ANNUAL REPORT 2017–18

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. Our vision to provide women with elite graduate preparation is built on the foundation of our core values:

Leadership
Fellows are encouraged to pursue opportunities that positively impact their experiences and the experiences of others.

Service
A culture of service within the fellowship community guides Fellows to a lifetime of contributions to society.

Integrity
The ethical sensibilities of the Midwestern value system, including honesty, cooperation, and hard work, inspire our Fellows.

Inclusion
We are a community, with different voices and perspectives, that contributes to creativity of thought and a robust learning environment for our Fellows.

The Spencer T. and Ann W. Olin Fellowship for Women in Graduate Study is co-sponsored by the Monticello College Foundation and by Washington University. The Foundation continues the mission of Monticello College, the second-oldest women’s college in the United States, to promote women’s education.
“The Spencer T. & Ann W. Olin Fellowship for Women supports transformative graduate and professional students in our schools including Arts & Sciences, Business, Design & Visual Arts, Engineering & Applied Science, Law, Medicine, and Social Work. The Olin community offers women an opportunity to engage with an expansive network of citizen scholars working on society’s most pressing problems.”

WILLIAM F. TATE
Dean and Vice Provost for Graduate Education
Edward Mallinckrodt Distinguished University Professor in Arts & Sciences

LEADERSHIP

DIANA HILL MITCHELL, PhD
Director

SHAWN MILLER
Finance Director

ANGELINA SYLVAIN, PhD
Assistant Director

PATTI CURTIS
Communications Coordinator

RACHEL PEPE
Program Manager

SHEA BALLANTINE
Marketing and Communications Specialist
2018 COHORT

WELCOME TO THE OLIN FELLOWSHIP

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

**BRITTANY FERRELL**
University of Missouri–St. Louis, BSN, RN
Brittany Ferrell is a community activist, organizer, and high-risk obstetrics nurse from St. Louis. Before graduating from the University of Missouri-St. Louis with her Bachelors of Science in Nursing, Brittany co-founded Millennial Activists United and dedicated herself to activism following the murder of Michael Brown in 2014. It is the only local Black, queer woman-led organization that facilitated intentional civic engagement and strategic political action in response to his murder.

Brittany currently serves as a Fellow with the Black Futures Lab—an organization using data and policy to transform Black communities and build independent Black political power throughout the nation. She is in pursuit of a Master of Public Health at Washington University’s Brown School, with interests in maternal health disparities, reproductive health, and the intersections of race, class, and health.

**ASHLEY TATE**
Texas Christian University, BS
Ashley L. Tate is the founder, artistic director, and lead choreographer of Ashleyliane Dance Company (ADC), a full-service dance organization based in the Greater St. Louis area. Ashley has studied dance for over 30 years. She earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Information Science from Texas Christian University where she served as captain of the TCU Showgirls Dance Team for two of her four years there.

Ashley has been an instructor for National Dance Alliance, a cast member in a Sony Dreamworks motion picture, and a bodily-kinesthetic intelligence presenter for St. Louis Area Resources for Community and Human Services (ARCHS). Ashley is a first year graduate student in the Performing Arts Department, pursuing a Master of Fine Arts degree in Dance.

“The Olin Fellowship provides an opportunity to engage with a strong network of women who are doing transformative work and are committed to my development as a scholar and professional.”

—BRITTANY FERRELL, CURRENT FELLOW, SOCIAL WORK
ADITI VASHIST
Bryn Mawr College, BA/MA
University of Michigan, MS
Johns Hopkins University, MS
As a PhD student at the Olin Business School, Aditi Vashist’s research interests include emotions, diversity, and inequality in organizations. She has a decade of experience developing, analyzing, and communicating technical and abstract economic, legislative, mathematical, scientific, and psychological analyses. Professionals from across industries have benefited from her work, including corporate executives, federal government legislators, public-policy professionals, college students, and theatergoers. Aditi has undergraduate and graduate degrees in mathematics, economics, and physics, and is a lifetime student of the performing arts.

