

THOUGHTLESS THINKS

POPEL SHAW CENTER FOR RACE & ETHNICITY INAUGURAL NEWSLETTER

VOL. 1, NO.1 * INAUGURAL EDITION * 15 OCTOBER 2025



Who is Esther Popel Shaw?

Esther Popel Shaw '1919 (1896–1958) holds an important place in Dickinson College’s history as the first African-American woman to graduate from the college, earning her degree in 1919. After Dickinson, she became a poet associated with the Harlem Renaissance, a teacher, and an accomplished writer. Her poetry and essays often reflected her deep interest in culture, community, and the human experience. Throughout her career, she was widely respected for her creativity and her ability to connect literature to everyday life.

The Popel Shaw Center for Race & Ethnicity honors her legacy and contributions by serving as a **welcoming space for all members of the Dickinson community**. The Center provides opportunities for students to engage in dialogue, explore identity, and celebrate cultural diversity, while also offering support and resources that help students thrive personally and academically. By carrying her name, the Center ensures that Esther Popel Shaw’s pioneering role and lasting influence remain a meaningful part of Dickinson’s story.

233 W. Louthier St.



We’re excited to share that the [Esther] Popel Shaw Center for Race & Ethnicity has a new home! Since last summer, the Center has been located at 233 W. Louthier Street. **Students, faculty, and staff have access to the building daily from 7:00 a.m. to midnight, seven days a week**, so feel free to stop by, spend time in the space, and make it your own.



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The Popel Shaw Center Student Executive Board

Jedéa Williams '27 is from Brooklyn, New York. She is a junior majoring in Psychology with double minors in Africana Studies and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (WGSS). On campus, she serves as the A.C.E. Peer Mentor Coordinator and the Program and Outreach Coordinator at the Popel Shaw Center. Additionally, she is the Lead Co-Facilitator for Black Girl Chronicles and the President of the Utmost Upsilon Delta Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Noah McElroy '28, from Los Angeles, California, is a sophomore in the Class of 2028 pursuing a double major in Psychology and Sociology with a minor in Africana Studies. Noah is a Posse Los Angeles Scholar actively involved in MANDatory and serves as a Program Coordinator at the Popel Shaw Center for Race and Ethnicity.

Pia Mancini '25 is a senior from Harlem, New York where she is a community organizer with the Brotherhood Sister Sol. Pia double majors in Latin American, Latinx, and Caribbean Studies and Environmental Studies with minors in Spanish and History; and is an Advisory Board Fellow at the Center for the Future of Native Peoples, and a member of Latina Discussion Group, Latin American Caribbean Club, and Amnesty International.

Taahira Walker '28 is from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Taahira is a sophomore majoring in Spanish and International Studies, and is part of the Class of 2028. On campus, she serves on the board for the Afro-Diasporic and Cultural Collective and is a co-executive for Black Girl Chronicles. She hopes to travel the world to further her studies and engage with diverse cultures.

Paris Wooten '28 is from the Bronx, NY, Paris a sophomore majoring in Law & Policy. On campus, she serves as the treasurer of Anwar Belly Dance and as the social media coordinator for the A.C.E Peer Mentors program, the Popel Shaw Center, and Black Girl Chronicles.

Julianna Bacon is from Burlington, New Jersey, is a sophomore double majoring in Law & Policy and Philosophy. On campus, she serves as the Vice President of Sigma Lambda Gamma National Sorority, Inc. and competes as a member of the Dickinson College Mock Trial team.

Student Spotlight: Jessica Edem '28



Jessica Edem, a sophomore from Maryland, is majoring in Biology with a minor in Africana Studies. At Dickinson, she is actively involved as an A.C.E. Peer Mentor for PSC, Secretary of Dickinson's Christian Fellowship, and Director of Service & Community Partnerships in Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society. Beyond campus, Jessica has led impactful healthcare projects in her home state of Akwa Ibom, Nigeria, reflecting her passion for community involvement and children's healthcare. A pre-health student, she aspires to attend medical school and become a Neonatologist dedicated to serving underserved populations.

