

RIVIER NEWS

(From: Rivier Today, Summer 2008)



In April 2008 **Dr. Martin Menke**, Associate Professor of History, Law, and Political Science, attended the American Catholic Historical Association annual meeting in South Bend, Ind. He presented the paper “The Center Party and the Enabling Act: Taking the Historiographic Long View” as part of a panel on the Age of Pius XII. He also chaired and commented on a session on the tension between communism and Christianity in the writing of the Portuguese Nobel Prize winner Saramago.



In March 2008, Professor of Education **Dr. Diane Connell** gave a workshop to teachers at the Clearway High School in Nashua, N.H. Her workshop was titled “Transition Concerns: Using Brain Based Learning to work with at risk high school students.” She also presented at the International Council for Exceptional Children Conference in Boston, Mass. in April 2008. The workshop is on “What is Happening to the Boys? Gender Concerns and Strategies.”



Dr. Marjorie Marcoux Faiia, Professor of Sociology, presented a paper at the 78th Annual Conference of the Eastern Sociological Society. The conference was held in New York City, N.Y in February 2008. The theme of the conference was “Beyond Ourselves: Sociology in a Global Market.” Dr. Marcoux Faiia’s paper discussed an exploratory study she conducted, “Privacy and Safety in Virtual Networks: College Students’ Perceptions.” The study focused on Face- Book and MySpace and found that the majority of respondents have accounts that they use daily and that they have a false sense of safety and privacy.

In April 2008, Vice President for Student Development **Lynn Jansky** served on a panel for an online seminar, “What We’ve Learned: Higher Education After Virginia Tech.” The seminar offered participants the chance to discuss and reflect on ways campuses have responded to the challenges higher education institutions have faced since the Virginia Tech tragedy.

Barbara Kokoszka, Director of Conference Services and Special Events, attended the annual meeting of the ACCED-I (Association of Collegiate Conference and Events Director—International) in Las Vegas. Barbara is a former Director of Region 12 (MA, CT, VT, NH, Maine, British Columbia, and the United Kingdom). She facilitated a round table discussion on “One-Man Operations” and attended various senior-level workshops. She also participated in the Preview Luncheon—Boston 2009.



Dr. Fiona Hughes-McDonnell, Associate Professor of Education, was a co-presenter at the 2008 NSTA National Convention on Science Education, held at the Boston convention Center in March. She and Dr. Elizabeth Cavicchi of MIT presented “Inklings of Science Arise in Watching Pendulums.” Through making inquiries into pendulums they had constructed from simple materials, participants considered the central role of subject matter in generating insights into science content, as well learning and teaching in science. In June, she presented a paper at the 38th Annual Meeting of the Jean Piaget Society in Quebec City, Canada. The conference theme was “Adolescent Development: Challenges and Opportunities.” Dr. McDonnell’s paper, “Teaching as Transitioning from ‘I-it’ to ‘I-thou’ Relationships among Learners, Teachers, and the World” was part of a symposium titled “Between I and Thou: Developing Curriculum through a Pedagogy of Relation.”



Associate Professor of Education **Dr. Ann Ackerman** has been selected to participate in the U.S. Department of Education’s Fulbright-Hays Seminars Abroad Program. She will spend over a month in Greece and Bulgaria for the seminar “Bulgaria and Greece: A Shared Past and A Common Future.” The Greek portion of the seminar is designed to provide an overview of Greece’s history and culture through visits to archaeological sites, schools, nature reserves, museums and cultural centers. The Bulgarian portion of the seminar will include meetings with government officials, educators, poets, musicians, and artists. Nashua Mayor Donnalee Lozeau nominated Dr. Ackerman for membership on the Nashua Ethnic Awareness Committee. The Nashua Board of Alderman confirmed her membership. Dr. Ackerman was one of the three founders of this committee almost 20 years ago when she served as an alderman. She served the group in many capacities, including chair in the early 1990s. In the last couple years, Dr. Ackerman has been active with various community and government agencies promoting positive diversity and better community–government communications.

In April 2008, Writing and Resource Center Director **Leslie Van Wagner** and Writing Consultant **Maria Salamone** gave a panel presentation at the 24th Annual Northeast Writing Centers Association conference, held in Burlington, Vt. Their presentation, “Building an Alternate Writing and Resource Center,” discussed how peer tutors have been successfully integrated into an established writing center community with professional writing consultants to serve students’ needs across the disciplines.



