What's News At Rhode Island College

Rhode Island College
New RIC residence hall referendum on Nov. 2 ballot

Referendum 5 will authorize up to $50 million in bonds to construct and renovate higher education residence halls, including $30 million to build a new 366-bed facility at Rhode Island College. The remaining $20 million will be used to renovate and rehabilitate several existing residence halls at the University of Rhode Island.

On Nov. 2, Rhode Island voters will have the opportunity to cast ballots on four higher education bond referendums. Referendum 5 will provide $50 million to fund new housing at RIC and residence hall renovations at URI. Referendum 9 will provide $14 million to renovate the Pell Marine Science Library at URI’s Graduate School of Oceanography and construct an Undersea Exploration Center. Referendum 10 provides $6.7 million to construct an Athletic Performance Center and renovate Meadow Stadium and other athletic facilities at URI. Referendum 13 provides $50 million for the construction of the Center for Biotechnology & Life Sciences, a state-of-the-art teaching and research facility at URI that will serve as a hub for state economic development. All three public institutions of higher education have joined together with the Office of Higher Education in a coordinated campaign to promote passage of the bond referenda.

This November, Rhode Island voters will have the opportunity to demonstrate their support for the College and for public higher education by voting to approve Referendum 5, which includes $30 million for the construction of a new residence hall at Rhode Island College. An affirmative vote on this question is vital for our students, for our College, and for our state as a whole.

Increasingly, students of today are seeking to live on campus as a way of enhancing their total college experience. Similarly, parents have come to recognize the advantages of on-campus housing as a safe and accommodating environment that can provide valuable life skills during the years that their children make the transition to adult independence. Given the high cost of rental apartments in the area, on-campus housing is generally a more affordable alternative for many students and their families. This is especially important for students served by Rhode Island College because access and affordability are central to the College’s overall educational mission.

For institutions of higher education, competition for qualified students has become very significant. Prospective students, especially those with strong academic backgrounds, have multiple choices. The availability of affordable, quality, on-campus housing is often a key component in a student’s decision as to which college they will attend. At RIC, the addition of a larger cadre of resident students will also enhance campus-life events, such as co-curricular, social, cultural, and athletic activities, especially on evenings and weekends. Also, students who live on campus tend to develop more life-long attachments.

A new RIC residence hall?

Here are the nuts and bolts...

• The proposal for a new residence hall at RIC is based on a feasibility study conducted in 2003 by a consortium led by Vision III Architects. The study determined a market demand for approximately 370 new beds.
• The feasibility study identified a demand for four styles of living units, each different from those available within the five existing residence halls. The living arrangements would include a mix of 4-person single- and double-bedroom apartments, and 4-person single- and double-bedroom suites within the 128,000 square foot facility.
• The location of the new residence hall is likely to be on one of four sites within the residence hall district of the campus. (The site depicted in the rendering above, which is across Sixth Avenue just west of Browne Hall, is not the leading choice at this time.) Construction will most likely be on a site on the southern end of the residence hall district adjacent to Parking Lot L.
• This is the largest bond issue ever proposed for RIC, however, approximately $20 million of the $30 million slated for borrowing is to be repaid through student housing fees.
• With 366 beds, the new residence hall would be – by far – the largest of the College’s residence halls. Current capacities range from 140 at Willard to 210 at Sweet.

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The World at RIC

This regular feature of What’s News looks at the links between the world and Rhode Island College. The story below was written by John O’del, assistant professor of management, who played a key role in creating a concentration in international management. He is in his second year as director of Study Abroad.

The early morning air was cold as I sat upon the Berlin Wall in the winter of 1989 with my hammer and chisel knocking off pieces of the concrete barrier that separated East/West sectors of Berlin. A few months later, I was living in a country making the transition from a Marxist orientation to a market orientation. I had been encouraged to travel to Poland to study, and then work with the Institute of Economics of the Jagiellonian University in Krakow to assist in the development of their initial market-oriented business program and conduct some of the early courses. A few years later, I was invited to teach at the Riga Business School (a joint Canadian/American/Latvian initiative), of the Riga Technical University in Latvia. This also was a dramatic opportunity, as I was able to witness this country’s emergence and even work with some of the local organizations trying to establish themselves.

A summer-long tour of Europe during college was my first excursion overseas. That trip left a lasting impression on me, and my subsequent experiences traveling, studying, living, and working abroad greatly influenced my career decisions.

I came to RIC in 1999 ready to convey my expatriate experiences and expertise in international management and venture creation and to coordinate the international management concentration. I am fortunate that I work with many wonderful members of the RIC community, and the hard-working members of the Shinn Study Abroad Fund, to increase the awareness of opportunities to, and support for, study abroad. – John O’del

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.

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

Nancy Cloud, professor of social education, has published a chapter in the recently released book on Second Language Teacher Education: International Perspectives. Her chapter is entitled “The Dialogic Process of Capturing and Building Teacher Practical Knowledge in Dual Language Programs.” She was also recently named by the president of TESOL (Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages), to the review team on ESL Standards for P-12 Teacher Education Programs. TESOL is the NCATE specialty association that reviews ESL teacher education programs seeking national recognition.

