6-12-2006

What's News At Rhode Island College

Rhode Island College

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In the midst of the graduation celebration, child advocate Marian Wright Edelman gave the audience pause with a powerful speech about a nation whose “moral compass needs resetting” and whose people must resist “quick-fix, simplistic answers and easy gains.”

Edelman, who gave the 2006 undergraduate commencement address, invoked her upbringing in the segregated South where she learned values in a religious household. “Service is the very purpose of life; not something you do in your spare time or after you’ve made your first million,” said the founder of the Children’s Defense Fund.

“You will be a part of transforming our great nation,” Edelman told the graduates. But she cautioned them to avoid several pitfalls.

Never work just for money, she said. “Don’t confuse wealth or fame with character.”

Edelman also urged grads not to confuse “morality with legality.” She noted that politicians are passing tax cuts for the rich while every nine seconds a child drops out of school, every 36 seconds a child is born into poverty, and every 42 seconds a child is born without health-
Class of ‘66 representative recalls memorable commencement and academic career

BY Alison Strandberg
Staff Writer

Mary Ward Grace ‘66 recently represented her class at this year’s undergraduate commencement at RIC after class reps from 1935 to 2005 led the graduation procession. Grace was a perfect choice.

“All nice, three that could have happened for me, did,” said Grace of the time she spent as a student at the College. It was an educational experience that had a lasting impact on her life.

Grace’s own commencement in 1966 was certainly noteworthy. For Grace, it capped off an academic career that included a Fulbright Scholarship, a role as student government president, and a chance to meet world-renowned guests at the President’s House on campus.

She remembers her commencement clearly, a cool day, with temperatures in the 50s. Receiving her bachelor of arts degree in history was a unforgettable moment. She also recalls the stunning commencement address given by John Kenneth Galbraith, a highly respected professor of economics who recently passed away.

“Vietnam was heating up but the Tet Offensive hadn’t happened yet,” said Grace. She remembers the crowd was surprised by Galbraith’s words. “We were stunned. Parents were in shock,” she said.

At the time of the graduation and summer around the corner, but don’t close the books yet. Rhode Island College’s Open Books—Open Minds common book program for the campus and community, has announced next year’s book selection of WICKED: The Life and Times of the Wicked Witch of the West, by Gregory Maguire.

Newsday urges, “Listen up, Munchkins. Stop your singing, stop the dancing. The Wicked Witch is no longer dead. But not to worry. Gregory Maguire’s shrewdly imagined and beautifully written first novel...not only revives her but re-envisioned and redeems her for our times.” USA Today today calls Maguire’s book “an outstanding work of imagination.”

The Los Angeles Times wrote, “it’s a staggering feat of wordcraft.”

Book groups, events and related activities are being planned for the fall and spring. Look for more information in upcoming issues of What’s News, online at www.ric.edu (RIC-lendar), or contact program coordinator Valerie Endress at 401-456-4781; ven-dress@ric.edu.
Christopher Farrell '06

Once, when his son needed a last minute replacement for a concert performance, he said, "I intuitively knew what was going on inside this boy's voice. That's what it's all about because in voice teaching, you can't see what's going on. It all happens inside the person. You have to figure out what's going on, and I found that helping him become successful was the biggest rush I had ever had, and a bigger thrill than any other performance I had ever had," Jones said.

He had found his calling.

Soon after, Jones went back to studying music education, and began his teaching career in south Texas. From there he attended graduate school in California, taught in South Dakota and South Carolina, before starting a family. Not surprisingly, his son and daughter are both musically talented. Joseph is a composer, and Terri plays the harp.

Once, when his son needed a last minute replacement for a concert he was organizing, Jones stepped in and sang under his son's direction. The student had become the teacher.

"Now, after 29 years at RIC, Jones has plenty of praise for the College. "To all the applicants for my position I was able to say to them, with truth that I would recommend this place, it's a great place to work. The College has supported me professionally in such a way that when I wanted to go and study something they have been there every step of the way."

So where does Jones go now? He'll retire to his farm in Foster and continue to pursue another passion – Professor Jones is also master beekeeper Jones. So it appears his after-teaching career will be as sweet as honey.

As the curtain closes on his very successful career in music, he has a special message for his former students. "I tell all my students that I have been teaching for 40 years, and I don't regret a second of it. I got to do something I love and make a career out of it, and there's nothing else I'd rather have done. That's Bill Jones. Your music can still be heard in schools across Rhode Island.”

By Caroline Francis '06

There have been numerous performances and countless classes. The memories he has could fill a public library. In fact, Bill Jones, professor of music and elementary education, will tell you that he has been teaching at RIC for so long that about half of the music teachers in this state were his students.

What one memory would Jones like to take with him as he retires after almost three decades at the College? It’s not that simple, he says, there’s not just one, not even two, 10 or 20.

"It’s in every one of my students who are leading their profession. They are admonitors to their profession, and it makes me proud to know them and to be associated with them," he said.

He remembers one particular student who is now a well-known music educator in the state. As one of Jones' students, he had less than average at the subject.

"Everyone was telling him to find another career. I encouraged him to stay," said Jones. "Years down the road I had another student in my office who said that that same (person) was the reason she had stayed in school. I felt at that moment, OK, sometimes things do work out."

Quite an influence from a guy who didn’t even recognize his own vocal talent until high school. Jones said that at that point, he just wanted to sing. He went off to Texas College of Arts and Industries to major in music. The school had a strong music education program that happened to catch his attention.

"I just drifted into the subject," said Jones.

But his professors had another vision for him. They encouraged him to pursue a career in the recording industry. He took their advice and switched his major to voice performance. That’s when puberty struck, not his at 20 years old, but for the 13-year-old son of a local elementary teacher in town who became his student. The youngster had a great voice, but nature was cracking it every other second, which could be a detrimen for an aspiring young singer. Jones decided to give the boy lessons to help him through the change in his vocal range. Jones noticed something else about the student – he was very good at teaching. "I intuitively knew what was going on inside this boy’s voice. That's what it's all about because in voice teaching, you can't see what's going on. It all happens inside the person. You have to figure out what's going on, and I found that helping him become successful was the biggest rush I had ever had, and a bigger thrill than any other performance I had ever had," Jones said.

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Once, when his son needed a last minute replacement for a concert
Professor J. Stanley Lemons made history at RIC for 39 years

BY Kerry McCarty
Staff Writer

The 1960s can be characterized as a time of great change and upheaval in American society. Several of the nation’s great leaders fell to assassins’ bullets. American women were at the forefront of most reform movements,” said Lemons, who helped found the women’s studies program at RIC during the early part of his career.

What led a male professor to teach courses on women’s history and work towards the formation of the women’s studies program at RIC? “I worked as a research assistant for Professor Allen Davis at the University of Missouri-Columbia, who was working on a biography of Jane Addams,” recalled Lemons. “I was assigned to read any and all books about Jane Addams in the period of 1905-35 and I became fascinated with women’s work during the Progressive Era.”

According to Lemons, his department was one of the first to have what she refers to as a “computer lab,” in the 1970s. “Actually, it was one computer set up in the corner of our reception area,” said Lemons. “There, an instructor would teach the students how to use various programs as they would huddle around the monitor in small groups. At the time, very few computer courses were offered at the College.”

