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What's News At Rhode Island College

Rhode Island College

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RIC to host ‘Congress to Campus’ program Nov. 13-15

BY Jane Fusco, Editor

Two former members of Congress from opposing parties will be at Rhode Island College to discuss something that they actually agree on — that more students should consider careers in public service, and even run for Congress.


Their visit is part of the Congress to Campus program, which sends bipartisan pairs of former members of Congress, one Democrat and one Republican, for a three-day visit to college campuses around the country to help students better understand and believe in the nobility of public service.

“We try to give students a better understanding of Congress, which is confounding at times. We’re concerned about the anti-politician feeling that seems to prevail in the country today,” said David Skaggs, former Democratic congressman from Colorado and head of the Center for Democracy and Citizenship (CDC).

Meyers served for 12 years as congresswoman from the third district in Kansas. She was chair of the Small Business Committee, the first woman to head a full committee in the U.S. House in 20 years. She also served on the International Relations Committee, and the Economic and Education Committee, and was co-chair of the International Women’s Leadership Conference of the Americas.

Hochbrueckner served eight years as congressman from the first district of New York, distinguishing himself as a leader on critical issues such as defense conversion and environmental protection, serving on the House Armed Services and Merchant Marine and Fisheries committees.

Both former representatives have a long-standing history of leadership and distinguished records of service in the legislature.

During their visit, Meyers and Hochbrueckner will conduct classes, meet with students and the local community.

State Home CD of orphans’ stories released; RIC breaks ground to restore yellow cottage

A new CD of interviews with former State Home residents and staff is on sale ($20 each) to help restore the yellow cottage, once living quarters for orphans, into a child welfare resource center. Cottage restoration groundbreaking was held Oct. 24.

The CD plays for less than an hour, but the voices, words, and images it conjures will remain long after.

“Let us build a home for such children,” — Stories from the State Home and School, is a 56-minute audio CD that includes more than 30 interviews with former residents, employees and volunteers at the State Home and School for Children/O’Rourke Children’s Center, Rhode Island’s orphanage from 1885-1979, who were willing to tell their stories. The candid, descriptive and emotional accounts tell about life as a ward of the state by those who lived and worked there.

“Because there is no official history of the Home, we knew very little about daily life in the institution, about policies in place, about changes in population and about whether the institution afforded good care to the children it housed,” said Sandra Enos ‘71, associate professor of sociology at RIC.

The CD was released on Oct. 24, the same day architects broke ground to begin renovation of the yellow cottage, once a dormitory and the last original remaining structure from the State Home, which will be converted to a teaching and resource center for issues concerning child welfare in the state.

The cost of the CD is $20. Proceeds will support restoration of the yellow cottage.

The CD traces the paths of the children sent to the State Home,
This regular feature of What’s News looks at the links between the world and Rhode Island College. The story below was written by Ezra Stiegliiz, professor of elementary education and coordinator of Overseas Programs for the Feinstein School of Education and Human Development.

In 2004, Harvard University reviewed its undergraduate curriculum for the first time in 30 years. It was reported in The Providence Journal on April 27, 2004 that the University concluded, “… students need … a greater familiarity with the world that can only be gained from study abroad.”

In a world that is constantly “shrinking,” it is essential that students at institutions of higher education obtain a global perspective by completing an academic experience in another country.

To this end, the Feinstein School of Education and Human Development offers two overseas programs for students enrolled in teacher preparation programs. The first is a student exchange program with a college in the United Kingdom. Students enrolled in an elementary education teacher preparation program at St. Martin’s College spend 12 days in Rhode Island and students enrolled in an elementary education teacher preparation program at Rhode Island College spend 12 days in England.

During these visits, students attend college classes, visit public schools, and learn about the local culture and environment. Besides the actual visits to each other’s countries, the students are in contact with one another via an Internet forum established for program participants.

The second program provides students with the opportunity to student teach overseas. Undergraduate and graduate students seeking elementary or secondary education certification make a semester of teaching at St. Martin’s College in Lancaster, England, or James Cook University in Townsville, Australia. RIC students are placed in a regular classroom and supervised by a professional from an institution of higher education.

Each placement is preceded by an orientation program to acclimate RIC students to the country’s system of education. All RIC requirements are met as a result of successfully completing a student teaching experience abroad. Students are eligible for Rhode Island teacher certification upon successful completion of the student teaching experience.

Other than obtaining professional experiences in another country, student participation in an education abroad program is increasingly recognized as a tool for personal development. This aspect of study abroad is described so well by RIC student Nicole Vanderheiden who completed a student teaching experience in Australia in the spring of 2005. She writes in her review of the program: “I feel that being in a foreign country with an open mind and an eagerness to learn is one of the most valuable experiences one can have. You learn so much about another culture by interacting with people on a daily basis. You learn how to communicate with others who have a different background – thereby reflecting more on your own country and culture.” It certainly appears that education abroad has positive academic as well as nonacademic benefits.

Don Smith, professor emeritus of art, has on display a group of about 50 works of watercolors and oil on canvas at the Newport Art Museum until Sunday, Nov. 6. The exhibition, “Paintings of Don Smith: New Work,” was gleaned from a larger group of approximately 300 pieces done from the fall of 2001 to the spring of 2005.

Smith will discuss his work and take questions on Nov. 6 at 2 p.m. at the museum, which is located at 76 Bellevue Ave. in Newport. Museum hours are Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sunday from noon to 4 p.m. A 12-page illustrated booklet of Smith’s work is available at the museum or by contacting the artist at 401-231-4540.

An educator workshop on implementing genocide education into the curriculum will be held Tuesday, Nov. 8, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Alumni Lounge at Roberts Hall.

