What's News @ Rhode Island College

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What's NEWS @ Rhode Island College

VOL. 1 NO. 21 FEBRUARY 16, 1981

What Is CERRIC?
And Just What Does It Do?
by Laurence J. Sasso, Jr.

"I hate definitions," Benjamin Disraeli.

The staff of the Center for Evaluation and Research, Rhode Island College (CERRIC) may not, in the manner of Disraeli, hate definitions. But it is a good bet that they aren’t terribly enthused about the fact that the operation they conduct seems to elude the understanding of many on campus.

In a philosophical, mock grumpy way, Dr. Crist H. Costa, CERRIC’s director, and his associates, recently reflected on the work they do and how it is perceived.

“We are a bit of a people asking who we are and what it is we are doing here,” Costa explained, a small rueful grin belying his bristling tone.

Here is the fourth floor of Adams Library where CERRIC is located last summer. The office is adjacent those of the director of the library, and the traffic which passes the door, often spilling into CERRIC’s area, is no more certain of what CERRIC is or does than a good grin belying his bristling tone.

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Part of the difficulty stems from the fact that CERRIC seems to be different things to different people. With a staff of 37 full and part-timers augmented by 25 consultants, mostly RIC faculty members, there is a diversity and range of activity which must engender confusion among those whose contact with the center is casual.

Officially, the center exists to provide consultant and technical assistance to educational and social service agencies. Included in the services offered are program planning, research, program development, program evaluation and computerized data processing and data analysis. The Rhode Island State Department of Education is one of the major agencies utilizing services. School districts throughout the state and a variety of other governmental and private projects, most related to education, also make use of CERRIC’s assistance.

During the 1979-80 fiscal year, for instance, CERRIC managed 39 projects that generated a total of $221,991. The largest portion of this figure was brought into the college via contracts with state agencies. Eight projects with the State Department of Education accounted for $159,314, approximately 71 percent of total revenue produced.

Sixteen projects with 11 local school districts which involved program planning, needs assessment, data processing and evaluation totaled $24,759, or 11 percent of the overall figure.

In addition, CERRIC took part in a number of projects of varying size and scope. Among these were evaluation of interdisciplinary study in the humanities, a pilot project of the National Endowment for the Humanities and Title I and Title II evaluations at the Adult Correctional Institution and the Rhode Island School for the Deaf.

Projects related to in-service training were undertaken with the Institute of Mental Health and the ACI. This type of education related project, not under the aegis of the Rhode Island State Department of Education and local school districts, accounted for $37,149, or 17 percent of total intake. Less than 1 percent of total revenue to the center came from projects totally unrelated to education.

CERRIC personnel also manage the college’s testing program which includes the administering of the College Level Examination Program (CLEP) tests and the Miller Analogy test.

To get some idea of the variation in scale operating at the center, one might compare the smallest project CERRIC took on during 1979-80 with the largest. At the diminutive end of the scale, the center provided technical assistance in proposal writing and the development of an evaluation plan for a program trusting the arts to teach the three Rs. That brought in $40. The largest single project, the conduct of a non-English assessment for the number of Rhode Island children who speak a language other than English, was carried out for the State Department of Education. That (Continued on p. 2)

What’s

Rhode Island College

TOP: Anthony Tommasiello (at left), intern in the office of continuing education and school services, is acquainted with the operation by Dean Walter Crocker. See story on this page.

CENTER: CERRIC staff at work doing what it does best includes (L-R) Dr. Crist Costa, director; David Amillage, computer systems specialist, and Dr. Charles Pearlman, research associate. See story on this page.

BOTTOM: Cutting the ribbon marking the opening of the new student information Center is Pres. David E. Sweet (far right). The Center is in the Student Union.

I don’t know if we can build a log cabin. No one ever asked us to.

-Costa

Intern In Continuing Ed: At RIC This Month

In a somewhat unusual arrangement, Anthony Tommasiello, a doctoral student at Boston University working on a degree in educational administration in continuing education, is spending a month-long internship at Rhode Island College.

