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Academic Affairs Happenings, Volume 1, Issue 2

Office of Academic Affairs, Roger Williams University

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*From the Office of
the Provost
February 2013
Volume 1, Issue 2*

Academic Affairs Happenings

Dear Faculty,

I'm pleased to present the second edition of the Academic Affairs Happenings newsletter. Please join me in congratulating our colleagues on their impressive accomplishments in teaching, research, service to the University, and work with the broader community. This work makes possible the vibrant educational experience for our students and our University as a whole. This newsletter also underscores the extent to which we are able to deliver on our promise of excellence even as we strive to remain affordable.

For this edition we are pleased to have received even more submissions than for the first and have consequently been able to include a broader swath of the faculty. Our goal is to have even more to report in our May issue. Please be on the lookout for a request in late April.

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

Kelly Donnell taught a special topics course, Designing Learning Environments in an Urban Community, in Fall 2012. The course was focused on designing learning space at a potential new building site for the Meeting Street School in Providence. The course involved fieldwork in Providence and collaboration with graduate students in the School of Architecture.

Philip Marshall is offering a course in Special Topics: Stewardship, which includes students in architecture, art and architectural history, and preservation. This is the second year SAAHP is offering this graduate seminar. The course is offered in partnership with The Preservation Society of Newport County, which will engage over twenty of its staff members, open the doors to many of its historic properties, and introduce students to front-burner initiatives, presenting in the greater context of stewardship: the operation, management, maintenance, and interpretation of culture properties entrusted to our care – the core activity of historic preservation and museum professionals. Last year the course was team-taught by **Arnold Robinson and Philip Marshall**.

Susan Pasquarelli is working, this semester, with undergraduate and graduate students on action research projects in local public elementary and secondary schools. Both sets of projects culminate in Action Research Conferences on the RWU campus. The graduate students in the MA in Literacy Education Program, under the guidance of **Pasquarelli** and adjunct professor **Dale Blaess** conducted action research in their own public school classrooms by engaging in interventions that include: digital story-telling, new pedagogies for phonics, vocabulary, and spelling learning, and the use of historical fiction to engage students in American history. These graduate students intend to present their research on March 19 in the Mary Tefft White Center. Undergraduate students in the English/Education Secondary program are conducting action research in suburban and urban public high schools to determine, "What do Adolescents Read?" These students intend to present their research in April in the GHH Atrium.

Judith Platania's Experimental Psychology class research projects (*fall 2012*) are featured in the most recent issue of the *RWU Journal of Research in Psychology* (JORP). The Journal is an online outlet for publication of undergraduate psychology majors' empirical research, including thesis projects. Volume 4, Issue 1 of JORP can be viewed by visiting www.jorponline.com.

Joseph Roberts taught POLSC 321: Politics of Ethnic Conflict the fall semester 2010 using the Dacia Simulation, a simulation of ethnic conflict resolution created by Thomas Ambrosio of North Dakota State University. The student response was excellent in both the student evaluations after the course and in comments by students in debriefings. However, one of the issues discovered is that students needed, or wanted, additional information such as the geographic location of waterways, significant bodies of water, and other geographic formations that were not included in the Dacia Simulation. In preparing for a subsequent offering in the fall semester 2012, Roberts decided that a new simulation was necessary that would incorporate the strategic geographic features and other modifications beyond those included in Dacia. The new simulation, "Bokhtikkari Nationalism in Assuwa: A Simulation of Conflict Resolution in an Ethnically Divided Society," incorporates secessionist and irredentist ethnic conflict. The most important goal of the new simulation is for students to create a stable environment and a peaceful resolution of that conflict. The simulation was based on an actual conflict (the Kurdish conflict in Turkey) that better reflected Professor Roberts own regional interests. However, the details were hidden behind a fictional veil to encourage students to act within the boundaries of the simulation and not rely on their understanding of the real world scenario. The design process and an evaluation of the effectiveness of the simulation, including a student evaluation was presented at the American Political Science Association Teaching and Learning Conference in Long Beach, California, February 8-10, 2013.

