

CareerStreet

A Publication of the Career Development Center
Macalester College

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[Current Issue Printable PDF](#)

"The supreme accomplishment is to blur the line between work and play." (- Arnold Toynbee)



Hot Jobs

Find details on these opportunities on our web site under [Grand Avenues](#).

Public Relations Associate
Ricochet Public Relations
Rochester, NY

Full Time – Deadline: 10/31/06

A life sciences and technology media relations agency seeks individuals to join their team. We emphasize collaboration, intellectualism and a sense of humor. New Associates are enrolled in the company's exclusive Publicist Certification Program, a comprehensive, six-month training course. At successful completion of the course, Associates are promoted to Publicists and certified to take increasing levels of responsibility on accounts.

First Year Associate
Avant Energy Services – formerly
Dahlen, Berg & Co

Counselor's Corner

Gratuitous Advice

"I've been job hunting for months and have been getting plenty of free advice from well-meaning friends and family. For instance, I wanted to apply to a particular company but a friend told me they weren't hiring so I didn't bother. Another friend said my resume didn't say enough about me and I should ditch chronology and switch to a functional resume. And my father has vetoed at least three companies I was interested in because he said I 'didn't have the right degree.' I don't know what to think anymore."

Gratuitous advice is worth what you pay for it. Of course your friends and family are well-meaning; they have your best interests at heart. However, their experience is limited to themselves. What happens to someone else has little predictive value. It's anecdotal only. Here's what matters in job hunting:

Macalester at Work

by Katie Lim '08
CDC Student Staff

Nicolas Lindgren
Macalester Class of 2002
Safety-Critical Software Engineer
Honeywell Aerospace
(No photo available)

Nicolas Lindgren, a 2002 Macalester alum, talks with the CDC about his job designing software for inertial navigation systems in civilian airplanes at Honeywell Aerospace. He talked with the CDC about his typical day at work, his advice for job-seeking Macalester students, his future career plans, and his valuable Macalester experiences.

CDC: Can you tell us about your education and career background?

NL: I graduated in 2002 from Macalester College with majors in Mathematics and Computer Science.

CDC: Where and what is your current position?

NL: I am a safety-critical software engineer at Honeywell Aerospace in

Minneapolis, MN

Full Time – Deadline: 10/31/06

First Year Associates enter a nine-month rotation and project-based training program where they are given the opportunity to develop their skills in a hands-on environment and to gain a comprehensive overview of the organization. After completion of the nine-month training program, Associates' roles depend upon individual initiative and drive. MBA support is a possibility.

Administrative Assistant

Municipal Building Commission

Minneapolis, MN

Full Time – Deadline: 11/12/06

Lead role in the development of databases and spreadsheets. Perform data collection. Perform research, evaluation and analysis. Represent the agency at meetings. Assist with the preparation of presentations, newsletters, contracts. Responsible for coordinating and overseeing activities related to the City Hall and Courthouse Events Program. Maintenance of Intranet and Internet Web sites.

Bilingual Resource Specialist

National Mental Health Association

Virginia

Full Time – Deadline: 11/17/06

Seeking Bilingual Specialist (Spanish/English) to respond to inquiries regarding mental health resources and referrals. Must have excellent verbal, interpersonal, and written communication skills in Spanish and English languages. Degree in psychology, social work or related field strongly preferred.

Youth Coordinator

- Knowing what kind of role you are looking for
- Knowing what physical and psychological conditions you absolutely cannot work in
- Reseraching to find out what companies/industries hire people who do what you want to do
- Making sure your salary reserach is up-to-date so you know how much you should be paid

Here's our advice about the advice you have received: a) you will never know whether a company is hiring until you ask; b) since emailing a resume became the norm, there is no comprehensive formula - most will be electronically scanned for key words before a person ever sees it; and c) ditto "a."

(Source: Adapted from Kennedy's Career Strategist, October 2003.)

**Senior S.L.A.M.
(Seeking Life After
Macalester)**

The Dreaded Question

Now that you are in your final year at Macalester, I am sure you have heard this familiar question. "So, what are you going to do when you graduate?" While your reaction may range from mild interest to extreme frustration depending on how many times you have heard that question that day, it doesn't have to be a source of aggravation. Actually, even if you are not sure what direction you might be headed after graduation, you can turn that question into an opportunity to

Coon Rapids, Minnesota.

