A Year Later: Reflections and Actions from the Dean

By Tommy Woon

I spent my first year gushing about life in the Twin Cities, Macalester College, and the Department of Multicultural Life. I gushed about how much the faculty here love the students, how amazing the Department of Multicultural Life staff is, how fortunate I am to be at Macalester at this particular moment, and how my partner and I love the Twin Cities. While I was enjoying my year, I also wondered how Macalester was different in the past and how it must prepare to meet future challenges.

As the year unfolded I decided to focus on a volunteer staff diversity plan project to encourage and support collective ownership for institutional renovation. I began to ask staff members in some departments to volunteer for regular meetings with me to create personal and departmental diversity plans to enhance campus capacity systematically to support diversity in all its forms. I see a need to establish baselines for change, benchmarks for progress, and strategic plans to move ahead. For example, ending the revolving door of staff of color (in which Macalester hired 75 and lost 70 staff of color in the past ten years) will require partnerships that change dynamics among supervisors and staff in every department. I have also begun to work with Human Resources to explore ways to overcome this retention challenge. I am pleased to report that staff members have responded enthusiastically.

Along with the volunteer diversity plan project I am working with campus colleagues to expand and strengthen the existing hate incidents protocol, build the Unbuntu Emergency Fund for students.

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Pretending to See Mountains...

By Elyse Dempsey ’10

In an attempt to feel at home, I often find myself pretending to be in a place miles from where I am; a place where the buildings upon buildings I see blocking my view to the sunrise or sunset become mountains, my mountains; the leaves and grass become sand; the trees are much taller; and the people are erased. The geographical change from Oak Springs, Arizona, to St. Paul, Minnesota, has been an interesting observation on my part for I have noticed that dreaming has become a regular activity. However, the difficulty I find in living in a city goes beyond geography. Upon thinking about what drew me to Macalester College from the beginning, the first thought that comes to my head is the people, of course. I see now that the Macalester community is made up of people similar to those who make up my community at home.

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Often when race is discussed (in the U.S.), it is done so in a black-white binary with other races mentioned not nearly in as much depth. However, in other parts of the world, race does not exist on such a binary. Likewise, in America and Macalester, races and ethnicities are varied, with each group having their own experiences. Since the Xpressions series is a collection of student-produced work, the question posed was, in essence, “What does race beyond black and white mean to you?”

In parts of Africa, race is determined by ethnicity; in the Middle East and southern Asia, it is determined by religion. The first part of the Xpressions series has attempted to tackle these issues by showing different “races” of people who would not be considered black or white in their locations and have therefore been excluded from most formal discussions about the topic.

The Xpressions photo display can be seen in the Campus Center Atrium, and it currently features pictures from two first-generation American students, one Native American student, and one international student. Each of them brought pictures of what “Race Beyond Black and White” meant to them. Whether it is people in their native land as shown by Tinbete Ermyas ‘08, or whether it is the cross-continental display of culture as evidenced by Shiveta Vaid ‘10, race is something that is integral to every person.

In the tradition of the initial exhibit, Xpressions will continue to promote an all-encompassing view of the world as represented by Macalester students. The next photo displays are concentuated on issues of poverty, religion and romance, all of which will exist on a global plane.

It is the hope of the current Xpressions exhibit that unity can be achieved by showing the commonalities as well as the differences among people.

Xpressions is an opportunity for Macalester students and community members to express and showcase their artistic talent. Through teaching and performing, Xpressions aims to provide participants with a greater appreciation and knowledge of different art forms, including spoken word, poetry, music, painting, drawing, sculpture, film, dance, photography and more.

Tapas: “You Listen to____? But YOU'RE____! Does Music Have a Face?

It's been a long evening. As I sit with a full stomach after “In the Kitchen With the Cultural House Staff,” if asked for one word, I would say 'content.' The first Tapas was right before “In the Kitchen With,” and it was very successful - great ideas were synthesized and people began thinking differently about their own music consumption.

