**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Letter from the Director</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Race and Justice in America</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mudd Center Lectures and Associated Events</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mudd Center Lunches</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mudd Center Conferences</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Co-Sponsored Events</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethics of Citizenship</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
“Given the state of ethics in our current culture, this seems a fitting time to endow a center for the study of ethics, and my university is its fitting home.”

~ Roger Mudd
LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Welcome!

I am very pleased to introduce the Mudd Center’s Annual Report for the 2014-2015 academic year. This was the first full year of active programming for the Mudd Center, and I am excited to share some of the highlights of this year’s activities.

The mission of the Mudd Center is to advance dialogue, teaching, and research about important ethical issues in public and professional life. In light of this mission, each year the Mudd Center will choose a specific topic in ethics to explore in depth during the course of the academic year. The topic that was chosen for the 2014-2015 school year was “Race and Justice in America.” As we celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, this seemed like an appropriate time to step back and reflect upon the current state of racial justice in this country. In addition to teaching a first-year philosophy seminar on this topic in the fall of 2014, I also worked with an interdisciplinary planning committee on putting together a full slate of speakers and other events to explore current issues of race and justice in the United States. The various lectures, conferences, seminars, class visits, and lunchtime discussions we hosted are highlighted in the first section of our report.

In addition to these race and justice-related events, the Mudd Center also co-sponsored a number of other ethics-related events with various departments and schools on campus. These included a Business Ethics Institute, a Law School Conference on “Cybersurveillance in the Post-Snowden Age,” and a Staniar Gallery exhibit by artist Vincent Valdez entitled “The Strangest Fruit.” The Mudd Center was also happy to partner with the Center for Leadership and Ethics at the Virginia Military Institute in co-hosting a monthly series of “Dessert and Discussion Meetings” for students at both institutions to discuss issues of ethical and global import. These co-sponsored events are highlighted in the second section of our report.

None of this year’s programming would have been possible without the extraordinary help and support of several students, staff members, and faculty at Washington and Lee. Thanks first of all to my wonderful administrative assistant, Joan Millon, and to my two excellent work-study students, Teddy Corcoran and Myrna Barrerra-Torres (both of whom contributed substantially to the production of this Report – Teddy with event write-ups, and Myrna with the design and layout). I also want to thank all of the faculty members on the Mudd Center Advisory Committee and the Race and Justice Planning Committee. Their advice and guidance has been enormously useful in these crucial start-up years at the Mudd Center. Finally, and most importantly, I would like to thank Roger Mudd ’50, who not only provided the generous gift establishing the Mudd Center, but who has also been a source of invaluable encouragement and support throughout the year. We were delighted to be able to welcome him to campus for the kick-off event for this year’s programming last September. You can learn more about all of these people in section four of our review.

In closing, I am excited to announce that the Mudd Center theme for the 2015-2016 academic year will be “The Ethics of Citizenship.” Professor Danielle Allen, Director of Harvard’s Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics, will be delivering our keynote address on Thursday, September 24, 2015. In addition, the Mudd Center will be bringing in its first Mudd Center Postdoctoral Fellow, Dr. Pinar Kemerli, who will be teaching courses related to the ethics of citizenship and participating in other Mudd Center activities throughout the year. You can learn more about this theme, our keynote speaker, and our incoming Mudd Postdoctoral Fellow in section three of our review.

It has been a wonderful year, and I am already looking forward to next year’s programming. I hope to see you at upcoming Mudd Center events!

Angela M. Smith
Roger Mudd Professor of Ethics and Professor of Philosophy
Fifty years after the landmark passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act and the 1965 Voting Rights Act, the United States is still a country marked by pervasive racial inequalities—in the areas of education, employment, health care, incarceration rates, and household wealth, among many others. What explains these continuing racial inequalities, and how, if at all, should a just society respond to them? There is currently considerable discussion and debate over the proper role that considerations of race should play in the formation of public policy and in related efforts on the part of individuals and institutions to achieve a more just and equitable society. While some argue that we have transcended race and should aspire to ideals of colorblindness, others argue that race is still a significant determinant of unjust social and economic outcomes and that we cannot adequately deal with these injustices without addressing issues of race. The main goal of this yearlong interdisciplinary series was to explore these complex ethical questions, by looking carefully both at the mechanisms underlying continuing racial inequalities and at the ways in which these mechanisms may both reflect and contribute to various forms of social injustice.
RACE and JUSTICE IN AMERICA
In the fall of 2014, the director of the Mudd Center, Angela Smith, taught a special first-year philosophy seminar on the topic of “Race and Justice in America.” The course addressed general philosophical questions about the nature and meaning of race, as well as questions arising in moral and political philosophy about the proper role that considerations of race should play in the formation of public policy and in related efforts on the part of individuals and institutions to achieve a more just and fair society. Topics covered included: The concept of race, race and the criminal justice system, affirmative action, structural discrimination, implicit bias, and reparations.

Fifteen students signed up for this special seminar and wrote term papers on topics ranging from “The Ethics of Hip-Hop,” to “The Media, Race, and Moral Responsibility” to “Race and Voter ID Laws.” In addition, students in this seminar had an opportunity to meet in special seminar sessions with several of the guest lecturers who visited the Mudd Center during the fall term, including Professor Charles Ogletree and Professor Jesmyn Ward.
Top: Students in Philosophy 180FS and in Professor Ted DeLaney’s History 260: African American People since 1877 meet with Mudd Center Lecturer Charles Ogletree.

