Macalester Today
Spring 2003

Tim O’Brien’s College Reunion

O’Brien
July, July
The Nuclear Age
In the Lake of the Woods
Things They Carried
Northern Lights
If I Die in a Combat Zone
Tomcat in Love
Anton’s Law

President Bush and Autumn Alexander Skeen ’78 look at a photo of her 4-year-old son, Anton, who was killed in a car crash in 1996. Skeen, her husband, Tom, and 14-year-old daughter, Geneva, were present when Bush signed Anton’s Law in the Oval Office on Dec. 4, 2002. See page 32.
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Tim O'Brien's College Reunion
For his new novel—about a reunion at a small college on Grand Avenue in St. Paul—Tim O'Brien "borrowed or stole the physical terrain of [Macalester]—the streets and chapel and things I knew. Macalester was very important to my life.... I wanted to pay a kind of homage to a place that meant so much to me."
Letters

Macalester Today
Spring 2003

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We reserve the right to edit letters for conciseness and clarity.

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Cover couple
Thank you for your Winter issue cover, depicting Janet Peterson Lee '69 and S. Mark Vaught '69.

It had long been my theory that Mr. Vaught and outgoing Macalester President Michael S. McPherson were one and the same—more specifically, that Mr. McPherson was merely Mr. Vaught, thinly disguised in what we used to refer to as “The Mayoral Beard”—so thank you, too, for finally confirming this. (Certainly, no one can believe it “coincidental” that Vaught suddenly has surfaced, now that President McPherson has announced his departure. This is the most obvious secret identity switcheroo since Clark Kent’s “Superman,” or perhaps Don Diego de la Vega’s even more transparent “Zorro” alter-ego.)

Thinking back to our student days, it is difficult to recall anyone sharper than Mr. Vaught or nicer than Ms. Peterson. One can easily recall how either could be seen parading down the corridors of Bigelow Hall (only one of them legally, of course), dressed merely in a bath towel and muttering about “that damned Tim O'Brien” (at least in Mark’s case).

But these are stories for another day.

In all sincerity, it did my heart good to see Jan and Mark’s smiling faces on your cover, to read their story—reinforcing my personal belief that “Love will out”—and to ponder the fact that if they had been in a “cutest couple” competition Back in The Day, they would’ve gone up against such obvious types as Keller and Zimmerman, Vraspir and Knight, Ackerman and West (and/or Ackerman and Ackerman, or West and West), and such longer-distance contenders as Margie and Ken Stoup, Diane and Rock Alison, or Georgia and Tommy Weisner, which couples have been together for more than 30 years. (And kudos to each of them, too.)

In any case, to these two too-cool-for-school alums, I offer a laurel and hearty handshake, a huge hug and Warmest Personal Regards: we can all learn a thing or two from their example. (And, if I know Mark at all, he will be more than happy to share the secret of their success with anyone, for a modest fee.)

John P. Katsantonis '70
1970 Class President
Chicago via e-mail

Deconstruction

“TAKING things apart and looking at the pieces”—this is the process of “deconstruction,” according to an article in the Winter Macalester Today ["Deconstructing" Macalester lingo: A dictionary of Macalester students’ favorite and often overused words].

I encounter this word frequently; often enough, with a far more sophisticated (or, perhaps, more convoluted) definition. Nevertheless, I always find myself wondering: After all, isn’t that what we old fogyes used to call “analysis”?

I’m reminded of the welter of obfuscation and jargon that NASA engineers employed before a congressional committee in an attempt to deflect responsibility for the Challenger disaster. Then another scientist (I forget his name) sat down at the witness table with a dish of ice cubes and an O-ring. Holding up the chilled ring, he explained that when the ring got cold, the material became brittle—hence the disaster. He demonstrated this by breaking the chilled O-ring into pieces with his hands.

Deconstruct all you like. But I’ll bet that a much wider audience will understand a plain-spoken analysis—even if the situation being analyzed is irreducibly complex. Who knows? If people understand an analysis—say, of their students’ favorite and often overused words”].

I encounter the word “deconstruction” frequently. Isn’t that what we old fogyes used to call “analysis”?

Margaret L. Day ’35

Can you name anyone whose love, respect and pride for “Dear Old Macalester” were more generously exhibited by word and action than Margaret Day? It would be difficult! She was a constant source of enthusiasm and competence, an exemplar unflinching in her commitment and service to Macalester’s highest standards.

Opinionated? Yes! She had a right to be, for her time on campus, first as a student, spanned much of the college’s history—indeed, she was an integral part of it. She was for me a generous and loyal colleague during my years in Old Main.

Margaret Day is unforgettable. Let her name be sung with praise in the years to come.

John B. Davis
Macalester President Emeritus
White Bear Lake, Minn.


Tim Gartman ’89

Family and friends of Tim Gartman gathered at Mac’s Weyerhaeuser Chapel in January to celebrate his spirit. Between hymns and prayers, loved ones shared memories of Tim. We laughed through tears as we recalled his knack for instantly befriending everyone he met, and his child-like appreciation for the smallest, most precious details of life.

Tim had died just days before from complications of Hodgkins Lymphoma at the age of 35. Though we should have seen it coming, his death was a heartbreaking shock. Tim staved off the cancer for seven and a half years. Bitter medicine and a weakening body didn’t break his spirit; until his last days, he was counting on getting better, getting on with his life.

So we were somehow surprised that he actually died.

As we continued reminiscing at a reception in the Janet Wallace Fine Arts Gallery afterward, it seemed impossible to make sense of a life cut so short. I wondered if Tim understood how much we loved him, how he had been such an inspiration to all those he knew.

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As we continued reminiscing at a reception in the Janet Wallace Fine Arts Gallery afterward, it seemed impossible to make sense of a life cut so short. I wondered if Tim understood how much we loved him, how he had been such an inspiration to all those he knew. I couldn’t help but search for wisdom in the painful unfairness of it, comfort myself by learning from the example of Tim’s life. So I made two vows. The first is to tell my friends and family how much I love them. Second, I vow to pursue my dreams more passionately, as I know Tim wished he could have.

Hall of Fame

When I was a senior at Minneapolis West High School in 1957, my teachers and coaches, Mac graduates Dick Blomgren ’49 and Dave Primrose ’48, encouraged me to attend Macalester. They brought two Macalester athletes to the high school to convince me Mac was the place to obtain my college education; they were correct.

Now I flash forward 45 years to Sept. 27, 2002, and the Hall of Fame induction at Macalester (page 12 of this issue). I had intended to have Mr. Blomgren present me at the induction but, for health reasons, he was unable to attend. However, after my presentation by John King ’54 and my speech, the next presenter—for Ted Van ’48—was my other high school coach, Dave Primrose.

Additionally I had a close high school connection with two other Hall of Fame inductees that night: Bob Hoisington ’50 was the coach at Minneapolis Central at that time and was a great influence on me. Wally Kress ’68 was a member of two track teams I helped coach in 1967–68 and became a lifelong friend. That was what was really important to me that night—being able to reconnect with people I admired and respected.

There are times in life when something happens to trigger retrospection and introspection. This was one of those times. I hadn’t realized how many Macalester people had affected my life.

I think back to April 1957 now and realize how Dick Blomgren and Dave Primrose influenced my life. The decision where to attend college was my first major one. It is also one of the best I ever made.

Dick LaBree ’62
Apple Valley, Minn.
via e-mail

Macalester Yesterday: continued

Since publishing this photo in the Winter issue, we've learned it appeared in the 1959 Mac yearbook. Pat Johnson Schumacher '62 of Minneapolis wrote: “I am somewhere in that picture. It was taken in 1958 or 1959 and was a challenge to a tug-of-war between all the students named Johnson and Olson (I think)." Marcia Lembcke '59 of Grants Pass, Ore., who is also in the picture (sixth from the right, in light coat), had a slightly different take. She said it was a "fake tug of war" and had already begun when some of the students arrived.

I had the great fortune of working with Tim at Lunalux, the letterpress-printing studio he founded in Minneapolis. He was not just my dear friend, but my teacher and mentor. I plan to keep the studio going, and continue the great work that he started. I invite all alumni, especially those who knew Tim, to visit Lunalux to remember his life and to find inspiration in his legacy.

Jenni Undis '96
Minneapolis
via e-mail

Spring 2003
Macalester feels budget squeeze

Decline in endowment and growth in financial aid combine to reduce spending

Like families and colleges across the country faced with an economic downturn and a weak stock market, Macalester is confronting a significant budget squeeze.

This month (March), the Board of Trustees will be asked to approve more than $2 million in revenue and expense adjustments in order to balance the 2003-04 budget of $81.8 million.

The adjustments do not involve faculty or staff salary reductions or layoffs (with the exception of the Scottish Country Fair—see page 5), and academic programs will be maintained. Several campus committees have been working on the budget problem for months with David Wheaton, vice president for administration and finance, and President Michael McPherson. The president wanted the budget, despite the changes, to maintain momentum for the college and build on Macalester's core values.

"No one likes budget cuts, but I think that we are making difficult choices, determined to emerge a bit leaner, but stronger than ever," McPherson said.

The budget process followed a long planning effort in which task forces recommended consideration of strategic initiatives that include incorporating Macalester's urban identity more fully into academic and campus life; strengthening the role of civic engagement as a key part of service; realigning curricular and academic organization in keeping with the college's educational goals; communicating the college's distinctive strengths more effectively and using resources strategically.

Wheaton explained that the college's total revenues are not shrinking; they are just growing more slowly than in the past. This simply means that the costs of running the college must grow at a slower pace as well. In recent years, revenues have been growing at more than 5 percent each year, and expenses have grown at a similar rate. The college is projecting a revenue increase of only about 2 percent for each of the next several years, while expenses are subject to more rapid increases.

The budget pressure is the result of two main factors, Wheaton said. The first is the decline in spending from Macalester's endowment as the financial markets entered their fourth straight year of decline.

The college's endowment dropped to $443 million in the year that ended June 30, 2002—down 11 percent from the previous year and 21 percent from its all-time high of $564 million on June 30, 2000. The college spends 5 percent of the value of the endowment (based on a 16-quarter moving average) for its annual operating budget. The endowment income supplies about 43 percent of that budget. With the value of the endowment decreasing, less money is available.

The second factor is that because of the economy, many students' families find themselves in greater need of financial aid. One way to look at this is that it increases expenses. Another way—the accountants' way—is that it reduces the amount of tuition revenue available to pay the bills. Take the total tuition dollars collected in a given year and subtract the total financial aid awarded, and you have the net tuition revenue. With Macalester's financial aid expenditures rising faster than tuition, the growth of net tuition revenue is also slowing dramatically.

