

2012

## 17th Annual LGBTIQQ Symposium

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# The Good 5¢ Cigar

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## URI faculty members accepted to American Council on Education

BY HENSLEY CARRASCO  
*Editor-in-Chief*

Among the new fellows accepted into the American Council on Education (ACE), two happen to come from the University of Rhode Island.

Director of the Film/Media program in the Harrington School of Communication and Media Sheri Wills was one of the two URI faculty accepted into the ACE. The other member, Nancy Eaton, is the chair of the department of mathematics. Wills, who also teaches art and art history at URI, said the application process was demanding.

"It was actually a really rigorous application process," Wills said. "I actually started thinking about whether or not I wanted to apply for this last year around April. The process itself was labor intensive enough that I really wanted to make sure that I was committed

writing a paper on why she wanted to be a member and what she would be doing if accepted. She said the paper was approximately 15 to 20 pages and "pretty intense."

This past January, Wills traveled to Washington D.C. to take part in the interview portion of the application. The interview process, she said, took about one half of a day to complete. While there, Wills said she met with panels made up of six different college presidents.

Wills said there are four components that go into being a fellow for the ACE. She said the first component is placement.

"You need to find an institute of higher education where you think you can learn a lot from the people and the things that they're doing there," Wills said. "You ask them if they would be interested in having there as a fellow. That's the process we're in right now—finding our host institution."

part of the faculty. While there, Wills said she would work with the president of the university, vice president, provost, vice provost and others who are on the university's executive board. Wills will work with them on a daily basis and learn how the institution works. This will give her an opportunity to be mentored by those at the school.

The second part of being an ACE member, she said, is getting together with other fellows for workshops. Wills said the workshops will meet three or four times in the course of a year and she thinks they will take place over long weekends.

The third component is the opportunity to conduct site visits. With site visits, she will be able to visit other universities and "ask them questions [to] see what they're doing."

The final component of being an ACE member is a project that Wills will have to bring back to the university to display

## Student organization acts as voice for Asian-Americans

BY AUDREY O'NEIL  
*Contributing News Reporter*

Students within the University of Rhode Island community are coming together to promote ethnic and cultural awareness within the Asian community.

Since 1987, the Asian Student Association (ASA) has focused on enhancing the campus community by increasing awareness of Asian topics relative to the world we live in today. Generally, ASA acts as the official voice through which the Asian-American community at URI can make recommendations regarding events and policies, among other things that affect their constituency.

Sophomore kinesiology major, Shen De Leon, has been involved with ASA since last year and was recently elected as the president of the

responsibility and to productively work with others towards a common goal."

Not only is he looking forward to improving himself as a leader, but he also hopes to improve ASA as an organization.

"The number one goal that we want to accomplish is for the people who may be looking in from the outside, to see how united and strong our student organization is," De Leon said. "Once we establish that goal, we will have the momentum to use towards promoting the Asian community across [URI]."

ASA achieves these goals by organizing a variety of social events in the spirit of entertainment, friendship and unity. One event ASA will be hosting this month is the ASA Culture Show. The culture show, which will be held on April 30, will include per-

Wills said she needed to be sponsored by URI in addition to

...Wills said she would go there daily as though she were a

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thing is a challenge," De Leon said. "It means taking up

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# Annual LGBTIQQ symposium addresses issues of sexuality, body image

BY NANCY LAVIN  
News Editor

LGBTQ educator and activist, health care consultant and transgender speaker Ryan Sallans discussed the relationship between body image and sexuality with University of Rhode Island students and faculty as part of a week-long series of symposiums sponsored by the LGBTQ Center.

The 17th annual LGBTIQQ Symposium, which began on April 2 and runs through today, covers a range of topics, including coming out in the classroom, race and sexual orientation and Sallans' presentation on "Your Sexual Being: Your Body Conduct."

"One of the things we really tried to think about when we were deciding on events and what we would do for the week was how we could talk about specific communities," Director of the LGBTQ Center, Annie Russell, said. "There are many communities that aren't



Drag Queen Autumn DeLaRue danced on stage in the Hardge Forum last night at the LGBT's first drag show and queer prom.

well exposed, and certainly issues that surround gender identity, and trans people in particular is one of those. So it's important for us to bring to light issues that are underground in our community."

Sallans, who began his transition from a female to a male in 2005, also struggled with anorexia and said he believes his gender identity was directly related to his eating disorder.

"During my struggle with anorexia, I realized that a lot of my issues were surrounding sexuality," he said. "I think they interlock in a lot of ways."

Sallans, who gave a second presentation to celebrate the release of his new book detailing his gender transition, said the mass media perpetuate images that are not realistic portrayals of people's bodies and sexuality.

"When you look at these images, they [models] have

three to five percent body fat, which is not real," he said. "You can't maintain that. We've essentially moved from an external corset to an internal corset."

Sallans added that even though mass media idealizes the hourglass shape for women's bodies, only 8 percent of women actually have that body type.

"We always see the perfect pictures, and it makes people very confused about their sexuality," Sallans said.

Sallans also said that these perfect images saturate not only the mainstream mass media, but also much of the queer media. However, it is difficult for us to pinpoint exactly what sexuality actually is, according to Sallans.

"And when we discuss sexuality, what does it even mean?" he said. "It's just this overarching thing that we

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The South Coast Eagle

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Find out if the softball team has continued its winning streak.  
See page 4.

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position.  
Wills isn't only a professor  
at the university. She also has  
work that has been exhibited  
throughout museums all over  
the world. According to her  
website, Wills' work has been in  
"the Museum of Modern Art in  
New York, the London Film  
Festival and the International  
Film Festival in Rotterdam[,  
Netherlands]."

A project she is currently  
working on is with violinist  
Karen Bentley Pollick. The proj-

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Asian culture.  
In addition to hosting  
events, ASA also networks  
with other student organiza-  
tions on campus to help  
spread cultural awareness.  
The organization collaborat-  
ed with the National Student  
Exchange yesterday in the  
Memorial Union to sponsor  
the "Big Event-East Asia."  
During the event, students  
were informed on East Asian  
culture and health issues, one  
being Hepatitis-B.

to help new members become  
leaders [at] URI," Sim said. "I  
hope it becomes less of a pas-  
sive organization and  
becomes more of an active  
organization."

## Symposium

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don't define."  
According to Sallans, sex-  
uality can be broken down  
into five main categories: sen-  
suality, intimacy, sexualiza-  
tion, sexual health and repro-  
duction and sexual identity.  
While presentations like  
Sallans' highlight individual  
communities within the

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