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What's News At Rhode Island College

Rhode Island College

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**Opening Convocation – a new academic year begins**

by Rob Martin
What’s News Managing Editor

"May we all build upon the accomplishments of those who have preceded us at this great institution, as we begin the next 150 years of Rhode Island College."

- RIC President John Nazarian

The post-Sesquicentennial era got underway at RIC on August 25 with Opening Convocation drawingnew and veteran faculty and staff to Donovan Dining Center to mark the 1904 academic year. The event featured the annual “state of the College” address by RIC President John Nazarian, who made news on several fronts. He revealed that an on-campus resident retirement center was being considered, and issued a challenge to establish a permanent faculty development endowment. Nazarian also chose the occasion to announce the winner of this year’s Thorp Professorship.

“We are truly fortunate to have the opportunity to engage our talents and our skills in helping to shape the next generation,” said Nazarian. “May we all build upon the accomplishments of those who have preceded us at this great institution, as we begin the next 150 years of Rhode Island College.”

One possible future endeavor is the proposed retirement center, which, according to Nazarian, “has great potential to place Rhode Island College among the leaders in college-level lifelong learning.”

As initially envisioned, the project would involve constructing units to house 200 retirees on the RIC campus, primarily in independent-living units with some provision for assisted living. Residents would have access to academic, social, and recreational programs at the College. In turn, students would benefit from the presence of the seniors, who could provide potential practicum and opportunities for programs such as nursing, social work, psychology and others. Residents could also share their life experiences with current students as guest lecturers or adjunct faculty, or serve as mentors and counselors.

The project was first suggested by Ridgway Shinn, professor emeritus of history. During the summer, a group that included state agency directors Jane Hayward ‘71 (Human Services) and Corinne Russo ’85 (Elderly Affairs) met to discuss the feasibility of establishing such a center.

Nazarian cautioned that the College is still “in the very early stages of investigating such a program,” but invited those interested in participating in the discussion to contact Patti Nolin ‘84, special assistant to the president, for more details.

The RIC leader also called for the establishment of a permanent faculty development endowment, which he termed “a legacy that we can leave for generations to come.”

This is the first time a college in Rhode Island has been selected to take part in the project, now in its third presidential cycle. It is also the first time a DebateWatch forum is being held statewide.

RIC’s DebateWatch will begin with a town meeting at 8 p.m. in the Student Union Ballroom. Political reporters Bill Rappleye of NBC 10 and Jim Hummel of The Providence Journal will moderate the debate.

The event is free and open to the public.

Reactions to the debate will be recorded by forum facilitators and

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**RIC chosen as site of Sept. 30 presidential DebateWatch**

by Jane Fusco
What’s News Editor

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**Continued on page 8**
Looking Back

Here at What’s News we will feature historical photos from the College’s past. Please go to your scrapbooks and send us photos with as much information as possible. All photos will be handled carefully and returned to sender.

FLOAT PARADE: We kick off the semester with this photo from Homecoming 1982. The Float, created by The Resident Student Association, depicts the history of resident life at RIC and notes the openings of the then four residence halls. This Float tied with that of the senior class for first place. Don’t forget Oct. 2 will be Homecoming 2004!

The World at RIC

This column, by Ridgway F. Shown, Jr., professor emeritus of history, will be a regular feature of What’s News. It will provide readers with a look at the many links between the world and Rhode Island College.

When I joined the faculty in 1958, I was impressed at how a world view was current in the ethos of this institution.

This aspect of the College has certainly expanded over the last 30 or more years as faculty and staff have been added with research interests, living experiences, and origins reflecting the whole world.

Increasing numbers of students, as well, are earning portions of their degrees through study outside the United States.

To mention some faculty who were active when I arrived is to illustrate the breadth of interests: Marion Wright, professor emerita of geography, traveled and studied the world in terms of both physical and cultural geography, literally, from Albania to Outer Mongolia to Zambia, and her slides enriched her classes; Chet Smolksi, professor emeritus of geography, researched new towns around the world and actually moved his family to England to experience living in a new town.

Also, the late Elizabeth Cooling in elementary education was an active member of the Society for Comparative Education and traveled to learn how educational systems functioned in other societies; and John Nazarian, professor of mathematics, now resides in Morocco. Nazarian speaks Arabic, has traveled in the Middle East and elsewhere, and he says he is well versed in interview candidates with fluency in Arabic. These faculty members indicate world awareness at RIC. And the list goes on!

These columns will feature the voices of faculty, staff, students, and alumni.

I welcome your suggestions, which can be sent to the via Jane Fusco, editor of What’s News or my e-mail at crshinn@aol.com.

Focus on Faculty and Staff

Faculty and staff are encouraged to submit items of information about their professional endeavors to What’s News, Office of News and Public Relations, Building 10 or email them to cpage@ric.edu.

Maricarmen Margenot, assistant professor of Spanish, presented the talk “Guerras civiles y realidades invisibles en un lugar de los relatos de I. Aldecoa” at the 15th annual conference of the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures at Binghamton University, NY, as part of the series entitled “Literature, Film and War.” In March 2004, in addition, her article “Creación de la identidad femenina y transgresión social en dos relatos de S. Puértolas” was published in selected proceedings of the PFLC-Duquesne University, PA, in November 2004.

Jianhong Liu, professor of sociology, along with Steve Messner (SUNY-Albany) and Lening Zhang (St. Francis University), have recently been awarded a grant from the National Science Foundation in the amount of $293,580 (2004-2006), to conduct a study entitled “Criminal Victimization in Contemporary Urban China: A Multi-Level Analysis of Survey Data for the City of Tianjin.” Liu also has published a co-authored paper (with Lening Zhang) entitled “Official Status and the Swiftness of Criminal Arrest: A Chinese Case of the Impact of Social Position on Criminal Justice” in the June 2004 issue of Policing: An International Journal of Police Strategies and Management. He also presented a paper entitled “Institutional Sources of Crime in the Era of Chinese Economic Reform” at the International Conference of Criminological Societies, in Paris, May 12-16.

Carolyn Fluehr-Lobban, professor, anthropology, is the recipient of a grant from the African Studies Centers of Leiden University in the Netherlands and the University of Bordeaux, France, to carry out research on Islamic law and the state in Sudan. Funded by the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the two European countries, the 13 international fellows will constitute an advisory group to the European Union on issues relating to Islam and the state in Africa. Fluehr-Lobban is the only American funded by the grant. She will spend several months conducting research in Sudan early in 2005 and present her findings before the grant’s sponsors in Paris in May 2005. In addition, an Arabic translation of Fluehr-Lobban’s book Islamic Law and Society in the Sudan (London: Frank Cass, 1987) was translated by Sudanese scholar Mahgoub al-Tigani Mahmoud and published in May 2004.

