SPRING BLOOM 2021

Brought to you by Employment Services and co-sponsored by the Serie Center and SPAW, along with many other valued collaborators
MONDAY MAY 24, 2021

10:00 a.m. through 4:00 p.m.
Session 1 - Employee Orientation to the EAP
10:00 a.m. - 11:00 am with Tom Troast, Cigna Representative
Don't know about your Employee Assistance Program and its benefits? Now's the time to find out. The EAP can help with a wide range of work/life concerns - everything from relationship issues to dealing with identity theft. Find out how it can make life easier for you and your household members.

Session 2 - Tasty and Satisfying Plant-Based Lunches
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. with Kelly Fang, Health Coach and Head Chef for two growing athletes
Have you been curious about eating a more plant-based diet, but not sure how to make it filling and flavorful? After all, there's a lot of good reasons to eat a plant-based diet: It's good for you, for the planet, and for your budget. I experimented with a lot of plant-based recipes during the pandemic. I invite you to join me in my kitchen (virtually) where I'll demonstrate three basic recipes, that with a little mixing and matching, will give you endless possibilities.

Session 3 - What is My Role in Social Change?
12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. with Civic Engagement Center staff members Eily Marlow, Karin Trail-Johnson, and Derek Johnson
When there are so many pressing concerns for equity and justice in our community, we can get pulled in many directions asking, "what exactly is my work to do?" Come hear how the Civic Engagement Center helps students discern this question through the principles of community organizing. In this session we will engage in exercises and conversations to identify our own self interest in movements for change. We will share stories of community work we have or hope to engage in and how our own stories connect us to this work.
Session 4 - Preparing for Your Return to Work with Your Well-being in Mind

2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. with Kelly Fang, Health Coach and Well-being Program Manager

Nervous about your return to work on campus? Yeah, you’re not alone. Our abrupt transition to working from home was a bit rough. It likely took a lot of adjustments until you finally felt like you had a routine that worked for you. As we prepare to return, let’s be thoughtful about putting our well-being at the center of our new routine & mindset. Together we’ll brainstorm and share ideas on which habits we may need to adjust (like our sleep schedules), which ones we want to hold onto (like our daily walk), and which ones we want to be compassionate about (like our fears, worries or anxiety).

Session 5 - Examining the Experience of Lower Income Students at Macalester

3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. with Brian Lindeman, AVP for Admissions & Financial Aid; Financial Barriers Working Group

In 2020-2021, five Macalester staff members (Angi Faiks, Ruth Janisch, Brian Lindeman, Sedric McClure, Ann Minnick) formed a new Financial Barriers Working Group at President Rivera’s request. We spent the year gathering information and input. Now we’d like to share what we’ve learned about financial and cultural issues that affect Macalester’s low income students. This first year’s work represents the beginning of what we hope will be a campus-wide discussion.
TUESDAY MAY 25, 2021

9:00 a.m. through 5:00 p.m.
Session 1 - Getting Started with Google Groups
9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. with ITS staff members Suzanne Durkacs and Kate Moss
During this session we'll show you how to get the most out of your Google Group. Email everyone in a group with a single email address. Invite Group members to an event with Google Calendar. Share a Google Doc or a Shared drive with a Group. Group members and managers will learn more about Google Groups.

Session 2 - A Poem for a Year; Writing as a Tool for Reflection
10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. with Diver Van Avery, a queer writer, educator, parent, and public artist based out of Minneapolis; and WHAM
This last year has led us all through profound places. Whether you identify as a creative writer or not, in this hour-long session we will use discussion, free-writes, and poetic prompts to lead you through the creation of a poem that honors what you have experienced and how you have been impacted. We will read poems from poets like Lucille Clifton and Naomi Shihab Nye whose work straddles the political and the personal, helping your poem do the same. This poem can be a gift you keep for yourself or an offering to your family or someone you love who has walked with you through this transformative time.

Diver Van Avery (she/they) is a queer writer, educator, parent, and public artist based out of Minneapolis. Van Avery has partnered with Mississippi River Connection, Northern Lights, the Community Planning and Economic Department of Minneapolis, Shakopee Women's Prison, public libraries, the Public Works department, and City of Lakes Community Land Trust. Van Avery received an MFA in creative writing from Hamline University and is pursuing a master's in counseling. Read a recent article in Minnesota Women's Press about Van Avery's Family Poetry Project in collaboration with Spark & Stitch Institute here: https://www.womenspress.com/the-poetry-of-family-spark-and-stitch-diver-van-avery/
Session 3 - In, Out, Above, and Beyond Saint Paul, An Exploration of the City
11:30 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. with Ashley Nepp, GIS & Cartography Instructor; and David Lanegran, Professor Emeritus

Have you ever wanted to learn more about Macalester's home city? Join Ashley and Dave on an exploration of Saint Paul's stories, history and neighborhoods! We will use Curious City: In, Out, Above, Beyond Saint Paul as a starting point to dive into the city. Come with curious minds, bring your questions and share your own Saint Paul stories! Curious City is a cultural atlas created by Macalester students in Spring 2019: https://www.flipsnack.com/macalester/curious-city-in-out-above-beyond-st-paul/full-view.html

Session 4 - Is 1 the Loneliest Number?
1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. with Kelly Fang, Health Coach and Well-being Program Manager