Left: Students in Phil 180FS meet with Mudd Center Lecturer Jesmyn Ward.
The Mudd Center hosted eight lectures this year by professors in the fields of sociology, law, philosophy, psychology, creative writing, and politics. All of these speakers also met with classes or student seminars during their visits. On the Friday following most of these lectures, the Mudd Center held lunchtime seminars in which students, faculty, and staff were encouraged to come together to discuss the ethical issues raised in that week’s lecture.
MUDD CENTER LECTURES
and ASSOCIATED EVENTS
On September 22, 2014, the Mudd Center kicked off its year-long investigation of “Race and Justice in America” with a lecture by Ann Morning, Associate Professor of Sociology at New York University. Professor Morning has written extensively on issues of racial conceptualization and classification, and is the author of the 2011 book *The Nature of Race: How Scientists Think and Teach about Human Difference*. Her talk at Washington and Lee, entitled “The Nature of Race: Investigating Concepts of Human Difference,” examined the different ways in which Americans conceptualize race, focusing in particular on how academic biologists, anthropologists, and their students understand racial concepts.

Morning argued that it matters how individuals conceptualize the nature of race, and that biological or “essentialist” concepts of race, unlike “constructivist” concepts that view racial categories as social and political constructs, have clear associations with negative attitudes and practices such as racism, eugenics, and harsh immigration restrictions. In her research, she was surprised to discover that biological concepts of race are still fairly prevalent among biologists and anthropologists in the academy, as well as among their students. But she also argued that most individuals do not, in fact, hold uniform or consistent concepts of race, and that people’s ideas about the nature of racial difference often vary based on which races they have in mind. By pointing out these inconsistencies, it is possible to see how people can be misled into thinking that differences that are due to sociocultural factors are, in fact, due to biological racial differences. Finally, Morning emphasized the importance of creating a climate in which people feel comfortable speaking honestly about their viewpoints on race. She stressed that in order to make headway on the many difficult questions surrounding issues of race in this country, we have to be willing to approach these discussions with attitudes of openness and mutual respect. She then gave us an excellent demonstration of this approach during the lively Q&A period after her talk.
Fifty years after the landmark passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act and the 1965 Voting Rights Act, the United States is still a country marked by pervasive racial inequalities. What explains these continuing racial inequalities, and how, if at all, should a just society respond to them? We will explore this topic throughout the year through a series of speakers and events. For more information about this series, please go to: www.wlu.edu/mudd-center.

THE NATURE OF RACE: INVESTIGATING CONCEPTS OF HUMAN DIFFERENCE

Ann Morning
Associate Professor of Sociology
New York University

Monday, Sept. 22, 4:30 p.m.
Stackhouse Theater
Washington and Lee University

Far left, top: Ann Morning, Associate Professor of Sociology at New York University.

Far left, bottom: Ann Morning delivers the kick-off lecture for the “Race and Justice in America” series in Stackhouse Theater.

Bottom left: Ann Morning talks with Sociology Professor David Novack.

Bottom right: Roger Mudd talks with Ann Morning and President Ken Ruscio.

In his Lee Chapel lecture, Ogletree spoke on the problematic issue of African-American incarceration by focusing on President Obama’s recent initiative entitled “My Brother’s Keeper.” This initiative aims to address persistent opportunity gaps faced by boys and young men of color through mentorship and support programs in communities throughout the country. While questioning the restriction of this initiative to young men of color (since young women of color face many of the same obstacles and challenges), Ogletree applauded the President’s emphasis on the importance of mentorship in helping to break the “school to prison pipeline” that too often characterizes the lives of young black men. He spoke poignantly of his own mentorship by prominent African-American lawyer Charles Hamilton Houston, and also of his own role in mentoring Barack Obama when he was a law student at Harvard.

Ogletree also noted, however, that individual action alone will not solve the current crisis of mass incarceration among African-American men. Noting the importance of the federal government in addressing problems in this area, Ogletree argued that leaders and policy makers in Washington D.C. need to enact legislation to deal with issues of racial profiling, racially discriminatory drug laws, and other problematic police and prosecutorial policies that have led to unprecedented levels of black incarceration.
Mudd Distinguished Lecture in Ethics

MY BROTHER’S KEEPER: INCARCERATION AND AFRICAN AMERICAN MEN

Charles Ogletree
Jesse Climenko Professor of Law and Director of the Charles Hamilton Institute for Race and Justice
Harvard University

Wednesday, Oct. 1, 4:30 p.m.
Lee Chapel
Washington and Lee University

Mudd Center for Ethics
Race and Justice in America

Fifty years after the landmark passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act and the 1965 Voting Rights Act, the United States is still a country marked by pervasive racial inequalities. What explains these continuing racial inequalities, and how, if at all, should a just society respond to them? We will explore this topic throughout the year through a series of speakers and events. For more information about this series, please go to: www.wlu.edu/mudd-center.

Far left, top: Provost Daniel Wubah, Charles Ogletree, Law School Dean Nora Demleitner, and Angie Smith pose for a picture at a reception after Ogletree’s lecture.

Far left, bottom: Charles Ogletree, Jesse Climenko Professor of Law and Founding and Executive Director of the Charles Hamilton Institute for Race and Justice at Harvard University.

