6-11-2007

What's News At Rhode Island College

Rhode Island College

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Graduation days at RIC: a season of celebration

Over 1,600 degrees conferred in graduate and undergraduate exercises last month.

Cool showers soaked the empty seats set up on the campus quad, but warm memories were made inside The Murray Center, where, because of the inclement weather, undergraduate commencement exercises were held on May 19. Over 1,300 degrees were awarded, and though not all attendees could be accommodated in Murray, several off-site campus locations allowed everyone with a ticket the chance to view the proceedings on projection-screen TVs.

Representatives from the classes of 1935 to the present were on hand, including approximately 30 members of the 50th anniversary class of 1957. Two alums from that year, Natalie DiPonte Migneault and Everett V. Maxwell, presented RIC President John Nazarian with a gift of an endowed scholarship in the name of the class. Nazarian called on the new alums to give thanks to everyone who helped them get their degrees. That includes, he said, the people of Rhode Island, “whose financial support in the form of their taxes is given with the understanding that this investment is necessary and worthwhile for the state’s economy and its future.”

Author, actor and East Providence native Ron McLarty ’69 returned home to deliver the commencement address, with reminiscences of his days performing in RIC Theatre and the now-defunct coffeehouse. McLarty received an honorary doctor of humanities degree. McLarty, whose best-selling novel, The Memory of Running, is this year’s Reading Across Rhode Island selection, exhorted the graduates to “stamp your own singular mark on all of our lives.” He said that in a celebrity-driven world that moves at an astounding pace, the most important challenge is to retain one’s true identity. His wish for members of the graduating class was for them to share “your unique imagination and your unique sense of hope.” (The full speech appears on page 4.)

George Graboys, former president, chairman and CEO of Citizens Financial Group, was given a doctor of public service degree. In his greetings, Governor Donald Carcieri pointed out that RIC produces most of the state’s teachers, nurses and social workers.
Jennifer Bartley, a history major, said of graduating: “I worked hard for four years and it feels good that I actually accomplished a life goal.”

Daniel Barletta, a biology major, dedicated his accomplishment to his father, Joseph Barletta. “He passed away when I was in high school and I am the first to graduate from my family,” said Barletta. It took him eight years to complete his college education, during which he worked as a student researcher for the Department of Environmental Management. He plans on working in fisheries or conducting research on freshwater fish.

Brian Bass, a political science major, plans to get experience in political campaign work then go back to school for a PhD. His goals are to teach, write books and run for political office.

Sellina Chabot, a psychology major, served an internship at Bradley Hospital, working with children who have emotional problems. Inspired by the experience, she plans to seek employment at Bradley.

Andrew Cerullo, music major, said he’d probably end up in a job completely unrelated to his field of study, but added, “I’m getting that piece of paper and that’s what’s important!”

Everton Carter, a communications major, plans a career in the broadcast field. He describes his experience at RIC’s WXIN radio station as “great hands-on experience, a labor of love, and I couldn’t see myself doing anything else.”

Alex Fanning, a justice studies major, treasurer of the class of 2007 and former president of Student Community Government, said that by being active on campus he “attained the full college experience, and it was the best of my life.”
Reflections on 39 years at Rhode Island College

By David Woolman, director of the Curriculum Resources Center, who is retiring this month.

In the summer of 1967 I came to Rhode Island College to continue graduate study in history and education after completing a Peace Corps assignment teaching ESL and history at a teachers’ college in Northern Nigeria. My work in Nigeria involved development of two secondary school libraries, introducing a curriculum in African history, and establishing an intercollegiate athletic program. I completed the MA in history in 1972, with a thesis on the relationship between Marcus Garvey and African-American leadership, under the direction of Professor Stanley Lemons.

My experiences as an educator in West Africa gave me a keen appreciation of the vital role that libraries can play in the improvement of curriculum and instruction. I think it was predestined when a job opportunity arose in the summer of 1968 for a librarian in the Curriculum Resources Center. Fortunately, the Center director, Maureen T. Lapan, saw some promise and hired me. Maureen became a wonderful mentor, through whom I gained great understanding of the field of curriculum and much encouragement in my graduate studies.

The Center’s mission was to support teacher education programs with resources that reflected state-of-the-art ideas in curriculum, teaching and learning. Working with Dr. Lapan, I endeavored to boost the scope and diversity of the collection, increase circulation, provide individual and group instruction, publish resource guides and offer consultations for curriculum directors and teachers in Rhode Island schools. It was an exciting time.

The Center was linked to urban education efforts in Providence. I served as an instructor in the series of Seminars on Race and Poverty (1969-1970), a professional development program aimed at improving inner-city teacher awareness and skills. Working on the Rhode Island Department of Education’s Commissioner’s Committee on Black Literature, I wrote an annotated Bibliography of Black Literature (1970) to introduce Rhode Island high school English teachers to African-American literature. When the Center became active in regional efforts to improve resources for special education teachers, I became the liaison to the New England Special Education Instructional Materials Center. By 1970, the Center had outgrown its small quarters in Adams Library; that year we moved into a spacious central area in the newly completed Mann Hall. The new facility was like a dream come true; it included a 15-carrel multi-media preview center, a classroom, several special collection rooms, abundant office space, and a large workroom. In all, it was four times bigger than the old Center; but, even more important, we were now at a crossroads for education students and faculty.

As management responsibilities grew, I felt the need for further education, completing a master of library science degree at URI in 1976 and beginning graduate study in curriculum at the University of Connecticut. Within three years, the Center’s operation tripled in size; as librarian, my role included designing the new facility and working with the technical procedures needed to acquire, catalog and circulate resources. All of this could not have worked without the support of a first-rate assistant librarian, Doris Costa, several excellent secretaries, and many dedicated student employees. Many students who worked at the Center went on into library or teaching careers. I also worked with many graduate assistants, who produced resource bibliographies to improve access to the collection. Happily, my acquaintance with one graduate assistant, Ina Stone, eventually developed into a lifelong relationship.

Throughout the 1970s and 1980s, I was active in numerous grant initiatives involving the Center, including acting as a coordinator for off-campus teacher education workshops under the aegis of the Alternate Learning Center (1974-1976). In addition, I managed five special focus collections in the Center: a bilingual Portuguese language collection; a NSF-funded science equipment collection; a regional special education materials center; a career education resource library; and a NASA-sponsored space education resource center.

In the late 1970s, my personal research interests evolved into four fields, which determined the later course of my career. These were cultural foundations of education, international education, peace studies and social studies. In 1977-78, I collaborated with Professor Gamal Zaki as a grant writer and curriculum coordinator for the Fulbright-Hayes-sponsored Egypt Study Project; the grant’s objective was revision of American curriculum (K-13+) to reflect current conditions in Egypt. This memorable project brought 18 teachers to Egypt for extensive study and produced six units of learning activity packages for use in Rhode Island schools.

In 1984, I wrote a field trip guide for Rhode Island teachers that ran into a second edition, published by the Rhode Island 350th Commemoration Committee (1985). My doctoral degree in educational studies at the University of Connecticut culminated in 1984 with a dissertation on the educational thought of Johan Caluwae, one of the founders of the field of peace research. I have been active in the Peace Education Commission of the International Peace Research Association ever since, publishing chapters in books and papers, attending and presenting at conferences, and teaching courses in peace studies in the General Education Program at the College. I managed to extend my teaching work with stints as an invited adjunct instructor of Western Civilization in the History Department (1984-1990) and Cultural Foundations of Education in the Educational Studies Department (1988-1990).

