Don Williams Recipient of National Sustained Dialogue Award

St. Olaf College student Don Williams '18 has received a National Dialogue Award from the Sustained Dialogue program in honor of the way that he has used dialogue and action to improve the campus community.

The Sustained Dialogue program is a social change process that aims to transform dialogue about social issues such as identity, community, and inclusivity into action. The program was created by American diplomat Harold "Hal" Saunders, who contributed to peace processes in the Middle East.

Williams has been involved with Sustained Dialogue at St. Olaf since the program was first adopted by the college, where it is co-sponsored by the Center for Multicultural and International Engagement and the Institute for Freedom and Community. He served as a moderator for his first two years of participation, and he now works as a student co-coordinator.

In addition to leading Sustained Dialogue groups, attending conferences, training moderators, and recruiting participants, Williams hosted an event last year called De-Stereotype Me. This project encouraged participants to share their personal experiences with stereotypes and to consider how the St. Olaf community can transcend these stereotypes.

Williams says that his goal in hosting De-Stereotype Me was to "showcase that even though we are different in our personalities, we have some type of commonality."

"Realizing our differences will allow us to appreciate the community that we have," says Williams, "which in turn will give us the ability and opportunity to converse about harsh topics." Full article

Building Connections Alumni Dinner

On April 15, 2016 CMIE student leaders had the opportunity to connect with alumni of color over dinner at the Porter Creek in Burnsville, MN. This was a gathering for students to share their experiences as leaders and learners with the alumni. In return the alumni talked about their career paths, shared stories from the "Hill" and provided advice.

Because this event was an intimate it...
allowed students and alumni to intentionally connect as Loza stated, "the alumni dinner was much more than a networking event. It was an opportunity to break through the surface of the 'college student' and 'alumni' introduction. I left the dinner feeling as if I connected with other individuals on a personal rather than a solely professional level." The following comment from an alum resonated with student leader Joseph, "we are a family" and stated, [this is an]"a clear cut and clear representation of what Alum of color want their relationship with current St. Olaf students."

**Cultural Conversations Series - "Beliefs, brains and behaviors: Can you learn to 'undo' biases?"

On Thursday, September 29 the Center for Multicultural and International Engagement (CMIE) hosted it's first Cultural Conversation of the academic year entitled "Beliefs, brains and behaviors: Can you learn to 'undo' biases?" The conversation was facilitated by Shelly Dickinson, Associate Professor and Chair of Psychology.

Professor Dickinson explained the elements of the "classical conditioning" theory of psychologist Ivan Pavlov as well as how it can lead to the creation of different biases and conflicts that we may not be aware of as a result of the learning process or conditioning. The discussion included a focus on how this is displayed throughout social interaction, and how classical conditioning allows for people to have various biases that they are unaware of. Professor Dickinson challenged everyone to think of how we could undo certain biases and ways of thinking.

Participants had some insightful stories and thoughts throughout the conversation, which were thought provoking and beneficial for everyone attending. To conclude the conversation, Professor Dickinson made sure to emphasize that although implicit methods of learning result in various biases and issues, they are still things that can be unlearned.

**Welcome 2016-2017 International Students**

On August 30, 2016 St. Olaf welcomed 85 new international students and U.S. students who live overseas. This group is the largest intake of international students in St. Olaf history and included five U.S. passport holders, seven semester and year-long exchange students, and 73 transfer and first-year, degree-seeking students, representing nearly 40 different countries and regions across the globe. Map of the St. Olaf international student population.

Students participated in three intensive days of orientation, learning about St. Olaf policies, U.S. immigration regulations, and getting a crash course in what life is like as an Ole. New students were supported throughout the week by ten International Student Counselors, who will continue to mentor them throughout their first year at St. Olaf. At the end of the week, students jumped right into Week One, meeting their roommates and joining the rest of the 2020 class in their first-year experience.
**Multicultural Alumni Fund Recipients**

This past academic year three Oles were awarded the Multicultural Alumni Fund, Adriana Carchi, Sasha Mandle, and Alia McDaniel.

