



ANNUAL REPORT 2017-2018

INTERCULTURAL
CENTER

WHO WE ARE

The Intercultural Center was established in 1992 as a result of student activism aimed at securing increased institutional support of, and commitment to, students of color and queer students at Swarthmore College. Since then, the IC has come to comprise an ever-expanding group of students, including Latinx, Native American, South Asian, LGBTQ+, Multi-racial, International, Muslim, low-income, and first-generation college students. We strive to foster a truly multicultural social, cultural, and intellectual environment that acknowledges the intersections of identity and empowers students to pursue intercultural experiences as they achieve their educational and individual goals. With 22 student organizations in the IC Collective, the IC offers an array of programs and services and fosters the exploration of diverse heritages, political perspectives, and social and cultural experiences by offering a wide range of co- curricular and extra-curricular activities and programs throughout the academic year.

MISSION

The Intercultural Center engages and empowers our community through advocacy, dialogue, and support networks to influence campus culture and promote inclusivity and identity consciousness.

VISION

The Intercultural Center actively strives to advance an inclusive community through affirming and engaging our differences, intersectionalities, and interconnectedness.

GOALS

Continue to expand the visibility and reach of the Intercultural Center in order to advocate for identity-based groups to ensure marginalized and oppressed voices and perspectives are included in college-wide initiatives and decision making in an effort to contribute to the holistic well- being and development of IC constituents specifically and all students generally.

Foster and nurture the building of relationships and collaborations with campus partners – students, faculty, and staff – to inform the ways that services are provided to address the needs of IC constituents specifically and all students generally.

ANNUAL GOALS 17-18

Expand the visibility of the Intercultural Center beyond the student organizations that fall under the Intercultural Center collective.

Advocate for various student identity groups to ensure marginalized and oppressed voices and perspectives are included in decision-making in an effort to contribute to the holistic well-being and development of Intercultural Center constituents specifically and all students generally.

Fostering campus partnerships to inform the ways that services are provided to address the needs of Intercultural Center constituents.

Supporting faculty whose work is related to the Intercultural Center mission in their efforts to grow their programs.

Promote the Intercultural Center Team (office hours of interns, as well as staff, structure them to foster inter/intra group dialogue).

Ensure archival of Intercultural Center events, activities, programs, etc. to foster ongoing development of historical information and facilitate knowledge transfer processes.

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

The 2017-2018 academic year was an exciting, yet challenging year for the Intercultural Center (IC). Although we have had vacancies, staff stepping up to assume interim roles, and new additions to the team, the IC continued to provide the best possible service and support to our students which is in congruence with IC's mission of "engaging and empowering our community through advocacy, dialogue, and support networks to influence campus culture and promote inclusivity and identity consciousness."

We have been able to provide greater levels of support to the student organizations that comprise the IC Collective by expanding the number of student interns. With the help of these interns that were led by the exemplary supervision and management of the interim IC Assistant Director, the IC was able to significantly increase the number of programs from the previous year as well as increase the frequency and depth of the connections with our student groups. The 2017-2018 academic year also marked the 25th anniversary of the IC. This occasion was celebrated by a host of events which chronicled our past, highlighted the present, and looked toward to the future.

Although I assumed the role of the IC's Interim Director when the majority of the year had past, I witnessed a tremendous amount of energy in every aspect of the work of the Center. The passion and commitment for continuing the legacy of supporting students was evident in every IC related program, service, and student connection. The report that follows serves as a snapshot of the Swarthmore Community experience with the Intercultural Center. The success of the IC developing intersections across academic, co-curricular, and administrative areas allows for many different constituent groups to be a continuing part of our efforts to advance the mission of the IC.

Sincerely,

Thomas Alexander

Interim Director of the Intercultural Center

Dean of the Sophomore Class

MEET THE STAFF



Nyk Robertson
Interim Assistant Director

A graduate of Simmons College, with a Masters in Gender and Culture Studies, Nyk joined the Intercultural Center in December 2016 as the inaugural LGBTQ+ fellow. Nyk now serves as the Interim Assistant Director, where they lead the student interns and work closely with the IC Collective to develop programs and activities that help foster an inclusive campus community.

Cooper Kidd
LGBTQ+ Fellow

Cooper graduated from the University of Maryland, College Park with a Bachelors in sociology in May of 2017. Cooper Kidd joined the Intercultural Center in August 2017. As the LGBTQ+ Fellow, Cooper works with all LGBTQ+ student organizations and focuses explicitly on developing resources for the LGBTQ+ community



THE IC COLLECTIVE

The IC Collective is comprised of all of the chartered student organizations that affiliate with the IC. IC affiliation is based on the congruence between a given student organization's mission and the IC's mission--this affiliation is voluntary. Although membership in the IC Collective is voluntary, student organizations in the IC Collective benefit from direct services provided through the IC that include targeted strategy consultations for programs and events, access to graphic designer created marketing materials, and assistance with developing archival documents and processes.

