To love oneself is the beginning of a lifelong romance.--Oscar Wilde

The Davis Center advances broad campus engagement with complex issues of identity, history, and cultures as they affect intellectual, creative, and social life.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE:
The groundhog predicts a longer winter, which it totally believable with the week of snow coming up and the low temperatures. Winter is not my favorite season, but I am going to choose to focus on the positive, which is that we all have a lot of celebrating to look forward to! This month we have Claiming Williams, Black History Month, Mardi Gras and religious observances like Purim and Lent!! Lunar New Year is also being celebrated all over the world (it’s the year of the Ox)!!

I also want to remind everyone that the DC Team has office hours available for anyone who needs support. Just visit The DC and CEF appointment calendar for times!

In this newsletter, The DC team invites you to engage in random acts of kindness, introduce you to an advocacy organization for Black people who are deaf and heard of hearing, and invite you to make snow sculptures! We also keep you abreast of what’s happing both on campus and off, including a few student-curated resources, grants and position applications, and a volunteer opportunity!
Learn more about the Lunar New Year and the Year of the Ox!

Inspired by both Valentine’s Day and Purim, I thought it would be good for our own self-care to do something for someone else. So, this month, try to spread joy through a random act of kindness. Consciously doing something kind for someone
Dear Davis Center Times Readership,

My name is Aseel Abulhab, and I'm the Assistant Director of the DC. Welcome to Williams Signs! In each newsletter, I will share a new phrase or sign in ASL and/or a related fact. If you have any additional questions or want to engage on the subject, please reach out to me at aa9. Happy signing!

Happy Black History Month! In this newsletter, I'd like to introduce you to the National Black Deaf Advocates, the official advocacy organization of Black Deaf and hard of hearing people in the United States, established in 1982. You can learn more about their mission and what they do by clicking on the button below.
I moved to the north when I was 18--before that, the most snow I'd ever seen was a dusting and the only ice I'd ever seen was in my freezer or at the mall in the big city. Like many, I grew up idealizing the winter weather, so much so that to this day I still get excited when the snow begins to fall; and believe it or not: I LOVE shoveling snow. It's a deeply satisfying and useful job for me and one that provides exercise to boot. But that said, all the snowy-scenes from movies and TV shows don't actually prepare you for something as simple as, "playing in the snow." It turns out that it's not all that intuitive: my self-confidence for snow folk construction, for example, is not great--mine certainly have never looked like cute well-formed balls one atop the other--more like the Trashheap from Fraggle Rock.

So instead of trying to provide pep-talks for the many great reasons to get outside even when it's cold outside--this month I'm going to provide a variety of resources to help you make the most out of this snowy wonderland that currently is Williamstown, Massachusetts.

You don't need kids or to be a kid to enjoy this seasonal splendor, though I do recommend keeping those fingers and toes warm and dry! Go outside and have fun--make things for you, or others, to enjoy--spread love, creativity, and whimsy this February!
**Community Engagement Fellows (CEFs)**

The Community Engagement Fellows are a Davis Center-trained, peer-to-peer diversity education group. The DC Community Engagement Fellows work closely with the DC staff and are part of the Davis Center’s effort to provide education for the campus on issues of identity, power, and privilege in order to build a more inclusive community.

Click here to find virtual Drop-In CEF appointment times!

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**Office of Institutional Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (OIDEI)**

The Office of Institutional Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at Williams College dedicates itself to a community where all members can thrive. We work to eliminate harmful bias and discrimination, close opportunity gaps, and advance critical conversations and initiatives that promote inclusion, equity, and social justice on campus and beyond.

Click here to learn more about the OIDEI team!

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Born out of the students’ advocacy and protests of students, the Davis Center continues to fulfill its mission by working closely with student organizations. Included in those groups is the Minority Coalition (“MinCo”), student affinity groups united under the umbrella of MinCo. The Davis Center provides advising and logistical support for these groups.

MinCo provides a more unified voice against prejudice and discrimination against marginalized students by serving as a mechanism for affinity groups to come together in organizational, social, academic and political spheres. MinCo facilitates cooperation and communication among its member organizations, the campus and the Williamstown community and is an active voice in constructing a stronger community more aware of minority concerns.

