RWU

The Magazine of Roger Williams University







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Welcome to RWU

Whether on your first day of freshman orientation... while dropping off your son or daughter on move-in day... when you landed your faculty or staff appointment... or simply on a visit to campus – in all likelihood, you've probably heard those words before.

Today, however, they take on entirely new context. After 37 years of publishing *The Bridge* – the flagship publication of Roger Williams University, which delivered campus news and features so well for so many decades – we're proud to present *RWU*, your new magazine.

And *RWU* is just that – *your* magazine. When we initiated the process of rebuilding *The Bridge* a year ago, our goals were numerous. We wanted to create a publication that would reflect the dramatic progress enacted at the University since the turn of the millennium; to integrate the magazine with the look and feel of the myriad other communications vehicles we've built in recent years; and to produce a genuinely interesting magazine that would challenge readers with thought-provoking content from which they could learn something new about the University or the world beyond.

But more than anything else, perhaps, we aimed to start a conversation. Each of us who values education – and that's all of us, presumably – understands that the learning process is a two-way street. Effective educators don't simply broadcast information. They engage in dialog, consider viewpoints contrary to their own and approach a topic from a variety of angles.

Through the content on the pages of *RWU* (as well as its eventual online presence), we'd like to engage you – the individuals who have made and are continuing to make this University the dynamic learning environment that it is – in such a conversation.

Do you have some professional expertise that relates to the Eat Local movement? Comment on our cover story by writing a letter to the editor. Did the Traditions photograph on Page 13 jog some long-dormant memory? Tell us your story. Is there some compelling personal experience you've been itching to write about? Craft an essay and submit it for Your Turn on the back page.

Throughout the magazine, you'll find these and multiple other ways to engage in that conversation. This page – Open Source, which will feature your letters in future issues – is the perfect starting point. Class Notes is another great example. Those of you who are alumni, send us updates about your personal or professional life – we all know that's what you read first!

Regardless of what role *you* play within the University community – student, alumnus/a, parent, faculty, staff, donor, friend – *our* mission, at its most basic level, is to build a magazine that inspires some sort of action to further connect you to the Roger Williams University family. We hope we've taken steps to achieve that goal, and we invite you to share your thoughts along the way.

Welcome, once again, to RWU.

—Brian E. Clark, Editor (magazine@rwu.edu)

WRITE TO RWU

We welcome short letters on topics pertinent to the magazine and the University and will publish as many as space allows.

E-mail letters to: magazine@rwu.edu

Write to: RWU Magazine
Roger Williams University
One Old Ferry Road
Bristol, RI 02809

Please include your full name, address and RWU affiliation. Letters may be edited for clarity and/or length.



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Inaugural Issue: Volume 1, Issue 1

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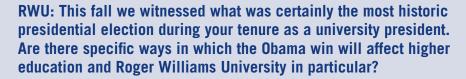
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While every effort has been made to ensure that information is accurate and up to date, we're writing about a dynamic educational environment, and it is not possible to guarantee that all items will be accurate at all times.



Our Q&A with University President Roy J. Nirschel



RJN: First, I was delighted to see so many of our students intimately involved in the political process. Many of them participated in campaigns, and we even hosted the University's first-ever election polling station in the Barn. We have, of course, established superb relationships over the years with all branches of government. I think President Obama will support our work in marine science and other initiatives tied to economic development, and I think our work in criminal justice will expand with support from the new administration. And both candidates were internationalists, so no matter who got elected, I think there would have been support for the kinds of initiatives we're focusing on across the globe, particularly in the Middle East. I'm really optimistic that we'll see more funding of people-to-people programs – faculty exchanges, civic engagement programs and State Department grants.

RWU: Education wasn't as central a campaign issue as some might have hoped, but Obama did link increased educational tax credits with a service requirement. That correlates well with our value set at Roger Williams, doesn't it?

RJN: Obama talked about making more money available, particularly for middle- and lower-income families, but with the expectation that students do the service. Students at Roger Williams complete service initiatives already, without compensation. I think that puts us in a terrific position because we've had this value equation since our 2002 strategic plan. Plus, the Pell Grant and other basic education funds will increase, and we'll be able to leverage that with philanthropy for scholarships for underrepresented students.

RWU: With no signs of an immediate economic turnaround, how will the credit crunch and financial crisis affect the University moving forward?

RJN: First, I'm keenly aware that private education is not inexpensive. Our students and families, by and large, are not rich. Lots of people are borrowing money, saving

substantially and working hard to get themselves and their children through college. At RWU, we've already put tens of millions of dollars into both need- and merit-based aid, and we're increasing those dollars significantly. One of our fundraising priorities is to raise money that ensures talented students from underrepresented groups can come to Roger Williams. At the same time, we're going to do everything we can to reduce the cost of running the University without diminishing health, safety or the quality of education. I'm proud that our overall management costs are much lower than any of our competitors – we're a very lean operation, and we're going to get a little leaner without sacrificing quality.

RWU: We know that an impending demographic shift is also likely to create new challenges in attracting students. That must factor in, too?

RJN: Four or five years ago, we decided that we didn't have the luxury of being a local, parochial school. Rhode Island is a wonderful state, but less than one-third of one percent of Americans live here. And the Northeast, historically our strongest market, is not growing in general. So we've spent time building a



brand that's buzzing regionally, nationally and internationally. Ultimately, it creates a more dynamic learning environment when classrooms are filled with people from different places and different backgrounds.

RWU: Within higher education, consensus says that medium-size private institutions will face the most significant challenges during this bleak economic era. Is RWU in good position to weather the storm?

RJN: We are in great position, because we'll make it on quality. Nobody is going to want to spend lots of money on an inferior product. I think there's going to be a shakeout among small, underfunded private colleges without distinctive features. At Roger Williams, we'll have to finesse the margins, but we're going to be just fine because we offer an outstanding education and we have a great plan. I've not yet had a sleepless night over these economic challenges – partly because I don't sleep that much!

RWU: Since your arrival at RWU, you've implemented a culture that places tremendous value on creating a good plan. Does that borrow directly from the world beyond higher education?

RJN: It is gratifying to have so many students, faculty and staff reference the strategic plan and our core values. We are not a business in the classical sense, but we do need to concern ourselves with the "bottom line" and revenues and expenses – it's crucial, however, that we do that with an unwavering focus on teaching and learning.

Campus Digest

University community facts and fun

Two RWU employees, Ken Osborne and John Moffa, played crime scene investigators for a day when they helped local police identify a man suspected of setting fires at nearby businesses. Osborne and Moffa extracted and analyzed images from several of the companies' recording devices, which led to the final images that aided in apprehending the alleged arsonist.

Thinking service and sustainability, about 50 RWU students spent a Saturday in November traveling local neighborhoods in a University trolley, on a mission to provide compact-fluorescent light bulbs to low-income families. The CFL bulbs will conserve energy and help families save on utility bills – the project, called Green Light R.I., is spearheaded by the East Bay Community Action Program.

At a spring sports rally in March, RWU Wrestling Coach Dave "Bonecrusher" Kemmy took on wily housing director Tony "The Menace" Montefusco, each of whom donned a genuine wrestling singlet. Bonecrusher won the bout.

At a Dublin conference themed "The Aesthetics of Trash," SAAHP Professor Randall Van Schepen and scholars from Germany, Australia, Ireland and the U.K. focused on how we determine the value of things, what gets saved and why. His paper was on a piece of art by the Russian contemporary artist Ilya Kabakov called "The Man Who Never Threw Anything Away."

After 35 years as a golf professional with the New England section of the PGA (NEPGA), RWU alumnus Tom Tetrault '72 was elected into the NEPGA Hall of Fame.

It was a family affair at 2008's Continuing Studies Alpha Sigma Lambda inductions. Husband and wife Mark (a naval officer) and Jennifer Wolfe, both pursuing degrees in public administration, were invited and inducted into the Rho Alpha chapter of the honor society. Members must be in the top 10 percent of their class.

RWU { Inaugural Issue }

Professor of Computer Science Tony Ruocco and his wife, Mary-Patrice, competed recently in the World Pilot Gig Championship at the Isles of Scilly, U.K. Mrs. Ruocco rowed for the first-ever U.S. women's team to compete, placing 69th out of 108 teams. Professor Ruocco worked with the women's team as a substitute rower and coxswain and joined a men's team that placed 76th out of 110.



In conjunction with the musical "Legally Blonde," which ran at the Providence Performing Arts Center this September, law firm Correira & Iacono awarded a "Legally Brilliant" scholarship to RWU freshman Nicole Verdi. High academic qualifications and an interest in the law were required (Nicole aspires to enroll in law school eventually). Being blonde wasn't.

The 549th chapter of Sigma Delta Pi, the National Collegiate Hispanic Honor Society, was installed at RWU in 2008. Twelve students were inducted as founding members of Chapter Chi Chi.

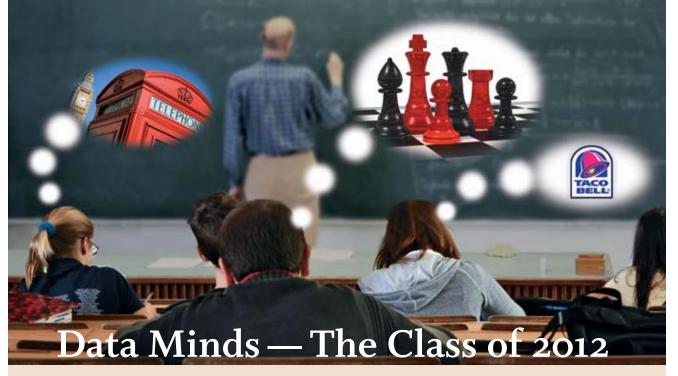
Evidently all the construction activity on campus means more than just parking headaches – it also means on-the-iob experience for RWU undergrads. The School of Engineering, Computing and Construction Management noted that at least five current students are getting up-close looks at construction management while working as part-timers or interns for builders on campus.

George Marshall, adjunct professor at RWU and executive director of the Rhode Island International Film Festival (RIIFF), accepted a New England Emmy Award for "No Excuses," a promotional campaign for the Oscar-qualifying event. Marshall produced the two pieces that earned RIIFF the award in the community/public service (PSAs) campaign category.

Military Advanced Education named Roger Williams to its Top Military-Friendly Colleges and Universities honor roll for 2008. The School of Continuing Studies has provided soldiers and veterans part-time education via various learning platforms since World War II.

RWU received approval to erect a 93-foot water tower on the southern end of campus. The University's original goal was to solve water pressure issues associated with new construction, yet the project turned into a public benefit along the way – the tower will help alleviate balky water pressure in homes throughout much of southern Bristol. A letter in a local newspaper urged the University to "build a stunning, unforgettable water tower... give us an abstract octopus... or starfish... or umbrella!" Something a bit more traditional is in the works.

Three six-student teams from RWU captured all three categories in this year's regional construction management competition, marking the first single-school sweep in the region's history. All three teams will travel to San Diego in March to compete nationally.



In more ways than one, the applicant pool for the Class of 2012 proved one of the most intriguing in the

8,921	applications, the most in RWU's 52-year history
-,:	applications, the most in it is 52 year motor

1,105 average SAT score, the highest for an incoming class at Roger Williams

1,059 new students enrolled at the University

incoming students who have traveled (or lived) beyond the U.S. border

275 students from locations beyond New England

Rhode Island state chess champion

1 Taco Bell aficionado whose clever essay centered on her passion for the fast-food chain

fledgling Hawk who learned about RWU when his unsuspecting father knocked on the door of an admissions counselor's house in search of a restroom

University's history. Our Admissions staff helped us pull together this quick breakdown of entering students:

561 entering female students, 53 percent of the incoming population

enrollees who entered the University with AP credits

self-identified international students and students of color

24 countries and 22 states represented

RWU Earns Highest U.S. News Ranking in School's History

While the debate over college rankings remains robust and while rankings should, in fact, be just one factor in the decision-making process, few universities can find reason to complain when their rankings continue on an upward trajectory. RWU is no exception.

In this year's college rankings published by U.S. News & World Report, Roger Williams achieved its highest ranking in history, jumping to the eighth slot in its category – Best Baccalaureate Colleges in the North. The University attributes the jump to improvements in its acceptance rate; freshman retention rate; graduation rate; student/ faculty ratio; the academic qualifications of incoming students; and reputation, among other factors.

"We've worked tirelessly over the past decade to turn Roger Williams into a top-tier liberal arts school in the Northeast," President Nirschel said. "While college rankings are just one indicator of our success, we're gratified that our peers have acknowledged the tremendous progress achieved at RWU in recent years."

Ranking ahead of Roger Williams in the category are historically top-notch institutions such as Cooper Union, the U.S. Coast Guard Academy and Bard College at Simon's Rock, among others.

Snapshots from across the RWU campus

The Magazine of Roger Williams University



For RWU students in the marine sciences, the partnership with the New England Aquarium means a firsthand look at the management and operation of a renowned aquarium facility.

RWU Aquaculture Efforts Propel Partnership with New England Aquarium

This past fall, Roger Williams University joined forces with the New England Aquarium in a unique partnership intended to augment RWU's aquaculture and aquarium science program. The collaboration – the first of its kind between a four-year degree-granting institution and a major aquarium – builds upon the successful aquaculture and marine ornamental initiatives that have been carried out by the University's Center for Economic & Environmental Development (CEED). It will formalize a course of study and research for RWU undergraduates in aquarium design and the breeding and rearing of marine organisms.

Dr. Michael Tlusty, the New England Aquarium's director of research, approached the University after seeing RWU students present research on tropical fish at several national meetings. "RWU has the premier ornamental fish lab in the Northeast and possibly the U.S.," Tlusty said. Marine ornamentals are small fish coveted for their beauty and increasing rarity (think clownfish).

While RWU gains access to a world-class institution, the educational opportunities it provides and a practical curriculum base for its marine ornamental research program, the aquarium will have help answering fundamental questions about how to breed and raise some fish currently housed in the facility's 200,000-gallon giant ocean tank. That includes the queen triggerfish, which has never been bred in captivity and is hard to rear into adulthood.

"This partnership gives our students the chance to do something they couldn't do anywhere else," said Dr. Andrew Rhyne, who was recently hired as an assistant professor and will split his time between RWU's Bristol campus and the aquarium in Boston.

Part of Rhyne's job will be to organize the marine biology internships at the New England Aquarium – semester-long experiences



that will offer a rigorous introduction to the research and educational opportunities provided by a major public aquarium. Additionally, he will develop a short course to monitor reef fish populations, coinciding with the aquarium's fish-collecting program in the Bahamas.

Dr. Timothy Scott, associate professor of marine biology and director of CEED, is looking forward to a fruitful partnership: "We think it offers new, practical uses for the research we've been conducting these past few years and many new opportunities for our students in the management and operation of a large public aquarium."

Hidden in Plain Sight

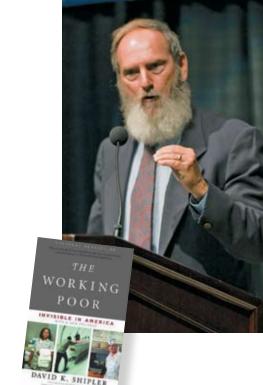
He works at our local carwash. She monitors classrooms in our town's schools. They hand us our coffee at the drive-thru. None of them can afford a car; childcare; food.

The working poor are everywhere, journalist and Pulitzer Prize-winning author David K. Shipler told students at RWU's fourth annual Common Reader Speaker Series. We just don't always see them: "Invisibility goes both ways," Shipler said. "The working poor are invisible to us, and they perhaps want to be invisible, certainly as poor people."

Shipler's book, "The Working Poor: Invisible in America," was this year's selection for the University's Reading Across the Curriculum Program, in which first-year students, faculty and staff spend the summer months participating in a shared reading exercise.

"The Working Poor' is a compassionate look into our nation's economic and employment systems and the challenges that many full-time, low-wage American employees face at the margins of poverty-level incomes," said Vice President for Student Affairs John King. "The issues raised in this book are important for students and voters and are especially relevant given the current economic downturn."

When he visited the University in September, Shipler acknowledged that some students found the topic of his book difficult to come to terms with. Aiming to connect the dots between the myriad causes and symptoms of poverty, he addressed both societal and individual contributors, among them the economy, the subprime mortgage crisis, bad personal choices and lack of education: "I think that it's very important, especially in this election season, to acknowledge that the problems of poverty are multifaceted, that they spread along a very broad spectrum ranging from society's failures to personal, individual and family issues and problems."



Face to Face with..