KATHERINE VEGA
University of Chicago, BA
Katherine Vega is a student at the School of Law. She is a first-generation Ecuadorian American and grew up in Plainfield, Illinois, a Chicago suburb. She earned her BA with honors in public policy studies (with a specialization in human rights) and political science from the University of Chicago in 2018, and minored in Russian and European studies. Katherine’s impressive list of internships includes the Barack Obama Foundation and the MacArthur Foundation in Chicago as well as the Clinton Foundation in New York City. At the University of Chicago, Katherine was involved with the Office of Multicultural Student Affairs, coordinated programming at the University Community Service Center, and served as a news editor for the university’s independent student newspaper, The Chicago Maroon. She is interested in social justice and human rights and plans to work in public interest law.

ALLISON WALTER
St. Louis University, BA
Allison Walter is a first-year law student from Shawnee, Kansas. A collegiate track and field athlete, she graduated from Saint Louis University summa cum laude where she studied theology and communications. Following college, she worked for several years in Washington, D.C., in the faith and politics movement and later as a Catholic high school teacher at her alma mater. She most recently served as deputy press secretary for Ralph Northam’s successful 2017 campaign to become the Governor of Virginia. A writer on issues of faith and politics, she is currently a regular contributor to the National Catholic Reporter.

ADMISSIONS AT A GLANCE

685 applications

8 offers made (1% selectivity)

18% from underrepresented groups

5 accepted (62.5% yield)
A STEP ABOVE THE REST

UNIQUE AMONG GRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS IN THE U.S.

The Olin Fellowship at Washington University emerges as truly unique when compared to the hundreds of graduate fellowships offered among institutions within the Association of American Universities (AAU). Most fellowships pursue a broadly defined commitment to diversity that is limited to a single area of study. We are the only fellowship offered by a university that provides comprehensive and continued support exclusively to women while supporting a wide range of graduate studies. Our focus is on networking and building community; encouraging our Fellows to create a space to collaborate across disciplines; and making connections campus-wide.

- designated housing
- leadership & professional development
- interdisciplinary networking with current students and alumnae

$32,160* annual stipend of

$600 travel award each year for up to 4 years **

*for academic year 2018–19
** or the length of study, whichever is least
THE OLIN FELLOWSHIP NETWORK
In a survey distributed to Olin Fellowship Alumnae last Spring

36% of respondents work at a college or university

Alumnae are located across the nation, with a concentration in the West, Midwest, and East Coast.

Alumnae overseas reside in 5 countries

“I think what Olin really focuses on is helping to foster an environment that allows already highly intelligent, educated, motivated women to thrive and to continue making a difference in the profession that they are in.”

—LIZA MIADZVEDSKAYA, CURRENT FELLOW, LAW/BUSINESS
RECIENT 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.

HEATHER BEAL
MFA, Dance
Heather has performed around the United States and France, as well as in many productions at The Black Repertory and the Muny. She is an artist-in-residence in the theatre department at the University of Southern Indiana in Evansville.

SARAH BELLows-BLAKELY
PhD, History
As a historian of 20th century Africa, Sarah’s research explores the growth of girls’ rights and economic history in Kenya. She is currently a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at Humboldt University in Berlin.

KARLA BERGONZI
PhD, Biomedical Engineering
Karla’s research focuses on the development of novel optical imaging technologies, specifically brain imagery. She is continuing her research as a postdoctoral researcher at Washington University.

ELISSA BULLION
PhD, Anthropology
Elissa was appointed as a Washington University Volkswagen Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow and is conducting research and writing in Germany. Her research focuses on the early globalization across Central Asia and the wider Eurasian continent.

CAITLIN CAREY
PhD, Psychological & Brain Sciences
Caitlin’s research investigates the neural and genetic correlates of risk for psychopathology, as well as comorbidity between psychiatric and substance use disorders. Caitlin is a postdoctoral researcher at the Broad Institute in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

KAITLYN FARIES
PhD, Chemistry
Kaitlyn’s research centers on understanding the fundamental processes of photosynthesis, specifically those that govern light-harvesting and electron transfer in purple bacteria. Currently, she is a postdoctoral researcher at Washington University.
SHAWNTELLE FISHER
MSW, Social Work
Shawntelle is interested in youth and families, and the impact of the school-to-prison pipeline on family structure. She is continuing her work as CEO of SoulFisher Ministries in St. Louis, an organization that recently received a $500,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Justice.

REBECCA GILSON
PhD, Biomedical Engineering
Rebecca’s research focuses on developing unique methods for optical imaging in cancer detection. She works at the University of New South Wales in Australia as a postdoctoral researcher.

