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Founders' Day 1960

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Macalester College Archives
Audio Reel #39
Founders' Day 1960

Phil Beedon: Founders' Day greetings fellow Mac-ites, this is Phil Beedon speaking from the campus. This tape recording brings you the actual convocation program as it was presented for the student body and faculty on March 8th in the college gymnasium and broadcast through the station KUOM. I wish to take only enough time to underscore one point which is a departure from the pattern of past Founders' Days, because it is a new feature close to my heart. This is the first time that the campus celebration of Founder's Day has undergraduate focus and has involved the student body. We made this change in recognition of the irrefutable fact that alumni are made in the classroom. It is while they are on the campus that Mac graduates are educated to the status of loyal alumni. I firmly believe that this is an important step we have taken. When you hear the several presentations honoring the college and its founders, I think you too will approve of this kind of indoctrination. And now you will hear from President Harvey M. Rice who presides at this first Founders' Day convocation.

[Bagpipes]

Harvey M. Rice: We are very pleased to be able today to begin a new phase of our celebration of Founders' Day. Founders' Day as a day of celebration was begun twenty years ago. In the years since that, it has been largely an alumni activity and it continues to be a significant alumni activity, with Macalester clans meeting throughout the course of this month and the next throughout the United States and around the world, celebrating Founders' Day. This year we

begin making Founders' Day a student activity on campus as well as an alumni activity away from the campus. On February 26, 1853, the legislature of the State of Minnesota, by an act, created, or incorporated, the Baldwin School. Edward Duffield Neill and a group of other distinguished territorial leaders, because it was prior to the founding of Minnesota as a state, were the incorporators of the Baldwin School. It is of interest to me that the first building in which the Baldwin School...the Baldwin School operated, beginning in 1854 or in 1853, was the building which faced Rice Park in Saint Paul. In 1864, the name of the Baldwin School was changed by an amendment to the original incorporating act of the legislature, and it became known as Baldwin University. On March 5, 1874, Baldwin University's name was changed by a second amendment to the legislative enactment which changed the name to Macalester College. On September 15, 1885, the first students at the college level of education entered Macalester College. The Baldwin School, however, continued to be a part of the operation of the college and had been in continuous operation since 1853 and continued in operation as the Baldwin School of Macalester College until the second decade of the present century. Charles Macalester, about whom you will hear in a few minutes, was born February 17. James Wallace was born on March 13. You might well take any of the dates from February 26, when the first enactment of the legislature was passed, or February 17 Charles Macalester's birthday or March the 5th, the day on which in 1874 the name Macalester was placed in the legislation as the name of our college, or March 13, the birthday of James Wallace. You might take any of these days as the logical day on which to celebrate Founders' Day. Founders' Day, I would call to your attention, is a plural title. F-O-U-N-D-E-R-S because we are honoring all of the founders of Macalester. And through them all of those through the decades since have been significant in

keeping Macalester alive and continually growing. And so with this word of introduction, I am happy to present to you the President of the Community Council, former Vice-President of the Community Council, last year's Secretary of Toastmasters George Bonniwell, Jr., of Hutchinson, Minnesota, who will speak to us on the founder, the original President of the Baldwin School as it was incorporated in 1853, Edward Duffield Neill. Mr. Bonniwell.

[Applause]

George Bonniwell, Jr.: Thank you, President Rice. It seems as though we as members of [the] Macalester College community today find it difficult sometimes to appreciate the full worth of our fine institution of Macalester College. Partly because I think we were not able to witness the initial struggle for its establishment and ensuing development. We tend, I think, to feel that Macalester just sort of evolved by itself. It's here today and that's all that really counts. Well it's true that there aren't too many people alive today who witnessed these initial efforts and we find it difficult to stir the dust of the recorded past in order that we might reveal the actions and ideas of the men of a century ago. But the man I would like to acquaint you with was the man with the original dream of a Macalester College and the man who would diligently and exhaustively work until he realized that very dream. That man was Edward Duffield Neill. It is not the purpose of my talk to reveal to you just this fact, but rather that Macalester can be proud of its relationship to such a grand pioneer, scholar, and educator who contributed so much to the development of a public school system and an established church and from whom we who will face just as formidable a task in our lifetime might take note. Edward Duffield Neill was born in Philadelphia in 1823. After completing his public school, he entered the University of

