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What's News At Rhode Island College

Rhode Island College

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Biomedical research at RIC: an experiment guaranteed to succeed

by Rob Martin
What’s News Managing Editor

The name of a research project usually lacks the succinct appeal of a book or song title. So “Functional Analysis of the Ascidian MyoD-Family Gene” is probably not as memorable as *The Sun Also Rises*. And certainly “Methyl Tertiary-Butyl Ether Causes Testicular Injury” is less catchy than, say, *Oops!…I Did It Again*. But the results of these biomedical studies – now underway at RIC – could some day have lasting appeal in the field of human health.

Indeed, biomedical research is beginning to boom at RIC, where grad and undergrad students are participating in the above projects, both funded by the National Institutes of Health through programs specially designed for colleges such as RIC.

Tom Meedel, professor of biology, is heading up the ascidian gene project after receiving an NIH Academic Research Enhancement Award (AREA). The grant is allocated primarily to four-year colleges for “people who have valuable research with a chance of succeeding and the ability to involve undergrads,” said Meedel.

The project’s objective is to understand how the myogenic regulatory factor (MRF) gene operates in ascidian marine animals. Ascidians are filter-feeding creatures (sometimes called sea squirts) that resemble clams without the shell.

“The experiments in the study,” said Meedel, “will address an important gap in our understanding of MRF gene function.” They will attempt to determine whether the MRF gene of ascidians – a transitional animal group on the evolutionary ladder between invertebrates and vertebrates – is required for muscle development.

In the case of vertebrates – including humans – MRF genes play an essential part in muscle development. In invertebrates, however, these regulatory genes appear to have very little to do with developing muscle.

“I consider the evolution of the role of this gene in muscle development to be the most important aspect of this work,” said Meedel. However, he noted, because the MRF gene has human counterparts, the study should also be able to...

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Largest bond issue in College’s history — Rhode Island voters approve bond referendum for new residence hall at RIC

On Nov. 2, Rhode Island voters, by a plurality of nearly 9,000 votes, approved Question 5, which included $30 million in funding for construction of a new residence hall at Rhode Island College. The share slated for Rhode Island College out of the $50 million total approved in Question 5 represents the largest single bond issue ever approved for the College. The remaining $20 million from Question 5 is dedicated to residence hall improvements at URI.

According to the Rhode Island Board of Elections, the vote totals, still unofficial but including 15,138 mail ballots, were 188,802 in favor and 179,810 opposed.

The bond issue was strongly supported by the...
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.

RIC Art Auction set for December, donated works requested

The 32nd Annual Art Auction at Rhode Island College will be held Friday, Dec. 3 at 7 p.m. in the Art Center, room 8A. Previews will begin at 4 p.m.

Alumni and friends of RIC are encouraged to donate works of art for bid at this year’s event. Money generated from the auction will be used to help fund student activities.

To arrange for donations, please call the art dept. office at 401-456-8054. Deadline for drop-offs is Friday, Nov. 26.

Eli Wolff to appear at RIC

Eli A. Wolff, project director of Northeastern University’s Disability in Sport program, will give a presentation Thursday, Nov. 18 from 5-7 p.m. in The Murray Center. The event is titled “Disability in Sport: Olympics, Inclusion and Human Rights.”

Wolff was a member of the U.S. Soccer Team that competed at the 2004 Paralympics Games in Athens. He will present highlights of the 2004 Olympics, talk about his experiences as an athlete at these games and discuss his work at Northeastern.

The presentation is free and open to the public through the generosity of the Department of Health and Physical Education, the College Lectures Committee, and the Rhode Island Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance.

Contact Susan Owens 401-456-8048 or kcastagno@ric.edu to reserve a seat (space is limited). A reception will follow.

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 Joan Glazer, professor emerita of elementary education, who spent the 2002-03 academic year as a Fulbright scholar in Norway and who currently chairs the Rudway F. Shinn Study Abroad Committee.

Both my parents were born and raised in Ohio, and they never visited another country, nor, in fact, ever traveled west of the Mississippi River. I was born in Ohio and raised in Ohio and by age 35 had visited four countries and 30 states, and now, at an undisclosed older age, have visited 29 countries, often working with residents of those countries, and every state except Hawaii.

As our world shrinks, becoming a global neighborhood, our own outlooks and experiences must expand. Each generation of Americans must have a broader, more inclusive perspective than the ones preceding it. We must know our neighbors as people who speak a different language, who dress in a different style, who make decisions based on different criteria, who look out their windows at a different landscape.

At RIC those working with students recognize the importance of a global view. Many professors, like myself, have traveled widely and bring to the classroom firsthand experience with other cultures. My year as a Fulbright scholar in Norway, a time when I worked with both teachers and students in 60 schools in over 30 different cities in Norway, let me speak knowledgeably to my RIC students about the people and the educational system of another country. My work with the International Board on Books for Young People helped me to present on a personal basis with teachers, librarians, and writers from many countries, and again bring these experiences, and books from those countries, to my classes.

