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What's News At Rhode Island College

Rhode Island College

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STAC Awards fund collaborative research; undergrads jump on board

By Katy Dorches ’09 Staff Writer

On Jan. 28, the Rhode Island Science and Technology Advisory Council (STAC) announced the recipients of the 2009 Collaborative Research Award program. Approximately $1.5 million dollars was dispersed among the seven selected projects.

Twenty-three scientists and 10 institutions created the collaborative teams that submitted the winning proposals. Among them is John Williams, chemistry professor and long-time researcher at Rhode Island College. Williams submitted the proposal with John Marshall and

RIC Dance Company celebrates 50th anniversary with gala

The current version of What’s News @ Rhode Island College was established on Sept. 2, 1980. At the time, the newly expanded format would, according to the paper’s then-editor, “allow greater flexibility and timely coverage of College happenings.”

Those words, written nearly 29 years ago, accurately describe what the new, online version of What’s News will offer the RIC community. Beginning in April, What’s News, the journal of record at RIC, will evolve into an electronic publication that is more timely and flexible than ever before. That’s because What’s News will now be updated as events occur, accompanied by a gallery of photos, video streaming, audio clips and new features and departments.

And though the publication will no longer be printed, it now has the flexibility to allow you to view text in the type size that best suits you, and the pages can be printed or emailed to family and friends with just a click. Once the publication is up and running — in April — the link www.ric.edu/whatsnews will allow you to access the What’s News website directly. There will also be an icon on the homepage of the RIC website www.ric.edu that you can click to access the publication.

We’re confident that you will enjoy reading — and experiencing — the new What’s News @ Rhode Island College!
Longtime RIC director Joseph Costa retires

By Rob Martin
Managing Editor

Joseph L. Costa ’71 who recently retired as RIC’s director of Student Support Services, leaves with an enduring legacy – the students for whom he provided the resources to enter, thrive and graduate from the College.

“There was a need in the communities across the country to harvest all of these young people who, for some reason or other, didn’t have the finances or the information about going on to higher ed,” Costa said.

Over the past 38 years, no one has done more to “harvest” these students than Costa. Born and raised in Providence, Costa began his life’s work shortly after a hitch in the Army, when he got a job at a Providence YMCA helping teenagers to get jobs and to return to school. In 1971, he began work as a counselor in RIC’s Special Services, a program that had just been created, and is the forerunner to what is now Student Support Services. The program was part of President Lyndon Johnson’s Great Society initiative to battle poverty and racial injustice.

Student Support Services is a U.S. Department of Education program that assists students in academic development and helps motivate them to complete their college degrees. It is one component of a series of programs known as TRIO, which derives its name because it originally included three programs. TRIO now includes Upward Bound (and subset programs), Talent Search, Educational Opportunity Programs, and the Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program, in addition to Student Support Services.

TRIO programs are in every state in the U.S. and in 2,900 colleges and universities across the country, Costa said.

Costa also served as director of RIC’s Preparatory Enrollment Program, which helps prepare low-income, first-generation college hopefuls for RIC. The program was begun in 1972 and has student participation that has grown from 25 students to a high of 70 yearly.

“I really see myself as being a part of that growth and that system that really allowed people to get an education and move on,” he said.

Costa cites many memorable moments during his decades-long career at the College. As a student in the late 1960s, he was active in the multicultural student association Harambee, which advocated for an increase in the number of black students at RIC and worked to establish a black studies program at the College.

In the early 70s, Costa recalls having lunch at RIC with Ralph Abernathy, a civil rights leader and close associate of Martin Luther King, and having a campus visit with photographer Gordon Parks.

During the administration of RIC President David Sweet, he met with the first president of Cape Verde after the country gained independence from Portugal. In 2007, Costa, along with 16 other TRIO directors went on a 10-day tour of Europe to share information and network with their counterparts in England, France and the Netherlands.

He also served on the board of directors of the national Council of Opportunity in Education, and was a charter member and president of the New England Educational Opportunity Association.

In 2003, he was named to the national TRIO Hall of Fame, an honor that was “probably the highlight of my career,” he said.

Costa takes pride in the students who have come through Student Support Services and gone on to graduate and have career success in law, education, social work, medicine and business, among other fields.

Costa, who has a master’s degree in counseling from Northeastern University, is staying busy in retirement. He’s on the state advisory board of Marriage and Family Therapists, and on the board of directors of Black Repertory Theatre in Providence. He’s also working on an oral history about Student Support Services and PEP, for which he is interviewing students from each year of the programs’ existence.

As a field reader for the U.S. Department of Education, he evaluates programs and reviews college grant proposals. And he interviews candidates for the military academies for Sen. Jack Reed, something he had previously done for the late Sen. John Chafee. Always interested in photography, Costa recently donated thousands of RIC-related photos to Special Collections in Adams Library.

According to Costa, the most gratifying aspect of his career was his experiences with the students. Whenever he goes out, it’s a good bet he’ll see a student he’s mentored.

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Award-winning flu clinic provides vital experience for RIC senior nursing students

By Luz Jennifer Martinez

Staff Writer

Last semester, six students from RIC’s School of Nursing participated in an ongoing flu clinic run by the Scituate Health Alliance as part of its on-site practicum for their senior course, Community and Public Health Nursing.

The collaborative effort, which successfully vaccinated 650 people in the town of Scituate at 12 clinics, was acknowledged by the R.I. Department of Health in January with a Community Partnership Award. Along with 10 other community-based health organizations, the group was recognized for its proactive contribution to the health department’s overall mission for disease prevention and health promotion in the state.

Running from Nov. 1 into December, this season’s clinic surpassed last season’s 420 total vaccinations, providing more protection against the increasingly dangerous strains of influenza that have surfaced over the years.

The student involvement was largely what made it possible, said Lynn Blanchette ’82, clinical instructor and assistant professor of nursing.

“We couldn’t have done it without them,” she said. “There’s only one part-time nurse and I work with that organization [Scituate Health Alliance] as a volunteer. With the exception of that part-time nurse, it is staffed by volunteers.”

During the 2007 clinic, several students were on hand to administer vaccines. This year, the group participated on all fronts from the start. In addition to giving shots at various locations in Scituate, including schools and senior centers, the group also took on several preliminary tasks, including vaccine ordering and storage, eligibility screenings prior to vaccination and educational campaigns advocating the benefits of the flu vaccine.

“This past semester is the first time that the students got involved with everything from the PR all the way through to the big flu clinic at the end,” Blanchette said.

She noted that they also came up with the ideas for advertising and the educational programs. “It was their project, to think of how [they] are going to do this and increase numbers,” said Blanchette.

The clinical experience is a complement to the Community and Public Health course, which focuses more on group care than individual care, according to Blanchette. It also emphasizes the interactive, educational environment of the nursing field by allowing students to work in the health care community while brushing up on all related policy issues within it. As a result, the class gets acquainted with the Nursing Board of Regulations, the State House, and the Department of Health, who introduce them to what Blanchette calls the “bigger picture of health care.”

Most of all, the course nicely rounds out the entire nursing curriculum for students, where they become aware of the influential nature of their decisions as working professionals in the field.

About 10 years ago, the Scituate Health Alliance was formed by several individuals to address the needs of the uninsured in town. Now, the organization successfully supports free initial health care services like yearly checkups for people through federal and health alliance funds. For a $10 sick visit fee, those without health coverage can continue receiving regular care with a primary doctor. Similarly, the flu clinic resulted from the students’ desire to do more for the community through their practice.

In her state of the College address on Feb. 18, RIC President Nancy Carruolo quoted Charles Darwin: “It is not the strongest of the species that survives, nor the most intelligent. It is the ones most responsive to change.” For RIC, that means adjusting to the changing economic climate, said Carruolo.

In what she described as a “mid-year progress report,” Carruolo spoke about facility and fiscal matters, and provided updates in academic affairs, student affairs, technology, public relations and development. JR Pagliarini, interim executive director of the RIC Foundation, also updated the campus on the latest foundation news (see page 4).

Carruolo noted that raising and saving money were key to surviving the fiscal downturn. She cited several areas where savings could result, including implementing centralized online payments and reducing energy costs through a variety of initiatives already underway on campus.

She said that the federal stimulus package, which will provide states with an infusion of money, is a one-time source of funding that the state cannot count on long term. Nonstate sources of income — undergraduate, graduate, continuing education and summer school tuition as well as fees, donations, rentals of College space, contracts with business and industry and grants — are the areas where the College must grow, Carruolo said.

Strengthening RIC’s relationships with area corporate and professional communities is an area of importance, according to Carruolo, as is forming ties with members of the state legislature and congressional delegation.

Carriuolo delivers state of the College report to campus

RIC President Nancy Carriuolo speaks to faculty and staff in Alger Hall on Feb. 18.
RIC Foundation update

At the state of the College event on Feb. 18, Pagiariini updated the campus on the RIC Foundation. Below are his remarks.

Contributions to the Rhode Island College Foundation in the form of endowments are invested as follows: 55.9 percent is invested in the stock market, 36.8 percent in the bond market and the remaining 7.36 percent is in the form of cash and equivalents.

The Rhode Island College Foundation’s pooled investments as of July 1, 2008, stood at $20.1 million. On January 31, 2009, the balance was $15.4 million.

The Foundation’s portfolio has lost $4.7 million since the beginning of the fiscal year. This decrease is the result of the global recession and the decline in the stock market. For the 12-month period from Jan. 1, 2008, thru Dec. 31, 2008, the portfolio is down 24.6 percent, which is comparable to many other privately and publicly held accounts.

The RIC Foundation portfolio is managed primarily by Citizens with a very small portion under the control of Commonfund. The Foundation’s Investment Committee meets with company representatives on a regular basis to get updates on the portfolio.

On January 31, 2009, the balance was $15.4 million. In the last academic year, the Foundation’s pooled investments as of July 1, 2008, stood at $20.1 million.

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The Foundation’s Investment Committee meets with company representatives on a regular basis to get updates on the portfolio. The latest meeting occurred in early February.

Although there will be no funding available from endowments for scholarships and other program related expenses for 2009-2010, the Foundation pledges to continue to monitor the situation on a quarterly basis going forward and is hoping for a turnaround sometime fairly soon.

