

President's Update



NEWS FROM PRESIDENT NIRSCHEL

ISSUE 1 | SPRING 2007

IN THE COMMUNITY...

Charting a Course for the Future at Roger Williams



The semester has started off with a lot of activity and energy. This month we look forward to welcoming Wall Street Journal Reporter Dan Golden, author of a controversial book about college admissions practices in the Ivy League. And later this spring we're hosting two major conferences, one on Wind Energy and another on the Marine Economy of New England drawing key leaders in business, government and academe and featuring Sen. Jack Reed as our keynote speaker.

At the same time, we're moving forward on another important initiative: charting our University's future through the Roger Williams 2020 strategic planning process. If you recall, we started this strategic planning in October by identifying 24 specific questions we needed to explore and breaking those down into planning "tasks" for closer study by a panel of faculty and staff. Our goal is to have these different task forces examine how far the University has grown and matured, and to strategize how we can best build on our transformation to maintain our academic and institutional vitality.

We also decided it would be a good idea to group those 24 tasks into three sequential phases. Earlier this semester the Phase I task forces were set up and I invited a cross-section of faculty, staff and administrators to join them. And in coming months, we'll designate Phase II and III task forces as well.

The key questions this process aims to explore are both broad and deep and include these issues:

- What will higher education be like in the coming decade?
- What will college students expect academically, socially from universities?
- What will the "typical" college student profile be in 2020?
- How can we best meet students' needs/expectations through staffing, training, campus buildings and facilities, as well as academic programming?
- How will graduate education and continuing studies fit in with our mission and campus culture?
- How will technology shape the way we serve our students and communicate with all our audiences?

And those are just some of the wide-ranging issues we will discuss. As you can see, this is an ambitious effort and we're trying to accomplish a great deal in the coming several months.

But we're used to working harder at Roger Williams; it has been a key part of our success in recent years. That's why I'm confident that by the fall we'll have developed an important road map for directing this wonderful institution in the coming years. And I thank all of the dedicated staff and faculty who are working together to make this planning process meaningful and successful.

Roy J. Nirschel, Ph.D.

University to Host Marrow Drive for Local Lymphoma Patient

Danny Lemos, a non-Hodgkin's lymphoma patient, needs help, and the Roger Williams community is responding. On Tuesday, Feb. 20, and Wednesday, Feb. 21, the University will sponsor a registration drive for the express purpose of finding a bone marrow donor match for Mr. Lemos.

Marrow type is inherited, so someone who shares Mr. Lemos' Portuguese ethnicity has the best chance of being a match. However, all potential donors are welcome—tissue type for each participant will be added to the National Marrow Donor Program's international registry, so they can be compared against marrow types for other patients in need.

The drive will take place from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. each day in the New Academic Building. The testing process is quick and painless, requiring only a swab of cheek cells. People ages 18 to 60 and in good health are invited to attend.

The University will hold a blood drive in conjunction with the marrow donor search. Faculty and staff need to register in advance. For details, contact Sarah Perez at 401/621-0155.

UNIVERSITY CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 13

"From the Classroom to the World Trade Center Ruins," with forensic anthropologist Richard Gould

FEBRUARY 15

Discussion and book signing with Dan Golden, author of "The Price of Admission: How America's Ruling Class Buys Its Way Into Elite Colleges"

FEBRUARY 21

"All My Words Are One Word: The Posthumous Fame of Jack Kerouac," with Kerouac expert Ann Charters

Sen. Whitehouse Appoints Alumnus as State Director

For alumnus George Carvalho, the political arena has always held intrigue. So when Sheldon Whitehouse earned a trip to the Senate following last November's elections, Mr. Carvalho jumped at the chance to become the senator's state director.

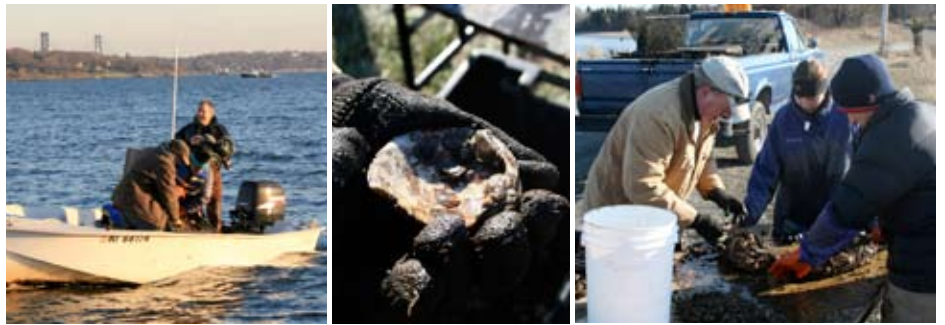
The position requires a dedicated jack of all trades: "People call me and it's my job to take action," Mr. Carvalho says. "I've always enjoyed helping people so it brings me fulfillment." Among a huge assortment of responsibilities, he spends his time assisting Sen. Whitehouse, sorting through appropriations and grants and fielding public questions—there's never a dull moment.

