Welcome to CMS and the 2014-2015 academic year!

As is seemingly often the case, this is another year of transitions. I am excited to have joined the CMS team and look forward to what I hope is a long tenure guiding and building our degree and program offerings. Needless to say, it is no small decision to uproot one’s family and move half way across the continent. CMS staff, faculty, and students have already helped to make very, very clear that this was the right move for me to make. I appreciate the warm welcome that has been given to my family.

Key to our future strategic planning is the self-study we have conducted for the past six months, lead by Mary Boyd and Michelle Firnstein and supported by the excellent staff in Academic Affairs. We are working hard to be honest with ourselves about our strengths and weaknesses and to reveal real opportunities for growth and improvement. Please look forward to community conversations in the new year as we begin to shift our attention to shaping the path forward.

CMS expresses its best wishes to Professor Sam McQuade as he has taken up new duties in the College of Liberal Arts. Sam has provided our graduate program with passionate and caring leadership and has ensured its vibrancy. We wish him the best of luck with his new responsibilities and look forward to his continued good advice and counsel.

We welcome Peter Boyd as the Interim Coordinator of Graduate Program Operations and express our great enthusiasm for his experience and wisdom as we look to continue to offer an academically rigorous and flexible program in Professional Studies.

Very soon we will announce a new addition to our advising staff! Please think about joining us in the CMS offices on November 21st at 3:00 for an open house celebration of all of our changes.

All best wishes, Jim Hall

REMEMBERING TIMOTHY HOLMES By: Abby Berner

CMS and the RIT community were saddened early fall semester by the unexpected passing of CMS alum, and MS candidate, Timothy Holmes, on August 27, 2014. Timothy earned his AAS from NTID in 2012, graduated from CMS’s Bachelor of Science degree in May, 2014, and was just starting his MS in Professional Studies through the Center for Multidisciplinary Studies. If you search Timothy’s name on the RIT website, you see how involved he was in the NTID Drama Club, his fraternity, and the poetry group, Dangerous Signs. In Timothy’s BS statement of goals, she said his goals after his BS degree decided to pursue his BS degree through CMS in order to “work at the Pentagon as an executive assistant for the chief or directors”, with the long range goal of becoming a professor and sharing his experiences with others.

Timothy was a great example of what the CMS degree can help students achieve, and will be sorely missed by many.

Where to find CMS:
www.rit.edu/cms Facebook: Center for Multidisciplinary Studies Twitter: @CMSRIT Linkedin: RIT CMS Alumni Tel: 585-475-2234 Fax: 585-4756292 E-mail: cms1@rit.edu
Professor Tom Moran

CMS Professor Tom Moran was writer-in-residence at the Sewell Archive in Haiku, Hawaii, as part of his Faculty Development Leave during the Spring Semester. Moran conducted research in the archive’s vast collection of photography, film, and ephemera relating to the career of artist Tom Sewell. While at the archive, Moran served as a panelist during discussions of the CinematikiMaui, the Maui Film Society and completed work on a book on the life and work of Sewell.

During the leave, Moran also completed work on an essay that was published in the University of San Francisco’s online journal Switchback, gave a reading of his work at the Beyond Baroque Literary enter in Venice, California, and participated in the Association of Writers and Writing Programs annual conference in Seattle.

AUK: Dr. John Mosbo

John came to A.U.K as Vice President for Academic Affairs and R.I.T Director of Academic Programs in August. He is a veteran administrator, having served over 14 years as a Provost or equivalent at public, private, U.S. and international institutions. His most recent experience was at the University of Evansville, in Evansville, Indiana.

John notes that he continues to be on the steep slope of his learning curve at A.U.K. He has been attending classes and meeting with individual faculty to develop better understandings of the A.U.K students and curricula, and to get to know the faculty. He has been very impressed by the dedication of the faculty to their students, and their quality and experience – both in terms of their academic backgrounds and work experiences.

Overwhelmingly, A.U.K serves traditional-aged students, who John says are friendly, courteous and seem to be permanently affixed to their cell phones.

CAPSTONE CORNER  By: Peter Boyd

During the 2014 summer term, eight MS in Professional Studies students from the United States, India, and the Dominican Republic completed capstone projects and graduated from RIT. The range of capstone project topics was far-reaching and addressed subjects that cut across the public, private and non-profit sectors. The quality of all eight projects was exceptionally high; however, the project submitted by Mr. Brett Bastion stood out as an example of what a multidisciplinary educated person can accomplish.

Brett, a high school instructor in the Wayne Central School District, entered the Professional Studies program with the aim of combining his background in Clinical Chemistry with his interests in Biochemistry and Pathophysiology. For his capstone, Brett saw an opportunity to address the national concern over the decreasing number of high school students who see medicine as a rewarding career path. Brett’s solution was to use his academic concentrations and his teaching experience to develop an 11th and 12th grade summer enrichment experience. The goal of the experience, one focused on the diagnosis and treatment of disease, is to encourage students in his district to consider medicine as an area for further study and a potential career path.

