Commencement 2006
Chuck Davis to deliver Commencement address
Baccalaureate speaker Rees among seven honorary degree recipients

In keeping with last fall’s gala opening of the ‘62 Center for Theatre and Dance, this year’s commencement speaker and honorary degree recipients are drawn from the world of the stage, with a number of the recipients having taken part in opening season performances. Chuck Davis, founder and artistic director of the African American Dance Ensemble and Dance Africa, will deliver the 2006 Commencement address. Actor and director Roger Rees, who was appointed artistic director of the Williamstown Theatre Festival in 2004, will deliver the Baccalaureate address.

Chuck Davis

Davis previously visited Williams with his ensemble in the early 1990s. They led a series of workshops and performances, sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts that culminated in the premiere of “Watershed,” a work based on the historical account of a woman who escaped slavery and found refuge in North Adams. Students from Kuiska and Williamstown Elementary School, among others, participated in the workshops.

Throughout his career, Davis, 69, has been known for community outreach, which is an integral part of his dance ensemble’s goal of celebrating and sharing the traditions of African and African American dance. Dance Africa, a festival founded by Davis, marked its 25th anniversary in 2002 and has featured both traditional African and hip-hop performers in cities across the country.

“He is a man who uses dance in ways that help people connect with each other and themselves in a powerful way,” said Sandra Burton, professor of dance and a member of the Chuck Davis Company for 12 years. Burton noted Davis’ own motto — “Peace, Love, Respect for Everyday” — and said that “his leadership as an artist and humanitarian” continues to inspire.

Roger Rees

A native of Wales, Rees, 61, began his acting career at the Royal Shakespeare Company and won a Tony Award in 1982 for his performance in “The Life and Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby.” Fans of “The West Wing” also know Rees for his occasional role on the show as British ambassador Lord Marbury. In October he performed a one-man show at the ‘62 Center.

William Finn ’74

Finn, 54, rose to prominence in 1981 with “March of the Falsettos,” a one-act musical that he later expanded to create “Falsettos,” which won Tony awards for best original score and best book of a musical in 1992. On Broadway he is known for his humor as a lyricist but also for his willingness to engage more serious themes, including AIDS, Judaism and, with “Elizah,” death. “Songs of Innocence and Experience,” a musical largely based on Finn’s time at Williams, premiered on campus in the fall.

Catherine Hill ’77

Hill, 52, will leave Williams this summer after seven years as provost to become the 10th president of Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, N.Y. A summa cum laude graduate of Williams’ second co-ed class, Hill also holds bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Oxford University and a doctorate in economics from Yale. Prior to serving as provost, she chaired the economics department and the Center for Development Economics. During the 1980s Hill worked at the World Bank and the Congressional Budget Office, and from 1994-96 she and her family lived in the Republic of Zambia while she advised the Ministry of Finance on questions of trade and fiscal policy. The eldest of her three children, John Kildahl, is a member of the Class of 2006.

Ming Cho Lee

Born in Shanghai, Lee, 75, is co-chair of the design department at the Yale School of Drama and has more than four decades experience designing for ballet companies, opera companies and theater groups around the world. In 1983 the sets he designed for Broadway production “K2” won Tony and New York Drama Desk awards for best scenic design. He was a recipient of the National Medal of Arts in 2003 and is also a member of the Theatre Hall of Fame.

Liz Lerman

Lerman, 58, established the Liz Lerman Dance Exchange in 1976; the troupe made its New York debut in 1983 with “Docudance: Nine Short Dances about the Defense Budget and Other Military Matters.” She was a 2002 recipient of the MacArthur “Genius Grant” Fellowship, and has been widely acclaimed for her innovative approach to dance, from her exploration of political subject matter to her use of dancers of varying ages and body types. One of more recent works, “Ferocious Beauty: Genome,” was performed at the ‘62 Center last February.

Peter Martins

Danish ballet dancer and choreographer Martins, 59, joined the New York City Ballet as a principal dancer in 1970 and became one of the company’s ballet masters in 1981. He has since choreographed more than 75 ballets set to a wide range of music, from Stravinsky to Gershwin, and has his work featured on Broadway and PBS. Queen Margrethe II of Denmark knighted Martins in 1983, the year he retired as a dancer. He brought members of the New York City Ballet to campus in October.

Lloyd Richards

Richards, 82, former dean of the Yale School of Drama, broke ground in 1958 with his Broadway production of “A Raisin in the Sun,” which told the story of a contemporary black family in Chicago. He continued to direct on Broadway in the 1960s while also teaching theater in New York and working with black playwrights, August Wilson in particular, whose work he helped to develop. In 1987 he won a Tony Award for his direction of “Fences,” by Wilson, which also won the awards that year for best play, best actress (Mary Alice) and best actor (James Earl Jones).

Ainsley O’Connell ’06

Insiders...
President Schapiro reflects on the year

President Schapiro reflected on his sixth year at Williams with Record editor-in-chief Nirmal Deshpande '07.

Do you have any reflections on the state of Williams at the end of the school year?

The reduction in average class size, tripling of tutorials, instituting writing intensive course requirements and other changes have brought the classroom experience closer to what we had imagined when the faculty voted in the strategic initiatives back in 2001. We are also very excited that, after 15 years of the so-called “free agent system,” we are returning to a version of the housing system that served our college so well for the preceding three decades. Changes in infrastructure continue to allow us to educate our students the best way we can. I am particularly pleased that members of the class of 2006 were able to benefit fully from the presence of our new science center, from our renovation of Mission Park, and, for the past year, from the ’62 Center. That said, should we become complacent, a decline in institutional quality would inevitably follow.

This summer the campus is slated to undergo important physical changes, from ongoing work on the student center to extensive dorm renovations. What will Williams look like in the fall?

I can’t wait for the student center to be completed. We all know how difficult it has been without the most special spot on campus – the snack bar. But in a matter of months we will finally have a first-class student center. It is always important to keep the dorms in good shape, and I am especially excited about what we are about to do with Morgan Hall. It is a beautiful, historic building but it will be so much better with the transformation of its inside.

The success of the new House System set to take effect in the fall is dependent on dorm renovations, a well-managed transition process and, most importantly, student enthusiasm. How successful do you predict the new residential life system to be in its first few years?

Change is always difficult, but I think the student, faculty and staff members of the various CUL subcommittees did a great job working out the details. My prediction is that after a short time, students will not be able to imagine life without the new house system.

Nearly two years in, what have been some of the main achievements of the Diversity Initiatives?

We just put out a long document listing a large number of changes in staffing, programming and monitoring. While our campus is so much more diverse than when I first joined the faculty in 1980, there is much work to do before we become truly inclusive. What we’ve learned over the past two years will help us along our way.

Tuition has been rising consistently for the past several years, growing 5.8% for the 2006-7 academic year. Do you foresee the cost of a Williams education rising steadily over the next few years?

Recent history suggests that we will continue to raise our total fees at a rate exceeding inflation, that we will remain among the least expensive of the highly selective private colleges and universities, and that we will continue to provide need-based financial aid packages to both domestic and international students that are as generous as you can find in American higher education.

The completion of the ’62 Center and the nearly finished student center mark the end of two phases of construction on campus. With the Stetson-Sawyer project scheduled for completion by 2011, what other priorities will the College focus on in the meantime?

In terms of infrastructure, there are a number of high priorities for us. Two come immediately to mind – a new day care center that will help us attract and retain high quality faculty and staff and changes in athletic facilities that result from a master plan that we expect to complete in the fall.

As another class graduates, do you have any insights on the Class of 2006’s time at Williams or predictions for their futures?

I was privileged to teach a number of the members of the Class of 2006. I watched many more in action in their volunteer activities, on the stages and on the playing fields. I’ll have the opportunity to thank them and to wish them well during commencement weekend. They were an unusually strong entering class, they took full advantage of what we had to offer here and they are destined for greatness, however they define it.

College awards tenure to four professors

In January, the Committee of Appointments and Promotions (CAP) made its 2006 recommendations for tenure. Recommendations are based on various criteria which include professors’ eagerness to teach, the quality of their research and their ability to contribute to the Williams community.

Laylah Ali ’90, assistant professor of art

After receiving her B.A. from Williams College in 1990, Ali attended the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture. From there she received her M.F.A. from Washington University.

In 2004, Ali was featured in the Whitney Museum of Art’s Biennial Exhibition, the Whitney’s signature survey of contemporary American art as well as the 50th Venice Biennial International Art Exhibition, an exhibition of artists from Africa and the African Diaspora.

Ali’s work has been called “a surreal narrative,” as it explores interpretations of social conventions and proposes alternative realities. Her paintings center on themes of complex racial issues, making her part of a post-civil-rights generation of African-American artists.

Joseph Cruz ’91, assistant professor of philosophy

Cruz received a B.A. from Williams College in 1991 in philosophy and a Ph.D. at the University of Arizona in Philosophy and Cognitive Science. His specialties include epistemology and the philosophy of psychology and the mind, as well as cognitive science research in neural network modeling and cognitive development.

“Joe is an excellent teacher who not only teaches philosophy but also has the remarkable talent of producing original philosophical thinking in his students,” said Jana Sawicki, professor of philosophy and women’s studies. “He is fully engaged as a citizen of the College and the community – as a professor and a cyclist!”

In 1999, Cruz, along with John J. Pollock, authored the book, Contemporary Theories of Knowledge, which included analysis of recent epistemological literature and proposed connections between epistemology and artificial intelligence.

Liza Johnson ’92, assistant professor of art

Johnson received her B.A. from Williams and her M.F.A from the University of California, San Diego. She has also taught at Rutgers and the School of Visual Arts in New York.

Johnson’s work focused largely on gender issues. She recently created a video installation at Williams College Museum of Art that examined female gestures of shame in Hollywood cinema. Johnson has screened her various works in many international film venues and exhibited in museums and galleries, as well as received a DAAD Berlin Kunstler program Fellowship and Residency in Film in 1999.

At Williams, Johnson teaches courses in video and art theory as well as interdisciplinary courses involving American Studies and Women’s and Gender Studies. She is planning a course for the Williams in New York program next spring that integrates cultural studies and urbanism with video production. She is also developing a feature film, as well as shooting a short film in the Mississippi Gulf Coast at the end of January.

Ileana Perez Velazquez, assistant professor of music

Ileana Perez Velazquez received her B.A. in Piano and Music Composition from the Higher Institute of Arts, Havana, Cuba. In 1993, she came to the United States and received her M.A. in Electroacoustic Music from Dartmouth in 1995 as well as a Ph.D. in Music Composition from Indiana University in 2000.

Since then, Perez Velazquez has received several national composition awards in Cuba and was the recipient of a 2000 Cintas Fellowship in Composition from Arts International, NYC.

“My goal is to continue working intensively creating new works for all kind of media including acoustic and electroacoustic music,” Perez Velazquez said. “As a teacher I hope to continue my commitment to provide a high quality education for our students.”

- Elizabeth Burns ’09
College responds to Katrina devastation

Williams and Amherst teamed up this fall to take in 15 junior and senior premads from flood-ravaged Xavier University of Louisiana, an elite historically black university in New Orleans. In welcoming students displaced by Katrina, Williams and Amherst joined a number of other Massachusetts colleges and universities offering to house students and waive tuition.

In an all-campus e-mail, President Schapiro and Amherst President Anthony Marx outlined their efforts in regard to Xavier. “This historically black institution has a phenomenal record of placing students in medical school, and it was painful to think that such an important pipeline might be broken for a while,” they wrote.

Doug Bazin, director of Campus Life, found extra rooms in Currier, Wood and Garfield for the eight Xavier students who came to Williamstown. The College paid for the students’ travel and books, along with providing free enrollment.

The Xavier students expressed their appreciation for the College’s open arms. “What I like most about Williams are the people,” said Rene Turner, Xavier ‘06. “I have fun just talking to the students. And while I’m not much of a socialite, I’ve met a lot of people with interesting backgrounds, stories [and] personalities.”

Caterpillars invade campus, Facilities fights back with bacteria

One issue has sparked student outrage, discussion on WSO forums and chatrooms on sidewalks across campus this spring: the infestation of furry creepy crawlers. Indeed, students have a new enemy, one that’s icky and sticky and not very picky about the places it calls home: the forest and Eastern tent caterpillars.

Despite Facilities’ efforts to combat the infestation, it’s possible, perhaps even likely, that the end is far from sight: reports of large numbers of adult gypsy moths in the area last summer combined with an unusually mild winter suggest that when their eggs hatch in late May, an outbreak of invasive gypsy moth caterpillars might be in the cards during the coming weeks, said Hank Art, professor of biology.

The caterpillars’ modus operandi is simple. Born from an egg mass laid on tree twigs, young caterpillars eat newly-erupted leaves until the food supply runs out. Then, in order to find a new home and fresh meal, the caterpillars extend silk ropes from the trees they inhabit and blow the wind to neighboring vegetation.

On one level, the explosion has few effects on the human inhabitants of the College besides being a filthy annoyance. The caterpillars are not known to bite or otherwise directly irritate people or animals, but large numbers of caterpillar bodies and frass — the “technical term for caterpillar excrement” — according to Art — can accumulate on trees, walkways and buildings across campus.

Students have certainly noticed, prompting several threads on WSO discussion boards about the invasion, ways the College should combat it and stories from students who’ve gotten more up close and personal with the critters than they ever desired. Reports of caterpillars found in odd places — between the pages of a book, on a dinner plate in Driscoll or crawling on pillow cases and bed sheets — abound.

The outbreak has even inspired a Chaling campaign from both pro- and anti-caterpillar activists. Messages of support (“Caterpillars are people too!” and “Big things come in small packages ... save the caterpillar”) and disdain (“Nuke them!” and “Amherst supports caterpillars”) coat the sidewalks, alongside fallen caterpillars.

To combat the problem, workers from Facilities launched a counter-attack, spraying the bacteria Bacillus thuringiensis (B.t.) on trees with the worst infestations. Efforts were concentrated on trees with large masses of caterpillars and surrounding plants.

When caterpillars eat leaves coated in B.t., they are poisoned by a toxin secreted by the bacteria, avoiding many of the toxic effects brought by other pesticides. Still, the use of this approach is “not without cause for concern,” said Joan Edwards, professor of biology, since it is possible there could be side effects to high levels of exposure to bacteria.

Population explosions such as these are completely natural processes reflecting normal fluctuations in the predator-prey cycle. Still, this may go down as one of the larger caterpillar infestations ever at the College, especially if gypsy moth caterpillars — which are larger than tent caterpillars with red and blue spots and long bristles — experience a population explosion this summer.

- Chris Richardson ’06

Postal thief targets Williamstown, culprit remains uninvicted

It’s always possible that Mom and Dad forgot to send the birthday check and the iTunes gift card you were expecting, but there’s also a chance that someone else celebrated your birthday this year: Complaints of missing mail from Williams students and Williamstown residents this spring prompted the U.S. Postal Inspection Service to investigate, and the agency has identified a suspect, though formal charges have not yet been filed.

Earlier this spring, when expected cash, checks and other items of value never arrived in their S.U. boxes, several students issued reports of missing mail to the U.S. Postal Inspection Service. The calls from students and other community members launched an investigation at the Boston Division of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service.

The individual responsible for the thefts has been identified and was initially arrested, but has been released until the U.S. Postal Inspection Service brings formal charges against him, according to Gene Griffin, U.S. Postal Inspector in Springfield, Mass. No court date has been set at this point, as information from victims of the thieves is slowly trickling in. Prosecution will not go forward until sufficient information is collected.

“It’s important to get the full picture: how much was lost, how many victims there were, how widespread [the thefts were],” Griffin said. The information is valuable for the investigation although “it is very likely this case will not go to trial due to a guilty plea of the defendant,” Griffin said in a letter to mail theft victims.

The violation is a grave one. “Opening or being in possession of someone else’s mail with the intention to steal the contents is a felony violation of federal law,” Griffin said.

The agency did not reveal further details of the investigation, in keeping with federal privacy policies, and would not comment on the exact extent and nature of the thefts. Griffin only specified that the perpetrator was working out of the Williamstown area.

Griffin has sent out letters to known victims of the thefts, providing them with the missing letters or copies of them, alerting them of the situation and requesting information about the nature of the thefts by means of a questionnaire.

The questionnaire inquires into the contents of the stolen letters, so the office can track the suspect’s transactions from deposited checks and used gift cards.

“We’re waiting for all this information to come back to us,” Griffin said. “We’re trying to get any of the victims to send back any of the information they can provide.”

Campus Safety and Security has been assisting the investigation, but “the mail thefts had absolutely nothing to do with the College’s mailbox,” said Jean Thorsdike, director of Campus Safety. “None of our employees were involved.”

At least 30 students at the College have been affected by the spate of mail thefts.

“This person was audacious enough to steal one letter from my grandfather and cash the check that was enclosed in the letter in Springfield,” Brendan Smith ’09 said of the thief. “This evidence is being used to build a case around the individual.”

- Caitlin O’Connell ’08
New house system reconfigures campus

The final details concerning the implementation of the Williams House System for the coming fall received approval from Dean Roseman in early February. Launched at the cluster selection draw in March, the housing system divides the campus into four residential clusters, rather than the historically anticipated five. As a part of the switch to four clusters, President Schapiro and Dean Roseman also announced that first-years will live in Mission Park and the Frosh Quad next year, while East, Fayerweather, Lehman, and Morgan will become upper-class housing.

After December's surprise proposal to implement the house system with four neighborhoods, the administration consulted with students and the Board of Trustees before Roseman and President Schapiro announced a final decision in a campus-wide letter on Feb. 1.

As another aspect of the CUL's plan to ensure equal standards of housing across all four clusters, Morgan Hall will be extensively renovated during the summer to accommodate its new upperclassmen residents. The dorm has exclusively housed first-year students for many years and is currently divided into four entries. The renovations will remove the two central staircases and change the building's orientation from vertical entries to horizontal corridors.

These recent changes, coupled with an accelerated room draw process, have taken some students by surprise and prompted some to question the level of communication from the administration about the continually changing plans for next year.

Changes in Structure

Cementing the details to start up the system, the administration indicated that other portions of the house system will go forward as planned by the Committee on Undergraduate Life.

Roseman endorsed implementation of the CUL's proposed plans for programming and funding, house governance and support services. As small communities within the entire College, clusters will host social activities and other events. Students will serve as president, treasurer, community liaison, historian and house life coordinator in each cluster.

"Good governance is going to be important in making sure that the creative ideas from the programming subcommittee really do become fun activities, and that support services become much more a part of students' day-to-day lives than they are now," said Eiko Marako Sinawi, chair of the governance subcommittee and professor of history. "I hope that we have provided a framework that will spark students' excitement and help get the cluster system off to a very strong start."

The developments in store for support services under the house system received Roseman's particular praise. Campus resources, such as the Multicultural Center, Campus Safety and the Health Center, will be represented within each neighborhood by student ambassadors who will facilitate services between various groups on campus and the students in their neighborhoods.

Continuing the program begun by the Gargoyle Society this fall, first-years will be paired with an Academic Peer Advisor in addition to their traditional Faculty Advisor. During a student's first two years at the College, upper-class Academic Peer Advisors will provide insights into academics and life at Williams.

The Office of Career Counseling also plans to make use of neighborhood structure to strengthen its connections with students. One representative from the OCC will serve each neighborhood, holding office hours and bringing OCC services into student residences.

Of the new career counseling setup, Roseman said, "We want to come to you."

Caitlin O'Connell '08

In the proposed four-cluster model, first-years would live in Armstrong, Dennett, Mills, Pratt, Sage and Williams. The Dodd cluster would contain Dodd, Goodrich, Hubbell, Lehman, Parsons, Sewall, Thompson, Tyler and Tyler Annex. The Spencer cluster would contain Spencer, Bryant, Brooks, Mark Hopkins, Morgan and West. The Wood cluster would contain Wood, Agard (not pictured), Carter, Garfield, Gladden and Perry. Finally, the Currier cluster would contain Currier, East, Fayerweather, Fitch and Prospect.

An era opens at neighborhood draw

Rising seniors put their strategic skills to work in early March as the Class of 2007 filed into the Log for the first round of the neighborhood draw. The first pick groups overwhelmingly preferred the Spencer and Dodd clusters. Meanwhile, Barrett filled by bit, but no one signed up for Wood until the 68th group came through.