The work in Arabic is al-Shari`a `Ismali wa al-Majherma fi al-Sudan and was introduced at the May meeting of the Sudan Studies Association at Santa Clara University in California. Ann Colacarro, interim director of residential life and housing, received the 2004 Northeast Association of College and University Housing Officers (NEACUHO) Small College Scholarship. The scholarship is given to a professional from a small college (2,000 beds or less) for the purpose of attending the Association of College and University Housing Officers Internation Annual Conference. This year she attended the conference, held in Montreal, Quebec, June 20-22. Scholarship recipients must be active members of NEACUHO who serve on at least one committee or task force. Colacarro served as the committee chair of the Residential Operations Committee during 2003-04.

Friends of Portuguese Studies at Rhode Island College

Mark your calendar and join us for an afternoon of dining, entertainment and celebration from Portugal to Brazil, from Portuguese Africa to Macau and East Timor!

You are cordially invited to a “Convivio de Amigos” (Gathering of Friends) to celebrate our first anniversary and to benefit Portuguese Studies at Rhode Island College.

The Honorable Jack Reed, U.S. Senator, is scheduled to speak.

The Honorable Paul J. Tavares, RI General Treasurer, is Honored Guest.

Sunday, October 3, 2004 at 12:30 p.m.
Cranston Portuguese Club
20 Second Avenue, Cranston, RI

Tickets:
$25 for adults; $15 for students
$12 for children ages 6-12

Contact: Marie Ray Fraley, President
401-762-3520 or mfraley@cox.net for more information.
Upward Bound grads well-prepared for higher education

by Rob Martin
What's News Managing Editor

Elba Arredondo credits Upward Bound with showing her the way to get to college – a journey she never imagined she’d be taking. The high school senior, who moved to the U.S. from Colombia just four years ago, said that without the program, she wouldn’t have even thought about going to college.

Arredondo, who completed Upward Bound with a 3.97 grade point average, graduated from Central Falls High School in June, with plans of studying biology at the University of Rhode Island, and eventually becoming a physical therapist.

She was one of 48 graduates who received diplomas from the college-prep program, based at Rhode Island College, in a ceremony in Gaige Hall auditorium in June.

Arredondo also received a $5,000 Alumni Scholarship – an award that left her surprised and a little overwhelmed. On stage, through sobs and tears, she read an essay about her time in the program. “In Upward Bound,” she said, “I have experienced a college life: challenging work, meeting new people from all over the world, and living independently on campus.”

Since joining the program Arredondo said she had become “better prepared, and more knowledgeable, more independent and more responsible. I will always be thankful to the Upward Bound program for giving me my preparation, and the opportunity to live what I want to be in the future.”

Addressing the assembly, College President John Nazarian noted that the Upward Bound program at RIC is one of the oldest and most successful of the over 750 such programs in the country. He said that all of the 2004 graduates would be going on to college in the fall, and named the 32 institutions that had accepted them. “There is not a high school in Rhode Island – not public, private or parochial – with a graduating class that approached this degree of accomplishment,” said Nazarian.

The Upward Bound program was established at RIC in 1966 to provide high schoolers who were low-income, potential first-generatiion college students with the skills necessary to succeed in their secondary and post-secondary educations.

The program attempts to simulate the college experience. It offers academic, counseling, career, tutorial and other types of assistance to students who attend weekly on-campus classes during the school year. They also stay for six weeks at the College each summer, where courses, seminars, parent conferences, and cultural, social, and intramural programs are held.

Upward Bound services are provided to six local high schools, all of them in close proximity to the College for easy access to the campus. In addition to continued federal funding of $525,000 for 2004-05, the program will receive $100,000 for an expansion initiative.

Mariam Royajian, director of Upward Bound since 1986 and assistant director for five years before that, said that this year’s graduating class was the largest in her time with the program. “These students were remarkable in terms of their diverse academic talents, career goals, tenure in the program, and the relationships they developed with each other and Upward Bound,” she said.

Commencement speaker Vimal Shah, a 1993 Upward Bound success story, having graduated from the program in 1993.

**UPWARD BOUND GRADUATION CEREMONY, Alumni Scholarships were awarded to (above l to r) Anna Omulo (Central High School), Jennifer Corrales and Elba Arredondo (both of Central Falls High School). (Left) Vimal Shah, a 1993 Upward Bound graduate, delivers the main address at this year's commencement program.**

**District scholarships for $500 were awarded to Corrales (Central Falls), Claudine Varela (East Providence), Leonor Maya (Pawtucket), and Antonia Parra (Providence). Outstanding Service Awards were given for personal and professional support of Upward Bound. Maureen Chevrette, retiring superintendent of Central Falls public schools; Lenore DeLuca, retired RIC vice president for administration and finance; Eugene Johnson, English instructor for Upward Bound; Shirley Johnson, retiring head of guidance at Hope High School; RIC President John Nazarian; and John Richer, Jr., retired principal of Shea High School, were award recipients.**
Campbell '46 Scholarship for $1000. Here are the words of one grateful award recipient, whose thank you note we received this past summer:

I want to express my sincerest gratitude to you and the Alumni Association committee for the most generous award. Please let the committee know that this scholarship will ensure that I have the financial means to meet my educational goals. Thank you so much.

— Alyson Daley ’08

The Annual Fund will be showing a new look this year, but the mission remains the same — to serve and promote Rhode Island College by providing unrestricted funds that support faculty research, the alumni magazine, alumni awards and other alumni events and programs, like class reunions, Homecoming weekend, and the annual awards event, as well as needs that cannot be supported by public funds. Give generously by visiting us on line at www.ric.edu/givetoric. For more information please call me at 401-456-8827 or email nhooagian@ric.edu.

RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE
Alumni Association

Golf Day
Monday, September 20, 2004
Cranston Country Club
Call 401-456-8086 for more information

Class of 1955 sets scholarship goal

The Class of 1955 kicks off its Golden Anniversary year in fine style with a Cocktail Reception at the Providence’s House on the Friday night of Homecoming, October 1, from 5 to 7 p.m.

Class members have undertaken a commitment to raise $55,000 for their Golden Anniversary celebration at the 2005 Commencement next May.

They have decided to dedicate their class gift to honor the memory of their three outstanding class presidents: Robert Coelho, David McCarthy, and Shirley Szarko Hewitt. All of them died at a relatively young age, all contributed significantly to their class during their undergraduate years, and after graduation, all excelled in their chosen profession of education. Gifts to the Class of ‘55 Fund will be used for scholarships.

The Class of ’55 is seeking participation from all class members and gifts of all amounts are welcome. For more information about making a class gift, call Nancy Bordeleau at 401-944-4098 or Vin Cullen at 401-942-9355.

For more information on the Cocktail Reception, please call the Alumni Office at 401-456-8886.

