Teacher ed school marks 50 years of accreditation – and readies for future

Rhode Island College is one of 283 institutions of higher learning – and the only one in the state – to have been accredited by NCATE for 50 years. Now the College’s teacher education school – the Feinstein School of Education and Human Development – is gearing up for an NCATE assessment this October.

On July 1, 1954, the then-Rhode Island College of Education was approved by the newly incorporated National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE). Then, as now, this nonprofit, nongovernmental alliance of national education and public groups ensured that, through its accreditation process, colleges met national standards for the preparation of educators.

Recognized as an accrediting body by the U.S. Dept. of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation, NCATE currently accredits 572 education colleges, with over two-thirds of new U.S. teacher graduates coming from NCATE-accredited schools, according to the organization. In Rhode Island, the state Dept. of Education automatically grants Rhode Island certification to graduates of NCATE-accredited schools.

“NCATE accreditation is the gold standard for quality teacher preparation and we are proud to be able to boast that we have always met this standard,” said Julie Wollman-Bonilla, interim dean of the Feinstein School of Education and Human Development (FSEHD).

The school is currently seeking NCATE accreditation for five more years and will undergo a thorough review beginning next month.

In 2000, NCATE significantly raised its standards for institutions seeking accreditation, noted Wollman-Bonilla. “This will be our first review under the new, more stringent standards and we have done our best to rise to the challenge.”

For the NCATE appearance, the school will produce an institutional report based on a comprehensive self-evaluation. In addition, FSEHD appraisals are done by colleagues in higher education and school practitioners. The five-day site visit by NCATE includes a review of school documents, interviews with faculty, students and others associated with the school, as well as trips to teaching field sites.

NCATE considers the wide range of FSEHD programs and their viability, data on student assessment and progress and unit operations as a whole. “The review focuses on demonstrating what we do and providing evidence that we do it well,” said Wollman-Bonilla.

Though there is a lot of work involved in preparing for the NCATE visit, Wollman-Bonilla finds it a worthwhile endeavor. “The process stimulates thinking, promotes communication and collaboration with colleagues and helps show us where we need to improve,” she said.

“NCATE [accreditation] feels like a sprint, as we prepare for the visit, but really it’s an ongoing marathon of continuous program improvement that helps us renew ourselves,” said Wollman-Bonilla. As interim dean of FSEHD, she said she is committed to bettering programs “within the landscape of NCATE and beyond.”

Visitors from NCATE will on campus from Oct. 23-27.
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.

REMEMBERING KAUFFMAN: On Oct. 2, Building 10 on the East Campus was renamed the Joseph F. Kauffman Center (see story on page 8). So for this issue we feature photos of the late Rose Butler Browne, for whom the building was named, and at right is the late Rose Butler Browne, for whom the building was named, and at left, the late Joan Krachka, then residence director for Browne Hall.

Kate Brewster, MSW, heads Poverty Institute at RIC

Kate Brewster '98, a social policy and case management educator at Rhode Island College, has become executive director of RIC's Poverty Institute. New to the institute, which co-founded and had directed the Institute since its inception, will continue to work within the organization in a consulting role as founding director.

"Kate is smart, enthusiastic and committed to the mission of the Poverty Institute," said Gevirtz. "I know she is the right person to lead the Poverty Institute into its next phase and I look forward to continuing to work with her." Brewster had served as assistant director to Gevirtz from September 1999 through the spring of 2001. She was most recently manager of the Employer Contact Unit (ECU) at the Rhode Island Dept. of Human Services, where she was responsible for managing the Rhode Island Share Payment Assistance Program. In addition, she managed the RIte Care outreach project at the human services dept., and served as an advocate for victims of domestic violence. Brewster earned a bachelor's degree in sociology from the University of Rhode Island and a master's degree in social work from RIC.

Gevirtz, a professor of social work, has been a prominent advocate for low-income people for over 20 years. She was instrumental in the development of the Family Independence Act, a state welfare reform law ranked third in the nation by Tufts University. Gevirtz is also vice-chair of the Family Independence Legislative Advisory Commission and a member of the Welfare Implementation Task Force on Federal Legislation of the Children's Cabinet.

The Poverty Institute works to promote economic security for low- and moderate-income Rhode Islanders and equitable tax and budget policies through nonpartisan research. It works with many groups and coalitions that address issues related to economic justice, and provides technical assistance and training to community-based organizations.

Several RIC graphic communications students were recent recipients of Gutenberg Awards from the International Graphic Arts Education Association (IGAEA).

Gutenberg Awards recognize exceptional achievements in the field of graphic arts. Awards are given for printed items, web sites, and photographs. Entries are submitted by graphic arts students at any educational level.

This year, students from the College won awards in several categories:

Web Site: Jamie Pascalle, 1st Place; Commercial: Stacey Pimental, 2nd Place; Commercial: John Saviano, 3rd Place; Commercial: Brian Greene, 3rd Place.

Commercial: Katelyn Mroczka, 1st Place; Information (also winner of Best of Show); Tressah Marra, 2nd Place; Information; Stacey Pimental, 3rd Place; Self-Promotion.

Print: Melissa Madgett, 1st Place, Electronic Publishing; Katelyn Mroczka, 2nd Place, Electronic Publishing; and Jamie Pascale, 2nd Place, Electronic Publishing.

Last summer, Dubia Cruz '04 won the IGAEA Poster Design Contest. Her design was used on the cover of the organization's recently printed Professional Journal, Cruz is using her graphic talents in the development office of the Paul Coffie School in Providence.

The World at RIC

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, Kauffman Center, or email them to cpage@ric.edu.

Lenore Collins, associate professor of communications, recently received the Kagy Life Achievement Award at the International Graphic Arts Education Association Conference. The award is presented for significant contributions to the field of education and the graphic arts industry. It is dedicated to the memory of Frederick D. Kagy, a long-time graphic arts educator who died in 1989.

Sandra Enos, associate professor of sociology, is project director of a one-year grant from the Rhode Island Foundation funding development and distribution of a compact disc featuring narratives collected from the State Home School Oral History Project. Two hundred copies of the CD will be produced, along with a user's guide to local libraries, museums, and secondary schools. The purpose is to both share the stories and the graphic arts students at any educational level.


Edward Markward, professor of music, is entering his 32nd year leading the RIC Symphony Orchestra. In addition to his college concert schedule, he will have a full slate of area conducting engagements this fall. From Oct. 22-24, Markward will lead Festival Ballet Providence in world performances of Aleksandra Vrebolov's ballet Widow's Brother, based on a story by Rhode Island's Chris Van Allsburg. On Nov. 28, Markward will conduct the Rhode Island Civic Chorale and Orchestra in its annual performance of Handel's Messiah. He rejoins Festival Ballet-let Providence on Dec. 10, 11 and 12 for the group's annual performances of The Nutcracker.

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This regular feature of What's News looks at the links between the world and Rhode Island College. The story below was written by Justin Routbuer '04, who was admitted to Brown Medical School through the Early Identification Program at the end of his sophomore year.

Living in an apartment with windows that look out onto Thayer Street has its ups and downs. On the up side, I am a stone's throw away from a street that attracts people from all walks of life and backgrounds, making for a very stimulating and interesting environment.

The downside is that there are a host of loud groups of motorcyclists constantly rumbling by - which is why I echo every time I see the back of probably the only 20 Vespa in Rhode Island parade down the street at almost every school week, mucking the big, burly, leather-clad men loitering in front of their chrome motor machines.

And along with that chuckle, I am always reminded of my semester spending the spring of 2001 in Sevilla, Spain, where Vespa and scooters alike practically rule the road.

Thanks to Rhode Island College and the Ridgway Shin Study Abroad Scholarship Fund, the Vespas that cruise down Thayer will be one of many triggers to my vivid memories of my time abroad. Spain was absolutely fabulous. The sights, scents, and sounds of Sevilla created a perfect, almost exotic, backdrop for not only my studies in Spanish, but also for learning something new in culture every day.

I am now grateful for having had those experiences. It is my hope that I will be able to use these experiences of my time abroad will only help to enrich the quintessential doctor-patient relationship. I take away more than just better communication skills from my time in Spain. I take away experiences that will last a lifetime. And it is a privilege to know that I will be, able to use these experiences in my future practice of bettering the lives of many others. Thank you RIC.

Justin Routbuer
RIC grad John Fuzek makes ‘dogged’ return to music

It had been a long time since John Fuzek last performed as a self-styled “real” musician.

