Recognition grows with ‘student improvement’ initiatives

by Robert K. Bower

Rhode Island College officials are experiencing exceptional popularity at scholarly meetings and conferences in their recent successes in its student improvement programs.

"The attention we are receiving is very impressive," said Patricia Soelcher Younce, assistant to the provost, upon returning from a recent professional conference. "Colleagues from across the country are asking about our initiatives in measuring student progress toward their educational goals and providing feedback to help them succeed."

Younce was quoted at length in an article titled "Tailoring assessment to a commuter student population," that appeared in the May/June issue of Liberal Education, a publication of the Association of American Colleges.

Gaining recognition

A national expert on what has come to be called "value added assessment," Dr. Alexander W. Astin of UCLA, visited Rhode Island College last fall to evaluate the program. He called the College unique among institutions of higher education in that it is providing "individualized, tailor made feedback to students in order to allow them to improve.

Rhode Island College officials are being invited to share their knowledge and experiences in this area at professional meetings and conferences. William F. Enteman made presentations at the American Association of Higher Education annual meeting in Washington, D.C. in January and at the National Assessment Conference in Chicago in June.

Within the past year, President Carol J. Guardo has made presentations relating to our student improvement initiatives at two national conferences involving top educational scholars and administrators. One was the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) annual meeting in New Orleans last November; the other was last month's meeting of the Education Commission of the States in Baltimore, Md.

Four principles

In her remarks before the latter group—which included government education employees and politicians from around the country—President Guardo outlined four principles that have guided Rhode Island College as it developed the student improvement assessment programs:

- The mother machine....................3
- At home longer...........................7
- Enriching lives.............................3
- The Glass Menagerie is coming.........8
- Organization Day ........................4-5
- Shakespeare's Women....................8

Faculty cited for distinguished teaching and service

by George LaTour

Dr. Robert J. Saltany, professor of mathematics, and Dr. Judith Lynn Stillman-Hefetz, artist-in-residence and associate professor of music, have been named the 1988-89 co-winners of the Paul Maixner Award for Distinguished Teaching in the Rhode Island College Faculty of Arts and Sciences.

Dr. C. Annette Ducey, professor of English, was selected as the recipient of the Distinguished Service Award.

Robert Saltany

Saltany, of North Providence, a 1957 electrical engineering graduate of the University of Rhode Island who went on to obtain three master's degrees in electrical engineering, mathematics and statistics, respectively, and a Ph.D. in math, joined the faculty here in 1962.

His citation quoted endorsements from former students of his here, including one who noted that "although I had many other math professors both at Rhode Island College and at Brown University where I earned my M.A.T., I have yet to encounter one as effective or as personable as Dr. Saltany."

Robert Guardo

Robert Guardo emphasized that student development is not simply the acquisition of basic skills (such as writing and math). Such a view trivializes the student learning experience. As the College has learned in its initial effort to gain recognition with "student improvement initiatives," the program is unique in its primary purpose of benefiting the student.

Third, Guardo observed that the assessment of student achievement is not a new phenomenon, and that we should build on what we have already learned in this area.

Fourth, Guardo emphasized that student development is not simply the acquisition of basic skills (such as writing and math). Such a view trivializes the student learning experience. As the College has learned in its initial effort to gain recognition with "student improvement initiatives," the program is unique in its primary purpose of benefiting the student.
Focus on the Faculty and Staff

Dr. Mary E. Maginn, director of the Writing Center and assistant professor of English, was named "Outstanding Professor" at the 26th Annual Writing Program Administrators Conference at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Dr. Maginn was cited as a "model professional who consistently contributes to the writing center and enriches the writing experience of students.

Dr. Richard A. Lobban Jr., professor of English, presented a paper entitled 'Shading Our High School Make the Grade!' in the August issue of the Rhode Island Monthly.

Dr. Patrick J. O'Regan, professor of social work, will moderate a session of the Third Annual Labor-Management Relations Conference at Salve Regina College August 5-8.

Dr. Earl E. Stevens, director of the Labor Studies Research Grants, was named as one of the four 'Outstanding Professors' for the year.

Dr. Daniel Weismann, professor of history, will present a paper on the evolution of women's role in social sciences at the XII International Conference on the History and Philosophy of Science.

The Office of Research and Grants Administration is seeking information about proposals for research and training in the social sciences and humanities.

