5-10-2004

What's News At Rhode Island College

Rhode Island College

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RIC's Sesquicentennial commencements to confer 5 honorary degrees, 1,300 advanced and undergraduate degrees

by Michael Smith
Assistant to the President

RIC’s the state’s oldest public institution of higher learning, has invited its oldest living alumna –109-year-old Natalie Howe and other distinguished guests to participate in this year’s commencements ceremonies to recognize its 150-year history.

Sesquicentennial Fanfare, a six-trumpet concerto composed especially for the occasion by Joseph D. Foley, assistant professor of music, will herald the 150th Commencement at Rhode Island College — the oldest public institution of higher learning in the state — as more than 1,300 degrees are conferred in ceremonies on May 13 and May 15.

The 2004 honorary degree recipients at graduate commencement exercises on May 13 are Samuel A. Worthington, chief executive officer of Childreach/Plan, who will give the keynote address and be awarded a doctor of humanities; and Beatrice Schwartz Levin ’42, an author and playwright, who will be granted a doctor of letters. Advanced degree ceremonies will begin at 9:30 a.m. on the campus esplanade. (Ceremonies will move indoors to the Murray Center if inclement weather.) There will be additional venues on campus to view the commencement via closed-circuit television in the auditoriums in Gage and Roberts Halls, and the lecture halls in Horace Mann, Fogarty Life Science and the Clarke-Science buildings will be open to guests.

BEATRICE SCHWARTZ LEVIN, Doctor of Letters, Graduate Commencement

A member of the Class of 1942 of the (then) Rhode Island College of Education, Levin has forged a highly successful career as an author and playwright, including books promoting family and women’s issues, often written for young readers. She is listed in Contemporary Authors, The Dictionary of International Biography, Foremost Women in Communication, and Who’s Who of American Women.

A loyal alumna who has consistently supported her alma mater, she most recently traveled to Rhode Island from her home in Texas to attend the 75th anniversary celebration for The Anchor, the College’s student publication for which she once served as editor. A sampling of her published works includes: The Singer and the Summer, published by Berkley Highland; Women and Medicine, published by Scarecrow Press; Queen Emma, Blossom of Hawaii (an original play); John Hawk: A Seminole Saga, published by Lakan Press; and Creative Games for Teaching English: Fun and Wonderful Sourcebook of Knowledge, Vocabulary, and Grammar Games. In addition to her work in creative writing and publishing, Levin served as editor.

Continued on page 6

Everyone who has ever had any connection to the city of Providence has a tale to tell about its revitalization. So two esteemed professors at Rhode Island College collaborated over two years on Providence The Renaissance City, a book they call the “comprehensive and detailed story” of the restorations and plans for its economic and cultural growth, in the forum: Providence, The Renaissance City: Celebrating Successes, Sustaining Momentum, on Friday, May 14 at 1 p.m., in the Helen Forman Theatre in the Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts.

“Rhode Islanders are now rightly proud of their capital city. We felt

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by Jane Fusco
What’s News Editor

RIC’s Center for Public Policy presents an open forum on May 14. Many of Providence’s key figures, past and present, will give remarks on their roles in Providence’s renaissance. The event coincides with launch of the book Providence The Renaissance City, by RIC professors Francis Leazes and Mark Motte.

THE BOOK: Providence The Renaissance City, by RIC professors Francis Leazes and Mark Motte.

Continued on page 6
Then and Now...

In keeping with the Sesquicentennial celebration, we will feature a series of paired photos showing the College “Then” and “Now.”

TALKING WITH THE TOP: For this issue we look back to circa 1966-68, when Charles Willard was acting president of Rhode Island College. In the photo on the left, he is being interviewed by students. We pair that photo with a very recent one of current president John Nazarian, also talking with students — this time with officers of the Class of 2004, just before Cap and Gown Day ceremonies on April 28.

**Focus on the 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, Building 10 or email them to cpage@ric.edu.

**David C. Woolman**, professor in the Curriculum Resources Center, published an article titled “Education for Social Integration and Civic Stability in Sub-Saharan Africa: A Foundation for National Progress in the Global Economy?” in a Special Issue of the journal World Studies in Education (Vol.4, No.2, 2003: pp.29-51). The issue theme was “Globalization and Internationalization: Education, Human Development and Nation-Building.” His article first examines the historical relationships between educational policy and nation-building in multicultural societies. The potential role of African schools in enabling more stable governance and social cohesion is analyzed with emphasis on expanded educational opportunity, economic integration, and political participation for diverse cultures within nation-states. Curriculum reform is identified as an important element in educational transformation with key factors being the promotion of civic responsibility, consensus on democratic values, critical thinking and problem solving, inclusion of indigenous cultural heritages, multilingual proficiency, political participation, and respect for cultural pluralism. This research was informed by studies that found a strong correlation between gains from global economic integration and high rates of investment in education, social cohesion, and political stability.

The following are recent presentations authored or co-authored by Raquel Shapiro ’60, professor, Henry Barnard School:

- National Council of Teachers of Mathematics 82nd annual meeting, Philadelphia, Penn., April 24
- *Games to Facilitate Understanding of Mathematics and Science* with Ronald G. Shapiro, PhD (program manager of the IBM Technical Learning Curriculum).
- *Eastern Psychological Association* 75th annual meeting, Washington, D.C., April 11-18
- *School Psychology: A Rewarding Career*
- *Games to Explain Human Factors: Some Old, Some New, Some Borrowed, and Some Blue!* by Ronald G. Shapiro, Jean E. Fox, PhD, (US Government Bureau of Labor Statistics), Raquel Shapiro, Margarita M. Posada, MA (Fordham University)

**Dan L. King**, vice president for academic affairs, and his wife Sheila Taylor King, academic dean at Urban College of Boston, presented the following two papers at the annual meeting of the Association of University Administrators (of the United Kingdom) recently in Stoke-on-Trent, England:

- “Applying the Concepts of Consonance, Dissonance, and Rejection to Enrollment Management in Collegiate Settings.”
- “America’s Commitment to Diversity in Higher Education — an Early Analysis of the U.S. Supreme Court’s Decision in the Michigan Cases.”


**Valerie A. Endress**, assistant professor of communications, attended the Eastern Communication Association Convention held this year in Boston April 22-25. She presented a paper entitled, “Loud Stomach Silence in the Granite State: An Analysis of the Democratic Contenders’ Articulation of a Foreign-Policy Vision” for a panel devoted to rhetorical analyses of the New Hampshire presidential primary. On a panel focused on autobiographical works of women in politics, Endress presented the paper, “Settling Old Scores: Jeremiadic Construction in Linda Chavez’s *An Unlikely Conservative*.” She also chaired two panels sponsored by the Rhetoric and Public Address Interest Group. For the Political Communication Interest Group, she served as chair and discussant on “Teaching Political Engagement Inside the Communication Classroom: A Roundtable Discussion of Active-Learning Strategies.” She also served as a discussant on a three-hour symposium devoted to the rhetorical enactment of civic engagement, a special program sponsored by the Eastern Communication Association president. At this annual meeting, Endress was elected to a three-year term on the executive council, the ruling body of the organization.

