

2013

# Foundation to Promote Scholarship and Teaching 2012-2013 Awards

Office of the Provost, Roger Williams University

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Foundation to Promote Scholarship and Teaching  
2012-2013

ABSTRACTS

***James Beitler, Assistant Professor of Writing***

*Rhetoric of Interdependence: Remaking Transitional Justice in the United States*

This book project explores rhetorical attempts to authorize the Greensboro Truth and Reconciliation Commission – a grassroots, U.S.-based truth commission created in 2004 to redress past injustices in the city. Through detailed rhetorical analyses, the book demonstrates that the development of the field of transitional justice has given rise to a transnational rhetorical tradition that provides those working in the field with series of “enabling constraints” (Butler 16). Calling attention to the rhetorical interdependence among practitioners of transitional justice, this student offers insights into the development of transitional justice in the United States and in grassroots context in other liberal democracies.

***Garrett Berman, Professor of Psychology***

*Experimental with a Focus in Legal Psychology*

Best practices guidelines for conducting police lineups require law enforcement to assess an eyewitness’ confidence following identification. This initial confidence rating can then be used as a comparison against confidence inflation that may occur during trial. If the eyewitness increase his/her confidence during trial they are likely to be confronted with this inconsistency during cross-examination. The present study will examine the impact of differential explanations for eyewitness confidence inflation. Participants will read one of four trial transcripts that manipulated confidence inflation (no inflation vs. confidence inflation explained by confidence epiphany vs. confidence inflation resulting from memory contamination vs. confidence inflation with no explanation). After reading the transcripts, participants rated the witness’s testimony (e.g., consistency, accuracy) and the defendant’s probability of guilt.

***Kelly Brooks, Assistant Professor of Psychology***

*Examining Racial and Sexual Prejudice in Hiring Recommendations*

This proposal extends my current line of research on the joint effects of racism and heterosexism by examining how hiring instructions affirming diversity impact the evaluation of minority (racial or sexual minority) and dual minority (racial and sexual minority) applicants for a paid campus leadership position. Although affirmative action programs can be successful in increasing the hiring of minority individuals, public opinion about affirmative action policies is decidedly mixed. Thus, this experimental study seeks to examine whether a general pro-diversity statement would have the intended effect of decreasing discriminatory hiring decisions or conversely trigger feelings of threat.

***Jennifer Campbell, Associate Professor of Writing***

*Getting Better Student Writing: A Series of Workshops*

Design and coordinate a series of faculty development workshops aimed to enhance the culture of writing on the RWU campus based on the results of the "Survey of Faculty Practices and Attitudes Regarding Student Writing" (SFP) that I administered to RWU faculty in the spring of 2011. The nearly 50% return rate on the faculty survey and the number of qualitative comments volunteered indicate that there is a campus-wide desire to see guided opportunities for faculty development that will lead to better writing for all students.

***Jeremy Campbell, Assistant Professor of Anthropology***

*Some Reflections on the Perpetual Frontier in Amazonia*

Americanists has longest interdisciplinary tradition of studies on this subject. It has been convened uninterruptedly since 1875 (when the first ICA was held in Nancy, France), with venues alternating between the Americas and Europe. Originally organized every two years, since 1976 the ICA has been held every three years. In the last two decades, congresses were held in the Netherlands, United States, Sweden, Ecuador, Poland, Chile, Spain and Mexico. ICA 54 in Vienna will be held at the University of Vienna and will be attended by 5,000 area studies specialists who work on the Americas. I will be presenting my paper at ICA 54 in Portuguese as part of a specially-convened symposium on social dynamics and environmental issues in the Brazilian Amazon.

***Sean Colin, Associate Professor of Marine Biology and Environmental Science***

*Ctenophore Predation in Natural Fluid Environments*

This is part of an ongoing project that is funded by the National Science Foundation. In this project I am using a combination of laboratory and in situ methods to quantify the effects of turbulent flows on the feeding mechanics and predator-prey interactions of *Mnemiopsis* at the organismal level. I will then evaluate how these turbulent effects translate to the community level by using in situ sampling techniques that will relate natural turbulence levels to ingestion rates, prey selection and predatory impact of *Mnemiopsis* in the field. By combining direct observations of small-scale effects in the laboratory and field with community level patterns of trophic exchange, to establish clear cause and effect relationships in a new approach to biological-physical interactions that extends beyond current laboratory and modeling limits.

