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What's News At Rhode Island College

Rhode Island College

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Study abroad program still popular despite world events

by Jane Fusco
What's News Editor

Mark Motte, director of study abroad programs and associate professor of geography, anticipated a halt in interest and pursuit of international study programs in the days following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the nation. To his surprise, the opposite has happened. Student interest and willingness to participate has increased by more than a third compared to previous years.

“Our students continue to pursue their study abroad plans in record numbers despite the events of and since Sept. 11,” said Motte. He attributes the increased popularity of the program to students beginning to think globally.

“The recent events have aroused intense curiosity on how the rest of the world sees Americans,” Motte explained. “Students have told me that they want to see people in other countries that Americans are an intelligent, caring and unselfish people, and not at all the way they are portrayed in some countries.”

Motte said that no students cancelled travel plans after the terrorist attacks, though he had several conversations with anxious parents. “It shows that students have an open mindedness that many might not credit them with in this cynical age,” he added.

“Many countries have had terrorist problems of their own in the past. When our students arrive in a host country, they immediately become aware that immigration, security and customs checks are much more intrusive and that they have stricter regulations than the United States. When they return, they realize that the United States is slowly coming up to speed and adapting to border control and immigration standards that have long been in place in other countries,” said Motte.

However, some students are reluctant to come into the United States at this time. Four students scheduled to arrive at RIC from St. Martin’s College in Lancaster, England, cancelled their plans after Sept. 11, postponing the annual student exchange program until next year.

Ezra Stiegitz, professor of elementary education and coordinator of overseas programs for the Feinstein School of Education and Human Development, said that the St. Martin’s students were due to arrive on Sept. 15, but British travel agents cancelled the travel arrangements after the terrorist attacks forced the closing of many airports and halted or re-routed flights.

“The UK students were very disappointed,” Stiegitz said. “They were enthusiastic about the opportunity to study in America and were really looking forward to it.”

“We decided to postpone the exchange plans because travel plans for a January trip would have to have been made in October and it was all too fresh in everyone’s mind,” Stiegitz said. He added that the students were eager to go, but not so soon after all that had happened.

Stiegitz is confident the program will be intact for the spring semester.

The student exchange program between St. Martin’s College and RIC has been in effect since 1998. Students from St. Martin’s College spend two weeks in Rhode Island at the College in September then host the RIC students for two weeks at St. Martin’s College in January. During

See Study Abroad, page 8

WHERE ARE THEY NOW...

Guided in his childhood by his grandparents Roberto and Assunta DiPadua and uncle and cousins of the Di Martino family, Rhode Island College graduate Gary DiPadua ’91 has grown into the kind of person that would make them proud — a faith-based man intent on achievement.

Starting what he calls his “marshals arts journey” in 1970, he is today the holder of Black Belts in Tae Kwon Do, Kenpo Karate and Tai Jutsu, and a second-degree in Vee Arnis Ju Jitsu and third degree in Kunato Ju Jitsu.

He was inducted into the World Martial Arts Hall of Fame in March of last year.

His wife, the former Lynne Cervone, a junior at RIC majoring in psychology, is also a martial arts practitioner, holding a second degree rank in Runtao Ju Jitsu and currently awaits testing for her Black Belt in Tae Kwon Do.

Lynne comes from a RIC family. Two brothers and a sister have degrees from the College. Richard ’78 is a neurologist in Providence; Anthony ’84, an attorney in Cranston, and Karen ’78 and ’99, a special education teacher in Coventry, who recently retired.

Lynne, not to be outdone by her husband, was also inducted into the Martial Arts Hall of Fame last March.

Gary explains that she was inducted into the Hall of Fame in a different classification from his, and adds the induction is a feat “quite rare for a woman.”

“As you can see, we both compliment each other because of the burning desire to learn martial arts,” says Gary.

Both are effusive in their praise of the various instructors (masters or above of the martial arts) who brought them along to this point in their lives. They carefully and respectfully
Human Rights dinner Dec. 10

Amnesty International and the Rainbow Alliance are sponsoring a Human Rights Dinner to be held Monday, Dec. 10, in the Faculty Center from 5:30 to 8 p.m. The keynote speaker will be Anwar Ahady, a professor at Providence College and a leader of the Social-Democratic Party in Afghanistan. He will discuss human rights and the ongoing humanitarian situation in Afghanistan. Cost is $5 for RIC students; $7 for all others.

Open Forum on Children's Center Project

An open session has been scheduled to discuss a proposal for an academically-focused Rhode Island College Sesquicentennial project. As proposed, the project is a multi-disciplinary study of the former Rhode Island State Home and School for Children, located on what is now the eastern part of the College campus. The forum is scheduled for Wednesday, Dec. 5, from 2-3 p.m. in Classroom B of the Forman Center.

The Way We Were...

This popular item in What’s News continues so you can revisit your alma mater with a selection of photos from the College’s past, whether the current era (Rhode Island College) or past eras (Rhode Island College of Education or Rhode Island State Normal School). We invite your contribution of old photos, along with sufficient information about each, such as who’s in the photo and what they are doing, the year it was taken and place (if possible). In the meantime, we’ll continue searching our files for interesting pictures of past College life.

WHAT’S NEWS

AT RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE

Editor: Jane E. Fusco
Associate Editor: George LaTour
Staff: Pauline McCartney, Word Processing Supervisor; Gordon E. Rowley, Photographer; Cynthia L. Page, Writer/Technical Assistant

The staff of the Office of News and Public Relations wishes its readers a safe and joyous holiday season. The next issue of What’s News is Monday, Jan. 28. Deadline for submission of copy, photos and print materials is Friday, Jan. 18, at noon. Story ideas are welcome. Call 401-456-8090 or e-mail jfusco@ric.edu.

