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## Academic Affairs Happenings, Volume 2, Issue 2

Office of Academic Affairs, Roger Williams University

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*From the Office of  
the Provost  
February 2014  
Volume 2, Issue 2*

# Academic Affairs Happenings

Dear Faculty,

I'm pleased to present the spring edition of the Academic Affairs Happenings newsletter. This issue marks the end of the newsletter's second academic year. Inside you will find an expanded listing of your colleague's 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.

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

Best,

Andy Workman  
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

# In our Classrooms

**Loren Byrne** and a group of full-time and adjunct faculty are conducting a scientific teaching experiment in the CORE 101 laboratory courses this semester. In five sections, new curriculum with new learning outcomes is being implemented with a goal of increasing students' scientific and quantitative literacy skills. The teaching study, coordinated by **Byrne** and **Brian Wysor**, will use a pre and post science literacy quiz and survey to examine whether the new curriculum results in larger learning gains and more positive changes in student attitudes toward science as compared to the traditional curriculum.

**Michael Melton** has developed a new course on New Venture Creation for delivery in the summer program for students from the Wuhan University of Science and Technology.

**Melton's** student Fund Managers of the Café program presented the results of a successful year of management of our two real-dollar stock portfolios in December. The GSB Growth Fund achieved a return of 8.95% for 2013, while the new Gabelli Value Fund saw a return of 31.16% during the year. During the fall the Student Fund Managers visited the Gabelli Asset Management Company in Rye, NY, and attended seminars at MJX Asset management in New York City. The students also attended the opening bell ceremony and toured and attended seminars at the New York Stock Exchange. During the 2014 winter-intersession the Fund Managers and Dr. Melton made a trip to the Czech Republic, where they presented their portfolio methodology to the faculty and students at the University of Economics.

**Eleftherios Pavlides** Invited Dr. Fine, the director of the R.I. Department of Health to talk to his students to explain the importance of developing designs for a health station as Rhode

Island is moving to create a network of 75-100 Health Stations. The fall 2013 Health Station Studio is providing architectural explorations for the Situate Health Alliance. Health Stations is a new building type that combines providing primary care leading to early diagnosis with supporting activities for healthful living through physical activity and good nutrition. This initiative will improve quality of primary care. Expanding primary care that only cost 5% of the total health costs is expected to reduce acute care health costs by 20% to 30%, saving one billion dollars a year to the Rhode Island economy.

**Paola Prado's** journalism students launched a new publication, Under the Bridge, the culmination of the fall semester's class project for JOUR355 Digital Journalism I. The magazine is slated to live on as a student-run publication. Over the course of 15 weeks of research, original reporting, and multimedia projection, our digital journalists assembled hyper-local news stories about the Sakonnet bridge, the farm-to-fork local food movement, RI manufacturing, invasive species, and other issues that affect our campus community, its waterfront, and surrounding areas. We invite you to explore their work, Under the Bridge at <http://www.underthebridgerwu.com/>

**Lynn Ruggieri** directed a January program in London for RWU students. Students visited the Bank of England for a lecture on monetary policy, KPMG for a presentation on how the IFRS accounting standards are applied to multinational organizations, and the International Accounting Standards Board.

**Miao Zhao** has developed and will be leading a new summer program for RWU students in China.

# Research, Grants, Publications and Presentations

**Susan Bosco and Diane Harvey** have been accepted for presentation and publication in “Conference Proceedings – Northeast Decision Sciences Institute” with the following students and their projects: Samantha Parker “Social media: polling, tweeting, blogging, and posting are becoming a part of everyday office lingo”; Timothy Surette “The Effect of Racial Colorblindness on Employee Productivity”; Eryn Bass “You don’t need to be dumb to take smart drugs: The emergence of alternative drugs for success in the workplace”; Sarah Patterson “Drawing the Line When Working from Home: The Benefits and Challenges of Telecommuters”; Tracey Michelle Smith and Anne Foreman “En Dogue”: A Look at the Presence of Canines in the Workplace and their Effect on Productivity”; and, Darci Lake “Second Generation Gender Bias, An Invisible Issue”.

