5-2-1988

What's News At Rhode Island College

Rhode Island College

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Cap and Gown Convocation May 4th

Learning plans aimed at helping students take control of their lives'

Mock town meeting to evaluate pros and cons of relocation of genetic engineering firm

Commencement Gala Slated for May 20

With diploma in hand, Bulgarian is Harvard bound

Mariana Oller to graduate here May 21

Has full tuition and fees scholarship

If you did ask her how one gets to Harvard on a full scholarship, she might point to the Lindsey scholarship fund, which provides a full scholarship to students in good academic standing. With a 3.9 GPA, Mariana Oller has earned a full scholarship to Harvard University.

Cap and Gown Convocation May 4th

With diploma in hand, Bulgarian is Harvard bound

Mariana Oller to graduate here May 21

Has full tuition and fees scholarship

A three-year $250,000 federally funded program, designed to improve the quality of education at Rhode Island College, has been provided a learning experience for the students and departments involved. The grant from the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE), is being used to help freshmen develop their own Personal Learning Plan (PLP) and to provide value-added assessment of a student's college experience, explained Patricia A. Schiller, assistant to the provost. It is considered to be "pioneering" in that it gives back to the students information which can make it possible for them to take better control of their lives, not only as students but in every aspect, she said.

The value-added concept was first explored by Dr. Willard F. Enteman, Rhode Island College provost and vice-president for academic affairs, and officials of six other colleges starting in 1982. Like most pioneers, however, the participants occasionally have seen fit to alter their course a few times to reach their destination. Dr. David P. Cavanagh was appointed in February 1987 as the FIPSE grant project director for value-added assessment. An authority on statistical analysis of population groups, it was his responsibility to design the questionnaire which would provide a profile of an incoming freshman. The first full participation of incoming traditional-age freshmen took place last summer at the College. Some 900 students

Mock town meeting to evaluate pros and cons of relocation of genetic engineering firm

With the observation that "increasingly Rhode Island will have more of these companies because of its proximity to Boston," a Rhode Island College biology class will conduct a mock town meeting Tuesday, May 3, to evaluate a proposal by a fictional company to set up a genetic engineering firm here.

"One purpose of the presentation," says the professor, "is to educate the public about genetic engineering. Intelligent people who don't know a lot about science are ignorance about this subject.""This will be a good opportunity for city and town officials throughout the state who might be considering such a move (bringing

Commencement Gala Slated for May 20

Plans are currently in progress for one of the more festive occasions of the academic year... the Commencement Gala. President Carol J. Guardo will be inviting all of the College's faculty and staff to celebrate commencement at this year's event which will be held on Friday, May 20 in Dorrance Dining Center.

Tickets for the evening are $15 and will be available through the Office of Conferences and Special Events (Roberts Hall 310, Ext. 8022) beginning on Monday, May 2.

(continued on page 6)
Focus on the Faculty and Staff

Dr. Mary Ball Howkins, associate professor of art, participated in a symposium held on April 6 at Brown University. The symposium, "National Museum of Women in the Arts: Directions the Museum might take by the Year 2000," was jointly sponsored by the Pembroke Center for Research and the Rhode Island State Council of the National Museum of Women in the Arts.

Dr. Franca Marchisio, professor of music, participated in a panel discussion on "Organization, Administration and Development of Adult Bands" at the Eastern Divisional Conference of the College Band Directors National Association. The conference was held on April 8-10 at the University of New Hampshire in Durham.

Vann J. Glimpse, Jr., associate professor of history, received a contract for his book-length manuscript, "From A Caste To Organization, Administration and Development of Adult Bands," published in May 1988. Dr. Howkins, Dr. Marchisio, and Vann Glimpse, Jr., are all members of the College's Senate Internship program, which is directed here by Dr. Herbert Winter, professor of political science. Winter is also the statewide director of the program.

WHAT'S NEWS at RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE

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Deadline: Monday, May 2, 1988

Deadline for submission of copy and photographs is 11 a.m. on the Tuesday before publication date.

