Dear Faculty,

I’m pleased to present the fall 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
Marilynn Mair and her fall 2014 class, Music 310 “Music in the USA” worked with Associate Professor of Music Catherine Hawkes to develop and present a program of music and parlor entertainments that Abraham Lincoln might have enjoyed, in conjunction with the Lincoln display in the library.

In spring 2015, Professor Mair, members of her spring 2015 class Music 311 “Music of Latin America & the Caribbean” class, two of the Brazilian exchange students on campus, and other invited musicians, developed and presented a program on Brazilian choro for a “Music Series” concert on March 29. The event also featured a slideshow of Professor Mair’s photographs of Brazilian musicians in Rio de Janeiro, in addition an array of Brazilian food and drink was provided.

Geraldo Matos and his students in MRKT 401 “Advertising Research Practicum” course have recently formed a chapter of the American Advertising Federation (AAF). In addition to creating a club on campus for students interested in marketing/advertising, these students will be competing in the 2016 National Student Advertising Competition sponsored by the AAF.

Elliott McKinley took students from his fall 2014 and spring 2015 composition and theory courses to several recording sessions by PARMA Recordings at Futura Studios in Boston. While McKinley produced these sessions, student gained valuable perspectives on the recording and production process as part of their musical and professional training.

Nancy Nester’s students in her “Expository Writing: How Writing Works” class presented their work on the role of metacognition in their development as writers at the May 2015, Celebration of Writing on campus.

Cathy Nicoli, with volunteers from all of her dance classes, performed a roving parade that traveled across campus and settled in the Quad in observance of Earth Day. Ingredients included live percussion, an interactive Earth Ball that has a 5-foot radius, and a medicine wheel improvisation based on the following score, with each intention symbolized by a particular hand gesture orienting its facing to a particular cardinal direction. The score is performed improvisationally by using a technique called flocking where the group shadows the individual in front, but the decentralized “front” rotates so all are able to both lead and follow: Offer Question / Receive Peace / Offer Strength / Receive Insight / Offer Listening / Receive Blessings / Offer Service / Receive Protection.

BIG INK! (http://www.bigink.org) Using a Foundation to Promote Scholarship and Teaching grant, Michael Rich and VARTS is currently hosting Lyell Castonguay, (http://www.lyellcastonguary.com) woodcut artist, in a semester long program. A group of 16 students from across the University are engaged in making large scale, woodblock prints.
and will be printing their blocks on December 4-5 in an exciting couple of days of community printing.

*June Speakman’s* Gender and Politics class worked on a CPC project with the Women’s Fund of Rhode Island called the Rhode Island Gubernatorial Appointments Project in the spring of 2015. Students tracked Gov. Raimondo’s appointments to state boards and commissions to assess the integration of more women into position in government. Results will be released by the Women’s Fund in the Spring of 2016.

*Adria Updike and Jennifer Pearce* worked over the summer to turn the physics lab into an active learning classroom. Physics education research supports engaged learning practices and small group work for the effective teaching of undergraduate physics. This renovation brings RWU up to speed with many nearby colleges in overhauling the way physics is taught.

Research, Grants, Publications and Presentations

**Garrett L. Berman** co-authored two manuscripts presented at the Association for Psychological Science (APS). The first study was Katie Muttit’s Honor’s thesis examining the differential effects of attractiveness and personality on partner desirability. Katie is earning a Master’s of Science degree in Experimental Psychology at Villanova University—Class of 2016. The second paper examined the impact of eyewitness confidence inflation on mock-juror decision-making and was co-authored by six undergraduate students. Four students attended APS and helped present the findings to the psychological community.


**Susan Bosco** served as a panelist in a Dialogue with Students discussion at The Sustainability & Bamboo Symposium in Hong Kong, July 19-24, 2015. *Bosco* also moderated a session “Green Corporate Sustainability: Why Does It Matter? and she did a presentation titled “Green People?”

**Lana Brackett** and **Ben Carr** won the 2015 Best Pedagogical Paper Award at the Marketing Edge- Direct/Interactive Marketing Research Summit that took place October 2015 at the Boston Convention Center. Their paper was titled “Social Media Research Survey: College Students/Faculty Communications”. The announcement was made at an awards luncheon on October 4th at the Boston Convention Center. The Marketing Edge is part of the Direct Marketing Association.

