ANNUAL REPORT 2019–20

THE SPENCER T. AND ANN W. OLIN FELLOWSHIP FOR WOMEN IN GRADUATE STUDY
A LEGACY OF SUCCESS

The Spencer T. & Ann W. Olin Fellowship for Women in Graduate Study has supported women of exceptional promise since 1974 in pursuing their passions and ultimately becoming leaders in society. Our vision to provide women with elite graduate preparation builds on the foundation of our core values:

Leadership

Service

Integrity

Inclusion

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Diana Hill Mitchell, PhD
Director of the Olin Fellowship Program

Janna Schmitt
Finance Director

Angelina Sylvain, PhD
Assistant Director
Message from the Dean

Nothing is more gratifying than seeing promising young scholars growing into accomplished leaders in their chosen fields. More than 45 years ago, the Spencer T. and Ann W. Olin Fellowship for Women in Graduate Study inaugurated an innovative experiment: leveraging mentorship and networking opportunities to empower a generation of female citizen scholars. From a group of seven, the program has grown into a diverse intergenerational community of over 400 women. In the fall of 2019, we celebrated this milestone with a landmark conference, She Leads, a two-day event that honored women's achievements in a range of fields. The gathering of hundreds of participants featured a vibrant series of presentations by scientists, entrepreneurs, CEOs of major corporations, physicians, activists, and artists, and culminated in a closing plenary by Dr. Jill Biden. It provided a significant platform for recognizing the accomplishments made possible by the Olin Fellowship Program.

That milestone also renewed our dedication to continue building this legacy. We consider it a pleasure and a privilege to offer talented women the opportunity to grow and to develop in ways that will improve our communities and contribute to groundbreaking discoveries. During my own graduate training, I had few models of women in senior leadership roles who could inspire, direct, and expand my ideas of how to use my education—and I certainly could have used them. We cannot overstate the importance of professional connections in the lives of emerging leaders. The Olin Fellowship Program has gained momentum over the decades, and its influence on the lives of exceptionally talented women continues to make our lives better in multiple ways. Under the outstanding leadership of Diana Hill Mitchell, director of the Olin Fellowship Program, and Angelina Sylvain, assistant director, we aspire to continue this endeavor in the years to come.

The admission of our newest cohort of fellows added significantly to this group. Our selection committee admitted 11 applicants this year out of a pool of over 860, another record-breaking year of applications. Of those admitted, 7 accepted our offer. We have an expansive set of programs and leadership experiences planned for the coming year that will continue our commitment to providing our fellows a superb launch pad. We know they will reward us with inspiring lives that will better our world and contribute in numerous ways to research, creative invention, and leadership.

None of this, of course, could happen without the generous support of our visionary investors. We are grateful for the confidence you place in us, in the Olin Fellowship Program, and in the lives of the women the Fellowship enables us to touch. From all of us, thank you.

—Laurie F. Maffly-Kipp
Interim Dean and Vice Provost for Graduate Archer Alexander
Distinguished Professor of Religion and Politics
THE OLIN FELLOWSHIP

The Spencer T. and Ann W. Olin Fellowship for Women in Graduate Study was founded in 1974, in collaboration with the Monticello College Foundation to honor Spencer T. and Ann W. Olin. From a group of seven, the Olin Fellowship Network has grown to encompass more than 400 women in medicine, social sciences, humanities, engineering, natural sciences, business, and law. No matter their path, the women supported by the Olin Fellowship are citizen scholars, committed to the betterment of humanity. The fellowship experience includes networking, professional development, and research exchange. Our mission to develop the best and brightest women into leaders in society remains steadfast.

SUPPORT

Annual stipend of $35,000*

Travel award of $600 ANNUALLY

» Full tuition remission
» Preferred housing
» Leadership & professional development
» Interdisciplinary networking with current students and alumni

* For academic year 2020–21. Applies to all fellows that entered into the program Fall 2017 forward.
ADMISSIONS AT A GLANCE: FALL 2020

862 applications

11 offers made (1.3% selectivity)

7 accepted (64% yield)
Welcome to the Olin Fellowship!