The new room draw procedure was reworked by the Campus Life Office and the CUL to transition the student body to the Williams House System. This first-phase of the housing draw placed students into one of four neighborhoods around campus. Students chose rooms from within their clusters at a second round draw in April.

Spencer had been widely considered the best cluster, thanks to its location and students' high hopes for the renovations in Morgan. As uncertainty surrounding the Morgan plans spread across campus the week before the draw, commitment to the cluster waned. Interest in Dodd, with its current senior housing options complemented by rooms in Sewall and Goodrich, rose sharply.

"Morgan didn't end up being the tropical oasis we were hoping for," said Matt Earle '07 after his group passed up Spencer for Dodd.

Still, the large Spencer cluster stood out as the favorite. The 57th group considered it a crushing blow when with four spots left in Spencer, their six-member group stepped up to pick. They abandoned hopes for Spencer and the chance to win the best room in the most popular cluster, opting for Currier where their group could pick without splitting up. "It's called loyalty," said Sean Hyland '07, a member of the group. "Leave no man behind."

Overall, Campus Life staff said that the draw went smoothly. "I think students dealt with it really well, especially as it came down to the final picks in each cluster," said Aaron Gordon, assistant director of Campus Life.

Since the Office of Campus Life would flip the lists for room draw, giving the lowest neighborhood pick groups the highest room picks within their neighborhood, and vice versa, the night's selection reflected pure neighborhood preference to only a certain degree. Along with taking location and social space into consideration, many students chose clusters in which they might earn the best room draw numbers and the best rooms. Many pick groups with numbers that would result in inevitably high room picks simply opted for clusters with the least number of undesirable rooms.

COURTESY OF HEATHER CLEMOW OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Dissatisfaction with clusters increases

On an individual level however, students were generally pleased with their living arrangements for next year, with nearly 58 percent of students indicating satisfaction. Only 10 percent said that they were "very dissatisfied" with their future homes.

The survey was conducted online and responses were kept anonymous. Seven hundred randomly selected students were surveyed, and 453 responded, leading to a margin of error of 3.9 percent.

Students who wrote in on the open-ended part of the survey expressed skepticism of the system. "Perhaps I'll eventually grow to tolerate the newly established system, but I do not think I'll ever like it," one student said.

Another common theme in the comments was the perception that the administration had ignored the opinion of students in crafting the house system.

Will Dudley, chair of the Committee on Undergraduate Life, remains optimistic that the system can succeed. "Student enthusiasm will grow if the house system starts to make a difference in the quality of the social and intellectual experience at Williams, which hasn't had a chance to happen yet," he said.

Hayley Wyn '06

Caitlin O'Connell '08

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Dorm damages reach new high in spring semester

By the time March rolled around, total campus damages had already eclipsed last year’s final tally, adding up to $15,793, and the numbers continued to grow as the year progressed. Last year, total damages were $8,789 and damages for the 2003-2004 school year totaled $12,946.

“This number does not reflect all damages on campus—just the ones that we can identify as an individual or a house that is responsible,” said Bea Miles, director of Facilities.

“The damage that has taken place runs the gamut from broken windows, furniture, light fixtures, pool cues, vending machines, to outright vandalism to property,” Miles said. “We continue to have problems with unacceptable behavior with students urinating, vomiting and spreading feces in and around certain areas and while these incidents are much less common they do continue.”

One weekend in early March saw a particularly eclectic variety of damages. At an unregistered party at Perry, several students urinated into a cooler, which custodians found the next morning. According to Miles, the students in the house were told to clean up the urine, for the sake of the custodians, and they complied.

The party was busted by Security, some of the partygoers also ripped the mirrors off of two security vehicles while the security guards were occupied in the dorms.

Across Route 2 in Gladden, that Saturday night saw a serious physical altercation between two Williams students and an MCLA student. According to Dave Boyer, director of Campus Safety and Security, the MCLA student sustained lacerations under both eyes and experienced internal bleeding and a possible separated shoulder. The Williamstown Police Department responded to the fight.

In the same weekend, a chunk of concrete was thrown at the President’s house, breaking one of the large windows on the east porch.

“While the majority of students are respectful of the College and its property, unfortunately, there are a few students who continue to create problems,” Miles said.

In the wake of these incidents, the campus community began to contemplate alternative disciplinary actions.

With Steve Acton ’06, member of the Campus Safety and Security Committee, College Council members threw around ideas to reduce vandalism.

Proposed solutions ranged from the return of Security walk-throughs, holding House Co-op members accountable for residential damages, probation from campus organizations, suspension or expulsion and a policy of not cleaning up and fixing dorm damages.

Current policy dictates that if no culprit is found, the whole dorm or co-op where the vandalism took place pays the damage charges.

Dean Roseman said she believes that her goal in disciplining is to improve students.

“At the end of the day we are an educational institution,” she said. “Punishing students, via sanctions, should never be the knee jerk reaction. Instead, we should work towards improved student behavior through self-enlightenment.”

“Helping someone come to understand themselves and the sources of their bad decision making, and thus helping them be better and more successful people is what we always strive to do,” Roseman said.

– Jake Gorelov ’09 and Ryan Ford ’09

Economics department raises the bar for majors

Departmental concerns about the difficulty of the economics curriculum and the number of students majoring in the field has led the economics department to significantly revamp the course of study for the major. The revised major was recently approved by the Committee on Educational Policy and will take effect next year.

“Our motivation for the change was to be able to provide a more rigorous major to better prepare students,” said Ralph Bradburd, chair of the economics department.

There are 86 economics majors in the Class of 2008, compared to 128 in the Class of 2007 and 87 in the Class of 2006. “I’m guessing there is a regression to the mean,” said Bradburd. “There have been about the same number of majors as in recent years with the exception of this big blip in the rising senior class.”

These drastic modifications were not imposed to discourage prospective economics majors from pursuing a course of study in the department, though that may be a side effect, according to Bradburd. “We were aware that this might result in students choosing not to major,” he said. “But the changes are necessary even at the cost of deterring some potential majors.”

Beginning next semester, Econ 110, “Principles of Microeconomics,” will become a prerequisite for Econ 120, “Principles of Macroeconomics.” Since Econ 120 uses fundamental microeconomic theory, professors are forced to review from Econ 110 during the first few weeks of class.

This leaves students who have already taken Econ 110 bored in class, while the remaining students are often confused by the rushed explanations.

In order to revamp the major, several classes will also be eliminated from the curriculum. The math-intensive Econ 251M, “Price Allocation Theory” will no longer be offered, since it differs little from Econ 251. Math 103 will be required as a prerequisite for Econ 251, and professors will then cover the necessary topics from higher-level math during the beginning of the semester.

Starting for the Class of 2009, Econ 255, “Econometrics” will become a requirement for the major. Under the old system, students could opt out of math-oriented Econ 255 by taking Econ 253 “Empirical Economics Methods,” which will be discontinued next year. To make Econ 255 more accessible, the department will change the course’s curriculum so that Math 103 and Stat 101 will be the prerequisites for the class instead of the combination of Math 105 and Stat 101 as it now stands.

Starting next fall, Econ 401, “Senior Seminar,” will also be eliminated. Instead, as part of their required four electives, majors will need to complete a seminar or tutorial numbered 400-490 in a subject of economics that interests them. As a result of the elimination of Econ 401 coupled with the influx of majors, the department will not administer the oral exam, which was previously a requirement for the completion of the major. “Econ 401 being eliminated is somewhat of a mixed blessing,” said Mike Kirwan ’08, a declared economics major. “On the one hand, the oral exam that has been feared by many econ majors is no longer a requirement. In return a ‘harder’ 400 level elective takes its place.”

– Claire Zentgraf ’09

Victims of the spring semester string of campus vandalism included unlocked bicycles.

The econ department has decided upon more rigorous major requirements for incoming classes in response to fast-growing numbers of intended majors. 

Courtesty of Security

Agricultural science major.

Courtesty of Waterstreet Books
Data and comments gathered last spring from a survey of student alcohol consumption were released on Oct. 25, depicting the campus as divided along social lines between those who take part in college drinking culture and those who choose to avoid it. Yet the report also suggests that some of the worst examples of alcohol abuse rest with a small minority of students, including some athletes, whose behavior negatively affects the larger campus, both those who drink and those who do not.

"Male athletes, while essentially over-participating in the culture, do not notice that there is a culture," the report said, with results indicating that male and female athletes drink more and perceive alcohol as more vital to the quality of social life than do non-athletes.

More broadly, the report, drafted last June by the Provost’s Office in conjunction with the Alcohol Task Force, describes alcohol as the "most prominent" feature of social life. Half the student body responded to the survey, which has a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percentage points, the Provost’s Office said.

Of the thousands students who responded, 72 percent reported drinking on a weekly basis; of that group, 29 percent reported drinking 10 or more drinks per week, characterized by the report as "heavy drinkers." Forty-seven percent of all student respondents said they had engaged in binge drinking at some point in the two weeks before the survey; 40 percent said the social scene on campus encourages excessive drinking.

The survey defined binge drinking as consuming five or more drinks in one sitting, a definition that many respondents found problematic. Nearly half of students who identified themselves as athletes said they drank in a way that qualified as binge drinking six or more times during the 2004-05 academic year, as opposed to a quarter of non-athletes. In one striking contrast, 25 percent of non-athletes and 82 percent of male athletes agreed that social life would suffer if drinking were subject to more restrictions on campus.

Most alarming, the report said, is the effect of alcohol abuse on student safety. Twenty-seven percent of respondents said they had felt unsafe while with an intoxicated student and 10 percent had been sexually harassed or attacked.

Anger surfaced in many of the comments students wrote after answering the survey questions, sometimes directed toward other students and sometimes directed toward the College. "Alcohol turns brilliant and thoughtful Williams students into offensive idiots," said one; "It’s ridiculous that we’re not allowed to play a game of Beirut! Come on!" said another.

Some students shared troubling stories. "[One] really worrisome problem I have encountered is that students will go out on the ledges in the Greylock dorms while they are 2-5 stories off the ground and completely drunk," wrote one respondent. "Even as someone who likes the party/alcohol atmosphere, I can’t have fun when I see that."

The administration and the Alcohol Task Force have examined the results of the survey. "There are two minds here," Dean Roseman said. "A whole cohort of students say Williams doesn’t have a problem compared to other schools. Other students think there is a real problem here."

The results from the survey prompted a range of interpretations. The Record spoke with administrators, parents and students about their reactions.

While some members of the College community were alarmed with the survey results, others were hardly surprised. "I didn’t need survey data to realize that there are problems with the alcohol culture on campus."

Students expressed discontent with the Williams social scene in the alcohol survey.

The implication of the survey that athletes represent a group of problem drinkers came as a shock to some students. "I didn’t realize that many kids were threatened on this campus," said Paul Morgan ‘07, starting shortstop for the baseball team. Morgan said that he didn’t believe all of the negative attention on certain athletes teams was necessarily warranted. Others echoed his sentiments. "I think it’s unfortunate that the actions of a few individuals end up characterizing an entire group unfavorably," said Alex Macleman ’06, women’s tennis co-captain. "I do not think this is only a main problem on campus, but they tend to serve as the scapegoat for the College’s perceived drinking problems."

"I am alarmed by the figures," said Kate Suerthoff ’06, volleyball co-captain. "You look after one another without a doubt."

### Alcohol fund ends, ACE shrinks

As students and administrators discuss ways of organizing social life under the Williams House System, a critical question remains unanswered: how should the College manage the funding of alcohol for parties? The question is mired in a tribal of "legally hazy" practices that administrators have in effect sanctioned through noninterference, sources said. Because funds that flow directly through the College cannot be used to purchase alcohol, administrators assisted to the creation of a "central fund" in the late 1990s, currently operated by All Campus Entertainment (ACE). The fund is financed by the bracelets sold to students for Homecoming, Winter Carnival and Spring Fling. Not all of the funds go to the purchase of alcohol, but in most years alcohol constituted more than half of the central fund budget.

Under the neighborhoods, that system will die along with the all-campus scope of party planning, partly due to liability concerns and, more importantly, due to the decentralization of social life. Though the central fund account is technically separate from the College, there is worry that it increases the College’s risk of being found liable for damages if a lawsuit were brought in response to a serious incident involving alcohol.

"The fund exists; we all know it exists," Dean Roseman said. "Some percentage of the money [from ACE bracelets] goes into the central fund."

And from that they buy alcohol for parties."

As Williams marches into the cluster era this fall, All Campus Entertainment will step into a new role in campus social planning. At the end of this semester, ACE will eliminate its party-planning branch, placing the lion’s share of that responsibility on the shoulders of the newly-formed neighborhoods.

As a result of this change, ACE will no longer host weekly all-campus parties. It’s ridiculous that parties or sponsor many parties on Homecoming, Winter Carnival and Spring Fling weekends. Instead, they will focus on bringing live entertainment, such as bands, and comedians, to campus through the Concerts and General Entertainment branches. ACE-favorite First Fridays will be the only ACE-hosted party under the new system.

The event will remain largely the same as it has always been, serving alcohol and taking place in Goodrich. In a break from past years, however, there will only be a DJ, with no live band starting off the evening.

Despite this change, ACE plans to make a concerted effort to create “more of a live music environment on campus,” said Bob O’Loughlin ‘07, ACE treasurer. This will include monthly college-style events featuring a live band. The group will also continue to organize large concerts in the fall and in the spring.

### Security cracks down on drug use

A campus-wide investigation into illegal drug use in early January resulted in three male sophomore students being asked to take time off from Williams, the Record has learned. Dozens suspected of dealing marijuana, others of using, were called in to Campus Safety and Security to be questioned. As the investigation is ongoing, the administration and Security declined to comment. Williamsport Police Department declined to indicate whether they were involved.

Those who were asked to leave were reportedly involved in dealing marijuana, a transgression that carries a higher punishment among the drug. Evidence of cocaine use was also discovered.

The investigation also involved, but was not limited to, inquiries on the Facebook.com, a popular Web site used by many students at Williams. According to sources, the members of two Facebook groups in particular, "Puff, Puff, Pass" and "Phyllis Chandler Borg" were questioned about their extracurricular activities.

The Record spoke with several students about the investigation and the drug scene at Williams on the condition of anonymity. Some of those interviewed were questioned in the recent investigation.

One senior said that, for the most part, smokers try to keep their activities under wraps: "My experience has been that people are fairly smart about it."

Another student said, "The students involved should be grateful for not getting into more trouble for what they were doing... People treat marijuana like it’s not an illegal drug."

When asked about cocaine, some of those interviewed seemed surprised to hear that Williams students were using the drug. As one student explained, "Rich kids get bored."

While many said the Facebook as a communication tool, students and administrators increasingly seem to be on opposite ends of a debate over free speech, student privacy and the use of the site in online surveillance. Many students do not think that the site is easily available to adults, since anyone with an "edu" e-mail address can create a profile. Dave Boyer, associate director of Security, is himself a member. While Boyer would not comment on the investigation, he did say that he was surprised when students added him as a friend.

"It’s unfortunate that Security has to go into what students deem to be a safe social arena, and invade students’ privacy," said a female senior. "A lot of students are angry at other students and that’s not a good thing to foster."

Boyer dismissed suggestions that students would be called into his office simply because of a photo that showed suspicious activity, such as one posted on the Facebook. "I can’t see where I would be able to go in and do anything from a picture," Boyer said. "We’re looking for action and behavior, not photographic evidence."

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MATT GUSTAFSON ’08

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FRIEDMAN C. ’95, University耕地’s assistant director of public safety, said that the increase in drug use "is concerning but not unexpected." Friedman also noted that the Williamsport Police Department has been very active in putting people under arrest for drug-related offenses.

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## Looking back: Four years of News

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### 2002
- **November 5**: WSO removes online forums.
- **November 8**: The College moves up to second place in the 2002 U.S. News and World Report rankings for liberal arts colleges. Williams tied with Swarthmore and just barely finished behind Amherst for the top spot in the rankings. In the two following years, the College was named number one.

### 2003
- **April 19**: Student outcry over proposed turf field location.
- **September 30**: Students representing club and intramural sports urged the College to consider a new location for a proposed turf field after administrators selected Upper Cole Field as the site for the facility. Bowing to student pressure, administrators eventually settled on Weston as the field’s location. Construction began in the summer of 2003 and the facility opened in the fall of 2004.

### 2004
- **January 27**: 24-hour Health Center access ends.
- **September 23**: Racial slur prompts Diversity Initiatives.
- **November 6**: Restrictions hamper Homecoming.

### 2005
- **February 28**: '62 Center opens doors.
- **April 18**: Stetson-Sawyer project develops.

### 2006
- **May 10**: Caterpillars descend on campus.
A New Year’s resolution: Dean Roseman, this one goes out to you

Alexis Saba ‘06 and Dylan Watts ‘06 (May 3, 2006)

Environmental solutions

In his recent column, Thomas Friedman praised our campus community for “doing it in the dark,” but did we just pull the wool over his eyes? Last week, the Record reported a 27 percent increase in the College’s carbon dioxide emissions in the last five years. Contrasting these figures with Friedman’s calls for carbon neutrality leads us to wonder why we feel him into thinking that we are really a green campus, or is his article challenging Williams to be the leader of higher education that it claims to be?

As President Schapiro noted in his letter to the campus and as Irene Addison, associate vice president for Facilities, explained at the Earth Week campus sustainability panel, Williams is engaged in many small projects to reduce energy consumption and carbon dioxide emissions. Some of these include exchanging incandescent light bulbs for long-lasting compact fluorescents and installing new, air-tight windows in buildings. We students are proud of these projects and Facilities’ enthusiasm for encouraging energy conservation.

Nonetheless, more must be done. The equation is simple: increasing energy prices plus more building projects equals higher operating costs and carbon dioxide emissions. At the sustainability panel, Hank Art, biology professor, commented that for each Williams student, there are approximately 1000 square feet of equivalent building space. While we all appreciate having expansive libraries, labs and classrooms, recent statistics raise the question of how efficient these places are and how much we actually need them. It is time for the College to make good on its promise to show leadership. First, Williams needs to rethink how it constructs new buildings and part of this must include a consideration of size and design. As the Parexys Center nears completion and as we prepare for groundbreaking on the new academic buildings of the Stetson-Sawyer project, the College is on the brink of becoming a whole lot bigger. While these buildings have some “green” features, what really matters is the overall impact of this continued growth on our carbon dioxide emissions and energy costs. All of the building projects combine to make this a substantial increase. Williams cannot afford, in every sense of the word, to make small, band-aid fixes. The College must take a long-term and holistic mindset. Here are some suggestions: 1) Hire a sustainability coordinator to reduce the administrative burden of developing and implementing a climate action plan. 2) Make new buildings meet LEED highest standards. 3) Buy significant amounts of renewable energy, which means more than today’s purchase of less than one percent. And here’s one fact for students to consider: 4) Work toward carbon neutrality as our ultimate goal.

Many peer institutions are already ahead of us in the game, but schools are not alone in taking action on climate change. Starting in 2005, HSRC, the world’s second largest bank, started working toward carbon neutrality by reducing energy use, buying renewable energy, planting trees to sequester carbon and trading carbon credits. These institutions are working hard to fulfill their moral responsibility to their constituents, and to the world at large. While Williams may be number one on the U.S. News list, it is not meeting its commitments or fulfilling its fundamental mission of educating the next generation if it fails to seriously address energy consumption and climate change.

Apply Learning at Williams to your Every Day Life!

Each additional unit of time I spend studying for my econ midterm has diminishing marginal returns; therefore, to maximize my overall well-being I am going to spend the next half-hour surfing the facebook.

SARAH CORWIN ’07

There is no better time than now for strong action. President Schapiro said it best, not in his recent letter to the campus on environmental sustainability, but in his 2000 induction address as the new president of Williams: “Let history one day note that our community had the courage to seize the moment.”

The moment is here and now, and solutions are achievable. But for the time being, Williams is still very much part of the problem.
Queer Bash incidents bring campus intolerance to center stage

After reading the Record or the WSO blogs in past months, one might reach the conclusion that Williams is a brutally racist and homophobic institution, replete with so much bigotry and intolerance that minorities have no chance to survive. Strictly going off recent events, it might appear that white straight people here (to quote Kanye West) don’t care about black people and homosexuals. But before we start conducting room searches for Klansmen, let’s take a realistic look at the community’s tolerance.

