Think critically, outside the box. Strategize and innovate with self-confidence. Communicate to make connections. Use your Menlo advantage to change the world.

G. TIMOTHY HAIGHT
President, Menlo College
From the President

Remembering back over Menlo College’s 80-plus years of achievements, it is very exciting to look more closely as to how our past successes can inspire us to reinvent Menlo’s future.

This issue focuses on two distinct turning points that will go down in Menlo College’s history: first, the outstanding establishment and historic successes and achievements of our former School of Business Administration (SBA), and second, the promise of Menlo College’s stellar future as Silicon Valley’s Business School.

In fact there is much about the SBA that can inspire and instruct us as we tap into our entrepreneurial side to transform our fine institution.

The SBA at Menlo, a force to contend with from 1949 through most of the 1980s, allowed our students to gain the know-how they needed to create unique and successful careers in the world of commerce and industry. This “Menlo Advantage” infused them with the skills and values that served them well through their professional years. I have been told that at the SBA’s zenith, Menlo College was nationally ranked among the top ten business schools in the nation.

The guiding spirit behind the SBA and its powerful presence was the late John D. Russell, affectionately called “Judge,” who was its founder and its director for many years.

“Judge” was prescient in many ways. He saw that business people needed to be well-rounded, that they needed a global understanding of business as well as other disciplines to be high-achieving professionals. He believed that a strong sense of ethics and fair play, combined with a rigorous curriculum and exposure to new ideas, would enable young adults to adapt to and excel in an ever-changing business landscape.

Why are the SBA and Judge Russell important to us today? They serve as guiding stars while Menlo College builds an even brighter future. The cutting-edge work in which we are now engaged—returning the institution to a place of preeminence as Menlo College, Silicon Valley’s Business School—is found in the seed that Judge Russell planted.

This 21st century academic business model’s critical components include expanding and hiring star-quality faculty who teach our students how to think critically and creatively to pursue their entrepreneurial passions. Menlo graduates will understand that success depends upon staying ahead of the game and preparing for jobs that have yet to be created. This model includes forging partnerships with corporations and entrepreneurs here in the Silicon Valley who will serve as mentors to our students and help them successfully develop their ideas into highly marketable products and services.

Our return to a focus in business is a return to a paradigm that served Menlo College well for many decades. If Judge Russell were here today, he surely would be pleased about the opportunities we are creating for our students.

The Spring 2008 Menlo Advantage Magazine connects our illustrious past to our dynamic present and bright future. It features a tribute to the SBA and recollections of Judge Russell, along with updates and articles about the many exciting developments underway today at Menlo College. We are delighted to include exclusive interviews we conducted with some very prominent friends and SBA alumni who fondly recount their student days at Menlo College.

During the 16 months I have served as President, I have had the opportunity to hone a new vision for Menlo, melding the Judge’s time-honored principles with the new technological direction of the world as it changes. The directives on the cover of this issue are meant to remind and inspire students, parents and alumni alike, that the “Menlo Advantage” is a way of life that stays at the forefront of changing times. It is an attitude that builds upon itself, strengthening as it matures. It is a mentor that keeps one mindful of purpose in daily actions. This is a way of thinking for business leaders who will take the world into the future, joining the scores of outstanding professionals who attribute their success to Menlo’s guidance.

I am pleased to keep you apprised of our progress at Menlo College.

Thanks, as always, for your friendship and support.

G. Timothy Haight
President, Menlo College
Charting a Brilliant Course

Menlo College: Silicon Valley’s Business School

by Charles “Chop” Keenan III SBA’66

I am asking you to join with President Tim Haight, our faculty, administration and the Board of Trustees in a commitment to create a superb, more narrowly focused institution of higher education on the solid foundation of Menlo College.

We have an opportunity to transform our college into a stimulating place for scholars of the modern idea set — Silicon Valley thinking. We have our proud heritage of demonstrated excellence and a core leadership group who share the ambition to take a long step forward. Elevating a fine college like Menlo to a different, very great institution begins by identifying a collective vision of its future—a challenging but attainable goal. Menlo College, Silicon Valley’s Business School, will be that place where young scholars will grasp the borderless nature of today’s business.

It will allow them to chart their own leadership roles in the swift currents of this changing world. An innovative educational institution is one based on the provocative minds of its faculty. All of the rest is the surroundings of stagecraft.

In the past thirty years when major office buildings in the Valley were leased, almost all of the tenants were not only new companies, but they were companies doing things that had never been done before. Preparing leaders for that sort of frenzied change calls for a new style of education, one that is only now evolving. We envision Menlo College, Silicon Valley’s Business School as an educational laboratory demonstrating many of the same lessons and opportunities that Silicon Valley’s culture of innovation has spawned. Perhaps education can be changed in the same way that the “flat” world of business changes the ways we transact. We are convinced that Menlo College, Silicon Valley’s Business School can provide a lean and vigorous response to our modern competitive demands.

American-based enterprise is not an island in this complex world of today. We will be required to solve the world’s economic problems, having gone beyond simply identifying them. The answers will be found in the global reach of business activity and the systems and efficiencies driving this bright new way of creating prosperity.

This is not to be a crusade of some mystic calling. It is, very simply, a well-planned identification of purpose and a well organized program to get the job done. The elements of change and growth we will seek are straight forward proven concepts to respond to society’s needs and the forces at play in the world. We believe that we can transition Menlo into a “new era” School of Business for an international commonwealth.

We have a valued liberal arts core to be enriched. We must continue to strive for the rounded, complete person as our graduate. The new emphasis on Silicon Valley thinking will give stimulus to the liberal arts ‘side’ of our campus life. The interwoven nature of arts creativity today will broaden every aspect of Menlo education and give our students much more significant ways to apply the knowledge they will gain.

The stealth piece of a Menlo College education is the important learning gained from fellow students. That diversity of perspectives comes from students across the ethnic and geographic spectrum, including our 15% international identity hailing from 23 countries.

The confluence of a strong, very contemporary, education through the melding of a vigorous liberal arts

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Woodard Family Foundation Donates $500,000 Toward an Endowed Chair

The Woodard Family Foundation, located in Cottage Grove, Oregon, has generously donated a gift of $500,000 to Menlo College as an investment toward an endowed Chair in a specialized avenue of business.

The check was presented to Menlo College President G. Timothy Haight by Andrew (Andy) Woodard, who attended Menlo and comes from a family with strong ties to the College. Andy is a third-generation alumnus of Menlo College. His grandfather, Carlton Woodard; father, Kim; Uncle Casey and sister, Dena McCoy all attended Menlo College. “We completely support the new direction President Timothy Haight has taken in developing Menlo College as a premier, globally recognized business college and a feeder institution to the Silicon Valley.”

Woodard has been involved in the school’s alumni activities, and he and his family have been generous contributors to Menlo College. In addition to his work at KCW Properties, he is a board member of the Woodard Family Foundation and has served as its treasurer for nine years. He was also recently appointed to Menlo College’s Board of Trustees.

“We are thrilled to be the recipients of this very generous gift presented by the Woodard Family Foundation,” announced President G. Timothy Haight. “The Woodard family’s commitment to education at Menlo College spans decades of history and has been vital in helping the school flourish.”
Exploring the Past

John D. “Judge” Russell: A Guiding Star Lights the Future

As Menlo College is in the process of an aggressive reshaping to become a premier undergraduate program for the study of business, leadership and entrepreneurship, we are guided by the “north star” of Menlo College’s illustrious past: “Judge” Russell, and the School of Business Administration.

The pride and joy of Menlo College, the SBA flourished for many decades with John D. “Judge” Russell at the helm. A brilliant, caring and indefatigable leader and teacher, Judge Russell served the College with a career that spanned six decades. He worked with the College’s first six presidents, developing relationships with thousands of students who called him father, mentor, friend and, most notably, “Judge.”

Judge’s relationship with the College and its former students dates back to 1938. During his tenure, Judge concentrated on his brainchild, the SBA, expanding it to a four-year curriculum and emphasizing its development as an international school. “Uncle Jack was a real visionary for globalization,” recalled his nephew, Larry Russell. “He believed we would be in a world economy, and that the leaders who shaped that economy needed to be equipped with the skills Menlo College provides.”

When interviewed about his passion for education and Menlo College, Judge responded, “As a teen Boy Scout, I came to realize how few of us develop and exercise our full potential. To be a good Scout I tried to do a little more and a little better each day. As I grew into positions of leadership I encouraged those in my charge to do likewise. When chance brought me to Menlo, I discovered late bloomers—many of whom needed only a challenge and a desire to succeed. I tried to convince them, with very gratifying results. We extended horizons and reached very difficult goals. I found the Menlo College milieu and size uniquely suitable for this.”

When asked about his own life, Judge wrote, “I entered Stanford in 1929 as a college freshman. Two years later, the Great Depression hit my family and I dropped out of college and returned home for a job. In those days, after two years of college, one could enter law school, so I went to night school selling men’s furnishings by day at Meier & Frank’s Department Store. For a variety of reasons, after three years of active law practice, I returned to California to complete some unfinished work at Stanford. Menlo provided room, board and a small cash stipend for services I was qualified to render. Three years later my schedule was interrupted by Pearl Harbor and four years of active duty as a naval officer. Upon my release, Menlo offered me a position. I couldn’t resist the beautiful climate and setting, so I stayed.”

The rest is Menlo history. Judge left an indelible mark on each heart and soul that he encountered throughout his career. His students speak with pride about their relationship with him. He had charisma, was strong-willed, wise, and a dedicated, humble and loyal friend.