Beginning in 1990, the Curriculum Resources Center faced new challenges with the retirement of Dr. Lapan as director. I served as acting director and librarian for the next five years. Meanwhile, the microcomputer and Internet age was well under way, but the Center, with its traditional card catalog was off-line. I began to explore options for creating an online catalog; after much study and negotiations that were greatly facilitated by Richard Olsen, the director of Adams Library, we decided that the most cost-effective strategy for upgrading services was to move the Center into the Library as a department. Begun in the summer of 1995, the full merger, with staff retraining and creation of an online catalog, was achieved by 1998. The Center soon had a website that enabled full catalog search and access to hundreds of Internet sites for teachers. We had crossed over into the electronic information age.

After 1990, my research interests turned toward the role of education in international development, particularly in relation to issues of equity, social justice and peace. One very interesting project was a recent collaboration with three Australian colleagues on a 35-nation survey that established transnational perspectives on values for global citizenship education; the results were published in the book Towards a Global Community (2006). I published several journal articles and chapters in books and presented papers at international conferences in Australia, Canada, Finland, India, Japan, Lebanon (Malaysia), Mexico, South Africa and South Korea. On these trips, Ina and I had the opportunity to visit local schools and work with many teachers. Probably the most inspiring experience was bearing witness to the anxieties and high hopes attending the birth of post-apartheid South Africa. I was able to translate these world-learning experiences into local and regional workshops on global and multicultural education through the Promising Practices Conferences at the College and at the Northeast Regional Conferences for the Social Studies. During this time I also participated in the development of Social Studies Guidelines for the Rhode Island Department of Education, including contributing the Resource Guide (1997-2002).

It has been a wonderful experience for me working at Rhode Island College. Our collegial faculty and the determination and energy of so many of our students have made every moment worthwhile.
President Nazarian, Rhode Island College trustees, faculty, parents and friends I am honored to have been invited to address the graduating class of 2007.

Anyone who’s taken freshman English gets indoctrinated pretty quickly to the nuances and differences of sentiment versus sentimentality. Sentiment consists of passions and attitudes growing directly out of feelings – feelings that one is in control of. Control being the operative word. So in the realm of literature sentiment is good. Sentimentality is its out-of-control, weepy, breast-beating cousin. Nothing is in charge. It’s raw emotion with nobody behind the wheel. Again, in literature, this is bad. I mention this because I was reading ‘Rolling Stone’ newsletter a couple of weeks ago and noticed a quote from Keith Richards. He essentially said that if you were frozen in the 1960s and thawed out today, you’d think the world had gone mad! I think Keith was right (even if he came up with this observation after falling out of a coconut tree and landing on his head).

If some clairvoyant had predicted back then a celebrity driven civilization, or a 50-million-dollar bonus given to an executive as a reward for terminating the employment of 25 percent of his company’s work force or a certain New York Yankee whose single season salary surpasses the entire budget of many American school districts, we’d pull our tie-dyed t-shirts over our shaggy heads. In 1969, when I somehow graduated from RIC, we were most definitely not living at today’s astounding pace (unless you count two guys I knew who did achieve the jump to light speed chemically). Information we received was interpreted for us by The Providence Journal and Walter Cronkite and not Fox, CNN, 8 million bloggers, MySpace, movie stars, spin doctors, or politicians (although god knows they tried).

Of course there were some similarities between then and now. When I popped out of school the Vietnam War still raged as Iraq does today. My first stop was the draft and Fort Lewis in Washington State. Like today the war divided us not just politically, but socially and often personally. Another much happier similarity is that through it all America still embraces that happy similarity is that through it all America still embraces that similarity between then and now. Perhaps it’s exactly the speed of things that’s muddied the distinctive colors of good and bad, right and wrong, turning the known moral choices all gray that has, in turn, created a more determined individuality so visible in your generation. This celebration of your unique place is even more remarkable because it comes at a time when vast numbers of divergent groups, social and political, are vying to control the specific glimmer that makes you – you.

Two weeks ago I visited most of Rhode Island’s High Schools via a video conference. My novel ‘The Memory of Running’ had been chosen for the seniors to read as part of the Reading Across Rhode Island Program. I can say I was truly astonished to see that the students had their own personal perspectives of view. There was absolutely no group-think happening and so no general relativism either. Their conclusions were their own. And as I looked out over this beautiful graduating class, a few years removed from the secondary educational experience, I’m sensing your own inimitable, personal perspective has been sharpened to a pointed sophistication. It’s almost as if your generation’s genetic database has unconsciously recognized the necessity of keeping sacred all things specific to you. And this fills me with awe and joy because I believe the single most difficult challenge you will face again and again in this continually altering and often confusing mega-society, is the retention of your true identity. Reinhold Niebuhr, the late philosopher, wrote about this dilemma and it’s importance in his book, Moral Man And Immoral Society. He concluded that the brutal behavioral group of humans is overcome only by individual morality. That the individual is always superior to the group and will consider the needs and rights of others with a genuine sincerity that the group is not capable of. And finally, in what I think is his most startling revelation – that imagination and yes, hope are specific to the individual alone.

Edward O. Wilson in his collection of essays entitled On Human Nature notes dispassionately what we all are as a species. That as eggs in the womb we are 250 thousand or more pairs of genes and 10 billion neurons. As babies we are marvelous robots launched into the world under the care of our parents. Our accumulating experience is soon transferred into independent and feeling creatures. We learn language, bonding, rage, love and all those things that make us human-specific.

What isn’t easy to explain – what is most probably impossible to explain – is the magic that separates us from one another and makes us each one-of-a-kind individuals. With our own quirks, humor, desires, imagination and hope.

My wish – my prayer – for this majestic graduating class is that you will fill your families, your friends and your chosen careers with your unique imagination and your unique hope.

Godspeed to the class of 2007. Thank you.
Recent RIC grads to enjoy fairy tale summer at Kaleidoscope Theatre

Two new RIC Theatre graduates – Jamie Dellorco and Jennifer Drummond, both 2007 graduates – will be joining several RIC students and alumni performing in Kaleidoscope Theatre’s 2007 Summer Series, which will be held at the College.

Dellorco will appear as Snow White in Snow White, and as Patricina in Cinderella and Cinderella, Too! A double major in musical theatre and English literature, she appeared in several RIC productions and served as head of theatre and dance for the Henry Barnard Elementary School Explorations Program. When she relocates to New York in September, Dellorco will perform and run workshops with the Merry-Go-Round Theater Company. Drummond will be playing Princess Cassandra in Kaleidoscope’s production of The Frog Prince this summer. A theatre performance major, she has appeared in numerous theatrical productions on the RIC stage. Drummond twice received the Irene Ryan Nomination for her performances, which enabled her to compete at the American College Theatre Festival in 2005 and 2006. David Payton ’77, executive director of Kaleidoscope Theatre, said, “I received an excellent education in theatre at Rhode Island College, and I continually benefit from those students who grow and excel in the College’s theatre program.”

Other RIC graduates, undergraduates and alumni who will participate in this year’s summer series include: Sandy (Boyce) Creel ’72, Chris Cournoyer ’11, Eric Desnoyers ’09, Rob Ferland ’05, Nicole Frechette ’06, Amanda Genovese ’09, Tommy Ifratre ’05, Jillian Rivers-Keegan ’09 and Justin Robinson ’08.

