



## A MESSAGE FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

Dear Parents & Students,

The spring 2010 semester is well underway with a flurry of activity both inside and outside of the classroom. As semester activities unfold, I am reminded of how individual students with creative ideas and strong faculty and staff support have a real opportunity to shape campus life – I'd like to share one recent example with you.

As students returned to campus, the RWU Hockey Club hosted the last home game of its inaugural season. President Nirschel, Associate Provost Bob Potter (club advisor) and Vice President Joe Pangborn attended the game, met many parents and congratulated seniors Brian Coyne, Daniel Govoni, Robert Hoeg, Rian Kearney and Chris Meier on a terrific first season. However, we never would have been together if not for senior Joe Dellamura of Hamden, Conn. At the start of his sophomore year, Joe began organizing student interest in forming a hockey team that would compete in the American Collegiate Hockey Association as a club sport. Joe and Ryan Silva '11 presented a proposal to the Student Government Association, which granted trial status allowing them to organize an ambitious intramural hockey program for 2008-09 to assess student interest. The club was granted formal recognition by SGA and the administration during spring 2009, and this past semester 28 students were selected as club team members for the first season. Joe received a lot of help from Ryan, the seniors above, and Associate Provost Potter along the way, but it was his initiative and dedication that provided a solid program foundation that will serve other students for years to come.

There are many similar stories like this one, facilitated by our student-centered climate and supported by our top leadership. President Nirschel reserves several appointment slots each month for student visits in order to hear the student perspective directly. Provost Laura de Abruna requests and encourages student participation in dialogue with faculty about learning outcomes and general education. Senior Vice President Lynn Fawthrop has a monthly breakfast meeting with student advocates to hear their thoughts about campus life. And every week, countless faculty and staff members advise individual students, clubs and organizations as they turn ideas and energy into events and experiences.

I hope you enjoy our latest newsletter, and as always, we appreciate your feedback.

Sincerely,

*Joe Pangborn Ed.D.*

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# WINTER SPORTS SUMMARY through January 13, 2010

The winter sports seasons of Basketball, Wrestling and Swimming are in full swing to start off this New Year.

The Women's Basketball team finds themselves 4-8 with a 1-1 conference record at this point in the young season. The women defeated local rival Johnson & Wales in a non-conference game early in December and opened up conference play with a close 61-58 victory over Nichols College.

The Men's Basketball team is seeing some early success with a record of 9-5 and a 1-1 conference record. The team's success includes taking the championship at the RWU/Courtyard by Marriott Tournament in November, defeating Salve Regina to start off the month of December and winning their first TCCC game of the year with a victory over Nichols College in January.

The Men's Swimming team has a record of 4-1 including a win over conference rival Regis College. Their success also includes a first-place title at the TCCC Invitational in early December.

The Women's Swimming team has experienced similar success by winning their TCCC Invitational. They currently have a 2-3 overall record, winning the only conference match they have had to date also against Regis.

The Wrestling team, currently ranked 29th out of all Division III teams nationwide, has a record of 6-2 overall, 1-1 in Pilgrim League play. The Hawks look to finish out the second half of the season strong.

The RWU Club Hockey team began its inaugural season of competition with a 17-game schedule against club hockey teams from universities across New England. Opponents have include Northeastern, Tufts, RIC, Bryant, MIT and others. The team's current record is 6-10. The team is a member of the American Collegiate Hockey Association (ACHA) which has over 300 members nationwide. All competitions are held in accordance with NCAA game rules and are refereed by NCAA officials. The quality of hockey is excellent and the opportunity to play hockey at the collegiate level is a dream come true for the RWU students who are members of the team.