Peter Karbik Mendy, assistant professor of history and African and African-American studies, presented a paper entitled “Guinea-Bissau and the Subversion of Constitutional Order: Lesson Learned” to the United Nations Security Council Ad Hoc Working Group on Africa, in New York on June 7. Mendy was one of six US-based academics invited to reflect and exchange ideas with members of the Security Council concerned with the causes and destructive consequences of the conflicts that have impacted the African continent over the past four decades. As reflected in the title of Mendy’s presentation, the main focus of the critical reflections was on lessons learned in order to resolve not only ongoing costly conflicts, but also to prevent future ones occurring in a region of the world heavily burdened with serious multidimensional crises of development.

Mark Motte, associate professor of geography, was recently named a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts for his contributions to urban and regional planning. Motte joins a list of only 500 such Fellows elected to the RSA within the US. Motte also presented papers based on his co-authored (with Francis J. Leazes, Jr.) book, Providence, The Renaissance City, at the biannual conference of the International Society for the Study of European Ideas at the University of Navarra, Pamplona, Spain (August 2004) and the New England and St. Lawrence Valley Geographical Society’s annual conference at the University of Maine, Southern Maine, Portland (October 2004). Motte and Leazes also gave interviews related to their book to WRNI and WHJ radio and Channels 12 and 36 television.

Richard R. Weiner, dean of the faculty of arts and sciences and professor of political science, presented his paper “Discourse and Argument in the Instituting of Social Law” (subtitled “Traces of the Unborn/Traces of the Stillborn”) at the 100th annual meeting of the American Political Science Association in Chicago on Sept. 4. An expanded version of the paper is slated to be published in the International Journal of Political Science Review. Weiner also organized and chaired the “Workshop on Civil Society, Individualism and Democracy” at the 9th Biennial Conference of the International Society for the Study of European Ideas (ISSEI) at the University of Navarra in Pamplona, Spain in August. As a participant in the workshop, Weiner presented two papers of his own: “Durkheim’s Continuing Moral Paradox: Discovering a Collective Conscience Underlying Civil Society, Individualism and Democracy,” as well as an earlier version of the “Argument and Discourse” paper.

Bill Small, associate dean of graduate studies and director of summer sessions from 1968-86, tells ghost stories to the children of the cooperative preschool on Halloween day, 1976. Here, he recounts the tale of ‘Spoofer the Spooky’ for the children. Small has also authored numerous children’s stories. (Photo courtesy of Bill Small)

Sarah Smiley to appear in Whipple Hall

Digital media and production artist Sarah Smiley will give a presentation titled “Juggling Shannon” on Wednesday, Nov. 2 at 7 p.m. in Whipple Hall (room 104). Her presentation is sponsored by the graduate program in media studies and the dean of the faculty of arts and sciences.

A reception will follow. The event is free and open to the public.

ON TRACK: Students stride around the RIC track at the first annual Upward Bound Walkathon on Saturday, Sept. 25. Walkers raised money to benefit the program’s scholarship fund.
Promising Practices conference to confront growing trend of ‘re-segregation in education’

New to the conference this year is an Outstanding Educator Award to honor K-12 teachers who exhibit prominent practices in multicultural education. The winners will receive a free graduate degree to further their professional development. Also new is “Youth Hour: Voices of Students,” a panel discussion for high school and college students to share their experiences of supposedly equal access to education.

The seventh annual Promising Practices Multi-Cultural Conference and Curriculum Resource Fair will be held Saturday, Nov. 6, at Rhode Island College. Area K-12 teachers and RIC students who are multicultural majors are invited to examine diversity issues that have arisen as a result of rapid demographic changes in south eastern New England over the last 20 years. This year’s topic, “Challenging Re-segregation: 50 Years After,” Brown vs. Board of Education, will be explored in 24 workshops presented by K-12 teachers, students, social workers and college and university professors. A variety of topics will be addressed including racial profiling, reducing classroom prejudice, integrating Latinos into the curriculum and interpreting contemporary African-American art.

“The 1954 Supreme Court decision Brown vs. Board of Education was a significant turning point in moving toward a more integrated, democratic and just nation,” said conference co-chair Mustafa Ozcan, assistant professor of foundations of education. “However, we have failed as a society to achieve these ideals, and a growing recent trend, re-segregation in education, is a source of concern. The theme of the conference is to challenge this destructive tendency.”

Keynote speaker Paula Rothenberg will discuss “And Justice for All: Social Justice Teaching and a Curriculum of Inclusion.” She is director of The New Jersey Project on Inclusive Scholarship, Curriculum, and Teaching, and a professor of philosophy and women’s studies at William Paterson University in New Jersey. Rothenberg frequently lectures and consults on multicultural and equality issues, and curriculum transformation. She is the author of Invisible Privilege: A Memoir.

Awards given at FAS meeting

by Jackie Crevier '04 What's News Intern

Krisjohn Horvat, Mark Motte and David Thomas, all members of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, received awards of distinguished merit at the FAS opening meeting in August.

“All learning is a ladder,” said Richard Weiner, dean of the faculty of arts and sciences, in his opening address, titled “Wittgenstein’s Ladder.” Ludwig Wittgenstein was an Austrian philosopher who inspired the Oxford school of thought. Poets, scientists, composers and artists with his exploration of thought and ideas of truth. Weiner explained that Wittgenstein’s ladder “denotes climbing the ladder of understanding.” He added, “Learning to build ladders to the sky, and climbing them rung by rung, we learn to prepare our students for their time.”