The workshop, conducted by the organization Facing History and Ourselves, is a follow-up to the first statewide Genocide Education Symposium held last March at the College. The event is sponsored by the Armenian Martyrs’ Memorial Committee of Rhode Island. During the course of the day, Facing History staff will introduce educators to the new resource book, Crimes Against Humanity and Civilization: The Genocide of the Armenians, and consider the dilemmas faced by the international community during the genocide of 1915. In light of current human rights violations, this resource will provide entry points for teachers who want their students to examine the legacies of this history, including the struggle for the recognition of the genocide as a crime against humanity. Participants will explore strategies to bring this often-neglected history into the classroom. Educators will be provided a Certificate of Attendance, along with professional credit hours. Continental breakfast and lunch are included. The fee for the workshop is $100 per person. Anyone interested in participating in the workshop should forward a check by Nov. 3 made payable to the Armenian Martyrs’ Memorial Committee of R.I. in the appropriate amount. Mail checks to Genocide Education Workshop, 3 Steeple Lane, the greta, RI 02836.

For more information regarding the workshop, call Pauline Getzoyan at 401-486-3776, or Esther Kalajian at 401-885-9116.

What’s News at Rhode Island College

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Story ideas are welcome. Call 401-456-8090 or email jfusco@ric.edu.

The next issue of What’s News will be Nov. 14.
School of Management internship allows student to advocate for personal cause

BY Alison Strandberg, Staff Writer

José Lobatón probably would shrug it off if you called him a role model or an inspiration, but those words describe this standout Rhode Island College student perfectly. Lobatón, 33, a senior with a double major in economics and finance, can now add advocate to that impressive list of traits after completing a semester-long fellowship with the Rhode Island Governor’s Commission on Disabilities (GCD).

Lobatón was born in Mexico but his family moved to Rhode Island when he was six months old. In 1995, he was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. At the time of his diagnosis, Lobatón was an X-ray technologist at St. Croix County Hospital and was a clinical instructor at the Community College of Rhode Island. In 2000, Lobatón began using a wheelchair and found it greatly impeded his ability to work as a technologist.

At that point, Lobatón was at a crossroads in his life and unsure about the future. But, he said, “I was determined not to give up.” He asked himself: ‘Where should I go? What should I do?”’ Using what he calls his “self resource,” Lobatón made a decision to begin a new chapter in his life. After pursuing different avenues and investigating numerous resources, he enrolled at RIC to pursue higher education and a new career.

Earlier this year, the College’s Career Development Center alerted Lobatón to a fellowship program at the GCD – knowing it would be a good match for someone with Lobatón’s positive attitude and ability to advocate for those with disabilities.

The GCD’s objective is to ensure that all people with disabilities are afforded the opportunities to experience at RIC has been a positive environment that Lobatón hopes to one day be a financial advisor. Lobatón feels his experience at RIC has been a positive one and credits the Office of Student Life for helping people with disabilities. “It is a great advocate for a person who has a disability and wants to get out there and continue with their life.”

Lobatón is certainly that type of person, but he is not content to just continue with his life. Lobatón has strived to consistently improve himself despite difficult circumstances that many would find overwhelming. His determined spirit and positive outlook made him a life-long advocate regardless of what the next chapter in his remarkable life may be.

For further information on the GCD Fellowship program, interested students can visit the website at www.gcd.state.ri.us/. For information about the School of Management Internship Program, contact Lori Martin at 401-456-9637.
As mid-term grades are issued, and Homecoming '05 is a fond, but fading memory, the Division is gearing up with preparations for the next Alumni Magazine, annual appeal, Annual Report of Gifts, and a special holiday greeting from President Nazarian.

Believe it or not, we are actually preparing the first communications related to Commencement '06. And amidst all of these preparations, we are looking for the appropriate mask and costume to wear when the RIC co-op children make their annual trick or treat visit to the President’s Office on Oct. 28.

Homecoming '05 had many highlights, not the least of which was the perfect weather and 1,500 alumni and friends who joined us for the activities pictured in this publication. (See p 16.)

Of particular note for the development office, was the dedication of the Ducey Student Media Center, a component of the recently renovated Student Union. The Media Center houses RIC-TV, The Anchor, and WXIN, all student-run organizations that produce broadcast entertainment for other public access outlets.

The largest gifts to most organizations from individuals often are made through estate plans. Yet, with recent changes in the tax laws, very few of those estate gifts are created to avoid or reduce federal taxes. For example, just 1.2 percent of the 2.4 million Americans who died in 2003 left taxable estates. Essentially the estate tax no longer exists for the majority who are considering estate plans that include charitable contributions for the first time.

With few tax incentives, the reasons most often cited for making a charitable gift are, “I want to give back,” “I want to leave a legacy and make a difference for future generations,” and “I want to be assured that my life’s work will support the things I care about well into the future.” We thank the Duceys, both mother and daughter, for entrusting the College with managing their estate for the benefit of the students calls you.

Please make a pledge when one of our phones! Alumni will hear the polite, young voices of students (including those pictured above) calling to ask for help.

Cellathon? A familiar sight all over the campus at RIC: students with cell phones up to their ears. Although communications technology is changing rapidly, the Alumni Association’s fall phonathon for the Annual Fund is still done the old fashioned way – in a phone bank with land line (wired) phones. No fancy dialing equipment or cell phones! Alumni will hear the polite, young voices of students (including those pictured above) calling to ask for help. Please make a pledge when one of our students calls you.

College President John Nazarian unveils the Ducey Student Media Center plaque during the dedication on Oct. 1. Joining Nazarian are (l to r): William Dorry ‘03, former editor of The Anchor; Richard DelBonis ’04; Zdenko Juskuv, president of Student Media Center; and Forrester Safford, executive editor of The Anchor.

As as president, executive editor of The Anchor; Richard DelBonis ’04; Zdenko Juskuv, president of Student Media Center; and Forrester Safford, executive editor of The Anchor.

