M. ANIFEST'S DESTINY

Kwame Tsikata '05—Cross-cultural rapper on his way up
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ON THE COVER: Kwame Tsikata ’05, aka M.anifest, a Mac-educated rapper
(photo by Darin Back)
A little too left?
Congratulations on an excellent publication. I find it a most interesting read, as do our three children who graduated from Macalester. In your Winter 2007–08 issue, however, I have a problem with the article by Andy Steiner, “Picking a Winner.” Macalester, of course, is a very liberal institution with a faculty who are for the most part liberal/left/Democrats. Diversity is clearly an objective at Macalester, but primarily in the makeup of the student body, not the culture or politics. In the name of diversity, Steiner could have included at least one Republican candidate.

RICHARD P. DALY
P ’81, ’83, ’89
Burnsville, Minnesota

Bring back the books
One of my favorite parts of the magazine—‘Alumni & Faculty Books’—has been eliminated. I always looked forward to reading the short synopses of the published works. It was an impressive array of texts, novels, poetry, and children’s books. I hope you consider bringing back those two pages.

KENT BUHL ’83
Portland, Oregon

Mental health metaphor
After reading Sue Abderholden’s letter on mental health in the Winter 2007–08 issue, I found myself creating a metaphor on the subject. When a football player takes an especially hard hit, we might applaud—both for the strength of the contestants and the quick rebound of the intended target. But if the downed player fails to get up, it’s time to stop the game and provide the attention and time needed for recovery. If a player cannot return to the game, the team and the sport continue to provide structure and support for the player’s recovery. An educational institution striving for enlightened policies ought to play a similar role. I believe that the best learning environments guide an individual’s search for external and internal truths and provide an honest, nurturing environment and opportunities for a student to put what they learn into play while continuing to learn and grow.

PAUL A. KELLEY ’88
Havertown, Pennsylvania

Also on the campaign trail
I just received the Winter 2007–08 issue and scanned the article “Picking a Winner.” I can add one more campaign worker: our son Ben Legow ’07, who worked as a paid operative with the Bill Richardson campaign office in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Ben was responsible for the campaign in Tama, Jones, and Benton counties, working a mere 77 hours a week.

ELLIOIT LEGOW
P ’07
Youngstown, Ohio

Our new look
Bravo on the new design for Macalester Today! Handsome banner on the cover, legible and enticing layouts, and a delicious design that draws readers into every story. Well written indeed. In recent years I’ve skimmed the publication, not particularly caring to read much, rarely delving in. This issue is the start of a stupendously contemporary publication—a real magazine. I’m now as proud of it as I have always been to say I’m a Macalester graduate.

GINGER OPPENHEIMER ’79
Bellingham, Washington

Greenland forgotten
I noticed that your list of United World College Scholar countries (Winter 2007/2008) did not include Greenland. I am a Davis UWC Scholar and represent Greenland. This is a very touchy issue between Denmark and Greenland, as Greenland is a sovereign nation and has been so since 1979.

FREDRIK FLAGSTAD ’08
Nuuk, Greenland

Correction
The claim in your story “International Investment” (Winter 2007/08) that Macalester’s international students hail from 90 different nations was slightly inflated. Mac’s international students come from approximately 75 different countries. If you include the students born in other countries who are now U.S. permanent residents—and thus counted as U.S. citizens—the number of countries represented is in the high eighties. Further, it may be true that Macalester has the most international countries represented among liberal arts colleges, but there is no way I know of to confirm this.

DAN BALIK
Associate Provost of Institutional Research
Macalester College

Geography lesson
In the Spring 2007 story “Journey from Sudan,” the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) was identified as Zaire (and yes, I just got that issue in the mail a couple of days ago). The name was officially changed 10 years ago. This error, which might not be shocking to some, is striking to people like me who grew up here, and to many others who know Africa.

AGNIESZKA BRZESKA ’94
Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo

Letters Policy
We invite letters of 300 words or fewer. Letters may be edited for clarity, style, and space and will be published based on their relevance to issues discussed in Macalester Today. You can send letters by email to: mactoday@macalester.edu. Or: Letters to the Editor, Macalester Today, College Relations, Macalester College, 1600 Grand Ave., St. Paul, MN 55105-1899.
In Defense of Boredom

“Boredom flourishes...when you feel safe. It is a symptom of security.” —EUGENE IONESCO

BY | BRIAN ROSENBERG

For most people, a summons to jury duty has roughly the attractiveness of an invitation to spend a week relaxing in the waiting room of the local Department of Motor Vehicles. Certainly this was my response when I received my own summons recently, and my expectations were, to be honest, borne out by the experience, which consisted chiefly of sitting with over a hundred other souls—sans cell phones, computers, and other electronic forms of work or entertainment—in a sparsely furnished room in the basement of the Ramsey County Courthouse and...waiting.

(As an aside, I should note that I had for company a Macalester senior, a Macalester alumna, and a member of the Macalester staff, demonstrating clearly that the college is doing its part to keep the wheels of justice grinding.)

Just once during the week I was called, together with two dozen of my peers, into an actual courtroom, where each of us was asked the same series of questions, some biographical and some of a more philosophical nature, these last, apparently, designed to identify those lacking all sense of fairness, judgment, or basic human decency. (Not surprisingly, every one of the panel acknowledged under oath to being fair, discerning, and decent.) After a suitable interval, I was apparently deemed a less-than-ideal juror by the defense or prosecuting attorney or both (or maybe by the judge, for that matter) and dispatched back to the waiting room in the basement to—naturally—wait some more.

My jury service—or, more accurately, my jury availability, since I was never in fact impaneled—happened to take place the week after the Iowa caucuses and during the week of the New Hampshire presidential primaries, which reminded me of another frequently experienced adventure in tedium: waiting in line at the polling place, sometimes for more than an hour and frequently, in Minnesota, in the rain or snow, in order to exercise the right to cast my ballot.

Such moments are often the source of complaint, and I confess to being a regular complainer: my time as a juror-in-waiting, for instance, caused me to miss two important conference calls and to crowd into subsequent weeks all the various meetings, tasks, and appointments that had been necessarily delayed. All this, I am given to complain, in order to do absolutely nothing at excruciating length.

Yet in my more reflective moments I am inclined to recognize that it is precisely the tedium, the sheer and numbing uneventfulness of such activities that underscores the extent to which democratic practices are embedded in American society. My jury service also coincided with ongoing spasms of nascent or failed democratic activity in such countries as Pakistan and Kenya, activity that was proving to be chaotic, divisive, and more than occasionally deadly—but never boring.

There are, in other words, many aspects of participatory democracy that we in the United States are inclined to take for granted because they have become routine, including the functioning of an independent judiciary, the right to trial by a jury of one’s peers, and the smooth and civil transition of power from one political party to another. It is when such activities become exciting, when they begin to shock or to disrupt the quotidian flow of events, that they tend to be most in jeopardy.

And so, hard as it is to accept, we should be grateful that being called to jury service, casting a vote, and attending a public hearing are by and large boring activities. They are boring because their existence and relative commonality are taken for granted, and they are taken for granted because they are so deeply woven into our social and political fabric—into the very way that we imagine ourselves. During the vast majority of times, and in the majority of places in the world today, this has remained far from the case.

The danger, of course, is that we are liable to confuse the routine with the unimportant. The fact that most of us show up as expected to serve as jurors and stand in line in the rain to cast ballots and accept without violent revolution the results of elections are matters about which we should be deeply proud and fiercely protective. It is within such unremarkable soil that free civil society—a most remarkable thing—establishes its deepest roots.

BRIAN ROSENBERG, the president of Macalester, writes a regular column for Macalester Today. He can be reached at rosenbergb@macalester.edu.
If senior Katie Grudnowski occasionally dances around the answer to a question, you might attribute it to a lifetime on the softball field. After all, fancy footwork can distinguish good players from great ones. So when she’s asked about the team’s performance early in her career, she nimbly sidesteps the question. “People didn’t have as much of a background in softball as they do now,” she says. “We just loved to play.”

With a combined 6–68 record in 2005 and 2006, the cellar-dwelling Scots needed a kick start, and Grudnowski was just the woman for the job. She’d been anchoring the infield at shortstop for two years, and had the speed to beat out almost any ground ball for a single. Last year, Grudnowski took the helm as a junior captain—a rare honor—and seemed poised to lead the team in a new direction.

She had her share of obstacles. She felt responsible for introducing Macalester’s softball traditions to the 10 first-year students who had joined the team. She had to swap shortstop for center field to accommodate the new players. And she had to figure out a way to build a cohesive team while construction on the Macalester Athletic and Recreation Center wiped out the team’s practice space, playing field, and locker rooms.

There’s no question Grudnowski excelled despite the challenges: she earned all-conference honors for her performance on the field and guided the team to 10 victories, the most since 2003. The team even earned accolades off the field. At the end of 2006, the National Fastpitch Coaches Association honored Macalester with an All-Academic Team award for the players’ cumulative grade point average (3.66). “We’re heading in the right direction,” Grudnowski says.

As the team moves into its second season without a permanent home, Grudnowski is committed to carrying on traditions. “We used to have a good locker room dynamic,” she says. “We’d all come in early just to hang up
out before practice. We can’t really do that now.” Instead, Grudnowski has tried to build camaraderie during long rides to practice facilities and semi-annual spaghetti dinners.

Coach Tom Cross admires Grudnowski’s work as both an athlete and a captain. “Katie’s a tremendous player,” he says, noting that all-conference awards are tough to earn in a league that includes national champ St. Thomas. “And she’s one of the best captains I’ve had. She understands both the coach’s and the player’s perspective.”

Even without a permanent place to play, the Scots will likely draw more attention this year. Grudnowski will lead an experienced core of players in a campaign to play .500 ball and earn one of the conference’s top spots. The new softball field may not be in game shape by the time the season gets under way, but the Scots definitely will be, says Grudnowski. When she’s asked about prospects for the upcoming season, she doesn’t need to evade the question. “We’re ready,” she says.

—ERIN PETERSON

Framing the Black Panthers: The Spectacular Rise of a Black Power Icon (The New Press, 2007) is an absorbing new book by Jane Rhodes, Macalester’s dean for the study of race and ethnicity and chair of the American Studies Department. She recently spoke about the book for a Macalester podcast, from which the following interview is excerpted.

Q: What is it about that time, and the Black Panthers themselves, that is so fascinating?
A: Every time I ask my students about black leaders from the 1960s, they mention Martin Luther King, Malcolm X, and the Black Panthers. Part of the reason the Panthers keep coming up is that they were such visible components of the culture of the sixties and seventies. They were central in the media as symbols of black militancy in America.

