explains Christiansen, who did her doctoral dissertation on the use of rhetoric and technology in New Right direct-mail appeals. During her sabbatical leave this year, she will complete a book on conservative communication techniques, entitled Right Wing War.

"The conservative movement organizes itself like its in a war, with self-referentially militaristic language and metaphor. I deplore 'war talk,' including the conception of 'enemies,' as a metaphor for politics. That's part of what my book is about: how the lexicon of war as a metaphor for competing visions of public policy is ultimately counter-productive and destructive," she notes. "Mom's advice was quite sound — but not the metaphor."

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Christiansen joined the Macalester faculty in 1990, when she finished her Ph.D. in speech communication with a minor in advanced feminist studies at the University of Minnesota. She holds B.A.s in women's studies and speech communication/human relations from the University of Kansas. She was granted tenure last year.

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and encouraged him to write his essay on the differences between East Coast and West Coast hip hop. "He didn't participate much before that, but afterwards, he let me start reading things he'd written," she says.

"The teacher said to me later, 'As much as I told Roosevelt he had choices, he didn't see them,'" Wilson notes. "It's so important to bring other discourses into the classroom. Sure, you teach students what they need to know, but you also have to recognize their world."

**Film, TV, newspapers: Who's telling the story?**

Clay Steinman sees a twofold purpose for communication studies at Macalester. First, he says, "The college can contribute to the communication industry people educated with a liberal arts perspective. We can develop an even greater presence of 'Macalester sensibilities' in all fields in which communication is important. And second, but no less important, communication students who go on in any field will take with them an analytical awareness that all narratives — factual or fictional — are constructed by someone, for some purpose.

"It doesn't matter if it's a fictional movie or a story in a newspaper or a campaign speech," Steinman says about the nature of communication in an Information Age. "Because they select from an infinity of happenings, all accounts of the world are partial. It's crucial to know what sort of partiality is involved, and whom it seems to serve."

**Professor Clay Steinman: Analyzing media politics**

Clay Steinman isn't particularly interested in the stories told on film or video or in print.

"The interesting part," he says, "aside from the aesthetics, is the politics of how they're made and distributed, and what they mean to audiences."

For example, he looks at how commercial TV tends to limit representations of African Americans to comedies or news reports that focus on corruption and crime more than do reports about other groups.

"There have never been commercially successful dramatic TV series about African Americans," Steinman notes. "That's because they don't reach the audiences advertisers demand. So far whites have been willing, in great numbers, to watch blacks on TV only in comedies. And there are strong indications that many white viewers use images they see about blacks to make judgments about public policy issues — such as using the affluence of 'The Cosby Show's' Huxtable family as evidence that there's no need for affirmative action."

Steinman, who has an M.S. in journalism from Columbia, started out reporting for newspapers and writing editorials for *The Nation* and in 1986 spent a year as an editor at the New China News Agency in Beijing. He feels that his own professional training provided little context for understanding what's going on behind the portrayal of "news." He tries to provide that framework for his students now, and in articles in leading journals and anthologies on media and cultural criticism and theory.

Steinman, who was on sabbatical leave in 1996, is finishing a book, *Mapping the Wasteland: Television and the Environment of Commercial Culture,* to be published by Rutgers University Press. "Our media environment is created not to inform the public, but to sell them products," he says. "Even the TV news is there to provide advertising opportunities."

A faculty member at Macalester since 1993, Steinman has also taught at state universities in California and Florida, and was voted outstanding graduate teacher at Florida Atlantic University. He earned a Ph.D. in cinema studies from NYU in 1979 and an A.B. in history from Duke in 1971. He received tenure at Macalester last year. Steinman is scheduled to succeed Roger Mosvick as chair of Communication Studies next fall.
Self-knowledge

Macalester Roundtable scholars examine identity and ethnicity in a world that's grown closer — and appears more sharply divided — than ever.

Photographs by Jim Hansen

Why has ethnicity become so important in the "postmodern" world? What does "globalization" mean? What factors contribute to the making of a "community"? How do people define themselves?

Macalester students and faculty joined eminent scholars and World Press Institute Fellows in examining questions like these at the third annual Macalester International Roundtable Oct. 3-5 in Weyerhaeuser Chapel.

Its theme: "The Divided Self: Ethnicity, Identity and Globalization."

Benedict Anderson of Cornell University delivered the keynote address. During the next two days, four prominent scholars delivered papers in their areas of expertise. Each paper drew a formal response from a Macalester student, faculty member and WPI Fellow.

Then the discussion was opened to the audience, which included hundreds of students, faculty and staff.

We present a small sample of the Roundtable on the following pages.

Left: Ahmed Samatar, dean of international studies and programming at Macalester, opens the Macalester International Roundtable as President McPherson, left, and keynote speaker Benedict Anderson listen.

