



Carleton College

MultiCultural Alumni Network Notes

December 2010



2010 MCAN Scholars

Now that the summer is over and they have returned to classes, the 2010 MCAN Scholars are enthusiastic about sharing their summer experiences. On September 17, several scholars met at Alumni Guest House for a panel discussion of the program and to briefly describe their internships.

To read the more about our Scholars and watch their video interviews, [check out the MCAN Scholars webpage.](#)



The College Liked it So Much, They Bought It

The MCAN Flyback Program was initiated in the early 1990s to allow promising admitted students of color an opportunity to experience the campus firsthand. Flyback was generously supported by the MCAN community and proved a highly effective recruiting tool for such coveted top talent. The



The Changing Faces of Carleton

MCAN joins the rest of campus in welcoming Steven Poskanzer as Carleton's new President. In addition to inaugurating President Poskanzer this fall, Carleton also welcomed a dynamic cadre of 518 first year students, 22% being U.S. students of color and 8.5% being international students. An increase in diversity is also evident in recent hires of Carleton faculty. In the past three years, twelve new tenure-track faculty of color have joined the college. New professors on campus include Martha-Elizabeth "Marty" Baylor Reed (Physics), Anthony "Terrance" Wiley (Religion), John "Thabiti" Willis (History) and Cherlon Ussery (Linguistics). For more details on hiring, [check out the link to Faculty Hiring trends on the MCAN webpage.](#)



Life after Carleton: Northfield

Option – Brisa (Garcia) Zubia '05
For most of us Carls, life after Carleton includes jobs, families, travel and nostalgia for our undergraduate days. But for a rare few, it also means waking up to the smell of Malt o'Meal, planning the morning commute around Defeat of Jesse James Days traffic, and turning into a "Townie" by living in Northfield.

When she graduated from Thomas Kelly High School in Chicago's Brighton Park neighborhood in 2001, Brisa (Garcia) Zubia joined Carleton's first Posse Scholars cohort. Coming to college in small-town Minnesota from an urban high school that was 90% Latino was a bit of culture shock for Brisa, but she relished it. She sounds a bit surprised when she admits that she "always felt welcome and overall had a great experience at Carleton". "As a first generation college student, you must learn to fend for yourself...[Carleton really made me value the way my parents raised me.](#)"

administration lauded the strengths of the program and in 2005 Flyback was wholly absorbed (and fully funded) by the College. As an evolving alumni organization, MCAN continues to develop a foundation of altruism and innovation. The Flyback program was a building block in our ongoing mission. We continue our dedication to and support of students of color in the Carleton community through the MCAN Scholars program and hope that sustaining programs that enrich the Carleton experience will be a mainstay in the future of MCAN.



The Gathering 2012

The next Gathering (Fall 2012) will mark our 5th Multicultural Alumni Reunion. We need your help to make sure the Gathering continues to grow as a Carleton tradition. If you are interested joining the Gathering planning team, please contact [Naja Shabazz](#) in Alumni Relations.



You Can't Beat This Love: A glimpse inside the head space of Les Jones '76

Les Jones, '76, a math major from Chicago (via the Stevenson School as an A Better Chance ("ABC") Scholar), revealed at Carleton magic fingers as composer/ keyboardist for notorious rock & soul band CONQUEST (reunited for a 2008 MCAN Gathering performance) with winged feet to match as an MIAC track star and in his perpetual pace about campus (Les ran everywhere!). As a leading actuary/MBA in a thirty year auto industry career, he's provided the cryptic calculus of price-setting and determinations of capital, surplus, and reserves for numerous GM insurance businesses and other critical financial operations, and equally has been a go-to problem-solver on the front lines of the constant upheavals in Detroit, including round the clock UAW negotiations and the contentious TARP bailout.

[Read more...](#)



Karen Tei Yamashita is a National Book Award Finalist

Congratulations to Karen Tei Yamashita (Carleton Class of '73).

Her latest book,

I Hotel (Coffee House Press, 2010) was recently named as a finalist for the 2010 National Book Award.

"Exuberant, irreverent, passionately researched . . . Yamashita's colossal novel of the dawn of Asian American culture is the literary equivalent of an intricate and vibrant street mural."

—*Booklist*



Support the Scholars program

If you value these opportunities for Carleton students, please support the MCAN Scholars Program. You can make a gift online at www.go.carleton.edu/mcangift (be sure to designate MCAN Scholars in the Additional Instructions field) or by calling 800-745-2275.



MCAN wants you!

The Multicultural Alumni Network at Carleton (MCAN) engages in several activities designed to enrich the experiences of students and alumni of color. MCAN Board serves as one of the

forums for alumni and current students to come together and ensure Carleton remains an exciting place for the multicultural community to learn, play, and “remember”. We would like to invite you to formally apply for participation on the Board. [You can find additional information related to MCAN and the Alumni Relations and an application here.](#)

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