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What's News At Rhode Island College

Rhode Island College

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Where are they now…?

A piano-performance major from the Class of 1984, who won both Special Talent and Rita V. Bicho scholarships as a student, is today a successful opera coach and conductor.

John M. Di Costanzo of New York City and formerly of Johnston, reports that his time at RIC is divided equally between coaching and conducting.

John Di Costanzo

Sheila (Ryan) Burns of Newport, an education major from the Rhode Island College Class of 1965, has been named the Rhode Island Big Sister of the Year.

Announcement of her selection came at the annual dinner and “Volunteer Recognition Evening” Oct. 18 at the Radisson Airport Hotel in Warwick. Burns attended with her 18-year-old Little Sister with whom she had paired nearly eight years ago in Newport.

It was, nonetheless, a complete surprise for Burns, she told What’s News. She was given a plaque and “a huge bouquet” of flowers.

Word of her selection came by way of Dorothy R. Pieniadz, professor emerita of educational studies at RIC and a “Founding Mother” of the Big Sisters of Rhode Island.

Organized in 1966, the Big Sisters celebrated its 35th anniversary at a recent “grand reunion.”

The Big Sisters program provides mentoring for young girls via linking with Big Sisters, enabling the young-sters to be successful in school, substance abuse free and to avoid early parenting, according to the organization’s annual report.

After her RIC graduation, Sheila got married and did some substitute teaching in Portsmouth and Connecticut.

“I had a family right away, so I never went back to teaching but established a day care business in my home in Newport,” she said.

She operated the day care business until her oldest child, Michael, went off to school. The other children are Suzanne and Daniel.

Then Sheila became a receptionist and later administrative assistant at the Hartford Graduate Center, which is affiliated with New York’s Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

She remarried in 1994, meeting her present husband, Lou Burns, at the 25th reunion of Rogers High School in Newport. Although they had been for-mer classmates, she had never met him before the reunion, she says.

She relocated back to Newport with her husband and step-daughter (now married) Courtney Ashcraft. She and Lou are now the proud grandparents of three granddaughters.

The year 1994 was an eventful one for Sheila. In addition to getting remarried, she started her affiliation with the Big Sisters of Rhode Island and she and her husband took in a foreign exchange student from Croatia. Sheila had previ-ously hosted an exchange student from Belgium.

Her Little Sister, Francesca Gunn of Newport, has been an honor roll student since the fifth grade when they were matched. Now in high school, she is a member of the National Honor Society.

Sheila and her husband, a pilot for TWA, plan to take Sheila’s Little Sister to Spain in February “as a reward for all her hard work.”

SHEILA BURNS

Published by: John LaTour
What’s News Associate Editor

Educators discuss statewide initiative to bolster K-16 education

William R. Holland, state commis-sioner of higher education, led a dis-cussion by educators, including a con-tingent from Rhode Island College led by President John N. Nazarian, legisla-tors, teacher union officials and others, on Oct. 23 on a proposed three-year ini-tiative called “Building Statewide K-16 Systems for Student Success.”

The initiative calls for creating sys-tems that support students from kin-dergarten through college.

Among those at the meeting in the Providence Marriott were repre-sentatives of SHEEO (State Higher Education Executive Officers) out of Denver, Col., the organization which launched the initiative and chose Rhode Island as one of five states to participate by hosting a case study of the project.

Sponsored by SHEEO with funding from four U.S. Department of Education programs, the project’s goal is to build and strengthen connections across fed-eral and state programs within each state through K-16 partnerships.

Case studies began in October and will be conducted in Rhode Island, Colorado, Louisiana, Maryland and Missouri through April. The studies are meant to collect, review and analyze information on the development of statewide K-16 efforts, and to pro-vide opportunities for informational exchanges among state-level practitio-ners.

Following that, a series of strategy briefs will be developed and published. Policy “roundtables” will follow and then regional forums next year and in 2003 to help encourage interstate shar-ing of state K-16 initiatives and rein-force promising practices.

Holland said some of the reasons why Rhode Island applied to be part of the initiative were to achieve greater visibil-ity, to put the state in a better position to receive funding, and “get feedback on new directions — steps we’ve already undertaken.”

Speaking on the topic of “Statewide Leadership Structures,” Thomas Izzo, a state senator and member of the state Board of Governors for Higher Education, told those gathered at the Marriott, “We’re after a systematic change.”

Izzo noted that “for so long we’ve had territorial tensions” and it’s going to “take leadership and hard work” to change that.

Sarah T. Dowling, board chair, said that when she advised the governor of the initiative, he cautioned about “beating up on the teachers” and urged help and support for them.

Nazarian pointed out that teacher education was one of the major pro-grams at RIC, and that “the faculty on our campus talk to one another” and work together to bring content into the teaching curriculum.

Robert Carothers, president of the University of Rhode Island, indicated the same cooperation among the fac-
What's News submissions welcome

The Office of News and Public Relations encourages members of the faculty, staff and administration to submit news stories, feature articles and department information for publication consideration in What's News.