To be sure, the campus has had major problems with issues of diversity recently. Last fall, a faculty member used the word “nigger” in a faculty meeting, and last spring, two Latino students were verbally attacked and one was called a “nigger.” These incidents led to accusations of widespread racism on campus, evident in every facet of campus life. This past month, a furor over Queer Bash, some argued, put Williams’ homophobia on center stage, as various people allegedly called gay students “faggots” and ripped down posters advertising the event.

Yet rather than demonstrating the Williams community’s intolerance, I argue that these alleged incidents instead suggest that the College is slowly making progress toward diversity because they show that the College’s minority communities are growing. I am not denying the claims of racism and homophobia as exaggerated or illegitimate (in fact, they are disturbing); instead, I am suggesting that such incidents are taking place because the College is in the middle of a major change.

Ten or 20 years ago, the College did not have such intense problems, but that is because there weren’t enough minorities or openly gay students to expose the racism and homophobia of some students or faculty. Thus, the doorsday portrayals of the community’s deeply rooted hypocrisy and racism are off base. It is an understatement to suggest that the community needs to improve its views and actions towards minorities, but the College is moving in the right direction.

It may be useful when looking at the College’s problems of racism and homophobia to look at some of its peers. There is little doubt that the College is well behind Wesleyan in regard to diversity and tolerance, but how many other small, elite institutions can claim to be demonstrably more progressive? At Middlebury, for example, there are few issues of intolerance because, well, there just aren’t many minorities on campus.

Actually, check that: last spring Middlebury expelled a black student after reports that he was “touching” sleeping girls inappropriately. Apparently, another Middlebury student was able to pinpoint him as the culprit because of the paucity of black kids around campus. The accused student has since sued Middlebury for discrimination.

I give this example to draw a distinction between this incident and the kind that have been happening at Williams. Where Middlebury is confronting issues that show its lack of diversity, the College is dealing with incidents that are a direct response to increasing diversity on campus.

As for homophobia, there are many colleges where a “Queer Bash” for the entire community is unthinkable. Ask students at small Southern institutions like Davidson how their “Queer Bash” went, and they will look at you like you’re crazy.

These examples aren’t intended to denigrate Middlebury or Davidson. I am sure that they are great schools. But I am also sure that students at these colleges aren’t any more accepting or open-minded than students in our community. These issues aren’t, as some have contended, “Williams problems,” or even New England problems. This fact doesn’t excuse our recent problems of bigotry, but it does show that there are evidence of increasing diversity and actions towards minorities, but the College is moving in the right direction.

As the College continues to move forward, there will no doubt be more incidents of intolerance. But as long as the College continues to take these incidents seriously and the student body openly condemns them, these moments will look like bumps in the road instead of deeply rooted institutional flaws.

Open forums about diversity, not only in formal settings but also among groups of friends all over the school need to continue. The more issues are talked about, the more people will understand each other. In this dialogue, however, I argue that there needs to be more clarity on both sides. There is a marked difference between bigotry and honest commentary. For example, yelling a slur is an act of bigotry, but opposing the College’s affirmative action policies or the showing of hard-core porn at Queer Flash is not. These may be close-minded or conservative views, but they are not bigoted.

It is easy to take such wild generalizations about the College’s hypocrisy and the white student body’s complete disregard of minorities when one sits behind a computer screen and takes cheap shots on WSO blogs. Conversely, it is also easy to dismiss issues of racism or homophobia when one doesn’t actually meet the people he or she is attacking on a blog. Granted, the blogs are a necessary and usually well-used forum for open debate, but the name-calling and pettiness of many blogs about diversity issues do more harm than good.

In the end, the College is probably a couple years away from having a truly accepting community, but this is a function of numbers in the student body and faculty, not the endemic racism of the community. I don’t suggest that we need to stop working towards the ideal, but instead that we recognize that things might need to appear worse before they can truly get better.

Dan Austin ’06 (Feb. 5, 2006)

Getting on track: Improvements long overdue

As the administration continues to plan major campus improvements, it seems that one major area has been consistently overlooked: the track and field facilities. The track and field facilities are in desperate need of improvement as they are now almost 20 years old, nearly 10 years past their expiration date. Originally designed to cater to 50 athletes, the facilities are now overloaded with over 100. If you walk around the track you can see cracks, ridges and waves that have formed over the years. All of the cushioning is gone and running on the track is very similar to running around a parking lot. These defects are not only uncomfortable, but also dangerous, as they lead to higher instances of injuries such as shin splints and stress fractures. Last year a runner tripped on one of the waves on our track and seriously fractured his shoulder. The situation is ridiculous.

Our track and field facilities are currently so inadequate that we are no longer able to host substantial home meets. Two years ago, the NCAA informed Williams that they would no longer sanction meets at the College because the track facilities were in such poor condition. In the past we have hosted various conference and regional championships, but we are no longer permitted to do so because of the condition of our track. National qualifying marks from our annual Williams Relays can be automatically disqualified because our facilities no longer meet the necessary standards.

The athletic department loves to tout the prestigious Little Three Championships but now requires us to travel to Amherst or Wesleyan for every one of these contests. We can no longer even compete at home for what many deem as the most important meet of the year. What has happened here? Do you see the situation? Nothing. Now ask yourself: If a crack developed in the floor of Chandler Gymnasium, would the athletic department ask the 40 members of the basketball teams to simply give up home games for the next four years, or would they fix the floor? Not a tough question.

This situation is especially unfortunate considering that the size of the track team. With over 130 members, it’s the largest team on campus. As it stands now, none of these 130 members will ever be able to compete for a championship at home. None of their friends, family members, professors or community members will be able come and support them as they vie for national titles. Instead, team members have to spend hours on a bus each week traveling to and from a variety of other schools.

How can coaches effectively recruit top athletes when they have to ask them to come to an inferior facility that has no plans for improvements? The vast majority of private and public high schools have better track facilities than Williams. The schools we are competing against for athletes (Dartmouth, Yale and Princeton) have facilities that are vastly superior to ours. Such differences in quality will make it hard for our team to maintain the impressive results they consistently achieve.

As it stands now, the track team has no locker rooms, full uniforms or a laundry service, all of which are available to many of the other teams on campus. We aren’t whining about a lack of luxuries, however. We are asking for a safe, legal facility where we can compete.

Though not condemned like the outdoor track, our indoor facility is far below standards as well. As it stands, we host only one indoor meet every two years. We can invite all the teams we want, but few come because they know that our facility is so poor. Indoor facility aside, the outdoor facility is a great place to at least start making some improvements to the track facilities.

A new track would not only benefit the track team, but also most of the other teams on campus that can be found training on the track throughout the fall and spring. The greater Williamsian community would also benefit as the Mount Greylock High School track and field team and surrounding community members use the facilities on a regular basis.

As the administration looks to the future, they need to seriously consider making improvements to the track and field facility. In comparison to the cost of other projects being undertaken around campus, construction of new track facilities would be a drop in the bucket.

While the track team has an incredible tradition of success, our success in the future depends greatly on improved facilities. After talking about fixing the track for last five years, it is time to make it a priority.
The ages of Man, Williams style

Living in Williamstown means we’re shielded from the vagaries of popular culture, so I’m used to feeling a bit out of touch. Yet lately I’ve found myself not only behind the times but out of the loop when it comes to my own campus. What concerns were on the minds and tongues of the underclassmen? Now that I’m in the spring semester of my senior year, I’m having trouble placing my finger on the pulse of the student body. Have I become like my parents, tapping my feet to Joan Baez while the echo boom turns up the hip-hop?

Upon further reflection, I’ve realized that this feeling was not so much due to aging as the nature of the Williams experience. Each year – freshman, sophomore, junior, senior – is utterly distinct. No wonder a job-seeking senior can’t relate to enquiries from a freshman. Thankfully, 10th grade English has equipped us with an apt metaphor to deal with this condition. Shakespeare’s ages of man from the famous soliloquy that begins “all the world’s a stage….” bears a striking resemblance to the college career of the typical Williams student.

As always, we may glean some insight from the teachings of Hinduism. According to the Saranam Guide, the first quarter of life “is spent in celibate, controlled, sober and pure contemplation.” Freshmen at Williams seem to have reinterpreted this doctrine. Time is more often punctuated by booty-calls than calls to prayer, and the closest most come to pure contemplation is cramming for Psych 101. A better description of the first-year experience may be that provided by the Bard: “At first the infant, Mewing and puking in the nurse’s arms/ And then the whining school-boy, with his satchel/ And shining morning face, creeping like a snail/ Unwillingly to school.”

It does indeed take time to get into the college swing. “It took about two months for me to realize that this wasn’t summer camp,” Harris Paseltiner ’09 said. Others, like those in the entry that claims as its motto “no parents, no pants,” have embraced the transition with naked enthusiasm. Willa Marquis ’09 describes her freshman year as “a sometimes-awkward, always-exhilarating collection of new adventures and new experiences. You have this feeling that you’re completely at the beginning and that you’re able to re-evaluate what’s important to you again.”

The essence of sophomore year is, at least at first, that it is most fundamentally not-freshman-year. Having left the cozy nest of the entry, students now must fend for themselves, hosting parties, seeking out new dining hall companions, and finding their own Pink Floyd poster to hang in the common room. It’s also a time when groups and identities start to crystalize. “It seems I’ve cultivated my own style, gait and talents,” Marcella DiBlasi ’08 observes. “It’s exciting because I think we all appreciate that this is the last year we have that we can all live completely in the present, and all together.”

Then there is the fabled “sophomore slump.” As Michael Hagerty ’08, who is looking forward to a year abroad in Argentina, puts it, “sophomore year is a time to sacrifice yourself and be miserable so you can come back senior year and have fun.” It’s an understandable position. Sophomore year is a sort of no-man’s land of the college experience: you’re no longer naïve yet not quite worldly, you’ve staked your spot in Sawyer but you haven’t got a key to a car, and you start to wonder if you’re too old for ACE parties. In the stages of life, this could be called the awkward phase.

Junior year means different things to different people. For many, it means a change of scenery. Studying abroad has a way of cultivating your tastes, improving your fashion sense, or sometimes just raising your drinking tolerance. Yet for those who stay on campus, Williams can become just as alien as a foreign country. “I feel [junior year was] distinct because so much of the class was missing during part of the year,” recalls Dianne Pfundstein ’06. “It was very disorienting in a sense.”

For a select fifty, being a JA dominates the experience. Looking back a pack of “mewling and puking” freshmen, as Shakespeare would put it, can become a full-time job. That’s not to say there aren’t sides. “The first two years of my Williams career I spent trying to learn how to jump into my room through the window when I locked myself out, throw great dance parties, avoid fines from B&G, break into storage and keep Williams traditions,” Saranjit Tilakawardane ’07 recalls. “This year, I am teaching [these strategies] to 20 of the coolest people I have met.”

For the Class of 2006, the mysteries of senior year have yet to be fully revealed. You could say it’s a time of ambivalence: we’re torn between favoring our time here and anticipating the future. You could also say it’s a time of triumph:

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Gillian Weeks ’06 (Mar. 8, 2006)

Question: What would you name the new housing clusters?

The four Harry Potter houses would be a laugh - a - half!

The four Houses of the Apocalypse - this campus needs more reminders to lead moral lives.

The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse - this campus needs more reminders to lead moral lives.

Lethal Weapons 1 - 4!!!

Umm...How about Josef Cuenca, Jack Daniels, Jim Beam, and Johnnie Walker?

The four Harry Potter houses would be a laugh - a - half!

The four Harry Potter houses would be a laugh - a - half!

Jenny, ‘06

Chaz, ‘08

Sara, ‘06

Ephraim, ‘09

JAMIE SWEENEY ’08

Katrina relief has only just begun

With the school year well under way, we have immersed ourselves in the daily routine of life at Williams, managing overflowing schedules and busy personal lives. For thousands in the Gulf Coast, however, a different narrative is unfolding, one fraught with grief and despair.

As we go about our daily lives, we must not forget that the widespread devastation in this region will have lasting effects for years. Let us remain focused on our fellow Americans who are in need and let us remain cognizant of the immense challenges they have faced and will continue to face long after the floodwaters recede and the cleanup begins.

Student awareness and engagement at Williams is at an exceptionally high level. Students, faculty and staff have committed themselves to developing a strong base of support for relief and rebuilding efforts on the Gulf Coast. A week of awareness and action now underway and led by the Hurricane Relief Coalition strives not only to educate students, faculty, staff and the wider Berkshire community about the realities of the hurricanes, their aftermath and their social implications, but also to inspire all members of our community to support relief programs.

Extending beyond the fundraisers and immediate projects, the Coalition strives to engage in honest discourse about the challenges of rebuilding and how we all can help. Although participation in this week’s activities will undoubtedly assist in current recovery efforts, the month of September marks only the beginning of the suffering for residents of the Gulf Coast. Consequently, this week’s activities cannot be the end of our engagement with the challenges of rebuilding what has been destroyed. Our response to the tragedy must be sustained and significant. It is the responsibility of every member of our community to remain aware of how unforeseen developments affect the lives of our fellow citizens. Though we number in the small thousands, our community has the resources to make an important difference for the Gulf Coast.

Beyond donating money and goods, both undeniably significant, we can take actions to bring about lasting change. We can donate our time by volunteering for relief agencies during Winter Study, deal week or spring break – trips for these breaks are being planned. This work will not only represent a genuine sacrifice of what students often consider most precious – their time – but by working together with volunteers from around the country, students can help the victims while building awareness of the national scale of the tragedy. The collaboration of volunteers from all over the United States and the affected residents will empower the Gulf Coast region. Rather than being recipients of charity, Gulf Coast residents will be active participants in the regeneration of their communities.

In addition, students can make a difference here in Williamstown in numerous ways. First, we can welcome our new classmates from Xavier and Tulane. Second, students can help by dealing with a serious but under-recognized local consequence of these hurricanes: economic instability associated with rising fuel prices. This will be a particularly difficult winter for Northern Berkshire residents trying to stretch pension and social security checks. Heating oil will be extraordinarily expensive and, as upperclassmen know and first-years will soon discover, it gets very cold for months on end. The Lehman Council will be spearheading projects later this year that focus on the hurricane's effects in the local community. Third, students can help keep up the momentum of the campus relief campaign, whether by joining the coalition, initiating discussions among friends or writing about the hurricanes’ effects. As the media inevitably moves to fresher news stories, we urge you to take responsibility for keeping students and the community focused squarely on developments in relief efforts.

Given the magnitude of this tragedy, we cannot let the long-term effects of Hurricane Katrina vanish from our sight. Even though the immense challenges that victims continue to endure may not make the daily news, the challenges of their situations remain.

We cannot allow ourselves to sink into apathy and complacency when we have such a tremendous opportunity for engagement. Involvement comes from awareness, which must be the primary responsibility of each and every student. Read the newspaper, ask questions, attend lectures. Most of all, remember that for hurricane relief and the constellation of socioeconomic challenges it has created, Williams students are part of a larger community that is at the beginning of a long journey of rebuilding and rejuvenation.

Alan Cordova ‘06, Alissa Caron ‘06 and Kimberly Heard ‘06 (Oct. 28, 2005)
Greeting the Mountains (with song): an adventure from the Purple Bubble

I first heard the term “Purple Bubble” from my tour guide when I visited the College as a prospective student. Walking downhill on Spring Street, she informed us that Williamstown is such a tightly-knit little environment that many students never leave campus.

I’ve been here for one month now, and a few days ago, I decided it was high time I explored my surroundings. I would pop that Purple Bubble by visiting Vermont.

Somehow, I was under the impression that the border was far away, so I boastingly my spiky biking shoes and gloves for the occasion. I filled a water bottle, loaded my backpack with a Grab ‘n Go lunch and a book for English, and hit the road.

I had been riding for less than 10 minutes when I passed a big sign welcoming me to Vermont: The Green State. My JA informed me later that Williamstown is actually about two miles away from the border, but at the time I just thought I was really speedy.

I kept an alert eye out for a picturesque and peaceful spot to eat and read, but the thing about Vermont highways is that roadside attractions are few and far between. Places other than trees are few and far between. After a long, long time, I reached the first non-tree, an antique shop.

My eyes lighted upon the sprawling lawn next to it, and without further ado, I made myself comfortable beneath the branches of some beautiful tree that I probably should have known the name of but didn’t. Purple mountains in the distance, forty patches of leaves above me – this is the life, I thought to myself.

I had begun to read my English book – The Holy Bible, as it so happened – when I saw a big, deer-hunter-esque man heading towards me. I flashed my best “Innocent-Williams-Student-Visiting-Vermont-in-an-Attempt-to-Pop-the-Purple-Bubble” smile, and tilted my copy of the Bible in his general direction so he could read it. He gave me a strange look, but I just continued smiling (a bit nervously now), hoping that he was familiar with the “love thy neighbor” proverb.

Before I could exchange pleasantries, he passed me and entered a big farmhouse on my left. And then I realized that I was sitting smack-dab in the middle of this man’s front lawn. Forgive me, I have sinned.

Finishing quickly, I decided it would be nice to check out the antique shop so I could say I got a taste of Vermont culture. Also, I needed to use the bathroom and it would be just a tad too awkward to go to the deer-hunter’s farmhouse.

A musty smell filled my nostrils as I pulled open the oak doors and adjusted to the dark, dank interior. I maneuvered my way through chipped armchairs and grotesque Santa gnomes, my shoes clicking obnoxiously against the ancient floor. I passed rusty bicycles and collector Dick & Jane books. I passed a stuffed moose head. I paused briefly by the porcelain piggy bank in the shape of a plump octogenarian holding a “Retirement Fund” sign in a rocking chair, but I had no money so I walked on.

“Excuse me,” I called out politely to the lady at the cash register. “Is there a bathroom here, by any chance?”

She eyed me for a long, long time. “We have a private bathroom,” she said finally. “For customers. But I guess you can use it.”

“It didn’t take a genius to perceive the disdain in her voice.”

When I finally emerged, the lady gave me another glare, but I just waved cheerfully and hopped on my bike.

While I may not have popped the Purple Bubble substantially, I did have an off-campus adventure for one afternoon. I explored the bottom of Vermont and one unfortunately long stretch of highway, and although I am now surely on the blacklist of a certain antique shop, I’m excited to return in the near future. And this time I’ll find a better place to sit.
Community burned by actions of a few

The worst thing students can do to their neighbors is deny them the right to live in peace. The behavior we’ve seen in Gladden and other locations across campus in recent months is not only appalling; it is inexcusable. No one deserves to live in those conditions.

Williams should stand for excellence in academics, athletics and community living. Not only do the events in Gladden tarnish our reputation, they indicate that our community is in trouble. Levels of respect are dangerously low. Though we are among the best and brightest students of our generation, we lack the basic ability to respect each other. Diversity, commonality, intellectual exchange and teamwork are faraway goals until the basic framework of common courtesy is established.

Last week, some of our peers decided it would be amusing to light a fire in the Greylock quad. Then, they decided to do it again two days later. The fire on Friday burned a bicycle, other students’ laundry, trash and debris.

These recent events should be a wake-up call not only to the administration, but also to other students who have a responsibility to report such acts when they see them. Using a common room or window sill as a toilet is repulsive. Throwing a television through a fourth-story window is reckless. Burning property is dangerous. But any students who would fuel a fire with stolen goods are in a class of their own.

You have a right to complain; in fact, you have an obligation to stop them. Let us not mince words: Students who cannot respect their peers have no place on this campus.

If the offending students behaved this way outside the Purple Valley, they would face criminal consequences. The College should direct them to leave campus until they are ready to live civilly with neighbors. No ifs, ands or buts: students who disrespect their neighbors are failing Life 101, a critical component of Williams’ degree.

Rather than asking students to leave campus, however, the administration has threatened to relocate them to other dorms if their behavior persists, and remove them from the community only as a last resort. This response, based on the supposition that problematic students will cause fewer problems if they do not live together, is inadequate. If there are indeed some students so irresponsible that they cannot be trusted to live near each other, it hardly seems fair to force them upon others who had the good sense not to live with them in the first place. We believe that if you are unable to live respectfully among your peers, you should not be here.

Relocating students to other dorms may mask the symptoms, but it will not solve the problems. These other manifestations may be less embarrassing for the College than a drunken bonfire, but they will likely be equally upsetting for the students who have to deal with them.