NARA HIGANO
PhD, Physics
Nara’s research investigates the function of neonatal and pediatric lungs using both ultra-fast proton MRI and diffusion MRI. She is a research fellow in the Center for Pulmonary Imaging Research at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital.

CT HWANG
PhD, Movement Science
CT’s doctoral work examined the biomechanical, psychological, and neurological risk factors for the development of low back pain during prolonged standing. Currently, she manages a portfolio of university intellectual property in Washington University’s Office of Technology Management.

MICHELLE ICHINCO
PhD, Computer Science
Michelle is currently an assistant professor at the University of Massachusetts–Lowell. Her research investigated human–computer interaction, with an emphasis on making programming accessible and fun for novice programmers and children.

JILL KUHLBERG
PhD, Social Work
Jill combined her interests in computer simulation modeling, education, social justice, and feminist philosophy of science during her graduate years in the Brown School. This fall Jill began a postdoctoral position in Health Policy and Management at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

ALLYSON MAYER
PhD, Developmental, Regenerative and Stem Cell Biology
Allyson’s research centers on glucose metabolism and nutrient sensing in the liver. She works as a postdoctoral researcher at Washington University.

ANNE ROBINSON
PhD, Biochemistry
Anne’s research investigated membrane proteins fundamental to communication between cells. She is a postdoctoral teaching fellow at Washington University.

TAYLOR YOCOM
MFA, Visual Art
Taylor visually explores the gender performativity of female niceness. This fall she will be an artist-in-residence at the Cité Internationale des Arts in Paris, designing video projects responding to romance and feminism in the #metoo era.
PUTTING SCIENCE TO WORK FOR THE HEALTH OF WOMEN

43rd ANNUAL OLIN FELLOWSHIP CONFERENCE, OCTOBER 2017

Dr. Monica Ramirez-Basco gave the keynote address for the 43rd Annual Olin Fellowship Conference at which she discussed the intersection between research and policy as it relates to improving women’s health in America. She shared her journey and encouraged female scholars in the audience to follow her lead in being persistent, pushing outside of insular “academic silos,” and being willing to take risks.

Dr. Ramirez-Basco’s current passion centers on the Strategic Plan for Women’s Health Research developed by the National Institutes of Health. She views this Strategic Plan as one way of pushing back against the traditional idea of focusing on women’s health as primarily reproductive-based. Dr. Ramirez-Basco is committed to examining the interplay of biological, psychological, social, and economic influences on women’s health, using an innovative disciplinary approach.
Tarana Burke shares the heartbreaking story behind the genesis of the viral ‘me too’ movement, and gives strength and healing to those who have experienced sexual trauma or harassment.

The simple yet courageous #metoo hashtag campaign has emerged as a rallying cry for people everywhere who have survived sexual assault and sexual harassment—and Tarana’s powerful, poignant story as creator of what is now an international movement that supports survivors will move, uplift, and inspire the audience.

#Metoo is not just an overnight hashtag sensation; Tarana has dedicated more than 25 years of her life to social justice and to laying the groundwork for a movement that was initially created to help young women of color who survived sexual abuse and assault. The movement now inspires solidarity, amplifies the voices of thousands of victims of sexual abuse, and puts the focus back on survivors.

A sexual assault survivor herself, Tarana is now working under the banner of the ‘me too’ Movement to assist other survivors and those who work to end sexual violence.

SAVE THE DATE

45TH ANNUAL OLIN CONFERENCE AND REUNION

OCTOBER 25–26, 2019

RITZ-CARLTON, ST. LOUIS

> Come celebrate the impact Olin Fellowship alumnae have had at Washington University and beyond.

> Engage and connect with fellow alumnae and current students.

> Conference agenda including alumnae talks, sessions, and keynote speaker to be announced Spring 2019.
### 2018 Fiscal Year

#### Monticello Endowment:
- Fellowship Stipends: $565,877
- Tuition & Fees: $164,315
- Networking Events: $21,037
- Travel Grants: $12,916
- Fall Conference: $7,513
- Programming: $1,411
- Salaries: $0

**Total Monticello Funding:** $773,069

#### Monticello Annual Gift:
- Tuition & Fees: $134,803

**Total Monticello Funding:** $907,872

#### University Funding
- Graduate School: $498,038
- School of Medicine: $327,979
- School of Engineering: $256,975
- Other Gifts & Grants: $225,203
- Brown School: $84,449
- Sam Fox School: $66,810
- Law School: $30,978

**Total University Funding:** $1,490,432

**Total Olin Fellowship Funding:** $2,398,304

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**95.3% of MCF funds go directly to Fellows**
ALUMNAE NEWS

CLASS NOTES

1974
NANCY POPE, PhD, COMPARATIVE LITERATURE: Nancy retired from Washington University in June 2018 after a career that included serving as director of the Olin Fellowship Program. She plans to spend time on research and writing.