He emphasized that merely transplanting signs is not enough. “Imagination is the real thing,” he said. He explained the idea by quoting Thomas Carlyle: “It is the unquenchable need to ask that never stops gnawing at you.”

The three award recipients were individually recognized for climbing their own specialized ladders and serving as leadership models for fellow climbers.

Krisjohn Horvat, professor of art, received the Ballinger Award for Distinguished and Sustained Scholarship and Creativity. Horvat was recognized for his artistic designs that have been displayed in national and international exhibitions. Since 2000, his work has been shown in 44 such forums, among them the Hansen Gallery in New Orleans and the Fraser Gallery in Washington. Horvat received a BFA from Minneapolis College of Art and Design and an MFA from the Rhode Island School of Design.

Mark Motte, associate professor of geography and director of the Center for Public Policy, has taught geography and urban studies in the departments of anthropology and geography, and served as director of the Rockefeller Urban Arts program for the 2003-04 academic year. From 1996 until 2002, he and Weiner organized the Humanities Center, the “London Course.” Most recently, Motte co-authored Providence, The Rhode Island College Social Justice Professor Francis Leazes, a text being used in the RIC classroom. Motte is a business administration University of London, an MA from the University of Rhode Island, and a PhD from Rutgers University.

David Thomas, professor of history, received the O’Regan Award for Distinguished Service, a two-time winner of Fulbright Professorships in Turkey and Indonesia, has served as chairperson of the RIC history department and chaired the Committee to Assess General Education. In 1996, he helped establish a presidential committee for an annual Dialogue on Diversity lecture, “Promising Practices,” a conference that teaches the importance of diversity in the classroom to educators and students, evolved out of this committee.

Thomas holds an AR from Suffolk University, an MA from Boston University, and a PhD from McGill University.

SMT recognizes three at retreat

Three members of the School of Management and Technology (SMT) were presented with awards at a school retreat on Oct. 1.

Shani Carter, assistant professor of management, received the school’s Outstanding Research Award. She has served on the RIC departmental curriculum, writing and graduate committees, and the committee for human subjects in research.

Carter’s work has appeared in numerous publications, and she has won outstanding research awards for a paper presented at a conference and published in a journal. She received a PhD in personnel/human resource studies, labor economics, and research methods, an MS in personnel/human resource studies and labor economics, and a BA in government.

Lori Martin ’83, assistant to the dean, was given the Nancy Brown Young Outstanding Service Award. Her work in the development of the Professional Accounting (MPAc) program and freshman orientation earned her graduate recognition.

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Foundation reaches another milestone!

✔ On Friday, Oct. 15, Cathy Hanrahan, our financial officer, informed me that the Foundation had surpassed the $11 million mark in funds invested. While net assets of the Foundation now total over $12 million, the significance of having $11 million invested and working for the College is cause for celebration.

This benchmark was achieved because of a significant gift made through an estate plan. And, again, we thank all of you, our alumni and friends, who have made the Campaign for Rhode Island College so successful through your generous gifts and pledges.

✔ Also last week, our FY 2003-04 audit was presented to the Foundation Board by chair of the audit committee, Ronda Warrener ’89, and the members of her committee, Nikki Dzidzisz and Ellen Kitchell ’81, all trustees of the Foundation. The audit, conducted by James N. Nadeau & Company, LLP, was “clean” and the auditors had no recommendations for management. This result is a clear affirmation of the hard work of the Foundation staff and the support provided by the Board members.

✔ The Annual Report of Gifts, scheduled to be published in December, will contain a summary of the audit. However, copies may be requested by calling Denise Males at 401-451-8105. We will also be posting a summary of the audit on the College’s Web site.

Donating to RIC...is simple

If you make your charitable Contribution through SECA (State Employees Charitable 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 Hoogstien at 401-456-8827.

2. Give to the RIC 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 if you would like to designate your donation to a specific fund, simply list the name of an agency and the city 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 pledge form:

RIC Alumni Association, Providence
RIC Foundation, Providence, R.I.
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 #4984.

To designate the Rhode Island College Foundation, please use code #4985.

RIC IS CALLING: Volunteers (l to r) Marianne Needham ’59, president of the Alumni Board; Mary Paolino ’77, and Miguel (Mike) Lopes ’71, past president, work the phones.

Alumni help kick off Fall Phonathon for annual fund

Members of the Alumni Association Board were on the phones calling alumni on Oct. 13, to help kick off the Fall Phonathon. Student callers will be calling throughout November. Their goal is to raise $90,000 for the Annual Fund.

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

4” x 8” Brick at $150
8” 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/givetoric/brickcampaign.htm.

Keep connected to RIC ...buy a Legacy brick

Rhode Island College
by Carolyn Fluehr- Lobban
Professor of Anthropology

The book, entitled The Equality of the Human Races was written by an unlikely pioneer of anthropology, the French neoclassicist, Anténor Firmin. This nearly forgotten book originally published in 1885 in Paris as Des rives des races humaines, anthropologie positive was discovered and translated into English and French, several years after its original publication, for a new audience in the 21st century, in the English language.

In the late 1980s, French historian and researcher Ghislaine Geloin, Richard Lobban, and I attended a Haitian bicentennial scholarly conference where we were all pleased to find that Caribbean scholars are discussing the importance of Firmin’s work on pan-African and Caribbean, as well as early pan-Africanist and negritude movements, including being centrally featured in the plebiscate of a group of research mathematicians about the principles that should guide current curriculum. For example, the principles that underlie the successful mathematics instruction in East Asian countries. A buffet dinner will follow the program. To register for the dinner, visit www.ric.edu/fundraising and select a dinner package for $15. A list of tables will be available at the front desk. Questions? Contact the office at 401-456-8631.

