



**WILLIAM JAMES
COLLEGE**

**Center for Multicultural &
Global Mental Health**

Center for Multicultural & Global Mental Health

Annual Report: 2016-2017



One Wells Avenue
Newton, Massachusetts 02459
617.327.6777
cmgmh@williamjames.edu
www.williamjames.edu/cmgmh

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Center for Multicultural & Global Mental Health

Celebrating One Year of Excellence!

On June 15, 2017, the Center for Multicultural and Global Mental Health (CMGMH, the “Multicultural Center”) at William James College (WJC) celebrated its first anniversary. “It has been a year of tremendous growth,” said Dr. Gemima St. Louis, Co-Director of CMGMH. “In addition to the well-established Latino Mental Health Program, CMGMH now offers two concentrations in African & Caribbean Mental Health and Global Mental Health. Our academic programs are designed to educate students about the systemic impacts of mental health disparities on communities of color locally and across the globe; and provide culturally-diverse experiential learning opportunities that will inform and deepen students’ knowledge, cultural awareness, and cultural competency.”



Attendees at the 2017 Anniversary Celebration of the Center for Multicultural & Global Mental Health

CMGMH’s primary mission is to train, mentor, and prepare a cadre of mental health professionals to serve culturally diverse individuals, families and communities. Over the past year, CMGMH has organized a series of professional development and social cultural events, and provided culturally-sensitive training to numerous clinicians, educators, students, public health workers, and community members.

CMGMH's initiatives are part of WJC's institution-wide diversity goals. "William James College has set out on an important path to diversify our school and the psychology workforce as a whole," explained WJC President, Dr. Nicholas Covino. "CMGMH is a critical piece in the work that we do here by educating the public as well as facilitating various initiatives and events related to diversity."

WJC's diversity efforts are wide-ranging. "What I am most proud of in terms of diversity at WJC are the steps forward that we have taken that are less obvious and eye-catching," said Dr. Covino. "They serve as the building blocks that will move us forward in embracing and supporting diversity among the student body and staff. For example, we hired consultants who are experts in multicultural mental health workforce education who have helped the Diversity Committee to shape our strategic plan, which has been presented to the Board of Trustees. We have created clear goals to increase diversity at William James College which will include increasing our self-identified minority student population to 25%."



*Dr. Nicholas Covino, President,
William James College*

One of the key diversity-related initiatives that has taken shape this year at WJC is the establishment of the Black Mental Health Graduate Academy. "The Academy, under the leadership of Dr. Natalie Cort, is an initiative full of excitement, dignity, and elegance," said Dr. Covino.

WJC students and faculty continue to actively participate in international service learning programs in countries such as Ecuador, Guyana, Haiti, and Kenya. CMGMH's cultural immersion programs now include a new focus on faculty engagement. "This faculty immersion initiative will allow WJC faculty to share their expertise while taking part in the richness of the immersion learning experiences," explained Dr. Covino.

In the upcoming year, CMGMH's academic concentrations and programs will continue to flourish. "We are committed to training, mentoring, and empowering the next generation of leaders of social justice and agents of social change," said Dr. St. Louis. "We have tangible proof that our students and faculty are *meeting a need and making a difference* on a global level.... We are very proud of their accomplishments and of all the exciting initiatives that have emerged out of the Multicultural Center this year. We look forward to the future with great hope and enthusiasm."

A Look Back at the History of the Center for Multicultural and Global Mental Health

The Center for Multicultural and Global Mental Health was established in 2016. Its primary mission is to train, educate, and mentor a cadre of professionals to address mental health disparities, practice trauma-informed care, and serve culturally diverse individuals and communities locally and across the globe. CMGMH now offers three cross-departmental concentrations: *African and Caribbean Mental Health*, directed by Dr. Gemima St. Louis; *Global Mental Health*, directed by Dr. Jill Bloom; and *Latino Mental Health Program*, directed by Dr. Mari Carmen Bennasar.

The Global Mental Health Program was borne out of a joint collaboration between the Harvard Program in Refugee Trauma, faculty members and existing programs at William James College, and community members.

“We are training our students to think globally in order to provide community-based services throughout the United States and around the world,” said Dr. Stanley Berman.

“It was in 2010 that Dr. Richard Mollica approached Dr. Covino, Dr. Bloom, and me about creating an academic program on global mental health at what was then MSPP,” recalled Dr. Stanley Berman, Vice-President for Academic Affairs at WJC. Dr.

Mollica is the Director of the Harvard Program in Refugee Trauma (HPRT) at Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School. “He believed that we shared a common focus on social justice that aligned well with HPRT’s core mission,” explained Dr. Berman. “The HPRT program, established at Harvard, was a great model for us to build upon. In fact, I went on to complete the HPRT certificate training program in 2013-2014.”

The original steering committee for the global mental health initiative consisted of WJC faculty Dr. Stan Berman, Dr. Jill Bloom, and Dr. Nilda Laboy; Dr. Richard Mollica; and an MSPP alum, Dr. Noor Amawi. In addition, Dr. Yousef Al-Ajarma, Dr. Jodie Kliman, and Dr. Paola Contreras, all faculty members at William James College, participated in early planning meetings. The program was originally designed as a master’s degree in Counseling Psychology and Global Mental Health that focused on aspects of global mental health and clinical work with refugees.

“At WJC, we aim to provide trauma-informed care to immigrants and refugees who have experienced trauma first-hand or who have been exposed to traumatic environments, such as living in a nation experiencing ethnic cleansing or war,” said Dr. Berman. “We envision graduates not only seeking careers internationally or serving with global non-profit organizations, but also working around the United States with immigrant and refugee



*Dr. Stanley Berman
Vice President for Academic Affairs,
William James College*

populations, and providing behavioral health care to those who have experienced forced migrations.”

