

IMPACT REPORT

2025-2026

Sustainability for the Future

GREETINGS



Dear Mills Community and Friends,

In the pages of this Impact Report, you'll read about programs we've launched, curriculum we've built, research we've published, and other exciting initiatives! Mills College advanced its strategic growth across three pillars this academic year: **curriculum development and program building, faculty development and enrichment, and experiential learning for students.**

As I reflect on this past year however, I am most humbled by the people behind these achievements: our innovative faculty, who continue to teach and mentor our incredible students; our staff, who continue to grow and develop new skills to support our college; and our alums, whose steadfast support continues to propel us forward while keeping us true to our roots and legacy.

In 2027, Mills will celebrate her 175th birthday! That's 175 years of people – faculty, staff, students, alums, partners, friends – dedicated to improving society through education.

The words of our mission statement have never rung truer for me:

Mills College educates leaders who build a socially, economically and environmentally sustainable future for all. Through interdisciplinary programs, innovative research with our community partners, and real-world hands-on experiences, our students build transferable skills that empower them to challenge the status quo. Our graduates elevate well-being and economic justice, leverage frontier technology, lead with empathy, create with purpose, and inspire collective action towards an equitable, prosperous, and vibrant world.

This impact report is a celebration of our collective growth and accomplishments over the 2025-2026 Academic Year.

Thank you for building the future with us,

Beth Kochly

Dean, Mills College at Northeastern University
Executive Director, Mills Institute

CHAPTERS

1. Building Curriculum

- Sustainability Studies Minor
- Cross-College Offerings
- Wildfire Ecology in a Changing Climate
- Mills College Curriculum by the Numbers

2. Experiential Learning

- Problem Solving for a Sustainable Future in Oaxaca, Mexico
- From Farm to Page: Japanese Food and Culture in Japan
- Chan-Norris Scholars

3. Sustainability in Action

- Sustainability Innovation Week
- Scholarly Innovation Lecture Series
- Sustainable Futures Panel Discussion
- Bioneers Conference

4. AI Initiatives

- New Survey on Mills College AI Use and Adoption Efforts
- AI in the Academy Salon
- Creative Writing at the Intersection of AI

5. Research

- Faculty Awards and Recognition
- Faculty Publications, Exhibitions, and Projects
- Faculty Grants and Appointments
- Quigley Grants
- Faculty-Mentored Student Research
- Pauline Oliveros Working Residency

6. Alumni Engagement

7. Celebrating Retiring Faculty

- Lisa Urry
- Darcelle Lahr

8. In Memoriam

- Ruth Cossey
- Marianne Sheldon

9. Looking to the Future, Honoring Our Past

- Upcoming Initiatives
- Mills College 175th Birthday Celebration

BUILDING CURRICULUM

Our curriculum is positioning Mills College for continued growth as we look towards the upcoming academic year.

One new minor, Creative Writing, fully launched, and another, Sustainability Studies, completed the governance process and is set to launch in Fall 2026. This new minor introduces students to an interdisciplinary framework for addressing complex global challenges. With these, we have the building blocks in place to expand to larger and more impactful programs in the coming years. The development of these experientially grounded courses will form the core of a proposed undergraduate degree in Sustainability Studies that aligns with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals and intersects with Mills College's equity and justice-oriented mission.

We are teaching courses across

many disciplines and have developed strategies around course modality and cross-college offerings. Mills courses are now integrated into programs in Psychology, Public Health/Health Science, PPE, and the minor in Interdisciplinary AI. This collaborative model benefits students across the university and builds sustained demand for our curriculum. Mills has built a curriculum that is academically distinctive, strategically embedded across multiple colleges within the university, and efficient in building a strong foundation for future degree program development.

Also new this year is our pre-college program, Wildfire Ecology in a Changing Climate. The program was a wonderful success! Eleven students spent time on our Oakland campus learning about the impact of climate change on wildfires, specifically in California and the Northwest. We are thrilled to expand our academic footprint in this way, growing the number of students

engaging with our sustainability curriculum, and developing programs that are distinctive to Mills College.