Pennsylvania and graduated from Amherst College in 1842. He studied theology first at Andover Theological Seminary and he completed his work at Philadelphia. In 1847 he was married and later that year was licensed by the Presbytery of Galena [Illinois?] to preach, and in 1848 he received his ordination. But this restless, eager, young creature was really not satisfied. After having heard that steps were going to be taken to ask Congress to establish a new territory north of the state of Iowa, he indicated his request to the Presbytery to pioneer this area. And then early in 1849 he received the mission from the Presbytery and subsequently was commissioned by the whole missions board to pioneer this area. Which ah, to pioneer the whole territory of Minnesota, which was established on April 9th of that year, 1849. Neill came to Saint Paul on April 23 of 1849, and Edward Duffield Neill had finally found a locality of his life's work. What kind of pioneer community did he come to? Well he reported in his writings that Saint Paul was, "a collection of Indian whisky shops and birch roof cabins of voyagers." But the territory of Minnesota as a whole had a population of less than five thousand. Saint Paul had a population of only nine hundred and ten, so you can see that he came when this territory was extremely young. But Edward Neill liked what he saw and was quite prophetic in his analysis of what he saw and what he wrote. For he said, "This must really be a place of importance." And he set out almost immediately to prove his very prediction. At the first session of the state of the territorial legislature, he offered the convocation. He was a crusader from the very beginning for the separation between church and state and the most notable enactment of the new legislature, after its beginning, was the establishment of a system of three schools for all children in the territory. Now this bill was introduced by Mr. Martin McLeod and then taken up by Edward Duffield Neill. After taking a very active part in the establishment of a

public school system throughout Minnesota and in Saint Paul, he was appointed the superintendent of public instruction of the territory. He took a very active part in the early development of the schools as you can see. He was a charter member of the Minnesota Historical Society—he gave his first lecture and served as its secretary for twelve years. In 1853 with the financial aid of M. W. Baldwin, a locomotive manufacturer, he established the Baldwin School. This was to become, this was really the only, only the first incidence of what was becoming his lifetime habit of soliciting funds for promising new enterprises, most notably educational ones. He then approached Mr. Baldwin with the idea of establishing a college for men and Mr. Baldwin responded with five thousand dollars and Mr. Neill established what was probably at that time the College of Saint Paul and he was President. But within two years this institution ran into financial difficulty and he went to the east to seek financial aid, which he did get. But the troubled financial times they had did impede the development of this institution. He continued his great work in the church establishing the House of Hope Church in Saint Paul on December 24th, 1855. When Minnesota became a state on May 11th, 1858, he offered the prayer at the first session of the state legislature. And he was the man who enters [unclear] the University of Minnesota and subsequently was appointed its first chancellor and at the same time was retained as superintendent of schools. In 1858, he assisted in forming the state, the Minnesota state senate, of which he was appointed clerk. In 1861, he resigned his state post to become chaplain of the First Minnesota Regiment, taking an honorable part in the battles of Bull Run, Fair Oaks, and Malvern Hill. In 1864, Neill became one of President Lincoln's private secretaries in charge of correspondence and signing of land patents, but during these war years he did not forget his educational enterprises in the Twin Cities and was constantly seeking

