



A MESSAGE FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

Dear Parents,

As another academic year has come to a close, I would like to take a few moments to share some of the many positive outcomes of our spring semester at Roger Williams. Our Roger Williams University Dance Theatre presented at The Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C., in May as part of the American College of Dance Festival National Showcase. In addition, our Theatre Department's productions of the musical *The Spitfire Grill* and *The Male Animal* received positive reviews.

This spring in Athletics, the 2010 baseball team had some great moments including a 5-2 win over the nation's 16th-ranked team – Eastern Connecticut State. In softball, the team finished the season with a 20-19 final record, falling just short of qualifying for the final spot in the conference playoffs. The equestrian team held a fifth place finish out of 11 teams at the UConn Show and had two riders represent RWU at the Zone 1 Regional Championships in early April. Women's lacrosse finished their season with a 14-5 record overall. The men's lacrosse team finished with an overall record of 10-7 and a conference record of 7-3. Both men's and women's lacrosse made it to the conference semifinals, and the women's lacrosse team made it to the conference championship game. Our nationally ranked sailing team had another impressive year, capturing multiple 1st-place wins, including placing first in Team Racing Competitions at both the A and C levels. Women's and men's track and field teams both won the TCCC Invitational Championship. Our men's tennis team received their second consecutive regular season conference title and their second straight undefeated conference regular season.

This year 20 students participated in an Alternative Spring Break to Valdosta, Georgia where they assisted in the construction of a house as well as volunteering at the re-store location where salvaged items are resold to help fund future builds. Another group of five students traveled to El Salvador to volunteer for a week of medical and public health-based service with the nonprofit Foundation for International Medical Relief of Children.

At the end of the semester many students received recognition for their academic and co-curricular accomplishments at the Academic Achievement Awards Dinner, Athletics gathering, Student Programs & Leadership Awards and Team Care. Included in the awards received were the Core Values Medallions presented to 12 graduating seniors who best exemplified the core values of the university. This year Roger Williams University conferred more than 1,100 degrees during the University's 2010 Commencement exercises on Saturday, May 22, 2010. The keynote speaker, William J. Bratton, gave an inspirational and motivating speech on perseverance, bridging differences and leadership. Although we had to say goodbye to so many talented students, we are looking forward to welcoming in a new first-year class of 1,100 students and collaborating with all of our returning students throughout this coming academic year.

I hope you enjoy your last edition of this newsletter for the academic year as well as your time at home with your student this summer. We eagerly await their return in August!

Sincerely,

John J. King, Ed.D.
Vice President – Student Affairs

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PARENTS ASSOCIATION UPDATE

Hello!

I want to take this opportunity to mention some highlights from our first year as a Parents Association. We began the year with a great Homecoming & Family Weekend and a first meeting for the Association. President Nirschel and Senior Vice President Fawthrop both shared some great information with the group, highlighting how far the University has come in recent years and citing some future goals.

We had current parents host a Family Lounge during Move In Weekend, which helped to ease some of the nerves and served as a great source of information for our new families. Several parents volunteered to be a part of our Open House events and Accepted Students' Days over the course of the year. Parents at these events participated on parent panels and/or mingled with perspective families during lunch and the University Reception and again, offered their support and shared their wisdom with perspective students and their families.

With each event that the Parents Association has been involved in we have witnessed great teamwork between our parents and our University. We have a shared vision of success for our students and the University and it is evident in the steps we have taken this year to offer opportunities for our parents to become more involved on campus.

As we look to the future, it is clear that the Parents Association has many opportunities to be an active part of the Roger Williams University community. I have asked for suggestions and ideas throughout the year and will continue to do so as we explore ways in which parents can become more involved and partner with the University.

A member of the Parents Association had sent me a list of 20 or so questions that she wished she had answers to in the beginning and I ask that all of you contribute to the list by emailing me your thoughts, comments, questions. We are working on a handout to be given to new parents at the New Student and Family Orientations in June, which we hope will help them maneuver a little easier through their student's first year at Roger Williams University.

I am looking forward to our second annual meeting during Homecoming & Family Weekend in October of 2010 – look for more information to be posted at www.rwu.edu as the date draws closer.

Please feel free to email me at amarsili@rwu.edu.

Enjoy your summer!