Click here to read more about the MinCo Groups!

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**Upcoming Events,**
Claiming Williams, 2021
All Day Thursday, February 18th

Theme Statement
Claiming Williams Day was born from a student-run movement called Stand With Us, a group formed in response to hateful incidents involving racism and homophobia in 2008. Every year the Claiming Williams committee, composed of students, staff and faculty, dialogues with campus constituents to create a day of programming that confronts and critiques systems and practices of exclusion at Williams and beyond. This year has been particularly unsettling. It has seen the murders of Breonna Taylor, George Floyd and many others, the uneven impact of COVID-19 on communities of color, and the intensification of racial inequity over the last four years. Claiming Williams acknowledges the impact of these events and recognizes that Williams College is far from immune to the racial injustices that occur outside of our campus. Therefore, the CW committee has chosen the theme From Racial Injustice to Restoration. We aim to explore the ways in which structural racial inequities, racism, and bigotry on campus and in the wider world have shaped the Williams College experience for students, faculty and staff.

Check out the Claiming Williams schedule

DC Community Engagement Fellows 2021-2022 Applications Now Available!
The Community Engagement Fellows are a Davis Center trained, peer-to-peer education group. The DC Community Engagement Fellows work closely with the DC staff and are part of the Davis Center’s effort to provide education for the campus on issues of identity, power, and privilege in order to build a more inclusive community.

Information sessions will be held on Friday 2/19/2021 and Tuesday 2/2/2021

Please submit your applications by Sunday, 02/28/2021

Click here to learn more about the CEF Program

Click here to access the application form!
INFORMATION SESSION

Join The Sapere Aude Consortium for an information session on their summer internship program, a six-week program focusing on rising juniors interested in financial services, specifically investment and wealth management. The program is particularly for first-generation students and children of public servants.

Monday, February 15, 2021
6:00pm EST

REGISTER ON HANDSHAKE HERE

OURSTEM+ Invites Students to Quarantine-safe Trivia!
February 15, 2021 @ 7 p.m. EST
The student organization, OURSTEM+ is a MinCo group, that support underrepresented minorities in STEM+ fields throughout their Williams experience. We are excited to invite others to events we have prepared for next week’s initial quarantine!

We are hosting a Jeopardy event with questions specifically geared towards STEM+ on Monday, February 15th @ 7 PM EST. Attached is the Zoom link for the event in our flyer, and students can sign up for the event and form teams using this link. They both can be accessed through the QR codes on the flyer. Here is also the link to join OURSTEM+: https://bit.ly/3m2y5in.

Debunking the Myth of the Perfect Williams Student: Ephs in Health

Monday, February 15

Quarantine's Cozy Comforts

Fun ways to feed your mental health while nurturing physical health!

Organizations
- SAAC
- Athletics
- Student Activities Council
- Phi Delta Theta
- Alpha Phi Omega
- Alpha Sigma Alpha
- Alpha Xi Delta
- Alpha Eta Rho
- Zeta Phi Beta

February 10-17, 2021

SAAC is excited to announce their partnership with other RSOs to create events for the upcoming quarantine
Sign in through Handshake to learn more about this event!

More information with a schedule and Zoom links to follow!! 🌟

period!! There are some great events taking place throughout quarantine to break up the isolation period.

CRITIQUE/Black/Feminism(s)

Please join us on Feb 19, 2021, 1-3 p.m., for a conversation on Zoom about philosophy, literature, and democratic crises with Axelle Karera (Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Emory University) and Selamawit Terrefe (Assistant Professor of English, Tulane University), moderated by Joy James (Ebenezer Fitch Professor of Humanities, Williams College).

Co-sponsored by the American Studies Program and Africana Studies Department

Click here for Zoom Link for CRITIQUE/Black/Feminism(s)

Men of Color Collective

Meet & Greet

02-24-2021 @ 4 p.m. EST
MEN OF COLOR COLLECTIVE

MEET & GREET

WHEN
February 24
4pm – 5:30pm

VIA ZOOM
LINK WILL BE SENT ON THE DAY OF THE EVENT

Click here to register for the Men of Color Collective’s Meet & Greet on 02/24/2021 at 4 pm.

