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What's News At Rhode Island College

Rhode Island College

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Rhode Island College enters its 152nd year with the largest contingent of new faculty since John Nazarian became president in 1990, and a full in-bin of initiatives – some already underway, others waiting for an official OK.

At the opening meeting for the 2005-06 academic year, it was announced that for the fourth consecutive time, a record number of admission applications were received by the College – four percent higher than last year. “Freshman deposits indicate that we will be welcoming the largest freshman class in College history,” said Nazarian.

Academically, RIC is moving toward establishing a separate school for nursing, the fourth such professional school on campus. According to Nazarian, the current nursing dept.’s “size, scope and quality of its programs,” and its standing within the profession, justify it becoming a school entity. Plans for the measure are now being formulated, with a final proposal to be sent to the Office of Higher Education in October.

The College is also committed to developing a master’s degree program in nursing. It will differ in focus from the one offered at the University of Rhode Island, but it too will help ready students for URI’s doctoral nursing program.

Another proposal is the creation of a bachelor of fine arts in art education. This five-year undergrad program would help students build their studio skills while seeking teacher certification in art. The plan requires approval by the Office of Higher Education.

This fall, RIC will be involved in the Congress to Campus program, in which a bi-partisan pair of former members of congress will be on campus for three days in November to take part in a series of activities for students, faculty, staff and the general public, and will interact with all local media outlets.

In addition, the American Democracy project will provide the College with a full-time coordinator of community service opportunities through the Vista program of the federal government.

Nazarian noted the success of the year-old Certificate Program in Nonprofit Studies. The program is affiliated with RIC’s Center for Public Policy, which received a $300,000 gift from Alan Shawn Feinstein. The summer component of the certificate program has been named The Alan Shawn Feinstein Institute for Philanthropic Leadership in recognition of Feinstein’s support and his lifelong commitment to philanthropy.

Financially, the College recently submitted to the Board of Governors for Higher Education a budget request for fiscal year 2007 that seeks to maintain current academic programs at current levels of service. “While the College’s fiscal needs continue to challenge us,” said Nazarian, “we can be heartened by the strength of our efforts in development and College relations.”

This year, a “mini” capital campaign of $1.7 million will be launched to support the rehabilitation of Building 7 on the east campus to serve as the new home for the Paul V. Sherlock Center on Disabilities.

Further support for achieving students is arriving in the form of a $570,000 gift – one of the largest
RIC grad honored as school nurse-teacher of the year

BY David Cranshaw '05, Contributing Writer

You would think being responsible for the health education and well-being of over 400 kindergarten through fourth graders would be a daunting task for one person.

For Nancy Souza 'M'89, the school nurse-teacher at the Howard Hathaway Elementary School in Portsmouth, it’s all in a day’s work.

In May, she was named Rhode Island School’s Nurse-Teacher of the Year for her excellence in the classroom and extensive volunteerism in the community.

She described herself as “honored” and “surprised” at a tribute made much more rewarding because she does not have any children of her own.

“I love kids,” she said.

She also enjoys working with the parents to “educate them how to better care for their kids.”

Souza has worked in the Portsmouth School System for 18 years following stints as a nurse at Newport Hospital and the New Visions health care facility in Newport County.

When she became a school nurse in the mid-1980s, Souza was one of the first to expand her role to include classroom instruction. The role of the school nurse-teacher has since grown tremendously, she said.

Souza has offered workshops for elementary school teachers that taught them in CPR and how to properly administer an EpiPen for allergic reactions. She is also organizing training to use automatic external defibrillators (AEDs) that may soon be required to be on-site at all schools.

Souza does not stop at educating the children about healthy lifestyles. She has also organized a health clinic for the school department’s faculty to help detect possible health risks.

In the early 1990s, Souza formed the Caritas Fund to provide money and basic supplies for low-income families of Portsmouth.

She has also organized support groups for parents of students with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder, started the Teens Leading Children (TLC) program in which high school students teach elementary school students drug prevention strategies, and held flu and meningitis clinics in Portsmouth.

She even organized a fundraiser for a cancer patient to help the family afford the trip to New York for special medical treatment.

Souza remembers her time as a graduate student at RIC in the master of education program, specializing in health education that she said taught her to aspire to excellence.

Her mentor at the time, Ken Ainley, associate professor of health and physical education, urged her to continue her studies toward a second master’s degree.

Souza is one to practice what she preaches. She advises aspiring teachers to become life-long learners.

“Keep taking classes because that is how you grow,” she said.

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 Brian R. DeDentro, a 2005 RIC graduate from Slatersville.

Last Spring, in this column, I wrote about my experiences in Ireland, where I had the opportunity — through the Ridgway F. Shinn Jr. Study Abroad program — to spend a semester at the University College Dublin (UCD). My travels, however, were international as well. Throughout my four-month stay, I had the fortunate opportunity to visit the countries of Scotland, England, Germany, Spain, and Italy. With respect to our controversial foreign policy, it was the best and the worst of times for an American to travel internationally. Despite a moderate international reception, it was most educational.

Besides the beautiful, diverse cultures throughout Europe, I found the intensive analysis of the American presidential election remarkably fascinating. To my surprise, the Irish took great concern in the presidential race. The Republic of Ireland is often described as being isolationist, with a neutral approach to international politics and global issues. As for the general election, I received an entirely different impression. The Irish, and all of Europe, have a profound interest in American politics. Whether through television, newspapers, magazines, campus debates, informal conversations, etc., one could not avoid the topic of American politics.

I was intrigued to find that most Europeans have a profound dislike, even personal resentment for our current commander-in-chief. Generally speaking, former presidential candidate John Kerry was a European favorite, while George Bush was viewed as a tyrant. Television programs, newspapers, and other forms of mass media had discussed extensively the American presidential race.

To afford readers a vivid example of a typical European reaction to the election, two prominent Irish newspapers with front page headlines reading: “Four More Years of Tyranny” and “The Return of a Fascist.”

Even more of an eye-opening illustration occurred when popular opinion was a debate I attended at UCD entitled, “American Foreign Policy: For Better or Worse.” More interesting than the debate itself was the illustration on the poster promoting the event. Beneath the title was the famous image of American soldiers raising the American flag after the battle of Iwo Jima in World War II. However, in this picture, the soldiers were not raising the American flag, but rather an oil rig. Nothing to say, the entire debate was a brutal attack on George Bush and his foreign policy.

Through my international travels, I found England to be most resistant to American tourists. In tourism I do not mean violent attacks, but verbal assaults and a strong sense of antipathy. After two days of touring London, my friend and I ran into a group of American students at a local pub. The topic of American resistance came about, and one student responded with an interesting argument. He explained how the media in England, and throughout Europe, makes a deliberate attempt to criticize Bush and the war in Iraq.

If you observe the international media cautiously, they seldom discuss the politically polarized society in the United States, and instead create a message of universal, public support for the war among the American population. Furthermore, we are presented as being greedy, immature, social Darwinist-like citizens.

In my opinion, that student was absolutely right. Take for example public television in Ireland. There are four stations: one presents English and Irish programs, one is in Gaelic, and the other two adapt American programming. One program that was aired around three times a day was The Ricki Lake Show. One can only imagine a foreign interpretation of this show. After digesting the student’s argument, you get an understanding of the misleading perceptions commonly held by Europeans.

International travel provided me with an exceptional educational experience. Despite the moderate American acceptance I encountered, the cultural and educational experience was profound. Whether it be walking the Abbey Road crosswalk, driving alongside Loch Ness, standing atop the copula in St. Peter’s Basilica, gazing up at Michelangelo’s mural in the Sistine chapel, standing in the very spot Julius Caesar once sat while watching the Gladiator games, standing above the ruins of the Roman Forum, finding the local time on Big Ben, standing on the beach Christopher Columbus set sail from in 1492, or having an interesting conversation with a local, one can only have tremendous respect and appreciation for world culture.

By experiencing other cultures, one can analyze, criticize, and appreciate his or her own culture. The world is an enormous place, which harbors thousands of beautiful and fascinating cultures that no one can entirely experience. It is important to have complete appreciation that I have received just a taste of international culture.
RIC grad Theresa Coutu regains eyesight – and independence

Coursework presented yet another challenge. Coutu relied on enlargers to help her read text, and a speech reader computer program that she could listen to. “There’s a lot of adaptive equipment out there for the visually impaired,” she said. In class, Coutu said she had to learn to listen more carefully, especially when a film was being shown. She had to pay extra attention during class discussions to figure out when she could talk without interrupting someone else. “It was very difficult at times,” she said. “But I learned that I am much more independent and outspoken than I thought I was.”