Send materials directly to our campus office in Roberts Hall or email to fusc@ric.edu or glatour@ric.edu. All materials are subject to editorial review.

BARNARD SCHOOL FUNDRAISER: Students in Betty Ruggiero's sixth grade class in Henry Barnard School raised $1,490 for the Red Cross' New England Chapter. Students, staff and parents are encouraged to contribute to the Red Cross' New England Chapter office in the Henry Barnard School. All contributions are tax deductible. The office is located at 600 Mt. Pleasant Ave., Providence, R.I. 02908. Please call 401-456-8090 for more information or if you wish to help (456-8168). Last year, the Rhode Island Community Foundation received $3 million in donations, including $2 million from the Rhode Island State Lottery. The Foundation is the largest private philanthropic organization in Rhode Island. It has awarded more than $140 million in grants to nonprofit organizations, including those that support education, community development, the arts, the environment, and family services.

What's News at Rhode Island College

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SPRING BREAK ‘56: Professor Emerita Billie Burrill sent us this photo of Rhode Island College of Education students enjoying a meal at Harmony Hall hotel in Bermuda during Spring Break in 1956. Anyone recognize the diners?

Focus on Faculty and Staff

The Chaplains’ Office will be holding its annual toy collection from Nov. 19 to Dec. 7. Toys collected will be donated to St. Theresa’s Church on Manton Ave. and St. Charles Church on Dexter Street in Providence. The Giving Tree will be in DDC under the mezzanine stairs on Dec. 19, 20, 26, 27, 29 and Dec. 1 and 4, and at the main entrance, on Nov. 28 and 29, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Pick an ornament from the tree with information on a child, purchase a gift for that child and return it before Dec. 7. If you can’t pick up an ornament, you can purchase any gift for a child whose name was not picked from the tree. Contact the Chaplains’ Office for more information or if you want to help (456-8168). Last year, the RIC community provided gifts for 300 children and is hoping to match or exceed that this year.

The next issue of What’s News is Monday, Nov. 19.

Deadline for submission of copy, photos, etc. is Friday, Nov. 9, at noon.

Story ideas are welcome. Call 401-456-8090 or e-mail fusc@ric.edu.
All the world’s a stage for Jamie Taylor

by Jane Fusco
What’s News Editor

Sitting in his classroom could be the next Meryl Streep, Robert DeNiro or even an Anthony Hopkins. But when you step onto Jamie Taylor’s stage, he tells you to “leave your ego at the door.”

Now in his second year as managing director and assistant professor of theatre at RIC, Taylor brings his passion for southern culture, cross country living experiences, and knowledge of the theatre on and off the stage, to his students and students.

Taylor says he’s been asked to be great actors, Taylor is quick to name Bette Davis and Johnny Depp. “Bette Davis is the greatest actress of her time. She was totally believable and dedicated to her craft. Johnny Depp can come up with a variety of roles, from the dark side of characters. He doesn’t want to answer to Hollywood’s standards of artificial acting.”

Taylor first became interested in acting as a youngster in his hometown of Garner, N.C. where he acted in church productions at the Wake Baptist Grove Church and wrote dramatic skits for the church players. In his senior year at Garner High School, he played Walter Lee in a production of Raisin in the Sun and Marc Antony in Julius Caesar. By then, he was hooked on the theatre, though his mother was apprehensive. She couldn’t understand why her son wanted to be in such a risky profession.

At the University of North Carolina, he majored in Radio/TV/Motion Picture to refine his acting skills for the church and in Hollywood’s standards of artificial acting. “Taylor directed one show per academic year that is performed by students.

Having dealt with some negative reviews, he warns students to take it all in stride and know from the start that it’s impossible to impress everyone in the audience.

“And you can’t please everyone – thank God I got over that. Otherwise, it’ll eat you up inside,” he adds. “Give it your best and keep your head up.”

“My advice to students who want to be actors? Two words: double major.”

Taylor directs one show per academic year that is performed by students. Recently, he directed First Women Wearing the Same Dress. Last year he directed Little Foxes.

Both plays were set in the south. A shining moment in his career thus far was the production of Bodies that Blow in the Wind,” a play he wrote and directed at Florida State University dealing with the lynching of African Americans in the 1920s South, that garnered critical acclaim.

Taylor wants to continue writing plays based on his background and experiences and have them performed professionally. He would like to direct a version of Othello. Quite a set of achievements and challenges for a young man who was once a diehard soap opera fan and enjoys a tear-jerker movie every now and then and Mrs. Taylor can be proud of her son, the accomplished actor and director.

Upward Bound program sets info sessions

The Upward Bound program at Rhode Island College is for selected high school students in the 9th, 10th or 11th grades at any of the six targeted high schools who wish to prepare for college. Students should plan to attend the designated information sessions at their respective schools beginning in November.

Application deadline for entry into the federal-RIC funded program is Wednesday, Jan. 9. Students should submit their applications to their guidance counselors by that date. Only students who complete the entire application process will be considered for admission.