Above: Charles Ogletree delivers the Mudd Distinguished Lecture in Ethics in Lee Chapel.
On October 22, 2014, Martha Nussbaum, Ernst Freund Distinguished Service Professor of Law and Ethics at the University of Chicago, delivered a lecture entitled “Anger and Revolutionary Justice” in Lee Chapel. Professor Nussbaum is one of the most important and influential academics in the world today. She has published extensively on issues of ethics, public policy, and law, and has made important contributions in the fields of philosophy, classics, religion, politics, economics, literature, women’s and gender studies, and law, among other areas. In her Mudd Center lecture, Professor Nussbaum addressed the following question: Is righteous anger a morally appropriate, and perhaps even a morally necessary, response to cases of great injustice? Beginning with Aeschylus’ *Oresteia* and ending with the words of Nelson Mandela, Nussbaum delivered a fascinating talk on the ethical implications of anger, especially as it relates to revolutionary change.

Nussbaum began by offering a critique of “garden variety” anger, which she claimed always embodies a desire for some kind of “payback.” She argued that this desire for “payback” does not, however, make rational or moral sense, since seeking retribution for a wrong one has suffered will not itself restore what one has lost. What is rational in the face of great injustice, Nussbaum claimed, is an attitude she calls “transitional anger,” which is forward-looking rather than backward-looking, and which seeks to change the circumstances of injustice rather than to avenge past wrongs. In arguing in favor of this non-retributive form of anger, Nussbaum looked at three of the most successful revolutionary freedom movements in the past century: Ghandi’s independence movement, Martin Luther King, Jr.’s role in the U.S. civil rights movement, and Nelson Mandela’s freedom movement in South Africa. She argued that all of these movements were conducted in a spirit of non-anger (which, she noted, is distinct from, though sometimes joined to, nonviolence). Relying on the thought and practice of these three leaders, Nussbaum argued that non-anger is both normatively and practically superior to anger as a response to grave social injustice. As she noted, these individuals “stood up for their self-respect and that of others” and did not acquiesce in injustice. Nevertheless, they managed to do this in a way that was forward-looking and non-retributive, laying the groundwork for a future of equality, liberty, and brotherhood.
Above: Martha Nussbaum, Ernst Freund Distinguished Service Professor of Law and Ethics at the University of Chicago, delivers a lecture in Lee Chapel.

Above, right: Martha Nussbaum talks with student Daniel Rhoades in Washington Hall.

Bottom, left: Martha Nussbaum walks with Economics Professor Art Goldsmith.

Bottom, right: Martha Nussbaum talks with students at a seminar discussing her book *Creating Capabilities*. 
Preventing the Next Ferguson: The Science of Bias in Policing

Phillip Atiba Goff
November 6, 2014

On November 6, 2014, Phillip Atiba Goff, Associate Professor of Psychology at UCLA, delivered a talk entitled “Preventing the Next Ferguson: The Science of Bias in Policing” to a full audience in Stackhouse Theater. His talk served as the keynote address for the Mudd Center’s Mini-Conference on Implicit Racial Bias, which took place the following day. Goff, who is also the co-founder and president of the Center for Policing Equity at UCLA, has published extensively on issues of bias in policing and the criminal justice system. His work in this area has made him a sought-after equity researcher and consultant for police forces around the country.

In his talk, Goff argued that we need a “new language” for understanding a world in which we are witnessing both increasing racial inequality alongside declining levels of explicit racial prejudice. This combination of statistics is puzzling if we assume that racist people must be the cause of continuing racial inequalities, since the evidence suggests that conscious racial animus has decreased significantly over the past few decades. In order to explain this puzzling phenomenon, Goff argued, we need to employ the language of fast and slow “identity traps.” Fast traps are automatic, uncontrolled responses such implicit biases, which involve drawing unconscious associations between individuals of particular races, ethnicities, or genders and certain negative stereotypical traits. Goff noted that one need not in fact believe these things in order to have the negative associations; one need only live in a social world in which these stereotypes are constantly reinforced. These fast traps point to a problem with the character of our society, and the fix needs to take place at this level.

Slow identity traps, by contrast, are self-directed, deliberative, and conscious. “Self-threats,” for example, are things that present a threat to a belief one holds about oneself. Goff’s central argument in his lecture was that masculinity threat, a slow trap, might be a significant contributing factor in the racially disparate use of force by police officers. His research has shown that officers with high masculinity threat are more inclined to use force against black men, since black men in our society are stereotyped as “hypermasculine.” In encounters with black men, therefore, these officers may feel the need to demonstrate their masculinity through excessive use of force. What is particularly interesting about these findings, according to Goff, is that they can explain the otherwise puzzling lack of correlation between measures of racial prejudice among police officers and the racially disparate use of force. The fact of the matter is that officers with low levels of racial prejudice yet high levels of masculinity threat may be more likely to use unnecessary force against black men than those with a reversed identity profile. Understanding these psychological mechanisms, Goff argued, can help us to design better interventions that more clearly address the underlying causes of disproportionate police violence against black men.
Top and left: Professor Phillip Atiba Goff, Associate Professor of Psychology at UCLA, delivers a lecture in Stackhouse Theater.

Bottom, right: Phillip Atiba Goff, Associate Professor of Psychology at UCLA, talks with a student after his lecture in Stackhouse Theater.
Men We Reaped

Jesmyn Ward
November 12, 2014

The Roger Mudd Center for Ethics saw its fall programming schedule come to a close with a standing ovation for National Book Award-Winning author Jesmyn Ward on Wednesday, November 12, 2014. During a term that included talks from sociologists, law professors, philosophers and psychologists, the Center brought in a voice on issues of race and justice from yet another perspective: creative writing.