This month’s Tapas Series included a group of about 22 students. The facilitators introduced our theme of musical stereotyping with an activity - a favorite song of each facilitator was played and the attendees had to guess whose song was was whose. We kept everything confidential, so they had to guess purely based on the appearance of the facilitators and the sound of the music. While the results were being counted, conversation started with peoples’ reactions to the exercise. It was clear that people saw stereotypes - about both the songs and the facilitators - being used in the guessing process. We used that as a departure point, leading into a conversation.

By Reed Charles Boskey ’10
In addition to celebrating the freshness of a new month, Soup & Substance, a monthly discussion program conducted on the first Thursday of each month, was another reason to rejoice.

As people began to fill in the empty seats next to old and new friends and the pots of soup slowly diminished, the enthusiasm of the crowd resonated through the air.

This year’s first discussion titled “American Dreams, Latino Realities: Class Dynamics in Latina/o & Latin American Communities,” guest panelists Angela Gutierrez ’11, Carolina Mora Solano ’09, and Luisa Paredes ’11 spoke of their personal experiences in relation to this year’s theme of class dynamics and socio-economic differences.

As each drew from their own family backgrounds to address the topic, the panelists also elaborated on differences between their home community and the Macalester community. Not surprisingly, it is this aspect of the discussion that provides substance for the audience to consider while leaving. In the words of a Macalester student, “it was an awesome discussion! It was Soup & Substance!”

As for next month, the theme for the year will continue to be discussed within the context of the Native community. Hope to see you there!

Margaret Cho and Ian Harvie, two very political, very fabulous comedians. And to top it all up, the proceeds went to District 202, a local nonprofit committed to providing a safe supportive space for underage queers.

I feel very fortunate to have spent my Saturday (Feb-16, 2007) evening with Macalester’s Queers of Color Collective (QoC) attending Margaret Cho in Concert. In fact, it answered my biggest existential pursuit; I think I have finally realized what my heaven looks like. Heaven is basically about 5000 gorgeous queer and queer-friendly people sitting in the Northrop Memorial Auditorium - one of the most powerful structures in the twin cities - being thoroughly entertained by Margaret Cho and Ian Harvie, two very political, very fabulous comedians. And to top it all up, the proceeds went to District 202, a local nonprofit committed to providing a safe supportive space for under age queers.

Cho used numerous sexual innuendoes, satire and slap-stick humor to address some of the most pressing issues within the Queer community such as homophobia, marriage, sex, and general political awareness and activism. She whetted her wit with awe-inspiring conviction and research giving a very memorable performance.

Being in that auditorium, listening to both Cho and Harvie, taught me something that I often forget: ‘I am normal and I do not need to be apologetic for any part of my identity, be it race, sexuality, accent or anything at all. I have as much a right to be happy, follow my dreams, marry, and have children as anyone else.’ Thank you Chow and QoC!
Less than two months have passed since the bright, humid morning in late August when I arrived at the door of 37 Macalester Street, lugging my rolling suitcase, dragging several bags of laundry, and thrilled with nervous excitement for the year ahead. Today, when I think back to move-in and DML staff orientation, I am amazed by the realization of how far my housemates and I have come in so short a time.

Our first few weeks in the Cultural House were an exhilarating blur of activity: unpacking boxes and un-lofting beds, completing training for our positions with the Department of Multicultural Life, and bonding with each other over the catchy melodies of T-Pain’s summer hits. As the school year started and we struggled to settle into a routine, we began to discover the challenges of living and working closely with eleven different people. Weekly residents meetings and a jointly developed list of rules and expectations have helped us negotiate our diverse perspectives, but it has definitely been a learning process.

As I see it, the question we are seeking to answer during our time in the Cultural House is: “How can a group of individuals from a wide range of backgrounds, cultures, and identities work together to build a safe, thriving multicultural community where everyone feels comfortable?” Evidently, there is no simple or easy solution! Based on my experiences thus far in the Cultural House, I would say that building this kind of community takes time, hard work, genuine commitment, love, and patience.

