It all begins with a spark. Within the context of Williams College, the beginnings of the Davis Center – our spark – was the voice of minoritized students. In 1989, the Multicultural Center was established as a result of student activism spanning the course of over two decades. The space has undergone several changes with the passing of the years, including a rededication in 2012 to honor the legacy of the Davis family. Still, our focus has become more acute than ever before. In centering the holistic experiences of our students, we have actively expanded the resources and opportunities we provide in an effort to meet the needs of our community. From our vantage point, we must remain constant while also adjusting our approach to equity and inclusion work, as the student body, the staff, and faculty are always shifting. With regard to this landscape, old problems become new again and while they may manifest in different ways, it is important that our community is able to recognize the issues and work collectively to resolve concerns stemming from systemic bias and the inequitable wielding of privilege.

At the Davis Center, we are dedicated to nurturing an environment that is committed to social justice through the lens of education, support, and leadership. This report highlights aspects of our work that have contributed to our goals as a viable, student-facing unit at Williams College. While we don’t measure our progress by volume or mass, we do recognize the dynamism involved in promoting social justice and diversity within predominantly White communities. In acknowledging our efforts, we hope to provide access points for new ideas, and to invigorate fresh collaborations and partnerships. On the eve of our 30th anniversary, we would like to express our appreciation for the individuals that synergized as a collective voice in order for programs like Africana Studies, Latino/a Studies, and the Davis Center to emerge. Much is left to be done, but together we can create positive social change.

Shawna Patterson-Stephens, PhD | Director of the Davis Center
The Davis Center is situated within the Office of Institutional Diversity and Equity. The mission of the Davis Center is to advance broad campus engagement with complex issues of identity, history, and cultures as they affect intellectual, creative, and social life. Collaborating with all sectors of the College community – students, staff, faculty, and alumni – and with off-campus partners, the Center initiates and supports dialogue about and action toward access, equity, and inclusion at Williams and elsewhere. The Center:

- Leads campus conversation on issues of diversity and equity, especially around race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, socio-economic class, first-generation status, religion, ability, and other intersectional identities;
- Advises, mentors, and supports students from historically underrepresented and underserved groups;
- Supports affinity groups and their programming;
- Works with academic departments and programs to advance pedagogical and curricular initiatives that foster inclusion and effectively address issues of power and equity;
- Serves as a resource for students, staff, and faculty.

With regard to our service, support, and resource capabilities, we utilize a three-pronged approach to our work. We engage students in various capacities; as mentors, advisors, and educators. In addition to providing individual students with 1:1 guidance, we are especially involved in supporting all groups established – or loosely affiliated – with the Minority Coalition. We are also involved in the training and development of student organizations across campus, from Junior Advisors/JAAB to student athletics. Further, we oversee the Community Builder program, which is a peer-based educational team that conduct diversity workshops in the entries, with student groups, in the classroom, and for student services units that employ student staff.

The Davis Center sustains strong ties with faculty and staff (both support and administrative), as well. We partner on curricular and co-curricular programs/training, sponsor departmental events, and finance faculty-led research projects. Faculty consult with our team on inclusive pedagogical praxis and curricular design. We work together with staff to bolster holistic services afforded to a diverse population of students.

The community also plays a significant role in our work. We conduct outreach efforts with alum, parents/guardians, organizations/associations, and the broader Western Massachusetts area. We rely on reciprocal relationships to undergird our approach to service learning and community activism. Finally, the Davis Center implements passive and active programs that reach each level of our constituency: student, faculty/staff, and the community.
Davis Center Vision Statement

The Davis Center seeks to serve as an exemplar for intercultural centers at the national level. In order to fully execute our vision, we seek to sustain substantial engagement in the holistic development and learning of students, faculty, and staff. We also aim to maintain significant ties with campus and community partners, while spearheading dynamic signature initiatives that aid us in leading campus conversations on issues of diversity and equity.

Davis Center Staff

Our staff is comprised of a talented team of five full-time professionals and two faculty with various educational and vocational backgrounds, as well as two faculty fellows who split their time between the classroom and efforts supporting the Davis Center and the Office of Institutional Diversity and Equity. The diversity of our professional expertise has been key to our success in advancing interculturalism, inclusion, and equity at Williams College and throughout Berkshire County.

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The Davis Center is a student-centered space, where student development, growth, and involvement remain at the core of our mission, vision, and day-to-day activities. Our liberal arts environment lends itself to the ways we choose to engage our praxis, where the whole student is informed by self, surroundings, and curricula. With regard to underrepresented students, it is critical for colleges and universities to institutionalize structural, social, and pedagogical diversity, especially amongst traditionally White environments. One vehicle for affording minoritized students with cognitive, psychological, and physical space is through the continued support and recognition of student organizations.

The Davis Center proudly supports the Minority Coalition (MinCo), a body comprised of 20 individual student organizations. MinCo’s mission is to serve as a unified voice against prejudice and discrimination by serving as a mechanism for minority groups to come together in organizational, social, academic, and political spheres. Born out of the advocacy and protests of students, the Davis Center continues to fulfill its mission by working closely with student organizations, and provides advising and logistical support for these groups.