Honorary degree nominations sought

The Honorary Degrees Committee of the Council of Rhode Island College has issued a call for nominations of individuals worthy of consideration for honorary degrees to be awarded at the 2005 graduate and undergraduate commencement ceremonies and other times as may be appropriate. Forms are available online at www.ric.edu/home/honorary or may be obtained in person at the front desk in the President’s Office. Forward all completed nomination forms to Roberts 405 or send via email to hdeg@ric.edu. All nominations must remain confidential. Nomination deadline is Friday, Oct. 29 at 5 p.m.
Claribel Crews had a plan for the summer. The RIC senior was accepted to the program that serves less-advantaged students with college potential. She had been a participant in the program when she was at Cranston East High School. Then a flyer she saw on campus changed her mind. The University of Bridgeport in Connecticut was looking for volunteers to join a U.S./Chinese education and culture program. It offered the chance to teach English to young students in China for six weeks. Crews, an elementary education major, applied and was accepted to the program.

“Along with learning about their culture, I also learned about myself,” said Crews. In contrast to her native country, she found people in Shangyu to have very little material needs. Because most people had small incomes, they were happy with whatever they had. Though Crews had brought along a different outfit for each day of the week, she soon found herself not worrying about what she was wearing.

Adapting to the Chinese diet was a different story. Crews enjoyed the vegetables but not the pig brains and intestines offered to her. Both at home and in restaurants, a typical meal includes 10 or more courses and “you’re expected to try everything to show respect,” said Crews. She pointed out that for the Chinese, rice is a culinary vice, eaten three times a day; rice porridge for breakfast, and steamed rice for lunch and dinner.

Crews said that climbing the Great Wall was the most “inspirational” thing she did while there. “These people love their country so much, they built a wall to protect it.” She found that American culture is very important to the Chinese, but Chinese culture is unimportant to those in the U.S. “It makes me think of how selfish we are,” said Crews.

At the end of her visit, her students put on a talent show in her honor. The children performed the dances she had taught them, and staged Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs in English.

Going home to the U.S. was difficult; everyone cried during the goodbyes, said Crews. Thanks to email, however, the teacher is still in touch with her pupils. In their messages to her, they write what they can in English and finish in Chinese.

Though Crews’ schedule keeps her busy—she is president of the campus sorority Omega Phi Beta and a member of the Latin American Student Organization—her Far East adventure has left her anxious for new traveling exploits. She would like to journey to Africa, and is interested in RIC’s Semester at Sea program.

Crews said that her experience in China has bolstered her desire to teach. “I had the chance to make a difference in children’s lives in another country,” she said. “It is now my time to do the same here in the United States. And with whatever struggles may come my way, I know that this is what I want to do and I will do whatever it takes to reach my goal.”

RIC education major gains valuable teaching experience...in China

by Rob Martin
What’s News Managing Editor

Now, instead of helping prepare local students for college, she would offer her skills to students on the other side of the planet.

The cost of the trip was $490, which included travel and living expenses. On July 7, Crews traveled to Shangyu, a city of 780,000 not far from Shanghai—but a world away from her world. She returned home on August 23, leaving behind the students she came to love, and the place that changed her life.

“I wanted to be a teacher, and I wanted to see what it would be like to teach in a different culture on a daily basis,” said Crews. She certainly got what she wished for. Six days a week, from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. (with a two-hour lunch break) she taught Chinese students ages 10-13 to speak a language completely foreign to them.

“The experience gave me such a better understanding of what it would be like to have my own classroom,” said Crews. “I experienced worrying about my students and what activities or lessons I was going to do to help them better understand what my goal was for them.”

Being fluent in English and Spanish, she was aware of the value of speaking two languages. Her goal was to get the students to progress from basic English (“Hi, How are you”) to a more sophisticated level (“Yesterday, I went to the park.” And, “In class, I learned…”)

She quickly discovered that the chasm between the English and Chinese languages is enormous. So she decided to bridge the gap with something everyone understood: fun. Crews handed out gifts—balls, playing cards, pencils—and taught them the Macarena and Hokey Pokey. She connected with the students by giving them American names that she chose from a baby-naming book.

And because students were at varying levels of English comprehension and speech, Crews worked with them individually.

She’d never seen students so eager to learn, despite summer heat over 100 degrees with no air conditioning in class. They used computer dictionaries to help them find the words they needed; in turn they taught her basic words such as “Dong Ma” (Do you understand)? But speaking Chinese is more complicated than simply reciting the words—the same word can have four different meanings, depending on the tone of voice used.

While she worked long hours teaching English, Crews also found time to explore a country she had previously known little about.

“Along with learning about their culture, I also learned about myself,” said Crews. In contrast to her native country, she found people in Shangyu to have very little material needs. Because most people had small incomes, they were happy with whatever they had.

Crews said that her experience in China has bolstered her desire to teach. “I had the chance to make a difference in children’s lives in another country,” she said. “It is now my time to do the same here in the United States. And with whatever struggles may come my way, I know that this is what I want to do and I will do whatever it takes to reach my goal.”
ANN-MARIE HARRINGTON, MSW ’96

This continuing series features RIC grads whose career paths have taken some unusual turns.