An evening to honor alumni

On Thursday, May 7, the Alumni Association is hosting the annual Alumni Awards Reception/Dinner celebrating the accomplishments of 32 Honor Roll recipients and six Alumni Award winners. In the next few weeks, you will receive an awards brochure announcing those being honored. The invitation will also be on the RIC website and you will be able to register on the web. The event begins at 5:30 p.m. and will be held in Donovan Dining Center. Cost is $38.

First Rhode Islander to summit Mt. Everest at RIC April 21

RIC grad Dr. Tim Warren ’83, the first Rhode Islander to reach the peak of Mt. Everest, will discuss his expedition on Tuesday, April 21, from 7-8:30 p.m. in the Nazarian Center’s Sapinsley Hall. Warren, a chiropractor, lives in Saugus, Mass. Free admission.

Rhode Island College is now on Facebook, a leading social networking site that connects people with friends and others who work, study and share common interests.

RIC’s new Facebook Page has debuted and many of its members — including RIC President Nancy Carriuolo — are connecting with the RIC community through the social networking site.

“Rhode Island College’s Facebook Page allows us to take advantage of Web 2.0 technology,” said Karen Rubino, director of Web Communications for the College. “The RIC Community — students, prospective students, alumni, faculty, staff and other friends of the College — now has the ability to connect and interact with one another and read up-to-the-minute happenings about news and events at the College, browse the gallery of photos from College events, and post messages on ‘The Wall.’”

To view the RIC Facebook Page, go to www.facebook.com, log into your Facebook account, and type “Rhode Island College (RIC)” into the search box. Click on the Pages tab. You should see a link to the RIC Facebook Page in the list. If you are not already a member of Facebook, registration is simple, free, and anyone can join.

You are invited to become a fan of the RIC Facebook Page and to explore the many features of this interactive site.
RIC, Fulbright program reaches across borders

By Marah Roach
Staff Writer

RIC and the Fulbright Teacher Exchange Program recently teamed up to promote bilingualism and benefit different international communities by giving educators from various cultures a first-hand experience of administration in another society. J. Andres Ramirez, professor of ESL at RIC, and Julie Nora, director of The International Charter School in Pawtucket, hosted two middle school principals from Uruguay for two weeks in February.

“One of President Carriuolo’s main concerns here at the College is creating partnerships with the community, and we like to honor that,” said Ramirez. During their time in Rhode Island, Myriam Ayala, from Carmelo, Uruguay, and Alicia Gloria Lacuesta Esperón, from Montevideo, Uruguay, experienced a variety of culture enriching activities. They observed Portuguese, English and Spanish language classes at RIC, and traveled to Boston and New York City. They also attended the Rhode Island Historical Society’s celebration of the 200th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln, and were on Providence’s radio station Poder Latino 1110 AM WPMZ, to discuss their impressions of and experiences in Rhode Island.

“They’re principals trying to cater to a wider variety of nationalities and infuse a different perspective into their culture,” said Ramirez. Ramirez believes that Ayala and Esperón benefited from observing the language classes at RIC because they can take what they learn and implement it into their own school’s programs.

“We were delighted to be here as we get to experience first hand what an excellent dual-language education program looks like,” said Ayala.

Added Esperón: “We face similar educational challenges. Fortunately, we established strong academic and personal links with teachers and staff at the International Charter School, local Fulbright people, and faculty at Rhode Island College that we hope will continue and evolve into a future collaboration.”

The Fulbright Teacher Exchange Program was started in 1946 by Sen. J. William Fulbright to provide qualified scholars the opportunity to participate in exchanges of positions with others from different countries for six weeks, a semester or a full academic year. Federally funded, the program has helped nearly 23,000 foster communication between different cultures.

“The American dream is no longer dreamt only by Americans, it has become much bigger,” said Ramirez.

Four RIC faculty members are former participants of the exchange program — David Thomas, professor of history; Peter Allen, professor of anthropology; Tom Kochanek, professor of special education; and Ellen Bigler, professor of educational studies.

“Being a Fulbright Scholar on three occasions, twice in Greece and once in Egypt, has been among the highlights of my professional life,” said Allen. “It gave me many opportunities to meet colleagues, validate my research persona and give a bit back to the host country. It is a terror program that I continue to support by hosting Fulbright scholars from abroad.”

For more information about the Fulbright Teacher Exchange program go to www.fulbrightexchanges.org or contact Alice Grelleer, R.I. Fulbright Association chapter president, at (401) 272-3598.
Goanchormen.com
Want to quickly connect to a webcast of a RIC sporting event? It’s easy – goanchormen.com. Want to quickly find out the score of last night’s big basketball game? It’s quick – www.goanchormen.com. For everything you need to know about Rhode Island College Athletics, it's goanchormen.com.

The Athletic Department just completed a year-long process that will make it easier for everyone to access all the news about Rhode Island College Athletics by going online and entering goanchormen.com! The development of this new access will make it easier to get up-to-the-minute news about RIC Athletics, and will better market the great events and activities going on in association with the athletic program.

The answer – GOANCHORMEN.COM!

Providence Journal and RIC Athletics are linked
Another way for the more than 52,000 Rhode Island College alums to access all of the news regarding RIC Athletics is through the Providence Journal’s website, www.projo.com. The ProJo recently placed a link on its website to Anchormen and Anchorwomen Athletics, in the sports section just below the list of the Journal’s sports columnists. Just go to the College’s logo and click…within seconds you’ll be viewing the best of RIC Athletics.

What’s News RIC Athletics coverage
What’s News @ RIC will continue to keep faculty, staff and alumni in the loop about RIC Athletics with special feature stories, updates, photos and athletic director Don Tencher’s informative column “Across the Athletic Director’s Desk.”

RIC announces Hall of Fame Class of 2009
The Athletic Hall of Fame Class of 2009 will be officially inducted at the 11th annual Rhode Island College Athletic Recognition Dinner and Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony on Saturday, Oct. 3, in conjunction with Homecoming, at Donovan Dining Center at 6:30 p.m.

Athletic Hall of Fame Class of 2009
James Adams
William Baird
Jesus Berrio ’89
Paul Bourget ’69
Michelle Fanelli ’04
Kristine Nicholas Greene ’90
Jim McGlynn ’89
Robert Berlam ’58

Team Induction
1968-69 Men’s Basketball Team

RIC winter sports hit national stage
By Scott Gibbons
Sports Information Director

Fleming heads back to NCAA track championships
Senior Kayla Fleming will compete in the high jump event at the 2009 NCAA Div. III Women’s Indoor Track & Field Championships, hosted by Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology on March 13 and 14.

Fleming just missed All-American honors a year ago at the NCAAs, tying for ninth overall. The Pawtucket native has been dominant this season, earning Little East Conference Field Athlete of the Week honors six times. She established a new program record in the high jump with a 1.71-meter effort at the Springfield Invitational on Dec. 6.

She has captured the Div. III New England, as well as the New England Alliance Championships in that event this winter.

Men’s Basketball earns third consecutive trip to NCAA tournament
The Anchormen wrapped up the 2008-09 season with a hard-fought 73-68 loss to MIT in the first round of the 2009 NCAA Div. III Men’s Basketball Tournament at The Murray Center on March 6.

RIC was selected as one of 12 four-team sites around the nation as the Anchormen made their third straight trip to the Big Dance. Among a host of milestones, head coach Bob Walsh’s team captured its third Little East Conference regular season championship in the past five years with a program-record 13-1 mark in the league. The club recorded its third straight 20-win campaign and the fourth in the past five years.

The senior class, comprised of guards Bobby Bailey, Tirrell Hill and Cameron Stewart, along with forward Kaseem Johnson and center Wil Lyons, will go down as one of the best in program history. Over the past four seasons, Rhode Island College has totaled an overall record of 92-27. The Anchormen have compiled a 44-7 Little East regular season and tournament record over the past three years, a 29-5 mark in league action the past two years, a 9-2 LEC tournament record over the last four years, a 4-3 NCAA tournament record and a 15-6 mark in postseason play.

Members of the program were prominently featured in annual Little East awards, with Bailey being tabbed as the league’s Co-Player and Defensive Player of the Year, and a spot on the First Team. Hill and sophomore Antone Gray were also named First Team All-LEC, while Johnson was named to the Second Team and freshman forward Mason Choice was tabbed to the All-Rookie squad. Walsh was named the Little East’s Coach of the Year for the second time in three years.

Martini and Sutherland end season at NCAA wrestling championships
Senior Mike Martini and sophomore Kevin Sutherland won individual New England titles at 157 and 149 lbs., respectively, and qualified for the NCAA Div. III National Championships, which were held on March 6 and 7 in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Both grapplers went 1-2 against some of the top-eight wrestlers in their respective weight classes at the tourney. Martini ends his season with a 37-5 overall record. Over the past three years, the Cranston native compiled a 102-23 record to go along with back-to-back New England titles and earning All-N.E. honors in each of his years on the mat. Sutherland, who hails from Dauphin, Penn., finished the season with a team-high 41 wins (41-12).

Head coach Jay Jones, team placed third at the annual New England Wrestling Association (NEWA) Championships, and in addition to Martini and Sutherland, had four other wrestlers in senior Nick Logan (184 lbs.), juniors Joe Manley (174 lbs.) and Ray Moore (197 lbs.), and freshman Scott Legacy (133 lbs.), attain All-New England statuses.
Lesieur heads to NCGA championships

Freshman Casey Lesieur is the first Anchorwoman gymnast in three years to qualify for the National Collegiate Gymnastics Association (NCGA) Championships, which will be held in St. Paul, Minn., on March 20 and 21.

The rookie earned a spot as an all-around specialist from the East Region after a strong performance at the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) Championships on March 7. The Coventry native is averaging scores of 9.016 on vault, 8.711 on bars, 9.019 on beam, 9.156 on floor and 35.969 in the all-around.

She posted season-high marks on vault (9.350), bars (9.400) and the all-around (37.00) at the ECACs to ensure her trip to the national championships.

Coro named Little East Rookie of the Year

Freshman guard Stephanie Coro was named the Little East’s Female Basketball Rookie of the Year, Second Team All-LEC, and to the league’s All-Rookie team.

The North Providence native was named the Little East’s Rookie of the Week three times this season. She played in 26 games, starting 18 of them. Coro averaged 14.6 points, 2.9 rebounds, 1.1 assists and 2.0 steals per game. She scored a career-high 33 points vs. Brandeis on Jan. 6 and tied the program record with eight steals vs. Western Connecticut on Jan. 27. She led the team in scoring and steals (51).

