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What's News At Rhode Island College

Rhode Island College

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RIC, URI receive $12.5 million National Science Foundation grant

By Rob Martin
Managing Editor

A project based at Rhode Island College and the University of Rhode Island to improve science learning at the middle and secondary levels in Rhode Island has received a $12.5 million grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) – the largest such grant ever awarded in Rhode Island. The project will be administered in schools statewide through the newly established Rhode Island STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) Center at RIC.

The NSF grant, awarded to RIC and URI, is the first large-scale funding under the umbrella of the STEM Center. It was one of only 23 out of a pool of 181 proposals to receive NSF grants, and it was the largest of the four that received funding of $12 million or more.

“This is a statewide project that will serve as a model for the whole nation,” said Glénisson de Oliveira, associate professor of chemistry at RIC and a lead principal investigator on the project, known at RITES (Rhode Island Technology Enhanced Science).

Gov. Donald L. Carcieri announced the grant award at a ceremony at Johnston Senior High School on Sept. 25.

Carcieri commended the state’s higher education institutions for establishing a “great sense of camaraderie” and “aggressively collaborating” with Rhode Island’s K-12 school system.

The RITES project seeks to enhance the quality of science teaching and learning at Rhode Island’s middle schools and high schools and increase the number and diversity of students who are proficient in science and who pursue STEM-related careers.

The timing for the project “couldn’t be better” said Carcieri. Last month, the results of Rhode Island’s first state assessment in science at grades 4, 8 and 11 showed that students are identifying with STEM.

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Patriotic celebration and serious issues: DebateWatch town hall meeting

By Hillary Feeney ’10
Staff Writer
Chico State Exchange Student

Colorful streamers draped the walls and star-shaped confetti glittered on top of red, white and blue clothed tables. A purple half-elephant, half-donkey character, which represented a cross between the two major political parties, paraded around the room to pop music from the disc jockey.

This was the scene Sept. 26 when DebateWatch 2008 brought over 400 Rhode Island College students, staff, local politicians and media guests together in a town hall forum to discuss their expectations of the first presidential debate, which they viewed later that evening.

“As we all know the race is close and the stakes are high,” said RIC President Nancy Carriuolo as an introduction to the town hall meeting. “Millions of viewers across the country will tune in seeking information that could decide their votes, and consequently the future of our great nation.”

Bill Rappeleye, political reporter from WJAR-10, doubted that the issues discussed...
RIC students attend national IDeA symposium in Washington, D.C.

By Marah Roach ’09

For three faculty members and seven students of RIC’s biology and physical sciences departments, the National IDeA symposium offered an environment where ideas were shared and new ones were formed. The students learned from the best in their fields and interacted with others with similar interests in science. One went home with a special award in recognition of the work she submitted.

The 2nd Biennial National IDeA Symposium of Biomedical Research Excellence was held in Washington, D.C., from Aug. 6-8. The event showcased the scientific accomplishments of the IDeA program.

IDeA is an acronym for Institutional Development Award. Two main components of the IDeA program are the Centers of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE) and the IDeA Networks of Biomedical Research Excellence (INBRE). COBRE entities focus on the career development of young investigators and researchers. INBRE includes statewide research networks that promote increased research in schools and research institutions.

RIC attendees included students Nicole Gadbois, Jose Solares, Krystal Bergeron, Priscila Falcao, Yvonne Chekuluk, Eileen Murphy and Joseph Salisbury M ’08. Also present were Karen Almeida, assistant professor of chemistry, Sarah Spinette, assistant professor of biology, and John Williams, professor of chemistry.

Students attended lectures, discussions on science and training, workshops and scientific sessions based on stem cell research, time management, cancer research, scientific writing and other topics. They also presented their research on poster boards to a large group of scientists from all over the country.

“I think that the meeting provided the students a wonderful introduction to how scientists communicate their work and their ideas, both in formal lectures and informal one-on-one poster presentations,” said Spinette. “I hope that after presenting their research in this setting, [the students] left with the feeling that they are really a part of a large scientific community.”

Senior biology major Gadbois received one of several travel awards of $1,000 that were given to students based on review of scientific abstracts submitted a few months before the symposium. Following graduation, Gadbois plans to do research in a biology lab, and eventually go to medical school.

She and the other students will use what they learned at the symposium to enhance their research in the lab at RIC.
RIC artists find patron in RIC President Carriuolo

By Gita Brown  
Staff Writer

Art is not what you see, but what you make others see. — Edgar Degas

Rhode Island College now has two art galleries on campus. One is Bannister Gallery, created by the art department in 1978 and located in Roberts Hall. The other, situated on the first floor of the President’s House, was recently established by President Nancy Carriuolo to showcase the artwork of RIC faculty, staff and students.

“I wanted to share this space with the RIC community as I share my life with the RIC community by living on campus,” said Carriuolo. Currently on display are the paintings of Richard Whitten, assistant professor of art. Whitten is one of many “incredible faculty who are not only outstanding professors but awe-inspiring artists,” said Carriuolo. “Richard uses brilliant colors on wood. The result is unique and exciting. His titles are whimsical and serve as a good entry point to the art.”

Carriuolo has been a long-time patron of both faculty and student artists at RIC. Over the years she’s bought their artwork at annual RIC art auctions and now displays these works in her office, along with the folk art she discovered in her travels to China, Morocco, Egypt, Peru and Midwest and Southwest America.

Carriuolo’s love for visual art began in earnest as a college student. She remembered sitting at a desk in the lobby of the residence hall where she served as resident assistant. She gazed up at a copy of Rembrandt’s Night Watch and remarked to an art student sitting nearby that she liked Rembrandt’s use of dark and light. The art student prompted her to notice more.

“I began with just looking,” she said, “but then realized that engaging with a work of art also involves thinking and feeling.” As a graduating senior, Carriuolo traveled to Europe, visiting art galleries and museums.

“When my hosts talked about the art, I was fascinated that they saw so much, where my untutored eyes saw so little.” She had the opportunity to manage an art gallery as a dean at the University of New Haven, and she continued to visit galleries and museums around the world.

Already new faculty and their chairs, vice presidents and deans have toured the exhibit at the President’s House, along with RIC’s National Student Exchange (NSE) students, the coordinator of NSE, assistant director of student activities and Congressman Jim Langevin ’90 and his aides.

Members of RIC’s community and friends of the College will be able to sample the artistic talent of RIC’s community at receptions hosted by Carriuolo, including at some gatherings held specifically to present the art and artist. RIC artists interested in exhibiting their work at the President’s House should contact the Department of Art.

School of Nursing celebration event – Nov. 21

Join the Founders Circle of the Dean’s Development Fund!

Everyone is invited to join in the celebration of the establishment of the School of Nursing, its outstanding accomplishments, and to honor alumni and friends who are the inaugural donors to the Founders Circle of the Dean’s Development Fund.