The Dept. of Elementary Education sends some students to England for student teaching and several Study Abroad programs encourage RIC students to venture into the wider world. For students as well as teachers, RIC is both going out to meet the world and inviting the world home. – Joan Glazer
Mary Olenn keeps anti-smoking effort lit at RIC

by Jackie Crevier ’04
What’s News Intern

Rhode Island College has the lowest student-smoking rate (9.1 percent) of any college or university in the state. This compares to 17.7 percent among other R.I. institutions of higher learning and 17.4 percent nationwide. A leading advocate in the movement to “smoke out” cigarette smoking on campus for the last 24 years, RIC was the first institution of higher education in the state to adopt a no-smoking policy, which is included in the American Cancer Society’s Great American Smokeout since 1980.

In addition to being the first to implement a no-smoking policy, in buildings on campus, the College was also the first to hire a health promotion consultant.

Mary Olenn, RN, has been at RIC since 1981 and has spearheaded the anti-smoking campaign on campus. She was recently awarded The Henry W. De Jong Award for Vision and Leadership in College Tobacco Control by The BACH-US & GAMMA Peer Education Network for her smoke-free initiatives both statewide and on the RIC campus.

Olenn said that RIC has “blazed a trail” of smoke-free examples for other schools to follow. “Smoking is the single greatest cause of preventable illness and premature death in the U.S.,” she said in the opening statement of her De Jong award essay. She added that it was important for RIC to take a high ground on the tobacco control issue.

A former clinical nurse, Olenn recalls the moment when her “fire-in-the-belly fervor” to educate and motivate individuals to quit smoking came to light. The difficult task of making a lung cancer patient comfortable and speaking with the devastated family motivated her to do something. And so she did, for the sake of RIC. The year after she arrived at the College, the sale of all tobacco products in the campus store and residential housing was eliminated. Olenn assisted with the drafting and implementation of the RIC no-smoking policy in 1986. This policy, restricting smokers to areas outside College buildings, continued to evolve as the College continued to extinguish smoking on campus.

Olenn brought the National Smokeout to campus and helped generate free teacher training programs to help faculty, staff and students quit. RIC has also been an active charter member of the Roundtable Discussing Smoking on College Campuses, which is sponsored by the R.I. Cancer Council.

Beginning in 2000, RIC and nine other R.I. colleges and universities have participated in a four-year study that tracked the average-to-bacco use of incoming freshmen. “RIC was the first to come to the table and has been a loyal participant, supplying data from surveys each year,” said Arvin Glicksman, MD, executive director of the R.I. Cancer Council. “It has been an exciting and satisfying professional endeavor to participate in the tobacco control initiative at RIC,” said Olenn.

The Office of Health Promotion, which offers free sessions of smoking cessation, is just one campus site where smoking services are offered. Health Services, which is located in Browne Hall, gives free nicotine patches to smokers, monitors their progress and gives physical assessments.

Individual counseling related to stress reduction is offered by the Counseling Center. The Recreation Center offers exercise programs geared to smokers. Also, the Donovan Dining nutrition consultant offers helpful tips for those smokers who want to quit smoking without weight gain.

Biomedical research
Continued from page 1

clarify how the gene works in muscle repair and regeneration following injury or disease, and in diseases such as muscular dystrophy.

There will be two kinds of experiments to provide insight into the gene’s behavior. The first will cause the cell activity of the gene to be blocked in various ways to determine if muscle development is prevented. The second will cause the gene to be active in cells that don’t normally make muscle, to see if those cells then become muscle cells.

“The idea is simple,” said Mee- del. “Doing it is much more complicated.”

Thanks to the grant, he has the services of four biology undergraduates who will observe the activity of the gene in various ways: one will express the gene as a protein for the purpose of making anti-bodies; another will look at the messenger RNA produced by the gene; a third will look at the gene when it is misexpressed, or active, in a cell in which it is not normally active; the fourth student will compare the two different kinds of muscle cells found in ascidian tadpoles, one of which becomes a muscle cell in ways not yet understood.

Funding for the project totals about $200,000 spread over three years.

“Mentoring takes time and patience and you have to spend a lot of one-on-one time with students,” said Meedel. “The grants provide that time.”

“I try to get (students) into the lab as soon as I can,” he said. Sometimes that is as early as the second semester of their freshman year. For the students working under Meedel, it is an opportunity to get a jump on a career in the biomedical field.

The second NIH-funded grant, which studies the effect of Methyl Tertiary-Butyl Ether (MTBE) on mice, is directed by Eric Hall, associate professor of biology and a 1981 graduate of RIC.

The grant is part of a package of research projects under the umbrella of the infrastructure for Biomedical Research Excellence (INBRE) program. Based at the University of Rhode Island, the program includes a multimillion-dollar core facility on the URI campus that supports biomedical research statewide. The university subcontract research projects to RIC.