Ward, the Paul and Debra Gibbons Professor of Creative Writing at Tulane University, gave a memorable talk entitled “Men We Reaped.” Expanding on her award-winning memoir of the same title published in 2013, Ward gave her audience an intimate look at her life growing up in a tiny town on the Gulf Coast of Mississippi.

Ward delved into her upbringing, explaining that she grew up with stories from both her family members and the books she read as a child. As she grew older, she ran into the brutality of systemic poverty, faced the ugliness of endemic racism, and repeatedly encountered the view that African-Americans were somehow less valuable than others in society. Discouraged and affected by her environment, Ward explained that she began to internalize the problematic viewpoints around her. It was when she returned to stories that she began to make progress.

Ward stressed the empowerment that comes from writing, explaining that by sharing her stories, she can not only speak for herself, she can also give a voice to the countless African-Americans in her Mississippi community who have none. By humanizing the struggle African-Americans still face in the twenty-first century and exploring the ways in which these struggles are bound up with a long history of racism, economic inequality, and lapsed public and personal responsibility, Ward hopes to start a conversation that will help change minds and hearts moving forward.

Ward freely admitted that her aim in these discussions is not to propose policy or legal change to address the continuing issues of racism and poverty in this country. Instead, what she offers is the compelling force of narrative, and the powerful representation of the undeniable dignity that all humans have in common.
Top, left: Jesmyn Ward, Paul and Debra Gibbons Professor of Creative Writing at Tulane University, signs books after her lecture in Stackhouse Theater.

Top, right: Jesmyn Ward meets with students in Professor Deborah Miranda’s Advanced Creative Writing class and Professor Laura Brodie’s Topics in Creative Writing class.

Bottom, left: Jesmyn Ward delivers a lecture in Stackhouse Theater.
On Wednesday, January 21, 2015, Tommie Shelby, a Professor of both African and African-American Studies and of Philosophy at Harvard University, gave a talk to a packed Northern Auditorium. In his talk, entitled “Procreation and Parental Responsibility: The Case of Disadvantaged Black Men,” Shelby aimed to “think systematically about the ethics of procreating and parenting from the standpoint of social justice.” More specifically, he examined the level of responsibility and moral obligation that can justly be required of biological parents, in general, and biological fathers, in particular, especially in contexts of social inequality and injustice. He argued that a careful analysis of these issues should lead us to conclude that current child-support enforcement policies may well be unjust when they are imposed upon biological fathers who did not expressly agree to take on the role of moral parent.

Using John Rawls’ A Theory of Justice as a guide, Shelby considered what it means to be a moral parent, rather than a biological or a legal parent, and how reflecting on this question might lead us to revise our conception of the respective responsibilities of biological mothers, biological fathers, and the state when it comes to the support and rearing of children. Shelby emphasized that a balance of the child’s interests, the interest of the child’s biological parents, and the interest of the public as a whole would all need to be considered and taken into account in conceiving of an appropriate moral stance.

Shelby’s most unique claim was that it was essential to consider the manner in which men become biological fathers in order to determine the extent to which they are morally responsible for the care of their biological children. He argued that it is unjust for the state to require biological fathers to pay child support when they have not expressed or implied their agreement to accept the role of moral parent. This view would have significant implications for issues of race and justice, according to Shelby, as impoverished black men are often the targets of aggressive child support enforcement and the subjects of moral condemnation, both of which can work to marginalize an already disadvantaged group. Instead of targeting impoverished black men, Shelby argued that the state has robust obligations to provide public support for poor, black, single-mother families, since child rearing confers essential public benefits for society as a whole.
**Procreation & Parental Responsibility:**
**The Case of Disadvantaged Black Men**

Wednesday, January 21
4:30 p.m. Northen Auditorium, Leyburn Library

**Biography**
Professor Shelby is the author of *We Who Are Dark: The Philosophical Foundations of Black Solidarity* (Harvard, 2005) and coeditor (with Derrick Darby) of *Hip Hop and Philosophy: Rhyme 2 Reason* (Open Court, 2005). He holds a joint appointment with the Department of African and African American Studies and Philosophy at Harvard University. His main areas of research and teaching are African American philosophy, social and political philosophy, social theory, especially Marxist theory, and philosophy of social science.

**Tommie Shelby**
Professor of African & African American Studies & of Philosophy at Harvard University

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Top, right: Angie Smith and Tommie Shelby talk before his lecture.
Bottom, right: Tommie Shelby, Caldwell Titcomb Professor of African and African-American Studies and of Philosophy at Harvard University, delivers a lecture in Northen Auditorium.
On Thursday, February 5, 2015, Robert Strong, the William Lyne Wilson Professor of Politics at Washington and Lee University, gave a talk entitled “Politics and Principle: Jimmy Carter in the Civil Rights Era” to a large and appreciative audience in Huntley Hall 327.

Building off of his extensive research on Carter, Strong traced the former president’s journey through his childhood and early political career, examining where his life and the civil rights movement intersected.

Strong argued that Carter’s relationship with civil rights was anything but simple, beginning with the disparate views of Carter’s parents in regards to racial equality, moving into Carter’s formative experience in a newly integrated Navy, and evolving during his time in state and national politics. As Strong put it, Carter’s involvement with civil rights was largely one of “personal courage and public caution.”