Coutu said that, “a lot of people (at RIC) were very accommodating.” She singled out the help RIC social work faculty members Diane Martell and Dan Weisman provided to her. Coutu was also thankful to secretary Doreen Stanley, who made sure all her study materials were enlarged and provided extra assistance to Coutu when needed. “I could hear the smile in her voice,” she said of Stanley’s willing assistance.

Last year, Coutu graduated from RIC, and was accompanied by her guide dog on the commencement stage. She received a bachelor’s degree in social work, while Almond, wearing the traditional graduate’s cap and tassel, was presented with a “Pedigree in Social Work” for his efforts in assisting Coutu.

One year later came her miracle. Since her retinas were not as badly damaged as first assumed, she was a candidate for a cornea surgery in a specialist clinic that could lead a normal life again. “It was very dramatic,” she said of the moment when the patch was removed from her left eye. “I’m reading fine print now, and I’m still crying at the same time.” Added Coutu, “I got to see everybody in my family all over again.”

Naturally, many people, places and things have changed in time since her sight degenerated. Coutu was especially curious about the current appearance of her favorite local TV news anchor, who, she said, had been absent from her daily routine during the time she was

VISION FOR THE FUTURE: Theresa Coutu, who was nearly blind for six years, had much of her sight restored after undergoing surgery in June. Above, she is led by her dog Almond during commencement exercises at RIC in 2004. sight impaired.

“For the last six years I’ve gotten up with Frank Coletta every morning,” she said of the anchor of NBC-10’s Sunrise show. She looked forward to seeing him on screen rather than just listening to him. But her first chance after the surgery to see Coletta failed because another newscaster was filling in for him that day. Several days later, however, Coletta surprised Coutu by joining her at the press conference announcing the successful effort to regain her vision. “He’s aged very well,” she said.

Coutu’s future plans include rearranging her house, visiting historical places such as Starburide and Salem in Massachusetts, and first and foremost, purchasing a car. She got her driver’s permit just 10 days after regaining her vision. She’s also looking forward to seeing the snow fall again. “I like a lot of colors now,” she said, adding that she might soon have her house painted in a “nice, bright color.”

For the past year and a half, Coutu has been a social worker at Bannister House, a nursing home in Providence that provides long-term and rehabilitative health care. Her ability to counsel and care for clients there has surely benefited from her personal struggles with disability. Coutu also plans to become an advocate for people with disabilities. This month Coutu will get her driver’s license back, the next step toward her new self-reliance. Proudly, she will be the one taking Almond places, instead of being led around by him.

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Promising Practices Multi-Cultural Conference Nov. 5

K-12 educators and students are invited to a day of diversity-related education, materials and ideas. Promising Practices’ eighth annual Multi-Cultural Conference and Curriculum Resource Fair will be held Nov. 5 on the Rhode Island College campus. This year’s event, “I Hate Are We Preventing Hate Crimes and Bullying in Our Schools,” will offer over 25 workshops on strategies and insights relevant to multicultural education. In addition, publishers and marketers of educational media will demonstrate and exhibit their products. New to the conference will be a “Youth Hour” roundtable discussion with the K-12 educator and college and high school students.

At the conference, the winner of the Outstanding Educator Award in multicultural education will be announced (see below).

For more information on the conference, visit www.ric.edu/ user/curriculum/practices.html. Or, contact Peter Mendy at 401-456-9696 (pmendy@ric.edu) or Joe Sculli at 401-456-8569 (jcsulli@ric.edu).

Call for Nominations

Outstanding Educator Award for Promising Practices in Multicultural Education

The Dialogue on Diversity Committee at Rhode Island College is seeking nominations for this year’s Outstanding Educator Award, which recognizes educators who exhibit strengths in promoting multicultural education in their classroom practices, curriculum, pedagogy, and/or classroom/school climate. Outstanding educators can be nominated by administrators, college faculty, students, parents, or teachers, but an educator cannot nominate himself or herself. The winner will receive a tuition waiver for one graduate course at RIC to further their professional development.

Nominations must meet the following criteria:

• Current Rhode Island K-12 educator, or recent retiree.
• Works with diverse student populations.
• Exhibits strengths in promoting multicultural education in his or her classroom practices, curriculum, pedagogy, and/or classroom/school climate.

Finalists will be honored at the eighth annual Promising Practices conference at RIC on Nov. 5, where the Outstanding Educator Award recipient will be announced. (To be eligible for the award, finalists must be in attendance at the conference.)

For a nomination form or more information on the Outstanding Educator Award, contact Ellen Bigler (ebigler@ric.edu) or Williams Poole (wpoole@ric.edu).

Nomination forms must be postmarked by Sept. 21.
In Memoriam — Helen Forman '34

On Sunday, Aug. 14, 2005, the College lost a good friend. Helen Forman, Class of 1934, loyal alumna and the most significant benefactor in the history of the College, passed away at the age of 93.

Out of respect for her wishes, there was no service and no published announcement. However, we all mourn her passing as we remember all that she has done for Rhode Island College.

In recognition of her special love for the performing arts and in memory of her commitment to students through the scholarships she created for their support, the College will dedicate an upcoming concert in her honor and host a reception for her friends and colleagues.

HELEN FORMAN

Helen Lombardi '40 Memorial Golf Tournament tees off Sept. 26

For over a decade, Helen Lombardi hosted Rhode Island College’s annual Alumni Association golf tournament. Lombardi passed away last March. Now this popular event, which has raised over $110,000 for scholarships since 1992, has been named in honor of theRIC alumna.

The Helen Lombardi ‘40 Memorial Golf Tournament will be held Monday, Sept. 26 at the Cranston Country Club, the place Lombardi served as president and had founded, along with her husband Anthony.

The tournament is supported by the Lombardi family. Proceeds will benefit the RICocheet fund, which provides scholarship assistance to students in emergency situations, and to other alumni scholarships.

The event begins with lunch at 11:30 a.m., followed by a shotgun start at 1 p.m. A cash bar and hors d’oeuvres will be available at 5:30 p.m., with dinner and raffle at 6:15 p.m. Cost of golf, snacks and dinner is $85. Sponsorships are available from $150 to $1,000.

For more information, call the Alumni Office at 401-456-8086.

Annual Fund poised for growth

Following on the heels of a successful 2004-2005 Annual Fund campaign, the Alumni Association’s year-round fundraising program should be strong in the year ahead.

The Annual Fund year that just ended June 30 saw a total of $367,569 raised from annual appeals, phonathons and its first-year Legacy Walk campaign. Although most contributions are made through the mail and phonathon pledges, online giving will play a stronger role in future giving.

“Recent alumni who grew up on computers are more likely to make a contribution online,” said Jackie Sawyer-Nowell ’92, a member of the Alumni Association board.

The average gift online was $356, as compared to a gift through the mail of $81. But Jackie is quick to mention that most gifts given online last year were from alumni from the 1970s and 80s.

The Annual Fund continues to grow. Ten years ago, the fund brought in $211,093, with an average gift of $38. Today the average gift has more than doubled to $81. Last year, a total of 384 new donors gave $28,084 with an average gift of $71.

“These results are a tribute to the work, innovation and dedication of all the staff and volunteers, our board members and our donors who serve as a strong foundation for the future,” said Marianne Needham ’59, Alumni Association board president.

The staff and Alumni Association board members are well underway with the Annual Fund. The fall appeal has just been sent to over 44,000 reachable alumni.

This year, the board members and the staff want to continue growing needed funds and to encourage alumni to recall the benefits they received from an education at Rhode Island College, and to give back to the College.

Giving to the Annual Fund helps encourage the dreams and careers of young students. Paul Bourget ’69 said at a recent Board meeting that if you give a scholarship, you get a real sense of fostering a student and hope for the future.

Funds raised help provide $100,000 in student scholarships, alumni-related programs and faculty research as well as programs not funded by tuition or state funds.