Schools participating in the program are Central Falls, East Providence, Shea in Pawtucket and Central, Hope and Mt. Pleasant in Providence.

Upward Bound is designed to enhance the skills and provide motivation for potential first generation college students and low income individuals, who are citizens or permanent residents of the United States, need extra academic support to do college-level work, and are willing to take college-preparation courses while in high school.

The program, with a 35-year history at RIC, helps students to improve their academic skills so that they may successfully complete high school and, upon graduation, enter and graduate from a program of post-secondary education.

“This is an excellent opportunity for eligible students,” says Mariam Z. Boyajian, program director, who points out that over 99 percent of all Upward Bound graduates have been accepted at colleges and universities around the country.

For more information or applications, prospective students should speak to their high school guidance counselors or call the Upward Bound office at 456-8081.

The information sessions for prospective Upward Bound students by school are:

Central Falls High School
Wednesday, Dec. 5 (grade 11), 12-42 p.m.; Wednesday, Dec. 12 (grades 9 and 10), 9:45 a.m., both in the auditorium.

East Providence High School
Friday, Nov. 30 (grades 10 and 11), 9:15 a.m.; Friday, Dec. 7 (grade 9), 9:15 a.m., both in the auditorium.

Shea High School
Wednesday, Nov. 28 (grades 9 and 10), 12:45 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 6 (grade 9), 9:45 a.m., both in the auditorium.

Central High School
Tuesday, Dec. 11 (grade 11), 9:45 a.m.; (grade 10), 10:35 a.m.; Thursday, Dec. 13 (grade 9), 9:45 a.m., all in the auditorium.

Hope High School
Tuesday, Dec. 4 (grades 10 and 11); Monday, Dec. 10 (grades 9 and 10), both at 10:10 a.m. in the auditorium.

Mt. Pleasant High School
Wednesday, Nov. 28 (grade 9), 8:50 a.m.; Wednesday, Dec. 5 (grade 10), 8:50 a.m.; Thursday, Dec. 6 (grade 11), 12:48 p.m., all in the auditorium.

Rhode Island College
Upward Bound Program

Remember the Times: 35 Years and Counting

Saturday, December 1, 2001
Faculty Center
Rhode Island College

Open House from 8 p.m. – midnight
Program 9 - 9:15 p.m.

International Delicacies & Entertainment
Come anytime • Stay as long as you wish

Accommodations for disabilities upon request.
Call 401-456-8081 for assistance.

The Upward Bound Program will celebrate its 35th anniversary with a gala on Dec. 1. Call Mariam Boyajian, director, at 456-8081 for ticket information.

Getting Direction: Jamie Taylor, assistant professor of theatre, directs sophomore Casey Harkness and freshman Matt Furtado during a class in RHODE ISLAND HARMONacock 12:48 p.m., all in the auditorium.
**Foundation News**

**Professional Development Opportunity:**

As a public institution, the College is committed to providing opportunities for members of the community to participate in a broad range of educational programs.

Two years ago, the Foundation and the Alumni Association integrated into their respective budgets and professional development funds to provide programs that addressed trends in the educational and board development for our board members, alumni, and friends.

I am pleased to announce that on Dec. 3 we will be hosting a second seminar led by M. Ann Abbe, president, Abbe & Associates, Arlington, TX.

“As more women have the financial ability to make major contributions to nonprofit causes, it is important that we provide them with information about how to give most effectively, and how to get the most personal satisfaction out of giving,” said Abbe, an expert on women’s fundraising.

Abbe offered a first seminar at the College last January. The seminar is scheduled to begin at 8:30 a.m., with registration and a continental breakfast, followed by a review of past data, and a new presentation. Registration is $25.

For additional information, contact Denise Males at 456-8105.

**New Tax Law:** As we approach the end of the tax year, many have called to request information on how the May 2001 tax bill enacted by Congress will impact you.

The changes include income, gift, and estate taxes will result in the most extensive federal tax reduction in a generation.

In addition, the new law also features increases in child care credits, limited relief from the so-called “marriage penalty,” and a number of provisions designed to encourage savings for higher education and further subsidize the interest. The law also addresses issues of retirement savings incentives.

Perhaps one of the most important changes in the new tax law is the gradual elimination of the federal estate tax. The amounts that will be exempt from estate tax each year will steadily increase through 2010 when the estate tax will be entirely eliminated.

However, the gift taxes imposed on certain amounts transferred to non-charitable recipients during life remains.

Under the new tax law, the estate gift of choice for many will continue to be a distribution from a qualified retirement plan such as an IRA or 401(k). This is because such assets are generally subject to income tax when received by heirs, while most other assets are not.

If you are thinking of making a gift to a charity, remember to review the provisions of the new tax law with your advisor.

If we can provide additional information on gifts to the College, please contact the Foundation Office at 456-8105.

“We have found Rhode Island College graduates to be innovative, hard working and loyal members of our team,” said executive with Home Loan and Investment Bank of Warwick whose firm has more than 20 RIC graduates “working in important roles throughout the organization.”