Telephone: (401) 456-4132

Planning
Beacon Press

The Office of Research and Grants Administration will be processing information about request for proposals (RFPs) on a regular basis in this column. Anyone interested in obtaining further information about proposals or applications and guidelines need only circle the number of the RFP on the coupon below and send it to the office in Roberts 312.

1. Canadian Embassy: Canadian Studies. Grant program opportunities are being offered by the Canadian Embassy. These programs are designed to promote teaching and research in Canadian studies for both higher education institutions and scholars. Proposals for programs include: Canadian Studies Program Development Grants, Outreach Grants, and Conference Grants. Grants are provided to help defray the cost of items such as travel, hospitality, materials, printing, secretarial services, computer time and telephone fees. Each proposal begins on Aug. 1, 1988 and ends on June 15, 1989. The funds for these programs vary, but range from $1,000 to $25,000 per year. DEADLINE: June 15.

2. Council for International Exchange of Scholars: Indo-U.S. Subcommission on Education and Culture. Twelve to fifteen (six to ten months) and nine short-term (two to three months) research fellowships offer an opportunity for U.S. researchers to conduct collaborative research in India in all academic fields, except classical medicine, and in professional areas such as architecture, business, law, museum work, and creative arts. The program was designed for U.S. citizens holding a Ph.D. or its equivalent who are Indian specialists and who have had limited or no prior experience in India. DEADLINE: June 15.

3. U.S. Department of Education: Law-Related Education. GEFA. The U.S. Constitution. For FY 88, the Department will use $500,000 from the Law-Related Education appropriation for projects that will assist elementary and secondary schools in running programs related to the constitutional aspects of the U.S. Constitution. In FY 88, education staffs are to expect to restructure the range of allowable activities to projects that address the topic of the Federalist Papers. DEADLINE: June 988.

4. U.S. Department of Education: ESEA Discretionary Fund: Science and Mathematics Education Programs. Supports demonstration projects designed to improve the quality of K-12 teaching in mathematics, science, computer learning and critical foreign languages. For this FY 88 supplemental competition, an absolute priority is placed on projects that would: (1) train teacher qualification in these areas through the use of workshops, seminars, and institutes that facilitate exchange between teachers and administrators with examples of outstanding uses of technology in educational instruction; (2) provide $1 million available to fund 10 awards. DEADLINE: June 3.

5. U.S. Department of Education: Workforce Literacy Partnership Grants. Supports demonstration projects that teach literacy skills needed in the workplace through exemplary education partnerships between business, industry, or labor organizations and education and organizations. For FY 88, $9.5 million is available to about 300 awards. The estimated size of each award is around $300,000 for a 15 month period. DEADLINE: June 6.

6. United States Army Research Institute: Social Science Research and Social Sciences. Supports behavioral science research on which to build new technologies, allowing Army personnel efficiency. Current program areas are: (1) Planning, Problem Solving and Decision Making; (2) Unit Performance; (3) Skill Building Technologies; and (4) Designing Systems for People. Single investigator projects will be considered, but collaborative projects are preferred. Project concepts are due by June 15 and final proposals by August 1. Research programs can range from one to five years. Program materials explain funding areas in greater detail. DEADLINE: June 15.

7. American Council of Learned Societies: China Conference Travel Grants. Awards provide partial travel support to allow specialists in the study of China to accept invitations to present their research results at conferences held outside the Republic of China. Conferences must be concerned with the humanities, social sciences, and preference is given to those dealing with China area studies. Applications must be made by April 1, 1988, for consideration by June 1, 1988, for conferences to begin to two months later. DEADLINE: July 1.

8. American Council of Learned Societies: Travel Grants to International Meetings for Humanities. Travel grants enable humanities scholars, as well as social science and legal scholars whose interests are historical and philosophical to participate in international scholarly meetings held outside North America. Only those reading papers or holding collaborative roles in such meetings are eligible, and preference is given to younger scholars or those who have not previously traveled for grants. DEADLINE: July 1.

Office of Research and Grants Administration

Please send me information on the following programs: Circle the number of each program.

