What's News At Rhode Island College

Rhode Island College

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Nearly 400 RIC grads urged to — ‘Push back the boundaries of what’s possible’

by George LaTour

"Facing the fear, laying it on the line for what matters; pushing back the boundaries of what’s possible — no gold medal could mean more than that," Olympic gold medalist Diana Golden told the nearly 400 Rhode Island College graduates who gathered with their family, friends, faculty, administrators and special guests Sunday, Jan. 19, at the annual Winter Commencement in the packed Roberts Hall auditorium.

The theme of overcoming obstacles and the fear they generate seemed especially appropriate coming from the physically limited athlete (Golden had lost a leg to cancer at age 12) and especially appropriate for the graduates who might now face life without much prospect of obtaining jobs.

Concurrent with that was the theme of a beleaguered state in the midst of a depression and on-going political scandal into which they were about to venture.

Several speakers, including the governor, urged the graduates to "meet the challenge" and get involved in government in the state and make the changes that are necessary.

Assuring that Rhode Island was really "Rogues Island" (an early reference to the state by non-Rhode Islanders), John J. Gleason, chair of the Council of Rhode Island College, who led the processional and the speaking program, told the graduates it was up to them "whether we have trust restored in our system."

"I ask you to get involved in the (state’s) General Assembly," said John C. Williams Cott Jr., chair of the state Board of Governors for Higher Education. That involvement, he said, "is important for the future of your generation."

Good news for RIC

Gov. Bruce G. Sundlun brought good news for RIC and the state system of higher education in general, announcing that there would be no mid-year cuts in the education budget and that he will make available to the College the DCYF (formerly DCF) buildings adjoining the campus "as soon as possible."

President John Nazarian thanked the governor on behalf of the faculty, staff and students of the College as well as on behalf of the 33,000 living alumni and future students, then noted the governor’s birthday and led the audience in a rendition of "Happy Birthday."

"Push back the boundaries..."

DIANA GOLDEN

College landmark destroyed

by Clare Eckert

Rhode Island College’s Michael F. Walsh Health and Physical Education Center was razed to the ground by a blazing three-hour fire in the early morning hours of Sunday, Jan. 5. The cause was determined on Jan. 7 by state fire investigators and reported to be "accidental — probably electrical and the result of a faulty heating unit in the men’s locker room area," according to state Fire Marshal Carl Iaciofano.

Estimated financial losses to the 64,000-square-foot building have not yet been determined, but are expected to reach in the millions of dollars. The building was insured, according to John J. Fitta, College controller.

College community members who may have lost personal items in the fire, are asked to contact Fitta at Ext. 8200 for further information.

The four alarm fire, that reduced the gymnasium to rubble, started at about 2 a.m. Sunday. Providence and North Providence firefighters spent much of the day Sunday and Monday quenching the fire that completely destroyed the Center which housed the Department of Physical Education, Health, Recreation, and Dance, all athletic sports programs, training room, general classroom space, faculty and staff offices, and the dance studio.

The building was empty because of the early morning hour. Most students were away on semester break.

However, members of the men’s basketball team, who had planned a tournament trip to Santa Anna, Cal., for Tuesday, Jan. 8, were concerned about leaving on schedule because all of their equipment, uniforms, and supplies were destroyed in the fire.

According to Athletic Director William M. Baird, the University of Rhode Island provided practice and game uniforms and the team was able to make the trip. (Unfortunately, the Anchormen were not as successful in tournament play - 0-3 - as they were in securing uniforms.)

(continued on page II)
Robert A. Gosselin, Professor of Business Administration at the Rhode Island College, has been named as the recipient of the Helen M. Triggs Memorial Fund, known as the Helen M. Triggs Memorial Chair in Business Administration.

The fund was established by the late Helen M. Triggs, who served as a professor of business administration at the Rhode Island College for nearly 45 years. She was a prominent figure in the field of management and economics and is recognized for her contributions to the college.

The Helen M. Triggs Memorial Chair is endowed to support research and teaching in the field of business administration. The chair is named in honor of Triggs, who was a pioneering figure in the field of business education and served as the first woman to receive a PhD in business administration from the University of Pennsylvania.

Former HBS prof leaves $3,000 to R.I. College

The Rhode Island College Foundation is the beneficiary of a $3,000 bequest from the estate of the late Helen M. Triggs of Providence, who taught at the College's laboratory school, Henry Barnard, for 40 years prior to her retirement in June of 1968.

Thomas R. Pezzullo, vice president for development and college relations, said the money will be used to establish a special fund within the foundation to be known as the Helen M. Triggs Memorial Fund.

It is to be administered at the direction of the president of the College, said Pezzullo.

Ms. Triggs graduated from the College with a degree in education in 1932 and earned her master’s degree here in 1939. According to records in Barnard, she had taught the sixth grade for a time and had attained the rank of associate professor.