Timothy C. Sawyer, mortgage origination manager and corporate recruiter, praised RIC grads and the “competent and enthusiastic approach” taken by the staff of the Center for Management & Technology that “makes recruitment at RIC a great use of our corporate resources.”

“RIC is head and shoulders above other colleges” when it comes to responding to the firm’s recruitment efforts,” said Sawyer.

Sawyer said that RIC graduates comprise 12 of the 43 loan officers in his department. They came to the company with diverse business-related degrees, including management, marketing and computer information systems.

Sawyer specifically cited Lori Martin, career planning and placement officer, for her efforts in working to place RIC grads. “Lori clearly understands and appreciates the importance of the relationship between RIC and the business community,” said Sawyer.

The 12 RIC alumni loan officers with the locally owned and operated federal savings bank — ranging from the Class of 1996 to 2002 — attended a coffee hour arranged just for them at the firm's headquarters Oct. 19.

Meeting with them were Martin and James A. Schweikart, director of the RIC Center for Management & Technology, in recognition of the success of the collaboration between RIC and a member of the corporate world.

“Speaking from a recruiter’s point of view,” said Sawyer, “the past few years have been very difficult to attract and retain talented students.

“As a result of the (recent past) boom in the economy, more often than not, students seemed to be more interested in discussing what and how the business community could immediately enhance their personal interests.

“By contrast, RIC students as a group seemed to be more interested in engaging in an exchange of information.

“First on their minds is how they can add value to the company in terms of their own personal strengths, while at the same time discussing what long-term opportunities are available to them as they continue to grow with the company.

“You can’t help but be enthusiastic when you’re having these types of exchanges,” said Sawyer.

Bringing the alumni up to date on the happenings over the past few years, Center Director Schweikart told them that the center has enjoyed a 90 percent increase in enrollment (from 675 to 1,180) since 1996, going from eight percent of the student body to 17 percent by 2001.

“This represents ‘real growth’ he said, and job ‘placements have grown exponentially’

He also reported on the progress the College is making on several fronts related to the center and business education, including the reconstruction of Alger Hall so all of its classrooms will have state-of-the-art technology.

“In a couple of years, come back and you won’t recognize it,” said Schweikart.

He congratulated Martin for doing a “wonderful job” in placing RIC grads overall, and he congratulated the alumni at Home Loan and Investment Bank “for what you’re doing here.”

**SALUTING THEIR ALMA MATER:**

Rhode Island College alumni, who work as loan officers for Home Loan and Investment Bank, raise their cups in salute to RIC at an Oct. 19 meeting at the Warwick firm. The alumni are Bernard Teemi III ’93, Paul Pimentel ’00, Scott Martin ’96, Mike Tramonti ’94, Dan DiPrete ’01, Sean Hogan ’97, Mark Pora ’01, Roger Audette ’00, Joe D’Amico ’00, Daniel Murphy ’86, Lenny Ellis ’99, Melissa Goy ’97 and Amanda Stratton ’02.

**Initiative — Continued from page 1**

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**Corporate recruiter praises RIC’s Center for Management & Technology**

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Guidance counselors from around the state joined RIC science faculty and their students, alumni, and the admissions staff for the annual R.I. Guidance Counselor Breakfast on Oct. 23. About 100 participants gathered in the Faculty Center for the popular breakfast program, which explores a different theme every year.

This year’s theme focused on the strength of sciences at the College and featured a panel of four distinguished alumni who earned science degrees at RIC and have gone on to prestigious professional careers.

The admissions office coordinated the program to highlight the breadth and quality of RIC’s offerings in biology, chemistry, physics, and clinical laboratory science.

This year’s alumni guest panel included Ross McCurdy ’98, a chemistry and biology teacher at Ponaganset High School; Dr. Shazia Latif ’97, MD Brown University, pediatric resident at Rhode Island Hospital and Hasbro Children’s Hospital; Dr. Farzaneh Seyedi-Esfahani ’90, of Paratek Pharmaceuticals; and John Laiho ’96, a Ph.D. candidate in physics at Princeton University.

The alumni panelists and the current students from the College who spoke at the breakfast made it clear that an undergraduate science degree from RIC has no limitations, whether going on to research, industry, education or graduate and professional schools in the country or abroad.

The College offers undergraduate degrees in biology, chemistry, clinical laboratory sciences and physics, as well as a master of arts in biology and an MAT in general science.

The event welcomed about 60 guidance counselors, many of whom are RIC alums.
It's an ‘Endless Summer’ at Midnight Madness

Midnight Madness at Rhode Island College is when the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics, Intramurals and Recreation showcases the College’s winter sports teams: men’s and women’s basketball, wrestling and gymnastics.

It is also a giant pep rally where students of the College’s five residence halls compete to show their solidarity. The hall with the greatest number of participants wins a dinner, courtesy of the athletic department.