According to Strong, Carter privately worked to defy racial prejudice by participating in boycotting a segregated Naval event, refusing to contribute to or join the segregationist White Citizens’ Council, and standing up against a resolution to segregate his church in Georgia. Yet he also accepted campaign funds from the White Citizens’ Council, his staff members smeared his opponent for Governor of Georgia in 1970 as someone who was tolerant of black people, and he never explicitly spoke out against discrimination until after he was elected Governor. In his gubernatorial address, however, Carter boldly stated “the time for racial discrimination is over…. No poor, rural, weak or black person should ever have to bear the additional burden of being deprived of the opportunity of an education, a job or simple justice.”

As Strong noted, this plainly worded public statement was the first of its kind spoken by a Southern governor, and it launched his national political career.

According to Strong, Carter’s experiences during the civil rights era profoundly influenced his thinking about human rights. Carter saw a clear connection between what happened in the U.S. during the civil rights era and what could happen around the globe if citizens and leaders talked about human rights. As a result, Strong’s speech also functioned to give a unique understanding of Carter’s humanitarian interest, which became both a central theme of his presidency and the defining element of his career since leaving office.
Left, top and bottom: Faculty, students, and staff listen to Bob Strong's lecture.

Politics and Principle:
Jimmy Carter in the Civil Rights Era
Thursday, February 5th
5:00 p.m., Huntley 327

Professor Robert Strong
William Lyne Wilson Professor of Politics
Washington and Lee University
On March 25, 2015, civil rights attorney Juan Cartagena gave a talk entitled, “Latinos and Civil Rights: Lifting the Cloak of Invisibility,” in Northen Auditorium. Cartagena is the President and General Counsel of Latino Justice PRLDEF, one of the nation’s leading civil rights and public interest law offices. Cartagena’s talk explored some of the distinctive civil rights issues that Latinos face in the United States, and outlined a number of steps that should be taken to meaningfully address these issues.

Cartagena began by noting the oddity of referring to such a culturally, ethnically, and geographically diverse set of individuals by the single label “Latino/a.” Individuals who are placed under this label come from a variety of distinct ethnic backgrounds, and may have very little in common aside from this shared demographic designation. Despite their ethnic heterogeneity, however, the members of this group do share certain political interests, insofar as they, like African-Americans, have been subject to various forms of discrimination and social injustice in the United States. Cartagena argued that unlike African-Americans, however, Latinos currently lack clear political representation and leadership at the highest levels, which means that their interests are often neglected in the process of public policy making. This problem is exacerbated by a “black-white binary” of racial discourse in the United States, which tends to obscure or minimize the distinctive obstacles faced by Latinos in this country.

Cartagena outlined a number of steps that need to be taken to remedy these problems. First, he argued that Latinos and Latinas need to be more vocal in public political discourse on issues other than immigration. While immigration is indeed an important issue to the Latino community, there are many other issues relating to the treatment of Latinos in the criminal justice system, employment, housing, and education that also deserve attention. Second, he noted the need for better quality of life data on the Latino community. Latinos are the largest racial/ethnic minority in the United States, yet many jurisdictions do not collect or report data on the poverty, incarceration, health, or education rates of this population. Finally, Cartagena urged his audience to resist the temptation to frame all racial issues in black and white terms, as this contributes to the current “invisibility” of Latinos in civil rights discourse.
Fifty years after the landmark passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act and the 1965 Voting Rights Act, the United States is still a country marked by pervasive racial inequalities. What explains these continuing racial inequalities, and how, if at all, should a just society respond to them? We will explore this topic throughout the year through a series of speakers and events. For more information about this series, please go to: www.wlu.edu/mudd-center.

Far left, top and bottom: Juan Cartagena, President and General Counsel of LatinoJustice PRLDEF, delivers a lecture in Northen Auditorium.

Above: Students and faculty listen to Juan Cartagena’s lecture.
In conjunction with the lecture series on “Race and Justice in America,” the Mudd Center hosted regular follow-up lunch sessions in which students, faculty, and staff from around the university (and from our neighboring universities, the Virginia Military Institute and Southern Virginia University) came together to discuss the ethical issues raised by our visiting lecturers. We identified four important questions at the beginning of the year that helped to guide our lunchtime discussions: First, what is the actual condition today with respect to issues of race and racial inequality? Second, what is the best explanation for these current conditions? Third, what would constitute a morally just society when it comes to issues of race? And finally, how do we get there from here? Each of the lectures addressed topics that were relevant to answering one or more of these questions. And during a year in which we grappled with the tragic deaths of many young black men and boys in violent police encounters, including Michael Brown, Eric Garner, and Tamir Rice, and witnessed the flowering of the “Black Lives Matter” movement in Ferguson, Staten Island, and elsewhere, the participants in these lunchtime sessions had much to talk about regarding current issues of race and justice in America.
The Mudd Center hosted two conferences related to issues of race and justice this year, one in the fall on the topic of Implicit Racial Bias, and another in the winter (co-hosted with the Law School’s Journal of Civil Rights and Social Justice) on the 50th Anniversary of the 1964 Civil Rights Act and 1965 Voting Rights Act. These conferences brought to campus more than twenty scholars and policy experts from around the country to discuss a variety of important issues related to race and justice.
On November 7, 2014, the Mudd Center hosted a Mini-Conference on Implicit Racial Bias in the Hillel Multipurpose Room. The conference brought together leading researchers in the areas of law, sociology, and philosophy to discuss the nature and consequences of implicit racial bias in American society today.

