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Playwright-actor
Danai Gurira ’01

“Moving, smart, spirited and powerfully funny... In the Continuum pulses with life from start to finish.”

—The New York Times
Watch this space

The college celebrated the upcoming construction of the new Macalester Athletic and Recreation Center (MARC) with a ceremonial groundbreaking Oct. 5, just west of the Leonard Natatorium where the new gym will be located. The $45 million project will begin this winter and be completed in fall 2008.

The MARC will include welcoming and flexible facilities for fitness, wellness and educational programs; improved training and competition areas for varsity athletics; and inviting spaces where students and other community members can gather to socialize and to cheer on the Scots.

More than 70 percent of the college's current students use Macalester's athletic and recreation facilities, most of which were built 80 years ago for far fewer users.
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Tale of Two Women

Out of the common tragedy of AIDS, Danai Gurira ’01 and her co-author have created an amazing play. Elizabeth Tannen ’05, who wrote the cover story, is an editorial assistant at National Public Radio’s “All Things Considered” in Washington, D.C.

The five other articles on young alumni in theater were written by Jenny Sherman ’98, a New York City-based freelance writer and rowing coach, and Andy Steiner ’90, a St. Paul writer and author of the recent book Spilled Milk: Breastfeeding Adventures and Advice from Less-Than-Perfect Moms.
Political diversity

AS AN ALUMNUS, I am sorry that Joseph Schultz '06's tenure at Mac hasn’t been a more pleasant experience [“Macalester Voices,” Fall issue]. There are two things you should keep in mind. Twenty years down the road, your relationships with many of your former classmates will be much more pleasant and rewarding. It’s amazing how having to earn a living and paying taxes smooths the edges of one’s political persuasion. You should also understand that, unless you pursue a life in academe, it is unlikely that you will ever be in a place with less diversity, less tolerance or less real-world relevancy than where you are now.

At an alumni gathering earlier this year in Phoenix, I suggested that it might be more “educational” to have Thomas Sowell speak at Macalester than having Thomas Friedman visit again. What could be more educational than having a black conservative speak at Macalester? When you lose a friend, you suddenly and sadly realize that all those political disagreements and philosophical differences are, as they were before, less trivial.

The fact is that it is liberals who have a problem with free speech and a fear of real diversity, that is, people who think differently, especially people of color who don’t “think as they should.”

The very notion that a bunch of students, on an expensive campus, in 2006 would have some profound knowledge about racism is comical. What could be more amusing than a professor pontificating about “the equity of our system”? I hope you, Joseph Schultz, will sport your conservative views, loudly and proudly, and I hope you will develop a sense of humor about all this, too. I can assure you that 10 years from now it is unlikely that you will want to be reminded about many of the things you said when you were a student.

Some of my best friends are liberals (did I really say that?), but you can always forgive a friend for bad ideas. When you lose a friend (Mark Vaught ‘69, Fall issue In Memoriam), you suddenly and sadly realize that all those political disagreements and philosophical differences are, as they were before, less than trivial.

THANK YOU for including part of the obituary about Mark Vaught from the St. Paul Pioneer Press in the most recent Macalester Today. Mark was a giant on campus in the late 60s. When he began at Macalester, women had to be in by 10 p.m., dorms were segregated by gender, students had no say in curriculum. By the time Mark graduated, students were treated as adults with no curfew for women or men, coed dorms had opened and students were involved in shaping curriculum. The campus was also more diverse thanks to the EEO program sponsored by President Arthur Flemming and supported by Mark and other student leaders. We partnered with President Flemming, Dean Fred Kramer, Dr. Charles Green and others to transform Macalester from a place where students had little voice.

Mark Vaught ‘69

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and the campus served as parents to a place
where students were at the table and were
 treated as adults.

Mark was instrumental in making these
changes happen. He was my friend. I miss
him and the students of today should be
thankful he was a part or campus life in the
late ’60s.

Mark Linder ’69
Santa Cruz, Calif.

There are many students who
have benefited from Emily and Norm’s
knowledge, wisdom, humor
and caring.

Juan Figueroa ’77
with the
Rosenbergs
in 1999.

Norm and Emily Rosenberg
THANK YOU for the wonderful article about
Professors Emily and Norm Rosenberg
[Spring issue]. I was very honored to see a
photo of me with them included as part of
this very well-deserved profile. The
Rosenbergs had a positive impact on so
many of us. There are many students who
have benefited from Emily and Norm’s
knowledge, wisdom, humor and caring,
and who are doing great things today. I’m
happy (and much better off) to be part of
that group.

Juan A. Figueroa ’77
Meriden, Conn.

Harvey Sweeney ’51
I WOULD GUESS that all of us who served
in World War II and later attended Macale-
ester in those magic years will remember
the late Harvey Sweeney ’51 [In Memoriam,
page 47] as an outwardly quiet man who
was a fantastic basketball player and an
intense competitor in everything he did.
Perhaps that is why he was such an out-
standing officer and why he became the
decorated hero he was. As one who served in
Korea at the same time he did, I know that
any soldier in combat there would have
wanted Harvey at his side or leading him.
He had a burning intensity only great heroes
have. He commanded the ultimate in
respect without having to utter a word.

Though Harvey didn’t have the oppor-
tunity to gain his degree at Macalester,
I certainly think he deserved an honorary
one. I know of no other man of his military
stature from our college who surpassed him
in bravery and in service to his country.

Rod Hunt ’50
Osage, Minn.

Making a difference
MY SON paged through the Fall issue of
Mac Today and said, “There’s a photo of the
woman we met at the Twin Cities Habitat
for Humanity site” [Making a Difference
page, inside back cover]. It was Susan Haigh
’73, executive director of TCHFH. At my
son’s insistence, I have participated with him
on TCHFH projects. I was delighted to
learn after the fact that the hand I shook
on the job site was that of a Mac grad
making a difference!

More importantly, it was an opportunity
to discuss what making a difference means
to a high school junior son participating in
TCHFH as well as a college junior daughter
just returning from a semester volunteering
in Guatemala.

Professor Ted Mitau admonished us
to "get involved and make a difference.”
Professor Karl Egge asked if we were “adding
value.” There were many people in the Mac
community who said “doing no harm” was
not sufficient. They demanded that “you
leave this world better than you found it.”
That is what “making a difference”
Macalester-style means to me.

Ray Piirainen ’76
Hopkins, Minn.

Class of 1951
I WANT TO share my appreciation for your
neat reporting of the Class of 1951 conver-
sation ["Class of 1951 takes stock at their
55th Reunion,” Fall issue]. It was a great
weekend and you focused on a great class.
I read the magazine from cover to cover,
and though the events and students of today
are so different from the ’50s, it is still
our college.

The Rev. Ronald Gustafson ’51
La Crosse, Wis.
Teaching Toni Morrison

The Nobel Prize-winning writer talks about her work and answers students’ questions

Nobel Prize-winning author Toni Morrison drew a large and raptly attentive audience to the college’s opening convocation in September. Following New York Times columnist Thomas Friedman and United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan ’61, she was the third major speaker to help inaugurate Macalester’s new Institute for Global Citizenship.

Introducing her, President Rosenberg noted that “it is exhilarating, exciting and not a little intimidating to have Toni Morrison in the room. It is also a very cool thing. None of us will ever have the chance to stand on the deck of a whaler with Herman Melville or sit with Emily Dickinson in her parlor in Amherst or glance at Richard Wright on a Paris street. But we can be here, in this place, with Toni Morrison, and that is an opportunity, a gift, that others will look back upon with envy and awe.”

Although the 75-year-old Morrison read from a prepared text in which she discussed her books, she often departed from it with witty asides. At the end, she also spent a half-hour answering questions from Macalester students. Here a few of her comments:

*On her most famous novel, Beloved, which is loosely based on the true story of an escaped slave who killed her 2-year-old daughter to prevent the child from being taken back into slavery:* When I wrote *Beloved,* I thought, “Oh, God, do I really have to write about slavery?” Nobody wants to remember it, least of all the black people—please, they don’t want to hear anything about it. So I had instituted the whole structure of *Beloved.* Those of you who have read it will know it’s about the process of forgetting, of not knowing anything, since I didn’t want to know it either and neither did the characters and I assume neither did the readers. So we were all complicit in forgetting about it.
On being identified as a black writer:

I was at an event where three or four writers were being honored. A very good friend of mine, and a very important writer, got up to introduce me. He said, "I don't think of her as a black writer, and I don't think of her as a woman writer. I think of her as"—he paused and I said, "—white male writer."

Now when you understand that that is the center—of perception, knowledge, et cetera—and everything else is outside, you can do a couple of things. You can do what many black male writers did, which is to confront that center, like Richard Wright and James Baldwin did. Or you can say, "I'm not in it," like Frank Yerby or Jean Toomer....Or you can be really arrogant like me and say, "I am a black woman writer and I stand over here at the edge and you all gonna have to come over here."

One more thing. You see, no one else has to explain that. Nobody says to Tolstoy, "How come you're writing about Russians? Explain that." Or: "James Joyce, what's this sort of Irish thing you've got? Why don't you be universal?"...We [black writers] are the only ones who have to say, "Oh yeah, we're in the human race, too." That's part of my answer—that you just change the language and what is central.

On Beloved being named by a New York Times poll of writers and critics as the most important work of fiction published in the last 25 years:

Somebody told me that they were going to do a survey on the 100 best books in the last 25 years. I said, "Oh, that's nice." I had no idea they were going to pick one. Which I thought was bizarre. How can you pick just one book in the last 25 years and measure it like that? I thought it was probably unwise. And the only reason I didn't think it was bizarrely unwise is because [laughing] they picked mine.

On why she introduced the "supernatural," as one questioner put it, in Beloved, which is set against a realistic historical background.

It's one thing to say, "I don't remember." It's quite another to have the history come inside your house, sit down at the kitchen table and talk.

Research partners

In MAJOR cancer research centers around the world, scientists work toward ever more successful treatments. A little piece of that action is happening at Macalester.

For the past two summers, and at times during the school year, Alexander Rivero '07 (Escazu, Costa Rica), has been working with chemistry Professor Rebecca Hoye, applying his research skills to one of the open-ended questions of today's cancer research.

No one expects Rivero to walk out of the lab one day holding a cancer-curing capsule in a gloved hand. Rather, he and Hoye are working together toward the synthesis of a compound that retards angiogenesis, the growth of blood vessels. Their research has implications for the treatment of cancerous tumors that require the proliferation of blood vessels for their growth.

"Collaborative research with faculty provides a unique opportunity for students to see firsthand how knowledge is generated," says Hoye. "Students learn how to ask a question, design probing experiments, interpret results and follow the line of investigation that unfolds. Undergraduate research affords an opportunity for students to learn whether they like laboratory work, and if they do, to master the more advanced experimental techniques and instrumentation.

Alexander Rivero '07, above, has been working with chemistry Professor Rebecca Hoye, inset.

that they will need in the workforce or in graduate school."

Last summer, more than 100 students did research in the sciences and other disciplines.

"Class lectures and labs all help you understand both the chemistry that is actually happening in the flask in front of you and the practical skills of setting that particular reaction up," says Rivero. "The research that I have had the pleasure and honor to participate in is, in a sense, putting all that practice to an applicable use...."

