What's News At Rhode Island College

Rhode Island College

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Very few like Florence—

A freshman at 73, she interns with atty. general

by George LaTour

“Work with Pride: Feel Good Inside” is the moving force behind an innovative, collaborative effort going on between the Grove Avenue Elementary School staff and Rhode Island College educators. The point being that all those adults involved in the process of teaching want to ensure that the minds, the bodies and the spirits of the school children there flourish and grow today...and for all their tomorrows.

Although a multitude of programs and studies have indicated that if kids feel good about themselves, their scholastic appetite and general well-being will lead to satisfactory lifestyles, this school’s motto and overall atmosphere reaches beyond those traditional parameters and has become embedded in the everyday learning and living experiences of the first through sixth graders.

In one classroom for example, individualized, self-adjusting “mood thermometers,” using yellow and blue ribbons—yellow for happy, blue for sad—are displayed each day by each child. Before the teacher talks to a student about not bringing work home or notices a frown on a child’s face, the “thermometer” helps the teacher decide how to approach the child on any given day.

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RIC Foundation Golf Day Aug. 11

Described by Rhode Island golfers as the “premiere” course in the state, Warwick Country Club on Warwick Neck will be the site of the third annual Rhode Island College Foundation Golf Day scheduled for Tuesday, Aug. 11, beginning with check-in and a buffet lunch at 11 a.m. Even if golfing isn’t your game, organizers for the event invite “the broader community,” participate. Fitta, who has headed the event for the past two years, said “It is always successful and a first rate College and Foundation event.” In addition, he said, “It is the single highest money-maker for the Foundation. Any revenue raised is dedicated to scholarships for our students.”

A shotgun start is set for 1 following the lunch. Play will be limited to 120 golfers, which will be offered on a first come, first served basis, according to John J. Fitta, College controller and Foundation assistant treasurer.

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A $100 per person registration fee entitles golfers to 18 holes, golf cart, buffet lunch, refreshments on the course, prizes, fairway and green fees. More importantly, Fitta said, “It affords us all the opportunity to get together, raise money for the Foundation and enjoy a pleasant day’s outing.”

For further information, reservations for dinner tickets or special sponsorship fees, call Fitta, at 456-8224.

(continued on page 10)
Focus on the Faculty and Staff

Laurie A. Prime, a part-time faculty member in the Department of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance, was recently named the State Teacher Trainer in Drug Education for Rhode Island and was awarded a grant by the Association for the Advancement of Health Education (AAHE). AAHE and the Best Foundation for a Drug-Free Tomorrow are attempting to establish a national training network that will assist communities and schools throughout the United States to identify, select, and utilize every opportunity to grow up without the use of drugs. Prime will conduct in-service education for school teachers in grades two through eight who would like to introduce the use of drug prevention videos in their school and communities.

Dr. James J. Scallon, director of student health, had an article entitled "Bowenite, Rhode Island's Mineral" published in the May issue of Old Rhode Island magazine.

ALAN S. CANESTRARI, CLASS OF 1971

Alan S. Canestrari has been named Rhode Island Social Studies Teacher of the Year for 1992 by the Rhode Island Social Studies Association (RISSA). RISSA President Melinda H. Ryan presented the award to Canestrari at the RISSA spring conference on May 5 at Rhode Island College.

Canestrari was selected by the Association for his use of innovative teaching techniques, methods, and strategies; the involvement of his students in social studies activities, and his involvement in professional activities.

He has been teaching at North Smithfield Junior Senior High School since 1971 and was named department chairman in 1983, the same year that he received his doctorate in education from Boston University. Canestrari received his bachelor of arts and masters degrees from RIC.

Mrs. Emin taught in the Smithfield schools from 1912 until 1961. Later, she was a substitute for two years, and then taught for years at St. Philip School.

She served as chairperson of the Smithfield School Committee from 1938 to 1942, and also served on the Rhode Island Institute of Instruction Policy Committee for 10 years.

The widow of Leander F. Emin, she was born in Providence, a daughter of the late Philip R. and Anna M. (Kane) Andrews. She leaves four daughters, B. Madonna of Barrington, Leah Doyle, Elodie Blackmore, both of Smithfield, and Kathleen Thornton of Dresden, Maine; a sister, Helen A. Carlson of Smithfield, 11 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held from the Elion M. Rybickis Chapel in Centredale, with a Mass of Christian Burial at St. Michael Church on Farmington Pike. Burial was at St. Francis Cemetery, Pawtucket.
The bonds only grow stronger with time

by George LaTour

It was a different time. Attitudes were different from today's "do unto others before they do unto you,"

It was a time of loyalty, camaraderie, of brotherly love, perhaps forged in fires of the Great Depression when the narrow streets of Providence were home to diverse ethnic peoples, many living cheek-to-jowl in near-poverty conditions.