The first annual Robert M. Young Memorial Scholarship

The first annual Robert M. Young Memorial Scholarship was presented to Scott B. Baum at the eighth annual Young Memorial Lecture Wednesday, Nov. 7. Baum was a former chair of the biology department and long-time treasurer of the RICAPT. Because of his involvement in the establishment of the biology master of arts program and his commitment to the value of student research, the Young Scholarship was established to recognize the current biology graduate student who is best able to articulate the value of research experience to his/her career plans. Baum graduated from RIC as a biology major in 1995, then completed the RITE program to acquire his teaching certification. He currently teaches physics at Foxboro High School, works as a volunteer wrestling coach at RIC, and is enrolled in the biology masters program.

The $750 Young Scholarship will help support Scott’s summer research activities in a virology laboratory at Brown University.

Focus on Faculty and Staff

Faculty and staff are encouraged to submit items of information about their professional endeavors to What’s News, Office of News and Public Relations, 300 Roberts Hall or e-mail them to cpage@ric.edu.

Karen S. Castagno, associate professor in the Department of Health and Physical Education, received the Special Recognition Award for Outstanding Committee Service from Special Olympics Rhode Island (SORI) at its Annual Awards Banquet on Oct. 25. She has been involved with the Rhode Island Special Olympics Program since her arrival at Rhode Island College in 1995. She has been cited “as having made significant contributions toward empowering persons with mental retardation to realize their full potential and to become productive members of their communities.”

Castagno, and her students majoring in physical education, have provided sports opportunities for individuals with mental retardation by conducting the Motor Activities Training Program and volunteering for numerous SORI events.

Mathematics and Computer Science Assistant Professors Chris Teixeira and Rebecca Sparks are members of the development team for the grant project involving RIC and URI, “Pre-Calc: A Key Step toward Web-Based Learning.” Funding for the project was awarded by the Rhode Island Board of Governors for Higher Education Incentive Fund for Excellence in Technology. In addition to creating and piloting technology-based assignments in precalculus, with help for completion available online, they are using materials from an earlier portion of the project in their courses at RIC.

Dave Abrahamson, professor of mathematics, was involved in the earlier project, also a grant sponsored by RIC and the Rhode Island Board of Governors for Higher Education, in which Maple worksheets were developed for the same population.

THEATRE HISTORY: For this issue we travel back to May 1969 and a publicity photo for the College’s production of “Major Barbara” by George Bernard Shaw. From left are Justine Boluch; the director, P. William Hutchinson, professor of theatre; Anita Cipolla; and Eileen Regoli. Hutchinson, who is still a professor at the College, informs us that this was the first play he directed at RIC. (File photo)
Retirement beckons to Jim Rubovits after 30 years in front of the class

by George LaTour
What’s News Associate Editor

T he dry humor and no-nonsense approach of James J. Rubovits, professor of psychology, has served him well with both students and colleagues for the past 30 years at Rhode Island College.

Many of his students have found his classes interesting, challenging and fun. But even those who didn’t, he believes, have found him to be fair. His colleagues in the Faculty Center luncheon group, of which he has been an integral part, enjoyed his give-and-take in conversations that ran the gamut from academics to world affairs.

At the end of this semester, Rubovits will call it quits and retire to a life filled with various interests, including fly fishing, motorcycling and travel with his wife and colleague, Pamela C. Rubovits, also a professor of psychology at RIC, and friends who have “come in and out” of the luncheon group through the years.

Also retiring this semester (and their start dates) are Clyde C. Betres and Gail Davis, associate director of the Development Office (1973), and Crist H. Costa, professor of computer information systems.

“I’ve always felt pretty strongly about contributing to the community, the notion of giving back. I’ve had a pretty good life.” — Rubovits

Slicker, professor of elementary education (1969); Diana L. Mulberry, assistant to the director of Continuing Education (1973); Helen A. Feole, senior teller in the Development Office (1973), and Guil Davis, associate director of athletics (1976).

Together with Rubovits, they have performed approximately 145 years of service.

A native of Chicago, Rubovits attended the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor for two years before flunking out, an experience, he feels, that has given him a deeper understanding of students.

“I flunked out of college and got into plenty of hot water with my parents,” says Rubovits, who recalls having to drive home afterward.

“I stopped at a trout fishing farm somewhere in Michigan where I spent the afternoon fishing before I went home to face my parents. So, fishing has always been a comfort to me.”

Three years later, he earned his bachelor’s degree in psychology at MacMurray College in Jacksonville, Ill., then a master’s and doctorate in educational psychology at the University of Illinois at Urbana where he served as a research assistant and later instructor.

A short stint as a visiting faculty member at Boston College followed after which his tenure at RIC began. The year was 1971 and Rubovits started as an assistant professor of psychology.

Through the years he would rise to professor and serve as the psychology department as assistant chair, acting chair and in 1990 to 1993 as chair.

Over the years he has been involved in most departmental activities, serving on many standing, ad hoc and advisory committees.

He made numerous professional presentations and served as an editorial consultant for a half dozen publications. He holds memberships in several professional groups, including the American Educational Research Association and the New England Educational Research Organization (NEERO).

His major teaching responsibilities included educational, industrial, adolescent and behavioral psychology at the undergraduate and graduate levels. He developed specialized courses in the psychology of sports, creative problem solving, motivation in the workplace, adult psychology and organizational behavior management.

In 1981 he received the College’s Distinguished Teaching Award.

“The opportunity to work with students has always been a priority with me. The part I’ll miss most is the kids,” Rubovits assures.

While explaining that “research was not my thing,” his involvement over a period of many years with NEERO as a conference director and board member resulted in its naming a research award in his honor.

The Jim Rubovits Best Paper Award will be made at the organization’s 2002 annual conference in Northampton, Mass., in April.

