What's News At Rhode Island College

Rhode Island College

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Gewirtz to be honored for outstanding commitment to social and economic justice

The College will pay tribute to this champion of causes for the disadvantaged and founder of the Poverty Institute at Rhode Island College’s School of Social Work.

She has been described as a remarkable, caring, unselfish woman who has made a difference in the lives of so many.

She is known for her courage, determination, tireless efforts, and as an unrelenting voice for those who otherwise might not be heard.

On Thursday, Nov. 14, Rhode Island College pays tribute to Nancy Gewirtz, founder of the Poverty Institute and RIC professor of social work, with a testimonial dinner, and surprise special guests, at 6:30 p.m. in Donovan Dining Center, to celebrate her many notable achievements as an advocate for those less fortunate.

Gewirtz founded the Poverty Institute at Rhode Island College’s School of Social Work in 1998 to promote economic security and a balanced development for low- and moderate-income Rhode Islanders. Her advocacy for the less fortunate has led to policy analysis, welfare reform, revised education practices, and numerous publications that provide important data for this sometimes forgotten segment of the population.

As a child growing up in Boston, Gewirtz’s father instilled in her a sensitivity for the plight of the disadvantaged and disenfranchised. Through her advocacy, committee work, associations, and work within the Poverty Institute, Gewirtz has helped reshape the state’s welfare law to one of the most progressive in the country.

Gewirtz serves on the boards of many social services agencies, legislative commissions and committees.

She has chaired the Rhode Island Campaign to Eliminate Childhood Poverty. She founded Women for Women, a group that acts on behalf of low-income women, and was actively involved in the People First Budget Coalition.

Her op-ed pieces on public policy and the plight of impoverished women and children are frequently published in the Providence Journal where they have been described as “factually accurate, compassionately written.”

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Thorp Professor for distinguished teaching named in School of Social Work

Jayashree JAYASHREE NIMMAGADDA

Nimmagadda, associate professor of social work, has been named this year’s winner of the Mary Tucker Thorp Professorship for distinguished teaching in the Rhode Island College School of Social Work, it was announced by Dean George Metrey.

She was cited for the “impact of her teaching on students” for whom she is “always accessible,” said Metrey, adding, “she’s just an excellent teacher.”

Announcement of her selection came at the opening faculty meeting of the School of Social Work which shares the award program with the Feinstein School of Education and Human Development.

As this year’s winner, she will present the Thorp Lecture, at a future date.

Nimmagadda earned her bachelor’s degree in sociology and general psychology and a master of social work degree, both at Stella Maris College at the University of Madras, India; a master of philosophy in psychiatric social work at the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences in Bangalore, India, and a doctorate in social work from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Prior to joining the RIC faculty in January of 2000, she served on the adjunct faculty of the School of Social Work for two years while serving as an assistant professor of social work at Tulane University for four years.

While at the University of Illinois, she served as a lecturer and teaching assistant. From 1988 to 1992, she served as an instructor at the T. Ranganathan Clinical Research Foundation in Madras.

She has served as a consultant at the Socio-Economic Development Center for Southeast Asians and the Child Welfare Training Institute at RIC. She is a member of the board of directors of Fellowship Health Services in Lincoln, and has served as a social worker and counselor at various sites.

Nimmagadda has authored a number of articles in professional publications, including the Asian Pacific Journal of Social Work and The International Social Work; made numerous presentations at professional conferences, and been the recipient of several grants and contracts.

She holds memberships in the Council of Social Work Education, the National Association of Social Workers and the Inter-University Consortium for International Social Development.

Nancy Gewirtz at the State House, where she spends a great deal of time lobbying for the disadvantaged. (Photo by David O’Connor)
Edward Markward, professor of music, is beginning planning for the program at RIC with a number of engagements. On Oct. 21, he conducted the RIC Symphony Orchestra in concert at RIC. On Nov. 15, 16 and 17, he will serve as guest conductor for Festival Ballet Providence’s performances of Adam’s “Giselle.” On the 30th he conducts a performance of Vivaldi’s “Gloria” and Poulenc’s “Gloria” with the Rhode Island Civic Chorale & Orchestra, which he serves as music director. On Dec. 7, he will conduct the Rhode Island Philharmonic’s Annual Holiday Pops Concert and on Dec. 10, he returns to the RIC Symphony to conduct an all-Beethoven program featuring Arleen Edens, soprano. In December he also will conduct five performances of Tchaikovsky’s “Nutcracker” for Festival Ballet Providence.


The paper surveys African thought on the reform of elementary and secondary school curriculum in Kenya, Mali, Mozambique and Nigeria since independence. Emphasis is placed on the inclusion of African culture, history and languages and innovations in teaching schools. School developments are then analyzed in relation to re-construction of tradition on the integration of traditional culture with the demands of modernization. The other paper, “The Quest for International Understanding in United States Education, 1920 to 1939,” is published in Social Alternatives (Vol 21, No. 1), an independent Australian journal, as part of a special issue on “The Education for A New Century.” This paper examines the socio-political context, progress and problems affecting the reform movement to develop education for peace and international understanding in American schools in the interwar years of the early 20th century.

Richard R. Weiner, dean of the faculty of arts and sciences and professor of political science, presented a paper he co-authored with Colin McAlpine, of the University of Birmingham (UK) for the “Politics and History” section of the American Political Science Association (APSA) at the association’s annual meetings in Boston recently. The title of the paper was “An Institutionalism that is Historical, Ideational and Critical,” Weiner and Hay had an opportunity at the APSA to further explain their joint theoretical project in a shorter paper, “International Emergency and the Arc of Subject Positions.” Weiner also presented the latter paper at the Biannual Meetings of the International Society for the Study of European Ideas (ISSED) at the University of Wales, Aberystwyth in the UK. Weiner has been asked to organize a two-day workshop on “Civil Society/Negotiated Democracy” with about 15 international participants from China, Japan, Poland, Israel, Greece, the US, and the UK. As part of the workshop, Weiner presented another paper “The Idea of Civil Society/ The Practice of Civil Society.”