Now he’s back on track with his music, playing gigs and releasing a new CD. The disc’s title – A Dog’s Age – refers to the length of Fuzek’s musical hiatus (and his love of dogs). Fuzek, who holds bachelor’s (’90) and master’s (’93) degrees from RIC, is a singer, songwriter and acoustic guitarist. He has performed throughout the Northeast at prime venues and festivals, sharing the stage with Livingston Taylor, Don McLean, Tom Rush and many others.

For seven years, he and Mary Ann Rossoni were part of the popular duo Fuzek • Rossoni. During his break from performing, Fuzek produced the Hear In Rhode Island Festival for many years, as well as showcases and workshops for the Rhode Island Songwriters Association. He helped produce CDs by other artists, and wrote and recorded songs for two compilation recordings.

He was twice named “Best Male Vocalist” by the Providence Phoenix, which also cited him as one of Rhode Island’s “Most Influential People in the Arts” in 2003.

Fuzek, who lives in Greenville, recently spoke via email with What’s News about his CD and other subjects. Here are excerpts of that conversation.

WN: Why make this CD?

Fuzek: As a musician you need to have recordings of your music so it can be heard in a wider scope than say, your two dogs...or a small coffeehouse. That’s how you can be played on the radio, get gigs, meet women (ha!-that is why I am still single). You end up giving more CDs out for promo than actually selling them at first. It’s kind of like a musical business card.

Your style of music can be described as?

...Folk/pop/Americana. How do you really classify your own music? Categories are hard...kind of like “Jeopardy.”

The CD insert mentions that the songs reflect your “passions, experiences and concerns.” Can you talk about that?

Passions on this CD would be dogs – my dogs are like my kids (don’t have kids so I guess they are my kids); motorcycles – the song ‘The Closest Thing to a Cowboy’ originally was a title of a huge three-panel photographic piece I did when I was at RIC; and music – just playing and recording my music was a passionate experience.

Experiences [reflected on the CD include]...BAD and good relationships. They are always subject for songs, though I tend to want to be a more topical and socially conscious writer these days. Also the fact that I was sick for a long time last year and I tend to get into “funks” – it’s an artist thing I guess. As for concerns [addressed on this CD, Final Harvest is the only real socially conscious song. It is about how farms are shut down because they are not profitable and then sold off – which is not a good thing. I have other concerns – environmental, animals, politics – but they will be on future CDs.

You did the CD’s graphic design, which was one of your concentrations at RIC. Tell us about RIC’s impact on your career/life.

RIC had a huge impact on my life. I spent so much time there between [earning] my undergraduate and graduate degrees and running the graphics department in the Student Union. They were some of the best years of my life. Also RIC was one of the first places that...

...Fuzek • Rossoni played. I used to play as a solo act there a lot as well. As for the graphic design experience, it was great. I learned how to use a Macintosh computer there, back when there were a couple of computers on campus.

What have you got planned for the future musically?

PLAY, PLAY, PLAY... I would like to do more music with Mary Ann Rossoni. Some of the best music I ever made was with her. I am going to record more, probably a live CD and shoot a music video. I have a lot of songs and an album’s worth of material already there. I don’t know...being “me” and being a musician/artist is hard. A lot of times you just “play it by ear.”

For more information on John Fuzek and his new CD, visit www.johnfuzek.com.

Two RIC grads are recognized for outstanding math instruction

The magic is in the classroom,” said Kevin Giusti, a third grade math teacher at the Holliman Elementary School in West Warwick. “I read the letter three times,” said Polselli, recalling her excitement when she was informed of the honor.

Giusti, a sixth grade teacher at the George Hansford School in East Greenwich, said he was ecstatic because “it is one of the top awards you can get.”

A veteran of 20 years of teaching, Polselli said her favorite part of the job is working with kids on a daily basis and watching them grow as the school year goes on. “The treatment is seeing the transformation in 180 days,” she said. “Ten months later they are more confident and have come into their own.”

Polselli considered a career in education while in high school, but she took part in a work-study program at a local elementary school. After beginning her college career at the Community College of Rhode Island, Polselli attended RIC, where she earned a bachelor’s degree. She eventually got her master’s degree at Providence College.

She encourages today’s RIC education major to take as many courses as possible to keep up with new and innovative teaching techniques. “Plan to be a lifelong learner,” she said.

After 20 years in the classroom, Polselli’s favorite part of the job is working with her students. She appreciates the kids every time light up when they are learning and “watching the students interact.”

Giusti, a fellow math teacher, has had a goal to “touch the lives” of kids who may need special attention.

He recalled his connection with kids, even as an adolescent, as an impetus for becoming a teacher. As a member of a large family, Giusti spent time with many younger cousins and eventually worked at after-school programs and as a camp counselor for 12 years.

Despite the accolades and a decade of teaching, Giusti has not forgotten his educational roots. “I am a huge supporter of RIC,” he said. “I think the program is outstanding.”

He encourages current education students to take advantage of the opportunities offered at the College that allow students to get into the classroom early through practicum learning and student teaching.

Giusti described the teaching profession as “extremely rewarding” and said he looks forward to going to school each day “to team up with kids that have bright ideas, opinions, and curiosities.”

The National Science Foundation awards the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching to teachers in kindergarten through 12th grade. Program officials review a teacher’s resume, a video lesson with an analysis, a sample of a student’s work and a letter of recommendation from the school principal. Each state can grant up to six awards (three science and three math) to qualified teachers each year.

by David Cranshaw

What’s News Intern

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LARGEST CLASS REUNION COMMITTEE EVER ASSEMBLED! Above are some of the members serving on the committee. The complete list includes Nancy McIntosh Bordeleau (chair), Vin Cullen, Lillian Monopoli Mottola, Roland Blais, Clare Renasco, Anne Gendron Corroni, Bob Coker, Ray Hart, Jane Whitehead Hart, John Hague, Joan Little Englehardt, Ruth Norton Morse, Sylvia Messerkirch Agahian, Marie Okerblom Mello, Ron St Onge, Pat O’Dea Berlam, Ennis Bisbano, Mary Terry, Virginia Gregory Belanger, Mary Burns Console, Barbara Finnegan Kieby, Beverly Gorman Rossi, and Journdle McCooker Harrison.

Easy ways to donate to RIC

If you make your charitable Contribution through SECA (State Employe Choritable Appeal), the Combined Federal Campaign, or the United Way, we have important information for you.

There are two ways you can donate to the College through the ease of payroll deduction.

1. Give to the Alumni Association
The Annual Fund is the primary source of unrestricted funds supporting student scholarships, faculty research, the Alumni Magazine, Homecoming, and other alumni events and programs. Questions? Call Nancy Hoogasian at 401-456-8827.

2. Give to the Rhode Island College Foundation
A donation to the Foundation supports scholarships and funds focused on specific departments and programs at the College. If there is a particular fund or cause you wish to support, designate the Foundation as your choice. Questions? Call Cathy Hanrahan at 401-456-9547.

United Way contributors: The United Way has eliminated the use of donor codes, but you would like to designate your donation to a specific fund, simply list the name of an agency and the city and state where it is located on your pledge form. If you would like to direct your United Way donation to us, please write one of the following on your form:

Rhode Island College Alumni Association, Providence, Rhode Island
Rhode Island College Foundation, Providence, Rhode Island
SECA and Combined Federal Campaign contributors: Fund codes are still used for the SECA and the Combined Federal Campaign.

To designate the Rhode Island College Alumni Association, please use code #4473.

To designate the Rhode Island College Foundation, please use code #4984.

Buy a brick...create a lasting legacy at RIC

The Alumni Association and Intercollegiate Athletics invite you to celebrate your lifelong connection to Rhode Island College by purchasing a brick in Legacy Walk.

Beginning at the newly renovated soccer field, this attractive brick walkway will be the first step in linking the East Campus, new site of the School of Social Work and the College’s administrative offices, with the main campus.

Name yourself or pay tribute to your family, an alumnus or alumna, a professor, a student-athlete or anyone you wish to honor with this permanent marker.

The holidays will be here soon—take this opportunity to give a special gift remembrance.

Proceeds benefit the programs of the Alumni Association and Intercollegiate Athletics including general scholarship aid, academic support for student-athletes, alumni activities and publications, and faculty research.

Select from:

- 4” x 8” Brick at $150
- 6” x 8” Paver at $300

To order a brick, call the Alumni Association at 401-456-8827 or order conveniently online at www.ric.edu/givetoris/brickcampaign.htm.
Living and breathing politics at Rhode Island College

by Francis J. Leazes
Professor of Political Science

The nation (at least some part of it) is focused on who the next President will be and the political junkies everywhere are getting their fix. "Dead hearts," "horse cattle," "front runners," "too close to call," is how the Kerry and Bush bashers describe the stuff for those who are actually paying close political attention.

