

EDITOR'S NOTE

"Overcoming Adversity"

Dear Readers,



Flying over frozen Lake Yellowstone. Photograph © by Olga B. K. Barron.

The Fall-2020 edition of the *InSight: Rivier Academic Journal* is dedicated to Rivier's students, alumni, faculty, and staff, who are on the front lines of overcoming the COVID-19 pandemic and exploring the ways of adapting to new realities faced by academic and local communities. They continue participating actively in building tomorrow's workforce (nurses, educators, business leaders, IT/CS specialists, cybersecurity professionals, and many others), expanding partnerships with hospitals and high-tech companies, and promoting creative work and innovations in the modern sciences. The main theme of this edition is introduced by a large group of Rivier's alumni, medical students, faculty and staff, who have risen to the COVID-19 challenge, revised and adapted curricula for remote learning, and inspired all of us to overcome the times of adversity with dignity, perseverance, and endurance. In the "Pandemic within a Modern Age: The Wireless Response to Coronavirus" article, Will Medley, a student in M.S./Computer Information Systems

program (guided by Prof. Peter Macdonald), overviews the technological challenges during the pandemic and various IT methods that can be used for improving communication, data storage management, online medical services, entertainment, and even shopping. In the "Adaptation & Success in the Age of COVID-19" report, Prof. Russell "Chuck" Norris summarizes internship experiences of Rivier's Division of Business & Security Studies students in hospitals, IT companies, businesses, and on campus. In the article "Shaping English Language Instruction to the Vessel of Online", Dr. Rita L. Naughton shares her experience in introducing new pedagogical methods for teaching various English courses online for ESL students at Southern New Hampshire University.

The opioid epidemic is still the ongoing national crisis. Its "silent" victims are revealed in the article written by Kathryn Pitten, a student in Doctorate of Nursing Program. The history of the Pharmaceutical Supply Chain and its modernization with the Internet of Things are reviewed by Melissa Marie Scaccia, a student in M.S./Computer Information Systems Program. Methods of improving the website design are overviewed in Prof. John J. Cupak's article "WYSIWYG Considered Harmful". The design and creation of cooperative robots for semi-autonomous farming have been explored in the project summary by George A. Ditzel III, a student in M.S./ Computer Science program. The pedagogical approach of teaching Religious Studies undergraduate courses is covered in-depth in the Dr. Cynthia L. Cameron's article "Will You Talk With Me?".

Sr. Lucille C. Thibodeau, Ph.D., pm, shares her thoughts on the role of trees ("... our oldest living companions") in human lives in the essay "Fall Meditation, 2020, New Hampshire." The trees inspire us to be a part of beautiful nature, to write poems and novels, and work creatively on eternal projects. Unfortunately, in return, many businesses demonstrate their negligence to the problem of protection of "our" trees, and continue brutal destruction of groves and forests. The nature exploration theme resounds in the Olga Bentsman Kundra Barron's photo essay "Life Finds a Way in the American Wild West". Both manuscripts show to us the "light at the end of the tunnel" associated with our "escape" from adversity.

The *Chronicle* section covers profiles of members of the Board of Trustees, new Vice Presidents, faculty members, students, and alumni; Faculty Speakers Series; 2020 Commencement unique events; grants, and various distinction awards.

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We look forward to your contributions to the *InSight: Rivier Academic Journal* in the future.

Sincerely yours,

Vladimir Riabov

Vladimir V. Riabov, Ph.D., Editor-in-Chief