“There’s an irony in that,” he says with just the hint of a smile. He adds, however, that the naming of the award after him is “something that’s meant quite a bit to me.”

“I’ve always felt pretty strongly about contributing to the community, the notion of giving back. I’ve had a pretty good life,” says Rubovits, who, upon being inflicted with MS, had asked Rubovits if he knew of anyone who would serve on the board.

“Yeah, me!” he told Foley.

He met his wife, the former Pamela Charles of Philadelphia, while both were studying for their doctorates in psychology at Illinois. She joined him on the RIC faculty in 1974.

“One of the real joys of this job is that we’ve worked together. It’s been good for us and I think it’s been good for the College.

“When counting the time we’ve worked together, you could say we’ve been married longer than most people,” he quips.

Over the years, the couple has traveled extensively from their home in Foster to France, Italy, Ireland and Asia. Then there were the “luncheon crowd” trips.

In 1990 there was the “hometown lap” that saw the Rubovits and a number of their RIC colleagues spend a portion of the summer vacay in five cars to each other’s hometowns. Ten years later they got together again for a tour of the old Route 66 (Chicago to Los Angeles), made famous in the early TV show and its song, the words of which go “Get your kicks on Route 66.”

About two years ago Rubovits took up motorcycling, thanks to the encouragement of colleagues James J. Betres, professor of elementary education, and Crist H. Costa, professor of computer information systems. Both have been members of the Faculty Center luncheon group.

That, and the fact that his wife relented and, in fact, gave him a check to buy his first bike — a BMW 850 cc 1986 R8ORT.

“I secretly think she took out a life insurance policy on me right then and there!” he says.

Rubovits doesn’t “go on these long cross-country rides” that Betres, Costa and others do, but occasionally on weekends he’ll ride to nearby Connecticut.

Other regular trips include camping each October and fly fishing and golfing junkets each spring to Pennsylvania. Of course, both include members from that luncheon group.

“These social relationships have been very important to me,” says Rubovits, emphasizing that “they are colleagues” as through no higher accolade could be given.

Perhaps a comment written by one of his students best sums it up: “My first impression of (of) you was that you were a dry, sarcastic teacher and I thought the semester was going to be a long one.

“Boy, was I wrong!”

“Your sense of humor is one of the best; the semester was too short, and I am going to miss you a lot!!!”

A retirement reception will be held for Rubovits Wednesday, on Dec. 12, from 12:30 to 2 p.m. in — where else — the Faculty Center.
On Nov. 27, Julie E. Heylin joined our staff as Manager of Gift Processing Systems and Donor Information. Reporting directly to the Foundation’s chief fiscal officer, Julie will be responsible for gift entry, gift acknowledgement, donor prospect research, and other campaigns for Rhode Island College related events.

Julie, who holds a BA in public and community service studies with a concentration in non-profit management and a minor in business studies from Providence College, joins us from Prevent Blindness Massachusetts where she served as community services and marketing director.

She is involved in a variety of community activities, including VIPS Providence, Special Olympics, Samaritan’s Purse, and the Rhode Island Community Land Trust. We are delighted to welcome Julie to the development team!

A word about year-end giving. The next mailing of the Annual Fund appeal will arrive at your home around Dec. 1. We know that many organizations are appealing to you at this time of year, and recognize that many need your help and assistance.

Should you choose to support the College, this appeal provides an opportunity to make a gift before the close of the tax year. All gifts to the Annual Fund support student scholarships, faculty research, and alumni activities and publications.

We count on your gift to provide the measure of excellence in all of these areas.

All of us in the Division of Development and College Relations wish you and your family a safe, peaceful, and joyous holiday season.

Record-breaking phonathon collects pledges of $117,000

by Nancy Hoogasian

Hard work and persistence paid off. After five weeks of calling the College’s alumni, student phonathon callers collected a record-breaking $117,000 in pledges toward the annual fund goal of $338,000. As callers for the event, students who had the chance to speak with and share their own experiences with alumni.

Top callers included Thom Lawrence ’01, who collected the most pledges at $12,244, and Susan Fiero ’01, who collected the most increases in gifts for a total of $717. Fiero’s total pledges amounted to $8,984.

Caller Suzanne Kahrs ’03 said, “It was beneficial to speak with alumni. I got an insight as to what they felt they obtained both educationally and personally from the College. I learned that what I share with many of them is an appreciation of the excellent education Rhode Island College offers.”

The funds collected from the phonathon help support alumni scholarships to qualified students, faculty research and development projects, and alumni-related activities like Homecoming and class reunions.

Where are they?

Continued from page 1

name each of them along with their individual ranks, providing a long list of mentors.

The husband-and-wife team recently established a marshals school in their hometown of Johnston and are excited about the prospect of introducing others to the world of marshals.

In addition to his RIC degree in management, Gary has two associate degrees from the Community College of Rhode Island — in business administration and applied science in technical studies.

He has over 11 years experience in law enforcement, serving as a high security officer for the state Department of Corrections at the Adult Correctional Institutions, then as a state marshal recently transferred to the Rhode Island State Sheriffs Association.

In this current position, he serves as liaison between state and local police for the security of state prisoners in court and hospital settings. On occasion, he is required to travel out of state and even out of the country to transport prisoners.

He is a graduate of the Rhode Island Municipal Police Academy. DiPadua says that in the performance of his duties “marshals arts helps me a great deal.”

He explains that when you are a martial arts practitioner “you should be a role model,” displaying such characteristics as good judgement and tact.

“You should avoid confrontation, if at all possible. If defense is justified, you should use only the amount of force necessary to control the situation,” he stresses.

“My goal is to constantly strive to learn, improve, excel and instruct in the martial arts, passing down the ancient traditions to dedicated practitioners,” he says.