You can give online at www.ric.edu/give now.
Taking a hike – how it helps me to be a better preschool teacher

BY Susan Kingsley ’04 Teacher, Henry Barnard School

During February school vacation I went on a one-day hike through the Ocala Forest with my mother. She is hiking the Florida Trail – more than 1,000 miles– for her 75th birthday. My mom is as amazing as she is humble. She is a “late-bloomer.” This will be her third time hiking the Florida Trail and she didn’t start hiking until she was well into her 60s.

She has been a trail leader and officer in the Florida Trails Association. She has spearheaded the project to designate a portion of the trail to be handicap accessible. She has also won a national award from the U.S. Forest Service, one of the few individuals in the country to be presented with such an honor. She has been an activist and a “lobbyist” and has met with the Florida governor in an effort to highlight the need for the acquisition of more greenway space for the completion of the Florida Trail.

So, what does this have to do with my being a preschool teacher? Like my mother, I am a late bloomer. I earned my MEd in early childhood special education in June 2004 – 30 years after receiving my undergraduate degree. I would also like to complete a PhD before my 60th birthday. I appreciate the child who is marching to a different drummer and at a different pace than what is perceived as typical. I strive to bring a combination of contemporary and traditional educational methods to my work with preschoolers and early childhood practicum students.

I strive to provide an amazing preschool classroom for the children who attend Henry Barnard School, doing things that are both fun and out of the ordinary. As a member of the Rhode Island Association for the Education of Young Children, I have been an activist at the state and national levels on behalf of high quality, inclusive preschool education. I derive a sense of high satisfaction that comes from speaking to congressmen and senators in Washington and feeling like I have made a difference in how they think about children’s issues. And I like to occasionally “take a hike,” to move out of my comfort zone and attempt to learn new things.

On our hike in the Ocala Forest, my mother and I encountered something unexpected: 50 yards ahead of us, a black bear crossed our path. Black bears are naturally shy, so when he spotted us, he turned tail and ran off. By the time I got my camera out, I was only able to get a picture of him retreating through the trees. Since this was an unfamiliar environment and experience for me, I was not as well prepared as I could have been.

As a preschool teacher, the unexpected is part of our daily routine. I must always be ready to respond at a moment’s notice. Daily preparation is essential and nightly reflection is necessary in order to be ready for anything that can happen. In this way, I can take full advantage of learning opportunities that arise unexpectedly and optimize these experiences for the children. Another thing that I learned from my mom during her Florida Trail hike is that some long-term goals can take a sudden detour. In March, while hiking with her grandson (my son, RIC student Eric Herman), it rained so heavily that one of the northern trails became flooded, terminating the hike. A family member’s surgery caused a further postponement. When mom finally resumed hiking in early May, a simple fall on the trail led to a broken arm, ending her hiking for the summer. Rather than giving up, she has adjusted her plans to continue the hike at a later date.

Flexibility and perseverance are characteristics that I hope to bring to my work as I continue to walk on the “hike” of life!
New piano recital series debuts with Van Cliburn winner Jon Nakamatsu

The Adams Foundation Piano Recital Series, a new, two-part presentation featuring renowned American pianists, will debut at Rhode Island College this month. Jon Nakamatsu, winner of the 10th Van Cliburn International Piano Competition in 1997, will perform Sunday, Sept. 18 at 2:30 p.m. in Sapinsley Hall in the Nazarian Center.

The series, presented locally by the Performing Arts Series at RIC in cooperation with the Rhode Island Philharmonic, aims to re-establish piano recitals in communities throughout the United States. Richard and John Contugiuglia, duo-pianists, will appear in the second installment of the series, on Jan. 22, 2006.

For his RIC recital, Nakamatsu will perform Rachmaninoff’s Variations on a Theme of Corelli, Op. 42, Chopin’s Nocturne in F-sharp Major, Op. 15, No. 2 and Franz Liszt’s Impromptu for Princess Gortschakoff.

California native Nakamatsu was a high school German teacher who became a classical music legend after being named gold medalist of the Van Cliburn competition, only the third American to achieve that distinction.

Since then he has performed recitals throughout the United States and Europe, including stops in New York City (Carnegie Hall), Washington, D.C. (John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts), Boston, Chicago, Cincinnati, Miami, Houston, San Francisco, Paris, London and Milan. He has also collaborated with various chamber ensembles, and toured the U.S. with the Berlin Philharmonic Woodwind Quintet in 2000 and 2002.

Named Debut Artist of the Year in 1998 by National Public Radio’s Performance Today, Nakamatsu has been profiled on CBS Sunday Morning and in Reader’s Digest.

He has six CDs to his credit, including an orchestral album containing performances of Rachmaninoff’s Third Piano Concerto and Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini as well as albums showcasing the music of Chopin, Foss and Wolff.

A Stanford University graduate, Nakamatsu has studied piano privately with the same teacher since he was six. He has also been a student of composition, orchestration, chamber music and musicology.

Classical music magazine The Gramophone wrote of Nakamatsu: “His playing takes on a truly magical, communing ease and finesse… Nakamatsu’s brilliantly engaged performance paints a portrait of a remarkably wide-ranging and stylish artist.”

Tickets for Jon Nakamatsu are $20 each. Current donors and subscribers to the Performing Arts Series and the Rhode Island Philharmonic can save $10 by purchasing tickets to both Adams Foundation Piano Recital Series concerts (Sept. 18 and Jan. 22) in advance for $30. For your convenience, tickets can be purchased as follows: 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.

Faculty art on display at Bannister in September

This fall, Bannister Gallery will showcase the eclectic, sublime and innovative in exhibits intended to explore the aesthetically pleasing power of art.

The first of these shows will highlight work of the College’s art professor in ceramics, graphic design, metals and sculpture. Their creations will be on display in the Annual Faculty Show, Sept. 8-29, providing the College community and public with a chance to experience the recent efforts of this diverse and talented group.

Works by Nancy Bockbrader, Doug Bosch, Krisjeln Horvat, Heemong Kim ’80, Bill Martin, Sondra Sherman, Bryan Steinberg and adjunct faculty will be on display.

Tickets for Jon Nakamatsu are $20 each. Current donors and subscribers to the Performing Arts Series and the Rhode Island Philharmonic can save $10 by purchasing tickets to both Adams Foundation Piano Recital Series concerts (Sept. 18 and Jan. 22) in advance for $30. For your convenience, tickets can be purchased as follows: 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.

Pieces of 8 lends vocal treasures to a melting pot of musical genres

Pieces of 8, an exciting eight-member vocal ensemble, offers a unique a cappella brand of Americana, jazz, pop, rock, doo-wop, gospel and soul are among the styles featured in the group’s richly layered voices-only expressions. For 12 years, the group has garnered enthusiastic receptions at colleges and performing arts venues throughout the U.S. Now, area residents and members of the College community can experience the golden touch of Pieces of 8 in a RIC Performing Arts Series concert on Friday, Sept. 30 at 8 p.m. in Sapinsley Hall in the Nazarian Center.

Reviewers have described the group as “lush, multilayered… a completely unique American story-telling band.” The St. Louis Post-Dispatch wrote that Pieces of 8 was “Impressively virtuosic…tight and sophisticated,” while the Kansas City Star called the singers “a national treasure.”

Charles Mead, the ensemble’s founder, artistic director, composer and arranger, cites Bach, Debussy, James Brown, and the Neville Brothers among others as musical influences. These diverse inspirations result in an energetic and entertaining concert filled with melodies, rhythms and harmonies that celebrate numerous musical genres and ethnic cultures.

The ensemble has performed at New York’s Lincoln Center and the Museum of Modern Art, and has appeared nationally on NBC’s Today show. As part of its tours, Pieces of 8 is involved with residency and educational outreach programs for students from grade school through college.

The group has released three albums: Across the Blue Meridian, featuring several island getaway-themed Mead compositions; Falling Together, with popular songs from the Beatles, Cole Porter, Andrew Lloyd Webber and others; and Hook, Line and Singer, which includes arrangements of pop, gospel, classical and reggae standards.

