The news from China

Editors' note: The following letter was mailed last April to the 50th Class Reunion at Macalester.

I am probably the only alumnus who returned to China in 1950 when the Communists took over. From 1950 to early 1979, I lived in a closed and highly disciplined society without any contact with the outside world, especially the Western world.

However, since China's opening to the outside world, the situation in China has changed drastically. My family has undergone great changes, too. In Mao's days, I wouldn't dare to think of visiting my alma mater again. But it became true in the early '80s. In the summer of 1981 and in May 1992, I was twice invited by Mac presidents to visit the Mac campus. My wife and I visited our eldest son Tag Tu, Mac Class of '85, in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1991, and in 1998 we went to Cleveland and Atlanta when our youngest son, Xin Tu, was there.

My heart is close to Mac and the state of Minnesota. Our former Mac President Dr. Charles Turck and I had a very delightful talk in Washington, D.C., in 1981. I met my former history professor, Dr. Yahya Armajani and his wife, twice, first in the Jiugu Hotel in Beijing in 1985, the second time in their home in San Diego. In a social gathering held in Beijing, I was invited to meet Mac alumni and your former vice president, Mr. Mondale. Mac alumni Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Eichhorn, Mac professors Dorothy Dodge and others came to visit Beijing and we got together and had a wonderful time.

Please say hello to the Class of '50, to my Kirk Hall roommates Robert Amerson, Harvey Anderson, Richard Eichhorn, James Hall, Robert Law and others, and to classmates Carol Mae Hostvedt and Burah Shi-Wei Moh.

Dear alumni, professors, students and friends of Macalester, whenever you visit Beijing, be sure to let me know (my home phone number is 6325382). I would try my best to meet you in Beijing.

The 1950 class reunion will be an historical and memorable event in our lives. Let me conclude this letter with the quote from the 1950 Mac Yearbook: "Memories of the middle of the century, in the heart of the northwest and between the Twin Cities — Memories of Macalester — will remain." "We saw you there — we will see you again" in the Twin Cities and also in Beijing.

Guangnan Tu '50 reading in Kirk Hall in the late 1940s and (second from right) in 1998 on a trip to Washington, D.C., with his family, including his oldest son Tag Tu '85 (left), his wife Demian Xu Tu, his granddaughter Estelle Tu and son Sidney Xin Tu, far right.

Starry-eyed and dull

I write to ask humbly that you remember, as you put together this alumni magazine, that we alumni know Macalester and are not fooled or impressed by the starry-eyed (and unfathomably dull) recruitment-propaganda-style writing of Mac Today.

The personal profiles, the shamelessly obsessive focus on money-raising and — God help us — the president's cheery words do not bring us any closer to knowing what the hell is going on there these days. Don't alums get to hear about the raging campus debates on multicultural student services, hate crimes on campus, student civil disobedience (hurrah! anti-sweatshop warriors!), postmodern education, or anything else we might actually care to read about?

We really are interested.

Tanya Snyder '99
Washington, D.C.

John B. Davis

Thank you for highlighting John B. Davis in the Fall 2000 issue. John B. Davis and I "entered" Macalester at the same time and he encouraged me through several mediums to "be the best I could be and earn the best education I could get."

The FM radio station was spawned in part because of John B.'s enthusiasm for continued on inside back cover
Alumni survey

Generations of alumni believe in Macalester's core values: academic excellence, diversity, service and internationalism

Macalester's alumni, across every generation, are remarkably consistent in the importance they place on the college's core values.

In fact, alumni say, those values are an integral part of the way they perceive Macalester.

They rank academic excellence as the most important value, followed closely by multiculturalism, service and internationalism.

These and other findings are part of a major research project undertaken for the college Advancement Office by consultant Mark Edwards of Lexington, Mass., and Prince Market Research of Nashville, Tenn.

More than 400 alumni were interviewed by telephone and another 37 participated in focus groups in the Twin Cities and Washington, D.C. The purpose of the study is to develop a better understanding of how alumni view the college, to explore their reaction to the Touch the Future fund-raising campaign, to determine what activities interest them, and to learn more about why alumni give, or don't give, to the college.

Edwards will use the results to help the college develop a plan to communicate more effectively with its alumni. He conducted a similar research project in 1994 which led to a revamped admissions marketing campaign and a host of other improvements in college communications efforts.

Most alumni interviewed have a "very high opinion" of the college, according to the researchers. Alumni cite, among other factors, the college's small size, intimate and friendly atmosphere, a close relationship with faculty and staff, and the personal attention they received at Macalester.

One alum cited Macalester's "diversity of people and quality of academic education. I learned to learn at Macalester."

"When young people go there, they experience students from all over. It is a melting pot for different cultures," said another.

Alumni also said they were proud of the accomplishments of fellow alumni. Many mentioned Kofi Annan '61, United Nations secretary-general.

But can he hit?

President Mike McPherson tossed out the first pitch—and also caught the first foul ball—during a St. Paul Saints baseball game. McPherson, who is seated next to his son Sean, attended the game with the college's Advancement Office staff to celebrate the success of the Touch the Future fund-raising campaign. The Macalester Pipe Band also performed.

Among the major findings of the survey:

- 84 percent cited academic excellence as the most important value, while 61 percent cited diversity and service and 57 percent cited internationalism. (They were asked: "How important is it that Macalester embrace the following values?" Multiple answers were allowed.)

- While there were some differences among class years, the response to the core values questions was remarkably consistent, Edwards told a campus forum and trustee committee meeting this fall. In fact, he said, in his many years of field work at colleges around the country, he has rarely seen such strong and broad commitment by alumni to a set of core values.

- 55 percent said Macalester should increase its selectivity in admitting high school students. By the same token, however, 60 percent thought the college should guard against being too selective.

- Overall, 58 percent said they felt "very connected" or "somewhat connected" to Macalester. More recent grads (1980-1999), donors of more than $400 and males reported feeling more connected than others. "Connectivity" to the college increases with giving levels.

- Alumni were most interested in participating in regional events (such as social networking with professors), small group reunions with departments, online learning activities and community service opportunities coordinated by the college. In general, younger alumni were more interested in events and opportunities. Also, as giving levels increase, interest in events and activities increases.

- The single greatest obstacle to giving to Macalester continues to be the perception that the college's endowment is large

How the alumni survey was done

- research results gathered from two focus groups in Washington, D.C., and two in Twin Cities (37 people), conducted in June

- random telephone survey of 402 alumni across the country conducted in August

- focus group results were used to craft questions for the phone survey

- overall margin of error: plus or minus 5 percentage points
enough and the college doesn't need more money. Nearly half the survey respondents (47 percent) said the endowment meant that the college didn't need their financial support. An equal number (48 percent) said they felt Macalester still needed to increase its endowment.

Typical of the comments approving of continued support for the college was this one:

"The cost of providing education is going to continue to rise. To attract top-notch faculty and to continue to develop programs and maintain an attractive facility to attract students, the endowment must increase. Macalester has done well, but you cannot just sit back and say 'we are rich' and do nothing else."

On the other hand, one alum said: "Macalester is well endowed and I am committed in other areas."

"We're pleased with the results so far, particularly the overwhelming alumni support for the college and its core values," said Richard Ammons, vice president for college advancement. "That's really good news and something to build on."

"The challenge is trying to overcome reluctance by some alumni to support the college financially. We have to earn their support and their participation in alumni activities. But as the successful conclusion of the Touch the Future campaign indicates, we are making significant progress. Our goal is to convince those alumni who are hesitant that there are many important reasons to support Macalester."

Edwards and his colleagues will continue to study the survey results this fall and develop a communications strategy that builds on what alumni said in the survey and focus groups.

—Doug Stone

White House calls

Professor Kim Venn receives a Presidential Early Career Award given to outstanding scientists

Kim Venn, the Clare Boothe Luce Professor of Physics and Astronomy at Macalester, received a 2000 Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE) in October at a White House ceremony.

The PECASE award is the highest honor bestowed by the U.S. government on outstanding scientists and engineers who are in the early stages of establishing their independent research careers. This is the fifth year of the awards.

Venn was one of 20 National Science Foundation-supported researchers to receive the honor. Nine participating federal agencies, including the NSF, shared a total of 59 PECASE awards. The

Trustees’ Award

William H. Gray III, president and chief executive officer of The College Fund/UNCF, received this year’s Macalester College Trustees’ Award for Meritorious and Distinguished Service. Gray, who spoke at the college’s opening convocation, heads the nation’s oldest organization serving historically black colleges and universities as well as college-bound African Americans and their families. Macalester honored him for three decades of public service as a minister, congressman, adviser to the president and leader of The College Fund.
Wagon wheel

Professor Stan Wagon of the Mathematics and Computer Science Department was chosen by the Mathematical Association of America as this year's winner of the Trevor Evans Prize for his article "The Ultimate Flat Tire," which appeared in Math Horizons.

The article explains the mathematics behind Wagon's square-wheeled bicycle, which resides in the Olin-Rice Science Center. The prize, which carries a $250 award, was given at the national meeting in Los Angeles.

The citation reads: “Stan Wagon addresses the question, 'How flat can a tire be and still roll?' Students will see the hyperbolic cosine elevated to new heights and teachers can add an amusing and unusual application to their repertoire. Not only does Wagon solve the problem, but he reinforces his results with a real-life, square-wheeled bicycle. Wagon's article, which appeals to mathematicians young and old, is a model of expository writing for an undergraduate audience.”

On July 6, 1974, Garrison Keillor and his "Prairie Home Companion" comrades made their first live broadcast from Macalester's Janet Wallace Fine Arts Center.

Where all the students are above average

Macalester is sponsoring seven special broadcasts of the popular program "A Prairie Home Companion" with Garrison Keillor.

The live broadcasts, five originating in New York City and two in Europe, will include a brief message about Macalester read by Keillor. In addition, the printed programs at the broadcast sites will include an announcement promoting Macalester. The ad says: "Macalester, where all the students really are above average. Proud to be home of the first PHC in 1974."

The broadcasts will air at 6 p.m. Eastern/5 p.m. Central on Nov. 25, Dec. 2, 9, 16 and 23. The European shows will be in March. "A Prairie Home Companion" is carried on 486 public radio stations around the world with an audience in the U.S. of nearly 3 million.

Two Macalester graduates have been associated with the program. Chris Tschida '75 is its longtime producer and Ken LaZebnik '77 is a former writer for the show.

The sponsorship grew out of a four-year relationship between the college and Minnesota Public Radio, which co-sponsor the Broadcast Journalist Series of lectures. National Public Radio reporters are brought to campus to speak.

The idea for sponsoring the Keillor show came from a staff member who noted that Keillor's first broadcast took place in 1974 in the Concert Hall of the Janet Wallace Fine Arts Center. The college hopes to reach a wide national audience of alums who are fans of the show, parents and prospective students, according to Doug Stone, director of college relations.

She's got the blues

Meghan Dudley '00 combines her love for music with a passion for history.

It didn't take long for Meghan Dudley '00 to be on the cutting edge of blues scholarship. The 22-year-old from Arlington Heights, Ill., graduated from Macalester in May with a history degree.
Within a month she was invited to present her own original work at the first-ever International Conference on the Blues Tradition, held in June at Penn State.

In a sea of graduate students and tenured professors, she was the only participant who was, for all practical purposes, an undergraduate.

"I was intimidated because I felt like a lot of these people had studied the blues all their lives," she said. "I was just glad to be there."

Dudle's paper explored the link between the blues tradition and social unrest in the 1930s. Her work was well received at the conference, according to her academic adviser, history Professor Peter Rachleff.

"She contextualizes the music beautifully," Rachleff said. "I think the conference was an extraordinary success for her. For me this is precisely the kind of intellectual growth that college should be about. Not about putting aside the stuff you love, but finding ways to examine it and use it, so it becomes a key in something larger."

Dudle first became interested in the blues after she took a class at Macalester on "Jazz and Social Issues." She went on to start a show on Macalester's radio station, WMCN, with a blues format. But it wasn't until her senior seminar on African American labor that she was able to combine her passion for history with her love of music.

Some of her favorite musicians include Robert Johnson, Memphis Minnie and Blind Lemon Jefferson. She is quick to say she thinks the blues get a bad rap today, especially on mainstream radio. "The blues are under-appreciated," said Dudle. "I think people need to start looking at the music they listen to, whether it be rock or hip-hop. So much music borrows from the blues tradition."

Currently Dudle works for Americorps and helps run an after-school education program for children called Kids Club. She hopes some day to get a job working for Blues in the Schools, a national organization that educates young people about the blues.

