

## MAKING NEWS

### The Latest News from Rivier Faculty and Staff

(From: *Rivier Today*, Fall 2013)



Associate Professor of Education **Dr. Ann Ackerman** co-authored an article, “Getting the Story Right: Developing Critical Analysis Skills through Children’s Literature,” in the September/October 2013 issue of “Social Studies and the Young Learner.” Ackerman presented two workshops this October—“Making it More Than Fiction: Using Children’s Literature to Teach Social Studies” and “Effective Technology for Social Studies Classrooms” at the Annual Conference of the New Hampshire Council for the Social Studies. She also co-presented “They Don’t Bite—We Don’t Bite” at the 36th Annual Fulbright Conference in Washington, DC.

Nursing instructor **Bobbie Bagley** was recently appointed chair of the NH Nurses Association (NHNA) Government Affairs Commission. This committee identifies health policy issues and legislation that the NHNA will focus on for the health, safety and wellbeing of New Hampshire residents and the nursing profession.



Professor of Special Education **Dr. Diane Connell** was invited back for the second year in a row to speak to students in the MBA program at Assumption College in Worcester, Mass. Her presentation was titled “Building Success in the Market Place using your Multiple Intelligences.”

Connell also co-wrote a chapter, “Neuroscience: The Genesis of Our Individual Brain Strengths,” in the book “Early Childhood and Neuroscience—Links to Development and Learning” ([www.springer.com](http://www.springer.com)). The chapter features Rivier University’s Landry Early Childhood Center. Accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and licensed by the New Hampshire Child Care Licensing Unit, the Center offers early education and care for children from six weeks through kindergarten. The Center also provides hands-on experience for Rivier University education students.



Associate Professor of Education **Dr. Susan Gately** spent the month of June in Antigua, West Indies, continuing her ethnographic study of the schools in this Caribbean nation which she began during her sabbatical in the spring semester of 2012. While there she worked with teachers and their students on storytelling and writing. Gately spoke with primary school principals, reading specialists and first grade teachers about language learning and the classroom environment. She was also invited to six primary schools and worked with children on developing “Keeper of the Earth” houses. These simple structures were built with only natural materials from the environment. This was a small step toward the development of a “place-based” education program on the island. Gately plans to return in March to continue her work in the primary schools.

Senior lecturer **John Caiazza** published a book last spring, “The Disunity of American Culture: Science, Religion, Technology and the Secular State”—exploring and describing the different forces that are influencing culture today ([www.transactionpub.com](http://www.transactionpub.com)).

Professor **Larry Maness**, who retired from Rivier last year after 22 years teaching in English and communications and continues teaching online courses, had his book *The Voice of God* published in October. This is Maness’s sixth book and fourth novel. In addition, he is the author of two books of plays: *3 Plays*, introduced by Pulitzer Prize-winner William Inge, and *This House Has Quiet Rooms*. His plays have been produced in New York, Boston, and other venues around the country and in Europe.

Associate Vice President for Global Engagement **Dr. Mark Meehan** recently published a book, “Islam, Modernity, and the Liminal Space Between”—a case study using grounded theory methodology, and creating a rich and holistic understanding of the Institute of Traditional Islamic Art and Architecture (ITIAA) in Jordan.



Professor of History and Political Science **Dr. Martin Menke** attended the German Studies Association Annual Conference in Denver, Colo. in October. Dr. Menke chaired a panel at the conference and read the paper and commentary of two colleagues who were unable to attend, as well as attending other panels including the history of German Catholicism and German politics.

Dr. Menke gave one of the opening addresses, “Lateran Agreements and Reich Concordat: Winners and Losers,” at the Seminar in Italian Jewish Studies which was held at the Simon Wiesenthal Center/Museum of Tolerance this October.

Dr. Menke also presented at the fifth annual Social Studies Honors Symposium, “1968: Crucible of a Nation,” last June at Nashua High School North.



Rivier art majors and Associate Professor **Sheli Petersen** attended the New Hampshire Creative Club “Google Glass” event in October hosted by SilverTech, a digital marketing agency in Manchester, N.H. The NH Creative Club is a networking organization for professionals and students in the visual communication field. Rivier students learned about the latest in wearable computing technology and practiced their professional networking skills.



Assistant Professor of Biology **Dr. Benjamin Philip** attended the Fifth International Symposium on the Environmental Physiology of Ectotherms and Plants (ISEPEP5) in London, Ontario where he presented a poster titled “Seasonal stability of supercooling points in spiders living in a temperate ecosystem.” The conference was attended by more than 80 scientists representing a dozen countries—many of the researchers are the most well respected scientists in the area of environmental physiology.

Associate Professor of Psychology and Education and Director of the Behavioral Science Laboratory **Dr. Jerome Rekart** recently published a book, “The Cognitive Classroom, Using Brain and Cognitive Science to Optimize Student Success”—describing how cutting-edge and classic research findings from the fields of brain science and cognitive psychology may be applied to classroom teaching (www.rowman. com). Rekart also contributed three brain illustrations to Dr. Connell’s book chapter referenced above.



Professor of Mathematics and Computer Science **Dr. Vladimir Riabov** presented the invited paper, "Exploring Algorithms for Effective Applications of the Graph Theory" at the 26th International Conference on Technology in Collegiate Mathematics (San Antonio, Texas, March 21-23, 2014).



Associate Professor of Business Administration **Dr. Karen Spohn** was selected to receive the State of NH Excellence in Education Award from the NH Business Education Association. She was recognized as the Business Educator of the Year at the State of NH Eddie’s Award event in June. Also in June, Spohn and Dean of Business Dr. Amir Toosi attended the ACBSP (Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs) Annual Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah. Spohn presented at the conference titled “Teaching the ESGs of Sustainable Investing with Portfolio Simulation.” Toosi will be serving on the ACBSP’s Region 1 Scholarly Practitioner Publications Committee.



Associate Professor of Biology **Dr. Joel Stake** participated on a panel of experts for the Nashua Science Café New Hampshire in October. The topic “The science of genetically modified organisms,” explores the science and technology of this issue by answering the following questions: How does GMO work? What’s possible with this technology, and what isn’t possible? What’s likely to happen down the road?



Dean of Undergraduate Studies and Professor of English **Dr. Brad Stull** was interviewed on the Greater Nashua Chamber of Commerce’s “Chamber Report” radio show on Nashua’s WSMN 1590 last month. Dr. Stull discussed Rivier’s recent grant from the Davis Educational Foundation for the new core curriculum, *Journeys of Transformation*. ■