

2013-2014



# Annual Report

Curricular Resource Center, Brown University

PEER ADVISING  
SINCE 1976

## 2013-14 HIGHLIGHTS

---

**“I really enjoyed getting to talk to other students about their capstone projects. There was such a huge diversity of students and interests, so it was really cool to see the different paths that people have taken at Brown.”** [Theories in Action conference participant]

**We directly served over 1,200 students and indirectly served 600+ more via our drop-in hours, services and events! 950+ students, faculty/staff received our weekly e-newsletter.**

**“Let the student coordinators of all areas within the CRC know that the work you all are doing is so important and essential for those of us who come to you, be it for a semester off, an independent concentration, sophomore advising, or what have you.”** [Class of 2015.5 leavetaker]



Spring '14 (G)ISP Talks



TiA group presentation

---

[BROWN.EDU/GO/CRC](http://BROWN.EDU/GO/CRC)



## Overview

During our weekly staff meetings, we often debated about the accessibility of the Brown curriculum for all undergraduates. As an office, are we preaching to the converted? Are some social barriers so powerful that the Brown promise—to fully engage with what you're learning—doesn't apply to us all? By foregrounding issues of diversity, we challenged ourselves as advisers and program coordinators to reflect on the meaning of the Brown undergraduate experience. By doing so, we intentionally invited leavetakers out on medical leave to our welcome back events, reached out to under-represented students for conversations about applying for fellowship opportunities, and examined the disciplinary biases we harbor when reviewing IC applications.

Many thanks to Deans Margaret Klawunn, Christopher Dennis, Kathleen McSharry, Besenia Rodriguez, Carol Cohen, Linda Dunleavy & Yolanda Rome, and Jim Amspacher (CareerLAB), Kerri Heffernan & Janet Isserlis (Swearer Center), Tim Shiner (Student Activities Office), Shane Lloyd (Third World Center), Kathy Takayama (Sheridan Center), and Profs. Elizabeth Hoover & Sharon Swartz, for reviewing applications, presenting for or partnering with us this year. Thanks to Kathy Fonseca (Catering), Dolly Gaulin, Pedro & Florence (Facilities), Ryan Conlin & Giovi Gastaldi (Media Services/Production) and the Metcalf Copy Center team. Our funding is in part supported by the Island Fund's gift towards the Engaged Life Partnership Endowment.



## MISSION

The Curricular Resource Center (CRC) is a place where students help each other **engage with Brown's curriculum and utilize its academic resources**. Founded in 1976 to support the fullest use of the new curriculum, today the CRC's Director, student coordinators and volunteers **coordinate information sessions, community-building events, and meet with students one-on-one** for advising about independent studies and concentrations, applying for funding, issues related to the sophomore year, and more.

The CRC staffers work with other departments and peer advising programs to best **provide a broad spectrum of advice about the wealth of resources at Brown**. The CRC is a part of the Dean of the College office (DOC).

5



### Independent Studies

There were 9 fall & 22 spring semester Group, Independent & Academic Internship CCC-approved independent studies, with **174 students enrolled**. (G)ISP Talks at semester's end featured their work. Examples include, *First Generation in the Ivy League*, *Music Cognition* and *Labor in Food Production*.



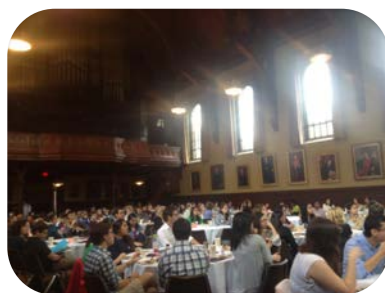
### Leavetaking & Gap Years

**200+ students take a leave of absence every year.** The coordinators planned information sessions and good-bye / welcome back meetings, and they advised students on an individual basis. In our spring '14 survey, **86% leavetakers said they benefited from their time off.** We hosted an orientation event for freshmen that took a gap year, and advised many about **gap year opportunities.**



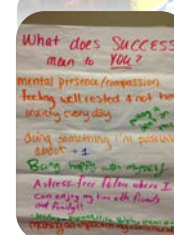
### Independent Concentrations

36 students submitted proposals, and we approved 20 this year. There were a total of **51 independent concentrators enrolled**, with 17 graduating in the Class of 2014. Examples include, *Intelligent Systems*, *Narratology* and *Deaf & Disability Studies*.