Q: Talk about the title, Framing the Black Panthers.
A: From a scholarly standpoint, to understand things we have to put them in a framework to make sense of them. And there are media frames. When the media writes a story, they can’t incorporate every element, so they put in the most recognizable components of that story, and those get repeated. There are also many who argue that the Black Panthers were framed from a legal standpoint, hounded by the FBI, and accused of a variety of crimes that they didn’t actually commit.

Q: Whom did you interview for the book?
A: Probably the best known was Elaine Brown, who became in the mid-1970s the first woman to lead the Black Panthers. In the 1990s she published a popular biography called A Taste of Power: A Black Woman’s Story, which is still widely read today. I also interviewed Kathleen Cleaver, the wife of Eldridge Cleaver and herself a leader of the Black Panthers.

Q: Talk a bit about gender in the Black Panthers organization.
A: The organization was clearly deeply masculinist, as were many of the social movements of the day. Men were at the helm. More controversial were the charges of sexual abuse and exploitation. That, I think, was endemic to lots of organizations.

Q: At the height of the organization’s power, how many people called themselves Black Panthers—and does the organization still exist today?
A: At its peak in 1970, the Black Panthers had about 10,000 members across the United States. The original Black Panther Party is long gone, though many former members are still around. A group called the New Black Panther Party, affiliated with Khalid Abdul Muhammad, has been repudiated by the original Black Panthers, who don’t believe the new group lives up to the original organization’s principles and ideals.

Q: What do you hope your readers will come away with after reading your book?
A: I’d love for my readers to come away wanting to do humanitarian work, especially the students here at Macalester who are so bright, ethical, and passionate. But I’d also want them to bring some sadness to this work, to really understand that this is tragic work they’d be engaging in.
A SIZEABLE CONTINGENT from Macalester joined an estimated 18,000 others in November at the School of the Americas (SOA) in Fort Benning, Georgia, for the 18th annual Vigil to Close the School of the Americas.

The SOA, which in 2001 was renamed the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation, is an American Army training facility for Latin American troops. Many people believe it has been responsible for human rights atrocities in Latin American countries. The protest’s goal was to convince Congress to close the school. Last year they were just six votes shy of denying funding to the school.

Student coordinators Nicole Kligerman, Needham Hurst, and Rob Jentsch organized a group of 35 Mac students to take the trip. Kligerman, who has a strong interest in Latin American social justice movements, said the protest was worth the 44-hour round-trip bus ride. The vigil, she says, is about remembering those who were killed “because they are not faceless people. Every single person is someone who matters, and we gave them a funeral service. It was an affirmation of life rather than combating violence with violence.”

Funding obtained from the Center for Religious and Spiritual Life, the Department of Anthropology and Hispanic and Latin American Studies, and Macalester-Plymouth Church helped offset the cost to students.

Hurst was the only organizer who had previously participated in the protest, having attended with a group from his Jesuit high school.

“We each made a symbol to carry,” says Hurst. “There were crosses, Stars of David, a peace sign. I made a candle.” Protestors carried those symbols, each inscribed with a victim’s name, and walked in solemn memory of those killed.

“For two or three hours they read off the names of those killed, and after each name we said, ‘Presente’ (Here!),” Hurst says.

Chaplain Jim Radde, who accompanied the group, found the vigil moving. “The Jesuit and former Marine says, “The thousands of young people, their energy, their goodness, their positive approach—meeting them gave me hope, great hope, for the world.”

Sophomore Anna Joranger, who workshops her poetry in both English classes and Thistle meetings, says, “I find the atmosphere at Thistle more supportive. People give helpful criticism to improve your writing, and they tell you why a piece is good.”

Chartered as an official student organization in 2006, Thistle is funded by the Macalester College Student Government. The goal is to publish three issues a semester. Although led by Mirzayi, Joranger, and fellow sophomores Ryan Dzelzkalns and Daniel Picus, the publication has no official editors, and the magazine is a collective effort.

Thistle accepts both poetry and prose and is open to all student writers. “What we’re looking for is people who are trying something unique, who are not necessarily perfecting what they’re doing but experimenting and trying something new,” says Mirzayi.

—AMY SHAUNETTE ’10

Excerpted with permission from The Mac Weekly Magazine, November 22, 2007.
About 150 grade-schoolers judged Macalester students’ neuroscience exhibits last December at the sixth annual Kids Judge! Neuroscience Fair. In the process of reviewing the 40 projects, they learned about brain processes such as language, pain sensitivity, and visual perception. The Mac students were from psychology professor Eric Wiertelak’s “Brain, Mind and Behavior” class, and the judges came from throughout the Twin Cities. Kids Judge! Neuroscience Fair is a nationwide program; Macalester is the only college in the Upper Midwest that sponsors a Kids Judge! event.

NEWLY TENURED PROFESSORS TOOK A BREAK
DURING A WINTER RECEPTION IN THEIR HONOR. SHOWN HERE (LEFT TO RIGHT): JOE RIFE, CLASSICS; KHALDOUN SAMMAN, SOCIOLOGY; JOANNA INGLOT, ART; PAUL OVERVOORDE, BIOLOGY; NADYA NEDELSKY, INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

A NEW PATH IN MATH

IN 1984, Macalester became one of the first liberal arts colleges to offer a computer science major. Now the Mathematics and Computer Science Department is once again in the forefront of those disciplines, having created a new focus area for its majors in response to the increased explosion of data: Applied Math and Statistics.

“We’ve always had a strong interest in applied math,” says Professor Karen Saxe, department chair. “In the 1980s, Professor Wayne Roberts was well known for setting up industrial internship opportunities for math majors, and we have had a set of advanced applied courses for at least 20 years.”

With professors whose strengths include modeling and computation, applied math, biomedical engineering, statistics, and computer science, the college is uniquely qualified to offer the new AMS program. And the demand is acute. Even disciplines once wary of mathematical approaches have seen a dramatic rise in the need to handle vast amounts of data—for example, the huge amount of information that results from gene sequencing.

The Macalester student government weighed in on the decision, passing a resolution supporting the new program. AMS students will take at least three statistics courses, at least two computer science classes, and a required “Scientific Computation” course that links applied math, statistics, and computation. They also will choose among several mid- and upper-level applied math courses, such as “Differential Equations” and “Mathematical Modeling.”

Like the other departmental programs or majors, AMS requires a research paper and public presentation for the senior capstone. In addition, AMS students will have an integrative experience, which may be either a major or minor in another department or program relating to applied math, an internship or summer research experience, or preceptorships in two AMS courses.

Details of the AMS program are available on the department web page: www.macalester.edu/mathcs.
Senior geology major Sophia Kast of Corvallis, Oregon, had the scholarly experience of a lifetime last summer when she was the only undergraduate member of a geological research team in Madagascar. Other team members included Macalester geology professor Ray Rogers, Malagasy graduate students, and guides, drivers, and a cook. After graduation, Kast plans to take a year off before applying to graduate school. Here’s her report of the experience:

The red, pink, and gray sandstones crumble when I touch them. Some have patterns of crisscrossed lines, evidence of currents in ancient rivers, while others are mottled with white powdery squiggles left by 75 million-year-old roots.

These paleosols, or ancient soils, hold so much information—about the plants and animals that lived there, the formations that eroded to form the sediment, and the climate millions of years ago. The tiny clay minerals within these red soils give clues as to how much rain fell when they were forming. These samples are the focus of my two years of geological research into the climate of northwestern Madagascar, specifically the Mahajanga Basin, 75 million years ago.

Paleoclimate research is done for many reasons. In this case the goal was to provide an environmental framework for the dinosaurs that once roamed northwestern Madagascar. Geology professor Ray Rogers has been serving as the geologist for the Mahajanga Basin Project since 1996, and for years has involved his students in his research. My thesis, which focuses on the clay minerals of Madagascar’s ancient soils, will contribute to a greater understanding of the environment in Madagascar just before the great extinction that eliminated the world’s dinosaurs.

Last summer, I spent almost a month with Rogers and some graduate students in the Mahajanga Basin. We traveled in Land Cruisers down rutted dirt trails and crossed crocodile-infested rivers searching for ancient soils and fossils of dinosaurs, fish, and crocodiles. When we found a good rock outcrop, we’d tumble out of the vehicle and hike to the exposures, stopping occasionally to pick wads of spear grass out of our socks. Usually the rocks would yield a good deal of fossil bone, and we’d spend the day there, measuring sections, describing paleosols, and collecting samples.

Back in Macalester’s Keck Laboratory, I separated the clay out of the samples using a centrifuge, and with the help of a new X-ray diffractometer identified the various kinds of clay in each sample. Different clay minerals form in response to varying amounts of rainfall. This, coupled with an investigation of the weathering of the associated sand grains, gives a good picture of the climate in which the dinosaurs lived.

My summer research experience provided an amazing foundation for my lab work back at Mac, and gave me a personal connection to the Mahajanga Basin Project.
**Blow Plaid**

**ALFRED HITCHCOCK** is said to have claimed that the inventor of the bagpipes was inspired by a man carrying an indignant, asthmatic pig under his arm. “Unfortunately,” he said, “the man-made sound never equaled the purity of the sound achieved by the pig.”

His comments notwithstanding, you won’t find many bagpipe detractors among Macalester alumni, for whom the instrument evokes their alma mater like nothing else. The pipers can be heard at Commencement, Reunion, concerts, and perhaps most plaintively, when a sole, unseen piper rises early to practice outdoors on a foggy morning.

The bagpipes first came to Macalester around 1950, according to director of piping and pipe major Mike Breidenbach ’96. This was shortly after the college’s Scottish connection — through its early benefactor Charles Macalester — was recognized by the Clan of MacAlister, thus increasing student interest in the college’s heritage. Today’s Macalester pipers are led by Breidenbach, and its drummers are led by drum sergeant Steve Sutherland.

Although the Pipe Band started with just students, by the 1980s it included faculty, staff, and community members as well, says Breidenbach. “Most students start as beginning pipers, so an all-student band would be starting over every year. By including members of the community, the band represents the college well. Plus it helps the students to play with more experienced pipers.”

In 1999, when Breidenbach began leading the band, there were just seven pipers in the program, and just four students taking bagpipe lessons. Now the band has 40 pipers and 15 drummers, and there are 23 students studying bagpipes.

The Macalester Pipe Band plays the great highland bagpipe, which consists of a bag, a chanter, a blowpipe, two tenor drones, and one bass drone. The chanter, which has finger holes and resembles a recorder, produces the melody. The bag is a reservoir of air, filled through the blowpipe, and the drones are the cylindrical wooden tubes with reeds that produce the instrument’s unmistakable sound. For pipers a popular graduation gift is an instrument of their own, starting at about $1,500.