financial aid in the East. Also during this decade of the [eighteen-]sixties, his scholarship became more productive in which he wrote many books on American and English history. After the death of Lincoln, he continued on under President Johnson and in 1869 he was appointed by President Grant to the Consul at Dublin, Ireland. He didn't really apprec—enjoy his work, but he did devote a great deal of time to historical research. In 1869, the Baldwin School was sold and in 1879 in his correspondence he discussed with his friends the possibility of establishing a theological school in Minneapolis or Saint Paul. He resigned his consulship in 1871 and returned to Saint Paul after the absence of a decade, but he returned with the determination to establish a Christian nonde—non-sectarian college for boys. He revived the Baldwin School and changed its name to Jesus College and announced it as a Christian non-sectarian school, but the burden of the school, the financial burden, was carried mainly by himself and his sister and through lack of interest in a collegiate education in the area, the school or the institution was abandoned in 1872. Neill then turned to Charles Macalester, a Philadelphia millionaire philanthropist with the idea of establishing a college for boys in the Twin Cities. Macalester was initially cool to the idea but eventually through his will he gave the Winslow House in Minneapolis, which he owned, to the college. Neill planned along with Macalester's daughter that Macalester College should become a Christian college but that two-thirds of the Board of Trustees should be Presbyterian. Macalester College was established by act of legislature on March 5th, 1874, and Edward Duffield Neill became its first President. The [unclear] of his life was the founding of a Christian non-sectarian college in the upper valley of the Mississippi. However, Macalester was to remain nothing but a name and a hope for a period of eleven years. When Macalester was established under Presbyterian control in 1880, when Neill resigned as

President in 1884, Macalester looked like it was on the road to sure financial disaster. And to top it all off, when women were admitted to the college, Neill's heart was ready to break.

Macalester was rescued from its financial troubles, but Neill remained violently against the principle of co-ed education. Mainly because he thought Charles Macalester and the other founders of the college were against it, and he constantly kept this matter before the Board of Trustees and the faculty. After selling Winslow House for forty thousand dollars, the Trustees in 1881 purchased 40 acres in Saint Paul on which, four years later, on September 16th, 1885 was to be dedicated the east wing of what we now affectionately know as Old Main. At which President, Dr. Neill, the founder of Macalester College, gave a dedicatory address and the Macalester College as we now know it in its present location, was formally opened with six members of the freshman class. Neill in his later years served on the faculty of Macalester College teaching education, teaching economics, English, and history. He wrote many books on Minnesota history and was quite outspoken on the major issues of the time. He died on September 20th, 1893, incidentally after hearing that the Board of Trustees were going to let women enter the college. Dr. Edward Duffield Neill was reared under conditions of noble culture and refinement. He associated with the people of the finest taste, the best of education. That such a man should deny himself the comforts of his eastern home and expose himself to the hardships of the frontier, not to amass himself a personal fortune, but to promote the best interests of a new territory and its developmental period, reveals a man of courage, strength, and devotion. And it only seems fitting that we commemorate the fine achievements of such a great man as Edward Duffield Neill, who contributed so much the establishment of a public school

system in Minnesota, and an established church, and the fine institution of Macalester College.

Thank you.

[Applause]

President Harvey M. Rice: Our second speaker is Edmund Wood, President of the Junior Class, whose home is at [unclear]. Ed is also Co-chairman of Political Emphasis Week this year. He will present to us a sketch of Charles Macalester. Mr. Wood.

[Applause]

Edmund Wood: Thank you, Dr. Rice. My job is going to be a little easier today, because Mr. Macalester, while he contributed very heavily to the college, did not play an actual big role in the development of the college, and consequently there is not too much information available about him. He was born in Philadelphia in 1798, surprisingly enough of Scottish ancestry. He was quite a wealthy man, his father had been a wealthy businessman in Scotland, and his career consisted mainly in investing the fortune which he had. He was very prominent in several large companies in the East, and during the Civil War, he worked very hard for the Union. He was very influential, he was a trusted friend of every president from Jackson through Grant. And that implies quite a bit of political facility, I guess, or at least it looks like that. He started out as a Jacksonian Democrat and ended up as a Lincolnian Republican. He was also quite active in church work in Pennsylvania, he held several important posts in the church and in mission work