—William Sentell '02

Historical dirt
A Macalester-led team makes more discoveries at ancient site in Israel

The Macalester archeological dig at Omrit in northern Israel made substantial progress during five weeks of excavation last June.

Some 45 people, including 25 Macalester students and two faculty members, participated in the search for the remains of a 2,000-year-old Roman temple built on a hillside on the once heavily traveled road to Damascus.

Among the major developments, according to Professor Andy Overman, head of the dig and chair of the Classics Department:

• discovery of a second, earlier temple within the walls of a temple found last year, meaning the original temple dates to the 1st century CE, the second temple dates to the 2nd-3rd century CE and a third phase dates to the 5th century during the Byzantine era.

Contact Professor Andy Overman of the Classics Department at 651-696-6375 or e-mail: overman@macalester.edu •

Alumni invited to join dig

Alumni are welcome to join a group of Macalester students and faculty at the dig at Omrit next summer. The excavation will take place from May 26 to June 30, 2001.

Alumni may go for two or four weeks. Participants live on a kibbutz near the site and work on the dig during the day. They may also attend evening lectures or weekend excursions around Israel with the Macalester team.

Contact Professor Andy Overman of the Classics Department at 651-696-6375 or e-mail: overman@macalester.edu •

Thad Wilderson’s gone fishing

Thad Wilderson, who retired in August, was honored at a college reception. A warm and gracious man, he held several posts during his 33-year career at Mac—most recently as coordinator of community relations.

Professor Ruthanne Kurth-Schai, who teamed with him to co-direct the college’s Maccess summer program for high school students of color, told a story that epitomized Wilderson’s influence. A Maccess student once told her, “I don’t respect anyone—and you can’t make me.” The teen-ager maintained his attitude throughout the summer. But at the program’s end, he told Kurth-Schai, “I’ve been watching Thad and I guess I would have to say I respect him.” He added, "And if I can turn out to be like Thad, then I will respect myself."

Wilderson, who was presented with a fishing creel to indulge his love of fishing, continues to have a small private practice as a counselor. He is pictured with his wife Beverly (seated at left), grandchildren Solomon and Haley Jupiter, sister-in-law Ida Loraine (top left), daughters Troy Wilderson '87 and Lori Jupiter, and brother Frank Wilderson. Another daughter, Dina Wilderson, is a ’90 Mac grad.
Jerusalem. You gain an insight and perceive that somehow an America of the new millennium...Those who make their campuses environmentally responsible places.

...other campus news

- President McPherson is taking a three-month sabbatical, beginning in December, to study and do research at the Murphy Institute for Political Economy at Tulane University in New Orleans. McPherson said he wanted to reflect and conduct research on issues involving civil society and civic engagement in the U.S. He will return to campus in March 2001.

- Macalester will receive $1.8 million from Lilly Endowment Inc., for programming that encourages students to consider religious and ethical traditions and values as they begin making career choices either in the ministry or other professions.

- Macalester signed the Talloires Declaration and an implementation plan in a ceremony held in May at Olin-Rice Science Center. The Talloires Declaration is a declaration of principles by educational institutions worldwide intended to make their campuses environmentally responsible places.

- Macalester tied for No. 25 this year among the top national liberal arts colleges in U.S. News & World Report's annual "America's Best Colleges" guidebook.

For more on these stories, see Macalester Today on the Web: www.macalester.edu/~alumni

Quotable Quotes

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

"BEWARE OF THOSE VOICES that try to tell you that somehow an America of the 1950s was a much better America than the America of the new millennium...Those 'good old days' were days when I grew up in North Philadelphia, but because I was of African ancestry the only YMCA in the city of Philadelphia that I could use was down in South Philadelphia and the two YMCAs that were within 20 blocks of me I could not use because I was the wrong color. You go back to those good old days."

William H. Gray III, recipient of this year's Trustees' Award, speaking at Macalester on Sept. 15. See photo on page 3.

"GRADUALLY, AS THE WAR MOVES further and further away from us, it becomes a more neutral topic and there is greater willingness to give the Vietnamese voice."

Robert Warde, a Macalester English professor who has taught memoirs of the Vietnam War by such writers as Tim O'Brien '68, in an interview in the April 30 Denver Post. The article noted: "No college literature course on Vietnam would be complete without one of O'Brien's hallucinogenic war novels."

"THE STORY [of Kofi Annan attending Mac] is often told at Macalester as an example of the spirit of the college and to explain why employees find it an inspiring and exciting place to work."

Corporate Report: The Magazine of Minnesota Business, in an article in August naming Macalester one of "10 Great Places to Work" in Minnesota, Macalester was the only nonprofit organization to make the list.

"[IT] IS SO IMPORTANT to engage in a public debate about religion with people who are on the right. In the last 30 years in American politics the language of religious debate has been ceded to the right and..."
Hall of Fame

M Club inducts champion wrestler and three standouts from 1980s

These four outstanding athletes were inducted into the M Club's Hall of Fame in September:

Duane Roberts '51
Duane Roberts wrestled three seasons, from 1948 to 1951, and was the MIAC champion in 1949 and 1950. He helped the Scots win conference titles as a sophomore and junior as the Scots dominated the MIAC. During his second season Roberts was the team captain and finished second in the MIAC with a 14-2 record. He currently resides in Inver Grove Heights, Minn.

Carol Connor '82
Carol Connor, who lives in St. Paul, is Macalester's only volleyball All-American and helped the Scots compile a 187-36-1 record in her four years. As a junior, Connor led the Scots to a 58-9 record and a region and state championship, and as a senior helped Macalester capture the first-ever MIAC volleyball crown. She made the All-Region team twice and was named to the All-America team following her senior season. Connor also played softball for the Scots.

Francene Young Lee '88
A standout in track and field and basketball, Francene Young won several conference championships in track and earned All-America honors four times. She still holds four school records. A 100-meter dash All-American in 1986 and 1987, she had her best national finish—fourth—in the 1986-100-meter dash. She also competed at nationals in the 200-meter dash and long jump, and won three MIAC 100-meter dash titles. In basketball, Young is Macalester's all-time career leader in assists and steals, and is eighth in career rebounds. She lives in St. Paul.

Janis Raatz Rider '88
Janis Raatz excelled in volleyball, basketball, and track and field. She was a four-year starter for some very good volleyball teams and was All-Conference in basketball while finishing as Mac's fourth all-time leading point scorer and third all-time leading rebounder. In track and field, Raatz was the Division III national javelin champion as a senior in 1988, the same year she placed fourth nationally in the shot put. Raatz was a four-time All-American and earned 12 All-Conference certificates. She makes her home in West Monroe, La.

—Andy Johnson, sports information director

Athletes of the Year

The Female and Male Athletes of the Year for 1999-2000 were seniors Holly Harris (Redondo Beach, Calif.), Brandon Guthrie (Salem, Ore.) and Christian Blanck (Minneapolis).

Harris and Guthrie are repeat winners after being named 1998-99 Athletes of the Year. Guthrie has been Macalester's top distance runner for the past four years, earning All-Conference honors in cross country twice and picking up nine certificates in track. In cross country in the fall of 1999, Guthrie placed second at the MIAC Championships, fifth at the Central Regionals and 40th at nationals to go along with a first-place finish at the Luther Invitational and third-place finish at the St. Olaf Invitational. He took second at the conference indoor track meet in the 5,000 meters and third in the 10K. In outdoor track, he concluded his running career by placing second in the conference in the 3,000-meter steeplechase and fourth in the 5,000-meter run.

Blanck was the ace of the baseball team's pitching staff and led Macalester to a 12-8 conference record and a berth in the four-team MIAC tournament. He went 7-1 on the season, bringing his record over the past two years to 13-4, and posted a 3.47 earned run average. He struck out 59 and walked only 16 in 72 innings and led the league in strikeouts and innings pitched.

Harris earned first-team All-America honors after scoring 17 goals and leading the women's soccer team to a third straight MIAC title and a second straight berth in the NCAA Division III championship match. Her 49 career goals are second on the school's all-time list. Harris won the conference indoor title in the 55-meter dash and enjoyed a fine outdoor track season, participating at the national outdoor championships in the 200-meter and 400-meter dash.

people who are not on the right don't talk about values or faith or common values of American society."

Jane Yager '01 (Toronto), one of several Macalester students quoted in a Sept. 23 Minneapolis Star Tribune article on the presidential campaign and their views on religion and politics.

"[Joseph] Lieberman does provide a moral framework. I used to be an atheist; now I'm not so sure anymore. It seems to me that all people have the same values; it's the details that we disagree on."

Rebecca Swinburne '02 (Marlborough, N.H.), quoted in the same article.

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The courage and vision of James Wallace, 1849-1939

by Nancy Peterson

In 1887, a young classical scholar named James Wallace joined the faculty—and forever changed the future of Macalester College.

Over the next 50 years, as faculty member, president, fund-raiser, donor, guiding light and ardent advocate, James Wallace helped define its special values, establish its standards of excellence and create its place among America's great privately supported liberal arts colleges.

When Wallace arrived, Macalester had been open just two years. The college's founder, Edward Duffield Neill, had already helped establish Minnesota's public education system and now envisioned a private college to educate leaders. He planned a college which would be the academic equal to Amherst, his alma mater, and would incorporate into its life and its curriculum the values associated with his Christian beliefs.

It was James Wallace, more than any other individual, who brought those goals to life.

Setting the standard

Recruited from Wooster College in Ohio to teach Greek and Bible studies, Wallace quickly established himself as a fine and demanding teacher. He earned his scholarly credentials when he published Xenophon's Anabasis, a well-received translation accompanied by 40 pages of history, biography and illustration, which became widely used in colleges across the country. Well liked and respected by students and faculty, he soon became an influential figure on the campus.

In 1890, Wallace became dean of the college, and in 1894 he was persuaded to serve as president. In both roles, he dedicated himself to creating the strongest possible academic experience for Macalester students. When the budget allowed, he carefully added new areas of study to the curriculum and recruited the best faculty members available.

In spite of his classroom success, James Wallace's early years at Macalester were exceptionally difficult. The tiny, struggling college had no endowment, no way to pay off debt for its buildings and sometimes no money for salaries.

Painful separation

Like other professors, Wallace had started at a modest salary and then, on more than one occasion, accepted a salary reduction. He endured painful years of separation from his beloved wife Janet and their children, who remained with her family in Ohio because they could not afford to live in St. Paul. He spent many winter evenings huddled in his coat and sitting on a radiator for warmth.

Wallace accepted the presidency in part because he had recently experienced some success with fund-raising. For the next 12 years he spent much of his time traveling and "begging"—an activity he despised, but which he pursued to keep Macalester alive. In letters to his wife, he wrote of exhaustion and discouragement (and, sometimes, hunger). But he never let up.

Gradually, Wallace's unceasing efforts (and his growing skills as a witty, engaging and persuasive conversationalist) built up a small group of donors whose support, together with tuition from a growing student body, put the college on more steady footing. By the time he rejoined the faculty in 1906, the college had paid off its debt and he had persuaded the trustees to establish a million-dollar endowment to offer some protection against hard times. (Decades later, his son, DeWitt, touched by an account of James' struggles, would become a major donor.)

Meanwhile, Wallace had continued his own scholarship. He was writing a second book, and he accepted speaking invitations at other colleges and civic organizations. Several times he was offered better-paid teaching positions at other schools. Each time, he declined because he knew that if he left, others would, too, and Macalester College would cease to exist.

In 1923, the trustees honored him at commencement. He spoke of leadership and service, noting that on various occasions he himself had taught courses in rhetoric, history, sociology, political economy, constitutional history and international law, because he believed students should not miss out on an important course just because the college was temporarily without a faculty member in that area.

Engaged in the world

Late in his career, Wallace's interest in world affairs intensified. He often expressed his views in Macalester publications and in letters to the St. Paul Pioneer Press. As Americans debated the merits of pacifism versus military engagement, Wallace came to believe that in the pursuit of true peace, it was necessary to strike against unjust nations. Just before his 90th birthday, he completed a book, Fundamentals of Christian Statesmanship, tracing thought on the subject from earliest times.

When Wallace died in 1939 at age 90, tributes poured in from across the nation praising his scholarship, his humanity and his zeal for justice among people and nations. At Macalester, mourning was mingled with celebration of his lasting imprint upon his co-workers, his students and the college itself.

The trustees declared: "Dr. Wallace guided Macalester College through the most perilous years of its development.... It was his courage and vision that kept Macalester College open when other minds had determined to close it."

