Greetings from the Dean’s Office
Kara M. Rabbitt, Dean

Welcome to the third edition of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS) Newsletter. We have many accomplishments to celebrate, and many changes in progress.

The Departments of Anthropology and Psychology have moved into the expanded and renovated Science Complex with its new clinical and research facilities. The Departments of Africana-World Studies and Philosophy are now in the remodeled “north wing” on the first floor of the Atrium, and the College’s remaining departments in the Atrium—English, history, and languages and cultures, as well as the dean’s office—will likewise be shifting around as we expand office spaces in the building.

The College has launched two new interdisciplinary undergraduate degree programs: Legal Studies and Criminology and Criminal Justice, both described in this edition. At the graduate level, the Department of History launched a new track in applied historical studies. These career-focused programs will help our students meet their professional goals.

We recently welcomed two new chapters of national student honor societies. High-achieving philosophy students are now eligible for membership in the Iota chapter of the Phi Sigma Tau honor society. And qualified women’s and gender studies students may join the Gamma Zeta chapter of the Triota honor society.

The College is bringing new focus to the career needs of our students with programs designed to support their preparation for the job market and study abroad experiences.

Our alumni have proven time and again that a liberal arts education is a valuable asset in many fields. Our most recent alumni panel, highlighted in this edition, represents the successes our students can go on to achieve.

Finally, we are extremely heartened by the support this newsletter has generated from our alumni and friends of the College. We are always happy to hear from our readers and to share news about activities and achievements in the humanities and social sciences.

Your Gift Strengthens Us

Did you know you can designate your annual gift to the College of Humanities and Social Sciences? Each year, donors to The Fund for WP make remarkable experiences possible for our students. This year, alumni donations have supported student research opportunities including hands-on archeological research, presentations of experimental findings at a psychology conference, attendance at a national creative writing conference, a voter education campaign, and more. The generosity of our alumni also helps to fund student scholarships and study abroad experiences, often life-changing opportunities for our students. Gifts of any size can make a considerable impact on a student’s life at William Paterson.

Every gift counts and strengthens us as an institution and community. Your commitment also sets an example for our current students and for those who follow; it sends a message to the wider community that you believe in the value and significance of a William Paterson education.

I encourage you to visit wpunj.edu/giving or call Lisa Johnson ’03, Associate Director of Annual Giving, at 973.720.3847 to make your gift to the College of Humanities and Social Sciences today.
Professor Explores Psychological Impact of Race on African Americans

Meanings Beneath The Skin: The Evolution of African Americans, by Sherle Boone, examines the psychological significance of race on African Americans.

For six years, students in Boone’s psychology course were asked to describe cultural and psychological characteristics of African Americans. Upon reviewing more than 300 essays, it was clear to Boone that African Americans relayed experiences that described a racial divide in America. “The vast differences in the responses from my students [of all races] compelled me to closely examine the psychological significance of race for African Americans.”

Inspired by his students, Boone’s book analyzes the history of race and the intellectual impact on African Americans from the 17th century to the present day.

Sociology Professor’s Novel Inspired by Ellis Island’s Turbulent Early History

William Paterson sociology professor Vincent Parrillo’s first novel, Guardians of the Gate, was inspired by a course he taught in 1980 on the immigration of minority groups to America. After researching and producing the award-winning PBS documentary, Ellis Island: Gateway to America (1991), Parrillo sought a new challenge: to write an historical novel set on Ellis Island during America’s early immigration period in the late 1890s.

Many people aren’t aware of Ellis Island’s turbulent early history: its burning in 1897, violent riots, and the rampant “graft, corruption, exploitation, rape, and suicide…the story was begging to be told,” explains Parrillo.

Guardians of the Gate contains two simultaneous stories. The main characters, inspired by real people and foregrounded by historical events, engage readers with an intriguing love story that reaches its climax at the 1901 World’s Fair.

Parrillo is working on the sequel, Defenders of the Gate, which introduces new historical drama on Ellis Island, informed by the Bolshevik Revolution and the suffrage movement.

