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What's News At Rhode Island College

Rhode Island College

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6 Alumni Award winners, 30 Honor Roll recipients to be feted May 10

By Ellie O’Neill
Director of Alumni Affairs

Honoring our distinguished alumni is an annual event that serves to showcase both the large number of accomplished leaders the College has produced, and the equally wide range of fields in which they received their degrees. In 2007, Alumnus of the Year Joe Murphy heads a list of Alumni Award winners that also includes Deborah Johnson (Alumni Staff Award), Marie Fraley (Alumni Service award), Mark Stenning (Willard Achievement Award), Michael Browner (Young Alumni Award) and Teresa Coffman (Alumni Faculty Award).

These award winners, along with 30 Honor Roll inductees, will be recognized at the Alumni Awards Dinner on May 10 in the Donovan Dining Center.

2007 Alumnus of the Year
Joseph P. Murphy III ’89, ’02, MPAc ’07

Criteria: Graduate of the College, continuing interest in the College and Alumni Association as represented by outstanding service, and/or by impressive financial contribution.

Rhode Island College alumni serve the College and their communities in a variety of ways, and none more so than Joe Murphy. A recipient of three Rhode Island College degrees, Joe often works behind the scenes on activities that date back to his undergraduate days as a management major. His most recent efforts, in collaboration with the family, colleagues and friends of the late Michael J. (The Doc) Gonsalves ’86, have resulted in the establishment of an endowment fund in Gonsalves’ name. Joe also lends his leadership and financial skills in organizing an annual golf tournament that benefits the Gonsalves Fund.

Joe serves as president of the Epsilon chapter of Kappa Delta Phi, and organizes events throughout the year to support social connections and philanthropic efforts.

He earned a second degree in accounting in 2002, and in January, earned a master in professional accountancy – all while holding down a full-time job and being dad to two small children.

2007 Alumni Staff Award
Deborah E. Johnson ’80, MA ’94, Associate Director of Admissions

Criteria: Need not be a graduate of the College, but shall be employed by the College and have made a unique contribution to the College (development of a new program, wide community recognition of quality of service to the community or campus).

Since 1989, Deborah Johnson has been an important member of the Admissions Office staff and has served the College in a variety of ways, promoting its mission and guiding future students to make good academic choices. In her current role as associate director, Deborah cultivates and promotes the development of professional relationships with secondary school officials. She has also devoted her considerable talent to coordinating multicultural recruitment programs.

Continued on page 9
Considering the current state of Jamaican education, I sought something to build upon. In some schools students are fed well-balanced meals at lunch, which is a prescription for success. Many parents, however, place little value on education. Moreover, many students suffer from sexual, physical, psychological and emotional abuse.

Another Peace Corps volunteer argued that one of the problems for Jamaica is America. The promise of the American Dream is fed to Jamaicans through media outlets, such as Fox News. Consequently, Jamaicans aspire, at least subconsciously, to be like Americans and emigrate, leaving a huge “brain drain.”

Jamaica is also an example of the injustice done by foreigners transitioning a society to a tourist-based economy. The result is a society based primarily on customer service, and lacking industry, manufacturing and technology. People aspire to keep tourism going by participating in it in some capacity – waitstaff, custodial staff, drivers, counter help, etc. Meanwhile, it is Americans, British and other Europeans who profit by owning the resorts. So for those who say tourism is good for these types of societies, I would suggest looking beyond the resort. There seems to be little initiative for real Jamaican reform. There is great disparity between classes of people. HIV is spreading rapidly. National priorities are troubling. In 2003, Prime Minister P.J. Patterson stated that the quality of life for Jamaicans is far better since “man have more gal [women] than before.” This has several social, political and cultural implications. The obvious one is that women are property. There is, however, great resilience among many Jamaicans, and you frequently find people smiling and conducting their lives in spite of the challenges.

I remain grateful to Malaika, her friend Craig, and Malaika’s extended Peace Corps family, for sharing their experiences and hospitality. Also, I am grateful for the insights of Malaika’s parents, Jim and Judy Alexander, who are former Peace Corps volunteers.

In closing, I plan to return to Jamaica with much curiosity. Additional research and meeting Jamaicans of varied backgrounds will be necessary to gain a comprehensive understanding of the country.
In Memoriam –

Ernest L. Overbey, retired vice president for business affairs

Ernest L. Overbey, 89, RIC vice president emeritus for business affairs, died on Feb. 7 in Lady Lake, Fla. Overbey came to Rhode Island College in 1957 as business manager and treasurer. He was named vice president for business affairs and treasurer in 1966, a title he held until his retirement in 1977. He was the first to hold that office – now known as vice president for administration and finance – at the vice presidential level.

While at RIC, Overbey’s responsibilities included the maintenance of all facilities and the College’s personnel and budget functions. Overbey was also the chairman of the Athletic Committee as well as the treasurer for both the RIC Foundation and the Kappa Delta Phi Alumni Association.

In a letter dated May 22, 1978 announcing Overbey’s retirement, then RIC President David Sweet noted that Overbey was responsible for the construction of over 15 buildings at the Mount Pleasant Campus. Sweet also wrote, “At all times, he has carried out these serious responsibilities with diligence, competence, patience and a sense of humor that has earned him the respect of his colleagues and associates.”

Overbey graduated from Bowling Green College of Commerce in 1942 with a bachelor of science degree in accounting, with minors in business administration and economics. In 1946, he was appointed assistant to the business administrator at the University of Delaware, and in 1951 promoted to executive assistant business administrator. Overbey served in the U.S. Marine Corps. He is survived by his wife Billie D. Overbey of Lady Lake, Fla., daughter Sandra Mueller of Westerly, R.I., three grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Rita Couture, retired RIC French teacher

Rita L. Couture of Central Falls, associate professor emerita of modern languages and secondary education, died March 9 at Memorial Hospital of Rhode Island in Pawtucket. She was 89.

Couture taught French at Rhode Island College for 28 years, retiring in 1988. That year, in a letter announcing her appointment to emerita rank, then RIC President Carol Guardo praised Couture for her “championing of the role of foreign languages in liberal education for life experiences and your participation in and contribution to the professional and social groups in which your linguistic ability and training have proved of great and lasting value.”

Also in 1988, she received a plaque recognizing her service to the modern languages dept., awarded on behalf of the many students of French that Couture taught.

Before coming to RIC, Couture worked for the Massachusetts Council for Public Schools (Modern Language Project), taught at Worcester State College, Bridgewater State College, and Okinawa University (Dept. of Defense), and was a research analyst at the Dept. of Defense in Washington, D.C.

She was a graduate of Pembroke College (Brown University) and Middlebury College, and received certificates from the Université de Grenoble in France and the Université de Paris. She was a graduate of Central Falls High School.

She is survived by three sisters, a sister-in-law, and several nieces and nephews.

Contributions in Couture’s memory can be made to the American Heart Association, 20 Speen Street, Framingham, MA 01701-4688.

RIC gets $100,000 anonymous donation for a student-managed investment fund

Students will invest in stocks and bonds and use the gains for faculty development programs. It is the first such program for a R.I. state college.

A 1989 graduate of Rhode Island College, who wants to remain anonymous, has donated $100,000 to the College to establish a student managed investment fund and course that will ultimately benefit RIC’s School of Management. The donation was made in December 2006.

Returns on the investments will be used for educational programs and faculty development in the School of Management’s Department of Economics and Finance.

Student fund managers will take a course that blends theory with the process of portfolio management. Students will learn short- and long-term investment strategies, asset allocation and portfolio rebalancing. They will be expected to manage domestic and foreign securities and use derivative instruments for hedging portfolio risks.

“This is not a simulation exercise, the students will be working with real dollars,” said Jeffrey Blais, RIC associate professor of economics. The fund will be managed by a team of four to six students, who will follow strict by-laws of fund management.

Abbas Kazemi, associate professor of finance at the College, said that the course would give students enough hands-on experience to better position them for the job market. Kazemi will be instructing the course this fall.

Initially the fund will be made up of about 65 percent U.S. equities, 20 percent bonds and the remainder in international stocks and derivatives. The income earned on the fund will be used for memberships in professional organizations, research materials, speaker fees and program enhancements, said Blais.

“One of the key components of any education is the opportunity to develop skills based on practical, real-world experiences. When the student becomes a junior colleague, it enriches the curriculum for everyone,” said Peg Brown, executive director of the RIC Foundation.