**Mark Brickley** led a workshop on Geographic Information Systems at the Asia-Pacific Decision Sciences Conference in Hong Kong, July 2015.

**Loren Byrne** presented a talk and led an education workshop at the biannual meeting of the Soil Ecology Society held in Colorado Springs, CO this past May. The workshop, the forth that Dr. Byrne has organized for this meeting, was about using backwards design to
develop learning outcomes, assessment and teaching activities for soil ecology. His talk, entitled “Teaching activities that foster soil ecology knowledge and ‘rooted-in-the-soil’ environmental citizenship,” was based on student-centered teaching activities that he has developed for his soil ecology course. Dr. Byrne has been serving as a Member-at-Large of this Society’s board of directors since 2011.

Byrne also presented two invited talks, both for organized sessions, at the annual meeting of the Ecological Society of America (ESA), held in Baltimore in August. The first talk, entitled “Urban Soil Ecology: Progress and Future Potential for Science and Sustainability,” was part of a session about the history of urban ecology in the U.S., organized to help celebrate the 100th anniversary of the ESA. His second talk, “Pedagogy for the pedosphere: Soil organisms and the ecosystem service of education,” was part of a session highlighting the importance of soil biodiversity. Also at this meeting, Dr. Byrne participated in a special educational session in which he presented a teaching activity about the theory of island biogeography that he developed for his introductory biology course.


B. Gokhan Celik served as the Conference Track and Panel Chair at the Sustainability in the Built Environment Session at the 2nd International Conference on Supply Chain for Sustainability, Hong Kong, July 19-22, 2015.


Celik attended the TOURAVEL 2015/Sustainability Session, 2nd Tourism and Travel Studies International Conference 18-20 June 2015 in Istanbul, Turkey.


Papadopoulos, A., Celik, B.G., Flattery, P., Cyr, P. “Content Analysis of Case Studies Collected to Improve Construction management Education”, poster presentation at the Associated Schools of Construction 51st Annual International Conference, College Station, TX, April 22-25, 2015.


Patrick Charles attended the ADSI Conference with fellow faculty members from RWU in Hong Kong from July 19-24, 2015. With more than 210 papers submitted his paper entitled “Teaching Concept-Based Sustainable Architectural Design” won the Best Paper Award in Innovative Education.

Sean Colin is the PI on a $170,580 NSF IDBR three-year grant: “Diver-operated imaging platform with complementary systems for quantifying aquatic organism interactions”. 
Colin is also the PI on a $114,393 NSF Fluid Dynamics three-year grant: “Fluid mechanical basis of universal natural propulsor bending patterns”.

Colin is the PI on a $250,332 NSF Biological Oceanography three-year grant: “What's their impact?: Quantification of medusan feeding mechanics as a tool for predicting medusan predation”.


Elizabeth Duffy, in collaboration with Brian Miller, has an exhibit entitled “A Series of Minor Miracles” currently installed at the Newport Art Museum in Rhode Island.

Duffy also has a security envelope installation included in NEO, the Chipsthone Foundation’s reinstallation at the Milwaukee Art Museum.


Amine Ghanem presented his findings from the collaborative research in front of RI senators and State representatives in April 2015. His presentation was titled “Improving Infrastructure through Public-Private Partnerships.

Jason Jacobs presented a paper: “Damaged Corp(u)s: The Death of Vivien from La Chanson de Guillaume to Aliscans” on the panel Fragmentation and Method: Reading the Divided in Text, Song, and Image at the 50th International Congress on Medieval Studies at Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI, May 14-17, 2015.

Jacobs has also been invited to give a talk entitled “Gut Feelings: Bodies, Affect, and the Prehistory of the Subject” to the Renaissance and Early Modern Studies group at Brown University, October 27, 2015.


Marilynn Mair released her most recent CD, “Madrugada – Daybreak,” in April 2015, featuring her hybrid compositions combining classical, jazz, and Brazilian influences in the format of Brazilian *choro*, the original style of Brazilian music that dates from the 19th century and has been the subject of many years of Professor Mair’s research. Recorded with both
Brazilian and North American musicians, the CD contrasts Mair’s work with that of 20th-century Brazilian composers writing in a classical style. Many of Mair’s original compositions on the recording were written on her recent sabbatical spent in Rio de Janeiro.