By the time she retired, she had taught a total of nearly 45 years as a teacher.
**College Shorts**

Composting seminar here Feb. 25

The Rhode Island Solid Waste Management Corporation will hold a seminar on "Composting: How Does Your Garden Grow?" on Tuesday, Feb. 25, in the Student Union at Rhode Island Collage.

The seminar, which is free and open to the public, will run from 7 to 9 p.m., and is sponsored by the Citizen Advisory Board of the corporation. Homemade desserts and coffee will be served beginning at 6:30 p.m.

For more information, contact Barry Schiller at 456-9864.

Multi-cultural high school seniors visit R.I. College

The Admissions Office brought in 63 high school seniors on Dec. 13 for an Information and Preparation Day for Multi-Cultural Students.

Deborah E. Johnson, assistant admissions director, said this was the first multi-cultural day here just for college-bound high school seniors, and, from all reports, it was a success.

Nuts-and-bolts workshops were conducted for the youngsters, providing them with information essential to their successful application to college. They had a chance to hear from several minority faculty members, from the acting director of admissions and financial aid on the matter of financial aid, from the coordinator of career development, and from John Robinson, director of the state Department of Employment and Training, who is also executive director of Workforce 2000.

Auditions for theatre talent awards is Feb. 22

Auditions and interviews for performers, designers and technicians who plan on studying theatre at Rhode Island College will be held Saturday, Feb. 22, at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., or by appointment.

The talent awards range from $50 to $500.

High school students, transfer or graduate students already enrolled at RIC are eligible. The awards are given only to those who apply for admission and are enrolled as freshman, transfer or graduate students.

Application deadline is Feb. 1. For an application form contact Dr. P. W. Hutchinson, Department of Communications and Theatre, Rhode Island College, Providence 02918.

For further information, call 456-8270.

**Fairlawn Credit Union officially opens for business**

by Clare Eckert

To officially mark the affiliation between Rhode Island College and Fairlawn Credit Union, a ribbon-cutting ceremony and luncheon took place January 15 represented by members of the 43-year-old financial institution and the College administration.

In remarks by Gary P. Fishlock, president and chief executive officer of the credit union prior to the luncheon, he said, "We value the trust and confidence placed with Fairlawn (Credit Union) by Rhode Island College and will work diligently to preserve and build upon this relationship."

Later during an interview, Fishlock —realizing the skepticism Rhode Islanders have acquired over the past year when it comes to credit unions and banks in general—said, "It is the goal of Fairlawn to provide stability, sound financial advice and safety of funds to all our new members at Rhode Island College."

Explaining that credit unions were built in this country—the first being established in the United States in New Hampshire in 1909—to provide credit in a cooperative nature to members," Fishlock said, "Fairlawn was founded on the philosophy that members are owners and that it is the responsibility of the credit union to operate in a professional, competent manner in which a high standards of ethics are imposed."

According to Fishlock, the financial institution has experienced a 20 percent growth in members this past year because of the institution's community involvement, and the "steady message of high professional and ethics that we deliver and uphold with each member."

**College Services**

The credit union installed two Automatic Teller Machines (ATMs) on campus last September. One in the Campus Center at the location of the former campus branch bank office and a second in Alger Hall. Both are operational on a 24 hour basis for deposit and withdrawal.

Through discussion with College administration, approval was given to Fairlawn to refurbish part of the former campus branch bank office and to establish on a one-day basis thus far, an on-site representative of the credit union to open new accounts, review loan applications and provide financial information to potential members. More hours will be established as the need arises, according to Fishlock.

Awaiting the completion of renovations to the offices, beginning today (January 27), Fairlawn member service representatives will be stationed outside the area on the first floor across from the book store. Other services provided to the College community include Visa cards, safe deposit boxes, student loans, car loans, vacation and Christmas club accounts, checking and savings and mortgage services.

A sophisticated audio response system, which will allow members access to their accounts by telephones and enables them to withdraw, transfer, and check on accounts will soon be in place, according to Miriam R. Plitt, assistant vice president for marketing and communications.

An additional feature is the direct deposit option to the College community and same-day withdrawal, Plitt explained.

**R.I.C. copies unlimited...**

by Clare Eckert

In their continuing effort to serve the Rhode Island College community, Campus Center staff found that student, staff and faculty needs would be better served by a full-service copy center.

"We found there was limited access to copy machines on campus," Paolucci said. "A copy center will be advantageous and convenient for the entire community."

Paolucci said the new 'business' will open with four Savin copy machines; two prion copy machine that will reproduce color and print overheads, and a high-speed copier that can print up to 10,000 copies inexpensively. A fifth machine will be a 25 cent coin-operated unit located on the first floor of the student union.

The copy center will also have on hand colored paper, bond paper, card stock, and matching envelopes, he said.