"Azaspirene, the molecule I am currently attempting to synthesize, has potential for being an oncogen suppressor. In other words, this molecule, once found in fungi and now being made in the lab, has the possibility to slow down cancerous tumor growth. Being a part of this project is exciting because it feels as if one could possibly make a difference."
Man behind the mask
Sears Eldredge directs his last play as a Macalester professor

THEATER PROFESSOR Sears Eldredge took a farewell bow in November, directing Eduardo de Filippo's Saturday, Sunday, Monday, a comedy about an Italian family preparing a traditional Sunday meal together.

The production was the 22nd and final show that Eldredge, who is retiring, has directed at Macalester since he joined the faculty in 1986.

Or maybe not.

"People say, 'This can't be your last production.' What I am saying is, 'This is the last production where I will be a member of the faculty.' If something happens in the future, we'll see about that," Eldredge said in an interview posted on the college's Web site (www.macalester.edu).

Eldredge, who was chair of the department from 1986 to 2000, is well known for his expertise in the use of masks for actor training and performance. He is the author of the book Mask Improvisation for Training & Performance: The Compelling Image.

"Everybody knows how to put on a Halloween mask and try to act a character. That's kind of the principle," he explained. "There's a way of going into the mask that is a little more ritualistic, shall we say, than just putting on a Halloween mask, but the impulse is the same—to ask the actor to let the mask overtake him or her and create a physicalization that seems to complete the mask and bring it alive.

"I have a set of masks [in my book] for anybody to use that I call my no-fail masks. No matter who puts them on, they work, whether it's little kids in a school or older people or a women's group or people in a mental institution in Indiana [where he has done workshops]. It's been fascinating."

Eldredge noted that the Theater and Dance Department draws on a wealth of theater professionals and talent in the Twin Cities. "We've had a restricted endowment for the department that has given us the ability to hire guest directors, guest designers, guest choreographers and lighting designers. It's been absolutely wonderful to have that resource and not worry about paying [these professionals] a per diem, too—because they live here. There are so many great people right here in the Twin Cities. We have them come in constantly; they come in for classes and we hire them for shows. That means students get access to a much wider group of professionals than just faculty and staff."

Alumni are invited to attend the dig. Participants stay at a family-run hotel in a local village.

For more information, contact Rife at 651-696-6254 or rife@macalester.edu or see www.macalester.edu/classics/kenchreai.

INTERESTED IN Greek and Roman history and archaeology? Classics Professor Joe Rife is again leading an expedition to Kenchreai, the bustling port of the ancient city of Corinth in southern Greece and one of the busiest harbors of the Roman Empire.

Rife will direct an international team of leading archaeologists, art historians, geologists, anthropologists and students at the site from June 12 to July 23, 2007. The team will excavate the port's wealthy seaside neighborhood in order to understand social structure, cultural diversity and religious history in the eastern Roman provinces (1st through the 6th centuries C.E.).

Alumni are invited to attend the dig. Participants stay at a family-run hotel in a local village.

For more information, contact Rife at 651-696-6254 or rife@macalester.edu or see www.macalester.edu/classics/kenchreai.
New director of WPI

DOUGLAS MCGILL, who has been a New York Times reporter, a foreign correspondent, a university lecturer, an author and an Internet innovator during a 30-year journalism career, has been named executive director of the World Press Institute effective Jan. 1.

McGill, 51, succeeds John Ullmann, who is retiring after seven years at the helm of WPI. Since its founding at Macalester in 1961, the program has brought 488 journalists from 94 countries to the United States for months of travel, classroom work, newsmakers visits, public appearances and home stays to introduce them to this country and how its news media operate.

Food to live by—and nearby

STUDENTS WHO CARE about sustainability and good health can feel good about their board dollars going to the college food service, Café Mac, managed by Bon Appétit. The California-based management company works directly with local providers and student gardeners to provide fresh, healthy food grown as close to home as possible, given the relatively short growing season in Minnesota.

In fact, for the past three years, Café Mac has worked with MULCH (Macalester Urban Land and Community Health) to serve produce from MULCH’s on-campus garden, according to a Sept. 22 Mac Weekly story by Anna Waugh '08 'Like sports teams—(Providence, R.I.)—the garden, formerly behind the field-house, will move to two plots on Vernon Street when displaced by the new Macalester Athletic and Recreation Center. Waugh quoted Remiko Ueda '08 (Osaka, Japan): “Like sports teams are supposed to give you pride in your school, I think that food grown at Mac does, too.”

In addition to buying locally whenever possible, Café Mac makes the following commitments to healthy, sustainable food:

- seafood is purchased according to the Monterey Bay Aquarium’s Seafood Watch guidelines to avoid fishing certain species to the point of extinction;
- vegetarian entrees are available at all meals;
- poultry is free of hormones and antibiotics, as is meat, when possible;
- soups, salsas, pizza and marinara sauces, often made from commercial bases elsewhere, are made from scratch;
- olive and canola oils are used for salad dressings and canola, which is free of trans fatty acids, is used in all fryers.

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The road to Chanhassen

THEY WERE DUBBED “the United Nations carpool” in the summer of 2005 for the number of countries represented among the five interns making the daily trek to Analytics, Inc. in Chanhassen, 25 miles southwest of Macalester.

The association must have been a success for all concerned because this past summer no fewer than 13 Macalester students and one recent graduate—most of them economics majors—were hired for full-time, paid internships with Analytics. The Mac group constituted 20 percent of the company’s workforce during that period.

“[Analytics] is a unique place that has a great deal of capacity for bright, early stage economics majors,” says Internship Director Michael Porter. In addition to eight U.S. students, interns in the most recent cohort are from Ghana, Bulgaria (two), Albania, India and Swaziland.

Analytics, founded in 1974, lays claim to being the oldest class-action consulting firm in the country. “The firm is hired after massive litigation leads to class action-type settlements,” says economics Professor Emeritus Karl Egge, whose connections facilitated the internships. “Firms like Analytics process all the claims and make the payments.” Clients of the firm include Fortune 500 companies, private law firms and the Federal Trade Commission. The size of the “class” involved in the class-action suits ranges from 100 people to more than 40 million.

Over the summer, Venelin Tsonev '08 (Rousse, Bulgaria) e-mailed Egge with this report: “They moved me to a bigger cubicle and [gave] me a phone, so I can talk to class members and give them more details about the cases we are working on. I have learned a lot about different types of accounts and pension plans such as IRA, 401K, etc. All of the people that I have met at the firm are really nice and... are always willing to help me with whatever questions I have.”

With the growth potential of a mutually beneficial program such as this one, Porter remarked, “Perhaps we should look into getting a bus!”

WINTER 2006-2007
Going Global (Positioning System)

Two new technologies connect the campus to real-world solutions

At the end of geography Professor Laura Smith’s “Urban GIS” seminar, students collaborating with the Community Affairs Department of the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis presented their findings not to classmates, but to a public policy audience in the Minneapolis offices of “the Fed.”

“Seminar students have used GIS to map the locations and attributes of mortgage foreclosures in the Twin Cities metro area, and to further investigate housing issues in North Minneapolis, a foreclosure ‘hotspot,’” says Smith.

As calculators overtook slide rules and computer word processing eclipsed typewriters, new technologies change the tools and methods of research and education. Because of Macalester's particularly strong courses and lab resources, Mac students and professors are able to utilize the innovative technologies of GPS and GIS to provide valuable information to the community.

Many people are familiar with GPS (Global Positioning System) as the gizmo in your car from which a disembodied voice gives directions to your driving destination, but its uses extend far beyond that. Developed as a U.S. military technology, GPS uses a transmitter that communicates with orbiting satellites to pinpoint the exact location of that transmitter. GIS (Geographic Information System) can then map information provided by GPS.

Birgit Mühlenhaus, GIS lab instructor, put it this way: “To explore where cornfields are located, you might find which farms are producing corn and use GPS to precisely locate these fields. These data points can then be loaded into a GIS to generate a map showing land use. Next we can incorporate this data with other types of geographical information, such as aerial photography, etc., to answer questions like ‘Are cornfields more likely to be located near water bodies? Near urban areas?’ etc.”

Students and professors are using GPS and GIS in a vast variety of projects:

- Geology Professor Kelly MacGregor and students who work with her in the field use GPS to measure the melt and movement of glaciers in Glacier National Park, Montana. “We put one unit on bedrock and one on the glacier, and calculate the distance between them…. Before GPS, we would have had to use surveying equipment like road surveyors use and average the distance over days.”

- Biology Professor Dan Hornbach and his students use GPS and GIS to map the distribution of zebra mussels and their habitat in the St. Croix River, including species that are endangered.

- Classics Professor Joe Rife directs an interdisciplinary archaeological program at Kenchreai in Greece, where he studies a harbor dating back to the 1st century C.E., using GPS and GIS to map the architecture and topography of ancient tombs, houses, churches and temples. See page 6.

- Working at times with fellow students and with geography Professors Laura Smith and Holly Barcus, Orlando Martinez ’06
used GPS and GIS in a number of ways: to develop asset maps for the Parks and Recreation Department of Roseville, Minn., to identify Minneapolis residents qualifying for air conditioner and refrigerator replacement, and to catalogue zoning requirements for the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis.

Even some of the newest faculty did not learn to use GIS until graduate school, but many Mac students become proficient as undergrads, beginning with Geography 225, "Introduction to GIS," taught by Mühlhaus and Barcus, whose own recent research utilizes GIS to study the changing ethnic and racial composition of rural places. Many GIS students continue with Geography 364, "GIS Concepts and Applications," which is working with the Minnesota Historical Society on its History of Lake Street project. Students are investigating changes in land use, demographics and neighborhood composition, and developing overview maps.

The campus GIS teaching lab is in Carnegie Hall, but the technology should become more broadly available sometime this year. The college expects to obtain more extensive licensing for the campus, which will enable students to work with GIS beyond the lab, in dorms and even off campus, on any PC—it doesn’t run on Macs—with the capacity for the software.

### It's about community

COMMUNITY SERVICE is one of the strongest and longest threads of Macalester tradition. While it is common knowledge that many students are active volunteers and remain so as alumni, the commitment to service is strong among staff and faculty, too. Most people are involved in several efforts; this is just a small sampling of ways in which employees of the college make a difference:

