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What's News At Rhode Island College

Rhode Island College

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RIC is first higher ed institution in nation to offer class on disability law changes

by Rob Martin
What’s News Managing Editor

The course – currently being taught at RIC – is based on the latest revisions to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), the landmark federal legislation that mandates public education equality for children with special needs.

On the morning of Dec. 3, President Bush signed into law the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004. That afternoon, David Kane’s class at RIC about the changes in the new law was up and running – making it the first in the country of its kind.

The three-credit graduate-level course, “IDEA Reauthorized 2004,” is facilitated by the Northern Rhode Island Collaborative in partnership with RIC.

Kane, legal affairs coordinator for the Rhode Island Technical Assistance Project (RITAP) at RIC, believes that a course offering on the IDEA reforms is valuable to those involved in special education.

“An initiative like this ensures that in Rhode Island, educators and families of students with disabilities are offered the most current and comprehensive review of the opportunities that exist within the special education laws in our country and our state,” said Kane.

IDEA, a federal law first enacted in 1975, mandates that children with disabilities have access to a free, appropriate public education that meets their particular needs and readies them for a career and independent living. In addition, the act requires school systems to develop Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) for students.

The latest version of the law creates increased opportunities to meet the needs of the student population with disabilities, according to Kane.

One of the significant changes to IDEA is the ability to reach enforceable agreements in a more streamlined manner – if a parent decides to choose that route. The law places “an emphasis on dispute resolution and increased opportunities for parents and school districts to approach differences of opinions in a less formal setting than traditional hearings,” explained Kane.

It also gives parents and teachers more flexibility and control by making it easier to make improvements to a child’s educational program without unnecessary meetings or excessive paperwork. The revised act brings into alignment the Highly Qualified Teacher requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act with those of IDEA. And a new pilot IEP program (awarded to 15 states) will be an option for parents and educators to consider. The program would create multi-year IEPs (not to exceed three years), instead of the traditional one-year plans, to lighten the paperwork load and allow more time for teaching.

Kane, who oversees due process and dispute resolution issues at RITAP, said that making the course available is “an example of the ongoing efforts of the College to address the diverse needs and responsibilities of students and educators.”

As instructor of the class, Kane will provide an analysis of each section of the federal statute along with an in-depth study of the changes to be carried out at the state and local level.

Continued on page 7

Photo by Jay Town

GREAT GOSPEL: The Soweto Gospel Choir, winner of an American Gospel Music Award for Best Gospel Choir in 2003, will appear at RIC on Feb. 10 as part of its debut North American tour. See page 11 to learn more about this exciting ensemble, which features 26 singers, musicians and dancers.
Looking Back

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

AT THE SENIOR SEMI-FORMAL on May 23, 1985 at The Castle restaurant in Bristol, Mark Bulger is pleasantly accompanied by Nanyann DePalma and Jena Marie Carey. According to the 1985 yearbook: “Everyone seemed to have a good time, even the band, who refused to leave when it was time and continued to play Marie Carey. According to the 1985 yearbook: “Everyone seemed to have a good time, even the band, who refused to leave when it was time and continued to play.

Focus on Faculty and Staff

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

Robin Kirkwood Auld, assistant professor of health and physical education, presented a workshop to the Barrington School dept.,’s health and physical education faculty in November. The workshop, “Current Trends in Physical Education,” focused on curricular and pedagogical innovations - specifically on teaching games for understanding.

At the same event, Karen Berard-Reed, assistant professor of health and physical education, offered the workshop “Aligning Your Teaching Strategies to Current Trends in Substance Abuse Prevention.” It focused on implementing standards-based instruction and multiple intelligence theory in the health education classroom.

Dianne Huling, greenhouse manager in the biology dept., presented a lecture/workshop titled The Alpine and Rock Garden: Construction, Plant Selection and Maintenance” to the South Shore Perennial Gardener’s Association in Massachusetts in October. She was also elected vice president of the New England Chapter of the North American Rock Garden Society for 2005-2007. Huling was recognized by the society at their annual meeting and luncheon as the overall winner in the Plant Show Competitions for achieving the highest number of points for the year 2004. Huling placed third in the Rock Garden Scene class in an international photography contest sponsored by the North American Rock Garden Society last fall. She won 12 honorable mentions: three in class 1 – Portrait of a Plant in the Wild, three in class 2 – Natural Scenes Featuring Wild Plants, four in class 3 – Portrait of a Plant in Cultivation, and two in class 4 – Rock Garden Scene. The photographs were taken while on botanical expeditions to the Dolomites Mountains in Italy, the Rocky Mountains in Colorado and local gardens. The photographs will be featured in the society’s upcoming Quarterly Bulletins. She has also been accepted as a participant in the society-sponsored Drakensberg Wildflower Expedition to be held in South Africa in February.

Maricarmen Margenot, assistant professor of modern languages, presented the talk “Quin Moniz y el discurso desmilitarizador” at the XVII Pennsylvania Foreign Language Conference, Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA. in September 2004. In addition, her article “L’Amor de Cortázar: La estructura premonitoria,” has been published in the collection of critical essays entitled El cuento hispánico transfronterizo, published in Mexico City by the Institute of Modern Literature.

Aquatics classes begin in February

Three aquatics classes – open to the public – will be held at the RIC Recreation Center during the spring semester.

• NAUI Open Water I SCUBA course will be held Tuesdays, 6-9 p.m., from Feb. 8 to April 26.
• NAUI Open Water II SCUBA course will be held Tuesdays, 6-9 p.m., from Feb. 9 to April 27. Lifeguard courses – Water Safety Instructor (WSI) and Lifeguard Training, will also be offered by NAUI, which trains people to teach swimming and water safety, will meet Wednesdays, 6-9 p.m., from Feb. 9 to April 27. Lifeguard training is a required component of a suspected felon in Germany and I was able to help restore it to its legal owner in France.

Though these experiences do not conform to my graduate school preconceptions of a career spent quietly examining ancient volumes in hushed surroundings, my graduate school years have been spent with artistically and intellectually beautiful objects, and it has resulted in personal research which has contributed to our knowledge and enjoyment of them. The scope of my research has always been an integral part of my teaching, and personal stories about the many happy and occasionally frantic and frustrating hours in these famous institutions, I have also followed the trails of my research into public and private manuscript collections all over Western Europe and the U.S., sometimes under conditions surprisingly different from my expectations. In a small public library in a southern European country I once had to sign a document for payment for “any change in the present condition of the manuscript” while on botanical expeditions to the Island of Jersey I discovered a cache of medieval and Renaissance manuscripts in a suspected felon and the crowded offices of several rare book dealers and auction houses. Researching rare medieval art objects has sometimes brought me face to face with modern law enforcement, another subject not on my graduate school syllabus. On the island of Jersey I discovered a cache of medieval and Renaissance manuscripts in a suspected felon and the crowded offices of several rare book dealers and auction houses. Researching rare medieval art objects has sometimes brought me face to face with modern law enforcement, another subject not on my graduate school syllabus.

