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We foster multicultural understanding and personalized support at RISD by engaging its community through programming, advocacy, and specialized services.

As advocates for RISD’s international community, we offer support and services with immigration compliance, cultural and language adjustment and navigating US systems.

We believe in the power of art and design to unleash our inherent curiosity, constantly broadening and reshaping our understanding of the human experience. We envision an artistic community where the breadth of the human dignity is creatively realized, inspiring everyone to collectively and proactively develop their sense of individual potential and global mindfulness.
RISD initiates the Third World program with three positions: Dean - John Torres, Assistant Dean - Ana Souza, and a secretary. The program’s mission focuses on disadvantaged students. Program responsibilities include: recruitment, admissions, evaluations, and admittance in conjunction with Admission office, financial aid distribution, advising (on academic, personal, social, financial matters) and fundraising.

The Third World Program folds due to the resignation of the Dean.

The Minority Affairs Office is created as a one person office reporting to the Dean of Students. Dorothy Ford assumes this position as Secretary/Assistant to the Associate Dean of Students.

The Minority Affairs Office becomes the office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA) and assumes responsibility for supporting and advising international minority and international student populations including Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) processing. The assistant title changes to Coordinator of Multicultural Affairs and reports to the Director of Student Development and Counseling Services. Office housed in College Building.

The Office of International Programs is created to oversee international student populations and INS processes. OMA resumes responsibility for supporting and advising minority students.

OMA Coordinator, Dorothy Ford, retires after 27 years of service to RISD and campus diversity.

Resulting from the 1999 RISD Diversity Committee Report, OMA is upgraded to a department housed in Carr House with a position upgrade to Director. Mr. Deba Patniak becomes OMA’s first Director.

OMA moves to Ewing House. Catalyst Arts (an arts civic engagement program) formally joins RISD and operates out of OMA.

Tony Johnson ’93 SC becomes OMA’s second Director.

RISD Multicultural Center and Multicultural Gallery are established in Ewing House. OMA and the Office of International Programs assume oversight and management for Ewing Multicultural Center.

OMA is relocated to Carr House.

OMA is renamed the Office of Intercultural Student Engagement (ISE) and hires a diversity coordinator to oversee student support and campus education. ISE assumes oversight of the Office of International Student Services (OISS). Kate Sacco is named ISS Associate Director.

Diversity Coordinator position reframed as Assistant Director of Diversity Programs. Chris Lauth assumes this role.

Barbara Kluesner hired as International Student Advisor. Emma Montague hired as Administrative Coordinator.

Tony Johnson Leaves ISE to become Assistant Dean of Students. Emma Montague assumes additional role of Programming Coordinator, focusing on Project Thrive and International Programming. First International Education Week launched at RISD.

Chris Lauth leaves RISD to become the Associate Director at Youth Pride RI. OISS and ISE become separate offices. Plans made for OISS to take over wing of 3rd floor of Carr House, and for ISE to reclaim Ewing Multicultural Center. Summer 2016, Emma Montague to assume role of Assistant Director, Diversity Programs.
**Director**

Tony Johnson is the Director of Intercultural Student Engagement at Rhode Island School of Design. In this role, he participates in constructing and implementing the college’s efforts toward a multicultural and philosophically diverse environment that is respectful of all its members; Tony works to ensure a college campus that is enriched through experiencing and understanding society through strategic use of the range of cultures the college represents and building strong bridges to Rhode Island’s greater community. Tony is a 1993 RISD Sculpture alumnus. Prior to his current role, he held a variety of professional development training for MetLife Insurance and serving as RISD’s first admissions officer dedicated to diversity enrollment. In addition to his work with art institutions, he is a board member of the Rhode Island Black Heritage Society, a juror on The Rhode Island Foundation’s First Generation Scholarship Committee, and a member of the Multicultural Affairs Think Tank through the New England Resource Center for Higher Education (UMass / Boston).

*As of October 2015, Tony now holds the role of Assistant Dean of Students, within the Division of Student Affairs.