Above and right: Members of the audience listen to and question Roundtable discussants in Weyerhaeuser Chapel.
What makes a community?  
The strange case of Kuwait

EMMANUEL SIVAN, a professor of history at Hebrew University in Jerusalem, has written and edited eight books. His works include Interpretations of Islam and The 1948 Generation: Myth, Demography, Memory. In his paper, entitled "Contending Visions of the Middle East," Sivan spoke of how several myths of pan-Arab nationalism "have withered in the harsh winds of the last quarter-century." In this excerpt, he discusses one such myth: that the borders between Arab states were "artificial" and solely the product of imperialism:

It is indeed in the name of this myth that Saddam Hussein justified his invasion into Kuwait and its subsequent annexation in August 1990. For could one imagine a better example of an utterly artificial British creation than this despicable emirate, which Iraq had always considered part and parcel of its historical territory? Arab public opinion, including most intellectuals, applauded the annexation. And no wonder. The myth's hold was still powerful. Other territorial entities in the Middle East have acquired some legitimacy over the past half century, but Kuwait and the other Gulf emirates (and to some extent Jordan and Lebanon as well) remained suspect: a memento for an era of weakness and subservience, a reminder of a "divide and rule" policy imposed by colonial powers.

The myth should have been called in question already at the time of the Iran-Iraq war, for a major aim of the Iraqi invasion in September 1980 was to take over the oil-rich province of Khuzistan, defined as an "Arab" (and Iraqi) territory due to the fact that it is populated by Arab-speaked. Yet, surprisingly enough, the Khuzistan inhabitants did not take up cudgels for Saddam and stayed loyal to Iran. This aspect of the war barely got any media coverage, however, and thus saved the pan-Arabists from any gnawing doubts.

A decade later, the Kuwait annexation laid bare an astounding state of affairs: despite the reactionary regime, the local population adamantly refused to collaborate with Saddam. The Iraqi ruler could not even establish a puppet regime. Kuwaiti society, however lacking in a tradition of voluntaristic association, organized civil disobedience, nay even armed resistance, and that in the face of ruthless Iraqi repression.

It became strikingly evident that even entities founded artificially, such as Kuwait, may, as has so often happened in Africa, develop a community predicated upon a common attachment to territory, upon a collective memory and upon a cultural variant of the Arab-Islamic civilization. Otherwise put, it seeks to become a nation-state; such a state the citizens are ready to die for.

Future of the Mideast depends on new breed of intellectuals and leaders

ALBERTO MOYA '97 (San Jose, Costa Rica) is majoring in both communication studies and international studies. In his reply to Sivan's paper on the Middle East, Moya questioned Sivan's "omniscient" perspective and his declining to deal directly with issues of self — a key theme of the 1996 Roundtable. In this excerpt, Moya raises the issue of the uncertain future of the Middle East within an emerging global world:

Dr. Sivan's paper is one more reminder of the acute need for scholars to expand their horizons and seek alternative perspectives of analysis. Much like the anthropologist Arjun Appadurai of the University of Chicago called upon using different dimensions, or "scapes," for exploring cultural flow, Dr. Sivan's paper compels us to look upon issues concerning the Middle East with a transdisciplinary approach — Radical Islam seen as a driving economic force, not just a dynamic and energetic social movement, or Middle Easternism as a philosophy responding to years of terrorism. Appadurai's visionary approach would allow us to examine the interrelationships between "national" space and "intellectual" space. It would also provide the framework for talking about a "true" Middle East, not just defined by the location of ethnic groups or political boundaries.

However, it is still not a simple task to examine the topics of identity and ethnicity in relation to globalization, especially because of the constant fluctuations and movements in most aspects of one existence. In such a case, I believe we will undoubt-
edly face more questions than answers.

So then, which questions is the Middle East going to face? And what will their answers be? Radical Islam and Middle Easternism may no longer be the only driving forces in many classrooms, businesses or mosques; rather a new breed of cosmopolitan intellectuals and leaders will be called upon to bring forth innovative understandings of ideologies, social and political movements geared for the improvement of life in the Middle East. For it will be these leaders and intellectuals who will guide the region into the 21st century. These are the leaders who will face and try to answer these questions.

When these intellectuals face the questions who are you? and what are you? the answers will not be as simple as they once used to be; it will then be time to assess personal values and beliefs of a new identity — a new Middle Eastern identity.

Irish hopes persist despite violent legacy

EILEEN WHELAN, a senior journalist with Radio Telefis Eireann (Irish National Broadcasting) in Dublin, was a 1996 World Press Institute Fellow. In her response to Sivan, she offered an Irish perspective, drawing comparisons between the dream of a united Arab world and the hope for a united Ireland. An excerpt from her reply:

In his essay, Dr. Sivan refers to the common interests of Middle Eastern countries and tells us that they soon go out the window when it comes to the greater interest of individual nations. . .

Maintaining common interests in Northern Ireland is crucial to the success of the peace process. It is vital that the Irish and British governments maintain a common interest in securing peace there. All-party talks appear to have reached a standstill and neither government can afford to put its own interests first. Every move and nuance is being carefully watched by nationalists and unionists and one false move by either government could set the peace process back even further.

