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Academic Affairs Happenings, Volume 3, Issue 2

Office of Academic Affairs, Roger Williams University

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*From the Office of
the Provost
February 2015
Volume 3, Issue 2*

Academic Affairs Happenings

Dear Faculty,

I'm pleased to present the spring edition of the Academic Affairs Happenings newsletter. 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.

Best,

Andy Workman
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

In our Classrooms

Barbara Kenney led a library team (**Heidi Benedict, Lindsey Gumb, Sue McMullen, Hannah Goodall** and **Jackie Katz**), which collaborated with **Don Lee's** Advanced Composition ELI classes in a 9-week course focusing on academic integrity, basic information seeking skills, presentation skills, and global cultural awareness. This past fall was the second semester the program ran, and it will continue this coming spring with two more sections. To date, the library faculty have engaged over 50 international students in this new initiative, increasing the much needed academic support for this unique student population.

Autumn Quezada -Grant has organized two student panels of papers on Latin American topics, from her Latin American History course on *Race, Ethnicity, Gender and Sexuality*, to present at this year's regional Phi Alpha Theta conference at Roger Williams University in November 2014.

Lynn Ruggieri took a group of accounting students to London this winter, where they visited the International Accounting Standards Board. It is there that the Board determines the International Financial Reporting Standards used

by over 100 countries. Students learned first-hand the status of the adoption of these standards by the United States.



Matthew Stein along with students Michael Booth and Elizabeth Flahery, worked over the summer 2014 on a project titled "Telepresence for Distance Education" which was funded by the Foundation to Promote Scholarship and Teaching. A mobile robot was placed online and gave people from around the world the ability to use the robot to wander through the School of Engineering, Computing and Construction Management's building.

Research, Grants, Publications and Presentations

Susan Bosco and **Diane Harvey** published an article in the proceedings of the Eastern Academy of Management Annual Meetings of 2014. They also presented their research at the conference which was held in Newport, R.I. The title of their paper was "Employee Impact of BYOD." [Corrected information from the October 2014 edition.]

Jeremy Campbell published two research articles in prominent anthropological journals in fall 2014. "Speculative Accumulation: Property-Making in the Brazilian Amazon"

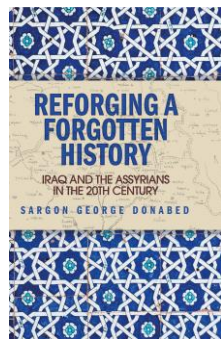
appeared in the *Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology*, in a special volume that Campbell also co-edited on the theme of "Nature, Infrastructure, and the State in Latin America" [Vol. 19 (2)]. Another article, "The Land Question in Amazonia: Cadastral Knowledge and Ignorance in Brazil's Tenure Regularization Program," appeared in *PoLAR: Political and Legal Anthropology Review* [Vol. 38 (1)]. Both articles are based on his ethnographic research on land tenure and social conflicts in Brazil, work that he completed with the continued support of the National

Geographic Society and the RWU Foundation for the Promotion of Scholarship and Teaching. Campbell also published two book reviews in the past year, in the *Journal of Anthropological Research* and *PoLAR*.

Campbell presented at the annual meeting of the American Anthropological Association (Washington DC, November 2014), a paper entitled “Giving Life to the Markers: Some Reflections on Colonial Modernity in the Brazilian Amazon.” Earlier in the year, at the IX Congress of the Society for the Anthropology of Lowland South America (SALSA) in Gothenburg, Sweden, Campbell presented a paper entitled “Neo-Development and the State in Amazonia.” He worked as the co-organizer of the conference (in his capacity as Secretary-Treasurer of SALSA), which was a rewarding challenge. Over 150 Amazonianists from Europe and the Americas participated in the conference, which was held in the historic city center of Gothenburg at midsummer, meaning there were 20+ hours of daylight for each of the five days convened.

Gokhan Celik and three Construction Management students, A. Papadopoulos, P. Glattery, and P. Cyr, co-authored a poster presentation that will be presented at the Associated Schools of Construction 2015 Conference to be held in College Station, TX from April 22-24, 2015. The presentation entitled “Content Analysis of Case Studies Collected to Improve Management Education.”