**Pipe Performances**

April 13 — Spring Concert, Janet Wallace Concert Hall, 2 p.m.
May 17 — Macalester College Commencement
May 24–25 — U.S. Pipe Band Championships, Alma, Michigan
June 21 — Chicago Highland Games

For more information go to macpipeband.com

**COMING BACK TO MAC**

A KEY INDICATOR OF A COLLEGE’S SUCCESS is how many students come back for more. By that measure, Macalester students are increasingly satisfied with their education. Dan Balik, associate provost and director of Institutional Research, reports that the retention rate for first-year students who are enrolled at Mac for their senior year has jumped more than 8 percentage points over the last decade, a significant increase.

Balik studied data going back to 1995. Of the first-year students who enrolled that fall, 80.5 percent of them were still attending Macalester in their senior year, the fall of 1998.

This fall, nearly 89 percent of the students who were first-years in 2004 were still at Macalester as seniors, and indications are that the retention rate continues to rise. For example, 94.4 percent of the first-year students who entered Macalester last fall returned this year as sophomores, according to Balik’s report.

Certain groups have even higher retention rates. African American students who started in 2004 and are now seniors have a retention rate of nearly 97 percent. For seniors from the Midwest, the retention rate is nearly 95 percent.

“Macalester should be proud of these numbers,” Balik says. “They show that students believe they are getting a high-quality education.”
You can’t see the wires, but Macalester students are completely plugged in.

At the library’s Digital Commons, students sift through electronic databases so deep and wide that a monograph that might have gone undiscovered for months in a card catalog can be located and downloaded in minutes. Cell phones are so ubiquitous that last year, more than two-thirds of Mac students didn’t even bother to initialize the voice mailboxes the college provides, preferring the immediacy of text messaging each other from one end of the cafeteria line to the other.

In the classroom, interactive teaching tools such as Moodle allow professors to post hard-to-find reading materials, facilitate virtual discussions at any
Meet me after class.

Meet me after class.

Text Message

Note, How did your internship interview go? Mom

Facebook

Relationship Status: It's Complicated

Email

Dear Professor Simons,
Can I turn in my term paper late?

Google
hour, and offer real-time quizzes to make sure students understand the concepts they’re teaching before they move on to the next idea. Incoming first-year and foreign students who once might have felt overwhelmed and far from home now use computer cameras and software programs such as Skype to talk face to face with family members back home—for free. Even before they arrived on campus, more than 90 percent of the incoming Class of 2011 were members of Facebook, using the social networking tool to meet their roommates, scope out their first campus crushes, and complain about less-than-promising work-study assignments.

Sizing up all the high-tech tools now available on campus sometimes makes David Sisk, associate director of Mac’s Information Technology Services,

"IT’S AMAZING THE THOUGHTS THAT COME INTO YOUR MIND WHEN YOU HAVE A CHANCE TO HEAR THEM AND THERE’S NOT SOMETHING DEMANDING YOUR ATTENTION ALL THE TIME."
—FRANZ MEYER, JUNIOR CHEMISTRY AND POLITICAL SCIENCE MAJOR

a little wistful that none of this existed while he was working on his dissertation. “I would have had access to so many more resources, and it would have been better—and done a year earlier,” Sisk says. If he were a student now, “I’d be on my parents like a cheap suit to buy me an iPhone.”

While he marvels at the technological resources available to students today, he is one of many observers who wonder whether the advances meant to simplify college life could also be complicating it.

After all, the software that makes it so easy to find and share files can also make it more tempting to steal them without paying or giving proper credit. The cell phone that makes it a snap to stay in touch with parents also makes it nearly impossible to avoid their calls. The Facebook page that makes it possible to stay up-to-date with scattered high school friends might make it harder to make new friends the old-fashioned way. And the Internet that has revolutionized how this generation of students approaches research also makes it easier than ever to record one’s youthful indiscretions in a format almost impossible to erase.

“When I was a student, if I wrote something unwise, it would have been on a typewriter, and there would have been one copy,” says Jim Hoppe, dean of students. “There are a lot of pitfalls, and it’s part of our job to help students think critically about how all of these resources can help them while they’re here, and what might hurt them, too.”

Plagiarism is a perennial concern on college campuses, but it has become even more complicated in the computer age, with a generation that may not have been schooled in copyright law. For instance, a 2004 Harris Poll of more than 1,100 students ages 8 to 18 found that while 9 out of 10 knew that books and music are protected by copyright law, more than half admitted to downloading music files anyway, and less than a third worried that doing so was wrong.

“This is a generation that doesn’t believe that downloading music without paying is stealing,” says library director Teresa Fishel, who wonders whether

the same beliefs apply to scholarly work. After all, research papers have been an Internet commodity for years, and more recently “custom writing” services have cropped up, allowing students to order up a ghost-written paper with little more than a credit card and a few course notes.

For a time, Macalester subscribed to an anti-plagiarism software service, but dropped it when it became clear that faculty members could spot fraudulent research papers more effectively than any software could. Instead, Fishel has pioneered a more proactive program against plagiarism that begins with schooling freshman seminar students in the basics of academic ethics, and offering training with “write and cite” tools that allow students to attribute information as easily as they download it. “We talk about the ethical use of information...and seeing yourself as a member of a scholarly community with the goal of producing new knowledge by crediting the ideas that came before you,” says Fishel.

Perhaps no technology has changed campus life more quickly or dramatically than Facebook, a social networking tool launched at Harvard in 2004. Facebook now has more than 34 million users, including nearly every one of Macalester’s Class of 2011. “By July, they were already meeting their dorm mates and organizing themselves into different groups and affiliations,” says Barron Koralesky, associate direc-
tor for Academic Technology Services. He notes that current Mac students even began visiting the pages of incoming freshmen, soliciting questions, offering advice, and creating a virtual Welcome Wagon for new students. "And these students aren’t even volunteers [through the college], they’re just doing this out of the kindness of their hearts," he says. "That kind of community building has been incredibly powerful to see." (For the record, Macalester officials do not troll Facebook and similar sites for information about students, although many have Facebook profiles themselves.)

Once on campus, a Facebook page functions as a kind of electronic personal ad that other students peruse, often as a precursor to actually saying hello. "It’s called Facebook stalking," explains Franz Meyer, a junior chemistry and political science major, and president of Macalester’s student body. Meyer says the most carefully watched links are those that offer insight into a member’s relationship status—single, coupled, or the more intriguing "It’s complicated."

Postings on Facebook sometimes have more weight than what transpires in real life. "It’s like nothing is official until it’s ‘Facebook Official,’” Meyers says. Breakups, dorm-mate difficulties, and disagreements among friends—already complicated on a small campus like Macalester’s—can be even more freighted when they’re published for everyone to see. For instance, a student may get the message that he or she has been dumped only when a partner’s status bar announces he is "single" once again.

"Ah, Facebook," sighs Ted Rueff, associate director of health services, who has seen his share of students who come for counseling after posting something they shouldn’t have, or reading a post that was painful to them.

Though Facebook membership was once limited to those with college-based e-mail addresses, last fall membership was opened to anyone. Now, not only is it possible for your parents to read what you did last weekend, so too can potential employers, who may not be nearly as amused by those photos from spring break. For instance, Becca Wing, a senior chemistry major, learned that recent college hires working with

“I check my e-mail, reflexively, every five minutes. But even as I’m doing it, I’m thinking “This is ridiculous.””

—FRANZ MEYER
a family member of hers were visiting Facebook to form first impressions of potential job candidates, using profile pages to see whether a certain applicant might be a good fit in their office. “I don’t think Facebook is an accurate representation of anyone, but now that it’s public, you really have to think about who might be reading it,” she says.

This explains why last year, Mac began a passive education campaign encouraging students to think critically about the electronic footprint they leave behind during their college years. Though the widely circulated story about a recent college grad who had a job offer rescinded after his employers came across his postings about his private parts may be apocryphal, Winton Health Services director Denise Ward says that it’s not uncommon for recent Macalester grads to Google themselves and then call campus to find out how they can have that editorial about, say, legalizing marijuana, or the ill-considered quote in The Mac Weekly, erased from the archives.

Although most students are aware that the contents of MySpace and Facebook are public (even more so since Facebook’s announcement last fall that it would make user profiles available to Internet search engines), Ward says, “I’m consistently amazed by what gets put out there.” At the same time students expect complete privacy from the college health service, they may themselves post intimate details of their lives for public consumption.

Ward advises students to imagine that all of their electronic communications—e-mails and instant messages and Facebook postings—have the potential to be passed on to people who were never intended to read them. “I tell them, are you sending a communication that you would be okay having your grandma read? If you use something like that as the common denominator, it’s a reminder that everything you write has the potential of being out there, forever.”

**In Constant Contact**

Brian Foster, an inside linebacker on Macalester’s football team, may be one of the few first-year students who arrived on campus this fall without a Facebook page. This is not to suggest he is out of touch in any way. According to his cell phone records, he sends and receives an average of 6,000 text messages a month—more than 200 a day—to his friends, his parents in Mississippi, and even the coaches on his team. “It’s a constant thing,” he says. “I’m always in touch with someone.”

Like a sturdy backpack, a cell phone package has become essential gear for most college students. “I don’t even have a land line,” reports Hattie Stahl, a senior majoring in English and Hispanic studies. “I’m not sure I know anyone who does anymore.”

Although this is convenient for students, it poses a real problem for campus officials left to find new ways to reach all students on campus, in the event of a weather emergency or Virginia Tech-style lockdown. “They don’t bother to read their e-mail, no one uses their voice mail, and they guard their cell phone numbers very jealously,” says Sisk. “It’s a source of concern for us.” [Editor’s note: By February, college officials had taken steps to solve this problem by setting up an emergency text-messaging system aimed at students.]

While campus officials may not have students’ phone numbers, their parents do, often enjoying a seamless connection to their kids limited only by the number of minutes available in their monthly family plans. Students who make or receive daily—or several times daily—calls home have contributed to the Millennial Generation’s reputation for having helicopter parents, always hovering nearby. These conversations may mitigate homesickness, but the constant connection offered by today’s technology does make some observers ask whether staying in such close touch with family means missing an important part of the college lesson plan.

“The technology gives us the potential to stay connected with people we care about, and to grow our relationships, but overdependence is a problem. Does a student pick up the phone and call the parents every time there’s a problem?” Rueff asks. “It’s the constancy of the communication that has me wondering what the long-term implications are. In terms of the ability to just be with yourself, to problem-solve independently, to offer yourself the gift of time and reflection that were once an important part of the college experience…. I have a feeling those are skills that aren’t being nourished.”