Freshman forward Rachel Riley joined her classmate on the league’s All-Rookie squad. The Coventry native played in 26 games, starting 18 of them. Riley averaged 6.8 points, 7.5 rebounds and 1.8 steals per game, and recorded three double-doubles.

Summer camp registration now open

You can now register for the 2009 Rhode Island College summer sports camps by logging on to goanchormen.com. Click on the sports camps button to print out a brochure.

The programs offered are baseball/softball, basketball, tennis, lacrosse, wrestling, gymnastics, soccer and volleyball.

Computer savvy: how two RIC alumni achieved Internet literacy

By Katy Dorchies 09

Staff Writer

Over the past few years, the Internet has played an increasingly significant role in everyday life. The RIC community is no exception. The explosion of online programs – RIconnect, WebCT, email newsletters and Facebook, for example – may create concern for some RIC alumni, many of whom have been hesitant about the technologically‐bound culture poses a new and exciting adventure. Through email interviews, Sally Desimone ‘52 and John Kennedy ‘52 shared their thoughts on and experience with the Internet.

“Everything [is] out there just waiting for you to see and hear,” said Desimone. “I love getting pictures of my grandchildren, seeing some friend’s orchid bloom for the third season, spending a rainy afternoon visiting Florence or Dublin, listening to the Opera or viewing Monet’s Garden.”

For Kennedy, and his wife, Dorothy, the Internet helps make life more convenient. “We like [...] paying our bills automatically, currently keeping up with our accounts,” he said. Desimone began using the Internet in 1999, when, as a secretary of her Handicraft Club, she felt that it was time she became immersed in the realm of computer use.

Kennedy and his wife have been computer users for about eight years. Kennedy says that, being retired teachers, he and his wife always looking for new learning opportunities.

Desimone’s computer training opportunity was initiated when a computer-literate family friend offered to teach her. They only met one day a week, but as Desimone said, she learned and “a whole new world opened!”

Kennedy and his wife took a more formal learning approach and enrolled in evening adult education classes at a local high school, which they highly recommend. After finishing their class, Kennedy and his wife have allowed the Internet to simplify day-to-day activities. “We use, consistently, email, Google spreadsheets [and] various websites regarding travel bargains,” John said. “We also receive information from our health provider, such as lab results, almost immediately.”

Google, a “search engine,” that combs the Internet for websites and answers to questions, is also one of Desimone’s favorites. “I like knowing that [the answer to] any question regarding almost any subject is a Google away,” she said.

Since discovering the Internet, Desimone has found a multitude of activities and websites to occupy her time and satisfy her curiosity.

Ancestry.com is one of her favorite Internet destinations. She subscribes to the website to track her genealogy and said that her days are frequently highlighted with new discoveries of ancestors who immigrated to the country through Ellis Island and earlier.

For both Kennedy and Desimone, use of the Internet is a daily activity. “Every morning begins [with] checking through e-mail and reading the New York Times,” Desimone said. “When we are away, I read the Providence Journal online as well.” Similarly, Kennedy said that he and his wife “ALWAYS read the newsletter via email from RIC.” Also, Kennedy says that he frequently reads both local news (WPRI and the Providence Journal) and international news, (the Sydney Morning Herald) online.

Of course, certain challenges are bound to arise. Kennedy said, “When we first started out, I literally spent hours afraid to turn the computer off. I couldn’t find the power button [and] I was afraid to pull the plug lest I damage the computer.” Desimone also occasionally experiences difficulty with certain computer programs (Microsoft Excel is her current challenge). However, despite these passing challenges, she recognizes the importance of being technologically capable.

“If you are waiting to be seen and heard, there’s a whole world out there, on the Internet, just waiting to be seen and heard.” Desimone says. “From what I see happening in our local paper,” she said, “it will not be too many years until the Internet will be our major news source.”

Despite her own success with the Internet, Desimone has encountered some who still resist computer use, and urges them to overcome it.

“For those starting out, I would repeat the advice I gave one of my sisters, who was reluctant to start on this wonderful adventure,” said Desimone. “I sent post cards with the message ‘Get With It.com.’”

“Don’t be afraid to experiment!” is Kennedy’s advice. “[The Internet] is just a tool among many others.”

As more and more computer converts are learning, there’s a whole world out there, on the Internet, just waiting to be seen and heard. It’s an adventure not to be missed – just ask Desimone and Kennedy.

SUMMER BEACH PARTY
Saturday, July 18
Narragansett Beach Club

Don’t forget these great events:
THE 2009 ANCHOR CLUB GOLF DAY
Monday, July 13
Pawtucket Country Club

THE ENDLESS SUMMER BEACH PARTY
Saturday, July 18
Narragansett Beach Club

Stephanie Coro

Stephanie Coro
Symphony Orchestra
Chester Concert to honor late R.I. composer Paul Nelson March 16

Guest soloists Peter Zazofsky of Muir String Quartet and RIC's Judith Lynn Stillman will perform.

The RIC Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Edward Markward, will perform the 14th annual Samuel and Esther Chester Performance Award Concert in honor of Paul Nelson, a well-known Rhode Island composer who died in 2008.

The performance will be on Monday, March 16, at 8 p.m. in the Nazarian Center's Sapinsley Hall.

Two world-renowned artists will be featured soloists: Peter Zazofsky, violinist and first violin of the Muir Quartet, and Judith Lynn Stillman, pianist and artist-in-residence at Rhode Island College. The two will perform Mendelssohn's Concerto in D Minor for Violin, Piano and Orchestra.

The Symphony Orchestra will open the program with two movements from Paul Nelson's Sinfonietta. The concluding work on the program will be Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 5 in E Minor.

Nelson, who would have been 80 in January, came to Providence in 1964 to teach at Brown University, where he was associate professor of music theory and composition until 1983. His compositions — for all genres except opera — have been performed on four continents for over five decades. Although formally a professional lawyer by trade, he also gave over 20 choruses from Los Angeles to New York and Boston, as well as in Vienna and Paris. His half-hour long Vox Aeterna Amorit for mezzo-soprano solo and orchestra was premiered at Carnegie Hall in 1991 by the National Orchestral Association, earning praise by the Daily News music critic as "easily the best work" on the program.

Music critic Channing Gray of the Providence Journal described his Cantata Psalmorum as a "moving, eloquent score."

Nelson was a longtime member of the Rhode Island Civic Chorale and Orchestra and a strong supporter of music programs at Rhode Island College, where he seldom missed a performance by the Chorus, Symphony Orchestra or Wind Ensemble.

Peter Zazofsky enjoys a richly varied career that includes recordings, performances with many of the great orchestras in America and Europe and recitals in major music centers. He tours as first violinist of the internationally acclaimed Muir String Quartet, with which he has performed complete cycles of the Beethoven quartets. Zazofsky has recorded music by Mozart, Gershwin, Debussy, Prokofiev and many others. Pianist Judith Lynn Stillman has had an extensive recording career, including her album with double Grammy award-winner Wynton Marsalis that rocketed to the Top Ten on the Billboard charts and received rave reviews. In addition to being artist-in-residence at RIC, she is a professor of music at the College, and has taught applied piano and chamber music at Brown University.

Samuel and Esther Chester, in an effort to aid young and talented artists from New England, have endowed the Rhode Island College Foundation with $25,000 to establish the Samuel and Esther Chester Performance Award. The award underwrites performance expenses for an appearance with the RIC Symphony Orchestra by the winner of the Arthur W. Foose Prize as adjudicated by the Harvard Musical Association or partially underwrites the expenses of an artist of international stature. Admission to the concert is free.

Trio of bands to perform in Concert Continuum March 22

Three highly regarded local bands — the RIC Wind Ensemble, the American Band and the Rhode Island Philharmonic Youth Wind Ensembles — will perform in the Continuum Concert on Sunday, March 22, at 3 p.m. in the Nazarian Center's Sapinsley Hall.

The concert joins middle school, high school, college and adult ensembles to demonstrate that music can be an enriching and educational experience.

The concert will begin with Rhode Island Philharmonic Youth Wind Ensembles Junior Division (grades 7-9) performing works of Alfred Reed and Camille Saint-Saens under the direction of Marc Blanchard. The RIPCWE Senior Division (grades 10-12), under the direction of David Martins, will perform works of James Hosay, Frank Ticheli, Mark Camphouse and W. Francis McBeth.

Founded in 2002, RIPCWE was created to give advanced woodwind, brass and percussion students from Rhode Island and nearby Massachusetts and Connecticut an opportunity to rehearse and perform high quality woodwind ensemble repertoire.

The Rhode Island College Wind Ensemble, under the direction of Robert Franzblau, will perform the opening movement of the Symphony in B-Flat by Paul Hindemith.

The symphony was written in 1951 and is considered a cornerstone of the wind band repertoire. It makes great technical and musical demands on the ensemble, and because of its masterful use of counterpoint, form and balance, is consistently ranked as one of the best pieces ever written for winds and percussion.

The Rhode Island College Wind Ensemble recently celebrated its 40th year. Assembled in 1968 by professor of music John Pellegrino, the group was conducted by Frances Marcuniak from 1972 until 1996. Under the direction of Robert Franzblau since 1997, the group has performed at regional conventions and has hosted guest residencies by world-renowned composers including Gunther Schuller.

The American Band, now in its 166th season, provides the greater Providence community with formal concerts of traditional and contemporary wind literature as well as informal outdoor concerts throughout the New England region.

With approximately 60 adult musicians — most of whom hold degrees in music — the American Band presents works by Bach to Bernstein and Strauss to Sousa in a sometimes humorous, frequently majestic, and always entertaining manner.

The band has performed at the Hatch Shell on the Esplanade, Faneuil Hall in Boston and at The Tabernacle on Martha's Vineyard as part of the Summer Concert Series.

Two RIC students among winners of R.I. Civic Chorale competition

They will perform with the Chorale and Orchestra on March 28.

Meagan McNulty (soprano) and Sarah Izzzi (mezzo-soprano) were among four winners of the Rhode Island Civic Chorale & Orchestra's Collegiate Vocal Solo Competition. They will perform as soloists with the RICCO chorus and its professional chamber orchestra in a concert on Saturday, March 28, at 8 p.m. in St. Joseph's Church on 92 Hope Street in Providence.

