Shared concern by College in crisis times
by Clare Flynn

The state's budget crisis has hit all corners of our government including higher education. As each agency, division, and office grapples with foggy information that seems to change like the wind, Rhode Island College officials have committed themselves to delivering the latest news to the faculty, staff, and students as it becomes available. "We believe that it is important to inform our community as to potential tuition surcharges, capital expenditure cuts, staff reductions, furloughs, or layoffs and other means that may be mandated by state government to see us through this crisis," according to President John Nazarian.

In keeping with this statement, Nazarian and his top administrators have held a series of informational sessions and open meetings with all constituents of the College. Prior to the January 14 opening of the spring semester, President Nazarian called a special meeting of his Cabinet, union representatives, and other College leaders. The two-hour meeting was held on January 8. The President and Vice President for Administration and Finance Lee DeLucia, briefed those present about the seriousness of the situation and spoke about the College's commitment to "uphold the quality of education and services to our student."

Two days later, more than 300 College employees attended an open meeting called by President Nazarian. "It is the policy of this administration to be open and available," he said. "Our intention is to share the knowledge we have and to seek out ideas from our community." In order to show restraint and frugality of College funds, an informational "procedures for current year fiscal operation" memo was distributed throughout campus on January 15.

(continued on page 2)
RIC volunteers tutor children

Eighteen Rhode Island College students volunteered to tutor children in the Providence School Department last semester. They were placed by Volunteers in Providence Schools (VIPS), a private non-profit agency contracted by the Providence School Department to recruit people throughout the community to tutor students on all grade levels.

VIPS volunteers were placed on the elementary, middle and high school levels and averaged about nine hours each.

Work in special education, English as a Second Language, algebra, reading and as classroom helpers reflect the diversity of the classroom assignments.

In addition to pure voluntarism, the placements also gave those interested in a teaching career experience in a classroom situation.

One RIC student, Kasia Yang, a Hmong who has only been in the country two years, has a major hearing loss, had not talked with anyone either in the schools or at home and had been placed in special education.

The teacher suspected that the young girl was really much more capable of learning and requested a volunteer tutor to help her.

During the first hour that Yang spent with her, a major breakthrough in communication and rapport was made as the young child answered many questions posed by Yang.

The child’s teacher also was anxious to help the girl obtain free lunch but had not been able to tell her that she was eligible. Yang was even able to tell her that and the child had lunch that day.

Any RIC students who are interested in learning more about the VIPS program should call Roberta Houthalen, VIPS assistant director, at 274-3240.

WHAT'S NEWS
AT RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE

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President John Nazarian accepts the final installment check from New England Telephone Company vice president Carol Grant. The total award was $24,000 over three years.

NET presents final $8,000 installation to R.I. College

The final installment of a $24,000 grant to New England Telephone (NET) took place recently in the President’s office. The presentation of $8,000 to President John Nazarian from NET Vice President Carol Grant marked the end of a three year commitment made by the company to the College as part of its Special Academic Award Program.

“New England Telephone’s program recognizes and rewards public and private post-secondary schools which show a consistently high standard of quality in the programs they run and the students they graduate,” according to Grant. The award program is part of NET’s total corporate commitment to education in Rhode Island.

President Nazarian thanked NET’s commitment to the College and said the funds are “especially welcome in these hard times.”

Book Look

Author: Ridgway F. Shinn, Jr.
Title: Arthur Berriedale Keith (1879-1944) “The Chief Ornament of Scottish Learning”
Publisher: Aberdeen University Press
Contents: List of Illustrations; Preface; Formative Years; Colonial Office; Edin­burgh University; Appendix; Notes; Bibliography; Index.

In Brief/Synopsys: Shinn combines biography with narrative and analysis of the achievements and failures of a man whose life was reflected many of the significant features of Scottish, Empire and Commonwealth history of the late 19th and 20th centuries.

Keith’s account of Keith’s view on a detailed and fully documented panorama of national and world events, but it also shows the private man as his family, colleagues, students, and some of his critics came to know him.

Henry Cowper, senior councilor with the Open University in Scotland says: “Professor Shinn’s book is to be congratulated for providing us with an extremely readable biography of an influential scholar and educationalist. In doing so it demonstrates Keith’s importance in the development of the British Commonwealth and has, at the same time, made a valuable contribution to the history of Scottish education in portraying one of its foremost intellectual personalities.

