

## CELEBRATING PEDAGOGY CONVERSATIONS (Spring 2005 – Spring 2007)

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Dr. Albert DeCiccio,  
Conversations Organizer  
and Moderator

In my position as Academic Dean, I am fortunate to have the opportunity to observe teaching in all the disciplines and for all of our students (traditional and non-traditional, undergraduate and graduate). Visiting classrooms is the most enjoyable part of my position at the College, because I am afforded the opportunity to view the various ways in which faculty enact what they share equally with one another: **teaching**. And, even better for me, I get to learn something—free of charge!

With the **Celebrating Pedagogy** conversations we have held at Rivier the past two years, we have heard about many different teaching standpoints and strategies as well as about their concomitant advantages and challenges. I think that the **Celebrating Pedagogy** events have been highly successful because of the conversations among faculty who offered their observations to likeminded colleagues sharing their experiences teaching Rivier’s students.

“True abundance,” Parker Palmer writes, “resides in the simple experience of people being present to one another and for one another.”<sup>1</sup> I have certainly accumulated an abundance of worthwhile theories and practices about teaching and learning during the first nine **Celebrating Pedagogy** conversations. I eagerly look forward to extending the elegant conversations we are having about pedagogy at Rivier College.

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<sup>1</sup> Palmer, Parker. “‘Loaves and Fishes’: Acts of Scarcity or Abundance.” *The Active Life: A Spirituality of Work, Creativity, and Caring*. Boston: Harper Collins, 1990. 121-38.

### Celebrating Pedagogy Conversations

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|------------------|---|
| March 23, 2005   | <b>Who Am I? Building Community in the Classroom - Fiona McDonnell and Carol Langelier</b>    |
| April 20, 2005   | <b>Who Am I? Issues on Diversity and the Culturally Competent Professor - Carol Langelier</b> |
| May 11, 2005     | <b>The Culturally Competent Professor (<i>cont'd</i>) - Carol Langelier</b>                   |
| November 9, 2005 | <b>Reflections on Teaching - Al DeCiccio and all in attendance</b>                            |

- February 13, 2006 **The Double-Entry Journal and Strategies for engaging students in Primary Texts - Al DeCiccio and all in attendance**
- April 19, 2006 **Reading Comprehension and Student Resistance to Classroom Engagement - Al DeCiccio and all in attendance**
- September 27, 2006 **Engage your Classroom Community - Al DeCiccio and all in attendance**
- November 28, 2006 **Tom Deans: Learning, Serving, and Writing: Approaches to Composing Within and Beyond our Classroom Communities**
- February 19, 2007 **Panel Discussion with Rivier Faculty about approaches to the classroom, led by Sally Booth, Susan Barbaro, Tim Doherty, Martin Menke, Paul Cunningham, and Liz Wright.**

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\* **Dr. ALBERT DeCICCIO**, Academic Dean, is in his seventh year at Rivier College. Before Rivier, he worked for twenty years at Merrimack College, until 1998, when he was asked to accept a position as Dean of the Graduate School at Wheelock College in Boston. In 1997-1998, DeCiccio completed a term as President of the International Writing Centers Association; in 2002-2003, DeCiccio ended a five-year term as co-editor of *The Writing Center Journal*. He regularly contributes articles and presentations about collaborative learning, writing, and writing center theory and practice. He has three times presented for the International Conference on the First-Year Experience.