

CLAIMING WILLIAMS DAY ENGAGES CAMPUS

It was a daunting schedule: 26 lectures, forums and performances taking place over the course of 12 hours, all exploring the theme “Examining privilege, building community” during Claiming Williams Day on Feb. 5. But the campus community responded in droves, from the athletes who ended practice early for a 9:30 a.m. lecture by sports guru Peter Roby to dining services staff who came out en masse for the standing-room-only talk by activist writer Tim Wise.

Claiming Williams Day brought speakers, facilitators and performers from all over the country to Williams for a frank discussion about privilege, leadership and inclusiveness. It was also the start of what many hope will be an ongoing and sustained dialogue campus-wide.

The idea for the jam-packed day, for which classes and other campus activities were canceled or rescheduled, evolved over

the past year in response to an incident of derogatory graffiti in Williams Hall E last February, something writer Dorothy Allison noted in her talk, “Making Home Among Strangers,” which packed the ‘62 Center’s MainStage. “Let us be grateful for the act of screwing up,” she said. “You have to give each other permission to screw up and remake.”

PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH UNDER WAY

Following President Schapiro’s announcement in December that he would move to the presidency of Northwestern University this summer, the Williams Board of Trustees has formed a Presidential Search Committee. Its 16 members (trustees, faculty, staff, students and alumni) are charged with recommending a short list of finalists to the board, which will make the appointment.

To support the process, the committee retained the services of the well-known international search firm Isaacson, Miller.

“The first step has been to hear from as broad a cross-section as possible of faculty, staff, students, alumni and parents,” says Greg Avis ’80, who chairs both the search committee and the Executive

For more information on any of these stories, visit www.williams.edu and enter the topic into the search field.

They Said:

Some thoughts expressed during Claiming Williams Day on Feb. 5, 2009.

“You come to college to be among people who are remaking themselves. ... You come to this place where you are not safe but have to pretend every day to be so.”

—**Dorothy Allison**, award-winning author, feminist and editor of early lesbian and gay journals, in her talk “Making Home Among Strangers.”

“One of the principal difficulties that white people have with discussing race is worrying about the language that might pop out of them—how to talk about these things—and worrying ‘What will people think?’” —**Peggy Diggs**

, former Williams studio art lecturer, on her public art project “Face,” which involved the creation and distribution across campus of more than 35,000 brown napkins printed with messages about race during the week following Claiming Williams Day. Record, 2.11.09

“A community made up of leaders can move forward. It will be enriched by communication, empathy, fairness, consistency, openness and kindness.” —**Peter Roby**, Northeastern University athletics director and director of the university’s Center for the Study of Sport in Society, during his talk “Diversity and the Appreciation of Difference in 21st Century Leadership.”

“The words ‘black’ or ‘feminist’ or ‘immigrant’ or ‘lesbian’ might intimidate on paper, but when you meet me, I’m just a down-to-earth poet with a pocket full of stories to tell. I feel collective laughter is a bridge to collective understanding, so I lace the painful truths with humor.” —**Lenelle Moise**, performance artist and self-proclaimed “culturally hyphenated promosexual poet,” on her solo show “Womb-Words, Thirsting.” Record, 2.11.09

TACONIC GETS A FACE-LIFT

The College's historic Taconic Golf Course is getting a face-lift, in part to return it to the form it was given by architects Wayne Stiles and John Van Kleek in their original 1927 plans. Most of the work being done will be completed by late spring and includes felling trees, restoring bunkers, redefining the edges of greens and adjusting the width of fairways. The tees on a handful of holes are being rebuilt. And several fairway bunkers have been repositioned and a few new ones constructed in order to return the element of strategy to the longer tee-shot patterns in today's game.

Taconic, which is operated on land leased from the College with special playing privileges for students, faculty, staff and alumni, has been widely covered in the nation's golf publications and is 89th in *Golfweek's* list of "The Classics." For information on playing at Taconic, visit the club's website at www.taconicgolf.com or call 413.458.3997 during the golfing season.



Rick Pohle

Committee of the Board of Trustees. "In addition to focus group meetings and open forums for those on campus, we have reached out to all alumni and parents, asking them to identify the issues they think Williams will have to deal with

in the short and long run, the attributes they believe we should stress in evaluating nominees and the individuals they recommend we consider."

This input guided the writing of a prospectus to describe the College at this point in its history and

articulate the attributes the committee will value most in candidates.

The committee is operating on the possibility of having a new president in place by this summer. If at some point that seems unlikely, the board will make interim arrangements.

You can follow the progress of the search at www.williams.edu/admin/president/search.



Greg Avis

TUTORIAL FUND HONORS FUQUA

One of John Foster's '80 few regrets about his Williams education was that he shied away from forming close relationships with his professors. But he fondly remembers Charlie Fuqua, who taught one of Foster's first college classes, as "the man who introduced me to education at Williams in a generous and thoughtful way."

