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Academic Affairs Happenings, Volume 2, Issue 1

Office of Academic Affairs, Roger Williams University

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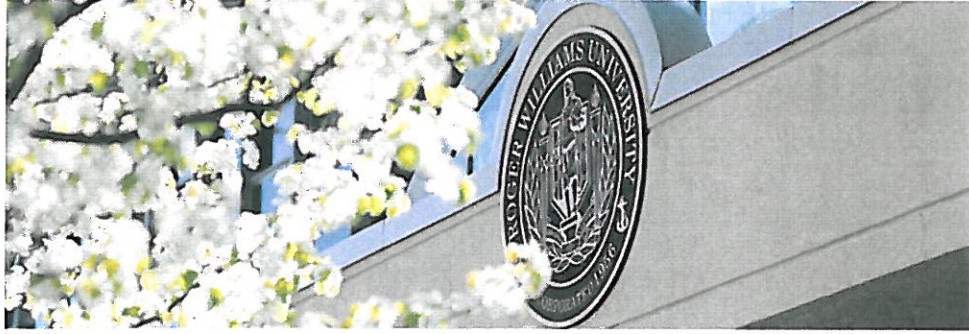
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*From the Office of
the Provost
October 2013
Volume 2, Issue 1*

Academic Affairs Happenings

Dear Faculty,

I'm pleased to present the fall edition of the Academic Affairs Happenings newsletter. This issue marks the beginning of the newsletter's second year. Inside you will find an expanded listing of your colleagues' accomplishments in teaching, research, and service. This work makes possible the vibrant educational experience for our students and the University's growing contribution to the community.

For this edition we are pleased to have received even more submissions than the last, but are still striving for a comprehensive listing of all that you do.

I would like to thank Lori Barry for her work in pulling this newsletter together.

Best,

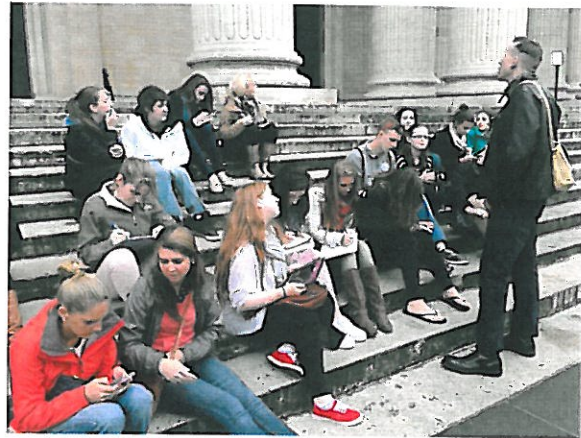
Andy Workman
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

In our Classrooms

Jeremy Campbell and Paola Prado co-directed a 7-credit faculty-led study abroad program in Brazil titled “Environmental Justice in Brazil.” In this intense program, students learned about the social and environmental impacts of development projects in quickly-growing Brazil, and then worked in teams to research, record, and produce multi-media journalistic reports on environmental and social justice stories.



Laura D'Amore and Jeffrey Meriwether did a faculty-led study abroad trip to Paris in May. Students took an AMST course, “Americans in Paris,” and learned about the 1920s Lost Generation of American artists, writers, and musicians who found Paris to be inspirational and culturally tolerant. Students also took an HIST course, “Paris in the Third Republic,” and learned the cultural and political history of the city that emerged in the 1880s, creating the Paris that served as a backdrop for Americans in the 1920s. The trip enrolled 18 students, and used the streets, museums, clubs, and cafes of Paris as the backdrop and setting for daily lessons.



Anthony Ruocco and William Palm – Students in their Engineering and Computer Science Capstone Design class collaborated with students in Joel Cooper’s Small Business Institute class to develop a prototype and business plan for an easy-to-use modular bicycle rack for automobiles. The students included John Benas, Katrina Ferree, and Jack Traub from Engineering, Catherin Baer, Leah Barwise, Garrett Scherma, and Nicholas Wright from Business.

Ernie Greco – designed and taught a new course called Comparative Politics and the European Union, which was part of a study abroad program during the summer minimester. The course was taught in Britain, France and the Netherlands.

Joseph Roberts – working with **Peter Alfieri** designed a new study abroad program in Spain and Morocco for winter intersession.