"This combination of factors leaves the college with a slowly growing revenue stream," Wheaton explained. "The challenge comes from the fact that two-thirds of the college's costs are related to people—salaries..."
Revenue sources, 2002–03

2002–03 revenues come from three sources:
- 51 percent from tuition and fees;
- 43 percent from the endowment;
- 6 percent from gifts and other sources.

and benefits—which tend to grow at 4 to 6 percent per year. This leaves only a couple of choices: change the spending pattern on all other expenses (the other one-third), which probably means a noticeable reduction, or reduce the growth in the personnel costs. Or a combination of both.”

Major assumptions and changes in the budget include:

- The comprehensive fee (tuition, room and board, and fees) will increase 5.5 percent to $31,953. (Tuition and fees account for more than half the college’s revenue.)
- A full-time student body of 1,775, slightly higher than in recent years.
- Tighter management of the financial aid budget (which is projected at $20.1 million next year or 25 percent of the budget) by initiating a loan program for international students and closely reviewing all components of aid for domestic students. The college’s policies of need-blind admissions (admitting students without regard to their ability to pay) and meeting full financial need are not affected by these recommendations.

- Fewer new international students next year, although the total number of international students will continue to be well above the number during most years in Macalester’s history. That will reduce the financial aid expenditures while maintaining a strong international presence on campus.

- Staff and faculty salary increases of 3.5 percent, down from the 4 percent originally projected, but still at a level to retain competitive balance with peer colleges and local labor markets.

Scottish Fair ends

The Scottish Country Fair at Macalester on May 3 will be the 31st and—in all probability—the last.

Because of the budget squeeze, the trustees are expected to approve a measure eliminating funding for the fair. It will mean the loss of one staff position—the fair's full-time manager, Maria Baker.

Doug Stone, director of college relations, said that given the current budget crunch, the college could not continue its annual fair subsidy of up to $50,000 a year. "We hate to drop the fair—it's like a loss in the family—but given the demands to trim budgets while maintaining our core academic and related activities, we had little choice," Stone said.

Music Professor Carleton Macy, a drummer in the Pipe Band, said he is alarmed by what he sees as the dwindling value placed on Macalester traditions by the college administration. "This college has long had conversations about the importance of tradition, but soon we're not going to have much of anything left," Macy told the Mac Weekly.

"I understand we're having some tough times financially, but I think Macalester really needs to bite the bullet on this one." Lisa Bramlet, an associate director of admissions, said a handful of applications every year list the Scottish Country Fair and other activities related to Macalester's Scottish heritage as a reason for applying.

Laurie Hamre, vice president for student affairs, told the Weekly: "Losing the fair won't change the fact that Macalester is deeply rooted in Scottish tradition. It's not going to take away our proud heritage or our unique character as a college. Whether you like it or not, you're still going to wake up to the sound of bagpipes coming through your window on spring mornings."

McPherson noted that despite the drop in income from the endowment and the greater demand for financial aid as the result of the economy, contributions to the Annual Fund from alumni and friends continue to increase. This year's goal of $2 million (up from $1.7 million raised last year) is within reach, he said.

—Doug Stone

Presidential search

Macalester's Presidential Search Committee is far along on its job of finding the college's 16th president. An announcement could come in May or June and will be posted on the college's Web site: www.macalester.edu.

Michael S. McPherson announced last fall that he is stepping down at the end of the current academic year, after seven years as president, to become president of the Chicago-based Spencer Foundation.

Ammons departs

Richard A. Ammons, vice president for advancement, is leaving Macalester at the end of the academic year in May. He has been at Macalester for eight years and oversaw the $55.5 million "Touch the Future" fundraising campaign, the most successful in the college's history.

"Richard has done a great job at Macalester," President McPherson said. "He has great ideas and a lot of energy and works extremely well with others. I really have enjoyed working with him and he has served the college well."

Ammons said he would miss the college and his colleagues. "My experiences at Macalester have been terrific. This is a strong community with strong traditions and values. Together, we have accomplished a great deal. I can't thank the members of the community enough for all their support and friendship over the years."

Ammons is exploring a number of options in the non-profit and education fields. He said with McPherson leaving at the end of the year, it was an "appropriate" time to announce his departure so the new president can appoint a successor.
The not-so-impossible dream

Mac students and recent grads are helping low-income students get into college

KRISTA SCOTT '03 and Emre Edev '02 have a mission: admission.

Scott and Edev, along with eight other Mac students and recent alumni, work at Admission Possible, an organization that helps low-income high school students in the Twin Cities get into college.

Edev (originally from Timonium, Md.) and Scott (Phoenix, Ariz.) are employed through AmeriCorps, along with Deanna Ferree '04 (Nevada, Mo.), Megan Sheehan '05 (Lexington, Mass.), Rebecca Hossain '06 (St. Nom La Breteche, France), Eileen Searle '06 (New Britain, Conn.) and Kao Thao '02 (Woodbury, Minn.).

The students I work with are so inspiring. They really push themselves harder than I ever did.

Each Admission Possible coach works with the same group of high school students during their junior and senior years of high school. The first year, Edev, Scott and the other coaches lead ACT prep courses. The following year, Admission Possible helps the students fill out applications, write admission essays and apply for financial aid. The organization also conducts college visits during both years.

Top 10 questions asked of a Macalester tour guide

by Jonathan Beland '02

1. How is Mac different from Carleton?
My best friend from high school went to Carleton and so we visited each other and compared notes quite a bit. In terms of quality of academics and general talent pool of students, the schools are very similar. The differences mostly lie in location, the diversity of the student body and the general attitude towards schoolwork. At Carleton people seemed to be much more intense and focused during the week and tended to let loose during the weekend, whereas at Mac people seem to mix their leisure and school time more evenly.

2. What is the workload like?
The workload is challenging, and there's always more homework to do. But most Macalester students balance their workload with volunteer work, internships, sports or participation in student groups.

3. Is it easy to double-major?
Definitely, it just takes a certain amount of planning. Sometimes it seems like everyone has at least one extra minor or major under her belt.

4. What's it like being an athlete?
Being a varsity athlete at Mac can be very demanding. During any particular season, athletes here are kept very busy getting their schoolwork done as well as attending long practice sessions.

5. What are the most popular majors?
The approximate top six are: economics, biology, psychology, English, political science and history. Of course that varies from year to year but those departments have been near the top in recent years.

6. What is the housing requirement?
Students are required to live on campus their first two years and are reserved space. Juniors and older may live off-campus but about 50–60 percent stay on campus. Whether you choose to live on or off campus as an upper-class student, you won't be alone.

7. Do you have to be a major to be in shows, music ensembles, art classes, etc?
Nope. All music ensembles, dance concerts, drama productions and art classes are open to all students regardless of major.

8. What is the political climate?
Macalester is definitely a left-leaning school and the majority of students here could be described as politically liberal. However, there are students of all political orientations here and there is never a dearth of good debate.

9. What is the religious affiliation at Macalester?
Macalester was originally founded as a Presbyterian school, but that has since faded into the background.

10. Is it easy to get help from profs?
Definitely. Professors come to teach at a school like Macalester because they know that they will be expected to work closely with students and to provide one-on-one support. All professors typically have posted office hours when students know they will be available to answer questions.
April–May events
For a complete list, go to www.macalester.edu and click on Arts & Events Calendar. Or call the Campus Events Line: 651-696-6900.

"A Precious Legacy: The Ten Commandments in Ten Versions," exhibit on display through May, Ruth Stricker Dayton Campus Center. 651-696-6888
April 12–13: Festival Chorale, works by Brazilian composers, Janet Wallace Concert Hall
April 24–May 3: "Guys and Dolls," Dramatic Arts Department
April 25: Student Choirs Concert, Janet Wallace Concert Hall
May 3: Scottish Country Fair (651-696-6239)
May 16–18: Reunion (651-696-6203) and Commencement (1:30 p.m. May 18)
Dramatic Arts & Dance: 651-696-6359
Macalester Gallery: 651-696-6416
Music performances: 651-696-6382
Athletic events: 651-696-6267

Executive Director Jim McCorkell said that Macalester has been consistently supportive of Admission Possible. Macalester hosted the organization's 2002 orientation program and also hosts campus visits. President McPherson has been particularly supportive of the program, and Admission Possible has used his academic research to support its work. In addition, the five students paid through Macalester student employment funds work at no cost to the organization.

"Macalester has gone out of its way to be generous and supportive of our mission," McCorkell said. "The off-campus work-study program is the biggest help in the world to a small non-profit like us."

—Hannah Clark '02

Macalester Home Companion
ROB SPURLOCK '06 (Portland, Ore.) and Garrison Keillor both host radio shows—Spurlock on the campus radio station WMCN (91.7 FM) and Keillor on National Public Radio.

The two had the chance to compare notes last fall during a "Prairie Home Companion" show in St. Paul. Part of their nationally broadcast conversation went like this:

Keillor: So you do a show called what?
Spurlock: It's called "Return of the Dead."
Keillor: It's Friday mornings at 8 a.m.
Spurlock: They gave me the bad time slot.
Keillor: Yes, I know. A lot of us start out in radio in the early morning because that's when other people don't care to be there.

A great opening. What's the "Return of the Dead"?

Spurlock: It's two hours of live Grateful Dead, uncut shows.
Keillor: I see. Uncut. Live but—?
Spurlock: They're recorded live.
Keillor: Yeah, right. Unless you know something we don't.

Spurlock: Well, that's the "return." See, they came back for Macalester.

Keillor: 8 a.m. on Saturday?
Spurlock: Friday.
Keillor: Oh—
Spurlock: Friday. Well, that's different of course.
Keillor: Yes, of course.

Spurlock: I was on the air today, though, playing some bluegrass—some Stuart Duncan and Jerry Douglas.

Keillor: Good for you. Jerry and Stuart appreciate being put in there with the Grateful Dead. It's new stuff for them and they're both touched. Thank you so much.
Spurlock: Thanks a lot.
Keillor: Thank you, Mr. Macalester.

Edev said that his biggest responsibility, however, is cheerleading.

"A lot of students just don't think they can go to college, or they don't think they can get into a four-year school," he said. "We let them know that we believe in them."

Scott said that her students are starting so far behind, it takes an extraordinary amount of work to catch up. "The public education system in this country is really in crisis," she said. "It's not the fault of individual teachers, it's just the fact that there is a tracking system for people of color and women. A lot of these students are just not as prepared as they should be for college. ... I'm working with six really fantastic students from Central High School who want to go to college so badly, and they would have no clue how to get there without me."

Edev agreed. "The students I work with are so inspiring. They try so hard, they really push themselves harder than I ever did."

The first group of students to complete the program graduated from high school in 2002. Out of 35 seniors, 80 percent were accepted at one of their top two college choices.

