What's News

Rhode Island College

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3-23-1992

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College Shorts

5K Run to benefit Athletics

The Rhode Island College Programming Board announced plans for the second annual RIC-End 5K Fund Run, scheduled for Sunday, April 26, at noon, to benefit the RIC athletic department's recent loss of equipment in the Walsh gymnasium fire. The race begins and ends on the RIC campus. Entry fee is $5 before April 21 and $7 for post-entry or on the day of the race. Registration forms are available at the Programming Office, Student Union, room 310, or by calling 456-3045. Please leave a message including your mailing address and telephone number.

Call for marshalls for Commencement

The Committee on Convocations is seeking volunteer marshals for the May commencement ceremonies. All faculty and staff who are interested in serving are invited to contact Kathryn Sasso, chair, at Ext. 8022 or by writing to her at Robert's 3ID by April 10. According to Sasso, "This Commencement will require additional help, as we are planning many changes in response to the loss of Walter Center."

Plays depicting black leaders

On Tuesday, March 24, at 7:20 p.m. in Gaige Auditorium, Harlem, will present two one-person plays depicting black leaders, by the African-American Theatre Company. The plays are entitled "I Am Speaks For You, Brother?" and "Sister, Can I Speak For You?" Tickets will be sold at the door for $3 with college ID and $4 for the general public. For more information, call 456-8085.

Visiting professor to speak

On Wednesday, March 25 at 12:45 p.m. in Gaige 253, professor Stephen A. Kenton of Eastern Connecticut State University will discuss "Extending the Public's Two-One-Play Potentials."

Student teacher's artwork to be hung at new children's hospital in R.I.

Turning the mundane into a masterpiece for others to enjoy is the work of an artist. To exhibit their work in a forum for others to appreciate is among an artist's goals.

Although Rhode Island College MATC graduate student Kerry A. Fallon never intended to become an artist, her latest accomplishment "is not — it puts her into the category."

In fact, Fallon wants to become a teacher. But, after completing a methods and material-art-education course with instructor Paula Most last semester, she's a little closer to making those ambitions a reality. And probably, she says, closer to becoming the all-around elementary school teacher she's studying to become.

Most's fall class in printmaking was her first attempt at creating murals. The outcome of the class would be to complete a mural using a variety of items like sticks, styrofoam, sponges or any odds and ends children could work with to create a mural in an elementary school art class.

The teacher wouldn't have to be an artist, but would be able — through "hands-on" experience — to teach her students in a creative way.

Most said she split her class into five groups. Each group was assigned the task of deciding what children's theme they would use to create printmaking murals and then to actually become the "artists" and create it.

At first, Fallon, who was a member of one of the five groups, was hesitant. She thought her lack of experience would impede the project. "But because of the cuts in schools, art is one of the first programs to go. I thought it would give us some insight into the problems classroom teachers would do," she said.

Fallon's group chose a birthday theme, with a clown, balloons, ice cream cones, and other party paraphernalia. They gathered raw potatoes, carrots, apples, styrofoam and other items and went to work.

"It was really fun and we could tell how easy it would be to do with kids," she discovered. "With no art background, I found it more important to accept the process than the final product."

Most was extremely pleased with the completed projects. "They were wonderful and colorful."

When the new children's hospital is completed in 1994, the murals will be transferred to it for permanent display. Fallon said she is proud of her participation in the classes and hopes the murals "will be enjoyed by the patients, staff, and parents."

Nicolette Lissade, recent winner of a $1,000 scholarship given by the Career Expo Planning Committee, Inc. headquartered in Boston, Mass., is certainly aware of the importance of my community volunteer work. Although Lissade will graduate with a degree in political science and business, she says her volunteer work will always be important to her life even though she intends on entering the business world once graduated.

"I am aware of the importance of my own self-sufficiency and look forward to a future when my finances are no longer the limiting factor and I will be able to contribute" in money and time to support deserving organizations, she stated.

Lissade was also recognized by the Brown University Outreach Program in 1991 for encouraging students to become involved in community service. Last Christmas, she organized a holiday party for the reinforced of The Turning, soliciting food and small gifts from the RIC faculty, staff, and students.

Thanking the campus community for their efforts, Lissade said, "It is because of their help that she was able to give the children hope and cheer.

