What's News At Rhode Island College

Rhode Island College

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School of Education, Human Development has new dean

by Clare Eckert

David B. Nelson was recently appointed the Dean of the School of Education and Human Development by Rhode Island College President John Nazarian. The selection was made after a national search to revitalize the department and demonstrate the College's continuing commitment to education in the state. Nelson was born and raised in Chicago suburb and attended Wheaton, Ill. public schools. The 49-year-old educator is a committed advocate for the advancement of teacher preparation, having started his career as a classroom teacher, principal, and superintendent.

Among his beliefs are that teachers have been "under-recognized" for too long. Nelson looks at this appointment as an opportunity "to make an impact on the state" as to how teachers will be educated. Through his work at RIC, he hopes "to provide a model for other states to follow."

He will arrive at RIC the beginning of next month with his feet on the ground and ready to run, he said during a telephone interview. "The place will be humbling."

(continued on page 8)

Holiday Inn to sponsor fundraiser for College athletics

The downtown Providence Holiday Inn, the regional site for member colleges of the East Coast Athletic Conference, will sponsor a silent auction and dinner Monday, Feb. 24, beginning at 6 p.m. to benefit Rhode Island College athletics.

After reading about the Jan. 5 fire that destroyed Walsh Health and Physical Education Center, which housed the Department of Physical Education, Health, Recreation and Dance and all of the College's athletic programs, hotel Assistant General Manager, Joan Murphy, brought the idea to Theresa Cicilea, director of sales and marketing, who contacted the school with the offer of the fundraiser.

According to Thomas R. Pezzullo, vice president for development and college relations, "the offer took us by surprise. But we appreciate the concern and we are delighted to have their support and the chance this evening will give us to thank them and the many others who have given us their support."

The silent auction will include donated items from the Boston Celtics and the Pawtucket Red Sox and will begin at 6 p.m. along with a cocktail reception. The Holiday Inn's Hotel Manager, Frank Carpano, will host the silent auction and the proceeds will benefit the College's Center for Industrial Technology, also referred to as "Japanese Management."

Who better to know what happens on an assembly line than the assembly workers and line supervisors?

If there's a problem on the line, company officials concerned with productivity and cost might do well to consult with these people.

However, many companies in America haven't thought of that possibility, it seems. Company communication in America traditionally comes down from management. It seldom comes up from the bottom --

Not so at Hasbro, Inc., the largest toy manufacturer in the world, which is centered in Rhode Island. Hasbro, in fact, has gone a step or two further than consulting with its workers: it has and is currently involving them in the principles and practices of Total Quality Management, also referred to as "Japanese Management."

In conjunction with Rhode Island College's Center for Industrial Technology, they have introduced a "collaborative model of employee training and development" with the aim of improving the work process through a "team concept."

Steve Jessop, the senior vice president, says they are asking people who have been in the same work environment at Hasbro for 20 or 30 years to change.

"We're putting that (old system) aside and going a different way through employee empowerment," he says, adding that there is a need to learn two things, basically, to work together as a team on a project, and devise the ability to solve problems in industry.

Sessions were held to sensitize Hasbro personnel to the importance of change and the need to work through all levels of employees from entry-level through management.

The major goals

The major goals include creating a working climate that allows contribution, comfort and control of work processes collaboratively by all employees; increasing productivity by training a high-performance workforce, and the establishing of opportunities for employees to upgrade skills and even pursue other career possibilities within the company.

Corporate management at Hasbro, a Fortune 500 company and the second largest private employer in Rhode Island, after General Dynamics' Electric Boat Division at Quonset, has a "deep commitment" to its origins in the state and has "expressed its desire to retain operations here," according to Jessop.

It has, therefore, indicated its commitment and support to develop and implement a model that would result in a high-performance work organization.

Who need an educated work force," says Jessop.

Consequently, 60 Hasbro employees volunteered for 10 sessions between April and June. "Topical issues and management principles included working in groups, group decision making, and problem solving," according to the funding proposal submitted by RIC and Hasbro in January of this year, seeking additional funding for the project they see as a model for other manufacturing firms.

"The Case for God is published by the Chalice Press, St. Louis, Mo., and can be obtained at the Rhode Island College bookstore. It is Kaufman's third book. He is also the author of "Contemporary Jewish Philosophies and Journeys: An Introductory Guide to Jewish Mysticism."

Raymond W. Houghton, professor emeritus of philosophy and foundations of education and a research associate in the School of Education at Trinity College, Dublin, has been awarded a master-in-arts degree from that Irish institution. A citation read at the awarding of the degree noted Houghton's "a forceful and vigorous standard-bearer for copy, photos, etc., is noon, Friday, Feb. 14.