Research, Grants, Publications and Presentations

Garrett Berman – Co-authored three presentations at the American-Psychology Society. Amy Roach a former undergraduate student was the first author on two of the

presentations. Geno Salomone, a recent graduate of the Master’s program in Forensic Psychology was first author on a paper examining best practices in eyewitness

identification paradigms. Three RWU students were involved in these projects and all three students attended the 2013 meeting of the American Psychology-Law Society in Portland, Oregon with funding from the Provost Fund for Student Research.

Salomone, G., Berman, G.L. & Platania, J. (2013, March). Perceptions of blind administration and video perspective on identification procedures. Poster presented at the 2013 meeting of the American Psychology-Law Society, Portland, OR.

Roach, A., Subramaniam, J., Berman G.L., & Jones, E.E. (2013, March). Allow me to explain! Mock-juror perceptions of eyewitness confidence inflation. Poster presented at the 2013 meeting of the American Psychology-Law Society, Portland, OR.

Roach, A., Berman, G.L., Platania, J. & Whitworth, D. (2013, March). Dangerous criminals or misunderstood? Assessing police perceptions of the mentally ill. Paper presented at the 2013 meeting of the American Psychology-Law Society, Portland, OR.

Jennifer Campbell – In preparation for her new role as Coordinator for the 100-level courses in the Department of Writing Studies, Rhetoric and Composition, she attended the Council of Writing Program Administrators in Savannah, Georgia this summer. Partially funded by the Foundation to Promote Teaching and Scholarship, she attended the day-long institute, Effective Faculty Development Workshops: Design and Delivery.

Sean Colin – received a grant of \$246,071 from the Office of Naval Research, DURIP. “Volumetric 3 dimensional Velocimetry (V3V) System for Determining Propulsive Strategies of Swimming Animals.

Gemmell, B., Costello, J.H., **Colin, S.P.**, Dabiri, J.O. 2013. Passive energy recapture in jellyfish contributes to propulsive advantage over other metazoans. *PNAS*. In Press.

Colin, S.P., Costello, J.H. Katija, K., Seymour, J. Kiefer, K. 2013. Propulsion in cubomedusae: Mechanisms and utility. *PloS One*.

Lucas, K., **Colin, S.P.**, Costello, J.H., Katija, K., Klos, E. 2013. Fluid interactions that enable stealth predation by the upstream foraging hydromedusa *Craspedacusta sowerbyi*. *Bio. Bull.* In press

Laura D'Amore – received a book contract for her edited volume of essays, *Representing Women's Intellect in Film and Television*. It is forthcoming with Scarecrow Press in summer 2014.

Avelina Espinosa – has received an ongoing grant (2012-2014) from the National Institute of Health NIH-NCRR Grant #8P20GM103430-12 to support the research project: “The Search for Anti-Amoebic Drugs with Less Toxicity in Humans: Entamoeba histolytica EhADH2 Enzyme as Potential Target”.

Paz-y-Mino-C G & **Espinosa A.** Galapagos III World Evolution Summit: why evolution matters. *Evolution Education and Outreach* (in press).

Paz-y-Mino-C G & **Espinosa A.** 2013 The Everlasting Conflict Evolution-and-Science versus Religiosity, in *Religion and Ethics*. Eds. G. Simpson & S. Payne. NOVA Publishers, pp. 73-98.

Paz-y-Mino-C G & **Espinosa A.** 2013 Attitudes toward Evolution at New England Colleges and Universities, United States. *New England Science Public: Series Evolution* 1(1): 1-32. <http://docs.rwu.edu/nesciencepublicevolution/vol1/iss1/1>

Espinosa A., Socha A.M., Ryke E., Rowley D.C. 2012. Antiamoebic properties of the Actinomycete metabolites Echinomycin and Tirandamycin. *Parasitology Research* DOI: 10.1007/s00436-012-3019-2 (Ryke-RWU student)

Espinosa – Cover Journal Article from “JEU” or Journal of Eukaryotic Microbiology



Espinosa A. & Paz-y-Mino-C., G 2012. Discrimination, Crypticity, and Incipient Taxa in *Entamoeba*. Journal of Eukaryotic Microbiology 59:105-110

Paz-y-Mino-C, G. & *Espinosa A.* 2012 Educators of Prospective Teachers Hesitate to Embrace Evolution Due to Deficient Understanding of Science/Evolution and High Religiosity Evolution: Education and Outreach 5:139-162.

