RIC honors local educators at May 22 commencement

by Clare Eckert

The founder and director of Rhode Island's Urban Collaborative Accelerated Program (UCAP), Robert DeBlois, has been honored by RIC's School of Education and was recently featured in the PBS "Health Quarterly" television program.

DeBlois grew up in Pawtucket. He and his wife and child reside in Seekonk, Mass.

DeBlois, who has been locally recognized for his innovative approach to reaching out to at-risk middle and junior high school students, will give the commencement address to over 1,200 undergraduates and graduates and members of their families and friends during commencement exercises.

DeBlois has been a driving force in the establishment of the East Providence School's collaborative effort with RIC's School of Education and Human Development in designing a school-based management profile of operation. He is also responsible for developing "Chalk Talk," a bi-monthly, cable television show highlighting noteworthy programs and initiatives in the East Providence public schools. In addition, DeBlois began the East Providence "America 2000" Initiative, now in its second year.

Cited as "an outstanding leader in Rhode Island, both in education and civic affairs, and an extraordinary contributor to the quality of life in the state community," DeBlois, a native of Central Falls, began his education in the local schools. After graduating from Central Falls High School, he entered Providence College where he earned a B.A. in education and history in 1959. He later received his M.A. in history from Providence College in 1969. DeBlois has done postgraduate work at RIC, Brown University and Suffolk University.

Before taking on the superintendent's position in East Providence, he had worked as the assistant director of the Central Falls Boys Club, assistant principal of Pawtucket High School and superintendent of schools in Central Falls.

He is the founder and a member of the advisory board of the New England Consortium for Education of Language Minority Students; a member of the advisory board of the Children's Crusade of Rhode Island General Assembly, was recently appointed to the highest court in the state. The 56-year-old Providence resident will be sworn in to begin her new duties as a Rhode Island Supreme Court Justice today (May 17).

Only the second woman to be named to the Supreme Court in the history of the state, Judge Lederberg's selection was announced by the speaker of the RI House of Representatives, John Hanwood, on April 30 after the General Assembly voted to elect and endorse her candidacy (Supreme Court Justice Florence Murray was the first woman appointed in 1979.)

Referred to as a "Renaissance woman" (psychology professor, lawyer, home-maker, head of a national education commission), by the Providence Journal Bulletin (Nov. 1, 1980), Judge Victoria Santpietro Lederberg, a Rhode Island College professor of psychology for the past 20 years, City of Providence municipal judge and an eight-year veteran of the Rhode Island General Assembly, was recently appointed to the highest court in the state. The 56-year-old Providence resident will be sworn in to begin her new duties as a Rhode Island Supreme Court Justice today (May 17).
It probably happens to you—the "it's a small world" syndrome. Go to the movies, a wedding, a restaurant, wherever and you'll probably run into a RIC graduate. If not, someone there will have a relative who came to the College.

A RIC degree is something of which each of you should be very proud. I welcome each of this year's graduates into the alumni body and look forward to hearing about their inevitable successes, as well as yours.

Kristen Jalbert

Holly Shadioan, Class of '73.

Focus on the Faculty and Staff

Robert F. Carey, director of the center for evaluation and research, recently addressed the national conference of the Educational Inquiry. Carey also recently contributed several articles on evaluation in the "Interpreting Educational Inquiry." Carey also recently

The next issue of What's News will be Monday, June 21.

WHAT'S NEWS
AT RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE

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CLASS OF 1938 poses for a picture outside the President's House on May 17 where they enjoyed lunch with President John Nazarian.

The President's House was the setting for the 55th reunion of the Rhode Island College Class of 1938 held on April 29. Thirty-one members of the class attended, including out-of-state travelers Sophie Stizpeck Leddy from California, Roberta Baldwin Brown from Virginia, Rosalie Corkery Reischl from New York and Vivian Morrill Sproul from Maine. The Class of 1938 has been a particularly active class in its support for RIC. In the 1992 Alumni Fund, the class had the third highest participation rate, with 43.8 percent of the class as donors, according to the Alumni Office.