**Gilbert “Jim” Brunnhoeffter** was awarded a grant of \$10,000 from the R.I. Collaborate. The project, done in cooperation with URI and NEIT, addresses the need to stimulate business development and growth in Rhode Island. The project involves surveying existing manufacturing businesses located in Rhode Island (and the immediate region contiguous to Rhode Island) to determine their opinions on what needs to be done to spur business development and how institutions of higher learning can assist them to do so.

**Jeremy Campbell** received a \$25,000 grant in September 2013 from the National Geographic Society’s Committee for Research and Exploration for research on the social and ecological effects of small-scale informal gold mining in the Brazilian Amazon. The title of the funded project is “the New Eldorado of the Amazon: The Social, Economic, and Environmental Effects of a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Gold Rush”. This research will be carried out in concert with an international and interdisciplinary research team of Brazilians,

North Americans, and Europeans during 2014 and 2015.

**Campbell** had an article published in one of South America’s foremost social science journal, the *Boletín de Anthropología*, from the University of Antioquia in Colombia (Vol 27 (44): 102-26). The article, “Brazil’s Deferred Highway: Mobility, Development, and Anticipating the State in Amazonia,” is based on ethnographic research on social mobilizations for and against large projects like highways and dams in rural Amazonia.

**Campbell** published a book review in *PoLAR: Political and Legal Anthropology Review* (Vol. 36 (2): 399-401), of Andrew Matthews’ *Instituting Nature: Authority, Expertise, and Power in Mexican Forests* (MIT Press, 2011).

**Campbell** presented a paper entitled “Real Estate in Wild Country”, on the flexibility of property as a cultural category in the midst of a speculative boom in Brazil. The paper was presented in Chicago in November 2013 at the American Anthropological Associate Meetings.

**Campbell** presented a paper entitled “The Land Question in Amazonia: New Approaches and Lingering Challenges” at the sesquiannual meetings of the Society for the Anthropology of Lowland South American (SALSA) in Nashville.

**Campbell** was also invited to present the Human Ecology colloquium at the College of the Atlantic in Bar Harbor, Maine (February 2013). The title of his talk was “Timing is Everything: Land, Identity, and Environmental Governance in the New Amazonian Regime”.

**Gail Fenske** wrote a featured article in the *Wall Street Journal* (December 27, 2013) titled “Manhattan’s Woolworth Building, a stabilizing force amid the city’s dynamic of restless change”. [online wsj.com](http://online.wsj.com)

**Matt Gregg** and **Rupayan Gupta** were awarded a grant from the Rhode Island College and University Research Collaborative in support of their project: “The Economic Impact of Tax-Free Artists Communities: Estimates and Implications.” The third collaborator on the project is Michelle Back-Coulibaly, Brown University.

Gamache, K., **Platania, J., Zaitchik, M.** Weipert, R.E., Fusco, S., & Dillon, J.M. (2014 March) “Active Shooters: The Predictive Utility of Critical Factors on the Magnitude of the Event.” Paper to be presented at the annual meeting of the American Psychology-Law Society, New Orleans, LA.

Gamache, K., **Platania, J., & Zaitchik, M.** (2013). “Evaluating future dangerousness and need for treatment: The roles of expert testimony, attributional complexity, and victim type”. *Open Access Journal of Forensic Psychology*, 4, 53-80.

**Robert Jacobson** presented his latest research at the 2014 Joint Mathematics Meeting, the largest math conference in the world, in Baltimore, Maryland (January 2014). The title of his talk was Weighted Bergman Kernal Functions Associated to Meromorphic Functions. The research article has been submitted for publication.

**Bruce Marlowe** is co-editing with **Alan Canestrari**, a *Handbook of educational foundations: Historical philosophical and sociological perspectives*. Oxford, UK: Wiley-Blackwell.

