1-25-1982

What's News @ Rhode Island College

Rhode Island College

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RIC joins faculty exchange center

Faculty at Rhode Island College may now plan to exchange positions with faculty in over 300 colleges and universities in the U.S. and abroad. According to Prof. Harriet E. Brisson, RIC has joined the Faculty Exchange Center (FEC), operating out of Lancaster, Pa., and may participate in the center's program for one or more semesters.

Exchanges may involve one or more academic disciplines, said Brisson, who serves as the liaison with the center.

She explained that exchanges need not be between faculty in the same discipline. Faculty participating in the exchange will continue to be paid by RIC. Those who exchange with from other institutions will be paid by their own institutions.

Brisson pointed out that homes of faculty may also be exchanged for the period involved.

Brisson said RIC has already paid the fee for 11 faculty members to participate in the exchange and "we're just waiting for people to sign up."

Any number over 10 that sign up will have to pay their own fee of $44 to be included in the center's directory which (continued on p. 4)

What's
Rhode Island College

Vol. 2 No. 17 January 25, 1982

Salesses named acting provost, vice president

Dr. John J. Salesses, assistant vice president for academic affairs and dean of graduate studies, has been appointed acting provost and vice president for academic affairs.

The 48-year-old Salesses, who began his career at Rhode Island College as an instructor of English in 1962, replaces Dr. Eleanor M. McMahon who was recently named the state's first commissioner of higher education.

His appointment takes effect when McMahon takes up her duties as commissioner on Feb. 1.

President David E. Sweet recommended Salesses for the post to the Board of Governors for Higher Education at their meeting last Thursday.

As What's News went to press, it was expected that the B.O.G. would accept Sweet's recommendation and appoint Salesses.

Dr. William H. Lopes, executive assistant to the president, was named to fill Salesses' post as acting assistant vice president and dean of graduate studies.

Sweet said prior to his recommending Salesses that he "carefully reviewed the recommendations," which he received from members of the college community.

Nearly everyone who made recommendations recommended Dr. Salesses including all of the deans and heads of units which report to the provost," said Sweet.

"I am confident that he will enjoy the support of those with whom he will be working, and that he will enable the college to continue to conduct its academic affairs in accordance with its established high standards."

He is thoroughly familiar with the procedures of the office and especially with the academic budget, having been assigned particular responsibility for this area by Dr. McMahon," Sweet said.

The president said he and Salesses reviewed the financial situation of the college in relation to Salesses' need for assistance and concluded that "we cannot use scarce college funds for this purpose."

On Salesses' request, made after consultation with other executive and academic officers, Sweet named Lopes to the acting assistant's post. Lopes is to serve in that capacity in addition to that of his duties as assistant to the president until the new provost assumes office.

A search for a new provost and vice president for academic affairs is underway.

In conjunction with the search the new related article in this issue on the policies for conducting the search: President Sweet has invited faculty members, staff (continued on p. 4)

It's all in the family

By George LaTour

"Our mother is the one who should be getting the degree," say the Coyle sisters.

Eileen F. Coyle of Easton and Shelah A. Coyle of Providence are talking of their mother, Mary Elizabeth Coyle, of whom they are most proud.

"She's typed papers, been supportive and suffered right along with us," said the two teachers as they were preparing the family.

Brisson pointed out that homes of faculty may also be exchanged for the period involved.

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Any number over 10 that sign up will have to pay their own fee of $44 to be included in the center's directory which (continued on p. 4)
Deadline for grants, sponsored projects announced

DR. RICHARD M. KEogh, professor of biology, has co-authored a book, Science of Biology, with Dr. David S. Deer of Brown University which will be published this month by Meric-Hill. The college-level text will also be translated into French and other foreign languages. A model of textbook writing at RIC's Feb 13 Academic Affairs Colloquium in Fogarty Life Science 050.

DR. WILLIAM A. HO, professor of sociology, was recently accepted in a national juried exhibition of sculpture in Colorado entitled "Energy Arts." He was also named a "Most Important Potter of Trinidad and Tobago." He was the guest speaker at a special meeting at the Trinidad and Tobago Cultural Heritage Association of Eastern Island. The association, founded last April, has sponsored an observance of Trinidad and Tobago's independence, participated with a booth at the annual Heritage Day at the state house and co-sponsored the visit to RIC of the Repertory Dance Theatre of Trinidad and Tobago last October.