Free T-shirts are thrown to the crowd; there is free pizza and ice cream, and various contests, including a “LazyBoy Shoot-out,” in which the winner gets a leather recliner, courtesy of Cardi’s Furniture.

The theme of this, the seventh annual Midnight Madness, was “Endless Summer,” which many tended to equate with Hawaii. So there were lots of grass skirts, leis and surfers. What’s News brings you a look at the madness.

GIVE ME A "B" … Four women from Browne Hall let their presence be known.

VIKING HAWAIIAN? Weber Hall’s Jose Mendez sports a Hawaiian shirt and Viking hat.

BROWNE HALL MASCOT Sarah Potenza leads the cheering for her residence hall.

HULA-HOOP contestant Victoria Rivera of Willard Hall.

TOGETHERNESS: Three women from Thorp Hall “stick” together.
It’s an ‘Endless Summer’ at Midnight Madness 2001

TOGETHERNESS: Three women from Thorp Hall “stick” together.

SURF’S UP: At one point, the cheerleaders and the wrestlers got together to lip-sync to Beach Boys’ songs. Out front are Amy Medeiros and Mike Riley.

RIC WRESTLERS Mike Viera and Matt Kelly put on a demonstration for the crowd.

THE RIC CHEERLEADERS build a pyramid.

HIGHLIGHT of the evening is the arrival — on a surfboard— of “The Grand Kahuna,” a.k.a. President John Nazarian.

Photos and text by Gordon E. Rowley
Nine year old student attends RIC

By Jane Fusco

What's News Editor

S

crawled completely across her parents' bed when she was eight days old. She spoke her first words 19 days later. At 13 months, she was reading books for first and third graders. She could recite every element of the periodic table by the time she was two-and-a-half years old, she was considered on the level of a fifth grade student.

Theresa Dina is a gifted child.

Nine years old, Theresa is studying

music theory in Robert Elam's class and taking piano lessons under the direction of Philip Martorella on campus. She has also attended Biology 111 classes at RIC.

“She’s a very intelligent and charming young lady. It’s a pleasure to have her as a student,” said Martorella, who is working with Theresa on Beethoven’s Fur Elise. She also wants to learn to play the violin and harp after she masters the piano.

Theresa’s attendance at the College is the first time she’s been in a traditional classroom setting. After unsuccessful attempts to enroll their daughter in educational institutions that would challenge Theresa’s abilities, Michelle and Adebayo Dina took the role of a pediatrician to have her schooled at home, following the Davidson Foundation’s Young Scholar Program developed for gifted children, where she was one of 15 in their pilot group. There are 110 Davidson scholars nationally.

Theresa’s parents sought RIC as a

Where are they —

Continued from page 1

opera houses around the world who come to me for such help,” he says by way of explanation.

Currently, he also guest conducts the Sarasota Opera along with gigs in NYC and around the country.

“I learned conducting by playing piano rehearsals for many great opera conductors for years.

“I also incessantly studied languages, especially Italian, and opera librettos. "Belcanto, if you persist long enough, you will get to conduct opera.

“Incidentally, playing rehearsal piano is much harder than conducting," he assures.

While working the Sarasota Opera, he has conducted with several RIC colleagues. In his first season “old friends” Lori and Mary Phillips, of the Class of 1986, were performing roles there. Since then, they see each other and work together often.

Last season, former RIC soprano Diana McVey was an apprentice at Sarasota, he says.

Born in Providence, he is the son of Mario and Leonie Di Costanzo of Johnston.

He credits his father for “having a great ear and appreciation for music.”

“My father used to take me to Beacon Records on the East Side when I was a kid to buy recordings of many of the great pianists such as Rubinstein, Cliburn and Horowitz,” says Di Costanzo.

Di Costanzo graduated from Johnston High School in 1980 and enrolled at RIC.

Although he remembers “cutting class a lot to practice” he was often on the Dean’s List, he says.

He was required to take classes once a week. Being a piano major, he says, gave him the opportunity to accompany many of his fine colleagues who were singers and instrumentalists at RIC.

“This experience was perfect for what way for their daughter to become intellectually challenged in a more open, academic setting. Her father, a native of Nigeria, took information technology classes at the College in 1993 and was impressed with the quality of education and the campus surroundings.

Along with her advanced course of study, she has also toured the beauty pageant circuit. Last August, she won the title of Miss Rhode Island Sweetheart. She is preparing for the national competition of the Miss America Co-ed Pageant, a sister pageant of the Miss America Pageant for younger age categories, in November where she plans to perform the Beethoven piece.

With a passion for learning and an undeniable will to succeed, Theresa wants to be a doctor when she grows up, a goal she’s aspired to since she was three. “I want to be the one who finds a cure for cancer,” she says proudly.

Her interest in biology and cancer research led her family to contact Dr. Keith L. black, a renowned brain surgeon at Cedars Sinai Medical Center in California, after an in-depth conversation between Theresa and her biochemist uncle on the possible link between treatments for diabetes and cancer patients. Theresa was four-and-a-half years old at the time.