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 Meredith T. McMann, professor of English, who has a particular interest in language and its origins as well as medieval literature.

When I was a graduate student preparing for a career teaching and researching medieval literature, I immediately realized that my professional life out of the classroom and lecture hall would be spent at rare book repositories such as the British Library, the National Library of France, the J. Paul Getty Museum and the Perpignan Van Librairie in quiet rooms lined with priceless manuscripts. While I have spent many happy and occasionally frantic and frustrating hours in these famous institutions, I have also followed the trails of my research into public and private manuscript collections all over Western Europe and the U.S., sometimes under conditions surprisingly different from my expectations. In a small public library in a southern European country I once had to sign a document for payment for “any change in the present condition of the manuscript” while on botanical expeditions to the Island of Jersey I discovered a cache of medieval and Renaissance manuscripts in a suspected felon and the crowded offices of several rare book dealers and auction houses. Researching rare medieval art objects has sometimes brought me face to face with modern law enforcement, another subject not on my graduate school syllabus. On the island of Jersey I discovered a cache of medieval and Renaissance manuscripts in a suspected felon and the crowded offices of several rare book dealers and auction houses. Researching rare medieval art objects has sometimes brought me face to face with modern law enforcement, another subject not on my graduate school syllabus. On the island of Jersey I discovered a cache of medieval and Renaissance manuscripts in a suspected felon and the crowded offices of several rare book dealers and auction houses. Researching rare medieval art objects has sometimes brought me face to face with modern law enforcement, another subject not on my graduate school syllabus.

Stanley Aronson to give Young Memorial Lecture

The Eighth Annual Robert M. Young Memorial Lecture will be held Wednesday, Feb. 9 at 7 p.m. in the Fogarty Life Science Building (050). Stanley M. Aronson, dean of medicine at Brown University, will lecture on “Nursery Rhymes & Fairy Tales: Myths, Conjectures and Realities.” The event is free and open to the public.

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Grad student adds title of filmmaker to her credits

by Jane Fusco

What's News Editor

R.I. Congressional Delegation awards RIC $325,000 to restore cottage that once housed orphans. The delegation made a formal announcement on Dec. 14 on campus, pledging support for RIC’s public policy research projects.

A joint effort by Senators Jack Reed and Lincoln Chafee, and Congressmen James Langevin and Patrick Kennedy, has led to the awarding of a $325,000 federal appropriation to Rhode Island College as part of its State Home and School Project to help refurbish a worn, hundred-year-old cottage that once served as living quarters for orphans in the State Home, and to develop educational programs to study public policy in the state.

It is the first time the College has received federal funds for a particular project.

The R.I. Congressional Delegation made the announcement on Dec. 14 at a press conference in the Kaufman Center boardroom. Many former residents and staff members of the State Home attended.

“The State Home and School project at Rhode Island College is a most worthwhile endeavor. I am pleased that we were able, at the Federal level, to support this project through our most recent budget. In addition to the restoration activities, academic research and study will be undertaken to record the history of the children, and perhaps the history of our child welfare efforts, which will promote meaningful dialogue on policy issues into the future,” said Reed.

The monies from the appropriation will be used to renovate the yellow cottage – the last original structure from the Home – and establish it as a research and resource center for programs related to child welfare to examine practices then and now.

Renovation plans show a floor plan with rotating displays of memorabilia, archeological finds, and historic information, plus state-of-the-art technology for multi-media presentations for public viewing and student research.

“The mission to provide for foster children is an issue close to my family, as we have frequently opened our home to foster children over the years. Additionally, as a graduate of Rhode Island College, I know firsthand the valuable public policy work that is conducted on campus. I am confident that this facility will have a positive impact on the school and the greater community, whether it be foster children or other social needs here in Rhode Island,” said RIC President John Nazarian.

CONGRESSIONAL GRANT: (Left to right) Rep. James Langevin, RIC President John Nazarian, and Senator Jack Reed announce the awarding of a federal appropriation to restore a cottage on the east campus that was once part of an orphanage. The ceremony was held in the Kaufman Center boardroom in December.

“Since its founding over 150 years ago, Rhode Island College has been at the forefront of issues related to the education and welfare of children. The State Home and School, an example of enlightened Victorian-era education and social policy, symbolizes this mission. I am deeply appreciative of the assistance that the state’s congressionally designated delegation has provided to help the College in its effort to preserve this important historic resource as both a working museum and as a resource center for child welfare policy,” said RIC President John Nazarian.

The original gates to the orphanage have also been preserved as part of the memorial to the children. An archeological component of the project conducts digs on the site to recover and preserve artifacts. The project also includes restoration of a walking path of archeological sites associated with the State Home, and an initiative to maintain and catalog an old growth forest that is adjacent to the site. Curriculum materials for students in grades 2-8 are also planned.

The State Home and School Project began in 2001 when old records from the State Home were discovered in the basement of a building on the College’s east campus that now serves as the School of SocialWork.

RIC’s east campus was once the site of the State Home and School for Children where orphans lived and were educated since 1885. The State Home was renamed the O’Rourke Children’s Center in 1948, and closed in 1979. The land was turned over to the College in 1990.

“RIC is constantly pushing the boundaries to be better,” Chafee said.
Rhode Island College Foundation
Our 40TH Anniversary Year!

Please plan to join the Foundation as it celebrates its 40th year of commitment to the College and our students.

April 1, 2005
Guess Who’s 29! April Fool!
Join us as the Foundation celebrates 40 years. Step back to 1965 and join in “Rock’n and Roll’em”
Wine tasting conducted by Tom Saccocia of Sak’s Centendale Liquors and Wine Cellar, auction of beautiful items, dancing, entertainment and a chance to be a “Food.” Tease your hair and drag out those go-go boots and hot pants, prop up Lilly Pulitzer dresses, hibby flower-child clothes, Sonny and Cher for vets, macrame purses, and fish net stockings.
(We’ll provide the lawn lights, headband curtains, and bean bag chairs!!)

June 20, 2005
16th Annual Foundation Golf Tournament
Change of venue: Metacomet Country Club
Reorganized and re-energized under the enthusiastic efforts of co-chairs Paul Bourget ’69 and Lou Marchiano ’69.
Both events provide support for Foundation scholarships.
Be there or be square!

RIC on the ROAD!...
to Florida
Did you know we have 1,575 alumni with Florida addresses? The West Palm Beach and Ft. Myers areas have the largest concentration of alumni and friends of the College.
RIC President John Nazarian and alumni staff look forward to seeing many of them Jan. 28-29 as part of our RIC on the ROAD tour.
Since 1997 representatives of the College have held annual events in different areas of the state. On Friday, Jan. 28, we will be in West Palm Beach, and on Saturday, Jan. 29, we’ll visit Fort Myers. Both luncheons are at noon. Call the alumni office at 401-456-8086 or email us at alumni@ric.edu for further information.

