College Honors Program grows, enhances quality of education

by Cynthia DeMalo

Conventional wisdom in New England, the region where the first private colleges were founded, says that unless a student attends a private college or goes to school out of state, he or she will get a second-rate education, says Spencer Hall, director of the Rhode Island College (RIC) College Honors Program. "This belief is particularly strong in Rhode Island among upper middle class families or those with students of strong academic ability," Hall says. He goes on to say that this is simply not the case, part of the evidence being the school's College Honors Program.

Meeting the needs of top students

Hall notes that there is a broad consensus among educators today that colleges have a responsibility to their brightest students. "Oceans and vice presidents around the country agree that any college lacking an honors program is at a disadvantage." He says this recognition is a change from the thinking in the 1960s. Grappling with charges of "elitism," educators in that period redirected money and resources to students needing remedial training, neglecting the needs of top students. Thinking has evolved since then, and educators now try to help students at both ends of the academic spectrum. As a result, "most high schools and colleges have instituted honors programs over the past 10 to 15 years," Hall notes. He speculates that these programs not only benefit students, they may ultimately help society as well. "The fate of the country may depend on these students. The things done by these students could keep us afloat or not," Hall said.

Comments from students, guidance counselors, and parents, indicate that the word has gotten around about RIC's College Honors Program. The enrollment has grown from 15 students in its first year of operation (1983) to 270 this year. Hall notes that the College Honors Committee reviewed 170 applications this year and from them selected 50 to 60 students, the most the program can handle at this point.

RIC's College Honors Program

The Honors Committee targets graduating high school students who are at the top 10 percent of their class and have strong SAT scores (generally over 1,050). However, the program is open to all students and those transferring to RIC from other schools. Any student with a grade-point average of 3.2 after completing his first semester at RIC can apply to the program.

The scholastic quality of the candidates has risen in recent years. Hall says, "Four or five years ago it was rare to see an SAT score of 1,200. Now we are seeing scores in the range of 1,200, 1,300, and 1,400. We looked at one SAT score of 1,540 recently." The Honors Program director credits the downturn in the economy for much of the increase in quality applications.

"Economic conditions are such now that a student who five years ago might have thought about going to a private school such as Bates or Boston University couldn't do it, even with financial help. More students have to stay in state."

The presence of students with strong academic abilities enriches the overall student body by providing diversity, much in the same way the presence of minority students contributes to diversity, Hall says. "We often overlook the fact that enrichment includes people from the upper ranges of academic performance."

In addition to enhancing school life for students of all abilities, the Honors Program is an important recruitment and retention tool for RIC.

The girl from Bogota graduates

Nearly sweeps math-science honors at RIC

by George LaTour

The 22-year-old daughter of Maria (Gomez) Heroux and stepfather, Ralph Heroux, stands on the brink of a promise-filled future. When she left the low economic strata of Bogota, Colombia, "I'd like to teach at a school where I can do research," Gomez says of her potential career. "I'll live where I can find a job," she says modestly. "I guess it depends on that," although I really don't like big cities," she confides.

Living in a suburb of Bogota, the capital city situated high in the Andes with free English, "I'd like to teach at a school..."

She came alone to America at the tender age of 9 from a suburb of the mean streets of Bogota, Colombia. When she left, she carried with her only the knowledge of her native language (Spanish) and of the love of a mother who waited anxiously for her in Rhode Island.

Today, this very bright, utterly delightful and obviously much-loved daughter of Maria (Gomez) Heroux and stepfather, Ralph Heroux, stands on the brink of a promise-filled future. Maria A. Gomez of East Providence graduates May 23 from Rhode Island College with, perhaps, as many academic honors as has ever been accorded a graduate in the 138-year history of the College.

The girl from Bogota graduates —

Nearly sweeps math-science honors at RIC

by George LaTour

The 22-year-old daughter of Maria (Gomez) Heroux and stepfather, Ralph Heroux, stands on the brink of a promise-filled future. When she left the low economic strata of Bogota, Colombia, "I'd like to teach at a school where I can do research," Gomez says of her potential career. "I'll live where I can find a job," she says modestly. "I guess it depends on that," although I really don't like big cities," she confides.

Living in a suburb of Bogota, the capital city situated high in the Andes with free English, "I'd like to teach at a school..."
Focus on the Faculty and Staff

more constructive linkage, clarify their key success opportunities and continuously evaluate their level of productivity, quality and customer service. The seminar was devoted to accomplishing this through a new value-adding approach and was conducted by Jac Fritz-ent, president of the Saratoga Institute, a well-published world authority on the design and implementation of staff strategic management and measuring systems.

Sundberg said he earned that human resources departments must rediscover their purpose, reconnect with their clients in a more constructive linkage, clarify their key success opportunities and continuously evaluate their level of productivity, quality and customer service. The seminar was devoted to accomplishing this through a new value-adding approach and was conducted by Jac Fritz-ent, president of the Saratoga Institute, a well-published world authority on the design and implementation of staff strategic management and measuring systems.

Shape Lab, a new exhibit developed by the Children's Museum of Pawtucket and the Excellence in Teaching Network's (EVEN) Project at Rhode Island College headed by Vivian R. Morgan, as associate professor of mathematics, opened at the Museum recently. It was designed to be a hands-on geometry lab and was funded by an Eisenhower Higher Education Grant.

Victor L. Profughi, professor of political science, was the keynote speaker at Providence Country Day School's annual Cum Laude Society evening lecture. Profughi spoke on "Complications in the Nomination Process, Implications for November" at the event which has held for the Cum Laude Society's new inductees, current members and faculty. Profughi has been an election analyst, has worked for Alpha Research Associates developing election polls and is head of the summer program of the Taft Institute for Politics.


Lenore DeLucia named vice president for administration and finance at RIC

Lenore A. DeLucia of Jamestown has been named vice president for administration and finance at Rhode Island College, it was announced by President John Nazarian.