**Marlowe, B.A.** & Stixrud, W.S. (in press) School reform with a brain: The neuropsychological foundations for arts integration. In G.H. Mardirosian & Y.P. Lewis (Eds.), *Arts integration in education: Teachers as agents of change*. London, UK: Intellect, Ltd.

**Marlowe** has had a paper accepted for presentation at the 9<sup>th</sup> academic conference of the *International Institute of Social and*

*Economic Sciences*, in Istanbul, Turkey. The paper will be delivered in April 2014.

**Marlowe, B.A.** (2013) Foreword to *Out of school tales of a reluctant educator* by Marilyn Page. Boston: Pollywog Pond Press.

**Marlowe, B.A.** (2013). Constructivism: Nostalgia for the past, uncertainty about the future. Invited Keynote Address for the Constructivist Special Interest Group, *American Educational Research Association (AERA)*, San Diego, CA.

**Tricia Martland** recently completed, along with several SJS students, *The Rhode Island Law Enforcement Officers Official Manual*, 5<sup>th</sup> ed.

**Eleftherios Pavlides** first wove a rigid paper diamond 35 years ago which inspired him to fold a variety of shapes into both rigid and elastic parts. These shapes have an unusual property: when squeezed, they compress moving helically into solid structure, but when released, they spring back to their original form. The internal elastic forces maintain the shape’s integrity, thus the name “elastegrity”. Professor Pavlides gave a workshop on August 23, 2013 at the National Museum of Mathematics in Manhattan on how to fold and weave paper into rigid crystals and shape shifting elastegrities. The audience, limited by the room’s capacity of sixty, that included a gamut from scientists and mathematicians with advance degrees to brilliant twelve year olds, learned how to make miniature marvels out of paper and math!

<https://in.momath.org/civicm/event/info?reset=1&id=133>

**Pavlides** published “Teaching Environmental Design Research to architecture students while empowering architects to meet human needs”, *EDRA Connections*, (January 2013)

**Pavlides** published “*Healthy and Healing Places*” Providence, Rhode Island Proceedings of the 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Environmental Design Research Association, Editor with **Jeremy Wells** (2013)



**Pavrides** edited *Environmental Design Research: The Body, the City, and the Buildings in Between*, with G. Cranz, Cognella Academic Publishing, San Diego (2012)

**Pavrides** published a chapter, "Ethnographic Methods in Support of Architectural Practice", **Pavrides, E.**, G. Cranz in *Enhancing Building and Environmental Performance* edited by S. Mallory-Hill, W. Preiser, C. Watson, John Wiley and Sons, New York (2012)

**Paola Prado** traveled, during the first two weeks of January 2014, throughout the Dominican Republic to conduct interviews with government officials and citizen reporters as part of her research on the impact of the Community Communicators (Com2) multimedia journalism workshops launched five years ago. This field research was generously funded by a grant from the Foundation to Promote Scholarship and Teaching. The attached photo of two schoolboys was shot in the border village of Restauracion.



**Prado** organized and chaired the panel "Construction of Identity, Power, and Space in Latin American Studies (NECLAS) Annual Conference, Wheaton College, Norton, MA, November 2013. RWU students Jeremy Marsh and Meghan Petrell presented papers that were the result of research conducted for course FILM 430 Special Topic in Film Studies: Latin American Road Movies in the fall of 2012. Dr. Michael Laramee of Lasell College moderated the panel. The photo below was shot at Wheaton College, MA. It includes from left, Meghan Petrell, Paola Prado, Jeremy Marsh and Dr. Autum Quezada-Grant, who was also in

attendance at the conference and presented in a different panel.



**Prado** delivered a guest lecture. "The Future of Social Networks in Education Environments," by invitation from Worcester State University, Worcester, MA October 2013.