The Alumni Association hosts Performing Arts Series events for alumni and friends

Broadway! The Big Band Years
Wednesday, Feb. 23, 2005, 8 p.m.
Auditorium in Roberts Hall
Broadway generated a staggering number of hit songs in the 30s, 40s and 50s. This review captures the vast contributions by Broadway composers and lyricists during the Big Band Era. Pre-performance dessert reception: Alumni Lounge, Roberts Hall at 6:30 p.m.
Tickets are offered at a discounted rate to our alumni and friends. Tickets are limited.
Yes, I would like to attend:
___ Broadway! The Big Band Years Performance and Dessert Reception

Quantity ______ x $23 (price per ticket) = ______

Method of Payment: ___ Check (Made payable to: RIC Alumni Association) ___ Visa ___ MasterCard

Credit Card # __________ Exp. Date __________

Name ____________________________ Address __________________________
City, State, Zip __________________________
Phone __________________________ Email __________________________

Please return this order form to: Alumni Office, Kasfman Center, Rhode Island College, 600 Mt. Pleasant Ave., Providence, RI 02908

The National Acrobats of Taiwan R.O.C.
Tuesday, April 19, 2005, 7:30 p.m.
Auditorium in Roberts Hall
The 2002 appearance on campus performed to a stand-up-room only audience. Their perfect movements and coordinated acts are performed before a live audience. The National Acrobats of Taiwan R.O.C.

Number of Adult Tickets ______ x $24 (price per ticket) = ______
Number of Children’s Tickets ______ x $10 (price per ticket) = ______

Ages 12 an under

Please return this order form to: Alumni Office, Kasfman Center, Rhode Island College, 600 Mt. Pleasant Ave., Providence, RI 02908
Politics is everywhere. When we are born, politics is there to register the event; when other life shaping events like marriage or divorce occur a license is required; or when we get the inevitable call from our landlord’s office, and even when we die there’s politics in the process to follow. With the start of a new year there are tax forms to file and taxes to pay, where and how we spend our “free” time (and even how much “free” time we have), all conditioned by political regulations, where we go to school, and what they do there, how safe our streets are, and how secure the country is—the list goes on and on. And it is all politics. It’s a shame that so many people see politics as if it affects political no impact on their lives, or feel involvement in politics is something they either can’t or won’t understand or choose to stay out of.

From my perspective it is fortunate that as a kid aged seven, an interest in the real stuff of politics was beginning to emerge in my young mind as I joined my grandfather in front of the radio listening to election returns coming trickling in from the Franklin D. Roosevelt-Thomas E. Dewey listening to election returns come trickling in from the Franklin D. Roosevelt-Thomas E. Dewey election of 1944. Even then the political socialization that was part of growing up in a small coal-mining town in the heavily unionized United States of America country of Western Pennsylvania was shaping a keen and growing interest in politics.

By 11, my eye teeth had been cut in actively campaigning for Harry Truman in 1948 in his match up with Dewey, and this RIC professor was well on his way to becoming a political animal convinced that politics is more than just a cold, aloof, and frequently undiscerning professor of political science, and control of local and external affairs.

(Not Just) Academically Speaking

POLI 240:
The art or science of government, or governing, especially the governing of a political entity, such as a nation, and the administration, and control of local and external affairs.

by Victor Profughi,

Professor of Political Science

James Turley, professor emeritus of English and Communication, received the Richard J. Bradley Endowment Fund Award for 2004 from the New England Association of Schools & Colleges (NEASC). He received a $1,000 award at the NEASC’s Annual Meeting banquet on June 21 at the Hyatt Regency Plaza Hotel in Boston.

Turley, of Braintree, Mass., held numerous positions at RIC, including dean of graduate studies and assistant vice president for academic affairs.

He retired from the College in 2000 after 33 years. Currently, he is site coordinator for the Community College of Rhode Island’s Downey Campus in Providence.

The Bradley Endowment Fund recognizes an educator from New England who has contributed to the research establishment, maintains or advocates high standards of excellence.” Richard Bradley was an executive director and chief executive officer of the NEASC before retiring in 1994.

The NEASC, established in 1885, is the nation’s oldest regional accrediting association, serving over 1,800 public and private primary, secondary, and postsecondary schools and universities in the six New England states and over 100 American/international schools worldwide.

RIC professor emeritus winner of 2004 NEASC endowment award

JAMES TURLEY

What’s News, Monday, January 24, 2005 — Page 5
Sports

From the Athletic Director's Desk

I want to thank Ellie O’Neill, di-
rector of alumni affairs, for her ef-
forts in high-
lighting the 75th Anniver-
sary of Rhode Island Col-
lege Athletics in the new edition of the alumni magazine. I also
want to thank the many con-
tributors who assisted Ellie in this endeavor. Be sure to read it.

The intercollegiate teams continue to improve as we move through the winter season. The
men’s basketball team is fresh off a huge win over an out-
standing Keene State team. The men’s team is currently tied with
Plymouth State for first place.

The women had an equally
important win over Keene State
and are currently in the middle
of the pack in the conference
standings, but coming on strong.

The intercollegiate teams have
some outstanding individual
performances and are get-
ing ready for the conference
championship.

The women’s gymnastics
program had a solid performance against
the nation’s best at Lycoming
College’s invitational.

The date is set, Saturday,
May 21, for the giant celebration
in honor of the 75th Anniversary
of Athletics. It also happens to be
the same date as Commencement
2005. More to follow, but put the
date in your calendar books to
day – you won’t want to miss it.

Basketball Alumni Reunion set for Feb. 19

Uniforms to be retired

As part of the ongoing 75th Anniversary of Athletics at Rhode Island College, RIC
will honor some of its greatest men’s and
women’s basketball players by retiring their
jerseys on Saturday, Feb. 19.

The Retiree Ceremony will take place in
between the women’s and men’s basketball
games vs. Keene State at approximately 3:45
p.m.

Men’s basketball legends Alex Butler ’98,
Richard Rouleau ’68 and Mike Van Leesten ’65,
and women’s basketball stars Jo-Ann
D’Alessandro ’87 and Cathy Lanni ’88 will
have their jerseys raised to the rafters at The
Murray Center.

The ceremony will culminate a day of
alumni events beginning with the Women’s
Basketball Alumni Game, which will tip-off at
noon at The Murray Center. Former players
should contact Anchor Club Executive Direc-
tor Art Pontarelli at 401-456-8863 or email
him at apontarelli@ric.edu to sign up.

There will also be a reception for the
Friends of Men’s & Women’s Basketball, which
begins at 2:30 p.m. in the Hall of Fame Room
on the second floor of The Murray Center.

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.

Chris Blanchette ’98

Michelle (Pelletier) Blanchette ’00, M’04

Chris and Michelle Blanchette met as stu-
dent-athletes at Rhode Island College and
were married in August of 2000. Chris, a
four-year letterwinner in men’s soccer, and
Michelle, a four-year letterwinner in women’s
gymnastics met where RIC student-athletes
spend a lot of time: The Athletic Training
Room.

