

SCENE & HERD

NEWS BITS

For the third year in a row, *U.S. News and World Report* named

Williams the **best liberal arts college in the country**. It's also the 15th consecutive year the College received the magazine's highest rating for academic reputation. Amherst and Swarthmore were second and third overall, respectively. ■ Seventeen professors, including six minorities and five women, were hired this year, **fulfilling the College's goal of adding 30 faculty members**.



Lisa Corrin

“visual culture study ... to enable visitors to 'read' the world around them”

In the past decade, the size of the faculty has grown 21 percent—to 245 professors—and the numbers of minority and women faculty have grown by 45 percent and 44 percent, respectively. ■ It was a **record year for admission**, with 5,822 applicants to the Class of 2009. Of the 1,095 accepted (18.8 percent, the lowest ever), 539 enrolled, among them: 283 women, 256 men, 56 Latinos, 53 Asian Americans, 48 blacks, three Native Americans and 34 international students. The students represent 41 states and 21 foreign countries, and their average SAT score is 1425. ■ Lisa Corrin, former curator and deputy director of the Seattle Art Museum, is the new **Williams College Museum of Art director**. A past chief curator of The Serpentine Gallery

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in London, her goal at WCMA is “to use visual culture study at the museum to enable visitors to ‘read’ the world around them.”

■ The **45th Annual Alumni Golf Tournament** attracted 216 golfers July 29-30. A storm Sunday kept players off the green, so prizes were based on Saturday's standings. For results, visit www.williams.edu/alumni. Click on the Golf Tournament link beneath “Of Note.” ■ Golfers also took to the links in June during the **Dick and Denise Baxter Reunion Golf Trophy Competition**. Ten classes and 158 players participated, with 19 members of the Class of 1965 taking first with a score of 65, 18 from 1980 finishing second with 66, and 21 from 1985 coming in third with 67. ■ The fall brings **new administrators to the Dean of the College's staff**. James Noble of Harvard's Kennedy School of Government is now Williams director of career counseling. Assistant dean Carole Hsiao of University of Wisconsin at Madison will support international students, advising for minorities and First Days.

And Joyce Foster of Brown is the new director of the Academic Resource Center, which will provide support in study, test taking and time management. ■ A new **Zeiss Skymaster planetarium projector** in Old Hopkins Observatory will allow the positions of thousands of stars and several planets to be projected accurately over time spans of decades. The projector, supported by the Class of 1958 Fund for Faculty Development, replaces a 42-year-old one that no longer worked. 🐾

In Memoriam

Dick Sabot, the John J. Gibson Professor of Economics, emeritus, died July 6. He was 61.



Dick Sabot

Sabot came to Williams in 1984 from the World Bank and International Food Policy Research Institute. He was chair of Williams' Center for Development Economics before leaving in 1999 to pursue business and charitable interests. He was co-founder and board chairman of Tripod Inc., an Internet venture purchased by Lycos in 1998. He co-founded eZiba.com Inc., which sells handcrafted goods from artisans worldwide, and was chairman of its board until his death. He was a board member at Lycos, board chairman of Geekcorps (a private nonprofit committed to expanding the Internet in developing countries) and a founding member of the executive committee of the Center for Global Development, a D.C. think tank dedicated to reducing global poverty. In 2003 he and his wife Judith purchased Cricket Creek Farm in Williamstown, which they were transforming into an ecologically sound dairy. In addition to Judith, Sabot's survivors include four children, among them Christopher A. Sabot '99.

Williams will inaugurate the '62 Center for Theatre and Dance with a 10-day celebration beginning Sept. 30, featuring theater, dance, readings and musical performances by visiting artists, students and alumni. For a full schedule, visit www.williams.edu/go/62center.

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New Trustees Join Board

The College Board of Trustees welcomes three new members: César J. Alvarez '84, Yvonne Ping Hao '95 and William Edward Oberndorf '75, each of whom will serve a five-year term.

Alvarez is senior VP of legal affairs at Twentieth Century Fox Film Corp., where he is a production attorney. He previously was a paralegal with the D.C. firm Williams & Connolly, received a law degree from University of Michigan-Ann Arbor in 1990 and was a production attorney with Walt Disney Co. before joining Fox in 1994 as senior counsel.

As a Williams volunteer, he was on the Executive Committee of the Society of Alumni from 2001-04 and as an alumni trustee is an ex officio member. He has served on the L.A. Regional Executive Committee since 2001 and has been an associate class agent since 2004, an Admission Regional Chair since 1998 and an admission representative

since 1995. He shared the Copeland Award in 1999 for efforts to recruit inner-city L.A. students. Alvarez is on the Williams Latina/o Alumni Network Steering Committee and the Alumni of Color Task Force. He lives in L.A. with his partner, Paul Stephen Wicht.

Hao is VP of global marketing for Honeywell Security, focusing on strategy, growth and operations for global Fortune 100 companies. She received a master's in economics from Emmanuel College, Cambridge University, in 1997 and joined the Chicago office of McKinsey & Co. In 1999 she transferred to D.C. to lead a one-year pro bono study, Vital Voices, with Hillary Rodham Clinton and Madeleine Albright to develop programs to support women leaders around the world. In 2000 she was named an associate partner of McKinsey, co-leading the nonprofit sector in its L.A. office.

Hao was co-founder of Williams' Asian

American Theater Project and president of the Chinese-American Students Organization. She also was on the crew team and was president of the College's Phi Beta Kappa chapter, a 1993 Ford Mellon research grant recipient and a Herchel Smith Fellow and Hutchins Fellow.

In L.A., Hao co-founded the Hope Street Group to encourage "expanding opportunity in the context of robust economic growth" by stimulating a new governing consensus in America bridging party lines. She lives in Manhattan with her husband Mark Wu.