Apply for the
TIDE Grant:

deadline 02/22/2021

Click here to earn more about how to apply today!

The Office of Institutional Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion sponsor a funding opportunity for members of the college community: the Towards Inclusion, Diversity, & Equity (TIDE) grant program. This program is designed to infuse inclusion, diversity, and equity into all aspects of our campus community.

By supporting the community through these grants, we leverage the creativity and passion of members of the college to further inclusion on campus and the surrounding
community. This year we are especially interested in projects focusing on racial justice and that further goals outlined in the DEI working group report of the strategic plan. At large, we are looking for innovative and creative projects that work towards advancing inclusion, diversity, and equity in ways that are ideally calibrated to meet the pressing needs of individual units and departments or the campus as a whole. Possible directions for TIDE proposals include—but are not restricted to—art installations, campus conversations, discussion fora, ongoing workshops, training programs, or any other program that advances inclusion, diversity, and equity in our community.

Admission Tour Guide Applications

Available Now!

Deadline to apply is 02/19/2021
Interested in becoming an admission tour guide? The application is now available!

If you’ve dreamed of giving prospective students a glimpse into life at Williams, now is your chance! The application for the Office of Admission tour guide position is open to all students through February 19, 2021. We’re looking for strong communicators with a passion for community engagement, who are enthusiastic about sharing more about Williams and who are willing to broadly share the diverse experiences of our students.

During the Spring 2021 semester, our admission programming will continue to be entirely virtual. As a tour guide for our virtual programs, you will:

- Be paid $12.75/hour. (In subsequent years, your pay will increase to $13.00/hour.)
- Work an average of 1-2 hours per week.
- Attend two paid training sessions during the Spring 2021 semester.
- Attend paid sustaining meetings throughout the academic year.
- Participate in virtual information and Q&A sessions for prospective students and their families/guardians.
- Assist with admission virtual events and programming.
- Welcome prospective students to campus via virtual (Spring 2021) and/or on-campus programming (tentatively in the 2021-2022 academic year)!
- [OPTIONAL] Answer prospective students’ questions via email, or via Williams College Connect (an interactive platform)

When we’re able to safely welcome visitors back to campus, the expectations for tour guides will be the same, except for the following changes:
- Work an average of 1.5-3 hours per week (depending on the time of the year and the number of visitors).
- Lead at least one campus tour or information session per two-week cycle.

Timeline:
- February 19 – Deadline to Apply
- March 6 – 10: Interviews
- March 12: Final Hiring Decision Release

Questions?
Reach out to Claire Oxford (tour guide coordinator), or Alex Pear, Kaiz Esmail, and Olivia Graceffa (head tour guides).

Stay tuned for details about a Virtual Tour Guide Meet-and-Greet!

Thank you for your interest!

Scan the QR code below to access the application!

Data4Justice Conference Announced

QSIDE is pleased to
announce our inaugural Data4Justice Conference, a virtual, all-day event for scholars, activists, policymakers, and allies to explore the ways we can power social justice together. The conference has broadly accessible talks and is designed for a general audience. Want to learn more about how data, research, and activism come together to create change? Register today!

Students’ registration fee is $50.00, and students can apply for Career Access Fund (CAF) funding to attend.

Click here to learn more about this conference

Northern Berkshire Community Coalition Seeking

"Northern Berkshire Neighbors" volunteers

The Northern Berkshire Community Coalition has extended its application deadline for their "Community Outreach and Civic Engagement" program.

The program is designed to develop leadership and civic engagement skills among young people through service-learning and community-based projects. Interested individuals should visit the program’s website for more information and to apply. The extended deadline is May 31, 2021.
Engagement Training," program that is to begin in mid-February and extend through mid-July. This program meets on Monday evenings and covers a myriad of subjects and issues and prepares people to better advocate for the needs of the local community and build a sense of civic engagement within one's self.

Click on the image to access the PDF outlining this position--it does start this upcoming Monday the 15th, but they're happy to add a few latecomers. DCPC NatMB will be participating in this if you're needing a familiar face.

Click here to learn more about the NBCC

Click here to apply!