This year's reunion held even more surprises and support. One class member announced her intention to establish a $10,000 scholarship endowment. And the funds given to the College for the Golden Anniversary in 1988 will be awarded this fall to several students who are pursuing degrees in education. In addition, a special 55th reunion gift of $1,300 was presented to President John Nazarian to be used for much-needed library acquisitions.

Madonna Emir Mot: donated two historical items to the College, the Home Normal School diploma of her mother, Bertha Andrews Emir, Class of '12, and a framed photograph of the old Normal School and its entire student body and faculty. Congratulations and greetings to the class were given by Patrice Ross Maciel, Class of '61, Alumni Association president; Kathleen McIarnay Wassenar, vice president for development and college relations, and Holly Marty Shadioan, Class of '73, director of alumni affairs. President Nazarian shared an update on the College with the class and conducted a lively question-and-answer session.


Head coach of the women's basketball team, Ken Hopkins received a special State Award of Merit at the Rhode Island Athletic Director's Association spring conference in Newport May 7. Hopkins is athletic director for Cranston public school.
College Shorts

Nominees sought for Service Award

The Faculty of Arts and Sciences seeks nominees for the Distinguished Service Award for the 1993-94 academic year. Criteria: 1. Excellent service to the College and community. Note the following two paragraphs from Section 8.61 of the Board of Governors RIC/ART Agreement: 8.6.1 “Leadership and service to the College, including responsibility and creativity in departmental affairs, service on College committees, and quality of student advisement” 8.6.2 “Leadership and service to the College, the state, or nation where such service is clearly related to the faculty member’s professional responsibilities at Rhode Island College.”

Evidence of the above include memberships, testimonials, solicited and unsolicited comments, elections to office and organizations, authorship of proposals for governance and curricula and so forth. Earl Stevens is serving as chair of the committee. Faculty are invited to submit letters to the chair of the committee nominating colleagues for the award. Deadline for nomination is Thursday, May 20.

Get fit!
Employee Health and Fitness Week

Just a reminder that the week of May 17 through May 21 has been designated as National Employee Health and Fitness Week. RIC has scheduled a week full of activities to further healthier lifestyles.

Walking programs leave daily from the library steps at noon and at 1 p.m. and body fat assessment and fitness evaluation will be offered at the Recreation Center from noon until 2 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday; on Wednesday a nutritious breakfast will be served at the Faculty Center from 8 to 9 a.m. for $1.

For more information, call John Taylor at 546-1817.

RIC dancers to perform in benefit at RISD May 23

Seven members of the Rhode Island College Dance Company, under the direction of Dante Del Giudice, will perform in the 581 Steps for AIDS/AIDS Awareness Benefit Concert at the Rhode Island School of Design on Sunday, May 23, starting at 7 p.m.

The RIC dancers will perform “Dogmas” choreographed this year by the dusk dance theatre company of Art Bridgman and Myrna Packer out of New York City. Costumes will be by Shellie Carr of the RIC Dance Company.

The dancers are Michelle Rosten, Tori Bernard, Liana Clancy, Donna McGuire, Delinde Morris, Laura Newell and Samantha Stevens.

For ticket prices or more information, call Hecja Lee, coordinator, at 454-5465.

Former Soviet chess player now at RIC — ‘He’s top-ranked college player in country’

by George LaTour

The Rhode Island College Chess Team’s winning tradition was further enhanced this year by the addition to its ranks of a polished young player from the former Soviet Union.

Michael Braude, 22, formerly from Kharkov in the Ukraine, is ranked 25th in this country in the “international” category for college/university and other non-professional players.

Now considered the best player on the RIC Team, according to James Della Selva, Chess Club president and team player, Braude finished as the first scorer on the top board at the Pan-American Intercollegiate Championships last December in Detroit while the RIC Team finished fifth among all teams on the North American continent.