Face Mirlen Martinez Mal, Esq. with... Assistant Vice President for Human Resources

For Mirlen Martinez Mal, a triumvirate of influences has propelled her to early success – family, education and athletics. The daughter of Cuban parents who migrated to California in search of opportunity, Mal has earned a B.S., M.B.A. and J.D., starred on the basketball court for UC Riverside, worked as a community servant on the Rhode Island Commission on Prejudice and Bias, nominated judges as part of the state's Judicial Nominating Commission and worked diligently for RWU on labor and employment issues. All this while still finding time to have fun with her husband, her 2-year-old son, Jonathan, and 15-year-old stepson, Jarred. GROWING UP: "I come from a very Cuban household - rice, beans, plantains, Cuban music and Mambo dancing All the customs and traditions." And the language - in first grade, Mal's teacher noted her still-in-development English skills. "My mom said, 'You're not going to tell me that my child can't do what the others can do.' So she was determined that we'd read a different English book every day – and she wouldn't take no for an answer." ON CUBA: The birth of Mal's older brother propelled her parents to leave Cuba, but her father had to spend two years in a labor camp before they were permitted to go to Spain, from which they'd eventually travel to the U.S. "I know it's a beautiful country, but out of respect for my parents and all they went through in Cuba, I don't think I'd visit right now." ON ATHLETICS: As the daughter of two athletes (her mom played basketball for the Cuban national team), Mal says sports have helped to define her. "I grew up thinking sports – basketball and judo. I learned at age seven about discipline and about respecting your elders and your teachers. And I learned that you have to commit to something to excel." GIVING BACK: In addition to her volunteer work with the state commissions, Mal also speaks to teenage students through the State olice Community Outreach Program. "My parents always told me to earn my degree ecause nobody could ever take that away from me. I try to convey that message keep your focus no matter who tries to close doors on you."



Virginia (won by Obama) County Winner Count

Mapping Mania!

Ever wonder how politicians decide where to campaign most heavily? Odds are they're employing a computer-based mapping analysis tool called GIS (Geographic Information Systems).

Commonly used by marketers to determine where to place stores and what products local consumers want, GIS is a sophisticated database used to analyze demographic data. Analysts build maps with overlapping layers of data occupying a single space to simultaneously query multiple data.

During the historic 2008 presidential primary elections, students in Professor Mark Brickley's Geographic Analysis of Data course tested their skills, examining the demographics that may have contributed to each candidate's

wins. For instance, in Virginia, Barack Obama won the counties with a higher percentage of African-American voters, and Hillary Clinton won those with more Caucasian voters.

"When the primaries hit, it just seemed like the timing was perfect," Brickley said. "Why not have a student build a map for every primary election and display it in the business school lobby? A lot of students coming through have been paying close attention to them."

Originated by environmental scientists to map wetlands and sensitive environmental areas, GIS has existed for nearly three decades. Many of us are familiar with GIS already, Brickley says. Those multi-colored election maps on television news? GIS technology. And while its most practical uses seem to be

in market and business analysis and criminal justice, political scientists are finding it useful as a campaign predictor.

Brickley himself had the chance to use GIS during the presidential election. When the Obama campaign put out a call for volunteers to do GIS work, Brickley answered: "Mainly to see how they're using GIS for political science purposes," he said. "It turned out they kept things so tight to the vest, I never found out! They hid things so perfectly, you never knew what you were mapping to begin with."

While he hasn't been able to attract many political science students to GIS yet, Brickley hopes that after months of seeing maps all over they'll become more interested: "It's an awful lot of fun!"

RWU Rundown – 7 ½ Must-See Films on the American Presidency

In keeping with the spirit of the presidential election, the University Communications team (with the help of a few students, faculty and staff members) compiled a list of can't-miss flicks about the American presidency. Caution: In a survey about as unscientific as they come, results may vary!



1. Air Force One (1997). An online poll voted Harrison Ford the best movie president for his depiction of President James Marshall, who rescues his wife and daughters from Russian hijackers aboard *Air Force One*.

2. The American President (1995).

President Andrew Shephard (Michael Douglas) courts a D.C. lobbyist played by Annette Bening, threatening his bid at a second term in the White House and giving new meaning to "bedroom politics."

- **3. JFK** (1991). The 1963 JFK assassination has become synonymous with his presidency. This Oscar-winning Oliver Stone film combines fact and fiction as New Orleans district attorney Jim Garrison, played by Kevin Costner, uncovers a conspiracy theory behind the 35th president's horrific murder.
- 4. Independence Day (1996). Who can forget high-flying President Thomas J. Whitmore (Bill Pullman)? He delivered one of the most memorable presidential speeches in film history, and he saved the human race from aliens. He gets our vote for the Oval Office in the case of an alien invasion.
- **5. Primary Colors (1998).** The closest thing we have to a Bill Clinton biopic, this dramedy follows southern governor/presidential

wanna-be Jack Stanton (John Travolta) on the 1992 campaign trail. Art imitates life as the charming Stanton is discovered to be as philandering as he is politically savvy.

- 6. Wag the Dog (1997). Ever wonder what would happen if the mass media controlled presidential elections? In this Dustin Hoffman/Robert DeNiro comedy, a Hollywood producer manufactures a war to divert attention from a presidential sex scandal just days before the election.
- 7. Fail Safe (2000). A U.S. bomber is mistakenly ordered to drop an atomic bomb on Moscow. The threat of nuclear war ensues. How will the president (Richard Dreyfuss) handle it? We're under strict orders not to reveal the top-secret, blow-your-mind ending, so you'll have to watch for yourselves!
- 7½. Thirteen Days (2001). Kevin Costner's attempt at a Boston accent is so bad in this film about the Cuban Missile Crisis that we could only get through half of it. But if you're looking for an intimate portrait of the Kennedy administration as they strive to avoid nuclear war, pick up a copy today just don't say we didn't warn you!

Talking Politics: Civil Discourse 2008

The excitement of the historic 2008 presidential election reached fever pitch at RWU when three high-profile political experts came to campus for the Civil Discourse Lecture Series.

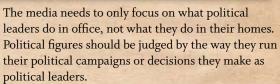
Each presenter offered his or her take on this semester's theme: The American Presidency.

Below are highlights from each presentation as well as an RWU student's take on the speaker's commentary.

Doris Kearns Goodwin,

Presidential Historian and Author:

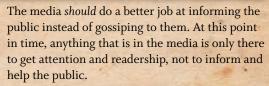
In FDR's day, there was an unwritten rule that somehow the private lives of your public figures weren't relevant to public leadership. But that rule has gone way out of whack.



Nibal Awad '12,Psychology

Frank Sesno, CNN Journalist:

I think the media are not doing their jobs. I think we have lost too much of this in our national dialogue, and it's all about screaming and yelling and personalities and celebrification as opposed to information.



Ashley Saunders '10,
 Communications and Creative Writing

David Gergen,

Political Commentator, Advisor and Author:

I must tell you that this was a campaign that was also decided [because] John McCain did not run a good campaign and Barack Obama ran the best campaign we've seen in modern history.

Obama not only ran on a platform that many could agree with, he ran the best campaign tactically. He used the Internet, cell phones and all types of new media to reach out to Americans. Obama brought in local, nitty-gritty grassroots campaigning but did it 21st-century style.

- Courtney Costello '11,
Political Science and Communications



POLSC 203 The American Presidency

Instructor: Michael Fowler, adjunct professor of political science

Learning curve: "Let me get your input on some things," Fowler asks his class. "If you were the president's advisor, what would you do about fixing the economy?" In this class, which is open to all students, personal politics are not the issue – it's about analyzing candidates' positions on issues, what the characteristics of those issues are, and how, once a candidate becomes president, issues are addressed and policies made. And while there is a course schedule to stick to, current events (like the recent economic crisis and election results) often determine class discussion.

What students read: "The Politics of the Presidency" by Joseph A. Pika and John Anthony Maltese and selections from *CQ Researcher* "Issues for Debate in American Public Policy" are the assigned course readers, but students stay informed up-to-the-minute by reading Reuters newswire throughout the day. Other suggested reading includes "War in a Time of Peace" by David Halberstam.

Did you get the memo? Rather than torture students with lengthy research papers, Fowler requires his students to compose a series of two-page memos on policy topics ranging from presidential power to domestic policy and foreign policy issues. "I'm more interested in their ability to make a case in a succinct way, albeit with the same depth to the argument," Fowler says. The assignments have a practical application, too: "In their jobs, students' bosses aren't going to be interested in a long research paper. They're going to want it short and to the point."

Student showcase: Deviating from the traditional lecture-only class format, Fowler's course relies on student input as much as his prepared lectures. Students are required to submit discussion questions related to the assigned readings on a weekly basis that are then used to guide an open-forum Q&A session at the end of class.



Sphere Not! It's Art

Did you visit campus last summer? Did you notice the fuzzy green gumball down by the waterfront? While the piece looked like it might have been crafted in Willy Wonka's factory, it was actually a unique sculpture called the Moss Sphere.

Standing 10 feet in diameter, the Moss Sphere was created and constructed by 28 RWU students under the leadership of Janet Pihlblad, the University's visual arts visiting artist for 2007-08. The temporary installment featured a bright green moss cover with a single window frame cut into the sphere. The students built the wood skeletal structure first, stretched canvas over it, painted it and applied the moss.

Pihlblad said the artwork was designed to express wonderment and "an inside-out feeling about the intimacy of home and seemingly faraway places." She had worked with professional fabricators on past projects, she said, but she had never worked with students on a project quite this large. "Pulling it all together, making every aspect work and teaching 'how-to' simultaneously was a challenge, but the enthusiasm and exuberance of the students was a continual thrill for me."



For Two Young Alumni, Teaching (and Learning!) in South Korea

With the financial crisis in full swing, soaring unemployment rates and jobs cuts are affecting Americans of all generations. So what do you do if you're a college graduate looking to apply your hard-earned skills? Well, two recent RWU alumni took their job searches global, forgoing the typical paths to instead start teaching careers in South Korea.

For Alex Nichol '07, the global seed was planted while he studied at the School of Education, and teaching in South Korea seemed an attractive option upon graduation. During his yearlong stint overseas, Nichol taught students ranging from kindergarten to seventh grade and focused on subjects that included reading, writing, vocabulary, phonics, science and arts and crafts. Now a teacher at Nature's Classroom in Connecticut, he says that his initial trepidation about teaching abroad subsided as he adjusted.



Education major Alex Nichol jump-started his teaching career with a year in South Korea.

"I knew I'd get great teaching experience, and I've started encouraging other people to consider teaching abroad," he says. "It's a great chance to go see another part of the world. And it's amazing how far from home a Roger Williams degree can get you."

Danielle Bedard '07 also traveled to South Korea for a teaching assignment, albeit one a bit different than Nichol's. Heading overseas from a position with the New Bedford, Mass., school district, Bedard says she wasn't quite sure what to expect.

"I had heard about a few of the resources that this school would have to offer," she says. "I knew there was a pool, a squash court, a weight room, a soccer field and cardio equipment. And I knew I would have access to a few teaching materials that I didn't have in New Bedford! But when I saw my classroom and heard about some of the nifty teaching tools, I was giddy."

Bedard began her second year in South Korea this past fall. "Year two is an entirely different experience than year one," she says. "Although there is still so much to learn about the Korean culture, I'm not as shocked by things as I was last year. Exploring the country, I've advanced from



the role of follower to fearless-but-often-confused leader. There's a whole new crew of teachers this year who assume that as a one-year veteran, I'll know where to go and how to get there!"

The wealth of resources provided to teachers, however, also comes with added expectations: "Kids who read and write well, parents who are able to invest money and effort into the education of their children, and all the teaching resources I could ask for – the rest of the responsibility is on me."

Face to Face with...

Rabia Zahir

Psychology '09

At a university where global citizenship is a value and a priority, Rabia Zahir '09 feels right at home - and she's had quite a few. The daughter of an Afghani ambassador, Zahir spent her childhood migrating from one country to another India, Kuwait, Italy and Pakistan – before making her way back to Afghanistan in 2003. Constantly forced to learn new languages and make new friends (skills she appreciates more now than when she was a child), she credits her father for bringing the family along because it taught her how to survive in challenging environments. "Now, wherever you put me, I think it's very easy for me to adjust myself or find ways to blend in," Zahir says. ABOUT MOVING: It was difficult at times, Zahir says, but always an adventure. "We took our culture with us wherever we went. But we also took a little bit from each country we went to, too. In Italy, we celebrated Christmas with Afghani food! My whole life, it's been a mingling of cultures." MAKING HER OWN WAY: A psychology major, Zahir has always had a bit of a rebellious streak in her. "My parents wanted me to go to medical school, but I deviated." Zahir remembers slacking off in her pre-med classes in Pakistan: "I would go to the library to study and open books about philosophy and psychology and read them instead. They wouldn't let us borrow books, and the photocopy machine didn't work, so I would sit down and copy chapter after chapter. I still keep those notebooks with me today." HER ART: When she's not studying, Zahir unwinds by playing her guitar or painting. "I've been into the arts since I was a kid." Theater, music and painting top her list of interests. "It's very personal stuff. I play around with the idea of women's suppression in Afghanistan, kind of mocking the perception of the gender roles and how uncomfortable I am with them." AFTER GRADUATION: While she says she never wants to leave RWU, Zahir is looking to the future and plans to pursue graduate degrees in psychology so that she can return to Afghanistan and help children and women who desperately need someone to talk to: "It will be challenging, because psychology and psychotherapy aren't really recognized in Afghanistan. But I've seen it growing, and there's so much need for therapy, so that's what I'm going to do."



Historic Partnership Brings Anthony Quinn Collection to RWU



Actor, artist, writer and collector Anthony Quinn's long and prolific life serves as an example of creative passion and an unending quest for knowledge. The legendary Renaissance man – a Bristol resident from 1995 until his death in 2001 – is now connected to Roger Williams University through a historic partnership that was announced by Quinn's widow, Katherine, and President Nirschel in October.

The Anthony Quinn Teaching and Research Center at Roger Williams University will house Quinn's library and archives, providing a physical place and intellectual context for a wide range of programming opportunities. Guest lectures, exhibitions, film series and conferences will focus not only on his life and art, but also on the international issues and approaches to human exploration embodied in his work and interests.

Anthony Quinn Foundation, whose executive director and curator is historic preservation alumnus Benjamin Bergenholtz '04, will undertake a major fundraising effort to create a home for the center as part of a new, expanded library annex on the RWU campus.



Point • Counterpoint

Should faculty members interact with students on Facebook?



Brett McKenzie

Associate Professor of Computer Information Systems

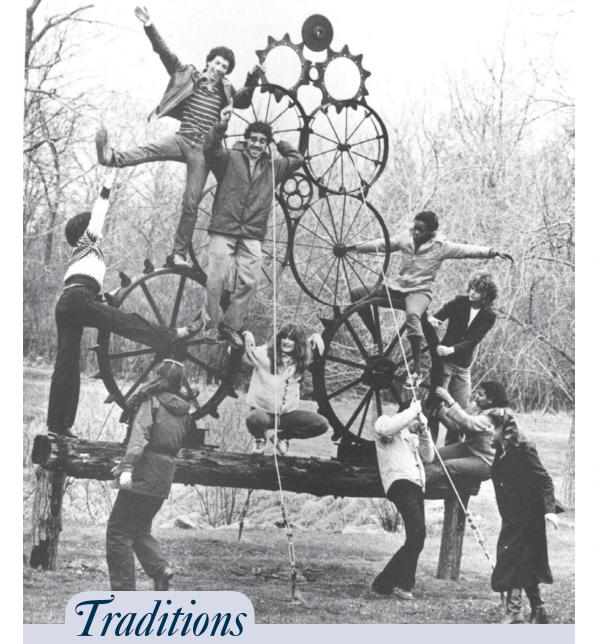
• Yes. While faculty and staff accounts on Facebook are still relatively rare, it is a real advantage for faculty members to have a presence on the social networking site, especially at an institution that promotes collaboration between faculty and students. Besides the obvious reward of having another means to communicate, Facebook allows us to learn from students and to show students that we are people, too – not just professors. Faculty Facebook pages are a little like our offices. They're personal domains where we display items that describe who we are – paintings we are fond of, books we value, past awards, photos of family and pets, and souvenirs of our travels, both physical and intellectual. Facebook allows me to share my passions, interests and background with a larger group of students than just my advisees. In addition, the site assists students in keeping in touch me with, in an informal setting, after their days at RWU end. I can be a stronger and more genuine advocate for those students when they ask for letters of reference or support for a graduate program or a career move.



Loren Byrne

Assistant Professor of Biology

• No. Although the temptation exists to interact with students on Facebook, I do not believe it is appropriate to do so if a faculty member uses this cyberspace – as I do – to socialize with personal contacts. My friends and I use Facebook to express personal, perhaps provocative and random, thoughts and opinions such as reactions to the recent presidential campaign. If students had access to my Facebook site, I would feel the need to filter my comments, which would reduce this medium's power for open communication. Also, I cannot control the postings of my friends who might add material that I would not want professional contacts to view – things like disagreeable statements or photos of me from crazy college days. This doesn't mean that I don't wish to engage with students in other more personal, yet appropriate, ways. I created a "fun stuff" section on my web page that lists my favorite music and movies, and I willingly talk with students in and out of the classroom about personal opinions and stories. Although it is certainly a choice that faculty members must make individually, my rationale for not interacting with students on Facebook is to help maintain a clear boundary between my personal and professional lives.



While this unique sculpture evokes memories for many who patrolled campus in the second half of the 1970s, few recall details about its creation. An informal poll produced these scant details: The sculpture, which sat near the pond by the Arts and Sciences building, was crafted from retired agricultural implements by late faculty member Jim Cathers in concert with students in a sculpture class. A photo of the sculpture (not this exact photo) appeared in a 1977-78 course catalog, so we know it was produced before then. Many campus community members loved it – because it evoked the kind of fun depicted in this photo – but just as many were less than enthusiastic about its prominent place on campus. All facts, memories, thoughts and opinions are welcome – e-mail us at magazine@rwu.edu.