**Richard R. Weiner**, dean of the faculty of arts and sciences and professor of political science, presented a paper entitled “The Political Economy of Deaning” at the annual meeting of the Public Choice Society in Baltimore, Md., in March. The paper — co-authored with Wolfgang Glick, professor of economics at Dartmouth College, a colleague at the Harvard Center for European Studies — engages rational choice theory with both institutionalism and critical theory. Weiner presented another paper, “Traces of the Stillborn?: The Governance of Social Law,” at the History Matters Conference at New School University on April 24 and at the New England Political Science Association on May 1. Weiner has also been invited by the International Society for the Study of European Ideas (ISSEI) to organize the workshop on “Civil Society, Individualism and Democracy” at the ISSEI biennial meetings at the University of Navarra in Pamplona, Spain, in early August.

**Important Dates**

- **Thursday, May 13**
  - Graduate Commencement 5:30 p.m. The Murray Center

- **Friday, May 14**
  - Commencement Gala 6:30 p.m. Reception 7:30 p.m. Dinner Donovan Dining Center

- **Saturday, May 15**
  - Undergraduate Commencement 9:30 a.m. Campus Explanade (In the Murray Center in case of inclement weather)
Student club promotes physical science on the campus and in the community

by Rob Martin
What's News Managing Editor

Fun and physical science are not usually linked terms. The latter, with its alphabet-soup symbols and obscure formulas, is sometimes regarded as incomprehensible and unexciting — a nerds-only pursuit. And like bass fishing and thumbing the TV remote, physical science tends to be a mostly male activity.

But senior Lisa Rose Bucci knows better. As president of the Physical Science Club at RIC, she and club members are working to put the fizzle into physical science by promoting their discipline on campus. They are also getting physical at elementary schools in the hopes that grade-schoolers — particularly girls — can discover that where science is concerned, geeky is not freaky — it’s actually a lot of fun.

To make the case to youngsters, Bucci, a chemistry and physics education major, points to Project Catalyst, the club’s cornerstone initiative, which brings hands-on science projects into Providence grade schools, where most lack a science program.

The club visited Laurel Hill school in its initial foray, then most recently went to Anthony Carnevale school where club members divided into four groups — Team Newton’s Laws, Team Pressure, Team Density and Team Electricity, each providing a presentation on a specific area of physical science.

“We try to get topics that the kids are seeing every day,” said Bucci. “At the elementary level, they’re still curious and asking why, why, why.”

Project Catalyst is targeted to fourth and fifth graders, who, because of their background in math and science, are ready to ask some learning about science, said Bucci. “They love it,” she said of the project. “You go into the school and they’re so excited. We like to be a part of giving back to the community.”

In addition to exposing students to theories, these science mentors also provide students with experiment kits that offer a tangible, do-it-yourself experience. Club members plan to return to the two elementary schools in the hopes that grade-schoolers — particularly girls — can discover that where science is concerned, geeky is not freaky — it’s actually a lot of fun.

In order to promote the notion of women in physical science and to be able to expand Project Catalyst, fundraising is necessary, and the club has found a unique way to do that. In addition to selling goggly eyes to RIC students who take physical science courses (the club gets 10 percent of the top-ranking jobs in those fields are held by women. She also cited a study that showed 4th grade boys and girls had the same amount of interest in science, but by the eighth grade, twice as many boys as girls were interested in science, though girls performed just as well on tests.

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Bucci and the club are also trying to increase female involvement in the sciences. She noted that historically, women and physical science haven’t mixed. Only 19 percent of science, engineering and math related jobs belong to women, and 10 percent of the top-ranking jobs in those fields are held by women.

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RIC visits California

Our RIC on the Road alumni reception in San Diego, Calif., on April 17 was held at the home of Beth and Mitch ’77 Malachowski and their two children, Michelle and Erica. Alumni and friends who attended the reception ranged from Jerry McCormick ’79 to Daniel Faro ’01. A total of 38 people attended the California event including Claire Gimber ’62 from Scottsdale, Arizona.

RIC on the Road! continues

Our New York City event attracted alumni and friends to the scenic Skyclub on the 57th floor of the Met Life building on Park Avenue on April 7. Our next RIC on the Road event will be held May 22 in the Dallas/Ft. Worth area. Invitations have been mailed to all Texas alumni and friends. Please call the alumni office at 401-456-8086 for information.

Nominating Committee Report

According to the by-laws of the Alumni Association, “by May 15, the director shall notify all active alumni of the proposed slate, at-large nominees, and the date, time and location of the June board meeting. Election of officers and directors shall take place at the June 16 board meeting.”

Officers for 2004-2006

President — Marianne Needham ’59 (East Greenwich), Retired College Professor
Vice President — Ellen Kitchell ’81 (North Providence), Controller, J.H. Lynch
Treasurer — Frank Todisco ’92 (Stonington, Conn.), VP, Domestic Bank
Secretary — Jason Anthony ’99 (Cranston), Admissions Officer, RIC
Past President — Mike Lopes ’71 (Portsmouth), College Administrator, Roger Williams University

Terms to expire in June 2006

Bill Fazioli ’86 (East Providence), Sr. VP, First Southwest Co.
Dan Pires ’63 (Cranston), Retired Educator
Pierre (Pete) Emond ’69 (Pawtucket), Teacher, Mt. St. Charles
Lori Martin ’83 (Cranston), College Administrator, RIC
Bernie Treml III ’93 (Johnston), Safety Specialist, RI Dept. of Labor

Class of 1964 Reunion — June 18-20, 2004

Join your classmates for a weekend of fun and reminiscing at our 40th anniversary class reunion!

June 18, Cocktail Party, At the home of Claire Giannamore
June 19, Dinner Dance Providence Marriott
June 20, Sunday Brunch Providence Marriott
Contact Claire Giannamore at (401) 372-0001; cmg280@aol.com for more information.

PARTY TIME (l to r): Mitch Malachowski ’77, guest Gary Burnette ’80, and Beth Malachowski.

GREETINGS: College President John Nazarian greets guests at the Malachowski home during the California alumni reception April 17.

NEW YORK RECEPTION: The youngest present at the event was alumnus Mark O’Connell ’00 pictured with Joan Kirsh Becker ’39, the most senior alumna there.

PARTY TIME (l to r): Kevin Gatta ’79, College President John Nazarian and New York reception host Gary Mohamed ’85 at The Skyclub in New York City.

Address: www.RIC.edu/GiveNow
Monolingualism can be cured by learning another language!

By Michael Smith
Assistant to the President

With the College’s Sesquicentennial Commencement upon us, it is an opportunity to look back 50 years ago, on the occasion of the 190th anniversary of the institution’s founding.

Festivities were launched at a special banquet held at the old Narragansett Hotel in Downtown Providence on May 3; tickets were sold for $5 each. Last this style, like a banana, one must note that $5 in 1954 had the buying power of $34.83 in 2004 dollars. By way of comparison, tickets for the 2004 Sesquicentennial Commencement Gala are being sold for $30.

A special Centennial Convocation was held on the afternoon of Sunday, May 16 at Veterans Memorial Auditorium. After musical selections by the Rhode Island Philharmonic Orchestra, a speech was given by Gov. Dennis J. Arstotz, by the Chair of the Board of Trustees of State Colleges, Livingston Kelley, and by College President William C. Gaige. The principal address was given by Henry M. Wriston, president of Brown University from 1937-1956, who received an honorary doctor of education degree at the convocation.

The Commencement Address was given by Judge Harold R. Medina of the United States Court of Appeals, 2nd Circuit (New York City), who was noting that the support of sectarian religion in public education had been instrumental in the founding and in this early years of the Rhode Island Normal School.

