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Check It Out! Library Newsletter, Spring 2011

Johnson & Wales University - Providence

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Library Featured in Grad Communications Class Marketing Project

Students in Dr. Lisa Sisco's COMM 5500 class focused on JWU Library as the subject of their final strategic communications project. A team of seven students (**Rabab Belamine, Erin Huang, Basma Laamlaoui, I-Tin Liaw, Zhe Shi, Fei Wang, and Chris Yang**) surveyed 200 library users, conducted interviews, and developed a video, all to help JWU administrators better understand student perspectives of the library and ways it could be improved. While all those interviewed spoke very positively about the value of the library to their student experience, as well as its importance to their academic success, most also spoke about the dramatic need for more computers, more group study rooms, and more overall space at the Harborside facility. One of the most effective aspects of the student-created video was the use of humor to poke gentle fun at what it's like waiting to use a computer in the library. **Rabab Belamine** played the role of a student coming to the library. As she enters the second floor, we see her drop her backpack in mock horror at the line of students already waiting their turn.



Screen shot from video by students of Dr. Lisa Sisco's COMM 5500 class

The camera then pans slowly along the line of students who are engaged in a range of activities to divert themselves while they wait: one is idly bouncing a ball on a tennis racket, another strums a guitar, others are dozing, and one has even set up a traditional Chinese stringed instrument known as a *gu-zheng* and sits there plucking away. Dean of Libraries **Rosie Hopper** applauded the work of Belamine and her classmates. "They did a great job. The video depicts better than any spreadsheet some of our strengths as well as key challenges."

Campus Reads

This year's Campus Reads program is focusing on the book "No Impact Man" by **Colin Beavan**. A wide range of related activities are planned culminating with a lecture by the author on April 7th. Beavan will also be the keynote speaker at this year's Cassola Conference hosted by JWU.

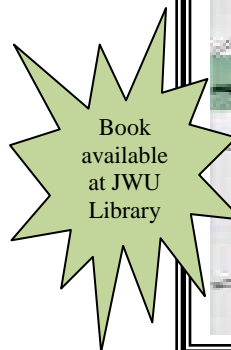
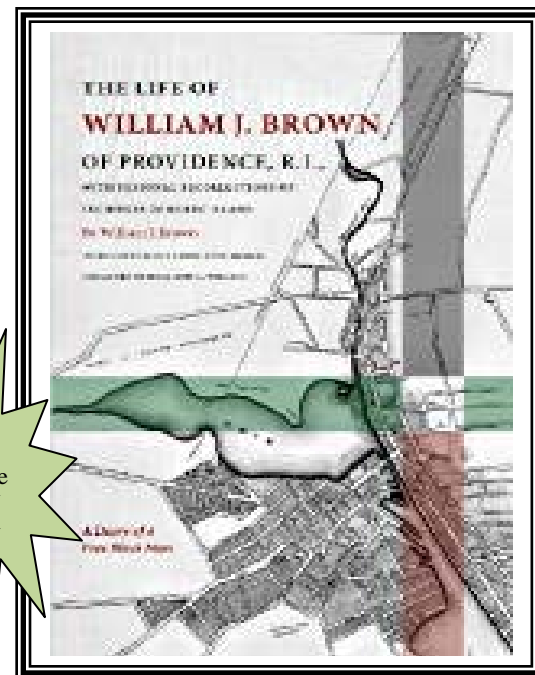
The award-winning book is available to borrow from either the Downcity or Harborside Library. It describes the year in which Beavan and his family attempted to eliminate their carbon footprint and thus have "no impact" on the environment. To borrow a copy of the book, visit the library circulation desk and ask for the Campus Reads reserve.

Other activities planned by the Campus Reads Committee include:

- Mar 10 – *The 11th Hour* (film screening)
- Mar 23 - Recycled Clothing Drive
- Mar 24 – *Six Degrees Could Change the World* (film screening)
- Apr 4-7 – Eat local at the Market Place

Book talks, contests and more are also in the works. Additional information is available at:

<http://jwu-ri.libguides.com/NoImpactMan>

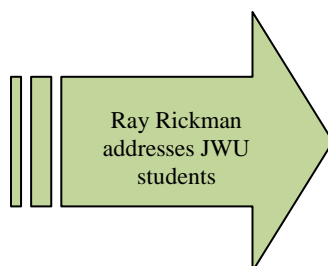


Book cover image courtesy of www.williamjrbrown.org

Library Supports African American Read-In

This past February as part of JWU events celebrating Black History month, JWU Library partnered with School of Arts & Sciences instructor **Prof. Thomas Gaines** to draw attention to the importance of African American literature. The African American Read-In is a concept that was developed and continues to be promoted throughout the U.S. by the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE). Following the annual event participating institutions such as JWU submit a report summarizing their activities. This year the report will include a description of the AARI @ JWU libguide created by the library, as well as of the special library exhibits that were on display, one featuring books by African American authors, and the other featuring books about African American chefs and cuisine.

Another event associated with the Read-In and promoted on the JWU Library Facebook page was a talk by Rhode Island historian **Ray Rickman**. The talk took place at the JWU Intercultural Center and was attended by students of **Prof. Gaines** and **Dr. Terry Novak**, along with a selection of others from around the campus. Rickman spoke briefly about the history of William J. Brown, born in 1814 to freed slaves of abolitionist Moses Brown, and also more generally on the importance of recognizing and appreciating the significance of African Americans to the evolution of Rhode Island and the U.S.



Photos by David Meincke