RWU Joins Providence Police on 'Teaching Hospital' Model

The Providence Police Department in collaboration with RWU's Justice System Training and Research Institute – as well as Brown University Medical School, the Institute for the Study and Practice of Nonviolence and John Jay College of Criminal Justice – is embarking on a groundbreaking journey to change the way officers enforce the law.

Spearheaded by Col. Dean Esserman, chief of police in Providence, the new multifaceted partnership seeks to apply the "teaching hospital" model to the policing profession. New methods of instruction would expose officers of all ranks to more strategic ways of thinking and working and would provide the opportunity to apply experiences in a practical way.

"The Providence Police Department will be used as a working laboratory for conceptualizing, testing and implementing new strategies, organizational designs, policies, programs, trainings and evaluations, all geared toward exploring and refining ideas for advancing policing as a profession," Esserman said.

Robert McKenna, director of the Justice Institute, thinks the collaboration has potential for shifting law enforcement education: "I truly believe this can be a model program for changing the way police officers are trained," McKenna said. "To our knowledge, this program is the first of its kind. It's not being done anywhere else."

What's Spinning?

In case they hadn't been polled enough during election season, we tracked down students, faculty and staff members on the RWU campus and asked them what they've been listening to lately on their iPod, discman, turntable, eight-track or other player of choice. Oh, music can say so much...

Earl Gladue

Professor of Mathematics

- 1. Rain River Pat Metheny
- 2. Dance of the Dream Man Angelo Badalamenti
- 3. Nocturnes: Nuages Claude Debussy
- 4. Garota de Ipanema Stan Getz & João Gilberto
- 5. Billy the Kid Aaron Copland

Dominic Lombardi

RWU Junior and General Manager of WQRI Radio

- 1. Say Anything Woe
- 2. The Casting Call Teamwork
- 3. Strange Times The Black Keys
- 4. The City is at War Cobra Starship
- 5. Bada Bing! Wit' a Pipe! Four Year Strong

Roy Nirschel RWU President

- 1. Essence Lucinda Williams
- 2. All the Young Dudes Mott the Hoople
- 3. Lover of the Bayou Mudcrutch
- 4. All Along the Watchtower Bob Dylan
- 5. Sweet Jane The Velvet Underground

Carolyn Tidwell

Assistant Director of the Career Center

- 1. Who's Minding the Store? Dianne Reeves
- 2. Grazing in the Grass The Friends of Distinction
- 3. Glad I Know You Well Livingston Taylor
- 4. In Walked Bud Carmen McRae
- 5. The Stranger Billy Joel

Dianne Comiskey

Professor of Creative Writing & English Literature

- 1. Kind of Blue Miles Davis
- 2. One of These Nights The Eagles
- 3. Bad Things Jace Everett
- 4. Dirty Water The Standells
- 5. Catch the Wind Donovan



Cindy Salazar: RWU's Triple Threat

With Cindy Salazar, Roger Williams University "hit a triple," says a smiling RWU Law Dean David Logan, referring to the fact that Salazar earned both her undergraduate and graduate degrees at the University before commencing work on a law degree this past fall.

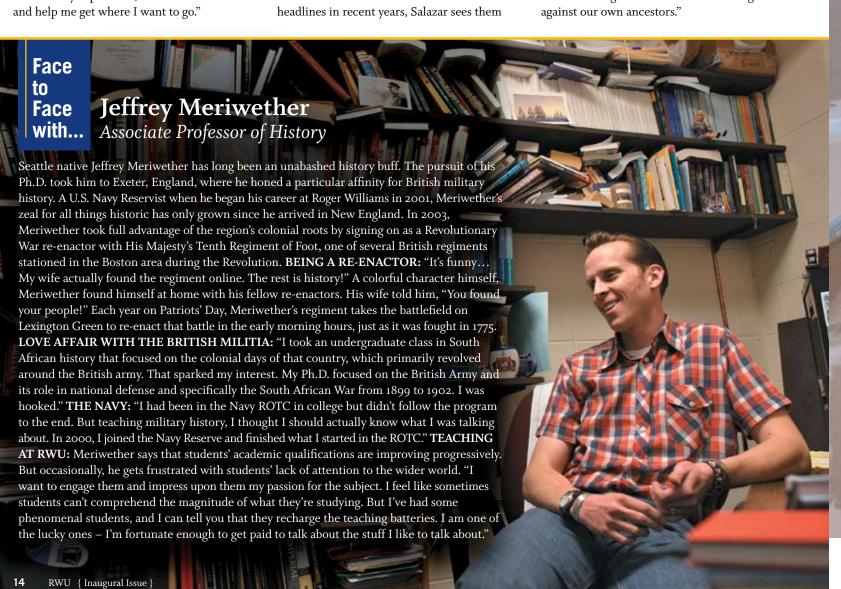
"I really liked the flavor of the campus from the start," Salazar explains. "You're not just a student - you're someone's daughter, someone with a home and a job, someone facing life's struggles and challenges. Every professor, every administrator, every secretary I've met here honestly seems to want me to succeed, to enhance my experience, to remove obstacles and help me get where I want to go."

For Salazar, that means making a difference as a lawyer representing immigrants. It's a mission she inherited from her parents, who moved to North Providence from Ecuador in the late 1960s and have been activists in Rhode Island's Latino community since. With both undergraduate and master's degrees in criminal justice, Salazar - who is also fluent in Spanish – believes a law degree will help her maximize her impact protecting the rights of the newest Americans.

Passionately opposed to what she calls the "heavy-handed, get-tough-on-immigration" initiatives that have filled local and national headlines in recent years, Salazar sees them

as an indication that some leaders have lost perspective on the U.S.'s central strength.

"This country is a melting pot," she says. "We all started in the same place – as newcomers in a new land. So I get upset when we forget or refuse to recognize that fact. To discriminate against the newest wave of immigrants is like discriminating





work. Once the planning is complete, the group has just two designated weekends to actually implement the home improvement.

Community involvement has been critical, Ebrahimpour says. The students host pasta dinners and silent auctions to raise money and have even knocked on doors in local towns to solicit financial help. Last spring's class raised more than \$13,000, and despite the recent economic downturn, the fall semester's group raised nearly \$4,000 for the project. Some local businesses, like Ace Hardware in Riverside, even donated materials for the home repair.

"You couldn't ask for a better college experience than hands-on work like this," said sophomore Brian Catignani, a business management major from West Barnstable, Mass., and one of the project managers.

"It is very hands-on," agreed finance major Scott Stirling '10, the other project manager from New Milford, Conn. "You learn how to approach companies and get them on board. It's a real-life situation."

Now in its fourth semester and having recently finished its second home, HIP is the first and only program of its kind at an undergraduate institution. The course is open to all undergraduate students, and the only prerequisite is a complete commitment to the project. Ebrahimpour interviews each applicant before he or she is admitted into the course, and he tells them all the same thing: "In this class, it's not about your grade - it's about a family, and their home needs to be finished. There can be no incompletes, no failures."

which to work was as big a challenge as putting together the right team of students to complete the program, class members say. The project's mission is to improve the quality of life for a family through renovation of their home. But when faced with nine potential homes for only one spot, the students had to develop selection criteria. They decided to choose the home in which they could have the largest impact - and finish - in the short timeframe.

Choosing the right home and family with



The most recent project has been at the home of the Sittingers, who through their church send care packages to soldiers overseas. Their home needed new windows, a new bathroom complete with flooring and new plumbing, a new roof, garage repairs and a kitchen update with new cabinets. Students later discovered that the house hadn't been updated since the 1920s.

"When we were doing demolition, we found artifacts from the 1920s," said senior Melanie Arduini, a psychology major from Bristol, Conn. "There were articles about the Lindbergh baby, penny postcards and letters from the war."

The students have enjoyed working with the family, said marketing major Emily Erickson '10 of Canton, Mass. "Karen [the homeowner] has been great. She made dinner for us last night. It's been difficult for her, too, because she's taking care of kids, her mom and pets."

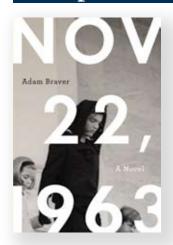
Last semester, students slept at the home to get the work done, Arduini said. This semester's team has time-managed a little better, but many of the students have devoted extra hours throughout the week and have stayed past their scheduled 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. shift. "It's all about teamwork," Erickson said. "It takes a lot of time and a lot of commitment, and there's no time for conflict. We have to work together."

The Sittingers have taken it all in stride and are genuinely appreciative of what the students are doing - they were really excited for Christmas in their new open-floor-plan dining and living room. By late fall, an early holiday gift was already on its way to the Sittinger home: Cardi's Furniture donated a complete dining room and living room set for the family.

"These kids are so nice," Jennie said. "They just go above and beyond and I appreciate every bit of it."

Members of the spring 2008 HIP team build new walls in a bedroom at the Sittinger home in Riverside, R.I.

Campus Bookstore



November 22, 1963 – A Novel By Adam Braver

Tin House Books, 2008 200 pages, \$14.95

About the Author

For Adam Braver – chair of the Creative Writing department at RWU's Feinstein College of Arts and Sciences - "November 22, 1963" marks his fourth major novel, all of which blend fact and fiction and center on major historical figures. Previous subjects include Abraham Lincoln ("Mr. Lincoln's Wars"), acclaimed actress Sarah Bernhardt ("Divine Sarah") and artist Vincent van Gogh ("Crows Over the Wheatfield").

Braver's books have been selected for the Barnes & Noble Discover New Writers program, the Borders Original Voices series, and twice for the Book Sense list. His work has appeared in journals such as Daedalus, Ontario Review, Cimarron Review, Water-Stone Review, Harvard Review, Tin House, West Branch and Post Road.

The Dust Jacket Version

"November 22, 1963" chronicles the day of John F. Kennedy's assassination. It begins in the morning, with Jackie Kennedy in a Fort Worth, Tex., hotel, about to leave for Dallas. Her airplane trip out of Dallas after the assassination forms the connecting arc for the book, which ends with Mrs. Kennedy's return to the White House at 4 a.m.

Interwoven throughout are stories of real people intimately connected with that day: a man who shares cigarettes with the first lady outside the trauma room; a motorcycle policeman flanking the entourage; Abe Zapruder, who caught the assassination on film; the White House staff following Mrs. Kennedy's orders to begin planning a funeral modeled on Lincoln's; and the morticians overseeing President Kennedy's autopsy.

Braver's brilliantly constructed historical fiction explores the intersection of stories and memories and reveals how together, they have come to represent and mythologize that fateful day.

You'll Enjoy This Book If...

You're a literature devotee but just can't get enough of American history, either.



Fighting for Their Lives

Just a year and a half out of law school, Akin Adepoju L'07 is already handling capital cases - assisting indigent defendants who have received death sentences after being represented by incompetent trial counsel.

As an attorney with the Fair Trial Initiative in Durham, N.C., Adepoju helps these "dead men walking" appeal their convictions and win second trials. His very first case with the Initiative, in fact, rescued a client from death row.

"While the hours are long and the cases emotionally taxing, the fight is noble and the reward is incredible," Adepoju says, adding that he considers it a distinct privilege to be handling such complex and high-stakes cases so early in his career. "It is an incredible opportunity to learn from senior attorneys how to practice law at the very highest level. It doesn't get any more serious than this: You screw up, your client gets killed. Most of us would say it's serious enough if our clients lose their home, custody of their child or their retirement savings!"

Adepoju credits his training at RWU Law - which included community service assignments, moot court, trial team and Criminal Defense Clinic – with helping him cultivate "a practical wisdom, passion and a fair mastery of substantive criminal law and evidence" that serves him well in his work.

On a personal level, Adepoju adds, "learning to exercise sound judgment, show mercy and really understand that we shouldn't be so self-righteous and unforgiving has transformed my life and relationships for the better." — *Michael M. Bowden*

Access: Granted

For a state that boasts more colleges and universities than it has counties, Rhode Island's K-12 schools are falling short in preparing students for higher education, a 2006 study conducted by the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education indicates. The study, in fact, awarded a meager C+ for preparation and noted that such underperformance could "limit the state's access to a competitive workforce and weaken its economy over time."

As a global economic crisis looms, RWU is doing its part to address these challenges through a variety of initiatives aimed at increasing access to higher education for youngsters in grades five through 12. Through several student mentoring partnerships with local schools, the University hopes to inspire students to start making college a serious goal.

One program that has been making waves across the Ocean State is RWU's signature mentoring program, Bridge to Success (BTS). Directed for the past year and a half by Don Mays of the University's Intercultural Center, BTS works with six high schools and one community center in under-resourced communities in Providence and Newport.

A pipeline for students seeking acceptance into four-year institutions – "hopefully RWU," Mays says – about 20 RWU undergraduate mentors spend time each week (some yearround) working with students on homework, study skills and college applications. "We set our expectations very high," Mays says. "The mentors show a lot of support to these kids and even attend their extra-curricular activities. They establish strong relationships."

Jennifer Duprey, a junior elementary education major at RWU, says, "I like being able to make personal connections with the students. Also, I like to challenge them and push them to do their best. A lot of times they want to settle, but when I work on an assignment with them and come back the next week, they get so excited to show me how well they did."

For participating high school students such as Christian Martinez, a senior at the

Providence Academy of International Studies, the introduction to college life is attractive. "Bridge to Success has helped me experience what it's like living on a college campus through the Summer Institute," he says. "For 11 days, 70 other students and I got to stay in Maple Hall and eat in the dining hall. And we had SAT Prep classes in the morning. I felt like I was already in college."

Of course, getting to college requires finishing high school – a problem for some Rhode Island high school students including many at Bristol's Mount Hope High School, where 17 percent of the Class of 2008 dropped out before graduation. Lack of commitment and involvement are major factors, says Josh Hiscock, who coordinates the SOAR Leadership Development Program at RWU. A three-tiered initiative involving nearly 100 University students, six SOAR leaders currently work with Mount Hope freshmen to increase college aspiration.

Based on a leadership model created in 1993 at UCLA, the program's philosophy is to effect change in the community by building leaders (trained RWU students) who cultivate



RWU junior communications major Amanda O'Brien (left) works with Charlene Wooten, a high school junior at the MET Center in Providence.

a younger corps of leaders (juniors and seniors at Mount Hope) who give underclassmen at the high school a head start on the skills needed to thrive in college. The RWU students have even written a curriculum for the high school mentors, including topics on setting goals, working with diverse groups of people and navigating high school.

"We're very proud of our SOAR leaders," Hiscock says. "The students are engaged. They work above and beyond all expectations for no academic credit. They're doing a great job."

Mount Hope Principal Donald Rebello sees the fruits of their labor. "In its infancy, our newly trained mentors and their ninth-grade trainees have been quite responsive," he says. "The program holds great promise to improve the learning culture at the high school."

Of course, it's never too early to plant the seed of a college education, and RWU's Fifth Grade Day does just this. Developed by KC Ferrara, director of RWU's Feinstein Center for Service Learning and Community Engagement, the event debuted last May, when 200 RWU student volunteers devoted their day to 236 wide-eyed fifth graders from the Bristol Warren Regional School District. They provided campus tours, including visits to classrooms, a residence hall and the Dining Commons, and gave basketball, diving and dance demonstrations.

"They demystified what RWU and college in general is all about," Ferrara says. "Middle school is an impressionable period for students. It's a good time to have them start to see the end result of their schooling before they finish."

With all of these mentoring programs in place, RWU is devoting economic and human resources toward making college a realistic objective for Rhode Island's youth. In doing so, the University hopes that individual students will benefit and that the overall outcome will be a better-prepared, highly trained workforce that will allow Rhode Island and other states to successfully compete in today's global economy. — *Karen Carlo Ruhren*

Guatemala Express

For Sandy Schreffler, associate professor of foreign languages at RWU, Spanish is more than just a language she teaches – it's a part of who she is. Over the past two summers, Schreffler has had the opportunity to share a very personal cultural experience with her students by taking them on a language immersion tour of Guatemala, her native land.

A far cry from your typical study abroad semester, the Guatemala trip lasts only four weeks, but Schreffler and her students explore as much of the country as possible, often visiting up to 10 locations. "You don't have to be a Spanish major to get something out of it," Schreffler said. "If you're interested in learning about a different culture or even seeing the natural beauty of Central America, this trip is for you."



While Schreffler structures the group's itinerary so that students are exposed to unfamiliar sights and sounds, the course's main focus is on Central American literature. Through literary works, students learn about Mayan culture, religious beliefs and history. Stops along the way include everything from visiting Guatemala's biotope for Quetzal birds and watching an Olive Ridley turtle lay its eggs on a black sand beach to visiting a local orphanage and exploring Mayan ruins.

The orphanage visit was a new addition this year, part of an effort to integrate the University's commitment to service learning with its global study abroad programs. Prior to their departure, Schreffler and students raised funds and gathered supplies for the facility, a tradition she hopes to continue in future trips. In Guatemala, the students took a tour of the orphanage and presented donations, both monetary and in the form of school supplies and toiletries.

"It was amazing," said Sarah Nahabedian, a senior marine biology major. "We brought school supplies and monetary donations, but what they really need are basic necessities like shampoo, conditioner and soap."

Heading to Guatemala, Nahabedian didn't know exactly what to expect from the trip. She came back energized: "It was the best month of my life – it was just an amazing experience."



The Magazine of Roger Williams University

SECCM Students Rise Above the Competition

Wealth. Power. Prestige. Well, almost.