By Peg Brown Vice President, Development and College Relations

The Rhode Island College Foundation & Alumni Association present

Long Term Care Planning… What You Need to Know

Ronda is a 1989 graduate of Rhode Island College and a 2000 Alumni Honor Roll recipient in Economics/Finance.

Certified Financial Planner™/Financial Advisor

Ronda L. Warrener ’89, CFP®

Workshop conducted by Legg Mason Wood Walker, Inc.

Thursday, November 3, 2005

Rhode Island College

Alger Hall

Light Buffet 5:30 p.m.

Workshop 6:15 to 7:45 p.m.

Clip & Send to:
An amazing journey “home”  

BY Patricia Nolin, ’84, M ’87  

Special Assistant to the President

When I began my career at Rhode Island College, I had enjoyed a career in the private sector before coming to RIC. I knew this new undertaking would be a perfect fit for me. I was told that a centennial of the Sesquicentennial would be the State Home and School Project, and that I should speak with the key players who brought the project to the attention of the administration. Thus began another journey to another “home.” What I came to learn throughout the first few months of 2002 was that the east campus of my alma mater contained so much history.

I met with several professionals who all shared with me their particular interest in the project. Pierre Morenon, professor of anthropology, conveyed to me how important the project was. I saw and touched artifacts from the archeological digs that had been carried out on the grounds of the State Home. I pointed out the shadows of the foundations of other turn-of-the-century cottages, and how the topography hadn’t changed over the years. Marbles and roller skates had been unearthed, as well as fine china.

Richard Hillman ’83, supervisor from DCYF, told me how the project began from a simple inquiry by the director of Trinity Repertory Theatre’s production of Cider House Rules. From this came the discovery of 100-year-old leather-bound record books that detailed the operation of the State Home and stories of the children that inhabited its walls. People with direct links to the Home had contacted Richard. Many had grown up there. Others, while tracing their ancestry, found their relatives had been at the Home at some point in their lifetime.

Sandra Enos ’71 and Diane Martell, professors of sociology and social work respectively, had been researching the history of child care programs and policies in Rhode Island. Many may be surprised to learn that the beginnings of child welfare emerged in the mid-19th century and much of it began on what is now RIC’s east campus.

By now the State Home and School Project is well known to many on campus, as well as in the community. You may hear it referred to as the “yellow cottage” or the orphanage project. Whatever it is called, its development and progress is immeasurable.

I think back to May 2002, to the first time an organized group met to discuss plans for the project. Restoring the last remaining original wood structure from the orphanage was paramount. The group also agreed it was important to meet and interview new individuals who shared part or all of their childhood at the State Home or in later years. The Patrick I. O’Rourke Children’s Center, and to offer opportunities for former residents and staff to meet each other. Lastly, it was necessary for the College to recognize each child in some way, to tell the community that every child matters.

Three and a half years have gone by, and I am astounded by what has been accomplished since that first meeting. A memorial dedicated to all children who once lived at the Home is now on the grounds behind the Forman Center. Ground-breaking for the first phase of renovation to the yellow cottage has taken place, and continuous connections are being made with residents, staff, and their families.

The Rhode Island Foundation provided grant support of $1,610 for the production of the CD. A grant of $100,000 the month before to the Rhode Island Historical Society would not have taken place without an ad- ministration that had the foresight to know what this project would mean to so many.

Though worn by the elements and years of neglect, the cottage was found to be generally sound by architect Christopher (Kip) Mc- Manus of the firm Robinson Green Beretta, and by Denis Beique, project manager for the Gilbane Company. Gilbane built the cot- tage circa 1885. Renovation plans include the use of state-of-the-art technology for multi-media presentations for public viewing and student research.

The cottage is eligible for his- toric preservation status.

The Rhode Island Foundation provided grant support of $1,610 for the production of the CD. A July 2003 grant from the Rhode Island Council for the Humanities for $7,760 has helped to fund the State Home’s oral history project.

“The voices on the CD also remind us of the courage and strength of some of the residents who managed to overcome the obstacles of their childhoods and emerged as individuals who have given us the gift of their sto- ries,” said Enos.

To order a CD, contact Patricia Nolin at 401-456-9854; pnolin@ric.edu. Visit www.ric.edu/statehome-andschool for more information on the State Home and School Project at Rhode Island College.
RIC Athletic News

FROM THE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR’S DESK

Donald E. Tencher
Director of Athletics

- I want to thank all the alumni who participated in alumni games during Homecoming weekend. It was one of the best turnouts is recent memory.
- Patty Nevola-Testa is coordinating an alumni game for women’s soccer.

Anyone interested in participating can contact Patty by leaving a message at the RIC Track Office at 401-456-4617.
- Everyone’s invited to attend “Winter Sports Madness” (i.e., Midnight Madness) on Tuesday Nov. 8 at 8 p.m. More details to follow.
- Congratulations to basketball student-athlete Kamari Williams, who was selected by the NCAA for membership on its National Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.
- Congratulations to all of the fall sports teams on outstanding seasons to date. Women’s tennis recently clinched the regular season conference title and won the Little East Conference Championship. Men’s soccer is currently in first place with a big showdown coming with perennial power Keene State.

RIC women’s tennis dominates Little East

BY Scott Gibbons, Sports Information Director

T here have been a lot of great women’s tennis teams at Rhode Island College, but the 2005 squad could be the best one ever. To say that the Anchorwomen were dominant this fall is a massive understatement. RIC posted an 11-1 overall record, a 7-0 conference mark and won both the Little East Conference Tournament, as well as the Regular Season Championship.

After losing its first match of the season to Salve Regina on Sept. 3, RIC steamrolled through the rest of the fall, winning its next 11 matches to clinch the Anchorwomen’s third consecutive Little East Conference Regular Season Championship.