Tickets for Pieces of 8 are $30, with discounts for seniors, RIC faculty/staff/students, and children. For your convenience, tickets can be purchased as follows: 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.
RIC Performing Arts Series presents the
Paul Taylor Dance Company

T he Paul Taylor Dance Company brings its dance mastery to Rhode Island College for one night only on Oct. 7 at 8 p.m., as part of RIC’s Performing Arts Series. Hailed as one of the world’s most exquisite dance troupes, the Paul Taylor Dance Company will celebrate 50 years of dance by visiting 50 states this year and next. The company, founded by Taylor in 1954, has performed in more than 450 cities in over 60 countries, appeared in 10 PBS programs and was nominated for an Emmy award in 1997. Proclaimed the “reigning master of modern dance” by Time, Paul Taylor has set to music everything from ragtime to reggae, turning even elevator music into high art. Over the years, he has received dozens of awards and honors, and was the subject of the Emmy award-nominated PBS documentary Dancemaker in 1999.

Taylor was elected to knighthood by the French government as Chevalier l’Ordre des Arts et des Lettres in 1969, and was elevated to the Legion d’Honneur for exceptional contributions to French culture in 2000. He was elected as one of 10 honorary American members of the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters in 1989. Taylor was also awarded the National Medal of Arts by former president Clinton in 1993, and an Emmy Award for Speaking in Tongues in 1992.

The Paul Taylor Dance Foundation was established in 1966 to bring Taylor’s works to a larger audience, make new dances and preserve his growing repertoire. In 1993, Taylor formed Taylor 2, a company of six dancers that brings his work to small venues throughout the world. Taylor 2 also teaches Taylor’s style in schools and at community gatherings. After retiring from performing in 1975, Taylor devoted his talent solely to choreography, creating classics such as Esplanade, Roses, and Prometheus Fire, among others.

Paul Taylor Dance Company’s performance at Rhode Island College is made possible with support from the RIC Foundation’s Fannie Helen Melcer Fund.

General admission is $30, with discounts for students and seniors. For your convenience, tickets can be purchased as follows: 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.

Steel Magnolias bloom at RIC

Robert Harling’s Steel Magnolias will be staged Homecoming week at RIC Sept. 28-Oct. 2. Jamie Taylor, associate professor of theatre, will direct the play. The spotlight is on a group of six sassy Southern ladies who gather in Truvy’s Beauty Spot to share laughter, heartache and hairspray in their small hometown. With priceless lines like “There is no such thing as natural beauty,” this play is both hilarious and moving, and in the end, the strength and purposefulness of the characters’ antic banter is revealed.

In 1989, Steel Magnolias was made into a film, starring Dolly Parton, Sally Field and Julia Roberts in the lead roles. It earned rave reviews and great popularity, while appealing to generations of women across the country. As the title suggests, these women are like steel magnolias—dainty flowers, each with a gift to deal with any difficulty they encounter in life.

General admission is $14. For information, call the box office at 401-456-8144.

Wednesday Chamber Music Series returns with strings attached

This fall, the Wednesday Chamber Music Series will feature several concert events showcasing the talents of virtuoso performers. All events will be held at 1 p.m. in Sapinsley Hall in the Nazarian Center. Series director and pianist Judith Schwartz has received high praise for his tone, technique and artistry in appearances in North America, Europe, and Israel. In a review of Schwartz’s recital at Carnegie’s Weill Recital Hall, The New York Times wrote that it was “an impressive, authoritative and surging performance.”

In addition to his solo violin work, he has served as a conductor with numerous orchestras and was music director and principal guest conductor of the Ashdog Israel Chamber Orchestra. A recording artist with many albums to his credit, Schwartz’s recent CD recording, Moods, includes contemporary solo and chamber music works from live performances in New York. Currently, he is conductor and artistic director of the Lynn University Chamber Orchestra. Dmitri Pogorelov, a student of Schwartz’s at Lynn University, received a bachelor of music degree from the college this year. His performance of Tchaikovsky’s Valse Scherzo with the Lancaster Festival Orchestra, on the campus of Ohio University was enthusiastically recognized. During the summer, Pogorelov performed at the Arts for the Soul Festival in Steamboat Springs, Colo., where he also conducted chamber music workshops. This fall, Pogorelov will return to Lynn University to study in the Conservatory of Music’s Professional Performance Certificate program.
Can humans, livestock, and the endangered Grevy’s zebra co-exist and sustain the environment? To answer this question, RIC professor Greg Kniseley joined an international research team for a 13-day expedition in the semi-arid savannah of central Kenya. The expedition included visits to Kenyan primary schools, a hospital, and a wildlife conservancy.

Connecting with legendary Kenyan wildlife

On sabbatical leave last semester, Greg Kniseley, professor of elementary education, worked with research scientists affiliated with Lewa Wildlife Conservancy and National Museums of Kenya. The research team monitored declining populations of Grevy’s zebra and observed their behaviors, and the ecology of watering holes.

“Tug on anything at all and you’ll find it connected to everything else in the universe.” — John Muir

Conservation strategies include increasing protected areas, working with the Samburu community to provide access to critical water and food resources, especially lactating females and their foals, and negotiating with agriculturalists to decrease water extraction for irrigation.

Connecting scientists and the community

Survival of the Grevy’s zebra depends on the education and attitudes of the Samburu, nomadic pastoralists, who have herded cattle on community lands for centuries. Kniseley witnessed first-hand how research scientists work with the Samburu communities to engage them in the research, to understand the value of the endangered species, and identify conservation strategies.

“I observed ‘citizen science’ in action,” explained Kniseley. He added: “Members of the Samburu community are hired to collect data and serve as scouts. Women raising toddlers in the ‘manyatta’ [traditional Samburu settlements] record weather data. Cattle herding men guide the research teams to the zebra.”

Scientists periodically update the Samburu community on their research. Meetings are held under the shade of acacia trees. Scientists display visual aids and talk with community members about the value of endangered species and long-term conservation strategies. The conversation can be slow since spoken words are translated into English, Swahili, and Samburu.

Also, scientists teach hands-on conservation lessons to Samburu students in primary schools. One of the scientists reads and discusses a children’s story she wrote and illustrated to focus their thinking about the consequences of livestock and zebras competing for precious water resources.

According to Kniseley, “Building awareness and engaging the local community in long-term strategies will lead to improved coexistence of humans and wildlife and growth of Grevy’s zebra population.”

Connecting locally and globally

Kniseley returned home to Rhode Island College and planned...
a new research component for his science methods courses. This fall, RIC students and teachers will join The Conservation Agency’s The Narragansett Bay Coyote Project (see http://www.theconservationagency.org/) to learn how research scientists are radio-tracking coyotes on Aquidneck Island and Jamestown. Data generated by their study will be incorporated into the unit/lesson plans immediately. Students will use the Internet to check the coyotes’ movements daily and learn about their behavior and habits. Global Positioning System (GPS) receiving devices and Internet-based software are used to track collared coyotes and allow research scientists to post online the Global Positioning System (GPS) receiving devices and Internet-based software are used to track collared coyotes and allow research scientists to post online the.

“College students will gain firsthand experience in planning and teaching an environmental education component as part of an integrated elementary science program. Elementary students will engage in project-based learning which focuses on a local environmental issue, use technology, and provide service to the community. Classroom teachers and I will collaborate in developing an integrated, project-based curriculum with a community action component.”

Kniseley has also planned an international exchange between classrooms in Rhode Island and central Kenya. He envisions a “conservation club” where students exchange letters about their culture and then follow up by sharing excerpts of scientists’ notebooks, photos, and drawings related to an investigation of a local environmental issue. Eventually, Rhode Island classrooms can raise funds or send materials to Kenya to address basic needs of food, clothing, books, paper, pens, and desks. Additionally, Kniseley developed a 2006 CD-size calendar to raise funds personally for the Kenyan Conservation Research Initiative. For a donation of $20 or more, you can receive Kniseley’s calendar that includes color photos from his January 2005 expedition and inspirational environmental quotes. Proceeds will go to Earthwatch Community Fund for Kenya to address primary needs for water, education, health facilities, and wildlife conservation.

animals’ location and movement in near real time. Part of the unit of study will include a community service project to build public awareness of the coyote.

“Everyone will benefit from this project,” said Kniseley.

If interested, contact Kniseley at mkniseley@ric.edu.

Connecting with tomorrow

Kniseley said that the Kenyan expedition “powerfully influenced” his global perspective on science and education. And, it renewed his commitment to environmental education.

“We’re all part of the web of life,” he said. “No matter where you are in the world, communities set similar educational goals for literacy and citizenship.”