***Julie Kiernan Coon, Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice***

*An Assessment of Crime Prevention Strategies in Rhode Island Public Schools*

While school safety continues to be of national concern, there is often disagreement about how best to keep schools secure. This project will examine the use of a range of crime prevention strategies in public schools throughout Rhode Island. Data from a survey of schools will be used to understand current safety concerns, what strategies are currently being utilized, how long such measures have been in place, and perceived effectiveness of these approaches in reducing crime and other problems in schools. These results should provide practical suggestions for how best to address specific problems in Rhode Island schools.

**Jacqueline Cottle, Assistant Professor of Psychology**

*The Extent to Which Racial Diversity Effects Influence Other Information*

Studies regarding capital punishment attitudes on jury decision making have consistently found that attitudes influence verdicts. Jurors who favor the death penalty have been found to be more conviction prone, which is problematic for the impartial juror construct. Other studies have found that group composition influences information processing on juries, such that racially diverse juries examine information to a greater extent and process that information more fully. The current study proposes to determine whether these diversity effects influence biases on juries, notably the bias that results from capital punishment attitudes.

**Edward Delaney, Professor of Creative Writing/Communication**

*Fiction writing/documentary film*

To work on a new fiction, as a follow to my nationally and regionally recognized novel "Broken Irish", published Fall 2011. My target publication date for this work would likely be 2014. As an active writer who has received significant honors and attention for my three previous books, my work continues my exploration of the form, contributes to RWU's reputation, and is knowledge that I take directly back to my students in the classroom.

**Sargon Donabed, Assistant Professor of History**

*Assyrian Studies: Multidisciplinary Approaches*

Building on the foundations of scholarship within the disciplines of folklore, culture (including religion and music), politics, philology, history, and archaeology, anthropology, and law this series spans the continuum of Mesopotamian traditions extending from the fourth millennium, B.C. to the present – bridging previous fields which originally had little connection with each other. The aim is to enhance perspectives by applying various disciplines to problems that have in the past been treated as the exclusive concern of a single given discipline.

**Sargon Donabed, Assistant Professor of History**

*Forging a Forgotten History: Iraq in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century*

Iraq has ever been in the spotlight of ethnic and cultural strife, especially concerning Sunni-Shia animosity, and more recently in dealing with the Kurdish people and Iraqi Kurdistan. In most cases, however, the Assyrians are completely neglected from scholarship and mainstream works concerning Iraq and its peoples through the 1933 genocidal attacks on the Simele region and its Assyrian inhabitants defined the birth of the nascent Iraqi nation and identity. This book reinserts the Assyrian people into the fabric of Iraq and discusses the violent and non-violent suppression of Assyrian identity and culture through genocide, cultural genocide, and ethnic cleansing.

**Kelly Donnell, Associate Professor of Education**

*Urban Teacher Education: Induction and Mentoring*

This study aims to explore the role of Centers for Teacher Leadership as a viable innovation in the field of education and to determine the potential for such a Center in Rhode Island. Centers have been cited as raising the standard of education by serving as

platforms for teacher education and teacher quality through collaboration, research, accountable practice, and the advancement of professional knowledge. As a small state currently without a coordinated or systematic network for professional educators, Rhode Island has the potential to host a Center for Teacher Leadership. The research will employ a qualitative, multiple case study design to collect data about international, national, state and university-based Centers. The study is descriptive, aiming to document programs' goals, strategies, content, processes, and logistics and to report on the viability of such a Center in Rhode Island.

***Elizabeth Duffy, Associate Professor of Visual Arts***

*Insidious Environments*

I am planning to travel to artists' residencies in Italy (Bogliasco) and Spain (Fundacion Valparaiso) and attend programs in the United States, Italy and England that will expand my knowledge of handcrafts to employ in my artwork. I currently have upcoming exhibitions scheduled in New York at Muriel Guepin Gallery (Fall 2012), the Cue Art Foundation in New York (2013), the Islip Museum in New York (2012) and a solo exhibition at the Newport Art Museum in Rhode Island (scheduled for 2014). The request for funds for research and supplies will assist in creating new works for these upcoming shows. This is a unique opportunity during my sabbatical to expand my research and attend residency programs in Europe, many of which only occur during the academic year.

