Macalester and Global Citizens: An Interview with U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan ’61
May issue

The May Mac Today was fabulous, with its variety of subjects and articles of interest.

My husband, Bob 38, and I just returned from a thoroughly enjoyable Reunion weekend, attending stimulating classes, meeting friends and experiencing dorm life with other Golden Scots. The bonus was hearing Kofi Annan, and Bob's 50th class marching in behind the Mac bagpipes!

Marilyn Godfrey Burnes '43
Palo Alto, Calif.

Editors' note: Bob Burnes '48 and five of his classmates are pictured on page 26 as they prepared to march in this year's Commencement.

Just a note to say I thoroughly enjoyed the May issue of Macalester Today. I took a class from Dr. Mitau, would like to bicycle through Vietnam (Sarah Pfeiffer in Hanoi) and just assumed all possible fonts had already been designed (Chankfonts).

Kent Kehrberg '67
Shoreview, Minn.

G. Theodore Mitau

The Mitau article was excellent. I discovered some things about one of my favorite professors I never knew.

The Rev. Kurt J. Kremlick, Jr. '55
Kalamazoo, Mich.

The picture of Ted Mitau with students in the May issue prompted a lengthy telephone chat between us. Together we identified all the students pictured with our former professor (see photo caption). Our effort is a tribute to Ted Mitau's ecumenical qualities. One of us (Gina) has been a longtime DFLer; the other (Jim) has never wavered from the principles that made him one-time president of the Mac Republican Club. But we both have very much within us — some 47 years later — our wonderful memories of the Honorable G.T. Mitau!

We'd love to hear from like-minded others.

Virginia (Gina) Lanegran '53
257 4th Ave. So.
South St. Paul, MN 55075

Wesley J. (Jim) Liebeler '53
Professor of Law, UCLA
email: wjl@sover.net

I just wanted to share my thoughts about your article on G. Theodore Mitau.

During my brief but memorable time as a student at Macalester, I treasure and reflect on the absolutely exhilarating, exhaustive, tense, nurturing, nourishing (the adjectives could go on!) debates in Mitau's Political Science class. His straightforward, "You ain’t gonna B.S. me, buddy" teaching style was exactly what I needed to grip my heart and encourage me to be the best I could be in Mitau's class and beyond. I worked as hard as I ever have to prepare for his class. "He'd pounce," as Tom Harbinson '80 is quoted as saying. And he'd pounce with passion. He really loved teaching and loved bringing you up to his level. That’s what I admired most about him. Always "raising the bar."

I went from a student admitted on probation to finishing at Mac with a 3.75 GPA. And, I credit G. Theodore Mitau for making me realize my priorities and own up to my abilities to be a better student. No doubt my experience with Mitau ultimately contributed to my being a more responsible person, dedicated businessman, supportive father and loving husband.

J. Bruce Armstrong ’79
Byron, III.

Walt Mink

I was distressed to hear of the death of Professor Walt Mink. I was a psychology major at Macalester, and he had a pivotal role in encouraging me to become a psychologist.

I was particularly struck by the memory of Joan Ireland '88 (November 1997 Macalester Today) of his words of wisdom when she felt overwhelmed by work: "Everything important will get done." This reminded me of my most memorable interaction with him that had a similar ring.

Sometime in my junior year, I had a crisis over whether it was worth it to go on with a career in psychology. I went to him and declared that I wanted to know if I would ever be a great psychologist, because if I wasn't going to be, then I would give up right now. He heard me out and then said:

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Changing of the guard for Macalester's faculty

Seven professors enter college's phased retirement program; six were hired in the 1960s

Seven Macalester faculty members, six of whom came to the college in the 1960s, are entering the college's phased retirement program this year.

A wave of retirements, continuing over the next few years, is changing the composition of the faculty significantly. As recently as 1994, a disproportionate number of faculty — about 40 percent — had been hired in the 1960s.

To avoid having such a large number retire en masse in the future, the college in recent years has hired some full professors and some with several years of experience elsewhere as well as young faculty who recently earned their Ph.D.s.

The following faculty members joined the Macalester Senior Faculty Employment Option program, exercising their option to begin a period of reduced service to the college, starting this fall:

- Gerald Webers joined the Geology Department in 1965. Well-known for his research in Antarctica, he first traveled to that continent as a graduate student with Campbell Craddock, father of John Craddock '80, the current chair of Geology. In 1988, Webers was awarded a DeWitt Wallace Professorship. "Webers was generations ahead of his colleagues in instituting student-faculty research in a liberal arts environment," John Craddock says. "He was also probably the first person to have a funded NSF [National Science Foundation] research proposal [Antarctica] and the first faculty member to have a computer on his desk. He has served on all elected faculty committees, served as Geology Department chair for over 20 years and is a pillar of the college." Webers’ plans for the future, in addition to further work in Antarctica, include lecturing on this month’s alumni cruise to Alaska, working with students, and establishing a museum honoring Henry Lepp, his friend and colleague.
- David Hopper, James Wallace Professor of Religious Studies, came to Macalester in 1959. His work has always been guided by the desire to teach students to read critically and develop their own perspectives on primary sources, while imparting some understanding of the past as a background to understanding the present. “He is a true intellectual,” says Calvin Roetzel, chair of Religious Studies. “His disciplinary reach is enormous, embracing figures as disparate as John Calvin and Soren Kierkegaard, Martin Luther and Paul Tillich, or as different as Philip Melanchthon and Dietrich Bonhoeffer. He also has an intellectual focus on matters of enormous ethical and social importance for our time, such as science and technology, the decline in the belief in progress, and technology and ethics. In this last [spring] semester, his course on existentialism was full and overflowing. The students were there because they found in this man and his approach a model of what it should be to be a creative and organic intellectual in our time.”
- Gerald Weiss joined the Psychology Department in 1965. Once described as more of a European philosopher than an American psychologist, Weiss is warmly regarded by his students, whom he considers junior colleagues. He will continue to work with honors students and those engaged on independent study projects. "Throughout his years at Macalester, Jerry served as an important mentor for large numbers of students, especially those whose interests included both philosophy and psychology," says Psychology Chair Jack Rossmann. "Along with Walt Mink and Chuck Green, Jerry co-taught a very successful long-term series of freshman seminars. He developed creative and popular Interim term and "Topics" courses and his course on 'History and Systems of Psychology' has been very effective in helping students explore the relationship between contemporary issues in psychology and their historical and philosophical underpinnings."
- Russell Whitehead came to Macalester in 1968. Although interested in a broad range of biological sciences, a variety of which he has taught over the last 30 years, he is probably best known for his contributions to electron microscopy at the micro-molecular level.
the college. Now director of the electron microscopy facilities, he has been crucial to the college's acquisition, maintenance and utilization of the sophisticated equipment available to students and faculty in the Keck Laboratory in Olin-Rice Science Center. "He has truly been involved in student-faculty and faculty-faculty collaborative research," says Dan Hornbach, Biology chair. "Russ has a long and successful history in teaching the department's 'Human Body' course, which has been a popular course with non-majors. He has been a versatile and important member of the department."

- John Bernstein joined the English Department in 1967. Although principally interested in American literature, he has taught British and Irish literature, drama, film and a variety of other courses — 55 different ones in all over three decades. "John has been [the department's] most steadfast New Critic, a legend for his thorough and scrupulous preparation of texts," says English Chair Harley Henry. "Arriving as a Melville expert, he has become a consummate liberal arts generalist who teaches with mastery in all genres: poetry, fiction, drama and film. John is a polymath with taste. His latest intellectual fascination is with 15th century Florence and the Medicis, but his lifelong love is the Ireland of Yeats and Heaney." Bernstein, an excellent tennis player who is widely known for his love of dogs and the Minnesota Vikings, has four writing projects in the works or under consideration. He recently completed a play about Lorenzo de Medici.

- Philip Lee came to Macalester in 1966. Although he has taught many advanced classes in French literature, he has also found great satisfaction in introducing French to students in his elementary and intermediate classes, helping them to develop a good feeling toward France and the Francophone countries, and to be able to communicate with French-speaking people. "Philip Lee has been a generous colleague, always willing to serve the department and the college in a quiet and unassuming way," says Virginia Schubert, chair of the French Department. "He has participated in a number of all-college committees. Most importantly, he has been secretary-treasurer of the Macalester chapter of Phi Beta Kappa since 1983, carrying on the business of the chapter…. For his service, he was honored by the national Phi Beta Kappa organization at its last triennial meeting…. His service to the department, the college and state association of French teachers is deeply appreciated and his work will be greatly missed." Lee's future plans include continued work on two Renaissance collections of short stories in French and the translation of a collection of 20th century short stories entitled Fantasy and Reality in the French Short Story.

- Peter Murray has taught in the English Department since 1968. His main interests are Shakespeare, Elizabethan drama, and psychology and literature. Over the next three years, he plans to teach a class each semester because he finds it so rewarding to see young people learn to read well and with a sense of context. He will also pursue his in-depth study of empathy in Shakespeare. "Thanks to Peter's broad-ranging scholarship, skillful teaching and commitment to the liberal arts, hundreds of Macalester graduates have more fully experienced the power, complexity and subtlety of Shakespeare's works," says English Chair Harley Henry. "His courses on poetry and drama, and more recently literary theory, have been at the heart of the curriculum. His extraordinary care and thoroughness in working with students to improve their writing is legendary. Though his colleagues might not be able quite to heed the injunction of a student's recent evaluation of one of Peter's courses, we can certainly support its spirit: 'I've learned so much about poetry…Professor Murray deserves a Porsche!'"

In addition to these seven faculty members, three other longtime professors were honored with special receptions during Reunion in May:

- David White, who taught in both the Philosophy and English departments, was honored for his 50 years of teaching at Macalester. The Philosophy Department presented him with a book of bound letters — anecdotes, stories and personal tributes — from former students, colleagues and friends. See page 48 for a photo and one alumnus' tribute to him.

- Sherman Schultz directed the observatory and planetarium and taught astronomy and telescope making at Macalester from 1954 to 1995. The Sherman W. Schultz Observatory in the Olin-Rice Science Center was officially dedicated during Reunion — see page 31. The International Astronomical Union also approved naming an asteroid after him — "(7077) Shermanschultz" — at the suggestion of MIT astronomer and planetary specialist Rick Binzel '80, one of his former students. Schultz, who no longer teaches at Macalester but still has an office in the Physics Department, lives near campus and welcomes letters from former students. His address: 1139 Palace Ave., St. Paul, MN 55105

- Eddie Hill, who joined Macalester's Biology Department in 1964, is the O.T. Walter Professor of Biology. Still working part time, he plans to retire from all teaching on Aug. 31, 1999. He will be featured in Macalester Today at that time.

On the staff side, Joan Taylor, executive assistant in the Treasurer's Office, retired after nearly 10 years at Macalester. Taylor, who studied elementary education at the Miss Woods School, worked first with Paul Aslanian and then with his successor, Treasurer Craig Aase '70. "Joan has served as a mentor as well as an assistant," Aase said. "Her 'can-do' attitude was accompanied by a strong sense of professionalism as well as personal warmth. She's a gem and we will miss her."
Fulbright winners

Three Macalester students who graduated in May and a 1993 graduate were awarded Fulbright grants for graduate study and research abroad during the 1998–99 academic year.