Executive Director Jim McCorkell said that Macalester has been consistently supportive of Admission Possible. Macalester...
The O'Reilly Factor in My Life

A Puerto Rican alumnus pays tribute to the compañero who brought him to Mac

by Juan A. Figueroa '77

I must express gratitude for the O'Reilly Factor. I have been influenced by its wisdom. It has nurtured me along during troubled times. It has inspired me to fight those people who, you know, simply don't get it. I am a devoted O'Reilly fan, loyal servant and proud mentee.

If you think I am referring to Bill O'Reilly of the Fox News Channel, you think wrong. That cantankerous, acid-tongued conservative is hardly my mentor.

I am referring to Michael O'Reilly, my college recruiter, counselor and (yes) mentor. In case you wondered, Michael O'Reilly is Puerto Rican. (Not all of us are named Rodriguez, Rivera or Gonzalez.) Michael O'Reilly has recruited, mentored and counseled scores of Puerto Ricans for Macalester College.

I was in the very first group (three of us) he recruited from the island of Puerto Rico in 1973. Michael's work was part of early efforts at affirmative action in higher education. Under the inspired and visionary leadership of then-Macalester President Arthur J. Flemming (former chairman of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights), the college created the Expanded Educational Opportunities program to attract students of color.

Michael O'Reilly and Macalester knew something back then that we all know now—a college education equals a better job. A college education today is more important than ever, and those who don't go to college will lag far behind. Indeed, the Educational Testing Service reports that almost 6 out of 10 jobs today require college-level skills.

Over the last 20 years, the representation of Hispanics in higher education has grown substantially. According to the Census Bureau, Hispanics now represent 15 percent (4.1 million) of the total traditional college-age population (18- to 24-year-olds). The National Center for Education Statistics tells us that in 1997 Hispanic students represented about 9 percent of the total college-level enrollment (1.2 million)—up from 4 percent (383,800) in 1976. Yet, even with this rate of growth, the share of 18- to 24-year-old Hispanic undergraduates in 2015...
Latino alumni gathered at Macalester last November to pay tribute to Michael O'Reilly, a native of Puerto Rico who recruited scores of Latino students to Macalester during the EEO (Expanded Educational Opportunities) program that began in the late 1960s.

will still be smaller than the overall 18- to 24-year-old U.S. Hispanic population (projected by the census to be 22 percent of the U.S. total by 2020). This isn't good news for Latino families or for the economy.

The tax-revenue implications of a higher participation rate by Latinos in higher education are striking. Hispanics earning a bachelor's degree have been projected by one study to pay at least twice as much in taxes in their lifetimes as those with a high school diploma—and those with professional credentials pay more than three times as much in taxes as those with a bachelor's degree. If the 1995 higher-education participation rate of Latinos had equaled that of blacks (15 percent), it would have produced $1 billion in federal taxes with $600 million in Social Security and Medicare payments. If it had equaled that of whites (30 percent), federal taxes paid would have been $15 billion and Social Security/Medicare $6.6 billion.

The policy implications of this picture should be abundantly clear, but on the ground, it's people like Mike O'Reilly who make a difference. His intellect, warm personality and total commitment to his students made it possible for all of us to adjust to a different environment (and trust me, Minnesota winters are very cold). The transition from Puerto Rico, the Bronx, Philadelphia, Chicago and New York meant more than getting used to the weather. O'Reilly provided the tools for us to adapt and eventually to succeed.

I attended a luncheon at Macalester honoring Michael, which brought together an impressive group of Latino judges, doctors, lawyers, business people, educators and elected officials, among others. His dedication has paid off. Macalester's investment in him and in us has yielded high dividends.

To attract, retain and integrate students of color in colleges and universities, a good place to start is to hire the likes of Michael O'Reilly. Bendicion, Mike.

Juan A. Figueroa '77, president and general counsel of the Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund in New York City, wrote this article for the Hartford Courant.

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**Syllabus**

*One of a series of glimpses into Macalester's curriculum*

**Course:** Dinosaurs

**Instructors:** Ray Rogers, associate professor and chair of Geology Department, and Kristi Curry Rogers, visiting assistant professor

**Course description:** Dinosaurs dominated Earth's landscapes for nearly 200 million years, and then they vanished in one of the "big-five" mass extinctions in the history of life. This course explores the evolution of dinosaurs and examines their biology and behavior. Students are introduced to the various groups of dinosaurs as they study the reason(s) behind their dramatic diversification and ecological success, and the theories that pertain to their abrupt disappearance 65 million years ago. The class includes a field trip to the dinosaur hall at the Science Museum of Minnesota.

**Reading list:**

- "Breathing life into Tyrannosaurus rex," G.M. Erickson, *Scientific American*, September 1999
America meets The Other

Journalists from the World Press Institute ponder the exotic United States

After traveling throughout the U.S. for several months, the nine World Press Institute Fellows of 2002 offered their observations of America in a public forum at Macalester last fall. A few excerpts:

Community and democracy

Dini Djalal, correspondent, Far Eastern Economic Review, Jakarta, Indonesia

When I arrived in Minneapolis it was a beautiful summer day and we went driving around and I thought, Where are all the people? We found like three people on the street... I miss the company that I find in my country, and specifically the sense of community... I see people here, they live in their cars or they live in the mall, they drive their cars to the malls. And I don't see people on the street.

On a national level I see this [lack of community] in the poor voter turnout in the U.S.... I come from a country where we had our first free election in 1999 and voter turnout was about 90 percent. To us the vote is very precious because we didn't have it for so long. We're not very good at democracy but we're always discussing it and we're always struggling to improve it. I see in America people take democracy for granted. I'm a firm believer that you have to exercise democracy in order to keep it alive and healthy. People complain that "Oh, it's so boring" and they just flip the channel when politics come on TV, but you can't be entertained all the time, not if you want to keep what you have.

America is now at a point in history where it has a real say in the lives of people like me thousands of miles away. I don't have a say in your lives. So when I see people disinterested by the news or by politicians, I get upset. The community that America lives in is the world community and the world needs a more aware America.

Brothers from India and Pakistan

Javed Ansari, senior assistant editor, The Hindu, New Delhi, India

One of the most pleasant surprises coming to America has been that I have discovered that Indians and Pakistanis actually live in peace and live together. I first got a glimpse of it on campus at Macalester and subsequently in my travels I had a very good experience.

Most of the cabbies in New York are from the subcontinent. And that explains why they honk so much. It's a national pastime. In New York we traveled by cab. One night I was coming back around 11:30 and I was scared because it was my first time in New York and we'd heard so much about it. The cab driver put me at ease. He dropped me and the fare was $16. He said, "I won't take money." I said, "Why?" He said, "You're from India and I'm from Pakistan, we are brothers." In Chicago, a woman gave me two bottles of water and refused to take money because she was from Pakistan and I was from India.

White and black and confused

Rozane Monteiro, local news editor, Jornal O Dia, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

It surprised me in this country, all over the country, how much the Hispanic culture is so present. It's amazing. If you're in California or Florida it makes sense—it's close, it's warm. But here, up in the north—I danced Tango here.... Even the food all over the country, no matter where you are, no matter what kind of restaurant you are in, there's always a salsa or fajita or something like that. This country is changing.

This country started with immigrants. That's the point. And this is something that shocked me sometimes—all this conversation about African American, Irish American, Italian American or something like that, trying to divide this nation. But if the parents came from a foreign country, the kid who was born 10 years ago is American, not Irish American. He was born here. It sounds to me like this will always be a divided country.

We have 190 million people in Brazil, and according to the statistics, 54 percent are white. In my country, I'm white. Here I'm half, half, half, half of a lot of things. In my country I am white—that's why the number of white people is so high. And it made me think. If the idea of the word "white" is so different from one country to another, it doesn't make any sense. I'm white in one country, I'm black in another—forget about it, just forget about it. It doesn't work. You are American, I'm Brazilian and that's it.

Arrogant, not arrogant

Olabode Opeseitan, Internet editor, Nigerian Tribune, Ibadan

There are so many positive things that I liked. I was stunned by [my host family's] openness, their love, their generosity, and it has changed a lot of my preconceptions about the United States of America. I used to think Americans were arrogant people who do not care a damn about what is happening elsewhere in the world, but I have discovered that Americans are very, very friendly.

I am not going to note what happened to us in New York, because after all, out of the 12 disciples of Jesus Christ you have one Judas, too.
Winter sports

Women's swimming & diving

The women's swimming and diving team put together its best season in school history. The Scots were 6-2 in dual meets and finished fourth out of 10 teams in the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference championship—both all-time bests. Bob Pearson was named MIAC Women's Coach of the Year for the second year in a row.

Liz Fitzgerald '04 (Plymouth, Mich.) emerged as one of the MIAC's best divers, on both the one-meter and three-meter boards, while sisters Lisa Lendway '03 and Heather Lendway '06 (St. Paul) had great seasons in a wide variety of events. Fitzgerald earned All-MIAC honors by placing third in the three-meter diving competition. She added a fifth-place finish on the one-meter board.

Men's swimming & diving

Joe Hanes '03 (Neenah, Wis.) enjoyed one of the best seasons ever by a Macalester swimmer. Hanes went undefeated in the team's six dual meets in every event he swam in, and also earned championships in invitationalals hosted by Lawrence, St. John's, Macalester and St. Catherine. Hanes, a top-notch distance freestyler, also excelled in the butterfly, breaststroke and individual medley events. The Macalester men took sixth out of eight teams in the MIAC championships. Hanes picked up two more All-Conference certificates by placing second in the 400-yard individual medley and third in the 500-yard freestyle.

Men's basketball

The scrappy men's basketball team was 6-4 midway through the season in the tough MIAC but lost several close games—including one in overtime at Carleton and another with 3 seconds to go against St. Olaf—to finish 7-13 in the MIAC (9-16 overall).

The Scots were led by All-Conference forward Ben Van Thorre '04 (Minneapolis), who finished third in the conference in scoring (18.6 points per game) and first in rebounding (8.1), and point guard Erik Jackson '05 (Evergreen, Colo.), who was 14th in scoring (13.6) and fifth in assists (3.7). Patrick Russell '03 (Wayzata, Minn.), one of the MIAC's top three-point shooters, concluded his superb career by becoming Macalester's all-time scoring leader with 1,540 points. He surpassed the old mark of 1,529 set by Gerald Dreier '57, who was on hand during the next-to-last game of the season, against Hamline, to witness the moment and congratulate him.

Women's basketball

Afton Hanson '04 (Karlstad, Minn.) became the first player in the history of Macalester women's basketball to lead the MIAC in scoring, finishing with an 18.5 average. A repeat selection to the All-Conference team, Hanson became just the second Mac player ever to reach the 1,000-point career scoring mark in her junior season. With just eight players available, depth was a problem all winter for the Scots, who finished 2-20 in the MIAC (2-23 overall). However, the team played much better over the second half of the season and in February nearly defeated two of the nation's Top 10 teams in Carleton and Gustavus. Macalester also gained a rare win over St. Thomas. Emily Koller '03 (Greybull, Wyo.) and Sarah Hesch '03 (Rabat, Morocco) were two of the MIAC's top rebounders again this season.