Espinosa A. & Paz-y-Mino-C G. 2013 Unraveling Lineage Crypticity in *Entamoeba* with Behavioral and Biochemical Cues. III World Evolution Summit, Galpagos Ecuador June 1-5

Paz-y-Mino-C G & *Espinosa, A.* 2013 Evolution, Science, Pseudo Science and the Public's Perception of Reality. III World Evolution Summit, Galpagos Ecuador June 1-5

Espinosa A. & Paz-y-Mino-C G. 2012. Using behavioral and chemical cues to resolve crypticity in free-living, commensal, and parasitic *Entamoeba* lineages. Protist 2012, Oslo Norway July 29-August 3

Espinosa A. 2012. El microbioma intestinal: análisis ecológico-evolutivo de residentes y patógenos. II Meeting in Collaborative Research on Infectious Diseases, Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador, Quito, Ecuador, June 10-21

Gail Fenske - contributed a book chapter “A Brief History of the Twentieth-Century Skyscraper,” in The Tall Buildings Reference Book, edited by Dave Parker and Antony Wood (London and New York: Routledge, Taylor &

Francis Group with the Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat, 2013), Chapter 1, pp.13-31.

Fenske – was a reviewer of the exhibition, “Kevin Roche: Architecture as Environment.” Yale School of Architecture, February 7-May 5, 2011, and Museum of the City of New York, September 27-February 25, 2012, in The Society of Architectural Historians Journal 72 (June 2013), pp. 263-65.

Fenske – was a Guest Curator for the exhibition, “Woolworth at 100,” held at the Skyscraper Museum in New York, February 27, 2013-September 15, 2013.

Fenske – gave a series of three public lectures in New York on the occasion of the Woolworth Building centennial:

“The Woolworth Building: The Making of a New York Landmark,” Center for Architecture (New York Chapter, American Institute of Architects), April 22, 2013.

“The Woolworth Building: The Highest in the World,” The Skyscraper Museum, New York, May 7, 2013.

“The Woolworth Building: A Beaux-Arts Skyscraper,” The Institute for Classical Architecture and Art, New York, June 12, 2013.

Fenske – led the Study Day “Woolworth at 100” for the Society of Architectural Historians, in collaboration with Andrew Dolkart (Columbia University) with contributions by Carol Willis (Director, Skyscraper Museum and Columbia University) and Susan Tunick (President, Friends of Terra Cotta) in New York on March 22, 2013. The Study Day’s 30 participants visited the exhibition “Woolworth at 100” at the Skyscraper Museum, where *Fenske* gave a gallery talk, then took a tour of Lower Manhattan, which featured Cass Gilbert’s United States Custom House, West Street Building, and Broadway Chambers Building, along with the skyscrapers of Gilbert’s New York competitors, concluding with an in-depth examination of the Woolworth Building’s

exterior, lobby, offices in the 21st story, and observatory.

Fenske – was respondent for the symposium, “Medieval or Modern?": Questions and Dialogues on Architecture and Modernity on the Occasion of the Woolworth Building's Centennial”, sponsored by the Skyscraper Museum and held at the Woolworth Building on June 14, 2013. Speakers included Kevin Murphy (Professor, CUNY Graduate Center), Mary Beth Betts (Director of Research, New York Landmarks Preservation Commission), Joanna Merwood-Salisbury (Associate Professor, Parsons, The New School for Design), Suzanne Stephens (Professor, Barnard College, and Editor, *Architectural Record*), Mary Woods (Professor, Cornell University), and Dietrich Neumann (Professor, Brown University).

Fenske – served as moderator for the symposium, “Deeper History: Contemporary Considerations of Architecture's Long Past,” hosted by the program in History, Theory, and Criticism of Architecture, School of Architecture and Planning, MIT, June 1, 2013. Speakers for her session included Hilary Ballon (Professor and Vice-Chancellor, NYU), Joseph Siry (Professor, Wesleyan University), and Danilo Udovicki-Selb (Professor, University of Texas, Austin).