Dr. Conor Cruise O'Brien, a Catholic from the South and a former Irish minister for communications, is one of the many advocates of a separate identity for Northern Ireland. He once said that "we can form an idea of Irishness if we adopt a historical rather than a geographical point of view. Irishness is not primarily a question of birth or blood or language; it is the condition of being involved in the Irish situation, and usually of being mauled by it."

It would be impossible to live in Ireland and not be touched by the Irish situation; impossible for any reasonable person, Catholic or Protestant, not to feel betrayed by paramilitaries who are killing innocent people in the name of Irish or British nationalism.

The same is true for all the traditions and identities in the Middle East, however they describe themselves. Arab, Israeli, Islamic or Middle Eastern — people of different culture, religion and physical appearance destined to co-exist in one region.

It is clear that the only way to forge a bright and prosperous future for the children of all conflicting traditions is through successful negotiations of elected representatives: unionist and nationalist; Catholic and Protestant; Arab and Jew.

‘Jihad vs. McWorld’: Ethnic cultures clash in ‘new’ South Africa

JEAN COMAROFF, Bernard E. and Ellen C. Sunny Distinguished Service Professor of Anthropology at the University of Chicago, delivered a paper entitled “The Portrait of an Unknown South African: Identity in a Global Age.” This excerpt is from her introductory remarks:

In September 1995, the South African National Gallery in Cape Town staged an exhibition entitled “People’s Portraits.” While the aim of the show was...
Other participants

In addition to those quoted on these pages, the other discussants at the 1996 Roundtable were:

- Macalester Professor Ellis Dye (see pages 4–5), German and Russian, Assistant Professor Arjun Guneratne, Anthropology, and Visiting Professor Michael Shapiro, Political Science.
- Macalester students Minh Ta ’97 (Philadelphia) and Jayamalar Paul ’98 (Minneapolis).
- World Press Institute Fellows Mulugeta Aregawi, Ethiopia, Vlad Georgescu, Romania, and Ruben Guillen, Argentina.
- Ashis Nandy, director and senior fellow, Centre for Study of Developing Societies, Delhi, India.

Clearly to picture an emergent nation, the clash of images suggested that the national self remained undefined.

This was hardly surprising: the exhibition came at a time of epic transition and was itself the product of collaboration between two very different national institutions — the gallery, which had been a window of high culture in the neocolonial mode, and a critical newspaper, the Weekly Mail, that had long struggled to reveal the ordinary face of a diverse, suppressed population. As Jane Taylor notes, this contrast bequeathed two inimical styles of imagining a people. One, expressing the Gallery’s sense of South Africa’s new national cultural identity, represented the “people” as a range of distinct individual portraits, identities making up a multicultural aggregate. The second, faithful to a legacy of nationalist struggle, depicted a populace in its exemplary figures — heroes, martyrs and ordinary citizens — all of them products of a particular political history. It was an uneasy juxtaposition that sparked a share of controversy.

This story is instructive. It captures well the problem that surrounds the relation of persons and collectivities, “identity” and “citizenship,” in a rapidly changing world, a world that struggles ever more stridently over what Salman Rushdie has termed “Imperso-Nation”: the process of figuring the nation in exemplary human form.

In the “new” South Africa, the problem poses itself in a stark, highly contentious manner: What nation? Which face? Many regard the issue as primarily one of ethnic identification, of primordial differences now voluntarily embraced rather than imposed by law. Others, raised in socialist struggle, view the post-apartheid polity as a democracy at last: a community of newly enfranchised, universally-conceived citizens, each a member of a thoroughly modern “rainbow nation” whose unity transcends all other distinctions. As I write, though, the image of shared generic identity is increasingly being called into question; hence the story of the “People’s Portraits” exhibit and the argument to which it gave rise. Indeed, one of the ironies of contemporary South Africa has been the speed with which its people have begun to move to the beat of other advanced capitalist countries, even embracing a politics of difference that recalls the most divisive features of colonial rule.

Why should this be so, especially in a population keenly aware of the dehumanizing effects of racism? More generally, why does the assertion of ethnicity — an assertion, that is, of exclusive, coherent and unambiguous identity — occur in the “postmodern,” translocal age, an age in which selfhood is unstable and global forces appear to rob local life of its uniqueness and coherence? How is it that a sense of difference manifests itself in a world ever more dominated by homogenizing forces, a world watching the same news, drinking the same Coke, moving to the same electronic pulse? Does this form of difference arise from a “clash of civilizations”? Or is it an integral dimension of the emerging global order itself, of a planetary system at once unified and divided by identity and national, privation and privilege? Why is it that, in the era of “Jihad vs. McWorld,” society itself has become so difficult to envisage as an inclusive human order — an order composed of people capable of seeing themselves as a fraction of a generic species?

