



Graduate Studies
October 2017 Newsletter
Whats New Around RIC

- **Investing in RIC's Graduate Students: A New and Exciting Course**
Dr. Jason Meriwether, VP of Student Success
 - **Funds to Support Graduate Students at RIC**
 - **Rhode Island College's LGBTQ+ Office and lunch with Office Coordinator, Chris Susi, Oct 25**
- **Graduate student representatives on RIC's Student Government request your ideas and concerns**

Events

- **RIC Student-Parent Fall Gathering, Oct 27 (bring your family)**
- **Counseling Center offers LGBTQ+ Empowerment group and Beyond CIS: The Embracing Gender Counseling Group**
 - **The Defamation Experience, Oct 30, Gaige Auditorium**
 - **Flu Vaccine Clinic, Oct 25**

Employment Opportunity

- **Job Opening with McNair Scholars program**

Investing in RIC's Graduate Students: Shaping a New & Exciting Course

By Dr. Jason L. Meriwether
Vice President for Student Success
Rhode Island College

Across the globe, serving graduate students is one of the important, but often underestimated elements of the campus experience. While so much attention is given to the next cohort of first-time, full-time freshman, colleges and universities that focus on the recruitment, retention, and completion of students seeking graduate degrees provide better experiences for students on their path to completion. Over the last three months, I have used my role as Rhode Island College's new Vice President for Students

Success to ensure that graduate students are a priority. This has taken form by focusing on three strategic areas:

Partnership. One of the first of many meetings during my short time at Rhode Island College (RIC) was with Dr. Leslie Schuster, Dean of Graduate Studies. Dr. Schuster provided significant insight and history into the experience of graduate students at RIC. Also, having had the opportunity to talk with grad degree seekers during my interview and throughout my transition into the campus, it became clear to me that while RIC graduate students have been productive, there was opportunity for the campus to create infrastructure to provide a first-class experience for ALL students pursuing master's-level and doctoral degrees. Dr. Schuster and I agreed to maintain frequent communication and partner through programming, fiscal investment, and resource sharing. Our collaboration will ensure that RIC's responsiveness to graduate student issues and needs is planned and smoothly effectuated from the academic and co-curricular aspects of the College.

Scholarship. An early reward of our partnership has been the reallocation of scholarship dollars to support recruitment and retention of graduate students. At my request, the financial aid team reviewed RIC's scholarship spending and identified \$30,000 that we have invested in graduate student scholarship awards. These awards, which are managed by the Graduate Studies Office, provide 20 grad students with \$1500 scholarships to help cover the expense of school. We have a strategic commitment to increase this total award amount to \$50,000 next year, and \$100,000 in three years. This investment will help provide continuity for graduate students who are more likely to continue pursuing their degrees with institutional support when faced with external pressures to stop taking classes.

Resource Stewardship. One of the other fruitful aspects of the Student Success partnership with the Office of Graduate Studies is the allocation of a budget to provide programming that is directly for graduate students. Accordingly, the RIC Student Union budget now includes \$75,000 to support a Graduate Student Association, and programming and support services for our graduate population. This new investment and initiative is managed by Dr. Schuster and Dr. Marissa Weiss, Assistant Dean of Students at RIC. In collaborating, they will lead to many exciting new programs including a new RIC Graduate Student Association. (see the next page for or more information on this fund)

Since I have moved to Rhode Island, visiting any mall, store, school, or event in the city while simply wearing a Rhode Island College shirt has sparked a myriad of conversations. Most common are comments from alumni who proudly share their stories of earning one or more degrees at RIC. It is my honor to serve all RIC's students, while ensuring that future students who earn graduate degrees have a positive RIC story. With the investments and partnerships described above, I truly believe that

everyone who earns a graduate degree from RIC in the future will have even more affirming and enthusiastic stories to share.

Funds to Support Graduate Studies

Thanks to the efforts of the Vice-President of Student Success Jason Meriwether, RIC now has a fund to support graduate students. The Graduate Student Support fund will build our graduate student community and support graduate students in four distinct areas: Student Engagement and Events; Professional Development; Academic Support; Outreach. The fund will be administered by Marissa Weiss, Interim Associate Dean of Students and the Office of Graduate Studies. The application will be on line shortly at the graduate studies website.

Here are some ideas we had for the events and activities in each category.