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“IT’S REALLY THE FIRST TIME WE’VE HAD A GENERATION, A WHOLE GENERATION, SO THOROUGHLY IMMERSED IN TECHNOLOGY, AND THE JURY IS STILL OUT [AS TO HOW THIS WILL CHANGE THE COLLEGE EXPERIENCE].” —JERRY SANDERS, ASSOCIATE VP OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES
According to The Chronicle of Higher Education, colleges trying to build enrollment find that technology is often more important to high school students than is an institution’s reputation or academic rigor. While this trend has caused some hand-wringing in academic journals, along with worries that today’s students care more about high-speed Internet connections than human ones, those fears may be unfounded. For instance, a 2002 study for the Pew Internet and American Life project found that almost half of all college students thought e-mail had enabled them to express an idea to a professor that they would not have expressed in class, while 56 percent felt that e-mail communication had enhanced their relationship with professors.

“It’s really the first time we’ve had a generation, a whole generation, so thoroughly immersed in technology, and the jury is still out [as to how this will change the college experience],” says Jerry Sanders, associate vice president of Information Technology Services. While he’s heard the reports of cell phone interruptions in class and students who use wireless connections to shop online instead of taking notes, he says that when he’s face to face with members of the high-tech generation, they look surprisingly like the students who came before them. “They’re curious, they can converse,” he says. “I’m always pleasantly surprised.”

In fact, college students are often quite aware of how these technological advances are shaping their experiences of school—even as they are being shaped. “I check my e-mail, reflexively, every five minutes,” admits Meyer. “But even as I’m doing it, I’m thinking ‘This is ridiculous.’” Riyaz Gayasaddin, a senior chemistry major, says he knows students “who go to bed at night and wake up in the morning on Facebook.” He and other members of the residential life staff now make a point, particularly during new student week, to get “everyone out of their rooms, away from the comfort zone of your computer, so you actually connect with other people.”

While college students are clearly early adopters of new technology, they’re also comfortable rejecting technology that doesn’t work for them. More than one Mac student reports that refusing to use a cell phone is seen as a new sign of counter-culture cool. And there’s even a new trend called “Facebook Suicide,” in which previously compulsive users of the site take down their profile pages to rediscover what they did for fun before 2004.

Meyer, for one, isn’t ready for such a drastic move—though he did consider the downsides of being so plugged in even before he got to Macalester. On a remote camping trip during high school, far from any cell phone tower, he saw how anxious he and his fellow campers became when they couldn’t dial out. “It took a few days before everyone could calm down and enjoy the experience and just be,” he says.

That’s why, when he goes for a run each day, he leaves his headphones on campus. “It’s amazing the thoughts that come into your mind when you have a chance to hear them and there’s not something demanding your attention all the time,” he says. While he often returns to check the e-mails that arrived while he was out, says Meyer, “I have to say, I really enjoy that hour when I’m unplugged.”

LAURA BILLINGS is a nationally published freelance writer living in St. Paul.
When we think of sports triumphs, we think of Gatorade dousings and champagne showers, of victory cigars and acceptance speeches. Some of the most charming victories in the wide world of sports, though, occur in small gyms, in front of small crowds, with the achievement recognized by a proud few.

On December 5, 2007, the Macalester women’s basketball team, without any seniors, upset St. Thomas 74–68 at a borrowed gym in St. Paul—the Scots’ second victory in 31 tries in the neighborhood rivalry. You might have a bigger crowd in your kitchen over the holidays than the crowd witnessing this game, but it still ranks as one of the most remarkable achievements in local sports this year.

In 2004–05 Macalester had to disband after six games because of a lack of players. The next August, athletic director Travis Feezell hired Ellen Thompson, who had worked as an assistant coach at St. Thomas, where she was captain of the 1991 NCAA Division III national championship team. She got the job too late to recruit new players for that season, and Macalester went 2–21 while Thompson, desperate for healthy and willing athletes, played four soccer players, a volleyball player, and a couple of kids recruited from campus pickup games.

“I’m really competitive,” Thompson says, her jaw jutting forward as she speaks. “So there were days when I said ‘What am I doing?’ But it makes you tougher. It was not hard to go to work and think, ‘I need to bring in players.’ It was very motivating, to not want to lose by 50 every time we stepped on the court.”

This season has brought new challenges. Macalester is moving into a new home next season, which means this winter Thompson had an office at Church of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, while the team practiced at Cretin-Derham Hall and St. Catherine’s and played home games at St. Catherine’s, which is where Mac beat St. Thomas.

They might have practiced any time between 6 a.m. and 7 p.m. any given day at any available gym. Add in a couple of key injuries to a team already lacking depth, and the players’ academic priorities at a demanding school, and Thompson never knows quite what kind of a team she’ll have at any given workout.

The Macalester women’s basketball program is energized, thanks in part to a new coach.
“Ellen’s just a great person, period, and she’s flexible and realistic,” says Ann Baltzer, a sophomore center. “I teach English on Thursdays, so I always miss practice on Thursdays, and she lets that happen. Sometimes I feel really bad for her, but she takes it.”

Thompson has scoured Twin Cities gyms for athletes who can improve her program and meet Macalester’s academic standards. “She was an amazing recruiter,” says sophomore forward Trina PaStarr, from Minneapolis Southwest. “She showed a lot of interest in me, came to a lot of my games, got to know me, and she wasn’t fake like other coaches. I was really excited to play for a team that was starting from ground zero and had no boundaries. And my sister went to school here, which made it easy.”

Baltzer had a different first impression. “I chose Macalester because the school is so great,” she says. “I actually wasn’t sold on basketball at all. It took half a year of Ellen calling me and not pleading, but pitching the program to me.” Pleading? “Well, yeah, pleading” Baltzer says, laughing. “Even when I came into the program I wasn’t sure about it, but now I know this is something I would have missed if I hadn’t played. It’s been amazing. There’s something about having teammates, having a group of people behind you no matter what. Also, Macalester is rigorous academically, and it’s a really nice outlet to come into the gym and play some basketball.”

Thompson was drawn to Division III basketball because of her playing and coaching career, and the ability to raise her kids and live in the Twin Cities while coaching. Her team is 3–4 this season and 2–2 in the MIAC. [Editor’s note: The Mac women ended their season 9-16 overall and 8-14 in the MIAC, their best record in 12 years.] The Scots have beaten Austin, St. Mary’s, and St. Thomas, and have three losses of three points or fewer.

After going 2–21 in 05–06, Macalester went 7–18 last year, and Thompson was named conference coach of the year. Imagine what she might do next year with seniors, a home gym, a set practice schedule, and another year of successful “pleading” with recruits.

“The players could easily, at any point, have said, ‘This is terrible, I can’t do this,’” Thompson says of her first couple of seasons. “But we all said, ‘Let’s be the group that gets this thing going again.’ That first year was a revolving door. I had players that lasted six weeks, or less. I had one who quit with four games to go in the season. It was a series of amazing experiences I wouldn’t wish on anybody, but I look back now and say, ‘Wow, we made it.’”

If the players doubted that, they knew for sure after going on a 16–2 run in the game’s final minutes to beat St. Thomas. “I don’t remember ever being so excited after a game,” PaStarr says. “And I’ve played a lot of basketball games. We ran off the court and Ellen was just glowing.” And then? “We went back, got some food, and all of us were writing papers right afterward,” Baltzer says.

Thompson says this is the first season everyone on her roster played high school basketball. “We know we still have a long way to go,” she says. “But we’re chipping away.”

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Too often living green means having lots of green. Macalester’s new EcoHouse is out to change that.

BY DANNY LACHANCE

These days, if you’re giving yourself a green makeover, you’ll probably start by picking up the yellow pages. Troubled about the impact of your gas burning on global warming? Buy a Toyota Prius. Worried about the inefficiency of global food markets? Buy locally grown produce. Concerned about the carbon footprint you leave behind as you tie the knot? Hire a green wedding planner.

It wasn’t always this easy. If you were trying to go green in 1970, the first thing you would have picked up wouldn’t have been the yellow pages, but a brick to plop into your toilet tank, says environmental studies professor Chris Wells.

“After the first Earth Day, there was a big emphasis on personal responsibility,” says Wells, also a historian of U.S. environmental thought. Putting a brick in a toilet was something people knew they could do to consume less water: “It took the then-standard five-to-seven-gallon toilet tank and, by displacing a brick’s worth of water, turned it into a smaller tank.”

For some, the shift from do-it-yourself environmentalism to buy-it-in-a-catalog environmentalism is alarming. Environmentalism, after all, is supposed to be about reducing consumption, not expanding it. Some fear that by framing environmentalism in terms of consumer choice, collective action and advocacy for large-scale policy change may become less likely.
EcoHouse residents brave winter on their front steps (clockwise from lower right): Austin Werth, Heidi Evans, Avery Bowron, and Kim DeLanghe. (DeLanghe replaced Rachel Brunner this term.)
This is a discussion I’m having with sophomores Rachel Brunner and Heidi Evans as they hoist the top off the toilet they share with fellow sophomore Avery Bowron and junior Austin Werth. Together these four are the pioneering inhabitants of EcoHouse, Macalester’s newest on-campus theme house.

Since last fall, they’ve been living in a 1950s ranch house on Vernon Street that the college has transformed into a live-in lab for testing conservation products and strategies. The house has been retrofitted with energy-saving supplies, adaptations, and equipment—everything from compact fluorescent bulbs to a hot-water heater powered by solar panels. Armed with monitoring equipment and a commitment to sustainable living, the residents of EcoHouse are testing how well technology-supplemented conservation efforts work in real-world conditions.

The house is the brainchild of Wells, who led his spring 2007 environmental studies senior seminar students through multiple phases of the project’s design: conducting research about sustainable living and home design, envisioning the house’s features and philosophy, and writing grants to secure funding. The Xcel Energy Foundation responded favorably with a $5,000 grant. The college provided the rest of the project’s seed money, as well as the house, which it had purchased in 1994. Meanwhile, Macalester senior Justin Lee spent summer 2007 spearheading house renovations, overseeing everything from insulating walls to installing a dual-flush toilet.

Peering over the edge of the toilet, we see a large black plastic device—a lumpy, shoebox-shaped water regulator—the 21st century’s answer to the brick in the tank. Push down the toilet handle, and you replace 1.1 gallons of water in the bowl; pull it up, and you replace the now-standard 1.6 gallons.

“Not very exciting,” Bowron says. He has a point. Despite the home’s extensive renovations, it looks less like an environmentally savvy home of the future and more like the modest 1950s rambler it is.

