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What's News At Rhode Island College

Rhode Island College

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RIC CAMPUS TEEMING WITH TECHNOLOGY

Electronic learning clicking with educators

BY Rob Martin
Managing Editor

To Frederic (Rick) Reamer, the chalkboard is a dusty artifact, right there beside mimeograph machines and slide projectors. This veteran professor of social work is one of an increasing number of educators at RIC who are using the limitless stash of electronic information to recast the educational experience.

This resource revolution of Internet websites and digital tools has changed the look and feel of a classroom – what was once a two-dimensional environment is now 3-D. And it has challenged Reamer to continually come up with new ways to use the technology.

Though videos, photos and recordings have long been classroom staples, the immediacy, graphic quality, and depth of information from Internet websites and digital tools has changed the look and feel of a classroom – what was once a two-dimensional environment is now 3-D. And it has challenged Reamer to continually come up with new ways to use the technology.

Activity-Based Physics is a trend in science education with the guiding principle that physics is an experimental science presented most effectively when students can conduct their own experiments and build their understanding of a concept before the formal mathematics of the topic is introduced.

Previous to the renovation, the lab was set up like a standard chemistry lab, with tall tables with sinks and a few computers. Students now sit in comfortable chairs at normal height tables along three sides of the perimeter of the rectangular room. In the front, the professor has a long table for demonstrations.

The newly renovated lab is built for 24 students and has 12 computers (one for each pair of students). Each computer is equipped with a set of sensors suited for the interactive labs. These play an important role in an essential aspect of the new curriculum – computer assisted data acquisition.

Students use computer-interfaced sensors such as ultrasonic motion sensors, force sensors, and rotary motion sensors to conduct exploratory labs. When conducting an experiment with a sensor, the computer is able to record the...
Don’t invest in chalk.” – Frederic Reamer, RIC professor of social work, on the increasing use of electronic technology in classrooms on campus. [P 1]

“After spring semester, I too will be a RIC graduate and want to feel a sense of pride and connection with the College community even if I won’t be there everyday.” – Tracy Rolland, RIC senior, who is working on a marketing research project on What’s News. [P 8]

“I truly believe that no matter what prognosis or stage of cancer someone is challenged with, there is always hope.” – Sue Kent ’90, who, along with her husband, designed a tee shirt – available in retail stores and online – to raise money for breast cancer research. [P 8]

Abstractions offer wonderful opportunities for renewal and a return to primary research.

This was true for my sabbatical year 2005, which took me to Sudan, Cameroon, and Egypt. Beginning in January, with grants from the RIC faculty research committee and from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Holland and France administered through the Universities of Leiden and Bordeaux, I returned to Sudan to resume research on Islamic law (Shari’a) and its new status after the peace agreement ending 22 years of civil war between north and south.

Shari’a was made state law in 1983 and was a major factor in the revived civil war. After years of negotiation it was withdrawn from the south and from being applied to the one-third non-Muslim population.

Thus, I observed the early months of a post-Islamist Sudan. The Darfur war makes peace an unattainable goal.

I returned the favor by lecturing to the “festival of peace” in Siwa oasis near the Libyan border. Held every year for the past 160 years, the festival marks the “festival of peace” in Siwa oasis.

After three months in Sudan I traveled to Cameroon to visit my daughter Nichola who returned to Rhode Island at the end of the year after 27 months of service. In October I visited Egypt in order to attend the “festival of peace” in Siwa oasis near the Libyan border. Held every year for the past 160 years, the festival marks the “festival of peace” in Siwa oasis.

With these rich experiences, I look forward to my return to the classroom in January to share research and travel with RIC students.

Carol Schaefer, associate professor emerita, biblical expert

Carol Schaefer, of Providence, an associate professor emerita of history at RIC, died Nov. 1 at the Philip Hulitar Center after a four-month battle with cancer. She was 79.

Schaefer began at the College as an assistant professor of history in 1968, retiring in 1984. Previously, she had worked at Progress for Providence for several years, then briefly with the Brown University Press and Providence public schools.

An expert in biblical literature, she received an AM and PhD in religious studies from Brown University, and graduated with an AB in music from Wheaton College.

She was a member of the First Baptist Church in America.

Schaefer is survived by a son and two grandchildren.

Robert Currier, professor emeritus of music, violinist

Robert Currier of North Providence, former professor of music at Rhode Island College and a principal violinist with the Rhode Island Philharmonic, died Sept. 4 at the age of 86.

Currier, who was born in Burma, began teaching at RIC after moving to Rhode Island in 1966.

After retiring from teaching, he tutored children on the Suzuki violin method. An active member of his community, Currier dedicated his time to furthering the education of the violin.

Always keeping the beginner in mind, he created several new instruments to aid new violinists and correlated an anthology of canons.

A lifelong pacifist, Currier spent much of his time to furthering the education of the violin.

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The Gay? Fine By the Unity Center

by Victoria Enders '07
Unity Center PR Coordinator

The Unity Center at RIC, in coordination with the Committee on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Concerns and the Rainbow Alliance, sponsored several campus events that were part of RIC’s Diversity Week in October. At one such event, students, faculty, and staff were given tee shirts bearing the words “Gay? Fine By Me” to show support for the LGBT community.

The concept for Gay? Fine By Me came from several students attending Duke University in 2003. At that time, the university had made headlines in the Princeton Review for being “the most gay-unfriendly school in America.”

The term “gay-unfriendly,” which didn’t fit the school’s policies, caused the students to create a project that gave individuals who are gay or those who advocate for gay rights, the chance to have a voice on college and university campuses across the country.

Gay? Fine By Me, at first a slogan for those who wanted change for the better, is now emblazoned on a vast number of tee shirts that are manufactured and distributed by the Gay? Fine By Me nonprofit corporation based in New York. Thousands of tee shirts have reached college campuses, and the project has made an extensive impact on the LGBT community.

“Gay? Fine by Me” tee shirts

The tee shirts were on display at RIC and elsewhere on National Coming Out Day, held Oct. 11 every year to commemorate the first March on Washington by LGBT supporters in 1987.

“Showing support during National Coming Out Day is just the beginning,” said Aaron Bruce, director of the Unity Center at RIC.

“It’s been a success at other colleges and universities and I can only hope that it can do the same here at RIC,” said Ron Adams, president of the Rainbow Alliance at the College.

The Gay? Fine By Me project sends a powerful message to today’s society, particularly to young people. It promotes the positive side of life as opposed to negativity and ignorance.

“It’s been a success at other colleges and universities and I can only hope that it can do the same here at RIC,” said Ron Adams, president of the Rainbow Alliance at the College.

RIC Grad earns national and regional public relations honors

Phyllis Laorenza Linnehan ’79, a public relations professional, received three 2005 national and regional honors for highly effective public relations. A native of Providence and resident of Bedford, Mass., Laorenza Linnehan, along with a colleague, secured a PRSA Silver Anvil, Bell Ringer, and Communicator Award for innovation and creativity on behalf of their client, Chrismukkah.com.

