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What's News At Rhode Island College

Rhode Island College

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A time of transition at Rhode Island College

John Nazarian presides over commencement ceremonies for the last time, 1,600 students graduate and Nancy Carriuolo is named the College’s ninth president.

Nancy Carriuolo appointed new president of RIC

Carriuolo, deputy commissioner and chief academic officer at the Office of Higher Education, has served as interim vice president for academic affairs at Rhode Island College since May 2007.

By Steven J. Maurano
Associate Commissioner for External Affairs, Rhode Island Board of Governors for Higher Education

Nancy Carriuolo, RIC’s interim vice president for academic affairs, was selected by the Rhode Island Board of Governors for Higher Education as the College’s ninth president. Carriuolo will succeed John Nazarian, who is retiring on June 30 after 18 years as president of the College.

“Nancy Carriuolo was, without question, the most outstanding candidate to be the next president of Rhode Island College,” said Judge Frank Caprio, chairman of the Board of Governors for Higher Education. “Her extensive higher education experience, including her work with the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, with the University of New Haven and here in Rhode Island at the Office of Higher Education, makes her extremely well qualified for the position. She knows the College and the system well, and is uniquely positioned to build on the excellent work of President John Nazarian presides over his final commencements

By Jane Fusco, Editor
Ray Ragosta, Staff Writer
Rob Martin, Managing Editor

Undergraduate Commencement, May 17, on the esplanade

The call came at 7:30 the morning of Commencement, May 17. “Outside.” That was the official word from RIC President John Nazarian. The drizzle and clouds were forecasted to clear in less than an hour, so the ceremonies would take place outdoors. The forecasts were right.

The stage at the entrance to The Murray Center was cleaned and set. Chairs were rearranged. Programs were placed on each seat. Students and faculty assembled in their designated areas. Dignitaries arrived. Ceremonial robes were donned by administrators and honored guests. Families claimed their viewing spots.

It was just like any other Commencement Day at Rhode Island College. Just like any other
Fifty years ago, Bob Berlam ’58 and his classmates were the last to graduate from the Rhode Island College of Education (RICE) at its downtown Providence location. The following year, the College moved to Mount Pleasant Avenue and in 1960 its name was shortened to Rhode Island College. This ending point in the College’s history was the start of an accomplished career for Berlam – one he never expected to have. Berlam, still youthful, still busy, and still connected to RIC, marched in the College’s graduation procession again last month as he and about 30 members of the class of 1958 celebrated their golden anniversary during commencement weekend at RIC.

Berlam grew up on Federal Hill in Providence and had been working as an apprentice draftsman at Brown and Sharpe tool making company after graduating from high school. But, recalling how his ninth-grade history teacher made learning interesting, he decided to go to college (the first in his family to do so) to become a teacher. “My undergraduate experiences influenced my entire life,” said Berlam. “And at a cost of about $25 a semester.”

After earning a bachelor’s of education degree from RICE, he was one of the first six teachers hired at the newly opened Cranston High School West. He began there as a science teacher and later became director of guidance. He left Cranston West to become director of federal relations for the Rhode Island Department of Education, and after that, director of government relations for the National Association of State Boards of Education in Washington, D.C.

Berlam also served in the U.S. Air Force Reserves. He attained the rank of colonel and was the admissions liaison officer, commander for the U.S. Air Force Academy representing North Carolina. He retired from the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, where he was on the faculty of the School of Education. While there, he created an online program called Learn NC, which provides teacher resources to educators across the state.

Through it all, Berlam’s passion has been flying. A pilot for many years, he is currently commander of the 90-member Air Force Auxiliary Naples Squadron (Civil Air Patrol) in Florida that performs search-and-rescue work. He also owns a Bonanza four-place, single-engine plane. For the past 10 years, Berlam has lived with his wife Ann in Naples, Fla. When not leading the auxiliary squadron, he is involved in volunteer and environmental programs.

Berlam, who has four children and five grandchildren, continued his education as his career evolved. After RICE, he went on to receive a master’s degree from the University of Rhode Island, a certificate of advanced graduate study from Northeastern University, and a doctorate in environmental programs.

Berlam will tell you that those are the same qualities he experienced as a student at the College…some 50 years ago.
Charlie Allsworth to wear yet another hat – retiree

By Ray Ragosta
Staff Writer

Building a bookcase, as most everyone knows, is Carpentry 101, unless you are Charlie Allsworth ’82, M ’86.

Ask him where to start and he’ll tell you first to pick a tree—preferably a nice big maple—cut it down, mill the lumber, etc., etc. And he’s not kidding.

Allsworth owns 17 acres with a good selection of lumber trees, and has put together a sawmill that includes a 20-foot-long band saw. He does a lot more than bookcases, too. Adirondack chairs are a specialty of late.

Come June 20, Charlie Allsworth will be spending a lot more time on his back 17, for he will be retiring after 35 years at Rhode Island College.

Allsworth began his employment at the College in 1973, as President Charles Willard became the first alumnus to lead the College, and he will end his career as John Nazarian, the second alumnus to become President.

Allsworth recalled, “When I presented the charts, Nazarian was absolutely delighted, but became upset when he couldn’t find an expandable pointer. I told him that I had three or four of them in my office. I went to Alger and brought one back.

“He was very, very grateful. Two weeks later I received a note of thanks and an invitation to a steak dinner at his home in Pawtucket. That was an endearing sentiment on his part, and he gained a lot of respect from me by that gesture,” he added.

But Allsworth has bittersweet memories, too. He wonders about missed opportunities, about relationships that never developed outside the office; and his experience has given him reason.

“Relationships are like a double-edge sword,” he reflected, “You know people as colleagues. Something happens, and there’s a severe turn. You become close.

“It was like that with Ren Leonelli [a former RIC professor]. I did setups for his classes and worked on the slide show when he did Night Before Christmas as part of the president’s Christmas celebration.

“I got sick that December and we discovered we both had Crohn’s disease. The relationship took a 180-degree turn. We became close and had dinner parties with our wives.

“Ren later got cancer and he and his wife would have me over for lunch. When he died, I regretted that we didn’t begin that relationship much earlier.”

Allsworth also mentioned a similar situation, with former art professor David Hysell, with whom he shared a strong interest in computers, specifically Macs. Hysell also succumbed to cancer.

But there were many good memories, often associated with Allsworth’s diverse interests, such as kayaking with former audiovisual director Dave Wilson and summertime golfing in the faculty-staff league, in addition to several decades of marshalling at commencement.

Within the last decade, Allsworth’s duties at the College have shifted focus, and he now works in the Office of News and Public Relations on publications directed to off-campus audiences, such as admissions recruiting publications and covers for the College catalog and course bulletins. He also designed the logo and related materials for the College’s sesquicentennial celebration.

For the past 15 years Allsworth has worn yet another hat, that of part-time professor in the Department of Art, teaching a workshop on computer animation and website design. He said he really enjoys the classroom and hopes to maintain this link with RIC into his retirement.

He also hopes to do some part-time teaching at Quinebaug Valley Community College in Connecticut, near his home in Scituate.

In a sense Allsworth will be at sea with his retirement, building and merchandising the Island Rover, a 113-foot double-masted schooner with which he has been involved since the boat’s keel was laid in 1997.

Island Rover is under construction at Flying Point in Freeport, Maine, in his cousin’s backyard. Allsworth had been making regular trips to Maine to help with building the boat, but for the past year and a half, he has instead been creating informational materials for the Island Rover Foundation, an environmental organization for which he also serves as webmaster.