Nordic skiing

Macalester concluded the Nordic skiing season with the men and women each taking fourth at the MIAC championships.
both moving up one spot from a year ago. Emily Stafford '06 (Burnsville, Minn.) was one of the top newcomers in the conference and led the way for the women by placing sixth at the championships in the 5k freestyle and eighth in the 10k classical. Renee Schaefer '04 (Waukesha, Wis.) also had a strong season. The men were led by Tim Lewandowski '04 (Minnetonka, Minn.), a four-year standout for the Scots.

—Andy Johnson, sports information director

Hall of Fame
Macalester inducted four new members into the M Club Athletic Hall of Fame last fall:

Robert Hoisington '50 helped lead Macalester's track and field teams to two MIAC championships in the post-World War II years as one of the top half-milers in the league under Coach David Primrose. He went on to a distinguished teaching and track coaching career at both Central and Southwest high schools in Minneapolis. He was named Minnesota Track & Field Coach of the Year five times and Minneapolis City Coach of the Year seven times. He remains one of the area's top starters and track and field meet referees and worked both national championships held at Macalester over the past five years. He is a member of the Minnesota State High School League Hall of Fame and the Minnesota Track Coaches Hall of Fame.

Walter Kress '68 arrived on campus in 1943 and following his freshman year was drafted into World War II, where he served in the 10th Mountain Division Infantry. Returning to Macalester after Army service in 1946, he became a standout member of the swimming and track & field teams and was the track team captain as a senior. He won the conference high jump championship twice and also placed high at the conference meets in the long jump. He was a letter-winner in swimming as a junior and senior and placed both years at the MIAC meet in the backstroke. Retiring at age 70 as the president of the Van Paper Co., he has since climbed 10 of Colorado's 14,000-foot peaks. He is also an active skier, skater, hiker, swimmer, canoer and bicyclist.

Richard LaBree '62 was one of the greatest distance runners ever to compete in the MIAC. He led both the cross country and track teams to three conference championships, while winning individual conference championships in cross country and in the two-mile race in track. After assisting Coach Doug Bolstoff with the cross country and track & field teams in the late '60s, he earned master's degrees in English and psychology. He was the successful and longtime cross country and track coach at nearby Rosemount High School. See Letters, page 3.

Ted Van '48 arrived on campus in 1943 and following his freshman year was drafted into World War II, where he served in the 10th Mountain Division Infantry. Returning to Macalester after Army service in 1946, he became a standout member of the swimming and track & field teams and was the track team captain as a senior. He won the conference high jump championship twice and also placed high at the conference meets in the long jump. He was a letter-winner in swimming as a junior and senior and placed both years at the MIAC meet in the backstroke.

Ted Van '48

Afton Hanson '04 became the first player in the history of Macalester women's basketball to lead the MIAC in scoring.

Soccer All-Americans
Goalkeeper Lisa Bauer '04 (Woodbury, Minn.) from the Macalester women's team and Nathan Knox '04 (Christchurch, New Zealand) from the men's team earned Division III All-America soccer honors.

Bauer is a repeat All-America selection. She posted a 0.37 goals-against average, the fifth lowest in the nation, while leading Macalester to an 11-2-5 overall record.

Knox, a two-time All-Conference midfielder, led the men to a 15-5-1 record and fifth MIAC title in six years. He helped the Scots advance to the NCAA Division III quarterfinal round. Knox scored six goals and assisted on six others.
Randall Jarrell; early Paris; financial planning

Randall Jarrell and His Age

Randall Jarrell (1914–1965) was the most influential poetry critic of his generation; he was also a lyric poet, comic novelist, children's book author and close friend of Elizabeth Bishop, Hannah Arendt and many other important writers. Stephen Burt examines all of Jarrell's work, incorporating new research such as previously undiscovered essays and poems.

Burt, a poet and assistant professor of English at Macalester, argues that Jarrell's poetry responded to the political questions of the 1930s, the anxieties and social constraints of wartime America, and the apparent prosperity, domestic ideals and professional ideology that characterized the 1950s.

Randall Jarrell and His Age situates the poet-critic among his peers, including Bishop and Arendt, in literature and cultural criticism. Burt considers the ways in which Jarrell's efforts and achievements encompassed the concerns of his time, from teen culture to the Cuban Missile Crisis, and he suggests what these concerns might say to our own.


Joseph Conrad and Psychological Medicine
by Martin Bock '73 (Texas Tech University Press, 2002. 288 pages, $34.95 cloth)

Joseph Conrad's life and fiction are often read through the lens of Freudian thought, though Conrad understood his own health from a pre-Freudian perspective. Martin Bock's study recovers that perspective, seeking to change our understanding of Conrad's life, and rethinks the dominant themes of his work in light of pre-Freudian medical psychology.

Beginning with a social history of late 19th century medical psychology and hysteria studies, Bock presents a synopsis of fin-de-siecle theories of nervous disorder and moral insanity, shows how Conrad's doctors were trained in medical theories that privileged the physiological over the psychological, and describes what Conrad endured during his water cures at Champel-les-Bains and in an English culture that viewed nervous disease—particularly his diagnosed neurasthenia—as a feminine disorder.

Joseph Conrad and Psychological Medicine reads Conrad's fiction medically. Bock also suggests that Conrad's major breakdown of 1910 was an epiphany, an event Conrad feared for decades but that afterwards allowed him to shift the interests of his fiction.

Bock heads the Department of English at the University of Minnesota, Duluth. He has been writing about Conrad for 15 years and is the author of Crossing the Shadow-Line: The Literature of Estrangement.

National Bolshevism:
by David Brandenberger '92 (Harvard University Press, 2002. 400 pages, $49.95 cloth)

During the 1930s, Stalin and his entourage rehabilitated famous names from the Russian national past in a propaganda campaign designed to mobilize Soviet society for the coming war. Legendary heroes like Aleksandr Nevskii and epic events like the Battle of Borodino eclipsed more conventional Communist slogans revolving around class struggle and proletarian internationalism. In this study, David Brandenberger traces this populist "national Bolshevism" into the 1950s, highlighting the catalytic effect that it had on the formation of Russian national identity.

Beginning with national Bolshevism's origins within Stalin's inner circle, Brandenberger examines its projection into Soviet society through education and mass culture—from textbooks and belles-lettres literature to theater, opera, film and the arts. He also looks at the popular reception of this propaganda, uncovering glimpses of Stalin-era public opinion in letters, diaries, and secret police reports. He argues that Stalinist ideology was actually more Russian nationalist than it was proletarian internationalist. National Bolshevism seeks to explain not only why this...
Genre of populism survived Stalin's death in 1953, but why it continues to resonate among Russians today.

Brandenberger is an assistant professor at the University of Richmond.


This collection of essays focuses on contemporary activism by mainline Protestants, who avoid the controversial tactics of the religious right but remain quietly influential in American public life. The contributors delve into how the mainline, from 1970 to the present, has addressed the most pressing social and political issues, including welfare, ecology, civil rights, abortion, gay rights and changes in the American family.

John H. Evans is an assistant professor of sociology at the University of California, San Diego, and the author of Playing God? Human Genetic Engineering and the Rationalization of Public Bioethical Debate.

Beyond Their Years: Stories of Sixteen Civil War Children by Scotti Cohn ’72 (Globe Pequot Press/Two Dot, 2002, 176 pages, $11.95 paperback)

These behind-the-scenes stories tell what it was like for children during the Civil War. The young heroes include Ransom Powell, a 13-year-old drummer boy who survived grueling Confederate prison camps; writer and patriot Maggie Campbell, only 8 when the war ended; Ulysses S. Grant’s son Jesse, who rode alongside Abraham Lincoln’s son Tad; and Ella Sheppard, daughter of a slave mother and a freed father, who lived through the backdrop of slave rebellions. Each of the young survivors displayed courage, devotion and wisdom beyond their years.

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. We also welcome book jackets that we can reproduce.

The address, e-mail, fax and phone numbers for Mac Today are on page 2.

Scotti Kelley Cohn is a freelance writer and editor who lives in Bloomington, Ill. Her current projects include a nonfiction book about children of the American Revolution and a fantasy novel for young adults.


This completely updated sixth edition reflects the authors’ goal of remaining on the cutting edge of financial planning topics, concepts and strategies. The “Tools” section includes 33 chapters on investment vehicles ranging from annuities to zero-coupon bonds. Each chapter explains what the vehicle is, when its use is indicated, its advantages and disadvantages, its tax implications, where and how to get it, how to select the best of its type, where to find out more about it, and its alternatives or substitutes. The “Techniques” section includes 17 comprehensive chapters on financial planning concepts and strategies.

Robert J. Doyle Jr., a chartered financial consultant, has written or co-written 13 books and published nearly 100 articles on financial planning, investment and retirement topics. He is associated with Surgent & Associates, Devon, Pa., a leading purveyor of tax- and financial-planning-related continuing professional education courses for accountants.

Designs of the Night Sky by Diane Glancy (University of Nebraska Press, 2003, 157 pages, $24.95)

In this novel, a librarian of Cherokee ancestry rekindles and reinvents her Native American identity by discovering the rhythm and spark of traditionally told stories in the most unusual places in the modern world. Ada Ronner, a librarian at Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, Okla., hears books speak and senses their restless flow as they circulate. She feels the same relentless energy and liberation as she roller-skates at the Dust Bowl, a local skating rink, floating far ahead of her husband, Ether, a physics professor.

Hearing “the old Cherokee voices” when she skates and when she works in the Manuscript and Rare Book room in the library, Ada grows increasingly aware of the continuing power of Cherokee tradition today. Coming from a culture based in oral tradition, she discovers the potentially liberating role of the written word. Designs of the Night Sky moves between the turbulent history of a tribe and the experiences of the survivors of that history still caught in turmoil.

Diane Glancy is a professor of English at Macalester.

The Iconography of Architectural Plans: A Study of the Influence of Buddhism and Hinduism on Plans of South and Southeast Asia by Fredrick W. Bunce ’57 (New Delhi, 2001)

Fredrick Bunce is also the author of Numbers: Their Iconographic Consideration in Buddhist and Hindu Practices (New Delhi, 2001).


By 1840, American politics was a paradox—unprecedented freedom and equality for men of European descent, and the simultaneous isolation and degradation
of people of African and Native American descent. Historians have characterized this phenomenon as the "white republic."

Race and the Early Republic offers an account of how this paradox evolved, beginning with the fledgling nation of the 1770s and running through the antebellum years. The essays in the volume, written by a wide array of scholars, are arranged so as to allow a clear understanding of how and why white political supremacy came to be in the early United States.

