

Macaulay College Council Meeting
March 17, 2022

Agenda

(Meeting will be recorded and available on the College Council Website
<https://eportfolios.macaulay.cuny.edu/collegecouncil>)

1. Approval of Minutes from Fall 2021 Meeting (
<https://eportfolios.macaulay.cuny.edu/collegecouncil/2021/11/02/october-28-2021/>)
2. Dean's Report (Interim Dean Valdés)
3. Updates:
 - a. Dean Search
 - b. Bridge Scholars
 - c. JEHN
 - d. SPH 4 + 1
 - e. Fall classes/reopening schedule
 - f. Commencement
4. Proposed honorary degree for Jessica Ware (see attached statement of merits)
5. Degrees for graduates who meet all requirements
6. Council Committees
7. New Business

Statement of Merits for Jessica Ware (Macaulay Honors College Honorary Degree Recipient, 2022)



Dr. Jessica Ware is an entomologist, evolutionary biologist, science educator, and taxon leader for the Macaulay Honors College BioBlitz. At the American Museum of Natural History, she is Associate Curator for Invertebrate Biology, Principal Investigator at the Sackler Institute for Comparative Genomics, and Associate Professor at the Richard Gilder Graduate School. Her research focuses on the evolution of behavioral and physiological adaptations in insects, particularly Odonata (dragonflies and damselflies) and Dictyoptera (termites, cockroaches and mantises). She currently serves as the president of the Worldwide Dragonfly Association, and as an elected board member on the executive committee of the Entomological Society of America Governing Board. In addition, she is co-founder of Entomologists of Color (EntoPOC) and active in 500 Queer Scientists. In granting her the degree of Doctor of Science, *honoris causa*, Macaulay Honors College will recognize Dr. Ware's commitments to protecting the environment, to science education, and to promoting diversity in science and higher education, all of which match Macaulay's and CUNY's highest ideals.

Dr. Ware has been an active and popular contributor to Macaulay's BioBlitz experiential learning in science initiative, part of our Science Forward core seminar. Her webinars and discussions of dragonflies and other insects in New York City's environment have helped our students to see the diversity of life in the city, interconnections in urban ecology, and modeled the habits of mind that lead to better understanding of science and nature, as well as providing insights and models to broaden students' perspectives on graduate study and careers in science.

Dr. Ware is a consistent and active advocate for diversifying science study and the practice of science. The organization she co-founded, Entomologists of Color, works to address the drastically low numbers of people of color in Ecology and Evolution graduate study and careers, by providing paid memberships to various entomological societies, making participation, scientific communication and outreach more inclusive to people of color. She also works to encourage young students of color, including high school students and undergraduates, to pursue graduate study and careers in entomology. Through her many public appearances and podcasts, Dr. Ware raises awareness of issues of climate change, invasive species, and the role of insects in a diverse and healthy ecology. These connections are a close match

to the kinds of connections that Macaulay students learn to make through our curriculum, and that Macaulay graduates continue to make through their careers.

As a working scientist, Dr. Ware studies insect evolution, especially that of dragonflies, damselflies, cockroaches, and termites. She uses morphology, genetics, and genomics to try to better understand the evolution of diet, reproductive behavior, and dispersal. She was also the co-identifier of an invasive, cold-tolerant cockroach (*Periplaneta japonica*), never before seen in New York City, which attracted international attention.

A centerpiece of Dr. Ware's career and commitment has been to diversify science education. She speaks eloquently of her experiences feeling like "the only one" in her schooling and career. As a student, she experienced white professors who told racist jokes in class, or who discouraged Black women from becoming scientists. As a professor, she saw colleagues intentionally and unintentionally uphold systems that excluded people of color from participation. These experiences have led her to take responsibility for "holding the door open." She has created initiatives and programs to recruit and retain BIPOC scientists, and to change the system that works against their participation, through recruitment, retention, and activism/advocacy.

Dr. Ware holds a BSc from the University of British Columbia in Canada, and a PhD from Rutgers, New Brunswick. Dr. Ware's advice to students who are interested in entomology has been inspirational for Macaulay students: "Go for it! Pick an organism and learn everything about it! We work in a field where you can really carve out a niche for yourself, working on an aspect of a taxonomic group you really are interested in. Go to the field, often, it's therapeutic and transformative! As you're moving ahead with your career as an entomologist, use your skills and position(s) to help others: give bug talks to scout troops, teach pollinator identification to garden clubs, invite students to visit your lab, collaborate with others." For all Macaulay graduates, whether their degrees are in science or another discipline, this attitude of following an intellectual ambition, feeling joy in learning, and sharing and collaborating with a wider public audience, are foundational elements of their Macaulay education, and part of their legacy as Macaulay graduates.

In awarding Jessica Ware the degree of Doctor of Science, *honoris causa*, Macaulay will recognize her commitments to protecting the environment, to science education, and to promoting diversity in science and higher education, all of which match Macaulay's and CUNY's highest ideals.