

Fram Focus volume 5:6 - January 2020

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Focus on the College of Liberal Arts

RIT's College of Liberal Arts (COLA) has lots of opportunities for students to get involved in changing their world through critical thinking. This includes the Grand Challenge Scholars Program, where liberal arts and engineering students are working to address 14 areas of worldwide impact from providing access to clean water to securing cyberspace and much more. Learning & research partnerships that impact our local community and the world come from various resources, such as the [Center for Public Safety Initiatives](#), [University/Community Partnerships](#), as well as multiple study abroad programs from Europe to Asia, even the local Seneca Park Zoo or Genesee Country Village & Museum.

Cosponsored Events

Hosting Kathi Wescott, COLA Alum

Faculty Breakfast

Date: Thursday, January 30

Time: 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.

Location: Liberal Arts Hall, room 1251

In collaboration with RIT's College of Liberal Arts and Alumni Relations, the Fram Chair is delighted to host Alumna Kathi Westcott on January 30 for several courses and events. Kathi is the Senior Director and Senior Counsel for the Legal Affairs office of The Pew Charitable Trusts (Pew) and is responsible for overseeing the provision of

legal assistance to all program areas across Pew and to its government relations functions. This broad range of work includes such legal issue areas as lobbying compliance, government ethics, intellectual property, data privacy, anti-corruption, prepublication review, anti-trust, nonprofit governance and risk management.

A Few Thoughts

With this issue of the Fram Focus we meet one of RIT's notable critical thinkers, Jeffrey Wagner.

Jeffrey Wagner is a Professor of Economics in the College of Liberal Arts. This month, he shares with us his engaging take on fostering critical thinking in students, using it to organize our thoughts regarding sustainability and in our everyday lives. Read his answers to a few critical thinking questions [here](#):

Fram Finds

PHPJ-352-01 (56054) Mini Workshop: Fake News

This one-credit course is designed to teach students how to navigate the current news/media landscape with the aim of discerning legitimate, fact-based sources of information from those with an agenda or bias. Students will learn the history and purpose of the First Amendment and the role of a free press in government. Students will examine their own mass media consumption habits, define for themselves what it means to be a good digital citizen and practice fostering dialogue with those holding opposing points of view. Classes will take the form of group discussions based on individual research into a number of media-related topics. This course is offered February 7 - 9, 2020.

From Gene Fram

“Advice on Life and Creative Integrity from Calvin and Hobbes Creator Bill Watterson” by Maria Popova, *Brain Pickings*. Read more [HERE!](#)