Added Kniseley: “Our children are our future environmental stewards. Teachers and parents can provide children with joyful experiences with the natural world and instill a love for wild places. Ultimately, our children can take action as informed citizens to conserve our precious natural resources.”

Would Professor Kniseley do an Earthwatch expedition again?

“Absolutely, in a heartbeat!” he said.

Ford Motor Company, Rhode Island Foundation, and Rhode Island College supported Professor Kniseley’s education fellowship for the January 2005 Earthwatch Institute expedition. To learn more about his expedition to Kenya, visit http://www.ric.edu/kniseley/Earthwatch/AboutEarthwatch.htm.

Samburu girls wait to dance on a cultural day.

An eland drinks at a watering hole.

A reticulated giraffe under the shade of an acacia tree.

A pair of plains zebras on the lookout, with Mt. Kenya, the second highest mountain in Africa, in the background.

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Kniseley said that the Kenyan
Eight new members will be inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame at the seventh annual Rhode Island College Athletic Recognition Dinner and Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony on Saturday, Oct. 1. The ceremony will be held in the Donovan Dining Center at 7 p.m. A reception honoring all former Hall of Fame inductees and all previous Hetherman and Murphy Award winners will be held at The Murray Center at 5:30 p.m. Tickets are $40 each. The deadline for ordering tickets is Sept. 19. Please contact the Athletic Department at 401-456-8007 to purchase tickets or for additional information.

**MARC DUBOIS**

Marc Dubois ’91 was a dominant men’s tennis player at Rhode Island College from 1987-90. From the first time he stepped on the court at RIC, Dubois occupied the number one singles and doubles spots, going up against the opposition’s top players in every match. That’s what makes his 42-3 career singles record and 27-11 career doubles records so impressive.

The Woonsocket native’s .933 career singles winning percentage is the highest mark in RIC men’s tennis history. He is second all-time at RIC with 55.5 career points and 42 career singles victories.

Dubois’ 27 career doubles wins ranks fifth all-time at RIC. He went 11-0 in singles as a sophomore in 1988 and 12-0 as a junior in 1989 and is one of only three players in RIC men’s tennis history to conclude a season undefeated. Also in 1989, Dubois went 6-2 in doubles and helped RIC to an 11-1 overall record, the best season in RIC men’s tennis history.

Dubois was recently named to RIC’s All-75th Anniversary Men’s Tennis Team. He received a bachelor’s degree in accounting from RIC and an MBA in international business from Johnson and Wales University.

Dubois is currently the treasury operations manager for One Beacon Insurance.

He resides in North Smithfield with his wife Karen and their two children.

**MIKE BUTLER**

Mike Butler ’86 starred as an outﬁelder at Rhode Island College from 1983-86. During his four-year career, he batted .369 in 109 games, with 137 hits, 85 runs scored, 79 RBI, 29 doubles, six triples, nine home runs and 41 stolen bases.

Butler ranks third all-time at RIC in career doubles, fifth in batting and stolen bases, sixth in hits and tenth in runs scored.

He was a two-time All-New England selection, earning First Team honors as a senior in 1986. That same year, Butler’s .438 batting average was 24th in the nation and he was selected to play in the annual New England Intercollegiate Baseball Association (NEIBA) All-Star Game played at Fenway Park.

Butler, who was recently named to RIC’s All-75th Anniversary Baseball Team, earned a bachelor’s degree in political science from RIC and minored in criminal justice. Butler is currently a letter carrier for the U.S. Postal Service, a position he’s held for 19 years.

He resides in Barrington with his wife Laura and their two children.

**MIKE MANZO**

Mike Manzo ’95 was an outstanding outfielder for the Anchormen from 1983-86. During his four-year career, he batted .363 in 108 games with 138 hits, 92 runs scored, 82 RBI, 17 doubles, four triples and 16 home runs.

The Providence native is currently fifth all-time at RIC in career hits, is tied for sixth in career home runs, is seventh in career batting and eighth in career runs scored and RBI.

As a junior in 1985, Manzo batted .462, the highest single-season average in Rhode Island College baseball history. He belted three home runs in a game twice during his career, once against Suffolk and again vs. Stonehill. He was recently named to RIC’s All-75th Anniversary Baseball Team.

Manzo earned a bachelor’s degree in political science from RIC and a master’s degree in political science from California State University Fullerton.

He is currently a teacher at Bishop Amat Memorial High School in La Puente, Calif., where he also serves as the director of athletics and is an assistant baseball coach. In 2002, the Lancers received national recognition finishing atop the USA Today high school baseball poll as well as ranking as the #1 high school baseball team by Collegiate Baseball and Baseball America.

He resides in Hacienda Heights, Calif.

**VINCENT MCCRYSTAL**

Vincent McCrystal ’81 was a three-year letter winner in basketball during his career as an Anchorman. As a forward, he was one of the top scorers and rebounders on a team that included fellow RIC Athletic Hall of Famers Cappy Asremenyi ’51 and Paul Donovan ’51.

A native of Pawtucket, McCrystal began his collegiate career at Georgetown University and suffered a career-ending knee injury during his freshman year. He later transferred into Rhode Island College of Education.

After a three-year stint in the Marine Corps from 1951-54, he embarked on a long career as an educator and coach. From 1954-62, he taught social studies at St. Raphael Academy and captured the Rhode Island Class B Football State Championship in 1961.

McCrystal moved to East Providence High School from 1962-71 where he also served as the head boys’ basketball coach. The Townies made the R.I. State Playoffs every season and were New England semi-finalists in 1964.

McCrystal retired in 1988 after spending 17 years as an administrator in the Cumberland School System, serving in the principal’s capacity at North Cumberland Middle School and as the assistant principal at Cumberland High School.

He received a bachelor’s degree in education from the R.I.C.E. in 1951.

A resident of Rumford, he is the father of four and the grandfather of 10.

**SHANA O’CONNOR**

Shana (Willis) O’Connor ’98 is one of the most dominant softball players in Rhode Island College history. A pitcher and outfielder, Willis could control a game from the pitching circle or from the plate.

Continued on p 11
Annual Student-Athlete Parents’ Breakfast set for Homecoming 2005

Parents of current Rhode Island College student-athletes are cordially invited to attend the annual Student-Athlete Parents’ Breakfast in The Murray Center on Saturday, Oct. 1 beginning at 9 a.m., as part of Homecoming 2005.

For reservations, please call the RIC Athletic Department at 401-456-8007.

Hall of Fame

At the conclusion of her career in 1998, the Westerly native was RIC’s all-time leader in games played, at-bats, batting average, runs scored, RBI, hits, doubles, total bases, slugging percentage, pitching appearances, games started, complete games, wins and innings pitched.

O’Connor was a two-time All-Little East Conference selection during her career. She was recently named to RIC’s All-75th Anniversary Softball Team.

She earned a bachelor’s degree in secondary education with a concentration in math from Rhode Island College in 1998.

O’Connor is currently a math teacher in the Warwick Public School system. She is the varsity head softball coach at Toll Gate High School. This year, in just their second season as a fast-pitch club, O’Connor led the Titans to the Rhode Island Div. II State Championship.

She resides in Warwick with her husband Thomas.

John Veader ’57 came to the Rhode Island College College of Education in the fall of 1953. Veader played four years of soccer as a goalkeeper and four years of hoops as a guard. Although he wasn’t experienced in soccer, head coach Bob Brown thought enough of Veader to put him in as the starting goalie. Veader responded by earning All-New England honors from his sophomore through senior campaigns.

After earning his bachelor’s degree in education in 1957, Veader returned to East Providence where he was a social studies teacher for 42 years. He is currently the superintendant of schools. He also served in the United States Marine Corps Reserve from 1961-69. Veader was inducted into the Rhode Island Div. II State, St. Joseph’s, and Rivier & Mitchell throughout the morning and afternoon.

He was a social studies teacher for the next 35 years. He served as the social studies department head for 25 years until his retirement in 1992. He earned a master’s degree in history from the University of Rhode Island in 1966.

Veader has kept active in coaching, serving as an assistant football coach for the past 42 years. He’s currently the quarterbacks coach at East Providence High School, a position he’s held for the past 10 years. He was inducted into the Rhode Island Football Hall of Fame in 1997.

Veader resides in Barrington with his wife Lee. He has two sons and a stepdaughter.