In addition to Aaron Schlaphoff ’98 of Sherburne, Minn. (see page 19), they are:

- Maura Dunon ’98 (Davis, Calif.), who majored in Spanish and international studies. She will study in Spain.
- Devon Idstrom ’98 (Maple Grove, Minn.), a German and urban studies major with a political science core concentration. She will study urban geography in Berlin.
- Susan D. Franck ’93, who was a psychology major with a political science core at Macalester. She won a Fulbright to study for an advanced law degree at the University of London, specializing in international law and dispute resolution. Franck finished her law degree at the University of Minnesota this past May.

Annual Fund record

Alumni participation reaches new high of 38 percent

On May 31, 1998, Macalester closed the books on the most successful Annual Fund year in the college’s history.

The Annual Fund raised $1,337,597 from 9,310 donors. Of the total, $948,621 was contributed by 6,885 alumni.

The previous Annual Fund record was $1,262,282 in 1993–94.

"It was a record-breaking year in a lot of ways," said Marcia Freeman, director of the Annual Fund. "We raised the most dollars ever, from the most donors ever. And, perhaps most importantly, we had our highest alumni participation ever."

Alumni participation was 38 percent — a record high for Macalester. In addition to the financial support the Annual Fund provides for students, participation by alumni is often considered a gauge of alumni satisfaction with their alma mater.

"One of the most common questions we receive," Freeman said, "is, ‘Will my gift really make a difference?’ And, of course, the answer is yes, every gift matters. There’s no such thing as a gift that’s too small.” She added with a grin, "Of course, there’s no such thing as a gift that’s too big either!"

The Annual Fund consists of unrestricted or budget-relieving gifts from alumni, parents, friends, faculty and staff.

Three of the best

Professors Truman Schwartz, Kathy Parson and Joan Hutchinson win awards for their teaching and other talents

Three Macalester faculty members received major awards this past spring.

- A. Truman Schwartz received the Macalester Excellence in Teaching Award. Schwartz, who joined the Macalester faculty in 1966, is DeWitt Wallace Professor of Chemistry. He has been honored numerous times for his teaching and scholarship. Most recently, he received the 1997 James Flack Norris Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Teaching of Chemistry, a prestigious national award given by the Northeastern Section of the American Chemical Society (see May’s Macalester Today).

The Macalester award citation noted that students have often commented on his insightful lectures. For example, one student said that "only Schwartz would insist that his students know the difference between a preposition and a perchorlate. Only he would find reasons to quote Ogden Nash, lecturing on two subjects at once without sacrificing a smidgeon of clarity in the process. Professor Schwartz does far more than teach, write or mentor chemists. He professes! He is the very definition of ‘professor’!"

A Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University in the 1950s, Schwartz has broad interests in humanities and the world. He has taught and given numerous invited lectures throughout the country. In one of his favorite lectures, "Humanizing the Scientist and Simonizing the Humanist," he notes that discovering beauty in truth and truth in beauty are symbolic of the goals and methodologies of both the humanities and science.

A leader in science education, he was chosen by the American Chemical Society as editor-in-chief of two editions of Chemistry in Context: Applying Chemistry to Society. The book is credited with having a major impact on thousands of liberal arts students who are learning to apply critical thinking and decision making to societal technological problems such as energy needs and global warming.

"Most faculty know you as a wonderful colleague, dedicated to Macalester, and visionary and wise in your contributions to the life of the college," the citation said.

"Generations of students have and will continue to benefit from your love of chemistry, teaching and students. You will be remembered as one of Macalester’s master teachers."

- Academic Dean Kathleen Kurzke Parson ’67 won the 1998 Thomas Jefferson Award at Macalester.

A chemistry major at Macalester, she earned a doctorate in biochemistry from the University of Minnesota and joined the Macalester faculty in 1975. She has a joint appointment in the Chemistry and Biology departments. Because her teaching and research interests span the two disciplines, Parson has "served as a human bridge — a bridge that has permitted students to cross smoothly between the departments," the text of the Jefferson citation says. "Some of the courses you helped introduce, including Recombinant DNA and Neuroscience, have been at the forefront of biomedical research and have served to pave the way for a richer curriculum."

Parson’s own research on molecular genetics and on separation and purification techniques has taken her to the University of Glasgow and the Biosciences Laboratory of the 3M Co. She has also involved students in her scientific work and arranged for many challenging and educational internships. "Students recall with great appreciation your influence as a one-on-one tutor and a wise counselor about careers and life," the citation said.

"Your skills in dealing effectively and fairly with issues and with people are well known to your colleagues, who have elected you to serve on all of the major committees of the college. You served with such distinction, frequently as chair, that you were drawn to administration. You chaired the Biology Department for three
years and then broadened your responsibilities by becoming Program Director for the Pew Midstates Science and Mathematics Consortium.

"In this capacity, your knowledge of science and scientists, your commitment to education, and your superb organizational skills earned you the respect and admiration of faculty and staff at a dozen participating colleges and universities and the reputation of being the best Pew Program Director in the country. Somewhere you also acquired the ability to raise large amounts of money, and you contributed significantly to successful proposals to the Pew Charitable Trust, the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, the Mellon Foundation, and most recently to the Keck Foundation. Significantly, the latter grant is for the support of undergraduate research, the sort of involvement that did so much to launch your own career," the citation said.

In 1995, Parson was named academic dean. "In this key role," the citation said, "you have exhibited intelligence, insight, tact, common sense, vision, enthusiasm, good humor and a great capacity for hard work."

- Joan Hutchinson, professor of mathematics and computer science, received the Mathematical Association of America, North Central Section, Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics.

Hutchinson, who came to Macalester in 1990, was cited for her "outstanding record of teaching and [her] talent in motivating students to learn and love mathematics."

Among the comments made by the award committee and by persons who nominated her for the award: "[She] is an accomplished researcher, author and teacher of mathematics. She exemplifies every trait that the MAA wishes to honor. . . . A frequent speaker at meetings and conferences, Joan is an articulate and enthusiastic expositor of things mathematical. At Macalester College she is a pied piper for our discipline as she draws students to study and work with her and gives them a taste of the excitement she finds in doing mathematics. Her students and colleagues alike speak enthusiastically of her love of teaching and doing mathematics."

One colleague said, "In the classroom, Joan is recognized for her unusually diligent preparation, her clarity and sense of pace, and her infectious vitality and enthusiasm." Another said Hutchinson "has more than 40 publications, with most accessible to interested students, and four of them list students as co-authors. It is impressive, and a source of some satisfaction for Joan, that all four students continued in mathematics."

One student said, "I have rarely met anyone as helpful as she in helping to set my goals and see them through . . . . What I learned from her has helped me gain a better view of my professional potential than I ever had before." Another student said, "I strongly believe that she is one of the best math instructors that I have ever had . . . . Not only does she make the material understandable, she makes the learning process fun and interesting."

This is the seventh year that these awards have been made. David Bressoud, chair of the department at Macalester, has also been a recipient of this award, making Macalester one of the most frequently represented colleges among the MAA's Distinguished Teachers.

World Press Institute
Ten international journalists begin their U.S. odyssey
JOURNALISTS from China, Georgia, Yugoslavia and Canada are among the 10 international reporters and editors awarded 1998 fellowships by the World Press Institute at Macalester.

The fellowships are designed to increase international understanding of the United States by offering proven young journalists from around the world a comprehensive introduction to the country and its people.

This year's program began in July. It concludes with commencement ceremonies at the college on Oct. 23.

Following a month of briefings with members of the Macalester faculty and
Adult Scholars
Four graduate in May:
'It feels wonderful!'

PERSEVERANCE. Determination. Commitment.
Macalester's Adult Scholars embody those qualities and more. Four of them graduated in May.

Students were last admitted to the Adult Scholar program in 1992; however, students in the program at that time have continued to work towards their degrees.

"I cannot believe I hung in there 12 years to receive my bachelor of arts degree (in history)," said Deb Kerkvliet, who works as the Music Department coordinator at Macalester. "It feels wonderful!"

Working full time while going to college "has made me highly skilled and given me the confidence to take on the challenge of a career change in the future," said Kerkvliet, who is also a member of the college's Pipe Band.

Dianne Kimber of Edina, Minn., an English major, also graduated in May. After being a wife and mother for many years, she was both "scared and excited" when she began her Macalester education seven and a half years ago.

"Although the diploma appeared distant at times, each new subject regenerated my enthusiasm. Because of these new ventures, I learned to validate and support my thoughts on many diverse issues."

Kimber said her Macalester experience makes her feel more self-confident and empowered to explore new challenges. Continuing to do volunteer work in a primary school in the Twin Cities area, she plans to "work to enable each child to gain that same faith in one's self."

Helena Chiareli, who enrolled as an Adult Scholar in 1990, came to Macalester from Brazil with her entire family. She graduated with a degree in psychology (see pages 34–35). Heather Lund graduated with an English degree and is embarking on a teaching career.

Jeanne Arntzen, who works as coordinator of Macalester's Dramatic Arts and Dance Department, will be the last Adult Scholar to graduate — in about two years. She attended Commencement in May "because I was so proud and excited for the other Adult Scholars who graduated and I wanted to support them. Life as an Adult Scholar brings with it many extra hurdles which the traditional student doesn't experience; therefore, I can appreciate first-hand the accomplishment of those who graduated."

WPI seeks to expand its involvement with the Macalester community by scheduling numerous classroom visits for WPI's 1998 fellows this fall. The journalists will be on campus Oct. 5–23.

Alumni in the Washington, D.C., area are invited to meet the fellows at a social gathering and informal discussion from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 10, at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, 1800 K Street NW.

New dean
Lorne Robinson of Claremont McKenna succeeds Bill Shain in admissions

LORNE T. ROBINSON, director of admission at Claremont McKenna College in California, is the new dean of admissions and financial aid at Macalester. He started work this summer.

"I am excited to have someone with Lorne's experience, energy and knowledge other experts on many aspects of American culture, the WPI fellows are spending three months traversing the U.S. on an intense schedule of meetings and interviews with Americans in all walks of life.

Founded at Macalester in 1961, WPI is a nonprofit, educational organization supported by foundations, corporations, individuals and the college.

WPI's 1998 fellows are:

- Argentina, Alberto Armendariz, 25, reporter, La Nacion, Buenos Aires.
- Australia, Katrina Strickland, 31, senior arts writer, The Australian, Melbourne.
- Canada, Louise Leduc, 27, reporter, Le Devoir, Montreal.
- China, Chen Weihua, 34, deputy bureau chief, China Daily, Shanghai.
- Finland, Assi Miettinen, 24, reporter, Helsingin Sanomat, Helsinki.
- Nigeria, Akeem Soboyede, 29, editorial board member, Concord Newspapers, Lagos.
- Pakistan, Nasir Jamal, 33, senior reporter, Dawn, Lahore.
- Yugoslavia, Aleksandra Ajdanic, 38, editor, BETA news agency, Belgrade.

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come to Macalester,” said President Mike McPherson. “He will bring excellent leadership to our already strong admissions program. He is the kind of innovative professional who will help us attract the top students in the country. Having worked in a number of excellent liberal arts colleges, he is a good fit for Macalester.”

Robinson was chosen after an extensive recruitment process. He replaces Bill Shain, who left Macalester in February to become dean of undergraduate admissions at Vanderbilt University.

Robinson has been at Claremont McKenna College since 1989 and spent the previous seven years as director of admissions at Pomona College, also in Claremont. He began his admission career at Grinnell College in Iowa, where he was assistant director of admissions. A native of the Kansas City area, Robinson graduated from Grinnell with a political science degree in 1978.

He has a broad range of experience in a number of admissions fields, including marketing and publications, research, nationwide recruitment, program coordination, computing and Web-page planning, and working with alumni volunteers.

