URI’s Center for the Humanities was established by Faculty Senate legislation in 1994 and is designed to foster intellectual exchange and independent inquiry, analysis, and interpretation of the humanities in research, teaching, and learning. Its activities include a speaker series, a spring festival, and grants for faculty and graduate students.

**THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND**
**CENTER FOR THE HUMANITIES**

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URI Center for the Humanities
URI Alumni Association

November 14, 2019
Memorial Union Ballroom
11:00 a.m.–12:15 p.m.
web.uri.edu/humanities
Event Program

11:00 am Welcome  
Professor Evelyn Sterne  
Director for the Center for the Humanities

11:05 am Remarks  
Dean Jen Riley  
College of Arts and Sciences

11:10 am Speed Networking with Alumni

12:00 pm Lunch and Networking

Student, she served as the Program Ambassador and worked with potential and incoming students looking to explore careers in the Humanities. Ryan has extensive experience working with the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities population in Rhode Island. Her professional, personal, and academic skills have created a passion for working in cultural institutions that foster community and celebrate diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Currently, Ryan works as an Employment Specialist for Attleboro Enterprises Inc in North Attleboro, Massachusetts. She works closely with the state to help adults and teens with disabilities and mental illness prepare for employment. This job means every day is different. She works in the schools, is out in the community, and meets with local businesses. Much of her work focuses on program development and evaluation, inclusion and access training, and developing community partnerships.

Mark Thompson

Mark Thompson joined Newport Restoration Foundation as Executive Director in 2018. Previously, he served as Executive Director of Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum; as Maine Maritime Museum’s Regional Director for Southern Maine; and Executive Director of Portland (Maine) Harbor Museum. Before entering the museum field, Mark practiced law for more than 20 years. He has a Bachelor’s degree in English from Dickinson College, his Juris Doctor from American University, and a Master’s degree in history and Certificate in Museum Studies from the University of Delaware.

~ A Special Thank You To Our Panelists ~
Meet The Panelists

Aide and eventually reached the Director of Community Affairs before leaving in 1998 to attend law school. Graduating in 2001 from Roger Williams University with a Juris Doctorate, Carlos had achieved the American dream through education.

He has gone on to serve many roles in government under different administrations. His longest tenure was with the City of Cranston where he began as Director of Constituent Affairs but recently left as the first Latino Chief of Staff after 10 years of service.

Currently, Carlos is the Deputy Director of Administration for the City of Pawtucket.

Brendan Ryan
Brendan Ryan has been the Technical Services Librarian at the Providence Athenæum since 2015. In this role he manages acquisitions, cataloging, collection maintenance, digitization, and performs other duties as needed. Prior to that he worked at Providence College, Rhode Island College, and the Worcester Public Library. He has published journal articles and a book about topics such as mobile devices and library websites, ebooks, and open educational resources. He graduated from URI with an MSLIS in 2009.

Ryan Saglio
Ryan Saglio is a Rhode Island native currently residing in Pawtucket, RI. She graduated from URI in 2015 with her BA in English & Art History and in May, she received her Master’s Degree in Public Humanities from Brown University. As a Graduate

Linda A’Vant-Deishinni
Ms. A’Vant-Deishinni, a graduate of URI, is Executive Director at St. Martin de Porres Senior Center. She has over thirty years’ experience working with cultural institutions as executive director and co-founder of the International Gallery for Heritage and Culture, Education Specialist for the Brown University Haffenreffer Museum of Anthropology, director of the Providence Children’s Museum AmeriCorps Program, Coordinator for the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts and Rhode Island Foundation Expansion Arts Program, Assistant Director of Elementary Education for URI’s Partnership Program, and Executive Director for the Rhode Island Black Heritage Society. Her experience includes researching, designing and curating numerous exhibitions, research projects, lecture series and community outreach programs.

Ms. A’Vant-Deishinni is a past recipient of a Rhode Island Foundation Fellowship, PEW Foundation Civic Leadership Initiative, Smithsonian Institute Museum Minority Training Program, and National Historic Preservation Commission award. She has received numerous state and local awards as well as citations for her community work.

Johnathan Berard
Johnathan has served as the Rhode Island State Director at Clean Water Action since February 2016, where he oversees advocacy efforts on a number of issue campaigns (green infrastructure/stormwater management, environmental justice, plastic pollution and waste, and toxics/chemicals) as well as elections work. He is a community organizer and policy analyst with a background in water resource management, waste issues, environmental justice,
sustainable development, and collaborative governance. In 2018-19, he served as the co-chair of Governor Gina Raimondo’s ‘Task Force to Tackle Plastic Pollution’. Before coming to CWA, he was the policy director at Blue Water Baltimore in Maryland where he worked on local and state issues regarding water quality, MS4 compliance, and trash pollution.

Johnathan has a Master of Public Policy from The George Washington University with a concentration in urban and environmental policy and holds a B.A. from URI in history and political science with a minor in marine affairs. Advice to students: Find people that have cool jobs that you might want someday. Offer to buy them coffee and ask to pick their brains about how they got to where they are. You’ll gain lots of insight and grow your network.

Amanda Guertin
Amanda Guertin is a graduate of CCRI and URI, with an Associate’s Degree in Liberal Arts, and a Bachelor’s Degree in English, History minor. As the Lead Project Coordinator, Special Projects, for Hexagon Metrology Inc, she manages large machine projects from sale to shipment, working closely with a core team. She is well-versed in relationship building, public speaking, project management and board relations, also holding a spot on the board of the Conimicut Village Association. Amanda lives in Conimicut Village in Warwick with her pitbull mix, Olive.

Jessica Lincoln
During her two decades of experience in the antiques and fine art industry, Jessica has applied her humanities degree in a variety of ways. Her areas of personal interest range from early American 19th century furniture and decorative arts to contemporary paintings and prints. First as Auction Coordinator for Skinner Auctioneers & Appraisers of Antiques & Fine Art, and eventually as Property Distribution Manager, she managed the exhibition and sale of thousands of objects over the course of each year. Jessica expanded her role in the business in 2010 by becoming an auctioneer for many of the major sales.

As one of the founders of her current venture, New England Antiques Advisory, Jessica now assists clients in downsizing their collections or by finding pieces desired by the discerning collector. Jessica also advises on the day to day management of collections including facilitating conservation, cataloging, and research. Jessica graduated from URI with a BA in art history and a BFA in studio art in 1999. When she wasn’t studying or working in one of the studios at “the barn” or at the lithography press in the Fine Arts Center, she was almost certainly competing or practicing for the track team. She currently resides outside Boston and can be often seen traipsing with her two children to soccer practice, on day hikes, or visiting one of the local museums. Instagram: neantiquesadvisory

Carlos Lopez Estrada
Carlos Lopez Estrada emigrated from his homeland of El Salvador in the late 70’s fleeing the civil war that would tear the country apart for many years to come. Arriving in Providence and reunited with his parents, he attended Providence Public Schools and eventually graduated from Classical High School in 1989. As a Talent Development student at URI, Carlos focused his studies as a History and Political Science Major and graduated with his B.A. with the Class of 1993.

Right after graduation from URI, Carlos landed a position with Mayor Vincent A. “Buddy” Cianci, Jr. as a Mayoral