Kaleidoscope Theatre, which celebrates its 30th anniversary this year, has called Rhode Island College its summer home for the past six years. The summer series schedule: Snow White – July 10 Alice in Wonderland – July 17 Cinderella – July 24 Cinderella, Too! – July 31 The Frog Prince – August 7 The Three Pigs – August 14 Little Red Riding Hood – August 21 Goldilocks & the Three Bears – August 28

Performances will take place Tuesdays at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. in the Auditorium in Roberts Hall. Tickets are $8 in advance and $9 at the door. A special offer of $3 per person is available for groups of 25 or more, and a season ticket for all eight shows is available for $50. To purchase tickets by phone, call the RIC box office at 401-456-8144, Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information about Kaleidoscope Theatre, call 401-942-3637.

Lee Collins, RIC’s “first lady” of graphic communications technology, retires

BY GITA BROWN

Staff Writer

She is a self-described “introvert who loves people,” which may explain how a woman whose voice barely carries above a whisper led RIC’s graphic arts students into a new era of digital technology and established a program that remains the only one of its kind in the Southern New England area.

In the 1980s print and publishing companies throughout the country were converting to Macintosh computers and Mac-run software. RIC’s Department of Industrial Education and Technology needed someone to produce Mac-smart students equipped to enter the print and publishing industry.

In 1982 Collins was brought on board to perform that task as an adjunct faculty member. She was there when the first Macs arrived in 1984. Today, this small, silver-haired woman, who has been the only faculty member in the graphic communications technology program for the past two decades, remains radiantly ageless.

“It gives me great pride to know that this program has supplied the local print industry with mature, well-trained, hard-working employees,” Collins said. “In fact, our program has been a lifeline for the print industry.”

Collins has walked into over 50 local and national industries to train their current employees as well by either leading or directing continuous improvement seminars, and she’s held training sessions for industry on campus: the how-to’s of working with Mac-based electronic files.

The print industry, historically, has been predominantly male. Collins, however, has proven that being female in a male-dominated field need not be a deterrent. She was the first female faculty member in her department. Her first office was the former men’s restroom in the basement of Craig-Lee Hall. Through the years, she’s recalled being subject to “token female” asides and was even mistaken at a conference for someone’s wife who had wandered off. She laughed and said, “I was on the elevator with a white-haired gentleman at the International Graphic Arts Education Association (IGAEA) conference in 1986. “He turned to me and said, ‘Oh you’re going the wrong way. The room for spouses is in the other direction.’ It was pretty funny.”

Five years later Collins would become the first female president of IGEA. She would also sponsor the first IGEA conference at RIC, bringing in over 200 educators from around the country and from England, Wales and Germany.

On campus, Collins faced challenges of another kind – how to fund her program. Mac computers and software were rapidly advancing, while the Macs in Collins’ classroom had become out-dated, lacking the memory to run the high-end software. When Collins requested new computers, the College administrators said there were no funds.

So Collins found another way to acquire the money. Over the years, Collins has written over $2 million dollars in grants for the College to buy computer equipment and software for her program. With a Champlin grant, she was able to purchase a color press and an automatic cutter. She even solicited the local print industry for equipment. Barrington Printing loaned her an imagesetter. The co-owner of Barrington Printing is her former student, Keith Couto ’01.

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The ninth annual Rhode Island College Athletic Recognition Dinner and Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony will be held on Saturday, Sept. 29, in conjunction with Homecoming, at Donovan Dining Center at 7 p.m.

A reception to honor all former Hall of Fame inductees and all previous Hetherman and Murphy Award winners will be held at The Murray Center at 5:30 p.m.

Tickets are $40 each. The deadline for ordering tickets is Sept. 17. Please contact the Athletic Department at 401-456-8007 to purchase tickets or for additional information.

RIC Athletic Hall of Fame Class of 2007

James Dandeneau ’91
Valerie (Verducci) Defangelis ’97
Robert Haigh ’70
Douglas Hartley ’72
Stephen Lynch ’82
Everett Maxwell ’57
Susan (Landry) Miceli ’86
Jennifer (Cook) Spadoni ’00

ATHLETIC RECOGNITION DINNER TICKET INFO

Endless Summer Beach Party

Saturday, July 21
7 p.m. – midnight
at the North Beach Clubhouse
79 Neck Rd. Narragansett, R.I.

Come have fun and enjoy a great evening with a host bar, live music, and a surf & turf dinner. There will be fun contests and great prizes.

Cost: $75 per person
Proceeds to benefit the Rhode Island College Student-Athlete Support Center

Anchor Club Golf Day set for July 16

The seventh annual Anchor Club Golf Day is set for Monday, July 16, at Pawtucket Country Club. If you would like to play, or register a foursome, please call Tim McCabe in the RIC Athletic Office at 401-456-8260 to receive a brochure.

The cost is $165 per golfer, which includes greens fees, favors, golf cart, refreshments, lunch, social hour and food stations. Lunch and check-in will begin at 11:30 a.m., followed by a shotgun start at 12:45 p.m. There will be a reception with food stations at 6:30 p.m., followed by awards and prizes at 7 p.m.

Don’t miss this great event. Register today!
RIC Softball wraps up record-breaking season

By Scott Gibbons
Sports Information Director

Following up on last year’s outstanding season, the 2007 Rhode Island College softball squad took the program to new heights this spring. Head coach Maria Morin’s team won its third consecutive Little East Conference regular season championship, captured their second straight LEC Tournament title, hosted and won the NCAA Div. III New England Regional Championship for the first time in school history, and finished the season at the NCAA Div. III Softball National Championships.

The Anchorwomen were one of eight regional winners who met at the James I. Moyer Softball Complex in Salem, Va., from May 18-22 to compete for the national crown. Although the Anchorwomen bowied out with a 0-2 mark in the double elimination format, that won’t tarnish the program’s best effort in school history.

RIC began postseason play on May 3, hosting the 2007 Little East Conference Softball Tournament. The Anchorwomen downed sixth-seeded Plymouth State, 2-0, May 3 and fourth-seeded Eastern Connecticut, 3-2, in eight innings on May 4. Then the team hit a bump, losing to third-seeded Western Connecticut, 2-0, on May 4. The loss meant the Anchorwomen would have to win three straight games on Saturday, May 5 to win the championship. The squad rallied back from a 1-0 deficit in the bottom of the sixth inning to eliminate second-seeded Keene State, 4-1. Freshman shortstop Mandy Shurgot notched a key two-out hit and sophomore Krystal Bilek crushed a two-run homer in the first inning to give the Anchorwomen a lead it would not relinquish. Bilek added another RBI single in the sixth as RIC plated two more runs. She went 2-for-4 with one run scored and three RBI in the victory.

Riley was named the 2007 Little East Conference Softball Tournament’s Most Outstanding Player, going 4-1 with a 0.91 ERA in six appearances. The Anchorwomen were selected as the top seed and host for the 2007 NCAA Div. III Softball New England Regional Tournament from May 10-13. The winner would advance to the national championship round the following week. This time, the Anchorwomen would not be denied, going perfect 4-0 to earn the berth.