In December, 2014, Enigmatica, a mandolin octet directed by Marilynn Mair, released its 3rd CD, titled “Enigmatica 3 – New American Music for Mandolin Ensemble.” Associate Professor of Music, Catherine Hawkes plays mandola in the ensemble, and contributed about half of the compositions featured on the CD. Professor Mair also contributed two compositions to the project.


Marshall was keynote speaker and panelist on Guardianship, Powers of Attorney and Mental Capacity at the Second Annual Elder Abuse Awareness Conference, Public Guardianship Program, Howard County Office on Aging in Columbia, Maryland, June 12, 2015.


Marshall served as plenary speaker on Elder Financial Abuse in the Family: The Brooke Astor Case at the North Dakota Adult Guardianship/Elder Justice Symposium, North Dakota Supreme Court, Bismarck, ND. March 11-12, 2015.

Marshall also spoke on Broken Trust: Combating Financial Exploitation of Vulnerable Seniors at the U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging testimony, February 4, 2015.


Nicole Martino was awarded a $5,000 Rhode Island Collaborative Research Analysis grant to examine infrastructure maintenance best practices in the five states ranked best in infrastructure maintenance.
**Martino** was awarded a $66,927 grant from the Rhode Island Department of Transportation to perform field analysis of various bridge decks around the State using nondestructive testing methods like ground penetrating radar and infrared thermography. The outcome will be a correlation analysis of these methods, and a precisely developed methodology for use when examining future bridge decks.


**Geraldo Matos** paper, for which he is lead author, titled “The Power of Politics in Branding,” was accepted by and presented at the American Marketing Association Summer Educators’ Conference. This paper explores the impact taking a stance on political/social issues has on brands in terms of consumer preference measures/behaviors such as self-brand connection and purchase intent. Co-authors are Gema Vinuales and Daniel Sheinin.

**Elliott McKinley** had a work of his released in December 2014 on a new compact disc issued by New Dynamic Records. The work, commissioned and recorded by the SOLI Chamber Ensemble, is titled *Three Portraits*.

**McKinley** also composed two new large-scale works during the past year. First among them is a new work for Dr. Andrew Bishop, Professor of Saxophone at the University of Michigan, title “#Zero”. This work is for multi-reed soloists with interactive electronics. The second work is a brass quintet, commissioned by the Mirari Brass Quintet. The new quintet, “Six Movements for Brass Quintet”, was composed in the spring and summer of 2015 and is in loving memory of McKinley’s father, composer William Thomas McKinley, who passed away in February 2015.

**McKinley** also received support from the Roger Williams Foundation to release a new compact disc recording on Navona Records containing his seventh string-quartet, recorded by the Martinu String Quartet. McKinley also received funding to record a commissioned work by the Essex Chamber Music Players at the Shalin Liu Performing Arts Center. This work, “Of Memories and Love: Summer 1978”, was composed in 2014 in memory of a childhood friend who passed away after a long battle with cancer in 2012.


*Nester* applied for and was accepted as a participant in one of the *Rhetoric Society of America’s Institute Workshops* titled *Neurorhetorics: Thinking Together About the Persuasive Brain*, which took place June 5-7, 2015, at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. During the workshop, she studied the human capacity for empathy and its function as a trigger for the cognitive and affective processes that lead humans to work for the benefit of others and toward an understanding of the common good.

*Cathy Nicoli* choreographed and performed a solo piece entitled *Love Apple II* (Feb 2015) in the show *She Moves*, a fundraiser initiated by female choreographers from RI, for the Women’s Center of RI. The show raised over $5,000.00 worth of donations.

*Nicoli* choreographed and performed (along with Christopher McMillan) *Lives Matter* in a piece for the Providence International Arts Festival. Inspired by the Black Lives Matter movement, *Lives Matter*, was performed on a 4X4 foot traveling stage on Washington Street so that the audience and passing pedestrians framed the stage and became part of the performance themselves. In September 2015, *Lives Matter* was also performed for the New Bedford Arts Night Out Festival at the Zeiterian Theatre.


*Autumn Quezada-Grant* received a book contract for *The Model Indian: Power, Litigation and Rebellion in Chiapas* with the University Press of Colorado.