Junior and senior finance majors will be selected by the faculty for participation in the program. Applicants for the fall program are now being accepted.
This edition of What's News features our 2007 Alumni Award and Honor Roll recipients. You will soon receive the awards invitation via USPS. Reservations for the dinner can be made by calling the alumni office at 456-8086. The price is $35. The alumni office hosts many events during the year; the Alumni Awards event is particularly special because it gives us the opportunity to showcase alumni in so many different professions.

On Saturday, April 14 we are hosting a luncheon for children/grandchildren of alumni who have been accepted to the College for fall 2007. This event is held prior to the Admissions event for accepted students. If you are the parent or grandparent of a student who has been accepted to the College and has not received an invitation, please call us.

On May 1, the Alumni Association and RIC President John Nazarian are hosting the 7th annual spring breakfast at the President’s house for RIC alumni who are also Leadership Rhode Island alumni.

Reunion Information:

May 18-19  Class of 1957 (golden anniversary celebration)
May 30  Class of 1952 (55th reunion)
May 31  Class of 1942 (65th reunion)
June 4  Class of 1947 (60th reunion)
June 5  Classes 1924-1940

RIC After Five…
a networking event for alumni

On February 28, 50 alumni representing the classes of 1979 through 2006 gathered for a RIC After Five reception at the Napa Valley Grill in downtown Providence. After a brief icebreaker, attendees were given the challenge to meet and talk with someone they had not met before. An easy task knowing they had least had one thing in common: a degree from Rhode Island College. At the end of the night, the most common question was “When will the next event be held?” With that enthusiastic response, plans are in the works for a summer networking event to be held in August at Z Bar and Grille, hosted by restaurant owner and RIC graduate, Kevin Killoran ’85.
RIC alum’s injury sparks successful fitness business

BY KATHARINE RICCI ’07

Staff Writer

CHRISTINE KING

The Fourth of July marks a time for summer celebrations. But for Christine King ’93, the holiday symbolizes a meaningful redirection in her life.

As a teenager, King participated in beauty pageants and won two prestigious crowns, Miss Rhode Island National Teenager in 1983 and Miss Rhode Island Teen USA in 1985. After that, she lost interest in pageants until 1996, when she became interested in fitness. King, a video production company vice president at the time, decided to enter the Miss Fitness USA contest. She never made it.

On the Fourth of July weekend that year, King was riding on the back of a jet ski with a friend when they collided with a massive wave, sending King 20 feet into the air. When she landed, she was still sitting and gripping the jet ski. The contact crushed her lowest vertebrae, paralyzing King from the waist down.

She was six months into training for the pageant at the time.

“The doctor told my husband that being fit is what saved my life,” said King, who had also danced for a time with the New England Ballet Company. “The stronger you are, the stronger and more dense your bones are. That’s what kept me from crushing more vertebrae” – and from crushing her spirit.

King had read many books on self-development and business improvement, and because of these books, she realized her life was changing, but there was no need to break down.

After her accident, doctors came to her hospital room daily and asked her if she felt changing, but there was no need to break down.

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The Delray Beach Chamber of Commerce named her the 2006 Small Business Person of the Year. The Sun-Sentinel, a Palm Beach newspaper, awarded King their Excalibur award for excellence in small business in January, placing her among the ranks of people she admires like Wayne Huizenga, the founder of Blockbuster Video and owner of the Miami Dolphins.

Get Fit, Inc. employs 28 staff members and works with 300 clients. King said her 2,500 square foot spotlessly clean studio (not gym) caters to people who really want to get fit, but need a helping hand. Clients always work with a trainer, who guides them through sessions that last a half hour and focus on strength and cardiovascular training, as well as flexibility.

She credits her communications degree from RIC with giving her the confidence to market and build her business.

“Having a business here in South Florida, I have a need to get out there and tell people what we do,” she said. “The ability to speak publicly really lends a lot to selling yourself and what you believe in. A communications degree is so multifaceted and you can use it in many ways.”

King says her proudest accomplishment is helping people realize they can do what they never thought possible – get fit.

“I always hear ‘I can’t, I can’t,’” she said. “It’s not that they can’t, it’s that they don’t know how. The changes they see are so fulfilling.”

Changes that can be life saving, like they were for Christine King.

Pledge with the gift of a brick in the Rhode Island College Legacy Walk. Buy a brick in honor or memory of someone special. We will notify the chosen person or their family of your thoughtful gift.

Bricks @ $150 each are 4” x 8” and Pavers @ $300 each are 8” x 8”.

Order online at www.ric.edu or contact Nancy Hoogasian at 401-456-8827.

You and those you honor will receive a special Legacy Walk Certificate of Appreciation. Partial proceeds benefit programs of the Alumni Association and Intercollegiate Athletics.
Men’s basketball rolls into NCAA Elite Eight

By Scott Gibbons
Sports Information Director

What a men’s basketball season! After winning the Little East Conference Men’s Basketball Tournament Championship at The Murray Center on Feb. 24, Rhode Island College headed to the NCAA Div. III Tournament for the first time in 28 years.

RIC was one of 11 national sites chosen to host first- and second-round action in the 59-team tournament. The Anchormen would square off against Coast Guard Academy, while Brandeis would battle Trinity, with the winners to meet the following evening. RIC had beaten Coast Guard in December, but this was a whole new ballgame. The teams tipped off on March 2 in front of a capacity crowd at The Murray Center. In addition to the hundreds of RIC rooters, Coast Guard brought many of its own corps to cheer on their team. Cox Sports Television was on hand to broadcast the game live and the Bears and Anchormen did not disappoint.

In an ironic twist, both Coast Guard and Rhode Island College last played it to the NCAA tourney in 1979 and played each other. The Bears won that contest, but RIC was not going to be denied in front of its own fans on this night. Senior guard Kinsey Durgin scored a game-high 18 points to lead the Anchormen past CGA, 64-60. Sophomore guard Bobby Bailey posted a double-double with 16 points and a game-high 13 rebounds.

That left RIC one victory away from the NCAA’s 64-team field. The Anchormen made its first bid for a national title since 1999 and rose to meet the challenge against the Owls of the University of Rhode Island for the right to advance to the Elite Eight.

The Anchormen played tenacious defense throughout the game and went into halftime with a 38-19 lead. RIC stretched that to 59-40 before the second half before the Owls cut the lead to 66-57.

The Anchormen’s next opponent was longtime nemesis Keene State. Undoubtedly, the Owls were anxious to get another crack at RIC, which had defeated them in the Little East Tournament title game just 13 days earlier.

The Anchormen and the Owls headed to Amherst College for the sectional rounds on March 9 and 10. Keene State and RIC added another chapter to the longtime series, with the Anchormen emerging victorious, 75-72, senior forward Brian Stanko, who had the flu earlier in the week and hadn’t practiced in days, made two free throws to put the Anchormen up, 75-72. With just seconds left, Anchormen coach Bob Walsh elected to foul Keene State All-Little East guard David Santag and put him on the line. Santag made his first attempt and missed the next shot on purpose. RIC senior center Anthony Pierlioni grabbed the rebound and time expired. The storybook season continued.

One day later, in a 18-point advantage, but Brandeis buckled down and limited RIC to just three points and no field goals for the remainder of the game.

The Judges eventually closed to within two points and, with just 11 seconds left, fouled senior guard Kamari Williams to put him on the free throw line. The Springfield, Mass., native hit the first shot and Brandeis grabbed the rebound on his next miss. The Anchormen played tenacious defense in the final seconds, as the Judges missed two three-pointers that would have tied the game. The final was 70-67.

RIC was headed to the Sweet 16, quite an achievement for a program that just five years earlier was 1-24.

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Continued next page
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.

GLORY DAYS: With the success of this year’s men’s basketball team, we decided to look back to an earlier golden era on the court. Some of the best RIC men’s basketball teams in school history were in the late 60s and early 70s. Several games from that time were televised and played to standing-room-only crowds. One of the star players back then was Rickie Wilson ’72, the College’s first basketball All-American.

Just like that, the season was over. It would be the last for Durgin, Pierlioni, Stanko and Williams, along with fellow seniors John Weir and Amde Tegbaru.

“In a proud season,” Walsh said. “I am so proud of the 14 guys in that locker room and the six seniors. They have established RIC basketball at a championship level.”

Bailey, a Second Team All-Little East and All-Defensive Team selection, was named to the NCAA All-Sectional Team.

Rhode Island College finished the year with a 27-4 overall record, establishing a new school record for wins in a season.

Durgin was named All-Region by the National Association of Basketball Coaches and by D3hoops.com. Walsh was named the Little East Coach of the Year and was honored, like Durgin, by the R.I. Basketball Media.

All the players and coaches have a lot to be proud of, and judging by the hundreds of fans who followed them on this magical journey, they made the College, the City of Providence and the entire state very proud of them.