‘Globalization’ sounds sinister to some nations

OLA ROTIMI, one of Africa’s leading playwrights and directors, is spending his second year at Macalester as the Humphrey Visiting Scholar. A professor of drama in one of his home universities in Nigeria, he has written six full-length plays and a number of scholarly articles on theater and drama. Here is an excerpt from his response to Comaroff’s paper:

My response to the discourse on hand will prove that, at present, “globalization” is a mere projection of a humanist desire — to wit, it is simply (if one may borrow from Shakespeare): “a consummation Devourly to be wish’d.” In reality, the term... is a misnomer of disingenuous coinage and delusive purpose.

Our African elders say: “a man once bitten by a snake, springs back, wary at the curl of a mere rope...
Could the term 'globalization' be evoking, for some communities on our planet, a harrowing déjà vu?

In the grass.” Indeed, from hindsight of history, could the term “globalization” be evoking, for some communities on our planet, a harrowing déjà vu, a recrudescence of colonization impelled by its intrinsic dynamics for control, exploitation and domination? This is a prime inquiry of my presentation which will reflect a perspective specific to those communities... referred to as the Third World...

What, in one’s view... craves urgent re-examination, is the condition of our universe. In specific terms, it is the problem of economic inequity that is steadily splitting its inhabitants. For this condition, much thanks to the impetus of multinationals and the world monetary institutions....

The... caveat from all this is that positive globalization need restrain the excesses aggravating the chasm between an ever-acquisitive few, and the ever-burgeoning poor.

Conflict and community: Demonizing the 'bad ethnic'

SAMIRA KA'IVASH, an assistant professor of English at Rutgers University, received the 1996 Camargo Foundation Fellowship. Her books include Dislocating the Color Line: Identity, Hybridity and Singularity in African-American Narrative. This excerpt is from the conclusion of her paper, which was entitled “Good Ethnics, Bad Aliens: Imagining the Global Village”:

We need to pay more attention to the way in which the representation of conflicts as caused by “bad ethnicity” makes those conflicts appear both necessary and incomprehensible. The construction of the “bad ethnic” allows us to forget to ask about the experiences, perspectives or needs of others. Instead, the bad ethnic is represented as irrational and out of control; the only possible response appears to be try to subdue or manage the actions of the bad ethnic. We should also be alert to the way in which various groups are “ethnicized” — that is, grouped together as having a common nature, common lifestyle, common values and so on — even if from a social scientific perspective they might not be considered an ethnic group.

“Bad ethnicity” appears in relation both to domestic conflicts and international issues. Consider the following examples of “bad ethnics”: terrorists, welfare mothers, homosexuals, drug users, Communists, Arabs, Serbs, Bosnians. Each of these is seen in various ways as threatening “our” security, “our” values, “our” way of life, or “our” democratic institutions. The popular response to each of these imagined threats is police actions of control, exclusion or elimination. If, for example, the plight of so-called welfare mothers can be attributed to their “bad ethnicity,” that is, their alleged deviant habits and values (such as laziness, leeching off the state, promiscuity and so on), then we feel not only justified but perhaps righteous in demonizing and punishing them. That is, the “good” community uses the explanation of “bad ethnicity” to justify excluding and guarding against the encroaching dangers of the “bad” alien other. But what of other social and economic factors such as the unemployment rate or the collapse of the urban industrial economy that might contribute to the poverty of urban single mothers?

These are more complicated issues that are evaded when “bad ethnicity” is blamed for every social or political ill....

The global transformations and displacements we are witnessing cannot but be conflictual. But identifying as evil aliens those who have been denied opportunities, or those who object or seek to change the relations of power or their place, shifts the realm of conflict from politics to police. Policing the border and suppressing or eliminating anything that appears threatening does not make the community more secure. Rather, such policing only serves to foreclose any debate about who or what the community ought to be. So long as we believe in the “good ethnic” and the “bad alien,”
The eloquent expressions of scholars and the accuracy of analysts have one overreaching claim to legitimacy: the impacts which they may have in changing the very ideological and political structures which we perceive as harmful.

The eloquent expressions of scholars and the accuracy of analysts have one overreaching claim to legitimacy: the impacts which they may have in changing the very ideological and political structures which we perceive as harmful.

A sense of identity: Experiences transcend even ties of blood

Thea Gelbspan '97 of Brookline, Mass., who is majoring in both international studies and Latin American studies, responded to Kawash. This excerpt is from the conclusion to her paper:

I WOULD LIKE TO conclude with an autobiographical explanation of some elements of my own identity. My father is a U.S.-born Jew and my mother an immigrant from Sweden. However, neither of these national or ethnic qualities hold special significance for my sense of identity. In explaining myself to a stranger, perhaps the first thing to which I refer is my multitude of experiences with the land, cultures and political issues of Latin America. I share no blood relations with a citizen from that region of the world, but due to the experiences which I have been privileged to enter into, I feel a profound and undeniable solidarity with the peoples to our South. This sentiment supersedes any understanding I share with my countrymen and women. Many times I feel a closer kinship attachment with the women of the indigenous peasantry of the Andean region, for example, than I do with the majority of people who reside in the city of New York, where I was born.