***Robert Engvall, Professor of Criminal Justice***

*Young Athletes, Couch Potatoes, and Helicopter Parents*

Dr. Skolnikoff and I have presented at numerous conferences concerning sports and the relationship between sports and our popular culture. Specific topics have included the nature of "helicopter parenting" and the impact that hyper-involved parents have upon the broader theme which suggests that the nature of "play" has changed in our society, and while the reasons vary, most center upon greater involvement of parents in their children's lives, for good and for ill. One chapter will focus upon how kids are chosen for their various sports teams. Another will concern how the lack of unstructured play has lessened kids ability to resolve disputes and pursue their own interests, rather than interests their parents choose for them. Still another will seize upon the notion of "specialized sports" at a young age, so that our hyper-competitive society parents can be comforted by the notion that their kids are "getting a jump" on others. These topics all lend themselves to individual chapters held together by the common theme that suggests that children's lives have increasingly become micro-managed by their parents.

***Kamille Gentles-Peart, Assistant Professor of Communication***

*The Barrel Culture of Jamaica*

The proposed project will explore the social and cultural significance of having access to foreign goods in the Jamaican society. As with other countries in the Caribbean, migration has been a perennial feature of the Jamaican existence. In spite of the issue of brain-drain and other-concerns associated with the departure of citizens, outward migration is not seen as a problem from the Jamaican perspective, but as an institutionalized strategy for economic betterment. In many cases, low and middle-income parents, particularly mothers, leave behind children in the care of relatives while they

migrate to the US or the UK in search of better economic situations. They leave with the hopes ultimately procuring the necessary resources and documentation to “send for” their children to join them in their new homes. In return, these women are expected and trusted to send remittances and goods (in barrel containers) to help care for their children as well as the extended families they left behind.

***Matthew Gregg, Associate Professor of Economics***

*Networks, Sorting and Self-Selection of American Indian Migrants*

While the empirical labor economics research suggests that the relationship between migration and distance is more influential than differentials in economic outcomes across areas, little is known about the influence of network effects on migration self-selection and sorting patterns (see Schwarz 1973; Naskoteen and Zimmer 1980; Kennan and Walker 2003). I plan to estimate the causal role of network effects on the net flow of migration, the selection of migrants, and economic outcomes of migrants by exploiting a natural experiment run by the federal government from 1952-1979 which subsidized *all* travel expenses of Native American migrants to seven U.S. cities. While the design of this program is ideal for isolating the role of networks on migration outcomes, no other study to my knowledge has exploited this particular natural experiment.

***France Hunter, Associate Professor of Dance***

*Accessing the Collective Unconscious Through Sensory Awareness*

I am requesting this course release to engage in a research project with RWU Dance majors during the Fall 2012 semester to the end of creating a dance to be performed in the Fall Dance Theatre concert series in December 2012. The thrust of the project is a continued exploration of embodied memory begun in 2008 as a choreographic process to tap into the personal reservoir of experience stored in the neuromuscular tissue of each individual. Having developed processes to tap into this material in individual dancers as part of the creative process has led to a desire to go further to a communal experience of the way that personal experiences are collected and organized in a similar way with each member of a particular group.

***Jason Jacobs, Assistant Professor of Foreign Language***

*No Patrimony: Inheritance, Feudal Politics, Family Romances in the geste of Guillaume d'Orange*

In the Old French epics that constitute the fictional biography of the hero Guillaume d'Orange, a young knight often serves a lord in the hope of material reward because he has been denied access to family patrimony. I argue that in these literary representations, “feudal politics” is little more than an architecture of displacements, in which the disinherited son addresses his demands to a lord, while at the same time projecting onto his lord a powerful negative affect that is a residue of father-son hostility. This dangerous displaced resentment creates the need for a discourse of loyalty or love between lord and vassal, and also requires an outlet in ideologically-sanctioned violence toward cultural others.

***Jeffrey Jenkins, Professor of Criminal Justice***

*Perceptions of Fairness by Children of the 1%*

A considerable number of research studies are conducted each year on nearly all aspects of students' public school experience. The same attention has not been given to the insular world of boarding school students, largely children of the so-called "1%". Using a sample of nearly 4,000 ninth and twelfth graders in 21 boarding schools across the country, this study will examine student perceptions of gender differences in secondary boarding schools in the United States. Specifically, perceived differences between male and female students relating to whether boarding schools are equitable in their treatment of students will be examined.

***Tadeusz Kugler, Assistant Professor of Political Science***

*The Demographic Clock*

A consequence of economic success, policy, or the outcome of war is the reduction of fertility and in turn the possibility of the generation following being smaller than the one before. This Demographic Transition has become a sign of economic success with population growth becoming a signal of failure. The clock is ticking either started by the after-effects of unexpected booms or started by successful economic growth. The chance does not come again and this book explores how immigration, gender equality, and discrimination radically alter the dynamics of population, and through that all economic and political choices that follow.

