



HUMANITIES IN ACTION

CAREER WORKSHOPS

SUNDAY, NOV. 13

12:45-5PM

WHITNEY
HUMANITIES
CENTER

ALUMNI BIOS

MALLORY BAYSEK '11 is here to answer the question “Can you survive in Manhattan by tutoring while pursuing your dream?” with an emphatic “Yes!” Tutoring — coupled with other eclectic pursuits — has been about more than survival. Together, these jobs make up a colorful backslash to her theatre and writing career. Mallory is the director of communications for an Austin-based modern design company; she took point on the marketing and branding of a new Chicago-based architecture company; and she has edited a book on strategic project management. As an actor, Mallory has collaborated in readings and workshops of new works in musical theatre and has performed at such venues and with such companies as Ars Nova, 54 Below, Playwrights Horizons, Urban Stages, Classic Stage Company, NYU Tisch, and the New School. This past year, Mallory was on the road with the national tour of *The Lightning Thief*, a new musical based on the Percy Jackson book series. Playing Annabeth, the daughter of Athena, she found prime opportunity to fuse her acting chops with her classics/humanities background. As a writer, Mallory is currently developing a screenplay with her collaborator, a fellow Yale grad, and is in the early stages of a novel based on — you guessed it — her trials and travails as tutor to NYC’s uber-wealthy.

KEVIN BECKFORD '11 is currently a special advisor for the Obama administration within the Department of Housing and Urban Development. A free spirit of sorts, Kevin has held a variety of jobs, all of which he believes he was prepped for within the African American studies and political science departments at Yale. Previously, Kevin was at the White House Office of Presidential Correspondence for two years, freelanced with McKinsey & Company, and taught middle and high school history in Philadelphia. Kevin is a Gates Cambridge Scholar, which led him to the University of Cambridge, from which he received an MPhil in African studies. Kevin also has a master’s degree from the University of Pennsylvania. Unapologetic and proud of his identity as a Black Caribbean American, Kevin has found his immersion in the study of identity politics during his time at Yale both personally and professionally rewarding.

ANDREW LIPKA MD '78 is perhaps the “black sheep” of this crowd — a nonhumanities major (MB&B) who went on to a career in medicine (ophthalmology). Nevertheless, he has spent his career bringing a humanities ethic to his work and his life, and now drives many of Yale’s efforts to bring the wonders of the humanities to alumni. In addition to chairing the Section of Ophthalmology at University Medical Center at Princeton, serving on the Biomedical Ethics Committee and teaching at Rutgers Medical School, he leads the Yale for Life program, where alumni, spouses, and parents return to campus for a week of intensive humanities immersion. He sits on the board of Yale Alumni College and founded the Princeton campus of YACOL. He served as a member of a Yale delegation that traveled to the Balkans as ambassadors for the liberal arts, speaking to over 1,000 students on the virtues of a liberal arts education. His passion is for a Yale that recognizes “Commencement” in its literal meaning. The learning and the belonging to Yale, and to the community of scholars, grows throughout life in his view, and its home is in the humanities.

TALA GHARAGOZLOU '06 is an architect based in London, managing new developments for the Soho House Group in Paris, Hong Kong, and Tokyo. She started her career working for Frank Gehry in Los Angeles on such projects as the Washington D.C. Eisenhower Memorial. She then moved back to Paris, her hometown, where she worked on hospitality projects such as Michelin-starred restaurants, at Atelier India Mahdavi, while taking on independent design consulting work for museums and independent collections. Her penchant for architecture initially grew out of a lecture by Professor Alec Purves on Louis Kahn’s Yale Center for British Art, an architectural masterpiece she had not set foot in until then. Her original interests in literature, art history, and science came together in her architectural studies as an undergraduate and graduate student at Yale. As the 2010 editor of *Perspecta*, the Yale Journal of Architecture, Tala explored the changing notions of “Domain,” soliciting contributions from a range of writers, such as historians specializing in Middle Eastern architectural history to experts in digital property law. In addition to her professional practice since leaving Yale School of Architecture, Tala has pursued her interest in academic and museum work by teaching workshops for the Cornell Paris program and the Architectural Association in London, as well as winning a design competition for the Paris Museum of Medieval Art for an exhibition entitled “The Art of Travel in Medieval Times.”

ISABEL MARIN '12 is currently a company commander in the United States Marine Corps. Next year she will be starting at Harvard Law School. The humanities, as both a discovery of human nature and a pursuit of truth, has been the thread connecting her studies in intellectual history to her leadership in the Marine Corps to her future in law and beyond. She uses the stories and experiences from the classics to inform her speeches, her decisions, and her analysis of the world she has encountered through the Marine Corps—the trials the Marines face in their daily lives, the deployments to Afghanistan and Kuwait, and the challenge to influence her platoon and now company. She has published three articles in the Marine Corps Gazette discussing possible ways to restructure the logistics units of the Marine Corps as well as ways to project Naval and Marine Corps power from ship to shore in a more expeditionary and economical manner. Her approach to law carries forward her approach to the humanities: a search for truth by analyzing how our interpretation of it has changed over time.