“The boat is made of all recycled and remanufactured material,” he said. “My cousin finds pieces, trades for them and refurbishes them, such as winches and the anchor windlass. The stainless steel rigging was supposed to be for an America’s Cup yacht, but they couldn’t use it, so my cousin bought it at auction.

“The idea is to tour up and down the East Coast to spread the word on the environment and give presentations on what people can do to clean up the environment. We also hope to work with schools and get to the younger generation. In addition, the boat will work as an oceanography research vessel, which will be available to professors who don’t have those facilities available to them.”

Allsworth said that the Island Rover has to be out of his cousin’s backyard by 2010 because “the neighbors are complaining. Sometimes green is not very attractive. Where we’re building the boat looks like a junkyard.”

Though Charlie will depart the College later this month, he’ll have to wait a bit before he can set sail on the Island Rover, which should be fully completed in about three years.


RIC President

John Nazarian

a retrospective

By Gita Brown

Staff Writer

He was the son of immigrant parents from Armenia and Syria. He was the eighth of 11 children and the youngest male. He was gifted musically and mathematically; and his father deeply instilled in him the importance of education. In post-war 1950, when John Nazarian graduated from Pawtucket East High School, very few Americans could afford to go to college. Like many first-generation students, Nazarian was drawn to the Rhode Island College of Education (RICE), one of the nation’s first teacher colleges, because it offered free tuition. He didn’t know if he’d concentrate in music or mathematics, but he knew he wanted to teach. In 1954 he earned his bachelor’s degree in education, concentrating in mathematics and science, and was immediately hired by RICE President Gaige to teach mathematics and physics at the College.

While a member of the faculty, he would earn a master’s degree in mathematics and education from Brown University, a master’s degree in mathematics from the University of Illinois, and a doctorate in mathematics from New York University. He would serve the College for 54 years. A life’s work that began at RICE ends on June 30 upon Nazarian’s retirement. Here is a look at the man who would become RIC president, and what he’s meant to the College, through the eyes of those who knew him best.

A master teacher . . .

Nazarian modeled the best in teaching, according to his former students. He lectured twice weekly by closed-circuit TV, enabling him to teach 10 mathematics classes at once. He also held a help session on Friday afternoons. He had exceptional knowledge of his subject and even greater skill in his teaching style, which was particularly helpful for freshmen who had difficulty in math.

Frederich Breakfast said his wife Alice Corsair Reinhardt ’59 was a successful student but not adept at mathematics. “I once publicly speculated that John, then in his first year of teaching college mathematics and who had Alice in his class, said to himself, ‘If I can teach college mathematics to this young woman, I can be president of this college!’”

Thirty-six years would pass. He would hold a number of administrative posts, including vice president for administration and finance in 1981 and sixteen months as acting president in 1984-85, before the presidential seat became his in 1990; thereupon, he would use his mathematical dexterity and his shrewd business sense to lead Rhode Island College into the 21st century.

A financial strategist . . .

Long before he became president, Nazarian was highly respected in the field of finance, according to John Fitta, assistant vice president emeritus for finance and controller. As vice president for administration and finance, Nazarian exhibited a keen understanding of the College’s financial statements and developed innovative financial strategies to fortify the College in the future.

One such strategy was initiated by Nazarian in the 1980s, said Fitta. A national firm of certified public accountants was examining the College’s annual financial statements. Over the years the College had accumulated significant future financial obligations, such as payouts for unused vacation and sick days, which would eventually become due upon an employee’s retirement.

The accounting principles at that time didn’t include such future obligations on annual financial statements. However, Nazarian strongly believed that the College should begin to set aside funds and record these obligations. He added a new category to its financial statements: Past Service Costs.

At first Nazarian’s accounting method was rejected by the CPA firm’s managing partner. Eventually, however, his method was not only approved by the firm, but the Financial Standards Board also adopted the category of Past Service Costs. “Proof positive,” said Fitta, “that John was a true financial visionary.”

As president, Nazarian’s enterprising financial strategies were called upon again and again, as state funding for the College decreased, relatively, each year. In recent years, the State of Rhode Island has ranked near the bottom among all states in the nation for state funding of higher education. Yet Nazarian’s financial wizardry proved that he could rub two pennies together to make a dime, or, in his words, spend every dollar twice. This is evident throughout the campus. Over the past 18 years, 15 buildings (including two new residence halls) have been constructed or have undergone major renovations. All athletic facilities, including the baseball facility, the softball complex, the tennis courts, the track complex, the outdoor practice facility, and the 2,000-seat outdoor competitive venue have been constructed or undergone major renovations.

Three land acquisitions were also made: acreage which comprises the East Campus, acreage between the residence halls and Triggs Memorial Golf Course, and the property on Hennessey Avenue. Said Don Tencher, director of athletics, “Twelve years ago, athletic facilities at Rhode Island College were either nonexistent or in dire need of repair. With President Nazarian’s leadership and vision, along with the direction of Vice President of Development Peg Brown, the incredible effort by athletic staff, and the enormous generosity of alumni and supporters, the College’s athletic facilities are now a source of great pride.”

Advancements in academic programs have been equally extensive. Nazarian helped acquire
the College’s first million-dollar private contribution by Alan Shawn Feinstein for the School of Theatre. He established two new schools—the School of Management and the School of Nursing, and he approved and promoted the development of over a dozen graduate programs, including the College’s first PhD in education program offered jointly with the University of Rhode Island.

Perhaps the greatest testament to Nazarian’s financial acumen was his ability to fund these capital projects without exorbitant increases in tuition. In fact, RIC has consistently ranked among the most affordable colleges in its peer group.

A shrewd negotiator . . .

Nazarian was a consummate negotiator who usually walked away with a better deal than the one he was being offered. He enjoyed the challenge of negotiating with union leaders over contracts, with new employees over salary, or with corporations over services. “He had a passion for it,” said Michael Smith ’79, assistant to the president.

“His father was a businessman,” Smith said. “The president would tell stories about how his father taught him to buy his first car—how he taught him how to work the dealer.” And Nazarian never forgot those early lessons.

Len DeLucia, vice president emerita for administration and finance, recalled a major negotiation with the Hartford Insurance Company after the Walch Gymnasium burned down in 1992. Both Hartford and the College came up with its own estimate of the replacement cost of the building, and each side brought to the table its own building experts.

The negotiations began with pleasantries, but thereafter disagreements ensued. The College estimated the replacement cost at $350,000 more than Hartford’s estimate.

“The level of disagreement escalated. Voices raised. People stood and gestured emphatically to make their point,” DeLucia said.

Finally, Nazarian offered a compromise. The insurance company assumed Nazarian would even split the $350,000 under contract before Hartford paying half and the College absorbing the other half.

But Nazarian’s method of “splitting the difference” was to pass on his offer and accept the disputed $350,000 on to Hartford and have the College pay the remaining $100,000.

DeLucia said the Hartford rep was so stunned by Nazarian’s method of splitting the difference that he agreed on the spot. Or perhaps he realized, like Congressman James Langevin ’90, HD ’94, that you can’t win an argument with the president. Langevin once said that arguing with Nazarian is like arguing with the IRS. Agree with him and cut your losses.

His life was the College . . .

Unlike most college presidents, Nazarian spent much of his time on campus. “And literally nothing happened at the College that Nazarian didn’t know about,” said Smith.