***Rebecca Leuchak, Associate Professor of Art and Architectural History***

*Weaving the World: A Exhibition and Companion Curriculum of The Wissa Wassef Art Community, Harraniya, Egypt*

Continuing the work begun this past summer during a Fulbright-Hays funded month of study in Egypt, I intend to plan an exhibition of the woven wool and cotton tapestries produced at the Wissa Wassef Arts Centre in Harraniya, Giza. In conjunction with the exhibition, a companion educational program will be designed for elementary school children to be conducted in cooperation with public schools.

***Marybeth MacPhee, Associate Professor of Anthropology***

*Health Promotion and Sustainability in Rural Scotland*

This 4-month interdisciplinary study will establish the foundation for a longitudinal, ethnographic investigation on how initiatives and regulations associated with sustainable rural development affect local households and communities in their efforts to promote health and wellness. The research composes the first phase of a yearlong sabbatical project in the Western Isles of Scotland. Methods include participant-observation, interviews, and content analysis of public health, environmental, and development policies. The results of the study will generate data for phase 2 of the sabbatical, an interview protocol tailored to the specific health context of the community. Requested funds will support travel and research expenses.

***Marilynn Mair, Professor of Music***

*Bem Brasileira – Classical-Brazilian Music Hybridity*

Bem Brasileira – Classical-Brazilian Music Hybridity is a continued research/composition project to create modern responses in the style of Brazilian Choro to a series of classical and Latin American compositions. Work began last year, with three

compositions completed to date and three more planned. I intend to pursue an invitation to Bahia, in northeastern Brazil, to work with Marco Cesar, a master arranger and composer for plucked string ensembles. I will also return to Rio to work with Marcilio Lopes on the harmonic and structural integrity of my compositions within the historical evolution of Choro, and to play the completed works in traditional rodas.

***Marcia Marston, Professor of Biology***

*Genetics of Marine Virus – Host Interactions*

Viruses are one of the most abundant biological entities in marine ecosystems. Viral lysis of marine microorganisms alters the quantity of dissolved organic matter in the oceans, influencing global biogeochemical cycles. Viruses are host specific and thus virus-host phenotypes – that is, the range of hosts that each virus can infect and the breadth of viruses to which each host is resistant – will ultimately determine the influence of viruses on nutrient cycling. The goal of this research is to identify the genetic determinants of virus-host phenotypes and to examine the variability of the viral-host “interaction” genes over time and space.

***Murray McMillan, Associate Professor of Visual Arts***

*Video Installation at Qbox Gallery in Athens, Greece*

This proposal funds the creation of a new video installation that will premiere in a solo exhibition at Qbox Gallery in Athens, Greece. Titled *If Our Worlds Could Be One*, this project will consist of a large-scale site-specific video installation which will include two components: a video consisting of a set for a filmed performance in which performers interact with the built environment and an installation at the Qbox Gallery which will consist of the video integrated within the reconstructed set.

***Debra Mulligan, Associate Professor of History***

*The Life of J. Howard McGrath*

The purpose of this continuing research will be to examine the impact of Rhode Island Governor J. Howard McGrath, 1903-1966 on local, state, and national politics. I wish to continue the momentum begun during my sabbatical so that I may complete my manuscript in due course. Because McGrath’s public life spanned the better part of the pre- and post war years, I need to investigate further the changing nature of politics in the twentieth century and McGrath’s contribution to the public political sphere. As Democratic State Chairman (1930-1934) he presided over the rise of the Democrats in the 1930s. As Governor of the State during the Second World War, McGrath was responsible for a number of social reforms that presaged President Franklin Roosevelt’s clarion call for a “Second Bill of Rights”. The “Cash Sickness Act,” (1942), the first such measure in the nation, placed Rhode Island at the vanguard of change in the health care field. Finally, his various national positions, from Democratic National Chairman (1947-1949) to Attorney General (1949-1952) simultaneously showcased both his strengths and weaknesses, which growing media coverage was all-too-happy to exploit.

***Clifford Murphy, Assistant Professor of Chemistry***

*Microwave “Click” – coupling to produce dye sensitized solar cells*



Producing photovoltaic materials in cheap and efficient manner is an objective active sought in chemical research today. Our research at RWU in this vein has produced a patent application for a microwave technique that allows faster production of functionalized transmissive electrodes suitable for dye-sensitized solar cell construction.