On Nov. 21 at 6 p.m., at the Providence Marriott, Orms Street, an hors d’oeuvres reception will begin an evening of inspirational celebration. Reflecting the spirit, commitment and pride of its friends and alumni, the dinner program will recognize the importance of the School of Nursing as a vital resource providing quality and equitable health care for all people.

The School of Nursing Advisory Board, comprised of volunteer community leaders, alumni, faculty and staff, created a fundraising subcommittee, chaired by Sandra Zion Hamolsky, to plan the celebration and initiate the Founders Circle. The Founders Circle of the Dean’s Development Fund was started for the purpose of making funds available to assist faculty and students in activities such as pursuing research and practice projects focused on improving the quality of care, further developing expertise with cutting-edge technologies, providing activities that promote leadership development, and supporting other endeavors to enrich the professional nursing program.

Whether you are recognizing the contributions of our nurses to the community, renewing your dedication to the nursing profession, or reconnecting as an alumn, your gift to the Founders Circle will play an integral role in shaping the future of nursing at Rhode Island College.

Tickets for the celebration are $175 per person. For information to purchase tickets and to join the Founders Circle, visit www.ric.edu/nursing or contact Carol Peck, cpeck@ric.edu/401-456-8014.

Nursing students gathered at the department’s welcoming reception on Sept. 24 to share information with faculty and staff about the 2008-09 academic year.

By Gita Brown

Richard Whitten, assistant professor of art, whose paintings are on display at the President’s House until the end of the fall semester, paints on wood panels in brilliant harlequin colors and diamond-shaped patterns. He paints structures and spaces designed to lead the viewer through passageways, corridors or gateways that become portals to other worlds.

With mathematical precision, he manipulates the viewer’s eye, forcing him or her to look down, look around a corner, look around a curve and to feel curious about what is partially hidden there – even if it is only a shadow.

What disorients the viewer are the conflicting cues related to scale. Like poor Alice in Wonderland, one moment the viewer feels dwarfed, the next, like a giant.

Stranger still, the longer the viewer journeys through Whitten’s spaces, the more the viewer begins to feel like he or she exists within that space. And when leaving the painting, the viewer experiences a physical sense of transitioning between the world of the painting and the viewer’s own world.

RIC President Carriuolo urges the RIC community to come and see the works of this talented RIC faculty member who has held exhibitions at prestigious galleries on the east coast and the northwest.

Whitten recently presented his work at the Attleboro Art Museum’s 8:30 Vision exhibition and shows regularly at the Lenore Grey Gallery in Providence. He has had solo exhibitions at the Frye Art Museum in Seattle, Wash., and at the Newport Art Museum. He is currently working on a solo exhibit at Wheaton College’s Bead Gallery. For more on Richard Whitten’s work, log on to richardwhitten.com.

— Gita Brown

Watch Down the rabbit hole with Richard Whitten

Richard Whitten, cpeck@ric.edu/401-456-8014.

Peck, cpeck@ric.edu/401-456-8014.

The living room of the President’s house doubles as part of an art gallery.
Raising and saving funds to ensure an accessible, quality education for our students: a presidential theme

As the ninth president of Rhode Island College, I am fortunate that my predecessor kept a watchful eye on finances. I am also fortunate that the friends of Rhode Island College have been generous over the years and that our professional staff and volunteer boards have been good stewards. However, President Nazarian cautioned me before retiring that our economic picture was like no other that he had experienced in his long tenure as president.

All of us who love Rhode Island College need to focus on raising new funds and curtailing our spending if we are to maintain the College’s mission of providing an affordable, accessible, quality program for our students. Those students will be the future alumni of the College as well as Rhode Island’s future professionals. They will be employed in or lead businesses, teach our children, nurse the ill, minister through social work, and engage in a multitude of professions that arise from a background in the arts and sciences. Our students will become taxpayers and engaged citizens as well as patrons of the arts and of services available to educated persons with disposable income.

Our student body and our state are a special part of campus and talking with them goes home as her contribution. I suggested that every one of our campus community, I suggested that we each can save $100 in simple ways, and that individual savings within our campus community of over 900 employees will provide an annual savings of nearly $1 million. I understand from a staff member that the housekeeper in Craig-Lee has begun turning off all the lights before she goes home as her contribution. I understand also from a student that a neighbor read the article in the Providence Journal about the volunteer staffing of the Unity Center and stopped by to offer his services. We can all make a difference.

The professional fundraisers on campus, of course, are a special resource. As the result of visiting parts of campus and talking with others, I have begun to assemble a list of needs. My cabinet and I will prioritize those needs for use by the professional staff in development of a basic “no frills” development plan by the end of October. The draft will be reviewed by the foundation board and other constituent groups on campus as well as by a professional fundraiser (who is volunteering his services thanks to VP Ivy Locke’s outreach to a personal friend).

My inauguration, in order not to distract professional staff from fundraising for the College, has its own fundraising committee. Any funds that remain after expenses are paid will be devoted to completion of an illuminated walkway that will link the main and east campuses with a series of lights and phones.

In other words, one inaugural fundraising effort, but two intended outcomes. We need to be efficient.

Of course, some unfunded needs will be more mundane than an illuminated walkway. Supporting these needs requires unrestricted funds, which are dollars not earmarked by the donor for any particular use. What are some less-than-glamorous needs those modest dollars might support? A student just called today to complain that the carpet in her classroom needs to be replaced. I want to say to students, “I will take care of that problem right away.” To do so, though, the College needs funds that can be used for any purpose.

I am hopeful that alumni will continue to send us those unrestricted dollars or, perhaps, in-kind donations. For those who cannot afford to make a donation right now, know that we understand and that we also benefit from your kind thoughts and good words about RIC to others in the community. Rhode Island College appreciates our alumni, one and all.

Peg Brown to become higher ed associate commissioner; J.R. Pagliarini appointed interim director of RIC Foundation

RIC President Nancy Carriuolo announced in September that Margarette (Peg) Brown will become associate commissioner for higher education in Rhode Island following a six-month administrative sabbatical leave to conduct research for the state’s Office of Higher Education.

Brown was RIC’s vice president for development and college relations since 2000, and had served as director of development since 1995.

In those capacities, she also served as executive director of the RIC Foundation.

“Peg has built a sturdy base for the growth of the Foundation and the Development Division,” said Carriuolo.

“Rhode Island College is pleased to have had these fine years of service.”

Carriuolo also announced that John R. Pagliarini will serve as interim executive director of the RIC Foundation.

Pagliarini is employed by the Rhode Island Office of Higher Education, where, among other duties, he is chairman of the Campus Security Commission. He has previously served on the staff of a number of notable Rhode Island political figures. He has also been a lead fundraiser for the ALS Association as R.I. chapter president for the past six years.