McNulty is a third-year student majoring in music education and vocal performance. She is president of the RIC Chamber Singers, 2008-09, and was awarded the Pawtucket Community Players Performing Arts Scholarship. McNulty is also a member of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars, and recently was awarded the Schu Charles Scholarship in the area of voice.

Izzzi, a vocal performance major, is also in her third year at RIC. She has recently appeared in the Salt Marsh Opera Company's production of Lucia, and will perform the role of Miss Todd in RIC's upcoming opera workshop performance. In the fall, she will be studying abroad at the Accademia Dell’Arte in Tuscany, Italy. Antonio Rodrigues (tenor) and Corey Mulvey (baritone), students at the Community College of Rhode Island, were also winners.

Each soloist is awarded $100, in addition to the opportunity to perform with RICCO, Rhode Island's oldest continuing community choral ensemble.

Works on the program that will feature the winners are Benjamin Britten's Rejoice in the Lamb and John Rutter's Requiem.

The Rhode Island Civic Chorale & Orchestra, established in 1957, consists of approximately 90 men and women from Rhode Island and southern Massachusetts. The Chorale's mission is to provide artistic enrichment to the public and the singers by presenting at least three concerts of major choral works per year.

Call (401) 521-5670 or email info@ricco.org for more information.
UPCOMING EVENTS

PERFORMING ARTS, MUSIC, THEATRE & DANCE

MARCH 18

The RIC Jazz Workshop Combos concert, under the direction of Greg Abate, will be on Wednesday, March 18, at 6:30 p.m. in the Nazarian Center’s Forman Theatre. Abate, a well-known saxophonist, is an adjunct instructor of jazz at Rhode Island College, where he teaches jazz improvisation and jazz theory.

MARCH 30

Muir String Quartet, Menahem Pressler return to RIC

The Muir String Quartet, one of the world’s most insightful ensembles, will return to RIC as part of the College’s Performing Arts Series on Monday, March 30, at 8 p.m. in the Nazarian Center’s Sapinsley Hall. The quartet will be accompanied by guest pianist Menahem Pressler. The performance will include Mozart’s Adagio & Fugue in C Minor, K.546; Schulhoff’s Five Pieces for String Quartet; and Brahms Piano Quintet in F Minor, Op. 34.

Now in its 30th season, the Muir String Quartet has thrilled audiences with its inspired interpretations of contemporary and traditional compositions. With performances that The Boston Globe called “riveting,” and that The New York Times says “harness the driving force” behind composed music, the Muir String Quartet’s success continues to endure.

Menahem Pressler has a rich history of his own. A founding member of the Beaux Arts Trio, he has stunned audiences in both solo and collaborative performances with his skilled technique and masterful renditions of classic piano favorites.

The New York Times calls Pressler “... a poet, time and again revealing unexpected depths in works that have been endlessly plumbed and surveyed.”

Tickets for the Muir String Quartet are $30.

APRIL 2

Griffin Memorial Recital Showcases Faculty Talent

RIC faculty members of the Music, Theatre, and Dance Department will put their talents on display at the annual Griffin Memorial Faculty Recital at 8 p.m. on Thursday, April 2, in the Nazarian Center’s Sapinsley Hall.

The evening is in honor of the late Deborah Griffin, a music education major at the College who was killed in 2000 along with her four children in an apartment fire. Sponsored by the RIC student chapter of the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA), of which Griffin was a member, the recital will include piano, guitar, vocal, brass and woodwind solo and ensemble music.

The idea for the concert originated with the RIC student chapter of the ACDA as a means to raise money to establish a scholarship for music majors at RIC, while also keeping Griffin’s memory alive.

Admission is free, but donations will be accepted at the concert. Those interested in donating to the scholarship fund can also contact the Griffin Foundation at (401) 456-8105. For more information call (401) 456-8144.

APRIL 8

The Department of Music, Theatre, and Dance will present a Student Composer Concert on April 8 at 8 p.m. in the Nazarian Center’s Sapinsley Hall.

World-famous clarinetist Richard Stoltzman and RIC artist-in-residence and pianist Judith Lynn Stillman will combine for a Wednesday Chamber Music Series recital on April 15 at 8 p.m. in the Nazarian Center’s Sapinsley Hall.

Stoltzman has been a soloist with numerous orchestras, and performed in chamber music recitals and as a jazz musician. Free admission.

APRIL 15

Keyboard Conversations® concert returns with new theme

Globally acclaimed pianist Jeffrey Siegel returns to Rhode Island College on Wednesday, April 15, with a new Keyboard Conversations® concert at his fingertips.

The concert, a RIC Performing Arts Series presentation, will be held at 7:30 p.m. in the Nazarian Center’s Sapinsley Hall.

Titled Musical Pictures, this new conversation will feature Mussorgsky’s Pictures at an Exhibition, Rachmaninoff’s Etudes Tableaux and Debussy’s Preludes.

Siegell, a world-class pianist who has collaborated with great orchestras around the world, has created a unique concert format that consistently thrills music virtuosos and novices alike. He spotlights the classical works of many of the great composers by holding an informal yet enriching discussion of the pieces with the audience, followed by a full performance of the music and a lively question and answer session.

“My hope,” explains Siegel, “is that the remarks I share will make the music more accessible, the listening experience more focused and meaningful.”

It’s a technique that has worked for the thousands who have attended Keyboard Conversations concerts, including those at RIC where he is now performing in his seventh season.

Tickets for Jeffrey Siegel’s Keyboard Conversations® are $25, 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/cfa; or at the box office in the lobby of the appropriate performance venue, which will open for sales two hours prior to performance start time.

Guitarist Alex DeCicco performs at RIC Student Activities’ Acoustic Cafe in the Student Union on Feb. 17.

Darrel Perkins, a senior education student, explains the elaborate printmaking process he uses to create his images. Perkins spoke at the opening reception of student artwork in the President’s House on Feb. 19.
BANISTER GALLERY

By Ray Ragosta
Staff Writer

When organizing this April’s exhibition at Bannister Galley, Bryan Steinberg, an associate professor of art at the College, was looking to break the mold concerning preconceptions about the art of ceramics, particularly its utilitarian side, its “vessel oriented” aspect as Steinberg described it. “Ceramics is more than what happens on the potter’s wheel,” he noted.

Ceramic artists can use slipcasting, molding and even certain industrial techniques to create purely sculptural forms or architectural settings.

Steinberg’s preoccupations are not new; they have had recurrent manifestations in modern art. Gauguin, for instance, in the 1880s fashioned a vase that defied function – his Double-Vase Decorated with a Breton Figure could not hold a bouquet of flowers.

But he is just one of many who were attracted to the unique features of clay and who used it in their sculptural projects. The list includes Picasso, Noguchi, Miró and Lichtenstein, among others.

For Steinberg, tightening budgets and the fragile nature of ceramics, which makes them hard to transport, prompted him to look locally.

“I thought it would compromise the show,” he said, “but it didn’t affect quality at all. It’s a great show.”

The exhibition, which runs from April 2-23 with a 5-8 p.m. reception on April 2, features Jason Green and Derek Harding, who are both Rhode Island-based artists, but who also have had wider exposure.

Green, who teaches ceramics and sculpture at the Walnut Hill School, an arts high school in Natick, Mass., has exhibited throughout the U.S. and abroad and was a visiting artist at Jingdezhen Sanbao Ceramic Art Institute in China.

Harding is studio manager and moldmaker at Roseberry-Winn Pottery and Tile in Tiverton, and teaches at CCRI. He participated in a unique program for artists in Wisconsin, sponsored by Kohler Co., the well known manufacturer of kitchen and bath fixtures.

The program brings in visual artists to work on their own projects in the company’s manufacturing facilities, allowing them to explore innovative techniques for studio ceramics.

By exhibiting these two artists together, Steinberg has formulated an interesting study in comparisons and contrasts.

Both use a casting process, which works by first sculpting a model from clay or wood, then making a plaster mold from that, and finally pouring in liquid clay or pressing in plastic clay. Once the piece has dried, it is bisqued and then glazed fired.

One of the most striking differences between the work of Green and Harding lies in their surfaces, and that depends on whether the clay is pressed or poured into the mold.

Green, who presses clay, arrives at a

New approaches to an old tradition: Jason Green and Derek Harding at Bannister Gallery

Biblical reinterpretations:

paintings by Lucia O’Reilly

From April 2-23 Bannister’s Hall Space Gallery will feature work by Lucia O’Reilly, whose series of paintings, Hard Passages, is on exhibit at the Newport Art Museum until March 22.

James Montford, gallery director and curator of the exhibition, said that the work to be displayed at the College represents some of the smaller-scale works in this series.

The following is excerpted from a statement by O’Reilly:

“For the past couple of years, I have been working on “Hard Passages,” a series of paintings on paper built around the “hard passages” of the Bible, which promote or condone cruelty and violence, the subjugation of women, slavery, etc. I grew up an Episcopalian but left the church in the early seventies, after the General Convention had repeatedly voted down the ordination of women.

“The Bible passages are written on the paintings in Greek, which provides two advantages. The first is formal; most viewers will not try to decipher the words, but rather see them as a lacy pattern that adds to the visual layers of the surface. The second is the distancing of literal meaning.

“The paintings begin with holes burned into 400 lb. paper; I am compelled to draw with fire, not just for the velvety charred line it creates, but also because of our innate fascination with this elemental force. The holes also emphasize the paintings’ relationship to the wall; much of the energy and animation comes from the play of light and shadow behind them.”

Lucia O’Reilly grew up in St. Louis, Missouri, and holds a BA in fine art from Brown University. She has also studied at the Rhode Island School of Design and Washington University. She lives in Pawtuxet Village in Warwick.

From April 2-23 Bannister’s HALL SPACE Gallery will feature work by Lucia O’Reilly, whose series of paintings, Hard Passages, is on exhibit at the Newport Art Museum until March 22.

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RIC animation festival on campus April 17, 18

The Festival of Contemporary Animation is this year’s Spring Celebration of the Arts presentation. The two-night event in the Nazarian Center’s Sapinsley Hall will feature recent animated films by regional and international artists.

The festival kicks off on Friday, April 17, with the International Program. The two-hour screening begins at 7 p.m. with a 45-minute selection of the “best of” the Ottawa Animation Festival 2008—the one of the top animation festivals in the world.