When Judge passed away in March 1996, he succumbed to his final battle—complications associated with a tumor on his larynx. But he left a legacy that indeed lights our past as well as our future. —Larry Russell

Menlo Advantage Magazine
that Laid the Foundation

Science and the arts support a strong business curriculum at Menlo College.
You Be the Judge

Judge Russell’s Guidelines

1. Attend all classes. Do not cut except for serious illness.
2. Be an efficient adult. Don’t waste working time.
3. Complete all assignments — on time and well.
4. Do all homework, even though it is just a practice drill.
5. Don’t daydream or otherwise waste time while studying.
6. Read ahead so that a lecture or explanation will mean more.
7. Rely upon yourself and your own efforts until you get stuck.
8. Seek help when you don’t understand something.
9. Take good notes to help you in your study.
10. Touch base regularly; communicate freely; don’t hesitate to ask.
11. Utilize available aid and assistance.
12. We’ll both succeed and be proud of your achievements.

Two 1960s Cold Cases Near End

Throughout Menlo College’s 80 year history, many incidents occurred where those involved alluded capture. Although the investigation is not yet complete, Menlo’s own PI is hot on the trail and expects to complete the case soon.

Many years ago there was an animal hospital across El Camino Real. In front of the door was a small statue of a sleeping gaucho and two donkeys with cactus all around. It weighed at least a ton. Every Monday morning without fail, that statue was on the front door step of Mr. John “Judge” Russell — who lived in El Camino North. Every Monday afternoon “Judge” would have to return it to the hospital. The prankster was never found.

The other incident occurred when our Assistant Admissions Director, Mr. Bill Moser, bought a sail boat. Unfortunately, he left it parked on a trailer in front of his on campus apartment. It was an irresistible lure for an anonymous student because it was not long before it was found in the swimming pool. All these years— at least 40—the culprits were never known.

To be sure, PI Dorothy Skala used some aggressive interrogation techniques to crack these cases. While she has obtained confessions from at least one individual in each case, Dorothy remains convinced that more arrests are imminent. As Dorothy states emphatically, “The size of the heists suggests that there was more than one culprit.” She goes on to say, “It is just a matter of time before I get to the bottom of these cold cases. After the successful conclusion of these issues I may be able to finally put this all to rest and move on with my life.”

To that end, Menlo College is asking anyone who knows about the case to contact Dorothy Skala at 650.543.3930.
Dorothy Skala, Director of Alumni Relations at Menlo College, worked for Judge Russell for many years. Recently, she sat down to reminisce about Judge Russell and the impact he had on his students, as well as on the entire campus community.

Menlo Advantage: How did Judge Russell acquire the sobriquet “Judge?”

DS: It was during the late 1940s and early 1950s, when he taught business law at Menlo. The students in his classes thought the title fit him.

Menlo Advantage: In what ways did Judge Russell act as a judge?

DS: Above all, he believed in fair play and honesty. He was also an excellent listener. He always heard the students out, and he gave kids a second chance.

Menlo Advantage: What was his approach with the students?

DS: He was very hands-on with the students. He and his wife, Lucille, lived on campus for more than 30 years. Because they didn’t have children of their own, they served as “den parents” to many of the students. Many evenings, bunches of students would be gathered in Judge’s and Lucille’s quarters talking and receiving his counsel. And during the day, I never saw as many people in a single office as I did in Judge’s. He truly was a father figure to many students—and not only Menlo College students. He was that way with my kids as well. He exuded a quiet strength and had very high standards, and people naturally gravitated toward him.

Menlo Advantage: What was Judge Russell’s greatest achievement?

DS: Judge Russell was instrumental in establishing the School of Business Administration (SBA) at Menlo College. He had been talking to Stanford University, his alma mater, about the creation of a business school. Through these conversations, he learned that Stanford had no intention of creating an undergraduate business school of its own. The thought at the time was that Menlo would found a premier business school that would send graduates on to Stanford for their MBAs. That is exactly what happened.

Menlo Advantage: What is Judge Russell’s legacy?

DS: No one helped Menlo move forward more than Judge Russell. He set the bar for excellence. And the proof is in the success of our alumni, hundreds of whom still invoke his name when they’re asked about the greatest influence in their lives.
Under the Judge’s Gaze

I came to Menlo after applying to Stanford. When I spoke to Admissions at Stanford, they suggested that I attend a year at Menlo and said that if I solidified my position scholastically, they would consider me. I thought that this had to be good. Menlo’s business school was touted as a great undergraduate education, and I knew that’s where I wanted to be. Since my high school days, I knew, in some grand fashion, I wanted to be a businessman.

Judge Russell, hands down, was my mentor. He was the one who dared me to fail. By that, I mean that he would continuously say, “It’s up to you. What you might want to do with your Menlo experience and your classes are really in your camp. I’m here to support you, but I need to see something coming back from you.”

I didn’t have the skills that I should have had coming out of high school, simply because I didn’t support my scholastic capacities in high school. I was an athlete, and none of my high school teachers engaged me to the degree that they should have. So after a couple of months of marginal scholastic activity at Menlo, Judge Russell took me by the nape of the neck and said, “You’ve got to commit. You’ve really got to get involved here.” To oversee my scholastic progress as closely as he did, on a nightly basis if necessary, was pretty unique. He made me want to succeed. It was a great experience.

I had to leave Menlo early because of a family situation. I transferred to the University of Miami, where I graduated with a business administration degree. I always regretted that I hadn’t spent all of my time at Menlo. I felt that I got more out of my year at Menlo than my two and a half at Miami. It was more personalized. My courses and instruction were almost tailor-made. I remember many evenings when I was struggling with accounting. I just could not get it. I would be tutored by my instructor, not a student. Faculty would sit with me to walk me through some of the challenges I was having.

I feel that a lot of the early successes I experienced came from Menlo. It has been a great thrill to support the College and to have two children earn Menlo business degrees.

My love of Menlo comes from the fact that I feel I came away with an understanding that I could do about anything I set my mind to, because I was encouraged to think that way. For instance, Judge Russell would sit with four or five of us in an evening and elaborate on life. “What do you want to get out of all of this?” he would ask. Maybe we didn’t have a really clear path of understanding where we were going, but we sensed that there were great things in each of us. He would say, “Yes there are.”

I came away from Menlo understanding that I could do about anything I set my mind to.

What I got from Judge was not particular to my situation. A good number of the young men in my classes were experiencing the same thing. He was a very unique human being. I’ve never experienced anything like it since.

A small thing about the Judge that had an incredible impact on my life: Judge Russell never failed to send me a birthday card for as long as he was alive. When he retired and was in an assisted care home, I still received a birthday card with a personal note. He would also follow my career. If there was an article in the local paper about one of my developments, he was on it like a hawk. “Congratulations, I knew you had it in you,” he would write. “I was always a supporter of yours.” Just a line or two.

Judge Russell was not a pussycat, not an “attaboy.” You wouldn’t find him walking down the corridors of our hallowed halls to pump you up in that silly sensibility of, “Hey, you’re doing a great job.” But when he did give you the impression that he was there on your side, you knew it and you worked harder to gain that respect that you wanted so desperately from the man. That was a marvelous gift.

DAVID CARL IRMER’s extraordinarily successful career as a commercial developer began in 1961. Since then, he has built several development companies including The Innisfree Companies. He has three sons and a daughter and resides in Tiburon with his lovely wife Martha.
Menlo College has played a significant role in my life, and Judge Russell was a huge part of it. JAMES T. REA, SBA ‘67

The Judge Russell Society
Connecting the Past to the Future

For more information about membership in the Judge Russell Society through a planned gift, please contact Catherine Reeves, Vice President for Institutional Advancement, at 650.543.3935 or creeves@menlo.edu.
Mansour A. Ojjeh SBA’74, and brother, Karim Ojjeh ’88, international business entrepreneurs, manage TAG, Techniques d’Avant-Garde, a large enterprise headquarteried in Luxembourg. The TAG Group, founded in 1974 by their father, Akram Ojjeh, was formed to link new technologies to the economic development of the Middle East. TAG was originally formed to concentrate on aeronautics, real estate and other various businesses. Today, the company continues to pursue its diversification by orienting its international strategy toward high profile and technological products, such as Formula One (McLaren) and Aeronautics (TAG Aviation). McLaren, formally known as TAG McLaren, is one of the top teams in Formula One. Not only does it hold an impressive number of Formula One World Championships (both as driver and constructor) but also builds high performance sports cars. The first of those cars, the famous McLaren F1, was built in the early 1990s. An icon of high technology, it is still considered amongst its peers to be “the” benchmark when new cars are tested. Lately, McLaren has produced the SLR, a more “every-day” car that aligns itself with the origins of Mercedes— but with 722 brake horsepower under the hood. TAG Aviation is the European leader in the operation and management of private business jets. It has a fleet of its own and has lately purchased Farnborough, an airport just within London. TAG Aeronautics is the exclusive agent of Bombardier’s private executive jets in the Middle East. Karim is an accomplished racecar driver. He has won a number of single seater races and has participated in the world-famous “24 hours Le Mans” for 4 years. Karim’s wife, Anne Marie, is also a Menlo College alum.
An Interview conducted by President Tim Haight

TH: As you know, we are rebuilding Menlo College, with an emphasis on business, new ventures and entrepreneurship and with a focus on the international perspective. We are going back to our roots as a preeminent business program and taking advantage of our global stature as well as our location within Silicon Valley, so we are very pleased to have friends such as you, successful alumni we can point to as products of a Menlo program and taking advantage of our location within Silicon Valley, so we can point to as products of a Menlo College education from that time.

How did you learn about Menlo, and why did you choose to attend college here?

Mansour: It was by accident. I tried to get into Stanford, but I applied too late. Stanford suggested I go to Menlo and then transfer. I ended up staying at Menlo because I liked it.

Karim: I learned about Menlo through my older brothers. I liked the school and the environment, and that was sufficient. I wanted what is very particular to Menlo: a very low ratio between students and professors. I didn't want to go to a college where I could only be referred to by a Social Security number.