# CAREER CENTER EVENTS FROM FALL 2009

## SEPTEMBER

Tuesday, September 15

### **Navigating your Career: Part II**

4:30 – 9:00 p.m., Baypoint

Thursday, September 17

### **Graduate Essay Do's and Don'ts**

3:00 – 4:00 p.m., Architecture 239A

Tuesday, September 22

### **Graduate Admissions Panel**

4:30 – 5:30 p.m., Mary Tefft White

Wednesday, September 23

### **Financing Your**

### **Graduate Education**

4:30 – 5:30 p.m., Mary Tefft White

Tuesday, September 29

### **Law School Essays**

2:00 – 3:00 p.m., Architecture 239A

## OCTOBER

Wednesday, October 7

### **SECCM Career Reception**

1:00 – 4:00 p.m., Baypoint

Wednesday, October 14

### **Westfield State Criminal Justice & Non-Profit Career Fair**

1:30 – 4:00 p.m., Bus trip to

Westfield State, Woodward Center

Tuesday, October 20

### **Accounting Career Reception**

5:00 – 6:30 p.m., Baypoint

Wednesday, October 21

### **URI Engineering and Technology**

Fair 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.,

Bus trip to URI

Friday, October 30

### **Career Haunted House**

2:00 – 4:00 p.m., (CE)2

## NOVEMBER

Wednesday, November 4

### **School of Justice Studies**

### **Career Reception**

5:00 – 6:30 p.m., Baypoint

Thursday, November 5

### **Federal Jobs Career Fair**

2:00 – 5:00 p.m., Bryant University,  
Athletic Center

Thursday, November 12

### **Dining Etiquette**

5:30 – 7:30 p.m., Baypoint

## DECEMBER

Wednesday, December 9

### **Careers in Media Bus Trip**

All day, Bus trip to NYC

## Events for Spring 2010

## FEBRUARY

Thursday, February 11

### **Secrets of Graduate Admissions Revealed!**

4:30 – 5:30 p.m., Mary Tefft White

Tuesday, February 23

### **Dining Etiquette**

5:30 – 7:00 p.m., Baypoint

## MARCH

Wednesday, March 3

### **More to Explore:**

### **Liberal Arts Panel: Social Science**

5:30 – 6:30 p.m.,  
Admissions Media Room

Tuesday, March 9

### **Gabelli School of Business**

### **Networking Reception**

5:00 – 6:30 p.m., Baypoint

Wednesday, March 10

### **More to Explore:**

### **Liberal Arts Panel: Natural Science**

5:30 – 6:30 p.m.,  
Admissions Media Room

Wednesday, March 24

### **More to Explore:**

### **Liberal Arts Panel: Arts and Humanities**

5:30 – 6:30 p.m.,  
Admissions Media Room

Wednesday, March 31

### **14th Annual Career Fair**

1:00 – 4:00 p.m., Field House

## APRIL

Wednesday, April 21

### **16th Annual RICE**

### **Education Career Fair**

8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.,

Crowne Plaza Hotel, Warwick, RI

TBA

### **Law Enforcement Panel**

TBA

TBA

### **Non-law Enforcement Panel**

TBA

*For more information and to register visit Hawk's Hunt at <http://careercenter.rwu.edu>*



# CAREER CENTER EXTERNSHIPS

During January 2010, dozens of RWU students spent up to three days of their winter break at employers throughout the East Coast, where they had an opportunity to job shadow a professional in their field or where they learned about hiring from human resources.

Through the Eastern Association of Colleges and Employers, Roger Williams University students were invited to attend the New England Aquarium, State Street Bank, City Year, Teach for America, the National Security Agency and many, many more. The Roger Williams University Career Center has an active member on this committee and therefore managed and hosted the New England Aquarium, TJX Corp, MEDITECH and Amica Insurance sites.

MEDITECH, also known as Medical Information Technology Inc., has hired and retained many of our graduates. They are currently hiring for every location and are looking for ways to educate our students about them and their many career paths. Therefore, the Career Center sent 25 students to MEDITECH on January 15, 2010, to spend the morning job-shadowing professionals in sales, marketing, programming or customer support. MEDITECH then provided a fabulous lunch for the students to meet more members of their staff.

The Career Center initiated and manage a winter externship program, currently for the School of Engineering, Computing and Construction Management. This winter, we sent 17 students to 14 employers between New York and Massachusetts. Many students did multiple externships and many employers took more than one student. These students spent time on job sites, in meetings with clients and vendors and observing the estimating process.

The success of the winter externship program is evident. Students and employers rave about what they learn about each other. Students can apply classroom learning at the employer site and employers can expand upon the student's knowledge by providing hands-on experiences. Therefore, **this program will be expanded to all majors for the winter of 2011.** We expect to recruit employers during the late spring/early fall and to recruit students when they come to campus to begin the fall semester. More information will be available in the next edition of this newsletter. If you would like to have your employer participate in this program, contact the Career Center at (401) 254-3224 or [careers@rwu.edu](mailto:careers@rwu.edu).



# CENTER FOR COUNSELING AND STUDENT DEVELOPMENT



The Counseling Center has and will always serve the psychological needs of the RWU community in a traditional manner of providing counseling and support. However, as the University has expanded, so has our need to rework our model of providing outreach services. As we look to connect to our student population while embracing the core values of the university, it is clear the Counseling Center needs to emerge with innovative ideas and plans. With this in mind, the PEER program, embodying 12 dedicated student leaders, in collaboration with other campus organizations spearheaded a mental health awareness program that truly created a movement for social change.

The program involved many facets. First, the PEERs created an awareness wall in the Recreation Center dedicated to providing factual information about the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Queer and Questioning (LGBTQQ) population. A speaker, Stump Olsen from Youth Pride, Inc., in Providence, R.I., came to RWU to present and process this information for the student body. Olsen provided specific resources for the Counseling Center staff to improve the direct care for RWU's LGBTQQ community.

The PEERs also worked with the Counseling Center staff to provide screening programs on topics such as alcohol, depression and anxiety. The screenings allow students an opportunity to complete a brief survey and receive immediate feedback from a counselor on these topic areas. These screenings provide an opportunity to receive suggestions on how to improve one's own wellness by finding better ways to manage stress. The screenings are offered once a year in the campus community, though a student can complete any of the screenings at any point throughout the year at: [www.rwu.edu/studentlife/studentservices/counselingcenter](http://www.rwu.edu/studentlife/studentservices/counselingcenter).