CDC: What type of work do you do?

NL: I design software for inertial navigation systems in civilian airplanes. These systems provide attitude, velocity, and position information to the pilot and autopilot systems to indicate where the plane is, what direction it's facing, and how fast it's moving. If you've ever flown in a plane, chances are that one of our systems was helping it navigate.

CDC: Can you describe your typical day or week at your workplace?

NL: I spend about half of a typical day at my computer. At my computer, I review the system engineer's specifications for how a device should behave (from an aircraft level). Then I have to find a way to translate that behavior into the actual software requirements and code. Our development and verification process for software is highly structured, since our software will have to be certified with the FAA to ensure that it meets safety and reliability standards. Since I spend more time describing the behavior of the software I write, I really do more writing than programming.

The other half of my day is in meetings with other engineers. I talk with system, safety, and software engineers and we review each other's work in group sessions to determine if it can satisfy the (often conflicting) needs of our customer. We also report our status to program management on a regular basis to make sure we're sticking to our schedule.

It's a pretty fast-paced environment to work in - there's a lot of information

Hamline United Methodist Church (HUMD)

St. Paul, MN

Part Time (10 hours a week)

\$14.00 per hour – Deadline:

11/5/06

Develop and provide leadership for a varied and stimulating youth program, addressing the concerns and conditions of youth at HUMC. Emphasis will be placed on fellowship, service, education and continuing growth in the Christian Faith.

Production & Web Intern

Minnesota Public Radio

St. Paul, MN

Part Time (15-30 hours per week)

from 4 months to 1 year

Deadline: 11/19/06

To assist with the production of radio and Web programming at Performance Today, American Public Media's flagship daily classical music program, as well as the other regional and national music programs from Minnesota Public Radio and American Public Media. Basic training in radio production is included in this internship, including writing for radio and web, basic digital editing techniques and coaching in on-air hosting. This position will have access to in-studio performances by musicians from around the world as well as daily production meetings to plan and craft upcoming programs.

On-Campus Recruiting

To access a list of the most current on-campus employer presentations, information tables, resume deadlines and interview dates go to:

help you decide what might be a good fit.

Next time someone asks you such an original question, instead of just saying "I am not really sure," give them a little more detail of potential ideas or areas of focus. Even if you have seven things that are possibilities, choose two or three to give them a flavor of what you are thinking. That way they may have some names of people you could contact to get additional information, or could have other pertinent ideas to help narrow your area of focus. If they don't mention any contacts for you during your conversation, add the comment, "If you know any organizations or contacts that might be helpful, I would really appreciate it." That's a fairly low key approach to getting additional leads, but you would be surprised how effective this strategy can be. By asking them to be thinking of people they know, associations they belong to, or other networking opportunities, your odds of getting additional information to help in your decision is greatly increased. This information might not come during the actual conversation, but could happen a day, week, or month later.

If you just say "I am not really sure", most likely the response you will get will be "good luck." While this is a pleasant reply, it doesn't help in your decision making process. Remember, it is very common not to know what seems like the best move, but always be reaching out to people that might be resources to bring answers to that dreaded question.

Contributing Writer: John Mountain,

coming at you all the time, and you have to be able to use it to quickly make design decisions and trade-offs to satisfy multiple constraints. You also get to play with cutting-edge navigation technology, so the "cool factor" can be pretty high.

CDC: What is the most interesting part of your job?

NL: I am continually fascinated by the depth and breadth of designing systems that have to be considered from so many different perspectives. Since software design at this level goes from understanding the CPU core up to high-level simulation in MATLAB, I get to use all the information I learned in college on a regular basis, so it's a pretty rare day when I'm bored by work.

CDC: Can you describe the path which led you to your current position?

NL: This was my first "real" job offer after graduating from Macalester, so I thought I would give it a try for a year or two to see how it fit. I didn't really plan to do aerospace software work when I graduated, but it turned out to be a good fit.

CDC: How did you get your first job out of college?

