



REBECCA MESSBARGER
Professor of Italian, Arts & Sciences

medical school, but her current project involves collaborating with Rebecca Messbarger, a professor of Italian in Arts & Sciences whose research on the Italian Enlightenment includes extensive work on the cultural history of medicine. Messbarger, who cofounded the medical humanities program at WashU and serves as its director, believes it is important for students to study the humanities to understand our past and our present, including the cultural roles of medicine and science.



MSC 1082-414-2555
Washington University in St. Louis
1 Brookings Drive
St. Louis, MO 63130-9989
877-215-2727

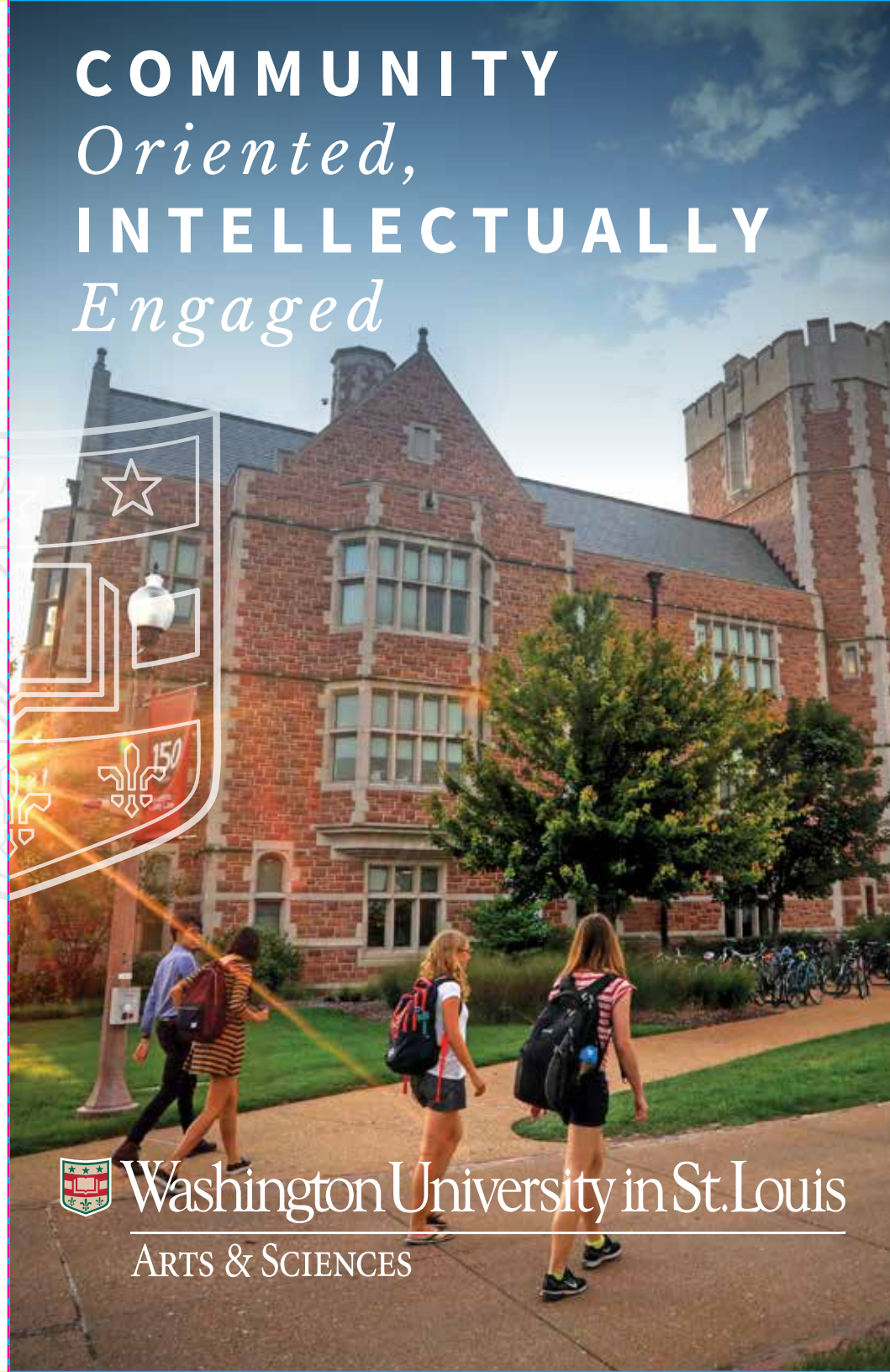
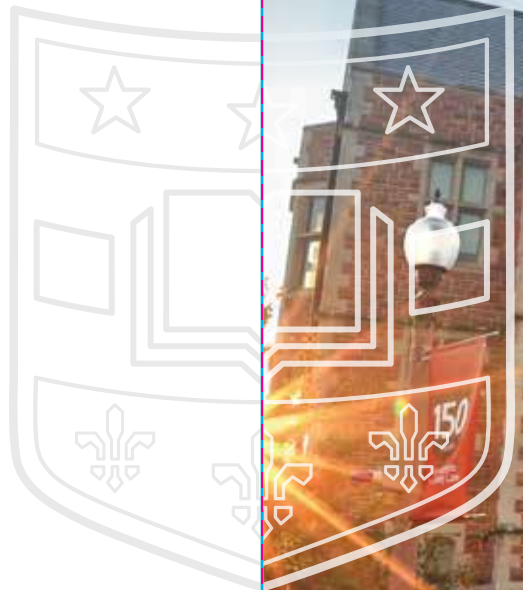
Your gift to Arts & Sciences empowers students and faculty to pursue big questions and find life-changing answers.