They shared hardship over a period of years, hardship that drew them to one another even closer than their nearly adjoining porches that characterized the front of many of the three-decker wooden tenement houses.

In Providence's Jewish community, young boys — maybe six to 10 years of age — banded together — not in violent street gangs — but in a club of sorts. A boy's club, if you will.

The struggles of their parents to some­ how earn a living and keep body and soul together and respect for each other they demonstrated somehow rubbed off on the children.

There was a lack of any sense of feeling sorry for oneself. It was tough times for everybody there.

These youngsters banded together and shared a friendship born in adversity.

The Olympic Club

Initially eight youngsters comprised The Olympics, later to be called the William Gates Cutler Olympic Club, named after a venerable "scout master" sort of fellow of that day.

"We used to meet at the old Jewish Community Center on Benefit Street. It was more like a settlement house. It was our club within the Center, a place for kids to go," relates Louis Yosinoff, Rhode Island College '40, who is one of the founders and a former club president.

"We later branched out into sports and social events," explains Yosinoff. "We played basketball, went on hikes, you know... it kept us off the streets."

He adds, almost as an afterthought, "Some of us turned out pretty good."

Indeed, a Big Bash

That was 65 years ago. On May 24, 1927, members now in their 70s — had what they called a "Big Bash." It was their 65th Anniversary Reunion and they held it at the Crosswood Country Club.

"The same felias will be at the reunion that started the club. We all stayed friends through the years even though we're all over the place now," recalled to various sites throughout the United States and even Europe, said 65th Anniversary Committee chairman Sid Green, prior to the reunion.

Alum named to Hall of Fame

Syd Cohen of Cranston, Class of 1940, was inducted into the Rhode Island Jewish Athletic Hall of Fame in ceremonies Monday May 24 at the Rhode Island Jewish Center, Providence, along with two other outstanding local sports figures.

Gov. Bruce Sundlun did the honors at the Sunday breakfast event.

Cohen was cited for his contributions to sports in Rhode Island for some 45 years, beginning in 1947 when his sports column was initiated in the Jewish Herald.

"One of his most notable achievements as a columnist was in originating the movement that brought Little League baseball to Providence," noted his citation.

Cohen is a past president and vice president of Words Unlimited, Rhode Island Sportswriters/Sportscasters Association, and was commissioner of the Rhode Island Jewish Softball League, which he also served as umpire and player.

An active member of the Society for American Baseball Research, he was instrumental in bringing the organization's 1984 national convention to Providence for the centennial celebration of the first actual World Series, which was won in 1884 by the Providence Grays over the New York Metropolitans.

Cohen is a member of the RIC Alumni Association executive board and of the RIC Foundation. Prior to his retirement, he was chairman of the English and reading department at Charlevoix Regional Senior High School.

Assistant professor in the RIC mathematics and computer science department David L. Abrahamson and radio sports-talk-show host Dick Higgins served as masters of ceremony.

AS TV CAMERAS RECORD, Gov. Bruce Sundlun inducts surviving founding members of the William Gates Cutler Olympic Club into the Rhode Island Jewish Athletic Hall of Fame at ceremonies in the Jewish Community Center, Providence, on May 24, (What's News Photo by George LaTour)

WHO'S WHO IN 1992? The Class of 1942 recently attended the 1992 Commencement where they gave their alma mater $25,000. During the week before graduation class members held their reunion at the Inn at the Crossings in Warwick where this photo was taken. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)
Rhode Island College President John Nazarian termed the 1992 Upward Bound Program’s achievement of graduating 32 high school students, 30 of whom have been accepted at 11 different colleges and universities, “a phenomenal record.”

“I congratulate you,” said Nazarian as family members and friends of the graduates, high school, college, city and state education officials applauded in Gage Hall auditorium on the evening of June 9.

Having celebrated in 25th year last year at RIC, which was the first public institution of higher learning to host the nationally funded program, Upward Bound targets academically underprepared, low-income high school students from Central Falls, East Providence, Shea, Central, Hope and Mount Pleasant high schools, who will be the first in their families to attend college, and prepares them for college.

Commencement speaker, Kenneth C. Stratr fr., a 1970 graduate of the program from Hope High School, who went on to receive a bachelor’s degree in business administration from the University of Iowa and a Juris Doctorate in 1984 from Rutgers University Law School, told the graduates there “is no disgrace in recognizing that we all need help” to achieve our goals.

Currently a practicing attorney in East Orange, N.J., Stratr created the Upward Bound program here as well as RIC and his family, especially, for having provided the help he needed to get started.

He said at one point in his law career he found himself addressing the Supreme Court and asked himself, “What am I, a kid from South Providence, doing here?” His answer: “Upward Bound put me here.”

