2-9-2009

What's News At Rhode Island College

Rhode Island College

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Viola Davis garners Golden Globe, Oscar nominations for Doubt

Viola Davis ’88, HD ’02 has won plenty of accolades for acting in a career that has taken her from her hometown of Central Falls to Hollywood. Davis, who earned a BA in theatre at RIC, was recently nominated for both a Golden Globe and Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress in the film Doubt. Set in 1964, it centers on a Catholic school in the Bronx in which a nun grows

By Marah Roach
Staff Writer

RIC to offer tuition break to students in the expanded metropolitan area

The new Metropolitan Tuition Policy allows students in nearby Connecticut and Massachusetts to pay in-state tuition rates plus 50 percent. The plan takes effect in fall 2009.

By Jane Fusco
Editor

Students who live in Connecticut and Massachusetts, but still within a 50-mile radius of Rhode Island College, will now pay in-state tuition rates plus 50 percent, as part of the College’s new 50/50 tuition policy for the expanded metropolitan region. Previously, only students from Massachusetts who lived within a 20-mile radius of the College were given the discount.

The expanded region for Connecticut now includes Windham County; all areas of New London County except Lyme, East Lyme and Old Lyme; and Tolland County except Bolton, Hebron, Somers and Vernon, for a total of 89 cities and towns whose residents are eligible for the discount.

STEM Center classrooms add tech to teaching

The STEM Center’s technology-enhanced classrooms, located in Henry Barnard School, have the capability to use wireless tablet PCs and video conferencing as well as the ability to capture and record lectures, stream them over the Internet, and save them for later viewing. At far left are faculty members J. Andres Ramirez, Gerri August and Connie Horton working with a tablet PC during a recent training day. At left, Hugh Meier from Broad Reach, the technology consulting company that designed the rooms, works with account rep Mike Bohan from HB Communications reviewing the video capture options of the system. According to Meier, “these rooms have been designed for flexibility and functionality, and are truly among the best equipped classrooms anywhere in the world.”
In Memoriam – Pauline Ladd, retired RIC art professor

Artist and retired RIC art professor Pauline Ladd died on Jan. 20 after a short illness. She was 93. Ladd began at RIC in 1966 as an assistant professor of art. She was appointed professor emerita in 1982. Among the courses she taught at RIC was Art as Therapy, which examined a variety of teaching strategies to better understand what would motivate and involve those in need of therapy. Ladd also taught at Mt. Pleasant High School, George West Junior High School, Brown University Extension and the Rhode Island School of Design.

Winner of many awards for her art, she exhibited her work in local festivals and at galleries in New York and New England, including at the Institute of Contemporary Art in Boston and the Providence Art Club, where she was a member.

In an article about her exhibit at the Art Club, reviewer Bradford F. Swan wrote, “Mrs. Ladd continues to be one of our more interesting artists, a restless searcher for more effective statements.”

Ladd earned an MAT in art education from Brown University, and an MFA and BS from the Rhode Island School of Design. Born in Brooklyn, N.Y., she moved to Rhode Island in 1938, and had lived in Massachusetts since 2006. She was married to Milton Ladd, now deceased. She is survived by a sister, two daughters, two sons-in-law, and four grandchildren.
Obama’s inauguration: A personal perspective

By Katy Dorchies ’09
Staff Writer

My generation has experienced more than its share of profound historic moments: the Oklahoma City bombing, the Columbine High School shootings, the impeachment trial of President Bill Clinton, the panic of Y2K, Sept. 11, and the initiation of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

But on Jan. 20, 2009, I, along with several of my adventurous friends, witnessed what may have been the first, not only profound, but also positive, historic moment of the millennial era: the inauguration of President Barack Obama.

While the media has reported on the record-breaking crowds and the success of Obama’s first speech as president, for me, the heart of the inauguration was the encounters I had with individuals in the crowd, who, like me, experienced history.

Our train from Rhode Island arrived in Washington, D.C., at 7 a.m., and we stepped into the nation’s capital under the glow of a cold sunrise. Immediately, we were herded like cattle down closed roads, directed blindly by often-misinformed officials. Yet, shoulder to shoulder, bewildered and lost, nobody panicked. Nobody shoved. Nobody yelled, or blamed or rioted. Instead, we smiled and a four-year-old in tow told us, “Don’t bother going towards D Street from here unless you have tickets!” She smiled at us, falling back into the sea of the crowd.

As we drifted away from downtown, circumventing the mall, we began our trek towards the roads that lay behind the Washington Monument. We found ourselves sidling up beside Interstate 295, one of the three major highways providing entry to our nation’s capital. “They’re on the highway,” a young girl in front of us shouted to someone we couldn’t see. The highway had been shut down to motor vehicles, and overcome by pedestrians. A flood of Americans, in strollers, wheelchairs, on foot, waving flags, swollen with layers of shirts and jackets, bracing the wind, poured down the interstate, and up the on and off ramps leading into the capital.

We spoke briefly with a few members of the National Guard, who shrugged their shoulders saying, “We’ve never seen anything like this.”

Frozen hands fumbled for cameras as a friend of mine leaned over, and murmured in my ear, “One person did this,” referring to the magnitude of the crowd. We crossed the highway on foot, wound down ramps, and climbed over medians. As we merged back onto the roads of the city, people leaned out of their homes, stretching their arms and banners and flags down towards the crowds marching by.

One family had taken out a video camera, “Where’d you come from?” they shouted down to us. “Milwaukee,” an elderly man to my left responded. Somewhere behind me, “Topekaaaaal!” A group off to my right screamed in unison, “New Orleans, baby!” I pumped my fist up to them, wanting to make sure that New England was represented on the recording and in the street. “Rhode Island,” I shouted.

I remember the five-year-old girl who tripped and fell behind her mother in the crowd, and the stranger who scooped her up in his arms, passing her calmly back to her mother; the young lady who heard my friend mention ibuprofen and, without question, whipped out a travel pack of headache reliever; the man I’d never seen before, who helped me climb up and balance on the branches of the trees, shouted up at us, “Don’t worry, you’re not missing anything. All we can see from up here is more people!”

The speech and the swearing-in were the things that we’ve heard most about in the days since the inauguration. And while those remarkable moments too, these smaller, more personal experiences are the things that I’ll remember about that frigid January day because, while one person did this, millions of us helped.
The following student-athletes were named to the Ralph Catuogno Scholar-Athlete Honor Roll for their performance in the classroom for the fall of 2008.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sport</th>
<th>Student</th>
<th>GPA</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baseball</td>
<td>Kyle Allaire</td>
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<td>Men’s Basketball</td>
<td>Bobby Bailey</td>
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<td>Men’s Cross Country</td>
<td>Hunter Stewart</td>
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<td>Men’s Golf</td>
<td>Bryan Picinisco</td>
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<td>Kyle Dugay</td>
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<tr>
<td>Men’s Outdoor Track</td>
<td>Kyle Dugay</td>
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<tr>
<td>Men’s Soccer</td>
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<td>Jason Marin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Women’s Lacrosse</td>
<td>Adrienne Gerard</td>
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<tr>
<td>Women’s Soccer</td>
<td>Jenna Childs</td>
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<td>Women’s Tennis</td>
<td>Gabriela Batek</td>
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<tr>
<td>Women’s Volleyball</td>
<td>Sharon Corriveau</td>
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**RIC athletes heating up winter sports season**

By Scott Gibbons  
**Sports Information Director**

It’s been another great start to the winter sports season at the College with the men’s basketball and wrestling teams heading up the class.

