

FOREWORD

It is my distinct honor to write this brief foreword to the 20th anniversary issue of *Bildhaan: An International Journal of Somali Studies*.

Macalester College has a special relationship with *Bildhaan*. We have served as a home for the journal since its creation by Dr. Ahmed Samatar, *Bildhaan's* Editor-in-Chief, James Wallace Professor of International Studies and Chair, and Founding Dean of our Kofi Annan Institute for Global Citizenship. Through a collaboration among key scholars of Somalia and its diaspora from Macalester, Wellesley College, College of the Holy Cross, the University of Pennsylvania, and California State University, Chico, *Bildhaan* was launched with the distinction of being the first international journal of Somali Studies in the English-speaking world.

Macalester's relationship with *Bildhaan* also is special because it is a manifestation of our college's enduring commitment to global citizenship. The Somali community is one of the largest immigrant and refugee communities in Minnesota. And Minnesota's Somalis comprise the largest Somali community in North America. So, it is fitting that the preeminent journal celebrating and chronicling people of Somali heritage should be based here. It also is apt that *Bildhaan* celebrates multidisciplinary, public intellectual engagement, and open access--all values that resonate with Macalester's, and with the college's role in the Twin Cities and in the larger world.

The word *bildhaan* means distant but guiding light. Much like this journal came into being as the world was looking to a new and different future, Macalester embraces the cultivation of a vision for what is yet to come. We are very proud to have been an early and sustaining supporter of this journal, and of all it has accomplished in its first two decades. We wish *Bildhaan* many years of success ahead.

Dr. Suzanne M. Rivera

President, Macalester College