The Career Expo Planning Committee, Inc. is a non-profit organization that provides professional employment opportunities to undergraduate and graduate students of color. Each year volunteer members of the group sponsor a three-day career exposition and award scholarships to students meeting the criteria of the organization. Lissade was this year's most recognized person.
Public symposium on urban corruption and politics is April 2 at RIC

The inner workings of politics and urban corruption, and the difficulties faced by law enforcement officials to unwind the deceit will be the topic of a public symposium at Rhode Island College Thursday, April 2, from 2 to 3:45 p.m. in the Student Union Ballroom.

"I See My Opportunities and I Took 'Em," is the title of the discussion to be explored by Bob Lacci, former New York City Police Department undercover officer and author of "Prince of the City," and Wayne Barrett, co-author of "City for Sale," an expose of the corruption exposed in New York City by the NLAB Commission during the 1970's and 1980's administration of Mayor Ed Koch.

U.S. Attorney General James O'Neill will provide commentary that links the New York City experience with the current scandals facing Rhode Islanders.

Organizer and moderator of the forum will be director of economic development Joseph Polonia, former Mayor of Providence and an adjunct professor of political science at RIC.

"Rhode Island has been criticized as 'a state for sale' from the turn of the century to the present," according to Victor Frofiachi, chair of the political science. "The recent attention given to irregularities in government in this state make this forum timely."

The free symposium is being sponsored by the Humanities at RIC and the political science department.

Alaskans to make presentation here

April 1 on 'The Last Great Wilderness'

Two years in the making, the multi-projector slide presentation, "The Last Great Wilderness," combines the work of 12 wilderness photographers to provide a close-up look at the fragile and beautiful Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in northeastern Alaska.

That presentation, along with discussions by Alaskans concerned with oil development, will take place at Rhode Island College's gaige Hall auditorium on Wednesday, April 1, from 7:30 to 9 p.m.

It is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be available.

Called the "Serenade of the North," the refuge is home to grizzly and polar bears, arctic fox, snowy owls, tundra swans and countless other species, including migrating caribou. The Gwich'in and other native people use the resources of the refuge for their subsistence survival.

Oil companies reportedly want to swallow up the refuge's coastal plain into the neighboring Drudhoe Bay oil fields.

Out of 1,100 miles of Alaska's arctic coastline, the coastal plain of the refuge is the last 125 miles not yet open to development, say the Alaskans.

"Your presence at this event will help conservationists throughout the country who are working to prevent the exploitation and subsequent destruction of the refuge's coastal plain," they say.

The event is being sponsored by the Northern Alaska Environmental Center, the Alaska Conservation Foundation, the Sierra Club of Rhode Island and the RIC Campus Center.

For more information, call the Campus Center at 456-8034.

Steady progress on Walsh Center project

What remains of the Rhode Island College Michael F. Walsh Health and Physical Education Center may appear to be an "eyesore," and its demise has "forever in your dreams nightmare" as the College of the Holy Cross.

But people are advised to take heart, be patient and positive while the College's personnel are working out of the Adams Gilbane Building Company "to provide us with an estimate based on the cost of replacement in today's market that meets the current codes for handicapped accessibility, fire and other public building requirements."

Also, former occupants of the building are preparing inventory of losses, all of which takes time to gather, record and determine the cost of replacement, she noted.

The architect's report is due within three weeks, DeLucia said, adding that the comprehensive data should bring the College closer to finalizing the rebuilding project.

In the meantime, athletic department personnel are working out of the Adams Library building in rooms 186, 187 and 125. And faculty and staff of the Department of Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance have been re-located to Henry Barnard School rooms 162 and 225.

Rhode Island College will sponsor an International Scene Lecture Series for Spring 1992


The series is designed to encourage participants to become familiar with the current crises affecting the nation state. The public is welcome to attend. All sessions will be held in the Alumni Lounge in Roberts Hall. The following are the topics to be discussed:

Thursday, March 26 - Alumni Lounge, 12:30 - 2 p.m. "Imagined Identities: Nation, State, Community" - Kenneth Lewalski, professor emeritus of history, Rhode Island College.

Thursday, April 2 - Alumni Lounge, 12:30 - 2 p.m. "Political Confederation Models" - Abbott Gleason, chairman of the department of history, Brown University.