The Anchorwomen went into the 2005 Little East Conference Tournament as a heavy favorite and did not disappoint, taking home first place finish. “We had a good nucleus of players coming back this year,” Chartier says, “and the additions of freshmen Megan Hall, Margaret Funk, Natasha Roman, plus Ashley Gorman, who was a transfer from Plymouth State, really made our lineup tough to beat. We were focused on putting together a solid season since the pre-season.”

Hall was the Little East Conference Champion in the number two singles flight and teamed with senior Liz Barrette to take home the title in the number one doubles flight. She closed out the season with a 13-1 singles record and a 15-2 doubles mark, to go along with three Little East Conference Women’s Tennis Rookie of the Week honors. Hall and Barrette’s 15 doubles wins are a new RIC record for a season.

Barrette, who fell in the semifinals of the number one singles flight, was 11-3 in singles and 15-2 in doubles action on the season. She closes out her career with a 51-15 career doubles record, tying Donna Vongratsavay’s ‘03 all-time career doubles victories total. She was 43-18 at number one singles for her career, facing the opposition’s top player in every match, and is third all-time at RIC in career singles wins. She was named to RIC’s All-75th Anniversary Women’s Tennis Team last May.

Funk was the Little East Conference Champion in the number three singles flight and teamed with fellow rookie Roman to win the number two doubles flight. Funk was 13-1 in singles and 14-2 in doubles and was named the Little East Conference Women’s Tennis Rookie of the Week once on the season.

Sophomores Kseniya Gurvich was the Little East Conference Champion in the number four singles flight and posted an 8-3 singles mark on the season.

Gorman was the Little East Conference Champion in the number six singles flight and teamed with junior Tara Marchant to win the number three doubles flight. Gorman was 11-2 in singles and 14-4 in doubles on the season. Marchant, who lost in the Championship Match of the number five singles flight, was 11-3 in singles and 14-4 in doubles this fall.

Chartier’s crew has simply been lights out since the end of the 2003 season, a year in which they were also the LEC Champions. The team has won 28 of its last 29 dual matches dating back to 2003, having gone 11-1 this year, 13-0 in 2004 and winning their last four matches of the ’03 campaign. RIC has not lost on its home court since the 2003 season as well, going 17-0 since Sept. 16 of that year.

With the squad only losing Barrette from the starting lineup, they’ll figure to be very tough to beat once again next fall.
for years to come. How we educate and nurture vulnerable youngsters has and will continue to have a far-reaching influence on them and on our culture for years to come.

Academically... Continued from p 5

I have spoken with many individuals who are fascinated with the project. They share stories about their own childhood, and the circumstances that influenced them as they grew. Perhaps delving into histories and childhoods evokes the special need in each of us to know more about our own family histories. I, too, was inspired to contact a relative in Canada to learn more about my own family history.

Don’t Miss the 11th Annual Anchor Madness

8 P.M. TUESDAY, NOV. 8, 2005
The Murray Center

High school choruses to join RIC Chorus

The RIC High School Invitation and Music Festival is a unique opportunity to showcase local high school choruses, for an evening of non-competitive choral performances. The concert offers high schoolers a unique learning experience, with each chorus having its own opportunity to showcase its talents. The concert closes with a massed choir piece in which all ensembles participate. Admission is free and open to the public. For more information, call 401-456-8144.

RIC students win awards in graphic arts

Fourteen Rhode Island College students earned awards at the International Graphic Arts Education Association competition held last summer. The students created their winning entries in graphic communications classes of RIC’s communications department.

The competition took place at Millennial University in Pennsylvania, the site of this year’s IGSEA conference, held July 31 - Aug. 4. The contest draws approximately 500 entries from schools around the country.

In addition, a poster designed by RIC student Roseanne Cedroni for Graphic Communications Week was printed by Ryobi Company on the show floor of Print05 at the McCormick Place Convention Center in Chicago last month. It will also be used as the cover of the IGSEA’s professional journal.

All students have taken classes in graphic communications and have associate professor Michelle Martin.

Don't Miss the 11th Annual Anchor Madness

8 P.M. TUESDAY, NOV. 8, 2005
The Murray Center
Impressions of Cambodia

BY

Mary Ann Bromley, prof. of social work and John Riolo, coordinator of the Case Management Cert. Program

A

fter more than three decades of war, occupation and isolation, including Pol Pot’s four-year reign of terror from 1975 to 1979, and a bloody failed coup attempt in 1997, Cambodia’s scars are beginning to slowly show signs of healing.

We recently spent four months teaching social work case management in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. When we weren’t teaching, we were busy traveling around the capital city, as well as other areas of the country, meeting people and learning firsthand about life in Cambodia approximately 12 years after the country’s first free elections. The reader is invited to share in some of our experiences and impressions.

The Khmer empire of ancient Cambodia covered nearly all of Southeast Asia until around 1600. At the center of this empire was Angkor Wat, a 12th-Century Hindu temple and the world’s largest religious monument according to the Smithsonian Institution. The Angkor district covers approximately 155 square miles and is comprised of 44 temples built between the 9th and 14th Centuries.

More than two centuries of neglect left the area overrun by dense jungle and giant strangler fig trees and their roots are deeply entwined with the ancient temple ruins. Today, Angkor is a protected archaeological zone and was designated a World Heritage Site in 1992. Restoration experts from various nations have differing views about how best to save the temples of Angkor. Currently, there is an attempt to restore the temples by piecing together fallen stones which have accumulated in large piles throughout the temple sites and to leave the tree roots entangled within the temple ruins as much as possible. New stones are used for reconstruction only as a last resort.

Immediately outside the temple district is a small informal landmine museum run by a local deminer (a person who clears landmines), Aki Ra. In his former life, Aki Ra was an involuntary child soldier of the Khmer Rouge and Vietnamese Armies and he was forced to lay landmines. Mr. Aki and his wife run the museum from their home and have also informally taken in many of the children who have been injured by landmines. Cambodia, with an estimated six million out of 10 million mines still left from the early 1990s, has the highest number of children who have been injured by landmines in the world today.