The president hired about two-thirds of the approximately 1,000 employees at RIC (not counting adjuncts and part-time jobs). And if he didn’t interview them himself, he met them formally or informally once they were on board. The College was more than a job to the president. The College was his life. Nazarian worked hard and he worked long hours. He was less likely to be seen at public events and more likely to be found working in his office. Ray Ragoosta, assistant director of News and Public Relations, said he was working late one night to meet a catalog deadline. He said Nazarian closed his eyes when the custodian came to his office and told him the president was upstairs and would be coming by to see him. Ragoosta thought the custodian was joking.

He said, “While I did believe Nazarian could be working late, I doubted Nazarian would visit me at that hour.”

But he did.

The president came down about as though it were the middle of the afternoon with faculty appointments for the catalog in hand.

The president valued those who worked hard, those who were devoted to the College, who didn’t see this as just a job. “I’m sure he thought, if you just want a job, there are places you can go and just have a job,” said Smith. “This is an institution of higher education. It’s like a secular church in that sense.”

And Nazarian never sought honors or recognition for his dedication and hard work. Smith said he shunned such honors.

In spite of his own resistance, Nazarian was conferred the Robert M. Goodrich Distinguished Public Service Award (1992), the John O. Stitely Distinguished Public Service Award (1995), he was inducted into the Rhode Island Heritage Hall of Fame (2003), he was conferred an honorary David E. Sweet Leadership Award (2008), and the Helen King Lifelong Learning Leadership Award (2008), among others.

The RIC community was his extended family . . .

For Nazarian, students came first. He was mentor, advocate, supporter and friend of RIC students. In fact, he would suspend business to hear a student concern, no matter how small.

“Don’t try to replace John Nazarian. You can’t,” said Michael Ryan ’74, vice chairman of the Board of Governors for RIC’s Parents Council. “He’s the only one who can.”

Seventy, 80, 90, 100 . . .

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Life was

• Congratulations to Nancy Carriuolo on her selection as the next president of Rhode Island College. Also I want to again thank President Nazarian for all his support and wish him the very best in retirement. And here’s a reminder to him: you have a lifetime pass to athletic events.

• Want to thank President Nazarian, Nancy Carriuolo, and Dolores Passarelli ’74, who played important roles in a special ceremony awarding degrees to softball student-athletes Christie Lotti and Jeanne Rosa. The students had missed commencement due to their representing the College at the World Series.

• Want to wish alum Charlie Wilkes ’64 a quick recovery as he recuperates from surgery this past week at Miriam Hospital. Knowing Charlie, he’ll be back biking by the time this is published.

• Congratulations to Bobby Bailey of the men’s basketball team on being nominated for the NCAA’s national sportsmanship award.

• Over the course of the past two weeks, the College has hosted to date over 25 R.I. Interscholastic Championship events. Thanks to Andy Coughlin ’96 and his staff for all the hard work.

• A reminder that two great summer events that go towards supporting student-athletes will take place in July: our annual golf tournament on July 14 and the Endless Summer Party on July 18. For more details call (401) 456-8007.

• The renovations on the Recreation Center’s pool are progressing, and it will be open, barring any further complications, sometime in July. Also, the College is about to embark on a feasibility study that will start the Rec Center’s complete renovation in motion.

• Thanks to everyone who supported Rhode Island College athletics this year and I want to wish everyone a very safe and enjoyable summer. See you in September!

The seventh annual Anchor Club Golf Day is set for Monday, July 14, 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!
Softball team captures second consecutive NCAA New England Regional championship

By Scott Gibbons
Sports Information Director

The Rhode Island College softball team continued its dominance over the New England Region, by earning the top seed and going a perfect 3-0 to win the NCAA Division III Tournament N.E. Regional, hosted by the Anchorwomen on May 8-11.

Head coach Maria Morin’s team took out fourth-seeded Wellesley, 3-1, on May 8, then defeated third-seeded St. Joseph’s (L.I.) twice, coming back from a 1-0 deficit with two out in their final at-bat to win, 2-1, on May 10, then earning a 1-0 shutout in the title contest.

The victories sent the Anchorwomen back to Salem, Va., to take part in the NCAA Div. III Softball Tournament’s National Championship Round for the second straight season. Eighth-seeded RIC battled the top seed, Louisiana College, very tough in their opening contest, falling 1-0, on just a solo home run on May 10. The Anchorwomen saw their hopes to advance dashed in a 4-1 loss to Wisconsin-Whitewater, which eventually made it all the way to the National Championship game, on May 11.

“With a lot of hard work and dedication, this team of 17 freshmen and sophomores, one junior and three seniors played with the heart of champions from the beginning of our season in March all the way to the World Series in May,” said coach Maria Morin.

She leaves RIC as the program’s all-time leader in statistical category, highlighted by second-place numbers in doubles, one triple, two home runs totaling 43 runs scored, 74 hits, 31 doubles, one triple, two home runs and 31 RBI. The Milford, Conn., native ranks third in program history with a .301 batting average, totaling 43 runs scored, 74 hits, 14 doubles, one triple, two home runs and 31 RBI. The Milford, Conn., native ranks third in program history with 21 sacrifice hits.

With only four upperclassmen, the RIC team was built on the strength of 17 freshmen and sophomores.

Sophomore right fielder Michelle Perrin and classmate shortstop Kelsey Souza were recognized by earning Second Team All-Little East Conference honors.

Freshman second baseman Amanda Perry was named the league’s Rookie of the Year, while also garnering First Team All-LEC honors. The New Bedford, Mass., native is the third Anchorwomen over the past five seasons to be named the Little East’s top newcomer.

Rookie designated player/catcher/third baseman Kayla Jandreau’s future looks bright as the Plainville, Conn., native was named Third Team All-New England and Second Team All-Conference.

The foundation of the team is its young pitching, led by freshman Melanie Neece. The Westfield, Mass., native was named Second Team All-Little East, posting a 21-4 record to go along with two saves, a 1.88 ERA and 146 strikeouts in 156.0 innings pitched.

Sophomore Jenna Deveines went 14-4 with two saves, a 2.41 ERA and 59 strikeouts in 98.2 IP.

RIC will miss the likes of Lotti, Bilek and Rosa. But with seven starters returning, along with some ready heir-apparents and one of the program’s most talented-laden recruiting classes coming in this fall, coach Morin and her staff look forward to another bright season next spring.

Senior Krystal Bilek (left), Christie Lotti and Jeanne Rosa receive the NCAA Div. III Softball First Round Championship Trophy.
LeRoy Henderson photos on display at Bannister
May 29-July 11

“Protest,” LeRoy Henderson’s collection of black-and-white photographs of anti-war protests, will be exhibited at Bannister Gallery from May 29 to July 11. A reception will be held on June 19 from 5-8 p.m.

Henderson will show images from two separate bodies of work and time – the Vietnam War and the current war in Iraq. Both visual journals document human behavior in acts of opposition to warfare. He seeks in his images a common relevance between these two historical conflicts; similarities and differences in the protests against each war are the underpinning of his photographs.

Henderson’s imagery depicts the broad swell of human energy and its contagion, as well as close-ups of faces in which a cognitive transition seems to be taking place. His photographs suggest people joined in unanimity with deliberate quiet energy hinting joined in unanimity with deliberation and commitment.

Though he is chronicling historical activities, Henderson likes each image to be independent. “I look for good strong images that allow the viewer access to the stages of both world and street theatres,” he said. “Familiar sights and sounds reminiscent of protest during the Vietnam War are now drifting back loud and strong as people protest this war in Iraq. The implication is the same.”

Added Henderson, “I want to capture something behind the obvious in the story … evoke allusions that intrigue others’ value systems.”