**Book Look**

**Facts about recently published books by Rhode Island College faculty and staff**

**Mary Ollen recognized as ‘1991 Life Saver’**

Mary Ollen, R.N., M.Ed., and health education consultant at Rhode Island College, was recently chosen by the American Cancer Society as the recipient of the 1991 Public Education Life Saver Award. Ollen received the ruby-jeweled Award pin at a divisional annual meeting in recognition of her log-time volunteerism and achievements.

Her commendation read: Ollen "has devoted 15 years of outstanding service to the American Cancer Society. Her unwavering enthusiasm’s evidence by the leadership and creativity she has shown in developing well-planned, timely, focused programs in many areas of public education."

Cited were Ollen’s many achievements including the development and implementation of the division’s first workplace cancer education program, participation in annual Great America’s Smokeouts since 1977, organizing a corporate breakfast to promote and support a new proactive role for management to provide smoke-free work environment, and her implementation of programs to provide colorectal screenings, BSE, TSE, prostate, and cervical cancer, to name a few.

Also recently, Ollen and Dorothy Woods, formerly of the College office of health promotions, received an award from Dr. Yankee of the Rhode Island Blood Center for outstanding blood drive participation in 1990-91.
As part of the African-American History Month, on Wednesday, Feb. 12, at 2 p.m. in the Faculty Center, the history and anthropology departments will sponsor a special panel on "Columbus and the African Diaspora." RIC professor of Richard L. Brown will examine the issue of Islamic-African seafaring before Columbus and Columbus' early African contacts. Professor John Thomas, director of Rhode Island professor Robert Weisbord will look at the trans-Atlantic slave trade in terms of its devastating effects in Africa and the rise of world-wide racism. The College community is invited to attend.

Science grads, prof get published

A paper involving the research of Maria Lawrence, Craig Moran, and Cathy Schwab, three Rhode Island College graduates, and Charles J. Marrazco, RIC professor of chemistry, has recently been published in the Journal of Physical Chemistry. The paper is titled "Electro-State Deproteinization of 2-Naphthol by Anions.

Anthony Schwab, the work is especially significant because it shows that some acid-base reactions are faster than others because of entropy rather than energy considerations.

Lawrence is currently a science teacher at the Nantucket Middle School; Moran is doing graduate work in materials science at Vanderbilt University, and Schwab is currently doing postdoctoral research at the University of Florida.

Arthur M. Halpern of the Department of Chemistry at Indiana University State University also contributed to the paper.

PEP Honors

Program students recognized

Preparatory Enrollment Program students will be honored at the PEP Honors Tea Tuesday, Feb. 11, at the President's House. The event marks the end of the Fall 1991 Semester. Chair of the Board of Education, John DaCruz of Pawtucket, Elizabeth Dias, Amy Fernandez, Joao Gomes, Sarah Leite, Richard Pellegrini, Monica Lee, Pheng Lee, Donna Maroto, Karen Maroto, Timothy Mazzotta, Patricia Patino, Linda Pizzini, and Evelyn Veloz of Warwick; and Daniel McKenna of West Greenwich.

RIC Baseball Card Show fundraiser

The 1967 CY Young Award winner, Jim Lonberg, former Boston Red Sox pitcher, will highlight the fourth annual Rhode Island College Baseball Show Sunday, Feb. 9, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Henry Barnard School gymnasium.

Lonberg will be on hand from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. to sign autographs for free and to chat with baseball card enthusiasts.

Admission is $2 and rentals are $50 for an 8-foot table. The baseball show includes all proceeds from the annual event go to the College's baseball team.

Frank Accrosso, coordinator of inter-murals and community based programs for the College and event organizer, encourages everyone to come out and enjoy themselves and "at the same time, support the College's baseball team."
1991 Teacher Scholarship Award winners

TEACHER SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS from the Class of 1959 are held by Vice President Thomas Pezzullo (center) as winners on his left and right, Tracy Kraus and Martin Johnston, take hold. Alice Greifbner, advisor, and William Oehlers, chair of the elementary education department look on.

Rhode Island College seniors Martha Johnson of Barrington and Tracy Kraus of Providence are the recipients of the Class of 1959 Teacher Scholarship Awards for 1991.

The women were honored by their faculty and families at a reception held recently at the College. Vice President Thomas R. Pezzullo presented $250 to the students "as encouragement for having chosen the teaching profession," according to mathematics professor Henry P. Guillette. Class of 1959 president, Johnston is studying elementary education and Kraus is a secondary education major.

This is the third year the scholarship award has been presented by the Class of 1959, which was the first class to begin offering the College a Silver Anniversary gift. Guillette explained that his class was "one of the last classes that was purely teacher ed" and hence, felt it appropriate to offer the scholarship to those students intending on becoming teachers.

