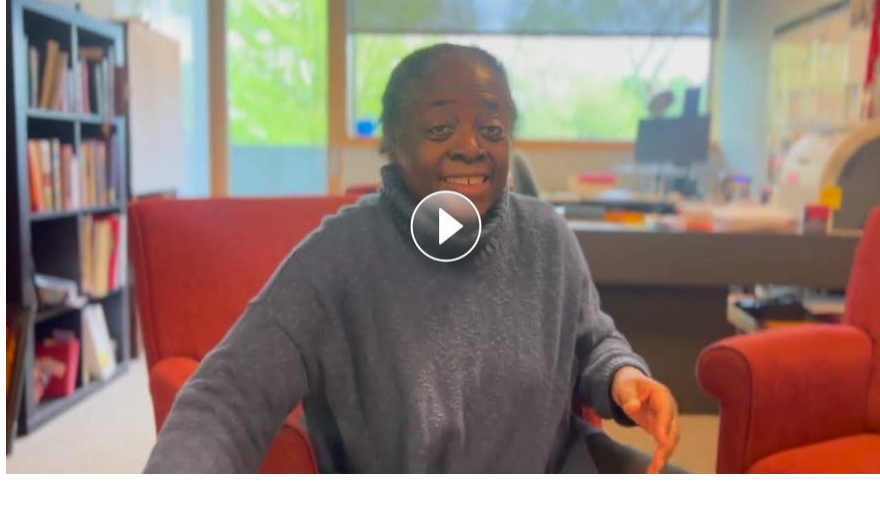


New Eph Update: First-Year Essentials

Williams
College

July 5, 2023, EDITION 6



WELCOME FROM THE CHAPLAINS' OFFICE

Dear First Year Student,

Welcome to Williams College! I can just imagine that you are busy with saying goodbye to friends, packing for the new adventures and wondering what comes next as you prepare to matriculate as a first year Williams student.

The Chaplains' Office is here to serve all students -- regardless of faith tradition -- or non-faith tradition. We are excited about the diversity of voices and experiences of Williams students. The Chaplains' Office has many programs, activities and faith practice opportunities where students may learn about their own or others faith and spiritual traditions, or secular and humanist thought and philosophies. We hope that Williams students may have experiences that will empower them to live in a multicultural and multi-faith world.

The chaplains are also here to provide support in the good times and bad. We are here to celebrate your highs -- whether it's a personal goal or a global recognition of your talents and achievements. We are also here for the challenging times, when you need someone to simply listen as a sounding board, or a person with whom to pray or reflect.

Please fill out this [survey](#) so that we may better serve you. And please remember to declare your religious affiliation. Declaring your religious affiliation is one way of letting us know that the Chaplains' Office may contact you with information about different programs. Information on how to declare your religious affiliation may be found on the [survey](#) page. If you have any questions please contact the Chaplains via email or call our office at 413-597-2483. We look forward to seeing you later this summer!

Peace,

The Rev. Valerie Bailey Fischer

Chaplain to the College and Protestant Chaplain
Williams College, July 2023



Sidra Mahmood

Sidra Mahmood was once an international student at a nearby liberal arts college where chaplains from various religious backgrounds accompanied her through homesickness, heartbreak, and crises of identity and faith. Trained in the Islamic sciences as an *alima*, Chaplain Sidra, roots her spiritual care practice in Islam's compassion and mercy that extend to all: human and non-human beings. She is the mother to baby Maalik and her two cats, Sir Sidney and Namira; and also happens to be the chaplain who reviews [housing accommodations](#) for religious needs. Email her at sm45@williams.edu to meet for coffee or a walk, or come to her office hours when she may bring homemade chai for you.