Fenske – spoke about the School of Architecture, Art and Historic Preservation's courses in architectural history for the workshop “Teaching the Global History of Architecture,” funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, held at MIT on May 17-18-2013. Participants in the symposium included faculty in architecture and art history from institutions across the United States.

Annika Hagley – who joined the Political Science faculty, has an article forthcoming in *PS: Politics and Political Science* titled, “Post 9-11 American Political Identities in Marvel's Avengers”.

Marcie Marston – was awarded a 3-year National Science Foundation Research Grant –

Biological Oceanography. “Collaborative proposal: Cyanophage-Synechococcus interactions in complex communities”. (PI. \$376,515 September 2013 – August 2016)

Marston - had three peer-reviewed scientific publications in 2013: *indicates RWU undergraduate co-author:

Marston, M.F., *Taylor, S, *Sme, N. Parson, R.J., Noyes T.J., Martiny J.B., 2013 Marin cyanophages exhibit local and regional biogeography. *Environmental Microbiology* 15(5), 1452-1463.

Dekel-Bird N.P., Avrani S., Sabehi G., Pekarsky I., **Marston M.F.**, Kirzner S., Lindell D. 2013. Diversity and evolutionary relationships of T7-like podoviruses infecting marine cyanobacteria. *Environmental Microbiology* 15(5): 1476-91

Clasen J.L., Hanson C.A., Ibrahim Y., Weihe C., **Marston M.F.**, Mariny J.B.H. 2013. Diversity and temporal dynamics of Southern California coastal marine cyanophage isolates. *Aquat Microb Ecol* 69:17-31

Presentation: *Dushkin L., **Marston M.F.** 2013. Genetic and phenotypic variability among marine viral isolates belonging to the same cyanophage strain. American Society for Microbiology 113th General meeting. Denver Co. May 18-21. Poster presentation

W. Brett McKenzie – attended the National Center for Women & Information Technology (NCWIT) as the RWU Academic Alliance Representative on May 20-23, 2013 in Tucson, Arizona.

McKenzie – Presented at the Alice Symposium at Duke. The National Science Foundation (NSF) sponsored conference on teaching programming. McKenzie was invited to represent the business/information systems disciplines as one of the few scholars in an area dominated by computer science. His talk will be published by the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM), the oldest organization for computing. The talk focused on introductory

programming and how an information science approach differs from that in computer science.

Autumn Quezada-Grant – Served as guest editor for the spring 2013 edition of Ethnohistory and published an article titled “Indian Ladinos, and the Resurrection of the Protector de Indos, San Cristobal de Las Casas, Chiapas, 1870-1885”.

William Palm – Presented a paper entitled “Prioritizing the Many Measures of Success in Outsourced Design” at the ASME Design Engineering Division’s 25th International Conference on Design Theory and Methodology, in Portland Oregon on August 7, 2013.

June Speakman – accompanied seven students to the New England Political Science Association meeting in May of 2013 where they presented their research on the impact of social media on local politics.

Speakman – published an essay, “Candidates Personal and Family Lives,” in ABC-CLIO American Politics Enduring Question series.

James Tackach – Presented a paper titled “The First Amendment Critique of the 1850 Fugitive Slave Law” at the Religion and State Conference held at RWU in April 2013.

Tackach – Presented a paper titled “The Emancipation Proclamation at 150: Impact and Legacy” at the 23rd Annual American Literature Association Conference in Boston in April 2013.

In the Campus Community

At the Board of Trustees Meeting on May 17, 2013 the Board conferred tenure and/or promotion to 17 members of the faculty which became effective fall 2013. Congratulations are offered to: **Sara Butler, Loren Byrne, Julie Coon, Jacqueline Cottle, Kamille Gentles-Peart, Rupayan Gupta, John McQuilkin, Stephen O’Shea, Joseph Roberts, Teal Rothschild, Yolanda Scott, Michael Scully, Peter Thompson, Kerri Ullucci, Sean Varano, Elizabeth Volpe, Li-Ling Yang**

This fall we welcomed the following new faculty to Roger Williams University:

Julia Garner, Assistant Professor of Spanish. Julia received her Ph.D. in Hispanic Studies from Brown University.