AASiA: Asian American Students in Action
B-STEM
BSU: Black Student Union
CASO: Chinese-American Student Organization
CISA: Coalition for Immigrant Student Advancement
FemCo: Feminist Collective
Hindu Students Organization
International Club
KOW: Koreans of Williams
MSU: Muslim Student Union
NASU: Nihonjin American Student Union
OUR-STEM
QSU: Queer Student Union
SASA: South Asian Student Association
Sisterhood
SoCA: Students of Caribbean Ancestry
Vista Latina/o Organization
VSA: Vietnamese Student Association
WASO: Williams African Student Organization
WCJA: Williams College Jewish Association

In 2018, Sisterhood and the Hindu Students Organization were invited to join the Minority Coalition.

A showing of “The Underground Railroad Game” ignited student requests for improved representations of minoritized groups in performance art. MinCo led the “At What Cost” campaign to bring awareness to the issue.

In 2018, several student groups, including a portion within MinCo, revitalized the Asian American Studies campaign.
Students at Williams College remain highly involved and are careful to connect global events to their experiences on campus. Davis Center staff work alongside students throughout the year to ensure they have access to the resources and support they require in order for their ideas to come to fruition. The following is an abbreviated listing of student-led programs that were co-sponsored by the Davis Center.

**Bella Vendetta | “The Training of Poe”**
Femco sponsored Williams’ students attendance to a screening of “The Training of Poe”. The film is an award-winning trans lesbian leather lifestyle BDSM documentary following multiple AVN-nominated and Trans 100 recipient, Chelsea Poe, as she traveled to the mountains of western Massachusetts to “slave train” with Mistress Bella Vendetta. The film showcased real kinky, queer life in western Massachusetts and featured consent, communication, harm reduction and aftercare. A large portion of the proceeds were donated to Tapestry Health.

**Queer Chicano Chisme | “Tending to Intangible Wounds: On Community Healing”**
VISTA was honored to host Rubén Angel, better known as "Queer Xicano Chisme" (QXC), as part of their Latinx Heritage Month programming. Rubén is a socio-cultural critic, writer, comedian, and visual artist. QXC gave an interactive lecture where he prompted participants on issues of activism, self-care, and community in order to help them determine if their activism was sustainable. QXC focused on if students were taking care of themselves, and if their relationship to their community was healthy and grounded in reciprocity. There was also an emphasis on community care and community accountability.

**Nancy Khalil | “Diversity, Inclusion, and Gender in Islam”**
The Muslim Student Union hosted Nancy Khalil, PhD, a female Muslim scholar at Yale’s Center for the Study of Race, Indigeneity, and Transnational Migration. She led participants in a self-reflective conversation on the politics of Muslim women leadership, cultural and worship spaces in the experience of American Islam. Dr. Khalil’s talk inspired understanding and healing to campus in centering the importance of diversity, inclusion and equity. This lecture was timely, given the external challenges of the ban on Muslim migration to America, in addition to internal conversations on identity and religion.

**Su-Young Kim | Menstruation Celebration**
FemCo invited Williams alum, Su-Young Kim ’14, to discuss menstrual health and accessibility. Su-Young Kim is the CEO and Founder of Halo Cups, a menstrual company for social good. Kim discussed period education and ways to promote the de-stigmatization of menstruation.
Some [events that were impactful this year] were: Construction of Transnational Solidarity Wall & the
Transnational Solidarity Mexico to Palestine talk, Pride with Prejudice Pinkwashing 101, and Urooj
Arshad: "Queer Muslim Identity in the U.S."

These events were always cross-sectional in identities and ideologies of oppression, encouraging solidarity between various communities. The first event highlighted the similarities between Mexicans (Mexican-Americans) and Palestinians in regards to oppression through borders. The second event brought attention to the complexity of how politics can utilize LGBT rights in order to execute their agenda of oppression and misconstruing homosexuality as a Western concept. Lastly, the third event educated attendees on the complexities of being Muslim and LGBTQ+, and how people who are intersectional in these identities face different forms of discrimination and difficulties in their lives.

— Jovana Calvillo ’18
“Just about every day in October, VISTA hosted amazing and dynamic events that not only worked to celebrate various aspects of Latinx identities, but also especially focused on issues of Afrolatinidad and anti-Blackness in the Latinx community.” -- Sharai Dottin ’18

A significant proportion of heritage month programming is established by affinity-based student groups. Starting in September and ending in May, most MinCo groups sponsor programming with two major aims:
- Provide diverse perspectives and opportunities for members to grow in their own understandings of identity.
- Provide opportunities for others to demonstrate an appreciation for the cultures of their community members.