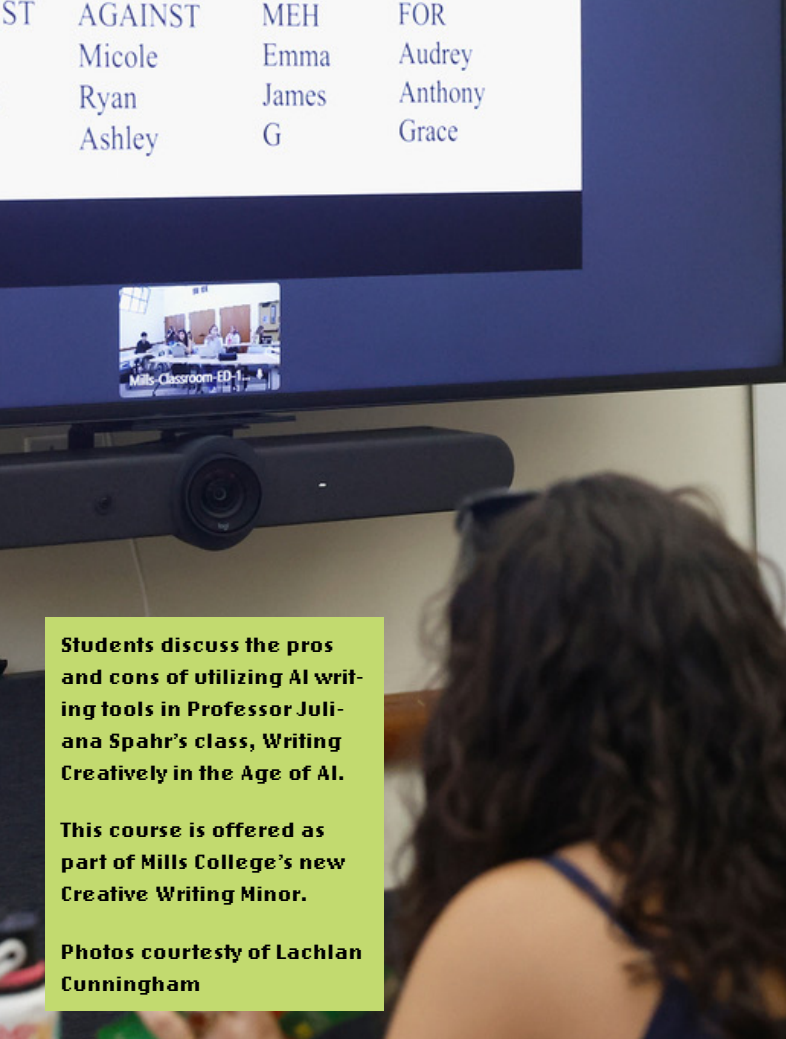
Mills College Curriculum by the Numbers

Our offerings have grown significantly this year, along with the number of students enrolled in Mills College courses. The total number of student enrollments in AY 26 is a major milestone, marking a 793% increase compared to last academic year. The number of undergraduate sections offered by the college has increased more than 240% and our seat fill rate is up by over 190%. Read more about our key metrics and findings below:

17 Undergraduate Sections

161% Increase in Class Size

241 Student Enrollments



Students discuss the pros and cons of utilizing AI writing tools in Professor Juliana Spahr's class, Writing Creatively in the Age of AI.

This course is offered as part of Mills College's new Creative Writing Minor.

Photos courtesy of Lachlan Cunningham



EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING



Students enrolled in Problem-Solving for a Sustainable Future pictured at the Iglesia de Nuestra Señora de la Natividad in Teotitlán del Valle (top right) and at Oaxaca's Bug in the Rug, a Zapotec weaving studio (bottom left). Excursions like these provide students with new cultural experiences that inform their learning.

Our commitment to experiential learning is a hallmark of Northeastern University and continues to be an essential aspect of the college's curriculum and academic offerings.

This summer, Mills College offered two Dialogue of Civilizations courses that took place in Mexico and Japan.

Professor Tomás Galguera's class, Problem-Solving for a Sustainable Future, provided eleven undergraduate students with the opportunity to spend four weeks in Oaxaca, Mexico, learning about sustainability, systems thinking, and cultural entrepreneurship.

This student group worked with four local enterprises that exemplify the combination of traditional craft practices with innovative businesses models: Real Minero (mezcal

distillery), Bug in the Rug (Zapotec weaving studio), Jacobo y María Ángeles (alebrije artist workshop), and Cocina de Humo (regional cuisine).

Using systems thinking, students mapped stakeholder networks, identified feedback loops and leverage points, and developed evidence-based strategic recommendations for each business. The course utilized a Claude project as a pedagogical tool to scaffold analytical thinking and serve as a dialogic reflection partner for students. The design was informed by principles of equitable AI access and Pedagogical AI Knowledge research.

The program concluded with final presentations at Universidad Anáhuac Oaxaca, where students presented their analyses to Oaxacan peers with firsthand knowledge of the area's cultural and economic landscape. The presentations were exceptional, a fitting close to a program that asked students not only to study sustainable business but think critically about its future.



“I was able to uncover my own biases and learn to navigate around them, to understand that not all businesses and people exist within the same cultural context I had grown up with.”