Elite Eight cont. packed gym, the Anchormen and Amherst met at center court with a date in the NCAA Final Four on the line. RIC had never been this deep in the tournament, but standing in its way was a powerhouse. Though RIC had only three losses all season, one was to the Lord Jeffs, 62-48, back on Jan. 30, when Amherst was ranked number one in the nation.

In the first half, RIC led 16-10 before the Lord Jeffs went on a roll and surged to a 46-34 advantage.

Amherst kept up the pressure in the second half, at one point leading 56-44.

A resilient Anchormen squad trimmed the lead to three points as sophomore guard Tirrell Hill, the Anchormen were still within striking distance, 73-67, with guard Cameron Stewart, Stanko and Williams, along with fellow seniors John Weir and Amde Tegbaru.

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Teachers and students alike will find lots of learning opportunities at RIC this summer, when the Rhode Island Writing Project (RIWP) will offer four teacher institutes— including a new seminar for Literacy Leadership for K-8 teachers—and special programs to encourage and develop young writers. The courses are available at reduced tuition because they are grant-funded.

“Every year teachers tell us how much the institutes mean to them,” said Marjorie Roemer, director of the project and professor of English at RIC. “They say that their own joy in writing has been rekindled. And every year we feel enriched by the wonderful ideas and energy of a cadre of 100 new Rhode Island Writing Project fellows.”

This year’s offerings:

- **Literacy Leadership Institute**, a training program developed in conjunction with RIC’s Feinstein School of Education and Human Development. Participants will share experiences, examine case studies, and engage in role-play and reflection to refine their understanding of literacy pedagogy and coaching. The institute will focus on teachers as learners, facilitators and supporters of effective classroom instruction in reading, speaking, listening and writing. Classes will be held July 23 to August 2. Four follow-up sessions throughout the year will support implementation of new ideas. The program carries four graduate credits.

- **Summer Invitational Institute on Writing and Critical Literacy**, a research group and writer’s community that explores applied and Critical Literacy. This is the core program for the RIWP and it is for teachers of all disciplines and levels. Classes will meet four days a week from June 25 to July 19. The program carries six graduate credits.

- **Planning for Change**, an institute offering participants the luxury of time to research a topic of their choice and to develop a plan of implementation, is in its sixth year. The program features guest speakers and discussions of practices, journaling, research and writing. Planning for Change will take place from July 16-26. The program carries three graduate credits.

- **Literature Institute for Teachers**, a model of an interactive classroom where reading and writing are mutually supportive and reading is a collaborative activity. The classes are from June 25 to July 6 (four days a week). It is a three-credit program.

- **Summer Institute for Young Writers**, five concurrent young writers’ programs— organized by grade— giving K-12 students an opportunity to learn about the craft of writing by actively participating in all aspects of the process. This institute will be held July 9-20. Tuition is $195.

The Rhode Island Writing Project works to improve the teaching and learning of writing. Since 1985, it has trained over a thousand educators in the state, with the goal of bringing new motivation, ideas and techniques to the classroom. In the past year a Title II School Partnership grant has provided RIWP support for schools in Woonsocket and North Providence. A Comprehensive School Reform grant has supported work in both Burrillville and North Providence. The project also conducts an annual spring conference (see below), mentoring program for new teachers, teacher research courses, writing groups, in-service workshops and provides assistance to the Rhode Island Dept. of Education for the New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP). Several schools in the state have RIWP “embedded institutes”— on-site year-round programs.

The organization is one of over 190 National Writing Project sites around the country dedicated to strengthening literacy instruction. For registration or information, contact the Rhode Island Writing Project office at 401-456-8668 or check the website www.ric.edu/riwp.

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**SUMMER WRITING**

High schoolers from the Summer Institute for Young Writers pose for a picture after reading their writing pieces on the last day of camp in 2008.

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**R.I. Writing Project newest affiliate of RI Center for Public Policy**

The Rhode Island Writing Project (RIWP) at Rhode Island College is now an affiliate of RIC’s Center for Public Policy. RIWP offers programs to improve the teaching and learning of writing. In addition to year-round programs to mentor new teachers, the project sponsors summer programs for teachers and children’s writing camps (see accompanying story).

“For over twenty years RIWP has had an opportunity to work in schools across the state developing innovative, best practice programs through the ‘teachers teaching teachers’ philosophy that characterizes the 197 Writing Project sites all over the country,” said Marjorie Roemer, director of the Project at RIC. “We are honored and excited to affiliate now with the Center for Public Policy and to connect our work with other community partnerships and collaborations addressing important public issues in our state.”
Memorabilia for display is also welcome. Items can be loaned or contributed to a permanent archive celebrating the 50th anniversary. Contact Kathryn Sasso at 401-456-8022 or ksasso@ric.edu.

From the time she encounters them as prospective students to long after graduation, alumni look to Deborah for advice and counsel, and consider her an important mentor.

In addition to serving on numerous College committees that have benefited from her service, Deborah is an active member of the Ebenezer Baptist Church, and serves as trustee, teacher and member of the church’s choir. As a 23-year member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., a national education foundation, she has served as local president, treasurer, tri-state director and national conference chairperson.

2007 Alumni Service Award
Marie R. Fraley, Past President and founding member of Friends of Portuguese Studies at Rhode Island College

Criteria: An alumnus/a or non-alumnus who has made an important contribution to the College by giving time, talent, or resources; or an outstanding citizen who has made a contribution to the state or nation that reflects ideals of service to humanity.

Anxious to learn more about her heritage, Marie Fraley came to RIC to study Portuguese after retiring as a speech-language pathologist. The granddaughter of four Azorean immigrants, Marie has been instrumental in launching the College’s Institute for Portuguese and Lusophone World Studies, created in October of 2006. The institute serves as a nucleus for academic, cultural and community service initiatives. As a volunteer, Marie has invested her time, energy and financial resources to establish the institute, securing ongoing program support and raising over $700,000 toward a $1 million endowment for the Institute.

Marie has earned a Certificate in Non-Profit Studies from the College and is a co-founder and immediate past president of Friends of Portuguese Studies (2003-07). In November, she was named a Partner in Philanthropy by the Association for Fundraising Professionals.

2007 Charles B. Willard Achievement Award
Mark Stenning ’78, Chief Executive Officer, International Tennis Hall of Fame

Criteria: Graduate of the College, brought honor to the College by distinguished achievement in another field.

During his 27 years with the International Tennis Hall of Fame, Mark Stenning has earned wide acclaim for his leadership. Not only is he responsible for the Hall of Fame’s $5 million operating budget and its numerous staff and community events, but he also organizes the Hall’s annual enshrinement ceremony, which receives international coverage. In addition, he serves as the tournament director and represents the Hall’s interests on the ATP tour.

A psychology major, Mark is a great example of how a degree from RIC can take you in any direction. He serves on local boards, the Newport County Convention and Visitor’s Bureau, the NewportFed Charitable Foundation and is a corporator for BankNewport. He has been a governor of the Newport Health Care Corporations since 1997 and is a member of the board of trustees for the Boys and Girls Clubs of Newport County.

2007 Alumni Faculty Award
Teresa Coffman, Associate Professor of Music

Criteria: Need not be a graduate of the College, but employed by the College. Wide recognition for exceptional competence in teaching, printed publication, initiative in research, development of a new program, community recognition of quality of service to the community or campus.

Teresa Coffman’s contributions to the College community extend far beyond the studio voice lessons she offers as an associate professor. She oversees the College’s choral program and conducts the Concert Chorus, Chamber Singers and Women’s Chorus.

Under her direction, the RIC Chamber Singers, a choir of about 60 voices, completed successful concert tours of Ireland (2002), Great Britain (2004) and Italy (2006). In 2008, the Chamber Singers plan to perform in Budapest and Prague.

Teresa is a lifetime member of the Sigma Alpha Iota, and currently serves as the college/university repertoire and standards chair. Professional memberships include the American Choral Directors Association, Chorus America, National Association of Teachers of Singing and the College Music Society.

Teresa is the 2006-07 recipient of the College’s Paul Maixner Award for Distinguished Teaching. She serves on many College committees including the Alumni Association’s Homecoming committee. She is rarely seen without her students, whom she mentors and encourages in all areas of their lives.

2007 Young Alumni Award
Michael N. Browner, Jr., ’98, M’04
Social Studies Teacher, Frank E. Thompson Middle School, Newport

Criteria: Graduated in the last 10 years from the College, and has made a contribution to the College, since graduation, by giving time, talent, or resources.

