

Alison Wetter '79

Catching up after some time, Alison Wetter, one of our earliest majors, reports that she tells everyone how she transferred from the University of Virginia to Stanford in her junior year *because* of American Studies! After graduation, she practiced commercial real estate law in her hometown of Memphis, Tennessee, before retiring to raise her family and volunteer in the nonprofit community. In 2013, she began work on Watch Love Work, a project that she says American Studies helped prepare her for. Partnered with the nonprofit City Leadership and driven by local funding, Watch Love Work draws its inspiration from Hope in Cities' work in healing racial divisions in Richmond, Virginia, and from Martin Luther King, Jr.'s belief that "love is the key to the problems of the world." Its goal is to share video stories of love from Memphis to help the city—which was the site of Dr. King's assassination—heal as the 50th anniversary of the assassination approaches. Posted weekly, there will be a total of fifty video stories when the last film is released on April 2, 2018, just prior to the anniversary on April 4. The goal is not only to spread these videos, but also to encourage others to share love in memory of Dr. King with their hashtag #watchlovework. You can watch the videos on the Watch Love Work website (www.watchlovework.org) and follow the organization on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

Kathleen McClung '81, MA '82

Kathleen McClung teaches at Skyline College and The Writing Salon in San Francisco. Her poetry collection, *The Typists Play Monopoly*, is forthcoming in Spring 2018 from Kelsay Books. In 2017, the online literary journal *cahoodaloodaling* nominated her poem "The Comrade" for Best of the Net. The pantoum celebrates Anne Sullivan, Helen Keller's teacher and life-long friend.

Andrew Brandt '82

Upon graduation from Stanford, Andrew Brandt attended Georgetown Law School. Since then, he has incorporated his passions for sports, academia, and media into his professional life, serving as a player agent and then as vice president of the Green Bay Packers for 10 years. He also taught at the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School before taking a position as executive director of Villanova's Moorad Center for the Study of Sports Law for the past four years. Andrew also currently works for ESPN, analyzing sports business and legal issues on television and radio, and for *Sports Illustrated* as a weekly columnist for TheMMQB.com. Catch his weekly podcast, "The Business of Sports with Andrew Brandt."

Heather Cook Lindquist '82

Heather Cook Lindquist is currently co-authoring a book called *Life After Manzanar* with fellow Stanford alum Naomi Hirahara '83. Heather and Naomi worked together on the visitor exhibits at Manzanar National Historic Site and have enjoyed collaborating since then. The book is a co-publication by Heyday and Manzanar History Association. It will be released Spring 2018 to coincide with the Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage.

William R. Garrett, Esq., '82

William R. Garrett is in his 30th year of a very busy real estate transactional and litigation practice and is a partner of the Palo Alto law firm Hanna and Van Atta. He and his wife, Maureen, traveled to France and Italy to celebrate their 30th wedding anniversary in 2017. They have three adult children – Colleen, who works for Facebook, Shannon, who works for Google, and Brian, who plays basketball for Cal State Monterey Bay.

William Deverell '83

William Deverell is a faculty member at USC's Department of History and also directs the Huntington-USC Institute on California and the West. In November, the institute held an interdisciplinary conference, "Under L.A.: Subterranean Stories," about "all that lies beneath us in Los Angeles."

Katy Dore '83

Katy Dore writes and acts in Los Angeles. She has been drawing on her American Studies background in her research for *The Unsung*, a historical anthology mini-series about American women whose accomplishments have been largely ignored (or, in Katy's words, "disenfranchised women who had to break some rules to get sh** done"). Katy credits Stanford professor Estelle Freedman's approach as a social historian for inspiring her own approach to history.

Marian Menninger Adams '84

Marian M. Adams double majored in American Studies and Biological Sciences and went on to receive her MD from the University of California, San Francisco. She returned to Stanford for her pediatric residency and neonatology fellowship, later working as Clinical Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at Stanford for 17 years. She is now a Clinical Instructor at UCSF. Marian's oldest child graduated from Stanford in 2009 with a major in Human Biology. Her youngest entered Stanford this fall with the class of 2021 and is interested in engineering and computer science.

Megan Talbott '85

Megan Talbott works as a strategist and client partner for Publicis Groupe, the second largest advertising and marketing network in the world. She says that American Studies has remained relevant in her work because "understanding what makes an American 'an American,' why we do the things we do, what binds us together, and how that differs from other world cultures, is at the core of almost everything I do on a daily basis at work." Currently helping a traditional home service company transform its brand and communications strategies to meet the needs of the new homeowner of 2020, she thinks a lot these days about what "home" means to Americans now, and how that may change in the next decade. Over the years, she has lived in New York City, Vail, and now St. Louis.

Mimi Coughlin '88, MA '89

Mimi Coughlin is a Professor in the College of Education at Sacramento State University. She specializes in History-Social Science Education and

Multicultural Education. She also works on One World, an interdisciplinary project that organizes events on campus around an annual globally-focused theme. Last spring, One World brought Cherrie Moraga to a campus event in which she presented previously unpublished work. Mimi also leads study trips associated with the Teaching American History Grants. Currently getting more involved with Design Thinking and Maker Education, she continues to look to the Farm for inspiration.

Vivian Wu Wong '88

Vivian Wu Wong holds the Lawrence M. Lombard Teaching Chair at Milton Academy in Milton, Massachusetts, where she has been on the faculty since 1992, and has received two Talbot Baker Awards for her work as a history teacher. She also advises Milton's Asian Society and conducts teacher workshops about the Asian American experience for Diversity Directions' Independent School Seminar and Primary Source, an education nonprofit. Vivian's writing includes a secondary study guide, "Early Chinese Immigration and the Process of Exclusion," and an article titled "Somewhere between Black and White: The Chinese in Mississippi," both published by the Organization of American Historians. Another article "Getting It Right: Schools and the Asian American Experience" appeared in the Winter 2011 issue of *Independent School Magazine* and in the text *Transforming Practices in Urban Education*. Last May, she received a Community Building Award from the Chinese Progressive Association for her work in fighting to re-establish a branch public library in Boston's Chinatown as a Friends of the Chinatown Library board member. She lives in Milton with her husband and two sons.