Also addressing the graduates were Gary M. Penfield, vice president for student affairs, and Anthony Leone, state associate commissioner for higher education.

Three following Upward Bound students, who achieved the highest academic average in their respective school systems, received scholarships: Central Falls — Hitesh Patel, also valedictorian for the Central Falls High School Class of 1992.

The 1992 Upward Bound Alumni Scholarship Fund award was given to Claudia Solange Baptista, salutatorian for the Central Falls High School Class of 1992.

According to Marian Z. Boyajian, program director, 30 of the 32 graduates plan to enroll in college in the fall. One student will attend Katherine Gibbs, and one will defer enrollment to September of 1993.

The list of graduates, their high schools and their intended colleges follows:

Central High School: Ruth Bernard — University of Rhode Island; Kosa Khang — Community College of Rhode Island; Chahun Fun, Emily Say, Jin Suk and Williamson Wheatsone, all University of Rhode Island; Khoeuch Tieang — Providence College.

Hope High School: Yokanta Burgos and Susan Cedeno — Rhode Island College; Maria Goncalves — University of Rhode Island.

Mt. Pleasant High School: Alex Flores — Community College of Rhode Island; Maria Gomes — University of Rhode Island; Natasha Mohray — Katherine Gibbs; Vilaphon Phongsouvanh — Boston College; Orady Phongsouvandara — University of Rhode Island; Termina Walker — Rhode Island College.

East Providence High School: Jose Cruz — University of Rhode Island; Ademildo Lopes — Community College of Rhode Island; Manuel Lopes — Community College of Rhode Island.

Central Falls High School: Claudia Baptista — Georgetown University; Giovina Coutinho — University of Rhode Island; Carla Faria — Rhode Island College; Hitesh Patel — University of Notre Dame; Khoeuch Tieang — Community College of Rhode Island.

Shea High School: Nancy Carvalho — University of Rhode Island; Carlos Coutinho — Boston College; Sonya Craig (deferred enrollment); Ana Karantinos — Yale University; Clyde Oliveira — Connecticut College; Orlando Oliveira — University of Rhode Island; Caria Rogers — Connecticut College; Danil Utin — Brandeis University.

Rhode Island College’s Upward Bound Program was notified by the US Department of Education that it was awarded a grant for $385,384 for the first year beginning June 1, 1992 of a three-year cycle of available funding in a national competition, according to Marian Z. Boyajian, Program director. The funding will allow 150 students to participate each year.

The 26-year-old program, which has been housed on the RIC campus for that many years and is considered among the nation’s oldest TRIO programs, targets academically underprepared, low-income, first generation college bound students from Central Falls, East Providence, Shea, Central, Hope and Mount Pleasant high schools.

According to Boyajian, nearly 2,500 students have participated in the program, which includes rigorous academic instruction, individualized tutoring, counseling and career information. In overall successful rate is based on the fact that 98 percent of every Upward Bound graduate in the country and 78.6 percent of those students have persisted and graduated from the same institutions, reported Boyajian.

“The goals of the program have historically been to celebrate diversity, offer higher educational opportunity to those students who would otherwise not have that opportunity and to enhance educational equity by challenging students to reach their true potential,” she said.
HONEY BEAR RETURNS: HBS teacher Joan C. Bloom shows Honey Bear, the "world traveler," to some of her first graders. (What's News Photo by George LaBar)

Honey Bear comes home

by Clare Eckert

Rhode Island College Henry Barnard School teacher Joan C. Bloom's first graders went on a world tour over the past several months, and all from behind their classroom desks.

The children's guide was a fluffy, 20-inch, stuffed teddy bear, named Honey Helper, who began his global excursion from Bloom's classroom last fall by way of her brother, Father Raymond Collins, who took the bear with him when he returned to his teaching position at the University of Louvon in Louvon, Belgium.

Honey Helper, who Bloom reports has become the class's mascot, was part of a lesson in geography for the first graders, introduced by them as a result of the teacher's participation in a National Geographic Society project to increase and improve geography in schools throughout the nation.

"It was one of the ideas I came away with," she said, from her attendance at the Washington, D. C. training session last summer. "I just took a first-grade approach."

Two other bears, Billy Bear and Willie Woker, were also part of the project. Billy Bear was sent off to travel the USA, and Willie Woker was sent off to cover Rhode Island. Unfortunately, Bloom said, these bear's trips were not as successful. But, she said, thankfully, they did find their way home to her classroom.

The experience of researching and discussing where Honey Bear had landed over the past several months, and seeing and talking about the numerous memorabilia, and reading the journal that was attached to him - along with a class picture - "excited the children because they tracked the locations on the map," Bloom said. And learned that "the world is bigger than the environment they live in."