The work areas in the office were set up in the corner of our reception area,” said Lemons. “I’ve seen generations of families come through the department—former students’ children, and even some of their grandchildren,” she said. “I’ve really enjoyed helping the next generation.”

In retirement, Evonska plans to devote more time to her favorite pastimes. “I love photography, gardening, traveling, and I will certainly get to pursue all of those interests,” she said. Evonska was drawn to the art of photography in 1970, when she decided to take a course on the subject. One of the classes was called “New England By Camera.” The summer course included classroom instruction, followed by field trips to well-known New England landmarks like Sturbridge Village, Quincy Market, Mystic Seaport, and Newport. Two of Evonska’s photos won awards in a national publication showcasing the work of college photography students. She hopes to eventually publish some of her more recent photographs.

But Evonska has not limited her subject matter to local sites. She has kept her camera close at hand as she traveled to Hawaii, Bermuda, Aruba, Florida, St. Martin, and St. Kitts.

When Evonska saw a photo of a pair of owls in a tree near the Kauffman Center in an issue of What’s News at RIC, she immediately wanted to capture the birds on film. After numerous attempts, she was finally able to photograph one of the elusive birds. Visitors and staff members alike have been drawn to the art of photography in 1970, when she decided to take a course on the subject. One of the classes was called “New England By Camera.” The summer course included classroom instruction, followed by field trips to well-known New England landmarks like Sturbridge Village, Quincy Market, Mystic Seaport, and Newport. Two of Evonska’s photos won awards in a national publication showcasing the work of college photography students. She hopes to eventually publish some of her more recent photographs.

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So Much More — Reflections of a graduate

By Jerry Da Silva ’06

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deed, operation, opportunity, financial stability, and prosperity are all things that we strive to achieve in our lifetime. For some, these ideas and concepts come easy, but for others, these concepts are nothing more than mere dreams. Dreams that fill the mind and soul with such optimism, yet feel so distant, and unobtainable. But with any dream there is hope. Hope of beating the odds and making your dreams a reality. It is this hope that has motivated and driven immigrants throughout history to try to live out the American Dream.” Two of these immigrants are Manuel and Maria Da Silva. They are my parents. Like many before them, my parents didn’t want to settle for a life with little to no promise. They wanted to have a future full of possibilities, but more importantly, pass those possibilities on to their children. Without much support from family and friends, in 1979, my parents migrated from the little Azorian island of Sao Miguel, to the United States, not knowing any English, or having much money. What seemed at the time to be a wishful dream set up for failure, turned out to be something greater and far more precious than my parents could have ever imagined.

With hard work and dedication, they began to make their dreams come true. They slowly built the life and family they had wanted so badly. In 1997, they felt all their efforts and sacrifices had finally paid off when they purchased the home they had worked years for. With both of them having stable jobs, a home that they could call their own, and money saved to pay for their children’s college tuition, they felt they had finally achieved “The American Dream.” What should have been the happiest time in their lives quickly turned to the worst when my sister, Kimberly Da Silva, was killed in a car accident when she was only 17 years old. All their hopes and dreams suddenly vanished right before their eyes. The idea of “The American Dream” no longer mattered to them, and quite frankly, no longer existed. Being only 14 years old at the time, I witnessed my family fall apart, and I knew that things would never be the same again.

With my parents grieving, and my older sister gone, I knew that I was the only thing left that mattered to my parents, and if my family was going to have a chance to survive this tragedy, I would have to grow up quickly and take charge. I resolved to remain positive, and self that I would make my parents believe in that dream once again. That I would show them that all their efforts were not lost. That I would pick up where my sister left off, and that I would be the first person in my family’s history to graduate from high school and college.

In the fall of 1997, I began working on my promise. I attended school during the week, and helped my parents with errands in the evenings, translating English for them, a task that I had taken over when my sister passed away. My time in high school was difficult because I was dealing with so much outside the classroom. There were times that I didn’t know if I could hold it all together, but I forced myself to. I was determined to keep my promise and I never let anything jeopardize my goals. After a trying four years, I graduated from Mt. Hope High School. Seeing my parents happy and proud meant more to me than anything else.

With a high school diploma now in my possession, I concentrated on my next goal, college. I attended and Community College (BCC) in the fall of 2001, and majored in liberal arts. I achieved great success as a student and was inducted into the Phi Theta Kappa National Honor Society for two-year colleges. In 2004, I graduated magna cum laude with an associate’s degree. In the fall of 2004, I transferred to Rhode Island College where I was determined to carry out my promise. The success I achieved at BCC only made me more determined, but little did I know however that I would leave RIC with so much more than a degree.

Once enrolled, I began taking different courses to see what it was that I was interested in. I soon found myself drawn to the communications field, so I decided on that as my major. I concentrated on the media as my course of study. Throughout the next two years I worked hard in my major, taking courses in television production, journalism, and public relations. It wasn’t long after I started my major at RIC that I realized that I had a passion for writing. Paper after paper, I worked on developing my writing skills. I also joined WXIN, the College’s radio station, to improve on my verbal skills. My hard work in the communications field showed as I made the dean’s list. My dedication also proved to be a success as I was inducted into Lambda Pi Eta, the official honor society of the National Communication Association (CA).

All of these accomplishments have helped me in my goal of being the first person in my family to graduate from college. So much has changed since I was that 14-year-old boy trying to hold his family together.

I graduated from high school, earned an associate’s degree, and now, a bachelor’s degree. What started off as a promise to myself has turned into something so much more. I have found myself in the process of this promise that I made almost 10 years ago. I have grown and learned so much as a student. It has helped me with my professional life, as well as my personal life. It has helped me accept, and come to peace with my sister’s death. It has helped me not only acquire valuable skills that I will use throughout my career, but it has also helped me restore my parent’s dream, a dream that died a long time ago, a dream that was fulfilled when I stepped on stage to receive my degree – a dream that
Only the weather derails RIC softball and baseball

BY Scott Gibbons, Sports Information Director

The RIC softball team posted its most successful season in school history, and if not for the weather, the Anchorwomen would have been off to the NCAA Div. III Softball Championship with a chance to play for the national championship.

Head Coach Maria Morin’s team breezed through the regular season with a 29-8-1 overall record and captured its second consecutive Little East Conference regular season title. The Anchorwomen then went on to host and win their first-ever Little East Conference Softball Tournament Championship, which gave them a berth in the NCAA tourney for the first time in program history.

The Anchorwomen garnered the second seed in New England and traveled to Babson College for the NCAA Div. III New England Regional Softball Tournament. Again, RIC answered the call, defeating seventh-seeded St. Joseph’s of Long Island, 1-0, in nine innings in the first round on May 11, and coming from three runs down in the bottom of the seventh inning to tie and eventually down third-seeded Western New England, 5-4, in eight innings on May 12.