Meanwhile, the political science faculty at Rhode Island College challenges our undergraduates to become an educated, informed citizenry. We want students to understand the importance of all this on their lives as well as on the lives of the broader public.

We challenge ourselves to engage in professional activities that model for students the importance of being an informed citizen. These activities grow out of the faculty's personal professional interests converging to provide opportunities for students to get involved, stay informed, be aware. The focus of interests is varied, applied, and shifts as issues arise in the state and nation and as the interests of faculty evolve. In effect, our faculty "live and breathe" their profession in many arenas of politics. A small sampling of the professional activities of our faculty illustrates how those interests converge to the benefit of student intellectual and personal growth.

Education
There is news and change. Not the one in Afghanistan or Iraq, or even in the presidential campaign. It is the news and change in standards which govern the certification and evaluation of teachers, school principals, and other educators designed to prepare teachers in the United States. Millburn Stone (professor of political science and secondary education) for much of his career has been part of the constant struggle to ensure the quality of social studies instruction in Rhode Island.

During the last few semesters, his professional energies have been centered on teaching prospective teachers in political science courses and on research – modeling for students how the politics of national park development relates to leisure tourism. Those who study politics know the importance of geography in their own lives, in their regions, and in the world. The events around the globe are a constant reminder of the work of Stan Demars (professor of geography) is how Americans utilize the natural environment for leisure enjoyment. A far westerner by birth, his research brought him to Rhode Island, and, subsequently, to New England. He is currently at work in Rhode Island designing a program in outdoor environmental education. His latest book endeavor is bringing his geographic insights to the seaside resort development and particularly the use of natural environments by organized religious groups for vacation resorts. If leisure time was not enough, Demars has been engaged in New England’s historical landscapes and the challenges of dealing with national parks. His work at the University of South Carolina, working with New England’s natural landscapes and bringing students to the locales they study, but does avoid as much as possible direct contact with natural disasters.

The States, Tobacco and the Law
There is never a shortage of interest among students at Rhode Island College in becoming practitioners of the law. Keeping up with all the trends, nuances and groundbreaking decisions is a challenge to faculty who teach in the areas of property, jurisdiction, prudence, and civil rights. Tom Schmeling (assistant professor of political science) has an avid interest in the importance of state court decisions and legal processes. His recent work on the significance of understanding national legal trends.

For well over two decades now, Schmeling has been a National Association of Investment Clubs, she offers students who meander into her classes a wealth of knowledge about how the political and economic institutions in the United States and around the world (or not) to create opportunities for wealth making.

Understanding one thing – acquiring a skill is another matter. Oppenlander, in her courses that teach how to conduct and judge as nonprofessional annual report and learn how well they they inform the average person of a company’s financial status. This ability is one that she regularly employs in her role as a Nicholson journalist, an individual who writes company reports for design, content and financial reporting. Students can come to understand the differences between public regulation of commercial activities and the regulation of public taxation and oversight. A potential byproduct of acquiring this talent is that someone just might become the millionaire of tomorrow – that’s the hope.

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RIC Political Science
DEPARTMENT

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Science research in a small school can lead to big things

by Thomas Watson and Chris Furey

[Editor's note: Watson and Furey are honors students in chemistry and biology, respectively. Watson intends to pursue graduate studies in chemistry; Furey has been accepted into the Early Identification Program at the Brown Medical School.]

F or the last two years, eight students have had the opportunity to participate in independent research projects in computational chemistry under Prof. Glênisson de Oliveira, in the physical sciences dept. at RIC. Last January, when we joined that research group, five of us were actually paid a stipend to work on a problem that was funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), under the umbrella of the Rhode Island Biomedical Research Infrastructure Network (RI-BRIN).

Our purpose is to study the role of metal centers in a few proteins associated with different types of cancer. During the spring and summer, we have spent time working with the ins and outs of research, and could see how the scientific method is not just restricted to practice in everyday science.

Science is particularly exciting and fun for naturally curious individuals, but “Dr. D” (de Oliveira) rightf ully warned us in our first meeting that at times it can be laborious, and actually boring, to fully explore a problem and to perform repetitious tasks.

After focusing on details, working on small metal complexes, and running hundreds of calculations, it is easy to lose focus and to forget about the big picture. One student, Melissa Major, put it best when she told us of her frustration in describing the details of her project and research activities to a family member, until she turned back to the big picture and said, “We are trying to cure cancer.”

Considering that we have only done preliminary studies, and have only looked at small complexes, that are not even close to the proteins of interest, that seems like a stretch, but we do hope to make small contributions in that direction.

During the year, we had weekly meetings that dealt with daily technical issues, and included lectures on methods and theories.

From time to time, those lectures put our individual contributions in the context of a larger project—the value of the larger effort helped to keep us motivated. When we prepared our own individual oral presentations for those meetings, and wrote our final reports for the spring semester, it was clear to us that our individual efforts added up to a greater collective accomplishment; we not only learned “how things work,” but also learned more about “team work.”

One of the best learning experiences for us was when we went to the MERCURY Conference in Computational Chemistry, from July 29-31. We had already presented some of our work in the Sigma Xi Annual Symposium, and Tom and Melissa had attended a regional poster session of the American Chemical Society, but this was different in that there was a broader spectrum of speakers from industry and from major research institutions, such as Penn State, Brown University, and SUNY. We also interacted with students and professors from very reputable undergraduate institutions, among them Hamilton College. Even more significant, of course, was the fact that we had to present our own work to all those people.

On the second day of the conference, we were to present two posters, preceded by very brief oral presentations in a full auditorium—now our group meetings seemed more like family reunions! We did not know what to expect, but on the first day we got the scoop from other students, and found out that other first-time students had the same fears and anxieties.

We had spent the previous two weeks preparing abstracts, selecting meaningful data, and reaching conclusions about our work. When the long-awaited day came, we had one of the most valuable experiences of the whole summer. To our surprise and delight, we were constantly engaged with students and faculty, who displayed legitimate interest in our work.

The questions kept us on our toes and forced us to see our own work from a different angle, and some gave us a great sense of accomplishment. It was particularly entertaining and fulfilling to hear comments such as “undergraduate students are actually modifying basis sets” (some less-than-trivial stuff in quantum mechanics), and “are you really going to evaluate relativistic effects?” Those people could appreciate the value of our contributions, and could place themselves in the context of an even bigger picture than we realized—our new methods (preliminary studies) could be useful for many more systems than we are ever going to study.

We came to the realization that our work was publishable in very reputable peer-reviewed journals, and it was at the same level as the work being done in more famous institutions. We learned that big science can be done at a small institution, and that small systems can add much to the big picture.

Student teaching...

Several RIC students, along with Glênisson de Oliveira, assistant professor of chemistry, shared their research with the scientific community at recent chemistry conferences.

Christopher Furey,* Thomas Watson,* Melissa Major,* Ereny Banoub,* Rita Shah,* and Glênisson de Oliveira, “Methods Calibration for DFT Studies of Metal Centers in CSK,” Annual Sigma Xi Symposium, Providence, R.I. (2004). [Student-coauthors; underlined names are presenters.]

Christopher Furey* and Glênisson de Oliveira, “Basis Set Effects on the Binding of Zn2+ and Water,” Annual Sigma Xi Symposium, Providence, R.I. (2004).


RIC hosts N.E. Psychological Association meeting Oct 15, 16

The keynote speech by Harvard psychology professor Mahzarin Banaji will be free and open to the public. Banaji will discuss “Mind Bugs: the Psychology of Ordinary Prejudice” on Friday, Oct. 15 at 8:15 p.m. in Gaige Hall Auditorium.

Rhode Island College will be the site of the annual New England Psychological Association (NEPA) meeting, held Friday and Saturday, Oct. 15 and 16. The meeting will feature a number of workshops and two doz en poster sessions.

“The NEPA event brings together a diverse group of students from universities and colleges throughout New England to view presentations on some of the latest research in psychology,” said meeting coordinator Joan Rollins, psychology dept. chair and professor of psychology at RIC.

This year’s student-oriented conference,” added Rollins, is the immediate predecessor of NEPA. On Saturday, graduate school information tables will be staffed by repre sentatives from 14 area colleges. Psi Chi, the national psychology honor society, will have a full day of programs in celebration of its 75th anniversary.

NEPA is seeking to serve the region al psychology community, it will also offer practical information for the general public. On Saturday morning there will be a symposium on “Eating, Weight Control, and Exercise.” And Michael Vitz, psychology professor at UMass Boston, will speak on “The Politics of Denial and the 2004 Presidential Election.”