A funny thing happened to Ann-Marie Harrington while she was working as a research analyst and social worker at a nonprofit organization – she discovered the World Wide Web.

“I get very excited about the web,” she said. “The first day I used it, I fell in love with it.”

So much so that Harrington decided to start her own Web development and consulting firm. But she didn’t abandon social work entirely. The first target audience for her new company was the nonprofits.

“Nonprofits of all sizes use the Internet to reach constituents, send a message and build community to accomplish a mission. It’s the best communication tool for a nonprofit. It’s effective, it reaches the widest audience very quickly and is the most cost effective way to do so,” Harrington explained.

Word traveled fast. Harrington said that after only a few short weeks in business, “everyone I knew in social work and human services called me for assistance.” Harrington chose the name Embolden Design for her company because it means to ‘give courage’ which she said she does through technology that allows her to be both creative and analytical.

She said there is great reward in building a Web site that people will visit, getting to know a business “inside out” when using the internet as a means to promote a cause.

Is a Web business a world away from the policy-making and advocacy of social work? Not for Harrington.

“Businesses are about relationships. One business methodology that I use daily is the problem-solving model I learned in social work at RIC,” she said.

Harrington said that Nancy Gewirtz, professor of social work, had a “huge impact” on her, and still does. “She is an amazing teacher. She brings across a passion for the issues. By the end of class, she motivates you to go out and do something,” she said.

Harrington was going to work for Ronald Reagan's inaugural staff in 1981, but instead worked for the Smithsonian Institution.

The Reagan collection at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., was recently enhanced by a donation from RIC grad Ann Ganze-Teixeira ’82 of Bristol and Cumberland.

Earlier this month, she and her husband Armand Teixeira traveled to the Smithsonian’s American Political History Museum to meet with museum official Lisa Kathleen Graddy and to contribute political memorabilia from President Ronald Reagan’s first inaugural.

She had gathered the mementos when she was a junior at RIC working as a committee member and student intern on Reagan’s first inauguration in Washington.

“Even if I won the lottery tomorrow, I would still be doing this,” she said.

And her clients would certainly be grateful.

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And her clients would certainly be grateful.

Among the donated items were an inaugural ceremonies program, an elephant-decorated inauguration ribbon, various buttons, programs, special tickets and passes to the president’s inauguration events. Ganze-Teixeira also provided the Smithsonian with a commemorative copy of sheet music for the inaugural theme song, “Thumbs Up America,” written by the Hon. J. William Middendorf and Sammy Cahn for President and Nancy Reagan, which was given to Ganze-Teixeira as a token of appreciation from the inaugural committee.

“The museum staff explained that the items are valuable and will continue to increase in value, but for me it was an honor to donate the entire collection to the Smithsonian for the public,” she said.

The items will also be sent to other museums for display, and loaned for research purposes.

Ganze-Teixeira, who received the John H. Chafee Award for public service and academic excellence at her RIC graduation, went on to complete law school. She currently works for the R.I. secretary of state as a law librarian in the State House, where she is in charge of federal government documents.

She and her husband plan to make future visits to the Smithsonian so they will be able to see her contribution on permanent display.

HISTORICAL CONTRIBUTION: Lisa Kathleen Graddy (left) of the Smithsonian Institution's American History Museum examines memorabilia from President Reagan's first inaugural, donated to the museum by RIC alum Ann Ganze-Teixeira ’82 (right).

POET Kim Bridgford, director of the writing program at Fairfield University, speaks on Oct. 5 in the Helen Forman Theatre in the Nazarian Center on “A Poet’s Journey: America, Russia and Iceland.” Bridgford’s appearance was sponsored by the RIC American Marketing Association and the English dept. with support from the RIC Committee on College Lectures.

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Two coaching legends honored at Homecoming

Rhode Island College honored two outstanding former coaches at the annual Athletic Recognition and Hall of Fame Dinner at Donovan Dining Center on Saturday, Oct. 2 as part of Homecoming 2004. The varsity men's locker room in The Murray Center was named in honor of Vin Cullen '55. Recently, for Cullen's 70th birthday, family and friends made donations to name the room for him. Cullen has also made contributions to several athletic department fund-raising initiatives.

The adjoining women's locker room was dedicated last year in memory of Cullen's late wife Ann '58. The varsity coaches' office suite in The Murray Center was named in honor of the late Benjamin Harrison Cordwell Jr., an outstanding interscholastic coach in up-state New York whose career spanned 33 years.

He is the father of Peg Brown, vice president for development and college relations.

Brown has been instrumental in supporting athletic department fund-raising. In addition to her leadership that resulted in both individual and corporate gifts to athletics, Brown has made personal donations to the department.

In Memoriam — George Kellner: history of a RIC historian

George H. Kellner, 64, professor of history at Rhode Island College for 35 years, died at home on Oct. 10.

A native of Strassberg, Germany, he immigrated to the United States in 1952, residing in Cleveland and Missouri before moving to Rhode Island in 1969.

Kellner graduated from Hiram College in Ohio in 1964 with a bachelor's in history and a minor in political science. Tracing the threads of the past was a subject that interested Kellner even during his early college years. He served for two years as a graduate professor at the University of Missouri where he received both his master's and doctorate in history. His doctoral dissertation, titled "The German Element on the Urban Frontier: St. Louis, 1830-1860," focused on his own experiences as an immigrant.