**Prado** was interviewed by GoLocal Prov for expert opinion on First Amendment issues that arose out of the WPRO & DePetro controversy. The article is available online at <http://www.golocalprov.com/news/depetro-controversy-sparks-first-amendment-debate/>

**Erica Oduaran** submitted for publication "Molecular and biochemical characterization of the bifunctional pyruvate decarboxylase/pyruvate ferredoxin oxidoreductase from *Thermococcus guaymasensis*" Eram, M.S.; Oduaran, E.; Ma K. *Archaea*.

**Oduaran** presented at the N.E. Symposium on Sustainability & the Environment, December 2013, Bridgewater, MA. "Synthesis of 7-Substituted Benzyloxy-4-Methylcoumarin Derivatives" Ian Kieffer and Erica Oduaran.

**Oduaran** and Emuesiri Oduaran presented the work "Engaged Learning: Blended Learning Implementation for Undergraduate Biochemistry" at the Spring Conference of the New England Faculty Development Consortium, June 2013, in Westford, MA.

**Oduaran** and Ian Kieffer presented their work “Pyrazoles and Pyrazolones as Inhibitors of Monoamine Oxidase A and B” at the American Chemical Society (ACS) Rhode Island regional meeting in Portsmouth, Rhode Island in April 2013. The work was also presented at the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (ASBMB), Annual Meeting in Boston, MA in April 2013.

**Oduaran** received the following grants: NSF EPSCoR-Rhode Island, (Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research), Course Release and Research Funding for spring 2014 “Metabolism of dimethyl sulfide by marine microbes”. NSF EPSCoR-Rhode Island, (Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research), Summer Research Funding (2013) “Microbial degradation of dimethyl sulfide by novel FMHH2-dependent monooxygenase and their role in the sulfur cycle”.

**Melissa Russano** received a grant for 2012-2013 from the U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation (\$82,279). *Structured Interviews of Experienced Analysis and Linguists* (Principal Investigator).

**Russano** also received a grant for 2013-2014 from the U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation (\$116,240). “Investigating Interpreter-Target Rapport and Interpreter Placement in the Human Intelligence Context” (co-PI with Kate Houston at the University of Texas at El Paso).

Evans, J.R., Meissner, C.A., Ross, A.B., Houston, K.A., **Russano, M.B.**, & Horgan, A.J. (in press). “Obtaining guilty knowledge in human intelligence interrogations: Comparing accusatorial and information-gathering approaches with a novel experimental paradigm”. *Journal of Applied Research in Memory and Cognition*.

**Russano, M.B.**, and Narchet, F.M. (2013, March). “Interrogation practices and beliefs: Does high-value target experience matter?” Paper presented at the American Psychology-Law Society Conference, Portland, OR.

**Russano, M.B.**, and Marchet, F.M. (2013, October). “Analysis and HUMINT Interrogations: Role and Perceptions”. Paper presented at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual High-Value Detainee Interrogation Group Research Symposium, Washington, D.C.

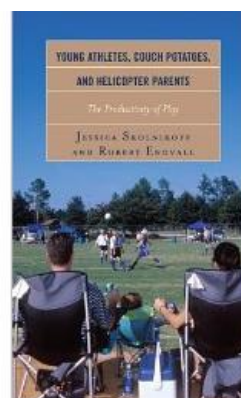
**Russano, M.B.**, and Narchet, F.M. (2013, October). “Interpreters during HUMINT Interrogations: Perceptions and Insights”. Paper presented at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual High-Value Detainee Interrogation Group Research Symposium, Washington, D.C.

**Scott Rutherford and Dale Leavitt** received a RI Sea Grant for \$199,304 for research on “Quahog Larval Dispersion and Settlement in Narragansett Bay”.

**Rutherford and Leavitt** co-authored “Discrepancies between the modeled and proxy-reconstructed response to volcanic forcing over the past millennium: Implications and possible mechanisms”. *Journal of Geophysical Research: Atmospheres* 118:7617-7627.