HARRIET E. BIRKING, professor of art, will have her interviews with Jane Leach, a British potter, published in this month's edition of Ceramics Monthly.

Leach, who is owner of Leach Pottery in St. Ives, England, was the wife of Bernard Leach, who was considered by some to be the most important potter of the 20th century. He was awarded for his work, which was influenced by Japanese and European influences in the craft and had written extensively before his death.

Leach, who has just completed eight exhibitions in Japan, will be at RIC as a visiting artist from April 1982. She will give an address in Gaige Auditorium and sponsor an observance of Trinidad and Tobago's independence, participated with a booth at the annual Heritage Day at the state house.

What's News (at RIC)

WHAT'S NEWS (at RIC) is published weekly through the Rhode Island College News and Information Services. Laurence J. Sasso, Jr, director (on leave), and Peter D. Tobia, photographer, will be in charge of the paper through April 8. They will be glad they stuck with it.

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Recalled of her Pawtucket upbringing. A sense of polish, symmetry. McMahon's office door. Spring flowers, sent from well-wishers, defy the stern sub-zero temperatures by looking warm and festive. In a formidable position, there's a sense of order in Eleanor McMahon's office. Of paper blooming on their desks like cornstalks, Eleanor McMahon commissioner of higher education—and she didn't get there without having some sense of order in her life. Even though it has become a more natural part of the business world to find women in high places, it hasn't always been that way. Women such as Eleanor McMahon had tougher odds to work against in her earlier career days. When she first began teaching, women were expected to leave their teaching positions upon marriage. "It was a common thing," she explained. But in the 1950's, the country was also in the midst of an unprecedented baby boom, and so teachers were an endangered species, married or not. "When I came back from my honeymoon, the school superintendent called and asked me to come back," she recalled, adding that she wasn't particularly anxious to go back to teaching. Nevertheless, she returned, and during the subsequent years, she's earned for herself a strong reputation in the education field. McMahon has devoted more than 30 years to her craft. But her commitment to education was no accident. For one thing, my parents, who did not have the advantages of a college education themselves, but who were very talented individuals, made the first priority in our family education. They were very strongly committed to that. There was a lot of emphasis on education," she recalled. Two of her brothers went to Brown University. Another went to Notre Dame and came away with her bachelor of science degree, summa cum laude. Graduate and doctorate degrees followed at such respected institutions as Brown University and Harvard. So, from the beginning, Eleanor McMahon was a high-achiever. Still, in the year that she was graduated from college, only 24.4 percent of all institutions as Brown University and Harvard. McMahon was also in the midst of an unprecedented baby room, and so teachers were an endangered species, married or not. "When I came back from my honeymoon, the school superintendent called and asked me to come back," she recalled, adding that she wasn't particularly anxious to go back to teaching. Nevertheless, she returned, and during the subsequent years, she's earned for herself a strong reputation in the education field. McMahon has devoted more than 30 years to her craft. But her commitment to education was no accident. For one thing, my parents, who did not have the advantages of a college education themselves, but who were very talented individuals, made the first priority in our family education. They were very strongly committed to that. There was a lot of emphasis on education," she recalled. Two of her brothers went to Brown University. Another went to Notre Dame and came away with her bachelor of science degree, summa cum laude. Graduate and doctorate degrees followed at such respected institutions as Brown University and Harvard. So, from the beginning, Eleanor McMahon was a high-achiever. Still, in the year that she was graduated from college, only 24.4 percent of all degrees awarded from institutions of higher learning went to women. Fewer women entered college