We are pleased to welcome these seven talented women to our current roster of Olin Fellows.

**OUR 2020 COHORT**

**Kyria Brown**
**PHD, SOCIAL WORK**

Kyria Brown is a doctoral student in social work at the Brown School. For the past decade, she worked as a birth doula, primarily with low-income and rural women. She focused her five years of research experience on mothering and street-involved women. Kyria acquired dual master’s degrees in social work and public health at both the University of Denver and the University of Colorado-Anschutz. Her research interests include reducing birth-related trauma and health disparities for street-involved women through doula use.

**J. Rene Canady**
**PHD, SOCIOLOGY**

J. Rene Canady, an interdisciplinary scholar, maintains leadership roles in the National Society of Black Engineers. As an Undergraduate Fellow for the Pitt EXCEL program, Rene supports underrepresented minority students. She earned a bachelor’s degree in bioengineering with a minor in French (2020). Rene is a fellow of the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program and a first-year PhD student in sociology. Rene aims to make biomedical health more accessible to underserved populations by starting an organization dedicated to improving the ethics of race-related research, making biotechnology more attainable, and supporting unfair treatment in health care.

**Brittany Ferrell**
**PHD, NURSING SCIENCE**

Brittany Ferrell, an organizer, registered nurse, and public health scholar, works in maternal-infant health, reproductive justice, and carceral abolition. These interests represent her passion for the health, wellness, and dignity of Black people. She believes art should be useful by telling complex stories that connect real experiences to the data and the narratives. As author and director, Brittany is working on her first documentary short-film and photographic memoir. Brittany, an Olin Fellow, received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of Missouri-St. Louis, and her Master of Public Health from the Brown School at Washington University in St. Louis. This fall, she begins her studies on a PhD at Goldfarb School of Nursing.
**Edil Hassan**  
**MFA (WRITING PROGRAM)**

Edil Hassan, a writer and poet from Vermont, recently graduated from the University of Vermont, where she studied English literature with a special focus in religion. She has received support from Bread Loaf Writer’s Conference and the Bucknell Seminar at the Stadler Center. Published in *Poetry* magazine and anthologized in *Halal If You Hear Me*, her work explores Black Muslim girlhood through magical realism. Her chapbook titled *Dugsi Girl* is forthcoming in the New Generation African Poets boxed set by the African Poetry Book Fund in collaboration with Akashic Books.

**Abigail Lewis**  
**PHD, COMPUTATIONAL AND DATA SCIENCES**

Abigail Lewis is pursuing a doctorate in Computational and Data Sciences. She graduated summa cum laude from Grinnell College with a degree in mathematics and statistics. While at Grinnell, Abigail operated in the math department as a peer mentor and tutor. Further, she volunteered at the local middle school as a math tutor. She takes pride in being a founder, original member, and leader of the synchronized swimming team during her attendance at Grinnell College. Abigail’s interest involves using progressing technology to adapt and expand statistical methods while increasing the financial and academic accessibility of the discipline.

**Charis Railey**  
**MFA (DANCE)**

Charis Railey is pursuing a Master of Fine Arts degree in Dance. Charis’s movement practices have origins born out of the African Diaspora in the Americas. Her research explores the historical and contemporary socio-political complexities of these dances and their potential as vehicles for social change. Charis seeks to provide the community with dance experiences that teach dance technique and address relevant social circumstances. In 2018, she formed Leading Ladies, a series of collaborative, woman-led workshops. Leading Ladies aims to inspire social dancers to explore their creative agency in and out of partnered contexts. Currently, Charis directs a Samba performance team motivated by body positivity, awareness, and respect for Afro-Brazilian culture.

