

## LAMONT POET MAJOR JACKSON CONNECTS WITH STUDENTS

Major Jackson, the Class of 1945 Library's first Lamont Poet in the 2008-09 Lamont Poetry Program, gave an evening reading in the Assembly Hall this fall. Jackson, the University of Vermont's Richard Dennis Green and Gold Professor and faculty member of the Bennington Writing Seminars, is the author of *Hoops* (Norton, 2006) and *Leaving Saturn* (University of Georgia, 2002).

Senior Ebenezer Gyasi, who attended the reading, says, "Jackson is a very engaging guy. It was good to hear his tone and his voice. It could confirm the way you read a poem or it could give you another sense of the meaning. I got a sense of what emotions he was feeling when he read a particular line."

Gyasi wasn't alone. During his visit, Jackson spent a day in the Elting Room at Phillips Hall, where more than 100 students from several English classes visited with him and asked questions about his poems, some of which they had been reading in their classes.

Jackson, a past winner of the Cave Canem Poetry Prize and a finalist for a National Book Critics Circle Award, has been published in *The New Yorker*, *The Washington Post*, *The Christian Science Monitor* and *The American Poetry Review*, among others. He is a former creative fellow at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University, and the Jack Kerouac Writer-in-Residence at the University of Massachusetts-Lowell. Currently, Jackson serves as the *Harvard Review's* poetry editor.



Major Jackson

ERIN PATRICE O'BRIEN

## Advocate for Africa receives 2008 John Phillips Award



Principal Ty Tingley,  
Scott Campbell,  
and PEA Trustee  
Monica J. Shelton  
Reusch

Scott Campbell '82 sought to have an "interesting and useful life" when he joined the Peace Corps after graduating from Middlebury College. He found it in the Central African Republic where he trained teachers in health education. After returning stateside and earning master's degrees in public health and international affairs, Campbell ventured back to the African continent, working in places like Sierra Leone and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (Zaire) to document and report on human rights violations—advocating for those powerless and without representation.

Campbell, who now serves as the Africa coordinator with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, returned to campus last fall to receive the 2008 John Phillips Award. The citation is one of the Academy's highest honors and is given annually to an alumnus/a whose life and contributions to the welfare of community, country and humanity exemplify the nobility

of character and usefulness to humanity that Phillips sought to promote in establishing the Academy.

Campbell was recognized for his work in health education and for giving voice to victims of violence, oppression and discrimination in a number of African countries. In the Congo, for example, he motorcycled to remote villages and conducted a one-man, secret investigation—interviewing hundreds of victims traumatized by civil war. Campbell's subsequent report, "What Kabila is Hiding," drew international media attention and was a catalyst in forcing the global community to withdraw support for President Kabila's government.

In her introduction of Campbell, PEA Trustee Monica J. Shelton Reusch '77, president of the General Alumni/ae Association, said, "[Your efforts exemplify] the ideals of the human rights movement: courage, an unswerving commitment to justice, and genuine concern for the rights of all people. Your embodiment of *non sibi* provides a model for those who hope and believe they can change the world."

Campbell, an ESSO volunteer while at Exeter, praised current students who give their time to others: "I am inspired by those of you who have taken the time and made the commitment to volunteer locally. Your work makes me feel much closer to Exeter today than the Exeter I attended some 25 years ago. I am prouder than ever to be an Exeter graduate, largely because of what you are doing, and because of Academy initiatives that include making the environment a priority, working toward achieving need-blind admission, and emphasizing community service."

Read the full text of the remarks Campbell made during his award ceremony on page 112. —*Famebridge Witherspoon*

ART DURITY