Sincerely,

Amanda J. Marsili

Associate Director of Parent Relations and Outreach

amarsili@rwu.edu

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ATHLETICS



The Roger Williams University Department of Athletics hosted over 500 student-athletes and guests Monday evening in the Recreation Center Fieldhouse for the 2010 Athletics Awards Banquet. The event recognized the great success and numerous individual and team accomplishments throughout the 2009-2010 seasons.

The first major award of the evening was presented by alumna Arwen Mitton '09, who honored wrestling team member Chris Nadeau (Granby, Conn.) with the James R. Russo Award as the senior student-athlete with the highest cumulative grade point average. Nadeau, an accounting major, has recorded a 3.9 GPA over four years, earning Academic All-America honors twice and posting an impressive 84-49 record on the mat.

Later in the evening, wrestling alumnus Joe Fitzsimons '04 presented another wrestler with the RWU Male Athlete of the Year award. Junior Nick Cambi (Cohasset, Mass.) earned the award after taking All-New England honors this season with a second-place finish at 197 in the New England Championships. The two-time Academic All-American is also a Pilgrim League First Team All-Star. He led the team in wins and team points, finishing with an overall record of 33-6 – good for a .846 winning percentage which ranks sixth all-time at RWU.

The RWU Female Athlete of the Year award was presented by alumna Kristin Cerreto '06 to senior Kristina Dolan (Glenmont, N.Y.). Dolan led the women's volleyball team to its first The Commonwealth Coast Conference Championship in 12 years and its

first NCAA Tournament appearance ever in program history. She is a four-time All-Conference award winner and also took home the 2007 RWU Rookie of the Year award. She finishes her career as the all-time leader in block assists and is one of only three players all-time to record over 1,000 kills in her career.

Another women's volleyball player taking home an award was Emily Lebowitz (Coventry, Conn.), who was named RWU Female Rookie of the Year. She earned All-TCCC Honorable Mention and TCCC Rookie of the Year after setting the team to the conference championship and NCAA Tournament. Her 927 assists ranked second overall in the conference and stands fourth all-time at RWU for most assists in a season.

The RWU Male Rookie of the Year was awarded to Phil Jacques (Durham, Maine) for his outstanding performance on the men's swimming and diving team. Phil won the 200-Backstroke at the NEISDA Championships in February, placed second in the 100-Backstroke and took third in the 50-Backstroke. He established new school records for each of those races and is also a part of the record-holding relay teams in the 400-medley and the 200, 400 and 800-Freestyle.

Ray Cordeiro, Ambassador of Alumni Relations, presented the Raymond Cordeiro Award to Jessie Alden (Cataumet, Mass.) of the women's lacrosse team. The award honors a senior student-athlete who has shown perseverance, commitment and leadership, and whose contribution to the team may not show up in box scores

or statistics. Alden excelled in those plays requiring all-out effort and battled through injuries all four years as a result. A captain on the 2010 team, she led the team both on the field and in the classroom, where she recorded a 3.83 GPA.

A member of the softball team, Sarah Grill (Watervilet, N.Y.), took home the Female Sharon Castelli Award, given to the student-athlete who best exemplifies the qualities of dedication, leadership and sportsmanship. Sarah has shown tremendous leadership and dedication to the softball team, while also contributing across campus. She's involved in Inter-Class Council as the Junior Class President, participated in the Up 'til Dawn program as Sponsorship Chair and serves as an Assistant in the Athletic Training Room. She is Academic captain for the team while maintaining a 3.9 GPA and is a member of the Beta Gamma Sigma Business Honor Society.

The Male Sharon Castelli Award was presented to Travis O'Dell (Brunswick, Maine) of the men's basketball team. Serving as co-captain this season, Travis is one of the team's best all-around players and a leader both on and off the court. He has been an active member of SAAC and currently serves as Vice President. He represented RWU at the 2009 NCAA National Student Leadership Conference and he also co-founded the RWU chapter of the Sustained Dialogue Campus Network – attending the National Conference in both 2009 and 2010.

Acting Athletic Director Dave Kemmy and Kelli Viera, wife of the late Scott Viera, presented the Scott F. Viera Director of Athletics Award to women's cross country team member senior Nicole DesRoches (Hebron, Conn.). The award honors a person within the RWU community who made tremendous contributions to RWU Athletics despite experiencing adversity. DesRoche exudes a positive, never-quit attitude and overcame tragedy to leave RWU having accomplished



so much both on and off the course.

