

# LEARNING FOR A LIFETIME



*"My liberal arts experience at Macalester provided much more than a supplement to my professional training; it provided a foundation for ethical, historical and cultural understanding of my chosen career."*

Gretchen Rohr  
Rhodes Scholar  
Holland & Knight, Chesterfield Smith Fellow  
Southern Center for Human Rights, Atlanta  
Macalester College, Class of 1998

*"The Mac experience has taught me to examine challenges from multiple angles, often questioning things that are taken for granted by others."*

Alexander Kafka,  
Vice President, alfabet AG  
Berlin, Germany  
Macalester College, Class of 1996



*"Macalester's diversity teaches its most powerful lesson — that only open minds can create great ideas."*

Matthew D. Culp  
Lieutenant, United States Navy  
F/A-18 Pilot, Operation Iraqi Freedom  
Macalester College, Class of 1998

*"My opportunity at Macalester to study other cultures —including while studying abroad—was an incredible asset in analyzing and helping develop U.S. foreign policy after September 11, 2001."*

Rebecca Hanson  
Past Associate Director for Afghanistan at the National Security Council  
Law student, University of Chicago  
Macalester College, Class of 1995



*"Medicine requires skills in physical diagnosis in addition to patient communication. For me, these were shaped at Macalester."*

Mark Vanderwel  
Fellow, Pediatric Endocrinology, University of Texas-Southwestern/  
Children's Medical Center of Dallas  
Macalester College, Class of 1993

*"Mac instills in its graduates a strong sense of service and civic responsibility; that's why so many of us are involved in public service and advocacy."*

Minh Ta  
Public Policy Director  
Children's Defense Fund, Minnesota  
Macalester College, Class of 1997



## A Liberal Arts Education: Shaping the Future

— A message from Brian C. Rosenberg, President of Macalester College —

The liberal arts college is a uniquely American institution. Throughout our nation's history, the best of these colleges have emphasized breadth and flexibility rather than narrow specialization. Without sacrificing academic excellence, rigor or practical utility, they have exposed their students to a range of subjects and developed in them the habits of mind, variety of interests and intellectual skills that would serve them and their communities well. This mission, unlike the more sharply focused pre-professional training favored elsewhere in the world, has been shaped by a sense that those who develop a love of learning and the ability to learn will be best prepared not only to build distinguished careers and lead satisfying lives, but also to be full and active participants in a democratic society. It has been and remains an approach guided by a concern for both individual happiness and the larger social good; always subject to challenge, it has nonetheless been for more than two centuries a central tenet of American political thought and educational philosophy.

While many aspects of today's culture, including the speed of communications, the outpouring of information and the demand for efficiency, may seem to some to have rendered the liberal arts model outmoded, in fact it has never been more necessary and relevant. Those who know how to think critically and creatively, to respond to the unexpected and to read even the most complicated features of the surrounding landscape—in short, those who are liberally educated—will be best-suited to adapt and provide leadership in the twenty-first century.

Those with the ability to understand a broad range of perspectives will be in the best position to create and under-

stand their particular place in the world. Certainly young adults need to be prepared to enter into rewarding professional lives, but, perhaps more than ever before, they need also to understand the connections among disciplines, the global nature of our most pressing problems, the fabric of life in contemporary cities, the complex and growing diversity of American culture, along with a range of other issues and ideas best examined in the context of a liberal education. Events such as the attacks on September 11, the recent war in Iraq and the turmoil in the economy have reminded us that few abilities are more important than the ability to respond with intelligence, composure and empathy to unanticipated challenges and changes.

At colleges such as Macalester we embrace the American model of the liberal arts and sciences and believe that the value of an education unfolds over the course of a lifetime. It may be measured not merely by assessment tools, but by the richness of the lives led by our graduates and by the importance of their civic, intellectual, artistic and humanitarian contributions. We believe that the experience of living within a residential liberal arts community, of working closely with dedicated teachers and scholars, of interacting with others from around the country and around the world, of participating in the life of a vibrant urban area and, above all, of receiving a broad-based education of the highest quality, prepares students uniquely well for lives of distinction, fulfillment and service. Our challenge is to articulate for this and subsequent generations the value and virtues of the liberal arts and, in so doing, to play an important role in shaping the American and global future.



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