Donabed, Sargon G. (2015) *Reforging a Forgotten History: Iraq and the Assyrians in the 20th Century*. Edinburgh University Press



Michael Emmer authored a paper entitled “Identifying Jobsite Factors that Affected Skilled Labor Productivity in Construction Self-Performing Operations: An Aid to Improving Future Performance.” The paper was published in *The Professional Constructor*, 38(2): 21-33

Emmer and **Gilbert Brunnhoeffer** co-authored a paper titled “Knowledge and Attributes Forecasting Index: Self-Assessment for the Graduating Construction management Student” accepted for presentation at the ASC International Conference in April of 2014 at Texas A & M University.

Paz-y-Mino-C.G. & **Espinosa A.** 2014. “The Incompatibility Hypothesis: Evolution vs. Supernatural Causation.” Pp. 3-16. In G. Trueba (Ed.) *Why Does Evolution Matter? The Importance of Understanding Evolution*. Cambridge Scholars Publishing, Newcastle, United Kingdom. ISBN (10): 1-4438-6518-4, ISBN (13): 978-1-4439-6518-0.

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

Amine Ghanem was awarded a \$3,000 Rhode Island Collaborative Research Analysis Grant to examine legal and statutory issues for implementing Public Private Partnership (P3) in Rhode Island.

Ghanem, A., Hogan, M., ElGafy-M. (2015): “A Case Study for Improving Construction Project Management”, *Proceeding of the Associated School of Construction (ASC)*, College Station, Texas, April 22-24, 2015

Nicole Martino and **Amine Ghanem** had their abstract accepted to the 2015 ASEE Annual Conference and Exposition to be held in Seattle, Washington, June 14-17. The research set to be presented is a result of the 2014 Foundation to Promote Scholarship and Teaching awards and research efforts by Andrew Amarone and Taylor Betz, both students who are specializing in Civil Engineering.

Susan McMullen co-chaired the HELIN statewide academic library consortium Task Force to investigate, evaluate, and implement the new Google-like discovery search engine that allows users to simultaneously search the HELIN library catalog and the full-text of most of RWU Library's electronic holdings. This new tool, known as OneSearch, is now available from the Library homepage.

Recognizing **McMullen's** consortium leadership role, Susan has been invited to present at the Innovative Users Group Conference on April 13th in Minneapolis, MN. The presentation, entitled "From Duet to Full Orchestra: the HELIN Consortium's Encore Duet Project," will focus on the processes used to evaluate and implement this exciting new single-search tool for student and faculty research.

Benjamin McPheron had an abstract accepted to the Mid Years Engineering Experience Conference which will be held in College Station, TX from March 22-24, 2015. The extended abstract will be published in the conference proceedings. The presentation is entitled "A Mixed Learning Approach of Integrating Digital Signal Processing Laboratory Exercises into a Non-Lab Junior Year DSP Course."

Nancy Nester delivered a paper at the 39th Annual Meeting of the Society for Utopian Studies. The paper entitled, "Transforming Idealism into Action: It's No Game" discusses the theoretical framework for the design of the culminating project in her interdisciplinary senior seminar, *Visions of Utopia: Dreams and Delusions*.

O'Connell, R. (2014 in press). *Visualizing culture: Analyzing the cultural aesthetics of the web*. New York: Peter Lang. Based on the web design "best practices" and data collected from close to 1000 websites in more than 30 countries over a period of eight years, this book defines a methodology for identifying patterns – a 'pattern language' – by which one can analyze the cultural aesthetics of a website to: 1) learn more about the visual communications patterns of a particular culture, 2) apply what is learned to the

creation of new web communications, and 3) identify trends in visual communication on the web as influenced by emerging technologies.

William Palm presented a paper at an international conference: "The antecedents of client satisfaction in product design consulting." *Proceedings of the ASME 2014 International Mechanical Engineering Congress & Exposition*, Montreal, QC, November 2014.

Palm and **Nicole Martino** assumed co-PI duties on the STILAS grant awarded by the National Science Foundation, DUE154354: RWU STILAS-STEM Intercultural Leadership Ambassadors in Biology, Marine Biology, and Engineering, in the amount of \$586,500.

