

June, 2023

Class of 1968,
Congratulations on your 55th Williams reunion! What an incredible milestone achievement, your class should be so proud. We are!

Much has changed since your 50th Reunion.

At your 50th you launched a transformation! What was once described as a "sleepy career center" is now the highly relevant **'68 Center for Career Exploration**. The Center has *transformed* from serving some students in select industries, to serving the majority of Williams students' interests across a vast network of fields. As such, we have expanded our mission, values, staff, core services, programs, resources, physical space, funding, technology, and our organizational structure as detailed below.

Our Mission

Prepare Williams students to explore and pursue their goals through comprehensive individualized career education. We encourage all students to discover their interests, skills and values so they can lead fulfilling and impactful lives!

Our Values

That ALL Williams students:

- Are welcome and supported at the '68 Center
- Actively participate in a year-round, four+ year career exploration and preparation process that is integrated into the academic mission of the college
- Receive comprehensive pre-professional guidance individualized to their personal interests, values, and skills
- Acquire and demonstrate internship, job, and/or graduate school career readiness competencies
- Graduate with a plan and the experiences and connections to activate it when ready
- In turn, cultivate a life-long ethos of giving back to society and future generations of Ephs

Why This Work Is Vital to Williams--And the World

The '68 Center for Career Exploration is for everyone. All students seeking internships, post-graduate jobs, or graduate school benefit from working closely with us. We especially enjoy working with students who are "undecided" and "just getting started." We can help develop a personalized action plan that empowers students with real-world life skills such as cultivating connections, writing strong letters of application, honing persuasive communication skills, and thinking strategically about the impact they wish to impart upon their communities and the world.

Who We Are

The '68 Center team is made up of 12 dedicated staff. Each member is highly engaged in the work of a high-functioning Career Center. This spring we are pleased to announce the arrival of new staff who bring new skills and energy to our team! Specific roles and responsibilities are [detailed here](#).

Our Core Services:

Our constituents are many (students, alumni, parents, employers, faculty, staff, trustees, and our cross-campus partners), and so our services must be extensive. Here are the major properties in our portfolio:

- **Career Advising**
- **Career Communities.**
- **Internships**

Internships amplify a Williams education and our graduates' success. Students gain hands-on exploration of their interests, vital connections with alumni, invaluable exposure to real-world and societal issues, and essential market-signaling skills. In short, internships are where the future gets explained.

Internships have become a critical component of a liberal arts education at Williams. Applied learning, learning by doing, experiential education, and the cocurriculum are now all part of the Eph lexicon. The data from the '68 Center's First Destinations survey show that 81% of last year's graduating class completed at least one, and 68% completed multiple [internships](#). Reacting to the increased demand and interest in internships among students, the College identified 4 areas of strategic emphasis in the Williams Strategic Plan: experiential education, applied learning, the co-curriculum, and 12-Month education.

Given the popularity of internships, the '68 Center created a college-wide portal where students could conveniently find all of their funding options. The '68 Center offers two distinctive internship programs, ASIPS and SPEC 21. [ASIPS](#) (Alumni Sponsored Internship Program) are for unpaid or low-stipend summer internships across all fields whereas [SPEC 21](#) (Special) internships occur during Winter Study and up to 150 students may enroll.

'68 Center summer funding has grown from 120 grants in 2016 to 240 for FY '24. For 2023 the grants have been inflation adjusted from \$3800 (for the past 10 years) to \$5000.

- **Employer Engagement**
- **Career Exploration Funding:**
 1. The [Class of 1968](#) Career Explorer's Grant
 2. The Career Access Fund
 3. The DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) and Racial Justice Fund
 4. The Alumni Sponsored Internship Program

Sampling of typical Alumni Sponsored Internship Photos

[Benjamin Platt '23](#), **Legal Intern**, Office of Chief Counsel, Office of the Inspector General, U. S. Department of Transportation, Washington, DC

[Justin Adams '23](#), **Fashion Design Intern**, Bode New York (Studio), New York, NY

[Zoe Kaegi '23](#), **Research Assistant**, UCSD, Swartz Center for Computational Neuroscience, La Jolla, CA

[Scarlet Rusch '23](#), **Media Writing Intern**, **Benjamin Xu '23** Art Journalism Intern and **Kate Abbott '00**, Founder, Writer and Editor, By The Way Berkshires, Williamstown, MA

[Sophie Johnson '25](#), **Arts Management and Educational Programming and Partnerships Intern**, WaterFire Providence, Providence, RI

