

# History is All Over

## MACALESTER COLLEGE HISTORY DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER FIND YOUR PLACE IN HISTORY

FALL/WINTER  
2020

*History is All Over* is a publication of the Macalester College History Department, sharing student, faculty, and alumni news; and highlighting opportunities, classes, study away, and research.

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above: Old Main, Spring 2021  
Photo by Prof. Masha Fedorova

at right: Photo of an old postcard captioned, "Macalester College, between the Twin Cities, MINN"



This issue of *History is All Over* follows a year of adjusting to the pandemic, and to global and local crises. When we published our last issue, I did not expect we'd still be working together while apart, mostly via Zoom, a full year later. The resilience and creativity demonstrated by our cohort of faculty and students is inspiring, and further confirms my faith in your ability to achieve the unimagined, once you have imagined it. It has been my privilege to assist in helping you realize your goals, for decades from Old Main 311, and this year mostly from my home. And it is my pleasure to bear witness (often in the pages of *History is All Over*) to those accomplishments. This newsletter is another celebration of accomplishments that have been achieved while adapting to unknowns, and to frequent changes.

-Herta Pitman

# INTRODUCING PROFESSOR WALTER GREASON

This year the department engaged in a search for a new historian of African American History, and chair of the department, We are happy to announce that Professor Walter Greason has been hired for the role, and will be joining the faculty in the fall.



**Professor Greason's** research focuses on economic history, specifically the origins of the transatlantic economy in the 18th century. Prof. Greason has written six books, including *Industrial Segregation*, and *Cities Imagined: The African Diaspora in Media and History*. He is currently working on a book manuscript about the transnational history of industrialization and how industrial markets evolved in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. His recent digital humanities projects; *The Wakanda Syllabus*, *The Racial Violence Syllabus*, and *the Sojourners' Trail* online educational game received global attention. In 2021-22 Prof. Greason will teach classes on African American history, Black women's autobiographies, and historiography. As a teacher, his goal is to show students how to utilize traditional research practices in order to make their work accessible to global audiences in the 21st century. Prof. Greason has been on the faculty at Monmouth University for the past eight years, where most recently he served as chair of the Department of Educational Counseling and Leadership. Born and raised in New Jersey, Prof. Greason received his BA in History from Villanova University and his doctorate in History from Temple University.

# CLASS OF 2021

## Majors

Michelle Armstrong-Spielberg, Owen Carter, Daria Chamness, Edd DuPree, Emma Harrison, Cordelia Jones, Nathaniel Lay, Claire Menard, Jennings Mergenthal, Callan O'Connor, Sofia Parmelee, Irene Schulte, Allison Shorter, Rena Zhang

## Minors

Briah Cooley, Morgan Doherty, Olivia Gigliotti, Brendan Greenberg, Zirui Han, Robert Shepetin

## Capstone Update

To offer more flexibility, the capstone seminar was split into two sections, one in the second module and one in the third module. Both sections were taught by Professor Ernie Capello. By having more capstone sections, the department made it possible for more students to study away or graduate on time. History Department students' capstone research was presented at The History Department Capstone Roundtable Presentations, in a series of roundtable discussions via Zoom. The event series took place in early April. The schedule of participants and topics for each roundtable, along with an abstract and short video presentation of each of the projects can be found on the [2020-2021 academic year history capstone projects website](#). Attendees were encouraged to watch the videos prior to the roundtables, which focused on questions raised, and the implications of, the exciting and innovative work produced by our majors. Congratulations to our capstone students on their impressive projects.



Senior **Emma Harrison** contributed to an op-ed in *Teen Vogue*. In it, she encourages people not to do business with the banks financing the climate crisis.