One of the offerings on Saturday afternoon will be "Relationship Baseball," an interactive workshop on teaching interpersonal skills. In addition, Russell Church, professor of psychology at Brown University, will be talking about “The Beauty of Good Mathematical Model of Behavior.”

Paper sessions on clinical psychology and prenatal cognitive development will also be featured on Saturday afternoon.

NEPA conference registration rates are $15 for NEPA members, $25 for NEPA student members and senior citizens, and $15 for student members of the Association.

For registration forms and the latest information about the NEPA meetings, visit the organization’s Web site at www.nepa-info.org.
Allan Fung is a born politician. He discovered his natural talent for politics when he took a part in a mock trial program in high school and furthered his involvement in civic affairs as a member of student government at RIC. Fung is the first Asian-American student government president in the history of RIC’s student government. This sparked his interest in politics and was a criminology major in Professor Winter’s class in intercultural studies. Fung was very motivated in getting out the vote. And during a chance meeting with his former mentor, Victor Profughi, whom he hadn’t seen since his college days at RIC, Fung learned about how to best represent a constituency.

At the convention, he said he was grateful for the opportunity to network with delegates from across the country and to have heard Elaine Chao, the U.S. secretary of labor, speak. Chao was the first Asian American to be appointed to a presidential cabinet position. “Listening to her talk about her experiences was very motivating. I could relate,” Fung said.

Fung experienced another rare opportunity at the convention – a chance meeting with his former mentor, Victor Profughi, whom he hadn’t seen since his college days at RIC. “I remember Allan as a bright, articulate student,” Profughi said. “I’m delighted to see that he is applying some of the very practical things I taught him about political campaigning when he took my summer workshop on political campaigning techniques a few years ago.”

Fung said the most difficult part of politics is politics itself, but stays focused by always keeping the greater public good in mind. His professors taught him well.

Latest in assistive technology on display at November conference

Assistive technology refers to devices – both simple and sophisticated – that help those with physical and cognitive limitations enjoy greater self-reliance and participation in activities meaningful to them.

The 15th annual Assistive Technology Conference, “Improving Lives Daily,” will be held Nov. 18 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Warwick. The event – hosted by TechACCESS of RIC – offers people with disabilities, families and professionals the chance to attend 15 workshops and to visit with over 35 exhibitors of state-of-the-art assistive technology products and services.

Elizabeth Dalton, RIC assistant professor of special education and university affiliated programs, is chair of the conference program. She will also co-present a workshop that discusses assistive technology competencies for all educators that are being considered by the state Dept. of Education.

The conference offers an opportunity for faculty and students “to learn about how technology can make a real difference in the lives of children and adults with disabilities,” said Dalton. The Paul V. Sherlock Center at RIC is a co-sponsor of the conference, along with the Assistive Technology Access Partnership, the R.I. Office of Rehabilitation Services, the R.I. Dept. of Education, the R.I. Dept. of Health, TechACCESS of R.I., Ocean State Center for Independent Living, and Kurzweil Educational Systems.

Admission, which includes lunch, is $50 (students, $25). Admission to the exhibit hall only is $20. Pre-registration must be received by October 31. Walk-in registration is $60 (lunch not guaranteed). Accommodations are available for those needing them; requests must be received by October 15.

For more information, contact Beverly Andrade Johnson, TechACCESS of R.I., at 401-463-0202 or email techaccess@techaccessri.org.

RIC offers 3-D photo tour of 19th-century RI Oct. 21

From about 1850 to the early 1900s, stereo photographs captured images of Rhode Island cities and lifestyles in 3-D. The images were mounted on cardboard and viewed through special handheld viewers as a popular parlor entertainment of the day. The images can now be viewed through the use of modern 3-D technology. The audience wears 3-D glasses similar to those used at IMAX theaters to see the dimension and detail of the photos. “These stereo images offer a remarkable insight into the lives and landscape of earlier generations of Rhode Islanders,” said Ned Connors, a historian with the Rhode Island Historical Society and a 1979 graduate of RIC. Connors will also narrate the presentation.

The photo tour is sponsored by RIC’s Center for Public Policy. For more information, contact Mark Motte, director of the Center for Public Policy, at (401) 456-8378 or mmotte@ric.edu.

Over 100 rare, 3-D stereo photographs will be displayed. RIC’s Center for Public Policy presents the photos in conjunction with the Rhode Island Historical Society. The event is free and open to the public.

Ever wonder what it was like to live in Rhode Island around the beginning of 19th century, when the College was in its early years? Travel back in time through vivid, three-dimensional imaging on Thursday, Oct. 21 from 4 – 5:30 p.m. in the Forman Theatre in the Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts, when the College presents an unusual photo tour of the state by merging old-time technology and new, state-of-the-art projection.

About 100 of the most captivating scenes of life in 19th-century Rhode Island will be shown. These images, gathered from the graphics collection of the Rhode Island Historical Society, include waterfront views from the days when Providence was active in maritime commerce and street scenes of downtown Providence before trolleys and automobiles traveled through the avenues.

There is a memorable photo of President Teddy Roosevelt addressing a crowd in what is now Kennedy Plaza. Plus photos of many of the city’s commercial buildings still standing and well preserved today. Of course, there is a photo of the Normal School in its early days. All photographs in the presentation were taken by local photographers.
Rhode Island College officially dedicated a building in honor of its fourth president, Joseph F. Kauffman, on Oct. 2, as part of Homecoming weekend. The building that houses six departments within the Division of Development and College Relations on the East Campus, also known as Building 10, is now called the Joseph F. Kauffman Center.

Originally constructed in 1952 as a cottage for children in state care, and later used for DCYF offices, the building was completely rebuilt in 2002 for College use. Earlier this year, on May 26, the Rhode Island Board of Governors for Higher Education approved a measure to name the building that was unanimously adopted by the General Assembly.

"Under Dr. Kauffman’s leadership, the College grew into the modern comprehensive institution it is today," said RIC President John Nazarian. "The alumni, and those of us who served with him, look forward to this historic ceremony."

Kauffman became president of RIC on July 1, 1968 and served until January 8, 1973. He came from a post as dean of students at the University of Wisconsin.

President Kauffman would serve during a key era in RIC’s 150-year history. Rapid enrollment growth, new academic programs, an increase in the number of faculty, and new construction for campus expansion characterized his administration. During his tenure, new majors were added in art education, economics, nursing, speech communication and theatre. He oversaw a revamped general studies program and the inauguration of the first separate graduate commencement ceremony. He also introduced the first student exchange and study abroad programs.

At RIC’s 1978 commencement, Kauffman was given an honorary doctor of pedagogy degree. On October 26, 1983, Kauffman was named president emeritus of Rhode Island College.

Each year, RIC awards the Kauffman prize to a qualified graduating senior beginning a career in a public school system. The award was established in 1991 by the Kauffman family in celebration of their father’s 70th birthday.

After leaving RIC, Kauffman returned to teaching at the University of Wisconsin. He is a respected author of many books on the subject of student affairs and administration in higher education, and considered a renowned expert on college presidencies. He co-wrote the book On Assuming a College or University Presidency, Lessons and Advice from the Field.

Kauffman is now 83 years old and lives in Madison, Wis.
DebateWatch at RIC breaks all national records

by Jane Fusco
What's News Editor

Over 800 people gathered on campus for the first-ever statewide forum. It was the largest held so far.

When Valerie Endress, associate professor of communications, decided to submit Rhode Island College as a potential DebateWatch site for the 2004 presidential debates, she expected an audience of 75, maybe 100 tops.

"We thought we'd have our student research group, some faculty and members of the campus community and that would be it," she said.

Then she and fellow associate professor of communications, Kay Israel, joined forces with Victor Profughi, director of the Bureau of Government Research and Services, and political analyst, to see how they could expand the forum. Enter the Division of College Relations, and it became a full-fledged media, public relations, campus and community event.

The crowd consisted of 53 political dignitaries, educators, students and private citizens for a total of 827 people. It was the largest attendance at any DebateWatch forum that night and since the inception of DebateWatch in 1996.

Before RIC's event, the highest number of DebateWatch participants for a single event was about 550 people at the University of Maryland.

More than 400 discussion groups took place across the country after the Sept. 30 presidential debate. There are over 44 DebateWatch locations across the country and one in Milano, Italy, holding forums this presidential season. RIC is a voter-education partner of The National Commission on Presidential Debates and was authorized by the Commission to host the forum. It was the first time a college in Rhode Island was a DebateWatch site, and the first time a DebateWatch was held statewide.