*Quezada-Grant* presented a workshop with *Paola Prado* at the National Society of Experiential Education, St. Petersburg, Florida October 2015 titled “Best Practices for Digital and Social Media Integration in Experiential Service Learning: A Case Study of Community Engagement Study Abroad in the Global South”.

*Quezada-Grant* presented at the Latin American Studies Association in San Juan, Puerto Rico May 28, 2015 on “Public Health in Rural Rivas, Nicaragua: Poverty and Wealth a Study in the Contradiction of Neoliberal Policies” for the panel titled: *Public Health and Political Culture in Latin America, 1900-1995*. 

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Quezada-Grant participated as a 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.

Quezada-Grant partnered with Professor Paola Prado and Professor Alejandro Tirado in conducting a community survey on the Dominican/Haitian border over the summer of 2015.

Quezada-Grant submitted a research grant proposal to the Guggenheim Research Foundation to support a research project titled: “Life on the Margins” in Nicaragua and the Dominican Republic. This research grant would support research on social justice issues in marginalized border regions.

Michael Rich has his works entitled “One Not Like the Other” monoprints (his sabbatical work in etching and woodcut) on view in the Administration Building through December 8th.

Rich was an Artist in Residence at Venice Printmaking in March 2015. His focus was on large-scale woodblock and intaglio printing.

Rich received the Maxwell Mays Award for best in show, Providence Art Club Member Exhibition in September 2015.

Joseph Roberts received a research grant from Collaborative RI ($10,000) with colleagues from Bryant University and Rhode Island College to examine Rhode Island’s regional competitiveness and innovation. The collaborative project resulted in a joint research report, “Strategies for a Competitive Rhode Island: Assessing Innovation Potential with Emphasis on Energy and Ease of Doing Business” and an individual research brief “What States Need to Foster Innovation and Economic Growth.” The research was presented to members of the Rhode Island House of Representatives and Senate, staff from the Governor’s office, and business leaders from Rhode Island. This project included research assistance from Julia Raso, a student in International Relations.

Roberts was named one of the first Alwaleed Fellows for the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations and Alwaleed Philanthropies for a study visit to Oman from August 13 – 23, 2015. The visit provided Fellows an opportunity to explore the dynamics of some of the major economic, political, and social determinants of Oman’s culture as well as the country’s modernization and development.
Roberts published “Internationalizing the Curriculum: Assessing Faculty, Departments, and Schools on Their Efforts” in European Political Science (September 2015), doi:10.1057/eps.2015.40.

Melissa Russano is PI with K. Houston at Texas A & M International University on a $104,178 grant from the U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation titled “Assessing Accusatorial vs. Informational-Gathering Approaches to HUMINT Collection via an Interpreter.”


Michael Scully and Roxanne O’Connell attended the Visual Communication Conference in Cannon Beach, Oregon this past June. Dr. O’Connell presented parts of her recently published book, Visualizing Experiential: A Multimedia Memoir, as an example of this emerging genre.

Michael Scully published a paper in the Irish Communication Review about World War II war correspondent Edward Kennedy, who was the journalist who broke the VE Day story. To report the news, Kennedy violated an embargo established by the Allied Forces and, in doing so, ruined his career. http://dit.ie/icr/media/diti.cr/documents/2-Scully.pdf.

Sara Shirley has a publication forthcoming in Financial Management entitled “The Determinants of Releasing an Incubated Mutual Fund” with J. Stark. Of note: Financial Management is a leading peer-reviewed journal with a 9% acceptance rate (according to Cabell’s). There is a double-blind review process and depending on the scale used, it is considered an A on an A+ scale or a “Near Elite” classification.

Shirley presented with J. Stark “The Determinants of Releasing an Incubated Mutual Fund” at the Financial Management Association European Conference, summer 2015. Shirley and D. Rakowski’s paper “the Uniqueness of Exchange Traded Notes” was presented by D. Rakowski at the Financial Management Association European Conference, summer 2015.

Shirley presented with J. Stark “The Determinants of Releasing an Incubated Mutual Fund” as part of the Roger Williams University GSB Research Series, spring 2015.

June Speakman received a grant from the Research Collaborative of Rhode Island in August 2015, to work with two students, Rachel Wells (’17) and Jessica Soares (’16) on “State Approaches to Fiscally Distressed Communities.” The report will be published in January of 2016.