**Assistant Director of Diversity Programs**

Christopher Lauth is the Assistant Director of Diversity Programs for the Office of Intercultural Student Engagement. In this role, he seeks to facilitate student success by providing support and outreach to RISD community members. An integral part of facilitating this success is working to provide a supportive, safe, welcoming and affirming environment of equal treatment and access for various communities including: lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ); racial/ethnic minority; religious; and first-to-college. Through support, advocacy and educational opportunities, Chris seeks to increase the college’s awareness, understanding and competency among important multicultural issues. Chris has received his Bachelor’s Degree from Flagler College (2009) in U.S. Southern Cultural History and his Master’s from Canisius College (2012) in College Student Personnel Administration. Prior to his current role, he served as the GLBTQ Leadership Development Coordinator at Canisius College as well as the Founder and Executive Director of Club UNITY, Flagler College’s Gay/Straight Alliance from 2007-2009.

*As of May 2016, Chris now holds the role of Associate Director for Youth Pride RI.

**Associate Director of the Office of International Student Services**

Kate Sacco is the Associate Director of the Office of International Student Services (OISS) within the Office of Intercultural Student Engagement at the Rhode Island School of Design. She holds a Bachelor’s degree in Spanish from the University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire and a Master’s Degree in Intercultural Relations from Lesley University. Kate’s role in OISS is to assist the international student population with cultural adjustment and immigration compliance. With the Director, she also promotes positive cultural exchange experiences by creating opportunities for international students and domestic students to share their knowledge, language, culture and background within the United States, within Providence and within the RISD community. She is originally from Wisconsin, but has also lived, worked and traveled in range of places, including Massachusetts, Oregon, Rhode Island, Australia, China, Serbia and Mexico. Most of her work has been in the field of Intercultural Relations and she is involved in the professional organization, NAFSA: Association of International Educators. Prior to her current role, she has worked at Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE) and ELS Language Centers.

**International Student Advisor**

Barbara Kleusner is an International Student Advisor in the Office of International Student Services within Intercultural Student Engagement at the Rhode Island School of Design. She earned her Bachelor’s degree in Sociology at the University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse and her Master’s degree from the University of Massachusetts-Boston. Barbara advises international students with respect to immigration compliance and navigating cultural adjustment within the United States, Rhode Island and in the classroom at RISD. She is committed to providing the best possible assistance to international students in order to make their experience at RISD the best it can be. Barbara has worked in the field of International Education for the past seven years and is a member of NAFSA: Association of International Educators. Barbara hales from rural Wisconsin and, while in New England has been her home for many years, she is proud to call herself a cheesehead.
Emmale Montague is the Administrative & Programming Coordinator, Intercultural Student Engagement. She earned her Bachelor of Arts Degree in English Literature at Royal Holloway, University of London and a Master’s degree in College Student Personnel from The University of Rhode Island. Emma’s role in ISE is multifaceted, managing administrative tasks for both Intercultural Student Engagement and International Student Services, as well as supervising our talented pool of student staff. As a welcoming face in the main office, Emma is the first point of call for any issues and opportunities pertaining to Intercultural Student Engagement. She is originally from London, England, but has also lived and worked in Illinois, California, Florida, Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Prior to joining our team, Emma worked at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago as the Assistant Director of Campus Life, and is thrilled to join the community at RISD and continue to work closely with a community of artists and focus on supporting marginalized populations and the intersection of identity.

Hannah O’Neill-McGovern
Dec 2015 - Jan 2016

Felicia Washington
Jan 2016

Samantha Bernardi
March 2016 - Aug 2016

Amy Iglesias
March 2016

Jasmine Smith, Intern
Jan 2016 - May 2016

Cultural Programmers

Emily Chao

Young Eun (Angela) Kim

Joe Yoon

Tzi-Rung (Zoe) Huang

Michelle Zhuang

Indhu Solayappan

Office Assistants

Apparel
Adam Blake

Jae Hee Han

Won Bee Hwang

Kyu Li Kim

Marcus Lee

Chaoqun Wang

Julia Choi

Boong Chamnanratanakul

Christina Chang

Max McInnis

Indriah Sisters

Andy Yu

Madison Kim

Kirthank Manivannan

Pezanne Khambatta

Ayushi Gupta

Textiles

Industrial Design

Illustration

Interior Architecture

Architecture

Graphic Design

Film/Animation/Video

Dual Degree Interior Architecture

Yannik Stevens

Julia Wright

Sonya Fayzieva

Kirithank Manivannan

Ayushi Gupta
During the 2015-2016 academic year, over 7,300* individuals attended/participated in 109 educational and social programming. Below is a comprehensive list of programs. Included are also programs the office worked on collaboratively.