— Anonymous student feedback, on their coursework in Oaxaca, Mexico

Students attend a cooking class at La Cocina de Humo, a Oaxacan kitchen that specializes in providing hands-on experiences with the culinary traditions of the Sierra Sur area.

Students learned about sustainable, local cuisine, and were able to see how wood stoves, comales, and adobe ovens contribute to the distinctive flavor of the region.

Photos courtesy of Prof. Tomás Galguera

Our other Dialogue of Civilizations course, From Farm to Page: Japanese Food and Culture, was offered for the third consecutive year, and was led by Professors Jared Young and Susan Ito.

Students had the opportunity to visit sites in Tokyo, Kyoto, Osaka, Ueda, Bessho Onsen, and Kurobe, touring farms, food factories, and sharing memorable meals.

The course focused on the important components of Japanese cuisine, such as soy sauce, tofu, tea, and mushrooms, with students learning firsthand from growers and producers of these cultural foods.

Coursework included delving into the biology of the organisms that comprise and create these staples and writing about food experiences. Students gained familiarity with Japanese society and culture through guest lectures, connections with local university students, and many adventures, both planned and unplanned.

Students returned home with a wealth of new perspectives, new friendships, and great memories.

“One of the strongest aspects of the program was the combination of academic learning and cultural immersion. The excursions, lectures, and student interactions complemented each other and helped create a deeper understanding of Japanese society and food culture.”

— Anonymous student feedback, on their coursework in Japan



Students clean freshly caught fish (top right) and sample sashimi (bottom right) during their summer in Japan.

Learning how important cultural foods are produced, prepared, and consumed, provided valuable insight into Japan's food systems, values, and traditions.

Photos courtesy of Prof. Jared Young

Chan-Norris students had the opportunity to visit Drakes Beach at the Point Reyes National Seashore (bottom left) and the permanent collection of the California Academy of Sciences (bottom right), as part of the program's experiential component.

Photos courtesy of Prof. Sarah Swope

“Understanding disease ecology and population patterns will help me think more broadly about public health and prevention. This program helped me see that human medicine fits within a much larger biological framework and made me more interested in exploring the connections between medicine, research, and ecology.”

— Ella Culbreth, Chan-Norris participant



The Annette Chan-Norris (Mills College, '65) and Evan Norris, MD, Experiential Learning Program in Science and Sustainability endowment funded guest lectures and field trips focused on natural sciences and sustainability. Delivering hands-on, co-curricular learning experiences, this program's impact on students extends well beyond the classroom.

Directed by our very own Professor Sarah Swope, students in the program learned about emerging infectious diseases and wildlife conservation from two specialists in the field, Dr. Andrea Jani (University of Hawaii) and Dr. Nick Pilfold (San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance). They also had the opportunity to visit the Marine Mammal Center and the California Academy of Sciences, two local institutions that are leaders in advancing ocean health and biodiversity science.

SUSTAINABILITY IN ACTION



Mills Farm Director, Julia Dashe, leads the audience in a pre-discussion song at the Sustainable Futures Panel.

This past March, Mills College participated in Northeastern's second annual Sustainability Innovation Week. This initiative showcases our college's sustainability mission, and the many ways our staff and faculty are taking action.

Our original programming included the Scholarly Innovation Lecture Series, a lunchtime program featuring Mills College faculty members who presented research projects that intersect with the social, economic, and environmental aspects of sustainability. Aligned with our

mission to educate leaders who build a sustainable future for all, this series highlighted the ways our college is contributing to holistic well-being, economic justice, and collective action toward an equitable and vibrant world.

Additionally, we hosted the Sustainable Futures Panel Discussion, which included staff and faculty from Mills and the Oakland campus who are actively involved in local sustainability efforts. Moderated by Mills faculty member Maia Averett, Program Director for Sustainability, this discussion featured Bryan Aja (Director of Faculty Affairs and Board Member, Keep Oakland Beautiful), Julia Dashe (Director, Mills Farm),

Andrew Gonzales (Oakland Campus Sustainability Manager), and Kristina Faul (Rhoda Goldman Professor of Environmental Science). The wide-ranging discussion focused on the ways community members from all walks of life come together to create solutions to our world's largest and most complex problems.

During Sustainability Innovation Week, Mills College sponsored a small group of undergraduate students to attend the annual Bioneers Conference, hosted by UC Berkeley. Accompanied by our Dean, Beth Kochly, these students were able to hear from keynote speakers and sustainability leaders including Michael Pollan, Samantha Skenandore, Raj Patel, and John Warner.



The Sustainable Futures Panel highlighted the numerous ways our faculty and staff carry out our sustainability mission in their professional and personal lives.

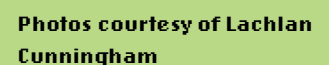
Pictured above, Program Director for Sustainability, Professor Maia Averett, introduces the staff and faculty panelists.