In her spare time, Theresa reads mystery novels and sings gospel music.

Like other girls her age, she enjoys gymnastics, tap dancing, ballet and swimming.

In Nigerian, Theresa’s name is translated as Oluseyi and means “a blessing of God.” President John Nazarian said, “It is an appropriate name for a young lady who is blessed and will undoubtedly develop her many gifts and talents.

I was to do later in my career as an opera coach,” says Di Costanzo.

While a student he performed with the RIC Chorus, Chamber Singers and Orchestra.

“To this day, I have many fond memories of those rehearsals and concerts under Ed Markward’s dynamic leadership.

“The ensembles at RIC inspired me to do something not only to conduct, but to strive for the same quality of musical excellence he sought after,” he says.

Di Costanzo was a student at RIC when the Chamber Singers went on tour “and got to see NYC for the first time and had the chance to perform at the World’s Fair in Knoxville.”

He also served as pianist for several productions of the RIC Theatre and the former RIC Cabaret. And “right around the corner” he would often accompany ballet classes for the Festival Ballet of Rhode Island.

His first year at RIC in 1980 corresponded to the first year for RIC’s director of instrumental music in accompanying and chamber music.

“I think I took my education at RIC for granted until I went to a big-name school and found out I wasn’t going to receive the same attention that I found at RIC. At RIC we had real professors (not teacher’s assistants) who were committed to teaching,” says Di Costanzo.

He plans to continue on his chosen career path and continue to return to his home state with his wife, April, twice a year to see family and friends.

By George LaTour
**Athletics**

**From the athletic director’s desk**

It has been a very exciting time for the intercollegiate athletic program. Here are the recent highlights:

- **Wednesday, Oct. 24** was **Midnight Oct.**
- The **Anchorwomen’s berth** into the 2000 NCAA Division III Women’s Soccer Tournament continued to be a cornerstone of the women’s soccer season and this year’s theme was “Enchanted Summer.”
- A great night was enjoyed by all as the Rhode Island College community was treated to a special exhibition soccer match. Over 1,100 people attended an unprecedented amount of spirit displayed by the resident hall students. The top resident hall award went to Browne Hall.
- **The exhibition matches** and contests by winter sports teams show the Madhouse the support from the RIC campus community was great.
- **The women’s soccer program’s third most successful season** in its history. The ‘01 campaign was also the team’s second winning season ever (1999).
- Although Head Coach Nikki Barber’s team was hoping to advance further in the Tournament [RIC suffered a 6-1 loss to Plymouth State College on Oct. 22], the women’s soccer team nonetheless gained a lot of respect from their opponents throughout New England this fall and the future looks bright for next season.
- However, RIC will head into the off-season knowing that three seasons will not be back for next season: Kerri Ferreira, Caitlin Schimmel and Rena Rossi.
- **Kerri is one of the top three players we’ve ever had at RIC,** says Barber. “She came from a Division I program and is extremely gifted offensively.”
- Ferreira, a co-captain, leaves RIC as the women’s soccer program’s third all-time leading scorer with 52 career points. She is also third with 20 career goals and fourth with 12 career assists.
- What’s even more remarkable is that Ferreira accomplished all of this in her senior year. She spent her freshman and sophomore seasons at the University of Hartford where she totaled one goal, eight assists and 10 points. Her career totals at both institutions are 21 goals, 20 assists and 62 points.
- Ferreira focuses on the team’s successes this season, not the disappointments. “We beat two opponents who we had never beaten before, Worcester State [3-2 on Sept. 15] and Southern Maine [2-0 on Sept. 22], and we tied Eastern Connecticut [2-2 on Oct. 15],” the Bristol native says. “We knew we were on a roll early in the season. Finding out the great news that we were number one in the conference was shocking to me, but at the same time, we were deserving of it at that point in the season.”
- Ferreira was a Second Team All-Little East Conference selection in 2000 and should figure for a post-season award again this fall. She had a career game in RIC’s 10-0 win over UCC earlier this season in the Anchorwomen’s win over UMass-Boston. She has one goal for two career points as an Anchorwoman. “The past four years really flew by,” the Cranston resident says. “I am the only player left from my freshman year [in 1998]. I have played with some great players in that time period. I am going to miss playing a lot.”

**Seniors lead women’s soccer to successful season**

by Scott Gibbons
Sports Information Director

**RENNA ROSSI**

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**CAITLIN SCHIMMEL**

Whatever we tied the game up in the second half and then scored the “golden goal” with just 13 seconds left in the second overtime period to lift RIC past ECSU. For her efforts, she was named the Little East’s Player of the Week.

Rossi rounds out the 2001 senior contingent. She played in nine career games, starting one of them. The forward scored her first collegiate goal earlier this season in the Anchorwomen’s win over UMass-Boston. She has one goal for two career points as an Anchorwoman.

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**Sports Roundup**

**Men’s Soccer**

Head Coach Len Mercuri’s team is 4-1-4 overall and 2-3-2 in the Little East Conference. Goalkeeper Carlos Pinhanos owns a 1.29 goals-against average and a .820 save percentage with three shutouts in 1,602 minutes.

