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**Academic Affairs Happenings, Volume 1, Issue 1**

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Message from the Provost

Dear Faculty,

I’m pleased to present the first edition of the Academic Affairs Happenings newsletter. As you will see, our office received a large number of submissions which, taken as a whole, reflect the wide range of work in which you are engaged. I hope that learning more about the projects of your colleagues will lay the foundation for making connections that result in more collaborative work across the institution.

The format for this newsletter will evolve over the course of future editions and we welcome suggestions on how it can be improved. Later this semester my office will send out a call for the February newsletter which will include options for reporting on your own work and that of your colleagues. This time around we found that some of the most interesting items came from the reports of faculty members about their more modest colleagues.

Finally I would like to give special thanks to Lori Barry and Robert Cole for their work in pulling this newsletter together.

Best,

Andy Workman
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs
Laura D’Amore - A course requirement of an activist project in AMST 430: LGBTQ Lives, led to a bunch of exciting happenings on campus: RWU/LGBTQ pride tee shirts, flower pins to bring attention to violence against the LGBTQ community, a showing of a film about transgender identity followed by a student-led discussion, a student-led dialogue about LGBTQ discrimination on campus, a red-ribbon campaign for AIDS awareness, a WRWU radio show about gender identity, informative pamphlets in the commons, displays in GHH and Almeida, and a student-led proposal for gender neutral housing.

For Women’s History month in March, six students presented their gender studies research in a panel for the RWU community.

Professor D’Amore accompanied three students to present their own original research at a Women’s Studies conference at Gettysburg College, “Gender, Sex, and Poverty,” in March 2012. In addition, she accompanied three students to present their own original research at the Film & History Conference in Milwaukee, WI, “Film and Myth,” in September 2012.

In Renee Soto’s CW 350 Writers Reading Poetry class, students wrote, designed and hand-sewed their own chapbooks. The manuscripts were forwarded to the poet Julie Funderburk who did a first read and selected three manuscripts to forward to our National Poetry Month visiting poet, Nathaniel Perry. Mr. Perry selected the manuscript written by Chelsea Silva, sophomore at the time, to be part of the collaboration with a graphic design student that resulted in a professionally designed and printed, perfect-bound chapbook. Chelsea and Krista Tierney, one of the other top three student poets chosen by Ms. Funderburk, read from their chapbooks sort of as “opening acts” for Mr. Perry’s reading at the Mary Tefft White Cultural Center this past April in front of a crowd of about 70 people. A poem from Chelsea’s chapbook was also published in the national literacy magazine Santa Clara Review.

This summer, Paula Prado and Jeremy Campbell led eight students on a new 7-credit study abroad course in the Amazon. This new combined course, Environmental Justice in Brazil, engaged students for 20 days in two 3-credit courses (in Anthropology/Sociology and Journalism) and one-credit service learning on site in the Amazon region. Highlights of the course are posted online at http://environmentaljusticeinbrazil.wordpress.com/. The course will be offered again during summer 2013.

In our Classrooms

Top Row: V. Glasson, J. Wiggin, J. Campbell, P. Prado, L. Garrison, V. Mordasky
Bottom Row: T. Lee Bar, R. Bukhamseen, J. Hamlin, J. Nussbaum

In spring 2012 Jeremy Wells’ HP682 students completed a “Main Street implementation plan” for the Washington Park neighborhood in Providence in partnership with the local community and the Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation with assistance from the community, the Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation and the RWU CPC. Through the students’ work, the neighborhood is now starting their own Main Street program to help revitalize their commercial center.
Education Professor Kelly Donnell has connected her Urban Education course with a graduate-level Architectural Studio course being taught by Visiting-Firm-In Residence DesignLAB with Needs Assessment and Space Planning with Meeting Street School (Providence). Together the education and architecture students are collaborating to assist Meeting Street School in programming and conceptualizing possible reuse of a vacated industrial building directly across from Meeting Street School’s main campus. Designers are informed by educational practitioners and future educators are learning about the impact of space design on educational proactive and the conceptual programs and designs prepared at the end of the course will help the school make a decision about the building.

Adams Memorial Library (Central Falls) Children’s Room Design project: Education Professor Kerry Ullucci and her team of educators in Literacy are collaborating with the graduate-level Architectural Studio course being taught by Visiting-Firm-In-Residence DesignLAB. Together the education and architecture students are exploring the role of the public library in the 21st Century, and how older spaces can be repurposed for teaching reading skills to a racially diverse and multi-lingual community. Joint site visits and discussion sessions inform the work of both sections, and the results will drive the Library’s capital campaign.