Head coach Bob Walsh’s Anchormen are 13-4 and 7-1 in the Little East Conference as of the writing of this article, sharing the LEC top spot with UMass Dartmouth after a big 69-66 win over the Corsairs on Jan. 20.

Senior guard Tirrell Hill scored his 1,000th career point back on Dec. 11 and is currently the club’s leading scorer, averaging 13.5 points per game. Freshman forward Mason Choice scored 22 points in the win over UMass Dartmouth, and for his efforts, was named the Little East’s Rookie of the Week.

The team, though finally healthy, has a tough schedule ahead as it prepares for the Little East Tournament, which begins on Feb. 24.

Head coach Jay Jones’ wrestling team has put forth a solid effort in defense of its New England Championship last season. The club is currently 11-4 overall, 6-1 against N.E. Wrestling Association opposition, ranked No. 25 in the nation and No. 2 in the conference.

RIC placed second at the New England Dual Championships, hosted by Roger Williams on Jan. 18. The Anchormen went 3-1, and fell in the title contest, 18-17, to long-time rival Johnson & Wales.

The Anchormen have a wrestler ranked in the top eight in nine of the 10 weight classes. Senior 157 lbs. Mike Martini is 26-2 and ranked No. 1 in N.E. Two-time NEWA Rookie of the Week, Scott Legacy, is No. 2 at 133 lbs. with a 21-9 record. Sophomore 149 lbs. Kevin Sutherland leads the team with 27 wins and is also ranked second in his weight class.

The New England Championships are on Feb. 21 and 22 at Springfield College.

Head coach Marcus Reilly’s women’s basketball team won one of the biggest games in school history, downing nationally ranked Southern Maine, 82-74, on Jan. 13. The victory was just the third time the Anchorwomen defeated the Huskies and it snapped a 24-game losing streak to USM.

Freshman guard Stephanie Coro has been making some noise, having been named the Little East’s Rookie of the Week four times. She is leading the team in scoring with a 16.1 points-per-game average and 41 steals. Coro tied a RIC record with eight steals vs. Western Connecticut on Jan. 27.

Freshman forward Rachel Riley was also named the LEC’s Rookie of the Week after posting career-highs with 15 points and 16 rebounds, as the Anchorwomen defeated UMass Dartmouth, 63-49, on Jan. 20.

The Little East playoffs begin on Feb. 24.

The women’s indoor track and field team has taken part in some competitive meets, many of which have included several Div. I and II teams. RIC recently won the Coast Guard Invitational on Jan. 17.

Head coach Kevin Jackson’s club has been piling up weekly Little East individual honors. Senior Kayla Fleming, who competed at the NCAA Championships a year ago, has been named the Field Athlete of the Week after taking home a first place finish in the 600 meters at the Wesleyan Invitational on Jan. 24.

The Little East Alliance Championships will take place on Saturday, Feb. 14, at Bridgewater State.

The women’s gymnastics team has continued to raise their scores after opening the season at MIT on Jan. 10. Underclassmen dominate the roster as 10 freshmen and two sophomores have totally changed the look of the team.

Freshman Casey Lesieur has been named the Rookie Gymnast of the Week after a solid performance at the Coast Guard meet.

The senior tandem of Hunter Stewart and Dante Lopardo has led the men’s indoor track and field team.

Stewart was named the LEC’s Track Athlete of the Week after taking home a first place finish in the 600 meters at the Springfield Invitational on Dec. 6, while Lopardo was selected as the Field Athlete of the Week after placing first in the high jump at the Wesleyan Invitational on Jan. 24.

The Little East Alliance Championships will take place on Saturday, Feb. 14, at Bridgewater State.

The women’s gymnastics team has continued to raise their scores after opening the season at MIT on Jan. 10. Underclassmen dominate the roster as 10 freshmen and two sophomores have totally changed the look of the team.

Freshman Casey Lesieur has been recognized by the ECAC as its Rookie Gymnast of the Week after leading the squad on bars and beam in her first collegiate meet at MIT.
Bannister Gallery showcases notetmaker Yizhak Elyashiv in February

From Feb. 5-26, Bannister Gallery at Rhode Island College will feature the work of Israeli-born artist Yizhak Elyashiv in the exhibition Convergence. Elyashiv’s printmaking is recognized globally for being inspirational in scope and facility. His studio practice has its origins in religious reflection as an aesthetic representation. Elyashiv’s work engages an intimate scale, in which print processes are employed to offer a sense of natural forms as an expression of content playing a seductive role. His pieces also relate to the landscape by suggesting almost ephemeral notions of an atmospheric place. For the past few years, Elyashiv’s studio time has been divided between Providence, R.I., and County Mayo on the west coast of Ireland, where over the course of several artist residencies, he has been developing his Landscape/Memory series.

The project started with a response to the idea of “Sulfuric fields,” which was referenced in the testimonials of farmers during the Irish famine of the mid-1800s. They claimed that the smell of rot spread overnight through a field when its crop was lost. Elyashiv finds that sense of decay lies in contrast with the sublime and romantic beauty of the place today. In the work, the act of drawing from observation combines with the conceptual processes of measurement and mapping. Some of the finished prints and drawings include activities and movements that have been imported into the landscape: words, names, text, counting systems, gestures and more. Importing actions onto the observed field makes the artist an equal participant in the shaping and molding of the place.

Born in Jerusalem, Elyashiv received a BFA from that city’s Bezalel Academy of Art and Design in 1990 and came to the United States to earn his MFA from the Rhode Island School of Design in 1992. Elyashiv’s prints and drawings have been exhibited and collected by the Israel Museum, the British Museum, the Fogg Art Museum at Harvard University, the Yale University Art Gallery, the Brooklyn Museum, and the Cleveland Museum of Art, among others. Elyashiv was one of three winners of 2007 MacColl Johnson Fellowships from the Rhode Island Foundation and has received support from the Howard Foundation (Brown University). He teaches at the Rhode Island School of Design and at Rhode Island College, and exhibits with Reeves Contemporary in New York City. Gallery hours during exhibits are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 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.

RIC Theatre takes flight in The Seagull from Feb. 18-22.

Rhode Island College’s Mainstage Theatre will present Anton Chekhov’s The Seagull from Feb. 18-22 in the Nazarian Center’s Helen Forman Theatre. Performances are at 8 p.m., Feb. 18-21, and at 2 p.m., Feb. 21 and 22. Written in the late 19th century, The Seagull continues to resonate with contemporary audiences. At the play’s center is an aspiring young artist looking to explore new dramatic forms. The production will be directed by Naum Panovski, associate professor of theatre and director of RIC’s MFA program in theatre/performance and society. 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.