Pagliarini received a BA in political science from Fairfield University and a MA in public affairs from The George Washington University.
The RIC Education Alumni Group in partnership with FSEHD held a reception on Oct. 2 for education alumni who have been recognized for their professional accomplishments this past year (e.g., National Board Educators, Teachers of the Year, Milken Award recipient).

Mike Henry, supervising producer and voice actor of Family Guy, tells what happens behind the scenes of the popular TV series in an appearance at RIC on Oct. 3.

Over $110,000 in scholarship aid has been awarded to 140 qualified students for the 2008-09 academic year. The scholarship awards were made after the RIC Alumni Association Scholarship Committee reviewed applications last summer. Awards cover the entire year, with half the amount distributed each semester.

Contributions to the RIC Annual Fund made possible the following scholarships:

- Children of Alumni Academic Award – three awards totaling $9,900.
- Alumni Graduate Award – six awards totaling $4,800.
- Alumni Freshman Award – given to children and grandchildren of alumni; 54 awards totaling $123,550.
- Alumni Awards – 72 awards totaling $60,400.

The Financial Aid Office received $10,000 from the Alumni Association to distribute as deemed necessary. Three Frank and Agnes Campbell Scholarships were awarded totaling $4,500 ($1,500 per student). The Andreati Scholarship was awarded for $1,700.

The Class of 1951 awarded $400.

Your donations to the Annual Fund make these scholarships possible. For information on making a contribution call (401) 456-8827 or give online at www.ric.edu/givemnow.

FOCUS ON Faculty & Staff

E.J. Min, professor of communications, has been invited to be a co-editor of a special issue on “Hybridization of Reality: Re-Imagining Communication Environment in Korea” for the Asian Journal of Communication (Routledge).

Koreans have appropriated global goods, conventions and styles, including music, cuisine, cinema and fashion, and inscribe their everyday meaning into them. Now their version of globalized consciousness is appropriated by neighboring countries (i.e., HanRyu), which have already been appropriating global popular cultural forms to express their local sentiment and culture. The issue aims to improve our understanding of the role of communication in the making of hybridities in Korea through various communication practices such as journalism, interpersonal and organizational relations, PR and advertising, media production/reception, international/intercultural relations and new communication technologies.

Naum Panovski, associate professor of theatre and director of the MFA program in theatre and society, will be guest artist/faculty at The Lee Strasberg Theatre and Film Institute in New York City from September through December, teaching performance technique and working on a production with the New York University students who take classes at Lee Strasberg. He also delivered a paper, “Embraced by Fortuna: Machiavelli’s Influence on Marin Drzic’s ‘Uncle Maroje’” in Split, Croatia, on Sept. 23. Last summer, Panovski was a teaching artist in residence at the Ninth Annual LaMaMa International Symposium for Directors in Spoleto in Umbria, Italy. Panovski also visited Paris to meet with Eastern European playwrights/practitioners/exiles living and working in Paris to investigate opportunities for collaborations, artist exchanges and residencies.

Panovski visited Macedonia to negotiate the terms of a directing project, Shadows from the Woods, that will occur in the Balkans in summer 2009, and feature the leading Macedonian actress Mimi Tanevski.

Three sociology and justice studies faculty members delivered papers at the August annual meeting of the American Sociological Association (ASA) in Boston. Mikaila Jackson presented her paper, “Prison Stress-Anxiety and Deviance.” Pamela Irving Jackson, professor of sociology and director of the Justice Studies Program, discussed her research, “The Place of Muslims in European Societies: Benchmarking Integration,” at the ASA session titled, “Muslim Immigrants.”

Jill Harrison, assistant professor of sociology, presented her paper, “Mental Illness, Substance Abuse and Recidivism among Severely Mentally Ill Inmates,” in the ASA Section on Crime, Law and Deviance. The paper described her research at Rhode Island’s Adult Correctional Institutions (ACI), and, consistent with national studies, found that the mentally ill recidivate more than their non-mentally ill counterparts. She found that they are more likely to lose privileges (such as “good time awards”), and to receive more time in segregation. Her policy suggestions included funding for drug courts and transition homes, and the importance of simultaneously treating substance addiction (i.e., to crack) along with the co-occurring mental illnesses.

Harrison presented another paper at the annual meeting of the Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP), also in August in Boston. This paper, “Prison Stress-Anxiety and Social Support: Data from a Community Based Meditation Program,” described her research examining the impact of prison inmate meditation programs.
Congratulations to head coach John Mello and the men’s soccer team, which has been playing very well to date with some hard fought victories. Keep up the good work.

The College’s CHOICES alcohol education program is in full swing with some great speakers lined up for the academic year, along with a number of significant activities. We will introduce our peer mentoring team in the next issue.

Congratulations to the women’s cross country team for winning its own invitational. Great job, ladies!

Homecoming weekend 2008 is in the record books and it was another successful couple of days. Thanks to everyone who participated in all the alumni games, and hats off to Ellie O’Neill and her committees for a job well done!

It was great to see the renovated Bazar Softball Complex lit up for the first time to host a night game.

The Athletic Hall of Fame and Recognition Dinner, which in addition to inducting the eight individuals highlighted in this issue and the first team, honored the 2008 NCAA World Series softball team and Charlie Wilkes for his lifetime commitment to Rhode Island College and higher education in Rhode Island.

The department is extremely proud to have entered into a partnership with Dorcas Place in Providence. Student-athletes and staff will be doing volunteer work there on a weekly basis as well as supporting some special initiatives. Though we are just starting, we hope that this is a long and positive partnership for all involved.

Get well wishes go out to Jim Adams, longtime men’s basketball coach and extraordinary person, who was recently hospitalized. Get well quick, coach!

I know we have been getting many calls from alumni interested in attending the RIC vs. URI men’s basketball game on Friday, Nov. 7, at the Ryan Center in Kingston. We are currently waiting for URI to finalize its season ticket allocation before getting a complete ticket picture for that evening, but we do have limited information in this issue. Up to-date ticket information will be available on our website in addition to other activities taking place around this historic game.

Congratulations to former men’s basketball coach Mike Kelly, who after a stint at James Madison University, is now the assistant at Bryant University.

Congratulations to tennis coach Joe Testa ’01 and his wife, former track coach Patty Nevola Testa ’00, on the birth of their son Luca.

Finally, congratulations to Hall of Famer Steve Lynch ’82 who was recently promoted to major in the Rhode Island State Police. Well deserved!
Robert Bayha ’69, MEd ’72 excelled in cross country, track and wrestling from 1966-69. He earned All-Conference honors in track, specializing in the 400 and 800 meters, and was also an All-Conference wrestler at 130 lbs. The Warwick native coached at Cumberland High School, Bay View Academy and East Providence High School. His teams captured four R.I. state track championships, 13 class titles and 21 division crowns. He is the only coach in the state to win both a girls and boys state championship, and he owns the most victories in girls interscholastic athletics.