In addition to academic concentrations and professional development opportunities for students and faculty, CMGMH also provides international cultural immersion experiences in Ecuador, Haiti, Kenya and Guyana. “Different cultures and communities have different assumptions about the self and the way that the world works,” explained Dr. Berman. “It is important for us at WJC, and for all mental health professionals, to design mental health approaches that are attuned to different cultural world-views.”

CMGMH aims to inspire and empower students, clinicians, and educators as agents of social justice with a passion for and commitment to serving historically marginalized groups and addressing mental health disparities among disenfranchised populations in the U.S. and abroad. “We are training our students to think globally in order to provide community-based services throughout the United States and around the world,” said Dr. Berman. “It is always exciting when WJC can offer programs and agendas that draw on the strengths and talents of all departments and community members. There are clear benefits to the WJC community and external community by working together.”

OVERVIEW OF THE CENTER FOR MULTICULTURAL & GLOBAL MENTAL HEALTH

The Center for Multicultural & Global Mental Health at William James College aims to be a preeminent academic, clinical training, and research center in promoting social justice and addressing mental health disparities among culturally diverse populations in the U.S. and abroad. CMGMH is comprised of academic concentrations and programs at WJC that focus primarily on historically marginalized groups and underserved communities. These include the Concentrations in African and Caribbean Mental Health, Global Mental Health, and Latino Mental Health as well as programs such as the Black Mental Health Initiative and the Syrian Refugees Project.

MISSION

To train, educate, mentor, and prepare a cadre of professionals to serve culturally diverse individuals and communities locally and around the globe.

VISION STATEMENT

To inspire and empower students, clinicians, educators, and other providers as agents of social justice with a passion for and commitment to serving historically marginalized populations.

STRATEGIC GOALS & OBJECTIVES

The Multicultural Center's Strategic Plan is consistent with William James College's Core Values of (1) *Social Responsibility*, which aims to "educate providers to meet a diverse society's evolving mental health needs including cultural competence and language training, [and] develop programs and partnerships to ensure access to mental health care for all persons"; (2) *Personal Growth*, which seeks to "foster a supportive, challenging and available learning environment that pays careful attention to [students'] personal and professional development"; and (3) *Experiential Education*, which is intended to "integrate rigorous academic instruction with substantial clinical experience."

The Multicultural Center's primary goals are to:

- Educate students, mental health professionals, educators, community leaders, and service providers on topics germane to multicultural and global perspectives on psychosocial well-being.
- Provide clinical field training experiences and learning opportunities to students to work competently with culturally diverse individuals, families, and communities.
- Support the rigorous application of science to examining mental health disparities and the impact of multicultural and global factors on health and psychosocial functioning through evidence-based research and best practices.
- Offer transformative immersion experiences that will expose, inform, and deepen students' knowledge, cultural awareness and sensitivity, and cultural fluency.
- Mentor, nurture, and support dynamic and collegial advocates of underserved communities in order to empower leaders of social change and agents of social justice.

MILESTONES: 2016-2017

During the 2016-2017 academic year, CMGMH's program administrators, faculty and students accomplished several goals, including the following:

- ✚ Designed two new concentrations in *African & Caribbean Mental Health* (ACMH) and *Global Mental Health* (GMH), with 28 enrolled students from all academic departments at William James College.
- ✚ Offered four new ACMH and GMH courses.
- ✚ Established the Black Mental Health Graduate Academy.
- ✚ Led a committee that awarded six scholarships to WJC students with a commitment to serving historically marginalized populations.
- ✚ Hosted 13 multicultural events, including conferences, workshops, and celebrations of diversity and multiculturalism at WJC.
- ✚ Formed a new partnership with Jewish Family Service of Metrowest to serve Syrian refugee families who are resettling in the Boston area.
- ✚ Developed an innovative collaboration with a consortium of hospitals at the Instituto de Neurociencias de la Junta de Beneficencia in Guayaquil, Ecuador.
- ✚ Launched the *Guyana Service Learning & Immersion Program*.
- ✚ Raised \$2,500 in support of rebuilding efforts in Vallue, Petit-Goâve, Haiti in the wake of Hurricane Matthew.
- ✚ Disseminated a monthly Newsletter on topics germane to the mission and vision of CMGMH.

CMGMH'S ACADEMIC CONCENTRATIONS

AFRICAN & CARIBBEAN MENTAL HEALTH

The African & Caribbean Mental Health Concentration aims to recruit, train, and equip graduate students with the knowledge and skills necessary to provide culturally-sensitive, evidence-informed mental health services to meet the complex behavioral, social, emotional, and spiritual needs of individuals, families, and groups who are of African and Caribbean descent. The program focuses on addressing mental health disparities and inequalities in mental health policy, research, and practice in order to promote the overall well-being of African and Caribbean communities in the United States and around the globe.



Dr. Gemima St. Louis
Co-Director, Center for Multicultural & Global Mental Health; Director, Concentration in African & Caribbean Mental Health

GLOBAL MENTAL HEALTH



Dr. Jill Bloom
Co-Director, Center for Multicultural & Global Mental Health; Director, Concentration in Global Mental Health

The Global Mental Health Concentration is designed for students with an interest in advancing the Global Mental Health agenda. Through didactic, clinical, research, and advocacy-related experiences, students will acquire the knowledge, skills, and training to serve culturally diverse individuals and communities locally and around the globe. Courses incorporate the broad dimensions of ethnicity, race, and migration and refugee status, and their intersections with language, class, gender, education, and spirituality.