NL: I was living with another Macalester graduate who had interned previously with Honeywell Labs. He encouraged me to apply for an entry-level software engineering position at Honeywell's Coon Rapids facility. I didn't hear anything until I was called in for an interview about seven months later (there had been a hiring freeze, and I was doing temp data entry in the mean-time). After two rounds of

<http://www.macalester.edu/cdc/recruitcurrent.pdf>

Upcoming Events

Government Job & Internship Fair

The third annual [Government Job & Internship Fair](#) sponsored by the Minnesota Colleges and Universities Career Services Association will be held on **Friday, October 27, 2006 between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. at the University of Minnesota, Coffman Memorial Union Building**. The fair provides an opportunity for students to meet with government agencies and learn about the many professional full-time positions and internships available. For more information, go to: <http://www.mcucsa.org/govjobfair/>.

For a complete list of upcoming CDC programs and events, be sure to check out: <http://www.macalester.edu/cdc/events/index.html>

Beyond the Piggy Bank

In this section, the CDC provides you with links to information on managing your personal finances. We hope you find this useful. This newsletter's topic is:

["Evaluating Your Benefits Package"](#)

Suggestion Box

Take the Test

Associate Director, CDC

Junior Jumpstart

You're Past the Half-Way Mark!

You've declared your major, have made decisions about whether to study away or not, aren't quite ready to think about applying to graduate school, don't need to start job hunting (internships not included in this reference!). So what should you be thinking about? Here are some recommendations.

1. Finding at least one internship before you graduate - it will help with decision-making (Yes *AND* No), building skill sets, creating relationships.
2. Creating and expanding your network - talk to as many people as possible, formally and informally. Gather information about others and how they engaged in their life's work, made decisions, framed their undergraduate experience. This will help you to shape your own plans (information gathering is a part of decision-making) and develop a professional resource bank that will be useful when you start applying to grad school, look for a job, etc.
3. Engaging in reflection. What, you say? I'm not even 3/4 of the way through college! Why would I think about what I've learned already? Because reflection takes practice. And it is the place where learning occurs. As the story about the musician illustrates, just as music happens in the spaces *between* the notes, learning happens when you think about what you've just done, read, or heard. And this will help you with the next decision you make - whether it is to take a

interviews, I accepted the position and started work in October of 2003.

CDC: Was the transition from Macalester to full-time work difficult?

NL: Since the job climate for software engineers was pretty shaky after the dot-com crash (and the post-9/11 economy), entry-level positions were hard to find. I spent a lot of time refining my resume - the Career Development Center was very helpful in this, and I got additional feedback from classmates who had landed software jobs on how to properly format my technical knowledge.

CDC: What experience at Macalester or elsewhere do you think prepared you for your job?

NL: The class style in the Mathematics/Computer Science department (and the liberal arts program in general) is very good at grounding you in the theory of computing and analytical reasoning. Many engineering students may not have been challenged to think holistically (or analytically) about a problem or complex system. Make it a point to learn low-level details about computing - learn about operating system internals, C/C++, and how to get around in a UNIX environment - my operating systems class and my time in the Linux lab helped me immensely with this. I had a few brushes with MATLAB at Macalester, but I'm using it every day to do simulation. If I'd known it was an industry standard throughout aerospace, I would have spent more time learning how to use it.

CDC: What advice would you give to Macalester students preparing to enter the workforce?

The Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI) is a self report questionnaire designed to make psychological types (normal personality differences) understandable and useful in our everyday life. Every one of us has a set of preferences by which we live. There is no right or wrong to these preferences. They simply produce different kinds of people who are interested in different things, are drawn to different fields, and sometimes find it hard to understand each other.

The MBTI is a tool that can be utilized to identify and understand your own preferences and discover how they apply to a career decision. The MBTI will also help you to identify your strengths and unique gifts. You can use the information to better understand yourself, your motivations, your strengths, and potential areas of growth. It will also help you to better understand and appreciate those who differ from you.

The MBTI is primarily concerned with the valuable differences in people that result from where they like to focus their attention, the way they prefer to take in information, the way they make decisions, and the kind of work/lifestyle they adopt.

The MBTI and other career assessments are available at the CDC. For more information visit the CDC website at:

<http://www.macalester.edu/cdc/careers/careerassessments.html>

Web Watch

particular class, pursue an internship, etc. And when you know what you've learned, you can better decide how to apply it AND communicate it to others.