Howard Fine awarded master of arts in theatre degree from RIC on July 12

Howard Fine, renowned Hol- lywood director, acting instructor and featured performer on the New York reality TV show, The Next Action Star, has earned a master of arts degree in theatre from Rhode Island College and received the diploma in a special convocation ceremony on Monday, July 12.

RIC President John Nazarian conferred the degree. P. William Hutchinson, retired RIC theatre professor, presented the degree candidate to the president. Fine calls both Nazarian and Hutch- son his mentors and credits them for much of his success in the film field.

The individualized degree program was designed for Fine to complete the master’s program he had started at Emerson Col- lege in the mid-1980s. He was several credits shy of finishing the program when he headed to New York’s American Music and Dramatic Arts Academy to become the youngest educator to chair its acting department. From there, he went to the West Coast to estab- lish the Howard Fine Acting Studio for up-and-coming actors.

Fine, a native of Cranston, also holds a BA in theatre from RIC, which he earned in 1981.

According to Fine, not finishing his master’s degree left a void, even though it isn’t necessary in his line of work. “It was like hav- ing a giant incomplete hanging over my head,” Fine said.

He wanted to return to RIC to earn his degree because it is where he “learned and grew the most.”

Fine completed the master’s program with intense independent study courses under Hutchinson’s tutelage. He said he has a wonderful sense of completion now that he has attained his long-awaited master’s degree.

The Next Action Star airs Wednesday nights at 8 p.m. on NBC. The show takes action hero hopefuls from obscurity, gives them acting lessons, and trains them to perform grueling stunts to see if they have what it takes to be an action star.

Fine is the acting coach on the show. The winners will earn a cash prize and a chance to star in NBC’s soon-to-be released motion pic- ture, Hit Me.

Fine has coached such notable stars as Brad Pitt, Val Kilmer, Diana Ross, Salma Hayek, Jennifer Connelly, Jim Belushi, Brooke Shields, and Jon Bon Jovi, among many others. His acting studio enrolls over 300 students taught by eight master instructors.

Annual Fund hopes to raise record funds for Alumni Association

by Nancy Hoogasian
Director of Annual Fund

September has ushered in the fall season at Rhode Island College with crisp sunshine. As the students enliven the campus, the Alumni Association is committed to helping students achieve their best. The Annual Fund appeals and phonations will help make more scholarships and assistance avail- able to them.

The Annual Fund’s fall appeal has just been mailed to nearly 44,000 alumni and friends. The goal for this year is $350,000. Scholarship aid amounting to nearly $100,000 is the most important program of the Alumni Asso- ciation.

Awards range from $300 to $3000 and 103 scholarships were awarded, including the Frank and Agnes Campbell ’46 Scholarship for $1000 and the Andreoli ’55 Scholarship for $1000. Here are the words of one grateful award

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In addition to scholarships, donations to the Annual Fund provide unrestricted funds that support faculty research, the alumni magazine, alumni awards and other alumni events and programs, like class reunions, Home- coming weekend, and the annual awards event, as well as needs that cannot be supported by public funds. Give generously by visiting us on line at www.ric.edu/givetoric. For more information please call me at 401-456-8827 or email nhooagian@ric.edu.
Science Foundation grant helps support new method of teaching introductory programming course

A national Science Foundation (NSF) grant to Rhode Island College will improve the way students learn about computer programming and provide them with new skills when entering the job market.

Knut Sanders and Ann Moskol, faculty members of the College's Mathematics and Computer Science Department, are working to develop a project entitled, "A Radical Approach to Teaching Object-Oriented Programming". The five-year grant, totaling $52,476, will support the design and evaluation of a revised introductory programming course, to be piloted in some of the sections of this course over the next two years. Based on an approach pioneered by Andries van Dam of Brown University, the new version of the course emphasizes object-oriented design and extensive use of graphical examples.

"Computer-science jobs are becoming increasingly competitive, and we want our students to have the best preparation possible," Sanders, an associate professor of computer science.

That's why Rice's Mathematics and Computer Science Department, a newly-organized discipline, is committed to teaching object-oriented programming, an approach that has been widely employed by industry, explained Sanders.

"Object-oriented thinking is very different from the old procedural approach," Sanders said. In object-oriented programming, the focus is on objects and the operations that can be performed on those objects. This approach allows programs to be developed in a more modular and reusable way.

Sanders notes that the field of object-oriented programming is much larger than the procedural approach. He estimates that 80% of programmers are using object-oriented programming today.

"By learning object-oriented principles from the start, students learn to think in a truly object-oriented way," Sanders said. Sanders and Moskol have been working with van Dam on the new approach.

"For small programs, especially where the programmer is the only one who will work on and maintain the software, whatever approach the programmer is most comfortable with is probably a fine choice," she said. Sanders did give the advantage to object-oriented programming in most circumstances. Cases in point: when a system is being developed by a small group of people, when a system must be maintained over a period of time, or when a system models complex relationships.

Many schools have tried a compromise of teaching old-style procedural programming using an object-oriented language, according to Sanders.

"But Andries van Dam, vice president for research, a Thomas J. Watson, Jr., University professor of technology and education, and professor of computer science at Brown, initiated a method characterized by two faculty teams developing all of the object-oriented material right from the start, and using both teaching and example materials such as simple games and graphical user interfaces. In learning object-oriented principles from the start, students learn to think in a truly object-oriented way," said Sanders.

Sanders and Moskol have been working with van Dam on the new approach. "We are very excited about bringing this cutting-edge approach to Rhode Island College," said Sanders.

KATE SANDERS

When is a vote for The Reagans not really a vote for the Reagans?: A controversial biopic appears on the ballot at the Emmy Awards

In this year of elections, every vote counts — even when it comes to the Emmy Awards for the Academy of Telecommunications and Sciences. On September 19, ABC will broadcast the 56th Annual Primetime Emmy Awards from the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles, Calif. It will be my first year as a voting member of the Academy. I am honored to have the opportunity to vote this year as a benefit of attending the 2004 annual faculty seminar administered by the Educational Programs and Services Division of the Academy Foundation. As an academic member of the Academy, I am eligible to vote in one of five categories. I chose the "Outstanding Made for Television Movie, Mini-Series, or Special" category, which is currently under debate.

One of the most anticipated movies of the year is "The Reagans" which will air in November on ABC. The film is based on a biography by Todd Leavitt, and is directed by Michael J. Gonsalves '86, "The Doctor." The film is an attempt to explore the life of Ronald and Nancy Reagan as they faced the pressures of the White House.

The film has been controversial, with some critics calling it a "propaganda" piece that presents a biased view of the Reagans. Others have praised the film for its accuracy and its portrayal of the Reagans as complex and flawed individuals.

"I was in Hollywood at the faculty seminar when Andries van Dam was discussing the film. He was very excited about bringing this cutting-edge approach to Rhode Island College," said Sanders.