He was named the R.I. Track Coach of the Year six times and the Blackstone Valley Coach of the Year 12 times. Bayha was also an assistant track and cross country coach for six years at the Community College of Rhode Island.

He was inducted into the R.I. Track Coaches Hall of Fame in 1994, the R.I. Cross Country Coaches Hall of Fame in 2001 and the Cumberland High School Athletic Hall of Fame in 2002.

Bayha retired in 2000 after a 31-year career as a physical education teacher for the Cumberland School District. He is currently the director of girls indoor track and field for the Rhode Island Interscholastic League.

Al DeAndrade ‘59 starred in men’s basketball and soccer at R.I.C.E. from 1955-59. He played freshman basketball at the College in 1955-56, and then moved on to a three-year career as a forward on the varsity team from 1956-59.

DeAndrade was a member of the Men’s Athletic Association throughout his collegiate career and went on to serve as the official clock operator for RIC home men’s soccer contests during the 1960s. DeAndrade also helped organize and play in many Alumni Soccer Games for over 15 years.

DeAndrade went on to a 31-year career as an elementary school teacher in Central Falls. He served as the president of the Central Falls Teachers’ Union for 26 years and was the vice president of the R.I. Federation of Teachers for 20 years and treasurer for five years.

He is also an accomplished trumpet player, having worked as a professional musician since he was 10 years old. He can be currently heard playing trumpet at many Pawtucket Red Sox home games.

Gail Henderson ’82 played volleyball, basketball and softball while at RIC from 1978-82. She also spent four years as a student athletic trainer, which prepared her for her career. As a first baseman in softball, the Pawtucket native was a three-time R.I.A.A.W. All-Star selection. She was named First Team All-New England as a senior in 1982, batting .345 with 10 runs scored and 10 RBI. Henderson helped lead the Anchorwomen to the E.A.I.A.W. Eastern Regional title contest as a junior in 1981. She was named to RIC’s All-75th Anniversary Baseball Team in 2005.

Henderson earned her master’s degree in physical education/training from Indiana State and a degree in physical therapy from the University of Connecticut. She later pursued a certification in canine rehabilitation from the University of Tennessee, becoming one of the first 36 worldwide therapists, and the first in Connecticut, to perform physical therapy on dogs.

She is currently the owner of three companies – Functional Rehab and Fitness, Paws and Paddle Canine Conditioning and Step Rite Orthotics.

Bradley Levett ’93 was an outstanding tennis player for the Anchormen from 1988-92.

The Coventry native compiled a 44-4 career singles record and a 36-3 doubles mark, holding the all-time RIC records for wins in both categories. Levett captured the Little East Conference Championship at No. 3 singles and No. 2 doubles as a senior in 1992 as RIC won the first of four consecutive conference crowns. Levett was the Little East champion at No. 2 doubles as a junior in 1991.

He posted a 10-1 record in singles and an 8-1 mark in doubles as a freshman in 1989. Levett was undefeated in both singles and doubles as a sophomore in 1990, posting records of 12-0 and 9-0, respectively. He was 12-1 in singles and 9-2 in doubles as a junior in 1991, before wrapping up his career with marks of 10-2 and 10-0 as a senior in ‘92.

He moved on to a career as a teacher in the Exeter-West Greenwich school district, where he has worked for the past 15 years and is currently a sixth-grade teacher.

Chris Reddy ’92 was a three-time All-New England athlete who is the only RIC wrestler to be part of five consecutive New England Championship teams from 1988-92. He was named a Div. III Scholar All-American in 1992 and received the John E. Hetherman Award that same year.

The Cranston native earned All-New England honors three times during his career, placing second at 167 lbs. in 1992, fourth at 167 lbs. in 1991 and sixth at 177 lbs. in 1988.

Reddy has gone on to prominence as an associate scientist in the Department of Marine Chemistry and Geochemistry at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. In 2003, he was awarded the Office of Naval Research Young Investigator Prize, a prestigious award given annually to the nation’s best and brightest academic researchers. Reddy has provided expert testimonies on oil spills for the U.S. Congress, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the United States Coast Guard.

Reddy received RIC’s American Institute of Chemists Award in 1992 and was named to the RIC’s Alumni Honor Roll in 1998.

Len Silva ’87 was a standout second baseman and shortstop at RIC from 1984-87. The Seekonk, Mass., native played in 101 career games, finishing with a .362 career batting average and 64 stolen bases, the most in College history. He earned All-New England honors as a junior in 1986, when he played in 30 games, totaling 32 runs scored, 40 hits, a .354 batting average, seven doubles, two triples, eight home runs, 19 RBI and 24 stolen bases.

As a sophomore in 1985, Silva played in 25 games and hit .380. Silva was named to RIC’s All-75th Anniversary Baseball Team in 2005, which included the top 19 players in the history of RIC baseball.

He is currently vice president and regional business banking officer for Citizens Bank, a company he has been with for over 12 years. He is also president of the Seekonk Little League.

Melissa (Andrescavage) Veresko ’95 was a center on the RIC women’s basketball team from 1990-94. The Chepechlet native played in 88 career games, totaling 762 points, 599 rebounds, 52 assists, 32 blocks and 42 steals in her four-year career as an Anchorwoman. Veresko ranks fourth all-time at RIC in career rebounds.

As a senior in 1993-94, Veresko played in 27 games, averaging 11.3 points and 8.3 rebounds per game. In her junior year, she played in 18 games, averaging 8.7 points and 7.9 rebounds per game. As a sophomore, she played in 24 games, averaging 11.3 points and 8.4 rebounds per game, and while a freshman, she played in 19 games, averaging 1.5 points and 1.5 rebounds per game.

She was named to RIC’s All-75th Anniversary Women’s Basketball Team in 2005.

Veserko is currently a social worker with St. Antoine’s Residence in North Smithfield.
The four-part Wednesday Chamber Music Series, which began Sept. 17, will feature three upcoming concerts in the theme “Celebrity Series: Classics to Cabaret.” Judith Lynn Stillman, artistic director of the series and RIC’s artist-in-residence, will perform in two of the concerts. Each 50-minute recital is free of charge, and will be held on Wednesday at 1 p.m. in the Nazarian Center’s Sapinsley Hall. A question-and-answer session with the artists follows each performance.

The Aurea Ensemble performs Music and Poetry on Oct. 29. Actor Nigel Gore, violinist Charles Sherba, violist Consuelo Sherba, and harmonica virtuoso Chris Turner combine talents to create a unique mix of poetry, drama, epistles, puppetry, and classical and folk music.

Cellist Michael Reynolds of the Muir String Quartet and pianist Stillman will perform in the concert Bravo Beethoven on Nov. 19. Reynolds tours North America and Europe annually, and is a professor at Boston University, where he has been in residence since 1983.

On Dec. 10, the series will conclude with Folk Dance and Cabaret: Bartok and Poulenc. Stillman will be joined by flutist Paula Robison, who has been hailed as “an absolute wonder” by The New York Times.