DeLucia had served in that position on an interim basis since the appointment of Nazarian as president. Nazarian had held the vice president's position prior to being named president. Prior to her interim appointment, DeLucia served the College as director of institutional research and planning since 1979. DeLucia came to the College in 1982 as an assistant professor of psychology while working on her Ph.D. at Brown University. She had graduated from Pembroke College and received her master's from Brown in 1961; her Ph.D. in 1963.

She rose to the rank of professor in 1969 and still holds that academic rank. In 1972, she became the associate dean of educational studies, and a year later was named acting vice president for academic affairs. She was later acting dean of educational studies and then head of institutional research and planning.

DeLucia has done extensive educational writing and consultation, holds membership in numerous professional organizations, including the American Psychological Association and the Association for Institutional Research, and has been heavily involved in the life of the community and College.

1992 Alumni Fund Kicks-Off

Tuesday, May 26, will be the first night of a series of phon-a-thons planned by Kristen A. Jalbert, assistant director of development for annual giving, to kick off the 1992 Rhode Island College Alumni Fund.

According to Jalbert, last year's record-breaking $100,000 has spurred the College to set an ambitious $120,000 total for 1992. Patricia Ross Maciel, Class of 1961, is honorary chairperson for this year's drive, which will continue throughout the calendar year.

A DECADE OF SETTLEMENT IN R.I. is the topic as faculty from the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, the RIC Asian Student Association and the Asian Pacific Celebration Committee meet with leaders of the Socio-Economic Development Center for Southeast Asian Community Health and Healing and are (from left) Chhohn Sip of the SEDC, Dean Richard Weiner, history professor Tony Teng and Cambodian student John Chen. (Submitted Photo)
College Shorts

' Shaping Math' workshop scheduled for May 22

The Excellence in Teaching Mathematics Project, directed by Vivian R. Morgan, Rhode Island College associate professor of mathematics and computer science, will sponsor a one-day workshop Friday, May 22 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the College.

" Shaping Math," an intensive seminar designed to enhance the teaching of geometry in the primary grades, will concentrate on providing information, constructing and connecting concepts.

Assisting Morgan will be Gertrude Trudel, associate professor of elementary education; Prof. Rose Merenda of the Henry Barnard School, and Ann Seising, an elementary education graduate student.

For further information, call Morgan at 456-8038.

RIC Debate Council’s Phil Murtha —
Wins national speech competition at MIT

by George LaTour

The next time you get engaged in a verbal combat with that friend of yours who always seems to delight in drawing you into an argument — be forgiving.

He or she could be in training for a debating team.

You never know.

Take Phil Murtha of Pawtucket, for instance.

When growing up, and particularly as a student in that city’s Tolman High School, he admits to having engaged in "a lot of arguing" which often started out merely as discussion, as most arguments do.

Even then, however, Murtha was in training for a debating team.

But in training he was, and it paid off on the floor of this debate.

The Rhode Island College Debate Council member won the National Debate Championship speech competition at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), beating some fierce competitors from MIT, Harvard, Yale and other similar nationally ranked colleges and universities.

And, adding insult to the injury to the Ivy League egos: Murtha and his debate-team partner, David Fridman of Providence, a sophomore, nearly beat the current national team champs in debating from Harvard University.

Harvard only managed to speak by the RIC Duo, 51 to 50.

You can almost hear them now: "Whewee! Please don’t invite those RIC people here anymore. They’re too argumentative!"

45 colleges debate

Some 145 teams from 45 colleges and universities participated in the event which was held Friday through Sunday, April 24-26, before an enthusiastic audience of more than 200.

Murtha’s topic — which he had to explore extemporaneously — was the concept of diplomacy at the United Nations. One of the requirements was that the speech be light in nature and entertaining opposed to the Oxford-style of parliamentary debate called "off debating" wherein no holds are barred.

Another RIC debater by the name of Phil (Phil Sison) in April of 1992 had earned the off-handed praise of Time magazine, no less, as that "too earnest competitor from Rhode Island College" when in the rancorous-style of "off-topic" debate at Princeton that year he termed his opponent an "economical fool.

Phil, RIC Debate Council coach Audry Olstred, a Ph.D. assistant professor of communications, reminds us that Sison was considered that year’s national overall best debater on the basis of his competitive record of wins and losses.

Murtha, that is — told What’s News after his recent victory, which represented the first time that a member of the RIC Debate Council has taken the national championship in the speech category, that he’s "always liked speaking and engaging in argument."

So, his formal speaking/debating for RIC he sees as "a natural extension" of his high-school activities.

And, it should help in developing an effective career as a lawyer which he plans to be someday.

In the meantime, he’s planning to take a stab at local politics this summer with a run for the state Senate or House of Representatives.

With a group of supporters, Murtha says, "We’ll run it up the flagpole and if anyone salaries, we’re on!"

Practical application

He’s doing this, he admits, "for its practical application" value. Along with his mastery of formal speech making and debate, the experience of running for political office should stand him in good stead for the legal profession.

But, just to be sure he’s covering all the bases (as any good speaker/debater must), Phil Murtha, a philosophy major, a junior at RIC, have published, and are continuing to publish, their own newspaper, The Examined Life, which they are hand-delivering to the campuses of Brown University, neighboring Providence College and, of course, RIC.

Describing the publication as "quote, unquote" of ingredients, Murtha explains that it focuses on political issues and civil rights, but also gets into philosophical discussion as well.

"We may take a little too heavily on this," he admits, saying he finds that philosophical writing can be a little boring to read at times.

He and friend Vickers use a Packard Bell 486 computer to write their stories. Then, they paste them by hand to page layouts and make their own copies as "cheaply as possible, because we’re not flush right now."

As you may have suspected, Murtha, also a sophomore, is a dean’s list student with a double major of philosophy and communications and minor studies in economics. In addition to his participation in the RIC Debate Council, he serves on RIC’s Student Community Government board and stays in shape physically by various sports activities, none of the organized variety, however.