then. But McMahon says that there was never any question in her household about her collegiate future. "I had four brothers, but my parents never made a distinction. I was never aware that the expectations of me, or for me, were any different," she recalled of her Pawtucket upbringing. Though the young Eleanor had at one point thought about going into her father's jewelry business, by the time she finished college, teaching had become her focus. She specialized for awhile, being a statistician, but "they were suffering back then from fiscal constraints, so they sent me back to the classroom." She and her husband Richard were married in 1955, and though she had expected to relinquish her teaching position, the swelling generation kept her in the classroom where she remained until 1963. During those years, she gained experience teaching math to first and second grade students and earned her master's degree. And she also became interested in child development and early childhood. Not too many years later, she began commuting to Cambridge where she attended Harvard and from there that she earned the title of doctor. It was also during this time that she switched to higher education. For two years, she crossed the bridge to Newport where she was a professor of elementary education at Salve Regina College. When Rhode Island College offered her a position, she took it. For one thing, it was closer to home. Having been at RIC since 1965, leaving the campus will be a difficult transition, she says. "I feel very strongly. I will have continuous contact, fortunately, but I will miss the people here. RIC has been the central portion of my career," she says from her spacious office. President and Mrs. David E. Sweet invite members of the College Community to a reception honoring Dr. Eleanor M. McMahon Commissioner- Elect of Higher Education in Rhode Island on Wednesday, February 3, 1982 from 3-5 p.m. in the Faculty Center Surrounding the vice president and provost are numerous examples of one of her interests, art, though not necessarily her own creations. The subdued tans and browns are a pleasant backdrop to the more prominent muted tans and browns are a pleasant backdrop to the more prominent bouquet of spring flowers sitting on a long table. Though the flowers, undoubtedly, won't last until her Feb. 5 departure date, the art work will surely travel with her downtown to the new office space on Promenade Street. She'll presumably need an orderly environment as she presently maintains: The job ahead will be as time consuming, if not more, as the job here at RIC. "It's a broader commitment. The problems are formidable, certainly. I look at it as an expansion of a set. I think that what I will miss the most is the academic part of it. I find that to be the most rewarding part of what I do. In this position (as commissioner), I won't be doing much that is directly academic. The role will be much more affected by the fiscal situation in the state," she surmised. The present fiscal situation will indeed be a burden. Fortunately, McMahon experienced some rest and tranquility prior to returning to the snow-covered campus. When Dr. McMahon learned of this arduous new task she would be taking on, she was relaxing on the beach in the British West Indies. Traveling is something the Mc installs do as much as possible. "My husband was pleased, (about the post), but he was concerned that we would have less time together. But then he said, 'But how could we?'" and she laughed about the hectic schedule they both already maintain. "I think it is very important for me to say that my husband has been extremely supportive and helpful," she said adding that as someone in a completely different career, he often offers his insights to her work. "I find that very advantageous, and something that brings balance," she said. Will being commissioner of higher education, one of the most important jobs in the state, change her life dramatically? "I don't think so. The main change I think will be separating myself from the college. I'm already feeling separation pains," she laughed. Though she'll be wearing a different title when she returns to Rhode Island College after Feb. 5, at least the separation won't be intensified by distance. She'll be returning for numerous meetings. That's a guarantee. "It will be nice to still have that contact," she smiled.
Browning points out that the program is informal and does not require advance or formal registration.