in Pennsylvania. His main contribution to the college came in 1872 when Mr. Neill approached him trying to find some way of starting a college and he needed a place to hold it. Well, Mr. Macalester was pretty hesitant at first, he said, and this is pretty applicable today, he said the country is swimming with educational institutions, most of them crippled and always in pecuniary trouble. So he was very skeptical at first, he did not feel much like contributing. Mr. Neill however, apparently was a pretty good salesman, he overcame this and with the promise that the college would be deemed Macalester College, Charles Macalester assented and he contributed the Winslow House in Minneapolis, which interestingly enough was a resort during the Civil War for planta—or before the Civil War for southern plantation owners and had gone bankrupt during the war. So Mr. Macalester who held the mortgage came into possession of the Winslow House and he gave it to the college. As far as we know, there is no evidence to show he ever came out into the Wild West. He spent most of his time in the East and in fact he died six months after he gave the Winslow House to Macalester. And the Winslow House was given in his will, and it was later sold, just a couple years later, for forty thousand dollars which was a greater amount than the full endowment of the college. So you can see that his actual contribution to the college was actually quite significant at the time, because at that time the college was in pretty tight financial straits. And it is merely because this donor happened to be a Scottish Presbyterian that we have at the present time the Scottish traditions such as the bagpipe bag that you saw walking in this morning, and Scottish plaid, and that and sixty-nine other things. The...in spite of the fact that Mr. Macalester was not involved too closely in the college life, his contribution should never be overlooked because he came at a time when the future of Macalester was rather hard to foresee and it was quite a substantial gift. I'm sure it was well

appreciated by Mr. Neill although he had to work quite hard for it. So actually Mr. Macalester was, in absentee, was a very influential and quite helpful founder of Macalester College.

[Applause]

HR: Kay Lorans is a junior at the college, a Journalism major, publications secretary, and because of that, a member of the Community Council and Editorial editor of *The Mac Weekly*. Kay comes from Montevideo, Minnesota and is going to talk with us and to us about the man who, more than any other in terms of length of service and hardship, hard work, and inspiration, set the whole tone of Macalester College, James Wallace. Miss Lawrence.

[Applause]

Kay Lorans: Thank you Dr. Rice. I feel somewhat guilty standing up on this [unclear] platform when I've just been told that the females who came before me were the cause of one of the founder's deaths, but anyway. In an old log school house five miles west of Ohio, a little boy who liked to tell and hear jokes and play pranks on his buddies, make the girls giggle, and give his teachers a bad time, embarked upon a lifetime journey along the road of education. This little boy thoroughly enjoyed and was not at all above cutting the stovepipe so that it would crash to the floor at the slightest touch. Or conveniently slicing the teachers rod so that it would break with the first blow of punishment. Or carrying a stick gun to take pot shots at a disliked teacher. And as thoroughly as he enjoyed his tricks, he liked baseball, broad jumping, and racing between

a pair of shoes. All these activities were wrapped up into the childhood of one who was to grow into manhood as a respected educator and scholar known to us as James Wallace of Macalester. Little Jimmy Wallace was to spend all the early years of his childhood in a log schoolhouse until he progressed to an academy at Camden and then one in Iberia, Ohio. At the age of twenty-one he was able to realize one of the most exciting dreams of his young adulthood. He was one of thirty-four freshmen answering the role call of the first class to enter brand new Wooster University in 1871. And this next four years there proved to be every bit as wonderful as his expectation had been. Majoring in Greek literature and language, James Wallace never failed in his resolve to let none of his classmates think of him or call him a dumb farmer. And evidently the resolve was very strong because on commencement day in 1874, he was regarded as the Senior Class President and Valedictorian with a ninety-seven plus average for four years. The brilliant record he had set for himself at Wooster as well as his maturity and dignity and poise won for him the principalship of the preparatory department, with a position as Professor of Greek here at Wooster. So it was at his alma mater that he began his career in education and also his career in married life, for in his first year of teaching he met and, during separation while he traveled and studied Greek, married a charming student of Greek and the daughter of the university librarian, Miss Janet Davis. James and Janet Wallace must have heard the words of Alfred Lord Tennyson resounding from their ears. "Come my friends, it's not too late to seek a newer world." When they received a letter on a December day in 1886 from Macalester, Minnesota, it was from President McCurdy of the young Macalester College offering James Wallace the position and the Chair of Greek and Modern Languages at Macalester, as well as two thousand dollars a year. And though accepting this position would mean for the Wallaces