But in a way, that lack of flashiness is the point, the EcoHouse residents explain as we sit down for a communal dinner (vegan stew prepared by Brunner). They’re rejecting the elitism that has recently surrounded green living by demonstrating how modest changes to a modest house can make a big difference.

“This project is about trying to make conservation feasible and accessible,” says Bowron. “It’s a demonstration of ‘this is possible; it’s not outrageous to do this,’ which could make it easier in the long run for people to support legislation that will change building codes.”

The home’s new energy-conserving refrigerator, for instance, was ranked in the top 10 percent of Energy Star–rated appliances in terms of energy conserved, but at $550 is by no means top of the line in terms of price.

The goal is to normalize rather than fetishize environmental-
“This project is about trying to make conservation feasible and accessible,” says Bowron. “It’s a demonstration of ‘this is possible; it’s not outrageous to do this.’”

“ism, to educate community members about how they might make changes to their own homes that don’t require a sense of ongoing sacrifice—or adopting a style that seems foreign to them. “It’s less about ‘turn the water off when you’re brushing your teeth’ and more about ‘there’s an aerator in my faucet, so I’m saving water all the time,’” Bowron explains.

What draws them together, members of EcoHouse say, isn’t a desire to see who can consume the least, but a desire to figure out how to consume efficiently and live collectively. Indeed, Evans says that the house motto might be summed up by an aphorism the group collectively created using magnetic poetry on their refrigerator: ‘Green is always better and more delicious.’

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elected from an applicant pool of 12, each of the house’s four residents brings a relevant eco-history to the project. Brunner was just 11 when she attended her first environmental conference, the annual meeting of Canada’s Society for Ecological Restoration. She sat through a speech on climate change, which was a new concern at the time, and finally understood the source of her mother’s passion for sustainability. “This wasn’t just ‘trees are good.’ This was systemic, trying to grapple with the scope of an issue that nobody was really talking about.”

Evans’s mother told her stories about the cooperative lifestyle she had lived in her twenties, and the battles between the hippies and the Marxists over whether environmentalism or going green

Senior Justin Lee spent the summer of 2007 overseeing the renovations to Macalester’s new EcoHouse. Here are the changes he directed:

1. Insulating outside walls with blown-in cellulose
2. Repainting the house’s interior with low-volatile-organic-compounds paint
3. Replacing all lighting with compact fluorescent bulbs
4. Replacing asphalt shingles with a 70-year steel roof
5. Adding new gutters, an attic ventilation system, and aluminum-wrapped fascia and soffits
6. Installing solar-thermal panels on the garage for heating water
7. Installing Energy Star–rated refrigerator, dishwasher, vent hood, and front-loading washing machine
8. Installing a new kitchen sink made from recycled aluminum
9. Replacing counters with Paperstone, made from recycled paper and cashew resin
10. Transforming kitchen cabinets into a kitchen island
11. Installing low-flow aerators in sinks
12. Installing a low-flow showerhead
13. Installing a dual-flush toilet
14. Installing a bathroom mirror found at the ReUse Center
15. Installing a solar tube light fixture in the bathroom ceiling
16. Adding an energy-efficient bathroom vent fan
17. Replacing basement windows with glass block
18. Adding a worm farm composting bin in the basement

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egalitarianism should be their first priority. As a kindergartener, Bowron told his teacher he wanted to “plant trees where there had been clear-cuts” when he grew up.

As for Werth, he grew up on a farm in northern Colorado, where his family raised their own steers, chickens, and turkeys, and where eating locally, being thrifty, and conserving resources were a way of life.

To create a sense of community, the four shop and prepare meals together. “We like the symbolism of having the kitchen in the middle of the house,” Evans says. “It represents how a community is formed around food.”

They’ve also been engaging the community beyond Macalaster. Dozens of people toured the house when it was part of the 2007 Minnesota Solar Tour. And local media outlets such as Fox 9 News, Minnesota Public Radio, and the Minneapolis Star Tribune have carried stories about it. As more people become concerned about their impact on the environment, Wells explains, the hunger for the kind of information provided by EcoHouse will increase.

“Most of us live in existing housing,” he says. “And if you live in this neighborhood, where most of the houses were built in the 1920s, how much can you really do? That’s the informational black hole we’re trying to address.”

Once all the house’s energy monitoring systems are in place, its residents will record and post data on the Web, making it accessible to the public. Open workshops given by EcoHouse students on their experiments in energy-efficient living will help Twin Citians put their own goals into practice.

“We haven’t yet hit the point where this stuff is normal,” Wells says. “It’s still fringe. So part of what we hope to do is to help push past that. It’s a lot easier for homeowners to make some of these investments if they know someone else who has done it, and if they know that it has worked, saved money, reduced energy use, and measurably improved environmental relationships.”

Ultimately, EcoHouse is trying to break down the split between grassroots “brick-in-the-toilet” environmentalism and elitist consumer-oriented environmentalism. These days, bricks-in-the-toilet may be something that we buy in the form of dual-flush toilets, but that kind of change can and should accompany large-scale structural change, Wells says.

“If people would like to buy a heating system for their home
that will have a substantially lower environmental impact, it’s good they have the option. It’s even better if that option is affordable. And it’s best if that option is built into a set of requirements that manufacturers must adhere to,” Wells says. “The key is to push forward projects like this one, which are working hard to make information on environmental products accessible, democratic, and free. There’s a balance between how people choose to behave, how they buy, and what they insist on politically. Ideally, it should all work together.”

With EcoHouse, it just might.

DANNY LACHANCE is an American studies graduate student and a regular contributor to Macalester Today.

The Greening of Mac

EcoHouse is by no means the only environmental initiative at Macalester. Here’s a roundup of other green programs on campus:

- **SUSTAINABILITY COORDINATOR:** Suzanne Savanick Hansen, the college’s first sustainability manager, started work in January. Her full-time position was established to help fulfill the responsibilities of the Presidents’ Climate Commitment, a nationwide commitment to lowering emissions on college campuses that President Brian Rosenberg signed onto last year. The sustainability manager is charged with “coordinating the environmental efforts and activities on campus, providing expertise in environmental sustainability, and helping Macalester take a more proactive approach to managing environmental impact,” vice president of student affairs Laurie Hamre told The Mac Weekly.

- **BUILDING PROJECTS:** The two biggest building projects on campus are both going green: The Macalester Athletic and Recreation Center (MARC), slated for completion in the fall, includes various adaptations that will minimize its energy use and environmental impact. The Institute for Global Citizenship building, breaking ground in May, is going further, attempting to achieve a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Platinum certification. This standard, established by the U.S. Green Building Council, is the group’s top rating, which has thus far been achieved by fewer than 30 buildings worldwide.

- **CLEAN ENERGY REVOLVING FUND (CERF):** CERF helps make green retrofits possible to older buildings on campus, says environmental studies professor Chris Wells, who chairs the fund. Despite limited resources, CERF has managed to make small-scale improvements, such as blowing insulation into the walls of a college-owned student house and launching water conservation projects at Cultural House and the George Draper Dayton dormitory. CERF also recently launched a project to replace all the four-foot fluorescent bulbs on campus with more efficient bulbs. Energy savings are then paid back into the fund.

- **CARBON AUDIT:** This spring’s senior seminar in environmental studies, co-taught by Savanick Hansen and Wells, will undertake a carbon audit of the college—another part of satisfying the presidential climate commitment.

- **GREEN HOUSE WORKSHOPS:** A grant application written by last year’s environmental studies senior seminar yielded a $5,000 grant from Xcel Energy. That money will be used this spring for community program planning, which will ultimately lead to Eco House-sponsored environmental workshops.

- **SENIOR GIFT:** The class of 2008’s senior gift will go toward funding sustainability initiatives on campus. Savanick Hansen will help decide where to use the money, which the class hopes will amount to nearly $40,000.
BABY LOVE

Mac couple Quyen Tran ’95 and Jon Witthuhn ’95 have found success in kiddie retail.

BY | LYNETTE LAMB

Searching for baby gifts in the Twin Cities, Quyen Tran ’95 was getting discouraged. Nothing was fun or interesting enough to catch her attention. “After my fourth trip to Baby Gap, I thought, there’s an opportunity here,” says Tran.

That opportunity nicely dovetailed with the entrepreneurial desires of Tran and her husband, Jon Witthuhn ’95, leading the duo to found the northeast Minneapolis baby boutique Pacifier in 2004.

Their timing was perfect, coinciding as it did with a weird cultural fascination with celebrity babies and their stylish clothing and gear. “It’s kind of like baby is the latest accessory,” says Tran. “Strollers costing $600 to $900 would never have flown in the Twin Cities 10 years ago, but now they sell very well.”

Pacifier doesn’t limit itself to the still semi-stodgy Twin Cities market, however. Its online presence, which accounts for 35 percent of sales, draws lots of buyers from the coasts. “Expensive baby furniture and edgy stuff like skull T-shirts still sell better on the East and West Coasts,” says Witthuhn.

Both Tran and Witthuhn buy for the store but otherwise divide the workload, with Tran handling back-of-the-house tasks such as bookkeeping and marketing and Witthuhn more public matters such as employee training and customer service.

It’s a long way from their Macalester degrees in anthropology and religious studies—as well as from Tran’s previous career in international nonprofits—but they are still guided by their Mac values, they say. Pacifier’s only full-time employee has paid health insurance, and its owners buy as many organic cotton and fair trade products as possible, donating a percentage of profits to the Global Fund for Children.

After four years of long hours, the couple just recently began taking two-day weekends, trying to stave off the burnout that comes so easily when, as Witthuhn puts it, “you do everything yourself and everything depends on you.”

As for where the childless couple spends those precious free weekends? Says Tran, “Preferably in restaurants and vacation spots without kids.” ☛
Cross-cultural
Ghanaian American Kwame Tsikata '05 is a musician on his way up.

BY JAN SHAW-FLAMM / PHOTOGRAPHS BY DARIN BACK
ONCE IN AWHILE, a musician comes along whose work transcends borders, economics, and genres and makes you feel your pulse in every blood vessel. Listen to Manifestations, the debut CD by M.anifest, a.k.a. Kwame Tsikata ’05, and just try not to move.

Released at a September party at the Fine Line Music Café in Minneapolis, the CD was described by Star Tribune music critic Chris Riemenschneider as “very Kanye-esque, with clever and cocky but not trite or trashy party tracks, plus harder-hitting topical gems with worldly scope. There’s plenty of Afrocentrism, too, but ... this guy’s out to be the best rapper of any nationality.”