1. A. National Endowment for the Humanities: NEH. Supports behavioral science research on which to build new technologies, allowing Army personnel efficiency. Current program areas are: (1) Planning, Problem Solving and Decision Making; (2) Unit Performance; (3) Skill Building Technologies; and (4) Designing Systems for People. Single investigator projects will be considered, but collaborative projects are preferred. Project concepts are due by June 15 and final proposals by August 1. Research programs can range from one to five years. Program materials explain funding areas in greater detail. DEADLINE: June 15.

2. B. National Science Foundation: Cooperative Research in India in all academic fields, except classical medicine, and in professional areas such as architecture, business, law, museum work, and creative arts.


5. E. National Science Foundation: Indo-U.S. Science and Technology. Supports biomedical, behavioral, and social sciences research in areas related to the human development of the human population. DEADLINE: June 15.


15. O. National Science Foundation: Indo-U.S. Science and Technology. Supports biomedical, behavioral, and social sciences research in areas related to the human development of the human population. DEADLINE: June 15.


17. Q. National Science Foundation: Indo-U.S. Science and Technology. Supports biomedical, behavioral, and social sciences research in areas related to the human development of the human population. DEADLINE: June 15.

18. R. National Science Foundation: Indo-U.S. Science and Technology. Supports biomedical, behavioral, and social sciences research in areas related to the human development of the human population. DEADLINE: June 15.


22. V. National Science Foundation: Indo-U.S. Science and Technology. Supports biomedical, behavioral, and social sciences research in areas related to the human development of the human population. DEADLINE: June 15.

23. W. National Science Foundation: Indo-U.S. Science and Technology. Supports biomedical, behavioral, and social sciences research in areas related to the human development of the human population. DEADLINE: June 15.

24. X. National Science Foundation: Indo-U.S. Science and Technology. Supports biomedical, behavioral, and social sciences research in areas related to the human development of the human population. DEADLINE: June 15.

25. Y. National Science Foundation: Indo-U.S. Science and Technology. Supports biomedical, behavioral, and social sciences research in areas related to the human development of the human population. DEADLINE: June 15.


Please circle the number of each program that interests you, and send your name, mailing address, and phone number to the Office of Research and Grants Administration, Rhode Island College, Providence, RI 02908. Second-Class postage paid to What's News at Rhode Island College.
It’s a wonderful life

'TIS A WONDERFUL LIFE is the subject of Dr. J. Stanly Lemons' Thorp Lecture in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences on April 21 in Fogarty Life Science Building. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Bowley.)

The Second Front Page
WHAT'S NEWS AT RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE

John Teehan wins Mowry Fellowship for study in England John Teahan of Westerly, a junior at Rhode Island College, has won the Elisha Mowry Fellowship for study in Great Britain and Ireland.

In making the announcement, Wheaton College Prof. Samuel Chase Coale noted that this is the third consecutive year that the scholarship has been awarded to a student here.

"It's a real accolade to Rhode Island College," he observed.

The scholarship, offered by the English Speaking Union, Providence branch, will take Teahan to the University of Exeter, England for a semester, beginning January 1989.

While in England, Teahan will study the famed Exeter Book one of the largest known collections of Old English poetry. His work will culminate in the writing of a thesis on the cultural influences on Anglo-Saxon poets of the 10th and 11th centuries.

A former Wesley High School newspaper editor, Teahan has served as treasurer of Sharrow, the Rhode Island College student literary magazine. He has also been active in the English Club and has spent three years as a tutor at the College's Writing Center.

During his collegiate career, Teahan has been a member of the Writer's Group, an informal organization of student writers of poetry and fiction. The Rhode Island College scholar credits Dr. Merrilith McManus, associate professor of English, with spurring his interest in Medieval poetry.

Arglene Violet to speak at dinner here May 5

The Rhode Island College Communications Organization is planning a dinner to celebrate the recent achievements of communications majors on May 5 at the Providence Marriott Inn.

Keynote speaker will be Arlene Violet, former state attorney general and current best-selling author.

Achievement awards will be given, including those for Communications Talent, Arlene Achievement and Scholarship.

Barbara Mck of Trv's Archer Banker's Place will make a special appearance during the dinner, and Susan Iacobellis, president of the Rhode Island College Theatre Organization, will direct a cabaret performance.