Julie Lythcott-Haims '89

Julie Lythcott-Haims's new book came out in October 2017. Titled *Real American: A Memoir*, it is a "riveting and deeply felt" personal account of the "emotional and cultural divide imposed by American racism on people of mixed race," as *Publishers Weekly* described it. Her book tour began last fall and continues through this winter. Julie will be giving a talk on *Real American* for Stanford American Studies on March 1, 2018, as part of our *Borderlands Now* series.

Oliver Cunningham '90

Oliver Cunningham has worked for the Oakland Police Department since 1991 and is currently a Deputy Chief of Police. After 30 years with the department, he considers the Oakland community his "extended family." His work takes him around the country to conferences on best practices in policing. The topics of the conferences include officer-involved shooting incidents, community policing, racial disparities in policing outcomes, and internal investigations. He comes back to the Stanford campus quarterly to give presentations on social justice through the School of Medicine. Oliver is also the President of the Oakland Police Foundation, a nonprofit organization that "serves to enhance police-community relationships, provide for urban youth needs, and support officers." Not quite ready to retire, he is pursuing a position as

Chief of Police “somewhere in the U.S.” Outside of work, he follows his passion for teaching and coaching youth. He also recently earned his Master of Science degree in Organizational Leadership.

Wayne Rutherford '90, MA '91

Wayne Rutherford took his American Studies background abroad with him after completing the STEP program at Stanford, teaching American Literature and other courses at U.S. Department of State affiliated international schools in the Philippines, Japan, Senegal, and, most recently, Egypt. He is currently the Head of School at Cairo American College. Wayne is married and has two children, who are in high school and are beginning to apply to colleges.

Sheryl Savage Tecker '90

Sheryl Savage Tecker '90 taught middle and high school history, later serving as an elementary school principal. She is now Assistant Superintendent of Education Services for the La Habra City School District in Orange County, California.

William Fagelson '91

William Fagelson earned an MA in 1997 and a Ph.D. in 2004 in American Studies at the University of Texas at Austin. His dissertation, “Nervous Out of the Service,” examined WWII veteran readjustment and American film in the 1940s. He has stayed at UT, teaching Engineering Communication in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering since 2005.

Jeannette LeFors '91

Jeannette LeFors lives in Santiago, Chile, with her husband, Matt Kelemen (Stanford Ph.D.), and two children, Dylan (age 14) and Adela (age 12). She leads workshops and courses for teachers and school leaders in Chile and Peru about instructional improvement and project-based learning. She also does some work in the United States focusing on equity and high school reform. While in Chile, she has been improving her Spanish and traveling the Southern Hemisphere with her family; so far their trips have taken them to the Atacama Desert, Chiloé, the Lake District, Patagonia, Peru, Argentina, and Antarctica. About her family’s trip to Antarctica, Jeannette says, “The close encounters with wildlife and vast amounts of ice created indelible memories and reinforced our deep appreciation for the need to be good stewards of our precious earth.” Jeanette and her family also enjoy swimming, soccer, hiking, and cycling.

Karen Anderson Maguy '91

After graduation, Karen Anderson Maguy taught with Teach for America in the Pasadena Unified School District before earning her master’s degree in Education from UCLA in 1995. That same year, she married her “Stanford sweetheart,” Chuck Maguy '91, at Memorial Church. From 1995 until 2011, she taught first and second grade in the Hermosa Beach City School District. She is currently vice president of The Los Angeles Challenge, a nonprofit organization that provides educational opportunities to elementary and high school students from disadvantaged circumstances. Karen and Chuck have two daughters – Charlotte is a sophomore at Redondo Union High School, and Sophie began her freshman year at Stanford this fall as a member

of the women’s water polo team. Karen and her daughters are actively involved in the National Charity League South Bay Chapter, a philanthropic organization that promotes community service and leadership opportunities. Her work with The Los Angeles Challenge keeps her busy, as do being a mom, volunteering for Heal the Bay and Portraits of Hope, taking care of her one-year-old puppy, and contemplating writing a book. Despite all that, she still finds time to catch up with friends and play golf.

Judy Tzu-Chun Wu '91

Judy Tzu-Chun Wu is a professor and chair of Asian American Studies at the University of California, Irvine. She is the author of *Dr. Mom Chung of the Fair-Haired Bastards: The Life of a Wartime Celebrity* (University of California Press, 2005) and *Radicals on the Road: Internationalism, Orientalism, and Feminism* (Cornell University Press, 2013). She co-edited *Frontiers: A Journal of Women’s Studies* from 2012-2017; *Women’s America: Refocusing the Past, 8th edition* (Oxford University Press, 2015), and *Gendering the Trans-Pacific World* (Brill). She is working with Gwendolyn Mink on a political biography of Patsy Takemoto Mink, the first woman of color U.S. Congressional representative and the co-sponsor of Title IX. She also is mentoring students to conduct research on the Beginnings of Activism for the Department of Asian American Studies at UCI (or BADAAS@UCI) and on Asian American and Pacific Islander women who attended the 1977 International Women’s Year/National Women’s Conference in Houston. She is co-convening a University of California Humanities Research Institute Research Residency Group on transnational feminisms in Fall 2017 and sponsoring a yearlong exploration of “What is Asian American Feminisms?” at UC Irvine during the 2017-2018 academic year.

Leslie Dawe '92

Leslie Dawe lives in Denver, Colorado, where she is a music instructor. Teaching classroom music in a public school for 10 years, she now offers piano, voice, and guitar lessons at her own studio, Songinflight Studio. Outside of teaching, she enjoys her newfound passion for painting and drawing and is the “proud mom” of a dog, Bella, and two cats, Moses and Little Guy. She was excited to return to the Farm for reunion this past October.