The RIC Theatre presentation Anna in the Tropics by Nilo Cruz will run Nov. 12-16 in the Nazarian Center’s Forman Theatre. Shows are at 8 p.m., Nov. 12-15, with 2 p.m. matinees on Nov. 15 and 16.

The play, set in Tampa, Fla., in 1929, looks at workers in a cigar factory and the lector who reads them novels and news, amid economic hard times and fading traditions. The lector, whose readings include Tolstoy’s Anna Karenina, offers a vivid and emotional reminder of a world beyond the workers’ own, in which the possibilities seem so much wider. Anna in the Tropics received a Pulitzer Prize in 2003. Cruz said that he wrote the play in the hopes that audiences will leave more aware of the importance of art, literature and fiction in our lives.

The play was first staged in 2002 at the New Theatre in Coral Gables, Fla., where Cruz was playwright-in-residence. Nehasau deGannes, RIC assistant professor of theatre, will direct the RIC production. The Providence resident holds an MFA from Brown University, and is also a graduate of the Trinity Rep Conservatory.

Tickets are available at the Roberts Hall Box Office. Prices are $15 general admission, $12 for senior citizens and $5 for students with proper ID. For more information, call (401) 456-8144.

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On Dec. 10, the series will conclude with Folk Dance and Cabaret: Bartok and Poulenc. Stillman will be joined by flutist Paula Robison, who has been hailed as “an absolute wonder” by The New York Times.

The RIC Theatre presentation Anna in the Tropics by Nilo Cruz will run Nov. 12-16 in the Nazarian Center’s Forman Theatre. Shows are at 8 p.m., Nov. 12-15, with 2 p.m. matinees on Nov. 15 and 16.

The play, set in Tampa, Fla., in 1929, looks at workers in a cigar factory and the lector who reads them novels and news, amid economic hard times and fading traditions. The lector, whose readings include Tolstoy’s Anna Karenina, offers a vivid and emotional reminder of a world beyond the workers’ own, in which the possibilities seem so much wider. Anna in the Tropics received a Pulitzer Prize in 2003. Cruz said that he wrote the play in the hopes that audiences will leave more aware of the importance of art, literature and fiction in our lives.

The play was first staged in 2002 at the New Theatre in Coral Gables, Fla., where Cruz was playwright-in-residence. Nehasau deGannes, RIC assistant professor of theatre, will direct the RIC production. The Providence resident holds an MFA from Brown University, and is also a graduate of the Trinity Rep Conservatory.

Tickets are available at the Roberts Hall Box Office. Prices are $15 general admission, $12 for senior citizens and $5 for students with proper ID. For more information, call (401) 456-8144.
Free RIC Dance concerts for youngsters Oct. 22-24

RIC DANCE COMPANY

Local schoolchildren in grades K-12 will be treated to the RIC Dance Company’s Annual Mini-Concert Series from Oct. 22-24 at 10 a.m.

Offered free to children in Rhode Island and nearby Massachusetts since the 1990s, these 45-minute dance performances and demonstrations provide young audiences with an informative and enjoyable introduction to contemporary dance forms. Repertoire selections will include works by NYC-based Gus Solomons, jr, alumni Kelfie Ann Lynch as well as local choreographers Eva Marie Pacheco, Michael Bolger and Katie McNamara.

For information or to reserve space for your group, contact Angelica Vesella, managing director, at (401) 456-9791 or acardente1@ric.edu.

Variety Night Back to School

Sept. 18

Associate professor Karl Benziger entertains the crowd with his guitar solo.

Below, students Mohsin Siddiqui (left) and Nick Hurley (right) perform.

At left are two members of the band Shryne, Anthony Mattera on guitar and Jeff Cruz on drums.

Celebrated novelist Edmund White reads from his work on Tuesday, October 14, at 8 p.m. in the Nazarian Center’s Sapinsley Hall.

The RIC Jazz Workshop Combos Performance, directed by legendary saxophonist and RIC educator Greg Abate, will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 15, at 7 p.m. in the Nazarian Center’s Forman Theatre.

The Faculty Recital, sponsored by the Music, Theatre, and Dance Department will take place on Thursday, Oct. 16, at 8 p.m. in the Nazarian Center’s Sapinsley Hall.

On Nov. 16, the RIC Chamber Orchestra and String Chamber Ensembles collaborate with student soloists under the direction of John Sumerlin, RIC professor of music. The concerts will be held at 7:30 p.m. in the Nazarian Center’s Sapinsley Hall.

Free-admission events

Concert Cancellation

The RIC High School Invitational Choral Concert scheduled for Nov. 7 has been canceled.

In Bannister Gallery’s upcoming exhibit Brian Shure: Recent Paintings, the artist takes up the way people fit into and use architectural spaces. His works will be on display from Nov. 6-26. An opening reception will be held on Nov. 6 at 5 p.m.

Shure says of his approach, “I am a crafts-person, an artist, before I am a cultural anthropologist or whatever other term might describe someone who carries out this kind of study. We observe images with a different level of attention when we look at the rendering of people than when we look at the rendering of architecture, and I am fascinated with the way different levels of resolution in representing these interwoven subjects color our perception of them when they appear in the same image. We read the static, simultaneously available surface of a drawing or painting very differently from the way we interpret what we see happening in the space in front of us.”

Calling attention to the play of light on the built environment, Shure has been Shure’s subject matter for the past 15 years. In his newest works, the difference between acceptable levels of resolution for people and buildings has increasingly become a central concern.

This exhibition is curated by Richard Whitten, RIC assistant professor of art.

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

October Concert to feature Providence Ballet Theatre on Oct. 24

The RIC Dance Company’s October Concert with Providence Ballet Theatre will be held on Friday, Oct. 24, at 8 p.m. in the Nazarian Center’s Sapinsley Hall. This performance marks Providence Ballet Theatre’s first professional concert and will feature the works of Eva Marie Pacheco and Michael Bolger.

Pacheco has been the owner and director of Providence Ballet (www.providenceballet.org) for 13 years as well as its satellite school Providence Ballet @ Aim High Academy in East Greenwich. She joined the dance faculties of RIC in 2004 and Brown University this year. Pacheco is also the artistic director of the Providence Youth Ballet, which made its performance debut at the Greenwich Odeum in the spring of 2004.

A Rhode Island Native, Pacheco is currently performing with the Island Moving Company (IMC) of Newport, and can be found working with Colleen Cavanaugh of Providence and carolsomersDANCE of Boston.

She was a founding member of Festival Ballet under the direction of Christine Hennessey and Winthrop Corey, and also toured with the Everett Dance Theatre in The Science Project and Body of Work. As a choreographer, she has created several works for Festival Ballet, including Los Caminos and In the Mood, and for IMC, most recently, Je Ne Regrette Rein. Pacheco’s first full-length ballet, Twas the Night before Christmas, premiered in December 1995 with IMC. In the winter of 2002, she was instrumental in mounting A Newport Nutcracker at Rosecliff for IMC.