Would she offer the project to her next year's class? "Definitely!" Bloom said. "But how it will go when I present the idea...will depend upon the children."

Settlement reached with insurance company on Walsh fire

by Clare Eckert

Tenacity and teamwork by Rhode Island College officials has resulted in a "fair settlement" by the Hartford Insurance Company to the College to rebuild the structure and replace the contents - both at today's market prices - of the Michael F. Walsh Health and Physical Education Center, destroyed Jan. 5 by a blazing four-alarm fire.

The College reached agreement with the insurance company last month in the amount of just over $8.8 million. The state Board of Governors for Higher Education authorized the settlement at its May 21 meeting. According to John J. Fitta, College controller, the claim is to be paid in two installments. The first check in the amount of nearly $5 million was delivered on May 28. The College had previously received an advance of $1 million from the Hartford in the week following the fire. The final pay-out will be recovered at the end of the rebuilding and replanting project.

"The first check will enable us basically to fund the initial construction costs," Fitta said. "The difference will come when we complete the building and acquire new equipment."

Health care... good for you... good for your pocketbook

by Clare Eckert

"It's good for the pocketbook," is how Rhode Island College Director of Personnel Services Gordon Sundberg puts it. Sundberg, Bette Brady, personnel manager, and John Taylor, recreation center official, put together a week's worth of health-maintenance activities during "National Employee Health and Fitness Week" May 11 through 15 to educate and inform RIC employees about the benefits of fostering healthier lifestyles.

"The bottom line to all of this is to reduce the cost of our health care maintenance," Sundberg said, adding "that doesn't mean less utilization and drive the cost down. The way we can do that is to introduce people to what they can do and encourage them to help themselves."

"The emerging posture is that health problems are no longer just an individual's problem," Sundberg said. "They are affecting the American workplace and costing us money in terms of absenteeism, turnover, loss of productivity, rising costs of health care and accidents."

According to the personnel head, the week of campus activities was successful. Upwards of about 40 people participated in one or more of the programs, including daily three-mile walks, aerobic classes, special nutritious breakfast at Donarion Dining Center and open house session at the Recreation Center.

Although he would have liked to have seen more of "the high risk group - 40 years and older, males," he was pleased with this first effort. In September, he hopes to organize regular programs through the office and the Recreation Center staff.

"This is the major, major concern for the 1990s," he said. "It can't just be one week. We have to organize a program on an everyday basis. And there should be some reward for participating."

"Sound nutrition and diet, stress management, exercise and a mess of common workplace issues," he said. "Most importantly, it is good for the quality of a person's life. You can do much more if you're in good shape to do it."
Spring ’92 Commencement

Record class graduates in record heat

Rhode Island College's senior institution, the University of Rhode Island, has nothing on RIC.

While URI recently had a clambake to help celebrate its 300th birthday, RIC had a graduating class at its May 23 commencement.

Record-breaking temperatures hovered around 90 degrees by and morning, as nearly 1,300 graduates — also a record — donned gowns and stoles and sat in the sun.

Nevertheless, things were smoothly. The processional of faculty and guests had ended, when the national anthem ended, and it was time to get on with the ceremony.

But, perhaps the loudest cheers came, as reporter Paul Edwards Peters noted in his Providence Sunday Journal article, when John M. Delorenzo, chief executive officer of the Providence Journal-Bulletin; Providence Sunday Journal; and the Providence Journal-Bulletin, brought greetings to the graduates.

“Today, we want to express our appreciation for the work you are doing today,” he said. “We want to express our appreciation for the work you are doing today.”

And it was time to make a speech of their own. The students were in a jubilant mood. Many were wearing mortarboards, and they Subjects.

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**Getting in (geometric) shape!**

The Excellence in Teaching Mathematics Project, under the direction of Rhode Island College's Vivian R. Morgan, is offering kids from K-6 and their teachers a chance to get in shape, mathematically speaking.

The project's Shape Lab has developed a hands-on math exhibit and a coordinating workshop for teachers and parents.

The exhibit, entitled "Great Shapes," will run for the month of June at the Children's Museum of Rhode Island on 58 Walcott St., Pawtucket. The children will be able to create mosaic patterns with colorful geometric shapes, solve some tricky math puzzles or learn about the how and why of bubbles and then blow lots of them at a bubble-in.

The museum is open to the public Tuesday-Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Sunday from 1-5 p.m. There is an admission charge for the public.

Teachers attended a Shaping Math day-long workshop May 22 at RIC's Horace Mann Hall to enhance the teaching of geometry in the primary grades. Special attention was given to spatial visualization. Presenters were Gertrude R. Tober, associate professor of elementary education; Rose C. Merenda, an associate professor at RIC's Henry Barnard School, and Ann Skattinger, a graduate student in elementary education.