The primary problem with alcohol consumption on this campus is what the Alcohol Task Force has called the secondary effects of alcohol: namely, the imprudent things that students do once they have imbibed, which range from property damage to sexual assault. And while we have argued that it is fruitless to try to restrict access to alcohol on a college campus, we strongly believe that punishing people for their drunken actions is the best way to discourage them from happening in the first place. Not everyone who gets drunk decides to light a bonfire.

One of the ideas behind the Williams House System is to provide students with a sense of ownership for their living spaces which will discourage them from vandalism. These recent events, however, are an unfortunate reminder of how difficult it can be to stem such behavior. Ownership is clearly not an antidote to vandalism when students are willing to throw their own television out the window or urinate on their own common room rug.

There is an alternative to the half-hearted discipline of dorm relocations. This month at Middlebury, the coach of men’s swimming discovered that a hazing incident involving alcohol had taken place, in violation of team and college policy. The punishment was swift and severe: the coach immediately barred his entire team from competing in the NESCAC and NCAA championships, despite the fact that the NESCAC meet was being held in Middlebury’s own pool. Williams could and should take a page from his book.

A slap on the wrist is not sufficient. The only way to get the worst offenders to respect the rules is to enforce them. The College should pursue whatever disciplinary steps are necessary to communicate unequivocally that destructive acts will not be tolerated.

Questions are good, answers are better

At the faculty meeting last week, administrators presented data showing that minority faculty members are more likely to feel stress from subtle discrimination than their white colleagues. This conclusion comes as no surprise, as the College launched the diversity initiatives in the fall of 2004 with a similar suspicion. Even with the data, diversity self-study and consultant reports laid out before them, no one seems to know what to do next.

When our discussion about diversity is framed in abstract terms, it is difficult to define a specific course of action. The diversity initiatives self-study, released last May, is a lengthy example of indolent group-think. Over and over, it recommended state fixes grounded more firmly in political correctness than efficacy. No amount of diversity training, diversity counseling or diversity “awareness-raising” will make real progress. The diversity initiatives report has taken a weak approach, choosing to path minority concerns rather than getting to the heart of the diversity issues. A complete picture of the road ahead might be difficult to discern, but perhaps a couple of fresh changes are in order.

The changes we propose may unsettle the present climate of diversity. Such discomfort is healthy. If Williams is committed to being at the fore of inclusivity, we must leave old politically correct constraints behind.

Faculty and student groups alike would benefit from the discussion on new terms. In the spirit of embracing change even at a cost of discomfort, we propose the following:

If Williams is committed to being at the fore of inclusivity, we must leave old politically correct constraints behind.

1. Stop systematically separating minority students from their classmates at the moment of their introductions to Williams. This week, the campus was inundated with prospective students — but they came in two waves. First the minorities arrived, meeting other minority students in their class and participating in minority programs. Of course, this scheme was intended to prevent them from knowing those who had arrived early. But now that the minority students have arrived, we don’t want them to be segregated from the rest of the student body.

2. Ensure that programs for minorities supplements, but do not replace, programs for the campus at large. The orientation program Windows on Williams is designed for and marketed to minorities, leaving WOOLF as a mostly-white outing to the wilderness. Programs like WOW encourage segregation, not diversity, from students’ first days on campus. Diversity is a topic that should appeal to everyone, not just minorities. Do not make any student choose between diversity and hazing, between minority and majority. Let everyone do both.

3. Guide student groups to foster diversity, and not just minority comfort. Make sure student groups are more than places for solidarity; they should be places of diversity. A ISU, QSU or MSU meeting attended only by members of the “constituency” might be helpful for solidarity, but does not increase diversity. The best events are those at which broad sectors of campus are welcome to come and interested in coming. Some groups are better at this than others. Unfortunately, some groups adopt a reactionary tone when asked to re-evaluate their practices.

The College community has little to show for two years of navel-gazing, despite the attention of all corners of campus in the discussion. It will not be possible to make real progress on diversity issues while we remain afraid to upset anyone. Asking hard questions is the first step to progress. Let’s not conclude this project with a whimper.
Features

Williams in NYC offers a taste of urban life

This is the true story of six Williams College students who chose to live in New York and have their education enriched, to find out what happens when students stop learning in the classroom and start getting real.

Meet Kara Brothers '07, Brandon Carter '07, Lily Gray '07, Andrew Lazarow '07, Walden Maurissaint '07 and Krista Nylen '07, the very first cast of Williams in New York.

This experiential education program combines traditional learning with fieldwork in a real-world environment. Currently in its first semester, Williams in New York was started by Robert Jackall, professor of sociology, who referred to the program as “a flexible, fluid world of affairs.”

Students live on the fifth floor of the Williams Club in midtown Manhattan. Each has his or her own single room, complete with bathroom, balcony and cable television. In addition, all meals are provided by the Williams Club free of charge on weekdays, and breakfast is provided on weekends. “The location is fabulous and my room is great,” Gray said.

During a typical week, students are responsible for 15 hours of intensive fieldwork for a wide variety of orientations. This year’s students have internships with the Women’s Commission on Women and Children Refugees, the Manhattan Institute, Dodgers Theatrical, the U.S. Attorney Southern District of New York and ABC News Special Events.

In addition to fieldwork, students attend regularly scheduled classes on social lives, sociological pressures and artistic traditions. “We’ve been to everything from a Yankees game to the opera, all as a part of our curriculum, which is centered around understanding the social workings of New York City,” Nylen said.

So aside from the decked-out Manhattan crib and the fast-paced social life, what other advantages does a semester at Williams in New York hold over a semester at Williams?

One obvious perk is the opportunity to get away from Purple Valley for a few months and snap out of what can sometimes feel like a monotonous existence.

“At Williams, students usually get settled in the same routine – work, eat, sleep, go out – it’s nice to have more options,” Brothers said.

In addition, the Williams in New York program offers students the opportunity to forge connections with professors, alumni and others in the city that is unsurpassed not only by a semester at Williams, but by just about any other study-abroad program offered by the College.

“New York is a city of connections. Most of the people I’ve met here are interested in making connections with other people who might be able to help them pursue their interests,” Carter said.

“Complete strangers going out of their way to give me a phone number, a name, an address – the polar opposite of what I’d always heard about New Yorkers.”

The Williams in New York program is only in its first year. Next year, Jackall plans to admit eight students rather than six, but the program may eventually get even larger. As more and more organizations sign on, Jackall hopes that the number of Williams in New York students will eventually rise to 20 per semester.

Tired of the typical college experience?

- Phil Carter ’08

Seniors give campus a musical makeover in video

It takes audacity to approach a college president and ask him to perform a dance named the “alumni schmooze.” And it takes courage to stand out in public, openly singing and dancing with abandon to a techno remix. But this January, Nick Anderson ’06, Sara Beach ’06, Katie Lewkowicz ’06, Robin Stewart ’06 and Leah Weintraub ’06 did both while pursuing the goal of finally getting to check off an elusive item on their “To do before graduation” list.

Having taken to heart President Schapiro’s fall convocation speech about making the best of their final year here at Williams, the five seniors looked to the small screen to realize a long-standing ambition: a music video. Filmed on campus, performed by students, choreographed from the dorms and edited in Jesup’s media lab, the video shows off campus life by featuring familiar buildings and about 40 students who were afforded the opportunity to be a little wacky. For the five creators, the video has a greater significance than just five minutes of fame and $30 of film; it’s an effort to immortalize the camaraderie, friendships and good times that marked their years at Williams.

“I think the real motivation came from wanting to make a piece that would preserve our memories of Williams,” said Stewart, who directed, edited and choreographed the dancing, in addition to making a cameo as a rapper. “We tried to capture the fun times we’ve had here so one day we could look back and see what we loved so much about college.”

The video, a spoof musical performance of a remix of the Irene Cara song “Flashdance (What a Feeling),” follows a group of students across campus, dancing and singing through the library, the eco café and Goodrich. Beach and Daniel Klein ’06 play two infatuated dorm mates. Whether attracted to the video to see the actors break out in dance while crossing Route 2 or to see the College president shed his usual professionalism, students are rapidly passing around the a comical spin on campus life.

Because of the significance that the video holds in the eyes of the creators, the actors in the film are all friends. The chemistry between actors and dancers, according to Stewart and Beach, is a defining aspect of the production, and allowed for a closely-knit feel to the entire process.

“Since we wanted the music video to be a record of our group of friends and places on campus, we organized it by word of mouth,” Beach said. “However, we did post on WSO an open casting call for the final dance number in Goodrich.”

The result was a production that everyone enjoyed, as evident by blooper reels and footage that was taken between scenes. “We left the camera running while we learned the dance, which provided some footage that should probably have been destroyed,” Beach said.

Some of the more comical moments during recording were the result of unforeseen events in the background. The parts of campus where the video was being shot were generally unintentionally deserted. Recording in front of the student center constructions, a tractor in the background appeared to be pouring cement on Klein’s head. Beach also said she had numerous wardrobe malfunctions resulting from a lack of experience with short skirts and Uggs boots.

All of the participants were relative amateurs, though some had varying previous experience editing and filming video, which added a sense of spontaneity and freedom, according to Stewart.

“I’ve always been in the back of my mind wanted to do a music video,” Stewart said. “It’s kind of like the ultimate video editing type of project. It’s free and challenging.”

Filming took place over Winter Study and though filming was during daylight hours, very few people besides the actors are seen on screen. Beyond encapsulating memories from their college days, the video provided all involved a welcome chance to do a project not for academic reasons, but personal ones.

“I’m spending way too much of my time now on problem sets and papers and a thesis,” Klein said. “It felt really good to put something together that people can enjoy rather than look at critically.”

– Jeremy Goldstein ’09

Williams in New York students experience a legitimate nightlife outside of Billville.

Had enough of the weekly eat-sleep-and-study routine? If so, consider applying to the Williams in New York program.

After all, New York is about as real as it gets.

– Brandon Carter ’08

The music video shot scenes across campus, including one with Morty at his house.

COURTESY OF ROBIN STEWART ’06

Ben Rudick ’08
ONEIN2000: The Class of 2006

ESA SEEGULAM '06

HOUSE: WEST 410
HOMETOWN: BARATARIA, TRINIDAD
ONLINE MARRIAGE TO: NURA KINGE '06

You have an accent – some flavor if you will. Where are you from?

Trinidad and Tobago. The land of fun and sun.

And how is Williamstown different than Trinidad and Tobago?

Well, it’s Caribbean – that’s a start. Also, I’m not a minority there, which is nice.

How do you feel about graduating?

I was describing it to someone. It’s sort of like being tied down to a train track and hearing the train coming, but being unable to move. I don’t want to leave Williams. I really love it here and I’ll miss it.

You’re losing more than you know. No longer will you be able to steal silverware from the dining hall or streak social gatherings. What is now fun and cheeky will soon become boorish and felonious. What do you expect it will be like to live on your own?

I want it known that I actually haven’t streaked any social gatherings.

So you’ve kept your Tobago in your pants?

For the most part. I do sleepwalk naked. Apparently, though, I’m not as bad a sleepwalker as one of my freshman from last year. He’d been sleeping in his bed, but he woke up the next morning butt-naked next to a football recruit.

Will your job next year have an entry system for incoming employees?

I don’t actually have a job. I’m going to grad school, which is too busy sucking the life out of us to give us cool things like entries or snack time.

It says on thefacebook.com that you’re married?

Yes. This month I’m married to Nura Kinge ’06. She proposed to me.

That’s very Women-and-Gender-Studies of her. Does the facebook.com remind you of your anniversary?

No and I really need them to do it. I’ve been a bad husband in that respect, but she doesn’t do any facebook.com cooking or facebook.com cleaning, so I think we’re pretty even.

MARY CATHERINE BLANTON '06

HOUSE: GARFIELD
HOMETOWN: HOUSTON, TEXAS
FEARED AS JA: WELL-PLACED CONDOMS

Mary Catherine Blanton ’06 is a member of the illustrious JA Selection Committee, whose sole purpose is to decide who will be buying freshmen beer next year [jokingly] and whose collective butt I’ve been kissing since January.

I’m going to do such a good job as a JA it hurts. Does it hurt you too?

No, Gordon, that’s just you pinching me.

I would put all my fresh in the Record. I’m kind of a big deal around there [editor’s note: he isn’t]. What’s the craziest, oddest, dare I say zaniest, thing that happened to you as a JA that people need to know about?

Well, the first time I realized I might be in over my head was when I came home during first days to see one of my freshmen climbing out of a third story window. Needless to say I was freaking out. My fresh also loved messing with me, especially hiding the free condoms that you can get from the Health Center all over my room.

Why would I make a better boyfriend to you than your current one Aaron Pinsky ’06? Only give ten or twelve reasons, as space is limited.

Oh come on, polygamy is in baby! It’s the new Kabbalah: everyone is doing it. You can get me the other seven reasons later. So anyways, you went to see the Regurgitator, right?

No, I couldn’t make it. I wanted to go to the a cappella concert.

That’s a crime. What would you most like to see him swallow and bring back?

Some mammal would probably be funny. A cat could be funny. More ironic then a hairball? Or perhaps a corythosaurus from the crew team; they’re compact enough. I don’t know though, it just seems like a useless talent.

EMILY MIYARES '06

HOUSE: GARFIELD
HOMETOWN: BELMONT, MASS.
FAVORITE FROSH: GORDON PHILLIPS

From time immemorial, One-in-2000 has been a question and answer with Williams’ best, brightest and quirkiest rising stars. But starting today, I’m going to start experimenting, and not like I did with those three Holyoke girls at the three-keg ripper last week. Just grab a seat and get set; One-in-2000 might never be the same.

My name is Gordon.

My pen flows, mighty like stream.

I write you haikus.

Emily is here.

She lives in Garfield like old Tortoise in her shell.

Did you know that a haiku not directly referencing nature is called a senryu? I am a Japanese art scholar . . . along with a large portion of the football and lacrosse teams.

Winter surrounds us,

No class for term. Why do you

Love winter study?

The crystalline weather reminds me of my winters spent skiing in the high Alps . . . especially the evenings before a roaring fire with my gentleman companion Luis Ortega.

Morty Shapiro,
He’s our spunky President.

Why the sweater vests?

Well, because sweater vests are the wave of the future, obviously. If Morty is doing it, then it must be genius.

Close. Correct answer:
He is cooler than you and
He makes them look good.

Morty is so wise.

If he were a cocktail what

Cocktail would he be?

That’s a tough question with the whole alcohol task force thing, but probably a Diablo Martini – it always gives you a devil of a good time.

No way. He would be

A Mortimer Shapiro.

Drink named after him.

Fifteen shots each of

Manischewitz and Red Bull.

Garnish with cherry.

I can’t believe you made a haiku with the word “Manischewitz” given the syllabic constraints.

You were a JA

Of the entry, who was your Favorite first-year?

You, Gordon.

I hate to read books.

If you could ban any book

What book would you ban?

Silent Spring. That Rachel Carson doesn’t know her ass from her elbow. Our country was founded on DDT and other potentially dangerous liquids, and I’ll be damned if we stop now. If we do, the terrorists have won.

Most people here read

Too much. People also say

I’m illiterate.
The winners of last Thursday’s Mr. Williams pageant were quite a sight. Crowned Mr. Williams, Gape Machao ’06 stood front and center on Goodrich’s purple and gold decked stage, with a smile across his face and a golden crown atop his head.

Waving to the judges and his supporters in the audience, Machao played the part brilliantly, bowing repeatedly as viewers clapped and the losing contestants cheered. Matt Simmonson ’08 stood to Machao’s right, flexing his muscles and making a show of his title as people’s choice, which he earned for garnering the most donations in his name.

The celebration came with good reason. Not every contestant received a title, but their participation helped raise $983 for hurricane relief along the Gulf Coast. The only expense? A few hours of their time and a little of their pride.

With segments ranging from pleas to help the less-fortunate to near-naked re-enactments of “Braveheart,” the event had its share of extraordinary moments. Under the worthy banner of charity, the Hurricane Relief Coalition’s presentation of the Mr. Williams pageant was an effective fundraiser, as well as a theater of the absurd for some of Williams’ more charismatic students.

As event volunteers roamed the aisles collecting donations in the name of each contestant, a show unlike any other took place on stage. Under the direction of two MCs, the night included guitar serenades, a dramatic reading of the 1957 hit "I’d like to order a calzone," grape catching and coordinated stripping of every variety.

The pageant was divided into two different competitions, one for people’s choice for the candidate who inspired the most donations in his name, and one for an overall Mr. Williams title, awarded by a panel of a Security officer, a Campus Life officer and a psychology professor, based on performances in four categories: video Q&A and choreographed dance, beachwear competition, talent competition and a formal wear contest based on each contestant’s definition of “stylish.”

Boyertakes on the bad boys

Dave Boyer, now a top dog in Security, began his career as a patrol officer with a seemingly simple call to break up a party in Susie Hulbert. He arrived at the scene with all the confidence that comes from recent training and a shiny new badge. After taming the disturbance, he hauled the keg to the driveway where he found, much to his surprise, students peering on his cruiser. That’s when Boyer realized his job was going to require strategies that didn’t make it into the training manual.

Though new to the security business, Boyer was quite familiar with the College. After all, he grew up half a mile from campus.

“I thought Williams students were the best – the smartest, best behaved and the most talented athletes.”

Then he started working here and discovered that his views needed realignment. “You see just how human and in some cases, just how common, these students are – we’re all 18 to 23 once,” he said.

Boyer certainly knows a thing or two about this age group. He learned one lesson early on the job: “Don’t debate with students. Just stick to the rules because they’re too smart even when they’re drunk.” Unfortunately for him, he learned it the hard way.

One evening Boyer responded to a call to Bryant and found a party with a keg. After confiscating the tap, he collected the students’ I.D. cards. As he wrote down their names he began to have trouble juggling the pen, tap and cards. A student offered to hold the tap, so Boyer gladly obliged, thanking him for his helpfulness. With tap in hand, the student bolted for the door and disappeared down the hallway. Intent on keeping control of the keg, Boyer started to carry it downstairs.

After he had made his way down the stairs, a student from upstairs hollered, “Boyer, an asshole!”

Boyer dropped the keg and swung his head over the railing to see who was taunting him. As soon as he stuck his head out, he met a pitcher of beer in the face. Boyer dashed upstairs to catch the drink-throwing culprit, but the students scattered to their rooms, locking their doors. Frustrated, Boyer returned to the landing only to find that the keg had disappeared. Soaked in beer, Boyer left Bryant having lost the tap, the keg and, in the commotion, the paper with the students’ names. Boyer said that was a low point of his young career.

Despite some reckless behavior from students, Boyer said things seem to be getting better at the College. He remembers drinking beer in Greylock with Williams students when he was in high school.

“Back in those days everyone was male, had long hair and smoked marijuana,” Boyer said. These days college life at Williams seems tamer. Though students do roll the dice with hard alcohol, according to Boyer, drug and alcohol abuse is not as serious as it once was.

Reflecting on it all, Boyer admitted, “Probably no one enjoyed college life as much as me.” During his days in school even the Great Dave Boyer and his friends made trouble. “Now I’m the one who gives the trouble.”

Though you probably never want to be sitting face to face with this associate director of Security in any official capacity, just remember the rewards you’ll reap from honesty and a little humor. After all, Boyer does appreciate a good story.

— Rob Strecker ’07

Colonial’s owner delivers

“Hi, I’d like to order two chicken parm calzones, a large –”

“Where you want?”

“Umm, Williams College, Armitz –”

“Extension?”

“Yeah, do you think I could give you my –”

“No cell phones!”

“Right, I know, but I don’t have a –”

“Calzone for you!”

Any Seinfeld fan is familiar with Yev Kasem, the flinty immigrant-chef whose meticulous rules for ordering soup led his customers to refer to him as the Soup Nazi, a character inspired by a real-life soup chef named Al Yeganeh, whose excellent soups have made Soup Kitchen International a favorite among New Yorkers for years despite Yeganeh’s cold treatment of his customers.

Williams is home to another immigrant-chef whose delectable food and short fuse have made him into something of a legend. His name is Constantin Anagnos, the proprietor of Colonial Pizza.

Anagnos immigrated to the United States from Greece in 1968. “I come for business only,” he explains. And, true to his word, Anagnos started up Colonial Pizza in 1971. Since then, Colonial’s has been serving Williams town for decades.