During the pandemic, many of us have felt exceptionally lonely at times. In fact, nearly 1 in 2 Americans report sometimes or always feeling alone. While loneliness is prevalent - and entirely normal - it's also modifiable. Join me to learn why loneliness is an opportunity to better understand yourself, what actually contributes to your loneliness throughout the lifespan, and what you can do to address it more effectively. I'll help you explore what role you want people to play in your life and I'll discuss ways to create higher-quality interactions.
Session 5 - Google Chrome Browser Clinic
2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. with ITS staff members Suzanne Durkacs and Kate Moss

Is your current browser skill up to date with Google Chrome's latest version? Join our session and find out what the version 90 has to offer. The Chrome browser has changed a lot since it was released in 2008. In this session, we'll go over how to manage multiple profiles to keep your work and home life separate, even when you are living and working in the same location. We'll share ITS staff picks for best extensions, troubleshooting tips and best practices.

Session 6 - Embrace Neurodiversity: Your Role in Equity and Inclusion
4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. with Rob Stokes '19; and Melissa Fletcher, Director of Disability Services

Judy Singer came up with the term neurodiversity in the late 1990s. Singer, a sociologist on the autism spectrum, rejected the idea that people with autism were disabled. Singer believed their brains simply worked differently from other people's. The term was quickly embraced by activists in the autism community and beyond. Advocates have used it to fight stigma and promote inclusion in schools and in the workplace.

Join us to hear from Rob Stokes, a 2019 graduate and founder of the Macalester Autism Community (MAC) at Mac. Rob has a unique perspective of how students and individuals who identify as being on the Autism Spectrum (ASD) continue to experience barriers in both academic and in the post-graduate workforce. He'll be joined by Melissa Fletcher, the Director of Disability Services. She learns something new almost every day from the students she works with and she can speak to the accommodations Macalester provides.
WEDNESDAY MAY 26, 2021

9:00 a.m. through 3:00 p.m.
Sessions 1, 3 - Spring Professional Activities Workshop (SPAW) 2021

9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. with the Jan Serie Center for Scholarship and Teaching

Our SPAW this year will be a chance to connect with colleagues and reflect on questions such as: What do we want a post-pandemic Macalester to be like?; What have we learned from this time that we want to bring forward?; What do we want to leave behind?; and In what ways would it be a mistake to go 'back to normal' when the pandemic is over?

Please join us to engage in one or more of the following deeply interconnected conversations:

- Connecting strengths-based pedagogy to curricular transformation: How might we integrate pedagogical practices with changes in the curriculum in order to create learning spaces that recognize and validate the brilliance, experiences, and interests of all of our students?
- Building a pedagogical practice with equity and well-being at the center
- Universal Design for Learning: How pandemic pedagogy forced me to change how I teach and why I'm never going back to my old ways
- The future of a liberal arts education in the face of a climate and societal crisis: Engaging the urgent need for environmental justice in our pedagogies and curricula
- Pedagogy and technology: What have we learned and how has teaching been transformed (forever?!)?
- The future of teaching and learning at Mac: Contemplating the continued integration of distance- and hybrid-based pedagogies
- What do we want "community" to look like in the post-pandemic era?

Please stay tuned for more specific information about timing and logistics.
Session 2 - The Virtual Residential Experience

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. with Kyle Flowers, Associate Director of Residential Life First-Year & Second-Year Experience; and Zachary Smith, Residence Hall Director

Throughout this academic year, Residential Life has repackaged a variety of internal- and front-facing processes to meet the needs of the student experience. This session will highlight some of these processes and outline how we've moved experiences to digital formats and, at times, rethought how we've traditionally engaged our residential population.
THURSDAY MAY 27, 2021

9:00 a.m. through 3:00 p.m.
Sessions 1, 3 – Spring Professional Activities Workshop (SPAW) 2021

9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. with the Jan Serie Center for Scholarship and Teaching

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Please stay tuned for more specific information about timing and logistics.
Session 2 - Student Leadership Needs Assessment Findings

11:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. with OSLE staff members Margaret Smith, Laurie Adamson, and Logan Schrader

The Office of Student Leadership and Engagement will present our findings from a comprehensive student leadership needs assessment project we started in November 2020. We will share our process and outline a series of recommendations for staff and faculty regarding student leadership development.
FRIDAY MAY 28, 2021

9:00 a.m. through 11:00 a.m.
Session 1 - eSignatures, eForms, Workflows & Process Improvements
9:00 a.m. - 9:45 a.m. with Aimee Baxter, Business Analyst; Gene Binfa, Enterprise Application Analyst; and Suzanne Durkacs, Knowledge & Communications Specialist
This presentation will show you some of the ways in which we have implemented e-Signatures, e-Forms and workflows to improve processes across campus.

Session 2 - Predicting US News Ranking at Macalester
10:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. with Katie Reed, Research Associate with Admissions & Financial Aid
Over the past year, the Admissions Department partnered with students and faculty from the MSCS Department on a research project intended to help us better understand Macalester's US News ranking, and how Macalester could effect change in our ranking by improving our status in one or more of the ranking criteria. This presentation will cover the basics of the US News methodology, changes over time, a high-level summary of the research and statistical modeling methods used to predict Macalester's ranking, and demonstration of a dashboard created to explore the impact that changes to the ranking criteria might have on Macalester's overall ranking.