Mr. Carvalho graduated from Roger Williams in 1989, having focused on legal studies and business administration, and earned his law degree from Michigan State University three years later. For the next seven years, he served as an attorney with firms in Boston and Providence, and in 1999 he became the deputy general treasurer and chief legal counsel for the state of Rhode Island.

Throughout his career, Mr. Carvalho has always looked back fondly on his Roger Williams years. "I'd encourage anyone interested in college to look into the University," he says. "The professors are great, the campus is beautiful—I truly enjoyed my time there."

"People call me and it's my job to take action. I've always enjoyed helping people so it brings me fulfillment."

GEORGE CARVALHO ('89), State Director



Top row: Marine science students volunteered to help place oysters at sites including Bristol harbor. Bottom row: Professors pitched in, too, including Dale Leavitt and Steve Patterson, the program coordinator.

University Experts and Volunteers Seed Narragansett Bay With Oysters

Last summer, aquaculture specialists at Roger Williams asked coastal landowners to raise juvenile oysters in waters along the shores of Narragansett Bay and coastal ponds. Eighteen oyster gardeners signed up, and on Dec. 9, a crew of more than 20 dedicated students, professors, alumni and local volunteers met in downtown Bristol, hopped the ferry to Prudence Island and spent the day sorting, cataloging and finally transferring more than 2 million adolescent shellfish to reefs on the island and in Bristol harbor.

"We're doing our part to return the oyster to Narragansett Bay," said Timothy Scott, associate professor of biology and director of the Center for Economic and Environmental Development. "Not only do the oysters have a positive economic impact on Rhode Island, but they offer environmental benefits as well—cleaner water, most significantly."

Steve Patterson, coordinator of the program, spearheaded the efforts in conjunction with Professor Scott and Dale Leavitt, assistant professor of biology. "If you have several million oysters, each cleaning 50 gallons of water a day and it's happening 365 days a year, we could in the long run have a significant impact on water quality in the bay," Professor Patterson said. "And, we might bring back the shellfish populations that used to live here."

The oyster gardening program—which will continue to cultivate shellfish with a potential increase in gardeners for 2007—is just one phase of a continued effort toward restoration. In recent years, Roger Williams has teamed up with shipbuilder and philanthropist Luther Blount, a passionate supporter of shellfish research who died on Sept. 24. In honor of Blount, the University is planning to build the Luther Blount Shellfish Hatchery and Oyster Restoration Center, a 12,000-square-foot building to be built near the waterfront.



LEGO Robots Invade Campus Recreation Center

While LEGOs may have been a favorite childhood toy for many Roger Williams students, they're not something you expect to find on a college campus everyday. On one Saturday in January, however, LEGOs had a huge presence on campus as the University hosted the FIRST LEGO League Robotics Competition for local students.

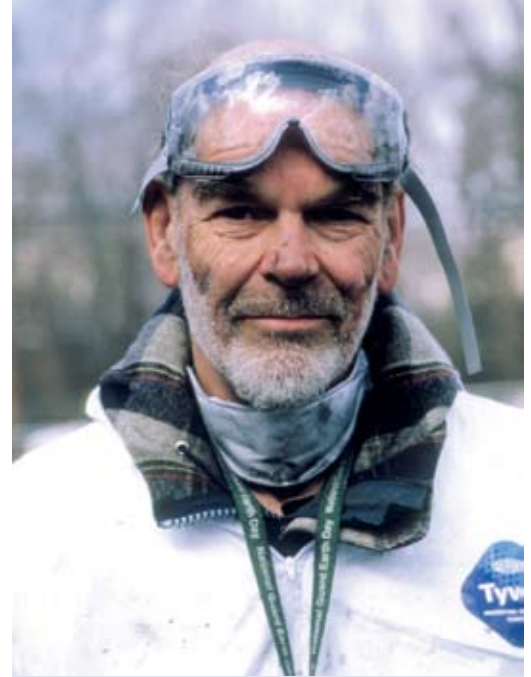
This is the second year the University has hosted the competition, which features high-tech LEGO robots designed, built, programmed and tested by 9- to 14-year-olds. The contest, which drew 48 teams from across Rhode Island, was sponsored by the School of Engineering, Computing and Construction Management and turned the Campus Recreation Center into a sea of LEGO colors.

The LEGO competition was created to spark a passion for science and technology in kids. This year's challenge was titled Nano Quest—the assigned tasks were designed to demonstrate the possibilities and challenges associated with nanotechnology.

Judges evaluated teams on the robot's performance, a required research project and teamwork. Congratulations to The Engineers of Tomorrow, a team of mostly home-schooled students mentored by Associate Professor of Engineering Matthew Stein. The squad earned top honors and will advance to a worldwide battle that will include 103 teams from 38 countries in Atlanta this spring.