About the Author: Ridgway F. Shinn, Jr. is a professor emeritus of history.

* BUDGET

(continued from page 1)

Asking for “cooperation” and to “not take any action to reduce the level of service you provide to students…” the memo outlined the position of the College for immediate cost reductions, including operating and capital costs, position vacancies, and out-of-state travel.

As 9,000 plus Rhode Island College students began attending classes the third week in January, Student Government leaders gathered on the 16th with the President and his staff for an informal briefing and question and answer session as to the effect the budget crisis would have on them in the area of tuition.

It was reported in the Providence Journal Bulletin on January 19 that among other types of “money-making or money-saving moves” to higher education — like furloughs and the “possibility of layoffs” — students would experience an “immediate tuition hike” or automatic surcharge.

Peter Moore, director of the Center for Economic Education and Jeffrey P. Blais, president of the R.I. Council for Economic Education accepts a $3,000 grant from New England Telephone representative Robert Drapeau. The grant was part of NET’s Special Academic Award Program.

NET grants $3,000 to the R.I. Council for Economic Ed

New England Telephone (NET) presented the Rhode Island College for Economic Education with a $3,000 grant as part of the corporation’s President’s Special Academic Award program.

Associate Director of Community Relations Robert Drapeau presented the check to Peter Moore, director of the Center for Economic Education and Jeffrey P. Blais, President during ceremonies held in President John Nazarian’s office.

Citing the College’s work of training Rhode Island teacher to be innovative in teaching economics to their students, Drapeau said that NET “was delighted to provide funds to ensure that our young people are better able to understand world economics and how they affect us all.”

NET’s program recognizes and rewards public and private post-secondary schools and initiatives which show a consistently high standard of quality in the programs they run and the students they graduate. The company’s five year old program has donated close to $200,000 to nine Rhode Island colleges or universities.

“Nothing more effective than the understanding of higher education in general, and Rhode Island College, specifically, has not yet been determined,” according to the President.

As of this date, Thursday, January 31, when What’s News went to press, the state is looking at a $240.6 million shortfall according to the Providence Journal Bulletin. It has been reported that higher education has been asked to cut $3 million from this year’s budget, Rhode Island College’s share of the reduction is estimated at being $2,000,000.

Knowingly the President said, “these are extraordinary times and the College family has responded openly, honestly, and generously.”
They say you can never return, but Dennis Blackledge is proving them wrong.

A native Rhode Islander who has traveled extensively throughout the United States, from coast to coast, Dennis recently returned to his hometown of Warren where he plans to stay for a long time.

Dennis has moved 26 times in 11 years, although he says he isn't fond of moving around. Recently, though, he decided, "I like this part of the country."

He graduated from Rhode Island College in 1976 with a B.A. in Theater Communications and as Production/Stage Manager at Providence's Trinity Repertory Company has put that degree to good work.

Dennis started out as a history major, but one semester was enough to let him know he should look elsewhere for his true calling. He soon became involved in RIC's well-known theater department. He developed several close relationships, one with John Custer, known on campus as the "art czar," and director of RIC's own Performing Art Series, and Russell Monaghan, technical director of Roberts Auditorium. Russell was even a member of Dennis' wedding party, one year ago.

Dennis had been very involved in football in high school, but found no such outlet at RIC. "The theater was a good substitution. I started out as a part time carpenter." Dennis was part of Project Discovery, a federally-funded program which started in the late sixties, designed to promote the arts by providing free tickets to all of Trinity Repertory Company's productions. This was how his interest in the theater started. He remained in the program throughout high school.

"RIC was different when I was here," he says. "There was a lot of the hippy culture on campus, everyone was looking for direction."

Dennis took his direction, literally and figuratively, from staff and friends in the theater department and has followed that path right up to his third return to Trinity Repertory this past July.

He was on die stage management staff from 1976-80 and 1987-1989.

Dennis Blackledge, production manager at Trinity Repertory Company.

Dennis has acted, done "tech," directed and stage managed throughout his young career, having been a coordinator for the 1982 World's Fair in Knoxville, TN and in 1984 for the Fair in New Orleans, LA.

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On the job with...