Looking back, it occurs to me that our greatest challenge is fast becoming our greatest strength. In spite of some initial conflicts, we have pulled together and are in the process of bonding into a tight-knit family. We are learning so much from each other and our connections are growing stronger as a result. I have joined with my housemates in laughter, play, and deeply personal discussion. I have turned to them for support when I was feeling depressed and discouraged. I have finally found a place to come home to at Macalester.

The Cultural House, a successful initiative of Macalester’s Department of Multicultural Life, is “a safe space for domestic students of color and allies who are interested in learning from and contributing to a multicultural environment”. It is a multifunctional, coalition-building space organized around dismantling racism and other forms of oppression. The basement and first floors serve as programming and meeting spaces, and the second storey is home to eleven residents who work/volunteer for the Department of Multicultural Life. The Cultural House residents of 2007-2008 are: Linda Nguyen ’10 (Cultural House Manager), Becca Holohan ’10, Amia Jackson ’10, Shiveta Vaid ’10, Helinna Ayalew ’10, Daniel Soto ’10, Reed Bosky ’10, Elyse Dempsey ’10, Monna Wong ’10, Neha Mashooquallah ’10, and Callie Thuma ’10.
On Friday night, October 19th, 150 people rolled up to the Cultural House to check out the 13th Annual Poetry Slam, sponsored by the Department of Multicultural Life and organized by the Cultural House staff. The Poetry Slam, a beloved campus tradition, is a time and place for student poets to express themselves through words and rhymes. Audience members vote for the top three spoken-word artists, who compete for cash prizes of $100, $50 and $25.

With Anna Min ’09 as emcee and Reed Boskey ’10 as DJ, the event was a great success, featuring an opening performance by guest artist Bao Phi ’97. Namesake of the Slam (Bao Phi won three straight slams during his years at Macalester), Bao Phi is now a professional spoken-word artist who has performed locally and nationally, twice winning the Minnesota Grand Poetry Slam. He was the first Vietnamese American man to appear on HBO’s Russell Simmons Presents Def Poetry. At this year’s Slam, he performed two poems and was a dynamic presence at the event. Currently, Bao continues to perform across the country, remains active as an Asian-American community organizer, and works at the Loft Literary Center in Minneapolis, where he creates and runs programs for artists and audiences of color.

Following his performance, nine contestants performed their own poetry in front of an original painted backdrop by Kevin Williams ’09. Poems ranged in content from feminism and global racism to ruminations on spirituality, sexuality, and identity. The audience voted, and the evening ended with Becca Holohan ’10 in first place, Maliq Muro ’10 in second place, and Joua Lee ’11 in third.

Rounding out the event were student poets Kristen Roddy ’11, Terence Steinberg ’11, Celeste Prince ’10, Evelyn Daugherty ’11, Tempestt Gilmore ’10, and Kevin Williams ’09.

Host Family Program: Five Years of Success

“As one of the Coordinators of the Alumni of Color and Friends Host Family Program for Students of Color/Multiracial students, I had the privilege to see this DML initiative grow and develop into a special family-like space for our first-year and returning students. Bringing together a wonderful and lively group of hosts, new and returners, and students who range from different ethnic and cultural backgrounds, this program gives our participants a sense of connectedness and inclusion into the Macalester community,” said Afifa Benwahoud, Department Coordinator for the DML.

To corroborate Afifa’s saying, two of our returning hosts, Gloria Perez Jordan ’88, and Masami Suga ’90, graciously accepted to share their perspectives on the program.

Gloria Perez Jordan ’88 shared that: “As an alumna of Macalester College, I am grateful for the hospitality I experienced as a student. The faculty and staff were welcoming and understanding of my "culture shock" as a transplant from Texas. The immediate attempt to connect me with the Latino community was a welcomed opportunity. I immediately felt like a member of the community with a place to belong.