The Counseling Center continues to offer weekly mental health tips via the Daily Dose that can be accessed anytime throughout the academic year at: [www.rwu.edu/studentlife/studentservices/counselingcenter/resources/mhtips.htm](http://www.rwu.edu/studentlife/studentservices/counselingcenter/resources/mhtips.htm). You can find helpful information on many topics including, but not limited to, adjusting to RWU college life, depression, anxiety, and overcoming procrastination.

Our services are confidential, which means we cannot share information about the fact or nature of students' visits to the Center without their permission. However, as a parent you are welcome to call us to share your concerns or to consult with one of our counselors. All full-time and residential undergraduate students are eligible for all of our services, free of charge. The Center for Counseling and Student Development is located on the 2nd floor of the Center for Student Development, and we may be reached at (401) 254-3124.

# DINING/BON APPÉTIT

The fall semester of 2009 seemed to fly by and Dining has many great memories to share. The year started off with a bang with RWU's second annual Farmer's Market. This year the market included local cheeses, eggs, jams, baguettes, beautiful flowers and delicious in-season dishes for our guests to enjoy while shopping – and of course an array of seasonal produce.

September also brought the annual Eat Local Challenge, celebrated with our final Farmer's Market of the season including a Rhode Island-based apple cider company pressing fresh cider outside on the quad. The menu for Eat Local Challenge was strictly made from ingredients within 150 miles of RWU and proved that fresh, local ingredients offers a much more appetizing alternative to highly processed and transported food.

During the fall of 2009 Roger Williams and Bon Appétit were also the proud winners of the Whole Grain Challenge, a national competition put on by the Whole Grain Council. Roger Williams University was selected the winner based on the extensive variety and at-hand whole grain options available at all meal periods. Along with our more noteworthy events of the semester, the on-campus Convenience Store and Global Café also opened their doors during the fall. The two new locations provide convenience and multiplicity to the RWU community, offering Dunkin' Donuts coffee, We Proudly Brew Starbucks, groceries, and a tasty café menu in the picturesque Global Heritage Hall.

The Dining team is looking forward to a fantastic spring 2010 semester. For the second year we will be taking part in Bon Appétit's "Taste Don't Waste" campaign. The program urges our dining guests to be more aware of how much food goes on their plates and how much ends up being unnecessarily thrown out.



With the spring will also come Low Carbon Day – held on Earth Day in April. The Low Carbon Diet is Bon Appétit's program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from food service operations, and to educate our staff and guests about how the food system contributes to climate change.

Ending the year as always, Dining will throw the eminent Lobster and Steak Dinner. The dinner has been an annual affair for years now and is an extravagant farewell to all of the students for summer break. With bright eyes for the future months to come, Dining will continue to provide wholesome, made-from-scratch meals to all of our guests.



# PARENTS ASSOCIATION

Hello!

As the Parents Association is a relatively new initiative and this is only our second column in the Student Affairs newsletter, I thought this would be a great time to offer an update on the Parents Association and seek feedback from all of you.

I am looking to hear from parents about what they would like to see in the Parents Association column of the Student Affairs newsletter. What topics would you like more information about and what burning questions do you have? If you have any feedback, please email me at [amarsili@rwu.edu](mailto:amarsili@rwu.edu). Your comments are much appreciated.

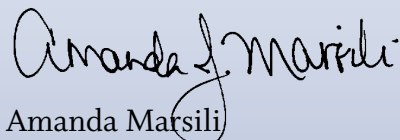
I also wanted to offer a quick update on the Parents Association. We hosted our first meeting during Homecoming and Family Weekend in October 2009. The meeting was quite a success. Parents in attendance heard from President Nirschel and Senior Vice President Lynn Fawthrop. Both spoke about Roger Williams University's most recent accomplishments and plans for the future. We plan to hold the next Parents Association meeting in fall 2010 during Homecoming and Family Weekend.

Since sending out the first letter introducing the Parents Association to our RWU parents and our first meeting, we have collected a number of Parents Association Involvement Forms. Every parent of a current Roger Williams University student is a member of the Parents Association and it is up to each parent to decide how involved they would like to be. The Involvement Form allows parents to identify what areas they would like to be involved in and identify them as being interested in receiving regular emails from the Parents Association. If you have not yet filled out this form and would like to, please contact me.

We have a number of upcoming events where we will be asking for parent volunteers. This is a great way to be involved with Roger Williams University and see what is going on, on campus, without appearing like you are hovering. The more we talk to prospective parents we are finding that their interactions with current students and parents of current students truly can influence their decision as to where they want their children to attend. It is with that thought that we are looking for parent volunteers for our upcoming Accepted Students Days and New Student Orientation. If you are interested in helping or would like to find out more about these opportunities, please contact me.