Kerri Ullucci with her graduate class in Literacy Development spearheaded a CPC initiative in Central Falls. Her team worked with the Adams Library, consulting on their literacy programs and holdings.

Don Whitworth invited, on February 7, 2013, Christopher Stravato graduate of the Forensic Master's Program to visit the Methods of Psychotherapy class to inform freshman graduate students about the RI & MA licensure laws and the process of applying for licensure as Mental Health

Counselors. Chris has been working as a psychotherapist for the Providence Center in Providence RI and has earned the ability to apply for licensure as a Mental Health Counselor. His lecture helped aspiring students to better understand the laws associated with obtaining a license to practice as a Mental Health Counselor in RI and MA. Students were very impressed with Christopher's professionalism and guidance in this very confusing process of licensure. As a member of the first graduate class in Forensic Psychology, Christopher's guidance was much appreciated.

Research, Grants, Publications and Presentations

Nancy Breen, Loren Byrne mentored and co-authored Angela Possinger, class of 2011, on her senior thesis research project which was recently published:

Possinger, Angela, L.B. Byrne, N. Breen. 2013. Effect of buckwheat (*Fagopyrum esculentum*) on soil phosphorus availability and organic acids. *Journal of Plant Nutrition and Soil Science* 176: 16-18

Nancy Breen, Andrew Rhyne and student, Courtney Dennis, will offer a poster presentation on quantification of fatty acid methyl esters at the American Chemical Society spring national meeting, ANYL: Division of Analytical Chemistry in New Orleans, Louisiana on April 7, 2013

Loren Byrne published a teaching case study entitled "Complexity in Conservation: The Legal and Ethical Case of a Bird-Eating Cat and its Human Killer" in the online NSF-funded *National Center for Case Study Teaching in Science*.

Jeremy Campbell published an article titled "Between the Material and the Figural Road: The Incompleteness of Colonial Geographies in Amazonia," *Mobilities* 7(4): 481-500. (An original peer-reviewed article based on ethnographic research; *Mobilities* is a top-ranked geography journal.) He also published a book review of *Storytelling Globalization from the Chaco and Beyond* by Mario Blaser (Durham: Duke University Press, 2010), in *American Anthropologist* 114(3): 547-48.

Campbell was invited to present at the Colloquium Lecture at College of the Atlantic (Bar Harbor, Maine): "The Land Question in Amazonia: Mapping, Land Tenure, and Environmental Futures in Brazil," February 2013. He also lectured at the Center for Portuguese Studies and Culture, the University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth, "Environmental Futures in the Brazilian Amazon," April 2012.

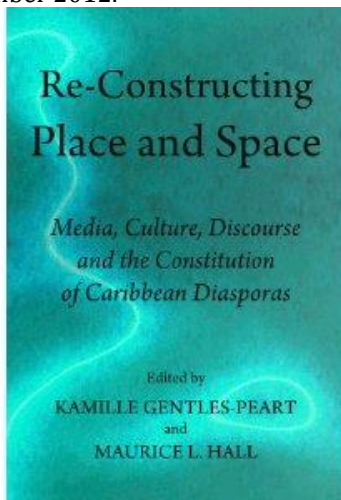
Laura D'Amore – worked with undergraduates Tamara Welikson and Mikaela Feroli doing research for her forthcoming book, *American Supermom*.

In December, Project Co-Directors **Laura D'Amore** and **Autumn Quezada-Grant** submitted a grant to the National Endowment for the Humanities. The project, titled "Comparative Practices in Community Empowerment: Bridging Cultures through Social Justice," uses humanities frameworks (historical analysis, literary analysis, rhetorical analysis, cultural theory [feminist, critical race, queer], ethnography, and observation) to develop a comparative analysis of practices in community empowerment, focusing on the interconnectedness of social justice struggles across the world. The project collaborators include: **James Beitler, Sargon Donabed, Frank Eyetsemitan, John Maerhofer, and Kerri Warren**. The results of the grant competition will be announced in August 2013.