A man of conviction, he seems to draw his outer and inner strengths from the martial arts and weight training, church attendance and Bible reading.

The Griffin scholarship will give students from Rhode Island public schools the opportunity for private instrumental or vocal instruction. Awards will be based on talent and financial need.

“They were such a special family,” said Kim Cotter-Lemus who taught the Griffin children in her music classes and worked with Deborah Griffin when Griffin volunteered her services for the College’s music productions. “This scholarship is just one way we can help the children of Providence develop their talents and fulfill their dreams. Deborah understood how important that is. It would make her happy to know we will now be doing this in her honor.”

Those interested in donating to the Deborah Griffin Family Scholarship Fund or needing more information can contact the Rhode Island College Foundation at 456-8105.

2001 PHONATHON CALLERS

DEBORAH GRIFFIN (File photo)

RIC scholarship honors fire victims Deborah Griffin/family

It has been nearly one year since Deborah Griffin, a music education student at the College, and four of her five children, died tragically in a fire that ripped through their Providence home on Dec. 8, 2000.

To honor their memory, a Deborah Griffin Family Memorial Scholarship has been established in the Rhode Island College Foundation.

Scholarship fund-raising efforts will begin with a benefit concert at the E.W. Flynn Elementary School - the school attended by the Griffin children - on 220 Blackstone Street in Providence on Dec. 7 at 7 p.m. Members of Beavertail Opera Productions and students from Flynn School will perform the music of Gilbert and Sullivan.

Members of Providence’s legislative, educational, and religious communities formed this committee to set up the scholarship at RIC and organize fund-raising events. Serving on the committee are: Thomas Lawlor, adjunct professor of music at RIC; Jill Lawlor, Maureen Bracewell, Senator David Igliozzi; Representative Steven Smith; Representative Aisha W. Abdullah-Odiase; Sister Ann Keefe; Reverend James Lewis; Councilman John Sullivan; Councilwoman Balbina Young; Senator Charles Walston; and Kim Cotter-Lemus, music teacher at Flynn Elementary school.

Griffin was a talented vocalist and had a passion for opera. She intended to teach music in the Providence public school system. Griffin’s children – Ricardo, 14; Corinthia, 11; Christian 8; and Lucas, 7 – were also budding talents that several teachers at the Flynn school were eyeing for future productions.

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VIPS Providence, Special Olympics, members of the Rhode Island State House, House Majority Leader Vincent Andrade, House Minority Leader G. Darrell Rodrigues, and several state senators. They are: Thomas Lawlor, adjunct professor of music at RIC; Jill Lawlor, Maureen Bracewell, Senator David Igliozzi; Representative Steven Smith; Representative Aisha W. Abdullah-Odiase; Sister Ann Keefe; Reverend James Lewis; Councilman John Sullivan; Councilwoman Balbina Young; Senator Charles Walston; and Kim Cotter-Lemus, music teacher at Flynn Elementary school.

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2001 PHONATHON CALLERS
Alumna Emily Harrington tells her entrepreneurial success story
by Ellen Wever-Paquette

Emily Harrington, chair and founder of Qualified Resources, Inc., a full service staffing agency with offices in Cranston and Pawtucket, returned to Rhode Island College on Dec. 15 as a guest of the Career Development Center to speak on the topic of “Entrepreneurial Success.”

A native of the Philippines, Harrington has overcome many obstacles facing entrepreneurs, including financing and business management. Harrington has completed a number of national chains, a changing economy and an evolving marketplace. Beyond that, she has faced issues of race, language and cultural differences.

She started her business from her home in Warwick eight years ago with a $22,000 investment. Qualified Resources now has a multi-million dollar enterprise expected to double in sales by 2004. Harrington earned the Rhode Island Business Administration’s “2000 Entrepreneur of the Year” award. Her company was named one of America’s fastest growing privately held businesses by Inc. magazine for 2000. Harrington has been hailed by Providence Business News as one of the largest and fastest growing staffing companies in Rhode Island.

Harrington attended Rhode Island College from 1972-74 before returning to the Philippines to complete her education. She is active in Filipino charitable associations and numerous business associations.

Students and faculty attended the presentation scheduled before recruiters arrived in the Career Development Center/OASIS office to interview seniors for prospective employment. This one-day recruitment event precedes the four week spring recruitment program slated for March 1-8, 18-29, April 1-12, and April 19-29. Additional recruitment in various school systems is scheduled for late April.

OLD FRIENDS Emily Harrington, left, and Dolores Passarella ‘74 reunite on campus.

Rhode Island College’s new Master of Professional Accountancy (MPAc) program is off to a successful start, with approximately 14 students enrolled in the program for the spring 2002 semester. In existence for only a year, this enrollment is very typical for a new graduate program, and right on target for an initial class of 15 to 20 students, according to James Schweikart, director of the Center for Management and Technology, which includes this graduate program at RIC. According to Schweikart, this enrollment comes primarily from RIC students who have completed the undergraduate accounting program, since the new MPAc program has not yet been marketed significantly beyond the RIC campus.

“We are excited about the future of this program, since it is the newest graduate program of this type in the state, and was specifically designed for those entering the CPA profession, who need 150 hours of education to become certified,” said Schweikart. The program contains two concentrations, one in Personal Financial Planning and another in Accounting Information Systems, although the PFP track is the overwhelming choice of most applicants right now. The program has also become registered with the Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards (CFP Board). The CFP designation is the most widely recognized financial planning credential in the United States.

Schweikart also said that he is confident that the business program at RIC will soon become a School of Management & Technology, pending approval by the Board of Governors of Higher Education. This should elevate the status of all programs in the Center and increase public awareness of what RIC has to offer. While there might be other programs offered elsewhere that can be used by prospective CPAs, none can match the value provided by a state-run institution such as RIC, according to Schweikart.

