



## REUNION '68...Reconnect, Reflect, Reminisce, Recommit Won't you be our guest?

Did you catch the Super Bowl? Did you flash back to the warm and fuzzy feelings of winter in Minnesota? Though winters here of late have been milder, this one is much like that of 1967. The February 17th issue of *The Mac Weekly* noted that neither 70 inches of snow nor 40 mph winds could stop the Drama Chorus during its Interim tour of Minnesota. Rugged, weren't we?

### RECONNECT

Fortunately, Reunion is in June. How are your plans to attend coming? Any questions related to lodging, costs, or events? For answers right now, go to [macalester.edu/reunion/50yearreunion](http://macalester.edu/reunion/50yearreunion).

In March, the official Reunion 2018 brochure will be mailed with event-specific costs and registration materials. A preview finds the Dayton Hall residence reserved for the Class of '68. Stay in this air-conditioned, suite-type dorm for \$50 per person over the entire three-day weekend. A flat weekend rate of \$125 per person covers all meals and events.

A schedule of 1968-specific events includes Briggs House gatherings on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, Golden Scot Society Induction ceremony and luncheon, MacTalks '68 with PBS, a class dinner, and more. Program details are outlined in the January Great Scot e-newsletter.

Don't receive emails from Mac? Read the newsletter at the 50th Reunion webpage.

### REFLECT

Who were your friends on campus? Do you chuckle when you think back? Have you kept in touch? If not, why not? MacDirect is at your disposal. Reunion is the perfect venue. Maybe you could room together in Dayton Hall. Think back, and come back!

## THE MACALESTER EXPERIENCE... what's yours?

### Focus: 1966-1967—International Adventures

On campus the anti-war movement is gaining strength, the college is urged to draft a pot policy, Eugene McCarthy keynotes Political Emphasis week, and Weyerhaeuser Chapel blueprints are released. But above all, our junior year was our opportunity to explore the world. Did you travel abroad during Interim, SWAP, or SPAN? Did you come from abroad as a student, a WPI member, an Ambassador for Friendship? As you read these articles, think back to your Macalester experience—your adventures, their impact, your worldview.

### INTERIM

In January 1967, Interim courses went worldwide with academic tours to Russia, Mexico, and France. The art history course sampled works throughout Europe.

"A young woman from a small farming community of 800 travels to four countries during January 1967. The art history Interim trip was a well-planned, very inclusive tour of art and architecture in England, the Netherlands, France, and Italy. For nearly 50 years, this trip has impacted my life. It brought the world to me. Two experiences still stand out. The first was at Stonehenge in England. A very maimed English soldier from World War II had a profound conversation with us about whose hands exactly built the monument. The second experience was at a square in Venice on January 27, 1967. The Apollo 1 spacecraft had just burned during its flight test. Italians, realizing we were Americans, reached out to extend their sympathies. My world became smaller and bigger in that moment. Thank you, Macalester. Even after all these years I so appreciate having seen such truly great sites."

—Linda Anderson Roebke

### STUDENT WORKING ABROAD PROGRAM (SWAP)

In January 1967, 124 Macites from the sophomore and junior classes were selected to spend the summer abroad working at hotels, factories, and restaurants. For most, this was their first trip outside of the country; for some, their first trip outside of Minnesota.

"My morning coffee always takes me back to the summer of 1967 when Macalester's SWAP offered my first overseas opportunity: work at a coffee factory in Oslo, Norway. The job itself was nothing special though the freshly ground aroma was a sensory thrill. The experiences from that summer transformed my life. I am from a tiny farming community in Iowa. When I arrived at Macalester, I had never flown, and had never been farther from the U.S. than the Canadian border. Dewitt Wallace's funding and Macalester's planning took me not just to Oslo. With two-months' work proceeds in hand, three Mac classmates and I rented a VW Beetle and visited eight European countries, including behind the Iron Curtain to Checkpoint Charlie and Prague. Later, in my 20s, I backpacked for many months in the Middle East, and a few years later in South America. Still later, I joined the State Department, had a fascinating career, lived in eight countries and visited at least 60 others. Mac's international flavor and SWAP's incentives steered my way. I will be forever grateful."

—Larry Dinger

## STUDENT PROJECTS ABROAD NETWORK (SPAN)

With SPAN, work was replaced by research projects. The summer of 1967 found students in Israel and Venezuela. To help fund their travels, students sold SPANwiches on Thursday nights. Perhaps you bought one.

