



Melissa Kandido '96 teaches at Qatar Academy Sidra in Doha, Qatar.

## // CLASSROOM RECONNECTION

Although Melissa Kandido's classroom in Doha, Qatar, is more than 7,000 miles away from St. Paul, the Class of 1996 alumna recently got the chance to introduce her Qatar Academy Sidra students to one of her Mac mentors. In October, American studies and political science professor Duchess Harris visited Kandido's Language and Literature class remotely as part of its Voice, Agency, and Protest unit.

Course texts included poetry, op-eds, and podcasts from the U.S., Syria, Brazil, and Qatar—as well as three of Dr. Harris's works: two books from ABDO Press (*Black Lives Matter* and *Charlottesville Protests*) and her recent *Macalester Today* interview, "The Time to Act is Now."

Kandido's students are from all over the world, including Egypt, South Africa, Pakistan, and the United States. Their discussion with Harris, she says, was "more than meaningful—it was personal and instrumental. My students know what it means for their family and friends not to have voice and agency. They live safely here in Qatar but in their home countries, in their lineage, the BLM Revolution parallels their own complex conversation with their sense of patriotism and critique."

Kandido is in her third year in Qatar after four years of teaching in Namibia. International teaching creates space for her wanderlust, she says, and allows her to raise her children as third-culture kids. "I teach as a source of pride and activism and love for my content and curriculum," she says, and she was grateful to reconnect with her professor:

**"Duchess continues to impact me, my thoughts, my teaching, and my life."**