

**Macalester College
Faculty Development International Seminar**

***Malaysia:
Crossroads of Diversity in Southeast Asia***

***Overseas Dates:
January 2-24, 2002***

Seminar Outline

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MACALESTER COLLEGE
FACULTY DEVELOPMENT INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR

*Malaysia:
Crossroads of Diversity in Southeast Asia*

*January 2-24, 2002
Penang & Kuala Lumpur*

I. INTRODUCTION

Macalester College has conducted to date three Faculty Development International Seminars. The first seminar was held in *Hungary* in the summer of 1995 with a thematic focus on *A Transition and Globalization in Central and Eastern Europe*. The second was conducted in *Brazil* in the summer of 1997 and emphasized *A Landscape, Culture and Globalization*. The third seminar, focusing on *A Transformation and Multiculturalism in the New Millennium* took place in *South Africa* in January of 2000. Building on the foundations of these three seminars, a fourth seminar, in January of 2002, further internationalized the Macalester brand of liberal arts education by engaging participants in an intensive intellectual and cross-cultural seminar in Southeast Asia. This fourth seminar focused on the achievements and challenges of a country that has long been the crossroads of major civilizations: *Malaysia*. The format and content of the seminar was designed to fit the intellectual and cross-cultural interests of both Macalester College and our local partners by focusing on important themes and issues in the sciences, the arts, the humanities, and the social sciences. The proceedings of the Malaysia-based seminar, in the form of commissioned papers and Macalester faculty essays, have been published in Volume XI of the College journal of international studies, the *Macalester International*.

An outline of the purpose, theme and subtopics, structure, sites and partner institutions, expectations, expenses, application and selection process, list of participants, and detailed working schedule follows.

II. PURPOSE

At Macalester College, the internationalization of liberal arts education, faculty (teaching staff), and administrators takes many forms. Among others, these include the hiring of tenure-track professors with diverse cultural backgrounds; the granting of sabbatical and other leaves to pursue international research; the Visiting International Faculty Program, which brings several scholars to campus for one- or two-year positions; the Faculty Exchange Program (currently with Japan); the International Roundtable, which brings diverse scholars together with our faculty, staff and students on campus each Fall semester; opportunities to be involved with study abroad programming and advising (approximately 50% of Macalester U.S. students study overseas as part of their degree programs), and to work with an internationally diverse student body (Macalester enrolls degree-seeking students from nearly 80 countries worldwide); and other college-wide, departmental or individual undertakings which bring internationalism to campus or take faculty or administrators abroad.

The January 2002 Faculty Development International Seminar had five explicit and inter-related purposes:

- A. To have Macalester faculty and administrators jointly explore, with host society scholars, practitioners and others, interdisciplinary themes in a particular zone of the world;
- B. To foster a community of internationalist scholars among Macalester participants;
- C. To provide opportunities for individual Macalester participants and host society counterparts to engage in discussions on topics of shared intellectual interests;
- D. To expose Macalester participants to study abroad programs of relevance to our curriculum and of interest to our students; and
- E. To share Seminar outcomes with a wider community in and beyond Macalester.

III. THEME AND SUB-TOPICS

To accomplish the explicit goals of the Seminar, presentations and activities were organized around a broad interdisciplinary theme -- *Malaysia: Crossroads of Diversity in Southeast Asia* -- which was designed to introduce participants to the multiplicity of civilizations, cultural and intellectual achievements, and natural environments in Malaysia as a dynamic society in the Southeast Asian region. The overall theme was designed both to be focused enough to add depth to the content of the seminar and supple enough to stimulate each individual participant's intellectual interests.