leaving behind a lifetime of family and friends and familiar places, but they had enough of an adventurous and missionary spirit to recognize the need for a Christian college in the rapidly developing northwest. And they knew that for them, it was not too late to seek a newer world. Macalester College at first meant years of separation and then years of hardship for the Wallaces. James went on ahead himself before sending for his family. And their lack of money—something which was to plague them for years to come—kept them separated a great deal longer than they'd expected. The lonesomeness of the family was quite well-expressed by James's young son Ben, who when one day was asked by an observing adult if he wished he could go to heaven, replied, "no, but I surely would like to go to Macalester." At the same time that the Wallaces were experiencing this lonesomeness, at Macalester, James was growing in stature with the faculty and students. The *College Echo* wrote of him that the college authorities were to be congratulated on procuring the services of one whose scholarship, teaching force, sturdy manhood, and earnest Christianity were so happily combined. And it was evidently this happy combination which went with him as he rose to the position as Dean of the College, to authorship of a book, and, finally, in 1894 to the position of Acting President of Macalester College. His reluctant acceptance of this post, after he had been looked over by the Board of Trustees, hurled him headlong into probably the most discouraging and difficult years of his life. He might very correctly have been called a circuit rider on an eternal trek from town to town, church to church, and person to person seeking students and money for Macalester College. In these years financial disaster stared him in the face so often that he often asked himself why such a task had fallen to his lot. Or why Macalester had ever been seen on this Earth. He even thought that God must have confounded the Presbyterians of Minnesota in this project. It was in

his darkest days that he wrote of the role of the college president in a rather profound statement I think. He said, "If a college president can read or write, so much the better, but he must be able to raise money." But these were the darker days and the brighter ones illuminated the good grace and the loyalty of a faculty and student body who understood and supported the struggles of their president. They respected him as a teacher and a scholar and they loved him as a warm human being. And so, when he left Macalester College in 1907, he left behind him a school on a sturdy foundation and he was commended by all who knew him for it. His dedication to a cause coupled with an ability to laugh at himself and at his overpowering burden saved him and his family and Macalester College from disaster in their most trying times. A quotation from Proverbs reads, "Happy is the man that findeth wisdom and getteth understanding. Length of days are in her right hand and in her left riches and honor. Her ways are ways of pleasantness and all her paths are peace." For those who knew him and loved him, this pretty well sums up his lifetime. The lifetime of the man called James Wallace of Macalester.

[Applause]

HR: Speaking for the National Alumni Association of Macalester College, on this our Founders' Day of 1960, is the national President of the Association, Fred H. Koch. Fred graduated from Macalester in 1933 and went almost immediately into the employment of Schuneman's department store where he now is Vice-President and Superintendent of Dayton-Schuneman. Last year, Fred was the leading spirit in the organizing of the largest and, so far, most successful telephoning campaign of alumni members to other alumni members to obtain support for the

college through the alumni front. While he was a student at Macalester, his sport was hockey, having won letters in it for several years and was captain of the hockey team one year. Speaking on the alumni [unclear] at Founders' Day, Fred H. Koch. Mr. Koch.