Certainly, one cannot doubt Anagnos’ appreciation for Williams students. Anagnos estimates he knows 12,500 Williams graduates already. So do some students still dial Anagnos’ number gingerly? It may have to do with Anagnos’ rigid policy toward students who use cellular phones when requesting delivery to their dorms.

“School gives all students extensions, I know,” Anagnos explains. “But students tell me all things – I lost my phone, I don’t have phone, phone not connected. Students do not care, but I care!”

Nevertheless, Colonial has recently changed its policy. Recognizing that cellular phones are only going to increase in popularity, the restaurant now allows students to order-in with their cells, requesting a 50 cent surcharge to cover additional costs.

So is Constantin really a small-town, Greek version of Seinfeld’s Soup Nazi, or just a humble chef looking out for his family and his business? If you have ever spoken to Anagnos in person, you would probably agree that his resemblance to the Soup Nazi ends with the unmatched quality of his food.

True to his Greek culture, Constantin is the consummate host. He simply prefers people to technology. Perhaps the best evidence of this is the simple phrase with which Constantin concludes all of his transactions: “OK, I take care of you.”

— Phil Carter ’08

Highlights of the night included the performance of all four competitions by Johnny Greenwald ’08 naked, or close to it, and Simonson’s strip down from board shorts, to running shorts and finally to a man’s varsity swimming Speedo for the crucial swimsuit competition.

Matt Earle ’07 played the role of cocky heartthrob brilliantly, striding across the stage in aviators and an unbuttoned, tie-less suit, dropping his glasses to give judges a subtle nod. Andrea Schabelman ’06 dazzled the crowd with his ability to catch grapes in his mouth, and though he probably would have been looked over in the Mr. Universe pageant, his talent earned him points with the Williams judges.

Impressive performances also came from Joshua Lynch-Ramirez ’09, who read Elvis Presley with such suave confidence that a female in the audience called out “you can rock me, Josh!” and Auyon MuKharji ’07, whose e-crawl and a spontaneous hug from his little brother in the audience sent up a chorus of “awww” from the audience.

The pageant became more than a show and more than a fundraising strategy, though according to student organizers it was successful in both respects. It was a chance for students to show what being a Williams student is all about.

— Jeremy Goldstein ’09
**ARTS**

**2005-06**

**Gala shows a success for ’62 Center**

The recently completed $51.9 million ’62 Center for Theatre and Dance didn’t open with a bang, but rather with a horse—a tall one. The innovative puppet show Tall Horse graced the MainStage on Sept. 30 and Oct. 1 to kick off a series of events designed to showcase the variety of performance spaces in the new complex.

Staff who had been planning the gala opening for months were pleased with the kickoff weekend. “It’s only after you’ve been through the opening night you know whether the work that’s gone into it was right,” said Jo Proctor, news director for the office of public affairs.

For the opening weekend shows, concerns about ticket demand exceeding supply seemed somewhat unfounded. Tickets reserved for students, faculty, community members or guests of the development office, not picked up 48 hours before show time were offered to those on a waiting list. Tickets still not collected 30 minutes before shows began were released to those waiting in line at the theater. Box office employees reported that this system met few glitches.

“We had lines start early, but everyone in line got to see the shows,” said Sharon Goldstein, event coordinator for the theater department.

Theatergoers and performers alike walked away impressed with the new space. Members of the Tall Horse cast commented favorably on the warmth of the wood paneling of the MainStage theater, while students were pleased with the comfortable seating and the balcony system that placed all viewers close to the stage.

Architect Bill Rawlin, intimately involved with the building’s design, attended Tall Horse and was similarly satisfied with the experience. “To see how it filled the stage to all of its edges, how it kind of enveloped the whole theater, you felt like you could touch the objects on the stage,” he said.

Goldstein said she and her colleagues were equally pleased with the results of the first few shows. After working for months setting up the busy opening weeks, a process that included finding “talent that patrons will want to see,” scheduling the artists at times that worked for staff and crew, and working through the logistics of creating a special gala event, the success of the weekend’s performances was especially rewarding.

“It takes a lot of work to carry [something like this] off successfully, both in front of the curtain and behind,” Goldstein said. The planning required a large staff as well as “patience and a huge sense of humor,” she said.

The ’62 Center’s opening weeks also included dance performances by Dance Company, Kusaika, Sankofa and the New York City Ballet, a one-man show by actor Roger Rees, an evening of songs by William Finn ’74, a poetry reading by Billy Collins, a “Broadway gala” featuring Tony Award-winning actress Anne Reinking and a concert by the rock band Longwave.

—Clare Zentgraf ’09

**Exploring the new theatre complex with an architect’s eye**

It’s like a scene from a nightmare. I’m stuck in an enclosed space and it’s completely dark. Every time I try to speak, my voice sinks into the walls. This isn’t looking good.

Suddenly, a door is thrust open and I’m bathed in light, standing face to face with the magnificent new CenterStage Theater in the ’62 Center for Theatre and Dance. Randy Wilmot glances at my wide eyes and smiles.

“See? The soundproofing in the interior spaces really is effective. You can barely hear yourself breathe,” he says as we emerge from the tiny, insulated room between the lobby and the theater. This is not a dream, but a real-life tour of the College’s newest building with one of its designers.

Wilmot is a member of William Rawlin Associates, Architects, the architectural firm behind the towering new performing arts complex. The firm worked closely with the College throughout the design process. Together, they created a list of goals for the project, tied by the idea of connection between audience and performer, front-of-house and back-of-house activity, as well as performing arts and traditional academia.

To pursue this end, company associates accompanied Sandra Burton, director of dance, to the great performing halls of Europe, drawing on classical masters for inspiration. The designers also looked closer to home, carefully considering the Williams campus and its surrounding landscape.

Our tour began in the airy main lobby and moved quickly into the 550-seat MainStage Theatre. Providing a sense of intimacy was the primary goal in designing the theater. The architects drew on the “courtyard style” theaters of Shakespeare’s day, keeping in mind how those venues encourage interaction between the actors and the audience members through proximity to the action.

We moved next to the reworked Adams Memorial Theatre (AMT). This smaller, 210-seat theater is a shock of vibrant blue and red. The goal of this venue was to achieve an “informal, techy feel,” balanced with flash.

The stack, industrial design of CenterStage, our next destination, was a shocking contrast to the AMT’s brilliant colors. This 200-seat “Studio Theater” was built to be highly flexible, ideal for experimentation. Much of the seating comes in the form of moveable balconies that can be placed in various configurations based on the needs of the performance. Unfinished steel is the primary surface used throughout, adding to the work-in-progress feel of the room. The wall on the theater’s right side doubles as a huge sliding door, which can be left open to allow passersby to experience the progress of rehearsals.

The Dance Studio, located on the upper floor of the building, is similarly exposed. Its three glass walls offer striking views of the surrounding mountains, but they also make the area highly accessible to wandering students. At 50 feet by 65 feet, the room can house dance performances, music recitals and small theater productions in an intimate manner.

The comfortable, accessible lobby areas help tie the building together in its aims. Wilmot pointed out the well-lit lounge area dotted with couches and coffee tables meant to encourage students to sit and socialize.

The building’s location, between the Greylock quad and faculty house, makes it an ideal cut through for students traveling through campus. Wilmot said that the planners had hoped for a healthy circulation of students in and out of the center, guessing that this constant exposure to the artistic spaces would lead to piqued interest in the arts.

“This is a theater for students,” Wilmot says, “meant for the next generation of experimental performances.”

—Sayd Randle ’08
Pollocks return for conservation, conversation

When asked what they did during spring break, not many students can say that they treated a Jackson Pollock painting. But Jason Vrooman, a second-year art history grad student at Williams, did just that.

After receiving the Judith M. Lenett Memorial Fellowship, established to support graduate study of American art and art conservation, Vrooman teamed up with the director of the Williamstown Art Conservation Center, Tom Branchick, to treat Pollock’s Number 2, 1949.

“When Tom Branchick asked if I had any particular interests within American art, I mentioned that I would love to work on an abstract-expressionist painting,” Vrooman said. “It just so happened that Tom, who has treated Pollock paintings before, had been trying for years to get Number 2, 1949 into the lab for treatment.”

In March, the painting came to the Williamstown Art Conservation Center for the removal of a varnish that well-intentioned conservators had applied in 1959 in order to protect against flaking and cracking. The varnish had altered the reflectance and tone of the paint, and because a different chemical had been applied in 1998 to prevent paint loss, it was no longer needed.

Under Branchick’s guidance, Vrooman took an active role in the process of chemically forcing the varnish out of the canvas. “I felt all along that this was ‘our’ project,” Vrooman said. “Tom let me roll up my sleeves and be very much involved in the treatment. He had complete faith in me and the project, and the results are beautiful.”

As if working with one Pollock painting weren’t enough to satisfy a second-year grad student, Pollock’s Number 13A: Arabesque, cut from the same bolt of industrially-dyed sailcloth, was also brought into the lab. It served as a “control” canvas.

After assisting with the conservation, Vrooman helped Branchick and Lisa Corrin, the new director of WCMA, display the two paintings in the exhibition Jackson Pollock: Beneath the Surface now at the College museum. The exhibition is a graceful convergence of several different artistic interests: three Pollock paintings (the aforementioned Number 2, 1949, along with Number 2, 1949 from the New York Museum of Modern Art); a film and photographs detailing the conservation project;

and a tribute to the late Kirk Varnedoe ’67, who presided for 12 years as the powerful Director of Painting and Sculpture at the MoMA.

When asked about the role he played in organizing the exhibition, Vrooman said, “I was involved in a lot of the research and writing for the show, but the real credit for the look of the current show has to go to Lisa and her amazing design staff.”

An unusual feature of the exhibit is the display of Number 2, 1949, mounted waist-high on a white base away from the wall. While walking around the painting, as around a piece of sculpture, viewers can explore the frame and the back of the canvas, with its own intriguing rhythmic design.

“I personally think that this kind of display has some important ramifications for how we understand Pollock’s use of space, particularly in his horizontally oriented canvases,” Vrooman said.

When Johannes Von Saaz wrote Death and the Ploughman in Germany in 1401, the play was about a peasant farmer whose wife dies in her prime. Grieving and searching for explanation, the farmer calls on the Grim Reaper to provide answers. The drama that follows pits the two together in a debate about love, faith and death.

Six hundred years later, the peasant farmer and the Grim Reaper are still debating these issues in the SITI Company’s performance of Death and the Ploughman. But, under the direction of Anne Bogart, the play takes on an entirely new subject — the nature of theater itself.

In the February 18 production of Death and the Ploughman, performed in the ’62 Center’s CenterStage theatre, the audience walked into the theater to find three actors on stage moving their bodies slowly in place like lethargic wind-up dolls. There was no indication of how long they had been there — maybe since theater-goers began entering the lobby, making it nearly impossible to pinpoint when the play really begins.

The play started to pick up steam when the actors’ movements gained speed and started to look like jerky dance steps. Will Bond, as the Ploughman, initiates the dialogue with heart-wrenching lament as he appeals to Death for an explanation. Why his wife? Why now?

Death answers with a tone of mocking authority in the acerbic voice of actor Stephen Webber. While the great debate ensues, the Woman (Ellen Lauren) acts as Death’s counsel and, at the end, as moderator. Victory goes to death (after all, everybody must die), but honor goes to the farmer, whose struggle is noble, if transient.

The idea of a peasant farmer appealing to the omnipotent force of Death and seeking a way to understand the loss of his wife drips with emotion. Yet the play refused complete access to those feelings. Every time the pathos seemed ripe, a harsh musical transition, a convulsive movement on stage, an odd cackle from Death infected it before the audience could connect. Emotion was offered and then retracted — an example of Bertolt Brecht’s alienation effect that sometimes produces humor, but more often an eerie disconnect.

After a taxing ninety-minute performance, the actors returned to the stage in civilian clothing to answer questions. Someone in the audience asked about why the actors were counting, barely audibly, at one point during the play. Lauren explained that the entire performance is “built on numbers and we’re counting constantly. We were trying to lift the lid off a little bit — to show you the person behind the wizard’s voice.”

The SITI Company’s performance gave the audience bits of behind-the-scenes information like this one about the play. It allowed glimpses into the thoughts of the actors onstage while creating a disconnect both between actors and their characters and between the characters and the audience. It was no coincidence that the actors decided to appear on stage, out of character, for questions following the play.

Everything about this play, including the discussion afterwards, continually reminded the audience that what they were seeing was only a representation of the medieval play, that the story unfolding on stage is not real. Death and the Ploughman lives on after six hundred years, but in the hands of the SITI Company, the story is, in a sense, dead.

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-Paul Reynolds '08
In the mid-19th century, panorama-viewing was a popular pastime in Britain. People would eagerly queue up in the middle of a large, circular room with its walls depicting the local cityscape in a greatly detailed painting. The viewers would slowly turn in a circle, ogling the myriad buildings, streets and monuments sketched around them. Then they would leave, and consider it an afternoon well-spent. Suffice it to say they had yet to discover movies, video games and perhaps even windows.

Luckily for audiences, the experience of viewing Panorama, Williams' spring play, bore little resemblance to staring at a wall. The South African drama, directed by professor David Eppel, proved gripping and thought-provoking, engaging viewers by putting them into the action, spatially and conceptually.

Set in the late apartheid years on Robbins Island, a penal isle just off the coast of the South African mainland, the play opens with a whimper as gawky Karin (Greta Wilson '07) puzes around her apartment.

Her solitude is interrupted by the entrance of Grobelaar (Quinn Franzen '09), a prison security guard, followed minutes later by her roommate Rosa (Katie Edgerton '08). Rosa stoms home livid that she and Karin have to house a visitor to the local prison for the night, revealing the core of the play’s plot, the tumultuous visit of this young black woman to their segregated world. Sibi (Julia Sergeon '06) proves confrontational and arresting, leading to fights with Rosa and major reevaluation of stereotypes all around. The play’s conclusion leaves the characters shaken and newly self-conscious, unsettling to the end.

Perhaps the most striking element of the production was the quality of the physical acting. As Karin, Wilson used her lanky frame to create the pervasive sense of anxiety and fear that defined Karin. Edgerton expressed Rosa’s barely-contained fire and agitation with equal deft, down to her twitching wrists and clenched knuckles.

The palpable sense of agitation that characterized the housemates was reinforced by the placement of the audience. Viewers sat only a few feet away from the actors, which proved particularly intimate when Karin and Rosa unbuttoned their blouses and flashed their slips to the world.

All of the entrances and exits occurred in the space between the stage and the front row of viewers, as the actors marched across on the floor to the apartment’s door. This physical closeness to the action, combined with the strange sensation of knowing more than the characters onstage as other actors approached from below, drew in audiences while giving them an unusual sense of voyeurism.

With this voyeurism came a strange feeling of power, which fit in well with the play’s focus on control. Within the drama, the characters explicitly discuss Rosa’s control over Karin along with the control all whites have over blacks within the country. It’s not a huge leap from such concrete examples of control to the intellectual ideas that seemed to being driving the play—after all, panorama and panopticon sound an awful lot alike.

The production’s quality acting and dynamic staging combined to make viewing Panorama a memorable, if unsettling, experience. If nothing else, a mild obsession with this play would be far more understandable than that old, British fixation of turning in a circle to see buildings painted on the wall.

-Sayed Ramalle ‘08

**Women, drama and a whole lot of snakes entice in ‘Slither’**

*Slither*, produced by Williams Theatre, was an hour-long one-act play that wove its way through the lives of many women, centering on a 1930s snake dancer and a modern-day minister’s wife while exploring the loaded history between women, snakes and guilt.

The play opens with a loud clap of thunder and a light emanating from a trap door on the otherwise dark stage and a woman in a simple head wrap and cloth robe suddenly emerging from the ground. This woman, the audience learns, is Biblical Eve (Lauren Hester ’07), the reason for the infamous original sin. Eve discusses the fall, meditating on ideas of guilt and responsibility while discussing the serpent that led her to the apple.

The next snake mentioned in the play is a real one. It arrives onstage entwined with the licentiously dancing body of the next central character, a snake dancer named Fanny Lou (Katie Ort ’08). Fanny Lou (whose stage name is Eve) also has her own Adam (Davern Wright ’08), an idealistic beau whom she marries happily after some initial resistance.

Two smaller snakes enter the play, twisted around the wrists of a Cretan priestess named Aevah (Greta Wilson ’07) who laments as she foretells her world’s destruction at the hands of an invasion.

The final narrative interwoven in the play’s complex web is that of Evie (Katie Edgerton ’08), wife of Harlan (John Selden ’06), who is an emotionally vapid preacher for a snake-handling Evangelist church. Evie has been suffering from nightmares about snakes, and her husband’s lack of a response makes Evie question her faith in her religion and, eventually, in her husband.

Once each of these worlds was sufficiently introduced, the play gained momentum as characters from different time periods give monologues standing side by side, each individual woman’s troubles and questions highlighted by the struggles of the other.

The heart of the play ultimately lay in Edgerton’s Evie, a character so conflicted at the play’s beginning that she is almost completely stagnant. Through her monologues and memories of interactions with her grandparents, however, Evie came alive as the play progressed. Edgerton deftly presented these many sides of Evie, both in present and flashback, managing to create a full, human character.

If Evie was Slither’s heart, then Fanny Lou and her Adam were its soul. The onstage chemistry of the pair was impressive, as they portrayed a joyful, loving relationship, leading to some of the play’s more lighthearted moments.

An impressive musical score by Obadiah Eaves helped establish time-period and setting in each scene, easing any possible confusion during the transitions. The minimalist, mobile set also helped the action segue smoothly from one time period to another. *Slither* was a play that succeeded on many levels, tying together many women’s powerful stories of faith and fate, triumph and heartache, life and living, and of course, their inviolable relationship with snakes. Directed by Juilliard-trained Joanna Settle, the play was further helped by the contributions of playwright Carson Kreitzer, who worked with the actors during the final weeks before the show.

-Hilary Batchelder ’08

**Panoramic vision puts viewers in the action**

Quinn Franzen ’09 and Katie Edgerton ’08 scream at one another as Julia Sergeon ‘06 contemplates their questionable fashion choices.

**Women, drama and a whole lot of snakes entice in ‘Slither’**

*Slither* playwright Carson Kreitzer offered guidance for the College’s production.

Katie Ort ’08 poses languidly with one of her serpentine co-stars.
Getting personal with Clap Your Hands Say Yeah

In many ways, it was just a typical night at Williams College. We did a little dancing, made a lot of small talk, and eventually ended up in a small room drinking wine out of a plastic cup. But mixed in with the old routine were some not-so-typical rock stars, autographs and backstage passes. That night, the air sized with the stink of an idle touring bus and the wall of an electric guitar. Rock had come to Williams, and the campus had a brand new beat.

I was thrilled that my first attempt at rock journalism should be about Clap Your Hands Say Yeah, Rolling Stone’s 2005 “Hot New Band.” I did all the usual things to prepare: looked at the band photos, re-watched Almost Famous and practiced my piercing stare. I wrote down a few questions I thought would get them talking about the state of rock today and the sound of our generation. I imagined the kind of piece that would get the pierced and the dreadlocked nodding all across America: rock and roll understood as never before.

After the show, I found front man Alec Ounsworth sitting quietly off stage admiring Robert Randolph’s chops on the pedal steel guitar. I politely introduced myself and asked for an interview. He declined. His voice was already tired, he explained, and he couldn’t risk losing it altogether. He agreed to step outside for some air, however, so we parked ourselves on the steps of Rock Hall.

 Lofting rock stars, even ones in t-shirt and ripped jeans, don’t tend to go unnoticed on the streets of Williamstown. Before long, our private stoop became something of a mob scene. The man who doesn’t give interviews has found himself buffered by a hail of questions. He signed t-shirts, posed for pictures and bantered with music geeks. Suddenly I found my exclusive being usurped by kids with a three-beer buzz and no backstage pass.

Soon we were joined by guitarist and keyboardist Robbie Guertin, whose stage antics had made him a crowd favorite that night. I pointed out that his joie de vivre was a refreshing departure from indie rock’s characteristic austerity. “Actually, I just drank too much,” he replied. I realized that perhaps this foray into music journalism wouldn’t reveal a cultural zeitgeist like I’d hoped. Even Lester Bangs had his off-days.

I asked Guertin what it felt like. Did he ever pause and marvel at the band’s success? When does it hit you that, even with the constant touring and light radio play, this is pretty damn cool? “The experience is so day to day that you really have to step back to appreciate it,” he said. “Then I remember that last year we were playing in some bar for our friends, and I realize how much things have changed.”