[\*\*Banks That Fund the Fossil Fuel Industry Don't Deserve Your Business\*\*](#)



# Congratulations to our 2020-2021 Prize Recipients

Please join the History Department in celebrating our 2020-2021 prize recipients. Congratulations to our students earned these prizes:

- Yahya Armajani Prize in Global History: Michelle Armstrong-Spielberg
- Yahya Armajani Endowed Prize for an international student: Edgar Li
- Case Prize in American Western History: Emma Harrison
- Kenneth L. & Martha S. Holmes Prize in History of the Americas: Daria Chamness
- J. Huntley Dupre Prize in European History: Claire Menard
- Teresita Martinez Vergne Memorial Prize: Isu Muenala Reed
- Kathleen Rock Hauser Prize in Women's and Gender History: Lily Denehy, Cordelia Jones
- Ernest R. Sandeen Memorial Prize: Jennings Mergenthal, Rena Zhang



Visitors to the third floor of Old Main may now find the names of these prize winners added to our commemorative plaques (or see them in the photos here)



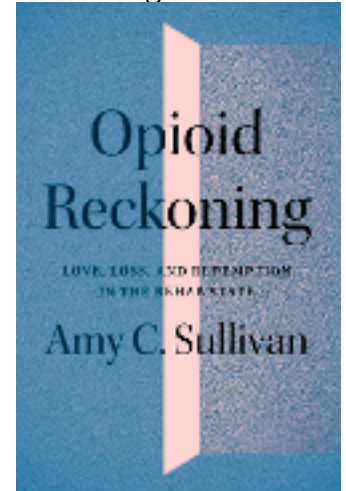
**Cordelia Jones, '21** was at her off-campus home to receive delivery of departmental swag. The blue and white History mug has been our gift to every declared major for nearly 20 years. In this photo, Cordelia, also a Classics minor, has just received the History mug, and the Classics travel mug.

# Faculty News and Awards

**Professor Amy Sullivan** contributed the chapter, "Seen and Heard: Using DiCE to Reconnect Communities and Enrich History Pedagogy." to the award-winning book *Digital Community Engagement: Partnering Communities with the Academy* (Univ of Cincinnati Press). The book was awarded the 2021 Best Book of the Year by the National Council on Public History. and also the 2021 National Council on Public History prize for "the best new book about or growing out of public history theory, study, or practice."

**Professor Sullivan's** work had life-saving impact recently, when her student El Alcala saved a person's life using a Narcan kit provided via Sullivan's "Uses and Abuses" class. The story about El's intervention was published in this *Mac Weekly* article. Professor Sullivan told us, " I am still so amazed by the brave FY [First Year], El Alcala, who saved a stranger on a bus, with naloxone and during the pandemic! Since last spring the training has involved mailing the Narcan kits to students and of course, training online."

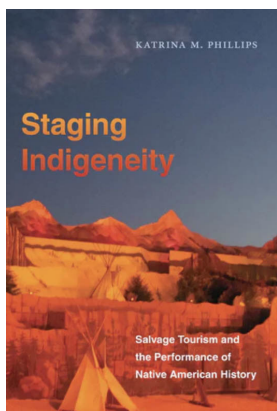
**Professor Sullivan's** new book, *Opioid Reckoning: Love, Loss, and Redemption in the Rehab State* will be published by University of Minnesota Press in October, and is available for pre-order now, at <https://www.upress.umn.edu/book-division/books/opioid-reckoning>.



The book is based on oral history interviews Prof. Sullivan conducted. The agnostic approach it takes to everything—drug use, parenting, treatment, recovery, medication, AA, abstinence and moral judgements—emerged as a result of listening to more than sixty people share their life stories. Read more at the Minnesota Opioid Project website here.

**Professor Katie Phillips'** book, *Staging Indigeneity: Salvage Tourism and the Performance of Native American History*, was published by UNC Press in March 2021.