LATINO MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM

Established in 2006, the Dr. Cynthia Lucero Center's Latino Mental Health Program (LMHP) offers a unique opportunity for William James College students who are interested in working with individuals from Latino cultures. Through intensive immersion in Spanish language and Hispanic cultures, students are prepared as culturally-sensitive clinicians with expertise to meet the particular mental health needs of this rapidly growing and underserved segment of the U.S. population.



*Dr. Mari Carmen Bennasar
Director, Latino Mental
Health Program*

Students in the LMHP will complete the core curriculum for training in their degree program. In addition, they will demonstrate or master Spanish fluency and Latino cultural knowledge to work as competent clinicians with this diverse population. Specialty training will emphasize an awareness of the social similarities and differences among Latino groups and an understanding of the social context of Latinos in modern American society.



For students of Hispanic/Latino descent, the program will foster self-awareness of the influence of their own cultural beliefs and values in their clinical work with Latino patients/clients. It will also promote a deep appreciation of the rich diversity and idiosyncrasies among the Latino cultures and how these impact clinical work. For Latino and non-Latino students with limited Spanish fluency, the program will offer an opportunity to enhance their linguistic competence. As part of the LMHP, all students participate in a four-week immersion experience in Guayaquil, Ecuador.

To date, more than 65 students have graduated with this specialized concentration and have not only learned the role of culture in the mental health of Latino individuals, but also of economics and other social factors in the developmental, emotional, relational, and behavioral aspects pertinent to the mental health of Latinos. "Together, we can provide quality health care to Latino individuals by training our students to combat inequalities as culturally competent and compassionate clinicians," said Dr. Mari Carmen Bennasar, Director of the Latino Mental Health Program.

CMGMH'S PROGRAMS

THE BLACK MENTAL HEALTH GRADUATE ACADEMY

The Black Mental Health Graduate Academy (BMHGA) is a leadership and academic pipeline designed to recruit, mentor and support Academy Scholars: Black individuals interested in pursuing mental health careers and Black students in William James College's Master's and Doctoral degree programs for mental health counseling and psychology. "Students need role models and mentors to provide academic and career support," explained Dr. Natalie Cort, Academy Director. "We will create enrichment programs culturally tailored to fill any gaps created by educational disadvantages in order to promote students' success in grad school."



*Dr. Natalie Cort
Director, Black Mental
Health Graduate Academy*

BMHGA addresses racial and ethnic disparities in the mental health field by diversifying WJC and, ultimately, the mental health care workforce. The BMHGA provides opportunities to enhance student success. BMHGA Scholars receive professional mentorship support through the Academy Mentorship Program, participate in academic and professional development activities through the Academy Professional Development Program, and engage in service learning opportunities with historically disadvantaged groups in the community.

SYRIAN REFUGEE PROJECT



STANDING UP FOR THOSE LEFT BEHIND

Through a partnership with Jewish Family Service (JFS) of Metrowest, William James College students and faculty will provide trauma-based and culturally-informed mental health consultation and psychosocial support to Syrian refugee families who are resettling in the Boston area. "We are very honored to be part of this extraordinary initiative that JFS has undertaken, and at a critical time in our history when refugees' futures, worldwide, are tenuous, at best," explained Dr. Jill Bloom, Co-Director of CMGMH.

CMGMH will serve as the liaison between the various programs at WJC and community organizations that will be involved in this resettlement effort. Faculty at WJC, including Dr. Jill Bloom, Dr. Stan Berman, Dr. Yousef Al-Ajarma, Dr. Nicholas Covino, and Dr. Richard Mollica, will work with WJC students to provide consultation and direct service alongside JFS. Other programs and departments at WJC, including the Freedman Center, Brenner Center, School Psychology Program, and Organizational and Leadership Psychology Program will also provide support.

International Service Learning & Immersion Programs

ECUADOR SERVICE LEARNING & CULTURAL IMMERSION PROGRAM

In the summer of 2017, five students (Viviana Arturo, Marie Carmaudely Galliotte, Tania Jimenez, Zully Lizarazo, and Melissa Miller), a faculty member (Bruce Ecker, PhD) and the Director of the Latino Mental Health Program (Mari Carmen Bennasar, PsyD) traveled to Guayaquil, Ecuador for four weeks. Students and faculty had the opportunity to learn, work and collaborate with a newly contracted consortium of hospitals: The Instituto de Neurociencias de la Junta de Beneficencia de Guayaquil.



Faculty led a well-received presentation on Integrating Psychological services in Primary Care for 120 attendees. Students had the opportunity of rotating between four different departments within the Institute: Center for Integral Rehabilitation,



Center for Addictions, Outpatient Hospital, and Residencies. Side by side with local psychologists, students conducted intakes, groups, administered neuropsychological and projective batteries, assisted in writing reports, participated in clinical discussions, lead psychoeducational workshops and worked with family members. Furthermore, students co-facilitated activities at the Center for

Integral Rehabilitation, which included music groups, gardening, physical therapy, dance, yoga, tai chi, and art groups. Students had the unique opportunity to observe Electroconvulsive therapy (ECT) administered to individuals with severe emotional disorders.

In addition to learnings related to psychological practice and systems, students were able to learn about the culture and improve their Spanish skills by attending advanced classes, residing with local families, and touring beautiful Guayaquil and its surrounding cities.

We are grateful to our partners in Ecuador for their professionalism and warmth!



GUYANA SERVICE LEARNING & CULTURAL IMMERSION PROGRAM



In July 2017, six WJC students (Rebeccah Costa, Alexis DiGasso, Roni Nevo, Hermeline Pierre, Leana Simpson and Ashley White) and three faculty members (Drs. Jill Bloom, Natalie Cort and Elana Wolkoff) traveled to Guyana for a 10-day *Service Learning & Cultural Immersion Program*. Dr. Natalie Cort, the Director of the Guyana Cultural Immersion Program, believes deeply in the African principle of Sankofa, which translates to “it is not

taboo to fetch what is at risk of being left behind.” For Dr. Cort, the opportunity to return to her homeland after 26 years, to provide mental health support to its resilient and compassionate people, represents her Sankofa commitment.

