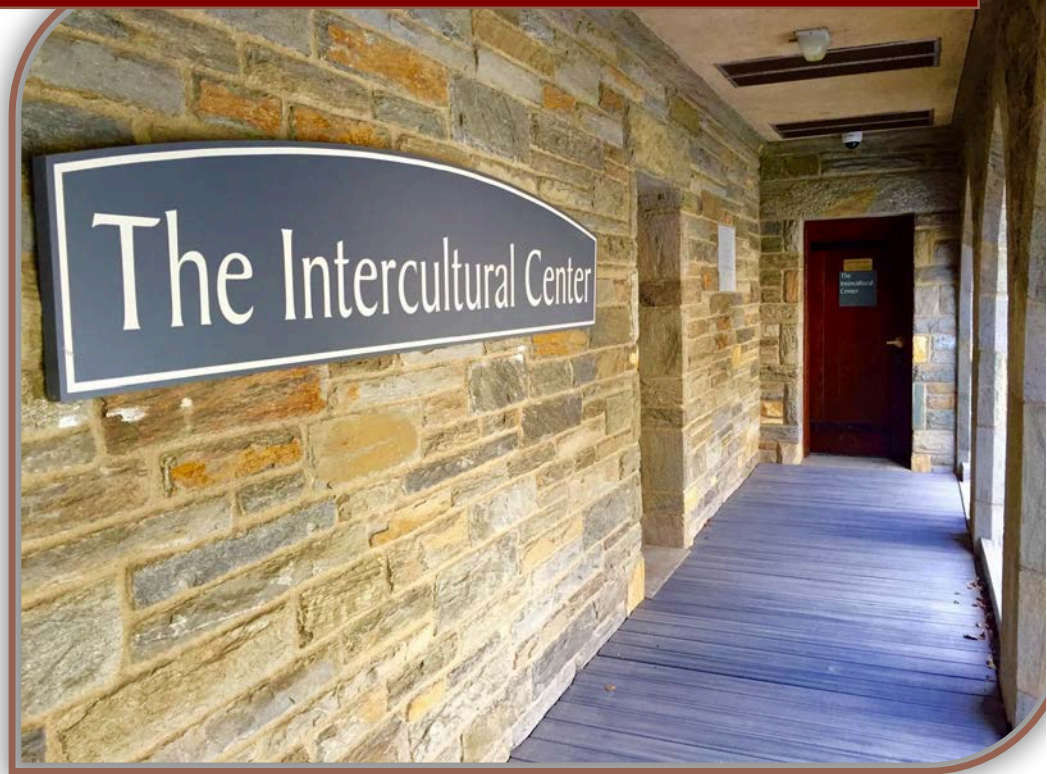
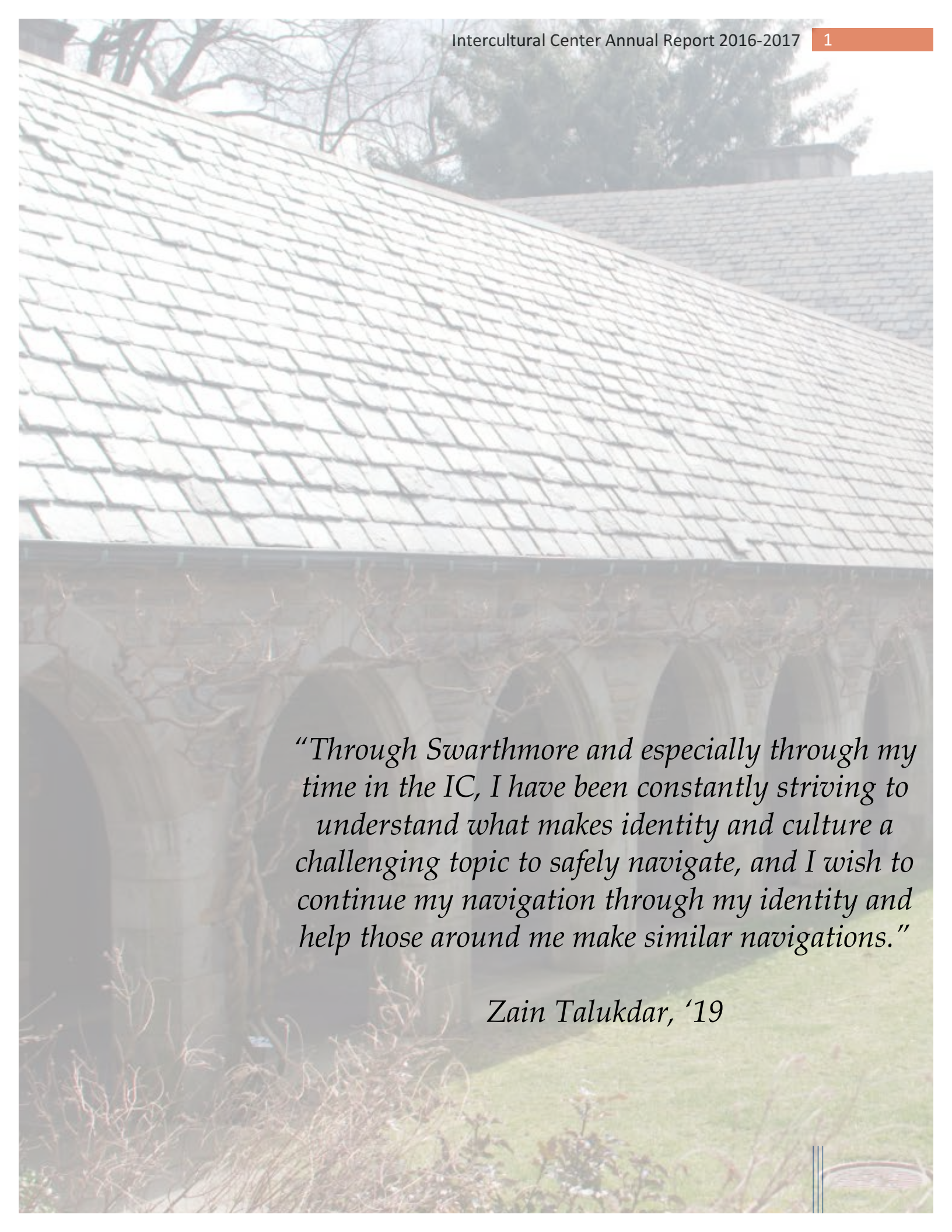