For a team of seniors from the School of Engineering, Computing and Construction Management (SECCM), an innovative senior design project led to a handful of awards, prize money and job offers at one of a series of design competitions across the United States in which SECCM students participated during the 2008 academic year.

Last April, students competed at the 18th annual International Environmental Design Contest (IEDC), an academically demanding engineering competition created by WERC, a consortium for environmental education and technology development. Each year, students at the event are asked to tackle real-life challenges from notable companies such as Intel and government agencies such as Sandia National Laboratories.

Competitions like IEDC are designed to bring together students from various engineering backgrounds (environmental, computer, chemical and others) to take on problems that can only be solved with multiple viewpoints. Battling other schools in the Building Sustainability category, one RWU team was tasked with redesigning a building for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

To complete the project, students John Doto, Steven Hespeler, Garbis Ovalles and Joyann Pafumi used a 50-page document to guide them through the creation of an energy-efficient building for the EPA. Students worked in a virtual environment using Department of Energy simulations to come up with energy audits and savings for the building, which operates around the clock. Once they determined energy savings, the students had to invent and create a working prototype of their "green" technology.

For its efforts, the RWU team captured the Intel Design Innovation Award - the top award at the IEDC – the first-place WERC Design Prize for the category and the EPA Innovative Technology Travel Award. The



The winning team, from left to right: Garbis Ovalles, Professor Linda Riley, John Doto, Joyann Pafumi and Steven Hespeler.

team's prototype not only gained the attention of a cabinet-level official - they traveled to Washington to present to EPA Administrator Stephen L. Johnson – but also put \$7,500 in prize money in the students' pockets, provided job opportunities to some of them upon graduation and helped to put the University

"We competed against 23 other schools," said SECCM Dean Robert Potter. "What that tells us is that our program and our graduates are competing with the best and winning."

They are also getting a leg up on their future. Pafumi, who landed Intel's Terry McManus Award for Environmental Passion, says the WERC competition taught the team about innovative technologies, proper presentation and public speaking skills – abilities that have served her well both inside and outside of the classroom.

"From my project I found the path of my future career, which has led me to Scotland to obtain a master's in environmental sustainability," Pafumi said. "From our project and the hands-on experience, I have an advantage over my fellow postgraduate classmates who have never seen a cost-benefit analysis or some of the new 'green technologies' being used today."

Linda Riley, professor of engineering and the team's advisor, credits the students' success to what she says is a unique engineering program at RWU: "These competitions are just one facet of very well-developed senior design experiences that involve everything the students have learned in the previous three years of study." — Patricia Resende

Green Across the Globe - Sustainable Design at SAAHP

With eco-friendly design projects splashed on the pages of newspapers across the country, sustainability has become a watered-down buzzword of late. At the School of Architecture, Art and Historic Preservation (SAAHP), however, green design is anything but an emerging trend. From development of alternatives to suburban sprawl to activism on wind energy design, the School's initiatives on sustainable development run deep.

"Sustainability and growth issues are important to our communities because it finally seems that they can't be avoided," says Stephen White, SAAHP's dean. "I think we all realize that energy is an issue, water supply is an issue, congestion is an issue, as is loss of open space across the country."

Professor Ulker Copur has devoted nearly 20 years to researching and teaching the concepts of ecologically responsible planning. Copur and students have crafted ecological master plans aimed at reducing carbon footprints of communities ranging from Hanover, Germany, to Zeytinburnu, Turkey. Closer to RWU's home in Bristol, R.I., Copur's students are participating in the town's comprehensive planning process, developing an eco master plan for a local residential community. The finished plans, which explore everything from energy-saving buildings and alternative energy to design that is pedestrian friendly, then become resource material for architects or planners who develop sites.

"Since sustainability has become a significant issue, we, as teaching institutes, have a major role in disseminating sustainability information through our teachings," Copur says. "In our case, that means demonstrating how ecological environments could be constructed and regenerated."

Professor Edgar Adams and students have worked with neighboring cities and towns to create transit-oriented design plans for the potential re-introduction of a commuter rail in Southeastern Massachusetts. Most recently, Adams' class members worked with the city

of New Bedford, Mass., to outline a plan for a waterfront development around a new train and bus station. The site included multi-family and single-family housing, green space and small-scale retail and office space, thus creating a less car-dependent community.



SAAHP student Keith Carlson developed a plan for the Dean Street site in Taunton, Mass., that transforms a former rail depot and manufacturing facilities into a mixed-use community.

"Most of the students are from suburban backgrounds and know all too well the limitations of growing up in isolated, car-dependent suburbs," Adams says. "They're eager for alternatives, they want to make a difference, and they realize that their generation will have to shoulder the responsibility for our wasteful habits."

SAAHP student Matt Gruneberg worked on the New Bedford plan and says he'd love to live in such an area: "I think with the surge of gas prices last summer, we all saw that doing little things to help were necessary, whether it was riding a bike or carpooling. Transit-oriented development is the ultimate solution – the ability to have everything you need within walking distance along with the capability to travel farther on the train or bus."

Harnessing the wind as a clean source of energy has propelled recent work by Professor Eleftherios Pavlides, who – backed by a series of Rhode Island Renewable Energy Grants has strived since 2003 to raise public interest and measure public attitudes on wind power. Pavlides ran a survey that found high levels of support for turbine installations in Bristol and Portsmouth, R.I., a finding confirmed by a referendum that found more than 76 percent of Bristol residents supported an in-town turbine installation.

Additionally, Pavlides was funded to supervise SAAHP students creating photographic wind turbine simulations for nine Rhode Island towns, businesses and universities and to develop an educational presentation on wind energy. Nearby Portsmouth Abbey School used the information to help permit the first wind turbine installation in the state.

Pavlides provided the presentation and supporting research to the Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation and to state legislators at a 2005 Energy Summit, which helped formulate a 15 percent wind electricity goal for the state in five years. He is currently serving on the state's Ocean SAMP (Special Area Management Plan), which will define areas for wind power development.

Pavlides' interest in wind power was fueled initially by student interest. "Students asked me whether they could do a project on how people perceive wind turbines in the landscape," he says. "They were reading about the controversy at Cape Wind, and as architecture students they could not understand why anybody would fail to see wind turbines as beautiful."

The School's sustainability initiatives don't end there. As Copur notes, the results of such efforts, as well as getting students excited about them, can be profound: "If we all contribute an aspect of sustainability to improve our community, in a short time we can hope to see changes at a local level. And in the near future, we'll slow down global warming." — Jill Harrington



Municipalities across the country often face similar challenges as they work to provide adequate services to residents, in many cases with increasingly limited budgets. What if local officials could tap into a pool of expertise to help them research best practices, collaborate with nearby communities and ultimately solve public policy issues?

For a number of Rhode Island communities, the RWU Institute for Public Policy (IPP) has served just that need since its 2006 start. The Institute resulted from dialogue between University President Roy J. Nirschel and Providence Mayor David N. Cicilline, who decided that a partnership between the city and the University would be fruitful.

"The University has a tremendous amount of intellectual capital – experts in architecture, engineering, marine biology, social sciences – and all of these people can help local communities solve problems," says June Speakman, a political science faculty member who now co-directs the IPP.

Faculty members working with the IPP rely on undergraduate students – eager to apply their classroom skills to real-world projects – to assist with research. RWU is also home to a successful master's in public administration (MPA) program since 2003, a natural partner for the Institute's projects.

"We feel that the IPP and the MPA have a symbiotic relationship where the IPP can utilize MPA students to act as interns or research assistants on projects," says Anne Wolff-Lawson, program administrator for both entities. "This way, we share the collective resources of the University with the community, while

our students learn in the process."

After the IPP demonstrated success in Providence, neighboring communities began to approach the Institute for assistance. As part of the town of Bristol's recent comprehensive planning process, Speakman led undergraduates in a State and Local Government course in an effort to survey Bristol residents about community needs.

"The Bristol project allowed us to combine classroom work with real-world research for a live client," Speakman says. "The town needed answers to questions, and my students provided those answers through survey research. They presented to town officials and wrote a report that is now part of the comprehensive plan."

Another research project examined ways in which East Providence could reduce expenditures by consolidating overlapping municipal functions related to facilities management, technology, finance and human resources. The study included 14 recommendations designed to mitigate potential budget shortfalls while maintaining services. The research took a year to complete, during which time 60 city and school employees were interviewed.

"Given the economic climate, a variety of tax caps and the prospects for reductions in state aid to cities and towns, this would seem to be a good time for municipalities to turn to the Institute for Public Policy as a resource," says Lee Arnold, an adjunct professor who led the East Providence study.

Since information sharing can be a crucial ally in confronting public policy issues, the IPP spearheaded the development of the East Bay Leadership Summit, which brings

together town managers, town council members and educational leaders from the nine municipalities that make up the East Bay section of Rhode Island. Officials discuss issues of common concern and brainstorm on ways to collaborate. One successful result has been the East Bay/RWU Information Collaborative, a digital repository of documentation that might prove mutually beneficial.

"If Portsmouth submits a grant application for funding for a wind turbine, Bristol can then grab that application to see how Portsmouth created it," Speakman says.

One of the Institute's most successful initial projects has been a partnership with the Government and Public Administration Academy at Shea High School in Pawtucket. Each year since 2006, 15 to 20 Shea students attend a course related to public administration developed collaboratively by IPP professors and Shea teachers. Two days a week, the Shea students participate in an internship at a local or state agency or a nonprofit organization - places like the Rhode Island Family Court, the Blackstone Children's Shelter and the Rhode Island Statehouse. The U.S. Department of Education has recognized the Academy at Shea as a national model for its Career Cluster Initiative in Government and Public Administration.

All of these projects help to build bridges on the local level.

"Roger Williams University has a lot of expertise to offer," Speakman says. "The Institute for Public Policy is one very successful means to offer that expertise." — Neil Nachbar







What, Exactly, Is a Locavore?

Good question. Until a year ago, few could answer with any certainty. But when the Oxford American Dictionary plucked *locavore* from the granola lexicon and named it the 2007 word of the year, the term slowly started to seep into the consciousness of mainstream America – largely through the news media, which blasted readers with headlines like "The Rise of the Locavore" (*Business Week*) and "Locavorism" (*New York Times Magazine*).

"The 'locavore' movement," Oxford says, "encourages consumers to buy from farmers' markets or even to grow or pick their own food, arguing that fresh, local products are more nutritious and taste better. Locavores also shun supermarket offerings as an environmentally friendly measure, since shipping food over long distances often requires more fuel for transportation."

Jessica Prentice, a culinary adventurer from San Francisco, earns credit for coining the word. In 2005, Prentice joined forces with other local food activists and challenged Bay Area residents to eat locally for a month.

In publicizing the effort, the group needed a moniker – Prentice settled on locavore, and the name stuck.

There is, of course, no rite of passage that officially crowns someone a true locavore. Largely, the word is subjective. Is it even possible to subsist solely on foods that come from the local area? Certainly, but the challenge is monstrous. And who defines local, anyway? Some say the radius should be 100 miles; others say 150 or more.

"You start eating locally by eating from your own garden," says Jim Lemire, a proponent of the movement who works in RWU's Marine and Natural Sciences division. "Next, move to your town. If that's not enough, go to local areas beyond your town's borders but within your region, and expand concentrically."

More than adherence to an inflexible creed, locavorism is about adopting a mindset Lemire says. "It's ideological. The definition of locavore is less about geographic area, and more about your general mindframe – what you consider to be important."

For different individuals, that ideology manifests itself in very different ways. Schofield favors the do-it-yourself direction, more than might be practical for many people Lemire, who lives in suburban Attleboro, Mass., grows vegetables and fruits in a small garden, buys organic meats from local farmers and purchases shares in a community-supported agriculture (CSA) program. Joe Carney, a manager for RWU dining services provider Bon Appétit, buys produce from a CSA, barters with local fishermen and grows fresh herbs in a garden. For others, it might mean even less – frequenting a farmers' market once a week or looking for "locally grown" labels in the grocery store.

One thing that nearly any locavore will tell you is that the concept is far from new. Until the transportation, industrial and agricultural developments of the last century, few Americans were anything but locavores. The evidence, however – both statistical and anecdotal – points to a re-emerging trend in recent years.

Karla Young and her husband, Tyler, run the Young Family Farm in Little Compton, which counts RWU among its customers in search of locally grown produce. "Customers are savvy," Karla Young says. "At the farm stand, they ask: 'Is this yours? Did you grow it here?' They want to protect the Earth, they want to know if they're supporting the local community and doing something good for small farmers."

In the past six years, the number of small farms like Young's has increased 20 percent to 1.2 million, data from the U.S. Agriculture Department indicates. The number of farmers' markets in the country has doubled, and sales at those venues have reached nearly \$1 billion. In an era in which the average food item travels 1,500 miles before landing on a plate, locavores say that's significant progress.

Noah Fulmer, executive director of non-profit Farm Fresh Rhode Island, attributes the recent refocus on eating locally to a number of factors: the digital revolution has allowed online networking between like-minded locavores; the emphasis on global climate change has encouraged people to think sustainability on a variety of fronts; and recent food scares (spinach, cilantro, tomatoes) have caused Americans to question why our food system is so centralized that one contamination can cease supply to the entire nation.

"Since the Great Depression, we've found ourselves stuck in the mode of commodity food production to the point that people are getting sick and the land is getting sick," Fulmer says. "It doesn't taste good, it's increasingly processed, and people want to re-assert control over food production."

Skip Paul, who runs Wishing Stone Farm in Little Compton and operates a CSA program that has doubled in size over the past five years, thinks that the 9/11 terrorist attacks played a role. "At some level of consciousness, I think people want to know someone who can actually feed them if everything goes to hell," Paul says. "People are starting to acknowledge an uneasiness about where their food comes from."

The Magazine of Roger Williams University

And Why Should I Consider This?

Food security is one reason, as Fulmer and Paul point out. But the rationales that locavores articulate and the benefits each enjoys vary tremendously. Some focus on the individual, some on the community and others on the environment at large. Here are a few of the most commonly cited motivations:

Local food is fresher, healthier and tastes better. It's impossible to describe these benefits without intertwining them. For both taste and healthfulness, freshness is key – if a tomato doesn't have to sit on a truck for weeks or withstand the rigors of being transported, a farmer can grow a tomato that's built more for flavor than for strength. That means no chemicals, no preservatives, more vitamins and nutrients and powerful taste.

"The celery we get from our CSA tastes like celery times two!" Carney says. "Our garlic is just more garlicky. Flavors are a little bit more potent."

Lemire says that local food producers not zeroed in on mass production can implement practices that lead to healthier foods. "Local tends to be smaller in production and subscribes to a package of ideas – organic, grass-fed beef, no antibiotics, no hormones. I'm willing to bet that eating that diet is healthier."

Buying locally supports local farmers and the local economy. "When our food dollars stay local, they're invested in local taxes and go toward local jobs," Fulmer says. "These familyowned farms are small businesses – they are our neighbors."

And for many of them, it's a daily challenge to stay afloat when competing with mass production farms in California and other locales where the climate allows year-round growing. Ten years after opening their farm, Karla and Tyler Young are just beginning to show a profit. "It's truly affecting local businesses on a day-to-day basis," Karla says. "The locavore movement has helped our wholesale business – places like Roger Williams are calling us for food – and our sales at the farm stand."

RWU junior visual arts major Jessica Medeiros started considering local foods after working at a farm stand. "The fruits and vegetables are fresh, and they taste great," she says. "But I also love supporting the local farmers. There are fewer and fewer farm stands than there used to be, and I think it's great that local farmers are trying to keep their businesses going."

Locally grown foods have less of an environmental impact. Watched a presidential debate lately? Energy expenditure, you know, is of concern. Quite simply, the less distance food travels, the less energy is used to transport it. Even committing to buy a small percentage of food from the local area can dramatically impact fossil fuel savings.

"Compare the carbon footprint of organic lettuce that comes to us from California," says Bon Appétit general manager James Gubata, "with something that comes from right down the street. There's no comparison."

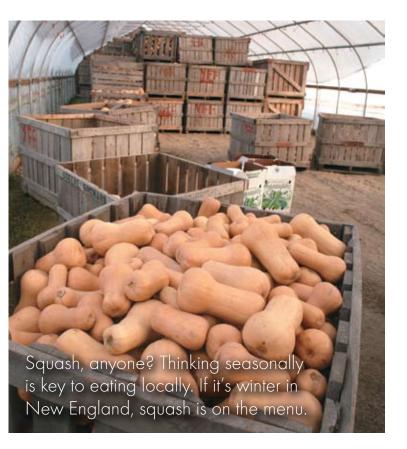
Coll Walker, a 63-year-old farmer in Little Compton who also sells to RWU, says that supporting farms like his also helps to preserve open space and prevent suburban tracts and strip malls: "People want to see the farms kept as farms!" Walker says.

Buying and eating locally nurtures a sense of community. Perhaps not the most obvious benefit of locavorism, connecting to community is a defining motivation for many locavores.

"I have a very strong sense of New England identity, and I'm proud to be from this region," Lemire says. "If I can support the community members around me, it adds to that sense of place."

It's a family experience, too, Lemire says. In fact, it was the experience of becoming a father that urged him to invest his time and energy into eating locally. "Now that I have a seven-year-old and a four-year-old, the idea of food serving a central place in our family is really important to me. I realized that sitting down to dinner when I've actually cooked a meal, not just thrown a frozen pizza in the oven, means a lot to my children. If that experience is important, then the actual food is important, too."