- **The Williams Network (EphLink)**
- **1st - 4th year programming**
- **Winter Study**

'68 Center [Winter Study Career Courses\(8!\)](#):

Sampling of Winter Study Videos

- [Alisha Nadiu '24](#), Healthcare and Artificial Intelligence Research Intern, WorldCare International, Boston, MA
- [Yannick Davidson '23](#), Researcher and Policy Writer Intern, Boston Schools Fund, Boston, MA
- [Rebekah Lindsay '25](#), Climate Risk and Finance Research Assistant, United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative (UNEP FI), Geneva, Switzerland
- [Casey Monteiro '24](#), Curriculum Intern, Pittsfield Public Schools, Pittsfield, MA
- [Jonathan Velasquez '25](#), Social Media Strategy Intern, muun chi-an LA based Organic Food and Beverage Startup, Los Angeles, CA
- [Audrey Shadle '24](#), Housing Intern, Greater Boston Legal Services, Boston, MA
- [Khedija Shafi '26](#), Zero Waste Intern, Zilkha Center for Environmental Initiatives

Sampling of Williams Alumni Responses:

How has the experience of working with Williams winter Study Interns been meaningful for you or for your organization?

Ed Wiggers '90 President & COO of WorldCare International, Boston, MA

Working with Williams Interns has given us the ability to look at our business with fresh, smart eyes from a diversity of disciplines and backgrounds. Given where they are in their life experiences, the questions and answers we got from them went enthusiastically straight to the “so what” and we would come away from each encounter with something valuable.

Emily Isaacson '04, Founder, Artistic Director and Conductor, Classical Uprising/Portland Bach Experience, Portland, ME

Our Williams interns have been, to a person, smart, hard-working, inquisitive, creative and kind. They are a joy to mentor and to have as colleagues.

Perry Kalmus '03 Founder and CEO, AKALA, Los Angeles, CA

Aside from the incredible work that these kids do for the company (they are far more productive than I remember being when I was at Williams!), it is fulfilling to be able to educate them about the tech industry and watch them soak up the new information like sponges. Having a few students with ZERO experience in the tech world, dive in and really embrace the new experience is the essence of what Williams is all about.

ASIP Student Testimonials:

Zoe Kaegi '23, Research Assistant, UCSD, Swartz Center for Computational Neuroscience, La Jolla, CA

Quote 1: As a student majoring in Biology and Psychology with a concentration in Neuroscience, most of my courses have focused on papers using research techniques at the neuron and neurotransmitter level. Therefore, it has been interesting to explore neuroscience on a larger, circuit level using EEG recordings and coding-based analysis. I even got to participate in a trial study, during which I was connected to 64 electrodes and afterward analyzed my own brain data.

Quote 2: The most unexpected yet exciting aspect of my ASIP experience was how many connections I made with neuroscientists and researchers of all different backgrounds. Within my lab, I met with two current PhD candidates and asked them about their academic and research journeys. I also met a Williams alumna doing her PhD nearby at Scripps Research. It was so inspiring to meet with those three women, as they gave me invaluable advice as a young student hoping to get a PhD in neuroscience one day.

Justin Zen '24, Research Assistant, United Nations Environment Programme – Finance Initiative, Task Force on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures-Geneva, Switzerland (Remote)

One of my favorite projects that I worked on was a series of briefings for financial institutions outlining climate-related transition and physical risks for various sectors of the global economy. As the world reckons with the growing consequences of climate change, the financial sector has an important role to play in improving global sustainability and environmental consciousness.

Michael Keegan'25, Summer Broadcast Journalism Intern, WEMU-FM/NPR Affiliate, Ypsilanti, MI

Eventually, by the end of my internship, I was writing and voicing segments for broadcast. Reaching this point was immensely satisfying, because I was following the writing process from ideation to completion. When I first heard my voice on-air, I felt an indistinguishable mix of nervousness and excitement. But, along with this, I also felt very fortunate for my colleagues who patiently helped me learn and grow throughout the

summer. Near the end of my internship, as our newsroom tracked elections results and statewide issues, I realized how passionate I had grown about local journalism.

Sarah Ling '24, Artist-In-Residence: Arts and Communications CURAM an SFI Research Centre for Medical Devices, Galway, Ireland

Quote 1: The first couple of weeks, my internship was based on getting a feel around the lab and the projects each Ph.D. candidate is working on. To get to know their work, I had mini-interviews with each one. This was good practice for both the scientists and me because scientists have trouble communicating their projects in simple terms and I struggled a lot to understand the projects since I have no biology background.