Among the countries of Southeast Asia, Malaysia stands out both historically and contemporaneously in its experience to capture and illustrate some of the challenges and achievements of building a multi-civilizational society. The seminar coordinators, the participants themselves and our collaborators in the region jointly crafted the sub-topics of the seminar. In broad stroke, the main areas of inquiry include the following:

- A. ***Cultural Diversity***. This includes study of the Malaysian experience as a text for interpreting the challenges and successes in building a peaceful and productive society of peoples of diverse races, languages, religions and worldviews;
- B. ***Literature and the Arts***. This includes the study of the role of the performing arts and writing in nurturing the creative imagination in Malaysia and in other Southeast Asian societies;
- C. ***Democracy and Transition***. This focuses on the imperatives of leadership and the challenges and successes of building democratic societies;
- D. ***Science, Technology and Ecology***. This involves the quest to understand the relationships between material, scientific, and technological development on the one hand, and natural resources and bio-diversity on the other;
- E. ***Social and Economic Development***. This includes explorations of social justice, economic growth, and human well being across lines of class, ethnicity, and gender.

The January 2002 Macalester Faculty Development International Seminar was designed to help participants grapple, both intellectually and through hands-on personal experience, with these and other compelling issues facing Malaysia in the context of Southeast Asia in this unfolding epoch of globalization. The Seminar was also designed to capture an important moment in Macalester College's fundamental mission of educational excellence in the context of the inter-related ideals of internationalism, multiculturalism, and civic engagement. To help accomplish this, the Seminar included carefully selected commissioned papers and guest presentations; discussions with scholars and practitioners from various fields; guided and independent visits to cultural, educational, ecological and historical sites; opportunities for independent study and collaboration with colleagues in Malaysia (or, by special arrangement, in neighboring countries); visits with host families; and various forums for sharing the experience and the learning gained through the Seminar.

IV. SEMINAR STRUCTURE

The *basic structure* of the Seminar included the following components:

- A. *Several* pre-departure discussions, guest presentations, and orientation meetings at Macalester College upon confirmation of participation in May 2001 and during the Fall Semester 2001.
- B. *One* pre-departure lead commissioned paper (8,000 words), a keynote address, two guest presentations in selected Macalester classes, and discussions with two distinguished Southeast Asianist scholars, held at Macalester College in mid-November 2001.
- C. *Three* commissioned papers (6-8,000 words) with on-site presentations and discussions with local scholars.
- D. *Eight* oral presentations and group discussions on selected topics of interest to the Macalester participants and of importance to an understanding of the host country and region.
- E. *Six days* dedicated to Seminar participants' self-designed independent study projects.
- F. Several group or individual educational excursions.
- G. A Macalester College alumni function.
- H. Post-seminar evaluation meetings, discussions, and the publication of participants' essays.

V. SEMINAR SITES AND PARTNERS

The primary sites of the academic program, apart from those which Seminar participants visited in conjunction with their independent projects, are two of Malaysia's most important and attractive areas: *Penang* and *Kuala Lumpur*. The *Universiti Sains Malaysia* (USM) in Penang and the *Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia* (UKM) in Kuala Lumpur were the Seminar's main partner institutions. While many Malaysian scholars, professionals, and Macalester alumni played important roles in this seminar, Macalester's key contact people in each of the two main seminar sites were:

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VI. SEMINAR EXPECTATIONS

Following are the College's expectations of Macalester participants in this seminar:

- A. To engage actively in all seminar presentations, discussions, field visits, and alumni events in Malaysia, as well as in all related meetings at Macalester both prior to departure and upon return;
- B. To undertake independent reading about Malaysia and Southeast Asia, both in areas of academic interests and beyond as an effort toward further development of intellectual peripheral vision;
- C. To undertake abroad an independent study project on a pre-selected topic and to be in contact, both during the seminar and beforehand, with resource people abroad who could provide suggestions on the independent study project;
- D. To facilitate discussion and to lead at least one seminar session abroad in collaboration with the relevant presenter;
- E. To prepare an abstract on an area of academic expertise and, if invited, to give a presentation on this topic for a host institution or community group in Malaysia;
- F. To write a meditative essay (3,000 words) based on the independent study project, observations, journal notes, and Seminar learning and to have this essay ready for publication in the *Macalester International* by April 1, 2002.