Those are just starting points. Other locavores will tell you they save money by eating locally, learn about new foods by going to farmers' markets, feel connected to the Earth by getting their hands dirty in the garden or eat locally solely in an effort to avoid supporting factory farms.





RWU {Inaugural Issue}

How Do I Sign Up?

It's hard to muster much of an argument against the concept of eating locally. Chief among the challenges of actually implementing an eat-local strategy are two things: (1) ease of access to local food; and (2) dedicating the time and energy it takes to purchase and prepare local foods. In today's world, access to local foods has become easier; but when you're working overtime, coaching kids' soccer games and finding time to pay the bills, number two is often the deal breaker.

Thankfully, locavorism is not an all-or-nothing concept. Even for the most dedicated, it's nearly impossible to flip a switch and become a full-fledged locavore overnight – unless you're willing to forgo coffee, bananas and other staples of the American diet. But if you've bought into the concept, numerous small steps can get you moving in the right direction. Here are a few suggestions:



Think seasonally.

This is the biggest key. If you're used to eating an array of fruits and vegetables on demand, you're not going to accomplish that by eating locally. "Structure your food choices along what's in season," Fulmer advises. If you live in New England and want strawberries, enjoy them in June but live without them in February. And realize that your sweet corn won't be ready on the first day of summer – you'll have to wait until mid July.

Visit your local farmers' market.

At these venues, you're buying directly from your local farmer. You'll support local businesses, you'll get fresh fruits, vegetables and other products, and you'll likely expose yourself to new types of foods, depending on what's in season. "Local farmers plant a little bit of a lot of different things," Lemire says. "It's the whole idea of a polyculture as opposed to growing one thing and growing a lot of it."

Buy vegetables at a roadside farm stand.

Again, you're buying directly from the farmer. And you'd be amazed to hear that some farmers sustain themselves almost entirely on farm stand revenue. It can be a learning experience, too. "We built our stand so that customers would come to us," Young says. "And we try to educate them about farming – show them how apples grow, how potatoes grow and how a farm like ours works."

Ioin a CSA.

In a CSA, members purchase a share of the farm's products for a particular season and are rewarded each week with fresh, seasonable fruits and vegetables that are about as fresh as you can get. Typically, the only complaint about CSAs is the quantity of food – sometimes participants get so much produce, they can't even use it all. "The variety of vegetables we get in our CSA is tremendous," Carney says. "We got celery root for the first time last year – this gnarly looking root. We found a recipe, made soup with it, and it was amazing!"

Grow your own.

Perhaps everyone is not in the position to create a small farm like Schofield's, but even the most devoted urbanites have found ways to grow vegetables and herbs. Start small. "Just plant an apple tree," Lemire says. "Being outside, working in the garden, planting an apple tree to grow your own apples – the whole process is fulfilling."

Choose wisely in the grocery store.

Some experts advocate for customers to stay on the perimeter of the supermarket in a direct attempt to avoid the processed foods in the middle aisles. However, even on that perimeter, finding locally grown foods can be challenging. Supermarkets have started labeling food as local in many cases. Try it, and voice your desire for local foods to the store managers – more local products might find their way to the shelves.

Reduce your beef consumption, just a bit. Beef is one of the highest-carbon foods we consume. "Maybe choose a higher-quality meat that is grass-fed or comes from a local farm," Fulmer says. "You can reduce the energy footprint that's associated with meat."

Read all about it.

A handful of recent books have helped propel locavorism into the mainstream. Few locavores will speak to newbies without recommending Michael Pollan's "The Omnivore's Dilemma" or Barbara Kingsolver's "Animal, Vegetable, Miracle." There's even a series of edible Communities magazines (examples: edible Rhody and edible Seattle) devoted to the eat local movement.

Cook a "local meal" once a week.

For the true beginner, one meal per week will be challenging enough. Work your way up slowly. At minimum, you'll start to think harder about your food choices and their effects on your body, your community and your environment.

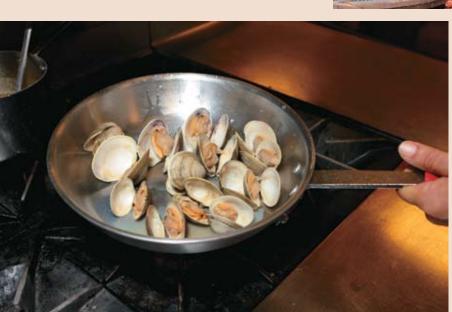
Follow the grandmother rule.

"If your grandmother wouldn't recognize something as a food, then don't eat it," Lemire says. "Go-GURT? If she wouldn't eat it, then don't eat it. It really extends beyond just eating locally now – you're entering the realm of just being healthful. Eat the freshest foods you can with the fewest ingredients. In general, those are going to be the foods you find locally." ****

"Eat the freshest foods you can with the fewest ingredients.
In general, those are going to be the foods you find locally."

- lim Lemire











From Farm to Fork at RWU

Countless Roger Williams University students, whether they know it or not, are well on their way to eating like locavores. That's because Bon Appétit Management Company, the University's food services provider, is renowned as an industry leader in providing fresh, healthy food to colleges, universities and other institutions. And many of their ingredients come from the local area.

"Bon Appétit is really about scratch cooking and creating beautiful food," says General Manager James Gubata. "We try to get the best possible food to prepare our recipes, and nothing really compares to cooking with local ingredients. The lettuce we get from Mello's Farm right down the street is fresher, healthier and tastes better than something we ship in from California."

From hosting a farmers' market on campus to promoting an annual Eat Local Challenge to making daily purchasing decisions, Bon Appétit works toward sustainability to as large a degree as possible. In 2007, Bon Appétit and Roger Williams committed to purchasing all of the University's milk from a group of eight farms in Rhode Island who sell under the Little Rhody

brand. It costs 10 cents more per gallon than milk from non-local dairies, but Gubata says it supports farms that otherwise would have to fight to stay in business.

"Does it cost a little more?" Gubata asks.

"Yes. And we do need clients who are willing to support that. We try to conduct business in a way that's respectful to the local community. We can get the best ingredients possible to prepare beautiful, healthy food, and local communities are not losing any more farms than they already have." — BEC



With the New Hope Diner Project, an RWU alumnus and an adjunct professor offer innovative alternatives for juvenile corrections

By Melissa A. Smith-MacDonald

It was a routine January day at the Rhode Island Training School, the state's juvenile detention center in Cranston, where John Scott '00 was working on the corrections officer line staff, enjoying his post outside of the culinary arts classroom. Ordinary, that is, until shortly after 11 a.m. when the phone rang with a call that would ultimately affect Scott and the youths around him more than he could have imagined.

Scott's wife happened to stumble across "The View," ABC's daytime talk show, while flipping channels that morning and immediately called to alert him to what he describes as the "opportunity of a lifetime for an amateur chef." Barbara Walters and company were hosting "The View's Next Amateur Celebrity Chef Contest," and Scott knew he had to get in on the action.

"I had until the next day at 5 p.m. to deliver an audition tape," Scott says. "My wife got the ingredients, my brother-in-law filmed me cooking, and the next day we drove down to drop it off. It was my first time in New York City, and it took about 30 seconds to hand the tape to the security guard."

For an amateur chef, what better way to get the adrenaline pumping?

A week later, another phone call – this time from the show's producer – and the news was good. Over the next month, Scott lived out a fantasy in three episodes, preparing dishes for the hosts and celebrity guest judges Robin Leach, Bobby Flay, Rocco DiSpirito and Mario Batali. Despite the challenge of whipping up New Zealand rack of lamb in a Reynold's Wrap disposable pan, Scott cooked his way to the final four, and it was only by hat-draw that he didn't make it to the finale. Overall, though, the experience was a thrill.



Back at the Training School, he and Culinary Arts Instructor Bill Tribelli – who had just published a cookbook, "Jailhouse Cooking" – found themselves on the receiving end of a lot of local media attention. Looking for a way to capitalize on their recent successes in a way that might benefit the residents at the Training School, Scott and Tribelli focused on the excitement surrounding the culinary arts program.

"We got to talking and came up with the idea of a diner as a culinary project," Scott says. He may not have won the contest, but the idea he and Tribelli were brewing conjured smells of sweet success.

The Basic Ingredients

A new take on traditional vocational training programs, the New Hope Diner Project – the moniker eventually chosen for the project – addresses what Scott saw as a lack of applicable vocational training both at the Training School and in Rhode Island. The program brings together juvenile offenders (*residents*, in Training School lingo) and broken-down breakfast diners, both cast aside by the communities that once welcomed them, giving the young inmates and old diners a second chance.

A handful of these broken-down relics now reside behind a row of razor-wire fence where residents selected to participate in the New Hope program work for a few hours a day to restore them, learning trade skills that will prepare them for jobs on the outside. There is Hickey's Diner, an old lunch car from Taunton, Mass.; Sherwood's Diner from Worcester, Mass.; the much larger Louis' Diner from Concord, N.H., complete with stained glass windows and basket-weave tile detailing; and Mike's Diner, once a familiar landmark in Providence, R.I.

The program provides training in areas such as carpentry, upholstery, metalworking, plumbing – even historic preservation, thanks to Daniel Zilka, who runs the American Diner Museum and travels to the Training School twice a week to aid in the restoration process.

Residents must come prepared and act professionally at all times, as the worksite

seeks to closely replicate what they will find outside of the corrections facility. They also must have (or nearly have) completed a high school diploma or GED and have demonstrated appropriate behavior that allows them to be included in the school's general population.

"When they arrive on site, they have to be ready to spring into action," says Scott, who now serves as the community liaison for the Training School. "They already know what protective equipment they need to be wearing because we teach OSHA [Occupational Safety and Health Administration] classes. Really, we're just trying to work on some of those life skills – how to show up on time, how to dress appropriately, how to handle conflict when it arises in the workplace – that an employer is going to want when they get out."

Kevin McKenna, an adjunct professor at Roger Williams University who oversees juvenile probation for the Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF), agrees that teaching preparedness is key because of the lack of employment opportunities available to the state's teenagers. Whereas in the 1990s McKenna was able to place juvenile probationers in the mills to accrue work experience, stricter OSHA age and certification requirements and a lack of available jobs have shut them out. The New Hope Diner Project can help make up for those lost skills by providing a structured environment in which the residents can learn.

"These kids have so much talent," McKenna says, "but they need to understand that when they get out into the real world, they have to show up at a certain time for a job or the boss doesn't want them. This program is about taking that talented and gifted kid and helping him understand what professionals have to do in order to make a living."



Watch your fingers! Training School Carpentry Instructor Norm Lambert guides a diner student trimming lumber.



Seventeen-year-old Brian works on the skeleton of Hickey's Diner. Thanks to Preserve R.I., the hammer is his very own to take with him to his next training program, along with chisels and a measuring tape.

"The Diner Project is an opportunity to give students some real concrete skills and training, to make a living to make a life - and secure jobs that will keep them away from the kinds of activities that landed them here in the first place."

- DCYF Executive Director Tom Bohan

Food for Thought

Tricia Martland, a justice studies professor at RWU and a former judge for the Rhode Island Juvenile Drug Court, says a program like New Hope is an important model for juvenile corrections and that tie-in with the community is key because the youths will, at some point, re-enter the communities they left behind.

"In the juvenile justice system, our goal is to give kids the best chance to make good choices on the outside," Martland says.

"Having a program like this one, where kids get training and are meeting business people in the community who are willing to give them a chance – that's priceless."

And apparently rather unique. According to Martland, she knows of only one other program in the country similar to the New Hope Diner Project. Project CRAFT, a vocational training program sponsored by the Home Builders Institute and the National Association of Home Builders in the 1990s, also worked to provide work and social skills to high-risk youths and prepare them for job placement. The program was started as an initiative to reduce the rate of repeat offenses (recidivism, in corrections-speak) among juvenile offenders, and Martland says it worked. Youths who participated in Project CRAFT became repeat offenders at a rate of 26 percent versus the national rate of 70 percent. She believes that the Diner Project could have similar success, especially because of Rhode Island's unique status as a state with a tiny population.

"These kids are learning to do something productive, which gives them self esteem," she says. "In the juvenile justice system, we are always looking for programs like this one."

Martland says the juvenile justice system is always aiming to reduce recidivism by educating juvenile offenders, but the community needs education too, says Training School Superintendent Warren Hurlbut: "It's always difficult, from an institutional standpoint, transitioning kids back into the community and getting the community to accept them. Diners have always brought people together. Now the Diner Project is bringing these kids and their communities back together in a positive way."

Daniel Zilka of the American Diner Museum is a mentor to residents like Michael, 19, who often lack strong role models outside of the Training School.

Hurlbut, who has served as superintendent for 11 of his 32 years in the juvenile corrections field, believes that as the Diner Project grows, the fundamental premise of the program has potential to be replicated as a national model. "It's a concept you could replicate with other kinds of things where kids are giving back to the community depending on what the local needs are," he says.

DCYF Executive Director Tom Bohan credits the collaboration between corrections and probation for much of the program's success. "Historically, the hand-off from one to the other is much too abrupt," he says. "We're constantly trying to make it a more seamless transition from the Training School back into the community. The Diner Project is an opportunity to give students some real concrete skills and training, to make a living – to make a life – and secure jobs that will keep them away from the kinds of activities that landed them here in the first place."

Community support has been crucial to the project's success, Scott and McKenna say, and it is the community-wide buy-in (both in Rhode Island and at DCYF) that has helped the Diner Project get off the ground. The program wasn't hatched as a full-fledged training program, after all – the original plan from Scott and Tribelli was simply to bring a donated diner to the Training School, have the residents fix it up in their carpentry class and run it as a food service for the school's employees and their fellow residents.

"When John started this program, the focus was on culinary and then also entering into the trades," McKenna says. "It was based on looking inside. But this program is about the outside. It's about deterring. That's why it has become a juvenile corrections service model. This is not just a Training School project – it's a juvenile corrections project and a community-based project."

No Meal Ticket Here

Just as integral from day one was the idea that the project should fund itself, Scott says: "We knew we didn't want it to be a burden on the



taxpayers; we knew we wanted it to be a youth initiative; and we knew we wanted it to be self-sustaining."

It's a novel concept for a government agency, they know, but so far it's worked, and Scott has partnered with more than a dozen community-based organizations that now support the program. Working with New Harvest Coffee Roasters in Pawtucket, R.I., Scott and company have developed the New Hope Coffee line, a socially conscious, certified-organic, kosher and fair-trade medium roast sold at local coffeehouses and retail shops. About \$4 from every sale goes back to the Diner Project, funding the purchase of hardware, lumber, tile, glass and other materials to restore the diners.

"We have a window of opportunity to build some self-esteem and self-confidence, to develop a skill of interest and to build some bridges back into the community to use those skills." - John Scott '00

Of course, in order to work on the diners, the residents need tools. Now, thanks to a grant from Preserve Rhode Island, each New Hope participant gets his own tool belt (to date, all Diner Project participants have been male) – including a hammer, tape measure and chisels – that he will take with him (hopefully to a new training program or worksite) when he leaves the Training School. And, while both Scott and McKenna are quick to point out the encouragement and support of DCYF and the Training School administrators, none of it has been financial.

"We are running a program that is adding no additional burden to taxpayers in Rhode Island," Scott says. "Everything we do is self-funded through revenue-generating streams from the coffee line, donations from businesses and people in the community who've been contributing to the project."

Scott's experience with the media from his days on "The View" has helped spread the word about the Diner Project and garner support from community organizations. After news articles about New Hope began popping up in *The Boston Globe* and other local papers, Scott, McKenna and Zilka sat down for a radio interview with National Public Radio. In July, the project appeared on the front page of the national section of *The New York Times*. An interview with the BBC followed, and now filmmaker Michele LeBrun is shooting a documentary on the project.

While Scott welcomes the media spotlight, he admits that it can be overwhelming at times: "Never in a million years did I think my life's work would be the subject of a documentary!" he says.

A Recipe for Success

The project has not come without challenges, of course. There's the tightrope balancing act between meeting residents' immediate needs inside the Training School and extending the project into the community, creating a social enterprise that will provide further training and employment opportunities for them when they are released. And there's the revolving-door culture of the Training School, which gives Scott and his coworkers roughly three to six months to work with the residents for only a few hours at a time.

Slowly but surely, though, the diners – and the residents – are getting those second chances. One resident, 19-year-old Michael, had a job as an ironworker before he came to the Training School. He's been grateful for the opportunity to work on the diners. "I like hands-on stuff more than sitting in the classroom," he says. He wants to own his own business someday and says he plans to enroll in business classes at Community College of Rhode Island and then University of Rhode Island upon his release.

Brian, 17, is now considering a career in carpentry. "I'm supposed to be out of here soon," he says, "and there's another program I can go to and get another certification, then I can go to a jobsite and maybe be a carpenter's assistant or an apprentice."

According to Scott, this is exactly the point of the New Hope Diner Project. "We have a window of opportunity to build some self-esteem and self-confidence, to develop a skill of interest and to build some bridges back into the community to use those skills," he says.

Currently, there are two community-based programs that the diner project feeds into. Through a "VIP partnership," a few select Training School residents have been placed at Job Corps (a government-sponsored educational and vocational program with schools across the country) upon their release, where they can continue skills training.