His began his tenure as a history professor at RIC in 1969. He was appointed director of the Ethnic Heritage Studies at RIC by President Kauffman in 1972. It was a fitting role, since artfully piecing together the puzzle pieces of yesterday and mapping the DNA of Rhode Island was part of Kellner's craft.

Kellner said, on his appointment as director, "We at RIC are aware of the ethnic composition of the state's population, and the ethnic mosaic around us." His responsibilities included coordinating curriculums and holding instructional workshops for teachers. As director, he and his colleagues published a text used by various state high schools.

In 1971, he addressed high school students visiting RIC in the history colloquia, "Critical Decisions in History." His talk was titled "The Decision to Restrict Immigration." Prior to his appointment as director of Ethnic Heritage Studies, Kellner had been involved with historical lecturing on the RIC campus.

He served as chairman of the RIC history dept. from 1991 to 1997. In doing so, he continued to serve as the compass for historical advocacy at RIC. Kellner also represented the undergraduate history students in the Standard Four Division on the Rhode Island College Self-Study Preparation Committee from 1985 to 1989. He served as chairman of the RIC history dept. chair, Joanne Schneider, remembers Kellner as one of the most generous people she knew. She recalled the time when a former colleague moved to R.I. and had problems accessing his Canadian bank account. "Without hesitating, George offered him money out of his own pocket to put down rent money for an apartment," Schneider said.

"He will continue to do our duty," Lemons said.

Along with his contributions to RIC, Kellner was involved in other Rhode Island projects. Kellner wrote an essay that appeared in the book, "Aspects of the Black Experience," which Lemons edited. He was also one of the speakers in 1974, for an East Side senior citizens group created by Lemons.

Two of their major collaborations included multimedia projects. The first, titled "The White City and Packington: Chicago from the Great Fire to the Great War," received an award from the American Historical Association. Their 1981 production of Providence, a Centenary of Greatness, 1832-1932 was selected from 125 other nominees to receive the highest award from the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH). This Award of Merit was a first of its kind for both RIC and the historians. This film, shown all over the state, was screened on Providence Heritage Day.

Kellner had served on the Advisory Committee for Cherry Arnold's documentary, "Buddy, An American Story." He was on the Foster-Gloucester Regional School Committee from 1985 to 1989.

An avid college soccer player, he had also been a former president of the Burrillville Gloucester Youth Soccer League and a volunteer coach for the Pasquagotta Middle School. He was a referee for junior varsity games and board member and coach of Gloucester Little League Baseball.

He was active in the American Historian Association, the Organization of American Historians, the International Migration Studies Association, the Immigrant Ethnic History Society, the Urban History Association and New England Historical Associations and Phi Alpha Theta.

Kellner leaves his wife of 38 years, Ellen A. (Anderson), two children, Karl M. Kellner of New York City and Jonas T. Kellner of San Francisco, and one granddaughter.

Kellner Memorial Service
Monday, Nov. 1
3 to 4 p.m.
Sapinsley Hall
Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts
For more information, contact Kathy Sasso at 401-456-8022 or the Chaplain's Office at 401-456-8168.

OFFICE SUITE NAMED: Peg Brown (right), her mother, Vivian Cordwell, and College President Nazarian at the ceremony naming the varsity coaches office suite in honor of Brown's father, Benjamin Harrison Cordwell Jr.

COACHES HONORED: Vin Cullen '55 (above right) accepts a plaque from College President John Nazarian in recognition of his contributions to RIC athletics. The varsity men's locker room was named for him.
From the Athletic Director’s Desk

Donald E. Tencher
Director, Intercollegiate Athletics, Intramurals and Recreation

This year’s Athletic Hall of Fame and Athletic Recognition Dinner, held during Homecoming weekend, was another great success.

This event honored the Anchor Club’s major donors and featured the induction of this year’s Hall of Fame class.

Two rooms in The Murray Center were dedicated to two members of the RIC family. In honor of his 70th birthday, a locker room was dedicated to RIC alumni and CCRI basketball legend Vin Cullen ’55.

In addition, the Benjamin Harrison Cordwell Jr. Coaches Suite was named in honor of the father of Peg Brown, vice president of Enrollment and college relations. (See story on page 8.)

Congratulations to the women’s tennis team on an undefeated season and just missing the conference championship by a half point. Great job!

Women’s tennis team posts undefeated season

The Rhode Island College women’s tennis team concluded the 2004 season with a perfect 13-0 overall record, the first undefeated mark in the program’s history.

The Anchorwomen have won 17 straight matches, dating back to last fall, and have now been ranked in the Top 25 since Oct. 7, 2003 when RIC fell, 5-2, to Salem State. The club’s 13 wins tied the 1999 squad’s record as well.

“We had an outstanding regular season,” said head women’s tennis coach Kelly Chartier.

Tennis Coach
KELLY CHARTIER

Over 50% of our matches were played on the road and decided by a score of 5-4, but we were focused on winning all of the time. We had 16 players on this team who practiced hard and pulled for each other and that is why we were successful.”

The Anchorwomen were 6-0 against conference opposition during the regular season and were hoping to end the season by capturing their thirdLEC title in the last four years at the 2004 Little East Championships, hosted by Southern Maine Oct. 15-16.

RIC battled hard, but lost the championships by half a point as Plymouth State concluded the tourney with 17.0 points as the Anchorwomen totaled 16.5.