I would like to thank the parents who have completed a Parents Association Involvement Form, have been responding to my emails and have already volunteered to help with these events. It is very exciting to be involved with the Parents Association, and as I continue to speak with many of you and receive your feedback I am reminded of the reason why we have such great students here at Roger Williams University – they have great parents!

Sincerely,



Amanda Marsili  
Associate Director of Parent Relations  
and Outreach  
401-254-3774  
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# A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY

The Department of Public Safety would like to welcome all new transfer, international and returning students to Roger Williams University for the spring 2010 semester.

The Roger Williams University Department of Public Safety's mission is to enhance the quality of campus life through the creation of a safe and secure environment for all students, faculty, staff and visitors. The task of maintaining a safe and secure environment conducive to the learning, working, personal growth and social interaction of all can only be achieved through a collaborative effort involving the entire University community.

The Department of Public Safety routinely patrols all properties owned by Roger Williams University and offers many different types of services to the University community. Some of our services include building checks, campus security patrols (foot, bike and vehicle patrols), traffic and parking enforcement, campus-wide crime prevention, emergency medical technician (EMT) services, campus safety escorts, shuttle transports to and from scheduled locations (both campus and off-campus properties) and investigation of a wide variety of incidents. Our presence is felt throughout the University community, and we are always willing to assist anyone in their time of need which is illustrated in our motto of "In Service of the University." The Department of Public Safety is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week and is just a phone call away by dialing 4357 or "HELP" from a campus phone or (401) 254-3611.

During the past year, Roger Williams University installed an outdoor Emergency Siren Warning System (ESWS) on our main campus. The system consists of four strategically placed sirens that will be used to warn the University community in the event of a life-threatening emergency. If a potentially life-threatening emergency is identified where a campus-wide ESWS activation is deemed necessary, the Department of Public Safety will activate the system. The activation will consist of an alert tone generally

followed by a voice message regarding the nature of the emergency. Additionally, the University will use the RWU website and Connect-Ed notification system to provide further information via the internet, telephone, e-mail and text messaging.



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Residence Hall Safety Initiative for Spring 2010 Semester

**"It's Your Campus Home"**

Be Aware, Be Safe, Be Respectful and Secure Your Doors

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During the spring semester, the Department of Public Safety in partnership with Residence Life will be launching the residence hall safety initiative: "It's Your Campus Home" to increase safety awareness at the residential properties at Roger Williams University. Although Roger Williams is one of the safest universities in the region, thefts do occasionally occur from residence rooms, of which, nearly all thefts were from unlocked rooms! Most property crimes throughout society involve moments of opportunity and this safety initiative is an effort to reduce those types of moments of opportunity at Roger Williams.

The "It's Your Campus Home" safety initiative focuses on four messages for student residents: Be Aware, Be Safe, Be Respectful and Secure Your Doors.

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# PUBLIC SAFETY (CONT.)

## Be Aware:

- Think of your residence room or hall as home. Students should think of their residence rooms and halls as their home while living at RWU.
- Would you leave your front door at home unlocked when leaving?
- Would you allow a stranger to enter your home without any question?
- Do you prop any exterior doors of your home and leave them unattended?
- Never leave valuables in plain view or left unattended. Valuables should not be left in plain view in public places or vehicles and never left unattended.
- Don't allow tailgating. This is allowing strangers to follow you into your residence hall or campus home. If people have reasons to be in the residence halls, they should have their own access cards or call someone who will give them access. Although politeness is welcomed and often observed at RWU, we need to just say no to tailgaters in order to maintain a safe and secure residential environment.

## Be Safe:

- Don't hold the door open for strangers. Allowing strangers into the residence halls only serves to jeopardize safety and security at RWU.
- Never prop open exterior doors. This action endangers everyone in the residence halls and any propped-open doors should be immediately secured and reported to Public Safety and or Residence Life.
- Never lend keys. Do not lend your keys, ID card, or electronic access card to anyone, even a friend. Not everyone will take the same care as you would.

## Be Respectful:

- Don't damage or mistreat any RWU property. We have a beautiful campus at RWU and let's keep it that way by being respectful and responsible with any and all RWU property. Immediately report any acts of vandalism to Public Safety.

## Secure Your Doors:

- Lock doors, lock doors, lock doors. Nearly all reported burglaries of residence hall rooms involve unlocked doors. Whenever sleeping or stepping out of the room to visit the bathroom or hallway friends, lock the door! Locking your room door is the best deterrent to theft in the residence rooms.

# RWU WOMEN'S CENTER: STRIVING TO END VIOLENCE



On November 10, 2009, the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA) recognized the Roger Williams University Women's Center's efforts to end relationship violence through their use of the Silent Witness Initiative. The Silent Witness Initiative was born in 1990 out of the concern and outrage of eight passionate Minnesota women who wanted to raise awareness and end violence in their community. Never did these women imagine that over the course of the next 20 years, their concept, sketched on the back of a napkin, would become an international movement to bring an end to relationship violence.

