What's News @ Rhode Island College

Rhode Island College

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History by Computer

by George LaTour

Love and marriage go together like a horse and carriage: computers and science make a grand alliance, but what about computers and history...or any of the other studies of humanity?

Such linkage—somehow—seems unlikely, a mismatch of the old with the new.

Of course, “fun” is not the primary reason why Dr. David S. Thomas, chairman of the history department, has introduced computer technology to his department’s classes, but it helps.

To instruct students Lucinda Wadsworth (left) and Nancy Tracy as they prepare for computer history quiz.

Students who think learning history from computers is fun tend, by and large, to learn much more history. That’s true for at least a couple of reasons: the most obvious one is that, through operation of the computer, they become “active” participants in the history lessons.

This is how it works: a student reads a class-assigned chapter in his/her history text book. Then, before the next class he/she is free to go to any number of computer terminals available and “log on” (give the code word, identify him/herself and the instructor) and “call up” the file for that week’s lesson. There is one file for each chapter.

The computer welcomes the student with an appropriate (and cordial) “GOOD MORNING” or “GOOD AFTERNOON” and gives the student the time of day and date.

(What’s News Photo by Peter P. Tobia)
To discuss master's of social work

Rhode Island College's School of Social Work will conduct an open meeting for anyone interested in the master of social work program at the college on Dec. 18 at 10 a.m. in Room 202 of the Henry Barnard School.

The college offers a fully accredited program leading to a degree in the master of social work, including part-time or full-time course of study. Financial aid is available.

For further information, call 456-8042.

Elected to soccer Hall of Fame

A former catcher of the Rhode Island College Soccer team has been elected to the Rhode Island Soccer Coaches Association Hall of Fame.

John S. Foley, vice president for College Advancement and Support, had the honor bestowed upon him by the coaches for his "contributions to soccer in Rhode Island." On Dec. 3, he and Carmine Catanzaro, a soccer official for 18 years in both the professional and amateur leagues and the only holder in Rhode Island of a Class A official's license, were inducted in the Hall of Fame at an awards dinner at Dr. Lorenzo's 1025 Club in Johnston.

Foley and Catanzaro join the 11 other hall-of-famers inducted since 1971.

For further information, call 456-8042.

What's NEWS

Rhode Island College

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Holiday Concert a Success!

650 attend Davol Square reception

See other photos on pages 4 and 5
RIC's Annual Holiday Gift Concert was attended by some 2,700 enthusiastic theatre goers who enjoyed Handel's "Judas Maccabaeus" performed under the direction of Edward Markward (top left) who conducted the RIC Orchestra and Chorus and Henry Barnard School Singers at the Providence Performing Arts Center (formerly the Ocean State Theatre) (far left). Above left, Fawn Walton of the Henry Barnard Singers listens to instructions from Dana McGovern prior to the performance, while at left Markward and Marilyn Brunelli, one of the five vocalists to perform, pause during her solo. At top, William Aho of the RIC Faculty dances with Raquel Hernandez at the Davol Square champagne reception. Above, Markward, Will Roy and Edward Doucette, two of the vocalists, share in the applause.

What's News Photos by Peter P. Tobia
History by Computer

(continued from page 1)

The computer then presents the student with an introduction, describing the scope of the material to be covered, and then asks the student to read some text. This text usually runs from a couple of sentences to several paragraphs, after which the computer asks the student a question.

If the student answers the question correctly, indicating he/she understands the question and, consequently, that the chapter was assigned for reading, the computer will respond with a pat on the back of sorts by exclaiming: "RIGHT!"

If the student fails to answer the question correctly, the computer (with the patience of Job) urges "PLEASE TRY AGAIN.

If the student then answers correctly with a certain answer, an apparently understanding computer suggests "LET'S TRY ANOTHER QUESTION".

"The computer never loses its temper and never yells at you," affirms Nancy Tracy of Pascoe, a sophomore, who was demonstrating the ease of operation in RIC's Gaige Hall, site of the college's computer center. For a young lady who "thought I'd do everything" the first time she tried to operate a computer, she appeared amazingly relaxed and confident.

If the student continues to fail to answer the computer's queries on the assigned chapter, the machine displays the like qualities that will then explain why the answer the student has given has been incorrect.

Talking to the computer, it seems, is like talking to a friend. That "friend," in actuality, is Jeffrey L. Newton of Providence, an instructor in history in one of the sections using the computers. He came to RIC last year with knowledge of computers from his graduate work at Brown University and has spent untold hours programming the computers for this experiment.

This is a very experimental program and as such the first in this area," assures Newton, who points out that using computers in science is almost old hat, but in the humanities, "that's a new venture.

The experiment thus far has been a glorious success, reports Thomas who predicts an unlimited potential for its use.

Next year the history-by-computer will be available to all History 110 instructors, said Thomas, who adds that such use has the potential to soon after affect more than 900 students at the college.

"For many students this is their first introduction to computers and some are a little hesitant about it," reports Newton. "I sit down with these students one-to-one and teach them from scratch. It takes 10 minutes.

