Gov's Summer Program in Math, Science here for fifth year

Governor's Summer Program in Science and Mathematics for academically able high school students throughout the state is being offered again through a cooperative program at Rhode Island College and Providence College from June 20 to July 14.

Sponsored by the state Office of Higher Education, this marks the fifth year of the program in which selected students will have the opportunity to explore a limited number of topics in more depth than is usually available in high schools.

Some 69 students from the 10th and 11th grades have been selected from 44 private and public high schools to participate in the free four-week program during which they will attend morning and afternoon classes at either Rhode Island College or PC.

"The acquisition and application of new knowledge is central to the economic development of Rhode Island, especially in the current technological age.

"The best and brightest of our students need a special opportunity to develop and improve these skills. The payoff will be to the students and to the entire state," said Gov. Edward D. DiPrete, congratulating the program.

The governor's office reports that he hopes to be able to attend the summer program celebration on July 14 at PC.

The courses offered at Rhode Island College, under the direction of Dr. Robert E. Viera, associate professor of physics sciences, are: Chemical Investigations with Drs. J. and E.S. Magyar; Enrichment Topics in Mathematics with Drs. P. O'Regan, M. Younce and E. Rodriguez; Heredity: Models and Molecules with Dr. N. Gonsalves, and Optic Investigations in Physics with Drs. B. Gilbert and P.K. Glanz.

Those at PC, under the direction of Dr. Robert Krasner, are: Computer Programming with Pascal with Prof. M. Russell; Contemporary Topics in Mathematics with Dr. C.L. DeMoyo; Modern Biology with Dr. R.M. Zarraro, and Astronomy for the Inquiring Mind with Dr. J.J. Tarrant.

Robert Andreoli

Honorary degrees will be given to four individuals who have distinguished themselves in their respective fields, including Reatta Clark King, president of Metropolitan State University in St. Paul, Minn., who will deliver the commencement address. King, a research chemist, college teacher and administrator, had succeeded David E. Sweet as president at Metropolitan State in 1977 when he was the first state's college president who will receive the Doctor of Public Service for her "distinguished achievements in the fields of science, education and community service," and for her work on behalf of minority and disadvantaged students.

Others receiving honorary degrees are: Dr. William Oh of Barrington, pediatrician-in-chief at Women & Infants Hospital of Rhode Island and professor of medical sciences in pediatrics and obstetrics at the Brown University Program in Medical Science here for fifth year.

"It's not unusual to hear a graduating senior use these words to describe the achieving of a college degree.

"But for Cynthia Lawson, receiving her degree in social work at this Saturday's Rhode Island College commencement, it means the realization of what once seemed an impossible dream.

"Married at 17, she soon found that her marriage was not what she expected.

"I left (him) and came back, left and came back.

"Finally, she left for good, she said.

"Grabbing her children and stuffing a few items of their clothing into her pocketbook, she moved in with her grandmother.

"Latter, the family moved to a motel, and four months later, to an apartment outside of Cynthia's hometown.

"Although her mother and four brothers had all graduated from college, Cynthia had only hoped to one day finish high school.

"I never thought I'd get my G.E.D. (General Equivalency Diploma)," she said during a recent interview. "Every time I'd try, something would get in the way." Instead of continuing her education, Cynthia devoted herself completely to her four children—feeding them, clothing them and to "just trying to bring them up right.

"At various times, she worked as a nurse's aide, housekeeper, motel maid, laundry worker and also worked in a shoe factory.

"Although she was working most of the time, it wasn't enough and she found herself on and off the welfare rolls.

"Cynthia's source of strength during those difficult times was her religious faith, the United House of Prayer for All People, she attests.

"One day she went to an event at the religion's Providence church. While in the capital city, she spent some time looking around, decided she liked it and shortly thereafter moved her family here.

"Finally, in January, 1984 she enrolled in a G.E.D. class and received her long-sought-after diploma that May.

"In the meantime, she became involved in social work as a volunteer at Providence's Eldenwood Community Center. Her involvement grew to encompass a number of different programs, including the Food Basket, Basket of Toys, cheese distribution and housing and legal referrals.

"Cynthia credits the center's director, Fairy Kamper, with urging her to enroll at Rhode Island College.

"She told me about Pell grants and other programs that could help me afford it," said Cynthia.

"Once enrolled, Cynthia faced a new set of obstacles, some of them of her own making.

"I suffered from a lack of self-esteem, going back to my marriage," she explained.

"In addition to that, Cynthia felt intimidated by younger students who seemed smarter than she was. She also worried about whether she was neglecting her child.
Congratulations to the Class of 1988

'Well done!'

Next issue of What's News (Summer Issue) is Monday, June 20.

It will be the last issue of this academic year.

DEADLINE for copy, photos, etc., is 4:30 p.m., Tuesday, June 14.

Cap and Gown Day ’88

AT THE CAP AND GOWN ceremony seniors with outstanding academic performances were recognized with awards. This year’s recipients and their awards are from left to right (stationed left to right): First row, Deborah Lee (Local Community Service Program Award); American Electronic Association; John H. Chaffee Award; Rhode Island College Theatre Award; Psychology Faculty Senior Award; Philosophy Faculty Award; Jeanne Lattanzio (Joseph A. Willour Award); Michelle Martineau (Psychology Faculty Senior Award).