Class Day was held on the afternoon of Friday, June 18 on the lawn of the State House. The ceremony was enlivened by the carrying off the traditional daisy chain by the seniors wearing white gowns. President Gaige gave the class and awarded certificates to eight students — five seniors and three juniors — being inducted into “Who’s Who Among Students at Brown University and the State Colleges.” The seniors were Joan P. Black, of North Providence; Frank A. Bucci, of Glocester; Joan M. Duval, of Manville; Mary T. McCauley, of Providence; and John Nazarian, of Pawtucket.

The program lists the following speakers: Lillian Santannello, as class historian; Allison Horns, who read the Class Ode; Barbara Motte, as class president, presented the address to the Graduates; Frank A. Bucci, as student council president, presented the Address to the Undergraduates; Barbara Finegan delivered the Class Oration; Donald Lyons read the Class Will; and Naomi Sousa delivered the Ivy Oration.

Commencement itself was held on Saturday, June 19, 1954 at Veterans Memorial Auditorium. Degrees were conferred upon 19 in the Church Social Studies Curriculum, 12 in the Mathematics-Science Curriculum, 62 in the Elementary Curriculum, and 22 in the Kindergarten-Primary Curriculum, 3 in Vocational-Industrial Education, and to 30 Teachers in Service. In addition, 30 master of education degrees were awarded.

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The day was sunny and warm, for a high of 83 degrees and a low of 53 degrees was reported by the U.S. Weather Bureau in Hillsgrove.

The world of a half century ago was so different, yet so much seems familiar. On Commencement weekend, 1954, The Providence Journal and Providence Sunday Journal offered the following glimpse of the world into which our Centennial class had just graduated:

**WORLD NEWS**

- Five American advisors to French forces fighting in Indochina were reported missing and presumed killed.
- The American military had just graduated:
  - National News
    - Five American advisors to French forces fighting in Indochina were reported missing and presumed killed.
  - National News
  - The American military had just graduated:
    - National News

**STATE NEWS**

- State Republicans were talking up Walter L. Sundlun as a potential opponent to Sen. Theodore Francis Green in the November elections.
- The first test pails were being readied for driving into the Providence River to support the new Providence River Bridge.
- New England Telephone announced that a switchover to dial telephones would be possible for residents in the East Providence and Seekonk exchanges two years hence — in 1956.

**SPORTS**

- Providence boxing impresario, had the Boston Black Sox climb out of the American League cellar.
- The Sox were one game out at first place in the 8-team league, 19 ½ games out of first and a game ahead of the Baltimore Orioles.

**FINANCIAL**

- The Dow closed on an up note at Friday’s close and stood at 327.10.
- With a 6-3 win over the league-leading Cleveland Indians, the Boston Red Sox climbed out of the American League cellar.

**ENTERTAINMENT**

- Playing at local theatres: The Best Years of Our Lives at the Elsinord and the Park; Cease Fire at the Somerset Drive-In; and Demetrius & the Gladiators at the Glad, WOR, and Allure.

**TV & RADIO**

- WJAR Channel 10 was the only TV station in the area that people could receive. Those with outdoor antennas might be able to receive a snowy signal from WEEZ Channel 4 in Boston. Broadcast hours were from 8:30 a.m. to 12:45 a.m.
- Three major all-day radio stations broadcast in the Providence area: WEAN, WJAR, and WPRO. Their licenses permitted broadcasting from 6 a.m. to midnight. Other local radio stations were limited to broadcasting during daytime hours only.

**ADVERTISING**

- Many Downtown Providence businesses except for several department stores, reported that they were now open on Mondays “for the convenience of the shoppers.”

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Commencement
Continued from page 1

Bld from the Rhode Island College of Education, Levin also holds an MS from the University of Wisconsin at Madison.

SAMUEL A. WORTHINGTON,
Doctor of Humanities, Graduate Commencement
Commencement Speaker

Sam Worthington, a resident of East Greenwich, R.I., has served since 1994 as chief executive officer of Childreach, an international education and training organization. Worthington’s work as a director/director of programs. Prior to Delphi, Worthington was a Fulbright Scholar. As such, he analyzed and evaluated United Nations international development program methodologies at the International Labor Office in Switzerland. Worthington is known as a fundraiser, an educator, a diplomat, and a researcher, who travels throughout the world to assess the needs of developing nations. As an advocate for children worldwide, Worthington works tirelessly to see that their needs are met and their rights respected.

Worthington holds a master’s degree with distinction from the Monterey Institute of International Studies and a bachelor’s degree in political science and French from the University of Vermont. He also did postgraduate work at the Institut Universitaire d’Etudes Internationales in Geneva.

Worthington serves on the boards of Interaction, the Rhode Island Hospital Foundation, and the World Affairs Council of Rhode Island. His home in the city of Newport was featured in the multiple-Oscar nominated movie Deadman Walking starring Sally Field and John Lithgow.

ELIZABETH STREB

Former Rhode Island Attorney General, Mark Motte.

It was this story that was told, in one place and co-authored with co-author Motte. "Slowly but surely, we realized that this story had been ignored," says co-author Leazes. "We read volumes of official reports. We assembled photographs, maps, and images of the Titanic. We interviewed survivors and actors and orchestra conductors. We researched the areas of ethics and open government. An individual of uncommon courage who possessed an indomitable spirit, he was a 16-year-old participant in the Titanic disaster program when he became para
dispelled as the result of research. In the Warwick Police Department in which a gun held by a police officer was accidentally discharged, Langevin not only survived his life-threatening injuries but also persevered and succeeded in the public arena.

He was elected to serve as a delegate to the 1994 Rhode Island Constitutional Convention, and was chosen by his fellow delegates to serve as that body’s treasurer. In 1998, he went on to a position with the R.I. House of Representatives, where he served three terms. In 1994, he was elected statewide as secretary of state, where he was widely acclaimed for opening public records and making them accessible to the public, especially through the use of technology. He was re-elected to this office in 1998. In 2000, he was elected to the United States Congress, one of only two members (the other in the U.S. Senate) to use a wheelchair for mobility.

In addition to his baccalaureate degree from Rhode Island College, Langevin also earned an MPA in 1994 from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

In addition to the five honorary degrees to be awarded at the commencement ceremonies, two former students were given recipients at special events on campus in April.

Refugees International and the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island, Hassenfeld is a board member of Big Brothers of Rhode Island and the Rhode Island Philharmonic, and the New York Young Friends. A prolific composer of scores for stage, film, and television, he has been awarded a number of top awards for his work. His work has been performed worldwide as some of the most unique and significant of our time. His music is called a pop action” into lines of dance, athletics, extreme sports, and Hollywood stunt work. Shreb has been the recipient of many awards and fellowships.

She is currently the Dunn’s Special Scholar in Music at the Rhode Island College of Education. In 1994, the Rhode Island College Dance Company was the first-ever collegiate ensemble to perform a work by Shreb.

ELIZABETH J. JOHNSON, Doctor of Humanities, Guest Reader, Friends of Adams Library Annual Meeting

Meeting (April 22, 2004). Elizabeth J. Johnson is a lifelong historical archivist and community leader. In 1984, she was appointed non-profit historical research center at her residence, the Joseph Spaulding House, which was the first house in Pawtucket to be designated on the National Register of Historic Places. The center was established to preserve that the work of Johnson soon 80 years of age, would continue to be available in the community.