RIC was slated to face top-seeded Williams College on May 13 in game nine of the tournament before Mother Nature stepped in. Torren- tial rain poured over New England over the next few days, which rendered Babson’s softball field unplayable. NCAA rules prohibited moving the games to another site, and worse for RIC, since only eight games had been played in the tournament, the highest remaining seed with the best record would be declared the regional winner and advance to the championship round. Even though second-seeded RIC was 2-0, top-seeded Williams, which was 1-0, got the nod and headed to Raleigh, N.C., and the Anchorwomen’s season came to an abrupt halt.

“We were very disappointed that the outcome couldn’t have been decided on the field,” Morin said. “That’s all we wanted. The team was playing great and there is no way to know how far we could have gone. It was a real shame the NCAA ruled the way they did, especially for our four seniors who had to end their careers on that note.”

The softball team’s accomplishments in 2006 are numerous. The team was one of the best hitting squads in the country, garnering a .361 team batting average. Morin was named the Co-Coach of the Year, an honor she has received in three of the last four seasons. The club closed out the year with a 35-8-1 overall record, recording the most wins in program history.

• Sophomore first baseman Chris- tie Lotti was named First Team All-Little East, All-New England, All-NEISCA, and was the LEC’s Pitcher of the Year.

• Junior pitcher Nicole Riley was named First Team All-Little East, All-New England, All-NEISCA, and was the LEC’s Pitcher of the Year.

• Senior left fielder Katie Ben- evides was named First Team All-Little East. She also garnered Second Team All-New England and All-NEISCA honors.

• Senior center fielder Megan Ponte was named to the NCAA New England Div. III Regional Softball Tournament’s All-Tourna- ment Team, as well as garnering Second Team All-Little East honors.

ors.

• Senior right fielder Andree Sitnik was named First Team All- Little East and was named the Most Outstanding Player of the 2006 Little East Conference Softball Tournament.

• Senior second baseman Casie Lyons was named Second Team All-Little East.

• Junior catcher/designated player Kristyn Alexander was named Sec- ond Team All-Little East and All- New England.

• Sophomore third baseman Kristal Bilek was named Second Team All-Little East.

“Everyone on this team made a contribution this season,” Morin said. “It was a special year with a special team that I will never for- get.”

Although RIC’s baseball team didn’t make it back to the NCAA Tournament in 2006, the team had plenty of success with a new-look squad this year. Despite losing seven seniors from the ‘05 squad, Head Coach Jay Grenier’s team logged a 21-20 overall record. It was the first winning season for the club since 2003 and the Anchormen won more games in a season since the 1979 club totaled 24 victories. After being eliminated from the 2006 Little East Conference Softball Tournament, the team was selected to participate in the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) New England Div. III Baseball Championship for the first time since 1987. The fourth-seeded Anchormen downed fifth-seeded and LEC rival UMass Boston, 9-4, in the first round on May 19 and were scheduled to take on top-seed- ed Keene State in the semi-finals on May 20 before weather once again interfered with RIC’s chances for a championship.

Rain and poor field conditions caused the tournament to be can- celled, and the Anchormen’s season came to a sudden halt.

• Freshman left fielder Chris O’Connors was named First Team All-NEIBA All-Star, Little East Conference Baseball Rookie of the Year and First Team All-LEC.

• Sophomore closer Eric Fama was named a Second Team All- NEIBA All-Star and First Team All-Little East Conference.

• Senior second baseman Ray De La Cruz was named a Third Team All-NEIBA All-Star and played in the 31st Annual College Baseball All-Star Game at Fenway Park on May 29. He was also named First Team All-Little East Conference for the second time in his career.

• Junior catcher Tim Henault was named First Team All-Little East Conference. Henault, who was named the team’s MVP, was out for the team’s final six games after being injured in a pitch, which resulted in a broken hand, against Eastern Connecticut on April 29.

• Sophomore third baseman designated hitter Pete Olson was named Second Team All-Little East Conference.

“We were disappointed that we didn’t do as well as we would have liked in the Little East Conference Tournament,” Grenier said. “Going to the ECAC Tournament was a surprise. It gave us a chance to get some more games in with our young team. Of course we would have liked to get the rest of the tournament games in, but it was a positive experience for our kids that will help us down the road.”
Gifts from our alumni and friends really make a difference!

Gifts from alumni and friends to endowed funds provide direct and important benefits for students. This page features just a few of the many recipients of RIC scholarships and awards in 2006.

PELLEGRINO SCHOLARSHIP: Professor Emeritus of Music John Pellegrino presents the John Pellegrino Award to Brian Bohlmer.

THE PETER W. HARMAN ENDOWED AWARD is presented to RIC junior Tauquir Puthawala by James Schweikart, dean of the School of Management. Jeffery Blais, associate professor of economics and finance, was also on hand for the presentation.

THAYER SCHOLARSHIP: Jason Cabral, a theatre major, acknowledges applause on receiving the Meredith M. Thayer Scholarship from Bill Wilson, chair of the Dept. of Music, Theatre and Dance, while sisters of the late Meredith Thayer, Deborah (left) and Lyndsey look on. The presentation was made during the intermission of Sweet Charity on April 30.

PELLEGRINO SCHOLARSHIP: Professor Emeritus of Music John Pellegrino presents the John Pellegrino Award to Brian Bohlmer.

LOBBAN AWARD: Carolyn Fluehr-Lobban and Richard Lobban present the Richard Lobban Award in African Studies to senior Robert Borges.

PELLEGRINO SCHOLARSHIP: Professor Emeritus of Music John Pellegrino presents the John Pellegrino Award to Brian Bohlmer.

FORMAN SCHOLARSHIP: Robert Franzblau (left), associate professor of music, presents the Sylvan R. and Helen Forman Endowed Music scholarship to Evan Gravell.

MARCINIAK SCHOLARSHIP: Kevin Kane ’72, a member of The American Band, presents the Francis M. Marciniak Scholarship to Elena Bucci.
MARCHING IN: RIC’s Class of 1956 leads the commencement procession, as part of Needham ‘59.

Honored Guests: RIC President John Nazarian (second from left), meets with honorary degree recipients (left to right) Stanley Aronson, George Lima and Diane Postoian ’76, at the advanced degree commencement on May 18.

Honored Guests: RIC President John Nazarian (second from left), meets with honorary degree recipients (left to right) Stanley Aronson, George Lima and Diane Postoian ’76.

All smiles: Nichole Magnifico, 2006 class president, speaks to her fellow graduates during commencement exercises.

Words of Wisdom: Speakers to the class of 2006 during undergraduate commencement exercises are (clockwise from bottom) Judge Frank Caprio, Governor Donald L. Carcieri, and RIC Alumni Association president Marianne Needham ’59.

Advanced Degree Commencement May 18, The Murray Center

In his remarks at the advanced degree ceremony, Daniel J. Ryan of the state Board of Governors for Higher Education, gave the graduates a final assignment: Read Stanley Aronson’s weekly essays in the Providence Journal.

Aronson, the founding dean of the Brown Medical School whose Journal stories combine history, science, philosophy and medicine, then spoke directly to the grads, providing the commencement address. He was awarded an honorary doctor of humane letters degree.

Citing RIC as an institution that hosts many first-in-their-family college students, Aronson said, “Rhode Island College is my kind of college.” He noted that his own alma mater, City College of New York, “has one advantage over RIC,” he said: “It has an important role to play in our future,” he said.