The Chrismukkah project team consisted of Edna Kaplan, KOGS Communication president, and Laorenza Linnehan, senior consultant, who were recognized for the launch of Montana-based Chrismukkah.com and its new line of humorous interfaith holiday cards. The launch of Chrismukkah cards generated more than 2,000 media placements nationally and internationally, leading to a 10-fold increase in orders. Laorenza Linnehan, who has more than 20 years of communications experience, focuses on healthcare, technology, business-to-business, and consumer public relations. During her career, which began in broadcast journalism, she has worked at Fortune 500 corporations, public relations agencies, non-profit organizations, and government institutions. She holds a BS in education from RIC and an MA in communications from Emerson College.

2005 Cy Young winners correctly predicted by mathematical model

The official results are in! A mathematical model for predicting the Cy Young award voting results yielded both of the 2005 winners, Chris Carpenter of the St. Louis Cardinals (National League) and Bartolo Colon of the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim (American League). However, the model’s inventors made a small human error they would later regret: Prior to the awards, they overrode the model’s American League prediction by saying that New York Yankees reliever Mariano Rivera would win the title, rather than the model’s choice of Colon, who turned out to be the correct pick.

Rhode Island College mathematicians Rebecca Sparks and David Abrahamson developed a model which weights different pitcher statistics to predict the players who place first, second and third in Cy Young voting for each league.

In addition to yielding the winners, the mathematical model correctly predicted that Dontrelle Willis of the Florida Marlins would come in second place in the National League voting. It also correctly predicted that Minnesota Twins pitcher Johan Santana would be the second-highest-ranked starter in the AL voting results. The model incorrectly predicted that Houston Astros pitcher Roy Oswalt would come in third place (he ended up in fourth place).

However, prior to the award announcements, the mathematicians correctly speculated that a better-known player might overshadow the lesser-known Oswalt. And indeed, last year’s Cy Young winner, Houston Astros pitcher Roger Clemens, one of the players that Sparks and Abrahamson had mentioned, pulled ahead of his teammate Oswalt to claim third place.

The model, which is designed to analyze starting pitchers only, is currently not equipped to evaluate relief pitchers, who occasionally win the award. Thus the researchers overrode the model’s American League results and had predicted that Yankees relief pitcher Rivera would win the AL pitching title. “We are a little mad at ourselves for not totally trusting the model,” Sparks wrote the morning after the AL awards were announced.

David Abrahamson

Rebecca Sparks '97

GARY EDMONDSON

Victoria Enders '07

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I’d like to take this column in a slightly different direction this month. Because the Annual Report of Gifts and the Foundation’s Annual Report are included as a supplement to this issue of What’s News, staff members thought that addressing some of the most frequently asked question with respect to giving to the College might be an appropriate companion piece.

While these are just a few of the questions we often hear, perhaps these answers, prepared with the support of Nancy Hoogasian, director of the annual fund, will be useful as you consider future gifts to the College.

We value all of the support our alumni and friends provide, and we are happy to address any questions that are not addressed here. Just send us an email or a note, and we’ll use your questions as the basis of a future column.

Q. What exactly are endowment funds, and why are they so important for the College?

A. An endowment is a fund that is invested as part of the Rhode Island College Foundation’s portfolio to produce annual income in perpetuity. Only the interest income is expended according to the Foundation’s spending policy to support the donor’s designated interests; the principal of the fund is never invaded. Endowment funds provide the long-term and ongoing support necessary to support our students and special projects.

Q. Who participates in establishing endowment funds?

A. Endowments have been established by alumni, parents, and friends of the College. Donors specify how endowment income will be used. Examples include funds that support scholarships, library resources, research equipment, professorships, athletics, faculty development, and student support programs. The Foundation’s Annual Report lists all of the funds the Foundation manages.

Q. How would I go about setting up an endowment?

A. An endowment may be funded through one or more of the following:

- Cash
- Antiques or collectibles
- Gift annuities
- Securities
- Will
- Life insurance
- Bequest
- Real estate
- Pooled income fund
- Charitable trusts
- Testamentary trust provision

An endowment can be established in your own name or in the name of someone special to you. A minimum gift of $10,000 is needed to create an “endowed” fund. Many endowments are established through planned gifts, including bequests and annuities. However, starting an endowment—called an “emerging” fund—may be accomplished with contributions spread over several years. You can contact our Foundation office at 401-456-8840 for more information.

Q. Why is my gift to the Annual Fund needed, and what’s the difference in making a gift to the Foundation or to the Annual Fund?

A. Gifts to the Annual Fund play an important role in the day-to-day life of the College community. Because of the unrestricted nature of Annual Fund contributions, the money is utilized in a variety of ways—scholarship assistance, faculty research, alumni-related programs. The philosophy of this division is that your first gift should be to the Annual Fund as it is the only significant source of unrestricted money that supports all of the Alumni Office scholarships, publications, and special programs. Once you have made an annual gift, we encourage you to think about supporting the Foundation by contributing to an existing fund, or beginning a new one that reflects your area of interest.

Q. How often will I be contacted to give to the Annual Fund?

A. The Annual Fund sends mailings four times a year seeking financial support. However, not all of our 46,000 alumni are mailed each time. In the fall and spring, student callers also make phone calls seeking support.

Q. If I contribute early in the year, will I still receive other Annual Fund mailings?

A. Yes, you may—for two reasons: first, many individuals like to make more than one gift in a given fiscal year; and second, each mailing contains significant information not necessarily found in other College publications. If you prefer to receive just one Annual Fund mailing per year, please call 401-456-8827 or email nhoogasian@ric.edu

Q. What is a Class Gift, and is it part of the Annual Fund?

A. A class gift is often started around a significant reunion, like the 10th, 25th, or 50th anniversary. Reunion classes usually commemorate their celebration activities by creating a class gift, which is managed by the Foundation. Individual class members make a pledge or an outright donation to the class gift that, in turn, the class will designate to support a particular project or program. A donation to one’s class gift is separate from an Annual Fund gift, in that the class gift is managed by the RIC Foundation and funds are restricted for the intention decided by the class.

Q. What are matching gifts?

A. Many employers sponsor matching gift programs and will match—and often double or triple—any charitable contribution made by an employee. To find out if your place of employment is a matching gift company, visit our website at www.matchinggifts.com/ric. You can also contact your company’s office of human resources for more information.

Q. What is the Anchor Fund?

A. The Anchor Fund is the organized fundraising vehicle for the Dept. of Intercollegiate Athletics, Intramurals and Recreation. The charitable support given to the Anchor Fund from alumni and friends supports services, training facilities, and enhances the quality of the athletic experience, as well as academic success for our student-athletes. The Anchor Fund has two components: an endowed fund, and a fund that is used for direct support for ongoing programs. As a Division III school, we are prohibited from providing athletic scholarships to our students, but we can provide enhanced facilities. Our Student-Athlete Support Program is a national model for Division III schools.

Q. I am revising my will and want to remember Rhode Island College. What should I do?

A. As you know, a will can insure that your financial affairs are settled and your intentions carried out according to your wishes. A gift by bequest for the benefit of the College through the RIC Foundation can be included in the body of your existing will or by a simple clause, a codicil, included by your attorney. You could simply say: I give to the Rhode Island College Foundation the sum of [dollar amount] or [percentage] of the residue of my estate to be used to support [particular program, scholarship] or to establish a named fund in honor of or in memory of… Please note that the Foundation cannot provide legal advice, and any gifts made through your estate plan should be made with the advice of your financial advisor or legal counsel.