Please send inquiries to the Office of Research and Grants Administration, 300 Roberts Hall.
Dean Greene to step down, return to teaching here

Dr. David L. Greene announced Sept. 2 to the Rhode Island College Faculty of Arts and Sciences that he was stepping down to return to the College faculty as a chemistry professor.

President Carol J. Guarino and Provost Willard F. Enteman said that at their request Greene agreed to serve out this academic year as dean so the College “can conduct an orderly and appropriate search” to find a replacement.

Greene had been appointed acting dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences in 1980 upon the departure of then-Dean James Koch, who took an appointment as provost at Ball State University.

Greene was appointed dean in 1981. He began his career at the College in 1972 as an assistant professor of chemistry, coming here after completion of his Ph.D. in chemistry at the University of Kentucky. He is a graduate of Notre Dame.

“On behalf of the entire community, we have expressed our regret that he is leaving. We will continue to grace Rhode Island College with his leadership, and our joy that he will graduate of Notre Dame.

DAVID GREENE

... adoption, and implementation of the College’s current general education requirements.

Greene is credited with the development of baccalaureate programs in computer science, art, labor studies, physics, accounting, computer information systems and marketing, as well as guiding the development of the master’s degree program in social work.

In addition to being credited for his “strong academic leadership,” Greene “can point with considerable pride to a nursing program which has just received high praise in its accreditation review and which is one of the strongest in the region if not the country,” said President Guarino and Provost Enteman in a written joint statement.

“Dean Greene has given a great deal to Rhode Island College, and we shall miss working with him on a daily basis,” said Guarino and Enteman. “However, we understand his desire to return to the classroom and the laboratory, and we count ourselves fortunate to have worked closely with him.

“We know that he will continue to be a strong participating citizen of the Rhode Island College community,” they wrote.

They reported that the search for Dean Greene’s replacement will be initiated in the next few weeks. It is anticipated that a new dean will be named sometime in the spring semester.

Dean Greene had taught regularly while serving as dean and continued scholarly pursuits as well, co-authoring two articles in top journals in chemistry.

As dean, he was chairman of the Committee on General Education during the design, implementation, and implementation of the College’s current general education requirements.

Women’s Bodies, Women’s Minds’

is lecture series theme here

The author of The Mother Machine, Gena Corina of the Boston area, will open this season’s Women’s Lecture Series at Rhode Island College on Tuesday, Sept. 20, at noon in the Faculty Center South dining room.

Her topic will be “How the New Reproductive Technologies Will Affect All Women.” The lecture is free and open to the public.

Published in 1985 by Harper & Row, The Mother Machine is a widely discussed book about the public implications of the new reproductive technologies which have appeared in leading publications such as the New York Times and Mother Jones and Ms. magazine.

Another of her books is The Hidden Malpractices: How American Medicine Mistreats T. Reddy, program coordinator for the Minority Alumni Meeting.

Eagle

... the new reproductive technologies and their implication for human relations is certainly one of society’s major concerns for now and for the future,” says Dr. Maureen Lynch.

Lynch attributes the sales surge, in part, to the recent publication of "The Great Hurricane of 1938," a highly acclaimed documentary of the storm, according to John Foley, vice-president for College Advancement.

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Great Hurricane of 1938’

50th anniversary Sept. 21

To note the occasion, three survivors of the storm will discuss their experiences at a meeting in Gaige Hall 209 at 11 a.m.

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It's Student Organization Day at R.I. College

STUDENT ORGANIZATION DAY at Rhode Island College campus mall last Wednesday finds hundreds of students joining numerous clubs and associations which the College has to offer. Signing up members for the Visiting International Student Association (V.I.S.A.) is Gitanjali of India (clockwise beginning at upper right). Theatre students holding a mid-day pajama party in Roberts Little Theatre are (l-r) Jeff Mills, Brenda Svean and Tracy Granting. Leonard Johnson is caught in a reflective mood (and reflective glasses) at the Chess Club table. Dawn Jenkins is "saved again" from a 5-mile-an-hour "crash" in the Convincer sponsored by the health promotion office. Dawn, however, needs no convincing as she was saved by a seat belt in a real accident. Members of the Housing Office recruit with an attention-getting bunk bed. Lower berth (l-r) Vicki Bruno (Thorpe); Scott Frankel (Rush); upper berth (l-r) Donna Edwards (Brown) and Lynn Bailey (Willard).
Funding Summary for Student Improvement-related Projects:

During the past five years more than a half million dollars in grants has been received by Rhode Island College to to assess improvement in student learning.