No matter where you are, if you mention that you are an alumnus or alumna of Rhode Island College, you will encounter fellow alumni,” said Nazarian. “We are everywhere, and everywhere we are benefits from us.”

Honorary degrees were also given to Raymond W. Houghton, RIC professor emeritus and founder of the College’s Upward Bound program, who received a doctor of humanities, and Anne M. Sliney ’87, nursing specialist for the Clinton HIV/AIDS Initiative and RIC adjunct professor, who was given a doctor of science. Edelman was awarded an honorary doctor of laws.

Class president Nichole Magnifico urged her fellow graduates to “use each day hereafter to accomplish your dream.”

Magnifico is the first recipient of the Richard R. Langevin Scholarship, established by U.S. Rep. James Langevin ’90, HD ’04 in memory of his father.

Alumni Association president Marianne Needham ’59 told the newest alums that their degree will be “only as good as the college that awarded it.” She urged the grads to be active in supporting and advancing the College.

Among the 1,258 new grads was Matt Bertrand, who said he was “thrilled” that his “eight-year trek” to get a bachelor of arts degree in secondary education was complete. He hopes to be teaching history in high school next school year.

Ron Rainer, a communications major said he no longer has the “comfort” of returning to RIC next fall, but does have job opportunities available to him. “I’m just really excited about where I am going and what job I am going to take,” he said.

And Debrah Beck, whose degree is in secondary education, said she felt “very satisfied right now” after walking across the steps of The Murray Center to receive her degree.

Members of the Class of 1956 led the commencement procession as part of their golden anniversary celebration. Representative from each graduating class of the College from 1935-2005 were also part of the procession.

Marine Grad: Second Lt. Matthew Charles Kelly, a graduating marine, passes the flag during the National Anthem.

Marching in: RIC’s Class of 1956 leads the commencement procession, as part of its golden anniversary celebration.

Celebration… jubilation
York, had no dorms and no great athletic stars, but lists Jonas Salk and Colin Powell as alums, and has graduated more Nobel Prize winners that any other undergraduate college in the U.S.

Aronson called the act of failing “challenging” and “educational,” and said that the “collective sequence of failure is something called experience.”

He described professional life as the “all too brief period between puberty and senescence” and urged the graduates to “grasp the capacity of questioning as something fundamental to your beliefs.”

Also receiving honorary doctorates were performer and arts educator Diane Postoian ’76 (fine arts) and political activist, labor leader, lawmaker and Tuskegee airman George S. Lima (public service).

In all, 337 advanced degrees were awarded at RIC in 2006, including a doctor of philosophy degree in education to Robin Kirkwood Auld, RIC assistant professor of health and physical education. The degree, which in 1999 became the first doctoral degree conferred by RIC, is offered jointly by the College and the University of Rhode Island.

Eleven students qualified to receive Certificates of Advanced Graduate Study (CAGS) by earning at least 30 credits beyond the master’s level. Six of the certificates awarded were in the area of mental health, the result of a program updated by RIC’s Dept. of Counseling, Educational Leadership and School Psychology.

The program provides training for licensed mental health counselors in Rhode Island, and is aligned with state requirements so that students seeking licensing in the state are simultaneously completing the necessary course work to complete their CAGS. Before the six graduates received their mental health certificates this semester, there had been only one other granted in the previous five years.

Also awarded were master’s degrees in social work, arts, arts in teaching, education, music education and professional accountancy.
Members of the Class of 2006 were honored—and exhorted to be people of action—in the annual Cap and Gown Convocation May 3 that featured the traditional capping ceremony and the awarding of departmental awards to over 50 soon-to-be graduates.

In his speech to the seniors, RIC President John Nazarian recalled saying: “When it comes to the future, there are three kinds of people: those who let it happen, those who make it happen, and those who wonder what happened.” Nazarian told the group that he is “confident that you will be among the group who make it happen.” In that spirit, Nazarian used the example and words (above) of Benjamin Elijah Mays, an African American born in 1895 to tenant farmers in South Carolina. Mays rose above the obstacles he faced to become a college professor and dean, an ordained minister and president of Morehouse College for 27 years. Mays became a mentor to the Rev. Martin Luther King, and delivered the eulogy after King’s assassination.

Current RIC vice president for academic affairs, announced the recipients of departmental awards (see list below). Among the winners was Liss M. Mora, who has worked for three-and-a-half years on a sophisticated independent research project using recombinant DNA technology. She received the W. Christina Carlson Award for Excellence in Biology.

Wing Tai Chan, winner of the Wall Street Journal Award, came to the United States in 2000 from Hong Kong and enrolled at Rhode Island College in the fall of 2001. While completing his studies at RIC, Chan is working in project management at MetLife Auto & Home. He graduated with a triple major in economics, finance, and management.

The Rose Butler Browne Award was presented to social work student Tanya Johnson. Johnson is currently writing a book titled Will Through the Eyes of the Soul of a Woman. With her license in substance abuse counseling, she works with young people who are victims of sexual abuse and trauma. Her efforts as a prevention specialist with AIDS Care Ocean State help spread awareness about HIV/Aids through testing workshops and counseling, and she has initiated a program to end violence amongst inner city youth.

Miriam Eid was given the Tegu Polyglot Award. She was born in Belize in 1973 to Palestinian parents, and in 1980, she moved to Honduras where she learned to speak Spanish and learn its culture. After her parents returned to Palestine, she came to the United States in 1993 and barely speaking English, she enrolled at RIC in 2000. She is now fluent in English, Spanish and Arabic, and is received a degree in elementary education, with a concentration in Spanish.

Forty-nine RIC seniors merited inclusion in Who’s Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges. They were recognized by Gary Penfold, vice president for student affairs.

Thomas Schmeling, associate professor of political science, urged students to be “unreasonably” hopeful, determined and persistent in his keynote address to the class. Schmeling was drawing on playwright George Bernard Shaw’s contention that “all progress depends on the unreasonable man.” He also urged the seniors to pay attention, show up, have high expectations and be patient. (The full address appears below.)

The student speech was offered by Caroline Francis, co-winner of the Mark W. Estrin Film Studies Award. Francis recalled sharing many college experiences with her mother and fellow graduating senior, Deborah Francis, who receive the Art History Award. (See story by Caroline Francis on page ????.)

The national anthem was sung by Amanda Hopkins and Jacqueline Valliere. The RIC Wind Ensemble, conducted by Rob Franzblau, concluded the event with the College’s Alma Mater song, composed by Grace Electa Bird, professor of educational psychology at the College from 1914 to 1942.

