

## THE VOICES OF WALKER'S WOMEN TODAY ALUMNAE PANEL HOSTED BY THE ALUMNAE BOARD

**SATURDAY, MAY 18, 2019**

### PANELISTS

#### **ANA VICTORIA MESTRE '69**



Ana graduated from Manhattanville College in 1973 and then went on to earn a degree from Columbia University in international banking and finance. She worked at Citibank/Citicorp for 30 years, spent 15 years in corporate banking in Venezuela, Philadelphia and Miami, and 15 years of private banking (both domestic and international) in Miami and New York. She “retired” in 2007 and since then has been working for UBS International on their primary markets in Argentina, Chile, Venezuela, Colombia, Uruguay, Paraguay, and Ecuador. She traveled extensively until 2016 but is now “winding down.”

#### **DR. C. SARA MINARD '89**



Sara serves as the chief program officer for the College for Social Innovation (CFSI), a not-for-profit organization in Boston, MA, that provides a semester-long experiential learning opportunity for diverse college students through mentor-supported internships in the social sector while earning academic credit. CFSI's mission is to educate and inspire the next generation of problem solvers. Sara is a researcher and faculty advisor on impact investing for the Lewis Institute for Social Innovation at Babson College.

Dr. Minard earned her Ph.D. in economics with highest honors from Sciences Po, Paris, and has worked as a socio-economist, policy researcher, and development practitioner for the past 20 years at the intersection of private sector development; economic policy with a focus on informality; social innovation and social enterprise; design thinking for sustainable development; and impact investing. Dr. Minard was previously executive professor at Northeastern University's D'Amore-McKim School of Business where she developed and taught award-winning courses on impact investing and social finance, social innovation and global social entrepreneurship, as well as led experiential field-based programs in India and Appalachia, with a focus on gender, food systems and social business. Before coming to Northeastern, she taught for five years at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs as a full-time Lecturer-in-Discipline designing and delivering courses on methods for development practice and social entrepreneurship. Dr. Minard serves as an international consultant and policy analyst for international development institutions, large companies, startups, and NGOs. Her industry experience includes five years as a socio-economist at the OECD in Paris where she managed development investment projects in 18 West African countries, and as a consultant for the World Bank/IFC and several UN agencies. She started her career as a legislative aide in the U.S. Senate and served in the U.S. Peace Corps in Senegal. She speaks fluent French, Wolof, and conversational Spanish, and serves on several social venture boards and a national faith-based impact investment fund. Dr. Minard is a certified Ashtanga yoga teacher and is trained to teach mindfulness meditation.

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## CHRISTINA “CHRIS” CHRISTIE '94



On her super sensorial and creative career path, Christina Christie not only followed her heart - she followed her nose. A perfumer at one of the world's top fragrance houses, Christina literally captures our emotions and memories and bottles them into products that play a role in our everyday lives. Graduating in 1994 from Walker's, and in 1998 from Sarah Lawrence College, Christina had a foundation that combined business savvy and creativity that led her to a coveted marketing role at Unilever.

Recognized for her powerful sense of smell, Christina was quickly promoted to Product Development, creating scent strategy for major brands such as Vera Wang, Nautica, Valentino and Chloe. Christina is currently a senior perfumer at one of the world's top fragrance houses in NYC, where she blends incredible stories into unforgettable fragrances. She is also a perfumer for niche brands like Kelly + Jones, where she created a Rosé wine fragrance that was featured in *Marie Claire* and *Food & Wine Magazine*.

“I fell in love with this art form because it evokes so many human emotions, memories and moments,” says Christina. “Fragrance allows me to personally connect with our human experience.”

## KIRSTEN ECKELMEYER '94



After graduating from Walker's, Kirsten went on to receive her B.A. with honors in economics from the University of Virginia and later an M.B.A. with a concentration in sports marketing from the University of Oregon.

Kirsten has over 18 years of professional experience, including four years in Consulting with Booz Allen Hamilton's Economic & Business Group and nearly 12 years with Nike. Over the course of her tenure at Nike, Kirsten has held a variety of roles in Brand Marketing. She started out as the US brand planning senior analyst and subsequently moved to Brand Innovation as the brand intelligence manager, directing the revamp of the company's brand health tracking program and overseeing other ad-hoc brand research projects. From there she moved to the digital brand marketing space, leading planning and operations for the function before taking over as the digital brand director for the Young Athletes category.

Currently, Kirsten serves as the marketing operations director for Nike Direct's Stores Brand function. She is responsible for the overarching planning, financial and operational activities of the function.

Outside of work, Kirsten enjoys traveling, outdoor adventure, rowing and spending time with her husband, Craig, and kiddos - Auggie (6) and Thea (3).

## ELIZABETH SPOEHEL '14



After Elizabeth graduated from Walker's in 2014 she attended Samford University in Alabama for a year and a half. After taking second semester of sophomore year off and then trying to enlist in the Navy, she found The Citadel, a military college in South Carolina. There she is pursuing a double major in mathematics and computer science with minors in statistics, cybersecurity, and fine arts. Elizabeth will be graduating in May of 2020 and then moving to Maryland to work for NIWC (Naval Information Warfare Center, formerly SPAWAR). She has a three-year commitment with them as a result of a scholarship she received.

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## MODERATOR

### TERESA C. YOUNGER

**TRUSTEE, THE ETHEL WALKER SCHOOL, AND  
PRESIDENT AND CEO, MS. FOUNDATION FOR WOMEN**



Trustee Teresa C. Younger has served as president and CEO of the Ms. Foundation for Women, the oldest women's foundation in the United States, since 2014. She is a renowned thought leader, strategist, advocate, activist and amplifier having spent over 20 years on the frontlines of some of the most critical battles affecting the lives of women and their communities. Most recently, under Ms. Younger's leadership, the Ms. Foundation launched its bold new strategic plan, in which the organization has chosen to center women and girls of color and challenge the philanthropic sector around how women, particularly women and girls of color, are invested in.

As a thought leader, Ms. Younger's contributions and expertise to the nonprofit and social justice arenas has been noted in *BIG IMPACT: Insights and Stories from America's Nonprofit Leaders*, the Women's Leadership Online Summit, and recognized by the Council on World Affairs, Aspen Institute, Princeton University, and more. In 2015 she was chosen by Planned Parenthood Federation of America as a Dream Keeper, and in 2016 was named one of the "50 Most Powerful Women in Philanthropy" by *Inside Philanthropy*. She has appeared on MSNBC's *Melissa Harris Perry Show*, MSNBC's *UP with David Gura*, NPR Radio, *Elle Magazine* and more, with interviews in *USA Today*, *AP*, *Rewire*, *BadassWomenLeaders.com* podcast and the *New York Times*.

Prior to joining the Ms. Foundation family, Ms. Younger served as the executive director of the Connecticut General Assembly's Permanent Commission on the Status of Women and as executive director of the ACLU of Connecticut – making her the first African American and the first woman to hold that position.

Ms. Younger is a graduate of the University of North Dakota and an Honorary Doctorate of Letters in Humanities from the University of New Haven. She is also a lifetime Girl Scout.