Karen S. Castagno, associate professor in the department of health and physical education, presented her paper “Special Olympics International” at the 3rd Annual World Congress & Exposition on Disabilities (WCD) in Orlando, FL. The mission of WCD is to provide a useful exchange of ideas for all those involved in the development and treatment of people with disabilities and special health care needs.

Joan Rollins, professor and chair of the psychology department, was installed as president of the New England Psychological Association at the Annual Meeting held Oct. 18-19 at River College in Nashua, NH. RIC had two psychology majors receive honors at that conference. Diane Whipple ’02, and Tina Ristikari, a senior psychology major, received the New England Psychological Association’s prestigious Undergraduate Scholar Award for leadership, research, and academic performance. Several outstanding undergraduate Scholar Awards were given by the New England Psychological Association’s Annual Meeting. The other scholars honored were from Brown University, the University of Rhode Island, Wellesley College and Clark College. RIC was the only college represented by two Honorary Undergraduate Scholars.

Gene E. Paranzino, adjunct faculty member of RIC, has been elected to the National Academy of Education. Paranzino’s essay, “Will You Ever?” is a personal narrative, written by Daniel Da Rosa, Paranzino’s adult tutoring student, about living with a learning disability. The article, recently published on www.ldonline.com, was featured in First Person, which offers personal essays and experiences with the challenges of learning disabilities. Essays authored by teachers, parents and students of disabilities and insight into living with learning disabilities are provided. The article highlighted by Da Rosa speaks each semester at RIC to Paranzino’s students in Social Education 433, which hopes that he is able to provide a first-hand understanding about learning disabilities to future professionals. Paranzino has also been a registered therapist with The Learning Disabilities Network, which is also a full-time special education/Reading Recovery teacher in the Fall River, Massachusetts Public Schools.

Focus on the Faculty and Staff

University faculty and staff are encouraged to submit items of interest for our What’s News column in its Office of News and Public Relations, Building 10 or email them to cpage@ric.edu.

VINTAGE PROTESTERS: In June of 1937 the senior women of Rhode Island College of Education, dressed in their formal caps and gowns, burned their long black stockings which they had been required to wear for gym class for the Class of ’37.


The paper surveys African thought on the reform of elementary and secondary school curriculum in Kenya, Mali, Mozambique and Nigeria since independence. Emphasis is placed on the inclusion of African culture, history and languages and innovations in teaching schools. School developments are then analyzed in relation to re-construction of tradition on the integration of traditional culture with the demands of modernization. The other paper, “The Quest for International Understanding in United States Education, 1920 to 1939,” is published in Social Alternatives (Vol 21, No. 1), an independent Australian journal, as part of a special issue on “The Education for A New Century.” This paper examines the socio-political context, progress and problems affecting the reform movement to develop education for peace and international understanding in American schools in the interwar years of the early 20th century.

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The Way We Were...

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Richard Fracasso ’91, is a world traveler, operates a snack bar in the Providence Traffic Court building, and is a recently published author with a book now in bookstores.

He is also totally blind.

Fracasso’s book, Strawberries…with Love, is a tribute to his wife, Ann, who died of cancer, and captures her memories of their life together in a collection of poems, essays and stories. The subtitle of the book reads: The story of a girl who died, but whose memory lives on.

The book also includes perceptions and insights that Fracasso developed through the years as he was going blind.

“After Ann died, I wanted to remember her exactly as she was, so I wrote it all down. I didn’t intend for anyone else to read it,” he said. “It’s very personal.”

He selected the title remembering how his wife picked strawberries in the summer time and froze them to make homemade strawberry shortcake during the winter months.

A friend in the publishing business in Switzerland read the book and urged Fracasso to submit it for publication. It was printed in German in 1985. Fracasso submitted it to American publishers last March. It was accepted a month later by Vantage Press.

“I think reading a book blind is hard, imagine what it’s like writing one blind. But I wanted to put my feelings into words so I found a way to do it,” he explained. “I still had some vision left in one eye when I began to write the book, so I wrote with a black felt pen to see more clearly. Then I bought a typewriter and taught myself to type.”

Fracasso’s blindness was caused by choroideremia, a rare genetic mutation passed from his father to his male offspring. The disease has also affected other males in his family.

Fracasso’s first symptoms appeared when he was a teenager and gradually worsened until he lost complete vision by age 50.

Doctors noticed the worst of his symptoms when his wife was dying in a New Hampshire hospital. The doctors who cared for Ann helped him seek treatment. Fracasso opted for an experimental treatment in Switzerland that held some hope, but even after 12 years of procedures and treatments, his eyesight had deteriorated too far for improvement.

Fracasso said that his study of psychology has helped him deal with his blindness. He admits that his other senses have enhanced as he lost his sight, because as he says, “you naturally expend energies into the other senses when one is lost.” He says he can usually tell a person’s physical characteristics and many personality traits by the sound of his or her voice.

Fracasso said he likes the challenge of figuring out a way to do things without sight. He says he does things “one step at a time” then processes the information very carefully. “I develop a system and do everything by memory,” he said.

In the traffic court building on Harris Avenue in Providence, he operates a snack bar as part of the state’s Business Enterprise Program, an initiative for visually handicapped people to run their own businesses. He said he knows the exact location of every product, the amount of money in the register and the best selling items at his counter. He has been at that location for six years.

Richard also considers himself a “survivor” who is “not afraid to go out in the world.” He has visited Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy and Greece and has made many lasting friendships along the way.

Fracasso, a native Rhode Islander, left the state six years after he and Ann were married to run a motel business in Twin Mountain, N.H. He returned to Rhode Island after Ann died and continued his education earning a B.A. in psychology from URI and masters degree in counseling from RIC.

Strawberries…with Love is available in all major bookstores for a cover price of $10.95. For Fracasso, the book is priceless.