The Silent Witness Initiative is a traveling memorial of life-sized red silhouettes that honor the lives of women, men and children who were murdered in acts of domestic violence. The project pays respect to individuals who were lost tragically at

the hands of someone they once loved and trusted. Each red silhouette bears on its chest a golden shield that tells of the life and death of the person - someone who was once our neighbor, co-worker, or friend.

In 2001, after the tragic death of Katie Brown, a local 19-year-old woman, students at Roger Williams University decided to establish a chapter of the project. Since that time, more than 200 schools across the United States and in 23 other countries have given voice to lives that have been tragically taken from us at the hands of an intimate partner.

The Silent Witness Initiative is extremely powerful for college campuses because it not only provides

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## RWU WOMEN'S CENTER CONT.

a venue for discussion, raising awareness about the sensitive and sometimes unspoken issues of sexual assault and dating violence, it empowers students to take action on their campus and in their local communities to make a difference. For example, in October 2005, a group of RWU Students participated in the annual "March To End the Silence Vigil" in Providence, held each October 18th bringing all of the Silent Witnesses together in the state to remember and honor the lives lost. At the event, we met an amazing woman named Anne Burke, who lost her daughter Lindsay less than a month prior. On that day Anne shared with us more than the horrific story of how her daughter was murdered, she revealed her passion for making the world a safer place for women and girls. She empowered us to join her on that mission. What resulted, with significant assistance from RWU students and college students from across the state, was the implementation of legislation in Rhode Island, known as the Lindsay Ann Burke Act, which requires all school districts in Rhode Island to have a policy to address incidents of dating violence and to offer relationship violence education as a part of its student health curriculum.

We continue to actively use our campus chapter of the Silent Witness Initiative at semesterly vigils, Take Back the Night events, and in conjunction with a variety of educational events on campus and in the local community. I have been forever changed by my involvement with this program and I know, without a doubt, that thousands of students at RWU and across the globe have been educated, empowered and inspired by their connection to the Silent Witness Initiative College Program.

The RWU Silent Witnesses can be viewed at the VDAY Educational Expo, which will be held immediately prior to the annual production of Eve Ensler's "The Vagina Monologues." The event will take place on March 6, 2010, in the Campus

Recreation Center. The following students are featured in the 2010 production: Caitie Abrahamson, Alice Badger, Vivienne Carrette, Jessica Corsentino (co-director), Jillian Goulet, Jessica Hallock, Danielle Jordan, Gina Marie Murphy (co-director), Sara Panaccio, Megan Rafferty, Kate Ricci, Shannon Riccio, Michelle Santos, Caitlin Studley, Cora Tetreault, Sarah Walachy, Laticia Walker, Jenna Wilson, and Jillian Zalewski.



The proceeds from this event will benefit the 2010 VDAY spotlight on Women of the Congo, The Rhode Island Silent Witness Initiative, and the Lindsay Ann Burke Foundation.

For more information about the Women's Center, call (401) 254-3294. The RWU Women's Center is open to all students, men and women, who are committed to the empowerment of women and the advancement women's issues.

Submitted by Jennifer Stanley,  
Director of Residence Life and Women's Center



# INTERCONNECTED AND INTERDEPENDENT: THE INTERCULTURAL CENTER



“Welcoming everyone” is part of our motto, and this fall we did that in style! In September, the Intercultural Center presented a World Theater event: Capoeira performance and workshop. This Brazilian martial arts and dance display took place on the D’Angelo Commons and students participated in the workshop after watching a great show. The Intercultural Center staff also co-sponsored a Community Conversation titled “Media, Social Change and YOU.” The conversation was held immediately after Lisa Ling’s Civil Discourse lecture in October and invited students to think about their own roles in social change.

The fall semester included many highlights for the international students here on campus. The students enjoyed a Newport sailing cruise, a Boston Bruins game, and an event-filled International Education Week in November. During International Education Week students offered cooking classes to share their home cuisine with other students. The Intercultural Center also brought five international students to a Bristol, R.I., high school to do presentations about their cultures for various classes. Many students did similar presentations on campus as well called “The Hour With” program. The fall semester featured “An Hour

With...” programs devoted to Venezuela, China and Islam. Upcoming events this spring include a ski trip, a New York City trip, and “Global Fest,” which is a full day of international festivities held in April.

Back by popular demand, the Spiritual Life Department hosted a “God Squad” program, where students could ask any questions they wanted of our chaplains and faith group leaders. One highlight of the program was a Muslim student saying, “We don’t believe Jesus is God” immediately after our Catholic chaplain, Father Mike Sisco (RWU ’88) had described how Catholics believe Jesus is God — a great example of genuine multifaith dialogue, complete with real differences and honest discussion. In November we also hosted our annual Interfaith Thanksgiving service, complete with representatives from the Jewish, Catholic and Protestant Christian, Islamic, Hindu, Native American and Secular Humanist traditions — it was a moving and enjoyable gathering. A big highlight of the fall was the formation of a student club to celebrate Indian culture and the Hindu tradition, called Sangam, which means collaboration.