Spring Choral Concert to feature Eleanor Daley March 6

The RIC Chorus, Chamber Singers, Women’s Chorus and Men’s Chorus showcase their talents at the Spring Choral Concert on Friday, March 6, at 8 p.m. in the Nazarian Center’s Sapinsley Hall. Conducted by Teresa Coffman and Tianxu Zhou, the concert will feature guest composer and conductor Eleanor Daley. The choruses will perform her compositions What Sweeter Music, In Flanders Fields, The Lost Rose, Paradise and Requiem, which received the national choral award for outstanding choral composition of the year in 1994. A native of Ontario, Daley has been director of music at Fairlawn Avenue United Church in Toronto since 1982. She has over 100 published choral compositions and is commissioned extensively throughout North America. Her works have been widely performed, recorded and aired throughout North America, Great Britain, Europe, South Africa and the Far East. The choral music website Alliance Music Publications has described Daley’s works as “most notable for their sensitive interweaving of text and music.” General admission is $4. For more information, call (401) 456-8144.

Two RIC professors to display artwork at Bannister in March

Bannister Gallery will showcase the work of two RIC professors in “William Martin and Krisjohn Horvat: Focus on Sculpture,” a sabbatical exhibition from March 5-26. An opening reception will be held on Thursday, March 5, from 5-8 p.m. The exhibition marks the culmination of two very divergent explorations, yet held on Thursday, March 5, from 5-8 p.m. of two very divergent explorations, yet content. Both Horvat and Martin have a propensity to be very refined and defined by their attention to detail. Their work is created with references to architectural forms and motifs suggesting modernist adaptations from a mechanical source.

In Horvat’s case, sculptures reference architecture, which makes archetypes forms. Such things as gravity and cantilever play key roles in the staging of his work. Martin’s strategy comes from a fascination with machines and fasteners. His wooden and metal forms create a sense of fragment or contrived references— an aesthetic he “manufactures,” being mindful of formal issues. The resulting work has a monumentality that suggests more is to come. Martin appears to be connecting to recent modernist trends, which reordered the concepts of design. Horvat and Martin create objects and exhibits with Reeves Contemporary in New York City.

Guided tours are available by appointment 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.

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Gallery hours during exhibits are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 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. Guided tours are available by appointment to groups of 10 or more. 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.
Gov. Carcieri joins RIC President Carriuolo at launch of STEM Center at Rhode Island College

The initiative is designed to improve science and mathematics education in Rhode Island public schools. Gov. Donald L. Carcieri joined RIC President Nancy Carriuolo, Higher Education Commissioner Jack Warner, Board of Governor’s Chair Judge Frank Caprio, and Board of Regents Chair Justice Robert Flanders, at a ribbon cutting ceremony on Feb. 6 at the Henry Barnard School on the Rhode Island College campus, to celebrate the opening of the much-anticipated STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) Center at RIC.

The STEM Center is a $2.9 million statewide initiative to improve science, technology, engineering and mathematics learning in Rhode Island public high schools. 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.

“Today marks a milestone in the state’s commitment to enhance teaching and learning,” said Governor Carcieri. “The STEM Center will bring our teacher programs into the 21st century and equip the next generation of teachers with a strong, high tech foundation. It will also enable our teachers to better integrate technology into their classrooms.” – GOV. DONALD L. CARCIERI

The STEM Center will fuel the state’s economic engine.”

“Today marks a milestone in the state’s commitment to enhance teaching and learning,” said Governor Carcieri. “The STEM Center will bring our teacher programs into the 21st century and equip the next generation of teachers with a strong, high tech foundation. It will also enable our teachers to better integrate technology into their classrooms.” – GOV. DONALD L. CARCIERI

“The STEM Center will bring our teacher programs into the 21st century and equip the next generation of teachers with a strong, high tech foundation. It will also enable our teachers to better integrate technology into their classrooms.”

Gov. Carcieri and others in a classroom in the STEM Center take part in a video conference with students in a robotics lab in the Henry Barnard School.

Glênisson de Oliveira, director of the STEM Center, describes the technology available in STEM Center classrooms.

Students in John Arangio’s class in Henry Barnard School demonstrate a robotics project during the video conference with Gov. Carcieri.

At the opening of the STEM Center launch, Henry Barnard students wear hardhats donated by STEM Center contractor TRAC Builders.
RIC Dance Company highlights neo-classic music in season opener on Feb. 27

By Robert Franzblau

Conductor of the RIC Wind Ensemble and Director of Bands at RIC

The neo-classical style of 20th-century music is generally associated with the period between the world wars, though its effects and general aesthetic influenced many composers throughout the century, and can still be felt in some of today’s classical music. The RIC Wind Ensemble will perform pieces indicative of the style in its 2009 opening concert, Neo-Classics, on Friday, Feb. 27, at 8 p.m. in the Nazarian Center’s Sapinsley Hall.

In many ways a reaction to the Romantic period and what many artists felt were its excesses of emotionality, neo-classical principles included smaller performing forces, an emphasis on balance and restraint and a return to traditional compositional forms such as sonata-allegro, rondo and fugue. Looking backward became a way to look forward, so to speak, as artists and composers sought to infuse classical ideals of order, craft and balance with modern notions of rhythm, melody and harmony.

The compositional technique of counterpoint, the simultaneous sounding of two or more independent melodies, reached its apex in the baroque era, and since composers in the early part of the 20th century became enamored of this device and used it in new contexts in their own music, this period is also sometimes called the neo-baroque period. The concert opens with an eight-minute suite by the German composer Ernst Toch called Spiel for Wind Orchestra. “Spiel” roughly translates as “play” or “game,” and the work is very light-hearted and playful. Written in 1926 for the modern music festival in Donaueschingen, Germany, the work calls for a small ensemble of 28 players typical of the military bands of the day.

Toch was a rising young composer in 1926, and he was asked to write a piece for the festival by Paul Hindemith, a well-established composer and the new director of the festival. It was Hindemith’s desire to highlight new music for wind ensembles and bands at the festival because he felt this ensemble did not get the attention from the classical music community that it deserved.

The next part of our concert highlights the talents of two outstanding RIC students – Dustin Patrick of Blackstone, Mass., and Evan Gravel of Cranston who were winners of this year’s Senior Concerto Competition. They are music performance majors who will perform the Concerto Competition. They have been chosen to perform the Concerto Competition. They have been chosen to perform the Concerto Competition. They have been chosen to perform the Concerto Competition. They have been chosen to perform the Concerto Competition. They have been chosen to perform the Concerto Competition. They have been chosen to perform the Concerto Competition. They have been chosen to perform the Concerto Competition. They have been chosen to perform the Concerto Competition. They have been chosen to perform the Concerto Competition. They have been chosen to perform the Concerto Competition.

The second half of the concert begins with Ralph Vaughan Williams’ Toccata Marziale, a remarkable five-minute flurry of counterpoint. His choice of the word “toccata” in the title is an indication of a neo-baroque frame of mind, as the toccata was a highly popular form in the baroque era.

The Harvard Dictionary of Music describes the typical baroque toccata as being written “in a quickly changing succession of ‘scenes,’ an interesting exhibition of flowing imagination without any restraining and binding principle of form.” Toccata Marziale fits that description precisely.

The concert closes with Gustav Holst’s Second Suite in F for Military Band, another centerpiece of the wind band repertory. Written in 1911 and utilizing several English folk songs for its melodic material, the suite has rightfully become one of the most frequently played works in the repertoire. It too features highly effective counterpoint, and Holst combines two familiar folk tunes in a surprisingly effective climax.