**Stephanie Yanez Wormleighton**  
**JD (LAW)**

Stephanie Yanez Wormleighton is a law student at Washington University. Through her legal training, she seeks to serve the public interest and systemic justice. Stephanie’s academic interests consist of restorative practices, trauma-adjacent areas of law and policy, criminal justice, child welfare, sexual violence, and immigration issues. Stephanie graduated from UC Berkeley Haas School of Business in 2015. Before law school, she worked as a strategy consultant at Parthenon-EY, and in business operations at Grocery Outlet, Inc. Stephanie engages in justice work broadly through the faith-based organizations Intervarsity, East Bay Sanctuary Covenant, and Foster the Bay.
## AT-A-GLANCE

### Academic Disciplines

- **23%** Humanities
- **23%** Social Sciences
- **17%** Natural Sciences
- **14%** Engineering
- **11%** Law
- **9%** Health & Medical Sciences
- **3%** Business

### Degree Types

- **74%** PHD
- **11%** JD
- **9%** MFA
- **6%** MD

### Demographics

- **51%** White
- **17%** Black
- **11%** Hispanic
- **9%** Asian
- **9%** International
- **3%** American Indian/Native Alaskan
Congratulations to our fellows!

J. Rene Canady,
SOCIOLOGY PHD
Awarded the National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowship

Chelsey Carter,
ANTHROPOLOGY PHD
Awarded the Ford Foundation Dissertation Fellowship

Emma Frawley, EVOLUTION, ECOLOGY AND POPULATION BIOLOGY PHD
Awarded the William H. Danforth Plant Sciences Fellowship

Anna Preus,
ENGLISH PHD
Awarded the Mellon/American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) Dissertation Completion Fellowship
Recent Alumnae

We are excited to follow the paths of these outstanding Olin Fellow graduates in their careers and include them in our community of impressive alumnae.

**Natalia Guzman Solano**

PHD, ANTHROPOLOGY

Natalia graduated in 2020. Natalia’s research explored how women’s environmental defenders became political actors extending their participation from political engagement into the regional anti-mining movement. She now serves as an Emerging Voices Fellow at the University of Minnesota’s Liberal Arts Engagement Hub.

**Melody Eimer**

PHD, EARTH AND PLANETARY SCIENCES

Melody graduated with a PhD in 2020. She is a seismologist who researches risk associated with earthquakes in countries around the world. She is currently working at Karen Clark & Co., a catastrophe modeling company in Boston.

**Lauren Cubellis**

PHD, ANTHROPOLOGY

Lauren, a 2020 graduate, focused her dissertation research on the implementation of an alternative treatment model for psychosis. She conducted research in Berlin, Germany using a local community health organization experimenting with network therapy, home visits for clients, and the inclusion of peer specialists. The model aims to reduce dependence on and the over-prescription of antipsychotic drugs.

**Janelle Neczypor**

PHD, COMPARATIVE LITERATURE

Janelle graduated in 2020 with a PhD in Comparative Literature. She is a medievalist studying lovesickness in Iberian literature and medicine. Examining sources in Castilian, Arabic, and Latin, her work explores the intersection of the arts and sciences in late medieval culture and how they acted as a means to rationalize and control human emotions and behavior.
Kate Douglas
MD, MEDICINE

Kate is a 2020 graduate from the MD program. At Washington University, Kate helped to develop a four-year medical Spanish curriculum for medical students, while she continued to conduct research in global malnutrition. Kate is now a pediatric resident at Boston Children’s Hospital and Boston Medical Center.

Lizaveta Miadzvedskaya
JD/MBA, LAW/BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

With interests in law, business, and technology, Liza graduated in 2020 with a JD and MBA. At WashU Lizaveta served as staff editor for the Global Studies Law Review, treasurer for the Intellectual Property Law Society, and peer advisor for the Center for Career Development at the law school. Lizaveta will soon begin practicing corporate law at Kirkland & Ellis, LLP, focusing on fund formation.