Oakland Campus Sustainability Manager, Andrew Gonzales (top right), answers an audience question.

Bryan Aja, Director of Faculty Affairs (bottom right), discusses his work with the local nonprofit, Keep Oakland Beautiful, as faculty member Kristina Faul listens.

Photos courtesy of Nora Roth





AI INITIATIVES

Artificial intelligence is beginning to permeate most aspects of the learning and teaching experience. As Mills College works to adopt this emergent technology, we are asking thought-provoking questions about its ethical use and best practices for faculty and students alike.

Tomás Galguera, Professor of Education and special advisor to the Dean on AI, investigated how Mills faculty are beginning to adopt AI into their teaching practices and provided multiple opportunities to discuss this emerging technology's benefits and consequences.

As a 2025-26 CATLR AI Fellow, he compiled a faculty survey that examined how AI use relates to faculty's sense of professional autonomy. The findings revealed a spectrum of attitudes toward AI and found that higher incidences of AI use correlated with lower perceived autonomy. Faculty approaches to AI fell into multiple categories:

conflicted engagement, pragmatic use, transformative use, and principled resistance. Multiple respondents to the survey cited serious ethical, cultural, social, and environmental concerns when it comes to AI's capabilities and the level of infrastructure it requires. The findings are now informing a follow-up, qualitative study into what's driving differences in perception of this technology.

Additionally, Professor Galguera ran the AI in the Academy salon series, and hosted a Show, Tell, and Ask event in April, where faculty could see real AI-assisted teaching practices up close and ask questions in an open forum of their peers. The most durable impact came through individual consultations with faculty, during which some faculty shifted from skepticism to regular use of Claude Projects in their teaching and research.

Our innovative Creative Writing program offered two extracurricular opportunities for students and the campus community to think critically about the advent of AI and how it is changing the landscape of literature, poetry, and other forms of creative writing. Can it be harnessed effectively as a writing tool? What happens when AI is treated as a co-author? Is it ethical to incorporate AI systems into the creative process?

In November, Professor Stephanie Young and award-winning journalist and author, Vauhini Vara, were in conversation for the guest lecture Writing Creatively in the Age of AI. Vara, who has previously published work written in collaboration with an AI agent, read from her latest book, *Searches*, and discussed timely debates on AI's role in the creative process and the ethics of this emerging technology.

In February, artist and technologist, Halim Madi, led the workshop Weirding AI. This accessible introduction to creative AI explored ideas of authorship and gave participants the opportunity to fine-tune a language model, utilizing their own creative writing to build an AI-powered poetic persona.

Juliana Spahr's class, also titled Writing Creatively in the Age of Artificial Intelligence, was featured in a Northeastern Global News Article earlier this spring. The article delves into how our curriculum has entered the debate around "artistic agency in the age of AI ... [and] explores some of the thorny questions surrounding the new tech, while giving students interested in creative writing a taste of an AI-driven future."

Research and creative activity at Mills College continued to grow across disciplines, with strength in faculty scholarship, faculty-student collaboration, community-engaged research, and experiential learning.

Continuing our legacy as a leader in undergraduate student research excellence, Mills launched the Undergraduate Research Essentials Badge, a non-credit bearing program that introduces first year undergraduate students to scholarly research. Many of these students engaged in faculty-mentored research and presented their work at the Oakland Research and Experiential Learning Showcase. By expanding access to resources, we are giving undergraduates the tools and experiences they need to discover, understand, and produce original research in their fields. These initiatives reflect the college's broader commitment to connecting rigorous scholarship with mentorship, community engagement, and public impact.

Mills College faculty received a record number of accolades for their scholarly work this academic year.

We are especially pleased to share that Professor Juliana Spahr received the 2026 Pulitzer Prize in Poetry for her 2025 collection *Ars Poeticas*, published by Wesleyan University Press. This national honor reflects the continued strength and visibility of creative scholarship at Mills.

Faculty across the college made advancements in the fields of literature, philosophy, music, education, public humanities, AI, environmental justice, and critical theory.

Notable faculty publications and creative accomplishments include Brinda Mehta's 2025 Oxford University Press book, *The Wounds of War and Conflict in Contemporary Arab Women's Writings from North Africa and the Middle East*; Kim Magowan's co-authored 2025 book with Michelle Ross, *Don't Take This the Wrong Way*, named to Literary

Juliana Spahr (on left) received the 2026 Pulitzer Prize in Poetry for her collection, *Ars Poeticas*.

Truong Tran (on right) pictured at his solo show, *100 Nights of the Pandemic/100 Days of Yearning*, at Kerney Street Workshop in San Francisco.