This year the office has been involved in the production of over 109 events, covering a diverse array of topics and catering to both the RISD community and public.

*This number may include repeat attendees, as many community members come back for additional events.

Service and Outreach

Over the course of 2015-2016, the ISE team served on a wide variety of committees and attended many conferences, trainings, and conference calls.

Committees served on

- MLK Series
- Student Success & Experience
- RISdiversity
- Wellness Task Force
- International Programs
- Commencement Sub Committee: Day of Logistics
- Commencement Sub Committee: International Representation
- Commencement Committee | RIS FLIPS | Finals Destination | Student Affairs Action Team | Staff Council | Student Leadership Dinner | Student Council Professional Development | Student Conduct Committee
- Students of Concern Committee | International Incident Response Team (IIRT)
- Assistant Director for English Language Learning Hiring Committee
- Intercultural Student Engagement Director Hiring Committee | Orientation Committee
- Continuing Education Pre-College and Summer Studies Check-in Committee
- First Year Student Success Committee

Professional Development

- RISD Professional Development Day | NASPA Drive in: Race Relations
- Activism and Compassion on Campus | Title IX Training
- RISD Professional Development Day | Immigration Educators of Rhode Island
- NAFSA Regional Conference | NAFSA Academy | Green Dot Instructor Certification
- ACPA National Convention | FERPA Training | Understanding Microaggressions
- Trauma Informed Questioning Program | Maximizing use of CSI Data to Increase Student Success
- NAFSA conferences (Regional & National) | Fulbright Korea

Memberships/Affiliations

- NASPA | NODA | NAFSA | IERI | ACPA

Conference Calls and Other Professional Development

- Student Veterans | SEVP Webinar
- Welcome International LGBTQIA Students and their Peers
- Supporting Student Veterans | Using Federal Law to Protect Trans Student’s Rights
- Basics of Life Coaching, Unpacking Whiteness

Programs + Campus Engagement

January
- OPT Workshop
- MLK Dinner & Concert
- MLK Day of Service
- Project Thrive Skating Night
- MLK Keynote - Andrew Young

February
- Project Thrive Closing
- Healthy Choices Week
- OPT Workshops
- Immigration Lawyer Workshop

March
- OPT Workshops
- Korean Military Focus Group
- I-20 Signing Night
- Tax Workshop

April
- Queer Bingo
- MLK Lecture - Faith Ringgold
- International (Re)Orientation
- OPT Workshop

May
- I-20 Signing Night
- Student Staff End of Year Celebration
- Brain Brunch
- Finals Destination

September
- Orientation
- International Orientation
- Project Thrive Orientation
- RISD Photo Lecture Series: Cedric Nunn
- Food For Thought Events
- Burst The RISD Bubble, Stress Relief

October
- Project Thrive Study Groups
- Coming Out For Coffee
- Time Wise Workshops & Lecture
- Eat The World

November
- Color Your Cares Away
- I-20 Signing Night
- Project Thrive Study Group
- International Education Week

December
- I-20 Signing Night
- International Experience Exhibition Opening
- Project Thrive Study Group
- Finals Destination Week
Project Thrive connects first-year students with faculty, staff, and alumni so that meaningful relationships can be formed to positively impact the academic transition and cultural success of students at RISD. The essential goals of the program are:

To assist first-year, underrepresented students transition to college and connect to the RISD community in a meaningful way that allows them to have an overall positive and impactful RISD experience.

To provide engaging programs and tailored workshops that foster skill development and multicultural competency and community.

To illuminate and explore the many intersections of identity and to help students embrace and express their unique identity in positive and creative ways.

To provide RISD faculty, staff and alumni with an opportunity to guide students as they develop the skills for success inside and outside of the classroom/studio and beyond the RISD experience.

