Sa’ed Atshan: In what way is your work important to you and in what way is your work important to other people?

Kim St. Julian-Varnon: I think my work is important to me because I cannot spend my life helping other people make money. I've known that for a long time, I really discovered that at Swarthmore when I was living in Madagascar over the summer with my friend Josh. We were living in this village and just had this realization that my goal in life wasn't necessarily to help others make profit, but to help others live better in whatever way that meant. I think my job is important to others because a lot of these kids, they have never known that they can achieve more. My job is to help them achieve more. If that means going to college, if that means just sitting down and making a plan so that when they graduate they know and have some idea of what they want to do, that's totally fine. If that's helping them find a site for them to do their volunteer work and things like that, that's cool too. I think that the things I think are important about my job are also what others would think it's important.

Atshan: What gives you a hope or inspiration?

St. Julian-Varnon: In general? Wow. That's an interesting question. Especially now, there was a mass shooting in Texas a couple of days ago and it's Monday so we've been talking to our students about it so I've been thinking about this, what hope do I have. I think my hope comes in the form of students asking questions about how they can make things better. That's what gives me hope. It's really easy if you just watch the news and listen to political podcasts to think the world's going to hell in a hand basket. When you have kids who are like, this situation's not okay. How can we make it better? How can I help someone who's in need. Those situations give me hope.