Michael Browner has brought distinction to the College both on and off campus, as exemplified by his being honored as the 2006 Multicultural Educator of the Year at the RIC Promising Practices Conference.

At Thompson Middle School, he serves as a positive role model, especially for young black males. Every day, Michael works to ignite a love of history and a sense of cultural pride among his students. In addition, he has initiated a morning tutoring session before school as well as a Saturday Boys Club for young men.

In 2004, Michael earned his master’s in school administration and a principal’s certificate. But it is his desire to remain in the classroom, where he has direct daily contact with students, and where he feels he can provide the most impact on their futures. In addition to teaching, Michael is the church organist and choir director at the Community Baptist Church in Newport. He is also a new member of the R.I. chapter of the American Guild Organists.

For the past two years, the Oral History Committee has been conducting interviews of emeriti faculty, alumni and others. Now that the interviews are nearly complete, the committee is planning to produce a publication featuring this work. The College community is invited to send old photos appropriate for this publication and/or display during the upcoming 50th anniversary celebration of RIC’s Mt. Pleasant campus.
Honor Roll recipients are recognized for their achievements in their chosen fields and their distinction as role models whose success demonstrates the value of a Rhode Island College degree. The 30 members of this year’s Honor Roll represent eight states and 28 advanced degrees from 17 different colleges and universities. A photograph and background information on each winner is mounted, framed and displayed in the Board of Governors Room in Roberts Hall for one year, and then sent to the respective departments for permanent display.

2007 Alumni Awards Dinner
Thursday, May 10
Donovan Dining Center
Cost: $35
Reservation deadline: May 4
Call 401-456-8086 for more information
BIOLOGY
Christopher Happy ’93, MD
Medical Examiner
Santa Clara County, Calif.

COMMUNICATIONS
Patricia Iafrate Bellini ’79
Speech/Language Pathologist
Central Falls School Department

COMPUTER INFORMATION SYSTEMS
Blake Morphis ’00
Healthcare Analyst
St. Joseph Health Services of R.I.

COMPUTER SCIENCE
Judith M. Harrigan ’00
Software Developer
Electro Standards Laboratories
Cranston, R.I.

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ENGLISH
Kevin J. Costa ’92, PhD
Drama Department Head/
Associate Director of College Counseling
McDonough School Owings, Md.

FILM STUDIES
Christian de Rezendes ’00
Director/Camera/Editor
Breaking Branches Pictures, Inc.
Brooklyn, N.Y.

GEOGRAPHY
Mary Grady ’83
Editor
Natural News Network
RIC Adjunct Faculty

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION
Jennifer L. Hass Jendzejec ’93
Aspiring Principal/
Principal Residency Network
Washington Oak School Coventry Public Schools

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GEOGRAPHY
Mary Grady ’83
Editor
Natural News Network
RIC Adjunct Faculty

PHYSICAL EDUCATION
Debra Blais Reddy ’86, MEd ’89
Physical Education Teacher
Lincoln Public Schools

PHYSICAL SCIENCES/CHEMISTRY
Patricia Delaive Beighle ’75 PhD
Business Consultant/
Vice President, Manufacturing
MacDermid Printing Solutions, N.C.

POLITICAL SCIENCE
Eileen M. Clancy ’92
Director
Court Dispute Referral Center
Brooklyn Criminal Court

PSYCHOLOGY
Shevy J. Kopel ’94
Project Director/Data Manager
Childhood Asthma Research Program
Rhode Island Hospital/Brown Medical School

SPECIAL EDUCATION
Gene E. Dashoff Paranzino ’70, MEd ’74, ’84
Special Education Teacher (retired)
Fall River Public School System
Adjunct faculty, RIC, Fisher College

TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION
Peter L. Nero ’76, MEd ’96
Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Cranston Public Schools

THEATRE
Mark Morettini ’87
Actor
Roundabout Theatre
New York, N.Y.
Singing in the Spring

Greg Parker will be the focus at Bannister Gallery from April 12 to May 3, with a chronological survey of his paintings and works on paper from the last decade or so. The exhibition will trace how Parker’s present work has been informed by the past – the development of content, the evolution of materials and techniques, and the intangible reasons that are at the heart of any artist’s growth.

The selection on display will underscore a certain continuity of purpose that is a product of the places and events of Parker’s life, as well as the formal exploration of geometry, color, and mathematical systems.

Writing on Parker for Art in America, Jonathan Goodman noted, “Given the smooth surfaces of such pieces and their overall geometry, they recall Minimalism most readily, but through his process, Parker distills a luminosity that links them as well to the tradition of the Hudson River School.”

Greg Parker lives and works in Maine. He has exhibited widely and is represented in New York City at Jim Kempner Fine Art. His work can be found in the collections of the Portland Museum of Art; Fidelity Investments, Boston; the DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park; the Ritz Carlton International, Boston; and the British Museum in London.

A reception at Bannister will take place on April 19, Providence’s Gallery Night, with transportation available. Visit www.gallerynight.info for details.

On April 22, the RIC Chamber Singers and choruses will present the Spring Choral Ensembles Concert at 8 p.m. in Sapinsley Hall in the Nazarian Center. The RIC Chamber Singers and Women’s Chorus, conducted by Teresa Coffman, and Men’s Chorus, conducted by Tianxu Zhou, will perform a number of light selections designed for smaller vocal ensembles, including a variety of folk songs, spirituals and vocal jazz arrangements.

General Admission is $3. Free for RIC students, faculty and staff.

Continued on p. 14

Arts & Entertainment

BY RAY RAGOSTA

Staff Writer

A decade in retrospect: Greg Parker at Bannister Gallery

Camp meetings in outdoor tabernacle tents with sawdust floors. Preachers declaring the sorry state of sinners and their fate to spend eternity amid hellfire and brimstone. These are some of the “horrifying memories” Teresa Coffman retains from her childhood among Southern evangelicals.

But Coffman, who is choral director and associate professor of music at Rhode Island College, recalls these scenes with a bit of irony, for they are also associated with another experience – seeing the revival scene in Carlisle Floyd’s opera, Susannah.

When this experience brought back memories, it also has a strong connection to her professional endeavors. Coffman “wrote the book” on Floyd, as she describes it, as far as his choral music is concerned. Her doctoral dissertation at the University of Houston was on his choral compositions.

At the time, Carlisle Floyd was teaching at the university and was working with the Houston Opera Studio, of which he was co-founder.

Now, on May 4 for her annual spring choral concert, Coffman will be presenting scenes from five of Floyd’s operas: Susannah, Of Mice and Men, Markheim, Willie Stark, and The Passion of Jonathan Wade, the last two of which were specifically requested by the composer. Floyd is expected to attend the concert.

Taking place in Sapinsley Hall in the Nazarian Center, the concert will focus on choral scenes from the operas and will feature the Rhode Island College Chorus. Coffman is also including several notable soloists: tenor Fred Scheff ’83 for Lennie from Of Mice and Men, and baritone Tianxu Zhou for Olin Bitch from Susannah.

The Henry Barnard School Fifth Grade Chorus, directed by Jay MacCubbin, will open the evening and perform four songs for children’s voices, which Floyd composed in the 1960s. These are two Stevenson songs, Rain and Where go the boats; Christina Rossetti’s Who has seen the wind; and the anonymous Lyric Long, long ago.

When one considers orchestral music in the American idiom, the name Aaron Copland springs to mind. If most people don’t know the names of such pieces as Fanfare for the Common Man or Rodeo, there is a very good chance that they could recognize the music.

Copland, however, wrote only one major opera, The Tender Land, and so left that territory pretty much open. It is Carlisle Floyd who has laid claim to it.

Not only is Floyd a quintessentially American composer, but he also is quintessentially American. Born in Latta, S.C., in 1926, his ancestry on both sides reaches back the earliest European settlers in the Carolinas. His father was a Methodist minister and held posts in a variety of small South Carolina towns in the Southern Bible Belt, where Floyd spent his childhood.

Most of Carlisle Floyd’s operas deal with rural, southern or colonial settings. And subject matter seems equally important as the music for him as he writes his own librettos.

For most of his adult life, Floyd has lived and taught in Houston and in Florida, earning him a reputation as an outsider, not being part of the Northeastern musical establishment. That outsider role in itself connects with a prominent theme in American mythology and figures in such operas as Susannah and Jonathan Wade.

Still, the musical establishment has bestowed its accolades on him. The prominent music critic Andrew Porter said of Carlisle Floyd in The New Yorker, “With a commitment that rivals Smetana’s in Bohemia or Britten’s in Britain, [Floyd] has striven to create a national repertory. . . . He has learned the international language of successful opera in order to speak it in his own accents and to enrich it with the musical and vernacular idioms of his own country.”