DIANE SLEEK, JD: Diane retired last May after working for 30 years as a lawyer in the Maine Attorney General’s Office representing the Maine Department of Corrections. In September she went back to work part-time for the Department of Corrections helping to write policies. She enjoys playing in the Scrabble tournament circuit and traveling abroad with her family.

1978
ROANNE KARZON, PhD, COMMUNICATION SCIENCES: Roanne retired from St. Louis Children’s Hospital in April 2018, after 34 years of service. She worked as the clinical manager for audiology, cochlear, sleep, and vision programs and most recently in the department of Therapy and Audiology Services to measure clinical outcomes and foster research. Upon retirement, she looks forward to traveling (China in the fall of 2018), spending more time with family, learning how to use her “fancy camera,” and figuring out the best places to volunteer—suggestions and advice are welcome.

1980
SHERYL SKOLNICK, PhD, ECONOMICS: Sheryl recently started working for Optum Health Care’s executive leadership team, after a successful 30 years on Wall Street as an analyst covering the health care services sector and running a research department. She is looking forward to pivoting from the role of analyst to an active participant and to make the health care system work better for everyone. Sheryl shares that “it is a privilege to be part of this organization and to pivot from the analyst’s role of a ‘movie critic’ to an active participant in our mission.”

1983
LAURA ROKUSEK CAIN, MD: In her role as Boeing Company Medical Director, Laura moved to Mesa, Arizona, in April 2018. She continues to be grateful for the assistance she received from the Olin Fellowship.

1984
ADRIENNE RUSBARSKY, MBA: After working for 17 years as a senior administrator at The College School, an independent pre-8th grade program in St. Louis, Adrienne decided to take a sabbatical and begin a new chapter. She is listening to her intuition and exploring organizations where she can make a meaningful contribution, while also exploring some entrepreneurial ideas. She recalls her 18 years as Olin Conference Coordinator (1998–2016) as a delight, getting to work alongside so many amazing Fellows. She is excited to have some time and space to thoughtfully take the next step of her journey, following her heart and curiosity.

1986
SUE WALLACE, PhD, CHEMISTRY: Sue joined Accuray in May 2017 as the VP & General Manager of the Americas. She is currently leading a transformation of commercial operations from startup success to industry maturity.

1988
LORETTA HAGGARD, JD: Loretta recently joined the Board of Directors for the World Bird Sanctuary, while continuing her work for the legal firm of Schuchat, Cook & Werner in St. Louis.

1990
KIM JONES, MD: After working as a general pediatrician for 20 years, Kim plans to pivot into nonprofit work.

“The whole Olin experience made me feel highly valued as a woman academic. And I found my fellow Fellows to be really inspiring. Here were these young women who were so accomplished and I knew they were going to make important impacts on their fields and on the world. So getting to have dinner with a group like that is uplifting.

“When I got [the Olin Fellowship], I felt so happy and so much gratitude to be recognized in that way. I think being from a small town and getting your bachelor’s at the state university, and then to come to a place like WashU and get that support, was very validating and self-empowering. I’d say it’s one of the best things that’s happened to me in my academic career.”

—LESLIE SCHEULER, PhD, ’02
1991


AMY CHEN, M.ARCH, ARCHITECTURE: Amy is working towards her post-baccalaureate certificate in writing from UC Berkeley and is on the editorial board for the student Art & Literature Review for UC Berkeley Extension. She ran as a delegate for the California Democratic Party and received the most votes for her Assembly District. She was appointed co-chair for the Legislative Action Committee for the California Democratic Party’s API Caucus in 2018.

1997

ROBIN DOWELL-DEEN, DSC, BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING: Robin recently obtained tenure at the University of Colorado, Boulder.

1998

BECKY CAMPBELL, MD: After nearly a decade of working in health care information technology, Becky went back to school for a teaching credential in high school biology and recently started teaching at the high school in her community.