The evening also featured speeches from senior student-athlete Melissa Sereti (Shrewsbury, Mass.) of the softball team and also alumna Melissa Hutchinson '97. Fellow alum Marcia Whitney '89 was honored with the inaugural Alumni Award celebrating her outstanding continued support and commitment to RWU Athletics.

The President of the RWU Super SAAC organization, Amanda daCunha (Wethersfield, Conn.), awarded the annual Captain's Award to the RWU Athletics Staff member who goes above and beyond in making the student-athlete experience a positive one. This year's award was presented to Amanda Callahan, Head Sailing Coach and Waterfront Coordinator, for her leadership as SAAC Advisor earlier this year.

This spring in Athletics, the Baseball team had some great moments including a 5-2 win over the nation's 16th-ranked team Eastern Connecticut State. In Softball, the team finished the season with a 20-19 final record, just falling short of qualifying for the final spot in the conference playoffs. The Equestrian team held a fifth place finish out of 11 teams at the UConn Show and had two

riders represent RWU at the Zone 1 Regional Region 1 Finals in early April. Women's Lacrosse finished their season with a 14-5 record overall and their third straight appearance in the conference championship game. The Men's Lacrosse team finished with an overall record of 10-7 while advancing to the conference semifinals. Our nationally ranked sailing team had another impressive year, capturing wins at multiple regattas along with the team's third straight berth at the ICSA/Gill Coed Dinghy National Championships. Women's and Men's Track & Field teams both won the TCCC Invitational Championship. Our Men's Tennis team achieved their second consecutive regular season conference title and their second straight undefeated conference regular season.

CAREER CENTER EVENTS 2009 – 2010

SEPTEMBER

Tuesday, September 15
Navigating your Career: Part II

Thursday, September 17
Graduate Essay Do's and Don'ts

Tuesday, September 22
Graduate Admissions Panel

Wednesday, September 23
Financing Your Graduate Education

Tuesday, September 29
Law School Essays

OCTOBER

Wednesday, October 7
SECCM Career Reception

Wednesday, October 14
Bus to Westfield State Criminal
Justice & Non-Profit Career Fair

Tuesday, October 20
Accounting Career Reception

Wednesday, October 21
Bus to URI Engineering and
Technology Fair

Friday, October 30
Career Haunted House

NOVEMBER

Wednesday, November 4
School of Justice Studies
Career Reception

Thursday, November 5
Bus to Federal Jobs Career Fair

Thursday, November 12
Dining Etiquette

DECEMBER

Wednesday, December 9
Careers in Media
Bus Trip to NYC

Wednesday, March 10
Liberal Arts Panel: Natural Science

Wednesday, March 24
Liberal Arts Panel: Arts and
Humanities

Wednesday, March 31
14th Annual Career Fair

APRIL

Wednesday, April 21
16th Annual RICE Education
Career Fair

Events for Spring 2010

FEBRUARY

Thursday, February 11
Secrets of Graduate Admissions
Revealed!

Tuesday, February 23
Dining Etiquette

MARCH

Wednesday, March 3
Liberal Arts Panel: Social Science

Tuesday, March 9
Gabelli School of Business
Networking Reception

For more information and to register visit Hawk's Hunt at

<http://careercenter.rwu.edu>

CAREER CENTER

On March 31st the Career Center hosted the 14th annual Career Fair. Unlike a job fair that only focuses on getting a “job”, a career fair shows participants how to launch a career. Our vendors included employers who offered internships, summer jobs, part-time jobs, volunteer opportunities and post graduation professional employment. Our Career Fair also included dozens of institutions of higher education who were recruiting for their graduate and professional programs.

This year, Roger Williams University had over 80 vendors who spoke to over 250 students in a three hour period. Prior to the opening of the fair, the Career Center hosted a lunch for our guests and invited faculty, deans and administrators to mingle and get to know each other.

The Career Fair is the capstone to the programming that the Career Center offers during the academic year. Many of our Career Fair employers extended their stay beyond the day to include on-campus interviews of our students.

We brought employers to campus all year to recruit or educate our students about careers, graduate school and post-graduate service. Starting with graduate school month in September, graduate school admissions representatives have been on our campus multiple times this year to explain how to be a great candidate for an advanced degree. The Career Center hosted specific receptions and panels for our students to meet with professionals in the fields of accounting, protective services, criminal justice, business, education, engineering, construction management, computer science, fine arts, historic preservation, the sciences (social and natural) and the performing arts.