Q. What is the Gold & White Society?

A. Membership in the Gold & White Society is reserved for individuals who have informed the College of their intention to make an estate gift or for those who have already made a bequest through their estate plans. Estate gifts can have a significant impact in perpetuity, and the benefits they provide for the College community extend well into the future.

Q. How do the Foundation and Alumni Association remain accountable to donors and the College?

A. The Foundation Board of Directors and the Alumni Association Board monitor philanthropic financial activities. All gifts are used in strict accordance with the donor’s wishes and are deposited directly into an existing or newly created fund to benefit a purpose designated by the donor. The details of expenditures that benefit the College have always been available to the public through the College’s Office of Development. Financial statements were most recently audited by James N. Nadeau & Company, LLP College officials and state auditors receive copies of annually audited statements. The Foundation also publishes a report of gifts that summarizes annual results and includes a list of donors. Specific information about revenue, expenses and operating costs is available to the public through the Foundation’s annual tax return, Form 990, providing details of fund raising, management and other revenues and expenses.
Rhode Island College Young Alumni Group —

Rhode Island Community Food Bank Food Sorting Night Nov. 15

Double dutch – more than just a game

By
Lauren Mesale ’06
Staff Writer

Evelyn Robinson graduated from RIC’s School of Social Work’s case management program in 2002 as a welfare-to-work student, and returned to the College in the fall of 2005 as a business management major. Inspired by how much she can make a difference in the lives of others, Robinson decided to start at home with something that would interest her own daughters by becoming involved in Rhode Island Double Dutch, Inc. (RIDD), a precision jump roping league.

Double dutch involves two people turning the ropes and two people jumping simultaneously. While the jump rope is going on, the two people turning the ropes recite rhymes.

“Miss Mary Mack, Mack/all dressed in black, black, black/with silver buttons, buttons, buttons/all down her back, back, back…” is one of the hundreds of jump rope chants.

While RIDD is a newly established program, the organization began as a program under the umbrella of the Extra Mile in 2002. Extra Mile is an information referral agency in Woonsocket, inspired by low-income mothers, and was established as a means by which individuals could be aware of resourceful information in a timely manner.

RIDD offers at-risk children and others an opportunity to become involved with and enjoy the benefits of the sport. Double dutch not only serves as a way to pass time, but it also provides mental and physical exercise for its participants – children and adults – building strength and confidence.

“Self esteem is the key – we have children jumping rope who thought it would be totally impossible,” said Robinson.

Although double dutch has become very popular in the past few years, RIDD claims that as a sport, it is still in the preliminary stages.

In the beginning, Robinson based enrollment on the ages of her own daughters (now ages 17, 12, and six years), so that they could participate and spend time together as a family. For local competitions, participants must be in the third grade or higher, although this is not a rule in the statewide league competitions.

“The sport of double dutch is so appealing to children, because it’s a simple sport of rope and time,” Robinson said. The league attracts boys as well as girls. Even Attorney General Patrick Lynch has jumped with groups at events. Robinson said that some of RIDD’s current goals are to get more adults involved as coaches in their neighborhoods with the support and training of the RIDD organization, and to potentially host a national double dutch competition in Rhode Island to generate tourism and revenue for the state. The organization also hopes to develop events and programs each year, consisting of coach training, demonstrations, and tournaments to strengthen the sport and to get more people involved in its cause.

From 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Dec. 17, RIDD will hold a demonstration at the South Providence Recreation Center in Providence. While some people view double dutch as a simple playground game, others, including Robinson and the many participants in the RIDD, are able to appreciate it as a sport that is beneficial to the minds and bodies of children and adults alike.

For more information, contact Evelyn Robinson at rido@dtuch@yahoo.com or call 401-345-3800.
Men’s soccer captures first-ever ECAC title

BY Scott Gibbons, Sports Information Director

It’s amazing what can happen in one week.
On Saturday, Nov. 5, Head Men’s Soccer Coach John Mello’s team was recovering from a heartbreaking loss on penalty kicks in the championship game of the 2005 Little East Conference Men’s Soccer Tournament.
After battling Western Connecticut to a 0-0 tie through regulation and two overtimes, the Colonials prevailed, 8-7, on penalty kicks and advanced to the NCAA Div. III Men’s Soccer Tournament. The Anchormen were left in disbelief.
Fast-forward to Sunday, Nov. 13 and the Anchormen were flying high and celebrating a 2-0 shutout over top-seeded Clark University in the championship game of the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) New England Div. III Men’s Soccer Tournament. RIC, the second seed, won each of the three games it played in the tournament, which was made up of the top eight teams in New England that didn’t get into the NCAA championships.
“We didn’t end the Little East Tournament the way we wanted to,” Mello said. “After the Western Connecticut game, we figured our record was good enough to get into the ECAC Tournament and be one of the higher seeds, so we were pretty sure our season wasn’t done. We treated it as a three-game season and the team responded. The team wasn’t satisfied with what had happened in the LEC final and they focused on winning an ECAC Championship.”
It is the first-ever ECAC title for the men’s soccer program, which has been selected to participate in the tournament only four times in school history. The Anchormen have been picked in each of the last three seasons (2003-05).
The Anchormen’s first game in the tournament was against seventh-seeded Castleton State on Nov. 9. RIC took out its frustrations on the Spartans, scoring four goals in the first half en route to a 4-0 shutout.
The Anchormen were so dominant that they held CSC without a shot on goal, while in turn firing 20 at the Spartans’ net. Senior forward Kyle Teixeira figured in three of RIC’s four scores with a goal and two assists. The win set up a rematch with long-time nemesis and third-seeded Plymouth State, who the Anchormen had knocked out of the Little East Tournament just 10 days earlier.
Junior midfielder Holman Giraldo and senior forwards Teixeira and Chris Childs scored for RIC, while sophomore goalkeeper Jadon Neves made six saves in a 3-1 win that sent RIC to the title game against Clark.
RIC played one of its best games of the season in the shutout win over the Cougars. Senior midfielder Matt Borges scored both of the Anchormen’s goals, including a highlight reel goal in the 47th minute from 15 yards out that froze the goalkeeper and went into the top corner. Sophomore goalkeeper Sean Gonsalves, who suffered a leg injury against Western Connecticut and missed the first two games of the tourney, returned to make nine saves and earn his sixth shutout of the season in the win.
Borges, who had three goals and an assist for seven points in
**Athletic Hall of Fame nominations accepted**

Although the Rhode Island College Athletic Hall of Fame Class of 2005 was just recently inducted, it is already time to nominate individuals for the Class of 2006. Anyone who was previously nominated will still be considered.

All student-athlete nominees must have graduated from Rhode Island College and have completed their collegiate athletic careers at least five years ago. Any coaches or administrators will be considered on their own merits.

Nominations should be forwarded to the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics and sent to the attention of Art Pontarelli. The nominee’s information must include their name, address and phone number.

Nominations can also be faxed to the athletic department at 401-456-8514 or left on voicemail: 401-456-8863. The deadline is Dec. 30.