“I don’t think anyone would dispute that he’s (Braude) the top ranked college player in the country today,” says Della Selva.

The exact date is etched in his memory as he was “so glad to get away from communism.”

Braude came to this country on March 15, 1990. The exact date is etched in his memory as he was “so glad to get away from communism.”

He arrived with his parents and his sister and her family in Miami Beach, Fla., where his father, Pavol, still resides. His mother has since died; his sister, Tanya Rabionovitch and her family now reside on Cape Cod.

In 1991, international chess master Alex Sherzer, who was then a freshman at RIC, met, played and defeated Braude in the final round of the U.S. Invitational Junior Championships in Illinois. Sherzer came in first; Braude, second.

During the matches, Sherzer “talked up RIC” to Braude where a chess scholarship would virtually be assured. He eventually applied and was accepted to study computer science. And, yes, he has a chess scholarship which pays for a portion of his college expenses.

Meanwhile, Sherzer has dropped out of school to play professionally. Della Selva reports that Sherzer finished second in the U.S. Invitational Championship this year, a tourney described as “the biggest in the country.”

Della Selva says he hears that Sherzer “is open” to returning to college and RIC to get his degree before returning to professional play.

Having started playing chess at age 7, Braude says he “got serious” about it at age 12 and by the time he left his homeland was considered one of the top junior players in the Ukraine Republic.

Since arriving in this country, he has finished second in the New York Open, considered “one of the toughest tournaments around” and has led the RIC Team to first place among Rhode Island colleges and universities and second among colleges and universities in the east in the U.S. Amateur Team Championships.

A Dean’s List student, Braude is planning to head “home” as soon as this semester ends to Miami Beach where he’ll spend the summer with his father while continuing to play chess and teach the game to some students he has.

He plans to return to RIC in the fall semester.

What are his plans after that?

“We’ll see where it goes,” he says about his chess playing, but, “right now, I just want to graduate.”

PROPOSING A TOAST to Curtis Tucker Thorp, chairman Sam Ames, RIC Follette’s lecturer

The annual Mary Tucker Thorp Lecturer in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, is art department chairman Sam Ames. LaFollette’s lectures, on May 7, in the Bannister Gallery, was entitled The Metalsmith and Post-modern Deconstruction.
James and Andrade recipients of Rose Butler Browne Award

Two Rhode Island College students "who have distinguished themselves by their exemplary service to the public" were the recipients of the Rose Butler Browne Award at ceremonies held on May 7 in the Faculty Center.

James' accomplishments are demonstrated in her work at the Children's Museum of Rhode Island as a program aide for its after-school activities and in helping present the "traveling" museum to elementary school classrooms in Rhode Island. In addition, the junior English major, initiated and organized the first One-on-One Program at Camp Harkness in Connecticut, a summer camp for adults and children with disabilities, where she will continue to work this summer. She said her work at the camp led her to the West Bay Residential Services, where she currently holds the position as assistant manager of a group home run by the agency. An avid reader and writer, James won first place in the Kaleidoscope Coalition's essay contest in 1992 for her essay, "Living in a Multicultural World." She is a writer for the RIC student newspaper, The Anchor, and worked as the chairperson of the Kiddle Kraft Fair, sponsored by the Campus Center.

A well-rounded young woman who plans on attending graduate school after RIC is Diane Andrade. She has demonstrated competence in her academic field of study as well as leadership in developing units and topics in our kindergarten class. Both women will share a cash prize of $250, according to the board of directors of the Rhode Island Federation of Business and Professional Women (BPW/USA), recognizes the achievements in their chosen career fields.

Andrade, who hopes one day to become a hearing and communications disorder expert working in a school of biological setting, is a senior special education major from Seekonk, Mass. She believes that by working in her field she will be able to inspire children to believe that everyone deserves an opportunity to successfully achieve a belief or dream... Andrade has worked for the last five years as a teacher at the Providence Carter Day Nursery, which services primarily low-income, disadvantaged children.