Quote 2: I decided that I would like to create a short animation for my art project. This was a learning experience for I have never done a lengthy animation before and I had no prior experience or support in this process. My animation will focus on Rahul Bhatti's research which uses a hydrogel and other components to promote tissue regeneration post heart attacks.

Alexander Park '23, Energy and Climate Economic Research Intern, Ecologic Institute, Berlin, Germany

My research culminated in a presentation to senior members of the project team, and in my co-authoring a 35-page report which will be reviewed at the end of August, and subsequently published as a part of the policy advisory package. Although the case study research centering on Norway and Vancouver was not the only project I worked on while at Ecologic, the fact that I was able to focus most of my time on that one task afforded me an incredible opportunity to immerse myself in a profoundly interesting topic, and to develop my skills in policy research, communication, and integrative analysis.

- **Graduate School Preparation**
- **Staffing**
- **Physical Space**
- **Cross Campus Collaborations**
- **Marketing To Students**

Instagram Account: [@ephcareers](#)

Example of Sunday Newsletter: [April 23, 2023 Edition](#)

Examples of Career Community Newsletters:

[Arts and Entertainment](#)

[Business](#)

[Communication](#)

[Consulting & Finance](#)

[Education](#)

[Health Professions](#)

[Law and Government](#)

[STEM](#)

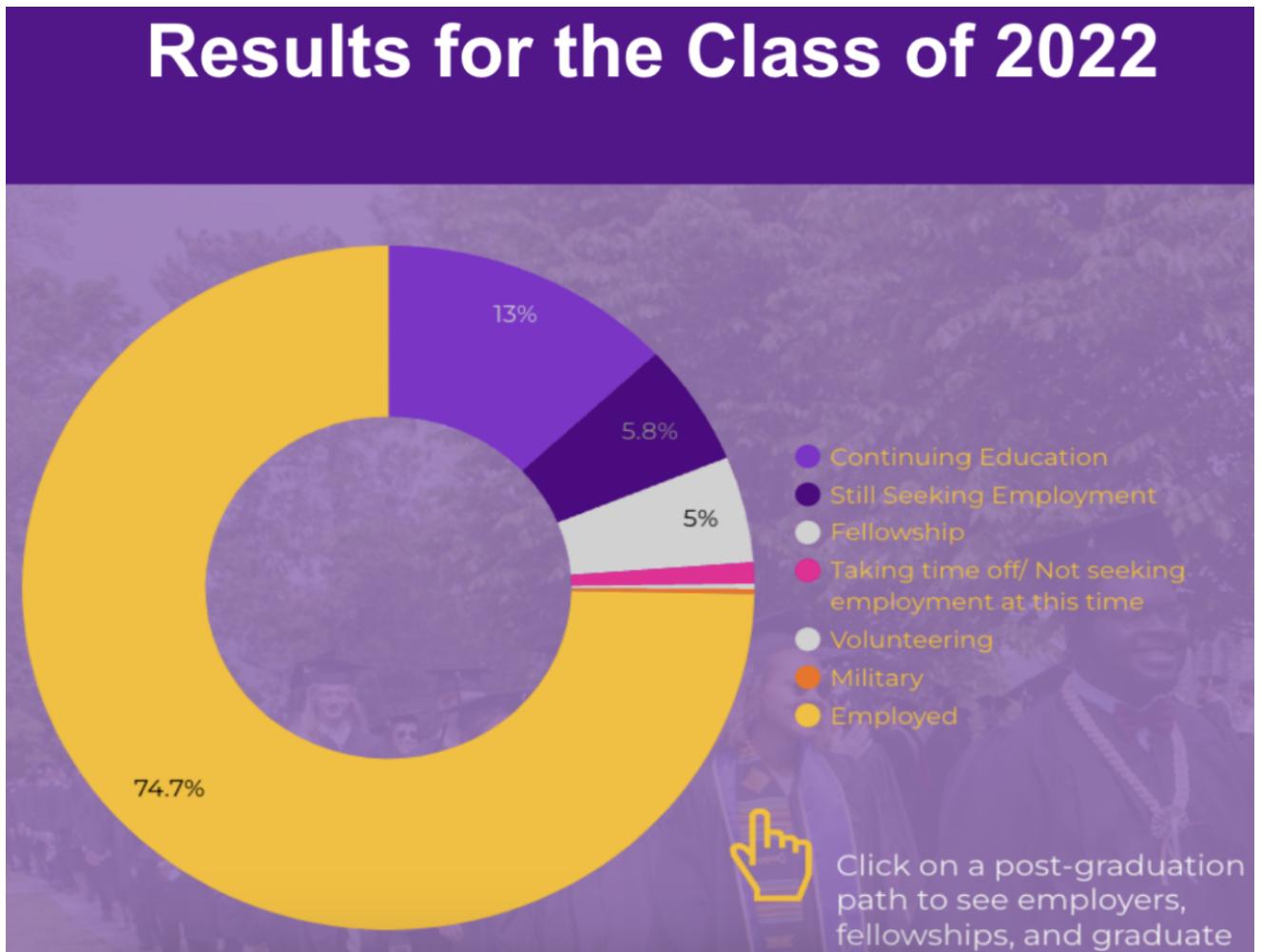
- **Student Organizations**
- **Technology that Powers Our Work**
- **Consortia Affiliations**