Have you ever met someone who has a quiet presence, but such a powerful voice that once you begin talking and listening, you find yourself hanging on their every word and anxiously waiting for the next? I have and I’m especially pleased because this person is one of our own!

Victoria Santopietro Lederberg or just plain old Vickie Lederberg is a psychology professor here at the College. And when I say that she is one of our own, I need to expand a bit because Vickie is one of our own in many ways.

First, because she has devoted her life to educating herself—law degree from Suffolk University Law School, a Ph.D. in psychology from Brown University, and master’s and undergraduate degrees in biology from Brown University—and to educating others as a teacher, counselor, consultant, senator, representative, and most recently as a municipal judge for the City of Providence.

She looks upon education as “the common denominator” to solving problems. “It is an important base. It is the vehicle and means by which it not only gives an individual the means to improve their private lot, but it gives everyone an opportunity to better their society.”

Secondly, because she has devoted her life to serving the needs of the state and its population. Throughout her professional career, she has listened to her students, she has listened to the needs of the College community, and she has listened to the needs of her communities. But more importantly, she has acted and responded to those needs. Throughout her life in the General Assembly, Lederberg has been responsible for the passage of many bills, among them include calling for an open and ethical government, broadening the scope of educators, increasing funding for our libraries, and providing responsible environmental laws.

And finally, Lederberg is one of our own because by her recent appointment to the judiciary branch of our government, she has provided a “voice” for us all to work at developing the laws of the land which will ultimately govern us all.
Check out the Film and Video Library

The Film and Video Library is operated by the Audiovisual Department of Rhode Island College. Its purpose is to provide a high quality educational film collection and service for all schools, groups, organizations and institutions in Rhode Island.

The library includes a state supported collection, plus films contributed by school districts, other state agencies, private corporations, non-profit groups and individuals.

According to David Wilson, technical supervisor, the library lends out up to 400 films per week.

★ BLACKLEDGE
(continued from page 3)

He was the production coordinator for Bob Hope's famous 81st Birthday Special and the American Playhouse's production of Copperhead. He played the Iron Shirt in what was probably RIC's largest production, The Caucasian Chalk Circle. He also worked semi-professionally as a technical assistant backstage at Roberts Auditorium from 1973-1976.

In 1984, he was HBO's production coordinator for their movie One From the Heart and a Kool & The Gang show. He was stage manager at the Coconut Grove Playhouse in Miami, FL; Pennsylvania Stage Company in Allentown, PA; International Amphitheater in Chicago from 1985-1987; and Lakes Region Playhouse in Laconia, NH, which are some of the more well-known theaters in the United States.

He also owns his own production company, managed with the help of his wife, Holly.

Dennis is excited about his return to Rhode Island and Trinity Repertory Company. "My goal is to make it or break it. I don't have any long term goals, I'm not in the door. There is no such thing as an easy, but you can do it."

Words of advice for others interested in an arts-related career: "Do whatever you can to get started. The hardest thing is getting your foot in the door. There is no such thing as an instant education. Stop and listen to people around you who have made their way in the world, you can learn a lot from them. It's not easy, but you can do it."

★ GEOGRAPHY
(continued from page 1)

Presently, the two are hard at work notifying teachers about the application and selection process for the June 26 through July 24 summer institute, which will bring together approximately 70 elementary and secondary school teachers, "who are vitally interested in improving their teaching of geography, in expanding the role of geography in their schools, and in helping to bring about curricular reform. " The conference is free to the participants. Graduates will be required to participate in their local Geographic Alliance, "to promote, to improve, and expand geography education."

These graduates will become the core of the continuation of the Rhode Island Alliance, and will train other teachers, according to Petry. For information about the application process, Petry advises people to call 456-8005.

"Our job over the next nine months is to establish a network of classroom teachers, college and university geographers, administrators, state and local education policymakers and other concerned individuals and organizations who will work together to promote the improvement of geography education. Through a series of meetings and discussions, we will determine what our local and state needs in geography are and how best to address these needs," according to Smolski.

By next July, Smolski said "a proposal that will outline our program over the next six years will be submitted and if accepted by NGS, will grant Alliance status and annual funding from them of up to $50,000, to be matched by Rhode Island."

Check out the Film and Video Library.

The library has approximately 700 customers who order the films three weeks in advance by choosing from a hefty catalog which is available from the library.