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(Not Just) Academically Speaking

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RIC Performing Arts Series – Ballet Hispanico steps into NightClub Sept. 21 at RIC

Ballet Hispanico, the leading Hispanic-American dance company in the US, will perform its production of NightClub in a Performing Arts Series special on Tuesday, September 21 at 8 p.m. in the Auditorium in Roberts Hall.

NightClub was conceived by Tito Puente, founder and artistic director of Ballet Hispanico. This three-act, dance-theater presentation moves from the brothels of 1920s Argentina to the 1950s social clubs of Spanish Harlem to today’s world, exploring powerful emotions and passionate musical rhythms at each stop. The stories include Cada Noche, a tango, choreographed by Graciela Daniele to the music of Astor Piazzolla; Hoy Como Ayer, choreographed by Sergio Trujillo to a fusion of classic Latin songs and Ballet Hispanico as an exuberant vehicle for Hispanic music, culture, and history.

In April 2002, Ramirez received the Dance Magazine Award, one of the highest honors in the dance field. As leader of Ballet Hispanico, which has also a dance school based in New York City, he has commissioned over 20 new repertory works from choreographers such as Alberto Alonso, Talley Beatty, Ann Reinking and artists including Susan Marshall, Ramon Oller, David Roussseau and Pedro Ruiz.

Reserved seating is $28, with discounts for seniors and RIC students. Tickets 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 Roberts Hall box office until the day of the performance.

And the passion is undeniable.

Jeffrey Siegel will visit Rhode Island College for the third consecutive year with the first of two Keyboard Conversations® concerts on September 14 at 7:30 p.m. in Sapinsley Hall in the Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts. Siegel's second concert will be held on November 3.

The concert, titled Splendor from Silence: Beethoven, Smetana and Fauré, Siegel will perform and explain the works of these three renowned composers who were stricken by deafness when the pieces were produced.

The distinctive quality of Siegel’s concerts is that he explains the piece for the audience before playing it. Siegel concludes all of his concerts with a question-and-answer session that allows the audience to actively participate in the performance and further understand the musical pieces presented.

“My hope is that the remarks I share will make the music more accessible, the listening experience more focused and meaningful,” said Siegel on his website at www.keyboardconversations.com.

A celebrated pianist, Siegel has performed as a soloist both nationally and internationally with the highly acclaimed London Symphony, New York Philharmonic and Philadelphia Orchestra.

Siegell’s performances are ideal for novices of classical music because the atmosphere is relaxed and the music is easily understood and entertaining. It is also enjoyable for music aficionados who are looking to gain a greater appreciation of the music played.

“His presentation and performance add immeasurably to the listener’s understanding of how and why a piece of music exists,” said Leonard Slatkin, music director of the National Symphony Orchestra in Washington D.C. "I can’t think of anyone who does this kind of programming better.”

Siegell has been presenting Keyboard Conversations® to venues around the country for over 30 years.

“In the best of all possible worlds, every concert would be like one of Jeffrey Siegel’s Keyboard Conversations,” said The Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel.

Reserved seating is $25 with discounts for students and seniors, 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 Roberts Hall box office until the time of the performance on the day of the event.

Concert pianist to begin Chamber Music Series season

Pianist Eric Himy will kick off the 2004-05 Chamber Music Series on September 22 with a free performance that will feature music created by internationally acclaimed 19th-century musicians. The concert begins at 1 p.m. in Sapinsley Hall in the Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts.

Himy will play Debussy’s Prelude a l’Apres-midi d’un Faune, a composition that brought French performer Claude Debussy international acclaim, and continues to influence performers to this day. Prelude has been compared in its greatness to works by celebrated composers Beethoven and Wagner. Himy will also perform works by the pianist Ferruccio Busoni.

Himy began playing the piano at the age of six and performed in his first concert at age 10. In 1988, he was awarded the gold medal at the World Piano Competition held in Cincinnati. His first CD, titled The Art of the Piano Transcription, was recorded in France and brought him recognition for his interpretations of French and Spanish musical works including Albeniz, Debussy and Ravel.

In 2000, Himy paid homage to the 125th birthday of the French musical icon Maurice Ravel by performing his complete piano works in a series of concerts throughout the world some 67 years after Ravel’s death.

“Himy's fingers flew like lightning as he threw body and soul (even elbows) into his performances. His awesome skill astounded the audience and won a nice encore,” said the Waterloo Cedar Falls (lowa) Courier.

A world-renowned entertainer, Himy has performed on five continents and has earned consistent praise for flawlessly performing complex selections.

A question-and-answer session will follow the performance.

Afro-Rican Ensemble brings Latin rhythms to RIC

...hypnotizing Latin swing... solid musicianship... if you closed your eyes for a few minutes, you might have thought you were in Havana in 1950...

The above descriptions of the Afro-Rican Ensemble – by various publications that have covered the group – can be applied to this musical group, as well as being appropriate to Ballet Hispanico.

When the Afro-Rican Ensemble comes to the RIC Performing Arts Series tonight, you will be treated to a high level of musical performance from a group that has been a mainstay on the Rhode Island music scene for over 20 years.

The ensemble is led by Rolando Matias, who created the group six years ago and has guided it to international recognition. Matias is a self-taught, multi-dimensional musician specializing in percussion and harmonica. A student of Afro-Caribbean music, he has performed with a range of talents, taught, multi-dimensional musician specializing in percussion and harmonica.

Matias began playing percussion as a youngster in Cupey Alto, Puerto Rico.

“With the addition of percussion grooves, pretty soon a trombone player joined in, a trumpet and all of a sudden the place was kicking, it was a great scene,” recalled Matias on the Afro-Rican website.

Next month, Matias and his band will create another great scene, this time for the audience at RIC. Admission is free and open to the public.
The RIC theatre group will take the audience’s perceptions into cus-
to whom they perform House Ar-
rest: A Search for American Char-
acter In and Around the White
House. Past and Present will be
September 29-October 3 in the Forman-
theatre in the Nazarian Center for the
Performing Arts.

Directed by Wendy Overly, this
profound, sometimes dark, comic play
reveals just how past presidents
from Jefferson to Clinton dealt
with the press and the public, an
issue that came to the forefront
by the Monica Lewinsky scandal
rocked the White House.

“House Arrest is particularly rel-
enant during an election year,”
said Overly, but the views in the play
are in no way partisan.

“Playwright Deavere attempts to make
the play relatively unbiased,” she
did. However, it is still a
“seething indictment of both politi-
cians and the media.”

According to Overly, Smith attempts to
create the feeling that the “politicians
and the media collaborate to present
political views as certainties.”

She added: “If the man in the
White House is human, the theory
is that people are much more likely
to stay politically engaged. The
play uses the president for a good
by-line, and the president manipu-
lates the press to get votes.”

Some of the more prominent
accounts in the play include the
relationship between Thomas Jeffer-
son and his slave and mistress Sally
Hemings, Franklin Roosevelt’s
promiscuous relationships with his
secretaries, and the Clinton–Lewin-
sky scandal.