I do not consider myself unique in my cosmopolitan self-conception, nor do I believe that in any way Dr. Kawash ignores this possibility in her paper. I explain my own reference to identity within globalization to illustrate the relative facility with which one may imagine alternative roles of the collective Self to those presented by the media's representations of the "global community." I invoke the inferences which may be drawn from a cosmopolitan basis of identity in respect to alternative responses to global human movements than that of rigid border control. To narrate one's own history and identify one's self with that history and the people who have shared it are not necessarily conflictive things.

Ethnicity is neither a general scapegoat for social protest movements in general, nor a clear example of local rejections of globalization. It is a product of the processes of cultural contact, using the language of a group's conception of its collective self. Ethnicity is an outcome of the conflicts resultant from opposing cultural systems which come into contact, as much as it is their source. I do not know if there exists a human group which has succeeded in refusing to change in response to things which influence them. Anthropologist Arjun Appadurai said, "Natives, people confined to and by the places to which they belong, groups unsullied by contact with a larger world have probably never existed." Such a group would not survive in a world where movement may almost be made a synonym for life. Culture is not a closed system, neither biologically, linguistically or religiously distinct or self-generated. It is a system of meanings and understandings which create the context for behavior and comprehension. The acceleration of multiple patterns of movement and contact which we call globalization will not change that basic human fact.

Transnationalism is, by definition, movement: the traversing beyond the limits of nation-states onto the singular globe. And movement always connotes change. In the context of globalization, this implies the end to the absolute assertion of racial purity, or singular, identifiable ethnic or geographic ancestral histories, or the plausible recourse to isolation and defensible individualism.

Those who understand this fact bear the obligation of challenging this view to the contrary. For, in the end, the real force of theoretical and academic discussions of the issues which emerge as we examine globalization, rests in their effects on real people. The eloquent expressions of scholars and the accuracy of analysts have one overreaching claim to legitimacy: the impacts which they may have in changing the very ideological and political structures which we perceive as harmful. We talk about people so that people become clearer to themselves, so that we may all realize the nature of the world we live upon. At stake in discussions of ethnicity in globalization is nothing less than the Self in the world.

Reading the Roundtable

T he papers presented at the 1996 Roundtable will be published this spring in Macalester International.

The publication, designed to register Macalester's dedication to and activities in internationalism in liberal arts education, was created two years ago to include the papers presented at the first Roundtable.

Macalester International is distributed to leading liberal arts colleges, graduate schools in international studies and many pre-college schools throughout the country.

To order a free copy, write: International Studies and Programming, Macalester College, 1600 Grand Ave., St. Paul, MN 55105 •
Women's movement; children and poetry; Zen and music

In the Company of Women: Voices from the Women's Movement
edited by Bonnie Watkins '73 and Nina Rothchild (Minnesota Historical Society Press, 1996. 353 pages, $16.95 paperback, $29.95 cloth)

Bonnie Watkins '73 and Nina Rothchild represent two generations of feminists. They worked together on the Minnesota Legislature's Commission on the Economic Status of Women, where Rothchild was director and Watkins was an assistant director.

Inspired by the oral histories of Studs Terkel, they produced this book to preserve personal stories about the women's movement before they are forgotten or lost. They interviewed 127 women between 1991 and 1993; the book includes excerpts from 76 of the interviews.

"Concerned that these stories might be forgotten or lost, we interviewed people who identify themselves as feminists and who have been active," Watkins and Rothchild write in the introduction. "We asked these women how they came to the movement and how it affected their lives, how they felt about it and what they did about it. Listening to their stories reminds us how the world has changed in 30 years."

Macalester alumnae who are interviewed in the book include Sharon Sayles Belton '73, mayor of Minneapolis; Loretta Frederick '74 of Winona, Minn., an attorney active in family-law issues and on behalf of battered women; Mary Ann Grossmann Thomsen '60, books editor of the St. Paul Pioneer Press; and Kristine Holmgren '75 of Northfield, Minn., a Presbyterian minister and columnist for the Minneapolis Star Tribune.

The Palm of My Heart: Poetry by African American Children
edited by Davida Adedjouma '78 and illustrated by Gregory Christie, with an introduction by Lucille Clifton (Lee & Low Books, 1996. Unpaginated, $15.95 cloth)

Davida Kilgore Adedjouma '78 of St. Paul, a writer, actor and teacher, conducted a series of writing workshops with Twin Cities children from the Inner City Youth League and the African American Academy for Accelerated Learning. The workshops "were designed to share my love of language, introduce children to the techniques of image and metaphor, narrative and dialogue, and then set them free to explore their own lives, feelings and imaginations," she writes in the editor's note to this book.