Henderson lives and works in New York City. A native of Richmond, Va., he received a bachelor’s degree from Virginia State University and a master’s degree from Pratt Institute. He also attended the School of Visual Arts. His work has been shown in many group exhibitions.

Committed to the Image: Contemporary Black Photographers, organized by the Brooklyn Museum of Art. He is represented in many public and private collections, including The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture in New York and the Harpo Collection in Chicago. He shows regularly with the June Kelly Gallery in New York City.

Gallery hours are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Thursday noon to 9 p.m. Exhibits and events are free and open to the public. Accessible to persons with disabilities. For more information, call (401) 456-9765.

By Lauren Mesale ’06
Staff Writer

Mallary and Michaela Bileau both graduated from RIC magna cum laude, and were co-recipients of the Bertha Christina Andrews Emin Award for Outstanding Achievement, and the Victoria Lederberg Psychology Award. Both have held elective offices in Psi Chi – the National Honor Society of Psychology – and co-captained the RIC women’s intercollegiate soccer team. And they are identical twins, who sometimes finish each other’s sentences.

As freshmen, neither sister entered RIC with a psychology degree in mind. Mallary was first drawn toward journalism from her experience working on her high school newspaper; Michaela had entered RIC as undeclared, though the thought of a degree in business, which she excelled in during high school, was on her mind. They enjoyed the first few psychology courses they took during freshman year, and their interest began to grow in the subject, they said.

The sisters took all of their psychology courses together. “At first, we were hesitant to do their homework assignments together, because they were afraid their answers would be too similar and lead their professors to think they had copied each other’s work. They would study in separate rooms, or in the same room with their laptops back to back, waiting until their work was completed to discuss it.

Despite this, Mallary and Michaela said that being twins has been an advantage while at the College, not a hindrance as many people might imagine. “There’s always been a little competition between us, but we help each other more than we compete,” said Mallary. “We’re always pushing each other to succeed.”

The Bileau sisters have not only been guided and encouraged in their studies by one another, they also credit much of their success to their advisors and instructors. Michaela’s most memorable course was called Behavior Modification, with Beth Lewis, assistant professor of psychology. She said that the treatment programs and other behavioral components she was introduced to through the course helped to point her in a specific direction for graduate school studies. Lewis was also the supervisor for the sisters’ internship in Chemical Dependency and Addiction Studies at the College.

Mallary said her independent research project was done with David Sugarman, professor of psychology, was the most memorable experience for her at RIC and has prepared her for graduate school as well.

“I learned the nitty gritty of doing a research project from start to finish,” Mallary said.

This summer, Mallary and Michaela will continue to work on an independent research project on intimate partner violence, under the advisement of Sugarman.

The sisters, who have studied, graduated, mentored, volunteered and worked side by side over the past four years, will attend separate institutions – over 300 miles apart – in the fall for graduate studies. Mallary has chosen Villanova University in Pennsylvania for a master’s in psychology, with a concentration on experimental studies, while Michaela will study at the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth, for a master’s in psychology with a concentration in clinical psychology and behavioral analysis.

Despite the distance that divides them this fall, Mallary and Michaela will still be able to finish each other’s sentences – by phone.
HOT BOOKS: suggested reading on summer vacation

By Judith Stokes
Serials Librarian and Assistant Professor

In 2004, Adams Library launched a completely new “Browsing Collection” of popular books. By arrangement with a commercial service, the library rents a selection of brand new books to lend while they are still new, and returns them when they have passed their best-selling prime. (Books that have lasting value to RIC, however, are retained and moved to the permanent collection.) According to circulation figures, the Browsing Collection has become a great success, and that piqued my curiosity. Which books are the hottest new books at RIC?

In the April issue of What’s News, we looked at the fiction books in the Browsing Collection that have been borrowed most frequently, as of spring 2008. Last month, we checked out the top 10 non-fiction books. Now, I’ll review 10 of my favorites. Perhaps among these books you will find some to put on your personal summer reading list.

10 OF MY FAVORITES

1. A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier by Ishmael Beah is the RIC Open Books—Open Minds book of the year. Whether or not you are moved to join in with students, faculty and other readers, this book deserves your attention. It relates Beah’s experience as a boy in Sierra Leone where he was captured, drugged and forced to become a child soldier, and his rescue, recovery and guilt. It is remarkably well written, devoid of melodrama, but gripping and unforgettable.

2. Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close by Jonathan Safran Foer is an extraordinary novel. The narrator is an impossibly precocious 9-year-old boy whose father died two years before, in the World Trade Center disaster. With the discovery of a hidden key that belonged to his father, the boy determines to find the lock it fits. Real and imagined adventures, inventions and the colorful characters he meets on his quest become linked with the story of his grandparents’ lives, and 9/11 with the bombing of Dresden.

3. The Truth of the Matter: A Novel by Robb Forman Dew is the sequel to The Evidence Against Her. Agnes Scofield, widowed since age 30, having raised four children and managed the family home on a school teacher’s salary, enjoys a discreet affair in her empty nest until the children begin to return. The end of World War II marks the beginning of the next generation of Scofields when family secrets, myths and memories are challenged anew.

4. Son of a Witch: A Novel by Gregory Maguire is the sequel to Wicked: The Life and Times of the Wicked Witch of the West, and will not fail to please fans of Maguire’s version of Oz. It is a magical land, but not intended for young readers. Maguire’s inventive language and dark humor delight, while a boy’s quest to rescue a princess grows into a man’s encounter with brutality and the complex mechanisms of oppression.

5. The Painted Drum by Louise Erdrich chronicles the multigenerational history of an extraordinary Ojibwe drum. With its discovery, recognition, and eventual return to its family home, linked stories are revealed about the people who have been tested, threatened and/or fulfilled in their experience with the drum.

6. Black Girl, White Girl: A Novel by Joyce Carol Oates offers a compelling portrait of two southern girls at an elite New England college in the 1970s. All the good intentions of the white daughter of a famous radical lawyer cannot help her understand the mystery that is her roommate, a conservative black preacher’s daughter. A string of racial incidents on campus belies the ivory tower and heightens the tension.

7. Winner of the National Book Award: A Novel of Fame, Honor, and Really Bad Weather by Jincy Willett is a darkly humorous tale of twin sisters and the man who comes between them. Despite the audacious title, the Rhode Island weather and the witty dialogue, Willett’s characters have depth and her plot has punch.

8. Infidel by Ayaan Hirsi Ali is the gripping autobiography of Europe’s most controversial Muslim immigrant. From her childhood in war-torn Somalia to the Dutch Parliament, Hirsi Ali survived genital mutilation, escaped an arranged marriage, learned the Dutch language, worked her way through university, faced death threats and the violent murder of her friend, Theo van Gogh, and forced European leaders to face the truth about Islam and the oppression of women.

9. Why We Believe What We Believe: Uncovering Our Biological Need for Meaning, Spirituality, and Truth by Andrew Newburg and Mark Robert Waldman explores neural activities of the brain in relation to religious practice. Using brain scans of people during prayer, meditation and speaking in tongues, the authors make a persuasive case that there may be a unique role for religious belief in the human mind.

10. The Lost Painting by Jonathan Harr recounts the discovery of the long lost Carravagio masterpiece, “The Taking of Christ.” Following each of the three people whose efforts resulted in finding and identifying the painting, he interweaves details of Carravagio’s life and times, as well as technical aspects of painting and preservation, without compromising the spirit of the quest.
Judge Frank Caprio, chairman of the state Board of Governors of Higher Education, summarized Nazarian’s career as a “love affair with Rhode Island College for 58 years.” Caprio also announced Nazarian’s appointment as president emeritus, and he, along with Commissioner of Higher Education Jack Warner, presented Nazarian with a commemorative crystal vase inscribed with the words “John Nazarian, President Emeritus, Rhode Island College.”