Her collection, which she has amassed and carefully catalogued over the past 50 years, is freely available for the benefit of students, researchers, agencies, public officials, and members of the general public. While the subject matter pertains to the rich history of the city of Pawtucket, the Pawtucket History Research Center is also of enormous value to researchers in any number of areas, including the nature of work in textile mills, the organization of 19th century community services, the diversity of cultures in an early 20th century mill town, and many other areas.

The Pawtucket History Research Center has numerous connections to Rhode Island College. Serving as president of the center, Richard A. Olsen, associate professor emeritus of history, and Mark Motte, professor emeritus of history.

Providing the national public with access to the city’s past and present, the center’s mission is to perform a work by Streb. Streb is a renowned choreogra

suggestions for a policy center.

Many of the people who contrib-
ing to Providence’s restoration over the past 25 years will speak on their experiences. Guests include, among others, former Governor Bruce Sundlun; current Providence Mayor David N. Cicilline; architect and urban designer William Warren; William Collins, Providence’s former mayor; WaterFire creator Arnoldy Evan; historian Linda Wood; The Providence Foundation’s executive director Daniel Raddoul; Dr. Joseph Sherlock, the executive director, Kenneth Grenstein.

Robert Gorinsky, editor-in-chief of the Providence Journal, will discuss his attraction to Providence and why he decided to publish the book.

Among his many prominent members of the business community, for example, the former state and local politicians, artists, architects, lobbyists, developers, co-author Leazes.

He will discuss the current state of the city’s public policy.


MARK MOTTE

is the purpose of aiding state and federal officials seeking assistance in framing land use financial implications, and/or social reper-

commissions, including two BMI Awards, and continued to be available in the community.

Her collection, which she has amassed and carefully catalogued over the past 50 years, is freely available for the benefit of stu-

The event is free and open to the public, and the keynote speaker is Mark Motte, associate profes-

Elizabethtown,'s Dr. of Fine Arts, Ken Mott, received its 45th Anniversary Alumni Commencement (April 2, 2004) was the moment of truth for those who work with a project whose work is recognized by the entire community. This was one of the most unique and significant of our time. Here, we'll discuss the pop action” into lines of dance, athletics, extreme sports, and Hollywood stunt work. Shreb has been the recipient of many awards and fellowships.

She is currently the Dunn’s Special Scholar in Music at the Rhode Island College of Education. In 1994, the Rhode Island College Dance Company was the first-ever collegiate ensemble to perform a work by Shreb.

ELIZABETH STREB, Doctor of Fine Arts, Keynote Speaker, Elizabethtown College's 45th Anniversary Alumni Commencement (April 2, 2004) was the moment of truth for those who work with a project whose work is recognized by the entire community. This was one of the most unique and significant of our time. Here, we’ll discuss the pop action” into lines of dance, athletics, extreme sports, and Hollywood stunt work. Shreb has been the recipient of many awards and fellowships.

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Education offi-
cially approved educational Center for Public Policy at RIC on January 26.

MARK MOTTE

is the purpose of aiding state and federal officials seeking assistance in framing land use financial implications, and/or social reper-

commissions, including two BMI Awards, and continued to be available in the community.

Her collection, which she has amassed and carefully catalogued over the past 50 years, is freely available for the benefit of stu-

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This continuing series in What’s News will feature RIC grads whose career paths have taken some unusual turns.

When news breaks around the state, Steve Laxton is there to cover the story from behind the assignment desk at WPRI Channel 12. That’s when he goes into action, quickly gathering information and assigning reporters and photographers to the scene.

A communications major at the College, Laxton first wanted to obtain a degree in English. He then changed to film and television production, and James Palombo’s production class and internship in the Channel 12 newsroom. He liked the work so much that he asked to stay on during the summer after graduation, assuming a part-time position on weekends before taking on the challenging job of daily assignment editor.

His first big story was John F. Kennedy Jr.’s plane crash and death. “It was a Saturday and I was alone in the assignment desk, trying to figure out the best way to get crews to Nantucket,” he said.

But Laxton said he was well prepared for the rigors of his job because he had paid attention in class and obtained as much hands-on experience as he could while interning in the newsroom.

“I once started taking communications classes, I knew I was destined for a communications-related field,” Laxton said.

Laxton admits he was interested in the news gathering process even before the internet made it convenient and accessible, and prefers the behind-the-scenes activities to being in front of the camera. He remembers taking Philip Palombo’s production class and having to make a TV commercial but couldn’t get the lighting correct.

“That class really taught me what it takes to get something on the air,” Laxton said.

StevE Laxton ’98

This was a time when the adage “words can move mountains” was fitting.

The words in this case were from 10-year-old Aria Mia Loberi, who wrote a letter to Gov. Donald Carcieri titled “What I Would Do With an Old Abandoned Building.” The letter told of how she would use the empty building for teachers of the blind and visually impaired and their students.

Loberi’s words and the relocation of the state’s Vision Services Program to Rhode Island College at a press conference at RIC on April 5, 2004, was a nail-biter, according to Laxton. And one other important thing that happened while at RIC. He met his wife, Sondra, in biology class during his sophomore year.

His advice to today’s communication students: “Find your focus. Know what’s going on in your own backyard, learn everything you can and be sure to listen. If you don’t listen, you won’t learn.”

Steve Laxton is certainly listening. His job depends on it, and so does his viewing audience.

CarCieri Announces relocation of Vision Services Program to RIC

RELOCATION: Gov. Donald Carcieri announced the relocation of the state’s Vision Services Program to Rhode Island College at a press conference at RIC on April 5, 2004, as a huge benefit for those who are visually impaired, said Carcieri.

He noted that the move will allow the state to expand vision services and meet the needs of children more efficiently and effectively. In addition, $100,000 has been added to the program to hire a coordinator.

Carcieri cited Elizabeth Frampton, the mother of a visually impaired student from Warwick, as important voices in the drive to relocate the program. Frampton is the mother of a visually impaired student.

The move is expected to allow more students to learn Braille and to obtain the needed training to function safely in their environment.

In addition to being located at the Sherlock Center, the program will feature RIC professors who are visually impaired.

CarCieri praised the “joint effort” of state education administrators, including RIC President John Nazarian, who hosted the conference.

SenAtor Reed visits RIC...

U.S. SENATOR JACK REED HD ’99, recently visited campus for coffee and conversation with RIC President John Nazarian. They discussed the growth and progress of the College. Reed will attend the 2004 commencement exercises on May 15.
Address to the Class of 2004 by Lloyd Matsumoto, professor of biology, Cap and Gown Convocation, April 28, 2004

President Nazarian, esteemed faculty and staff colleagues, administrative officers, platform guests and members of the Class of 2004, officers and members of the Class of 2004, thank you for five years of addressing you at your cap and gown convocation in this opening of our Sesquicentennial commencement season.

With the exception of a little child, everyone in this auditorium was born in the 20th century. So, in the century in which you were born, what would you say was the greatest of all scientific discoveries? Would you say that it was the harnessing of the power of the atom, or possibly the discovery of antibiotics beginning with Fleming in 1928, would you say that it was the discovery of the DNA molecule as the blueprint of life? In his book, Wonderful Life, the late Harvard paleontologist, George Gaylord Simpson, described the Burgess Shale as the greatest of all fossil discoveries and perhaps the greatest scientific discovery of the 20th century. More than a half billion years ago a group of animals in a shallow pool close to sea level was covered with a mud slide. This mud slide became fossilized with time and through plate tectonics the area was uplifted to give birth to the Rocky Mountains. In British Columbia, in what is now Yoho National Park, high in the Canadian Rockies, the Burgess Shale waited 500 million years for its accidental discovery in 1909 by Charles Walcott, a premier paleontologist of his time. Since the formation of the Burgess Shale, the number of phyla or major groups of animals has steadily decreased from about 80 phyla to less than 20 through extinction. If we look into the future and follow this progressive extinction of phyla to a vanishing point, it is clear that we too are destined for extinction.

