As students returned from a restful, albeit short, spring break, the OIL office was active, filled with new responsibilities, including diversity, equity, and inclusion. During this term, OIL peer leaders led an OIL Talk on perceptions of Asian American students. OIL also welcomed alumnus Phil Chan '06, a dancer, choreographer, and arts administrator advocating for the elimination of racist depictions of Asians in performing arts. OIL peer leaders led an OIL Talk on perceptions of Asian American students.

Earlier in the term, in partnership with the Dean of Students Office, we launched a pilot program called Black @ Carleton Learning Community. Building on the goals of the Black at Carleton Exhibit in February, this small group of Black students meets to discuss current events, social and cultural issues, and life after Carleton. They are joined by Philosophy Professor Eddie O’Byrn and other men of color on campus to share stories of their background, achievements, and current community service. The Black @ Carleton Learning Community is a pilot program aimed at creating a space for additional alumni to participate in Black @ Carleton learning communities next year and hope to expand to serve other identity groups in the future.

I'm grateful for the students and colleagues who have helped make this transition a smooth one. I'm inspired by the forward-thinking ideas for what these spaces should look like and how they could function to serve the next generation of BIPOC students at Carleton. They've even weighed in on two new proposals to the plan: a Native students house and a Black Cultural Center.

Happy spring from the OIL Office!