Anne Herman, executive director of Annie's Place, East Greenwich, is the 1993 Young Careerist of the Warwick Business and Professional Women's Club. She will represent the Warwick chapter in a statewide Young Careerist competition during the annual convention of the Rhode Island Federation of Business and Professional Women on May 15 at the Omni Biltmore, Providence.

"Diane and Andrade are the recipients of the 1993 Young Careerist Award, which is given to just one student from the Rhode Island Colleges and Universities," said Janet Herm, a Providence resident and a graduate of Community College of Rhode Island, where she received her A.A. degree in human services/mental health, and a graduate of Rhode Island College in 1988 with a B.A. in psychology. Since then she has continued her studies at RIC, doing graduate work in social work, education and administration.

Herman is the 1990 founder and executive director of Annie's Place, a non-profit recreation and respite corporation for teenagers with disabilities. Her duties include, but are not limited to overseeing the operation of all programs, training, scheduling, and supervising staff; securing funding through grants and fund raisers; interfacing with community agencies; maintaining bookkeeping, usage data, and progress records and working with and carrying out the wishes of the board of directors.

Herman's goals include the continued growth and expansion of Annie's Place, and development of new programs which address the needs of young families and teenagers with disabilities.

The Rose Butler Browne Award was established in 1976.
Colafrancesco: RIC's 'knight in shining armor''

If Benedetto A. Colafrancesco — better known on the Rhode Island College campus as simply Ben — was "king for a day," with all the power and might to make changes in the world, what would he do? "I would be thinking and doing what's right. Rather than for personal gain, I would do what's right for everyone. I would do what's good for this country."

Ben may never be "king," but the 31-year-old certainly has a proven track record at RIC as having been a "knight in shining armor" to many within the College community for his "distinguished public service...in organizing public awareness of the disabled community on campus."

"Shining armor" to many within the College community for his "distinguished public service...in organizing public awareness of the disabled community on campus."

And that's just what Colafrancesco accepted his award for. Called Chef's Unlimited, which was a catering enterprise and food-service dining arrangement operating out of the Woonsocket restaurant/bar, Enrico Caruso, Colafrancesco worked hard for several years in the business after graduating from the Rhode Island School of Design's culinary arts associate program in 1992.

Prior to his entering RIC in January 1990, Colafrancesco, who was born with cerebral palsy, discovered that "too much time on my feet" was not healthy for him and soon he sold the business. It was one of his goals as a youth and he is proud to say the business was "successful. I still love to cook and entertain." (Linguine with clam sauce is a favorite!)

Changing from entrepreneur to social activist was an about-face for the handsome young man. But he remembered about his childhood, one story he remembered was most telling of why, perhaps, Colafrancesco, had just taken a detour on the road to becoming a civil rights advocate.

Hitting the road is just the phase he is in now, as he takes Baby Fever. "It's a lot of work," he said. "It's a great job." And that's just what Colafrancesco's advocacy is "fueled by people". Climbing over obstacles laid before him on life's journey and reaching higher and better for fairness, justice and equality for all people is what Colafrancesco has been doing all his life — sometimes against the odds and sometimes with the wind to his back.

His advocacy now is "fueled by people," he said, referring to the positive responses he received once he started organizing public forum events on civil rights issues at RIC. "When you start to see that you are effecting people's lives, then you realize the responsibility you have. The gratification comes later."

Besides organizing an open forum on racism following the L.A. riots and representing the student voice on a number of campus issues, Colafrancesco is most proud of rejuvenating the ABLE organization at RIC. "Opportunity and abilities Act and organizing a public conference, "Opportunity and responsibilities" under the auspices of ABLE.

"People from all different walks of life showed up," he said, "it was great! About 80 people were there."

The group has about 18 active members and has embarked on a number of fundraising activities to support a scholarship for an incoming freshman at RIC. "When I took on the responsibility, I knew I had to go through with it," he said, "you've got to believe in what you're doing."