But have they? Sure, their self-titled album has sold over 250,000 copies worldwide and they headline sold out shows, but that hasn’t stopped them from enjoying a night out in sleepy Williamstown. It’s this kind of attitude that seems so rare in the rock and roll business, and may be what sustains the success of Clap Your Hands Say Yeah into their second album. Bands that insulate themselves with sycophants and groomers can lose touch with what inspired them in the first place.

After the band set off for Boston at midnight, my friends and I settled on a bench overlooking the science quad and paused to consider the evening’s events. Munching on a pilfered cheese platter from the band’s makeshift lounge, I thought could hear the last chord hanging in the air and the distant rumble of a tour bus.

-Gillian Weeks ’06

The Rappers of Williams debut with style and substance

The song starts off like any number of hip hop songs. An enticing beat beckons behind a sing-songy chorus. “Back then, now don’t want me now, I’m hot hoss all love me,” chant a series of husky voices. The stage seems to be set for your typical rap radio track, full of references to sex, drugs and thugs. But then, strange things begin to happen. The chorus fades out and an individual rapper bursts in. “Before I came to Williams, you know these girls couldn’t stand me / now they see me in their class and they want to have my family,” the voice boasts. Within the next few lines, references to peanut butter and jelly, a 4.0 GPA and a future job at Morgan Stanley pepper the rapper’s smooth flow.

The above song, titled “A1 Anthem,” falls in the middle of The R.O.W.’s (Rappers of Williams) debut CD, “The Beginning.” Executive producer Matt Piven ’07 traced The R.O.W.’s existence back to March, when a group of students decided to make freestyling together a regular activity. The result was the Spring 05 Mixtape, recorded in the WCTM studio and distributed for free around campus last May.

When classes began again this fall, the group reconvened. Though they found their numbers diminished due to graduation and study abroad, they decided to continue rapping together. They moved their focus to the recording studio, meeting regularly in the WCTM space to rap, record and edit. As of late November, the disc was a single edit and executive board members had been voted out from distribution.

The economics major in Piven really came out when he discusses the group’s plans for selling the CD. “Last spring with the mix tape, people would just see free CD and take it, not caring what was on it,” he said. This time, the group will charge $1 per CD, a price that won’t be prohibitively high for interested students, but will deter those who might otherwise use the disk as a coaster on those nights when it is essential to ‘pour some out’ for homies dead or in the struggle.

Piven hoped that the getting the music out will pique the interest of potential rappers. “I think it’ll make some people step up,” he said. He noted that he knew a number of people who freestyle on their own in private who just don’t know about other forums on campus. Piven said that he freestyled casually for years before “getting serious” and recording his rhymes in a journal and recording them, a trajectory common to aspiring rappers with few outlets.

The CD itself is a solid, entertaining first effort that pays homage to its academic environment. Track one opens with a spoken introduction about RNA polymerase and Okazaki fragments. The first words rapped are cautionary: “Now I’m not trying to elevate expectations,” a voice spits tentatively as the beat kicks up in the background. The songs that follow vary widely in tone and theme, but generally have a much more intellectual bent than your average rap tracks. Concerns regarding the current sociological and political environment, meditations on biochemistry and calls to civic action (“we got kids setting fires”) all surface throughout the album.

Occasionally the contributors sound a bit awkward, as if afraid that they might sound silly. At points they do. References to high GPAs and student organizations are often followed by lines about girls “throwing their panties” to the rappers, a contrast some might find a little laughable.

That said, however, it’s undeniable that the group keeps it real throughout. They are unapologetic about the fact that they are Williams students who rap, making their meditations all the more relatable. As one rapper observes on “What’s Dominating Your Mind: “The world sure looks small from a little Schow car.” While most of us have never set thought to a beat, but it’s hardly foreign to the less rhythmically inclined. As such, The R.O.W. show promise as different kind of voice speaking for the Williams community. Fans will just have to hope that their time spent rapping won’t negatively impact those 4.0s they so love to drop.

-Sayd Randle ’08
Commencement 2006

Traditions live on at Williams’ 217th exercises

From the first Commencement on Sept. 2, 1975, when Williams awarded degrees to four men in an old meetinghouse, to this year’s open-air Commencement for hundreds of graduates in a packed Science Quad, the Williams Commencement ceremony has changed both in setting and magnitude. Even so, the College’s 217th Commencement exercises will remain rooted in traditions of the past.

Among traditional Commencement weekend events are the dropping of a watch from the tower of Thompson Memorial Chapel and Ivy Exercises at West College. Recently, newer traditions such as Lightnight have been included in the weekend’s events.

**STOPPING TIME FROM 80 FEET UP**

The class president and vice president ascend the tower of Thompson Memorial Chapel on Class Day to drop a watch, as has been tradition for over eight decades. The watch breaks when it hits the concrete 80 feet below, signifying good luck for the graduating class. The first watch-drop occurred in 1916 and was, according to that year’s June 21 issue of The Springfield Republican, a “spur of the moment” event.

In the last 90 years, the tradition of breaking a watch by dropping it from the top of Thompson has come to symbolize the stopping of time and, perhaps, the preservation of college memories. After singing the College song, “The Mountains,” the 1916 graduating class was debating what effect a fall from the top of the Chapel tower would have on a human body. Wanting to perform the test on an object with a reputation of being unbreakable, the class decided to use an Ingersoll watch. They gathered enough money to buy what the Republican article termed a “dollar brand” variety. The original dropped watch survived its fall and stood up to its reputation. The same article stated that the watch “was found, imbedded in the earth, somewhat battered and beaten, the case very much scratched, but the works still ticking valiantly away.” Because the breaking of the watch has come to symbolize good luck, class presidents in recent years have purchased watches that are more inclined to break.

In past years, Goodman’s Jewellers on Spring Street donated a pocket watch. Although they no longer do so, they still embed the watch that is purchased with the College seal.

This year, class president Eliza Davison and vice president Megan O’Malley will drop the watch. If the watch does not break after the first drop, then the two must run back up to the top of the chapel and re-drop the watch until it does break. There have been very strong opinions about the dropping or throwing techniques that should be used in the past. Traditionalists believe that the watch should only be dropped once. Those more concerned with the future of the graduating class recommend that the president throw the watch — hard.

A close look at the target area in front of Thompson reveals a concrete pathway flanked by grass on both sides. Although the watch would probably not break if it were to land on the grass, the concrete pathway is hard to miss. Still, every year before the watch is dropped, the class president becomes concerned that the watch will miss the concrete and land safely in the grass.

Grading seniors walk from the Science Quad to West College through a line of professors to greet family and friends after the Commencement ceremony. Below, the class of 2005 President and Vice President plant ivy as is tradition at the base of West.

An even larger fear for several class presidents with vertigo has been leaning over the edge of the tower in order to launch the watch. Tradition says that the class president and vice president must not have their feet on the ground when they release the watch. Consequently, security officers are on hand to hold the president and vice presidents’ feet and make sure that no one topples over the edge of the tower.

Once the watch breaks, Davison and O’Malley are entitled to its remains. Usually, the president receives the engraved back and the vice president the inner workings.

**PLANTING IVY AT WEST COLLEGE**

During Ivy Exercises, the class president and vice president plant the class ivy next to West College. The class poet composes a poem to be performed at the event. A performance by the class musician and a speech about the experiences of the class by the class historian are also included in the ceremony. Although the origin of the tradition is unknown, there are references to it in Class Day programs as early as 1861.

The class poet, musician and historian are selected by the senior class. For the class of 2006 Miriam Lawrence and Drews Griffin are the poet and musician, respectively. Adam Bloch is the historian.

The planting ceremony symbolizes an expression of solidarity with other classes. In addition, as members of the Class of 2006 start new lives away from Williams, the ivy the class planted together will continue to grow. Like the ivy, over time the senior class will branch out in different directions, always remaining rooted in Williams.

**GATHERING FOR LIGHTNIGHT**

Lightnight, first held in 1986, is quickly becoming a popular tradition. Stephen Fix, dean of the College from 1985 to 1992, helped create Lightnight in an effort to expand the number of events held during Commencement weekend that students, faculty and families could participate in together. “[Lightnight] is very well attended, and it gives people a gathering place Saturday evening,” Fix said.

“We wanted to do something involving light, something that would make the campus look dramatically different from every other night.” Held on the eve of Commencement, Lightnight bathes the Williams College Museum of Art with the soft light of thousands of candles and strings of Christmas lights. In past years, the event was typically held at Baxter Hall, but it was brought to the museum because of construction taking place at the site of the new student center.
National Fellowships

FULBRIGHT GRANT
Dale C. Anderson
Jiaying Fan
Rabin M. Kim
Andrew L. Lee
Kathryn J. Lewkowski
Katherine M. Majzoub
Janaki M. O'Brien
Lisa Perez
Makela B. Robinson

THOMAS J. WATSON FELLOWSHIP
Katherine M. Majzoub

U.S. ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIP
Kimberly M. Gilbert

Graduate Fellowships

HORACE F. CLARK, CLASS OF 1833, PRIZE FELLOWSHIP
Awarded to members of the senior class chosen on the basis of superior scholarship, general ability, and interest in scholarly research: Yo Xu

DOROTHY H. DONOVAN AND JOHN EDMUND MOODY FELLOWSHIP
Alissa R. Caron

FRANCIS SESSIONS HUTCHINS, CLASS OF 1900, MEMORIAL FELLOWSHIP PRIZE
To a senior who gives promise through personality and mental or moral qualities of becoming a useful, worthy, and lovable citizen: Catherine E. Mercado
Evan M. Miller

CLASS OF 1925 FLORENCE CHANDLER FELLOWSHIP
Benjamin T. Brown

DR. HERCHEL SMITH FELLOWSHIPS
Established by Smith for two years of study at Emmanuel College, Cambridge University: Oliver T. Burton
Marcus M. Daywend
Francesca N. Marzullo
Julianne Shively
Ashleigh B. Thiberg

HUBBARD HUTCHINSON, CLASS OF 1917, MEMORIAL FELLOWSHIP
 Allison G. Burgner
 Minam F. Lawrence
 Tolla Madamon
 Rebecca A. Phillips
 Christopher R. Torre

CARROLL A. WILSON AND ALLEN MARTIN FELLOWSHIPS
Jessica L. Lovas

WILLIAMS IN AFRICA POST GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP
Emily B. Wasserman

General Awards

WILLIAM BRADFORD TURNER, CLASS OF 1914, CITIZENSHIP PRIZE
Awarded to the member of the graduating class who, in the judgment of the faculty and of the graduating class, has best fulfilled his or her obligations to the College, to fellow students and to self. To be announced at Commencement.

DEWEY PRIZE
Awarded to the member of the graduating class who presents the most creditable oration in point of composition and delivery at the Commencement exercises. To be awarded after Commencement.

The Williams Record congratulates the Class of 2006
Special congratulations to our graduating editors:
Ainsley O’Connell, Hayley Wynn, Steven Myers, Kim Fassler, Aaron Pinsky, Chris Richardson, Zach Ulman, Galen Glaze, Emily Novik, Gillian McBride

Prizes

JOHN SABIN ADRIANCE, CLASS OF 1983, PRIZE IN CHEMISTRY
To the student who has maintained the highest rank in all courses in chemistry.
Hang Song

CHARLES R. ALBERTI, CLASS OF 1919, AWARD
Olufunmilayo A. Olosunde

ROBERT G. BARROW MEMORIAL PRIZE FOR MUSIC COMPOSITION
Samuel W. Clapp

ERASTUS C. BENEDICT, 1821, PRIZES
Endowed by a fund given by Erasmus C. Benedict, Class of 1821, once an instructor at the College. The prizes are given in a variety of fields in order to recognize excellence.
Biology: First Prize: Ian J. Barbour
Second Prize: Gillian L. Sowden
French: First Prize: Ruxandra Paul
Second Prize: Sarah E. Reinus

GAIUS C. BOLIN, 1889, ESSAY PRIZE IN AFRO-AMERICAN STUDIES
Not announced at press time

RUSSELL H. BOSTERT THESIS PRIZE IN HISTORY
Karl D. Naden

KENNETH L. BROWN, CLASS OF 1947, PRIZE IN AMERICAN STUDIES
Masaniko M. Fox

STERLING A. BROWN, CLASS OF 1922, CITIZENSHIP PRIZE
Awarded to the graduating senior whose undergraduate experience reflects outstanding leadership, high academic achievement and communication of new ideas, with preference to members of the Black Student Union. Not announced at press time

BULLOCK POETRY PRIZE OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF POETS
Eric V. Markowsky

W. MARRIOTT CANBY CLASS OF 1891 ATHLETIC SCHOLARSHIP PRIZE
Not announced at press time

CLASS OF 1925 WOMEN’S SCHOLAR-Athlete PRIZE
To that woman athlete whose commitment to excellence in athletics and scholarship is an inspiration to the Williams community. The recipient is selected by a committee that includes representatives of the athletic department faculty, the graduating class and the dean’s office. Katherine R. Mygatt

WILLIAMS COLLEGE COMMUNITY BUILDERS OF THE YEAR
Alissa R. Caron
Olufunmilayo A. Olosunde

JAMES BRONSON CONANT, CLASS OF 1893-NATHAN RUSSELL HARRINGTON, CLASS OF 1893, PRIZE IN BIOLOGY
Established by the Class of 1893, in memory of two classmates, the prize is awarded by the department for outstanding work in biology.
Oliver T. Burton

DORIS DEKEYSERLINGK PRIZE IN RUSSIAN
A book award annually by the department of Russian in honor of Doris deKeyserlingk, teacher of Russian at Williams College from 1958 to 1971, to a student who has earned distinction in Russian studies.
Sara D. Beach

GARRETT WRIGHT DE-VRIES, CLASS OF 1932, MEMORIAL PRIZE IN ROMANCE LANGUAGES
Bryan L. Dragon

JEAN DONATI STUDENT EMPLOYEE AWARDS IN MUSIC
Awarded to the member or members of the graduating class who have done the most for the music department as a student employee during their years at Williams.
Joseph W. Gangsted

HENRY A. DWIGHT, CLASS OF 1829, BOTANICAL PRIZE
Abigail D. McBride

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES COMMITTEE AWARD
Erin E. Blanchard

NICHOLAS P. FERSEN PRIZE IN RUSSIAN
Timothy M. Gallagher

FREEMAN FOOTE PRIZE IN GEOLOGY
Nora L. Matell

ROBERT W. FRIDRICH AWARD IN SOCIOLOGY
Rachel L. Winch

GILBERT W. GABRIEL, CLASS OF 1912, MEMORIAL PRIZE IN THEATRE
Established in 1963 by friends of Mr. Gabriel, the award is given to the senior who has made the most notable contribution to the advancement of theater at Williams.
Lavonna M. Bowen

SAM GOLDBERG PRIZES
Established to honor students who have made the best colloquium presentations in mathematics and computer science.
Computer Science: Laura Effinger-Dean
Mathematics: Heather D. Casteel
Ruoweng Liu

FRANK C. GOODRICH 1945 AWARD IN CHEMISTRY
Geoffrey P. O’Donoghue

WILLIAM C. GRANT, JR., PRIZE IN BIOLOGY
In honor of Professor Grant, who retired in 1991 from the biology department after 35 years of service. Awarded to the senior biology major who has demonstrated the highest excellence and greatest insights in integrating different fields within the biological sciences.
Mano M. Frost
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<th>Prize Name</th>
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<td><strong>AWARD PRIZE</strong></td>
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<td><strong>PRIZE IN MUSIC</strong></td>
<td>William W. Kleinhandler</td>
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<td><strong>FOR MUSIC</strong></td>
<td>Established in 1991 in memory of Mr. Kleinhandler; Class of 1950, awarded for excellence in music.</td>
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<td><strong>MORGAN PRIZE IN MATHEMATICS</strong></td>
<td>John W. Miller</td>
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<td><strong>FOR IN PHILOSOPHY</strong></td>
<td>Julianne Shelby</td>
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<td><strong>URSULA PRESCOTT ESSAY PRIZE IN POLITICAL SCIENCE</strong></td>
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<td><strong>RUZANDA PAUL</strong></td>
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<td><strong>JEREMY A. WERTZ</strong></td>
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<td><strong>RICHARD LATHERS, 1977, ESSAY PRIZE IN GOVERNMENTAL STUDIES</strong></td>
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<td><strong>PHOEBE FISCHER-GRABAN</strong></td>
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<td><strong>WILLIAMS COLLEGE MULTICULTURAL CENTER STUDENT OF THE YEAR</strong></td>
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<td><strong>THOMAS J. JUNIPER</strong></td>
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<td><strong>JENNIFER S. HERMANSKI</strong></td>
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<td><strong>ARThUR JUDSON PRIZE IN MUSIC</strong></td>
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<td><strong>ESTABLISHED IN 1984 THROUGH A GIFT FROM THE ARThUR JUDSON FOUNDATION, THIS PRIZE, AWARDED BY THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT, GOES TO A STUDENT WHO HAS DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENTS IN MUSIC, WITH PREFERENCE TO STUDENTS PLANNING CAREERS IN MUSIC MANAGEMENT OR MUSIC ADMINISTRATION</strong></td>
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<td><strong>EMILY M. BONEN</strong></td>
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CDE Graduates

The Center for Development Economics will graduate its 2006 class at this year’s Commencement exercises. With the successful completion of a year of intense study, graduates of the CDE are awarded master’s degrees or certificates in development economics. These are the candidates who are expected to receive the master of arts in development economics.

Alejandro A. Acosta
Syed K. Akhtar
Blake C. Albohm
Alexander S. Bal
Mary Catherine Blanton
Ian W. Bone
Alissa R. Caron
Tiffany W.-C. Chao
Jessica J. Davis
Eliza A. Davison
Peter R. Desloge
Meghan E. Dwyer
Jessica M. England
Ilya Feldsherov
Sasha Gsovski
Elissa A. Hardy
Joseph A. Hutchinson
Deyon M. Johnson

Art History Graduate Program

Fourteen students who have completed a two-year course of study in the history of art will be awarded masters degrees during this year’s commencement exercises.

Hannah Ivy Blumenthal
New Orleans, La.

Susanna Maria Brooks
El Paso, Texas

Rachel Lane Hooper
Lexington, Ky.

Emilie Katherine Johnson
Memphis, Tenn.

Miranda Isabel Lash
Los Angeles, Calif.

Jacob Warren Lewis
Arnold, Md.

Susannah Noel Maurer
Pittsburgh, Penn.

Menaka K. Jayawardena
Sri Lanka

Lila Kadyrbekova
Kyrgyz Republic

Mahmood-ul-Hasan Khan
Pakistan

Muhammad Mazhar Khan
Pakistan

Akhadbek Y. Khaydarov
Uzbekistan

Giorgi Laliashvili
Georgia

Soha Farouk Mahfouz
Lebanon

Stephen Mbewe
Zambia

Erica Maria Narvaez
Honduras

Aissatou Ouedraogo
Burkina Faso

Pham Hoai Nam
Vietnam

Jerson Rogelio Posada Molina
El Salvador

Horacio Prudencio
Benin

Leila Abou Nehme Sawaya
Lebanon

Mary Dailey Pattee
New York, N.Y.

Allison Mortimer Perdue
Salisbury, Md.

Amanda Kate Potter
Glens Falls, N.Y.

Miranda Jane Routh
Spokane, Wash.

Elizabeth Dorsey Satton
Dallas, Texas

Kerin Anne Sulock
Haddon Heights, N.J.

Jason Andrew Vrooman
Alexandria Bay, N.Y.

Agents of the Class of 2006

Jeffrey A. Kivitz
Laura C. Kolesar
Louise E. Kushner
Christine C. Layng
Suji Lim
Cassandra A. Montenegro
Laura A. Noel
Ariel E. Peters
Aaron M. Pinsky
Meaghan K. Rathvon
M. Esa Seegulam
Tamara Springle
Ezemudi R. Ukaonu
Edward R. Unger
Travis F. Vachon
Thomas J. Zimmerman

Class of 2006 Officers

**PRESIDENT**
Eliza A. Davison

**VICE PRESIDENT**
Megan P. O'Malley

**SECRETARY**
Ariel E. Peters

**TREASURER**
Andrew N. Pocius

**MARSHALS**
Victoria V. Fernandez
M. Esa Seegulam

**SPEAKER**
Evan M. Miller

**POET**
Miriam F. Lawrence

**MUSICIAN**
Drees C. Griffin, Jr.

**HISTORIAN**
Adam Bloch

**TOASTER**
Adam S. Ain

**ARTIST**
Christopher R. Yorke
Sports

Football tops Amherst to win Little Three

In front of a Homecoming crowd of over 10,000 gathered at Weston Field in perfect fall weather, football (6-2) finished off its season in impressive fashion, recording a 34-23 victory over Amherst (5-3).