In his own remarks, Nazarian recalled his undergraduate days, comparing Rhode Island College to a family. “We looked up to our teachers as parent figures, stern aunts, wise uncles, kindly grandparents. Some of them, quite honestly, scared us to death. But we learned and we grew not just in knowledge, but as people.” He later alluded to the tremendous growth of the College: “The branches of this enormous family tree have taken root in every state of the nation and in dozens of countries throughout the world.”

Three honorary degrees were awarded: a Doctor of Fine Arts to Howard Fine, a renowned acting coach and theatre director with bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the College; a Doctor of Public Service to former R.I. Gov. Bruce Sundlun; and a Doctor of Laws to Constantine Curris, president of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities.

Curris also gave the commencement address, in which he referenced another presidential transition, that on the national level, and urged the graduates to take heed of their civic responsibilities. “When apathy and indifference prevail, when democracy is enfeebled, the power of vested interests – especially moneymed vested interests – predominates, and the common good is compromised,” said Curris. “If we are to affirm our democracy, you, me, all must do our part.”

The 2008 class president, Joseph Graziano, in his remarks, focused on the milestones celebrated that day, including his own class’s graduation. He emphasized that “a milestone is not an ending but a point in your life where your potential was reached,” and he exhorted his classmates “to keep making milestones.”

“Commencement Cont”
Matt Bergeron, a secondary education/mathematics major from Pawtucket, expressed enthusiasm about “finally going into the workforce and showcasing what RIC has provided me.”

Maureen Lapan, professor emerita of administration and curriculum and a 1955 RIC graduate, received the Presidential Medal, an award presented on special occasions to acknowledge exemplary service to the College. Lapan was one of the founders and the first director of Upward Bound at RIC, a program that helps high-risk high school students prepare for college.


The golden anniversary class of 1958, which was the last to graduate from the downtown campus, was represented by Gail McCaughney Sweeney and Judith Dodd Giblin, who presented the College with a gift for the library.

The ceremonies ended on a special note. Nazarian, assisted by Graziano and fellow class officers Alicia Vanasse, vice president, and Christopher Giroux, treasurer, released 50 painted lady butterflies to mark Nazarian’s last commencement and each year the College has been on the Mount Pleasant Avenue campus.

A lone butterfly landed on Nazarian’s finger. He held it up and conferred onto it “any degree you want.”

One of John Nazarian’s last public decrees brought humor to a highly emotional moment.

Advanced Degree Commencement, May 15, The Murray Center

“By virtue of the authority vested in me(139,458),(963,863), and with the concurrent action of the faculty of Rhode Island College and the Board of Governors for Higher Education, I confer upon those of you who have completed the appropriate requirements, the advanced degrees for which you are qualified, with all of their associated rights, privileges, and honors, and I present you with your diplomas.”

– John Nazarian

RIC awarded 300 advanced degrees in 2008, and many of the recipients and their families took part in a conferential ceremony in The Murray Center.

Nazarian told the grads that they had “the potential to make a significant and positive difference,” which he called an “enormous responsibility.”

“I have been part of the Rhode Island College community for 58 years. During that time I have been consistently inspired by the ability that students at this institution have demonstrated in overcoming obstacles,” he added.

A. Brenda Dann-Messier ’73, M ’74, of the state’s Board of Governors for Higher Education, paid tribute to Nazarian. “Thank you for dedicating your life to Rhode Island College,” she said. “We will miss you.”

The main address was given by Nicolas P. Retsinas, director of Harvard University’s Joint Center for Housing Studies and a former administrator in the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Retsinas, who received an honorary Doctor of Public Service degree, had three messages for the students: “Take life one step at a time, leave footprints and keep your balance.”

“Keep trying to make a difference,” he urged, but added, “You can’t be successful and call it a good life unless you have a good life at home.”

Five doctor of philosophy degrees – to Donald B. Bierman, Lisa A. Ferrelli, Barbara S. Gourlay, Julie Nora and John Walsh III – were awarded through a program offered jointly by RIC and the University of Rhode Island. Two other recipients, Andrew P. Kelley and Sally A. Mitchell, received their degrees at URI.

Those receiving degrees from several programs were hooded on stage, including candidates for certificate of advanced graduate study; for master of fine arts in theatre (a terminal degree); and for master of social work (considered a terminal degree for practice).
Portuguese Institute receives over $145,000

By Peter Silveira
Staff Writer

The Institute for Portuguese and Lusophone World Studies at Rhode Island College received a huge financial boost with the announcement and presentation of a $97,000 federal appropriation from Congressman Patrick J. Kennedy (D-RI) at a reception at the President’s House on May 9.

Also announced at the reception was a donation of $50,000 by Newport resident John Lima, a friend of the College.

The institute, which officially launched on Oct. 21, 2006, is designed to serve Portuguese-speaking students and the Rhode Island community with a nucleus of instruction and interaction.

“We need to give them the tools necessary to compete in the global marketplace,” said Kennedy.

In addition to offering academic preparation in communication and literacy of the Portuguese language, the institute functions as a cultural, literary, pedagogical and research resource.

The funds from the grant will be used in a variety of ways, such as to support college-based community cultural events, materials for building a resource library, and teacher training seminars for elementary and secondary education in Portuguese.

“The support received through the advocacy of Congressman Kennedy for the important work of the institute for Portuguese and Lusophone citizens of the Rhode Island – almost 10 percent of the state’s population – will advance the institute’s mission and service agenda, while the College continues to build the institute’s endowment,” said Peg Brown, vice president of development and college relations and executive director of the RIC foundation.

Assisting the Portuguese is nothing new for the Kennedy family. In 1958, after the eruption of the Capelinhos volcano on the tiny Azorean island of Faial, then-Massachusetts Sen. John F. Kennedy helped to write many of the visas allowing some 4,000 Portuguese to come to Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

“A lot of those folks remember that it was my uncle who wrote those visas, so they have a close identity to my family,” said Patrick Kennedy.

“And of course, because of my uncle being the first Catholic presidential candidate, the strong sense of tradition with family … it allowed me to step into the community with a lot more ease than the average person of non-Portuguese descent,” said Kennedy.

In fact, when Kennedy first ran for Congress, many of his Portuguese colleagues in the State House helped to run his campaign, and the congressman has long been a proponent of Portuguese language instruction. In July 2005, Kennedy advocated for the inclusion of Portuguese language testing by the College Board for both SAT II and Advanced Placement Examinations for high school students, as a way of stimulating demand for and supply of Portuguese classes in public and private schools.

Kennedy also co-sponsored H.R. 678: National Security Language Act, which identifies Portuguese as a “critical need language,” or a language critical to the national security of the United States.

The donation of $50,000 by John Lima, who is first generation Portuguese, was made to establish a scholarship in his parents’ names. He has also promised a similar gift in January 2009.

“I want to educate people about what this country [Portugal] has to offer,” said Lima.

Among the other guests at the reception were Paul J. Tavares, former general treasurer; R.I. Senator Daniel J. DiPalma, Senate District 14; Chancellor Leonel Teixeira ‘85, consul of Portugal in Providence, and his wife, RIC alumna Luz Teixeira; Rogério Medina, former vice-consul, consulate of Portugal in Providence; and Alda Petitti, member of the Portuguese American Leadership Council of the United States (PALCUS) board of directors.