“Chris was working in the training room,”
Michelle said, “and I had hurt my ankle and
needed to do some exercises to rehab it dur-
ing my freshman year. Kathy Laquale, the
trainer, had me working with a bungee cord,
but it was too small for my ankle! Chris had
to hold the bungee on my ankle while I was
doing the exercises.” Their relationship grew
from there as they dated through the remain-
er of their college careers and got married after
Michelle graduated. Former RIC gymnasts
Amy Bright ’00 and Katie (Goyette) Canning ’00 were bridesmaids.

Chris was the men’s soccer team captain
and was selected as the squad’s Most Valuable
Player as a senior in 1997. The West Warwick
native earned a bachelor’s degree in psychol-
ogy in 1998 and took a game operations in-
ternship position with the Pawtucket Red Sox
from the summer of 1998 until the summer of
1999.

At the same time, he took a promotions
director position with 790 The Score, the all-
sports radio station in
Rhode Island, which he held until September
of 1999. He worked as an operations manager
with CMAC, a transportation management
company, before settling into his current posi-
tion as a real estate appraiser in 2003.

Despite only playing soccer occasionally in
tournaments, Chris has kept his playing days
behind him for the most part, but his experi-
ence as a RIC student-athlete left an indelible
mark on him. “Playing soccer at the collegiate
level as a student-athlete really taught me how
to manage my time and focus on the task at
hand.”

Michelle had been a gymnast since she was
five years old and came to RIC in the fall of
1995. She competed for four years and was a
team captain during her senior year in 1997–
98. She excelled on the floor and vault events,
and held the school record on floor at the
time of her graduation.

She was a member of the 1995-96 RIC squad
that won the Eastern College Athletic Confer-
ence (ECAC) Championship, as well as the
team that competed at the 1998 National Col-
lege Gymnastics Association (NCGA) Cham-
pionships.

The East Freetown, Mass. native earned a
bachelor’s degree in elementary education in
2000 and received her master’s degree in
reading from RIC last May.

After earning her undergraduate degree, Mi-
chelle took a position as a first grade teacher
at the Nayatt School in Barrington and has
been there ever since. She has not been in-
volved with gymnastics since her time at RIC,
but would like to eventually get back into the
sport as a judge.

“Unlike other sports that have leagues for
adults, when you’re done with gymnastics
as a competitor, you’re done,” she said. “My
time as a student-athlete at RIC taught me
discipline and how to balance a lot things at
the same time. As a gymnast, you practice all
year round and you have to give up a lot, but
it teaches you how to stick with one thing and
see it through.”

The couple reside in Cranston with their
dog, a Chesapeake Bay retriever named Dusty.
RIC sports broadcasts on the Internet

Listen to all RIC winter sports teams' home games this winter via the Internet by logging on to: ric.edu/athletics and clicking on the “Listen Live!” link. If you can't make it to The Murray Center to watch the teams in person, this is the next best thing! Below is a listing of upcoming broadcasts along with special half-time guest interviews. Half-time interviews come on approximately one-half hour into the broadcast.

Men’s Basketball
Saturday, Jan. 29 vs. Eastern Connecticut, 3 p.m.
Half-Time Guest: John Mello, Head Men’s Soccer Coach
Monday, Jan. 31 vs. Mitchell, 7 p.m.
Half-Time Guest: Michael Smith, Assistant to the President
Tuesday, Feb. 15 vs. Western Connecticut, 7:30 p.m.
Half-Time Guest: Jane Fusco, Director of News and Public Relations
Saturday, Feb. 19 vs. Keene State, 4 p.m.
Half-Time Guest: John Nazarian, Rhode Island College President

Women’s Basketball
Saturday, Jan. 29 vs. Eastern Connecticut, 1 p.m.
Half-Time Guest: Jo-Ann D’Alessandro, RIC Athletic Hall of Famer and current Assistant Athletic Director
Thursday, Feb. 3 vs. Worcester State, 7 p.m.
Half-Time Guest: Holly Shadoan, Director of Admissions
Tuesday, Feb. 15 vs. Western Connecticut, 5:30 p.m.
Half-Time Guest: Ellie O’Neill, Director of Alumni Affairs
Saturday, Feb. 19 vs. Keene State, 2 p.m.
Half-Time Guest: Dan King, Vice President for Academic Affairs

Wrestling
Tuesday, Feb. 1 vs. M.I.T., 7 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 11 vs. Bridgewater State, 5 p.m.; Trinity, 8 p.m.

Women’s Gymnastics
Sunday, Feb. 13 vs. Bridgeport, 6 p.m.
Sunday, Feb. 27 vs. Southern Connecticut, 1 p.m.

RIC offers applicants online option

Applying to Rhode Island College is quicker and more convenient now that students can submit their applications online. Prospective students can go to www.ric.edu/admissions and select “Apply Now!” There are two ways to forward the application:

IDEA

Continued from page 1

levels. He has taught other graduate courses at RIC, and for over 20 years has represented special needs people and their families while in private law practice and for public, federal and state organizations.

Kane credited William Swigart, director of continuing education at RIC and Richard Dickson, professor of special education, and department chair, with supporting the plan to add the course to the department chair, with supporting the plan to add the course to the

Rhode Island College nursing students and nurse leaders were inducted into the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing on Dec. 5 at the Quonset “Q” Club in North Kingston. The new members were inducted through Delta Upsilon Chapter-at-Large, the local chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International.

The Delta Upsilon Chapter Scholarship for a RIC student was awarded to Dorothy Burleson, Sigma Theta Tau International is an organization of nurse leaders, scholars, and researchers. The honor society, founded at Indiana University School of Nursing in 1922, currently has 431 chapters on 560 college and university campuses worldwide.

The mission of the Honor Society of Nursing is to provide leadership and scholarship in practice, education, and research to enhance the health of all people. Membership in the society is awarded to undergraduate and graduate nursing students who have met or exceeded rigorous academic standards and to college-educated professionals who have demonstrated exceptional achievement in nursing.

Further information about the honor society may be found at the Web site www.nursingsociety.org, or by contacting Patricia Quigley, RN, PhD, RIC faculty counselor for Delta Upsilon Chapter-at-Large, the local chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International.

Students Inducted:
Deborah Blackmore
Dorothy N. Burleson
Tammy A. Caprio
Lisa M. Catalano
Jillian Francine Collard
Patricia E. Collins
Richard L. Corrente
Clerinda E. Davignon, RN
Christy A. Depardio
Monica A. Eakin
Elizabeth H. Fernandes
Elizabeth Ann Grant, RN
Nicole T. Hebert
Maribeth Hurst, RN
Terry H. Jax
Elizabeth A. Jenkins-Donahue, RN
Terry H. Jax
Elizabeth Ann Grant, RN
Cynthia J. Ruggiero
Monica A. Eakin
Virginia L. Pierce
Linda M. Pincins, RN
Cynthia J. Ruggiero
Jo-Anne R. Sine-Calise
Trisha N. Vanderploeg

Nurse Leaders Inducted:
Sandra J. Delack, RN
Jane M. Fitzsimmons, RN

Undergraduate Scholarship Award: Dorothy Burleson

Sports Events

Jan. 26-Feb. 14

Men’s Basketball
Sat. Jan. 29 vs. Eastern Connecticut * 3 p.m.
Mon. Jan. 31 vs. Mitchell 7 p.m.
Sat. Feb. 5 at UMass-Boston * 3 p.m.
Tues. Feb. 8 at UMass-Dartmouth * 7:30 p.m.
Sat. Feb. 12 at Southern Maine * 5 p.m.