Those interested in participating, particularly if they have not previously belonged to the program, should contact the discussion leader or other contact person as listed below by community as he said.

As in previous years, a "media reinforcement" of the program with a series of eight television programs on the GREAT DECISIONS topics. The articles will run weekly on the Rhode Island Public Broadcasting System.

In addition, Channel 14 will program eight television discussions of the GREAT DECISIONS Round-table on Monday at 9 p.m. beginning Feb. 8.

A spring semester theme key to the program and making use of the booklet and other materials is being offered at RIC.

Course title and number is Social Science 350. It is a three-credit course and will meet Thursdays at 7:15 p.m.

Those interested in the course should register no later than Jan. 29. Further information may be obtained by contacting Professor Browning at Ext. 423 or the Office of Continuing Education at Ext. 700.

A RIC discussion group, in addition, has been organized with David T. Woolman, director of the President's Resource Center as group leader. Participants are invited to meet the group's first luncheon for the Friday noon discussions.

A second group may be organized if there are enough interested people who cannot meet for the Friday noon discussions.

He emphasized that the local discussion group is separate and apart from the social science course being offered.

Last year the GREAT DECISIONS program involved some 250 Rhode Islanders in nine communities.

Discussion groups by community, their meeting days and times and contact persons are as follows:

**BARRINGTON**

YMCA of Barrington Thursdays from 7:19 p.m. beginning Feb. 4. Contact Edward Jones at 241-2441.

**CHANSTON**

Phillips Memorial Baptist Church at 535 Pontiac Ave. Thursdays from 9-10:30 a.m. beginning Feb. 17. Contact M. Doris Stapleton at 461-0713 or the church office at 461-2990.

**CUMBERLAND**

Edward J. Hayden Library at East Providence Hill beginning Feb. 3 or 4 at 10:30-11:30 a.m. beginning Feb. 2. Contact the library at 313-2552 or Peter Butterfield 245-8887.

**EAST GREENWICH**

Westminster United Church at Kenyon and First Avenues, Sundays beginning Jan. 31 or Feb. 7 (no time set yet). Contact Dr. Earl Schwass at 789-6233 or John Grifflins at 278-8453.

**ERIE**

Methodist Retirement Center at 41 Irving Ave. Wednesdays from 3:14-3:30 p.m. beginning Feb. 1. Contact Charles Grimes at 431-6441 or the center office at 431-4456.

**LITTLE COMPTON**

Place. Site and time not yet determined as yet. Contact Robert Hill at 431-0066.

**SARAGASSETT-PEACEDALE**


**NEWPORT**

Channing Memorial Church Parish House in Harbinger Court, 1st and 4th Thursdays of the month at 8 p.m. beginning Jan. 1. Contact Mrs. Madeline Taylor at 341-5411 (office) or 456-8477 (home).

**NARRAGANSETT-PEABODY**

International Student Center at University of Rhode Island, Thursdays at 7-8 p.m. beginning Feb. 4. Contact Mrs. Grace Marshall at 789-1213.

**NEWPORT**

Stephanie O'Rourke at 460 Vernon Ave., Wednesdays beginning Feb. 3 or 4. Contact Stephen O'Rourke at 331-6740 or 331-6740.

**PROVIDENCE**

Washington Park United Methodist Church, 925 Hope St., Sundays from 7:30-8:30 p.m. beginning Jan. 1. Contact Mrs. Margaret Jones at 462-2801 (office) or 551-3100 (home).

**WATERVILLE**

Hamilton House at 224 Angell St. Saturdays at 8 p.m. Contact Miss Linda Capone at 245-9077 or Mrs. Grace Marshall at 789-5077.

**JEWISH CENTER**

Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island at 401 Elm Grove Ave., schedule has not yet been organized if enough interest is expressed. Contact Mrs. Carol Roseman at 235-7414.

Rhode Island College in History Commons at 791-1773, no fee. At the Home of Mrs. Shirley Krasner at 465 Westminster Rd. Peacedale. Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. beginning Feb. 25. Contact Charles Grimes at 431-6441 or the center office at 431-4456.

**CRANSTON**

Home of Stephen O'Rourke at 16 Worchester Ave., Wednesdays or Thursdays beginning Feb. 2. Contact Mrs. Grace Marshall at 789-1213.

**CUMBERLAND**

CRANSTON

13

Regional theatre festival set for Jan. 28-30 at RIC

The New England Regional of the American College Theatre Festival will be held at RIC Feb. 28 to March 1.

Some of the best college productions will be staged at RIC by college groups from throughout New England as well as other colleges from as far away as California.

Clive Hart, artistic director of the Trinity Square Repertory Company, will be on hand to conduct a directors' workshop on "Directing an Audition" at 5:00 a.m. to noon in the Roberta Little Theatre.

This is the 16th year that the festival is being held. More than 30 schools compete in the competition.

The college productions which will be staged are:

- Thursday Jan. 28, 6:00 p.m., "A View From the Bridge," Lyden State College, Vermont.
- Saturday Jan. 30, 9:00 p.m., "Arms and the Man," Rhode Island College, Providence.
- Saturday Jan. 30, 9:00 p.m., "The Bird Song," Northeastern University, Boston.

These five selections were chosen from among more than 25 entries.

The winner will go on to compete in Washington, D.C. at the finals in the spring. The production which advances the farthest will be awarded the National Silver Award.

Three RIC students will be competing for the national silver award auditing for Thursday. They are Lisa Maaslen, Matt Toupin and Becky Anderson. A final group will be chosen by Monday night.