The subject listings in the catalog include everything from abortion to zoology and each title is annotated.

The library tries to keep the state's 12,000 teachers aware of their services. Each school has a coordinator who is responsible for sharing the catalogue and order forms with fellow teachers.

FIlms or videos are also available for on-campus use with 24-hour notice through the Audiovisual Office.

The Film and Video Library has an area for shipping and receiving and an inspection area where the films are checked for tears, etc., and readied for the next borrower.

Wilson does everything from purchasing the films to fixing the machinery in the office.

"I really enjoy the work," having always had an interest in film and audiovisual, he says. He has been at RIC for 18 years, the first 10 in Audiovisual distribution.

He received his master's degree in instructional technology from the College in 1982.

He will be president of the Rhode Island Canoeing Association (he is currently VP) and talks excitedly about the expeditions that he and his 15-year-old son have been on with Charlie Allsworth, technical supervisor in Audiovisual.

Wilson and his wife Norma live in Warwick. They also have an 11-year old daughter.
Faculty works shown at Gallery

An exhibition highlighting works by faculty of the Rhode Island College Department of Art will open the winter/spring season Feb. 7-28 at the Bannister Gallery.

The gallery, located in the RIC Art Center, will showcase works by Sam Ames, Carol Bowen, Stephen Brigidi, Tim Corkery, Lisa Ethier, Stephen Fisher, Liz Horan, Nicholas Palermo, Gerald Perrino, Don C. Smith and Lawrence Sylvis.

Drawing, painting, photography and printmaking will be featured.

Opening of the exhibit is set for Thursday, Feb. 7, from 7 to 9 p.m.

Gallery hours are Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6 to 9. For more information, contact Dennis O’Malley, gallery director, at 456-9765 or 8054.

Pianist J. Kolb to perform in chamber series

A former Army captain, who gave 75 recital, orchestral, television and radio performances throughout Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Belgium and Iran during his tour of duty, will perform in the Rhode Island College Chamber Music Series Wednesday, Feb. 13, at 1 p.m. in Roberts Hall 138 (recital chamber).

Having been awarded the United States Legion of Merit for his work as a "performer and cultural ambassador" while stationed in West Germany, pianist Justin Kolb returned to the concert stage in 1978, performing widely throughout the United States and at a gala command performance before the Grand Duchess of Luxembourg.

Kolb, of Hammond, Ind., will perform Debussy’s “Images, Book I,” Liszt’s “Sonetto 104 del Petrarca” and “Dance of the Gnomes, Opus 58, No. 2” and Copland’s “El Salon Mexico.”

The recital is free and open to the public.

"With a repertoire ranging from Bach to Starer, Justin Kolb’s ability to communicate with an audience is evidenced the moment he walks on stage," says John Pellegrino, series coordinator. "As he sits down to play, his outwardly genial manner is replaced by an inner musical fire and virtuosic dexterity of the highest order," says Mellon Music Management.

Kolb began playing piano at age 4. By age 12, he had performed twice with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and later received a scholarship to study with Herman Shapiro at DePaul University in Chicago during which time he also studied with the renowned conductor, Hans Rosbaud.

During his three years in Europe, he continued to study with Rolf Beyer of Heidelberg.

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For more information about the performance, call Pellegrino at 456-8244.

R.I. College Theater presents 'The Menaechmi'

A farcical look at mistaken identity

The Menaechmi, a play written by Plautus in Rome about 215 B.C., which capitalizes on the comic device of mistaken identity between characters, will be staged Feb. 14-17 by Rhode Island College Theater in Roberts Hall auditorium.

Translated by Peter D. Amott and directed here by David Burr, it is described as "a rollicking farce."

The critic J. W. Duff called it "a triumph of fun without challenge."

Twin brothers, separated at birth, are brought into each other's lives with almost everyone but the audience unaware of the event. The misunderstandings that result are the comic core of the play.

Indeed, the device is so successful that it has been used on the stage by such a noteworthy as Shakespeare himself in The Comedy of Errors, and even later in the contemporary musical, The Boys from Syracuse.

The Menaechmi was the first ancient comedy to be acted in a modern translation and is one of the most popular of the comedies of Plautus, most frequently revived in schools.