Therefore, my experience as a host to a domestic student of color has been very rewarding on many levels. It gives me a chance to give back to the college and the students have enriched my family life. My two teenagers have a sense of connectedness to Macalester and to the students we host.

“My hope is that the students we hosted have felt supported...”
Whoever said being Diversity Weekend chair was difficult sure wasn’t lying. This year I had the challenging pleasure of chairing Diversity Weekend, an annual Macalester event dedicated to celebrating, discussing, and engaging all things multicultural!

I suggested this year’s theme, “Domestically Global: Race, Leadership, Transnational SOMETHING,” last year before I went abroad to Cameroon. I chose this theme because of how important I felt it was to talk about domestic issues of identity, culture, and politics on a transnational level and to start conversations on campus about the globality of the United States.

The planning process was rather difficult, since we wanted this to be a collaborative effort between multiple student groups, organizations, academic departments, and faculty on campus. Our first effort was to get together a committee of students and staff to brainstorm ideas about how the weekend should go, who we should invite to campus, possible collaborations, and how to raise funds. I had the pleasure of going around to different organizations on campus and get people excited about Diversity Weekend. During that process, I learned a lot about how to speak to people about issues of diversity and just how much people are willing to help you take your ideas and make them happen.

One of the most memorable events that took place during the weekend was a conversation between students on activism and “Macalester citizenship” and how Macalester students, through student engagement, take ownership of Mac. I loved the conversation, because I feel as if many of the sentiments expressed were similar to the ones that I have been having during my four years here. That was a great experience, because it made me feel as if I am not alone in trying to make Macalester my second home, and in many ways it has become that.

Though I could go on forever about Diversity Weekend and the good, bad, and ugly associated with chairing it, I do feel as if it is a great Macalester tradition that should be continued and that conversations on identity, politics, and culture should happen on a regular basis.

It sounds like a tough job; and believe me, it is, but it is also one that I think is well worth it.

One of the most memorable events that took place during the weekend was a conversation between students on activism and “Macalester citizenship...”

Host Family Program...continued

and welcomed just as I felt in mid 80’s. Thanks for the opportunity to be of service.”

Masami Suga ’90 echoed and said: “This is my fourth year of participating in the Students of Color Host Family Program at Macalester College. As a student who benefited greatly from having a local host family, I wanted to share a piece of that experience with students who are new to the Twin Cities. I also wanted to give back to Macalester what Mac meant to me in a direct and personal way.

“My family and I have enjoyed the program over the years and are continuing to do so. Indeed, our son Koji who was just two years old when we first got involved is now seven and has developed wonderful relationships with the students as well as a sense of affinity with Mac!

“We also treasure the fact that we met the students whom we otherwise would have never had a chance to meet and get to know each one of them. It’s been a pleasure being involved in their lives, however perhaps small, and being able to witness how they mature and develop as individuals.”

Hosts at the Orientation Dinner
The Maseca Mega Mela was a new event introduced by Maseca (the Macalester Association of Subcontinental Ethnic and Cultural Awareness) this semester. It was held on Saturday, the 29th of September.

In the Subcontinent, ‘Mela’ is a term used to describe a big fair. This fair served a variety of purposes. Stereotypically, the Subcontinent has been seen in a ‘unicultural’ light. Although we share a common cultural face as a region, each country of the Subcontinent still has a unique heart that cannot and should not be ignored. The main purpose of the Mela was thus to shine light on various distinctions of each Subcontinent country within similar overarching cultural bonds like Bollywood, Cultural Icons, and Festivals. Another purpose of the Mela was to celebrate collectively three specific festivals of the Subcontinent: Kandy Esala Perahera (a Sri Lankan Folk Festival), Lok Mela (a Pakistani Folk Festival) and Onam (the harvest festival in South India). These festivals all fall between August-September, and thus, we held the Mela at the end of September. Yet another purpose of the fair was to draw attention to the fact that although a significant amount of time has passed since the 2004 Tsunami occurred, regions in the Subcontinent (specifically Sri Lanka and India) are still recovering from the disaster, and funds are still needed to help rebuild devastated areas. A stall “Remembering the Tsunami 2004” was dedicated to informing people of the extent of damage in the affected areas, and donations were collected.