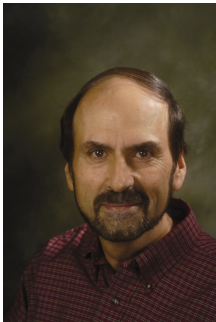
Associate Professor of Art **Clifford Davis** was the juror for the 22nd Annual Omer T. Lassonde Memorial Juried Exhibition at the New Hampshire Art Association. This open competition is held each year in memory of one of the original members of the NHAA. The exhibition was on display at the Robert Lincoln Levy Gallery in Portsmouth, N.H.



Dr. Vladimir Riabov, Associate Professor of Computer Science, served as a judge at the Northeast Student Conference of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics held April 4 and 5, 2008 at Clarkson University in Potsdam, N.Y. This conference invited more than 200 students from Boston University, Brown, CCNY, CUNY, Clarkson, Columbia, Cornell, Daniel Webster, Dartmouth, Hofstra, Manhattan College, MIT, NJIT, NYIT, Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn, Princeton, RIT, RPI, Rutgers, Syracuse, University of Buffalo, West Point, University of Massachusetts at Lowell, Vaughn College, and WPI.



Br. Paul R. Demers, s.c., D. Min., College Chaplain and Professor of Religious Studies, has joined the Peace and Justice Advisory Board at Nashua Community College. Barbara Thorngren, Advisory Board Chair, said, “Br. Paul was selected because of his many years of experience in teaching *The Challenge of Peace* at Rivier College.” The Peace and Justice Council is advising Nashua Community College as it begins offering a Liberal Arts associate degree with a concentration in peace studies and a peace and justice certificate. The Advisory Board recently met with David JD. Smith of the United States Institute of Peace in Washington, DC and endorsed Nashua Community College’s Peacebuilding Summer Institute held in July 2008.



Professor of Philosophy **Dr. Herman Tavani** recently received the 2008 Outstanding Service Award for the Association of Computing’s Special Interest Group on Computers and Society (ACM SIGCAS). The award was presented in recognition of his leadership role on the SIGCAS Executive Committee and for his ongoing contributions to the ACM quarterly publication *Computers and Society*. Dr. Tavani served as Secretary/Treasurer on the SIGCAS Executive Committee from 2001 to 2005; he served as Bibliography Editor and later Associate Editor of *Computers and Society* from 1995-2002 and has guest-edited numerous special issues. In March, he presented as part of a roundtable on the ethics of artificial agents at Southern Connecticut State University’s

Research Center for Computing and Society (New Haven, CT). The presentations will be published in a future issue of the *Journal of Information, Communication, and Ethics in Society*.



Dr. Kevin Wayne, Associate Professor of Business Administration, recently presented two papers at the Society for Advancement of Management’s 2008 International Business Conference in Arlington, VA. The first paper was titled “Conflicts of Disinterest in Academic Entrepreneurship,” while the second paper, “Determinants of Commercial Innovation for University Technology Transfer” included an empirical analysis of funding sources for bringing university-based innovations to market. Dr. Wayne also participated as a panel discussant for a session on new products and innovation, and served as the chairperson for a session on small business.



Dr. Paul Cunningham, Divisional Chair of Sciences and Professor of Psychology, recently published an article titled “The Challenge, Prospects, and Promise of Transpersonal Psychology” in the 2007 issue of *The International Journal of Transpersonal Studies*. The article discusses several substantial critiques that have been a source of fractionalizing debates within transpersonal psychology and provides a response that identifies the essential challenges and future prospects of the field. The article also emphasizes transpersonal psychology’s unique role as a potential bridge connecting psychological science with the transpersonal psyche in a way that can more fully recognize the importance of the latter. A copy of the article is available at http://www.transpersonalstudies.org/current_issue.htm



In June 2008, Professor of English and Director of the First Year Studies Program **Dr. Paul Lizotte** presented a poster at the 21st International Conference on the First-Year Experience in Dublin, Ireland. The poster highlighted the outcomes of a year-long program in which first-year students think about, experience, and write about issues of social and economic justice within the College’s neighboring community. In Rivier’s FYS program, students locate community resources, research and debate issues of justice, and participate in role-play activities that engage them in questions of ethical and civic responsibility.



Sr. Louise Auclair with students in the Division of Education. (Photo by Peter Finger)

In May 2008, **Sr. Louise Auclair**, Associate Professor of Education, received a certificate recognizing her 25 years of membership and service in the Southern New Hampshire chapter of Phi Delta Kappa. On various occasions during those years, she served as president, vice president, historian, higher education representative, and a member of the Executive Board.



Sheli Petersen, Associate Professor of Art, served as guest lecturer at the Hollis Arts Society Spring Arts Gala in May 2008. ■