MARGOT MCMAHON (MFA, YALE SCHOOL OF ART AND ARCHITECTURE '84) has been called the “Studs Terkel of the sculpting world.” Her work can be found internationally, in state and city parks, sculpture gardens, the Smithsonian, DePaul University, the Museum of Contemporary Art, the Chicago History Museum and Chicago Botanic Garden, the Lake Forest St. Patrick’s and St. Mary’s Parishes, as well as in Japan and Chicago’s Sokka Gaikai Buddhist Centers, Chicago area public schools and libraries. She has portrayed Chicago Giants and unsung heroes; writers, musicians, laborers, and luminaries who have created the unique fabric of Chicago including Richard Wright, Delois Barrett Campbell, Ernest Hemingway, Monsignor John Egan, and John D. MacArthur. Margot has taught at Yale and Yale’s Summer School, and at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. She serves on the boards of the Ragdale Foundation and the Chicago Literary Hall of Fame, and is president of YaleWomen Chicago. She is a founder of the Yale Alumni Arts League and Oak Park’s Public Art Advisory, and cochairs committees for the Chicago Tree Project and Chicago’s 2017 Year of Public Art. Current exhibitions include Brauer Museum, Indiana, Krasl Biennial, Michigan, and SculpturePark, Guernsey, UK.

ERIC NATHAN '06, a 2013 Rome Prize Fellow and 2014 Guggenheim Fellow, has garnered acclaim internationally through performances at the New York Philharmonic’s 2014 Biennial, Carnegie Hall, Aldeburgh Music Festival, Tanglewood Festival of Contemporary Music, Aspen Music Festival, MATA Festival, Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music, Ravinia Festival Steans Institute, Yellow Barn, Music Academy of the West, 2012 and 2013 World Music Days, Domaine Forget, and Louvre Museum. His music has been featured by the Boston Symphony Orchestra, the Berlin Philharmonic’s Scharoun Ensemble, Boston Symphony Chamber Players, Boston Modern Orchestra Project, Nouvel Ensemble Moderne, American Composers Orchestra, Omaha Symphony Chamber Orchestra, A Far Cry, JACK Quartet, American Brass Quintet, and others. Recent projects include commissions from the Boston Symphony Orchestra, the New York Philharmonic, Tanglewood Music Center, and the Aspen Music Festival for the American Brass Quintet. Nathan has been honored with a Copland House residency, ASCAP’s Rudolf Nissim Prize, four ASCAP Morton Gould Awards, BMI’s William Schuman Prize, Aspen Music Festival’s Jacob Druckman Prize, a Charles Ives Scholarship from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, and a Leonard Bernstein Fellowship from the Tanglewood Music Center. He served as composer-in-residence at the 2013 Chelsea Music Festival (New York) and 2013 Chamber Music Campagna (Italy). Nathan was a visiting assistant professor at Williams College in 2014-15 and is currently assistant professor of music in composition-theory at Brown University. He received his doctorate from Cornell and MM from Indiana University.

ALEX TROY '81 is head of school of the American Hebrew Academy. The American Hebrew Academy is an international Jewish college prep boarding school located in Greensboro, North Carolina. Prior to serving as Head of School, Alex worked as a lawyer and an investor for thirty years. He started his career practicing merger and acquisition law at Skadden Arps and then moved to the investment world, where he worked in hedge funds and ran a family office. He is a senior advisor to Eigenvector Capital, a systematic value-oriented hedge fund, which he helped found. From 2002 through 2013, Alex was a member of the board of directors of Amistad Academy, a New Haven K-12 charter school. He served as chairman of Amistad’s board for seven years. Alex is an advocate for education reform and has served on the boards of several organizations devoted to improving public schools. Alex holds a JD from Harvard and a master’s degree in the liberal arts from St. John’s College (Maryland). He and his wife Dale live on the Academy’s campus in Greensboro.