And, by using the computers, students don't have to botherhouse the instructor to ask questions or concern the students might have left for him on the machine.

"This gives me a closer look for how well the students understand the material presented in class. I don't have to wait until an exam to find out," said Newton, adding, "it gives me a lot of information on the students.

RIC invades Cox Cable TV

(continued from page 1)

RIC co-op student Mardiros Atoyan was a computer before, and was a little leery about trying, learning the computer operation was simplicity itself.

For Nancy Tracy it came none too soon.

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The men's basketball team were for one during the past week of competition. They lost a heartbreaker to the University of New Haven 78-77 in the final minutes of the game.

The Anchormen led New Haven 51-37 at the half and throughout most of the game. From the 2:15 minute mark New Haven's Emery Magull put New Haven ahead 79-78 on a three-point play with 1:15 to go.

Tyne/Tells, and the line with one second remaining to give New Haven the victory.

Larry House led the Anchormen in points and rebounds with 12 and 15 respectively.

Four other players hit double digits: Eric Britto (12), Leon Harris (12), Mike Chapman (11) and Richard Ether (10).

In their next outing, RIC's boastful defeated the University of Southern Maine 95-87 thus boosting their record to 3-1.

RIC had a slim three point lead at halftime (42-39). The Anchormen controlled the game in the second half.

The Anchormen controlled the second half. They were in the lead by 32 points at the 4:30 mark.

Coach Adams sent in his reserves at the 3:30 mark being out in front 91-80.

Mike Chapman, who is averaging 19 points per game, was high scorer with 20. Richard Ether and Leon Harris, freshmen, had 16 from the boards. Perry had 16 and Leon Harris had 10.

Larry House; RIC's leading rebounder averaging 13 per game, pulled down 14 and Chapman had 11.

The home opener for the Anchormen proved successful in getting them their first home win of the basketball season. Their record now stands at 1-3.

RIC, which led at half time 45-22, defeated the University of Southern Maine 78-64.

And, from the fact that they won, the highlight of the evening took place during half time when Athletic Director William Bain presented Darryl Huff with a silver bowl in recognition for his accomplishment in joining the 1,000 Point Club.

Jackie is the 21st individual to achieve this. She is the second woman to date, the first being Chris Donilon who hit 1,000 points just last season. Jackie also hit her college career high for one game with 32 points. She hit 8 of 12 shots.

In the men's basketball game the Anchormen defeated the University of Southern Maine 95-87.

Donate gift to CARE

This holiday season, faculty and staff of Rhode Island College will have the opportunity to donate a gift to CARE, Inc., to help raise funds for the children in the Middle East. A group card, bearing holiday greetings and the names of the players, will be delivered to all staff and faculty on campus.

Students should check with the designated representative of their building, or to Mrs. Mary Lucz in Roberts 406. If they wish, they may designate a specific category that should receive their donation. Tax-deductible contributions are payable through the mail. Donations are tax-deductible. In December, 15. Cancelled checks may be used as receipts for income tax deductions.

CARE is a non-profit, non-sectarian, organization that aid is currently operar in 38 under-developed countries.

Staff development meeting

Staff development meeting on Jan. 12 at a time and date to be announced. He will talk on "Children and Ecology in the Classroom Environment."
Donovan hosts holiday bash, evening of food and rock

By Amber E. Cabot

Where does one find 300 pounds of vegetables, and almost 800 pounds of meat and poultry? Add to this 1,500 students, faculty and staff; a rock band; more food, and you have the Third Annual Christmas Dinner/Dance, hosted by the College Dining Services on Wednesday, Dec. 15. The party, held in the Donovan Dining Center, is free to board students with RIC I.D., and $5 per person to the rest of the college community.

Starting with refreshments and hors d'oeuvres on the balcony from 4 to 5 p.m., the evening will proceed with a buffet dinner from 5 to 7 p.m., and entertainment with the Boston-based group "Transit" from 6 to 11 p.m. "There's a lot of preparation to this meal prior to serving it," says Brian Allen, director of the College Dining Services.

This preparation includes marinating beef ribs and chicken wings for over a day, as well as boning Virginia ham and cutting vegetables a day or two in advance. The turkey must also be prepared, and the round of beef cooked for seven or eight hours.

Vincent Castaldi and August Handuell are the two principle cooks, while Juan Andriote is in charge of buying the special food. Also included on the menu are a salad bar, ice cream with cherry jubilee, a large dessert tray, and after-dinner beer for those eligible.

Chafing dishes for serving the food butter-style have been rented especially for the occasion. In addition, the dining hall will be lavishly decorated with garlands, wreaths and the like, as well as a Christmas tree. Each table will sport a tablecloth, candle, and fresh flower.

"It's like a gift to everyone," says Vincent R. Flemming, assistant director of the College Dining Services. "We feel very, very grateful in doing this for the students."

He hopes that the pre-dinner social hour on the balcony will provide an opportunity for students and Donovan staff to get to know each other better.

Of the projected 1,500 partygoers, Flemming is hoping for a 30 percent faculty and student turnout. Last year the party boasted a turnout of 1,000, of which approximately 15 percent were faculty and staff.

