

## EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear Readers,



On the Via Dolorosa, Jerusalem.  
Courtesy photograph.

The second issue of the *Online Academic Journal* offers a diversity of research reports, teaching approaches, philosophical themes, voices, photographic images, and campus news. The range is wide: a discussion of the academic goals and the College Mission during the Rivier Heritage Day (*Dr. Tracy Schier*), Scholars and Academic Convocations (*Prof. Scheli Petersen*, *Dr. Albert DeCiccio*, and *Dr. Tracy Kidder*), and Mission Series (organized by the Offices of President, Academic Affairs, and Campus Ministry); results of social studies (*Dr. Charles Mitsakos* and *Dr. Carol Langelier*), insanity defense (*Atty. Carol Rolf*), biodegradation of MTBE (*Dr. Susan Barbaro*), and computing technologies for creating online portfolios (*Dr. Higgs* and *Dr. Sabin*); poetry by a young author (*Emily Shaffer*) from New York; a short story by a science-fiction writer (*Julia Osher*) from Connecticut; photographs from Honduras (*Dr. Howard S. Muscott*) and New England (*Prof. Eric Drouart* and *Dr. Vladimir Riabov*); and many stories about Rivier students, faculty, and alumni.

All these papers tell us about authors' passions for discovery of new knowledge, scholar endeavors, and sharing the findings with global community. Two themes are remarkable in this issue of the *Online Academic Journal*: the passion of people who live the Missions, and the vital collaboration of students and faculty in their research studies.

*Dr. Howard S. Muscott* shares with us his pictorial chronicle of the Mary Queen of Peace Parish mission trips to Juticulpa, Honduras in 2005 and 2006. His stories and 40 photographs are reflections on "... eternal faith in God and a powerful sense of family and community" among Hondurans. Look at the emotional faces of children and wise seniors, and you will better understand the souls of Rivier students and faculty who joined the mission trip in March, providing medical and educational services to the community there.

Two nursing students (*Rebecca Coonradt* and *Alecia Colassi*) share their diaries about the experiences as volunteers at Casa de Esperanza de los Niños—the House of Hope for Children in Houston. According to *Mary Ellen McGuire*, director of campus ministry, who has coordinated the trip, they and other 13 Rivier students "...rake leaves, paint walls, cook, play with the children, do whatever needs to be done." [This story was written by Lucie Bryar].

Three computer-science graduates and alumnus have published their own manuscripts on the automated music composer (*John Dion*), voice-over-Internet technology (*Ajay Kumar*), broadband over power lines (*Bruce Trull*), and software reliability (*David Dwyer*). *Jill Leppanen Lerner*, an education student, shares her findings on the role of subcultures and multiple oppressions in mental health practice. *Jimmy Symonds* has co-authored the article on microorganisms with his biology instructor, *Dr. Susan Barbaro*.

The *Chronicle* section covers various significant events in Rivier campus life, such as *Senior Honors Thesis Presentations*; *Humanities Lecture Series*; *Professional Seminars in Computer Science*; *Exhibitions in the Rivier College Art Gallery*; *Scholarship Honors*, and others. Here the readers can find *Faculty Profiles*; information about articles, which have been recently published by faculty, students, staff, and alumni in other publications; and information about conferences and professional societies.

This second issue of the *Rivier College Online Academic Journal* could not have been published without the active support of many members of the college community to whom I am most grateful. In particular I wish to thank the contributors for their submissions, the editorial board members for their guidelines, and the reviewers for their rigorous reviews. Special thanks to *Dr. Albert DeCiccio*, Academic Dean, for instructive support; and to the Office of College Relations led by *Karen Cooper*— for providing information updates and outstanding technical support.

We look forward to your contributions to the *Rivier College Online Academic Journal* in the future.

Sincerely yours,

Vladimir V. Riabov, Ph.D., Editor