Kelly Donnell presented “Moving Deeper into Justice: Transforming and Integrating Mentoring Tools to Better Reflect Multicultural Goals” at the New Teacher Center Annual Symposium in San Jose, CA. Dr. Donnell developed and co-presented this work with Lynn Bowman, Director of Teacher Residency Program and Shi Pina and Diana Reeves, classroom teachers at the Gordon School. The School of Education and the Gordon School have a professional partnership through the Teacher Residency Program.

Gail Fenske served as co-editor and contributor on [Aalto in America 2012](#): Yale University Press

Kamille Gentles-Peart was the recipient of the prestigious African American Communication and Culture Division Outstanding Book Award for her book “Re-Constructing Place and Space: Media, Culture, Discourse and the Constitution of Diasporas”. One of the reviewers commented, “This was a thoughtfully put-together anthology” and “The particular chapters I reviewed each took a complex view of identity experience and practice”. Professor Gentles-Peart received her award at the National Communication Association annual convention in Orlando, Florida in November 2012.



Lisa Gray (Architecture Teaching Firm in Residence) was made a Fellow of the American Institute of Architectures (FAIA) She and her husband **Alan Organschi** were noted with an American Academy of Arts and Letters Award for 2012.

Matthew Gregg recently published an article titled “The Price of Cherokee Removal” which was co-authored with David Wishart of Wittenberg

University, in the journal *Explorations in Economic History*. The journal *Explorations in Economic History* is consistently ranked among the top three journals in the field of economic history. The article exploited some standard econometric techniques and underused data sets to estimate the social costs and income transfers of one of the most famous and tragic events in American Indian history, namely Cherokee removal or “The Trail of Tears.” The article has received interest from the general public prior to its publication. Kevin Lewis, a columnist for the Boston Globe, provided a link to the article on his blog <http://www.nationalaffairs.com/blog/detail/findings-a-daily-roundup/something-about-culture>.

Peter Hahn, adjunct professor in the Gabelli School of Business is working on a manuscript for a forthcoming book, [The Culture of Caring](#) which will be published in late 2013. Field research for case studies has been completed about six businesses, not-for-profits and governmental entities have successfully responded to dramatic environmental change through effective leadership and strong culture.

Nermin Kura has an upcoming exhibition titled “Arabesques” in Ankra, Turkey, April-May 2013.

Bruce Marlowe and **Alan Canestrari** will be presenting at the American Educational Research Association’s Annual Conference in San Francisco in April, 2013. Their paper, “Creating and Sustaining Inquiry-based Professional Development”, highlights the examination of teacher and administrator perceptions regarding the features, in the view of teachers, that were most powerful in contributing to the sustainability of district-wide change with respect to constructivist teaching practice.

Marlowe presented Constructivism: The nostalgic past, the uncertain future. [Invited Keynote Address](#) to the Constructivist Special Interest Group, *American Education Research Association (AERA)*, San Diego, CA.

Philip Marshall continues to take a proactive role advocating for elder justice. Philip is a keynote speaker on this topic at national and regional conferences. He serves as a board member of the National Advisory Board on Elder Financial Exploitation, National Adult Protective Services Association (NAPSA). Last May, the National

College of Probate Judges (NCPJ) awarded Philip the Isabella Horton Grant Guardianship Award.

Brett McKenzie's paper "Revolutions 20th and 21st Centuries: Artifact, implementation, Process", based upon his experiences of teaching Core Senior Seminar, CORE 456 "Internet and Digital Revolution" has been accepted for publication in the proceedings and for presentation at the IADIS Information Systems Conference 2013. IADIS is the International Association for Development of Information Society, whose mission is to organize working groups, to research, study, develop, and analyze issues related to the Information Society.

Cliff Murphy and students Timothy Blais and Robert Cotta will present their paper titled "Comparison of microwave and conventional heating methods in modification of TiO₂ coated photoanodes for dye sensitized solar cells" at the American Chemical Society spring national meeting, INOR: Division of Inorganic Chemistry on April 9, 2013.