Nancy Peterson is director of publications at Macalester and executive editor of Macalester Today.
Three key challenges for Macalester

by Michael S. McPherson

During this academic year, a Strategic Directions Committee will be working to define five or six key emphases for Macalester's planning over the next five to ten years as the next step in a multi-year planning effort for the college.

Macalester has perhaps never been in better shape than it is right now, but nonetheless the challenges to continued success in a very demanding environment are considerable. At a recent public forum introducing the campus community to our work on identifying strategic directions, I identified three of those key challenges:

1. Why residential? Why liberal arts? The typical Macalester student travels over 600 miles to come to St. Paul and lives with us for four years while going to school. Why bother, when so much of the world's knowledge is available at the nearest computer terminal, or when you can go to the nearby state college for a lot less money and, often, a lot less intellectual and personal commitment? It's important to remember that fewer than 25,000 of the 1.5 million freshmen who enter college annually enroll at a top 50 liberal arts college. Indeed in national surveys fewer than 1 in 5 parents of high school seniors even know what a liberal arts college is.

   We need to attract highly able and interesting students to Macalester, so that they can meet our demanding educational standards, and so they can learn from one another. To meet this challenge, we need to articulate with crystal clarity why this intense, expensive, residential, liberal arts education is worth it. There is, in fact, plenty of evidence that the kind of education we provide is enormously valuable, both in spiritual and humane terms, and in the more practical currency of jobs and graduate school opportunities. We need to make sure we get the word out about this — and we need to make sure that we live up to our rhetoric in everything we do.

2. Keeping Macalester affordable. At the typical high-quality liberal arts college, more than a quarter of all students come from families with incomes over $200,000. At Macalester, fewer than 7 percent do. This is a mark of our economic and social diversity of which we are justifiably proud.

   But keeping Mac economically within the reach of working-class and middle-class families is terrifically expensive. More than two-thirds of our students get financial aid grants from the college to help meet their expenses. Our investigations suggest that we are one of only four colleges within a thousand miles of St. Paul — and the only one in Minnesota — that commits to admit U.S. students without regard to ability to pay, and that offers every admitted student aid to the extent of his or her need. (The other three institutions are Notre Dame, Northwestern and Grinnell.)

   Beyond the $15 million per year it costs us to honor this commitment, we are confronted with an increasingly severe breakdown of the traditions of cooperation among colleges in measuring ability of students to pay. The growing use of student aid as a competitive weapon rather than as a means of expanding access has created a chaotic environment which makes our commitment increasingly hard to sustain.

   The college's underlying commitment to enroll talented students from a broad range of economic and social backgrounds remains strong. Whether adhering to the traditional formula of "need-blind admission/full need financing" will continue to be the most effective and workable mechanism for meeting that commitment in the years ahead is a challenging question for us. The answer will depend on our own financial capacity, on the character of our admissions pool — and, critically, on the evolution of financial aid policy at other colleges.

3. Giving. Whatever the mechanism, we are determined to keep Macalester accessible to students of all economic backgrounds. And that commitment is bound to grow increasingly expensive. This is one major reason — along with needs for renovating facilities and keeping a strong faculty — that make future giving to Macalester a big challenge.

   As most alumni know, Macalester's financial history is unusual. Historically, most well-endowed colleges have built their endowments slowly, over generations, through a continuing tradition of strong giving. We, in contrast, "got rich" overnight, with our endowment going from under $100 million to close to $500 million in one year, when the Readers' Digest Association went public.

   As a result of this peculiar history, giving to Macalester on a continuing basis has been quite low compared to our wealth. Typically, at well-endowed colleges, giving annually amounts to around 2.5 percent of endowment. At Macalester, until our recent Touch the Future campaign, giving averaged less than 0.5 percent of endowment — a fifth of that at our comparison schools. A continuation of this pattern would be a sure recipe for Macalester's financial strength to decline compared to its colleague institutions, spelling growing difficulty in recruiting both faculty and students.

   Happily, the recent campaign has brought a big improvement in our ratio of giving to endowment. Over the last four years, gifts annually have been close to 2 percent of endowment. A huge challenge for us is to sustain and even improve that performance in the years to come.

   This is an important year for the planning of Macalester's future. More information about our ongoing efforts, including a paper of mine that discusses these and other challenges and opportunities at (much!) more length, can be found on our Web site <www.macalester.edu — click on President's Page>. I welcome your advice and reflections on this effort.

Mike McPherson, the president of Macalester, is on sabbatical from December until March. His column will resume with the Summer issue of Mac Today.
Chinese footbinding; Arctic diplomacy; Francophone Canada

Aching for Beauty: Footbinding in China
by Wang Ping (University of Minnesota Press, 2000. 320 pages, $27.95 cloth)

In Aching for Beauty, Wang Ping, an assistant professor of English at Macalester, ponders why so many Chinese women over a thousand-year period bound their feet, enduring rotting flesh, throbbing pain and hampered mobility throughout their lives. "Although footbinding was unique to females of late imperial China," she writes, "the concept and practice of enduring violence and pain, mutilation and self-mutilation in the name of beauty can be found in almost every culture and civilization. The study of footbinding, therefore, requires cross-cultural and interdisciplinary perspectives."

She employs poetry, novels, plays, essays, and oral accounts on and related to footbinding by male and female writers from the Ming and Qing dynasties to the present. She also uses Western linguistic, literary and psychoanalytic theories as tools and metaphors to examine the ancient Chinese texts. "My goal is to build a bridge across the past and present, East and West, history and literature, theory and practice, imagination and reality," she says.

Born in Shanghai, Wang Ping came to the U.S. in 1985. She has a Ph.D. in comparative literature from New York University. Her books include a collection of short stories, American Visa; a novel, Foreign Devil; and poetry, Of Flesh and Spirit. She teaches creative writing at Macalester.

Healing Our Anger: Seven Ways to Make Peace in a Hostile World

Macalester sociology Professor Michael Obsatz, who is also a family counselor, offers a practical guide to show how spiritual concepts of grace, forgiveness, compassion and justice can help people be peacemakers in an often hostile world. Healing Our Anger examines such topics as how anger works; how to avoid hostile confrontation; instilling realistic attitudes toward life; nourishing one's self through spiritual resources; and giving anger a positive outlet.

Connecting with the Congregation: Rhetoric and the Art of Preaching
by Lucy Lind Hogan ’73 and Robert Reid (Abingdon Press, 1999. 192 pages, $16 paperback)

Lucy Lind Hogan ’73, a professor at Wesley Theological Seminary, and her

Charles Baxter near his home in Ann Arbor in 1996

The Feast of Love
by Charles Baxter ’69
(Pantheon, 2000. 308 pages, $24 cloth)

THE FOLLOWING is excerpted from a review by Anne Valentine Martino ’75 that appeared in the April 24, 2000, Ann Arbor News:

The Feast of Love, a delicious new novel by Charles Baxter that is a finalist for the National Book Award, is a treat you will not want to miss. Only Baxter, one of the most admired fiction writers in the United States, could have imagined this book, which serves up a sumptuous banquet of passion and partnership, humor and heartbreak.

Inspired by Shakespeare's Midsummer Night's Dream, the novel opens with a humble first line: "The man—me, this pale being, no one else, it seems—wakes in fright, tangled up in the sheets." The speaker is "Charlie," at home on Woodland Drive in Ann Arbor. He can't sleep, so he takes a walk through Pioneer Woods and over to Michigan Stadium, where in the moonlight, he spots a young couple making love on the 50-yard line. From there, Charlie walks to Allmendinger Park, where he meets Bradley. Bradley owns Jitters coffee shop in Briardale Mall, and he tells Charlie the truly fascinating stories of his love life. So do the other lovers in the book, including Chloe, who describes her relationship with Oscar by saying: "To be more romantic than we were, you'd have to kill yourself in the middle of the street and then write about it. Shakespeare did that."

All the people in Baxter's novel could be straight from our lives—Bradley; his dog (also named Bradley); his former wives, the lovely Kathryn and tough-minded Diana; David, Diana's dangerous lover; Bradley's neighbors, Harry and Esther Ginsberg (Harry, a philosopher, works for the "Amalgamated Education Corporation"); and Oscar's bad-guy father, the evil "Bat," who lives in Ypsilanti.

What happens to these characters shows us some wonderful things about love—young love, older love, unfortunate love, undying love, universal love. •
co-author maintain that preaching is an art and, as such, it has a basic set of principles that can assist preachers in learning how to connect with a congregation. Their book draws on classical notions of art and, as such, it has a basic set of principles.

The authors connect the ancient art of rhetoric with the current conversation in homiletics about the relationship between persuasion and preaching. Hogan and Reid want “to help preachers learn how to be intentional in thinking rhetorically about their homiletic task, to assist them in being able to adopt a rhetorical stance as part of a constructive theology of preaching.”

Peaks, Palms and Picnics
Day Journeys in the Deserts & Mountains of Palm Springs and the Coachella Valley of Southern California by Linda McMillin Pyle (Xlibris Corp., 1999. 204 pages, $18 softcover, $25 hardcover)

Evelyn Tschida McMillin ’44 edited this book written by her daughter, Linda McMillin Pyle, as well as contributed to the narrative. She and her husband, John, participated in the hikes and walks which are a part of the journeys written about in this intergenerational, inspirational travel adventure book. The book features day journeys in the Palm Springs area and highlights natural history and Western lore along remote back roads, historic city streets and ancient Indian trails. Each vignette includes scenic picnic locations and recipes.

They have also created a Web site featuring more California trails and picnic recipes: <www.trailwisdom.com>

Star’s Circus Parade and Bones and Skin
by Lenore Rinder ’72 and Pat Moschea (Childscope Productions, 2000. 16 pages and $5 each)

These two books are intended for young children. Star’s Circus Parade is about a little colt’s chance to be in the Great Circus Parade. Bones and Skin is a bilingual (English and Spanish) book about human differences and similarities.

A free-lance photographer and filmmaker, Lenore Rinder earned an M.F.A. at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and currently teaches multi-media at a correctional school for boys in Wisconsin. She is also the author of another children’s book, A Big Mistake. For more information about her books, contact her at (414) 383-5353 or 1652 S. 36th St., Milwaukee, WI 53215.

Francis Suarez’s On the Formal Cause of Substance

Francis Suarez (1584–1617) was one of the first scholastic philosophers to write a systematic presentation of metaphysics that was not a commentary on Aristotle. He was so successful that his work was used as a university textbook and as a model for aspiring metaphysicians for more than a hundred years, not only by his fellow Jesuits but perhaps to an even greater extent by Protestant philosophers and theologians. His influence can be detected in Descartes, Leibniz, Wolff and ultimately in Kant himself. So pervasive was his impact on modern thought that Alasdair MacIntyre has called Suarez, not Descartes, the first truly modern philosopher.

Jerry Reedy, professor of classics at Macalester, and John Kronen of the University of Saint Thomas have produced a translation of the Disputation XV central to Suarezian metaphysics. The volume is one of the Medieval Philosophical Texts in Translation series from Marquette University Press.
Bernie Raskas: A rabbi for all seasons

Rabbi Bernard Solomon Raskas is one of the most popular and respected figures on the Macalester campus. Distinguished Visiting Professor of Religious Studies and former associate chaplain of the college, "Bernie" served 50 years as rabbi of Temple of Aaron in St. Paul, where he is now rabbi emeritus and laureate.

He writes a regular column for the Anglo-Jewish press and is the author of more than 200 published articles on Judaism.

Raskas' new book, *Seasons of the Mind* (Lerner Publications), collects more than 100 of his pieces. He is donating all proceeds from the sale of the book to literacy programs.

Some excerpts:

**On growing up in segregated St. Louis:**

I was born, as was my father, in St. Louis, which could be called the edge of the South. The 'Mason-Dixon Line,' created to separate the North from the South, was drawn right through the heart of St. Louis, six blocks from the home in which I was raised.

By chance, my side of the block was the edge of a self-imposed white ghetto. Across the street was the beginning of the black ghetto. Every morning when I got up and looked out the window, I saw Blacks looking back. I wondered what they thought, and, no doubt, they wondered what I thought.

Of course, we went to segregated schools. Even so, the opening times were staggered by fifteen minutes. Heaven forbid, we should cross lines. I supposed the authorities believed we would clash, but underneath, perhaps, was the deeper fear that we might like each other and even become friends.

(1992)

**On moral responsibility:**

All of this comes under the Jewish concept of tzedakah. Tzedakah is not charity or philanthropy but a moral responsibility to see every segment of society being properly served and given the opportunity to serve.