The RIC event began with a Town Hall meeting that included political war stories and political analysis. Political reporters Jim Hummel of ABC6 News and Bill Rappleye of NBC10 News moderated the meeting. After the meeting, the audience viewed the 90-minute debate on large screen televisions then broke into discussion groups for reactions to and analysis of the debate.

Discussion groups were led by trained facilitators recruited by the College who recorded and collected the data then forwarded it to the Commission the next morning.

The facilitator's report identified responses to the candidates' performances, format, clarity of questions and key points of the debate.

Facilitator's reports are released to voter-education partners and the public within 48 hours after the debate.

As a result, voters across the country have a direct voice in evaluating candidates, campaign discourse and responsibility of the media to accurately report the findings of the debate.

"The numbers demonstrate that the town hall meetings continue to be a vital part of Rhode Island politics," said Valarie Endress, associate professor of communications at RIC and one of the organizers of the event. "As we watched over 800 people filling into our event, we realized that Rhode Islanders have a keen interest in any debate.

DebateWatch began in 1992 when Diana Carlin, professor of communications at the University of Kansas, and several of her colleagues around the nation conducted research on voter response to the presidential debates.

Their research showed that voters learned as much from the post debate discussions as they did from the actual debates. In 1996, DebateWatch was formed as a national project with 200 organizations participating. By 2000, about 200 organizations participated including 50 colleges and universities.

In this election year, the number has more than doubled.
Sports

From the Athletic Director's Desk

Donald E. Techer
Director
Intercollegiate Athletics, Intramurals and Recreation

Some news of note as the leaves fall.

Congratulations to Rick Wilson '72, and the family of the late Ray Pepin '63, as these gentlemen were inducted into the New England Basketball Hall of Fame last week. Rick is still the all-time leading scorer in Rhode Island College men's basketball history.

Ray, a student-athlete at RIC, went on to great heights as the baseball and basketball coach at Bishop Hendricken High School, and later as the basketball coach at Stonehill College. Ray also served both institutions as the athletic director.

- I have received a number of ideas relating to the intercollegiate athletic program's 75th anniversary. One of the ideas that came forth was instituted in this issue, where we will highlight two former student-athletes or coaches in each issue in a feature called "Where Are They Now?"

- Construction on the new varsity competition complex (soccer, lacrosse and track) is really moving along, and even though the completion date for phase one will be two months later than anticipated, it's going to be a beauty.

Additionally, renovations to the Bazair Softball Field complex are in their final stages and will also be another great improvement.

RIC baseball finishes '04 among national leaders

Head Coach Jay Grenier's baseball team finished the 2004 season ranked in the top 15 nationally in several statistical categories. The Anchormen posted a .342 batting average, which was 15th in the country among 317 Div. III institutions.

RIC was fourth in the country in doubles per game as the Anchormen poured out an average of 2.66 two-baggers per contest. The Anchormen were also 11th in runs scored per game (8.9) and 14th in slugging percentage (.524). RIC's overall Chris Higgins was ranked 21st individually in runs scored per game, crossing the plate an average of 1.34 times per game.

The Anchormen's fall season will culminate in the annual Cardi's Furniture Fall Baseball Classic on Saturday, Oct. 9. Log on to www.ric.edu/athletics for the game times and locations.

Where Are They Now?

This year – the 75th anniversary of RIC athletics – we will catch up with former student-athletes and coaches who made important contributions to the College's sports program.

Joe Menard '60

After a three-year stint as a member of the 82nd Airborne Division in the U.S. Army, Joe Menard '60 came to RIC in 1956. He attended classes for two years at the old campus site, where the Providence Place Mall is now located, and spent the next two years at the College's current Mt. Pleasant location.

Menard was a goalkeeper on RIC's men's soccer team for three seasons (1957-59) and also played JV basketball where he was a guard. After earning his bachelor's degree in education, he returned to RIC and earned his M. Ed. in 1964.

He began a long career as an educator, first as a mathematics teacher in the Pawtucket school system from 1964-69, then moving onto the Community College of Rhode Island where he spent the next 21 years as a mathematics professor. Along the way, Menard earned his doctorate in education from Nova Southeastern University (Fla.) in 1976.

His love of athletics has never waned as he begins his 40th year as a swimming official with the Rhode Island Interscholastic League this fall.

He resides in Riverside, RI, with his wife Edith '53. The couple has two sons and five grandchildren.

When asked about the differences at RIC now as compared to when he was a student-athlete, Menard says, "The campus is so much bigger now than it was back then. The facilities have been dramatically improved and the programs that are offered to students are much better and more diverse."

G. Gail Davis '60

Like Joe Menard '60, G. Gail Davis attended the College at two of its locations. Although there weren't any opportunities for women to participate in organized varsity athletics in high school or college, that didn't stop Davis who always played basketball and volleyball recreationally.

Davis earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education from RIC in 1960 and embarked on a 30-year career as an educator. Over the years, she also took graduate courses at both Springfield College and the University of Wisconsin.

She began her teaching career in the Providence elementary and junior high school system before settling in the Warwick school system in 1968, first at Veterans High School and then at Toll Gate High School in 1972.

Davis took over the varsity girls' basketball head coaching position at Toll Gate and went on to win 10 Rhode Island state titles during her career. In addition, Davis also coached the varsity girls' basketball team to one R.I. state title during her career. In addition, Davis also coached women's volleyball at the Community College of Rhode Island for eight seasons and won multiple New England titles.

She was recognized by her alma mater and CCRI, who both inducted her into their respective Athletic Halls of Fame.

Davis, who resides in Warwick, retired from teaching in 1996, but has since found a home back at RIC where she serves as the convener of student-athlete development.

Sports Events

Oct. 4 – Oct. 25

**Men's Soccer**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Match</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thur. Oct. 7</td>
<td>Newbury</td>
<td>3:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thur. Oct. 7</td>
<td>at Dartmouth*</td>
<td>3:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed. Oct. 13</td>
<td>at Rhode Island*</td>
<td>3:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat. Oct. 16</td>
<td>Western Connecticut*</td>
<td>1 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed. Oct. 20</td>
<td>vs. Mitchell</td>
<td>3:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat. Oct. 23</td>
<td>vs. Keene State*</td>
<td>1 p.m.</td>
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**Women's Soccer**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Match</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tues. Oct. 5</td>
<td>Green Mountain</td>
<td>3:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thur. Oct. 7</td>
<td>vs. Salve Regina</td>
<td>4 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat. Oct. 9</td>
<td>vs. Dartmouth*</td>
<td>4 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed. Oct. 13</td>
<td>vs. Bridgewater State</td>
<td>3:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues. Oct. 19</td>
<td>vs. Western Connecticut*</td>
<td>Noon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat. Oct. 23</td>
<td>vs. Wesleyan</td>
<td>3:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat. Oct. 23</td>
<td>vs. Keene State*</td>
<td>1 p.m.</td>
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**Women's Tennis**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Match</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tues. Oct. 5</td>
<td>UMass-Boston*</td>
<td>3:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thur. Oct. 7</td>
<td>Clark</td>
<td>3:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat. Oct. 9</td>
<td>Dartmouth*</td>
<td>10 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thur. Oct. 12</td>
<td>vs. Suffolk</td>
<td>3:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed. Oct. 13</td>
<td>vs. Johnson &amp; Wales</td>
<td>3:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri. Oct. 15</td>
<td>vs. Little East Champions*</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat. Oct. 16</td>
<td>vs. Little East Champions*</td>
<td>TBA</td>
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**Women's Volleyball**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Match</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tues. Oct. 5</td>
<td>vs. Keene State*</td>
<td>6 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thur. Oct. 7</td>
<td>vs. Clark &amp; Eastern Nazarene</td>
<td>Noon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat. Oct. 9</td>
<td>vs. Western New England</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thur. Oct. 12</td>
<td>vs. Johnson &amp; Wales</td>
<td>Noon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat. Oct. 16</td>
<td>vs. Roger Williams '63</td>
<td>6 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed. Oct. 13</td>
<td>vs. Salve Regina</td>
<td>Noon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thur. Oct. 19</td>
<td>vs. Suffolk</td>
<td>6 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thur. Oct. 22</td>
<td>vs. Endicott</td>
<td>6 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat. Oct. 23</td>
<td>vs. Little East Round Robin*</td>
<td>1 p.m.</td>
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**Men's and Women's Cross Country**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Match</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sat. Oct. 7</td>
<td>at Roger Williams Invit.</td>
<td>11 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat. Oct. 16</td>
<td>at Plansky Invitational</td>
<td>11 a.m.</td>
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*Little East Conference game/match
+Hosted by University of Southern Maine
Eight new members inducted into Athletic Hall of Fame

Rhode Island College inducted 15 former athletes into its Athletic Hall of Fame at the College’s annual Recognition Dinner and Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony on Oct. 2, in conjunction with Homecoming festivities.