"I just don’t have the time," he says.

Getting ready to take his leave of his interviewer the other day, Phil Murtha inquired about the possibilities of a career in journalism. It was something he’d like to "discuss," he said.

"Oh, no you don’t, Phil!"

Personal perspectives offered on
The Disintegration of the Soviet Union

Speakers include son of former Soviet premier

President John Nazarian recently announced the names of faculty who have received promotions and gained tenure. They are:

To the rank of professor: Louis Alfonsi, educational leadership, foundations and technology; Margaret Hainsworth, nursing department; Mary Ball Howkins, art department; Elaine Magyar, physical sciences department; Judith Mitchell, English department; Carl Stenberg, English department.

To the rank of associate professor: Dorothy Bianco, psychology department; Edward McDowell (1993), educational leadership, foundations and technology; Maureen Reddy, English department; James Schaefer, math and computer science department; Claudia Springer, English department.

Faculty members who have been granted tenure: Stephen Brown (1993), English department; Willis Holland (1993), educational leadership, foundations and technology; Maureen Reddy, English department; James Schaefer, math and computer science department; Carolyn Pendek (1992) educational leadership, foundations and technology; Carmela Rath (1993) Henry Barnard School.

Upward Bound invites you to its ‘92 commencement

President John Nazarian and the staff, faculty and students in Rhode Island College’s Upward Bound program invite you to attend the program’s commencement exercises on Tuesday, June 9, beginning at 7:30 p.m. in Gage Hall auditorium on the RIC campus.

National Speech Champion

Phil Murtha of Pawtucket, a sophomore member of the RIC Debate Council, displays his winning silver platter, which will be engraved. (What’s News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)
San Francisco bound...

Tim Robertson answers 'the call from the west'

by Clare Eckert

Timothy "Tim" S. Robertson, 24, will head to the west coast shortly after graduating from Rhode Island College on May 23 with a degree in theater to find fame and fortune.

Relocating to San Francisco is not unusual for a RIC theater grad. But for Robertson, who has only held "one day job" since high school, it's a "make or break" move as far as his work history goes.

"I tried once at getting a real job," he said. "I lasted one day and I quit." he said jokingly. "My family calls it my day job.

Actually, Robertson, who spent that "day job" as a busboy for a Ponderosa restaurant, has worked hard at developing his special talents of piano-playing, acting and arts management - for money or pleasure - since he was five-years old.

Better known to the RIC arts community as the rehearsal and performance pianist for the College's stage productions and cabarets, and as the Performing Arts Series Director John Custer's "right hand" for the past six years, Robertson began his professional career in Roberts Hall Auditorium as a sophomore student.

His first RIC production was in the spring of 1989 when the College staged the musical "Kiss Me Kate." Robert W. Elam, chair of the music department, was the conductor for the play and asked Robertson to work with him as assistant music director.

"It was a great opportunity for me," Robertson said, adding that he was already familiar with RIC and the campus because occasionally he would visit his mother - Arlene R. Robertson, who worked for the College throughout her youth. (She is currently the Department of English's secretary.)

TIM ROBERTSON

Two years after his first professional appearance at RIC and after graduating from Cumberland High School in 1986, Robertson enrolled as a freshman studying for a degree in music performance.

Two years later, this refreshing young man found he "wasn't into the academic thing" and left "to try working." Robertson took a job at Trinity Repertory Company as assistant house manager.

"I took care of the audiences, box office, subscriptions and marketing," he said. It was great experience for the budding young actor, who hadn't yet tested his stage presence, but unconsciously was moving in that direction.

In 1990, Robertson returned to RIC, enrolling as a theater major. "I was more focused, older, wiser and more experienced," he said. It was during the spring of that year, as auditions began for the College's production of Mame, that Robertson "thought a change of pace" from the musical pit to the stage would be new and exciting.

Although his intention was to "try and get into the chorus," Robertson's tenor voice and ability earned him the male lead role of the board.

Playing the piano has been his "bread and butter" for years, having played at weddings, private parties in the country, and he said, "performing on stage was a lot more enjoyable because it was new and more challenging." He did get into the chorus during the College's 1991 stage production of Pep.

All in all, Robertson has been the pianist for nine of RIC's plays and has been on stage for two. He also has worked with theater professor Raymond L. Piccozzi on summer cabarets and will collaborate with Piccozzi on this summer's show before he leaves for the coast.

Robertson enjoys the freedom of organizing a cabaret and especially likes the "idea of working on musicals because you get to pick your own favorites.

His favorite music comes from Gertrudise and Cole Porter, Judy Garland and Gene Kelly movies, "or anything from Hollywood with singing and dancing. I was born 40 years too late!"

The 24-year-old is a delightful person, with a wonderful sense of humor who has learned through his education at RIC and his work experience on the piano or on stage or behind the scenes that what he has worked so long and so hard at for 19 years will never be wasted.

"It's a crazy life... (the theater)... lots of hard work... but I wouldn't want it any other way," Robertson said. "Sometimes you used to work at a desk in a tie and jacket is definitely not for this young man. Anyway, he says, "I only own one suit!"

Justice Studies award winner, aims for public service career

by George LaTour

This graduating college senior was involved in a move to stop legalized sports betting before the recent incidents occurred involving Rhode Island students allegedly taking and making bets on athletic contests.

For this and for his work on behalf of the Governor's Justice Commission and other activities supporting his community involvement and interest in the legal field, Cranston's Kevin J. Burke has been named the Mary Ann Hawkes Award in Justice Studies winner at Rhode Island College this year.

The award honors the work and career of Professor Emerita Mary Ann Hawkes of Newborn, Mass. This is the second annual award.

When his name was called and his academic average read at RIC's May 6 Cap and Gown Convocation, at which outstanding members of the graduating class are honored, ooohs and ahhhs were heard.