*Contributing Writer: Denise Ward,
Associate Dean for Student Services*

Sophomore Syllabus

Caution: Major Decisions Ahead

Next to your choice of a college, your choice of a major will be one of the more important decisions to make at this point in your life. It's a challenge to identify a major that will suit your abilities, interests, and goals as you complete your education and develop career plans. If you're finding it a challenge to narrow down your interests to a single major, or if you just aren't sure which major is for you, you are not alone. But start by thinking about yourself—who you are, what you're good at, what you like to do, and where you want to be in 10 years.

Look at yourself. Before you start to worry too much about what's out there in the world of business or psychology or biology, start in your own back yard. Take some time to jot down a few important things about yourself. Do you like to work with numbers or with words? With others or alone? With abstract ideas or solid objects? You can use the answers to these questions to begin to define possible major areas. What interests you the most? What subjects do you like to study? What subjects do you do best in? Why? What subjects do you do worst in? Why? What has been your greatest accomplishment so far in school? Are

NL: a. If you don't have a network of industry contacts, you're going to have to pound the pavement to find a job that can lead to a career. Looking for a job "is a job."

b. Polish your resume - get as much help from alumni, classmates, and the CDC, of course.

c. Classroom projects, papers, research, and internships are all different types of work. In interviews, don't be afraid to draw from your college experiences when describing how you work with teams, how you resolve interpersonal disputes, what your work ethic is like, etc.

d. Don't get discouraged by faceless company web sites that only let you submit an electronic resume - that's the trend now for many large companies. There really are people who read each of the applications - believe me.

CDC: Do you have specific advice for students looking to enter your field of work?

NL: Since inertial navigation is an export-controlled field, only US nationals can apply to work in it in the US. A strong background in computer science/software engineering is a must; experience in mathematics or physics is a big plus (specifically dynamics and control theory). If you can intern at a company which works in a regulated environment (like medical or aerospace devices), it's a good first step in the door, since that approach to software development is much more rigorous than most other work environments.

CDC: Where do you see yourself ten years from now?

NL: With any luck, I'll be doing computer science research in industry

Career Quiz

Take a fun, fast, and interesting career quiz by the Princeton Review. This 24 question career test results in the work interests and personal style of the quiz taker. The valuable results relate these traits to job responsibilities, activities, career options, and personal preferences. This website also provides links to taking a detailed performance profile survey, in addition to other academic advice, including information on choosing a major or career path. Take this helpful test by visiting The Princeton Review at:

http://www.princetonreview.com/cte/quiz/career_quiz1.asp.

*Contributing Writer: Lisa Herndon '09,
CDC Student Staff*

Grad School Notes

Grad School: To Go or Not to Go...

Shakespeare coined it best when he wrote, "To be or not to be, that is the question" as Hamlet pondered mortality. It is with that same intensity that post-undergraduate students, regardless of age, should consider entering into a graduate school.

Petersons.com asks that we consider these questions before making a commitment to graduate school:

Why do you want to go to grad school?

The road is not always easy. As a result, it is important that you have a goal in mind that you are positive will increase your career mobility and feed

you reasonably comfortable working with numbers? Do you like math? Can you express your thoughts clearly in writing?

Identify your abilities . In general, it's best to major in an area that you enjoy studying and where you have the ability to do well. What subjects are you good at? What subjects do you struggle with? What comes easily to you? If you major in a subject that you are interested in learning, you'll feel more motivated to study.

Imagine your future. Use your answers to these questions to define your personal and professional goals. What do you want to be doing 10 years after college? Where do you want to live? What income do you want to have? What will be most important in your life? What do you secretly want to do? Once you have an idea where you'd like to head, think again about possible majors that correspond to your interests and abilities. Which ones can you eliminate? Which ones look promising?

The CDC can help. Set up an appointment today by calling 696-6384 or just stop by during drop in hours between 2-4p.m. Monday through Friday.

*Contributing Writer: John Mountain,
Associate Director, CDC*

First Year Focus

Time is On Your Side... Yes It Is! Balancing Work and Play

Filling up my calendar during my first

or academia. There are a lot of research areas to explore in the world of safety-critical embedded software systems (the software in airplanes, medical devices, space shuttles, etc.).

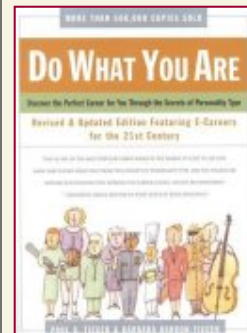
CDC: What are your future career plans/goals?