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**SPORTS**

**Events Dec. 6 - Jan. 22**

**Men’s Basketball**

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<td>Johnson &amp; Wales</td>
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<td>Thurs.</td>
<td>Salve Regina</td>
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<td>Plymouth State *</td>
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<td>Eastern Connecticut</td>
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<td>Brown</td>
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<td>Thurs.</td>
<td>Connecticut College</td>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>Sat.</td>
<td>Plymouth State *</td>
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<td>Thurs.</td>
<td>Wesleyan</td>
<td>6 p.m.</td>
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<td>Wed.</td>
<td>Stony Brook</td>
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<td>Providence</td>
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<td>Fri.</td>
<td>Wesleyan</td>
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<td>Sun.</td>
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**Wrestling**

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<tr>
<td>Fri.</td>
<td>Wesleyan</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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<td>Thurs.</td>
<td>Citrus Duals (FL)</td>
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<td>Fri.</td>
<td>Citrus Duals (FL)</td>
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<td>Fri.</td>
<td>Williams * with Ithaca</td>
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<td>at Budd Whitehill Duas (Lyonring)</td>
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<td>at Budd Whitehill Duas (Lyonring)</td>
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<td>Tues.</td>
<td>WPI *</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun.</td>
<td>at N.E. Duals (Bridgewater St.)</td>
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**Men’s and Women’s Indoor Track**

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<th>Day</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sat.</td>
<td>at Harvard Invitational</td>
<td>10 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat.</td>
<td>at Cardinal Invitational (Wesleyan)</td>
<td>10 a.m.</td>
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<td>Sat.</td>
<td>at Tufts Invitational</td>
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**Women’s Gymnastics**

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<th>Day</th>
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<td>Sat.</td>
<td>at West Chester</td>
<td>Noon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun.</td>
<td>Southern Connecticut</td>
<td>1 p.m.</td>
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* Little East Conference contest
* NECWCA opponent

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

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**Soccer**

Continued from p 6

the tournament, was named the MVP. “I couldn’t have asked for a better way to close out my career,” he said. “To have two goals in a championship game is everybody’s dream. It was great to finally bring home a championship for RIC.”

The team title was also important to Teixeira, who owns RIC records for career goals and points. “I’ve had a lot of individual success during my career, but winning a championship as a team in my final collegiate game is something I’ll never forget,” he said.

RIC ended the season with a 12-5-5 overall record, the most wins in a season since the 1973 squad went 13-3. The Anchormen held their opponents scoreless in 11 of 22 games.

“I feel this is one of the best defensive teams in Rhode Island College history,” assistant coach Dan Doherty said. “Players on defense like [junior] James Lynch, [freshman] Josh Silva and [junior] Nick Tavares, to go along with our midfielders, helped us keep teams off the scoreboard and gave our forwards chances to make plays.”

**Mary Tucker Thorp College Professorship**

The Mary Tucker Thorp College Professorship selection committee is pleased to invite nominations for the 2006-2007 award. The Mary Tucker Thorp College Professorship is awarded annually to a full professor who has demonstrated excellence in teaching and, in addition, excellence in scholarship and/or professional and collegial service. The recipient of the award will be the Mary Tucker Thorp Professor for the 2006-2007 academic year. Along with the professorship there will be a $1,000 stipend and six hours of release time. The recipient will deliver a college-wide lecture in the spring of the award year.

The Mary Tucker Thorp College Professorship is open to all full professors with at least six years of service at Rhode Island College. Individuals (including past recipients of an FAS or FSEHD/SSW Thorp award) are eligible for a second Thorp Professorship after a period of at least 10 years. For the 2006-2007 Thorp Professorship, the deadline for nominations is Dec. 12. Nominated individuals will be asked to submit their supporting material by March 1, 2006. The committee will attempt to make its recommendation on or about May 1, 2006. Nominations may be made by any member of the College community and may be submitted to any member of the selection committee. Eligible nominees will be notified of their nomination by the chair of the selection committee and provided with the criteria and deadline information. The names of those nominated will be kept confidential. Members of the selection committee are: Karl Benzerger, Kresten Jespersen, Abbas Kazemi, Stanley Lemons, Elaine Magyar, John Perkins, Frederic Reamer, Ying Zhou, Maureen Reddy (Chair).

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Jo-Ann Avedesian ‘80, a Rhode Island College Athletic Hall of Famer, was honored on National Philanthropy Day at a reception held at the R.I. Convention Center on Nov. 22 by the Association of Fundraising Professionals of Rhode Island (AFP-RI). (Left to right) Peg Brown, RIC vice president for development and college relations; Avedesian; and Don Tencher, RIC director of athletics.

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Students want to know WHAT’S NEWS, and what’s not

A group of senior marketing research students have selected the College’s campus newspaper, What’s News @ Rhode Island College, to analyze for their final course project. Their goal is to find out what readers like about the publication, or what they would like to see added or changed. The findings will come from a questionnaire that was mailed to 1,000 random newspaper recipients in November. Survey results will be published in the January issue of What’s News.

“We’re most interested in getting actual data that the News and PR dept. can use,” said Josh Bilsky, one of the students in the research group.

The marketing research students have assembled a RIC gift basket to be raffled for those who participate in the survey.

The project is part of the Marketing 333 course, where students gather data and information to help them learn to make better management decisions. Stephen Ramocki, professor of marketing and course instructor, said that, “the course allows students to comprehend and to appreciate the methods and processes that research organizations use to collect and analyze information.”

The research project counts for half of the student’s grade.

Students Tracy Benevides, Bilsky, Chandra Dempsey, Melissa Fredette, Adam Lake, and Tracy Rolland, contacted Jane Fusco, director of News and Public Relations at RIC and editor of What’s News, to initiate the project.

“I was completely receptive to the students’ interest in researching What’s News and I am as anxious to see the results as they are,” Fusco said.

Fusco said that her department has made major changes to the newspaper in the four years that she has held her post at RIC and that feedback is always welcome. “I hear from our readers regularly, usually about specific articles. This survey will give answers to general questions that we can use going forward,” she said.

Dempsey said that this is her first market research project and likes doing the work firsthand, especially the details of determining the strategies and questions. “I really want to hear from the people in the community who get the newspaper, not just the people on campus,” she said.

Benevides is hoping that the project will give her a head start when looking for a job in pharmaceutical marketing after graduation.

For Rolland, the project has a more personal appeal. “After spring semester, I too will be a RIC graduate and want to feel a sense of pride and connection with the College community even if I won’t be here everyday,” she said.

Ramocki’s marketing students have been conducting research projects at RIC for the last 20 years. “So that’s about 140 projects,” he said.

The What’s News research group is optimistic about the results. “I anticipate some really good feedback and giving it back to What’s News,” Bilsky said.

According to Ramocki, the projects have ranged in scope throughout the years and have involved large and small for profit companies and some nonprofit organizations. Companies such as Hasbro, Amtral, The Providence Zoo, the Rhode Island Blood Center, Citizens Bank, the Smithfield Economic Commission, and Planned Parenthood have used Ramocki’s students for research.

Ramocki said that his students’ research has helped smaller businesses that could never afford the fees of a professional research service.

This semester, all of the class’s research projects are focused at RIC. In addition to the students analyzing What’s News, similar projects are being initiated for the admissions office and the music department.

“These projects have been highly successful for a few reasons,” Ramocki said. “First, the students receive the hands-on experience that can only come from this type of direct involvement. Second, the community benefits from a free service that we are providing.”