Parrillo also recently created a new historical documentary on a major figure of Paterson history, Gaetano Federici: The Sculptor Laureate of Paterson. The film, which profiles noted Italian-American sculptor Federici and his works for Paterson in the early part of the last century, aired on NJTV and won Best Documentary honors at the Ridgewood Film Festival in April 2013.

Additional Publications by HSS Faculty

Neil Kressel (Psychology) published The Sons of Pigs and Apes: Muslim Antisemitism and the Conspiracy of Silence with Potomac Books.

Lucia McMahon (History) published Mere Equals: The Paradox of Educated Women in the Early American Republic with Cornell University Press.


Brian Ó Broin (English) contributed to and edited Thógamar le Gaeilge iad, from Coiscéim Publishers and Comhlua, Dublin.


Neici Zeller (History) published Discursos y espacios femeninos en la República Dominicana, 1880-1961, an exploration of how Dominican women earned recognition, with Letra Gráfica of Santo Domingo.
Professor Marie Friquegnon Publishes Two New Books

Philosophy professor Marie Friquegnon recently published two books, one that explores the work of her favorite philosopher, Santaraksita, and the other reflecting her love of Tibetan culture. *A Short Introduction to the Philosophy of Santaraksita* serves as a guide to the life and basic tenets of the philosopher Santaraksita, who lived in Bengal India in the 8th century and taught at India’s Nalanda University. At the request of the king of Tibet, Santaraksita later left India to form a university-monastery for the betterment of Tibetan religion and culture.

*Studies on Santaraksita’s Yogacara Madhyamaka* is a collection of essays about the philosopher’s work that Friquegnon co-edited. Like Kant and other Western philosophers, Santaraksita believed that although reality progresses according to a logical order, ‘ultimate’ reality itself is unknowable. His work appeals to Friquegnon because of its adherence to logic and reason. She is also intrigued by the possibility that logic and reason do not necessarily lead to a spiritual ‘dead end,’ but to the idea of new spiritual possibilities and accomplishments.

New Book Explores the Effects of Race on Contemporary Literacy Practices


The two authors take turns discussing the difficulty of exploring the foundational premises of English and writing programs in university and college settings. Asked to describe his book, Marshall explains, “Our lived experiences as faculty and administrators serve to underscore the complex code of whiteness even as they push to decide it and demonstrate how our own pedagogical practices are raced and racialized in multiple ways.” Marshall hopes his book inspires administrators and professors to carefully analyze “the pernicious nature of whiteness” and how thoughts and opinions of race can influence our actions.

A recent review in *Composition Forum* concludes that the book “prods us to question ourselves and our classrooms...as it asks us to play a role in [its] dialogue.”

Map Literary Launch

The English department faculty and the new MFA program in Creative and Professional Writing recently launched *Map Literary*, an online literary magazine dedicated to new writing. Under the direction of editor John Parras and managing editor Christopher Salerno, *Map Literary* features fiction, nonfiction, and poetry, as well as book and cultural reviews.

The range of editorial tastes enhances the eclectic flavor of the magazine. “We want to map what’s out there,” says Parras, explaining the genesis of the journal’s title. Although submissions from William Paterson students or faculty are not accepted, the magazine does give students a sense of their professors’ literary aesthetic.

Established writers as well as the undiscovered are encouraged to submit work.

The first issue features award-winning poets and writers. In the near future, the editorial board plans on developing an online pedagogical tool especially targeted to creative writing classrooms. By juxtaposing first and subsequent drafts of a published work, the journal will provide models for the writing and editing process. *Map Literary* is online at www.mapliterary.org.

HSS Newsletter

*Contact us:* hssnewsletter@wpunj.edu

*Editors*
Kara Rabbitt, Ph.D.; Dean
Liane Robertson, Ph.D.; Department of English (managing editor)
Martha Witt, Ed.D.; Department of English (editor in chief)

*Editorial Board*
Wartyna Davis, Ph.D.; Associate Dean
Gennifer Furst, Ph.D.; Department of Sociology
Tom Gundling, Ph.D.; Department of Anthropology, Assistant to the Dean
David Kozlinski, Ph.D.; Department of History
Amy Learmonth, Ph.D.; Department of Psychology
Franklin Rodriguez, Ph.D.; Department of Languages and Cultures
Stephen Shalom, Ph.D.; Department of Political Science
Stephen Thompson, Ph.D.; Department of Philosophy
Neici Zeller, Ph.D.; Department of History

*Writers*
Samantha Buser • Rebecca Costantini • Beverley Gaines • Roxanne Guarino

*Editing and Design*
Marketing and Public Relations
College Offers Study Abroad Programs

Through the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, students can earn college credit and learn about international cultures in Spain, Scotland, Japan, or England during the summer months, while engaging in culturally enriching and intellectually stimulating experiences.