Most of the money has come from the funds for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (IPE).

The awarding of four FIPSE grants to the College over the past five years is simply remarkable, says Dr. Richard N. Keogh, director of the Office of Research and Grants Administration here.

The four FIPSE grants, when funding is complete, will have totaled $457,000. The largest award was approximately $240,000 over 5 years to document the "value added" to the knowledge and skills needed by the Rhode Island College undergraduates pursuing bachelor's degrees, and incorporating accompanying data into "personal learning plans" developed for each student.

The second largest award came last month when the College was notified that it's three-year $195,000 proposal was approved. FIPSE will provide $39,940 the first year for the project. The College was asked to use the added faculty rewards for teaching and to correlate with improved student learning.

The balance of the FIPSE awards were for the remaining grants when Rhode Island College was the lead institution in founding a small consortium of colleges and universities interested in the idea of measuring improvement in student learning, and for the planning grant which led to the most recent round.

In addition, a $50,000 grant awarded last year under the Board of Governors Incentive Fund for Excellence in Education enabled the College to implement a Student Potential Program that will lead students to identify which areas of study are most rewarding and make the most of their educational experience. The project has received a second two-year grant of $60,000, also from the Incentive Fund, to expand and refine the program, bringing the total funding to date for the FIPSE to $190,000.

Adult Academy: enriching lives through reading, writing skills

He cited the case of a woman who, despite limited reading skills, who wanted to become a CPA (certified public accountant).

"In a case like that, you try to get them to develop a more realistic short-term goal and tell them what they have to do to get closer to that goal," he explained.

A grant to fund the first student improvement-related project at Rhode Island College was obtained in 1984. More than $500,000 has been received or committed to student improvement-related projects in the past four years (see summary of funding).

The nine-year-old Adult Academy provides training for volunteers who become literacy tutors working one-to-one with volunteers.

Tutors undergo ten hours of training and are expected to provide at least 30 hours of instruction.

The Adult Academy's own offices, located in the College's Education Building, are expected to provide at least 30 hours of instruction.

The Adult Academy has a well-established presence in the community, largely through word-of-mouth advertising and at some of the community centers and the Adult Correctional Institution.

The Adult Academy is a non-profit organization, and all of its funding comes from grants and donations. The program has received a total of $60,000 from the Rhode Island Board of Governors Incentive Fund for Excellence in Education, and has also received grants from the Rhode Island Foundation, the Rhode Island Department of Education, and the Rhode Island Community Foundation. Additionally, the program has received a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, and has also received funding from the Rhode Island Department of Education's Adult Education Program.

The Adult Academy is open to anyone who is interested in learning how to read or improve their reading skills. The program offers classes in basic reading skills, as well as classes in advanced reading skills. The classes are taught by experienced instructors who provide individualized instruction. The program also offers workshops and seminars on various topics related to reading and writing skills.

The Adult Academy's goal is to help individuals who are struggling with reading and writing skills to achieve their goals. The program offers a supportive and welcoming environment, and provides individualized instruction to meet the needs of each student. The program is free to anyone who enrolls, and no prior experience is required.

The Adult Academy is located at 456 College Avenue, Providence, Rhode Island 02908. For more information, call 456-8042.

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Kids are poorer and living at home longer

(CPS) - Young people today are the most educated in history and are taking longer to become self-supporting adults than earlier generations, a new government report asserted.

Americans in their 20s are living at home longer, while deaths by accidents and homicide are declining. According to the report, but cocaine use has increased, harder for young people to be successful in the status of youth.

In the 1950s, that's enough to bring tears to medicine has brought disease increasing…

(Goode) - There should be plenty of career opportunities to women pursuing advanced study to women pursuing advanced study. A survey of 1,900 teenagers revealed that 35 percent of the nation's 18-24-year-olds are living with their parents, up from 43 percent in 1960.

American youth are becoming adults later and it has more pitfalls," project director Emily Wurtz said. "That just isn't true anymore. It's a lot more difficult for young people to get married and have children when they're in their 20s. They're not as independent as they used to be."

The report also discovered that the median annual income for men age 20 to 24, after adjusting for inflation, fell from $18,792 in 1970 to $14,152 in 1985.

"I have to live at home for economic reasons. I work at my own tuition. I pay for my own transportation. Growing up doesn't have anything to do with it. I'm not dependent on my parents. I am dependent on the government," the author of the report said.

"It's a lot more difficult for young people to be successful in the status of youth. It's a lot more difficult for young people to be successful in the status of youth."