TH: Once you came to Menlo, which professors made the greatest difference in your life and which classes did you find most beneficial?

Karim: If there was one particular person that gave me a lot of confidence, it was Herbert Ludwig, who was in the computer information systems. He had a lot of passion for his students and his work, and he was an absolutely great person. The person who influenced me the most was Diane Harvey. She would try to push you to your limits. She was just a fantastic teacher. There was also a professor of American history. Had it not been for him, I probably would not have gone to law school.

Mansour: Judge Russell was a great professor. I studied business law with him. Another professor who was extremely tough but very interesting was Craig Medlen, the economics professor. Pat Tobin was really sort of a catalyst for the foreign students at Menlo at that time. He brought everybody together—the foreign students and American students.

What was fantastic about Menlo—and still is—is sense of community. MANSOUR OJJEH

Before I came to Menlo, I had never lived in America. But I felt very comfortable at the college because a big part of the student body was foreign born. I met a lot of friends from South America, the Middle East and the United States. It was a good melting pot. A lot of these people are still friends. What was fantastic about Menlo—and still is—is sense of community. To be able to go to college in an environment where your professor is accessible to you any time—after class, before class—is really unusual. Nowadays, at larger schools, it’s often very impersonal. You don’t even see the professor in class. It is all via telecommunications. I’m really happy I didn’t have that.

TH: In terms of your personal success, what was it at Menlo, from an academic or professional standpoint, that gave you an advantage?

Mansour: I always knew that I wanted to get into business. Menlo did a perfect job of providing me the base I needed to understand balance sheets, property law, business law, macro- and microeconomics, credit and banking, and so forth.

Karim: I was studying computer information systems, and it helped me to become organized. For law school at Santa Clara, it was an advantage.

TH: Were there any defining moments that you can recall that really warm your heart?

Mansour: I had a lot of moments. I don’t look at Menlo and isolate moments. I look at it and say that I spent two wonderful years there. The whole time was a great experience for me, on and off campus, whether it was a field trip with friends from school or the barbecues we had in the parks.

TH: What are the qualities you think I need to put Menlo on the map again?

Mansour: The world is changing at such a rapid pace. What is important is to keep up with it somehow. You need to keep your ear to the ground and try to follow trends in business. I also think that it would be best for Menlo to remain the size it is. Keep it at a human scale—that’s important. Students need to be able to communicate with their professors in small groups, as I did. You learn much more.

TH: If you take a look at your career, you obviously have seen quite a few changes in terms of business. Still, you have been able to adapt to these changes, and that’s the secret ingredient that we’re trying to capture at Menlo College. Our web site indicates that we want to prepare students for careers that don’t yet exist. We want to give them tools so that no matter what happens to a particular industry, they can change, be innovative, take advantage of the rapidly changing business world and still thrive.

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When Brantley Eubanks, SBA’64, handles one of his Grecian vases or Egyptian statues or lovingly eyes one of his Russian icons, he is more than relishing his role as a collector of fine antiquities. He is carrying forward the heft of his Menlo College education. Almost everything that Eubanks has done as a professional and art connoisseur can be traced to Menlo and to one professor who has had a huge and enduring influence over his life: Patrick Tobin.

“Tobin was my mentor and my friend,” Eubanks said. “I could talk to him about everything and anything. He was one of the most intelligent people I have ever known.”

Patrick Henry Tobin arrived at Menlo about six months after I did in 1957. “Judge” Russell, my boss, wanted the SBA students to have a more rounded education, not just stocks, bonds, investments and accounting. Tobin was perfect for this job. He immediately opened up a whole world of art, travel, music and history all rolled into one. He took the students on tour to Egypt, Rome, Greece and Russia. I audited several of his classes and could not wait until I got to Egypt. When I stood in front of the Pyramids at Giza, I knew exactly what I was looking at, and so did his students. His lectures, toga parties, and tours of San Francisco are legend and have yet to be equaled.

A Well-Rounded Education
by Dorothy Skala

Professor Tobin’s Voyage

ABOVE: Professor Tobin dressed as Julius Caesar at one of his famous toga parties (1967) BELOW: Brantley Eubanks and Bill Hokr on one of Patrick Tobin’s Middle Eastern tours at the Pyramids of Giza, Egypt (1962)
Hired by Judge Russell to broaden the educations of Menlo’s business students, Tobin taught classes in history, writing, culture and Western civilization. For more than a decade, he also led vast intercontinental tours for Menlo students. It was on one of these tours that a young Eubanks discovered his passion for travel and for ancient art and artifacts.

“We took the train from Yugoslavia down to Greece, and when we rounded the corner to Athens and I saw the Parthenon and Acropolis for the first time, it was one of the most moving experiences in my life,” Eubanks says, recounting the two-month trip as if it were yesterday. “We stayed across from the Pantheon in Rome, we climbed the Pyramids in Egypt, we went down the Nile by a paddle boat all the way to temples of Ramses II and his wife at Abu Simbel before they were moved, and camped in the Sahara. I began collecting relics then. Tobin introduced me to Greek vases and Russian icons.”

Eubanks’ life since then has been a continuation of that life-altering travel experience. As an assistant guide following his Menlo graduation, he accompanied Tobin on two additional trips with students, and then made a decision to pursue a career that would allow him to see as much of the world as possible. For 35 years, Eubanks worked in the airline industry as a flight director. He has been to almost every major country in the world, with three notable exceptions: Australia, New Zealand and Indonesia.

Tobin died more than 15 years ago, but his legacy is alive in Brantley Eubanks, who remains an international art collector to this day. “There’s a story behind each acquisition,” he notes. And there’s clearly a special Menlo professor behind Eubanks’s lifetime passion of collecting and traveling.
A Stellar Faculty

by Dr. Jim Kelly, Vice President of Academic Affairs and Provost

Busy. That’s the first word that comes to mind when I consider the activities of Menlo College’s faculty members.

In addition to serving as outstanding classroom instructors, Menlo’s professors are phenomenally productive outside the classroom. I marvel when I learn of their accomplishments as authors of research articles and books; presenters at and organizers of academic symposia; speakers and activists in the community; and winners of awards. Their achievements speak to their level of expertise, their passion for their disciplines and the high regard with which they are held by their peers. Their achievements also go far in enhancing the reputation and stature of our beloved institution.

Menlo College’s administration is deeply grateful for our professors’ contributions over the past year, and we are pleased to acknowledge their many talents. Appreciating that a strong faculty can only bolster our efforts to move our College forward in the years ahead, we have hired—and continue to hire—first-rate academics. These individuals can inspire our students; they can also help us fulfill our vision as one of the preeminent-business colleges in the nation.

Two of these recently hired professors, Dr. Leslie Williams and Dr. Leslie Sekerka, are featured in this issue of the Menlo Advantage Magazine.

Dr. Williams is heading up Menlo College’s new Center for Entrepreneurship, and Dr. Sekerka is directing our new Ethics in Action Research and Education Center. We are proud to have these accomplished scholars among our ranks, and we are looking forward to the fascinating and groundbreaking research they will be conducting on our campus. You certainly will be hearing more from—and about—them in the years ahead.

On a sadder note, Menlo College was heartbroken this past fall to learn of the death of another recent addition to campus, Dr. Laura Marschall, who was tragically killed in an auto collision in early December. Dr. Marschall, a highly regarded microbiologist, had a positive impact on the lives of her students during her first semester on campus. We grieve her loss and continue to extend our heartfelt condolences to her family.

On behalf of the entire Office of Academic Affairs, I want to wish all of you a restful and rejuvenating summer. Look for continued positive developments on the faculty front as we begin the 2008-09 academic year in the fall.

Noted authorities in their academic disciplines, as well as outstanding classroom instructors and administrators, Menlo College’s faculty members continue to earn recognition in their fields. The following news highlights their recent professional accomplishments.

Dr. Ben Alamar, Assistant Professor of Management is a nationally renowned sports statistician. Quoted widely in the press, Dr. Alamar is the founder and editor of the Journal of Quantitative Analysis in Sports.

Roy Blitzer, Adjunct Professor of Management is an executive and management consultant, as well as the author of five books. His three latest are Package Yourself to Get Your Dream Job, Interviews that Get Offers and Resume and Cover Letters that Get Results, which were all published by Entrepreneur Press. In addition to teaching and writing, he produces and hosts the television program Ask ‘Dr.’ Business; serves as a regular guest on NBC-Channel 11’s Bay Area Saturday; and speaks frequently at national professional conferences.

Dr. Doug Carroll, Associate Professor of Mass Communication recently worked as a review editor for Focal Press. He reviewed the manuscript for the sixth edition of Radio Production Worktext by David Reese, Lynne Gross and Brian Gross, which is scheduled for publication this year. This book has become the leading text in college radio production courses.

Dr. DeAnna DeRosa, Associate Professor of Mass Communication presented, along with Menlo College alumnus Jeramy Gordon, When Jail Isn’t An Option: The Cost...
of Defending Rights Granted by the First Amendment at the Associated College Press/College Media Advisers Conference in Washington, D.C. Dr. DeRosa plans to continue researching First Amendment rights and presenting additional seminars dealing with case studies in media law.

Cynthia Erickson, who teaches in the Professional Studies Program (PSP) recently returned from Shanghai, China where she helped a cousin launch an American business. She writes, “The exhilaration of that practical ‘hands-on’ experience helps me bring an energy to our PSP classroom, enriching student learning and making our textbooks come alive.”

Dr. Mark Hager, Assistant Professor of Psychology is serving as External Program Reviewer for the Foundation Program of Otis College of Art and Design. He is collaborating with Dr. Samantha Fields of California State University, Northridge to assess pedagogy and its relationship to student learning outcomes in the Foundation’s art courses. In addition, Dr. Hager delivered the keynote address this February at the Western Association of College Admissions Counselors meeting. In March, he was the program chair at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association’s Special Interest Group on Mentoring, where he hosted conference sessions.