Ted Turner

The Atlanta Braves owner declines an honorary degree after a protest

TED TURNER and what he stands for became the subject of a heated campus debate this past spring.

Months earlier, the faculty approved honoring Turner at the same May 17 Commencement at which U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan ’61 received an honorary degree (see page 20). Turner was chosen for his 1997 pledge to give $1 billion to the U.N. and for his record of philanthropy on behalf of the environment and international issues.

This spring, however, about 125 students staged a peaceful protest that focused on Turner’s ownership of the Atlanta Braves baseball team with its Indian mascot. Many students, and not only students, view the use of the mascot—and the accompanying “tomahawk chop” and mock Indian “chant” by Atlanta fans during baseball games—as brutally racist. The mascot also stirred protests in the Twin Cities during the 1991 World Series between the Braves and the Minnesota Twins. “The issue is not about Macalester as much as it is about the national and international struggle against racism,” one student said.

The students did not demand that Turner step aside. Rather, they asked Macalester to add a Native American speaker to the Commencement program and to strengthen Native American studies.

Other students, while critical of the mascot, argued that Turner’s philanthropy and work on behalf of other good causes overshadowed the mascot issue. They declared that the protesters were not representative of the student body.

Even the Twin Cities’ two major newspapers editorialized on the issue—on opposite sides. The Minneapolis Star Tribune said the protesters “lost an opportunity to exchange ideas with an American original,” while the St. Paul Pioneer Press said: “Let Turner stay away and preserve the joys of graduation for the college’s most important people on May 17: the graduates.”

In early May, 11 days before Commencement, Turner wrote President McPherson that he was declining the invitation to receive the degree. Turner said he had looked forward to accepting an honorary degree with Annan, “whose world leadership has my utmost respect and admiration. However, it has come to my attention that my selection has generated controversy on campus, and I do not want to detract from the recognition your institution will bestow on the secretary-general. Therefore, I believe it is appropriate for me to decline your invitation at this time.”

McPherson, in a letter to the Macalester community, said that because of the controversy, “we have all gained a keener insight into the concerns many in the community have about Native American issues on this campus, both in the curriculum and in other areas.” McPherson said he would strongly recommend that the Honorary Degree Committee seek to identify “an esteemed member of the Native American community to receive an honorary degree in 1999.” He also promised to meet with members of...
Macalester hosts national track championships

Macalester finished a successful spring sports season by hosting the NCAA Division III Track & Field Championships at the end of May. More than 700 qualified athletes from about 125 colleges participated as national titles in 41 events were contested.

The three-day meet ran smoothly and was well organized, according to track officials and coaches, while the five-year-old Macalester track and field complex drew raves from athletes. Nearly 3,000 people were on hand each day.

"It was a triumphant three days for the college and the department," said Macalester Director of Athletics Ken Andrews. "The volunteer help we received from the staff, alumni, and friends made the meet possible and our thanks goes out to those 200 people.

"It was quite an undertaking because big national track meets require a lot of planning and a lot of workers, but things went well and the national committee is already talking about us hosting the championships again soon," Andrews said.

Spring sports review

Macalester enjoyed its best spring sports season in several years. The track team enjoyed their best league finish in over a decade and had three conference champions, while the baseball, men's tennis and women's tennis teams all posted winning records.

Track and field

The track and field teams started the year in early January with indoor training and ended it by hosting the national championships in late May. In between, they had their most productive season in years. With both teams receiving most of their points from sophomores and freshmen, the future for Macalester track and field looks very good.

The women's track team followed a good indoor season by taking fifth at the NCAA Division III championships in late May. More than 700 qualifying athletes from about 125 colleges participated as national titles in 41 events were contested.

Nearly 3,000 athletes from 125 colleges participated in the championships. The track and field complex drew raves from athletes. Nearly 3,000 people were on hand each day.

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Welch, Epperson named Athletes of the Year

The M Club will honor Dan Welch '98 and Brook Epperson '98 as the Male and Female Athletes of the Year for 1997-98 at its annual Hall of Fame banquet Oct. 9.

Goalkeeper Welch (Greeley, Colo.) led the men's soccer team to the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (MIAC) title, a No. 4 Division III ranking in the final national poll and a 14-0-4 overall record. Welch allowed just three goals in 17 games — a mark which has probably never been accomplished in collegiate soccer — and was selected as the first-team goalkeeper on the National Soccer Coaches of America All-America team. He became Macalester's first GTE Academic All-American in five years and is currently playing for the Minnesota Thunder of the A League.

Epperson (Sandy, Utah) guided the women's soccer team to its best season ever. She scored 12 goals and had a school-record 18 assists to lead the Scots to a 19-2 record and an undefeated 10-0 MIAC mark. A first-team All-America selection and the MIAC Player of the Year, Epperson had a goal or assist in the team's final 14 games and finished her outstanding career at Macalester with 33 goals and 42 assists.

Epperson and the Scots outscored their opponents by a 53-4 margin and were ranked fourth in the final Division III national poll.

Dan Welch '98

Brook Epperson '98

Welch, Epperson named Athletes of the Year

The M Club will honor Dan Welch '98 and Brook Epperson '98 as the Male and Female Athletes of the Year for 1997-98 at its annual Hall of Fame banquet Oct. 9.

Goalkeeper Welch (Greeley, Colo.) led the men's soccer team to the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (MIAC) title, a No. 4 Division III ranking in the final national poll and a 14-0-4 overall record. Welch allowed just three goals in 17 games — a mark which has probably never been accomplished in collegiate soccer — and was selected as the first-team goalkeeper on the National Soccer Coaches of America All-America team. He became Macalester's first GTE Academic All-American in five years and is currently playing for the Minnesota Thunder of the A League.

Epperson (Sandy, Utah) guided the women's soccer team to its best season ever. She scored 12 goals and had a school-record 18 assists to lead the Scots to a 19-2 record and an undefeated 10-0 MIAC mark. A first-team All-America selection and the MIAC Player of the Year, Epperson had a goal or assist in the team's final 14 games and finished her outstanding career at Macalester with 33 goals and 42 assists.

Epperson and the Scots outscored their opponents by a 53-4 margin and were ranked fourth in the final Division III national poll.

Dan Welch '98

Brook Epperson '98
New coaches appointed in softball, volleyball and women's basketball

Three women's sports teams will have new head coaches in 1998-99:

- Former University of Minnesota head coach Stephanie Schleuder is Macalester's new volleyball coach, replacing Bob Weiner, who accepted a coaching post at Montana State-Northern. Schleuder coached from 1982 to 1994 at Minnesota after coaching basketball and volleyball at the University of Alabama. Her success at the Division I level is shown by her 561 career wins and 95 percent graduation rate among her athletes at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. When Schleuder left Minnesota, she was the all-time leader for coaching wins in the Big Ten and eighth all-time nationally.

- Mary Orsted takes over for John Hershey as head women's volleyball coach. Orsted, a 1994 graduate of the University of Minnesota, was a four-year letter-winner for the Gophers. She has been an assistant at Macalester the past two seasons and has been on the job this spring following the resignation of Hershey, who coached at Mac since 1986. Hershey left Macalester to become neighborhood liaison at the University of St. Thomas.

- Tina Johnson is the new softball coach. Johnson, a 1990 graduate of Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville, has been head coach the past eight years at Lafayette High School in Wildwood, Mo. Johnson was named Missouri Softball Coach of the Year after guiding her Lafayette High School team to the Class 4A state championship. She has been a science teacher at Lafayette High School since 1990 and earned a master's degree in science education from the University of Missouri-St. Louis. She served this past season as pitching and catching coach at Missouri-St. Louis.

Baseball

The baseball team rewrote Macalester's record book, establishing school marks for wins (22), batting (.336), runs per game (7.4), hits and total bases. Outfielder R.T. Luczak (junior, Greenfield, Wis.) and shortstop Rick Van Pelt (senior, Creston, Iowa) received All-MIAC honors, while Luczak established single-season school records in several categories, as the Scots posted an overall record of 22-21-1 and 7-13 in the MIAC, ninth place. An All-West Region pick, Luczak hit .404 through 42 games with 46 RBI, 45 runs and a .660 slugging percentage. He was second in the conference in both runs scored and RBI. Van Pelt hit .391 with 43 RBI and finished his outstanding four-year career as Mac's starting shortstop with 103 RBI, 96 runs and a record 40 doubles. Jason Shannon (first-year, Apple Valley, Minn.) was eighth in the league in batting and one of the top newcomers in the MIAC, while Keenan Sue (first-year, Honolulu, Hawaii) was hitting a team-leading .437 before a broken hand ended his season after 25 games. Ryan Swanson (junior, Burnsville, Minn.) hit .364.

Softball

Macalester's softball team lost the conference title for the first time in three straight winning seasons. The Scots should be back soon in the MIAC's upper division, though, because of such talented young players as Kathryn Miles (sophomore, Surrey, British Columbia) and Jenny Polson (first-year Portland, Ore.). Miles was named to the All-MIAC squad after hitting a team-leading .369 with 26 RBI, 22 runs and 16 extra base hits. Polson came on strong over the season's second half and finished with a .368 batting average to go along with 23 runs and 17 stolen bases. Jaimi Stejskal (junior, Spring Valley, Minn.) was reliable in center field for the Scots, hitting .330 with 17 RBI and 13 extra base hits. Jackie Chavez (first-year, Santa Fe, N.M.) was the team's pitching ace.

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At Macalester, there’s a bias for hope

by Michael S. McPherson

OPTIMISM. Engagement. Achievement. Service. During my two years of listening and learning as president of Macalester, I have come increasingly to identify these four words with the Macalester community I have come to know.

They are words that characterize our students and our alumni, our faculty and our staff. They speak both to Macalester’s aspirations and to its reality. In this and in coming editions of this column, I will offer some reflections on each of these words, sharing with you some of the observations and experiences that have led me to see them as emblematic of the college and its values.

Some folks might argue that to be an optimist these days, you have to be in a state of denial. What with global warming, racial discord, ethnic conflict, Washington scandals, world hunger, and on and on, a state of mind teetering between cynicism and despair might seem more understandable than optimism. Popular media often portray young people as burned out, jaded, self-absorbed, suggesting that anybody expressing an optimistic outlook has to be a liar or a fool.

But the kind of optimism that is worthy of respect, and the kind I see and admire around Macalester, is not built around denying the serious problems facing our society and our world, or around putting a happy face on things. It’s not a sense that everything is just fine. Rather, the spirit I see embodied in Macalester is one of facing up to enormous difficulties with conviction and confidence that things can be made better.

The outlook I have in mind has been well described by the great social theorist and development economist Albert Hirschman, a man now in his 80s, whom I have been privileged to know as a friend and mentor. In his lovely essay, “A Bias for Hope,” Hirschman described the perspective that informs his own work as “possibilism” — the notion that things need not be as they always have been, that a change for the better is an ever-present possibility.

Hirschman’s possibilism is based in part, perhaps ironically, on the limitations of social scientific knowledge: our ability to predict is not so great that we can confidently predict failure, any more than we can guarantee success. History, Hirschman notes, is full of surprises, some of them favorable. Think, in recent years, of the collapse of Communist dictatorships in many countries, of the largely peaceful overthrow of South Africa’s apartheid regime, or of the remarkable economic progress of a number of Asian countries (which remains astonishing despite recent setbacks). Hirschman urges us always to be aware of the possibility that a society will find “a whole new way of turning a historical corner.” Possibilism is a kind of earned optimism, connected to a willingness both to imagine a better future and to take responsibility for helping to make it happen.