A Ghanaian immigrant living in Minneapolis, M.anifest walks in two worlds. He’s an economics major who eschews XXXL pants but nevertheless knows what it is to be pulled over on a DWB—driving while black. In fact, he rarely drives, saying it’s not worth the hassle. “When you’re an immigrant here on a visa,” says M.anifest, “you don’t get into arguments with the police.”

Back in Ghana, he’s the proud grandson of internationally known ethnomusicologist J. H. Kwabena Nketia, professor emeritus at UCLA, and the Universities of Pittsburgh and Ghana. Growing up with his grandfather and mother in Accra, M.anifest poked around his grandfather’s extensive collection of tapes and vinyl, listening to every kind of music, from traditional African to European classical. At Macalester, the man the Star Tribune recently called an artist “on the verge” spent endless hours with friends discussing the tracks they were listening to.

In 2005, as a new graduate with job, visa, and money concerns, he couldn’t afford expensive studio time, so he began to acquire equipment and transformed himself into a sound engineer. Not being limited to a studio means M.anifest can go anywhere to record with other vocalists, musicians, and beat makers. The recordings are then mastered in a studio, giving every track on Manifestations commercial quality, but with a tart originality. The liner notes read, “All Tracks Recorded and Mixed by M.anifest at ‘anywhere-I’m-at’ studios.”

A musical magnet, he draws talent from everywhere. One artist who appears on several tracks is a 15-year-old from St. Paul. A liner note—“All Interludes by M.anifest and M. Abdullah”—refers to the wry, spoken observations on African American life from a former railroad employee. “Change Gon’ Come” was produced by Coptic, who has also produced Diddy, Usher, and other hip-hop giants. Then there are the Mac friends whose prints are all over the CD: Owen Duckworth ’06 (beat maker/producer); Senam Gbeho ’04 a.k.a. Evil Twin (MC/rapper); and Mandi Masden ’08 and Nisreen Dawan ’04 (singing vocals). The music Kwame created for one of Pepsi’s national advertising campaigns largely financed the CD’s production.

“Pepsi helped me get the money to put out the record. Pepsi hired a company to do their whole branding experience for them. They asked somebody in the Cities, who said, ‘You should check out this new guy, he’s interesting.’ They checked out my Web site, and called me the next day. We did it in 30 minutes, and the rest is history.”

Continued on page 31
As for more ads, “I don’t think about that. The music is my focus; other opportunities that arise will always be a result of the quality and effect of the music I’m making.”

M.anifest’s mission to “represent Africa with a spectacular street vernacular” sets his music apart from most American hip-hop. Also, “Hip-hop, especially American hip-hop, has a strong ethos of ‘keepin’ it real,’ but I can take it anywhere and use different elements that relate to my experience and growth.”

So what does M.anifest think about violence and misogyny in hip-hop? “I don’t make a conscious effort to do something different, but my music is an extension of who I am.” Misogyny, he acknowledges, is everywhere, but because he has a deep respect for his single mother, it’s just not in his repertoire. Rather, he argues for balance in rap. As he puts it in “Africa Represent”:

Relevant forever in the name of Mandela, Masekela, Makeba
Oral traditions in a flavor you can savor...
Whatever happened to rappin’
Without mention of gun clappin’?

He’s also determined to remain independent. “I would not give up control to sign with a major label,” says M.anifest. “I have friends who have done that and just became a tax write-off.” He didn’t even shop a demo. “That’s trying to get the approval of someone who doesn’t make music. They only approve what’s already in the market.” M.anifest can’t tell you exactly how many CDs he’s sold—for one thing, iTunes only sends out the occasional accounting—but he’s pleased so far.

Year’s end brought him more critical encouragement: Manifestations made the top 10 album lists at two Minneapolis newspapers—the Star Tribune and the alternative newsweekly City Pages—and hometown nightclub First Avenue (made famous by Prince) chose M.anifest as one of the seven best new bands of the year.

He’s working with distributors to get his music out there, and he has a number of new projects in the works. His next opus is called Coming to America. M.anifest is also collaborating with the Belgian instrumental hip-hop group 40 Winks and trying to set up gigs around the world. “I want to travel to other countries on continents I haven’t seen to imbibe the vibes,” he says.

Meanwhile, what about his day job, the one that supposedly every artist can’t wait to quit? He’s an original in that way as well. “I love what I do; I have the perfect job to complement my music,” says M.anifest, who works for Progressive Technology Project. PTP, led by executive director Mark Sherman ’72, works with community-led organizations, providing appropriate technology to help them empower their communities. For example, a South Central L.A. group uses voter databases and computerized maps to increase voter turnout.

“Technology, like my music, is a great equalizer,” says M.anifest.

JAN SHAW-FLAMM ’76 is on the staff of Macalester Today.
Ann Millin ’69 in the lobby of the United States Holocaust Museum, where she works as a historian and special assistant to the director of education.
Repairing the WORLD

ANN MILLIN ’69 makes a difference daily in her job as a Holocaust Museum educator.

BY JAN SHAW-FLAMM ’76

Seven-year-old Ann Millin was looking around the Bungalow Bake Shop on St. Paul’s Grand Avenue when she noticed some customers with numbers tattooed on their arms. When she asked why, her mother hustled her out of the store and explained: “You know your daddy fought in Europe against Mr. Hitler because he was an evil man. One of the things Hitler did was put people in camps and kill them. These are people who survived. When they were in the camps, they were numbered.”

The impression made by that observation decades ago proved as indelible as the tattoos. Today Millin ’69 works at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. as a historian and special assistant to the director of education. She nearly missed out on the job. While teaching at the University of Kentucky and finishing a Ph.D. in Jewish history at Cincinnati’s Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion, Millin spoke one day with a Holocaust Museum photo archivist, who mentioned that he was leaving his job. Applications would be accepted for just 48 more hours. “I ran to FedEx to get my résumé in by the deadline,” says Millin. “Two weeks later I interviewed, and they gave me the job that day.”

That was eight years ago. Now Millin is working on a propaganda exhibition with a contemporary purpose: “The Nazis made massive use of the emerging technologies of the time—radio and film,” she says. “Now there is the Internet, one of the most powerful propaganda vehicles today. By looking at the Nazi use of propaganda, can we teach our citizenry how to recognize propaganda and respond to it critically? To understand how propaganda can be used to persuade citizens to give up their rights and forgo their responsibilities?”

Millin co-developed the weeklong program “Institute on the History of the Holocaust: Confronting Hatred, Preventing Genocide, and Cultivating Moral Responsibility.” It was a response to a resolution by the United Nations, under the leadership of then-Secretary-General Kofi Annan ’61, that an annual Holocaust remembrance be created. Held in May 2007, the program was designed to help U.N. information officers from 10 countries in the Western Hemisphere develop educational programs in their homelands.

Although her job has many interesting parts, training military and FBI recruits is especially rewarding, says Millin. “When we train the West Point cadets and the Naval Academy plebes, we talk about what it means to defend the Constitution. With the police we talk about what it means to serve and protect. The army, the police—virtually every profession in Germany—went along with Hitler, and we ask them to reflect on that.”

Part of a generation once notably suspicious of police and the military, Millin no longer shares those sentiments. She meets hundreds of young recruits face-to-face and says, “They are so committed and so fine morally, and they’re putting their whole selves on the firing line. I thank God for these people and for what I’m learning from them.”

Because the museum’s founders envisioned a living memorial, the museum’s Web site, www.ushmm.org, deals with the history of the Holocaust but also features information on contemporary genocide—such as the situation in Darfur—and encourages people to act.

Much of the Holocaust Museum’s subject matter is grim, and students often ask Millin how she deals with that. Her reply: “The job I have is the job I wish for each of you, where at the end of the day, you can say, ‘I have done a little bit today to repair the world. I have made a difference.’”

JAN SHAW-FLAMM ’76 is a College Relations writer and a regular Macalester Today contributor.

UNITED STATES HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM

• More than 25 million people, including 86 heads of state, have visited the museum since it opened in 1993.
• About 90 percent of current visitors are non-Jews.
• More than 20 million visited the museum’s Web site in 2007.

MAC CONNECTION

Rabbi Bernard Raskas, a former Macalester professor and its first Jewish associate chaplain, served on President Carter’s Commission on the Holocaust. With other commissioners, including Elie Wiesel, Kitty Dukakis, and Isaac Bashevis Singer, Raskas helped create the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. He also gave the benediction at the first national Day of Remembrance in the Capitol Rotunda.
Maybe Two More

BY MARY LOU HIDALGO ’91

Pop quiz: When someone tells you she’s considering adopting two more kids, the appropriate response is: a) “But you guys are so cute right now, just as you are,” b) “Oh please, you can barely handle the kids you already have,” or c) “Why?” (make sure you add a horrified grimace to that last response, in case any meaning is lost on the listener). In the past two years, I’ve been asking myself the last question over and over again.

Two years ago, Genial Spouse and I agreed to adopt another kid. This was after I spent six months arguing with Stubborn Spouse, who liked things just as they were, interspersed with visits from Full-Speed-Ahead Spouse, who was understandably baffled by any sudden reluctance on my part. We already had two daughters—bright, lovely, and funny—and really, life was pretty easy and good. So the question rises again: why?

And now again, why, as I’m genuflecting next to potties and wheedling cooperation with a Dr. Spock-be-damned mix of threats and bribes. Why, as our friends with just one child rave about the international trips they take with their perfectly groomed offspring and the private school tuition they can afford. Why, when I’m supposed to be fast-forwarding my career, maintaining a slim-yet-athletic figure, and micromanaging my daughters into super achievers, but instead, on all fronts, I’ve adopted a laissez-faire-meets-lazy attitude.

Maybe this is all meant to remind me, as much as anything else, why this is the best thing I’ve ever done.

Three years ago, my husband’s grandmother died. Ruth was the only grandparent I had ever known well. She was one of those infamous elderly spitfires: sassy mouth, straight shooter, great stories, each worth the many retellings. Her quick passing over the space of a few days was my first direct experience with a relative’s death (being the child of immigrants has its dis/advantages).

Every evening we rushed from work to collect the kids, speed to the hospital, and take turns sitting by Ruthie’s bed and holding her hand. For the first time, I understood how participating in a death can be a blessing and a privilege. I washed her dentures for her once because they were uncomfortably dirty, and when Ruth put them back in her mouth, her sigh of relief almost brought me to my knees. To ease any pain for her, at that point, was to erase any I might have been feeling.