The win gave the Ephs sole possession of the Little Three title and extended their winning streak to six games. Williams finished tied for third in the NESCAC with Bowdoin (6-2); the team’s only two losses of the season came in the first two weeks of the season at hands of first-place Trinity (8-0) and second-place Colby (7-1). Amherst, now winless in Williams-town for 20 years, finished fifth. The Ephs’ 6-2 mark matches their record from 2004.

“There’s no better feeling than this,” Head Coach Mike Whalen said. “It’s been a whirlwind of a season.”

The Ephs started out shaky, giving up a touchdown on the Jeffs’ opening drive. The march was led by running back Nga Otieno ’06 and wide receiver Mark Hannon ’07, both of whom picked up major yardage on the ground. Quarterback Nick Kohou ’07 also hit wide receiver Mike Myers ’08 for two straight first downs during the 11-play, 69-yard drive. Hannon’s three-yard touchdown run and a successful point-after attempt, gave the Jeffs an early 7-0 lead.

“After the first drive, we knew we just had to settle down and just stop their run,” tri-captain and safety Kevin Greener ’06 said. “Luckily, we were able to swing the momentum and turn the game in our favor.”

But the Ephs took a while to heat up. After an 18-yard completion from quarterback Pat Lucsy ’08 (14-for-26 for 149 yards) to wide receiver Joe Drenckhahn ’07 (six grabs for 70 yards), the Eph offense failed to advance the ball. Forced to punt, Brendan Fulmer ’07 booted a beauty to the three-yard line to pin the Jeffs deep in their own territory.

The defense held tough and held Amherst to a three-and-out, but running back Kevin Flynn ’08 fumbled the punt return to give the Jeffs the ball right back.

“If we always tell the kids not to worry about the start of the game,” Whalen said. “Don’t get too high, don’t get too low, just keep it focused and stay in it for 60 minutes.”

The Ephs appeared to take that advice to heart, hanging in and eventually getting on the board in the opening minute of the second quarter on a 37-yard Fulmer field goal. Williams scored its first touchdown seven minutes later on a 16-yard pass from Sean Gleeson ’07 (8-for-10 for 139 yards and a touchdown) to tight end Jim O’Leary ’07 (team-high seven grabs for 34 yards and two touchdowns). The touchdown capped a 10-play, 89-yard drive that saw Gleeson go 4-for-5, including a 34-yard completion to starting cornerback Elliott Mothe ’07 to start the drive.

Amherst hit a 26-yard field goal with under a minute remaining in the second quarter to tie the score up at 10-10 heading into halftime.

“Told the team at halftime, I’m going to tell you why we’re not going to lose this game, and that’s the seniors,” Whalen said.

In the second half, the Ephs got tough on both sides of the ball. The defense wore down the Jeffs, holding Otieno, who averaged 102.5 yards per game as the NESCAC’s top rusher, to just 53 yards on the afternoon. Amherst mastered just 293 yards of offense, while Williams collected 488 yards. The Ephs recorded six tackles for losses totaling 24 yards, including two sacks, and deflected three passes. Linebackers Nick Terson ’08 (2.5 tackles for losses) and Jon Dolan ’07 (11 tackles, five solo) led the defense.

Williams put up 10 unanswered points in the third quarter to break open the game. The Ephs opened the third quarter with a 13-play, 75-yard drive, powered by 35 yards on the ground from running back Brian Morrisey ’09.

Running back Elijah Weeks ’08 then took over on first and 10 from the 14-yard line, and, after a gain of eight yards, rushed into the end zone from six yards out for the score. Fulmer’s point after made it 17-10.

Morrisey, who rushed 18 times for 119 yards (6.6 yards per carry), became the only Eph back to transcend the 100-yard plateau this season with his effort during the Homecoming game and earned NESCAC Rookie of the Week honors for his performance.

Fulmer hit another field goal — this one a 28-yarder — four minutes later, to put the Ephs up 20-

Jonathan Poppe ’07 and Tim Burbridge ’06 combine to break up an Amherst pass attempt.

27-17 and get the Jeffs back into the game. But the Ephs answered with a Cory Catelli ’07 three-yard dive into the end zone on their ensuing drive. The Jeffs fought back with another Amherst touchdown four minutes later, but their downside kick attempt failed. The Ephs held onto the ball, earning two first downs, and ran out the clock for the 34-23 win.

— Meghan Stetson ’07

...and the rest

FIELD HOCKEY
FINAL RECORD: 14-5
FINAL NESCAC RECORD: B-2 (2ND)

Upper-mind field hockey failed to knock off No. 3 Ursinus College in the second round of the NCAA tournament. The Ephs trailed by as much as three, when they mounted a second-half comeback campaign. The onslaught wasn’t enough to erase the deficit, however, as the women fell 5-4.

Williams earned its NCAA playoff berth with an at-large bid after losing, 1-0, to undefeated Bowdoin in the NESCAC championship.

Defenders Jaye Gregory ’06 and Emily Granjon ’06 and forward Meghan McGowan ’09 were named NFHCA All-Americans.

WOMEN’S SOCCER
FINAL RECORD: 9-5-1
FINAL NESCAC RECORD: 5-3-1 (4TH)

Women’s soccer remained silent throughout the NESCAC first-round matchup against Bates, as the Bobcats advanced with a 1-0 win.

Jessica Hing ’07 earned Second-Team All-NESCAC honors, and Sarah Ginsburg ’07 joined the Third Team.

WOMEN’S CREW
HEAD OF FISH CHAMPIONS

Women’s crew capped its fall season with a championship finish, as the varsity eight claimed first in the Head of Fish regatta. They proceeded that with second place finishes at both the Head of the Charles and Stonehill regattas.

In the first regatta of the season the women finished fifth

WOMEN’S TENNIS
SECOND IN NEWITT

In the closing tournament of the year, the young women’s tennis team captured second place, behind host Amherst. Their 34 points at the New England Intercollegiate Tennis Tournament (NEWITT) were enough to edge third-place Middlebury.

VOLLEYBALL
FINAL RECORD: 18-13
FINAL NESCAC RECORD: 7-5 (7 FOR 3RD)

The Ephs’ season came to a close with a 3-0 loss to Colby in the NESCAC semis. The Mules, ranked first in New England, cruised to the title with a 3-0 win over Tufts.

Annie Denison ’06 and Alexis Kneep ’07 were both named to the NESCAC First Team. Denison finished her Williams career tied in kills with 2072.

MEN’S GOLF

NESCAC CHAMPIONS

On holding on to a one-stroke advantage going into the second day of the conference tournament, men’s golf used a 71 from Matt Slovitz ’06 to capture the championship, finishing a convincing seven strokes ahead of Hamilton to repeat as NESCAC champions. The Ephs have won the title five of the last six years for a grand total of nine conference crowns, the most of any NESCAC team.

WOMEN’S GOLF
SECOND IN THE NESCAC

With a second-place finish in the annual conference tourney, women’s golf turned out its best finish in the program’s short history. The women finished with a score of 697 to host Middlebury’s 653.

COURTESY OF SPORTS INFORMATION
Men’s soccer eliminated in NCAA Elite 8

As hard as it is to accept, especially for Eph faithful so accustomed to success, sometimes the other team wins. Men’s soccer (16-3) learned this lesson the hard way when it dropped a 1-0 decision to SUNY Plattsburgh in the quarterfinal of the NCAA Tournament, bringing its impressive season to a premature end. Just three wins away from winning the national title they set out to bring home at the start of the season, the Ephs were left to spend Thanksgiving at home rather than at the Final Four in Greensboro, N.C.

Williams roared into Plattsburgh, N.Y., on Friday afternoon, prepared to face St. Lawrence in the Sweet 16 on Saturday. The Ephs’ confidence was soaring after a weekend where they outscored a pair of opponents by a combined score of 6-0 to advance. Williams wanted no time justifying the optimism, scoring less than five minutes into the contest and never looking back en route to a 3-0 win over St. Lawrence.

Just four minutes into the game, Kit Fuderich ’08 provided his team with an early goal off an assist from NESCAC Player of the Year Josh Bolton ’06. The Ephs dominated the rest of the half, but failed to connect on another score. Williams opened the second half in the same fashion in which they had opened the first—with a quick goal.

In the 49th minute, Eph leading scorer Patrick Huffer ’07 scored perhaps the most spectacular goal of his brilliant season. Standing at 20 yards out with the ball, the junior forward displayed incredible footwork, faking a shot to commit the goalie and the defender in one direction. Then he buried an 18-yard missile just inside the left post to give the Ephs a 2-0 lead and some breathing room.

Later in the half, Huffer drew a foul inside the offensive box to earn his third penalty shot of the season. St. Lawrence keeper Emilnio Coletta made a brilliant save on Huffer’s initial kick, but he could not retain possession. Brett Olsen ’07 converged on the loose ball and put away his first goal of the season. Just over 30 minutes later, Williams walked off the field with a 3-0 win and the right to face host Plattsburgh, winner over Western New England in the other Sweet 16 match, in the Elite Eight.

After 45 minutes of incredibly well-fought but scoreless soccer, Plattsburgh scored the only goal of the game a mere 21 seconds into the second half.

Senior captain Tim Stanley took a pass on the left sideline as he streaked towards the endline. The imposing forward sent a perfect crossing pass to the far post, where junior midfielder Ryan Forberg one-timed it into the upper right hand corner of the goal. Williams’ goalkeeper Nick Armington ’06 never had a chance. It was the first and last goal allowed by the Eph defense in the NCAA Tournament this year and it snatched a stretch of 31 straight shutout minutes.

“I thought we played a great first half,” Matt Biloedeu ’06 said. “We were inches away from being up 2-0. But in the early second half, we had a defensive breakdown and Plattsburgh proved that they are a good team.”

The Ephs, who had two goals called back on the day, came close many times but never scored an equalizer. While clearly disappointed by the results, every Eph was quick to praise the strong play of their opponents.

“I was a tough loss,” Tommy Day ’07 said. “We know that if we had gotten a few lucky bounces here and there the result could have gone our way, since the game was pretty even. But Plattsburgh was definitely the best team we have played and the victory was by no means undeserved.”

“We have nothing to hang our heads about,” said Huffer, who finished as the team leader in goals and points for the second straight year. “Plattsburgh was a good team, and to their credit they came out on top. We are a great team as well, and while it didn’t fall our way, we’re still proud of the effort we made.”

This marked the second straight year that a team from the SUNY system ended the season for Williams. Last year, SUNY Geneseo accomplished that feat in the Elite Eight.

Fortunately for the Ephs, instead of spending the next few months lamenting what-might-have-been this fall, it seems the team has plenty of encouraging reasons to dream of what-could-be next year.

“This loss hurts, but all we can do is learn from it and find out what we need to do differently next year,” Dana Leary ’07 said. “We have a lot of talent coming back and I know we will do what it takes to make sure we end up where we want to be.”

—Alex Tanton ’07

Holtschulte takes Div. III men’s cross country title

Although men’s cross country failed to qualify for the team competition at the NCAA Championships, Neal Holtschulte ’06 and Stephen Wills ’07 represented the Ephs as individual qualifiers. With the significant advantage of plenty of experience on the mountains of Williamsport all fall, the two men hoped to conquer Ohio’s hills and improve on their placements from last season.

For Holtschulte, the runner-up at the 2004 Championships, an improvement would mean his first individual NCAA title. Wills, meanwhile, hoped to bring home All-American honors for the first time in his career. Both came up big. Holtschulte won the NCAA title in a time of 25:13 and Wills crossed the line in 26:18, good for 30th place.

“I was all set to give Neal the speech about being the first man at Williams to be an All-American all four years,” Head Coach Peter Farwell said. “I was going to tell him that finishing in the top 10 was not bad, because [before the race] I thought that there were six or seven guys that should finish ahead of him. He ran a great race.”

After an injury-ridden year, Holtschulte proved himself the toughest and smartest racer in the field by controlling his pace for the first four miles and jumping to the lead at just the right time.

Wills ran a very intelligent race as well, pushing himself with a large pack of runners all set on collecting the All-American honors awarded to the top 35 finishers. With about a mile to go, Wills had slipped back slightly and seemed to be right on the bubble. But, with the help of a strong kick over the last 300 meters, he propelled himself into 30th place.

Women’s XC comes in 2nd place at NCAAs

Women’s cross country pulled out a strong finish to yet another impressive season on Nov. 19 at the NCAA Championships in Delaware, Ohio, where the Ephs placed second overall. After the program graduated five of its top seven runners from last fall’s NCAA title team, few expected Williams to challenge for its second straight win this year. But four All-American performances put the Ephs right back in contention in 2005, as they landed in second place with 107 points, SUNY Geneseo won the meet with 88 points, while Washington University at St. Louis claimed third, Wisconsin-Lacrosse took fourth and Colby placed fifth.

The strides made by 2004 scorers co-captain Caroline Coletti ’06 and Liz Glasgow ’08 over the last year combined with the return of Michelle Rorke ’06 from studying abroad and the emergence of Mallory Harlin ’06 provided the firepower needed for another trip to the podium. As has been the case all season, three Eph rookies also ran incredible races in the pressure-filled environment; Becky Davies ’09 came through with the best of the three to round out the scoring top-five.

Though frost pushed back the start of the championship race by an hour, perfect weather greeted the racers as things got underway at noon. The Ohio Wesleyan course consisted of a 6000 meter (3.72 mile) muddy, hilly path. Coletti quickly established herself in the lead pack, as several runners bolted to the front and set a fast early pace. Glasgow and Rorke ran together slightly back in the pack, followed by a rush of bodies that contained Harlin, Davies, Kristen Emmhof ’09 and Lauren Philbrook ’09. The race continued over the mud and hills, and Coletti found herself slipping back slightly and starting to lose one of her shoes near the finishing chute. She recovered to sprint across the line in sixth place in 22:08. It was the third top-10 finish of her career at the NCAA Championships.

Gleason displayed a ferocious kick near the end of the race, passing several runners in the last 100 meters to finish 14th in 22:37. Her bold move set the tone for the Ephs: as many opponents struggled to climb the final hill, the women of Williams, well-acclimated to steep terrain, propelled themselves past the competition down the stretch.

Rorke collected 17th place in 22:42 and Harlin finished 26th in 22:53, both All-American performances. At this point Williams led all other teams. Though the rookies exceeded expectations, a few too many competitors snuck past the finish line before Davies (116th), Emmhof (118th) and Philbrook (127th), allowing SUNY Geneseo to seal the crown.

“Four All-Americans is the second most we’ve ever had,” Head Coach Peter Farwell said. “Caroline closed out an amazing career being an All-American three times and Michelle came back to be an All-American after two years off.”

—Andy Stevenson ’07
Women's basketball (23-6) had never lost at the half in this year's NCAA championship tournament, and the NCAA Sweet 16 contest against Baldwin-Wallace was no exception. But this time Williams failed to dig themselves from the early hole and ultimately fell 68-61. Their 23 wins, No. 23 national ranking and Sweet 16 appearance mark the Ephs' most successful run since the 1998-99 season.

"Overall, this was an excellent year for our team and I'm so proud of everything that we've accomplished," co-captain Meghan O'Malley '07 said.

After upsetting Messiah, Williams failed to regain the form that propelled them to the Sweet 16. Prospects looked bright in the opening minutes of play when the Ephs jumped out to a 5-3 lead. But a Yellow Jacket trey gave Baldwin-Wallace the lead four minutes into the game, an advantage they would never relinquish.

Things only got worse when clumsy ball-handling and a tenacious Yellow Jacket defense led to 18 turnovers in the first frame. Baldwin-Wallace converted the women's mistakes into points, netting 19 of their 36 first-half points directly off turnovers. After shooting a lackluster 28.6 percent (6-of-21) from the floor, the Ephs filed into the locker room down 36-20.

The game was as close as 20-16 with just over six minutes in the half, but an 8-0 Yellow Jacket run gave them the commanding lead.

O'Malley got the ball rolling in the second half, driving in for a lay-up just ten seconds in. From there, the hot-handed Ephs went on a 9-1 run to bring the game to 37-29 with a full 15 minutes left on the clock. It seemed as if the women had finally found their mark, improving on their substandard first half shooting with a 48.4 percent accuracy rating (15-of-31) in the second.

But the women couldn't stay hot forever. Capitalizing on more Eph turnovers the Yellow Jackets scored to an 18 point lead with just 8:20 left. With elimination looming, co-captain Colleen Hession '06 again rallied her troops, driving the baseline for two quick points. Ellen Wilk '07 came off the bench for 10 second half points, draining several freebies in the subsequent minutes to shave the Yellow Jacket lead to 10 with 3:22 left.

In a last ditch attempt to recover possession, the Ephs sent the Yellow Jackets to the line. Baldwin-Wallace hit both foul shots to kill all hopes of a Williams comeback.

In her final game in purple and gold, Hession led all scorers with 17 points. She finishes her career third all-time in the Ephs' scoring ladder, with a total of 1340 points. Her 233 three-point field goals make her Williams' career leader in that category.

Maggie Miller '07 had 15 points and nine boards, while Wilk added 12 points off the bench.

— Kevin Waite '09

...and the rest

**MEN'S BASKETBALL**

**FINAL RECORD:** 17-4
**FINAL NESCAC RECORD:** 5-4 (6TH)

Men's basketball lost its first round game of the NESCAC tournament to Tufts, cutting its season short. The Ephs racked up an impressive 89 points, but the Jumbos could not be caught. They shot 51 percent from the field for a total of 101 points and a come victory. NESCAC champions in 2003 and 2004, the Ephs headed home for the second year in a row without advancing in the tournament.

Chris Rose '08 led the team in total points and rebounds with 447 and 185, respectively. He was named to the All-NESCAC Second Team and the All-Region Third Team for his standout year.

**WOMEN'S ICE HOCKEY**

**FINAL RECORD:** 14-11-1
**FINAL NESCAC RECORD:** 11-5-1 (3RD)

Despite a thrilling midseason win over powerhouse Middlebury, women's ice hockey couldn't quite conquer Bowdoin in the NESCAC semifinals. The Polar Bears edged out the Ephs, 2-1.

Rachel Barr '06 was selected for the NESCAC second team.

**MEN'S WRESTLING**

**FINAL RECORD:** 14-9
**5TH AT NEW ENGLANDS**

Wrestling boasted an incredibly deep team this year, posting wins across the weight classes and taking fifth at the New Englands. Jon Dolas '07 placed sixth at the NCAA championships and earned All-America honors. James Sheehan '06 and Max Pinto '08 also held top rankings.

**MEN'S SQUASH**

EIGHTH IN THE NATION

Men's squash won its seventh straight Little Three title this year. Following another victory over Amherst, Williams took second place to Trinity in the inaugural NESCAC tournament. Upon reaching the top eight in the country, and playing in the national championships, the Ephs earned the Most Improved Team award at the National Championships at Princeton.

**WOMEN'S SQUASH**

EIGHTH IN THE NATION

After a shaky start to the season, women's squash came back to defend its Little Three crown, beating both Amherst and Wesleyan, 9-0. The women also held onto their eighth place national ranking, finishing in the top division at the national championships.

**SKIING**

**14TH AND 15TH AT NATIONALS**

Coming off of several top carnival finishes, the women's team earned a 14th place finish at NCAAs, while the men's team finished in 15th. Alpine skiers Cecily O'Malley '08, Charles Christianson '08 and Eric Mann '09 had particularly strong seasons. Christianson and Mann earned All-America honors.

**INDOOR TRACK AND FIELD**

**DIV. III NEW ENGLAND CHAMPIONS**

The men and women once again defended the Div. III indoor New England championships titles. The women went on to take second in the nation and the men tied for 20th at the NCAA national championships. At NCAAs, Caroline Creti '06 raced far ahead of the pack on the 5000 meter run and won All-American honors.
Women’s swimming places third at NCAAs

Women’s swimming ended its season with a bang at the University of Minnesota this past weekend, as the twelve qualifying members captured third place at the Div. III NCAA Championships.