NL: Hopefully I can return to academia to pursue a PhD in computer science. I think I would enjoy doing research on safety-critical software, compiler design, and programming languages.

CDC: What are some of your interests outside of work?

NL: Reading, computing, and poetry.

The Bookshelf



"Do What You Are" by Paul D. Tieger & Barbara Barron-Tieger, Little, Brown and Company, New York, 2001.

Wouldn't it be nice to have a job you truly enjoy? And be good at it as well? "Discover the perfect career for you through the secrets of personality type" with *Do What You Are*. This book begins with the explanation of each of the sixteen personality types that result from taking the popular Myers-Briggs Type Indicator test. It is successful at helping the reader not only discover, but understand their individual personality characteristics, in addition to explaining possible strengths and weaknesses associated with each personality type. Readers will find themselves thinking "Ahh, this *is* me." With this new information comes a

your passion. Grad school is not the remedy for cold feet in a relationship or a mid-life crisis.

What do you wish to study?

Where?

Determine what school has the program that will fit your needs and schedule. What professors are there? What kinds of campus research are occurring relative to your interests? How long is the program? Do they have international research or travel opportunities? What is the ratio for student:faculty in the classroom?

Are you ready for the fear factor...I mean peer factor?

Basically, are you serious about going to grad school? Most of your peers will be professionals with clear goals and objectives. What are yours? If you are not completely sure...you will need to get a faculty mentor and advisor quick!!!

What are the benefits of going to grad school for you?

If you are trying to be upwardly mobile, that's great..but is grad school the way to go? What other job opportunities are available that would lead you to the same outcome? Will having a Ph.D increase your financial wellness or will it just make you feel good? Both are worthy, but it is important to know where you stand.

What about the "ME" in all of this?

If you are planning on going to grad school...plan on reducing your social life and doing some serious time

year on campus was pretty easy because every time I turned around there was sponsored activity catered to our class, new assignments from professors, sports to play, or SO's (student organizations) to attend.

How did I make it through all the tantalizing choices? Prioritizing.

Here are some tips for time management during the first year on campus:

1. Get a pocket organizer (\$6-\$9) or use MAC's Student Corporate Time 6.0 to write down assignments or important events.
2. Determine what can wait. For example, if the choices are group lab practical due in 1 week, work-study everyday, essay due in 2 days, and catching the weekly or monthly SO activity tomorrow night, and you're at point zero—the planning may look like this...

Plan a time to meet with you lab group and write it down in your planner, go to work study and work on the essay/help your customers (remember to start earlier next time), and think about catching the SO activity when you are up to speed...that may have to be next week or next month.

3. Follow the **10-10-10** featured on Oprah: When making a decision ask yourself "How will this decision affect me 10 minutes from now, 10 months from now, and 10 years from now?"

As emerging adults, it's time to think long term and short term in order to yield the best result for our future

hefty list of careers and explanations that describe why each career is highly correlated with enjoyment and success for each personality type. This book would be a wonderful read for anyone who is interested in learning more about their personality and strengths in the work place; and particularly first years and sophomores who need helping deciding on a major or general career interest. Although all this personality information could be found by doing a effortless google search or asking a CDC career counselor, this book provides further real life examples and savvy career guidance for those who are motivated enough to read it. Start this book by first taking the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator test, which you can do by stopping by the CDC.

This book can be found in the Kagin Resource Center, Job Search-General Section of the CDC resource library.

Contributing Writer: Lisa Herndon '09, CDC Student Staff

Featured Fellowship

Scholarship Program to Work and Study in Germany

The Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange for Young Professionals, a year-long work/study scholarship program to Germany, is currently accepting applications for the 2007-2008 program year. The program offers the opportunity for young professionals between the ages of 18-24 to immerse themselves in different aspects German culture and daily life. Currently in its 23rd year, the program

management. We can do everything we want...just not all at the same time. It is possible, but not without sacrifices.

Money is the root of all...

Well it is going to be the root cause of the deficit in your bank account and perhaps some student debt unless you are independently wealthy. Financial aid is available, but harder to come by....there are grants, fellowships, and scholarship as alternatives. Do your research about possible financial obligations.

In closing, the goal of this article is not to deter you from grad school, but to encourage you to carefully consider the "big picture" of grad school. It can be extremely beneficial from a personal and professional perspective.