Students traveling to Spain over a five-week period every year visit various cities to learn about Spanish culture and attend Spanish classes at the University of Santiago de Compostela. The Spain Study Abroad program offers an immersive look at the culture and language of the Spanish people. Developed by Professor Maria Tajes, this program provides students with a week of orientation in Madrid followed by language courses at the University of Santiago de Compostela. Students earn 10 credits and have the opportunity to visit galleries, museums, and other points of cultural interest, while mingling with visiting students from other countries in Europe, Asia, and the Middle East.

The Department of Anthropology takes students to the tiny island of Rousay of Orkney, Scotland, where they participate in an archaeological study in partnership with other international student groups from around the world. Professor Ruth A. Maher heads up this yearly summer program that studies the prehistoric environmental conditions and settlements of the Orkney Islands of Scotland. This 3-credit interdisciplinary field course brings together students from anthropology, archaeology, history, environmental sciences, and more, to excavate the Neolithic chambered tomb and the nearby Iron Age village remains discovered along an eroding beach. By understanding the relationship that the people of an earlier age had with the natural world, Maher and her students hope to apply their findings to contemporary problems regarding sustainability and other environmental issues.

For students looking to advance their study of Japanese languages and cultures, a month-long program is offered in Kanazawa City, an unspoiled castle town in central Japan. Headed by Professor Haruko Taya Cook, coordinator of the Japanese Language Teacher Preparation program at William Paterson, and modeled on a successful system used at Princeton University, this program offers a chance for students to live with a Japanese host family in order to get an authentic experience in Japanese language and culture. Two courses, for a total of 6 credits, are available to students at an intermediate level of Japanese or higher.

Now in its 14th year, the Cambridge University program in England, offered by the Political Science Department, challenges students to increase their awareness of critical issues and foreign concepts. This program is centered on the course “Comparative Rights,” headed by Professor Michael Luis Principe, a Fulbright Scholar who has been at William Paterson since 1998. Principe’s course examines the evolution of human and constitutional rights in eight different countries, from the perspective of Civil and Common Law systems. In examining issues such as free speech, due process, and civil liberties, students learn how the protection and exercise of rights affects the global community. In this four-week program, students experience Cambridge and London and gain a global perspective on comparative law and politics.

Over the years, students participating in Study Abroad programs at the University describe them as the most rewarding and exciting experiences of their lives, often leading to opportunities for graduate study or relevant careers. These programs provide participants with lifelong memories and an incomparable learning experience to round out their William Paterson University education.

For more information on Study Abroad opportunities, contact:

Spain: Professor Octavio de la Suarée, delasuareeO@wpunj.edu
Orkney Islands, UK: Professor Ruth Maher, maherr2@wpunj.edu
Japan: Professor Haruko Taya Cook, cookh@wpunj.edu
Cambridge, UK: Professor Michael Principe, principem@wpunj.edu

William Paterson students participate in an archaeological study in Orkney Islands, Scotland.
Alec Ayers

Alec Ayers, a 2011 graduate, heeded his life’s calling. As a former anthropology major, Ayers had just one dream—to travel to Africa.

In 2009, while a student at William Paterson, Ayers was accepted into an archaeological field school in Kenya and took his first trip to the African continent. He fell in love with Africa and promised his new friends there that he would return. Ayers kept his promise. About twenty-four hours after graduation from William Paterson, he boarded a plane to Africa, where he spent the next two months volunteering at an archaeological site in Pinnacle Point, South Africa. This site is where evidence of early modern humans’ use of stone hunting tools was discovered—a discovery published in the journal Nature and recently featured in The New York Times.