A resident of 171 Canton Street in Providence, Tommasiello will spend all of February in the college’s office of continuing education and school services. A registered nurse, he is on the staff of the Veterans Administration Hospital in Boston where he works in a respiratory unit.

He initially became interested in spending the time at RIC when he was assigned the responsibility of interviewing a continuing education administrator for a class at RC. Since he lived not far from RIC and was familiar with some of its activities, he chose Dr. Walter Crocker, dean of continuing education and school services. As they became acquainted, the idea for the internship emerged.

By doing his internship as a concentrated month-long experience, Tommasiello hopes to get a better overview of the RIC operation. He saved his vacation time in order to be able to take the time away from his work as a nurse.

In his career in health care, he has done some teaching in the allied health fields. His experience has demonstrated to him that it is difficult to find pro-

(Continued on p. 2)
Grants and Awards

The Rhode Island Committee for the Humanities has authorized a $13,888 grant to the RIC Theatre Department to "explore the cross-fertilization of African and American musical traditions..."

Dr. P. William Hutchinson, professor of communications and theatre, has been named director of the project entitled "Ritual, Music and Dance: Expressive Dimensions of Cross-Cultural Communication..."

The project seeks to take advantage of the presence in Providence of the Chuck Davis Dance Company, because of Mr. Davis' study of African music, dance, ritual, legend and folklore and his utilization of these expressive means of fostering cross-cultural communication in educational settings..."

The dance company is scheduled to appear at Hope High School this spring as part of the students' Arts Magnet Program.

The proposed project will consist of a series of three evening presentations. Two will include a lecture-demonstration by Chuck Davis and his dance company of some of the influences of African music, dance and ritual on contemporary American society.

Responses and observations by several humanistic scholars with audience participation encouraged and a final participatory ritual on contemporary American society and communication are fused in a movement and communication are fused in a demonstration by Chuck Davis and his dance company..."

"We usually use whatever measure of success that in-service health care personnel need..."

"In the Department of Education we're at least as obscure as we are to the staff, the faculty, and the students. "

"In the Department of Education we're fairly well-known," observed Costas. "Outside of education I suspect we're at least as obscure as we are to students and faculty..."

Research associate at CERRC, Dr. Charles Paulmier, offers an anecdote to illustrate the point. "Last year I was teaching a psychology course in addition to his duties with the center. On the first day of classes I asked his students if any of them were interested in psychology. Nobody said yes. Nobody did.

"Of the problem, the staff agrees, is that CERRC seems to be what its clientele and students say it is and functions and provides its services to such a diverse group of agencies that it is not difficult to get them to see a clear perception of the center might be enhanced..."

"In a small community like the campus community..."

"At RIC (continued from p. 1)"

grams available on a part-time basis for people interested in charting their own courses. With the professions requiring upgraded credentials, the opportunity to study part-time is not correlated to the demand..."

"Most of my adult life has been spent going to school part-time. It has always been difficult finding courses to fit into my schedule at the times I was available away from work," he says.

"After obtaining his doctoral degree, he hopes to remain in the health professions and be able to help develop programs which provide educational opportunities that in-service health care personnel need."

"For the time being, he is enjoying his internship as a psychologist, 'a little bit of everything' in the office of continuing education and school services..."

"At RIC (continued from p. 1)"

"(Continued from p. 1)"

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"at RIC

WHAT'S NEW(s) at RIC

President Laurence J. Sasso, Jr., Editor Assistant George LaTour Staff Peter P. Tobia, Photographer Audrey Drummond, Secretary Student Staff Mark D. Poitier, Writer Denise Moffat, Typist

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Notes From Bernadette by Bernadette V. Small

Friends and colleagues will be saddened to hear of the death of Elizabeth Mines in Cranston on Feb. 10. She was a former assistant professor in the department of physical education until 1977 when she resigned. Her sincere condolences go out to Elizabeth's family at this time of bereavement.

Cards can be forwarded to her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lester Mines of 4504 Orange Wood Loop, Lakeland, Florida 33802.

