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# Academic Affairs Happenings, Volume 1, Issue 1

Office of Academic Affairs, Roger Williams University

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*From the Office of  
the Provost  
October 2012  
Volume 1, Issue 1*

# Academic Affairs Happenings

## 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

## In our Classrooms

**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.



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 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

**Lynn Ruggieri** supervised two Honors Thesis through Independent Study during the Spring 2012 semester: Bryan Dunn '12 [The European Debt Crisis: How Integration and Convergence Caused the Sovereign Crisis](#) and Kevin Rose '12 [The Effects of the Recession on Fraud](#).

## Research, Grants, Publications and Presentations

Book: *We Are What We Remember: The American Past Through Commemoration*, by **Jeffrey L. Meriwether** and **Laura Mattoon D'Amore**, editors (Cambridge Scholars Publishing, Nov. 2012).

**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** - Article: "The Accidental Supermom: Superheroines and Maternal Performativity, 1963-1980" (*Journal of Popular Culture*, Dec. 2012).

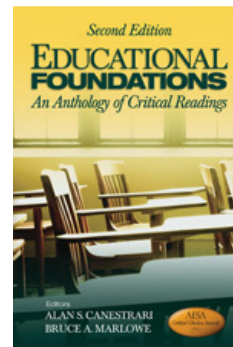
**L. D'Amore** - Presentation: "Queering the Memory of the American War of Independence," National Women's Studies Association Conference, November 2011.

**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 21<sup>st</sup> Century American life.

**Canestrari, Alan & Marlowe, Bruce A.** (eds). *Educational Foundations: An Anthology of Critical Readings*, Third Edition. (October 2012), SAGE Publications, Inc. Thousand Oaks, CA.



**Sargon Donabed** – ed. w/**Joshua B. Stein**, *Religion and the State: Europe and North America in the 17th and 18th centuries*, (Lexington Books, 2012).

**S. Donabed** - (in print) ed. w/Önver A. Cetrez and Aryo Makko, *The Assyrian Heritage: Threads of Continuity and Influence, Studies in Religion & Society, Volume I*, (Uppsala: Acta Universitatis Upsaliensis, 2012).

**S. Donabed** -“Rethinking Nationalism and an Appellative Conundrum: Historiography and Politics in Iraq,” *National Identities*, 14.4 (Taylor & Francis, 2012).

**S. Donabed** -(Forthcoming) Review of Janet Klein’s *The Margins of Empire: Kurdish Militias in the Ottoman Tribal Zone*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 2011, *Journal of World History* 23:4 (December 2012).

**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] 11<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Winfield, A.G. & Canestrari, A.S.** (2012). “Beware Reformers Bearing Gifts: How the Right Uses the Language of Social Justice to Reinforce Inequity”. In: Thomas, P.L. (Ed.) *Becoming and Being a Teacher: Confronting Traditional Norms to Create New Democratic Realities*. New York: Peter Lang

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

Stanford Anderson, **Gail Fenske**, and David Fixter, editors, *Aalto and America*. London and New Haven: Yale University Press, 2012

**Jeremy C. Wells** and Elizabeth D. Baldwin. (2012). “Historic preservation, significance, and age value: A comparative phenomenology of historic Charlestown and the nearby new-urbanist community of I’On”. *Journal of Environmental Psychology*, 32:384-400.

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** presented at the Environmental Design Research Association Conference in Seattle, WA in May of 2012: "Suitable Research Methods to Achieve the Compatibility Directives of Architectural Conservation Doctrine", "Dimensions of Historical Authenticity", and, "Using Qualitative Methods to Research Authenticity and Significance in the Historic Environment"

**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)

Horgan, A.J., **Russano, M.B.**, Meissner, C.A., & Evans, J.R. (2012) "Minimization and maximization techniques: Assessing the perceived consequences of confessing and confession diagnosticity". *Psychology, Crime & Law*, 18, 65-78.

Narchet, F.M., Meissner, C.M., & **Russano, M.B.** (2011) Modeling the effects of investigator bias on the elicitation of true and false confessions. *Law and Human Behavior*, 35, 452-465.

**Russano, M.B.**, Narchet, F.M., Meissner, C., & Kleinman, S.M. (2012, March). *Structured Interviews of Expert Military and Intelligence*

*Interrogators: Training, Rapport & Lie Detection*. Paper presented at the American Psychology-Law Society Conference, San Juan, Puerto Rico.

**Russano, M.B.**, Narchet, F.M., Meissner, C. and Kleinman, S.M. (2011, November). *Systematic Study of Interrogative Practices across U.S. Military and Federal Agencies: Techniques/Approaches*. Paper presented at the American Society of Criminology 2011 Annual Conference, Washington, D.C.

**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.

"Michael Bianco Inc. – Immigrant Workers to Save Costs" **Ruggieri, Lynn** *Journal of Business Case Studies* 7.4 (Jul/Aug 2011): 91-104.

"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.

**Renee Soto** As part of the Alive!Arts series and National Poetry Month at RWU, the poets Nathaniel Perry and Ann Townsend were hosted. Both guests visited poetry classrooms and led discussions with students about poetry while conducting close readings and responses to student poems. Mr. Perry and Ms. Townsend ended their visits with public readings in the Mary Tefft White Cultural Center and off-campus dinners with students and faculty.

**Melissa Russano** brought Mark Fallon (former NCIS and RWU alum) to speak about combatting terrorism and careers in federal law enforcement in May of 2011.

**Jeremy Wells** helped to bring Professor Steven Semes from the University of Notre Dame to campus at the end of September as part of the historic preservation lecture series.

## 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Marketing – Warren Baptist Church

**Melissa Russano** presented to the Rhode Island's Working Group on Electronic Recording of Custodial Interrogations (September, 2011) in Providence, R.I.



# Among Ourselves

**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.