**National Collegiate Alcohol Awareness Month —**

ER nurse warns RIC students about alcohol abuse

“Alcohol Poisoning in Young Adults is the topic of Cathy (Janicki) Fanning ’81, nursing director at the Rhode Island Hospital Emergency Room, in a talk to Rhode Island College students Oct. 23 in Thorp Residence Hall lounge. She is nursing director at the R.I. Hospital Emergency Room. (What’s News Photo by Gordon E. Bowley)

"Alcohol Poisoning in Young Adults — The ER Nurse’s Perspective" was the topic of Cathy (Janicki) Fanning ’81, nursing director at the Rhode Island Hospital Emergency Room, in a talk to Rhode Island College students Oct. 23 in Thorp Residence Hall lounge as part of the Office of Health Promotion’s program in residential life.

“Some 1,400 college students die each year from alcohol poisoning with three people dying every day, the majority under age 21,” said Fanning, who then detailed the effects of alcohol poisoning on the body.

Speaking from her years of experience dealing with alcohol poisoning in the emergency room and her involvement in the Reducing Youthful Dangerous Driving (RYDDD) program, she told about what she has seen when “kids, highly intoxicated or overdoes” arrive and “what we do to them.”

She made some suggestions on how to help a friend who may have had too much to drink.

She outlined some of the injuries she has seen due to use of alcohol while noting that 500,000 college students are injured while intoxicated each year. Some 2.1 million students drive while intoxicated, she said.

Other statistics proved unnerving to say the least:

- 31 percent of college students in general meet the criteria for alcohol abuse
- 25 percent of the national college population has academic problems due to alcohol
- 6 percent of those have alcohol dependency
- 70,000 are victims of sexual assault while intoxicated
- 400,000 have unprotected sex while intoxicated
- 100,000 of them too intoxicated to know whether or not they consented
- Fanning said students “commonly use common street drugs in combination, such as Ecstasy, GHB, marijuana and mushrooms and told of their effects.

She shared some of the experiences her husband has had with young alcohol abusers. Daniel Fanning, also a RIC grad, Class of 79, and currently a Providence police detective, had “a lot of exposure to fatal accidents, including those involving college students.”

Fanning then took questions from the audience.

The speaking program — in observance of National Collegiate Alcohol Awareness Month — was part of the traffic court experience in the Office of Health Promotion for current nursing student Karen Haubens ’03. She is a registered nurse pursuing her bachelor’s degree.
**Alumni News**

**Spotlight on scholarship recipients**

Sheena Nixon
Class of 2006
RIC Alumni Scholarship

Freshman Sheena E. Nixon of Warwick feels her receipt of a Rhode Island College Alumni Freshman Award will go a long way toward helping her achieve her career goal of becoming an elementary school teacher.

"As long as I can remember, I've been dreaming about becoming a teacher," says Nixon, adding, "and I feel blessed to be accepted to the best school to further my education and make my dreams come true."

She's taken courses in child development, taught at Warwick Veterans Memorial High in its Little Canes Pre-School and at an elementary school where "junior achievement" was the topic.

"Working with the kids, helping them and seeing how they react to acquiring new knowledge made me realize that I want to make a difference in children's lives. I want to teach them and work with them to achieve," she says.

"She's achieved quite a bit in her own young life to date. She's an Honor Roll graduate of Warwick Veterans Memorial High School where she was a cheerleader all four years. In addition, she coached at the Warwick Police Athletic League (PAL) and the Southern Connecticut Cheerleading Camp, was in her church choir and did volunteer work for a chorus called "For Heavens Sake," a church-related group with which her whole family is involved. She also held down jobs at Dunkin Donuts and Tropical Tans as well as a good amount of time spent babysitting.

And, in case you'd like to know, two of her great grandmothers, a grandmother and grandfather all hold RIC degrees, whether from the Rhode Island State Normal School or Rhode Island College of Education, both precursors of the present Rhode Island College. Sheena Nixon will be pleased to add her name to that list.

**A look at alumni and friends...**

**MAJOR DONOR EVENT:** Mary Ellen Ahern '75 (center), joins Bill '73 and Madeline Nixon at the Donor Appreciation Evening held on Oct. 18. Mary Ellen was representing the Providence Journal, a major donor to the Campaign. Madeline serves on the Campaign Steering Committee and has agreed to co-chair the Sesqui-centennial Celebration. (INSET): Faculty member Peter Allen and his daughter Emeline enjoy dessert, coffee and entertainment.

**PHON-A-THON:** Pictured are volunteers. Seated: Donald Rabih '59, Michelle Passarelli '92. Standing: Shana Murrell, assistant director of alumni affairs; Barbara Saccucci '74, Mike Lopes '71 and Nancy Hoogvans, director of the annual fund. Almost $2000 was raised Oct. 22 in just a few hours.

**THE 2002 SECA CAMPUS COMMITTEE:** Shana Murrell, assistant director of alumni affairs, Susan Sulys, anthropology department secretary, and Victoria Hiltinger, biology department lab coordinator.

**CLASS OF 1953 REUNION COMMITTEE:** Seated: Jack Welch, Norma Simone Williams and Syd Williams. Standing: Lucille Bilodeau Sherlock, Artie and Deane Sherlock, Bob Sullivan, Jane Macioci McConnell and Emma-Joan Gilmartin. (Missing from photo are Al Catado and Barbara Barns.)

**CLASS OF 1953 GET READY!** Your 50th reunion from the College is being planned. The committee has been meeting to coordinate events for your golden anniversary reunion scheduled for May 15-17, 2003. The committee is sending a postcard to class members listing some of the planned activities. If you need hotel information, please call the alumni office at 401-456-8086.

**The Young Alumni Group** has two special activities coming up. A RFC After Five event will be held at the Castle Cinema and Café on Thursday, Nov. 21 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. The Castle, located on Chalkstone Avenue in Providence, has recently been renovated with a new and unique concept in viewing movies. Erika Dugas '94, a co-owner of the cinema will talk about the updates. Refreshments will be served. No charge for those who pre-register; however, there is a $5 charge for walk-ins.