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Cap and Gown Day — 2006 recipients of departmental awards —

Erin E. Todisco, Outstanding Student Award in Accounting
Kimberly G. Coarey, Computer Information Systems Award
Julianne Jennings, James Houston Award in Anthropology
Deborah R. Francis, Art History Award
Lila A. Jarzembeck, Studio Art Award
Lisa M. Mora, W. Christina Carlson Award for Excellence in Biology
Christopher M. Furey, Eleanor M. McMahon Award in the College Honors Program
Meghan H. Follett, Communications Achievement Award in Graphic
Zachariah J. King, Communications Achievement Award in Mass Media
Kimberly L. Marza, Communications Achievement Award in Public and Professional Communications
Stephanie A. Desalvo, Communications Achievement Award in Public Relations
Abby L. Easterbrooks, Communications Achievement Award in Speech and Hearing
Wing Tai Chan, Wall Street Journal Award in Economics or Finance
Diana M. Morvillo, Educational Studies Senior Award
Theresa A. Drumm, Katherine Murray Prize in Educational Studies
Andrea L. Braga, Elementary Education Award
Norri-Fatima Swenney, Jeann Carrig Award in English
Caroline J. Francis, Mark W. Estrin Film Studies Award
Candace J. Opper, Mark W. Estrin Film Studies Award
Tanya Johnson, Rose Butler Browne Award
Elizabeth Camboia, Bertha Christina Andrews Emun Award for Outstanding Achievement
John C. Peloquin, Bertha Christina Andrews Emun Award for Scholar's Excellence
Karin L. Labrooe, Health and Physical Education Senior Award in Community Health Education
Kristen R. Bibeault Pepin, Health and Physical Education Award
Timothy J. Smith, School Health Education Award
Jason M. Kuff, Claiborne DelB. Pell Award in History
Charles E. Hewes, Evelyn Walsh Prize in History
Justin W. Deveaux, John E. Heffernan Award in Intercollegiate Athletics
Kate L. Benevides, Helen M. Murphy Award in Intercollegiate Athletics
Bethany L. Tucker, John Silva Memorial Scholastic Award
Erin E. Todisco, Outstanding Student Award in Marketing
Lianne M. Elaner, Richard A. Howland Computer Science Award
Melinda M. Duquette, Christopher R. Mitchell Award in Mathematics
Adria G. Zassia, Nelson A. Guertin Memorial Award in French
Diane C. Ferrera, Nelson A. Guertin Memorial Award in German
Miriam D. Eid, Tegu Polyglot Award in Modern Languages
Erica Borges, Peter Jeffrey Archambault Memorial Award
Elena A. Bucci, Cantor Jacob Hohenemser Award
Diana E. Rowsey, Alice K. Pellegre Music Education Award
Jenna Tremblay, Rhode Island College Theatre Award
Jennifer F. Johnson, Jetta Rauch梅ke Dance Award
Sarah Rose Lampont, Nursing Award for Academic Excellence
Colleen O’Donnell, Nursing Award in Undergraduate Service Excellence
Lorraine E. Porter-Coope, Nursing Award for Graduate Registered Nurse
Meghan E. White, Thomas J. Howell Award in Philosophy
Heidi M. Courary, American Institute of Chemists Award
Christopher A. Latendresse, Ronald J. Boruch Award for Excellence in the Physical Sciences
Laura L. Steere, Departmental Physics Award
Robert D. Kalaskowski, North Providence League of Women Voters Award
Robert D. Kalaskowski, Herbert R. Winter Award for Academic Excellence in Political Science
Brian W. Lucian, Victoria Lederberg Psychology Award
Susan M. D’Silva, Bachelor of Social Work Program Community Service Award
Melissa R. Hebert, Anthony E. Raci Social Work Practice Award
Kousay S. Jallal, Mary Ann Hawkins Award in Justice Studies
John C. Peloquin, Lauris B. Whitman Award in Sociology
Nancie M. Messori, Elsa F. Bonaventura Award in Special Education
Tiffy L. Quayliers, Josephine A. Stallings Award in Special Education
Cap and Gown Convocation address, May 3, 2006

by Thomas Schmeling, associate professor of political science

President Nazarian, members of the administration, platform guests and honorees, faculty and staff colleagues, friends and family of our students, Class of 2006. I am honored to address the graduating class on behalf of the faculty today, and grateful for the privilege.

On such occasions as these, faculty speakers often turn to their own fields of study, looking for wise advice and noble insights to share with those about to enter the so-called “real world.”

I teach political science. It’s a field where wisdom and nobility sometimes appear to be in short supply. Over 100 years ago, Mark Twain referred to politicians as America’s only distinct criminal class. The very word “politics,” Aristotle tells us, is derived from the Greek word for many, “polis”, as in Minneapolis or India-Pen and the same thing.

The word “politics” actually comes from the Greek word “Po-lis,” as in Minneapolis or India-Pen. It means “city” or, for the Greeks, the city-state. Politics is about the life of the polis—about us living our lives together as citizens.

The art of politics, Aristotle tells us, is the art of living well together. It is about working together for common goals and settling our differences peacefully. Politics is a form of collective ethics. It is about how we treat each other as citizens.

Not long ago, I was riding a city bus. A young woman unwrapped her candy bar, and threw the wrapper on the floor. I asked her to pick it up. She looked at me coldly and said, “It’s not your bus.” “Whose bus do you think it is?” I asked her. She pointed at the driver and replied, “It’s his.” I shook my head. “It doesn’t belong to him, I said, it’s our bus.” She looked at me as if I were from another planet—the whole idea that she and I shared anything seemed to puzzle her. The conversation ended when her friend picked up the wrapper, and casually tossed it out the open bus window into the street.

Now that may sound like just a story about a cranky old professor and a rude young woman, but for me it was a deeply political moment. Aristotle tells us that “The polis is a partnership in living well.” We can all make each other’s lives better or worse, easier or harder, safer or more dangerous, depending on what we do on a daily basis.

Soon, we faculty will no longer be able to demand anything from you as students. I know my own students are pretty happy about that. But after you graduate, we will all remain linked together as fellow citizens. We will all be on that bus together.

Here, then, very briefly, are five things that I would like to ask of you, not as students, but as fellow citizens; things that I hope you will also ask of each other.

First, pay attention. Know what’s going on in your community and the world. Read the newspaper. The world belongs to those who understand it, and those who don’t pay attention will always be its victims.

Second, show up and take part. Woody Allen once said that 80 percent of success in life is simply showing up. It’s just as true in public life, because it’s the people who show up who make the decisions. If we don’t show up, and those people make bad decisions, we bear the responsibility.

So show up for elections, a community meeting, a public library fundraiser—anything that lets you take part in the life of your community.

Third, have high expectations, for yourself and others. “We are what we repeatedly do,” Aristotle says. “Excellence is not an act, but a habit.” Strive to create the habit of excellence in yourselves, and encourage it in others. Encourage it especially in those who claim to serve the public. Do not give in to cynicism and low expectations in your own life, or in politics.

Fourth, have patience. Important things take time. At least, have patience with those who are trying to do the right things. Have none with those who refuse to try.

Finally, be persistent. I am not a sports fan, but I love this bit of sports trivia: Babe Ruth, who is famous for his 714 home runs, struck out over 1,300 times. We only remember the home runs. In the end, persistence prevails.

The playwright George Bernard Shaw says that “The reasonable man adapts himself to the world; the unreasonable one persists to adapt the world to himself. Therefore, all progress depends on the unreasonable man.”

So, be unreasonable. Be unreasonably hopeful; be unreasonably determined; be unreasonably persistent.