Students whose teachers attended the workshop can continue their explorations of geometry in the classroom after the museum visit. While students from the Providence school system are being brought to the exhibit during the month, focus workshops at the museum are available for students throughout the state, according to Professor Morgan of the RIC math department.

The museum project is being funded under the Dwight D. Eisenhower Mathematics and Science Education Act, which is administered by the Rhode Island Office of Higher Education.

The project was awarded $54,000 this year for the development and implementation of four main projects. Morgan has been the director of the Excellence in Teaching Mathematics Project since 1986 and is the interim director of this Math Excellence Grant.

For more information, contact Professor Morgan at 456-8038.

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**Summer music workshop set**

A workshop on "Children & The Arts: The Early Years with Music, Dance and Drama," scheduled for July 6 through 10, will be held at the Henry Barnard School on the Rhode Island College campus. Alice Pellegrino, kindergarten teacher, is coordinating the program with the RIC Department of Music.

Mary Palmer, professor of music education at the University of Central Florida, Orlando, and director of Florida's Arts for a Complete Education program, will lead the workshop as guest professor for the school's Summer Music Workshop.

The workshop is open to all those providers of pre-school and school-age child care, caretakers of children, daycare workers, K-6 teachers, music specialists, teacher aides and assistants, parents of young children and administrators.

Sessions will include songs, stories, games and dances of many cultures and will explore their impact on child growth, development and literacy.

For more information, contact Pellegrino at 456-8227.

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**Students elected to honor society**

The following Rhode Island College students have been elected to membership in Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing: Mary Beth Andrews, Mary Ellen Connolly, Lisa M. Crandall, Mary Jean Croft, Mark T. Cunningham, Danielle M. Cunningham, Melissa Hope Cupples, Ronald E. Gretherg, Nancy J. Guay, Lori Hogan, Thomas P. Hoy, Lisa A. Kelley, Monica Kudla, Nancy M. Lofgren, Heidi E. McGuire, Elizabeth King Morse, Elizabeth R. Mosher, Jay Alan Murray, Manuela D. O'Connell, Lynn A. Pacheco, Jung Min Park, Lynn A. Patton, Allison Percovich, Chelsa Piscione, Christine A. Potessian, Jacqllyn A. Potter, Alice E. Rodriguez, Francesa Doreen Williams, Christine Wood.

Sigma Theta Tau International is an organization of leaders and scholars in nursing. This honor society, founded at Indiana University in 1922, currently has 38 chapters at 326 colleges and universities worldwide.

Membership in the Society is awarded to baccalaureate, master's and doctoral nursing candidates who achieve high scholastic averages, and to graduates of the college programs who achieve excellence in nursing leadership roles. The undergraduate inductees must have at least a 3.0 grade point average on a 4.0 scale and be in the upper one-third of their class. The honor society is committed to improving the health of the public by advancing nursing science.

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**Nominated for nursing award**

North Smithfield resident Jacqueline A. Potter, who recently graduated with a bachelor of science degree in nursing, was nominated for the ANC Spirit of Nursing Award from the Army Nurse Corps (ANC) and the National Nurses' Association (NSNA) by the RIC nursing faculty as the student nurse who best exemplifies the "Spirit of Nursing." As school award recipient, Potter also became a candidate for the national Spirit of Nursing Award.

The award promotes excellence by honoring exceptional nursing students. Potter was required to write a brief essay on the commitment to the spirit of nursing and how that spirit motivates her.

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**Merenda Reading Corner to be set up**

Selections of Rose Merenda's favorite children's literature will be established in the Henry Barnard School Library. Merenda recently retired from teaching at Henry Barnard. Donations may be sent to Mary Foye, 18 Sorell Rd., North Providence, RI 02904.
Displaying their self-adjusting "mood thermometers" are sixth graders, Lizett Medeiros, 11. Nora J. Stark, their teacher was the inspiration behind the innovative idea.

Lyons, who has been teaching teachers for the past 10 years says, "We need to identify and build a number of new models for the future. This is one good model under construction."

LT. Governor Roger N. Brigen, who co­ch­e­red the state's 21st Century Education Commission which released a report, "Educating ALL Our Children" in March on the future of education in Rhode Island couldn't agree more with the resounding similarities between the on-going project at Grove Avenue and the findings of the commission.

"What's remarkable about the report's outcome and what's going on at the school is that Grove Avenue (has) a form of school-based management, that community services are being provided... and that parents are involved," Begin said.

Although the Commission didn't base its report on the Grove Avenue Elementary School's experience, "we could have," he said. "Anyone who walks through the school can see the enormous amount of pride in the behavior of everyone... The parental involvement is so important as well, and it's done in a meaningful way, not an intrusive way. It's a nice balance."