The annual friendly competition among the state's college alumni associations at the RI Community Food Bank is scheduled for Wednesday, Dec. 4, from 5-8 p.m. The “Golden Pallet Award” will be presented to the alumni association who sorts the most food and canned goods in their assigned shift.

Although we did not win last year, the more than 35 volunteers who attended came away with a greater understanding of the Food Bank, its clients, and the enormous contributions they make to the state.

Please contact Shana Murrell in the alumni office if you are interested in the Castle Cinema evening or the Food Bank event. Shana can be reached at 401-456-8625 or email her at smurrell@ric.edu.

Attention all College faculty and staff and all alumni and friends of the College involved in a workplace giving campaign! SECA, the State Employees Charitable Appeal's campaign, in conjunction with the United Way and the Combined Federal Campaign, kicks off this week. You can give to the Alumni Association's Annual Fund through donor #4473. You can give to the Foundation and support a particular campus program or fund by donating to the Foundation #4984. Your gift to the College makes a difference in the lives of our students. Shannon Ryan Flood '04 expresses her appreciation by saying "a scholarship which rewards a student's dedication to their studies, encourages college students to work towards and exceed their academic potential."
Former residents of State Home and School gather to tell their stories

by Jane Fusco
What's News Editor

They came to remember a time in their childhood and place they once called home. Some came in wheel chairs and with walkers. Others were accompanied by family members. They remembered teachers, inquirers, classmates, cottages, toys they played with, friends they made, parties with walkers, the rock, the gate, and scrubbing floors. Everyone remembered some.

Some memories were clear, others evoked others.

But all 35 former residents of the State Home and School for Children (now the College's east campus) who came to the Forman Center (once the superintendent's residence) in the pouring rain on the morning of Oct. 26, did exactly what their invitations urged them to—honor the past to ensure the future.

And they bonded to a place that has changed dramatically over the years—and to each other.

"Life has a way of recycling our memories," said Deborah DiScuillo, Peg Brown, vice-president for development and college relations, told the group.

"I was told I was here because I was a bad boy," said a resident of 1949. "Later, I found out the truth. I encouraged my two daughters to come to RIC because I wanted them to graduate from my home.

"We want to learn, celebrate and honor the 1924, the children who really lived here, the people who really worked here, so that others will be able to see what you have done," Hillman told the group.

The former residents broke into focus groups by generation to answer questions that would assist the College in developing new academic disciplines and state agencies in an effort to realize and preserve a part of the State's history and validate the lives of the children who once lived there.

"Very soon, the School of Social Work, the only one in the state, will be located about 50 feet away from where it all started," Hillman explained to the group. He was referring to the upcoming relocation of Building 9 on the east campus.

"We need to learn, celebrate and honor the 1924, the children who really lived here, the people who really worked here, so that others will be able to see what you have done," Hillman told the group.

The last woman to speak at the podium was RIC's former superintendent, the Honoring the Past to Ensure the Future phase—the newly designed entrance ways to the campus consisted of former state buildings and relocation of offices on the east campus. It was the festive flag that lined the "Quad" and, of course, the renovation of the Student Union now underway.

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Let the music play...

What’s in a name?

By Rob Franzblau
Asst. Professor of Music and Director of Bands

What exactly is a wind ensemble anyway? Most people have seen an orchestra, and everyone knows a choir when they hear one, but what is a wind ensemble, what kind of music do they play, and why does Rhode Island College have one?

The simple answer: A wind ensemble is a band. That really doesn’t clarify much. When you say the word “band” to most people today, one of two images occurs — either a marching band that plays at football games or a loud rock band.

When I say “band,” I mean a group of woodwind, brass and percussion instruments that perform indoors on a concert stage, much like a symphony orchestra. The difference is that unlike the orchestra, the band doesn’t have any string instruments. No violins, violas or cellos.

The modern band or wind ensemble consists of a group of anywhere from 12 to 100 instrumentalists playing piccolos, flutes, oboes, bassoons, saxophones, trumpets, French horns, trombones, tubas, euphoniums (a diminutive cousin of the tuba), and an assortment of percussion instruments (drums, cymbals, bells, xylophones, chimes), and just about anything else that makes a sound when you hit it.

The absence of string instruments, far from limiting the tonal possibilities of the group, actually frees the creative composer from routine ways of writing for the wind and percussion families.

Two unique features of wind instruments are that, in comparison to the strings, they are fairly loud and mobile, thus establishing a functional or ceremonial role for most early band music. By contrast, the orchestra’s role has always been purely artistic, to elevate the human spirit. It is only in the past 50 to 100 years that bands have begun to assert their artistic capacity alongside the orchestra.

Bands developed throughout the centuries along two parallel, but distinctly separate, paths. One path is tied to the orchestra, where winds and strings have coexisted for over 300 years. Composers such as Handel, Mozart, and Beethoven all had occasion to write music for parties, outdoor celebrations and the like. They often wrote these works for just the wind and percussion sections of their orchestras, due to the acoustical carrying power of these instruments in outdoor public settings. Ensembles of winds and percussion have existed for centuries in military settings to signal things, rally the spirit of soldiers, and inspire patriotic feelings among the masses. Where does this leave the modern band or wind ensemble? With a somewhat complex role. In order to carry out an artistic function, bands need music that is artistic. Unfortunately, most ceremonial and military music is aesthetically shallow. Beyond the initial exciting sound, there is little else and it doesn’t wear well under repeated listening. So what many forward-thinking band conductors of the mid 20th century did was to transcribe — that is, rewrite — orchestral masterpieces for the band. Although this gave bands more artistically significant works to perform, most transcriptions sounded like watered-down versions of the actual piece, which, in fact, they were.

The next stage, which we’re currently living in, is to create original works for band by living composers. Commissioning living composers to write new pieces for modern bands is a huge part of today’s music world.

