



Newsletter

"Democracy in Education, Education for Democracy"

Volume XLIV, Number 2 March, 2015 Erik Christiansen, Editor echristiansen@ric.edu

From the editor:

This issue contains important information about two urgent issues that present opportunities for faculty involvement. Last month's newsletter mentioned the Complete College Act (approved by committee last week), and RI Senate President Theresa Paiva Weed has since introduced her own performance funding bill.

The metamorphosis of 30% of the library's books into insulation continues. Please read Richard Olmsted's letter about this below.

Brief biographies of faculty new to RIC continue after the News and Updates and FCTL listings.

In solidarity,

Department of History

News and Updates

Meeting to Discuss PBF/Complete College Wednesday, March 25 1:00-2:00 South Dining Room, Faculty Center

A meeting for all faculty members to discuss Performance-Based Funding evidence from other states, RIC/AFT's initial efforts on the issue, and the faculty's continuing response to this bill. Please make all efforts to attend.

Performance Funding Act, S-0603:

Senate President Paiva Weed's bill, introduced on March 5, contains several important provisions that will affect RIC. "Beginning in FY 2018, funding for Rhode Island [*sic*] (RIC) and the University of Rhode Island (URI) shall include a performance-based component..." This component must include: "The number and percentage, including growth of bachelor's degrees awarded to first-time, full-time students within four (4) years and six (6) years including summer graduates; and (2) The number of degrees tied to Rhode Island's high demand, high wage employment opportunities," and also "Any other measures that are deemed appropriate by the council of postsecondary education."

Library Collection Pulped:

To the Editor,

On February 22 I learned that a preliminary list of philosophy books, candidates for discarding, had been posted on the Adams Library web page. To my shock I found that the list contained almost 900 books. Since then that number has grown as additional lists of books in philosophy and religion have been posted. My first reaction was recorded in an email that I sent to A&S Chairs in the humanities:

Friends:

Please take a look at the 891 philosophy books that are up for removal from the library.

<http://ric.libguides.com/c.php?g=185318&p=1480213>

On the first screen there are books by Isaiah Berlin, C.D. Broad, Fredrick Copleston, A. C. Ewing, J. N. Findlay, Nelson Goodman. J.J.C. Smart, and Etienne Gilson. RIC used to brag about the size and quality of its library, which was third largest in the state after Brown and URI. For research purposes many 19th century books can be obtained as PDF's, but the copyright laws make a lot of 20th century stuff hard to obtain that way. And a PDF is a lot less satisfying to hold in your hands.

This atrocity is justified on two grounds: 1) These books have not been checked out for the past fifteen years and 2) Copies may be obtained from other libraries. The second rationale is unethical. It works only as long as other libraries do not follow our lead.

But the first rationale strikes at the heart of humanistic learning. What sort of rule disqualifies a book if it is not read for fifteen years? My own thinking has been transformed by books that sat on a library shelf unread for a century! And not just in the Andover Library at Harvard but at my undergraduate college (a place much like RIC).

Since writing that note I have learned that the HELIN common catalog is dissolving. URI and Bryant will remove their listings soon. All that I have heard leads me to conclude that future cooperative arrangements will not be as convenient or as useful.

I have also been spending time reading through the lists looking for books I hope will be saved. Lists of books drawn from our large collections in literature, history, and other disciplines have yet to be posted. Student services now housed in Craig Lee and elsewhere are to be permanently relocated in the Adams Library Building, beginning in 2017. To accomplish this, the architect's plans assume that thirty percent of the Adams Library print book collection will be removed and destroyed. There are currently about 300,000 volumes...

Richard Olmsted, Philosophy

Note: RIC/AFT Executive Committee member Karl Benziger has formed an ad hoc committee on the library "deselection." Please contact Karl at kbenziger@ric.edu with your concerns.

Committees and Participation: The RIC/AFT welcomes faculty members to participate actively in Union leadership and activities. If you are interested, please contact Quenby Hughes at qhughes@ric.edu.

Upcoming FCTL Sessions:

Faculty Approaches to Writing: A Series

"What We Talk About When We Talk About Student Writing"

Tuesday, April 14, 12:30-2:00pm.

FCTL—Adams Library 405

Facilitated by Carol Cummings (Health and Phys Ed) and Mike Michaud (English, Writing Board).

"The 'How To' of Teaching Peer Review

Or, What Do You Do When You Put Students into Small Groups to Discuss Their Writing?"

Friday, April 17, 9:00am-noon.

FCTL—Adams Library 405

Please RSVP for this session to fctl@ric.edu. Facilitated by Mike Michaud (English, Chair of the Writing Board).

Here's What I'm Working On: Brown-Bag Sessions

"Take Two Oranges and Call Me in the Morning: Medicinal Plant Use by Capuchin Monkeys (*Cebus capucinus*)"

Wednesday, April 22, 12:30-2:00pm.

FCTL—AL 405

Mary Baker (Anthropology) explores why monkeys engage in this quite odd behavior.

New Faculty for 2014-2015

(continued)

Dr. Christine Fisher is a new associate professor in Health and Physical Education. She recently earned her PhD in health education from the University of Toledo. Originally hailing from "the Poconos" in Pennsylvania, Christine writes, "I am excited to be back on the east coast and closer to my family in Pennsylvania." "I love teaching and I am glad to have been given the opportunity to teach here at Rhode Island College and met new people."

Dr. Jenlyn Furey joins RIC for the year as an assistant professor with the Counseling, Educational Leadership & School Psychology program.

Esperanza Gutierrez, a RIC graduate, now returns as Assistant Professor of Nursing. Her areas of expertise include community/public health nursing, maternal child health, and neonatal care. She has worked as a professional nurse for over ten years, as a staff nurse for home visiting programs, a long term care consultant, and adjunct faculty at the University of Rhode Island, School of Nursing. She is board-certified in Advance Public Health Nursing. Esperanza is originally from Colombia and immigrated to the United States in her older teen years. She resides in Rhode Island with her husband and two young sons.

Dr. Fethi Keles joins RIC as an assistant professor in the Department of Anthropology. Dr. Keles earned a doctorate in anthropology at Syracuse University in 2014. He specializes in the study of forced migration and refugees. His ethnographic work among Bosnian Muslims in Central New York was supported with a two-year grant from Die Zeit-Stiftung Ebelin und Gerd Bucerius, a private research foundation based in Hamburg, Germany. He is the Chair-elect of the Committee on Refugees and Immigrants (CORI) of the Society for Urban, National, Transnational/Global Anthropology (SUNTA), a section of the American Anthropological Association (AAA). Dr. Keles has published in a variety of outlets on topics including displacement and adaptation, refugee resettlement in the United States, conflict analysis, and the relevance of critical anthropology to global phenomena.