June Speakman, Josh Avila (’15) and Alex Lunter (’16) co-authored and presented a paper at the New England Political Science Association Annual Meeting in New Haven in April 2015. The title of the paper is “Old Media in the Age of New Media: TV Ads in the 2014 Rhode Island Gubernatorial Race.” The students’ conference attendance was funded by the Provost’s Fund for Student Research.

Speakman attended a writing workshop in the summer of 2015 at Bard College titled Writing to Learn, where she studied pedagogical practices that encourage more writing and deeper learning through that writing. This course was funded by a grant from the Foundation for the Promotion of Scholarship and Teaching.

James Tackach presented a paper titled “Abraham Lincoln’s Second Inaugural Address: A Sesquicentennial Assessment” at the 26th Annual Conference on American Literature in Boston which was held May 21-24, 2015.

Proulx, A., D’Amico, A.D. and Thangaraj, C. “A miniature combined horizontal wind-turbine and PV demonstration kit for K-12 STEM

**Minoo Tehrani** co-chaired the Asia Pacific Decision Sciences Institute (APDSI) Conference 2015 held at the Hang Seng Management College in Hong Kong from July 19-24, 2015. The conference was held in conjunction with: The Sustainability & Bamboo Symposium, The Forum on Sustainable Development in Higher Education co-organized with UNESCO, and the 2nd International Conference on Supply chain for Sustainability. Several RWU faculty were involved with these conferences and their presentations are listed herein. In addition, all attending RWU faculty participated in the UNESCO Forum.

**Tehrani** was a Keynote Speaker on the opening panel titled “Climate Change and Sustainability – Implications on Learning Environment” at the Sustainability and Bamboo Symposium with 270 participants.

**Tehrani** also co-organized the 2nd International Conference on Supply Chain for Sustainability. She moderated a session “Green Trade Pacts & Strategic Alliances” where she presented a paper “NAFTA: Anything Green?”

**Tehrani** and two of her students, Jim Prigge and David Duva, presented a paper entitled “Operating Environments of Emerging Markets: Issues and Opportunities”. The paper won the award for the Best Paper Presentation by Undergraduate Students.

**Tehrani** will be the co-organizer for the Decision Sciences Institute Conference (DSI).

This will be the first World Congress in Beijing, China in forty-four years.

**Minoo Tehrani** and **Ulker Copur** attended the Swiss-US Energy Innovation Days 2014, Zurich, August 2015. The forum was by invitation only and was sponsored by the Federal Department of the Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications DETEC Swiss Federal Office of Energy SFOE.

**Tehrani** and student Francesca Montemarano won first place for best paper presentation in the undergraduate student category titled “The Future Challenges: The Global Auto Industry”. The paper was presented at the Northeast Decision Sciences Institute Conference, Cambridge, MA, March 2015.

**Peter Thompson** has a new book: Father/Son. This book is a translation (from French) of two Abdelkader Djemai’s novellas. He is a prize winning author from Algeria. Published by Diálogos Books.


LaChance, H., Cioe, P. A., Tooley, E., Colby, S. M., O’Farrell, T. J., & Kahler, C. W.
“Behavioral Couples Therapy for Smoking Cessation: A randomized clinical trial”.
*Psychology of Addictive Behaviors* (in press).


Mel Topf presented a paper at a Yale University conference on “Law and Fictional Discourse” last May. His paper was on “Fiction and Legitimacy: State Supreme Court Advisory Opinions as Fictional Constructs.” An article based on the talk will appear in late 2016.


Adria Updike, Tracey McDonnell Wysor, and Jennifer Pearce presented a paper titled “Physics Students in the Elementary School Classroom” at the American Association of Physics Teachers summer meeting at the University of Maryland at College Park (July 2015), poster presentation and conference proceeding.

Updike and Dieter Hartmann presented a paper titled “Dust Composition of GRB Host Galaxies”, at the NASA conference “Swift: 10 Years of Discovery” in Rome, Italy (December 2014), poster presentation and conference proceeding.

Yajni Warnapala received an EPSCoR -RID Grant- July -Dec 2015: Project Title: Project Title: The Numerical Solution of the Helmholtz Equation for the Biconcave Disk (Blood Cell) for the Dirichlet Boundary Condition: Mars Project.


