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Editorial Collective Biographies

Tapestries: Interwoven voices of local and global identities, volume 7

Breaking the Shackles of Silence: Knowledge Production as Activism and Resistance

Eleanor R. Benson '18 is a graduating senior at Macalester College in Saint Paul, Minnesota. She studied American Studies with a concentration in Human Rights and Humanitarianism. Eleanor is passionate about criminal justice reform, community building, and the production of radical grassroots media.

Dylan Martin Bontrager '18 is a graduating senior American Studies/Educational Studies double major at Macalester College in Saint Paul, Minnesota. His interest in the Attica Uprising arose from a final research project for Professor Karin Aguilar-San Juan's course Critical Prison Studies. He and his classmates spent the fall of 2016 studying the dehumanization and violence that occurs in prisons. Dylan's interest in collective actions in prisons led him to write a review of the Attica Uprising. Two semesters later, after studying and enacting critical pedagogies like those of Paulo Freire, Dylan found himself considering Attica again. That interim work led Dylan to question what meaning Attica holds, not only in prisons and movements seeking to dismantle them, but in broader society, particularly in classrooms and in social movements outside of prisons. Dylan's passion for pedagogy and cultivating social change have led him towards work with youth within and outside of public education systems. He plans to return to school in the next several years to become a high school social studies teacher.

Elizabeth Eggert '18 is a graduating senior at Macalester College in Saint Paul, Minnesota. She double majors in English Literature and American Studies with a focus on contemporary war literature, the militarization of United States society, and criminal justice reform.

Victoria Guillemard '18 is a graduating senior at Macalester College in Saint Paul, Minnesota. She is an American Studies major with a legal concentration. During her time at Macalester, her research has focused on health care and public policy. "Forgotten Voters" was inspired by the work she did during her junior year as an intern for the Saint Paul chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union. Her primary role during her internship was as a research assistant for the Restore the Vote Coalition, which works towards restoring previously incarcerated persons' voting rights. In her research, she discovered erroneously published data about disenfranchised Native American voters, inspiring her to look further into the systematic suppression of Native voters. The following paper is the result of her research and subsequent discoveries. She dedicates her paper and research to those who suffer as the result of voter suppression and disenfranchisement, as well as the members of the Restore the Vote Coalition for their tireless work towards restoring full voting rights.

Ayaan Natala '18 is a graduating senior double majoring in American Studies and Political Science with a concentration in Human Rights and Humanitarianism. She was born in Saint Paul, Minnesota, but also claims Mazabuka, Zambia as her second home. Her writings are published in the Huffington Post and the Human Rights Observer, tackling global governance, social movements, and revolutionary political theory. At Macalester College, she is a Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellow, Bonner Community Scholar, Emerging Scholars Mentor, Department of Multicultural Life- College Access and Success Consultant, Black Women of the Diaspora (BWOD) Co-facilitator, and a Research Assistant for the Human Computers Digital Archive at the MN Science Museum. Aside from academics, she is a member of the Saint Paul N.A.A.C.P Youth & Collegiate Chapter, Black Liberation Collective, and Black Women Wealth Alliance. As a recent Davis Project for Peace recipient, she is collaborating with Ujamaa Place to create an art therapy and entrepreneurship summer program for formerly incarcerated men before she enters a Ph.D. program. She is an alum of the Harvard Kennedy Public Policy and Leadership Program.

Sarah Nemetz '18 is a graduating senior at Macalester College. She currently resides in Saint Paul, Minnesota and is originally from Newton, Massachusetts. She will graduate with a major in American Studies and a minor in Arabic Studies. Through her time in college, she has been interested in music as resistance, police accountability practices, the prison system, and the way that civil and human rights interact in the U.S. context.