Thus, he said, "is the key to success."
GATHERED TO HONOR this year's winners of the Rose Butler Browne Award are (from left) Mrs. and Mr. Emmett Browne, the late Dr. Browne's daughter-in-law and son; Henrietta Tidball, Dr. Browne's sister; award co-winner Punala Therrien; President John Nazarian; award co-winner Michael DiPina, and Gary Penfield, vice president for student affairs. The awards were presented at a luncheon ceremony May 8 in the Faculty Center.

Keogh to coordinate annual Professional Development Institute

Richard N. Keogh, director of research and grants administration, will coordinate the Fourth Annual Rhode Island Professional Development Institute for Academic, Adult, Career, and Technical Educators to be held at the Community College of Rhode Island, Flanagan Campus, Lincoln, on Aug. 18, 19, 20 and 21. The conference focuses on reorganizing Rhode Island schools and on forging more effective linkages among academic programs; vocational secondary programs, and business and industry.

It's really exciting,” says Mrs. Baker, who, according to her graduate school's decision to go to college at age 73.

attends URI Founders Day Centennial

Elizabeth (Davis) Alfonso of North Kingsawn, Class of 1896, along with seven other members of her family, was invited to a special Founder's Day Centennial celebration at the University of Rhode Island May 19 as a descendant of one of the original 30 people involved in URI's founding as a land-grant college in 1892.

The wife of Louis E. Alfonso, a professor of educational leadership, foundations and technology at Rhode Island College, she is a descendant of Gov. John W. Davis, who as governor, had signed the legislation allowing creation of the land-grant college in Kingston 100 years ago.

The college's first building, called College Hall, was later renamed Davis Hall in honor of the governor, who participated in the groundbreaking for the Rhode Island College of Agriculture and Mechanical Arts, now URI.

Some 30 to 12 descendants of the original 30, in addition to Elizabeth's family, were among the nearly 300 attending the reception and clambake on URI's quadrangle, says Mrs. Alfonso, who, after her graduation from RIC, went on to earn a master's degree at URI. She currently is director of early childhood education for the West Warwick school system.

Other descendants of Anne Davis (with RIC affiliation) attending, including fourth- and fifth-generation nieces and nephews, are Ains (Davis) McCaffrey, '59; William Davis McCaffrey, a RIC senior, and Timothy Davis Alfonso, Heary Barnard School sixth grader.

A special note of interest: Governor Davis was an acquaintance of Henry Barnard and shared Barnard's vision of equality in educational opportunities for the common man, hence the term popularized by Henry Barnard, "common schools."

INTERN

Patricia A. "Trish" Parish of Cranston, RIC's assistant director of admissions and financial aid, says Mrs. Baker was admitted to the general studies curriculum through the Performance Based Admissions program by which potential matriculated students are evaluated through their initial performance in selected courses.

"I just thought it's fantastic to have a place like Rhode Island College that will let you come in this way," says Mrs. Baker.

A graduate of Cohasset High School in Massachusetts, Mrs. Baker says her experience in business enabled her to do well in the college writing course this past spring semester, and she "just loved" cultural anthropology, which, she asserts "really gives you a whole new outlook. It's really exciting."

Never having studied algebra, however, gives her cause for concern over her forthcoming mathematics competency test, but she assures she'll do what she has to do to master it. All students must pass a math competency test to graduate.

She enjoys the company of her fellow students, the oldest next to her being about 37.

"They buy me coffee and ask me all kinds of questions...how to invest money, about sex, et cetera," she says with a smile and shake of her head. Well, RIC students do come here to learn!

Mrs. Baker also works parttime in the College Writing Center and drives her own car to campus each day. She says she makes a point of getting there early "so I can find a place to park." An overabundance of parking space is not a boasting point for the College, which year by year seems to grow in enrollment.

"I thought it was great when I heard Florence was coming to the attorney general's office," says Marissa White. "We place about 100 students here in a year, both high school and college."

White explains that they also work with volunteer groups, including several senior citizens organizations, "but very few like Florence, who are in their 70s.

The intern, students or otherwise, are given a first-hand look at what Attorney General O'Neill calls "the trauma business," taking it to a hospital emergency room where people are generally under stress.

O'Neill assures "there are no bureaucrats here" only "great people with real experience."

The attorney general was impressed with Mrs. Baker's decision to go to college at age 73.

"We treat college like the 11th grade," he says, "and it's not. It's a whole other experience, not just an extension of grade school. And, you go when you're ready to go -- no matter when that is."

He can draw upon his own experience.

When he first attempted college right from high school, he says, he flunked out because he wasn't ready.

