

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

SUSAN E. BARBARO, Ph.D., is an Associate Professor of Biology and the Department Coordinator at Rivier University. She obtained a Bachelor of Science Degree from Concordia University, Montreal, Quebec, and Master of Science and Doctorate from the University of Waterloo, Ontario. Susan's desire to understand and protect the environment has always played an important role in determining her research interests. In particular, she is interested in the microbial ecology of fresh water and soil ecosystems. Susan has studied and conducted research related to microbial physiology, biological control, and bioremediation. She joined the faculty at Rivier College in 2003.

OLGA BENTSMAN KUNDRÁ BARRON was born in Russia and spent the second half of her childhood in New Hampshire. Her interest in photography was first piqued by her family's purchase of an Olympus OMG camera which she took on her hikes around New Hampshire and later to Israel and the Nepal Himalayas. Eventually, Olga traded New Hampshire's White Mountains for the Colorado Rockies, where she lives full time with her husband. She is an avid hiker, runner, skier, SCUBA diver and photographer.

MICHAEL M. BICHREST is a member of the 2010 cohort of the Ed.D. Program in Leadership and Learning at Rivier University in Nashua, New Hampshire and has completed his specialization with a Certificate of Advanced Graduate Studies in Veterans Services from Empire State College in Saratoga Springs, New York. A version of this research (published in this edition of the *InSight: Rivier Academic Journal*) was submitted to the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) VISN 1 Improvements and Innovations Conference placing first for the Manchester VA Medical Center and third overall in New England of 86 submitted entries earning the author his Yellow Belt for this Lean Six Sigma project.

Sr. THERESA COUTURE is an artist in digital and combined media. She received her M.F.A. from Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, Rhode Island; D.Min. in Theology and the Arts from Graduate Theological Foundation, South Bend, Indiana (partially coordinated with studies at the Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, California and the Andover Newton Theological School, Newton, MA); and M.A. and B.A. in English from Rivier College. Theresa Couture combines an active studio life with a full professorship in art at Rivier University, a Catholic liberal arts institution sponsored by the Sisters of the Presentation of Mary of which she is a member. She has served as Co-chair of the Department of Art and Music and Director of the Design Program. She is currently Director of the Rivier University Art Gallery. Her work on paper has been exhibited throughout the United States. Many of her pieces are in private and university collections as well as in the collections of the Armand Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, California, and the National Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington, D.C. Her work has appeared in *Art New England*, *Christianity and the Arts*, *Insight*, *Face of the Deep*, and publications of *Christians in the Visual Arts (CIVA)*.

PROF. JOHN J. CUPAK has been teaching Computer Science courses at Rivier University since spring 2014. He is a member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE) and the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM). He has a B.A. in Biology with a mathematics minor from the Utica College of Syracuse University, and a M.S. in Computer Science from the State University of New York at Albany (SUNYA). Prof. Cupak has worked as a software engineer for over 40 years, and brings his experience in computer-system design, development, documentation, and testing to his courses. An avid educator, he researched and implemented the first "Flipped Classroom" concept in the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science at Rivier University. He notes that "Teaching is a learning experience - for the student and the teacher as well."

CARRIE FREDERIKSEN is a student at Rivier University, who plans to graduate this spring with a Bachelor's degree in Nursing. She is a previous graduate of Rivier in 2001 with an Associate's degree in Nursing. She has

spent that time working in maternity and labor and delivery and is now working as a school nurse. Carrie is a single mother and also takes care of her elderly aunt as well. She is actively involved in many committees in her school promoting health and wellness to both her students and fellow staff members. Upon graduation she plans to start taking classes towards her Master's degree, most likely in Public Health, also with Rivier University.

PATRICIA GARRITY was the Director of Marketing and Communications at Rivier University.

MICHELLE MARRONE is a writer for the *Rivier Today* magazine.

SETH OSHER grew up in Manchester, NH and has taken photographs since his mother first put a camera in his hands at the tender age of three. In high school he had his own darkroom where he polished techniques that have faded into obscurity thanks to Adobe™, though he still tries to practice their digital equivalent. Today he lives in London, England with his family and when not working loves to photograph the nature and people surrounding their travels.

HEATHER PETRO is the Director of Annual Giving and Alumni Relations.

ARIFA GHANI RAHMAN teaches online at Rivier University from Bangladesh where she is an Associate Professor in the Department of English and Humanities at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh. She also freelances as an editor and translator when she is not spending time with her two daughters. She likes to boast that she has spent approximately each decade of her life on a different continent. She can be reached via e-mail: arifa.rahman@ulab.edu.bd.

Dr. VLADIMIR V. RIABOV, Professor of Computer Science and Department Coordinator at Rivier University, teaches Algorithms, Networking Technologies, Computer Security, Software Engineering, Software Quality Assurance, Object-Oriented System Design, System Simulation and Modeling, Numerical Methods, Introduction to Computing, and Professional Seminar in Computer Science. He received a Ph.D. in Applied Mathematics and Physics from Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology and M.S. in Computer Information Systems from Southern New Hampshire University. Vladimir published about 130 articles in encyclopedias, handbooks, journals, and international and national conference proceedings, including *The Internet Encyclopedia*, *The Handbook of Information Security*, *The Handbook of Computer Networks*, *International Journal of Computers and Structures*, *Journal of Spacecraft and Rockets*, *Journal of Aircraft*, *Journal of Thermophysics and Heat Transfer*, *Congress Proceedings of International Council of the Aeronautical Sciences*, *International Symposia on Rarefied Gas Dynamics and Shock Waves*, *International Conferences on Computer Science and Information Systems*, *International Conferences on Technology in Collegiate Mathematics*, *Conferences of American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics*, and others. He is a senior member of ACM and AIAA, and a member of IEEE and MAA.

JOSEPH W. SPADANO, Ed.D., received a Bachelor of Science degree from Fitchburg State University and a Master's degree and Doctorate from the University of Massachusetts Lowell. Dr. Spadano was a 2001 recipient of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching, a 2002 recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award from the University of Massachusetts Lowell and is a National Board Certified Teacher. Dr. Spadano has taught mathematics at Westford Academy and is presently an Associate Professor in the Division of Education and Department of Mathematics and Computer Science at Rivier University. He is also a proud member of Pi Sigma Upsilon.

BRAD WUORINEN '06 is a writer for the *Rivier Today* magazine.

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