

SUMMER-2008 GRANTS

Deborah A. Dodge*, RN, MSN
Assistant Professor of Nursing, Rivier College

Dr. Susan E. Barbaro, Associate Professor and Department Coordinator, Department of Biology

Project title: Effects of hormones and antibiotics on microbial assemblages in uncontaminated and wastewater impacted rivers.

Project Abstract:

The effects of environmental contaminants on the integrity of local river ecosystems will be examined by assessing the ability of indigenous microbial assemblages to mineralize a variety of environmental contaminants. Studies will begin by using static microcosms to assess the ability of biofilms developed in uncontaminated and in waste water impacted rivers to degrade select hormones and antibiotics. Prior to the set up and running of microcosms, analytical techniques will be identified so that the presence of contaminants can be monitored during the course of the study. Funds obtained from this grant will be used to purchase materials needed for the microcosm experiments, accessories for the analytical equipment, and chemicals. In addition to determining the effects of environmental contaminants on river ecosystems, another primary objective of this study is to provide ongoing research that will allow for student participation.

Herman T. Tavani, Professor and Department Coordinator, Department of Philosophy

Project title: Ethics, Technology, and Critical Reasoning

Project Abstract:

The project involves two books at different stages of revision: *Ethics and Technology* 2nd ed. (Wiley, 2007), for a third edition; and *A Short Introduction to Critical Reasoning* (Wiley Custom Services, 2005), for a second edition. The first book is planned for publication in the fall of 2009, and the second for publication in the spring/summer of 2009.

Howard Alan Goodman, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology

Project title: Treatment of the Mentally Ill in New Hampshire prior to 1849

Project Abstract:

Joseph Breuer and Sigmund Freud developed their form of psychoanalysis in the early 1890s. Their approach was based on the now famous case of Anna O. Psychoanalytic theory would open the door to not only a new form of treatment, but also diagnosis of the mentally ill. Prior to psychoanalysis there were certainly mentally ill people, but diagnosis, as well as their care and treatment was questionable at best and often served more to their harm than good. In the early 19th century in New Hampshire there was no state hospital and rules for the care and treatment of the mentally ill were largely based on English law. As a result, the wealth of the mentally ill was often taken away, and they were frequently auctioned off to the lowest bidder; the person who would promise to care for them at the lowest cost to the county. The investigation of treatment of the mentally ill in New Hampshire likely reflects treatment of the mentally ill throughout New England in the 19th century, and so research into this topic seems both important from a historical perspective, and to help better understand the antecedents of American history and systems of psychology. Treatment of the mentally ill in New Hampshire prior to 1849 will then be the focus of this research.

Sally Booth, Assistant Professor, Director of the Social Work Program, Ph.D. Candidate

Project Title: The experience of parenting a child with Asperger Syndrome: A diagnostic journey

Project Abstract:

This is a qualitative study of the experiences of mothers of children who are diagnosed with Asperger Syndrome. The specific experience being studied is from the time that a mother initially senses that there is something different about her child to the time at which the child receives the diagnosis. The challenges of this experience will be highlighted and its impact on the mother, the child and other family members will be described. In addition, recommendations will be made for more effective practice by a variety of professionals.■

* **DEBORAH A. DODGE**, RN, MSN, is an Assistant Professor of the Division of Nursing at Rivier College. She teaches both Medical-Surgical Nursing and Maternal-Newborn Nursing. Within the last two years her clinical focus has shifted to Simulation, which prepares nursing students for the complexities of clinical practice utilizing patient care scenarios. Deborah received both her Bachelors and Masters degrees in Nursing. She is a retired Lieutenant Colonel having served in both active and reserve duty for the Army Nurse Corps. Deborah is also a certified Hypnobirthing childbirth educator. Deborah is currently a Chair of the Faculty Development Summer Grants Committee and also serves on Simulation and Faculty Development Committees for the Division of Nursing.