Dr. G. Timothy Haight, President is the lead author of the book How to Select Investment Managers & Evaluate Performance: A Guide for Pension Funds, Endowments, Foundations, and Trusts (John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 2007). In addition, in April, he spoke at the international conference and annual meeting of the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB), which was held in Hawaii. As a distinguished speaker, he addressed this topic: Is an AACSB Deanship the Next Step to a University Presidency?

Dr. John Higgins, Associate Professor of Mass Communication presented the précis Bridging Ourselves: Self-Reflexivity and Digital Storytelling in the Media Classroom at the International Communication Association’s national conference in May 2007 in San Francisco. The following month, he attended a weeklong workshop in Ukiah, Calif., on the teaching of digital storytelling techniques, conducted by the Center for Digital Storytelling. In July, he delivered the paper New Frames, Old Lenses: Forward to the Past with ‘Web 2.0’.

Dr. Jim Kelly, Executive Vice President of Academic Affairs and Provost served as a member of the Social Workers as a Force for Change in Diplomacy and Development panel at the 53rd Annual Program Meeting of the Council on Social Work Education, which was held this past October in San Francisco. In addition, he was on the Forum on California’s Age-Related Future: Idea Whose Time is Now! panel at the 60th Annual Program Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, which took place in San Francisco in November 2007.

Dr. Carlos López, Professor of Spanish and History and President Emeritus presided over the Latin American session at the U.S. Naval Academy’s 25th History Symposium. One of Dr. López’s papers in this session won Best Paper by a Senior Historian, selected from more than 400 entries. Dr. Lopez also gave a series of six lectures at the San Mateo County Libraries and Skyline College.

Dr. Marla Lowenthal, Professor of Mass Communication organized two major on-campus events this past fall: an October program recognizing Domestic Violence Awareness Month that brought to campus San Mateo County Supervisor Rose Jacobs Gibson, California State Senator Leland Yee and State Assemblyman Ira Ruskin, among others, as well as the November panel discussion, Women in Politics, featuring Supervisor Gibson, San Francisco Chronicle political journalist John Wildermuth and South San Francisco City Council member Karyl Matsumoto.

Dr. Craig Medlen, Professor of Economics presented two papers this March at the Guangdong School of Business in Guangzhou, China. The first, Two Sets of Twins: An Exploration of Saving-Investment Imbalances, originally published in the Sept. 2005 issue of the Journal of Economic Issues, deals with America’s trade deficit with respect to this
country’s multinational expansion and levels of domestic debt in the corporate and housing sectors. The second, *Galbraith Preference Mappings: Needs and Wants, Evidence from the 2005 Consumer Budget Study*, relates to consumption patterns across income classes. It will be published in the Journal of Economic Issues this September. In addition, Dr. Medlen has written an article about the investment theory that surrounds Tobin’s Q for the *International Encyclopedia of Social Science*. An additional article that traces the movement of marginal Q—the additional stock valuation consequent on additional investment—is under review.

**Dr. Leslie Sekerka, Associate Professor of Organizational Behavior** has teamed up with local business leaders to conduct a research study on organizational ethics education and training. With a grant from the Markkula Center at Santa Clara University, she is working to understand better how organizational members are trained to achieve corporate performance in an ethical manner. Her study will provide information about best practices in organizational ethics education and training by examining current issues relevant to this domain and how leaders are successfully addressing them. This marks the first study that is being conducted from Menlo College’s Ethics in Action Research and Education Center, of which Dr. Sekerka serves as director.

**Dr. Marilyn Thomas, Professor of English** is the author of *The Diary: Sex, Death and God in the Affairs of a Victorian Cleric*, which was published in January. The book is about Dr. Thomas’s six-year search for and discovery of the diary of a once-famous Anglican priest. She was able to break the code in which the book was written. Her current work is a follow-up to her biography, *Victorian Conscience: F.W. Robertson*. In addition, Dr. Thomas has been invited to deliver two papers: one at the spring 2008 annual convention of the British Popular Culture Association, held in San Francisco, and the other at the 20th annual meeting of the Oxford Round Table, a weeklong conference that will begin on July 13.

**Terry Trumbull, Adjunct Professor of Environmental Resources Management** is a commissioner on the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, a policymaking body for the nine-county region. He is also a member of a governmental committee that oversees the Santa Clara Valley Water District. He has practiced environmental law for 37 years.
New Appointments

Darcy Blake,  
Director of Development

A designer and marketing consultant for independent schools in Northern California for 15 years, Darcy recently was named Director of Development. In addition to offering her talent as a professional photographer and graphic designer, Blake will assist in developing and implementing the Advancement Department’s comprehensive gift program at Menlo College. Most recently, she worked at Sonoma State University as a multimedia specialist. Blake graduated from San Jose State University with a bachelor’s degree in radio and TV broadcasting, and attended Columbia University’s graduate film school.

Frances Turner,  
Lecturer of Management

Menlo College welcomes Frances Turner, an expert in marketing and performance management issues, as a Lecturer of Management. Turner is teaching introductory business courses, strategic marketing management and advertising principles. A cum laude graduate of Harvard University, she earned her MBA in marketing and business policy from the University of Chicago. Prior to her appointment at Menlo, she taught marketing and business courses at Brooks College in Sunnyvale, Calif. For many years, she worked as a manager and executive at a number of telecommunications companies, including Time Warner, Century and Cox.

Dr. William Walters,  
Dean of the Library

After serving as a librarian at Cornell University, St. Lawrence University and Millersville University, Dr. William Walters, a widely published demographer, was appointed this past fall as Dean of Menlo College’s Library. Dr. Walters earned his bachelor’s degree in geography from the State University of New York (SUNY) College at Geneseo, a master’s degree in library science from SUNY Buffalo, a master’s degree in geography from the University of Vermont and his doctorate in sociology from Brown University. He looks forward to collaborating with faculty on developing a strong subject-specific collection policy as well as creating an environment that draws more students, faculty and staff to the library for research and reading pleasure.

IN MEMORIAM

Dr. Laura Marschall

Menlo College mourns the loss of Dr. Laura Marschall, Associate Professor of Biological Sciences, who was killed in an auto collision in early December. She was 44. Dr. Marschall was completing her first semester as a professor at Menlo when she was hit by a car that struck the vehicle in which she was a passenger.

“We are devastated by this loss,” said Menlo College President Dr. G. Timothy Haight. “Dr. Marschall was an outstanding researcher and a dedicated teacher, and she clearly was beloved by her students at Menlo.”

An alumna of the University of California, Santa Barbara, where she earned her bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees, Dr. Marschall was a postdoctoral fellow at Stanford University from 1994 to 1998. Her area of expertise in her field was yeast genetics, about which she had published a number of papers.

Dr. Marschall is survived by her husband, Joe; 16-year-old daughter, Sarah; 10-year-old son, Evan; parents; and three sisters.
Think Critically, Outside the Box

by Dr. Leslie Sekerka

As a professor at Menlo College, I facilitate the process of guiding students toward the creation of an ethical path. My goal is to help students understand the importance of ethical action, and to encourage them to identify their values so that they can mindfully apply them in daily life. As an institution we must ensure that our students learn about the world’s past and present, because they are charged with assuming the responsibility of shaping its positive future.

I was attracted to Menlo because I deeply value the liberal arts education where professors work one on one with their students. Graduating with a BA in business administration from a small school similar to Menlo (Baldwin-Wallace College), I went on to develop a career in industry. I found that organizations represent a microcosm of society—often incongruent and quite paradoxical. I pursued this interest by continuing my education, studying communication theory at Cleveland State University and organizational behavior at Case Western Reserve University.

My academic pursuits led to research conducted with the Department of Defense, where I learned that a predominant ethical challenge for military officers is trying to achieve the mission while also following the plethora of government regulations. My colleagues and I unearthed the concept of rule-bending: a perceived need to break a rule to accomplish organizational objectives. This work continues to reveal societal norms that have broad implications. My focus on positive organizational scholarship is a cross-discipline approach, integrating theory from change management, organizational behavior, ethics and positive psychology. My research has immediate and direct implications for our Menlo students. For example, it emphasizes the reality that personal moral strength is required to stand up to the challenges in today’s business environment. But how do I go about helping our students develop their moral muscles to have this strength?

Knowing that students’ choices will affect the world in which we live, it is essential that we encourage students to exercise prudential judgment and self-regulation in making choices. To achieve this objective, I stimulate students’ ethical awareness in the classroom. I help students recognize the moral elements present in everyday decisions and practice open discussion of how to address ethical issues with others. I also involve my students in both research and service, which promote business success through ethical action. Currently, a team of Menlo research assistants (see photo) is working with me on a project through Menlo’s newly established Ethics in Action Research and Education Center. The current study is to understand best practices in organizational ethics education and training programs.

As future entrepreneurs and leaders, students must be able to express what they value, and understand how to apply their beliefs. In the process of developing their adult identity, students can be guided to see how their decisions influence others and the world around them.

Making a Difference in Shaping Their World: Menlo Students Learn to Create an Ethical Path

Dr. Leslie Sekerka discusses an ethical path with her students.

continued on page 39
Imagine coming to Menlo College with an idea for a start-up and graduating after four years with not only a viable business plan in place, but with the resources you need to get your company off the ground.

That’s no pipe dream, according to Dr. Leslie Williams, who, as Menlo College’s new Director of the Center for Entrepreneurship, will be working closely with the school’s entrepreneurial-minded students to turn their visions of successful business ventures into thriving entities.