Humans from all ages have looked to the heavens and asked the same questions, where did we come from and where are we going? If we answer these questions with certainty we evolved out of primordial ooze. More than a half billion years ago a group of animals lived in a shallow pool close to sea level. By contrast, the second bell curve is narrow with a variety of genetic traits on the horizon—curves. The extinction of a population ensures that a species will avoid extinction. An asteroid impact would result in a catastrophic event that would result in the extinction of many species. (The complete text of his speech appears below.) Dan King, vice president for academic affairs, presented the departmental awards, given to dozens of 2004 graduates for outstanding achievement in scholarship, leadership, and service over the course of their College careers (see list on p. 9). Gary Penfield, vice president for student affairs, recognized the seniors who qualified for inclusion in Who’s Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges.

Address to the Class of 2004 shows generosity at Cap and Gown Convocation, April 28, 2004
Cap and Gown ceremony

A PREVIEW: Jeremy Moore caps classmate Kristen Luongo just before the line of march.

CLASS SPEAKER: Jacqueline Crevier was chosen by her peers to address her class at the Cap and Gown ceremony April 28. Crevier cited her grandfather as an important role model who helped her reach her goals.

Cap and Gown Day 2004 recipients of special departmental awards

Lauren A. Rohan, Art History Award
Melissa M. Richard, Studio Art Award
Kelly L. Boucher, W. Christina Carlson Award for Excellence in Biology
Jamie J. Paczomski, Communications Achievement Award in Public Relations
Matthew M. Coppola, Communications Achievement Award in Telecommunications
Kristina E. Laczyński, Communications Achievement Award in Graphics
Jessica B. Beaman, Communications Achievement Award in Public and Professional
Marissa Carosi, Communications Achievement Award in Speech and Hearing
Nancy L. Koncera, Educational Studies Senior Award
Jessica A. Beauchemin and Ruairí B. Fennsey, Katherine Murray Prize in Educational Studies
Lisa Macaruso, Elementary Education Award
Abbey M. Baker, Jean Garrigue Award in English
Abigail Treglia, Mark W. Estrin Award in Film Studies
Madeline Burgess, Rose Butler Browne Award for Leadership in Volunteer Work
Jessica Nappi, Bertha Christina Andrews Emin Award for Outstanding Achievement
Michelle DiRaimo, Bertha Christina Andrews Emin Award for Scholastic Excellence
Michelle Marie Botelho, Health and Physical Education Award
Timothy Shannon, Pell Award in History
Martha O’Neil, Evelyn Walsh Prize in History
Kamran Alemdar, John E. Hetherman Award in Intercollegiate Athletics
Michele Fanelli, Helen M. Murphy Award in Intercollegiate Athletics
Vanessa K. Cravecien, John Silva Memorial Scholaristic Award in Management
Roger Fedelia, Outstanding Student Award in Accounting
Rosa Colon and Michael Gagne, Outstanding Student Award in Computer Information Systems
Benjamin L. Billings, Wall Street Journal Award in Economics and Finance
Nancy J. Bucci and Melissa M. Costa, Christopher R. Mitchell Award in Mathematics
Ivulisse Sabater, Nelson A. Guerin Memorial Award in Spanish
Jeffrey Cashen, Cantor Jacob Hohenemser Award in Music
Kirsten M. Thurber, Alice K. Pellegrino Music Education Award
Lauren M. Dulude, Rhode Island College Theatre Award
Nicole Carrara, Yeta Rauch Mekar Dance Award
Sara Burton, Academic Excellence in Nursing
Elisabeth Botelho, Service Excellence in Nursing
Mary Baramski, Nursing Award to a Registered Nurse
Jeffrey A. Bouffard, Thomas J. Howell Award in Philosophy
Lynsie Almeida, American Institute of Chemists Award
Justin Routhieuse, Ronald J. Boruch Award for Excellence in the Physical Sciences
Michael Cook, Departmental Physics Award
Amanda Chapman and Mary E. Driscoll, Herbert R. Winter Award for Academic Excellence in Political Science
Donald Bucolo and Regina Peters, Victoria Lederberg Psychology Award
Lisa Sapino, Bachelor of Social Work Program Community Service Award
Jeffrey Schwartz, Anthony E. Ricci Social Work Practice Award
Tara Mancini, Mary Ann Hawkes Award in Justice Studies
Erin Lacey, Lauris B. Whitman Award in Sociology
Michele K. Dunphy, Elisa F. Bonaventura Award in Special Education
Tiffany L. Branner, Josephine A. Stillings Award in Special Education

Recipients of special departmental awards on Cap and Gown Day 2004.
We have been passive. We have been stupid. We have been done all the things we could do to destroy ourselves. If there is any hope at all for the human race, it has to come from young people. Not from adults. —Julio Contreras, AV technician, RIC  

Marriages Made at RIC
Julio Contreras ‘80 and Andriana Tegu-Contreras ‘76

Andriana and I met when I was the assistant soccer coach on campus, and she played defense on the team. She was studying for her master’s degree at the time. One day, she was early for practice and spoke to me. She was studying for her masters degree at the time, as well as representing asRose Island College, New England Association of Teachers of English, and RIC’s Caribbean Studies Center. He will also be the 2004 recipient of the Rhode Island College/Alliance for the Study and Teaching of Adolescent Literature Award for his contributions to literature for young people. Previous

Gary Paulsen headlines 2004 Under the Spell of Books conference

Marriage is the Spell of Books conference on May 21 and 22 begins with an evening celebration for young people, their families, teachers and a special guest. —Gary Paulsen — one of the most popular and well as highly regarded authors for readers of all ages. Paulsen, author of Hatchet and over 175 other books for young people, will speak at the main session on Friday, May 21 at 7 p.m. in the Student Union Ballroom. The conference will conclude with a luncheon, featuring speaker Janet Taishaj, an author whose books include The Gospel According to Larry, Vote for Larry, and Faith Lives, among others. Taishaj, a Rhode Island native who now lives in the United States, has written several of her books while visiting Rhode Island beaches.

On-site registration for Saturday’s pro- gram, which begins at 8 a.m., is $60, and includes lunch and a book.

This annual event is jointly sponsored by the Rhode Island College Foundation, the Alliance for the Study and Teaching of Adolescent Literature (ASTAL), Rhode Island Writing Project, Rhode Island Media Association, New England Association of Teachers of English, and the Board of Directors and affiliates of the International Reading Association, Center for the Study and Teaching of Adolescent Literature.

For more information call Jean Brown at 401-456-0457 or visit www.ric.edu/ astal/
RIC students and staff volunteer to take the Access Challenge

A disabled student’s idea helps the campus and the state realize the plight of the physically disabled

by Jane Fusco
What’s News Editor

They started their day in the usual way, gathering books and coursework, leaving the dorm to go to class, the dining hall, the library, to meetings or to meet friends. But unlike other days, these otherwise usual activities were performed in an unusual way—from wheelchairs.

Seven students and two administrators from the College volunteered to conduct their daily activities and navigate the campus from wheelchairs during the first-ever Access Challenge held April 12-16 to help increase awareness of the hurdles faced by those with physical disabilities.