And so, as part of a \$1 million gift commitment to The Williams Campaign, Foster has chosen to celebrate that experience by endowing a tutorial fund named in Fuqua's honor.

"I was an ill-prepared rookie who was learning quickly that the water at Williams can be deep," Foster says of his time as one of only eight students in Fuqua's survey of the poetry of Catullus and Propertius. "Had Charlie been of a mind to do it, he could have blown me away. Instead, I remember a man who loved his subject and infected those around him with it."

Foster thus focused his gift on tutorials,

which involve intensive weekly sessions between a professor and two students, because "there is no doubt in my mind that a relationship with the instructor is going to be formed. So if Williams is able to offer more tutorials, I want to support it."

Fuqua, the new fund's honoree and the Garfield Professor of Ancient Languages, emeritus, agrees. "And the very best part about John's gift," he adds, "is that it's coming from a former student and is going to help current and future students."

A DIAMOND OF AN ANNIVERSARY

The Ephs and Lord Jeffs will square off on May 3 for a scheduled league game commemorating the 150th anniversary of the first-ever collegiate baseball game. The 1 p.m. match-up, to be held at the original Wahconah Park site in Pittsfield, Mass., will be televised nationally on the ESPN-U network.

The weekend will also feature a free youth clinic and historical exhibition—both sponsored by the College Baseball

the
List

RECREATIONAL READING

Williams students aren't the only ones on campus with stacks of books at their bedsides. Here's what faculty were reading during the long winter months in Billsville.

Julie A. Cassiday, professor of Russian and chair of German/Russian. *Anna Karenina* by Leo Tolstoy, because "I always find some new detail, insight or connection that makes [re]reading [it] fresh and exciting."

Charles B. Dew '58, Ephraim Williams Professor of American History. *Dreams from My Father* by Barack Obama: "The most fascinating autobiography ever penned by a president-to-be."

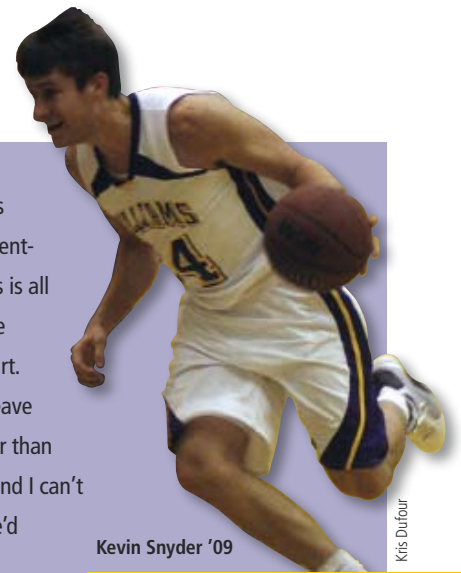
Karen Merrill, dean of the college and professor of history. *Arctic Dreams* by Barry Lopez: "Essential reading for anyone engaged with environmental issues ... [and] also deeply a book about human behavior and human choices."

Leyla Rouhi, chair and professor of Romance languages. *Digging to America* by Anne Tyler: "A novel about the many intriguing ways in which people belong to family and country."

Compiled by the Office of Public Affairs

Hall of Fame—as well as a special three-inning throwback game featuring Williams and Amherst alumni playing with vintage equipment and under the rules of that era.

The original game ended in a 73-32 Amherst victory after 25 innings. "That sounds like a football blowout score," current Williams baseball coach Bill Barrale says with a laugh. "Hopefully, our pitching and fielding will be a little better than that."



Kevin Snyder '09

Kris Dufour

SPORTS WRAP

"Kevin exemplifies what being a student-athlete at Williams is all about—excellence on and off the court. He will certainly leave the program better than how he found it, and I can't imagine where we'd be without him."

—Men's basketball coach Mike Maker on guard Kevin Snyder '09, who was named to the All-Academic District Second Team by *ESPN the Magazine* in February.

"If Mika misses, it doesn't faze her. She just keeps shooting. She's a very steady player who doesn't ever get too high or too low."

—Women's basketball coach Pat Manning on guard Mika Peterman '09, who on Feb. 6, during a game against Colby College, became the 12th player in the program's history to reach the 1,000-point career milestone. As a first-year student, Peterman was teammates with four other women who hit the 1,000 career points.

"This team is so deep that we have been able to go undefeated a good portion of the time at less than full strength. Even though we have had some people sidelined at times, I would say this is the deepest and strongest team I have had in my 10 years at Williams."

—Women's swimming and diving coach Steve Kuster on the Ephs extending their dual-meet winning streak to 13 contests through an undefeated regular season.



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