The festival is open to the RIC community. Admission to the entire event is $20. Individual performances are $2 for senior citizens and students, $3 for faculty and staff and $4 for all others.

What's News inadvertently printed the name of Carol A. Cruzo in last week's story stating that students of the Rhode Island College were among Students in American Universities and Colleges. It should have been Carol A. Cruzo also. Sally Ellen Gleason and Diane Sprague were listed incorrectly. We regret the error.
Returning to a snow-covered campus...

RIC students returned from their winter vacations to a snow-covered campus, as well as lines at the bookstore. With a new semester ahead, and new courses, there were a few confused faces seen before things settled down. The frigid temperatures made students hurry from one building to the next to escape the winds as RIC photographer Peter P. Tobia witnessed through a window at the Art Center.

What's New(s) Photos by Peter P. Tobia
1. Authority. State law establishing the Board of Governors for Higher Education provides that the president of the college has the authority to appoint vice presidents subject to the approval of the board. The Board and the RIC-AFT state that while the president has the discretion to include RIC-AFT faculty representatives and students in the search for a provost and vice president. Consistent with these provisions, the committee, in the following process, developed after conversations with the president of the RIC, the chairs of the Council of RIC, and various administrators, was used in the search for a provost and vice president for academic affairs during 1981.

2. President's Interest. It is the intent of the president to appoint a provost and vice president and to seek approval to do so from such appointment, only from among candidates recommended by the screening committee. The president will be five faculty members on the committee, including six who have been recommended to the president by the screening committee established in accordance with the above guidelines.

3. Committee Structure. The screening committee shall consist of nine members, appointed by the president and as follows: The president shall designate five faculty members on the committee, two of whom shall be selected from among the faculty members of the college, one of whom shall be selected from among the RICSA members recommended by the president of RICSA. One executive officer and one academic officer of the college shall be appointed by the president of the RIC-AFT. Two shall be selected from among four recommended by the president of the RIC-AFT. Two shall be selected from among four recommended by the chairman of the Council of RIC. The members of the committee will not participate in interviewing candidates, both in reality and in appearance, until the committee has recommended a satisfactory candidate to appoint, either by re-opening the search or by finding no suitable candidates for the position of provost and vice president.

4. General Qualifications for Provost. Because the provost and vice president for academic affairs is the chief academic officer of the college and admits students, he or she must be committed to, and have the experience and knowledge necessary for, fulfilling the highest standards in teaching, research, and service. The provost must understand budgeting and be able to work successfully with collective bargaining units and with governmental agencies and institutions by which the college (and others) is funded and is accountable. The provost must be committed to the academic and related duties of the college in leading faculty and staff in providing the best services to students and to demanding from the students the best performances of which they are capable. The provost committee is charged with conducting the interviews of candidates and will exercise the authority to attract and retain the interest of the best possible candidates for this position.

5. Affective Action. The committee shall adhere to appropriate affirmative action policies and guidelines and shall meet with the college affective action groups to receive information about these policies and guidelines.

6. Attendance at Committee Meetings. Because the screening process necessarily involves making of comparative judgments among candidates, every committee member should attend every committee meeting. Each committee member must participate fully in the committee's deliberations with candidates brought to the campus and in those subsequent committee meetings during which candidate qualifications are assessed. It is also important that the committee secure from those on campus who are submitting evaluations of candidates interviewed on campus information about the contact which each evaluator has had with all the candidates brought to the campus. To this end, it is hoped that members of the college community will commit themselves to taking advice of candidates prior to making the opportunity available to them from the screening committee.

7. Interview Reports. Through the chair, the committee should issue periodic reports to the college community, the students, and the administration. The reports would be written in consultation with the executive officers and the academic officers, respectively. The president will designate one of the faculty members to the committee to assist in preparing the reports. The reports must not be written by the committee and will not participate in the selection of candidates. The committee will not attempt to recruit the board of trustees to meet with the candidates.

8. On-Campus Interviews. On the basis of comprehensive prior screening, it is the responsibility of the committee to interview in depth with the candidates for positions on campus. The committee will conduct the interviews of each of the candidates and shall record who participates in all interviews with candidates.