Student Engagement & Events

Graduate Student Senate / Emergency Needs Funds
Graduate student organization funding / Officer stipends /
Graduate Student Appreciation Week

Professional Development

Community of Practice events / Graduate Research and Development Funds
Graduate Student Journal / Workshops (IRB, Career Development, publishing)

Academic Support

Week-long writing camp for graduate students
Departmental Lending Library Support / Fall Orientation for new students

Outreach

Alumni Networking / Alumni – Student partnering

Looking forward to hearing your ideas and reading your submissions for support.

Best, Leslie A. Schuster, Ph.D.

Interim Dean of Graduate Studies

graduatestudies@ric.edu



RIC's New LGBTQ+ Office

The LGBTQ+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning) Office is a new office in the Community, Equity, Diversity Division on campus. Its purpose is to serve the unique needs of LGBTQ+ students and their allies. The office will focus on education, training, student programming, and resources and referrals. The office is staffed by a Coordinator, Chris Susi and a graduate assistant. The office is open Tu-Th 10-4, lower level of Donovan in Unity Center. The

Coordinator can be reached via email outside those hours or in case of an emergency. Come by and say hello! Bring a friend! csusi@ric.edu or 456-9033.

Wednesday October 25th at 12:30 join us for a lunch meet and greet in the Gender Studies/Graduate Studies Suite in the lower level of Gaige Hall. Come by, meet Chris and interested students, discuss the LGBTQ+ climate at RIC and society at large and think of ways we are, or could be, supporting LGBTQ+ students. Or just eat pizza and chat.

New Graduate student representatives on RIC's Student Government ask for your ideas and concerns

My name is Briana Winstead and I am a graduate student here at RIC. It was recently brought to the attention of myself and a colleague that there are two graduate position seats on RIC's Student Government. Both positions have not been filled in over 14 years! I am happy to announce that my colleague, Amanda Monaghan, and I have filled both of those seats.



It often seems as though graduate students are more of an extension of the college instead of an incorporated entity. Most of the programs and policies are geared towards undergraduate students and we would like to change that. Amanda and I will represent the Graduate student body and extend the concerns of our peers to the Parliament board. With that said, we ask that you please send us any questions or concerns you may have. Anything you would like to see on campus that would make life as a grad student more manageable, please let us know. We look forward to representing each and every one of you.

Sincerely,

Briana Winstead & Amanda Monaghan

Briana Winstead, MSW Candidate 2019
Graduate Student Representative
Bdepointe_3662@email.ric.edu

Amanda Monaghan, MSW Candidate 2018
Graduate Student Representative
amonaghan_4660@email.ric.edu

Don't Forget...Check in with our new Graduate Student Navigator

Grad life got you stressed? We got you! Contact Learning for Life's Graduate Navigator April Donahue. April provides student support exclusively tailored to graduate student needs,

including questions about the graduate program, enrollment, financial aid, billing, stress or time management, organization, food or housing insecurities, and guidance on other resources. For appointments, email April Donahue at adonahue_4394@email.ric.edu

Events & Resources around RIC

You're invited to the

RIC Student-Parent Fall Gathering

RIC Student-Parents are welcome to bring their children and other family members for an afternoon of pumpkin painting, games, refreshments, and crafts.

Halloween costumes are encouraged! **FREE!**

RSVP by Monday, October 23 to Marissa Weiss, Associate Dean, at mweiss@ric.edu.

Co-sponsored by the RIC Office of Student Life, the Unity Center, the Student Parent Association, Learning for Life, and the Women's Center.

Where: Student Union Ballroom

When: Friday, October 27, 2017

Time: 3:30pm-6:30pm



THE DEFAMATION EXPERIENCE

THE PLAY • THE DELIBERATION • THE DISCUSSION



Monday, October 30,
2017

Gaige Hall 100

5 p.m. - Doors open 6
p.m. - Performance

The DEFAMATION

EXPERIENCE is an interactive diversity experience that starts with the play "DEFAMATION", a riveting courtroom drama written by award winning playwright Todd Logan, which explores the highly charged issues of race, class, religion, gender and the law with a twist; the audience is the jury. This event is FREE. Facilitated discussion immediately following the performance.

RSVP to unitycenter@ric.edu. For more information, call 401-456-8791.

Sponsored by The Division of Community, Equity and Diversity and the Division of Student Success

Beyond Cis: The Embracing Gender Counseling Group

Location: Lot M, The Counseling Center

Thinking about Joining? This Group is Open to All Who Identify with a Gender Identity Beyond Cis (Transgender, Gender Queer, Questioning, Gender Fluid, Transgender Umbrella, and Beyond).