***Koray Ozer, Assistant Professor of Mathematics***

*On the Inversion of the Laplace Transform*

The focal point of this work is to extend the results obtained in our previous studies on the numerical inversion methods for the Laplace transform and to apply these novel techniques to attain sharp numerical approximations for the solutions of evolution equations of convolution type. Furthermore, in light of recently developed rational best approximation procedure, we shall seek ways to develop new approximation methods for Banach space valued Laplace transform while focusing on the approaches that will yield better error estimates for rational time-discretization schemes.

***William Palm, Assistant Professor of Engineering***

*Explaining Outcomes in Outsourced Product Development*

Firms that develop, brand, and sell new products increasingly outsource product design but outcomes vary widely and the causes of this variation are unclear. The proposed research will develop explanatory and predictive models for design outsourcing outcomes and describe means of improving outcomes. The resulting models will help practitioners anticipate when design outsourcing is and isn't likely to be effective and optimize the outcomes of the projects they undertake. For the scholar, the research enriches understanding of industrial organization by adding the operational considerations to the strategic and economic perspectives traditionally used to explain the boundaries of the firm.

***Priniti Panday, Associate Professor of Economics***

*Conflict and poverty in Nepal: An Econometric Assessment*

In 1996, the Maoist launched the "Peoples War" in Nepal claiming that the constitution of Nepal was inadequate in ensuring freedom, justice and welfare for the Nepalese people. The insurgency spread throughout the country and in a period of 10 years, about 13 thousand people lost their lives. The purpose of this paper is to conduct an econometric analysis of the inter-relationship between conflict and poverty in Nepal. We hypothesize that conflict and poverty have a simultaneous casual relationship. Using district level information, we explore the following questions: 1) Did poverty contribute to conflict in Nepal? 2) Did conflict affect the poverty? 3) What are the other socio/economic/geographical variables that influence poverty and conflict?

***Jason Patch, Assistant Professor of Sociology***

*The Journal for Undergraduate Ethnography*

*The Journal for Undergraduate Ethnography* (JUE) is a new online publication for showcasing student research ([\\*undergraduateethnography.org](http://undergraduateethnography.org)). We are looking forward to solidifying and expanding this publication. Ethnography cuts across disciplinary boundaries by examining human behavior in a range of natural settings both public and private. Our goal is to encourage students to polish their work and present it to the

academic world. Research derived from curricular demands is especially promising: a senior thesis, an honors paper, or a final paper for a methods course. JUE seeks submissions nationally and internationally. The editorial board consists of trained RWU students and faculty drawn from multiple academic institutions.

***Judith Platania, Associate Professor of Psychology***

*How Jurors Use Constitutionally Relevant Evidence: Exploring Mediation and Moderation in a Capital Trial Paradigm*

The proposed study will explore the role of a specific instruction designed to guide jurors on the use of non-statutory mitigating circumstances in determining sentence. In the context of a capital trial, evidence of defendant abuse (sexual vs. physical) will be presented in the presence/absence of victim impact testimony. Instructions will be moderated through the type of mitigation testimony as well as victim impact testimony. Finally, we anticipate both the cognitive and affective processes of participant-jurors will mediate our manipulated trial factors

***Paola Prado, Assistant Professor of Communication***

*Community Communicators in the Dominican Republic: Impact Assessment*

This proposal requests funding for research that will document the impact of the Community Communicators (Com2) multimedia journalism training program in the Dominican Republic. Launched in the Dominican Republic in April 2008 and expanded to Columbia two years later, the program trains individuals from peripheral or marginalized areas of Latin America as community reporters. Four years later, we have yet to measure the impact of the training on the lives of 141 Com2 graduates. This proposal will fund travel to the Dominican Republic where I will conduct interviews with program graduates. This proposal will fund travel to the Dominican Republic where I will conduct interviews with program graduates, collect samples of their new reports, and gather evidence from the communities.

***Autumn Quezada-Grant, Assistant Professor of History***

*Seasons of Discontent: Life, Labor and Litigation amongst Indians and Ladinos in Chiapas, Mexico, 1832-1911*

Building on a growing body of studies on Indian litigation in Latin American history, this study focuses on the legal culture of nineteenth-century Chiapas, Mexico. Equality was the charge in the new republics, yet the lived experience sat far from republican ideals. My study of litigation in Chiapas paints an interesting portrait of relations throughout the countryside demonstrating long stretches of time with a marked absence of Indian litigants, which ultimately speaks relations of power, coercion and silence broken by rebellion and then a flooding of Indian cases followed by then absence.

***Michael Rich, Associate Professor of Visual Arts***

*Confluence: Searching for the Spiritual in Abstraction*

To create a body of work, including large-scale paintings, drawings and possibly photographs, which using the language of contemporary abstraction will explore issues of spirituality in the visual form. This body of work will be assembled into an exhibition with an accompanying catalog.