Adedjouma met each of the 20 children whose poems appear here in the workshops. They range in age from 8 to 14. "I hope this anthology will challenge other African American youth to explore creativity as a means of self-definition," Adedjouma writes. "Because they who control the image, control the idea. And they who control the idea, control the mind."

The Sacred Place: Witnessing the Holy in the Physical World
edited by W. Scott Olsen and Scott Cairns (University of Utah Press, 1996)

Two Macalester English professors contributed to this anthology. Alvin Greenberg wrote a short story, "Where He Is Now," and Diane Glancy contributed a poem, "Asylum in the Grasslands." Its editors say that "the fiction, poetry and essays gathered in this volume make the provocative assertion that... American literature in the 21st century will take [a] post-post-modern turn toward the natural world, the wilderness, as an empowering scene of encounter."

Greenberg also wrote a poem, "freight train, freight train," which appears in The Great Machines: Poems and Songs of the American Railroad, edited by Robert Hedin (University of Iowa Press, 1996). Greenberg recently received a Minnesota State Arts Board Artist Assistance Fellowship in nonfiction.

Chemistry in Context:
Applying Chemistry to Society
(Wm. C. Brown, 1996)

Macalester Professor Truman Schwartz is the senior author of the second edition of this college textbook for non-science majors. The first edition of the innovative book, developed under the sponsorship of the American Chemical Society and written by the same team of authors, was well received nationally. Members of the Macalester faculty, staff and student body contributed ideas and effort to both the first and second editions.

Zen Guitar
by Philip Toshio Sudo '82 (Simon & Schuster, 1996. 192 pages, $20)

In his first book, Philip Sudo applies the ancient wisdom of the East to the most popular musical instrument in the West. Quoting from such well-known musicians as Miles Davis, Keith Richards, Eric Clapton, Buddy Guy and Neil Young, he offers a series of life lessons presented through the metaphor of music.

"As the name implies, Zen Guitar is based largely on the principles of Zen philosophy," Sudo writes. "Zen is most easily understood as a common-sense approach to all things. Some people come to know Zen through meditation, others through the martial arts, or archery, or flower arranging. All these are paths to the same wisdom. Here we seek to know Zen through music."

Sudo is a student of Eastern philosophy and martial arts as well as a musician who has released three albums. A former financial news reporter for the American Banker and former managing editor for Scholastic Update in New York City, he has won several awards for his writing, including the 1993 Harry Chapin Media Award from the World Hunger Association for...
Job tips for the MTV generation: Joe Heiman '91 wrote the book

by Jon Halvorsen

Joe Heiman '91, who is 27, offers these tips to his peers about looking for and keeping a job:

- Résumés: "If there are gaps in your résumé — say the three years you spent in a Turkish prison — come prepared to explain them."

- Interviews: "You want to sound articulate, forthright and sure of your answers…. What if the president gave a special television address and said, 'Like, um, I think we should send, um, troops, you know? To, like, Cuba.' You'd be very, very afraid."

- Bosses: "If you deliver the goods, your boss is going to respect you. If you truly bond with your supervisor, even better. But having a lot in common with your boss is not a prerequisite. You could be from Mars — be pleasant, conscientious and dedicated, and any good manager is going to love you."

- Leaving a job: "Even if you were fired, or are ordered to clean out your desk immediately, don't ever burn bridges. You are extinguishing still-useful relationships in a single, self-destructive act. A revenge fantasy should stay a fantasy."

Heiman's recent book, MTV's Now What? A Guide to Jobs, Money and the Real World (MTV Books/Pocket Books, $12 paperback), offers 240 pages of often humorous but, at bottom, serious advice to his generation. It was a project that began in revulsion — against all those career books he finds either "intimidating" or "touchy-feely."

During his research, he interviewed many college and career counselors. For example, his book quotes Denise Ward, director of Macalester's Career Development Center. But he also spoke to young people throughout the country — and not only college graduates.

"I wanted a really diverse group of young people to talk to about finding a career. Not just people who were working for his reporting on world hunger. He lives in Maui, Hawaii.

The Routledge Anthology of Cross-Gendered Verse
edited by Alan Michael Parker and Mark Willhardt '87 (Routledge, 1996. 216 pages.)

Over the century, many poets have explored the possibilities of assuming the voice of a different gender. Chaucer writing as the Wife of Bath, Anne Sexton writing as Jesus, Ted Hughes writing as Cleopatra — theirs are just a few of the many cross-gendered poems in Western literature.

In this collection, Mark Willhardt, a lecturer at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, and his co-editor have culled from historical and contemporary sources 85 poems written in the voice of a gender other than the poet's own. "In crossing gender as they create their personae, poets dramatize gender itself, bring to the fore the ways in which a society standardizes social behavior — and often, in quite a few recent poems, challenge those standards," they write.
Remembering the incomparable Roger Blakely, 1922–96

Roger Blakely in 1987

ROGER BLAKELY'S PASSIONS included Mozart and his hometown Barnum Bombers, the novels of Thomas Hardy and Henry James, Minnesota's North Shore and photography. And, not least, Macalester College, where he left an immeasurable legacy.