The student participants were: sophomore Stephanie Alexander, freshman Sarah DaMoea, junior Chris Fernandes, senior Tara Mancini, freshman Victoria Peters, sophomore Kemi Price and freshman Marfan Syndrome, a genetic tissue disorder that makes her unable to walk for long distances and uses a wheelchair to get around the campus, presented Bruce with the idea for the Access Challenge. The Office of Student Disability Services helped create the challenge and obtained the wheelchairs from the Student Life Office, Health Services and Student Affairs.

DaMoea said she was surprised to see the challenges a disabled person has to face.

“I really wanted them to get the experience. Even if it was for a day or a couple of hours, I knew the challenge would have a lasting effect on them regardless of how long they participated.”

Wright is most pleased that her idea gained statewide awareness when NBC 10 covered the challenge with extensive stories. The Office of Student Disability Services helps students with disabilities gain access to academic and physical aspects of the campus, and helps to increase awareness of disability-related issues on campus.

The office recently presented a four-day training session on disability awareness and establishing a more accepting environment for members of the campus community called “Changing the Culture.”

For Wright, the challenge fulfilled her goal of making the challenge real. “It had to be the right thing,” she said.

Wright has worked to improve accessibility and spread awareness of the struggles that people with physical disabilities face, since she was in high school, where she created a program called Making Access. She continued this program recently at RIC with an invitation to the campus community to participate in the Access Challenge of navigating the campus in wheelchairs while carrying out a daily routine.

For Wright, the challenge fulfilled her goal of making the challenge real. “It had to be the right thing,” she said.

With the support of the Unity Center and the Office of Student Disability Services, she has spread awareness about the barriers that still exist even beyond the Americas with Disabilities Act.

Wright is a resident assistant on campus, a founding member of the NAACP campus chapter, a member of the Harambee organization and active in the theatre program. She will graduate in May at age 20 with 121 credits and a 3.0 GPA earned in three years.

The Riley Award recognizes young women who have overcome challenges, been involved in the community, and work towards a greater understanding of the differences among us.

(Edward’s note: Corporal Karen Pinch of the RI State Police received the Outstanding Woman in Public Service Award on April 8. Pinch is the daughter of Levern Delia, RIC vice president for administration and finance.)

Dana Wright chosen as an “Angel Among Us” by the YWCA

Dana A. Wright, a senior communications major, was the recipient of the Beverly J. Wiley YWCA Young Woman of Distinction award presented on April 8 at the Rhode Island Convention Center as part of the YWCA’s annual Angels Among Us Outstanding Women Awards.

Wright was nominated by Mary R. Olenn of RIC’s Office of Health Promotion. In her nomination letter, Olenn wrote: “It is electric to watch Dana in action! She is a study in bold, quiet leadership...Dana’s superior accomplishments have come about in spite of many hospitalizations and progressive mobility limitations. Dana is just beginning her accomplishments because she sets her sights high, and she has a passion for learning and life.”

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Freshman Jetzable Rosado wheels her way around campus.

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RICHARD I. CARCICERI, chief of staff to the governor, and Donna Sweeney, director of the state’s Board of Governors for Higher Education, announced a new agreement that will provide financial aid to students studying at Rhode Island’s three state-supported public institutions of higher education.

The presidents of Rhode Island’s three state-supported institutions of higher education signed a Joint Admissions Agreement (JAA) on May 3, 2004, at the Radisson Hotel in Warwick, in a special ceremony hosted by the state’s Board of Governors for Higher Education.

Presidents John Nazarian of Rhode Island College, Robert L. Carothers of the University of Rhode Island and Thomas D. Sepe of the Community College of Rhode Island were joined by Commissioner Jack R. Warner and Board Chair Frank Caprio for the signing. The agreement was approved by the board on August 19, 2003, and will take effect on August 16, 2004.

Through the JAA, students will graduate from CCRI with an associate degree and a package of 60 credits that will be applicable to a bachelor’s degree at one of the other two institutions rather than being considered as potential transfers. JAA students will be the joint responsibility of CCRI and the senior institution from the point of signing on for the agreement.

According to Warner, the agreement supports the goal of the Board of Governors to increase overall educational attainment for Rhode Islanders by making it easier for students who enroll initially at the Community College to continue enrollment at RIC and URI with no loss of credit.

Sepe said that the agreement provides direct access for continuous higher education for CCRI students and will benefit CCRI, RIC and URI, and formal recognition of the comparable level of excellence in the education that the three public institutions of higher education provide. In addition, the agreement will provide financial benefits.

“The JAA will reduce the financial costs to students and to the taxpayer by reducing the necessity for students to repeat or enroll in additional courses in transferring,” said Sepe.

On a transition successfully to the baccalaureate institution, JAA students must choose one of the designated majors, select the courses listed in the Transition to the RIC or URI Program, have a cumulative GPA of 2.4, consult with an academic advisor and meet all of the requirements for admission to a specified major. A total of 20 majors have approved Transition Plans at RIC and URI, with additional plans under consideration.

Out of the 60 credits in the Transition Plan, 32 credits are applicable to the RIC or URI bachelor’s education requirements. A JAA student will have completed most of their general education requirements by the time they transition to RIC or URI.

While enrolled at CCRI, students will have access to advisors from URI or RIC. The senior institutions will waive the application fee for students enrolling through the JAA and will invite students to a specific campus and other certain events. JAA students will register for courses with other students having the same number of credits rather than during a transfer registration period.

Nazarian said that the emphasis on joint advising would serve students well during the transition from one university to the University or the College.

“Successful navigation of the many academic requirements and responsibilities leading to a baccalaureate degree can be a challenge. Transferring from one institution to another can compound that challenge. With advisors from different institutions working together, there is little question that students will benefit,” Nazarian said.

Carothers said that for students who cannot easily come to URI’s Kingston campus to study, this agreement provides a cost-effective pathway to a degree while living at home for two years and then matriculating at either the Kingston or Providence campuses of URI.

Each of the institutions has appointed a JAA campus contact: Heather Smith (CCRI: hsmith@ccri.edu), Kandice Salomone (URI: salomone@warwick.edu), and James McCroskey (RIC: jmccroskey@uri.edu).

More information on the Joint Admissions Agreement is available from the campus contact or the Enrollment Services offices at the three campuses of CCRI, URI or RIC. The JAA website is also available on the RI Transfers web site www.righe.org/ritransfers.htm.

The potential audience for Rhode Island College athletic events has grown to include the planet Earth. Now that the College is broadcasting home team games via its website, PC users worldwide have free online access to play-by-play accounts of the action as it happens.

In addition, RIC’s website will provide instant updates — “live stats” — of games so that when a home run is hit, web watchers can read about it while the batter is still rounding the bases.

The technology, provided by High.com, is a trendsetter in college sports. RIC is one of only a few colleges at any level to offer it, and it is the only Division 2 or 3 college in the state with the capability.

“We thought ahead,” said Don Tencher, director of athletics, intramurals and recreation, about the opportunity for web-based interaction. “As we built new sports facilities, we did the necessary work not only above ground, but also below ground,” to make sure sites were equipped with the latest communications infrastructure.

Tencher gave special praise to the information services’ network and telecommunications department for its work in bringing the project to life.

“We have taken a leadership role in developing this,” Tencher said. “It’s part of our overall plan of reaching out to students and corporate bases, booster clubs and the community at large.”