In addition, it is estimated that more than 539,000 tons of bombs were dropped on Cambodia during the American involvement in the war in Southeast Asia (1959-1979). Massive American bombing of Cambodia was aimed at stopping the flow of supplies and personnel from North Vietnam to South Vietnam during the Vietnam conflict. The United States Congress ended the bombing in Cambodia on Aug. 15, 1973.

Cambodia is one of the poorest countries in the world, ranking 130th out of 175 in the Human Development Index according to the 2003 Human Development Report published by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). The life expectancy is 56.4 years for Cambodian men and 60.3 years for women. Buddhism influences practically every aspect of Cambodian life, although it was Hinduism which predominated among early Khmers from the 1st Century until the decline of the Khmer Empire. Today, the population of Cambodia is approximately 13 million people, with at least half of the population under the age of 18.

The Pol Pot reign of terror ended in 1979 during which time an estimated one to three million of the Cambodian population died of disease, starvation or torture.

On Dec. 25, 1978, the Vietnamese invaded Cambodia and in less than a month, the Vietnamese captured the capital city of Phnom Penh and secured all of Cambodia except for some of the regions bordering Thailand. Most of the 70,000 to 100,000 Buddhist monks died during the Pol Pot regime and all but 55 Cambodian doctors are believed to have died during this time. Teachers and other intellectuals were also singled out for imprisonment, torture and death.

One of the most notorious prisons during the Khmer Rouge regime is located in Phnom Penh and called Tuol Sleng which roughly translates as a poisonous hill or a place on a mound to keep those who bear guilt. Prior to being converted to a prison in 1976 by the Khmer Rouge, it was a high school. Whole families of prisoners, including their newborn babies, were taken there to be exterminated. More than 10,000 prisoners at Tuol Sleng were executed. These estimates do not include the estimated 2,000 children who were also killed there. Today, Tuol Sleng is a museum of the Cambodian genocide under Pol Pot.

Within the context of this history, signs of Cambodia’s developmental struggle as it attempts to move successfully into the 21st Century are everywhere. Traffic, particularly in the capital, is a nightmare. There are few traffic lights and people frequently drive on the wrong side of the road, particularly at intersections. A Cambodian-
Impressions of Cambodia: past and present

American friend who has been living in Phnom Penh for the past nine years explained to us as he was traveling down a one-way street the wrong way that in Cambodia, traffic signs are really only guidelines. Lonely Planet Cambodia travel guide sums it up best when it says “If there are road rules in Cambodia it is doubtful that anyone is following them. The best advice is to take nothing for granted and assume that your fellow motorists are visually challenged psychopaths.”

On one trip in the Southern part of the country we wondered if at some point the car in which we were riding might disappear in one of the many potholes created by landmines or bombs. Another time, traveling in the North, it seemed that our bus would surely end up down the mountainside due to the narrow roadways where traffic is passing in what appears to be a haphazard formations. Small motorcyclists called motors are used as taxis and provide a particularly thrilling ride. We saw two adults, three children and a small dog riding on one moto in Phnom Penh and most often, women ride sidesaddle. Live chickens, pigs and yes, even the kitchen sink are routinely transported on the back of a moto. For a more comfortable (but not necessarily safer) ride, a tuk tuk, which is a cart with seats pulled by a moto, is the taxi of choice.

Beggars in Cambodia are an ever-present reminder of the poverty in Cambodia. A typical worker in Phnom Penh earns $1 a day for a 16-hour day, seven days a week. Police officers, frontline government workers, military personnel, teachers and other typical “middle-class” workers earn $25 to $35 per month. While the cost of living in Phnom Penh is much less than in the United States, these wages cannot pay a monthly electric bill, buy food for a family for one month or pay the rent, even in a small apartment. Street begging, child labor, child prostitution and taking bribes or “tips” are understood ways to supplement a family’s wages. It is not unusual to see families living in abandoned buildings and living on the street alongside museums, monuments, and government buildings. Minors aged 12 to 17 constitute 31 percent of the more than 88,000 sex workers in Cambodia. The number of children who are trafficked to other countries from Cambodia is not known but government statistics report an average of 400 Cambodian children who have been trafficked to Thailand are returned every month. Given this number of returned children, the number of children sent (usually as sex workers) is suspected to be astronomical.

Approximately 42 percent of women above 15 years of age have never attended school and only 12 percent of girls are able to complete secondary school. Twenty percent of primary school students, two percent of upper secondary students, and zero percent of tertiary education students are drawn from the poorest 20 percent of the Cambodian population. From 1990 to 1997, the secondary school enrollment rate in Cambodia declined from 32 percent of eligible children to 24 percent. During the same period, neighboring Vietnam almost doubled their secondary school enrollment rate (from 30 to 57 percent). Students in Cambodian public schools wear uniforms and parents are expected to send their children to school with about two U.S. dollars per day for their teacher. Thus, in addition to the need for children to beg or work (in legal or illegal trades), poor families cannot afford the indirect costs of public school for their children.

One observation based on our sabbatical leaves us with a disquieting impression that while there are numerous international organizations with offices in Cambodia (for example, there are more than 40 non-government organizations working with Cambodians with disabilities), the gap is enormous between the amount of aid money given to these organizations and the effect on the Cambodian people in need. But this is a subject for further study and another article.
THE FLYING KARAMAZOV BROTHERS

The Flying Karamazov Brothers — four comedians, musicians, jugglers and men about town — land at RIC next month for an evening of theatre and entertainment in the tradition of Monty Python. The show, LIFE: A Guide for the Perplexed, is certain to excite, delight and even bring a tear to the eye of audiences on Thursday, Nov. 17 at 8 p.m. in the Auditorium in Roberts Hall.