Contributing Writer: Christina Cowens, a 1 st Year Ph.D student at the Uof M (ahhh!!!) & Career Counselor, CDC

What is the CDC?

The Career Development Center is here to assist students in planning, articulating and applying their educational experience to meet their future goals. The office is located on the first floor in Kagin Commons, and offers individual counseling sessions with a career counselor, an extensive career resource library, job/internship listings and opportunities from around the globe. The CDC resource library features: Information about Fellowships, Internships and Job Postings; information on Companies and Government Opportunities; pamphlets

opportunities.

Cheers!

Contributing Writer: Christina Cowens, Career Counselor, CDC

Featured Article

Study Shows Volunteering Grows in Popularity Among College Students

According to Elizabeth F. Farrell's article in the October 17, 2006 issue of the Chronicle of Higher Education, college students today are "volunteering in greater numbers than those of just a few years ago, according to a report released on Monday by the Corporation for National and Community Service, the federal agency that oversees AmeriCorps. The agency's researchers found that 3.3 million college students, or 30 percent of all students ages 16 to 24 at American colleges, had donated their time to various causes in 2005, compared with 2.7 million, or 28 percent of all students, in 2002.

The [report](#), "College Students Helping America," is based on a study of data from the Current Population Survey, which began tracking volunteer rates for college students in 2002. Volunteer rates of students from earlier years are not available.

The proportional increase in student volunteerism is more than double the rate of growth in the number of young people attending college, the report says. While there was a 20 percent rise in the number of college-student volunteers from 2002 to 2005, it says, the number of 16- to 24-year-olds

is funded by the German Bundestag and US Congress through the Department of State. The CBYX program is attractive to both current students and graduating seniors, and no prior German language skills are required to participate!

The program year consists of

- 2 months of intensive German language instruction in Germany
- 4 months of classroom instruction at a German university or vocational school
- a 5-month internship in the participant's career field
- housing with a German host family or in a shared apartment

Candidates for the program must

- Be US citizens or permanent residents
- Be between 18 and 24 years old at the start of the program
- Have a high school diploma
- Have clear career goals and some work experience
- Have a strong interest in international affairs and Germany, while maintaining a strong American identity
- Demonstrate flexibility, independence, and diplomacy

The application deadline is DECEMBER 1st. Please help spread the word about this exciting exchange opportunity to interested applicants. For more information on the program, or to request an application, visit www.cdsintl.org/cbyx, email cbyx@cdsintl.org, or call 212-497-3522.

and materials on resume and cover letter writing; books on etiquette, interviewing, grad school and the job search process; and an extensive alumni directory, sorted by career.

HOURS

8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday - Friday
(Daily Drop-ins between 2 - 4 p.m.)

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www.macalester.edu/cdc

attending college increased by only 8 percent over the same three-year period.

"There seems to be a lot of things driving this uptick," said Robert T. Grimm, director of research and policy development for the corporation. He pointed to "a surge in service-learning programs" in elementary and secondary schools, and noted that a large proportion of college students in 2005 would have been in high school at the time of the 2001 terrorist attacks. The national response to that event "could have possibly led them to be more service-oriented," he said.

The most popular volunteer activities for students in 2005 were tutoring and mentoring programs, with the latter especially popular among black students. Some 39 percent of African-American students who volunteered donated their time to mentorship programs, compared with 22.3 percent of white students, the report says. Nearly a third of all college-student volunteers served with educational or youth-service organizations, and 23 percent of student volunteers participated through religious organizations.

Alternative spring-break trips, which give students the opportunity to use their vacation time to participate in a weeklong volunteering activity, have also grown significantly in popularity, according to Mr. Grimm.

Although many students now work while attending college, having part-time job responsibilities apparently makes them more likely to volunteer.

Among students who worked one to 10 hours per week, 46 percent volunteered, and 35 percent of those who worked 11 to 15 hours a week volunteered, the study found. Students who were not employed were the least likely to donate their time, with only 29.8 percent volunteering.

In tandem with the report, the group also named 141 colleges that have earned community-service honors from the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll. Of those colleges, six earned top recognition, including California State University-Monterey Bay, Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis, and Elon University in North Carolina."

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Comments and questions to webmaster@macalester.edu