Paolucci said future services include fax machines and computer printing equipment on hand. "We want to have the center accessible to the entire community," he said. Expanded services and hours, credit lines for departments, and other options will be forthcoming "down the line."
LEGOS + 'electronics = learning!

by George LaTour

You remember those little interlocking plastic construction "bricks" you used as a kid, or your kids (or grandchildren) used, to construct things — miniature houses, cars and people, for instance.

It was (and is) quite an entertaining toy, invented by Godtfred Christiansen, the son of a toy-making carpenter in Denmark.

Well, LEGOs are still popular and teachers are now tuning into their potential as a learning tool.

Rhode Island College, which prides itself on having the very best teacher-education curriculum in the state, had invited school teachers from throughout the state and nearby Connecticut and Massachusetts to visit its Center for Industrial Technology Jan. 2 and 3 for a first-time series of workshops "to expose as many technology and vocational education instructors as possible to the various programs" they presented.

To assist in the presentations, James G. McCrystal, associate professor of secondary education and coordinator of technology education, brought in a team of manufacturer's reps from Electronic Marketing Company out of Woodbridge, Conn., to show-and-tell teachers attending the free workshops what the 12 companies they represent have to offer the educator.

Among such workshops

Among such workshops as those on electrical and machine processes, computer-based test instrumentation and bio-medical maintenance, the latter being a high-technology electronics training program, there was one on "EET LEGO."

EET LEGO stands for Exploring Elementary Technology as well as Exploring Electronics Technology. One is really built on the other and is based on kids' use of LEGO bricks.

Geared to fourth graders initially, its draw extends to grades beyond that — all the way up to high school and even college — with the familiarity of LEGOs as the main attraction.

"It's fun!" as one teacher, Ann Gauvin of Oakdale, Conn., assures, after having constructed an operating parking lot gate and a moving caroose.

Building on the LEGO legacy of challenge and fun for youngsters, the educational package offered by one of the companies — E&L Instruments — adds electronics systems to the building bricks, the result being an increasingly complex educational tool.

LEGOS-PLUS-ELECTRONICS: Mike Benedetto of Cranston, who teaches at the Ferri Middle School in Johnston, and teacher Ann Gauvin of Oakdale, Conn., combine LEGOs and electronics to produce an operating parking lot gate, in miniature, of course. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

Informing the teachers

Informing the handful of teachers in the first (others will follow) EET LEGO workshop that "technological literacy is a must in schools in the future," Katina Boulais of E&L Instruments assured that EET LEGO utilizes kids' real-life experiences (with LEGO) to introduce ideas in a whole host of other educational experiences.

These educational experiences might range from math and language (counting the LEGOs and discussing their putting them together — remember, these would be fourth graders) to gear ratios, and to management, electronics and even robotics for high schoolers and college students.

"The skills in LEGO are directly transferable to more complex ideas in building and electronics," says the instructor.

In the E&L Instruments' educational package, Godtfred Christiansen's original LEGO bricks are supplemented by wheels, belts, circuit boards and low-voltage motors, much as are utilized in Christiansen's LEGOland theme park in Denmark today where thousands of European visitors can see and experience anything from operating (miniature) LEGO trains and boats to drivable LEGO minicars and LEGOcopter (rides) for kids.

There's also a faithful reproduction of a spaceship on its launch pad at Cape Canaveral and one of Mount Rushmore, complete with the heads of the four famous American presidents, which it took 1.5-million LEGO bricks to construct.

Other components

Other components of this educational package include, of course, instruction manuals for the teachers and teacher training aides.

It should be noted that each "package" will accommodate two-to-four students at a workstation.

The cost — approximately $700 per package — might be considered prohibitive to some school systems, particularly in financially strapped Rhode Island. One of the teachers, Mike Benedetto of Cranston, who teaches in the Johnston schools, remarked after the workshop that while he thought the concept and the LEGO/electronic package with teaching materials "super," his town's school system "would be hard-pressed" to afford it.

But, everyone knows, education today doesn't come cheap! It probably best can be thought of as an investment in the future.

Benedetto suggested that the EET LEGO package might be an ideal project for grant money.

And educators these days usually are more than willing to adopt what already has proven its worth — in this case — LEGO.

As the people of LEGOland have noted: "The LEGO brick is very good because children want to know everything and to understand things that have been made and how they work." (Information on LEGOland courtesy of College photographer and freelance writer Gordon E. Rowley, who visited the site in Billund, Denmark, in 1979.)

We're going to college!