The 45th annual book sale of the American Association of University Women (AAUW), Providence Plantations Branch, will be held Sept. 28-Oct. 1 at Moses Brown School, 250 Lloyd Ave., Providence from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesday through Friday, and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday. Saturday is half-price day.

About 10,000 books, sorted by category, will be available, including a large collection of children's books and a number of embroidery crafts materials.

This is the first time the sale will be at Moses Brown. For several years it was at the Central Congregational Church in Providence. The sale benefits the AAUW Educational Foundation which provides financial assistance to women pursuing advanced studies.

"I have to say that while a lot more kids are getting more education in the numbers of years of schooling, they don't know very much," he said. "They make me worry about the future of a country that's raising up people with a number of years in school but that don't know anything."

But American youth are doing better than many believe, Finn said. "Overall, it's not as bad as people believe. The younger generation is not going to the dogs. But it's a very mixed trend."

- Not to grow up!

University women to hold book sale

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This year marks the 100th anniversary of the first AAUW fellowship, awarded to a Michigan school teacher in 1988. Since then, more than 5,000 women have shared about $27,500,000 in grants.

The Providence branch's contribution goes to special endowed fund named for the late Alice Waddington, a beloved Rhode Island College professor.

Co-chairs of the sale are Ellen Swanson of Rochesthorpe and Carmela DiPippo of North Providence.

Woodwind Quartet, pianist Stillman begin chamber series

Chamber Music Series at Rhode Island College will begin Wednesday, Sept. 28, in Roberts Hall, Room 138, at 1 p.m. with a recital by the College Woodwind Quartet conducted by pianist Judith Lynn Stillman-Heffetz, artist-in-residence here.

The program—an hour earlier than last season's—will include the Schubert "Trio for Piano, Oboe and Bassoon" by Franz Prokofiev and "Quartet for Flute and Winds, Opus 86" by Ludwig van Beethoven.

Quartet members are Elizabeth Dean on French horn; Delight Immonen on oboe, Phillip McClintock on clarinet, and Susan Wood on bassoon.

All students, faculty and staff as well as the general public are invited to attend free of charge.

Hair, Bronzointed with her partner Curtis LaVallée unveiled her in 1984. The tetrahedron-shaped object, constructed of metal tubes and mirrors and containing a doren fluorescent lights, is large enough for a person to climb inside.

"It allows people to actually experience the form, by getting inside and being surrounded by it, rather than simply visualizing it from the outside," Bronzointed explained.

The Rhode Island College professor sees no barrier to the continued marriage of art and science in the study of hypergraphics. "Scientists have a better understanding of the world, while artists are visual people who can illustrate things," she said.

Bronzointed also noted that the expanded use of computers has been of great value in revealing new ways to explore other dimensions.

Attention Skiers!

Affordable trip to Stowe, Vermont

January 1-6, 1989

Sponsored by

The Rhode Island College Ski Club

Includes: 5 day lift ticket, food, and luxury lodging

All for only $269.00!

For more information contact:

Brooks Allmonte 273-5005,
Stephanie Groves 397-5491 or
Marc Masse 781-9733


RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE
Rhode Island's Center for THE PERFORMING ARTS

PIANIST JUDITH LYNN STILLMAN-HEFFETZ (left) and the Rhode Island College Woodwind Quartet: Susan Wood (left rear), Phillip McClintock, Delight Immonen (left front) and Elizabeth Dean.

What's News for more information about these performances as they come up. For more information about the chamber music series contact John Pellegrino, associate professor of music and series coordinator.

Brisson sole artist at international science conference

A major proponent of the concept of hypergraphics

Over the past 19 years, Prof. Harriet Bronzointed has brought a new dimension to the Rhode Island College Art Department. In fact, as a major proponent of the concept of hypergraphics, Bronzointed has been recognized as an international leader in the exploration of a fourth dimension.

She credits her late husband, David, a professor of art and mathematics, with inspiring the term "hypergraphics" to describe their attempts at defining a dimension beyond the familiar bounds of length, width and depth. She noted that the word was not as universally accepted for academics discussing the concept.

Hypergraphics has sparked an interest spanning several academic disciplines, according to Bronzointed. Not only artists, but scientists, mathematicians and philosophers have all pondered the possibilities of a fourth, or even other dimensions, she noted.

