3-2-1979

What's New(s) at RIC

Rhode Island College

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What Are the Freshmen Like?
Survey Data Tells

Each year since 1966 Rhode Island College has participated in a survey of its entering freshmen in conjunction with the American Council on Education. This research provides a wide range of biographic and demographic data, as well as information on high school background, career plans, education aspirations, financial arrangements, and current attitudes of new students at Rhode Island College and nationwide. The highlights of this year’s results which follow should be of help to faculty and staff interested in gaining a better understanding of the class of 1982.

Demographic data from the first-time freshmen entering Rhode Island College in the fall of 1978 essentially parallels that of recent years. The great majority of our new freshmen are from local communities, with 40 percent from within ten miles of the college. Females outnumber males about 3 to 1, with 3.2 percent of the students surveyed identifying themselves as minority group members. Religious background is predominantly Roman Catholic (72 percent) and political orientation either "middle of the road" (65 percent) or "liberal" (25 percent). Ninety-eight percent were age 19 or younger upon enrollment and recent (i.e., 1978) high school graduates. Less than 1 percent were married. A new item this year shows that slightly less than 3 percent identify themselves as handicapped. Fall residence plans for the entering students indicated that 73 percent anticipated living with parents or relatives compared to 25 percent in the college residence halls and 2 percent in apartments. Forty-six percent of the students, however, reported that they would prefer to live in the residence halls if they had a choice.  

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The majority of our freshmen are first generation college students. Fifty-six percent of the fathers, and 69 percent of the mothers of the entering class were reported to have a high school education or less, as compared to 25 and 15 percent, respectively, with a college degree or better. Seventy percent reported that they were their parents' only dependent currently attending college. Median reported parental income was $15,900, somewhat below the four-year college national figure of $20,150, and, as is true of their peers nationwide, the majority of these new students come from two-income families (64 percent of the mothers of these students being employed).

Over three-quarters of the freshmen surveyed reported that "learning more about things that interest me" was a very important reason in their decision to enter college. Next most frequently cited reasons were "to gain a general education and appreciation of ideas" (72 percent), "to get a better job" (69 percent) and "to meet new and interesting people" (59 percent). As in past years, the reasons cited as very important in their decision to attend Rhode Island College included "the college has a very good academic reputation" (55 percent), "the college offers special educational programs" (32 percent), and "low tuition" (30 percent). Seventy-seven percent of these students reported that Rhode Island College was their first choice.

While the majority of incoming freshmen are still oriented towards social or helping careers—with 58 percent indicating education, the social sciences or nursing as their probable major field of study—there is more diversity in college major and career plans among entering RIC freshmen in 1978 than ever before. Whereas in 1970 over 60 percent of the entering class reported either elementary or secondary education teaching as a probable career, this past fall only 20 percent of our new students reported the same expectation. In 1970 less than 9 percent of the entering class indicated a probable career in business, law or the health professions; this past fall over one-third (35 percent) of our new students reported they expected to be working in one of these career areas. Probable major fields of study reported by the new entering class include education (total) - 23 percent, nursing - 19 percent, the social sciences - 16 percent, the arts and humanities - 14 percent, business - 6 percent, health technology - 5 percent, and biological and physical sciences - 5 percent.

The next issue of What's News at RIC will highlight the attitudes, values and expectations of this freshman class, and compare them with their peers at the University of Rhode Island and Rhode Island Junior College. For a complete set of tables summarizing the 1978 ACE data contact Dr. Richard Prull, Craig-Lee 128, Ext. 8094.

What's Happening

An Italian festa will take place on campus Wednesday, March 14 from 1 - 4 p.m. in the Faculty Center. The festival is being held in connection with the Italian celebration of St. Jospeh's Day on Monday, March 19.

The event will feature speakers and entertainment. Italian refreshments will be served. Students will participate in the activities, and all members of the RIC community are invited to attend.
MARCH 2 - MARCH 11, 1979

FRIDAY, MARCH 2
11 AM - 4 PM SHAKER EXHIBITION. Artifacts from the Shaker Museum of Old Chatham, New York and slides and photographs from the Hancock Shaker Village in Massachusetts will be displayed. Continuing until March 16. Gallery hours are 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. weekdays and 1-5 p.m. on Sundays.

12 NOON - 2 PM WOMEN'S AWARENESS GROUP MEETING. Lounge E, Student Union.
6:30 - 10:30 PM ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS MEETING. Room 310, Student Union.

SATURDAY, MARCH 3
9 AM - 5 PM CONFERENCE for Women in (or Thinking About Going Into) Business. Women in business will be able to discuss business aspirations within a supportive and professional environment. Professional women in banking, real estate, law and other pertinent fields will lead the workshops, offer advice and answer questions. Sponsored by Women's Energy of Rhode Island, co-sponsored by RIC and the Small Business Administration. Registration is $2.50 per person at the door. Gaige Hall.