During the fair, we had a number of performances by two professional dance troupes and by Macalester students. One of the dance troupes, the Thalgahagoda Dance Troupe, is currently on a tour in the US to help raise funds to sustain Tsunami rebuilding efforts, and with the help of Professor Arjun Gururatne, we were successful in inviting them to come and perform a small section of their show. They are globally renowned after having won first place among thirty-six countries in the 36th International Folklore Festival in Croatia. Their forty minute performance included a variety of cultural rich traditional Sri Lankan dances which date back to the 4th Century BC. Ragamala, the second professional dance group, is an innovative Minnesota-based music and theatre group that blends Indian art form with those from other regions like Africa and Japan.

Images of Women in the Middle East

In the Spring of 2007, the Sociology department at Macalester showcased a class named “Images of Women in the Middle East” taught by Professor Mahnaz Kousha.

The class discussed the true lives of women in the Middle Eastern region, lives that are often engulfed by politics, religion and history. Concepts discussed included the role of Women in Islam and the Middle East, their portrayal in the West, power and patriarchy in the Middle East, Western images of veiling, the emergence of new images and many others.

Enlightening and informative, the class successfully refuted many myths surrounding the positionality of women in the Middle East and promoted an unbiased and accurate representation of the struggles, triumphs, and joys in their lives.

By giving in-depth historical context and accenting it with novels and personal memoirs such as, Iran Awakening, a Memoir of Revolution and Hope, by Shirin Ebadi as well as Sharon and My Mother in Law, by Amiry Souad, the class was privileged enough to get a well rounded representation of the daily lives of these women and how they overcame the hurdles that were presented to them.

Dr. Mahnaz Kousha, a wonderful professor and an inspiration to all, was an informative guide through this learning process and led the class through the process wonderfully.
One of the most memorable experiences of my Macalester career took place this semester and came in the form of what most would think is a boring event: a lecture. Professor Duchess Harris of the American Studies Department gave a lecture entitled "Jefferson’s Legacies: Racial Intimacies & American Identity" on September 27, 2007. The point of her talk was to create a historical understanding of American identity by analyzing the relationships that Black descendants of white American politicians have with their families and how the legacies of racism in America have informed them.

It was so great to see Professor Harris give this lecture because it was the first time that I, her advisee, have ever seen her give a live speech in front of a captive audience. To see her engage the audience in an honest and open dialogue about family, race, and citizenship throughout American history further solidified the knowledge of how much I hope to become a professor and made me feel proud to be affiliated with the American Studies Department at Macalester, a place where these types of conversations can occur.

One of the things I love about the American Studies Department is the fact that it allows me to put all the things I do with and for the Department of Multicultural Life in an academic framework. It has allowed me the experience of thinking about politics, identity, and culture in a more holistic way and makes me really appreciate my time here at Macalester.

If nothing else, the conversation gave the opportunity for over 50 people to think about the complex ways in which family, citizenship, and American life have been informed by the historical legacies of racism. And if that isn’t enough reason for something to be memorable, I don’t know what is.

Two Macalester students, Talha Khan ’08 and Auyon Rahman ’08, also performed famous songs from Pakistan, Bangladesh and India.

Along with the performances, Maseca also had a henna/mehendi design stall with a professional designer for most of the Mela and an Indian restaurant food stall. Unfortunately, although the original plan was to have the Mela on the lawns outside the Campus Center to create a ‘fair’ environment, the rainy weather forced us to change our location to Kagin Ballroom. Nevertheless, the Maseca board is very pleased with the outcomes of the event and we could not have asked for a more successful event! We will definitely encourage our next board to plan something similar!