Despite making four errors, the Anchorwomen got by eighth-seeded Framingham State, 3-2, in the first game on May 10. RIC scored three runs in the bottom of the sixth inning, led by senior catcher Kristyn Alexander’s and Bilek’s RBI hits, while Riley struck out five. Eight Anchorwomen were named to the NCAA Div. III New England Regional Softball All-Tournament Team: Lotti, Burgess, Bilek, McCartin, Riley, Dube, Alexander and Shurgot.

The Anchorwomen made their way to Salem, Va., to compete in the NCAA Div. III Softball Tournament National Championship round on May 18-22. As the sixth-seed, RIC squared off against third-seeded Wisconsin-Eau Claire in opening-round action. Seven RIC errors led to the Anchorwomen’s worst loss of the season, 9-1, in just five innings. A Shurgot home run accounted for Rhode Island College’s only run.

Defensive miscues cost the Anchorwomen against seventh-seeded Blattsburgh State the next day as RIC made four errors in a 10-5 loss, which ended their quest for a national title. Lotti and Taverna each belted solo homers in the loss.

“We had a great season,” head coach Morin said after the game. “Our team never quit. They always played their hardest and we were very fortunate to have them at RIC. The end result isn’t what we wanted or hoped for, but now that we’ve got the experience, we’ll compete a little harder next time. I congratulate my team and coaching staff. I’m very proud of what they’ve done.”

The loss marks the final game in the careers of seniors Riley and Alexander, who leave as two of the greatest players in program history. Riley owns the longest consecutive winning streak in NCAA Div. III softball history at 43 games. The streak began on March 17, 2006 and ended on April 22, 2007. “It’s been an amazing year,” said Riley. “I’m so proud to call myself an Anchorwoman. It’s an honor.”

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Rhode Island College Softball Roster

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<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>B/T</th>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Mandy Shurgot</td>
<td>Fr.</td>
<td>OF</td>
<td>R/R</td>
<td>5-7</td>
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<td>Kelsey Souza</td>
<td>Fr.</td>
<td>SS</td>
<td>R/R</td>
<td>5-4</td>
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<td>Jeanne Rosa</td>
<td>Fr.</td>
<td>UTL</td>
<td>R/R</td>
<td>5-6</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Davia Spado</td>
<td>Fr.</td>
<td>OF</td>
<td>R/R</td>
<td>5-3</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Robyn Zemieniiski</td>
<td>Fr.</td>
<td>2B</td>
<td>B/R</td>
<td>5-1</td>
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<td>Kelli McCartin</td>
<td>Jr.</td>
<td>INF</td>
<td>R/R</td>
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<td>R/R</td>
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<td>OF</td>
<td>R/R</td>
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<td>Stacie Brown</td>
<td>Jr.</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>R/R</td>
<td>5-6</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td>Kristyal Bilek</td>
<td>Jr.</td>
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</tr>
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Hometown/High School

Woonsocket, RI/ Woonsocket
Branintree, MA/Brantree
Milford, CT/Jonathan Law
Uxbridge, MA/Uxbridge
Schenectady, NY/Colonicel Central
Old Saybrook, CT/Nathan Hale-Ray
Cranston, RI/Cranston West
Toms River, NJ/Toms River
Lowsville, NY/ Beaver River Central
Saugus, MA/Saugus
North Providence, RI/ Providence
Everett, MA/Bishop Fenswick
Waterford, CT/Waterford
Barrington, NH/Dover
East Wareham, MA/Wareham
Bellingham, MA/Bellingham
Bedford, MA/Bedford
Norton, MA/Norton
Fitchburg, MA/Fitchburg

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2007
Head Coach: Maria Morin | Associate Head Coach: Ken Stanley | Assistant Coach: Kristen Norborg
Captains: Kristyn Alexander, Christie Lotti, Nicole Riley
Russell Monaghan’s technical stage wizardry soon to be College history

BY RAY RAGOSTA

For 34 years, Russell Monaghan has been the man behind the curtain at Rhode Island College. As operations manager for the John Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts, he has worked to ensure that performers and audiences alike have an all-around pleasurable experience.

But at the end of June, Monaghan will retire to his home in West Kingston. He will spend his days caring for his house, which dates back to 1849, and enjoying a backyard that borders on the Great Swamp Management Area, one of the state’s more extensive nature preserves and a long way from backstage at RIC.

“My job,” Monaghan summarized, “has been to coordinate the safe usage of the facility. I also have to make sure that lighting, sound and staging are all in place.”

This synopsis barely hints at the knowledge, attention to detail and imaginative skills that Monaghan has brought to the College over the years. In talking with Monaghan, one hears a theatre technician at one moment, an engineer the next, then a logistics expert.

Recalling the days before the Auditorium in Roberts Hall was air-conditioned, he described how his crew would strategically run large fans before the performance and during intermissions to keep the temperature – and the noise levels – down. Despite those efforts, he works with physical plant in adjusting computerized HVAC systems.

Monaghan began his career with a request from work experience students at RIC. He was an English major and she was an education major with an interest in theatre. Anne was taking a class that required some backstage work and asked him to help.

Since then, he has kept to the same path.

“After I graduated, I worked at Trinity for a while,” he said, “and I thought about attending Brooklyn College. But when I got above ground from Penn Station and saw the crowds . . . the noise and all that . . . I much more comfortable on my farm in West Kingston.”

In 1973, Monaghan joined RIC and opened up and he took it.

Over the years Monaghan has coordinated operations for student performances, musical theater and dance; for various community groups, such as The State Ballet of Rhode Island; and for the College’s Performing Arts Series, which has hosted the likes of Marcel Marceau, Philip Glass and the Mark Morris Dance Group.

Throughout his career as operations manager, Monaghan has espoused a central philosophy. “You give the artists what they want so they can do their art.”

Edward Markward, professor of music and conductor of the RIC Symphony Orchestra, attested to Monaghan’s commitment. “Russell Monaghan and I began our tenure together at Rhode Island College in the fall of 1973, 34 years ago,” said Markward. “If there has been one constant, unwavering positive for the entire run, one factor upon which I could always rely, it has been Russell’s backstage presence for nearly 300 concerts.

“His professionalism, his encouraging demeanor, his readiness to help under virtually any condition have made it possible for hundreds of artists, myself included, to deliver the most artistic performance imaginable.”

And Monaghan’s dedication has received other tributes as well.

One time, the Paul Taylor Dance Company, who came through as part of the Performing Arts Series, presented some demanding lighting specifications, and brooked no variations. Monaghan saw that there might be some difficulty here, technical and otherwise.

Although he lacked the resources of a specially equipped New York theatre, he applied some creative thinking and know-how to make it all work for the performers.

Monaghan was having dinner backstage with his student crew before the show when Paul Taylor, Jennifer Tipton (Taylor’s lighting designer) and their two assistants arrived with tasks to join them. “It’s better for everyone when you make the effort,” Monaghan noted, “and you get to have dinner with Paul Taylor and Jennifer Tipton. That’s a great experience for students too.”

Students are important to him. With about 30 students on staff at a given time, they are the backbone of his operation.

“They have varying skill levels and diverse sets of skills,” Monaghan said of his students. “And I try to make each individual feel they are contributing.”

They even have a nickname. RATS, which stands for Roberts Auditorium Technical Staff, a term that has stuck even though their work has expanded to cover two additional facilities in the Nazarian Center: Sapinsley Hall and Forman Theatre.

Dante Del Giudice ’79, associate professor of dance and director of the RIC Dance Company, has worked with Monaghan both as a student performer and as a faculty member.