Photo courtesy Giselle Garza Lerma, S.F. Chronicle



Hub's "100 Notable Small Press Books of 2025"; and **Truong Tran**'s forthcoming 2026 memoir, *How to Exi(s)t: A Poet's Memoir*, published by City Lights Books.

Juan Colomina-Alminana continued work on his biography of 20th century philosopher, Alice Ambrose, and a forthcoming textbook, *An Introduction to Symbolic Logic*, while also helping build community through campus chapters of Minorities & Philosophy, as well as Philosophers for Sustainability. **Stephanie Young**'s literary works, including *Ursula or University*, *Picture Palace*, *Telling the Future Off*, and *Bay Poetics*, further reflects the college's depth in innovative literary scholarship and practice.

Faculty accomplishments also extended across public speaking engagements, exhibitions, performance, and intellectual leadership. **Yulia Pinkusevich** continued an active exhibition and public arts practice, and was included in the show *Sacred Fires* at The Orchard Gallery in Oakland. She also organized the student arts component of the Oakland Research and Experiential Learning Showcase. **Truong Tran** exhibited his sculptural work at Kearny Street Workshop, in a solo show titled *100 Nights of the Pandemic/100 Days of Yearning*.

Elmaz Abinader was named a 2025 Faberllull Resident and Fellow, while **Jay Gupta** continued to contribute to discourse in critical theory, philosophy, and intellectual history as Re-

view Editor of Telos Press.

Community-engaged and public-impact scholarship remained a defining throughline of Mills faculty research. **Darcelle Lahr**'s article, "In Pursuit of Restorative Justice: Insights from Marginalized Businesses in Oakland, California," based on longstanding community work with marginalized businesses in Oakland, was accepted for publication in the Review of Black Political Economy. **Cliff Lee**'s work at the intersections of critical pedagogy, computational thinking, Indigenous knowledge, and ecological justice continued to advance community-based and justice-oriented approaches to education and technology. **Natalee Kehaulani Bauer**'s *Tender Violence in U.S. Schools* continued to contribute to national conversations in Indigenous and decolonizing studies in education. **Priya Shimpi Driscoll** served as a subject matter expert for the new statewide California Infant Toddler Curriculum and completed NIH-funded experimental design and research advising for Loyola University Psychology.

Faculty also secured grants, appointments, and leadership roles that supported Mills' research infrastructure and public impact. **Jeremy Sorgen** received competitive external support for his research involving Tribal lands and Indigenous story work. **Jaci Urbani** received a Mills Institute Racial Justice Initiative grant for equity-based education research. **Juan Colomina-Alminana** was named NULab coordinator and continued student mentoring work with IMFAHE.

In collaboration with the Faculty Development Committee and the Quigley Committee, the Dean's office awarded and administered 15 faculty grants this fiscal year, totaling nearly \$40,000. Four faculty received Quigley grants supporting scholarly research and travel; two were awarded a Quigley Research Fellowship in the form of a course release, creating dedicated time for scholarly work. Additionally, the Faculty Development Committee awarded grants to nine faculty to support ongoing research projects.

Research mentoring remained central to Mills' scholarly culture. Faculty supported students through presentations, cross-campus research pathways, co-authored publications, and fieldwork.

Through conference presentations, Jared Young connected students to Boston-based researchers, empowering them to contribute to research projects beyond the Oakland campus. Martha Johnson's students presented research on virtual reality and political attitudes at RISE in Boston. Dean Morier co-presented with undergraduate students at the Western Psychological Association conference. Kristina Faul mentored students in Oakland watershed research, including a student co-authored peer-reviewed publication. Liz Bachen's student mentees presented psychological research on anxiety in young adults at the Oakland Showcase.

Student Research by the Numbers

25 Undergraduate Research Badge Completions

150% Surpassed Target Completion Goal

25 Student Research Events Offered in AY 26

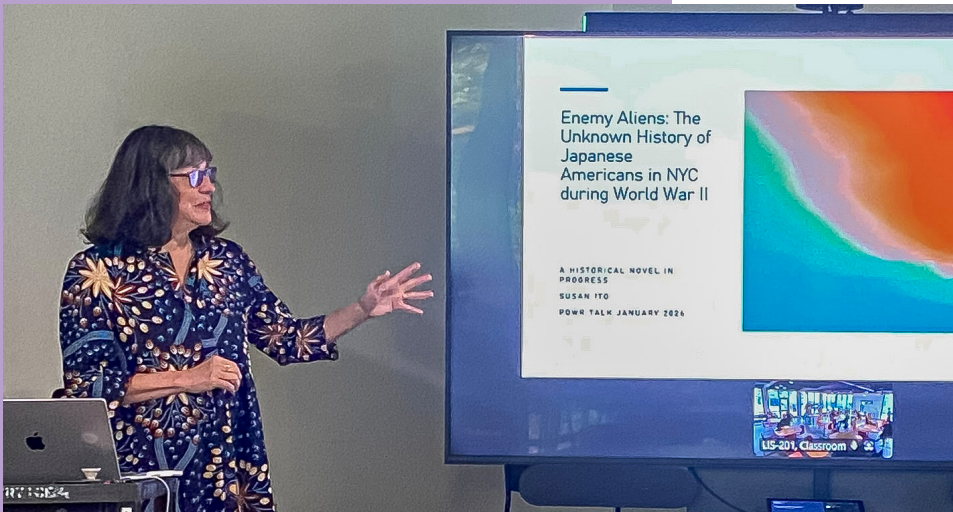
"I used to think research was just collecting data, but now I see it as a way to identify patterns, analyze stakeholders, and clearly communicate findings."