General admission is $7. Call (401) 456-8144 or visit www.ric.edu/pfa for more information.

RIC’s Robert Franzblau named musical director of R.I. Wind Ensemble

Robert Franzblau, director of bands at Rhode Island College, has been selected as the Rhode Island Wind Ensemble’s music director and conductor. He began leading the adult community concert band in January 2009.

Franzblau said that the association between an all-volunteer musical organization and its conductor is both challenging and rewarding. “One of my principal objectives, in addition to presenting highly polished concerts for our audiences, is to provide our members with an opportunity for musical expression, growth and fellowship,” he said.

At RIC, Franzblau is conductor of the College’s Wind Ensemble and Chamber Winds. He also teaches courses in conducting and music education at the graduate and undergraduate levels, and serves as the assistant chair of the Department of Music, Theatre, and Dance.

In 2004, he founded the Music Institute at Rhode Island College, a summer honors camp for talented high school musicians. In addition to his duties at RIC, he serves as assistant conductor of the Metropolitan Wind Symphony (a Boston-area adult community band) and is founder and conductor of the Rhode Island Wind Orchestra, a part-time professional chamber ensemble.

Franzblau is past president and board member of the New England College Band Association. He is state chair of the National Band Association and the College Band Directors National Association, and a member of the Rhode Island Music Educators Association.

Franzblau moved to Rhode Island from the Midwest in 1987. Prior to his position at RIC, he taught music at Doane College in Nebraska, the University of Louisville and at a high school in Wisconsin. He holds degrees in music education and conducting from the University of Iowa, Northwestern University and the University of Nebraska.
Jeffrey Siegel to engage in conversation – and classical music
Feb. 18

His Keyboard Conversations® performance offers a “concert with commentary.”

Jeffrey Siegel will perform The Longevity of the Short Piece when he returns to Rhode Island College for a Performing Arts Series presentation of Keyboard Conversations®.

The concert, which combines performances of classical music with commentary about its origins and the composers, will be held Wednesday, Feb. 18, at 7:30 p.m. in the Nazarian Center’s Sapinsley Hall. The Longevity of the Short Piece will spotlight the important but often overlooked genre of short musical works. The performance will feature Mendelssohn’s Song Without Words, Grieg’s Lyric Pieces, and demonstrate a range of styles, from the feel of a miniature sonata, which Brahms’ Rhapsodies evokes, to the intense tempo and dynamic variations of Chopin’s Nocturnes.

"An unusual gift for commentary as well as extraordinary pianism bring Siegel’s audience wholly into the musical experience," said a review in The Los Angeles Times. Siegel has played in orchestras worldwide and has gained international acclaim for his musicianship and ability to enlighten his audiences. “He is able to engage both young and old, wrapping them in the warmth of both the music and his personality,” said Mitchell Gershfelden of McCallum Theatre in California, who is quoted on the Keyboard Conversations® website. Siegel returns to RIC on April 15 with Musical Pictures. Tickets for Jeffrey Siegel’s Keyboard Conversations® are $25, with discounts for seniors, RIC faculty/staff/ students/ alumni and children.

An all-student staging of The Vagina Monologues will be performed on Feb. 13 and 14 at 7 p.m. in the Nazarian Center’s Sapinsley Hall. The play, sponsored by the RIC Student Government, is presented in conjunction with V-Day, a global movement to end violence against females founded by Eve Ensler, author of The Vagina Monologues. Donations accepted.

The Mercy Seat by Neil Labute will be presented by the RIC student run theatre group Growing Stage Feb. 27 to March 1 in The Little Theatre in the Nazarian Center. Labute is a highly regarded playwright, film director and screenwriter. The play is directed by Charles LaFond. Performance times are 8 p.m. on Feb. 27 and 28, and 2 p.m. on March 1. Donations accepted.

Off the Beaten Path offers convergence of music, dance and nature on Feb. 21

Off the Beaten Path: A Jazz & Tap Odyssey fuses nature and arts in an exhilarating Performing Arts Series presentation on Sunday, Feb. 21, at 7:30 p.m. in the Auditorium in Roberts Hall. The production was created under the direction of award-winning choreographer Drika Overton and composer Paul Arslanian, in collaboration with renowned tap dancers Brenda Bufalino and Josh Hilberman.

Inspired by the nature writings of Rachel Carson, pioneer of the modern environmental movement, the performance presents an artist’s vision of our human connection to the natural world by weaving together themes from around the world through jazz music and tap dance. The four partners of Off the Beaten Path will be joined by a company of six dancers and a jazz quartet of piano, bass, drums and woodwinds.

The full ensemble creates a compelling journey of beauty and wonder for all ages to experience. Drika Overton’s career as a jazz tap artist has spanned over two decades and includes work as a producer, director, educator, performer and choreographer. Paul Arslanian is a professional pianist, composer and dance accompanist, whose score for Arabian Nights was nominated for a Barrymore Award as “Best Original Music” in 1997. Brenda Bufalino, founder of The American Tap Dance Orchestra, performs and teaches throughout the U.S. and in Israel, Italy, England, Germany, France and Australia. Josh Hilberman, a featured soloist and instructor at numerous festivals and projects, has appeared alongside many noted dancers.

Wednesday Chamber Series to offer Celebrity’ concerts

The Wednesday Chamber Music Series returns in 2009 with exciting concert presentations. “Celebrity Series: Judith Lynn Stillman and Friends” will feature 50-minute recitals, free of charge, on Wednesdays at 1 p.m. in the Nazarian Center’s Sapinsley Hall. A question-and-answer session with the artists follows each performance. Stillman, artistic director of the series, is also a professor of music and RIC’s artist-in-residence. The Cassatt String Quartet, acclaimed as one of America’s outstanding ensembles, will join Stillman on March 4. The Manhattan-based quartet has performed throughout North America, Europe and the Far East, with appearances at the Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall in New York, the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées in Paris and Maeda Hall in Tokyo. The Cassatt was formed in 1985, and was the inaugural participant in Juilliard’s Young Artists Quartet Program. It has since been heard on radio stations such as Boston’s WGBH, New York’s WQXR and WNYC, and on Canada’s CBC Radio and Radio France. The quartet marked it 20th anniversary with a series of world-premieres and a performance at the Library of Congress on the Library’s Stradivarius Collection.

World-famous clarinetist Richard Stoltzman and Stillman perform for the Celebrity recital on April 15. Stoltzman is an in-demand artist who has explored a variety of musical genres. He has been a soloist with numerous orchestras, and performed in chamber music recitals and as a jazz musician. Among his numerous recordings are works by Prokofiev and Lutoslawski with the Warsaw Philharmonic, the Skrowaczewski Concerto, and Hartke’s Landscapes with Bells with IRIS.

The New York Times has written of Stoltzman: “His throb of the clarinet and his impeccable musicianship are no secret by now, but one who has not heard him play for a time can easily forget how rich and fluid the instrument can sound from top to bottom of its range. If Mr. Stoltzman is not one of a kind, who might the others be?”

Upcoming events...