The second half of the international program will showcase the festival curators’ picks, including the charcoal drawings that come to life in Automatic Writing by renowned South African artist William Kentridge; the surreal tale of Rambo in Untitled (Pink Dot) by digital artist Takeshi Murata; a hand-drawn and cut-out animation titled How She Slept at Night by the Chicago-based comic artist Lilli Carré; and the poignant, experimental animation titled Past, Illuminating the Future, were entertained by members of the dance company, who performed waiting square x 2, a piece choreographed by guest artist Heidi Henderson.

Dance concert to feature works of Liam Clancy, Olase Freeman March 26, 27

The Faculty & Alumni Concert will showcase the works of alum Liam Clancy ’95 and Olase Freeman, newly appointed interim assistant professor of dance and co-artistic director of Beld Soul. The performance will be Thursday and Friday, March 26 and 27 at 8 p.m. in the Nazarian Center’s Sapinsley Hall.

Clancy describes his work as a hybrid performance style that incorporates improvisation and experimental dance with the theatrical and humorous components of vaudeville and circus. The San Diego Union-Tribune noted that Clancy’s work “mixes laugh-out-loud comedy, storytelling and sophisticated choreography.” Clancy, who teaches at the University of California, San Diego, is a former California, San Diego, is a former Elizabeth Streb company dancer. Freeman attempts to integrate disparate movement vocabularies hip hop, martial arts, West African dance, contact improvisation and yoga into a contemporary release technique that is dynamic, organic, transparent and evolving.

Dance Company also performed selections from its repertoire.

Alums, faculty, staff and dance enthusiasts gathered in the Auditorium in Roberts Hall to celebrate the RIC Dance Company’s 50th anniversary on Feb. 26.

The gala event included a film and dance performances followed by a dinner reception in the Nazarian Center’s Forman Theatre.

Attendees of the celebration, titled “Reflecting the Past, Illuminating the Future,” were entertained by members of the dance company, who performed waiting square x 2, a piece choreographed by guest artist Heidi Henderson.

Performers onstage in the Auditorium in Roberts Hall commemorate 50 years of RIC dance.

The current RIC Dance Company director, Dante Del Giudice, a former RIC Dance Company director, serves as master of ceremonies for the anniversary gala.

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Former dance company members from 1966 through 2007 united to perform in Half-Moon Rising, a work created for the occasion by Olase Freeman, interim associate professor of dance.

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Angelica Cardente-Vessella, interim director of dance/managing director, introduced the master of ceremonies, Dante Del Giudice ’79. The former director of dance (1987-07) and performer is RIC’s current interim director of continuing education and summer sessions.

Guest speaker Clay Taliaferro HD ’86, professor emeritus at Duke University, attributed his choreographic origins to RIC, specifically Fannie Melcer and Billie Burrill HD ’05. Taliaferro is an internationally recognized dance performer, choreographer and director who has worked in television, film and Broadway productions.

Burrill, who along with Del Giudice served as honorary chairperson of the anniversary event, is the founder and first director of the RIC Dance Company. At the College, she was also a director of health and physical education and helped elevate RIC’s Performing Arts Series to prominence in the state.
Relating to Hair: 1960s musical mirrors present day

By Katy Dorchies ’09
Staff Writer

Today, “change,” “war,” “hope” and “scandal” are common buzzwords. Of course, these words could relate to many different time periods.

From April 16-19 Rhode Island College Theatre will draw a connection between contemporary issues and those of the 1960s with its performance of the first American rock musical: Hair.

Hair: The American Tribal Love-Rock Musical will be revived on the Roberts Hall Auditorium stage at 8 p.m. from April 16-18, and at 2 p.m. on April 18 and 19.

Members of the cast will be more than ready. Assigned their parts in mid-December, they were instructed by Bill Wilson (director and assistant professor at RIC) to familiarize themselves with the Hair script (book and lyrics by James Rado and Gerome Ragni) and score (music by Galt MacDermot), as well as Scott Miller’s 2003 book Let the Sun Shine In: The Genius of Hair.

“This particular musical takes more prep than a normal musical,” said Wilson, “Hair is actually about the 60s so I thought it was important that [the cast] learned about that before we started.”

Wilson, who has long wanted to work on Hair, said the time seems right to stage the show, because the similarities between the late 1960s and today are so strong.

“We’re in two wars now, we were in the middle of a war then,” Wilson explains. “There’s unrest in the country, anger in the country, people are talking about change, so it’s more similar [to the 1960s] than it ever has been since 1967.”

The RIC Cast of Hair

The leading roles are as follows:

BERGER ....................... Albert Jennings
WOLF ....................... Naysh Fox
STEVE ........................ Andrew Holder
HUD ............................ Michael Evora
CLAUDE ........................ Justin Robinson
JEANIE ........................ Danielle Triangolo
CRISSY ........................ Manon Yoder Kreider
SHEILA ........................ Talia Triangolo
AQUARIUS ........................ Amy Johnson

The cast will also include:

Yeimis Aquino .................. Amy Holly
Danielle Boucher ................ Drew Hutchinson
Anissa Boudreau ............... Sarah LaGasse
Kelsie Brejcha .................. Kevin Martin
James Burgis ................... Joseph NiCastro
Adriano Cabral .................. Alura Plante
Derek Capobianco ............. Ashley Rodrigues
Josh Christensen .............. Allie Smith
Alicia Colantonio .............. Allison St. Rock
Eric Desnoyers ................ Alicia White
Michael DiMascolo ............. Hayley Woodbine
Alex Duckworth ................

Hair wrote, “Is Hair dated? It’s true that nudity and four-letter words are hardly shocking today. But that’s only an issue if you believe that Hair’s primary aim is to shock, which is not the case.”

For example, what many observers hear during the third song of the first act, Hashish, are references to illegal drugs. Distracted by the discomfort sometimes kindled by these references, many overlook the second half of the song, during which commonly abused legal drugs are also discussed.

Wilson admits that he didn’t immediately comprehend the split in the song. Only after doing research did he realize “that the point of the song was to say, ‘Why are the drugs that young people are using illegal, and the drugs that older people are using and getting by prescription, from doctors, legal?’ And that’s one of the messages: the hypocrisy of modern life.”

The hypocrisies raised in Hair extend to sex and race. Like Hashish, these topics also have underlying themes—themes that go beyond tools of shock.

“We can why 50 things to say about African American people that are derogatory and it’s hard to think of something to say about a white person?” Wilson asks, summarizing the critical points in Hair.

“One of the messages is, ‘ Why do you care so much about what people are doing behind closed doors, as long as they’re not hurting anybody, while 40,000 Americans are dying in Vietnam?’”

For those who witnessed the flower child movement of the 1960s, these sentiments probably sound familiar. Those who did not can still identify with the themes of Hair’s songs.

“Hair is wildly experimental (even by today’s standards) and extremely sophisticated,” wrote Miller. But, he added, it is “also extraordinarily simple and pure at its core, and it’s that simplicity and purity, that innocence even in the midst of the four-letter words and nudity, that makes it so universal, so powerful, so utterly unforgettable.”

Now, a new audience will accompany the cast of Hair as they create their tribe and question authority and society. “Maybe,” said Hair performer Uchenna Ogu, “[the characters in Hair] really will change the world after all.”

Reserved seating is $20.

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Talia Triangolo scholarship finalist

RIC theatre student Talia Triangolo was a recent finalist for an Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship. The Irene Ryan Foundation of Encino, Calif., awards scholarships to the outstanding student performers at regional Kennedy Center American College Theater festivals. Triangolo performed in a festival at Fitchburg State College in Fitchburg, Mass., from Jan. 27 to Feb. 1.

“She did not win, but just making it to the finals is a huge accomplishment,” said Jamie Taylor, associate professor of theatre and chair of RIC’s Department of Music, Theatre, and Dance.

The scholarships are possible through the generosity of the late Irene Ryan, who is best remembered for her portrayal of Granny Clampett in the long-running TV series The Beverly Hillbillies.
RIC’s Class of 1959 awards 50 scholarships to help defray rising tuition

The scholarships are part of the class Thanks a Thousand Times program to help the College in troubled times.

One-hundred-and-twenty-five dollars.

That was the total cost of a four-year education for a student at Rhode Island College who graduated in 1959.

Fifty years later, members of the Class of 1959 want to help their young successors who may be struggling financially to earn their degrees at their alma mater. As part of its golden anniversary celebration, the class is awarding 50 scholarships in the amount of $125 to eligible graduating seniors to help defray the mid-year tuition increase that was approved by the Board of Governors for Higher Education last December.

Back then, students paid no tuition and only a general activity fee of $25 per year, until the College moved to the Mount Pleasant Avenue campus in 1958, when the fee was increased to $50 a year. The class of 1959 entered as freshmen in 1955 and paid $25 for their first three years, then $50 for their senior year, for a total of $125 for their entire four year stay.

Now, tuition cost for just one year at RIC is $6,171 for in-state students, and $14,882 for out-of-state students.

The scholarship program is part of the Class of 1959’s overall fundraising effort, called “Thanks a Thousand Times,” to raise $125,000 (1,000 times the amount they paid for a four-year degree) in gifts and scholarships for the College in May commencement ceremonies.

Don Babbitt, a member of the Class of 1959 and reunion co-chairperson, introduced the idea to the reunion committee.

“They wanted to help the students who got the news that was like.” He said even with the low tuition costs in the late 1950s, it was difficult to come up with the money.

“We (the class) were empathic to the students who got the news of a financial surprise last year, and wanted to help,” he added.

Babbitt said that marching in the commencement process with the students who received the scholarships will be another “nice connection” for the golden anniversary class.

The scholarships will be awarded based on need to graduating seniors earning degrees in education, social work or nursing.

The RIC Class of 1959 was the first class to graduate from the Mount Pleasant Avenue campus.
Gerontology conference on civic engagement April 22

The RIC Gerontology Center will host a conference on Civic Engagement and Aging on Wednesday, April 22, from 8:30 a.m. to noon in the Faculty Center’s Main Dining Room.

The conference will examine civic engagement of older adults. Topics include the new paradigm of civic engagement for those over 50, the resources of the National Service Senior Corps Program, the volunteer-driven programs of Meals on Wheels, volunteer opportunities of the RISPCA organization, and the best practices for civic engagement emerging from the Experience Corps model. The event, which is supported by the College Lectures Committee, AARP-RI, and AGES, is open to the public free of charge and offers continuing education credit.

