

## **SENIOR HONORS THESIS PRESENTATIONS (SPRING 2009)**

**Paul A. Lizotte, Ph.D.\***

**Professor, Department of English and Communication, Rivier College**

**Robert DeVita      Friday, May 1      11:30-12:30pm      MEM202**

### **The Interactive Diagram**

Director: Sr. Therese Couture

An exploration in interactive media. The conventional diagram traditionally is a static, image-heavy piece of information dealing with as little text as possible. A video or a book may describe the workings of a machine quite well, but is the passive learning experience the only solution? By taking these concerns into the digital realm while also adding interactivity, new challenges arise. How can we use the advantages of user input to deliver information? How is the learning experience changed in an immersive situation? By putting control in the hands of the viewer, we can find new ways to communicate.

**Ashley Barry      Tuesday, May 5      1:00-2:00pm      Dion Center Board Room**

### **Laws of Conventional Behavior: Resisting social complacency in the American educational system drawing on the debate in utopian, anti-utopian and dystopian literature.**

Directors: Prof. Brad Stull; Prof. Martin Menke

Today's educational system remains conflicted about whether to promote individuality or community. Drawing on the tension between individualism and communitarianism in utopian, anti-utopian, and dystopian literature, this project explores the appropriate application within the American educational system.

**Sarah Stroehlein      Tuesday, May 5      2:00-3:00pm      Dion Center Board Room**

### **Regulation in the Mortgage Industry: Affect on the Financial Crisis**

Director: Prof. Karen Spohn

There is a continuing confrontation about how involved the government should be in the business world. This project explores the shift from strong regulation to self regulation of the mortgage industry and how this change was involved in the financial crisis.

**Kathy Palys      Tuesday, May 5      4:00-5:00pm      ED 303**

### **A Growing Population: English Language Learners in the Classroom**

Director: Prof. Pat Howson

English Language Learners are a rapidly growing population, leaving classroom teachers feeling unprepared and overwhelmed to meet the needs of these students especially in the area of reading. This project researches how English language learners acquire language and reading skills, and what types of tools and techniques can be used to create effective instruction.

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\* **PAUL A. LIZOTTE**, Ph.D., is Professor of the Department of English and 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 Director of the College's Honors Program, and Director of the Freshman Writing Seminar program.