This, then, is my advice to you, and my request of you as my fellow citizens: pay attention, show up, have high expectations, be patient, be persistent. These things will all help you succeed in your personal lives. They will also help you make the world a better place.

I have no trouble asking you to do these things, because I already know that you can do them. I know this, because you needed to do them to earn your bachelor’s degrees and the many honors that have been awarded here today. We celebrate those remarkable achievements. The faculty of Rhode Island College are very proud of you all. On their behalf, I congratulate you.

Members of the class of 2006: A promising future awaits you as you leave your alma mater. Go meet that future, but come back to visit us. We will be here, doing our best to be excellent, so that you can always say with pride that you graduated from Rhode Island College.

THOMAS SCHMELING

Recipients of special departmental awards at Cap and Gown Day 2008.
WHAT'S NEWS @ Rhode Island College, June 12, 2006 — Page 13

Dean's List Spring 2006

Sean C. McClelland
Catherine E. McCaffrey
Joseph P. McAuley
Kimberly L. Mazza
Jessica L. Maynard
Audrey C. Massart
Amy L. Martin
Lisa M. Martel
Erik A. Marks
Peter A. Marino
Josiah D. Manzo
Sarah M. Manning
Stephen D. Malloy
Brian M. Malloney
Jennifer L. Magaw
Todd R. Machie
Jaime L. Macari
Casie L. Lyons
Jam Luong
Lexie E. Ludovici
Denise Lowell
Meliza F. Lopes
Matthew Livesey
Kimberly M. Lima
Lauren J. Leonti
Sarah L. Lennox
Keri C. Lee
Amy M. Lee
Elliott N. LeFaiver
Lynne C. Lasky
Allison L. O'Connor
Gail M. O'Brien
Caitlyn Noury
Timothy Nawracaj
Genna Nary
Jennifer A. Nabar
Michael Muschiano
Anny B. Munoz
Lauren R. Mullaney
Serena A. Morsilli
Tracy A. Morgan
Jessica G. Mooney
Katelyn E. Moisan
Kristen M. Mirabile
Michael K. Milton
Rachel E. Millen
Jaclyn B. Mignone
George P. Microulis
Jeremy D. Messinger
Jason R. Mertz
Stephen J. Merriman
Kimberly M. Menkavitch
Stephany M. Mena
Kirsten R. Mello
Ashley N. Melikian
Tara C. Meenan
Lindsay G. McGovern
Margaret E. McPherson
Jamie C. McLaren
Wanda J. Reed
Kevin M. Randall
Rita G. Rancourt
Jennifer L. Prusko
Ryan J. Procopio
Jamie L. Potvin
Kaitlyn S. Potts
Melissa L. Potter
Anthony A. Pierlioni
Jessica L. Pickering
Ryan S. Piccolo
Setha N. Phongsavan
Denise M. Perry
Shannon C. Pero
Andree L. Perkins
Michelle J. Perez
Margarita E. Perez
Brian G. Pena
Nicole Peloquin
Alyssa R. Peloquin
Kathryn P. Pelland
Kevin M. Payette
Dustin M. Patrick
Margaret V. Pepper
Linda G. Perry
Jonathan D. Ross
SetHZio Rosadinsky
Brittney R. Rosson
Mattie J. Round
Kristen A. Rosenberg
Jessica J. Raphael
Jared J. Ray
Jessica A. Rojas
Evan A. Rozum
Kimball L. Rube
Toddy A. Rusak
Melissa A. Schutz
Ashley M. Paiva
Kathy A. Ragusa
Merrill J. Ruggiero
Matthew D. Rius
Anne W. Russell
Melanie J. Scott
Scott J. Stone
Jenan M. Trainor
Cara A. Stokowski
Rodolfo L. Stolberg
Ashley M. Stingfellow
Cody E. Sullivan
Menifield G. Sunday
Amanda A. Stabile
Melissa A. Simeone
Jennifer A. Sweet
Priscilla A. Nitti-Ferri
Sawannah S. Stevens
Courtney E. Sylvia
Thomas N. Swift
Nori-Fatima R. Swennes
Melissa A. Swanson
Sorng L. Sun
Jessica L. Stursberg
Tovah E. Stevenson
Melanie J. Steckert
Elizabeth A. St-Onge
Sarah J. Webster
David R. Webb
Noreen S. Wasti
Marie J. Waring
Malia J. Wallace-Mello
Melissa A. Vacca
Nicholas J. Urban
Cristina M. Soares
Traci-lynn Smith
Pamela M. Smith
Dorothy B. Smith
Allison P. Smith
Ronald E. Smith
Sheri L. Sisto
Samantha A. Simeone
Jennifer M. Simas
Nicholas A. Vincelette
Eric U. Vidal
Katie L. Vespia
Julianne C. Vedro
Stephanie A. Vaughn
Ashley E. Vanasse
Michael P. VanGieson
Christine A. Valeriana
Sarah A. Vadeboncoeur
Melissa A. Vaccaro
John M. VanDeuer
Christopher A. Varnum
Karen M. Vearshey
Mary E. Velleman
Christopher J. Vallet
Samantha C. Vane
Samantha A. Vazquez
Samantha M. Vargas
Larisa M. Vasquez
Sara A. Vazquez
Amanda C. Villagra
Melissa A. Vargas
Jennifer M. Villar
Louis A. Violante
Eugenio A. Vivas
Guadalupe A. Vivas
Nelida A. Villalpando
Samantha Z. Villegas
Michael A. Varley
Andrea B. Vito
Christian M. Vazquez
Robert R. Vay
Katharine Y. Vazquez
Deirdre A. Vazquez
Sam E. Vazquez
Amanda J. Vacca
Anthony J. Vaccaro
Sarah A. Valdersee
Carmelita R. Valcourt
Sarah A. Valcourt
Christina A. Valente
Samantha A. Valente
Jacqueline A. Valverde
Sheila C. Vargas
Sarah A. Vargas
Kristen E. Vargas
E. Varela
Gustavo A. Varela
Jalisa A. Varela
Shane J. Varela
Nathaniel S. Varone
Emily A. Varano
Natalie N. Valenza
Casey Woodard
James F. Wood
Amanda L. Wood
Kerri R. Wolfe
Gregory D. Wadler
Colleen A. Wachsmuth
Michele M. Wadler
Stephanie A. Vaughan
Debra A. Walker
Rachel H. Venable
Jethro F. Venable
Katie L. Venable
Meryl B. Venable
Lauren J. Venable
Kathleen S. Warters
Shanna L. Warters
Thomas J. Watson
David R. Watkins
Dave A. Watkins
Amy E. Webster
Leah A. Webster
Macy D. Wiedock
Dorothy M. Welsh
Lindsey R. Wells
Rachael R. Welle
Michael K. Wiess
Kaela K. Wescott
Meghann L. Wenzel
Amanda M. Westrom
Nicole J. West
Susan E. Wheeler
Heather M. White
Jenni L. White
Meghan E. White
Pamela L. White
Kimberly M. Whittington
Brenda W. Wilcox
Erica W. Wilcox
Audrey J. Williams
William J. Williamson
Brandon R. Williams
Jenifer M. Williams
Erin C. Williamson
William J. Williamson
Lauren R. Wilkinson
Richard J. Wilkins
Jacqueline A. Winn
Gregory W. Wilkison
Gretchen M. Wittle
Kenn R. Wilcox
Ashley D. Wood
Cassie A. Woodard
Casey A. Woodard
Cassie M. Wozniak
Mary C. Wozniak
Daniel J. Wozniak
Stephanie A. Wozniak
Monica A. Wozniak
William J. Wozniak
Megan L. Wozniak
Robert R. Wozniak
Samantha A. Wozniak
Jennifer A. Wozniak
Jessica A. Wozniak
Stephanie A. Wozniak
Wendy A. Wozniak
Kenneth J. Wozniak
Ashley M. Wozniak
Arianna L. Wozniak
Natalie A. Wozniak
Antonina R. Wozniak
Stephanie A. Wozniak
Kaitlyn M. Wozniak
Kelly A. Wozniak
Nina J. Wozniak
Elizabeth A. Wozniak
Caroline M. Wozniak
Amanda K. Wozniak
Traci J. Wolicki
Tiffaney L. Rome
Tina L. Rome
Morgan M. Rome
Susan M. Rome
Christine A. Rome
Hayleigh A. Rome
Austin M. Rome
Amanda J. Rome
Diana A. Rome
Catherine B. O'kane
Laura A. O'keefe
Catherine M. O'keefe
Christina M. O'keefe
Heather A. O'keefe
Kristine M. O'keefe
Claire G. O'keefe
Travis M. O'keefe
John M. O'keefe
Erik M. O'keefe
Jessica L. O'keefe
Christian L. O'keefe
Sarah L. O'keefe
Brenda L. O'keefe
Amy K. O'keefe
Gabe K. O'keefe
Jessica A. O'keefe
Samantha L. O'keefe
Travis A. O'keefe
Thomas A. O'keefe
Andrew A. O'keefe
Susan L. O'keefe
Meghan M. O'keefe
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Alicia J. O'keefe
Amanda B. O'keefe
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Heidi O. O'keefe
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Nathan J. O'keefe
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Melissa L. O'keefe
Samuel M. O'keefe
Jared B. O'keefe
Heather T. O'keefe
Avery K. O'keefe
Cameron A. O'keefe
Sarah L. O'keefe
Bridget M. O'keefe
Elizabeth O. O'keefe
Avery D. O'keefe
Erik M. O'keefe
Zachary J. O'keefe
Corey A. O'keefe
Dylan J. O'keefe
Tara L. O'keefe
Carly L. O'keefe
Kelly A. O'keefe
Kaitlyn M. O'keefe
Bayley A. O'keefe
Hope L. O'keefe
Hannah O. O'keefe
Kathryn A. O'keefe
Nate A. O'keefe
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Samantha L. O'keefe
Kennedy M. O'keefe
Katelyn L. O'keefe
Jared B. O'keefe
Heather T. O'keefe
Avery K. O'keefe
Cameron A. O'kek
RIC retirees recognized at Commencement Gala