Manuel Vinhateiro ’69 was one of the first great Anchormen in the rich history of the RIC wrestling program. At the conclusion of his career in 1969, the East Providence native was the program’s all-time leader with 28 career wins. He was the program’s first-ever junior to be named a captain.

Vinhateiro was the first recipient of RIC’s Outstanding Wrestler Award, garnering this honor as a junior in 1968 after posting an undefeated season. Vinhateiro was also the first recipient of the wrestling coaches award, “The Captain’s Cup.” A lightning-quick takedown specialist, he never lost more than twice in a season.

He was awarded a bachelor’s degree in education from RIC, and received his MEd from Providence College. Vinhateiro is currently a doctoral candidate at Teachers College Columbia University. Vinhateiro’s career as an educator is still going strong today.

He was a teacher in the East Providence School Department from 1970-82. He served as the assistant principal for administration at East Providence High School from 1982-97 and then as the principal from 1997-2000. He was the deputy superintendent for the East Providence School Department from 2000-04 and is currently the superintendent of schools.

He also served in the United States Marine Corps Reserve from 1969-75.

He resides in East Providence with his wife Stephanie. They have a son and daughter.

Men’s Cross Country

Sat. Sept. 17 at UMass Dartmouth Invitational 11 a.m.
Sat. Sept. 24 Ray Dwyer Invitational 11 a.m.
Sat. Oct. 1 at Tri-State Invitational * 11 a.m.

* Little East Conference contest  * Hosted by CCRI

Be sure to check out www.ric.edu/athletics for updated scores and standings.

SPORTS

Events Sept. 13 - Oct. 3

Homecoming 2005 Athletic events

9-10 a.m. in The Murray Center
• Student-Athlete Parents’ Breakfast.

9:30 a.m. in The Murray Center
• RIC Women’s Volleyball Invitational. See the Anchorwomen battle Framingham State, St. Joseph’s, and Rivier & Mitchell throughout the morning and afternoon.

10 a.m.
• Softball will face St. Anselm’s and Stonehill at the Dayna A Bazar Softball Complex.
• Men’s Soccer Alumni Game at the Varsity Soccer Stadium.
• Baseball Alumni Game at Anchorman Field.

11 a.m.
• Women’s Tennis squares off against Plymouth State.
• Dedication of the newly renovated Soccer/Black Track Complex, Legacy Walk and the Class of 2003 Press Box Gift.

1 p.m.
• Men’s Soccer battles UMass Dartmouth.

Registration encouraged for alumni athletic events. For additional information, please contact Art Pontarelli at 401-456-8863 or Mike Morrison at 401-456-8260.

Men’s Soccer

Wed. Sept. 14 at Bowdoin College 4:30 p.m.
Sat. Sept. 17 at University of Southern Maine * 1 p.m.
Wed. Sept. 21 at Johnson & Wales University 7 p.m.
Sat. Sept. 24 UMass Boston * Noon
Tues. Sept. 27 at Tufts University 4 p.m.
Thurs. Sept. 29 Roger Williams University 4 p.m.
Sat. Oct. 1 at UMass Dartmouth * 1 p.m.

Women’s Soccer

Tues. Sept. 13 Johnson & Wales 3:30 p.m.
Sat. Sept. 17 Southern Maine * 1 p.m.
Wed. Sept. 21 at Westminster State 7 p.m.
Sat. Sept. 24 at UMass Boston * 1 p.m.
Sun. Sept. 25 St. Joseph’s College (ME) 3 p.m.
Wed. Sept. 28 Framingham State 4 p.m.
Sat. Oct. 1 at UMass Dartmouth * 3:30 p.m.

Women’s Tennis

Tues. Sept. 13 at Western Connecticut * 4 p.m.
Thurs. Sept. 15 Nichols 4 p.m.
Sat. Sept. 17 Southern Maine * Noon
Tues. Sept. 20 at Bridgewater State * 4 p.m.
Thurs. Sept. 22 Springfield 4 p.m.
Sat. Sept. 24 at Grass Court Invitationsals * Noon
Thurs. Sept. 27 at UMass Boston * 3:30 p.m.
Thurs. Sept. 29 Roger Williams 3:30 p.m.
Sat. Oct. 1 Plymouth State * 11 a.m.
Mon. Oct. 3 Johnson & Wales 3:30 p.m.

Women’s Volleyball

Wed. Sept. 14 at WPI 7 p.m.
Fri-Sat. Sept. 16-17 Little East Round Robin * 6 p.m./10 a.m.
Tues. Sept. 20 Wesleyan 7 p.m.
Fri-Sat. Sept. 23-24 at Bridgewater State Invitational 4 p.m./10 a.m.
Wed. Sept. 28 at Western Connecticut * 6 p.m.
Fri-Sat. Sept. 30-Oct. 1 RIC Invitational 5:30 p.m./9 a.m.

Men’s and Women’s Cross Country

Sat. Sept. 17 at UMass Dartmouth Invitational 11 a.m.
Sat. Sept. 24 Ray Dwyer Invitational 11 a.m.
Sat. Oct. 1 at Tri-State Invitational * 11 a.m.

* Little East Conference contest  * Hosted by CCRI

Be sure to check out www.ric.edu/athletics for updated scores and standings.
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. Send to: Rhode Island College, Office of News and Public Relations, Kauferman Center, Providence, RI 02908.

Opening Meeting
Continued from p 1

ever received by the College – to endow the Cathryn Annette Ducey Scholarship Fund. The fund will target sophomores, junior and senior English majors. The late Ducey was a long-time RIC faculty member who retired in 1995. The gift was provided by the Ducey estate. To help solidify recruitment, retention and timely graduations, the College’s Enrolment Management Task Force has suggested several actions that have since been adopted, including:

• Completion of a faculty-advising manual to be available this month.
• Better and more personal communication with at risk students during pre-registration periods.
• Creating a minority student peer mentoring system for minority freshmen.
• Expansion of recruitment initiatives such as individual letters, telephone calls and invitations for campus visits.
• Implementation of a media campaign to increase understanding of the value of a RIC education. This will be accomplished with a 60-second spot that will be aired on NBC-10 and Cox Cable throughout the academic year. Cox will also air at no extra cost segments profiling company employees who are RIC grads.

In the area of technology, the wireless network is now available in Adams Library, Alger Hall, Clarke Science Building, Donovan Dining Center, Henry Barnard School, Technology Center in Horace Mann Hall, and the Student Union.

Apogee Telecom will now provide and maintain ResNet Internet service to the residence halls, which will free up bandwidth within the College’s existing network and allow the in-house technology staff to direct more attention to the academic and administrative systems.

Nazarian also announced the winner of the 2005-06 Mary Tucker Thorp Professorship as Maureen T. Reddy, professor of English. Reddy, who has a BA and MA from Boston College and a PhD from the University of Minnesota, teaches Victorian fiction, black American literature, women’s literature, and literary theory at the College.

The Thorp award – first conferred 26 years ago – carries a stipend of $1,000 and six credits of release time to pursue professional activities. It is open to full professors on the College faculty and is given for outstanding teaching and recognized excellence in scholarship, creativity and/or public service.

Construction on the new residence hall will begin by the end of this year, weather permitting. The six-level residence hall, a mix of suites and apartments, is set to open in September of 2007. It will be the largest building on campus, and house 367 students.

Currently, the College has 895 student residents, with a waiting list of over 300. “Much of this pressure will be relieved by the new residence hall, but until then the accommodations will remain tight,” said Nazarian.

A problem that occurred last academic year – electrical outages in residence halls – has been remedied with the installation of generators designed to provide 100 percent power to each of the affected buildings.

For the increasing number of RIC alumni who live in Florida came the news that the Sunshine State has become the site of the only official alumni chapter outside of Rhode Island. With about 1,500 alumni, Florida has the greatest RIC representation other than southern New England.

Near the end of the meeting, Jason Blank, president of RIC/ AFT, the faculty union at the College, led a contingent of RIC educators into the meeting. The educators had boycotted the opening event to call attention to the fact that the union does not have a contract.

Blank, in remarks to the audience, stressed the importance of reaching agreement on a new pact for the teachers, noting that the College and educators need each other to succeed.