Abraham “Cappy” Asermely ’51 was a three-sport athlete during his days at RIC. Asermely joined the Volunteers in 1958-62. He is one of only 25 Anchor- men in the College’s history. He qualified for the NAIA Tournament for the first time in school history and was the sixth member of that tournament and is the sixth member of that category.

Joe Mikaelian ’80 is a native of Cranston, R.I. He was a member of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee and is 12th all-time in that category. Mikaelian played two seasons for the Volunteers in 1980-82.

Jenna Daum ’98 is a native of Jersey City, N.J. She was a starter at both the AAU Wrestling National Championships in 1996 and was named the first-ever Rhode Island girls’ basketball coach, serving as an assistant coach at Lincoln High School from the late 1970s through the early 1980s. Lucey was also the cross-country and outdoor track coach at LHS.

A native of Central Falls, Lucey earned a bachelor’s degree in education from Rhode Island College in 1962. He earned his M.Ed from RIC in 1965 and CAGS from High School. Lucey was a member of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee and is 12th all-time in that category.

In 1996, Lucey was inducted into the Pawtucket Hall of Fame, Lawrence has been an educator at Mt. St. Charles Academy for 35 years. In 1970, he was named the varsity soccer coach. In 1974, he was appointed director of athletics. Lawrence was also named the varsity basketball coach in 1974 and took over the girls varsity tennis program in 1990.

When Daum finished her career in 1997, she was the RIC record-holder on bars and floor, and was All-ECAC in both the 1996 NCGA Championships, which were hosted by RIC.

After graduation, she worked with the city of Pawtucket as an educator, then as recreation supervisor for over 50 years. Nine teachers who taught under Asermely’s leadership went on to become principals.

In 1968, while at Pawtucket’s recreation dept., he established a three-on-three basketball league, one of the first of its kind in the country. The league is still going strong today.

Asermely stayed involved in sports as an official and coach for over 40 years of Little League and high school, as well as for college basketball and professional softball leagues. He umpired several Pawtucket Red Sox games and also officiated basketball. He coached the Pawtucket Vocational High School basketball team for nine years. He is a 2002 inductee to the Pawtucket Hall of Fame.

Asermely earned a bachelor’s degree in education from RIC. He resides in Pawtucket with his wife Anna. The couple has six children and six grandchildren.

James Barbera ’91 is one of several wrestlers credited with helping build the Volunteers into a dynasty in the late 1980s and early 1990s. Barbera is one of only five former RIC grapplers who compiled 1,000 or more career points. He is one of 25 Anchormen in that category.

Also while at RIC, Daum was a member of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) and later was a committee member for the 1998 NCGA Championships, which were hosted by RIC.

After graduation, Donald worked with the New England Basketball Association as a case manager, then at the Women’s Resource Center of Newport and Bristol counties as a school-based violence prevention educator, and as a case manager at West Bay Community Services.

She is a junior at Rhode Island College, where she has already completed her degree in guidance and counseling, and is pursuing a master’s degree in education.

Lucey was also the cross-country and outdoor track coach at LHS.

A native of Cranston, Mikaelian played in 104 career games, batting .333 with 98 runs, 106 hits, 71 RBIs, 14 doubles, 12 triples and 14 home runs. He is a member of the RIC Baseball 100-Club, and still ranks ninth all-time in RBIs (142), in doubles (41) and in runs (98) all-time.

A team captain earned the NESCAC title in each of four seasons as an Anchorman and earned First Team All-Conference honors as a junior in 1976.

After graduation, Mikaelian went on to play men’s Major League Softball, having in tournaments throughout the Northeast. He was a member of Parasolcut Builders’ Northeast Division championship team in 1985, which competed in the Softball World Series.

Donald earned a bachelor’s degree from RIC in 1980. He is a specialist in inventory management at General Dynamics, for whom he has worked for the past 22 years. He resides in Westerly with his wife Gina and their two daughters.

Troy Smith ’93 enjoyed an outstanding four-year basketball career at RIC from 1989-92. He was named to the RIC-record 107 career games and closed out his career with 1,719 points, 1,008 assists and 224 steals. He was an All-Little East Conference Co-Player of the Year in 1984-85.

The Jersey City, N.J. native was a two-time Academic All-American in 1990 and 1991, the only two years for which the College is known for his speed, powerful throwing arm and excellent hitting skills. He had a 301 career batting average.

A native of Cranston, Mikaelian played in 104 career games, batting .333 with 98 runs, 106 hits, 71 RBIs, 14 doubles, 12 triples and 14 home runs. He is a member of the RIC Baseball 100-Club, and still ranks ninth all-time in RBIs (142), in doubles (41) and in runs (98) all-time.

A team captain earned the NESCAC title in each of four seasons as an Anchorman and earned First Team All-Conference honors as a junior in 1976.

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Street Painting Festival draws RIC artists, big crowds

It was the kind of roadway that no one minds. Hundreds of artists — including big winner and RIC employee Mike Macaulay — turned asphalt squares into colorful masterpieces at the Fifth Annual Providence Street Painting Festival, Sept. 11 on South Water Street.

Macaulay, a senior programmer analyst at the College, won the People’s Choice award, and a panel of judges also selected his chalk art as the best adult square. Last year, his artwork was judged second in the adult category. RIC students Jamie Pascale and Aimee Gregoire, along with employee Scott Tetreault from American Power Conversion, created their art in a square sponsored by APC, where Pascale and Gregoire are interns. Tressah Marra and Katelyn Mroczka represented RIC at the festival.

Thousands attended the event, which is sponsored by the Graphic Communications Industry of Rhode Island. The festival raises money to fund scholarships for students pursuing education in the fine arts and graphic arts fields.

FIRST PLACE: Macaulay’s winning entry (right) was entitled “Firefighters.”

Unity Players mark five-year anniversary of performances promoting diversity

by Carolyn Fluehr-Lobban Professor of Anthropology

This fall the Unity Players of Rhode Island College celebrate their fifth year as a group of students devoted to educating young people about race and diversity through skits, rap, hip-hop, musical performance, and, most importantly, dialogue.

Several generations of Unity Players have worked with the group since their first performance in May 1999 for 5th and 6th graders at the Henry Barnard School on campus. Since then, the group has performed at local colleges and universities; at regional SOAR (Students Organized Against Racist Events) conferences; at the annual Diversity Week events at Cranston High School East, and at other R.I. secondary schools, including Coventry and Johnston high schools.

In 2000, they were the recipients of the Greater Providence NAACP’s Community Service Award. And they have performed on the RIC campus annually for the November Promising Practices diversity workshops, for Kwanza, and for Black History month.

Individual members of the Unity Players have spoken in RIC classes about the role they provide in diversity education, such as veteran professor Chris Souza, who plans a career in education, and hip-hop artist Hannah Resseger, who has frequently performed her own work in classes on subjects from “American History, the real story” to affirmative action and white privilege.

Other former members of the Unity Players have gone on to professional activism and acting careers, including Ghislaine Jean, who has performed with the Black Repertory Company and for community service groups.

In recent years, the activities of the Unity Players have overlapped with the newly formed campus chapter of the NAACP, which like the Unity Players, is comprised of a multiracial group of students. I am an advisor to both organizations. William Pett, adjunct English faculty; Jamie Taylor, assistant professor of theatre; and Laura Khoury, assistant professor of sociology, have also worked closely with the Unity Players.

Perhaps the best way to describe the focused improvisational style of the skits that the Unity Players perform is to quote two examples from a 1999 Providence Journal article describing an early performance at Henry Barnard.

Scene One
Children fight over a toy in the playground. One boy, who is white, yells to his black friend, “Why don’t you just go back to where you came from?” The black boy retorts, “You brought us here.”

Scene Two
At a basketball court at school, two youths push aside two Asian girls trying to join in. “Aren’t you Chinese too smart for basketball?” one of the boys says sarcastically.

“We’re Cambodian, not Chinese,” one girl corrects. Her answer doesn’t make a difference to this boy, who continues with his these-people-are-too-smart theme. “Why don’t you ask your principal if you can go to school seven days a week? On second thought, we’ll let you come back and play. If you bring back two egg rolls and fried rice.”