Funding for Off the Beaten Path: A Jazz & Tap Odyssey was provided by commissions from the New England Presenters, Arts Presenters of Northern New England, Fitchburg State College, Keene State College, Wesleyan University and Pentangle Council on the Arts. Additional funding was received from the New England Foundation for the Arts through an Expeditions Planning Grant.

Tickets for the performance are $35, with discounts for seniors, RIC faculty/staff/students/alumni, and children. For your convenience, tickets can be purchased as follows: in advance via Visa or MasterCard by calling (401) 456-8144 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays; online at www.ric.edu/pfa; or in person at the Roberts Hall Box Office, which will open for sales two hours prior to performance start time.

The event will have workshops available to the public. For further details on the performance and workshops, call Michael Ducharme at (401) 456-8194.
NAMING OPPORTUNITIES AT RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE

The College seeks partnership with its alumni, reunion classes, friends and the business community to help continue building a vibrant, student-centered public institution of higher learning for years to come. Naming opportunities help support RIC’s mission and vision as well as the donor’s charitable intent.

Such investments help the College achieve the goals of its Strategic Plan 2010 to:

– Ensure high quality learning opportunities for all students
– Contribute to improved economic conditions and quality of life in Rhode Island and the region through research and public service
– Recruit, enroll, retain and graduate qualified students from all backgrounds
– Assure welcoming facilities, efficient services and a sense of community for all RIC’s constituents
– Ensure a continuing resource base that allows RIC to offer excellent programs at an affordable cost

Many opportunities exist for naming of structures. Once a donor(s) pledges to name a structure, the president sees it through the approval processes specified by the College and the Board of Governors.

Gifts of endowment or gifts to academic and major college units or endowed chairs are valued naming opportunities reserved for the donor establishing such a fund. A wide array of other naming opportunities exist on campus, such as auditoriums, classrooms, spaces in buildings, seats in an auditorium, engraved granite benches and plaques for fences and trees.

For more information on naming opportunities, visit www.ric.edu/givetoric or contact the Office of Development at (401) 456-9866 or (401) 456-8105.

RIC ON THE ROAD VISITS THE SUNSHINE STATE

In January, RIC alumni and friends had the opportunity to meet President Nancy Carriuolo at Florida receptions in Naples and Hollywood. A sunny, 80-degree day greeted our 75 attendees in Naples at a reception that ended with a beautiful sunset on the green at Hibiscus Golf Club.

At their home in Hollywood, Dianne ’69 and Russell Sepielli hosted nearly 30 attendees for a luncheon. Over the years, Dianne has held several alumni receptions and hosted three different College presidents. Our most senior alumna on the trip, Stella Simons Glassman’37, attended the Hollywood Luncheon.


Two granite benches on the east campus were donated by the Class of 2007 at a cost of $1,835.

RIC on the Road visits the Sunshine State.

Among the many named areas, buildings and items made possible by the generosity of alumni and friends:

The Student Study Lounge in Alger Hall is available for naming at a cost of $25,000.

The Reinhardt Room in the Adams Library was named with a $25,000 contribution from Alice ’59 and Frederick Reinhardt.

Former Cumberland teachers reunite: Cheryl Dromgoole ’76, left, Mary Lou Head Belisle ’72, Patricia Heaney Doherty ’57.

Alumni

Please update your information on the College’s website.

To conserve printing costs, postage and the environment, please send us your email. It is used strictly for College correspondence.

For more naming opportunities, go to www.ric.edu/givetoric.
Reservation Form

Please note, space is limited for both events. Reserve early.

I would like to attend Wine 101 at Napa Valley Grille on Wednesday, February 18.
Quantity ______ X $10 per person = ______________

I would like to attend the Bruins game on March 20. Limit order to four or less.
Quantity ______ X $20 per person = ______________

Method of Payment:
____ Check (checks made payable to the RIC Alumni Association)
____ Visa ______ MasterCard

Credit Card # ____________________________ Exp. Date: __________

Name: ________________________________
Address: ______________________________
Phone: ______________________________
E-mail: ______________________________

Please return this order form to:
Alumni Office, Kauffman Center
Rhode Island College
600 Mt. Pleasant Avenue
Providence, RI 02908

To make a reservation by phone call 401-456-8086

PHONATION
RIC Alumni Office
600 Mt. Pleasant Avenue
Providence RI 02908

Checks payable to RIC Alumni Association
Or donate online at www.ric.edu/givenow

We need your help to reach 100% participation.

Please send your pledge payment today. Thank you!

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Please send your pledge payment today. Thank you!

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Phonathon, below, and Jackie Gotay are two of RIC’s fall Phonothon callers.

RESERVATION FORM

Wine 101

Join the RIC Young Alumni Friday, March 20, 7 pm, for the Providence Bruins vs. Albany River Rats Game. There are great new event spaces in the Dunkin Donuts Center and we’ve reserved a new party box for the game.

Reservations are $20 per person and include a ticket to watch the game from the party box and an $8 voucher to be used at any of the concession stands.

Last year, our Providence Bruins event sold out. Seats are limited so reply soon!

Did you ever want to know more about wine without feeling intimidated? Wednesday is wine day at the Napa Valley Grille, and the Young Alumni are hosting a networking event to learn about different varieties of wine while sampling some great hors d’oeuvres.

Napa Valley Grille, Wednesday, Feb. 18, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

A limited number of spaces are available. Reservations are $10 per person if you reserve in advance and $20 at the door.

Angela Bereche, below, and Jackie Gotay are two of RIC’s fall Phonothon callers.

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**Renaissance Providence Hotel**

2 Avenue of the Arts

Providence, RI

401-919-5000

**$5000. cash raffle**

**prize winner will be announced during the live auction**

**Check enclosed for Auction/Raffle Package Deal @ $100. each**

**(2 Auction Tickets + 1 Cash Raffle ticket)**

**Auction tickets @ $35. each**

**Raffle tickets @ $50. each**

I can’t attend but would like to support the HBS Parents’ Association with the enclosed donation $          **Total Enclosed**

Name

Phone #                      Email

Checks Payable to Rhode Island College Foundation

For more information, contact Julia Bush at julia.bush@cox.net or (401) 521-7562

**Manny Perez**

Actress from the movies Bella and El Corazón, and TV shows “Law and Order SVU,” “Third Watch,” and “100 Center Street.”

**Tuesday, February 24, 2009, 8pm Student Union Ballroom**

Perez, born in the Dominican Republic, grew up in Providence, RI.

**LEND ME A TENOR**

A comedy by Ken Ludwig

Directed by Vincent Lupino

The Academy Players of East Greenwich will perform in Lend Me a Tenor from Feb. 20-22 and Feb. 26 to March 1 in the East Greenwich High School Auditorium. Involved in the production are RIC alums Terry Shea ’82 and Kathleen Bebeau-Katic ’82. Neil Santoro ’00 is producer and president of the Academy Players. For more information, visit www.academyplayers.org or call (401) 885-6910.