Rhode Island College marked the retirements of 27 employees at the College’s annual Commencement Gala, held May 19 in the Donovan Dining Center.

The retirees (from August 2005 through this month):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position/Department</th>
<th>Years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Peter L. Manfredo</td>
<td>Painter, Maintenance and Repairs</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James O’Donnell</td>
<td>Housekeeper, Custodial Services</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maria A Capaldi</td>
<td>Cook’s Helper, College Dining Services</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ann M. Varatta</td>
<td>Cook’s Helper, College Dining Services</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jane C. D’Uva</td>
<td>Word Processing Typist, Mathematics and Computer Science Dept.</td>
<td>33 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dorothy M. Bianco</td>
<td>Associate Professor Emerita of Psychology, Psychology Dept.</td>
<td>18 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dorothy V. Petrarca</td>
<td>Assistant Professor of Nursing, Nursing Dept.</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barbara F. Choquette</td>
<td>Senior Enrollment Services Representative, Office of the Bursar</td>
<td>13 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maryann D’Elena</td>
<td>Senior Word Processing Typist, Modern Languages Dept.</td>
<td>18 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kathleen Signoriello</td>
<td>Property Control and Supply Officer, Physical Plant Administration</td>
<td>16 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bernice L. Petracca</td>
<td>Supervising Word Processing Typist, Nursing Dept.</td>
<td>30 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Janice A. Evonska</td>
<td>Supervising Word Processing Typist, Educational Studies Dept.</td>
<td>36 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Samuel B. Ames</td>
<td>Professor of Art, Art Dept.</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raymond Smith</td>
<td>Professor of Music, Music, Theatre, and Dance Dept.</td>
<td>39 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. Stanley Lemons</td>
<td>Professor of History, History Dept.</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jane D. Malone</td>
<td>Assistant Professor, Henry Barnard School</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James E. Davis</td>
<td>Associate Professor of Instructional Technology, Educational Studies Dept.</td>
<td>30 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joan C. Bloom</td>
<td>Associate Professor, Henry Barnard School</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William M. Jones</td>
<td>Professor of Music and Elementary Education, Music, Theatre, and Dance Dept.</td>
<td>29 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jerry E. Melaragno</td>
<td>Professor of Biology, Biology Dept.</td>
<td>31 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph J. McCormick</td>
<td>Professor of Special Education, Special Education Dept.</td>
<td>39 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victor L. Profughi</td>
<td>Professor of Political Science, Political Science Dept.</td>
<td>40 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gordon E. Rowley</td>
<td>Photographer, News and Public Relations</td>
<td>28 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James H. McCroskery</td>
<td>Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs and Professor of Psychology, Academic Affairs</td>
<td>18 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard N. Keogh</td>
<td>Director of Research and Grants, Office of Research and Grants Administration and Professor of Biology</td>
<td>40 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph M. Mallozzi</td>
<td>Gardener, Landscaping and Grounds</td>
<td>29 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terence E. Hays</td>
<td>Professor of Anthropology, Anthropology Dept.</td>
<td>33 years</td>
</tr>
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FACULTY AND STAFF retirees who attended the Commencement Gala May 19 are pictured above with President John Nazarian. From left: J. Stanley Lemons, professor of history; James McCroskery, asst. vice president for academic affairs; ?????????; Sam Ames, professor of art; Raquel Shapiro, professor in Henry Barnard School; Richard Keogh, director of research and grants administration; Nazarian; Maryann D’Elena, senior word processing typist in modern languages; Gordon Rowley, College photographer; ??????? Janice Evonska, supervising work processing typist in educational studies; and Bernice Petracca, supervising word processing typist in nursing.
The successful program may be cut if President Bush’s proposed education budget is passed.

Keynote speaker Dr. Maksim Shapiro, Upward Bound class of 1993, began his address to the graduates by quoting a line from the movie, A Bronx Tale, “There’s nothing worse in life than wasted talent.”

The Upward Bound class to graduate, is the exact opposite of that statement. Commencement exercises were held in Gaige Hall on May 24.