He noted, “Russell is beloved by his former students and has left a legacy of well qualified and gainfully employed technicians and adult roaming and improving the world.”

A remarkable convergence of people and circumstance has resulted in the growth of RIC into an important cultural powerhouse, and Russell Monaghan has been a very key figure in the realization of that vision and reality. He will haunt the spaces of our theatres for generations to come.”

Years back, Monaghan instituted a rite of passage for his students by giving each graduating senior a plaque with a stage screw mounted on it. A stage screw looks like a screw with wings and was used to anchor parts of scenery. Though not much in use anymore, it serves well as an emblem of stagecraft’s heritage.

The crew even wears shirts with the stage screw emblazoned on them, which are often recognized by professionals in the touring business.

As for the past March, when The Martha Graham Dance Company performed at the College, a former student, Tim Cryan, turned up as the company’s lighting director. He arrived late – and brought doughnuts.

Monaghan recollected, “The ‘doughnut offense’ was started by Doug Cummings, who was technical director and a designer, and Tim remembered that.”

Another person with a good memory is Marcel Marceau. When he was working the Marceau show in the ’70s, Monaghan was wearing a Waltham watch, which the famous mime, a connoisseur of fine watches, offered to buy.

Even though he had to disappoint a world famous celebrity, he just couldn’t part with his Waltham.

Some 30 years later, when Monaghan moved to the College, Monaghan was curious to know if he still remembered the watch. Monaghan inquired and Marceau did.

Of course not everything has gone smoothly in the course of 34 years. In 2005, when Ben Gazzara appeared in Roberts to portray Yogi Berra in a one-man show, two new wireless microphones both failed. Monaghan’s crew had to resort to old technology and set up a mic with a stand.

Gazzara was gracious about the situation and gave Monaghan an autographed baseball, which sits on his desk.

Gazzara’s gesture, in a way, blurs the distinction between character and actor, between stage and reality. That is a distinction Russell Monaghan will be rethinking in the near future.

For those who would like to say their farewells, a reception for Monaghan is scheduled for June 18, noon to 2 p.m., in the Auditorium in Roberts Hall.
BY NICK LIMA ’10

Staff Writer

To any graduating Rhode Island College senior, commencement is a time of relief, celebration and reflection. For one graduate, in particular, the recently concluded commencement exercises have signaled the end to an experience few will ever have the opportunity to undertake.

Amde Tegbaru ’07 was awarded his degree in business management on May 19, but that isn’t all he’ll be taking back home with him to Sweden. The international student and 2000 graduate of Vasalunds High School, Stockholm, has learned a lot during his time at RIC, going well beyond the typical lessons studied in the classroom.

“Having Kamran around that first year made my transition to life in America much easier,” said Tegbaru. According to Tegbaru, Dolores Passarelli, the director of the Office of Academic Support, played a major role in his successes at the College, guiding him through his academics “as a mentor providing outstanding support.”

“A member of the Athletics Department came to me and told me about this student coming from Sweden who would also be playing basketball,” Passarelli said. “I saw him around every registration – he’s such a wonderful, polite, and intelligent young man. You have an opportunity to meet a lot of great people in this job who you just know are going to take off and be succeeded – Amde is certainly one of them.”

Success may be natural for the Tegbaru family. His mother works as a nurse in Stockholm; his father has a PhD in anthropology, and has done research for organizations such as the United Nations. His younger brother works in London for the South African Embassy. For his own career, Tegbaru is looking to get an MBA in addition to pursuing success playing basketball.

Tegbaru picked economics as his major his junior year of high school. “With glut prices, I jumped at the chance to succeed. I was a huge part of today’s society, I saw business as a broad enough field that branches off into various areas, with opportunities to be highly successful in any of them,” he said.

Of course, Tegbaru’s skill on the basketball court has opened many doors for him. As a member of the Swedish Junior National Team, he had the opportunity to compete all over Europe. “Representing my country while I was in high school – it was a great honor, of which I am very proud,” Tegbaru said. “The atmosphere of those games really prepared me for the future.”

Little could Tegbaru have known then, but the NCAA Division III Elite Eight was in his future. After taking a year off during the 2005-06 season to focus on his academics, Amde returned to the court his senior year for a third season on the RIC men’s basketball team. Together with five other seniors and a team of unprecedented talent, Tegbaru and his friends brought RIC into the NCAA Division III Tournament for the first time in 28 years.

“They have established RIC basketball at a championship level – it’s been an honor for me and the Walsh of the graduating seniors in the April edition of What’s News. Tegbaru credits Walsh with teaching him how important life is. “He taught us how important discipline was, and how a lot of hard work can take you a long way, pursuing your goal to success.”

Tegbaru, 25, was the oldest player on the team, though he says that didn’t matter too much.

“All of the seniors, together, as a leadership team for the rest of the players; there was no one standout.” Tegbaru credits the success they saw in 2007 to all of his teammates, and that he grew very close to. “I’ve made a lot of friends for life that I’m going to miss,” he said. “I look forward to talking to them, but I know however the memories I’ve made here will always be with me.”

When Amde Tegbaru heads back to Sweden, it won’t be the last he sees of his friends and RIC, however. “I plan on coming back and visiting real soon. My experiences here will forever be with me, all of my life.”

RIC grad thankful for life, learning laughter

BY LAUREN MESALE ‘06

Staff Writer

Larry O’Brien ’07 is not the average college student. His journey to the graduation stage, where he received a BA in English on May 19, had been four decades in the making. He has also been living with multiple sclerosis since 1978.

O’Brien originally enrolled at RIC 40 years ago, but left to work as an engineering recruiter for universities throughout the state. He then married and started a family with his wife, Lis.

“I never missed [school] back then. I loved my life and my job,” said O’Brien. It was not until after attending family week festivities at his eldest child’s college in Vermont seven years ago that he decided to return to school.

“My son had asked me to observe a Shakespeare class he was taking,” said O’Brien. “I had always enjoyed literature, so I thought that if I liked this class, I would take a few courses back home and go from there.”

O’Brien was also encouraged by friends to pursue an English degree. He agreed to join a local book club that had used a challenging reading list compiled by the University of Chicago. He read dozens of novels, several works by Plato and Aristotle and the Bhagavad Gita. “I really enjoyed reading for those discussions,” he said.

“Preparing for them each week motivated me to return to school.” He returned to RIC in 2000, taking one class a semester.

“I thought that I’d start small in the beginning to find out if I was making the right choice it was a test,” said O’Brien. O’Brien’s first course, Shakespeare’s Tragedies, was with Pamela Benson, professor of English.

“I was so nervous during the first day of class that I couldn’t stop talking. Finally, Dr. Benson broke the ice and said, ‘Larry, if you answer all of the questions, no one else will get a chance.’” said O’Brien.

According to O’Brien, being older in a class of teenagers and twenty-year-old students brought some advantages.

“As an older student, you bring a certain level of life experience and maturity to the classroom that can benefit other students as well as yourself,” O’Brien said. “And I always felt confident in expressing many opinions in classes.”

O’Brien said that although there was often an age gap of more than twenty years between he and his classmates, they hardly treated each other differently. O’Brien developed a sense that everyone in his classes was there because he or she wanted to be, just as he was.

“Younger students are wonderful – always busy, energetic, resourceful. They’re optimistic and think anything is possible,” O’Brien said. “They keep me young.”