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* AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2025 RECAP *

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The Popel Shaw Center Team

Rev. Yvette Davis (Right)

Born and raised on Long Island, New York, Rev. Yvette B. Davis is a collective liberation activist, Wesleyan-Baptist minister ordained in the Baptist Church, Somatic Abolitionist, and Diversity Practitioner, currently serving as the Director of the Popel Shaw Center for Race & Ethnicity at Dickinson College. She holds degrees from New York University, Drexel University, and Widener University, and is both a Messiah University Clergy Leadership Fellow and a New School University Nonprofit Management Fellow. A living history interpreter with the Pennsylvania Past Players, she portrays Harriet Smith, a Civil War–era educator and conductor on the Underground Railroad. Rev. Davis resides in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and enjoys classic jazz, live theater, romantic poetry, and crocheting.

Alvaro Munoz '24 (Left)

Alvaro Muñoz, a Dickinson College alumnus, Class of 2024, currently serves as the Assistant Director of the Popel Shaw Center for Race & Ethnicity at Dickinson College. In this capacity, he advances the Center's mission by overseeing signature programs, mentorship initiatives, and community engagement efforts that promote student belonging, leadership, and success. He collaborates closely with program coordinators to ensure the A.C.E. Peer Mentors Program operates effectively, providing consistent bi-weekly and monthly programming that supports student development. Alvaro also serves as an Advisor to The Order of Scroll and Key and MANDatory, as well as a chapter Academic Advisor for Sigma Lambda Beta International Fraternity, Inc. and Social Media Coordinator for the Sigma Lambda Beta Education Foundation. His work is driven by a deep commitment to student empowerment, inclusive excellence, and meaningful community connection.



Faculty/Staff Highlight Amy Ward



Amy Ward has served as **Dean of Library Services at Dickinson College** since August 2022. She views the library as both a hub of academic rigor and a welcoming space for lifelong learning, striving to amplify diverse voices through displays, events, and collaborative initiatives. Dedicated to fostering engagement beyond the library's walls, she partners across campus to spark new ideas and connections. Amy credits much of her success to the talented library team she works alongside and is deeply grateful for their shared commitment to this vision.

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2nd Annual Paint & Powder 2025!

On Saturday, September 6, 2025, the Popel Shaw Center hosted its **annual Paint and Powder celebration on Morgan Field at Dickinson College**. The vibrant event drew students, faculty, and community members together for an afternoon filled with music, food, and festivities.

The first 150 students to arrive received complimentary boba tea from Boba Sensei, adding an extra layer of excitement to the day. Affinity groups were also spotlighted in a dedicated student section, where organizations showcased their missions and shared information with the broader campus and Carlisle community. The event was made possible through the generous **co-sponsorship of B&L Caribbean and the Carlisle Rotary Club**. Their partnership helped transform Paint and Powder from an idea into a reality. Paint and Powder not only celebrated community and culture but also created lasting memories. Organizers look forward to welcoming everyone back for next year's festivities.



Restaurant Spotlight B&L Caribbean



Experience the authentic flavors of St. Lucia at this charming restaurant on West Pomfret Street, brought to you by Bryan, originally from St. Lucia, and his wife, Latoya, well known for their popular mobile food business, B&L Dogs. The menu highlights Caribbean specialties such as **Jamaican Beef Patties, Oxtail, Jerk Chicken, Curry Chicken, and more**, all prepared fresh in the heart of downtown Carlisle.

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Campus Life Resource Race

The Popel Shaw Center participated in the campus-wide Resource Race, where we shared information about the services and support we provide. We distributed resources to students, Residential Advisors, and House & Apartment Managers to help ensure they are equipped to connect their communities with our offerings. Throughout the event, waves of student leaders visited our office to learn how they could best support their first-year students and assist their residents in the residence halls at Dickinson College. The photos above and below feature student leaders engaging with Director Rev. Yvette Davis and Assistant Director Alvaro Munoz as they shared available resources and opportunities.



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A.C.E Peer Mentors & The Carlisle Rotary Club

On September 10, 2025, more than 30 A.C.E. Peer Mentors gathered with over 30 members of the Carlisle Rotary Club for an evening of networking and professional exchange. The event provided a platform for participants to introduce their current work, share experiences, and identify opportunities for collaboration. Following the formal program, several A.C.E. Peer Mentors remained to continue conversations with Rotary members, underscoring their commitment to building meaningful professional connections. **The Popel Shaw Center expressed gratitude to the Carlisle Rotary Club** for hosting the event and fostering engagement between students and community leaders.

WE MEAN BUSINESS!



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Popel Shaw Center Open House!