The 1994 recording of Susannah, made under the supervision of Floyd himself, won a Grammy and featured Cheryl Studer, Samuel Ramey, Jerry Hadley and the Orchestre de L’Opera de Lyon, with Kent Nagano conducting.

In 2001 Floyd was inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Letters. Then in 2004 President George W. Bush and Laura Bush presented him with the National Medal of Arts, which he received at the White House withperformance of the full cast of Susannah.

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Arts & Entertainment

Opina made in America: RIC Chorus performs works by Carlisle Floyd

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Gallery hours during exhibits are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Thursday from 5 to 9 p.m. Closed weekends and holidays. Exhibits and events are free and open to the public. 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.

Arts & Entertainment

Greg Parker at Bannister Gallery

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**The music of Liszt sparks Keyboard Conversations April 17**

Jeffrey Siegel’s celebration of the Great Romantics continues with Liszt: the Devil Made Me Do It, a Keyboard Conversations concert set for Tuesday, April 17 at 7:30 p.m. in Sapinsley Hall in the Nazarian Center. The performance is the last in Siegel’s series of four Conversations at RIC this season, which is his fifth at the College.

This selection of Liszt compositions is highlighted by its transcendental virtuosity and excitement. Liszt, a Hungarian-born pianist and composer, was famous throughout 19th century Europe for his great skill and showmanship. Considered one of the greatest pianists in history, he has also been credited with the modernization of the piano recital.

Each of Siegel’s “concerts with commentary” begins with an insightful prologue on the music to be played, followed by a performance of the work. The evening comes to an end with a lively question-and-answer session. Siegel strives to make music accessible to everyone. The Chicago Tribune has written that his programs “strengthen the fragile bonds of communication between composer and listener and are as welcome as they are rare.”

*Tickets for Jeffrey Siegel’s Keyboard Conversations are $25, with discounts for seniors, RIC faculty/staff/students and children. For your convenience, tickets can be purchased as follows: in advance via VISA or MasterCard by calling 401-456-8144 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays; online at www.ric.edu/pfa; or in person at Roberts Hall box office until the time of the performance on the day of the event.*

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**‘Music of the Spheres’: Wind Ensemble offers out-of-this-world concert April 27**

The RIC Wind Ensemble concludes its spring season with an otherworldly concert titled *Music of the Spheres* on Friday, April 27 at 8 p.m. in Sapinsley Hall in the Nazarian Center. The performance will be conducted by Robert Franzblau, associate professor of music and secondary education. Created by the ancient Greek astronomer Pythagoras, “Music of the Spheres” is a mathematically harmonic impression that draws on the sun, moon and planets’ movements to create perfect yet inaudible harmonies.

The Wind Ensemble’s *Music of the Spheres* will include Space Music by Donald Erb, *Concerto for Trumpet* by Alexander Arutunian, *The Dog Breath Variations* by Frank Zappa, as well as the *Jupiter* and *Mars* movements from *The Planets* by Gustav Holst. It will also feature new works by RIC student composers, and the RIC Senior Concerto Competition winner, Samuel Costa, will be introduced.

Costa, a senior music education/performance double major, will perform the solo in Arutunian’s dramatic *Concerto for Trumpet*. The *Dog Breath Variations* is a fun, rhythmic composition of brass, woodwind, and percussion instruments supplemented by a rock band. The short *Space Music* explores unusual textures and sonorities, with little emphasis on traditional melody or harmony.

*Jupiter: The Bringer of Jollity* and *Mars: The Bringer of War* are chosen from Holst’s astrophysically inspired *The Planets*, first performed in 1918. *Mars* depicts the War God, portraying the mercilessness of combat, while *Jupiter* evokes carefree feelings of dancing with beautiful women.

General admission is $7. For further information, call the box office at 401-456-8144.

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**April 18**

**RIC faculty members take center stage April 18**

The Wednesday Chamber Music Series season finale will showcase members of RIC’s music faculty in a recital on April 18 at 1 p.m. in Sapinsley Hall in the Nazarian Center. The concert, *Musical Potpourri*, will feature an eclectic program of musical delights, including Joseph Foley’s trumpet virtuosity and *Jazz Sonata* by Philip Martorella, performed by the composer and by renowned saxophonist Greg Abate.

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**Time for Three makes time for RIC April 23**

The musical trio Time for Three, known for their engaging, unconventional concerts that blur genres, will perform at the College as part of RIC’s Performing Arts Series on April 23 at 8 p.m. in Sapinsley Hall in the Nazarian Center.

Three students from the Curtis Institute of Music – violinists Zachary DePue and Nicolas Kendall and double bassist Ranaan Meyer – formed Time for Three in 2001. Each member brings to the group unique musical experiences and tastes, allowing its repertoire to evolve into an array of bluegrass, Hungarian gypsy, jazz, country-western fiddling, classical, improvisatory and original music.

Time for Three has performed over 200 times, including playing with the Philadelphia Orchestra, opening for k.d. lang at Philadelphia’s Kimmel Center, and appearing at the Beethoven Society in Washington, D.C., the Cerritos Center in Los Angeles, Joanne Woodward’s Westport Playhouse, the Philadelphia Folk Festival, Wyoming’s Grand Teton Music Festival, Chicago’s Music in the Loft series and Paul Newman’s Hole in the Wall Gang Camp’s Fandango XIV.

David Patrick Stearns of The Philadelphia Inquirer wrote, “These musicians exude youth without the slightest air of exclusion, and with a wit and invention allowing violinists Zachary DePue and Nicolas Kendall to casually toss classical-music quotations (the Mendelssohn *Violin Concerto* for one) into high-velocity vernacular fiddling. Their grab-bag fusion works because the music seems like a genuine expression of who they are, as opposed to the execution of a marketing plan.”

Noted actor Paul Newman said of the trio, “To hear these three young guys is to be thankful that music was invented. … If I had been able to create a sound like these kids a few years back, I might have thought twice about going into acting!”

To date the group has two albums, their debut CD released in 2002, *Time for Three*, and a second album released last winter, *We Just Burned This For You*.

The musicians also have successful careers as individual artists.

*Tickets for Time for Three are $30 with discounts for seniors, RIC faculty/staff/students and children. For your convenience, tickets can be purchased as follows: in advance via VISA or MasterCard by calling 401-456-8144 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays; online at www.ric.edu/pfa; or at the box office in the lobby of the appropriate performance venue, which will be open for sales two hours prior to performance start time.*
RIC Symphony Orchestra to perform 29th Bicho Family Memorial Scholarship Concert

Internationally known opera singer Diana McVey will be the guest soloist in the RIC Symphony Orchestra’s final concert of the season on Monday, April 30 at 8 p.m. in Sapinsley Hall in the Nazarian Center. The 29th Annual Bicho Family Memorial Scholarship Concert will be conducted by Edward Markward, director of the Symphony Orchestra and professor of music.

McVey will perform Bacchianas Brasileiras No. 5 for soprano and eight cellos by Brazilian composer Heitor Villa-Lobos. Also on the program are Strauss’s Symphonies of Wind Instruments and Dvorak’s Symphony No. 9 (from ‘The New World’).

McVey has sung extensively with opera companies and symphony orchestras such as the Sarasota Opera Company, Salt Marsh Opera, the Albany Symphony, and others. In June 2006, she made her Carnegie Hall orchestras such as the Sarasota Opera Company, Salt Marsh Opera, the

The New World

(From

and Dvorak’s

The Magic Flute

by W. A. Mozart,

Don Giovanni

and

Werther

are given each year to a student in the areas of piano, strings, voice and winds, brass and percussion. The award is named in honor of Rita V. Bicho, longtime professor of music.

A donation of $10 is requested for the scholarship fund. Seniors and non-RIC students, $5; RIC students, faculty and staff, free. For tickets, contact the RIC Box Office at 404-456-8144.

EDWARD MARKWARD

DIANA McVEY

Lost’s Mira

Furlan stars in WOMEN, WAR, DESERT at RIC

Rhode Island College on April 5 in Forman Theatre in the Nazarian Center. An open forum to meet the artists took place following the presentation, which was a part of the College’s Spring Celebration of the Arts.

The performance was an ode to brave women who have boldly raised their voices against the madness and horrors of war. The story is told by two mothers, one Arab and one American, played by Furlan and former Trinity Rep member Nahassaiu deGannes, who have lost their sons fighting on opposite sides of the front line. The two women meet in the middle of the desert and realize that war does not decide who is right, but who is left. They discover that in the end, only mothers on both sides cry.