JESSE WILLIAMS '12 is an agitator and writer who pays his bills by hustling PowerPoint slides. He's the editor and cofounder of *Scalawag*, a media project based in Durham, North Carolina, and dedicated to reckoning with the American South. Working with a nine-person editorial board, he helped to conceive and begin producing *Scalawag*'s website and quarterly print magazine – which are now about 18 months old – and has spearheaded *Scalawag*'s events and community conversations around the region. Sometimes, this has involved cool work for Jesse (like drafting questions with editors at *The Nation* to fuel a copublished panel discussion on the role of the South in the 2016 election); sometimes, it has involved less-cool work (like trying to stuff hundreds of magazines into slightly-too-small mailing envelopes). Meeting writers, activists, and community leaders across the South has convinced Jesse that there are many fantastic places to live – and many communities of smart, motivated, interesting people – that are not neighborhoods in Brooklyn. Before launching *Scalawag*, Jesse lived in a Brooklyn neighborhood while working for the Boston Consulting Group. In the fall of 2017, he'll enroll at Yale Law School. Jesse graduated Yale College with a BA in philosophy.

SUSAN SCHORR '87 majored in English and competed on Yale's varsity squash team. She began her career as a literary agent in New York City for a number of years before pivot #1: earning master's degrees in social work and public administration from Columbia. Following stints at social service agencies in New York, Oakland, and San Francisco, Susan returned to her Boston roots to attend Boston College Law School (pivot #2). After a superior court clerkship and then four years as a litigation and telecommunications regulatory attorney in Maine (the most random part of her career!), Susan now practices law at a small firm in the Boston area, advising K-12 independent schools on student, parent, and employment challenges and nonprofit governance issues (pivot #3). Susan is an overseer (a nonfiduciary) at the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and a trustee of the 100-unit condominium where she lives in Boston. Susan served on the board of Pine Tree Legal Assistance, Maine's legal aid organization, and on Maine's Share Our Strength committee, where she helped organize major fundraising events to end childhood hunger. Susan recently joined the board of the Yale Club of Boston and serves as an AYA delegate. Whether drafting a short professional networking email, explaining the implications of a law or regulation to a school administrator, or writing a letter to a condominium resident upset about an increase in building fees, Susan constantly relies on the communication skills that she began to hone while writing all those humanities course papers at Yale!

STEVE TOMLIN '83 has been an entrepreneur, senior executive, and investor in the wireless technology, biotechnology, and Internet industries for over twenty years. Since 2001, he has been a general partner with Avalon Ventures, where he concentrates on start-up wireless, IT, media technology, and software investments. From 1994 to 1998, he was a cofounder, president, and CEO of PersonaLogic, Inc., a web-based ecommerce navigation company acquired by AOL in 1998. He remained with AOL through 2000. During 1993 and 1994, Steve was vice-president and general manager of QVC Interactive, where he reported directly to QVC's chairman and CEO and was responsible for all aspects of creating and managing QVC's interactive shopping business. From 1991 to 1993, he was the director of new business development for Walt Disney Computer Software. Steve also worked in investment banking at Shearson Lehman Brothers, and in strategic planning and business development for Castle & Cooke, and has been involved with several new business start-ups. He earned his MBA from Harvard in 1987; his BA from Yale was in American studies. He is a member of the board of trustees of the Francis Parker School in San Diego and vice-chair of the Core Knowledge Foundation in Charlottesville, Virginia, an organization devoted to improving the quality of elementary school curriculum and advancing educational equity. He works at the VA's Aspire Center in San Diego, helping veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan with PTSD or mild brain injury gain greater financial literacy and improve their credit ratings. Steve is involved with Yale's continuing education efforts as a student, board member of the Yale for Life program, and founder of the San Diego chapter of the Yale Alumni College.

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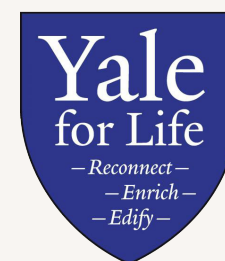
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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

12:45–1:00 **Check-in** [Auditorium]

1:00–1:10 **Opening Remarks**
— Prof. Bryan Garsten,
Chair, Humanities Program,
Professor of Political Science

1:10–2:00 **Panel: “Unexpected Journeys”**
— Moderator: Prof. Amy Hungerford,
Divisional Director for the Humanities,
Professor of English
— Panelists: Mallory Baysek ’11;
Kevin Beckford ’11; Tala Gharagozlou ’06;
Isabel Marin ’12; Jesse Williams ’12

2:00–2:15 **Refreshment Break** [Room 108]

2:15–3:00 **Simultaneous Breakout Sessions**

Breakout A

Margot McMahon ’84 ARCH & Tala Gharagozlou ’06

Breakout B

Susan Schorr ’87 & Eric Nathan ’06 & Mallory Baysek ’11

Breakout C

Steve Tomlin ’83 & Kevin Beckford ’11 & Isabel Marin ’12

Breakout D

Andy Lipka ’78 & Alex Troy ’81 & Jesse Williams ’12

3:00–3:15 **Refreshment Break** [Room 108]

3:15–4:00 **Simultaneous Breakout Sessions** [see above]

4:00–5:00 **Networking Reception** [Room 108]