MassMoca & MCLA present:

**CARE SYLLABUS**, a justice-oriented public education and community resource featuring original text, visual media, recordings, and virtual live events by activists, artists, and academics.

Learn more about this resource
WCMA presents:
Art Inspired Yoga with Emily Kamen
weekly series beginning February 23, 2021 @ 5:30 PM EST

This one-hour, vinyasa-style online yoga class takes inspiration from "Auguries," a monumental 12-panel aquatint and spitbite print by contemporary artist Julie Mehretu. The title refers to the ancient practice of interpreting omens through birds’ behavior, and the class considers the potential of flight and boundary-defying movement.

Click here to learn more about this free yoga opportunity and to learn more about the entire series offered by the WCMA

Green Mountain Club presenting:
The Vermont African American Heritage Trail
Thursday, 03-04-2021 @ 7pm EST via ZOOM

Curtiss Reed, Jr, founder of the Vermont African American Heritage Trail, will discuss the creation of this initiative to expand
Vermont’s economy through attracting tourists from the rapidly growing multicultural marketplace; and to teach Vermont students about the important role and contributions of Vermonters of African heritage since before the founding of the state through more contemporary times.

Click here to learn more and register!

Student-curated online resources

The COVID-19 Health Advocacy Training
DC online workshop now available

This series of six short videos addresses COVID-19 and safer practices, as well as caring for oneself and for each other during this pandemic. The training examines racialized interpretations and impacts of COVID-19, and why social identities matter in dealing with the virus and with each other, as we engage in sometimes challenging discussions.

Created by Davis Center Community Engagement Fellows, this training is a peer to peer education and advocacy initiative, that others may find informative and helpful. The videos

CISA Curated Guide to Organizations Dedicated to Helping Immigrant Families Separated at the Border

The Coalition for Immigrant Student Advancement (CISA) has recently created a resource guide dedicated to organizations helping immigrant families being separated at the border. These organizations have all been fact-checked and have a history of providing financial assistance to immigrants for legal aid, housing, bail relief, etc. The goal in creating and sharing this research guide is to give individuals simple and organized information on how they can direct their funds to help
TalkSpace - Free Online Therapy for Students

TalkSpace is an innovative online therapy service that is now available, at no cost and effective immediately, to all enrolled students, twelve months a year and even while traveling abroad.

TalkSpace connects users to

Crisis Interventions

**Trevor Lifeline** — The only national 24/7 crisis intervention and suicide prevention lifeline for LGBTQ young people under 25, available at 1-866-488-7386. **TrevorChat** — A free, confidential, secure instant messaging service for LGBTQ youth that provides live help from trained volunteer counselors, open daily.

**KEEP GOING. YOU ARE UNSTOPPABLE.**
a dedicated, licensed therapist from a secure, HIPAA-compliant mobile app and web platform. Their roster comprises more than 5,000 licensed clinicians from across the country, who collectively speak over forty languages. You can send your therapist a text, voice or video message anytime, from anywhere, throughout your time at Williams.

Williams College and the IWS is providing this service to students in addition to all of our existing on-campus offerings in psychotherapy, psychiatry and on-call crisis services, as well as the wellbeing promotion events, workshops and groups we organize throughout the year.

To register, visit www.talkspace.com/williamscollege, enter your Williams email address and follow the prompts.

**TrevorText** — A free, confidential, secure service in which LGBTQ young people can text a trained Trevor counselor for support and crisis intervention, available daily by texting START to 678-678.

**Suicide Prevention Trainings and Resources**

**LGBTQ on Campus** — These online, interactive training simulations for students and faculty in higher education are AFSP/SPRC Best Practices for Suicide Prevention and were created in partnership with Kognito Interactive and Campus Pride.

**Step-In, Speak-Up** — These online, interactive training simulations for faculty and staff working with youth in Grades 6–12 are AFSP/SPRC Best Practices for Suicide Prevention and were created in partnership with Kognito Interactive.

If you are thinking about suicide, you deserve immediate support. Please call The Trevor Lifeline at 1-866-488-7386.

**FREE RESOURCE:**

**Student's Guide to Radical Healing**

**CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD AND ACCESS THE STUDENT'S GUIDE TO RADICAL HEALING**