In July, Bronzointed was the only artist among nearly 1,000 delegates to the Third International Conference on Engineering, Graphics and Descriptive Geometry, held in Vienna, Austria. There she delivered a paper entitled "Visualization and Geometric Modeling in Art and Science."

Brisson, a Redohoboth resident, noted that the worldwide gathering in Vienna featured many presentations on higher dimensions than did the last such gathering in China in 1984.

While in Europe, Bronzointed met with Italian artist Attilio Pierelli and was invited by him to construct and display a sculpture for exhibition in Rome this November.

HARRIET BRISON

Bronzointed intends to build a "truncated 600 cell," similar to a structure she and fellow art professor Curtis LaVallée unveiled in 1984. The tetrahedron-shaped object, constructed of metal sticks and mirrors and containing a doren fluorescent lights, is large enough for a person to climb inside.

"It allows people to actually experience the form, by getting inside and being surrounded by it, rather than simply visualizing it from the outside," Bronzointed explained.

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REHEARSING "GLASS MENAGERIE" are Geoff White and Kim Smith. (What's New Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

Glass Menagerie to open theatre season at Rhode Island College

"The Glass Menagerie," which first brought fame to playwright Tennessee Williams, will be brought to the stage of Roberts Auditorium, starting Thursday, Oct. 6, as a presentation of Rhode Island College Theatre, and will continue for three more performances through Oct. 9. The play is being directed by Elaine Perry.

Elmira Thomason will be seen here as Amanda Wingfield, the troubled mother who lives in the memories of a magnolia-scented past and who thinks it's high time for her daughter to get married. But there has never been a gentleman caller at the Wingfield's lieutenant apartment off an alley in St. Louis, because the daughter, Laura, to be played by Kim Smith, is a crippled girl, so painfully shy that she hasn't even been able to finish school. She spends her time collecting glass animals and playing old phonograph records. Finally, the poetry-writing but not broad-minded son, Tom, to be played by Paul Palermo, brings home a friend from the warfront. Out comes Amanda's threadbare Pacheco, brings home a friend from the warfront.

The writing qualities which won Tennessee Williams immediate recognition for his talents are summed up by the words of one New York critic who wrote: "the author has a gift for simple, colloquial dialogue and at the same time achieves beauty, strength and a genuine poetic quality that is immensely stimulating to the imagination."

Tickets are available at the Roberts Auditorium box office beginning Sept. 26 at the Rhode Island College campus. Regular admission is $5.50. Discounts available for senior citizens and students. Performances are at 8 p.m., Thursday, Friday and Saturday. There is a 2 p.m. matinee on Sunday. For information and reservations, call 1-456-8000. A special high school matinee performance is scheduled for Oct. 7 at 9:30 a.m. in Roberts Auditorium. Student tickets are $2.50, teachers are admitted free. For more information, call 1-456-8637 or 1-456-8387.

"Now, 14 and 16, it's Fred Curchack's "stuff as Dreams Art Made On."

Curchack plays all the roles in what Custer described as "a topsy-turvy retelling" of the popular Shakespeare tale, The Tempest.

Sandra Reaves-Phillips returns to Providence on Dec. 10 in her new rhythm-and-blues revue, "Heart to Heart." "Comes welcome back this tasty, brassy, classy "Queen of the Blues," Custer urged.

Touring Theatre again available to high schools

The Rhode Island College Department of Communications and Theatre has announced that it will once again offer its Touring Theatre program to area high schools.

These specially-designed performances will feature 115-minute scenes from either Much Ado or A Severnate Named Desire. They are "all performance, no minimum of sets and costumes. Emphasis is on the script, study guides are provided and the Company will discuss play with youth."

The Touring Theatre is offered on Friday mornings from October 28 to December 9.

Tours are at 8:30 a.m., 11 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. with a special company to meet. Student Union 304.

The performances feature a minimum of 13 performers. The faculty is composed of professionals, with pianist Judith Lynn Stillman-Cusser in the first series. The Farrel Ballet is an amazingly versatile troupe. More important, it is the chosen and honored instrument of one of the world’s most gifted modern dance choreographers, according to New York Post critic Clive Barnes.

Closing out the series on May 2 are The Feld Karasnov Brothers. They aren’t Russian, they aren’t brothers and they do not fly, but The Flying Karasnov Brothers do offer a racy mix of satire and manual dexterity that elevates the skill of juggling to performance art,” Custer said.

All of the shows, except for the Feld Ballet, will take place at 8 p.m. in Roberts Auditorium. For ticket information, call 1-456-8944.