For more information, please contact:

JAMIE BARRON

jamie.b@wustl.edu or 314-935-5148

GIVING.WUSTL.EDU/SPRINGARTS-SCIENCES



COMMUNITY
Oriented,
INTELLECTUALLY
Engaged

 **Washington University in St. Louis**
ARTS & SCIENCES



ENGAGING
across
DISCIPLINES

MISHKA NARASIMHAN
Class of 2024

COLLABORATION LIES AT THE HEART OF ARTS & SCIENCES at Washington University. It's what binds together the seemingly disparate fields and researchers of this wide-reaching school. And medical humanities, a discipline which brings the insights of literature, history, philosophy, and the arts to the science of medicine, exemplifies these connections. Medical humanities was an unexpected focus for Mishka Narasimhan, a biology major in Arts & Sciences, Class of 2024. The San Francisco Bay Area native has her sights set on

EXPANDING *the conversation*

Their conversation started when Narasimhan took Messbarger's course, "Disease, Madness, and Death Italian Style," as an elective. Before long, Narasimhan, who saw herself primarily as a scientist, found herself delving into the social, political, economic, and religious depictions of disease. She was intrigued by how much more multifaceted the study of medicine was through a humanities lens.

This interest evolved into the two joining forces with two other students in the class on a new podcast investigating the intersection of medicine, race, and ethnicity in St. Louis. While a project using the humanities to examine illness and health care is in Messbarger's wheelhouse, podcasting is a new medium for her. Messbarger is quick to point out how much she has learned from Narasimhan, whom she describes as a "master" of podcasting. Narasimhan co-hosts another podcast, "Master Minds," which began as a COVID venture and has grown to be a production with a large team behind it.

Both Messbarger and Narasimhan believe scrutinizing the past, present, and future state of public health in St. Louis is vital to understanding and making strides toward repairing racial and class disparities in the area. Using a podcast as the vehicle brings the discussion out of the classroom and into the local and national conversation. The collaboration itself, however, is a hallmark of both an Arts & Sciences education and the WashU experience: faculty and students engaging together to grapple with society's big questions and to chart new paths.

“

The ability to have a collaborative relationship with a professor is something that I didn't expect coming into college at all. Being able to tap into their wealth of knowledge and expertise in the forms of conversation and hands-on learning outside the classroom has been just the biggest joy of coming to college.

MISHKA NARASIMHAN • *Class of 2024*

It is so gratifying to be a professor at Washington University and teach high-powered, intellectual, community-oriented students like Mishka, and hear that you're making an impact. That's what we live for.

REBECCA MESSBARGER
Professor of Italian
Director of Medical Humanities



YOUR GIFT TO THE ANNUAL FUND is an investment in our talented students and faculty. When you give, you provide vital resources that help prepare the next generation of leaders like Mishka Narasimhan who will influence and shape our world. Through your generosity, you empower faculty members, including Professor Messbarger, to equip students in Arts & Sciences with the knowledge and motivation to turn their aspirations into achievements. Gifts of every dollar amount support important initiatives, including:

- Scholarships and fellowships
- Distinguished faculty
- Innovative research
- A best-in-class student experience

WILL YOU MAKE AN ANNUAL FUND GIFT TODAY?

Give online at giving.wustl.edu/springarts-sciences or by scanning the code. Or simply return the enclosed form in the postage-paid envelope.



 **Washington University in St. Louis**
ARTS & SCIENCES