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What's News @ Rhode Island College

Rhode Island College

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Sid Rollins retired from Rhode Island College intending to stay one year. That was 27 years ago. Rollins retired from RIC in December.

Appointed to the faculty July 1, 1958 as an associate professor of education, Rollins says that he "came (to RIC) with the buildings" with the current RIC Symphony Orchestra.

"Some of the roads were built, some weren't," recalls Rollins, who arrived just as Rhode Island College was moving its campus from downtown Providence to the current Mount Pleasant site. The name hadn't even been changed to Rhode Island College yet when he arrived.

Rollins, 64, (he will be 65 in June), observes that in 1958 ninety-five percent of the students were in teacher education. When "Sid" Rollins signed his contract there were 750 undergraduate students and 350 graduate students.

Now of course the scene at RIC is much different. Today there are approximately 6700 undergraduates and 1800 graduate students, in many programs besides education.

"The school has been a great deal and that's 'good,'" he reflects. "When I came here it was a smaller school. Until the year I came there were very few earned doctorates on the faculty."

Rollins is a 1942 graduate of Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri. He earned his master of science and Ph.D. degrees in education.

He was drafted into the Army in January of 1942, but he was allowed to finish college before being inducted.

In fact there was an additional three month period between graduation and induction, and Sid used it to acquire some unusual experience.

An accomplished string bass player—he is still a member of St. Louis local number two, American Federation of Musicians—Sid got a gig playing days with a band on the Mississippi river. He also played in clubs at night.

By the time he arrived at RIC Rollins had already been a professional musician for 25 years.

"I did everything from symphonic work to jazz, from large orchestras to trios, all of which I enjoyed," he says.

The one thing about music is that you do it at night and can do other things in the daytime," he points out.

During the first two or three years that he tried to establish a program for teaching the gifted. He met obstacles and a lack of full understanding on the part of some in the public. He demonstrated that he had patience and persistence as well as speed and energy. Six years ago, eighteen years after he initiated the idea, he was indeed able to establish a program and has received much recognition for it.

He also was instrumental in the formation of the RIC Curriculum Center which he calls "a good one."

While dean of graduate studies he was able to "codify" the graduate programs and build enrollment to the point where it reached 3500 students when he retired from the deanship. Today it is smaller owing to a change in the demographic patterns.

"Happy in my work, happy in my home. I think that helps a lot."

"I've led a very happy life," he says.

"Through all of it I guess what I've enjoyed most is my contact with graduate students. Second would come faculty," he offers.

Now that he has retired Sid doesn't intend to doze in front of the fireplace.

"One thing I won't do is sit in a rocking chair," he says adamantly.

He doesn't plan to travel any more than usual, however.

"I prefer work," he points out. "I enjoy working. My lifestyle won't change except that I might be busier. I don't consider (the years ahead) as retirement years. I'm not retiring. I'm retiring from Rhode Island College." Rollins plans to expand upon the consulting work that he has done through the years, and he will continue to work with the Rhode Island Office of Higher Education as a consultant. He will act as staff person for the RIC presidential search process.

"I see this (consulting) as an opportunity to do some of the things I've been doing overseas in a more comprehensive way," he notes.

It seems likely that he will stay in Rhode Island too. A resident of 22 Kenilworth Way, Pawtucket, Rollins says that he likes Rhode Island.

"Rhode Islanders are friendly," he says with conviction.

Perhaps he thinks so because it is easy to be friendly with Sid Rollins. His outlook might have something to do with it.

"I've led a very happy life," he says. "Happy in my work, happy in my home. I think that helps a lot."

Sid Rollins retires

By Lawrence J. Sasso, Jr.

Rhode Island College

Vol. 5, No. 17 January 28, 1985

TONGHT!

Division III

RIC

vs.

Division I

BROWN

BASKETBALL

Marvel Gym

7:30 p.m.

What's News

Came to RIC 'with the buildings'

Never better,' Sid Rollins retires

off and rose to 27.

During his career at RIC, Sid Rollins had some pet concerns. One of these was the education of the gifted child. During his first two or three years he tried to establish a program for teaching the gifted. He met obstacles and a lack of full understanding on the part of some in the public. He demonstrated that he had patience and persistence as well as speed and energy.

Six years ago, eighteen years after he initiated the idea, he was indeed able to establish a program and has received much recognition for it.

He also was instrumental in the formation of the RIC Curriculum Center which he calls "a good one."

While dean of graduate studies he was able to "codify" the graduate programs and build enrollment to the point where it reached 3500 students when he retired from the deanship. Today it is smaller owing to a change in the demographic patterns.