The older-than-average age student, who returned to continue his education some 10 years after his graduation from Cranston East High School, had earned a 3.8 (out of a possible 4.0) cumulative average in his major.

Recognized by faculty as "a superior student" and by professionals in the community for his efforts in formulating policy initiatives at the Governor's Justice Commission, Burke says he hopes now to qualify for a position with that group.

The commission is a federally funded unit which distributes these funds to various criminal justice groups in the state, such as the state police for its drug enforcement efforts, and the DARE Operation Weed and Seed program, relates Burke.

"It's difficult to say what's down the road for me. It's a tough job market out there, but definitely something in public service," assures Burke.

KEVIN BURKE

Go to college

The son of Ida and the late Harold Burke, who died when Kevin was 18, he served in the military for a time after high school, traveling to Europe three times as an enlisted man in the Air Force.

Then, he decided to go to college. "The justice-studies major was what drew me to RIC," he says, adding that he's glad of that decision. "The level of professionalism and caring among the people in the sociology department is incredible," he attests.

"A great deal of credit should go to them," feels Burke.

While a student intern with Strategy Corp., says Burke, he got to work with Lee Gorman of the Boston Red Sox on behalf of the Rhode Island/Massachusetts Coalition Against State Sponsored Sports Gambling.

Massachusetts, he says, had proposed allowing sports betting, but "sports figures, law enforcement people, religious groups...were all against it. This was particularly relevant because it was before the recent gambling problems with students." Burke says the issue has yet to be resolved.

Among his other community-based interests was his creation of a substance-abuse proposal for the National Education Association and policies and planning "particularly in regard to alternatives."

Burke doesn't hesitate to speak out on justice issues, either. A second of his letters to the editor addressing the various needs of justice in the community have been printed in newspapers throughout the state.

There does seem to be a need out there for justice; for people who are concerned with it, and for those like Kevin Burke who is interested in bringing it about. A very big need!
HONORS

The Honors Students

Because of small class size, students in the Honors Program get a chance to get to know others who they might otherwise not meet because of differing majors, Hall says. Math majors associate with theater majors, science majors with education majors.

Maria Gomez, a soft-spoken senior who is graduating with a triple major in math, chemistry and physics, says she enjoyed the less structured format of honors classes that included more discussion than lecture. “You heard other people’s point of view and it forced you to say something about class,” she noted. That tests were different, too. “There were more essay questions. You weren’t required to do certain things as much as think about how events tied together.”

Maria’s senior project was a laboratory investigation of the acidbase properties of one material as it absorbs light of certain energies.

purHe was a laboratory study of the compound rutheinum trihydroxide. This material is a photosensitizing agent in systems which generate electricity. Maria studied the acid base properties of this material as it absorbs light of certain energies.

pursue a Ph.D. at Brown and hopes to teach and do research when she completes school.

While at Brown, Maria will work with Jim Dill on theoretical/chemical physics. Maria has already done research with him and a paper she co-authored is scheduled to be published in the Journal of Chemical Physics this year.

Honors classes are kept small and are conducted in a seminar format. They are innovative in content and emphasize class discussion.

HONORS PROGRAM STUDENTS at the President’s House May 1 for a reception with President John Nazarian (front center) are (standing from left) Doug Obney, Michael Gianfrancesco, Kristine Filippini, Elizabeth Reilly, Kristina Amilewicz, Alexandra Harrington, Michelle Gordon, Colette Richards, Colette Cote and Bobby Bina; (seated from left) Tracy Kraus, Maria Gomez, Terrence Shea, Spencer Hall, program director, and Robin Mercier.

As director, Terry worked with his staff to discuss and come to agreement on the play’s message. Then every technical aspect of the play, from the costumes to the lighting, was turned over to the students.

The College Honors Program consists of two parts: general education honors and the senior project. A student may take the general education honors by itself, earning a general education honors designation on his or her transcript. But to receive the “College Honors” designation, the student must complete both parts.

All students at RIC take a freshman composition course and I2 general education courses. These courses encompass the traditional liberal arts disciplines. Honors students take at least eight of the 12 courses in the honors sections. Honors classes are kept small and are conducted in a seminar format. They are innovative in content and emphasize class discussion.

The senior project involves one year of directed study using six credits during the senior year. The student works independently with a faculty advisor on a topic of his or her choice.

Tracy Kraus, originally from West Warwick, came to RIC because of its Honors Program. This energetic, upbeat student told RIC tried to recruit her as a high school senior, but she went to Providence College (PC) for her freshman year. Tracy says she reconsidered RIC, however, and transferred in her sophomore year. While PC has an honors program, she described it as “more history-based” and said she prefers the program at RIC.

A math major with a concentration in secondary education, Tracy chose to write a six-week lesson plan for 10th grade geometry for her senior project. Her research included interviews with RIC faculty, school observations and surveys of high school students.

A math major with a concentration in secondary education, Tracy chose to write a six-week lesson plan for 10th grade geometry for her senior project. Her research included interviews with RIC faculty, school observations and surveys of high school students.

In talking with students, Tracy asked them what they like about geometry, what they don’t like, and what they would change. She said she was surprised at the society and a lack of passion in people. "I’m the new god," Terry says. Equus is saying a lack of religious expression ultimately takes its toll. "People have passion in them, they have to let it go," he says.

As director, Terry worked with his staff to discuss and come to agreement on the play’s message. Then every technical aspect of the play, from the costumes to the lighting, was turned over to the students.

The villainous judge in RIC’s production of Sweeney Todd, Terry Shea, says he would recommend the honors program to everyone. “Even if you weren’t in the advanced placement classes in high school, if you want to learn, honors is the way to go.”

This theater performance major chose to direct the play Equus for his senior project. In the first semester of his project, Terry researched the life of Peter Shaffer (the playwright), reading many of his plays, and reading critiques of the play and various interpretations. He also visited Bradley Hospital to learn about childhood mental illness.