MINDY MARKS, PHD, ECONOMICS: Mindy recently moved to Boston after spending 12 years in southern California—she would love to reconnect with alumnae in the greater Boston area.

2003


2004

NECIA CHRONISTER, PHD, GERMANIC LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES: Necia earned tenure and was promoted to Associate Professor of German at Kansas State University.

2005

ANNA TEEKELL, PHD, ENGLISH & AMERICAN LITERATURE: Anna wrapped up two big projects in July 2017: the birth of her second son, and the contract for her first book. In 2018, she will launch the book in Ireland and move overseas with her family. She plans to spend the fall semester as a visiting lecturer at the University of Glasgow while teaching Christopher Newport University students studying abroad at UG.

2006

KATE FAMA, PHD, ENGLISH & AMERICAN LITERATURE: Kate landed in Dublin in 2016, and works as an assistant professor of American Literature at University College Dublin. She co-directs a research group on Modern Architecture and Narrative and recently organized a conference entitled ‘Single Lives: 200 Years of Independent Women in Literature and Popular Culture,’ with a keynote by Rebecca Traister. Kate recently married Berlin native and jazz musician Alexander Tzschentke, in a small ceremony outside Dublin.

“The Olin Fellowship offered not only financial support, but that psychological, social, and cultural support to enable me to go wherever I wanted to be.”

—YVONNE OSEI, MFA *16

“Celebrate your successes, learn to embrace it so that your daughters, your nieces, your younger female friends will be a little bit more changed from what we are today.”

—DEBRA WOOD, JD *85
KELSI SINGER, PHD, EARTH & PLANETARY SCIENCES: Kelsi was promoted to Senior Research Scientist at the Southwest Research Institute in Boulder, CO, where she has worked since July of 2014. She was named a Co-Investigator on the NASA New Horizons mission which flew by Pluto in 2015 and will fly by another small Kuiper Belt Object on January 1, 2019.

2009

KATYA APEKINA, MFA, WRITING: Katya’s first novel, The Deeper the Water, the Uglier the Fish, was published in September 2018.

2010

MICHELLE EISENBERG, PHD, PSYCHOLOGICAL & BRAIN SCIENCES: Michelle is a first-year postdoctoral fellow at the Sierra Pacific MIRECC at the VA Palo Alto Healthcare System and Stanford University. She is working with Amit Etkin to use multimodal neuroimaging methods to identify biomarkers of treatment response in people with PTSD.

2012

REBECCA GILSON, PHD, BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING: After graduation, Rebecca moved to New South Wales, Australia, to begin her first postdoc. She is currently working with Kat Gaus using single molecule approaches to biology to study cell migration. She enjoys exploring Australia, mostly via camping and hiking trips and would love to connect with alumnae or current Fellows in the area.

2015

SHANE TURNER-SMITH, MSW: Shanea is a new mother, to an almost five-month old baby boy named CJ (for short).

CELEBRATING MAGGIE WATKINS

Margaret Dowd Watkins, passed away on February 22, 2018. “Maggie” worked in Washington University’s Graduate School for 22 years and was director of the Olin Fellowship Program from 1979–1998. Her legacy includes the Margaret Watkins Travel Fund, established upon her retirement in 1998 so alumnae could contribute gifts on her behalf.

“For many, Maggie was inseparable from our Olin Fellowship experience, and we were all fortunate to have her as our advocate and role model.”

—MICHELLE SINGLETON, PHD *98
HOW YOU CAN HELP

**SHARE**
Inspire others through your story. Update Fellows and alumnae on recent accomplishments and career moves.

Are there calls for funding proposals, internship opportunities, or open positions in your organization? Keep us in the know.

**MENTOR**
Guide the next generation of Fellows by offering your talent and wisdom to help them reach their full potential.

**ENGAGE**
Attend the annual conference, get involved with the Alumnae Outreach committee, and interact with current Fellows and alumnae at regional events.

**GIVE**
Your donation to support the Olin Fellowship will allow Washington University to attract and educate the most talented women and strengthen the Fellowship Network.

**TO DISCUSS GIVING OPTIONS:**
Contact Associate Director of Development Jake Mydlo at (314) 935-3609, jake.mydlo@wustl.edu, or visit gifts.wustl.edu for more information.

Washington University in St. Louis
The Graduate School