The poster features three stylized human figures in business attire standing on a path made of large, colorful interlocking puzzle pieces. The background is a light blue gradient with faint geometric shapes. The title '14th ANNUAL CAREER FAIR' is in large, bold, red and white letters. To the right, a list of opportunities is provided. A dark blue banner at the bottom contains a message about the value of face-to-face meetings and provides the date, time, and location of the event. The Roger Williams University Career Center logo is at the bottom right.

14th ANNUAL CAREER FAIR

Meet and network with employers from various industries. Learn about full-time, part-time, summer jobs, internships and graduate school programs.

The value of meeting with employers face to face is invaluable. The Career Center wants to help you be successful in networking with employers and be prepared in the job seeking process; please set up an appointment or visit us during walk-in hours to learn how we can help you prepare.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31, 2010
1:00 - 3:30 p.m.
Field House, Campus Recreation Center

Please visit Hawk's Hunt for more details & to register:
<http://careercenter.rwu.edu>

Roger Williams University
CAREER CENTER

Our students continue to do internships at a record pace. Students spend 120-135 hours in the field getting hands-on experience while earning three academic credits. Students do their internships in any one of our four semesters.

The Career Center is committed to helping our students and alumni to determine who they are, where they'd like to go professionally and how to get there. Students and alumni are encouraged to use our services at any time.

CENTER FOR COUNSELING AND STUDENT DEVELOPMENT

The Counseling Center has coordinated the PEER Program for over 30 years. It presently consists of twelve dedicated student leaders who are trained by the Counseling Center staff in the areas of mental health. Their aim is to empower students to take charge of their emotional wellness. PEERs work directly with students by providing workshops for ways to de-stress as well as collaborate with other programs on campus to highlight and reinforce positive messages. An example of the latter took place in the spring when they co-sponsored a speaker, D'Lo, who provided a theatrical, poetic and comedic presentation on cultural and sexual diversity.

This semester the PEER Program reexamined their mission with a renewed emphasis to enhance the emotional wellness of their fellow students while also contributing to the university's efforts to be a more accepting and diverse campus community. In the spirit of this new focus PEERs now stand for

PEER Educators Empowering RWU. An example of this renewed effort was a collaboration with the Multicultural Student Union Fashion Show whereby they incorporated healthy body image and the message to be more accepting of differences into the event's program. To further support these changes the PEERs and the Counseling Center will both be housed in the Center for Student Development in the 2010-2011 academic year.

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 may be reached at (401) 254-3124.

DINING/BON APPÉTIT

Successfully going Low Carbon!

On April 22nd, in conjunction with Earth Day, all Bon Appétit cafés proudly go on a low carbon diet! At lunch, café's are transformed to illustrate ways customers can reduce climate change through their food choices. Each station throughout the café highlighted a principle of the Low Carbon Diet in addition to a low carbon food choice. Over the past three years that the Low Carbon program has been in place, café's across the country, including here at Roger Williams, have made great strides in lowering our carbon footprint and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. During the first year, we achieved a 23% reduction in our beef purchases, a 10% reduction in cheese purchases, and acquired 100% of our meats, fresh vegetables, non-tropical fruit, and bottled water from North America. Year



two also brought more great accomplishments. Beef purchases were further trimmed by 33%, food waste was cut by a vast 20%, tropical fruit purchases were cut back by 50%, and our to-go containers usage was decreased by 10%. This year, Bon Appétit set forth more goals to be worked toward! Our objectives included cutting back our food waste by an additional 25%, easing our energy and water usage by at least 20%, and to introduce more shade-grown and organic coffees. The verdict is still out on the results of how Bon Appétit – as a whole – has done this year and how our efforts have positively affected the environment we live in; however, as far as Roger Williams University is concerned the dining team has consistently endeavored to reduce waste, buy local, and educate our community (and do so deliciously!). For more information on Bon Appétit and the Low Carbon Diet go to www.circleofresponsibility.com

SPRING IS IN THE AIR

Update from the Department of Residence Life



Spring time at Roger Williams has a number of memorable aromas; the pleasant perfumes of flowers in bloom, saltwater coming in off the bay, and the alluring smell of coconut tanning lotion from students who study outside on the lawn. But don't forget the most captivating smell of all: the smell of a grill full of barbecued goodies!

As has been the tradition at every residence hall on Roger Williams' beautiful springtime campus, this year saw eight unique celebrations of extremely successful residential programming. Under the direction of the Coordinators of Residential Education (COREs), each area's Hall Council and Resident Assistant (RA) staff took great care to organize an end-of-the-year festival to commemorate the accomplishments of their community.