In partnership with The Guyana Foundation; Sherjoy Daycare, Playgroup, and Nursery; and the Guyana District of the Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas, the group conducted mental health workshops to enhance women and youth’s empowerment as well as facilitated a 2-day suicide gatekeeper training with community leaders to address Guyana’s high incidence of suicide.

“The *Guyana Service Learning & Cultural Immersion Program* is an opportunity for students to immerse themselves in the cultural traditions, belief systems, values and practices of Guyanese society to better understand their mental health needs,” explained Dr. Cort. “The work that students did in Guyana has informed their clinical practice as mental health professionals, leading them to better address mental health disparities and provide culturally-informed care to their clients.”



In the summer of 2016, WJC students who were enrolled in an *Introduction to Global Mental Health* course taught by Dr. Jill Bloom, Co-Director of the Center for Multicultural and Global Mental Health, developed a community-based intervention aimed at addressing the high rate of suicide in Guyana, particularly among the Indo-Guyanese population. The intervention was implemented during the 2017 cultural immersion program and will inform future research and collaborations between WJC students and faculty and The Guyana Foundation.



HAITI SERVICE LEARNING & CULTURAL IMMERSION PROGRAM



In July 2017, six WJC students (Adetutu Ajibose, Nathalie Alexis, Kaitlyn Cournoyer, Samantha Cristol, Frank Sacco and Darryl Sweeper, Jr.), three faculty members (Drs. Jill Bloom, Mengchun Chiang and Gemima St. Louis), and a colleague from the Haitian Mental Health Network (Ms. Gina Dessources, LICSW) took part in a 10-day immersion experience in Haiti. The *Haiti Service Learning Program* is a joint partnership between William James College and the Association des Paysants de Vallée (APV), a local non-governmental organization that engages students in service learning activities and multidisciplinary collaborations with schools, grassroots organizations and social services agencies.



The focus of the 2017 program was on creating a Youth Leadership & Community Engagement Initiative in the rural town of Vallée, Petit-Goâve. A group of adolescents and young adults developed a community-based project designed to enhance their organizational skills and support their development as emerging leaders in their communities. During the training, program participants engaged in hands-on learning experiences aimed at promoting active community involvement, strengthening

collaborations between the youth and local educators, and fostering positive youth development and empowerment.

The team also led a summer camp program for 60 young children, and facilitated a host of social-recreational and expressive arts programming for the youth. Additionally, they visited the Institute of Social Work and Social Science in Port-au-Prince to explore a new partnership with WJC. The immersion experience concluded with an annual cultural festival, hosted by APV and attended by more than 400 community leaders, public officials, artisans, teachers, and families. The *Haiti Service Learning & Cultural Immersion Program* is one of the many ways in which William James College supports student education to prepare them for careers that meet the growing demand for access to quality, culturally competent psychological services for individuals, groups, communities, and organizations both locally and around the globe.

KENYA SERVICE LEARNING & CULTURAL IMMERSION PROGRAM



In July 2017, a cohort of six WJC students (Kwame Dance, Meghan Gowan, Jessalyn Kelleher, Eliza Kim, Monica Moawde, and Damon Pryor) and faculty (Drs. Claire Fialkov and David Haddad) spent two weeks in Thika, Kenya, participating in a collaborative project between William James College, the Kimo Wellness Foundation, and the Muthuru School. This program is supported by a grant from Proctor & Gamble Kenya's Safe Drinking Water

Program that works to increase access to safe drinking water.

This year's immersion project combined the delivery of clean drinking water supplies with a whole community, social-emotional learning program to insure sustainability, continuity of care, and positive change. While in Thika, students worked alongside teachers and community organizers in the children's classrooms to implement the strength-based curriculum.

The program began and ended with a community meeting that included parents. In these meetings, WJC students and faculty outlined intentions and clarified goals. The culmination of the program was a community-wide presentation where parents and local officials celebrated the work of their children and their school. The cultural immersion programs gave CMGMH students experience at the local level where they were able to integrate into a community and perform services while weaving the opportunity into their course curricula.

"The model for our project is the concurrent delivery of health and hygiene products in tandem with a whole community, social-emotional learning program to insure sustainability and continuity of care within schools and families," explained Dr. Claire Fialkov, co-faculty leader of the Kenya immersion trip.

CMGMH's immersion programs provide WJC students and faculty with hands-on global mental health service learning to support and enhance their academic coursework. "Global mental health is a lens from which we can see that the world is a very small place, one that reminds us that we are all connected," explains Dr. David Haddad, co-faculty leader of the trip. "A global lens cultivates clinical humility, inviting counselors to better understand the culture and community practices that can enhance and support treatment."



Professional Development Activities & Social Cultural Events

The Center for Multicultural & Global Mental Health hosted and co-sponsored several conferences, workshops, and other events during the 2016-2017 academic year.

REFLECTION ON COLOMBIA'S PEACE AGREEMENT

Marta Casas, MEd, LMHC, and Zully Lizarazo, MA - October 4, 2016



The workshop was held in response to the peace accord reached between Colombia's government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), ending a 52-year conflict, which resulted in 260,000 deaths, over 70,000 disappearances, and almost 7 million displaced people. The reflection provided an overview of the conflict, presented information about Colombians residing in Massachusetts, discussed the mixed emotions felt by Colombians

regarding the peace process, and explored ways to support Colombians, both locally and globally, as the country transitions towards peace.