For college-level audiences, the Unity Players have performed skits about the “n” word and contextualized its frequent use in rap and hip-hop lyrics. They have critiqued the word “mulatto” for its origins and misuse. Mulatto comes from the word “male,” the sterile offspring of a horse and a donkey and should not be applied to humans, they argue.

The skit “Cream in your coffee” delves into problems of interracial dating and the problem of black and white women rivals over dating black athletes at predominantly white private schools.

The Providence College student newspaper The Cowl described the Unity Players in this way in 2001: “Ever hear of an acting group composed of non-theater majors who perform for free? Even though the RIC Unity Players fill this description, they are no amateurs. These volunteers confront the complex issues of respect and diversity within their scripts. Their style, called structured improvisation, means that each performance is a unique event. All of the skills are true to life and based on real experiences.”

The Unity Players now request fees for their performances, which they use for group functions and community service. However, the spirit of voluntarism and mission that sparked the first group of RIC students recruited from my Anthropology of Race and Racism class in the spring of 1999 is still alive and well among the newest recruits to the Unity Players.

For more information, contact me at (401) 456-8006.
RIC Performing Arts Series –

Delfos dances into RIC

The Delfos Contemporary Dance Company will import a Latin flavor into Rhode Island College’s Performing Arts Series with a presentation on Friday, Oct. 22 at 8 p.m. in the Auditorium in Roberts Hall. The show contains adult themes. 

One of the most revered and renowned dance companies in Latin America, Delfos will tour the United States during the fall of 2004 with the support of The National Endowment for the arts in association with the National Dance Project of the New England Foundation for the Arts in Boston.

Co-founders and current artistic directors Victor Manuel Ruiz and Claudia Lavista began with a mission to provide a forum to teach a new style of dance. The goal is to forge an intimate understanding of the art form that comes from professional training and dance creation.

The duo received instant acclaim when they each won first place as the top choreographer at the National Dance Award competition in 1992, the same year Delfos was founded.

The co-founders said the purpose of the new dance “is not to approach dance as an illustrative event but rather to arrive at an intimacy with this everyday art and to discover hidden worlds that can spring up inside the same dance," they wrote on their Web site delfosdanza.com.

In 1998, Delfos fulfilled their original goal to teach by establishing the Mazatlan Professional School of Dance based in Mexico. There are now 50 students enrolled in the school, which focuses on the development and growth of professional dancers. The troupe is made up of Omar Carum, Xitali Pina, Augustín Martínez, Kar en de Luna and Joel Aragon.

Carum, also a founding member of Delfos, won the male inter- preter award at the National Dance Concert in 2000, while Pina and Martínez have nearly 30 years of dance experience between them and have been teaching and performing with Delfos since 1998. The two new- est members, de Luna and Aragon joined permanently to Delfos in 2004 after studying at the Mazatlan School.

Reserved seating is $26 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.

Putumayo Latinas to perform

The concert event – staged by the music label Putumayo World Music – highlights the depth and diversity of three extraordinary Latin divas: Totó La Momposina, Mariana Montalvo and Belo Velloso. They will perform a cross section of traditional and contemporary Latin-American music in conjunction with the recent release of their CD Women of Latin America.

Mariana Montalvo offers new interpretations of the music from her native Chile. She keeps alive the sophisticated nueva canción tradition of South American folkloric music that emerged in the 1960s and 70s. Montalvo’s musical influences include legendary singers Victor Jara, Violeta Parra and Mercedes Sosa. Her original compositions feature

Sculpture, grades 5-8; Drawing, offered: Mixed Media, grades 1-8; and Advanced Drawing, grades 9-12. (Mixed Media classes will be organized according to age and grade.)

Tuition and registration fees for all classes are $360.

For additional information on the program, please call the art dept. at (401) 456-8054 or email cmulcahey@ric.edu.

The program brochure may be downloaded from the Web at www.ric.edu/hbs.

Halloween Collage Concert offers plenty of musical treats

The Annual Halloween Collage Concert returns for a third trick-or-treat season Friday, Oct. 29, showcasing the talents of the music, theatre, and dance departments.

The show is “fast-paced, with something for everyone,” said Bill Jones, professor of music and elementary education. It will feature a series of short pieces played by solo performers and ensembles such as the saxophone quartet, guitar ensemble, Chamber Singers, Concert Jazz Band, flute choir, string quartet, and more. The music is fitting for the occasion, with all performers in Halloween costumes. The audience is also encouraged to come in costume.

While the concert is “carefully prepared, it is also light-hearted, even whimsical,” said Jones. “We have a wonderful time,” he added, “and so does the audience.”
Clements joins the RIC Wind Ensemble for concert

The RIC Wind Ensemble will team up with tuba virtuoso Tony Clements in a performance that will blow the doors off Sapinsley Hall in the Nazarian Center on Friday, Oct. 15 at 8 p.m. Music aficionados will welcome the biggest brass instrument to the ranks of solo instruments.

A native Californian, Clements is well known on the West Coast for his carefree ways, illustrated when he straps his tuba to his back and hits the open road on his Harley Davidson motorcycle. “Not only is he a phenomenal player of national stature, but his warm, easygoing personality comes across as natural as it does in person,” said Rob Franzblau, associate professor of music and director of the Wind Ensemble.

According to Franzblau, the tuba is not generally regarded as a solo instrument. Most music lovers will picture a violonist or a pianist leading an ensemble, but a tuba player the caliber of Clements will resonate with the audience. “Everyone knows the tuba can play quite low, but its upper range is beautifully warm and mellow, more like a French horn in quality,” Franzblau said.

Clements will play Edward Gregson’s Concerto for Tuba and Wind Ensemble and will be joined by three RIC faculty members to form a low brass quartet that will perform Mozart’s “Eine Kleine Nachtmusik.”

The RIC Wind Ensemble will begin the concert with Russian composer Dmitri Shostakovich’s Festive Overture. The piece dates back to 1954 when it was premiered at the 37th anniversary of the Lenin-Led October Revolution in present-day Russia.

The concert will conclude with a piece written in tribute to the United States Military Academy at West Point – Morton Gould’s Symphony for Winds. This work and a selection that honors the victims of the 1999 Columbine High School shooting will bring American Elegy by Frank Ticheli.

Clements will also lead an afternoon master class on the day of the performance for local high school and college players to practice the tuba and other low brass instruments including the trombone and the euphonium, a smaller version of the tuba.

General admission tickets are $7 with discounts for seniors. RIC students with a RIC ID will be admitted free.

Edward Markward guides RIC Symphony Orchestra into new concert season this month

The RI College Symphony orchestra opens its 32nd season under the leadership of Edward Markward on Monday, Oct. 18 at 8 p.m. in Sapinsley Hall in the Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts. Markward has chosen what he calls “a fast-paced, jubilant program” for the orchestra’s initial concert, which begins with American composer John Adams’ Short Ride in a Fast Machine. Composed in 1986, it remains one of Adams’ most frequently performed and popular works. “This short ride takes a mere four minutes but leaves the listener utterly breathless,” said Markward.

Next up will be Johann Nepomuk Hummel’s Concerto for Trumpet and Orchestra in E-flat Major, one of the two most well-known concertos for the trumpet from the Classical period.

The featured artist for this performance is Joseph Damien Foley, assistant professor of music at RIC. A native of Concord, N.H., he is one of the most sought after musicians in the region. Since 1990, Foley has been principal trumpet of the Rhode Island Philharmonic. He has performed and toured with the Boston Symphony Orchestra, the Boston Pops, the New York Philharmonic, the Boston Ballet Orchestra, the Boston Lyric Opera, and many others, including stints as a soloist. Foley was a Trustee Scholar at Boston University, where he received his bachelor’s and master’s degrees and was twice the recipient of the Outstanding Brass Player award.

According to Markward, “Foley’s musicianship, technical virtuosity, integrity and an almost visceral beauty of tone combine to form a trumpet-playing treat no one should miss.” The Boston Globe described him as a musician “…whose work is technically ingenious, musically sophisticated, and often dazzling.”

The major symphonic offering on the program will be Robert Schumann’s Symphony No. 3 in E-flat (Rhenish). “The Rhenish is a joyful and jubilant journey from beginning to end,” said Markward. “It is certain to uplift the spirits of anyone who hears it.”

General admission is $7; seniors and non-RIC students, $5; RIC students, faculty and staff, free.

Dance troupe founded by RIC alums to appear in R.I. this month

Los Angeles hip-hop dance troupe, Dance Planet is coming to Rhode Island for a series of shows and workshops Oct. 21-24. Founded by RIC graduates and twin brothers Doug and Derek Perry, Dance Planet is a group of professional dancers who perform choreographed routines at concerts, nightclubs, festivals and other events throughout the country. Members have danced and choreographed for recording artists, national tours, television shows and music videos.