We speak of a woman in childbirth as "being in labor." It is hard work. When we say we will "work it out," we understand negotiations are strenuous. "A labor of love" implies that certain dedicated efforts yield days of satisfaction.

"Working out a solution" implies a commitment to solving our problems. Our vocabulary defines us even as we determine our attitude toward work. (1993)

**On Arabs and Jews:**

For the past six months, the painful confrontation between the Israelis and the Palestinians, and by implication, Arabs and Jews, has dominated the news. The differences in attitudes, needs, strategies, and goals are real. However, the shared history, the enlightened self-interests, and the recognition of each other's aspirations, as well as other commonalities and instances of cooperation are just as real. (1998)

In truth, neither side in Hebron commands universal strength among its own people. Many Israelis revile the settlers as fanatics who distort Jewish and Zionist values and whose intransigence, they warn, may lead to a cataclysm of incalculable dimensions. And many Palestinians dismiss the Hebron Arabs as little more than inflexible hardheads.

Indeed, Palestinians tell Hebron jokes the way some Minnesotans tell Ole and Lena jokes.

The time for acrimony is over. (1997)

**On Jesus:**

Although Jesus taught essentially in the mainstream of Judaism, he was unique in the great beauty of his language and the powerful simplicity of his illustrative stories.

Social Theory of International Politics
by Alexander Wendt '82
(Cambridge University Press, 1999. 449 pages. $24.95 paperback)

Drawing on philosophy and social theory, Alexander Wendt develops a cultural theory of international politics that contrasts with the realist mainstream. He argues that states can view each other as enemies, rivals or friends. He characterizes these roles as "cultures of anarchy," which are shared ideas that help shape states' interests and capabilities. These cultures can change over time as ideas change. Wendt thus argues that the nature of international politics is not fixed, and that the international system is not condemned to conflict and war.

Previously on the faculties of Yale and Dartmouth, Wendt is now an associate professor of political science and international relations at the University of Chicago.

A Course in Computational Number Theory
by David Bressoud and Stan Wagon
(Key College Press, 2000)

Macalester mathematics and computer science Professors David Bressoud and Stan Wagon have collaborated on this one-semester introduction to number theory that uses the computer as a tool for motivation and explanation. An accompanying CD-ROM contains Mathematica files with all the commands and programs. The reader should be able to get on the computer quickly to begin doing personal experiments with the patterns of the integers. The presentation of the theoretical structure of number theory is integrated tightly with these explorations, arising out of them to confirm, explain or deny what is observed experimentally, and feeding back into them to enable deeper and more sophisticated investigations.

The efficiency of algorithms is always at the forefront as the book presents and explains many of the fastest algorithms for working with integers. The book covers the traditional topics, but also takes advantage of powerful software to explore factoring algorithms, primality testing, the RSA public-key cryptosystem, and unusual applications such as check digit schemes and a computation of the energy that holds a salt crystal together. Advanced topics include continued fractions, Pell's equation and the Gaussian primes.
or parables, in his humility and his ob-
vious love for the poor and miserable.
Maimonides, the authoritative Jewish
philosopher of the Middle Ages, attributed
his mission to the divine plan to bring the
essentials of Judaism to a pagan world.
Where Judaism parts with Christianity is not
on the religion of Jesus, but the religion
about Jesus. (1982)

On Jews and Blacks:
Sadly enough, Jews have not seen through
this situation and used it as a reason to
back off. Sadly enough, the important quest
for Black self-esteem is reduced by empty yet
cathartic phrases, gestures, and posturing.
Black identity and a source of contention
between the United States and Canada.
Canadian claims that the Passage is inter-
nal Canadian waters have been challenged by U.S. insistence that it is an inter-
national strait. Continental partners and
allies, the two countries have charted a
unique course in continental cooperation.
This study places the Northwest Passage
issue in the context of U.S.-Canadian
relations and argues that its resolution lies
in the spirit and history of bilateral coop-
eration found in the second half of the
20th century.
Elisabeth Elliot-Meisel, who earned her
Ph.D. from Duke, is an associate professor
of history at Creighton University. She
contribution a chapter on Franklin
Roosevelt’s wartime relationship with
Prime Minister Mackenzie King in the
recently published book Franklin Roosevelt
and the Shaping of the Modern World.

Published a book?
TO HAVE A NEW or recent book
mentioned in these pages, send us a
publisher’s press release or similar written
announcement that includes the following:
title, name of publisher, year of
publication, retail price (if known), number
of pages, a brief, factual description of the
book, and brief, factual information about
the author (such as professional
background or expertise relating to the
book’s subject).
A review copy is welcome but not neces-
sary if all of this information is provided.
The address, e-mail, fax and phone
numbers for Mac Today are on page 1.

On Sarajevo:
On the last day of class, a student named
Jasna Janjic, who is on a study program
from Yugoslavia (Serbia), came up to me
after the session to say goodbye. She
informed me that she was going to Sarajevo
for the winter holidays. I said, “Are you out
of your mind? Your family sent you here to
get out of that hell.” She replied, “You know,
Rabbi, we talked about the Holocaust. If,
in 1939, your mother was in Warsaw,
wouldn’t you want to see her on Rosh
Hashanah?” Then she added with a smile,
“It’s a mitzvah.”
I was very moved and in a choked voice I
said, “Jasna, when you return, write up your
experience for me and I will give you an ‘inde-
pendent’ worth three credits. Shalom.” (1993)

Join Rabbi Raskas
for online chat
Wednesday, Jan. 10
ALUMNI, STUDENTS and other members
of the Macalester community are invited to
join Rabbi Raskas for an online discussion
about his book from 7:30 to 9 p.m. CST
Wednesday, Jan. 10 (8:30-10 p.m. on
the East Coast and 5:30-7 p.m. on the
West Coast).
For more information, go to the Macalester
Web site: <www.macalester.edu/~alumni>

With Art in Mind
by Patricia Parker Groebner ’57
This book contains 60 art lessons which
represent the most enjoyable and success-
ful lessons that the author used during her
33 years of teaching art to children. Each
lesson is based on important art elements
and principles, and each is intended to
help the students develop basic skills
that are useful in all areas of life and
learning. The lessons are appropriate for
students ages 8 through 13, although
many can be used with younger or older
children.
Patricia Parker Groebner taught in the
Mounds View School District in New
Brighton, Minn., before continuing her
career in the Mountain View School Dis-
trict in California. She was selected as a
California Mentor Teacher and, after tak-
ing early retirement in 1990, continued
serving as Mentor Emeritus for her district.
She lives in Sunnyvale, Calif.

The Alpha Omega Story
by Joyce E. Nelson ’70 (Fairway Press,
2000. $12.95)
The Rev. Joyce Ellzey Nelson ’70,
pastor of Faith Lutheran Church in Mont-
gomeryville, Pa., has written a series of
narratives that can be used as sermons dur-
ing any season, as a devotional or as a
group study resource. The work uses the
library vehicles of light and time, both
part of the created order, for a fresh
re-telling of the biblical story of God’s
desire and intent to return wayward
humanity to Eden’s goodness. Reflection
questions and prayer litanies for each nar-
raive are included.
Nelson, a graduate of the Lutheran
Theological Seminary in Philadelphia,
worked for 10 years as an editor for The
Lutheran, the magazine of the Evangelical
Church of America.

Sizing Up a Start-Up: Decoding the
Frontier of Career Opportunities
by Daniel S. Rippy ’89 (Perseus
Daniel Rippy, who has many years of
experience evaluating new economy
start-ups and has worked as a product manager for a software start-up in Seattle, currently pursues new business development opportunities for Johnson & Johnson. Intended for high-tech enthusiasts and entrepreneurs like her, this book offers practical methods for making well-versed decisions that are unique to high-tech landscapes. Rippy shares career guidance from veterans of new ventures who have worked on the leading edge of some of today's 3 million U.S. start-ups.

World Regional Geography
by Lydia Mihelic Pulsipher '62 (W.H. Freeman and Company, 1999. 600 pages)

In this book, Lydia Mihelic Pulsipher, a professor of geography at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville since 1980, takes an inclusive approach to the geography of culture and society. She offers a balanced examination of the world's regions, and covers a variety of topics, such as development strategies, agricultural processes, family life, changing gender roles and the growing influence of the global economy on daily life in local places.

Written in a personal style, World Regional Geography explores regions from many perspectives—physical, sociocultural, economic, political and environmental—in order to help students appreciate the depth and richness of modern life in regions like South America, the Pacific, China and Western Europe.

In writing the book, Pulsipher was assisted by her husband, Conrad "Mac" Goodwin, an historical archaeologist, and son, Alex Pulsipher, who spent a year in South Asia as a Wesleyan University student and earned a degree in Indian history.

U.S. Labor in the Twentieth Century

Americans generally like to think of themselves as members of a "middle-class country," but more are in fact workers, dependent upon wages and salaries for their survival, say the editors of this book. Consequently, the history of workers is an important but poorly understood aspect of American life. The 21 essays in this book, written together, "argue that the weakness of the labor movement today is not an argument for the end of class conflict, but simply an argument that workers have yet to develop new strategies for our times.

Delving into the past can help illuminate the path forward," the editors write.

Among the contributors are Macalester history Professor Peter Rachleff and Sherry Lee Linkon '81, co-director of the Center for Working-Class Studies and coordinator of American studies at Youngstown State University.

John Hinshaw is assistant professor of history at Lebanon Valley College in Annville, Pa., and the author of Steel and Steelworkers: Race and Class Conflict in Twentieth-Century Pittsburgh.

The French Enigma:
Survival and Development in Canada's Francophone Societies
by Robert A. Stebbins '61 (Temeron Books, 2000. 256 pages, $24.95 Canadian)

Robert Stebbins, a sociology professor at the University of Calgary, is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and a specialist in Canadian Francophone communities. A second-language Francophone himself and an avid volunteer in Calgary's Francophone community, he wrote this book for the majority of Canadians who lack knowledge of Francophone Canada. Using information from history, linguistics, education, sociology, geography and political science, he sheds light on the language, culture and patterns of everyday life of the Francophone community.

Stebbins' book also seeks to take the expansive multidisciplinary literature of Canada's Francophones, in both French and English, and to work it into a coherent statement using a variety of social science concepts.

A Way of Play for the 21st Century

This book explores the opening in the game of GO, a board game that originated in China thousands of years ago, spread to Korea and Japan, and is now played throughout the world. The author, who was born in China in 1914 and emigrated to Japan in 1928, is perhaps the leading

Truth to tell,
it's Mary Karr
The author of The Liars' Club returns with a second volume of fiercely honest memoirs
by Jan Shaw-Flamm '76

You could enjoy Mary Karr's memoir Cherry just for nostalgia value. Remember Big Chief tablets? "The Man from U.N.C.L.E.?" The red-winged horse at Mobil service stations? Pink spikes anchoring hair curlers?

But her story isn't all a '60s version of "Happy Days." "Most of the people I drank or did drugs with are dead or went to jail," says Karr. "I feel like I was somebody snatched out of the fire."

Karr, a professor of English literature at Syracuse University, is the author of three volumes of poetry and The Liars' Club, an award-winning memoir some credit with no less than the renaissance of the genre. A bestseller in hardcover, it was kept floating on the New York Times' paperback bestseller list for over a year through readers' word of mouth.

"I feel like I was somebody snatched out of the fire," says Mary Karr '76, pictured at Macalester's Weyerhaeuser Chapel in October.

The Liars' Club tells of a little girl in a complicated family whose members love each other and struggle, with erratic success, to keep it together. This fall brought the release of Karr's new memoir, which takes that scrappy, poetry-loving, "skinny-ass" Texas girl through the adolescent minefield of "sex and drugs and rock and roll."
GO player of the 20th century. Additional information is available at www.wholeboard.com.

Ken Elchert, the translator, lived for a total of 12 years in Japan, where most recently he was Asia legal counsel for a U.S. computer systems manufacturer. He currently resides in Los Altos, Calif., and is a 2-Dan in GO.

A Man’s Reach
by Elmer L. Andersen (University of Minnesota Press, 1999. 488 pages, $29.95 cloth)

Elmer L. Andersen has been called Minnesota’s leading citizen. Now 91, he built a small adhesives company, H.B. Fuller, into a world leader, and created a publishing empire from one weekly newspaper. As a Minnesota state senator, he pioneered progressive legislation in civil rights, mental health care and metropolitan governance. His years as Minnesota’s governor in the early 1960s were marked by his role in the founding of Southwest State University and several state parks. He later helped create Voyageurs National Park.