Ramocki said that the projects also create visibility for RIC’s business program. “Ramocki has complete confidence in the value of his students’ work. “A client once told me that they had paid a consultant $25,000 to perform a research study and that the one my students performed a couple of years later was every bit as good or even better,” he said.

Alum Sue Kent has a new Hope for breast cancer awareness

BY Jane Fusco
Editor

Sue Kent ’90 and Patty Kubacki have been best friends for over 20 years. They’ve been through everything that girlfriends can experience, or so they thought until last April when Kubacki was diagnosed with late stage breast cancer. Kent was the first person Kubacki told when she found out, even before she told her family.

“Patty was petrified. It took her so long to come forward,” Kent said. At that point, Kent knew that her friend, who had never had a mammogram until she discovered a lump, would have a long and difficult time ahead, one that might have been avoided if she’d taken the steps for early detection.

So once again, the two friends faced the challenge together. Kent offered encouragement, support, and companionship during the many weeks of chemotherapy, surgery and radiation.

“I told her she wouldn’t go through it alone. I went with her to every chemo treatment, five hours every Friday, all summer long,” said Kent.

That’s when an idea came to her. A product designer, Kent wanted to create something special to raise awareness about breast cancer.

Inspired by the fact that cancer research has made many significant advances in recent years, and that early detection has resulted in a more than 90 percent breast cancer survival rate, Kent, along with her husband Gary Farias, also a graphic designer, created a whimsical dog character, wearing the pink ribbon symbol now synonymous with breast cancer efforts, and made up the slogan, Sit. Stay. Heal. Help Find A Cure, for tee shirts that she sells in retail stores and on a website. All net proceeds go directly to the American Cancer Society for breast cancer research.

“Research takes time and money,” Kent said. “Patty’s treatment wasn’t even available five years ago.”

Kent said that all her graphic design training at RIC came to mind as she began this labor of love and remembered the words of professors Heemong
Who said Republicans and Democrats can’t get along? Certainly not anyone who attended the events of the three-day Congress to Campus visit at Rhode Island College Nov. 13-15. The program, sponsored by the Stennis Center for Public Policy, sends bipartisan pairs of former members of Congress to college campuses around the country to spark students’ interest in politics.

Former Congress people Jan Meyers (R-KS, 1985-1997) and George Hochbrueckner (D-NY, 1987-1995) participated in three public forums and classroom discussions to promote bi-partisanship and the nobility of public service.

Meyers and Hochbrueckner spoke to nine different classes of political science, history, sociology and communications students, plus members of student community government and various student organizations on campus. Meyers also went online to discuss how well democracy is working in America, as part of a virtual classroom web chat.

On Nov. 14, area high school students heard about ways that they can get involved in their school and in the community from RIC civic engagement students and the former congressional leaders.

That evening, a Town Hall meeting for the campus community and community-at-large focused on the topics of leadership, public service and support for nonprofit organizations in the state. Kathleen Swann ’79, M ’89, PhD ’01, CEO of Leader ship Rhode Island, and Mark Motte, director of RIC’s Center for Public Policy, moderated the meeting. Robert Weygand, former Rhode Island congressman who served from 1997-2001, joined the visiting former members in that discussion.

Two more former Rhode Island congressmen, Robert Tiernan (D-1967-1975) and Ed Beard (D-1975-1981), joined Meyers and Hochbrueckner the next day for a panel discussion with local political reporters on breaking partisan deadlock, a seemingly crippling problem in Congress these days. Scott MacKay of The Providence Journal, Bill Rappleye of NBC-10, Jim Hummel of ABC-6 News, and Glenn Laxton of WPRI-12/Fox News Providence asked the former congressional people hard-hitting questions about party loyalty versus voting one’s conscience, political bickering, term limits and financing a political campaign.

The media forum drew a full house in Alger Hall’s conference center. Members of the audience were invited to ask questions of the former congress people and the reporters at the end of the panel discussion. “Never in the nine years that I have worked on this program have I witnessed a better one,” said William “Brother” Rogers, director of programs for the Stennis Center, referring to the RIC visit.

He added that he was quite impressed with RIC students. “The ones I met had a strong interest in public service and a desire to make a difference through involvement in the political process.”

Hochbrueckner, who has visited four college campuses through the program, said that RIC’s program was the most unique one he has seen. “Besides the normal practice of meeting with students and their associated faculty, the high school assembly, the Town Hall meeting that was open to the public, and the exchange with the media were new and delightful additions,” he said. “Kudos to (RIC) for being trendsetters.”

The Congress-to-Campus visit at RIC was organized by Valerie Endress, associate professor of communications; Victor Proffugh, political science professor, and the Office of News and Public Relations.

Congress to Campus visits about 35 U.S. college campuses annually.
Physics lab
Continued from p 1

As I walked the campus on Homecoming weekend, I watched heads turn as returning alumni looked closely at Alger Hall. The building had changed. The new warm stucco exterior flanked by two stories of tinted glass suggested that the exterior of the building would also be unrecognizable.

Everyone who ever stood in line at the Alger Bursar’s Office, picked up a film at the AV Office or sat in a second-floor classroom watching an accounting professor draw ledgers on the blackboard will find no familiar landmarks in Alger today.

Today’s Alger is built for the Net generation. Growing in the age of the Internet and MTV, entering freshmen have high expectations for technology and multimedia. They expect wireless networking to be ubiquitous. They want instructional technology to engage their interest. Alger does not disappoint them. It is Rhode Island College’s college’s high-tech showcase. Every classroom is an electronic classroom and every teacher teaches with technology.

In my role as director of User Support Services for the College, I have enjoyed the opportunity to work with the administration, faculty and technology integrators whose vision for Alger has become a reality. One of these visionaries was James Schweikert, dean of the School of Management. He envisioned the e-podium that is now the centerpiece of every Alger classroom.

What is an e-podium? It is a remarkable control center concealing multimedia devices and a computer inside a traditional speaker’s podium. With the touch of a button on an LCD panel on the top of the podium, an instructor chooses an electronic presentation source, a computer for PowerPoint, a videotape on the VCR, or a DVD. Changing one source to another is easy—just touch a button.

The e-podium holds other attractions, including a special annotation monitor that allows the instructor to annotate each lecture with a smart pen. Annotations naturally appear on the eight-foot screen at the front of the classroom. The blackboard is history.

While the e-podium is fixed in the front of the classroom, the instructor’s movements are not restricted. The instructor toolkit includes a wireless handheld mouse to maintain control of the computer from anywhere in the classroom.

Although faculty from all disciplines teach in Alger Hall, the faculty of the School of Management call it home. Their offices are located on the second floor and their classes meet on the first floor. For many of them, the opening of Alger has had a dramatic impact on their teaching.

Here are a few of their comments:

The technology is very easy to use...It is nice to have the ability to write notes on the PowerPoint slides and still have plenty of white board room to work with for other notes and comments...In my accounting classes I can review some of the problems using Excel and its features. So there is dual coverage—an accounting concept and reinforcement of some of the tech skills students learn in CIS courses. —Jane Przybyla, associate professor of accounting

My being able to use the new technology spontaneously has increased my students’ desire and ability to apply management theories to existing organizations. At any time during any class, I can access the Internet to show my students examples of company operations and examples of relevant theory-based articles. This enables my students to grow accustomed to bridging the gap between theory and practice. —Shani Carter, associate professor of management

The technology in Alger is outstanding...Being able to bring in multiple sources of media and being able to teach with many different voices has had a dramatic impact on the efficacy of my teaching. The smart panel displays are amazing in their ability to draw and keep student attention to the material you are presenting... —Alex Wilson, assistant professor of economic and finance

It’s wonderful to teach a class in a room where everything works, the acoustics and visuals are great, and the environment is comfortable for both students and faculty. —Richard Perreault, assistant professor of accounting and computer information systems

In the future, the technology found in Alger will become increasingly commonplace on campus. Students and faculty alike will demand it.