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## THE INTERCULTURAL CENTER (CONT.)

Looking ahead, we will host our annual Multifaith Breakfast in February, featuring student speakers reflecting on their experience at Roger Williams. We also plan a Socrates Cafe on Women in Religion in March, in collaboration with several other departments. A U2 Eucharist, a multimedia event that challenges us to put our convictions to work in the world is planned this spring. Our faith groups and worship services meet regularly and information can be obtained from our Multifaith Chaplain. And our holiday table tents will resume in the Dining Commons.

The end of the semester for Bridge to Success mentoring program continued to forge forth full steam ahead. Our campus visits were beneficial and informative. One of the campus visits focused on criminal justice as a career and academic major. The BTS high school mentees were given a brief overview of the criminal justice career path, opportunities and realistic objectives. This was all expressed in an activity in which mentees formed groups and tried to match facts of the major with predisposed categories. The activity was followed by a candid presentation from Professor Robert Engvall, Caitlin Ferriter (graduating senior studying in criminal justice) and Officer Clifford Torres (who serves in Providence, R.I.). The RWU mentors continue to travel to the high schools in order to provide necessary instruction and assistance with the demands of high school students. Next semester will welcome a campus visit that will focus on the opportunities in the School of Law. Another will explore the impact and historical importance of the musical art form known as hip-hop.

The staff of the Intercultural Center sends a special welcome to RWU alumni and invites alumni in town or around campus to stop by and see the changes at the center and meet our current students. We are looking forward to an amazing spring, packed with exciting cultural programs and events.

## H1N1 INFLUENZA UPDATE

Roger Williams University, like universities across the nation, experienced an H1N1 influenza outbreak this fall. We are happy to report that the incidence of H1N1 influenza began to decline the last couple of weeks of school as it did nationally. But we should be aware that a second wave of influenza is anticipated during the winter months. The second wave may be a combination of H1N1 and regular seasonal influenza. For this reason it we strongly encourage those who have not yet been vaccinated against H1N1 or seasonal flu to do so. Vaccination remains the most effective way to fight H1N1 and seasonal flu and prevent another wave of illness this spring.

This fall RWU administered 700 H1N1 vaccines and approximately 400 seasonal flu vaccines to students.

RWU Health Service expects to have both vaccines available again this winter. Students interested in receiving either vaccine should contact Health Services. Remember the best course of action is prevention. Cover your cough and wash your hands. Get adequate rest, nutrition and exercise to keep your resistance up.

Please refer to the following links for important information and the answers to frequently asked questions about the influenza. Current information about the flu at RWU can be found on the web at myRWU under announcements.

[www.flu.gov](http://www.flu.gov)

[www.health.ri.gov](http://www.health.ri.gov)

# SUPPORTING THE CHILDREN'S MIRACLE NETWORK ON CAMPUS



The Department of Residence Life and Housing has been fortunate enough to work with the Inter Residence Hall Association (IRHA) who have coordinated the annual Mr. RWU Spectacular, a non-traditional male beauty pageant with all proceeds going to the Children's Miracle Network. Children's Miracle Network is a non-profit organization that raises funds for more than 170 children's hospitals. Countless individuals, organizations and media partners unite with Children's Miracle Network hospitals to help sick and injured kids in local communities. Donations to Children's Miracle Network create miracles by funding medical care, research and education that saves and improves the lives of 17 million children each year.

Over the past eight years, the contestants of the Mr. RWU Spectacular have raised over \$100,000 to help benefit the Children's Miracle Network. In an effort to support the local Rhode Island communities, all of our funds raised go directly

to the Hasbro Children's Hospital in Providence. Since its creation in 1994, Hasbro Children's Hospital has stood as the premier pediatric facility in southern New England, establishing a tradition of excellence and innovation while creating a comforting and compassionate environment for its patients. This combination has paved the way for a number of groundbreaking medical procedures and services, including: Rhode Island's first pediatric kidney transplant, and the establishment of the region's first and only Pediatric Emergency Department, Intensive Care Unit and Oncology Program.

The preparation for Mr. RWU begins in September when the student body votes for their 'Mr. RWU' candidate. Our contestants select a personal assistant, who will keep them on track through meetings, dance practices, fundraising and preparing for the night of the show. During

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## CHILDREN'S MIRACLE NETWORK (CONT.)



the eight weeks prior to the show, our contestants and personal assistants donate their time in order to make the pageant a success. The students raise money by sending donation letters to family and friends, carrying donation bottles around campus, silent auctions for dates for Homecoming Weekend Events, selling a calendar and participating in a meal sign-away program. The end of the semester brings on the annual show with its opening dance, individual talents, question and answer portion, and a presentation of Children's Miracle Network. The campus community has reached not only into their wallets, but also into their hearts to make this program a campus tradition. Each year, the Mr. RWU audience gets larger and larger, as word spreads about how several students want to create awareness for a special cause.