During the 2015-16 academic year, the program connected a select 21 incoming first-year students and mentors from across the RISD campus. A programming series focused primarily on first-year skill development, social/cultural events and community building. The students enjoyed a one-on-one relationship with their mentor and often times would be out doing activities such as grabbing coffee at a local cafe, dining out in Providence, exploring local museums and even going apple picking! The mentoring relationships were dynamic and met the needs of the both student and the mentee. Some were very professional, while others quite casual. Through assessment and feedback, we are very proud of the positive impact this program is having on not only our students, but our community at large.

2015-16 Programming Series
Meet N' Greet w/ Jamie Washington
Waterfire & Tour of Providence
Welcome Dinner
Project Thrive Retreat
Time Management
Study Group I: Homesickness & Personal Well Being
Study Group II: Writing Center
Financial Workshop
Study Group III: Social Pressure & Work/Life Balance/Cultural Adjustment
Royal Treatment (Part of Finals Destination)
Group Ice-Skating! College Night
Closing Celebration

Project Thrive had the following organization and mentoring staff to ensure its proper functioning, maintenance of records, and superb services:

Organizers
Tony Johnson, Director
Christopher R. Lauth, Assistant Director of Diversity Programs
Emma Montague, Administrative & Programming Coordinator
Michelle Zhuang, Programming Coordinators

Mentors
Julie Talbutt, Associate Director, Student Affairs
Denise Siomkin, Executive Assistant, Finance, and Administration
Mark Pomelia, Visual & Material Resource Librarian*
Emma Montague, Administrative & Programming Coordinator, ISE
Gina Borromeo, Curator, Ancient Art
McDonald Wright, Technical Assistant, Foundations Studies
Chris Lauth, Assistant Director, Diversity Programs
Kate Sacco, Associate Director, International Student Services
Jan Howard, Curatorial Chair and Curator of Prints, Drawings, and Photographs
Anthony Johnson, Director, ISE
Ashley Montague, Area Coordinator, 15 West
Sydney Lake, Deputy Title IX Coordinator for Students
Alan Tracy, Communications and Program Coordinator, Career Center*
Kim Almeida, Administrative Assistant, CSI
Michelle Zhuang, BFA Illustration '17
Ned Draper, Director, Academic Budgets & Facilities Planning
Barbara Kuesner, International Student Advisor*
Karen Harris, Internship Manager, Career Center
Susan Andersen, Associate Director, Career Center
Emma Hogarth, Critic, Foundation Studies*
Virginia Ounlevy, Director, Dining and Retail
Ingrid Neuman, Conservator, Museum*
Mark Guarraia, Alumnus, Industrial Design

23 Mentors 87% Staff 9% Faculty 4% Alumni

*Mentors who were placed on the alternate/reserve list either because mentee withdrew from program early on, or never attended from the start, or requested a new mentor assignment.
ISE oversees and manages the Main Lounge, Club Room and Reflection Room in the Ewing Multicultural Center located at 41 Waterman Street. Ewing is a small little yellow house tucked away by a lush landscape overlooking Frazier Terrace and Benefit Street. While the Center is ISE’s main programming space, the Main Lounge and Club Room are available for the campus community to reserve, including campus departments, and student organizations.

All reservations are managed online and processed and approved by ISE’s front office. In 2015 - 2016 the Lounge and Club room were reserved for a total of 349 programs, equalling a grand total of 1440 1/2 hours.

Ewing is open to the RISD community daily from 6am - 10pm. The lounge, although small, is a flexible space and this year we've seen a full range of programs from student club meetings, to orientation training sessions, to sit-down dinners celebrating the year past.

The Reflection Room is also a space that receives a lot of visitors, this space is open to our community daily and everyone is invited to enjoy the serene space for prayer, meditation, and personal reflection. We have outfitted the space with comfy, prayer rugs, and meditation cushions in hopes of creating a space to be enjoyed by all.