The students were selected for their academic excellence, faculty recommendations, out-of-class experience, and upperclass standing, according to Guillette.

Boyer recognized once again by 'USA Today' as one of the country's 'best and brightest'

"Surprised and excited" described how Peter Boyer felt when Pat Ordovensky from USA Today called and asked him to present closing remarks at last month's Washington, D.C. luncheon honoring members of the newspaper's 1992 AllAcademic First Team.

"I told him I'd be honored," said Boyer, former Rhode Island College honors student, Class of 1990, from his home in Connecticut. He is currently enrolled in the Master of Music in Composition program at the Hartt School of Music of the University of Hartford.

Boyer was selected to address the group because, "I remembered Peter as being articulate and outspoken and thought he'd do a good job," according to Ordovensky, who is responsible for promoting the newspaper's national program which selects college students from across America as the "best and brightest" in the United States.

Two years ago, Boyer, who made a mark on the Rhode Island music scene in 1990 for his composition and conducting Requiem and was named to the newspaper's first-ever All Academic Team that year, sat on the other side of the podium with his mother and listened to other's remarks.

This year, on Jan. 31, he took center stage, and delivered to this prestigious group of young men and women these "words of wisdom" he was selected to give: "...Use your minds - and your talents - well. Share your achievements with the world, and use them to enrich the culture which surrounds you. And always continue to learn; and as you learn, continue to share. You are the best and brightest, and you are the future of the country. You are USA Today; you are also USA Tomorrow..."

Barnard students to perform 'Escape to Freedom' Feb. 12, 13

Students in Sharon Fennessy's fifth grade class at Rhode Island College's laboratory school, Henry Barnard, will present a play by Osiss Davis called Escape to Freedom Feb. 12 and 13 at 9:30 a.m. in the College's Student Union ballroom as part of the month-long series of events observing African-American History Month.

The play chronicles the life of Douglass, an abolitionist, from the plantation to his escape north to freedom. Its theme highlights Douglass' belief, says Fennessy, that true freedom is gained only by being educated.

The story is told through dramatic scenes, narration, song and dance.

The role of Douglass is played by John Mann of North Providence; Mistress Sophia Auld, who first taught the young Douglass how to read while he was working as her servant, by Lydia Whitcomb of Providence, and Corey, the slavebreaker, by Yann Weiner of Cranston.

To tell the story, each of the students plays more than one character and changes costumes from time to time. The play is being produced by Fennessy, an assistant professor at the school. Alice Phillogo, also of the Henry Barnard faculty, will be musical director.

The public is invited to attend free of charge. For more information, call Sharon Fennessy at 456-1831 or 828.

Director appointed

John T. Skarr of Attleboro, formerly the director of financial aid at Wheaton College, has been appointed director of student financial aid at Rhode Island College.

JOHN SKARR

His appointment took effect Jan. 21. He will be responsible for the administration of the College's multi-faceted student financial aid program which includes grants, loans and student employment opportunities for both undergraduate and graduate students.

As such, Skarr will oversee the operations of the Financial Aid Center in Craig-Lee Hall.

With some 15 years of experience in student financial aid, Skarr administered a $20-million program at Wheaton. He is considered "an excellent problem-solver, communicator, negotiator and manager."

Skarr graduated in 1972 from the University of Wisconsin at Madison with studies in zoology and English. He received another degree there in finance and obtained a master's degree in business and organizational communication at Emerson College in 1985 where he had also served as director of financial aid.

He holds a number of professional affiliations, including that with the Massachusetts Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators which he served as president in 1989-90.
A Brazilian Dilemma

by Cynthia DeMaio
Student Writer

A country known for hyperinflation, string bikinis, and a high crime rate, Bra­zil is a land of great potential and severe social problems. Eighty percent of its people are dirt poor, yet the country is years ahead of the U.S. in terms of racial opportunity and attitudes. This is the di­chotomy that Jonathan Corey, an education major at RIC, experienced during a five­week visit last spring.

Corey was one of six delegates selected by the Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts Rotary Club to represent the U.S. in the group’s Study Exchange Program. During his visit, Corey stayed in the towns of Salvador, Araçatuba, Juazeiro, and Petrolina, all in Northeast Brazil.

“ar purpose of the program is to send people from one culture into another to promote international understanding,” Corey said.

The history of Brazil is one of exploita­tion, Corey states. In the 1500s the Portu­guese came to the country. Since then Europeans have reaped its natural re­sources, and sent the wealth back to Europe. This has created a wide income gap, and with it, corruption.

“A businessman told me that trillions of Brazilian dollars disappear out of the budget annually. The money can’t be ac­counted for, so the government just writes it off. The effect is the same as the U.S. experiencing a Savings and Loan disaster every year,” Corey said. “This corrup­tion hinders the country’s ability to help itself out.”