He enrolled in Macalester in 1939, graduated in 1943 with a B.A. in English, then returned to teach at Macalester for 46 years. Although ill from cancer, he continued to work three days a week in Macalester's Media Services Department, cataloguing the audio and film archives of the college, until as recently as last spring.

Professor Blakely died Nov. 13 in St. Paul. He was 74.

His colleagues, friends and former students told loving “Roger stories,” as they called them, at a Nov. 22 memorial service. They described a quintessential liberal arts professor whose office clutter was the stuff of legend; who kept a map of Minnesota on his door and enjoyed writing made-to-order guides for his friends to any place in the state; who could allude to Shakespeare while writing about Northern pike; who loved to lend people books—even books that belonged to other faculty; who generously shared doughnuts and other goodies with his colleagues, partly because “my doctor said I shouldn't eat this.”

They also read from his book North from Duluth (1981), a collection of poetry as well as a hiking guide to the North Shore. Kristi Wheeler-Hale '69 and Nancy Raeburn '84, both writers, spoke of his gifts and influence as a teacher and mentor, as did Charles Baxter ’69 in a letter sent to Professor Blakely not long before his death which was read at the service (see page 19).

“He had so many interests, he was like the stacks of the library,” said Diana Lundin, former secretary of the English Department, who now works in the President's Office at Macalester. “You could talk to him about any subject and he would have something intelligent to say. [Students were] in awe of this man, of the knowledge he could so easily impart.”

Art Professor Jerry Rudquist recalled Professor Blakely's knowledge of art and art history. "I have always thought of him as one who dined on the arts... who savored individual works, as one who not only made art but who fully received what art has to give. And as one who gave the rest of us great joy in sharing that love."

Professor Alvin Greenberg read from a poem, "allegory," that he wrote many years ago which included a tribute to his colleague:

"a long narrative poem in which everyone aspires (and some, to a degree, even manage) to become roger."

"We all know Roger was a guide and a mentor," said Professor Harley Henry. "His particular gift to me, a greenhorn who had never been west of Cleveland, was to make me a Minnesotan, or at least try. Whatever town there was, Roger knew where you could picnic, swim, stroll or hike, see an interesting church and learn some local history while you were at it. He knew all these places with the intimacy of a lover, the patience of a parent, the steadfastness of a friend and the deep faith of a Minnesota native."

Roger Kellogg Blakely was born May 13, 1922, in Barnum, Minn. After graduating from Macalester and serving as an Air Corps cryptographer in India and the Pacific, he completed his M.A. and further graduate study at the University of Minnesota, with an emphasis on American literature and art. Along with his responsibilities in Macalester's English Department, he taught regularly in the Humanities Program and held a joint appointment in the Art Department.

A POPULAR TEACHER, he received the Thomas Jefferson Award in 1973 and the Burlington Northern Award in 1989. Upon his retirement in 1992, Macalester awarded him a Distinguished Citizen Citation. In addition to North from Duluth, Professor Blakely was the author of The Importance of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1993), a biography for young readers. He was co-editor of Border Crossings (1984), an anthology of new regional writers, and Stiller's Pond: An Anthology of Fiction from the Upper Midwest (1988). His novel, Schubert's Daughter, is to be published later this year.

Professor Blakely is survived by a sister, Betty.

The English Department is compiling a book, Remembrances of Roger Blakely. It welcomes written anecdotes, poems, etc. Send them to: For Roger Blakely, English Department, Macalester College, 1600 Grand Ave., St. Paul, MN 55105

Memorials in his honor may be sent to: The Roger Blakely Memorial Fund, c/o Macalester's Development Office, 1600 Grand Ave. His colleagues wish to plant a tree on campus in Professor Blakely's memory with an appropriate plaque. The remainder of the fund will be used to serve students working in the Music, Art and English departments.
America through Other Eyes

The World Press Institute, based at Macalester, gives journalists from around the world a warts-and-all view of the United States. The 1996 WPI Fellows offered some observations at the end of their four months of travel in November. Here are a few comments from five of the Fellows.

Ruben Guillemi

Ruben Guillemi, reporter, Clarin daily newspaper, Buenos Aires, Argentina:

Many people say that the more you know about something, the less you can talk about it. This was my 10th time in the U.S. and in the last years I wrote many stories from here for my newspaper. But now, after these four months, I’m being very cautious when I write a story. And actually I have more questions than answers.

Let me focus on only one subject: the American identity.

How could you define the Americans? Are they like the peaceful and warm people I knew in Minnesota? Are they those hurried executives that pushed past me on Fifth Avenue in New York? Are they the wonderful host family of musicians that played the flute for me close to a lake in Ely, Minnesota? Or are the Americans the people who live on the streets in Chicago and the immigrants in San Diego?