Other residents may actually end up with the opportunity to continue working on the diners when they are moved into Rhode Island communities. Angelo's Restaurant is working with the New Hope Diner Project on a plan for Hickey's Diner, once restored, to be placed in Providence – then managed by Angelo's and operated by some of the residents who restored it.

While the medium for the project – the diners themselves – present some unique opportunities like the Angelo's plan, the diners are just symbols, McKenna and Scott say.

"People forget it's the learning experience that takes place inside the classroom, in this case the diners – that's where the value is," Scott says. "It could've been anything. It happens to be a diner, but it's the concept that's really of value, not what it is they're working on."

Always looking ahead, Scott and McKenna are already looking at potential new programs to augment the Diner Project. They have been approached about a horticulture therapy program and are currently considering the purchase of a graffiti removal machine for a project on Broad Street in Providence. The key, they say, is staying positive and not looking back.

"We face a lot of challenges in this field, and daily we have to try to live in the present and keep looking to the future," McKenna says. "It's not about fixing the past. It's about taking the kid where he is now and building his future."



Lunch Car Legacy: Hickey's Diner

Before Dunkin'
Donuts, Starbucks
and Tim Hortons
began popping
up on American
street corners,
local diners were



the destination of choice for a cup of coffee and friendly conversation. Hickey's Diner, currently being restored at the Rhode Island Training School, is once again bringing the community together through the New Hope Diner Project and will soon have a chance to revisit its glory days when it reopens in 2009.

Built in 1947 by the Worcester Lunch Car Company, Hickey's sat at Taunton Green in Taunton, Mass., until it was donated to the American Diner Museum in 1997. Designed by owner John Hickey, the restaurant is a mobile lunch-cart diner and sat on a custombuilt wagon that set him back \$12,000.

A local hotspot in its heyday, the diner stood out with its porcelain panels, checkerboard tile flooring, arched roof and split and porthole windows. For more than 40 years, John Hickey kept the doors open at Taunton Green from 4 p.m. to 2 a.m. every day but Sunday. Later, he expanded to a second location, driving the diner to Court Street in Taunton where he opened daily from 6:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

For many years, it was a family affair, says Joyce Hickey, one of John's eight children. "My brothers, Mike and Tom, worked side-byside with our father as dedicated family members," she says. "And it was always crowded whenever I went, which is my fondest memory. There were 12 stools, always full, but people would always make room for you when you came in." — MSM





RWU works to develop leaders, debunk myths through cross-cultural Middle East/North Africa exchange program

By Brian E. Clark

Bachir, a 20-year-old college student from Western Sahara, Morocco, grew up in a nomadic culture, traveling in mobile tent cities. Yara, an 18-year-old young woman from Lebanon speaks multiple languages, vacations in Italy and is about as cosmopolitan as they come. Mohammed and Saleh from Yemen are two young men who doubted they'd ever set foot in the United States.

Chicago, Illinois, USA

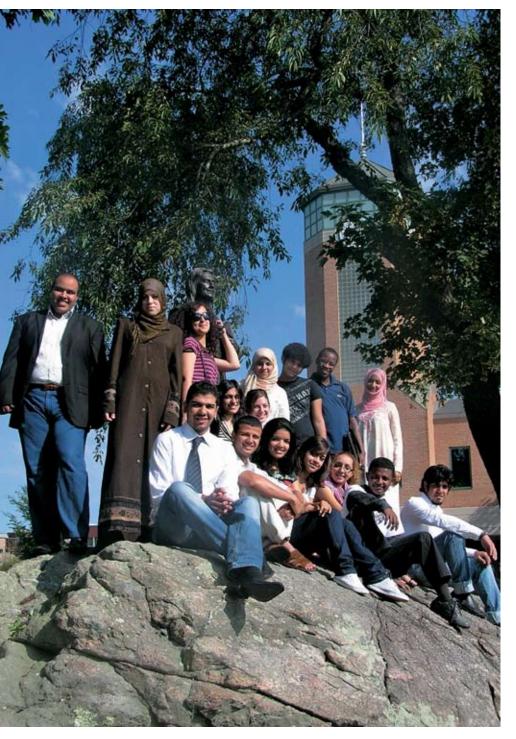
While some Americans may think of the Arab population in unison, these four students, 12 others from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) and the myriad Americans they encountered this summer discovered that the idea of the other is more a flexible term than one set in stone.







· Algeria • Bahrain • Egypt • Israel • Jordan • Kuwait • Lebanon • Morocco • Oman • Saudi Arabia • Syria • Tunisia • Yemen • Algeria • Bahrain • Egyp



For those 16 students from across the MENA region, the U.S. Department of State's Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) provided an ideal venue for the type of cross-cultural exchange that's become so essential in the post-9/11 world. The chance to study civic engagement, leadership and new technology at Roger Williams University proved a stellar learning experience - the opportunity to witness and participate in day-to-day American life, however, may have been even more

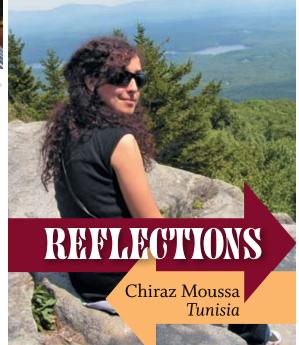
"Part of our mission is to bridge the world and our local community," says Kate Greene, program director for the RWU MEPI site. "The students wrestled with challenges of leadership and democracy in the classroom and learned firsthand about American community and culture by getting out into the field and engaging with a wide variety of people and institutions. As they explored, I think they made deep connections."

After landing the grant to host the MEPI students, Greene, along with RWU faculty members June Speakman and Michael Scully, developed a unique approach for instilling leadership skills, introducing the students to American culture and emphasizing the importance of civic engagement and community service. Among countless activities, the students met community leaders like Rhode Island Attorney General Patrick Lynch, toured historic American sites and learned about U.S. politics by following the presidential campaign.

Without exception, the students completed the program with altered perceptions about the United States, the American people, their fellow participants and themselves. And each returned with a leadership project he or she created to accomplish back home.

"The most important thing is that these students left here having debunked the myths they held about America," University President Roy J. Nirschel says. "There's enough reality in American policy that harms our image abroad – anything we, as a university, can do to create ambassadors for our country, we'll do."

While the lives of any of the 16 students could provide enough material to craft a feature, we asked two students from dissimilar backgrounds to provide their reflections on the MEPI experience. Their thoughts and ideas follow.



Her great expectations. "Dickens' book title is usually associated with disillusionment - but I hoped this would not be the case! I knew about people's way of life in the U.S. I admired the richness of the country's multinationalities. I criticized its political blunders, and I loved its mystical free air. These expectations turned into reality."

Appreciating America's young history. "There were some special moments that will mark my life forever. I remember the day we visited Plimoth Plantation and saw a sign that said, 'Welcome to the 17th Century!' I was moved because I never thought that I would one day tread on the same place where the first settlers of the New World came or see the replica of the Mayflower."

Impressions of Americans. "The American people are friendly, helpful and kind. They were interested in learning about our origins and cultures and lives. Our relations with the U.S. have been tarnished by political propaganda, but this has nothing to do with real life - we are all human beings and are all willing to welcome one another."









Israel • Jordan • Kuwait • Lebanon • Morocco • Oman • Saudi Arabia • Syria • Tunisia • Yemen •

For Chiraz Moussa, a 22-year-old English literature buff from Tunisia, the opportunity to visit the United States was something she dreamed about since she started studying American history and culture in school. "In Tunisia, open-mindedness is one of our characteristics," Moussa says. "I came to the U.S. for knowledge - social, cultural, intellectual, human. Though we're geographically different, we still share many human commonalities."

Debunking myths about the U.S. "I expected that every place would be a big city or modern center, but Rhode Island had a nice countryside that I really admired. And I expected Americans to treat us like strangers, which was not the case. I also heard so much about crimes taking place in the American streets - but thank God we were safe and sound!"

Enjoying New England's history. "I derived pleasure and honor from the fact that this region was the location of the first settlers and pilgrims. Rhode Island is the land of hope. I still remember the day we spent at Forge Farm and crossed the woods. For the first time, I was in an American forest like the ones I saw in the movies with its tall, vertical, thin trees! I still have some stones from the forest."

RWU's bayside campus. "I could feel the ocean's waves and the smell of the Ocean State. I could contemplate the shiny stars and the dreamy moon. I said to myself that the U.S. was not just the land of giant skyscrapers, but also a land of virgin beauty. I still love that place, and my wish is to revisit it someday."

What Americans should know about Tunisia.

"We live like many Americans except for some economic details. Women here have their rights protected. Our closeness to the European world has helped the development of a rich, multicultural society. And we are moderate Muslims."

Supporting orphans in Tunisia. Moussa returned home on a mission to work with organizations to provide educational and psychological support to the children of unwed mothers, who are generally scorned as outcasts in her native culture. "I hope that no child will be an orphan again and that no innocent baby will be judged by the actions of his or her parents. God will give me the energy to help create a better image of the world for these little angels."

How the MEPI experience changed her. "My full name is still Chiraz Moussa, but after all the activities I did, the people I talked to and the advice I heard, I cannot be the same person. I learned about community service and volunteer work and back home am practicing what I learned. And before I came, I thought the world was made only of Tunisians - now I am much less egocentric and more friendly and sympathetic."

































For Bachir Eddahy, a 20-year-old college student from Western Sahara, Morocco, day-to-day life couldn't be more different than that of a Roger Williams University student. Eddahy grew up in a nomadic tribe in rural northwest Africa and had never traveled beyond the small city of Agadir in his homeland. "People in Arab countries have unclear ideas and often incorrect stereotypes about Americans," he says. "I made up my mind to go and see what this country and its people were really like."

The perception of Americans in the Arab world.

"All my ideas about the U.S. and Americans were based on what I learned from the media. I thought that they would be busy with their own affairs and wouldn't care about newcomers, but this was just a stereotype – Americans were in fact very friendly. What makes the image of the U.S. bad in the Arab world are the ideas provided by people who became powerful by lying about Americans."

The importance of intercultural exchange. "Some Americans do not know about other countries - this can be avoided via cooperation between my country and the U.S. at the official level. I think Americans would understand more about my country if they come and see how things work here. Exchange programs are the best way for that to happen."

Memorable surprises. "My college graduation happened back home while I was in Rhode Island, so my biggest surprise was the graduation party that the group organized for me without my knowledge. The whole group made me feel at home, and it was an unforgettable night with souvenirs that will last forever!"

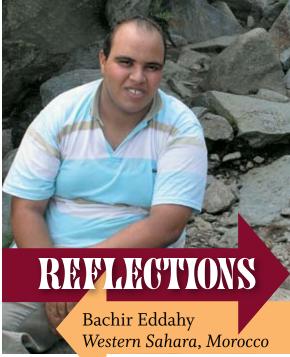
Compliments to the American chefs. The introduction to American cuisine was a common

bond for many of the MEPI participants, who learned quickly to enjoy staples like pizza and Subway sandwiches. And healthier dishes, too. "What would I take back home with me? Hmmm... that would have to be the Dining Commons. They have wonderful food there!"

Favorite spots. "My favorite place was the beach on the RWU campus near where the students go kayaking – I used to go there alone sometimes to enjoy the view of the water and the bridge. Newport is also a wonderful city. I liked to wander in the city's narrow streets and look at the antique shops and restaurants."

Learning from Roger Williams (the University's namesake). "Roger Williams was a very liberal man. All people are free and equal, and everyone can do as he or she likes. You can worship God or fire. You are free, and you shouldn't be judged on your choices."

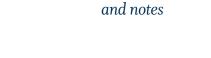
Rooting for Barack Obama. "The American presidential campaign has been watched by many people in my country, and we were all hoping that Obama would be elected as U.S. president. After our hope became true, we now look forward to a better world in which all people live happily and democracy is the governing system of the world."



Creating a school to serve the nomadic population. Eddahy returned home with the goal of developing a school that could travel with the nomadic population from which he comes in order to educate children. "Education is a basic element for the development of society, but in most Arab countries, the illiteracy rate is high. I will focus on the phenomenon in my little region in which most people are nomadic, and I hope to establish a mobile school to be housed

How the MEPI experience changed him. "I became aware of the importance of a civil society as the best way to achieve what politicians and government cannot. And the program taught me many things concerning personal development – my English improved, I learned speaking skills, and back home, I became much more reliable in daily life." RWU





Athletics news

Renowned RWU sailor captures University's first sailing national championship

By Nicholas Williams

While most four-year-olds were teetering on tricycles, Cy Thompson was busy learning to sail a skiff in St. Thomas in his native U.S. Virgin Islands. A competitive racer by the age of five, Thompson came to RWU in 2006 a decorated sailor already, having won the Laser Radial fleet at the U.S. Youth Sailing Championship in 2004 and the U.S. Team Racing Championship during his senior year of high school. Now, after a nail-biting fight-to-the-finish, Thompson can add collegiate national champion to his growing résumé.

The Adjustment Period – Iraqi Scholar Qussay Al-Attabi

When rescued Iraqi scholar Qussay Al-Attabi touched down in Rhode Island just 17 months ago, the joy was so profound and the emotion so overwhelming that many of the little details - where to live, what to teach, how long his visa might last - were still in flux.

"It was pretty much a whirlwind, but I think I have made the best of it - both academically and personally," Al-Attabi says.

Over the past months, he enrolled in a comparative literature Ph.D. program at Brown University, worked as a program assistant for the MEPI program this summer and earned a new visa, which he'll maintain throughout his studies.

Culturally, he's still adjusting.

"Identity is not a jacket that you can put on or take off at your time of choosing," he says. "It is, if you will, a mental, emotional awareness whose adjustment takes time, willingness, open-mindedness and, above all, selfrespect. I've come to appreciate much of what I encounter in daily life, and I do consider myself lucky."

His only concern? His family, still in Baghdad. "I miss my family, and I only hope I will see them before it is too late." — BEC



On October 25, the Roger Williams sailor captured the Intercollegiate Sailing Association Men's Singlehanded Championship, earning the University's sailing team its first singlehanded (solo) title and the first sailing national championship in school history.

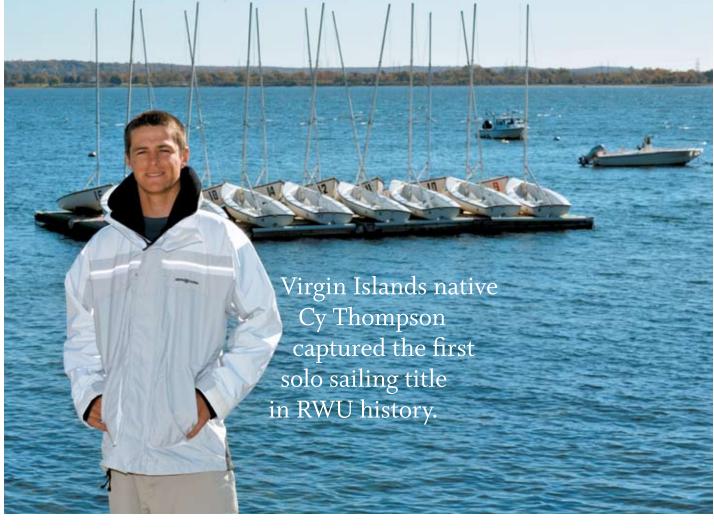
"It's a great accomplishment for Cy, and this remarkable feat has secured his place in Roger Williams history," said Amanda Callahan, head coach of the sailing team.

The win for Thompson did not come easily, however. On Friday, the first day of the three-day championship, he stormed to the top of the pack on the momentum of finishes of 4-2-3-2 in the first four races. (Eighteen races are sailed over the weekend. Competitors are awarded points in the order that they finish – one point for first place, two for second, etc. – and the lowest cumulative score wins the championship.) His five-point lead did not last long, though, as he suffered a setback in the fifth race, finishing 10th. The result dropped him from first place to third, but Thompson remained in the hunt.

"The 10th-place finish obviously didn't help, but I was still there right behind the two leaders," Thompson said. "When I went into the second day, I really didn't look at the points. I tried to keep close with the leaders, within striking distance."

By the time Sunday arrived, the final day, Thompson still found himself in third place with six races left to be sailed. In the opening races, he ran off finishes of 4-2-1-1 and catapulted himself back into first with a hefty 10-point lead going into the final two races. It's never that easy, of course — on the second to last race, after a stiff wind allowed a large group of boats to pass him, he rounded the weather mark in 11th place and ultimately finished in 10th for the second time.

That finish left him with the slightest of leads. Going into the final race, he had only a one-point lead over Kyle Rogachenko of Old Dominion



University, three points on Rob Crane from Hobart and William Smith Colleges, and seven points on Fred Strammer from nearby Brown University.

"I knew I could still win, but I got a little scared after the 10th-place finish," Thompson said.

Early during the race, Thompson found himself in fourth place. Eventually, he and Rogachenko broke away from the pack, rounding the leeward mark in second and first, respectively. Yet on the weather leg, two boats managed to slip by Thompson. At the second weather mark rounding, Thompson needed to pass those two boats to at least tie Rogachenko for the lead.

Less than 100 yards to the finish, he and Rogachenko were nearly mast-and-mast. In the end, Ryan Lashaway of the University of Toledo managed to get on Thompson's breeze, giving the slight advantage to Rogachenko at the finish line, leaving the pair each with 75 points.