The Intercultural Center Annual Report 2016 - 2017



Jason Rivera, Ph.D.
Director of the Intercultural Center
Dean of the Sophomore Class
Swarthmore College
July 2017

The background image shows a building with a grey shingled roof and a series of arched windows. Bare tree branches are visible in the foreground and background, suggesting a winter or early spring setting. The text is overlaid on the lower right portion of the image.

“Through Swarthmore and especially through my time in the IC, I have been constantly striving to understand what makes identity and culture a challenging topic to safely navigate, and I wish to continue my navigation through my identity and help those around me make similar navigations.”

Zain Talukdar, '19

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, and 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.



OUR MISSION

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

OUR VISION

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

OUR OVERARCHING 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.

OUR 2016-2017 ANNUAL GOALS



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, 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,

Since our founding in 1992, the Intercultural Center has cared for, championed, and celebrated Latinx, Native American, Asian and Pacific Islander, and LGBTQ+ students and the intersections of their identities. The Intercultural Center actively strives to advance an inclusive community through affirming and engaging our differences, multiplicity of identities, and interconnectedness. Our mission is to engage and empower our community through advocacy, dialogue, and support networks in an effort to positively influence campus culture and promote inclusivity and identity consciousness.



While the nation is in a time of transition, we reaffirm our values and mission. We will continue to work tirelessly to foster a community that embraces differences, listens to and respects diverse perspectives, and actively engages in building a sense of belonging and responsibility for all students, faculty, and staff at Swarthmore. To that end, the Intercultural Center will continue to work independently and collaboratively to provide students and our campus with the services and skills that they need to navigate an increasingly diverse world. We will not be able to do this work without you, our colleagues and friends. Thus, as you read this report, I invite you to see yourself as an important partner and contributor to our commitment to prepare socially aware, engaged, and compassionate students of Swarthmore College.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jason Rivera". The signature is stylized with a large, flowing 'J' and 'R'.

Jason Rivera, Ph.D.
Director of the Intercultural Center
Dean of the Sophomore Class

Meet the Staff

Mo Lotif

Assistant Director

Mlotif1@swarthmore.edu

A graduate of Williams College, Mo Joined the Intercultural Center in 2014. As the Assistant Director, he leads the Student Interns and works closely with the IC Collective to develop programs and activities that help foster an inclusive campus community.