Filled with skits on the various stages of life, the show features several uniquely Karamozov elements: a circular, six-oc- tuve electronic instrument called a Juggletron, which the Brothers play while singing and juggling; the 4X4, where each Brother plays the other’s musical instrument while juggling and singing a different tune; the Gamble, which tests the juggling skills of the audience; and Jazz Improvisational Juggling, a signature set piece that is as thrilling as it is difficult.

Over 20 characters — all played by the four performers — keep LIFE pulsing including a Babylonian Emperor, an Indian seer, and the Man in Black. The Brothers also play many instruments, from pocket trumpet to double-bass guitar.

The Washington Post said of the ensemble: “...they can tickle your brain while thrilling your eyes.”

The Karamozov Brothers are comprised of the show’s writer Paul Magid (Dmitri), lyricist Howard Jay Patterson (Ivan), composer Mark Ettinger (Alexei), and Roderick Kimball (Pavel).

Tickets for the Flying Karamazov Brothers 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.

Arthur Miller’s ‘All My Sons’ premieres at RIC Nov. 16

All My Sons, directed by Naum Panovski, associate professor with the Dept. of Music, Theatre, and Dance, will take the stage on Nov. 16-19 at 8 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday Nov. 19-20 at 2 p.m. in the Forman Theatre in the Nazarian Center.

Written and produced by Arthur Miller in 1947, All My Sons is a moving drama that established Miller as one of the leading voices of American theatre.

Set shortly after World War II, the play focuses on Joe Keller, a 61-year-old man who became rich as a manufacturer of second-rate airplane parts. With one son missing in action in the war effort, another son who is courting his brother’s girlfriend, and the questionable imprisonment of his colleague, Joe’s struggles highlight the themes of father-son relationships and the battle between business and ethics.

Miller’s idea for the story originated from an historic World War II incident of a manufacturer that knowingly shipped out defective parts for tanks, which led to the deaths of American soldiers.

The play, about “man’s selfishness and greed that destroys the very fabric of a family is so timely and speaks to all of us,” said Panovski.

Panovski is a professional theatre director and dramaturg, whose experience includes over 50 plays produced by theatres in the U.S., Europe, and former Yugoslavia. He has authored two books, Directing Poiesis and Theatre as a Weapon, and has also written in publications around the world.

All My Sons is Panovski’s first project at the College.

The cast of characters includes Aaron Andrade as Keller, Marybeth Hampton as Mother, Nathan Holst as Chris, Allison Clark as Ann, Kevin Broccoli as George, Chris Rosenquest as Jim, Alexandra Smith as Sue, and Robert Lima as Larry, with 14 additional performers who serve as a chorus.

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

Fusionworks Dance Company to perform ‘Old Forms/New Works’

Fusionworks returns to RIC in the Annual Fall Concert Series that features gutsy physicality and endless energy. Performances will be held on Friday and Saturday, Nov. 18 and 19 at 8 p.m. in Sapinsley Hall in the Nazarian Center.

Old Forms/New Works will begin the 19th performance season for this popular Rhode Island-based dance company.

Fusionworks’ special guest artists are from the Rhode Island College Dance Company. They will be performing a new original work created for them by Meunier entitled Under the Bridge, a haunting and primal post-apocalyptic dance performed to the techno-industrial score of Rhode Island composer Keith Fracassa.

On Saturday evening, Fusionworks will present their extremely popular Unwrapped concert for the unabashedly curious, in which Meunier will provide a behind-the-scenes peek at the entire concert process. Through introductions to each of the dances, she explains the choreography, costumes, music and technical aspects.

To experience even more of this exciting troupe, join its members for Completely Unwrapped. Come early, watch the dancers warm up, experience the view from the stage, and attend a VIP reception with the artistic director and board members prior to the performance.

New this fall will be generous support provided by The Fannie Helen Melcer Endowment.

General admission tickets are $20, with discounts for senior citizens, groups and students. For more information or for tickets to Unwrapped or Completely Unwrapped, contact Fusionworks at 401-946-0607 or www.fusionworksdance.org. Concert tickets are available at the Roberts Hall box office (401-456-8144).
The annual Halloween College Concert promises a ghostly good time, Friday, Oct. 28 at 8 p.m. in the Auditorium in Roberts Hall.

The event offers a change of pace for the performers. “Some of the featured music is light-hearted, while other music is satirical, strange and eerie,” said Bill Jones, director of the concert and professor in the Dept. of Music, Theatre, and Dance.

The program, which will run for approximately 90 minutes, consists of 26 acts, with over 200 performers including RIC students and faculty, and fifth graders from the Henry Barnard School. RIC groups to perform are:

- African Music Ensemble
- Brass Ensemble
- Big Flute Band
- Clarinet Ensemble
- Concert Jazz Band
- Guitar Ensemble
- Saxophone Ensemble
- The Mariam and the Piano duos
- Trumpet Ensemble
- Chamber Singers
- Chorus
- Men’s Chorus
- Women’s Chorus
- The Henry Barnard Singers

The program also includes two dance acts: a tap dance choreographed by Elaine Colaneri, and a jazz dance choreographed by Angelica Vescivoci.

All performers will be dressed in Halloween costumes. The concert will be preceded by a small concert in the lobby, with the five graders performing unusual and festive music.

General admission is $7, free for anyone who wears a costume. For more information, call 401-456-8144.

Witches Brew Concert stirs up spooky music

Halloween night

The Witches Brew Concert will feature plenty of frighteningly good music on Halloween night, Monday, Oct. 31, at 8 p.m. in Sapinsley Hall in the Nazarian Center. Alec K. Redfearn and the Eyeyesores, Greg Abate, Bob Colonna, and many RIC faculty and friends will perform under the direction of RIC artist-in-residence Judith Lynn Stillman.