General admission for the October Concert is $14, with discounts for groups, senior citizens and students. Call (401) 456-9791.
Pianist Steven Mayer presents a different take on American music Nov. 9

By Ray Ragosta
Staff Writer

Steven Mayer is a pianist on a mission. And that mission is to make sense of American music.

American music has benefited from a close association between its serious and popular sides. Sometimes a figure inhabits both sides successfully; for instance, Leonard Bernstein, who composed such larger-scale "classical" works as the Kaddish Symphony as well as the musical "West Side Story"—Dallas Morning News

"As well as the musical as the theatre hit<br>"The critic Wilfred Mellers said of<br>"It also made use of "chopinian" dances, such as the quadrille."

Recalling a time when music lovers played and not just listened to music, he commented that there were "pianos all over the place in the late 1800s" and lots of people were playing ragtime.

"I also had some interesting fans in Europe, one of which Mayer made special note of: "Brahms liked ragtime, and it's a little known fact that he wanted to compose a ragtime piece, though he didn't have the time." Joplin also represents a crossover of classical forms with his ragtime opera "Treemonisha." Although not a staple of the repertoire, it was performed in Providence just last February."

A fitting culmination of the recital is the work of Art Tatum, whom Mayer called "arguably the greatest piano player in the history of jazz." And noted that the year 2009 will mark the centenary of Art Tatum's birth. Mayer has some solid support in his opinion; Tatum's admirers included Vladimir Horowitz, who would go to jazz clubs to hear Tatum, as well as Duke Ellington and Oscar Peterson. Nearly blind from birth, Tatum worked in the Harlem stride piano tradition, which was initiated by James P. Johnson, who called the John-Charles Ruthrauff and, for some, had his best work in intimate settings. For concertgoers who would like to spend a Sunday afternoon reevaluating the music.
Proactive Soccer is born at RIC

By Marah Roach
Staff Writer

When thinking of soccer, one might picture superstar David Beckham and Mia Hamm, but two Rhode Island College employees, Stephen Cooke and Paul Janaway ’03, are becoming well known for their soccer instruction.

Cooke, a senior information technologist in User Support Services, and Janaway, a physical education teacher at the Henry Barnard School, have produced two instructional soccer DVDs. Most recently, they released Soccer Tricks, which teaches soccer players 25 different tricks. Both Cooke and Janaway are from England, where soccer is the sport of choice.

“When you look at other soccer tricks DVDs they’re very expensive, and in many cases very over produced,” said Cooke. “There’s a lot of fluff before you actually get to what it’s about. That’s what we didn’t want to do. We just concentrated on getting to the point.”

Their first DVD, The Parent Soccer Coach, which was released in February 2006, is geared towards parents who have never coached before, or coaches who are looking for new ideas. The DVD features Janaway teaching kids basic skills and drills needed to excel in soccer, and includes visuals such as graphics and animation.

Some of the children in the DVD were former HBS students of Janaway’s, but all were selected based on their patience and ability to focus, rather than their skill. While filming, Cooke and Janaway faced obstacles like time management and shooting with two different cameras, one at ground level and one elevated. The filming and editing process took about a year.

The idea for their company, Proactive Soccer: Thinking Ahead of the Game, came not only from their love of the sport, but also because Janaway would often be asked to coach, something he didn’t have the time to do personally, so Cooke suggested sharing Janaway’s knowledge of soccer by making a film of him instructing. They met several years ago at RIC through the simple act of holding a door open. Cooke held the door for Janaway, and when Cooke heard “thank you” he immediately recognized Janaway’s accent.

“We are from the same area of England and share a common interest in soccer. His background in computer and films complemented my desire to develop and showcase soccer in the USA,” explained Janaway.

Soccer fans might soon be seeing a lot more of the two: they are currently in negotiations to sell multiple DVD copies to an instructional soccer league in New York, in which there are over 120 teams. The East Side Sports League in Providence has already purchased The Parent Soccer Coach.

They are also considering making Soccer Tricks 2. Janaway’s basic lesson for the soccer coach? “In English class you learn letters to make words, then put words together to make sentences, then use sentences to tell a story. Drills and practices are our letters and words, and the game is our story.”

Cooke and Janaway marketed the DVDs on the YouTube and MySpace websites. The clips on YouTube have received about 50,000 hits so far.

One customer review of The Parent Soccer Coach stated, “As a parent, a soccer enthusiast, and a coach, I watched this, learned from it, and can recommend it. The shots are slow, but the instructional style are sound. Get it before the other team does.”

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Cycle patrol adds to RIC police visibility on campus

By LuzJennifer Martinez ’08 Staff Writer

This fall, Safety and Security at Rhode Island College is combating the campus on a whole new set of wheels. Along with traditional patrol cars, a newly acquired Trek mountain bike is propelling designated patrol officers around RIC. The bicycle, which was donated by the RIC Athletics Department, allows patrol officers Frank Duffy and Gary Petrarca to reach remote places like the campus quad.

Fred Ghiò, deputy director of RIC Safety and Security, explained that Duffy makes rounds on the bike during the first shift, from 7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., with Petrarca riding from 3:30-7:30 p.m. A third shift from 11:30 p.m.-7:30 a.m. is still being planned. The bicycle will also need the necessary lighting to ensure secure nighttime patrol.

The bike patrol will enable officers reach their destinations more quickly and efficiently, and allow them to be easily spotted by everyone on campus. “The officers [on bicycle] are very visible,” said Ghiò. “If students need assistance, they can just flag them down.”

The patrol, which will take place only during warm weather months, provides what Duffy called “good PR.”

For the officers on the bike, the same rules of duty apply, and students and staff are, as always, encouraged to ask for help when necessary. “If there is a car problem, we have battery packs to help,” said Ghiò. “We can’t put devices on cars because of liabilities but we have battery packs to help,”

Ghiò said Tencher offered the suggestion for the two-wheel patrol over campus police, who had been discussing how to increase police visibility. Ghiò said Tencher offered to purchase the bike through Athletic Department funds and was given a wholesale price on essential bike equipment from NBX Bikes store owner and RIC alumn Matt Bodziony ’93.

Tencher is confident that the patrolling will foster a sense of well being within the campus community. “This is a model on campus for what is happening in town – community policing. You can take a team approach to anything and that’s what this is – a team approach to making the campus safer.”

So far, the response from the

Grants—

RITES project’s core partners are RIC, URI, Johnston Public Schools and the Rhode Island Department of Education. Supporting partners include Brown University, the Community College of Rhode Island, the Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation and the Concord Consortium. The Education Alliance at Brown University will evaluate the project. In addition to de Oliveira, other principal investigators are Daniel P. Murray (co-lead), a geosciences professor at URI, Kathryn Crowley, assistant superintendent for science and technology at Johnston schools; Peter McLaren, science and technology specialist with the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education; and Robert F. Tinker, president of the Concord Consortium. Ten other RIC faculty members are listed as senior personnel on the project.