Most notably, Cedar Hall had a western theme complete with a chance to ride a mechanical bull, North Campus Residence Hall had a water slide that was almost taller than the building, and Almeida residents were competing non-stop in sporting events from badminton to wiffle ball. Bayside and Baypoint coordinated with class councils to arrange festivals on a grand scale. Willow Hall had water balloon fights, Stonewall Terrace provided residents the opportunity to challenge each other in a jousting competition, and Maple Hall featured a superstar chef, Jesse from the Maple Hall Custodial Staff; so many residents were asking for photographs that it felt like the paparazzi was there!

In addition to these distinctives, every resident was treated to grilled meats like cheeseburgers, hot dogs, and barbecue chicken. Some menus even included barbecued pork and chourico! Residents truly enjoyed this opportunity to gather and celebrate the fantastic year that has been facilitated by the professional staff and student leaders from the Department of Residence Life and Housing. At Stonewall Terrace, for example, impromptu games of 4 Square and Collegiate-Level Hopscotch were enjoyed by onlookers who were munching on cotton candy and getting their faces painted.

Even after most of the events had to be rescheduled multiple times due to inclement weather, the COREs, RAs, and Hall Council members took tremendous satisfaction in being able to provide a fun and engaging afternoon of joy and laughter for the residents whom they so lovingly serve.



ROGER WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

A Message from the Director of Public Safety

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 investigate 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 twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week (24/7) and is just a phone call away by dialing 4357 or "HELP" from a campus phone or (401) 254-3611. Roger Williams University is dedicated to safeguarding the health and safety of each student.

Notifying Students of an Emergency

The main emergency communication system at the University is Connect-Ed, a new tool the University has implemented to ensure that its emergency team has a way to communicate instantly with campus community members whose safety might be at risk. The Connect-Ed system sends phone, e-mail and text message alerts in real time, so that students, faculty and staff will never be left in the dark when it comes to incidents affecting their safety. Key to this program's

success, however, is that students update their contact information via myRWU, the University's online web portal. Students should regularly check myRWU to ensure that phone numbers and e-mail addresses are up-to-date so that they will be alerted by the Connect-Ed broadcast in case of any campus emergency.

The University has also installed an outdoor Emergency Siren Warning System (ESWS) on its 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.

Beyond Connect-Ed and the Emergency Siren Warning System, there are additional communication methods in which we keep our students, faculty and staff informed of developments:

- Post notices in bright red banner on the front of our university website
- Record a message on the campus hotline (254-4400)
- Communication notices through the campus radio station and local television stations
- Post notices on the new electronic sign board located on the outside of the Recreation Center (facing the Commons Dining Building)
- Post notices at residential halls and other buildings

The University also has made significant recent investments in upgrading the CCTV camera system on campus along with adding several new blue light emergency phones on campus as well.



MARIJUANA IS MAKING HEADLINE NEWS

by Donna Darmody, *Director of Health Education and Alcohol and Drug Prevention Coordinator*

Marijuana has been in the news a lot more this year as California approves a new bill which will be legalizing it to voters in November of 2010. Rhode Island legalized medical marijuana on January 3rd 2006 and is now considering decriminalizing possession, the way Massachusetts did in January of 2009. These movements to medicalize and legalize marijuana can send mixed messages to our students making it appear that marijuana use is safe and mostly legal; which plays down the dangers of habitual use. Also, student perceptions regarding the extent of marijuana use among their peers has been found to be consistently incorrect. They believe that the majority of college students use marijuana and the median perception of the level of use is at least once a week or more. (RWU CORE Survey 2008) The combination of marijuana publicly appearing to be less harmful along with the misperception that “everybody smokes” can lead to a Pandora’s box effect for our students. In this article I will write about the 4 headlines that I feel should be in the news.

#1 Increased Marijuana Users Seeking Treatment

Although most experts agree that marijuana is not as harmful as other illicit drugs, the drug now is made differently than it was in the 1970’s. According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), cannabis today is up to five times stronger; making it potentially more addicting and dangerous to the developing brain. More adults are being admitted to treatment centers for primary marijuana and hashish addictions than in the past. According to government data in the 2007 SAMHSA report there was a significant increase from 12% in 1997 to 16% in 2007 in the amount of those seeking marijuana treatments. While marijuana doesn’t fit the clinical definition for addiction, many of the regular marijuana users that I see have a hard time quitting and also report significant withdrawal symptoms of feeling anxious or edgy, experiencing mood swings, and the inability to fall asleep. While the physical dependency of marijuana is still unclear, some research has found the existence of a dependency syndrome in 15% of moderate to heavy users. (Wiesbeck et al. 1996).