***Joseph Roberts, Assistant Professor of Political Science***  
*Oman and Geopolitics in the Persian Gulf*

The Sultanate of Oman has traditionally been an understudied area of the Middle East. That, I believe, will soon be changing because of the emergence of Oman as a critically important ally in the United States' efforts to contain Iran and the Iranian nuclear program. The US operates facilities at the Omani island of Masirah at the southern exit of the Strait of Hormuz and at Thumrait Air Base on the Omani mainland. Of course, the US Navy's Fifth fleet also operates in the region. This proposal seeks to fund a research program under the auspices of the Joseph J. Malone Fellowship in Arab and Islamic Studies of the National Council on US-Arab Relations and the Cultural Immersion Program in Oman.

***Teal Rothschild, Associate Professor of Sociology***  
*Racialization and Discursive Construction of 'The Other'*

This article analyzes the racialization and discursive constructions of 'the other' present in the United States press' depiction of the Day Without an Immigrant protests. Leo Chavez' "Latino Threat Narrative" is utilized as a model to illustrate the explicit and implicit language of dehumanization of these protesters. The persistence of the Latino Threat Narrative in turn reinforces the hegemony of the anti-immigrant border making sentiment present in the United States today. It is theorized that this framing of 'Latino exceptionalism' reinforces the disconnection of newer Latino immigrants from the established historical trajectory of immigration in the United States, in which immigrants 'become white', and 'lose' the moniker of 'other'.

***Teal Rothschild, Professor of Sociology and Anjali Ram, Associate Professor of Communication***

*Interrupting Power and Privilege*

Critical engagement in the classroom and university engagement is only possible when we address structures of inequality and minority status as well as entrenched structures that support dominant hegemonic ideologies. To accomplish a genuine effort to develop social justice awareness on our campus we need programs that go beyond models that celebrate difference and diversity uncritically. It is a common assumption that teaching and research go hand and hand. We are proposing to take this common assumption a step further and to incorporate the teaching beyond the classroom, which would include: teaching of the RWU community by an external speaker, and teaching and mentoring students to develop research designs that address issues of privilege.

***Mark Sawoski, Professor of International Relations***  
*Foreign Policy Perceptions of Russian Political Elites*

Ideas matter, especially the collective ideas of political elites. My proposal is to categorize and track the foreign policy perceptions of political factions in Russia and then use expert political forecasting to identify trends, or whose ideas are likely to matter over the near-term, and also what new thinking has a chance of replacing current thinking, thereby indicating the direction of potential change in Russian foreign policy. This "neo-constructivist" approach is an improvement over current international relations theory.

The research facilitates the development of several courses. It advances a book project covering the behavior of China and the United States.

***Gary Shore, Associate Professor of Dance and Performance***

*Animating the Closet*

This proposal is for funds to create an evening length work of movement-theatre focusing on material that utilizes a range of costumes to stimulate characters, conflicts, environments, and images. I will direct, co-write and co-choreograph the piece along with award winning choreographer and RWU graduate Jenny Rocha who will also perform the work. Additional performers will include soon to be graduates of the Dance and Performance Studies program, Leanne Smith, Michelle Birmingham and Ali Burke. The finished work will be presented this summer at the RWU Performing Arts Center. Subsequent performances will be scheduled in New York City as well as important venues in other locations.

***Amiee Shelton, Assistant Professor of Communication***

*Celebrity Influence: A Primer of Entertainment Public Relations*

The entertainment sector of the public relations industry is responsible for the employment of thousands of professionals. With subdivisions including fashion, professional sports, television, film and lifestyle products, the entertainment public relations industry is a powerhouse in local and national economies. Unfortunately, many people are not educated in the business practices of the field, and associate the term "Entertainment PR" with the situations brought forth on television programs like *Sex and the City* and *Entourage*. These unrealistic portrayals of the field result in a skewed perception of what public relations for the entertainment sector entails, leading to a belief that working in the entertainment field solely involves event planning and celebrity encounters. This project will create a series of papers that explore the field of entertainment public relations and the specific practice areas, and it is hoped will ultimately be put together as a book.