Performance time for the Feb. 14-16 shows is 8 p.m. A Sunday matinee on Feb. 17 will be staged at 2 o’clock.

Reserved seat tickets are $6 with discounts for senior citizens and students. For information and reservations call 456-8060.

OUT YOU GO: RIC Theater actors Andrew Morissette and Bill Forbes rehearse a scene from The Menaechmi which will be staged in Roberts Hall auditorium Feb. 14-17.
Monday, Feb. 4
Noon to 1 p.m.—Alcoholics Anonymous to meet in Student Union 305.

2:30 p.m.—Black History Month event. A poetry reading will be given by Cyrus Cassells in the Henry Barnard School library.

Tuesday, Feb. 5
5:30 p.m.—Women’s Basketball. Rhode Island College vs. Gordon College. Away.

7 p.m.—Women’s Gymnastics. Rhode Island College vs. Southern Connecticut State University. Home.

7 to 9 p.m.—Black History Month event. The film Awakenings and Fighting Back will be shown in the Student Union ballroom.

8 p.m.—Men’s Basketball. Rhode Island College vs. Wheaton College. Away.

Wednesday, Feb. 6
7:30 p.m.—Wrestling. Rhode Island College vs. Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Home.

Thursday, Feb. 7
7 to 9 p.m.—Annual Baccalaureate Show, an exhibition of the works of faculty from the Rhode Island College Department of Art, to open at Bannister Gallery. For more information, see article in this issue.

7 to 9 p.m.—Black History Month event. The film Ain’t Scared of Your Jails and No Easy Walk will be shown in the Student Union Video den.

Saturday, Feb. 9
1 p.m.—Wrestling. Rhode Island College at Amherst (Tri Match) with Williams College.

2 p.m.—Women’s Basketball. Rhode Island College vs. University of Southern Maine. Home. (Little East Conference Game)

4 p.m.—Men’s Basketball. Rhode Island College vs. University of Southern Maine. Home. (Little East Conference Game)

Monday, Feb. 11
Noon to 1 p.m.—Alcoholics Anonymous to meet in Student Union 305.

Tuesday, Feb. 12
7 p.m.—Women’s Basketball. Rhode Island College vs. Wheaton College. Away.

7 to 9 p.m.—Black History Month event. The film Mississippi Is This America? and Bridge to Freedom will be shown in the Student Union Video den.

7:30 p.m.—Wrestling. Rhode Island College vs. U.S. Coast Guard Academy. Away.

Thursday, Feb. 14
5:30 p.m.—Women’s Basketball. Rhode Island College vs. Eastern Connecticut State University. Home. (Little East Conference Game)

7 to 9 p.m.—Black History Month event. The film That Rhythm, Those Blues and Langston Hughes will be shown in the Student Union Video den.

7:30 p.m.—Men’s Basketball. Rhode Island College vs. Eastern Connecticut State University. Home. (Little East Conference Game)

9 p.m. to 1 a.m.—Will You Be My Valentine Dance to be held in the Student Union ballroom. Tickets are $2 for students with a RIC ID and $3 for the general public. All proceeds will go to the Opie Carpenter Memorial Scholarship.

Saturday-Sunday, Feb. 16-17
1 p.m.—Wrestling. Rhode Island College vs. Trinity College, University of Massachusetts, and Bridgewater State College. (Quad). Home.

5:30 p.m.—Women’s Basketball. Rhode Island College vs. University of Massachusetts-Boston. Away. (Little East Conference Game)

7:30 p.m.—Men’s Basketball. Rhode Island College vs. University of Massachusetts-Boston. Away.

Wednesday, Feb. 13
9:30 to 11 a.m.—Journey to Freedom is the title of a Henry Barnard School play to be presented in celebration of Black History Month. Student Union Ballroom.

12:30 to 2 p.m.—Black History Month event. The video “We Shall Overcome” will premiere in the Student Union Video den.

1 p.m.—Oh Wednesday Mass to be celebrated in the Student Union ballroom.

1 p.m.—Chamber Music Series. Pianist Justin Kohl will perform works by Debussy, Liszt and Copland in Roberts Hall 138. Free and open to the public. For more information, see article in this issue.

Monday, Feb. 18
Noon to 1 p.m.—Alcoholics Anonymous to meet in Student Union 305.