He then directed the play, which ran in Roberts Hall auditorium last October. Terry’s preparation research led him to believe the story is as much about the self-awakening of a psychiatrist as it is about the agony of a boy who blinds seven horses. At the heart of the play is the message that there is a lack of worship in society, to the way the lines were delivered, reflected this vision.

Terry says he chose Equus because it is rich in symbolism. He added that it is “full of good parts so it’s a natural attraction for actors.”

A D.J. for the campus radio station, Terry is moving to San Diego after graduation. There he hopes to work in film, television and theater. He plans to go to the University of California in the Fall of 1993.

Because there is an honors program here, parents and students recognize the school’s commitment to academic excellence.”
Cap 'n Gown 1992

'One Moment in Time'

In the 1992 Cap and Gown Convocation Mar 6, which marked the beginning of spring commencement activities at Rhode Island College, one of the speakers asked three groups to stand.

Professor of Elementary Education Janet J. Breen called for all those graduating seniors who had been involved in volunteer work while students. A large number of students, dressed for the first time in their academic regalia, stood.

Next, Breen asked all those who have been raising families while students to stand. A large number of students, dressed for the first time in their academic regalia, stood.

At that point, virtually the entire graduating class was standing in Roberts Hall auditorium.

"This represents what Rhode Island College is all about," said Breen as applause broke out from family, friends, fellow students, College administrative officials, faculty and staff.

It was a perfect demonstration of some of the changes that have occurred over recent years—perhaps even a generation ago when most college students were fresh out of high school, lived with their parents and attended school full time without the worry or need of having to work for anything more than pin money—"Happy Days" (the hit TV sitcom) on the college level.

Speaking to the Class of '92, fellow senior John J. Campbell made RIC "one training ground...a place we'll always remember." He brought appreciative chuckles to the audience when he quoted President John Nastanian for "always being there, meeting with us, talking with us and even eating with us. How brave you are!"

Campbell recalled a song popular in 1958: "when most of us were freshmen...called 'One Moment in Time.'" He said, "He called for all those graduating seniors to stand.

Nastanian led the formal cap-and-gown presentation.

John J. Salvesen, vice president for academic affairs, with the assistance of department chairpersons, presented the departmental awards for excellence. Gary M. Pofahl, vice president for student affairs, introduced the students recently named to "Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges..." The class gift—a check for $2,000—was presented to President Nastanian by Allan W. Fung, class treasurer.

A reception, hosted by President Nastanian, followed on the lawn outside of Roberts Hall.

Photos by Gordon E. Rawley

Text by George LaTour

AFTER RECEIVING THE EMMAN AWARD (far left) for outstanding achievement, Tracy Kraus hands President Nastanian her "resignation" in mock fashion, the president, who is also the College's senior math professor, had challenged Tracy to solve a problem involving probability and jokingly threatened not to sign her diploma until she found the answer. Moments later (second from left), Tracy, in her seat behind the award winners in this year's senior class. Their names and awards (all left to right): Ist row—Christine Faris, Bachelor of Social Work Community Services; Rachel Leeman, Lauric B. Klimas Award in Sociology; Seoud Meghraoui, Jean F. Packard Social Work Practice; Heather Duraiswamy, New England United Methodist Memorial Immunochemicals and Histology; Susan Peabody, RN; Jillian Stimac, RIC Theatre; Martha Dube, Nursing Faculty, undergraduate award; Dina Bredicau, Nursing Faculty (undergraduate award); Jacquelyn Potter, Nursing Faculty (undergraduate award); Maureen Finocchio, Rehabilitation; Traci Hayton, RIC Theatre; Paul Frank, Nelson A. Gurnett Munional Award (History); Mattie Martini, RIC Theatre; Tracy Kraus, Bertha Christina Andrews Eman Award for Outstanding Achievement (by RIC Foundation). Not pictured are Kimberly Donahue, John H. Chace Award (political science co-winner); Diane Turner, Psychology Faculty Senior; Elena Pagliarini, Leonelli Family Memorial Award. Not pictured are Kimberly Donahue, John H. Chace Award (political science co-winner); Diane Turner, Psychology Faculty Senior; Elena Pagliarini, Leonelli Family Memorial Award.
WINNERS of this year's Rita V. Bicho Memorial scholarships have been announced by the Rhode Island College music department. Jason Rivard of North Dighton, Mass., a junior; Diana McVey of Greenville, a music education senior; and Maria Gallo of West Warwick, a music education junior, are the winners of the Rita V. Bicho Memorial Scholarship. Announcement of their selection was made at the 14th annual Bicho Concert in Roberts Hall auditorium May 4. Each received $500 from the Bicho Fund which is housed in the RIC Foundation. The scholarships honor the late Rita V. Bicho, who retired from the College's music department in 1979 after serving with distinction on the faculty for 30 years.

MEMORIAL music scholarships awarded

Winner of the Louis Appleton Memorial Scholarship is Stephen DeCesare of Johnston, a senior majoring in music-in-performance. His award is $250. The award recipient must be a music major in keyboard or voice, a sophomore or junior currently active in church music as a performer or director. This scholarship, in honor of the late Louis Appleton, who graduated in 1974 and died in 1983, also was presented at the Festival of New American Music on May 1.

Her mother knew. There was little chance for any kind of a future for her daughter in Colombia. 

"College in Colombia is "very expensive!" and is "for the wealthy people only," says Gomez. "If you're poor there, you just stop going to school. And, without a degree, you can't get a good job. There are a lot more opportunities here, especially educational opportunities... with different groups trying to help you get an education." 

She cites one of them as an example, the National Hispanic Scholarship Fund, which provided her with some assistance.

"My father was really excited. He joked that now 'We won't have to support you anymore!'"