Highlights include:

**VISTA – LATINX HERITAGE MONTH: KEYNOTE ZAHIRA KELLY**
Zahira Kelly-Cabrera is an AfroDominicana writer, artist, award-winning sociocultural critic, and international speaker. In October, she gave a talk entitled: *AntiBlackness as Latin American Nationalism, Intergenerational Trauma, and Internalizing Colonialism.*

**BSU – BLACK HISTORY MONTH: KEYNOTE JOY JAMES**
Dr. Joy James is a prolific scholar and Professor of the Humanities and of Political Science at Williams College. In February, she gave a talk entitled: *When Captive Maternals Don’t Get the Allies They Need: A Tribute to Erica Garner (1990-2017).*

**FEMINIST COLLECTIVE – FEMINIST MONTH: INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY LUNCHEON**
Featuring keynote Tahirah Amatul-Wadud, attorney and MA Congressional Candidate, the International Women’s Day Luncheon provided space for women to consider their role in leadership, politics, and activism during the month of March.

**AASIA, CASO, KOW, NASU, SOCA, VISTA, & VSA – ASIAN AMERICAN HERITAGE/PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH Night Market** was inspired by the night markets that form a very fun part of the culture in China and Taiwan. The festival recreated a sense of familiarity, community, and cultural connection to the vibrant and dynamic nightlife that shape conceptions of identity through culture.

**WASO – AFRICAN HERITAGE WEEK: AFRICAN HERITAGE WEEKEND**
In April, WASO successfully concluded their week of events with an alumni panel and an African Gala Night Afterparty.
Signature Events

Our signature events include the Davis Lecture, the Social Change Film Series, IdentiTeas, Brown Bag Lectureettes, the Community Builders program, Cultural Trips, Root, VOICES, and Framing Community. Using Transformative Social Justice Education models, we aim to develop critical thinking and awareness around the social identity development of all groups. These models focus on the processes of learning, including balancing the emotional with the cognitive, acknowledging and supporting the personal while analyzing and intervening in social systems, and developing competencies in education, research, and advocacy.

The SOCIAL CHANGE FILM SERIES at IMAGES CINEMA (Free and Open to the Public)
The Davis Center hosts several inspiring films, screened on a monthly basis, which seek to challenge the way one views the world. The theme for the 2017–2018 Social Change Film Series was “Power to the People”.

SEPTEMBER: ACCIDENTAL COURTESY (2016) – Talkback led by Charles Dew
Musician, Daryl Davis, likes to meet, befriend, and collect memorabilia from members of the Ku Klux Klan.

OCTOBER: BEATRIZ AT DINNER (2017) – Talkback led by Molly Magavern and Mark Reinhardt
Beatriz, a holistic healer, clashes with a real estate mogul who cares more about money than people.

NOVEMBER: 13TH (2016) with Williams Reads – Talkback led by Bilal Ansari
Filmmaker Ava DuVernay focuses on the disproportionate imprisonment of the Black community in the U.S.

His holiness explains that Tibetan Buddhism is both a religion and a “science of the mind”.

FEBRUARY: AWAKE, A DREAM FROM STANDING ROCK (2017) – Talkback led by Shawna Patterson-Stephens
The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe peacefully resist governmental construction of an oil pipeline through their land.

MARCH: I AM NOT YOUR NEGRO (2016) – Talkback led by Sophie Saint-Just and Rashida Braggs
James Baldwin tells the story of race in America with his unfinished novel, “Remember this House”.

Grace Lee Boggs reminds us that revolution is a process that must always be in motion.

MAY: AGENTS OF CHANGE (2016) – Talkback led by Mérida Rúa
An examination of institutional preparedness in meeting the needs of minoritized college students.
SOCIAL JUSTICE IS A VERB!
WORKING THE MARGINS TO ADVANCE AN EQUITY AGENDA--

For nearly three decades, Dr. Monique Morris has worked across disciplines to advance an equity agenda that supports the nation’s capacity to provide “justice for all.” In this presentation, Dr. Morris explored how advocates, scholars, policymakers and others apply intersectional frameworks—and other ancient and innovative practices—to strengthen our collective capacity to build an inclusive democracy.

Monique W. Morris, Ed.D. is an award-winning author and social justice scholar with nearly three decades of experience in the areas of education, civil rights, juvenile and social justice. Dr. Morris is the author of “Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools”, “Black Stats: African Americans by the Numbers in the Twenty-First Century”, and “Too Beautiful for Words”.

The W. Allison Davis ‘24 and John A. Davis ‘33 Lecture commemorates the remarkable work of the two distinguished scholars for which the Center is named. Brothers who, throughout their adult lives, made important contributions to equal rights and opportunity in the United States. Allison Davis, valedictorian of the Class of 1924, was a pioneer in the social anthropological study of class and caste in the American South. John A. Davis pursued wide-ranging political science work on race in both the United States and Africa. The Davis Lecture is delivered each year by a scholar whose work concentrates on some aspect of race, class, or education in the United States.
Brown Bag Lectureettes

Hosted over lunch throughout the academic year, these mini lectures feature the intellectual exploration of invited speakers on and off campus. This initiative is open to students, faculty/staff, and community members.