Rhode Island College began the political campaign season with a visit from Congressman Jim Langevin (D-RI) of the second congressional district, who participated in a town hall meeting at Adams Library on Sept. 4. Langevin fielded questions that were on the minds of the campus community, and many of the topics discussed mirrored national discourse. Approximately 100 RIC students, faculty and staff were on hand for the event, many eager to ask questions.

[Langevin’s] long career in public service began here at Rhode Island College after being elected to Student Community Government,” said RIC President Nancy Carriuolo. Langevin, a 1990 graduate of RIC, said that his involvement at the College motivated him seek election for political office.

Jim Hummel, political reporter and host of the event, characterized Langevin as “a newcomer who had no fear going down the halls of Congress” when he was first elected to office. Langevin has since taken on issues such as healthcare, the environment, stem cell research, and fuel costs. He also supported the Higher Education Opportunity Act, where he has advocated for the expansion of Pell Grants that provide funding for qualified students.

Langevin is well known in Congress for his stand on healthcare. “I believe every American should receive the same healthcare as members of Congress,” said Langevin, who went on to say that 80 percent of the uninsured are working families.

The discussion then moved to national and foreign policy. When asked at what point can the United States exit Iraq, Langevin had a straightforward response. “We need to do it now,” said Langevin.

Students from nursing, communications, history and women’s studies classes attended the meeting, asked questions and took an active role in being informed voters. Assuming an active role in government is one of the major themes Langevin has maintained, a theme that was rooted in his involvement here at the College.

Register to vote, write to your congressman, know how the process works,” said Langevin. “Government can work two ways: decisions can be made for you or you can take part in the process.”
About the keynote speaker

Peggy McIntosh, who will deliver the keynote address at the Nov. 1 Promising Practices conference, is associate director of the Wellesley Centers for Women at Wellesley College in Massachusetts. She is founder and co-director of the United States S.E.E.D. Project on Inclusive Curriculum (Seeking Educational Equity and Diversity). McIntosh consults widely in the United States and throughout the world with college and school faculty who are creating more gender-fair and multicultural curricula. In 1988, she published the groundbreaking article, “White Privilege and Male Privilege: A Personal Account of Coming to See Correspondences through Work on Women’s Studies.” This analysis and its shorter form, “White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack,” (1989), have been instrumental in putting the dimension of privilege into discussions of gender, race and sexuality in the United States.

McIntosh has taught at the Brearley School, Harvard University, Trinity College (Washington, D.C.), the University of Denver, the University of Durham (England) and Wellesley College. She is co-founder of the Rocky Mountain Women’s Institute and has been consulting editor of the Sage: A Scholarly Journal on Black Women. She has consulted with women on 22 Asian campuses on the development of women’s studies and programs to bring materials from women’s studies into the main curriculum. She has consulted frequently in China and Korea. In addition to having two honorary degrees, she is the recipient of the Klingenstein Award for Distinguished Educational Leadership from Columbia Teachers College.

For more information, please contact Marie R. Fraky, Associate Director, at (401) 456-8476 or mfraky@ric.edu.
PawSox curriculum guide brings baseball into local K-8 classrooms

By Hillary Feeney ’10
Staff Writer
Chico State Exchange Student

Baseball fever will infect area elementary and middle school classrooms soon. In two weeks, students will identify baseball players’ centers of gravity and their bat weights. In social studies class, students will research the history of the Pawtucket Red Sox. And in language arts class, students will learn how to write a news lead about a baseball game.

The idea of bringing baseball into local K-8 classrooms coincides with School Celebration Days at McCoy Stadium and applies baseball to students from kindergarten to eighth grade.

“The PawSox are interested in growing the game, even though they sell out day after day,” said Robert Cvornyek, professor of history and secondary education. “They want to get young people interested and export it around the world to keep the game healthy and viable.”

The curriculum guide covers the four core areas of elementary and middle school education. Each lesson plan includes ways to apply the lesson to actual game. Robin Kirkwood Auld, associate professor of health and physical education, thinks that this curriculum guide will help students grasp classroom concepts and harness their energy in a positive way.

“All the students will be excited about learning and getting ready for their part in the baseball game,” she said.

The PawSox also plan to partner with Noel Chartier, Kerri Tunnicliffe, Robin Kirkwood Auld and Robert Cvornyek to discuss the PawSox curriculum guide that they developed.

Shinn fall benefit to provide a taste of the world abroad on Nov. 13

By Elli Panichas
Shinn Fund Marketing Committee

The Ridgway F. Shinn Jr. Study Abroad Fund is hosting a fall benefit to provide scholarships for Rhode Island College students to study abroad. Join us for a night of international food and fun entertainment on Tuesday, Nov. 13, at 6 p.m. at the Fabrie Line Club on 200 Allens Avenue at the Port of Providence.

All are invited to savor the tastes and textures of cuisines where Shinn Scholars have studied – Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia and South America. Eno Fine Wines’ sommelier, Nick Shagure, will provide a tasting of intriguing Australian wines. International recording artist Cory Pesuturo will offer a celebration of the rhythms and tempos of the continents. His extensive résumé includes appearances at the White House for President and Mrs. Clinton on four occasions.

The Shinn Fund Marketing Committee, chaired by RIC alumna Mesrine (Chris) Florio ’63, has added elements of fun and mystery to the event. Guests may sip Arabic coffee, and then have their fortune read in the cup, all sweetened by fabulous and exotic desserts they can enjoy at the event, or take home. And, they can partake in conversation with Shinn scholars who have studied abroad.

On Sept. 10, part of RIC’s parking lot A became a farmer’s market, open to campus personnel, students and the surrounding community. The market is open on Wednesdays from 4-6 p.m. through Oct. 29.
Debate Watch Cont’d

In the debate would actually change viewers’ minds. He posited that undecided voters would base their decision on the candidates’ character traits. Harold Metts, Rhode Island senator and Baptist deacon, feared that some voters would base their choices on the candidates’ ethnicities. Elizabeth Roberts, lieutenant governor of Rhode Island, thought that politicians were spending too much time emphasizing their differences in an attempt to win the election. Scott Avedisian, mayor of Warwick, wondered if the progressives would stick to their philosophy or retreat to their old ways for fear of “breaking new ground.” Jonathan Scott, challenger of Congressional incumbent Patrick Kennedy for District 1 in Rhode Island, thought that the questions and controversies could be solved by voters’ influence. “The roadmap out of this problem is the Constitution,” Scott said. “Bring the power to the people rather than to the government.”

DebateWatch also featured Carol Mumford, Republican state representative; Vincent “Buddy” Cianci, WPRO-AM radio talk show host and ABC-6 political analyst; Daniel McKee, mayor of Cumberland; and Charles Lombardi, mayor of North Providence.