**Women’s Volleyball**

Head Coach Kristen Norberg’s team is 11-20 overall and 2-5 in the LEC. Brandee Trainer leads the team in kills, blocks and hitting percentage.

**Men’s Cross Country**

Head Coach Dick Hoppman’s team placed eighth overall and fifth in the Little East at the 2001 LEC/MASCAC Alliance Championships. Tim Rudd earned All-Alliance honors, placing 17th overall with a time of 26:46.

**Women’s Cross Country**

Michelle Boudreau placed 27th overall at the 2001 LEC/MASCAC Alliance Championships for head coach Matt Bird’s team with a time of 20:35.

**ANNUAL FUND PHONATHON:** The Annual Fund’s student callers man the phones in Alumni House to achieve this year’s goal of $125,000. Above (front to back) are Dana Schmidt, Maegan Ayers, both freshman, and A.J. Sherman, a junior. (What’s News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)
Arthur Miller's adaptation of an Henrik Ibsen classic — *An Enemy of the People* — about one man's dogged pursuit of corruption and his attempt to eradicate the 'spiritual poison' of a corrupt society, will be staged by Rhode Island College Theatre Nov. 14-18 with evening and matinee performances in the Forman Theatre in the Nazarjan Center for the Performing Arts.

The play, directed by P. William Hutchinson, is a powerful study of an honest man being persecuted because of his insistence on telling the truth. This is a tale of corruption, greed and the responsibility of the press.

"At one level the subject matter of this 100-year-old play — it was first produced in 1883 — is as topical as tomorrow's headlines," noted Clive Barnes in the New York Post upon a revival of the play in 1985, which starred Fredric March.

It is about toxic waste and a political cover-up. A Dr. Stockmann, who has brought prosperity to his small Norwegian hometown by his discovery of mineral springs, has now found out that the spa water is contaminated.

He expects to be greeted as a hero by this discovery; instead, the town, led by his own hypocritical brother, the Mayor, turns against him for attacking their livelihood and brands him as "an enemy of the people."

As in all the various adaptations in the town swoop down on him, and he is left with only his embattled family, he decides to fight on alone.

In a gallant curtain speech he declares: "The strongest man in the world is the man who stands alone." Ibsen (1828-1906) has been generally acknowledged since the 1880s to be one of the greatest masters of the modern drama, although during his lifetime some of his plays (especially those with a social message) were banned when they were first written and he was a figure of violent controversy for some decades.

He was, however, also greatly feted during his lifetime, with honorary degrees, a knighthood from a German university, US Senate hearings on aggressive-minded people (Bernard Shaw was one of his most vehement supporters), and lifelong pensions from the governments of Norway and Sweden.

Ibsen was the hugely influential dramatist who created the concept of those changing the theatre of the western world into the kind of theatre we have known for the last 100-plus years.

Of Ibsen's 24 plays, which were all written originally in Norwegian, 19 have been translated into every major European language and are still — over a century after they were written — frequently produced in all major capitals of the western world.

Matthew R. Furtado of Swansea plays Dr. Thomas Stockmann; Aaron Andrade of Cumberland as Peter Stockmann, the Mayor; and Andrea S. Twiss of Providence as Petra Stockmann.

Other cast members include Alanna Sousa-Pullan, Michael A. LoCicero, Michael P. Roderick, Brian M. Reynolds, Joshua M. Allen, Jose A. Doren, Sarajean Olink, Colin J. Naples and Holly Beaudey.

Performance are at 8 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 14, through Saturday, Nov. 17, and 2 o'clock matinees Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 17-18.

Reserved-seat tickets are $11 with discounts for senior citizens and students and can be purchased at the main box office in Roberts Hall or in advance via phone at 456-8144.

Rhode Island College Chamber Orchestra, conducted by John Sumerlin, will present a specially selected repertoire of music from the Romantic and Modernist eras Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 17-18.

Reserve-seat tickets are $11 with discounts for senior citizens and students and can be purchased at the main box office in Roberts Hall or in advance via phone at 456-8144.

Rhode Island College Chamber Orchestra, conducted by John Sumerlin, will present a special concert Sunday, Nov. 18, at 7:30 p.m. in the Lila and John Sapinsley Hall in the Nazarjan Center for the Performing Arts.

The program consists of Vivaldi's *Concerto*, Barber's *Adagio* and Bartok's *Dances*.

Vivaldi's Concerto features four solo violins and a solo cello and is among the better known of Vivaldi's concertos and is exemplary of his high-energy, non-programmatic style, says Sumerlin.

About Barber's *Adagio*, Sumerlin says, "Along with most of the orchestras in this country since Sept. 11, we offer this deeply moving and spiritual piece that makes the tragedy America has survived." He used the character of this music to be one of the greatest masters of the modern drama, although during his lifetime some of his plays (especially those with a social message) were banned when they were first written and he was a figure of violent controversy for some decades.