THEIR COLLEGE FOR A DAY — AT LEAST: Some 70 eighth graders from the Providence schools paid their first visit to a college campus Dec. 14 when they visited Rhode Island College and met and talked with its president, John Nazarian, and others interested in their welfare. The visit was part of Project Equity 2000, a nationally funded pilot program that selected six cities nationwide which have large inner-city multicultural school populations. Its purpose is to help minority children master mathematics, a key factor in their eventual success in enrolling and succeeding in college studies, says Neil Corkery, the Rhode Island coordinator. Posing with their new RIC T-shirts are (from left) Herman Ho, Mike Orsini, Henry Sandoval, Tymeka Stanley and Tisura Caravallo, all from the Nathanael Greene School. (What's News Photo by George LaTour)
Always in fashion

by George Lafour

R.I. College senior Donna DiNucci is —

DONNA DINNUCCI in one of her glamour photos taken by New York City fashion photographer John Dour.

She's a vision in black! This 30-something-year-old Rhode Island College senior jewelry-design award-winning artist.

From the top of her head to her boots, Donna DiNucci of North Providence is a fashion statement, with a jet black head band crowning a head of jet black hair that falls to the middle of her back. She sports a black Mohair sweater and black slacks. Her leather jacket and boots match her eyes — all very dark brown — and almost complete the picture of what is for her "everyday fashion."

This otherwise dark appearance is set off with large gold-loop earrings and a radiant complexion and smile that just makes the beholder feel good.

An artist indeed! An artist, indeed, this Rhode Island native, one of two daughters of Archie A. and Mildred (Varone) DiNucci, also of North Providence. She has had her rope dyed, which she created, featured in the New York Times and high fashion magazines.

Her jewelry, which she designs and makes in her art studio, has garnered her the International Jewelers, the Women in Art and RIC Student Talent awards all in the past year.

The College, which this spring will offer a new comprehensive focus on 20th Century jewelry making (modelmaking and jewelry design), features a picture of one of Donna's creations on the cover of its course brochure. The piece is a pin made of cast brass and handset with a genuine jade stone. Donna has named it "Dried Flower."

(See related story on this new course.)

Her art is not limited Her "art" is not limited to fashion design. Donna has been a professional graphics illustrator as well, and a serious dancer of classical ballet.

At the Community College of Rhode Island in the early 1970s, she became involved, as she put it, with ballet (classes) on campus. "I was really taken by it," she says.

She says.

Involvement, as she puts it, with ballet (classes) in the early 1970s, she became seriously involved with ballet (classes) at the University of Rhode Island. She played Giselle's sister, Berthe.

While still in Manhattan, Donna realized that, "while I was good, I wouldn't be able to go all the way to the top." Having begun serious ballet at about age 30, she knew she just had started "too late for a career in ballet."

And, without the possibility of being one the best, she opted for another career. "That's when she started designing fashion sweaters."

"My mother had taught sewing and a girl friend instructed me in knitting. I'd always been around fashion in New York City and realized I was conscious of it," she says.

Donna went to Wallis Myers, Inc., in New York City "to learn about designing knitwear." She was given a position where, "I did the PR, made and sold the sweaters."

"Even in a year of interesting sweaters, the name Donna DiNucci makes the buyers salivate," wrote Angela Taylor for the New York Times in a Discoveries column.

The sweaters sold for about $150 in such places as the Pierre de Monzi boutique on Madison Avenue.

RICH METALS PROGRAM — To offer comprehensive focus on 20th century jewelry manufacturing

New courses in modelmaking and jewelry design will be offered this spring semester at Rhode Island College through the Office of Continuing Education.

The primary reason for the new course, says Curtis R. LaFollette, professor of art, is to introduce contemporary manufacturing processes to the field of jewelry making.

The new RIC jewelry focus also coincides with the industry's needs for more modelmakers and jewelry designers, particularly in light of the "good competition!" from the Pacific Rim countries and a united Europe, he adds.

The courses stem from the College's metals program which has developed a comprehensive focus in 20th century jewelry manufacturing based on casting technology.

Modelmaking and jewelry design for modelmaking form the basis of this new focus.

Courses in modelmaking will include wax and white metal. They are described as "intensive" and are designed to develop mechanical and conceptual skills required to produce models of objects depicted in two-dimensional renderings. Some toolmaking and adaptation are also included.

Jewelry design courses will introduce and develop various techniques of exploring a concept, development and rendering through practical implications of serial production, as well as the opportunities and limitations of casting, compose the foundation of this new focus.

The existing metals program, with its emphasis on casting, complements these new courses.

Past-wax casting in precious metals, as well as other fundamental techniques, are covered. Wax is used as a duplicating medium as well as limited toolmaking and finishing, balancing out the program.

The modelmaking courses — Art 241 and 242 — will meet Monday and Wednesday from 2 to 5 and 8 p.m., respectively, in the RIC Art Center.

Models are generated through the subtractive methods of form generation, incorporating both hand and power tools as well as high-temperature tools. There are prerequisites for both courses. Art 241 and 242, which DiNucci explains will help provide designing and drawing skills he terms "very important" for the jewelry design and modelmaking courses.

The jewelry design course — Art 222 — meets Monday and Wednesday from 6 to 9 p.m. in the Art Center. Art 241 and 242 are prerequisites.