- **Beth Cleary**, Theater and Dance, volunteers at the Lyngblomsten Senior Community where she teaches yoga to inspiring students twice her age.
- **Deb Chaulk**, Donor Relations, assists the Ann Bancroft Foundation with its donor database as it helps girls and women realize their dreams.
- **Doug Rosenberg**, Business Services, coaches the St. Anthony Village 12-and-under traveling baseball team, on which his son plays, and serves as congregational vice president of St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Columbia Heights.
- **Margaret Beegle**, International Studies, is active in the Haiti Justice Committee organizing speakers, fund raising and contacting policymakers on behalf of the Haitian people.
- **Kay Crawford ’69**, Mathematics & Computer Science, is a phone counselor for Crisis Connection, a mental health counseling service, and facilitates a weekly grief support group through Capital City Grief Coalition.
- **Brian Longley**, Media Services, has been elected to his second term on the St. Anthony Park Community Council.
- **Joan Hutchinson**, Mathematics & Computer Science, is a summer Volunteer Wilderness Steward for the National Forest Service, patrolling and helping with trails in the Eagles Nest and Ptarmigan Peak Wilderness Areas in Colorado.
- **Kris Mortensen**, World Press Institute, is volunteer coordinator for her church’s Third Sunday Meal, which each month serves a hot meal to 200–300 needy people in downtown Minneapolis.
- **Ann Esson**, Environmental Studies, maintains a Web site for her daughter’s high school hockey team in White Bear Lake, and she is a regular blood donor.
- **David Sisk**, Information Technology Services, also a regular blood donor, is working on his 10th gallon donated.
- **Doug Stone**, College Relations, coaches his daughters’ soccer, basketball and softball teams and serves on their elementary school’s site council. Every year he organizes a team for the fund-raising walk benefiting juvenile diabetes research.
- **Both Jacki Betsworth**, Library, and **Jill Peterson**, Admissions, record weekly radio shows through the State Services for the Blind. The shows are broadcast to about 8,000 listeners who are blind or visually impaired. Betsworth’s show is about women’s fashion news and Peterson’s addresses health issues.
- **Bob Pearson**, Aquatics, is a volunteer instructor for the Red Cross. He teaches CPR, first aid and water safety courses.
- **Addy Free**, Registrar’s Office, volunteers with the Hampden Park Co-op and at arts festivals such as the Fringe Festival. On Fridays last summer, he was a family law facilitator at the Hennepin County District Court.
- **Gabrielle Lawrence ’73**, Alumni Relations, volunteers with Habitat for Humanity; Project Home and The Family Place, which serve homeless families; and with the Jeremiah Program, which helps low-income women become self-reliant.
- Among the most active are the dog lovers. **Cherri Bringgold**, Development, and her daughter make weekly visits to residents of the Good Samaritan Center with their golden retriever Blaze. **Andi Wulff**, Alumni Office, rescues collies needing homes, and has three certified social therapy dogs trained to visit nursing homes and hospitals. **Cheryl Doucette**, College Relations, makes therapy visits with her dog Lucky, the first of about 90 golden retrievers she has cared for in her rescue work with the breed.
- **Mac staff and faculty provide holiday gifts for 36 low-income families participating in a transitional housing program, in a project organized by Nancy Peterson, College Relations. She also founded the nonprofit Our Fair Carousel, which saved a historic carousel and operates it in St. Paul’s Como Park.
'Here, it's cool to be smart'

LearningWorks makes a place for traditionally underserved middle school kids

**Middle School**, with all its social and academic demands, can be rough on students just entering their teens. "I spoke softly, avoided eye contact and was never really sure of myself. I dressed in only black or red clothing... and usually enjoyed spaces where I could sit alone and not have to interact with anyone," recalled **Basanti Miller**, now a high school senior.

Then she joined LearningWorks. "After the first year of LearningWorks, I performed on stage at our big end-of-the-summer celebration. From sitting alone by myself, to performing on stage in front of a good couple hundred people— it was obvious a change had been made, right?"

LearningWorks is a tuition-free, academic enrichment program for highly motivated, traditionally underserved middle school students of the Minneapolis Public Schools. "We are obviously looking for students who have a fire in the belly," says **Executive Director Amy Sandeen '94**.

"We end up with about 80 percent students of color... Over a third of our students speak a language other than English at home; most of our students qualify for free or reduced lunch. Many of them will be the first in the family to attend college. LearningWorks offers a chance for kids who are smart to come together... Here, it's cool to be smart."

LearningWorks is a public/private partnership of Blake School, which provides program space and administrative support, and the Minneapolis Public Schools, which provide lunches during the summer and transportation year round. LearningWorks is not a recruiting program for Blake School, a prestigious prep school, though a few students have ended up there, but it prepares students to pursue rigorous programs in the public school system. Interested sixth-graders apply, and those accepted commit themselves to two years of Saturday morning classes during the school year and six weeks of seven-hour days, Monday through Friday, during the summers. They take core subjects—English, math, science and social studies—as well as elective classes in art and communications.

In LearningWorks' "students teaching students" model, curriculum design and teaching are done by high school juniors and seniors or undergraduate college students, and they have wide latitude in how they teach their subjects. "We encourage teachers to teach their passion," says Sandeen. "They design their own curriculum, with the help of mentor teachers... [Students learn] writing skills through critiquing music or math through sports statistics, things that they can relate to."

This gives high school and college students insight into careers in education, a second objective of LearningWorks. **Graham Ravdin '06** was a program teacher for two years. "In my first summer, I taught a multicultural literature course in the English department. We read Langston Hughes, wrote 'hip-hopera' and even had class on a bridge above I-94."

Ravdin is now co-directing Summerbridge Hong Kong, a similar program that, like LearningWorks, is one of 26 such programs joining together as the Breakthrough.
Collaborative. “LearningWorks empowers teachers to ‘own the program’ by giving them an unusual level of authority and administrative responsibility...,” he wrote from Hong Kong. “To Amy’s credit, I already knew what excellence in a director looked like. Additionally, I would not have been willing or capable of directing an NGO in Hong Kong right out of college without benefiting from Macalester’s focus on internationalism.”

This fall, the first LearningWorks class began their first year of college, says Sandeen, “and all 29 students are going to a four-year school.” Thanks to a McGuire Family Foundation grant, the program is expanding to serve 120 students per year.

Another program, Admission Possible (see Spring 2003 Macalester Today), helps talented, motivated and economically disadvantaged Minnesota high school students go to college by providing ACT test preparation services and assistance with admissions and financial aid applications. Through a partnership called Opportunities Abound, Macalester and Admission Possible work together to promote the enrollment of and foster increased access to higher education for local youth—many of whom are potential first-generation college students, low-income and/or students of color.

“I could not be as comfortable with the person that I am now without LearningWorks—I know this for a fact,” says Basanti Miller, who is applying to colleges this year. “I would never have been able to get involved with my community as much as I am now had it not been for LearningWorks giving me the confidence in myself to take risks and make challenges for myself to overcome.”

LEARNINGWORKS
- established 1999
- has served 235 students and involved 97 teachers
- all 29 members of the first class are enrolled in a four-year college
- seven Mac students have taught at LearningWorks and three in the counterpart program, Breakthrough Saint Paul, established in 2005 by former LearningWorks teacher Jeff Ochs
- http://blakeschool.org/LearningWorks/
- http://www.moundsparkacademy.org/extended/breakthrough.html

ADMISSION POSSIBLE
- established 2000
- serves nearly 1,000 students in 13 public high schools around the Twin Cities
- all 263 seniors in 2006 were accepted to college, 95% to a four-year college
- as of fall 2006, 11 Admission Possible students have been enrolled at Macalester according to Communications Coordinator Sarah Hilton Idowu ’04
- this year six Mac alumni are serving Admission Possible as full-time Americorps members
- www.admissionpossible.org

Nobel Prize
This article appeared in the Oct. 4 St. Paul Pioneer Press and is reprinted with permission.

She won’t get the praise or the prize money. But Mary Montgomery can still claim a chunk of satisfaction for the 2006 Nobel Prize in Medicine.

Now a Macalester professor, Montgomery co-wrote the groundbreaking 1998 paper that led to this year’s Nobel. Back then, she was a 33-year-old post-doctoral student in Baltimore, injecting tiny worms for researcher Andrew Fire.

Those experiments led to the discovery of RNA interference, a way of “silencing” or shutting off genes by breaking up the flow of genetic information. They discovered the interference could be controlled and spread between cells. The findings also suggested it could destroy viruses embedded in the cells without killing the cells.

Fire and scientist Craig Mello were lauded for that work, now a standard tool for scientists pursuing treatments for diabetes, Parkinson’s and other diseases.

“At the time, we had no clue how big it was going to get. You just study something because it’s intriguing,” said Montgomery, who earned her degree in marine biology—the result, she laughs, of watching too many Jacques Cousteau specials as a kid.

A Baltimore native, she had signed on with Fire’s Carnegie Institution labs in Baltimore on another research project. But after several years of so-so results, she moved to RNA interference.

“All of a sudden, I had this project where every day I was getting an interesting result. It just motivates you to work crazy hours,” she said.

Montgomery credits Fire with the creative thinking that led to the successes, though his researchers at that point “weren’t so much apostles as Doubting Thomases. I was very skeptical initially.”

Fire and Mello will share the Nobel Prize and its $1.4 million award.

“Andy and Craig would be the first ones to say many people contributed,” said Montgomery, who landed the Macalester job in June 1998, a few months after the paper appeared in the journal Nature. “There’s a misconception that science is a lonely pursuit. I was just really happy to be part of the team.”

The Associated Press contributed to this story.
Fall sports review

Women’s soccer

Macalester enjoyed another outstanding season, finishing 13-3-5 overall and in second place in the MIAC with a 7-1-3 record. The Scots extended their unbeaten streak to 43 games before losing to Carleton. After being ranked in the national polls most of the year, the Scots were selected as an at-large team to the NCAA Division III championships, making it to the national playoffs for the fourth year in a row and 15th time under Coach John Leaney. Forwards Annie Borton ’07 (Berkeley, Calif.) and Grace King ’09 (Northampton, Mass.) were co-scoring leaders in the MIAC and were selected to the All-MIAC team, along with midfielder Anne Kintop ’08 (Minneapolis). With nine goals and 10 assists, Borton moved into the No. 2 position on Mac’s all-time career lists and became just the fourth four-time All-Conference selection. Goalkeeper Jenny Lee ’09 (Circle Pines, Minn.) was ranked in the top 10 nationally in goals-against average.

Men’s soccer

Macalester slumped toward the end of the season but won its season finale over Hamline to avoid its first losing season in 20 years. The Scots finished 8-8-1 overall and 5-5 in the MIAC. Carson Gorecki ’09 (Mahtomedi, Minn.) was one of the league’s best players and finished with nine goals and four assists, coming within one goal of taking the conference scoring crown. Jake Rocke ’10 (Lincoln, Neb.) contributed four goals and three assists. Magnus Oppenheimer ’07 (Stockholm, Sweden) closed out a great career by scoring the winning goal in the season-ending win over Hamline.

Hall of Famers

THE M CLUB Athletic Hall of Fame inducted five new members in October.

- A four-year letter winner in swimming and diving from 1977 through 1981 and two-time team captain, Paul Bachman ’81 enjoyed a standout swimming career at Macalester and earned All-Conference honors in 1978, ’79, ’80 and ’81. The son of Coach Jack Bachman, Paul won the athletic department’s Thomas Gammel Award twice and established pool records in the 100-yard breaststroke. He also set school records in the 100- and 200-yard breaststroke events and qualified in all four seasons for the national meet in the two breaststroke events. He was.

Women’s golf

The Scots finished the season with their most successful MIAC championship tourney ever, placing an all-time best third. The team featured a pair of the top young players in the league in Jordan Matheson ’09 (Vancouver, British Columbia) and Karla Leon ’10 (Quito, Ecuador). Matheson earned Macalester’s best individual finish since Jennie Whitehouse won medalist honors in 1997 when she placed second. Leon placed fifth at the MIAC tournament to give Mac two All-MIAC (top 10) golfers for the first time.

Men’s golf

The Scots moved up one notch from a year ago and placed sixth at the MIAC championships—the best finish in over 20 years. Chris Olson ’08 (Tokyo) shot a 76 in the final round to move into the top 20.
Ryan Peters '10 (Kohler, Wis.) was one of the MIAC's top newcomers.

Volleyball

The Scots needed to win their season finale to make the MIAC playoffs but lost a heartbreaker to Bethel to miss out on the conference tournament. They finished 12-11 overall and 5-6 in league play. Sonia Muzikarova '09 (Bratislava, Slovakia) and Andrea Hanson '07 (Andover, Minn.) were named to the All-MIAC team. Muzikarova ranked second in the MIAC in kills per game and Hansen was second in hitting percentage and fifth in blocks. Lauren Eberhart '07 (Madelia, Minn.) became the school's all-time leader in kills and finishes her standout career with 1,343.