“Students will be able to come to Menlo with a business idea, and we can help them incubate it,” said Dr. Williams, who assumed her post at the College this January after having served as Assistant Professor of Management at California State University, Los Angeles for the last five years. “Even if students just have a general idea of what they would like to do, we can help them brainstorm and start the ball rolling. We are talking to seasoned entrepreneurs in the Silicon Valley who will serve as mentors to our students. Likewise, we are interested in bringing to campus a crop of young entrepreneurs. They are individuals with whom our young people might more closely identify.”

To enhance the entrepreneurship program at Menlo, the College is hiring other faculty with expertise in this area. The goal is to offer a full gamut of entrepreneurship classes within the next year.

Under Williams’s leadership, Menlo’s Center for Entrepreneurship will also be holding symposia on timely subjects, such as innovations in green technology and conducting related research.

“It is vital that Menlo bring to campus leading scholars who can inspire our students and serve as a resource to our community,” noted Dr. Williams. “We want Menlo to be seen as an incubator for new, emerging ideas, particularly those that address 21st-century challenges and relate to clean technologies, social entrepreneurship and the Internet.”

A recognized authority in her own right, Dr. Williams has written and presented widely on entrepreneurship. At present, she is studying minority- and immigrant-owned and operated businesses in the United States: how they fit into mainstream America, and how they potentially touch the global economy.

Dr. Williams received her doctorate from the Haas School of Business at the University of California at Berkeley. She is also a graduate of Carnegie Mellon University, where she received her bachelor’s degree in economics and master’s degree in public management and policy.
Communicate to Make Connections

Majoring in Academic Success

Just as star athletes have their days in the sun, so should star scholars. That was the message that Menlo’s best and brightest students heard this past November, when they were showered with praise and award certificates at the College’s first academic success dinner.

Organized by Dean of Students Yasmin Lambie-Simpson, the gathering was a chance for Menlo College’s staff and faculty to honor those academically outstanding students who had earned A’s and B’s in their classes and maintained the highest-grade point averages. “Scholars and students who excel often do not get the attention they deserve,” noted Lambie-Simpson. “At Menlo, we believe it is important for our students to know that we recognize their scholastic achievements.”

During the dinner, one high-achieving Menlo graduate, Bob Uttenreuther ’98, shared with those assembled the impact that a Menlo College education had on his career. “Menlo gave me the confidence to succeed and the confidence to take risks,” Uttenreuther said. The keynote speaker, now a senior account manager at Google, urged the Menlo students at the dinner to avail themselves of all the College had to offer. “Menlo was the best time in my life,” he added.

Stopping Domestic Violence

Head football coach Mark Kaanapu was honored with an award, acknowledging his outstanding efforts in stopping domestic violence against women and children, by California State Senator Leland Yee at a ceremony on the Menlo College campus on Oct 24.

Kaanapu and his team took the school’s message of leadership to heart in a powerful display of solidarity on a critical issue facing the community. Kaanapu has worked for an end to domestic violence through his participation in public campaigns and through the education of his team about the importance of working toward peaceful conflict resolutions.

Jamie Williams, a former San Francisco 49er and Athletic Director at San Francisco Institute of Arts, and Steve Kinney, who played on the 1985 Chicago Bears National Championship team and currently the Northern California NFL Alumni Association President, spoke about their projects on preventing domestic abuse. California State Assemblyman Ira Ruskin and San Mateo County Supervisor Rose Jacobs Gibson also attended the ceremony. Among the hundreds of individuals attending the program were Kaanapu’s players, who gave him a standing ovation.

In welcoming public officials and other dignitaries to campus, Menlo College President Dr. G. Timothy Haight observed that Kaanapu’s leadership in the area of stopping domestic violence was in sync with the College’s mission of preparing students for positions of ethical leadership in the community and business world. Dr. Marla Lowenthal, Menlo College Professor of Mass Communication, the event organizer, noted that football was a particularly constructive way of channeling energy and aggression.

At the conclusion of the program, football players from Menlo College, College of San Mateo and El Camino Real High School signed a pledge to put an end to domestic violence.
On February 8, 2008 Menlo held its Honors Convocation celebrating the academic success of its outstanding students. Traditional commemorative awards were presented to 12 of Menlo’s top students, and 120 students were awarded certificates for attaining the Dean’s List. More than 200 students and their families attended the event, which was followed by a buffet dinner. The evening was full of tradition and celebration, bringing together members of the Board of Trustees, staff and faculty in full regalia to honor the Menlo community.

Use Your Menlo Advantage to Change the World
This issue of Menlo magazine is, in part, about merging the past with the present, about the ways we look at past successes as foundations for the future. In short, it’s about creating a bridge, a span that sweeps across Menlo’s proud history: from our founding in 1927 to a very dynamic present and an even brighter future.

This image—or metaphor, if you will—of a bridge is wholly appropriate because this is exactly what we at Menlo College are building right now. President Tim Haight, along with Menlo’s senior administrators and staff and Board of Trustees, are building bridges with Menlo College’s community, a community that includes alumni, businesses and neighbors throughout the Silicon Valley, and other friends who care deeply about the future of Menlo College.

Building bridges is vital as we usher in a new era at Menlo College. Drawing inspiration from our former School of Business Administration, we are re-establishing ourselves as one of the preeminent business colleges in the nation. That’s why we are reaching out to you and others: to let you know about the important work in which we’re engaged and to engage you as we move forward with our plans.

There are, of course, many ways for you to connect with Menlo College. If you have attended some of our many events—our Martin Luther King Day event this past Jan. 17 or the Disney Keys to Excellence leadership conference April 11, for instance—you have tapped into our excitement about recent growth at the College. One step on campus and into our college community, and you can feel the buzz in the air.

In fact, I would strongly urge you to pay a visit to campus if you haven’t done so recently. President Haight and I would be delighted to meet and share with you Menlo College’s plans. I would also invite you to engage with our campus as a contributor to Menlo College, whether it is in the role of entrepreneur-mentor to our promising business students or as a generous donor who supports our vision.

To those of you who are already supporting Menlo College’s future, I want to extend my sincere gratitude. We are most appreciative of your generosity of spirit and resources, and we are humbled by the extent to which our alumni, parents and other donors have demonstrated their thoughtfulness. And to those of you who are considering such support, I want to let you know that my invitation to come to campus and visit with me remains is open-ended. Call or e-mail me, and let’s set up a time to meet and break bread together. I would be delighted to chat with you further about how you can join us in working on behalf of this vital and beloved institution.

Catherine Reeves
Vice President for Institutional Advancement
650.543.3935
creeves@menlo.edu
Each fall, Menlo College students, families, alumni, faculty and staff gear up for one of the school’s most time-honored events: Homecoming Weekend. This two-day celebration of Menlo prowess provides the College an opportunity to bask in the glow of past successes—on and off the field—while cheering future Hall of Famers to victory on the grid. This past year’s Homecoming, with a touching tribute to former Menlo stars and a stunning triumph over our rivals from Lewis and Clark College, was surely one for the scrapbooks.

The 2007–08 year’s festivities opened with Menlo’s traditional Hall of Fame reception. Inductees and their biggest fans mingled while swapping Menlo memories. Award presenters gave impassioned testimonials for individual inductees as well as their teams as a whole. Football champ Dan McHone, Class of 1988, spoke openly of his admiration for teammates Jerold Montano and Brad Hutcheon, who died this year. Head Football Coach Mark Kaanapu announced that to celebrate their lives and that of Rick Booth, who died in 2005, the awards for the most valuable offensive player, most valuable special teams player and the most valuable defensive player would be renamed after Montano, Hutcheon and Booth, respectively.

Menlo took an early lead at the Oct. 6 game against Lewis and Clark, with sophomore Shawn Souza and freshman Alvin Foster each scoring a touchdown in the first quarter. Lewis and Clark tied the score before half-time, but was barred from scoring for the rest of the game. Menlo’s victory was decisive. With a final score of 51-14 over Lewis and Clark, Menlo enjoyed its first win of the season.

During the game, the fans were captivated by the action. The team continued to celebrate their victory throughout the weekend, including a momentous moment when DeeDee Dorskind ’75, parent with VP for Institutional Advancement, Catherine Reeves, visited the President’s tent tailgate event prior to the game.

Homecoming 2007
51-14 Over Lewis and Clark, Menlo enjoyed its first win of the season!
Another year has passed. It never ceases to amaze me that time and distance seem so short. In today’s world, I can e-mail someone in Istanbul, Paris, Saudi Arabia or any other place and get an answer back in less than a half day. Menlo College’s fingers spread out over the world. There are very few places where we do not have alumni. They are great about keeping us informed. Here are a few from whom I have heard. I hope to hear from you, too.

1940
Jack Dusel ’40 wrote a wonderful letter of congratulations to us after attending Menlo’s 80th birthday at Homecoming. He said that for someone who first came in 1938, he felt right at home. He reminisced about the Hawaiian students’ dances and chants, which are the same today as they were when he was a student.

1950
Ed Moser ’53 writes from White Plains, N.Y., that he remembers Menlo and the Bay Area with nostalgia. In his day, the only way to get across San Francisco Bay was the ferries.

Michael Furtney ’57 informs us that he is pursuing a master’s degree in strategic public relations. He is currently teaching at the University of Southern California’s Annenberg School for Communication and at Pepperdine University. Mike’s son, Tom, is also a Menlo graduate.

I talked to Ed deBiexedon SBA’58, who is with Bear Stearns in Southern California. Ed recently had lunch with current Menlo President Tim Haight. Ed also met with Austin Zecha ’57 who is living in Malaysia. It was good talking to Ed again after so long.

1960
Tim Biggs ’60 asked for an old photo of his band, The Zodiacs, which was born at Menlo. I found one in an old yearbook (see below). In the spring of 1960, the band rented a studio in Palo Alto, where it recorded its songs. Only two copies of the acetate were made. Years later, one copy was bought by a collector from a flea market in Los Angeles. Except for Tim Biggs, only the first names of the band members were on the recording. The buyer brought it to a collector who knew Tim, and now the recording has been reissued as a CD, The Primitive Instrumental Sounds of the Zodiacs. His web site is www.biggsartstudio.com.