Palm and **Charles Thomas** have submitted an abstract entitled "Living-Learning Communities Improve First Year Engineering Student Academic Performance and Retention at a Small Private University." The extended abstract has been accepted and the full paper is under review for publication in the proceedings and presentation at the 122nd ASEE Annual Conference and Exposition to be held in Seattle, WA from June 14-17, 2015.

Autumn Quezada-Grant presented a paper titled "Suffered Silences: Immigration and its Effects on the Children of La Alajuelita, Costa Rica" for a panel entitled *Gendered Memory in a Personal Present* at the NECLAS meeting at Wheaton College, November 2013. This paper resulted from her volunteer work with the Foundation for the International Medical Relief of Children.

Quezada-Grant, Paola Prado and **Kerri Warren** presented pedagogical research based on an anticipated co-authored paper—Round table co-facilitator for "From Poverty Tourism to Fair Trade Learning: Best Practices for Ethical and Responsible Global Service Learning Community Engagement in Latin America" at the NSEE (National Society for Experiential Education) conference on Civic Engagement & Global Service Learning in Baltimore, MD, September 2014.

In addition, **Quezada-Grant** presented a paper “Neoliberal Tale of Two Pueblitos: Las Delicias, El Salvador and Las Salinas, Nicaragua” for a panel entitled “Producing the Present: Localizing Effects of Neoliberalism” at the NECLAS (New England Council on Latin American Studies) meeting at Connecticut College November 2014.

Quezada-Grant also presented “Building Another Reality: Zapatista (Re)surgence in this Age of Global Uprisings” in the panel titled “Building another Reality: Radical Democratic Theory and Zapatista (Re)surgence” for the Left Forum Conference on “Reform and/or Revolution: Imagining a World with Transformative Justice,” May 30 – June 1, 2014.

John Schlinke presented a paper titled “Space and White Space: The Architectural Photography and Advertising of Alside Homes,” as part of an international symposium on architectural photography titled “Building with Light: The Legacy of Robert Elwall,” held at the Royal Institute of British Architects in London, U.K. in November 2014.

Matthew Stein presented a paper entitled “Numerical Simulation as an Integral Component of Dynamics Problem Solving at the

ASME 2014 International Mechanical Engineering Congress & Exposition, November 8-13, 2014 in Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

Matt Zaitchik presented the plenary address in December 2014, entitled “*Forensic Mental Health Training in the U.S.*” and two other papers “*Defining Psychopathy*” and “*Sex Offender Laws in the U.S.-Expert Testimony,*” at the Hellenic Forensic Psychiatric Conference in Athens, Greece.



Min Zhou's article, “Vergegenkunft: German and Swiss Travel Literature about China from the Cultural Revolution and Post-Mao Period,” was published in the book *Germany and China. Transnational Encounters since the Eighteenth Century*, by Palgrave MacMillan Publishing House in 2014.

In the Campus Community

Gokhan Celik coached the Construction Management Design Build team at the Associated Schools of Construction (ASC) Student Competition Region 1 held in Morristown, NJ in November 2014. The team received first place.

Amine Ghanem coached the Construction Management Heavy Civil team. The team received third place in the Associated School of Construction Student Competition Region 1 held in Morristown, NJ in November, 2014.



Autumn Quezada-Grant and **Laura D'Amore** for the third year, organized “Social Justice Week” sponsored by the Department of History and American Studies in collaboration with numerous faculty members and departments.

Matthew Stein served as the Emcee of the Rhode Island State Championship of the First Lego League robotic competition which was held at RWU in January 2014.

James Tackach authored an article titled “How U.S. and Cuba Can Play Ball” that appeared on the Commentary page of *The Providence Journal* on December 25, 2014.