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RIC Performing Arts Series special –
Muddy Waters Tribute Band to present 'All Over Blues' Nov. 14

Muddy Waters Tribute Band consisting of five great bluesmen, who all played with the legendary Chicago blues giant before his death in 1983, will open the show — called "All Over Blues" — with the best of Chicago blues Wednesday, Nov. 14, at 8 p.m. in the Auditorium in Rhode Island College's Roberts Hall.

As Muddy Waters brought amplified blues to the public, contemporary blues artist Chris Thomas King will introduce what he calls "21st Century Blues," that is equal parts Delta blues and hard-edged blues.

The amplified Chicago blues he championed so honestly and forthrightly created a whirlwind that has swept through countless households, either in its essential form or as bluesrock.

His timeless music speaks to us today via repackaged recordings, television commercials and the efforts of reverential bands, notably the assertive and proud tribute group made up of former Muddy Waters Band player Luther "Guitar-Junior" Johnson, Willie "Big Eyes" Smith, Calvin "Puck" Jones, Jerry Portnoy and "Steady Rollin'" Bob Margolin.

Born to Rolling Ford, Miss., sharecroppers, McKinley Morganfield (who came by the name "Muddy" as a child when his grandmother caught him playing in a sediment-filled Delta stream) was skilled as a harmonica player and guitarist by the time Library of Congress folklorist Alan Lomax caught up to him in 1941 on Stovall's Plantation in Clarksdale.

Influenced by local performers Son House and Charley Patton and the likes of Lonnie Johnson and Blind Lemon Jefferson on phonograph records, the 26-year-old farmer gave the songs recorded by Lomax an intimacy and warmth that reaches across the years. It was in Chicago during the mid-1940s that new arrival Waters got his hands on an electric guitar and started tearing up South Side taverns, turning Delta folk music into an amplified driving force that had no precedent or rival.

After launching his recording career with eloquent, droning singles for Arista and Chess and eventually maneuvered all the foot-dragging of producer Leonard Chess and eventually maneuvered all the members of his working electric band into the studio.

The Muddy Waters band packed sensual excitement into 1950s R&B chart hits like "Hoochie Coochie Man," "Got My Mojo Working" were issued. The Waters' treasure trove also included its share of songs distinguished by a less showy drama, including the lesser-known classic "Flood."

All blues mavens agree that the '50s were Muddy's golden years for recording, especially in the last part of the decade when "Rock Me" and "Got My Mojo Working" were issued. Muddy's associations with Chess lasted well into the rock 'n roll era. "I Just Want to Make Love to You" and "I'm Ready." The Waters' treasure trove also included its share of songs distinguished by a less showy drama, including the lesser-known classic "Flood."

The show is a Performing Arts Series special event with reserved seat tickets going for $30; RIC faculty and staff and senior citizens, $27; students, $15.

Tickets may be purchased in advance via VISA or Mastercard by calling 456-8144 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays, or in person at the Roberts Hall box office 10 to 4 week days and until time of performance on the day of the event.

Learning from the masters
By Edward Markward
Rhode Island College Chorus, under the direction of Teresa Coffman, performed on Sept. 19 at a special session of the General Assembly of Rhode Island in response to the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the United States.

The following is an excerpt from a letter to Coffman from Speaker of the House John B. Harwood and Senate Majority Leader William V. Firms: "...due to the surprise nature of the attacks, we had little time to prepare this session. We understand that you had even less time to musically prepare. And, like so many other people, this tragedy has brought out the best in all people and we thank you for delivering such a heartwarming performance during such troubled times."

"The Rhode Island College Chorus provided uplifting, patriotic songs that captivated legislators, judges, police and fire officials. Through song and verse your chorus touched the hearts of everyone that participated in or observed the special session." On Saturday, Oct. 20, the RIC Chamber Winds, conducted by Rob Franzblau, performed at Veterans Memorial Auditorium for the Change of Command ceremony honoring Rhode Island State Police Superintendent Steven M. Rattan.


Finally, the following music students have been selected (by audition tape) to participate in the American Choral Directors Association Eastern Division Collegiate Honors Choir: Jim Breley, Jennifer Costa, Lisa Ducharme, Marlena Gervels, Corey Greenhaigh, Amanda Howard, Patricia Kammerer, Wendy Jocz, Nicole Laprise, Neil Letendre, Michael Paz, Lucky Rattan, Jason Sonto and Kerry Walsh.

This is the largest number of students from any institution in the 11-state division. The conference will be held in Pittsburgh Feb. 13-16.
Rhode Island College is committed to equal opportunity and affirmative action. No student, employee, or applicant will be denied admission, employment, or access to programs and activities because of race, sex, religion, age, color, national origin, handicap/disability status, sexual orientation/preference, or veteran status. This College policy is in concert with state and federal nondiscrimination laws. Inquiries concerning the College’s administration of the nondiscrimination laws should be addressed to the College director of affirmative action. Reasonable accommodation upon request.