[Applause]

Fred H. Koch: Dr. Rice, members of the faculty, students, alumni, and friends, the Alumni Association appreciates this opportunity to have a part in this program, to tell you something about the Alumni Association and our part in Founders' Day. The first Founders' Day program was held in this gymnasium on March 12th in 1938. On that occasion, Dr. James Wallace, over a national radio hook-up, addressed the widely scattered alumni. That Founder's Day program was the stimulus for the organization of Macalester clans throughout the country. Today there are over forty-five clans located in this country and abroad. The largest of these clans is the Twin Cities area clan where about three thousand Macalester alumni are located. Other large clans are in Los Angeles, Chicago, and New York. The clans farthest from the college are located in Paris and Berlin. A clan meeting usually draws alumni within the radius of fifty miles of the meeting. Dr. Rice, our alumni professor Dr. Beedon, and other members of the faculty each year attend some of the clan meetings. You can see that Founders' Day to people outside the Twin Cities area has been a time for Macalester alumni to meet classmates, make new friends, and to talk about Macalester. Old times, pleasant memories, and the present college activities and improvements. It is also a time to pay tribute, as we have done today, to the leaders whose faith, spirit, and devotion, enabled this college to grow to one of the outstanding liberal arts colleges in our country. To the students present today, at this first Founders' Day

convocation, that in one, two, three, or four years, you will be alumni of this college. When you join the alumni family of this college, we hope that you will have an earnest desire to return to Macalester frequently, to have a part in the alumni project, and to keep informed about the activities and progress of Macalester. There is a small business located in one of the large buildings downtown. One night after the business was closed, one of the janitors heard the telephone ringing, and when it did not stop, he went in and answered it by saying, "Hello." The customer on the other end of the line was quite perturbed about an order she had not received, but she talked so fast that the janitor did not have an opportunity to interrupt her. When she finally finished, she ended with these words, "What are you going to do about it?" The janitor in his most pleasing voice said, "Madam, when I say 'hello,' I tell you all I know about this business." Whether you are going to join the Alumni Association four years from now, or whether you have been an alumnus for fifty years, as some of our radio listening audience today, we would like to have you be informed about Macalester so that if someone asks you about our college, you will know what is taking place at Macalester. The Alumni Association offers many opportunities for you to keep informed about Macalester. First, you receive the alumni bulletin four times each year. This publication carries timely articles by faculty and officers of the college as well as reports on current activities. The class notes on college alumni keeps you informed about classmates and other alumni. Second, Homecoming. This special event gives alumni and friends an opportunity to witness an athletic event and then gather in the gym to meet faculty, friends, and acquaintances at the traditional open house. Third, Founders' Day. This has already been explained. Fourth, the Alumni Day Program. This year, in addition to the customary class reunions, and Alumni Day Program, the Alumni Association is planning an

alumni college. This one-day college event will include a chapel service, an alumni college session on an economic subject, a tour of the campus, and a panel question and answer period.

We hope that all alumni will plan now to attend the activities on our Alumni Day, June 4th. The Alumni Association attempts to keep all alumni informed through our special events and projects and to assist the college in its effort to maintain a dominant liberal arts college as envisioned by the leaders whose memory we honor today.

[Applause]

HR: In recent years here in the United States, it has become a custom to call some person long associated with an institution by the name of that institution. Bob Taft came to be known as Mr. Republican. Mr. Truman is now very often called Mr. Democrat. James Wallace, for fifty years could have been thought of as Mr. Macalester College. And if there is today anyone who is approaching that stature of his service to the college and his significance to the college, it is Dr. O. T. Walter, Chairman of the Department of Biology. In two more years, Dr. Walter will have served here for forty years since he came to the faculty in 1922. During these years he has had the problems, the opportunities, the challenges, and the difficulties of having served now with four presidents. Though he doesn't look as if that could possibly have been his lot in life. Dr. Walter served first with Elmer Allen Bess. Then with James [John?] Carey Acheson. And then with Charles Joseph Turck. And since last year, with your humble servant. Today, Dr. Walter will speak to us as a faculty member, and that view of Founders' Day. Dr. Walter.