The College, which began broadcasting games over the Internet in 2003 with a pay system, premiered its no-charge, live webcasts in January, providing play-by-play and color coverage of men’s and women’s basketball games. Last season, the Little East men’s basketball final four games were broadcast via the RIC website.

Scott Gibbons, assistant director for media relations and promotions, has called the basketball games, with RIC wrestling coach Jay Jones and students in the public relations and sports media courses calling other events. Gibbons said playing play-by-play for baseball and softball, Gibbons said playing play-by-play for baseball and softball, Gibbons said playing play-by-play for baseball and softball, Gibbons said playing play-by-play for baseball and softball, Gibbons said playing play-by-play for baseball and softball.

Gibbons has found the expanded availability of the broadcasts to be a great way to promote the College’s sports programs. “It’s big for alumni parents and families,” he said. “Even Aunt Jane in Wisconsin can log on.” Gibbons added: “It’s starting to really flourish, and it’s been a lot of fun to do it.”

The technology is less expensive than radio, and presents the potential for a new source of revenue — commercials — which are planned for future broadcasts.

In addition to men’s and women’s basketball, live web casts are currently offered for baseball and softball. This fall, listeners can click onto men’s and women’s soccer as well.

Past broadcasts are archived and available on the website for up to a year.

To link up with a RIC broadcast, click on www.ric.edu/athletics/livebroadcasts.html.
Hetherman and Murphy Award-winners chosen

Senior Kamran Alemdar has received the 2004 John E. Hetherman Award and senior Michele Fanelli received the 2004 Helen M. Murphy Award at the College’s annual Cap and Gown Day on Wednesday, April 28. The awards are based on athletic prowess, value to community and campus involvement.

The Hetherman Award was established in 1958 and sponsored by the IC Class of 1940 to honor its classmate, Jay Hetherman. Hetherman, while a student, played varsity basketball and baseball for two years. He was also active in the drama club and took part in all “Stunt Night” activities and major productions. During World War II, Hetherman became a naval aviator, receiving his wings in Jacksonville, Fla., in 1942. Approximately one year later, while returning from a rescue mission in the South Pacific, Lt. John E. Hetherman crashed and lost his life, leaving an enviable college and service career behind him.

Alemdar, who hails from Stockholm, Sweden, closed out his collegiate career having played two seasons of men’s basketball at RIC. As an Anchorman he played in 52 games, starting 50 of them. Prior to transferring to RIC, Alemdar starred for two seasons at Roger Williams University, earning First Team All-Commonwealth Coast Conference honors as a sophomore in 2001-02. In his four-year college career, he totaled 1,483 points, 477 rebounds, 171 assists, 68 blocks and 106 steals.

As a senior in 2003-04, he was named Second Team All-Little East Conference. He played in 26 games, starting 25 of them. He averaged a team high 14.3 points, while also contributing 3.8 rebounds and 1.7 assists per game. Alemdar registered season highs of 25 points, vs. Umass-Dartmouth on February 11, seven rebounds, vs. Western Connecticut, on several occasions, four assists, vs. Southern Maine on February 14 and three blocks vs. UMass-Boston on February 7.

As a junior in 2002-03, Alemdar played in 26 games, starting 25 of them. He averaged 13.7 points, 4.2 rebounds and 1.6 assists per game. He registered season-highs of 29 points, vs. Western Connecticut, seven rebounds on three separate occasions, five assists vs. Bridgewater and three steals twice.

Alemdar, a four-year starter, started on a season high seven three-pointers, going 7-10, vs. Western Connecticut.

He is a communications major and a 1999 graduate of Vasalunds Gymnastiet. Alemdar received a Student-Athlete Award from Speaker of the House William J. Murphy and the Rhode Island House of Representatives at the State House on Wednesday, May 5. The Murphy Award was established in 1979 and sponsored by the faculty of the Henry Barnard School to honor an outstanding Rhode Island College senior woman athlete.

The award is named for Helen M. Murphy, a graduate of Rhode Island College in 1939, who was a member of the faculty for 38 years and taught at the Henry Barnard School, beginning in 1941, until her retirement in 1979.

Fanelli, who hails from Pembroke Pines, Fla., finished her career in 2003. As one of the great softball players in RIC history, she leaves having played in 148 games, starting 119 of them. She batted .359 with 415 at-bats, 77 runs, 135 hits, 31 doubles, seven triples, 36 walks and eight stolen bases. She owned a career slugging percentage of .402 and an on base percentage of .417. She leaves RIC as the school’s all-time leader in hits, doubles, runs by pitch and total bases.

As a senior in 2003, Fanelli was named the Little East Conference’s Co-Player of the Year, as well as earning First Team All-Little East honors for the third straight year and team MVP honors for the second consecutive season. She played in 34 games, starting all of them. Fanelli batted .382 with 16 runs, 39 hits, 12 doubles and 23 RBIs. She owned a .300 slugging percentage, .479 on-base percentage and a .381 fielding percentage.

As a junior in 2002, she was named First Team All-Little East Conference. Fanelli started all 30 games, starting all of them. She batted .375 with 22 runs, 48 hits, six doubles, four triples, 28 RBIs and one stolen base. She owned a .484 slugging percentage, a .396 on base percentage and a .590 fielding percentage.

Sports Events

The International Scholar-Athlete Hall of Fame first inductee into the Rhode Island College Athletic Hall of Fame. He was an outstanding men’s basketball player during his days as an Anchorman and went on to a stellar 32-year coaching career at the Community College of Rhode Island.

In addition to Wilkes, Donald E. Teanor, RIC director of intercollegiate athletics, named the late G. Gail Davis ’60, director of student-athlete development, will receive the Frank Keaney Award at the same reception.

A 1991 inductee into the Rhode Island College Athletic Hall of Fame, was a renowned high school basketball and volleyball coach.

The award is given to individuals who have dedicated themselves to academics and coaching in the spirit of Frank Keaney, the legendary men’s basketball coach and chemistry teacher at the University of Rhode Island.
Kaleidoscope Theatre brings summer fun to RIC

The Annual Senior Show, a juried exhibition that highlights the work of seniors graduating from the Department of Art, runs through May 15 at Bannister Gallery.

Works from all areas of the department will be featured, including ceramics, drawing, fiber, graphic design, jewelry design, painting, photography, printmaking and sculpture.

Gallery hours during exhibitions are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m., and Saturday, noon - 5 p.m. Closed weekends and holidays.

Exhibits and events are free and accessible to persons with disabilities.

For information on event dates and exhibit opening receptions, check the web site at arts.cci.ri.edu/Bannister or call 401-456-9765.

Singer and social worker Donna Harris straddles different worlds

Donna Harris was in her mid-30s when she began to feel that she needed something more in her life.

For nearly a decade, the singer appeared on the Grammy Awards show, and sang with featured artists on The Rosie O'Donnell Show and The Late Show with David Letterman. She now lives in Manhattan, where she is a singer — it will always be in me." she says. "But I will always be a singer — it will always be in me."

For nearly a decade, the singer performed at lavish corporate events in New York City, Newport and Boston. She had traveled around the world to entertain royalty, including the Kings of Morocco, the Sultan of Brunei and Prince Edward of England.

But when she met her husband, musician and painter Ken Richards of New Bedford, in 1998, she was inspired to open her eyes to a larger, less glamorous world.

Harris' first production of Snow White and Patti Nolin at RIC, this summer. Several RIC graduates and undergraduates will appear as various characters throughout the summer series.

