

## MACALESTER FACULTY OF COLOR ARE STRONG MENTORS

Macalester's faculty represents rigorous academic breadth and depth as well as ethnic and global diversity. In addition to natives of Asia, Africa and Central and South America, the faculty includes these and other U.S. citizens of color:

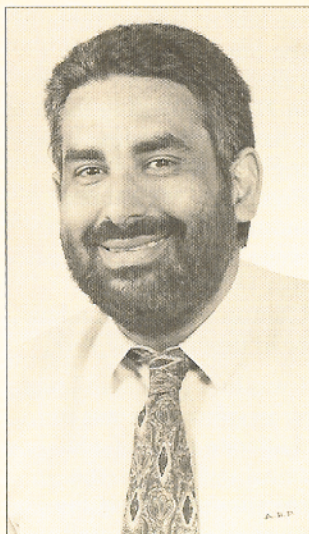
**Kendrick Brown**, psychology, does research on skin-tone bias and issues of prejudice in the U.S. and western Europe. He teaches social psychology, psychology of prejudice and African American psychology.

**Janet Carlson**, chemistry, is an organic chemist, particularly interested in structure-activity relationships, computer modeling and organic synthesis. She also directs Macalester's Comparative North American Studies Program.

**Daphne Foreman**, biology, is a plant developmental biologist and geneticist. Her interests lie in the areas of molecular biology (recombinant DNA technology) and plant physiology.

**Galo Gonzàles**, Spanish, is interested primarily in 20th century Latin American literature and culture. His interests include the literature of social protest movements in Latin American narrative fiction, the literature of subversion in the Andean Region and the literature of subaltern cultures (an approach to study of Latino literature in the United States).

**Diane Glancy**, English, is an award-winning poet and playwright. Her 1996 novel, *Pushing the Bear*, tells of the 1838 Trail of Tears; she also has written other novels and widely acclaimed volumes of poetry, short stories and essays. She recently received a Sundance screenwriting fellowship. ➤



## FACULTY PERSPECTIVE: WE NEED TO COLOR OUR ENVIRONMENT

by **Aldemaro Romero**  
Director and Professor,  
Environmental Studies  
Program

In my 20-plus years of professional experience, I see the same faces. Not that they are the same people; rather, that the faces represent that stratum of our society that for years has led the environmental movement: white, middle-class, suburban Americans. And I wonder why. After all, there are many issues that directly affect people of color in this country: lead pollution in the inner cities, dumping of toxins in low-income neighborhoods and Indian reservations, and others that represent cases of what have been called "issues of environmental justice."

The solution? We could organize a protest and expect that something will be done out of "white

guilt," but I do not think that is the way. I believe that unless we start to participate in the non-governmental and governmental organizations that have a say in environmental issues, policies and practices, we will not solve these problems. Is there some sort of racism among those organizations that prevents us from participating in them? I don't think so. My experience working with non-profit organizations is that they would love to have more people of color. Not only is there a sincere desire for diversification, but there is also recognition that other voices are needed. The same thing can be said about governmental organizations. The current director of the National Park Service, Robert Stanton, is an African-American who started in the service 35 years ago as a park ranger. He is a career conservationist, not a political appointee.

*"Not only is there a sincere desire for diversification, but there is also recognition that other voices are needed."*

—**Professor Aldemaro Romero**

So, what do we have to do? Very simple: get prepared. Today there are hundreds of environmental related programs that, like the ones at Macalester, can give you the background to become a successful environmental professional. Remember, no matter what the issue is or what your position, you have to have your facts right. For that there is no substitute for education. Once you have it, there will be no limit to what you can achieve.

It is time to color the environment. ■



Macalester students (left to right) Lauren Friedman '03, Susan Robertson '03 and Michelle Ross '03 participate in the Greening of the River, an effort to help clean the Mississippi River area.