With his degree, O’Brien plans to become a part-time teacher or English professor. He particularly enjoys the work of Emily Dickinson, Robert Frost and Walt Whitman. But O’Brien is not about to say good-bye to RIC for good; he will begin taking courses here this summer as a master’s degree candidate in English. He said that earning a PhD is not out of the question. Whatever else O’Brien achieves academically, he knows that help and encouragement will not be in short supply.

“I can’t imagine doing anything without the support of my family and friends,” said O’Brien. “I’m grateful for everything.”

Along with literature, O’Brien loves laughter. He’s attended laughing classes, and has become interested in the newest health trend to hit Rhode Island: laughter yoga. Just as with traditional yoga routines, each laughter yoga movement or position has a specific, descriptive name. One movement O’Brien recently learned at a class at Providence was called “make a milkshake.” He demonstrated this, and with each simulated pour of imaginary cups of ingredients into his mouth, O’Brien’s laughter grew louder and heartier.

“To me, laughter is therapeutic. It helps me feel less feeling angry or bitter; it could be a good thing for so many other people.”

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An experience of a lifetime for RIC grad

BY AMDE TEGBARU

Staff Writer

It was a learning experience, and I grew very much as a person,” Tegbaru said about his four years at RIC. “America has such a different culture – it was difficult at first, but it probably won’t hit me how much I miss it here until I get back home.”

His time at RIC wasn’t his first stay in the United States – he has visited relatives in Virginia, Washington, D.C., and San Francisco – though it was his first time post office offtime. “Once I started making friends and meeting new people, it became much easier, though it was still very hard at times being away from home.”

One RIC student, in particular, made Tegbaru’s adjustment to life in the United States go much more smoothly. During Tegbaru’s freshman year at RIC, he played alongside his longtime friend on the men’s basketball team. “Having Kamran around that first year made my transition to life in America much easier,” said Tegbaru.

According to O’Brien, being at RIC has been friends with Tegbaru since the third grade, and was a major influencing factor in his decision to attend RIC in pursuit of his passion – playing basketball. During Tegbaru’s freshman year at RIC, he played alongside his longtime friend on the men’s basketball team. “Having Kamran around that first year made my transition to life in America much easier,” said Tegbaru.

According to Tegbaru, Dolores Passarelli, the director of the Office of Academic Support, played a major role in his successes at the College, guiding him through his academics “as a mentor providing outstanding support.”

“A member of the Athletics Department came to me and told me about this student coming from Sweden who would also be playing basketball,” Passarelli said. “I saw him around every registration – he’s such a wonderful, polite, and intelligent young man. You have an opportunity to meet a lot of great people in this job who you just know are going to take off and be succeeded – Amde is certainly one of them.”

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When Amde Tegbaru heads back to Sweden, it won’t be the last he sees of his friends and RIC, however. “I plan on coming back and visiting real soon. My experiences here will forever be with me, all of my life.”
He quoted entertainer Danny Kaye: “Life is like a big canvas and you should throw all the paint you can on it.”

Carcieri closed his remarks with advice to “follow your heart. It’s your inner voice.”

Judge Frank Caprio, chairman of the state Board of Governors for Higher Education, told the grads, “This is your time. Seize the moment.”

U.S. Senator Jack Reed and Warwick Mayor Scott Avedisian also attended the ceremony.

After degrees were conferred, Ellen Kitchell ’81, president of RIC’s Alumni Association, announced that the newest alumni were automatically inducted into the association, and asked them to continue to support the College.

The count of living alumni now stands at over 50,000.

At the May 17 advanced degree commencement, also held in The Murray Center, former Common Cause of Rhode Island director H. Philip West Jr. told graduates to “always be a voice of conscience, and if necessary, become a whistleblower.”

West, who received an honorary doctor of laws degree, led the reform-minded Common Cause for 18 years before retiring last year. He was a key leader in successful efforts to downsize the General Assembly, force stricter disclosure requirements for lobbyists, strengthen the Ethics Commission, and pass a separation of powers amendment to the state constitution.

“Never settle for mediocrity in your mission,” he said, and “never judge the value of your work by the size of your paycheck.” He urged the grads to challenge wrongs and “always avoid every appearance of impropriety.”

Wrenn Goodrum, director of the Pawtucket-based All Children’s Theatre, was awarded a doctor of pedagogy degree.

Nazarian noted the recent passing of Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist David Halberstam, whose groundbreaking book *The Best and the Brightest* chronicled the origins of American involvement in Vietnam.

The book, said Nazarian, held important lessons for the class of 2007: So-called experts agreeing on a course of action doesn’t necessarily make it the best policy; conventional wisdom is not always wise; many problems are better solved by a deliberative and inclusive approach; voices who disagree are worth listening to; and the statement “We do it that way because that’s the way we’ve always done it” should never be accepted.

Some 263 advanced degree diplomas were awarded, including for the first time in six years, a master of fine arts in theatre. The reconstructed program is an MFA in theatre, performance and society.

This year’s graduate and undergraduate commencements were coordinated for the first time by Patricia Nolin ’84, M ’87, special assistant to the president. Kathryn Sasso, director of conferences and special events, had been ceremonies coordinator since 1980.

A total of just over 1,600 degrees were handed out during RIC’s commencement season, the 153rd in the history of Rhode Island’s oldest public institution of higher learning.
Phil West and Wrenn Goodrum (above), honorary degree recipients, sing the College’s Alma Mater song. West was the advanced degree commencement speaker.

Mary Frances Sherlock Campbell represents the class of 1935 at the undergrad exercises.

George Graboys (center) receives a doctor of public service award at the undergrad ceremony.
RIC’s Convocation of Scholars, an annual showcase and celebration of the intellectual and creative life of the College, was held April 23-May 2. Faculty, students, staff and emeriti had the opportunity to share research and collegiality through lectures, presentations and other forums that highlighted scholarship at RIC.

Senior honors students share the spotlight at a special reception showcasing their academic achievements on April 30.

Emeritus professors John Bucci, Clyde Slicker and Richard Green reminisce at the emeriti dinner reception on April 30.

Mark Motte, assistant vice president for academic affairs, shares a light moment with attendees of the part-time faculty dinner on April 23.

A panel of RIC faculty and staff lead a group discussion on Native American research on April 27.

Student honorees gather for a photo during the April 25 reception for Who’s Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges.

Susan Gracia, associate professor in the Department of Counseling, Educational Leadership and School Psychology, reviews the federal Comprehensive School Reform (CSR) Program during her talk on “Validation of a School Reform Rubric” on April 27.

WJAR-10 meteorologist R.J. Heim speaks to a group attending Weathering Old Age, a discussion sponsored by The Gerontology Center on April 25.
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 2007.

**RIC Scholarships & Awards**

**MARY ANN HAWKES AWARD IN JUSTICE STUDIES** winners were Jeremy Messinger and Amanda Nadeau.

**BURRILL SCHOLARSHIP**: Cassandra Petronio, a dance performance major and member of the RIC Dance Company, was awarded a $1,000 scholarship from Billie Ann Burrill HD '05. Petronio, a junior, will attend the 2007 NYU/Tisch Dance Summer Residency Festival. Burrill, an associate professor emerita of health and physical education, has made summer dance study scholarships available by application to outstanding RIC Dance Company members who apply as sophomores or freshmen.

**THE PETER HARMAN SCHOLARSHIP** was awarded to Cong Pan by James Schweikart (left), dean of the School of Management. Jeffrey Blais, associate professor of economics (right), was also on hand for the presentation. Pan was selected by the Department of Economics and Finance.