Several faculty members are collaborating in their courses on Charter Square Urban Design on October 19-20 Charrette (Newport), helping Newport to hold a constructive dialogue about a significant, underutilized public space. Professor Sara Butler’s Newport Seminar is taking the lead in research prior to the event, while Professor Ann Winfield’s course in Issues in Multicultural Education is connecting the planning effort to the Thompson Middle School, two blocks from the project site.

Adjunct Professor Hank Kniskern from the Gabelli School of Business is leading a class of student who are working with the Town of Bristol to prepare an Operational Feasibility Plan for the Bristol Marine Armory Boating Center on the waterfront.

Adjunct Professor of Historic Preservation, Nancy Austin, is focusing her Archival Research course on a collaborative project with the Barrington Preservation Society entitled “Uncovering Barrington’s Industrial Past”. The results from the fall semester class will serve as a starting point for Professor Jennifer Stevens’ Labor History course in the spring which will carry out detailed research and oral history documentation.

Adjunct Professor Joel Cooper of the Gabelli School of Business has several teams in his fall Small Business Institute course which are engaged with the community. One team is assisting the RI Economic Development Corporation and the City of Providence with business development planning and assistance on Broad Street in Providence, while another is creating a marketing plan for the Historic Warren Armory.

Professor Kathy Micken of the Gabelli School of Business is leading a Marketing course which is providing important assistance to the East Bay Coalition for the Homeless Services Awareness Campaign, working with East Bay Community Action Program as their community partner. In addition, the RWU Honors Program is lending its support as well, and Professor Jeremy Campbell has students assisting in the effort.

Engineering faculty Professors Bill Palm, Tony Ruocco and Jim Brunnhoefer are leading a Senior Engineering Capstone course as they solve the design issues for a new cradle to support a massive model of the Reliance, one of the largest yachts produced in Bristol, with the Herreshoff Marine Museum.

Architecture Professor Gary Graham is working with Blithewold Museum and Arboretum in his Design Conceptualization course. The students will work within the framework of the newly adopted Blithewold Master Plan and explore the possible location, size and design ideas for an expanded Visitor’s Center. This will be used by
Blithewold as they decide the direction of the project.

Professor Rebecca Leuchak has adopted several community projects in her graduate-level Museum Studies course, and has teams collaborating with Blithewold Museum and Arboretum, the Herreshoff Marine Museum, the Paine House and the Beavertail Lighthouse Museum.


Research, Grants, Publications and Presentations


L. D’Amore - Chapter: “Patriarchal Boots: Women, Redcoats, and the Construction of Revolutionary Memory” (We Are What We Remember, Meriwether & D’Amore, eds).


L. D’Amore - Presentation: “‘Re-Writing the ‘Ever After’: Badass Smart Chicks in Contemporary Fairy Tale Film Adaptations,” Film & History Conference, September 2012.

L. D’Amore - Conference organization: “Chicks with Brains: Representing Women’s Intellect in Film,” Area Chair for twenty panelists at the Film & History Conference in September 2012.

Renee Soto has poems forthcoming in The Greensboro Review and Cave Wall. She travelled to California’s Central Coast to continue her research on the Chumash for the poetry sequence that links their “lost” culture to 21st Century American life.


Paola Prado co-authored with Dr. Juliet Pinto of Florida International University, to present a paper “Reportando el riesgo ambiental en los conflictos internacionales” [Reporting environmental risk in international conflicts] at the Asociación Latinoamericana de Investigadores de la Comunicación ALAIC [Latin American Association of Communication Researchers] 11th Annual Conference in Montevideo, Uruguay, May 2012. This is the third peer-reviewed acceptance for their research on environmental risk communication in South American newspapers. Previous papers on the topic were presented at conferences in Toronto, Canada, and Istanbul, Turkey.

In April 2012 Prado spoke on the topic “Favela e Roça Online: Digital Inclusion of Marginalized Urban and Rural Areas of Brazil” on the panel Bridging the Gap: Internet and Participation in the Developing World at the Eastern Communication Association conference held in Cambridge, Mass.

Prado’s article, “Overcoming Poverty through Digital Inclusion” was published in the May/June 2012 issue of IT Professional. This paper, co-authored with NASA researcher Marco Figueiredo and Mark Kramer, research fellow at the University of Salzburg, extends their collaborative research inclusion in the developing world.


Sara Butler’s “Ground Breaking in New Deal Washington, DC: Art, Patronage, and Race at the Recorder of Deeds Building” appeared in Winterthur Portfolio in the Winter 2011 issue. This article is the second of three anticipated studies of early civil rights art for the federal city.


