

# RIVIER COLLEGE SENIOR HONORS THESIS PRESENTATIONS (Spring 2007)

**Paul Lizotte, Ph.D.\***  
Professor, Department of English and Communications,  
Director of the College's Senior Honors Program  
Rivier College

**Tuesday, April 17, 2007, 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Memorial Hall, Room 201**

**John Spellenberg**

**“Al Qaeda: The Terrorist Organization as Portrayed in American and Arabic Newspapers”**

(Director: Prof. Sr. Lucille C. Thibodeau, p.m., Ph.D.)

A presentation on media bias and its prevalence in American and Arabic newspapers, with a primary focus on Al Qaeda. This paper argues that a variety of perspectives is more helpful in coming to an understanding of terrorist acts and the motivation behind them than a monolithic pro/con perspective.

**Wednesday, April 18, 2007, 12:00 p.m.-1:30 p.m., Memorial Hall, Room 202**

**Amelia Fountain**

**“Graphic Novel Project: A Narrative Exploration of Human Ideas”**

(Director: Prof. Sheli Petersen)

By using universal symbols and by creating a more intuitive reading experience, this unique graphic novel addresses many world-wide ideas and issues in a hypothetical, narrative way, while having some fun at the same time.

**Thursday, April 19, 2007, 12:30 p.m.-2:00 p.m., Sylvia Trottier Hall, Room 207**

**Kelly Brodeur**

**“Harnessing Emotions Through Confessional Poetry”**

(Director: Prof. Brad Stull)

Using the work of confessional poet Sylvia Plath as a model, I wrote a small collection of poems that were inspired by a recent life-changing event. In writing these poems I discovered how to transform the raw emotions I felt following my parents' divorce into a mode of artistic expression.

**Tuesday, April 24, 2007, 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Memorial Hall, Room 201**

**Kristen Morey**

**“Habitat for Humanity and its Role in Creating Simple, Decent, and Affordable Housing”**

(Director: Prof. Michael Tramonte)

In a society which suffers greatly from substandard living conditions, this paper explores how the organization of Habitat for Humanity is working at the roots of the social justice system to create simple, decent, and affordable homes.

**Wednesday, April 25, 2007, 6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m., Memorial Hall, Room 201**

**Maria Hogan**

**“Resources for Traumatized Children: Casa de Esperanza Plants a Seed in Lynn, MA”**

(Director: Prof. Sally Booth)

Witnessing the success of Casa de Esperanza of Houston, TX, in meeting the needs of children who have experienced early trauma has been an inspiration for developing other programs based on this model. This thesis describes the early process of planning a residential program to benefit the children and biological, foster, and adoptive families in the city of Lynn, MA.

**Thursday, April 26, 2007, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Sylvia Trottier Hall, Room 208**

**Cassandra Carvalho**

**“Immigration: Economic, Educational, and Social Implications at the Local, State, and National level”**

(Director: Prof. Maria Matarazzo)

This paper analyzes both the pros and cons of immigration as well as the impact of immigration as it relates to important issues such as education, employment, and the economy.

**Thursday, April 26, 2007, 12:30 p.m.-2:00 p.m., Sylvia Trottier Hall, Room 208**

**Scott Cummings**

**“Explorations in the Effectiveness of Alternative Medicines on Cancer Cells”**

(Director: Prof. Mark Bolt)

This project examines of several non-FDA approved drugs claimed to have anti-cancer properties. These drugs were tested on actual cancer cells to determine their effectiveness in killing cancer cells.

**Monday, April 30, 2007, 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Education Center, Room 205**

**Sabrina Folland**

**“Contemporary Islamic Women in America: Perceptions of Role Conflict and Discrimination”**

(Director: Prof. Marjorie Faia)

Using surveys and interviews, this project aims to broaden our understanding of the complex roles that Muslim women play in America. The project creates a snapshot of attitudes of Muslim American women today, with an emphasis on their perceptions of discrimination and role conflict.

---

\* **Dr. Paul Lizotte** is Professor of the Department of English Communication at Rivier College. He received a Ph.D. (English) from Pennsylvania State University, M.A. (English) from the University of Virginia, and A.B. (English, Minor in Philosophy) from Boston College. Dr. Lizotte specializes in British Romantic and Victorian Poetry, 19th Century British Novel, Modern American Poetry, Literature of the Environment, and Literary Theory and Criticism. He is a Member of the Rivier Faculty since 1980 serving as Chair of the English and Communications Department for nine years (1983-1992). Currently, Dr. Lizotte is the Chair of the Faculty Senate, Director of the College’s Honors Program, and Director of the Freshman Writing Seminar program.