Women’s Basketball
Sat. Jan. 29 vs. Eastern Connecticut 1 p.m.
Thurs. Feb. 3 at Worcester State 7 p.m.
Sat. Feb. 5 at UMass-Boston 1 p.m.
Tues. Feb. 8 at UMass-Dartmouth * 5:30 p.m.
Sat. Feb. 12 at Southern Maine * 1 p.m.

Women’s Gymnastics
Sat. Jan. 29 at SUNY-Brockport 1 p.m.
Sat. Feb. 5 at University of Rhode Island 6 p.m.
Sun. Feb. 13 at Bridgeport 6 p.m.

Wrestling
Wed. Jan. 26 at Western New England ^ 7 p.m.
Tues. Feb. 1 M.I.T., ¥ 7 p.m.
Sat. Feb. 5 at Roger Williams ¥ w/ S. Maine ¥ 1 p.m.
Tues. Feb. 8 at Coast Guard ¥ w/ Vales ¥ 5 p.m.
Fri. Feb. 11 Bridgewater ¥ w/ Trinity ¥ 5 p.m.

Men’s and Women’s Indoor Track and Field
Sat. Jan. 29 at Southern Maine Invitational 1 p.m.
Sat. Feb. 5 at Tufts Invitational 11 a.m.
Sat. Feb. 12 at Alliance Championships ¥ 1 p.m.
Fri. Feb. 18 at N.E. Div. III Championships ¥ 10 a.m.
* Little East Conference game
^ New England College Conference Wrestling Association opponent
¥ Pilgrim Wrestling League opponent
+ hosted by Southern Maine
$ hosted by Tufts/Smith College

Undergrads, nurse leaders inducted into honor society; scholarship award presented
Pulitzer Prize journalist Nick Kotz coming to campus

Nick Kotz, described by Washington Post reporter Bob Woodward as “one of the greatest, most serious writers of our time,” will speak at Rhode Island College on Thursday, Feb. 3 at 7 p.m. in the Clarke Science Building Auditorium.

The event is free and open to the public. Kotz will discuss his new book Judgement Days: Lyndon Baines Johnson, Martin Luther King Jr., and the Laws That Changed America. The nonfiction work looks at the relationship between President Johnson and Rev. King during the height of the civil rights movement in the 1960s. Previously sealed FBI files, recorded phone conversations, presidential papers, and over 200 interviews combine to capture the two leaders’ struggles, both personally and in the cause of civil rights.

Former president Jimmy Carter has called Judgement Days “an important examination of a critical moment in American history – a battle for our nation’s soul.”

“One of the greatest stories in recent American history is the passing of the civil rights laws of the 60s,” said Kotz. “I thought there was more to be said of that story. All the best impulses of all the best people in the country were mobilized and inspired to get rid of discrimination and segregation.”

He added that Judgement Days will have “a natural audience on college and university campuses.”

The book has resulted in a busy schedule for Kotz. This month, he will appear on the Today Show, The Chris Matthews Show, and NewsHour with Jim Lehrer. Book tour stops include the National Archives, Carter Library, and the Library of Congress Center for the Book. Excerpts from Judgement Days have been published in Washingtonian Magazine and Texas Monthly.

In his career as a freelance writer and reporter for The Des Moines Register and The Washington Post, Kotz has won many of journalism’s top honors, including a Pulitzer Prize for a series of articles on U.S. meat-packing plants that helped to pass the Meat Inspection Act of 1967. He was awarded the Pulitzer the following year.

He won the Sigma Delta Chi Award for Washington correspondence, the Raymond Clapper Memorial Award, and the First Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Award. Also, Kotz garnered the National Magazine Award for public service for his study of American military leadership, and the Olive Branch Award for his book Wild Blue Yonder: Money, Politics, and the B-1 Bomber.

Kotz is the author of A Passion for Equality: George A. Wiley and the Movement (with Mary Lynn Cuozzo, who also directed Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban (2004) and Y tu mamá también (2001)). McLarty, who was born in Providence and raised in East Providence, told What’s News that in preparing for his acting and writing career, “My whole foundation was at Rhode Island College.” It was at the College that he first got interested in playwriting, said the author of 44 plays. “I was really active in theatre at RIC,” added McLarty. “That’s where I felt most comfortable.” He recalled playing Big Daddy in a College production of Cat on a Hot Tin Roof, and performing in Anne of the Thousand Days.

He also remembered reading poetry in the RIC coffeehouse, and said retired English professor Paul Anghinetti was “inspirational to me.” McLarty and other students would go to Anghinetti’s house and record readings of plays on the professor’s high-quality tape recorder to study the sound of their voices.

McLarty began writing The Memory of Running as a play while his parents were dying from injuries in a 1987 car accident in Maine. He wrote the novel for himself. After two other attempts at novels went unpublished, he decided to simply tell a story and not worry about spinning a blockbuster.

Actor Ron McLarty ’69 finds new role as high-priced novelist

RC grad Ron McLarty is a veteran character actor and playwright who has appeared on many TV series (Law & Order, Sex and the City, The Practice, Judging Amy) to name a few), but whose face is better known than his name. Now, McLarty, who earned a bachelor’s degree in English from RIC in 1969, has written a novel that may bring the 57-year-old more stardom than he has ever known as an actor. His new effort, The Memory of Running, began as an audiobook that he narrated (McLarty is also the voice of over 100 other audioworks) in 2000. Stephen King praised it as “the best novel you won’t read this year.” That got the attention of editors, who also knew that audiobook was popular.

Then came the windfall: Viking signed him to a $2 million two-book deal, and Warner Bros. paid $1 million for the film rights to Running, for which McLarty wrote the screenplay. The movie will be directed by Alfonso Cuarón, who also directed Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban (2004) and Y tu mamá también (2001). McLarty, who was born in Providence and raised in East Providence, told What’s News that in preparing for his acting and writing career, “My whole foundation was at Rhode Island College.”

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The story centers on Smithsonian “Smitty” Ide, a lonely, hard-drinking, 43-year-old quality control inspector from Rhode Island. When his life is suddenly jolted by tragedy, Ide embarks on an unlikely adventure – a bicycle trip across the U.S.

The book is not a recent creation: he had been showing portions of it to agents and publishers for 16 years, with no takers.

The second book of his deal with Viking, Art in America, is about a failed writer. It’s due out next January. “I have high hopes for it,” said McLarty. “I wrote to be famous,” he said of his previous attempts at novels, one of which was 1,700 pages. “I began to write just for myself,” he said, and the results have been terrific for him so far.