Jenni Stevenson
DOT, OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

Jenni graduated in 2019 with a Doctorate in Occupational Therapy. She is currently completing a fellowship in Upper Extremity Orthopedics (hand therapy) at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. Additionally, she proudly continues her military service to the country as a 17-year member of the Army National Guard.

Sarah Mayer
MD, MEDICINE

Sarah is a 2020 graduate. During her time as a medical student, Sarah participated in student organizations exploring global health, medical Spanish, and advancing women in medicine. Her research focuses on pediatric endocrinology and hematology. She will soon begin her residency in combined Internal Medicine-Pediatrics.

An Nguyen
DOT, OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

An graduated in 2020. Currently she works as a project scientist and acute care occupational therapist in the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles. She was recently accepted into Cedars-Sinai’s Clinical Scholars Program, which seeks to develop independent clinician-investigators with advanced training in clinical and translational research.

Ashley Tate
MFA, DANCE

Ashley graduated with her MFA in 2020. She is the director of Ashleyliane Dance Company (ADC) based in St. Louis. She serves as an adjunct professor at Washington University, Webster University, and Southeast Missouri State University. She is a board member with Missouri Dance Organization and a member of the National Dance Education Organization.
For Olin Fellow Lizaveta Miadzvedskaya, who graduated in May 2020 with a joint Juris Doctor and Master of Business Administration degree, intentionality is at the core of success. Far from being an intellectual concept, intentionality has become a hallmark that guides Liza in making decisions. For example, she was deliberate when choosing the university to attend, considering not only rankings, but also doing cost-benefit analysis, and factoring in the intangible of the school’s fit with her personality. Liza, a student in the truest sense of the word, seeks not only knowledge, but also connections that promote the maturing of knowledge.

When Liza entered graduate school and began the JD program, she had an interest in doing intellectual property law. Her focus broadened when she recognized that in order to provide a client the best possible legal service, she needed to understand how businesses operate. Through her experiences at Washington University and working as a summer intern at a law firm, she realized that having business knowledge would make her a better attorney, allowing her to serve her clients more effectively. So she added an MBA to her JD program.

The Olin Fellowship provided an opportunity for bridging between different disciplines. In addition, Liza understood and appreciated the value of being in a community of Olin Fellows as she acclimated to a new location. She enjoyed the relationships and the camaraderie the Fellowship fostered. At her undergraduate institution, Liza was part of a scholarship program, and the scholars chose to go into different disciplines. Having that exposure throughout her undergraduate education proved beneficial in her decision to pursue a joint JD/MBA program.

Her focus so far has been on intellectual property law, specifically patent law and technology transactions. She worked on research projects in areas ranging from patent prosecution and litigation to due diligence for company acquisitions and licensing negotiations. Liza looked at schools that have strong intellectual property programs, but she also looked at schools that fostered collaborations between departments. Although she wanted to get a great legal education, she knew the importance of learning how the law related to other fields, whether technical or business. Washington University and the Olin Fellowship provided the support she needed.

Combining her academic interest in chemistry, her undergraduate major, and intellectual property, Liza found that the Olin Fellowship served as a conduit for expanding her service in meaningful ways. During her time at Washington University, Liza served as staff editor for the Global Studies Law Review, treasurer for the Intellectual Property Law Society, and peer advisor for the Center for Career Development at the law school. In addition, she held the position of vice president of recruiting at InSITE, an interdisciplinary student group that completes semester-long consulting projects. This group provided another opportunity to collaborate with other students.

Liza values teamwork, collaboration, and the relationships she built at Washington University. She says, “Having access to and being able to go to program administrators with ideas made a big difference in my experience.” Liza made some significant connections in her law school core group. In fact, she became best friends with a subset of those women. Of her personal connections, Liza shares that she and three other women have become best friends and will be bridesmaids in one another’s weddings. Liza will soon begin practicing corporate law at Kirkland & Ellis, LLP, focusing on fund formation.