“Anyone who has anything has to live in a walled-in house. My hosts in Salvador…have iron gates surrounding their home, and their garage is under the house below street level,” Corey said. He says people who can afford cars buy ‘generic’ styles such as simple sedans because flashy cars are immediately stolen. “People don’t even use bumper stickers because children steal them.”

“Favelas’ or ghettos, spring up over­night in cities when work is available. “The police used to chase people away to prevent shanty towns, but people would come back at night and rebuild them. The poor build in undesirable areas, such as on steep hills or in gullies with water.” “Once the people start to build a favela it’s like algae, you can’t stop it,” Corey said.

Many Brazilians have an inferiority complex and apologize for the way things are, Corey says. However, the govern­ment does little to resolve the situation.

“One upper-class woman told me the government knows there is a problem but feels it is just too big to do anything about it.” Instead, she says, the establishment ‘distacts’ the poor by allowing drugs, sex, and rock and roll.’”

Officials look the other way on drug use, drinking and prostitution, especially during Carnival, the Brazilian equivalent of Mardi Gras.

For example, in Salvador, a ‘rolling boom box’ called the ‘triolectrico’ drives through the streets blasting party music during Carnival. This moving van has an open back with a giant P.A. system. People follow the van as it moves through the city.

“There are different Carnivals for the rich and the poor,” Corey notes.

“When the forces that drive society are greed and capitalism and they get up to full speed, you get an (economic) dichoto­my. It’s like water going down the soil, the closer it gets to the bottom, the faster it goes. I think that’s where we’re going in this country. It’s dangerous when soci­ety makes profits and the profits go into a few hands. But in the U.S. we have the re­deeming value of equal opportunity. This force can slow down the process. We have to make power available to people. And power often means money.”

On racial issues, Brazil is years ahead of the U.S., Corey said. This, too, has historical roots. “When the Portuguese explored Brazil in the 1500s, only the males came. So there was a lot of inter­breeding. In North America, on the other hand, the Europeans brought their fami­lies and did not mix with the native Amer­i cans or the slaves,” Corey said.

“Today, 80 percent of the Brazilian people are of mixed heritage. They have 50 or 60 names for categories of races, in­cluding preto (black), branco (white), mulatto, and mestizo (a mixture of black, white, and Indian). There is less overt racism, although the preference is to be white,” Corey said.

However, race is more of a matter of social status than color in Brazil. “A per­son’s race is not determined by his physi­cal appearance, his skin tone, eye or hair color. It’s how he dresses, his education, his job, and the way he conducts himself. If you have dark skin but are a profession­al, you consider yourself white, and soci­ety considers you white as well,” Corey said.

“After 500 years, the Brazilians do not think about color too much.”

Looking at U.S. history on this issue, Corey says, “It took 70 years for the Emancipation Proclamation (from the writing of the Constitution) and 100 more years for the Civil Rights Act. What’s to

BEING INTERVIEWED on a local Brazilian TV station is Jonathan Corey (right). ‘Good Morning’ in Portuguese is written behind the Rotary delegation.

Corey says being in another country gives him a new perspective on Brazilian American. “We have the view that America is Number One. People feel there is something wrong with the Japanese to challenge our status. But when you go to another country and see there are other ways of life, you wonder why Americans have this self-perception.”

“For example, the rock group Guns and Roses is hot in the U.S. right now.

Anyone who has anything has to live in a walled-in house. My hosts in Salvador…have iron gates surrounding their home, and their garage is under the house below street level.

 Brazilians extend themselves to virtual strangers as well. “One night we were 40 minutes from home at a nightclub in Petrolina and our ride didn’t show up. We told a Brazilian in our group about our predicament. He had a friend at the bar who had a truck and asked if he would give us a ride home. The friend drove 40 minutes to bring us home and 40 minutes back. He didn’t even know us,” Corey said.

It’s a big deal to a lot of people. But when you travel, you realize there are places in the world where Guns and Roses means nothing,” Corey said.

How do Brazilians feel about their future? Corey pauses for a moment to think. “They’re always hopeful for im­provement. But this hope is tempered with realism.”

A Favela or Ghetto in Salvador.

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For more information or to receive an application contact the Office of New Student Programs at 456-0803 or stop by Craig Lee 606.

Application deadline is March 1, 1992

What are “Ways to get from here to there?”

That’s just one of a hundred of questions asked in the youth boardgame of “Scattagories.” What the players do is throw a large die that eventually lands on one letter of the alphabet. Each player must then listen to a tick-tock sound for one minute while answering 12 generic questions using the letter that turned up on the die as the first letter of their answerword or phrase.