Erika Moone Dickey '92

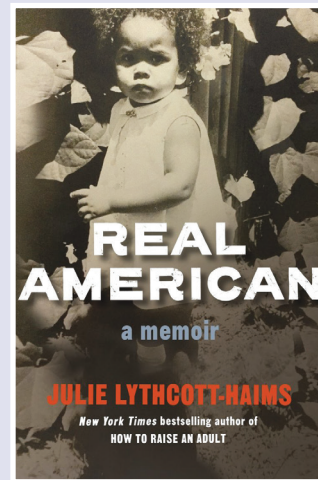
After leaving the Bay Area and her work in advertising, Erika Moone Dickey has lived in Kansas City for the last 19 years. She is now a stay-at-home mom to three kids: Alex (who began his freshman year at Stanford this fall), Emily (a high school junior), and Johnathon (an eighth grader). She also volunteers with a preschool for disabled children and stays involved in her own children’s schools. For the past two years, Erika has coordinated with other Kansas City Stanford alumni to host the area’s Frosh Send-Off. “Where does the time go?” she asked in reference to her 25th reunion in October.

Alex O'Brien '92

Alex O'Brien is the owner and president of the Bank of Commerce. In describing his work, Alex says, “We use technology to disrupt in the banking world, and we love it.”



Molly Vorwerck (left) '14 visits freshman year roommate Annie Osborn (right) '14 in Xi'an, China, March 2017



Real American: A Memoir, by Julie Lythcott-Haims '89



Jane Bahk '94 reading her award-winning picture book, Juna's Jar



In addition to teaching music, Leslie Dawe '92 has also taken up painting

Caroline Park '92

Caroline Park has remained in Washington, D.C., for much of her post-Stanford life. A graduate of Georgetown Law, she has worked in the U.S. Department of Justice Environmental Crimes Section and as a fellow for Georgetown's Institute for Public Representation. In 2012, she researched New Zealand commercial fisheries under an Axford Fellowship in Public Policy. For the past 15 years, she has worked in the Atmospheric National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Office of General Counsel, where she specializes in domestic and international fisheries law. Music has continued to be her passion; she is a violinist and vocalist with her quartet, the Caroline Park Quartet (www.facebook.com/carolineparktrio), a songwriter and arranger (www.youtube.com/cparkplay), and a freelance pianist.

Suzanne Jensen '93

Suzanne Jensen is back in Portland, Oregon, after spending five years in Munich, Germany, with her husband and three now-teenage daughters. A stay-at-home mom, with two dogs and a horse, she is learning dressage and keeping up her German. Her oldest daughter is currently a senior in high school and is busy applying to and visiting colleges.

Jane Bahk '94

Jane Bahk specialized in Race and Ethnicity within her American Studies major. Her first picture book, *Juna's Jar*, won the 2015 Asian/Pacific Award for Literature for best picture book and is available at the Stanford Bookstore. She returned to the Farm last year to do a reading.

Kelly E. O'Neill '94

Kelly O'Neill lives in Dhaka, Bangladesh, with her partner, Erin Kennedy. She works as the Global Health Security Advisor for the United States Agency for International Development and is currently working to help prevent zoonotic diseases and improve the country's veterinary education. She says that her work is rewarding and has given her and Erin the opportunity to travel throughout Southeast Asia.

Kristin (McDonald) Sakoda '95

Within American Studies, Kristin Sakoda specialized in Race and Ethnicity, also holding a secondary major in Feminist Studies. As an undergraduate, she remembers working with other students to pioneer the use of the arts "as an interdisciplinary extension of our academic work." After graduation, she was a professional performing artist, dancing with Robert Moses's Kin and Urban Bush Women and appearing in the national tour of *Rent* and in *Mamma Mia!* on Broadway. She later earned a J.D. from NYU School of Law. Her current position as the Deputy Commissioner and General Counsel for the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs combines her background in the arts with her legal career.

Ken Johnson '95

Ken Johnson lives in Washington, D.C., with his wife, Gina Lagomarsino '95, and their two kids, Liana (age 14) and Elias (age 11). He joined the Securities and Exchange Commission in 2003, working as its Chief Financial Officer from 2010 to

early 2017. In February, he became the agency's Acting Chief Operating Officer. Gina is the CEO of Results for Development, an international development nonprofit.

Lisa Kohn '95

Lisa Kohn lives in Paris with her family and writes for American and French television. She says that her "American writing sensibility is turning out to be surprisingly useful here in France, where there is a need for English-speaking script writers."

Anne Wicks '95, MA '96

Anne Wicks lives in Dallas, Texas, and serves as the Director of Education Reform and Leadership Programs at the George W. Bush Institute, part of the George W. Bush Presidential Center. She is happy to connect with current American Studies majors who are interested in policy.

Michael Robbins '96

After Stanford, Mike Robbins played professional baseball with the Kansas City Royals until an injury ended his career in 1998. He then worked in sales and business development for two Internet startups before starting his own business in 2001 centered on speaking and coaching. He has been a professional motivational speaker and a life and business coach for the last 17 years, with his clients ranging from major corporations to sports teams. Mike says his American Studies specialization in Race and Ethnicity has informed his recent writing on inclusion and diversity, including a piece he wrote just after the 2016 election for the *Huffington Post*, titled "An open letter to my fellow straight white men." He just finished writing his fourth book, *Bring Your Whole Self to Work*, out in May, and has a podcast by the same name.

Alexander Haugh '00

For the past 11 years, Alex Haugh has worked in derivative sales and trading at a New York investment bank. He says that the history and political science classes he took as an American Studies major helped his critical thinking, a skill he needs for his current work. As for advice for current undergraduates, Alex encourages them to "pick the classes that interest them – the rest will fall in place!"

Max Heilbron '00

Max Heilbron helped found ARGONAUT, a San Francisco-based advertising agency, in 2013. As the agency's head of strategy, he draws upon cultural research, consumer psychology, and quantitative data in order to develop effective advertising. While he did not plan on getting into advertising as an undergraduate, he now recognizes that the advertising profession "is a great fit for graduates with multidisciplinary backgrounds like American Studies."

Miguel de Baca '02

Miguel de Baca is an Associate Professor of Art History and the Chair of the Department of Art and Art History at Lake Forest College. On sabbatical this academic year, he is currently the Terra Foundation Visiting Professor of American Art at the University of Oxford. (The Terra Foundation is "dedicated to fostering exploration, understanding, and enjoyment of the visual arts

of the United States for national and international audiences.") Author of *Memory Work: Anne Truitt and Sculpture* (UC Press, 2015), for which he received a Wyeth Foundation for American Art Publication Grant, Miguel is currently working on a new book, *Video Art and Public Culture*, which is about activist uses of video and digital art from the 1960s forward.