SEPTEMBER: TITLE IX AT WILLIAMS – Toya Camacho, Title IX Coordinator and AVP for Institutional Diversity and Equity

OCTOBER: TALKING ABOUT PICTURES: Analyzing Art’s Histories to Engage with our Present – Prof. Kailani Polzak

OCTOBER: LOUWEEZYANA: Lil’ Wayne, Colorism, and New Orleans – Prof. VaNatta Ford

NOVEMBER: COFFEE, WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IN NICARAGUA & GUATEMALA – Katy Dix ’18

FEBRUARY: BLACK POWER POLICE IN AN AGE OF LAW & ORDER – Prof. Peter Pihos

MARCH: CULTIVATING LOVE AND AWE – Seth Wax, Jewish Chaplain


APRIL: INTERDISCIPLINARY PEDAGOGY IN DANCE/PERFORMANCE STUDIES CURRICULUM – Prof. Munjulika Tarah

IDENTITEAS

IdentiTeas is a semi-structured space where participants can relax, have tea, and discuss different topics centered around a particular social identity.

OCTOBER: SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS

NOVEMBER: PHYSICAL/MENTAL/EMOTIONAL ABILITY

NOVEMBER: RELIGIOUS OR SPIRITUAL AFFILIATION

NOVEMBER: RACE AND ETHNICITY

NOVEMBER: SEXUAL ORIENTATION

DECEMBER: GENDER AND SEX
Community Builders

The Davis Center Community Builders are a trained, peer-to-peer diversity education group. Inspired by its precursor, the Williams Community Builders Program (WCBP), the Davis Center Community Builders was designed with students interested in advancing diversity, equity, and social justice efforts throughout the campus community. The Community Builders work closely with DC staff and are part of the Davis Center’s effort to provide education for the campus on issues of identity, power, and privilege. By providing students with experiences and insights into the work of the Davis Center, Community Builders deepen their understandings of the center’s work while enhancing the capacity for other students to advance their knowledge on issues of diversity, equity, and social justice. Together, Community Builders and Davis Center staff work towards building a more inclusive community.

We would like to recognize the efforts of the 2017–2018 Community Builders!

Sharai Dottin ’18
Bret Hairston ’21
Alina Lin ’20
Katie Manning ’20
Kyle Walker ’19
Leo Lam Haines ’21
Sarah Hubert ’21
Dominic Madera ’21
Onyeka Obi ’21
Blaine Williams ’19

Students, faculty, and staff often sought out the aid of Community Builders with regard to personal issues of identity, in addition to student group and paraprofessional trainings and course-related workshops. Community Builders were trained to host sessions for small and mid-sized groups. Frequently, they were invited to speak with student groups, such as the Junior Advisors, student athletics, academic tutors, and registered student organizations. They are even trained to facilitate discussions with different communities, such as entries, neighborhoods, and religious groups. In addition to maintaining office hours, the DC Community Builders served as panelists for discussion-based events, consultants for JAAB, consultants for the MinCo Executive Board, and as hosts for community conversations.

The following is a brief listing of workshops made available to the Williams Community:

The Basics of Gender and Sexuality
Power and Privilege
Social Identity 101

To request a workshop, visit https://davis-center.williams.edu/community-builders/request-a-workshop/.
Each year, the Davis Center sponsors a cultural trip that engages students around a specific exploratory theme. In 2018, the Davis Center was pleased to invite 20 Williams students on a cultural excursion to New York City, March 17, 2018-March 19, 2018. This year’s topic, “Examining Power, Privilege, and Identity Through Art”, aimed to engage participants in dialogue on the ways societal infrastructures frame people’s existence. We observed themes in several forms, including fine art, modern art, and dance, and contextualized these works against the backdrop of current events. Students met Gordon Davis, ’63—son of W. Allison Davis ’24—and Founding Chairman of Jazz at Lincoln Center. Students joined Mr. Davis on a tour of Lincoln Center and were invited for dinner and a show at Dizzy’s Club Coca-Cola. They also met with several New York City-based alum. Additional activities included a visit to the Jack Shainman Galleries, the Leslie-Lohman Museum of Gay and Lesbian Art, the Whitney Museum of American Art, and the Ailey II exhibition at the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. Students were accompanied by Horace Ballard, Assistant Curator, Williams College Museum of Art; Elayne Elliott, Sustainability Coordinator, Zilkha Center; Tatiana McInnis, Associate Director, Davis Center; Lama Nassif Assistant Professor, Arabic Studies; Shawna Patterson-Stephens, Director, Davis Center; and G.L. Wallace, Director, Accessible Education. The Davis Center appreciates the generosity of Gordon Davis, who covered a majority of the costs associated with the trip.
First Days Support

ROOT  ROOT is an EphVentures program developed in collaboration with the Zilkha Center for Environmental Initiatives. First Year students experience field trips, self identity exploration, and workshops around the intersections of sustainability and identity. “ROOTies” learn how to flex their activist muscles on and off campus. Angela Wu oversaw the Davis Center contributions to the 2017 program. Students participated in an overnight stay at Woolman Hill Quaker Retreat, a trip to Greenfield, a trip to Just Roots farm, as well as a trip to Mass MOCA where students examined exhibits centering the intersections of art and activism.

Under the direction of Ceci Del Cid and Elayne Elliott, with consultation from Mike Evans and Tatiana McInnis, ROOT successfully expanded its curriculum, solidified program traditions, and increased student participation and involvement. The team also devised a leadership manual to retain institutional memory and protocol. Currently, the Fall 2018 program has regarded the largest number of enrolled student participants in ROOT’s history.