The 2009 Mr. RWU contestants and personal assistants were Brian Leduc, Catherine Stines, Ian Powers, Blair Carroll, Griffin Labbanche, Sarah Beron, Jerome Pikor, Madi Crocker, Paul Doolan, Emma DeGregorio, Paul Pettini, Kelleigh Welch, Tim Miodonka, Mary Kate Burns, Jacob Fisher, Allison Murphy, John Walsh, Amy Catanese, Christopher Green and Samantha Eckel.



The Inter Residence Hall would like to congratulate our winners. Paul Doolan and Griffin Labbanche (co Mr. Congeniality); Paul Pettini (Most Funds Raised); and our Mr. RWU 2009, John Walsh. The Inter Residence Hall Association would like to send a special thank you to Jessica Sanborn and Stephanie Olesen, who chair this amazing event.

Donating money to a worthy cause is important, and our students wanted to do more during this year's Mr. RWU program. The students brainstormed ideas and the 'Knot-a-thon' was born. Sponsored by the Inter Residence Hall Association, National Residence Hall Honorary, and the North Campus Residence Hall Council, the Knot-a-thon allowed our students to create fleece blankets through Project Linus to donate to Hasbro Children's Hospital. Project Linus' mission is to donate handmade blankets to children who are seriously ill in local hospitals. This program brought a fun community service project to our resident student body. Through hard work, conversation and learning to make fleece blankets, our students donated 35 blankets to Hasbro Children's Hospital.

# LEADERSHIP IS LIFE AND LIFE IS LEADERSHIP!

## SOAR 2009-2010 PROMISES HUGE SUCCESS

The Department of Student Programs and Leadership is proud to announce that their leadership program, SOAR, started into its fourth consecutive year. The department believes in student learning through social, intellectual, spiritual, cultural and interpersonal development; the SOAR program, based on the social change model of leadership development, embodies these beliefs.

The social change model emphasizes the need to understand oneself and others in an effort to create community change. It is less about the leader and a hierarchy and more about the leadership community. The model is inclusive in that it is designed to enhance the development of leadership qualities in all participants — those who hold formal leadership positions as well as those who do not. A leader is not necessarily a person who holds a formal leadership position or who is perceived as a leader by others. The process of leadership cannot be described simply in terms of the behavior of an individual; leadership involves collaborative relationships that lead to collective action grounded in the shared values of people who work together to effect positive change.

The LEAD students (Caitie Abrahamson, Rebecca Cleary, Christine Nelson, Michelle Santos, Brian

Costa, Dana DiSanto, Allison Livezey, Alison Murphy and Amanda Haskins) started the new SOAR year with a successful and fun Training Day with the Mount Hope High School Freshman Mentoring Program on September 4, 2009. Throughout the year, LEAD will work closely with high school students in order to give them the opportunity to learn how to:

- **ENGAGE** in the creation of social change within their school community by actively mentoring first-year students.
- **LEAD** peers in meaningful, purposeful experiential learning activities.
- **DEVELOP** essential skill sets that improve one's ability to work collaboratively in groups and teams.
- **GAIN** confidence in preparation for future plans such as college or a career.

The big kick off for the first two SOAR levels, EMERGE and DEVELOP, happened a few weeks later on September 19 and 20 at the SOAR retreat in Chester, Conn. Camp Hazen hosted our leadership getaway, where the 54 Emerge and 33 Develop participants had the

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## SOAR (CONT.)



chance to get to know their facilitators and their fellow SOAR students as well as learn more about the social change model and leadership in general. Some of the retreat highlights were Clump Tag, Move Your Butt, Diversity Bingo, Utility Charade, High Ropes Course, True Colors, Personality Jazz and Camp Fire Reflection session, just to name a few.

Thanks to the dedicated facilitators Adrienne Henderson, Gretchen Streiff, Patrick Tanner, Regina Curran, Brian LeDuc, Ted Beatty, Brendan Boyle and Jill Zalewski, as well as the LEAD students, the retreat was a huge success.

If you are interested in learning more about SOAR, want to participate in this unique leadership program or would like to facilitate a SOAR level, please don't hesitate to contact Petra Van Meter at [pvanmeter@rwu.edu](mailto:pvanmeter@rwu.edu) or x5367.

## SOAR RECOGNITION CEREMONY

On November 20, 2009 we celebrated the graduation of the fall 2009 SOAR participants. Next to walking down memory lane with a retreat slide show and an amazing dessert buffet, each cohort shared their experiences in SOAR after our guest speaker John King, vice president of student affairs, praised the hard work and commitment of all SOAR participants. As the highlight of the ceremony, each SOAR graduate received their well deserved SOAR certificate and a tier specific shirt.