The MPAc program at RIC is taught by full time professors who also have practical experience in their fields as well as several highly qualified adjunct professors, who teach specialized courses in their respective fields. For information on the MPAc program, contact Lori Martin at 456-8009. Applications are now being accepted for spring enrollment.

Fidelity Investments welcomes leaders in higher education
by Holly Jensen
Assistant Manager of Communications

Fidelity Investments recently hosted its 5th Annual Higher Education Dinner, at its offices in Smithfield. The event celebrated the diverse relationships between Fidelity Investments and the higher education leadership in Rhode Island.

Over 70 attendees visited the Sable Street office, including presidents from six Rhode Island colleges and universities, local government officials and Fidelity senior management.

The dinner included a keynote presentation from Steven Akin, president of Fidelity Capital, the new business development arm of Fidelity Investments. Akin provided an overview of the several Fidelity Capital businesses, including the World Trade Center in Boston, Seaport Hotel, Boston Coach, Veritech Private Fund, O’Prever Inc., and Advisor Technology Services, LLC.

Also featured were Elinn McColgan, president of Fidelity Financial Intermediary Services and David Weinstein, Fidelity’s chief of administration.

The annual event is part of Fidelity’s initiative to develop an integrated partnership with key higher education institutions in Rhode Island.

“Fidelity Investments values our relationship with the colleges and universities throughout the state. We are working together to develop short and long-term goals and outcomes that address the issues facing the current and future financial services marketplace,” said Joseph Pratt, director of college relations at Fidelity Investments in Smithfield.

Throughout Rhode Island, Fidelity Investments is participating in college-related events and activities, organizing alumni chapters for associates, developing joint community service initiatives with the schools, as well as on-campus recruiting.

In addition, Fidelity Investments works to enhance the curriculum at several of the institutions through certification programs and professional development opportunities.

UNITED LEADERS: Rhode Island government officials and higher education leaders met with Fidelity Investments senior management during the firm’s 5th Annual Higher Education Dinner. Standing (from left): John Yena, president, Johnson and Wales University; Fred Henning, president, Fidelity Corporate Services; John Nazarian, president, Rhode Island College; Ronald Machlief, president, Bryant College; William Iriona, Rhode Island Senate Majority Leader; Steven Akin, president, Fidelity Capital; Thomas Sepe, president, Community College of Rhode Island. Seated (from left): Steven Ellerich, president, Fidelity eBusiness; Elinn McColgan, president, Fidelity Financial Intermediary Services; Governor Lincoln Almond; David Weinstein, Chief of Administration, Fidelity Investments; Father Philip Smith, president, Providence College.

RIC’s MPAc program off to good start
by David Filipek

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Let’s do lunch!

The Take-a-Professor-to-Lunch Program is a popular way for faculty and students to get to know each other in an informal setting. The program began in 1995 at the suggestion of Charles Marzzacco, professor of physical science. This semester’s program was held during the week of Nov. 12.

A student or small group of students goes to the dining center office, fills out a form and receives lunch vouchers for each student and each professor. Students are also permitted to invite a RIC staff member who has been helpful to them in some way. Here are just a few of this semester’s participants:

Photos and text by Gordon E. Rowley
The holiday season is always a busy time in the RIC Chaplain’s Office. Canned goods and packages for baskets are collected before Thanksgiving and Christmas. In addition, a “Giving Tree,” set up in Donovan Dining Center, is an opportunity for people to donate toys to needy children. What’s News offers a glimpse of these charitable works.

FOOD DEPOT: Sophomore Samantha Hedden prepares to send out the Thanksgiving baskets. Each year Lorraine Barnes, the secretary of nearby St. Teresa’s Church, sends the Chaplains’ Office a list of about a dozen needy families – no names just the number of persons in each. Then various offices and departments on campus “adopt” a family and prepare a basket for them. For Thanksgiving, the largest family, with 10 members, was adopted by the Office of Security and Safety.

LOADING UP one of the College’s vans is sophomore Nicholas Lafreniere.

SANTA’S HELPER Joan Barden, secretary, with some of the holiday toys collected by the Chaplains’ Office through “The Giving Tree.”

UNLOADING: The College van arrives at St. Teresa of Avila Church on Manton Avenue.

A VERY THANKFUL Lorraine Barnes, St. Teresa’s secretary, and Deacon Mike Napolitano, College chaplain, go over a list of the bounty.
On-line services now available to students and faculty

Hang up the telephone. Don’t even think about waiting in a long line. Registering for courses, adding or dropping a class, getting transcripts or checking student account information is as easy as turning on your computer.

A new student on-line services link is now available on the Rhode Island College website for students to access course, grade and account information from any computer with access to the Internet.

This same website service will soon be available for faculty to post grades and view their schedules and class rosters.

A letter mailed to active degree students at the start of the semester informed them of the service and provided them with an operator identification code and password to connect to the service so they could use it immediately.

The service was tested with a number of incoming freshmen during last summer’s orientation. The service is available for currently enrolled degree students but will eventually be available to all degree and non-degree students.

“Improving services to students was the impetus to get the service up and running. We wanted this task to be as convenient as it could be for students,” said Gail Dorion, acting director of the Records Office. “It provides immediacy and functionality that the phone system didn’t have,” she added.

The phone registration system is still active for anyone choosing to use that method.

The consulting firm of KPMG worked with Management Information Services and other administrative departments at the College to set up RIC’s on-line system.

The next major release of PeepSoft, scheduled to be implemented next year, is entirely web-based, so we felt it was important to allow web access to services such as student registration as soon as possible,” said Richard Prull, assistant vice president for information services.

A reminder about the service will be sent from the Records Office in advance of summer/fall 2002 registration.

Previously in Roberts Hall, the Records Office has moved to the lower level of Building 4 on the east campus.