McLarty, the father of three grown sons, was widowed from his wife of 32 years, Diane, in 2002. He currently lives in Manhattan with his second wife, stage actress Kate Skinner, whom he wed on New Year’s Day 2004.

In spite of his literary breakthrough, he continues to record audiobooks and do guest roles on television.
The Equestrian Club at Rhode Island College has an Equestrian Club, as it is co-organized by Equestrian Club President Rhode Island College has an Equestrian Club. Ribbons and medical technicians are associated with the show, and ribbons are given to 25 horses, all associated with providing the show with 20 host school. The host is responsible for shipping fees to get to the shows.

Montecalvo caught the broadcasting bug at a young age when he would pretend to be a radio disc jockey counting down the hits of songs he collected from various radio stations.

Once at RIC, he joined the campus radio station WRC, as a disc jockey and later became station manager. He also landed a part-time job as a radio personality at WHJ, which he later moved on to other local stations including WWXR and WJH.

The club has eight members and faculty advisor Stark rides in the Alumni Division for UMass Amherst, the team in which she competed for during her undergraduate days.

The 2004-2005 show season featured six competitions, which began Oct. 2 at Faith Hill Farm in East Greenwich (hosted by the University of Rhode Island) and concluded Nov. 20, at Laurel Lodge Farm in Oakdale, Conn. (Connecticut College). A highlight for our club came on Nov. 6, when RIC placed fourth highest team at the one-campus division of the University of Connecticut in Storrs.

Those students with enough points to qualify will continue on to the Regional Horseshow on April 2 at the UCONN Arena. Zones will be held on April 9 at the Stoneleigh-Burnham School in Greenfield, Mass. The National Horseshow will be held May 5-8 in Sunbury, Ohio.

On behalf of the club, I would like to thank all the friends, families, and supporters that have helped lead us to our accomplishments. We hope that you continue to show your support in the season to come. If you cannot attend the shows, you can show your support by participating in our fundraisers this spring. If you are interested in the club or would like more information, please contact us at 401-456-1998, mailbox #7433 (“RIDE”) or email RIC_RIDERS@yahoo.com.

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Spring semester show schedule: March 19 – UCONN, located at 190-12 UCONN, located at 190-12 UCONN; April 16 – UCONN; March 19 – Johnson & Wales Uni- versity, located at UCONN; March 26 – Connecticut College located at Laurel Lodge Farm in Oakdale, Conn.

The team includes: Geremia of North Providence, Amanda Avella of Providence, Erin Murray of Wakefield, Nancy Sallie of Smithfield, Sarah Fullard of Exeter, Jessica Maynard of Cranston, Megan Guibault of North Smithfield, and myself of Riverhead, N.Y. Faculty advisor Stark rides in the Alumni Division for UMASS Amherst, the team in which she competed for during her undergraduate days.

The good news for Mike Montecalvo is that his advice definitely works. All we have to do is tune in to see why.

Mike Montecalvo '84
Equestrian Club President and Captain

It’s a little known fact that Rhode Island College has an Equestrian Club. Once disbursed, people all have the same question, “Where are the horses?”

Yes, RIC does have an Equestrian Club and we are part of the Student Community Government (SCG). The club is in its second year of recognition by the SCG, and all of its members are grateful that SCG has given us the opportunity to create our club. No, the school does not own horses. We are currently riding at Pilot Point Equestrian Center in Chepachet. Last semester we rode at Greenfield Farm in Greene, R.I.

The club has eight members and a faculty advisor, Dana Stark of Woodstock, Conn. We meet once a week to discuss topics such as upcoming horseshows and lesson progress. Our members compete against colleges and universities across Rhode Island and Connecticut through the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA). The IHSA brings colleges and universities together by region, zone, and nation. RIC is part of Zone 1, Region 4, with approximately 350 members.

Intercollegiate showing allows full-time college students who are in good academic standing to compete without the costs of owning a horse and shipping fees to get to the shows. Each horse show is provided by a host school, which is responsible for providing the show with 20 to 25 horses, all associated equipment (tack), a judge, an emergency medical technician, and ribbons for the winning riders. Ribbons are given to riders who place first through sixth, and each is worth a certain point value. These points will be tallied for entrance to the Nationals (riders who place first and second in Regions), Zones (riders who place first and second in Zones), or Terrier (women who place first and second in Zones).

New clubs like ours are not limited to the Ivy League college to get a good education. You don’t have to go to an Ivy League college to get the total college experience. You have to get the total college experience, you have to get the total college experience, you have to get the total college experience. Chances are, people listen and watch.

Rhode Island College has an Equestrian Club.

by Danielle McVey '05
Equestrian Club President and Captain

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Rhode Island College has an Equestrian Club.
The Boston Symphony Chamber Players, featuring some of the best of the Boston Symphony Orchestra’s first-desk players, will perform as part of the President’s Music Series in Sapinsley Hall in the Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts on Monday, Jan. 31 at 8 p.m.

Works will include Bach’s Preludes and Fugues for String Trio, K. 442; Villa-Lobos’ Trio for Oboe, Clarinet and Bassoon; and Brahms’ String Quartet No. 2 in E, Op. 111.

The Chamber Players have over 200 years of combined experience as members of the symphony. Principal cellist Jules Eskin, the performer with the longest tenure, began his career with the Boston Symphony Orchestra (BSO) in 1964, while principal oboe player John Ferrillo, the newest addition, joined in 2001. Gifted musicians including Steven Ansell, violin; Edwin Barker, double bass; and James Sommerville, horn, are also part of the Chamber Players.

The Chamber Players, founded in 1964, is the only permanent, recognized music ensemble composed entirely of members of a major symphony orchestra. Commending their ability to adapt their skills to different musical presentations, Richard Dyer wrote, “How admirably versatile these BSO musicians are.”

Along with regular performances at the Tanglewood Music Center in Massachusetts, the Chamber Players have toured Japan, South America and the former Soviet Union. In 2002, the group returned to Europe for the first time in over a decade to showcase its critically acclaimed renditions of musical icons such as Bach, Brahms and Mozart. Each year they also complete a series of four concerts at Jordan Hall at the New England Conservatory in Boston.

The BSO, the brainchild of Bostonian Henry Lee Higginson, was founded in 1881 and has been delighting music aficionados ever since, with over 300 world premieres and nearly 200 American debuts, becoming one of the most renowned symphonies of its time. The Chamber Players continue to carry on the first-rate tradition of symphonic eminence in distinctive chamber music style.

Reserved seating is $28 with discounts for students and seniors and can be purchased in advance via VISA or MasterCard by calling 401-456-8144 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays; visiting on line at www.ric.edu/pfa; or in person at the Roberts Hall box office until the time of the performance on the day of the event.

The curtain comes up on The Growing Stage’s production of Eugene Ionesco’s The Chairs, revealing a whimsical, eccentric take on the offbeat relationship between an elderly married couple. Shows will be at the Little Theater in the Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts, Feb. 2-6.