On May 11, 2012 Edgar Adams and Brian Boisvert ’13 (March) presented the results of their yearlong research project at GrowSmart RI’s Power of Place Summit. Working with GrowSmart RI, Statewide Planning and the RI Housing Network, they developed a 3-session program to highlight the critical role of growth center planning in Rhode Island's future development. Professor Adams led off a session, which was titled “Main Street Districts and Growth Centers 101” with an introduction to national trends and models in growth management planning. This was followed by Brian’s presentation of their research to use emerging GIS technologies to evaluate the performance of existing development and the potential of undeveloped land according to the goals and objectives of Land Use 2025, the State’s Land Use Guide Plan. The session was concluded by a presentation by Noelle MacKay, Commissioner of Vermont’s Department of Housing and Community Affairs and a discussion session led by panel moderator Kevin Flynn, Associate Director of the Rhode Island
Planning Division. The research project was supported by a grant from the Foundation to Support Scholarship and Teaching and will be followed by a report to the Department of Statewide Planning that is currently undertaking revisions to Land Use 2025.


Jeremy Wells organized with the assistance of Stephen White, Dean of the School of Architecture, Art, and Historic Preservation, and the University of Florida, an international conference on “Preservation Education: Sharing Best Practices and Finding Common Ground” in Providence, R.I. on September 8 and 9, 2012 (http://rwu.edu/go/pec)

Melissa Russano – 2011-2012 U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation Grant ($55,840) Structured Interviews of High-Value Detainee Interrogators (Principal Investigator)


Melissa Russano was invited to talk on February, 2012 and August, 2011: High-Value Detainee Interrogation Group Research Committee, Federal Bureau of Investigation (February, 2012) in Washington, D.C.


“From Horses to Log Cabins – A $9 Million Embezzlement Case: How Did The Owner Not Know?” Nov/Dec 2012 issue of the Journal of Business Case Studies, Ruggieri, Lynn (Volume 8, Number 6).

Lynn Ruggieri presented at the NACRA Conference in October 2011: “Can we afford to be in the Trash Collection Business? – Is Privatization the Answer?”

Lynn Ruggieri presented at the NACRA Conference in October 2012: “Real Losses in Video Games: Rhode Island’s Failed Investment in 38 Studios”

W. Brett McKenzie presented at the plenary session of 2012 Summit of the National Center for Women in Technology. His presentation, “Big Ideas: What’s Really Missing from CS/IS Introductory Classes” was streamed live by Turner Broadcasting and is archived on the web at https://vimeo.com/4699762
In the Campus Community

Laura D’Amore organized a film showing of *Traces of the Trade: A Story from the Deep North*, with film director Katrina Browne (October 2011).

L. D’Amore organized a faculty teaching workshop with The Tracing Center, to practice strategies for teaching slavery and other sensitive topics in the classroom.

L. D’Amore organized a month of activities for Women’s History Month.

L. D’Amore co-organized a “Social Justice Week” for October 2012, with Autumn Quezada-Grant, sponsored by the Department of History and American Studies with the support of faculty and staff across the University.

L. D’Amore took S.A.F.E. students to “Queer Rhetorics” conference at Hofstra University in New York in March 2012.

In the Community

James Tackach is serving on the Rhode Island Civil War Sesquicentennial Commemoration Commission, which was created by an act of the R.I. General Assembly in 2010.

Jeremy Wells is currently advising the Historic Preservation Society (student historic preservation club) to research Coggeshall Farm’s cheese house, which may be the only remaining 18th century building on the property.

Professor Aimee Shelton is the advisor to the RWU chapter of the Public Relations Student Society of American, which has taken on the CPC project for the 250th Anniversary Celebration Marketing – Warren Baptist Church

Melissa Russano is serving on the Rhode Island’s Working Group on Electronic Recording of Custodial Interrogations (September, 2011) in Providence, R.I.
Michael Scully, Assistant Professor of Communication, has been awarded the New England Journalism Educator of the Year Award.

Laura D’Amore – is in the process of developing of Gender and Sexuality Studies minor, with Jason Jacobs (Foreign Languages), and Charles Trimbach (Psychology), with the support and involvement of several faculty members across the university.

Laura D’Amore, Jennifer Stevens, and Michael Swanson reorganized the American Studies major and minor, including a number of new special topics courses including Hate Speech in America; Masculinities; Girl Culture; Women’s Lives in America; LGBTQ Lives in America.

Paola Prado, Michael Scully, and Ted Delaney under the careful guidance of Roxanne O’Connell launched the Journalism major, which makes its debut in the Fall catalog.

Jeremy Wells, with assistance from Dean Stephen White, Philip Marshall, David Logan and Bruce Kogan, helped create the joint M.S. in Historic Preservation/Juris Doctor program forming a partnership with the School of Architecture, Art and Historic Preservation and the School of Law for the 2012-2013 catalog year.