1970
I received a great e-mail from Bill Dunham ’70. He remembers Professor Jan Dykstra with fond memories and hopes to reconnect in the future. Bill helped start the first youth residential environmental AmeriCorps 10 years ago as part of his work in environmental affairs for the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation. He is still very active professionally and travels extensively on behalf of the environment.

Leslie Kullijian Fennell (Missie) SBA’77 writes that her two sons are now 18 and 16. The last time I saw them, the younger was in a stroller! She is President of Care Management Corpora-
Making Connections

Juli Huss ’79 is the author of The Faux Gourmet: A Single Woman’s Confession on Food and Sex, and Happy Maisy Coleman. She has also written for Cosmopolitan, Hamptons, New York, Mode and other publications and has taught comedy writing at NYU’s School of Film and Television. When Fox-TV optioned Happy Maisy Coleman, she moved from New York to Los Angeles. We hope to see her soon. (Read more about Juli in the next issue of this magazine!)

Carolyn Amster ’79 writes that she has been in public accounting since 1985. Carrie received her law degree from the University of San Francisco, where she was introduced to tax law and fell in love with it. She went on to get her Master of Laws in Taxation from Golden Gate University. She is now a partner with Burr, Pilger & Mayer and is the parent of twin girls. I see Carrie in the morning when I am walking and she is in Starbucks.

Fletcher Johnson SBA’81, tells me that in addition to working hard, he is performing in musicals. He just ended a run in The Music Man at the Woodside Community Theatre, playing the train conductor and towns person. He was also responsible for the unit that moves the props and curtains. Fletcher has been doing quite a bit of traveling in Mexico, as well as scheduling some dates for whitewater rafting trips. You can find information about these trips on his Web site, www.anj.us.

Scott Zachman SBA’85 was on campus for the Homecoming football game and attended the Hall of Fame induction. He and dad Cliff Zachman SBA’64 still run EZ Electric Co. Come by for lunch, you two!

Jeff James ’86 brought his son, Nick, to campus for another tour. It was great to see them. If Nick comes in the Fall ’08, he will be the third generation of his family to have studied here. I know them all.

Karim Ojjeh SBA’88 writes he is auto racing as hard as ever. He just finished two races in Brazil this past November and is still testing cars. Look for an interview in this issue with Karim and his brother, Mansour SBA’74. Thank you!

1990

Diane Ako Hansen ’92 KHNL Weekend Television News Anchor, was guest speaker at the Menlo College Women’s Club “Women Empowering Women” dinner organized by student Liz Cardona, March 12, 2008.

2000

We received an e-mail from Raymond “Soonami” Soon SBA’00 telling us he is working in China. He is in project management with a notebook manufacturing company, which can be located at www.compal.com. He owes me a picture of him with his dad, Alec Soon SBA’72.

Nate Jackson ’01 came to Stanford for the Bill Walsh memorial at Stanford. Walsh was instrumental in getting Nate to the 49ers and then the Broncos. Keep in touch, Nate. May your career with the Broncos be long and prosperous.

Chris Brown ’03 is attending college in Tallinn, Estonia. What a wonderful opportunity. Keep us posted, Chris. His mom, Anne Brown SBA’76, and dad, Jim Brown SBA’76, met at Menlo (as did many other couples), They always attend our receptions in Portland, Oregon.

Alexia Guirola ’03 and Diego Poma ’06 were married in El Salvador earlier this year. They are living near the college. We have had many Guirolas at Menlo, including Alexia’s father and uncle, both whom I knew well. They were both in the SBA.

Amanda Vasconcellos MASS COM’05 and husband Brian, just bought a home in Anaheim, Calif. Brian is an account executive with Telerep. Both are very happy with their jobs and the move, but we miss Amanda.

IN MEMORIAM

William Rose ’47
John Arnold ’48
Earl Douglas Myer ’61
One of the world’s most successful and visionary technology and communications executives, Richard Li, will deliver the keynote address at Menlo College’s commencement exercises on Saturday, May 10, at 11 a.m. Li will be talking to newly minted graduates of the four-year college known for its business focus, most of whom look forward to careers as executives and entrepreneurs in industry and technology. The commencement ceremony will be held on the College’s Atherton, campus, and the public is invited to attend.

The chairman of PCCW Limited, the largest provider of communications services in Hong Kong and one of the Far East’s leading innovators in information and communications technologies, Li was instrumental in launching the world’s first IPTV service. In four years that business, now TV, quickly overtook the local pay TV monopoly provider and has become the leading pay TV operator in Hong Kong. Li broke into the communications and technology sectors in 1990, when he founded STAR TV, Asia’s first satellite broadcasting service. By 1993, STAR was broadcasting to 45 million viewers in 11.3 million homes across 38 countries. He sold the company to Rupert Murdoch’s News Corp. in 1995.

“Richard Li is not only a highly motivating speaker,” observed Menlo College President G. Timothy Haight, “but he is also one of the world’s most significant and inspirational business leaders. I can’t think of anyone more appropriate to speak to our students about current issues in technology, communications and entrepreneurship.”

In addition to overseeing PCCW, Li is a member of the Center for Strategic and International Studies’ International Counselors Group and the Global Information Infrastructure Commission.
program and School of Business will result in a compelling curriculum and the future for Menlo scholars of a diploma of extraordinary value. It will further mean that Menlo students will achieve the balance of a meaningful education and an understanding of life’s values. With our new perspective we are full of confidence that Menlo will be delivering the finest college education, pound for pound, in the world. Your diploma on the wall will be of immeasurable value. It will be a ticket for you and your classmates to challenge the world.

The core curriculum for the financial operation of any enterprise, profit or non-profit, is accounting. This is the lingua franca, the universal score card, the essential guiding information for any sustainable organization. Every Menlo graduate will know their way around a financial statement the way a scientist knows the periodic table or a musician knows his scales. An accounting pedigree is the essence of a business education in the 21st century.

Through this transformation, Menlo will gain in quality and all of us will have a greater, more fulfilling pride in our association with the College and its standing in the world of academia. If you join us in bringing Menlo to this new status, at some point you may be asking why you got into this audacious undertaking. As we achieve together, I am sure you will recognize that the effort is about all you ever wanted of your life, fulfilling your dreams by bringing about this spirit of transformational growth and creating Menlo College, Silicon Valley’s Business School as a great personal victory.

We all know this sort of change starts with money. We will need $300 million, including faculty and staff endowments, scholarships, and only then capital for facilities. We will need to endow over 50 professors spanning all fields. These professors will be the filament of the new institution, shaping the curriculum, attracting the scholars, directing the research that will bring us the prestige. Through the brilliance of these academics we will see illumination of the new understanding of business resulting from this determined effort.

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**The Ojjeh Brothers: Doing Global Business**

**Mansour:** It’s important also that you teach students values. I am not talking monetary value.

**TH:** Values in terms of social responsibility. That’s something we strongly emphasize. Why should prospective students consider Menlo College as their college of choice?

**Karim:** It is one of the few colleges within the United States where you can have a full business education before you actually hit a master’s in business administration. The student to teacher ratio is extremely small, and the accessibility of the professors and their experiences in and outside of the classroom are exceptional. Also, once you graduate, you will make connections with alumni all over the world. At Menlo, you will have access to connections in the Silicon Valley.

**Mansour:** Menlo offers a personalized education. This is invaluable. You are not just a number in a class; you are somebody. The professor can put a name to your face. When I went to law school, after Menlo, there were 500 students in some classes. The professor didn’t know anything about you. At Menlo, this is not the case. When I was at Menlo, a professor could see if something was wrong and ask, “Are you okay?”

**TH:** What advice would you give me going forward?

**Mansour:** Business is about people. Without the right people, you will never get a good education.
Athletes Fulfill Their Mission

by Mindy Mills, Sports Information Director

The women’s athletics programs at Menlo College have teamed up with the Bay Area Women’s Sports Initiative (BAWSI) and its GoGirlGo program to conduct clinics at Selby Lane Middle School for the 2007-2008 academic year.

BAWSI programs create means for college women athletes and coaches to inspire girls in the local community through their leadership skills. Female student-athletes in volleyball, soccer, cross country, wrestling and basketball conduct one-hour clinics every Wednesday and receive community service hours, which are not only a requirement to maintain an academic scholarship at Menlo College but also a reinforcement of the Athletic Department’s mission.

BAWSI was founded in 2005 by Olympic and World Cup soccer stars Brandi Chastain and Julie Foudy and by Marlene Bjornsrud, former general manager of the San Jose CyberRays, a women’s professional soccer team.

On the first and last day of the eight-week session this past fall, Chastain made surprise visits to participate in the sessions and to sign autographs for all the young athletes.

“This is a valuable partnership,” noted Menlo College Athletic Director Caitlin Collier. “The mission of our department is to use the avenue of competitive sports to enhance the undergraduate educational experience of each student athlete and reinforce life skills.”

said Stines, who also serves as an advisor for SALC. “I am really excited to head this project up on behalf of our department.”

The Menlo College men’s basketball team set a goal this year to build inspiring relationships and serve as positive role models by instilling knowledge and encouragement to middle school and high school students in the surrounding community.

The Oaks volunteered their time to sort food at the Second Harvest Food Bank, which serves more 162,000 people per month.

The team also worked with the Cesar Chavez Academy After-School Program and College Track, groups that have organized after-school programs for underprivileged youth in East Palo Alto, Calif. The Oaks orchestrated various activities, including basketball drills, a small group question forum and an autograph session.

The Menlo College men’s basketball team put on a free basketball clinic for 20 youth basketball players on Nov. 10 at the YMCA in East Palo Alto.