DECONSTRUCTING THE HAITIAN PARENTING MYTH:

TRANSFORMING THE EDUCATIONAL LIVES OF HAITIAN YOUTH

Vanessa Prosper, Ph.D., & Charmain Jackman, Ph.D. - November 2, 2016

When Haitian parenting and family values collide with U.S. systems, it often leads to misinterpretation and misunderstanding of Haitian families as well as to misdiagnoses, culturally-insensitive clinical evaluations and treatment, and interventions that ignore culturally-relevant parenting and family values. This workshop provided historical and contextual information to enhance participants' understanding and appreciation of Haitian family and community life, the Haitian educational system, and the impact of immigration. More than 40 participants attended the half-day workshop, which addressed the social, emotional and educational needs of Haitian children and adolescents, and presented best practices for working collaboratively with Haitian caregivers and families.



BLACK MENTAL HEALTH GRADUATE ACADEMY INAUGURAL CELEBRATION - October 20, 2016



The Black Mental Health Graduate Academy (BMHGA) inducted 16 Scholars and welcomed six Professional Mentors at the Academy's Inaugural Celebration. The Academy, developed under the auspices of the Center for Multicultural & Global Mental Health, represents WJC's commitment to

diversifying the mental health workforce. The Academy is designed to provide critical mentorship, career orientation, skill building, and professional enrichment to talented Black students pursuing Master's and Doctoral degrees in mental health counseling and psychology.

IMPLICATIONS OF ISLAMOPHOBIA: ITS IMPACT BEYOND THE MUSLIM COMMUNITY AND HOW THE NARRATIVE IS BEING CHANGED Waheeda Saif, LMHC - December 5, 2016

The Center for Multicultural and Global Mental Health hosted close to 70 students, clinicians, and community members for a presentation on "*Implications of Islamophobia: Its Impact Beyond the Muslim Community and How the Narrative is Being Changed*".



Waheeda Saif, LMHC, Program Coordinator at Riverside Trauma Center, examined the impact of Islamophobia within the Muslim community, especially in the identity development of Muslim children. As incidents of Islamophobia and other hate crimes have risen in recent months, the influence of Islamophobia has had a far-reaching impact on both Muslims and other marginalized and minority communities throughout the country. Ms. Saif offered concrete examples of ways to become allies to disenfranchised groups in order to take part in changing the current narrative.

**AN EVENING OF GRATITUDE, HOPE & REFLECTION:
CELEBRATING DIVERSITY THROUGH SPOKEN WORD, ART, SONG, AND DANCE
January 31, 2017**



The Dean of Students Office and the Center for Multicultural & Global Mental Health hosted a well-attended celebration of diversity through song, poetry, spoken word, and dance. The event was meant to kick-off Black History Month, reaffirm William James College's commitment to social justice, and empower William James College community

members' commitment to being agents of social change.

Published on the WJC website:

<http://www.williamjames.edu/news/celebration-of-diversity.cfm>

See more from the event at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kWmCp24cWfs>

***WAWA NO CIDAL* FILM SCREENING
February 13, 2017**

The Center for Multicultural and Global Mental Health and the Black Mental Health Graduate Academy at William James College hosted a well-attended screening of *Wawa No Cidal*, a film about indigenous family struggles against capitalist property developers on ancestral lands in Taiwan.



Ado Kaliting Pacidal, the lead actress of the film, and DJ Hatfield, Associate Professor at Berklee College of Music, led the discussion following the film screening.

BEST KEPT SECRET:
TREATMENT TECHNIQUES THAT WORK IN THE LATINO COMMUNITY
Beth L. Craft, LICSW - April 1, 2017

This workshop aimed to teach participants to have a deep appreciation for how culture and language affect people's worldview, behavior, and desired treatment outcomes. The workshop provided critical information about how bilingualism affects the clinical encounter, how to become a cultural negotiator/bridge, and how to adapt mainstream therapeutic techniques such as CBT so they are culturally relevant. Using case examples, issues of spirituality were addressed, "resistance" was reframed, and key skills were taught to improve therapeutic rapport.



15TH ANNUAL LUCERO MEMORIAL 5K RUN/WALK
April 9, 2017



William James College hosted the 15th Annual Lucero Memorial 5K Run/Walk and Community Day, which was attended by students, faculty, staff, and community members. The 5K event was established in the memory of Dr. Cynthia Lucero, a WJC graduate whose passion for volunteerism and serving diverse communities inspired many. Cynthia was a

student in the Clinical Psychology Program who presented her colloquium days before the Boston Marathon, where she collapsed and died. According to her coach, Rick Muhr, "her wisdom defied her young 28 years." The Latino Mental Health Program proudly carries her name.

The Lucero Memorial 5K Run/Walk was followed by a community day which included lunch, face painting, and outdoor activities.



MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS “HOLLYWOOD SCRIPTURES” FILM SERIES: MIGRATIONS April 13 - 16, 2017

Each spring, the Museum of Fine Arts proudly presents *Hollywood Scriptures*, a series of films curated by faculty at William James College. This year's theme, *Migrations*, focused on the “the migration stories of individuals and families from around the world, desperate to escape the turmoil of war, oppression, and persecution, and the physical and emotional journeys they experience along the way”

(<http://www.mfa.org/programs/series/hollywood-scriptures-migrations>).

Each screening was followed by a discussion with William James College faculty members who examined the film through the lens of professional psychology.