Performers are Stacey Ledoux, Candy Jennings, Chris Fraticelli and Anthony Ciuffet. Tim Roberts, who will serve as music director, will provide piano accompaniment.

Tickets are $14 and include dancing to a disc jockey.

For tickets and information, contact the communications and theatre department at 456-8270.

19 staff members cited for their performance at R.I. College

Some 19 staff members from both the professional and classified services have been cited for their "exceptional service to the College" during the 1987-88 academic year and as such will share in $11,500 through the Outstanding Performance Awards Program.

"It's gratifying that there are so many people at the College who are doing outstanding jobs," said President Carol J. Guarino.

"It was difficult to select the 19 we've recognized this year," she added, stating, "We appreciate their good efforts as well as those of many of their colleagues."

The staff—nominated by the President's Council and selected by the president—will receive cash bonuses ranging from $300 to $1,000 in this, the second year of the program.

Funds come from the Mary A. Weber Fund within the Rhode Island College Foundation.

Last year, awards totaling $9,000 were awarded to professional staff members only. This year, at the president's request, the amount of the funds to be made available was increased "in order to include nominations of any College staff member."

Criteria for selection include a high degree of productivity, exceptional quality work, initiative in performance of responsibilities, dependability, effective interpersonal relations, and a commitment to and advancement of the College agenda.

For Jeanne A. Boihat of North Providence, a senior programmer/analyst in the Office of Security, winning has "helped an awful lot" for the people at the College who are doing outstanding jobs," said President Carol J. Guarino.

"Suddenly, you're no longer the student, learning how it's done from textbooks or other teachers," she explained.

Today, she said, most educators agree that a formal system of guiding and mentoring the development of a new teacher is needed.

The structure of beginning teacher support programs varies from one locale to another, according to Schuck.

In some cases, one or more teachers "in-house" (on the same faculty) serve as "mentor teachers" to younger, less experienced teachers.

In other instances, an administrator appointed by the school district may monitor a new teacher.

"Many states, including Rhode Island, are just starting to address the issue of teacher induction," Schuck said.

The dean noted that one of the main purposes of the conference will be to present models of successful induction programs and to help North Carolina, a state for those persons responsible for designing induction programs in their communities.

Dean Schuck, a past president of the Association of Teacher Educators, commented that Providence was one of 10 sites which had been considered for the conference. He termed the decision to hold the event here "a real pride of the College." Teachers and administrators are expected to attend.

"We could not have gotten it here without her wholehearted support," he concluded.
Pickin' Flowers at the Faculty Center April 27 are (l-r) Cynthia Bertuscini, Barbara Aulillo and Donna Guariso, who were among the more than 35 clerical staff members at the College honored by President Carol J. Guardo on National Secretary's Day. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley.)

Spanish Theatre at Rhode Island College (STRIC) performs La Zapatera Prodigiosa (The Shoemaker's Wife) in Gaiige Hall auditorium last weekend. Cast members above are Dennis Monelli of Cranston and Margarita Gonzalez of Pawtucket. The two-act farce by Spanish playwright Federico Garcia Lorca marked the eighth theatre production by STRIC.

Theodore Kluczko was guest lecturer in Dr. Herbert Heath, professor emeritus from Haverford College in Pennsylvania, spoke on the nature of SAT scores, and the need for class grades to be questioned as predictors of future success for students both in college and beyond.

Conference attendees were later entertained by the College Chamber Singers, under the direction of Dr. Edward Markward.

Reading/Study Skills Center: Students Helping Students!

by Elaine Bates

Ruth Gaipo, a sophomore, was having trouble in a psychology course and came to the Reading and Study Skills Center for help. Marcia Campbell, assistant coordinator for the center, worked with Gaipo showing her a practical approach to reading the textbook.

"By getting familiar with the book, it enhanced my study habits and my grades improved in the course."

Gaipo gave credit to the center and encourages other students to use the center as an alternative to "struggling with a course."

During her 12 years as coordinator for the center, Dr. Marilyn G. Banet, professor of Elementary Education has seen major changes in the center. She has watched it grow from only two bookcases and a small area for students to use, to a fully equipped center stocked with resource material and a staff of teaching assistants and student tutors.