#2 Marijuana Too Harmful To Be Legalized According to the Federal Government

The National Institute of Drug Addiction has a marijuana fact sheet and the following information was taken directly from the website: <http://www.drugabuse.gov/infacts/marijuana.html>.

Many students do not believe that smoking marijuana is harmful to the body and look at it as a more natural substance than tobacco in cigarettes. Like tobacco, marijuana increases the heart rate shortly after smoking and this effect can last up to 3 hours. Someone who smokes marijuana regularly may have many of the same respiratory problems that tobacco smokers do, such as daily cough and phlegm production, more frequent acute chest illnesses, a heightened risk of lung infections, and a greater tendency toward having obstructed airways. Marijuana has the potential to promote cancer of the lungs and other parts of the respiratory tract because marijuana smoke contains 50 to 70 percent more carcinogenic hydrocarbons than tobacco smoke.

Marijuana has similar physiological effects on the brain as other drugs but has its’ most profound effect on short term memory. Marijuana’s damage to short-term memory seems to occur because THC alters the way in which information is processed by the hippocampus, a brain area responsible for memory formation. In one study, researchers compared marijuana smoking and nonsmoking 12th-graders’ scores on standardized tests of verbal and mathematical skills. Although all of the students had scored equally well in 4th grade, those who were heavy marijuana smokers (7 plus x/wk) scored significantly lower in 12th grade than nonsmokers. Another study of 129 college students found that among heavy users of marijuana critical skills related to attention, memory, and learning were significantly impaired, even after they had not used the drug for at least 24 hours. These are the very skills students and parents are paying college tuition of approximately \$45,000.00 a year to develop.

MARIJUANA cont.

by Donna Darmody

Research clearly demonstrates that marijuana has the potential to cause problems in daily life or make a person's existing problems worse. In one study, heavy marijuana abusers reported that the drug had impaired several important measures of life achievement including physical and mental health, cognitive abilities, social life, and career status. Several studies associate workers' marijuana smoking with increased absences, tardiness, accidents, workers' compensation claims, and job turnover. A number of studies have shown an association between chronic marijuana use and increased rates of anxiety, depression, suicidal ideation, and schizophrenia. However, at this time, it is not clear whether marijuana use causes mental problems, exacerbates them, or is used in an attempt to self-medicate symptoms already in existence. Chronic marijuana use, especially in a very young person, may also be a marker of risk for mental illnesses, including addiction, stemming from genetic or environmental vulnerabilities. High doses of marijuana can produce an acute psychotic reaction; in addition, use of the drug may trigger the onset or relapse of schizophrenia in vulnerable individuals.

#3 The Majority of College Students Do Not Use Marijuana

Marijuana is the most widely used illicit drug among college students according to the American College Health Association's (ACHA) National College Health Assessment (NCHA). However, based on 34,208 college students, Fall 2009 data revealed that 69% reported never using marijuana with 13% admitting use in the last month. Daily use was reported at only 1.6% here at RWU which translates to under 100 students.

So, "everybody" is not actually smoking pot and those that do it regularly are different from the students that don't. My observation is that those who are smoking marijuana are more likely to forget their appointment with me, miss class, not be involved in leadership opportunities, change majors in order to get the one with the least amount of work, go un-noticed unless they get in trouble with school authorities or the law, suffer from low self-esteem, lose interest, become depressed, ... the list can go on and on. In summary, the tragedy can be summed up in this last headline.

#4 Marijuana: Jeopardizing the Potential of Our Best and Brightest- our College Students

Sources:

<http://www.drugabuse.gov/infofacts/marijuana.html>.
www.samhsa.gov

*Please note that marijuana is not permitted on the RWU campus.
Students found responsible for smoking marijuana are
in violation of the RWU Code of Conduct and
may be removed from the residence halls.*

INTERCULTURAL CENTER

It has been a tremendous spring at the Intercultural Center. World Theater this spring was entitled “Music, Movement, and More”. Faculty led a discussion on dance as an art form. Undergraduates performed dramatic dance interpretations. A discussion led by Charles Carvalho explored the history of the cultural phenomenon known as hip-hop, and members from Draztik Dance Crew led a modern dance hip-hop workshop. We also hosted Pendragon, a Celtic band, which performed live and instructors lead students in an Irish dance workshop. Many international students participated in “Global Fest,” which was a full day of international festivities and a chance for students from around the world to share their culture with the campus. In addition, SAFE, our LGBT student group on campus, co-sponsored D’Lo, a gender-based one-man performance. The year culminated with a concert by Charles Carvalho and his 11th Island Band.