Want to Learn More? Please Schedule a Triage Appointment through the Counseling Center. Your Provider Will Guide you to a Pre-Group Interview Appointment to Discuss the Group.

Wondering about Group Common Themes? The Focus of the Group is Interpersonal Process, Support, and Sharing of Resources. Common Themes include:

- **Navigating important relationships with family, friends, and significant others,**
- **Exploration of transition-related considerations,**
- **Discussion of the intersection between various parts of identity (e.g., gender identity, sexual identity, spiritual identity, racial identity)**

Group Facilitator: Dr. Chantelle Pseekos serves as the Director of the Counseling Center and is a licensed psychologist. She self-identifies as gender fluid and androgynous.

How to Contact the Counseling Center to Schedule an Appointment? Please call 401-456-8094

We Look Forward to Hearing You and Offering You a Welcome Supportive Space!



**RHODE
ISLAND
COLLEGE**

is pleased to offer

2017 SEASONAL FLU VACCINE CLINIC

THE DETAILS

- Clinic Date:** Wednesday, October 25th
11:00am-2:00pm
- Location:** The Student Union Ballroom
- Cost:** No Charge - BCBS, Medicare Part B,
UnitedHealthcare, Neighborhood Health,
Tufts or Tufts/Carelink.
Different or no insurance - \$25.00
- To Register:** Log-on to www.thewellcomp.com
Scroll down to: Register Now
Click: Flu
Click: College/University
Login ID: ric



**YOU MUST BRING YOUR INSURANCE CARD WITH YOU TO THE EVENT
AGES 18 YEARS AND OLDER**



WellSolutions
Your guide to a healthy workforce

The flu viruses selected for the seasonal flu vaccines are updated each year based on which influenza virus strains are circulating.

Therefore, the effectiveness varies from year to year. It's still the best bet to protect yourself from the flu and its complications.

132A George M. Cohan Boulevard – Providence, RI 02903

TRIO

RONALD E. MCNAIR
POST-BACCALAUREATE
ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

Graduate Advisor for Rhode Island College McNair Scholars Program (TRIO)

McNair Scholars Program Description: The McNair Program is funded through the U.S. Department of Education to prepare eligible RIC undergraduate students for doctoral studies through involvement in research and other scholarly activities. All McNair projects provide the following activities: opportunities for research or other scholarly activities; summer internships; seminars and other educational activities designed to prepare students for doctoral study; tutoring; academic counseling; and activities designed to assist students participating in the project in securing admission to and financial assistance for enrollment in graduate programs. The goal is to increase the attainment of Ph.D. degrees by students from underrepresented segments of society.

Rate of Pay: \$15/per hour. This is a grant funded position, and is contingent upon continued funding.

Position Description:

The newly funded Rhode College McNair Scholars Program is seeking a qualified and motivated individual to fill a Graduate Assistant Position immediately. The Graduate Advisor will support the McNair Program through the recruitment process, the development of academic support services, and provide continuous support to the McNair scholars.

Primary Responsibilities:

- McNair is a brand new program to the RIC campus, the first priority of the Graduate Advisor will be to support and assist with recruitment efforts, as well as maintain recruitment materials and schedule recruitment meetings and sessions
- Assist McNair scholars with general college-related questions, provide guidance to understand college policies and procedures, provide information on campus-wide opportunities, make referrals to appropriate offices, as needed
- Support McNair staff in the planning and delivery of workshops and seminars, as well as special events for McNair scholars and faculty
- Help to develop program materials: program applications, newsletters, announcements, and mailings
- Assist program staff with maintaining McNair student files and program files
- Maintain the confidentiality of student information as required by the college, state, and federal regulations
- Maintain contact with McNair students throughout the academic year to ensure successful academic progression and active participation in research and scholarly activity
- Participate in McNair staff meetings, student groups, or other staff professional development programs
- Maintain required college paperwork, notes, data, and reports necessary to document services and activities provided by the federal McNair grant
- Always maintain a strict level of confidentiality and use professional judgement when working on sensitive issues with students
- Understand how to work collaboratively with a diverse group of students and faculty, staff, and college administrators
- Be knowledgeable of and ensure that your daily work reflects and upholds the 5 pillars of the RIC strategic plan (Inclusive Excellence, Student Success, Institutional Effectiveness, Learning Innovation, and Community Partnerships)
- Perform other duties as assigned

Application Process:

- Please email your resume to Maria Muccio, McNair Project Director, at mmuccio@ric.edu
- Include in your email your hours of availability, as well as a brief statement as to why you are interested in serving as a McNair Graduate Advisor.