The INBRE program is important to RIC for a number of reasons, according to Hall. It helps junior faculty members submit proposals and compete for independent research funding from the NIH. It also provides four-year colleges with equipment and infrastructure to carry out NIH-funded biomedical research under undergraduates. And it fosters communication among researchers throughout the state through biannual meetings and other forms of networking.

INBRE helps to “recruit our brightest students into biomedical research,” said Hall, whose specialty is studying the effects of toxic chemicals on male reproduction.

For the MTBE project, Hall has three grad and three undergrad students performing experiments to test the hypothesis that MTBE, a gasoline additive, causes an abnormality in the male reproductive development of mice whose mothers were exposed to the chemical.

After exposing mother mice to test the hypothesis that MTBE, a chemical on male reproduction. The hypothesis is that MTBE, a gasoline additive, causes an abnormality in the male reproductive development of mice whose mothers were exposed to the chemical.
Milken Family Foundation honors RIC alums for their exemplary performance in the classroom

by David Cranshaw
What's News Intern

Catherine Sharkey '91 and Susan Toohey Kaye '87 have a connection that spans nearly 20 years. They graduated in the same class at Toll Gate High School in Warwick, graduated from RIC with advanced teaching degrees and above all shared the same love for children and teaching.

The bond continued earlier this month as they were named the two Rhode Island recipients of the Milken Family Foundation National Educator Award. Each received a check for $25,000 and will travel to Washington, D.C. in April for the National Awards ceremony.

Sharkey teaches fifth and sixth graders at the Cottrell F. Hoxsie School in Warwick and Toohey Kaye is a first grade teacher at Washington Oak School in Coventry.

Sharkey said her favorite part of teaching is working with her students, “They make it very enjoyable,” she said, “It is nice being part of their lives.”

After 13 years of teaching, she is still grateful for her education at RIC. In a year and a half at RIC, she earned her MAT and met people who became lifelong friends. She still remembers the professors who “always helped and encouraged students to do their best.”

Sharkey has one piece of advice for current education majors at the College: “Focus on the children and keep their best interests at heart.”

Like Sharkey, Toohey Kaye knew as a youngster she wanted to be a teacher. She said she has been thinking about her lessons plans since she was an elementary student. That ambitious mindset has translated into a 17-year teaching career.

She said what she likes most about the job is seeing “the way kids discover within themselves that they are capable of doing something they previously could not do,” giving the example of a first-grade student who was proud of his newfound ability to read a book.

Toohey Kaye said that her time at RIC left her well prepared to embark on a successful career in education. She credits the College for teaching her the importance of recognizing the issues that students face and how to create instruction based on the needs of the students.

“All of the practicum experiences helped to give me as much experience as possible prior to teaching,” she added.

Fall Phonathon

Sixteen student callers are phoning alumni this month. Their goal is to raise $90,000 in pledges to help provide funds for Alumni Association programs. Over $100,000 in scholarships is provided to qualified students. The Alumni Association also supports the Young Alumni Group (YAG), E-News, faculty research, class reunions, Homecoming, the alumni awards and honor roll event, The Alumni Magazine, and RIC on the Road reunions.

Buy a brick

Join our march into the next 150 years by purchasing a brick for our new Legacy Walk. Name yourself or pay tribute to someone special. Makes a great holiday gift! Proceeds benefit programs of the Alumni Association and Intercollegiate Athletics.

For more information call 401-456-3827 or visit our Web site at www.ric.edu/getytic/briick/campaign.html. Please make a pledge!
English – the art of the possible

When a student chooses the English major, they enter a world we call “Literary Studies.” In this brave new world they take classes in which their professors ask them to read and write about selected books, poems, and short stories along with an assortment of other writings. We call them all “texts” for short. As our students read and then write about the assigned texts, we expect them to consider difficult concepts, be open to understanding language in its cultural and historical frameworks. A long way, a very long way, from chess or bridge. One can play with very little training, but when one gains knowledge and experience, how to do it, and the more adept your mind becomes.

Yet from time to time we English professors can become so entirely absorbed by our own interests we forget that some folk are still not sure what that one “does” with an English major. I think the question deserves attention.


Symposium brings together a diverse group of experts with varying views on how to best target the state’s economic development efforts.

The Poverty Institute at Rhode Island College will present its second annual policy symposium, “Building a Vibrant Economy: What Works,” on Monday, December 6, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Faculty Dining Center on campus. Like many states, Rhode Island struggles to promote economic development to improve the lives of its residents. A panel of local and national experts, scholars and activists will discuss their differing views on how the state can create jobs and reduce poverty by focusing on those most in need, and ensure that low- and moderate-income Rhode Islanders are not priced out of the state.

Featured speakers will be:
- Matthew Murray, professor of business and economics at the Center for Business and Economic Research at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville
- Christopher Bergstrom, executive director, Rhode Island Economic Policy Council
- Scott Wolf, executive director, Grow Smart RI
- Michael McMahon, executive director, Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation
- Barbara Fields Karlin, senior program director, Rhode Island Local Initiative Support Corporation

“The debate surrounding economic development can often become polarized over controversial issues like housing, taxes and sprawl,” said Ellen Frank, senior economist for the Poverty Institute. “In bringing together this panel, we hope to spur a lively and open debate that can serve as a basis for enlightened policy.”