Of course, it's taken Florence Baker a little longer to resume her studies than it did the attorney general, but that's all the more reason for rejoicing.

Confident, himself, that she will persist and succeed in college, O'Neill told her: "Don't forget, I'll be dancing in the aisles when you graduate!!"
Two different musical revues under the heading “Broadway Melody of 1992” will be staged at Rhode Island College’s Roberts Hall auditorium July 9-11 and 23-25.

“Light summer entertainment” is how theater Prof. Ed Scheff describes the bill of fare which will feature the songs of Broadway and Hollywood. These should include the tunes of Rodgers and Hammerstein, Cole Porter, George Gershwin and Jerry Herman.

All performances begin at 8 p.m.

For $10 you can see both shows, if you get your tickets before July 1. After that, it will be $15 per show; $14 for senior citizens and students. Scheff reminds that Roberts auditorium is air conditioned and there is plenty of free parking.

Cast members will include RIC sophomore Mudge, alums Jeanne Sullivan, and Daniel Kirby, Elizabeth Mospaw and Donna Zurro, Rhode Islanders one and all.

Kirby, a baritone from Providence, has performed in a number of cabarets, including the Newport Star Clipper Dinner Train and the Newport Playhouse and Cabaret Restaurant, has appeared on film, on TV and videos, and in numerous theater productions, including Oliver, A Little Night Music, A Chorus Line and Godspell.

Mezzo soprano Mospaw of Cumberland, specializes in vocal-dance styles of the 20s, 40s and 50s, and has appeared in the Boston Conservatory’s production of Play It Again, Sam, and the Shoestring Players’ productions of The Wizard of Oz, Dracula, Bye Bye Birdie and The Miracle Worker, among others. She graduated from the Boston Conservatory of Music in May.

Alumna Sullivan of East Greenwich, Class of ’88, has performed with RIC Theatre and in RIC summer theater. She has had roles in Tine Hai, Oklahoma, Anything Goes and The Importance of Being Earnest with RIC Theatre and has performed with the Academy Players, the Barker Players and Community Players. She currently can be seen in the commercial on TV 10 as the spokesperson for Crystal Spring.

They will perform under the direction of Raymond L. Piccoli of Newport. Tim Robertson of Cumberland, Class of ‘92, will be musical director; Doug Cumming will be in charge of scenic design; grad student Charlotte Burgess, costumes; Elaine Colaneri, choreography, and Scheff, lighting.

For more information, call 456-8060.

Rhythm of the World ‘International Block Party’ at HBS

Kindergarten through sixth graders at Henry Barnard School demonstrated the “rhythm of the world,” June 10, in Gaige Auditorium, at an International Block Party featuring folk dancing from around the world.

Harmony, USA was the fictitious state hosting the “July 4th” celebration. Sharon Fennessey’s fifth grade class hosted the event.

How immigrant cultures influenced the development of America was demonstrated through a series of dances and presentations, produced and directed by Fennessey as part of her class’ multicultural program. (Fennessey was responsible for teaching all of the 200 or more children, each country’s dance.)

Students in grades K-6 represented a particular country through a brief introduction of the country, appropriate dress and music and the performance of a folk dance. The dances performed follow:

Kinderpolka (Germany), Kindergaran, Jishida (France) Grade One, Seven Jumps (Denmark), Grade One, La Raspa (Mexico) Grade Two, Zemer Attek (Israel) Grade Two, Troika (Russia) Grade Three, Pardo Blanquita (Paraguay) Grade Four, Nos Hop (Armenia) Grade Four, Ribbon Dance (China), Grades Five, Tarencell (Italy) Grade Five, Sheppard’s Hey (England), AvenDale (Ireland), O Lebednyo (Oman, Africa), Grade Six.

The Singers; Not the Songs: The musical revue singers are (top left) Jeanne Sullivan of East Greenwich, Donna Zurro of North Providence, (bottom left) Elizabeth Mospaw of Cumberland and Jennifer Mudge of Providence. Also singing will be Daniel Kirby. (What’s News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

CHINESE RIBBON DANCE is performed by Henry Barnard School fifth graders at its June 10 International Block Party in Gaige Hall auditorium. (What’s News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)
NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS cheerleader, one of only four from Rhode Island, is Stacie Schifino of Riverside, a senior in business management with minor studies in dance. She was selected recently as one of the 36 “Patriots.”

Four members of the Rhode Island College Dance Company are having the opportunity of their young lives this summer.

They are performing in New York with the pros — as guests with Marta Renzi & The Project. The Project is at Consey Island, Central Park and the Lincoln Center.

Marta Renzi, the founder and artistic director of the New York-based Project Company, who The New York Times characterized as the "homebody choreographer whose house is the human heart," was at RIC during this past dance season where she was commissioned to create a new RIC spring concert series.