***Aimee Shelton, Assistant Professor of Communication***

*Making Civic Duty Stick with Teflon Youth*

A decline in political participation may be directly linked to the lack of understanding in modern youth of just what civic duty means. This present study furthers my inquiry into civic engagement following a study that will be published in April 2012, which investigated the types of civic duty depicted on television in an effort to quantify what modern youths may use as a reference point when attempting to make sense of what civic duty means today. Using data collected from interviews in 2010; I plan to survey American youth at several educational institutions to provide a deeper understanding of the concept of what civic duty means to them. This information can assist NGO's, non-profit organizations and government agencies in creating the correct messages to spur our youth to engage in their civic duty. It can also assist in understanding which actions should be promoted to further democratic ideals in a pluralistic society.

***Jessica Skolnikoff, Associate Professor of Anthropology***

*Athletes, Couch Potatoes, and Helicopter Parents: The Productivity of Play*

We (Professor Engvall and myself) have presented at numerous conferences concerning sports and our popular culture. Each of these presentations will be turned into chapters. Specific topics have included the nature of “helicopter parenting” and the impact that hyper-involved parents have upon the “play” of their children. The chapters of this book will address a variety of topics under a broader theme which suggests that the nature of “play” has changed in our society, and while the reasons vary, most center upon greater involvement of parents in their children’s lives, for good and for ill. One chapter will focus upon how kids are chosen for their various sports teams. Another will concern how the lack of unstructured play has lessened kids’ ability to resolve disputes and pursue their own interests, rather than interests their parents choose for them. Still another will seize upon the notion of “specialized sports” at a young age, so that in our hyper-competitive society parents can be comforted by the notion that their kids are “getting a jump” on others. These topics all lend themselves to individual chapters held together by the common theme that suggests that children’s lives have increasingly become micro-managed by their parents.

***June Sager Speakman, Professor of Political Science***

*Pedagogy for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Student*

This proposal requests funding for participation in the Art and Practice Leadership Development program at Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government. The program involves a “provocative delivery method” called Case in Point pedagogy. Participants both experience and practice this pedagogy. I seek to learn this pedagogy and apply it to both my graduate and undergraduate teaching at RWU, to share it with my colleagues through on campus workshops and to write an article about it for the Journal of Political Science Teaching.

***Renee Soto, Associate Professor of Creative Writing***

*“Spokes in the Wheel: Essays in Poetics”*

The “craft essay” is one of the foundational tools in creative writing pedagogy and practice. In poetry, such an essay focuses on a specific aspect of poetics, illuminating nuances by way of aesthetic considerations and the application of these considerations to model poems. The craft essay figures prominently in the best literary and professional journals in the discipline of contemporary literary writing, as well as in books dedicated to the genre. This grant would support the further research and development of three articles already in process: “Spokes in the Wheel: Language, Diction, and Syntax;” “Our ‘Passionate History’: Communicating the Artist’s Impulse”, and “Metaphor As the Poet’s System of Logic.”

***David Taylor, Associate Professor of Marine Biology***

*Patterns of Habitat Use In Rhode Island Fishes and the Effect on Intra-species Mercury Contamination*

The proposed research will continue to quantify mercury concentrations in near surface sediments collected from Narragansett Bay and its associated tidal rivers and embayments. These data will be used within the temporal and spatial framework of a geographic information system (GIS) to analyze relationships between Rhode Island (RI)

land use and watershed characteristics, potential point sources of mercury, and the distribution of legacy and current mercury reservoirs in bay sediments.

***Matthew Stein, Professor of Engineering***

*A Remote Laboratory for an Advanced Robot Programming Course*

This paper presents results of an investigation into delivery methods of a laboratory course to distance education students. An advanced robot programming course at the master's level is delivered to highly qualified students all possessing technical degrees at the bachelor's level. The course contains a significant laboratory component where students program two industrial robots (A PUMA 560 and a Staubli RX90) each positioned to manipulate objects on a shared conveyor utilizing information from a variety of sensors. The authors developed a prototype system for conducting this laboratory remotely using *Elluminate* learning suite and a configuration of off-the-shelf camera and audio equipment, then tested the system by completing one of the assigned laboratory exercises. This paper presents the details of the laboratory exercise and the system developed to conduct the laboratory remotely. The authors present the technical considerations encountered when developing the remote laboratory and their experiences in completing the laboratory exercise remotely. The paper concludes with an analysis of the project and a discussion of future plans.

***Peter Thompson, Associate Professor of Foreign Language***

*Translation of Nabile Fares: Exile*

This is a proposal to translate a novel by Nabile Fares, *L'Exile et le desarroi*. His work is well known in France, is experiencing a resurgence in his native Algeria, and has not been translated. Like all his writing, this novel well serves the goals of my department and the University: whether read in French or in English (and university libraries elsewhere will benefit from the English version), the text offers students a vision of France's current and past roles in the world, along with the changing role of the French language. It is also a profound critique of colonialism.