The Poverty Institute at RIC is an affiliate of the College’s Center for Public Policy. The Institute works to promote economic security for low- and moderate-income Rhode Islanders and to develop nonpartisan research, policy analysis, education and advocacy.

The event is free and open to the public. Seating is limited. To reserve a seat or for more information, call 401-456-8512.

AUDIENCE MEMBERS, wearing 3-D glasses, view rare, 19th-century stereo photographs of Rhode Island during a screening Oct. 21 in the Forman Theatre. The presentation of over 100 views, narrated by Ned Connors ’79 of the Rhode Island Historical Society, combined the old-time technology of the stereooscope with modern technology.

Bond referendum

Continued from page 1
Rhode Island College community, Substantial contributions to the campaign were provided by the Rhode Island College Alumni Association, the Foundation, and the RIC/AFT. President Nazarian and the president, and Jane Fusco, director of news and public relations, led the overall effort.

I was delighted to see how the College community worked together in support of these measures,” President Nazarian said. “In particular, I want to thank the students, the Alumni Association, the Foundation, and the RIC/AFT for their strong support.” He said that although the winning percentage was narrower than in some of the more recent bond elections, “the results were certainly an endorsement of the importance of public higher education as an economic engine for the state.”

Smith said that the total dollar value represented by all the bond issues on the November ballot was a new record, representing over $392 million in new spending.


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AHBI

Each summer, a dozen or more RIC students become working tourists for three weeks when they travel to Europe to take The London Course. A part of the Study Abroad Program, it is offered as a companion to the British Politics and Cultural Studies class. The combination of the two courses allows students to accrue six academic credits — and an informed and memorable first-person adventure across the pond.

Now in its 12th year, The London Course, led by Richard Weiner, dean of the faculty of arts and sciences, and Mark Motte, professor of geography, is always enlightening for the teachers as well as the students. Weiner, a one-time visiting fellow at the London School of Economics who taught in England, said it was "a joy to share my love for London and Paris with RIC students, and to watch them grow in confidence and aspiration during and after the trip."

Motte, a native Brit and former London resident, finds it "incredibly revealing" to see his own culture through the eyes of RIC undergrads. He was impressed with their insights and hoped students could use them to "develop a more critical eye for the strengths and weaknesses of life in America."

Exploring the UK was more than OK with Caroline Francis, a junior majoring in film studies and anthropology. She said the course "is a great introduction for students to develop an independence in travel abroad, and to experience beautiful sights, sounds, tastes, and feelings of other cultures." Francis should know — last summer's trip was her second with the program. This year, her agenda was personalized to incorporate the study of film.

"The professors are very paternal and responsible for us when we need them, however they never hover too close to stifle our freedom while abroad," said Francis.

Christopher Clegg, a junior political science and history major, had similar sentiments. "Having Dean Wiener and Dr. Motte as the professors only added to the experiences...they treat students as individuals and not as a big group of people," he said.

While in the UK, students visited Cambridge University, Tate and National galleries, and many more attractions via walking tours, seminars and guided field trips. There is a five-day visit to France as well, where the Cathedral of Chartres, Normandy beaches and other historical sites are explored.

The France tour also includes Le Mont St. Michel Abbey on the country's north coast, a place Francis describes as "a truly spiritual experience." The medieval edifice, which looms above the wheat fields of Normandy is surrounded by water during high tide. Its "ancient-ness," said Francis, left her "silent in thought."

For Clegg, the highlight of the visit was a trip to Parliament. "I spent as much time as possible in the House of Commons, which included tours and sitting in on sessions," he said.

Both Francis and Clegg recommend the trip to fellow classmates. "Seeing how things are very much the same, and interestingly different, can make you appreciate cultural differences," said Francis. Clegg said the trip was "a major aspect of his college career."

The cost for both summer sessions is approximately $3,500, which includes tuition, airfare to London, Eurostar train, townhouse accommodations in North London, food, public transportation and incidentals. Financial aid packages are available. Interested students and alumni should contact Dean Weiner at rweiner@ric.edu (401-456-8107), or Professor Motte at mmotte@ric.edu (401-456-8378).

CELEBRATING CAMPUS TREES: Freshman Alex Hatzberger looks over a temporary display of student posters that highlight 13 of the 80 different species of trees on the RIC campus. The posters, on the walkway bridging Donovan Dining Center and the Student Union, are the work of Prof. Jerry Melaragno's Biology 261 (The World's Forests) class.

BARNARD FENCE: A crew from New England Fence installs a wrought iron fence at the Henry Barnard School as part of the ongoing Special Capital Project. Framing the original HBS entablature from the 1928 Hays Street site (top photo), sections of the fence may be purchased in honor or in memory of a loved one with an appropriate plaque installed to recognize your gift. For further information, contact Patricia Nolin at 401-456-9854 or pnolin@ric.edu.