On the first night of First Days, the entire First Year class gathers in the ‘62 Center Main Stage to discover the diversity of the experience that make up Williams in the form of storytelling. Over the summer, the Davis Center works with 5 student performers and the Theater Department to develop and perfect their story performances. Under the direction of Angela Wu, the 2017 segment of VOICES was led by Katie Manning, Leonel Martinez, Anqi Tang, Kyle Walker, and Wintana Yohannes. With assistance from Professor David Eppel, each student shared their perspectives on life at Williams, encouraging First Year students to remain their authentic selves, to take care of one another, and to feel comfortable asking for help.

FRAMING COMMUNITY

In the past, Framing Community was a film presentation hosted by the Davis Center, which was delivered to the entire first year class. Framing Community 2017 took a more interactive approach. Shawna Patterson-Stephens designed and rendered a presentation that explored diversity and its applicability to a liberal arts education. Specifically, Shawna demonstrated the ways diversity, inclusion, and social justice have become an institutional priority at Williams. Dr. Patterson-Stephens reviewed Williams history, which was then layered with the class of 2021’s demographic information. Each student was assigned a “clicker”, where they were able to answer questions about diversity at Williams. Shawna closed the discussion by emphasizing the necessity of creating spaces that lead with an ethic of care, and sharing campus resources that contribute towards building a nurturing environment for students.
Supporting the holistic development of students is the foundation of our work. Typically, college is a time of substantial transition, change, and growth. It is a period when students have the space they require to explore the meaning of their values and identities. It is a time when students learn more about who they are, how they will choose to define themselves, and how to make sense of their positionality in the world. In short, students at Williams are learning more about personal, social, academic, and professional aspects of self. Staff in the DC acknowledge that these are critical moments in the lives of our students and we make ourselves available to them as they wrestle with big, small, and complex questions about life. Over the course of the year, we served as counselors and academic/career advisors for students and recent alumni, alike.

The DC was created to support and develop student leaders and advocates; increase awareness and appreciation of diverse cultures, backgrounds and perspectives; and encourage mutually respectful interactions. We worked alongside individuals, student organizations, support staff, administrative offices, and academic departments as consultants and third-party mediators for various issues.
Another critical aspect of our work is tending to the holistic needs of our community. In the development and implementation of programs and initiatives, we work with intentionality and purpose to ensure we are touching upon the multi-faceted aspects of identity, self, and cultural understandings within broader societal contexts.

During the 2017-2018 academic year, the Davis Center designed and implemented 66 programs, independent of trainings, workshops, and co-sponsorships supported through supplemental funding. The DC developed 5 Alumni and Family Relations events (8%), 9 Arts and Cultural Programming events (14%), 2 Collaborative Events (3%), 12 Community and Social Organizing events (18%), 17 Gender and Sexuality events (26%), and 21 Race and Ethnicity events (32%).

These programs were developed in relationship to the Davis Center priorities for the 2017-2018 academic year: (1) expand Davis Center programming to address the holistic needs of a diverse community, (2) clarify the mission and vision of the Davis Center for the campus community, and (3) become better known as an accessible resource on campus for students, faculty, staff, alum, and community members in the broader Berkshire area. Centered amongst these priorities was the student experience, wherein Davis Center staff strived to design programming that contributed to the intellectual and developmental growth of our students.

Though the Davis Center was responsible for spearheading these events, they were not implemented in silos or in a vacuum. We were fortunate to work alongside a cadre of talented colleagues amongst student services and academic units, who shared their expertise in a manner that made these events and activities more robust.

The following pages briefly list events led by the Davis Center during the 2017-2018 academic year.
BLACK GIRL: LINGUISTIC PLAY

Jacob’s Pillow Dance Award-winner Camille A. Brown is known for theatrical works filled with gutsy moves and bold storytelling. BLACK GIRL: Linguistic Play was a joyful and moving exploration of childhood innocence, girlhood awareness, and maturation of the Black female through Camille’s lens. In August 2017, the Davis Center transported students, faculty, and staff to this outstanding performance.

SUMMER OF PROTEST

On October 4th, the Davis Center hosted a panel focused on U.S. affairs and current events. Panelists included Kai M. Green, Assistant Professor, Women, Gender, & Sexuality Studies; Jacqueline M. Hidalgo, Associate Professor, Latina/o Studies and Religion; Joy James, Professor of Humanities; and Tyler Jackson Rogers, Bolin Fellow in American Studies.

Entitled Summer of Protest, Shawna Patterson-Stephens moderated a discussion centering the ways different wearings of Whiteness have shaped contemporary issues, from the management of the Dakota pipeline, the "Muslim" ban, and the manner in which the most recent presidential election was run to the summer of 2017 White supremacist marches and this presidential administration’s approach to immigration.