The stakes were high at the FIRST LEGO League Robotics Competition, and success required both precision and concentration. In the end everyone was a winner, but the coveted trophy went to the Engineers of Tomorrow.



Disaster Recovery Expert to Speak on Coping with Catastrophe

Following the atrocities of Sept. 11, Hurricane Katrina and The Station nightclub fire, forensic anthropologist Richard Gould ventured to the disaster scenes to aid in locating, recording and recovering the bodies of victims. Not exactly the job description for your typical academic.

Now, Dr. Gould will describe his experiences to Roger Williams students. "From the Classroom to the World Trade Center Ruins," will take place on Tuesday, Feb. 13, at 5:30 p.m. in the Mary Tefft White Cultural Center.

Dr. Gould, professor of anthropology at Brown University, has been an active teacher, researcher and author for more than 36 years. His study of human cultural and behavioral adaptations to stress, risk and uncertainty have taken him across the world from Australia's Western Desert, to subarctic Finland, and even Bermuda, where he researched shipwrecks and losses at sea.

The lecture is the third in a four-part series titled "Dimensions of Leadership and Service." Dr. Vartan Gregorian, president of the Carnegie Corporation of New York and former president of Brown University, is scheduled for the program's final 2006-2007 presentation on March 6.



Soccer, Lacrosse Coach Is One of 'Rhode Island's Amazing Women'

At age 5, when Emily Kiablick first strapped on a pair of cleats for soccer practice, she never imagined her love for athletics would amount to a coaching career. But now, as Coach Kiablick works in her fourth season as Roger Williams head women's soccer and lacrosse coach, she will be honored by Rhode Island PBS television for her dedication to both teams.

PBS's original production of "Rhode Island's Amazing Women" will highlight Coach Kiablick as a notable and inspirational coach in the college world. She joins a panel of three other female coaches to discuss how she motivates her female athletes and instills discipline and confidence. The show will air on Wednesday, Feb. 14, at 7:30 p.m. on Channel 36.

Coach Kiablick was the founding coach for the women's lacrosse program at Roger Williams. Last spring, in just its third year of varsity competition, Coach Kiablick led the team to an impressive 11-9 record. She was named the Commonwealth Coast Conference Coach of the Year.

A 2001 graduate of Springfield College, Coach Kiablick was a four-year starter for her college lacrosse and soccer teams. Her many accomplishments include a place on the All-New England lacrosse team during her junior year and All-Conference lacrosse team for both her junior and senior years. She also joined the region's top soccer players as a New England Women's Intercollegiate Soccer Association senior bowl selection.

Something Old, Something New, Something Borrowed...and a Hammer?

Roger Williams alumna Jillian Vieira ('05) is not your typical bride: "Ever since I did Habitat for Humanity my sophomore year, I told my friends I wanted to have a Habitat wedding where everyone would work on a house instead of bringing a gift," she said. "They told me it would never happen!" Well, they were half right.

Ms. Vieira and her fiancé, Joe Bellanger, recently made national headlines when the Providence Journal featured a story about their plans to spend their honeymoon building a home for Habitat for Humanity. She first got involved with Habitat through the Alternative Spring Break Club at Roger Williams because she felt she should be doing something worthwhile with her week off from school.

The couple has been overwhelmed by the response they received from the article. A church in Biloxi, Miss., contacted them because they mentioned wanting to do a project to help a family affected by Hurricane Katrina. The church has offered to house and feed them for the week and even put them in touch with a Habitat coordinator in the area.

In addition, they've received more than \$800 in donations to fund the trip, a professional dog sitter has volunteered to watch their puppy, a Pampered Chef representative is hosting a fund raising party for them, and a beautician has offered to do Mr. Vieira's makeup for the June 30 wedding.

So next July—when most honeymooners are relaxing on beaches across the world—this alumna will be hard at work. Sounds like she's taken the University's community service core value to heart.



University Community Celebrates Lives of Student, Staff Member

In the past two months, the Roger Williams community lost two valuable members: Kristen Forget, a first-year architecture major, passed away in December after a battle with cancer, and Mary Masley, circulation supervisor in the architecture library, died in early January.

Last Thursday, 175 students, faculty and community members gathered to celebrate Kristen's life. More than 20 people shared their memories, and a friend played a photo collage of her life and travels. Kristen had originally started at Roger Williams in the fall of 2005, but her health prevented her from finishing the semester. Not to be deterred, she returned in 2006 and completed the semester, persevering through final exams and earning high academic marks. "Kristen made a tremendous impact on a lot of people," said John King, vice president of student affairs.

Now, the University turns its attention to Ms. Masley, who had served the students and faculty—especially those in the architecture program—since she joined Roger Williams in 1984. Library Dean Peter Deekle and Architecture Dean Stephen White will lead a memorial service for her on Feb. 14 at 1 p.m. in the architecture library.