Science and the 2014 Gubernatorial RI Election: On October 22nd New England Science Public (NESP), Conservation Law Foundation

(CLF) and “Hawk the Vote”: (**Paola Prado** and **June Speakman**) held a roundtable with four panelists to discuss how each gubernatorial candidate’s platform frames the science of Rhode Island citizens’ health, STEM education, energy policies, sustainability issues. Panelists included **Avelina Espinosa**, Department of Biology & NESP (health, science education) **June Speakman**, Department of Political Science (women rights), Max Greene, Staff Attorney CLF (sustainability), and Abigail Anthony, Director of Rhode Island Office Environment Northeast ENE (energy alternatives). Communication students presented questions from the audience and from the Hawk the Vote Media Lab team, a group of journalism students produced and reported the event on Twitter.

In the Community

Jeremy Campbell facilitated the ongoing collaboration between the RWU Honors Program and the Environmental Justice League of Rhode Island in 2014. Honors students in his “Community Engagement Seminar” in both the spring and fall semesters conducted a participatory action research project focusing on the social impacts of post-industrial toxins and pollution in the Reservoir Triangle neighborhood of Providence. Surveys, focus groups, and participant observation focused on eliciting residents’ use of urban ponds, their knowledge of the health risks associated with ponds, and their willingness to participate in ground- and storm-water remediation projects funded by local and federal partners. The research results are being shared with community organizations and other stakeholders concerned with environmental justice.

Gokhan Celik presented a “Sustainability for Executives” training session in collaboration

with National Grid, CVS Health and RWU Continuing Studies in the fall 2014.

Celik was elected to the Board of Directors of the Rhode Island Chapter of the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) for 2015.

Avelina Espinosa and Guillermo Paz-y-Mino-C, as co-Directors of New England Science Public (NESP) organized and hosted the 8th Biology New England South meeting on December 5, 2014. BioNES was sponsored by twelve institutions and had 200 participants. Professor Andrew Knoll from Harvard University served as keynote speaker who discussed the *Deep History of Life*.

Avelina Espinosa was accepted as a member of the Academy of Sciences of Ecuador ACE (Academia de Ciencias del Ecuador). The induction for new members will take place on February 19, 2015.

Amine Ghanem will be working at Shawmut over the summer in their estimating department with the intent to bring back the knowledge gained to his students in their estimating course. Every year, AGC with collaboration of educational institutions and an AGC contractor secure summer internships positions for faculty to work in the construction industry to strengthen the faculty knowledge and add to their experience. This year AGC received a record number of applications and **Ghanem's** applications was among the few to be accepted.

Lindsey Gumb and **Barbara Kenney** hosted 14 students from Mount Hope High School for a full day in December to assist them with their yearlong history research project. Students learned how to develop strong research questions and to navigate both electronic and analog research resources. This was the third year of collaboration between the University librarians, Mount Hope history instructor Greg Burke, and Mount Hope librarian and RWU alum Laura Cabral. Because of the student enthusiasm and positive feedback, the library hopes to continue this community partnership into the future.

Nancy Nester's Core 104 LLC group, after their Community Connections assignment at the James L. Maher Center, worked closely with the agency and the people served to identify a need they could address in the context of the course and the semester. These efforts culminated in the *Books Plus Drive* on November 19 that yielded several boxes of books, arts and crafts materials as well as puzzles and films that may enhance the programs offered to the clients. Students delivered and organized the materials.

Roxanne O'Connell was recently appointed Book Review Editor for *Visual Communication Quarterly* (Routledge), a journal of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC).

Eleftherios Pavlides, building on multi-year research on development of neighborhood scaled health centers, with the 2015 Teaching Firm in

Residence MASS Design, are teaching a graduate architecture design studio to design a statewide plan for 100 neighborhood health stations integrated with community facilities, in conjunction with the RI Department of Public Health Director, Dr. Michael Fine. The RI Department of Public Health Communication division is developing a promotional video of the effort between RWU and MASS Design, which will be used to promote the establishment of the RI Primary Health Trust, as a means to improving health care for all Rhode Islanders.

Autumn Quezada-Grant continues her campus leadership in global service-learning projects and study abroad. She is the co-advisor for the RWU Chapter of FIMRC (Foundation for the International Medical Relief of Children). Autumn accompanied the chapter to volunteer in three communities in the Department of Tola in southwestern Nicaragua over spring break 2014. As an advisor for the club, she connects health issues within the communities to social justice issues in the region (history/economic development/neoliberal policies/social issues). Grounding students within a deeper understanding of historical events in the recent past helps students understand present situations. Her work with the club and FIMRC is ongoing and she has worked at several sites in Central America.

