

DIVISION OF SCIENCES HOSTS A SEMESTER OF LECTURES AND EVENTS

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Students learned how the intricate art of paper folding, known as origami, is revolutionizing the field of mathematics at an interactive session titled “**Mathematics and Origami Revolution**” in April 2006. Over the last several decades, paper folders have revolutionized origami by using mathematics to address questions arising naturally in their art. This revolution has resulted in folded figures that were traditionally considered impossible, and has spawned a new field of mathematics and produced exciting technologies. Amanda Sereney of Boston University led a demonstration and presentation.

Dr. Irene Pepperberg presented “**In Search of King Solomon’s Ring: Studies on the Cognitive and Communicative Abilities of Parrots**” in April 2006. Her book, *The Alex Studies*, describes more than 20 years of peer-reviewed studies on cognitive and communicative abilities of Grey parrots; and received favorable mention from publications as diverse as the *New York Times* and *Science*. She has presented her findings nationally and internationally at numerous universities and scientific congresses.

World-renowned biologist and author Dr. Roger Payne addressed the effects of ocean pollution on whales and humans at a session titled “**Listening to Whales: Is Ocean Pollution the Greatest Public Health Crisis Humanity Has Yet Faced,**” in March 2006. The presentation provided a first-hand account of the effects that ocean pollution could have on the already-dwindling whale population, and the human population as well. Dr. Payne, founder and president of Ocean Alliance, is best known for his codiscovery that humpback whales sing distinctive songs, and for his theory that the sounds of fin and blue whales can be heard across oceans. ■

* As Rivier’s Director of the Marketing & Communication Office, **KAREN COOPER** oversees the College’s marketing and advertising, public relations, publications, communications, and the website. She earned her Master’s of Business Administration with a concentration in marketing from Rivier in 2003, and this fall she will be teaching graphic design in the College’s Professional Communications program. Some of her accomplishments at Rivier include the design of the current College logo; the development of the College magazine, *Rivier Today*, of which she is the editor; and the launch of the new College website in 2005. She also serves as Associate Editor of the *Rivier Academic Journal*.