International Education Week is an opportunity to celebrate the benefits of international education and exchange worldwide. This joint initiative of the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Education is part of our efforts to promote programs that prepare Americans for a global environment and attract future leaders from abroad to study, learn, and exchange experiences in the United States (Dept of State website). RISD is celebrating its first ever International Education Week and we hope that you will be a part of it!

programs

Designing Traditions, A curated gallery responding to Asian textiles and clothing from the Museum’s collection. This exhibition, presented in the Donghia Costume and Textiles Gallery and the Rockefeller Asian Art Galleries, highlights textile designs produced by RISD students in response to Asian textiles and clothing from the Museum’s collection.

Webinar: the role of International Peacebuilding. Panel discussion on how international education can help mitigate conflict and empower individuals to become peacebuilders.


Salsa Class and Hispanic Dessert, Mori Granot Sanchex to teach classic salsa followed by dinner in Ewing celebrating Spanish Culture.

RISD Global Information Session.

Candle-lit Vigil: In light of Paris... Beirut... The World, we hosted a candlelight vigil to show our solidarity and support to those affected, especially our international community here at RISD and alumni abroad.

Student Affairs Divisional Presentation: Barb Kluesner and Emma Montague to present on: ‘Tim-Wisedom’, thoughts of immigration, What we told the incoming class of international students, and OISS 2015 Statistics.

Met-Giving: Traditional American Thanksgiving.

Tamales at the Portfolio.

Asian Market off-campus shopping trip

15 West International Gallery: Installing a mix of art by international students, and art with an international focus in the Portfolio Gallery.

Quad Flag Installation.
Each year in January, the RISD community organizes and hosts the Martin Luther King, Jr. Series to acknowledge the life and vast contributions of Dr. King in creating a more just and democratic society. The annual series of special events includes lectures, programs and workshops designed to provide RISD and the local community with meaningful moments of service, reflection, self-development, inspiration and celebration.

This year our series included:

**Ambassador Andrew Young**
*2015–16 MLK Keynote + Honoree*
Friday, January 22 | RISD Auditorium

An esteemed civil rights activist, Andrew Young, Jr. spoke about his experiences working with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in the 1960s and upholding peace and justice through his work as a pastor and politician. After serving as a US Congressman from 1977–79, he was appointed US Ambassador to the United Nations by President Jimmy Carter and went on to serve as mayor of Atlanta, GA from 1982–90. Through his leadership, vision and integrity, Young has worked to facilitate change throughout his life, focusing on eradicating poverty, racism and war.

**Faith Ringgold**
*More than 60 Years*
Wednesday, April 13 | RISD Auditorium

Artist, activist, author and teacher Faith Ringgold shared inspiring, humorous and very human stories illustrating her life’s work. Through political imagery and first-hand accounts of the civil rights movement of the 1960s, she will contextualize her immense body of work and reflect on how artists and designers use creativity and making to advance the values of democracy, equity and access for all.

The 2015 - 2016 Planning Committee recognizes the need for year round celebration. This year we expanded our programming to include:

**Tim Wise**
*Privilege and the Harms of Inequity - A Conversation w/ Faculty & Staff*
Monday, October 19

**Tim Wise**
*Uprooting Privilege: Leadership Responsibility in a World of Institutional Inequality*
Monday, October 19

**MLK Celebration Dinner**
Saturday, January 16

**MLK Celebration Concert**
Saturday, January 16

**MLK Day of Service**
Monday, January 18
76 Programs

3555 Program Attendees

22 Student Staff

3 promotions

349 programs hosted in Ewing Multicultural Center

1040 Hours of Ewing Reservations

386 hours of OISS Student Appointments

349 programs hosted in Ewing Multicultural Center

2809 emails sent from the OISS main email account

23 Committees Served On

1 Office Split between ISE and OISS, giving each office their own space and autonomy

Countless office maneuvers
2nd Floor of Carr House to 3rd Floor
2nd Floor of Carr House to Ewing Multicultural Center*

*more about this in 2016-2017 report

3 temporary staff
The RISD Office of Intercultural Student Engagement Annual Report 2015-2016

Content
Emma Montague, Anthony Johnson, Kate Sacco, Chris Lauth, and Barb Kluesner.

Editor
Emma Montague

Design
Yannik Stevens, Sculpture ’17
Emma Montague

All photos in this publications are provided courtesy of the Office of Intercultural Student Engagement and Office of International Student Services.

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