Tied! At this point, it was time to play the waiting game while the

tiebreaker was sorted out. To make matters worse, it initially looked like Rogachenko had edged Thompson for the championship. When Thompson sailed to the coaches' boat for an update on the final standings, Callahan informed him that he did not win.

"My sail in was pretty depressing," he said.
"I thought I had lost it. It was a terrible feeling."

On return to shore, however, the mood shifted to that of elation. The head-to-head tiebreaker and championship title went to Thompson, who beat Rogachenko in 11 of the 18 races over the three days.

What makes Thompson's win even more impressive is that he'd spent most of the past year sailing 49er sailboats across the globe in an attempt to represent the U.S. Virgin Islands in the 2008 Summer Olympics. "Sailing the 49er is definitely a different type of boat," Thompson said. "It requires a lot more upper body strength than the Laser. The Laser uses a lot more of the lower body with a lot of hiking."

Although Thompson's team fell just short of qualifying for the Olympics, the experience helped him become a better sailor, he says. During the campaign, he teamed with Anthony Kotoun, professional sailor and winner of the 2005 J/24 World Sailing Championship.

"He taught me a lot about tactics and starting," Thompson said. "I've understood it a lot better while sailing with him. I just incorporated it into the Laser fleet, and I think it's definitely paid off for me."

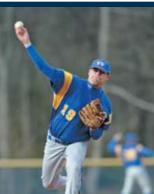
For Callahan, a team racing champion herself, she described the victory as a little different on the coaching side but still enjoyable: "Winning is fantastic, whether you're a coach or a sailor."

And a national championship hasn't hurt her efforts to bring more talented sailors to RWU. "In the weeks since the championship, I've gotten a tremendous response from prospective students, so it's really helping with recruiting."

For RWU Athletics, Unprecedented Success in Last Three Years

Over the past three years, RWU Athletics has experienced unprecedented success, not only in terms of win/loss records, but also in team accomplishments and milestones achieved. Between 2006 and 2008, the Hawks have emerged as one of the leading programs in the Commonwealth Coast Conference (TCCC) when it comes to on-the-field prowess. In that time, RWU teams have a combined record of 205-77-7 in the TCCC, and the Hawks' success has burgeoned even outside of conference play. Here are some of the highlights that reinforce the Athletics program's goal of performing at a high level, year in and year out:

- In 2006-07, RWU Athletics teams finished 192-122-5. In 2007-08, teams compiled a 191-129-6 record. That's a two-year total of 383-151-11, the most successful two-year period in the University's history.
- Some teams don't compile win/loss records, but those squads still cite plenty of evidence that demonstrates their success. Sailing finished fourth in the coed dinghy national championships, and men's and women's cross country won their eighth and ninth consecutive TCCC championships, respectively.
- The University boasted three All-Americans last year: Antoine Bell (men's soccer), Andrew Goetting (sailing) and Matt Duggan (sailing).
- RWU Athletics had five student-athletes who earned TCCC Athlete of the Year honors in 2007-08: Kevin Clark (cross country), Emily Tran (cross country), Antoine Bell (men's soccer), Geoff Baranger (men's basketball) and Brian Hurld (baseball).
- Six RWU coaches earned Coach of the Year honors last year. They include Julie O'Brien (men's swimming), Chris O'Brien (women's tennis), Sean Livingston (cross country), Mike Tully (men's basketball), Derek Carlson (baseball) and Emily Kiablick (women's lacrosse).
- Thirteen of RWU's 15 athletics programs went as far as the semifinals in the TCCC last year. Five won championships, four advanced to the championship game/match and four others advanced to their tournament semifinals. — NW

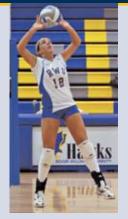


Perfect Game, ECAC Championship Highlight Baseball Season

The 2008 baseball season went down as one of the best in RWU history, culminating in a school-record 34 wins and an Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) championship. Along the way, sophomore Dan Roberge provided a dramatic individual accomplishment, pitching just the 14th perfect game in Division III history. Freshman Zach Porter earned ECAC tournament MVP honors.

Senior Sets Volleyball Assists Record

Kirsten Bosworth, the lone senior on the volleyball team, reached a momentous milestone during the Hawks' 2008 season. The four-year starting setter recorded her 3,000th career assist, becoming the only player in RWU history to reach that mark. In fact, just one other player has registered 2,000 assists – a record Bosworth surpassed during her junior year.



For Cross Country Teams, Dominance Continues

Both the men's and women's cross country teams continued their dominance of the Commonwealth Coast Conference in 2008. The men earned their eighth consecutive TCCC championship, while the women posted their ninth straight championship. Senior Kevin Clark earned his third consecutive TCCC Runner of the Year award, and senior Emily Bome placed second overall, earning all-conference honors for the fourth year in a row.



Women's Soccer Lands First TCCC Championship

The women's soccer team finished its 2008 regular season 16-2-0 and earned its third straight berth to the TCCC Championship. A last-second goal by Laurin Pendleton led the Hawks to a 1-0 victory over Endicott College, earning the Hawks their first conference championship. The team relied in large part on its nationally ranked defense, which included junior goalie Jen Garside, who led Division III in save percentage at 92.7 percent.



News from our alumni and friends Alumni Profile

Thomas FitzGerald

American Studies '76



Green Champion in Bluegrass Territory

By Feoshia Henderson

More than 30 years after Queens, N.Y., native Thomas FitzGerald graduated from Roger Williams College, he's become an environmental stalwart in his adopted state of Kentucky. In a place where protecting the environment has not been a top concern historically, he's challenged convention and along the way earned respect and renown among academics and lawmakers.

This September, his decades as a dedicated Frankfort, Ky., lobbyist and a hard-fighting environmental attorney were handsomely honored on a national stage when he received the prestigious Heinz Family Foundation Award for the Environment and the \$250,000 cash prize that went along with it.

FitzGerald, once considered a northern outsider by Frankfort politicians, is now an esteemed figure across the state of Kentucky - one who testifies often at the Kentucky State Capitol on a wide range of issues and their potential environmental impact. He doesn't win every battle, but his efforts have helped the state make momentous strides in its environmental policy.

"It's been 30 years now," FitzGerald says. "I'm not sure when I went from being a young upstart to being a fixture. That transition has somehow happened. I wasn't always listened to, but I've outlasted most of them. It's been a struggle, but it's always been a labor of love."

He's spoken out on strip mining, water and air pollution, power plants, zoning issues, hazardous waste disposal and much more. He's argued cases before state and federal courts and in 1984 founded the Kentucky Resources Council. The small, nonprofit environmental advocacy organization offers free legal services to individuals, community groups and local governments. FitzGerald is now planning an environmental leadership training program for future environmentalists.

When Teresa Heinz Kerry, wife of U.S. Sen. John Kerry, personally called "Fitz" at his Louisville home to inform and congratulate him on the award, he was astounded. Heinz Kerry had established the Heinz Award in 1993 in honor of her first husband, the late U.S. Sen. John Heinz of Pennsylvania, who was known as an intellectual, athlete and art lover. Nominations are submitted anonymously, and FitzGerald says he doesn't know who nominated him.

On Sept. 21, the 53-year-old attended an award recognition ceremony in Pittsburgh. As a winner, he is in good company. Previous recipients include the late singer Beverly Sills, former U.S. Surgeon General C. Everett Koop and electronic innovators William R. Hewlett and the late David Packard, among other notable names. In naming FitzGerald a Heinz recipient, the foundation dubbed him a "watchdog of the environment of the Bluegrass state."

"Mr. FitzGerald has been a fixture in the halls of Kentucky's General Assembly since 1978 and has lobbied to defeat scores of bills that would have lowered environmental quality and polluter accountability," according to the foundation.

One of his most far-reaching successes is also one of his earliest, as an advocate for the national Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977. The law set the



framework for protecting people and the environment from the adverse effects of surface coal mining, a major issue in Kentucky and other parts of Appalachia.

FitzGerald graduated from Roger Williams with a degree in American studies in 1976, before the College grew into Roger Williams University. It was through an RWC program that allowed him to study in Berea, Ky., that FitzGerald ended up making the state his home.

Michael Swanson, professor of American studies at Roger Williams, taught FitzGerald history and keeps in touch with his former student still today. "He was thoughtful, funny, introspective and dedicated to social justice," Swanson says. "He was a skinny kid with glasses, long hair and a guitar nearly always within reach. If I close my eyes, I can see him sitting on a stone outside the arts building (the dining hall back then) or on a fence or bench in the quad, hunched over his guitar and singing softly."

After leaving Rhode Island, FitzGerald moved on to earn his law degree from the University of Kentucky in 1980. Education continues to be a valuable part of his life as he works as an adjunct professor of energy and environmental law at Brandeis School of Law at the University of Louisville.

FitzGerald lives with his three sons and his wife, Patricia Walker-FitzGerald. He credits their support with allowing him to serve the public and said he will use at least some of the financial reward to put his children through college.

"This couldn't have come at a better time," he says. "My family has been extremely supportive of me being gainfully underemployed and doing what it is I'm trying to do." RWU

CLASS NOTES

The 1970s

Daniel B. Mara '76 Humanities Waterbury, Conn.

Dan was elected into the National Junior College Athletic Association Women's Basketball Hall of Fame. A 10-time New England Region Coach of the Year at Mitchell College (Conn.), he has an established career as a coach and administrator in intercollegiate athletics, beginning with his service at the former NJCAA junior college.

The 1980s

George Williams '82 Architectural Engineering Alexandria, Va.

George has returned to STOA Architects as a job captain, bringing more than 20 years of experience in architectural design and CADD drafting. His design experience includes completing a variety of educational, commercial, hospitality, religious and Department of Defense projects throughout the Southwest.

The 1990s

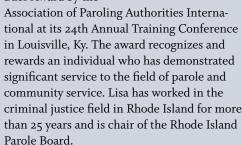
Lara (Warburton) Connors '90 Psychology

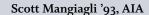
St. Petersburg, Fla.

Lara and her husband, Jim, welcomed a third son to their family on November 14, 2007. Michael Williams joins his older brothers Jack, age 4, and Aidan, who is 2.

Lisa Holley '93 Criminal Justice Cranston, R.I.

Lisa was awarded the coveted Ben Baer Award by the





Architecture Bristol, Conn.

Scott has been named a principal at Kaestle Boos Associates. Previously an associate at KBA with 10 years tenure at the firm, Mangiagli is involved with all aspects of the design and construction process. Mangiagli's expertise includes both major renovation and new construction of educational and theater arts facilities. Mangiagli is a registered architect in Connecticut and a member of the American Institute of Architects

Mark Hallee '95, AIA

Architecture Providence, R.I.

Mark has been promoted to the position of associate at Lerner/Ladds & Bartels. He is a registered member of the American Institute of Architects. As part of his new role he will be the project architect for the Baird Hill and Adams Residence Halls at the University of Rhode Island.

Kristie (Kirchner) Gerber '92

Psychology

Howard Gerber '95

Communications

Easton, Mass.

Kristie and Howard welcomed their son, Drew Jonathan, on May 12, 2008. Drew joins his

4-year-old sister, Hannah, and their chocolate lab, Maica. Kristie is a member of the Alumni Executive Council at RWU.

David J. Poillucci '95, CPA

Accounting Chatham, N.J.

David was recently promoted to the position of senior manager at his regional accounting firm, just a step below partner. David and his wife, Susan, (married 10 years) have four children: Elizabeth, 9, Samantha, 4, and 2-year-old twins Jessica and Mathew.

Kristi (Gardner) Walters '95

Marine Biology Greenville, N.C.

Kristi and Dr. Bobby Walters were married in Chapel Hill, N.C. on May 24, 2008. Scott '95 and Carmela (Miano) Price '95 were in attendance, she as a bridesmaid.

Robert Kolek '96

Construction Management East Haddam, Conn.

Robert married Melanie Haslam on September 15, 2007. Brian Kacmarsky '96 was best man and Katherine (Kolek) Earle '98 was a bridesmaid. Steven DeBlock '98 was also in attendance. The groom is employed as a senior project estimator at Massey's Plate Glass & Aluminum, Inc. in Branford, Conn. The bride is an attorney at Gibson & Behman, P.C. in Middletown, Conn.



Katherine Rodriguez'97 Engineering Antonio Marcellino '96 Construction Management Rocky Hill, Conn. Katherine and Antonio were married on June 21, 2008, in Providence, R.I.

Roger Williams alumni in attendance included Eileen McTigue '97, Kwame Bartie '97, Alick LeTang '96, Dale Fieffe '96 and Melanie (Hendsbee) Fieffe '97. Katherine is a design structural engineer, and Antonio is a project engineer with AZ Corporation of North Stonington, Conn.

Shari Alvanas '97

Creative Writing Portsmouth, R.I.

Shari, both an alumna and former RWU visiting professor of creative writing (2002-2005), announced the publication of her book, "Fade In" (June 2008, Finishing Line Press). Shari was a finalist in the 2007 New Women's Voices in Poetry contest. She currently teaches at the University of Rhode Island and is the 2008-09 writer-in-residence at the Portsmouth Abbey School.

Melissa R. (Duby) Hutchinson '97, AIA Architecture

Tiverton, R.I.

Melissa and her husband, Tim, announce the birth of their first child, Leah Mae Hutchinson, on July 13, 2008. Melissa was also recently promoted to senior associate at Newport Collaborative Architects, Inc. in Newport, R.I.



The Reunion Gala was a blast (from the past, for some) as alumni and friends returned to honor the classes of 1978, 1983 and 1988 at the Hotel Viking in Newport. Alumni dined, danced and even thumbed through their yearbooks together!

23 63 64 63 64 64 64 643 643 644 625 64 644 64 63 63 64 66 66 65 Global Heritage Hall -An Emblem of RWU's Core Values

Alumni, parents and prospective students visiting campus this fall were greeted by an array of new buildings taking shape before their eyes, but one new building is poised to play a paramount role on RWU's bayside campus. Global Heritage Hall, the University's 52,000-square-foot academic building, is slated to open in fall 2009 and will become the academic centerpiece of the Bristol campus.

The new facility will be home to the Robert F. Stoico/FIRSTFED Charitable Foundation Global Languages Center, which will feature state-of-the-art language and culture immersion classrooms. An International Center will

expand study-abroad opportunities through the Peggy and Marc Spiegel Center for Global and International Programs, and a Global Communications Center will serve as the University's multimedia epicenter, supporting RWU's communications and multimedia curricula.

Global Heritage Hall classrooms will be dedicated to various heritages including African-American, Latino, Irish, Italian, Native American, Portuguese and Bristolian, and will be a symbol of larger institutional initiatives promoting global awareness through curricular and co-curricular programming. A physical emblem of the University's core

values, the hall will provide students with the tools they need to build skills for effective communication in a global landscape while emphasizing global ties to the Bristol and Rhode Island region surrounding RWU.

Naming opportunities exist for each of the classrooms, including heritage-specific lecture series, cultural arts series and study-abroad scholarship programs. To find out how you can support Global Heritage Hall and participate in events that celebrate the music, dance and cuisine of your heritage, please call the Development Office at (401) 254-3204 or e-mail development@rwu.edu.

Joining Forces: Enrollment and Advancement

Whether you are an alumnus/a, parent or friend, you know that Roger Williams University has been engaged in a strategic planning initiative, RWU 2020, over the past year. Included in the plan's many goals was to examine how the University could best organize itself to create the most synergistic, efficient and effective administrative model possible to continue building the University of the future.

In December 2008, Roger Williams moved forward on a plan to combine two of its most

vital areas - enrollment and advancement into a single division under the leadership of Senior Vice President Lynn Fawthrop. Allison Chase-Padula will lead the University's alumni and parent programming and engagement efforts as executive director of alumni relations and events management and special assistant to the president. One of the institution's most active and passionate ambassadors, Chase-Padula brings more than eight years of progressively senior-level experience at RWU, where she has worked closely with many students who have

become RWU's most recent alums.

The University's goal remains the same: to keep you connected to your alma mater. By joining forces, this new model for relationship management at Roger Williams will allow the institution to cultivate lasting connections from the moment students step foot on campus, through graduation and beyond all while recognizing the very important role alumni and parents have in the continued success of Roger Williams University.

Are You Up To the Challenge?

Recently, an alumnus who wishes to remain anonymous made a very generous donation to Roger Williams University to encourage alumni to give as never before. His hope is that fellow alumni will increase their current giving and that those who have not yet made a gift will join our family of donors.

When you make your gift to the Annual Fund between now and June 30, 2009, it will be matched dollar for dollar (up to \$10,000) by this generous alumnus' gift.

Did you know that RWU's national and regional college rankings are affected by our alumni participation percentage? U.S. News & World Report measures alumni loyalty by the number of graduates who make a gift to their alma mater. Historically, alumni participation at RWU has

been significantly lower than our peer institutions.

Whether you are a past donor, have made a gift every year or are making a gift for the first time, your dollars make a

difference – twice over! Make your mark right now by visiting our secure giving site at www.rwu.edu/giving/. Or call us at (800) 458-7144, x3005 or (401) 254-3005.



ALUMNI PROFILE

Cathleen Lyons Moniz

Criminal Justice and Public Administration '99



Promoting Diversity in Law Enforcement

Cathleen Lyons Moniz '99 was just 24 years old when she entered the police force in 1977, fresh on the heels of a new law in Massachusetts that made women eligible to become officers as opposed to "police women," who had different duties and pay structures than men.