As tourists increasingly moved across the United States in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, a surprising number of communities looked to capitalize on the histories of Native American people to create tourist attractions with performances that claimed to honor an Indigenous past while depicting that past on white settlers' terms. Professor Phillips links the origins of these performances to their present-day incarnations to reveal how they constituted what she calls "salvage tourism" -a set of practices paralleling so-called salvage ethnography, which documented the histories, languages, and cultures of Indigenous people while reinforcing a belief that Native American societies were inevitably disappearing. Prof. Phillips argues, that across time, tourism, nostalgia, and authenticity converge in the creation of salvage tourism, which blends tourism and history, contestations over citizenship, identity, belonging, and the continued use of Indians and Indianness as a means of escape, entertainment, and economic development.



Above: Images from the virtual launch of Prof. Katrina Phillips' new book, where speakers included Prof. Phillips, Milly Cogen ('21), Lily Denehy ('22), Kasia Majewski ('19), and Jennings Mergenthal ('21)



# Faculty Updates, They're back!

Welcome back Professors Katrina Phillips, Jessica Pearson, Ernesto Capello, and Chris Wells, who were all away on sabbatical last year. Here, we share a few highlights of what they have been doing now that they are (mostly virtually) back on campus.

**Professor Ernie Capello** moderated a bilingual workshop/roundtable about public history, decolonization, and forms of performative narrative histories with colleagues in Quito through the International Federation for Public History.

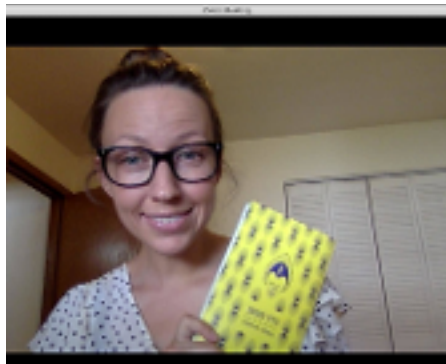
**Professor Jess Pearson's** talk, "Libérté or Communauté? Public Health in France and Francophone Africa from Empire to Covid" was featured at an event about French colonial public health policy, hosted by the Institute for European, Russian and Eurasian Studies.

Professor Pearson also recently had two book chapters published. Her chapter entitled "Internationalists in Flight? Tourism, Propaganda, and the Making of Air France's Global Empire" was published in *Internationalists in European History: Rethinking the Twentieth Century*; and her chapter "The French Empire Goes to San Francisco: The Founding of the United Nations and the Limits of Colonial Reform," which was translated into Portuguese by Hugo Gonçalves Dores, was published in *Os Impérios do Internacional- Perspectivas, Genealogias e Processos*.

**Professor Katie Phillips** was quoted in this "Black Activism Ripples through Indian Country and Beyond" article in *Indian Country Today*; and in this "Native Americans Helped Flip Arizona. Can They Mobilize in Georgia?" article in the *New York Times*. She participated in the Minnesota Historical Society's "Conversations about Historical Erasure," like this one she hosted in September. and has had articles published on the National Museum of American History ("Where Two Waters Come Together": The Confluence of Black and Indigenous History at Bdote") and Washington Post websites ("Longtime police brutality drove American Indians to join the George Floyd protests," and "It's time to recognize the forgotten Americans who helped elect Joe Biden") Professor Phillips also participated in this panel about the appointment of Deb Howland as Secretary of the Interior on NPR's 1A program.

**Professor Phillips** brought the history of Sacagawea to this BBC "You're Dead to Me" podcast.

at right: Professor Katie Phillips shared this photo with us that she took when she and her mom "took a quick research trip to Frog Bay Tribal National Park on our reservation over Thanksgiving break (while following COVID protocols, of course!)."



at left: Professor Jessica Pearson shared this picture of her "33rd First Day of School, " as seen on Zoom. Here she is, hanging out in her "classroom" waiting for her first-year students to arrive. The Making Modern Europe First Year Course, she wrote, "started with a Little Africa in Paris traveling history mystery, which helped kick off a discussion of how we can start challenging our existing ideas about what Europe is, where it is, and who is European."