Seth Wax

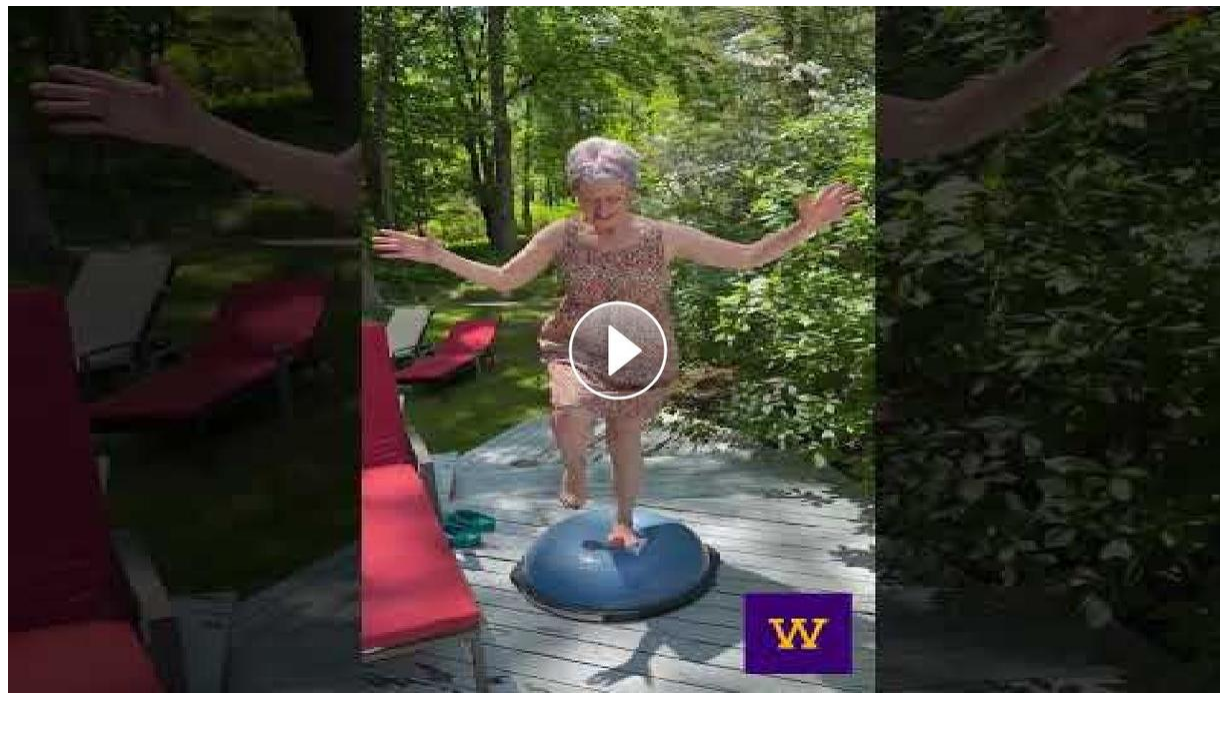
Rabbi Seth grew up in the Boston area and has been on a search that has brought him through Jewish communities and Buddhist monasteries to Harvard Divinity School and the Rabbinical School at Hebrew College before coming to Williams College in the summer of 2017. He has a special interest in exploring how to live a meaningful, engaged life that is infused with learning, contemplation, community, and deep interfaith engagement. Before coming to Williams, he was the rabbi at Congregation Mount Sinai in Brooklyn Heights, NY. He is a talmid (student) of Rabbi Art Green and Rabbi Ebn Leader. He is also a trained spiritual director and offers one-on-one and group sessions for those looking to bring more awareness and attention to their inner spiritual lives. Email me at smw4@williams.edu.



Bridget Power

Welcome! I'm the Catholic Chaplain at Williams College. Roman Catholic mass takes place on campus every Sunday night in Thompson Memorial Chapel. There are opportunities to get involved with prayer groups, service opportunities, retreats, and social experiences throughout the year. Please send me an email (bep3@williams.edu) if you'd like to learn more. We look forward to having you join our community!

THE DEAN'S ARE HERE FOR YOU!



Welcome Class of 2027! The Dean's Office is excited to welcome you in the fall, but for now we want to take a moment and share with you why getting to know us is a great idea, and how we will be a part of your Williams experience!

At Williams College, we have a Class Dean system. That means each year, your class will have a dean specializing in the experiences, challenges, decisions, and opportunities specific to your year. It's a great system that basically provides a champion for you at every stage of your journey! Additionally, some class deans also specialize in supporting [William's Firsts](#), veteran and transfer students, students transitioning back to Williams after a leave of absence, and we have our very own Dean for [International Students](#)! [Get to know more about us here](#). In addition to the deans, our office has amazing administrative staff here to welcome you and help as well. Come by [Hopkins 200](#) and visit the Dean's Office!

Each day class deans meet with students! It's why we exist. Students come to us for guidance, advice, and sometimes to share triumphs and achievements! In addition to focusing on academics, we also have great experience and insight into the social dynamics of a college campus, and how to best connect with other resources. There may be times when a class isn't going well, or a life event disrupts your plans for the semester; we are here for you! We work with students to proactively address academic challenges. We can help advise and facilitate a number of useful "academic interventions" such as withdrawing from a class, how to wisely use the pass/fail option, taking a leave of absence, and a number of other tools in your academic tool belt. We also work closely with faculty to advocate for you when you need a bit of help.

Our advice? [Get to know us](#)! Meeting your dean is not required, yet last year nearly 45% of the first-year class reached out to and met with Dean Walsh individually. Knowing your dean and working with campus resources is part of the student culture at Williams College. We are thrilled to spend the next four years with you!

SNEAK PEAK: Next Week's Edition

The Wellness Edition

Absolutely nothing in your life is more important than your wellbeing! Get to know our comprehensive wellness resources. Integrative Wellbeing Services has a special message for you. Additionally, learn about our Student Health Center and our Dining Program.

FIRST-YEAR LANDING PAD

MEET THE DEAN OF STUDENTS TEAM

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

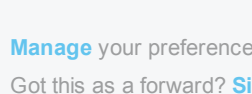
LET US KNOW WHAT YOU NEED HELP WITH!

PAST EDITIONS

FOLLOW US FOR EVENTS, UPDATES, & MORE!

For All New Ephs — first-year@williams.edu /413-597-4171

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