Sounds like a rational game, you’d agree. One that could be relatively easy to play if you have your “thinking cap” on and don’t mind a little tick-tocking pressure.

Now, imagine if you were a student or potential student at Rhode Island College and every time you rolled your own individual die to move you from freshmen status to graduation, the only letter that appeared to get you “from here to there” was the “R” letter and it stood only for Records Office.

Better yet, imagine if you were a working member of that “R” group at the College and your main concern was to make sure that all those 30,000 students rolling die eventually got “from here to there.”

There would be a lot of ways for each of them to get from here to there because each student has resources provided by the College that allows them to travel down many, many paths.

The “R” group tries to keep them all on the right path within the boundary the student has chosen to get from “here to there.”

Regularly their workday begins at 7 a.m. and ends after the rest of the College has retired for the day. And the staff of the Records Office has other responsibilities like making sure students are enrolled in classes they believe they’re enrolled in or searching through endless reams of computer transcripts to confirm dates of graduation, answering hundreds of questions by phone and in person, and trying to ask the right question of a person who wants to understand the process, but is so unfamiliar with the setup, that “Patience” must become your first, middle and last name.

There is certainly more to this “R” game than the ticking of a clock’s pressure or a simple roll of the die for the ladies and gentlemen of the Records Office to get a person from “here to there.” It’s a very serious and important job. And that “R” group of men and women always have their “thinking caps” on.
Lectures and symposium extend dimension of curriculum at RIC

by Clare Eckert

What is education, if not an interdisciplinary intellectual exchange and sharing of ideas that involves relationships to self and others; to nature; and to power and desire; to chaos or organization? And if all the others things, then also, the role of beliefs that inspires the act of teaching and all available to all who seek knowledge and enlightenment.

Indeed aware of the budget problems in the Regional School Unit District 14, North Attleboro, says she gets a lot of help and support from her husband, Al, and daughters, Sheila, 21, and Sarah, 18. "We have a very egalitarian household. Everyone does his/her own house work (and the kids are in charge of the laundry). But when you get to be 35, your priorities change. You can't just put cooking under the 'free time' category any more. I will teach the student is not making money (his wife is supporting the family)."

John Dudley of Jamestown is also in familiar with the job satisfaction that perked me back up. It got me rolling."

"As far as his new profession, as a teacher, Bob says "my goal is to help a kid be number one in the back to school were devastating," says Bob.

"At first I was doubt of what I could do. But what perked me up was that my oldest son, was going to be going back to school again. Her grades perked up, and that perked me back up. It got me rolling."

"I do it," Bob adds that Julise is now on the honor roll at Classical High School. Julise had been important to Bob. "No wife, no school," he says. His wife, Pat, is a substitute in the telephone company. "She is a very successful businesswoman. She job provides the family with health benefits, Bob notes.

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RIC alums have theatre in their blood!

by George LaTour

One is a supervisor in the state Department for Children, Youth and Families; one is employed at the Providence Center for Counseling and Psychiatric Services; another teaches in the Cranston Enrichment Program; a fourth is about to enter the teaching profession after having been a New York City annuities broker, and the fifth is college vice president. They have at least two things in common these days:

They are all graduates of Rhode Island College and they all have theatre in their blood.

On Feb. 14-16 they and the Academy Players of East Greenwich, of which they are members, will perform A. R. Gurney's The Dining Room in the Swift Civic Center in East Greenwich. By then, they already will have performed the play — a series of vignettes centered around a dining room table over the years — Feb. 7-9.

While they are members of a group of actors, stage hands, producers and directors who are unpaid, The Dining Room is no amateur production.

The six performers play multiple roles in this fast-paced theatre-in-the-round pic­nic which is at times comic, at times poignant and always entertaining.

And the alums are...

The RIC alums are John Cicero of Warwick, Class of '68, who was a history major and president of the College Debate Society (now with the DCFY); Colleen Barry of Providence (formerly of West Warwick), Class of '87, who was a major in psychology (now with the Providence Center for Counseling and Psychiatric Services). Also, Sandy Boyer of Greenville, Class of '72 with a master's in '77, who studied elementary education and theatre (now teaching in the Cranston Enrichment Program); Ralph Mastrangelo of Cranston, Class of '73, who concentrated his studies in math and secondary education (now getting back into teaching after selling annuities in New York City). And, lastly (the cast director always is last to take a bow), Thomas R. Pezzullo, Class of '64, who studied math and science (now vice president for development and college relations at RIC).

The Academy Players
The Academy Players itself has been in existence for some 36 years as a community-based, non-profit organization. It regulars produce three shows a year, with two musicals and one play. Rehearsals run eight-to-ten weeks, depending on the production, with cast members meeting three nights a week for three hours each night.

That seems rather like a demanding schedule for people who have full-time family and job responsibilities. How, you might ask, do they get away with it?