Women's cross country

When all five top runners were clicking, the Scots were a dangerous team, as was the case when the team placed second of 19 at the St. Olaf Invitational. At the top of the lineup, Macalester was as strong as any team in the conference. Callie PaStarr '07 (Minneapolis) placed fourth at the MIAC championships and Erin Lowrey '10 (Whitefish Bay, Wis.) finished sixth to give the Scots a pair of All-MIAC harriers for the third year in a row. PaStarr has shown outstanding improvement over her career and moved up from a 43rd-place conference finish a year ago. Lowrey was the MIAC’s top frosh. Anna Muzikarova '09 (Bratislava, Slovakia) and Andrea Hanson '07 (Andover, Minn.) were named to the All-MIAC team. Muzikarova ranked second in the MIAC in kills per game and Hansen was second in hitting percentage and fifth in blocks. Lauren Eberhart '07 (Madelia, Minn.) became the school's all-time leader in kills and finishes her standout career with 1,343.

Men's cross country

Dylan Keith '07 (Solders Grove, Wis.) had one of the program's best individual seasons in years and earned his second straight All-MIAC certificate. Keith turned in the third-fastest 8,000-meter time in school history with a 25:22 clocking at the La Crosse Invitational. In meets with over 300 runners he placed fifth at the St. Olaf Invitational and seventh at the Loyola Invitational in Chicago. The Scots ran to their fourth consecutive fourth-place MIAC finish as Keith led the way with an 11th-place finish.

Macalester's No. 2 runner in most races was Matt Wegmann '08 (North Oaks, Minn.).

—Andy Johnson, sports information director

also a member of a school record-setting 400-yard medley relay. Now in his 20th year of coaching swimming at John Marshall High School in Rochester, Minn., Bachman has produced two NAIA national champions, seven Minnesota state high school individual champs and 15 All-Americans. He continues to volunteer 10 hours a week with a local swim club.

- A former All-America defender and MIAC Player of the Year in soccer, Roger Bridge '92 helped turn the Scots into a traditional men's soccer power after arriving in St. Paul from Auckland, New Zealand. He stepped into the starting lineup as a freshman, anchored the defense from his sweeper position and helped lead the Scots to their first-ever MIAC championship in his first season in 1988. That was Macalester's first conference team title in any sport in seven years. As a junior, he helped guide the Scots to another championship and was named MIAC Player of the Year—a rarity for a defender. He and fellow New Zealander Matt Jackson became Mac's first All-Americans in soccer. After graduation, Bridge served on the Macalester Admissions Department staff and as an instructor in the Geography Department. He played professionally for three years in the Minnesota Thunder and came back to coach as an assistant at his alma mater in 1997 and '98.

- Tom Otteson '65 was an MIAC standout in golf, wrestling and football. As a golfer, he was a three-year team captain and two-time All-Conference performer. As a junior and senior, he was MIAC runner-up and led Macalester to league championships three years in a row while winning medalist honors in five meets and top-three finishes nine times. In football, Otteson earned three letters and was named honorable mention All-MIAC. A three-year letter winner in wrestling, he collected a second- and two third-place conference finishes. Following graduation, Otteson had a long history as a coach and participated in professional and amateur sports. A scratch golfer, he has played in the state Senior Open and is believed to have the largest collection of private golf memorabilia in the country. He is a Macalester Heritage Society member.

- A track team captain for two years, John Howard '58 established school and MIAC records in 1956 in the shot put and was a multiple-event standout on some very good track and field teams. He participated in seven different events at MIAC championship meets, earning second- and third-place conference finishes in the discuss throw, and finishing first, second and third in MIAC shot put events. He also took fifth in the conference in the 220-yard dash and fourth in the mile relay, showing his outstanding versatility. Howard was also a standout wrestler and placed second in the MIAC one season in the 191-pound class. He was junior class president and Scots Club president at Mac. He went on to achieve professional success and become a community leader as an executive recruiter; girls community softball coach; board member of Moraga Community Association; former deacon, Lafayette Orinda Presbyterian Church; and program chairman, Minorities, Healthcare Executives of Northern California. He was a hospital administrator CEO and COO for 20 years.
Fighting the ‘big boxes’:
Stacy Mitchell ’96 makes the case for small business and local control

In her new book, Big-Box Swindle: The True Cost of Mega-Retailers and the Fight for America’s Independent Businesses (Beacon Press), Stacy Mitchell ’96 takes on not just Wal-Mart but all its rivals and followers. Like Wal-Mart, she argues, Target, Best Buy, Home Depot et al are fueling many of the nation’s most pressing problems, from the shrinking middle class to rising water pollution and diminished civic engagement. Drawing upon about 150 interviews with small business owners and ordinary citizens throughout the U.S., she documents how some communities are fighting back.

Mitchell, who majored in history at Mac, is a senior researcher at the Institute for Local Self Reliance and chair of the American Independent Business Alliance. She lives in Portland, Maine. She talked with Macalester Today:

You write about a growing movement against big-box retailers, from Damariscotta, Maine, to Austin, Texas, to Bellingham, Wash.

There’s so much more going on today than just a couple of years ago. It used to be that I could follow all of the citizens groups and independent business alliances. Now I can hardly keep track of it all, try as I might, which is very encouraging. There is this growing sense out there that people want to control their own future and the future of their communities. It’s a choice between two business models, one dominated by global corporations, where both power and wealth flow out of the local community and where no one—from the Chinese girl who made the shirt to the woman who rings you up at Target—makes a decent living. And another one where business is small-scale, locally owned and rooted in the community.

What is most shocking is the degree to which the growth of the big-box retailers has been supported and underwritten by public policy. That’s a tragedy in a country that supposedly values fairness and independence and where every politician goes on and on about small businesses being the backbone of the economy. There’s a vast gap between rhetoric and reality. What government policy has done, systematically, is undercut small business in every conceivable way.

You argue that it’s a “myth” that the big-box retailers create jobs and represent “inevitable” economic progress.

You have an empty field that gets developed and now there’s a big store there and it employs 300 people. You can see why people think that’s economic progress. There’s a sense that these companies really are adding to the local economy, but the evidence suggests quite the opposite—that they take far more out of the economy than they put back in. There’s a strong connection between the growth of corporate retailers and the shrinking of the middle class and the increase in the number of working poor. Those trends are very much connected to the expansion of the big boxes, for a variety of reasons, notably their impact on manufacturing jobs and on small businesses, two long-standing pillars of the American middle class.

No matter how much they may miss the local bookstore or the neighborhood drugstore, many people assume that the rise of the chains is inevitable, that these companies are the product of a kind of economic natural selection. But in fact they owe much of their current dominance to government policy. The big chains also impose a variety of hidden costs on society—costs that don’t show up on their price tags and effectively distort the market.
Re-Envisioning Education and Democracy
by Ruthanne Kurth-Schai and Charles R. Green (Information Age Publishing, 2006)

This book by two Macalester faculty is an invitation for widespread participation in a complex process—re-envisioning education and democracy. Kurth-Schai, chair of educational studies, and Green, professor emeritus of political science (see page 22), assert that both education and democratic governance are accountable to citizens, provide focal points for social criticism, advocacy and reform, and shape how power is shared, and that therefore, reform of both ought to be pursued together. Using highly readable stories in conjunction with theory and active approaches, the authors address, chapter by chapter, issues including “Crisis,” “Intuition,” “Risk,” “Advocacy” and more, which must be addressed if public education and democracy are to be preserved and reformed.


This volume introduces six texts of Islamic jurisprudence, written by six jurists representing all four Sunni schools of Islamic law, who lived in areas as far apart as Uzbekistan, Iraq, Syria, Gaza (Palestine), Egypt and Algeria between the 10th and 16th centuries. C.E. Ahmad’s reading of these texts attempts to articulate an underlying structural interrelationship between theoretical and practical legal reasoning in the Islamic juristic tradition. Ahmad, who earned his Ph.D. from Harvard in 2005, is an assistant professor of Islamic studies at Macalester.

The Magic Megaphone: How to get your projects unstuck and back on track in under 60 minutes by Nick Montoya with Roger S. Peterson ’67 (Megaphone Publishing Co., 2006)

The authors describe a simple, five-step process for getting personal and business projects out of the rut caused by committee disagreements, lack of direction or wordy mission statements. Montoya is a senior manager at Intel Corp. Peterson, a free-lance business writer and writing coach, spent 10 years in college textbook publishing during which he published 45 textbooks in psychology and education.


Sauropod dinosaurs were the largest animals ever to walk the Earth, and they represent a substantial portion of vertebrate biomass and biodiversity during the Mesozoic Era. The story of sauropod evolution is told in an extensive fossil record of skeletons and footprints that span the globe and 150 million years of Earth history. This book is the first comprehensive scientific summary of sauropod evolution and paleobiology. Rogers is curator of paleontology at the Science Museum of Minnesota and a visiting assistant professor in geology at Macalester.


In this introductory textbook, which may be the first preaching textbook written by a woman, Hogan explains the theological task of becoming a preacher, the craft of writing the sermon and the importance of communicating the Gospel in the present world. Ordained in the Episcopal Church, Hogan is professor of preaching and worship at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C., a United Methodist seminary.
Of x-ray diffractometers and other abstruse matters

by Brian Rosenberg

THE NEAREST that most of us will get to a Nobel Prize is reading a book by a previous winner or—if one is fortunate enough to be at Macalester—attending a convocation lecture by Kofi Annan or Toni Morrison (see page 4 of this issue). Mary Montgomery, an associate professor in our Biology Department, recently got considerably closer: she is a longtime colleague of Drs. Andrew Fire and Craig Mello, whose work on RNA interference led to their being awarded the 2006 Nobel Prize in Medicine. Professor Montgomery is a co-author of the groundbreaking 1998 paper that ultimately resulted in the prize (see page 11).

In addition to being an extraordinary honor for a member of our faculty, this accomplishment is a useful reminder of the quality of scientific education and research that occur at Macalester. Too often those who are unfamiliar with first-rate environmental studies, liberal arts colleges assume that they are "softer" on science than are research universities or technical colleges; in fact, nothing could be further from the truth. It is certainly the case that our course of study is broader and more diverse than those found at more specialized institutions and more focused on undergraduates than those found at large universities. But the science that we do is rigorous and state-of-the-art, and the results are impressive.

Thomas R. Cech, Nobel laureate in chemistry and president of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, demonstrates in an analysis published in 1999 that liberal arts colleges are "about twice as productive as the average institution in training eventual Ph.D.'s" in science.1 Cech concludes that this is not in spite but because of the practices at liberal arts colleges: the smaller classes, the more diverse curriculum, the focus on pedagogy, and, perhaps above all, the emphasis on undergraduate research.

Currently at Macalester about one in four students majors in one of the natural sciences—for us, defined as biology, chemistry, cognitive and neuroscience studies, geology, physics and psychology—or in mathematics or computer science. Another 35 students are majoring in environmental studies, which has a strong science component. All students are required to complete an eight-credit distribution requirement in science and mathematics and, newly effective in the fall of 2007, an additional requirement in quantitative reasoning. In short, we are working both to train a large cohort of experts in the sciences and to provide an even larger group of students with the degree of scientific and quantitative fluency necessary for engaged citizenship.