To learn more, read WBUR's story about the film series:

<http://www.wbur.org/artery/2017/04/12/mfa-hollywood-scriptures-migrations>

"Hollywood Scriptures"
Film Series
MIGRATIONS

At the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA \$11 general admission, \$5 MFA members (per film) 2.5 Continuing Education Credits (per film & discussion)
Tickets will be available at the MFA one week before the film series through the ticket box at 1.800.444.6455, for further information please go to www.mfa.org/mfa

William James College | Museum of Fine Arts Boston

Nearly 60 million people are currently displaced from their homes by war and persecution—more than at any time since World War II. The films in this year's series present the migration stories of individuals and families from around the world, desperate to escape the turmoil of war, oppression and persecution, and the physical and emotional journey they experience along the way.

4/13 Fatima
6:30pm
Discussion Moderator: Steven Wiesenbaum, Ph.D., J.D.
Fatima leaves her Moroccan village for the first time at the age of 20, to set out with her husband in France. Twenty years later, she is divorced and has to share her husband's support for girls and herself, until one day for her body splits, unless it's her mind. Director: Philippe Faucon, France, 2015.

4/14 When I Saw You
6:30pm
Discussion Moderator: Yusuf Alqarni, Ph.D.
In Jordan, 1952, tens of thousands of refugees pour across the border from Palestine. Having been separated from his father in the chaos of war, Tarek, 18, and his mother Shaymaa, are amongst the latest wave of refugees. Director: Amr Alkhatib, Palestine, 2012.

4/15 Fire at Sea
11:00am
Discussion Moderator: Richard Melica, M.D.
Capturing life on the Italian island of Lampedusa, a frontline in the European migrant crisis, the lives of the desperate thousands landing on the shores of Sicily are contrasted with the everyday existence of the locals. Director: Gianfranco Rosi, Italy, 2016.

4/16 Dheepan
11:00am
Discussion Moderator: Shyamala Venkataratnam, Ph.D.
The film tells the story of three Tamil refugees who flee the civil war ravaged Sri Lanka and come to France, in the hope of reconstructing their lives. Director: Jacques Audiard, France, 2015.

PSYCHOSOCIAL DIALOGUES: SOUTHERN STORIES OF STRUGGLE, INJUSTICE, AND HEALING April 22, 2017



As part of the emerging field of Psychosocial Studies, this conference extended the crossing of disciplinary boundaries through dialogues among filmmakers, theorists, and social activists. In today's polarized America, it is even more urgent to try to connect with people whose lives might be shaped by very different cultural, geographical, and historical experiences from our own. This one-day conference, presented by The Psychosocial Work Group of Psychology and the Other, the Massachusetts Institute of Psychoanalysis, and CMGMH, featured presentations by filmmakers, writers, and psychosocial researchers about their work in four locations in the American South: Kentucky, Louisiana, Texas, and Arkansas. Short films and ethnographic material vividly portrayed stories of addiction, poverty, and racial injustice as well as resilience, creativity, and courage. Each presentation was followed by dialogue and discussion with audience members and presenters.

RE-ENVISIONING THE BRILLIANCE OF BOYS OF COLOR CONFERENCE May 20, 2017



William James College hosted over 120 students, faculty, educators, and mental health professionals at the Annual Conference on Positive Youth Development, *Re-Envisioning the Brilliance of Boys of Color: Inspiring Professionals Dedicated to Empowering the Social-Emotional and Academic Development of Our Youth*. The event brought together the expertise of

numerous departments at WJC, including the Department of Community Engagement, the Concentration on Children & Families of Adversity & Resilience, the School Psychology Department, the Center for Multicultural and Global Mental Health, and the Counseling Department's Expressive Arts Therapy Program.

The conference consisted of three panel presentations: (1) *Liberating the Brilliance of Boys of Color: Deconstructing the Cradle to Prison Pipeline*, (2) *Inspiring the Brilliance of Boys of Color: Innovative Mentorship and Advocacy*, and (3) *Increasing Cultural Responsiveness and Reducing Racial Disparities in Our School Systems*. Panel presenters and moderators came from diverse backgrounds including non-profit directors, educators, mental health providers, and juvenile justice advocates.



In addition to the panels, Hon. Leslie E. Harris, JD, (Ret.), Former Associate Justice for the Suffolk Juvenile Court, and Ron Walker, Founder and Executive Director of the Coalition of Schools Educating Boys of Color, gave Keynote Addresses which highlighted the need for mentors and advocates to support the resiliency and existing strengths of boys of color. Performances by *Hip-Hop Transformation Group*, *Youth and Family Enrichment Services String Quartet*, and Oladipupo "Ladi" Ogundipe of Inquilinos Boricuas en Acción brought vibrancy and excitement to the event.



IN THEIR OWN WORDS: REFLECTIONS ON MULTICULTURALISM

During the 2016-2017 academic year, WJC students and faculty were invited to share their insight, as mental health providers and members of the William James College community, on events that celebrate diversity and multiculturalism in our society. The following reflections were published in our monthly Newsletter.

CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH



"A few weeks ago, a 14-year-old African-American boy at my practicum asked about the relevance of celebrating Black History Month. My initial response was to highlight the importance of recognizing individuals in history whose contributions had been strategically omitted from U.S. history. I wanted him to recognize and appreciate the four hundred years of untold stories that aren't even referenced in classrooms. I wanted to restore a sense of pride in his blackness that had been deconstructed by well-intended educators, whose goal to create a color-blind society came at the expense of his cultural identity. Before responding, I paused, realizing there is an entire

generation of children that have only known black excellence. To this young man, ***Black history is history.*** It represents a struggle that, in his mind, no longer exists. He has never experienced an America in which he felt voiceless. ***After a long hesitation, I responded, 'You are the reason Black History is, and always will be, relevant.'***"