"My wife encourages it," assures Cicero. "It's either that or I pay $150 for a psychiatrist," he says beaming from ear to ear at the joke. In other words, it's therapeutic.

"Every now and then when I haven't been rehearsing or performing for awhile, my wife'll say, 'I think it's time for you to do a show.'" That being said, Cicero cherishes a bit while the reporter, who has gone to the post twice in marriage without success, laughed in appreciation... and then made a mental note: Next time, take up acting!

Does your family come to see you perform? Cicero was asked.

"Are you kidding? I've got a crew of family and job responsibilities. How, you might ask, do they get away with it?"

A newcomer to the Academy Players, Mastrangelo held the murder weapon in the Top Hat production of All Hands on Death and performed in Butterflies are Free with the Barrington Players. He also performed at RIC in Cabaret, Invitation to a Jukebox, White House Murder Case and The Trial.

Boyer "did a little theatre at RIC" — a reader's version of The Crucible in 1969 — and has been acting in one production or another ever since. "The (acting) bug is pretty much there," she admits.

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Her work includes a long affiliation with Kaleidoscope Theatre on stages throughout New England and on WPRRI- TV.

Cicero has performed in, produced and directed many community theatre productions in Rhode Island, including some of the Academy Players' most successful.

Among his favorite roles are Harry the Horse in Guys and Dolls and Lou Daniel in Tributes. In 1981, he received an award as Best Director at the ACTRI (Association of Community Theatres of Rhode Island) Festival for his staging of Lovers and Other Strangers.

Pezzullo marks his 23rd production with this outing with the Academy Players, including directing seven. He's won awards for best supporting actor as Father Drobney in Don't Drink the Water for Scotty in Tributes, and was named best director for Grosset and The Foreigner.

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RIC Theatre presents 'The Skin of Our Teeth' —

Wilder's whacky look at humankind's long struggle for survival

by George LaTour

The Pulitzer Prize-winning play that turns hand springs through history and celebrates man's persistence in holding on "by the skin of his teeth" against every crisis and catastrophe will be staged by Rhode Island College Theatre Feb. 20-23 in Roberts Hall auditorium.

Written by Thornton Wilder and directed locally by Theatre Prof. P. William Hutchinson of Esmond, the show will run Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings at 8 o'clock and a Sunday matinee at 2. General admission tickets are $7 with discounts for senior citizens and students.

The Skin of Our Teeth, first presented in New York in 1942, is a satiric survey of the history of mankind, starting with the Ice Age and coming down to the last potentially completed war.

George and Margaret Antrobus of Excelsior, N. J., represent the heads of an average American family who find themselves "at grips with a destiny sometimes sour, sometimes sweet."

Through a thousand reincarnations they suffer the slow progress, and glory on the few triumphs the race has been able to consume.

Through the Ice Age, the Flood, world wars and the celebration of their 4,000th wedding anniversary, "They are always a little comic in their ignorance, and a little pathetic in their determination to survive, even as you and I," says New York Daily News theatre critic Burns Mantle.

PERPETUALLY TEMPTING as Sabina in Thornton Wilder's 'The Skin of Our Teeth' being staged by RIC Theatre Feb. 20-23 in Roberts Hall auditorium is Lisa Coppinger. With her (at left) is Terry Shea as The Announcer and Eric Tucker as George Antrobus. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

History's eternal scroffer, Lisa L. Coppinger (Sabina), a senior from Saunterstown, will be seen in the combined role of the housemaid, buttling beauty (a perpetually tempting troublemaker) and kidding commentator who represents history's eternal scroffer, the part originated by Tallulah Bankhead.

Eric C. Tucker, a freshman from Virginia, and Tracy A. Gearing, a senior from Cranston, will have the roles originated by Frederic March and Florence Eldridge, portraying the man and wife who withstand all the catastrophes of the ages.

John T. Collins of Westerly will be seen as the wayward son (Henry) and Michelle Morelli of Narraganset as their flighty daughter (Gladsy).

Jennifer N. Rhoads of Portsmouth will play the fortune teller; Joseph L. Dohude II of Pawmucket will play Fitzpatrick, and Terrence B. Shea of Providence, the announcer.

A look at the first act — to give the reader a sampling of the daffy scrambling of time and places — shows George Antrobus coming back to his home from his office where he has had a busy day. He has invented the wheel and devised the alphabet.

This progress, however, is threatened by the approach of glaciers that have already reached as far south as Hartford.

Faced with millennials of the Ice Age, Antrobus and his family doggedly gather fuel and stoke the fires. They put out their household pets, a dinosaur and a mammoth, to become extinct in the great freeze, but they are determined that they themselves will survive — despite the scathing disparagements of their housemaid of little faith.