**Nyk Robertson**

LGBTQ+ Intern

Nroberts1@swarthmore.edu

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. As the LGBTQ+ Fellow, Nyk works with all LGBTQ+ student organizations and focuses explicitly on developing resources for the LGBTQ+ community.



Campus Partnerships

In 2016-2017, the Intercultural Center leveraged collaborations with more than twenty campus partners to deliver over 50 programs. Through our shared partnerships, we were able to expand the visibility and reach of the Intercultural Center and support curricular and co-curricular initiatives. Additionally, we were able to create a space where students could engage their differences through serendipitous encounters and newly formed relationships.

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- Black Cultural Center
 - Lang Center
 - Center for Innovation and Leadership
 - Interfaith Center
 - International Student Office
 - Community Engagement and
 - Office of Student Engagement
 - First Generation and Low Income Student Initiatives
 - Women's Resource Center

- Latin/Latin American Studies
- Education Department
- Title IX
- Office of the President
- Dean of Students
- Human Resources
- Career Services
- Office of Admissions
- Counseling and Psychological Services
- Gender & Women's Studies
- Worth Health Center
- Office of Advancement & Alumni Affairs
- Office of Communications

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)
- Swarthmore Organization for Low Income Students (SOLIS)
- Swarthmore Queer Union (SQU)
- Underrepresented Students in STEM (US in STEM)
- Women of Color Kick Ass (WOCKA)

SELECT INTERCULTURAL CENTER PROGRAMMING

The IC supports the exploration of diverse heritages, political perspectives and social and cultural experiences by offering a wide range of co-curricular activities and programs throughout the academic year.

The next section provides a brief overview of selected programs offered in the 2016-2017 academic year. In 2016-2017, the IC offered a total of 56 programs, 13 of which were targeted partnerships or collaborations.

Andrea Gibson Performance

Andrea Gibson is an award-winning American poet and activist from Calais, Maine. Gibson's poetry focuses on gender norms, politics, social reform and the struggles LGBTQ people face in today's society.

Andrea performed spoken word as the end event for Day of Silence on April 21st. They then lead a workshop for students on Saturday, April 22nd entitled "Write to Live." This workshop explores how to use poetry as a conversation starter, coping skill, and inspiration to live. Using the work of contemporary poets as prompts, topics, such as mental illness, trauma, and bullying, were discussed and ways in which to write ourselves to healing were practiced.

Diwali Celebration | Hindu Festival of Lights

Diwali, or the festival of lights, is a celebration commemorated by Hindus, Sikhs, and Jains across the world. The celebration coincides with the Hindu New Year, and celebrates new beginnings and triumph of good over evil and light over darkness.

This large-scale community wide celebration did not exist prior to the 2015 school year. During the 15-16 academic year, the IC Assistant Director partnered with DESHI leadership to create the foundations for this program. During the first year (15-16) 200 people attended, including President Val Smith, who lit the first candle. A similar number of people attended this year. An article covering the event does a good job showing the impact this event has had on our campus culture (<http://swarthmorephoenix.com/2016/11/10/diwali/>).

Eid Dinner Fall 2016

The event commemorated Eid Al-Adha, which is one of the most important holidays of our tradition, and celebrates community, sacrifice, forgiveness, and the end of the annual Hajj pilgrimage. This year's event was hosted in collaboration with several other campus organizations including Deshi, Kehilah, Newman Club, Islamic Studies Department, Swarthmore Progressive Christians (SPC), and the Interfaith Centers. The celebrations included storytelling centered on students' Eid experiences, a brief overview of the significant and history of Eid, crafts, and a community dinner.

Exploring the Empathic Imagination with Kayhan Irani

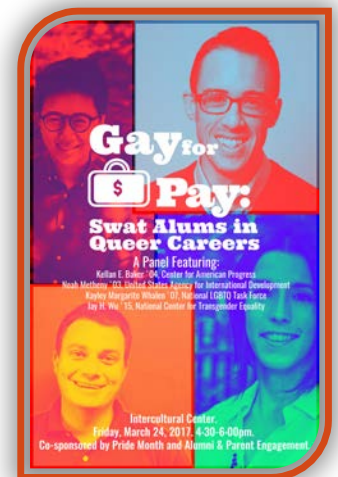
In this participatory workshop, artist-activist Kayhan Irani, utilized immersive theater and storytelling techniques to facilitate understanding and communication across difference, analyzed issues of injustice and misuse of power, with the intent of exploring strategies for collective empowerment and action.