James Brewer Stewart is James Wallace Professor of History at Macalester. Michael A. Morrison is a professor of history at Purdue.

Paris in the Age of Absolutism
by Orest Ranum '55 (Penn State University Press, 2002. 352 pages, $35 cloth)

First published in 1968 and now reissued in a revised and expanded edition, Paris in the Age of Absolutism shows how Paris reflected the spirit of an age—an age that reached its zenith with the reign of France's Sun King, Louis XIV.

Orest Ranum, a professor of history emeritus at the Johns Hopkins University, traces the history of Paris from the late 1500s, when the French capital city was exhausted by the violence of the Wars of Religion, through the long century that ends with the death of Louis XIV in 1715. By then there were large public squares, arches of triumph, hospital-prisons, a gigantic new wing on the Louvre, handsome stone bridges, streetlights and massive stone quays along the Seine.

Ranum ranges widely through the streets and quarters of Paris, noting the achievements of town planners, architects and engineers as well as city politics, social currents and the spirit of religious reform.

Taking into account the wealth of scholarship that has appeared since 1968, his book includes a new chapter on women writers and a new introduction as well as many revisions.

Taking Down the Angel
by Jeff Friedman '75 (Carnegie Mellon University Press, 2003. 101 pages, $24.95 cloth, $12.95 paperback)

This is the third collection of poems by Jeff Friedman. His two previous books are Scattering the Ashes (1998) and The Record-Breaking Heat Wave (1986). His poems have appeared in Midstream, Poetry, American Poetry Review, New England Review, Manoa and other literary magazines. He teaches at Keene State College and lives in West Lebanon, N.H., with his wife, Colleen Randall '75, a painter.

A Boy's Guide to Big Lake, Minnesota and Other Stuff
by Rod Hunt '50 (Caira Press, 2003. 343 pages, $20 paperback)

The first part of Rod Hunt's book is about growing up in a small Minnesota town during the Depression. "The Big Lake I have written about is through the eyes of the nine-year-old I once was," he writes in the introduction. "I have some idea of what a young boy who lives here now has. There are certainly some advantages, but I must confess, in the days when we had the good fortune to be able to do things for ourselves, it was certainly a more challenging and trusting time."

Part two consists of short stories, two of which also revolve around Big Lake, two of which are "true adventures" about Alaska. The final story, "The Dead Do Stir," is about a Macalester student who made a fatal bad decision. For more information, contact Caira Press: cairaress@sherbet.net or 763-263-5002.
The 1898-99 women's basketball team at Macalester

In which the heroines—women of all generations who played sports of all kinds at Macalester—explain what athletics meant to them, before and after Title IX

by Donna Halvorsen

Imagine this: A first-year student walks up to the college soccer coach and declares: “I didn’t play soccer in high school, but I’d like to be on your team.” And the coach replies: “Welcome.”

Macalester was like that, well into the 1980s. Emilye Crosby ’87 played basketball and ran track and cross country at her Mississippi high school, but she’d never played soccer. By merely expressing an interest, she became a member of the Mac team. She was a defender, then goalkeeper, and she remembers the agony of practicing diving for the ball in a long pit and being so sore the next day she could hardly move.

“I remember the satisfaction of executing something that I’d been working on,” she says. “I enjoyed the physical demands of playing and the camaraderie of the soccer team.”

She played basketball, too, under less than optimal conditions: three coaches in four years, recruiting football players just to have enough bodies for scrimmages, suffering lopsided loss after loss. But as with soccer, there was joy amid the agony.

“I loved picking up the other team’s point guard and hounding her all over the court,” recalls Crosby, now a professor of American history at SUNY-Geneseo. “I loved pushing myself that way and feeling drained at the end of the game, knowing I’d played as hard as I could. For me, nothing was more fun than connecting with a teammate on a good pass or forcing a turnover or having the ball and going full tilt down the court. It was like magic.”
'Girls do not hurdle'

Magic. From their first days on campus, Mac's women students were drawn to the sporting life. From the days of the Women's Athletic Association of the 1920s and '30s—when field hockey games, tennis tournaments, a swim club and hiking opportunities were seen as social events as much as sports—to the bruising physicality of today's varsity sports, women wanted to test the power of their bodies as well as their brains. Even before Title IX became law in 1972, Mac women found or created their own opportunities, aided by such coaches as Pat Wiesner and Sheila Brewer. They pushed past the hardships to find the magic. Whether it was in physical education classes, intramurals or varsity sports, athletic participation pushed them to be their best, giving them joy, confidence, lifetime friends and a lifelong enthusiasm for all things athletic. It took their lives to a new level, surprising even them that it had meant so much.

"The winner of these [tennis] tournaments will be presented with a small silver racket pin. An enticement of that kind should bring many girls out for practice." —Mac Weekly, Nov. 4, 1925

Even older alumnae who didn't get to play competitive sports look back at their Mac athletic experience with fondness. "I don't think we thought much about [missed opportunities] because we were involved in sports in a friendly manner," Margaret "Mardy" Buck '44 recalls. "It was mostly just fun. We had a good time."

When Buck arrived at Mac, varsity sports for women was three decades off. But she took part in swimming, badminton, basketball and water safety instruction, mostly in physical education classes. Of women's sports today, Buck observes: "Irs really something else. We liked what we did; we didn't need competition. I'm glad that women have the chance now to participate in competitive sports. They need it, too."

When Buck left Macalester, she decided to pass the joy of sports on to other young women. She earned a Ph.D. in physical education and became a legendary coach and professor at Mankato State University.

Joy Rogalla Van '48 got a glimpse of what was considered proper for girls in her physical education classes at White Bear Lake (Minn.) High School. After class she had to run around the track. "The hurdles were put up for the boys, so I just took them as I ran around the track. Very discreetly, the [female] teacher took me aside and told me, 'Joy, girls do not hurdle.'"

Van never did hurdle; her main sporting activity at Mac was canoeing with Ruth Schellberg, another of the legendary figures who inspired Mardy Buck and other Mac women. But she and husband Ted Van '48, who was inducted into the Macalester Athletic Hall of Fame in 2002, took pride in raising son Scott, who was a state high school champion in high hurdles. "I thought that was kind of poetic justice," Van says with a laugh.

'Macalester never had that attitude'

Trudy Wolter Kuckhahn '50 is testimony to the athletic toughness and endurance of Mac women. At 75, the Cocoa Beach, Fla., resident still plays doubles tennis with 40- and 50-year-olds. "I don't tell them how old I am," she says. "But after celebrating my 50th wedding anniversary and going back to Macalester for my 50th reunion, I think they get the idea."

Kuckhahn's father taught her tennis. When she came to Mac, Pat Wiesner taught her a new approach that allowed her to play competitively at Mac—she and a classmate were state doubles champions in her senior year—and enjoy tennis throughout her life. She swam and played field hockey as well.

"I do think the atmosphere for women's athletics was very positive and encouraging," she says. "We were never downgraded if we went out for field hockey or whatever we did. I know that was
1951: "Co-ed Canoeists Brave the Wilds.
That was the headline of the Chicago Tribune
story about "22 girls of Macalester College
[who] lead the primitive life on an 11-day
canoeing and camping expedition" in
northern Minnesota. "It was very unusual for
women to do this without a male guide,
" says Joy Rogalla Van '48, second from right
in this photo. Others pictured: Jean Peterson
Stark '48, left, Ruth Feaster Heaner '48 and
Nellie Sather Primrose '49, right.
The expedition was led by Ruth Schellberg,
director of physical education for women
at Macalester and a mentor to many
women of the era.

Barbara Nixon Miller '53, like others
of her era, had to sign up for a gym class.
She chose volleyball. Otherwise, her col-
lege life consisted mostly of studying. She
worked in the kitchen at Wally Hall to
help pay her way. She's glad that today's
women students have
opportunities that she didn't have.
"I'm really proud of them, and I'm
proud of Macalester for giving them
a chance." Miller had one opportu-
nity that she didn't let slip by. She
married the quarterback on Mac's
football team, Earl Miller '53. They
live in Grand Rapids, Minn.

Sally Howard '58, had played
tournament tennis in Sioux
Falls, S.D. What she found at
Mac was a team loosely organized
by Pat Wiesner in the Physical Education
Department. The best part of her Mac
experience was "the people and the chance
to improve my game with a good coach," she says. "I
don't remember being disappointed or feeling left out,
because in those days our expectations were very mod-
est. Thank heavens for Title IX!" A retired public
affairs director for health sciences at the University of
Minnesota, Howard still plays tennis twice a week.

'A big part of my life'

Macalester graduated its first physical education
majors in 1958. Valerie Hettenhausen Tellor '59 was
in the second class. She and her sister came to Mac
from Ontario expecting to transfer to the University
of Minnesota to get degrees in dental hygiene. But
Tellor stayed and was guided by Wiesner into a career
of teaching physical education. She taught in Minne-
sota and started a physical education program in a
private high school in Dover, N.H. She lives in Duluth,
Minn., where she was a substitute teacher for 24 years.

A swimmer, tennis and field hockey player at Mac,
Tellor took every sports course she could. "What did
my sport experience do for me? It paved my way for a
profession and will always be a big part of my life. I
play tennis, golf, downhill and cross country ski, snow-
shoe, bike—a little bit of everything, almost."

The daughter of a clergyman and a mother who was
active in the church, Julie Hoats '64 started out as a
religion major. After two years, she worked up the
courage to tell her parents that her heart was not in
religion but in physical education. She was inspired by
the P.E. majors she'd met: "I wanted to join them
because I felt they were doing something worthwhile."

Hoats played basketball and field hockey. "We were
definitely second-class," she says, but the women in the
P.E. Department kept pushing women to participate.
They organized sports days and a basketball team that
played teams organized by businesses. "That was back
in the roving guard kind of basketball, but we were able
to compete."

Hoats recently retired after a 35-year career as a
physical education teacher in Palatine, Ill., mostly in
elementary schools. She always encouraged girls to be
active, "not necessarily to be stars" but to make physical
activity part of their lives. For Hoats, "joyous to see
that girls are more and more accepted." All along she
knew "that being physically active was important to
more people than just me."
'I was used to playing against boys'
"Field Hockey Offers Girls Chance to Compete."
"Field Hockey is a Tough, Dangerous Game for Girls."
—separate headlines, on facing pages, in 1966 Mac yearbook

In the late 1960s Title IX was on the horizon but nobody saw it coming.

Gigi Godfrey Leonard '69 had played field hockey for eight years when she arrived at Mac, and she'd also played lacrosse, but most women of that era didn't have that kind of experience. At Mac, she played field hockey for a year. "I found that the school was indifferent to women's sports before Title IX, and there was not much of a selection in women's sports."