When she came to RIC, she did so on full scholarship for four years in the College's Honors Program, which is reserved for the best and brightest. That, she says, was a "great help" to her parents.

When she first arrived in Providence "Mom babysat (to earn money) and stayed with different families," relates Gomez, who seems so proud of her mother and so appreciative of her mother's efforts to not merely survive, but to live, and to make sure her only child knew the difference.

Being an only child, says Gomez, might help explain her academic success.

"Maybe because of that, they (her mother and stepfather, a Rhode Islander whom Maria's mother married sometime after her daughter's arrival in Rhode Island) had a lot of time to help me out with school stuff."

"I always liked math and then when I saw how they (math and science) related, I got to like science," she explains.

She could have attended a school with special programs for Spanish-speaking students, but Gomez says her parents wanted her to go to a school in Rhode Island where only English was spoken, so she would have to learn it.

"It was really hard at first," she'll tell you, but worth it in the long run. For starters, it helped immensely when she attended Classical High School in Providence and then East Providence High where she graduated third in her class.

"We really excited. He joked that now 'We won't have to support you anymore!'"

When she came to RIC, she did so on full scholarship for four years in the College's Honors Program, which is reserved for the best and brightest. That, she says, was a "great help" to her parents.

And, when she learned of her full scholarship (plus a stipend for living expenses) for advanced studies at Brown, she says, laughing softly, "My father was REALLY excited. He joked that now 'We won't have to support you anymore!'"

"I always liked math and then when I saw how they (math and science) related, I got to like science," she explains.

She could have attended a school with special programs for Spanish-speaking students, but Gomez says her parents wanted her to go to a school in Rhode Island where only English was spoken, so she would have to learn it.

"It was really hard at first," she'll tell you, but worth it in the long run. For starters, it helped immensely when she attended Classical High School in Providence and then East Providence High where she graduated third in her class.

"My father was really excited. He joked that now 'We won’t have to support you anymore!'"

When she came to RIC, she did so on full scholarship for four years in the College’s Honors Program, which is reserved for the best and brightest. That, she says, was a “great help” to her parents.

And, when she learned of her full scholarship (plus a stipend for living expenses) for advanced studies at Brown, she says, laughing softly, “My father was REALLY excited. He joked that now ‘We won’t have to support you anymore!’”

“Always liked math and then when I saw how they (math and science) related, I got to like science,” she explains.

She could have attended a school with special programs for Spanish-speaking students, but Gomez says her parents wanted her to go to a school in Rhode Island where only English was spoken, so she would have to learn it.

“It was really hard at first,” she’ll tell you, but worth it in the long run. For starters, it helped immensely when she attended Classical High School in Providence and then East Providence High where she graduated third in her class.

“My father was really excited. He joked that now ‘We won’t have to support you anymore!’”

“I always liked math and then when I saw how they (math and science) related, I got to like science,” she explains.

She could have attended a school with special programs for Spanish-speaking students, but Gomez says her parents wanted her to go to a school in Rhode Island where only English was spoken, so she would have to learn it.

“It was really hard at first,” she’ll tell you, but worth it in the long run. For starters, it helped immensely when she attended Classical High School in Providence and then East Providence High where she graduated third in her class.

“My father was really excited. He joked that now ‘We won’t have to support you anymore!’”

“I always liked math and then when I saw how they (math and science) related, I got to like science,” she explains.

She could have attended a school with special programs for Spanish-speaking students, but Gomez says her parents wanted her to go to a school in Rhode Island where only English was spoken, so she would have to learn it.

“It was really hard at first,” she’ll tell you, but worth it in the long run. For starters, it helped immensely when she attended Classical High School in Providence and then East Providence High where she graduated third in her class.

“My father was really excited. He joked that now ‘We won’t have to support you anymore!’”

“I always liked math and then when I saw how they (math and science) related, I got to like science,” she explains.

She could have attended a school with special programs for Spanish-speaking students, but Gomez says her parents wanted her to go to a school in Rhode Island where only English was spoken, so she would have to learn it.

“It was really hard at first,” she’ll tell you, but worth it in the long run. For starters, it helped immensely when she attended Classical High School in Providence and then East Providence High where she graduated third in her class.

“My father was really excited. He joked that now ‘We won’t have to support you anymore!’”

“I always liked math and then when I saw how they (math and science) related, I got to like science,” she explains.

She could have attended a school with special programs for Spanish-speaking students, but Gomez says her parents wanted her to go to a school in Rhode Island where only English was spoken, so she would have to learn it.

“It was really hard at first,” she’ll tell you, but worth it in the long run. For starters, it helped immensely when she attended Classical High School in Providence and then East Providence High where she graduated third in her class.

“My father was really excited. He joked that now ‘We won’t have to support you anymore!’”

“I always liked math and then when I saw how they (math and science) related, I got to like science,” she explains.

She could have attended a school with special programs for Spanish-speaking students, but Gomez says her parents wanted her to go to a school in Rhode Island where only English was spoken, so she would have to learn it.

“It was really hard at first,” she’ll tell you, but worth it in the long run. For starters, it helped immensely when she attended Classical High School in Providence and then East Providence High where she graduated third in her class.

“My father was really excited. He joked that now ‘We won’t have to support you anymore!’”

“I always liked math and then when I saw how they (math and science) related, I got to like science,” she explains.
"Education is like youth, it's wasted on the young," jokes Michele O'Malley, who graduated magna cum laude this year with a bachelor of general studies. Currently the studio manager of Star Trak broadcast production facility in Cranston, Michele has had a fruitful yet rewarding educational career.

Michele, then Michele Passarelli, attended Rhode Island College (RIC) between 1971 and 1974, only to drop out at the end of her junior year and join a Top 40's rock band. She returned to RIC in 1978, going to school four days a week before marrying Jack O'Malley of Warwick in 1981. In 1984 she joined Star Trak, where she currently works full-time casing and booking talent for radio and television commercials and business videos.