Nazarian said that he supported “in principle, that we get a fair and equitable contract for everyone.” Confidence that a new contract for RIC/AFT members can be achieved has grown after the University of Rhode Island recently reached agreement with the Board of Governors for Higher Education on a new deal.

In closing, Nazarian called on College faculty and staff to “build upon the legacy of those who have preceded us at this great institution, as we begin a new year together at Rhode Island College.”

The heirs to that legacy include the 62 new faculty and staff members who will replace many of those who arrived at RIC in the rapid-growth period of the early 1970s. They and the rest of the Rhode Island College community welcomed to new academic year with the opening of classes on Aug. 29.

MERGENCY Consortium lands $100,000 grant

The MERCURY Consortium, of which Rhode Island College is a member, recently obtained a $100,000 grant from the National Science Foundation.

Glenisson de Oliveira, RIC assistant professor of chemistry, helped secure the grant, along with representatives from Hamilton College, University of Richmond, Connecticut College, Mt. Holyoke College, Westminster College, Truman State University, and Wooster College.

The grant proposal was titled “Acquisition of a Linux Cluster for the Molecular Education and Research Consortium in Undergraduate computational chemistry (MERCURY).”

The funding complements a previous $780,000 grant from the National Science Foundation for the formation of the MERCURY consortium, and will be used to obtain computers and software.

The consortium is composed of predominantly undergraduate institutions where publishable undergraduate research in computational chemistry is conducted. Computer resources are housed and maintained at Hamilton College, in Clinton, N.Y.

Further information about the MERCURY consortium can be found at ric.edu/gdeoliveira.

GHOSTS (AND GOBLINS) FROM THE PAST: In this photo from Oct. 29, 1982 we see revelers from the fourth “Annual Great Horrorween Monster Bash.” Judging by other photos of the event from the 1983 yearbook, the attendees included four Raggedy Ann and Andy couples, two Playboy bunnies, one E.T. and even a father Guido Sarducci from Saturday Night Live.
**Garofalos building an educational enterprise**

Kristine Garofalo ’89, MEd ’91 and her husband Rob, of Berlin, Conn., are educators and entrepreneurs. Their Teen Winners venture, started in 2004, has several components, including a book by Rob that promotes teenagers making healthy choices and realizing their dreams.

Rob, a past Connecticut Association of Schools Teacher of the Year, also provides motivational speeches and education-related workshops to parents, teachers and students.

This summer, the Garofalos expanded into private tutoring.

*What's News* recently spoke with Kristine, a math specialist at Hebron Elementary School who holds bachelor’s and master’s degrees from RIC, about their fledgling business.

**WN:** How did you and your husband come up with the idea for Teen Winners?

**Kristine:** Teen Winners, LLC evolved from our desire to create a thriving, successful business that also gives us the opportunity to positively impact the world. Our company motto is “Reshaping Our World.”

**WN:** How are the private tutor sessions in the summer different from a regular school setting? What makes them better?

**Kristine:** Private tutoring sessions allow for individualized attention – which is invaluable. There’s an old saying about youth – “They won’t care how much you know until they know how much you care,” and this one-on-one or small-group setting lends itself perfectly to student-teacher bonding.

**WN:** What do you hope the students gain from a summer of learning?

**Kristine:** The goal is for students to glean specialized knowledge that enhances their individual skill sets as well as their confidence levels.

**WN:** How are chess, debate, and drama incorporated into the lesson plans?

**Kristine:** Lessons and instruction revolve around one’s courses of choice. Within chess, debate, or drama, for example, students experience firsthand the challenges and complexities of the activity while learning the required skills in discrete phases.

**AND THE BUCCI AWARD GOES TO…MADELINE NIXON:** This year is the first for the Bucci award, which will recognize one faculty member every year from the Feinstein School of Education and Human Development, and will alternate yearly between teaching, scholarship and service, and the Henry Barnard School faculty.

**WN:** What are the ages of children who participate in the program?

**Kristine:** We are offering courses for elementary- and middle-school students.

**WN:** How common is this form of teaching instruction in the country?

**Kristine:** It’s becoming more and more common as parents look to augment what they perceive as inadequate enrichment opportunities within the public school system.

**WN:** How do the children react to private tutoring as opposed to being taught in a group setting?

**Kristine:** Children are more able to let their guards down and just enjoy the learning process. There is no fear of being judged or laughed at in the environment we’re able to cultivate.

**WN:** What is in the future for your program?

**Kristine:** We are just starting out with this venture, so we hope that it in combination with my husband’s popular book, *A Winner By Any Standard: A Personal Growth Journey for Every American Teen*, and our school presentations, we will continue to empower children for decades to come.

**WN:** How do you think your time and experiences at RIC prepared you for this challenge in your life?

**Kristine:** My years at RIC were incredibly fruitful. Not only did I learn so much about content and pedagogy, but my professors passed on to me their love and passion for making a difference.

**Our World.**

GETTING DOWN TO BUSINESS: "Doing Business With the Federal Government," a free workshop hosted by Congressman James Langevin ’90 on Aug. 25 in Alger Hall, offered advice from representatives from the U.S. General Services Administration, R.I. Procurement Technical Assistance Center, R.I. Economic Development Corporation and the Small Business Administration. "Rhode Island businesses have so much to offer our country," Langevin said. "And there are many opportunities for these companies to earn government contracts."

Above, Langevin (center) speaks with (l-r) Mark S. Hayward, district director of the U.S. Small Business Administration’s Rhode Island district office, James Schwickart, dean of RIC’s School of Management, and Normand T. Deragon, public information officer also with the U.S. Small Business Administration’s R.I. district office.
RIC alum gives voice and music to America’s immigrant heritage

BY Lauren Mesale ’06, Staff Writer

Ellis Island – home of the “six-second physical” and often referred to as the “Island of Tears” – was a symbol of hope and a new beginning for some 12 million European immigrants entering America from 1892 to 1954 by way of this small island in New York Harbor. Their stories are perhaps better told through music than through the written word. At least that is what Peter Boyer ’91, composer and RIC music major, thought when he created Ellis Island: The Dream of America, which was released in May on the Naxos label. It has since garnered praise around the world and was reviewed more than 100 of these stories, ultimately choosing to perform several of them to musical life.

“Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, The wretched refuse of your teeming shore, Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!” –Emma Lazarus, New York, 1883

RIC offered to Peter Boyer what Ellis Island did for immigrants: a starting point for a bright future. “I received my grounding and foundation from Rhode Island College,” Boyer said.

Lauren Mesale ‘06

Peter Boyer

PETER BOYER

Seven actors were brought on board to deliver monologues in first-person. Barry Bostwick, Blair Brown, Olympia Dukakis, Anne Jackson, Bebe Neuwirth, Eli Wallach and Louis Zorich, directed by Martin Charnin, were chosen for their theatrical expertise. Boyer conducted the U.K.’s Philharmonia Orchestra.

Boyer earned his bachelor’s degree in music from the RIC in 1991. He was also awarded an honorary doctor of music degree from the College in 2004. For that project, immigrants were asked questions about their reasons for coming to America, the trials of adjusting to life in the United States, and what life was like in their native lands. Boyer reviewed more than 100 of these stories, ultimately choosing to perform several of them to musical life.

“I was drawn to the diversity of the 1910-1940 time period,” Boyer said. “And I was able to choose seven unique stories of immigrants from seven different countries.”

“There were some moving lines that stood out,” Boyer added. “One immigrant had said ‘[In America] we are all strangers.’”

Seven actors were brought on board to deliver monologues in first-person. Barry Bostwick, Blair Brown, Olympia Dukakis, Anne Jackson, Bebe Neuwirth, Eli Wallach and Louis Zorich, directed by Martin Charnin, were chosen for their theatrical expertise. Boyer conducted the U.K.’s Philharmonia Orchestra.

Boyer earned his bachelor’s degree in music from the RIC in 1991. He was also awarded an honorary doctor of music degree from the College in 2004.

RIC offered to Peter Boyer what Ellis Island did for immigrants: a starting point for a bright future. “I received my grounding and foundation from Rhode Island College,” Boyer said.

Lauren Mesale ’06

Peter Boyer

PETER BOYER

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Angelo V. Rosati, professor emeritus, noted artist

Born in Fontecchio-Abruzzi, Italy, Rosati attended school in an ornate, 18th-century palace, where, he told the Providence Journal in a 1973 article, “it was difficult for anyone with a love of art to keep his mind on anything but the beauty that surrounded him.”