Went three Pulitzer's Wilder's "The Bridge of San Luis Rey" in 1927, his second novel, won him recognition as a major figure in American literature. It became a huge best-seller and won him his first Pulitzer Prize.

He later won two more Pulitzers for his plays "Our Town" in 1938 and "The Skin of Our Teeth," which was awarded in 1943. (His "The Matchmaker" in 1955 (a rewrite of his earlier "The Merchant of Yenka") was to become Hello Dolly in 1964. It ran on Broadway for nearly seven years, surpassing the record holder with Mr. "Fats" Lady.

For further information, call 456-8060.

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Be-Bop by the Greg Abate Jazz Quartet here Feb. 12

Be-Bop jazz saxophonist Greg Abate and his jazz quartet will open the Rhode Island College Chamber Music Series for the second semester on Wednesday, Feb. 12, at 1 p.m. in Roberts Hall 138 (recital chamber) with his own "Sax O'Blues." Abate studied at Berklee College of Music specializing in the arranging and composition area. After completing his studies, he moved to Los Angeles where he auditioned successfully for the Ray Charles and Artie Shaw orchestras (the latter under the direction of Dick Johnson), will lead quartet members Tim Ray on piano, Charlie LaChapelle on bass, and Artie Cabral on drums.

Other selections will include Cole Porter's "What Is This Thing Called Love," Harry Link's "These Foolish Things," and more of Abate's own works such as "The Young 'uns" and "Bop City."

The recital is free and open to the public.

Abate at Berklea College of Music specializing in the arranging and composition area. After completing his studies, he moved to Los Angeles where he auditioned successfully for the Ray Charles lead alto chair and spent two years touring with the Ray Charles Band throughout the United States, Europe and Japan.

Upon his return to New England in 1985, he spent two years in the first tenor chair for the Artie Shaw Orchestra. Since then, Abate has led his own quartet performing in clubs and concerts all over the Northeast and Canada, appearing as a featured artist in numerous festivals such as the Canadian Jazz Festival, George Wein's Saratoga Jazz Festival and the JVC Jazz Festival in Newport.

Abate has performed with Tony Bennett, Vic Damone, Mel Torme and Rosemary Clooney, among many other vocal artists.

He records for Candid records. His most recent compact disc is "Bop City Live at Birdland" recorded at the Birdland Jazz Club in New York.

For more information, call John Pellegrino at 456-8244.

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Rec Center

The Rhode Island College Recreation Center provides a number of structured programs in addition to self-directed, drop-in opportunities for recreational sport and leisure activity.

Facilities include a 5-lane, 25-yard, "U" shaped, indoor heated swimming pool; a 4-lane, one-mile track; three multiple playing courts for basketball, volleyball and tennis; a 18-station Eagle-cybes Fitness System for exercise and weight training; 4 Airdyne Exercise Bikes; 2 Concept II Rowing Machines; and separate men's and women's locker rooms.

Spring 1992 programs and activities include aerobics exercise (land and water), weight management, yoga instruction, jogging and walking programs, tennis and swim instruction and more. A number of special events, including a one-day ski trip, are also planned.

Intramural sports include Quik Pitch Whiffball, Co-Ed Volleyball and Clinchball, 3-on-3 Power Volleyball and 5-on-5 Basketball.

RIC students, faculty and staff, alumni, senior citizens and members of the community may use the facilities. Fees vary according to category of membership.

Building hours are Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. The field house closes one-half hour before the building is scheduled to close.

Contact the Recreation Center, at 456-8400 for information and membership fees.
RIC Performing Arts Series presents
San Francisco Mime Troupe’s ‘I Ain’t Yo’ Uncle’

Chilling moment

The most chilling moment in “I Ain’t Yo’ Uncle” is when Simon Legree rises from where he’s been shot dead. “Thank you,” he tells Harriet Beecher Stowe, “for immortalizing me.”

Legree killed? Stowe on stage?

Uncle Tom’s Cabin is much changed by the adaptor, playwright Robert Alexander.

“The story has been rewritten, adapted, deconstructed and bent every which way in an effort to reconcile history, art and Stowe’s good intentions instead of just Stowe’s story is initially acted in a broad style that spoofs the melodramatic tone, direct commentary on what’s going on from a modern perspective.

Likewise, the onstage band interrupts its more antiquated style with African drums and raucous rap.

Scenes from the original are dropped and others added. Religious motivations are raked from the storyline, call 456-8194.

The result is a show at once rousing and thoughtful, crude and sly, cheap of shot but pure of heart and extravagantly rich in theatricality.

The people in the Bay area from 1961 on.

Stories from the original are dropped and others added. Religious motivations are raked from the storyline, call 456-8194.

