This has been a transformative year for the College of Arts and Sciences. We initiated our new general education program with the successful launch of a first-year seminar and a primary texts course, to be followed by an innovative sophomore-level “Grounds for Change” course in Fall 2012. Grounds for Change will challenge students to identify issues of social justice and social change within the academic disciplines. We also received final approval from the Higher Learning Commission for fast-track bachelor’s/JD and master’s/JD programs with The John Marshall Law School and a new PhD program in industrial/organizational psychology.

Along with the rest of the Roosevelt University community, we are thrilled about the opening of the new 32-story Wabash Building at the Chicago Campus this spring, which will house state-of-the-art science labs along with classrooms, offices and a residence hall. Our psychology program will move to a beautiful space in the historic Gage Building at 18 S. Michigan Ave., where it will join our departments of communication and computer science and information technology. At the Schaumburg Campus, we are establishing a new Division of Professional Arts and Sciences to focus programs and enhance interdisciplinary and inter-college initiatives.

I hope you enjoy reading about our productive faculty, remarkable students and generous donors. I welcome your ideas and suggestions, and I am always happy to discuss ways you can support the College of Arts and Sciences. Please contact me at lweiner@roosevelt.edu. I look forward to hearing from you.

With regards,

Lynn Weiner
Dean, College of Arts and Sciences

Roosevelt University is pleased to announce the appointment of Andrea Adams as director of development for the College of Arts and Sciences.

Andrea recently moved to Chicago from Kansas City, where she was director of alumni relations at the Kansas City Art Institute.

A graduate of Northwestern University’s School of Education and Social Policy and a lifelong volunteer, Andrea is honored to work for an institution so committed to social justice. Andrea’s passion for service and her professional experience will serve CAS well. Please join us in welcoming her.

If you would like to meet with Andrea to discuss support for the College of Arts and Sciences, contact her at (312) 341-2252 or adams07@roosevelt.edu. Or feel free to drop by her office, AUD 827H. She promises to always have open ears and a full candy dish.

The Grant Pick Endowed Scholarship in Journalism has been established by Grant’s wife, Kathy Richland Pick, an accomplished photojournalist whose photos often accompanied Pick’s articles in the Chicago Reader. After graduating from Roosevelt, Grant Pick (BA, ’70) earned his master’s degree from Northwestern University’s Medill School of Journalism.

E. Van Vlahakis (BA, ’58), owner and operator of Earth Friendly Products, donated $500,000 in support of Roosevelt University’s Wabash Development Fund. A recognized leader in the industry of environmentally friendly products, Vlahakis will be the namesake of the 7th floor organic chemistry teaching lab in Roosevelt’s new 32-story vertical campus. In addition, Vlahakis will deliver a keynote address and receive an honorary degree at the May 4, 10 a.m., Commencement Ceremony for graduates of the College of Arts and Sciences and the Evelyn T. Stone College of Professional Studies.

Thanks to his $486,000 bequest, the late Joseph L. Pisciotta (BS, ’49) will be the namesake of the 8th floor general biology teaching lab in Roosevelt’s new 32-story vertical campus.
Mesirow Financial Inc. donated $10,000 for the 32-story vertical campus. Bruce Young (BA, ’63) is the vice chairman of the company and a member of Roosevelt University’s board of trustees.

Susan Rubnitz (BGS, ’76), a member of the CAS advisory council, gave $3,000 in support of the Gage Gallery’s ongoing programming. Michael Ensdorf, professor of communication, is the founder and director of the gallery.

Kathleen Kuntzman (MPA, ’82), president of the CAS advisory council, presented Roosevelt University with a gift of Walgreen’s stock for the Dean’s Fund for Excellence.

To date for fiscal year 2012, friends and alumni of Roosevelt University’s College of Arts and Sciences have given and pledged $1,340,640. Roosevelt is deeply grateful for the contributions, which enable the University to further its mission of educating socially conscious individuals for active and dedicated lives as leaders in their professions and in their communities.

To discuss support for the College of Arts and Sciences, contact Andrea Adams, director of development, at aadams07@roosevelt.edu or (312) 341-2252. Support for the college may be in the form of contributions to the Dean’s Fund for Excellence, Departmental Funds for Excellence, or scholarships.