Colafrancesco's a believer. He creates the political science department and Prof. Fran Leazes's public administration classes for opening his eyes to the necessity of "knowing how things work in order to get access" to the American system of government.

Family is important to him, as well. "When I needed a laugh or a break from school, he turned to his nieces: 4-year-old, Vanessa, 8-year-old, Dione, and baby, Melissa. (They still think Kermit the Frog lives at his house!)"

Colafrancesco goal is to become a Harvard University graduate of law and continue working on civil rights issues. "Much is expected of me," he said, "I have my degree and my awards...now it's time to give back."

A recipient of the John H. Chafee Award, given to a student in the political science department who "has demonstrated outstanding academic achievement and superior public and community service," Colafrancesco accepted his award at roasting applause and whistles from his classmates and friends during Cap and Gown Day ceremonies held May 5. He will receive his B.A. degree in political science and public administration on May 22, having completed all departmental and College requirements in three years.

PRINCE PANYA ALAIN SOUVANNA PHOUма of Laos (second from right) meets with President John Nazarian (center) in his office on April 30 with (from left) Richard Weiner, dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences; Tony Teng, associate professor of history, and Heemong Kim, assistant professor of art. Prince Souvanna Phouma addressed the topic of 'The Old Laos and the New Laos' in his address in the Student Union Ballroom.
With a parking message of peace and love, one that dotted today's increasing level of violence at home and throughout the world, Sister Mary Ann Rossi, C.N.D., College chaplain, had been a to the Class of 1993 and to the community of Rhode Island College in the annual Cap 'n Gown Convocation address May 17.

The nearly 1,000 graduates, administrators, faculty and staff crowded in Roberts Hall auditorium to applaud the Catholic nun about whom President John Chafee said "words could not sufficiently express her worth to the College community" over the past 11 years.

"From Bosnia to the East Side Tunnel in Providence," observed Sister Rossi, "seems we have not come up with any other women to join the order.

"So far as we can see, it is "the war,"" said Sister Rossi.

"The students simply are "Mary Ann," Sister Rossi said in a long résumé of public service that RIC students over the years have performed throughout the community, and thanked them for the "peaceful diversity" they have brought to the campus, coming from so many racial, ethnic and religious backgrounds.

"I thank you all for helping us not to be enemies," said Sister Rossi.

"As a final welcome to President Nazarian at the start of the commencement season at RIC, this, the College's 139th year, the students—needed for the first time in their formal academic regalia—turned out to applaud Sister Rossi. "In 1993 we're finally here!"

"This is a 1,000-year history," Sister Rossi observed, "and "we've guessed we can't cope with any of our problems other than violence."

"So far as the enemy is to be enemy," she observed, ""people who choose non-violence are our hope."

With a replay of the processional on the southeast lawn outside of Roberts Hall.

At the highlight of ceremonies, Joyce Stearns cap Mark Scotts.

"I guess it just goes to show you, you never know when you're making a memory," she said to reference to the student's years, "whether "four or five or six" at RIC.

"Citations were read by Anthony J. Salzberg, vice president for academic affairs, as part-time chairman and vice-chairwomen presented awards to the outstanding students in their respective departments.

"These shared to what the life in American Universities and Colleges were asked by Gary M. Pefrad, vice president for student affairs, to stand and be recognized which they did as a group.

"President Nazarian conducted the cap and gown presentation.

"The senior class gift, a check for $2,000, presenting to the graduates, was presented to the president by Brian J. Robinson, class vice president, and Brian M. Boulware, class treasurer.

"Egan C. McCarty, class secretary, presented an introduction to the RIC Alumni Association to the graduates.

"Patricia L. Veit, director, a music education major, sang the National Anthem.

"The RIC Wind Ensemble under the direction of Francis M. Maciak, provided the musical selections. Chairman of the Council of Rhode Island College, John J. Gleason, led the procession and recessional.