This brand of optimism is, then, more than and different from a “happy-go-lucky” attitude. The possibilist views the world with a certain kind of humility, recognizing that there is so much about society that we don’t understand that we are in no position to rule out positive change. The “realists” who thought that only all-out war could bring an end to the Soviet regime or to apartheid in South Africa turned out to be the ones who were naive. Along with that humility comes a respect for human agency, a sense that at the right time and place, and sometimes in the face of great difficulty, human beings can make a difference.

I see this kind of optimism every day at Macalester. I see it in students who head out in vans to feed the hungry, care for the sick and teach folks to read. I see it in our faculty who, practicing the most optimistic of all professions, help their students learn how to engage intellect and imagination in solving problems, meeting challenges and extending their horizons. This “possibilist” spirit infects the many Macalester graduates whom I have come to know. The trio of ’78 Macalester grads — Steve Wiggins, Chuck Berg and Steve Vander Schaaf — who started the nonprofit corporation Accessible Space to help disabled people live independently are a wonderful example. An optimistic spirit likewise feeds the drive and energy required to create a new business venture or to renew and reenergize an existing business. It takes courage, resourcefulness and a profound belief in the future to bring a new enterprise into the world, as alumni like Lamar Laster ’72 or Dick Eichhorn ’51 demonstrate.

I see this possibilist spirit in an athlete like Julia Kirtland ’87, who joined our M Club Hall of Fame in 1997. A track and cross country star at Mac, she put aside a successful career several years ago to pursue her dream of becoming a professional marathoner, and has found great success and satisfaction in that endeavor. I see this same spirit in such Twin Cities leaders as Sharon Sayles Belton ’73, the mayor of Minneapolis, Susan Haigh ’73, chair of the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners, and Kathleen Osborne Vellenga ’59, a former state legislator who now heads the St. Paul-Ramsey Children’s Initiative.

There is perhaps no greater expression of belief in the future than the creation of works of art, and the novelists, painters and actors among our students, faculty and alumni are a perennial expression of possibility. Political activists, community volunteers and, yes, secretaries-general of the United Nations — we are proud of the Macalester alumni in all these walks of life. And all their endeavors are built on the simultaneous awareness that the world is not all it might be, and that it falls to each of us to find some way to help make it better.

This optimistic, possibilist spirit implies that Macalester’s education is the furthest thing from the proverbial Ivory Tower. Like any good college, we live for and by ideas, and opportunities for reflection and contemplation play an important part in our educational experience. Finally, though, we care about ideas and about values because ideas and values matter in the world, and making a difference in the world is the business we are about.

Mike McPherson, the president of Macalester, writes a regular column for Macalester Today.
Judge Alan Green '74, who has known some hard times himself, brings a different perspective to the legal system

by Carolyn Griffith

In person, Judge Alan Green '74 is a New Orleans gentleman, through and through. Dressed in a crisp navy suit, he exudes bred-in-the-bone courtesy, wrapping his dry wit in slightly formal Southern syntax. You'd never guess that inside this gracious package — sandwiched between the boy who grew up, with hardworking parents and 10 siblings, amidst the struggle for desegregation, and the 45-year-old judge — lives a 22-year-old who left Macalester in anger and despair, vowing never to return.

This past April, Green did return, to participate in the Alumni of Color Lecture Series. "At Macalester," he told students over lunch, "I began to ask hard questions that led me down a long road. I learned that all blacks were not the same, and developed a political consciousness through exposure to diversity. I also learned how to discipline my time and energy, and acquired the tools to negotiate a complex society."

"I absorbed the values around me at Macalester, without really knowing it at the time," he said later in an interview. "The idea of public service, individual thinking, being encouraged to ask questions and challenge assumptions — these were all positive things that took awhile to emerge in me."

Before he could realize those gifts, Green would plunge repeatedly into ice-cold culture shock, and find himself disoriented to the point of despair.

Macalester's EEO (Expanded Educational Opportunities) program, designed to attract more students of color, recruited Green in 1970. The campus atmosphere he found — politically active, egalitarian, permissive — was a radical change from his strict, close-knit family and overt Southern racism. "I had never met a proud Hispanic American, or Native American, or a real African," he recalls. "And at home, we just assumed you went to Vietnam and did your duty. At Mac, I learned I had the right to protest the war."

After Green's introduction to Macalester, he found yet another culture in Ghana, where he spent his sophomore year. Green and a friend, Norvell Starling '77, decided that there was more to be learned outside the University of Ghana than inside its classrooms, and spent much of their year traveling around the villages of West Africa equipped with thumb, backpack and the willingness to experience anything.

Sometime during his travels down dusty African byways, Green began to absorb and internalize the constant criticism of America's involvement in the world beyond its borders. When he returned to Macalester — in a 24-hour odyssey from Ghana to London to New York to St. Paul — he was disillusioned with both the college and American society at large. Green became profoundly withdrawn, careless nearly to the point of self-destruction.

"A friend told me later, 'Man, the last time we saw you, you had drifted into outer space, and we didn't know if you were ever coming back,' " Green

Carolyn Griffith, a St. Paul free-lance writer, wrote about the Voices of Tamani student gospel choir in May's Macalester Today.
I had never met a proud Hispanic American, or Native American, or a real African [until Macalester]. And at home [in Louisiana], we just assumed you went to Vietnam and did your duty.

...
Imagine This

Making feminism an article of her faith, Sally Abrahams Hill ’51 has challenged the church to go beyond the old-time religion

by Jan Shaw-Flamm ’76

On Aug. 14, 1951, Sally Abrahams turned 21. She completed her English and journalism majors at Macalester on Aug. 15, married Curtis Hill ’50 on the 17th and together they reported to Tipton, Iowa, for teacher orientation on Aug. 20. In June of her 22nd year she gave birth to their first child, Steven. (Steven ’75 and his sister, Bonnie ’79, are Mac grads, too.)

That year, rather than being atypical, foreshadowed the energy and accomplishments for which Sally Hill has become widely known. Now a retired Presbyterian pastor, Hill has blazed trails in the finest Macalester manner, working for peace and justice in church and culture for nearly 50 years.

“I didn’t set out to be a rebel, but justice has always been very important to me,” says the amicable yet unapologetic Hill. “In a sense I wanted to break some new ground as far as the church was concerned. When issues were brought to my attention, I joined the fray.”

When the Hills returned to Minnesota, Sally worked in Christian education, then entered the seminary, where new questions arose. “They were primarily questions of equality,” she recalls. “The church was filled with women, strong supporters of the church. Why were the leaders not women? Why were men doing all the Biblical interpretation for us?”

After attaining her master’s of divinity degree, Hill in 1976 became the first woman ordained in her presbytery, the local unit of ecclesiastical government. As a parish minister at St. Luke Presbyterian Church in Minnetonka, Minn., Hill was asked to talk about the Bible with the staff of a battered women’s shelter. “So many of their clients at the shelter believed that they deserved it [abuse], and that their church told them they must forgive and go back. They wanted to know what did the Bible really say? This was all very new….

“There were feminist writers, but they certainly were not used in seminary. Gradually, I caught on. I had to study hard, I had to look at all those texts and figure out how I read the Bible, how more liberal leaders read the Bible….

“As congregants came to talk with me, I realized there were several lesbians in our congregation, and they were in enormous pain. How to respond? What resources — both personal and commun...
nity — did I have to offer? It was a new issue for me."

In 1981, Hill became the director of the Twin Cities Metropolitan Church Commission. For 13 years, she spearheaded the ecumenical group's efforts in education, international exchanges, Christian/Jewish/Muslim dialogue, ecumenical worship and women's issues. She also helped create the Peace Child Project, a multifaceted peace education endeavor which brought Russian and American children together for plays, festivals and dialogues in the 1980s.

In 1988, "The Ecumenical Decade/Churches in Solidarity with Women" was declared, and Hill, with others, decided to celebrate it with a major women's theological colloquium in November 1993 in Minneapolis. It was to be called "Re-Imagining."

"Women in far greater numbers than anyone supposed were doing theology in a manner it had not been done before," Hill says. "We wanted to get everybody together and provide an opportunity to explore what women of many cultures were doing."

More than 2,000 women and a few men from 49 states and 27 countries attended the conference, where theologians, clergy and laypeople expressed their truths, celebrated feminine images of God, and challenged the church to new heights of inclusiveness and justice. With "Re-Imagining," Christian theology became secular news, highlighting divisions in main-line denominations and taking religion to newspaper headlines and shows such as "Nightline" and McNeil-Lehrer.

Among the flashpoints was the use of feminine imagery for God, a tradition well grounded in Biblical literature that speaks of Sophia, but smacking of goddess worship to some. The conference closed with a shared symbolic meal of milk and honey, which some viewed as a feminist attempt to replace communion. In a moment not on the agenda, several lesbian Christians invited others to come forward, and the majority of participants at tables stood in support and recognition of the lesbian women in the church.

The conference provoked "a firestorm" among conservatives within the Presbyterian and Methodist churches, Hill recalls. For example, the Presbyterian Layman called "for the firing and/or discipline of offending national staff persons and for a public repudiation of the conference," and a supportive national Presbyterian staff member, Mary Ann Lundy, was indeed forced from her job. "We knew there were some radical pieces, and expected there would be a little flurry, and that would be that," Hill says. "We had been busy worrying about whether the Southeast Asian women would have mittens."

Although Hill's own livelihood was not threatened, as the staff person most responsible for the conference, "I spent all my working hours dealing with the backlash through 1994, a year after the conference."

Yet the vast majority of the conference feedback was celebratory. Many agreed with the participant who wrote, "The Spirit whispered and sometimes thundered and as a result, many of us resolved that if a Conference like this can happen and still be the Church, then we can continue being faithful Churchwomen."

The hunger for the life-affirming theology expressed at the conference resulted in the creation of the Twin Cities-based Re-Imagining Community, which provides annual gatherings, classes, a newsletter and the publication of resources for women's theology.

In 1994, Macalester named Sally Hill a Distinguished Citizen, and in 1997 she was honored as a National Hero by the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

Retired now, Hill does "gigs," teaching, lecturing and preaching in a variety of settings. "At my age," said Hill, "I've lived through all the stages of the modern women's movement, and through it, I've changed dramatically. My theological understandings have been changed and enriched by the new work of feminist theologians. When I started my career in the ministry, I just wanted to fit into the system created eons ago. I had no mentors who were women. But as more and more women's voices were heard, I, along with them, figured out that it was the systems that needed to change, to become more collaborative and less hierarchical."

"The women's communities, of which I've been a part, nourish me more than I can say. It is clear, in these backlash times, that the work is not done. So I'm very thankful for places like the Re-Imagining Community which will continue to work toward a truly inclusive church and society."
The recipients of the 1998 Presidential Student Leadership Award with President McPherson: from left, Aukse Jurkute, Aaron Schlaphoff, Daniel Zemans, Bola Gibson, Emily Stone, Lorne Lieb, Gretchen Rohr and Shannon Weber.

EIGHT LEADERS

Eight seniors were honored this spring with the third annual Presidential Student Leadership Award. The award recognizes their outstanding contributions to the Macalester community throughout their college years.

All eight students are briefly described on the following pages.