Cliff Murphy, Cliff Timpson and student Joseph Favale will present their research in "Synthesis and characterization of a silylated ruthenium complex for use in dye-sensitized solar cells" at the American Chemical Society spring national meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Stephen O'Shea and student Matthew B. Houck are presenting their work "Biomimetic" reactions of iron(II/III) and copper(I/II) porphyrins with NO₁ species at the American Chemical Society spring national meeting, April 2013.

Susan Pasquarelli and **Kate Mele** presented an action research project designed to evaluate the learning outcomes from their faculty-led study abroad program, entitled: *Rome: Art and Culture through a Traveler's Eye*, at the Annual Meeting of *The International Journal of Arts and Sciences*, in Rome Italy in October 2012.

Autumn Quezada-Grant published two articles: "Indians, Ladinos and the Resurrection of the *Protector de Indios*, San Cristóbal de Las Casas, Chiapas 1870-1885," *Ethnohistory*, 60:2 winter 2013, and "Introduction," for a special issue of *Ethnohistory* 60:2 entitled "Engaging One Another."

Quezada-Grant also conducted the following book reviews: "Rebuilding the *Patria* through Conservation: Revolution and Recovering the Public Good" review of Emily Wakild.

Revolutionary Parks: Conservation, Social Justice, and Mexico's National Parks, 1910-1940. Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 2011 in the journal *A Contracorriente*, Winter 2013. "Death, Disease and Disregard: A study of modernizing medicine campaigns in the Yucatán" review of Heather McCrea, *Diseased Relations: Epidemic, Public Health, and State-Building in Yucatán, Mexico, 1847-1924* in the journal *A Contracorriente*, Winter 2012.

Quezada-Grant presented "(Re)Claiming Expression: Transnational Latin American Resistance Art in Tunisia" for a panel entitled *New Directions from Old Maps: Taking Leave of Capitalism* to be presented at the ACLA in Toronto April 2013. "Heresies at Tierra Colorado: State Control and the Suppression of Indigenous Practices in Chiapas, Mexico, 1890" to be presented at the bi-annual *Religion and State Conference*, at Roger Williams University, April 12-14, 2013. She co-organized of the Religion and State Conference at Roger Williams University, April 12-14, 2013. She presented "The Model Indian: Negotiating Worlds in Nineteenth-Century Chiapas" for a panel entitled *Late Colonial and Early National Indigenous Elites: Methods of Survival*, *Ethnohistory* 2012 in Springfield, Missouri, November 2012, and *Savage Violence and Lessons of Action: Zapatista response to the drug violence in Chiapas, Mexico* in a panel entitled: *Empowering Voices in Poverty: Sex, Violence, and Gender in Marginalized Communities in the U.S. and Mexico*, Central Pennsylvania Consortium: 2012 Women's Studies Conference, Gettysburg College, March 31, 2012.

Quezada-Grant received the following grant: "The Bristol Phoenix" Digitization Project, Monthly Mini-grant to Non-Profits, *The Rhode Island Council for the Humanities*, "Humanities Consultant Fall 2012.

Jeffrey Martin – has been elected to the New England Theatre Conference College of Fellows. According to Article X of the NETC By-Laws: *Membership in the College of Fellows is an honorary designation, and may be conferred for life upon those members who have made an outstanding contribution to The New England Theatres.*

Nancy Nester presented at the 37th Annual Meeting of the Society for Utopian Studies, October 4, 2012 in Toronto, Ontario. Panel: Utopian Theory I: Session II Paper: The Empathetic Turn: The Relationship of Empathy to the Utopian *Conference, Inc. and New England Theatre*.

Jennifer Pearce and research student Sarah Jeanfavre presented their computational research on separating DNA of different lengths using conditions similar to those in the hydrothermal vents that may be one environment in which the biochemical processes critical for life first appeared. Sarah summarized their research on a poster presented at the annual meeting of the Biophysical Society in Philadelphia, PA.