Jenna Klein '02

After graduation, Jenna Klein worked as a songwriter in New York. She produced a CD of ten of her songs, one of which, "The Hand," had over two million hits. Three years ago, she moved to Houston, where she works in real estate development and private equity. She is also a member of the Advance Team Board of the University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center, currently ranked #1 in the world for cancer care. Even in Houston, Stanford is never too far away: Jenna is an active member of the area's Stanford Alumni Association, through which she has developed several friendships.

Jessica Mendoza '02

Jessica Mendoza is ESPN's first female baseball analyst for Major League Baseball, and since 2016 has been a fixture on the network's "Sunday Night Baseball." In 2017, she also hosted the NCAA Woman of the Year Awards. Before getting into broadcasting, Jessica was a member of the United States women's national softball team, earning a gold medal at the 2004 Olympics and a silver medal at the 2008 Olympics.

Matthew Vander Sluis '02

Matthew Vander Sluis recently became the Deputy Director of Greenbelt Alliance, the Bay Area's leading smart growth and open space protection organization. He has been working to help solve the housing affordability crisis, make communities friendlier to pedestrians and transit, and protect the Bay Area's natural and agricultural lands from sprawl development. *Diablo Magazine* recently named him as one of the 40 "most influential innovators philanthropists, artists and entrepreneurs under the age of 40" in the East Bay.

Allison Hunter '04

Allison Hunter is a literary agent at Janklow and Nesbit in New York City, where she represents numerous bestselling authors of fiction and non-fiction. She invites American Studies alumni interested in writing books for a trade audience to contact her.

Vinita Kailasanath '04, MS '04, JD '10

Vinita Kailasanath is an attorney in Arnold & Porter Kaye Scholer's Silicon Valley office. She drafts and negotiates contracts for the commercialization and protection of intellectual property and technology, and advises clients on issues at the intersection of intellectual property and FDA regulation. Prior to attending law school, she co-termed in Biology and performed neuroendocrinology research in Russ Fernald's lab. She also worked as a life sciences marketing and sales management consultant.

Christine Olivas '04

Christine Olivas is the Vice President of Marketing at a Brooklyn educational technology startup and a published short story writer. Her stories focus on the intersection of gender, culture, and the body and have been featured in *Breakwater Review*, *The Coil*, and *Pure Slush*.

Amy Aniobi '06

Amy Aniobi is a television writer and producer, writing for the HBO comedy series *Insecure* (created by and starring fellow Stanford alum, Issa Rae '07). She is also developing a comedy series for Amazon and pitching feature projects. She says that she did not plan on becoming a television writer when she declared American Studies, but she now realizes that her major choice has helped her write about cultural issues. "I think writing, especially comedy, is always a cultural conversation. You're looking at the world around you and trying to make it make sense without 'teaching a lesson.'"

David Lai '08

David Lai is now a Ph.D. candidate in American History at the University of Kentucky and is in the process of writing his dissertation on religious responses to Martin Luther King's rhetoric. Arguing that "religion itself was a conflicted sphere," David connects religious arguments made against the Civil Rights Movement with those used today against Black Lives Matter, while also underscoring how "King's religious rhetoric challenged many adherents to do more to show support." As he completes the dissertation, he is back at Stanford, working at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Papers Project as the assistant editor. He lives in Sunnyvale with his wife, Iris Law '08.

Becca Velasco '08

Becca Velasco graduated with her MPP from the USC Price School of Public Policy in 2015 and shortly thereafter began working at the California Charter Schools Association (CCSA). She is currently a Director of School Development at CCSA, leading strategy and planning to build a strong school growth infrastructure for charter schools across the state. Becca currently lives in South Pasadena but travels frequently to Phoenix, where her boyfriend is working temporarily (and where they recently adopted "the most adorable Corgi/German Shepard puppy" from the Arizona Humane Society).

Allison Falk '09

After graduation, Allison Falk played professional soccer for a few years. She now works at Kurbo, a digital health startup that helps kids and families learn healthy eating and exercise habits. She also founded her own company, Kirby Method, which "helps athletes find health, purpose, and fulfillment in life post-sport." Outside of work, Allison has been traveling around the country and world, visiting Mexico, Costa Rica, New York, and New Hampshire.

Kelley Fong '09

Kelley Fong lives in Providence, Rhode Island, and is working on a Ph.D. in sociology and social policy at Harvard. She says that her current research on how low-income families in the United States navigate healthcare, education, and social services is a "direct

outgrowth" of her American Studies concentration and thesis.

Andrea Fuller '09

Andrea Fuller currently works as a data reporter on the investigations team at *The Wall Street Journal*. In 2014, she moved to New York from Washington, D.C., where she previously worked as a data journalist. Andrea is keeping up with her post-graduation vow to go to a new country each year; this year she visited Japan and Scotland, and next year she plans to travel to Croatia. In the interim, she is "living the dream" in Brooklyn.

Griffin Mueller '10, MA '11

Griffin Mueller is in the process of earning her MBA from Duke University's Fuqua School of Business, where she was admitted to the Daytime MBA program for the Class of 2019. Her husband, Mark Mueller '10, graduated from Duke Divinity School with a Masters in Theology and is also Duke's assistant track coach. She and Mark recently bought their first home, in Durham, North Carolina, and rescued a puppy. Travels have taken her to Bali, Peru, Costa Rica, Belize, and Jamaica.

Dean Schaffer '10, MA '11

After graduation, Dean Schaffer cotermed in Communication (Journalism). He has been the product manager for Smule, a music tech company that creates social music apps, for the last three years and has lived in San Francisco since 2011.

Gregory Gorraiz '12

After working as a New York City elementary school teacher for the last five years, Gregory Gorraiz is now applying to medical schools. He has been filling his time with odd jobs, recently beginning a year as a "singing, ukulele-playing, Pre-K yoga instructor."