The course is an introduction to the various techniques and materials used in the serial production of contemporary jewelry designs.

Enrollment is limited for each of the three-credit courses.

A special section offering the combination of modelmaking and jewelry focus was held Jan. 21, 2012. Registration for the spring semester courses was taken then.

For further information, call Professor LaFollette at (401)656-8054 or (508)562-7423.

But, while she enjoyed the work and a certain amount of success, she wasn't realizing enough sales "for a real good living."

It wasn't long, therefore, before Donna branched out from fashion wear to fashion accessories.

She moved back to Rhode Island, which is not only her home state but often touted as the jewelry capital of the world, and enrolled again at RIC. As a part-time student she continued to build her own (current) career, which includes, among others, the calligraphy business, which she calls New Moon Jewelry.

She sells her jewelry to boutiques and participates in craft shows where her jewelry also is purchased.

Returning to college didn't mean a new career for her, she says, "but adding to my (current) career. It's an addition."

Donna DiNucci, who studies RIC, art education and art history, and has been attending fulltime this year "to finish up."

She plans to graduate next August. "I have to be ready to take advantage of my opportunities," she feels, "and to know if that life's for me."

"I keep busy at things that make me happy. I don't have a passion for it," she relates. Her slim, 5′4″ frame attests to that.

She has little television: "I don't have a lot of idle time."

"I keep busy at things that make me happy. The way she says it has the ring of a 'secret to success' about it."

What about the future for Donna DiNucci? "You have to be ready to take advantage of your opportunities," she feels, "and with confidence you'll know about the future for Donna DiNucci."

"I have so many desires. I don't really know, Grad school, teaching, investing more (time and energy) in my business...And, looking good all the while to be sure!"
On the job with...

The man is constant motion. A whirlwind of emotion, comotion and locomotion. He is known as "41" in walkie-talkie language on the Rhode Island College campus as he darts from one place to the next in his role as assistant director of facilities and operations, overseeing about 40 staffers, making decisions, and dealing with the daily ups and downs (or ons and offs) of an 125 acre campus with 22 plus buildings.

He is James R. Bucci, who grew up on a farm in northern Rhode Island and literally "dug the hole" for the foundation of his present home he built on the same farmland.

Besides working at the College for the past 10 years, moving up through the ranks from senior maintenance technician to his current position, Bucci manages to "manage a wood lot," rollerblade in his spare time, and oversee his own "basketball team."

You read it right, folks. The man has his own personal basketball team!

Bucci has five B-ball playing daughters! (Start saving now, Jim. Weddings are getting more expensive every day.) Four of the girls—Laura, 13, Brigid, 11, Lisa, 9, and Ellen 7—play recreational basketball. His wife, Katherine, RIC Class of 1990, is a recreational basketball coach when she's not working as the in-service director and nurse educator at the East Side Clinical Lab.

And Bucci's oldest daughter, Jane, 14, plays for her junior high school team.

Life at home and life at work are "pretty much the same," Bucci says. "Something's always going on." (Homelife doesn't require work orders, which he says can end up being about 70 on a heavy day or the nearly 1,000 phone calls his office gets every week.)

Something was definitely going on early Sunday morning on Jan. 5 when Bucci's supervisor, Richard L. Brinegar, director of facilities and operations, called and asked, "Jim, are you awake?"

A "serious fire" had broken out at Walsh Health and Physical Education Center, was the message Brinegar delivered that morning. Within minutes Bucci arrived on the scene, but not before he saw the sky light up with blazing fire tumbling from the roof of the 27-year-old building as he made his way from home.

"As I turned into the campus and identified myself, the devastation became real," Bucci recalled. "I knew it was real then!" Immediately, Bucci began working with the fire officials. "They needed personal knowledge and details of the building. I had good working knowledge of the building because I had worked there as a maintenance man for years," he said.

All day Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, Bucci and his crew worked with fire marshalls, other officials, and campus administration and personnel trying to salvage the remains of the office area, secure the site for safety, and begin clean-up.

Bucci said of the fire, "It's the worst thing I've ever seen." He is grateful to each member of the department's team for cooperating and being helpful during the last couple of weeks. He noted that even though the aftermath of the fire was priority, other College-related work was still the order of the day.

This "jack-of-all-trades, and (probably master of many) wears a natural smile and has an easy-going manner. But when it comes down to getting the work done, he's not afraid to make a decision," he says of himself, "and I'm not afraid to change my decisions."

When something goes haywire, Bucci's the guy you want in your corner. Recently, this writer had Bucci in her "corner" of Roberts Hall when the lights and phones died. From first-hand experience, believe me when I tell you, the man knows what to do, doesn't hesitate to do it, and doesn't get ruffled when he does it.

The walkie-talkie he carries around is always turned ON—So 41, here's a message from this writer's corner: "Thanks, 10-4, over and out."

