Dear Vanderbilt Community,

This Women's History Month, as we celebrate women who tell our stories, we must also reflect on the importance of recognizing and valuing the narratives of those who have been marginalized or excluded. Just as the shared histories of individuals who have been oppressed have given rise to a richness of culture, art, and innovation, so too have the stories of those who have been historically silenced. In this way, the representation of diverse voices is not only important but also necessary.

We are deeply indebted to many teachers, especially my own mother, the late Gatha Westenley Alcenet, and Sophie Bjork-James moderated by Allison Conklin. Please join us on 3/28 at 7pm in the Central Library 4th floor community room for a round table discussion with Magda Teter, Executive Director of the Women's Center at Vanderbilt University. The discussion will be titled, "Confronting Hate: Antisemitism and Racism." In anticipation of Women's History Month, we are proud to partner with a number of University of Tennessee, Knoxville, that will bring in speakers and hold events to celebrate Disability Awareness Month.

As a Black woman, scholar, administrator and practitioner from the great state of Mississippi, my southern roots inform my appreciation of beauty salon, the local community center and church—make me who I am. I've been able to adopt storytelling into my praxis, a skill that my mother, my grandmother, and my aunts have taught me. I have learned to speak my truth, to challenge the status quo, to make the invisible visible. The human experience is so fluid, so complex and so multidimensional. As such, I implore you to consider women whose stories have informed and continue to inform your personhood, and to celebrate them by saying their names in rooms and spaces where they may not have been invited. Join in celebrating with the Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center and numerous campus partners to offer a series of events to celebrate Women's History Month.

With gratitude,

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