The international students enjoyed an event-filled spring semester. They took a trip to New York City to see the Broadway hit “In The Heights” and they enjoyed seeing the sites of the Big Apple. This semester three students continued the “Hour With” series and we heard from students from Saudi Arabia, India and Romania as they discussed their culture, history and geography with other students and shared some amazing photos from their countries. Other highlights of this semester included a ski trip to Mount Wachusett and a trip to Boston to see the entertaining “Blue Man Group.”

The Office of Spiritual Life started the semester with a bang, hosting the annual Interfaith Breakfast. Over thirty people in attendance heard student speakers from a variety of backgrounds explain why and how spiritual life matters to them. Rabbi Marc Jagolinzer, Pastor Dan Randall, and Father Michael Sisco also attended. Our office also co-sponsored a Socrates Café on Gender and Religion, attended by more than sixty-five students and faculty where we held a lively discussion about whether religions should treat men and women differently. University Multifaith Chaplain Tom Sullivan accompanied the RWU FIMRC Club (Foundation for the International Medical Relief of



Children) to El Salvador during Spring Break – a fantastic experience for all concerned.

This Office of Spiritual Life also helped launch two new activities and clubs: a weekly meditation program, led by Andy Costanzo (from our own Dining Services), and a new Indian Culture club, called Sangam, which serves our Hindu students and others who claim Indian heritage. The Newman Club, besides hosting interesting speakers (on Theology of the Body and Living Simply), donated funds again this year to Keep the Heat On, a local ecumenical charity which helps local citizens in poverty heat their homes during challenging economic times. Besides weekly Mass, we had four packed Ash Wednesday services to begin Lent, along with a Lenten meditation series.

Hillel was extremely active again this semester, presenting a Holocaust speaker event attended by over one hundred people, holding bimonthly Shabbat dinners, hosting Passover Dinners on campus. Rabbi Jagolinzer has been an active resource this semester, both to our Hillel students and to the Multifaith Council, as we planned events and debated policy issues. The Muslim Student Association held a well-attended barbecue this spring (with over fifty Islamic students from RWU in attendance), as well as several other smaller activities. Our InterVarsity Christian Fellowship held several small programs and celebrations throughout the semester, as well.

For the first time an “Advanced Intercultural Learning” course was offered with students integrating concepts and theories with creating their own educational programs for the campus community. The Intercultural Center ended this year with a BBQ to celebrate the success of another academic year and IC involvement. The weather was fantastic and over one hundred students and other guests had a wonderful time!

SPRING HAPPENINGS FOR STUDENT PROGRAMS AND LEADERSHIP



The Spring Semester has been eventful due to collaborations with Clubs and Organizations with support from the

Department of Student Programs and Leadership. This semester saw new programming ideas, campus traditions, and community service programming that benefited our student body.

On April 17th, the Inter Class Council (ICC) with support from other clubs and organizations debuted 'The Cake Off' a community service program that benefitted the Dana Farber Cancer Research Center. This program allowed teams of 3-5 to channel their inner Ace of Cakes and decorate a cake in 30 minutes. Our panel of Campus Celebrity Judges went through 27 before crowning a winner. More than \$2,500 was raised for Dana Farber.

The Campus Entertainment Network (CEN) literally put on a circus with our Cirque de Roger, our annual Spring Weekend Event. With The Fray in concert and a trip to see the Pawtucket Red Sox play, our students were able to celebrate the start of the weekend. The Block Party on North Campus featured rides, carnival games, petting zoo, carnival food, and live music; this was a great way for our students to enjoy the beautiful weather and the hard work of CEN. The weekend wrapped up with Fireworks and a showing of Alice and Wonderland.



The Department of Student Programs wants to thank all of the students who assisted in putting on over 150 events during the Spring Semester.