Henry Barnard fifth graders to present play on Irish immigrants on March 13

The fifth grades at Henry Barnard School, under the direction of Professor Sharon Fennessey ’67, will present the premier performance of the play Maddie McNally, Irish Immigrant on Friday, March 13, at 9:30 a.m. in the Nazarian Center’s Sapinsley Hall.

The historical drama, which is set in 1911, portrays the difficulties encountered by members of the McNally family when they immigrate to America and pass through Ellis Island.

As the play progresses, Mrs. McNally is rejected at Ellis Island due to pneumonia and sent back to Ireland. Shortly after, the McNally children discover that their father has died in a streetcar accident. Maddie, the eldest daughter, becomes the head of the family, and works in the Triangle Shirtwaist Company to support her siblings while they live in a boarding house run by Mrs. Moore.

The plot climaxes with a fire at the factory where Maddie works (146 workers died in this famous New York fire). She manages to escape and also helps the daughter of Mrs. Moore to safety.

The story of the McNally family mirrors the experience of new immigrants then and now, the struggle to find work and adjust to a new way of life.

The role of Maddie McNally is played by Emeline Herreid. The brother, Michael, and sister, Maura, are portrayed by Nick Souza and Camille LaFlamme. The role of Mrs. Moore is performed by Maddie Mahoney. Fifth-grade students in Vanessa Percoco’s and Fennessey’s classes play various parts including people at Ellis Island, factory workers and boarders at Mrs. Moore’s.

GradFest offers these opportunities:

• Purchase a cap, gown, hood and tassel.
• Order personalized graduation announcements.
• Order class ring and diploma frames.
• Visit the Financial Aid booth for important information about student loans.
• Visit the Records Office booth to verify diploma information and apply for graduation.
• Speak with professionals in Career Services to learn about opportunities.
• Visit the Alumni Association booth for information on benefits, the Young Alumni Group and diploma frames.
• Learn about Senior Celebration activities, Cap and Gown Day and the commencement exercises in May.
The 49th annual conference of the Northeastern Anthropological Association (NEAA) will be hosted by Rhode Island College on Friday and Saturday, March 13 and 14. The theme of this year’s conference, “The Challenges of Exploring Diversity,” highlights anthropology’s commitment to understanding the multiple histories, alternative languages, diverse cultures and varied biological expressions that now define us.

Ken Miller of Brown University will deliver a free, open-to-the-public keynote address – “Is Evolution Only a Theory? America’s Continuing Problem with Darwin’s Great Idea” – on Saturday, March 14, at 7:30 p.m. following the NEAA banquet. Miller is a professor of biology and Royce Family Professor for Teaching Excellence at Brown.

Sessions on cultural issues, archaeology, human biology, historic preservation, ethics, global development, education and more will be featured. It will also include workshops on careers and student prizes for outstanding writing and exhibition.

The conference will draw scholars from Canada to Pennsylvania and from nearby colleges and universities to the RIC campus, offering opportunities to network, test out ideas, and learn about new discoveries and interpretations. The event creates a stage for faculty and student papers, posters and public discourse.

Sponsored by RIC with additional support from The Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc., The Feinstein College of Arts and Sciences at Roger Williams University and Gray and Pape, Inc.

For more information, visit www.ric.edu/neaa2009 or contact neaconf@ric.edu.
Christopher Seto, professors of neuroscience and chemistry, respectively, at Brown University. STAC was created in 2005 with the purpose of promoting interorganizational and multidisciplinary collaborative projects throughout the state of Rhode Island. Projects that are likely to attract future funding from national associations (National Science Foundation, National Institutes of Health) are particularly sought after.

This is the second consecutive year that Williams has been part of a winning team. More importantly, the 2008 team – whose project will be extended until the end of May 2009 due to remaining funds – led Williams to partake in the most recently funded project.

The latest grant awarded to Williams and his team will support the purchase the Milestone MultiSYNTH labstation, a recently developed microwave synthesizer. “About 30 years ago, it was discovered that you could accelerate certain chemical reactions using microwave radiation,” said Williams. “In fact, people just put things in a microwave oven, once upon a time.”

The MultiSYNTH is much more sophisticated than a simple microwave oven. The labstation can be programmed to make specific molecules. Molecules are made up of many smaller units. With the MultiSYNTH, a researcher can select particular units and create new molecules in mere hours, rather than days (as is necessary when only using heat).

This team will be focusing on creating compounds that have the same properties as antioxidants, which are particularly important in the treatment and research of neurodegenerative diseases, such as Alzheimer’s.

The entire nervous system – brain, spinal cord and peripheral nerves – is rich in unsaturated fats and iron, which are particularly prone to the damaging effects of oxidative stress.

This means that, as time passes, oxygen molecules can react to certain chemicals in these parts of the body in harmful ways. Since “antioxidant” means “against oxygen,” they can help fight, or at least delay, these risky reactions.

“If you can suppress that [process] you can, if not prevent, at least lengthen the time of development of the condition. So you put a chemical in that shuts down some of these oxidized pathways,” said Williams. Upcoming meetings will initiate this latest STAC-funded project. Williams, however, is also hoping for more funding to support undergraduate research.

Williams said that his primary interest in grant opportunities is to acquire money to pay RIC students to complete lab work. Since most students work anyway, it’s beneficial for them to be paid for work that contributes to their professional resume. Undergraduate students are the true driving force behind projects like this.

Besides, Williams said, “I couldn’t do any of this by myself.”

To Williams, the latest project is actually an offshoot from the research his students have completed during the last year. Until the upcoming project is fully set in motion, his mind is still on the continuing research taking place in Clarke Science classrooms.

A year ago, the 2008 STAC award-winning team composed of Williams, fellow RIC professors Rebeka Merson and Karen Almeida ’94, Matt Stoner (professor of biology at the University of Rhode Island) and James N. Jacob (Organomed Corporations), focused on research that would improve drugs often used in chemotherapy.

The particular drug in question, tamoxifen, is most notably used in the treatment of breast cancer. It is known to frequently have negative side effects, such as the development of fatal blood clots, an aggressive promotion of liver and uterine cancers and even, at times, a growth and spread of the very tumors and cancer it is supposed to be fighting.

Despite all of these side effects, tamoxifen’s continued use in the treatment and prevention of breast cancer is based on its FDA-approved success as an anti-estrogen, or more specifically, an estrogen blocker.

For healthy women, estrogen is hardly a bad thing. It’s a natural hormone that helps the body in many ways. Specifically, estrogen reproduces certain tissues, like those in the uterus and breast. In order for this reproduction (better known as “proliferation”) to occur, estrogen molecules must attach to the protein molecules in the tissue. These specific protein molecules are known as estrogen receptors, and they have a particular shape, to which only estrogen can connect.

Once an estrogen molecule lodges itself in an estrogen receptor, proliferation will always take place – even if the receptor connects to sick cells. So, in the case of breast cancer, sick, abnormal cells are reproduced, spreading the disease.

Estrogen blocking drugs like tamoxifen help to keep this cell proliferation from happening. When the drug breaks down, it acts like a fake estrogen, and fits into the estrogen receptor, keeping the real estrogen out.

Since the drug is not actually estrogen, no proliferation can occur. This helps stop the spread of the cancerous cells.

There are very few drugs that can do this, which is why tamoxifen remains a leading choice when it comes to cancer chemotherapy treatment.

The 2008 STAC award allowed Williams and his team (comprised mainly of undergraduate researchers) to begin a search for a new compound that can fit the estrogen receptor puzzle piece, without the dangerous side effects. Achieving this balance is the ultimate task of medicinal chemistry, according to Williams. He added that when “you have a condition you want to treat, you want to leave everything else alone. And that’s essentially not possible. Instead, you try to mitigate the bad effects and jack up the target effects.”

“Using a program downloaded for free from the NIH Protein Data Bank, students worked with local companies to develop a technologically savvy piece of equipment out of a PlayStation-3. This program can rapidly test certain compounds’ ability to imitate the qualities of estrogen. Through this technology, students were able to whittle the number of possible receptor fits down from hundreds of thousands to 20 or 30.”

Elizabeth Couto ’09, an undergraduate researcher, stated that she and the other students are basically trying to create different compounds, then sending them to the University of Rhode Island to be screened for compatibility.

“It’s really interesting to point out how actually valid programs like this are,” says Jake Hicks ’10. “There’s progress made, in this industry, through college research – and not just college research, but undergraduate research.”

“When we leave here,” said Couto, “we’re going to leave well-trained, and prepared for the real world.”

“The big thing here is that, we teach undergraduates,” Williams said. “The way you learn to do research is you go in a lab and you do it. I can stand at a board and say: this is what you do, and this is what happens. But what happened?”

STAC cont...
Why I like the STEM Center project and computer-based learning

By Kenneth Berwick ‘62

I am a 74-year-old retired teacher, and I used computer technology to improve reading skills during the APPLE IIE era. I applaud the formal opening of RIC’s STEM Center project. I like the STEM project because it promotes a hands-on interactive relationship between teacher and student where computer technology is being used as an educational tool. It has been my belief for a long time that a computer-based curriculum will work much better than a textbook-based curriculum.

One reason the cost of education is high and the performance of students low is the use of textbooks in the classroom. Most students find textbooks boring and difficult to understand because the reading level is too high. In addition, educators have no control over textbook content. The publishers and states with large student populations control this, which means that a lot of the material contained in the textbooks may not be in the school’s curriculum.

The high cost of textbooks means that many schools are using textbooks that are out of date and damaged. In addition, textbook-based curriculums require teachers to make out lesson plans and plan books and also spend their precious time correcting endless numbers of worksheets and textbook pages.

The STEM Center project will provide teachers with the how-know to integrate computer technology into the classroom to replace costly, out-of-date and many times, useless, textbooks and their supplementary materials.

One way to go, in the 21st century, is to use computer technology to store and print out the daily lessons to be taught in each subject. Each lesson would match the curriculum and each printout would include the lesson plan, the materials needed for the lesson and suggestions on how to teach the lesson. Student reading materials would be short, written at least one year below the average reading level of the class and covered only two or three concepts. If the curriculum changes, only the lessons involved would have to be changed. These computer lessons would always be up to date.

All teachers of the same subject would start with lesson one and teach a set number of lessons each week during the year. Drill and test materials will be quickly corrected by computer, which will allow for instantaneous feedback to the students and teachers. This will be very motivating for the students and allow teachers to quickly determine which concepts to review or reteach.

