



Photos by AlVicedo

Dr. Cynthia Lucia lectures about female lawyers in films at one of the two installments of the "Lunch Box Series."

'Lunch Box' ventures into the future and past

By Candice Grieco

The second and third "Lunch Box Series" lectures gazed into the future with a look at technological advances, and then went back in time with an examination of female lawyers over the previous two decades.

The importance of technology and the influence that many books played on predicting technological advances were ideas presented during the second "Lunch Box Series" entitled *The Future of Information Technology: Then and Now*, held on Wednesday, April 13, in the Bart Luedeke Center (BLC) Theater from noon to 1 p.m.

F. William Chickering, dean of university libraries, said that certain books, such as *A Brave New World* and *Looking Backwards* mention items such as the telephone and the television, long before they were even thought about.

"In order to be good at [being a librarian], I need to know what is important," said Chickering. "Being a librarian, I like to look to the future in terms of literature."

Literature, from the 1800s and on, has predicted many technological advances such as the telephone, television, credit cards and libraries, Chickering explained. He said that in George Orwell's book *1984*, Orwell's predictions of the future were not far off. In fact, many futurists' predictions came true.

There are also aspects of technology that make many fear these advances. Many fear worry that these advances will "kill existing technology." However, Chickering explained that, although new advances may make older technology fade, such as books, they could coexist.

"Additional technology may take some uses away from existing technology, but it doesn't always kill existing technology," said Chickering. "We can learn a lot about the future."

The third talk in the series,

Framing Female Lawyers: Women on Trial in Film, explored the focus of American films of the 1980s and 1990s that portrayed female lawyers as main characters.

Held on April 20 in the BLC Theater, from noon to 1 p.m., Dr. Cynthia Lucia, assistant professor of English, explained that there are more female lawyers in films than in any other profession.

"[I have] become very aware that Hollywood was choosing law for female roles," said Lucia.

To understand why women play these roles, Lucia explained that one should look at an earlier time when there was "anxiety" that dealt with female roles to see why law was the Hollywood profession for females. She also showed various clips to demonstrate the different roles that women have played as lawyers. In most films, men "feared the competition" from women and did not want women to dominate.

"Law is the place where rules are made," said Lucia. "Women in law shake the foundation."

Even though women as lawyers, in film, project a positive side, Lucia explained that it often reflected a "contradictory approach" to women. Often, it is shown in movies that women can have a career if they still keep their "responsibilities, take care of household, and stay thin and sexually attractive," said Lucia.

Not only did Hollywood films show women working because they were allowed, but they also showed female lawyers as "careless and unethical in personal and professional behaviors."

"Women were congratulated for having power while being showed the boundaries of being powerful," said Lucia. "[Women in film] are shown to have power only because they are permitted."

The next series topic is *A Look at Middle Movements* and will be held on April 27, in the BLC Theater at noon.

Lives beyond the hardhats and fences

It was early on a February morning, and Mike, a 51-year-old site development worker, had just arrived at the Rider construction site, completing an hour's trip from his home in Pennsylvania.

The wind chill was around 15 degrees. On that day, as on many other days, the weather was the hardest part of his job.

"I hate it," he said. "I like the hot better than the cold."

Along with most of the other 85 to 100 workers working every day on the Student Recreation Center and the new residence hall, Mike is well paid, though he himself "barely made it out of high school." He makes "21 something an hour" with Mega, the concrete company that poured the foundation and slab on grade for both buildings.

The money supports his hobby, which he identified simply as "travel...all over the world."

Although the Rider Community Statement of Values boasts that "no person walks these halls as a stranger," students anxious to end their own few minutes of frostbite rushed past the construction sites all winter without giving a second glance to the faces beneath the hard hats. Probably few students saw the workers the way pipefitter Bob Smith would put it: "We're highly trained, skilled professionals."

In fact, ironworker Dave Brotzman from South Jersey admitted that students hardly ever talk to him and vice-versa.

"Actually, on my way here I stopped to ask someone the time," he said. "But other than that, I basically just say hello as I'm on my way. I would say hello here and there as I go."