**CORRECTIONS TO THE 2007-08 REPORT OF GIFTS**

In our report published December 2008, several people were listed incorrectly. Correct listings are:

Kristen A. Dupre, RN ’04 Memorial Scholarship

John A. and Mary V. Lima Endowed Scholarship in Portuguese Studies

John Pellegrino Endowed Scholarship for Brass Students

**Announcements**

**SERVICE RECOGNITION DAY**

On Dec. 3, a reception at the President’s House recognized faculty and staff who have served the College for 10, 15, 20, 25 and 30 years. This event, Service Recognition Day, was established in 1988. (Attention to presenting mementos to award recipients, a 30-Year Honor Roll Plaque is displayed outside the President’s Office in Robert’s Hall.

**Award Recipients**

**Years of Service**

- **30 Years**—
  - Faculty
    - Elaine S. Magyar
    - E. Pierre Morenon
  - Administrative Staff
    - Louis H. McGowan
    - Gerald T. Russo
    - Support Staff
    - Elaine A. Papa

- **25 Years**—
  - Faculty
    - Frederick F. Harrop
    - Marlene L. Lopes
    - Lloyd H. Matsumoto
    - Lenore J. Olsen
  - Administrative Staff
    - William R. Angell
  - Support Staff
    - Stephen J. Albanese
    - Robert L. Panciocco

- **20 Years**—
  - Faculty
    - Thomas L. Cobb
    - Rachel Fieldstein
    - Alema Karim
    - Thomas E. Malloy
    - Barbara A. Schapiro
    - Carolyn L. Wood
  - Administrative Staff
    - Patricia H. Hays
    - Frank A. Montanaro
    - Arthur J. Patrie ’85
    - Steven Platt
    - Melissa L. Souza
  - Support Staff
    - Joseph R. Brown
    - Louis Carchia
    - Joyce E. Fife
    - Patricia A. Folsom
    - Kathy E. Guilmette-Cipriano
    - Mark M. Hanlon
    - Nancy M. Moretti
  - Support Staff
    - Anthony St. John
    - Robert F. Turner

- **15 Years**—
  - Faculty
    - Robin Kirkwood Auld
    - Mary Byrd
    - Beverly A. Goldfield
    - Elizabeth U. Henshaw
    - Klaus Hofhansel
    - Thomas Meeded
    - Leslie Schuster
    - Ying Zhou
  - Administrative Staff
    - Prince Sirleaf Bomba ’89
    - J. Carlos Contreras ’80
    - Susan DeSarro
    - Charles R. Simpson
  - Support Staff
    - Donald L. Chapman
    - Mark J. DeLellis
    - Dennis Pimentel
  - Support Staff
    - Leslie A. Sevey
    - Bryan E. Steinberg
    - Cheryl L. Williams
    - William M. Wilson

- **10 Years**—
  - Faculty
    - Michael S. Casey
    - Joanne F. Costello
    - Lorraine M. Cotti
    - David F. Espinosa
    - Robert H. Franzblau
    - Dana J. Kolibauch
    - James A. Schweikart
    - Leslie A. Sevey
    - Bryan E. Steinberg
    - Diana Delia White
    - Cheryl L. Williams
    - William M. Wilson
  - Administrative Staff
    - Timothy A. Bergeron
    - Scott Gibbons
    - Jennifer G. Gioux ’95
    - Eva H. Neira ’03
    - Gerald T. Shilllard
    - Dennis M. Sousa ’97
  - Support Staff
    - Jeffrey A. Brunelle
    - Jeanne A. D’Agostino
    - Anthony R. De Costa
    - Francis H. Duffy
    - Donna R. Francis
    - Sandra A. Jacob
    - Leigh Kelly ’05
    - Barbara Kingston
    - Raymond Manzi
    - Manon Barbier Nery
    - Deborah M. Paquette
    - Shirley S. Saguid ’05
    - Anthony Todisco

- **5 Years**—
  - Faculty
    - Pamela A. Costello
    - E. Pierre Morenon
  - Administrative Staff
    - Louis Carchia
  - Support Staff
    - Catherine A. Bednarski
    - Richard A. Perri

- **1 Year**—
  - Faculty
    - Matthew A. Asher
    - John A. Beiter
    - Jennifer M. Callahan
    - Tracey J. Lepine
  - Administrative Staff
    - Natasha D. Azoury
    - Kelly L. Fassett
  - Support Staff
    - Anthony S. Barraza
    - Brenda A. Costello
    - Jennifer T. Dziubla
    - Sarah A. Vasquez

- **15 Years**—
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    - Elizabeth U. Henshaw
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Holocaust education a continuing imperative for teachers

By Mary Anne Clarke
Adjunct Faculty Member

When people read books, sometimes they are inspired by the heroes and heroines in the story. Perhaps they are called to learn more about the topic or the people in the story. Better yet, maybe they are called to action, to make a difference somehow. Well, this is what happened to me. Ever since I was a history major at Rhode Island College, I have been immersed in the history, the data, the exhibits and the volumes of information about what happened to all those who were affected by the Holocaust. This fellowship was not only educational in terms of what I learned about the topic, but I also learned new teaching practices from others around the country who teach the Holocaust. I was also able to hear first person testimony from Holocaust survivors. That was absolutely incredible, an experience that words really cannot describe. When people go to a museum, rarely do they have hours to sit in an exhibit and get the full perspective of what actually happened. This fellowship was an opportunity that I will cherish forever.

When people go to a museum, rarely do they have hours to sit in an exhibit and get the full perspective of what actually happened. This fellowship was an opportunity that I will cherish forever. Lucky for me, my academic journey continued after that first experience in Washington, D.C. I started to apply some of the teaching methods in my classroom and whenever possible I incorporated class visits to the Rhode Island Holocaust Museum. I was also able to start a relationship with Rabbi Baruch Goldstein, a Holocaust survivor, after reading about him in The Providence Journal. I contacted him via e-mail and asked if he would be willing to come to RIC to my Western History class to give survivor testimony. We were blessed to have him come to the College twice. It is imperative that students hear a survivor’s story in his/her own words. What a student can learn from a survivor is very different from what they read about in a textbook. Hearing the story brings the story alive; it makes it more “real.” As I watched my students listen and react to Rabbi Goldstein, I knew the impact that he was having on them. What a rare opportunity to have a “primary source” speak in a classroom. Absolutely incredible!

As an aside regarding Rabbi Goldstein, I recently received a signed copy of his new book, titled For Decades I Was Silent. I cannot wait to read it!

This past fall, I was chosen to participate in Birthlines, the second part of the fellowship run by the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. Fifteen educators from New England spent Columbus Day weekend at Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, N.Y. The weekend was filled with workshops, lectures by Holocaust educators, survivor testimony and many intellectual exchanges. We discussed not only the history behind what happened, but also the role of an educator and how it is the duty and obligation of an educator to continue to teach this difficult topic. It is even more important now as the survivors of the Holocaust are being called to share their experiences so that others must continue to share the story, the human perspective. Yes, it is a tough topic and very troublesome, but it must be re-told to make sure that those who perished and those who survived the horror are never forgotten and neither is their story.

Alum’s digital video company in the vanguard of video marketing

By LuzJennifer Martinez '08
Staff Writer

In the era of YouTube, broadband and reality television, Video Peel Inc. has forged a new frontier in marketing, giving a human perspective to the world of business with cutting edge, personalized video. A division of A Gold Production digital technology company, Video Peel embodies the commitment of owners Arty Goldstein, Jr. and Jim White to transmit the personal motivation and goals behind a client’s business venture.