"That's an experience that's best forgotten," is all Rollins will say about his war time service. Even that remark evokes a tight-lipped, grim expression which is in marked contrast to the almost omnipresent smile that Rollins always extends to others. Today he is doing piecemeal in a more comprehensive way, he notes.

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Class cancellation number
Information concerning the cancellation of classes and/or the closing of the college can be confirmed by calling a recorded message at 456-9500.

This is in addition to the official announcement broadcast on the designated radio stations. Faculty are urged to make this known to their classes.

Do you need...
FOR SALE: Honda 1976 Civic hatchback, new tires and battery, recently tuned-up, runs great and looks decent. Reliable and economical transportation. Asking $1,250. Contact: Roberto Gonzalez at 456-8121 or 461-2849 (home).

What's News
The council is a non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to increasing economic education among all Rhode Islanders. It is one of 50 such organizations throughout the country affiliated with the national Joint Council on Economic Education.

DR. RICHARD LOBBAN, professor of anthropology and coordinator of African and Afro-American studies, presented the main speech at the annual Amilcar Cabral Memorial Program on Jan. 31 at the Providence State House. The address, ‘Amilcar Cabral: Scholar, Liberator and Hero for Us All,’ was sponsored by the Rhode Island Heritage Commission and the Cape Verdean subcommittee.

Other Places

Bureau of Grants and Sponsored Projects:
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(Deadline for submission of copy and photos is 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday.)

What's News @ RIC, Monday, Jan. 28, 1985

An Egyptian Odyssey
Two 16-day fully-escorted study tours of Egypt for which you may earn college credit through the Rhode Island College Summer Session are being offered this year to members of the Rhode Island community and general public.

Costs of the tours, which are being arranged by Metco Tours of New York, are $2,345 per person double occupancy for the July departure and $2,425 for the November departure. Actual tour dates are July 12 to July 27 and Nov. 20 to Dec. 5. Course tuition is extra, according to Dr. Richard Lobban, professor of anthropology and Afro-Arab and Urban Studies who will offer the workshop in anthropology.

The tours will offer exploration of the glory of ancient Egypt along the valley of the Nile from Cairo to Aswan. For more information contact Professor Lobban at 456-8006 or 461-2847.

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The Anchormen wrestling squad is off to its best start since the mid-1970's with three freshmen playing key roles in the resurgence.

Bobby San Juan stands 5'4" tall and weighs about 118 pounds. He isn't muscular by any means and looks as if he would be an easy pushover. Yet all this 118-pound freshman wrestler's future far is achieve the best record on the An­chormen squad with a 6-0-1 slate in his first six matches against collegiate competition.

He leads the team in pins with five, in take-downs with nine and is second in team points with 33. Success is not new to this East Lyme, Conn. native. He was a Connecticut Class M State Finalist his junior and senior years at East Lyme High School and was a two-time Con­ference Champ and two-time All-Star. He epitomizes what the Anchormen wrestling squad stands for and is all about: hard work, dedication and endless desire to be successful.

Two Rhode Island high school pro­grams are also performing extremely well in their first year of collegiate competition.

Anchormen 190-pounder Wayne Grif­fin hails from the most successful high school wrestling program in the state in recent years, Coventry. He has wrestled very well and currently has a 4-2 record, third best on the team. He is tied for first on the squad in reversals with five, is third in pins with two and third in team points with 21. He has provided so much power in the upper weights, much the same as San Juan has done in the lower weights.

Griffin was a state runner-up in the 185-pound class for Coventry in 1983. He was named to the All-State second team by the Providence Journal. He also placed fourth in the New England Cham­pionships and was a freshman state champion as well. He is a believer in the double team because it effectively removes a player's reaction time, similiar to the Anchormen wrestling team's style of wrestling.

Junior forward Dana Smith is ninth in the country in NCAA Division III with a 66.2 field goal percentage. He has hit on 31 of 77 shots from the floor.

The women's basketball squad has en­joyed the most successful of all and are cur­rently ranked 18th in the country in NCAA Division III. The Anchormen are 123-1 with those wins coming against the fifth-ranked team in the country, Bridgewater State. JoAnn Paul Brown came to Rhode Island College from East Providence High School where he captained his team to a second place divisional finish last season. He was 16-2 in dual meet action last season, and was named to the All­Central North first team for the second straight year. Brown didn't place in the state meet, but came to RIC yearning for a chance to prove he was indeed a tough wrestler.

He is 3-2 on the season thus far, with one pin. He is tied for first on the squad with three three-point nearfalls, is se­cond in reversals and second in two-point near falls. Along with San Juan, he pro­vides Coach Rusty Carlsten with a for­midable 1-2 punch at the beginning of every match.