But like other Mac women, Leonard led a sporting life after college, becoming the first woman to teach in Maine's renowned Outward Bound program. She then worked at the Maine Maritime Academy as it accepted its first women students. For two summers she was sailing master, responsible for the small boat sailing program. Today, the Freeport, Maine, resident participates in sailboat races and skis downhill and cross country for fun. And she kept the spark alive by teaching her daughter lacrosse.

With the 1970s came the beginning of a new era in women's athletics. After playing national junior tennis as a teen-ager—competing against the likes of Chris Evert—and finishing second in the Big Ten women's championship as a freshman at Purdue, Molly Hannas '75 transferred to Mac and became a sports pioneer. She played No. 1 singles and was co-captain on the men's varsity tennis team her sophomore, junior and senior years. "Macalester was a pretty volatile place then. But it was open and able to do things like that," she recalls.

Hannas arrived at Mac in 1972, the year Title IX was passed, and the women's tennis team was just getting started. She told the Macalester administration: "Equality of sports says I should be able to play on the men's team." When the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference gave its OK, Hannas joined the men's team and proceeded to defeat nearly all her male opponents.

"It was pretty natural for me because I grew up with three older brothers, so I was used to playing against boys. I felt very comfortable with it." Her biggest challenge may have been "learning to be diplomatic in public" when the Twin Cities newspapers did stories about her. "I had to be pretty careful what I said. I didn't want to offend the women's tennis team, and yet I felt like I deserved to be on the men's team."

After Mac, the history major joined the fledgling women's pro tennis tour. When she left in 1977, she was ranked No. 80 in the world and had competed in a tournament featuring Evert, Billie Jean King and Martina Navratilova. "I lost in the first round, but I got there," she says with a laugh.

Hannas is now teaching English in an inner-city school in Savannah, Ga.—and starting a tennis team.

Kathy Angelos Pinkett '75 played on Mac's first volleyball team, which had lots of team spirit though not much in the way of victories. But she also played intramural basketball, softball and volleyball, and her athletic experience overall was a good one. It "allowed me to have physical activity without exercising. To this day I would rather participate in a sport than do typical exercise." Pinkett, now a vice president at Minnesota Mutual
Insurance Company, says her basketball experience taught her perseverance and patience. "We were regularly slaughtered by our competition, who had teams longer than us. We had to persevere to go back on the court."

'She's not a guy'

"Cath Stifter's right foot brings the ball first down to the turf, then past a surprised defender. The defender is surprised because Cath is not like other halfbacks he has faced. She's not a guy."

—Mac Weekly, October 1976

Catherine Stifter '79 was asked at the time if playing on the Macalester soccer team was part of her feminist agenda. "No," she replied. "I just really wanted to play soccer, and I was invited to play on the only soccer team Macalester has."

Stifter grew up playing hockey and basketball and running track. She'd never played soccer, but she was eager to play. She first signed up as scorekeeper and traveled with the team. When a player asked, "Why don't you come to practice?" she jumped at the chance. She started for the junior varsity in her sophomore year.

"The most difficult part was not having a locker room or shower, because they just weren't expecting to have a woman on the team. A lot of times I ended up just washing off in the sink in the women's bathroom."

For the most part, she was accepted. "I had a lot of support from a lot of the guys on the team. They just thought it was a hoot. And I turned out to be an OK player, too. It definitely helped. But then when I got to start, that was tough for some guys who didn't start."

Stifter, who lives in Nevada City, Calif., has spent 25 years as a journalist for public radio, sharing a Peabody Award for work she did on a science program. She is also a backpacker and river raft guide, leads snowshoeing and cross country ski tours, teaches wilderness medicine and helps her grandchildren with their soccer games.

"I'm active as heck," she says. "I work a lot with people with disabilities. I definitely use that philosophy: If you want it, we can figure out how to make it happen."

'Ve're happy to have you'

Kim Walton '79 wasn't aware of the passing of Title IX. Her high school had equal men's and women's facilities, and she earned two track letters.

At Mac, she ran track her freshman year. "I just walked up to Sheila Brewer and said I wanted to run track. It was great that there wasn't a big concern about what my times were or if I should be on the team. I liked the low-key approach at Macalester: 'If you want to participate, great, we're happy to have you.'"

Intramural sports were much more important than organized sports at Mac, Walton says. "Many women who never would have participated in an organized sport took part in intramurals, especially softball. Now that was incredibly competitive and had lots of women participants."

Walton, who now works for the San Francisco Municipal Railway on compliance with ADA disability issues, says high school and college sports helped her learn about supporting others in and out of athletics. "Today I do as much as I can to stay active. I am able to bike year round here in the Bay Area and I also take advantage of the miles of hiking trails."

What could Macalester give to a young woman who had run around the Great Pyramids? A lot, as it turns out. Bernadette Samanant McCormick '81 was a high jumper and 220-meter runner at her American high school in Beirut, Lebanon. Her team traveled to Egypt, Turkey and Greece to compete. "I distinctly recall running against bare-footed Egyptians who left us in the wind," she says. "By the way, we were fully fitted with Adidas."

McCormick "went nuts" when she found so many opportunities to play sports at Macalester. She became captain of the first women's varsity softball team at Mac.

McCormick recalls: "If you were born to compete, the best part of my Mac sports experience was winning. We beat three teams the whole season, and the win against St. Bon's was a high for days." She adds that she cherished "the camaraderie that existed at all times. We were a motley bunch with different degrees of talent. However, we came together as a family connected by this thing called 'fun'—we laughed a lot."
Mentors: Women who inspired women who inspired women who...

“We had a marvelous director of physical education, Ruth Schellberg, who later on moved to Mankato State. That’s why I got here.” —Margaret “Mardy” Buck ’44, who became a coaching legend at Mankato State.

“I am pleased to be able to donate to the M Club—a club I was not able to join when I was at Mac—in remembrance of the women of the P.E. Department. Alma Scott, Mary Remley, Pat Wiesner and Dorothy Michel shaped my life and gave it direction. I will never forget them.” —Julie Hoats ’65

“I loved my cross country coach, Pat Wiesner. She was a very inspirational person.” —Anne Crandall-Campbell ’82

“I had learned tennis from my father but had learned all wrong. Pat Wiesner had to change my whole approach to the game plus my stroke. She was very encouraging. She put me on the right track so that I really enjoyed the game. I’ve enjoyed it throughout my life.” —Trudy Kuckhahn ’50

“I had learned tennis from my father but had learned all wrong. Pat Wiesner had to change my whole approach to the game plus my stroke. She was very encouraging. She put me on the right track so that I really enjoyed the game. I’ve enjoyed it throughout my life.” —Trudy Kuckhahn ’50

“I was ‘recruited’ to run track simply because I was running on the indoor gym track in January. I had never run competitively before. The coach, Sheila Brewer, encouraged me to join, and it was one of my best experiences at Mac. During my junior and senior years she encouraged me and turned me into a real runner.” —Ginger Symmes Sheehan ’82

“I had learned tennis from my father but I had learned all wrong. Pat Wiesner had to change my whole approach to the game plus my stroke. She was very encouraging. She put me on the right track so that I really enjoyed the game. I’ve enjoyed it throughout my life.” —Trudy Kuckhahn ’50

“We were coaching many women who had never played, yet were athletes and had great attitudes,” Crandall-Campbell says. “We would call up the University of Minnesota and other schools to get them to play.” Shortly after organizing the team, the two asked Mac to make soccer a varsity sport, “which we believed

varsity sports” at Mac. But there was no legacy to follow or yardstick to be measured by in women’s softball, so the players decided to work hard and have fun.

“The team was loaded with seemingly unathletic types,” McCormick recalls. “Osiris Abrego, my co-captain, and I wore makeup and painted nails to most of our games. We were an easygoing and fun-loving bunch that managed to win three games in the whole season, which at the time was great. After all, our football was headed for the 50-loss record so we felt a great sense of accomplishment.”

Losing was gut-wrenching. “I specifically recall the struggles against the intimidating Tommies and St. Bennies.” Nonetheless, her sports experience at Macalester meant everything to McCormick, now a regional manager for Business Wire news service in Minneapolis. “It kept me sane. Regardless of the lack of resources, dedication to sports and support from the faculty or student body, etc., I needed the important ‘filler’ of teamwork, purpose, competition, interaction, socialization, sense of accomplishment, contribution, physical challenge, exploration, experimentation and sheer growth.”

“Kids are coming out of high school with a lot more skill. Women’s sports in high school has really grown.” —Macalester Coach Sheila Brewer, Mac Weekly, September 1977

“We had to prove we were serious’ Years after Title IX became law, politicians were trying to shut it down. That left one option for enterprising students such as Anne Crandall-Campbell ’82 and Ginger Symmes Sheehan ’82. They used the law to create opportunities for themselves and other women. They had played soccer at Eastern prep schools, but the game hadn’t really arrived in the Midwest. In their sophomore year at Mac, they organized a club team, coached it and scheduled the games.

“We were coaching many women who had never played, yet were athletes and had great attitudes,” Crandall-Campbell says. “We would call up the University of Minnesota and other schools to get them to play.” Shortly after organizing the team, the two asked Mac to make soccer a varsity sport, “which we believed
Cheerleaders in 1963 (top):
Cathy Carpender DeCourcy '66, Judy Bartosh Lacher '64, Janet Haines Williams '65, Patricia Burho Minton '65 and Barbara Peterson Elman '64, DeWitt Wallace's wife, Lila, donated the uniforms, which were made of authentic Scotch tartan and designed by a well-known New York designer.

In 1977 (right):
Vicki O'Neal Iddings '79, left, and Kim Walton '79, middle. “That fall the cheerleaders wore blue corduroy pants, orange turtle necks and white sweaters; no one wanted to wear the skirts outside during football games,” Walton said.

1980:
Anne Crandall-Campbell '82, standing second from right, and Ginger Symmes Sheehan '82, third from bottom left, organized the first women's varsity soccer team.

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Cheerleaders in 1980:
Anne Crandall-Campbell '82, standing second from right, and Ginger Symmes Sheehan '82, third from bottom left, organized the first women's varsity soccer team.

Serious and had the interest before we were supported,” Sheehan says.

Intense as their soccer experience was, Sheehan says her time on the track team was “one of the most positive experiences of my life.” She was recruited by coach Sheila Brewer, “[who] was great in the way she both pushed and supported us. And I met a whole new group of friends.”

Crandall-Campbell wasn't content with one sport either. She ran cross country—inspired by her coach, Pat Wiesner—and played varsity and intramural broomball. “I also loved the camaraderie of the women who played. It was a great way to meet more people on campus and see the other schools.”