Alec K. Redfearn and the Eyeyesores have provided eclectic, thoroughly original acoustic music throughout North America and Europe. Ansell, Zazofsky and Reynolds hold honorary doctorates in music from RIC.

Muir began performing in 1980, earning rave reviews. It won the 1980 Evian International String Quartet Competition, and the Huffington Chamber Music Award in 1981. Muir was also featured on the acclaimed PBS broadcast, In Performance at the White House. The group is known for its performances of the complete Beethoven String Quartet cycles. Muir has premiered works by such admired American composers as Lucas Foss (String Quartet #4), Joan Tower (Unfinished Field), and Ezra Laderman (String Quartet #9). The quartet has also appeared at numerous festivals, including Tanglewood, Versailles, and Fredericksburg, and gave the world premiere performance of the Native American work, Circle of Faith, on National Public Radio.

The Boston Globe praised the Muir String Quartet’s “sweeping, virtuosic tone, exhilarating involvement, and extraordinary unanimity of purpose.”

Admission is $30, with discounts for seniors, RIC faculty/staff/students, and children under 12. For more information, call 401-456-8144.
Rhode Island College welcomes back alumna Lelia De Andrade ‘87 as the keynote speaker for the Nov. 5 Promising Practices Multi-Cultural Conference and Curriculum Resource Fair.

The conference, now in its eighth year, will have as its theme, “Supporting Diversity in the Learning Environment: Finding Constructive Ways to Prevent Hate, Violence, and Bullying.”

De Andrade is associate director of the Center for the Prevention of Hate Violence (CPHV) at the University of Southern Maine. In addition to a bachelor’s degree at RIC, De Andrade earned a master’s degree and PhD at the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University.

She was awarded a post-doctoral fellowship at the DuBois Institute at Harvard University.

In a recent workshop, De Andrade used interactive exercises to examine the impact of slurs and jokes directed at traditionally targeted groups on a campus. Workshop participants were guided in developing practical skills needed for intervening when degrading language is used.

The Promising Practices conference offers K–12 educators and students in teacher-training a day of diversity-related education, materials and ideas. It will outline ways for curricula to explore issues of sexuality, race, class, gender, religion and ethnicity, and examine strategies for achieving greater equity and more effective education for all students.

Over 25 workshops will be offered, and a “Youth Hour” roundtable discussion with the keynote speaker and college and high school students is scheduled.

The winner of the Outstanding Educator Award in multicultural education will also be announced at the conference.

Publishers and marketers of educational media will demonstrate products and exhibit their curriculum resource fair. “This conference provides an excellent opportunity to learn multiple strategies for enhancing academic experiences of young people,” said Aaron Bruce, director of the RIC Unity Center and a co-chair of the College’s Dialogue on Diversity Committee, which organized the event. “I’m looking forward to hearing Dr. De Andrade, who has done some amazing things with the Center for the Prevention of Hate Violence.”

For more information on the conference, visit www.ric.edu/aap/promisingpractices.html, or contact Peter Mendi at 401-456-9696 (pmendy@ric.edu) or Joe Sculli at 401-456-8569 (jsiuilli@ric.edu).

James Fey to speak at Arthur Smith Memorial lecture

The Dept. of Mathematics and Computer Science invites the community to the third annual Arthur F. Smith Memorial Mathematics Education Celebration on Friday, Nov. 4, at 3:30 p.m. in the Faculty Center.

After a reception, the program will open with remarks about Art Smith, who passed away in 2003 after serving the College for 38 years as a teacher, mentor and advisor to math education students.

The Smith Memorial Lecture will be given by James T. Fey of the University of Maryland. His topic is “Relating Algebraic Structures to Teaching Secondary School Mathematics.” Fey will discuss a new approach to the content and teaching of upper-division algebra classes that will make them more useful for the teaching of algebra in secondary schools.

He will report on results of actual classroom experience with this new approach.

Fey is a nationally known math educator who has written extensively on topics such as reforming calculus instruction, proportional reasoning, “math wars” issues, and the value of mathematics education research.

The reception and lecture are free and open to the public. After the talk, there will be a dinner at the Faculty Center ($18). To register or to obtain more information about the event, call Ann Moskol at 401-456-9761 or email her at amoskol@ric.edu.

TAKING A PAGE from the 1981 yearbook, we look back to the soccer cheerleaders from the fall of 1980. Seated from left: co-captain Gail Mailho, advisor Patti Goldstein and co-captain Cathy Roach. Standing from left: Debbie Burke, Kathy McGrath, Diane Lanni, Mary Nunes, Ellen Shea, Sue Marciano, Yomaira Lubo and Sherri Bestwick.

Looking Back...

Here at What’s News, we will feature historical photos from the College’s past. Please go to your scrapbooks and send as 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, Kaufman Center, Providence, RI 02908.

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RIC alum Lelia De Andrade to give keynote address at Promising Practices conference

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Scarpetti graduated from RIC in 1987 with a major in theater, and he hasn’t stopped performing ever since. Not bad for someone who said that after college, he “didn’t know where to go.” Apparently, he found that after college, he “didn’t know where to go.” “I sang Oklahoma to the fire trucks outside in costume that day,” he said. “I got overheated and started smoking on stage.”

The visit to RIC is part of the College’s involvement with the American Democracy Project (ADP), a non-partisan initiative that creates an intellectual and experiential understanding of civic engagement for college students. Congress to Campus will help meet the objectives of the ADP by personalizing those individuals who perform a crucial role in the federal government.

To reserve seating, contact Pauline McCartney at 401-456-8090; pmccartney@ric.edu

For more information about the Congress to Campus program, call RIC’s Office of News and Public Relations at 401-456-8090.