Judith Platania shares authorship with RWU graduates on recent studies appearing in *The Jury Expert*, the publication sponsored by The American Society of Trial Consultants. The most recent publication (2013), *Assessing the Readability of Capital Pattern Jury Instructions*, features the undergraduate thesis project of Rachel Small (Class of 2009 B.A. in Psychology and 2011 M.A. in Forensic Psychology). Rachel is currently a doctoral student in the experimental legal psychology program at the University of Texas at El Paso. This publication also shares authorship with Dr. Brian Cutler, past president of the American-Psychology Law Society and former editor of the journal of *Law and Human Behavior*. The second publication (2012), *Media Exposure, Juror Decision-Making, and the Availability Heuristic*, is a follow-up study to Jessica Crawford's thesis project. Jessica is a 2012 graduate of Roger Williams University 4+1 B.A./M.A. Program in Forensic Psychology. Each article can be read in its entirety by visiting www.thejuryexpert.com.

Platania gave an invited presentation at Gettysburg College in October 2012. The presentation was part of the Kenneth L. Smoke Colloquium Series sponsored by the Psychology Department at Gettysburg College. The presentation was entitled *Guiding Jurors on the Use of Constitutionally Relevant Mitigation Evidence During the Sentencing Phase of Capital Trials*.

Michael Rich presented a solo exhibition "Restoration" in August of 2012 at the Old Spouter Gallery, in Nantucket, Massachusetts as well

participated in a two person exhibit titled "Traveler" in September of 2012 at the Chace-Randall Gallery in Andes, New York. Currently Professor Rich a Visiting Artist Alumni Mentor at the Savannah College of Art and Design, Painting Department as a studio critic and mentor in the graduate and undergraduate studios and classrooms; and he will be delivering a campus-wide lecture on February 21, 2013. He is also participating at SCAD in the Printmaking Department studios working with students to produce a unique series of lithographs. As part of his Foundation to



Work by Michael Rich

Promote Teaching and Scholarship, Professor Rich is also working with RWU Senior, Katherine McCourt on a series of digital drawings that are the basis for the prints produced by hand at SCAD as well as digitally-based unique drawings.

Matthew Stein, will be funding two students over this summer, working on a project that may bring a robot into our classes someday. The project will provide remote students a sense of telepresence in a classroom/lab using a mobile robot avatar. The hope is to invite web users to navigate the building with a robot. The goal is to allow distance education students to take laboratory courses.

James Tackach published *Lincoln: A President for the Ages* (Public Affairs, 2012). Edited by Karl Weber and published as a companion book to Steven Spielberg's film *Lincoln*, it contains an essay by James Tackach, Professor of English, titled "'That This Mighty Scourge of War May Speedily Pass Away': Lincoln and the Hiroshima Decision."

Madge Thombs presented at the National Council for Teachers of Mathematics 2012 Regional Conference (Hartford, CT) two research presentations: "Developing Measurement Fluency Through International Classroom Collaborations" with **Jenny Tsankova** and Education student Kristin Scala.

Thombs and **Tsankova** also presented "Hot iPad Apps for the Math Classroom". **Madge Thombs** and **Jenny Tsankova** also presented "Hot iPad Apps for the Math Classroom" at the International Society for Technology in Education National Conference in 2012 San Diego.

Thombs, Tsankova, Kelly Donnell and **Li-Ling Yang**, with Education student Kristina Soprano, also presented "Creating Interview Portfolios for Teachers Using iPads and Tablets".

Cliff Timpson and student Joseph Favale presented their research at the American Chemical Society spring national meeting titled "Synthesis and characterization of a silylated ruthenium complex for use in dye-sensitized solar cells".

Kerri Ullucci's recent article, "Exposing Color Blindness/Grounding Color Consciousness: Challenges for Teacher Education" (*Urban*

Education November 2011) was featured in *Urban Education's* most read articles archive for January 2013.

Ann Winfield was invited to co-edit, along with Petra Munro Hendry, a special issue of the *Journal of Curriculum Theorizing* which will be available in April 2013.