Our next big event is our Annual “Diwali Dance” on the 10th of November. Stay tuned for more information!!!
I spent seven months of the last year living abroad in two different countries. I began my junior year at Macalester by studying abroad for five months in Santiago, Dominican Republic. After returning to spend the spring semester at school, I spent the majority of my summer living and studying in Paris, France. For many people, the juxtaposition of living in a “3rd world” Caribbean nation versus that of a developed Western European nation feels random at best and problematic at worst. I, however, link these two experiences together as invaluable because they both taught me about my placement as a woman of the Black Diaspora.

I always knew that I wanted to study abroad in the Dominican Republic. As an American Studies major and a woman of color, studying race and ethnicity in all of its facets has been the core of my academic work. Macalester, however, did not afford many opportunities to study the history and cultures of Latinos. Furthermore, when those opportunities arose, they often focused on Mexico or South America. My mother is Puerto Rican and it has always been a goal of mine to learn about the history, politics, and culture of those from the Latin Caribbean. Also, during my freshman year, my then-academic advisor, Professor Maria Elena Cepeda, discussed with me the value that I would have, as a dark skinned Latina, in seeing people of my complexion speaking Spanish and being emerged in Latino culture.

Almost as soon as I arrived in the Dominican Republic, I realized that things were not as simple as they seemed. I find understanding the intricacies of my identity to be useful in relating myself to the people and environment surrounding me. My time in the Dominican Republic helped me further complicate and simultaneously clarify the ways in which I viewed myself. In addition to seeing myself as Black Latina, I began to see myself in terms of my larger ancestry, class, and national privilege.

I connected more to what it meant for me to be of Caribbean heritage. Almost everyday, the taste of fresh sugar cane, the feeling of watching sunset from the back porch, or even the pain of sweating out a 100 degree day while walking a mile to school, attached me concretely to my ancestors and greater culture. Sometimes it felt as if I had been an “island girl” all along, and just by chance had ended up in the industrial powerhouse of my hometown in the US.

At the same time, however, living in the Dominican Republic forced me to confront my class privilege and, most importantly, the power and privilege that I have simply from being born in the United States. As I became more integrated into everyday Dominican life, I could not help but notice how my US privilege set me apart from the very people with whom I shared a personal history. More importantly, I could not turn a blind eye to the various ways in which our lifestyle in the United States caused detriment to their lives on the island. At times the process of understanding the ways in which I was simultaneously connected to and pulled from other Latinos and Caribbean peoples was painful. However, dealing with the contradictions that existed in my identity and environment formed a new confidence in myself and how I related to the world.

I applied to the Paris Noir summer study abroad program almost directly after returning from the Dominican Republic. I felt as if my journey had yet to be completed. The Dominican Republic piqued my interest in the connections that can be made transatlantically for those from the Black Diaspora. The Paris Noir program allowed for the opportunity for me to study this Diaspora and my personal placement within it through a variety of frameworks.

The Paris Noir program was an intensive 2 month course and living experience. I lived with 10 other students in tiny apartments in the 13th Arrondissement in Paris. We had class everyday from 9:00am to noon, studying the intersecting stories, histories, and frameworks of people from the Black Diaspora.
that live or work in Paris. In the afternoon, we had visits or panels with writers, artists, and scholars from the Diaspora.

Outside of class, I had the chance to become integrated into the larger community of Black people that live and work in Paris. I rode the metro until 3:00am singing hip hop with African Americans who had moved to Paris for performance work. On Saturday mornings, I navigated Senegalese markets with friends from Algeria. I attended concerts with students from Martinique.

Interacting daily with people from across the Black Diaspora taught me even more about myself than the Dominican Republic. I learned the responsibilities, negotiations, and, most importantly, community that comes from being a part of a larger transnational Black community.

While I wouldn’t say I mastered every part of my identity, I enjoyed unraveling the mystery. The ability to study abroad twice in one year helped greatly with that process.

I only wish there had been more time. But, as I have always heard said about DML events: the conversation doesn’t have to stop at the end of these events, and I really hope that people continue to think about the concepts we discussed and how they play in their lives and the greater society.