We asked two of them — Minnesota native Aaron Schlaphoff and Bola Gibson of Zimbabwe via England and Jamaica — to reflect on the past four years. The words are their own, condensed from interviews with writer Jan Shaw-Flamm '76.
AUKSE JURKUTE

Hometown: Kaunas, Lithuania

Majors: economics, mathematics, and Russian, Central and East European studies

Some Macalester activities: library computer lab manager as student employee; Web project supervisor for Admissions Office; a founder and president of Women in Economics Club; student representative to Board of Trustees and Alumni Board; first financial advisory chair in Macalester College Student Government

Those who know her say: “More important than [even her accomplishments] has been Aukse's vision of involvement. Not only has she gained and contributed significant leadership and organizational skills, she has worked to improve the systems and events she has touched. She has been willing to have the hard conversations about process and goals, to take risks, to challenge the status quo in a respectful, purposeful fashion.”

— Denise Ward, director, Career Development Center, and Bob Brandt, associate dean of students

LORNE LIEB

Hometown: Evanston, Ill.

Major: urban studies, sociology core

Some Macalester activities: founder and director of Fresh Concepts, Macalester improvisational comedy group; crew chief for Habitat for Humanity; producer-director of Community Service Office video; founding member of Leaders in Service Program; a leader in anti-racism activities

Those who know him say: “Lorne exemplifies the best of what Macalester has to offer — selfless service to others and high academic standards. He is one of the most well-rounded and grounded students I have known. ... Lorne has touched the lives of many people here. He is a natural leader and a very effective role model.”

— Brian Longley, director, Media Services

GRETCHEN ROHR

Hometown: Billings, Mont.

Majors: communication studies and political science

Some Macalester activities (see February '98 Macalester Today): Rhodes Scholar; Student Government president; student representative on two Board of Trustees committees; chair of Shades of Color student organization

Those who know her say: “Gretchen serves as an excellent role model through her intellectual rigor and commitment to community service. In the classroom she is a model student, exhibiting intellect combined with appropriate respect for debate and the scholarly exchange of ideas. Outside of class, she gives of her time to causes and groups that she believes in and that benefit those they serve.”

— Sally Caudill, assistant professor, Communication Studies

“...She is one of the most natural leaders I've ever met. What always strikes me about Gretchen are her principles and her poise.”

— Doug Stone, director, College Relations

Gretchen Rohr
EMILY STONE

Hometown: Essex Junction, VT.

Major: urban studies

Some Macalester activities: hall administrator for three residence halls; volunteer ESL tutor at high school for new immigrants; child-care supervisor at shelter for battered women; studied abroad in South Africa and volunteered there at Khaymnandi Boys’ Home; chair of Health and Wellness Speakers’ Committee

Those who know her say: “Emily is a wonderful example of a Macalester student. She is bright, capable and responsible. She cares about the welfare of others and has spent a significant amount of time taking action on her concerns. Emily has studied and traveled abroad during her Macalester career and has been greatly changed by those experiences. She interacts with cultural and economic differences with tact and sensitivity.”

— Karin Trail-Johnson and Betsy Hearn, Community Service Office

SHANNON WEBER

Hometown: Wellston, Ohio

Majors: communication studies and economics

Some Macalester activities: active in Student Government; student representative on Long-Range Planning and Budget Committee; founder of the Lincoln Society, group devoted to sponsoring discussions and debates on significant issues; preceptor in communication studies

Those who know him say: “President McPherson has remarked about his dedication, insight and energy in helping the college define critical issues. . . . He is probably one of the top three preceptors I have had in my long tenure at Macalester. He is also an individual of utmost integrity, honest to a fault, of disciplined habits and consistent behavior which led one writer for the Mac Weekly to identify him as an outstanding role model . . . .”

— Roger Mosvick ’52, professor, Communication Studies

DANIEL ZEMANS

Hometown: Chicago

Major: individually designed interdepartmental major in American studies

Some Macalester activities: vice president of Student Government; Mac Weekly columnist and advertising manager; student representative to faculty Curriculum Committee; helped rebuild black churches in South destroyed by fire

Those who know him say: “Dan’s academic record indicates his commitment to academic excellence. He is well respected by his faculty advisers and is known for his bright intellectual spirit and his inquisitive nature. . . . The fact that he was chosen to serve on the new campus-wide committee exploring multiculturalism on campus demonstrates his commitment to this value. . . . He has made steadfast efforts to be a positively contributing member of our campus.”

— Ellen Guyer, dean of academic programs
When I first got here, I spent a lot of time just figuring out how this culture works. The freedom in the classroom was very strange. I could call a professor by their first name. Pamela [Gozo '97], the other student who had been at my high school, was very helpful. I remember sitting in a classroom, and someone in the middle of the lecture just got up and walked out. I looked at Pamela and said, "He's walking out," and she looked at me and said, "Yeah, you can do that here." It was the subtle little things I noticed — not putting up your hand in class, leaving early from class, all these little things that threw me off. Freshman year was really very rough academically. I spent most of it trying to find my footing.

I RA'd [served as a residence hall assistant] sophomore year, and I really enjoyed [seeing] students settle into the school, and then watching them to see where they would go. Just working with Residential Life was helpful for me because it started getting me in contact with a lot of the people I work with now. I found out more about the way things work.

I like to think I stand as an example to students. Maybe that sounds a little conceited, but I'm a peer adviser for the Office of Multicultural Affairs and I advise students of color. I've always enjoyed that role. We work with them and help them settle down into the college. For some students of color, this is a new environment. The program's there so they don't come here and get lost in the shuffle.

My junior year was a phenomenal year. I was working with the International Student Organization. I became president, and I guess everyone decided they wanted to see the International Student Organization make some bounds and leaps out of the international student community to recruit more students. I pushed myself, and the others pushed me. We changed the name to Macalester International Organization, and did a lot of programming. I don't think I've ever put myself into anything like I put myself into that.

MCSG [Macalester College Student Government] has a legislative body, and I must say the highlight is seeing the students on the legislative body so engaged in the process. They're very critical, very much on the ball, and they all want to see Student Government succeed. We've tried to make MCSG more visible and more student issue-oriented this year. It felt good to see these students actively pursuing their own interests and really caring about the outcomes.

I've claimed my British citizenship and plan to move back to England after graduation to be closer to my family [two brothers in England and parents in Zimbabwe]. I intend to attend medical school, but I have come to the decision that I want to attend school in the UK.

At Macalester I learned an awful lot about myself. I was a pretty naive 20-year-old coming to college. My parents were very protective of me, even though I think I learned a lot from them. When I came here, it was time for me to figure out who I was and what I wanted to do. The staff and the faculty have really helped me to grow and mature. When I think about it, I learned a sense of maturity, a greater sense of responsibility, to make myself what I know I can be, and to do the best that I can at all times.
**Aaron Schlaphoff**

**Hometown:** Sherburn, Minn.

**Majors:** mathematics and political science

**Some Macalester activities:** finance chair of Student Government; member of Alumni Board; peer adviser in Career Development Center; intern at Norwest Bank

**Career plans:** become a lawyer, specializing in intellectual property law

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I grew up on a farm, near a town of 1,000 people. My dad farms and my mother is the city clerk. I have a younger sister who is 16, very active, not unlike I was. I graduated with 65 people, and most of them didn't go to college.

For me, and I think a lot of students at Macalester, you were at the top of your class, one of the smartest students, the most involved students. Then you come to college, and at Macalester, everyone is brilliant. You could certainly come to a school where everyone has been valedictorian and think, "I have to be better than everyone," but it's more a communal atmosphere here. People want to work together.

My first-year adviser was [Professor] Roger Mosvick in communication studies. He thought I was capable of understanding many subjects, and he encouraged me to try many different things. He really gave me a lot of confidence for a first-year student coming to a whole new world.

I came to Mac interested in political science and slowly got trapped into the natural sciences. January of my first year I took Calculus II in J-term, a very intense load of eight to 10 hours a day. That's where I really got passionate about math, worked very hard at it, and had that satisfaction at the end of the day that I had learned so much. Part of the experience was that I was working very closely with a woman from Lithuania. There was doing hours of math a day, and at the same time learning from her more about another culture than I've ever learned before.

So I have a double major in math and political science. People say, "How could you get those two things together?" It's so interesting. With a liberal arts background they just feed off each other so well. I write math papers about my political science papers and political science papers about my math papers.

I've got a Fulbright scholarship, and I'll be leaving in August to study at the University of Cologne, Germany. I'll be studying telecommunications and information technology, regulation and development. I'll take courses at the university and be able to do independent research while I'm there. It's a fantastic opportunity.

The kinds of communication we have now are astonishing. I'm really interested in many contemporary political issues. I connect with people on the coasts and talk about these things, but I still wonder: Is [the Internet] really an effective means of communicating? Does it allow us to have substantive political agency? Is the electronic mechanism strong enough that we can now have political agency without being in the same town?

I'm really lucky I got to Macalester. It's the intangibles, the value of friendships with people from all over the United States and the world. You can't put a dollar value on your college experiences. I can't tell you how much the Macalester community has given me. It's the culture at Mac that makes you grow, and that's something that you can't isolate, you can't say exactly what it is that is so transforming. It's the fact that it's a national school, it's a service school, it's a liberal arts college that's in a metropolitan area. These are all factors that weigh in, and here I am — a "country bumpkin" — going to make it.

Love the Alumni Board...

It's wonderful to feel that once you've graduated there's going to be this community out there. It's not like you're just being thrown into the big wide world. There's this sense of people who've been at Mac and know what it's like. It's a good feeling, like you're involved with something that's greater. And to know the fascinating things these people have done; many are doing things they were passionate about when they were students at Mac.

Aaron Schlaphoff: "one of the unsung leaders on our campus. He promotes service and leadership... for the good that it will do for the community," says Bob Brandt, associate dean of students.
"In so many ways," Kofi Annan reflected, "today is one of those rare occasions that feel as though life has come full circle."

Addressing the Class of '98 at its Commencement on a sunny Sunday, May 17, the soft-spoken, 60-year-old Annan noted some of the differences — and similarities — at Macalester since he first arrived in St. Paul 39 years before.

"I am gratified to see how much has changed, expanded and improved since my day, and yet how much is still the same," he said, his British accent mixed with the lilt of his native Ghana. "Just like the best things in life. The Old Main looks just as beautiful from outside, even though the interior has been vastly spruced up. You have new science halls, a new library, new dorms, a new chapel. The grass where I played soccer, the track where I ran the 100-yard dash, are gone; you have new athletic fields where, I hope, people are doing even better than we did in our day.

"What you have retained," he pointed out, "is the intimate nature of this small liberal arts college."

The campus was made even more intimate by a crowd of 5,000 — larger than usual — who came to see 371 seniors graduate and to honor the alumnus whose life and career symbolize Macalester's deepest aspirations. Three times, the audience stood to give him heartfelt applause.

"What you see today in terms of his deportment and demeanor is very close to the person he was when he came here years ago," Professor Roger Mosvick '52 told the St. Paul Pioneer Press. "He was a very bright guy who had this ability to adapt to virtually any situation."

Like other graduating seniors, Adam Nyhan '98 (Portland, Maine) saw Annan both at the beginning of his Macalester years — in the fall of 1994 when Annan told his now-celebrated "ear muff" story about learning to trust "the natives" — and at the end.

"I was proud," Nyhan said of Annan's return May 17. "Partly because he's so obviously respected. But aside from his accomplishments, just by what he had to say.... [Annan's visit] enhanced graduation. It was just beautiful."
Left: Annan addresses the Class of '98 on May 17.

Below: “It was an incredible summer for all of us,” Annan recalls of his travels with the Ambassadors for Friendship, a program which gave foreign students a broad view of the U.S. The program was led by Harry Morgan, director of Macalester’s International Center, and his wife Catharine, second and third from right. Annan is second from left in this 1961 Mac yearbook photo.