A reception followed the ceremony on the northeast lawn outside of Roberts Hall.

With cowbell bands beneath their gowns, Christa Albrecht watches the procession in the Alumni Lounge.

DEPARTMENTAL AWARD WINNERS and their awards and departments are 1 to 6 (first row): Shellei Carr, Satta Rauch Moeble Dance (Theatre and Dance); Marla Gallina, Costume Jacob Hochman (Fashion Department); Mary Jo Massillo, Anthony E. Ricci Social Work Practice (Social Work); San Lio Boudett, American Institute of Chemistry (Physical Sciences); Christopher R. Mitchell Award (Mathematics and Computer Science); Paula Belfoe, Togo Pepeop (Modern Languages); Carla Blain, Wall Street Journal Award (Economics and Management); Penney School, John Silva Memorial Award (Economics and Management); Aaron Knafs, Psychology Faculty (Psychology); Theresa Levine, Bertha Christian Andrews Emaus Award for Scholarly Excellence (English); Deborah Rose-Gaskelle, Eveline Walsh Prize (History): Christa Albrecht, Film Studies Program Faculty Award. C. Curtiss; Scott Vaccaro, Jean Girardson Award (English); second from Christa Carrigan, Nursing Faculty Award; Undergraduate Registered Nurse; Andrew Feesler; Nelson S. Goerttisch-Medieval French (Modern Languages); Eric McCarty, Bertha Christian Andrews Emaus Award for Outstanding Achievement (Economics); Anthony Parrillo, Richard A. Howard Computer Science Award. Leah Wagnafuji Jeri, Nelson A. Goerttisch-Medieval Spanish (Modern Languages); Eleanor Boudett, Computer Science Award; Jennifer Walker, Helen M. Murphy Award (Interdisciplinary Athlete); Christine Conroy, Health and Physical Education Faculty Chairperson; Daniel Michelson Jr., John E. Miller Award (Interdisciplinary Education); Nicole Ritter, Teaching Award for Excellence (Education); Kevin Gobboa, Clarabell dell. fall Award; William H. Lehmkuhl, Daniel J. Blasch Award (Physical Education); Kyle Scudder, Class of 1993 Award (Biology); Dave Fustier, Mary Jane Boulware Award (in Jazz Studies); Marita Serban, Dance (Theatre and Dance); Ben Colfermanos, John H. Chaffe Award (Political Science); Richard Grant, James Hall Award (Geography); Carolyn Montalbano, Elementary Education Faculty Award; and Frances Lopes, Health and Physical Education Faculty Award.

Taking pictures for the senior week show, Kristen King, coordinator of student activities (back to camera) photographs 1 to 2 (Joanne Ferland, Wendy Tudor, Cheryl Heidt, Lori Antilles and Brenda Delano.


His dreadlocks exactly coifed, art major Christian Gonaewon is ready for his mortarboard.
RIC prof Abbas Kazemi receives Fulbright Scholarship to study in Turkey

by Cynthia DeMai

Abbas Kazemi, assistant professor of the Department of Economics and Management at Rhode Island College, has received a Fulbright Scholarship to work in Turkey during the 1993-94 academic year. He will research the impact of Turkish workers' migration to Europe and will teach at the Middle East Technical University in Ankara, Turkey.

Turkey has a 20 percent unemployment rate, so people leave the country seeking work, Kazemi said. Typically they go to Germany where job prospects are good and labor laws are relatively flexible. Professors Kazemi and Atilla Dicle (of the RIC Department of Management) recently presented a paper on this phenomenon. While in Turkey, Kazemi will gather empirical data on Turkish migration to determine the impact this trend has had on the economies of Turkey and Germany.

The same questions will face American workers if the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) is signed, Kazemi pointed out. The agreement would open Mexican and Canadian jobs to U.S. citizens, but would also allow workers from Mexico and Canada to compete for jobs in the U.S.