If only the DMV would make it that easy!

Records office introduces new feature to college website

Here’s a tip for you... go to the RIC web page, click on Academics, Records Office, then Records, and a valuable hit of information for students, faculty, staff and department chairs will appear at the top left corner of the page.

The “Tip of the Week” was introduced to improve the advisement process at the College and provide information on College policies, procedures and standards for comprehension. A new tip will be posted each Monday and will remain in place for the week.

All tips will be archived for future reference.

The effort is one of many initiatives at the College to accommodate the growing reliance on electronic communication to students and faculty.

“It is my hope that the College community will use this feature as a way to become more knowledgeable about the College’s policies and procedures,” said Teresa Riley-Wilcox, senior recorder/advisor and originator of the Tip of the Week.

The messages are meant to give students and faculty a heads-up on what is expected of them, to reduce the consequences of not acting on matters early on,” Riley-Wilcox said. She explained this would be helpful in the cases of students who have not satisfied all degree requirements when graduation approaches, or inform the new department chair on critical issues, especially if he or she has not had any formal advisement training.

“Hopefully, this feature will become a frequently used resource,” she added.

The “Tip of the Week” currently appears only on the Rhode Island College website. Web manager Karen Ruhino is working on a program to include it as part of the newly created student on-line services website used for registration and to access grades, transcripts and course schedules.

Riley-Wilcox said the idea came to her as part of a conscious effort to continually improve the advisement process and avoid the pitfalls of students being misinformed.

“If I see the same problems and frustrations of students year after year and decided we had to take a proactive approach via a medium that is so widely used these days, so students would be the most out of their educational experience” she explained.

Study Abroad

Continued from page 1

the visits, students attend classes, visit public schools, and learn about the local culture and environment.

The program with St. Martin’s College offers two interesting forums to share ideas and cultural experiences in teaching reading and science to other countries. Children via an overseas teaching experience. Stieglitz conducts a forum for students from British schools this spring as part of the St. Martin’s exchange program. Students from RIC are scheduled to teach overseas teaching experience. Stieglitz to elementary age children via an

RIC’s study abroad programs, contact Matt Mothen at 456-8797 or email mmotthe@ric.edu.

Quiray described her experience as “enlightening.”

“It’s not just the American way anymore.”

“...was always curious about other cultures so when I heard about the study abroad program, I decided to go. It was a good experience, I learned a lot of more information. Hearing the students talk about their experiences, I decided to do the same,” Quiray said. “And try to somehow go to on your own,” she advised.

Motte said that many students who study abroad return home "repeat customers" and opt for a second and even third experience. She said students want to try more adventures in cultural experiences the next time.

For more information on any of RIC’s study abroad programs, contact Mark Montuori at 456-8778 or email mmontuori@ric.edu.
Gail Davis to retire on Dec. 29

by Scott Gibbons

S o much has happened in the world of women’s intercollegiate athletics, and the Rhode Island College’s Gail Davis has seen it all. On Dec. 29, Associate Director and Coordinator of Athletics Davis will end it all.

A native of Philadelphia, Davis first became involved with sports while at Franklin High School, where she participated in field hockey, basketball, softball, swimming and her favorite sport: gymnastics. “Some of my closest friends are my high school classmates,” Davis says. “We still get together and have reunions to this day.”

Upon her graduation in 1959, she headed off to East Stroudsburg University. Over the next four years Davis was exposed to a variety of different sports. She competed in field hockey and archery, as well as performing on a traveling, co-ed, exhibition gymnastics team. During her junior year she had the opportunity to learn the sport of lacrosse.

Davis graduated in 1963 with a bachelor’s degree in physical education and immediately embarked on a teaching career. Her first job was a Physical Education job at Peale Junior High School in Philadelphia, where she taught health and physical education for one semester. She then moved on to the Philadelphia School District in February of 1964, where she taught and coached until 1967.

In 1967 it was Davis entered the world of intercollegiate athletics. Davis had been coaching and judging gymnastics for several years, and, through her connections, was offered a graduate assistant’s position at Pennsylvania State University. “Muriel Grosfeld [U.S. Olympic Gymnast] had mentioned the position to me and it was something I really wanted to do,” Davis recalls. “I had taken courses over the summer at her school in State College, Penn., and the University of Oregon at the University of Wisconsin and I wanted to pursue a coaching degree.”

Davis was a G.A. at SCUS until 1970 when she earned her masters degree in education. The staff was impressed with her enough to hire her on the spot for a full-time faculty position. In addition to her gymnastics coaching duties, Davis taught fencing, golf and gymnastics classes.

That was a great experience. It allowed me to begin my career in higher education and as an intercollegiate coach, I also made some life-long friends.”

In 1976, Davis felt she needed a change after nine years at Southern Connecticut. She began applying for jobs and landed at RIC. Little did Davis know that would be her final career move for the remainder of the quarter of a century. “I was ready to make a move at that time. RIC gave me the opportunity to get more involved on the administrative side of athletics.”

During her tenure, Davis coached both the softball and women’s tennis teams, but she will always be remembered for her coaching of the women’s gymnastics team. “Back then, it was a real challenge to build some of the women’s programs. Some of the teams only had two players and we had to concentrate on recruiting.”

Gymnastics was the last sport Davis gave up coaching, stepping down in 1989. “I felt it was time to let some ‘new blood’ take over.” She has continued to stay involved with RIC gymnastics and has helped the NCAA National Collegiate Regional and National Championships each year. She also judged gymnastics competitions worldwide, but has recently concentrated on the Rhode Island high school scene. She has twice served as RIC’s Interim Director of Athletics, in 1988-89 when then A.D. Bill Baird took the College’s Development Officer’s position for a year and a half, and then again for a three-year period from 1992 until 1995. “It was during that time period that she helped us focus on RIC Athletics through perhaps its most difficult hour.”