Oberndorf is a managing director of SPO Partners & Co., an investment firm that specializes in the acquisition of public and private equity positions with a value orientation. He is a director of the ProQuest Co., Hotel Equity Funds and Rosewood Hotels and Resorts. He is director

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César J. Alvarez



Yvonne Ping Hao



William Edward Oberndorf

Farther Afield

Highlights of recent, known appearances by Williams in the media outside the College's local area, compiled by the Office of Public Affairs. For a complete listing, visit www.williams.edu/admin/news/inthenews.php

In the May 8 *Los Angeles Times*, Asian studies professor [Sam Crane](#) addressed [Chinese criticism of Japan](#) for whitewashing its militarist history: "What Japan did in World War II is horrible. But the embarrassing fact for [China's] Communist Party, and one that is not taught in Chinese schools, is that the party itself is responsible for many more deaths of Chinese people than those caused by Japanese militarism."

The June 19 *Baltimore Sun* quoted economics professor [Elizabeth Brainerd](#) on [declining life expectancies and birth rates in Russia](#) since the fall of the Soviet Union: "[In] other countries that have gone through an economic crisis, you typically see an increase in mortality among the elderly and infants. ... It's nothing like you see in Russia, where it's prolonged and primarily among middle-aged men."

In a June 22 *Houston Chronicle* article about [celebrities endorsing Scientology](#) and therefore attracting their peers, religion professor [Glenn Shuck](#) said: "It makes it into a chic religion, just like Madonna has done with aspects of cabalism."

In a July 8 *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* article about the economic effects of the previous day's [subway bombings in London](#), political economy professor [Darel Paul](#) said the terrorists' motive was "to not only kill a lot of people but to damage the whole system. Their goal is mainly political, but there are economic ramifications—and they are intended."

After speaking at Commencement, Pulitzer Prize-winning author Thomas Friedman touted the [importance of the College's George Olmsted Jr. Class of 1924 Prize for Excellence in Secondary School Teaching](#) in a *New York Times* column: "Imagine if every college in America had a program like Williams', and every spring, across the land, thousands of great teachers were acknowledged by the students they inspired?"

The New York Times ran a May 26 essay by art professor [Michael Lewis](#) discussing the [aesthetic effects of the Chrysler Building's](#) arrival in 1930 and its extensive renovations 75 years later. He writes: "Only now ... are the building and the public fully prepared to receive each other."



Kevin Bubricki

Peruvian weaver Edwin Sulca spent several weeks working in the sanctuary of Thompson Chapel last spring, creating a tapestry acknowledging the multifaceted spiritual life of the College. His design, which now hangs in the sanctuary, incorporates indigenous iconography with contemporary symbols, using Andean wool hand-colored with natural dyes. His visit was part of "Re-imagining Sacred Space," a yearlong series of events celebrating the chapel's centennial in 2005.

New Trustees continued.

emeritus of Plum Creek Timber Co. Inc. He joined SPO Partners' predecessor San Francisco Partners after receiving a master's in business administration from the Stanford Graduate School of Business in 1978.

Oberndorf is a member of The Williams Campaign Steering Committee and is West Coast campaign chair. He was co-president of his class until September 2005, chairman of the San Francisco Major Gifts Committee from 1994-2002 (having been a member since 1989) and a member of his class's 25th Reunion Fund Committee. He also was an admission representative from 1984-98.

Oberndorf has done fundraising for Stanford. He is vice chair of the University of California-San Francisco Foundation and was co-chair of its \$1.4 billion campaign, and he is chair of Thacher School's \$70 million campaign. He is a founding director and board chair of the Alliance for School Choice. He also is a trustee of his high school alma mater, the University School in Cleveland. He and his wife Susan Coleman Oberndorf live in San Francisco and have two sons, Peter '08 and William.

They Said:

A collection of opinions and ideas expressed in Web blogs and in *The Williams Record*, which can be found online at www.williamsrecord.com

"Every Sunday, me and my posse head down to Sweetbrook Nursing Home to chill with the old peeps. ... Out of all the community service I've ever done, I'd say this probably is the most rewarding. Our unofficial motto is, 'One hour of your time can make a person's whole week.' Community service is how we roll. Sweetbrook, represent." —*Phillip A. Raab '06, on opportunities for students to volunteer at Sweetbrook. Blog excerpt, 6.26.05*

"As a Muslim who is black ... I have no idea what *Islamic* food is. To me Islamic food was fried chicken and potato salad and homemade 7-Up cake. It was what everyone else ate, minus the pork. I don't know *traditional* Islamic games because to me that's just freeze tag or football." —*Jonaya D. Kemper '07, on the assumption that most U.S. Muslims are Arab or Asian despite research showing 42 percent to 49 percent of them are black. Blog excerpt, 8.1.05*

"Our group operated under the premises that second-hand effects of alcohol abuse are significant, that tolerance would diminish if the incidence of such effects was more widely known." —*Jim Kolesar '72, director of public affairs, on a report submitted by the Alcohol Task Force to Dean Nancy Roseman last May. (The report is available at www.williams.edu/resources/committees/cul/reports/2004.pdf.) Record, 5.10.05*

"The College is being a good neighbor to farmers in the region, obtaining the healthiest food, while teaching students to be good stewards of the environment." —*Mark Petrino, associate director of dining services, on Williams' plan to increase the quantity and variety of organic and local foods served in dining halls. Record, 5.3.05*



Amy Lovett

Celebrate the Jewish Religious Center's 15th anniversary! In addition to a kickoff celebration Oct. 23, a homecoming reception Nov. 12 and a gala April 28-30, Shabbat services all year will feature distinguished alumni. For more information and to submit photos and stories about Jewish life at Williams, visit www.jewishephs.org or e-mail 06eah@williams.edu.