9. Interview Evaluation. The committee shall develop appropriate evaluation criteria for use by those who participate in interviewing the candidates on campus. The chair of the committee shall keep the president of the college fully informed about the committee's work. From time to time it may be appropriate for the president to meet with the committee to consult on problems and questions which emerge. As necessary, the president shall keep the board and the commissioner informed about the search.

10. Evaluation Criteria. All applications will be reviewed by the committee as quickly as possible after the deadline for complete applications to be received to the committee (March 1, 1982). In accordance with a position description supplied to the committee, it is the responsibility of the committee to develop and recommend to the president appropriate evaluation criteria and screening instruments to be used in reviewing applications.

11. On-Campus Interviews. On the basis of comprehensive prior screening, it is the responsibility of the screening committee to prepare for the president and the president for academic affairs the readiness of the candidate to interview on campus and to make the recommendation to the president to appoint a provost and vice president.

12. Confidentiality and Objectivity. The committee is charged with maintaining the highest standards of confidentiality and objectivity in fulfilling its responsibilities in the screening process. Identity of candidates, and both formal and informal committee evaluations, and evaluations by candidate referees, are matters of strict confidentiality, and no communication between the committee and the candidate shall be handled by the chair of the committee or by the executive secretary under the direction of the chair. Letters written by nominators of candidates, and correspondence reviewed with the president of the college before being sent. No financial or other offers are to be made by the committee to any candidates, nor should the committee enter into specific discussions relative to the terms and conditions of employment with candidates or their representatives. Without recognizing past associations, judgments, and informal associations, the committee members individually and collectively keep an open mind about candidates until they appear in appearance, until the committee makes a recommend the president, and in the base information available to them from the screening process which it uses.

13. Final Report. By May 1, 1982, the committee shall recommend to the president in writing a minimum of four candidates for the position of provost and vice president for academic affairs. The committee shall prepare for the president a comprehensive report including a statement of significant strengths and weaknesses in relation to the evaluation criteria developed by the committee and the candidate to each candidate brought to the campus.

14. Search Extension. In the course of the committee's screening process, in response to the president and the president of the college agree that the May 1, 1982 deadline cannot be extended in order to diminish the likelihood of the committee's being able to find sufficient qualified candidates to recommend to the president, the presidents shall agree to extend the deadline. It is the purpose of these procedures and deadlines, however, to enable the new provost and vice president to take up her or his duties by July 1, 1982, at the very latest. After receiving the report of the committee, if for any reason the president is unable to find a satisfactory candidate to appoint, the president will review the situation in depth with the committee prior to determining the next step or steps to be taken. Normally, the president will request the committee to find additional candidates to recommend to him, either by offering to take a position in reviewing credentials already on file or by offering to take a position in reviewing credentials already on file. If the situation is to be followed, the president will discuss alternatives in full with the committee before making a decision.

The provost must understand budgeting and be able to work successfully with collective bargaining units and other governmental agencies and institutional by which the college (and others) is funded and in which it is accountable. The provost must be committed to the academic and related duties of the college, in leading faculty and staff in providing the best performances of which they are capable.
Bus, car or van
RIC employees asked

A new program designed to assist commuters in finding alternative forms of transportation to and from work, has been established by the Rhode Island Department of Transportation. Information explaining the program will be distributed to all Rhode Island College employees on Jan. 27.

The information will include a questionnaire which, if completed, will enable the employee to a complete listing of other workers who happen to live in their area.

The program is being called "Transpool," its purpose is to increase the occupancy of vehicles carrying commuters to and from work each day. Hopefully, such a program would reduce energy consumption, air pollution, traffic congestion and parking demand.

The listing which all employees will receive upon completion of the questionnaire, will include not only the names of potential carpools, but also all current RIPTA schedules and fare information.

Coordinating the program on campus is John S. Foley, executive director of College Advancement and Support. "Personally, I hope that every RIC employee will complete the survey because the program will identify for faculty and staff other employees at the college who have similar home and work hours with whom they can share a ride to work, if not on a regular basis, perhaps in those emergency situations that come about as a result of weather or everyday living," Foley said.

All questionnaires should be returned to Foley's office before Feb. 1.