Two decades after graduating, Crandall-Campbell continues to add new sports to her repertoire. She plays on a women's ice hockey team, the Mother Puckers, in Darien, Conn., and recently joined a rowing club. Athletics at Macalester gave her confidence and made her a leader, she says. “Sports has kept me active, and friendships with the women I have met through sports are ongoing. With four kids, it gives me time to relax and do something for me.”

As her daughter applies to colleges, Crandall-Campbell wonders if she'll get the same enjoyment out of college sports. “I know I will be encouraging it,” she says.

Sheehan, an attorney in Concord, N.H., still runs, though not as much as she did at Mac. “Because of my experience at Mac, I know that I am capable of doing a lot more if I could find (or make) the time.”

“I found I was worth protecting”

Susan Duncan ‘84 came to Macalester looking for a change, one that counselors said may have saved her life. She played basketball, softball and soccer and became an All-American as a goalkeeper. “It was an easy way to make friends from around the country and around the world who protected me through my four years at Mac.”

She saw herself as very much in need of protection. “It may be too far a stretch to say that sports saved a life,” she says, but sports at Macalester helped heal the
wounds from "a sexually abusive high school coach and life-threatening experiences" in her family. "By protecting the goal for the team, I found that I was actually worth protecting as well," she says.

By her junior year Duncan had grown weary of the travel required by sports and often found solace by singing in the chapel on snowy winter evenings. College Chaplain Russ Wigfield '43 "helped confirm my initial reason for coming to Mac: to learn that family, friends and spiritual relationships would be paramount to the competition of sports, truly a blessing. The lesson of living for a higher power is one that I remember when I fail to meet unreasonable expectations for myself."

The summer after graduation she and two other soccer players, Ruth Wilson '84 and Jennifer Wrean '84, biked across the northern U.S. "The people across the country who befriended us and brought muffins to our tents and taught us the 'chicken dance' in a Norwegian bar certainly [recognized] that Macalester sports had included women, and some pretty amazing and goal-oriented women at that," says Duncan, now assistant director of environmental education for the Washington Forest Protection Association in Olympia.

The '90s were boom times for women's sports. Girls started playing when they were barely able to hold a softball bat or a hockey stick. Older girls took it for granted that they could play. The skills of high school players notched up every year. And college athletes could see that if the playing field wasn't level yet, it was closer than it had ever been. At long last, they got game.

'I can show my appreciation'

Paige Fitzgerald '94 was distressed by the anti-athlete sentiment she sensed at Macalester, but it was, at most, a distraction. She's quick to say, "I consider my athletic experience to be one of my greatest experiences at Mac.'

Now a Minneapolis lawyer, she played on the soccer team that won the conference championship in 1992. But it wasn't just winning that mattered. It was winning with women who would be her friends for life.

She was a team captain and was twice chosen as the "most inspirational player," but she never imagined that the qualities that earned her those accolades would be important outside of Mac. More than once she has been asked about her athletic experiences by prospective employers who were looking for qualities that reflect leadership and strength. "In fact, my current employer said that he specifically looks for people who have played sports and appear to have been role models for members of their teams."

Fitzgerald knows that the women who played sports before Title IX helped get it passed, and she's grateful. "While I will never know what it was like to be a female athlete when it was unpopular, unladylike, unwanted and discouraged, I certainly can show my appreciation to those women for displaying the strength and courage to be athletes... and for fighting for all female athletes who followed them."
How do you describe the journey of a Macalester student? If you're five art majors, you create wrap-around art in the basement of Kagin Commons.

**IntraMural**

How do you describe the journey of a Macalester student?

If you're five art majors, you create wrap-around art in the basement of Kagin Commons.

**If you walk**

downstairs to the basement of Kagin Commons, you will find yourself in the belly of a painting.

But the word "painting" doesn't really do justice to the mural that wraps around the stairs in Macalester's newly renovated student services building. Entitled "Momentum/Energy," the mural covers the walls around the stairs and the alcove below. When you get to the bottom of the steps, you feel like a kid who has magically stepped into the pages of a lavishly illustrated children's book.

Five art majors—Helen Rice '03 (Charleston, S.C.), Perry Bellow-Handelman '05 (New York), Liz Tjepkema '04, Perry Bellow-Handelman '05 and Helen Rice '03.

**text by Hannah Clark '02**

**photos by Steve Woit**

Hannah Clark '02, former editor in chief of The Mac Weekly, is a free-lance writer. She also wrote an essay in this issue on becoming a Minnesotan—see page 48. Steve Woit, a frequent contributor to Mac Today, is a Minneapolis-based photographer.
Helen Rice came up with the mural’s basic design, emphasizing “clean structural elements and a general flow from figure to figure by gesture or gaze. The solidity of the structural elements I thought would hold the space together well and make it easier to add others’ ideas and still have it look like a unified design.”
struggling amidst life's chaos and ultimately growing stronger as they meet the world's complexities.

The artists, all female, chose to depict only women because they are underrepresented in art.

"We figured, we can do this, so why not do it?" Pierce said. The women in the painting are nude but not erotic figures. The mural was designed with the space it occupies in mind. "Whoever's looking at the mural is going to be moving," Bellow-Handelman said. "[The staircase] winds and twists. There's so much energy in the space."

The paint now blanketing the wall creates more momentum and energy by adding color to the previously gray walls. Pierce added that the offices in the building (Career Development Center, Academic Excellence Center, Lealtad-Suzuki Center and Community Service Office) all exist to help students gain momentum and energy through their college experience and beyond.

The mural was a significant departure from the artists' previous work. The techniques used are different from easel painting, so the students have
Above: Professor Willcox, left, and Helen Rice. "The groups of dots that appear throughout the mural were a graphic choice that was intended to hold the design together—sort of like wallpaper," Rice says.

Below: "My attitude towards the mural painting class evolved as the mural evolved—from being one of four classes to being a collaborative art project," says Kristin Mjolsnes, right.

Mural painting also serves a different purpose than gallery art. "Many, many people don't go to galleries," Willcox said. "People live with murals. They change as people's perceptions of them change.... [Mural painting] creates more opportunities for exchange between artists and the public. You go to a gallery and leave and it's not really a part of your life."

Since the mural was located in their community, the students used their own experiences to create a piece that was directly relevant to its audience. The project also required the students to work collectively more than they had done in the past.
Tim O'Brien's College Reunion

The author of Going After Cacciato and The Things They Carried has written a novel about a class reunion at a small college in St. Paul. So how come the '68 Macalester grad has never attended a Mac reunion?

"I know my life's going to change dramatically," Tim O'Brien said. He looked both pleased and worried. He had just learned from his wife, Meredith, that he was going to become a father for the first time—at the age of 56.

But now, he said, he also knew he would have to quit smoking. The writer Jim Harrison had told him in Toronto, where they both spoke at a conference: "No more writing—it's over." O'Brien, who teaches creative writing at Southwest Texas State University, acknowledged he was addicted to cigarettes. And like so many other writers before him, the author of eight books in 30 years said it would be very difficult to write without being able to smoke.

But having children and quitting smoking were still in the future when he answered questions last fall about July, July in an interview for Mac Today with Jon Halvorsen. His newest novel follows the fortunes of 11 members of the Class of 1969 at "Darton Hall College" in St. Paul, moving back and forth in alternating chapters from their class reunion in July 2000 to their lives during the 31 years since graduation.

What prompted you to write a novel set at a small college on Grand Avenue in St. Paul, Minnesota?

Well, I know Macalester. I borrowed or stole the physical terrain of the place—the streets and chapel and things I knew. Macalester was, as I suppose everybody says to you, very important to my life. I was a very average student in high school. Macalester was sort of a wake-up call for me, just as a human being, and I wanted to pay a kind of homage to a place that meant so much to me.

You said in another interview that you've never attended a Macalester reunion and probably never will.

There are a couple of reasons. Because I'm a writer, it would feel funny to have people "congratulate" me—that kind of icky feeling you get. You don't want to show off. Part of me doesn't want to endure that.

Another reason is more important. I want to remember people as they were, when they were young and full of ideals and hopeful and anything was possible in the world. I carry around with me the ghosts of all these beautiful memories of people, and I don't want to go through the experience of seeing disappointment in faces, or whatever may be there.

So it's a combination of two things, I guess. There's a third reason but I can't quite put my finger on it [he laughs]. I guess I've built Macalester up in my mind to be such a beautiful place and full of such beautiful people and full of intellectual challenge, and I don't want to risk the disappointment of thinking otherwise.

These are silly personal reasons, in a way. I really ought to get my ass there for one of them [reunions]. I really oughta do it.
You don't like readers coming up to you and gushing over your books.

I'm not comfortable with it, and I don't even like doing interviews for that reason. It feels funny to me. I'm just a normal guy just doing normal jobs, writing books. For me, that's the end of it. I was sitting here in my underwear looking at a typewriter when you called. People give writing a kind of glamorous aura that it really doesn't have.

You said you want to remember people when they were young and beautiful, and don't want to see their disappointments. But that is precisely what *July, July* deals with. It is in a sense the bad things that have happened to every single one of your characters.

I know. That's life. That's how the world is. I can't think of another human being on earth who hasn't suffered disappointment and loss and done bad things and had bad things happen to them. It's the world we live in; that's why religion exists—to give us hope.

But I have to also say that for all their struggles and troubles, these characters leave the book with a sense that tomorrow may be a little better. Certainly when Billy proposes to Paulette, there is some hope. And when Jan and Amy go off to the all-night diner, they're looking for—maybe the right man's around the corner for me.

For all the grimness in the book, there's some hope. It's more modest than it used to be, and it's more centered on a kind of spiritual and personal happiness than it used to be, maybe. But I think it's still there for the characters.

*July, July* is full of humor, and good things happen to some of the characters. Yet the opening page refers to a character who was murdered several years before. And in a chilling chapter later on, we witness her death. Where does that come from?

It comes from two sources. One is reading the alumni magazine and seeing dead people in there—

"Macalester was sort of a wake-up call for me, just as a human being, and I wanted to pay a kind of homage to a place that meant so much to me," Tim O'Brien says of his new novel.

He's pictured, with his eight books, in the Neill Room in Weyerhaeuser Hall, which was the library when he was a student.
My dream from the time I was little boy was to be a writer. It was a secret dream. I don't know if anybody knew—except a few people at Macalester. I know [Professor] Roger Blakely knew; I think [Professor] Harley Henry might have guessed. But I kept it secret. It seemed like such an impossible dream, for a smalltown Minnesota kid to be a writer. Writers only come from New York or Philadelphia or L.A. So I didn't pursue it. I took a lot of English classes but I didn't major in English. I kept my real heart secret, because it felt embarrassing, like dreaming an impossible dream kind of feeling. You don't want to be looked at as an idiot.

Being student government president, you must have been popular or semi-popular on campus. Did you ever think about going into politics?

