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Founders' Day 1956 (?)

Macalester College

Phil Beedon

Charles J. Turck

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Macalester College Archives

Audio Reel #7-234b

Founders Day 1956?

[00:00]

[Singing of “Dear Old Macalester”]

[00:34]

Phil Beedon: Greetings fellow Mac-ites, this is Phil Beedon speaking from the campus. Dr. Turck and the famous Macalester choir have prepared this tape to help you celebrate Founders’ Day wherever you may be. We all hope that the president’s message and the songs by the choir will serve to bring you back to Mac for a few moments. Many of you will remember, I’m sure, hearing this song in chapel, Ian Morton, Mac [Class of] 1937, conducts the choir in “As Torrents in Summer” by Edward Elgar.

[01:10]

[Choir sings “As Torrents in Summer”]

[03:53]

PB: And now a Founders’ Day message from Macalester’s President Dr. Charles J. Turck.

[03:59]

Charles J. Turck: Dear friends and alumni, we are now in the seventieth continuous session of Macalester College. With the exception of the years immediately after World War II, we are

having our largest attendance, twelve hundred and fifty-nine in the first semester and twelve hundred and five this present second semester. While there will be a constantly increasing stream of high school graduates knocking at our doors, and while I personally believe that the private colleges should prepare to take a reasonable number of additional students, we at Macalester are already serving almost as many students as our present plant will serve. Our maximum capacity roughly estimated can be regarded as one thousand five hundred students. We should reach this figure, in my judgement, in the next two years. Our immediate task at the college is to raise a hundred thousand dollars, which is to match an anonymous conditional gift of the same amount. The purpose is to build a field house. Now this project does not mean any new emphasis on athletics or exaggerated emphasis on athletics at Macalester, for that would be deplorable. Macalester stands for amateur college sports and we have not the slightest plan of changing our emphasis.

[05:13]

The new building, however, will permit us with some additional staff to offer a major in physical education, and we want to do something distinctive with this course. One of the unfortunate aspects of high school athletic competition is the emphasis on winning and the adulation paid to high school star athletes, compared to the praise that is given to other worthy youngsters. Responsibility for this is primarily the responsibility of the coach. Well it is the preface of Macalester College in its new major for physical education to train carefully selected young men who will bring a new emphasis to interscholastic sports, and will carry the spirit of Christian service and humility into a field that greatly needs these qualities. To raise this hundred thousand dollars, I need individuals or groups of individuals who will each give a thousand

dollars in the next three years. And I should be not be in the least displeased or surprised if the group that is now listening to me might combine efforts and promise to give one of these one thousand dollar gifts. The academic life of this campus has been featured by two programs sustained by the Hill Family Foundation grants. One is the area study of the Middle East in which Macalester joined with Hamline, St. Thomas, and St. Catharine, participating under the general leadership of Dr. Armajani of our faculty. The other is the Humanities program at Macalester and Hamline which was brought to the joint campuses by such people as Ernst Toch, the eminent composer; Gyorgy Kepes, the Professor of Visual Design; Margaret Webster, actor and director; Robert P. Christian Copen, the poet; and Iredell Jenkins, the Chairman of the Department of Philosophy at the University of Alabama, who is on the campus at the present time. For the past few weeks the college has received a grant of thirty-thousand dollars for a new program of studies and discussions for adults that will run for three years beginning next fall. This grant comes from the fund for adult education. This is the first time that any branch of the Ford Foundation has selected Macalester College as a base for its operations. All in all, we have had on campus and in our community relations this year our very best year. On the birthday of Dr. James Wallace, or as near to that as possible, I hope that more alumni than ever before will gather to take proper pride in their college and to renew their devotion to Dear Old Mac and all the good memories and Christian purposes that cluster around that name.

[08:09]

One last piece. "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring" by old J. S. Bach. Dorothy Kielhack, a senior from North Dakota is at the piano and Herman Straka, Class of '48 and now a member of the college's Music Department staff, plays the violin obligato.

[08:30]

[Music plays, choir sings “Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring”]

[11:49]

Phil Beedon: And now farewell from all of us here at [your] alma mater. We hope that this brief visit with you will have brought back some of the atmosphere of Dear Old Mac. Most of all we hope that it will have sparked a determination to make a personal visit to the campus soon again. All of us will be glad to see you when you come.

[12:09]

[Choir sings “Dear Old Macalester”]