With a wide array of templates and formatting for every message or cause, Video Peel designs add an original flair to any business website, according to Goldstein. In addition, clients have the option of converting to a full Video Peel website, which matches straightforward, legible text with the featured web video for a more interactive visitor experience. Video Peel projects are designed to be more than just a push of a button; they are produced to reflect the essence of each client’s personal story.

Goldstein said the company is most proud of its process and creative focus. Representing a diverse range of clientele including toy companies, interior designers, physical trainers and other media outlets, Video Peel designs begin with a business consultation to devise questions, generate answers and conduct background research with brainstorming.

Next, the Video Peel team of four collaborates with clients to design their video and website. Finally, the team follows up on the finished design, utilizing statistics and data to get an idea of the number of visitors to a site, viewers of a video, and of any product sales. “It’s a good way to determine if their video or website is working or not, so we can make quick changes,” said Goldstein.

Most recently, the company has focused on being the creative force behind the Rink Rat international sports name. Looking ahead, the next task is to "consider the direction of our production work," he said. Primarily specializing in web video, A Gold Production also designs, edits and produces commercials, tutorials, advertisements, still photography and more. And there’s no fear in having a little fun while doing so, as evident in the whimsical old movie house–themed A Gold website.

Goldstein recalls three video projects that are noteworthy on a personal level. The first was a retirement video made for RIC President John Nazarian, which was well received by the RIC community. “We expanded the project into a testimonial video, where it went from 20 to 65 people who stepped forward to be interviewed in a two-week period,” Goldstein said.

A small tribute video made for Pawtucket Red Sox president Mike Tamburro upon receipt of an Italian-American award inspired a show of emotion at its premiere. And keeping up with the creative instinct was a short film called “Save our Sac,” which was produced, written and edited for a 48-hour lm festival, winning a best use of character award. All can be seen on the Video Peel website.

“Clients are like family, where we want to make sure they’re doing their job. I didn’t expect to meet so many people and for lives to be touched,” Goldstein said. He also takes pride in being able to do such intricate work at a local level. In a field where most professionals relocate to bigger cities, Goldstein is happy to be doing the work he loves from the place he loves. He also offers valuable advice to other RIC alumni.

“I love Rhode Island and what it has to offer, and we’re proving that great creative people can still go for it from such a small state,” Goldstein said. “You can be a part of anything from where you are.”
Damien Hebert gets pinned by Jane Williams, dean of the school of nursing, at the January pinning ceremony for nursing graduates in Roberts Hall.

By Marah Roach
Staff Writer

Following three others in his family, Damien Hebert ‘09 is pursuing a career very much in demand in today’s society – nursing. Just as his sister Nicole did in ‘05, and sister Elise did in ‘07, Hebert graduated from RIC’s nursing program in January.

“I chose RIC because this school is known for its great nursing program, and also because my sister Nicole recommended it,” he said.

Nicole was an ICU nurse at Rhode Island Hospital and is currently earning a master’s in biology with a concentration in anesthesia at Central Connecticut State University, which is affiliated with the Pawtucket Memorial Hospital School of Nurse Anesthesia Program.

Elise works in Kent Hospital’s operating room, and their mother, Arlene, has been a full-time nurse in labor and delivery at Kent for almost 20 years.

“Nursing is such a varied and versatile profession,” said Arlene, who graduated from URI’s nursing program in January.

The Hebert family – from left, Elise ‘07, Arlene, Damien ‘09, and Nicole ‘05 – gathers in the Auditorium in Roberts Hall to celebrate Damien’s entrance into the nursing profession.

Women’s healthy heart event on March 4

The Office of Health Promotion and the Women’s Center at Rhode Island College will partner with Delta Upsilon Chapter at-Large of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing to sponsor an event promoting women’s health.

The event will be held on Wednesday, March 4, from 12:30-2 p.m. in the Student Union Ballroom and follows the major campaign for women’s heart health held during the month of February.

As heart disease is the number one killer of women, the National Wear Red Day, Friday, Feb. 6, was a day when Americans nationwide wore red to show their support for women’s heart disease awareness. The Red Dress is the centerpiece of 'The Heart Truth – a campaign that urges women to take heart disease seriously. Through the campaign, women, and all those that care about them, are urged to know the risk of heart disease and take action to protect their heart health.

The Delta Upsilon Chapter is based at RIC’s School of Nursing and University of Rhode Island College of Nursing. Nursing students who were inducted into the chapter on Dec. 7, 2008 will be participating in the event on March 4. Further information will be available from the Office of Health Promotion. We look forward to seeing you at the event on March 4 in the Student Union Ballroom at 12:30 p.m. GO RED for WOMEN!

– Patricia Quiñlez, president, Delta Upsilon Chapter at-Large, Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing

School of Nursing celebration features launch of Dean’s Development Fund

On Nov. 21, 140 friends, alumni, faculty and students celebrated the accomplishments of the School of Nursing at RIC and launched the Founder’s Circle of the Dean’s Development Fund. At the event, it was announced that $20,000 had been raised for the fund, with a goal of $50,000 by June 30.

RIC President Nancy Carriuolo, along with Gov. and Mrs. Donald L. Carcieri, and Lt. Gov. Elizabeth Roberts, attended the dinner celebration, which was held at the Providence Marriott.

The event also recognized the vital role the School of Nursing plays in providing highly qualified nurses for our health care system. Faculty members and students presented personal stories and reflections of their educational and social experiences and how those experiences have affected their lives. Anne Carthy, RIC professor of nursing, wrote and read her poem, Appreciating Our Heritage.

Dean Jane Williams was honored for her leadership and vision for the School of Nursing. Also featured was a media presentation filled with photos of RIC’s nursing program through the years, which was created by Desiree Dutra ‘09.

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.

Hamolsky stressed the need for the Dean’s Development Fund, telling the audience that nursing schools are facing “unprecedented challenges into curricula, and to ensure “a cadre of qualified faculty – all in a time of diminished resource support.”

Donations to the Founder’s Circle of the Dean’s Development Fund can still be made online at www.ric.edu/nursing or by mail to the RIC Foundation, 600 Mt. Pleasant Avenue, Providence, RI 02908.
FOCUS ON:

Faculty & Staff

John M. Niska, associate professor in the Educational Studies Department and coordinator of the Middle Level Teachers’ Program, was installed as president of the National Association of Professors of Middle Level Education (NaPOMLE) in November at the Annual National Middle School Conference held in Denver, Colo. Niska, who served for two years as president-elect, succeeds Betty Dore of Virginia.

For two years, Niska will be heading an association whose purpose is to provide a professional network to enhance the exchange of information and ideas, as well as to encourage the discussion of topics related to the preparation of middle level educators. The association also contributes to the development of an expanded middle level research base and provides additional means for sharing and disseminating current research and ideas among those interested in middle level education.

While in Denver, Niska also presented a concurrent session on student advisory, which is both his area of research and training, and presided over a NaPOMLE Best Practices Roundtable Session facilitated by 25 professors of middle level education from various parts of the country. He will also serve as chairperson of a Best Practices Session at the Annual Middle Level Symposium on Teaching to be held in Las Vegas, Nev., in April.