During the summer of 2006, 57 Macalester students undertook research projects in the science division with 23 different faculty mentors. Another 35 students are majoring in summer research off-campus through nationally competitive programs. Not surprisingly, 14 Mac graduates have been awarded graduate fellowships by the National Science Foundation since 2000—among the highest totals of any liberal arts college in the country—and 86 alumni completed doctoral degrees in science, technology or mathematics between 2000 and 2004, with the number trending upward.

Such outcomes are especially noteworthy given the absence at Macalester of graduate assistants and given the sheer costs of teaching and research in the sciences, costs that are more easily borne by large universities with massive amounts of external funding.


At Macalester (and I confess that this is still difficult for me to believe), we currently have only a single endowed professorship that belongs to the natural sciences, the O.T. Walter Professorship in Biology held by Jan Sere. Fortunately, our science faculty have managed to generate nearly $6.5 million in outside support during the past decade, and the college has been able to commit significant funds from the operating budget, the endowment and gifts to strengthen our work in the sciences and upgrade our science facilities. But when your equipment includes a continuous-wave ring laser, a DNA sequencer, a short-pulse Ti:sapphire laser, an X-ray diffractometer and a magneto-optical cryostat (don't even ask), the costs of sustaining successful programs will remain a challenge.

IT IS IMPORTANT for all in the Macalester community to understand the nature of our work in the natural sciences and mathematics in part because the broader public perception of that work is so often inaccurate. In the recently issued Spelling Commission report on the future of higher education in America—a deeply flawed document about which I will write in a future column—colleges and universities are taken to task for failing to "serve the changing needs of a knowledge economy" and neglecting to develop "new pedagogies, curricula and technologies to improve learning, particularly in the area of science and mathematical literacy."2

American higher education is a remarkably varied enterprise with abundant strengths and much room for improvement. Even as we work to bring about those improvements, policy makers should recognize, and perhaps learn from, the efforts of colleges such as Macalester, where the difficult work of science and mathematical education is and has long been successful and is continuously evolving to meet the needs of not just our students, but of the world they will shape.

Brian Rosenberg, the president of Macalester, writes a regular column for Macalester Today. He can be reached at rosenbergb@macalester.edu.
The United Nations Organization: What Future?

That was the question posed by the 13th Macalester International Roundtable. Held each October, the Roundtable invites several distinguished scholars to campus to engage in serious conversations with students and faculty on issues of global significance.

Here are a few excerpts from the 2006 discussion.

"The U.N. has lost a great deal of legitimacy"

**Nile Gardiner,** director of the Margaret Thatcher Center for Freedom in the Heritage Foundation, Washington, D.C.:

The United Nations needs to rediscover its voice on human rights issues. The U.N. has lost a great deal of legitimacy with regard to human rights questions. Especially over the past few years, the Commission on Human Rights was an absolute disaster. You had some of the worst human rights abusers sitting on this commission protecting their own interests. So, in effect, nothing at all has been achieved by the United Nations on the human rights front in the last few years.

That situation has to change, although I don't have a great deal of faith with the new Human Rights Council. The secretary-general is a very important symbolic figure on the world stage who carries a great deal of moral authority, and what he says does matter. My simple advice to Kofi Annan would be that the U.N. does carry a great deal of weight on human rights issues and should be at the forefront of condemning the brutalization of populations by their own governments.

Let's place the Iranian and North Korean issues within a broader humanitarian context as well. Our best hope in the case of the North Koreans is to ultimately have a change of regime internally in that country, with eventual reunification of North and South Korea under a democratic government. Any military solution with regard to North Korea is extremely dangerous; in effect, South Korea is held hostage by the North and there's not a great deal that can be done. Every effort should be made to isolate the North Korean regime in effect to strangle this brutal, dictatorial government and try to bring about eventual regime change.

With regard to Iran, I think we're dealing with a rather different case, a regime that is potentially far
more dangerous than North Korea and a state sponsor of terror. It's a regime that doesn't yet have nuclear capabilities but is building them. We do have an opportunity to stop that. I hope that we can stop the Iranians from getting involved, through pressure applied by the Security Council and through a sanctions regime. This will certainly make or break the U.N. Security Council as a relevant body for the 21st century. If the Security Council does not deal effectively with the Iranian situation, then we may have no other option than to move to some sort of coalition of the willing, initially through a sanctions regime applied outside of the Security Council. Only as a very last resort would many policy makers in Washington consider the use of military force.

The U.N. Security Council—the U.N. as a whole—does matter to the U.S. The United States does need to continue investing in the United Nations. The relationship is not dependency, but it is an acknowledgement that in this world today we do need to work in cooperation with a wide array of other countries. No country is an island, and the United States does need to work with allies and through bodies such as the Security Council.

‘It is not the culprits at the top who suffer from sanctions’

Francis M. Deng, research professor of international politics, law and society, and director of the Center for Displacement Studies at the Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University:

When I started at the United Nations [as representative of the secretary-general on internally displaced persons], one of the things that struck me is how very talented people come with all kinds of ideals. Once you go into the U.N. system, though, you find yourself subjected to governments represented by people who are nowhere near as informed as you are, but even your boss, the undersecretary-general, bows to these diplomats who are much younger. You begin to see that your idealism is constrained by the realities of governments being the dominant factor in the U.N. system. And this turns the members of the secretariat into people whose main interest shifts from idealism to life; it sometimes becomes more important that you stay on and get a pension in the end.

We have to think of the key players [in the U.N.] as the governments. The secretary-general may be strong, but my sense is that there's not much any secretary-general can do as long as the U.N. remains what it is with these dominant five [states on the Security Council] whose agendas determine what the U.N. is going to do. Therefore, I don't think I'd look so much to the secretary-general to deal with this crisis in North Korea and Iraq.

Although it doesn't sound morally justifiable, why do some people give themselves the right to have nuclear weapons and deny others that right? Of course, we know morally that the more states that have nuclear weapons, the more the likelihood that some irresponsible leader might act in an irresponsible way. On the other hand, the logic of equality of nations, small and great, dictates that in the end this process cannot be stopped. It's probably just a function of time.

We've already seen in Iraq and Afghanistan that it is not easy to bring about change. Although there are always going to be people who want an intervention, there will always be people who resist it—not just those who are in power and who would be the victims of change, but even just because of national pride.

So we fall back on sanctions. Do we really know how well sanctions work? I can only think of

Students asking questions and listening at the Roundtable, which was held Oct. 12-14 in Weyerhaeuser Memorial Chapel.
South Africa as a case where sanctions eventually seemed to pay off, but there were many other factors that played into how apartheid was defeated. Otherwise, a strong case can be made that it is not the culprits at the top who suffer from sanctions; it is the small people who have nothing to do with the mistakes for which the nations are being punished. With all the enthusiasm for reform, I couldn't agree more with the objectives, but how you go about it leaves some very serious questions.

"We're going to have to learn to live with many more nuclear-capable countries"

Janice Gross Stein, Belzberg Professor of Conflict Management and director of the Munk Centre for International Studies, University of Toronto:

MANAGEMENT REFORM is a crucial issue for the United Nations. So when I agree with Francis [Deng] that the secretary-general is constrained by interstate politics, I also agree that very wonderful young people can get quite demoralized inside the U.N. I've had many friends over the years and watched them grow old in not the gentlest way when they run up against the bureaucracy and the kind of compromises that are necessary.

I believe the secretary-general has more power to push the management reform agenda than we give him credit for. Kofi Annan has made several excellent proposals that came to grief in the run-up and follow-up to the world summit. If you read the document he submitted on management reform, [one proposal] is to reform the way senior personnel are recruited. Right now there is a rotation system and the senior personnel have to be broadly representative of member states. Functionally there are quotas for different regions of the world at the senior level inside the U.N. bureaucracy. That has to change. How can any secretary-general work with people that he or she does not have confidence in and are imposed, in effect, by regional groupings? I believe that he could succeed, that any secretary-general could succeed, in breaking the stranglehold that the General Assembly has over recruitment. [New Secretary-General] Ban Ki-moon has to make this one of his priorities going in: to change the recruitment at the senior level.

With regards to Iran and North Korea, the issue we're dealing with is the whole system of nonproliferation which has suffered a series of serious reversals over the last few years. The crisis over North Korea is merely the latest eruption. First of all, India and Pakistan tested nuclear weapons, were subject to sanctions, sanctions were removed and in fact the United States has just signed a deal with India which effectively legitimizes the Indian unilateral decision to proliferate. The United States has clearly sent the message, "If we like you, it's OK, and if we don't like you, it's not OK."

The United States made a second strategic decision, which was to remove Saddam Hussein from office before Iraq was fully capable of developing a nuclear weapon. That may turn out to be a very prudential decision, but in the same breath it sent a message to other potential proliferators: "Hurry up, get the job done, get nuclear weapons before the United States moves to change the regime." What we've seen in Iran and North Korea is an accelerated process to declare themselves nuclear weapons-capable and to test a weapon, in the case of North Korea, believing that will be the most significant deterrent to any kind of U.S. attack to change those regimes. And, I suspect, they're right: the strategy may work. We're going to have to learn to live with many more nuclear-capable countries in the next few decades than we've had in the past.

The kinds of sanctions we've imposed on the international community are based on the deeply flawed assumption that if you sanction people, they will rise up and overthrow their governments and regime change will happen from within. But you have to know something about these countries to know how unrealistic a hope that is. We need to move toward targeted sanctions, like denying visas and freezing foreign bank accounts that are targeted at ministers and governments and do not have an impact on the populations themselves, who have no recourse to any kind of political action against these governments.

Macalester respondents at the 2006 Roundtable

- Natalia Espejo '07 (Fargo, N.D.)
- Professor Andrew Latham, Political Science, associate dean of the Institute for Global Citizenship
- Tonderai Chikuhwa '96, Office of the Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict, United Nations
- Professor Dianna Shandy, Anthropology

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How do you inject a little hope into a blighted neighborhood?
How do you help make everyone see they're all connected?
You commission an artist, like Carly Schmitt '03, who can both see and draw the Big Picture.

Carly Schmitt '03 knows what she wants as an artist: "I like to create work that when taken solely at face value makes people say, 'Wow! That's really neat!'"

Her latest "wow" is a 20-by-35-foot mural on a wall at Schroeder's Bar and Grill in a blighted section of St. Paul's North End. The mural was commissioned through a grant from a neighborhood association known as Sparc. After meeting with area residents through two community forums, Schmitt took all of last August to complete the work.

Schmitt, who majored in art and communication and media studies, is a native of White Bear Lake, Minn. She has her own company, Artist@Large, headquartered in Seattle and travels throughout the United States to paint murals (www.carlyschmitt.com).

"Public art is truly just that, open to the public; and so I like to create images that have the ability to interest, impact and speak directly to the masses," Schmitt says. After drawing the audience in, she likes to "enrich the work with a whole bunch of interesting details and visual metaphors." For example, to celebrate the neighborhood's ethnic diversity, she...
Carly Schmitt '03 and her 20-by-35-foot mural, entitled "Victory Garden." It's on the west exterior wall of Schroeder's Bar and Grill in St. Paul's North End, where Como Avenue and Dale Street meet Front Avenue.

PHOTOS: GREG HELGESON

incorporated different animals, flowers and objects that mean something to neighborhood residents.

"Schmitt's mural pierces the gray with the vibrant blues and greens of a St. Paul cityscape, fronted by a tree that bulges outside the frame with deep roots and branches made of hands of many shades," the St. Paul Pioneer Press wrote. "More than a mere celebration of diversity, the mural implies that the neighborhood's health and growth depend upon each ethnic and racial branch."