NATIVE, INDIGENOUS AMERICAN HERITAGE SIGNAGE

In collaboration with the Williamstown Historical Museum, the Davis Center created informational signs that were posted on the main causeways of campus. The signs featured Native American history unique to Williamstown and North Adams, highlighting the experiences of the Mahican and Mohawk peoples. Utilizing research conducted by Williams College Interns, the Davis Center also drew connections between the politicohistorical contexts of the land, and the space Williamstown and North Adams currently occupies.

TRANS DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

In collaboration with the Chaplains Office and the Queer Student Union, the Davis Center led a memorial in remembrance of those lost to anti-transgender violence on November 20, 2017. In addition to honoring the lives of those lost to violence by naming individuals, participants reflected on ways we can work together to create a more just and inclusive society.
FROM MOVEMENT FOR BLACK LIVES TO STANDING ROCK: A TALE OF TWO-SPRITS

The Davis Center, in collaboration with WGSS and American Studies, invited Holiday Simmons to serve as the keynote speaker for the Native, Indigenous American Heritage Series. Simmons, MSW is a Black Cherokee transmasculine two-spirit activist who focuses on transgender rights, police violence, Black resiliency, and LGBT Native Americans and two-spirit magic. In their talk, Holiday discussed colonialism, as well as the interconnectedness of Indigenous and Black communities, race, and gender in the United States.

Racial and Ethnic Identities in the U.S. focused on the multifaceted role of race in U.S. History and its enduring legacy on our nation today. Specifically, audience members were presented with a narrative that shows how Supreme Court decisions concerning citizenship, immigration laws and Jim Crow policies contributed to the development of Whiteness in the U.S. and how these historical moments continue to shape our nation.
BEYOND THE DREAM: MLK WEEK 2018

This year’s MLK commemorative events spanned the course of one week and was implemented in collaboration with the Center for Learning in Action and the Zilkha Center for Environmental Initiatives. In addition to student-led religious observances, community service, and theme dinners, the MLK planning committee galvanized a faculty panel to reflect on the ways we could continue to build upon MLK’s legacy. MLK Week also included a screening of “Dolores” and closed with a Marathon of Voices at Thompson Memorial Chapel.

MLK Planning Committee: Bilal Ansari (Co-Chair), Ceci Del Cid, Elayne Elliott, Mykel Miller, Sharif Rosen (Co-Chair), and Joseph Wilson

BLACK PANTHER

The world’s ninth-highest-grossing film of all time, “Black Panther” enters the African nation of Wakanda and follows the journey of the young king, T’Challa.

The Davis Center, in collaboration with Sisterhood, BSU, WASO, MinCo, Society of the Griffins, Africana Studies, Latina/o Studies, and Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, hosted over 250 student, staff, and faculty participants at the Beacon Theater in Pittsfield, MA. This program was featured in conjunction with Black Heritage Month.

MELE MURALS

Mele Murals is a beautiful documentary on the transformative power of modern graffiti art and ancient Hawaiian culture for a new generation of Native Hawaiians. This event was featured in conjunction with Asian American Heritage Month in collaboration with AASIA, Art History, American Studies, Asian Studies, and Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies.

Led by Anthony Kim, a talkback was held at the close of the film with Kailani Polzak and Director of “Mele Murals”, Tad Nakamura.
Educational Support

SELECT LISTING OF WORKSHOPS, CONSULTATIONS, AND LOCAL COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Junior Advisors [JAs] (August 2017) – Angela Wu facilitated multiple inclusion trainings to prepare JAs with supporting a diverse residential student body.

International Orientation Leaders [IOLs] (August 2017) – Angela Wu facilitated a training focused on assisting IOLs with understanding and explaining differences as a result of socialization, culture, and perspective.

Neighborhood Leadership Team [NLT] (August 2017) – Angela Wu facilitated multiple inclusion trainings to prepare the NLT with supporting a diverse residential student body.

WOOLF Orientation Leaders (August 2017) – Angela Wu facilitated inclusion training focused on the concepts of privilege, identity, and awareness.

Committee on Educational Affairs (October 2018) – Shawna Patterson-Stephens met with the CEA to discuss promising practices with regard to supporting faculty teaching within the Difference, Power, and Equity curricular requirements.


Student Athletics Advisory Council [SAAC] (January 2018) – Angela Wu and Tatiana McInnis co-facilitated a well-attended inclusion training with the Student Athletics Advisory Council.

Peer Health (January 2018) – Angela Wu and Tatiana McInnis co-facilitated inclusion training.

Economics Consultation (January 2018) – Tatiana McInnis consulted with professors in Economics regarding intergroup dynamics and the SP18 Women in Economics Conference.

The Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute (January 2018) – Shawna Patterson-Stephens led a training for local docents on positionality and inclusive tour facilitation techniques.

Williams Men’s Rugby Team (February 2018) – Tatiana McInnis facilitated a Social Identity 101 training with the Men’s Rugby Team.

Berkshire Educators (February 2018) – Shawna Patterson-Stephens collaborated with CLiA to sponsor a professional development session with Berkshire K-12 Educators, led by Dr. Khyati Joshi.

BART Charter Public School (March 2018) – Shawna Patterson-Stephens led a talk with local youth in recognition of Black History Month, entitled: Unsung Heroes & The Revolutionary Everyday.