Kim and John de Melim as she worked on this special project. She said that de Melim taught her the power of a symbol, and she learned the double meaning of words from Kim. The dog character is a combination of Kent’s own two dogs, a King Charles spaniel named Sketch, and Fresco, her German shepherd. The slogan, she says, plays off common words used to put dogs at ease.

Sketch accompanied Kent and Kubacki to the chemotherapy sessions. “He kept Patty company and helped relax her,” she said.

Kent said she learned valuable information through her friend’s treatment process and hearing the stories of other women going through the process.

“When patients are first diagnosed, they tell you to bring a buddy to the doctor’s office because they’re [the patients] usually shocked and nervous and there’s so much information to absorb,” she said.

And most importantly, “there’s tons of support out there,” Kent said.

Kent has even sent her tee shirts to singer Melissa Etheridge, who recently underwent treatment for breast cancer, and Congressman Patrick Kennedy for his mother, Joan, also recently diagnosed with the disease, as well as celebrities Martha Stewart, Oprah Winfrey and Ellen DeGeneres, in hopes of promotional assistance.

In October, Kent assembled a group of 40 of Kubacki’s friends and co-workers to walk in the American Cancer Society’s Making Strides for Breast Cancer walk-a-thon at Roger Williams Park in Providence.

“My goal is to be the number one fundraiser for cancer—at least in Rhode Island,” she said.

As for Patty Kubacki, her prognosis is uncertain at this time, but Kent said she has a newfound strength to help others through their treatment.

It is also the reason she named her dog character Hope. “I truly believe that no matter what prognosis or stage of cancer someone is challenged with, there is always hope,” she said.

For more information, contact Sue Kent at 401-624-2153 or visit www.sitstayheal.com.
CHRYS ALAM ®

available in the cyber-electronic world is more recent – and only just starting to be exploited.

More than ever, students can fully experience their subject – visually, audibly and textually – rather than simply being aware of it through notes in a textbook. This is important, Reamer pointed out, because students learn in different ways. “It provides students with a larger number of hooks to hang their hats on,” he said.

In two classrooms in the School of Social Work, a computerized podium console allows instructors Internet access, DVD capability and the means to display large-scale images while audio projects from wall speakers.

“Students like variety – the mix of lecture, discussion, electronic demonstration,” said Reamer. That mix could include a visit, during class, to the National Public Radio website to hear NPR’s This I Believe essays on relevant course topics read by the authors themselves or available as text.

The essay archives reach back 20 years, and include everyone from William F. Buckley Jr. and Gloria Steinem to Reamer himself, who broadcast his essay on the program last May.

When local activist Henry Shelton was about to address one of Reamer’s classes, the professor played the local NPR station’s recording of a story about Shelton as a way to introduce him to the students.

And when Reamer wanted his students to learn about a wilderness therapy program for troubled teenagers, he locked on a website video showing the Red Cliffs ascent program in progress, viewed on the classroom whiteboard, which double as video screen and teacher’s notepad.

“I can run historical events into the classroom as if they’re live,” he said. “It not only adds authenticity to the teaching, for many students it’s more engaging.”

For a class reviewing a legal issue, he can go directly to the U.S. Supreme Court website to read a decision, search through passages, look up the dissenting opinion – all while class is in session.

“What used to take a week to find now takes five minutes,” said Reamer, who usually plans a two-and-a-half hour lesson for a three-hour class, to allow for spontaneous in-class web research.

“By teaching statistical concepts used to mean that Reamer would bring out his Binomial Probability Demonstrator, a large bead-filled gizmo that when flipped, illustrated the theory of probability by quickly filtering the beads through a maze. Now, he can choose from several websites that offer vividly colorful graphics of cascading balls falling in slow motion to clearly and captivatingly demonstrate the theory.

One website Reamer is very enthusiastic about is FirstGov.gov, the U.S. government’s official web portal. It provides one port of entry for any federal source of information, and has links to state, local, even tribal governments.

At the start of each course, Reamer takes his students to Ad...
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, Kaufman Center, Providence, RI 02908.

REMEMBER RADIODIAGRAM? According to the 1998 RIC yearbook, the College’s radio station, WXIN, under general manager Ben Mesiti, produced a weekly morning show called Radiodiagram in 1997-98. It aired on Fridays at 8 a.m. and the on-air talent was the “wild and wacky team” (we are quoting the yearbook here) of King B, Phil Rivers and Steve Bannon (pictured above). Any avid listeners out there?

FOCUS ON Faculty and Staff

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

John O’del, assistant professor of management, will have his chapter on "Exporting" published in the forthcoming text, International Entrepreneurship, edited by Shawn Carragher, to be published by Information Age Publishing Co. in the spring of 2006.

Kate Sanders, associate professor of computer science, has recently co-written an introductory Java textbook, Object-Oriented Programming in Java: a Graphical Approach, with Andries van Dam, a professor at Brown University. The book, published by Addison-Wesley in August, takes an innovative approach to teaching the introductory course in the computer science major, focusing on object-oriented design and programming and taking advantage of the visual appeal of interactive graphics. Sanders was also one of the co-authors of a paper, “What Computer-Science Students Don’t Know,” presented at the First International Conference on Computer Science Education in Seattle, Wash., in October.

David Abrahamson, professor of mathematics, was recently awarded the 2005 Distinguished Teacher Award by the Mathematical Association of America’s Northeastern Section. The award was first established in 1991 in order to honor college or university teachers who have been widely recognized as extraordinarily successful and whose teaching effectiveness has been shown to have had influence beyond their own institutions.

Roger Simons, professor of mathematics and computer science, was recently nominated as one of the nation’s leading teachers by Sara Czyzewicz, a 2005 RIC graduate. He will have his chapter on computer science. This recognition is given to educators nominated by exceptional high school and college students for having made a difference in the students’ lives. Simons and the other nominees have biographical sketches in this year’s Who’s Who Among America’s Teachers.

Diane R. Martell, assistant professor of social work, has had her new book, Criminal Justice and the Placement of Abused Children, published by LFB Scholarly Publishing LLC in New York. The book examines the ways in which the interventions of the criminal justice and child protection systems overlap and impact each other in cases of child abuse. It is part of a series on new research entitled Criminal Justice: Recent Scholarship, edited by Marilyn McShane and Frank P. Williams, III.

Dianne Huling M ’87, greenhouse manager, presented a lecture titled, “The Drakensberg: Its Flora and Culture” this spring to the New England Rock Garden Society. Huling received the New England Rock Garden Society’s service award for the year 2005, which was presented at the society’s annual meeting. She won first place in class 4, Rock Garden Scene and third place in class 2, Natural Scene Featuring Wild Plants in the fall 2005 international photography contest sponsored by the North American Rock Garden Society. She also garnered nine honorable mentions across all four classes.