Doing this will also allow the computer-based large group instruction in each subject area. At the end of each DVD lesson, students will use their clickers to answer questions on a multiple-choice quiz based on the lesson. This will be motivating and require the strict attention of all students.

In the upper grades, study halls will be eliminated. Computer-based large group instruction will make it possible for every class setting to be a learning experience.

If a teacher is absent, the substitute can easily follow the computer generated lesson, and, if a child is out sick for a period of time, these lessons will allow for successful home schooling that will exactly follow the lessons being taught in school.

Next, I would do away with all hands-on experiments in elementary science classes that require chemicals or dangerous equipment. These materials are expensive and can cause injury to students. All hands-on experiments can be done on the computer using computer simulations. This will allow students to take home the computer disc and continue learning about the experiments under parental supervision.

RIC’s STEM Center project will give Rhode Island’s teachers and administrators the training and the incentive to start using 21st-century methods to solve 21st-century problems, and allow teachers to start using computer technology as a teaching tool.

All children have the ability to learn. They just have to be given the opportunity to learn on a day-to-day basis by using computer technology to interact with their teachers and the subject matter.

In school, learning begins when a teacher teaches a lesson, not when a student reads a textbook. A computer-based curriculum will require all teachers to teach and all students to learn the basic lessons. This will go a long way to making sure all students meet grade level expectations.

RIC holds line on in-state rates for summer classes, reduces rates for out-of-state students

It may still be winter but it’s not too early to be thinking of enrolling in summer courses. This year, Rhode Island College will offer about 300 undergraduate courses and 80 graduate level courses at rates lower than last year, despite a recent proposal to increase the cost of summer courses.

During tough economic times and more student interest in summer courses, RIC President Nancy Carriuolo took the matter to the Board of Governors for Higher Education earlier this month, asking to lower the cost of summer study and won her case.

In-state students can attend at 2008 rates of $201 per credit for undergraduate courses and $281 per credit for graduate courses. Out-of-state students will pay $383 per credit for undergraduate courses, which is $187 less than last year, and $431 for graduate courses, for a $149 savings from 2008.

Students in the recently expanded metropolitan tuition program (MTP) who live within a 50-mile radius of the College, will be able to attend summer sessions at a reduced rate of $302 per credit for undergraduate courses and $422 per credit for graduate studies, which is one-and-a-half times the in-state rate. The lowered MTP rates were scheduled to take effect in September 2009, but RIC administrators pushed up the date to include these students in summer study.

“The accelerated schedule will give more students, including those now eligible in the Massachusetts and Connecticut areas, the opportunity to take summer classes at RIC. It’s all part of the College’s good neighbor policy to broaden the RIC community,” said Ron Pitt, vice president for academic affairs.

The 2009 budgeted rates would have had in-staters paying $218 per credit for undergraduate courses, and $294 per credit for graduate courses, and out-of-state student rates at $580 per credit for undergraduate courses and $590 for graduate courses.

RIC President Nancy Carriuolo said that lower summer school rates will provide affordable access to higher education for current students and those at home for the summer, and reduce overall tuition payments.

“The original 2009 summer tuition plan was too expensive now that so many families are in financial distress,” said Carriuolo. “We hope that by making summer school at RIC affordable, students will consider taking a summer course in order to lighten their fall course loads, to accelerate their progress toward graduation, to learn more about a field of interest, or to improve their skills by re-taking a course.”

Summer courses range from lab science and management to East Asian cinema and a field study of New England seaports. The complete listing of course offerings is available on the RIC website at www.ric.edu.

Online, pre-registration for summer sessions is now underway. Campus housing is also available. For more information, call RIC’s Office of Continuing Education at (401) 456-8091.

Two RIC Students awarded Raise Your Voice funds

For their compelling applications regarding Emerging Leaders and the Diversity Series, RIC students Jennifer Ferguson and Mariama Kurubaly are two of the 15 students in Massachusetts and Rhode Island to win Raise Your Voice funds.

Both were awarded $500 to implement their vision for campus dialogue.

The Raise Your Voice contest is held to promote leadership and collaboration within campus communities while focusing on college students’ roles in implementing change around the campus and community.

“All of the entries we received demonstrated that students are passionate about campus and community challenges and eager to lead efforts to make a difference in their communities,” wrote Carie Goral, executive director of the Rhode Island Campus Compact, in a letter to RIC President Nancy Carriuolo.

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**LITERATURE AND THE ARTS**

The Importance of Being Oscar

"Life imitates Art far more than Art imitates Life," said Oscar Wilde in *The Decay of Lying." Life holds the mirror up to Art, and either reproduces some strange type imagined by painter or sculptor (or writer) in fact as what has been dreamed in fiction." Certainly Wilde's own life and legacy illustrate his claim, his biography reveals a carefully constructed persona and his works continue to thrill us as to the world in a particular way. Come learn about and discuss Wilde (the man and the writer) before (or after) viewing a live or DVD reproduction of his last play, *The Importance of Being Earnest* (on stage April 10-May 10).

Faculty: Dr. Maureen Reddy, Chair, Department of English

Saturday, April 25, 2:00–4:00 p.m.

Bel Canto or Can Belto: Is it Opera or Broadway?

We will introduce you to the genre of works called Broadway musicals. Works by Minnelli, Blount and Well will be featured as will archives of Loesser, Bernstein and Sondheim.

Faculty: Dr. Fredric Scheff, Adjunct Professor of Music

Saturday, May 2, 2:00–4:00 p.m.

Outrageous Hero: The B. T. Collins Story: Author-Discussion and Reading of this Make-You-Laugh, Make-You-Cry Book

B. T. Collins was a warrior, patriot, politician, public servant. He came from Vietnam minus his right arm and leg rowsing in life and in the minds of those gentle heroes he'd left behind. He's the story of his life lived with guts: irreverently, selflessly, honestly and political correctness be damned! Master of blarney and bravado, he could charm the pants off a leprechaun and the last coin from your purse to help the innocent, the unprepared and the unappreciative.

Faculty: Dr. Maureen Collins Baker, Professor Emeritus, SUNY Potsdam

Wednesday, April 29, 6:00–8:00 p.m.

Drawing for Beginners

This course will introduce the student to the materials, methods and techniques of Basic Drawing. The course will cover in depth the fundamentals of drawing and allow the student to gain control over such issues as perspective, value, form, space and light. A variety of projects and exercises will be done during the class period which will allow students to expand their own drawing level.

Faculty: Robert Collins, Adjunct Professor of Art,

3 meetings,

Tuesday, April 21 and 28, May 5 6:00–8:00 p.m.

Poetry Writing A, B, C

Come to class, write a poem! If you've always had a hankering to try your hand at poetry, or if you're one that has been working away on a thousand poems alone in your room, this is your chance to explore the craft of poetry through exercises that focus on the fundamentals of effective verse: image, metaphor, music, line and space. By the end of the workshop, everyone will have written at least a couple of poems and shared them.

Faculty: Dr. Kathleen Calbert, Professor of English

Dept. of English,

Wednesday, May 20 6:00–9:00 p.m.

The Many Musical and Cultural Layers in Turkey

Turkey is a country with a long and multifaceted history. Come explore it through music, both historic and contemporary: Ottoman classical music, songs from the Turkish countryside, Sufi devotional music, Turkish pop music, and Greek and Armenian music from their Turkish regions. A fast and furious travelogue through the centuries that have left their indelible mark on this critical geographical area.

Faculty: Dr. Mehmet Sandik, Adjunct Professor of Music

Tuesday, April 30, 6:00–8:00 p.m.

HEALTH AND FAMILY

The Parent Soccer Coach

This presentation is great for parents and coaches looking for ways to help their children will improve and practice their soccer skills, with easy-to-follow drills that don't require a lot of equipment, space or time to set up. With this session I'll show you how to cover the basic skills used by professionals around the world. Whether you're coaching your child or an entire team, these techniques will give them the skills they need to improve their game. Ages 16 and above; sneakers required. $10 cost for DVD materials upon attendance.

Faculty: Paul Januaryau, Assistant Professor, Henry Barnard School

Saturday, May 23, 6:00–8:00 p.m.

Coaching Positive: Youth Groups or Your Own Children

Members of RIC's coaching staff discuss what they have learned from the many years of experience they have had coaching children and youth and how to practice their soccer skills, with easy-to-follow drills that don't require a lot of equipment, space or time to set up. With this session I'll show you how to cover the basic skills used by professionals around the world. Whether you're coaching your child or an entire team, these techniques will give them the skills they need to improve their game. Ages 16 and above; sneakers required. $10 cost for DVD materials upon attendance.

Faculty: Dr. John Williams, Professor of Chemistry,

Tuesday, April 28, 6:00–8:00 p.m.

The world is full of chemicals and some of them can kill you! Why? Isn't it useful? A variety of projects and exercises will be done during the class period which will allow students to expand their own drawing level.

Faculty: Dr. Susan Abbottson, Assistant Professor of English

Saturday, May 4, 6:00–8:00 p.m.

Scarcity: What Are You Taking and What Are You Eating? Toxictology for people who eat food and take (legal) drugs

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Tuesday, April 30, 6:00–8:00 p.m.

**PERSONAL INTEREST, HEALTH AND FAMILY**

The Parent Soccer Coach

This presentation is great for parents and coaches looking for ways to help their children will improve and practice their soccer skills, with easy-to-follow drills that don't require a lot of equipment, space or time to set up. With this session I'll show you how to cover the basic skills used by professionals around the world. Whether you're coaching your child or an entire team, these techniques will give them the skills they need to improve their game. Ages 16 and above; sneakers required. $10 cost for DVD materials upon attendance.

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Faculty: Dr. John Williams, Professor of Chemistry,

Tuesday, April 28, 6:00–8:00 p.m.
Effective Swimming

Geared to the intermediate-level swimmer and above who wants to swim more efficiently and effectively for fitness, this two-hour workshop will focus on stroke mechanics and breathing properly. Maximum of 10 only.

Faculty: Athletics and Recreation staff, $35
Saturday, April 25, 10:00 a.m.–Noon

The ABCs to Better Health

New Year's resolution still not started? How many times have you thought about getting in shape, or put it aside for “later.” This program is for those who want to start getting into better shape. Be beginning a fitness program and a diet and who don’t want to waste time and energy doing the wrong things.

Faculty: Athletics and Recreation staff, $35
Monday, April 26, 6:00–8:00 p.m.