# EMERITI FACULTY

Our Emeriti Faculty are making some news too.

**Professor Mahmoud El-Kati** in articles in the *Star Tribune*, *The Macalester Today*, and in a TPT documentary

[\*Star Tribune\* | Four Minnesota Black elders tell their stories in a film about racism by singer J.D. Steele](#)

One of those interviewed for "Listen! Please!" is former history professor Mahmoud El-Kati. Professor Elkati is also featured in this article in the *Macalester Today* alumni magazine.

**Peter Rachleff** tells us that Professor El-Kati has donated his books to the East Side Freedom Library, where they will be available once they have been sorted, cataloged, and shelved.

In this *Star Tribune* article **James Stewart**, professor emeritus of American history, argues that in order to address systemic racism we need to focus on what happened after slavery.

[\*\*For American racism, slavery was only the beginning\*\*](#)

Professor Stewart has also created a series of videos about racism's origins in US history. An introduction to his project and the first episode of his series can be found here.



Old Main in Spring.

Photo by  
Professor Jess Pearson

# ALUMNI NEWS

**We welcome news to share about our alumni from grads of decades ago, to recent ones.**

**Beryl Dee Christianson-Flathman-Braaten '53** "listened to your History is All Over, and edu/history. I congratulate you! You have come a long way since my 1953 graduation with Dr. Holmes, head of the department."

**Benjamin Dille '82** is moving to Kabul. He wrote in June saying, "I will be Minister Counselor for Management Affairs, running the administrative platform of the largest U.S. Embassy. I have been in the Foreign Service for 29 years and, in September of last year, I had the chance to serve as Charge d'Affaires (Acting Ambassador) during a time of revolutionary change in Khartoum Sudan, but was able to slip in visits to the pyramids and to the battlefield of Omdurman, so history is never far from my life."

**Kim Nielsen '88** emailed to say "What a marvelous newsletter! Thank you for sharing. I'm a History Department alum (1988) and want to share news of my new book:

<https://www.press.uillinois.edu/books/catalog/67kfd3bk9780252043147.html>.

**Christopher Tassava '95** received a PhD in American History from Northwestern University in 2003. After teaching history for a few years, he took a job in fundraising at Carleton College, where he is currently the director of the Grants Office.

**Margaret Weber '18** has submitted her dissertation for her MPhil in Public History & Cultural Heritage. She writes, "It covers the intersection of public and private memory in contemporary Russia through the lens of Victory Day commemorations and history education."

**Kasia Majewski '19** left her graduate program "because the COVID limitations for travel and research became too difficult to navigate" and is the midst of a job search.

## HISTORY CLUB

In place of in-person meetings, History Club featured weekly Zoom meetings where members would come prepared with anecdotes on the week's topic or simply listen.

Some favorite stories shared by members this semester include:

- The Cold War-era US Air Force ejecting black bears from jets
- Napoleon being swarmed by rabbits
- Who would win in a fight: Ronald Reagan or Margaret Thatcher?
- Listing every famous person who died in a small aircraft accident
- The most overrated/underrated Roman Emperors
- Which history professor seems the most likely to live in Old Main?
- Ye olde fashion mishaps



History Club members Lily Denehy '22 (bouncer) and Brooke Sapper '22 (co-president) with Macalester blankets won in a History Department contest earlier this year.



# WHERE WILL YOU GO WITH HISTORY?

Students, and parents, often ask where a future with a History major might lead. Answers to that question are far-ranging, and depend quite a bit on the individuals and their interests. If you are looking for the big picture answers, our Career Exploration Center provides access to What Can I do with My Major lists. Our ["Jobs and Internships"](#) page has links to sites, on-campus and off, that can help you address your own questions about where studying history can take you. It's a good place to look when you wonder about your future in history. There you will find links to the American Historical Association's "Careers for History Majors" mini guide, and their "What to Do with a BA in History" blog, and more links to multiple organizations that share listings of job, internship, publication, conference, networking, and other opportunities. Of course, our best resource is our professors. Make time to have a conversation with one or more of them to talk about your particular interest in history, and where it could lead.