Rhode Island College audiences can look forward to many upcoming performances by the Rhode Island College Wind Ensemble featuring the works of guest composers. They may not be household names, but someday they may be, and we will have played their music while the composers were alive, and in many cases, conducting the performances.

I feel like a musician in Haydn’s orchestra, playing his latest symphony. How exciting is that?

I hear a symphony...

By Edward Markward
Professor of Music and RIC Symphony Conductor

As I write this, I am reflecting on what has enabled the Rhode Island College Symphony Orchestra to achieve the level of excellence at which it currently performs. With virtually each concert it gives, the orchestra raises the bar to the level whereby excellence is expected not only by the loyal supporters in the audience, but more importantly, by the members. We admit that we are not the Boston Symphony Orchestra or the RI Philharmonic, but at the same time, we realize that those organizations set the standards for the level of distinction that our shared audiences expect.

We try exceedingly hard to meet that standard. In some cases, we may even try harder. The Symphony Orchestra is comprised of 65 members — about 55 percent are students, 20 percent community members, and 15 percent professional musicians. Internationally renowned artists appear as soloists with the orchestra, along with well-recognized local artists. Many an internationally known musician has said that the RIC ensemble is among the finest accompanists with which they have performed.

The repertoire that it presents at each concert is major in every respect, encompassing works from the standard Baroque, Classical, Romantic and Contemporary eras as well as commissioned and first performances. The goal of the orchestra is to bring to life, for the public and our own edification, those works that many of our students have studied in the classroom, and, perhaps, works which our audience members have heard only on CD. There is something visceral, even magical, about the experience that only a live performance can bring.

I can tell you as conductor of this wonderful group of musicians and people, that they, more often than not, have succeeded in inspiring not only thousands of audience members, but this conductor as well.

I am amazed by the commitment each member brings to the privilege of music making. It is continually moved and gratified by the performance of this orchestra. Of course, none of this happens in a vacuum. Dedicated studio teachers, theory and music history professors, mentors, background, etc. enable us to begin at a much higher level of music making than would be possible without them.

If you have not heard the RI College Symphony Orchestra in a while, I invite you to enjoy our Dec. 9 performance at 8 p.m. in Sapinsley Hall. We have chosen an all-Beethoven program featuring world-renowned violinist Arturo Delmoni.
**Choral program is singing on a high note**

By Teresa Coffman  
Asst. Professor of Music and Choral Director

The Rhode Island College Choral program has undergone many changes in recent years, expanding its repertoire and concert appearances. Just four short years ago, there were only two choral ensembles – the RIC Chorus with hardly 50 singers and the RIC Vocal Ensemble, which was directed by Bill Jones. Today there are three ensembles: the 75 member Chorus, the 14 singers in the Women’s Chorus, and the 12 member Chamber Singers, with possibilities for more groups. Instead of only three RIC concert performances a year, there are now countless musical opportunities for the talented student singers.

The Women’s Chorus is the newest addition to the choral program, first formed in the fall of 2001. They are small but mighty, and an important part of the choral program, which was first formed at Homecoming festivities for the past three years, this year’s Halloween Collage Concert, and will perform with the RIC Brass Ensemble at St. Mary’s Church on Broadway in April.

In addition to the three scheduled on-camera performances a year, there are now countless musical opportunities for the talented student singers.

The upcoming Dec. 13th concert is a traditional program featuring the Christmas portion of Handel’s *Messiah*, selections from Benjamin Britten’s * Ceremony of Carols*, Giovanni Gabrieli’s *Angelus ad pastores ait* with the RIC Brass Ensemble, and *Noel* a piece by RIC professor George Mack. The soloists are chosen from members of the ensembles and, thanks to the financial support of the Performing and Fine Arts Commission, visiting composers have worked with the various groups on the interpretation of their music.

As choral director at Rhode Island College, I am extremely proud of the students—my “kids” – in each ensemble. It has been—and continues to be—a joy to watch them grow as individuals, as musicians, and as ensembles. Our ensemble standards continue to rise. Excellence is the expectation; not only do I expect it from the singers, they expect it from each other and from me. They continually inspire and challenge me to strive to improve my own musical skills. Creativity is the norm within these choirs, and we are all constantly stimulated artistically. We work hard, but we laugh quite a bit, too. It is because of these precious students that I love my work.

All that jazz

By Susan Nicholson  
Asst. Professor of Music/Jazz Band Director

The Concert Jazz Band is the largest of the jazz groups, consisting of 20 band members in four-sections: trumpet, saxophone, trombone, and rhythm. Unlike other small combos, individual improvisation occurs at planned moments, while the rest of the band plays back-up to a soloist. Also unlike small combos, the Concert Jazz Band is directed by a conductor who stands in front of the band.

Though new to the role of director of the Jazz Band, I have had extensive training ranging from studying with the premier jazz saxophone professor, Gary Keller at the University of Miami, to performing with several professional jazz groups including the Classic Touch Orchestra and the Express Big Band based in Charlotte, North Carolina. Having played in student jazz bands, I find that students are very receptive and open-minded in regard to exploring different styles and genres of jazz.

Recently, the RIC Concert Jazz Band performed with renowned trumpeter Marvin Stamm on Oct. 18 in a concert with the College’s Wind Ensemble. Stamm improvised on trumpet and flugelhorn on each of the three selections that the Jazz Band performed – *G Day Maters* by Scott Winfield, *Matt’s Mood* by Matt Catinab, and *South Carolina Blue Law* by Bert Ligon.

Student soloists featured at the concert were Jim Kershaw, guitar; Steven Johnson, bass; Dan Wood, alto saxophone; and Jonathan Young and Gina Costantino, tenor saxophones.

On Dec. 15, the Jazz Band will present a varied program with selections ranging from swing, Latin, funk and contemporary jazz pieces. The show starts at 8 p.m. in Sapinisle Hall.