In the Campus Community

The 15th Annual Professor John Howard Birss, Jr. exhibition and events was held throughout the spring 2015 semester. This topic for the semester long event was “A Celebration of the 75th Anniversary of *Native Son*, by Richard Wright”. On February 10th James Tackach and RWU Honors Program student Abigail DeBeuve served as moderators for a “Book Discussion Group”. A panel discussion was held on February 25th, Keith Stokes, President of Development and Planning, Mayfield Group and member of the RWU President’s Advisory Council, Diana Hassel, Professor and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at the RWU School of Law held the discussion with Dean Robert Eisinger serving as moderator. The Keynote Address was given on March 4 by Jennifer Jensen Wallach, Associate Professor of History at the University of North Texas. An exhibition was held in the Library, prepared by Christine Fagan, title “Richard Wright’s *Native Son*: Then and Now” from February 1 – March 31, 2015. A number of RWU faculty and staff, James Tackach, Christine Fagan, Becky Spritz, Peter Deekle, Christopher Truszkowski and Megan Lessard, all worked tirelessly to make the event a success.

Mark Brickley and Farbod Farhadi are coaching the business analytics competition team. The competition is part of the Association for Information Systems’ national collegiate competition. The business analytics competition is sponsored by QVC. In addition to QVC – Merck, Lockheed Martin and NBC Universal have all provided a subset of their corporate
databases and a set of challenging problems to solve. The team has been meeting weekly to work with data provided as part of last year’s competition, learning new skills that can be applied to the upcoming competition that begins in November.

**Marilynn Mair** booked, produced, and presented the “Music Series” this past year, and every year. She also presented two concerts for the Alive! Arts Series last year: “Steve Jobe and Alec Redfearn, American Composers,” in October 2014, and the Martinu String Quartet in April 2015. Mair recently produced an Alive! Arts concert presenting Dr. Krishna Raghavendra and his Raga and Rhythm Ensemble, performing South Indian (Carnatic) and North Indian (Hindustani) music. A concert by solo improvisational artist Eden MacAdam-Somer is scheduled for the “Music Series” on October 25, 2015.

**Elliott McKinley** arranged a visit by the Martinu String Quartet from Prague, Czech Republic, for a concert as part of the “Alive! Arts” music series. The quartet performed McKinley’s fifth string quartet along with music by Dvorak and Beethoven.

In February 2014, **McKinley** arranged and booked a concert as part of the “Music Series” in the Atrium with the Washington and Lee University Singers.

**Paola Prado** and **Jeremy Campbell** are coordinating an ongoing exchange program for twenty visiting students from Brazil. Participants in Brazil’s prestigious “Scientific Mobility Program.” These students are studying in a range of engineering and architecture programs this year at RWU, and will conclude their time in the U.S. with internships, research, or practical training opportunities in summer 2016. In early August, Campbell and Prado conducted a two-week transitional academy that introduced the Brazilian students to the U.S. university environment. RWU’s cohort of twenty students—who come fully funded with a grant from the Brazilian government—is up from last year’s cohort of 14 scientific mobility scholars.

**Autumn Quezada-Grant** traveled with the RWU Chapter of FIMRC for service-work abroad. Over Spring Break 17 students traveled with her as they worked in La Merced, Peru at local clinics and indigenous villages.

**Quezada-Grant** and **Kerri Warren** traveled in May with 15 students to Las Salinas, Nicaragua, where they worked at a local clinic and assisted in FIMRC community health works.

**June Speakman, James Tackach** and **Matt Ulricksen** presented a panel that focused on current controversies regarding the 14th and 15th Amendments.

**Christine Fagan,** as a member of the Newport County Citizens to End Homelessness, spearheaded an effort on campus during the spring semester to generate support for the **Zero: 2016 Campaign** sponsored by the Rhode Island Coalition for the Homeless. As a result, RWU became the first academic institution in the State to endorse this campaign and contributed significantly to the 3,180 total endorsements submitted to the RI General Assembly.

**In the Community**

**Loren Byrne** was recently appointed to the secretariat of the Global Soil Biodiversity Initiative as its education programs coordinator (http://www.globalsoilbiodiversity.org/?q=node/417). Last December he organized and presented in the education session for the first meeting of this initiative which was held in Dijon, France. The initiative’s goal is to help bring attention to the value of soil organisms for supporting healthy ecosystems and human well-being.