The production also scrutinizes
the relationship of public service,
administration, and bullying that has been report-
edly used by prominent politicians.

“Circular and allusive, the themes of politics and
persuasion crisscross
one another: celebrity and power;
and corruption,” said Michael Fe-

Overly said it is her expectation
that when the audience leaves the
building, they will be more moti-
ated to vote in this year’s election.
She said the play is important
in an academic setting to introduce
students to public figures who
were powerful before they were born
and who will also serve to remind
those who lived through it.

Overly is an adjunct professor
in the Music, Theatre, and Dance
department and has been a guest
artist at RIC since 2000. She is
currently assistant professor of
Theatre at UMass Boston. She is
an artistic associate at Gamm Theatre
and also performs at Perishable
Theatre. She is a faculty member
acting in the theatre arts school.

General admission tickets are
$14 with discounts for seniors and
students, and can be purchased in
advance via VISA or MasterCard by
calling 401-456-8144 from 10 a.m.
until the performance on the day
of the event.

Maureen String Quartet
returns

The Maureen String Quartet will
return to Rhode Island College for
the 21st consecutive year as part
of the President’s Music Series
with the first of two fall concerts
on September 27 at 8 p.m. in
Sapinsley Hall in the Nazarian
Center for the Performing Arts.
The second concert will be pre-
sented on November 8.

Maureen will play the work of
18th-century composer Franz
Joseph Haydn and 19th-century
musicians Leopold von Beethoven,
Haydn’s contemporary. Haydn was
the father of the symphony and
the string quartet, and is credited
for laying the groundwork for future
composers including Beethoven,
where Janacek was celebrated
for his expertise in opera writ-
ing. Brahms was an accom-
plished pianist and composer
who produced four symphonies
and countless concertos.

Since 1979, Maureen has received
acclaim across the United States
and Europe for their perform-
ance.

“Their string quartet was
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the 21st consecutive year as part
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Since 1979, Maureen has received
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and Europe for their perform-
ance.

“Their string quartet was
educational committee that oversees the
administration of a $3 million endowment
in art and music at RIC. It is directed by Bill
Wilson, RIC associate professor of theatre;
Edward Markward, RIC professor of music,
conducts, Soprano Di-
a McVey and Mara Lund, mezzo-
soprano Susan Forrester, tenor Ray
Bauwens, and baritones René de la
Garza and Sumner Thompson are
featured, along with the RIC Cham-
ber singers.

Based on Nathaniel Hawthorne’s
19th-century short story Rappacci-
i’s Daughter, the opera explores
the fervor of “Some groups make
love exploited by overreaching science.

Two of the themes the story
touch on — environmental de-
cline and medical ethics — are
clearly relevant to our lives today,
noted Sumanth. "The original
story by Hawthorne has become some-
thing of an ecological touchstone,
with its own website and multiple
incarnations as theatre, he said.

“The attractions to adapt this
story are many,” said Sumerlin,
“but perhaps the most persuas-
ive is its central premise: toxic
byproducts create microorganisms
which can alter the future.”
He
added that, “though issues change
with scientific discovery, the deci-
sions of doctors to use new devel-
opments are fraught with contro-
versy.”

Musically, the score for Air
moves through classical styles
(overture, chaconne and madrigal)
to exotic dance rhythms (tango,
habanera, waltz). “The whole is
modulated with a sensibility for
the harmonies and associative
movements of music,“ said Sumanth.
These elements provide the opera with
“a fresh recipe while promising acces-
sibility at every turn,” he added.

Show times are September 17 at
8 p.m. and September 19 at 3 p.m.
General admission is $25. Call
401-456-8144 for tickets.
opening Convocation
Continued from page 1
from personal funds, one dollar for each five cents of cash. Contributions to the fund would be welcome as well as pledges payable within a three-year period. Pledges would need to be made by December 31 of this year. The final amount, for $3,000, was recently given by a member of the faculty.

Tucker Thorp Professorship was awarded by RIC to Mary Tucker Thorp Professorship by RIC President John Nazarian at Opening Convocation. Nazarian, "and we once again call upon the entire community to work together to control costs as we lobby and work as hard as we can to increase available resources."

- New administrative appointments: Appointments include Julie Wohman-Bonilla, interim dean of the Feinstein School of Education and Human Development; Mirando Obach, associate dean for undergraduate programs in FSEHD; Charles O’Brien, interim director of the Office of Career Services; Mark Motte, director of the Center for Public Policy and Quality of the College’s nonprofit certification as an "outstanding public service institution." "The College continues to "make great progress" with the resources it has been given and what it has been able to raise from students and other sources, said Nazarian. But the current state appropriation of $33 percent of the College’s unrestricted budget "continues the downward trend of the past several years," he said.

understake the value of research and public service, particularly in contributing to the improvement of the state’s economic base and quality of life; recruit, enroll, retain and graduate a “diverse cadre of qualified students; provide an “inviting environment and well-organized, efficient, high-quality services to students and external constituents”; and ensure a continuing resource base that “allows the College to offer excellent programs at an affordable cost.”

Budget. The College continues to "make great progress" with the resources it has been given and what it has been able to raise from students and other sources, said Nazarian. But the current state appropriation of $33 percent of the College’s unrestricted budget "continues the downward trend of the past several years," he said.

The unaudited report for the fiscal year that ended June 30 shows the College with a positive fund balance. The budget submitted by RIC for fiscal year 2006 seeks to maintain current levels of service “at best,” and calls for a "modest increase" in state funding. "However," said Nazarian, "with normal increases in personnel and operating costs, even this most optimistic scenario leaves the College with very limited resources."

"Difficult decisions are ahead," asserted Nazarian, "and we once again call upon the entire community to work together to control costs as we lobby and work as hard as we can to increase available resources."

- Non-administrative assignments: Appointments include Julie Wohman-Bonilla, interim dean of the Feinstein School of Education and Human Development; Mirando Obach, associate dean for undergraduate programs in FSEHD; Charles O’Brien, interim director of the Office of Career Services; Mark Motte, director of the Center for Public Policy and Quality of the College’s nonprofit certification as an "outstanding public service institution." "The College continues to "make great progress" with the resources it has been given and what it has been able to raise from students and other sources, said Nazarian. But the current state appropriation of $33 percent of the College’s unrestricted budget "continues the downward trend of the past several years," he said.

"Presidential Debates for Dummies" Tuesday, September 21, 2-3:15 p.m. Faculty Dining Center – South Up-to-date insight into patterns and trends of presidential and vice-presidential debates.

DebateWatch Thursday, September 30, 8 p.m. Student Union Ballroom Commentators will debate the national and white politicians and political experts before the debate show their in-depth insight on the debate. Expert moderators will lead focus group discussions on the debate’s impact on the election. For further information, contact pacgroup@ric.edu.