“I LEFT [MACALESTER] REAFFIRMED IN MY INTERNATIONALISM….PERHAPS IT WAS THAT EXPERIENCE THAT LED ME TO LOOK AT THE U.N. AND SET ME ON THE ROAD TO WHERE I GOT TO NOW.”

FAVORITE SON

President McPherson and Trustee Joan Adams Mondale ’52 present Annan with an honorary degree. “For our graduating seniors and alumni here today,” Mrs. Mondale said, “you stand as a symbol of all that this college represents. We welcome you home with great pride, warmth and respect.”
AN ACTIVE AND A FRIENDLY YOUNG MAN':
ANNAN REMEMBERS HIS MACALESTER YEARS

A few hours after he spoke at Macalester's Commencement, Kofi Annan sat down for an interview that focused on his years at Macalester. Here are some excerpts:

What was the young Kofi Annan like when you arrived at Macalester?

"I was an active and a friendly young man. I was quite happy to get the opportunity to come and study here. It was my first travel outside Africa, and also my first winter.

"But I think when I got to Macalester I felt at home relatively easily because there were quite a few other foreign students. The American students were curious about the foreign students; they wanted to learn about us, we wanted to learn about them. And the faculty were all very encouraging and also very international-minded. So it made it relatively easy for foreign students to settle down. Of course, we were all eager and anxious to learn, and to not only learn in the classroom but learn as much from each other, to learn about each other's countries."

Describe some of your most memorable experiences at Macalester.

"There were individuals that I came across... like Mitau and Dupre and others, who really touched all of us.

"Among the younger [staff and faculty], Harry Morgan, who eventually started the World Press Institute, and I and about four others traveled around the States in a station wagon. We called ourselves Ambassadors for Friendship and crossed the country east to west and north to south, and stayed with families, stayed in hotels, tried to stay in a prison in Dodge City, Kansas, just to get an idea of what it was like. . . . We really wanted to get as wide a possible experience as we could. I must say it was an incredible summer for all of us."

You mentioned to the graduating seniors today that the sports teams then were pretty good. What sports did you participate in at Macalester?

"I ran track. I did 100 meters and 200 meters. We had some good runners. I held the 60-yard dash record, which [lasted] for 12 years. We had a very good soccer team. I choose to believe that we started a soccer dynasty at Macalester because I understand they are [still] beating the [other] schools. . . .

"I tried American football but I lasted for 15 minutes. The coach thought that being a fast runner, he could use me. It was OK as long as I kept running and no one caught up with me. Otherwise I was like a piece of paper - I weighed 138 pounds and that's not a football weight. So I gave it up after 15 minutes. That's why Dr. [David] Lanegran ['63] was saying that his one claim to fame is that his football career lasted longer than mine."

When you left Macalester, what were the most important things you took away from the college — the intangibles?

"I left with the sense that if one really wanted to, there is a lot one can do. And that if one opens one's self up to things and you're very alert, you can learn a lot, you can pick up a lot, not just from the books but also from the environment and the people around you.

"I also left reaffirmed in my internationalism, in the sense that the world is really international and that we should try to learn about each other, respect each other's culture and pick up languages early if we can. This is something that was very much Macalester. . . . Perhaps it was that experience..."
that led me to look at the U.N. and set me on the road to where I got to now."

How do you see Macalester as a college that can cultivate and train global citizens for the next century?

"I think what is important for educational institutions, and this is something that I believe Macalester understood quite a long time ago, is that they, like other institutions, have to adapt to the realities of the world they live in. In my mind, the world has changed, the world has become increasingly interdependent; some even refer to it as a global village."

"And if the world has changed, then how we teach and prepare students for the future must also change. We should teach them ... about other cultures, about other languages, about other people, and the world beyond our borders that they will have to cope with. Macalester, being as international as it is, encouraging the students to go abroad and study, and having 10 percent or more of the students being international, gives them that grounding that is going to be required in the future. Because in today's world, no one — it doesn't matter what your business is — can afford to think only in local terms. And that international and broad outlook that the students are getting at Macalester is going to give them a great advantage."

You also spoke of how a successful life is measured by how much one gives back.

"Different communities judge success differently. For traditional Chinese society, for example, a man's success depended on how much he gave to the society and how much he was seen as giving to the society."

"Sometimes we are brought up to believe that a man's first obligation is to himself; he has to be Number One and he has to be successful and look after himself and get to the top...."

"But we live in a community, we are part of that community and we need to nurture it. I've always been touched by people ... who give something back, in terms of major contributions, giving time to their school, their church, the Boy Scouts. I always see that as a natural pattern of life, something that farmers know instinctively — that if you take something from the earth today, you have to put something back, to be able to return and harvest tomorrow."
NELSON MANDELA,
AUNG SAN SUU KYI, RAOUl WALLENBERG:
ONE BY ONE, THEY MADE A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE

An excerpt from Kofi Annan’s remarks to the Class of ’98 on May 17. Copies of the full text are available by calling the College Relations office at (612) 696-6203.

You may think of yourself: what difference can one person make in the face of giant corporations, ecological threats and organized conflict? Yet there have always been, and always will be, those who have made a difference one by one.

Look to Nelson Mandela, who went from prisoner to president because of his unyielding integrity, bravery and beliefs. Look to Aung San Suu Kyi, who remains a leader of democratic values after years of house arrest in Burma. Look to Jody Williams, who helped spur governments across the world to join forces with 1,000 non-governmental organizations to achieve the treaty banning anti-personnel mines.

Look to Raoul Wallenberg, who as a Swedish diplomat in Budapest saved the lives of tens of thousands of Hungarian Jews during World War II. The last example is especially moving for me, both as secretary-general of the United Nations and in my personal capacity; for Raoul is my uncle.

Raoul’s life and achievements highlighted the vital role of the individual amidst conflict and suffering. His intervention gave hope to victims, encouraged them to fight and resist, to hang on and bear witness. It aroused our collective consciousness. However: why were there so few Raouls? These individuals and their lives should be an inspiration for others to act; for all of us to act.

As Edmund Burke once wrote: “All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing.” It matters less whether you choose to go into the service of your government, local or federal, or an organization, non-governmental or inter-governmental. It matters not if you work in a soup kitchen across town or a literacy program in Africa. What matters is that you choose to devote your life to the service of a better world for your fellow men and women.

As part of its curriculum, Mac has always motivated its students to go out and work in the world beyond these campus walls. Build on the courage which that has instilled in you. Act on your innocence; explore new frontiers where older, wiser, more cautious people might not.

Courage does not mean lack of fear; for only the foolish are fearless; it means doing things in spite of your fear. Confront those fears, take risks for what you believe, for it is only then you will find what you are capable of; you will discover that if your intentions are good, the worst your opponents can do to you is really not that bad. Go out and make a difference in this world. And don’t forget to have some fun along the way.

Pay the Piper: The U.N. Bill and O’Gara’s

In discussing the U.N.’s financial crisis, Kofi Annan drew appreciative laughter from his audience when he mentioned a St. Paul bar-restaurant popular with generations of Macalester students and alumni.

The unpaid U.N. dues owed by the United States amounts to 1.6 billion dollars. While this is a critical sum for the U.N., it is slightly less than the money Tanzania has paid around the world in just the last few months.

Reflect for a moment on what 1.6 billion dollars actually means to a great country like yours. On a per capita basis, it represents just over six dollars per American to repay the debt built up over a decade.

That six dollars would not buy you a pitcher of beer at O’Gara’s. I shouldn’t say that since your parents are here. But it should give you a sense of how much we owe to the United Nations.”

Above: This 1960 Mac yearbook photo carried the caption: “Richly costumed Kofi Annan explains his native Ghana dress to Lana Millman and Barb Brittain at the World University Service Tea.”

Right: Macalester international students join with Annan in raising the United Nations flag on campus. Pictured are (from left) Fred Swaniker ’99 of Ghana, Kofi Amo-Goftfried ’01 of Ghana, who is the secretary-general’s nephew, and Bola Gibson ’98 of Zimbabwe. Guests at the ceremony included descendants of Macalester trustees who served in 1950, when the U.N. flag became a fixture of the Macalester landscape.

H E HAS AN EXTRAORDINARY CALM, LIKE AN INDIAN YOGI. IT’S HIS STYLE OF RESPONDING TO THE WORLD.
— Shashi Tharoor, Annan’s special assistant from India, in the Feb. 28 Washington Post

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Alumni who graduated as long ago as 1928, and as recently as 1993, joined graduating seniors, parents and friends for a joyous weekend May 15–17.

A few photos from the family album.

Above: Celebrating at Commencement are (from left) Mere Wickliffe '98 (Rangitukia, New Zealand), Sheridan Enomoto '99 (Inglewood, Calif.), Janel Stead '98 (East Lansing, Mich.) and Christian Campbell '99 (Nassau, Bahamas).

Right: Enjoying themselves at Kagin Dining Commons are (foreground from left) Donna Barbour-Tally '73 (Minneapolis), Bruce Conway '73 (Mahomet, Ill.), Steven Schweda '73 (St. Paul) and Rich Wilson '73 (Chelan, Wash.).

Below: Robed and ready to lead the way in the Class of '98 Commencement procession are six members of the Class of '48—or perhaps the U.S. Supreme Court? From left: Bob Rose (Minneapolis), Bob Burns (Palo Alto, Calif.), Dave Primrose (Bloomington, Minn.), Richard Peterson (St. Paul), Franklin Wicker (Lakeville, Minn.) and Bill Davis (Honolulu, Hawaii).
Macalester's pipers parade past the Class of '98 on the lawn in front of Old Main.

Above: Among those attending the Class of '58's 40th reunion dinner were (from left) Arden and Janice Peterson Jurgenson '58 (Plainview, Minn.), John Howard '58 (Oakland, Calif.), Beth Dixon Otto '58 and Jim Otto '57 (Edina, Minn.), and Anne Young Libby '58 and Ed Libby (Roseville, Minn.).

Left: Virginia Reukauf Peterson '48 (St. Paul) gave the class response at the Golden Scots Society induction in Weyerhaeuser Chapel. The society honors alumni who graduated 50 years ago or more.
Left: President McPherson with Esther Torii Suzuki '46 (Minneapolis) and Mary Ella Goin Randall '43 (Silver Spring, Md.) at the reception for alumni of color.

Below: History Professors Norm Rosenberg, pictured, and Emily Rosenberg were special guests at the Class of '88 dinner.

Above: Two generations of Lundblads attended special reunions — Jennifer Lundblad '88 (Eagan, Minn.) and John Lundblad '28 (Barnum, Minn.). "It really was an honor for me to accompany him to his 70th reunion," Jennifer said of her grandfather, a retired school superintendent who still golfs and mows his lawn at the age of 91. He was saluted as the oldest alumnus in attendance at this year's Reunion. John Lundblad's late brother, Henry '29, and Jennifer's brother, Andrew '90, also graduated from Mac.
Above: President McPherson, left, and Professor Clay Steinman, communication studies, took part in a panel discussion on "The Future of Liberal Arts Education." They were joined by Professors Joan Hutchinson, mathematics, and Jerry Pitzl, geography.

Above right: Kristine Jamie Patterson '98 (Bainbridge Island, Wash.), second from right, is accompanied by her parents, brothers and sisters at the Shaw Field reception for the Class of '98 and their families. From left: Her father Michael, Kristian, Karen, Kristopher, her mother Emma, Kristine and Kathleen.