Meanwhile, back in the waiting room, Ruth’s children had gathered from their far-flung lives. My husband and I watched as two who hadn’t spoken in years embraced and wept. The stories flew, especially when one sibling left the room and the remaining four seized the opportunity to gossip, swap opinions, and come to a consensus that would never be shared. Above all, it was family: brothers and sisters who maybe didn’t like each other a whole lot but were all there, spit-laughing over memories of all-out brawls, elaborate pretend games that stretched over weeks, and backyard adventures with power tools. My husband and I looked at each other and knew: This is what we wanted for our kids. Well, maybe not the power tools part.

So it started. For us, agreeing to adopt a child was the entry drug. Bumping up to two kids was just the next natural step. Anyone we added to our family might feel too different from Child 1.0 and Child 2.0; with siblings, at least there would be one other person who would always understand what it was like. And so a frighteningly fast two years later, here we are: Outnumbered. Dazed. A little tired and cranky. Definitely sex-deprived. But pretty sure Ruth would approve of her four great-grandkids.

I’ve watched carefully as the kid population in our house doubled. A friendship/enforced tolerance between two has become a web of intrigue. Each of my children has three very different relationships going on. The teachers are not always the older ones. The heartbreakingly sweet moments don’t always come from the babes.

We won’t be packing up four kids for a holiday in the Bahamas anytime soon. The Mini is now a minivan. And St. Paul Public Schools: Hats off to thee. Work and sheer survival keep me from being the parent I wish I could be, especially on Monday mornings. But whenever that familiar question arises—why, why why?—I have an answer: because what I cannot do for them, they now can do for each other.

St. Paul writer MARY LOU HIDALGO ’91 and her husband, Gary Leatherman, adopted Carlos and Pascal, 3, from Ethiopia in 2006. The boys went on to adopt a big black dog. Don’t ask why.
As family members of Sherry Lou Shaw Engebretsen ’68, we wish to extend our deepest gratitude for the incredible generosity shown our family since Sherry died in the 35W bridge collapse last August. Your encouraging words of support, all your thoughts and prayers, and gifts of money, food, and flowers helped sustain us all through a very difficult time. For those of you who gave of yourselves in countless other ways, we thank you. We want you to know that all your gifts of kindness and compassion were graciously received and deeply appreciated.

We also thank those of you who contributed to the Sherry Lou Engebretsen Memorial Fund at Thrivent Financial. Due to your generosity, we will be able to fund college scholarships and make donations to spinal cord injury research. In addition, we thank all of the first responders and emergency personnel who aided in Sherry’s rescue. Our support from the American Red Cross and visits with President Bush, Governor and Mrs. Pawlenty, Mayor Rybak, Minneapolis Police Chief Dolan, and others were personal, sincere, respectful, and very genuine.

Because of that one day in August, God has revealed to our family that our faith is stronger than any steel and concrete bridge. He will sustain us each day as we go forward. May God richly bless you and blessed be the memory of Sherry Lou Engebretsen.

—Ronald, Anne, and Jessica Engebretsen and family
When I was sending my children off to college I was struck with a
type of nostalgic envy for the opportunity to explore arcane subjects
again (this time without the pressure of grades). “Oh look sweetie,
wouldn’t it be interesting to take a class on women in ancient Rome?”
The responding eye roll prompted me to speculate that perhaps col-
lege, like youth, is wasted on the young.

I thought I was pretty smart when I came to Mac, in that way of
smart-aleck 18-year-olds who have read a bit beyond their age group.
I was shocked to discover that I wasn’t as smart as I thought I was,
and that there was an amazing smorgasbord of subjects about which
I knew nothing. At Macalester I met professors who opened up the
world for me, challenged me, and believed in me.

I never would have known anything about physics if it hadn’t
been for Sung Kyu Kim. Although I’ve forgotten much, I remember
being dazzled by the connections he drew between the laws of the
universe and contemporary philosophy. And for more than 35 years
David Lanegran has shaped the way many of us understand cities.

I know that you Macalester alumni are always looking for ex-
periences that engage your intellect. Last fall more than 80 people
signed up for “The History of Math,” a 12-week class that met at
Macalester at 7:20 a.m. And many of you are faithfully attending
faculty lectures on our campus and across the country. All these
events remind us of a world outside our small one, and illuminate
new connections for us.

If you’ve ever wanted to return to college and get your world view
expanded again, you’re in luck: This year we’ve developed Macalester
Alumni College, which offers a variety of ways for you to shape up
those flabby brain cells. Check out our offerings below and go to our

Road Scholars—Bringing Macalester faculty to cities across the
country on lecture tours.

Podcasts—Weekly lectures and interviews available through the Mac
Web page (complete with non-intimidating instructions on how to
download them).

Travel—Small groups of Mac alumni going interesting places, ex-
anding our awareness, and learning how to be global citizens (look
for upcoming trips to Morocco and the Galapagos Islands).

Lectures—Special faculty lectures for Twin Cities alumni on topics
ranging from “Mortgage Foreclosures in the Twin Cities” to
“Mass Marketing: Research and Reflections on Body Image and
Advertising.”

EXCO Experimental College—A recent innovation developed by Ma-
calester students, in which “everyone can teach or take a class and all
classes are free.” The classes are taught by students and other Mac
community members (http://www.macalester.edu/exco/classes).

Summer Session 2008—A two-and-a-half day residential program on
campus on the topic of “Immigration: Global, Local, and Personal
Perspectives,” led by Macalester professors and including gastro-
nomical and cultural expeditions throughout Twin Cities (see ad on
facing page).

Think of the Macalester Alumni College as a workout center for
your brain, a place to get your grey matter back into shape. Expand
your mind again, and this time do it right. Sign up for a Macalester
Alumni College program today.
In Memoriam

1927
Ethol Nelson Pullen, 100, of Bellevue, Wash., died Oct. 20, 2007. She taught in schools in North Dakota, Oklahoma, and Tacoma, Wash. She also co-wrote a math book and wrote a book of poetry. Pullen is survived by one son, three grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

1936
Elizabeth Drake, 93, of Brainerd, Minn., died Nov. 21, 2007. She served in the Women’s Army Corps in military intelligence at the Pentagon during World War II, attaining the rank of master sergeant. Drake later worked as an attorney with her father and brother in Drake and Drake, specializing in real estate and estate planning law. She is survived by her nephew David Drake ’87.

1937
Ruth Colberg Paskewitz, 90, of Manchester, Mich., died Nov. 3, 2007. She is survived by three sons, a daughter, 12 grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, and nephew Howard Mietke ’63.

1938
Gordon M. Torgersen, 91, of St. Petersburg, Fla., died Oct. 1, 2007. He served as minister of First Baptist Church in Worcester, Mass., from 1951 to 1972, director of church relations at Colgate Rochester Divinity School from 1972 to 1979, and president of Andover Newton Theological School until his retirement in 1983. He is survived by his wife, Margaret, three daughters (including Anne Torgersen Goff ’73), a son, eight grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

1939
Isabel B. Auferheide, 90, of Edina, Minn., died Oct. 15, 2007. She taught at the Minnesota School of Business for 39 years, retiring as professor of English in 1985. Auferheide is survived by a sister, niece Anne McCallum Hill ’67, and cousin Isabel MacDougall Board ’49.

Donald B. Graves, 78, of Rio Rancho, N.M., died Nov. 4, 2007. He is survived by six siblings.

Harold L. Otterstrom, 92, of Tulsa, Okla., died Dec. 3, 2007. He served in the U.S. Army Air Corps in England during World War II and worked in sales for Hormel in Minnesota, Louisiana, and Oklahoma. Otterstrom is survived by his wife, Margaret, three daughters, six sons, 24 grandchildren, and 12 great-grandchildren.

1940
Audrey Day Robinson, 89, of St. Paul died Sept. 26, 2007. She is survived by two sons, two daughters, nine grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren, and a brother.

Katherine Snyder Shaw, 90, of St. Paul died Dec. 16, 2007. She served in the Women’s Army Corps during World War II. She worked as a field director and camp director for the Girl Scouts, and served as a day camp coordinator for the Camp Fire Girls for more than 13 years.

1941
Warren H. Ostedt, 89, of St. Paul, Minn., died May 15, 2007. He served in the Navy during World War II and was a retired president of J.H. Lewis, Inc., Manufacturing Chemists. Ostedt is survived by his wife, Marjorie, a son, daughter Gayle Ostedt Alberg ’61, four grandsons, and six great-grandchildren.

Jean P. Swanson, 88, of Hermantown, Minn., died Nov. 1, 2007. She was associate professor of music at the University of Minnesota–Duluth, where she taught music history and directed the department’s graduate studies program. She retired in 1988. Swanson is survived by a sister, Harriet Swanson Washburn ’41, and sister-in-law, Gloria Borseth Swanson ’51.

1942
Joseph V. Novak, 87, of Hastings, Minn., died Nov. 28, 2007. He served on a submarine chaser during World War II and took part in the landing on Omaha Beach on D-Day. He was a high school social studies teacher and athletic coach, a Hastings City Council member, and secretary of Minnesota’s Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party. He was appointed Minnesota’s state liquor commissioner in 1971, serving for 20 years, and was also president of the National Conference of State Liquor Administrators. Novak is survived by his wife, Dela, two daughters (including Maureen Novak ’72), four sons, nine grandchildren, one great-grandchild and a sister.

1943

Arthur H. Johnson, 88, of Austin, Minn., died June 28, 2007. He served in the finance department of the U.S. Air Corps during World War II, attaining the rank of captain before his discharge in 1946. He taught in high schools in Oxnard, Calif., and LeSueur and Austin, Minn., and taught economics at Austin Community College from 1965 to 1980. Johnson is survived by his wife, Abigail Moore Johnson ’43.

John K. Peterson, 86, of Bismarck, N.D., died Sept. 25, 2007. He served in the Army Dental Corps and later was assistant chief of the Minnesota State Department of Health’s Section of Dental Health. He was director of the Division of Dental Health for the North Dakota State Department of Health from 1957 to 1984, as well as president of the American Association of Public Health Dentists and the American Board of Dental Public Health. Peterson is survived by his wife, Lois, four daughters, and 13 grandchildren.

James A. Rafferty, 87, of Edgerton, Wis., died Dec. 7, 2007. He served in the Navy as a fighter pilot and flight instructor in World War II, attaining the rank of lieutenant. He worked for Burdett Smith/West Law Publishing Co. for 32 years, until his retirement in 1983. Rafferty is survived by his wife, Lois, one son, two daughters, ten grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren, and a brother, Gerald Rafferty ’50.

1945
Helen Zabel Bernards, 90, of Encino, Calif., died Feb. 23, 2007. She is survived by two daughters and four grandchildren.