AMERICAN IN PARIS: RIC junior Caroline Francis, a two-time London Course participant, checks out miniature sailboats in Paris' Tuileries Gardens.
In persuasion and interpersonal communication classes, "I didn't go out of my way to be funny, it just happened," he said. His presentations were so well received that he soon discovered his knack for comedy writing.

Valerie Endress, associate professor of communications, remembers Kirby in class as having a most intelligent use of good humor. "Brendan certainly mastered that skill to the delight of his classmates and professors," she said.

Kirby's stint with Letterman began as a whim to break into show business. "I wanted to gain television experience with hands-on training," Kirby said. A long-time fan of the late night comic, Kirby used the show as an independent study project.

"At first I didn’t know how to act (on air) but I wanted to develop my own style," he said. "Now I can be an embarrassment to my family and that’s what I was going for."

His family ties to RIC run deep. His mother Colleen Lynch Kirby '75, 'M'85, father Stephen '72, brother Kevin '00, and aunt Jeanne Lynch Rabula '80 are all graduates of RIC. His grandmother, Claire Healy Lynch, graduated in 1950 from what was then the Rhode Island College of Education (RICE). His great-grandmother Louise Walden Healy graduated from the Rhode Island State Normal School in 1920, as did his great-great-grandmother, Theresa Louise Walden Healy, in 1875.

Along with family matters, Kirby said he can turn most anything topical into something funny and that "**on a statewide level and that’s what I was going for.**"

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Greg Kniseley, RIC professor of elementary education, received the Educator of the Year award from the Audubon Society of Rhode Island at the organization’s 107th annual meeting Oct. 24. The award was for his efforts to bring environmental education to the youth of the state.

Kniseley has spent many years introducing Rhode Island College students to Audubon as an important environmental education and science community resource. Each semester Kniseley brings teacher candidates to the organization to illustrate for them the importance of teaching children about the natural world.

“It is due to Greg’s dedication to education and the natural world that we offered him this award,” said Anne M. DiMonti, the society’s executive director.

“Children see the world differently when they learn about their surrounding environment,” said Kniseley. He believes that becoming more knowledgeable about natural habitats and interdependence will allow young people to develop the skills and expertise needed to address environmental issues. “Ultimately, this can foster attitudes, motivation and commitment to take responsibility and make informed choices about environmental challenges,” he said.

During his career at RIC, Kniseley has been involved in two National Science Foundation-funded initiatives: KITES (Kits in Teaching Elementary Science), a project to improve the teaching of elementary science in eight East Bay school districts, and HELMSS (High Expectations for Learning Middle School Science), a project to improve middle school science programs in 10 Rhode Island districts.

The initiatives have improved Rhode Island K-8 science programs, noted Kniseley, who said that currently, over half of K-8 Rhode Island teachers are teaching inquiry science more confidently by using high quality instructional materials. “And through the science methods courses, we’re preparing RIC teacher candidates to enter the profession with experience in using these same instructional materials,” added Kniseley.

As a result of these and other initiatives, many organizations are now helping to support teachers, including the Audubon Society of R.I., according to Kniseley. The society “has gone the extra mile - from aligning their impressive and wide-ranging programs with science standards and instructional materials to securing funds to bring urban children to Audubon for an outdoor experience,” said Kniseley.

In addition to teaching, Kniseley is in his third year of directing the Science and Literacy Integration Project (SLIP), which is designed to help state K-8 schools improve the teaching of inquiry science and literacy through the use of scientists’ notebooks and to nurture school-based professional learning communities.

For further information, go to www.ric.edu/slip on the Web.
From the Athletic Director's Desk

Donald E. Tencher
Athletic Director

Since we came on board nine years ago, it has been our goal to accomplish a season like the one we are about to complete. I want to extend my sincerest congratulations to the student-athletes and coaches for a fall season filled with success! Addition-ally, I want to thank the fans who have worked so diligently behind the scenes to support this milestone season and our outstanding alumni who have been supportive.

- Anchor Madness, which will showcase the winter sport student-athletes, will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 17 at The Murray Center at 10 p.m. Every- one’s invited.
- Activities commemorating the 75th anniversary of RIC athletics are starting to come together and details will soon be available.
- A phonathon drive for Anchor Club membership will be taking place after Thanksgiving. Please support athletics!

Where Are They Now?

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

Jessica Arrighi ’01

Jessica Arrighi was an outstanding women’s volleyball player and excelled academically during her four years at Rhode Island College (1997-2001). The Rumford native began her career as an outside hitter and was one of the Anchor-women’s top offensive threats. A serious shoulder injury caused her to miss all of her junior year in 1999 and required surgery.

She returned to the court as a senior and was still recovering from the operation, switched her focus to defense and played back row. For her career, she played in 289 games in 80 matches, totaling 483 kills and a .211 career hitting percentage. She was the season’s MVP as a freshman and RIC’s Helen M. Murphy Award recipient in 2001.