This autobiography was edited by Lori Sturdevant, an editor for the Minneapolis Star Tribune. Andersen, who received an honorary degree from Macalester in 1965, was the first chairman of Macalester’s Challenge fund-raising program. His son, Tony Andersen ‘57, a former Macalester trustee, and granddaughter, Amy Andersen ‘88, are both Macalester alumni.

God’s Man: A Daily Devotional Guide to Christlike Character
by Don Aycocok (Kregel Publications, 1998. 320 pages, $12.99)

C. Thomas Hilton ‘57 contributed a week’s devotionals to this book, edited by the pastor of McLean Baptist Church in Memphis, Tenn. The daily devotional and Scripture passages in God’s Man speak to the concerns of men who want to build solid spiritual lives.

In addition, two of Hilton’s books, Be My Guest: Sermons On The Lord’s Supper and Ripe Life: Sermons On The Fruit Of The Spirit, published by Abingdon Press, have recently been published in CD-Rom under the title The Sermon Shelf, by Abingdon Software. A retired pastor, Hilton has served churches in St. Paul, Bridgeport, N.J., Lewistown, Pa., Indianapolis, Pompano Beach, Fla., and Amelia Island, Fla. He has also been a visiting scholar at Princeton Seminary and a part-time faculty member of Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis.

Robbers
by Christopher Cook ‘76 (Carroll & Graf, 2000. 384 pages, $24.95 cloth)

This debut novel by Christopher Cook follows the criminal path of two drifters, Ray Bob and Eddie. One a sociopath and the other a talented blues guitarist, they shoot a man over a penny and set off on a bloody ride through Texas. The two hook up with a woman named Della, who aspires to middle-class niceties that lie beyond a life on the run. Eddie falls for her and decides to clean up his act, a decision Ray Bob increasingly resents.

Cook has worked as a journalist and a trade union and human rights activist, both in the United States and in Third World nations. He lives in Austin, Texas.

Mary Karr’s Cherry

The title, Cherry, and Bill Brandt’s cover photo of a girl’s crossed legs strike some as provocative. “I’ve been so astonished at people saying that . . .,” says Karr. “It’s a girl on a beach. Some people can see evil in the crotch of a tree.”

The title, she says, was meant ironically. “It was going to be a book about losing your innocence, but [it turned out to be] a book about discovering a kind of innocence they can’t strip from you. It’s sort of innate to the ground when an officer pulled out what they mistook for a gun. Karr recalls not only the bravado and the fear, but the tiny square hamburgers from White Castle the cops ultimately fetch and pass around

[Professor Walt Mink] was there for me for 20-some years. I was his student for one semester.

The generosity was all on his part.

as compensation for how their pal scared you all sick.”

Although she left Macalester after two years, Karr remembers with gratitude her freshman seminar professors, Jerry Weiss, Chuck Green and, particularly, the late Walt Mink. “They asked me questions I still spend much of my day thinking about. What was remarkable was that they asked them in a way that suggested I was competent to answer them.”

Professor Mink’s family became a surrogate family for Karr. “He was there for me for 20-some years. I was his student for one semester. The generosity was all on his part; he was always taking me out to lunch, or finding a way to get me money because I never had any money, or buying me books, and I remember saying, ‘How will I ever pay this all back?’ And he’d say, ‘You’re not going to pay me back, you’re going to do this for somebody else.’”

Now, as a professor herself, and a writer, Karr pays back encouragement. In Cherry, she says of a book long beloved by adolescents, something one might well say of hers: “You know that on this broad planet sympathetic others exist, at least a few beings somewhere who might feel alien as you. Books prove it—characters like old Holden Caulfield wandering among the ‘phonies’ at his prep school. The words and sentences you take into your body from books are no less sacred and healing than communion.”

Jan Shaw-Flamm ‘76 regrets that she never knew Mary Karr when both were on campus, but braggs about being her classmate nonetheless.
The subject was open-heart surgery. Hannah Moos and Martha Ross presented slides of the surgery, and outlined the history of its development. They quoted from their interviews with doctors who performed open-heart surgery, and patients saved by the procedure.

Ph.D. history candidates? Doctors? Well, maybe someday. But for now, the girls are National History Day participants from St. Paul's Washington Technology Magnet School, where they are junior high students of social studies teacher Steve Cox '76.

National History Day is a yearlong, nonprofit, educational program dedicated to improving the teaching and learning of history in elementary and secondary schools. Students, individually or in groups of up to five, select a topic related to the year's theme, research and analyze it, then present their results as a documentary, exhibit, paper or performance. NHD emphasizes the use of primary sources, such as letters, diaries or newspapers of the time, in conjunction with secondary sources.

The students compete at local, state and, finally, national levels in College Park, Md., where the prizes range from $250 to college scholarships worth more than $75,000. The program has expanded continuously since its beginnings in 1974, and this year more than 700,000 students...
Macalester and National History Day

- Brent LaSalle '00, social studies teacher at Sobriety High in Edina, Minn.; former NHD intern, Minnesota Historical Society
- Sara Bendure '97, Ohio state NHD coordinator; former assistant state coordinator for NHD in Minnesota; former NHD intern, Minnesota Historical Society
- Mark Robinson '96, national development and public relations coordinator; former co-coordinator for Iowa History Day
- Nina Clark '90, northwest Minnesota regional coordinator for Minnesota History Day
- Jodi Vandenberg-Daves '88, former national assistant director, NHD; now assistant professor of history and women's studies, University of Wisconsin, LaCrosse
- The late Dr. David C. DeBoe '64, state coordinator for Texas History Day; student internships at the national offices are named in his honor

Also: countless teachers, staffers, volunteers, parents and professors who administer, coach and judge.

Web: www.thehistorynet.com/NationalHistoryDay/

In 10 years of working with the program, Cox has seen what students are capable of when given guidelines, encouragement and the freedom to research a subject they are passionate about. If that sounds like a Macalester philosophy, perhaps it explains why so many Macalester alumni, students and professors have volunteered their time and expertise to help students in grades 6-12 develop their research, analytical and presentation skills through NHD.

Mark Robinson '96, NHD national development and public relations coordinator, thinks the Mac connection is a natural. "Mac alumni are very community service-oriented. National History Day engages people on a variety of levels, so it's easy for Macalester people with an interest in history or education to get involved. Also, education majors are very interested in different ways to teach, and NHD expands the classroom beyond the textbook."

Macalester professors in history and other areas have served as resource people for a number of students working on NHD projects, and Mac students regularly intern or volunteer with the program. The latest is history major Brent LaSalle '00, a three-time veteran of the competitions, who this year worked with the Minneapolis public schools doing program outreach and coaching students on how to improve their projects. He is now a social studies teacher at Sobriety High in Edina, Minn. and uses the NHD program as part of his curriculum.

Robinson, too, is a National History Day alumnus whose interest has grown into a career. In eighth grade he completed his first NHD project, a comparison of Civil War photography and Vietnam War videography.

A drama and U.S. cultural studies major at Macalester, he's committed to having NHD be a part of his life, but he is also pursuing documentary filmmaking. Robinson has combined both interests, representing NHD in working with The History Channel to produce the award-winning documentary "Generation H: National History Day." The film follows students from around the country as they researched and produced their 1999 National History Day projects. Robinson also maintains and helped to design the NHD Web site.

Because students are advised to research something they are truly interested in, the subject matter varies widely. "We've had students do projects on Harley Davidson [motorcycles], and how Barbies revolutionized the toy industry," says Robinson.

Hannah's and Martha's interest in open-heart surgery earned them first place in Minnesota's Junior Group Media division, and they went on to finish fourth in the nation.

National History Day encourages secondary students in the kind of original, primary-source research that Macalester promotes for students at the college level.

"National History Day teaches lifelong skills for learning," says Cox. "What I see in students is genuine interest, genuine excitement and genuine ownership. As a teacher, can you ask for more?"

Steve Cox '76
Crossover

Former NFL star and CBS broadcaster Irv Cross enjoys the balance of academics and athletics at a small Division III college in St. Paul

by Doug Stone

ATCHING A BASEBALL GAME last spring, Macal- ester Athletic Director Irv Cross learned a lot about his coaches. One of Mac's better players made a key mistake in a playoff game when he tried in vain to score from second and ignored the coach's stop sign at third base.

"It's the classic situation where a coach could have gone crazy and yelled at the kid," Cross recalls, "I wondered how he was going to manage that because it was a great time to make a point to the athlete. The coach [Matt Parrington] let the kid walk all the way back to the dugout and he walked over, put his arm around him and said, 'How can you help me give a better stop signal?' The player smiled, went out there and finished the game. It was masterful.

"That's what I look for in a coach. You look for teaching situations. There's pressure and excitement in athletics and that's good, but a coach is somebody who must always be in control and know when to encourage, when to be critical and when to teach. The coach must always be positive. Our coaches are like that. They're encouraging kids. They're good teachers."

The anecdote says a lot about Cross' own style and perspective. Cross, who looks much younger than his 61 years, came to Macalester in the summer of 1999 after more than 20 years as a sportscaster for CBS-TV and a decade as a star defensive back and then assistant coach in the National Football League. In two businesses known for their share of large egos, Cross was down-to-earth and friendly. He remains so, an approach which surprised a lot of alumni at first.

"Macalester and the Athletic Department are very lucky to have someone the caliber of Irv Cross," says Lee Nystrom '73, president of the M Club and a former football player at Macalester and with the Green Bay Packers. "He brings a host of leadership skills, contacts and exposure that is invaluable. I believe it is a positive move. I know he's certainly doing what he can to improve the football program."

Because of his well-known sports background, Cross is often asked by reporters and others why he chose to lead a Division III athletic program.

"I say, 'Where else would you want me to be? Let me tell you about Macalester.' And I tell them about the academic rating, that it's a small liberal arts college, that it's diverse and right in the middle of an urban community. You couldn't ask for more than that....I like being around young people. I like being in a position where I can be an effective teacher.

"Being able to sit down and talk to a student about a personal situation they might have means a great deal to me."

Cross says he was looking for a place that provided a clean approach to athletics, which gave young people the chance to be full-time students, but still experience the values and lessons you learn from sports.

"I'm a funny guy about that," he says with a smile. "I really think kids go to college to get degrees and the athletic experiences help them grow as individuals."

Cross has ambitious goals. He believes he has a group of top-flight coaches to help him. He's studied other Division III schools which have been successful in sports and he's studied top academic schools in Division I, such as Stanford and Northwestern, his alma mater, which have successfully combined athletics and academics.

First, he wants Macalester to win a Sears Directors Cup for Division III, a national competition among 393 schools in all sports based on finishes in NCAA regional and national championship events. Because the Cup is not focused on one or two sports, Cross believes Macalester can be competitive. In fact, the college finished 58th last year, in the top 15 percent. Outstanding seasons in men's and women's soccer, along with women's cross country and men's and women's track and field, contributed to that finish.

Cross is confident he can build on that record.

"Winning the Sears Cup isn't going to happen this year. It's going to happen over a period of years. We're going to build to it. We don't need to win a national championship [in a particular sport]; we need to keep accumulating points."

Cross also wants Macalester athletes and teams to win a national academic award of some kind every

Doug Stone is director of Macalester's College Relations Office.
Irv Cross

**Education:** B.S., health and physical education, Northwestern, 1961


**Broadcasting:** commentator, CBS (including "The NFL Today"), 1971-93; commentator and guest on Twin Cities media, including KFAN radio, FOX-TV, "Rosen's Sports Sunday," WCCO-TV, and "Sports Wrap," KSTP-TV, 1999-present

**Other jobs:** athletic director, Idaho State, 1996-99; financial consultant, Salomon Smith Barney, 1993-99

**Volunteer:** Board of Trustees, NCAA Foundation

**Awards:** Emmy for "The NFL Today"; NFL Pro Bowl player

"I really think kids go to college to get degrees and the athletic experiences help them grow as individuals," says Irv Cross, a Northwestern graduate. He's pictured on Macalester's track.

"Wins and losses seem to measure how well you do in athletics. I never saw it only that way."

With the student body we have, we should be able to do that.”

And on the campus level, Macalester teams are competing for the President's Cup, which recognizes the team with the highest grade-point average.

"I sensed when I came here a little bit of negative feeling because we hadn't won in some sports for a while. Then our men's basketball team beat St. Thomas [the eventual conference champs]. All of a sudden, our kids believe we can do this. Then our baseball team did well. To see that transformation take place in these kids is a great thing for me to share and experience. I can see their confidence grow. I can see a little bounce in their steps. Hopefully, that confidence will carry over into the classroom and into other things they do in life...."