The mural is called "Victory Garden." The title was inspired both by World War II, when millions of North American city dwellers grew their own produce so that more food could be channeled to Allied troops overseas, and by the work of an African-American artist, Maurice Carlton, which Schmitt discovered during her research. During the 1970s, Carlton took a dangerous intersection in St. Paul and turned it into a community garden where he installed a sign reading: "Mother Love Conquers All Nations."

But Schmitt doesn't want to "over-explain" her work. In fact, she believes viewers will and should create their own stories about it.

Pat Hauer, a manager at Schroeder's, sees the mural as a unique advertisement for both Schroeder's, which had a storied past life, and the neighborhood as a whole. "It says what we can't with words," he told the Pioneer Press. "I think we all want the same thing, for people to see this area in a new light."

Carly Schmitt '03 and her 20-by-35-foot mural, entitled "Victory Garden." It's on the west exterior wall of Schroeder's Bar and Grill in St. Paul's North End, where Como Avenue and Dale Street meet Front Avenue.
"If the students learned half as much as I did, I would feel good about it," says Alissa Ridenour '07. The American history class she taught included students from Mexico, Somalia, Thailand and other countries.

"The American history class she taught included students from Mexico, Somalia, Thailand and other countries."

Learn, lead, engage the community: a legendary teacher inspires a fellowship for students that strongly resembles a Chuck Green class

by Doug Stone

It's 8:30 on a warm July morning on St. Paul's West Side and Alissa Ridenour '07 is preparing to teach her first American history class. Not your ordinary history class: Her students are from Mexico, Somalia, Thailand and other countries. They are studying to earn their General Equivalency Diploma (GED). Ridenour admits she is a bit nervous and shy, "but the students are so gracious and friendly."

A few miles away at the Center for the Victims of Torture, Momchil Jelev '08 is helping to organize a grassroots education project. He wants to inform voters and candidates about human rights and torture—issues that have become part of the daily news coverage from Iraq and around the world. "It's early," he says, "but I hope it's going to have an impact."

Ridenour, who is from Lincoln, Neb., and Jelev, from Sofia, Bulgaria, are among the nine students who make up the inaugural class of the Chuck Green Civic Engagement Fellowship, created by a group of alumni to honor the legendary teacher who recently retired. Last spring, they met as a small seminar with Professor Julie Dolan, Green's successor in the Political Science Department. Each student was required to develop a project with a community organization focusing on lobbying and public advocacy.

The test came last summer when the students had to put their classroom knowledge to use in the real world of nonprofits.

"The idea was to create a class that functions like a class Chuck Green might have taught," Dolan explained. "It has three components: it is peer-based—that is, students help navigate the challenges as they arise. It involves problem-based learning—fellows..."
bring problems to class asking for help from their classmates. And finally, students collaborate with an organization in the Twin Cities community.”

Dolan asked Green how things worked in the classroom. “He would say you let students do everything, but that wasn’t my style. I was nervous. But at the end of the day, it worked out very well. I took care to make sure the class resembled a Chuck Green class, a real tribute to what he did in the classroom.... Teaching the class had such an impact on me that I won’t ever be able to teach the way I used to again.”

For his part, Green is honored to have the fellowship as his legacy. He’s attended the class and met occasionally with the Green Fellows—or the “Team Green,” as they call themselves. “It’s exciting to see how well they do,” he says. “But it’s not surprising, I feel gratified that [the fellowship] is one of the things that should be done at a liberal arts college.”

Back at the Neighborhood House at the Paul and Sheila Wellstone Center for Community Building, which was originally a center for Jewish immigrants from Eastern Europe in the 19th century, Ridenour is plowing through some basic material on the American Revolution. The students are trying to absorb the significance of the Boston Tea Party, the Boston Massacre and the meaning of “boycott.” But beyond teaching the basics of American history and political science, her project is intended to help students think about civic engagement beyond just voting—for example, how to solve a problem with the city council.

A second part of her project involves helping the staff to work more collaboratively on civic engagement projects. She first became familiar with Neighborhood House through her work at Macalester’s Civic Engagement Center (formerly the Community Service Office).

She hoped to make an impact in both areas: in the lives of her students and in the work of the historic, well-respected organization. “I feel like I’ve had a lot of small victories,” Ridenour says. “It’s exciting to work on a curriculum with a co-teacher and to work to expand civic participation beyond voting.” For example, she had them design their own political party platforms.

Her work “was everything I expected. I wanted hands-on experience and I wanted to know the West Side community. I have a good feel for that neighborhood. I learned a lot. If the students learned half as much as I did, I would feel good about it.”

At the Center for Victims of Torture, Jelev and two students from the University of Minnesota spent the summer applying the techniques of grassroots organizing in a novel effort to educate voters and candidates about U.S. policies regarding torture and human rights. The idea was to put those issues on the minds of voters and candidates so they would be discussed during the November congressional elections.

Jelev was responsible for communicating with candidates from all parties and voters in three of Minnesota’s congressional districts. He provided background information, worked with the League of Women Voters to make sure candidates were asked about torture issues at candidate forums and helped organize house parties where voters discussed the issues.

“I’ve had a chance to explore an international issue, but I get to talk to local people. We’re trying to spread the word about the U.S. policy on torture and how it should be an issue and how voters can actually affect the issue.... It’s very challenging, but also rewarding. I’ve learned a lot about the issue. Americans sometimes don’t believe torture is going on, but this is the reality.”

At the end of his fellowship, Jelev said he learned a great deal. “Since this is the first time for a grassroots project, it’s hard to see a lot of tangible results, but we helped build a foundation for the next fellow and the next election.”

Jelev hopes more Macalester students apply for next year’s fellowships. “It’s worthwhile as long as you are willing to take risks, if you throw yourself into something. It’s a great experience.”

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Charles Green Endowed Fund for Civic Engagement
- supports activities designed to enhance student learning, cultivate student leadership skills and promote a life of active social and civic engagement
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Doug Stone is the director of college relations at Macalester.

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WHEN DANAI GURIRA '01 was in the third grade, she had a teacher who—like many in Zimbabwe—was known for inflicting corporal punishment on her students. One day, Danai marched up to the teacher and told her that in America, teachers would get in trouble for doing such a thing. "I don't even know how I knew that," she laughs. The teacher let Danai say her piece, stared at her for a moment, then told her: "You talk too much."

It's the kind of thing Danai got used to hearing as a kid, having been what she describes as a "loudmouth girl" in a culture where women were expected to be quiet. That kind of defiance is one of the central ways in which Danai relates to Abigail, the character she wrote for herself in her play, In the Continuum.

Abigail is an amalgam, Danai says, of several women that she knew growing up in Zimbabwe, but there are some elements of herself in the character. In one scene in the play, Abigail remembers having won a public speaking competition as a girl, and Gurira emphasizes the significance of what might seem to American audiences a small feat. "That she had the guts to stand up and deliver a speech like that is something I feel connected to as an act of rebellion for an African girl. There is a huge wave of opposition toward that kind of outspokenness."

Gurira adds that Abigail's honesty is more impressive than her own because Abigail did not have the benefit of growing up in a household where she was encouraged to speak her mind. Also unlike Abigail, Gurira was born in, of all places, Iowa. Her parents grew up in Zimbabwe, where they met during high school. Both attended college in the Midwest and her father later taught chemistry at Grinnell. When Danai was 5, the family moved back to Zimbabwe. She went to elementary and high school there, and despite just a few visits to the States, she identified in some fundamental way as American. "Until I came back, when I realized that Zim is my home." She quickly qualifies this sudden declaration: "America has the functional opportunities for me to advance in life, and there's a lot about me that has been influenced by this culture," explains Gurira, whose sister, Chiwoniso "Thousands of people have sat in a room and been made to experience an African women's story. That's the coolest thing—that's what I wanted."

Tale of Two Women

Two women—one African, one African-American—discover they are infected with the AIDS virus. Out of this common tragedy, Danai Gurira '01 and her co-author have created an amazing play filled with laughter and humanity and performed it to acclaim from Zimbabwe to Washington, D.C.

by Elizabeth Tannen '05
Gurira as Mammy Weaver in Langston Hughes' *Limitations of Life*, directed by Professor Beth Cleary at Macalester in 1998.

Weaver, left, and Gurira with director Robert O’Hara.

always meaning to be, and the play's success is largely the result of their essential and wonderful humanity.

The story that the play tells is in many ways tragic. Aside from being infected themselves, both women find themselves pregnant and unable to speak openly about their infection to their men. But despite the sadness of the story, *In the Continuum* is remarkably uplifting: even without a "positive" outcome, audiences inevitably go away with huge smiles on their faces. It's not just the performances of the two women, which are astonishing—brimming with energy and excitement—but also, as Gurira recognizes, the simple level of humanity that both characters achieve. She counts Chekhov among her influences and was inspired by his ability to tap into the "absurdity of life. [Chekhov] is so great at that—reading something like *The Cherry Orchard*, which ends sadly, but at the end you've laughed!"

Gurira insists that the accolades the play has received are merely the icing. The cake is what she calls the "miracle" of the play's creation. "The biggest leap for us was just to create it." She is thrilled with the play's success, of course, but what matters most to her is the access that the critical response has allowed. "Thousands of people have sat in a room and been made to experience an African women's story. That's the coolest thing—that's what I wanted."

Danai was interested in drama in high school and excited about the idea of studying performance academically at Macalester. But she says that while Macalester crystallized her passion for theater, the college also helped awaken what she calls her "other love"—for social justice. Fascinated by social psychology and knowing she would pursue an M.F.A. in drama after graduation, she declared a psychology major and saturated her acting bug by "dabbling" in the Theater Department, encouraged by Professor Beth Cleary. "Danai was so powerful and talented as a 17-year-old and only got better while she was here. That kind of blazing talent is rare, a great gift," Cleary says. Danai waxes fondly about the Psychology Department, recalling the department coordinator Mary Claire Shultz as her "surrogate mom," the dedicated academic support of Professor Kendrick Brown and the "most enjoyable hours" she spent with friends and faculty in the department.

Gurira says that her experience at Mac was instrumental in convincing her to pursue a career in theater. The college fostered the fusion of her artistic and political passions. During her study abroad experience in South Africa, her desire to pursue theater became a need. "I met these amazing artists who performed their art during apartheid to make a difference and that's when it hit me to the core that I needed to fly without a net, and go into this very insecure field! I knew that's where my passion lay. I realized that this is my medium."

It was during her time at Macalester that Gurira began to tell the stories of African women. They didn't always center around HIV, but as she explains, the prevalence of the disease in Africa makes it statistically impossible to grow up there and not be affected by it. When it came time to create her own work as the final aspect of her M.F.A. program, Salter approached her with the assumption that she would do a piece on an African woman and AIDS. Salter

"I stepped into the dramatic arts searching for literature that represented what I knew. I couldn't find it, so I had to create it for myself."
In addition to Danai Gurira, here are five other young alumni whose work in theater engages the community on a host of contemporary issues.

**Steve Colman**  
Poetic justice and a Tony Award

"I feel all poets should be historians," Steve Colman '92, a director, performer, writer and activist, declares from across a Greenwich Village coffee shop table. "You can't disconnect this stuff from what's going on around you."

A history major at Macalester, the scruffy, boyish-looking 36-year-old earned an M.A. in history from Case Western Reserve University and was accepted into a Ph.D. program at NYU but chose to pursue spoken-word poetry instead. "It was between microfiche and touring," he says with a sly grin. "It was not a hard decision." But history, as well as contemporary culture, current events and political issues, continues to strongly influence his art and his activism.