DebateWatch gave attendees the chance to voice their opinions about the candidates. Most of the audience members had already decided which candidate to support when asked by investigative reporter Jim Hummel, host for the evening. Still, their questions indicated a need for reassurance from their candidates of choice about how they will address the issues facing the country. A RIC student working on a degree in education voiced concerns about graduating from college in debt and being unable to find a job. An Amnesty International representative wondered what the candidates were “going to do about the blatant and obvious violations of the Declaration of Human Rights.” An Obama supporter demanded an answer to why citizens’ rights were being stripped by the government. “Some of my freedoms were taken away during the Bush administration after the Sept. 11 attacks. I’d like them back.”

These concerns are an important aspect of having an “army of informed and active citizens,” according to Kathleen Connell, AARP Rhode Island state director and former secretary of state. AARP co-sponsored the College’s DebateWatch as part of its Divided We Fail healthcare platform. “We need to bring the voices of millions of Americans to bear on the next administration and Congress,” Connell said. “Voters should send the message that the time for partisan politics is over. Washington needs to end the gridlock and fix what needs fixing now.”

Following the town hall forum, the audience watched the first of three planned debates in which presidential candidates John McCain and Barack Obama offered solutions to the problems that need fixing. Attendees then shared their opinions and reactions to the debate through small-group discussions led by trained facilitators. Feedback from the focus groups was released the next day to the Commission on Presidential Debates and media sources.

The Impact of the Media on Presidential Politics as told by members of the media during a Sept. 18 forum in Algie Hall brought, from left, WRNI news director Jim Carpio; Frank Coletta, award-winning WJAR-10 news anchor and RIC adjunct professor; radio talk show host and political analyst Vincent “Buddy” Cianci; and Jim Baron, Pawtucket Times reporter and columnist.

From pregnancy to pigs: how media impacts the presidential campaign

By Hillary Feeney ’10
Staff Writer
Chico State Exchange Student

From the rampant publicity surrounding Sarah Palin’s pregnant teenage daughter to Barack Obama’s “lipstick on a pig” comment, members of the local media expressed concern about the quality of campaign news coverage in a Rhode Island College forum last month. On Sept. 18, a panel of four media guests, which included Jim Baron, Pawtucket Times political reporter and columnist; Vincent “Buddy” Cianci, WPRO-AM radio talk show host and ABC-6 political analyst; Frank Coletta, WJAR-10 news anchor; and John Carpio, WRNI news director, gathered as part of the DebateWatch 2008 initiative to discuss The Impact of the Media on the 2008 Presidential Campaigns. Rhode Island College students and community members filled Algie Hall 110 to hear the exchange. “There are two things people either love or hate, or love to hate: politics and the media,” said Jane Fusco, RIC’s director of news and public relations, as an introduction. The panel addressed the changing face of the media and its effect on the presidential election. The media has effectively covered the candidates’ stances on important issues such as the war and the failing economy, said Valerie Endress, the panel moderator and a RIC associate professor of political communications. Instead, the panelists agreed that media coverage has dwelled on personal stories such as the pregnancy of Republican vice-presidential candidate Palin’s 17-year-old daughter and Democratic presidential candidate Obama’s “lipstick on a pig” comment, which some misconstrued as an insult to Palin. “News coverage shifts significantly when some tasty morsel of information appears, even if it has little to do with the campaign,” Endress said. Endress recalled a time when the journalistic standard was to use small facts to reveal big truths. She asked the panel members if this goal is still relevant in today’s fast-paced media.

Baron seemed skeptical. “You have to give the people what they want: sexy issues, horserace and polls. People will tune in and watch that,” Baron said. “The media either has to roll with what is popular, unfortunately, or force feed audiences dry politics.”

Cianci insisted that the media has the responsibility to uncover stories, even unpopular ones. “The media has an obligation to frame issues,” Cianci said. “The Constitutional Foundation of this country enables free speech and protects the pamphleteer who speaks out.” The consolidation of the media into fewer outlets has compromised its character, Coletta said. “As corporations take over the media, the newsroom is losing its separate integrity in exchange for profit,” he said.

Coletta and Baron also cited shortcomings in the public’s attention span as part of the issue. Baron suggested that the electorate needs political training before its thirst for accurate reporting dries up completely. Cianci charged many talk show hosts and news programs with further confusing audience members through their lack of balance. “There are many people with agendas on the TV and radio masquerading as journalists,” Cianci said. “For those hosts, the facts that the audience needs just get in the way.”

Carpio remained optimistic by affirming the media’s commitment to providing accurate political knowledge during the campaigns and the public’s ability to digest it. He added that audience members “need to be selective and critical” when hearing and reading news.

To the RIC community:

A class in the School of Management at RIC is conducting a research project on continuing education in the state of Rhode Island, and more specifically here at RIC.

To achieve the desired results, your help is needed. Please fill out a survey at the following link:

www.whatsnewssurvey.wetpaint.com/

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Eric Gelsomino
Group Leader
Market Research Group 2

A RIC student working on a Sept. 18 forum in Alger Hall brought, from left, WRNI news director Jim Carpio; Frank Coletta, award-winning WJAR-10 news anchor and RIC adjunct professor; radio talk show host and political analyst Vincent “Buddy” Cianci; and Jim Baron, Pawtucket Times reporter and columnist.

The Impact of the Media on Presidential Politics as told by members of the media during a Sept. 18 forum in Algie Hall brought, from left, WRNI news director John Carpio; Frank Coletta, award-winning WJAR-10 news anchor and RIC adjunct professor; radio talk show host and political analyst Vincent “Buddy” Cianci; and Jim Baron, Pawtucket Times reporter and columnist.

From pregnancy to pigs: how media impacts the presidential campaign

By Hillary Feeney ’10
Staff Writer
Chico State Exchange Student

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Eric Gelsomino
Group Leader
Market Research Group 2
Beautiful weather, exciting events and fun activities made for a memorable Homecoming at RIC on Saturday, Oct. 4.

Runners chase away the morning chill as they compete in the RIC 5K road race.

Hundreds enjoy an old-fashioned cookout, always a Homecoming favorite.

An inflatable obstacle course gives active youngsters plenty of action.

RIC President Nancy Carriuolo and Adams Library director Hedi BenAicha cut the ribbon to officially open the new computer lab in the library donated by members of the class of 1958 on the occasion of their 50th reunion.

The rowdy, roving brass band What Cheer? Brigade keeps the music in motion during Homecoming.

Members of the RIC sorority Sigma Iota Theta Anel Pichardo (left) and Jena Lataille hand out balloons during student activity day.

Students crowd the mall area to check out the clubs and activities available on campus.

Rhode Island State Police demonstrate the need for using seatbelts by simulating a rollover accident where the passengers did not have their seatbelts fastened.

Student Activities Day