The result is a show at once rousing and thoughtful, crude and sly, cheap of shot but pure of heart and extravagantly rich in theatricality.

Yet, oddly enough, the old tale retains a surprising measure of authenticity and even potency,” writes Jones.

When the sanny white child, Little Eva, dies begging her father to free his slaves, Uncle Tom first sweats, then debunks and finally acknowledges, “at least she tried.”

S.F. Mime Troupe

Founded in 1959 when R.G. Davis began his R.G. Davis Mime Studio and Troupe, it used classical silent mime in combination with poetry, lectures and movies, along with what would today be called performance art “to teach, direct toward change and be an example of change.”

When the decision was made to move to the open air of the city parks, the now renamed San Francisco Mime Troupe performed Commedia dell’Arte, traditional 16th century Italian street theater, with words and music.

The shows were free and the company brought its roaring political comedy to the people in the Bay area from 1961 on.

At RIC, DiCostanzo won a Special award for the Arts. Two years later the tour ended in New York where the Troupe won an Obie for “ outstanding regional theater” and received an NEA grant.

Today, the San Francisco Mime Troupe is much more mainstream and has, in fact, won a Tony Award in 1987 as “outstanding regional theater” and receives funding from the National Endowment for the Arts.

It tours internationally now and continues to present original work based upon the immediate issues of our time.

Ticket information

Reserved seat tickets are $15 with discounts for senior citizens and students, RIC faculty and staff. Roberts box office opens Monday, Feb. 17. For more information, call 456-8941.

RIC alum is named conductor of symphony in Ohio

John M. DiCostanzo, a 1984 graduate of Rhode Island College with a music degree in piano, has recently been named full-time conductor-musical director of the Perry Symphony Orchestra in Ohio.

A news account in the local press - Perryburg is a suburb of Toledo - reported that DiCostanzo’s selection was made by the orchestra’s executive board and membership after what the newspaper termed DiCostanzo’s “superb guest conducting” during last spring’s nine-concert season.

At RIC, DiCostanzo won a Special Talent Award. Upon graduation, he received a teaching assistantship at the University of Michigan where he was a student of Martin Katz, Eckhart Sellheim and Katherine Collier. He earned his master of music degree in 1988.
African-American History Exhibit. Throughout the month of February it will be presented in Adams Library. Free.

Tuesday, Feb. 10
1 p.m. — Grief Group to meet in the Chaplain’s Office, SU 300. Support group for those mourning the loss of a family member or friend.

Thursday, Feb. 12

Friday, Feb. 13
10 a.m. — Video: Mo’ Better Blues to be presented in SU Video Den. Free.

Monday, Feb. 10
2 p.m. — Women’s Basketball. Rhode Island College vs. University of Massachusetts-Boston. Home event to take place at Providence College (Alumni Hall).

Tuesday, Feb. 10
7 p.m. — Men’s Basketball. Rhode Island College vs. Eastern Nazarene College. Home event to take place at Providence College (Alumni Hall).

Wednesday, Feb. 11
6 p.m. — Women’s Basketball. Rhode Island College vs. Wheaton College. Away.
7:30 p.m. — Wrestling. Rhode Island College vs. U.S. Coast Guard Academy. Home event but site to be determined. For further information, call the Athletic Department, 456-8007.

Sunday, Feb. 16
6 p.m. — Women’s Basketball. Rhode Island College vs. University of Southern Maine. Home event to take place at Providence College (Alumni Hall).

Saturday, Feb. 15
2 p.m. — Women’s Basketball. Rhode Island College vs. University of Massachusetts-Boston. Home event to take place at Providence College (Alumni Hall).
4 p.m. — Men’s Basketball. Rhode Island College vs. University of Massachusetts-Boston. Home event to take place at Providence College (Alumni Hall).

Tuesday, Feb. 10
1 p.m. — Grief Group to meet in the Chaplain’s Office, SU 300. Support group for those mourning the loss of a family member or friend.

Thursday, Feb. 12
10 a.m. — Play: The Meeting. Fictionalized meeting between Malcolm X and M.I. King, Jr. to be held in Gaige Auditorium. For ticket information, call 456-8085.

Friday, Feb. 14
7 p.m. — Gymnastics. Rhode Island College vs. Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Home event to take place at RIC Gymnastics Village. 41 Narragansett Park Drive, East Providence, RI.

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Wednesday, Feb. 12
1 p.m. — Chaplain — Music Series. Greg Abate, Saxophonist, to perform with Jazz Quartet in Roberts Recital Hall. Free.

Thursday, Feb. 13
7 p.m. — Video: Jungle Fever to be presented in SU Video Den. Free.
9 p.m. — Glory. The RIC Student Film Society presents the film in Horace Mann 103. Admission $2 or $1 with RIC ID.

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