Thursday, April 16 - Alumni Lounge, 12:30 - 2 p.m. "Regional Economic Cooperation in the Former Soviet Union and Neighboring Countries" - Alexander Portnyagin, University of Moscow, Institute of Political Linguistics.

Monday, April 20 - Alumni Lounge, 12:30 - 2 p.m. RIC Faculty Panel: Teaching the Future, Including the Future of the Nation State in the World. Participants: David Thomas, history department; Carolyn Fluehr-Lobban, anthropology; Halil Copur, economics and management; Kenneth Lewalski, professor emeritus.

The event is sponsored by the offices of the vice president for academic affairs, the dean of arts and sciences, the Study of International/International Studies Program, conferences and special events. This series has been coordinated by Carolyn Fluehr-Lobban (456-8006), and Kenneth Lewalski (456-8090).

Call either coordinator for further details.

DONATION: If for r) Alyssa Spolidoro, John Charette, Michelle Tessitore and Daniel Viosque, Executive Director of "A Wish Come True," with a $100 contribution from the proceeds of a fundraising candy sale held last semester. Bowers visited the campus recently to accept the check and describe her efforts to the students at the Student Union Ballroom.

"A Wish Come True" is a non-profit organization that grants terminally ill children between the ages of three and 18 who have wishes. Since then about 400 children have been granted their wishes. (What's News photo by Gordon E. Rowley)
"Hello, Rhode Island College Department of Biology."

"Hi, I'm calling about spiders in my cellar."

"They're really quite large, and I thought they might be Black Widows. You know...the poisonous ones? And, they're crawling all over the place."

"Yyyyyuck!" thinks department secretary Frances M. Taylor to herself as she shivers a bit, but coolly, calmly and col­lectedly, offers a professional response.

"I'll be glad to check that out for you. Would you hold on a minute?"

She checks the roster to see who's available just then to give the caller advice. Prof. S. Salman Wasti of Glocester is "very good at identifying bugs and telling how to get rid of them" but he's in class just then.

However, Dr. Kenneth P. Kinsey of Providence is nearby and having over­heard one side of the telephone conversa­tion, inquires if he can be of help.

The question having been repeated to him by Taylor, he advises her to tell the caller that there are no Black Widow spi­ders known to be in this area and, hence, the "visitors" to his cellar are not danger­ous.

"I relayed that information to the caller and was about to suggest he get an exter­minator when he said: "Oh, o.k., I'll just step on them.""

"Yyyyyuck!" again by you-know-who.

I hate bugs!

"Sometimes, I have to laugh," relates Taylor, of North Providence, "of all places for me to work...I hate bugs!"

But, she assures, everyone in the department (including her) does his or her best to be accommodating to the always-concerned callers; to answer their questions, to provide advice and to dem­onstrate over and over again the College's con­cern for their concerns.

After all, they are part of "our public," the people we serve, the taxpayers.

The faculty here are so helpful," says Taylor, who has been in the biology department for the past four of the 14 years she's been at RIC. "We help every­body to the limit of our resources. "We help every­body to the limit of our resources.

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On the job with...

A call came into the Rhode Island College telephone operators office asking, "Could I speak to Carol?"

Trying to be as pleasant as possible, Lois M. Dandeneau, who's worked the switchboard for the past six years, first says to herself, "Out of 10,000 people on this campus, I'm supposed to know which Carol they want?" But to the caller, Lois says politely, "If you give me her last name, I'll try to direct your call."

Remembering the incident last week during an interview, Lois laughed and shook her head. "Some people think we know exactly where everyone is all day long."

Dandeneau and Barbara Blackwell, her co-worker for the past five years, have been told a few tales over the years - "people tell us their life story" - and have been asked a lot of questions, like "what is the zip code, what time is it, what schedule are we following, did we have class today," and on and on. Between the two and their crew of about eight students, they answer about 500 calls a day.

But answering phones is not all they do. Lois explained that they are responsible for the entire campus's billing system, making sure repairs are done on about 1500 lines and each telephone unit and computerizing every telephone number available to College personnel.

"We keep track of all the lines on campus, the class of service people have, the location of the equipment, making any changes that are necessary, and billing each department," Lois says. One piece of equipment that helps the women out is the Customer Administration Panel, a number coded instrument that keeps track of all the lines at all times, and assists the two when AT&T or New England Telephone come in to make repairs.