Today, Davis’ biggest concern is her retirement. “I’m not really sure what I’ll look to do next. I will probably still involved with the sport of gymnastics in one way or another. I would really like to travel. I have some close friends who live in South Africa and have never had the time to visit these places. I have family all over the country and it will be nice to be able to visit them.”

As for her career, Davis says, “What I am most proud of is that I think I can appreciate and treat all sports equally. I think I have been able to make a positive contribution to Rhode Island College Athletics. One of the biggest changes [in RIC Athletics] is that student-athletes are seeking us out now. We have a good reputation, good programs and our facilities have improved dramatically.”

“Gail’s a vital part of the College and we work with many other colleges on the near and distant future,” Davis says. “It’s being part of committees and learning about other areas.”

Although Davis is leaving RIC, she has left an indelible mark on the many coaches, student-athletes and administrators she’s worked with over the past 25 years. She will be missed.
RIC Symphony to feature international soloist Eric Ruske

Edward Markward will lead the Rhode Island College Symphony Orchestra and internationally acclaimed French horn soloist Eric Ruske in a concert Monday, Dec. 10, at 8 p.m. in Sapinsley Hall in the Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts.

Ruske will be featured with the symphony orchestra in Mozart’s Concerto No. 4 in E-flat Major and Villanelle for Horn and Orchestra by Paul Dukas (composer of the Sorcerer’s Apprentice).

The program will open with Brahms’ powerful Tragic Overture. Dvořák’s Symphony No. 8 in G Major rounds out the program. “The symphony, 8.8 in one of the composer’s most Bohemian works, buccaneer and infused throughout with the spirit of his homeland,” says Markward.

Dvorak conducted the first performance with the Prague National Symphony Orchestra by age 22.

Ruske has performed as orchestra soloist with the Cleveland Orchestra, the Baltimore Symphony, the Shanghai Broadcasting Symphony Orchestra, the Milwaukee Symphony, the Seoul Philharmonic, the Rhode Island Philharmonic and the Boston Pops Orchestra.

He has toured with the Israel Chamber Orchestra in Tel Aviv and throughout Israel. His recitals have been presented in such venues as the Louvre in Paris, the 92nd Street Y in New York, the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C., and Dukes Hall in London.

Ruske’s CD, Blue Shades, includes a world premiere of Gunther Schuller’s Concerto for Horn and Orchestra with Schuller conducting.

Touring with the Israel Chamber Orchestra in Tel Aviv and throughout Israel, he finds the audience “so appreciative of music.”

Other selections include Leonard Bernstein’s Four Dances from West Side Story, Frank Zappa’s The Dog Breath Variations, Frank Ticheli’s Blue Shades, and John Philip Sousa’s Washington Post March.

The CD will also contain a specially recorded rendition of the Rhode Island College Alma Mater performed by the RIC Chorus and Wind Ensemble.

RIC Wind Ensemble records live CD of Blue Shades concert

The Rhode Island College Wind Ensemble, conducted by Rob Franzblau, director of bands, has recorded a compact disc of the Nov. 16 Blue Shades concert. The seven-song CD also features guest soloists Greg Abate and Greg Wardson on the Michel Legrand jazz epic Images.

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The Blue Shades concert played to capacity. It was held on campus.

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HONORS STUDENTS gather in the Faculty Center Nov. 9 for their annual dinner. Prof. Spencer Hall (front, center) is director of the Honors Program.Inset, is Kevin Middleton, this year's Nazarian Merit Scholarship winner. (What's News Photos by Gordon E. Rowley)

KAPPA DELTA Pi: One hundred and eight RIC students were initiated as new members of Kappa Delta Pi (KDP) at ceremonies in Gaige Hall Nov. 19. Above, Andrea DiCicco, president of the College's Epsilon Rho Chapter, lights a candle signifying one of the ideals of KDP. The organization is an international honor society of undergraduate and graduate students, teachers and administrators dedicated to excellence in education.

MUSIC AND MISTLETOE, the Ocean State Lyric Opera holiday concert for the whole family will feature Rhode Island College alumnus Fredrick Scheff '83 as tenor in the Dec. 8 (8 p.m.) and Dec. 9 (2 p.m.) shows at the Grant Recital Hall at Brown University. Scheff is one of four vocalists who will sing selections that include Christmas and Hanukkah songs. A special feature will be a visit from the North Pole for the kids. Tickets are $20 for adults and $10 for children under 12. Call 331-6060.

LAST HOLIDAY SEASON: John Salasses, vice president for academic affairs, read Clement Moore's "A Visit from St. Nicholas" (a.k.a. "The Night Before Christmas") at the President's House. A reading of the popular Christmas story traditionally follows the tree lighting ceremony during the president's Holiday Open House. This year's open house will take place Dec. 18 from 3:30 to 6 p.m. This year's reader will be Elizabeth Henshaw, assistant professor of elementary education. See page 12 for invitation. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

Judith Lynn Stillman (center), professor of music and artist-in-residence at Rhode Island College, is the musical director and pianist of the All Children's Theatre Ensemble's holiday production of Oliver! Featured players are: (clockwise from top) August Fensterer of Rumford, Liana Stillman of Providence, Mathieu Whitman of Cranston, Tristan Viner-Brown of Cumberland, Rebecca Lipman and Sam Adrain of Providence. Performances will be held at the Vartan Gregorian School Dec. 7-16. Call 435-5300 for reservations. (Photo by Wrenn Goodrum)

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**R I C Calendar**

Dec. 3 - Jan. 28, 2002

**5 Wednesday**

7 p.m.—RIC Annual Art Auction at the former Bannister Gallery in the Art Center. Preview works at 6 p.m. Donations are welcome. To arrange for donations, please call the RIC Art Department office, 456-8054.