The spirit of equal rights carries through in her work today, and Moniz's efforts to recruit female and minority officers to the Fall River Police Department recently earned her recognition by the Massachusetts Association of Women in Law Enforcement.

Originally from Fall River, Moniz earned an associate degree in law enforcement from Bristol Community College before she took a civilian job with the New Bedford Police Department and later became an officer in Fall River. She returned to school in her mid-40s, double-majoring in criminal justice and public administration at Roger Williams University. After completing her bachelor's degree, Moniz stayed on at RWU to complete her master's degree in administration of justice.

"Roger Williams did as much as it possibly could to make it work for people who had other obligations in their busy lives," says Moniz, who worked days and attended school at night and on weekends year-round until she finished her studies.

Moniz, now deputy chief in Fall River, found a home in the law enforcement field from the start. "I just fell in love with it," she says. "Whether you work as a patrol officer or you work in forensics or with sexual assault victims, the elderly or juveniles, there are lots of career possibilities in criminal justice."

In addition to a huge variety of professional memberships, Moniz serves as a member of the advisory board for RWU's Justice System Training and Research Institute. "I've been very honored to have been part of such a prestigious group of people and to stay connected with my alma mater," Moniz says. — Vallerie Malkin





Thanks to our alumni, Homecoming & Family Weekend was a hit! More than 200 alumni returned to campus for a BBQ lunch, cocktail reception and a get-together at Gillary's Tavern in Bristol.

Tessa (Simlick) Getchis '97

Marine Biology Mystic, Conn.

Tessa and her husband, Ryan, are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Cameron Aldona, on August 1, 2008.

Dawn E. (Farnsworth) Dabling '98 Biology

We Want to Know -

What's New With You?

New job? Recently engaged or married? Bundl of joy to brag about? Going back to school?

news along. Along with your update, be sure to include the following information:

Current city and state

Here's how to reach us:

E-mail: alumni@rwu.edu

Snail mail: Office of Alumni Relations

One Old Ferry Road

Bristol, R.I. 02809

(800) 458-7144, x3005

(401) 254-3005;

Bradley, Maine

Dawn and Kale L. Dabling were married September 22, 2007, on Salisbury Beach in Massachusetts. RWU alumni in attendance were Emily (Sefcik) Wessells '98, Scott Cyr '99, Zane '00, David Rodrigues '99, Jeffrey Boyark '98, Joseph & Nicole (Leblanc) Culotta '99, Corey Blake '98 and Jessica (Davis) Nagel '99.

Maria (Pallodino) Baptista '99, Stephen

Julie (Smith) Linda '98

Communications

Peabody, Mass.

Kaitlyn Elizabeth Linda was born on August 21, 2008. Kaitlyn was welcomed home by her sister, Samantha.

Courtney Giello '99

Accounting

Leigh Strong '99

Marketing

North Attleboro, Mass.

Courtney and Leigh are pleased to announce the arrival of their daughter, Hayden Victoria Strong, on March 25, 2008.

Christopher M. Bouchard '99, AIA Architecture

Research Triangle Park, N.C.

Christopher has joined The Freelon Group Architects as an intern architect. He is a member of the project team working on the Yale Biology Building in New Haven, Conn., and the Eastern Regional Hospital in Goldsboro, N.C.

The 2000s

Joseph R. Kerwin 'oo

Joe begins his first season as head coach for men's lacrosse at Notre Dame de Namur University after coaching at the University of Oregon for the past five seasons. Kerwin started at Oregon as an assistant coach for three years before taking over head coaching duties in 2006. He led the Ducks to a 35-8 record over the past two seasons and an

appearance in the 2007 Men's Collegiate Lacrosse Association championship game Kerwin was named MCLA and PNCLL Coach of the Year in 2007.

Rene Y. Zeigler-Delande 'oo

Business Management Providence, R.I.

Rene has been named manager of employee relations and assistant vice president at Sovereign Bank. In her new position, she will manage the day-to-day employee relations activities in nearly 100 community banking offices in Rhode Island and Massachusetts.

Katie Vassil '04 International Business Steven Zullo '02

Architecture/Civil Engineering Milford, Conn.

Katie and Steven were married on August 31, 2008. The ceremony and reception took place at the Red Barn at Outlook Farm in South Berwick, Maine. Katie is currently employed at Glencore Ltd. in Stamford, Conn. Steven is employed at John A. Wicko, Architect, LLC in Milford, Conn. Alumni Charles (Ted) Dubuc '03 and Catherine LaCross Woodbury '04 were in the wedding party.

Political Science Kate (Griep) Gianatasio '04 Architecture

Jared Gianatasio '03

Brooklyn Heights, N.Y.

Jared and Kate were married May 31, 2008. The waterfront ceremony and recep-

tion took place at the Seawanhaka Corinthian Yacht Club in Centre Island, N.Y. The couple spent their honeymoon in France and Italy (they met at RWU while studying abroad in Florence). Jared is an attorney, and Kate is an architect working in Manhattan.

Computer Information Systems Belmont, Calif.

Alumni Events Calendar

Looking to reconnect with old friends? Maybe you just need an afternoon out of the house. Whatever your reason, we hope you'll join us at one of these upcoming alumni and campus events!



March 4
Civil Discourse Lecture:
Journalist Ray Suarez
RWU Campus
Recreation Center
Bristol, R.I.



May 16 Alumni Sailing Regatta RWU Waterfront Bristol, R.I.



June 12
Ray Cordeiro Alumni Golf Classic
Green Valley Country Club of Rhode Island
Portsmouth, R.I.

For additional details and an up-to-date, comprehensive events listing, visit www.rwu.edu/alumni/news. No web access? Call us at (800) 458-7144, x3005 or (401) 254-3005.



It was a triple play at our annual alumni night at the PawSox. Alumni, family and friends – new and old – all came together under the tent for an evening of food and laughs. RWU mascot Swoop and PawSox mascot Paws even joined the fun!

Rebecca J. McWilliams '04, AIA Architecture
Cambridge, Mass.

Rebecca, a newly registered architect, has been promoted to BIM specialist at Symmes Maini & McKee Associates. In her new role she will spearhead the firm's instructional program. In addition to working full time and serving on the University's Alumni Executive Council, Rebecca is also pursuing a degree in contract and construction law at Suffolk University Law School.

Nicholas Baines Jeffery '04

Political Science Lincoln, R.I.

Nicholas has been accepted into the Peace Corps. He left for Uganda on August 6 to begin pre-service training as a community health volunteer. Upon graduation, Nicholas will be developing and implementing programs improving community health and livelihood. He previously worked as a membership coordinator at the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee and as a field organizer for the 2006 Rhode Island Democratic Coordinated Campaign.

Stephen J. Mills '05 Architecture Cheryl A. (Tripp) Mills '05

Administrative Justice Norwood, Mass.

Stephen and Cheryl are pleased to announce the birth of their first son, Isaac Jeffrey Mills. Isaac was born September 9, 2008, weighed 7 pounds, 13 ounces and was 20.5 inches long. Katherine A. Fisher '05
Architecture
Portland, Maine

PDT Architects has recently hired Katherine as an architectural designer. She previously worked at O'Bryan Partnership, Morris Switzer and New England Medical Design.

Paul S. Nedwick '07 Public Administration Ellington, Conn.

Chief Paul S. Nedwick retired from the Navy after 20 years of active duty. Throughout his 20 years of service, Chief Nedwick's duty stations have covered



states throughout the South, Midwest and Northeast, including two tours in Newport, R.I., and visits to 12 countries. Paul will now be the new Naval science instructor for the Navy Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps at the High School of Science and Technology in Springfield, Mass. He is married with four children.

In Memoriam

Raymond Izzo '49 July 6, 2008

Lynda Ann Stowell '77 November 28, 2008

Leo L. Chabot '73 March 28, 2008

Barbara A. Sepe '91 April 30, 2008



Blue skies and green fairways greeted alumni at the second annual Ray Cordeiro Alumni Golf Classic this past June. Mark your calendars: This year's golf outing is on June 12, 2009, at the Green Valley Country Club in Portsmouth, R.I. ALUMNI Profile

Robert Swinburne

Architecture '93

Proving Urban and Sustainable are not Mutually Exclusive



Architect Robert
Swinburne '93 was
committed to creating
sustainable living
spaces long before
everyone else jumped
on the "green" bandwagon, he says. The
School of Architecture,

Art and Historic Preservation graduate says he has always aimed to meet aesthetic and economic goals for projects while keeping them environmentally responsible.

"I consider myself to have been at the forefront of the movement," says Swinburne, a resident of Brattleboro, Vt., who is happy that everyone seems to be embracing sustainable living.

Last May, Swinburne captured some attention for his work when he won the Providence, R.I., Sustainable Housing Design Competition in the "affordable" category. His design of a small home for a 40 x 80-foot city lot with a garage, front porch and back yard for gardening combined affordability and energy efficiency in an urban setting.

The design is now on file in Providence for use by general contractors.

Swinburne's journey to this point was neither circuitous nor straightforward, but somewhere in between. After finishing high school in Maine, he spent a year in art school but was unimpressed with the level of critique he received. In search of something more rigorous, Swinburne transferred to RWU.

"I was completely pleased with my education at the School of Architecture," Swinburne says. "The structures and processes in place were really great, there was a good, wide range of instructors and we were getting visiting critics in from Boston and New York."

After graduating in 1993, he spent six years building houses ("my version of grad school") and worked as a carpenter and designer for a Brattleboro building firm until demand for his design services grew into a full-time business in 2000.

Swinburne still keeps in regular touch with his RWU classmates, many of whom went on to have successful careers in design. Now and then, they all take time from work and family to have a mini-reunion or attend an event,



such as the SolarFest in Vermont. But most of the time, Swinburne is content to work from his home on a 48-acre spread that he shares with his wife, Rachelle Ackerman, and their two-year-old daughter.

And what do clients want these days when the economy is tumbling? "It's all about low-energy-use houses," Swinburne says. "To avoid huge oil bills." — Vallerie Malkin





Change I Do Believe In

By Kim Ahern '09L

I could hardly believe that I was spending the first week of my last year of law school squirming in my seat at the Democratic National Convention. My heart raced as I looked out into the crowd, all of whom had gathered for one purpose – to be part of history. I was nervous. I wondered if I should be studying back home, if I had somehow made the wrong decision coming to Denver.

Then, I handed the Convention staffer my glossy ticket and stepped excitedly onto the fresh blue carpet, likely just laid down the night before. The podium – *the* podium where Barack Obama would officially accept his nomination – stood a mere 15 feet from me.

I knew I was right where I was supposed to be. I felt a lump in my throat, and I choked back tears. It was hard to really believe how far I'd come on this journey. At that moment, I had no doubt that Obama would be our next president.

Let me rewind a bit. While many attorneys look back at law school as their most arduous time in life, I will forever recall these past three years at RWU Law with a glimmer of hope and a sense of accomplishment. It all began while I enjoyed a much-needed weekend break with my mother in New York City in February 2007, after I'd survived my first experience with law school exams. Despite the array of sights and sounds to experience in the Big Apple, I insisted that we camp out in the hotel to watch a young senator from Illinois announce his candidacy for presidency of the United States.

Like so many others, I had first heard of Obama during the 2004 Democratic National Convention, where he brought down the house with a powerful speech. That speech opened my eyes. Before he'd even finished announcing his candidacy on that February weekend, I'd promised myself to do whatever possible to help elect him.

I began organizing on the local level, planning trips to canvass in New Hampshire for the primary and rallying students across Rhode Island to join the campaign.
As I trudged briskly from door to door through the New Hampshire snow, the cold chill a permanent

fixture in my body, I knew this was about something bigger. Each time I extended my hand to knock on a door, I never knew quite what to expect. I could be greeted with a cheery hello or a cold slam of the door in my face. It didn't matter. I pushed on. And at the end of each long day, I drove home to Rhode Island – tired, weary but filled with hope.

Eight months later, I stood on that blue carpet at
Mile High Stadium where, as an official delegate
from Rhode Island, I proudly cast my vote for
Obama. When he trotted out on stage to
accept our nomination, I knew our

efforts were worth it.

Upon returning home and catching up with my endless studies, I continued to volunteer and make those weekend trips to New Hampshire in advance of the general election. My journey ended on November 4. Like Americans across the nation, I watched from my home as the networks projected Obama as the 44th president of the United States.

And like so many Americans, I felt a tremendous sense of pride as the Obama family strolled out onto that stage in Chicago. I choked up on that same lump that caught my throat at Mile High less than three months earlier. I replayed scenes from my past two years, the trips to other states, the rallies and the speeches, the calls to undecided voters, my experience at the Convention and even to my meeting with Obama himself when he'd journeyed to Rhode Island. I was proud to have been a part of it all.

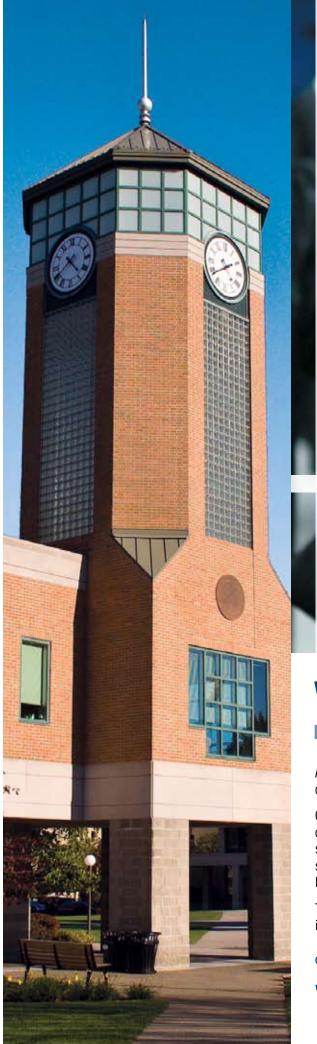
While my personal journey has ended, Obama's has just begun. Let's not forget that we should all – regardless of which box we checked on Nov. 4 – be proud of what the election of our first African-American president means to our country and to the rest of the world. Change is never easy, and it does not come without hard work. But that's exactly what Obama inspired so many across our great country to do.

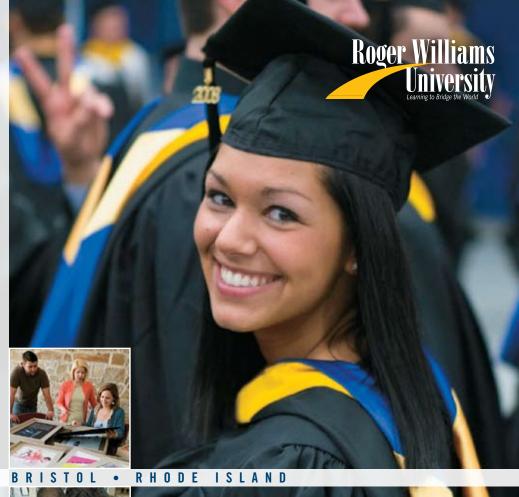
It is also what we must continue to do in the coming months and years. As President Obama said, "Let us summon a new spirit of patriotism, of service and responsibility where each of us resolves to pitch in and work harder and look after not only ourselves, but each other."

I know that is exactly what I plan to do.

Each issue, the Your Turn column will feature a personal essay from a member of RWU's audience.

Readers are invited to submit essays on topics that fellow readers will find compelling, and essays need not focus on topics related to the University. Limit word count to 600 please, and submit essays to magazine@rwu.edu. While only one will be selected per issue, all submissions will receive equal consideration.







WHY ROGER WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY?

BECAUSE YOU GET A SOLID RETURN ON YOUR INVESTMENT.

A study by the Education Alliance determined that education provides one of the highest rates of return of any investment. Our alumni – living across the country and around the globe – can attest to that fact.

Our new students are proof that they believe it, too. They are scoring higher, getting more involved on campus and demanding rigorous courses. Our average class size is just 20 students, and our student/faculty ratio is 12:1. By the time Commencement arrived, 89% of our 2008 graduates had secured full-time employment or had been accepted to graduate schools including powerhouses like Harvard, Princeton, Columbia, NYU, Boston U. and Auburn.

The result? *U.S. News & World Report* ranked Roger Williams No. 8 among all baccalaureate colleges in the North, our highest ranking to date. At RWU, choices and opportunities are endless.

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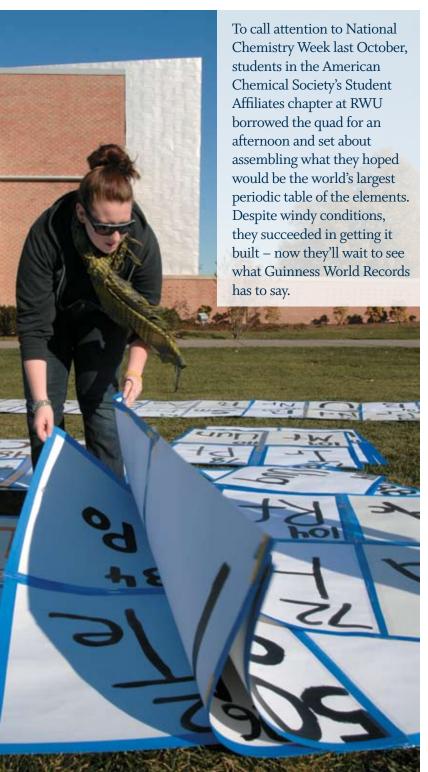
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