“When people think of Africa they often imagine the Darfur conflict, famine, colonialism, AIDS, apartheid, the genocides in Rwanda, the Belgian Congo, and perhaps even the drought that has blighted the horn of Africa for nearly sixty years,” Ayers explains. “I have been to many places since my first time in Africa; in my eyes, nothing compares to it.” Upon his return, Ayers moved to Colorado where he worked for an environmental agency, preserving areas and artifacts that may have cultural value.

After spending a year in the West, where he explored sites in Colorado, Utah, Montana, and Wyoming, Ayers decided to attend graduate school. He is currently pursuing a master of science in the Palaeolithic Archaeology and Palaeoanthropology program at University College London, where his focus of study involves taphonomy and paleoecology. After graduate school, Ayers says his plans include “doing what I love—working in my field; I might like to teach one day.”

Johanna Ancheta

Johanna Ancheta’s passion for film and audio led to her involvement in a study researching the effects of audiovisual speech perception. As a former research assistant to psychology professor Michael Gordon, Ancheta demonstrated her knowledge about “self-motion influences” during her poster presentation at the 9th annual Auditory, Perception, Cognition, and Action meeting.

Ancheta graduated from William Paterson in spring 2012 with a B.A. in psychology and a minor in art studio. She began her research in January 2011 and dedicated the next ten months to collecting data on how emotions influence speech. In order to tailor her study, she gathered a focus group of thirteen participants with exaggerated mixed eye-mouth combination.

“Our study took a look at the motivation aspects,” Ancheta states. “Our poster began by discussing the ways in which emotions influence the face. For example, we explored the changes in how people are using and presenting the features of their face to express emotions and the importance of those emotions. We then looked at how the perceivers are influenced to listen in (approach motivation) or distance themselves (withdrawal motivation).”

The results of the study demonstrated that speaking while feeling happy was important in supporting better speech detection, but a happy expression alone did not motivate speech.

A member of Psi Chi, the National Psychology Honor Society, Ancheta intends to continue building on her recent study by examining how articulation and prosody of speech affects understanding. Ancheta plans to further explore this research in graduate school.

“I feel like this experience made me aware of a niche I may have in the world of psychology,” she adds.
Humanities and Social Science Alumni Career Day

The College of Humanities and Social Sciences hosted an Alumni Career Day in February 2013 that featured a panel of accomplished alumni. Distinguished panelists included:

- Theresa Cubba, Wiener Lesniak, associate (History, ’69: municipal, civil, and criminal law)
- Carol Flannery, Hal Leonard Performing Arts Publishing Group, editorial director (English, ’77: performing arts publishing)
- Joe Lizza, Hann Financial Service Corporation, president and CEO (Psychology, ’81: banking and financial services)
- Sussan Lopez-Hanna, New Jersey Department of Human Services (Sociology, ’07: human services, working with developmental disabilities)
- Dennis Marco, Hamilton Public Affairs LLC, managing partner (Political Science, ’75: public affairs, corporate communications, government relations)
- Craig Rothenberg, vice president of corporate communications, Johnson & Johnson (Political Science, ’81: corporate communications)

Panelists discussed the importance of having liberal arts skills in the marketplace, and offered their insights and career experiences. Most panelists said they followed an indirect career path toward success, and encouraged graduating seniors to expect to try different jobs before finding a career that fits. Panelist Joe Lizza advised a big picture approach: “You don’t have a road map for your career…one of the most important aspects of a degree in the humanities is that you develop critical thinking skills that are useful in any field.” Panelist Craig Rothenberg suggested that internships often lead to a job. “It’s a matter of demonstrating the skills you have,” he says.

Panelist Carol Flannery advised students to present themselves as proactive, conscientious, and independent learners. She stressed that they should demonstrate to prospective employers that they know how and where their skills will best be used in the field. Sussan Lopez-Hanna counseled students to remember that they know how and where their skills will best be used in the field. Sussan Lopez-Hanna added that students should “be ready for a variety of potential career avenues.”

Degrees in humanities and social sciences offer a strong foundation for many types of careers, said the panelists, urging students to follow their interests. Student attendees had an opportunity to ask questions and interact with alumni individually at the reception that followed.