Acknowledging the team’s efforts, a teacher from the Cesar Chavez Academy wrote:

“The kids truly enjoyed the drills you ran and wore their T-shirts, jerseys and shorts with pride. Several of them have already said to me, ‘This is where I am going to college!’

Just opening up their minds, and making college a possibility and part of their conversation, is inspiring. You served your purpose and did it well.”
The Menlo College men’s wrestling team participated in a team-bonding, sea fishing trip adventure on Oct. 20.

The team travelled to Emeryville, Calif., to board the New Salmon Queen, a 50-foot Delta Charter boat fishing out of the San Francisco Bay Area. For many of the wrestlers, this was their first experience on a large boat.

The wrestlers donated 75 to 100 pounds of fish to St. Anthony’s Padua Dining Room, which serves the low-income elderly.

The catalyst for this charitable gesture was Anthony Cunha, the father of a former Menlo College wrestler, who contacted head men’s wrestling coach Keith Spataro about his wish to honor his own father, who passed away this year.

“This was a great experience for the wrestling team and gave them the opportunity to give something back to the community,” stated Spataro.

The women’s basketball team held its annual charity Free-Throw-A-Thon on Oct. 2 to raise money for the Boxes for Soldiers Organization, a group started by current assistant women’s basketball coach and former Lady Oak player Ashlynn Dolcini. The organization sends boxes of necessities to the soldiers in the 407th, B Company of the 82nd Airborne, United States Army, stationed in Iraq. The Lady Oaks shot 82 percent—100 free-throws each as a unit—and raised $2,221.50.

Dolcini was inspired to start the Boxes for Soldiers organization because her brother, Alden Dolcini, is serving in the United States Army as a member of the 407th.

This year, senior co-captain Francine Sorenson knocked in 96 free throws, while senior co-captain Sonet Yee was close behind with 94. Freshman Gianna Covarelli finished with the third highest free throw total, swishing 89 out of 100 shots. Junior Emily Zygmontowicz, the Newcomer of the Year for the Cal Pac Conference last season, was the team’s top fundraiser, bringing in $560 dollars in contributions.

Contact head coach Caitlin Collier at ccollier@menlo.edu for more information on donating to Boxes for Soldiers.
The Football Turnaround

—It Runs in the Family—
Craig Walsh and his dad, the legendary Bill Walsh, change the course of the Menlo College football team’s history

Recently, we joined a conversation over lunch with Football Coach Mark Kaanapu, and his guest, Craig Walsh, former Athletic Director at Menlo College.

Craig: I was at Menlo College in ’79 and ’80. My dad (Bill Walsh) suggested I go to Menlo. They had a great program. At that time, Menlo was a junior college, allowing athletes to compete for two years. It was competitive football because there were a lot of good high school football players who wanted to continue to play but weren’t ready for Cal, Stanford, or other major universities.

It was a great stepping stone for me to come to Menlo and play football. After Menlo, I was recruited to play for UC Davis.

After graduating from UC Davis, I worked in commercial real estate for 15 years before I decided to get back into athletics. Dad gave me a tip that Doug Cosbie, Menlo’s athletic director and head football coach at the time, needed somebody to help run the athletic program. I was hired in 1996 as the wide receivers coach and assistant athletic director. The college’s football team was in a state of utter despair, coming off a 0-10 record.

Somebody came up to me on my second day of the job and said, “Listen, the bright spot is that we have an All-American kick returner on our team. He led the NCAA in yards last year. Why don’t we play him at running back!” The player had ten times more kickoff returns than anyone in the country. He was getting a five yard clip. The reason he had so many returns was that the other team was scoring so many touchdowns!

Doug and I decided to recruit at all the Bay Area high schools for their best supporting players. We asked the high school coaches, “That guy who got a scholarship somewhere, who was he throwing the ball to? Who was blocking that guy?” Those were the players who could help our program. They were not the most noticeable athletes, but they could play well.

Mark: Our first coaching lineup included Tom Rathman from the 49ers and Keena Turner, who has Super Bowl rings with the San Francisco 49ers.

Craig: We started finding athletes who had good grades and could play football.

In 1996, we actually started to win some games. We were interviewed by Gary Radnich, a local TV sports figure. Up to that point, we had only won one or two games in three years. We made the bold prediction that we would win more games than we would lose. That season, Menlo found a way to win 6 games.

In previous years, other teams scheduled our road games as their homecoming games because they saw it as a guaranteed victory. Within two years, teams were seeing us as a threat. Soon, I was having trouble scheduling games due to the rise of our program and the addition of our outstanding players from California and Hawaii.

I think our success was due to a combination of coaching and better players with a stronger work ethic, which Doug Cosbie had brought to the campus. He played for the Dallas Cowboys for a number of years; I played for a very successful football program, so we knew what it took to be winners. I knew that camaraderie had to exist in order for the kids to do well in school and on the field. We set up a mentoring program, matching incoming freshmen with upperclassmen. Those older students would be role models and help the freshmen adjust to a new environment while introducing them to campus life. These students and their mentors became good friends, and many have continued their friendships to this day.
We collaborated with teachers to help athletes become better students. Students were required to report to me on their academic progress twice a year, good grades and bad grades.

My dad (Bill) would come to the games and practices to give fresh eyes on how we were doing. Respect was the number one thing in my dad’s eyes. We had inherited some bad apples who were constantly getting in trouble on and off campus. My dad told me that for us to be successful, we had to unite the players. We could not have a segregated dining room. We took his advice, and athletes were assigned seating numbers to avoid cliques. If cliques formed, they would undermine the coach and what the team was trying to accomplish.

My dad and I had a vested interest in doing something right. As a coach, if you see somebody do something and it doesn’t jive with the way you do it, you’ve got to say something. So my dad would sometimes sit down and talk to Ken Margerum, Doug Cosbie and me about some of our schemes.

My dad’s mind was constantly on football. He would always feel comfortable sharing his opinion on game strategies with us. Dad would say at halftime, “run these different formations” or “get back to this.”

Dad focused on dedication. People knew that when things got tough, my dad could handle it. One thing you didn’t want to do is let him down by not doing your job.

Mark: At my first game as Menlo’s head football coach, I saw NFL greats Guy McIntyre, Jessie Sapolu, Ronnie Lott and Ryan Leaf on the sidelines. When the whistle blew for halftime, we were down. Bill Walsh came up and gave us some advice on what changes to make in the second half. We took his advice and ended up beating the No. 1 team in the country!

One of Craig’s claims to fame is that he is responsible for the first four-year Menlo College All-American, wide receiver Cornelius Ruff.

Craig: Ruff was a junior college transfer who had some good numbers in high school, but he didn’t have a good junior college career. After graduating from his JC, he wasn’t offered scholarships to continue his education at a four-year college. He was an underachiever because at that time he lacked personal confidence. We told him that he could be a pretty big fish in a little pond if he played in our system. It took a long time for him to break through some of the things he had learned and to listen without fear that it would be a bad experience. I tried to have an open door policy with the players so they knew I would always be in their corner.

In 1997, I took on the role of athletic director and needed to restructure the athletic program. I started the women’s basketball and soccer programs when we were woefully under the minimums for the NCAA. I called the head coach at UC Davis and asked if they had an assistant coach who was looking to be a head coach. They suggested Caitlin Collier, who was in her first year at Dominican University as an assistant coach. We promoted a person from the business office to be the head women’s soccer coach. We made the minimums for accreditation and we had a nice balance. On top of their coaching duties, Collier and the men’s basketball coach, Keith Larsen, served as assistant athletic directors.

Mark: When Craig and I started out here, the athletics offices were in the downstairs closet of the admissions building. I remember sitting there late at night drawing plays on the board. I’d sit on the table; Craig would sit on the chair; and we had a couple guys standing, cramped in this room. I can see us now—in a poorly lit closet, late at night, drawing up plays, not even noticing or caring where we were.

Craig: Great memories of a great turnaround!
Bill Renna L&S’48  Rupe Andrews was an outstanding football player; an all-around good guy, and a friend. He was extremely likeable and good natured. He took kidding very well and because of that, was the brunt of many jokes. I look back on that now and think if he were not such a good guy, we may not have done that. He continued his football skills at Stanford and became an honored player there. I will miss him.

Byron Van Alstyne L&S’48  I did not play football with Rupe: I was on the basketball team. But I knew him and he played with my brother, Bruce. He was a great player at Menlo College and Stanford. He went on to the pros in Canada and made quite a name for himself. He was good natured and kind.

Bruce Van Alstyne L&S’48  When I think of Rupe, I remember smiles, fun and great football. In those days not many attended the games, and if we looked up in the stands and saw 12 people, it was a crowd, but Rupe always said they were busy. We played under coach Roy Hughes and I remember a game in particular against Yuba City JC. When we got to the field we entered right behind a flock of sheep who had been placed there to mow the lawn. You can imagine the rest. Rupe was a big part of our great times.

Hobert Burns ‘48  Rupe was a close friend of mine, both at Menlo and Stanford, and there are no words in my vocabulary to describe how much he will be missed. Rupe was known by everybody at Menlo, as colleague, leader, and athlete. In Fall 1947, Rupe led Menlo to the Rose Bowl for our first truly intersectional game, and lots of us drove overnight from campus to Pasadena to be there. In Spring 1948, Rupe was elected Student Body President, and that summer he moved on to Stanford where, again, he became a well-known star in football. Rupe’s schoolmates will never forget him, and he and Menlo will always be linked in our memories.

Dorothy Skala  The Class of 1948 is the only class in Menlo College’s history to have 5 members in the Hall of Fame — the four above and Rupe.
In the Driver’s Seat

Dan Gurney ’51 zoomed toward another honor this past January. The champion race car driver, innovative race car constructor and team owner was named Grand Marshal at the prestigious Rolex 24 Hours of Daytona, where he was feted at a dinner the evening prior to the event.