[Applause]

Dr. O. T. Walter: Dr. Rice, thank you so much for your gracious words. The hour is almost spent, and I was asked to speak for five minutes...which reminds me of a story. [Laughter] Someone was watching a freight train go past a small country station. And it was one of these Food Express trains from the West Coast. And a little boy standing on the platform looked at the caboose and he said, 'That caboose surely has [unclear] to keep up with that train.' And that's the way I feel. [Laughter] With all these excellent speakers that have gone before me, and that reminds me of another one of the Irishmen. [Laughter] That one was also watching a train and talking about the most dangerous coach of a, in which to ride in a train, and one man said, "Well, it's the last coach." The Irishman said, "Well why don't they have sense enough to leave that off?" [Laughter] Well, members of the student body, friends, and alumni everywhere, it really is an honor and a privilege on behalf of the faculty to greet all of you with real and sincere affection. We are observing Founders' Day today, and to the founders, tribute has already been paid and may I add a word or two to this tribute. These founders were a group of men, a very small group of men, but they were pioneers. They were men of faith. They were men of courage. They were men of vision, and they were men of real conviction. They were men who believed in democracy as the finest experiment conceived by man. In the words of Abraham Lincoln, they believed in government of the people, by the people, and for the people. They believed in a future of democracy, and they believed that in order for a democracy to survive, religion is necessary. Morality is necessary. Knowledge is necessary. These are the essential foundations for the welfare and happiness of all mankind. And to this end, they decided

education and the means for education shall forever be encouraged. They believed that the great experiment of democracy would be saved not in the hands of the ignorant or the superstitious or the uninformed, but only in the hands of the enlightened who are motivated by and dedicated to the beliefs and the altruistic principles of the Christian religion and so they founded Macalester College. It had a very small beginning in this area. It was surrounded by farms. And in the year 1922, when I came here, it was still surrounded in part [by] farms. We are told that farmers have a [unclear] problem today, and to assure you that we are still surrounded by farms, some of those farms found their way into the chapel and onto the fourth floor of Old Main. [Laughter] I think she got some encouragement from some very ambitious students. [Laughter] And we had a milk problem too. [Laughter] Since 1922, I have been singing with an ever increasing number of students, the first stanza of “Dear Old Macalester, ever the same.” [Laughter] “To those whose hearts are thrilled by thy dear name,” however.... [Laughter] The words ever the same must be accepted as part of poetic license. Macalester College is not the same as it was in 1922, nor should it be. At that time, we were a small college. Four hundred and twenty-five students, sixty-three graduates in June of 1923. Then, our frontier was largely local and provincial. Today our frontier encompasses the entire world. And for Macalester College to be worthy of its noble heritage and of its mission, it cannot stand still. In a changing world, it must be conscious of the signs of the times. It must adjust its curriculum to an ever-changing world. It must meet the needs of a responsible society of free men. We would not hold onto all of the things of the past simply because they are old. Nor would we embrace all of the things of the present simply because they are new. Someone once said, “Be not the first by whom the new is tried, nor yet the last to put the old aside.” Rather we would prove all things and hold all changes in their true

perspective. And we would prove all things and hold fast to that which is good. The founder of our college gave it, and each of the founders gave it, a chart and compass for all the years to come. And we will achieve an even brighter future for Macalester if we continue to rededicate ourselves to those beliefs and to those Christian principles which gave our college its birth and which have survived through all the passing years. And what are these beliefs and principles? They are the emancipation of the human mind from the fetters of superstitions and ignorance and their associated fears. The pursuit of excellence and scholarship and education. The love of wisdom that is above and beyond knowledge. The promotion of the universal brotherhood of man and the spirit of unselfish service to assure his welfare and happiness of all mankind. And to achieve these ends, we need the dedicated cooperation of our Board of Trustees, the entire administration, the entire faculty, the entire student body, and we need the cooperation of our esteemed and honored alumni everywhere, because they are the roots of Macalester by which we are known throughout the world. Thank you.

[Applause]

HR: Now in appreciation of these fine, splendid presentations, and in honor of the memory of the founders of Macalester, may we stand for a moment of silent tribute to the founders and to all who since then have made our college possible.

Blessed we pray the Heavenly Father, this institution of thy hand. Undergird and support those of us who seek to carry it forward, make us worthy of the great tradition, great inspiration, and high leadership which have descended to us from our founders. Amen.