On August 27, 2025, the Popel Shaw Center for Race & Ethnicity hosted its annual Open House, welcoming an impressive turnout of students and their families. The Director and Assistant Director had the opportunity to connect with both new and returning students, as well as meet parents who were eager to learn more about the support and resources available through the Center. The event highlighted the Center's commitment to fostering community and providing guidance throughout the academic journey. As the new semester begins, the Popel Shaw Center extends its best wishes for a successful first month at Dickinson College and warmly invites students to visit the Center at any time. #RollDevs



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A.C.E Peer Mentors Speed Matching

On September 16, A.C.E. Peer Mentors and new mentees gathered for a speed matching event designed to foster connections and establish mentorship pairings. The evening featured structured networking activities, allowing mentees to meet with multiple mentors before being matched. Students also enjoyed a meal from Chipotle and participated in a lively round of Jeopardy, which encouraged engagement and camaraderie. By the conclusion of the event, mentees were successfully paired with mentors, marking the start of their mentorship journeys.

The A.C.E. Peer Mentors program continues to welcome new participants; students interested in becoming mentees are encouraged to contact Assistant Director Alvaro Munoz at munoza@dickinson.edu.



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HOMECOMING 2025



15 OCTOBER 2025

Saturday, November 8, 2025

Welcome Back Brunch

🕒 9:30–11:00 a.m.

📍 Popel Shaw Center for Race & Ethnicity
Celebrate the accomplishments of our students and alumni during this special welcome-back brunch. Join us for connection, reflection, and community as we kick off the weekend's festivities.

Culture Cookout

🕒 Noon–5:00 p.m.

📍 Popel Shaw Center for Race & Ethnicity
Join us for an afternoon of fabulous food, fellowship, and community building at the Popel Shaw Center. This event is sponsored by the Popel Shaw Center for Race & Ethnicity and hosted in collaboration with the African American Alumni Association of Dickinson College (A4DC), Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. Alumni, students, and families are all welcome!

Sunday, November 9, 2025

Color Me Wellness

🕒 11:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

📍 Althouse 106

Join us for a session-based wellness forum designed to help students navigate experiences with bias at Dickinson, in Carlisle, and beyond. The event features a panel of mental health and wellness professionals, an open Q&A, and opportunities to explore healing practices such as storytelling, yoga, counseling, and holistic nature therapy, concluding with a guided tour of the Wellness Center.

Co-Sponsored by the Student Senate Equity, Inclusivity, and Belonging Committee, the Popel Shaw Center for Race & Ethnicity the Wellness Center, Student Success and Academic Advising, and Trendsetters.



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UPCOMING EVENTS



15 OCTOBER 2025

BLACK GIRL CHRONICLES PRESENTS...

MOCKTAILS & clay making

****FOOD PROVIDED!**

OCTOBER 22 2025, 6:00 - 7PM

POPEL SHAW CENTER - 233 W LOUTHER ST

COME GET CRAFTY WITH US WHILE SIPPING SOME SPOOKY MOCKTAILS! EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

CONSISTENT WITH OUR EDUCATIONAL MISSION, ALL ACADEMIC AND CO-CURRICULAR PROGRAMS SPONSORED BY DICKINSON COLLEGE ARE OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY

Any questions? Contact Jeeda Williams
Willijed@dickinson.edu

MECA x Dickinson College

MUSLIM EDUCATIONAL & CULTURAL ASSOCIATION
POPEL SHAW CENTER FOR RACE & ETHNICITY
ARE PROUD TO PRESENT...

Mehndi Market

this Fall 2025

TUESDAY, 10/28, 6-8 PM

Location:
Popel Shaw Center 233 W. Louthier St.
Carlisle, PA 17013

Attire: Elegant
EVERYONE IS WELCOME!!!

Consistent with our educational mission, all academic and co-curricular programs sponsored by Dickinson College are open to all members of our community

Dickinson

ALL TREATS, NO TRICKS

COFFEE TRUCK - DOUGHNUTS - HAYRIDES - AND MORE!

Safety Isn't Spooky

OCT 22 | **WEDNESDAY** | **MORGAN FIELD** | **4-6 PM**

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY & THE DIVISION OF DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

Consistent with our educational mission, all academic and co-curricular programs sponsored by Dickinson College are open to all members of our community.

Culture and Costumes

An Informal Dialogue on Halloween Costumes

October 15th 5:30 - 6:45

Althouse 207

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HOW TO CONTACT US!



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SUBSCRIBE TO OUR MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



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