“I look back on that time and it was really special,” Arrighi said. “I had so much fun. The team bond-ed as a unit and we had to work with each other’s strengths and weaknesses in order to be success-ful.”

Andy Coughlin ’96

When it comes to any athletic event held at Rhode Island Col-lege, you’re bound to see Andy Coughlin there. As the coordinator of athletic and recreational facilities, he’s pretty much responsible for getting everything set up prior to an event and then taking it all down afterwards.

The Providence native first came to RIC in the fall of 1992. He ran cross country and outdoor track in each of his four seasons as an An-chorman. Just prior to his gradua-tion, Coughlin received the John E. Hetherman Award, given to the top senior male student-athlete.

He earned a bachelor’s degree in community health, but enjoyed working in athletics. Athletic Director Don Tencher kept him on as a facilities coordinator, a posi-tion he held until 2000. He served as RIC’s coordinator of facilities and intramurals for the 2000-01 campaign, assuming his current position in the fall of 2001.

Coughlin maintains a vast array of athletic facilities, including the baseball field, the Dayna A. Bazar Softball Complex, the varsity com-petition complex, which includes the soccer/women’s lacrosse fields and the Bob Black Track, and the newly added varsity practice complex. He is in charge of game management for RIC home con-tests and for outside rentals in The Murray Center.

“There is a lot of pride in getting an event set up and seeing it go off without any problems,” Coughlin said. “It’s a lot of work and a lot of hours, but I get a lot of satisfaction out of it.”

Coughlin has seen a tremendous amount of change since arriving at RIC 12 years ago. “All of the facilities have been dramatically upgraded,” The Murray Center was built, the uniforms are much better and we never had a student-athlete academic center like they have now,” said Coughlin.

Coughlin and his wife Danielle reside in Cumberland and are expecting their first child in De-cember.

Anchormen and Anchorwomen reach new heights during fall campaign

by Ryan Griswold
Athletic Media Relations Intern

Rhode Island College athletic teams made a splash in the fall of 2004, as re-cords were broken, and first-time accomplishments were reached.

The women’s tennis team (recog-nized in the previous issue) was not the only fall squad to have a successful season. The baseball team won its second straight fall season championship, taking the 2004 Cardi’s Furniture crown on Oct. 9. Head Coach Jay Grenier’s Anchormen were seeded second and defeated fifth-seeded Johnson and Wales, 19-3, in the semifinals. RIC went on to defeat third-seeded CCCI, 9-5, for the championship. Junior outfielder Mike Naylor was named Tournament MVP, the third consecutive year an Anchorman has received this honor. The team is looking to have an excellent spring season, building on momentum from the fall.

The men’s soccer team, coached by John Mello, also made history. The team finished the regular season with an overall record of 10-7-2, with a 4-2-1 mark in the Little East Conference. This was good enough for fourth place, and the team’s highest conference finish ever.

As a two seed, the Anchormen hosted a first-round game in the 2004 Little East Conference Tour-nament. The team made the most of the opportunity, earning their first-ever conference victory in tournament play with a 3-1 victory over Plymouth State University. The squad ended up losing in the championship game, 3-1, at Keene State College, but qualified for the ECAC tournament for the second consecutive year. Leading the way for RIC this year was senior forward Kyle Teixeira and junior defender Tim Leonard, who was named Second Team All-East.

The women’s volleyball team also had a very successful season, finishing in the regular season at 17-15 overall, and 5-2 in Little East play. RIC was tied with three other teams for the best record in the conference, but ended up with the LIC regular season crown, owing tie-breakers to the other com-petitors.

The top seed not only gave the Anchorwomen a bye in the first round, but also the opportunity to host the semifinal and cham-pionship rounds of the Little East Tournament. They faced fourth-seeded Eastern Connecticut in the semifinals, with Eastern Connecti-cut winning the fifth game, 17-15, and the match, 2-3, ending RIC’s chances of making the NCAA Div. III Tournament.

Junior Second Team All-LEC outside hitter Kirsty Nix set a new program record for most kills in a sea-son with 355, followed closely by sophomore Second Team All-LEC outside hitter Kari Gierling’s 354. The Anchorwomen were also led by sophomore First Team All-LEC middle hitter Sarah Budgell. The team had a high 164 blocks, and fresh-men setters Jeanne Rosa and Amy Smith compiled 583 and 584 assists respectively.

The 2004 season may be the beginning of brighter things to come for fall sports. With a year of expe-rience and only a few graduating seniors, RIC teams will be feared by many in the upcoming season.

Kyle Teixeira breaks 27-year old record

by Scott Gibbons
Assistant Athletic Director for Media Relations

Junior forward Kyle Teixeira continued his assault on the RIC men’s soccer record books this season and became the school’s all-time leader in career goals. The Warren native scored his 63rd career goal in the Anchormen’s, 3-1 victory over Plymouth State University in the semifinals of the Little East Conference Men’s Soccer Tournament.