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**THE LAURIS B. WHITMAN AWARD IN SOCIOLOGY** was presented to Alexis Nunes.

**RIC Alumni Scholarship recipients were awarded undergraduate degrees last month:**

- Justin Bilyj
- Kathryn Carney
- Susan Cooney
- Rachelle Cyr
- Karissa D’Ambra
- Jamie Delorco
- Ryan Desisto
- Erika Dillon
- Patrick Doyle
- Stephanie Fratiello
- Michelle Laroche
- Jeremy Messinger
- Kyla Polak
- Christopher Schayer
- Alyson St. Amand
- Micaela Zehrsky

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**Dr. Douglas Shemin** (left) and his daughters, Grace (left) and Julianna, join Principal Ron Tibbetts in the Henry Barnard School Library to celebrate the Shemin family’s gift to the library in memory of Dr. Shemin’s aunt. The endowment of $10,000 and an additional gift that may be expended this year will provide funds for the library to purchase needed materials, especially books, in perpetuity. Grace is currently a third-grade student at HBS; Julianna, currently a student at St. Mary Academy-Bay View, also attended Henry Barnard.
Grads urged to engage their
knowledge, spirit and perseverance

A Rhode Island College tradition – the annual Cap and Gown Convocation – was held May 3 in the Younion in Roberts Hall, where members of the class of 2007 were honored in a capping ceremony and departmental awards presentation.

Maureen Reddy, professor of English, announced the award recipients (see list below), which featured two multiple winners: Agnieszka Marczak, who won the Mornington Anthropology Award and the Eleanor McMahon Award in College Honors, and William Morgan, who received the Borchur Award for Excellence in the Physical Sciences and the Departmental Physics Award.

The Winter Award winner for academic excellence in political science was Isatu S. Jeng, who graduated with the highest grade point average among the political science majors. At the College, she worked in the Office of Academic Support and Information Services, the Board program, and as a teacher assistant at the Henry Barnard School. Jeng was an officer in the Rhode Island College chapters of the NAACP and Amnesty International, and a member of Harambee and the Balletoman Dance Club.

Alexis Nunes, recipient of the Whitman Award in Sociology, received praise for his participation in two departmental research projects. He also prepared a story on the immigration raid in New Bedford for Rhode Island’s public radio station, WRNI, and co-organized the “One Campaign and Plan USA” petition project at the College.

Fifty-four RIC seniors merited entry in Who’s Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges, and were recognized by Gary Penfield, vice president for student affairs.

RIC President John Nazarian noted that the new graduates would have “no shortage of opportunities to engage your knowledge, your spirit, and the perseverance that you have demonstrated here at Rhode Island College in pursuit of peace, health, and happiness for our world.”

Each year a member of the faculty is selected by the class to address the convocation. This year’s choice, Mark Motte, assistant vice president for academic affairs, told students that being a college graduate “shows others that you can think for yourself, analyze and solve problems, communicate effectively, and make decisions that, in the not-too-distant future, will qualify you as a leader.” (Motte’s full speech is on page 15.)

Student speaker Katharine Ricci advised her peers, “Settle for nothing less than what’s best for you.”

Class officers Lindsey Conklin (president), Zdenko Juskay (vice president), and Alexander Fanning (treasurer) represented the class at the event. Fanning announced the class gift: four engraved granite benches, two of which will be placed in front of Roberts Hall, and the other two elsewhere on campus.

The national anthem was sung by students Angela Garcia and Lydel Hall, who also garnered the Pellegrino Music Education Award.

The RIC Wind Ensemble, conducted by Robert Franzblau, concluded the event with the College’s Alma Mater song.

Graduates urged to engage their ‘knowledge, spirit and perseverance’
leaders have abused their power, corrupted the public purse, and betrayed the cause of a just, civil society. When the veneer of their outward personas was peeled back, these individuals were revealed as frauds and cheat.

More than two hundred years ago, George Washington cautioned, “Labor to keep alive in your breast, that little spark of celestial fire, called a conscience, for few have the virtue to withstand the highest bidder.” Pay heed to Washington’s words. Be discerning in your search for people to emulate. You will probably find genuine role models among your families, friends, colleagues and peers. And their sage advice might include some of the following five recipes for happiness and success:

First: Be a good listener. Listen to your clients, students, customers, co-workers and loved ones. Respect people enough to give them your attention, time and energy. Think of the people who irritate you the most. They probably include those who choose not to listen. Don’t be like them. Have enough respect to pay attention to people, professionally and at home.

Second: Be compassionate. When people are down, help them back up. Always. Rhode Islanders have adopted a wonderful saying: What goes around, comes around. Others say, You reap what you sow. How true.

Invest yourself in your community, make a contribution, and you will harvest extraordinary rewards.

Third: Be tolerant. Not everyone in the world looks or talks like you. Not everyone drinks from a bubbah, eats grinds or catches rays at Scahbro Beach. People may not share your beliefs, your background, or your point of view. Look beyond Western and Woonsocket when forming your opinions. Learn that it takes all sorts of people to make the world go round.

In recent weeks we have seen all too clearly how much anger and hatred exist; in the mind of a young man in Virginia whose very core turned to poison, with such horrifying consequences. Don’t add to a climate of bitterness and alienation. Become a builder of communities. Become a generation of graduates wiser than your predecessors. Work to eradicate intolerance in all its ugly variations. Lead by example. Every day.

Fourth: Be rigorous. Work hard to preserve your integrity. A life is built on what you accomplish, not on idle wishes. Fight the recalcitrance and procrastination that lie within all of us. In 1746, Thomas Jefferson wrote, “Dost though love life? Then do not squander time. For that’s the stuff life is made of.” He’s right, of course. Time is a precious resource. Exploit it wisely.

America has a great deal to offer, but you will probably have to work hard to get it. And, for the sake of all that is sane and rational, don’t count on a check from PowerBall or Publisher’s Clearinghouse to reach your goals.

In the real world you must be industrious and productive to get ahead. It’s a simple truth. Please internalize it.

And fifth: Be ethical and just. Fairness is the measure of any person. As a professional, you will have the responsibility to be even-handed. Never abuse your power, because only incompetents do that.

You know the difference between right and wrong. Act with that awareness in your head and in your heart.

So those are five short lessons. You could probably add to the list and improve upon it. Maybe you will remember one or two of them, at least for a while. I hope so.

Why am I so sure that you will succeed? Why am I so convinced that you will live up to the high standards of personal integrity I have just outlined? How do I know that you will continue this college’s long history of success; responsible, compassionate, and capable graduates into the world? Because our alumni come back and tell us what they’re doing. And they are an impressive group. In almost 12 years here at the college, I have met bankers, writers, social workers, K-through-12 teachers, nurses, accountants, production managers, artists, scientists, musicians and computer network designers. They all earned their undergraduate degrees at Rhode Island College … and they are excelling.

Our graduates invariably seem to be down-to-earth, highly motivated, and driven by public service rather than by greed. I hope you are proud of that legacy and that you will honor it and contribute to it. Remember that, despite what we see all-too-often in the popular media, the pursuit of happiness doesn’t have to involve trampling on the people around you.