Three members of the Mathematics and Computer Science Department recently made presentations at the Association of Teachers of Mathematics in New England’s Annual Fall Meeting and Exposition.

Donna Christy ’79, associate professor of mathematics and secondary education, and her writing team presented “Follow the Standards-Based Road: A Journey to the Math Wizard of Oz.” Teachers worked on standards-based, hands-on activities in geometry, numbers operations, measurement, data analysis probability and algebra, all based on characters and themes from The Wizard of Oz. An expanded version will be presented in spring 2009 in conjunction with the Providence Children’s Museum.

Vivian LaFerla, associate professor of mathematics and secondary education, and RIC graduate Francesca Florio presented “Sherlock Holmes Solves Math Mysteries.” Participants in their presentation solved mysteries while doing algebra, geometry and precalculus.

Mary Sullivan, professor of mathematics and secondary education, presented “All for a Buck.” Participants were encouraged to bring a $1 bill and leave with not quite infinitely many mathematics activities that spanned the content strands.

Kate Sanders, associate professor of computer science, recently co-authored three articles. Two refereed articles, “Concrete Examples of Abstraction as Manifested in Students' Transformative Experiences” and “DCER: Sharing Empirical Computer Science Education Data,” have been published in the ICER-08: Proceedings of the Fourth International Workshop on Computing Education Research. Another refereed article, “Student Understanding of Object-Oriented Programming as Expressed in Concept Maps,” appeared in SIGCSE-08: Proceedings of the 39th SIGCSE Technical Symposium on Computer Science Education.

Pete Brown, professor of history, in 2008. In May, he presented at The Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies, Harvard University, “Other Perspectives on Assessing Migrational History: the Case of Northern Russia, Icecaps and Waterscapes, Finns, Slavs, and Fish Names from 18,000 B.C.E. to 1700 A.D.” and one month later, in Vancouver, at the biannual conference of the Finno-Ugric Studies Association of Canada (FUSAC), “The Uralic Peoples of Northern Russia and the California Indians: an Inmigrational-impact Comparison.”

At the British Columbia meeting, the membership elected Brown president, only the second since FUSAC’s founding in the early 1980s. He gave two presentations concerning the social and military history of mid-17th-century forest and steppe-zone Eastern European warfare, in February, at the Twelfth Annual Winter Workshop in Medieval and Early Modern Slavic Studies, UCLA, and, in November, at the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies conference in Philadelphia.

As a member for three decades of the Davis Center (formerly, Russian Research Center) and the Ukrainian Research Institute, Brown frequently goes to Harvard to use Widener Library and attend academic gatherings and presentations there, not only at these two research centers, but also at the Center for Government and International Studies, the Harvard Law School, and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He also attended meetings of the Comparative Economics Seminar, the Central Asia and Caucasian Working Group, and the Early Slavics’ Seminar.

Suchandra Basu, assistant professor of economics and finance, has been selected to participate in the Teaching Innovations Program (TIP) in economics in Chicago.

The program is funded by the NSF and co-sponsored by the Committee on Economic Education of the American Economic Association to promote effective teaching of economics among college and university instructors.

The first phase of the program involves participating in a three-day residential workshop this summer to receive training on best practices in undergraduate teaching, including insights on how students learn, how interactive strategies can improve learning and basic skills in using the same, and how to effectively use outcomes assessment in courses. The workshop also involves coming up with a plan to use interactive teaching in class.

The second phase of the program involves completing seven online modules on topics covered in the first phase during the fall 2009 semester. The objective is to use interactive teaching strategies and outcomes assessment in a course with mentoring and advice from faculty experts in economics as well as teammates from the summer workshop. Participants who successfully complete the second phase will be awarded a Certificate of Achievement from the AEA Committee on Economics Education.

Donna Christy

Vivian LaFerla

Kate Sanders

Pete Brown

Suchandra Basu

Page 15 — WHAT’S NEWS @ Rhode Island College, Feb. 9, 2009
In Massachusetts, Norfolk, Plymouth, Bristol, Suffolk, Dukes, and parts of Worcester and Middlesex counties were added, bringing the total to 169 cities and towns. The policy was approved by Rhode Island's Board of Governors for Higher Education on Dec. 8. The previous policy had been unchanged for 26 years. "This new plan will give more students a viable financial option to attend RIC," said Holly Shadoian '73, director of admissions at RIC. Out-of-state students not part of the expanded metropolitan region currently pay an average of $8,500 more per year to attend RIC than in-state students. Under the new plan, students in the expanded region will pay about $2,600 more than in-state students.

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Viola Davis cont... suspicious of a priest when he shows significant interest in a young student. Davis has a brief but powerful role as the student’s mother. She co-stars with Meryl Streep and Philip Seymour Hoffman.

Davis was born in South Carolina, but she and her two sisters were raised in Rhode Island, in what she described to the Boston Globe as “abject poverty.” She is a 1983 graduate of RIC’s Upward Bound program, which instills in low-income, usually first-generation college students the skills and motivation to complete high school and enter college.

Davis continues to support the program as a co-founder of the RIC Upward Bound Scholarship Endowment Fund. Three scholarships in the amount of $2,000, $1,000, and $500 are awarded each year during the Upward Bound commencement ceremony.

“I met Viola when she was a sophomore in high school, and she impressed me with her determination to pursue her passion of acting,” said Mariam Boyajian, director of Upward Bound. “Throughout the years that have followed, Viola has never forgotten her family, her high school, her mentors, Upward Bound, or Rhode Island College. She is a consummate professional, gifted actress, friend and wonderful person.” After RIC, she headed to Juilliard in New York and graduated in 1994. Davis won the Tony Award in 2001 for Best Actress in a Play for her performance in King Hedley II. She also won an Off-Broadway Award for her role in Everybody's Ruby.

In 2002, RIC awarded Davis an honorary doctor of fine arts degree. She has performed in productions at the New York Shakespeare Festival, the American Conservatory Theatre in San Francisco, and Providence’s Trinity Rep where she acted in the productions Joe Turner’s Come and Gone and Measure for Measure.

Adding to Davis’ impressive resume are a number of films such as Traffic, Out of Sight, Kate & Leopold and Nights in Rodanthe.

As successful as those films were, Doubt would seem to be a turning point in her career. “The first day [on the set] I was thinking… I’m going to do what I dreamed I would do, and I think I did,” Davis told the Globe. She and four others were nominated for the Best Supporting Actress Oscar, including her Doubt co-star, Amy Adams.

Though Davis lost out to Marisa Tomei (The Wrestler) for the Golden Globe award, she is still in the running for an Oscar, which will be announced Feb. 22. Davis is currently working on the film State of Play, a crime drama based on the BBC mini series about a team of investigative reporters and police officers attempting to solve the murder of a congressman’s mistress. The film is due to be released in the spring.
Though the snow continues to fall and spring seems far away, the plant life in the RIC Greenhouse is flourishing as always. Since its inception in 1971, the Greenhouse, with its wide array of flora, has served as a significant resource for the RIC community. (Photos: Gene St. Pierre '77, Hayden James '12 and Mandy Wray Dion '11)