Winfield published "Resuscitating Bad Science: Eugenics Past and Present", in *The Assault of Public Education*, Watkins, W.H., editor, New York: Teachers College Press (2012).

Winfield and **Alan Canestrari** published "Beware Reformers Bearing Gifts: How the Right Uses the Language of Social Justice to Reinforce Inequity." In *Becoming a Being a Teacher: Confronting Traditional Norms to Create New Democratic Realities*, Thomas, P.L., editor, Mahwah, NJ: Peter: Lang Publishing (2012).

Ann Winfield will present at the annual conference of the American Educational Research Association in San Francisco, a paper titled "Historical Inquiry as Everyday Practice: The Internal Past" on a panel titled *Possible Impossibilities: Curriculum History as Text*.

Yang, L.-L., Soprano, K., & McAllister, M published "What are elementary and middle school students expected to learn about the Sun and Moon in Taiwan and the US?" *Science Education International*, 23, 241-267 (2012).

Soprano, K. & **Yang**, published "Inquiring into my science teaching: A pre-service teacher's action research" *International Journal of Science and Mathematics Education*, Online First Article (2012)

In the Campus Community

Jeremy Campbell coordinated the screening of the Brazilian Film, "Valley of the Forgotten" (2012), the second showing in North America, April 10, 2012.

Frederick Gould, Anthony Branca, Gokhan Celik and **Michael Emmer** accompanied three teams of 6 students as faculty advisors and coaches to the Associated Schools of Construction (ASC) Region 1 Construction Management Student Competition

2012. The teams competed in three categories: Commercial Building, Design Build, and Heavy Highway. All three teams placed 1st in their category, sweeping the region. The Construction Management Integrated Project team competed in the Associated Schools of Construction Open Competitions, Region 6 and 7, held in Reno, Nevada. The student competed in two categories:



Preconstruction and Integrated Project Delivery. Professors **Michael Emmer** and **Gokhan Celik** accompanied the team as faculty advisors and coaches. While the Preconstruction Team did a great job, it was the Integrated Project Deliver category that netted 3rd place.

Laura D'Amore: "Sex Trafficking in New England," by student Karen McLaughlin – Karen gave presentations in classes taught by Dr. Meriwether, Dr. Quezada-Grant, and Dr. D'Amore, as well as a general session for the University community.

Autumn Quezada-Grant: Mi Mujer: Two Portraits," *Gender and Globalization: Critical Dialogues*, Roger Williams University, February 29, 2012. She was also the organizer for the public forum called: *Gender and Globalization: Critical Dialogues*.

Quezada-Grant served as co-organizer for *Social Justice Week* in October 2012 sponsored by the History Department and collaboration with the ICC. She also invited a speaker, Carlota Duarte from Chiapas, Mexico to participate in the Mary Tefft White Series in October of 2012 in a talk entitled "Empowerment through the Artistic Lens."

Under the guidance of **Professors Cliff Murphy and Stephen O'Shea**, the American Chemical

Society student chapter at the Roger Williams University has been selected to receive a **Green Chemistry Award** for its outreach activities conducted during the 2011-12 academic year.

Out of 362 chapter reports submitted, the ACS Green Chemistry Institute® recognized 56 chapters for the academic year 2011-12, who successfully engaged in three or more green chemistry activities. In addition to recognition in *Chemical & Engineering News* and the student member magazine *inChemistry*, the winning Green Chemistry chapters received special recognition in ACS Green Chemistry Institute's e-newsletter, *The Nexus*. The Green Chemistry award winning chapters will also be honored at the 245th ACS National Meeting in New Orleans, LA on Sunday, April 7, 2013.

Robert Rustermier. During the Fall 2012 semester the works of adjunct faculty member **Denny Moers** had his work displayed in the Administration Building. **Professor Michael Rich** currently has his work displayed in the Administration Building.