Anita Shifflett Graves, 83, of Campbell, Calif., died Sept. 16, 2007. She was a church and funeral home organist and choir director, and taught at Drake University and San Jose State University. A published composer, Graves was also an officer of the San Jose chapter of the American Guild of Organists. She is survived by a daughter, two sons, and three grandchildren.

1947
Warren E. Penning, 83, of Minneapolis died Sept. 28, 2007. He served in the Navy during World War II as a lieutenant aboard the U.S.S. Barrow and took part in the landing on Iwo Jima. He became president of Penning Asphalt in 1966, and later worked as an office manager and administrator at the St. Paul Law Center and as a self-employed business consultant. Penning is survived by his wife, Rachel, son Jeffrey Penning ’71, a daughter, and a sister.

1948
Joan Woolsey Gerard, 81, of Lutsen, Minn., died Oct. 17, 2007. She is survived by her husband, Lyle Gerard ’49, three daughters (including Poldi Gerard-Ngo ’75), six grandchildren, and a brother.

Raymond R. Kari, 86, of Babbitt, Minn., died Nov. 12, 2007. He served in the Army during World War II as a medic in the 43rd infantry, receiving a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star. He managed co-op stores, assisted in the chartering of credit unions, worked in mining, and co-owned Kari Brothers Hauling and Scorpion Trail-A-Sled in the Babbitt and Embarrass, Minn., area. Kari is survived by his wife, Jean Disney Kari ’50, three daughters, three sons, 13 grandchildren, three sisters, and a brother.

1949

Mardell Halverson Nelson, 79, of Sun City, Ariz., died Dec. 3, 2007. She is survived by her husband, Don, four children, six grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Janet Hubbard Roche, 85, of Sacramento, Calif., died June 8, 2007. She is survived by her husband, George, a son, a daughter, and four grandchildren.

1950
James E. Anton, 84, of Birmingham, Ala., died Sept. 26, 2007. He served in the Navy during World War II aboard the aircraft carrier Experion and later practiced law in Birmingham and Trussville, Ala. Anton is survived by his wife, Virginia, two sons, two daughters, four grandchildren, two brothers, and a sister.
Robert P. Blixt, 83, of Minneapolis died Dec. 4, 2007. He served in the Navy, Air Force, and Army during World War II and the Korean War, and worked as a computer engineer at Univac for 35 years. Blixt is survived by two daughters and a son.

Harold J. Hegman, 85, of St. Paul died April 14, 2007. He is survived by three sons, a daughter, and three grandchildren.

John P. Hicks, 83, of Waleaska, Ga., died Nov. 10, 2007.

Vernon S. Steffer, 82, of Edina, Minn., died Sept. 12, 2007. He served in World War II and taught in Morgan, Minnesota Lake, and Princeton, Minn. After eight years abroad in Spain and Japan with the Department of Defense Schools, Steffer returned to Minnesota and worked as a librarian and coordinator for the Burnsville schools. He is survived by his wife, Patricia Thomas Steffer ’51, two daughters, two sons, eight grandchildren, and a brother.

Lois Wierwill Truwe, 79, of Red Wing, Minn., died Nov. 13, 2007. She retired as a schoolteacher in 1972. Truwe is survived by a daughter, a son, seven grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

Ted A. Ulferts, of Rockton, Ill., died Nov. 16, 2007. He served in the U.S. Army 12th Engineer Battalion from 1950 to 1952. He retired from Taylor Freezer as comptroller and office manager in 1992 and served as Rockton’s village president and as a member of the Hononegah school board. Ulferts is survived by his wife, Irene, two sons (including John Ulferts ’87), and five grandchildren.

Lloyd G. Barnes, 78, of Minneapolis died Sept. 20, 2007. He is survived by his life partner, Susan Burgstahler, two daughters, a son, six grandchildren, and a sister.

John L. Larson, 78, of New Port Richey, Fla., died Nov. 8, 2007. He was a veteran of the Air Force and a financial planner. Larson is survived by his wife. Nellie, a daughter, four grandchildren, and a half-sister.

Jocelyn Jago Palmer, 78, of Charlton, Mass., died Nov. 22, 2007. She worked for First National Bank of Maryland in Towson. She also painted watercolors and was active in the Cape Cod Art Association. Palmer is survived by her husband, Richard Palmer ’51, and two daughters.

Arlette Benson Tesch, 78, of Golden Valley, Minn., died Nov. 8, 2007. She was the longtime owner of Tesch’s Hallmark Store. Tesch is survived by her husband, Daryl Tesch ’49, three sons, five grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, and a sister, Betty Benson Sayler ’53.

William C. Williams, ’77, of Hancock, N.H., died Sept. 19, 2007. He was a master sergeant in the Korean War and later a second lieutenant in the Minnesota National Guard. He owned Pulfer & Williams, an automotive nameplate and mascot business, and wrote a book about hood ornaments. He is survived by his wife, Dorothy, two daughters, a son, and nine grandchildren.

Barbara Kidney Babich, 75, of Burnsville, Minn., died Sept. 18, 2007. Babich is survived by two sons, a daughter, four grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, and a sister.

Eva Stierna, ’96, of Minnetonka, Minn., died Nov. 7, 2007. She taught at Barton School for many years.

Lowell A. Turner, ’79, of Bloomington, Minn., died Nov. 8, 2007. He served in the Army during the Korean War and worked for IDS/American Express for more than 35 years, retiring as director of treasury operations and assistant treasurer. Turner is survived by his wife, Helena, three sons, 10 grandchildren, a great-grandson, and a brother.

Garth A. Hull, ’75, of Los Altos, Calif., died Sept. 12, 2007. He taught high school science until 1962, when he started a 40-year career as an education officer at NASA/Ames Research Center. Hull is survived by his wife, Marian, a daughter, a son, four grandchildren, and a sister.

E. Joseph Malone, ’72, of Detroit Lakes, Minn., died June 27, 2007. After serving in the Army’s 5th Armored Division during the Korean War, he worked as a farm manager and real estate agent for 42 years. He was also director of Northwestern State Bank and an advisory board member for two banks. Malone is survived by his ex-wife, Susan, a son, a daughter, and a grandson.

Ronald D. Olson, ’74, of St. Paul died May 13, 2007. He was a senior partner with the Minneapolis law firm of Carlson, Greiner & Law. Olson is survived by a daughter, a son, three granddaughters, and two brothers.

Edyth Phillips Nelson, ’72, of San Antonio died Oct. 5, 2007. She taught junior high school for many years. Nelson is survived by two sons, a daughter, four grandchildren, a brother, and a sister.

JoAnn Hanson Miller, ’70, of Moscow, Idaho, died Oct. 12, 2007. She was a sixth-grade teacher, a reporter and columnist for the Windom, Minn., Citizen, and an elementary school reading specialist at Fort Bragg, S.C. Miller is survived by two sons, four grandchildren, and a sister.

Robert Carlson, ’76, of Apple Valley, Minn., died Oct. 29, 2007. He is survived by his wife, Marilyn, a son, and a sister.

Mary Haburn Hovda, ’80, of Ebenezer, Minn., died Aug. 9, 2007.

Richard P. Pennock, ’67, of Park Rapids, Minn., died Nov. 21, 2007. He was the former owner of Wold Industries in Minneapolis. Pennock is survived by his wife, Sharon, a daughter, two sons, and five grandchildren.

Raymond P. Ciagne, ’63, of Eagan, Minn., died June 10, 2007. He is survived by a son, a daughter, and six grandchildren.

W. Howell Pugh, ’58, of Indianapolis died Jan. 18, 2008. He spent most of his career in the insurance industry in Indiana and Illinois, and was most recently president of Howell Pugh Consulting in Indianapolis. He was also an adjunct professor at Indiana University-Purdue University, as well as an officer in the Society of Actuaries and an expert on pandemic flu. Pugh is survived by his partner, Skip Sauvain, his father, and two sisters.

Stephen J. Chudzik, ’50, of St. Paul died Oct. 27, 2007. He invented numerous medical technologies. Chudzik is survived by his wife, Pamela, two daughters, his mother, a brother, and two sisters.

John L. Binder, ’49, of Yorktown, Va., died Sept. 7, 2006. During his 21-year career with the Air Force, he served in Korea, Turkey, and Germany, and at several bases in the United States. As an executive officer at Ramstein Air Base in Germany, Binder was involved in the 1993 release of two hostages from Beirut. He was most recently chief of the Expeditionary Medical Operations Division, Headquarters Air Combat Command at Langley Air Force Base. He received the Legion of Merit Medal in recognition of his service and was due to retire on Sept. 29. Binder is survived by his wife, Sue, a daughter, his mother, two sisters, and a brother.

Gregory C. Alford, ’58, of Apple Valley, Minn., died Oct. 1, 2007. He was the husband of Kathleen Alford, assistant to the president at Macalester. Alford served in the Marine Corps during the Vietnam War and worked for Davis & Associates in Eden Prairie, Minn. In addition to his wife, Alford is survived by a daughter, three sons, a granddaughter, his mother, a sister, and three brothers.

Jay Meek of Minneapolis, formerly a visiting professor at Macalester, died Nov. 3, 2007, at the age of 70. He wrote eight books of poetry and taught creative writing at the University of North Dakota from 1984 until his retirement in 2004. He also received a Guggenheim Fellowship, the Pushcart Prize, and a Bush Foundation Artist Fellowship, and was invited to read his poetry at the Library of Congress in 2005. Meek is survived by his wife, Martha, a daughter, and a granddaughter.
many voices, one macalester

The reasons for giving are as varied as the people who support the college. Flexible and indispensable, Annual Fund giving is at the core of Macalester philanthropy. In any amount, for any reason, your gift to the Annual Fund has a valuable impact.

“The college has long been a leader in preparing students to make a difference locally while always bearing in mind the big picture, and I want to support that. The faculty is both challenging and nurturing, and the students are encouraged to take ownership of their discipline and start solving problems.”

–John Ring ’51

“Macalester, our professors, and most importantly our friends and classmates helped teach us about all that is good and possible in this world. Our time at Mac encouraged us to do more, and to work to solve the huge environmental problems of today. We give back so that future students have the same opportunities.”

–Kevin Opdyke Wilhelm ’95 and Jo Opdyke Wilhelm ’96

“Given the expense of a first-rate educational institution, my gift to the Annual Fund may make a small financial difference in the grand scheme of things, but it is a strong statement of my support and a vote of confidence in our campus community.”

–Professor Rebecca Hoye

Add your support and your voice to the mix. Join us today. Make a gift to the Annual Fund, and feel good knowing that you are a part of the future of Macalester.

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Still life in Art Building