Photos by Gordon E. Rowley

Text by Clare Eckert
Thirty Years Later

A short history of African and Afro-American Studies at Rhode Island College 1960s-1990s

by Richard A. Lobban, Jr.
Program Director

In the late 1960s, the United States was a divided land over the issues of war in southeast Asia and the civil rights struggles at home. When the war in Vietnam would eventually end, the struggle for equality would continue.

So was, and is, the backdrop for the rise in "Black Studies" in America. By the close of the decade, the ground work was laid for deepening the serious academic study of the "Black" experience in America and Africa.

Just as European or Chinese history were never called "White" or "Yellow" studies, we have already passed to the next stage in this evolutionary study of the "Black" experience in Africa and Afro-American studies in western Europe and the Caribbean.

By 1962, the Social Science Program had expanded to meet the growing need for social-studies teachers at the secondary level. This program incorporated courses from history, geography, economics, politics, sociology, anthropology, and philosophy.

In particular, the addition of anthropologists on the faculty allowed for new courses on "primitives" and "Islamic cultures." Today, such titles may be thought as anachronistic. The course, Social Science 302: Focus on Africa, was first published in the fall 1960 College catalog. By then the history department included courses on Moslem Civilization and Near East History, still none on Africa or Afro-America.

But, a new direction had been charted. The winds of change in Africa and Afro-American studies began to be felt at Rhode Island College.

Civil War and Reconstruction

In 1966, the history department added a catalog course on the Civil War and Reconstruction. Also, in the late 1960s, amidst intense national debates, the College sought to correct its Euro-American bias in courses and faculty, and started to head in a new direction.

The 1973-74 catalog listed for the first time, Anthropology 349, Peoples and Cultures of Africa, and the history department now offered English 303, African and Black Literature. The history department began to list in 1973, Early African History, History 341, Modern African History, and History 356: Studies in Black History. With the exception of two faculty members in the history and English departments, all of these courses were taught by Euro-Americans.

Social Science 340 continued to be taught on a cooperative basis.

By these building blocks, Prof. William H. Robinson Jr. of the English department began his work as the first director of the Black Studies Program at Rhode Island College. It appears that the program was formally adopted in 1971, and incorporated all of the courses noted above as well as Psychology 409: Psychology of Race and Class.

A distribution of 10 courses was recognized as an interdepartmental concentration in Black Studies.

Another effort to expand Black art brought Prof. Lawrence Sykes to the campus as a distinguished Afro-American photographer. Two Afro-American scholars also joined the anthropology department in 1972. Drs. Richard Lobban and Carolyn Lynch-LoBiondo, who had done considerable research in the Sudan.

Peoples and Cultures of Africa was now regularly taught and, in 1974, a course on Race and Racism was to be added.

Students also gaining

Students were also gaining their B.A. degrees such as Merle K. Pierce in 1970 for his work on a 16th Century Black Spanish poet.

By 1974, the course catalog went forth and took the Black Studies Program to teaching situations beyond the social sciences. For the first time, it also provided for a minor in Black Studies.

In the following year, the catalog added the first course offered exclusively in Black Studies: an interdepartmental seminar. This also was a regular part of the program later required for majors and minors.

In 1978, the curricular aspects of the program were well consolidated, but Dr. Robinson retired and, after a contentious period in the Arts and Humanities, and the new leadership passed to Professor Sykes in 1982, and then on to Dr. William Aho in the following year.

Dr. Aho advanced the curriculum further in several ways: the program was renamed African and Afro-American Studies (AFAM); it was solidified as a full undergraduate program leading to a B.A. degree, and a second AFAM course was added, AFAM 200, designed as a comprehensive introduction to the field.

Today, AFAM 200 is required for all majors and minors and is also available to meet other college requirements. Originally taught only once a year, it now has two sections each semester.

The Fourth to serve

In 1984, Richard Lobban began his term as program director, the fourth to serve in this position.

With a solid curriculum in place, the effort turned toward program management, student recruitment, and toward graduate-level studies for those especially qualified.

Over these years, all of those who have contributed have been rewarded by seeing these concrete developments in the areas of curriculum and personnel. Spread the word! We are looking for each other to build still more.

Next issue of What's News is Monday, Feb. 10, Deadline for copy, photos, etc. is noon, Friday, Jan. 31.
The third annual Rhode Island Kindergarten-First Grade Conference for school teachers will be held at Rhode Island College’s College Library, Providence. Henry Barnard, on Saturday, Feb. 1, from 8 a.m. until 12:45 p.m.

Bobbie Fisher, author of Joyful Learning: A Whole Language Kindergarten will be the keynote speaker. Her topic will be “Whole Language in Kindergarten and First Grade.” Workshops will follow on such topics as math, reading, writing, art, storytelling, parent involvement, teacher partnerships, professional growth and change, and preschool-Head Start transitions.

