

The Milton Hershey School  
Board of Managers  
*takes great pleasure in announcing*

■  
THOMAS G. McCLAY  
CLASS OF 1967

■  
*2007 MHS  
Alumnus of the Year*



**CRITERIA FOR SELECTION  
OF THE MILTON HERSHEY SCHOOL  
ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR AWARD**

**THE MILTON HERSHEY SCHOOL ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR AWARD**

began in 1954. Individuals are selected because they have demonstrated humanitarianism and exemplary service to others, achieved distinguished service in their careers, and demonstrated high standards of achievement, both personally and professionally.

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The alumnus serves as a role model for MHS students and as an example of achievement to which they can aspire. The individuals who have received this award over the past 50 years exemplify the numerous outstanding achievements of the School's graduates.

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A committee composed of School staff and representatives of the MHS Alumni Association reviews nominations and recommends a list of candidates to the administration. This annual award is presented by the MHS President during the Commencement ceremony.

*In keeping with Milton and Catherine Hershey's Deed of Trust, Milton Hershey School nurtures and educates children in social and financial need to lead fulfilling and productive lives.*

— **MHS MISSION STATEMENT**

*His deeds are his monument — his life is our inspiration*

**THE CAREER SUCCESS OF OUR 2007 ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR** is a direct tribute to the work ethic and enterprising spirit exemplified by Mr. Hershey himself. In fact, this alumnus credits his Milton Hershey School experience with establishing the foundation of his more than three decades of innovation and achievement. As an entrepreneur and community volunteer, he serves as a role model and inspiration for the entire Milton Hershey School community.

On behalf of Milton Hershey School and its Board of Managers, I am proud to award the highest honor of Alumnus of the Year on Commencement Day, June 10, 2007, to Thomas G. McClay, MHS Class of 1967. This award acknowledges Tom's distinguished achievements and the great honor they have brought to his alma mater.



John A. O'Brien '61  
President, Milton Hershey School

#### MHS ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR COMMITTEE

**Chairperson:** Pete Gurt '85, *Vice President, Student Life*  
Ralph Carfagno '73, *Senior Director, Alumni Relations & Programs*  
Doreen Garman, *Coordinator, Alumni Campus*  
Catherine Skena, *Coordinator, Alumni Relations & Programs*  
Jack Storm, *Retired Senior High School Principal*  
Lewis Webster, *Senior Director, Student Character & Leadership*  
Mike Weller '66, *Interim Head, Senior Division*