VII. SEMINAR EXPENSES

Macalester College covers most of the direct administrative and academic costs of Seminar design, implementation and evaluation, as well as the cost of honoraria and travel for speakers and authors. Our co-sponsoring institutions in Malaysia provided facilities and other in-kind support, administrative assistance, and support toward receptions. Macalester College provided funding for the following Macalester participant expenses:

- A. International Airfare (or equivalent funding at group rate)
- B. Single-room accommodation and breakfast (or breakfast stipend)
- C. Working lunches
- D. Convening and closing dinners or lunches (co-hosted by participating Malaysian universities)
- E. Basic room and board during the independent study period

Macalester participants themselves covered other costs, including:

- F. Most dinners and some lunches
- G. Passport, visa fees (if necessary), inoculations (if necessary)
- H. Personal travel, including travel during the independent study period
- I. Tips, personal items, and incidentals

VIII. APPLICATION AND SELECTION

All tenured, tenure-track, and adjunct faculty at Macalester College were invited to apply for the Malaysia seminar. In addition, two places were held for strategically identified administrator applicants. Following the April 17, 2001 application deadline, the Advisory Committee on International Studies and Internationalism (ACISI) reviewed and ranked applications and made its recommendations to the Faculty Professional Activities Committee (FPAC). Items requested in the application included the following:

- A. A concise statement (2-3 pages) outlining how the applicant envisions the seminar in Malaysia contributing to scholarship, teaching, and advising at Macalester; and how the applicant could help contribute to the seminar's explicit purposes.

- B. An outline, in the form of a brief narrative abstract (2-3 paragraphs), of an initial idea for an independent study project to be undertaken during the seminar and later presented as part of a meditative essay for publication in the *Macalester International*.
- C. A working title and brief abstract (2-3 paragraphs) of a guest presentation in an area of academic expertise that the participant would be willing to provide if invited by a host institution or community organization in Malaysia; and an updated curriculum vitae.

IX. MACALESTER PARTICIPANTS

Following are the 13 Macalester faculty and administrators who participated in the Malaysia seminar:

<u>Participant</u>	<u>Macalester Affiliation</u>
Elizabeth Cogswell	Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations, Development Office
Karl Egge	F.R. Bigelow Professor, Economics
Jeffrey Evans	Adjunct Professor, Economics
Roxane Gudeman	Adjunct Professor, Psychology
Ellen Guyer	Dean of Academic Programs
David Lanegran	John S. Holl Professor, Geography
Michael Monahan*	Director, International Center
Carleton Macy	Professor, Music
Karen Nakamura	Assistant Professor, Anthropology/Asian Studies
Wayne Roberts	Professor, Mathematics and Computer Science
Ahmed Samatar*	James Wallace Professor and Dean, International Studies and Programming
Clay Steinman	Professor and Chair, Communication Studies
Robert Warde	Associate Professor, English

*Seminar coordinators

Following are the **independent study project topics** of the Macalester participants:

<u>Participant</u>	<u>Independent Study Project Topic</u>
Elizabeth Cogswell	Philanthropy in Malaysia
Karl Egge	Entrepreneurship in Malaysia: The View from Singapore
Jeffrey Evans	Environmental Economics: Logging and Wilderness Preservation
Roxane Gudeman	Learning in a Multicultural Environment
Ellen Guyer	University Campus Design and the Student Experience
David Lanegran	Commercial Centers and Historic Preservation in Kuala Lumpur
Carleton Macy	Traditional Music in Malaysia: Influences on Concert Music and Theory
Karen Nakamura	Gender, Minority and Deaf Organizations
Wayne Roberts	Liberal Arts Study Abroad and Technological Development
Clay Steinman	Globalization and the Media in Malaysia
Robert Warde	The Literary Scene in Malaysia