Fall Fest 16

Fall Fest 16 is a large-scale study break done in collaboration with the OSE, Women's Resource Center, Interfaith, and the International Student's Office. The event takes place at the end of Fall semester, and consists of music, massages, smoothies, karaoke, angel-card readings, board games, video games, bonfire, 'smores, homemade facials and more!

Gay For Pay: Swat Alums in Queer Careers

This panel brought together LGBTQ+ alumni who are professional LGBTQ+ activists and advocates to talk about their work and career paths. Panel members included Noah Metheny '03, Stigma, Rights, and Key Populations Senior Technical Advisor at US Agency for International Development; Kayley Whalen '07, Digital Strategies and Social Media Manager at the National LGBTQ Task Force; and Jay H. Wu '15, Media Manager at the National Center for Transgender Equality.

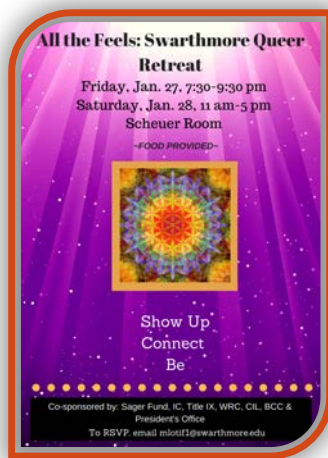


Inclusive Leadership Conference LGBTQ+ Presentation

This program was a dynamic, interactive session that included activities and discussion around: inclusive and respectful language around the LGBTQ+ community, the process of coming out, understanding sexual and gender identity, taking action on our campus, where to go for help, and much more. This program's aim was to increase the awareness, knowledge, and skills for individuals and address the challenges that exist when one wants to advocate for their LGBTQ+ peers, coworkers, and for themselves.

International Transgender Day of Visibility: America In Transition

America in Transition is a documentary that tells the stories of members of the transgender and gender non-binary community as they navigate life with these identities and how these identities intersect with other identities, such as being a person of color, or an immigrant. This specific presentation showed the episode centered around a refugee from Mexico who comes to Chicago after transitioning and witnessing violence done to friends in the transgender community in Mexico. After the viewing of the episode, the director, Andre Perez, and a member of the documentary, Tiommi Luckett, spoke about "The Visibility Contradiction: Why Are Trans People Dying in an Age of Celebrity."



Jamie Washington Queer Retreat

This day long retreat connected LGBTQ+ students and staff; looked at the ways in which identities intersect; and built community within the LGBTQ+ identities on campus.

Students and staff participated in a variety of community building exercises, guided discussions on their coming out stories, conversations around intersectionality and discussed the Swarthmore queer community as it has been experienced by both students and staff.

LGBTQ+ Faculty, Staff, and Student Dinner

An annual meal for LGBTQ+ Faculty, Staff and Students that enabled community networking as well as table discussions on being part of the LGBTQ+ community at Swarthmore. Current LGBTQ+ Staff and Faculty members spoke on a panel around being LGBTQ+ after leaving college, how they negotiated places to live, work, and how they found community after they graduated.

LGBTQ+ Student Advisory Board

The LGBTQ+ Student Advisory Board was formed during the spring semester. The Board brings together LGBTQ+ students from different parts of Swarthmore's communities, including members of Colors, SQU, SAO, and the Trans Working Group.

The LGTBQ+ Student Advisory Board consists of 5 members who are expected to attend and participate in biweekly meetings throughout the semester as well as contribute to standing committees (when created) and program planning.

The LGBTQ+ Student Advisory Board has been charged with:

- Identifying and representing the broader concerns, resources, and programmatic needs across the Swarthmore community with a particular focus on LGBTQ+ students;
- In collaboration with the IC Fellow, providing feedback to the IC Staff, LGBTQ+ Advisory Board, and the broader campus at regularly scheduled intervals on college-wide issues pertaining to social, emotional, academic and professional needs of LGBTQ+ students.
- Generating and cultivating ideas for campus programming and planning to support the inclusivity of LGBTQ+ students.