Quantitative Skills Tutors (April 2018) – Tatiana McInnis facilitated a training with Williams tutors, entitled: Cultural Differences and Learning Style.

Student Leader Bootcamp (April 2018) – Davis Center Staff facilitated a half-day retreat with student affinity organizations to prepare them for their leadership responsibilities.
Advocacy and Service

At Williams, committees across campus work hard each year to drive institutional initiatives. This means listening to individual voices, examining quantitative data, and analyzing why and how policies and practices can contribute towards the creation of barriers for underserved populations. We advocate for individuals and underrepresented groups, while also encouraging them to advocate for themselves. The following is a listing of service completed by Davis Center Staff on standing committees during the 2017-2018 academic year.

**BILAL ANSARI**
Center for Learning in Action Outreach, Men of Color Subcommittee (Diversity Action Research Team), MLK Planning Committee (Co-Chair), and the Upperclass Residential Life Advisory Committee

**C. ONDINE CHAVOYA**
C3 Fellows Mentor, Faculty Recruiting, and Gaius Charles Bolin Fellows Mentor

**CECI DEL CID**
Davis Center Lecture Planning Committee, Dively Grant Selection Committee, Event Review and Logistics Group, First Year Experience Committee, MLK Planning Committee, Sexual Assault Prevention and Awareness Group, Women of Color Network, and Zilkha Outreach

**CHRISTOPHER GOH**
Faculty Recruiting, Gaius Charles Bolin Fellows Mentor, Projects for Peace Selection Committee, STEM-Student workshops, and Summer Science Program

**TATIANA McINNIS**
Committee on Diversity and Community, Dively Committee (Co-Chair), Dively Grant Selection Committee, First Year Experience, Trans Inclusion at Williams, and Williams Reads

**SHAWNA PATTERSON-STEPHENS**
Committee on Diversity and Community (Co-Chair), Communications Advisory Group, Diversity Action Research Team, Davis Center Building Committee (Chair), Davis Lecture Committee (Chair), Deans and Campus Life, Event Review and Logistics Group, First Year Experience, Men of Color Subcommittee, President’s Advisory Group, Presidential Induction Committee, Trans Inclusion at Williams (Chair), and Women of Color Network (Chair)

**ANGELA WU**
Claiming Williams (Co-Chair), Committee on Undergraduate Life, Dively Committee, First Year Experience, and Women of Color Network
The Davis Center funds programs, events, and research that are aligned with the Center’s mission to support the personal and intellectual growth of the Williams community through education, advocacy, and support for historically underrepresented communities. Priority is afforded to proposals/projects that are intersectional in focus or approach.

The Center acknowledges there are various interpretations of intersectionality, but primarily recognizes intersectionality as a way of understanding and analyzing the complexity of the world as well as distributions of power, with specific attention to how people’s lives are shaped by multiple axes of identity that overlap, including but not limited to race, gender, and class.

Applicants were invited to submit proposals via the Davis Center Funding Request Form available on the Davis Center website. Each week, Davis Center staff reviewed requests to make determinations.

The Davis Center received 47 funding requests throughout the academic year, totaling $59,959.66. We granted 43 requests, totaling $18,930.72 amongst 27 student organizations, 14 faculty members, and 2 staff members.
During the 2017-2018 academic year, the Davis Center allocated a total of $6,800 in supplemental funding to various academic departments in support of creative endeavors and research. Allocations were granted as follows:

- Africana Studies: $200 (3%)
- Dance: $700 (10%)
- Latina/o Studies: $3,700 (54%)
- Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies: $800 (12%)
- American Studies: $700.00 (10%)
- Languages: $200.00 (3%)
- Religious Studies: $500 (7%)

During the 2017-2018 academic year, the Davis Center allocated a total of $800.00 in supplemental funding to two student services units in support of programming and professional development. The Chaplains Office received $200 and the Williams College Museum of Art received $600.
Supplemental Funding

During the 2017-2018 academic year, the Davis Center allocated a total of $10,805.72 in supplemental funding to various student groups in support of research and programming. Allocations were granted as follows:

- AASiA: $2,230 (21%)
- FemCo: $1,125 (10%)
- QSU: $1,467.72 (14%)
- VISTA: $1,050 (10%)
- BSU: $300 (3%)
- MSU: $350 (3%)
- SJP: $400 (4%)
- VSA: $600 (6%)
- CASO: $250 (2%)
- OUR-STEM: $50 (5%)
- SoCA: $183 (2%)
- WASO: $2,350 (22%)

Supplemental Funding Allocated by Student Organization

Additional student-led projects that received 2017-2018 supplemental funding include:

**“Break the Chains”, a creative work developed by Merudjina Normil ’19: $150**

The title of the film series, “Break the Chains”, is derived from the phrase “we have nothing to lose but our chains”, a quote from Assata Shakur. Normil selected to screen “Whose Streets?” and “Ayiti Mon Amour” in an effort to create a discussion between Williams College students and Pittsfield Students about revolution.

**No Lost Generation Refugee Advocacy Group: $50**

Jonathon Burne ’17, founder of No Lost Generation at Williams, returned to talk about career options related to migrant justice and his experience working for the Arab American Association of New York as part of a two-year Immigrant Justice Corps fellowship. Students were able to learn more about policies, organizing, and careers related to immigration.