Since the beginning of this academic year, Lois and Barbara have been computerizing all the telephone lines according to personnel, location, number, and whether the number is limited to local calling or unlimited usage. It's a major project, but once completed, will assist them in organizing their office, she says.

For the past couple of years, they have also been responsible for the FAX machine. One of the nice things about having the fax in their office, Lois says, "Is we get to put a face to a voice" because people either come to their office to pick up a fax or they walk in to fax something out.

They also direct people to the right department or student organization when calls come in for events or programs. "Some people are very nice," Lois says. But those that want her to "go find John Doe and tell him he's got to be at work at 5" can tickle their funnybone and test their patience!
Twenty alumni of RIC will be honored as role models for students in their under­graduate major. This new recognition program of the RIC Alumni Association was designed to honor career achievements of alumni and to create an awareness among our undergraduate students of alumni role models. Recipients were selected by a selection committee from nominations received from academic departments and other interested alumni. Criteria for selection included the following: an alumnus/alumna with an undergraduate degree who has been out for at least five years; alumni role models. 

As role models for undergraduates whose success demonstrates the value of a Rhode Island College degree. The starting third baseman was the Dan Moore of Uxbridge, Mass. and junior Dan Belisle of Woonsocket have been selected as captains of the 1992 squad.

The starting third baseman was the Dan Moore of Uxbridge, Mass. and junior Dan Belisle of Woonsocket have been selected as captains of the 1992 squad.

When not on the mound, Moore fueled the line-up at second base batting .292 and had a team best 3.20 ERA and emerging as the only pitcher to ERA and emerging as the only pitcher to ever have the Landscape,' the participants are either natives of the state or writers who have used the landscape of Rhode Island extensively in their work. John Carey, who won the National Book Award for fiction in 1989 for his novel Spurtina, which chronicles the struggles of a fishermen in South County, will read from his work April 6 at 8 p.m. in the Student Union ballroom; Ann Hood, a native of West Warwick and author of four novels, including Somewhere off the Coast of Maine, will read April 15 at 8 p.m. in the Faculty Center. Also, Galway Kinnell, a Pulitzer Prize-winning poet and native of Pawtucket among whose books is Flipping for It, which is set in Providence, and Jeffrey Greene of New Hampshire, many of whose poems focus on Rhode Island, will read from their works on April 28 at 7:30 p.m. in the Cranston Public Library. On April 5, at the Johnson and Wales Airport Hotel beginning at 5 p.m. in the Providence Public Library, on 140 Sockanosset Cross Road.

As part of Rhode Island College’s 1992 Spring Celebration of the Arts, a series of readings by some of Rhode Island’s current and future authors and a panel discussion are planned from April 6-30.

Entitled “Writing Rhode Island: Imagining the Landscape,” the participants are either natives of the state or writers who have used the landscape of Rhode Island extensively in their work.

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Progressive thought and changing demographics characterize today's nursing programs

by Cynthia DeMalo

The 1990s are a time of growth for the nursing profession in many different ways. Increased demand for nurses, coupled with a better image and increased salaries, has made this field very attractive to traditional and nontraditional students alike, said Dr. Constance B. Pratt, nursing department chair at RIC. Furthermore, the nursing profession is proposing changes which could extend health care to the poor and lower costs for everyone.

There is no recession in the number of applicants to RIC's department of nursing, Pratt noted. Enrollment has increased by over 10% over the past two years, with 315 people applying for 144 slots in the Fall 1992 semester.

"People have always seen nursing as a viable profession during hard economic times," Pratt said. The Hospital Association of Rhode Island reports there are currently 350 vacancies for registered nurses in Rhode Island. This trend is expected to continue. The state Department of Health projects the demand for registered nurses (RNs) to increase by 22% between 1988 and 1995 and the demand for licensed practical nurses (LPNs) to increase by 19% over the same period.

Compounding the shortage is the fact that the supply of RNs is expected to increase only 12% and that for LPNs may actually decline by 1995.

