Cluster Hiring

Updates – Fall 2013
Cluster: Islamic and Mediterranean Studies - Updates

New Assistant Professor of Political Science and Philosophy Katrin Jomaa will be teaching an honors course during the upcoming fall semester titled "Introduction to Islam" as a version of HPR 107 "Honors Seminar in Letters.”

New Assistant Professor of Philosophy Alexander Magidow has designed a new, six-credit introductory Arabic course ARB 100, "Accelerated Beginning Arabic.”

New Assistant Professor of History Alan Verskin has designed 3 new courses that he plans to teach at URI in 2013-14. These courses are: HIS 176, "Islamic History: From the Origins of Islam to 1492", HIS 177, "History of the Modern Middle East", and HIS 379, "The Jews of Muslim Lands: A History."
Cluster: Aging and the Lifespan – *Updates*

2 new tenure-track faculty starting this fall are:
Dr. Skye Leedahl, Assistant Professor with a joint appointment in Human Development and Family Studies and Political Science and

Dr. Ying Yang, Assistant Professor with a joint appointment with the School of Business and the Department of Economics.

**Accomplishments:**
- The collaborative hosted a series of events, known as "Aging and Health Week" from March 18-22
- Dr. Yang and Dr. Leedahl have already begun collaborating on a grant proposal as URI faculty members.
Cluster: Water and Water Resources – *Updates*

New tenure track professors Dr. Todd Guilfoos, Assistant Professor in the Department of Environmental and Natural Resources Economics and Dr. Ali Akanda, Assistant Professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering have been hired to start this fall. The cluster is still in the process of hiring a third position being advertised currently for a new search.

**Future Outlook:**
The collaborative is in the early stages of organizing a "Water Cluster" seminar that will invite well-known guest speakers to campus to discuss local and global issues related to water and enhance the visibility of the collaborative.
Cluster: Ocean Renewable Energy - Updates

New faculty member Assistant Professor David Bidwell, Marine Affairs will start in January 2014. The search is underway for two additional positions: one is a socioeconomic position and one is focused on environmental areas.

Accomplishments & Future Outlook:
- The collaborative reports working on the initiation of an ocean energy curriculum at URI. - The long-term goal is the offering of majors in ocean energy study and many multi-disciplinary minors related to renewable energy.
- Collaborative member Prof. Lucht was part of a group granted a patent for a Novel Electrolyte for Lithium Batteries.
Cluster: Data & Informatics – *Updates*

**Accomplishments:**
- The Cluster hosted the Informatics and Data Exploration Symposium on January 16, 2013. This event featured guest-speakers and round-table discussions focused on how big data informatics could help the scholarship of URI faculty.
- 3 new computing courses with more being developed of an interdisciplinary nature.
- Hany Alashwal from INBRE has offered 3 workshops on Bioinformatics Profs. Alashwal and Udwary, presented at the regional EPSCoR meeting held in Arkansas this past year.

**Future Outlook:**
The Cluster is exploring a masters degree in informatics.
Cluster: The Beauty Salon - *Updates*

- Promotes the study of aesthetics both local and unique to the State of Rhode Island.

**Accomplishments:**
The collaborative co-sponsored select aesthetic events on campus with the Centre for Humanities and the LGBTQ Commission.
A weekly talk-format radio show, the Beauty Salon.
Supervision of a student-run science and aesthetics podcast spin-off, inspired by the radio show - A two-course collaboration between Communication Studies and Geosciences.

**Future Outlook:**
- To be featured during the Fall 2013 URI Honors Colloquium.
- Outlets for external funding have been identified and the collaborative is in the process of submitting proposals.
- Draft of the collaborative's first scholarly article on the aesthetics of collection and is being submitted to the peer-reviewed journal *Aesthetic Pathways.*