Still, Sue Tully, the project manager for Gilbane Building Co., the construction management firm responsible for the entire project aside from design, calls Rider University "the most pleasant client I have worked with to date."

Ironworker Mark McMannon praises Rider's Facilities Management chief, Phil Voorhees as "a gentleman."

Mother Nature, on the other hand, has been no lady.

"Without question, the worst or hardest thing about the job has been the wet weather we had this fall and winter," said Tully.

Nearly 40 inches of snow, average temperatures well below normal, especially in January and March, and rainfall that twice caused the highest flood in 50 years, nearby ravaged the contractors. Some days they lost hours shoveling out what they had just built. Mud, wind – they saw it all.

Smith, one day in late February, looked skyward and shrugged: "If this snow keeps on coming down like this, we're all retiring."

Despite the abuse they continually take from the weather, many of the builders enjoy outdoor hobbies. Smith likes fishing, hunting and riding his motorcycle, a Harley Davidson Heritage Soft Tail. Ironworker Mark McMannon is into fishing and snow skiing. He keeps his boat docked at Dewey Beach in Delaware.

But Ironworker Dale Knisley, who commutes to the Rider site 70 miles each way from the Lehigh Valley of Pennsylvania, prefers to stay indoors in his free time. He serves as a cook at the Ronald McDonald House in Philadelphia, a home away from home for families of seriously ill children who are in a hospital nearby. "I've cooked dinner for 125 people, and the kids at the charity can watch," he says. "I just really like doing it."

Workers on Rider's jobs represent 18 subcontractors and dozens of trades: steel erection, concrete and brick work, drywall partitioning, plumbing and heating, electrical work, etc.

Tully, who works from one of the trailers on the site, gained experience building university stadiums, doing historic renovations and working other jobs all over the country.

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Residence Halls battle to bitter end

By Jessica Decina

An opportunity for unity, a love for competition and the promise of free massages brought Rider's students together, in the third annual Battle of the Buildings (BOB) competition.

BOB, which kicked off Sunday, April 17, and continues until tomorrow, will end with an Ultimate Frisbee competition and a closing barbecue where the winners will be announced. Currently, Conover Hall holds the lead over Olson by only one point.

Sign-up sheets covered the lobbies of each dorm, encouraging support and participation from as many residents as possible. For each event, only the top five placing halls receive points: first place wins 10, second place earns seven points, third receives five, fourth place earns three, and fifth place gets one point.

Ten events have taken place during the week, some more competitive than others. Residents of Wright Hall, for example, took first place points

for having the most participants in the SGA elections at the beginning of April. Other dorm residents have been earning spirit points, which are awarded to halls that display their building's banner during competition.

Following Sunday's kickball tournament, Monday brought the competition into Daly's, where residents competed in the ice cream eating competition and the trivia contest. For the former event, 10 students were faced with the challenge of eating an RU Kidding Sundae out of a giant plastic bowl in 10 minutes. Olson Hall's Mike Sciuilli, a freshman, enjoyed the challenge, taking first place. Others were not so lucky.

"It was a lot of fun," said freshman Michele Imperioli, the only girl who competed in the contest. "But I didn't know ice cream could be that dangerous."

After the baking contest and Pepsi Pong tournament held on Tuesday, students hurried out to the BLC to support their teams in the pageant, which took place Wednesday.

"Your spirit counts tonight," said junior Amy Peroni, RHA President. "I hope you have great pride in your representatives."

Seven couples competed against each other in formal wear and a lip-synching competition. Residents from Hill, Olson and Lincoln quickly won the audience over with comedic and enthusiastic performances. After a brief question and answer session, the judges voted on the winning halls.

Olson received first, Conover took second, Lincoln took third, Hill placed fourth, and Switlik won fifth. The win was crucial for Olson Hall, which pulled into second place overall and trailed Conover by only one point.

With BOB coming to a close tomorrow, residents are keeping their fingers crossed. Freshman Crystal Leung would love to see her dorm, Conover, take home the top honors.

"I don't want to jinx it, but we're so close in everything," she said. "Only a few points make all the difference."