Formerly a kindergarten teacher who now teaches first grade at the Josiah Haynes School in Southbridge, Mass., Fisher has given workshops throughout New England and in Colorado. She is one of the founders and a part of the Whole Language Teachers Association. Fisher was selected by the Massachusetts Department of Education as a 1988-89 Lucretia Crocker Fellow and spent the year sharing her classroom program, “Whole Language for All Kids,” with teachers and administrators throughout the state.

She is a member of the National Council of Teacher Education Reading Committee and is on the editorial review board of Language Joggers. She was the chairperson of the Early Childhood Special education (ECSE) for the 1991 Whole Language Umbrella Conference. Fisher will present two workshops.

“Whole Language Teachers” is 652, registration is $15; registration for members (Daycare directors, Head Start directors, and members of the Association from Child Development International, Rhode Island Branch, and the Rhode Island Association for the Education of Young Children) is $10. Checks should be mailed to the Literacy Program at the state Department of Education, 22 Hayes St., Providence 02908.

Conference sponsors, in addition to the associations above, include the Rhode Island Department of Education, Henry Barnard School and RIC.

For further information, call 277-6890 or 6892.

Former RIC math whiz’ gets Ph.D. from Brown

A master’s degree graduate of Rhode Island College in 1983, who was described as the time as “the most outstanding graduate student we’ve ever had” (in the mathematics department) has recently earned his Ph.D. from Brown University, reports RIC math prof. Robert J. Salhany.

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TECH ED AWARD WINNERS (from left) are Thomas Baldino of Cranston, William Fisher Tull, a distinguished professor of music Fran Marciniak, and ensembles from Mount St. Charles Academy, Scituate, North Smithfield and Burrillville high schools, and Tiverton and Ponaganset middle schools.

It is also expected that each band will perform its composition at the Rhode Island Music Educators Association Band Festival on May 8 at RIC. They will perform their composition as part of an adjudicated festival performance.

A special feature

Also on May 1, a special feature of the Festival of New American Music will be the premier of a composition for symphonic band by Fisher Tull, a distinguished composer of music at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Tex., and winner of the prestigious Oswald Award from the American Bandmasters Association for a similar work he had composed in 1970. This large-scale work for symphonic winds and percussion will be performed by the combined RIC Wind Ensemble and The American Band.

The festival performance is the third part of the three-part commissioning program of the Rhode Island Commissioning Project. The first two parts are instructional and commissioning components.

This past fall, project directors Marciniak, who is also director of bands at RIC, and Marc Blanchette, director of music at Mount St. Charles School in Warwick, presented a master-class of music education to students at RIC, visited each of the schools in the project to present school directors with a list of repertoire that is considered "innovative American music." After each selecting one for his school, Marciniak and Blanchette assisted them in developing a strategy that includes score-study techniques, lesson plans for the presentation of the work to students, solutions to conducting problems inherent in the works, and performance techniques.

Each school was assigned a composer who will consult with the band director and project directors in March and April residencies at each school with the aim of writing a composition for that school. The composers will work with each school through music classes and rehearsals in preparation for the festival performance.

Additionally, each composer will present a lecture at the RIC music department and a clinic/rehearsal with "The American Band" prior to the premier of the works.

The composers are...

The composers, in addition to Tull, and their designated school bands and band directors are: Reber Clark, Ponaganset Middle School, George Lessard, and North Smithfield High School, Dennis St. Germain, director.

Also, Thomas Duffy, director of bands at Yale University and associate professor of music at the New England Graduate School of Music, and the premier of a new composition for the New England College Band Directors Association, The American Band and the individual participating schools.

Duffy is director of bands at Yale University and associate professor of music at the New England Graduate School of Music. Recordings and performances of his music include those by the Caroga Chamber Orchestra, the Rochester Philharmonic, the San Jose Symphonic, and numerous other university bands and wind ensembles.

Bukvich teaches composition and theory at the University of Idaho and is director and arranger for the University of Idaho Jazz Choir. His most recent commissions include numerous works for school bands as well as a work for the New England College Band Directors Association.

The project is funded

The project is being funded by grants from the RIC Performing and Fine Arts Commission, the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts, the New England Foundation for the Arts (Meet the Composer), the New England Band Association, The American Band and the individual participating schools.

Ticket price is $3. For more information, contact Professor Marciniak at 456-8244. Photo of Daniel Bukvich not available.
An encore performance at R.I. College — Bella Lewitzky Dance Company

To offer 'a spectacle of simplicity, beauty' Jan. 29th

by George LaTour

INSCAPE: by the Bella Lewitzky Dance Company is a danced panorama of fleeting illusions and allusions. (Photo by Dan Esgro)

The company's versatility appears in all its facets in all its concerts: its repertoire runs from the conventional to the experimental; its sound from classical to electronic — all reflecting the basic Lewitzky philosophy that art is an on-going process, and that the only constant is change.