When developing the enrichment program, Brett employed the Understanding by Design curriculum development framework and adhered to New York State Learning Standards, national Common Core requirements, and the standards of the Wayne Central School District. The finished program consists of ready-to-use teaching materials, assessment instruments, and related program management tools, as well as higher-level curriculum guidelines and a change control methodology for monitoring the success of the program over time. The program is currently under review by the Wayne Central School District and a proposal has been made that it be converted into a credit-bearing science elective that student can take during the normal school year as well. Brett’s plan, if the program is successful, is to expand its scope to include epidemiology and comparative anatomy.
LEADERSHIP CLASSES FOR ALL  By: Molly McGowan

No matter what your field of study is or what type of career you may have, leadership skills are needed at all levels of an organization. Many recent RIT alumni share how well they are doing in their careers in terms of their technical knowledge and competence but many often express challenges with how to navigate office politics, communicate with different personality types and take initiative or articulate a vision for their work. Managing team dynamics in the workplace can also be challenging and is sometimes no different than working in teams in your classes. It takes a certain skill set to be able to work effectively in teams, lead yourself and lead others. The good news is that you can learn about and build these critical leadership skills for your career success now by taking any of CMS’s three distinct leadership courses or enroll in all three! **CMDS 205 Practicing and Assessing Leadership Skills** introduces students to key concepts for learning how to lead yourself by enhancing your communication techniques, developing emotional intelligence strategies and helping students learn how to be an authentic leader. **CMDS 362 High Performance Leadership** is geared towards those that do have aspirations to lead others or lead teams. Focus areas include: leadership roles and styles, how to coach others to maximize performance, developing dynamic teams, making ethical decisions and communicating across diverse workforces. Lastly, **CMDS 461 Leading in a Global Environment** is designed for those who have an interest in working and leading across the globe. Many organizations today are globally minded and this course helps students to understand the dynamics of working across many unique cultures and focuses on the skill set needed to adapt and lead when working across the globe and facing international challenges. Leadership development is a journey, not a destination and the best leaders acknowledge that they are continuously learning on how to improve and manage others. Don’t wait until you are alumni to explore leadership development opportunities. Take advantage of these critical courses now and gain the competitive edge that employers are looking for, you will not regret it!

32 YEARS WITH CMS

Professor Bob Gerace celebrates 32 consecutive years with the Center for Multidisciplinary Studies this month. He has taught New Venture Development, Small Business Management and Finance, and Small Business Marketing, three courses that were part of the Small Business Certificate Program. He had also taught Principles of Marketing, and Professional Selling for several years before those courses were integrated into the College of Business. Outside of CMS, Prof. Gerace has taught Entrepreneurship, and Marketing Management Problems in the College of Business. As a retired Navy Reserve Intelligence Officer, he was asked to teach the online Counter-Terrorism course in the College of Civil Engineering and Environmental Management for 10 years starting shortly after 9-11-2001. “I have been honored to be a part of RIT and CMS over these years. Seeing this institute grow and adapt to the changing business and technology worlds has given me a deep sense of pride to be a part of this incredible family.”
ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT  By: Talya Meyerowitz

Remy DeCausemaker, CMS graduate alumnus 2013.

After changing his major twice, and researching his options, Jeremy (Remy) discovered CMS and spoke with CMS advisor, Abby Berner. During this first meeting, Remy discovered that all of the time he thought he had wasted with changing majors was, in fact, not wasted at all. Remy states, “I could not only concentrate in business, but I could obtain an Associate’s Degree, while obtaining my bachelors, and get the certificate I was interested in! I was able to add political science and writing studies to my concentrations, do an internship in Albany as a lobbyist, and get course credit. By the time I was done with my undergrad I had accumulated 2 years of work experience and 3 degrees. “

“Creating the degree program that best suited my interests, both as an undergrad and graduate student”, was his favorite part of the CMS program. “It wasn’t that I didn’t know what I wanted to do, but that I knew EXACTLY what I wanted”. Remy emphasizes that, “Regardless of your major, it is going to be your unique experiences and accomplishments that set you apart from the other candidates in your field of work. Being a CMS student gives you the ability to plot the course of your own academic development, and combine disciplines into a unique program that best serves your career aspirations.”

Remy’s first job out of college was volunteering at a leading law firm, the Software Freedom Law Center, before starting his first company with another RIT alum to build tools to help civic hackers collaborate with the public sector. Currently, Remy is the Free/Open Source Software Research Coordinator at the RIT Center for Media, Arts, Games, Interaction and Creativity (MAGIC). He’s also an adjunct professor with the Department of Interactive Games and Media, teaching intro and advanced courses within the brand-new academic minor in Free/Open Source Software and Free Culture -the first of its kind at a University in the United States.

SAVETHE DATE

**October 18** 8:30am-9:30am
Liberal Arts Hall—Stan McKenzie Salon
“What can the role of innovation be in higher education?”  Presented by: Dr. James Hall, Executive Director, CMS

**November 21** 3:00-4:30
CMS Open House

**February 7, 2015**  - RIT Hockey Alumni Event….more details to come.