He studied and admired the numerous artificats of his school, and also observed an artist painting a religious fresco in the local church. “I thought painting was the greatest thing a man could do,” he said.

Rosati went on to create paintings and sculptures that have been exhibited in numerous galleries in the U.S. and Europe and in private collections as well.

He came to the then Rhode Island College of Education in 1958 as an assistant professor of art, working in a department that consisted of “two faculty members, two art rooms and a concentration in art,” he said in a What’s News interview in 2002. Rosati served as department chair twice and was instrumental in introducing the first major — art education — to RIC.

An endowed scholarship fund was established at RIC in 1999 by Rosati and his wife Antoinette, a former special education teacher in the Warwick School System. The scholarship is awarded annually to two students: one who plans to become a priest and the other an African-American female pursuing a major in art education.

Rosati donated paintings or drawings to raise funds for various charities, and at RIC, for the art club’s music, speech and summer chamber music festival. He worked on the RIC Dance Company’s first production on the new campus (1959), for which he designed the sets and costumes, including makeup. He also designed and created stage sets for RIC theatre productions.

During his time at the College, Rosati continued to enhance his art skills, traveling to Rome in 1964 to study advanced life drawing sculpture at the Academy of Fine Arts. He returned to Rome in 1972 to work on bronze casting at the Bruni Foundry, and in 1977, expanded his silver-crafting talent in a trip to Mexico for a workshop.

The following year, he learned about the art of copper repose at a workshop in L’Aquila, Italy. Rosati also toured major art and archeological centers in Europe, Asia, and Africa.

In July of 2004, a permanent exhibit of Rosati’s work was opened at Imagine Fine Arts in Smithfield. The opening was attended by one of the Vatican’s high-ranking officials, Cardinal Francis Arinze, who received a painting from the deeply religious Rosati.

Prior to arriving at RIC, he received a fine arts master’s degree from Columbia University in New York and an art education bachelor’s degree from State University of Rhode Island in New York he had emigrated to in 1937.

Rosati was a veteran of World War II, participating in landings in the Philippines and Okinawa. He attained the rank of corporal and was awarded a Bronze Star and Purple Heart.

He is survived by his wife, a brother and sister, three sisters in-law, five nieces and five nephews.

Donations in Angelo Rosati’s memory can be made to the St. Edward’s Food & Wellness Center, 10 Caxton St., Providence, RI 02904.

Edward C. (Stepian) Rosati, professor emerita of art, and supporter of environmental and wildlife groups, died in May at the age of 90.

Becker was born in East Haddam, Conn., taught at RIC for 27 years and was the first chair of the art dept. In 1960, she designed the official Rhode Island College seal, adapting the central flame symbol from the Holbrook Murals in the foyer of Robert’s hall.

She was the author of the 1959 art education book, Adventures with Scissors and Paper, a work that “should have a wholesome impact on the creative development of children and teachers of children,” the editor’s preface stated.

Becker led numerous workshops on paper sculpture and ceramics. Her ceramic sculpture, Blissful Bison, was purchased by the University of Pittsburgh Museum.

She was a member of the National Art Education, Eastern Arts, and Rhode Island Art Teachers associations, the last of which she twice served as president. She was also member of the National Committee on Art Education and served on juries for local and regional scholastic awards.

A resident of North Scituate for 40 years, Becker was involved with numerous environmental and wildlife organizations after retiring from RIC in 1972. The Audubon Society of Rhode Island, The Nature Conservancy, The Sierra Club, The Wilderness Society and The Cousteau Society are just some of the many groups that she supported.

A graduate New York University, where she earned a doctorate in education, Becker received her bachelor’s and master’s degrees in fine arts from Syracuse University. She also studied at The Norwich Art School, University of Colorado and Rhode Island School of Design.

Becker’s husband, Lt. Arthur K. Becker, was killed in action on Guadalcanal in 1943. She leaves no surviving relatives.

Barbara H. Cowan, assistant professor of social work

Barbara H. Cowan, assistant professor of social work and an advocate for women and children in Rhode Island, died in May at her home in East Providence.

Cowan, 66, was a member of the RIC faculty since 1981 and was active in the community as a board member of the Sojourner House, a shelter for battered women and children, and as a consultant and counselor at the John Hope Settlement House for inner-city children in Providence.

Cowan was a charter member of the Fairfield County Alumnae Chapter of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. More recently she worked with the Providence chapter, where she was a member of the social action and scholarship committees. She was also a member of the National Association of Social Workers and the National Association of Black Social Workers.

Cowan was the chair of an education sub-committee on diabetes for the state Department of Health that developed workshops to educate low-income and elderly about diabetes and courses of treatment.

She served on the School of Social Work’s 25th anniversary committee for the 2003-04 academic year and was a member of the Multicultural Staff Organization at the College. She earned an associate’s degree from Westbrook Junior College in Maine, a bachelor’s degree from the University of Michigan, a master’s in social work from the University of Connecticut and a doctorate in social work from Fordham University in New York.

In her spare time she enjoyed bridge, theatre and traveling, visiting such places as Mexico, Africa and the Bahamas.

Cowan is survived by a brother, sister-in-law, three nieces, and a nephew, along with many cousins and extended family members. A memorial service was held at the John Hope Settlement House in Providence.

Donations in her memory can be made to the John Hope Settlement House, 7 Burgess St., Providence, RI 02903 or Sojourner House, 386 Smith Street, Providence, RI 02908.

Elizabeth Bosworth Carey ’61, retired RIC professor

Elizabeth “Betsy” Bosworth Carey, 80, retired RIC assistant professor of elementary education and alum of the College, died in April in Stamford, Conn. Carey had been a resident of Darien and New Canaan, Conn. since 1991.

Carey obtained her bachelor’s degree at the University of Rhode Island and received a master’s degree in education from RIC. She was also a social worker for the state of New Hampshire.

Carey’s life was devoted to education. Over more than 30 years as an elementary school teacher and member of the RIC faculty, she touched the lives of thousands of students. At RIC, Carey specialized in the training and guidance of new teachers.

After retiring in June of 1991, she continued to travel to Rhode Island to coach new teachers. Carey is survived by a son, daughter-in-law, and three grandchildren. Memorial donations may be made to the Richard L. Rose Foundation in Darien, Conn.

Cary’s son, Doug, may be reached at 2 Ironwood Lane, Darien, Conn. 06820.
Unity Center receives paintings from Bayoc, McKee

BY Lauren Mesale '06, Staff Writer

Two original paintings by well-known artists Cbabi Bayoc and Kumiko McKee were recently donated to the College. Both are now on display in the Unity Center, located in the lower level of the Donovan Dining Center.

Cbabi Bayoc’s 40” x 30” acrylic-on-canvas painting, Trumpet Solo, depicts a jazz ensemble set on a brilliant green background. It was originally commissioned by the U.S. Bank Jazz Festival of St. Louis, Mo. for its 2002 concert event.

Bayoc said he donated the painting to the College because he supports the goals of the Unity Center and hopes that his gift will inspire creativity and cultural understanding in the campus community.

This technique has been labeled “caricaturist,” emphasizing lips, eyes, noses and other features. He became a full-time artist in 1995 after graduating from Grambling State University.

Kumiko McKee’s style.

Kumiko McKee was born in Japan and has lived in the United States since 1994. As a child, she enjoyed drawing female portraits. She became interested in oil painting after trying it for the first time at age 16.

Her 28” x 48” framed painting, Akashi Lady, completed in 2002, is part of a sub series called the Tale of Genji, and is based on Japanese culture. The Akashi Lady is a concubine of Genji.

McKee uses symbolic elements from the story in the background of the painting, combining two- and three-dimensional images. The main figure in the painting is three-dimensional, while the background is flat, with small classical Japanese paintings and gold cloud patterns. The contrast of a three-dimensional figure and the flatness of the background is characteristic of McKee’s style.

McKee has a BFA degree in painting from the University of Wyoming in the U.S. She opened her art studio in Colorado, and an online gallery in 2003.

“Kumiko McKee’s gift helps us all to understand the diversity and depth of Asian-Pacific American Culture,” said Aaron Bruce, director of RIC’s Unity Center.

“Her contribution to the Unity Center is absolutely wonderful.”