Robert Smith, Assistant Professor of Law at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, kicked off the mini-conference with a talk entitled “Implicit White Favoritism in the Law.” In addition to presenting evidence to show that implicit racial bias negatively affects the treatment of people of color in our criminal justice system, Smith made the complementary argument that white people systematically benefit from various implicit positive biases in the law.

Irena Stepanikova, Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of Alabama-Birmingham, followed with a talk entitled “Do Implicit Biases Contribute to Racial/Ethnic Inequalities in Health Care?” Stepanikova presented original research findings indicating that implicit racial biases are particularly likely to be manifested in health care settings under situations of time pressure. According to Stepanikova, these studies suggest that when physicians are under stress, their implicit biases may shape medical decisions in ways that systematically disadvantage minority patients.

Robin Zheng, a W&L 2009 alumna who is currently finishing her Ph.D. in Philosophy at the University of Michigan, gave the concluding lecture of the conference on the topic “Attributability, Accountability, and Collective Responsibility for Implicit Bias.” Zheng’s talk addressed the question of moral responsibility for implicit biases. She argued that while individuals may not be subject to moral blame for these non-conscious biases, they should be held morally accountable for them, in the sense of owing compensation for any harm done by them.

The conference concluded with a fascinating lunchtime panel discussion with keynote lecturer Phillip Atiba Goff, Smith, Stepanikova and Zheng, in which various proposals were put forward about how to make progress on the problem of implicit racial bias in society today.
Mudd Center for Ethics: Race and Justice in America Presents

Implicit Bias Mini-Conference

Preventing the Next Ferguson: The Science of Bias in Policing
Phillip Atiba Goff
Associate Professor of Psychology, UCLA
Thurs. Nov. 6th, 4:30pm in Stackhouse Theater

Friday, Nov. 7th in the Hillel Multipurpose Room

9:00-9:50am Implicit White Favoritism in the Law
Robert L. Smith, Assist. Prof. of Law, UNC-Chapel Hill

10:00-10:50am Do Implicit Biases Contribute to Racial/Ethnic Inequalities in Health Care?
Irena Stepanikova, Assoc. Prof. of Sociology, Univ. of Alabama-Birmingham

11:00-11:50am Attributability, Accountability, & Collective Responsibility for Implicit Bias
Robin Zheng ’09, Ph.D. Student in Philosophy, Univ. of Michigan

12:00-1:00pm Lunch Panel Discussion with Goff, Smith, Stepanikova, and Zheng
Please RSVP to Mudd-Center@wlu.edu for this event

Above: Robin Zheng delivers a lecture in the Hillel Multipurpose Room.

Bottom, left: Robin Zheng, Irena Stepanikova, Robert Smith, Phillip Atiba Goff, and Angie Smith.

Bottom, right: Students, faculty, and staff listen to the lunchtime panel discussion at the Implicit Bias Mini-Conference.
On February 19 and 20, 2015, the Mudd Center co-hosted an interdisciplinary conference on the 50th Anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965 with the School of Law’s Journal of Civil Rights and Social Justice. Working together with Law Professor Margaret Hu and JCRSJ symposium editor Rachel Kurzweil (L ’15), we brought together leading experts in the fields of law, political science, sociology, philosophy, and history to discuss and critically reflect on the civil rights and voting rights challenges we still face in this country fifty years after these important legislative achievements. Guy-Uriel Charles, Associate Dean at Duke Law School and Founding Director of the Duke Law Center on Law, Race and Politics, delivered the dinner keynote address on Thursday evening, and Hina Shamsi, Director of the ACLU’s National Security Project delivered a lunch keynote address on Friday. Six W&L faculty members joined seventeen outside scholars from universities around the country to participate in four panel discussions on the following topics: “50 Years After the Voting Rights Act of 1965”; “Brown v. Board of Education and Affirmative Action in a ‘Post-Racial’ America”; “Immigration Rights and Citizenship Rights as Civil Rights”; and “The Future of Civil Rights.”
Top, left: Law School Dean Nora Demleitner welcomes participants to the 50th Anniversary Symposium as Politics Professor Mark Rush and panelist Josh Sellars look on.

Top, right: Guy-Uriel Charles speaks on a panel along with, from right, Dianne Pinderhughes, Mark Rush, Josh Sellars, and Justin Weinstein-Tull.

Bottom, left: Dan Tichenor, Professor of Political Science at the University of Oregon.

Bottom, middle: Margaret Hu, Assistant Professor of Law at Washington and Lee.

Bottom, right: David Baluarte, Assistant Clinical Professor of Law and Director, Immigrant Rights Clinic at Washington and Lee.
The Mudd Center co-sponsored a number of ethics-related events with various departments and schools on campus, including the Williams School, the Law School, the Staniar Gallery, the Department of Religion, the Department of Journalism and Mass Communications, the Department of Music, and the Department of Art and Art History. It also partnered with the Center for Leadership and Ethics at the Virginia Military Institute in co-hosting a monthly series of “Dessert and Discussion Meetings” for honors and leadership students at each institution.
CO-SPONSORED EVENTS
Dr. Irene SanPietro, Assistant Dean of Students at Columbia University, gave a talk entitled “Charity and Creation of the Church” on Dec. 5, 2014. The talk was supported by the Howerton Fund of the Religion Department, the Department of Classics, and the Mudd Center for Ethics. SanPietro discussed the process through which charity developed into a specifically Christian virtue through the efforts of the early church fathers, ultimately becoming the premier marker of orthodoxy in the development of Christian ethics.
Dr. Ed Soule, Associate Professor of Business Administration at Georgetown University, gave a keynote lecture entitled “Humane Management: Apparel Brands and the People that Make Our Clothes” for this fall’s Business Ethics Institute, which took place on Dec. 5-6, 2014. The Business Ethics Institute, run by Professor Sandra Reiter in conjunction with her fall term Bus 345: Business Ethics course, brought to campus eight Washington and Lee alumni and the parent of a current W&L student, each of whom brought an ethical “case study” from his or her professional life to discuss with the students and other practitioners.
Law School Conference