"Wins and losses seem to measure how well you do in athletics. I never saw it only that way."

Volunteer: Board of Trustees, NCAA Foundation

Awards: Emmy for "The NFL Today"; NFL Pro Bowl player
Anne Derse '76 has spent most of her adult life in the U.S. Foreign Service, but she still looks homeward for inspiration.

by Jon Halvorsen

BRUSSELS — In the past 19 years, U.S. Foreign Service officer Anne Derse '76 has moved every two to four years, living in Trinidad, Singapore, Seoul, Manila, Washington (three times) and now Brussels.

"It's very exciting," Derse said of her career in an interview at a sidewalk cafe here last May. "Interesting, challenging, always stimulating. I'm not sure I would say it's 'glamorous.' You go to exciting places, but it's not just attending official dinners and cocktail parties. You're there to defend and advance U.S. interests, with governments that are friendly and others that are not. That's the essence of the work. Every day you're talking to foreign governments, foreign business, foreign press."

Growing up in several Midwestern communities, Derse spent a year in Paris at 16 as an exchange student, "an eye-opening experience that really changed my life" and revealed a talent for languages. Majoring in French and linguistics at Macalester, where Professors Hélène Peters, Virginia Schubert and the late Karl Sandberg were her mentors, Derse joined the Foreign Service "accidentally" when friends suggested she take the State Department exam with them. She was completing a master's in international studies at Johns...
Hopkins when she learned she had passed the exam and a security clearance.

As a Foreign Service officer, she has done everything from issuing visas in Trinidad to managing a staff of 10 as counselor for economic affairs in Manila. The State Department has given her three major awards, for her work on the protection of intellectual property rights in Singapore, on the 1996 meetings of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation forum, and on trade and finance issues in Korea.

Early in her career, she survived a bloody mugging while on temporary duty in Rio de Janeiro when a youth stabbed her six times—missing her heart by an inch—as he tried to cut the strap of her purse. The attack had a silver lining, she notes. Returning to work at the State Department, she met another Foreign Service officer who was going to Brazil and had heard about her experience. The two went out for lunch and were married eight months later. She and her husband, E. Mason (Hank) Hendrickson, who recently retired from the Foreign Service, have four children.

Promoted to the Senior Foreign Service and named counselor for economic affairs at the U.S. embassy in Brussels in 1997, Derse was appointed minister-counselor for economic affairs in 1999 at the U.S. Mission to the European Union, where she directs a staff of 14 and deals with the complex economic and environmental issues involved between the U.S. and the EU.

"You can make of the Foreign Service assignment almost anything you want," Derse said. "You go out and you find the issue and you work it. You find a way to solve it, and you do a lot of it on your own, on the ground. You have to like being in an environment where you're challenged by language or by differences in culture."

You also have to like change. Derse's four years in Seoul were the most she has lived anywhere in her life. The State Department moves its career officers frequently to prevent them from becoming too identified with one country and its interests. "You have to like the upside of it, which is going to a new place, having a new challenge, starting over in a way. You have to like that in order to counterbalance the down side of leaving little pieces of yourself everywhere you go. Foreign Service people develop a culture amongst themselves, because we all understand this."

Her own children, she notes, "gain a lot by being citizens of the world and learning very early about different perspectives and how to deal with diversity, which is such a big issue today and another thing that attracted me to Macalester. What they give up is they don't live in their own country, so they don't have the kind of roots that [other children have]."

Although she's spent most of her adult life abroad—with mandatory home leaves every couple of years—Derse believes that's "helped me see America more clearly, both in terms of its huge advantages and benefits and all the good things about it, as well as the warts and problems." As a

At home in Brussels with husband Hank and children Will, Jane, and Betsy.

'You have to like [the up side of the job] in order to counterbalance the down side of leaving little pieces of yourself everywhere you go.'
The Finnish Line in Europe

Olli Rehn of Finland helps move his country close to the center of the European Union

by Jon Halvorsen

BRUSSELS—For Olli Rehn of Finland, even the most trying negotiations within the 15-nation European Union are “peanuts” compared to bargaining with the Russians during the Cold War.

At one such encounter in Moscow, as Rehn and other Finns were trying to agree on a joint communiqué with a Soviet youth group, he remembers a hard-line Soviet “youth” diplomat. “He was around 50. I was 20-something. He told me at some point, ‘Mr. Rehn, you are a young man. We have had some difficulties. Do you happen to know the international emergency code? It is 56-68-79 [a reference to the Soviet invasions of Hungary in 1956, Prague in '68 and Afghanistan in '79]. What do you want to be the next number?’

‘Of course,’ Rehn says, ‘his joke was in very bad taste, and his threat was not very credible. And we did stick to our definition of Finnish neutrality policy, which was at stake.’ Laughing, he adds: ‘I have perhaps actively tried to forget those times. I’m more into the present and future.’

At present, Rehn is head of cabinet—equivalent to chief of staff—to Finland’s commissioner in the European Union and thus deeply involved in planning the future of both Finland and European integration. At 38, this soft-spoken man of self-deprecating wit has compiled a strong résumé—a doctorate in international political economy from Oxford; former policy adviser to the Finnish prime minister; election to the Helsinki City Council and Finnish Parliament; appointment to the European Parliament; former vice-chairman of Finland’s Centre Party and partial responsibility for its support of Finland joining the European Union five years ago.

Although he spent only a year at Macalester in 1982–83, Rehn made it a memorable one. “I studied more intensively at Macalester than I have studied any other place except for Oxford,” he says. He remembers such faculty members as the “brilliant” Vasant Sukhatme in economics; the late Ron Ross in journalism, “who taught me a lot about writing in English—‘omit needless words’—which has been one of the most useful things I’ve learned in my life”; Cindy Orbovich in international relations; and Dorothy Dodge, whose political science course on post-industrial society “was one of the courses which has given me sufficient intellectual gasoline until the next millennium.”

He also developed friendships with other international students—especially Morad Pourfathi ’86, now a banker in Tehran—as well as Americans; enjoyed working in the college’s News and Publications Department, where he wrote so many press releases he can still recite the standard closing paragraph about Macalester; and played on the soccer team. Former chairman of the professional Football League of Finland, he is still passionate about soccer. “Actually, I broke my leg last year—quite badly—playing football with the kids in the park.”

Rehn’s life and career reflect Finland’s changing place in the world. Born the year after the Berlin Wall was built, he grew up during the Cold War in a small, isolated nation which was once part of Russia, which fought two wars against the Soviet

European Union

Member Nations (15): Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom

Combined population: 370 million

Pending members: Czech Republic, Cyprus, Estonia, Hungary, Poland, Slovenia

Potential members 2010–2015: Bulgaria, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, Switzerland, Turkey

Web: http://europa.eu.ue.int/index-en.htm
www.eurunion.org

source: European Union
Union—ending in the bitter loss of 10 percent of its land and population—and which then walked a diplomatic tightrope to avoid provoking its huge neighbor. Rehn has adorned his office wall in Brussels with several humorous quotations on the subject “To be a small nation in 20th century Europe.” His favorite is from a close-to-beaten Finnish soldier in a post-war novel: “When your powder’s all gone, it’s better to keep your mouth shut than go spouting about the rights of small nations. A dog raises his hind leg on them.”

Today, Finland is still small—5 million people—but no longer on Europe’s fringes. Rehn is among 2,500 to 3,000 Finns who live and work here in the self-styled “capital of Europe.” And Finland’s increasing role in Europe was demonstrated by its assumption of the European Union presidency in 1999.


As the top aide to European Commissioner Erkki Liikanen of Finland, Rehn is deeply involved in his boss’s two primary portfolios—enterprise policy and the information society. Last March, the EU’s political leaders pledged to take steps in favor of cheaper Internet access, to bolster the development of e-commerce and to narrow the gap with the United States.

“We both subscribe to the idea that you definitely need entrepreneurship and private initiative, which is still scarce in Europe compared to the U.S.,” Rehn says. “At the same time, you need social security and especially equal opportunity in terms of education.... We want to accelerate e-commerce in Europe, to make a single online market, not 15 separate markets. And the member states [of the European Union] have committed themselves to wire all the schools in Europe to the Internet and to digital content and digital training in the next two years. That’s actually very similar to the discussion which is taking place in the U.S. concerning the digital divide [between affluent and poor sectors of society].”

In European terms, Rehn is a “functionalist,” one who says “Let’s do something which is practical and serves the welfare of European citizens” instead of debating endlessly on the political integration of the continent. Although he’s “glad we now have friendly and normal relations with Russia,” and counts several Russians among his friends, Rehn believes that “Finland’s future is in Europe.”

For more on this story, see Macalester Today on the Web:
www.macalester.edu/alumni

WINTER 2000-2001
Norway, Kenya and India come together in the remarkable Mykletun-Noronha clan. Their multiple identities enrich their lives and inform their work on several continents.

by Jon Halvorsen

What I like most," says Jostein Mykletun '70, "is to work across sectors, to make people who don't normally talk to each other, talk to each other. You put them in the same room and see what happens." A natural mediator, he has helped forge a remarkable partnership between the oil industry and environmentalists in Norway, the world's second-largest oil exporter.

His wife, Sonia Noronha Mykletun '72, is also a Norwegian citizen and speaks Norwegian fluently. Imagine the surprise when Scandinavians meeting this woman with the quintessentially Nordic-sounding first and last names see someone whose rich skin tone reflects her ethnic roots in Goa, India. An urban geographer, she now holds a leadership position in European higher education.

In St. Paul, Sonia's sister, June Noronha '70, begins each day by reading the online newspaper from the sisters' native Kenya and checking the weather in the cities where she has family: London, Bombay, Oslo, Nairobi and Brussels. She is president-elect of NAFSA, the leading U.S. organization in the field of international educational exchange.

The newest Macalester alumnus in the family is Erik Mykletun '00, Jostein and Sonia's son. Erik graduated last May and is pursuing a career in the U.S., although he wants to use his skills—including fluency in French, Spanish, Norwegian and English—to work eventually in an international organization.

This is the story of one family who began at Macalester. To paraphrase Jostein Mykletun: you place people from different cultures in the same college and see what happens. ♦

Jon Halvorsen, managing editor of Macalester Today, interviewed several alumni who live and work in Europe. See pages 20–31
"You learn to become socially, culturally, racially agile in a way. Maybe that’s the most important part of your education at Macalester."

Jostein Mykletun

Norway’s Jostein Mykletun ’70 and the expanding Europe: ‘We’re living in historical times’

BRUSSELS — Like any Norwegian schoolchild, Jostein Mykletun ’70 grew up knowing where Minnesota was, though he didn’t learn about Macalester until he was considering colleges.

Mykletun spent two years getting a “true international education” as a political science major at Macalester. He fondly recalls such mentors as President Arthur Flemming, “a very courageous man,” and Professors Chuck Green and Hubert Humphrey, who never used notes during his three-hour weekly seminars. Elected president of the college’s International Student Society, Mykletun organized an international conference on conflict resolution. He even went to Sioux Falls, S.D., as a precinct captain to help register Democrats to vote, in particular for Sen. George McGovern, in the 1968 Congressional elections—“something not quite legal” for a foreign student, he muses.

At Macalester, he also met Sonia Noronha, and in 1972 the Norwegian Lutheran from Stavanger and the Indian-Portuguese Roman Catholic from Kenya were married in her hometown of Nairobi. They’ve sent two sons to Macalester—Erik, who graduated this past May, and Einar, now a senior—while the youngest, Andrew, 15, seems destined to follow.

“Macalester made me color-blind in many ways,” Jostein says. “And I see our children—they’re completely color-blind. You learn to become socially, culturally, racially agile in a way. Maybe that’s the most important part of your education at Macalester.”

After Jostein earned a Ph.D. at the University of Minnesota, he and Sonia made their lives in Norway. His careers in education, social science research and the Norwegian Foreign Service culminated in the 1990s when he became secretary-general of two foundations, an existing one consisting mainly of Norway’s offshore oil industry and a new foundation intended to forge a partnership among the oil industry, government, business, science and non-governmental organizations. Besides running both foundations, Mykletun’s job was to try to link them up—a task he achieved in 1999 when the two merged completely.

“I don’t know of any area in the world where you produce oil and gas with less environmental harm than we do,” Mykletun says. “It’s also one of the most expensive areas to extract oil and gas, because of the environmental regulations. The environmental proponents are not sitting outside the boardrooms, they are sitting inside. They are part and parcel of the stakeholder portfolio of these [oil] companies.”