Annika Hagley, Assistant Professor of Political Science. Annika received her Ph.D. in Political Science from SUNY Buffalo.

Timothy Johnson, Visiting Assistant Professor of Writing. Timothy holds a M.A. in English from the University of Illinois at Chicago and

A.B.D. in Rhetoric and Composition from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Michael Kapralos, Visiting Assistant Professor of Engineering. Michael has a M.S. in Electrical Engineering and is working toward his Ph.D. at the University of Connecticut.

Rebecca Karni, Assistant Professor of English Literature. Rebecca received her Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from the University of California, Los Angeles

Nicole Martino, Assistant Professor of Engineering. Nicole received her Ph.D. in Civil Engineering from Northeastern University.

Katrina Norvell, Assistant Professor of Public Administration. Katrina received her Ph.D. in Public Administration and Policy from Portland State University.

Anne Proctor, Visiting Assistant Professor of Art and Architectural History. Anne received her Ph.D. in Italian Renaissance Art from the University of Texas at Austin.

On October 16th group of 4 faculty participated in a roundtable discussion on “Scientific Controversies and the 2012 Presidential Election”. Faculty members discussed how each presidential candidate’s platform frames the science of women’s health, stem cell research, climate change, energy policies and sustainability. PDQ quoted the event: “We need to educate the public, to prevent the rejection of science by our politicians and their electorate who, even though living in a country with the best universities, at present, dismiss scientific realities essential for our survival,” says Associate Professor of Biology **Avelina Espinosa**, who served as a panelist and as moderator. And it is not only evolution (her area of expertise) that is rejected but also climate change research, stem cell studies, cloning and vaccinations.” Other panelists included **June Speakman** (political science), **Loren Byrne** (biology and environmental science) and **Charles Thomas** (engineering). Two student producers presented questions from the audience and from the HawkTheVote Media Lab team, a group of journalism students who are produced the event and reported on election issues on Twitter.

In the Community

Janet Baldwin – Was appointed by the Governor of Rhode Island to the State Board of Certification of Operators of Wastewater Treatment Facilities. In her role as representative of higher education, she has worked with the R.I. Department of Environmental Management on developed of educational tools for use in certification of operators.

Garrett Berman was elected Chair of the Teaching, Training, and Careers Committee (TTC) for the American Psychology-Law Society. The committee’s charge is to help further the careers of junior- and senior-level professionals in the field of psychology and law, promote the teaching of psychology, and recognize excellence in teaching and mentoring.

The New England Science Public: Series Evolution study authored by Dr. **Avelina Espinosa** and her co-author Dr. Guillermo Paz-y-Mino-C, University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth, was featured in regional newspapers. Caroly & Johnson, at the Boston Globe, highlighted the study: “the results were in some cases striking: a quarter of the faculty, half of those who trained teachers, and a third of college students did not know that humans are apes, related to chimpanzees. The researchers found that acceptance of evolution decreased the more religious people were, and that biology students were more likely to accept it than non-majors. A heartening finding was that education seems to work: among biology majors, acceptance of evolution was greater among seniors than freshmen. But 1 in every 10 non-majors--and a surprising 1 in every 15 biology majors—reported they were creationists, believing that the world was created by God, as described in the Bible.”

Autumn Quezada-Grant – As co-sponsor of Social Justice Week, Quezada-Grant invited Tunisian graffiti artist, Oussama Bouagilia, to speak on Monday evening, October 21st, 2013.

Berman was appointed chair to one of five strategic planning committee’s for the American Psychology-Law Society. Each committee is designated to develop a strategic plan which will guide the division’s mission related to governance, research, teaching, practice and membership.

Nancy Breen – Has been appointed by Governor Lincoln Chafee to serve on the Atomic Energy Commission. Her term began in August of 2013 and runs through April 1, 2017.

Jennifer Campbell – In April she traveled to the United States Coast Guard Academy to serve as one of three judges for the annual Class of 1959 Writing and Speaking Contest which encourages excellence in writing and speaking in courses across the curriculum. All cadets participate in the competition in each year of their

undergraduate years so that they will serve in the fleet as effective Coast Guard communicators.