Among the other possibilities offered in the program is the establishment of a vanpool program. Coordination of clusters of employees who have similar commuting characteristics can be accomplished through the plan.

Information regarding the program is being distributed to all state agencies.

Said Gov. J. Joseph Garrahy of Transpool, "Your participation constitutes an enormous contribution to reducing fuel consumption, decreasing traffic congestion, and lowering pollution levels throughout the state."

The questionnaires going out on the RIC campus may be returned through the campus mail.

Survey indicates more college grads in work force

In the 1970's there was a substantial increase in the number of men and women entering America's work force with at least some college education, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Approximately 32 million people — 40 percent of all workers in the 25 to 64 age bracket, had completed a year or more of college by March 1981, compared with 22 percent in 1970, the Bureau said.

The report said workers with college educations continued to have the lowest unemployment rate.

In the director's chair

DIRECTOR'S CHAIRS with the Rhode Island College seal are now available through the Alumni Office. Cost is $45 each.

'The Work of RIC faculty member Don Smith is on exhibit in the Art Center's Bannister Gallery through Feb. 11. Entitled "Recent Works," the Donald Smith-Sam Ames sabbatical show, including paintings and drawings, features the work of the two artists.

The Office of Career Services is planning its third annual "Focus on Careers" to be held the week of March 29 to April 2. Individual departments will plan and schedule programs which best suit their particular needs. Last year's departmental programs included panel discussions, speakers, films and workshops.

The Office of Career Services staff will act as advisors for departments seeking assistance. Those departments which plan to participate should notify career services before the end of the semester.

For more information, call Frankie Wellins, director at Ext. 8031.

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Spencer Crooks: RIC's own Picasso

By Atline Alsino Fleming

Ten years ago, an editor of Yankee Magazine saw an exhibit of watercolors by Spencer Crooks and asked the artist to send him some slides. That was the last that Spencer heard of the request until a few weeks back.

"My brother-in-law saw it and told me about it," he laughed, looking at the January issue of the magazine. "Though Spencer Crooks has won more than 50 awards in his career, and though his work can be found in the homes of presidents and celebrities, he's still using the same materials he used when he was a student himself at the Longy School of Music in Cambridge, Mass.

'Spencer is like a symphony," he says. "He's stuck a good harmony between his interests in art and music. But at 64, he's still trying to specialize."

I've always been in art work," he said. "I even go out on weekends to work."

Crooks has had a long and varied career filled with citations and involvements. There are five covers of which he is proud. One of which was used in the Minneapolis Tribune, holding a contest before that. "I think I was eight years old. The Belfast Telegram held a contest for notable people from Ireland, and he's lived in Cranston pretty much ever since. But there have been stills in other parts of the country among them at the Tanglewood Music Festival in western Massachusetts where he studied some design. During those early years, the work of Spencer Crooks was seen on stage in another form as well.

I sang with the New England opera," he divulged. Those two experiences have fostered a dream within him to do a series of paintings or opera. "I've always dreamed of doing something really big with opera," he cautiously comments.

From 1948 to 1964, he worked in the Boston Symphony Orchestra's Art Department, and just prior to that, was a student himself at the Longy School of Music in Cambridge, Mass.

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He's worked for several advertising agencies as well as having taught at the Wickford Watercolor Summer Seminar RIC's Continuing Education program. Roger Williams College. Brown University and several others. He's come to Rhode Island College's audio visual department in 1971, and has been here ever since in his full time job on the second floor of Alger.

The walls of the office are scattered with various remembrances of his accomplishments. There are five covers of which he is proud. One of which was seen on stage in another form as well.

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"This thing in the old country at Trinity College is a most prestigious thing that's happened to me since I came to the college, the white-haired native of Ireland surmised. 'The former prime minister will be there,' he says.

His exhibit will include scenes of Hammersmith Farm, the White Horse Tavern, the Old State House. The Old Colony House as well as several others. But while his blue eyes simmer when he talks about this first trip back to his homeland, he says there has been one other moment when he was even prouder.

"That was when I was in the service. I had a show at the Royal Academy of London," he recalled. He was 26 years old. The show consisted of English landscapes and four first prizes were awarded. He was among the proudest.

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