For more information on the Institute for Portuguese and Lusophone World Studies, contact Marie Fraley, policy consultant, at (401) 456-8496 or mfraley1@ric.edu.
Rhode Island College marked employee retirements at the College’s annual Commencement Gala, held May 16 in the Donovan Dining Center.

The retirees (from July 2007 through this month):

Emily Stier Adler  Professor of Sociology, 37 years
Charles H. Allsworth  Technical Supervisor, 34 years
Deborah K. Andrews  Assistant Professor at Henry Barnard School, 34 years
Jeanne A. Boichat  Eligibility Technician, 35 years
Cynthia P. Boudreau  Administrative Secretary, 25 years
Maryann Bromley  Professor of Social Work, 23 years
Eileen Capparella  Eligibility Technician, 3 years
Louis Carchia  Housekeeper, 20 years
Robert F. Carey  Professor of Elementary Education, 24 years
Crist H. Costa  Professor of Accounting and Computer Information Systems, 35 years
Robert B. Davis  Building Maintenance Supervisor, 23 years
Stanford E. Demars  Professor of Geography, 35 years
Deborah S. Dunphy  Assistant Director of Facilities Operations/ Business Manager, 26 years
Janice H. Fifer  Assistant Director of Aquatics, 18 years
Rita Frenzilli  Cook’s Helper, 13 years
Barbara Mae Giusti  Housekeeper, 13 years
Peter K. Glanz  Professor of Physical Science, 30 years
John J. Gleason  Professor of Special Education, 23 years
David M. Hatch  Housekeeper, 11 years
Cynthia M. Jones  Information Services Technician II, 10 years
Donna L. Konicki  Director of Institutional Research and Planning, 35 years
Jayne L. Kopic  Assistant Manager – Campus Store, 18 years
Judy Letourneau  Information Services Technician II, 35 years
Richard A. Lobban  Professor of Anthropology, 35 years
Pauline McCartney  Information Services Technician I, 24 years
Patricia McDonough  Supervising Word Processing Typist, 28 years
James R. Medeiros  Laborer, 39 years
Patricia Medeiros  Landscaper  Professor of Special Education, 14 years
Drestes P. Montercy  Assistant Vice President, 9 years
John Nazarian  President, 53 years
Elaine A. Papa  Assistant Business Management Officer, 30 years
Patricia M. Patrick  Senior Clerk Stenographer, 34 years
Peter E. Piccillo  Associate Professor of History, 37 years
Tom M. Randall  Professor of Psychology, 35 years
Marcia A. Rotella  Senior Word Processing Tyipt, 11 years
Gerald T. Russo  Senior Technical Programmer, 30 years
Catherine M. Ruzzano  Senior Word Processing Typist, 18 years
Michelina Santos  Cook’s Helper, 21 years
James A. Schaeffer  Associate Professor of Mathematics and Computer Science, 38 years
Susan J. Schenck  Director of School Partnerships and Field Placements, 18 years
James T. Sedlock  Professor of Mathematics, 35 years
Carol R. Shelton  Professor of Nursing, 31 years
Roger A. Simons  Professor of Mathematics and Computer Science, 21 years
Sheri L. Smith  Professor of Philosophy, 33 years
Charles G. Snow, Jr.  Associate Professor of Accounting, 16 years
Milburn J. Stone  Professor of Political Science, 35 years
William E. Swigart  Director of Continuing Education/Summer Sessions, 35 years
Melanie D. Symonds  Eligibility Technician, 18 years
Shirley Vadeboncoeur  Cook’s Helper, 13 years
John D. VanNort  Accountant, 10 years
Glenn J. Vekeman  Senior Maintenance Technician, 14 years
S. Salman Wasti  Professor of Biology, 36 years

RIC President Nazarian holds up a pen given to him by James McCrosky, retired assistant vice president for academic affairs, who carved it out of fallen limbs from the sesquicentennial tree that stands at the College’s Mt. Pleasant Avenue entrance.

Jack Warner, commissioner of higher education, congratulates John Nazarian, retiree.
The kick-off to the commencement season – Cap and Gown Convocation on April 30 – marked the beginning of the home stretch for the over 1,300 soon-to-be RIC graduates who went on to earn degrees on May 17.

The ceremony, held in the Auditorium in Roberts Hall, highlighted accomplishments on several fronts. Over 50 graduating seniors were honored with special departmental awards. A student gave an emotional account of how she earned her diploma while struggling with Tourette syndrome. And retiring RIC President John Nazarian presided over his 20th and final Cap and Gown Convocation.

Jane Fusco, who gave the convocation address, told the grads-to-be that the RIC years were “the prologue to a very unique story. Yours.”

Fusco, who is director of RIC News and Public Relations and a journalist, listed the elements of a good story – conflict, suspense, character, humor and a reason to care – and detailed their importance in the yet-to-be-written narratives of the student’s own lives. (Her full speech is on page 15)

Student speaker Alicia Vanasse described her personal travels as a flight whose miles are logged with life lessons, many involving dealing with Tourette syndrome, a neurological disorder that she contracted at 13.

She outlined her “passport stamps,” which included being a communications major, vice president of the Class of 2008, president of the RIC Communications Club, member of the communications honor society, intern for Senator Jack Reed HD ‘99 and RIC’s Office of News and Public Relations. Through it all, she’s had to deal Tourette’s, which causes repeated, involuntary, sudden movements and vocal outbursts called tics, which have caused her to be asked to leave stores, restaurants and movies, and to be known as “that girl with Tourette’s, not Alicia Vanasse,” she said.

Vanasse, who on May 17 received a BA in communications, said that RIC “has not only given me an academic education but has let me find Alicia Vanasse again.”

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The convocation awarded special departmental awards to students majoring in subjects ranging from accounting to sociology. Several were double awardees. Melissa Brown, has a one-woman show at the Providence Art Club and has served as a tutor at the College’s Writing Center, received the Studio Art and Eleanor M. McMahon College Honors awards.

Identical twins Mallary and Michaela Bileau won both the Bertha Christina Andrews Emin Award for Outstanding Achievement and the Victoria Lederberg Psychology Award. David Aulenbach was the winner of both the Katherine Murray Prize in educational studies and the Elisa F. Bonaventura Award in special education. And Dennis Bennet garnered the American Institute of Chemists Award and the Ronald J. Boruch Award for Excellence in the Physical Sciences.

Gary Penfield, vice president for student affairs, recognized the graduating seniors who qualified for inclusion in Who’s Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges.

Class of 2008 officers Joe Graziano (president), Alicia Vanasse (vice president) and Chris Giroux (treasurer) announced the class gift of two picnic tables to be placed outside the Donovan Dining Center’s Café.

The national anthem was sung by Kimberly Bolton, Janita Ducharme and Kathryn Pelland. The RIC Wind Ensemble opened the event with Pomp and Circumstance and closed it with the College’s alma mater song by Grace Electa Bird, professor of educational psychology at the College from 1914 to 1942.

A reception followed the ceremony in the McCarthy-Galvin Courtyard.
Given by Jane Fuscó
Director of News and Public Relations and College Spokesperson

Mr. President, distinguished guests, and the class of 2008…congratulations!

It’s a bit unusual for someone like me, a journalist who unpretentiously migrated over to the academic world, to be the one chosen to deliver this address, but I do so with great honor, at this ceremonial rite of passage from student to near graduate.