As a spoken-word poet, he’s performed around the country and world. He was a member of the 1998 national-champion poetry slam team representing New York City’s Nuyorican Poets Cafe. He co-wrote and co-starred in the Tony Award-winning Broadway production *Russell Simmons Def Poetry Jam*, a showcase of spoken word and poetry. His most recent endeavor: co-creating and assistant-directing the Tony Award-winning *Bridge & Tunnel*, a one-woman show featuring 14 different immigrant characters who have come together for a poetry slam, all played by his wife Sarah Jones, a writer and performer.

"Mac is a huge part of my career," Colman says when asked how it all started. "It validated my social activist impulses, refined my ideas—and I performed there." The Englewood, N.J., native hadn’t discovered how to merge his seemingly disparate interests in rap, poetry, history, social issues and activism until he saw Jones perform "Your Revolution," a poem confronting the over-sexualized portrayal of women in rap lyrics. "I decided that the best way for me to make the world a better place was to use...language and communicate with the audience through art," he says.

Inspired, Colman moved to New York City in 1997 and haunted the spoken-word scene. He started performing and garnering acclaim, crafting poems such as "Terrorist Threat," his ode to the paranoid post-9/11 atmosphere. He used his poetry to talk about other issues such as health care, poverty, homelessness and race in a powerful yet playful way that people would not only listen to but enjoy—and become motivated by.

To further his activist impulses, Colman has performed his work at benefits, reading poetry for the women's rights group Equality Now and anti-war protest coalition United for Peace and Justice.

Colman stopped performing to work on *Bridge & Tunnel*, which ran on Broadway from February to August 2006. He is currently developing a one-man show with spoken-word poetry, stories and reflections culled from his body of work. "I would rather be talking about modern love or relationships or family or history," he says, "but some people don’t have the luxury of sitting around and talking about love when they’re being interrogated by the FBI or don’t have health care.

"All the things I’ve been writing about for the last 10 years are not only still issues," he continues, "but issues that still really need to be talked about."

"Mac validated my social activist impulses," says Steve Colman '92, pictured outside his New York apartment. He won a Tony Award for co-writing and co-starring in *Russell Simmons Def Poetry Jam*.
Aditi Brennan Kapil ’94 with her husband Sean Brennan ’94 and their daughters.

Below: as Pearl in Augustin Daly’s “Under the Gaslight” at Macalester, directed by Beth Cleary in 1994.

Aditi Brennan Kapil ’94

At home in the Twin Cities
for all the world of theater

IF THEATER TYPES are reputed to be egotistical, then Aditi Brennan Kapil ’94 defies the stereotype. In conversation, the Minneapolis-based actor, director and playwright is modest, low-key and self-effacing, dismissing many of her accomplishments as the result of good timing or luck.

Her career in theater began when Kapil, who was raised in Sweden by a Bulgarian mother and Indian father, signed up for “Intro to Acting” on a lark during Orientation Week for Mac freshmen. “I thought it would be a blow-off class,” she laughs. “Little did I know it would be one of the toughest classes I took in college.”

She eventually became a dramatic arts major, but also fed her love of words and writing with a dual major in English. She believes that her liberal arts education was essential to her future success. “If I had gone to a conservatory, I’d be more focused, but less educated. Macalester’s broad knowledge base has really helped me in the working world.”

Kapil lists getting to know Jack Reulcr ’75, founder of the Minneapolis-based Mixed Blood Theater Company, as one of her theatrical “lucky breaks.” He spoke to her senior seminar at Mac. On the strength of her first audition, he cast her in a play he was directing one summer. “After putting a lot of effort into it at the beginning,” she says, “work started to come, and I realized, ‘I can do this for a living.’” Kapil’s acting credits include roles at most of the Twin Cities’ major theater companies.

Playwriting, a former side interest, is beginning to take up a good portion of her time. Her first play, The Deaf Duckling, a bilingual production written in American Sign Language and English, was commissioned by Mixed Blood. Based largely on the success of that production, Kapil was commissioned to write original productions for other theaters, including Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theater and SteppingStone Theater for Youth Development. She’s currently working on an original play, Love Person, a love story written in Sanskrit, American Sign Language and English, which was read this fall during Playwrights’ Week at Lark Theater in New York.

While the range of Kapil’s work is broad, there is one thread that unites it all: an interest in language, communication and the perception of “other.”

“In my playwriting especially, I’m interested in how people communicate with each other,” Kapil says. “On a global level, I’m interested in how the languages we speak affect the way we appear to others. Unlike a work of fiction, the theater is a place where those issues can be explored and discussed.”

While other playwrights might be tempted to pack their belongings and follow their play to the Big Apple, Kapil and her college sweetheart, Sean Brennan ’94, are committed to the lives they’ve built for themselves and their two young daughters in the Twin Cities.

“We have a really great arts community here,” she says. “I make a decent living in the theater. I can have a family and a house. I’m beyond the point where I want to work for nothing, and, besides: After all those years of proving myself, I like being a slightly bigger fish.”

Andy Steiner ’90
Bringing The Exonerated of Death Row to Life

INSPIRATION sometimes strikes in the most curious of places. For actor, writer and producer Jessica Blank '97, it was during a conference on the death penalty at Columbia University in early 2000. As she listened to an inmate recount his experiences in prison via a phone call patched into the workshop, she knew immediately that she had a compelling story on her hands. A flurry of research, a proposal and a summer road trip to gather firsthand interviews from absolved ex-felons resulted in the play The Exonerated, which she co-wrote with her husband Erik Jensen.

The Exonerated, a documentary theater piece about innocent people on death row, was not only a Broadway sensation, it has been produced nationally and internationally; was transformed into a television drama starring Brian Dennehy, Susan Sarandon, Danny Glover and Aidan Quinn; and has been performed in front of the likes of Janet Reno, Supreme Court Justice David Souter and Sen. Patrick Leahy.

The experience was defining not just because of the impact the play made, but because it integrated Blank's interests in writing, acting, theater and activism for the first time. "Before Erik and I started working on The Exonerated, my writing, acting and activism were all separate tracks," she says. "With Exonerated, they started to coalesce and become one thing."

That one thing, she says, is storytelling. "Narrative is about empathy," says Blank. "You're asking your audience to empathize with the lead character. The choice of who you ask your audience to empathize with is a political choice."

It was a cohesion that started to gel while she was at Macalester; Blank cites Professors Beth Cleary and Karen Warren as having had an enormous impact on her thinking. "My concept of my relationship to the larger world and what I thought about the world politically as an adult really started at Mac."

Blank, who grew up in Washington, D.C., attended Macalester from 1993 through 1995, then took a year off to work and travel. She spent a semester at Evergreen State College in Washington state, then returned to the Twin Cities to finish her undergraduate degree at the University of Minnesota. There she designed her own major fusing acting, writing and critical theory/cultural studies in an interdisciplinary focus.

After finishing college, Blank settled in New York in 1999 and enrolled in a two-year acting program at the William Esper Studio, where she met Jensen. Ever since, she's been telling her stories as an actor in various film, theater and television roles; as a playwright and screenwriter; as co-artistic director of a new theater company, The Fire Department; and as a writer, with a book published about the making of The Exonerated and a novel due out next year.

"The different things I do fit together—they're all storytelling," she says. "Somehow I've made this weird career for myself where that's what I get to do for a living. That's pretty cool."
Shá Cage '95
Finding her own voice, an independent artist gives voice to the community

Shá Cage '95 and the members of her theater company work collectively to create, secure funding for and produce plays that address sometimes controversial social issues.

There's The Bi Show, for instance, which addresses the experiences of queer women of color; or The Menstruation Project, which draws from interviews with more than 30 women to discuss the cross-cultural experience of menses; or Making Medea, a play about infanticide, poverty and racism. After every performance, there's a facilitated audience discussion, an experience that Cage finds invaluable—and directly related to her personal career goal of "engaging, uplifting and giving voice to the community."

"Theater becomes the tool to reach other people," the actor-playwright-poet says. "Activism is at the core of who I am, and so that becomes the core of my theater experience as well. During those discussions, seeing audiences standing there with tears in their eyes saying, 'Oh my God, that's my story'—this is why I do what I do. It makes my work worthwhile."

A well-known figure in the Twin Cities' spoken-word, hip-hop and theater communities, Cage has appeared in numerous stage productions, feature films and poetry slams. She is a founder and managing artistic director of MaMa mOsAiC Theater, an independent theater company devoted to nurturing the talents—and telling the stories—of women of color. (The group's name—and its funky spelling—is intended to illustrate the spicy cultural mix its work creates.)

After nearly a decade working in theater, Cage credits much of her success to the entrepreneurial part of her personality that understands finance, that knows how to write a killer grant proposal and can run a small theater company with DIY flair. At Macalester, she majored in communication studies and minored in economics and history.

"The idea was that I would eventually own my own theater. A business education would allow me to be able to do all my own books and accounting. The theater work spoke to my passion for the arts. Communications connected with my interest in writing. In the back of my head I always thought I would play it safe—even if I loved the theater. I could always have skills I could fall back on. You have to be organized and resourceful to survive as an independent artist."

Cage may have inherited her independent spirit from her mother, who moved Shá and her siblings to Minneapolis from their native Natchez, Miss. "She wanted us to go to college and she knew the schools were better here." Cage, who attended Washburn High School in Minneapolis, was the first of her family to graduate from a four-year college.

At Macalester, she proved that she had some of her mother's moxie, co-founding Sistas In Struggle, an all-women of color theater company. "We had a lot to say about the world we lived in," Cage says. "It prepared us for life in a way we didn't realize until years after. It made me realize that theater can be a powerful tool for social change."

"Theater becomes the tool to reach other people," the actor-playwright-poet says. "Activism is at the core of who I am, and so that becomes the core of my theater experience as well."
“Nearly every day, we’re able to make change in a young person’s life,” says Tom DeCaigny ’98, executive director of the Performing Arts Workshop in San Francisco.

**Below:** DeCaigny, standing, as Miller in Clifford Odets’ “Waiting for Lefty” at Macalester, directed by Beth Cleary in 1998.

“You can see it in their eyes. When they make that connection, when they realize that this is a way they can find their voice, they get such a feeling of hope and power. I have the opportunity to witness that nearly every day. I didn’t grow up in the inner city, but the power that theater had to expand my horizons was very similar.”

DeCaigny, who was the first in his family to graduate from college, knew early on that he would major in dramatic arts at Macalester. “I had heard it was a strong program. The faculty were accessible and it felt right for me to take part in it.” And take part he did, acting in and directing a wide variety of campus productions during his college career. He was particularly inspired by his adviser, Professor Beth Cleary.

“Beth even helped me draw connections between my interests in theater and social activism. Through Beth, I learned about theater’s historic role in bringing people together around an issue and building community. Through theater, I learned how to see the bigger picture and create change.”

Nearly 10 years later, DeCaigny’s professional life is still shaped by those intersections between the arts and activism, by the voice that he discovered as a teenager, cultivated at Macalester and put to work for others at the Performing Arts Workshop. He began working there in 1999.

“It doesn’t get old for me,” he says. “Nearly every day, I see amazing things happen through the arts. Nearly every day, we’re able to make change in a young person’s life. It’s a way to make the world a better place one step at a time, and I feel incredibly fortunate to be able to do that.”