Of the 53 graduates, 52 will be attending private and public institutions this fall (18 at RIC); one student has enrolled in an apprenticeship program.

Shapiro, one of many Upward Bound success stories, graduated from Yale in 1997 with a bachelor’s degree in chemistry. He later studied at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, where he finished his studies in 2002. Presently, Shapiro is involved in a combined Neurology/Radiology residency program at the New York University Medical Center, where he will graduate in 2008.

Shapiro, a Shea High School graduate, said that many of his colleagues in the medical profession had opportunities laid out before them, but may not realize how easy they may have had it getting through high school and going into college, compared to other students like him.

“There’s no question that for many of you, it was a different road. You have lived through one of the most challenging things in life, receiving a high school education. You all have a really bright future,” he said.

Upward Bound is a program at RIC that gives at-risk high school students the opportunity to gain the motivation and skills needed to graduate from high school and pursue a college education. The program has aided in the college enrollment of over 2,000 high school students from low-income families since its establishment at the College in 1966.

Students who are accepted into the program are required to attend college preparatory classes that are held every Saturday morning during the regular school year. Students who have met specific goals are then invited to progress towards the next phase of the program, the summer component. During this six-week period, students have the chance to live in one of RIC’s residential halls and develop social skills, while attending college-level classes to improve their academic abilities.

Once the summer component ends, a group of students are selected for three-week internships that are aimed at helping each student define career interests. It also gives the students the opportunity to see how a college education could benefit them.

Edwin Castillo of Central Falls High School is an intern that has helped him acquire a job at a local drug store on Academy Avenue in Providence, where he is working in the pharmacy.

“Give me a chance to see what I wanted to do with my life,” he said. Castillo will be attending the University of Rhode Island in the fall, where he will enroll in the pharmacy program.

Marian Z. Boyajian, who has been the director of Upward Bound since 1986, said that this “is the largest class ever to graduate from the program” under her tenure.

At the commencement, RIC President John Nazarian greeted the audience and said that the RIC program Nazarian also told the students, “You are graduating from high school where you have excelled in your studies and so expectations for you are also high.”

Gary M. Penfield, vice president for student affairs and dean of student life, delivered the main address to the Class of 2006 at this year’s commencement program.

“Go forward assured that success, is recognized as not only one of the oldest of the more than 750 Upward Bound programs in the country, but also as one of the most successful.” As he read off a list of the 32 accredited colleges and universities that the graduating seniors were accepted to, Nazarian added that there wasn’t a high school in the state, “not public, private, or parochial, with a graduating class that approaches this degree of accomplishment.”

ALUMNUS ADDRESS: Dr. Maksim Shapiro, a 1993 Upward Bound graduate, delivers the main address to the Class of 2006 at this year’s commencement program.

students; at the College, we are assuring words for the class of 2006,” he said.

Upward Bound works alongside four target school districts in the state where initiatives like this are needed to lower the dropout rates at the high school level. Five scholarships were given to students from each district: Emily Paiz ($250) and Celissa Fonseca ($250) of Central Falls, Zachary Clark ($500) of East Providence, Titilayo Fakiyiyesi ($500) of Pawtucket, and Astrid Galán ($500) of Providence.

Galán, who started with the program during her freshman year at Mount Pleasant High School, was also the recipient of the first Mary Juskinian/Upward Bound Scholarship, to be awarded annually. She said she would have finished high school, but would not be going on to college if Upward Bound wasn’t a part of her life.

“You speak to a lot of the seniors. If they didn’t have the opportunity like Upward Bound, many would not be going to college,” she said.

Galán will be attending RIC in the fall where she will be studying nursing.

Three students from Central Falls High School were also awarded with Alumni Scholarships: Paiz ($500), Justyna Karolina Szulc ($1,000), and Astrid Galán ($500).

Despite its 40-year track record of success, it could potentially be one of the last Upward Bound programs. President Bush has proposed in his fiscal year 2007 federal budget plan an increased spending to his No Child Left Behind initiative, including Upward Bound.

“This means that as of June 1, 2007, Upward Bound may no longer exist not only at RIC, but across the country. It will be a great loss to future generations of at-risk students and to the community as a whole if a program that has been so successful at guiding and motivating our young people is eliminated,” Boyajian said.

“The history of this Upward Bound program and all other similar projects in the country clearly defines the successful outcomes and cost-effective delivery of services to a population targeted for participation.”

Levy also wrote that “it is a big mistake to the futures of thousands of low-income students if this program is eliminated. Write letters to your representatives. Let your voices be heard.”

The commencement marks the beginning of a three-part celebration in honor of Upward Bound’s 40th anniversary at RIC. It is uncertain how President Bush’s NCLB initiative will benefit at-risk high school students from low-income families in the future, but it is certain that without Upward Bound, some 2000 students over the course of its 40 year run at the College may not have achieved higher learning without it.

Shakiris Presbot, one of the graduating seniors from Central High School, wants future students to know, “If you want to be successful, (Upward Bound) is a good start.”

They’re Upward Bound: Winners of an essay contest for the annual Upward Bound alumni-funded scholarships are l to r: Emily Paiz ($500), Bryan Levy ($2,000) and Justyna Szulc ($1,000). All are seniors graduating from Central Falls High School.

The awards were made at Upward Bound commencement exercises May 24 in Gaige Hall auditorium.

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2006 Upward Bound graduates:

BY Anthony Rebello ’07 Staff Writer

2006 Upward Bound graduates:

Yetunde Akinsulire
Alden R. Andrade
Monica Gomez
John Paul Brito
Eric Butler
Jennifer J. Butler
Edwin Alexander Castillo
Zachary R. Clark
Russell B. Cooley, Jr.
Anthony Rebello ’07
Belinda D. Da Graca
Demetrious Ramone Dawkins
Ruth Desosiers
Habib Dila
Richard Remey Edouard-De nor
Sabrina F. Estrella
Titilayo C. Fakisyiesi
Karina Soares Ferrage
Rossell S. Ferreiras
Celissa F. Fonseca
Daryl K. Frails
Astrid Galán
Felicia Lynn Gomes
Xrmucane Gomez
Kenishia Carmen Haye
Satta Augusta Jangaba
Ying Kang
Neal Laughlin, Jr.
Bryan Levy
Resean J. Lighty
Anthony J. Luis
Nika Clarybel Medrano
Patricia Mejia
Alba Ortiz
Milton F. Padilla, Jr.
Emily M. Paiz
Ryan C. Pena
Corey Lee Porter
Shakiris Presbot
Jenni Kachelli Quezada
Jose R. Rivera
Laurinda O. Rodrigues
Ashley N. Santiago
Ashley L. Santos
Karen Tatiana Sierra
Charisma Central High School
Nelinda Soares
Justyna Karolina Szulc
Thayshone Denise Thompson
Sarah T. Vanover
Thiago Miguel Valles
Stephanie Vaz
Katrina Chi von Veihenbach

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RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE

Convocation of Scholars 2006

April 24 - May 3

From April 24-May 3, faculty, students, professional staff and emeriti had the opportunity to share research and collegiality. Convocation of Scholars 2006 featured lectures, presentations and celebrations that highlighted scholarship at RIC.