Aimee Shelton has received the APR designation for her knowledge of communication theory and application. The "Accredited in Public Relations" credential is awarded to a practitioner who, according to PRSA, demonstrates the knowledge of communication theory and ability to apply it, as well as the practitioner's ability to conduct advanced research, plan strategically, implement and evaluate a plan and most importantly demonstrate a commitment to professional excellence and ethical conduct. To become APR certified, Shelton went through the rigorous accreditation program. She was required to submit a writing example which was followed by a presentation in front of a panel of peers from the Universal Accreditation Board, all of whom are APR accredited. In addition Shelton had to complete a 185-question test and pass in order to receive the APR credential.

In the Community

Robert Dermody will co-convene with Andrzej Zarzycki, NJIT the 4th Building Technology Educators Society (BTES) on July 11-13, 2013. The conference topic, "Tectonic of Teaching" will focus on the art and craft of teaching technology to design students. BTES Conferences provide

faculty and graduate students with an opportunity to share their teaching and research in an open forum that fosters collegiality, connections, and an exchange of ideas. **Hasan Khan** will host a two-day conference, "Legacy and the New Landscape", May 22-23 as part of the 2013 SAAHP

International Fellows Program. Participants include Glen Lowry, Director, Museum of Modern Art, NY; Clifford Chanin, the Legacy Project, NY, James Davis of Davis Brody, NY, designer of the 911 Memorial in New York; **Julian Bonder**, and others. **Philip Marshall** is serving a second term as a member of the Board of Trustees at Preserve Rhode Island (PRI), and is chair of the Properties Committee. Philip serves as a liaison with PRI which sites include the Lippitt House, in Providence, and Blithewold in Bristol, and the Blithewold Mansion Garden & Arboretum, which is under a long-term lease.

Marshall is also serving a second term as a member of the Board of Trustees to the U.S. National Committee of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), having served as chair of its International Exchange Program Committee. He has also served as a long-term member of the National Council for Preservation Education (NCPE), and recently served as co-chair of an ad hoc committee addressing accreditation.

Jennifer Pearce spent the day at Greystone Elementary School in North Providence talking to their students about what physics is and what physicists do. They had many interesting questions, some of which she could not answer. Pearce also brought equipment and demonstrations to give the students some hands on learning experience.

Judith Platania is currently working with the Rhode Island Mental Health Association on an RWU Community Partnership Project to assess the efficacy of treatment and services accessible to incarcerated individuals within the RI criminal justice system. Dr. Platania and students (one graduate and one undergraduate) will be primarily involved in the quantitative aspects of the project; namely, data collection, analysis, and reporting results. In May 2012.

Platania was elected by the Board of Directors for the Eastern Psychological Association (EPA) to serve a three-year term as representative of the Applied Psychology area on EPA's Program Committee.

Autumn Quezada-Grant traveled with RWU senior Emily Maseo, History/Education double major, to participate in the *Summer School on Democracy and Transitional Justice*, University of Groningen and the Embassy of the Netherlands,

Sousse Tunisia, August 2012. The result of this seminar on revolution and transitional justice helped her think about comparative revolution and she noticed a great deal of Latin America resistance art and is intrigued in how these symbols get interpreted into localized voice. Last year, Quezada-Grant and **Kerri Warren** led the FIMRC club to El Salvador for spring break. This year she will be taking the class on Social Justice in Central America (devoted to studying the intersection of public health and cultural history) to El Salvador and Kerri Warren will take the FIMRC club to the Dominican Republic. Both groups will volunteer in FIMRC clinics. Over January 2013 Quezada-Grant and sophomore Communications major Nick Palermo traveled to Costa Rica and Nicaragua to conduct research and begin filming a documentary on FIMRC clinics and their impact on communities.

Eleftherios Pavlides and **Jeremy Wells** will host the 44th Environmental Design Research Association (EDRA) Conference – International in Providence titled “Healing + Healthy Places”, May 29-June 2 and the Providence Omni Hotel, co-convening with the RI Department of Public Health. Over 120 academic institutions, 35 architecture, landscape architecture, and design firms dedicated to translating research into practice, are expected to attend.

Jeremy Wells convened the 1st Preservation Education Conference – International, in Providence, RI on September 9-10, 2012. The conference was co-sponsored with the University of Florida, University of Georgia, Clemson University, and the College of Charleston.