***Cliff Timpson, Professor of Chemistry***

*Fabrication and Testing of Dye-Sensitized Solar Cells*

This proposal seeks funds to facilitate basic scientific research related to the production of Dye Sensitized Solar Cells (DSSC's). This research, conducted as part of a one semester sabbatical experience, will have two primary goals: 1) to synthesize light harvesting dye molecules for incorporation into DSSC's and, 2) to acquire the techniques required for fabricating fully functioning solar devices and to bring this expertise back to RWU. The ability to build DSSC type photovoltaics here at RWU will directly benefit students interested in solar conversion, and will likely strengthen future attempts to acquire external funding from granting agencies.

***Evgenia Tsankova, Associate Professor of Education***

*Lessons from the Field*

The main purposes of this study are twofold: a) to videotape teaching in mathematics classrooms in Bulgaria, Grades 1 through 12, conduct interviews with teachers and administrators, analyze the collected material, compare the practices and

rigor of the mathematics teaching in classrooms in Bulgaria, and report findings to School of Education faculty at Roger Williams University, at conferences, to teachers in Bulgaria and to the education faculty at Sofia University; and, b) to study the process of “looping.” In return, I will conduct professional development for teachers in the form of seminars, discussion groups, and lessons modeling as well as conduct lectures to pre-service teachers at the university.

***Kerri Ullucci, Assistant Professor of Education***

*A Survey of Whiteness in Education*

In 1993, Scheurich published his now classic work, “Toward a White Discourse on White Racism.” Considered a touch-stone on contemporary understandings of racism and anti-racist work, my study seeks to determine how we have evolved in our understandings of racism in the US, particular to Education. I propose to do a systematic review of the ways in which Whiteness is being written about in the field of education. My goal is to assess the ways in which the term is utilized in the field, how/if it is being co-opted, and ways in which to push the boundaries of its usefulness in Education.

***Li-Ling Yang, Assistant Professor of Education***

*Project SUCCESS (Science Understanding through a Collaborative*

Project SUCCESS is a collaboration of the Northern Rhode Island Collaborative (NRIC), Rhode Island College, and Roger Williams University in partnership with the public school districts of Pawtucket and North Providence to improve elementary school science teaching and increase student achievement in science. The overarching goal of SUCCESS is to increase instructional coherence by aligning curriculum, instruction, and assessment to each other and to the State standards, which is a goal shared by the ongoing efforts with the Charles A. Dana Center, University of Texas Austin, and consistent with the RIDE strategic plan to transform education in Rhode Island ([www.ride.ri.gov](http://www.ride.ri.gov)). Project SUCCESS will employ a train-the-trainer model developing teacher leader cohorts supported by district level administrators and building principals. A blended method professional development strategy consists of a multiday summer institute followed by ongoing teacher action research during the school year.

***Sean Varano, Assistant Professor of Justice Studies***

*Policing Disasters: The Role of Law Enforcement in the Pre-Disaster Planning and Post-Disaster Responses*

This chapter is intended to give an overview to the challenges of policing disasters – both natural and man-made. The September 11, 2001 attacks and Hurricanes Katrina and Rita brought to light the inherent challenges facing police when responding to larger scale disasters. The September 11<sup>th</sup> attacks, for example, highlighted a myriad of challenges facing the law enforcement community, particularly in densely populated areas with a complex system of overlapping and duplicative jurisdictional boundaries. The public safety response in New York City, for example, was riddled with problems associated with communication systems that lacked interoperability and a lack of centralized command structure. What becomes glaringly evident in the aftermath of 9/11 events was substantial breakdowns in pre-disaster planning.

***Min Zhou, Assistant Professor of Education***

***Adolf Muschg's Travel-Criminal Novel About China***

My project centers on *Baiyun oder die Freundschaftsgesellschaft*, a novel that Swiss author Adolf Muschg published in 1982 after a visit to China in 1978. It aims to examine how, through the form of semi-criminal story in which the murder of a sudden death is searched for, the novel intensifies the confrontation of eight Swiss with their inner selves and their interactions with one another and their Chinese hosts. A course release will provide the opportunity to do close readings of Muschg's novel of more than 300 pages, to browse other authors' writings about China from the 1980s, and to read through German reviews and literary critiques of the last 30 years on Muschg's China novel which will allow me to better conceptualize and appreciate Muschg's distinctive literary approach and to develop my own analysis.