— First year student, Public Health research focus

Professor Miki Hong speaks with students after the Fall Faculty-Student Research Forum.

Photo courtesy of Joceyln Lin





Susan Ito (top left) presents her research on the lesser known histories of Japanese Americans during and in the immediate aftermath of WWII, which will inform her forthcoming novel.

Kirsten Saxton (bottom left) discusses her new writing projects and how they are influenced by stories of the paranormal and historic hauntings.

Pauline Oliveros, the namesake of the POWR Program, inspired the experimental nature of the lecture series through her career as a trailblazing electronic musician and scholar.

This year, Mills College launched the Pauline Oliveros Working Residency Program (POWR) to honor her legacy of forward-thinking, experimental research in performance and the humanities. Pauline Oliveros (1932 - 2016), was a Professor of Music at Mills College and a co-founder and director of the Center for Contemporary Music, formerly the San Francisco Tape Music Center.

The program establishes a community of our distinguished faculty in the arts and humanities who hold endowed chairs. Co-led by Juliana Spahr and Juan Colomina-Alminana, the POWR program provides a platform to elevate the work and visibility of these scholars, offering increased opportunities for students and the campus community to engage with faculty research and works-in-progress. Lecture topics spanned philosophy, literature, ethics, creative writing, and parapsychology, among others. The inaugural cohort included Natalee Kehaulani Bauer, Judith Bishop, Juan Colomina-Alminana, James Fei, Nalini Ghuman, Kim Magowan, Susan Ito, Brinda Mehta, Patricia Powell, Kirsten Saxton, Juliana Spahr, Truong Tran, and Stephanie Young.

ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT



This spring, we graduated our last legacy Mills undergraduate students! These individuals have now entered the ranks of our prodigious alumni, a truly incredible network of passionate individuals who are making real impacts in our society.

This fall, we were honored to contribute several events to Reunion Weekend in celebration of our alums. **Professor Ashley Adams** honored our past by speaking on *Shaping the Future: The Mills History Project*. **Ife Tayo Walker** presented *Fifty Years After Maya Angelou at Mills*, reflecting on Dr. Angelou's commencement address in 1976. **Professor Stephanie Young** tackled one of the most controversial tech topics of the year, with her talk, *Writing Creatively in the Age of AI*.

Dean Kochly also had the opportunity to visit alum clubs around the country this year. Over the holidays, she met with the San Francisco Club, the Contra Costa Club in Walnut Creek, and the East Bay Club at the Reinhardt Alumnae House for our annual tea and cookie tradition. This spring, she visited alum clubs in Boston and New York, sharing updates about campus and encouraging alums to visit the West Coast for Reunion Weekend in Fall 2026!

Our alumni and friends of the college continue to support us with their donations of time, expertise, and funding. Your generosity will directly support students, faculty, and curriculum for years to come.



CELEBRATING RETIRING FACULTY



As we look to the future, we must also take a moment to celebrate our retiring faculty and reflect on their accomplishments as educators and scholars.

Though they will no longer be teaching at Mills, we know their lifelong work lighting the fires of wisdom will continue for many years to come.

Lisa Urry, Professor of Biology, leaves Mills after thirty years of teaching and scholarship, whose reach extends far beyond our campus.

She came to Oakland in 1995, having earned a bachelor's degree with a double major in biology and French from Tufts, and a doctorate from MIT. Her early research focused on sea urchins, and it established her as a respected scientist.

At Mills, she taught courses across the full range of the discipline like introductory biology, developmental biology, and senior seminars. She created a course called Evolution for Future Presidents, designed for nonmajors and born of her conviction that understanding how life changes over time

is not a privilege for biology students alone. She served as Chair of the Biology Department and held an appointment as Visiting Scholar at UC Berkeley throughout much of her tenure. Her commitment to expanding access to science for women and underrepresented groups shaped the choices she made, in hiring, in advising, and in the design of her courses.