**NEW SCIENCE FACILITIES AT CHICAGO CAMPUS**

The College of Arts and Sciences community eagerly awaits the opening of the new state-of-the-art science facilities nearing completion in the new 32-story Wabash Building. Cornelius Watson, associate professor of biology and chair of the Biological, Chemical and Physical Sciences Department (pictured with Professor of Biology Vicky McKinley) stated, “We are going to have some of the nicest labs for science students in Chicago. In essence, the new facility will enhance science education at Roosevelt.”

There are 10 labs in the new three-floor science center, including faculty research spaces for biology and chemistry; teaching labs for biology, chemistry and physics; a tissue-culture lab; a microscopy lab; and a first-ever research lab for students. “It’s a place where faculty and students will immerse themselves together in both learning and research. It will be a catalyst for exciting discussion, experimentation and discovery,” said McKinley.

For more information about the new science facilities or about science programming, contact Cornelius Watson at cwatson@roosevelt.edu.

**MANSFIELD INSTITUTE AND SCHAUMBURG CAMPUS HELD AWARD-WINNING DOCUMENTARY ‘THE INTERRUPTERS’ FILM SCREENING AND PANEL DISCUSSION**

The Mansfield Institute for Social Justice and Transformation, led by Director and Professor of Sociology Heather Dalmage, sponsored a Pipeline Film Series focusing on the connection between race, the prison pipeline and lifelong outcomes at the Chicago and Schaumburg campuses. A highlight of the series was the screening in Chicago and Schaumburg of the award-winning documentary film The Interrupters. Coproduced by Steve James, director of Hoop Dreams, and Alex Kotlowitz, author of There Are No Children Here, The Interrupters tells the story of three “violence interrupters” in Chicago who now protect their communities from the violence they once employed. For more information about the Mansfield Institute and upcoming events, contact Heather Dalmage at hdalmage@roosevelt.edu.
On March 13, CAS math and science faculty received the 2012 William Bennett Award for Extraordinary Contributions to Citizen Science. The Bennett award is presented by the Science Education for New Civic Engagements and Responsibilities (SENCER) program, an initiative of the National Center for Science and Civic Engagement to improve undergraduate science, technology, engineering and math education by connecting learning to critical civic questions. Associate Professor of Biology Robert Seiser traveled to Washington, D.C., to accept the honor on behalf of Roosevelt and his colleagues Kristen Leckrone (chemistry), David Szpunar (chemistry), Melanie Pivarski (math), Barbara Gonzalez (math), Kelly Wentz-Hunter (biology), Jie Yu (math) and Byoung-Sug Kim (education).

**SCIENCE AND MATH FACULTY EARN PRESTIGIOUS HONOR**

**Scott Blackwood**, assistant professor of English and director of the Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing program, received the prestigious Whiting Writers’ Award for 2011. The award is given annually to emerging writers based on their accomplishments, exceptional talent and promise. Blackwood is the author of *We Agreed to Meet Just Here*, and a collection of short stories *In the Shadow of Our House*.

**Regina Buccola**, associate professor of English and scholar in residence at the Chicago Shakespeare Theater, is coediting a book of essays about the theater’s first 25 years. Buccola’s involvement with the theater dates back to the mid-1990s when she worked as an intern in the Education Department.

Assistant Professor of Biology Norbert Cordiero has been named a 2012 EOL Rubenstein Fellow, which is a Smithsonian/National Science Foundation prize awarded to scientists from around the world who are committed to online collaboration and biodiversity research.

**Anne-Marie Cusac**, associate professor of journalism, has been accepted into the Scripps Howard Institute on the Environment and Science at Florida Atlantic University. The weeklong fellowship will help journalists develop their ability to report on the environment, medicine and other sciences. It combines lectures from experts with panel discussions, and a slate of field visits and studies.

**Jeff Edwards**, associate professor of political science, developed an innovative course this spring semester on the Occupy Movement. This timely course received news coverage from the Chicago Sun-Times, CNN, USA Today, CBS, FOX News, NBC, National Review, Huffington Post and more.