Campus Violence Prevention Program Funded by Grant

In 2010, William Paterson University was awarded a $299,464 grant by the Department of Justice’s Office on Violence Against Women, which led to the formation of the University’s Campus Violence Prevention Program (CVPP). This grant is directed by sociology professor Sheetal Ranjan in collaboration with Librada Sanchez, director of the University’s Women’s Center.

CVPP’s primary mission is to prevent domestic, dating, stalking, and sexual violence and strengthen the services and resources available to the campus community. Over the past three years, CVPP has formed a coordinated community board of on- and off-campus partners, in a combined effort to deliver the most effective and comprehensive domestic and sexual violence support and services for students, faculty, and staff affected by such crimes and to strengthen preventive and educational measures.

To this end, the CVPP manages “Unless There’s Consent,” a new mandatory, online sexual violence education and prevention program for all incoming students at William Paterson University. The CVPP also collaborates on training initiatives with the campus police, judicial affairs board, and peer first responders (peer health advocates, resident assistants, first-year peer leaders, and student patrol) to increase awareness and education, improve responses to victims, and better prosecute perpetrators. On-campus training sessions for the Domestic Violence Response Team (DVRT) and Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) have been offered for the past two years, in collaboration with community partner Passaic County Women’s Center.

CVPP reapplied for the grant in March, 2013 to continue its work in preventing domestic, dating, stalking, and sexual violence, strengthening services provided, and seeking to make the campus victim services coordinator a full-time position.

Interdisciplinary Minors

In addition to the minors available in almost all major programs, the College of Humanities and Social Sciences supports the following interdisciplinary minors, which permit students to link related areas of interest to their academic major by pursuing electives in various departments, both within and beyond the College:

- Africana World Studies
- Asian Studies
- Criminology and Criminal Justice (new)
- French and Francophone Studies
- International Cinema Studies (new)
- Latin America and Latino Studies
- Legal Studies (new)
- Linguistics (new)
- Social Justice (new)
- Urban Studies
- Women’s and Gender Studies
New Grant Initiatives

College faculty and programs have earned additional competitive awards in support of the following departmental initiatives:

In collaboration with the College of Education, the College was awarded a $1.5 million dollar grant from the U.S. Department of Education Office of English Language Acquisition for a five-year project on “Preparing All Teachers for Serving English Language Learners” (PATSEL). This project is co-directed by Carrie Hong of the department of Educational Leadership and Gladys Scott of the department of Languages and Cultures.

The Asian Studies program received support this year from the Japan Foundation in the form of a one-year $18,553 salary stipend for the Japanese Language track. Fumio Iwai, Deputy Consul General, and Toshiro Kaneko, Consulate General and member of the board of directors for the Japan Information Center in New York, came to the campus in November 2012 to present this award; the grant is directed by Dean Kara Rabbitt with the support of Asian Studies director Theodore F. Cook.

Criminology and Criminal Justice Major

The College of Humanities and Social Sciences acquired a new major in criminology and criminal justice in fall 2012. Housed in the sociology department, the major emphasizes the critical study of criminal justice practices and theories. Gennifer Furst, a professor with a doctorate in criminal justice, is the director of the fast-growing major.

“We are excited to be offering a degree in which students learn about theories that explain crime, victimization, and the system – police, courts, and punishment – as well as the advocacy and helping aspects of the field,” says Furst. People often mistakenly assume that criminology and criminal justice is simply vocational training and how-to instruction, she explains. “Our students are learning about it as an academic discipline with a social science foundation, and are gaining skills for careers in the area as well as solid and transferable analytic abilities.”

The new major consists of six core courses and six electives. The elective options integrate other majors and provide students the opportunity to enhance their skills in disciplines such as anthropology, history, philosophy, political science, sociology, or psychology. “We want our students to get an interdisciplinary approach,” Furst explains. “Taking courses in other departments will give them a valuable perspective on crime, and its social causes and consequences.” More than 250 students are enrolled and the department anticipates continuing growth.