The Growing Stage is RIC’s student-run theater group, directed by RIC senior Peter Deffet, the Orator, highlights through his physical presence,” he said. RIC sophomores Jennifer Drummond and Josh Short characterize the Old Woman and the Old Man.

The play is an adaptation of Ionesco’s 1952 play Les Chaises, his most produced work. The French dramatist is considered the father of the theatrical movement known as the Theater of the Absurd. The show ironically explores the importance of human relationships through the isolated couple’s interaction with 37, mostly unnamed, imaginary guests. The Orator is the only other character to appear on stage.

With the doorbell ringing and the chairs piling up, the setting furnishes an inviting soire for the couple, whose company for the last 75 years has only been each other.

“This production of The Chairs focuses on an alienation of modern civilized life,” said Deffet. “These characters attempt to remove themselves from the reality of living in order to transcend the triviality of modern life and patriarchal power structures that the final character of the play, the Orator, highlights through his physical presence,” he said.

RIC sophomores Jennifer Drummond and Josh Short characterize the Old Woman and the Old Man. Senior Heather Paige plays the Orator.

Deffet had previously studied at Northwestern University in Illinois before coming to RIC in 2002. He became involved with The Growing Stage in the fall of 2003, when he was cast in the group’s production of Mud.

Ionesco wrote to the director of the original production that the play’s subject “is not the message, nor the failures of life, nor the moral disaster of the two old people, but the chairs themselves...the theme of the play is nothingness.”

The Chairs will be performed Feb. 2-5 at 8 p.m. and Feb. 6 at 2 p.m. Donations will be taken. Seating is on a first-come basis.
Soweto’s African gospel music to offer spiritual lift

The award-winning Soweto Gospel Choir will perform a one-night-only concert entitled Voices from Heaven on Feb. 10 at 8 p.m. in the Auditorium in Roberts Hall. This performance is part of a 35-city tour over three months that will introduce the United States to the energy and inspiration of traditional African gospel music.

The group is made up of 26 of the top choir singers from the Soweto region. A stimulating force to be reckoned with, exuding dancers and colorful costumes showcase their South African heritage.

Debuting in 2002, the choir quickly garnered acclaim in its home country of South Africa by spreading faith through music. The spiritual songs provide a release for the hardships that are the reality for many people living in Soweto and neighboring South African cities and towns.

“The Soweto Gospel Choir sings songs that are calculated to go straight to the heart, sung with that joyful sense of celebration and exuberance that only black South African choirs seem capable of achieving,” said the West Australian newspaper.

Soweto was the 2003 winner of the Best Gospel Choir award of the Best Gospel Choir of the World competition—the first time that a choir of black South African origin has been victorious. The choir recently organized its own charity foundation to showcase its talent around the world but also to give back to society. The choir recently organized its own charity foundation to provide relief for people afflicted with AIDS living in and around Soweto.

The heartfelt, exuberant voices of Soweto Gospel Choir are spreading a message of love, joy and hope to universal audiences regardless of color, language or faith. Theirs is a message and song for all.

Reserved seating is $28 with discounts for students and seniors and can be purchased in advance via VISA or MasterCard by calling 401-456-8144 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays, online at www.ric.edu/pfa, or in person at the Roberts Hall box office until the time of the performance on the day of the event.

‘To Kill a Mockingbird’: A bird’s-eye view of the Depression-era south

A theatrical rendition of Harper Lee’s Pulitzer Prize-winning novel To Kill a Mockingbird will be staged at RIC.

The play is directed by Jamie Taylor, managing director of theater. It will be performed in Sapsinsley Hall in the Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts Feb. 17-20.

A touchstone in the worlds of literature, film and theater, this story weaves a tale of reasoning and conflict of the conscience and prejudice associated with growing up in this racially charged environment.

RIC senior Anthony Amaral III portrays Atticus Finch, and senior Erin Horne is the adult version of Scout. The children are played by participants of the RIC Summer Performing Arts Camp, Kristen Leonard (Scout), Gian Cardillo (Jem) and Grant Rutter (Dill).

“I decided to direct this play because it’s a classic and it is timeless,” said Taylor. “I thought of 20th century acting theories, playwright August Wilson, African-American theater, Greek theater and Shakespearian tragedy. His original plays, Blood Line, Bodies that Blow in the Wind, When a Black Woman Speaks and White Man’s a Comin’, have been produced by the Black Actor’s Guild in Tallahassee, Fla.

Taylor has received numerous awards and honors for his work as an actor, director and playwright.

To Kill a Mockingbird will be performed on Feb. 17, 18 and 19 at 8 p.m. and Feb. 19 and 20 at 2 p.m. General admission is $14.
In order to recognize the commitment and dedicated service of its faculty and staff, Rhode Island College established a Service Recognition Day. On this 14th Service Recognition Day, held in December, those who have served the College for 10, 15, 20 or 25 years were recognized at a reception at the President’s House.

The 30-Year Honor Roll recognizes faculty, administrative staff, and support staff who have completed 30 years of service to RIC. The Honor Roll plaque is permanently displayed in the President’s Office reception area in Roberts Hall. Honor Roll members attended a reception at the President’s House.

25 Years of Service

Administrative Staff
Sharon C. Mazycz
Gordon E. Rowley
Karen M. Rubino
James W. Walker

Support Staff
Vincent R. Castaldi
Ernest DePari
Lorraine A. Imondi
William Levesque
Patricia McDonough

20 Years of Service

15 Years of Service

Faculty
Peter B. Brown
Ronald P. Dufour
William Holland
Carolyn P. Panoñsky

Administrative Staff
James H. McCroskery
Cynthia L. Page
Teresa A. Riley-Wilcox
Alan M. Salemi
Kristen K. Salemi

Support Staff
David Benevides
Alice Furey
Deborah A. Iannuccielli
Geraldine A. Jessop
James H. McLaughlin
James O’Donnell
Louise A. Pearson
Catherine M. Ruzzano
Rosaly A. Zona

30 Years of Service

Kenneth I. Ainley
1974–
Dennis Battista
1974–
Joan C. Bloom
1974–
Charles W. Bohnsack
1974–
John A. Bucci
1974–2004
Anne E. S. Carty
1974–
Judith H. DiMeo
1974–
Robert W. Elam
1974–

Murray H. Finley
1974–2004
Robert F. Hogan
1974–
Mary Ball Howkins
1974–
Pamela I. Jackson
1974–
Dena M. Janson
1973–
Vivian Rose La Ferla
1974–
Thomas R. Maloney
1973–
Patricia M. Patrick
1973–

Anne K. Petry
1974–2004
Tom M. Randall
1974–
Elizabeth H. Rowell
1974–
Pamela A. Rubovits
1974–
Sheri L. Smith
1974–
Richard Tropper
1974–
Elaine A. Walsh
1973–