“Cybersurveillance in the Post-Snowden Age”
January 23-24, 2015
Co-Sponsored with the Provost’s Office, the School of Law’s Dean’s Office, the Frances Lewis Law Center, the Knight Program in Media Ethics, and the Department of Politics

On January 23-24, 2015, the Washington and Lee School of Law hosted a conference entitled “Cybersurveillance in the Post-Snowden Age,” in the Millhiser Moot Court Room in Sydney Lewis Hall. The conference brought together an impressive array of nationally and internationally renowned experts, including legal scholars, government leaders, journalists, policymakers, litigators, and technologists. The opening keynote address was delivered by General Michael Hayden, former director of both the National Security Agency and the Central Intelligence Agency.
On March 30, 2015, Pulitzer Prize-winning author Sheri Fink gave a talk entitled “Reporting on Global Health Care Emergencies: The Trauma Narrative in the Age of the Tweet.” Fink is the author of *Five Days at Memorial: Life and Death in a Storm-Ravaged Hospital*, which documents patient deaths at a New Orleans hospital after Hurricane Katrina. The book was the winner of the National Book Critics Circle Award for nonfiction, the Ridenhour Book Prize and the J. Anthony Lukas Book Prize, among many others. Fink is a correspondent for the New York Times, and earlier this year was among a group of Times reporters who won the prestigious George Polk Award for health reporting of the Ebola outbreak in West Africa.
From April 27-May 29, 2015, Washington and Lee University’s Staniar Gallery hosted an art exhibition by Texas-based artist Vincent Valdez entitled “The Strangest Fruit.” The exhibition featured his 2013 series of large-scale oil on canvas paintings inspired by the little-known history of the many Mexicans and Mexican-Americans lynched in the American Southwest between 1848 and 1928. In addition to the exhibition, the Staniar Gallery produced a bilingual Spanish/English catalogue with scholarly essays from historians William Carrigan and Clive Web, civil rights attorney Juan Cartegena, and W&L art historian Andrea Lepage. Valdez gave an artist’s talk on April 29 in Wilson Hall.
On May 20, 2015, the Mudd Center, Stanier Gallery, Department of Art and Art History, and Music Department hosted the *Strangest Fruit Radio Hour*, a multimedia event that combined the art work of Stanier Gallery exhibiting artist Vincent Valdez with the high energy, genre-crossing music of Los Angeles-based band Ollin. The seven-piece band included saxophone, accordion, acoustic Mariachi bass, fiddle, drums, guitar, and Vincent Valdez on trumpet. The original musical compositions in the performance reflected the bands’ many influences: Texas two-step, swing, cumbia, klezmer, Mexican and Irish-fused folk and rock and roll.
Mudd Center/VMI Discussion and Dessert Meetings

The Mellon Foundation generously supported a series of Discussion and Dessert Meetings during the 2014-15 academic year. This year, the meetings were co-sponsored by the Mudd Center for Ethics at W&L and Virginia Military Institute’s Center for Leadership and Ethics. Omicron Delta Kappa members, Honors Scholars from both W&L and VMI, and students participating in the Mudd Center’s yearly ethics theme were invited to participate in these gatherings, which were designed to foster academic interactions between our students. For each event, participants were given a book or a copy of the current issue of *The Atlantic* to read in advance as a basis for the discussion.

In addition to three sessions discussing cover articles in *The Atlantic* (including “Is College Doomed? The Future of College,” “China’s Dangerous Game,” and “The Tragedy of the American Military”) students also discussed three books: Mudd Center lecturer Jesmyn Ward’s *Men We Reaped*, essayist William Deresiewicz’s *Excellent Sheep: The Miseducation of the American Elite and the Way to a Meaningful Life*, and VMI lecturer Andrew J. Bacevich’s *The Limits of Power: The End of American Exceptionalism*. These sessions provided a great opportunity for students at both of our institutions to get to know one another and to engage in intellectual discussions about issues of global and ethical import.
The Mellon Project on Civilian-Military Educational Cooperation, directed by Professor Douglas Stuart at Dickinson College, is designed to assist thirteen of the U.S.’s leading civilian and military education institutions in the development of new forms of academic and social interaction. The ultimate goal of this initiative is to help reduce the gap between civilian and military worlds by providing academic and social opportunities for positive interaction between the two communities. The list of participating institutions includes, on the civilian side, Bard, Brown, Colorado College, Connecticut College, Dickinson, Vassar, and Washington and Lee. On the military side, the list includes the Air Force Academy, the Army War College, the Naval Academy, the Naval War College, the Virginia Military Institute, and West Point. Dickinson College is the lead institution in the administration of this ambitious initiative.