April is Jazz Appreciation Month and will be celebrated on campus with several events featuring the RIC Jazz Band, local high school jazz bands and jazz combos from around the state.

You can also catch us performing at the Lion’s Club Banquet in April and many of the local high schools to encourage budding jazz musicians.
Gewirtz honored
Continued from page 1
ately compelling and logically con-
vincing. *

Last March, Gewirtz was cited by the Providence Newspaper Guild for having been "at the forefront of the fight for social and economic jus-
tice" in the state. Since the founding of the Poverty Institute, the Guild noted that "... she has been involved in ceaseless battle for people of society's lower rungs," and can often be seen at the State House "waging yet another campaign for economic justice."

Gewirtz joined the RIC faculty in 1974 as an assistant professor involved in the planning, imple-
mentation and accreditation of the Master of Social Work (MSW) pro-
gram. She also served as interim director of field education and as a consultant to the state’s Department of Human Services. She was the first chair of the MSW department.

In 1984, Gewirtz was given the distinguished teaching award by the School of Social Work, and was cited in 1993 for distinguished service. She received the Alumni Faculty Award in 1999 for outstanding service to her depart-
ment that there is such commitment in political science in 1987, both from the University of Connecticut.

She earned a bachelor’s degree in sociology at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst in 1967, a master of social welfare degree from the State University of New York at Buffalo in 1970; a master of public affairs in 1983 and a doctor-
ate in political science in 1987, both from the University of Connecticut.

After earning her bachelor’s degree in 1969, she became full-time investiga-
tor for the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination in Boston. This was followed by the position of public health social work coordinator and supervisor in the Home Health Program of the Erie County Department of Public Health in Buffalo, NY, senior health planner for the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, administrator for the Monroe Health Center in Union, W. Va., and director of planning for the George Washington University Health Plan in Washington, D.C.

Her first academic appointment was as assistant professor at Dalhousie University School of Nursing in Halifax, Nova Scotia, fol-

Gewirtz and her family have been loyal fans and personal friends of the Boston Celtics. It was not unusual for basketball stars K.C. Jones and Bill Russell to be found at Gewirtz’ childhood home.

Gewirtz’ father, Hyman, housed many of the Afro-American basket-
ball players, a gesture virtually unheard of at the time. Gewirtz says she remembers her father saying, “We were just put on this earth to help each other out.”

Nancy Gewirtz has made a career doing just that.

All proceeds from the Nov. 14 event will benefit the Poverty Institute. The tickets are $50 per person. For more information, contact the Rhode Island College Foundation at 401-456-8090.

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Brannon earns MVP honors, RIC nearly wins state championship

by Scott Gibbons
Sports Information Director

The Rhode Island College baseball team won two games and nearly captured the 2002 Cardi’s Furniture Fall Baseball Classic Championship before falling to Division II Bryant College 5-4 in a closely contested championship game.

Despite the heartbreaking loss in the finals, sophomore pitcher Matt Brannon was named the Most Valuable Player of the entire tournament. In addition to Bryant and RIC, the tourney featured teams from the Community College of Rhode Island, Johnson & Wales University, Roger Williams University and Salve Regina University.

The Anchormen were seeded fifth in the tourney and traveled to fourth-seeded Salve Regina on Oct. 9 where they squeaked by with a 6-5 win in the first round over the Seahawks. Brannon earned the save in the win, pitching a scoreless ninth inning.

RIC and sixth-seeded Johnson and Wales University advanced to the semi-finals, held at McCarthy Field in West Warwick, Rhode Island on Oct. 14. The Anchormen were pitted against second-seeded CCRI and won the game 9-7. Brannon was instrumental in the win, earning another save by throwing 1-1/3 innings of scoreless relief.

Anchormen had to play back-to-back games on the 14th as they advanced to the championship game to face top-seeded Bryant. Brannon started and threw seven innings, earning a no decision, in the loss. He also did the job at the plate, picking up two hits in the game.

RIC’s march to the finals was impressive considering they did not have a home contest during the entire tournament. The Anchormen also bested regional power in CCRI and nearly took out a solid Bryant team. Both CCRI and Bryant offer scholarships in baseball while RIC cannot.

RIC Head Baseball Coach Jay Grenier says, “We were able to win a couple of close ballgames in Fall at the Cardi’s Tournament. Although we made some mistakes, we were able to get past them and pick up two wins. The team played well and the coaching staff is pleased with the progress we’ve made during the fall season. I am hoping our success in the Cardi’s Tournament carries us through the winter and continues in the spring.”

Grenier also praised Brannon’s effort. "Matt kept us in those games. He was constantly pitching under pressure and did his job. He’s coming off a great freshman season and we’ll look to him to lead us this spring.” The Anchormen open the 2003 season in Fort Myers, Florida with their annual spring trip.

The theme for this year’s Midnight Madness event was the “Blue’s Brothers” but the evening was anything but blue as over 800 fans were on hand at midnight to cheer on the 2002-03 basketball, wrestling and gymnastics teams at the 8th annual event.

The coaches were all attired in Blue’s Brothers outfits as they were introduced and were led out by the head Blue’s Brother himself — no not John Belushi — President John Nazarian, who did flips out to half court as he was introduced.

In addition to the activities involving the athletic teams, there were demonstrations by the cheerleaders, basketball shooting contests, dance contests, prizes, food, and what has become a tradition, the Cardi’s Furniture recliner giveaway.

Willard Hall was named as the new champion of Midnight Madness for its involvement and school spirit. It was a great night as the accompanying pictures indicate.

Trip to Baseball Hall of Fame

The Rhode Island College Department of Intercollegiate Athletics, Recreation will be taking its sixth annual trip to the Baseball Hall of Fame in historic Cooperstown, New York on Saturday, Nov. 23.

The cost of the trip is $24 per person for Rhode Island College students and $48 per person for non-Rhode Island College students. The price includes transport via luxury motorcoach and admission to the Hall of Fame. During the trip there will be snacks, lunch and baseball trivia.