Often in the limelight, Michele represented Rhode Island in the Miss America Beauty Pageant in 1972 during her sophomore year at RIC. "I got involved because of the scholarship money. I was singing in a club and the Pawtucket Jaycees approached me. They said they'd sponsor me for the Miss Pawtucket pageant," After capturing the Miss Pawtucket title, Michele went on to the state pageant. "Through some sort of accident I won that, too," she says.

Until that point, Michele says she hadn't realized that she would have to go on to the national contest. "I was overwhelmed," she says.

"I've gotten a better understanding of myself as a person." While Michele has enjoyed success in the social aspects of life, she says as she grew older she began to crave a deeper sense of accomplishment. "My whole life had been geared to appearances. I now look at myself as an intelligent, capable woman. My whole life had been geared to appearances. I was superficial occupations. As a band member you have to sound good and look good. No one in the audience cares about your mind. They don't care if you have problems. They want see and hear someone who's upbeat." Michele says.

Furthermore, several public appearances were open to Michele because of her association with the pageant. She participated in two USO tours in 1973 and 1974. The first in Europe, the second in Asia. She was also asked back to the pageant in 1976 as the featured performer during the national telecast of the ceremony. Michele now focuses her vocal abilities on commercial work. She sings jingles for commercials including "Look who's saving at Almac's," and the Chevy Center's "Get to the heart of it." She says like jazz singing or rock singing, there's an art to singing jingles. "You give the most you can in the short time you have."

"Education is like youth, it's wasted on the young." Michele O'Malley

"Through school, I've gotten a better understanding of myself as a person." Furthermore, several public appearances were open to Michele because of her association with the pageant. She participated in two USO tours in 1973 and 1974. The first in Europe, the second in Asia. She was also asked back to the pageant in 1976 as the featured performer during the national telecast of the ceremony. Michele now focuses her vocal abilities on commercial work. She sings jingles for commercials including "Look who's saving at Almac's," and the Chevy Center's "Get to the heart of it." She says like jazz singing or rock singing, there's an art to singing jingles. "You give the most you can in the short time you have."

Library science intrigues Michele because she enjoys research and detail work. She adds that library science is one of the last careers open to the generalist, someone who has an interest in a variety of fields.

Reflecting back at her experience at RIC, Michele says the school is the "premier educational product in the state of Rhode Island. Consumers, that is the students, should be aware that Rhode Island College is the best value for the money. RIC is the ultimate consumer product." Michele notes that she is the third woman in her family to be a RIC graduate. Her sister Lucretia graduated with a bachelor's degree in 1968 and her sister Dolores (now director of new student programs at RIC) received her bachelor's in 1974 and her master's degree in 1978.

As for education being misspent on the young, Michele says that, in general, older students seem to appreciate school more because they are paying for it themselves and they bring more experience to school. "I know there are a lot of younger students who work as well as go to school. But I would recommend to the 18-year-olds to take everything you can out of college. Go for the brass ring. Do the best you can because this is your job for the next four years."
Alums involved in 'How the Other Half Loves' in Pawtucket

Two Rhode Island College alumni are involved in the Community Players of Pawtucket end-of-season production of How the Other Half Loves, which runs June 19-28.

Sandy Boyer, Class of '72, is directing the show, while Lee Hakeem, Class of '70, is producing it. Boyer's involvement with theater began during her undergraduate days at RIC, where she performed under the direction of Elaine Perry and P. W. Hutchinson, '70, who is familiar to What's News readers for his accomplishments in the field of music composition.

Now, it is rare when Sandy is not working on a show in one capacity or another. She has appeared professionally in the venues of children's and dinner theater. Her roles have included those in light comedy, intense drama and musical theater productions. Since graduation, he has taught in the North Attleboro school system. An Air Force veteran, he has served in the Rhode Island National Guard for the past nine years.

If you are interested in seeing How the Other Half Loves, you may call 274-6227 for tickets.

Next issue of What's News is June 22

DEADLINE
is June 12 for all copy, photos, art work, etc.

Explore a new Career Pathway Review job opportunities TODAY...or TONIGHT

A L L È E
The Alumni Career Pathway for Employment Opportunities

a NEW Service from...

RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Put yourself in contact with leading companies that have immediate openings for experienced engineering, science, technical and management professionals from Rhode Island College.

You can discreetly sort and evaluate from among hundreds of local, national and international positions in Engineering, Science and Computer Science, as well as Technical Sales, Marketing and Management using your PC anytime, day or night. This ON-GOING, ON-LINE 24 hr. service is simple, confidential and FREE.

dial (908) 613-0500 through your modem (1200/2400 baud).

15 data bits, 1 stop, no parity, ANSI or VT100 Series emulation)

The Rhode Island College athletic program is $2,036.50 healthier, thanks to the generosity of the student body. Members of RIC Programming raised $1,036.50 at last month's Fund Run with over 140 runners participating in its second annual fundraiser. Also, a $1,000 check was presented to the athletic department from RIC's student governance. Pictured above is Michael Arpin of Providence, who took first place in the 18-35-year-old category.

Two to share Rose Butler Browne Award

Pamala J. Therrien, a sophomore, and Michael DiPina, a senior, are this year's co-winners of the Rose Butler Browne Award for their outstanding leadership in community affairs, announces Sharon Mayczek, selection committee chairperson.

Therrien, 35, who holds an associate of arts degree from the Community College of Rhode Island, was cited for her work-study at Dorcas Place in Providence where she demonstrated her commitment to improving the lives of others as an instructor of a class on independent living skills.

She is credited with having organized the curriculum and with having utilized creative ways to assist low-income single parents (predominately women) to improve their life skills and economic conditions. Therrien is a single parent of two daughters.

DiPina was cited for his work as a fulltime residential counselor for North American Family Institute since July 1991 whereby he prepared young men for independent living. "Michael has demonstrated a superior commitment to the residents through many hours of uncompensated time to assist residents with their educational and personal goals."