Hearing Liza reflect on the impact Washington University and the Olin Fellowship have had on her is heartening. Clearly, she has learned more than empirical knowledge; she has also learned the power of service in leadership: “Being on the other side and sharing what I have learned to help others get to where they want to go is hugely rewarding for me.”
Yvonne Osei, an alumna of the Olin Fellowship, earned an MFA degree in Visual Arts. She found the perfect place to pursue her passion for the arts and her interest in research at Washington University. For graduate school, she looked for a Tier 1 university, and not just an arts school. Washington University more than met that requirement as a Tier 1 research facility, with resources to support groundbreaking discovery.

When Yvonne entered graduate school, she wanted to delve deeper into her practice, but most importantly, she wanted to develop skills that enabled her to impact art education in her home country of Ghana. That remains her goal. Washington University and the Olin Fellowship gave her not only an MFA experience, but they gave her networking opportunities, public speaking skills, creative confidence, and curatorial knowledge. Yvonne desires to continue developing as an artist. She believes that being an artist is not a career, but a lifestyle. You can’t simply change paths. You live and breathe it. And she has a passion to rebrand art so others can appreciate it as a powerful problem-solving medium.

Yvonne understands the value of entering an existing cohort like the Olin Fellowship, with its own histories, its own successes, its own advantages, and its own identity. And she sees the value and the honor in not having to repeat those things. In essence, that burden has already been lifted. Although you add your energy, you’re also being pushed. You stand on the shoulders of women that have gone through the program and have succeeded. She aspires to emulate the level of success that Olin alumnae have achieved.

This Olin Fellow took advantage of the independent study with anthropology professor, Kedron Thomas, who was conducting research on second-hand goods in Guatemala. This aligned closely with Yvonne’s research focusing on the power of clothing, and its role as an artistic medium of expression. Her creative practices examine the politics of clothing, as well as complexion politics, and issues related to colonialism and post colonialism. She says, “That partnership was priceless; and had it not been for that independent study, many of my ideas about the power of clothing would have been severely underdeveloped.”

Yvonne believes that to lead is not necessarily to dominate. She views these as two different things—perhaps polar opposites. To lead is to appreciate the delicateness of power. The things that have mattered to her the most, the works that she has done that have mattered to her the most generate the feeling that her art matters or that it addresses a situation pertaining to people. She believes leadership must extend oneself.

When she attended Washington University, she was the vice president of the Graduate Art Organization (GAO) and a Sam Fox representative for the Graduate Professional Council. Yvonne’s experience with the GAO represented one of the jewels in her crown. She co-curated a student-wide exhibition called Parabola. Together with the president of the organization, they developed the theme of the exhibit: Fractured Self, and what it means to be fractured. They encouraged students campus-wide to submit work to the exhibition. The team offered workshops for non-arts students as well as visual arts students. Even people from the engineering department and the medical school submitted work that they included in the exhibition. “It was an all-inclusive exhibition and gave us all a sense of accomplishment,” says Yvonne.

For Yvonne, Washington University and the Olin Fellowship represent not only academia, but also a sisterhood—a sense of community. She knows the importance of surrounding oneself with like-minded students that want to push the boundaries of leading and learning—in and out of the classroom. She shares this wisdom. “I think in order to understand leadership, you also have to gain a deeper experience and understanding for followership.”
She Leads Conference
A Resounding Voice for Women
The annual conference of the Spencer T. and Ann W. Olin Fellowship for Women in Graduate Study celebrated its 45th anniversary on October 24–25, 2019, through a conference titled She Leads. Since its inception, the Olin Fellowship has enabled women of exceptional promise to become exemplary leaders—citizen scholars committed to excellence in a range of professions, including professors, doctors, artists, engineers, entrepreneurs, attorneys, scientists, and public servants dedicated to making a positive difference in society.