The center is located in Craig Lee, Room 224, and is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Guardo addresses regional honors council conference

President Carol J. Guardo of Rhode Island College delivered the keynote address to some 275 honors program directors and students at the 17th annual conference of the northeast region of the National Collegiate Honors Council April 11 at Providence's Omni Billmore.

Titled "The Best Attended?" the council conference is the history of the northeast region, Dr. Spencer Hall, director of Rhode Island College's Honors Program and local conference chair, said more than 30 workshops were held over the weekend.

Theme of the conference was "Conditions of Excellence in Honors Education." It was the first time for the conference in Rhode Island and the first to be hosted by Rhode Island College, said Hall.

Guardo's keynote address was entitled "Between In-Put and Out-Put." Douglas Heath, professor emeritus from Haverford College in Pennsylvania, spoke on the nature of SAT scores, and the need for class grades to be questioned as predictors of future success for students both in college and beyond.

Conference attendees were later entertained by the College Chamber Singers, under the direction of Dr. Edward Markward.

Ready and waiting: staff of the Reading and Study Skills Center ready and willing to help students are (l to r seated) Marilyn Eanet, coordinator of the center, Sharon Mercado, Stephen Stanzione, (l to r standing) Mary Vinton, Marsha Campbell, Mike Fowler and Phil Sisson. Other staff members not present are Anna Safi, Bob Wonders and Sandi McLaughlin. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley.)

stuff, to a fully equipped center stocked with resource material and a staff of teaching assistants and student tutors. The center provides academic study support to over 400 Rhode Island College students a year.

It is geared to help the students to comprehend and assimilate information and skills. The center provides academic study support to over 400 Rhode Island College students a year.

The center is located in Craig Lee, Room 224, and is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

"One of the biggest problems we see in students is their lack of confidence," said Mike Fowler, student tutor. "The key to studying history, is to refer to it as happening in sequences."

"It's hard for a person to walk into a new environment and admit they need help, but we put them right into a classroom," Fowler said. "If students can understand the material and put it to practical use, they begin to learn it, he added."

The staff of teaching assistants and student tutors are: Mary Vinton, Phil Sisson, Anna Safi, Bob Wonders, and Sandi McLaughlin. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley.)

Soviet Chemist: On April 18 Theodore Kienle was guest lecturer in Dr. Herbert Witar's Government and Politics in Communist Society class. Kienle, a chemist, left the Soviet Union last January and now lives in Woonsocket. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley.)
Designs by R.I. College students win praise, business for Pawtucket agency
by Denis Bessette

When Norm McKittrick died last November, he left a wife, three children, and a legacy that won't soon be forgotten. Over a span of more than 20 years, McKittrick had established himself as an award-winning artist and graphic designer. His Pawtucket studio, The Norm McKittrick Design Assocation, developed a reputation for excellence. And through his vision, a talented group of young artists from Rhode Island College, that reputation lives on.

When McKittrick died, it was left to his widow to keep the studio going. Lorenta McKittrick had worked there on a part-time basis, performing clerical duties, running errands, and providing a steady income to support her family. Occasionally, her husband would ask her opinion of one of his designs, but she was not a graphic designer.

After her husband's death, the studio's remaining full-time designer left to take another position in New York City. Another part-time person also left.

"I realized I needed two graphic designers just to replace my husband," Mrs. McKittrick recalled.

Holmes, who received a master's degree in English literature from Rhode Island College and a former instructor at the school, decided to contact one of his former students, Kimberley Kim, now an assistant professor of art at the College.

Kim sent David Young of Woonsocket (Class of Jan. '80) to meet Mrs. McKittrick.

"I liked his portfolio, his personality and his eagerness," she said. "I found him to be well-organized and up on some new techniques."

Immediately, Young and his new boss faced a major design; a client needed two large graphs and a flow chart in a hurry.

David's office, a classroom, Russell Gusetti of Cumberland, who said he had just taken charge of the project.

"We worked from 9 a.m. until 2 a.m.," said Mrs. McKittrick. "They worked together until the last minute."