Visit [History's Opportunity Update Listings](#) to find opportunities to:

**Attend: Free Online Screening & Virtual Discussion of "Blood Memory" Film**

**Connect: FindSpark to Assist Students and Alumni to Form New Connections**

**Engage: Angie Craig's Campaign for Congress Interns Sought**

**Publish: Call for Papers: On Incarceration**

**Participate: ESFL Continuing to Support Stories and Build Connections**

**Learn: Virtual History Lectures**

**Tutor: English Tutoring for Refugees**

**Publish: Call for Submissions, Undergraduate History Journal**

**Teach: Online Summer Teaching Positions**

**Intern: Internships at Smithsonian National Museum of American**

## Student Opportunity Updates

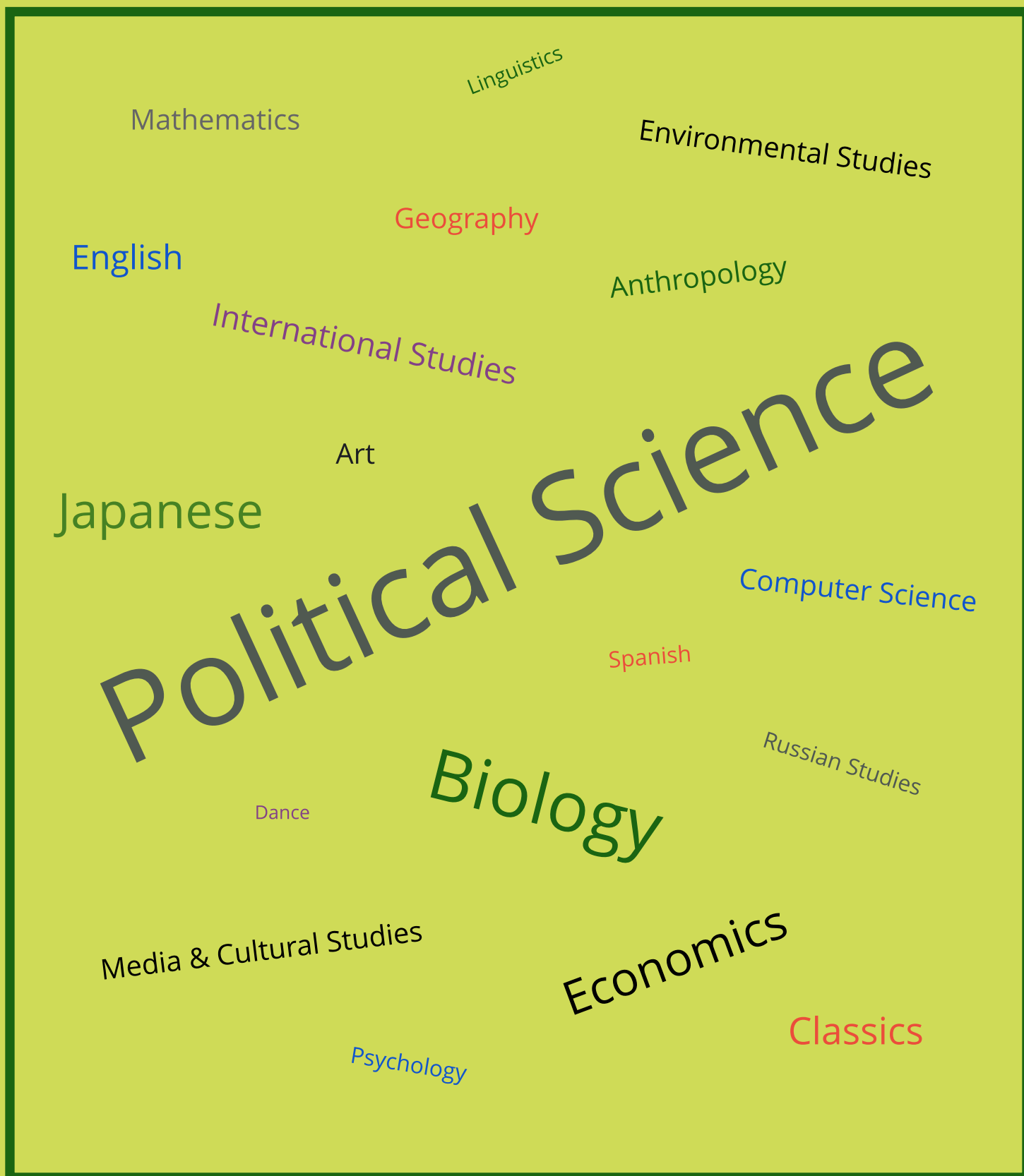
We are often asked to share opportunities with our students. We do that by adding them to the ["Opportunity Updates" on our web site.](#)