An English major, DiPina plans on obtaining a doctorate in clinical psychology. Therrien is working on a degree in secondary education with a concentration on general science, but says she is considering a social work career.

The award was established in 1976 by friends and admirers of Dr. Rose Butler Browne who earned her master's degree at Rhode Island College and, in 1939, became the first black woman to earn a doctoral degree in education from Harvard University. A crusader for black rights and author of the book Love My Children, she was awarded an honorary degree from RIC in 1950 and had a residence hall named for her in 1969. She died at age 89 in 1986.
Mike's job is to assist the pathologist during the autopsy.

He adds that the procedure does not interfere with burial plans as it usually does not take more than four hours. If performed in the morning, the deceased can be brought to a funeral home in the afternoon and a funeral can take place the next day. "We work quickly so not to inconvenience the family," Mike says. He notes that there is no change in the physical appearance of a person when the procedure is done correctly. "You could go to sleep and you'd never know who underwent an autopsy," Mike said.

While the morgue at Rhode Island Hospital generally handles older people, the medical examiner's office usually handles young adults. State law stipulates that persons who die violent deaths, such as car accidents, or from drug overdose, be sent to the medical examiner's office for an autopsy. Persons who die in a public place, such as drowning victims, and people who died in the hospital within 24 hours of being admitted are also sent there.

Mike's job is to assist the pathologist during the autopsy. "I do the laborer's age?'" he said. "I make sure the right ID tag is on the right person. I set the patient up, get the instruments ready, review the charts. From this information, I tell the doctor what we're facing: AIDS? Hepatitis? Old age?" From this experience Mike has learned to read medical charts and pick out key points to review with the physician. He also works in the laboratory preparing samples for study damaged tissue. After graduating from RIC in 1993 with a B.S. in biology, Mike plans to attend either medical school or physician's assistant school. He feels his current job has provided valuable hands-on experience. You can dissect a thousand cats and not learn as much about medical science as you can on this job," he assured.

Clues from the deceased give help to the living

by Cynthia DeMaio

One junior at Rhode Island College has an unusual full-time job which he calls a "golden opportunity" for students in the health care field. Mike Mazzaotta of Johnston is an autopsy technician at the morgue in Rhode Island Hospital.

Mike applied for the job four years ago after seeing a posting in the Fogarty Life Science Building. Although autopsies may seem gruesome to the lay person, Mike says the findings that come out of them often advance medical knowledge.

"We work on the deceased patient to help the living," Mike says. He notes that the word "autopsy" is Greek for "seeing with one's own eyes." For example, physicians at Rhode Island Hospital are currently studying a rare congenital heart disease which strikes young children. The doctors hope this research will help other physicians recognize the symptoms of the disease and treat children before it's too late.

Most autopsies performed at the hospital are on persons 65 years old or older, Mike says. Generally, they are done at the request of the family and are used to determine the cause of death. "The information provides peace of mind to the family," Mike says.

Mike Mazzaotta
P. Thomas elected president of Visiting Nurses

Patricia A. Thomas of Providence, an assistant professor of nursing at Rhode Island College, has been elected to a second, one-year term as president of the board of directors of the Kent County Visiting Nurse Association, it was recently announced.

Thomas is a registered nurse who holds a Ph.D. Others from RIC elected to the board are Jules Cohen of the economics and management department; Dolores Ami­trano of the nursing department, and part­time nursing faculty member Richard Perreira.

Anne E. S. Cary of the nursing depart­ment was appointed to serve on the association’s professional advisory committee.

The association has been serving the community since 1908. It is a Medicare­certified home­health agency accredited by the National League for Nursing.

Last year, its staff made nearly 37,000 visits, an increase of 21 percent over the previous year.

PAULA ADREGA, social science major at RIC, has been selected to serve as a Program Intern during Presidential Classroom’s 1992 Summer Session of the Senior High School Program. She will spend a week in Washington in June. Andrega plans to graduate in May 1993.

Magaziner addresses faculty in economics/management at retreat

Faculty in the economics and manage­ment department held an off-campus re­­treat on August 24 at which IRA Magaziner, as guest speaker, addressed "Most developed countries spend a higher percentage of their GNPs on research and development relative to the United States," he said.

Whereas, we are currently spending around three hundred million on com­­merical R&D, Magaziner suggests we should be spending about 10 billion annu­­ally.

Magaziner’s third recommendation in­­volves a re­­winding of our infrastructure and investment in our own economy. To accomplish this, he said, we must make a transition from military to commercial in­­vestment. There will be four keys to the accomplishment of this reconstruction. They call for modernization of our trans­­portation system, updating of our commu­­nications systems, increased efficiency in dealing with solid waste, and the genera­­tion of more efficient energy.

Magaziner’s fourth recommendation ad­­dresses the reinvesting of government. "Our health care system is in shambles," he said.

"We are spending close to 12 percent of our GNP on health care, and we are receiving less than other countries that are spending much smaller amounts," he said. "Fifty-one percent of our health care costs are administratively related. This con­s­­tributes to 7 percent for other countries."

He said that Medicaid and Medicare are creating "tremendous paper trails." The implications of the welfare system were also discussed. Magaziner believes that the solution lies in making all members of society productive, and able to earn a liveable wage.

A question rose as to what faculty can do to assist these processes. Magaziner suggests that colleges should be paying more attention to teacher education. Ad­­ditionally, we should make our students aware of all the above concepts, he said. "Furthermore, we should interact with the community to develop professional programs and to provide additional train­ing."

A question on the illegal drug problem was raised. Magaziner believes that the solution to our drug problem resides in the attention we must focus on upgrading skills and education in the labor force and in providing productive, career­building opportunities for all our people.

Magaziner is adamant that all of these issues must be rectified within 10 years. "I believe the United States will likely lose forever its potential to be a world economic power."