Below: Vintage copies of the Mac Weekly, photos and other memorabilia fill a bulletin board at Alumni House, where the Class of '58 held its Friday evening gathering during Reunion.

Above: Shirley Peterson Bethke '48 (St. Paul) and her husband, Fred, before Shirley's 50th reunion dinner.
Above: The first Macalester Ultimate Frisbee Hat Tournament drew these participants to Shaw Field.

Below: The Class of '73 held its dinner at Kagin Commons.

Right: Justice Calane '98 (Manzini, Swaziland), left, and Mandla Mehlomakulu'98 (Guguletu, South Africa) at Commencement.
Above: Phyllis Smith Chickett '48 (St. Paul) sings a song with support from the Mouldy Figs, a jazz band which includes Macalester faculty and staff, during a picnic lunch for all alumni held in the Fieldhouse.

Left: The fourth floor of Old Main was the site of the Class of '68's Friday evening get-together. Jim DeWeerd '68 and Barbara Franklin DeWeerd '68 (Stevens Point, Wis.), right, were among those in attendance.

Left: The Sherman W. Schultz Observatory in the Olin-Rice Science Center was officially dedicated during Reunion. Professor Schultz, right, poses with astronomers Rick Binzel '80 (Lexington, Mass.), left, his former student, and Patrick Hartigan '81 (Houston, Texas).

Right: The Class of '93 gathered at Alumni House. Talking together are (from left) Jordan Sadler Gordon '93 (San Francisco), Laura Vargo '93 (Milwaukee, Wis.) and Beth Goodpaster '92 (St. Paul).
KENNETH D. BRECKNER '38

Internationalist, committed Christian, devoted son of his alma mater: Ken Breckner is all of these and more. “This truly Christian man exemplifies all that Macalester College wants its alumni to be,” wrote a classmate, Henrietta Wahlers Mack '38. As the longtime executive secretary of the St. Louis Committee on Foreign Relations, an adjunct of the U.S. Council on Foreign Relations, and a member of the World Affairs Council, this friendly, engaging man has traveled widely, met numerous diplomats and arranged for a host of international speakers. Ordained an elder of the Presbyterian Church at the age of 23, he has long been a leader in his church. During the plight of the “boat people,” Breckner and his late wife, Jane, convinced other members of the Central Presbyterian Church to aid them in adopting a Vietnamese family with four children. The family is doing well today and named their son, born in the U.S., after Ken. He and Jane took over a “dying” Wilson Elementary School with 75 students and built it into a thriving school of more than 215 students. Jane, the headmistress, and Ken, who took care of the physical plant, never drew a salary from the school.

An ardent supporter of Macalester, Ken has spearheaded alumni events, given generously of his time and money, and endowed a scholarship in honor of Jane, who died in 1992. Not least, Ken “contributed” his grandson, Michael Shewmaker, Macalester Class of ’91, who joined many of his grandfather’s generation in nominating him as a Distinguished Citizen.

DavE KACHEL ’53

Rooted in the Judeo-Christian tradition and nurtured by teaching and example at Macalester, Dave Kachel’s central life values are social justice and caring. The former has taken expression in his work on behalf of labor unions, in opposition to the Vietnam War, and in his support of gays and lesbians. He has also been chair of the Presbyterian General Assembly’s Standing Committee on Justice and the Institutions of Society, and served two terms on the State Board of Human Rights. On the caring side, he has been pastor of several congregations in Minnesota and one in Heidelberg, Germany, was honored by Alcoholics Anonymous for distinguished service, established an interdisciplinary senior health clinic for the Wilder Foundation on St. Paul’s West Side and served as moderator of the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area and as president of the Minnesota Gerontological Society. Retiring in 1993, Kachel has found great fulfillment in volunteerism. Along with his weekly work as a carpenter for Habitat for Humanity, he and his wife, Nancy Brown Kachel ’55, spend a month of service each year in a different country as well as a month in a different state. This work has involved them in rehabilitating a homeless shelter in London, a children’s home and adult sheltered workshop in Germany, work with the Iona Community in Scotland and home construction with Habitat in Kentucky, Georgia and Guatemala. Finding great enjoyment in his marriage and family of four children and seven grandchildren, Dave believes life is a precious gift given one day at a time by a gracious God.

JAMES R. JENSEN ’63

Jim Jensen is “a man of great character, energy, common sense and vision,” said Tom Vaaler, a friend and colleague at 3M in Maplewood, Minn. Despite a busy 34-year career at 3M, the last 16 as a vice president, Jensen has given generously of himself to many community groups. The father of a child with Down syndrome, he has served on the Goodwill/Easter Seal of Minnesota board for more than 15 years, working tirelessly to develop long-range planning, set policy and direction, raise funds and promote the organization’s mission. Jensen’s
“Congenial style complements his business acumen and global understanding of how the business and service sectors can work together to help people with disabilities or disadvantages,” said the president of Goodwill/Easter Seal. Jensen has provided his expertise and skill to the YMCA since 1970, when he served on the Woodbury City Council that paved the way for a local YMCA. In 1994, he was elected chairman of the General Board and chief volunteer officer of the YMCA of Greater St. Paul. The gentle, easygoing native of Fergus Falls, Minn., has held leadership roles at Woodbury Lutheran Church, including church council president. He also helped establish both the Woodbury Jaycees and Lions Club, and serves on the board of East Suburban Resources, which provides support for people with disabilities in their employment and community.

Susan L. Ousley ’73

For 15 years, Susan Ousley has been the volunteer co-director of the Community Club, a remarkable tutoring program for inner-city teens just a block from the White House. A mission of the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church, the Community Club seeks to give students the support they need to stay in school, and at the same time to form bonds that are sometimes lifelong.”

Susan M. Haigh ’73

As a Macalester student, Sue Haigh recalls, she learned how to “get out and work with people in the community to bring about change.” Her strong sense of community and ability to work with others to solve problems are the hallmarks of her 20-year career in public service. As chief deputy in the Ramsey County Attorney’s Office, she was instrumental in establishing an advocacy program which recognized the needs of crime victims and witnesses. She also helped develop a coordinated approach to cases of sexual abuse, in which prosecutors, social workers and police work together to treat the whole child and family. Elected to the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners in 1994, and now its chair, Haigh has helped make the county a leader in welfare reform, working with employers, nonprofit groups and job seekers in a community partnership. Whether the issue is solid waste management, health care or children and families, Haigh emphasizes “partnership with others” as a model for building community. “You don’t need to run it, own it, control it,” she says, “but you need to bring the skills you have, or of the organization you work with, to issues to help motivate others and bring them along with you.” She serves on the boards of Regions Hospital, St. Paul-Ramsey Children’s Initiative and Friends of the St. Paul Public Library and chairs the Solid Waste Management Coordinating Board for the Twin Cities metropolitan area. The mother of four daughters, she also finds time to teach Sunday school at House of Hope Presbyterian Church.

T he Distinguished Citizen Citation recognizes alumni who have exercised leadership in civic, social, religious and professional activities. It is given because the Alumni Association, the Board of Trustees and the faculty of Macalester hold that a college education should be the training and inspiration for unselfish and effective service to the community, the nation and the world. Recipients demonstrate a practical acceptance of these obligations in their lives and work. Macalester also seeks nominees for the Young Alumni Award, given to alumni who have graduated in the past 10 years. To nominate an alumnus or alumna for the 1999 Distinguished Citizen Citation or Young Alumni Award, please call or write the Alumni Office no later than Nov. 1, 1998.
The Chiarelis — united as always — celebrate at Commencement on May 11. It was graduation day for Helena Chiareli '98, second from right, an Adult Scholar. Her supportive family includes daughter Christina '91, left, husband Wilson, daughter Alessandra '88, who also attended her 10th reunion, and son Toni '91, right.

United in their dream, the remarkable Chiareli clan of Brazil built a new life and earned eight degrees — four of them from Macalester

by Kate Havelin '83

Once upon a time, a family left their home in Brazil and came to the United States. They settled in St. Paul. Here in the Midwest, at a school founded by a Scottish Presbyterian, the South American family fulfilled their dreams.

The Chiarelis' story reads like a fairy tale, a neatly wrapped American success story. But the saga of Wilson and Helena and their three children — Alessandra, Toni and Christina — is as much about a shared goal and willingness to sacrifice as it is about prosperity.

Their accomplishments are easy to measure: Together, the Chiarelis have earned eight academic degrees — four of them from Macalester — since arriving in America in 1984. Alessandra graduated in 1988, Toni and Christina in 1991. Helena, one of Macalester's last Adult Scholars (see page 6), received her degree this past May.

Along the way, the Chiarelis encountered countless obstacles — from illness and threatened eviction to deportation proceedings against them.

Their story began in 1983, when Wilson Chiareli, then a retired naval officer and licensed professional engineer, came to the University of Minnesota for graduate studies. As Helena recalls, "We came here really to continue to get the most important treasure — education."

When Helena and the children reached St. Paul in 1984, Alessandra promptly enrolled at the U. By winter, she transferred to Macalester. The family was living in the University's married-student housing. "It took an hour and two buses to get to Macalester," Alessandra notes. "To this day, I still feel a little denied, not having lived on campus." Alessandra worked 40 hours a week to help pay for school. "It was amazing," Alessandra says, "doing..."
With the support of the U.S. Information Agency, the Chiarelis represented the family in court when the University tried to evict them. "When Toni turned 21, the University said he should leave [the family's University-owned apartment], but in our culture, it's not like this," Helena explains. With Alessandra's "legal" help, the family won the right to stay together in University housing.

While Wilson continued to study economics at the University, his hearing loss that had begun while he was in the Brazilian navy worsened. Toni and Christina had followed Alessandra's footsteps, studying at Macalester and juggling several jobs. Toni majored in sociology and French while Christina studied psychology.

By 1990, Helena, who was then working full time at Norwest Corp., enrolled as an Adult Scholar. In the fall of 1995, Helena took a leave from Norwest so she could have more time to pursue her studies, and started to work part time in Macalester's Spanish and Portuguese Department. "It was always comforting to know that everyone was right here," Toni recalls. Helena is grateful for the support her children gave her: "I did not have a computer, so they would take me to the library and be there with me. They would proofread my papers."

As Christina recalls, "It was sort of Three Musketeering. It didn't really matter what your personal interests were: there were family goals." Christina and Helena, both psychology majors, credit the late Professor Walt Mink with helping them achieve their education. "He was a teacher, mentor, friend, adviser, role model, everything," Christina says. "His dedication to students was just the epitome of what I thought Mac was."

The Chiarelis also point to Jimm Crowder, Mac's director of international and transfer admissions, whom they say smoothed their transition and made them feel at home on campus. Helena says, "Jimm saw our value and he trusted us. He is the perfect person to recruit and understand international students." Crowder calls the Brazilians "a truly inspirational family, one that embodies the spirit of all we hope to achieve as an institution."

The Chiarelis weren't typical international students. With the exception of Wilson and Alessandra, they didn't have student visas of their own, but visas dependent on Wilson's. As Christina says, "For us, we were neither here nor there — yet." As the years passed, Wilson realized that the family members should apply for permanent residence so that they could, more comfortably, continue to pursue their long-range academic goals. With the support of the U.S. Information Agency, the family addressed the Immigration and Naturalization Service in 1989, while their visas were still valid. However, by 1991, the family's visas had expired, solely for technical reasons, due to passage of time. Despite that, the INS, as is customary in cases of expired visas, decided to begin deportation proceedings anyway.