8 Thursday

8 p.m.—NICCA: Winter Concert** in Sapinsley Hall in the Nazarian Center. General admission $10.

10 Monday

8 p.m.—RIC Symphony Orchestra with Eric Ruske, French horn**, and Edward Markward, conductor, in the Sapinsley Hall in the Nazarian Center. General admission is $10.

5:30 to 8 p.m.—Human Rights Dinner. Amnesty International and the Rainbow Alliance will hold a dinner in the Faculty Center to promote awareness of human rights in Afghanistan. Anwar Ahady, a professor at Providence College and a leader in the Afghan refugee community in Connecticut, will discuss human rights and the ongoing humanitarian situation in Afghanistan. For ticket information email ric.amnesty@yahoo.com. The cost is $5—RIC students, $7 for non-RIC students and faculty.

12 Wednesday

1 p.m.—Music: George Masso Jazz Quartet** in the Sapinsley Hall in the Nazarian Center. Part of the Chamber Music Series.

**Admission Free

**Admission discounts for senior citizens, faculty/staff, RIC and non-RIC students.

Performing Arts Information: 456-8184
Box Office: 456-8144

**Sponsored by the Young Alumni Group Open to all alumni & friends of Rhode Island College

**Rhode Island Community Food Bank Contest

Thursday, Dec. 6, 2001, 5-8 p.m.

104 Hay Street, West Warwick

The Rhode Island Community Food Bank has planned a friendly competition between local college and university alumni clubs culminating in the “Golden Pallet Award,” presented to the club who successfully inspects and sorts the most food during the evening shift.

Please help! The RIC Young Alumni Group sort food for some of the 16,000 people served by the food bank each month.

Join us for pizza at 5 p.m. We will begin sorting food at 6 p.m.

For more information or to RSVP call Shana Murrell at 456-9621 or email smurrell@ric.edu.

**Sports Events**

**Men’s Basketball**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tues. Dec. 4</td>
<td>Coast Guard</td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat. Dec. 8</td>
<td>at UMASS-Boston*</td>
<td>3 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues. Dec. 11</td>
<td>at Johnson &amp; Wales</td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed. Jan. 2</td>
<td>at Warner Southern</td>
<td>6 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri. Jan. 4</td>
<td>at Flagler College Invitational</td>
<td>6/8 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat. Jan. 5</td>
<td>at Flagler College Invitational</td>
<td>6/8 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues. Jan. 8</td>
<td>at Southern Maine*</td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs. Jan. 10</td>
<td>at Bridgewater State</td>
<td>8 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat. Jan. 12</td>
<td>at Plymouth State</td>
<td>8 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues. Jan. 15</td>
<td>at Western Connecticut*</td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs. Jan. 17</td>
<td>at Keene State</td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat. Jan. 19</td>
<td>at Eastern Connecticut*</td>
<td>3 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues. Jan. 22</td>
<td>at UMASS-Dartmouth*</td>
<td>3 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat. Jan. 26</td>
<td>at UMASS-Boston*</td>
<td>3 p.m.</td>
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**Women’s Basketball**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tues. Dec. 4</td>
<td>Pine Manor</td>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat. Dec. 8</td>
<td>at UMASS-Boston*</td>
<td>1 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues. Dec. 11</td>
<td>at Johnson &amp; Wales</td>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat. Dec. 15</td>
<td>Keene State*</td>
<td>1 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon. Dec. 31</td>
<td>at Warner Southern</td>
<td>1 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri. Jan. 4</td>
<td>at Webster Tournament</td>
<td>Noon/2 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat. Jan. 5</td>
<td>at Webster Tournament</td>
<td>Noon/2 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues. Jan. 8</td>
<td>at Southern Maine*</td>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat. Jan. 12</td>
<td>at Plymouth State</td>
<td>6 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues. Jan. 15</td>
<td>at Western Connecticut*</td>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon. Jan. 19</td>
<td>at Eastern Connecticut*</td>
<td>1 p.m.</td>
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<td>at UMASS-Boston*</td>
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**Wrestling**

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<tr>
<td>Wed. Dec. 5</td>
<td>Plymouth State*</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun. Dec. 9</td>
<td>Yeshiva</td>
<td>Noon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat. Dec. 29</td>
<td>at Citrus Invitational (FL, Lauderdale, FL)</td>
<td>TBA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun. Dec. 30</td>
<td>at Citrus Duals (FL, Lauderdale, FL)</td>
<td>10 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon. Dec. 31</td>
<td>at Citrus Duals (FL, Lauderdale, FL)</td>
<td>8:30 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat. Jan. 12</td>
<td>at Quade-seat with Oneonta State, Wilkes and NYU</td>
<td>11 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed. Jan. 16</td>
<td>at WPI*</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat. Jan. 19</td>
<td>at New England Duals (at Wesleyan)</td>
<td>11 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues. Jan. 22</td>
<td>at Western New England*</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat. Jan. 26</td>
<td>at New England Corps</td>
<td>6:30 p.m.</td>
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**Women’s Gymnastics**

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<tr>
<td>Sat. Dec. 8</td>
<td>at Harvard University</td>
<td>Noon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat. Jan. 19</td>
<td>at SUNY-Brockport Invitational</td>
<td>1 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri. Jan. 25</td>
<td>at Ursinus*</td>
<td>6 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat. Jan. 26</td>
<td>at Tri-meet with MIT* at Wilson*</td>
<td>1 p.m.</td>
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**Women’s Indoor Track & Field**

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<td>Noon</td>
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<td>at Brandeis Invitational</td>
<td>Noon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat. Jan. 26</td>
<td>at Southern Maine Invitational</td>
<td>1 p.m.</td>
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