Laura D'Amore, Jeffrey Meriwether and Jennifer Stevens – Organized a conference, “The Equal Rights Amendment in the 21st Century: Where have we come from, and where will we go”, taking place on campus on November 15-16, 2013. Speakers include Amy Richards, from Soapbos, Inc.; Jennifer Baumgardner, from Feminist Press; Ellie Smeal, from Feminist Majority; Terry O’Neill, from the National Organization for Women; and Roberta Francis, Co-Chair, ERA Task Force, National Council of Women’s Organizations. As well, the presenters represent several Academic disciplines from across the United States, as well as Germany and Israel.

Gail Fenske – was interviewed on the Woolworth Building’s Centennial by Time Magazine, The New York Times, WFUV (NPR affiliate in New York), and Charlie Rose’s program, “The Week.”

Fenske – served as an advisor on the PBS documentary, “10 Building that Changed America,” which aired on May 9, 2013.

Fenske – continues to serve as National Secretary for the Society of Architectural Historians. The SAH is the leading organization worldwide devoted to the study, interpretation, and conservation of architecture, cities, and landscapes. It is a member of the American Council of Learned Societies and publishes the peer-reviewed Society of Architectural Historians Journal.



THE ERA IN THE 21ST CENTURY:
WHERE HAVE WE COME FROM, AND WHERE WILL WE GO?

Autumn Quezada-Grant – traveled this summer to Cairo Egypt during the revolution, to participate in an activist workshop led by the Development Center Service (A NGO that helps with the development of smaller NGO and social organizations) to offer a comparative view of non-violent social movements from Latin America. Her role was to provide a comparative model of activism.

Quezada-Grant – Traveled with the Foundation for the International Medical Relief of Children Club to volunteer in a public health clinic in El

Salvador. She also traveled, with junior Nick Palermo, a Communications major/Film minor, to Costa Rica and Nicaragua to look at public health in those communities and work on a short film.

W. Brett McKenzie – RWU hosted the NCWIT awards dinner where three high school women were honored for their accomplishments in computing.

Anthony Ruocco and William Palm – Students in the Engineering and Computer Science Capstone Design course completed several projects in service of local non-profit and commercial organizations:

- The team of Sean Damico, George Dalton, Eric Doremus, Brian Fortier, and Jeffrey Goncalo completed a Community Partnerships Center project in which they designed and analyzed a custom cradle for the Herreshoff Marine Museum’s 33’ long model of the 1903 America’s Cup winner *Reliance*.
- Cameran Meyers, Justine Saxe, and Danielle Schneider worked with clients and staff at the James L. Maher Center, located just north of campus, to develop technology to assist persons with disabilities in cleaning floors.
- Jeffrey Allen, Andrew Glenny, and Dominic Podkowiak collaborated with engineers at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute to design and prototype an electronic safety system for use in autonomous underwater vehicles.
- Ryan Fitzpatrick, Cameran Peahl, Matthew Rinaldi, and Yunbo Ruan developed and prototyped a novel system of Venetian blinds that can collect solar power, automatically adjust to optimize energy conservation and generation, and relay system performance to users. The sponsor of the project was RWU Engineering alumnus Jason Siwek at the architectural contractor Permasteelisa Group.
- Oliver Ames, Brandon Carr, and Eric Schwarm collaborated with students and faculty at the International Yacht Restoration School’s Bristol campus to design and build an innovative aerodynamic travel bicycle.

James Tackach – Serves as President of the Board of Directors of The Wilbury Theatre Group, based in Providence, Rhode Island.

Ernie Greco – was appointed to a two-year term on the Rhode Island Advisory Committee to the United States Commission on Civil Rights.

June Speakman – was appointed by Governor Chafee to the State Housing Appeals Board.

Speakman - received the 2013 Partners in Housing Public Service Award.

During the spring 2013 semester Socrates Café presented the following:

“Should We Limit the Civil Liberties of Individuals with Mental Illness?” moderators were **Becky Spritz** and **Jim Tackach**

“Is It Time to Amend the Second Amendment?” moderators were **Kathleen Dunn** and **Bob Engvall**

“Should Undocumented Individuals Be Asked to Leave the Country?” moderated by **Peter Alfieri**.

Among Ourselves

Laura D'Amore – is the recipient of the Dr. Mark Gould Award for Commitment to Student Learning

David Moskowitz – plays the French horn in the RWU Ensemble.