In the process he ended the 27-year reign of Domenico Petrarca as RIC’s all-time leading goal scorer. Petrarca, who completed his last season in 1977, is RIC’s all-time leader with 147 points, but Teixeira is a mere five points be-hind him with 142 as the Anchor-men enter the 2004 ECAC Men’s Soccer Tournament.

“Kyle is a special player,” said John Mello, RIC men’s soccer head coach. “Someone with his talents doesn’t come along that often. He was a big part of our success this season.”

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Borromeo, Stillman team up for ‘Schumann Quintet’ Dec. 8

The Wednesday Chamber Music Series ends its fall season in classical style when the Borromeo String Quartet unites with RIC’s artist-in-residence Judith Lynn Stillman to perform the Piano Quintet in E-flat Major. The free, open-to-the-public concert will take place Dec. 8 at 1 p.m. in Sapinsley Hall in the Nazarian Center.

Stillman, who is also artistic director of the Chamber Music Series, said, “I thoroughly enjoy my role as a promoter, working in the service of the artists, as I know how it is from the other side of the stage.” She will perform as a pianist with the Borromeo Quartet, playing Schumann’s masterwork.

Borromeo will be performing in over 100 concerts across three continents during the 2004-05 season.

Last year, the quartet scored a classical music first with Living Archive, an initiative that offers fans the chance to order CDs and DVDs of the concert they have just attended and from a growing list of performances on the group’s Web site. Living Archive allows listeners a more in-depth exploration of the music and communication occurring in a concert hall. Proceeds from Living Archive will benefit those who produced the concert: composer, presenter, performer and engineer.$

Borromeo, which takes its name from the north Italian area where the quartet first performed, has collaborated with musical standouts such as violinist Midori, pianist Christopher Eschenbach, soprano Dawn Upshaw, clarinetist David Shifrin, and cellist Bernard Greenhouse. The chamber ensemble also works with contemporary composers, including Paul Zimmermann, John Harbison, Osvaldo Golijov and Steve Mackey. Next year, the quartet will begin a new commissioning plan with the Copland House of New York, forming an annual collaboration with composers in residence.

Stillman received global praise for teaming with Wynton Marsalis on the 1993 sonata album On the Twentieth Century, a top 10 recording on the Billboard charts. She began playing piano by ear at three, entered the Juilliard School on scholarship at 19 and went on to receive her bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees from Juilliard. The youngest person ever admitted to the school’s doctoral program, Stillman was awarded the Dethier Prize for Outstanding Pianist upon graduation.

Stillman has played numerous festivals, recitals and tours in the United States and in over 100 concerts across three continents during the 2004-05 season. She has been a radio regular on National Public Radio’s Morning Edition and on Kol Israel Radio, and has performed on network and cable television. In 2003, Stillman and country fiddler Mark O’Connor recorded a virtual interactive exhibit at the SONY Wonder Museum in New York City.

Fusionworks Dance Company ‘Soaring’ into RIC for two shows

Fusionworks, a contemporary dance company based in Rhode Island, will perform in concert Friday and Saturday, Nov. 19 and 20, at 8 p.m. in Sapinsley Hall in the Nazarian Center.

Soaring will feature a new dance by the company’s artistic director Dea Meunier, ‘88, which includes dancers from the hip hop troupe Phase II. Also to be presented are Meunier’s Vesperae and a new work by Stephanie Thompson, a place where Patsy Cline lives on and Lion’s Club members are considered liberals, it serves as the political backdrop for a multitude of eccentric characters, who over the course of one day, clash at the conservative OKKK radio station.

Now it is RIC’s turn to get a taste of Greater Tuna. Hetu said that exploring the “small-town mentality” originally attracted her to the play.

“I saw Greater Tuna as it was originally done, with two men playing all the roles of the denizens of Tuna, Texas, and I was impressed by it,” she said.

RIC students, Jon Brennan, Chris Rosenquest, Carolyn Cole and Fallon Healy are the cast members, each of whom will play several roles, including cross-gender ones and a dog.

"This show is character driven and requires people who can really create distinct and unique characters,” said Hetu.

Greater Tuna has spread from a 20-year-old political cartoon, to an impromptu skit and HBO special, then a play that was popular at colleges and universities in the mid 80s. Hetu became interested in The Growing Stage while in Professor Bill Wilson’s directing class. Completion of this course, along with a grade point average requirement and an interview with The Growing Stage Committee, are required to be chosen as a director for the group.

The Growing Stage’s production of Greater Tuna will be performed on Dec. 2-4 at 8 p.m. and Dec. 5 at 2 p.m. Donations will be taken. Seating is on a first-come basis.

Greater Tuna sandwiches small-town humor with political satire

A political cartoon was the inspiration for Greater Tuna, a play with comical flavor that satirizes rural America.

The Growing Stage, RIC’s student-run theatre group, will perform the play Greater Tuna at the Little Theatre in the Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts, Dec. 2-5. The show will be directed by RIC Junior Patricia Hetu.