Alexei Koseff '12, MA '13

Alexei Koseff got his master's degree from Stanford's graduate program in Journalism in 2013. He interned for a summer with the *Los Angeles Times* in Washington, D.C., before getting his current job as a reporter in the Capitol bureau with *The Sacramento Bee*. For the past four years, he has written a daily morning newsletter about California politics and has covered higher education, a contentious race for state superintendent of public instruction, the passage of California's assisted death law, and an unsuccessful ballot initiative to abolish the death penalty. He is currently writing about the State Assembly and gearing up for the 2018 election cycle. He says that the "coolest" story he has worked on this year was a feature about Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon's Southeast Los Angeles district, where public corruption has been a way of life for decades and Rendon is now leading an effort to rebuild the decayed civic culture.

Lisa Quan '12

After graduation, Lisa Quan '12 worked at the Stanford Criminal Justice Center and did policy research on California's recently passed Public Safety Realignment Legislation. Her research resulted in several co-authored reports, a presentation to Governor Jerry Brown, and the realization that she wanted to pursue public policy rather than law. As a result, two years later, she began work at Mathematica Policy Research (MPR), headquartered

in Princeton, New Jersey. After two years at MPR, she enrolled in UC Berkeley's Goldman School of Public Policy to pursue her MPP. She is now in her second and final year in the program, and she hopes to work at the intersection of government, academia, and technology.

April Gregory '13, MA '17

April Gregory taught at a New York private school for three years before moving back to the Farm in June 2016 to get her MA and teaching credentials through the Graduate School of Education's STEP program. After graduation from STEP in June, she moved to San Francisco and is now teaching fourth grade in the San Francisco Unified School District.

Tierney O'Rourke '13, JD '17

Tierney O'Rourke graduated from Stanford Law School in June and took the California Bar Exam in July. In October, she began work as a corporate associate with Davis Polk and Wardwell in Menlo Park. Before beginning that position, she traveled to France and England and climbed Tanzania's Mount Kilimanjaro.

Sasha Arijanto '14

Sasha Arijanto is now at YouTube, working with video creators with the largest following in America. Her work recently took her to VidCon, where she experienced how different youth culture is today versus when she was growing up. She enjoys life in San Francisco and staying in touch with other American Studies majors, like Sarah Maisel.

Sarah Maisel '14

Sarah Maisel worked on the communications team of LeanIn.org, a nonprofit organization founded by Sheryl Sandberg, before project managing the book tour for Sandberg's most recent book with Wharton professor Adam Grant, *Option B*. Since then, she has transitioned to Lean In's product team, where she works on web design and product planning.

Miranda Mammen '14

After graduation, Miranda Mammen worked for a year and a half at the National Center for Youth Law in Oakland on a project to improve education outcomes for students in foster care. She is now in her second year at Harvard Law School. As a member of the Harvard Legal Aid Bureau, a student-run legal services office, she represents low-income clients in family law proceedings related to divorce, custody, and domestic violence.

Molly Vorwerck '14

After spending a few years in the world of technology communications, Molly Vorwerck (former editor of the *American Studies Newsletter*) returned to her editorial roots as the technical editor of the Uber Engineering Blog, helping engineers and data scientists across the company translate their code into words. In her spare time, she freelances for *USA Today*, writes sketch comedy, and frequents local bookstores and coffee shops.

Emma Joslyn '15

Having worked for the previous year on the editorial team at *FRONTLINE*, the PBS investigative documentary series, Emma Joslyn made a move in fall 2017 to David Sutherland Productions, an independent documentary company. She is the

associate producer for the company's upcoming film, which will air on PBS as a collaboration between *FRONTLINE* and *Independent Lens*.

Carly Lave '15

Since graduating from Stanford, Carly Lave has focused on contemporary choreography. In the past year, she has participated in three different artist-in-residency programs in San Francisco: ODC, Mark Foehringer Dance Project, and the Resident Artist Workshop (RAW) through SAFEHouse Arts. She also produced a full-length show with the San Francisco Summer Performance Festival. In fall 2017, she became a resident choreographer through ODC Dance Company's Pilot Program in San Francisco. Outside of "grooving and moving," she hikes the forests of Santa Cruz and backpacks throughout California.

Sarah Sadlier '16, MA '17

Sarah Sadlier started her Ph.D. in American History at Harvard University this fall with a Presidential Scholarship. She will be working with Professor Jill Lepore.

Jenna Fowler '16, MA '17

Jenna Fowler recently graduated from Stanford's master's program in Journalism and now works for Google in its News Lab. She works with a team of journalists on news-related issues and looks for newsworthy insights into Google's search data. One recent project she worked on is the Documenting Hate news index, which aims to create a national database for hate crimes by collating news stories from across the country.

Benina Stern '16

Following graduation, Benina Stern received a fellowship to work in Center Theatre Group's literary department. Her time there helped her explore how "to bring new and underrepresented voices to American stages." She also helped launch the 2016-2017 Los Angeles Writers Workshop, where she "got to meet a whole bunch of brilliant playwrights," while also getting a feel for literary management as a profession. She is currently writing copy freelance for small companies and organizations, working as a writing tutor, and searching for jobs in the nonprofit/arts sector. On the applicability of her major to her work, Benina says that American Studies has helped her "as a critical thinker, as a student of American history, and as someone who wants to make a civic impact on theatre and the performing arts."

Ashley Westhem '16, MA '17

Ashley Westhem recently completed a coterm in Communication. Since July, she has worked as a product analyst at Doximity in San Francisco, a medical network that helps doctors make referrals, connect with other physicians, advance their careers, and send online faxes. She is excited about making a positive impact on the healthcare industry and hopes to someday open a wellness center with her sister. Her interests include integrative medicine and vegetarian cooking.

Jordan Huelskamp '17

Jordan Huelskamp is pursuing her M.S. from the Columbia School of Journalism, writing a thesis on how #MeToo is impacting women in the music industry. She tells us she is "loving New York," where she has been connecting with other alums, and has made it her mission to visit every art museum in the city.

Emily Waltman '17

Enjoying a year of activities and travels before heading to Vanderbilt for a degree in Education next fall, Emily Waltman is undertaking a month-long train trip across the U.S. this February. You can tag along via her new blog <https://thetraintripsite.wordpress.com/>.

Robert Wilkins '17

After graduation, Robert Wilkins took a trip with fellow recent graduates to Hong Kong and Tokyo before moving back to Palo Alto. He is currently a junior associate at Silicon Valley Bank. While he "like[s] adult-life so far," Robert is planning on going back to school soon. In his spare time, he has been reading novels and essays and also has been mentoring youth through BUILD and Big Brothers Big Sisters.