- Achieving Black and Latino Excellence (ABLLE)
- Arab and Middle Eastern Students Association (AMENA)
- Anti-Racism Coalition of Swarthmore (ARCS)
- Queer Students of Color (COLORS)
- South Asian Students Organization (DESHI)
- LatinX Student Organization (ENLACE)
- Korean Student Organization (HAN)
- Multiracial Students with Asian Ancestry (HAPA)
- International Students Organization (i20)
- Japanese Cultural Appreciation Club (Kizuna)
- MULTI (for students of multiracial identities)
- Muslim Students Association (MSA)
- Quest Scholars
- Swarthmore Asian Organization (SAO)
- Swarthmore Chinese Society (SCS)
- Southeast Asian Student Association (SEASA)
- Swatties for Immigrant Rights (SIR)
- Swarthmore Indigenous Student Association (SISA)
- Swarthmore Organization for Low Income Students (SOLIS)
- Swarthmore Queer Union (SQU)
- Underrepresented Students in STEM (US in STEM)
- Women of Color Kick Ass (WOCKA)

- Asian Studies
- Athletics
- Black Cultural Center
- Black Studies
- Career Services
- Center for Innovation and Leadership
- Counseling and Psychological Services
- Dean of Students
- Disability Services
- Education Department
- First Generation and Low-Income Student Initiatives
- Gender and Women's Studies
- Human Resources
- Interfaith Center
- Lang Center
- Latin/Latin American Studies
- Library Services
- Office of Admissions
- Office of Advancement & Alumni Affairs
- Office of Communications
- Office of Diversity, Inclusion, and Community Engagement
- Office of International Student Services
- Office of the President
- Peace and Conflict Studies
- Public Safety
- Sociology/Anthropology Department
- Theater Department
- Title IX
- Women's Resource Center
- Worth Health and Wellness Center

30

CAMPUS PARTNERSHIPS

Through our shared partnerships, we were able to expand the visibility and reach of the Intercultural Center and support curricular and co-curricular initiatives

50

PROGRAMS

In 2017-2018, the Intercultural Center leveraged collaborations with campus partners to deliver over 70 programs.

SELECT COLLABORATIONS

Black Minds Matter: A Focus on Black Boys and Men in Education. Black Minds Matter was a free online "public course" that addressed the experiences and realities of Black Males in education, drawing parallels between the Black Lives Matter movement and the ways that Black minds are engaged in the classroom. In collaboration with the BCC, and ODICE, the course was streamed for approximately 1 hour and then audience was engaged in open discussion about the public course for an additional hour.

Pronoun Training: In collaboration with the Office of Diversity, Inclusion, and Community Engagement, voluntary trainings were offered twice a week throughout January and February for staff and faculty around pronouns, how to identify students' pronouns, and opportunities to practice using various pronouns. Through March and April, student trainings were offered by IC interns and Diversity Peer Advisors. Throughout the spring semester, department trainings were also given to multiple groups including Public Safety, Health and Wellness, Library Services, Interfaith Center, Office of International Student Services, and more.

La Gala: An annual celebration of Latinidad that brings together the Tri-Co Latinx community and beyond. Held at Swarthmore this year with the theme: Our Lives in Our Words

Ignacio Rivera: Ignacio G (Hutiá Xeiti) Rivera has over 20 years of experience on multiple fronts, including economic justice, anti-racist and anti-violence work, as well as mujerista, LGBTQI and sex positive movements. Ignacio's work is also driven by the strengths of identifying as a survivor, transgender, Yamoká-hu/Two-Spirit, Black-Boricua-Taíno and queer. In collaboration with Title IX, ENLACE, SASS, SQU, English Department, and the Lange Center, Ignacio gave a workshop titled "The Evolution of the Talk and Sexy Survivor Workshop" and a poetry performance titled "All of Me: An Hour of Poetry"

IC INTERNS PRESENT

As part of the IC's new initiative to empower and develop our IC Intern team, a new series of events was created. All these events within the IC Interns Present fosters community, dialogue, and creation by the interns for the student community.

Conversations of Care : Our intern team held a series of conversations about topics around which they wanted to foster dialogue. These Conversations of CARE (Culture Awareness, Respect, and Education) promoted further discussion, provide resources and education, as well as generate support from other members of our community.

IC Art House: A showcase of talents in poetry, music, comedy, and more. The goal was to bring our diverse student body closer together through the arts.

Visibility Zine: The third edition of this print and digital publication centers the work of students — particularly those of historically marginalized identities. We view representation through art as a powerful asset to dialogue, and value this platform as one that allows individuals to be recognized not only for the challenges we face, but also for the artwork, insights, and experiences we have to share.

Zine Fest: Activism is the combination of socially and politically conscious artwork. This Fest featured Rise Up Now art show which centers the voices of students of color creating a discussion on race, (de)colonization, and resistance, as well as Devin Morris, NYC poet, and a quilt making event titled "Interwoven Strengths" which now hangs in the IC Big Room.



IC Interns Present

25TH ANNIVERSARY

Throughout the year, the IC had monthly events celebrating the past 25 years including panels, a library exhibit, posters of historical facts, and more.



25TH ANNIVERSARY

Past to Present: Queer Identities at Swarthmore: Celebrating the evolution of queer identities at Swarthmore. Panelists from 1970 to the present as well as alumni from the inception of the Intercultural Center. The event was closed with a toast to the next 25 years, and an interactive art installation around what the Intercultural Center has meant to attendees, and what the hopes are for the next 25 years. The art installation now hangs in the IC.

Creation to Community McCabe Exhibit: An exhibition, Creation to Community: 25 Years of the IC, documented how the Intercultural Center has strived to impact students' lived experiences while also affecting systematic change that influences these lived experiences. The reception brought back alumni and faculty who were involved with the creation of the IC to speak on a panel about the process of creating the IC and their experiences with its founding.

IC Director's Panel: A panel of former IC Directors, Fernando Chang-Muy, the first director of the IC, Rafael Zapata, director from 2002-2011, and Jason Rivera, director from 2016-2017, where they reflected on the impacts the IC had during their time on campus as well as the impact the IC had on them personally and the changes the IC has seen since their time at Swarthmore College.

YEARLY CONTRIBUTIONS

42

1-1 STUDENT MEETINGS

59

**GROUP STUDENT
MEETINGS**

91

1-1 INTERN MEETINGS

14

GROUP INTERN MEETINGS

76

PROGRAMS

44

TRAININGS