"It was a nightmare," Helena remembers. "I was working on my honors project," Christina recalls, "and I was scared, thinking, 'Oh my God, am I going to be able to finish this before being deported?'"

Once the family got legal counsel, their immigration crisis passed. Since then, Toni and Alessandra have married Americans. Toni became a citizen in 1997. Wilson, Helena and Christina have just become eligible for U.S. citizenship.

Christina, 29, lives in Breckinridge, Colo., where she and her boyfriend run their three-year-old pharmaceutical research business. She's updating her emergency medical technician license and contemplating medical school. Alessandra and Toni received graduate degrees from Northwestern. Toni, 30, is writing his dissertation and is an assistant professor of sociology at Union University in Jackson, Tenn. He and his wife have a 3-year-old daughter, Isabella. Alessandra, 32, uses her Ph.D. in applied mathematics as a research specialist at 3M — "I continue to use mathematical modeling in my work," doing computer simulations, she reports.

Helena, 54, and Wilson, 62, live just a few blocks from Mac, in a homey apartment dense with books. The couple proudly point out their specialties — Wilson reads economics, math, physics, law and linguistics while Helena prefers psychology, languages, art and the bossa nova guitar. "The kids always had an environment full of books and a father who was always researching and showing them what he found," Helena says fondly.

The Chiarelis intend to continue their pursuit of academic dreams. As Helena, face beaming, shoulders draped in a Brazilian flag, received her diploma, her daughters envisioned the next Chiareli at Macalester. "I looked at Isabella and thought, 'Nineteen years from now, we'll be here for Isabella's graduation!'" "Exactly," Christina seconds.

No fairy tale would be complete without a moral. Wilson, the patriarch of this remarkable family, notes that the Chiarelis' greatest success happened outside the classroom. "Perhaps the highest achievement," he says, "is being able to preserve our family unity here."
Patty Pfalz of Biology Department applies her can-do attitude and good humor to a strong sense of service. Pfalz received this year's Macalester Staff Outstanding Service Award.

A staff member since 1987, she has been the Biology Department's coordinator for the past seven years. That includes working with the Environmental Studies Program, the Neuroscience Program, the Health Professions Advisory Committee and the Katharine Ordway Natural History Study Area.

On a daily basis, the citation said, "Patty deals with diverse, abundant and urgent requests from a large number of faculty, students and staff. On a given day, she may order scientific equipment and supplies, help publish the Biology newsletter, ensure that students have lab access, arrange a lunch for a visiting candidate or speaker and help a prospective student meet with a faculty member. That same day she may also have to decide what to do with a box of cockroaches dropped off in a Federal Express package. She does all that and also serves as a confidante for students, staff and faculty members.

"In searches this year in Biology and Environmental Studies, Patty was a tremendous help, organizing files, arranging travel, answering questions about life in the Twin Cities and conducting tours of St. Paul for several candidates. "Her assistance in the moves to Center was invaluable. Faculty and staff could always count on her help and her excellent organizational skills. Patty performs all of these tasks with a 'can do' attitude, composure and a good sense of humor," the citation said.

Pfalz's service extends beyond Olin-Rice. She has been a member of many campus-wide committees, including the President's Committee on Women's Issues, the Judicial Forum, Print Shop Review Committee, Long Range Planning and Budget Committee, and the Student Employment Advisory Committee. She has also served on the Staff Advisory Council and is currently its co-chair.

Pfalz lives in Highland Park with her husband, Paul, and her daughter, Kristen. Her other daughter, Katie, is a sophomore at Macalester.
Gospel history

While pleased to see the article "The Gospel According to Tamani" [May Macalester Today], I couldn’t help the feeling of pensiveness and nostalgia that came over me.

I had the pleasure of meeting Voices of Tamani co-director Sean Palmer 98 a few years ago, and although the Sounds of Blackness and Voices of Tamani are the renowned gospel groups that have roots at Macalester, there was another gospel group between 1982-86 that would come together for special functions. We never officially named ourselves; however, during performances we were introduced as either the "Macalester Gospel Choir" or the "BLAC (Black Liberation Affairs Committee) Gospel Chorus."

Jeanine McAdams, a freshman during the ’82-’83 school year (and later a musician with the Sounds of Blackness), pulled together a group of BLAC members for a Minority Programs-sponsored gospel event, and I was one of the choir directors. This event served to not only connect a small group of gospel lovers from Mac to the Twin Cities African American church community, but also was the catalyst for the most important events of my life: I met the man I would later marry (a singer with the Minnesota Gospel Twins), and we now have two wonderful children.

The BLAC Gospel Chorus may have had only three or four performances and not much publicity during its four-year existence, but for those involved it was a meaningful, bonding experience and a lot of fun.

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David White

I have often thought about the remark some unknown person made to me years ago: “It’s better to be lucky than good.” I was lucky to have the chance to attend Macalester and come under the influence of David White.

When I visited Macalester in 1967, my mother told William Gramenz, the admissions director who passed away a few years ago, that she was all for free thinking so long as it didn’t go too far.

Gramenz leaned over and with just the right tone of voice — patronizing enough to amuse me but not so patronizing as to offend my mother — said: “Now, Mother, you’ve got to have confidence that you have raised this fine young man so that he can make his own decisions about what’s too far.” At that moment I made a decision that up until then I thought was at least partly my mother’s: I was coming to Macalester!

On Wednesday nights in my first semester, I trooped over to Tangletown to David and Beverly White’s house with 11 other freshmen for a seminar. These 30 years later, how can I express how thrilling this was? We read books and talked about them! There were exciting ideas, some of which undoubtedly went too far!

And what was it to make of Dr. White? He was bald way before Michael Jordan got the idea. He was a pacifist who had been in prison in World War II. He studied the Bhagavad Gita and the life of Gandhi. He smiled all the time. Certainly he was someone who had gone way too far.

I saw something in me that I was unaware of. In my best moments, I felt like I could someday rise to mediocrity. He commented favorably on things I said in class. My colleague Jim March at Stanford has said that anyone can trust someone who is trustworthy, love someone who is lovable. The trick is to trust someone before they demonstrate they are trustworthy. Dr. White believed in me against all the evidence.

The best word I can think of to describe Dr. White is “encourager.” So much of what goes by the name of education today is constricting. The educator as authoritarian who enforces the rules. This is the recipe for joyless classrooms.

Dr. White encouraged me in so many ways. When John Simpson and I came to him with the wild idea of establishing an experimental college within Macalester, he encouraged us and became an unindicted co-conspirator for what became Inner College. He helped me acquire the courage to become what was inside me rather than what others wanted me to be.

I have come to believe there is nothing more important in life than to be an encourager. A friend once said that the greatest thing in life is to be a part of someone else’s success. Dr. White has been part of the success of many of his students and some of us even aspire to follow his lead and be part of other people’s success, to be encouragers.

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Editors’ note: This letter was condensed and adapted from remarks Jim Thompson made at a May 16 reception at Macalester to honor David White.
Why I go to church
by Jan Shaw-Flamm '76

I've never put canned onion rings on a casserole, don't own a black rotary phone and never watch “Leave It to Beaver” reruns, but I have another habit that makes me feel like a throwback to the '50s. I go to church. It's not something I mention in casual conversation.

Church membership is now often considered vaguely threatening, at best the refuge of the intellectually immature. Indeed, many of my peers seem to agree with Marx's characterization of religion as "the opium of the people.”

The institution of the church has certainly been associated with a plethora of hateful and damaging acts, and you don't have to go back to the Crusades to find them. Battered women who are counseled to forgive and return to their batterers, gay or lesbian people who hear condemnation from the pulpit, generous souls who learn they have given to crooked evangelists, all have experienced church at its worst.

So what's a reasonably well-educated '90s feminist doing in a place like church?

In my growing-up years, my family attended a small, rural church, a practice my parents largely abandoned when we kids left the nest. By high school I had discarded all the traditional theology I couldn't accept, and found there wasn't much left. It was in Calvin Roetzel's class at Macalester where I first learned that scholars didn't all agree on Jesus' understanding of his role in the world, and that there were different views of the Hebrew and Christian scriptures from those I'd grown up with. I learned that it might be possible to be part of a faith tradition without sacrificing my integrity. Immersion in the refreshing waters of feminist theology has made it possible for me to continue to work within the Christian tradition.

Now my litmus test for any tenet of theology has made it possible for me to continue: "What does it lead you to do?" If it leads to condemnation and exclusion of people, it's out. If it leads to acts of kindness and justice, right on!

In the classic pattern, I became more active in church when I became a parent, wanting my daughters to have something important I couldn't give them on my own. Not that this simplified things. My husband is Jewish. No Christmas trees, no Easter baskets, and no comprehension of why anyone in her right mind would participate in a ritual whose words include, "Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you." Admittedly, if this is not your tradition, it's bizarre-sounding stuff.

Although they share the Jewish cultural regard for education, family and ethical standards, my husband's family was not observant, so Andy brings with him no cherished Jewish religious traditions. Our daughters, Joanna and Alison, and I go to church, and as a secular/religious "mixed marriage" we muddle along, striving to treat each other with respect. Discussions on the way home from church have often included: "This is what some people think. Other people might look at it differently. You'll have to think about it and decide for yourself." In time, our children will make their own choices about whether to participate in any faith community. But then, children always do, don't they?

For me, church functions as the context in which to wrestle with the big questions. Is there a purpose to life? If there is not one foreordained purpose, is it helpful to just pick one? What do we owe our elders and the future generations? How ought wealth to be distributed in the world? Why is there suffering and death? Why do we get out of bed in the morning? I don't expect or desire easy answers, but I am grateful for a community where such questions are regularly discussed.

Equally important is church as a community of people who care about one another. When my dad landed in the hospital 1,100 miles away, I mentioned it in the "Joys and Concerns" part of the service, wondering whether I should drop everything and go to be with him. A woman who was in college when I was born caught up with me after the service and said, "Is the money a problem? Can you find someone to take care of your children, even it it's just for the weekend? I think you should go." So I was there when he had two heart attacks in four days — and survived. When it comes to a crisis, a friend who's weathered crises of her own can be a 24-karat role model.

But church is more than a social construct to me. I long ago shrugged off the image of an all-powerful old man on a throne, capriciously consigning some to eternal death and others to glory. Yet, in days of profound grief or overwhelming confusion, I've never felt totally alone.

Church is a sacred setting, a place to listen for that powerful force for good which is active in the world, a force we can petition for help, and one whose power we augment by the work we do in the name of compassion and justice.

Church is a venue for learning and social action. We hear political analyses by an Iraqi-American, by volunteers working in Central America, from members who visit Eastern Europe. We discuss complex situations at home and abroad, and try to determine how to take a stand for justice and peace. Through this community, I can be a tiny part of enabling indigenous Guatemalan families to buy the farm land they've rented for decades, sponsoring refugee families from Vietnam and Eritrea, responding immediately to disaster in tornado-tossed St. Peter, Minn.

Church is a chosen community, and living in community is always a struggle. But it's a worthwhile struggle, to me. So as long as they'll have me, I guess I'll be showing up at church.

Incidentally, the rest of that Marx quote is: "Religion is the sigh of the oppressed creature, the heart of a heartless world, and the soul of soulless conditions.”

Jan Shaw-Flamm '76 is a member of Macalester Plymouth United Church in St. Paul.
Banner day

Students with the flags they carried during the Commencement procession.

The Class of '98 was represented by the flags of 40 countries as well as the United Nations flag. The entire student body this year included students from 63 countries — 79 countries if dual citizens and permanent residents are counted.

For more photos of Commencement and Reunion, see pages 26–31.