AMERICAN STUDIES: A FAMILY TRADITION

Reflecting on what American Studies means to him, **Dennis Romero '80, JD '83**, writes us:

"I have to say, my major in American Studies has remained a source of pride and continuing personal inspiration. It's something I love talking about....



I practice law in northern New Mexico. A significant portion of my practice involves historical review and knowledge of the origins of Spanish land grants as the basis of modern title ownership of properties in this region; and it involves similar knowledge of the origins of the American occupation that began in the 1840s, followed by the mining, mercantile, and artistic interests that soon followed into New Mexico. My practice is also heavily tied to the ski industry and its start in the 1940s. All these different origins can actually have a direct bearing

on a matter even today. The applicability of my major in American Studies to this area of practice really involves procedure and context, as opposed to content; I learned to analyze and write at Stanford, and I came to understand and appreciate historical context.

The content, however, is what matters most; it is a legacy that remains with me at a deeply personal level. I loved what I studied at Stanford. Early twentieth-century American literature and twentieth century history and foreign policy were my focus, and I just didn't get enough before Stanford made me graduate. So, I've carried my interests with me all these years. I don't know if the Department of History still uses Hofstadter (*The Age of Reform*) and Leuchtenburg (*Roosevelt and the New Deal*). I presume the English Department teaches Cather and Hemingway, Wharton and Fitzgerald; I still have my original copies of all these books, along with all my textbooks from the modern American presidency classes I took.

My passions and interests have now come full circle. While my daughter Gabriela (Stanford '19) was growing up, I would share my literary and historical interests with her, often tying some subject I knew about into her homework. And, something must have taken hold in her, because, as you know, she's declared her major in American Studies. Through Gabriela I've learned how much broader in subject the major has become, specifically in the arts and culture. The relevance of the major now seems even greater as a result."



Tracy Oliver '08 and Amy Aniobi '06

AGAINST TYPE: CHANGING REPRESENTATIONS OF RACE IN FILM AND TV - A DISCUSSION WITH AMY ANIOBI '06 AND TRACY OLIVER '08

American Studies alums Tracy Oliver '08 and Amy Aniobi '06 returned to campus in November 2016 to discuss race and gender barriers in the media with a room of Stanford's Hollywood hopefuls, and to share how they choose to combat these obstacles in the writers' room and beyond. Since graduating, the two have enjoyed great success writing for some of television's hottest comedy shows and movies.

Throughout the evening, Tracy and Amy stressed the importance of "writing what you know" in order to portray stories that are both authentic and powerful. They advised students to use their own experiences, struggles, and celebrations as fodder for writing everything from plot lines to characters.

Additionally, Tracy and Amy advised those with Hollywood ambitions that it's not only possible, but desirable to begin their writing or media careers on their own time, rather than waiting around for an internship or first job. "There's no reason you can't do it right now," said Amy. "Everyone has a phone, and everyone has the Internet."

She was speaking from experience. Both Tracy and Amy launched their successful careers with little more than a video camera and big ambition. *The Misadventures of Awkward Black Girl*, the web series that allowed Amy and Tracy to find their foothold in the industry, made its debut entirely on YouTube. After a few episodes, the series quickly picked up steam and surged in popularity, opening doors for the duo to write for major network shows.

"I feel really honored that we got to work on that together," said Tracy, adding that "it was Stanford that really brought us together as friends and colleagues."

Their friendship began when they met during an undergraduate drama class, before "either of us were really thinking about pursuing television." Amy told students to look around the room, where they just might find their future colleagues.

After *Awkward Black Girl*, the duo went their separate ways, going on to write for some of the most successful shows on air. Amy's

credits include HBO's *Insecure*, *Silicon Valley*, and *Brothers in Atlanta*, as well as *The Michael J. Fox Show* on NBC and the web series' *Lisa and Amy Are Black* and *The Slutty Years*, as well as *Awkward Black Girl*.

Tracy's credits include writing, producing, and acting in *The Misadventures of Awkward Black Girl*, the Emmy-nominated *The Neighbors* (ABC), *Survivor's Remorse* (Starz, produced by LeBron James), *Barbershop 3* (MGM), and *Girl's Trip* (Universal). She also has a one-hour drama in development at Fox, with American Ballet Theatre principal Misty Copeland acting as producer.

Amy and Tracy explained the importance of trying to address the fair treatment of race and gender whenever they are able to. Both highlighted the American Studies program as being a hugely influential factor in their perspectives on American culture and stereotypes.

Amy drew upon her experience writing for shows with male-dominated writers' rooms, where she often found herself playing the "advocate for minorities and women," calling out and fighting against reliance on lazy tropes—for instance, a joke about a "ditzy" female character forgetting where she left her purse.

Of course, the two acknowledged how the prevailing dynamics and demographics of the writers' room could create contrary pressures. For instance, Amy recalled that on days where she had already taken a stand against, say, the unfair portrayal of female characters, she'd have to think twice about picking up the next battle, lest others just start tuning her out. This tricky balancing act was one of difficulties of being underrepresented at the table. "Sometimes you can't fight for it all," she said.

Because of this, both women noted, it's crucial that Hollywood begins placing a greater emphasis on improving representation of women and African Americans in writers' rooms and in casting agencies. An easy way to help, they suggested, is to watch and support television shows and movies that place

a greater emphasis on the experiences of women and people of color.

"We each have a story to tell," said Tracy. ■

Jordan Huelskamp '17

STANFORD AMERICAN STUDIES PRESENTS

AGAINST TYPE: CHANGING REPRESENTATIONS OF RACE IN FILM & TV

A DISCUSSION WITH STANFORD ALUMNAE

AMY ANIOBI '06 & TRACY OLIVER '08

THEIR CREDITS INCLUDE *INSECURE* AND *SILICON VALLEY* (BOTH ON HBO), ABC'S *THE NEIGHBORS*, AND THE HIT COMEDIC WEB SERIES, *THE MISADVENTURES OF AWKWARD BLACK GIRL*, WHICH WAS PROFILED IN *ROLLING STONE* AND *THE NEW YORK TIMES*




TRACY OLIVER (American Studies, '08) is a comedy writer whose credits include the Emmy-nominated *The Neighbors* (ABC), *Survivor's Remorse* (Starz, produced by LeBron James), *Barbershop 3* (MGM), and *Girl's Trip* (Universal) and Will Packer productions, in production). She has a one-hour drama in development at Fox, with American Ballet Theatre principal Misty Copeland producing. She is known for writing, producing, and acting *The Misadventures of Awkward Black Girl*.