Opportunity Updates is where we consolidate announcements and information for your convenience, and try to avoid inundating you with frequent emails that are not about our own events. The updates include calls for papers, internships, job opportunities, grad programs, volunteering opportunities, fellowships, research/project opportunities, events, study away programs, and more.

# WHERE DO OUR STUDENTS INTERSECT?

History majors double-major in many other disciplines.

The larger the word in the image below, the more our students also major in that department .



# HISTORY CHANGES

In the year since our last newsletter, we have found ourselves capable of rising to unexpected challenges. I am certainly happy to be closing the door on the worst of COVID, and optimistic about what is to come. I wrote a note for that 2020 newsletter that unintentionally foresaw more than I anticipated at the time; capturing a message that is even more appropriate now, as I will be retiring on May 31. I have had good fortune for over 20 years to make my work home in Old Main 311 (and more recently in the blue guest bedroom at my house), and to spend some of that time with you.

With minor edits, here again is my message from last year:

My rear-view mirror says "Objects In The Mirror Are Closer Than They Appear," but Meatloaf says "Objects in the Rear View Mirror May Appear Closer Than They Are." I say that both these things are true. In January 2020, just as a new virus was starting to make news, I had a big anniversary. On a (long ago? recent? lucky? fateful?) January day 20 years ago, I interviewed with the chairs of history and classics for a temp job to serve as department coordinator for the rest of the semester. I got the job. I worked in the same room for 20 years, except for right now I'm working at home. I remember telling my interviewers that my prior work experiences would combine to make me a good fit for this job. I was right. I didn't tell them that I couldn't type. I still can't. I remember telling another staff person early on, that I didn't take the job to make friends. I made many friends. My job has been everything I expected, and so much that I did not expect. Even here in my little nest-away workplace, I'm alternately: surprised, delighted, inspired, infuriated, distracted, amused, informed, proud; by/with/of my work, my co-workers, my co-students, and the world my work has opened to me.

The pandemic has made me even-more-than-usually willing to flaunt professional convention, and say feelings; to offer and reach for comfort from one another; to be tender with you, and appreciate my own good fortune. I point to history in its largest sense, and to our personal history, to see our way through this moment, and I try not to sound like an old windbag doing it, but sometimes I say things that I think are worth repeating. So I will tell you this again. We are historians. We know that pandemics, and all manner of things, come, and that they also go. This moment is just this once. It's a strange, but still wonderful, moment. We will find ways to have fun and enjoy it, and to be proud of our accomplishments. They are worth celebrating in all the ways we can dream up.

This little history of History isn't about ending. I'm looking back, AND ahead. To the things we are hoping to do again together even if apart. I've loved the Macalester years. I am not saying goodbye. I'm looking forward.

Auf wiedersehen, Heart/Herta



At left, Herta practices her "retirement coffee drinking on a patio," proving herself retirement-ready.