*Andy Steiner ’90*

**Through**

[Professor] Beth [Cleary], I learned about theater’s historic role in bringing people together around an issue and building community.
Did someone mention values?
As the culture changes, the more some things at Mac remain the same

by Gabrielle Lawrence ’73, Alumni Director

Has Macalester lost its values? I really enjoy meeting alumni from the 1950s who were on campus in the time of Dr. Turck. (OH, they refer to me as a youngster, which I don't hear that often!) I hear stories which are inspiring, funny and relevant even after 50 years. For example, I just learned that Dr. Turck was known to console football players after a loss with a pat on the shoulder pads and, "That's all right, men, cheer up—it was a moral victory!" I believe we still have an edge in the box score of moral victories.

Many alumni who graduated in the 1950s have fond memories of the Christmas Candlelight service; hundreds of students bundling into wool coats and galoshes and streaming into the Macalester Plymouth Church on a crisp winter evening. The Christmas message of hope and the promise of peace and goodwill was celebrated with joy and reverence. This service remains a well-loved memory of a community coming together to celebrate a common religious connection.

In those days the student body was remarkably homogeneous and cohesive and the campus reflected the cultural norms of the era. The majority Christian culture was reflected in the social programs and calendar of the school; chapel attendance was mandatory; there was a specific club for every Protestant denomination and students arrived from small towns in Minnesota and South Dakota with letters of recommendation from their pastors. Women on campus had hours and curfews, wore skirts and expected to become teachers or nurses. Men wore coats and ties and the dorms were definitely restricted to single-gender buildings. There were few students of color and fewer students from different faith traditions. Discussions about sexuality did not take place in a public forum. But there were remarkable speakers at those required events, including Norman Thomas, the noted socialist, and James Robinson, an African-American minister from New York who introduced the reality of American racism to many students for the first time.

An alumnus from the Class of 1928 or 1939 might have been shocked to discover that in 1957 formal dances and sock hops had a prominent place on the social calendar; social dancing was not allowed on campus until the early 1940s. And someone from the 1970s might be surprised to learn of the number of women participating in organized athletics in the 1930s.

College campuses change to reflect the cultural norms of the day.

Today at Macalester, young women routinely wear pants and have the same "hours" and aspirations as men, and some women wear headscarves. It's rare to see a student (or faculty member) in a coat and tie. Men and women live in the same dorms (but not in the same rooms), there is a sacred place for Muslims to pray on campus and the cafeteria serves really good pizza made in a wood-fired oven.

The enduring values which created an alumni body of optimistic skeptics who share a sense of responsibility for their community are still part of the fabric of the place.

And sometimes we confuse values with cultural norms. Culture changes and institutions reflect those changes. Macalester is different than it was when you were here, even if you graduated last May. The rich diversity of the student body reflects the larger world and includes multiple customs and traditions and ways of being in the world that are new to many of us. But Macalester's core values have not changed. The enduring values which created an alumni body of optimistic skeptics who share a sense of responsibility for their community are still part of the fabric of the place. They continue to inspire generations of students to go out and change the world.

But what about religious values? Religious activity on campus looks different than it did when you were here, but the energy and commitment to religious values is as strong as ever.

Not surprisingly, one of the best places to observe the religious values of Macalester students is in Weyerhaeuser Chapel, which is bursting with spiritual energy these days. Chaplain Lucy Forster-Smith described a recent evening to me. Muslim students were praying, and then breaking their fast on the first day of Ramadan in the lower level while Bahai students were leading another group in multi-faith devotions upstairs and a gang of 20 Unitarian Universalists were in another corner in quiet conversation. Last year, when Ramadan and Rosh Hashanah began on the same day, Jewish and Muslim students walked together to the river for a simple joint observance. And in case you were wondering, the Christian Fellowship has a large and active presence.

There still is a Christmas Candlelight service at Macalester in December. It's a beautiful service, full of music and meaning, a time when the larger Macalester community comes together to hear and reflect on the Christmas message of hope, peace and goodwill to all people.

But the most energized Chapel service these days is the Baccalaureate service, held on graduation day. This is a joyous, multi-faith celebration of the graduates where the many rich religious customs, musical traditions and heartfelt hopes of the community are woven into a farewell blessing. The music is from Africa and Austin and Agra. I think President Turck would feel right at home, and you would, too.

Gabrielle Lawrence ’73 can be reached at lawrence@macalester.edu or 651-696-6315.
Awesome impressions

Don Helgeson '50 (Sartell, Minn.): Only by traveling and experiencing Mongolia can you begin to understand the triumphs of Chinggis Khan. It was another time, but his kingdom impacted, influenced history more than any other conqueror. To see the country of his origin was awesome.

Jane Zuehl Newton '72 (Burnsville, Minn.): My trip to Mongolia was far better than anticipated... and I had pretty high expectations. I was anxious to experience different foods, sounds, smells, values, modes of doing daily activities. I enjoyed the philosophical observations of our guide, Temuujin, as well as his niceness, helpfulness, care and guidance.

Audrey Monsen Olson '56 (St. Paul): Staying overnight in gers was pure fun, and we got to do it for six nights. Americans know gers as yurts, the tents made of thick felt with wooden lattice supports, which can be taken down in an hour, loaded on camels or trucks, and transported to the nomads’ next grazing area. Sampling ger life was easy—beds were comfortable and the tents cozy—except for those times when we bonked our heads on the extremely low doorways.

Jim Newton '71 (Burnsville, Minn.): I was kept totally engaged the entire time, to the point where home, work and the rest of the world disappeared for two weeks: lovely (though tiring).... It was a wonderful group to travel with. I felt a real family vibe. Maybe it was the alumni thing, or a small group sharing an experience. Whatever the mechanism, it was a lovely bunch of folks.

Donna Beernink Gunderson-Rogers '56 (Minneapolis): The days in the Gobi were wonderful. The accommodations (in gers) at The Three Camel Lodge were a comfortable pleasure. And the traditional music performed—extremely well—by workers at the lodge was magnificent. As was the food. The hike in The Flaming Cliffs was so much more enjoyable than I had thought it might be. [Our guide] Temuujin, always at his best, outdid himself here. He was so kind to [92-year-old] Jack [Suttle] in helping him experience as much as possible of this part of the trip, which Jack had looked forward to for so long.
MACALESTER'S FIRST lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT) reunion, held Sept. 29-Oct. 1, was a historic moment for the college and one we can celebrate for its great success.

New connections were made and old friendships rekindled as alumni from around the country and from every generation mingled at Friday's reception and at the LGBT art show which featured students, staff, faculty and alumni.

The focus of Saturday's events was on telling stories. Alumni talked of coming out, of the LGBT community at Macalester and of their involvement in LGBT communities since graduation. The seriousness of these shared stories received a break midday as reunion participants played a friendly game of Scots Pride softball. The day's finale included a formal dinner with a keynote address by Professor Adrienne Christiansen of Macalester's Political Science Department. After being escorted from the dinner to the Campus Center by bagpipes, the Macalester community was entertained first by the college's very own Kings of Ramsey County drag troupe, followed by the Twin Cities premiere of Dykes Do Drag. DJ Naughty Boyy finished the night.

In spite of a fun-filled evening, some of us still participated in the yoga session on Sunday morning before heading to the farewell brunch where Seth Viebrock '04 bid us adieu with his soothing piano playing.

To get a true sense of the weekend, we have to again return to the theme of reunion: telling stories. It is in these stories and experiences that we can begin to have a sense of what this reunion meant to individual alums and to Macalester College. May these stories and expressions encourage you to reconnect to your alma mater and all of the people that make Macalester special to you.

Please visit the Scots Pride Web site for more LGBT Reunion photos and stories: www.macalester.edu/alumni/scotspride

Above (from left): Korey Garibaldi, Chris Morris '05, Josh Aaker '05, Chad Kampe '04 and Matt Felt.

Above right: Professor Adrienne Christiansen gave the keynote remarks at the dinner.

Right: The LGBT art show featured work by students, staff, faculty and alumni.
It was so hopeful and encouraging to see the wonderful evolution both of Macalester as an institution and of my gay/les/bi/trans/queer brothers and sisters towards awareness and acceptance of our sexuality and being.

— David Perkins '76 (Jackson Heights, N.Y.)

It's so great to feel valued and accepted by my alma mater! Especially when so many in this world degrade and reject that our lives and loves are no different than their own.

— Joyce Peltzer '53 (Cottonwood, Minn.)

My greatest joy was attending the Dykes Do Drag concert and watching the current generation of Mac GLBT students having the time of their lives with their Mac GLBT elders! Laughing, dancing and celebrating who we are. It was fabulous!

— Robert Ochoa-Schutz '76 (Worcester, Mass.)

Above: Sharing a laugh are (from left) Paula Lackie '84, Linda Smith Smidzik '87, Lori Farley, Julia Weinstein Wolfe '86, Laura Smidzik, Jennifer Henry Truman '88, Jennifer Pradt '87, Jenny Wrenson '84, Laurie Eubank '84 (in back) and Michelle Truman.

Left: President Rosenberg talks with guests at the reception.

Lower left: Richard Shields '75, left, and Jean-Nickolaus Tretter.

The LGBT reunion filled a need for LGBT alumni and the wider Mac community. I appreciated learning more about the lives and experiences of other Mac alumni and alumnae. I felt more comfortable interacting with members of other classes here than I did at my five-year reunion. I met a number of people who I hope keep in touch.

— Richard Dowdell '99 (Minneapolis), LGBT Reunion Planning Committee chair
Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare is an independent, not-for-profit hospital in St. Paul with four clinics elsewhere in Minnesota. It is internationally recognized for its work in the diagnosis and treatment of children, adolescents and young adults with chronic conditions such as cerebral palsy, complex orthopaedic problems, and brain and spinal-cord injuries. www.gillettechildrens.org

Alan Naylor '57 of Minnetonka, Minn., has been involved with children's health issues for more than 30 years. A father of four and grandfather of three, he has been chair of Minneapolis Children's Medical Center, vice chair of Gillette and president of the Gillette Children's Foundation—all volunteer positions. He still serves on Gillette's Ethics Committee. It all started in the early 1970s when Naylor became the banker for a new venture, Minneapolis Children's. He was later asked to serve on the board. "I was thrilled to be asked. My involvement just grew from there. And children's health issues became a subject I began to know something about."

To complement his work for Gillette, Naylor volunteered as a teacher's aide in an after-school program for low-income children for the last five years.

He came to Macalester from a small-town, conservative background in Montana. Majoring in business administration, he went on to a 43-year career in banking. "I was shy and got off to a slow start at Macalester," Naylor says. "I wasn't prepared to seize a lot of opportunities as a student, but the seeds were planted at Macalester. Macalester taught me about being involved, and that being a responsible citizen means to be curious about the world."

When you support Macalester you support important work everywhere.
Snow White and
the Secretary-General

Catherine Willman '08 (St. Louis), seen as Snow White, right, and selling appliances, below right, and Willy Naess '08 (New York) were the winning team in a campus photo contest. The photos were their entries in the categories: "recreate a scene from a Disney movie" and "a scene to sell household appliances." Teammates Victor Ivanov '07 (Sofia, Bulgaria), Brendan Pierpont '07 (Lamy, N.M.) and Gabe Sweet '07 (Lexington, Mass.) feature Ivanov in the category: "you as the next U.N. Secretary-General," below left.

The contest was designed by Maura Koehler-Hanlon '07 (Aurora, Ore.) of Mac Pics, a student photography organization, and Linnea Ericsson '07 (Ljusdal, Sweden) of the Program Board as a way to inspire campus photographers.