The play focuses on mythical Tuna, the third smallest town in west Texas. A place where Patsy Cline lives on and Lion’s Club members are considered liberals, it serves as the political backdrop for a multitude of eccentric characters, who over the course of one day, clash at the conservative OKKK radio station.

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Symphony Orchestra to present music by ‘The Pianist’

by Edward Markward
Conductor of the RIC Symphony Orchestra

The Rhode Island College Symphony Orchestra, with Philip Martorella as piano soloist, will present the Rhode Island premiere of Władysław Szpilman’s Concertino for Piano and Orchestra. The concert will take place Monday, Dec. 6 at 8 p.m. in Sapinley Hall in the Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts.

Szpilman was the subject of the award-winning film The Pianist. Based on Szpilman’s autobiography of the same name, directed by Roman Polanski and starring Adrien Brody, the film won Academy Awards in 2003 for Best Film, Best Director and Best Actor. The Concertino is a relatively short work but is representative of the composer/pianist’s rather extensive output. It is romantic in nature with hints of the jazz idiom as well, it may well remind some of George Gershwin’s Rhapsody in Blue.

Additional features works on the program include Beethoven’s Overture to Egmont, Ravel’s popular Parainne for a Dead Princess, and Stravinsky’s suite from the ground-breaking ballet from “The Firebird” to “Shadow of the Wall.” Both Nuzget and Martorella are also dancers with the New York–based David Dorfman Dance. Paul Martorella was the recipient of a New York Dance and Performance Award (Bessie) in 2002 for outstanding performance. Deborah Josvitt of The Village Voice has written that “Martorella is a wonder-fully earnest and honest performer and Schmitz’s solo fits him like skin. Here his dancing is both full-out and infirm, strain- ing for balance, but never stopping.”

RIC Wind Ensemble honors the music of Bach

The Rhode Island College Wind Ensemble will add a new twist to the timeless music of Johann Sebastian Bach in a Dec. 3 concert titled Bach for Band in the Auditorium in Roberts Hall at 8 p.m.

Bach’s 18th century work will be adapted to fit the relatively new style of music that is pre-sented by a wind ensemble.

“It will be a concert of transcriptions,” said Rob Franzblau, associate professor of music and Wind Ensemble conductor. “The music was originally written for other instruments or other en-sembles, not for wind band.”

The 30 members of the Wind Ensemble will perform one of Bach’s earlier works Toccata and Fugue in D Minor, described as ideal for a late-night horror movie; The Art of the Fugue, which was unfinished at the time of Bach’s death but was published posthumously; and Prelude and Fugue in B-Flat Major, one of Bach’s less compli-cated works that is often used for teaching.

An additional piece written by Peter Schickele, titled Grand Serenade for an Awful Lot of Winds and Percussion, will also be performed. The impetus for much of the work of Schickele is the work of P.D.Q. Bach, the last and least favorite child of his father. After ignoring the child for five years, instead of giving him a name, he gave him the initials P.D.Q., which he told fami-ly members stand for absolutely nothing.

P.D.Q. faded into obscu-rity until the early 1950s when Schickele accidentally discovered a piece of music that was produced by Bach’s last offspring. Further exploration found more pieces by P.D.Q. that Schickele has been performing to audi-ences’ delight since 1965.

“It’s a very funny piece that pokes fun at all sorts of conventions of classical music,” said Franzblau. He said he hopes the audience has “an emotional reac-tion” to what’s presented” during the performance.

General admission tickets are $7 with discounts for students and seniors. For more information, call the Roberts Hall Box Office at 401-456-8144.
RIC theatre major is the whole show in Nov. 20 comedy event

I f RIC student Justin Krakowsky succeeds as a Las Vegas entertainer, he’ll do it with a boost from several celebrities – Ozzy Osbourne, David Bowie and Cher, to name three.

Those and other provocative personalities will be part of The Justin Krakowsky Show Saturday, Nov. 20 at 8 p.m. in Roberts Hall Auditorium, Krakowsky, a 20-year-old theatre major, adopts the persona of his famous “friends” through vocal impressions and costumes in a series of musical comedy routines.

This is his second such appearance at the College. He sent demos of last year’s show to people in the entertainment business.

Admission to The Justin Krakowsky Show is $10 (college students with ID, $5). Tickets are available at the door, at Slip Disc Records in Johnston, or at www.justinkrakowsky.com.

CELEB SEND-UP: Justin Krakowsky portrays Pee-wee Herman and other notorious notables Nov. 20 in Roberts Hall Auditorium.

As well.

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Around the campus...

NAZARIAN SCHOLAR: This year’s recipient of the scholarship named for RIC President John Nazarian is Cynthia LaChapelle, a freshman from Mt. Hope High School in Warren, where she ranked in the top 3 percent of her graduating class. The scholarship is awarded annually to “an outstanding incoming freshman enrolled in the College’s Honors Program.” Above, Nazarian presents the scholarship to LaChapelle while Prof. Spencer Hall, director of the Honors Program, looks on.