Nursing students are in demand due to a combination of technical and social factors. As stated in a long-range plan submitted to the state Board of Governors for Higher Education this February, the expansion of medical technology has made more treatments available to the average patient. There are an increasing number of patients to be treated due to the aging of the population. And there is an increasing number of new graduate nurses because of a decline in the age groups that have traditionally supplied new students.

Nursing services are in demand due to a combination of technical and social factors.

While there are proportionally fewer young nursing students, there are a growing number of older students and men entering the discipline.

"We have 825 majors in the nursing department at RIC and 9% are male," Pratt said. Pratt quoted a study by the National League for Nursing which showed that 40% of RNs are in their late 40s or early 50s and have had careers in other fields. "One of our students was the vice president of a financial institution that closed during the banking crisis. At this point in his life, he can afford to come to school and do something he likes," Pratt said.

"Many men tell me they always wanted to be in health care but were drawn into another career and became 'trapped' in it. Then they come to a point in their life where they can make a change," Pratt said.

She noted that nursing has always been a viable profession and that the men who become nurses are those who want to move into management positions faster than females. The stigma of being a male nurse has almost vanished over the past 10 years, Pratt adds. The first male nurses, many of whom were recruited into the service, met resistance, however.

"In 1974 I brought my first male nursing student from Brown University to the hospital in Rhode Island. The staff told me he would not be allowed in the delivery room and that he could not teach mothers how to breastfeed. I said to them: 'If he were a male intern would you think twice about it?' After that there was no problem," Pratt said.

The salaries, working conditions, and status of nurses have improved significantly in recent years. "Societies are better than they were five years ago. In fact, some of our graduates are making more money than the nursing faculty," Pratt said. Nurses at individual hospitals have pushed for administration to study and identify the responsibilities of nurses. More complete job descriptions have led to higher salaries, Pratt noted. Before job descriptions were written, nurses' salaries had not kept pace with other positions in the hospital, she said.

A recent advertising campaign by the National League for Nursing helped bolster the image of nurses. The theme of one ad was: "If all it takes to be a nurse is caring, than anyone could be a nurse." A 1-800 telephone number appearing on the screen generated many inquiries from people interested entering the field, Pratt said.

Doctor's attitudes toward nurses has also changed. "The younger physicians coming out of medical school have much more collegiality with nurses than when I graduated. They respect nurses' knowledge, because they know nurses have a lot of information which will help them treat the patient," Pratt said.

"Review of these programs has shown that there is some overlap," Pratt noted. "RIC and URI offer baccalaureate degrees in nursing, CCRI also has masters and doctoral-level nursing programs. Undergraduate programs produce nurses who can practice in a variety of different settings, the plan states. Graduate programs are intended to produce specialists in particular areas.

The most recent study into the possibility of consolidation was a Blue Ribbon Commission which submitted its recommendations to the state in 1987. It concluded that while there is some overlap, "Review of these programs has shown that sustained demand for nurses and the number of applicants to these programs warrant continuation of all three."

Nursing schools are actively working toward solutions to escalating health costs.

A long-range plan presented this February to the BOG, is currently under consideration.

The educators note that "the cost of health care continues to escalate at a rate that far exceeds that of inflation, and services are being priced out of the market for those who do not have private insurance or receive government assistance or who are not independently wealthy." The long range plans states that placing ceilings on reimbursement has, in many instances, only reduced the number of physicians willing to provide services.

The plan predicts that a worsening economy will make competition for tax dollars keener, and that health care programs for those most in need will increasingly come under attack. More individuals will be in jeopardy of losing benefits unless something is done, the report states.

"The nursing profession has proposed a framework for change in a proposal called Nursing's Agenda for Health Care Reform. Included in this proposal is that suggestion that health care be administered in places that people can reach easily and feel comfortable in such as at schools, homes, places of work, and other community facilities. The plan also moves the emphasis of health care from treatment of illness to prevention of illness."

In Rhode Island, educators are proposing the use of nursing students and faculty in nurse-managed community clinics. These centers would care for both the general community and special need groups such as the homeless, the elderly, and teenage mothers. Programs would include health promotion, family planning, the development of appropriate lifestyles, and well-baby care. Nursing students would gain hands-on experience at the clinics and faculty could keep abreast of new equipment and nursing techniques. Other state universities including those in Kentucky, Tennessee, and Colorado have established such clinics, Pratt said.