She immediately added Russell to her staff.

The Quality of work produced by Young and Gusetti has landed the agency a steady flow of work, she said.

Large construction companies, banks, specialty stores and charitable organizations are just some of the small and large concerns that have been seeking McKittrick's services in the past few months which have chosen the McKittrick Design agency in design logos, brochures and reports and to place advertisement.

In time, the agency's success created the need for an additional part-time worker.

Again, Mrs. McKittrick contacted Kim and again he produced a talented Rhode Island College design student, Justine Blackshaw of Warwick (Class of '88).

"Her work has been terrific," Blackshaw's boss commented.

The student intern's "handwork," involving precise use of paste-up materials, overlays and pantone colored film, has been of the highest caliber, according to Mrs. McKittrick.

Recently, the agency was awarded a valuable contract to produce a report for a quasi-public state agency. The competition included several large advertising houses.

"The woman who handled the contract was amazed," Mrs. McKittrick reported. "She said she had never seen such a totally professional presentation."

Taking over management of the agency has been a learning experience for the former teacher.

"This is a risky business," she commented. "You have to make very cautious decisions."

Many clients, she said, "you've got the job," but then don't want to pay until the job is done. Sometimes the money invested by the agency in a project can reach as a couple of thousand dollars, Mrs. McKittrick noted.

"We may start seeking some money up front," she said.

As the spoke of the serious side of the operation, her young design team worked diligently at its drawing tables in an adjoining room.

Their good-natured conversation and occasional laughter seemed to bring a brightness and cheer to the otherwise rather drab old building which houses the McKittrick studio.

Russell noted that the design team usually has several different assignments going at once.

"We are always trying to work ahead," he said.

He credited Rhode Island College Industrial Education Instructor Loretta McKittrick with giving him and his co-workers the skills necessary to succeed at their craft.

"She taught us the 'real-world' problems. She taught us the process," he said.

"The quality of their work that appeals to clients. I would recommend that students learn the technical side of things to go with the creative," he said.

Justine nodded.

"People might tell you you'll learn certain things on the job, but try to get a job without knowing them," she suggested.

Mrs. McKittrick pointed out that over the years, a number of students, some from very reputable art schools, have come to work at the agency. Their work has not always been satisfactory.

"These Rhode Island College students have really filled a void," she said. "They can hold their own with anybody."

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Summer Camp for 6 to 7 year-olds
By Recorder Staff

Once again, Rhode Island College will be hosting a summer camp for boys and girls six to 12 years of age.

The camp will operate from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. with headquarters at the Henry Burund School Gymnasium.

The camp's instructional swim program will allow children the opportunity to learn to swim or to advance their skills. Other activities will include instructional sports, arts and crafts, special events, field trips and nature walks.

The camp will be divided into three two-week sessions: June 27-July 8, July 16-22 and July 25-August 5. The cost of the first session will be $100, with no camp on July 4. The second and third sessions will each cost $109.

An After Hours Service will run from 3:30 to 5 p.m. for campers with working parents only. The cost is $25 per session. Enrollment must be approved by the camp director. For more information call 456-8799.

Camps must bring with them daily a swimsuit, towel and lunch. Beverages will be provided.

Every camper will receive an official Rhode Island College Summer Camp T-shirt on opening day.

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AT RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE for a program on "Canadian Cities: Lessons for the Future" are Canadian officials and R.I. College and Syracuse University geographers on April 25. From left are Chester Smolski, geography professor here; Carolyn Fluchr-Lobban, president at the April 25 meeting of the Counseling and Psychology Educational Resource Service (CAPERS) at Rhode Island College.

CAPERS provides professional development beyond the formal educational program for those studying counseling and human service. Those interested in membership may contact the counseling and educational psychology department at 456-8023.

CAPERS elects Peter D. Greenberg, a graduate student specializing in agency counseling, was elected CAPERS elects Peter D. Greenberg, a graduate student specializing in agency counseling, was elected president of the Counseling and Psychology Educational Resource Service (CAPERS) at Rhode Island College.