WE ASKED...YOU RESPONDED: In our Oct. 3 Looking Back, we asked if you recognized the students in the Homecoming 1962 photo (WHERE WERE YOU BACK IN ’62?).

Many of you responded, including Carol (Ravenelle) DeVincenzo, who was the proud owner (and sitting in the front seat) of the 1964 Mercury in the photo. Special thanks to DeVincenzo, Barbara (Cartwright) Giffing ’85, and David Capaldi ’84, who identified many of those pictured.

Among those in the photo below are Jane Condon, John Di Tomaasso ’64, the late Mike Ranalli, Sandy (Amon) Pitocchi ’67, Jeanine (Detalco) Vaugli ’64, Tom Izzo ’64, Josephine (Squillante) Barkdale ’64, Barbara (Granieri) De Silva ’64, Albert (Turcioni) Picozzi ’64, Kathleen Gorman ’64, Carole King Miernicki ’64, and the late Tom Pezzullo ’64 (in chicken disguise), former RIC vice president for development and college relations.

Remember RADIODIAGRAM? According to the 1998 RIC yearbook, the College’s radio station, WXIN, under general manager Ben Mesiti, produced a weekly morning show called Radiodiagram in 1997-98. It aired on Fridays at 8 a.m. and the on-air talent was the “wild and wacky team” (we are quoting the yearbook here) of King B, Phil Rivers and Steve Bannon (pictured above). Any avid listeners out there?
RIC historical project wins Preservation Society award

Rhode Island College’s State Home and School Project, which documents and preserves the history of one of the oldest orphanages in the U.S., has been chosen a winner of the Providence Preservation Society’s 2005 Preservation Initiative Award for Education/Publications/Community Involvement. The State Home and School for Children (later known as the O’Rourke Children’s Center) was the state’s orphanage from 1885-1979. It was located on what is now RIC’s east campus. A yellow cottage, once used as an orphan’s dormitory, is the last original structure remaining from the home. The State Home and School Project began over three years ago, and is ongoing. It has received over $400,000 in grants and donations that resulted in the creation of a memorial to the children who lived at the orphanage, three videos and a recently released audio CD that provides an oral history of the home through interviews with former residents, employees and volunteers.

The funds have also been used to begin restoration of the yellow cottage. Now in its first phase, this major initiative will transform the cottage into a child welfare resource center and museum.

In a letter to the College announcing the award, Preservation Society officials said, “The project…serves as a model to other campuses with historic properties to serve as stewards of their resources while at the same time providing compelling interpretation of the site and its meaning.”

“It’s wonderful that the project is being recognized in such a prestigious manner,” said Patricia Nolin ’84 M ’87, coordinator of the project and special assistant to the president at RIC. “Our committees have worked diligently to tell the stories of the State Home and School, and how its history continues to impact the state. History and preservation go hand in hand. Therefore, receiving this award furthers our mission and ultimate goals.”

The award will be presented at the society’s annual meeting on Dec. 8 at Grace Episcopal Church in Providence.
Graphic design competition winners on display at Bannister

O utstanding design works chosen from an American Institute of Graphic Arts (AIGA) competition will be on display in Bannister Gallery Dec. 8-23. An opening reception for the exhibition will be held on Dec. 8 at 7 p.m.

In all, 92 examples of art selected from 4,200 entries to last year’s 365: AIGA Annual Design Competition will be showcased. The winning entries, all created in 2005, were first exhibited at the AIGA National Design Center in New York City in December of 2004. The show has since traveled to various locations throughout the country.

The AIGA’s juried competitions celebrate excellence in contemporary North American design and seek to promote the value of design to a broader public. The winning selections demonstrate the process of design, the role of the designer and the value of design. Both aesthetic judgments and an evaluation of communication effectiveness were considered.

The AIGA “sets the national agenda for the role of design in its economic, social, political, cultural and creative contexts,” according to the organization’s website.

Gallery hours during exhibits are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Thursdays, noon-9 p.m. Closed on weekends and holidays. Exhibits and events are free and all are welcome to attend. Accessible to persons with disabilities. For information on event dates and exhibit opening receptions, check the website at www.ric.edu/Bannister/ or call 401-456-9765.

Piano pair Richard and John Contiguglia to appear in January Adams series concert

The Adams Foundation Piano Recital Series – a new showcase for American pianists – will return next month with a concert by duo-pianists Richard and John Contiguglia. The identical twins, acclaimed for their brilliance and versatility, will perform Sunday, Jan. 22, 2006 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, seeks to re-establish piano recitals in communities throughout the United States.

For their RIC appearance, the Contiguglia brothers will play the Franz Liszt Symphonic Poem No. 4 (Orpheus) and Beethoven’s 9th Symphony (Choral). Op. 125 as transcribed for two pianos by Franz Liszt. Richard and John consider the Beethoven-Liszt 9th Symphony the greatest work ever written for two pianos.

Born of Italian immigrants in Auburn, N.Y., the Contiguglias began collaborating as a piano duo at the age of five. Since their London debut in 1962, which the London Daily Telegraph described as setting “a new standard for this intimate form of music-making,” they have performed with major orchestras throughout the world, and in venues such as Carnegie Hall, the Lincoln Center, Kennedy Center and Queen Elizabeth Hall in London.

According to The New York Times, “The Contiguglias are first-rate pianists and interpreters, and they bring a particularly poetic style to the epic music that makes it sound poignantly human.”

The brothers are also the proprietors of their own recording company, Gemini CD Classics.

Tickets for Richard and John Contiguglia are $20 each. 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.

‘Eleanor Roosevelt’: a legacy lives on in the RIC Winter Choral Concert

Libby Larsen, one of America’s most prolific composers, offers a glimpse into the life of former first lady and humanitarian Eleanor Roosevelt at this year’s Winter Choral Concert at RIC.

The concert, conducted by Theresa Coffman, associate professor of music, will be held on Dec. 9, at 8 p.m. in Sapinsley Hall in the Nazarian Center. The RIC Chorus, Chamber Singers, and Women’s and Men’s Chorus will also perform.

Larsen will be at the performance following a brief resi- dence at the College in which she coached the RIC ensembles in the preparation and performance of her works. Her cantata, Eleanor Roosevelt, highlights the concert.

Larsen has created over 200 works including Jack’s Valentine and Witches’ Trio.

Eleanor Roosevelt features the talents of RIC voice instructor Susan Rodgers and Melody Ruffin Ward, RIC associate professor of dance.

The cantata was commissioned by The New York Concert Singers and premiered in 1996 at Merkin Hall in New York City. The libretto has 14 sections and includes a fi- nale. The essence of Eleanor Roosevelt is represented through both speaking (Ruffin Ward) and singing (Rodgers) voices.

In each section of the cantata, “Eleanor” speaks about circum- stances that have shaped her life as a woman, a wife, and public leader. Throughout the piece, the chorus assumes many roles – friends, crowds, individuals, and commen- tators.

In 1973, Larsen co-founded the Minnesota Composers Forum now known as the American Composers Forum. She has received the 2003-04 Harissios Papamarkou Chair in Education at the Library of Congress, the Eugene McDermott Award in the Arts from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and a Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

Larsen has been hailed as “the only English-speaking composer since Benjamin Britten who matches great verse with fine music so intelligently and expressively” by USA Today.