Recognizing Disability in a Family Member: Resources and Responses

Society’s approach to disability has changed in the last fifty years. Current approaches focus on using an individual’s strengths, abilities and resources, adding active participants in school and society. Recognizing disability and responding early is essential to achieving that outcome. This workshop is for anyone who has a disability or who has disabled family members and will provide an overview of disability resources in Rhode Island.

Faculty: Deb Anthony Antish, Director of the Paul V. Sherlock Center, $45
Tuesday, May 12, 6:00–8:00 p.m.

Break Down Your Walls with Universal Design!

Did you ever say to yourself, “Boy, I would really love to do that, if only...”? Then this workshop is for you! Universal Design is a relatively new paradigm that emerged from “barrier-free” or “accessible design” and “assistive technology.” Learn what universal design is and how to apply it in your own life or in the lives of others. Community resources for universal design are included.

Faculty: Elizabeth Dalton, Assistant Professor, Paul V. Sherlock Center and Center for Social Responsibility in Higher Education, $35
Saturday, April 25, 9:00 a.m.–Noon

 kickoff your child’s success for homework, the Internet, adult life and more! It’s easy to get frustrated helping children with homework. After all, it doesn’t look like it did when you were in school. Then, there is the Internet! How can you guide and ensure your child’s success through school and into adult life?

Session I focuses on elementary students: Get ideas to meet the homework battle and find parent/kid friendly Internet resources that prepare a child for middle school success.

Session II addresses middle/high school: Get practical ideas to help your child juggle homework assignments, everyday life and activities that are only a nightmare, use the Internet to research career, financial aid, and independent living resources.

Faculty: Mark Gunning, Adjunct Professor, and Deb Abruzzini, Master Teacher, Paul V. Sherlock Center, $35 each session
Session I: Tuesday, April 21, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
Session II: Wednesday, April 22, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Positive Parenting Strategies

Positive Behavioral Supports have proven to be a highly effective approach to preventing behaviors in children. This workshop will present the seven principles of Positive Behavioral Supports in depth. Participants will learn that all behaviors have a purpose and receive a practical step-by-step plan to determine the purpose and develop positive strategies to challenge behavior. This is followed with positive strategies to prevent challenging behavior.

Faculty: Ellen Reinhardt, School Psychologist, East Providence School District; Lynne DeMerchant, Deb Arenglen and Clare Rosenbaum, Positive Behavior Supports, Paul V. Sherlock Center, $55
Thursday, May 28, 6:00–9:00 p.m.

Understanding Hearing Loss in Children and Adults

You may know someone who has a hearing loss—perhaps a parent, child, student or co-worker. This workshop will enhance your understanding of hearing loss through discussion of the types of hearing impairments, amplifications, and the causes of hearing loss. Hearing aids and cochlear implants are discussed as well as current listening devices. Major implant and resources for services and supports are also presented.

Faculty: Janet Salek, Teacher of Students with Hearing Impairments, Paul V. Sherlock Center, $45
Wednesday, May 27, 6:00–9:00 p.m.

Understanding Vision Loss in Children and Adults

You may know someone who has a vision impairment: a parent, child, student or co-worker and wonder what this means and what resources are available. This workshop will increase your understanding of vision impairment by discussing what vision impairment is and how it is caused, visual accommodations and modifications, technology available for children and adults, resources for teachers, and vocational preparation for employment. Simulations will be used.

Faculty: Janet Salek, Teacher of Students with Hearing Impairments, Paul V. Sherlock Center, $45
Tuesday, June 2, 6:00–9:00 p.m.

A new approach to adapting living arrangements for older adults can be “age in place” in their own home with supportive services, and when it is time for them to move into an assisted living facility. Participants will learn the signs that indicate health and safety concerns for an older adult living at home, when it is time to consider assisted living for yourself or for your family(ies), and how to locate and make an informed choice regarding selecting an assisted living facility.

Faculty: Dr. E. Belle Evans, Professor, School of Social Work, $45
Tuesday, May 19, 6:00–8:00 p.m.

Success Face the Students with Identified Special Education Needs in Math

Students with special educational needs may experience difficulty learning mathematics for various reasons. This workshop will focus on some of the issues facing them, and offer specific strategies on how to help them be more successful in the math classroom.

Faculty: Dr. Marie A. Lynch, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Special Education, $45
Thursday, May 14, 6:00–8:00 p.m.

Special Education Services: The Decision-Making Process

Families face a variety of hurdles when their children struggle with learning in school. This workshop will explain the special education education process used to determine whether a child is eligible to receive special education services. Topics included are Response to Intervention, suspected disability, determining whether an evaluation is necessary, parental consent and other rights covered under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

Faculty: Dr. Marie A. Lynch, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Special Education, $45
Monday, June 1, 6:00–8:00 p.m.

See also “What Are You Taking And What Are You Eating?” in the Science section.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Tips for Editing: The Final Stage of Writing

In a recent letter-to-the-editor of the Providence Journal, a reader asked if all the editors had been laid off. The reader was commenting on some language used in news articles. This presentation will review the most common errors in spelling, grammar and punctuation as well as share strategies used by professionals. Participants will practice applying the tips that are taught. Participants are also welcome to email a one- or two-page document for later review and private feedback by the instructor.

Faculty: Dr. Nancy Carreiro, President of the College, $95
Wednesday, April 22, 6:00–8:00 p.m.

Running a Successful Meetings: Seven Steps to an Effective Meeting

Meetings don’t have to be a waste of time! In this interactive session, participants will learn tried and true methods for developing and facilitating effective meetings that engage attendees and get results. These strategies are applicable to any group that needs to make decisions, share information, develop a plan, etc. If you are now (or hope to be) a committee chair, manager, project leader, or anyone involved in meetings, you just want to be a more effective participant, then this session is for you. Textbook: $12.00.

Faculty: Vicki Ferrara, Employment Resource Specialist, Paul V. Sherlock Center, $45
Thursday, June 11, 6:00-9:00 p.m.

Basic Computer Skills

Come join the 21st century and learn how to use a computer! From how to turn on your computer to using the Internet and using an email account. No experience necessary.

Faculty: Patricia Hetu, Horace Mann Technical Center Staff, $35
Saturday, April 25, 9:00 a.m.–Noon

Excel Level 1

Introduction to Excel: the basic worksheet, entering data and performing calculations, formatting, printing and managing workbooks. A thorough and complete introduction to this powerful package.

Faculty: Scott Badger, Senior Programmer, Horace Mann Technical Staff, $75
Tuesday, May 19, 9:00 a.m.–Noon

Introduction to PowerPoint Level 1

If you don’t know how to use this software, you are missing out on one of the most important tools in business and the education field. Creating a presentation, editing, adding slides and graphics, animations, creating sounds and printing—all are included in this comprehensive workshop.

Faculty: Scott Badger, Senior Programmer, Horace Mann Technical Staff, $75
Saturday, May 9, 9:00 a.m.–Noon

Word Level 1

From simple memos to publishable manuscripts, Microsoft Word covers it all! Creating, saving, editing, rearranging, formatting, adding headers and footers, tables, graphs, pictures, entering data, and a variety of visual effects are all included in this workshop.

Faculty: Patricia Hetu, Horace Mann Technical Center Staff, $75
Wednesday, April 29, 6:00–9:00 p.m.

Google: Searching and More!

Join us for a two hour workshop. You’ll learn Internet searching strategies for using Google more efficiently and more effectively. In addition, did you know that Google is a newspaper, a calculator, an atlas, a dictionary, and a photo album? All this—and create a simple blog and create your own blog page. You can even create your own search engine, too.

Faculty: Dr. Susan Patterson, Assistant Professor, Educational Studies Dept., $40
Tuesday, April 28, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Rules of Engagement in Vendor Management

Do you choose your vendors to fill a specific project, or key company function or provide a service. You invested your trust in the provider. Usually the relationship works; however, what happens when it doesn’t work? Are you have a key term relationship spanning a period of years? How do you manage it? How do you measure success? How do you do it?

In this program you will learn some of the techniques necessary to achieve a positive and rewarding vendor relationship: establishing criteria and outcomes; reviewing compliance; measuring performance; taking corrective action; coordinating multiple relationships; communicating up, across and down.

Faculty: Joyce A. Maynard, SPRH Special Consultant to RIC Corporate Services, $90
Monday, May 11, 6:00–9:00 p.m.

What You Need to Know and Do to Be Creative

Two sessions will present the concepts that leading psychologists have determined are fundamental to creativity and how to apply these concepts. The workshop will be research and non-technical, providing strategies that can be applied to a variety of people in a variety of settings. Models will be introduced that elaborate on these concepts and show how they can be implemented to produce novel and creative thinking. This seminar is not only for the individual but also for the savvy business leader who seeks innovation from employees.

Faculty: Dr. Stephen P. Ramocki, Professor of Management and Marketing, $95
Thursday, April 23 and 30, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Survival, Renewal and Triumph in Bad Times

News getting you down? Fearing job loss? Feeling overwhelmed or hopeless? The current financial climate affects our energy level, point of view and disposition. Our point of view affects how we feel about our decisions, and how we are perceived by others. Models will be introduced that elaborate on these concepts and show how we can use our perception to improve our outcomes and creative thinking. This seminar is not only for the individual but also for the savvy business leader who seeks innovation from employees.

Faculty: Dr. Stephen P. Ramocki, Professor of Management and Marketing, $95
Thursday, April 23, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
Continuing a 53-year-old tradition of astounding audiences, The National Acrobats of China return to RIC on Tuesday, March 24, at 7:30 p.m. in the Auditorium in Roberts Hall.

These skillful performers use plates, bowls, jugs and other everyday objects to perform eye-popping acrobatics and heart-stopping balancing acts showcasing their perfect movements and flexible showmanship in this traditional Chinese art form.

Having performed in more than 30 countries, the acrobats incorporate a variety of martial arts, music and illusion into the shows, providing an unforgettable night of family entertainment.

The National Acrobats of China have won many awards. The acts “Straw Hats Juggling” and “Plates Spinning” won the Golden Awards at the Fifth China National Acrobatics Competition in 2000. “Dream Step Dance” and “Plate Spinning” were awarded the Golden Prize at the Fourth China National Youth Acrobatics Competition in August of 2002. Also, in 2007 the company took home the Golden Award at the Cirque de Demain in Paris, and the Silver Award at the Moscow International Circus Festival.

Tickets for The National Acrobats of China 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.