

## EDITOR'S NOTE

### This Fragile World

Dear Readers,



Shipwreck, Machir Bay, Islay, Schotland.  
Photograph (©) by Seth Osher.

The Spring-2016 edition of the *InSight: Rivier Academic Journal* is dedicated to Rivier students, faculty, staff, and alumni, who have participated actively in building the gateways to the global community and faith in many different ways. The edition offers a variety of themes: the reflection on the science-religion televised debates (*Dr. John C. Caiazza*); the role of women in public offices and their influence on the entire political life (*Kathy L. DesRoches*); the research on effectiveness of community-based learning and theatrical performance in rehabilitation (*Kuo-Pin Lin*); the review of different models of Heart Failure Clinics and their benefits (*Lauren M. Stacy*); the study of the normative perceptions of peer substance use and party-related behaviors (collaborative research efforts of faculty and students from the Department of Psychology: *Justin Shepherd, Karen*

*Meteyer, Kathryn Bruzios, Jeta Pol, and Mark Charpentier*); the distractive role of social networking on the effectiveness of learning is analyzed in the study of *Christina Graziano* and her faculty mentor, *Dr. Jerome L. Rekart*, and the first article of *Devin D. Gent*, a Math major, that introduces the optimal strategies for finding the maximum value of a function. The authors share with us their stories on serving the local and global communities (*Celebrating Technology and the Humanities at 81<sup>st</sup> Commencement; Fostering growth through academic and cultural exchange; Rivier's Gateway Projects reflect the University's Catholic heritage; the participation of Rivier's students and their faculty mentors in Harvard National Model United Nations Conference; and the appointment of Dr. Susan Langlois as a new Dean of Arts and Sciences*).

One theme is notable in this edition of the *InSight: Rivier Academic Journal*: in his photo essay, *Seth Osher*, a former resident of New Hampshire, shares with us the beauty of nature, the touches of history and Scottish people who make this solitary land a peaceful place to live.

In the *Art* section, readers can find information about art exhibits ("*Figures of Grace: the Art of Sylvia Nicolas*" and "*Music on View*") at the Rivier Art Gallery.

The *Chronicle* section covers various remarkable events in Rivier campus life, such as the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Congress of Education organized by the Sisters of the Presentation of Mary; Rivier University President's Circle event that honored Nashua Mayor Donnalee Lozeau; the announcement of a new Bachelor's degree in Biotechnology, and others. Here the readers can also find Faculty, Student and Alumni Profiles, and information about articles, which have been recently published by faculty and staff in other publications.

This 21<sup>st</sup> edition of the *InSight: Rivier Academic Journal* could not have been published without the active support of many members of the Rivier community to whom I am most grateful. In particular I wish to thank the contributors for their submissions, the Editorial Board members for their guidelines, and all 15 reviewers for their rigorous reviews and recommendations. Special thanks to the Office of Marketing & Communications (*Patricia Garrity* and *Michelle Marrone*) — for providing information updates; the Office of Vice President for Academic Affairs — for production support, and faculty from the departments of Art, Biology, Business, Education, English, History, Nursing, Mathematics & Computer Science, Psychology, and Religious Studies — for encouraging their students and faculty in publishing research articles, project papers, essays, and memoirs.

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