Gurney has been a celebrated figure on the race car track for more than 45 years. He won the first Daytona as a driver in 1962 and his second as a car builder and owner in 1993. A past Indy, NASCAR and Formula One winner, he has achieved renown as the developer of All American Racers, cars that rival the best of the European race car models. The recently published book Dan Gurney’s Eagle Racing Cars (David Bull Publishing, 2007), by John Zimmermann, documents his success.

As Gurney issued the starting command at the most recent Daytona—“Drivers, start your engines”—he enjoyed another high point in his career: watching his son Alex compete as a member of a racing team. For more information on Dan, check out www.allamericanracers.com, and www.moresmilespermile.com.

MySpace, Facebook & the Drum Major Instinct:
On Martin Luther King & Social Justice

On January 17, 2008, Menlo College was proud to have the opportunity to join Menlo Park Presbyterian Church in co-hosting a lecture by Dr. Emmett Carson, President/CEO of the Silicon Valley Community Foundation, in honor of Martin Luther King Day. Silicon Valley Community Foundation is a partner and resource to non-profits and citizens committed to improving the quality of life in our region.
Champions of Character

by Mindy Mills, Sports Information Director

The Menlo College men’s basketball team was presented the 2007-08 Buffalo Funds Five Star Award after demonstrating the five core tenets of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics’ Champions of Character campaign.

The NAIA and Champions of Character founding partner Buffalo Funds designed the Champions of Character program to instill an understanding of character values in sport, and to provide student-athletes, coaches and parents the training to help them know and do the right things, inside and outside the sports setting. The program is dedicated to the principle that character is a choice; being a champion is about reaching potential, making good decisions consistently.

The mission of Champions of Character is to restore character values and raise a generation of students who understand and demonstrate in everyday decisions respect, responsibility, integrity, leadership and sportsmanship.

Please refer to the Athletes Fulfill Their Mission article on pages 30-31 of this magazine to learn what the men’s basketball team is doing in the community.

“Character is not only a vital part of our team chemistry, it is the key component of our team’s success on the court, in the classroom, throughout campus and within the community. Our team has established a very specific philosophy that incorporates and emphasizes the five core values. We hold each other accountable to maintain an environment that supports Champions of Character. Not only do we believe these core values will help contribute to our success on the court, but, more importantly, these characteristics will help our student-athletes develop into well-rounded young men as they graduate from our program and move on to the next phase of their lives.”

MEN’S BASKETBALL COACH BRANDON LAIRD

Oaks Wrestling Finishes Strong

The Menlo College men’s wrestling team finished the 2007-08 season with two NAIA National Champions, four All-Americans and two Daktronics Scholar Athletes.

Menlo took 7th place as a team at the national tournament after entering the championship ranked tied for 13th. This is the fifth time in seven years that the Oaks have had a Top 10 finish at the tournament. “The success of something is contingent upon the players involved,” said Head Coach Keith Spataro, “and we’ve had great student athletes and assistant coaches in this program.”

Competing at 165 pounds in his third national appearance, junior Robert Davis clinched his first national title with a 10-3 decision over Dickinson State University’s Stanton Schlecht. Davis was ranked third in the NAIA national standings entering the national tournament and Schlecht finished the season ranked second.

Heavyweight Jesse Ruiz, in his first NAIA national appearance, had little trouble winning his weight class, with his closest match being a 10-3 decision in the finals. Ruiz had three consecutive pins after opening with a 17-4 major decision in the first round.

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The 2007/08 Academic Year at Menlo College has been one of re-building traditions and implementing new ideas to unite our campus community. The Office of Student Affairs promotes learning to assist students in building a strong community who values open communication, integrity, and advocacy. We have partnered with Academic Affairs to support an educational focus in our programming in addition to social, community and cultural events. Our goal is to strengthen the learning skills of our students while helping to shape conscientious, capable young leaders able to make a difference in their communities.

More than 32 Menlo students came together to produce the very successful 17th Annual Menlo College Lu’au on Saturday, March 17. Beginning in September 2007, members of the Hawaii Club began fundraising, practicing traditional Hawaiian dances, and developing marketing and sales strategies for this annual event. Guests were embraced in the rich traditions of this culture through music, dance and food, truly feeling the Spirit of Aloha. Many commented that this was one of the best Lu’aus they had ever attended.

Through our Service in Learning Community Program students participate in programs that partner with community organizations to educate them on the impact of social responsibility and volunteerism.

In April, members of our community participated in the overnight event Relay for Life to raise money for the American Cancer Society. The event was sponsored at Stanford University and Menlo’s team raised over $1000 for the fight against cancer. Team Leader sophomore Kerilyn Yadao spearheaded this effort and hopes to hold this event at Menlo in the future.
In a democracy, we have the freedom to make choices. But with that right also comes the responsibility to act ethically. Activities that help students understand the importance of raising questions, seeking out more information and challenging their assumptions are essential. Because ethical challenges are not necessarily black or white, right or wrong, they require the application of principled decision-making with empathy toward others, who may have beliefs different from our own. At Menlo, we want to graduate thoughtful citizens committed to ethical behavior. This means helping them understand how to make ethical decisions in business practice.

Because of our diverse community—with students from the Middle East, Asia, Europe and elsewhere—we can include a wide variety of cultural viewpoints and create a global perspective as we collaboratively work to understand, explain and discover.

I am mindful that today’s students have a different lens than those from my generation. Our young people grew up using the Internet and are technologically savvy. They are conscious of environmental issues and of our country being at war. Most experienced 9/11 when they were in their pre-teens. Taken together, I believe these factors have contributed to their deep desire to make a difference in the world and to create change—now! Thus, it is essential that they become aware of today’s realities.

I accomplish this by incorporating current events with course learning objectives, working to help students think critically about them, whether it’s a corporate ethical breach or a tragedy like the Virginia Tech shooting. Using timely news stories and global developments as case studies, we discuss the ethical, sociological and psychological implications. This weaving of theory, topical and relevant issues, and application helps students become better equipped to face issues with moral strength and compassion toward others.
In Memoriam

A Tribute to Al Jacobs

We are deeply saddened by the loss of Al Jacobs, a much loved professor emeritus at Menlo College who passed away February 12. He was instrumental in creating the Mass Communication program. In addition to being a beloved teacher, he was a noted performer in the community, giving poetry and interpretive readings all over Palo Alto and Menlo Park. Al was a renaissance man, and life was his art.

“We dearly miss Al. Throughout his lifetime of dedication to education at Menlo, he exemplified the qualities of an incredible human being. Although he is no longer with us, his spirit shines in the memories of those who were fortunate enough to have known him.”
G. Timothy Haight, President, Menlo College

“Al will forever be in my thoughts because of his special mentoring relationship with my son, Casey (Class of 2003). I fondly remember seeing Al and Casey sitting out on the main quad each Friday, eating their lunches and talking about film and drama. Tim Haight often speaks of how every successful student has a faculty member that inspires them to new heights. Al was that faculty member for Casey. The Menlo community has lost a treasure, but he will live on in our hearts forever.”
Bob Wilms, Director of Admissions, Menlo College

“I once administered a final exam for Al when he had to miss a class. He bought me a very nice book as a gift. He was very considerate to his colleagues and everyone. He had written part of a novel titled ‘Death of a Dean.’ He said it was a good murder mystery because so many people wanted to kill the Dean—students, faculty and administrators. He was one of the kindest people I’ve ever met.”
Professor Doug Carroll

“Al Jacobs (AJ) was the most remarkable man I’ve ever met. He was a brilliant thinker, an incredible teacher, an effective mentor, an enlightening entertainer, and a gentle spirit. His broad intellect was awe inspiring. His compassion was pervasive. His mild manner and sweet demeanor enveloped all those who crossed his path in a warmth of human kindness that touched the soul. He walked in goodness and permeated love. There are so few people like him. He made the world a better place just by being AJ. He will be sorely missed.”
Professor Marla Lowenthal and Bill Workman

“Al was a true teacher, friend, and mentor, and one of the most generous people I ever have ever known. Without him I would never have found the courage to do some of the best things I have done in my life—including to direct plays, and to move to NYC to study theater. AJ did so much to help me find my own voice and his voice was with me every step, even reading at my wedding. I feel a deep void in his absence but keep trying to fill it with memories of his warm laughter, and the welcoming cries of ‘Sweetie’ which seemed to be his term of endearment for nearly everyone he knew. Al truly lives on in the souls of all those he taught as well as those who, while not technically students, learned about friendship and kindness just by knowing him. He leaves a legacy of love for art, literature, and friendship.”
Kim Greene Treger ‘92

“A.J.,’ as some of us called him, never entered a room without bringing sunshine in with him. His very presence emanated warmth and good feeling. It’s not surprising that his death has cast a cloud over a huge segment of society because he literally had thousands of friends and admirers. I felt privileged to be among those who not only knew him, but loved him. When he was a guest lecturer in my Shakespeare class, I saw how insightful he was, but the focus was never on him and what he knew. It was about us and how he could draw insights out of us and our observations. In an evaluation of my teaching one student even questioned why I was the teacher of the course when he was so much better. I was not insulted by that statement because I saw my own shortcomings in the classroom when I watched him in action. Of course he laughed when I shared that comment with him, insisting that I was a wonderful teacher myself. He was that kind of guy. I will always be grateful for his critical reading of my works in progress. I don’t think I’ve yet fully realized that he is gone from our sight.”
Professor Marilyn Thomas, Colleague
Under the leadership of Ann Haight, Menlo College presents its inaugural program to bring art exhibits to campus with *Outside the Box, Inside the Frame*. Six local artists address the transformation of simple materials and images into poetic works of art. *Administration Building, through May 12, 2008*