"SPAN took me to Israel in the summer of 1967 to research relations between Middle Eastern and European Jews. After cruising the Greek islands waiting for the '67 war to end, we arrived in Tel Aviv with American Jews ebullient over Israel's victory. Though naive then about the Arab-Israeli conflict, I did register Israeli annoyance that Americans celebrated the Sabra (native-born) triumph.

I roomed with women soldiers teaching literacy in a desert town. Kiryat Gat was proud of its 'Glickson Quarters,' designed to promote assimilation of recently arrived Middle Eastern Jews. In a Tel Aviv suburb, I lived with an Iraqi Jewish family. The mother was a kindergarten headmistress; the father, a director of education; the son, more nationalistic than many Sabras.

SPAN launched me into Middle East anthropology with a master's on Lebanese Shi'a, a doctorate on traditional Egyptian women, and a post-doc on Syrian popular culture. After a decade of university teaching, I changed careers to become an Arabist diplomat, directing culture and media programs in embassies from Khartoum to Damascus.

Who knows what my 'without SPAN' career would have been? To those of you who bought the SPANwiches we hawked, thank you!"

—Evelyn A. Early



## COMING TO AMERICA— CLASSMATES FROM ABROAD

There was a small contingent of students from other countries during our years at Mac. Our classmates were at the vanguard of today's program. Weren't we lucky to have those brave pioneers!

## THE SUMMER OF '64

"In June 1964, I was anxiously preparing for college in the U.S., leaving Tehran for Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota. I had found the school in a catalogue in the AIS library in Tehran. Then one evening on the TV news, I saw that students from this school, this Macalester, were working at the Tehran Hilton for the summer (i.e., SWAP at work). Small world. Little did I know that one of those students, Sonya Anderson, would become a lifelong friend.

Off to Macalester. Man and His World, Tony Caponi, the art department, dorm life, Chapel and Convocation—all were a bit overwhelming. I was observing every event and following the flow. I studied hard, learned to play bridge in the Grille, stood on the sidewalk in silent protest to the Vietnam War, and worked part-time at Dayton's. Reflecting back, I remember the date with a Knoxville student who told me he had never dated a white girl. I heard William Sloan Coffin Jr. talk about war resistance;

Bishop Pike about religion; Bonnie Pruden about physical fitness and women's health. Summer travel with Ambassadors for Friendship was amazing. But above all, I thank all the people who inspired me to be creative, brave, and daring, and to part with the anxiety and fears I carried with me that summer of '64. Thank you, Jerry Rudquist, Don Celender, Dean Lund, Harry Morgan, Jim Toscano, Jodie Erickson, Sonya Anderson, and Freya Manfred.

Today my life is filled with the connectedness of the international community, political activism, social responsibility, engagement, and perhaps best of all, a persistence to tackle the challenges of today."

—Shahnaz Yusefsadeh Coyer

## THEN AND NOW... What Happened to the Fieldhouse?



We were off to the quad for Frisbee, trike races, and intramural sports. But the Fieldhouse was our athletic center with a gym, indoor track, and swimming pool. As the largest venue on campus it hosted countless convocations, commencements, and concerts (hope you saw Ray Charles in 1968). Then, during spring semester 2006, it was deconstructed with an estimated 95 percent of all materials being reused or recycled.

In the fall of 2008, the Leonard Center opened on the site of the old fieldhouse. Though only slightly larger than its predecessor, the open spaces and walls of windows give the new center a much larger feel. With an Olympic-sized pool, basketball court, track arena, fitness and exercise center, snack bar, and meeting rooms, it also is home to the Laurie Hamre Center for Health and Wellness (think Winton Health Services). The Leonard Center, it's not just for jocks, but a bustling center for students, faculty, staff, and us—alumni.

## And now, a little trivia:

- The September 9, 1966 *Mac Weekly* noted there was an impediment to entering the Fieldhouse. **What was** the impediment?
- The October 14, 1966 *Mac Weekly* had a reminder for students traveling abroad during Interim. **What was** the reminder?
- The Office of Career Development planned 12 career discussions for spring semester 1967. **What was** the topic for the first discussion on January 23, as noted in the January 20, 1967 *Mac Weekly*?
- In the May 20, 1967 *Mac Weekly*, Hansford Pontiac ran a Graduation Special ad for Firebirds (small token payments until you start work). **How much** was the down payment?

Answers will be posted on the Reunion webpage, but you could find them yourself in the archives.