"Presidential Campaigns and the Media" Wednesday, October 20, 12:30-1:45 p.m. Faculty Dining Center – Main Room The mass media’s impact on a candidate’s image. Perspectives.

"The Pre-Election Celebration and Voter Rally" Wednesday, October 27, 6-10 p.m. Student Union Ballroom This event will celebrate the upcoming election and the College’s commitment to voting. For further information, contact pacgroup@ric.edu.

"Antidotes for Addicts: Coping with the Post-Election Blues" Wednesday, September 21, 3:30-5 p.m. Faculty Dining Center Explore the varied and diverse outlets for citizen activism after the election.

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Ed Jones ’72 leads Riverside Poly to California State title

Winning a state title in any sport is not an easy thing to accomplish. Most coaches say you need the right blend of talent, coaching and a little luck to win it all. This year it’s hard to win in Rhode Island alone. Then think of winning a title that would encompass all of New England. Now maybe, you can grasp how difficult it was for RIC alum Ed Jones ’72 to coach his Riverside Poly softball team to a 26-5 record and the Div. I California State Title in East selection Andover.

Div. I High School athletics in California is made up of 665 schools and covers an area that stretches from just south of San Francisco to the Mexican border. It was against all of this competition that the Bears defeated Los Alamitos High School, 1-0, in a closely contested game and won their first-ever state title under Jones’ leadership. “It’s nice to see steady improvement over time,” said Jones, who is beginning his 15th year at Riverside Poly this fall. “There was a lot of hard work put in by the players, parents and coaches and everyone feels a great sense of accomplishment.”

The title is a high point for Jones and Riverside Poly for some time now. “We’ve been close several times, but never the big time,” he said. “This is a testament to the hard work of the players, parents and coaches.”

At Div. I college programs including two from the State Championship team who are freshmen this fall: Mindy Cowles will pitch for Arizona State and outfielder Liz Caputo will play at Ohio State.

Jones even had a connection to the 2004 Summer Olympic Games in Athens as a former second baseman of his, Vanessa Caputo played on the Greek National Softball Team. Another former player of his was former All-American and Big-Big East selection Andrea Lowman who started at Notre Dame in the late ’80s and early ’90s. Lowman was offered a spot on the United State Olympic Softball Team, but declined because she was pursuing her master’s degree.

Jones, who hails from Warwick and attended Bishop Hendricken High School, played on the Rhode Island baseball team from 1968-1972 and is a member of the program’s 100- Hit Club. After earning his degree in education from RIC in 1972, he spent five years working for then Governor Philip Noel in economic development. When Noel lost his bid for U.S. senator, Jones relocated to California and began a teaching career.

He hadn’t thought much of coaching, but during his interview for the teaching position at Riverside Poly, the principal told him he’d like to see Jones get involved in other areas of the school. “I asked about baseball and golf, but those positions were already taken,” Jones said. “So I asked what would you like me to do? The principal said he’d like me to take the softball job, so I did.”

Jones has ideas or suggestions, or would you like me to do? The principal said he’d like me to take the softball job, so I did.

Jones said. “I have good grade point averages, don’t get in trouble and participate in other school activities such as student government.”

Colleges and Universities around the country have taken notice of Jones’ players as he has sent 35 former student-athletes on to play after high school. Seven players are at Div. I college programs including two from the State Championship team who are freshmen this fall: Mindy Cowles will pitch for Arizona State and outfielder Liz Caputo will play at Ohio State.

Jones is a member of the program’s 100-Hit Club. After earning his degree in education from RIC in 1972, he spent five years working for then Governor Philip Noel in economic development. When Noel lost his bid for U.S. senator, Jones relocated to California and began a teaching career.

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Jones has ideas or suggestions, or would you like me to do? The principal said he’d like me to take the softball job, so I did. What’s the point? He learned how to coach fast- pitch softball at a high level right away. It took a few years, but now we’ve built the program to have the kids come to us. We have very successful clinics and camps and it’s a solid program,” Jones said. Jones, 54, has compiled a career record of 286-89 in 14 seasons at Riverside Poly. Recently he was named a sport social studies teacher. “I still have the fire and love the competition of coaching,” Jones said. “I look back on another five years and I’ll evaluate where I am at then.”

He lives in Riverside with his wife Janice and still roots for the Boston Red Sox.

Athletic Hall of Fame Class of 2004 Announced

The Rhode Island College Athletic Hall of Fame Class of 2004 will be officially inducted at the Athletic Recognition and Hall of Fame Dinner, held in conjunction with Homecoming, on Saturday, Oct. 2.

Please contact the Rhode Island College Department of Intercollegiate Athletics, Intramurals and Recreational Sports Events at 401-456-8007 to purchase tickets or for additional information.

The inductees are:

Abraham “Cappy” Asermely ’51
James Barbera ’91
Jenna Daum ’98
Claude Gladu ’62
Richard Lawrence ’68
Jeanne (Bertasavage) Lucey ’86
Joe Mikaelaan ’62
Troy Smith ’84

Sports Events

September 13 – October 2

Men’s Soccer

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tues.</td>
<td>Johnson &amp; Wales</td>
<td>4 p.m.</td>
<td>at Connecticut</td>
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<td>Thurs.</td>
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<td>4:30 p.m.</td>
<td>at Eastern Connecticut*</td>
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<td>Sat.</td>
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<td>7 p.m.</td>
<td>at Salem State</td>
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<td>6 p.m.</td>
<td>at Southern Maine*</td>
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<td>Sun.</td>
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<td>1 p.m.</td>
<td>at UMass-Boston</td>
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Women’s Soccer

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<td>at Westfield State</td>
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<td>Sat.</td>
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<td>3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>at Southern Maine*</td>
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<td>Sun.</td>
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<td>at UMass-Boston</td>
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Women’s Volleyball

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<td>at Castleton State</td>
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<td>at Roger Williams</td>
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<td>Fri.</td>
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<td>4 p.m.</td>
<td>at Plymouth State</td>
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Women’s Cross Country

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<tr>
<td>Sat.</td>
<td></td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
<td>at Little East Round Robin*</td>
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<td>10 a.m.</td>
<td>at Little East Round Robin*</td>
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<td>Sun.</td>
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Women’s Tennis

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<td>at Roger Williams</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri.</td>
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<td>at Plymouth State</td>
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Men’s and Women’s Cross Country

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sat.</td>
<td></td>
<td>11:15 a.m.</td>
<td>at Little East Conference game/match</td>
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* Little East Conference game/match # held at Goddard State Park in Warwick
**Mark Motte chosen to lead Center for Public Policy**

Mark Motte, associate professor of geography, has been appointed director of the newly established Center for Public Policy at Rhode Island College.

Motte, a native Rhode Islander, was selected after a national search to help establish the Center for Public Policy, which provides research and consultation to external constituents and the community at large through research-based programs (see list below).