**Rutherford and Leavitt** co-authored “Reconstruction of precipitation in North America over the last millennium using multiple proxies”. *American Geophysical Union*, Fall 2013 meeting.

**Jessica Skolnikoff and Robert Engvall** published *Young Athletes, Couch Potatoes, and Helicopter Parents: The Productivity of Play* Rowman & Littlefield (2013).



**James Tackach** reviewed John Burt's *Lincoln's Tragic Pragmatism: Lincoln, Douglas, and Moral Conflict* in the Autumn 2013 edition of *The Register of the Kentucky Historical Society*.

**James Tackach** wrote an essay titled "Why Major in English?" that appeared on the commentary page of the *Providence Journal* on January 25, 2014.

**Peter Thompson** published a translation of Algerian author Nabile Fares. He is an important novelist of the "General of '62", and Thompson serves as his only translator. This is

the experimental novel *Exile and Helplessness* (1976). Translated from the French, and published by Dialogue Books.

**Sean Varano** and Dean Stephanie Manzi are co-PIs on two grants. The first is in partnership with the Olneyville Housing Authority and is a grant to support an anti-crime "hotspot" and blighted property redevelopment strategy in Olneyville. The second is in partnership with the US Attorney's Office to create safer neighborhoods through reducing crime associated with gang and gun violence.

## In the Community

**Susan Bosco** announced the completion of a CPC Project with Herreshoff Maritime Museum. The work entailed research on the Herreshoff Manufacturing Company (now defunct). Students who assisted in the research were Jacob Getz, Dylan Matteo, and Alex Rudkin. The findings were presented to Herreshoff representatives and they completed a final paper.

**Jeremy Campbell** was elected by peers to serve as the Secretary-Treasurer of the Society for the Anthropology of Lowland South America (SALSA), the premier international association of specialists on the cultures and societies of the Amazonian Basin (term 2013-2017).

**John Fobert** heads the New England chapter of the Federal Depository Library Program (through Roger Williams University) of the U.S. Government Printing Office. John created and distributed a union list of Rhode Island federal document depositories to regional members.

**Robert Jacobson** is pleased to announce that his [Mathematics Community on Google+](#) will reach 100,000 members in a few days. The Mathematics Community teamed up with [Science on Google+](#) to do a live panel discussion (a "Hangout on Air") called [Math: from GIFs to xkcd](#). He reports that

they had a blast! There are about half a million "+1s" (Google+'s version of "likes") shared between the Mathematics Community and Science on Google+.

**Eleftherios Pavlides** invited the Environmental Design Research Association 2013 conference to Providence, Rhode Island and he co-chaired with **Jeremy Wells**. As part of the conference Pavlides also secured support of the Rhode Island Department of Health for a daylong Healthy Rhode Island Environmental Design Summit. It brought together champions of local initiatives with international experts attracted to Providence for the EDRA conference. This summit provided the context for the Rhode Island Department of Health to roll out new health initiatives involving environmental design.

**Pavlides'** students who taking Environmental Design Research conducted photo-elicitation interviews where inhabitants were asked to use their own criteria and based on their experience evaluate newly constructed buildings at the Prairie Avenue Health Center as well as the Women's and Infant's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. Such interviews helped identify previously unknown behaviors and perceptions providing opportunities to modify existing buildings or improve future designs. In addition to providing useful information to the administrators



responsible for these buildings, Professor Pavlides was invited to participate as an advisor to a National Institute of Health grant proposal submitted by the director of the NICU.

**Paola Prado** contributed peer reviews to articles submitted for publication in the *Latin American Research Review* and for presentation in the Communication Technology Division of the Association of Educators in Journalism and Mass Communication Annual Conference in Washington, DC.