20 Years of Service

15 Years of Service

Faculty
Patricia B. M. Brennan
Robert F. Carey
Rachel H. Carpenter
Dante T. Del Giudice
Geraldine V. DeNuccio
Yolande G. Lockett
Frederic G. Reamer
Charles L. Roy
Deborah H. Siegel
Judith E. Stokes
Caroline B. Sullivan
Patricia A. Thomas

Administrative Staff
David C. Maine
Charlene L. Szczepanek

Support Staff
Carolyn A. Baccare
Robert B. Davis
Louise M. Imbeault
Pauline McCartney
Joseph Nasi
Ann L. Parrillo

10 Years of Service

Faculty
Nancy K. Bockbrader
Elizabeth M. Dalton
Colette J. Matarase
Patricia Medeiros Lândurand
Betty J. Rauhe
Marjorie Roemer

Administrative Staff
Nicholas C. Budano
Cyrille W. Cote
James H. Hanbury
Victoria Hittinger
Ronald W. Tibbetts
Erika E. Tuttle

Support Staff
Russell M. Chenot
Johanna M. Morrison
Although February is traditionally Black History Month, it is also the shortest month of the year. That’s why Rhode Island College and the Unity Center, led by Aaron Bruce, decided to begin the celebration a little early—Wednesday, Jan. 26, when jazz flutist Galen will perform from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Donovan Dining Center. The event is free and open to the public.

Galen’s jazz performances and lectures have made him a popular artist on college campuses across the country. He has performed and recorded with artists such as Billy Taylor, Sonny Phillips, Jimmy Heath, Melba Moore, Freda Payne, among many others. A former student of Berklee College of Music, Galen is a graduate of Bates College, with a master’s in fine arts and education.

American historian Carter G. Woodson established Black History Week beginning on Feb. 12, 1926, and it was expanded into Black History Month in 1976, as part of the nation’s bicentennial celebration. It is a time for the “entire campus to celebrate and relate contributions to our nation made by people of African descent,” said Bruce.

He is especially pleased about the enthusiasm faculty and administration showed for the upcoming events on campus in February. Some of the events are “poignant” discussions in place both inside and outside of the classroom, said Bruce, while others explore African diaspora through music and film.

“This is an excellent opportunity for our campus community to strengthen our cultural competencies,” added Bruce.

According to the U.S. Census (July 2003) there are an estimated 48.7 million U.S. residents who are either black or black and at least partly of African descent. This comprises roughly 13.3 percent of the total U.S. population. “We all bring something special to the American experience,” he said. “Let us come together every February, with the goal of emboldening and enriching the rich diversity of our country.”

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**What’s News Intern**

**professor encourages students to get creative**

Shaping the minds of the future, RIC marketing professor encourages students to get creative

by David Cranshaw

**What's News Intern**

It has long been theorized that creativity is a personality trait a person is born with and is most prevalent in artists and performers. Steve Ramocki, professor of marketing at Rhode Island College, supports an opposing view, one that creativity is a personality trait a person is taught to cultivate.

He expects to graduate from RIC in spring 2006. His work is particularly valuable in view of a recent study in the journal *Creativity and Human Development* that indicates a high percentage of college graduates believe that creativity is a learned trait. Ramocki disagrees.

Ramocki believes that it is the job of the educator to encourage students to be innovative and “think outside the box.”

“Teachers have an obligation to help students fulfill their creative potential,” he said.

The class is important because the concepts discussed are not introduced in any other course. He expressed that the new material offers students a “virgin territory of learning potential that is extremely valuable.”

In his book titled *Essentials of Creativity and Creative Behavior*, Ramocki wrote that the type of thinking associated with the status quo can provide predominant accomplishments, but will never produce the originality and novelty that are associated with creative endeavors.

In order to learn to be creative, students must be taught to think in a new language that is different from what they have previously learned, according to Ramocki.

One of the most important topics discussed in the class is metacomponents. This practice of a person thinking about how a form is the backbone of the class. It helps students relate ideas and thoughts from seemingly unrelated academic fields to come up with new and unique ways to complete tasks.

The course also encourages students to expand their schema. Schema is how a mind organizes and interprets reality, knowledge and its environment. Ramocki teaches students to keep the schema that stores knowledge flexible so that it does not become jaded.

To help students understand how to incorporate objects that do not appear to be unrelated, they are introduced to the concept of bricolage. Students were assigned to make an advertisement for mouthwash without words, using only Play-Doh sticks, dry ice, labels and sticky notes to convey their message.

The experience was intended to teach students to expand their thought process to create ads.

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**Bio undergrad wins Keeffe Award**

When biology professor Edythe Anthony suggested that student Christopher Furey attend this year’s biology dept. Christmas party, he would do more than just deck the halls - he would be the 2004 recipient of the annual Keeffe Award. The award is given to a biology major who has demonstrated promise in biology and related sciences and plans to pursue a career in biological sciences.

Furey, originally from Vermont and now a North Providence resident, said he was “very surprised and thrilled” to receive the award.

Furey has been conducting independent research on cancerous cells for the past year with Glenis de Oliveira, assistant professor of chemistry. This research is funded by The National Institutes of Health. He has also been accepted to the Brown Medical School through its Medical Scholars Program, a program open to college students in Rhode Island who are halfway through their college career. He expects to graduate from RIC in spring 2006.

The award is named in honor of Mary Keeffe ’28, who joined the RIC faculty in 1952. Keeffe served as director of the college’s biology department, and was one of the founders of the College’s science faculty.

Eligibility for the Keeffe Award requires a biology major to have a grade point average of at least 3.5, an overall grade average of 3.0, and a GPA of 3.5 or above in the biology major. The student must take all science courses at RIC, and need to have completed half the major, including at least two upper-level biology courses.
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Congratulations to all!

Dean's List in recognition of those who attain a minimum GPA of 3.25 in any subject.
ITALIAN SCHOLAR Christine Mansella, a Jan. ‘05 graduate, receives the Italian-American Heritage Award from state Representative Steven Costantino (left) at ceremonies in the Department of Modern Languages, Dec. 6. Looking on is Joseph Levi, assistant professor of modern languages.

OUTREACH FUNDING: Gov. Donald Carcieri presents an $85,000 Adult Literacy Transition Funding grant to Karon Dionne, director of RIC Outreach Programs. The presentation was made at Genesis Center in Providence in December. Jennifer Giroux, coordinator of Outreach’s Literacy Projects, wrote and submitted the grant that will ensure that literacy and ESL classes will continue to be taught to immigrant and refugee populations. Current classes are filled to capacity with students whose need for literacy, computer assisted English as a second language, and occupational training programs are being met by Outreach Programs.

GOING...GOING....Sam Ames, professor of art, auctions off a piece during the Art Club’s annual art auction, Dec. 3 in the Art Center. According to Art Club president Rachel Motta, the event raised about $7,000 to be used for field trips and other activities for art students.

RIC ROAD SHOW? While visiting the African nation of Cameroon recently, Professor Richard Lobban was surprised to see this sign. No, The Internet Cafe pictured is not part of the College, despite its familiar name.