"Mr. Motte has distinguished himself as an excellent teacher-scholar and has demonstrated excellent service to the College and its broader community," said King. "I look forward to his successful leadership of this emerging Center unit." Motte, whose appointment began at the start of this fall semester, said he was "delighted and honored to take up the directorship of this important campus initiative."

He cited several areas he would be responsible for, including administration of both the academic and policy research agenda of the campus and the extent of policy work being done at the College. He will be involved with planning conferences and symposia and workshops that showcase the work of the center affiliates, and act to find new ways to increase efforts to support applied research and service activities.

As the center's director, Motte will also coordinate the new Certificate Program in Nonprofit Studies, which he helped develop. In addition, he will help the campus community to respond effectively to the policy development and research needs of nonprofit organizations as well as federal, state and local government officials.

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**Richard Brown, a noted mathematician, offers a unique opportunity**

Executive director James Rubillo, president Glenda Lappan, and executive vice president for academic affairs. He noted that Motte holds a bachelor's degree in geography from RIC, is a faculty member (co-chair of the mathematics department) and has served as associate director of the Center for Public Policy, which provides research and consultation to external constituents and the community at large through research-based programs (see list below).

"Dr. Motte has distinguished himself as an excellent teacher-scholar and has demonstrated excellent service to the College and its broader community," said King. "I look forward to his successful leadership of this emerging Center unit." Motte, whose appointment began at the start of this fall semester, said he was "delighted and honored to take up the directorship of this important campus initiative."

He cited several areas he would be responsible for, including administration of both the academic and policy research agenda of the campus and the extent of policy work being done at the College. He will be involved with planning conferences and symposia and workshops that showcase the work of the center affiliates, and act to find new ways to increase efforts to support applied research and service activities.

As the center's director, Motte will also coordinate the new Certificate Program in Nonprofit Studies, which he helped develop. In addition, he will help the campus community to respond effectively to the policy development and research needs of nonprofit organizations as well as federal, state and local government officials.

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**A highlight of the event, "The**

Conference chair Gertrude Croke Toher '09 (a former RIC faculty member) will serve as co-chair of RIC's Mathematics and Computer Science Dept. and Terry Coes with producing an exciting program with speakers from California to Maine, and from Australia to Iceland.

RIC faculty speakers include James Bierden, Donna Christy '79, Vivian LeFerla, Ann Moskol and Rod Rodrigues from the mathematics and computer science dept., and Rainy Cotty, co-chair of the computer science dept., who has contributed valuable professional development credit to the Department of Education. Information for teachers from other New England states will be included.

The cost for the conference is $100 for those who register by June 6. College students can attend the conference for the special cost of $50. For a schedule of sessions and a registration form, go to www.atmne.org. For more information, contact Gertrude Toher at gtoher@cox.net.

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**continued from page 5**

or cable channels but does produce primetime television for the other five giants.) You are dealing with the oligopoly of four major networks. You can't go to the movies, rent a video, buy a music CD, buy many books, magazines, or newspapers, play a video game, or go to a theme park.

What effect are you being alarmed?

Frequent views of are presented on critical political and social issues. Fewer voices are telling their story. Little evidence is displayed for those who are interested in the news. The giant media giants and small production companies decline as competition virtually disappears. The giants agree to carve up the news and entertainment pie six ways and no one else is invited to the party. There are so many channels that the message can be matched to the demographic, just as the advertisement is. The viewer will hear what they want to hear and no opposition is allowed. There is no true debate or dialogue about ideas. For a diverse population, I see this trend as dangerous to the democracy, just as in presidential election unfold, watch FOX news one hour and then watch MSNBC another hour and both networks now their audience. It is target marketing, not journalism.

The difference is the reporting on the controversy surrounding The Reagans. It centered on the conservative objections to the script, the accuracy of the dialogue, and the perception that the producers were biased in their view of Reagan and his administration.

What makes the biopic: The Reagans so interesting in the context of the 2004 Emmys and the lame state of the movie business? In my case, I was fascinated by how and why CBS executives caved in to politically correct pressure to approve the script and how it checked for historical accuracy. Docudrama as a genre has a tradition of taking poetic license with dialogue. It is primarily a drama, not a documentary. That's why we are presenting an iconic president and his equally iconic wife. Their timing was so difficult, considering Ronald Reagan's health. After the news media frenzy about such things as the Ragnarok of Ron and Nancy, advertisers backed out and websites threatened boycotts. CBS executives asked the director to change the film. He walked off the job. Ultimately, network executives made changes to the film and cancelled the CBS airdates. Viacom moved the premiere to Showtime. Some media critics claimed that all the free advertising was worth the controversy and may have been a part of a strategic plan. My first thought was Viacom won this one. With the change in movie and I got decent reviews and the controversy quieted down a bit. That is, until the Emmy nominations — The Reagans received seven.

How are we to interpret this reaction from the entertainment industry? Now that Ronald Reagan has died, can the film be seen as an aesthetically benign version of his legacy? In my opinion, this nomination is evidence of the tensions between the creative directors, studio executives, and actors) who want their rights to free expression and the corporate executives who want to answer to the larger parent corporation and the bottom line. There is an intriguing irony in the fact that in Ronald Reagan might have understood that this is Hollywood and movies are adapted to be taken literally. Presidents have been portrayed in many films. In many films, the story simply goes with the territory. The story becomes more important than the fact. Nonetheless, the real Ronald Reagan never did fade out quietly.

The Reagans is available now on HBO. The DVD release includes some deleted scenes and the director's commentary on the controversy. It is difficult to assess whether Viacom lost money on the project. I suspect many people did not understand that "selling" the movie to Showtime was a bit like selling your Edsel to Uncle Harry. It was all in the family. If the movie wins some Emmys, Uncle Harry can re-sell the Edsel on Ebay and expect to make a real profit as well as win a moral victory for free speech rights. I am not sure how I will vote on this issue. The controversy I am certainly curious which movie will win on my big evening at the Emmys.

The Nominees for Outstanding in Television, Movie are:

**And Starring Pancho Villa as Himself** - HBO/CABark Strong Productions in association with HBO Films

**Fever** - HBO/CABark Strong Productions in association with HBO Films

**Ike: Countdown to D-Day** - A&E Network/Lionel Chetwynd Productions/Stephanie Germanotta

**Juno** - Sony Pictures Television

**The Lion in Winter** - Showtime in association with Hallmark Hall of Fame Productions presents a MAT IV production

**The Reagans** - HBO

**Something the Lord Made** - HBO/CABerk Strong Productions in association with HBO Films

**The Town** - HBO/CABark Strong Productions in association with HBO Films

**Winter's Bone** - HBO

The winner will be announced on October 18.
This continuing series features RIC grads whose career paths have taken some unusual turns.

Kristin Beaulieu may look like the girl-next-door, but break the law and she'll arrest you.