The play was written by Slobodan Snajder and directed by Naum Panovski, head of RIC’s master’s program of theatre in performance and society.

For Furlan, war has shaped her life. She has been in over 30 films produced in Europe. A socially conscious actress and activist who openly spoke out against the war in her homeland of Yugoslavia, Furlan was the target of a media campaign to vilify her, and received repeated death threats before moving to the United States as a refugee.

“One of the most horrifying aspects of war is that it takes away your choices. You’re forced to be someone you had no idea you could be,” said Furlan. “It forces you to accept the complexity of human nature, its horrible flaws and weaknesses, as well as its potential for greatness.”

Furlan now regards herself as an American whose old country of Yugoslavia no longer exists. Since coming to the U.S., she has performed in a number of theatrical productions, a made-for-television movie, in addition to Lost, and released a CD. Furlan returned to her former country for the first time in 10 years to star in Euripides’ Medea and received critical acclaim.

“My Furlan’s theatre work and social activism in some ways personifies the core of our MFA program,” said Panovski.

Panovski said that the RIC program, like Furlan, encourages students to become socially conscious and engaged thinking artists and prepares them to challenge the boundaries of the art and its presence and relevance in and to society.

“I hope the play will make them (the audience) think for a moment. Think about their own choices at this particular time when a war is fought somewhere in some unknown desert – in their name,” said Furlan.
Yankees are dominating the American League, and the Washington Senators are having a losing season. One frustrated Senators fan, Joe Boyd, decides to sell his soul to the devil to become the greatest baseball player of all time and help the Senators win the American League pennant. But as all deals with the devil go, Boyd must give as well as get; in this case he must choose which is more important: family or baseball. Damn Yankees is a timeless classic that the whole family can enjoy. The play is a great combination of America’s pastime and some of the best songs to hit Broadway, including What Ever Lola Wants and Heart.

Over the last 10 years the Department of Music, Theatre, and Dance has brought some of the best loved musicals to campus. In choosing Damn Yankees, director Bill Wilson, chair of the department, wanted to present a musical by Richard Adler and Jerry Ross. The last time the College performed one of their musicals was the 1989 production of the Pajama Game. The production of Damn Yankees will be the first time in nine years that a musical will have a full student orchestra.

The play will be the culmination of an effort that dates back to December of last year, when 70 RIC students competed for roles. Wilson whittled the list to 28 who will be appearing in the play, some in multiple roles. The production required over 100 people covering everything from set and costume design to rehearsing scenes.

Though he is the director of the play, Wilson knows he doesn’t hold all the power. “As rehearsals progress, a director is gradually relinquishing control of the production to the people in it who are on the stage.”

Wilson said that the most rewarding part of producing any play is seeing actors grow from rehearsal to closing day. “You watch somebody develop a character from nothing and, in the end, excel,” he said.

Damn Yankees runs Thursday, April 19 through Sunday, April 22. Thursday through Saturday shows begin at 8 p.m. Saturday and Sunday matinees begin at 2 p.m. Tickets are available at the Roberts Hall Box Office. Reserved Seating is $18. For more information, call the RIC Box Office at 401-456-8144.

Proceeds from Shinn Fund reception to benefit students’ study abroad

The 2007-08 winners of awards from the Ridgway F. Shinn, Jr. Study Abroad Fund will be introduced at a benefit reception in Forman Theatre in the Nazarian Center following the matinee performance of Damn Yankees on April 21.

Tickets for the reception and performance are $30, which will be used to benefit the Shinn Fund. For ticket information or to make a contribution, contact James Bierden at 401-831-2495, Peter Moore at 508-336-9670, or the RIC Office of Development at 401-456-8087.

Those who return their contribution or ticket order by April 13 are eligible to win a weekend in the Berkshires, including a luxury condo in Lenox, dinner for two and a pair of tickets to the Norman Rockwell Museum. The drawing will take place at the reception.
New EPSCoR science initiative adds to RIC research portfolio

This is the second of a two-part story about a pair of science research grants benefiting RIC and other higher ed institutions in Rhode Island. Part one looked at INBRE, which promotes biomedical research. In this issue, we’ll focus on EPSCoR, a more recent funding initiative targeted to different areas of science.

Glénisson de Oliveira, associate professor of chemistry, is performing a computational study of metalloproteins. “These types of proteins require a metal cofactor to make them control the reactions for which they are responsible,” he said. He is particularly interested in metalloproteins involved in controlling cell growth and repairing damaged DNA. The malfunction of these proteins has been linked to skin and breast cancers.

Experiments indicate that carcinogenic metals sometimes replace the natural metals in these proteins, according to de Oliveira. His lab is examining the effects of these metal replacements with computer models that use the principles of quantum physics. “Shedding light on these interactions should not only broaden our knowledge of molecular biology, but should also help us understand the physics behind interactions that are quite different from typical chemical bonds,” said de Oliveira.

His project has been made possible by an EPSCoR grant, and is one of many currently underway at Rhode Island College and other colleges and universities in the state.

Science research such as de Oliveira’s got a major boost in June of 2006 with the arrival of EPSCoR (Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research initiative).

While another RIC science program, INBRE, funds projects directly or indirectly related to human health, the three-year EPSCoR grant enhances studies in areas identified as strengths in the state, such as marine biology, and also in proteomics and genomics, which are “new and growing parts of life science,” according to Edythe Anthony, RIC biology department chair and College liaison for both programs.

“The two programs are complementary,” explained Anthony. “EPSCoR is providing opportunities for faculty and student development in areas that were not previously eligible for this type of support.”

The program originated locally when URI, along with RIC, Roger Williams University, Salve Regina University, Brown University, Providence College, Community College of Rhode Island, and Rhode Island School of Design, submitted a proposal entitled Catalyzing a Research, Education, and Innovation Network to the National Science Foundation. The foundation awarded the schools, with URI as coordinator, a $6.75 million EPSCoR grant over three years. Of this amount about $188,000 will come directly to RIC for research. The College’s portion for the first year was $32,500, which is to be used to support RIC faculty research and travel. The grant will also eventually fund equipment and summer salary support for students.

Three years ago, John Williams, professor of chemistry, attended the first EPSCoR exploratory meetings, which involved faculty and administrators from the entire Rhode Island higher education community.

“The Rhode Island College contribution to the project is in existing and emerging areas of competitive research strength,” said Williams. Among the areas he cited are biochemistry, molecular biology, genetics, toxicology, science education, and developmental, population and reproductive biology.

“The proposed role in EPSCoR,” added Williams, “is collaboration on faculty research teams, involvement in undergraduate research initiatives, and worker training for biotechnology companies.”

As part of the EPSCoR program, Williams is pursuing a general research program in molecular toxicology, and using computational chemistry as the main tool. Teachers will take a two-week course and be trained to use computational chemistry to implement inquiry experiments at the high school level. College students with research experience in computational chemistry will serve as mentors, and high school teachers and students will participate in short research projects that will enhance their content knowledge and scientific literacy. Experts in computational chemistry will present lectures in a summer seminar series in computational chemistry. All participants will present their findings in a local symposium and in an international conference in computational chemistry.

Three important groups – college students, high school teachers and high school students – will benefit from RICCSI, thus feeding the pipeline of Rhode Island’s future scientists.