Today this legacy continues with each building on the legacy of the women who preceded them. More than 400 Washington University alumnae from diverse ethnicities, cultures, locations, and backgrounds converged on the campus for a two-day event to celebrate 45 years of the Olin Fellowship supporting and empowering women to lead.

This historic conference took place in two locations—the first day on the campus of Washington University in Graham Chapel and the second day at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel. The conference chairs designed the program to provide opportunities for women to learn and to gain insight from successful and talented women, and to network with renowned thought leaders, leading industry professionals, and inspirational women across disciplines, industries, and backgrounds.

The opening event was a fireside chat hosted by Brittany Packnett Cunningham, an award-winning activist, educator, writer, leader in social justice, and Washington University alumna, and Kayla Reed, co-founder and director of Action St. Louis. Immediately following the opening event in Graham Chapel, attendees had the chance to network with each other and meet the speakers at a cocktail hour on campus.

The conference themes—wealth, wellness, impact, and career—gave the women an approach as to how they should use these as tools towards growth. Over 40 invited speakers participated in the conference, providing an exceptional level of knowledge, wisdom, insight, and expertise covering subjects across disciplines. Dr. Jill Biden, former second lady of the United States, presented the keynote.

The schedule included a variety of venues with ample opportunity for the women to ask questions, including TED-type talks, lunches, fireside chats, and breakout sessions. The networking lunch gave women an opportunity to make contacts in an intimate setting. The interactive breakout sessions included specific topics such as Finding Your Place in Silicon Valley; The Strange Fruit of American Politics; Trail Blazers: Female Cannabusiness Entrepreneurs; Speak Up So We Can Hear You: Advocating for Your Health; Yes We Still Can: Affecting Change in Social Justice; and other subjects related to the theme for the day.

The 45th anniversary celebration of the Spencer T. and Ann W. Olin Fellowship for Women in Graduate Study honored a legacy begun in 1974. The response to the She Leads conference served as a testament to its success—women empowering and supporting women. The industry and thought leaders created an impact that will be felt for years to come. To lead means to move forward. She Leads means she will move forward with passion, strength, fortitude, and a heart of gratitude for what the Olin Fellowship has wrought in her life.

To lead means to move forward.
### BY THE NUMBERS

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<td>Sessions</td>
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*There will be times in your life when your voice—your voice—can change the conversation.*

—JILL BIDEN

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<td>Alumnae Speakers</td>
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<td>Olin Alumnae Attendees</td>
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**FINANCIALS**

## EXPENDITURES BY CATEGORY

- **$1.74M** in direct student support

- Tuition & Fees
- Fall Conference
- Student Housing
- Marketing/Recruitment Materials
- Academic Support

## EXPENDITURES BY SOURCE

- **$2.16M** in total support

- Monticello Endowment
- Graduate School
- Law School
- McKelvey School of Engineering
- Olin Business School
- Brown School
- Other Gifts & Grants
- Spencer & Ann W. Olin Endowment

### Monticello Endowment

- Academic Support: $3,500
- Marketing/Recruitment Materials: $4,753
- Fall Conference: $404,180
- Fellowship Stipends: $507,342
- Networking Events: $9,723
- Programming: $3,645
- Student Housing: $14,959
- Travel Grants: $21,300
- Tuition & Fees: $48,480
  - **Grand Total:** $1,017,882

### Spencer T. & Ann W. Olin Fellowship Endowment

- Tuition & Fees: $23,910
  - **Grand Total:** $23,910

### Schools Of Washington University In St. Louis

- Fellowship Stipends: $153,471
- Tuition & Fees: $965,208
  - **Grand Total:** $1,118,679

### Total Expenditures By Source

- Monticello Endowment: $1,017,882
- Graduate School: $359,114
- Law School: $212,618
- School of Medicine: $160,009
- McKelvey School of Engineering: $155,523
- Olin Business School: $123,017
- Other Gifts & Grants: $65,717
- Brown School: $42,681
- Spencer & Ann W. Olin Endowment: $23,910
  - **Grand Total:** $2,160,471
2020:
SHE LEADS GOES VIRTUAL

The Olin Fellowship at Washington University in St. Louis will host the annual She Leads conference virtually. This event will continue the legacy of She Leads 2019 as a professional conference for women who desire the benefits of an academic conference—but with a fresh ‘un-conference’ approach.