"If The Shoe Fits" was the result and it premiered here in March in the RIC company's spring concert series.

Marta chose to include this new work in several concerts occurring in and around the New York City area this summer," reports Dance DeGidus, RIC dance director, "and has invited four company members to participate in these performances."

DeGidus terms this "an excellent opportunity (for RIC dancers) to apply their training and talents in a professional context."

A dream come true

"To perform in New York City is a dream come true," assures Laura Newell of Riverside, a senior communications major, who is in her fifth year with the RIC Dance Company.

"No one (here) has had an opportunity like this before. I'm very excited," she says.

"It's great. I love it!" exclaims Samantha Stevens of Portsmouth, a senior majoring in psychology and elementary education. She's been dancing here four years.

Shellie Carr of Cranston, a senior studying anthropology, says when she heard about the possibility of dancing in New York, she discounted it, "afraid that if I planned on it, it wouldn't happen."

Having just turned 21 this year as dancer with the RIC company, she says now she's "really excited" about the opportunity.

Angelica Vesell of Providence rounds out the quartet, but she could not be reached for comment at press time.

The four will carpool and travel to and from New York together.

Named R.I. Teacher of Merit for '92

John Hamill, Class of 1966, a teacher of history at the John Deering Junior High School in West Warwick, has been named the Rhode Island 1992 Teacher of Merit by the National History Day organization in Cleveland for his participation in the program on both the local and national levels.

He is now eligible for a $1,000 award and the chance to be named the national winner in contest finals this month.

National History Day is an educational program that encourages grades six-through-12 students to explore and study historical subjects related to an annual theme. This year's theme is "Discovery, Encounter, Exchange in History: The Seeds of Change."

Averill Memorial Scholarship

The Donald C. Averill Memorial Scholarship will be given to an undergraduate student with a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.5 and a strong interest in labor, history, college athletics or recreation. Applicants should contact Jason Blank, in care of the Rhode Island College AFT Office, 229, or call 456-9842. The deadline for application is June 21.

They will have performed — on June 20 and 21 — on the Consey Island boardwalk by the time you read this article. DeGidus says their performances are part of the NYC Dancing in the Streets series, which is primarily a music event with dancing commissioned scores.

These performance events were promoted as "Sax on the Beach."

RIC's dancers were to stay overnight at the home of Renzi in Upper Nyack, N.Y., where she resides with her husband, John, and their two sons.

On July 24, they'll perform in Central Park in the Project's "Central Park Summer Stage." and on August 27, they'll be at the Lincoln Center as the event entitled "Lincoln Center Out-of-Doors."

In all of these performances they'll be working with the professional dancers of The Project Co. and, of course, with choreographer and artistic director Marta Renzi.

Renzi, since 1977, has created some 25 dance works and has been commissioned by dance companies in the U.S. and abroad to add works to their repertoires.

She has worked often in "site-specific" locations such as train stations, ferry boats and beaches, as well as in video and film.

"If The Shoe Fits" was Ms. Renzi's first half-hour film for television in 1981. It was followed by Mountainview, an award-winning dance narrative made in 1989.

As part of a continuing commitment to making dance accessible to a wide audience, Renzi helped inaugurate the Inside-Out program of public performances at the Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, she "makes yearly appearances at the hugely popular Central Park Summer Stage," according to her publicity people.

Come July 24 at Central Park Summer Stage, the RIC Four will see "If The Shoe Fits" those New Yorkers.

RIC faculty at Coalition dinner

The Rhode Island Mathematical Sciences Education Coalition (RIMSEC) held its annual dinner May 26 at the Marriott, Providence. Former RIC vice president and provost and professor emerita Eleanor McMahon spoke about teacher and program recognition at the dinner.

Members of the Rhode Island College community who serve as RIMSEC Board of Directors/Advisory Committee include: Board chair Donald Caretini, alumnus and president of Catholic University; chair David Capaldi, alumnus and member of mathematics department at Tolland High School; Patrick O'Keen, retired professor of mathematics; alumnus Salvoine Guernin, RIMTA President; McMahon; and chair James Sedlock, director of mathematics.

Awards given for exceptional service

The Rhode Island College Foundation recognized 16 College staff members who have given exceptional service to the College during the 1991-92 fiscal year, awarding Outstanding Performance Awards to them recently.

Recipients of the $250 awards were: Anthony Carlino, Clare Eckert, Elaine Ford, Phyllis Garth, Ava Gist, Angela Illuzzi, Stacie King, Jay Latimer, Edward Markowski, Elaine Papa, Anthony Peters, Siem Platte, Catherine Ruzzano, Janice Santacci and Wayne Turner.

Nominations for the awards were made by the President of the members of the Executive Committee.