Your formal education may be coming to an end, but the lessons that you will learn beyond the textbooks are just beginning. Your college professors and administrators have done an extraordinary job in preparing you for life after college. Be as proud of them as you are of your selves, because their work is of the highest order.

Be proud also of this historic institution from which you will soon earn your degrees. From within its walls is the imprint of your time here. Let it stand for something meaningful and memorable.

Soon, you will become members of a distinguished community called the Rhode Island College alumni. The alumni are the link to this institution and its ultimate success.

You very own college president, John Nazarian, is a stellar example of this. Be thankful and proud of his leadership in times when leaders are targets, or they fail to meet the challenges before them because they are unwilling to venture beyond the special interests they serve. Let today be the beginning of the beginning.

The prologue to a very unique story. Yours.

It may start here at Rhode Island College, but where it ends is up to you. But first, consider what makes a good story.

Journalistically speaking – and I have been speaking that way for quite some time – a good story needs: context, character, humor and a reason to care. I realize that some of you might be saying… I thought the journalism class was making sure you got the who, what, when, where, why and how – covered as clearly and concisely as possible.

That approach is good if you are writing a straight news story – or if you intend on living a short, boring life – but then, why would you have spent all these years pursuing a bachelor’s degree?

Most of you are here for the long haul, so expect some twists and turns in the plot, as you live what is called the complication-resolution model of storytelling. According to time Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist, Jon Franklin, it is a model as old as Aristotle, and one that anthropologists have used to use how we best understand stories.

Let’s look first at conflict. Isn’t conflict something we are taught to avoid? Of course – if it means staying out of the fast flying debris of someone else’s misdirected frustration.

Or producing some yourself. But there is a kind of conflict that builds character. You can take the word “character” two ways: the protagonist in your story – you or, according to dictionary meaning, the “strength and originality in a person’s nature.”

Being on this stage today, at this particular event, takes me back three years. When a student who received the Educational Studies Award was also the subject of a story that I was writing.

His name – Michael, Iannone, and for him, the conflict began the night that he decided to go to a rock concert. The group playing was the Great White at the Station nightclub in West Warwick.

As the story goes, the Station nightclub burned to the ground from pyrotechnics shot by the band, killing 100 people and injuring several hundred more. Element number two: suspense.

Here is what I wrote about the next episode. “He was comatose for seven- and-a-half weeks after the fire, lost an ear and a hand, sustained burns over much of his face and upper body, underwent more than 40 surgeries, followed by countless doctor visits and grueling physical therapy that put his education on hold.”

But not for long.

Because Michael’s story continued. Between surgeries, he audited classes at RIC to catch up and make up for lost work, and was more determined than ever to earn a degree.

Element number three: character. An interesting character is one who looks at what’s given to him or her and turns it into an advantage.

In Michael’s case, he felt like a science experiment – at one point, he was given only three weeks to live. But that didn’t deter him. Kept an interest in science, and he thought about becoming a science teacher.

Not an easy task for Michael. It took long hours of extra tutoring, and he had to do everything, including lab work and using a computer, with one hand.

Most impressive was his attitude. He said, “It’s about being up, be upset for the first half hour and go on with your day.”

Element number four: humor. The famous author and humorist James Thurber said, “Humor is emotional chaos remembered in tranquility.” This means that things don’t always seem funny when they happen. Only later do we come to understand the value of laughter as a release from a stressful situation, wisdom born of hindsight, protecting us twice from making the same mistake twice.

It is a weapon that belongs in the arsenal of every resourceful person.

When Michael was a student at Barrington High School, he was worried about how the students would react to his obviously burned appearance. He had to use the material available to break the ice, so he began his high school by pulling off his prosthetic hand and explaining its functionality.

The students were instantly impressed and gave him their full attention.

This gesture showed that Michael wasn’t going to let the tragic side of his situation win. He opted for the incongruity of the teacher being the experiment.

And the final element: a reason to care. In Michael’s story, he cared more about becoming a teacher than being a victim.

Now, it’s your turn. What do YOU care about?

How do you get others to care about your story? How will YOU make a difference in the story?

As a journalist, let me provide you with some things that I have learned from observing, listening and of most of all, writing about the world and the people in it.

In the coming days, you will hear many clichés, such as follow your dreams, the future is yours for the taking. Go out and make your mark, and these are the best days of your lives. While most are apropos, if that last one is true, then I feel sorry for you. These may indeed have been some of the best days of your lives thus far, but there is much more to come, much more to round out your story.

Your college experience has opened your mind and it is time for you to let it open. No idea is too small when your mind is big.

What you know now is not all you are capable of knowing.


Don’t be afraid to be wrong. It’s how to eventually get to right.

If everyone you know likes you, then you have no friends. Even the most beloved and revered fall from grace. Someday, you will point you in the right direction.

As a journalist, let me provide you with some things that I have learned from observing, listening and of most of all, writing about the world and the people in it.

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Don’t be afraid to be wrong. It’s how to eventually get to right.

If everyone you know likes you, then you have no friends. Even the most beloved and revered fall from grace. Someday, you may need help getting up too.

Always have a Plan B.

I remember a 1992 press conference when then president-elect Bill Clinton was asked why he still plays saxophone. He replied, “Well, I don’t have much job security.”

Learn to work for its own sake, and find a job that grows out of dreams.

My first editor, Don Mathison, said to me my first week on the job as a reporter, always do your job better than anyone else can, and you’ll never be out of work. Good advice.

As you write your own story, do it with passion. It is that passion that will point you in the right direction. It may not earn you the highest salary in the world, but it will fill your heart with riches.

Changing the world, though not impossible, is unrealistic. Be willing to at the very least, rescue it.

As you reach for the stars, do it with one hand so that the other stays firmly on the pulse of the world around you, a world shaped by politicians and politicians, terror and terrorists, corruption, greed, blackmoney, scandal, ad nauseam.

We are idolized and scorned – sometimes simultaneously – and those who become more popular and profitable in death… in other words, all the essentials of a good news story.

You can’t even believe in media labels or spins, but do believe that the media – love it or hate it – will in some way influence you and those around you. If the future is what you make of it, it is also what others make of it. Listen to their stories too.

Writing your own story means that you can always change the setting, the plot, the tone, and the characters. Change as often as you’d like, but accept the responsibility that change brings.

Mahatma Ghandi said, “You must be the change you wish to see in the world.” That’s a good starting point.

And then there was one of the nation’s first journalists, Benjamin Franklin, who said, “When you’re finished changing, you’re finished.”

Don’t fall into the trap of thinking that the past is done and over with. It is not. It is a perpetual work in progress, and when it no longer becomes the present, it will provide more information about itself, you and others.

Be willing to deal with it, and to unleash its secrets. It is the only way to truly move forward.

Former NBC news anchor Tom Brokaw wrote about the people called “The Greatest Generation.” This was probably your grandparents’ generation. He affords them high praise as many were called upon to make sacrifices, often to an extent that once the war ended, the accomplishments of this generation had only begun.”

Remember that success is a journey, not a destination, just as the degree you will be receiving in a couple of weeks is not an end in itself, but a springboard to life lessons you are about to learn.

That Greatest Generation that Tom Brokaw refers to earned its name through the resolve, sacrifice and wisdom developed by learning to master the situations presented to them. Now it’s your turn, Class of 2008.

Go out and write your own story. Be the Greatest Generation. Because YOUR story is still unwritten… and we can’t wait to hear how it turns out!
Carriuolo cont

Nazarian in moving Rhode Island College forward. The board is confident we have chosen wisely. We pledge our support to her and we wish her every success.”