Ann Winfield was invited to co-teach a doctoral course entitled *Disrupting Curriculum History* in the Louisiana State University School of Education – Curriculum Studies department where one of the books being read is her own (2007) *Eugenics and Education in America: Institutionalized Racism and the Implications of History, Ideology, and Memory*.

Li-Ling Yang's students in EDU 341.02 and EDU 341.03 were engaged in a community outreach project in November, 2012. Partnering with the Adams Memorial Library in Central Falls, the students implemented science learning centers that actively engaged local elementary school students in learning science through hands-on and minds-on activities.

Among Ourselves


Jeremy Campbell is continuing to work with fellow interested faculty members to develop a minor in Latin American and Latino Studies. He is anticipating a full contingent of students to participate this coming summer in the third offering of “Environmental Justice in Brazil,” a month-long study abroad program co-coordinated with **Paola Prado**.

Autumn Quezada-Grant and **Kerri Warren** have partnered to create a cross-disciplinary course that looks at the intersections of public health and recent history to understand present health problems in Central America. This course is a semester long course with a spring break trip to El Salvador. The class engages not only with the literature of public health and history but also works with a nurse to learn basic health techniques before the trip.

Joseph Roberts and Peter Alfieri led a group of 12 students to Spain and Morocco during the Winter Intersession to explore the influence of the Moors on Spanish political culture and the source of that influence in Morocco. The program began in the heart of Madrid at the Puerta del Sol where students enjoyed the Christmas week celebrations between visits to El Escorial, Toledo, and Valladolid to examine Moorish architecture and the political history of Spain. The program moved to southern Spain following the path taken by the Spaniards to expel the Moors. Visits to Cordoba, the Umayyad capital of Al Andalus (and a World Heritage site) with ties to Islamic philosopher Ibn Rusd (Averroes) and Jewish philosopher Maimonides; Sevilla, the capital of Andalusia and the home of the Ishbilliyah (the cathedral built on the Almohad Masjid); and Granada, the Islamic capital of the Nazarid dynasty is home to the Alhambra palace, a World Heritage site. The program then shifted across the Mediterranean to Morocco where the program circumnavigated Morocco.



After arriving in Tangier, the group travelled to the east to Chefchaouen, which sits at the base of a mountain that looks like two goat horns. The beautiful “blue city” served as a fortress to protect the Moors and Jews who fled from Spain. The group then travelled to Fes, Morocco’s premier religious city by virtue of its Islamic traditions and the home of the Qarawiyyin Mosque (the largest mosque in North Africa) and Qarawiyyin Madrasah (one of the oldest universities in the world). The program continued south by following a historic Berber road through the Atlas Mountains to Merzouga, a key crossroads between Algeria and Morocco. The trip south included a visit the Barbary apes. The visit to Merzouga included a camel ride into the Sahara to camp under the stars as the Bedouins would. After a brief visit to the Throat of Todra, a large Saharan sand canyon, they will traveled to Ourzazate, a key Berber trading town known as the “Door of the Desert.” Ouarzazate is the source of Moorish wealth that enabled it to maintain control of Andalusia. The program continued to Marrakech via the Kasba Tadla. In Marrakech, we visited the Koutoubia Mosque and minaret, the Menara gardens, the Ecomusee Berbere, and the Ali Ben Youssef Medersa. The program concluded with a guided visit to the Hassan II Mosque in Casablanca and the Moroccan capital of Rabat.



The single biggest benefit of the program was the fact that students really got to embrace two different cultures that share a few key traits. Students repeatedly remarked on how the program changed their stereotypical views of the Arab world after spending time in Morocco. The transformative moment occurred in Fes when our

local guide, Hassan, told them to keep their eyes, ears, nose, mind, and heart open to the city of Fes and to shed any preconceived notions of what Morocco or Arabs are. Every student repeatedly came back to this simple statement as they continued through Morocco. It is a lesson that everyone should take to heart.