- Samuel Kwame Dance, Clinical Psy.D. Student

"Black History Month should be a time for reflection and action, a time to acknowledge the sacrifices made by our ancestors, and a time to be thankful for our blessings and freedom. It is a time to motivate and inspire the next generation, to give them a platform where they will find their voice and continue the journey so that the future will be bright and filled with hope. Black History Month means a time to continue the fight for social justice and equality. It is about dreaming of a better tomorrow, building bridges that will allow others to cross to the other side, and collaborating and making connections. ***Black History Month is about integrity and leadership. It reminds us that we must be agents of change in our family, community and society at large.***"

- Marie Berthonia Antoine, Organizational and Leadership Psychology Psy.D. Student





“Black History Month reminds me of the opportunity I have as a Black man. I think about my grandfather who participated in the sit-ins at Woolworth counters, and who needed to drop out of college to help raise his younger siblings. I appreciate the privilege I have to receive advanced degrees, let alone the responsibility I have because of it. Black History Month is about celebrating the pioneers who fought for us to have mere civil rights. The right to have people treat us in a "courteous and polite" way - not fairly, but just courteous and polite. *When I think of*

Black History Month in terms of what it means to me as a future Black male psychologist, I think about the responsibility I have to not just advance the social rights of dark-skinned people, but to make health care, specifically mental health care, more accessible for the "darker brother [and sister]". Black History Month for me is a celebration of my past, an appreciation of my present, and a dedication and obligation to the future of my people and the world.”

- **Damon Pryor, Clinical Psy.D. Student**

“History is not only what exists in the past, but what we bear on our present. There is nothing invisible in our history, certainly not our diversity. *Black History Month is not only a reminder of how far we have come as a society but also how hard we need to continue fighting for social equality in an unequal world.* Embracing the richness of diversity and acknowledging how different we are, yet how we come to work for the same purposes, inspires me to continue to work hard for social justice.”

- **Zully Lizarazo, Psy.D. Student**



CELEBRATING WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH AND INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

"In my opinion, many people associate the pioneers of the field of psychology with a variety of prominent males. People such as William James, Freud, and Skinner are household names, deservedly so, and yet there are many notable women in the field's history as well. There were fewer working women in all disciplines, given the workplace trends of the past, however despite their relative minority, female psychologists made very influential contributions. They are simply less well-known in popular culture. Interestingly, while the history of the field was male dominated, the current demographics are markedly different. There has been a major shift in more recent years. APA's Center for Workforce data indicates that 74% of early career psychologists are women. For me, it is important that these young women see women in leadership roles so that they have role models because society still tends to associate leadership with men. ***In order to best serve our clients, it is important to have a diverse range of providers, including mental health professionals of all genders.***"

-Stacey Lambert, PsyD, Clinical Psychology Department Chair



"In a male dominated society, we often don't receive the recognition we deserve. Nevertheless, we shine. As women, we need to uplift one another and empower each other to be comfortable in our own skin regardless of what we've been through. ***Our wounds are what make us powerful, our scars are what make us human, and our differences are what make us beautiful.*** We deserve to look at ourselves with more light and fill one another with more love. We need to reshape our own perception of how we view ourselves and have the ability to accept ourselves as a work in progress. If anything at all, remember to own your excellence."

- Donicka Suprice, Student in the Counseling Psychology Master's Program

"Women's History Month remains significant within the field of school psychology because, despite the fact that most school psychologists are women, men have historically been over-represented in leadership and faculty positions within the field. While I have not personally worked for organizations whose sole mission it is to empower women, I feel that by holding leadership positions within WJC and the National Association of School Psychologists, ***I am able to model for others that a woman can and should have a voice at the table in our field.***"

- Arlene Silva, PhD, LEP, NCSP, School Psychology Department Chair





"International Women's Day allows us to celebrate, appreciate, and give thanks to the women who have paved the way for us today. ***As a woman in the field of psychology, I am reminded that this field was once not meant for me, but I can now say that the president-elect of the American Psychological Association is not only a woman, but a woman of color!*** Despite the fact that gender inequality is still present in our society, we take a day to recognize every mother, wife, daughter, or sister who started her own path towards change. Being raised by a single mother and an aunt who are Haitian immigrants reminds me every day why it's important to celebrate not only International Women's Day, but the women in our lives every day."

- **Hermeline Pierre**, Student in the Counseling Psychology Master's Program

"I sing with Voices Rising, a women's chorus, founded upon feminist principles of community, inclusivity, activism, and education. We sing together to give voice to our lives, diverse identities and beliefs. This January, our concert repertoire focused on the theme of women heroes and pioneers, including Harriet Tubman, Anne Frank, and Malala. We also had the honor of performing at the Boston Women's March for America. Singing for a crowd of 100,000+ on Boston Common was incredibly uplifting and empowering! ***For me, a key theme of Women's History Month is celebrating the lives and achievements of diverse women, past, present, and future!***"



- **Meredith Apfelbaum**, Assistant Director for Student Affairs



"Women have been historically portrayed as weak, powerless, and less intelligent beings who need the services of men. Sojourner Truth, the suffragettes, Audre Lorde, and bell hooks are just a few women who vehemently disprove this incorrect theory. ***Women are still being oppressed, violently targeted, and unfairly treated in many areas of life throughout the world; yet, no blindness nor lack of awareness can hide the millions of women who continue to overcome these barriers by creating strong networks, innovative solutions, and sound legal defenses.*** To all powerful women: Assert your prowess in education, art, business, science, psychology, and in virtually all areas of living."

- **Frank Sacco**, Student in the Clinical PsyD Program

REFLECTIONS ON DIVERSITY AT WILLIAM JAMES COLLEGE

Students, faculty and staff were asked to describe the WJC diversity-related initiative they were most proud of and to reflect on what they envisioned for the future.