Staying true to the Olin Fellowship mission to make it possible for women of exceptional promise to become leaders in society, She Leads 2020 will focus on blending information with unique perspectives that prompt new thinking and actions, fostering connections that expand networks, and creating moments of inspiration and aspiration.

By fostering connection and discourse centered on the topics of career, wealth, well-being, and impact, She Leads 2020 will reshape the lens in which women view themselves and the world around them.

DECEMBER 3 & 4

Visit sheleads.wustl.edu for more information and to register.
PROGRAM PILLARS

career.
Navigating the decisions, spaces, and industries to continue blazing your trail

wealth.
Information and options for maximizing your portfolio and long-term financial planning

well-being.
Beyond the cliches of self-care, actionable practices to support your body and mind

impact.
Using your voice, skills, and resources to change the world around you
CLASS NOTES

1974
DIANE SLEEK, JD (LAW)
Diane lives and (tele)works in a beautiful, nearly COVID-free state with her retired husband, dog, and two cats. She no longer travels out of state due to COVID but vacations in state (moose safari! whitewater rafting!). She still plays competitive-level Scrabble, but over the Internet instead of in person at tournaments. In these difficult times, she is grateful for good health and continuing employment.

1976
JOAN SANIUK, MS (SYSTEMS SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS)
Joan Saniuk has been named Network Lead for the Southern Hospitality Network of Metropolitan Community Churches (MCC). She and her team foster communication, collaboration, and care among the 12 MCC congregations in the Carolinas, Georgia, and Tennessee.

1977
SUSAN PAGE, JD (LAW)
Susan moved to New Mexico. She says it is a great place to visit. “Once travel opens back up, I would love to see any Fellow out our way.”

1981
TERI CONNOR, PHD, CHEMISTRY
Teri lives in Durham, North Carolina. She is a retired, empty nester with plenty of room. She says, “Visitors are welcome!”

1982
LISA O’REAR, JD (LAW)
In 2012, Lisa earned her Master of Divinity (MDiv) from Bexley Hall Episcopal Seminary. Currently, she serves as Rector of St. Andrew Episcopal Church in Mentor, Ohio.

1985
MARRIN ROBINSON, MFA (PAINTING)
Marrin is thrilled with her move to Sedona, Arizona. “After having kept a place in New England most of my adult life, I was fine with selling my home in Vermont and moving out here.” She shares that she connected with classmates from a small experimental school they all attended, and they traveled from Massachusetts to California and back on a three-month camping trip. Marrin adds, “I’ve started a series of paintings inspired by this magical landscape of red rocks.”

1989
REBECCA ALLEN, PHD, PSYCHOLOGY
Rebecca is excited to be working with the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)-funded Graduate Psychology Education (GPE) program involving substance and opioid use disorder. The work is in partnership with a new and vibrant group of associates, trainees, and community partners at the Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) in rural and urban Alabama. Dr. Allen emphasized that everyone will continue to work toward greater diversity and inclusion at the University of Alabama.

1993
SHARON WAHL, MFA (WRITING)
In 2018, Sharon Wahl’s production company received a grant from Vision Maker Media to fund its latest documentary film, Almost an Island. Sharon anticipates the completion of the film by September 2020. In late 2021, Almost an Island will air at some point on PBS.

1994
DIANE ELZE, PHD, SOCIAL WORK
Over the past year, Dr. Diane Elze participated in Habitat for Humanity International in North Vietnam. Also, she spent six weeks in Singapore with a community agency that focused on restorative practices.