**Lisa Newcity** is coordinated, on behalf of the School of Justice Studies, the American Mock Trial Tournament on February 8 and 9. Schools invited to participate include American University, Brandeis University, Bryant University, US Coast Guard Academy, University of Connecticut,

Harvard University, Iona College, University of Maryland, Providence College, Queensborough Community College, RWU, Rutgers University, St. John's University, Stonehill College, Villanova University and Wesleyan University.

**Lynn Ruggieri** served as keynote speaker at the State commemoration of the Veteran's Day Holiday on November 11, 2013.



## Among Ourselves

**Loren Byrne** was featured in an article about self-designed, individualized majors (available here) in the December issue of *USA Today*.

**Byrne** created his own major at Hiram College that merged biology, environmental studies and visual arts. At RWU, he has co-mentored two students in their own individualized majors; one, Ben Floyd, will graduate this spring with a degree in Urban Environmental Studies. To help other RWU students explore relationships between art and science, Loren is teaching his scientific illustration course again this spring.

Relevant URL:

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2013/09/17/create-your-own-major-and-job/2827599/>

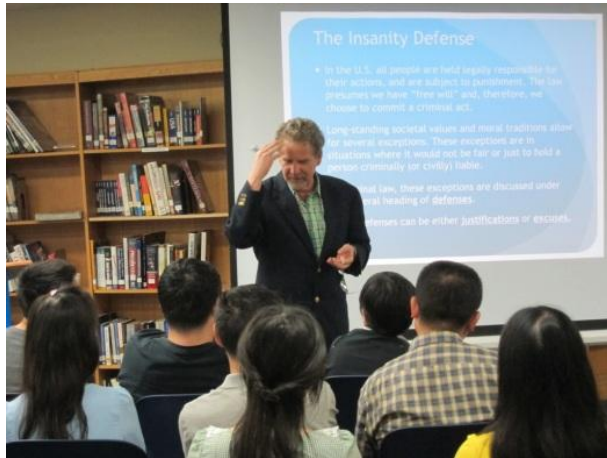
**Byrne** has been selected as one of thirteen 2014-2015 AAC&U STIRS Scholars. The STIRS (Scientific Thinking and Integrative Reasoning Skills) Program is focused on developing scientific teaching materials to increase scientific literacy in undergraduate major and general education science courses. Loren will be using the ecology of lawns and gardens as a case study for helping students understand

environmental science and improve their skills for evidence-based decision making, systems thinking and ethical reasoning. General Education and Assessment meeting in Portland, OR from February 27-March 1, 2014, where he will participate in a STIRS workshop. <http://www.aacu.org/stirs>. As part of the scholars program, Loren will attend the AAC&U.

**Robert Jacobson and Jennifer Pearce** are developing a CORE Interdisciplinary Senior Seminar about science and religion. If the proposal is accepted, they hope to be able to offer the course in the fall. Both are excited about the challenge of reaching across the boundaries of various disciplines to teach a very different type of course than they would normally teach.

**Veronica Maher** will retire from the University in July 2014. Veronica has served as Professor in the Library and Media Resources Librarian.

**Matt Zaitchik** recently returned from Wuhan, China where he completed a 5-month Fulbright Fellowship. Zaitchik taught 2 courses in the law school at Zhongnan University of Economics and Law and gave additional lectures in other universities throughout China. He also lectured at the American Cultural Center at the U.S. Embassy in Beijing. Currently he is working on developing an exchange program between RWU and Zhongnan University with a colleague from China.



**Zaitchik** was awarded the 2013 *Distinguished Contribution to Forensic Psychology* award by the American Academy of Forensic Psychology. This is a national award that is given out annually. Zaitchik will be giving an address when accepting the award at the American Psychology-Law Society annual meeting in New Orleans in March, 2014. Dr. Lois Condie, President of the American Academy of Forensic Psychology wrote “Dr. Zaitchik is held in warm regard by multitudes of colleagues, students, and administrators. He has a delightful demeanor and multiple talents beyond those of behavioral sciences. He is an accomplished musician and writer. Dr. Zaitchik has a national and a growing international reputation.”