Norwegians say ‘no’ to EU

In 1999, Mykletun returned to Norway’s Foreign Service, moving to Brussels as science counselor for Norway’s Mission to the European Union. In bitterly divisive referendums in 1972 and 1994, Norwegian voters narrowly rejected membership in the EU. The reasons are complicated; not least important is that Norway is a young nation, independent only since 1905. But with the country’s wealth of oil, natural gas, hydroelectric power and fisheries, EU membership, with all its benefits, was an offer the Norwegians could refuse.

Yet Norway is an economic and scientific partner of Europe as a founding member of the European Economic Area. “In my portfolio—science and

Jostein Mykletun

Norway’s Jostein Mykletun ’70 and the expanding Europe: ‘We’re living in historical times’
technology—we are full members and we have all the rights and obligations of members," Mykletun says. "So it's a fine balance that we [in the Foreign Service] live with and which I, personally, find to be a terrific challenge and extremely stimulating."

Last spring, Mykletun organized a Norwegian Science Day in Brussels in which Norwegians demonstrated their sophistication in such areas as marine, environmental and energy research. It was so well received that he followed it up with a forum on Norwegian science and technology. "My job is basically to take the initiative, to make sure we are involved in the right areas. The key word in Europe today is to build 'centers of excellence'—in universities, in industry—to match the United States. This is the European thinking. Europe must learn to work together."

An "addicted European," Mykletun is confident his fellow Norwegians will eventually choose full membership in the European Union, which he says is becoming larger and changing in character; it's not just an economic union, it's more and more a political union, and a union involved in social and human rights. We're living, I feel, in historical times."

Despite Norway's seeming isolation, he is proud of its long tradition of global commitments, from the missionaries of earlier times to Norway's involvement in the Mideast peace process and its generosity toward developing nations. Norway contributes more foreign aid per capita than any country except Holland and Canada. "If there's a crisis in the world, whether it's fighting in Kosovo or starvation in Africa, people give and the government gives." 

Sonia Noronha Mykletun '72: The Norwegian from Kenya has moved to Europe

BRUSSELS — Sonia Noronha Mykletun has spent a lifetime living within and adapting to different cultures. Of Goan origin, she was born in Kenya, was educated in Nairobi through high school and then joined her sister at Macalester. Since 1976, she has lived mostly in Norway.

Now, since moving to Brussels in 1999, this warm, outgoing woman is a thorough European, traveling to Madrid, Amsterdam, Leipzig and other major cities as a leader in European higher education. "I'm able to bridge cultures," Mykletun says. "I really see that as an asset—and also a challenge, because it's there constantly."

Her culture-bridging began as an international student at Macalester, where she met her husband, Jostein. An urban geographer who counts Macal-
I’m able to bridge cultures. I really see that as an asset—and also a challenge, because it’s there constantly.

Sonia Noronha

Mykletun

are a little introverted. I’m an extrovert. But I have learned to adapt.”

She also introduced U.S. students—including several from Macalester—to Scandinavian capitals during a decade as program director of the Scandinavian Urban Studies Term at the University of Oslo. In that program, a partnership with Hamline University’s HECUA (Higher Education Consortium for Urban Affairs), she borrowed a page from Lanegran and used Oslo’s main street as a basis for study just as he has assigned Macalester students to analyze Grand Avenue.

Last year, Sonia became secretary-general of UNICA, a network of 29 universities in the capitals of Europe. The 10-year-old organization seeks to strengthen communication and collaboration among universities in education, research and administration, taking advantage of their locations in capital cities. Headquartered in Brussels, UNICA has direct links to the European Commission and other European and international institutions located there.

The job gives her more than a little in common with her older sister, June Noronha ’70, who is president-elect of NAFSA: Association of International Educators. Both sisters play leadership roles in higher education—one in the U.S., the other in Europe—that require them to cross all sorts of cultural boundaries, just as both did living in Kenya and studying as “foreign” students at Macalester.

Sonia’s tasks are to represent UNICA member universities at the European Commission and lobby for them when necessary, to inform them about EC measures and programs, and to help provide feedback on educational programs launched by the Commission. She also works on student exchange and administrator exchange among UNICA members and is currently preparing a study on the impact of UNICA universities on the economies of their respective cities. “I am definitely using my urban geography background to highlight the city-university relationship,” she says.

“Just as Europe is drawing closer together in the European Union, the universities are drawing closer through UNICA,” Sonia says. “Education is one of the key instruments in creating European identity in a changing Europe. The trend today is globalization and UNICA is a central actor in this trend. I am proud to be a part of building bridges toward tomorrow’s Europe.”

June Noronha ’70:

Once a ‘foreign’ student herself, she is now an admired leader in international education

June Noronha travels so much that she has started counting the decreasing number of countries she hasn’t visited.

Whether she’s interviewing prospective students in Caracas or Cairo, she brings a rare degree of experience and empathy to her job as an international educator. The daughter of Indian immigrants to Africa, she herself became an immigrant to the U.S.

Her professional peers think highly enough of Noronha to elect her the next president of NAFSA: Association of International Educators,

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Her professional peers think highly enough of Noronha to elect her the next president of NAFSA: Association of International Educators,
the leading organization in the field of international educational exchange.

Associate dean for multicultural education at The College of St. Catherine, a Catholic women's college in St. Paul, Noronha has worked at St. Kate's since 1978 and has been active in NAFSA just as long. NAFSA, which promotes the exchange of students and scholars to and from the United States, has more than 8,600 members from all 50 states and 60 countries.

"June is one of the leaders in American international education that I most admire," says Stephen C. Dunnett, professor and vice provost for international education at the State University of New York at Buffalo. "She is especially well respected for her work in the international admissions area and has made many contributions to the professionalization of that area."

Noronha grew up in Nairobi, the daughter of teachers who had emigrated from India—her father from Portuguese-ruled Goa and her mother from British-ruled Bombay. In Kenya, where she and her siblings were taught English and Swahili but no Indian language because their parents wanted them to assimilate, they were considered Goans.

"A lot of identity has to do with what other people think of you," she says. "I became an Indian, and then an African-Asian-American, after I came to the States."

A 'safe and not radical' college
June was the first of three sisters to enroll at and graduate from Macalester. She was followed by Sonia, who now works in Brussels, and Fernanda, who is director of human resources for a symphony in Nairobi. June's father favored Macalester over the nine other U.S. colleges that had accepted her because he'd heard it was "safe and not radical." Arriving in 1967, she plunged right into exciting times, including the civil rights movement. Her father had told the administration that June must not leave the "confines" of Macalester. "There was a window on the first floor [of Turck Hall] where we would leave at night," she recalls. "If my father had only known."

History Professor Yahya Armajani, a native of Iran who was also a Presbyterian minister, became not only her academic adviser and mentor but, with his wife, Ruth, her host family. A devout Catholic, she was at first uncomfortable being around Presbyterians, but Armajani "gently teased me into tolerance," she said. Of her Macalester experience, she says, "I wouldn't exchange it for anything. It was a way to meet all kinds of people who were pushing the edges."

Noronha says the issues at a Catholic women's college are fundamentally the same as at Macalester or any other predominantly white institution. "In fact, because St. Kate's deals well with women's issues, there's a tendency to think we've dealt similarly with multiculturalism when we, too, have much work to do. In all my work, I've tried to keep internationalism and multiculturalism together—I don't see a separation. I see in both the issues of

'A lot of identity has to do with what other people think of you. I became an Indian after I came to the States.'

June Noronha

race and power and privilege [at all predominantly white campuses]."

Noronha led NAFSA's first task force on diversity, and when she is formally installed as president of NAFSA next year, she will be its first president from a small college. A "wonderful intercultural trainer," she is well known within NAFSA for the many workshops she has presented, "mostly related to intercultural understanding and how you communicate, as well as the whole topic of diversity," says Jeanne-Marie Duvall, managing director of higher education programs for the American Councils for International Education.

Duvall adds that within NAFSA, "there are many people who grew up abroad, whether they're Americans or not. It's a field that attracts a lot of what we call 'third culture' people. But even among those, June is an especially perceptive thinker on the issues of international education."

"My passion in international education," Noronha says, "has been to make sure there's access, and that international education deals with some of the issues of power—that we don't end up being a field where we only have people of privilege exchanging places. It has to be something different. And the kind of education we give our young people has to be education to live in this very complex world."
Erik Mykletun ’00: 
Multiculturalism begins at home, and home is all over the place

JUSt WEEKS AFTER he graduated from Macalester, Erik Mykletun ’00 landed a great job with an Internet start-up finance company—in beautiful Newport Beach, Calif., no less.

"I love my work, and love Southern California, and could not have asked for a better overall situation coming out of Macalester," said the business development and marketing manager of SaveDaily.com.

Indeed, what more could a native Norwegian want?

The future looks equally bright for Mykletun, who feels fortunate to have grown up in a multicultural Macalester family. Among those celebrating his graduation this past May were his father, Jostein Mykletun, and aunt, June Noronha—both also celebrating their 30th reunion at Macalester—as well as his mother, Sonia Noronha Mykletun ’72, and younger brothers, Einar, now a senior at Macalester, and Andrew, 15, who also has his eye on Macalester. The economics major expresses gratitude to the students and faculty of Macalester for their "tremendous support" during his college years.

For now, Erik plans to pursue a career in the U.S. He grew up primarily in Norway, although he also spent four years in France, a year in Kenya, and several months each in Spain, Egypt, London and Brussels, his parents' new home. He loves returning to Norway on visits but finds its culture "too homogeneous."

"Personally," he said in an e-mail, "the U.S. society is a better fit for me at this moment in time, due to the diverse culture and incredible opportunities in terms of career. My long-term goals are clear. I definitely see myself in an international organization and hope someday to use my lan-

‘The U.S. society is a better fit for me at this moment in time, due to the diverse culture and incredible opportunities in terms of career."

At his Macalester graduation last May, Erik Mykletun, right, prepares to give the traditional closing prayer for peace, in Norwegian. Five other students read the prayer in a language of their home countries—Chinese, Spanish, Swahili, Hindi and English.

MACALESTER TODAY

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THE News from Dunster

David Mason '46, who reported on Europe for the AP, enjoys retirement in an English village

by Jon Halvorsen

DUNSTER, ENGLAND — After a journalism career that took him to London, Paris and Moscow, David Mason is spending the end of his life as he began it—in a small town—though this medieval village in the west of England is half a century and a half a world from his Minnesota hometown.

"I'm a small-town boy," says the 78-year-old widower. "Big cities at the end of the day, since I'm no longer active as a journalist, are uninteresting, to say the least."

Growing up in Williams, Minn., pop. 300, Mason got a job setting type on the local newspaper when he was 13, then "more or less took over the paper because the editor was a drunk." He majored in history at Macalester, but his education was interrupted by military service as an Air Force cinematographer on 20 combat missions out of Italy. After the war, he joined the Associated Press in Minneapolis. He was posted to London on July 4, 1954.

By the time Mason retired in 1987, he had covered the Algerian rebellion, the return to power of Charles DeGaulle ("the only honest politician I ever ran into"), the Suez invasion, the independence of the Belgian Congo, the Cold War from Moscow and the Vietnam War. He became the AP's chief European correspondent. Macalester gave him an honorary degree.

His experiences did not leave him with a hopeful outlook for humankind. "The most remarkable thing, looking back on the parts of the world that I know and know of, is the number of permanent

"You end up judging countries by the number of people who are violently killed."

AP's chief European correspondent. Macalester gave him an honorary degree.

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Six Questions for the President

Grant Killoran '86, the new president of the Alumni Association, enjoyed debate, theater, the campus radio station—and the ‘incredible’ opportunities he found at Mac
The firm of Michael Best & Macalester

It sounds like another lawyer joke:

What do you call seven lawyers at the same Wisconsin law firm?

Answer: Macalester alumni.

Grant Killoran '86 was the first Mac alumnus to join the firm of Michael Best & Friedrich LLP in Milwaukee. He was followed by Paul Benson '87, Peter Richardson '88 and Ian Pitz '89. After debating together at Macalester, all four went on to law school and now work together in the firm's business litigation group.

The four were close friends at Mac. "Most of us lived together at one point or another," Killoran recalls. "We hung around together, playing a lot of pingpong in the basement of Dupre Hall. I even cast Ian and Peter in my senior theater department directing project—their only foray into acting."

Other alumni associated with the firm are Kenneth Port '83, who is also a law professor and specializes in intellectual property law, and Carrie Norbin '94, whose specialty is health care law. Alison Morris '86, a law student at Georgetown University, spent last summer at the firm as a summer associate.