### Matched Advising Program for Sophomores (MAPS)

**120 sophomores were paired with 82 junior and senior mentors.** Mentors planned **focus group discussions** for mentees about issues such as academic pressures or doing research, and the MAPS coordinators organized **campus-wide panel discussions** on topics such as getting to know professors and choosing a concentration.



### Departmental Undergraduate Groups

There were **53 active DUGs** and **100 DUG leaders** this year. DUGs planned study breaks with faculty, field trips & “Brown Degree Days” with alumni. The **Classics DUG** won our inaugural video contest!

### Theories in Action

**70 seniors** presented at a 3-day conference in a group presentation or at the poster session. Assistant Professor of American & Ethnic Studies **Elizabeth Hoover** delivered the keynote. “Crafting a Social Narrative in the Digital Age” presenters Marc Briz, Christine Pappas & Sylvia Tomayko-Peters won the **Synergy Award**. 400+ people attended the conference, and this year TiA won the Student Activities Office award for Best Co-Curricular Program. For video and presentations, visit [www.browntia.wordpress.com](http://www.browntia.wordpress.com).

### Careers in the Common Good

With the Career LAB, we hosted **9 Community Hour discussions with alumni** about topics such as government career pathways, international work, museums & public interest law. CCG sponsored **6 student summer interns at NYC nonprofits**. We tweet @BrownCCG with job/internship leads and post news to [www.tinyurl.com/careelab-ccg](http://www.tinyurl.com/careelab-ccg).

### Reflecting on Success (RoS)

RoS gives students a chance to publicly **share their experiences in college with peers in an intimate setting**, and in doing so they better understand their commonalities. This year we offered the workshop to juniors, seniors, and students of immigrant parents.

### Fellowship, Internship & Research Experiences (FIRE) advising

The advisers held individual appointments and planned small-group meetings with students from Native Americans at Brown, Latino/a Students Organization & MEChA. They assisted with DOC campus-wide events and established the **FIRE-side Chats**—conversations about barriers to the application process.



**2013-2014 COORDINATORS & VOLUNTEERS**

**Jessica Brodsky '14** (digital archives & social media), **Lianne Blinn '15** (leavetaking), **Luis Campos '14** (FIRE), **Ben Chesler '15** (leavetaking), **Samantha Dweck '13.5** (leavetaking), **Ayane Ezaki '13.5** (leavetaking), **Anamta Farook '14** (indy studies), **Amelia Grant-Alfieri '15** (Careers in the Common Good), **Marguerite Joutz '15** (Brown Conversation), **Brian Kunderer '14** (DUGs/TiA), **Stephanie Medina '14** (FIRE), **Ria Mirchandani '15** (indy studies), **Ricardo Mullings '15** (leavetaking), **Darcy Pinkerton '14** (DUGs/TiA), **Alice Preminger '14** (indy concentrations), **Juliana Rodriguez '14** (MAPS), **Liz Ruben '15** (gap years), **Anna Stacy '17** (digital archives & social media), **Alexandra Urban '15** (indy concentrations), **Neel Yalamarthy '15** (MAPS), **Peggy Chang '93 AM'13** (director).



**FAMILY WEEKEND, FALL & SPRING OPEN HOUSES**



**Contact:**

Peggy Chang, Director  
<http://brown.edu/go/crc>  
 401.863.3013  
[crc@brown.edu](mailto:crc@brown.edu)  
 Like us on Facebook!

**Curricular Resource Center**  
 Brown University  
 Stephen Robert '62 Campus Center  
 75 Waterman Street, room 228  
 Box 1825, Providence, RI 02912



**Congratulations, Class of 2014 CRCers!**