Next issue of What's News is Monday, Feb. 10. DEADLINE for copy, photos, etc. is noon, Friday, Jan. 31.
### Sports Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, Feb 5</td>
<td>7 p.m.—Wrestling, Rhode Island College vs. Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Away.</td>
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<td>7 p.m.—Gymnastics, Rhode Island College vs. University of Bridgeport, Away.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, Feb 8</td>
<td>1 p.m.—Wrestling, Rhode Island College vs. Williams College, Southern Connecticut State University Tri-Meet, Home event can be determined, call the Athletic Department, Ext. 8007.</td>
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<td>Saturday, Feb 10</td>
<td>2 p.m.—Women’s Basketball, Rhode Island College vs. University of Southern Maine, Away.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>4 p.m.—Men’s Basketball, Rhode Island College vs. University of Southern Maine, Away.</td>
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</table>

### Jan. 27-Feb. 10

**BELLA LEWITZKY DANCE COMPANY** will be in RIC’s Roberts Hall auditorium Wednesday, Jan. 28, for an 8 p.m. performance. See story in this issue.

**Wednesday, Jan. 29**
- 9 p.m.—Film Society presents a film in the Student Union Ballroom. Admission $2 or $1 with RIC ID.
- 8 p.m.—Lewitzky Dance Company to perform in Roberts Auditorium. Lewitzky’s choreography extends beyond dance to encompass drama, discipline, attitude, relationships, and rituals. General admission $15; senior citizens, non-RIC students, and RIC faculty/staff $5; RIC students $4. For more information, call the Dance Department, Ext. 9791.

**Wednesday, Feb. 5**
- 9 p.m.—Film Society to present a film in the Student Union Ballroom. Admission $2 or $1 with RIC ID.

**Monday, Feb. 3**
- 12 to 1 p.m.—Alcoholics Anonymous to meet in Student Union 305.

**Tuesday, Feb. 4**
- 1 p.m.—Grief Group to meet in the Chaplains’ Office, Student Union 300. Support group for those mourning the loss of a family member or friend. For further information, contact the Chaplains’ Office, Ext. 8168.

**Tuesday, Jan. 28**
- 1 p.m.—Grief Group to meet in the Chaplains’ Office, Student Union 300. Support group for those mourning the loss of a family member or friend. For further information, contact the Chaplains’ Office, Ext. 8168.

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- 8 p.m.—Wrestling, Rhode Island College vs. University of Massachusetts—Boston, Away.
- 7:30 p.m.—Men’s Basketball, Rhode Island College vs. University of Massachusetts—Boston, Away.
- 5:30 p.m.—Women’s Basketball, Rhode Island College vs. University of Massachusetts—Boston, Away.

**Tuesday, Jan. 28**
- 7:30 p.m.—Men’s Basketball, Rhode Island College vs. University of Massachusetts—Boston, Away.
- 5:30 p.m.—Women’s Basketball, Rhode Island College vs. University of Massachusetts—Boston, Away.

**Tuesday, Feb. 4**
- 7 p.m.—Women’s Basketball, Rhode Island College vs. Gordon College.

**Monday, Feb. 10**
- 7 p.m.—Men’s Basketball, Rhode Island College vs. Eastern Nazarene College.

**Thursday, Feb. 6**
- 7 p.m.—Gymnastics, Rhode Island College vs. University of Bridgeport.
- 5:30 p.m.—Men’s Basketball, Rhode Island College vs. Wheaton College.

**Saturday, Feb. 1**
- 1 p.m.—Wrestling, Rhode Island College vs. Albany State, Away.
- 3 p.m.—Men’s Basketball, Rhode Island College vs. University of Massachusetts—Dartmouth, Away.
- 2 p.m.—Gymnastics, Rhode Island College vs. Southern Connecticut State University.
- 5 p.m.—Women’s Basketball, Rhode Island College vs. University of Massachusetts—Dartmouth.
- 7 p.m.—Women’s Basketball, Rhode Island College vs. Gordon College.
- 7 p.m.—Men’s Basketball, Rhode Island College vs. Eastern Nazarene College.
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**Friday, Feb. 28**
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**Thursday, Feb. 6**
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- 5:30 p.m.—Men’s Basketball, Rhode Island College vs. Wheaton College.
- 5:30 p.m.—Men’s Basketball, Rhode Island College vs. Wesleyan College.
- 8:30 p.m.—Men’s Basketball, Rhode Island College vs. University of Bridgeport.

**Saturday, Feb. 8**
- 1 p.m.—Wrestling, Rhode Island College vs. Williams College, Southern Connecticut State University Tri-Meet.
- 3 p.m.—Men’s Basketball, Rhode Island College vs. University of Massachusetts—Dartmouth.
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