Lunar New Year Celebration | January 2017

The Swarthmore Lunar New Year celebration was a multicultural, multiethnic celebration that aimed to highlight and spread awareness of one of the most culturally significant festivals for many East and Southeast Asian cultures.

This was the first year that this large-scale event was celebrated. IC intern Dorcas Tang brought the idea for this event forth. Dorcas worked with the support of the Assistant Director to form a planning committee comprised of students from across the other API student organizations (SAO, HAN, HAPA, and Hong Kong Student Association). In addition to engaging students across different organizations, the event also garnered the support of the Asian Studies and Chinese Language departments.

Night Market | Discover Swarthmore

The Night Market was a yield event organized by admissions and the Intercultural Center that showcased the diverse range of student orgs that are affiliated with the identity based centers to prospective students. The event consisted of cuisine from all over the world, a festive and music-filled atmosphere, and a vast majority of the affinity groups on campus.

Queering the Gender Narrative: Gender Non-Binary Panel

One of the common questions the Sexual Health Advocates get is, "How do I know if I'm genderqueer?" The use of pronouns outside of he/she, such as ze and the singular they, are being discussed more widely on college campuses and beyond. This panel brought together non-binary and genderqueer Swarthmore students speaking about their experiences of gender and how there is no "wrong" or "right" way to be non-binary or genderqueer.



“Seoul Searching” + Documentary on Korean Identity @ Swat Screening

This event was a collaboration between HAN (Korean student organization), the IC, and Advancement. We screened the film “Seoul Searching,” during which the director of the film, Benson Lee, flew out to Swarthmore. SAO founder, alumni, and donor, Martin Juhn ’89 initially proposed the idea in Summer 2016. Martin was thrilled with the viewing, meeting with students, and connecting with Benson.

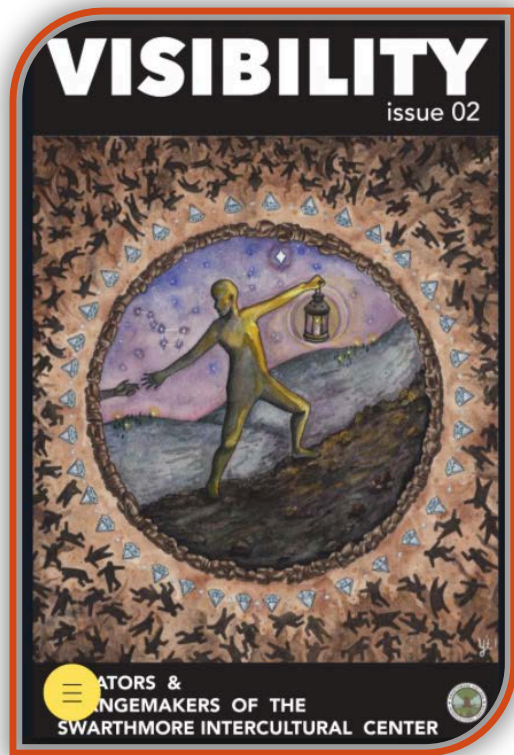
In addition to co-organizing the screening, HAN students worked to shoot, edit, and produce a documentary that centered on exploring how Korean students at Swarthmore understood and navigated the notion of a Korean identity.



Undocumented Students' Focus Group + Report

During the Fall of 2016, the Assistant Director of the IC worked with the staff person from the Office of International Students to design, implement, and analyze the findings of a focus group centered on the experiences of undocumented students on campus.

This focus group and meetings with students resulted in the creation of a new student organization, SIR (Swatties for Immigration Rights). The goal of the club is for it to be a support and social group where students feel welcome and free to share experiences. Following Trump's victory, we had an emergency meeting in McCabe to process his unfortunate victory. Things of that nature along with social meeting opportunities are what the club seeks to do.



VISIBILITY ZINE vol. 2

The Visibility Zine is an “e-zine” that showcases the creative expressions of the many members of our campus community who affiliate, identify, or are invested in the communities that comprise the IC, Black Cultural Center (BCC), Interfaith, Women’s Resource Center (WRC), International Students Office, and the Interfaith Center. This is a collaborative project showcasing creative expression in all its forms: art, photography, essays, poetry, documentaries, and music.

The zine is in its second year. This is a great platform that enables our students, specifically, minoritized students, to have their artistry and voices presented in a beautiful way.