**Display Consultant to the committee:** Charles Schock '44

#### RECIPIENTS OF THE MILTON HERSHEY SCHOOL ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR AWARD

- 1954 Arthur R. Whiteman '27, *Finance*
- 1955 Edward C. Uhrich, M.D. '33, *Medicine-Pathology*
- 1956 Joseph H. Hartshorn, Ph.D. '39, *Geology*
- 1957 Joseph S. Gumphier '35, *Finance*
- 1958 Richard M. Light '41, *Electrical Engineering*
- 1959 Col. Burdsall D. Miller '38, *Military Service-Air Force*
- 1960 William P. Wagner '27, *Industrial Service Engineering*
- 1961 Laurence W. Fredrick, Ph.D. '45, *Astronomy*
- 1962 Kenneth V. Hatt '41, *Business*
- 1963 John T. Hart '36, *Personnel Management*
- 1964 William E. C. Dearden '40, *Marketing*
- 1965 Frank J. Brady, M.D. '37, *Medicine-Anesthesiology*
- 1966 Charles F. Bofinger '43, *Advertising*
- 1967 William J. Geen, Esq. '47, *Law*
- 1968 Col. Edward J. Rutty '47, *Military Service-Marine Corps*
- 1969 Harry D. Snow '43, *Entertainment*
- 1970 Albert D. Rickmers '40, *Education*
- 1971 E. Hale Jones '50, *Public Relations*
- 1972 The Rev. Dr. Clark E. Hobby '47, *Religion*
- 1973 Lewis W. Eckert '39, *Research and Development*
- 1974 John M. Aichele '39, *Business Affairs-Education*
- 1975 Archie L. Good, V.M.D. '38, *Veterinary Medicine*
- 1976 James D. Dower Jr. '35, *Architecture*
- 1977 William H. Pugh '43, *Government-Diplomatic Service*
- 1978 K. Thomas R. Davies, Ph.D. '53, *Theoretical Physics*
- 1978 Richard W. Davies, Ph.D. '54, *Theoretical Physics*
- 1979 David B. Bowman '46, *Law*
- 1980 E. Wallis Callahan '44, *Culinary Arts*
- 1981 Michael Kay '54, *Thoroughbred Racing*
- 1982 Charles G. Gebelein, Ph.D. '47, *Chemistry*
- 1983 John F. Rineman '45, *Medical Service Administration*
- 1984 William M. Duff '52, *Architecture-Building Construction*
- 1985 William R. Fisher '50, *Education*
- 1986 James C. Mancuso, Ph.D. '45, *Education-Psychology*
- 1987 J. Bruce McKinney '55, *Business Management*
- 1988 James D. Hoeschele, Ph.D. '55, *Biomedical Research*
- 1989 Adrian E. Taylor '47, *Advertising, Design, Journalism*
- 1990 John A. O'Brien '61, *Psychology*
- 1991 Graham W. McIntyre '49, *U.S. Army-Education*
- 1992 Otto R. Weber, M.D. '41, *Medicine-Humanitarian*
- 1993 David Q. Voigt, Ph.D. '44, *Author-Educator*
- 1994 David I. Bowser '57, *Building Construction*
- 1995 A. John Gabig '53, *Corporate Law*
- 1996 A. LeRoy Baker, Ph.D. '57, *Scientist-Biochemistry*
- 1997 Merrill Lynn, Ph.D. '48, *Research Scientist*
- 1998 Ivan N. Dietrich, J.D. '42, *Law*
- 1999 Wayne W. Hepler '43, *Engineering-Aerospace*
- 2000 James J. Finnegan '48, *Editorial Writer*
- 2001 George W. Cave '47, *CIA: Directorate of Operations*
- 2002 Robert J. Brill '60, *Agribusiness Entrepreneur*
- 2003 J. Barry Love, Ph.D. '51, *Teacher and Philosopher*
- 2004 Brigadier General Richard C. Zilmer '70, *Military Service-Marine Corps*
- 2005 Alan D. Krashesky '78, *Broadcasting*
- 2006 E. Michael Kenna '70, *Graphic Arts/Entrepreneur*
- 2007 Thomas G. McClay '67, *Electrical Engineering/Entrepreneur*



THOMAS G. McCLAY '67

Thomas G. McClay '67 is the president and owner of five successful electronics businesses, which grossed more than \$250 million in 2006 and employ more than 350 people nationwide. His career success, he says, all began with a conversation with a teacher and mentor at Milton Hershey School.

That life-altering conversation, McClay recounts occurred after a basketball game with the late Ken Cook. They discussed electronics and the role they would have in the future. Although he says it sounded a bit like science fiction in 1966, he became a believer.

"Ken Cook had a real vision of the future," McClay recalls. "Mr. Cook told me about a future that would include computer systems so small that everyone could own one. His vision of the world some 40 years later is unbelievably accurate."

A distinguished honor roll student, McClay enrolled in the electronics shop program. At one point, an administrator recommended he switch to another program, but driven by Cook's vision, he held fast to his goals.

Originally from Upper Darby, McClay enrolled at MHS in 1953 at the age of 4. His brothers, John (Ken) '59 and Barry '64, had already been enrolled, following their father's death on the job in the railroad industry.

In addition to excelling in academics, McClay spent his high school years in Student Home Westmoor with house-parents Sara and Robert Wolfe and proved to have many athletic talents as well. In fact, he was a co-captain of the football team and played basketball and baseball.

McClay remembers many baseball games including a game where he was playing second base with Mike Weller '66 pitching. The runner kept leading off second and taunting McClay. Calmly, McClay went to speak to Weller about his pitching and instead took the ball from Weller and hid

it in his glove. Much to the runner's surprise, as he took his lead, McClay reached out and tagged him with the ball! McClay recounts that, although unconventional, it was one of those plays that fuels great memories and discussions when his teammates reminisce about their days as Spartans.

Following graduation from MHS, he earned an associate's degree in engineering from Wentworth Institute of Technology in Boston in 1970 and a bachelor's degree through a cooperative program between Wentworth College and Northeastern University in 1972. "Boston was a great place to be going to college in the late 1960s and early '70s," said McClay. "The town was always hopping, and campus life provided many opportunities for new ideas and challenges." McClay began his career as a computer system design engineer with Honeywell Controls Co. in Harrisburg.

McClay's success was not achieved early, as his first business lasted only six weeks, and over the years he has had two additional unsuccessful business ventures. He attributes his perseverance and commitment to his experiences at MHS and Mr. Hershey's life. "Knowing that Mr. Hershey continued to pursue and fulfill his dreams after his failed attempts at business has always been in the back of my mind," he said.