Her reach through the page rivals her reach from the front of a classroom. As lead author of *Campbell Biology*, now in its twelfth edition, Lisa's name is on the textbook used in approximately sixty percent of introductory college biology courses in the United States and ninety percent of AP Biology courses. The text has been translated into more than twenty languages and has been used by over fourteen million students. Through her work with the Global Teaching Project, she also brought AP Biology instruction directly to students in rural Mississippi who lacked any other access to advanced science education. Her J-term course located in Nogales, Arizona, and Nogales, Sonora, treated the Mexico-U.S. border area as a cultural and ecological zone as a distinct place apart from either the United States or Mexico. It was featured on local television stations because of the impact it had on students.

Her legacy lives on in the students she taught in Oakland, and in the many millions more who learned biology for the first time from words she wrote.

After 14 years of teaching, scholarship, and civic leadership, Darcelle Lahr, Professor of the Practice, has left her mark on this institution and on the communities surrounding it.

She came to the Lokey School of Business and Public Policy having already built careers in mechanical engineering, management consulting, and nonprofit leadership. Her credentials tell part of that story. A B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from Stanford, an MBA from CSU East Bay, and a master's and EdD, both earned at Mills.

In the classroom, Darcelle taught Leadership and Ethics, Social Impact Consulting, Social Entrepreneurship, Business and Society, and the capstone MBA Strategic Management course. Her students encountered business as an instrument with moral weight which could entrench injustice or dismantle it, depending on the choices of the people wielding it. She directed the Center for Transformative Action and held the Elfenworks Lectureship in Leadership and Ethics, a fitting appointment for someone whose career has been an extended argument that ethics and practice can't be separated.

She has been a significant voice in the Black reparations movement in California and nationally, bringing her research on economic justice to academic and policy audiences alike, including at UC Berkeley's Goldman School of Public Policy. She co-chaired the Black Faculty and Staff Association at Mills and chaired the Faculty DEI Committee.

Darcelle's students leave her courses better prepared for business and more accountable to the world they are entering.

Professors Lisa Urry (top left) and Darcelle Lahr (right), give their farewell remarks at the Spring Faculty Retirement Reception.



IN MEMORIAM

This year, we said farewell to two special emerita faculty members who have left a momentous impact on the college.

Ruth Cossey, Professor Emerita of Education, spent more than four decades insisting that mathematics belongs to everyone. And she backed that conviction with her own work in Oakland classrooms and through the teachers she sent into schools throughout the Bay Area and beyond. She is remembered not only for the breadth of her scholarly and curricular contributions, but for the uncommon integrity of a life in which she never asked of her students what she was not willing to do herself.

Marianne Sheldon, Professor Emerita of History, was a distinguished scholar whose research and publications enriched the field of American History. Her scholarly work was matched only by her exceptional gifts as a teacher. Known for her engaging lectures, meticulous yet supportive approach, and genuine investment in student success, Marianne had a remarkable ability to make history come alive in the classroom. She was a beloved colleague and mentor, and a favorite of students whether they were a history major or simply taking an elective course. She cared deeply for her students and inspired countless individuals throughout her five decades of teaching.

Kija Lucas

Untitled (Eucalyptus Salinga), Archival pigment print, 2024

Mills College Art Museum, Gift of the Reed Family in Honor of the Mills College Class of 2025



LOOKING TO THE FUTURE, HONORING OUR PAST



Mills dance students strike a pose in the Mills College Art Museum during the 1969 Black Arts Festival.

Image courtesy of F.W. Olin Library, Special Collections

Even as you read this report, we are already planning for the new academic year.

We are excited to share a deepened partnership between Mills College and the Mills Institute, with **Beth Kochly** serving in the dual roles of **Dean of Mills College and Executive Director of the Mills Institute**. This integration will strengthen both organizations and generate more opportunities for impact within the University's Global Network.

An even larger slate of sustainability events is planned throughout the next academic year. Join us as we challenge the status quo and take collective action towards an equitable, prosperous, and vibrant world.

Next year also marks a major milestone for our college that presents a unique opportunity to reflect on our rich institutional history.

While we continue to grow and build on our successes, we have many special events in the works to celebrate Mills College's 175th birthday!

This includes unveiling the results of our Mills History Project, including the dedication and presentation of a public-facing timeline, plus new projects to record stories and memories that make up the history of experiences at Mills.

Mills will also co-host **Sounding the Future: Pauline Oliveros and the Bay Area's Experimental Legacy**. This event honors Pauline Oliveros's legacy at Mills as the inaugural director of the Center for Contemporary Music.