Beaulieu is a Warren police officer and the only woman on the 22-member police force. She is the first female police officer in the town's history.

"Sometimes people take offense, they don't want me to be a cop," she said.

Beaulieu knew as a student at North Providence high school that she wanted to be a police officer. She volunteered at community police stations to watch law and order, and spoke to students at the local middle school on career day.

She likes that her job is different every day and that she is out and about in a community where "everyone knows me and waves to me," she said.

Beaulieu is quick to say that she can hold her own and is ready to deal with whatever she must encounter on the job, but doesn't like the calls involving a hurt or sick child, though she knows she must respond. She said it was exhilarating working with her fellow officers and admires their professionalism and respect for the citizens of the community and the law.

And yes, she has had her share of unusual calls in her four years on the force. One in particular was chasing a runaway cow down Main Street that had strayed three miles from Bristol to north Warren.

"The cow jumped over my cruiser and snatched the headlight with its hoof," she said.

"That's the biggest drawback to being the only female on the force? Undeniably, it was funny, including me," she said.

Beaulieu's sisters, Donna and Karen, are also RIC grads and teach in local school systems. And then there's her extended family of fellow officers, who, she says, "treat me like a sister."

Poet, teacher Kim Bridgford to speak at RIC

Fairfield University writing program director Kim Bridgford will speak Tuesday, October 5 at 2 p.m. in the Helen Forman Theatre in the Nazarian Center.

Bridgford's poetry has appeared in The North American Review, The Christian Science Monitor and The Georgia Review. Her fiction has appeared in the summer workshops sponsored by the Rhode Island Writing Project on the campus of Rhode Island College. Eight teacher facilitators led the programs. In the fall, the Writing Project will continue with the workshops and will also offer a special mentoring program for new teachers and a teacher/researcher conference. For information call 401-456-0668, email rwtp@ric.edu or check the website at www.ric.edu/rwtp/.

RI Writing Project: A busy summer and plans for a busy fall

Over the summer, 80 teachers from schools all over the state participated in summer workshops sponsored by the Rhode Island Writing Project on the campus of Rhode Island College. Eight teacher facilitators led the programs. The two-week workshops focused on the teaching of literature at the middle and high school level, school reform, teacher research, and reading and writing in the content areas. An intensive five-week program dealt with literacy at all school levels.

In addition, 70 student writers from grades K through eight attended a two-week Young Writers' Camp that included seven teacher facilitators.

In the fall, the Writing Project will continue with the workshops and will also offer a special mentoring program for new teachers and a teacher/researcher conference. For information call 401-456-0668, email rwtp@ric.edu or check the website at www.ric.edu/rwtp/.

Guest lecturer to address roots of tobacco addiction

Psychologist Robert J. Wellman will present the lecture "Biology Meets Tobacco Marketing: Why Kids Get Hooked on Nicotine" on Wednesday, September 22 at 12:30 P.M. in Horace Mann room 193.

Wellman is an associate professor of behavioral sciences at Fitchburg State College and is a recognized specialist in the field of psychology. He received his doctorate from Cornell University in clinical psychology and his master’s degree in psychology from the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Wellman is a board-certified specialist in school psychology with a concentration in educational psychology. He is also a full professor in the School Psychology program.

All 2004 school psychology grads pass national examination

The 2004 graduates of Rhode Island College's school psychology program achieved a 100 percent pass rate on the national school psychology examination, making all of them eligible for national certification as school psychologists.

"This Sesquicentennial cohort of school psychology graduates has been exceptional in their determination, effort, and performance throughout their training, and the results of the national school psychology examination validate this," said Mirfrando Obach, chair of the Department of Counseling and Educational Psychology at RIC.

The school psychology graduates achieved scores ranging from 660 to 770 on the examination with a mean score of 705, well above the passing score of 660.

"Their achievement shows that RIC's school psychology program produces highly qualified school psychologists," Obach added.

The National Association of School Psychologists has created a certified school psychologist credential as a standard for the profession. Because a wide range of requirements exists across states, there was a need to recognize school psychologists who meet national standards. School psychologists who receive national certification must pass an examination administered by the educational testing service after completing an approved program of study in school psychology that includes a 1,200-hour internship, of which 600 must be in a school setting.

The RIC school psychology graduates gained internships in these school systems: Lincoln Public Schools (Paul Collins, Hallie Scawthorn and Steven Wasilewski), Narragansett Public Schools (Diane Egan), Newport County Regional Special Education Program, Providence School Department (Elizabeth Coleman and Amy-Beth Signoriello), West Warwick Public Schools (Stephen Debiolis and Lisa Spooner), Dighton-Rehoboth Regional School District (Kate Gaccione), and Douglas School District (Jessica Hurley).

Several states have begun to recognize school psychologists who meet national standards in their profession. Obach cited Louisiana as an example where legislation was recently passed to grant a salary incentive to nationally certified school psychologists employed in the public schools for their achievement.

"This is an encouraging development," said Obach. "States are realizing that rewarding school psychologists in public schools who meet national standards will benefit schoolchildren and families served by them."
Homecoming 2004

All Weekend:

Friday, October 1:
6:8 p.m. Young Alumni Event at Ri Ra, Providence
Get-together with graduates from the past decade to socialize and network. No charge for pre-registration. $5 at door.

Saturday, October 2
8:45 a.m. 5K Road Race
Meet at Recreation Center
10-11 a.m. Ultimate Road Trip: Campus 2 Career College Success Program
Student Union Ballroom
10-2 p.m. Crafts Under the Tent
Call Kathy Sasso at 456-8022

10:30 a.m. RIC Chorus and Wind Ensemble
Sapinsley Hall, Nazarian Center
11:30 a.m.
Float Parade
12:15 p.m.
Barbecue
with entertainment by Kenny Kool’s Music Box.
Free for those who pre-register
Walk-ins $5
1:45 p.m.
Ocean State Follies
Call 401-456-8086
for more information

2004 RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE

President John Nazarian invites you to participate in
DebateWatch
Thursday, September 30, 2004

Participate in RIC’s Town Meeting and DebateWatch
at 8 p.m.

Meeting to be followed by Presidential DebateWatch and Discussion

DebateWatch Host

DebateWatch Moderator

Donovan Dining Center
600 Mt. Pleasant Avenue
Providence, RI

Valerie Endress, Assistant Professor of Communications
Kay Israel, Associate Professor of Communications
Victor Profughi, Professor of Political Science

Jim Hummel
Polical Reporter
ABC 6

Bill Rap Billys
Political Reporter
NBC 10

Frances Driscoll ’61, DebateWatch Coordinator
Jane Fusco, Director of News and Public Relations
For more information, call 456-8139.

The next issue of What's News at Rhode Island College will be Oct. 8, 2004.
Deadline for submission of copy, photos, etc. is Monday, Sept. 27 at noon.

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

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