As is the case for most entrepreneurs, McClay's road to success was not without obstacles. A self-proclaimed risk-taker who likes being on the cutting edge, he says, "Sometimes it worked and sometimes it didn't. I definitely failed a couple of times."



Tom, Age 5



Mary McClay with sons, from left, Barry, Tom and John (Ken).



1966 Varsity Basketball Team – R. Fasnact (kneeling), T. McClay, J. Baldwin, K. Lasch, T. Glass, M. Weller, J. McMillen, Coach John Cook, R. Brezovec, G. McCalmont, S. Cornibert, R. Dumwiddie, B. Sandoe, P. Silvestri, R. Tymback (kneeling) – center kneeling G. Williams



*Tom during college days at Wentworth*

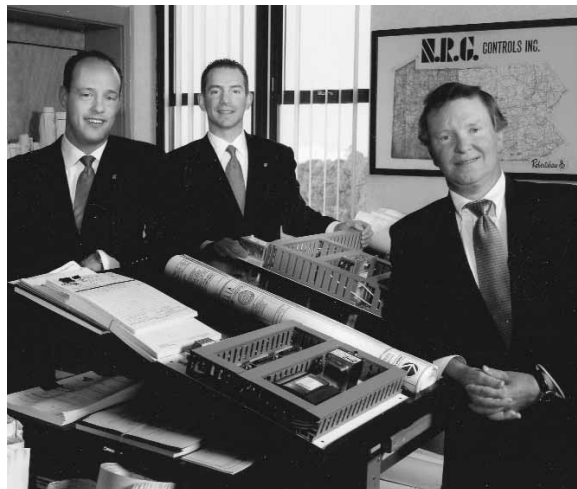
Today, NRG has evolved into the premier automatic temperature controls company in the Pennsylvania area and has offices throughout the country. His companies operate out of the following locations in Pennsylvania: Hazleton, Williamsport and Philadelphia. Outside of the state, there are offices in Atlantic City, N.J.; Wilmington, Del.; Orlando, Miami, Jacksonville and Cape Canaveral, Fla.; and Vandenberg AFB, Calif., with company headquarters in Steelton. They serve schools, hospitals, prisons, federal and state governments and the biochemical manufacturing industry with systems for building automation, energy management, fire alarm, security, automatic temperature control and space launch guidance systems. One of McClay's companies, located in Florida, sub-contracts for Lockheed Martin which supplies NASA with launching systems for rockets and satellites.

Today, he enjoys giving back to his alma mater by sharing his expertise as a Career Day speaker and having MHS student interns at his companies. He also has served on the board of the Milton Hershey School Alumni Association Heritage Foundation since 1998.

In the greater community, he has been an active volunteer for several organizations. He supports the American Red Cross, the YMCA, the National MS Society, United Cerebral



*NASA satellite launches using NRG control systems.*



*NRG Management Team – Adam Metz, Rory Ritrievi, Tom McClay*



*Tom (left) and racing staff with Love for Ali, the horse he named for his deceased daughter, Alison.*

Outside of the electronics industry, McClay enjoys breeding and racing thoroughbred horses. He is the owner of more than 50 horses and has created The Alison K. McClay Memorial Handicap race where 10 percent of the purse is donated to a scholarship fund in tribute to his late daughter, Alison, who was killed in an automobile accident in February 1998. Initiated in June 1998, the race is held each year at Penn National Race Track. The Alison K. McClay Memorial Scholarship award is presented to a senior who plans further education and has demonstrated qualities of kindness, consideration and respect toward others. In addition, the recipient is to be someone who has developed a measure of personal success through perseverance and focus in the face of adversity.

McClay is married to Mary Beth and has resided in the Hershey area since 1972. He is the father of two other children, John, age 33; and Kelly, 23. His 91-year-old mother, Mary, resides in Hershey. His best friend for the past 35 years has been a fellow MHS alumnus, Jim Hamilton '69.



*Standing, from left, John (Ken) McClay '59, William (Tom's great-nephew and Ken's grandson), Erin (Tom's niece and Ken's daughter) Shane Reigart (family friend); seated, from left, Mary (Tom and Ken's mother), Kelly (Tom's daughter), Mary Beth (Tom's wife) holding Jillian (Tom's great niece and Ken's grand-daughter) and Tom.*

Palsy, the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank, Bethesda Mission and the American Lung Association through financial contributions, serving on committees and speaking at workshops. "Receiving firsthand the benefits of how Mr. Hershey lived his life and how he used his money to help others continues to motivate me to do what I can to help others," McClay said.