According to the model of leadership there are seven critical values of leadership which fall into three levels: EMERGE, DEVELOP and LEAD. EMERGE is designed to help emerging student leaders from any class year to gain a greater sense of self knowledge through leadership. This level is intended for students who are interested in developing their leadership skills in preparation for leadership positions. DEVELOP is designed to help returning student leaders to learn about leadership as it relates to groups and communities; this level is intended for students who have recently taken on leadership roles on campus. LEAD is designed to help advanced student leaders to learn to synthesize all that they have learned in SOAR in the form of a social change project in the Bristol community.

There were 53 RWU students who graduated from the EMERGE tier and 33 RWU students who graduated from the DEVELOP tier. All nine LEAD students will continue their hard work with the Mount Hope project all through the spring semester and will graduate from LEAD in May. Congratulations to all SOAR graduates!

As student leaders the SOAR students influence and improve the Roger Williams University campus on a daily basis. Keep up the great work SOAR! See you in the fall in the next Leadership tier!



# THE LOCKER ROOM

Homophobia. Spirituality. Pornography. Privilege. Media. Anthropology. These words don't appear to be interconnected, until you view them through the lens of gender; specifically, masculinity. A dozen or so male students volunteered to discuss topics like this one night a week during the fall semester here at Roger Williams University. The group is known as The Locker Room.

The idea for men's-only forum was born out of numbers: 70% of all conduct cases at RWU involved

men, while only 30% of student leaders were men. With one of the University's core values addressing the promotion of civil discourse, there was an unmistakable need to create a positive environment for men to have fun and feel comfortable in their own skin, while grappling with the changing culture and dynamic of what it means to be a man.

The committed group of students met weekly for an hour and a half during 10 weeks of the fall semester. Snacks were provided while internet clips and interactive exercises sparked conversation. Facilitated by Laurel Dreher and Patrick Tanner from the Department of Residence Life and Housing, the group grew to trust each other very quickly and felt comfortable to challenge one another on various topics in a respectable manner.

All of these details hint at the structure of the program, but senior Jon Fergione captures the heart and soul of this initiative:

*The Locker Room at Roger Williams University was one of the most beneficial and worthwhile experiences I have had the pleasure of being involved with. When it first started, I had no idea what to expect other than our advisors Patrick Tanner and Laurel Dreher telling us there would be food at each meeting — how could I say no to that? But after the first five minutes of discussion the food was hardly the reason I decided to join this group.*

*When posed the question at the beginning, "What does it mean to be a man?" I had no response. I had never put that thought into my head. Was I taking something for granted? Was I doing what society has said my role is supposed to be and just accepting that? I simply carried on with my daily activities not even thinking about what each one meant, or if I had the privilege to do that activity just because I was a man. Topics like music, movies, religion, business, porn, male privilege, and what women have to do with all of this were discussed. These ideas were discussed as a group to try and spark discussion and formulate our thoughts on these subjects.*

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**Julia Alvarez**  
Poet, Novelist, Essayist

## JOIN US FOR OUR NEXT CIVIL DISCOURSE LECTURE

### “AN EVENING WITH JULIA ALVAREZ”

Thursday, February 25, 2010 • 5:30 p.m.

Roger Williams University Campus Recreation Center Gymnasium

Lecture is free and open to the public with a ticket.

Reserve a ticket by calling 254-3210.

## THE LOCKER ROOM (CONT.)

*This group has taught me to think outside of the box more than ever and has opened my eyes and mind on these subjects. I believe this group has affected me in many ways, not just as a man, but as a Resident Assistant on campus, a college senior about to enter the real world and someone who is planning to pursue a career in higher education. It's amazing to see that a group of college students can have the opportunity to discuss things that people have never even stopped to think about which affects their life every single day.*

*I've learned that just listening to and playing certain songs suppresses entire genders, races and even an entire sex (yes, we learned that a person's sex and gender are different). The issue of women's equality was also brought up and how men tied into this. It is not up to the women alone to achieve equality, but the men as well. If men are unwilling to help and make the change, then this is something that will never be achieved. If there was ever a time to "man up," it would be with this issue.*

*The Locker Room has taught me to think about what words are actually coming out of people's mouths, and even though*

*it may not be affecting you personally, it's certainly hurting other people. So, the next time you hear (or say) a phrase like "That's so gay" or "No Homo," think about what you are really doing.*

*Issues like this have impacted our group dramatically and poised us to start the change ourselves. Just talking about these issues has given each and every one of us the confidence to speak up for what we believe in. As Mahatma Gandhi once said, "You must be the change you wish to see in the world." Hopefully more groups like ours take action and start discussing these important issues and making change. I look forward to continuing with The Locker Room and being the change.*

The Locker Room will return to campus this spring starting February 10, 2010. The group will meet every Wednesday night from 7:00 to 9:00 pm in GHH 108. If you're interested in joining TLR, please contact Patrick Tanner at [ptanner@rwu.edu](mailto:ptanner@rwu.edu), or Laurel Dreher at [ldreher@rwu.edu](mailto:ldreher@rwu.edu).

**If you know others who would be interested in receiving this newsletter, or care to change your email address, please send current email addresses to [advancement@rwu.edu](mailto:advancement@rwu.edu)**

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.



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