And don’t worry about getting a job. Graduates of this institution do very well indeed. And it doesn’t matter what you majored in. According to a 2006 United States government survey, you will change fields at least four times during your career. And change your place of employment at least seven times. Many of you will find a passion for something quite different from what you originally planned to do. And, despite your parents’ fears, that’s okay. There is no better preparation for this emerging century than an education at an American college. And as luck would have it, you came to the best comprehensive, four-year college in the State of Rhode Island.

Notwithstanding the personal rewards of your future success, please make sure you spend some of your own time, talent and treasure working to help those less fortunate than yourself. Of course, we want you to make a good living, but, as the years tick by, please put back into society some of the blessings you have had the good fortune and good sense to attain. Practice community values that will make your parents and grandparents proud.

And finally, on behalf of all the staff, faculty and administrators, I offer enormous congratulations to all of you. Good luck on your final papers and exams (remember, Rhode Island College hasn’t quite finished with you yet).

Thank you again for this opportunity to address you. I wish you a healthy, happy and productive future. Well done, class of 2007.
Graduation day is a family affair for the St. Amands

By Peter Silveira ’08

For Susan, Alyson, and the rest of the St. Amand family, Rhode Island College’s 153rd commencement ceremony on May 19 was an extra-special event, as both mother and daughter each received diplomas. In doing so, they became part of a growing number of multiple-family-member graduates at the College.

Susan, an employee at the Henry Barnard School, earned an associate’s degree from the Community College of Rhode Island in 1979. She then enrolled in classes at Providence College, but had to put her studies on hold when she became pregnant with Alyson (Aly to her family and friends), the first of her two daughters.

In 2001, Susan took a job as a secretary at the College. She realized that it would be relatively easy to resume her academic career, and took advantage of being on the RIC campus.

“I wanted to set an example for my children, to instill in them the importance of a college education,” said Susan.

Slowly but steadily, she progressed through the necessary requirements for a BGS (bachelor of general studies degree), registering for one course each semester, including summers. Being an older student, Susan faced the tough task of juggling her schoolwork. But she received no special treatment, she said, and labored just as hard as anyone else. Her family, a very close-knit bunch, was there for her throughout the process, offering support and encouragement whenever she needed it.

Aly received a degree from CCRI in 2003. As a student-athlete, she captained the undefeated, 2002 national champion women’s soccer team at CCRI; in addition, she played basketball. Upon transferring to RIC in the fall of ’03, Aly continued to participate in intercollegiate athletics, and was able to join forces with her younger sister, Ashley, on the RIC women’s tennis team.

“Playing tennis with Ashley made my college experience,” said Aly. “She understood my frustrations, and it helped us grow together, on and off the court.”

According to Aly, her motivation to continue college and pursue a degree in physical education/health came from two extraordinary individuals, her dad Ray (a ’72 graduate of RIC) and her best friend Kelly. Aly was very close to her aunt, who also taught her at St. Joseph School in West Warwick; she passed away during Aly’s junior year of high school. Kelly was killed in an automobile accident in October 2003, Aly’s first semester at RIC. She paid tribute to the pair at commencement (which was coincidentally Kelly’s birthday) by inscribing “My inspiration to be a teacher, Auntie Kay and Kelly” on her mortarboard.

“I didn’t take long for Aly to grow accustomed to attending college with her mom. “It was kind of weird at first,” Aly recalled. “But then I thought, well, she’s just getting her education, same as me. We’re very proud of the fact that she is graduating.”

In fact, the pair enrolled in two classes together. One of them was God(s), a philosophy course taught by retired Rabbi William Kaufman. On the first day, the professor asked if the St. Amands were related. Aly announced that they indeed were mother and daughter, and the entire class let out a collective “Awwww,” she said.

For their tenure at the College, the RIC community became sort of a second family for the St. Amands. Both agree that the faculty and staff were very supportive, always there to lend a helping hand. If either of them had any questions about a lecture, problems on an assignment, or just needed someone to talk to, they found that the door was always open.

Susan and Aly weren’t the only members of the St. Amand clan involved in this year’s graduation ceremonies. Ashley was a gold-robed commencement marshal and Susan’s husband (Aly’s dad) Paul, handled commencement DVD orders with the help of several of Aly’s aunts.

As the time drew near for Susan to walk up the short platform, a tear-eyed Susan, “I thought how lucky I was to be standing here at this moment in time, with Aly, surrounded by family and friends, receiving my college diploma.”

Twenty-four years after Aly was born, Susan stood hand-in-hand with her daughter, as both proudly accepted bachelor’s degrees. Now the only thing left: a graduation party for the accomplished pair.
CERTIFICATE OF ADVANCED GRADUATE STUDY

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Kristine L. Carey
Tammy C. Chesebro
Jasmin M. Douglas
Kate Christian Knoll
Cynthia A. Mather
Mercedes Mello
Linda O’Malley
Jocelyn M. Ritz
Denise J. Rodriguez
Kelly M. Ryan

School Psychology

Kristin M. Alario
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Kathryn N. Tremblay
Nathanael Troendle **
Cantor Jacob Hohenemser Award
Yelena A. Trombly
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General Education Honors
Shanna L. Weller
Robert F. Weber
Presidential Scholar
Mary D. Wellock **
Leah E. Weinmann
Laura D. Welty *
Michelle L. Westbrook
Scott W. Westmoreland
Pamela L. White *
Matthew E. Wilchynski
Kristin M. Wilkki
Steven J. Williamson
Vincent H. Winick

Bachelor of Fine Arts

Lyssie A. Aselin *
James Austin
Colby T. Cook **
Jill A. Cook **
Studio Art Award
Erika M. Dillon *
Graham L. Heffernan

Bachelor of General Studies

Deborah L. Bell
Matthew R. Brain
Rosanne Cedroni *
Jane E. King
Anthony A. Martone Jr.
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Samantha M. St. Amand

Bachelor of Music in Performance

Brett Boudreau **
Angela C. Garcia *&
Kate M. Norgian
Douglas J. Tellia

Bachelor of Science

Gennadiy N. Berezutskiy
Kristen L. Bessette *
Gennadiy N. Berezutskiy

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Urhach Donnelly
Jennifer A. Gaspar
Kimberly Gilgo Johnson
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Wesam Wall
Emma C. Sullivan
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Sarah B. Arruda
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Psychology

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Barbs-Ani Bukdick
Wendi Arabian Chapman **
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Ilana B. Feinberg **
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Erika Lynae Jacobson **
Tracey M. Jacobs
Sarah Leonel Johnson
Tracey Nangle
Anna L. Nein **
Paula M. Newman **
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Heather J. Richards
Monique L. Rosiello **
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Secondary Education / Mathematics

Philp J. Benoit

Secondary Education / Spanish

Cecile Benedicte Jones

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Elementary Education / Early Childhood

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Secondary Education

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Education / Severe-Profound Disabilities

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Sachi M. Austin
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Danelle B. Schwagler
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Karen A. Calabro
Mary Isabel D’Avila
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Ewa J. Kupienska
Joseph P. Murphy **

* January 2007 Graduate
** Cum Laude
** Magna Cum Laude
*** Summa Cum Laude
It’s an annual tradition that creates unforgettable memories — RIC’s commencement ceremonies. Among those marking the milestone were Gov. Donald Carcieri (left), honorary degree recipients and members of the R.I. Board of Governors for Higher Education (above, left), and representatives of the College’s golden anniversary class of 1957 (below, right). As is evident from this photo collage, everyone found a reason to smile during undergrad and advanced degree exercises.