Anthony Ruocco has been designated as a Senior Member of the Association of Computing Machinists.

Matthew Stein coaches the Barrington High School Ultimate Frisbee team. The team consists of 30 high school students who compete interscholastically in the State of Massachusetts High School Ultimate Frisbee League.

James Tackach spoke to the Warren, R.I., Rotary on November 18, 2014, on Abraham Lincoln and Thanksgiving. He spoke to the St. Michael's Church men's club on January 5, 2015, on Rhode Island in the Civil War.

Charles Thomas led a group of engineering freshmen enrolled in the Engineering LLC in an inspection tour of the Mt. Hope Bridge, with the assistance of the Rhode Island Bridge and Turnpike Authority.



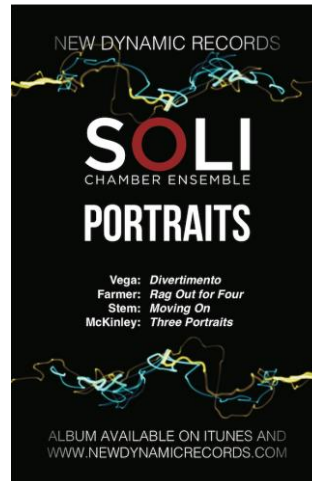
Among Ourselves

The Gabelli School of Business has announced the hiring of two new faculty members who will begin teaching in spring 2015. **Alexander Knights** was appointed as Assistant Professor of Management and **Geraldo Matos** appointed as Assistant Professor of Marketing.

Jeremy Campbell worked with a team of colleagues from across the university to propose a new interdisciplinary minor in “Latin American and Latino Studies,” which is currently in the final stages of the curriculum approval process. Campbell looks forward to offering the first classes in this program to students in the fall 2015.

Nicole Martino and two of the ASCE student chapter executive board members, Sean Lannon and Derek Franzese, attended the ASCE Workshop for Section, Branch and Student Chapter Leaders this past January in Miami, FL. This event provides guidance to students and faculty who lead student chapters.

Elliott McKinley’s work “Three Portraits” was just released on a new CD on New Dynamic Records. The CD was released on December 1, 2014.



Nancy Nester and the Department of Writing Studies, Rhetoric, and Composition hosted the Celebration of Writing during the fall 2014 semester.

Lynn Ruggieri was selected to receive a “Celebrating Alumni for 50 Years” award during the Community College of Rhode Island’s 50th anniversary year. She is among an elite group of CCRI alumni selected for the award which recognizes professional achievements, community activity and service to the college or the Alumni Association. Award recipients were nominated by their peers and selected by a committee of CCRI Alumni Association board members and the director of Alumni Affairs.

Matthew Stein spent three weeks in Nantes, France during July 2014 as a visiting researcher in the European Master's Robotics program at Ecole Centrale du Nantes. While there he worked with the Baxter robot on two-arm coordinated motion.



Minoo Tehrani is serving as conference chair for the 20th Asia Pacific Decision Sciences Institute Conference which will be held in Hong Kong July 19-24, 2015. **Tehrani** will also serve

as keynote moderator on the panel discussion on Green Trade Pacts and Strategic Alliances which focuses on strategic alliances and trade pacts that can enhance sustainability of physical and human resources and explores the issues and opportunities created by such alliances. **Susan Bosco** will serve as keynote moderator on a panel discussion titled “Corporate Sustainability: Why Does It Matter? Sustainability for Health Care and Human Resources Management: Healthier Living.” The panel will explore the impact of health care management on enhancing healthier living in communities and how sustainability can be incorporated into a corporation’s human resource management model to increase the productivity and motivation of employees. Also participating in the conference is **Gokhan Celik**, keynote moderator, and **Amine Ghanem**, panelist. Both will serve on the panel entitled “Environmental Footprint, Part A: Green Design.” This panel will examine the benefits associated with a green design along different dimensions, buildings, transportation systems, health, productivity, and efficiency and explores how different industries can contribute to the creation of green healthy living environments.