After this program, I have two different answers for these many questions. The first one is obvious: the Americans are all of them — the Minnesotans, the people in New York, the homeless.

WPI gave me the opportunity to overcome my prejudices about the Americans and meet the person. This allowed me to recognize that living 10,000 miles away from here, I have many things in common, for instance, with my host family in Fargo, North Dakota. We have different national identities, different languages and different religions, but I could never imagine how deep was our common human identity when you just sat around a table, thanked God for that food and enjoyed the opportunity of knowing each other.

I could never imagine how deep was our common human identity.

Claire Miller

Claire Miller, reporter, The Age, Melbourne, Australia:

I am surprised that in a nation so keen to export democracy, so few of its own people bother to vote. The [1996 presidential] election, the campaign, sometimes even the issues themselves seemed at times like just so much background noise while the rest of America got on with its real life or questioned the relevance of politics to their circumstances. How much in the general interest can [political] representation be if ultimately only those with special interests take part?

Yet for all this fragmentation, the political brawling, the inequities and the injustices, I also found an enduring belief among all Americans, whatever their situation, in the basic tenets of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. I heard no one arguing about whether this is a goal worth striving for or even realistic, but only about how this promise can be delivered to all people. It is the priceless piece of optimism that to my mind holds this great nation together.

Enduring beliefs

Claire Miller, reporter, The Age, Melbourne, Australia:

I am surprised that in a nation so keen to export democracy, so few of its own people bother to vote. The [1996 presidential] election, the campaign, sometimes

World Press Institute

Founded: at Macalester in 1961. Its offices are above the International Center.

By: Harry Morgan, assistant to Reader’s Digest founder DeWitt Wallace. Morgan had earlier established Ambassadors for Friendship as well as other international exchange programs at the college. Now in his third year of teaching journalism in Romania on a Fulbright, he remains a member of WPI’s Board of Directors.

Purpose: to foster international understanding by offering journalists from around the world a first-hand introduction to the United States.

How: through a rigorous, four-month schedule of study, travel and interviews, and by meeting Americans from all walks of life.

WPI Fellows: 10 are chosen each year from more than 150 applicants. The “average” WPI Fellow is 31, with five to seven years of professional experience. In 35 years, 423 journalists from 92 countries have been WPI Fellows.
Race is everywhere

João Fabio Caminoto, Porto Alegre

bureau chief for news magazine Veja in São Paulo, Brazil:

Journalists, wherever they are from, prefer to report on negative issues... So, for a change, I will start with what I see as positive in American society.

First, freedom. Total freedom, of speech, of movement, of choice. In terms of liberty and freedom for any individual, the United States is a reference for the world.

Second, optimism. People are sincerely optimistic. From the boiling streets of Miami to the freezing lakes of Ely [Minnesota], we met citizens with a genuine hope that tomorrow will be a better day, with more jobs, less violence and more understanding.

Third, in the last few years Americans have realized that it's time to reduce the enormous gap between their country and the world... More and more young Americans know that in Brazil we speak Portuguese, not Spanish, and that Rio is not the capital of Argentina. It may sound like a naive example, but getting basic information about a faraway country is the first step to be aware of other people's fate and interests...

I am worried about... racial segregation [probably the most serious problem in America]. There was something wrong when, for instance, I walked on the streets of Harlem and the only white people I was able to see were [the other] WPI Fellows. There was something wrong when I went to a pub in Boston and realized there were only white people in there. Then I walked some blocks and saw a bar which had only blacks and Hispanics.

Everywhere I went, the racial issue emerged in different ways. I think there is a strong will to solve this problem, but more courage is still needed....

Land of opportunity?

Alexenia Dimitrova, reporter for the newspaper 24 Hours, Sofia, Bulgaria:

I am delighted that this country has given and gives opportunities to able, well-educated people to move ahead. If I may give advice, I would tell everybody: use these opportunities.

At the same time, I... faced a very controversial question: Why in the same country did I see so many homeless and hungry people? Because they cannot use, have not used or do not want to use these opportunities, or because something does not work? I heard many answers to these questions. I am sure I will hear more. This is the most valuable experience I got from the World Press Institute — raising questions, not giving ready answers.

Dividing the people

Richard Mutumba, senior reporter, The New Vision newspaper, Kampala, Uganda:

I have discovered that despite being the richest country on earth, the U.S. still ranks top in having the highest number of problems.

I still "smell" the racial tension [in the U.S.] almost everywhere I have been,
Small world: Macalester and the United Nations

"It is a joy for me to be at Macalester again," Macalester alumnus Kofi Annan '61, right, who was recently elected secretary-general of the United Nations, told a Macalester convocation when he returned to campus on Sept. 9, 1994, to receive a special award from the college. Here, Annan shares a light moment after that convocation with students Emily Stone '98 (Essex Junction, Vt.) and Alain Nzigamasabo '97 (Bujumbura, Burundi). For more on Annan, turn to page 2.