RICCSI is funded by a three-year Title II Grant administered by the Rhode Island Office of Higher Education, and involves a partnership between the Physical Sciences Dept. at Rhode Island College, RIC’s Feinstein School of Education and Human Development, and the Providence Public School District. Julie Wollman and I are the principal investigators for the grant, and directors of the program. For more information go to riccsi.riccollege.net.
has been awarded a stipend for the summer to begin a project to synthesize and test tamoxifen analogs. Tamoxifen is a drug used in breast cancer treatment and a member of a broad class of similar structures called SERMS, or selective estrogen receptor modulators, explained Williams. The compounds will be prepared and analyzed in RIC labs in Clarke Science and at the RI-INBRE Core Facility at URI. They will be then screened against estrogen receptor proteins in labs at URI in collaboration with Karen Almeida ’94, assistant professor of chemistry, and Rebeka Merson, assistant professor of biology. Computational chemistry of drug-receptor interactions will also be done at RIC and at URI’s bioinformatics lab, said Williams. His tamoxifen project will provide funding for summer research fellowships for up to four undergraduates who are enrolled at Rhode Island EPSCoR institutions. Williams is one of four RIC faculty members with a reduced teaching load to allow for more time to perform research in EPSCoR fields. Another of those educators, Dana Kolibachuk, an associate professor of biology, is working with PHA, a bacterial storage material with an application as a biodegradable plastic. She is studying the genes and gene products necessary for PHA synthesis in a light-emitting marine bacterium. Of particular interest to her is an enzyme, PHA synthase, which influences the final composition of the PHA polymer and could extend the potential uses for this material. She noted that EPSCoR funding will provide for equipment needed to measure the activity of PHA synthase and to study the composition of the PHA found inside bacterial cells. “Because this equipment will be available for use by other researchers, the research capability of Rhode Island College will be enhanced by the EPSCoR award,” Kolibachuk said. EPSCoR funding has provided time for Eric Roberts, assistant professor of biology, to work on two research projects during this semester. Along with a collaborator at URI, he is isolating and characterizing red seaweed genes that encode the enzymes needed to produce cellulose. Cellulose is the main chemical component of plant cell walls, which have commercial value in the form of wood, paper and many other fiber crops. Derivatives of cellulose are used in producing plastics, lacquers and synthetic fibers. For his other project, Roberts is collecting preliminary genetic data on the synthesis of cellulose by desmids, a group of unicellular green algae. Because of their simple structure and close evolutionary ties to land plants, desmids provide useful models for understanding aspects of cell wall synthesis and plant evolution. “Results from both of these projects may allow us to genetically manipulate the cellulose made by commercially important plant species,” said Roberts. The data gathered by Roberts in these projects will be correlated with biochemical, immunological and structural data collected by colleagues at other institutions in anticipation of a multi-institution grant application. Funds have also been earmarked for EPSCoR Academy, which Anthony describes as a “statewide clearinghouse to provide opportunities for students to become involved in life science research.” The academy will allow current and future researchers to focus on seeking out additional funding for research as well as technology transfer and economic development in the state. While the findings of EPSCoR-funded research projects are ongoing, the expansion of knowledge and the educational opportunities for students have already made this experiment in collaborative science a proven success.
RIC’s Early Enrollment Program receives special grant from Governors’ Association

The Early Enrollment Program (EEP) at Rhode Island College is the recipient of a one-time $15,000 special grant from the National Governors’ Association (NGA). The allotment will be used to subsidize tuition for students who qualified for financial assistance from EEP during the 2006-07 school year. In 20 secondary schools from Woonsocket to Newport, students will be reimbursed for tuition paid to the college.

“We are extremely grateful to higher education Commissioner Jack Warner for allocating this money to Rhode Island students who have chosen to begin their college career while in high school,” said Mark Motte, assistant vice president for academic affairs. “Tuition costs and financial need are rising in our state. The NGA grant will make earning college credits more affordable for young people who might otherwise not be able to pay for the College’s rigorous EEP courses.”

Begun in 1980, the EEP is a high school/RIC partnership that offers high school seniors and select juniors an opportunity to earn college credits while they complete their high school graduation requirements. High school instructors, who are approved by the respective college departments, teach RIC courses during the normal school day. The College is the conduit for earning course credit as there are over 75 colleges and universities from the east to the west coast involved in this partnership of accepting RIC credits.

Providing a direct link between Rhode Island secondary schools and the RIC community, the EEP fosters an opportunity for collegial collaboration and has granted thousands of students college credits thus eliminating as much as one full semester of college work.

RIC EEP is a member of the National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships, which was established in 1999 to support and promote dual enrollment programs throughout the country.

For more information about the Early Enrollment Program, call 401-456-8857 or email eep@ric.edu.

COMMUNICATION HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTS 20 NEW MEMBERS

SOCIETY MEMBERS: New inductees into RIC’s communication honor society include (top, from left) Lindsey Gentile, Jennie Figliola, Sarah Derenlowski, Alfred DeCiutiis, Lisa Coupe, Stephanie Conrad, Devon-Jeanne Chace, Maggie Brown, Brezzy Bringham, Bottom, from left are Justine Olson, Kristine Willicki, Kimberly Violante, Ana caris Rodriguez, Andraa Puhlser, Ashley Sudler (treasurer), Katharine Ricci (president), Lindsey Conklin (secretary), Domenic Gianfrancesco, and Dana Lesperance. Not pictured: Alicia Vanasse (vice president).

The Epsilon Chi chapter of Lambda Pi Eta (LPE), RIC’s communication honor society, inducted 20 new members at their initiation ceremony held at Lombardi’s 1025 Club on Feb. 18.

Eligible students must have completed 60 semester hours in undergraduate credit courses, have a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0, have completed 12 semester hours in courses in communication, and have a grade point average of at least 3.25 in these courses, be in the upper 35 percent of their graduating class and be currently enrolled as a full-time student in good standing with their institution.

Founded in 1985 at the University of Arkansas, LPE became the official communication honor society of the National Communication Association in 1988 and a member of the Association of College Honor Societies in 1995. There are over 400 LPE chapters worldwide.

R.I. Geography Education Alliance workshop to showcase The Rhode Island Atlas April 28

The Rhode Island Geography Education Alliance (RIGEA) at Rhode Island College will introduce The Rhode Island Atlas as part of a workshop on Saturday, April 28 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the John Nicholas Brown Center on the campus of Brown University. The creator of the atlas, Klaus Bayer, professor of geography at Keene State College, will deliver the keynote address. The workshop is designed for practicing educators and preservice teacher candidates. Details and registration information are on the RIGEA website at ri.net/RIGeo/rigea/home.html.

FOCUS ON Faculty & Staff

ROBIN KIRKWOOD AULD

Many educators in RIC’s Dept. of Health and Physical Education participated in the National AAHPERD Convention in Baltimore, Maryland from March 12-17. AAHPERD is an acronym for American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance.

Robin Kirkwood Auld, associate professor of health and physical education, presented a paper titled “Teaching Off-the-Ball Movement Concepts in Physical Education and Dance”; Karen Berard-Reed ’93, assistant professor of health and physical education, presented the session “Turning Health Education into Child’s Play: Interactive Games to Enhance Instruction”; and Kerri Tunnicliffe, assistant professor of physical education, presented “Service Based Learning: From Practice to Reality.”

Karen Castagno and Bennett Lombardo, professors of health and physical education, Susan Clark, assistant professor of health education, and Auld, Berard-Reed and Tunnicliffe, participated in the NCATE Initial Program Training Workshop while at the convention.

RIC Golf League accepting new members for the 2007 season

The RIC Golf League will tee off Wednesdays at Triggs Memorial Golf Course beginning with a practice round on May 2. Play will continue through the summer. Members of the RIC community can enjoy relaxed competition at four levels of play, ranging from beginners (a great way to learn) to advanced, with appropriate handicaps provided for all. Tee-off time is between 3 and 4 p.m. and each participant will play nine holes. To join, or for more information, contact Charles Allsworth at 401-456-8406 or callsworth@ric.edu by April 20.

Nursing honor society members update

RIC nursing students inducted into the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing were listed in the March 5 issue of What’s News. The list should have also included inductees Jennifer Lynn McBride, Susan McConnell, Kimberly McDonough, Nola Ann Monti and Carla-Maria Niro. New society members were inducted through Delta Upsilon Chapter-at-Large in a December ceremony held at the Quonset “O” Club in North Kingstown.

The Rhode Island Atlas

The Rhode Island Atlas began in 1980 as a one-time project of the RIC Department of Geography and Environmental Studies. The project was funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities. It was created to offer a visual record of the state’s natural and cultural features, and has become an important educational tool for students and teachers throughout the state.

The Rhode Island Atlas: The First Ten Years, published in 1989, was the first comprehensive geographic and cultural atlas of Rhode Island. It was based on a series of six maps produced by the RIC Department of Geography and Environmental Studies.

The Rhode Island Atlas is the result of a collaborative effort between the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies and the Rhode Island Spatial Information and Analysis Center (RISIAC) at RIC.

The Rhode Island Atlas was funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Rhode Island Council on the Arts. The atlas was produced with the assistance of a team of RIC students and faculty members, including Mark Motte, assistant professor of geography, and Karen Berard-Reed, assistant professor of health and physical education.

The Rhode Island Atlas is available for purchase at the RIC Bookstore and in the RIC Library. The atlas can also be viewed online at the Rhode Island Atlas website.
A new program at the College will let students earn credits while living and working in architect Paolo Soleri’s experimental city.

Imagine having the opportunity to build a futuristic city in the high desert of Arizona, while earning college credit at the same time.

Students from Rhode Island College will have that chance if they sign up for a new course that will let them live and work in legendary architect Paolo Soleri’s experimental city of Arcosanti for the month of June.