AMY ANIOBI (American Studies, '06) is a comedy writer whose credits include HBO's new comedy series *Insecure*, *Silicon Valley* (HBO), *Brothers in Atlanta* (HBO), *The Michael J. Fox Show* (NBC), and web series *Lisa and Amy Are Black*, *The Slutty Years*, and *The Misadventures of Awkward Black Girl*.

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ENGAGING WITH NATIVE COMMUNITIES: AN EDUCATION



Trisha Moquino
and Emily Waltman

Apathy. In 1868, the United States signed the Treaty of Fort Laramie, which guaranteed Oceti Sakowin tribes “absolute and undisturbed use and occupation” of lands stretching from Montana to North Dakota to South Dakota to Nebraska to Wyoming. Six years later, white settlers found gold in the Black Hills of South Dakota, and the United States disregarded its treaty in pursuit of these riches. War raged on, and in 1877 the United States annexed the Black Hills. In 1927, it dynamited the faces of four U.S. presidents into this holy land. It was not malice that allowed such abuse, but apathy.

Ignorance. Some are passively ignorant; they are unaware, for instance, that the Indian Health Service is enormously and disproportionately underfunded, or that Native American students graduate high school at a rate lower than any other group. Ignorance can also take more active forms, as when people who do not know the historical traumas tribes have endured, or are unfamiliar with their cultural practices or religious beliefs, nevertheless believe that they can solve tribal issues, advocating for boarding schools that trample on native ways and communities, or naively treating patients in ways that disregard native culture and history.

Fear. It was fear that prompted United States officials to quell the Ghost Dance—a religious observance that the army interpreted as a sign of Native American unrest and possible retaliation—at Standing Rock in 1890, and that resulted in the Wounded Knee Massacre. It was fear also that kept me from engaging with native issues—that makes it difficult even to write this article. As a nonnative person, I am fearful that I might unwittingly espouse a savior complex or offend members of the native community. However, paralysis from fear is injurious just like apathy and ignorance. Instead of allowing fear to inhibit action, I ought to let it motivate me to learn more and to remain considerate of my place as an ally.

I was fortunate to have the opportunity to learn about Native American issues and to reflect on ally-ship in March of my junior year as part of my Alternative Spring Break trip to the Pine Ridge and Rosebud Indian Reservations in South Dakota. Several organizations opened their doors to the group of eleven Stanford students so that we could broaden our perspective on native issues, about which we were previously uninformed or misinformed. Among these organizations were Red Cloud Indian School, the Center for American Indian Research and Native Studies (CAIRNS), Rosebud’s Drug and Alcohol Treatment Program, and Thunder Valley’s Lakota Immersion Preschool. We learned about some unsettling realities. For example, eighty percent of Pine Ridge residents are unemployed and the average life expectancy there is fifty years. But we learned also that reservations are far from hopeless and dependent on government directives. Indeed, the

motivation, intelligence, and sensitivity of these organizations was both apparent and inspiring. CAIRNS, for example, is a team of just two employees that promotes understanding of American Indian culture and history by training teachers of native students, producing and disseminating educational resources such as textbooks and newsletters, and holding cultural events such as Lakota film festivals and art exhibits. Meanwhile, over ninety percent of Red Cloud students matriculate to college, including a number who study at Stanford. What’s more, such inspiring initiative pervades native communities nationwide. I recently had the opportunity to converse with Trisha Moquino ’96, a Stanford American Studies alum, who provides one such example.

In 2006, Trisha left a job as a public school teacher to co-found the Keres Children’s Learning Center (KCLC), a Montessori school for children aged 3-6, in Cochiti Pueblo. According to KCLC’s website, the school’s mission is to “reclaim our children’s education and honor our heritage by using a comprehensive cultural and academic curriculum.” Understanding that language is critical to maintaining culture, and thus identity, KCLC immerses students in the indigenous language of Keres to promote fluency. As Trisha explained, “We have our own way of being in this world. We were passed down our culture, our religion. All of that is passed down through our language.”

Trisha’s own daughters inspired her to establish KCLC. By the time Trisha’s first daughter was three years old, she was as fluent in Keres as a child could be in a language. And yet, the public schools on Trisha’s Pueblo would not have encouraged her to improve or maintain fluency. This realization prompted Trisha to reflect: “Do I want to continue to perpetuate this type of education that does not honor the whole child...or do I want to create a more just classroom—one that is not going to test the language out of [my children] or make them ashamed of who they are?”

Of course, establishing and maintaining a school is not without its obstacles. “It’s hard work. I’m not going to deny that it’s hard work,” Trisha told me. She encounters challenges in funding, in finding a facility that can accommodate the growing student body, and in instilling in the community the belief that natives need and deserve to practice culture via KCLC. In spite of these challenges, though, Trisha remains motivated because there is simply no alternative. “I just feel like if I don’t do this then I’m going to go back to a classroom that teaches in a way that I don’t believe,” she said. Trisha is appreciative of the education she received at Stanford, which has contributed to the continued success of KCLC, a school that means so much not only to her, but also to Cochiti generations of the future and the past.

Native American studies are American studies. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to enrich to my experience and understanding as an American Studies major by participating in an Alternative Spring Break and conversing with Trisha—opportunities that have impressed on me all the more the necessity of overcoming apathy, ignorance, and fear. ■

*Written by Emily Waltman '17 in conversation
with Trisha Moquino '96*

CARRIE KEMPER TALKS ABOUT WRITING TELEVISION'S *SILICON VALLEY*



Carrie Kemper '06 and Shelley Fishkin

Karl Marx famously remarked that “history repeats itself first as tragedy and then as farce.” As the Bay Area rides out its second tech boom in two decades, the hilarious, profane, and merciless television comedy “Silicon Valley” has been mining the economy-disrupting, culture-changing tech industry for laughs. The HBO show follows the triumphs and tribulations of Richard Hendricks, a geekily brilliant programmer whose data compression startup Pied Piper finds sudden success, only to send him on an Homeresque odyssey through the wilds of VC investors, gyrating valuations, litigation, and outright theft.