Assistant Professor of Political Science David Faris appeared on the Russia Today Network’s Cross Talk program to discuss conditions in Egypt, one year after the mass protest resulted in the ouster of President Mubarak and his regime. He also had two articles published this spring, “Constituting Institutions: The Electoral System in Egypt” in *Middle East Policy*, and “Beyond Social Media Revolutions: The Networked Revolt and the Arab Spring” in *Politique étrangère*.

**Erik Gellman**, assistant professor of history, was interviewed by the New York Times on October 8 about how social movements today are related to social and political movements in the past. He was also interviewed in the February 19 business section of the Chicago Tribune as part of a panel on labor practices in China. His most recent book *Death Blow to Jim Crow: The National Negro Congress and the Rise of Militant Civil Rights*, was published by the University of North Carolina press in February.

Professor of Economics Steve Ziliak was featured in *The Washington Post* for his work on the role of beer making in the development of statistical research. Also, his article on “Haiku Economics” was cited by Poetry Magazine as one of the journal’s most-read articles in 2011.

**FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS**

**WRBC: The Blaze**, the student radio station, continues to make a global impact. Within the last year, they had more than 90,000 listeners, in 530 cities on six continents around the globe.


Creative Writing MFA students *Tovah Burstein and Timothy Moore* were two of the five winners of the annual *Chicago Reader* fiction contest. Their short stories (Burstein’s “Moving on at the Hipster Gym” and Moore’s “Thank God for Facebook”) were selected from more than 150 entrants and were published in the Fiction 2012 issue in January.

*Ashley Clark (PsyD, ’11)* joined the U.S. Navy, and for her PsyD internship she treated active duty service personnel and their families at the Naval Medical Center in San Diego. Ashley is now deployed to the base in Okinawa, Japan, as a navy psychologist.

Christian Dodge and Sudeep Regmi (economics) have been admitted with full funding to the PhD in Economics program at the University of Missouri–Kansas City for Fall 2012.

*Denise Manning (African-American studies)* was chosen by the Ronald McDonald House Charities to sing the refrain for a 30-second television ad during Super Bowl Sunday coverage. A native of Austin, Texas, and a junior at Roosevelt, Manning is the president of the Black Student Union and cofounder of the University’s award-winning Proclaim Gospel Choir.

*Ayodeji Ogunniyi (BA, ’09, English)* spoke at the White House on September 19, 2011, for the launch of National Teachers Initiative. After overcoming significant adversity, including the death of his father in 2005, Ayodeji went on to help U.S. Department of Education Secretary Arne Duncan and others launch the National Teachers Initiative. He is currently a full-time English teacher at Thornwood High School, South Holland, Illinois.

*Jennifer Schoolcraft (sociology)* was awarded the highly competitive Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship. The purpose of the Gilman Scholarships is to diversify the kinds of students who study abroad and the countries and regions where they study. Jennifer is studying at the Universitat Bern in Switzerland during the spring semester.

*Daniel Smrokowski (journalism)* was one of two winners of the Matthew Freeman Social Justice Award. Daniel is the founder and executive director of the blog, SpecialChronicles.com, which podcasts messages of respect to inform and educate others about people with disabilities. Daniel is also the host and producer of the Special Chronicles podcast and a Special Olympics athlete as well as a Global Messenger (speaker) for Special Olympics Illinois. In addition to his community service and journalism studies, he is currently the station director and an on-air personality at Roosevelt University’s *WRBC: The Blaze* student-run radio station.

*Psyd Student Maggie Swanson* took the first place ribbon for her poster on facet personality scales for the Millon Clinical Multiaxial Inventory at the Society for Personality Assessment national meeting in March. She has also been awarded an internship in the fall with the Miami VA Hospital.

*Garrett Sweetwood (BA, ’11, biology)* conducted research about spores on rainforest lichens at Chicago’s Field Museum. This experience earned him distinction as lead author of a groundbreaking scientific research article published in February in the internationally renowned journal *The Lichenologist*. The research provides an understanding for the first time of the evolution and ecology of these organisms, vital information that may be useful for the health and conservation of the world’s dwindling rain forests.