"Since year one there was never a nurse on a policy-making or ethics committee. Now I would say that every hospital in the state has a nurse on its major committees," Pratt said.

Nursing schools are actively working toward solutions to escalating health costs.

"In contrast, URI takes a much larger number of out-of-state students (50% on average) and tends to have more students of the traditional college-age group. The university also attracts students who want to be part of a university environment," the plan states.

MEN AND WOMEN NURSING STUDENTS gather around a nursing faculty member (left) to discuss some specifics about their chosen profession. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rawley)
Alum wants others to ‘listen and learn’ from Generation X’

by Clare Eckert

Norton blames the media for the passivity of the layover. And warns the politicians, decision-makers, and business leaders of the world to pay stricter attention to this age-group.

“These people are about to inherit the world and without an outlet to speak their minds and one that takes them seriously, they will become victims instead of explorers,” said Norton, who recently obtained his master’s degree in English from the University of Rhode Island.

The 31-year-old freelance writer and part-time teacher, has come up with an idea that he hopes will fill the media “hole” and expose “this demographic population being neglected” to the masses.

Starting with his alma mater, Norton has organized his first public forum, composed of six RIC students, to discuss “how the media has misdefined the generation of college students,” titled, “Generation X: The Forgotten Demographic.”

As producer/director of a local access cable show called “what, why and how the media has misdefined the ‘twentysomething’ generation,” titled “What’s News,” Monday, March 23, 1992, he hopes to fill the media “hole” and expose “this demographic population being neglected” to the masses.

Norton’s belief that the “twentysomething” generation has been forgotten runs deep. “College-age adults are the single most group that are ignored by political politicians and the national press,” he lamented. “They would rather consign them to a bad society than to explore their thoughts.”

He will tape the show, Monday, April 13, between 8:30 and 9:30 a.m. in Horace Mann, room 193. The College community is invited to attend and participate. A moderator will be walking through the audience encouraging people to speak out, Norton said.

The six RIC student-panelists are, Matthew Flynn, Robin Nadeau, Suzanne Miller, Jeff Fiedler, Philip Murtha and David Pridham. Norton said he has already received approval from Salve Regina University in Newport to tape a show next semester and says that Brown University is also interested.

“There are some brilliant young college students around,” he says. “My hope is that this first show at RIC is the start of a national forum for college students.”

Norton said he will approach the National Endowment for the Humanities and find corporate funding to travel to colleges and universities to promote the concept.

Art teachers display their work

Rhode Island Art Teachers Association, whose members teach art in both public and private schools, had an exhibit of members’ work at the Rhode Island School of Design this month.

Comprised of about 50 pieces done in a range of different media, the exhibit marked the fifth time that the association’s annual show has been hosted at the RISD art museum.

Members of the association serve on state and local committees in an effort to further the growth of art education programs in Rhode Island schools, and sponsor various art activities including scholastic art awards, Youth Art Month and the Rhode Island Distinguished Merit Program.

American Theatre Festival cites Perry

Elaine F. Perry, an associate professor of theatre at Rhode Island College, has been cited by the American College Theatre Festival for her continued excellence in ACTF activities.

Perry, the New England chairperson of ACTF, an organization with which she has been involved since 1978, was presented the Kennedy Center Medalion in recognition of her “Contribution to theatre in New England” in ceremonies Saturday, Feb. 29, at this year’s festival site at Fairfield University in Connecticut.

Festival XXIV ran from Feb. 27 to March 1.

Perry said four RIC theatre students competed for the Irene Ryan acting scholarship and one of those made the finals with 15 others from around the country. She is Marilyn Brown, a candidate from RIC show last spring. Brown graduated last spring.

Through the years, RIC has had a number of regional winners in the theatre festivals and two individual national winners, one for costume design and one Irene Ryan scholarship for acting. In addition, the College has had two of its productions re-mounted for presentation to a national audience at the Kennedy Center, The Robber Bridegroom and a students-written play, Mind Binder.

ELAINE F. PERRY

Perry has been involved in every aspect of ACTF activities, having served as vice chair, chair, three years prior to becoming chairperson. She has adjudicated theatre productions in all six New England states and run adjudication workshops as well.

Perry resides in Cranston with her husband, Dr. Eugene Perry, RIC professor emeritus in political science.