- **Our Outcomes**

The outcomes of a Williams education are remarkable and have never been stronger. **95% of our most recent graduates have solid plans** within 6 months of graduation. Our annual First Destination Survey (started in 2017) includes the following information and is [searchable here](#):

90% said their post-Williams pursuits are related to career goals

77% *connected with alumni* for internships or post Williams plans



Sample of Employers & Graduate Programs

Employers (238):

- Google
- Apple
- Amazon
- Deloitte
- Bain
- McKinsey
- Goldman Sachs
- Morgan Stanley
- Dana Farber Cancer Institute
- Boston Children's Hospital
- Americorp
- Simon & Schuster

Graduate Programs (39):

- Yale
- Harvard
- MIT
- Brown
- Columbia
- Cornell
- Duke
- Georgetown
- University of Oxford, UK
- University of Cambridge, UK
- University of Michigan
- University of Paris

Our Vision for the Future:

The '68 Center is committed to a 5-year vision having spent a year developing a Strategic Plan. [The '68 Center plan](#) aligns closely with the college Strategic Plan, specifically in the areas of internships, applied learning, experiential education, life outside of the classroom, and the 12 Month education. The '68 Center plan identifies 7 regional "Peaks of Excellence" from Mount Greylock to Mount Williams. Each peak includes specific time-bound action steps and will guide our commitments over the next five years. It is our north star.

The Seven Peaks of Excellence:

- All Students
- All Four Years
- All 12 Months
- Core Connections
- Technology, Innovation, and Process Improvement
- Data, Outcomes, and Telling Our Story
- The Future of Work

Summation:

Pursuant to our Mission, the '68 Center for Career Exploration seeks to prepare Williams students to pursue their goals through a comprehensive and individualized career education. All dreams are welcome here and we aspire to, in the word of Mark Hopkins, "Climb high, climb far, your goal the sky, your aim the star." As such, we thank the Class of 1968 for your commitment and ongoing support. Your investment in the '68 Center will continue to fuel the transformation of the Center and directly impact the lives of Williams graduates and their communities for

generations to come. We simply could not do this important work without your generous support. Thank you.

“The liberal arts is the most practical education. It’s interdisciplinary approach prepares graduates for not one profession, but many, and sets students up well for an unpredictable future.”

- President Maud Mandel, Williams 20th President
(Keynote of the SCCA conference which the ‘68 Center hosted for 21 peer colleges)

At the ‘68 Center for Career Exploration we are dedicated to and ambitious about our mission: “Prepare Williams students to explore and pursue their goals through comprehensive, individualized career education. We encourage all students to discover their interests, values, and identities so they can lead fulfilling and impactful lives.”

Our five-year strategic plan provides us with seven strategic goals, thirty-five specific action steps to achieve those goals, and a timeline to hold ourselves accountable for progress. Each spring/summer we will assess the previous academic year’s progress and calibrate the following year’s action steps.

Our strategic plan is anchored explicitly in Williams’ Strategic Plan; the expressed needs of Williams students and other constituents; and best practices from peer institutions and consortia such as SCCA, LACN, and NACE.

We end where we began: Inspired by the college’s mission and the surrounding Berkshire mountains, the ‘68 Center pursues a bold ambition – to provide the finest career exploration and preparation at a liberal arts institution. We believe sincerely, as President Mandel has stated, a liberal arts education is the best preparation for an unpredictable future.