College Conference

Elections 2012: Equality, Justice, Democracy:

With support of the William Paterson University Alumni Association, the College of Humanities and Social Sciences created a timely multidisciplinary conference in October 2012 on issues at play in the latest presidential election. More than 600 students and faculty attended the two panels and a keynote address, with active engagement of College faculty.
College Hosts Tinker Latin American Studies Lecture Series

William Paterson University's Latin American and Latino Studies Program received grant support in the 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 academic years from the Tinker Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to increasing the understanding of Latin America in the United States and promoting Latin American development.

This grant fostered a William Paterson-Tinker Latin American Studies Lecture Series, which has featured distinguished poets, novelists, artists, and other leading scholars, who have shared their artistic and scholarly endeavors with faculty, students, and community members.

The lecture series has involved several departments across campus. Rosa Soto, assistant professor, English and Latin American and Latino Studies, helped organize the series, and explains its mission: “We work hard to get speakers because we believe it’s important for students to hear about people’s experiences, to be exposed to the diversity and challenges of society, and to be able to see their own possibilities for the future.” Franklin Rodriguez, director of the Latin America and Latino Studies program, credits the series’ success to contributions from President Kathleen Waldron, who is also a board member of the Tinker Foundation, and from Renate Rennie, chairperson and president of the Foundation, and to “the hard work and vision of my colleagues, our students, members of the administration, and the speakers who supported the series.”

In fall 2011, organizers invited anthropologist Arlene Davila, of New York University, to explore the controversies surrounding the construction of a national museum dedicated to Latinos; Fabio Sanchez Torres, Tinker Visiting Professor at Columbia University and professor of economics at the Universidad de los Andes in Bogota, Colombia, spoke on the relationship between economic progress and violence in today’s Colombia; and Lawrence La Fountain-Stokes, from the University of Michigan, discussed manifestations of contemporary Puerto Rican theater and performance that engage male-to-female transvestism.

Spring 2012 events included a reading by acclaimed novelist Cristina Garcia; an open-microphone session by poet and performer Urayoan Noel and his band (The Handsome Plots); a reading by Oscar Guardiola-Rivera, professor at The University of London (Birkbeck College), from his book What if Latin America Ruled the World; and a discussion on indigeneity and national identity across the Americas by Tracy Devine-Guzmán from the University of Miami.

In fall 2012, the series continued its diverse offerings with Edmundo Paz Soldán, Bolivian novelist, reading excerpts from his last two novels about issues of immigration, violence, madness, and art. Dorsia Smith-Silva, University of Puerto Rico, discussed issues of gender and ethnicity in her lecture “Latina/Chicana Mothering.” Juan Sanchez, a mixed media artist, presented a lecture, “AmeRican, Art, Politics & Life.” Sanchez’s work has been exhibited in venues worldwide, and is represented in collections at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, The Whitney Museum of American Art, The Museum of Modern Art, and El Museo del Barrio, among others.

Spring 2013 featured Spanish journalist and writer Marta Rivera de la Cruz, discussing Spanish migration and return through the representative figure of the “Indiano,” and New York Daily News columnist Juan González on immigration and U.S. foreign policy. Two screenings of documentaries (Harvest of Empire, based on the González book by the same name, and Soy Andina, on New York dancers and their exploration of mixed Peruvian and American identities) complemented the spring offerings.

The organizers are grateful for the William Paterson-Tinker Foundation Lecture Series’ contributions to enhancing the academic and social experience of the entire William Paterson community.

New Major in Legal Studies

The College of Humanities and Social Sciences acquired a new degree program in 2012: Legal Studies. Housed in the Department of Political Science, the focus of this major is to hone critical and creative thinking skills in order to prepare students for graduate and law school. Michael Luis Principe, former law professor and director of the successful William Paterson pre-law program, explains “We wanted to take the successes we’ve had as a pre-law program and formalize them. The pre-law program has been traditionally just a certificate program. By making it a major, it now can be printed on a degree."

The new program includes core courses in legal studies and interdisciplinary electives, integrating other majors by giving legal studies students the opportunity to enhance their skills in disciplines such as anthropology, English, philosophy, sociology, and psychology. “We want our students to get an interdisciplinary approach,” Principe explains. “Taking these courses in other disciplines will give them a valuable perspective on the law.”