The winter sports season kicked off with the men’s and women’s basketball teams heading to the hardwoods and the wrestling team taking to the mat.

Women’s gymnastics and indoor track and field seasons will start in the upcoming week.

I want to welcome Michael Morrison to the athletic department staff. Myr is from Rhode Island from the University of New Mexico where he managed the Lobos Club, the university’s athletic booster club. Mike will be responsible for coordinating the athletic program’s numerous fundraising activities while developing new initiatives to support athletic programs.

More on Mike in the next issue of What’s News.

A major component in the recent renovations to the Bazar softball complex was the addition of a Legacy Wall and the new entrance have been completed at the soccer/track complex and steel construction on the new building should start within the week.

Sports Events

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$ Hosted by Tufts University
$ Hosted by University of Southern Maine

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.

Paula Coro ’85

Paula (Migneault) Coro ’85 was a two-sport student-athlete during her playing days at RIC. She was a center on the women’s basketball team for three seasons from 1982-85 and competed in the high jump event on the women’s track and field team for four seasons from 1982-85.

A native of Cranston, she was a member of the 1982-83 team that earned a berth in the NCAA Div. III Women’s Basketball Tournament.

For earning her bachelor’s degree in nursing in 1985, she worked at Rhode Island Hospital until 1992. She moved to Women and Infants Hospital in 1992 and is currently registered nurse in the surgical recovery room.

She currently lives in North Providence with her husband, Dominic, a former RIC baseball player and coach.

The couple has four children: Christina (16), Stephanie (14), Nick (12) and Joey (9).

“I was a student-athlete at RIC and had a major impact on my life,” she said.

“My teammates were my closest friends and we still play together in leagues today. There are few friends anyone could ever ask for.

Bob Marchand ’68

Bob Marchand was a two-sport student-athlete at RIC, playing four years as a first baseman on the baseball team and three years as a mid-fielder on the soccer team.

The baseball Rhode Island team enjoyed moderate success during his years on the diamond, but one game in particular stands out. “We went down to New York City to play St. John’s which was ranked fourth in the country,” Marchand remembers. “There were about 13 scouts at the game and we were winning 7-4. Coach Grant had knocked in the run and they tied it up in the ninth inning and eventually won 2-1. In the 13th, Art Pontarelli ’71 was our pitcher that day and he threw an outstanding game.”

After earning his bachelor’s degree in education in 1968, March and taught special education at North Smithfield High School for two years.

Marchand moved on in 1970 and worked several jobs before joining Central Falls High School as a special education teacher. He was an assistant baseball and girls’ basketball coach and has achieved great success as the head boy’s soccer coach.

Marchand was named the Rhode Island Small Division Boys’ Soccer Coach of the Year in 2002 and 2003. In 2002, his team went 22-0-2 and defeated every state championship team at one point or another during the year.

Bob Marchand was born in Cranston, Rhode Island, and resides in Narragansett with his wife, Roberta.

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Tap City dancers step foot onto RIC stage in debut show

The performers of Tap City first put their dancing shoes on in July of 2001. Tap City was created by Waag, with the support of the late tap sensation Gregory Hines and arts advocate Hoagy Bix Cramm-chapel. "Tap City has become the quintessential celebration of our collective American heritage," Waag states on the Tap City Web site. Tap City is known for the annual New York City Tap Festival, which takes place each July and gives performers, teachers, tap historians and students a chance to dance together. Originally co-directed by Hines, much of Tap City’s choreography is inspired by his style. Besides co-chairing the festival, he had also served on the board of the ATDF. This festival, which is in its fourth year, run, is dedicated to his memory.

The ATDF was created in 1986 by world performer and ATDF president and artistic director, Brenda Bufalino, executive producer of Tap City, Tony Waag and the late Charles “Honj” Coles. Waag also created the first IMPACT Dance Hall of Fame, which exclusively recognizes individuals for tap excellence.

Some area high school choruses have performed in at least one of the seasons of Tap City. Bufalino, legendary tap veteran and 2003 recipient of the annual Hoofers Award, will be joined by master of ceremonies Waag, along with fellow veterans and up-and-coming hoofers.

Tap City is described by The Dancing Times as "a bubbling brew of diverse talents," and "sheer razzle dazzle" by Star Ledger. Reserved tickets for Tap City’s performance are $28, with discounts for students and seniors. Tickets can be purchased in advance via VISA or MasterCard by calling 41-456-8144 from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. weekdays or in-person at the Roberts box office until the time of the performance on the day of the event.}

Local high school choruses to join RIC Chorus for concert

Rhode Island College will welcome area high school choruses to perform with the RIC Chorus and Chamber Singers as part of the second annual High School Invitational Concert to be held on Friday, Nov. 5 at 8 p.m. in Sapisnky Hall in the Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts. Teresa Coffman, associate professor of music and music director, said she wanted to offer a forum for RIC students and faculty to interact with local high school singers.

"I wanted to provide a positive, non-competitive choral experience for our local high schools on our campus," said Coffman. "I hope to continue this indefinitely," she said, adding that there has been enough interest from high school choruses around the state to plan events for the next two years. Admission is free and open to the public.

The concert also provides an environment for the high school students to learn and practice with each other. "The RIC High School Invitational Concert is meant to be a positive sharing and hopefully stimulating experience for all of us involved," she said.