The bus will depart from the RIC Recreation Center at 6 a.m. and will return around 11:45 p.m. Seating is limited and a sellout is expected.

To register, please contact the Rhode Island College Recreation Center front desk at 401-456-8400 or stop by to fill out a registration form.

Midnight Madness... anything but blue

SCHOOL SPIRIT was in abundance long before midnight as these revelers from Browne Hall cheer on their favorite teams.

Sports Events

Men’s Basketball
Nov. 22  Beaver College #  5:30 p.m.
Nov. 23  Championship or Consolation Game #  4 or 6 p.m.
Nov. 26  Eastern Nazarene College  6 p.m.
Dec. 2  at Stony Brook University  4:30 p.m.
# Scarlet Raider Tip-Off Classic, Rutgers-Newark, NJ

Women’s Basketball
Nov. 23  Georgian Court College +  1 p.m.
Nov. 24  Championship or Consolation Game +  1 or 3 p.m.
Nov. 26  at Connecticut College  6 p.m.
+ Rose City Classic at Drew University

Wrestling
Nov. 16  at Roger Williams University Invitational  10 a.m.
Nov. 23  at Springfield College Invitational  10 a.m.
RIC Theatre production of ‘Hamlet’ — Shakespeare’s masterpiece of irony, vengeance runs Nov. 20-24

Rhode Island College Theatre will bring to the stage of the Helen Forman Theatre William Shakespeare’s ‘Hamlet’ Wednesday-Sunday, Nov. 20-24, in both evening and matinee performances.

Shakespeare’s classic tale of betrayal follows the story of Hamlet and his quest to avenge his father’s murder.

The tortured prince tries to cope with the marriage of his mother to his uncle, the usurpation of the seat of power, and the decay and demise of the entire kingdom.

It is generally agreed, Hamlet is the play of most towering grandeur of all of Shakespeare’s works — a play of such infinite psychological and philosophical subtleties that it has been the subject of more discussions and books than any other play in the 400 years since its writing.

“All the plays ever written suddenly disappeared and only Hamlet miraculously survived, all the other tragedies in the New World.”

When Europeans first set foot on the American continent, they brought with them “theater of the Elizabethan age,” according to Sherry Franzblau.

Franzblau, a professor of Theatre Arts at RIC and a director at the Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts, will be directing a traditional American performance of Shakespeare’s greatest work.

Franzblau said legendary Russian director Vsevolod Meyerhold, said, “If all the plays ever written suddenly disappeared and only Hamlet miraculously survived, all the other tragedies in the New World.”

It is believed Hamlet was written and performed in 1601 and 1602, in Shakespeare’s 40th year, the 25th of his 37 plays.

“The ‘New World’ is Shakespeare’s longest play and since it is his most popular as well, it has the longest history,” Franzblau said.

His role of the prince has been considered always THE test of any actor aspiring to real greatness, and most of the greatest actors have essayed it (many to stumble), as well as a few women.

The tragedy has enough flexibility to have invited innumerable interpretations, methods of staging and inventive pieces of business. A number of productions in this century have been set not in medieval times or the Elizabethan time, but in subsequent centuries, some in modern clothes.

The play’s first American performance was in New York in 1761, and it has been performed frequently ever since.

In the 19th century, the great Edwin Booth established a long-run record for the play in New York of 100 performances. His record was not surpassed until 1923 when John Barrymore took pains to top it with exactly 101 performances. Richard Burton’s Hamlet ran 140 performances in New York in 1964.

In London, Sir Henry Irving had stretched his Hamlet to 200 performances in 1874.

Included among the stellar performers of female supporting roles were Ethel Barrymore and Lillian Gish, who both played Ophelia, and Judith Anderson. Gertrude Lawrence and Mary Martin were Ethel Barrymore and Lillian Gish, who both played Ophelia, and Judith Anderson. Gertrude Lawrence and Mary Martin had roles.

Playing Hamlet in the RIC Theatre production is Joshua M. Allen, a senior from Providence. Other cast members in leading roles include Tara L. Testa as Ophelia, Christin L. Goff as Gertrude, Jose A. Docoen as Polonius, Michael A. LoCicero as Laertes and Matthew R. Furtado as Horatio.


P.W. Hutchinson will direct the play, his 15th mainstage production in as many years. Since 1968, he has directed a total of 70 productions at RIC.

Hamlet will be staged at 8 p.m. on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings and at 2 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

Tickets are $14 general admission; $10 for senior citizens, and $5 for students with ID and may be purchased in advance by calling 456-8144 or at the Roberts Hall box office. Tickets may be purchased just prior to show times at the Forman Theatre box office.

RIC Wind Ensemble concert celebrates the ‘New World’

Rob Franzblau and guest conductor/composer Roger Cichy will showcase the concert pieces of the Rhode Island College Wind Ensemble in a concert Friday, Nov. 22, celebrating the “New World.”

The time of performance in Sapinsley Hall in the Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts is 8 p.m.

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RIC master class series features six philharmonic concert soloists

RIC’s Department of Music, Theatre, and Dance, in collaboration with the Rhode Island Philharmonic Orchestra, will feature six guest soloists to conduct master classes at the College. The performers are solo artists appearing in the Philharmonic’s 2002-03 classical music series.

Master classes will take place in the Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts from 4-5:30 p.m. on the Friday afternoon preceding their Philharmonic concert, with the exception of violinist Robert McDuffie, who will hold a master class on the morning of his Philharmonic performance date.

Each master class is free of charge and open to the public on a first come/first-served basis. Music teachers in the area are encouraged to have their advanced high school and college students participate in a 30-minute coaching session with each of the artists. The artists will not perform or lecture other than to demonstrate during the coaching of a student performance. Student coaching sessions are by appointment only.

For more information, call RIC’s Department of Music, Theatre, and Dance at 401-456-9516.