As a final touch, according to Flemming, "Santa Claus will be on hand to greet the people, to greet our guests."

Spanish author visits R.I.

By Raquel Hernandez

How often does an instructor have the opportunity to meet the subject of his thesis? Hector Medina of the Rhode Island College Department of Modern Languages had just such an opportunity recently.

Camila María Gaite, one of the most distinguished novelists of 20th Century Spain, visited Rhode Island over the weekend of Nov. 19, 20 and 21 and was welcomed at the Hispanic House at Brown University by professors and students from Brown, RIC and the University of Rhode Island.

Medina not only dined with Gaite during the course of the weekend, but also taped an interview with her which he plans to publish in one of the major Hispanic literary journals.

He was also one of the participants in a panel discussion entitled "Spanish Novel in the 20th Century." Other members of the panel, besides Gaite, included Professor Geofrey Ribbens and Jose Amor y Vázquez, both of Brown University.

Gaite has been a visiting professor of Spanish literature at the University of Virginia. She will be returning to Spain for Christmas.

Her works consist of seven novels, a collection of short stories for children, and a critical book which will be published in 1983. Some of the novels have been translated into other languages such as English, French and Russian. Still other works have been made into movies and television programs.

This literary figure has won many awards: Cate Cajón in 1954 for El balneario (The Beach Resort); Premio Nodal in 1957 for Entre ventanas (Between the Sheer Window Curtain); was runner-up for the Biblioteca Breve de Seix Barral in 1969 for her novel Río mo lento (Slow Rhythm); and the Premio de Literatura en Espana in 1978 for El cuarto de atras (The Backroom).

The cuarto de atras (Retahilas) (Strings) are considered to be her best novels. Gaite also gave a seminar based on materials from her own works. A reception followed which gave participants an opportunity to meet and chat in Spanish with the authors whom they found to be delightful and charming.

(Raquel Hernandez is a junior at RIC with a double major in psychology and Spanish. She is the representative of the modern language department to Student Government and a former president of the International Society.)

On the road again

Bringing costumes and only a few benches and props, students from the Rhode Island College Theatre Touring Group never knew exactly what they will encounter in their next performance. The group stages plays in Rhode Island and Massachusetts high schools and junior highs, sometimes in an auditorium, at other times in a classroom.

We probably know the act and whatever is there," says Dr. David Burr, managing director of theatre. Burr founded the group earlier this semester, modeling it after the presentations is quick-paced.

According to Burr, the action in all of the plays is heavily booked for performances next semester, and is receiving additional requests.

Students involved in the touring group are all RIC theatre majors. They are: John J. Finnerty, Jr., stage manager; Fred Anzevino; Sharon Carpentier; Anna Distefano; Kyle Gillett; Stephen Lynch; Michael Maycini; Becky Anderson; and Glen Nadreau.

Happy Holidays

Gallery selections

Sarah Doyle Gallery at Brown University will select the exhibitions for its winter and spring seasons on Jan. 12. They welcome artists from Providence and outlying communities to submit their work for consideration. Artists are asked to deliver 10 to 15 slides (photographs and printmakers may submit prints) accompanied by a proposal and a brief resume by 1-30 a.m. that date to: Sarah Doyle Gallery, 185 Meeting St., Providence 09212.

RIC Theatre Touring Group:

RIC Theatre Touring Group: "Macbeth" and "Romero and Juliet," as well as a sequel to "The Lion in Winter," "Life in the Slow Rhythm," and the Premio de Literatura in Espana in 1978 for Entre ventanas (Between the Sheer Window Curtain); was runner-up for the Biblioteca Breve de Seix Barral in 1969 for her novel Rio mo lento (Slow Rhythm); and the Premio de Literatura en Espana in 1978 for El cuarto de atras (The Backroom).

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From all of us to all of you:

Season’s Greetings!

Calendar of Events
December 13—December 20

MONDAY, DECEMBER 13

Noon
Mass. Student Union, Room 304.
1 to 2 p.m.
7 p.m.
Women's Basketball. RIC vs. Clark University. Away.
7 p.m.
7 to 9 p.m.
“Advent Program.” “Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord.” Offered by the Chaplains' Office. Faculty Center.
8:15 p.m.
RIC Chamber Singers and Chamber Orchestra. Free Concert. Roberts Auditorium.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14

Noon to 1:30 p.m.
Anchor Christian Fellowship. Meeting. Student Union, Room 305.
Noon to 2 p.m.
Noon to 2 p.m.
Noon to 2 p.m.
Word Processing Workshop. Sponsored by the Committee on Academic Computer Use. Gaige, Room 372.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15

4 to 11 p.m.
Christmas Dinner Dance. “Transit” will be performing. Admission for dorm students is free, campus community, $6. Donovan Dining Center.
7:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16

7 p.m.
“Reading Day.” “No Classes.”

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17

Finals Begin.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19

10 a.m.
Sunday Mass. Student Union, Ballroom.
7 p.m.
Sunday Evening Mass. Browne Hall’s Upper Lounge.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 20

Noon
Mass. Student Union, Room 304.