“It is an extreme honor to work with her, and all the ensembles are grateful for this experience,” said Coffman.

Admission is $2, free for RIC stu- dents, faculty and staff.
Winter Jazz Concert to heat up holiday season Dec. 12

Picture yourself in the 1930’s sitting in a smoke-filled lounge at a round cherry oak table with a glass of scotch on the rocks. You peer out of your brimmed hat, tilted low to keep the haze out of your eyes as Duke Ellington addresses the crowd. Suddenly you realize that the man in front of you is not Sir Duke at all, it is Joseph Foley, director of the Rhode Island College Concert Jazz Band.

The lounge you’re sitting in is Sapinsley Hall in the Nazarian Center, and it’s not 1936, but Dec. 12, 2005. As you look at your watch you realize it’s 8 p.m., time for the annual Winter Jazz Concert at RIC. The band, which Foley, an assistant professor of music at RIC, began leading this fall, consists mostly of music majors at RIC. They recently previewed their skills in front of a congregation in Cranston celebrating its 100th anniversary.

“It was a baptism under fire,” Foley said, “Eighteen players that haven’t played together before… with only 10 hours of rehearsal for two hours of performance… they still brought down the house!”

An accomplished musician, Foley is a member of the Boston Symphony, with whom he performed for three weeks in November. He has played a variety of venues from beneath the Eiffel Tower to the White House. He has tutored trumpet at universities such as MIT and Harvard.

Why choose to teach at RIC? “There aren’t many places that offer full-time teaching jobs in this part of the country,” Foley said. “There’s sort of a music community here that embraces the performances.”

Growing up in New Hampshire and living in Boston, he describes RIC as a “dream job.” “It’s a small school…the professors are terrific…it’s a place I have no hesitation in endorsing.”

There’s no hesitation in endorsing the RIC jazz band either. Students from all ranges of musical talent have come together in just two months to put the finishing touches on this month’s concert.

While the listeners are jumpin’ and jivin’ to “The Chicken,” they’ll wonder if they are really in Sapinsley Hall with a college jazz band, or in the House of Blues with Jaco Pastorius.

So tell the snowmen to take refuge, and leave your jackets at home. The Winter Jazz Concert is going to heat up the holiday season with a performance that won’t stop until it “brings down the house.”

RIC gets plenty of credit for new Duke Robillard DVD

A RIC professor, two students and two alumni played a part in a new DVD by legendary blues guitarist Duke Robillard.

The DVD, A Special Evening with Duke Robillard and Friends, was recorded live at The Blackstone River Theatre in Cumberland. The 94-minute disk features two sets of blues and jazz.

Philip Palombo, associate professor of communications shares producer, editor, author, camera, and video/audio post production credits on the DVD.

Anthony Finucane ’03 and junior Matt Tente worked cameras, while junior Andres Zuniga served as production assistant.

Russell Gusetti ’88 is managing director of the Blackstone River Theatre.

“The synergistic energies around this project were tremendous and when it started rolling it moved quickly,” said Palombo.

He had been told by an audio engineer friend that Robillard had wanted to do a history of blues concert for years, one that could perhaps become a DVD. Robillard wanted the DVD to capture him “in a relaxed environment, almost as if they were playing in his living room,” said Palombo.

Particularly rewarding for Palombo was the opportunity for two current students and a recent alumnus to gain an internationa distribut credit on their resume.

Robillard, a founder of the seminal Rhode Island horn band Roomful of Blues, has been performing since the 1960s, and continues a busy recording and touring schedule.

He has received the International Guitarist of the Year award from the French Blues Association, W.C. Handy Guitarist, and was nominated for Producer of the Year and International Artist of the Year for Canada’s Maple Blues Awards.

Robillard’s upcoming area appearances include the Union Blues in Worcester, Mass., on Dec. 10, and at Chan’s in Woonsocket on Dec. 17.

Joseph Foley

RIC alums help make ‘Cinderella’s Christmas’ magic

What happens when you combine an ever popular fairy-tale with Christmas merriment? You have the Kaleidoscope Theatre’s musical production, Cinderella’s Christmas, coming Sunday, Dec. 11 at 2 p.m. in the Auditorium in Roberts Hall.

This holiday season event features five RIC alums and four current students among its cast, crew and creative team.

“I discovered during my time at RIC that the theatre department is full of talented performers,” said Tommy Iafrate ’05, Kaleidoscope Theatre’s artistic director. “It is understandable that so many of our actors come from the program.”

Cinderella’s Christmas was written by David G. Payton ’77, Kaleidoscope’s executive director. It is decorated with holiday songs, special dances, bright costumes, magical moments, and lots of audience involvement.

RIC cast members include senior Justin Robinson (Prince Charming); Ali Angelone ’05 (Disgustia); senior Amanda Genovese (Putricia); Sandy Cerel ’72, MAT ’77 (Fairy Godmother); and senior Tim Caouette (Minister). Rob Ferland ’05 is sound engineer, and senior Nicole Frechette is stage manager for the production.

Kaleidoscope Theatre is a Rhode Island-based company that tours extensively throughout the United States. It has received numerous honors, most recently being named the state’s best children’s theatre company by Rhode Island Monthly magazine.

Admission to Cinderella’s Christmas is $7 in advance and $8 on the day of the performance. For tickets or for further information, call the RIC box office at 401-456-8144.

To Catch a Coach: The Fairy Godmother (Sandy Cerel ’72, MAT ’77) left has arrived in time to save the day and send Cinderella off to the Christmas Ball in style – in a pumpkin! But Cinderella’s stepsister Disgustia (Ali Angelone ’05, right) is very upset! Come see Cinderella’s Christmas live on stage on Sunday, Dec. 11 in the Auditorium in Roberts Hall.
Celebrate...  
the Tradition of Friendship,  
the Beauty of the Season,  
and a New Year of Peace and Happiness

Join RIC President John Nazarian for a Holiday Open House and Tree Lighting Ceremony

Tuesday, Dec. 13  
3:30 - 6 p.m.  
President’s House  
RIC campus

The tree lighting will take place outside the President’s House at 5 p.m. followed by a reading of A Visit from St. Nick by Patricia Nolin ’84 M ’87, special assistant to the president.

Dolores Passarelli ’74, director of OA-SIS, reads at last year’s Holiday Open House and Tree Lighting Ceremony.

Admissions Open House Nov. 12

On Nov. 10, The Poverty Institute celebrated the establishment of The Nancy H. Gewirtz Fund at the Rhode Island Foundation. Gewirtz, who died last year, was professor emerita of social work at the College and co-founder and director of The Poverty Institute. Above, RIC President John Nazarian (right) presents a memorial resolution from the Council of Rhode Island College recognizing Gewirtz as a tireless advocate for the less fortunate to her daughter Rebekah, son Aaron and husband, Henry.

ADMISSIONS OPEN HOUSE: (from top) Art Professor Heemong Kim ’80 (back to camera) talks about the College’s art programs with Carey Iacobucci (r) of Cranston West High School, and her mother, Cathy, during the annual Admissions Open House in The Murray Center on Nov. 12; Holly Shadoian ’73, director of admissions, addresses an overflow crowd; the Newport Trolley loads with passengers going on a campus tour during the event.