SUNDAY, MARCH 4
10 AM SUNDAY MASS. Student Union Ballroom.
6:30 - 8:30 PM KAPPA DELTA PHI MEETING. Chambers, Student Union.
7 PM SUNDAY EVENING MASS. Upper Lounge, Browne Hall.
7 - 9 PM THETA LAMBDA CHI MEETING. Room 310, Student Union.
7 - 10:30 PM KAPPA EPSILON MEETING. Lounge E, Student Union.

MONDAY, MARCH 5
12 NOON DAILY MASS. Celebrated everyday except Wednesday. Meditation Room, Student Union.
1 - 2 PM ANCHOR CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP MEETING. Lounge F, Student Union.

TUESDAY, MARCH 6
12 NOON - 1:30 PM STUDENT/ADMINISTRATION ROUNDTABLE. Donovan Dining Center.
1 PM RIC CHAMBER SERIES. Ann-Marguerite Michaud will be featured on the harp. Roberts Hall, Room 138.
1 PM ENGLISH DEPARTMENT COLLOQUIA SERIES: Laurence J. Sasso, Jr., director of the RIC News Bureau, will read from his poetry. The public is invited to attend. English Seminar Room, Craig-Lee, Room 255.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7
10 AM - 4 PM STUDENT TICKET ADVANCE SALE for Mummenschanz. Swiss Mime-Mask Theatre. Admission is $2 for full-time RIC undergraduates and $3 for other students. Second floor, Student Union.
12 NOON - 1 PM LUNCHTIME HISTORY COLLOQUIUM: "Nineteenth Century Blackstone Valley Industrialization." Mr. Gary Kulik, curator, Textile Technology Division, Smithsonian Institute, will share his research into the industrial history of Rhode Island. Interested persons are invited to bring their lunch and join in the conversation. Sponsored by the Department of History. Reading Room, Faculty Center.
12:15 PM PROTESTANT SERVICE. Meditation Room, Student Union.

THURSDAY, MARCH 8
11:30 AM - 1:30 PM FACULTY/STAFF ADVANCE TICKET SALE for Mummenschanz. Admission is $4 for RIC faculty and staff. Faculty Center.
12 NOON FILM PRESENTATION: The White Dawn. Dr. James Houston, noted author, artist and expert on the Baffin Bay Eskimo will present the film based on his novel The White Dawn. The film concerns the devastating effects on an Eskimo village after the intrusion of three shipwrecked whalers. At 2 p.m. there will be an informal reception in his honor in Gaige 211.
will provide an opportunity to meet and speak with Dr. Houston. The film is sponsored by the Department of Anthropology and Geography in conjunction with the College Lectures Committee. Gaige Auditorium.

7 PM GYMNASTICS. RIC vs. Mount Holyoke. Away.

8 PM RIC ANNUAL SPRING DANCE CONCERT. The program will feature new works by several leading modern dance choreographers. Continuing on March 9 & 10. General admission is $2.50; $1.25 for RIC students. For reservations call 456-8114 from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. after March 5. Roberts Hall Auditorium.

FRIDAY, MARCH 9

6:30 - 10:30 PM ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS MEETING. Room 310, Student Union.

SUNDAY, MARCH 11

10 AM SUNDAY MASS. Student Union Ballroom.

1 - 4 PM STUDENT HOUSING COMMITTEE MEETING. Ballroom, Student Union.

6:30 - 8:30 PM KAPPA DELTA PHI MEETING. Chamber, Student Union.

7 PM SUNDAY EVENING MASS. Upper Lounge, Browne Hall.

7 - 10:30 PM KAPPA EPSILON MEETING. Lounge E, Student Union.

7:30 & 9:30 PM RIC SPRING FILM SERIES: *Kentucky Fried Movie*. Admission is 75¢ with a RIC I.D. and $1.25 without. Gaige Auditorium.

PRESIDENT'S CALENDAR

Friday, March 2, discussions with faculty and administrators concerning institutional mission and goals at Massasoit Community College, Brockton, Massachusetts. Wednesday, March 7, 6 p.m., Board of Regents Post-secondary Education Committee meeting, RIJC. Friday, March 9, 2 p.m., meeting with the RIC Accreditation and Coordination Committee, President's office; 7 p.m., dinner party for RIC administrators, President's home.
Focus on the Faculty and Staff

JASON BLANK, assistant professor of sociology, spoke on "College Gown in Prison Stripes: A Look at Higher Education in the A.C.I." at the January meeting of the Greater Rhode Island Chapter of Phi Delta Kappa. Professor Blank recently completed an evaluation of higher education programs within the Rhode Island State Prison. The meeting was held at RIC.