I want to thank the people supporting the Multicultural Alumni Fund that have made it possible for me to pay for the National Council Licensure Examination-Registered Nurse (NCLEX) fee. The cost of this fee has been a financial burden and I am now relieved that I will be taking the exam on time. I plan to take the test at the beginning of July. I then plan to work at Northwestern Minneapolis. I'm currently in the process of applying to Abbot Hospital. Thank you once again for granting me this fund-without the fund it would have been extremely difficult for me to start my career as a nurse. -Adriana Carchi '16

I will use the Multicultural Alumni funds to pay for my GRE examination fees. This scholarship brings me one step closer to obtaining a graduate degree in nursing. My post-graduation plan is to work full-time as a nursing assistant in the Twin Cities for a year before attending an MSN program. I dream of becoming a nurse practitioner and working to improve the health status of communities in need, particularly with Spanish speaking populations. In order to positively influence change, I see myself working in education, policy, or perhaps patient advocacy. I hope to serve as a knowledge source for community members, and as an advocate for health regulations and laws that support community well being. I envision using my knowledge and skill set to help raise awareness about a holistic and compassionate understanding of health and wellness in my community. -Sasha Mandle '16

One of my goals post-graduation from St. Olaf is to attend graduate school and continue my education in Flavor Chemistry and later on create an organic cosmetics company. This summer, I was selected to be an intern at the Aveda cosmetics company. I will greatly benefit from being an intern for Research and Development team. By completing this program I will gain exposure in applied chemistry working on independent projects in the hair care department with a cosmetic chemist mentor. I will be able bring the knowledge that I’ve gained from my St. Olaf Chemistry courses and apply them in a cosmetics lab. The Multicultural Alumni Fund will be used towards my housing in Minneapolis. Without the funding, it would be difficult to afford living in the cities where my internship is located. I am very grateful for your donation, which will help facilitate my learning process. -Alia McDaniel '17

**Inaugural Cultural Immersion Series**

On October 4, CMIE launched the Cultural Immersion Series. Each month, CMIE will collaborate with student organizations to introduce a topic where participants will learn more about various cultures from the presenters' perspective through activities and conversation, while actively engaging in cross-cultural communication and exchange.

Latin-American culture was featured for the first Cultural Immersion with the game *Lotería*. The event was co-hosted by ¡Presente! as part of the Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration, who, after introducing the game and its cultural significance conducted several rounds, each with increasing speed and difficulty. The atmosphere was set with popular Latin-American music, pan dulce (sweet bread), and a collection of cultural items collected from various

**Links**

- [Multicultural and International Alumni Update Form](#)
- [Alumni and Parent Relations](#)
- [Piper Center for Vocation & Career](#)
University Scholars Leadership Symposium - A Student's Perspective

This August, I flew to Southeast Asia for the 2016 University Scholars Leadership Symposium (USLS), which would shake me from my comfort zone and inspire me to make lasting change in the world. I applied without much expectation, but a deep sense that I should apply, and when August came, I found myself a proud delegate in Hanoi.

The event gathered approximately seven hundred students from sixty-nine different nations, all coming together to learn about influencing the world, finding solutions to the greatest needs and wrestling with the most complex humanitarian problems. I met amazing people who are passionate about international development and serving their communities. We heard challenging talks from leaders in the field of aid and development and I came away with a renewed passion to get involved in service.  

Full article

Up-coming Events

- **DA House "Ghost Stories"** - October 20, 6:30 - 7:30pm, Thorson Firepit
- **Cultural Conversation Series "Transforming Safe Spaces"** facilitated by Prof. Diane LeBlanc - October 26, 4:00 - 5:00pm, TOH 210
- **Pumpkin Carving & Fall Fun** - October 29, 3:00 - 5:00pm, CMIE
- **Africa Night** - Oct. 29, The Pause
- **Penumbra Theater Trip: "Jitney"** - November 3, 7:30pm
- **Diwali** - November 5, 6:30 - 8:00pm, The Pause
- **Native American Week** - November 6 - 12
- **Hmong New Year** - November 12, 7:00pm - 9:00pm, Carleton College
- **International Awareness Week** - November 13 - 19
- **Cultural Immersion Series**: Co-facilitated by International Student Organization (ISO), October
- **Cultural Conversations Series "Ally? Comrade? Supporter? Discerning Paths Toward Solidarity"** facilitated by visiting Professor Suzanne Wint - November 30, 4:00pm - 5:00pm, TOH 210

Please visit our Events Web Page for more information.