Nelson Flynn, who works in the firm's Madison office, as does Pitz, actually predates all the Mac alumni at Michael Best. Although not an alumnus himself, he is a Macalester parent—his son, Mark, is now a junior.

Most of the group stays active in the Mac community. Killoran and Norbin are members of the Alumni Board, and Richardson, Pitz and Benson have hosted alumni events, including an annual Milwaukee Brewers tailgate party each summer.

Although the firm has five offices and about 250 attorneys, the group works together on a regular basis. Working in Madison, Pitz doesn't see his Mac friends daily.

But "it definitely is a treat to be able to work with people I have known for 15 years," he says. "I might not have even thought to apply at the firm if it were not for Grant and Paul and Peter telling me how great it is here." •

Michael Best & Friedrich LLP. By more than a coincidence, the firm has eight Macalester graduates in its ranks (see adjacent story).

Now in his fifth year on the Alumni Association's Board of Directors, Killoran became president of the Alumni Board this summer, succeeding Molly McGinnis Stine '87 of Chicago. He talked about Macalester in a recent interview:

How did you happen to choose Macalester?

"I followed high school friends from Wisconsin who were on the debate team at Macalester. The college held an institute for high school debaters to give them a head start on the coming season. In 1980, I went there, met Dr. [W. Scott] Nobles and loved the campus.

"Meeting Dr. Nobles was key— as was getting great reports from my friends who were already on campus. Even more important, Macalester's financial aid office was saintly to my mother. My father died when I was 5. My mother was a parochial elementary schoolteacher making about $8,000 a year. I went to Macalester the year that Social Security aid for college to students who had a lost a parent was cut off.

"I got a huge amount of financial aid from Macalester. There is no reason why I should have been able to attend that school—financially. It should have been impossible.

"Absolutely, I feel an obligation today to give back to Macalester. I have even considered making sure that I eventually repay all of the grants that were given to me by Macalester. It would only be fair."

How did you end up with three majors?

"My father was an English teacher at the high school where I went. He was also the basketball coach. I have been told by his students and athletes that he was rather an amazing man. And I was going to be an English teacher, to follow in his footsteps.

"But I got sidetracked into theater and speech, maybe because of Dr. Nobles' influence. He was the head of the combined Speech and Theater Department. He was also in charge of the 'Law and Society' or pre-law program. I was fortunate enough that a lot of the classes needed for the three majors overlapped. My oral interpretation course, which I needed for a theater major, was a supporting course in speech communication. I think I also had two minors, in English and philosophy, for the same reason: all the classes just worked."

How did debate and theater help you become a lawyer?

"Most folks who end up being trial lawyers were debaters at some point in their lives. And I did a

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At Macalester, I was challenged to try whatever I wanted to try."
Six Questions for the President continued from page 33

As you look back, what do you think was distinctive about Macalester?

“At Macalester, I was challenged to try whatever I wanted to try—to get exposed to things that I don’t think I could have at another college. Like theater, the college radio station and the debate team. Within three days of walking onto the campus as a freshman, I auditioned for and got a nice role in the campus play. That sort of opportunity—just to try to find your way—was incredible.”

This is your fifth year on the Alumni Board, which means you return to Mac three times a year for its weekend-long meetings. What do you tell alumni who don’t return to campus as often as you do?

“First of all, the campus itself is beautiful. When I walk across campus, I get transported straight back in time. For that reason alone—if only to feel young again—you should come back to campus periodically, at your favorite time of year, and walk around and see what’s going on.

“Service on the Alumni Board also lets me interact with students, both those who serve on the board and others. Macalester is doing a great job of bringing in enormously talented young people, who remind you of some of the people you went to school with. There really is a tradition at Macalester. The school has changed, but it’s still much the same. I just like to get back, to be involved. It’s fun.”

What’s on the Alumni Board’s agenda this academic year?

“There are a number of things upon which the Alumni Board will focus this year. We want to continue to work toward increasing the electronic technology available to alumni so they can interact with the college, each other and students, from a career-guidance viewpoint. For example, there are now permanent e-mail addresses for all graduating seniors, and the alumni portion of the Macalester Web site has been enhanced.

“Another new project that we’re excited about is the oral history project, which Linda [Katter] Trout [’69] is heading up. Alumni have wonderful stories to share about their time at Mac, like Esther Suzuki [’46], who sadly is gone, but was so loved. We’ve got her story about what it was like to attend Macalester as a Japanese American during World War II, after the rest of her family was sent to an internment camp. But there are so many more stories to capture.

“We also have organized the first-ever Macalester Alumni Month of Service Project [see www.macalester.edu/~alumni]. Alumni around the world will work with other Mac alumni in their area and undertake a charitable or civic volunteer project at some time during the month of April 2001.”
(Re)Visiting Vietnam: A Minnesotan returns to the birthplace that her family fled

by Quyen Tran Witthuhn '95

In a Mekong Delta town four hours west of Ho Chi Minh City, I stand in a simple classroom outfitted with long wooden tables, benches and a solitary fan that offers relief from the heavy night air. Some 25 Vietnamese teen-agers and adults stare solemnly at me.

Gathering a deep breath, I introduce myself to the class in English. They continue to stare. Then one student tentatively raises his hand and asks me to write my name on the chalkboard. I do so—Vietnamese style, last name first: Tran Thinh Quyen. With a flourish, I proudly add the Vietnamese tonal marks to my name. More seconds tick by. Finally, another student asks innocently, "Why do you have a Vietnamese name?"

I am stunned and bewildered. I want to laugh, because I am Vietnamese; I also want to cry—for the very same reason.

Exactly 25 years ago, my family and I fled South Vietnam when Saigon fell to the Viet Cong. I was 2 years old at the time, and bore no memories of my birthland. For as long as I can remember, though, I've thought, "One day I'll go back to Vietnam."

That day came last July. My younger sister, Uyen Thi, and I were part of a team of volunteers organized by Global Volunteers, where I work. Based in St. Paul, Global Volunteers is a nonprofit, nonsectarian organization that coordinates short-term service programs in 19 countries. We send teams only at the invitation of the local community, and volunteers work on human and economic development projects under the direction of local leaders.

These grassroots development strategies were what initially attracted me to Global Volunteers. To my astonishment, I later discovered that Global Volunteers' Vietnam program was based in the town of Cao Lanh, where my grandparents lived—very near Tran Chim, the village where I was born. When my time came to participate on a service program, there was no question which country I would choose.

I arrived in Vietnam ready to not only teach conversational English for three weeks, but to experience a country which I knew from my parents' stories, on which my identity was based, but of which my memories held nothing.

It was the quintessential refugee story: Vietnamese woman returns to birthplace after 25 years to connect with her roots. Unfortunately, as I stood in front of my class that first day, my efforts to seek out my "roots" were momentarily derailed because the locals couldn't even recognize me as a Vietnamese.

My students in Vietnam eventually got used to the fact I was indeed a full-blooded Vietnamese woman, and I got used to the disconcerting feeling that I was simultaneously at "home" but yet "away." The food tasted familiar, yet the air felt exotic. The storekeepers spoke to me in Vietnamese, yet they charged me the foreigner's price. I was in a boat pounded by fierce rain in the middle of the Mekong River, and what floated through my mind was the theme to "Gilligan's Island."

I also had experiences that were wholly foreign to me. I fell in love with the primary mode of transportation in Vietnam: the motor scooter. I learned to balance semi-gracefully on the backseat as one of my students navigated us through the humungous streets of Cao Lanh.

My visit to Vietnam made vivid the stories, both joyful and poignant, that my parents often recounted. But most importantly, it reinforced my faith in and awe of the human spirit. Like so many people all over the world, my mother and father gathered up a life violently changed by war and fled to another country bearing unspeakable grief and fear, but also a determination to survive. With four small children in tow and almost no knowledge of the English language, my parents—with the help of our wonderful sponsors in Minnesota—found jobs, got a house, raised six kids and sent them to college.

In contrast, I am ashamed to admit that after three weeks in Vietnam, I was homesick and ready to return to the comforts and familiarity of home and family in Minnesota. My parents never had that option.

On our last day in Cao Lanh, the Vietnamese teachers and students threw a magnificent going-away party for the Global Volunteers. For the celebration, the female volunteers on our team donned the ao dai—the traditional Vietnamese dress for women.

That final evening, with our long and delicate ao dai flowing in the breeze, my sister and I ambled down the dusky streets of Cao Lanh. With my conical leaf hat dangling from the tips of my fingers, I noted with contentment that I had never felt so fully Vietnamese in my life. •

Quyen and her husband, Jon Witthuhn '95, live in Minneapolis. Global Volunteers offers service programs in 19 countries at fees ranging from $450 to $2,395, plus airfare. For a catalog, call 1-800-487-1074, or check online: www.globalvolunteers.org. Quyen is also a project leader in the Alumni Month of Service—see page 41.
LETTERS

The Fall issue of Macalester Today published this photo on pages 12-13 but did not identify the six members of the Class of 2000 seated in the front row. We'll take this opportunity to rectify that omission. From left, they are Ayikai Quaye (Accra, Ghana), Collin Mothupi (Johannesburg, South Africa), Leda Cunningham (Guilford, Conn.), Britta Schoster (Madison, Wis.), Lucy Harris (Concord, Mass.) and Siri Eggebraten (Sioux Falls, S.D.).

LETTERS continued from inside front cover

bettering communication among students and throughout the Macalester community. He embraced the idea of broadcasting his public forums with student leaders and paved the way for a then carrier-current AM station to receive the help of campus maintenance workers to run new transmission lines so that all students could be assured of hearing the broadcasts.

I authored the documents for a John B. Davis feasibility study for an FM station and with the help of John B. Davis we brought this concept to fruition with the advent of FM broadcasting at Mac in the fall of 1977.

Two years ago, I bumped into John B. as he waited to board a flight from Phoenix to Minneapolis. There, over 20 years later, as he stood clutching his tennis racquet, he beamed when I reintroduced myself. We had a wonderful chat about anecdotes at Mac and the events and years that followed. His character was unchanged: profoundly generous, thoughtful, kind.

I thank him for the opportunity to work by his side while at Mac. Hats off to a great president!

Bruce Armstrong '79
Byron, Ill.

B&Bs

I enjoyed reading about the clever and resourceful alumni who set up their own bed and breakfasts [Fall issue]—what an array all over North America! My congratulations to them. I have checked out their Web sites and they do a good job on those, too.

Guess I will have to get out more to Alaska and Costa Rica!

Miles Clark '43
El Monte, Calif.

Clarification

A letter from an alumnus in the last issue urged Macalester not to give Minnesota Gov. Jesse Ventura an honorary degree.

The letter was in the nature of a "pre-emptive strike." In fact, Macalester has not considered giving the governor an honorary degree. —the Editors

Karl Sandberg

I was deeply saddened to hear of the death of Karl Sandberg [Fall Macalester Today].

Professor Sandberg was a wonderful teacher and a warm, funny human being. One of my favorite memories from my Mac days was the time he brought a toy dart gun to class to retaliate against me for one of my practical jokes.

His "Life of the Mind" seminar was a wonderful, eye-opening beginning to a liberal arts education.

He touched many lives, and he will be missed.

Laura Loomis '88
Pittsburg, Calif.

Mary Gwen Owen redux

EDITORS' NOTE: The retirement of Maggie Friedl Johnson '63 of Missoula, Mont., a high school drama teacher, made front-page news in Missoula (see 1963 class notes). The writer of this letter, who is retired from the Chicago State University faculty, taught her at Macalester 40 years ago and compares her to a legendary Macalester professor.

In many ways, Maggie Johnson was the Mary Gwen Owen of Montana. I now live in Chicago and whenever Maggie would bring her thespian members to town for a theater tour, I couldn't help but see the comparisons: her manner, her flair, her concern for her students. She was a joy to watch.

I directed Maggie in two productions, in 1960 and 1961, and she was enrolled in two of my classes. She always turned in fantastic performances.

Dr. Sherwood Snyder
Chicago
Winning

Macalester football players enjoyed playing with young patients at the Shriners Hospital for Children-Twin Cities, as they do every year. Pictured with 9-year-old Erika Cretens are (from left) Jack Dusatko '01 (Palmer, Neb.), Jesse Batty '04 (Cumberland, R.I.), Todd Murray '01 (Superior, Wis.), Dan Frey '02 (Northfield, Minn.), Brian Towns '02 (Fenton, Mo.) and Lee Dooley '01 (Tuttle, Okla.).