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WXIN
Rhode Island College radio
90.7 FM
Lend an ear...
**GENETIC** (continued from page 1)

It's not that she doesn't love her homeland. She does. It's just that she and Tom, as she calls him (in good old American informality), will make their home here and she'll no longer need Bulgarian citizenship. That, and the fact that they expect to travel extensively with two passports, is "too complicated."

"As long as we have the money, we’ll travel," she says, explaining that she and her husband both "like nature and ruins." As opposed to modern cities. The OIlers—who had met at the University of Sofia during the 1974-75 academic year—"to teach, do research and work together." after their formal educations are complete, relates Mariana.

She has already been to the Soviet Union "as a tourist" and Yugoslavia "visiting relatives." Since getting married three years ago this month, she and Tom have traveled to Europe twice—to Rome and Macedonia.

"We were a small family, typical of Bulgaria," she relates.

Mariana says the climate in New England is like that in Bulgaria. "Like New England," she says.

When asked about the rest of the country, some parts of which she and Tom have already visited, she responded, "Yeah, like it very much."

**GALA** (continued from page 1)

According to Kathryn Sassio, who is coordinating commemorative activities, the event will get underway with a reception on the patio of the dining center (weather permitting) at 6:30 p.m. A buffet, featuring steamship round of beef "and other delights," will be served at 7:30. Light music for those who wish to dance will be provided by Paul Borello's Orchestra following dinner.

Sassio indicates that, while there is no formal program for the evening's activities, President Guardo will introduce this year's honorary degree recipients. In keeping with a practice she began at last year's Gala, she will also recognize those faculty and staff members (or their authorized alternates) who have retired during this past year from the College. See story below.

Members of the College community are encouraged by Sassio to turn out for the event, regardless of groups large or small. Reservations of tables will be taken for groups of six or more.

"If it’s a fine way to gather and wish our retirees well and also a nice opportunity to congratulate those whom the College chooses to honor with the special distinction of an honorary degree," says Sassio. Watch for your invitation in the campus mail!

Retirees to be honored

A number of faculty and staff members of Rhode Island College who have or will be retiring this year, some with more than 25 years of service, will be recognized by College President Carol J. Guardo at the annual Commencement Gala Friday, May 20.

Among them are: members of the Central Falls, an associate professor of modern languages, Robert L. Sugarman; David M. Olds, of the Biology Department; and Frances F. Oliphant, a professor of English.

RECEPTION IN HONOR of Dr. James G. Dwyer, Jr., Professor of English, will be held April 27 in Roberts Hall Alumni Lounge. White retirees after some 32 years on the Rhode Island College faculty.

**CAP 'N GOWN** (continued from page 1)

Vichuban, Jean Garrigue Award (English), James W. Brown; Kenneth Melker Crawford Award (Health/Physical Education), Debra A. Meunier.

Also, a Student deB Pell Award (History), Matthew J. Kukula; Epsilon Pi Tau, Beta Sigma Chapter Award (Industrial Education), Professor Robert J. Lewis; and Kenneth L. McCarthy; Richard A. Howland Computer Science Award (Mathematics/Computer Studies), Dr. John J. Ciaccia and Ellen Fagundes, Christopher R. Mitchell Award (Massachusetts/Computer Science), Donna J. Henry.

Also, Nelson A. Guettin Memorial Award—French (Modern Languages), Linda C. Manders, and Nelson A. Guettin Memorial Award—Spanish (Modern Languages), Patricia M. Simon and Patricia A. Simon, Virginia L. Vichuban; Canton Jacob Holenzer Award (Music), Paul Post.

**LEARNING** (continued from page 1)

answered the questionnaire either on campus or through the mail.

Among other things, the questionnaire asks the student whether he or she will be living on or off-campus, along with others; their commuting time; whether they plan to work while attending college and how many hours per week; how and why they plan to spend on social or leisure activities; their past study habits; academic and personal habits; and which, if any, college clubs or organizations they plan to join.

The responses to these questions are combined, says Sasso, into a single transcript and SAT scores to produce the PLP for each individual.

The students who answered the question­naire last summer received their PLPs in November. As an additional 34 incoming freshmen were given the questionnaire which was then transferred into an interactive computer process at January orientation and received their PLP's in March. (It is hoped the other 46 recipients will get their PLPs in cut down in the future, said Sasso.)