“I am just very happy and very proud of the way everyone worked,” said Head Coach Steve Kuster. “This was a very, very good meet for us.” Swimmers from all grades contributed in the Ephs’ strong performance. Kristan McLeod ‘09, Mary Wilson Molen ‘09 and Amanda Nicholson ‘09 were among the first years on the squad.

Meghan Faughnan ’06, Lindsay Payne ’06, Crissy Hales ’06 and Lauren Edmondson ’06 combined for a stunning first place finish in the 400 medley relay, improving on their time of 3:49.87. Amherst touched second, two seconds behind the Ephwomen.

The Ephs won again in the final event of the meet when Edmondson, Laura McCarthy ’06, Robyn Kim ’06 and Payne beat Kenyon by half a second for another national title, this time in the 400 freestyle relay.

Accompanying the superb showing in relays were several personal records and high-scoring individual swims. Payne placed first in the 200 IM, beating the national record in a time of 2:03.14.

In the 100 breaststroke she fell just shy of her own record, placing first in a time of 1:01.41. She already holds the national record in this event, which she set three weeks ago at NCAICs in a time of 1:00.54.

Payne ended her Williams career in style. In her final individual race of her college career, she won the 200 breaststroke in a time of 2:14.20 for her third individual national title.

After this weekend’s meet, the senior now holds the Div. III national record in the 100 breaststroke, 200 breaststroke and 200 individual medley. In all, she took home five national titles from her three individual wins and two first place relay finishes. For her spectacular performance Payne was named NCAA Swimmer of the Meet for the second year in a row.

In the team standings, Williams stood in third with 88 points behind Kenyon (151) and Emory (134) after the first day of racing. They held onto third on the second day, ending the second night’s session with 191 points, this time behind Emory (311) and Kenyon (274).

Emory had pulled far ahead of Kenyon early in the third day of competition and maintained their lead throughout the day’s events. The final standing for the meet saw Williams in third with 293 points behind Emory (428) and Kenyon (418). Emory’s 10-point victory over swimming powerhouse Kenyon was the closest finish in the 25 year history of Div. III NCAAs. The next finisher after Williams was Amherst, which trailed Williams’ 61 points for fourth after ending the first day of the meet in 4th place.

Despite the dominant performance of Payne, Kuster was equally impressed with his entire squad. “For Lauren Edmondson, her last three swims were each lifetime bests for her – there’s no better way to go out,” Kuster said. “Amy [Ferguson] ’08 had a great swim in the 1650 free, as did Mary Wilson Molen. Amanda [Nicholson] had a lifetime best, and Meghan [Faughnan] earned All-American with her career.”

-Kendra Krupp ‘08

Men’s swimming finishes 5th in Div. III nationals championships

Twelve men’s swimmers qualified for the NCAA championships after dominating the NESCAC meet in late February.

The Williams squad also had high hopes for improving on last year’s fourth place NCAA finish. They failed in this regard by placing fifth, but the Ephs contributed several stellar individual performances and kept pace with some of the best teams in Div. III.

Two-time defending 100 backstroke champion Will Cunningham ’06, three-time All-American Steve Spinelli ’07 and other Ephs returning to the national championship made up the core of the team.

Even with the absence of the Class of 2005’s immense talent and contributions, the Ephs posted strong results, aided of first-year swimmers Norman Scott ’09 and Tyler Bonwell ’09. Several sophomores, including Michael Kirwan ’08, Henry Felker ’08 and Alexander Wentworth-Ping ’08, had not qualacted, but were vital to the team.

The 200 freestyle relay team with Scott, Nick Gallucci ’07, co-captain Brad Brecher ’06 and co-captain Blake Althom ’06 started the meet off well, placing ninth with a time of 1:23.33. Adding to his positive momentum, Spinelli placed fourth nationally in the 500 freestyle with a time of 4:29.24. His preliminary time of 4:28.82 broke the school and NESCAC record in the event. The previous record was a two seconds slower.

When the starter misfired in the 200 individual medley, several of the swimmers dove in and raced down the pool. Cunningham had done the first 25 yards of his race before he realized that there was a false start. Perhaps fatigued, he placed seventh with a time of 1:53.39, slower than he had hoped. Nonetheless he was named an All-American in the event.

In the final event of the day, Cunningham, Bowell, Scott and Zach Orjuela ’06 placed fourth in the 400 medley relay. Dave McManic ’07 earned All-American honors for the second straight year in the 400 individual medley with a fourth place finish. Scott and Wentworth-Ping both broke personal bests in the 100 butterfly, placing seventh and 13th respectively.

Three was the magic number. Spinelli earned All-American honors for the third straight year in the 200 freestyle. Cunningham won his third straight individual title in the 100 backstroke by one and a half seconds, making him the first Div. III athlete to win the 100 backstroke in three consecutive years since Kenyon’s Tim Bridgeman accomplished the feat from 1977-79. More impressively, Cunningham broke the national record in the event during the preliminaries by 0.01 seconds with a time of 48.60. He is the first male swimmer in Williams history to hold a national record.

To conclude the second day, the 800 freestyle relay squad of Brecher, Spinelli, Kirwan and Cunningham broke the NESCAC record, set by the same group at this year’s NESCAC championship, with a time of 6:45.19, good for third.

In the final day of competition, the Ephs continued with strong swims. Spinelli led off in the 1650 freestyle, placing fourth with a time of 15:41.21. This shattered the old NESCAC and school record by almost three seconds. Not to be undone, Cunningham also earned All-America honors in a third event when he placed fifth in the 100 freestyle with a time of 45.34.

In the end, the Ephs had placed with 295 points, in excess of 40 points more than they scored last year when they placed fourth. Williams, Johns Hopkins and Emory were separated by only 15 points. Kenyon chanced it up 498 points to win its 27th straight title.

The men came away content with their performance. “A lot of what we did get to work; when we finished we were people swimming their lifetime bests,” Head Coach Steve Kuster said. “We may have placed lower than last year, but these guys have nothing to hang their heads about.”

-Alexander Wentworth-Ping ’08

Hamilton stalls men’s ice hockey in NESCACs

Losing the momentum of earlier weeks, men’s ice hockey (14-7-3, 13-3-1 in the NESCAC) fell 9-5 to Hamilton in the NESCAC quarterfinals. Defeat at the hands of the seventh seeded Continentals came as a shock to the Ephs, who were seeded second in the conference.

Williams tallied up win after win in season play, compiling an 8-0-1 record in the last nine games to finish the regular season second in the NESCAC. Prior to their defeat at the hands of Hamilton in the quarterfinals, the only blemish to their record came against Hamilton on Feb. 18 when the Ephs pulled out a late comeback to force a 5-5 tie with the Continentals.

The Ephs tried desperately to mount another comeback on their home ice. They rallied from a 6-1 deficit to 7-5 with two minutes left. But the Continentals closed out the game with two empty net goals, setting the final score 9-5.

The Ephs controlled play in the first period and made their way to a 1-0 lead at the first intermission. The lone Williams goal came off an assist from Steve Bruch ’08 to Brandon Jackmuff ’08 on a two-on-one rush. Jackmuff fired a shot through the legs of Hamilton goalie Gabe Tash.

Things started falling apart in the second period when Williams played its worst 20 minutes of the year. Hamilton scored six unanswered goals, three by Hamilton’s star forward Gus Katsuras. A shorthanded goal by co-captain Devon O’Rourke ’06 in the closing seconds of the period was the Ephs’ only offense, and they went to the locker room trailing 6-2.

In the third, Matt McCarthy ’07 scored a吉祥物 on a shot from the point, bringing the score to 6-3, but Hamilton would soon answer back and retake a four-goal lead. Then late in the period, a shrew of Hamilton penalties gave Williams some hope, and the Ephs pulled goalstener Rick Redmond ’09 for an extra skater to gain a six-on-three advantage. The gamble worked for a while, as goals by Jackmuff and Greg Schulz ’08 cut the deficit to 7-5. However, Hamilton eventually took advantage of the empty net, knocking in two final goals.

“I’m extremely pleased with how this team played this year,” Head Coach Bill Kangas said. “It is disappointing the way it ended, but I am so proud of the way this team turned it around from the middle of the year. The senior contribution and team effort of this group was truly remarkable. It’s hard to swallow this tough loss, but I respect and admire what each player has given to this team.”

Several Ephs racked up stellar season records. Jackmuff led the Ephs with 16 goals this year, Kevin Child ’06 and O’Rourke provided strong support with 18 and 19 assists, respectively.

The Ephs will graduate five seniors this spring, but they expect to be well stocked with young stars next season.

-George Price ’06
Softball edges Tufts for NESCAC title

It wasn’t an easy road to the conference championship, but softball (29-8, 8-0 in the NESCAC) eventually pulled through, stringing together a series of wins over Trinity and Tufts to top the NESCAC for the third consecutive year. The women, who earned hosting rights with their perfect conference record, never won by a margin of more than two runs, earning their third straight crown with a come-from-behind, 6-5 victory over Tufts. The victory gave the Ephs their 19th consecutive win, breaking the team’s record of 18 straight wins from 1996 and 2004.

After beating the Jumbos in the semifinal round 1-0, the women squared off against their East Division rivals once again to determine the championship. With a 2-0 record in the tournament, the Ephs needed just one win to seal the deal, while the 1-1 Jumbos would need two victories.

Looking to clinch the title with one win, the Ephs dug themselves into an early hole. Taking advantage of three Williams errors in the first, Tufts jumped out to an early 2-0 lead. They added three more in the third to widen the gap to 5-1.

Facing the possibility of losing for the first time in 18 contests, the team’s bats jumped to life. Laura Noel ’06 got things going with a double in the third. After a sacrifice fly and a groundout, Noel was on third with two outs. Libby Copeland-Halperin ’09 doubled in Noel, bringing up Katelyn Knox ’07. Knox smacked the two-strike pitch over the center field fence for a two-run shot, cutting the Jumbos’ lead to one at 3-4.

“When Knox crossed the plate after taking the ball out and we were all jumping around going wild, you would have thought that we had won the game rather than still being down a run,” Noel said. “But, Knox starts out her killer high fives and the energy level just took off.”

In the fourth it was Noel again. With two outs, the first-baseman went yard to right-center for a solo home run that tied the game at five.

Two more seniors kept the two-out rally going. Alana Frost ’06 followed Noel by singling and stealing second to put the go-ahead run in scoring position. Christine “Twick” Williams ’06 gave the Ephs their first lead of the game, lining the ball just out of reach of the Jumbo shortstop to score Frost.

The game was then in the hands of one of Williams’ most reliable pitchers, Clara Hard ’06. Hard (13-3) denied the Jumbo attempt at a comeback, working her way out of a sixth inning jam, and retiring Tufts in order in the seventh to seal the 6-5 win for the title.

“The win was a team effort. We had solid, clutch hitting up and down the line-up and high energy,” Hard said. “We never doubted our ability to comeback.”

Head Coach Kris Herman earned her sixth straight NESCAC championship. Prior to the last three with Williams, she led Tufts to the title in three straight years. No other coach has won the conference crown.

It was another tight game in the semifinal against Tufts.

Hard was on the mound to battle the Jumbo batters. The senior phenom allowed just three hits and no runs over seven innings for the win.

But Tufts’ Erica Bailey was equally impressive, holding Williams scoreless until the bottom of the seventh. Pinch-hitter Morgan Simpson ’09 finally got to Bailey, singling with one out. Morgan advanced to second off a Joey Lye ’09 sacrifice bunt, and moved to third when Tufts misplayed Knox’s grounder.

With one out and the winning run a bag away, Frost (3-for-4) stepped to the plate. The second baseman drilled a liner off Bailey’s leg, placing the ball between the mound and first base, allowing Simpson to cross the plate for the game-winner.

In the tournament opener on Friday, the Ephs used five runs in the first to edge Trinity 6-4.

Williams hit through the order in the bottom half of the first inning. Cathleen Clark ’07, who left the game with an injured leg in the fourth, started things off with a bunt single. Williams, Copeland-Halperin, Knox and Katie Powers ’08 combined to drive in five runs.

Frost cushioned the lead with a solo homer in the sixth.

The Bantams threatened several times, picking up two runs in the second and another in the fourth. But Margaret Ryan ’08 held them off through five innings, allowing three runs on six hits while fanning eight. Hard finished the final two innings, surrendering one run en route to a save.

Heading into the NCAA playoffs, the Ephs look to feed off the momentum from their last 19 wins.

“We’ll be facing some tough teams this weekend, but when we bring our best game to the field there seems to be a lot of potential in this team,” Frost said.

- Kevin Waite ’09

Laura Noel ’06 gets a high five from Coach Kris Herman after her game-tying homer.
athletes of the year

Josh Bolton ’06
MEN’S SOCCER
AWARDS AND ACCOLADES:
TWO-TIME ALL-AMERICAN
TWO-TIME NESCAC PLAYER OF THE YEAR
THREE-TIME ALL-NESCAC
ALL-NEW ENGLAND
SECOND-TEAM ACADEMIC ALL-DISTRICT

With his skill and bushel of blond hair, Bolton can be recognized almost anywhere on the field. Earning his second straight NESCAC Player of the Year honor this season, Bolton established himself as one of New England’s premier players. This season, the midfielder notched two goals and seven assists for a total of 11 points. Offensive accomplishments aside, Bolton stood out on defense, leading the Ephs to the Elite 8 this year. Next year, Bolton will fulfill a lifelong dream when he puts on his Rochester jersey and takes to the field for the Rhinos.

Caroline Cretti ’06
WOMEN’S CROSS COUNTRY
WOMEN’S TRACK
AWARDS AND ACCOLADES:
13-TIME ALL-AMERICAN
FOUR-TIME ALL NESCAC
THREE-TIME CONFERENCE MOST OUTSTANDING CROSS COUNTRY PERFORMER
NATIONAL TRACK CHAMPION IN THE 5000 AND 10,000

Head Track Coach Ralph White won’t call just anybody “the best distance runner Williams has ever had.” That distinction is reserved for Cretti alone, who has helped fuel one of the best running programs in the country for the last four years. Her 10-second victory in the 5000 this winter gave Cretti her first national championship and the Ephs a second-place finish at Div. III nationals. Not only one of the nation’s top track athletes, she is an equally dominant cross-country, collecting All-American honors in every season she’s run in.

Dan Austin ’06
MEN’S FIELD
AWARDS AND ACCOLADES:
DIV. III RECORD HOLDER IN DISCUS
TWO-TIME NATIONAL CHAMPION
OLYMPIC PROSPECT
FINISHED 10TH NATIONALLY IN DISCUS

Arguably the best Div. III thrower of all-time, Austin broke the national record with his hereulent toss of 196’11”. The toss broke the old record - which Austin also set - of 196’11”. His last year’s throw would have placed him third in Div. I competition, inches away from the national collegiate champion. Last season he placed 10th amongst all American discus throwers in nationals, fourth among college athletes. The field of competition included several American Olympians. But Austin is not one to be intimidated by Olympic athletes, as he hopes to one day join their ranks. With one year left of collegiate eligibility, He will throw for the University of Arizona next year, before moving onto the Olympic qualifiers.

Lindsay Payne ’06
WOMEN’S SWIMMING
AWARDS AND ACCOLADES:
SEVEN INDIVIDUAL NATIONAL TITLES
MEMBER OF FOUR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RELAY TEAMS
TWO-TIME DIV. III NATIONAL SWIMMER OF THE MEET
DIV. III RECORD HOLDER IN 100 BREASTSTROKE
DIV. III RECORD HOLDER IN 200 BREASTSTROKE

Payne’s records and awards speak for themselves, placing her in an elite ensemble of collegiate standouts. She is one of only 12 athletes currently being considered for 2006 Div. III Athlete of the Year. After overcoming Leukemia to become an eleven-time national champion and two-time Olympic trials qualifier, Payne was awarded the 2006 Honda Inspiration Award.

Congratulations, Seniors!!

We at the OCC celebrate your achievement!

We want you to know that we are here to help you throughout your life after Williams as you make transitions to new jobs, graduate school and beyond. You are welcome to make counseling appointments with us by phone, correspond by e-mail, and join listservs for job information.

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Parents Fund Co-chairs

We thank these generous parents of the Class of ’06

(Bold-face entries indicate Parents Fund Committee members)

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and the many families who gave anonymously or whose gifts arrived too late to be acknowledged.

Thank You!

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Hail The Graduate!
Hayley Wynn, Class of ’06

Record editor extraordinaire.
Author of fascinating polisci papers.
Once briefly held #1 in room draw.
Class ’06 record for laptop breakdowns.
Unclear on virtues of northern latitudes.
Her only ‘early decision’ was her Williams application.

Congratulations to our mountain girl!

Mom, Dad & Ellery

Congratulations, Ainsley!

We couldn’t be more proud of you.

Love always,
Mom + Dad
Caitlin, Mari + Gwennie

Congratulations to Steven and his classmates

From the Myers family
Congratulations Aaron you hit a Grand Slam!!
We are so proud of you for all the hard work
you have done the last four years.
Follow those dreams,
they will become reality.

We are all very proud of your accomplishments and wish you
continued success in the future.
Love,
Mom, Dad, Stephen and Kayla

We wish you all the very best.
Much love, Mom and Dad and Rachel.

Congratulations!
We love you.

CONGRATULATIONS TO JESSICA LANE LOVAAS
CLASS OF 2006

We are all so proud of you and love you so much. And we thought you were
going to be a fish tank feeder!
Love, Mom, S’dad, Dad and Anne

“Now I become myself. It’s taken
Time, many years and places;
I have been dissolved and shaken,
Worn other people’s faces
Run madly, as if Time were there...
Now there is time and Time is young.
O, in this single hour I live
All of myself and do not move.
I, the pursued, who madly ran
Stand still, stand still, and stop the sun!”
~ May Sarton
THOMAS

May the road rise to meet you
May the wind be always at your back
May the sun shine warm upon your face
And my you always be held lovingly in God’s hands.

We love you and wish you every happiness in life!
Congratulations on your Williams Graduation!
Love, Mon, Dad, Patrick, Kate, Frank

Dear Liza,
Happiness and success as you make your aspirations into realities!
Congratulations!
Love,
Mom, Dad, Emily, Mary and Joe

Congratulations to John Selden,
with best wishes and love from your family
Congratulations, Alexandra!
You made it to the top!

Your proud family.

Congratulations PJ!
We are very proud of you and all you have achieved. May God bless and guide you on life’s journey.

Love, Mom and Dad
Congratulations!!!

Anything your mind can conceive and your heart believe you can and will achieve. You have received the knowledge that can change your life and others around you. This is your opportunity to achieve success!

Continue to reach for the firthest galaxy and if you do not reach your goals at first attempt you will still be among the stars. Never give up success is at your fingertips.

Mother

LaTesha F. Smith

Sara Beach

Wherever life leads you, the love and support of your family and friends will always be with you.

CONGRATULATIONS TO KEITH McWHORTER AND THE CLASS OF 2006

DON’T FORGET TO ‘DO IT IN THE DARK’
LOVE
CONGRATULATIONS
GOOD LUCK ALWAYS
FROM
MOM AND
YOUR VILLAGE OF
FAMILY AND FRIENDS

JULIA L. SERGEON
Taylor Caroline Tyson  
Williams College 2006  

You were always our star!  

Congratulations, Taylor!  

Love,  
Mom, Dad & Ben  
Grandmother & Grandad Tyson  
Grandmother & Grandad Johnson  
Chuck & Patti

Visit www.williamsrecord.com

Congratulations, Chris!  

We are very proud of you. Here's wishing you much happiness and success in the future.  
With Love,  
Mom, Dad, Peter and Dave
Congratulations, Lindsay!
You’ll always be our CHAMPION

With our love,
The ‘Sams’

To Sara,
With our proud and loving congratulations on your graduation.
Mommy and Daddy

To Sara,
With our proud and loving congratulations on your graduation.
Mommy and Daddy

KATIE, WE’RE SO PROUD OF YOU!
LOVE, MOM, JEN, LIZ, DAD

Climb every mountain!
Here’s to new horizons.
Much love, M, D + L,
G, B + P, M, C + E and B + C

Congratulations
to
Donald Mitchell
(Seen here in his early streaking days)

Love and pride from Mom and Ty
The Williams Record

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