People think that about me, but I never did. My dream from the time I was a little boy was to be a writer. It was a secret dream. I don't know if anybody knew—except a few people at Macalester. I know [Professor] Roger Blakely knew; I think [Professor] Harley Henry might have guessed. But I kept it secret. It seemed like such an impossible dream, for a smalltown Minnesota kid to be a writer. Writers only come from New York or Philadelphia or L.A. So I didn't pursue it. I took a lot of English classes but I didn't major in English. I kept my real heart secret, because it felt embarrassing, like dreaming an impossible dream kind of feeling. You don't want to be looked at as an idiot.
From the combat and other zones:

Previous books by Tim O’Brien


*Northern Lights* (1975): His first published novel, about two brothers in rural Minnesota, one of them a wounded Vietnam vet, and their relationships, particularly with their late father.

*Going After Cacciato* (1978): A classic novel of Vietnam, it tells the story of a young soldier who lays down his rifle and sets off on a quixotic journey from Indochina to Paris. Winner of the National Book Award.

*The Nuclear Age* (1985): Written in a comic style, this novel takes a look at how you would live your life if you were always aware of the threat of a nuclear war.

*The Things They Carried* (1990): A series of Vietnam stories in which the writer deliberately blurs the line between fiction and non-fiction. Received France’s Prix du Meilleur Livre Etranger and the Chicago Tribune Heartland Prize.

*In the Lake of the Woods* (1994): A dark novel about a Vietnam veteran with a secret and a wife who discovers she doesn’t know the man she married. Named best novel of 1994 by *Time* magazine; received the James Fenimore Cooper Prize from the Society of American Historians.


I think of myself as a Minnesotan, even though I haven’t lived there in 30 years.

Did you write at Mac?

I did, not much. Does a program called SPAN [Student Project for Amity among Nations] still exist? We went overseas. I wrote a novel when I was in Czechoslovakia that Roger Blakely and Harley very kindly read. It was a horrid piece of work but it was one of my few times when I felt now would be a chance to at least try. I failed abysmally but I tried. I guess when I realized how awful the result was, I put the dream away again.

You’ve mentioned Roger Blakely a couple of times. Many other alumni, including some who became writers, have mentioned him as an influence.

He was an underrated man, in my opinion. It’s easy to underrate kindness and generosity of spirit and accessibility. But he was also a great English teacher. He loved language and he loved books. He wasn’t flashy. His teaching meant a lot to me. So did a guy there named Roy Swanson, who was almost the opposite in personality. He was a Joycean. I took a great course from him called “Modern Novel.” During the course of the semester we read five, maybe six novels, and we went over them painstakingly, page by page, line by line. He was a very distant sort of fellow in his personality; he was also a great teacher in his own way.

For many years you lived in Massachusetts, and for the last few years in Austin, Texas. Where is your “permanent” home?

I think of myself as a Minnesotan, even though I haven’t lived there in 30 years. Just because you’re not physically in a place doesn’t mean you’re not there. That’s my backyard; that’s where I grew up, where all my values came from, my diction. I have sentences I write—they all come from Minnesota. I live in Austin, Texas, now, but who knows where I’ll be 10 years from now, or five.

SPRING 2003 31
Anton's Law

After the tragic death of her son, Autumn Alexander Skeen '78 has helped make cars safer for all children

by Karen Lundegaard '89

When Autumn Alexander Skeen's 4-year-old son, Anton, was killed in a car crash seven years ago, booster seats were virtually unheard of. Skeen set out to change that.

She testified before Congress. She spent a year heading Ford Motor Co.'s Boost America campaign. She criss-crossed the country countless times, speaking at conferences in New York, Texas and California and throughout her home state of Washington trying to encourage the federal government and state legislatures to pass laws requiring booster seats for children up to 8 years of age or 80 pounds.

The role of booster-seat spokeswoman is one Skeen both loves and hates. Really she is the face of tragedy.

In 1996, as she drove Anton to her family's cabin in the Oregon mountains, a strong gust of wind pushed the sport utility vehicle she was driving onto the median, causing it to roll over several times. Anton, who had long outgrown his child seat, was belted with a lap shoulder belt that was still buckled after the crash, even though he was no longer in his seat. He was thrown from the vehicle and died immediately when it rolled over him.

Skeen was following all laws at the time. Booster seats, which raise children so that seat belts designed for 180-pound men fit them better, were barely discussed at the time.

Skeen, after blaming herself, began to learn more about the issue. Even though auto makers didn't recommend using safety belts for children, they offered few alternatives. In the early 1990s some vehicles had optional built-in booster seats, but they were expensive—$100 and up—and usually had to be special ordered, so consumers didn't buy them. The car companies slowly stopped offering them. While most states had laws requiring smaller children in child seats, no state required booster seats for children more than 40 pounds. Kids like Anton were left unprotected in the middle.

Skeen, citing a social consciousness planted by her parents and nurtured at Macalester, put her journalism and teaching career largely on hold and became a lobbyist and advocate. "I never want another parent to go through what I went through," she says.

She started with her home state of Washington. She told her story to state legislators, on television news, to anyone who could change things and would listen. She compromised as well. The state passed a weaker booster seat law than she would have liked in March 2000. It required children up to 6 years or 60 pounds to be in booster seats, rather than the 8 years or 80 pound limits she had pushed for. They called it the Anton Skeen Act.

She has continued her quest around the country and in the other Washington. At the end of 2002, 14 states had passed booster seat laws.

This past December, she returned to Washington with her husband, Tom, and 14-year-old daughter, Geneva, to watch President Bush sign Anton's Law in an Oval Office ceremony. Even the president told her he was surprised she could find the strength to push for legislative changes when hit with such a devastating loss. The law requires improved standards for booster seats, until now largely unregulated, and federal research into child restraint options that are built into the vehicle.

Skeen hopes federal involvement sends a signal to states that they need to pass their own booster seat laws.

She left the White House feeling relieved. "I can't say I feel happiness," she said by phone a few weeks later. "We still come home a family of three, not a family of four. The world will be better off but we're not better off." And she told a reporter covering the White House ceremony that she would give it all back for five minutes with her son.

Her six-year struggle left her feeling empowered by the American political system. "The American citizen has a lot of power," she says. "You can change things, and legislators are interested in what Joe-America thinks."

Still, for Skeen the issue is largely done now. "I'm personally pretty exhausted from the struggle. I will always speak out on this. I realize I will always have a role to play, as an adviser. But I'm not going to be out there fighting this state by state. I can't. It's just too painful. I have shared him with the world enough. And now I just want him home."

Karen Lundegaard '89 covers the auto industry for the Wall Street Journal. She is based in Detroit.
I'll always remember the response I received when I told fellow East Coasties I would attend Macalester College.

"Is that in Canada?" each person would ask, thinking of McGill University in Montreal.

"No, it's in St. Paul, Minnesota," I would reply, steeling myself for the inevitable follow-up.

"Oh." Pause. "It's cold there." Then the search for something positive to say: "People are friendly, though."

It happened again and again. The same response, and then a blank stare as if that was all there was to say about the Midwest. As if that's all there was in the Midwest, period.

I was guilty of the same ignorance. Once, months after I decided to attend Mac, my best friend asked me, with some embarrassment, "What state are you going to?" and I responded by desperately ticking off the "Mi" states before hitting on the right one: "Michigan. I mean, Missouri. I mean, Mississippi. Minnesota!"

"We don't even know anyone who's been to Minnesota," my mother once said jokingly. My father contradicted her. His car had broken down in Minnesota—or was it South Dakota?—on a cross-country trip decades ago.

And my family members in New York City asked, "Why on earth would you want to go there?"

The truth is, I didn't really know. I liked the school; I wanted to be in a big city. And I wanted to expand my horizons. To some extent I understood and disliked my own East Coast snobbery. I knew that if I didn't go to the Midwest for college, I never would. And somehow I knew that I'd be missing out.

Nevertheless, my first year at Macalester was a study in culture shock. I had attended boarding school and lived on my own before coming to college, so I felt like no one understood my own peculiar pain. I briefly fought to bring spring water bubblers to the dorms. I bemoaned the lack of a subway system like the "T" in Boston.

Minnesota Nice made me nervous. I didn't understand why strangers smiled at me on the street. Was something wrong? Did I have something in my teeth?

Were they laughing at me? Pitying me, perhaps? And I could not for the life of me figure out the appeal of the Snoopy statues that were scattered around St. Paul as a fundraiser and a memorial to Charles M. Schulz. Was this the Minnesota idea of public art?

In that freshman year search for identity, I clung to my East Coast origins like it was vegetarianism or a pink hairdo. I don't fit in, I thought. I'm too East Coast. I liked a more fast-paced life, I liked people crowding the streets at night, I liked the smell of urine and trash collecting in gutters. I liked anonymity; I wanted to feel like one tiny part of a vast, pulsating, smelly whole. (I hadn't yet been to the Minnesota State Fair, or I would have realized that there were smelly crowds in the Midwest, too.)

My snobbery wore off slowly. I spent summers here and started to feel more at home. I grew to like the Mall of America and the State Fair. But although I gradually adjusted to Minnesota, I always believed I would return to the East Coast after college.

Then, the summer after I graduated, a fellow '02 grad was doubting her plan to move back to New York City and I offered her a place to stay so she'd have more time to think it over. Tomorrow we have plans to get our pictures taken with the Lucy statues that have replaced Snoopy. Then I'll just sit back and let the Twin Cities work their magic.

My sister came to visit later that summer and I was thrilled to take her biking along the river and attend the Irish Festival on Harriet Island. I can't say which excited her more about the Twin Cities—the cost of housing or the karaoke at Nye's Polka Bar. Either way she's not a convert yet, but I'm stepping up recruitment.

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Hannah Clark '02, a struggling free-lance writer in Minneapolis, accepts Visa or MasterCard donations at palindreme242@hotmail.com.
Supporting Macalester is a tradition in many families, particularly the Leonard family. Three generations have contributed to the college, and in almost every kind of way, from capital gifts and planned giving to endowed gifts and the Annual Fund. The tradition began with Wilma Fox Leonard ’27 and her late husband, George ’27, whose name graces Macalester’s Leonard Natatorium. The generosity continues with son Mark Leonard ’65 and his wife, Candace Hewitt Leonard ’67; Wilma’s granddaughter, Katie Robben Fox ’84; and Katie’s husband, Thomas Johnson Fox ’86.

“Macalester has a long tradition of blending a top-notch education, strong ethical values and an attitude of social responsibility,” the family says. “We’re proud to be part of the Macalester community, and feel it deserves our support. We can’t repay the wonderful people who made our education possible, but we can help continue the tradition for future generations.”
Welcome back to Mac

Reunion and Commencement Weekend will take place Friday through Sunday, May 16–18, with Commencement at 1:30 p.m. Sunday. Reunion classes have been mailed information; see also www.macalester.edu/alumni.