Arcosanti is a prototype town for about 5,000 residents that was designed by Soleri and has been under construction since 1970. Located at Cordes Junction in Arizona, it is an alternative to the wasteful, sprawling cities of today, based on Soleri’s concept of “arcology,” architecture coherent with ecology.

Arcology advocates that cities be designed to maximize the interaction and accessibility of an urban environment, minimize the use of energy, raw materials and land, reduce waste and environmental pollution, and allow for interaction with the natural environment.

Students will live in the city while working on construction, cooperative living projects, archival work, and sand and metal casting. They will also be able to tour other nearby projects including Frank Lloyd Wright’s Taliesin West.

“The major draw for the project is to work on Arcosanti itself,” said Thomas Cobb, RIC professor of English and organizer of the excursion. “It is also a rare chance to experience the life of Arizona’s high desert in a non-invasive environment.”

Soleri exhibited at RIC’s Bannister Gallery last October after receiving the Cooper-Hewitt Lifetime Achievement Award in Design, and invited Rhode Islanders to Arizona this summer to help build the city.

Non-students are also invited to join the project. Arcosanti is entirely privately funded. The fees paid to work and live in Arcosanti will support the construction and maintenance of the experimental city. Students will also be involved in the production of Soleri’s signature windbells, which provides supplemental funding for the project.

A three-credit English college course on non-fiction prose writing will be part of the experience for students. Each student will be expected to produce an essay or piece of non-fiction prose based on the experience at Arcosanti.

Cost for the project is about $2,000 and includes a $1,125 fee to Arcosanti for room and board for the four weeks, course tuition, and a round trip ticket to Phoenix.

If interested, contact Thomas Cobb at 401-456-8115; tcobb@ric.edu.

### RIC students offered chance to build visionary city in Arizona this summer

**By Jane Fusco Editor**

**SurfRI: six weeks of free statewide database trials**

By Tjalda Nauta

**Director of Adams Library**

SurfRI, a six-week trial website that will grant all Rhode Island citizens free access to more than 40 databases statewide was launched on March 6. It is a collaborative effort by the Special Legislative Commission to Study the Current Strengths and Weaknesses of Library Service in R.I. and the Database Sub-Committee appointed by the commission in January.

Libraries normally subscribe to these types of databases (which include encyclopedias, business journals, health articles, newspapers, and biography, history and literature resources) at a fee that is unaffordable for some libraries. During the six weeks between March 6 and April 15, however, these databases will be completely open to all Rhode Islanders for searching and not limited by passwords, ISP addresses or library affiliation. Forty-six states already provide their citizens with this type of information access, making Rhode Island one of only four that do not.

**By Tjalda Nauta**

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The committee hopes to “level the playing field by providing equal access to quality information resources to all R.I. citizens from early childhood to senior citizens,” and is also hopeful that the trial will gain legislative and state support for permanent access to the databases.

If funded, statewide free database access will support education, life-long learning and literacy statewide while remaining cost effective. The large-scale purchasing will provide competitive pricing that benefits education, healthcare and business.

In a press release issued by the State House on March 1, Rep. Peter L. Lewis (D-Dist. 37, Westerly) stated that this was the “first step to improving library service throughout the state . . . an opportunity for the citizens of Rhode Island to access and use these databases and determine for themselves if they find it valuable.”

The press release further states that “individuals should contact their local legislators to support a budget allocation that will turn the trial into a permanent resource for all Rhode Islanders.”

Server space for the trial has been provided by the HELIN (Higher Education Library Information Network) Consortium, which is made up of 10 academic and 13 health science libraries in Rhode Island and nearby Massachusetts. It can be accessed at http://helin.uri.edu/screens/riswdmain.html.
Welcome to this year’s Convocation of Scholars, an annual showcase and celebration of the intellectual and creative life of the College. As you review this year’s program, you will notice an interesting mix of student, faculty and public events – each of which represents some aspect of the College’s scholarly orientation.

Please join us as we present an array of outstanding presentations that acknowledge the depth of study on campus.

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Patricia Nolin ’84 M ’87, Chair, Special Assistant to the President
Jason Anthony ’99 M ’95, Assistant Director Undergraduate Admissions
Teresa Coffman, Associate Professor of Music
Joan C. Dagle, Professor of English
Glénisson de’Oliveria, Associate Professor of Chemistry
Denise Guilbault-Langworthy, Assistant Professor of Music
Mark T. Motte, Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs/
Director of the Center for Public Policy
Anne M. Pascucci, Interim Director, Office of Research and Grant Administration
Karen M. Rubino, Special Assistant to the President for Web Services
Jean-Baptiste Sankara, Class of 2007
Kathryn Gray Sasso ’69, Director of Conferences and Special Events

Monday, April 23
Adjunct Faculty Dinner
Student Union Ballroom
6 p.m. (by invitation only)

Gehrenbeck Lecture
Frank A. Bozyan, University of Texas
Clarke Science 128
7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, April 24
Consumer Agency Advisory Recognition
For those working in health care agencies that work with students: an opportunity to learn about changes in the nursing department. A discussion on how students might be better prepared to work as health care professionals.
Student Union Ballroom
4:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 25
Weathering Old Age
Conference sponsored by The Gerontology Center with support from the College Lectures Committee.
Topics will include senior volunteer experiences, the benefits of physical activity, the importance of remaining mentally active, and emergency preparedness for older adults.
Faculty Center South Dining Room
8:30 a.m.

15th Annual Psychology Department Student Research Conference and Psi Chi Research Presentations
Ager 110
11 a.m.

Who’s Who Among Students in American Universities & Colleges
Reception for student honorees.
Student Union Ballroom
Noon

Friday, April 27
Faculty Research and Scholarship Conference
A day-long conference focusing on four areas of discipline and presented by RIC faculty and students.
Student Union/Donovan Dining Center
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Meet the Sponsors
Luncheon panel presentation by area sponsors of research and sponsored programs.
Student Union Ballroom
Noon

Alpha Kappa Delta Honor Society Induction
Sociology and justice studies – announcements of departmental awards.
Faculty Center South Dining Room
12:30 p.m.

Book Bags: Linking Home, School and Students’ Learning
Horace Mann 064
12:30 p.m.

Health and Physical Education Presentation
No-PHAT
The Murray Center Gymnasium
12:30 p.m.

Student Honors and Awards
English department
Presentation of scholarships and awards to English department majors and celebration of students who have written English Honors theses.
Craig-Lee 255
12:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 26
Mary Tucker Thorp College Professorship Lecture
Reception to follow.
Faculty Center
4 p.m.

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THE FUND WAS CREATED IN 1987 BY RIDGWAY F. SHINN JR. AND HIS WIFE, CLARICE ‘67, WITH THE SUPPORT OF FRIENDS, COLLEAGUES AND FORMER STUDENTS.

Monday, April 30
Honor Student Presentation and Reception
Faculty Center South
3:30 p.m.

Alliance for the Study and Teaching of Adolescent Literature (ASTAL)
A conversation with Jeffrey Kaplan.
Faculty Center
Main Dining Room
5 p.m.

Emerit Appreciation Evening
Student Union Ballroom
5:30 p.m.
(by invitation only)

Tuesday, May 1
Exhibit of Resource Units:
Teaching and Learning
Social Studies
Henry Barnard 214
10:15 a.m.

Wednesday, May 2
Literacy in Action: Reading/Language Arts Portfolio Exhibit
Horace Mann 185
8:30 a.m.

Cap and Gown Convocation
The Auditorium in Roberts Hall
Reception to follow
12:30 p.m.

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The fund was created in 1987 by Ridgway F. Shinn Jr. and his wife, Clarice ‘67, with the support of friends, colleagues and former students. Shinn, a professor emeritus of history whose career at the College spanned 48 years, died in December of 2006.

A trio of RIC students will explore first-hand their areas of interest after receiving Ridgway F. Shinn Jr. Study Abroad Fund scholarships.

The Shinn Study Abroad Fund, maintained by the RIC Foundation, provides income to support undergraduate students in planned study outside the United States. It allows any undergraduate with 30 semester hours of study at RIC who is in good academic standing in any field of study to apply. Grants are for a minimum of three months and a maximum of 24 months abroad and are of variable amounts.

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See page 15 for information on the Study Abroad benefit reception following the April 21 performance of Damn Yankees.

Three receive Shinn Study Abroad scholarships

Matthew Lonergan ’07
Narraganset, R.I.
Political science major
Amman, Jordan,
Summer 2007

Scott Stecklowicz ’09
Canton, R.I.
History major
Edinburgh, Scotland,
Fall 2007/spring 2008

Benjamin Streeter ’09
West Warwick, R.I.
Secondary education major
Granada, Spain,
Spring 2008