ONCE AGAIN, may I request that you be in touch with me at EX. 8004 if you have any information on persons in the campus community.

Sports Roundup

by Bud Vocht Director / Sports Information

On January 31, Walsh Center was alive from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., with all five varsity winter teams competing.

The women's gymnastics team started the day off bright and early, defeating a talented University of Brockport 96-2 to 88. For their third victory against one defeat, Senior Capt. Nancy Raymond earned a 7.6 in the floor exercise, and an 8.3 on the vault, and a 7.5 on the balance beam..."
Named CASE Scholar
Erik Kavangaugh, a RIC junior who can be reached in the Office of Advancement and Support Services, recently was named one of six area college students to receive the CASE District I conference scholarship.

Sponsoring Conference
The RIC Lectures Committee and the health and physical education department are sponsoring a conference entitled "Teaching Behavior: The Social Context." Teachers are invited to attend.

DEADLINES
Tuesday Noon (for all regular news, features, photos)
Wednesday Noon (for important "breaking news" only)

CERRIC (from p. 2)
not as self-serving as it appears. The center's usefulness and efficiency must be viewed from the perspective of the evacuee, or what that may be. Costa is quite certain, however, that any assessment of CERRIC will not find it lacking.

"We have virtually been successful in an area people used to not work," he says, "I don't know if we can build a log cabin. No one ever asks us to"

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"It's unfortunate that folks get too involved in the budget, " Costa says of the staff. "We have tested a program with background in educational psychology, and have found that it's very effective for kids with preparation in the arts." Costa implies that the staff members in the psychology department should be involved in the testing services, spokes of experienced staff members have had which revealed the pragmatic nature of providing services to many clients. She pointed out that it is necessary to temper expectations and training with reality.

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Dr. Edward D. Rassow, professor of industrial education and founding director of the executive board of the Rhode Island School of Design, received the 1981 annual award for excellence in teaching on the panel on solar energy presented as a public symposium by the Women's College of Rhode Island on Jan. 31. Subject of the presentation was "solar energy systems," one of which was.

Dr. Philip McInnis, professor of music, has recently been appointed to a special commission that will look into existing programs and potential programs in the public schools of Rhode Island. A House resolution (H-5222) recently passed states that a 15-member commission be created to investigate the potential of music education in the state. The commission will consist of six music educators from secondary and higher education, a representative from the state Council for the Arts Rhode Island Philharmonic Orchestra and administrations from all levels of education.

Dr. Steven W. Cavanagh, associate professor of special education, was the keynote speaker for the Portland, Maine, public school teachers' third conference on School and Home Application of Positive Reinforcement Procedures. Cavanagh also provided a slide presentation on "The Mahoney-Bradford Approach: Establishing Positive Relationships Between Regular Teachers and Special Education Teachers." Crayley, a graduate trainee in the special education field, also submitted a research proposal on a special support program, drew cartoons for the presentation.

Dr. Samuel S. Waisman and Dr. George Hartmann, department of biology, have received a cooperative grant from the USDA, Northeast Forest Experiment Station to combat a borer that infects the elm bark beetle, the vector of the elm blight disease, which has been ob­

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Critic To Speak

DR. SUZANNE JUHASZ

Assistant Professor of English at the University of Colorado at Boulder.

Her talk is open to the public at no charge.

The Hypergraphics Symposium

The Hypergraphics group began in 1977 with the exhibition "Virtual Realities" at the Carpenter Center for the Visual Arts at Harvard University. It continued with new forms of mathematical models by David W. Brisson of the Rhine Island Philharmonic Orchestra; and its director, David riotus of the Rhode Island College Department of Computer Science, in which it is to be scheduled at a later time by Dr. Fran. For further information please call 456-8054.

The Hypergraphics Group

Hypergraphics V, which has a radial extended history, will embody such concerns in the form of an exhibition of models, paintings, and sculptures, lectures and a panel discussion concerned with the above described integration. Also planned are poetry readings, film, slide presentations, and a light music performance.

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