Coffman has high hopes for the future of this program. "I hope to continue this indefinitely," she said, adding that there has been enough interest from high school choruses around the state to plan events for the next two years. Admission is free and open to the public.

The program will showcase Some Sank Funk – Jazz Dance, with Greg Abate, adjunct professor of music, and Dance Mix, a combination of jazz and rock that was influenced by contemporary classical music. Susan Wood, adjunct professor of music will play the role of Elvis Presley in Dead Elvis, while the music of Scott Joplin will be remembered with two ragtime pieces from the early 1900s.

Beginning their second year, the R.I. Wind Orchestra is comprised of RIC faculty members Mary Ellen Gazzio, flute; Susan Nicholson, clarinet and saxophone; Wood, bassoon; Abate, saxophone; Joe Foley, trumpet; Kevin Kane, trombone; Tom Coffman, trombone and tuba; Mike DeQuattro, percussion; and Jack McNamara, guitar. They are also musicians in the Rhode Island Philharmonic Orchestra, the Boston Symphony and the Boston Pops.

A question-and-answer session will follow. Admission is free and open to the public.
RIC Dance Company to share performance with Souloworks/Andrea E. Woods & Dancers

Dancer/choreographer Andrea E. Woods marks her first 10 years of creating dances with a RIC presentation: At The Soul Level: An Evening of Dances Celebrating The Spirit and the Soul! The Brooklyn dancer and her Souloworks Dancers will revisit an eclectic array of solo and group works created at varying stages of her movement journey. The Rhode Island College Dance Company will join in the performance on Friday, Oct. 29 at 8 p.m. in Sapinsley Hall in the Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts.

The evening ranges from Woods’ 1993 duet Rite, set to musical selections by pianist Randy Weston and percussionist Obbo Addy, to the 2004 world premiere of Morning Song, a work for five dancers set to music by vocalist/percussionist Philip Hamilton. In addition, the RIC Dance Company will premiere a new work, Palomas Para Linda, set to music by Alfredo Hidrovo.

"Woods provides a contrast to our reality-obessed popular fare, celebrating African-American culture and experience as rich, contemporary folklore," said Dante Del Giudice, managing director of the RIC Dance Company.

Woods will be dancing with Dana Arceneaux, Kimani Fowlie, Chinene Freeman, Ebony Ruffin and Felicia Swoope, performers who bring “vibrancy and jubilance” to their work, according to Woods.

"For the dancers and for me it is an evening of reaching into the spirit and the soul of my earliest works created at varying stages of my movement journey. The Rhode Island College Dance Company will join in the performance on Friday, Oct. 29 at 8 p.m. in Sapinsley Hall in the Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts.

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RIC President John Nazarian receives first Lifetime Achievement Award from RICH

The Rhode Island Council for the Humanities (RICH) presented John Nazarian, president of Rhode Island College, with the first Honorary Chairs’ Award for Lifetime Achievement in the Humanities, at their annual Celebration of the Humanities held Oct. 4 at the Roger Williams Park Casino. The award was presented by representatives for Senators Jack Reed and Lincoln Chafee, honorary chairs of the event.

“Dr. Nazarian has dedicated his life to providing opportunities for Rhode Islanders to have affordable access to the benefits of higher education,” said Sara Archambault, executive director of RICH. "RICH is proud to be honoring a man whose lifelong focus has been accessible education for all and advocacy for exposure to the different perspectives and experiences that make up our collective history.”

Nazarian has been associated with Rhode Island College for over 54 years, entering as a student in 1950 at what was then the Rhode Island College of Education (RICE) – changed to Rhode Island College in 1960 – and graduating in 1954, only to remain at the College for the next half-century, serving in various roles, from professor to administrator to president and many in-between.

Born and raised in Pawtucket as one of 11 children of immigrant parents, Nazarian was the first in his family to graduate from college and epitomized the profile of many RIC students even today.

Nazarian wanted to be a concert violinist but changed his career path when he auditioned for a spot at the New England Conservatory of Music, which included a full scholarship but came in third. Not able to afford the tuition on his own, he turned to his second love – math – and decided to become a teacher, thus interviewing at RICE. Little did he know that the school that had accepted and educated him would become his lifelong passion, and that he would dedicate his career and much of his personal life to making it one of the state’s most prestigious places of higher education. Nor did the young John Nazarian ever dream that he would one day lead that institution.

In 2000, the governor of Rhode Island, the state General Assembly, and Board of Governors for Higher Education recognized Nazarian’s many contributions to higher education and to the College by naming its newly completed Center for Performing Arts in his honor, a fitting tribute to an accomplished musician with an abiding interest in music and the performing arts.

Each season, the John Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts presents a spectrum of international artists and student performances to celebrate the multicultural uniqueness of the state and all around us.

The Nazarian presidency has thus far been marked by strong fiscal stewardship, significant expansion and improvements to the College’s campus, as well as numerous academic advancements, and as the initiator of the College’s first-ever Capital Campaign. In 2004, the College celebrates its sesquicentennial (150th) anniversary as Nazarian celebrates his 50th anniversary since graduating from RIC.

The mission of RICH is to inspire and support intellectual curiosity and imagination in all Rhode Islanders through lifelong learning in the humanities. "John Nazarian perfectly exemplifies the ideals of RICH not only in his years of service to the College and the state, but in his vision for Rhode Island College’s next 150 years," said Jane Fusco, spokesperson for RIC.