On May 12, 2016, in an event organized by American Studies and the Bill Lane Center for the American West, the “Silicon Valley” writer and producer Carrie Kemper spoke to students taking the Lane-Center-sponsored “American West” course, about turning the tech world into entertaining television. Kemper graduated from Stanford in 2006 with a degree in American Studies, and soon afterward found herself working at Google. Her experiences, along with those of series creator Mike Judge (who worked as a developer in the late 1980s), inform the show.

Trying to Keep it Real

“How realistic is the show’s portrayal?” asked Shelley Fisher Fishkin, a renowned Mark Twain scholar and chronicler of literary and theatrical satire. “I went to visit some Stanford friends of mine,” said Kemper, “They have a company called Gridspace, and one of the founders said, ‘I cannot watch your show because it stresses me out too much, it’s too real. I deal with this every day, I’m sorry’—and that was like the greatest compliment!”

The show takes a “ripped from the headlines” approach to portraying the tech industry, mixing real brand names with fictional companies like Hooli, whose hypercompetitive founder consults with a guru and confides, “I can’t live in a world where someone else is making the world a better place.” But some of the characters in the real Silicon Valley are so over the top, said Kemper, that “there are people who are almost too on the nose to satirize.” She described an intense meeting with an R&D executive during a “research trip” the writers took to the Bay Area. “At the end, he arose and rollerbladed to the door. It was like, you know

what? If it were in the show it would just be too stupid,” Kemper laughed.

Other questions from Fishkin and the audience focused on gender imbalances in tech as well as in entertainment, something Kemper (who also wrote for “The Office”) has thought and spoken about a good deal, including an appearance on a Paley Center for Media panel on media portrayals of women in STEM fields in 2014. Acknowledging that the representation (and underrepresentation) of women continues to be a plaguing problem—on the screen, at the writers’ table, and in the industries she has depicted—Kemper was nonetheless proud to have helped bring some richer female roles and authentic-yet-funny storylines about what it can be like for women in tech into “Silicon Valley” after the first season. These depictions have earned some praise for the show and particular notice for Kemper, including a 2015 *Vanity Fair* piece titled, “How ‘Silicon Valley’ Finally Got Women Right.”

Booms and Busts

Given that booms and busts are a recurring feature of western American history, Fishkin asked Kemper if the specter of another tech bust haunts the show. “When we were writing Jack Barker,” said Kemper about Pied Piper’s new Steve Ballmer-esque CEO, “that was our way of acknowledging the incoming bust. He’s preoccupied by it.”

“It will be interesting to see next season how it will affect the show,” she added. “But it’s also funny because I caught myself saying, ‘Man, it would be such a shame if the bubble bursts because the show won’t seem realistic!’” to which her friend interjected, “Yeah, and like, the economy will collapse.” “Oh, right, yeah, I know, I know,” allowed Kemper sheepishly.

Kemper also spoke about how her perspective and work for the show is informed by her roots in American Studies and more broadly by her time at Stanford, which groomed many of today’s titans and contributes mightily to the tech industry’s workforce. “I am constantly pitching things Stanford-related,” said Kemper, “There was going to be a big intro sequence with Richard and Jared trying to find an old CS professor of Richard’s, and I was really pitching hard for a huge bike collision in the background. I was like, ‘Guys, it’s going to be very funny.’” ■

To see the complete video of the event go to:

<https://west.stanford.edu/news/carrie-kemper-talks-about-writing-television-s-silicon-valley>

—Geoff McGhee, *Creative Director of Media and Communications, Bill Lane Center for the American West* (A version of this article first appeared on the Lane Center website. It has been revised for this newsletter.)

IN MEMORIAM

TYRONE MCGRAW (American Studies '12) passed away on June 18, 2017 after a three-year battle with cancer. He was 29 years old.

Born with crack cocaine in his bloodstream, raised in the Bayview-Hunters Point neighborhood of San Francisco by his aunt, a single mother, who then passed away when he was 14, Tyrone rose over daunting odds not just on the strength of his remarkable intellectual and athletic talents but also on his luminous positivity. A two-sport, record-setting athlete at Stanford (track and football), he graduated with honors in American Studies, with a concentration on law and urban America. While a Stanford student, he studied abroad at Oxford and Berlin. He also interned at the White House during the Obama administration, and worked with U.S. District Judge Thelton Henderson, who initially overturned Proposition 209. Always eager to give back and to create positive change, he was active at the Haas Center and the Willie Brown, Jr. Institute on Politics and Public Service, and worked as a Teaching Fellow at Urban Prep Charter Academy for Young Men on Chicago's South Side. Most recently, he served as a legislative aide in the office of California Assemblymember Tony Thurmond (D-Richmond), with a focus on Health and Human Services.

Tyrone remained an inspiration throughout his life. Speaking in 2016 to the graduating class of his high school alma mater, Archbishop Riordan in San Francisco, he recalled feeling fears that he might disappoint others' hopes and expectations for him during his first quarter at Stanford. "But," he said, "herein lies the first lesson of the day in overcoming adversity and obstacles. You have to get up. Even when every part of you tells you you can't." Addressing his current illness, he went on "There's no time for excuses. There's no time for tears or sadness. I can't stop living because of my circumstance."

"I am blest," he said at the close of his speech. We are blest to have had him with us for a time. He was a joy to know.

More stories about Tyrone's remarkable life and spirit, and a link to his 2016 Archbishop Riordan address, can be found at <http://gostanford.com/news/2017/6/21/track-field-the-magic-of-tyrone-mcgraw.aspx> and <http://www.sfgate.com/sports/article/Ex-Stanford-Riordan-athlete-Tyrone-McGraw-dies-11237759.php>



Tyrone McGraw at 2012 Commencement, with fellow honors recipients, Danielle Menona (l) and Lisa Quan (r), and American Studies Coordinator Judith Richardson