**Paola Prado** and **Jeremy Campbell** are coordinating an ongoing exchange program for twenty visiting students from Brazil. Participants in Brazil’s prestigious “Scientific Mobility Program.” These students are studying in a range of engineering and architecture programs this year at RWU, and will conclude their time in the U.S. with internships, research, or practical training opportunities in summer 2016. In early August, Campbell and Prado conducted a two-week transitional academy that introduced the Brazilian students to the U.S. university environment. RWU’s cohort of twenty students—who come fully funded with a grant from the Brazilian government—is up from last year’s cohort of 14 scientific mobility scholars.

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**Autumn Quezada-Grant** presented in September of 2015, on the issue of Haitian deportations, by invitation of the Bridges to Success Haitian Foundation in Providence or an open forum and dialogue between the local Haitian and Dominican community. This dialogue will continue on October 23rd at another open forum.

**Amine Ghanem** worked for Shawmut Design and Construction for two months over the summer as part of the AGC Faculty Fellowship program to bridge the gap between industry and academics. The project he worked on was the construction of a $22 million science building at St. Georges Academy in Middletown.


**Philip Marshall** serves on the National Adult Protective Services Association (NAPSA), National Advisory Board on Elder Financial Exploitation from 2011 to present.


**Marshall** is a member of the National Guardianship Association (NGA), Public Policy Committee, serving from 2015 to present.

**Marshall** is a member of the Task Force on Charter, Mission, and Vision on the National Institute for Elder Financial Exploitation (NAPSA) Advisory Board.

**Michael Rich** held a workshop for the Artists Association of Nantucket in June 2015 on The Poetics of Color.

In May 2014 Energy Color Light: Theresa Girard, **Michael Rich**, Roberta Segal exhibited at the Providence Art Club

August 2015exhibit Paint a Flower – New Paintings by **Michael Rich**, Old Spouter Gallery, Nantucket, MA.

September 2015 Large Scale: A Survey of New and Recent (big) Paintings by **Michael Rich** exhibited at the Candita Clayton Gallery, Pawtucket, R.I.

**Elizabeth Duffy** spent the past summer in residence at the Sirius Art Centre in Cobh, Ireland working on her new project Maximum Security – quilts from aerial views of prisons. This body of work will be shown next spring at the Visual Arts Center of New Jersey.

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**Nancy Nester** participated in a Departmental Study group focused on portfolio design and assessment.

For the second summer in a row, RWU hosted the Brazil Scientific Mobility Transitional Academy led by Professors **Jeremy Campbell** and **Paola Prado** in collaboration with **Autumn Quezada-Grant**. The program consists of an intensive orientation and introductory course taught in August and year-long support for the cohort of Brazilian students in the STEM...
disciplines who study abroad at RWU. The program, which is funded in its entirety by the Brazilian government, has now enrolled a total 34 students at RWU. The goal of this program—from an intensive welcome/orientation to periodical cohort activities and internship placement—is to provide both an academic and co-curricular framework for student achievement. The 2015-2016 cohort consists of 15 students enrolled in the School of Engineering and 5 students enrolled in the Architecture program.

Sara Shirley serves as the faculty advisor for the RWU Financial Management Association (FMA) Student Organization. During the academic year 2014-2015 they have had 7 professional speakers attend FMA meetings and talk about careers in business and how best to prepare the students for the work force. Two FMA members attended the 2015 FMA Finance Leaders’ Conference (national conference). A successful food drive was held for the East Bay Food Pantry. The student also visited the US Trust, Bloomberg and Financial District. FMA members obtained Bloomberg Certifications. The Club has grown to approximately 45 active members.

The English Department celebrated its annual “experiential learning” English Tea Party in the beautiful English gardens at the home of Deborah Robinson. Over 60 students (English majors/minors) attended the event, learning the do’s and don’ts for Victorian ‘high tea’. This event is one of the most popular events in the English Department.

Congratulations to the following members of the faculty on their award of Promotion/Tenure which became effective with the start of the fall 2015 semester.

Jennifer Campbell
Jeremy Campbell
Sargon Donabed
Catherine Hawkes
Roxanne O’Connell
Erica Oduaran
Lisa Newcity
Andrew Rhyne
Lauren Rossi
Becky Spritz