These freshmen all have bright futures ahead of them and with it the RIC wrestling team should glint as well.

In action during the second semester, the Anchormen wrestlers dropped a 46-2 de­cision to powerhouse Wesser Poltech. San Juan was the only An­chorman who didn't lose, he wound up tied with his opponent.

The men's basketball squad had some excellent days in California, but their evenings were certainly forgettable.

The Anchormen dropped all three of their games to the University of Cali­fornia at San Diego, 85-59, University of Redlands and 81-58 to Chapman College. The squad returned home and quickly got back on the win­ning track by defeating Western New England 80-66 to improve their record to 6-6.

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DeMelim to exhibit works

"Icons for a Technological Age" is the title of the exhibit to be held in Bannister Gallery Feb. 1 through Feb. 22, featuring the artwork of John deMelim of Johnston, professor of art at Rhode Island College. Professor deMelim has won numerous awards and has exhibited regionally and in New York City and Mexico.

The works on exhibit represent a sabbatical year devoted to the study of computer technology and its application as a design tool. deMelim uses this to create art pieces such as collages, screen prints and wood sculpture. The works, although not made on the computer, are characteristic of the capabilities of the computer, such as "windowing" - changing and moving images on a screen.

His sculptures are constructed of "found objects" or "urban fragments" made of various woods and metals. Some of the wood forms are "relics" of the foundry process of casting iron and metals while some of the metal forms were originally outdoor signage. Most of the materials used in the constructions represent a different time and place—all of the materials used are hand made from processes that are rapidly becoming obsolete and used in this new context take on a new significance for the present and the future.

The exhibit opening will take place on Sunday, Feb. 3, from 2 to 5 p.m. and Thursday, Feb. 7, from 7 to 9 p.m. The gallery hours are Monday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6 to 9.

Calendar of Events

Jan. 28 - Feb. 4

MONDAY, JAN. 28
Office of Career Services. Interview session: Rhode Island Hospital — Open sign up. Craig Lee, Room 054.
Noon to 1 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous. Weekly meeting. Student Union, Room 310.
7:00 p.m. Women's Basketball. RIC vs. Westfield State College. Home.
7:30 p.m. Men's Basketball. RIC vs. Brown. Away.
MONDAY TO THURSDAY, JAN. 28-31
12:30 p.m. Mass. Student Union, Room 304.
TUESDAY, JAN. 29
7:00 p.m. Women's Gymnastics. RIC vs. Brown University and Connecticut College. Home.
WEDNESDAY, JAN. 30
Open sign up for Miriam Hospital. Interviews for staff nurses will take place on Feb. 4.
11:30 a.m. Al-Anon Meeting. Sponsored by the Office of Health Promotion. Craig Lee, Room 127.
2:00 p.m. RIC Recital Series. Markus Stocker, Swiss cellist, and Judith Stillman, pianist in residence at RIC, will perform. All are invited. Roberts Hall, Room 138.
2 to 3:00 p.m. AIESEC Weekly Meeting. All are welcome. Alger, Room 216A.
5:30 p.m. Men's Wrestling. RIC vs. Boston College and Amherst. (Tri-meet). Home.
7:30 p.m. Financial Planning Seminar. Attorney Dennis Gannon, J.D., LL.M. (taxation) will speak about estate planning. Five and open to all. Roberts Hall, Board of Governors Room.
THURSDAY, JAN. 31
8:00 p.m. RIC Performing Arts Series. Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo—an all-male ballet company which has been internationally acclaimed. Roberts Auditorium.
FRIDAY, FEB. 1
9 to 10:30 a.m. Office of Career Services. Resume job search workshop. Craig Lee, Room 054.
SATURDAY, FEB. 2
1:00 p.m. Women's Gymnastics. RIC vs. MIT. University of Maine. Farmington. Home.
1:00 p.m. Women's Fencing. RIC at Southeastern Massachusetts University with Fairfield University. Away.
5:30 p.m. Women's Basketball. RIC vs. Southeastern Massachusetts University. Home.
7:30 p.m. Men's Basketball. RIC vs. Southeastern Massachusetts University. Home.
SUNDAY, FEB. 3
10:00 a.m. Sunday Mass. Student Union, Ballroom.
2 to 5:00 p.m. Bannister Gallery Opening. Technological Age works of John deMelim are to be displayed. All are welcome. Art Center, Bannister Gallery. Sunday Evening Mass. Browne Hall's Upper Lounge.
MONDAY, FEB. 4
12:30 p.m. Mass. Student Union, Room 304.
1 to 2:00 p.m. Career Services. Job search workshop. Craig Lee, Room 054.