Joining the Perry brothers in Rhode Island will be choreographer and dancer Sixc Carter, MFA’s Wade Robson Project finalist David “Blizzy” Exell, former Rain- bow Tribe Dance Company member CeyJay, actress and dancer Tammy Yamada, and television series dancer Teresa Sauseda. The troupe will be debuting their newest full-length show Destination: Dance Planet at The Carpenter House Theatre in Providence Oct. 21-23 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are $17 for adults and $12 for children 12 and younger.

Dance Planet will also be holding a workshop at the Narragansett Performing Arts Dance Centre on Oct. 24 from 1-5 p.m. The event will include several master classes featuring LA hip-hop dance styles as well as classes ranging from beginner to advanced. Everyone ages 10 and over is welcome. Cost is $50 with registration before October 10, and $60 thereafter.

For more information and tickets to these events, call 401-296-0688 or email DancePlanet2000@att.com.

Composer Eva Kendrick’s chamber opera Emily was performed at the Longfellow Summer Festival on the East Lawn of the Longfellow National Historic Site in Cambridge, Mass.

The opera, which premiered in California in November 2001, is based on the life and poetry of Emily Dickinson. It features a cast of nine singers with extensive national and international credits, including Kendrick, who sings the title role.

As composer and librettist, she interwove actual events and people from Dickinson’s life with fictional characters. Emily explores the poet’s psyche and suggests how the people in Dickinson’s life might have understood her in her poems, six of which were incorporated into the libretto.

Kendrick, a Rehoboth resident, was awarded an ASCAPPLUS Award from the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers for the fifth consecutive year. Last summer, a selection of her vocal and instrumental works was presented at the Zeitgeist Gallery in Cambridge as part of its Contemporary Composers Series.

Currently pursuing a master’s degree in composition at the Longy School of Music, Kendrick holds a bachelor’s degree in vocal performance from Rhode Island College.

EDWARD MARKWARD

EVA KENDRICK

Opera by Eva Kendrick ’97 performed at Summer Festival

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Stars of the future take off at RIC

Three of the region’s top young musical performers will showcase their skills as part of the first-ever Stars of the Future concert on Wednesday, Oct. 20 at 1 p.m. in Sapinsley Hall in the Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts.

This is the third in a series of five Wednesday Chamber Music Series presentations featuring the theme “Rach to the Future.”

The performers include cellist Su Jin Lee, 12; violinist Greg Cardi, 15; and vocalist Liana Stillman, 17.

Accomplished artists in their own right, the students plan to continue to improve upon their abilities in the future, said Judith Stillman, professor of music at RIC and organizer of the event.

The purpose of the performance is to “give young artists the opportunity to share their talents and interpretations with their peers and the community at large,” said Judith Stillman.

Lee won first Prize at the New England Conservatory Concerto Competition at the age of seven and was the winner of the New England String Ensemble Competition two years later. She has also played with the Wellesley Symphony Orchestra and performed in Germany, Russia and Austria with the Starling Chamber Orchestra.

Cardi studies violin with John Sumerlin, professor of music at RIC, and has performed on several occa-

Liana Stillman

sions with the RIC String Ensemble as a concerto soloist.

Liana Stillman’s career as an actor and singer spans 12 years and has seen her perform in events from Rhode Island to Rome, with many stops in between.

She has performed as a soloist at the Emerson Majestic Theatre in Boston, the Opera Festival di Roma in Rome and was featured as solo performer with the RIC Wind Ensemble.

She has also performed with the Trinity Repertory Company in Providence and starred in theatrical productions of Les Misérables, Annie and The Wizard of Oz across the country.

The concert is free and open to the public.

October Series offers full month of ‘Engaging the Speculum’

The October Series returns to RIC this fall, continuing a long-standing tradition of lectures and events produced by the art department’s gallery committee in conjunction with the Faculty of Arts and Sciences.

The series will present speakers on the “manifest threads of discourse about media and meaning in reference to our past and future,” said Dennis O’Malley, director of Bannister Gallery.

The central exhibit — also the theme for this year’s series — is “Engaging the Speculum,” a collection of work by international video and film artists. Louky Keijzers, an independent curator and art historian, assembled the display, which runs through Oct. 28.

Keijzers sees the speculum — an instrument that facilitates interior physical examination — as a metaphor for art, which can also provide the context in which the viewer what O’Malley calls “the esoteric, and the deepest recesses of human experience.”

Works by Vito Acconci, Valie Export, Matthias Müller, Gina Pane, L.A. Raaven and Lucile Risch will be featured.

An artist’s lecture with Keijzers will be held Oct. 7 at 5 p.m. in the Forman Theatre of the Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts. A reception at 7 p.m. in Bannister Gallery is also planned.

October Series films and lectures

All are free and open to the public.

October 7

Lecture: The Legacy of German New Wave Cinema

David D’Arcy, National Public Radio

10 a.m. Horace Mann Room 193

October 12

Film: The Battle of Algiers (1966)

Gillo Pontecorvo Film Retrospective/Part One

4 p.m. Gaige Auditorium

October 13

Lecture: Editing Film Projects

Tom Ohanian, Academy-Award-winning Editor

4 p.m. Whipple Hall Room 104

October 14

Lecture: The Work of Matthias Müller

Thomas Erben, Director of the Thomas Erben Gallery

New York City

4 p.m. Forman Theatre in the Nazarian Center

October 19

Film: Burn (Quandossi) (1969)

Starring Marlon Brando

Gillo Pontecorvo Film Retrospective/Part Two

4 p.m. Gaige Auditorium

October 20

Lecture: Environmentalist Videography

Daniel King, University of California

10 a.m. Student Union Ballroom

1 p.m. Roundtable Discussion on the Vietnam War: Lessons for the Present

October 21

Film: Path to War / Cinema & Contested History: Lessons for the Present

Howard Dratch, University of Southern California

4 p.m. Gaige Room 250

October 25

Lecture: On Locan and Film

Dan Collins and Kevin Costa, State University of New York (Buffalo)

4 p.m. Alumni Lounge, Roberts Hall

October 26

Film: The Wide Blue Road (1957)

First Rhode Island Public Screening

Liana Stillman

The veteran actress of stage and screen is now a professor of theatre at RIC.

These days, Rose Weaver is appearing at Rhode Island College, not as an actress, but as a professor. She is teaching aspiring directors, teachers and performers the art of oral interpretation, the fundamentals of directing, and a seminar on planning and marketing a career in the arts, a course that she designed for graduate-level students.

Well-known locally for her work at Trinity Repertory Theatre and Perishable Theatre, Weaver’s acting roles at Trinity include such notable characters as Billie in Lady Day at Emerson’s Bar & Grill, the longest running show in Trinity Rep’s history; the Witch in Into the Woods; Beatrice in The Piano Lesson; television roles in Go Tell It On The Mountain (PBS); In the Heat of the Night (NBC); and the films The Accused and Sophie’s Choice. Her latest one-woman play, Menopause Mama, which she also wrote and produced, is the longest running show in the history of Perishable Theatre.

“My philosophy of merging intellectual and artistic emancipation. Our work does not qualify as real work, or that artists should work to lessen the anxiety and fear in people who are presently where she has been, or who are making an effort to take the journey toward emotional, intellectual and artistic emancipation. She was recently cast to guest star in a Showtime original television pilot being shot in Rhode Island.
Nazarian honored as outstanding administrator

Rhode Island College President John Nazarian was chosen by The American Association of University Administrators (AAUA) as the 2004 recipient of the Eileen Tosney Award, which recognizes outstanding service of an administrator in higher education.

The award was presented last summer at the association’s annual meeting in Chicago. This year’s group of nominees included over 35 presidents and vice presidents from American and Canadian colleges and universities. The award has been given each year since 1982.

Ruth Person, president of AAUA and chancellor of the University of Indiana, Kokomo, said Nazarian was selected for the award based on his extended work in and widely recognized contributions to the improvement of American higher education. “Clearly, Dr. Nazarian is one of America’s leaders in higher education,” she said.

Nazarian has served Rhode Island College continuously for the past 50 years as a faculty member, vice president and its president since 1990. He also graduated in 1954 when it was called Rhode Island College of Education (RIC). Nazarian is recognized statewide as the driving-force responsible for Rhode Island College’s successful growth, both in quality and size. His name has become synonymous with Rhode Island higher education.

AAUA is comprised of nearly 1,000 educators nationwide. The membership is open to personnel representing the entire range of administrative responsibilities in colleges and universities.