Second row: Paula Roy (Cantor Jacob Hohenemser Award); Sharon Wishnevsky (Helen M. Murphy Award); David Moscicki (Bertha Christina Andrews Emin Award—Scholastic Excellence); Richard Farley (John H. Chaffee Award); Christina Charell (North Providence League of Women Voters Award); Zovig Vichabian (Elementary Education Faculty Award and the Tegu Polyglot Award); Paul Caldarella (Philosophy Faculty Award); Cynthia Lawson.

HELP WITH HER CAP is given Chris O'Connor (far left) by Anthony Cinelli as Rhode Island College seniors don academic attire for the first time. Prof. Neil Gonsalves, chair of the Council of Rhode Island College, (immediate left) carries the Del Sesto Mace in the procession into Roberts Hall auditorium. At right, Richard Farley, a senior, addresses the assembly, while below, three seniors in the College’s nursing program enjoy refreshments on the lawn outside of Roberts after the ceremony. They are from left, Donna Guay, Tom Isherwood and Denise LePage.

What's News Photos by Gordon E. Rowley
Grad donates over $5,000 for scholarship fund in counselor ed

To benefit single, female head of family who returns to college as grad student

A 1988 recipient of a certificate in adult student counseling, Professor Rothschild has donated $5,000 to establish a scholarship at Rhode Island College to benefit a female student who enrolls in the graduate counselor education program.

To be known as the Helene Penza Scholarship after the donor, it has already provided an initial scholarship of $300 to a female student who has re-enrolled at the college for an advanced degree in that program.

This year's scholarship winner is Elizabeth M. Mallick of Cranston. Selection was made May 1.

Upon review of the funds available in later years, the amount or number of scholarships may be increased, reports Richard E. Payne, executive director of Rhode Island College Foundation which is custodian of the fund.

"It has been the wish of the contributor of this fund to give back to the College community something that will assist others to further their growth," according to Dr. Stephen M. Rothschild, an associate professor of counseling and educational psychology and administrator of the fund.

The donor, a resident of North Providence, is director and founder of the Elmhurst Counseling Services in Providence.

Prior to beginning a counseling career, she served as administrative assistant at the Catholic Charismatic Conference of New England, Inc. and was the property manager and accountant for Epstein's Furniture and Real Estate holdings. Penza is a licensed real estate broker and insurance agent, according to Professor Rothschild.

She had taught pre-primary through eighth grade and has served as a counselor for religious education for a number of years, says Rothschild.

She is active in counseling organizations and is a member of the Association of Christian Therapists.

The fund was established at Rhode Island College in honor of Penza's father, Harry G. Penza for his "significant financial assistance" and Professor Rothschild for his assistance as a faculty member here.

Graduate to help needy

"Children and home while doing something for myself."

Fortunately, Cynthia got the support she needed to persevere in her college studies. She is grateful to her professors "who gave me confidence and showed me that my opinions and questions" and to her children who had antagonized her, "you've come this far, you're not quitting now," she said.

Special Services Counselor Antonine L. Saintpierre has her "monitor" for her thesis, intensive, four-year, round-undergraduate program, Cynthia noted.

"On days like today, when my kids all go down in the middle of the year, I had this moment during finals, I was there for me," she said.

Not only did Cynthia make it through her classes, she also became involved in various campus activities, including the S.O.S. (Students of Social Justice) and Harambee, the black student organization.

Cynthia spent a year-and-a-half in the Office of Student Life, assisting visually impaired students with their reading and library work. She also spent a summer as a personal-care attendant to a wheelchair-bound student.

This semester, Cynthia has continued her community involvement through a field placement at the Rhode Island Department of Social Services.

Cynthia's Bachelor of Social Work degree will not be the first recognition she has received during her college career.

She was the 1987 winner of the Rose Butler Browne Award, given annually to a minority student who demonstrates outstanding community service. This year, she is listed in the prestigious Who's Who at American Colleges and Universities.

When associate professor of sociology Thomas W. Rembey needed some advice, he was able to "see through the haze" and "begin to understand" why he felt the way he did.

A native of the Philippines, he graduated from Xavier University in Cagayan de Oro; received his master's degree from the University of Santo Tomas in Manila and an honorary master's from Brown University in 1981. He has won awards from United Central Polynesia and the Philippine National Association of Undergraduates.

"He always stayed on the boards of various businesses, banks and associations, including Roger Williams University, the United Bank of Rhode Island, Trust Company and Rhode Island Hospital, and has won awards from United Central Polynesia for "Outstanding Citizen Award in 1987.

Professor at Yale University, he has a Ph.D. from Clark University, and he has written extensively in the areas of psychology and educational psychology, "The Preparation of Teachers: An Unstudied Problem in Education" (1962), The Culture of the School and the Problem of Change (1971), Educational Hospitable, Public Policy and Educational Psychology Misdirected: The Socialist in the Order (1981), and The School as Community and Salvation (1983), among others.

Graduate to help needy

"I might like to get a job in a social service agency," she said. "My first love is community work, I want to help people get help to help people..." she explained. "As a social worker, it will help me to understand others' situations and to help them."

"When I'm sitting opposite someone who is hungry or eats, I'll be able to say 'I understand' because I've been there," she said.

A newly-arrived resident of New Bedford, Cynthia is not completely sure where she will work after working, but she knows her position will be at an advocate for the homeless.

"I might like to get a job in a social service agency," she said. "My first love is community work, I like to help people get help in whatever area and help the people get it together, to improve their neighborhoods."

Another role she might enjoy would be that of a lobbyist, Cynthia observed.

"Anywhere where I can help see to it that people have adequate housing and enough to eat," she concluded.