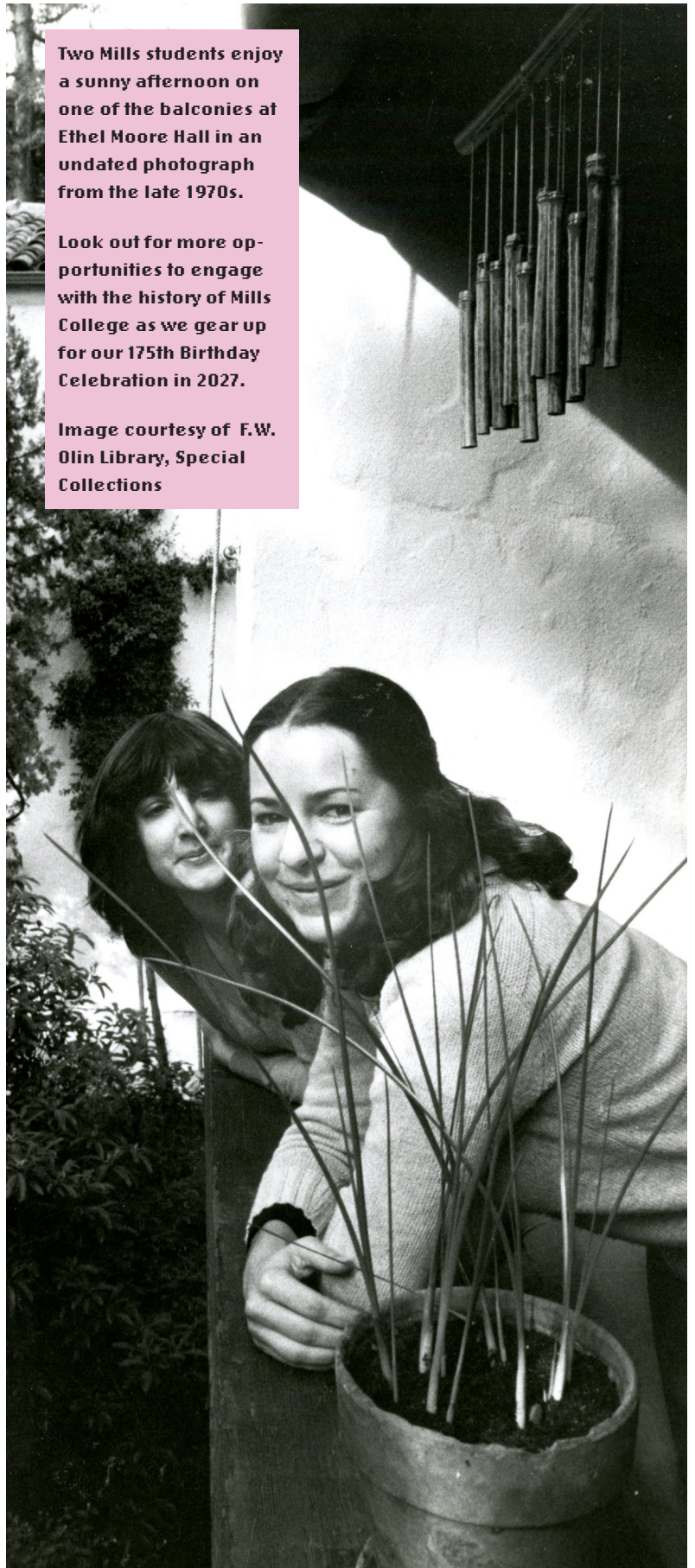
Please check out our website, and follow us on Facebook, Instagram & LinkedIn for the most current information on upcoming events and initiatives.

We look forward to celebrating this landmark year with you and building towards Mills College's bright future!

Two Mills students enjoy a sunny afternoon on one of the balconies at Ethel Moore Hall in an undated photograph from the late 1970s.

Look out for more opportunities to engage with the history of Mills College as we gear up for our 175th Birthday Celebration in 2027.

Image courtesy of F.W. Olin Library, Special Collections



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank our incredible team of faculty and staff for their hard work over the past academic year.

Their contributions make the success of our college possible and lift up our community of lifelong learners. We are proud to share the names of this year’s impact report contributors, who spent countless hours preparing material to be included in this comprehensive account of our college’s many achievements.

Special thanks to:

Bryan Aja

Tomás Galguera

Nora Roth

Maia Averett

Beth Kochly

Juliana Spahr

Meryl Bailey

Jocelyn Lin

Sarah Swope

Juan Colomina-Alminana

Kelly Palma

Jared Young

Priya Shimpi Driscoll

Mandala Pham

Stephanie Young

Maureen Esty

Sarayu Prakash

Joshua Zuniga



**Mills Hall pictured during
spring bloom.**

Photo courtesy of Ruby Wallau