Master class schedule

Nov. 22 Nurit Pacht, violinist Jan. 10 Robert Levin, pianist Feb. 28 Cho-Liang Lin, violinist March 14 Ralph Kirshbaum, cellist April 12 Robert McDuffie, violinist (10 a.m.) May 9 Robert Honeysucker, baritone
Local news media gather at RIC for live, on-line chat with CNN

RIC partners with Cox Communications to present a behind-the-scenes look at the local news media and link into the newsroom in Atlanta for a live chat with reporters there and in Afghanistan.

Reporters from local print and broadcast mediums were on campus Thursday, Oct. 24, to give 250 students from five area high schools an understanding of news coverage in a high-tech, technologically advanced society, and an awareness of the news gathering and reporting process viewers don't see on air.

The event was selected from hundreds submitted by countless framed paintings — Harrington recalled that he “started going to RISD in the evenings” and “really liked” the art classes at RIC with John de Melim and Angelo Rosati. He found taking art classes “kind of addictive.”

Harrington said he paints what he sees, at times improvising on the subject matter or inventing elements to enhance the image.

Using “strong composition and saturated color,” he paints in a realistic, representational manner to “capture the unique and quiet beauty around us.”

This includes flowers from the garden, objects from around the house, family heirlooms and yard sale treasures, all of which find their way onto his colorful and expressive paintings.

Landscapes are often local scenes a short distance away from home or from the familiar paths of Cape Cod.

His art has brought him multiple awards, including Best in Show from the Cape Cod Art Association; First Place, Watercolor from the Wickford Art Association, and the Marion Carey, William E. Briggs and David Marsland Memorial awards from the Newport Museum Artist’s Guild, Providence Art Club and Rhode Island Watercolor Society, respectively.

His collections are displayed in Hasbro Children’s, Miriam, St. Ann’s, Pawtucket Memorial and Newport hospitals as well as at RIC where he’s donated a number of paintings through the years.

Other recipients of his generosity include the United Way, the Fogarty Foundation and Channel 36.

Harrington holds juried memberships in the Rhode Island Watercolor Society, the Wickford Art Association, the Providence Art Club, the Cape Art Association, and the Art League of Rhode Island.

“Life has been reproduced for publication in magazines and posts, including RIC’s Alumni Review. Cape Cod Life Magazine listed him in 1998 as one of 10 “emerging artists.”

“Someone remarked that I could be painting into my 90s,” said Harrington, “and that’s exactly where I intend to be going.”

All agreed that they had a different opinion and a better appreciation for the work of the media after having spent time with the reporters.

About 11:30 a.m., Cox Communications activated the satellite feed into the Cable News Network (CNN) newsroom in Atlanta for a live, real-time, on-line chat between students in cable systems across the country and CNN news anchor Leon Harris and corresponent Kate Snow in Washington and Nic Robertson in Afghanistan.

Barrington High School student Brittany Taber posed a question to Robertson that was seen and heard nationally. Taber’s question was selected from hundreds submitted to CNN’s message board prior to the event.

“Behind-the-Scenes at CNN: The News You Don’t See” was the sixth Line-to-Learning interactive community program presented by Cox. RIC was chosen to host the event “because its strong communications department was a good fit for this type of program,” said Regina Bell, education services manager at Cox.

According to a Cox media representative, students in this digital age must become competent users of the technology tools that affect their daily lives and future careers. Cox develops these programs to teach students to use these tools effectively.
Calendar

Nov. 11-Dec. 2

Sundays
10 p.m.—Catholic Mass in the President’s House. Students as well as faculty and staff are welcome to join us.

Mondays
10 to 11 a.m.—Bible Study will be held in the Unity Center.

Wednesdays
6 to 8 p.m.—Christian Student Association meets in the Unity Center, lower level.

Oct. 11-Nov. 20
Thanksgiving Food Collection. Bring non-perishable items to Campus Ministry Office in the Unity Center. Call 456-8168 for more information.

Nov. 11-Dec. 4
Christmas Giving Tree/Toy Collection. Look in Donovan Dining Center for the giving tree or drop off an unwrapped toy to the Campus Ministry Office in the Unity Center. For further information, call 456-8168.

**Fiesta Latina!!**

November 14, 2002
6 - 9 p.m.

Spanish Dinner and Music!

Henry Barnard Student Center

Two seatings – 6 and 7:30 p.m.

Adults - $7; Children $5; RIC Students with ID - $5

For tickets or further details, contact Sru. Sanchez at HBS 177 or call 456-9780.

Proceeds will be used to help finance the Puerto Rico Exchange Student visit to HBS in January.

Around the campus...

HALLOWEEN trick-or-treaters from Cooperative Preschool toured the campus on Oct. 30. Above, the little goblins pose in the Office of Academic Support and Information Services (OASIS).

What’s News at Rhode Island College

Editor: Jane E. Fusco
Associate Editor: George LaTour
Information Aide: Pauline McCartney
Photographer: Gordon E. Rowley
Design Manager: Cynthia L. Page
Graphic Designer: Kimberly Sherman ’02
Public Relations Assistant: David Cranshaw ’03

What’s News at Rhode Island College (US681-650) is published biweekly by: Rhode Island College Office of News and Public Relations, 600 Mt. Pleasant Ave., Providence, RI 02908. It is published throughout the academic year except during semester breaks. Periodicals postage paid at Providence, RI.

Postmaster:
Send address changes to: What’s News at Rhode Island College Office of News and Public Relations, 600 Mt. Pleasant Ave., Providence, RI 02908.

Deadline:
Deadline for submission of copy and photos is noon the Friday two weeks before publication date.

Telephone: 401-456-8090
Fax: 401-456-8887

The Back Page

The next issue of What’s News will be Dec. 2.

Deadline for submission of copy, photos, etc. is Friday, Nov. 22 at noon.

Story ideas are welcome. Call 401-456-8090 or email jfusco@ric.edu.

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 Building 10 on the East Campus or email to jfusco@ric.edu or glatour@ric.edu. All materials are subject to editorial review.