Student Leaders came together on May 11th for the 16th Annual Student Involvement Recognition Banquet. This was a time for our student leaders to reflect on a successful year with programming and recognition each other for their work for the campus community. Over 40 awards were received by our deserving students including the following:

The Karen R. Haskell Student Leader Award: **Brian LeDuc**

Excellence in Leadership: **Lauren Bartolotti** and **Corey Konnick**

Tamara Von George Rising Star Award: **Bre'Anna Metts-Nixon**

Club of the Year: **Values of Sisterhood** (currently the sorority Theta Phi Alpha)

Club Member of the Year: **Ziad Al Achkar**; Model United Nations

Organization of the Year: **Inter Residence Hall Association**

Organization Member of the Year: **Ted Beatty**, Campus Entertainment Network

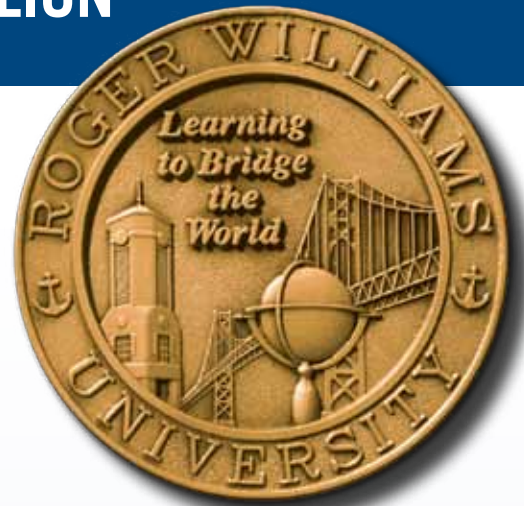
Dr. Mark Gould Award for Commitment to Student Learning: **Professor Amiee Shelton**, Communications

Students interested in getting involved and leadership opportunities should visit the Department of Student Programs and Leadership, located in the Campus Recreation Center. Staff members are accessible by emailing studentprograms@rwu.edu or calling (401) 254-3088.

PRESIDENT'S CORE VALUES MEDALLION

Under the leadership of President Nirschel, the University Community has developed and embraced a distinctive set of core values that play a central role in guiding a respectful, diverse and intellectually vibrant university community.

- Love of learning as an intrinsic value
- Preparation for careers and future study
- Collaboration of students and faculty in research
- Commitment to community through service and sustainability
- Appreciation of global perspectives
- Promotion of civil discourse



The President's Core Values Medallion was established to recognize graduating seniors who best exemplify the core values of the university. These core value medallions speak to what we are as a university and what a just society should embody. President Nirschel presented the following graduates with their awards during the ceremony:

The Core Values Medallion recipients for the Class of 2010...

- School of Architecture, Art and Historic Preservation – **Lindsay Ann Brugger**
- School of Continuing Studies – **Ikekeen Davon Hardy**
- School of Education – **Katelin Elinor Richard**
- School of Engineering, Computing and Construction Management – **William Joseph DeVlyder, Jr.**
- Feinstein College of Arts & Sciences, Humanities & Performing Arts Division – **Ashley E. Lago**
- Feinstein College of Arts & Sciences, Math & Natural Sciences Division – **Angela Ruth Possinger**
- Feinstein College of Arts & Sciences, Social Sciences Division – **Lauren E. Marini**
- Gabelli School of Business – **Kemal G. Demirhisar**
- School of Justice Studies – **Christopher Joseph DiSciullo**
- At Large Recipient – **Kelleigh Erin Welch**
- At Large Recipient – **Damara Ortolani Sisti**
- At Large Recipient – **Elizabeth Jean Correa**

Senior Class Speaker: **Allison Livizey**

National Anthem Singer: **Ashley Mandel**



HEALTH SERVICE SPRING UPDATE

Health Service has made some recent changes in an effort to address the entire wellness of our students with each visit. In addition to the more focused visit addressing their acute complaint which has brought them in to Health Service, our intake forms now include a brief set of questions addressing smoking, alcohol and mental health. Based on the student's response we will address specific concerns, make appropriate referrals and provide health education for these very important aspects of an individual's health. Evidence shows that the simple task of inquiring about behavior,

such as smoking and alcohol, and responding with brief comments or recommendations can have a significant impact on behavior change. Equally important and in some instances life saving, a couple questions about whether a student feels safe or is feeling down, depressed or hopeless can provide an opportunity for intervention that many not have occurred otherwise. It is our hope that addressing these issues regularly and in a non-threatening, proactive manner, students will more readily find the help they may need to stay healthy.

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

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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