**Anything But Straight in Athletics: $325**

ABS sponsored a talk with Mason Darrow, the first openly gay athlete of the Princeton football team. Darrow spoke on what it means to be out and accepted in high profile athletics, and life after the world of college athletics.
The Davis Center supported 43 programs, projects, and conferences during the academic year. While significant overlap exists by program area amongst most proposals, the most prominent theme that emerged from each activity is recorded here for reporting purposes:

- 0 Alumni and Family Relations Requests
- 4 Arts and Cultural Programming Efforts (9% of all allocations)
- 3 Community and Social Organizing Efforts (7% of all allocations)
- 14 Gender and Sexuality Efforts (32% of all allocations)
- 22 Race and Ethnicity Efforts (51% of all allocations)

The Davis Center allocated $2,300 (12%) in Arts and Cultural Programming, $200 (1%) in Community and Social Organizing, $5,417.72 (29%) in Gender and Sexuality, and $11,013 (58%) in Race and Ethnicity efforts, which were supported through supplemental funding.
Within the Davis Center, we recognize that social change, inclusion, and equity work requires multiple perspectives, viewpoints, and partnerships. Through our collaborative efforts, we empower our community to remain engaged and to utilize their skills and expertise to join us in creating a welcoming environment. With the support of the Davis Center, the following endeavors – to name a few – were successfully completed during the 2017-2018 academic year:

**September:** The University & Student Protests: A Colloquium with Rod Ferguson with American Studies

**October:** Same Roots, Different Soil Conference with WASO and SOCA

**October:** Screening of “Paris Noir” and Talk featuring Joanne Burke with Africana Studies

**October:** Inaugural U.S. Colombianx Studies Symposium and Meeting with Latina/o Studies

**November:** The Importance of STEM featuring May Jemison with Geosciences

**November:** A Qawwalified Home: Spirituality, Resistance, and American Muslims with Dept. of Religion

**November:** Screening of “Transgender, At War and In Love” with Williams Student Veterans Association

**November:** National Students For Justice In Palestine Conference with Students for Justice in Palestine

**November:** East Coast Chicana/x Student Forum (ECCSF) Conference with VISTA

**January:** Tet Festival Celebration with VSA

**February:** Screening of “Rikers: An American Jail” with the Chaplains Office

**February:** Muslim Cool – Race, Religion, and Hip Hop in the United States with Dept. of Religion

**March:** Women’s Resistance Revival Chorus with FemCo and American Studies

**March:** Courtauld Institute Conference with Williams College Museum of Art

**April:** East Coast Asian American Student Union (ECAASU) with AASIA

Further, we provide substantial support to a variety of affinity-based, and mission-driven, student organizations on campus. The Davis Center is known for providing students with the logistical support they require in order to adequately achieve their programmatic aims. During the 2017-2018 academic year, we managed over 440 student-led transactions, over 110 student organization transfers, and 67 reimbursements/check requests.
Presentations

Greater Lakes Colleges Association (GLCA) Students of Color Leadership Conference: November 2017, Meadville, PA – Bilal Ansari gave a talk focused on encouraging meaningful relationships and inspiring broad collaboration among minority student organizations.

Association of the Study of Higher Education (ASHE): November 2017, Houston, TX – Shawna Patterson-Stephens co-presented two separate manuscripts entitled: Power to the Hashtag: Black Women’s Use of Social Media and Examining Relationships that Matter: A Qualitative Study of Black Women in Doctoral Education. She also served as a panelist in a presentation entitled: Where are the Black Faculty in Academia? and as the discussant for the symposium, Research Methods for Whom? Power and Representation in Data.

Hartford Seminary Panel: March 2018, Hartford, CT – Bilal Ansari served as a panelist on a talk entitled: Including the Nonreligious in the Interfaith Conversation.


Publications


Professional Development

Ceci Del Cid was accepted into the Citizens Academy in Pittsfield, MA. This program teaches people about local governance. She also attended the Women of Color Conference at Smith College.

Tatiana McInnis attended the Creating Change Conference in Washington, DC. She also attended the Women of Color Conference at Smith College.

Angela Wu served as the Co-Chair for the Asian Pacific Islander Caucus at National Conference on Race and Ethnicity (NCORE). She also attended NCORE in New Orleans, May 2018.
CONGRATS 2018 DAVIS CENTER Awardees!

Social Justice Advocate Award (Senior):
**Ezekiel King Phillips**
Cultivating Community Award (Senior):
**Valerie Oyakhilome**
Outstanding Mentor of the Year Award:
**Dr. Pamela Harris**
Outstanding Student Mentor of the Year Award:
**Summiya Najam**
Unsung Hero of the Year Award:
**Alia Richardson**
Outstanding Initiative of the Year Award:
**Menstrual Wellness Campaign (Toni Wilson)**
Outstanding Student Program of the Year Award:
**The Justice League--Converging Worlds (Kelana West)**
Michael Dively Summer Grant:
**Katie Manning**