Many attendees mentioned in their final remarks that the event was thought-provoking and brought up issues they hadn’t thought of before. In addition, many became more conscious of their music choices and desired to look more deeply into them.

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that my predecessor created, help historically underrepresented students to co-create a theory and legacy of academic success, and develop a multicultural education co-curriculum. I am also involved with other campus partners to ensure the DML continues its work to address intersectional and multiple identities by working with the Institute for Global Citizenship and the Center for Religious and Spiritual Life, to name a few.

I am focusing on these activities to enhance cultural capacity because Macalester is moving quickly from a first-generation diversity environment where enhancing access, representation, and cultural support characterized its diversity challenges to a second-generation diversity environment that is characterized by unfinished first-generation diversity work and complicated by the growth in diversity. This fall, domestic students of color constitute 23 percent of the first-year class; the class of 2011 is the most diverse entering group since 1970, according to admissions numbers. The total enrollment of students of color at Macalester is approximately 342 or 18.3 percent, the highest in Macalester's history, and a 7 percent increase from 2003. If the growth trajectory continues at the current rate, Macalester could enjoy a 30% enrollment of students of color within five years. I have learned that dynamics begin to change in a community when visible diversity moves beyond a 15% of the total enrollment of a student body. We will need to update our notions of how to create community so all students can thrive as the Macalester mosaic faces multiplying centrifugal forces.

In every project I will be relying on Appreciative Inquiry, a method for organizational change that operates on the assumption that there is value and strength in every organization/community. Arising from this premise is a simple but powerful approach to problem solving that emanates from developing questions that uncover value and strengths that allow people to co-create a theory and practice for making change. I have learned it is a form of applied research that leads to immediate feedback, action plans, and practical options for people with busy lives. This process of becoming a more intentional learning community dedicated to making diversity a consideration in every work place decision is as important as the production of diversity plans.

Appreciative Inquiry offers an approach that mobilizes the abundance of good will, collective potential, and creativity that exists at Macalester. I’ve learned that I need to anchor my work in pathways that excite me in order to sustain my effectiveness. Being able to report in the future that staff members in every department at Macalester volunteered to develop personal and departmental diversity plans really excites me. Appreciative inquiry provides me with a direction that will allow me to keep gushing about Macalester without dodging the tough questions.
City Rain

Gray clouds shift to pink
oily rainbows gleam in puddles
drops of moisture cling
to dirty chain link fences
on worn streets

street lamps glow
in the strange light
warm air rushes
past smudged bus windows
the noise of cars and horns honking
rain leaks from the ceiling onto our heads
the bus passes a food mart

and in the front window of
LaLy Beauty Salon
and Barber Shop
a sign declares
“Under New Administration”

men smoke on the corner
women carry shopping bags
the gritty air is thick with moisture
schoolchildren run squealing on the sidewalks

a small Vietnamese girl floats along delicately
hidden underneath a pink Hello Kitty umbrella
a spinning jewel among the puddles as
striated clouds hang over the hill,
grey and gold and pink.

By Rebecca Holohan ’10
Fall Events of the Department of Multicultural Life

November 8: “Soup & Substance: Two Worlds, Two Realities: Class Dynamics in Native American Communities”
November 9: “Xpressions: Global Succulents”
November 14: “Tapas Series: Model Minorities - Where Do YOU Fall”
November 17: “Host Family Program— Visiting the Weismann China Exhibit”
November 15-29: “Xpressions: Around the World Photo Exhibit—Global Theism”
December 5: “Tapas Series: Pop Cultural and Holiday Representations”
December 6: “Soup & Substance: Class Dynamics & Socio-Economic Differences”

For more information on the services of the Lealtad—Suzuki Center and the Department of Multicultural Life:
Visit our office on the 1st Floor of Kagin Commons and/or call us at (651) 696-6243
You can find our websites at www.macalester.edu/multiculturalism and www.macalester.edu/lealtad-suzuki.