PHILIP McCLINTOCK, associate professor of music, attended the recent Eastern Division Convention of the Music Educators National Conference held in Atlantic City, New Jersey. At the convention, Professor McClintock appeared on three panels and chaired the session on music for the non-performer in the senior high school. He presented a paper entitled "Music for the 92 Percent - Historical Perspectives" at that session.

Also attending the conference was WILLIAM JONES, assistant professor of music and editor of the Rhode Island Music Educators Review.

An article by FREDERICK C. PEARSON III, associate professor of biology, entitled "The Limulus Amoebocyte Lysate Test: Present and Future Application" has been accepted for publication in the American Journal of Medical Technology in 1979.

Professors S. SALMAN WASTI and GEORGE C. HARTMANN of the Biology Department collaborated on the following two articles which were published in 1978: "Host Parasite Interactions Between Larvae of the Gypsy Moth, Lymantria dispar, and the Entomogenous Fungus, Nomuraea rileyi" which appeared in Applied Entomology and Zoology 13: 23-28 and "Microbial Toxin Activity on Larvae of the Gypsy Moth and Greater Wax Moth" which was published in the Journal of Applied Entomology 85: 192-196.

Representing the combined work of Professor Wasti and G. F. Hutton, a RIC graduate student in biology, a paper entitled "Competitive Interactions in Two Species of Calliphorid Fly Larvae" will be published in Comparative Physiology and Ecology this year.

WILLIAM A. SMALL, acting dean of the Graduate Division, has recently been appointed to the Ad Hoc Advisory Committee on State College Graduate Programs for the Board of Higher Education, Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Grants/Sponsored Projects

The U.S. Office of Education has announced an April 16, 1979 deadline for proposals under the ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAM. Awards will be given for general projects and for mini-grant funding. Approximately 50 projects will be funded (new and continuing). Grants averaging $50,000 for general projects and $10,000 for mini-grant activities will be awarded for a 12-month period.
General Projects should be designed to assist the development and/or utilization of effective environmental education practices and materials suitable for use by formal and/or non-formal education sectors. Mini-grants are available for community workshops, conferences, symposia, or seminars on a local environmental problem.

For additional information on this program, contact the Bureau of Grants and Sponsored Projects, Extension 8228.

Opportunities

Two community development training courses are being offered at RIC during the spring semester by the Rhode Island Department of Community Affairs. Basic elements in persuasion and the means of influencing individuals through verbal appeals are the topics of "Persuasion: Communicating for Results." The course began on February 23 and will continue each Friday through March 23. Following this course from March 30 to April 27 will be "Dynamics of Group Discussion." Designed to develop effective communication skills, this course will focus on group leadership, cooperative problem-solving methods and the elements of interpersonal communication. Dr. Marjorie H. Eubank, professor of communications and theatre at RIC, is the instructor for each course.

The courses will meet on five consecutive Fridays from 9 a.m. until 12 noon in the Reading Room of the Faculty Center. A fee of $23 will be charged for each course. One-half state incentive credit is available for state employees. Individuals wishing to register in these courses should contact Mary F. Cimini at 277-2877.

The Victorian Society in America and the National Archives and Records Service have scheduled their symposium, VICTORIAN ALBUM: ASPECTS OF AMERICAN LIFE 1865-1900 in the National Archives building, Washington, D.C. March 21-24. The meeting includes 42 sessions ranging across the themes of manners and mores, arts and culture, work and workers, and protest and reform. For information, write to: Victorian Album, Education Division (NE) National Archives and Records Service, Washington, D.C. 20408.

St. Michael's College will sponsor a symposium on WOMEN AND SOCIETY on March 23-25. For information, contact Dr. Buff Lindau, Coordinator, "Women and Society," St. Michael's College, Winooski, Vermont 05404.

The Graduate Institute of Liberal Arts of Emory University and the Goethe Institute of Atlanta will host an INTERNATIONAL AMERICAN STUDIES CONFERENCE at Colony Square in Atlanta on March 27-30. The program will bring together several West German and U.S. Scholars in American Studies to explore the study of the American South as a significant cultural-political area in an international American Studies context. Persons interested in attending some or all of the sessions of the conference should contact Professor Robert Detweiler, Director, Graduate Institute of Liberal Arts, Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia 30322.

The NEW ENGLAND WOMEN'S STUDIES ASSOCIATION will sponsor a REGIONAL CONFERENCE on March 30-31 at the University of New Hampshire, Durham. Contact Josephine Donovan, Women's Studies, the University of New Hampshire, Durham, New Hampshire 03824 for additional information.

On April 6-7, the GREAT LAKES WOMEN'S STUDIES ASSOCIATION will convene its 2ND REGIONAL CONFERENCE. For information contact Rachel I. Skalitsky, Women's Studies, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53201.