“Nancy will be an ideal leader for Rhode Island College,” said Jack R. Warner, commissioner of higher education. “She is committed to the College’s mission of providing affordable access to a high quality education. She understands the importance of helping students achieve high standards of academic performance and she knows how to support faculty engagement in effective teaching, research and scholarship. I will enjoy working with Nancy in her new role.”

Carriuolo was selected from a group of four finalists after a nationwide search that attracted 48 candidates. The presidential search committee, chaired by Michael Ryan ’74, National Grid president for Rhode Island Distribution, then pared the list to eight semi-finalists.

The search committee interviewed the eight semifinalists and chose four finalists, each of whom spent an entire day on the RIC campus, meeting with students, faculty and staff. Finalists also interviewed with Warner, University of Rhode Island President Robert L. Carothers and Community College of Rhode Island President Raymond M. Di Pasquale.

Carriuolo was born and raised in Hilton, N.Y. She earned a BA in English (with a president’s citation as valedictorian) in 1970 and an MS in education in 1973 from the State University of New York at Brockport, and a PhD in research and evaluation in 1979 from the State University of New York at Buffalo. She also attended the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study where she completed post-doctoral studies in organizational behavior and management, fundraising and negotiation.

Carriuolo was an English teacher and co-chair of the Language Arts Department at Kendall Central School in Kendall, N.Y., before launching her career in higher education. She joined the University of New Haven as director of developmental studies and assistant professor of English in 1980 after having served as an adjunct professor of English at two institutions of higher education in the state of Georgia. She was promoted to assistant provost and associate professor in 1984, gained tenure in 1986 and became a full professor of English in 1987.

From 1990-94, she was director of the Office for School/College Relations with the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Inc. in Winchester, Mass. In 1994, she returned to the University of New Haven and resumed her professorship. In 1995, she was named acting dean of the School of Arts & Sciences. She became dean of the College of Arts & Sciences as well as the University’s School of Hotel/Restaurant Management, Event and Dietetics Administration in 1996. That same year, she was also named executive director of entrepreneurial programs.

Carriuolo joined the Rhode Island Office of Higher Education (RIOHE) as associate commissioner for academic affairs in 2000. She added responsibilities for student affairs in 2002 and was promoted to deputy commissioner and chief academic officer in 2006. Her work at RIOHE involved developing, monitoring and overseeing academic and student success policies in higher education in Rhode Island. She has served as interim vice president for academic affairs at RIC for the 2007-08 academic year at the request of Nazarian.

Carriuolo is the author of over 30 publications and has worked with a number of regional, national and international higher education and business organizations as a consultant. She is past president of the National Association for Developmental Education and a longstanding board member of the Journal of Developmental Education. She was the lead author of the Journal’s winter 2007 feature article, “Advice for Novice Researchers Who Wish to Publish Their Results.” She was the founding statewide leader of the Rhode Island Chapter of the American Council on Education’s network of women leaders in higher education and is a newly appointed member of the Rhode Island Commission on Women. She serves on the statewide steering committee of STEM (Science/Technology/Engineering/Mathematics).

Carriuolo’s husband Ralf is a native Rhode Islander and a retired music teacher. He holds an undergraduate degree from Yale University and a PhD from Wesleyan University. They have one son, Matthew, a high school physics teacher.

Michael Bonora
John E. Hetherman Award in Intercollegiate Athletics
Christie L. Lotti
Helen M. Murphy Award in Intercollegiate Athletics
Melanie J. Steckert
John Silva Memorial Scholastic Award in Management
Amy L. Hudson
Outstanding Student Award in Marketing
Christine A. Borrelli
Christopher R. Mitchell Award in Mathematics
Amy Christine Hubertus
Nelson A. Guertin Memorial Award in French
Miosotis Nuñez
Nelson A. Guertin Memorial Award in Spanish
Julie M. Felci
Tegu Polyglot Award in Modern Languages
Kimberly M. Maida
Peter Jeffrey Archambault Memorial Award
Amanda G. Pannullo
Cantor Jacob Hohenemser Award
Richard J. Sylvia
Alice K. Pellegrino Music Education Award
Kristen A. Quartrone
Rhode Island College Theatre Award
Kimberly R. DiOrio
Yetta Rauch Melcer Dance Award
Leila L. Bourget
Nursing Award for Academic Excellence
Tara M. Brown
Nursing Award for Service Excellence
Jo-An T. Cote
Nursing Award for a Registered Nurse
Dennis M. Bennett
American Institute of Chemists Award
Ronald J. Brouil Award for Excellence in the Physical Sciences
Cynthia M. Bessette
John P. Cimino
Brian C. Hull
Herbert R. Winter Award for Academic Excellence in Political Science
Shana L. Walsh
Rachel T. Yoder
Bachelor of Social Work Community Service Award
Helena M. Piccerelli
Erik M. Sousa
Anthony E. Ricci Social Work Practice Award
Justin J. Lisi
Mary Ann Hawthorne Award in Justice Studies
John R. Pollino
Laurel J. Whitman Award in Sociology
Cynthia M. Lachapel
Josephine A. Stillings Award in Special Education

2008 Recipients of Special Departmental Awards

Lorena A. Corrente
Outstanding Student Award in Accounting
John P. Camara
Outstanding Student Award in Computer Information Systems
Diane Marcoux Konicki
James Houston Award in Anthropology
Melissa S. Brown
Studio Art Award
Eleanor M. McMahon Award, College Honors Program
Diana B. Lizarazo
Theodore Lemnikh Award in Biology
Sean P. Hershey
W. Christina Carlson Award for Excellence in Biology
Michael S. Termale
Communications Achievement Award
Award in Mass Media
Daniel Poluczo
Communications Achievement Award in Graphic Communications
Angela Marcaccio
Communications Achievement Award in Public Relations
Cong Pan
Wall Street Journal Award in Economics and Finance
Jason R. Badessa
Mary Alice Grellner Educational Studies Senior Award
David G. Aulenbach
Katherine Murray Prize in Educational Studies
Elisa F. Bonaventura Award in Special Education
Kevin Montoya
Elementary Education Award
Lindsay R. Wells
Jean Garrigue Award in English
Derek M. Dubois
Mark W. Estrin Film Studies Award
Priscilla M. Gonzalez
Rose Butler Browne Award
Mallary J. Bileau
Michaela K. Bileau
Bertha Christina Andrews Emin Award for Outstanding Achievement
Victoria Lederberg Psychology Award
Leah DiChiaro
Bertha Christina Andrews Emin Award for Scholastic Excellence
Douglas R. Bliven
Melissa L. Reggio
Health and Physical Education Award
Stephanie M. DaSilva
Clarence deB. Pell Award in History
Marc P. Rouselle
Evelyn Walsh Prize in History
Graduation celebration

Glênnison de Oliveira, associate professor of chemistry, holds the Del Sesto Mace, a bronze replica of the statue of the Independent Man that has been used since 1962 in all academic processions at the College.

Nicolas P. Retsinas receives an honorary Doctor of Public Service degree at the advanced degree commencement.

Constantine Curris, honorary Doctor of Laws recipient, gives the undergraduate commencement address.

Benjamin A. Peterson '36 marches in the undergraduate commencement procession. He was the oldest alumnus to attend the ceremony.

Honorary degree recipients Bruce Sundlun (Doctor of Public Service) and Howard Fine '81, M '04 (Doctor of Fine Arts) chat prior to undergraduate commencement.