"I am most proud of CMGMH's special events that highlight cultural aspects of different ethnic groups such as music, art, food, religion, and social issues. Attending both a conference about boys of color and a discussion on Islamophobia left me feeling more empowered to advocate for our youth of color and Muslims who face marginalization on a daily basis. I do not take for granted opportunities to safely come together as a community and challenge ourselves to be more open-minded for the sake of our professional development." -**Alexis Leca, Student in the Clinical PsyD Program**

"Here at WJC, we not only speak about inclusivity and diversity but we are actively engaged in a process of growth, resulting in programs that reflect our vision and mission. I am very proud of our collaboration with the students as well as the mentorship and leadership within CMGMH. Our programs and activities reflect that 'Sí, se puede!' — 'Yes, we can!'"

-**Mari Carmen Bennasar, PsyD, Director of the Latino Mental Health Program, Assistant Faculty in the Counseling and Clinical Departments, and CMGMH Core Faculty**



"I am glad to have chosen a school that respects diversity and has an initiative set in place to address the issues facing people of color. I am also glad that I work with people who recognize their own responsibilities to their communities. The quality of this ownership and leadership encourages me to do the same as I strive to be an effective clinician. I love the immersion programs offered by CMGMH because they offer a unique perspective on lifestyles unknown to or assumed by others. They embody the William James College's mission of experiential learning and I appreciate that."

-**Philip Ndegwa, Student in the Counseling Program**

"I feel incredibly privileged to be part of the first cohort of students in the CMGMH's Global Mental Health Concentration. Over this past year, my eyes have been opened to so many new perspectives that have increased my understanding of the greater global mental health community. I am particularly looking forward to integrating my global course work this summer on the Guyana immersion trip to provide training and education on suicide prevention and initiatives to decrease mental health stigma."



-Alexis DiGasso, Student in the Clinical PsyD Program



"CMGMH has been very active in supporting diversity as it pertains to psychology and our students' development. I am very proud to be at WJC where diversity is celebrated through real social justice actions and I am proud to support CMGMH as it offers ongoing engagement with the community. For example, CMGMH offers diverse events, like the *Wawa No Cidal* film screening in February 2017 and *Re-Envisioning the Brilliance of Boys of Color* conference in May 2017. The future of mental health is going to draw strengths from a diverse workforce, and I see that CMGMH is leading the way toward it."

-Meng Chiang, PhD, Faculty Member in the Clinical Psychology Department



"The breadth of commitment to diversity at William James has always been impressive. It can easily be seen in the classrooms, the curriculum, and our Centers of Excellence. However, the College's commitment extends beyond to programming and events, community service, student organizations, immersion trips, and throughout the numerous ways we work with and support the greater New England community. I'm proud because the far reach of our extent makes it known that support for diversity and inclusion is a major piece in the culture of William James College."

-Josh Cooper, MEd, JD, Dean of Students

"I have been able to apply my education at William James College serving clinically as a behavioral health provider through the Latino Mental Health and Global Mental Health programs, offering education in disease control and prevention in Guayaquil, Ecuador and in the rural town of Thika in central Kenya. I have also contributed to research efforts in the improvement of education quality and graduation outcomes in the local schools of central Kenya. The experiential education here at WJC has offered me a concrete foundation for the clinical efforts that I will pursue in the future, both locally and internationally. Furthermore, being the project coordinator for the Black Mental Health Graduate Academy has solidified my interests in community development and program evaluation, particularly in supporting children and families that have been historically marginalized."

-Fabiola Jean-Felix, MA, Student in the Clinical PsyD Program



"Being a part of the Global Mental Health Concentration has allowed me to connect with a cohort of students who care about and are interested in global mental health work, just like me. Together, we are not only able to exchange ideas but also support each other in our mission. That connection is something that I find to be truly special."

- Ashley White, Student in the Clinical PsyD Program



"In my two-year experience at WJC, I have noticed a significant increase in diversity of cultures and ethnicities on campus. I envision that WJC will increase this trend, attracting international students and students of various backgrounds and experiences to continue to inform our range of culturally mindful care as mental health counselors and psychologists in training."

-Darryl Sweeper Jr., Student in the Counseling Program

A Note of Gratitude

We thank the WJC community and our community-based partners for their ongoing support, vision, passion, and commitment to promoting social justice and social change in the U.S. and throughout the world. We are especially grateful to the numerous friends, colleagues and allies who gathered on June 15th, 2017 at William James College to celebrate CMGMH's first anniversary, network with one another, and enjoy an evening filled with live performances reflecting the rich diversity on our college campus.

Our deepest gratitude goes to the performers—Adetutu Ajibose, Naomi McKenzie, Kerby-Louis Roberson, Michael Roberson, the Triveni School of Dance, Daisy Waukau and Basel Zayed—who shared their unique musical and artistic talents during the celebration. We also appreciate the delectable ethnic food that was generously donated by Jean and Lee Kitchen in Newton.



Thank You!



UPCOMING EVENTS

FALL 2017 EVENTS

September 27th – *CMGMH'S
Welcome Night*, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

October 18th – *International
Immersion Programs Presentation*,
11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

October 27th & 28th – *Conference on
the Mental Health Needs of Syrian
Refugees*, 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.,

November 13th – *Presentation on
Islamophobia*, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.



**WILLIAM JAMES
COLLEGE**

**Center for Multicultural &
Global Mental Health**

**For more information, contact
cmgmh@williamjames.edu**

SPRING 2018 EVENTS

April 28th – *Conference on
LGBTQ Youth*
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

April 2018 – *Conference on
Latino Mental Health*

May 5th – *Conference on
Haitian Mental Health*
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.