Included in the learning plan are a summary of answers to the questionnaire, study hints, suggestions for campus involvement, an explanation of the guideline graduation requirements and a section on the importance of time management, complete with "time budgeting style."

In addition, each student received a one-page grid which prioritizes orientations (which are expanded to three pages) to share with his or her faculty advisor for general direction and assistance in preparing the time budgeting plan. The idea of time budgeting is perhaps the key factor in the PLP.

"Most students entering college have no idea of the amount of time school is going to take up their time," Sasso said. "Their expecta­tions are usually based on their high school experiences.

A rule of thumb used by college officials is that a student should spend two hours studying for each hour in class instruction. And, a good deal of that study time should be spent in the library, researching papers and projects, a mostly new experience for most incoming freshmen.

Adding up the demands of college, job, family, friends and other activities, a faculty advisor can show, hobbies and interests, along with the usual demands of a reasonably eating or sleeping, often produces a time element greater than 166 hours to which we are all limited in any given week.

Obviously, something has got to give.

Too often, officials say, that "something" is homework.

A survey of some 30 percent of Rhode Island College students drop out in the first three semesters, according to the latest figures from the Office of Institutional Research and Planning.

"Learning plans are designed to make students conscious of the different factors in their lives," Sasso said.

In the case of several of these competing factors, they should be better able to take control of their lives." Sasso added.

The College encourages students to be flexible and to plan on investing a lot of time in school, Sasso noted. However, she pointed out, that, at times, reducing one's course load or leaving school temporarily may be one way of solving a problem if a career opportunity or family concern seems to be a more pressing issue at the time.

The College administration is looking for guidance from the faculty on improving the advising service, Sasso concluded. She also invited any faculty staff member interested in joining a faculty advisory group to join her in creating a learning plan to con­ tact her at 456-8113.

As part of the PLP/value added assessment, the College is working on a new learning plans on a regular basis and to up­ date the information as needed.

The administration intends to do an evalua­tion of the plan and one way has been to do a survey involving students asking their opinion of their PLP experi­ ence.

"In general, overall, we received a positive re­ action," she reported. "They liked the time budgeting and the daily activity chart partic­ ularly."

One negative response heard repeatedly, however, was that the PLP's were "too complicated" for the computer. "That's a consideration that is being looked into," Sasso said.

To gain continuing in put from students, a PLP Committee, consisting of 12 students, has been established.

Meeting every other week, the group recom­ mendations, among other things, to improve the PLP process. Generally, the students meet without an administra­tion member present (under the guidance of a student coordinator) and their recommendations are more likely to be adopted according to Sasso, because their recommendations have been really good," she said.

There were, of course, such considerations as how to transform data obtained from students into another means of more positive studying, retaining information and setting stud­ ing plans. Sasso assured Dr. Douglas P. Farley, Jr., professor of education and Col­ lege in Frederick, Md., has been working on this aspect of the program, she said.

"It's not that we'll get the five years of the grant and beyond to get this just the way we would like it."

A possible addition to future planning is the new Student Potential Program, funded through a grant from the Governor's Incentive Fund for higher education. Under this program, some 130 students ranging from freshmen to seniors, choosing to be random, were to be interviewed between February 15 and May 1 of this year.

Their responses were coded to determine the extent to which each of them possessed needed skills and identified skills vital to college success. Those qualities are: initiative, per­ sistance, creativity, planning, critical thinking, practical, leadership, influence, self-confidence, interpersonal skills and responsibility.

A feedback session is to be held with each participant.

The College's five assessment counselors have a found a big difference between freshmen and seniors in this regard. "In the case of the former, cases they show a genuine personal growth, especially in such things as interpersonal skills and critical thinking skills."

Sasso conceded that changes have been made in the assessment process that what she calls an IPSEI-funded project has been ad­ ministered. However, she said, those involved feel the program works in its objectives.

"No other school that we know of is doing a program that is as good or as important for the benefit of students," she said.

"The information they're giving us, we give them back, hopefully with some good advice attached," she concluded.