ELIZABETH HILDEBRAND, PHD, ANTHROPOLOGY
In 2018, Dr. Hildebrand was elected president of the Society of Africanist Archaeologists, after previously organizing the biennial conference. Although Elizabeth felt fortunate to serve, she stressed that managing a growing organization has its challenges, even as technology offers many opportunities at the same time; the pandemic forces individuals to connect in various elements. Dr. Hildebrand believes the organization to be a great community of scholars.
1998

MINDY MARKS, PHD, ECONOMICS

Mindy now has a 15-month-old son named Jacob.

2000

KATHRYN CARLSON, MD (MEDICINE)

Kathryn says that academic work continues to be busy, but home life is somewhat simplified as her three boys (7-year-old and 5-year-old twins) are getting older. She shares, “The twins will be starting kindergarten (whatever form that takes, but hopefully in person!) in the fall, so we will be entering a new phase of life.”

2006

KATE FAMA, PHD, ENGLISH & AMERICAN LITERATURE

Kate welcomed the birth of Hannah Margaret Fama, who was born in early 2019 and is happily toddling around Dublin, Ireland.

KELSI SINGER, PHD, EARTH & PLANETARY SCIENCES

The Division for Planetary Sciences (DPS) of the American Astronomical Society (AAS) awarded Dr. Kelsi Singer the Harold C. Urey Prize for early-career scientific achievement.

2008

JESSICA HUTCHINS, PHD, COMPARATIVE LITERATURE

Jessica has been busy! “My article applying narrative theory to the field of science communication, titled ‘Tailoring Scientific Communications for Audience and Research Narrative,’ was published in Current Protocols Essential Laboratory Techniques in January 2020.” Jessica adds happily that she received a grant from the National Institutes of Health to enhance PhD program evaluation in the Washington University Division of Biology & Biomedical Sciences (DBBS) and to study the development of graduate student self-efficacy in DBBS core competency domains. She also recently served as an external graduate program reviewer for the University of Miami Programs in the Biomedical Sciences (PIBS).

ASHLEY MAHER, PHD, ENGLISH AND AMERICAN LITERATURE

In July, Ashley moved from Sydney to the Netherlands to start a job as assistant professor at the University of Groningen. She adds, “My first book, Reconstructing Modernism: British Literature, Modern Architecture, and the State, was published by Oxford University Press in March.”

2010

SARAH BELLOWS-BLAKEY, PHD, HISTORY

In the past few months, Sarah had two articles published. The first article for the Oxford Research Encyclopedia of African History is on the history of girlhood in Africa. Her second article focuses on feminist approaches to Cold War history and the impacts of the Cold War on feminist thought.

MICHELLE EISENBERG, PHD, PSYCHOLOGY

On June 5, 2019, Michelle became a licensed clinical psychologist.

2012

KATIE RAPIER, PHD PHILOSOPHY

Katie married Ben Harster on April 4, 2020, while being safely socially distanced in their apartment. Their dog, Elliott, was the only attendee, as family and friends watched via Zoom. They hope to celebrate properly at a safer time.

2014

YVONNE OSEI, MFA (VISUAL ARTS)

Yvonne married in January of 2019. She is the Membership Chair for Women at Mildred Lane Kemper Art Museum. Yvonne also serves as Co-Chair for Equity, Access, and Integration Committee at Surface Design Association. She delivered a TEDx talk for TEDxGatewayArch titled “The Artist Learns to Roar.”

2016

TAYLOR YOCOM, MFA (VISUAL ARTS)

Taylor shares that her short film “In Paris, I Tango for Maria (take 2)” has been selected for inclusion at the St. Louis Cinema Showcase, Interrobang Film Festival, and the Milwaukee Underground Film Festival.
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Your donation to support the Olin Fellowship will allow Washington University to attract and educate the most talented women, folding them into our community of women leaders.

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