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Congress to Campus
Continued from p 1

STEVEN SCARPETTI ’87

meetings is from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in Alger Hall auditorium. A media forum called ‘The Line in the Sand: Breaking the Partisanship Deadlock’ will be on Tuesday, Nov. 14 at 6:30-8:30 p.m. in Alger Hall’s multimedia center. The participants will discuss partisan deadlock on the state and national levels, along with issues facing Rhode Island. Media panelists include Scott MacKay from ‘The Providence Journal,’ Bill Rappeleye from NBC-10, Jim Hummel of ABC-6 News, and Glenn Laxton of WIRI-12 Fox Providence. RIC was selected for the visit because of its standing as the oldest public institution of higher learning in the state, and because of the diversity of its student population. It is the only state college in Rhode Island to participate in the Congress to Campus program to date.

The Congress to Campus experience will show students the remarkable range of a congress person’s role both in Washington and in the district. It will help students understand members of Congress as skilled public servants, negotiators, and consensus builders, rather than as partisan political hacks,” said Victor Profughi, political science professor at RIC.

Valerie Endress, communications professor at RIC, added that, “Because the former members of Congress will be stepping back from the institution and reflect upon its strengths and weaknesses without the pressures of running for public office, they offer our students a unique perspective on governance in Washington, D.C.”

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The Congress to Campus program is sponsored by the Stennis Center for Public Service in partnership with the CDC at the Council for Excellence in Government, and the U.S. Association of Former Members of Congress.

The program was founded in 1976 by the U.S. Association of Former Members of Congress to introduce students to individuals with firsthand knowledge of representative democracy and a life dedicated to public service. For more information about the Congress to Campus program, call RIC’s Office of News and Public Relations at 401-456-8090.
International adoption: becoming worldly families

BY Lauren Mesale ’06, Staff Writer

For most Americans, bringing a child into the family is something that happens in the delivery room. But for an increasing number of parents-to-be, including three members of the RIC campus community, bringing a child into the family can take longer than nine months and requires a series of transatlantic (or Pacific) flights. These parents are waiting to adopt.

In 2004 alone, the U.S. government issued 22,884 visas to adopted children entering the country. Suzanne Conklin, assistant professor of biology; Robin Pecunioso ’99 of the human resources department; and Rob Shein, specialist with the arts and sciences department, have each experienced international adoption first hand.

Conklin adopted her daughter, Nina, from China, as did Pecunioso. There, most of the children available for adoption are girls, because they are seen as less valuable by the Chinese. Only boys can retain their family name, inherit property and take care of elderly parents, per the country’s One Child Policy.

In the 1950s, the Chinese government urged its people to have large families to strengthen the country. Years later, a large-scale population growth caused the government concern that China would be unable to feed and support its population. They knew that depression, suicide, and prostitution were common for Russian orphans, especially girls. After the age of three or four, these children lose all hope, since most couples are discouraged by agencies, who claim that the children are all of ill health.

The Sheins saw adoption as an opportunity to help Russian children. Both speak Russian. Rob was a Russian linguist with the U.S. Army, and Reid studied the language at Brown University. They knew that depression, suicide, and prostitution were common for Russian orphans, especially girls. After the age of three or four, these children lose all hope, since most couples are only interested in adopting infants and toddlers who have not yet developed a sense of Russian culture, or a grasp of the Russian language.

The Sheins wanted to adopt two older girls, preferably sisters, because they would have already been placed in an orphanage. Both speak Russian. Rob was a Russian linguist with the U.S. Army, and Reid studied the language at Brown University. They knew that depression, suicide, and prostitution were common for Russian orphans, especially girls. After the age of three or four, these children lose all hope, since most couples are only interested in adopting infants and toddlers who have not yet developed a sense of Russian culture, or a grasp of the Russian language.

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day,” said Rob Shein.

The Sheins finished their paper-
work to officially adopt Natasha and Oksana, then flew back to
Rhode Island to await their family
court date. Originally, it was sup-
posed to be in July, but because
the home study agency had recorded
incorrect information on their pa-
perwork, the court date was post-
poned until August.

When they returned to Russia
for court, the judge was impressed
that the Sheins could speak Rus-
sian. Reid addressed the judge in
Russian: “Vash choyt,” and “Vash
choyt,” meaning “your check/bill,”
and “your satan,” respectively, in-
stead of “Vasha chest” (“your hon-
or”). Laughing. filled the courtroom.

From court, the Sheins brought
the girls to the U.S. Embassy in
Moscow to obtain the girls’ visas
and medical exams. The doctors
were amazed at how healthy the
girls were. The other 25 couples
at the embassy were adopting
healthy children, all under the age
of four.

On Aug. 6, Natasha and Oksana
became U.S. citizens when their
plane landed at 6:15 p.m. (about 2
a.m. Russian time) in New York.
It was the girls’ first time on an
airplane. They made it out of the
airport in a matter of minutes, got
in the car, and began the long drive
home, snacking on granola bars
and juice boxes that Rob Shein had
stashed in the car in advance.

“You haven’t heard ‘Are we there
yet?’ until you’ve heard it in Rus-
sian,” he joked.

The Shein family arrived home
in Jamestown at 10 a.m., full of en-
thusiasm. They arrived at their
new home at 10 p.m., the section
of the 1966 visit (See www.
woolman.sociology.ubc.ca/woolman/)
photographs and journal descrip-
tions current ethno-historical
research project.
Over 1,500 alumni, students and their families, and friends of the College enjoyed RIC Homecoming 2005 on Oct. 1. With sunny skies and nearly 80-degree weather, the upbeat atmosphere was contagious. New attractions this year were a mega-moon bounce and a climbing wall for children and students to enjoy (hmmm...looks like one of the vice presidents enjoyed the climbing wall!). Several dedications took place on campus. Reunions for the Class of 1956 and 1965 were held Friday evening, along with a Young Alumni event at RiRa, in downtown Providence.