The Mellon initiative is an imaginative attempt to cultivate greater trust and familiarity between civilian and military communities. While some graduate-level institutions are involved in the project, the primary focus is on undergraduates. By providing opportunities for intellectual and social interaction among college-age students, the Mellon participants hope to cultivate mutual understanding that will facilitate civilian-military policy making in the future.

JANUARY 21: THE ATLANTIC COVER STORY: THE TRAGEDY OF THE AMERICAN MILITARY

FEBRUARY 11: WILLIAM DERESIEWICZ, EXCELLENT SHEEP: THE MISEDUCATION OF THE AMERICAN ELITE AND THE WAY TO A MEANINGFUL LIFE

APRIL 1: ANDREW J. BACEVICH, THE LIMITS OF POWER
In the 2015-2016 academic year, the Mudd Center theme will be “The Ethics of Citizenship.” This theme has a double meaning, insofar as we aim to investigate both the ethics of conferring or withholding citizenship status, as well as the ethical rights and responsibilities that attach to those who are granted such a status. Some questions we will ask include the following: Should our central understanding of citizenship remain state-based, or should we adopt more global or cosmopolitan conceptions of citizenship? How should liberal democratic states determine who is to be included in the political community? What are the virtues that define, or ought to define, the good citizen? What are the fundamental rights and responsibilities of democratic citizenship? What role, if any, should religious arguments play in debates among democratic citizens? When, if ever, are citizens morally justified in engaging in civil disobedience or governmental whistle-blowing?
ETHICS OF CITIZENSHIP
2015 Keynote Address:

Danielle Allen
Thursday, September 24, 2015, 5:00 p.m.
Stackhouse Theater

Professor Danielle Allen is currently the UPS Foundation Professor of Social Science at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, New Jersey. In July of 2015, she will become the Director of Harvard University’s Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics. She is a political theorist who has published broadly in democratic theory, political sociology, and the history of political thought. Widely known for her work on justice and citizenship in both ancient Athens and modern America, Allen is the author of The World of Prometheus: the Politics of Punishing in Democratic Athens (2000), Talking to Strangers: Anxieties of Citizenship since Brown vs. the Board of Education (2004), Why Plato Wrote (2010), and Our Declaration: A Reading of the Declaration of Independence in Defense of Equality (2014). She is co-editor (with Rob Reich) of the award-winning Education, Justice, and Democracy (2013) and From Voice to Influence: Understanding Citizenship in the Digital Age (forthcoming, with Jennifer Light). In 2002 she was awarded a MacArthur Fellowship for her “ability to combine the classicist’s careful attention to texts and language with the political theorist’s sophisticated and informed engagement.” Allen is a frequent public lecturer and regular guest on public radio affiliates to discuss issues of citizenship and education policy, as well as a contributor on similar subjects to the Washington Post, Boston Review, Democracy, Cabinet, and The Nation.
Dr. Pinar Kemerli will join the Mudd Center in August of 2015 as the first Mudd Postdoctoral Ethics Fellow. Kemerli received her Ph.D. in Government from Cornell University in January of 2015, and was a Visiting Assistant Professor in the Political Studies Program at Bard College during the 2014-2015 school year. Her dissertation, entitled *The Sacrificial Paradox of Sovereignty: Martyrdom and Islamist Conscientious Objection* tells the story of Islamist conscientious objectors in Turkey who resist mandatory conscription and cultural valorizations of martyrdom through a nonviolent civil resistance based on antimilitarist interpretations of Islam. Blending political theory with political ethnography and comparative politics of the Middle East, Kemerli approaches civil dissent as a potent demonstration of the uses and abuses of religious principles in democratic politics and war—both by the sovereign state and its contestants. During her year at the Mudd Center, Kemerli will teach a first-year seminar on *The Ethics of Citizenship* as well as an upper-division politics course on *Politics, Citizenship, and Violence*. She also plans to continue her research on the philosophical and ethical grounds of citizen disobedience in democratic societies, extending her focus on Turkey to an examination of nonviolent civil disobedience against militarism in two other states: Israel and the United States.
The work of the Mudd Center has been supported by a wonderful group of students, faculty and staff at Washington and Lee University. Here is some information about the people working behind the scenes at the Mudd Center.
PEOPLE
Roger Mudd is a 1950 graduate of W&L, where he majored in history. He received a master's degree, also in history, from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1953. He began his journalism career in Richmond, VA, as a reporter for the *Richmond News Leader* newspaper and for WRNL, a local radio station. He moved to Washington in the late 1950s and worked at WTOP News before joining the Washington bureau of CBS News in 1961.


He is a member of the advisory committee for W&L’s Department of Journalism and Mass Communications. He serves on the board of the Virginia Foundation for Independent Colleges (VFIC) and helped establish that organization's Ethics Bowl, an annual competition in which teams of students from Virginia’s private colleges and universities debate ethical issues. He is also on the board of the National Portrait Gallery and on the advisory boards of the Eudora Welty Foundation and the Jepson School of Leadership at the University of Richmond. In 2010, Mudd donated his papers to Washington and Lee’s Leyburn Library. That gift followed his 2006 donation of his collection of 20th-century Southern fiction. He was awarded the University’s Washington Award in 2011, in recognition of his distinguished leadership and service to the nation and extraordinary acts of philanthropy in support of W&L and other institutions.

In 2010, Mudd donated $4 million dollars to his alma mater to establish a new center for the study of ethics. “Given the state of ethics in our current culture,” Mudd said, “this seems a fitting time to endow a center for the study of ethics, and my university is its fitting home.”
Mudd Center Staff

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