This is Kaleidoscope Theatre's 27th year touring throughout New England with over 25 fairy tale musicals, many award-winning school touring productions, dinner theatre murder-mysteries and cabarets, plus several productions to help various special needs programs and organizations.

The internationally acclaimed touring theatre company was the resident children's theatre at the Warwick Municipal Theatre for 18 years and for the past three years has made RIC its summer home.

Having performed in Israel, at the White House and from Maine to Texas, Kaleidoscope Theatre members still say that there is no audience like the home audience right here in Rhode Island.

Summer shows at RIC will be held in the Roberts Hall Auditorium on Tuesdays at 11 a.m. on the following dates:

July 6 - Jack & the Beanstalk
July 13 - Alice in Wonderland
July 20 - Beauty & the Beast
July 27 - Rapunzel
August 3 - Peter Pan
August 10 - Cinderella
August 17 - Snow White
August 24 - Sleeping Beauty

Tickets are $6 in advance and $8 at the door. A special offer of $5 per ticket is available for groups of 25 or more and for those buying season tickets with VIP seating. Order your tickets early by calling the RIC Box Office at 401-456-8144, Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

For more information, call 401-942-3637.

RIC alumni to present musical Jacques Brel

A troupe of RIC alumni will return to the stage for the 30th anniversary performance of the musical Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris by Patti Nolin '84, M'87. The male performers are Fredric Scheff '83 and pianist Joseph Carvalho '95.

Jacques Brel received acclaim as a pop culture icon, with songs that remain popular today.

The musical is part of the College's Sesquicentennial (150th) celebration.

The anniversary production of the musical will be held on Monday, June 25, at 7:30 p.m. in the Roberts Hall Auditorium on the RIC campus.

General admission tickets are $20, with discounts for seniors and RIC students with valid ID ($10), and can be purchased in advance via VISA or MasterCard by calling 401-456-8144 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays or in person at the RIC Box Office during business hours.

Harris' social work, meanwhile, keeps her connected to the world outside the palace gates.

"As I become more conscious of the human condition, I have become more interested in the cultural, social and economics of people in the world," Harris says.

When I was 25, I was insecure," she concludes. "Today, I'm comfortable in my skin and even more comfortable with my husband — my best friend."

For more information on Harris' band, check out her Web site at straitshathelabel.com.
RJC students awarded membership to National Communication Honor Society

by Jamie J. Pachomski '04

Vice President and Publicity Officer, Epsilon Chi Chapter of Lambda Pi Eta

Nineteen top students from Rhode Island College’s communications department were recently recognized for their academic excellence and personal accomplishments and awarded a T-shirt, a lifetime membership certificate and membership pin in the Epsilon Chi chapter of Lambda Pi Eta, the National Communication Honor Society.

The induction ceremony took place March 25 at Vermutte’s Restaurant in Warwick.

“We are very proud of this class,” said Audrey Olmsted, associate professor of communications and department chair. “This group is exceptionally bright and capable with its high level of excellence and service to the college.”

The new members of the Epsilon Chi chapter of Lambda Pi Eta at RIC are Jessica Branstetter, Natasha Bobek, Abby Brooks, Peter Cabral, Martha Cristoferi, Amanda Delahanty (treasurer), Jacqueline Crevier (secretary), Lauren Divito, Katherine Lamb, Ainsley Morrisseau, Jacqueline Crevier (secretary), Grace Ingalls, Mary Nestell, Casey Nurtall, Jaime J. Pachomski, Gina Thibault and Glenn S. Wehber.

Returning members are Allyson Cook, Tessaalinn Kinnunen and Kristina Laczynski (president).

Olmsted credited members of the Association of College Honor Societies (AHC) Lambda Pi Eta has over 400 active chapters at four-year colleges and universities worldwide. Lambda Pi Eta represents what Aristotle described in his book Rhetoric as the four human concerns of personae (Lambda) meaning logic, Pathos (Pi) meaning emotion and Ethos (Eta) defined as character, credibility and ethics.

In addition to conferring distinction on outstanding students, Lambda PiEta promotes student education in community service activities and fosters the discipline of communication in and out of the classroom.

To be eligible for consideration, applicants must have completed at least 60 credits, have a mini-mum cumulative grade point average of 3.25 for all courses taken and have at least 15 semester credit hours in communications studies, additionaly, students must have completed the equivalent of 25 semester credit hours in communications studies, display commitment to the discipline of communication and exhibit high standards of personal and professional character.

Among the activities RJC’s Epsilon Chi chapter has participated in is planning a bake sale, car wash, volunteering at local soup kitchens and shelters, a donation drive for the Animal Rescue League of Southern Rhode Island, a members-only retreat on campus.

“As a member I’ve enjoyed meeting new people that have the same interests as I do,” said senior Marissa Carosi. “It’s also a great feeling to get to know people and being a member of Lambda Pi Eta can contact Kristina Laczynski at Ingenieur2282@42lo.com or Audrey Olmsted at aolmsted@rjc.edu.

Diversity Symposium presented by RJC nursing department

by Joanne Costello

Assistant Professor of Nursing

RJC’s Diversity Department held its third Diversity Symposium “Widening Our Horizons: Meeting the Needs of an Increasingly Diverse Society” on April 5. The focus for this years symposium was “Increasing Access to Welcoming Care for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Clients and Families.”

The event was sponsored by the College’s Lodestar Committee.

As noted by the Rhode Island Foundation’s recent publication Meet the Neighbors, research documents that health care providers discriminate against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender clients leading to delayed, intermittent, or avoided use of health services. Increasing access to welcoming health care has been identified by the Rhode Island Foundation as a top priority for this community.

Nurse practitioners have historically played a key role in patient advocacy and in humanistic philosophy makes this a particularly appropriate career for nurse practitioners and students practicing in our diverse society. The workshop’s goals were to increase awareness of how health care can be more welcoming to gay and lesbian clients. Workshops are aimed at individual client and family based, as well as in terms of initiating institutional change in health care settings and public policy change which would benefit the LGBT community and result in positive health outcomes.

The workshop panel included:

• Sara Burtin, a senior in the nursing program at RJC. She has completed an Honors Project which explores health issues in the transgender community with the goal of increasing sensitivity and respect for diversity among health care professionals.

• Michelle C. Cañas, case manager at VNA of Rhode Island Hospice Unit, 2004 Rhode Island College Nursing Alumni of the Year. Hamel is a leader in both the Rhode Island community and adoptive single parent of two special needs children.

• Carley Capron ’05 and Essjay Fouldroid, Senior Action in a Gay Community (SAGE) coordinator. Fouldroid are leaders and advocates in the senior LGBT community, participating in many high profile workshops, social and political initiatives.
The Campaign for Rhode Island College

We are pleased to announce that alumni and friends of the College have made gifts or pledges in the amount of $22.5 million toward our goal of $25 million. We need YOUR help to reach our goal by the end of June. YOU CAN make a difference.

Be part of this historic moment — support the Campaign.

For more information, contact mbrown@ric.edu/401-456-8440/nhoogasian@ric.edu/401-456-8827 or give online — www.ric.edu

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The next issue of What's News will be in June 2004.

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 rmartin@ric.edu. All materials are subject to editorial review.

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What's News at Rhode Island College (USPS 681-650) is published by: Rhode Island College Office of News and Public Relations, 600 Mt. Pleasant Ave., Providence, RI 02908.

It is published monthly from August to June, except twice monthly in September and March. Periodicals postage paid at Providence, RI.


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

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