Kazemi will also try to predict the impact on Turkish workers that new European trade laws will have. By 1997, citizens of any European country will be free to work in any other European nation without government restriction. Workers from low wage countries such as Portugal and Greece will then compete for jobs currently held by Turkish workers. This problem of a future labor glut is compounded by the reunification of Germany, Kazemi said. "East German workers are now competing for the same low skill jobs that Turkish workers seek. This creates social as well as economic problems."

The president of RIC, John Nazarian, will address the graduates, as well as other education and state officials. Patricio Ross Maciel, Class of 1961, will welcome members of the class into the Alumni Association.

In case of inclement weather, the undergraduate ceremony will move to the Providence Performing Arts Center on Weybosset Street and be held at 10:30 a.m. Graduate exercises will be held in Roberts Hall auditorium on the campus at 10 a.m. Students are asked to call the RIC inclement weather telephone line at 456-9500 after 7 a.m. on commencement day, or listen to their local radio station.

* LEDERBERG

(continued from page 1)

Lederberg's resume notes more than 20 local, state and national awards and honors; several leadership positions in state, regional and national legal and educational organizations and societies, and numerous legislative and public service accomplishments.

Judge Lederberg graduated summa cum laude from Classical High School; cum laude from Pembroke College with a bachelor's degree in biology, 1959; a master's degree from Brown University in biology, 1961; and a Ph.D. from Brown in psychology, 1966. She went on to earn her J.D. degree from Suffolk University Law School in 1976.

Among her many awards and honors, she was named "Woman of the Year" in 1982 by the Woonsocket Business and Professional Women's Association; given the "Outstanding Citizen's Award" in 1980 by the United Italian Americans; the "Citizen's Award for Service" in 1979 by the Rhode Island Educational Media Association, and cited by the Rhode Island Association of School Committees, the National Council of Jewish Women and the Rhode Island Mental Health Association. She was the recipient of the RIC School of Education and Human Services Distinguished Service Award in 1984.

Among her professional affiliations, she holds membership in the Rhode Island and American Bar associations, is a certified psychologist in the state of Rhode Island, and member of the New York Academy of Sciences and the Rhode Island and New England Psychological associations.

During her tenure in the General Assembly, Judge Lederberg was responsible for the initiation and passage of many bills, which include calling for opening and closing of law enforcement, broadening the scope of educators, increasing funding for state libraries and providing responsible environmental laws.

An advocate of education and higher learning, Judge Lederberg calls it "the common denominator" to solving problems. "Education is an equalizer. It is the vehicle and means by which it not only gives an individual the means to improve their private lot, but it gives everyone an opportunity to better their society."

* COMMENCEMENT (continued from page 1)

Rhode Island College Commencement Ceremony Saturday, May 22 9:30 a.m.

CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU! Joles Cohen (left) of the economics and management department gets inducted into the Travelers Aid Society of Rhode Island Hall of Fame for his work for the society through the College's Computer Information Systems (CIS) program. The ceremonies April 27 took place at the society's annual meeting at Citizens Bank, Providence. Doing the honors is society president Thomas Hongland.
This year’s winner of the Hetherman Award, Daniel McKenna Jr., of West Greenwich, is indeed the athlete, gentleman and scholar that the award seeks to acknowledge. Not only does McKenna have a 3.23 GPA, he is also the captain of the wrestling team, is involved in the Fost er-Brother Program and coaches in nearby high schools.

A graduate of the West Bay Vocational Technical School in Coventry, McKenna decided to go to college during his senior year of high school. He entered the Preparatory Enrollment Program (P.E.P.) at RIC. This program is open to first generation college students. The summer before his freshman year, McKenna participated in a six-week, no credit training course to get up to speed on study skills, public speaking, English and math.

This year McKenna has been student teaching in technology education (what used to be “shop”) at the Exeter/West Greenwich Junior/Senior High School. Teaching in a credit training course to get up to speed and math.

McKenna decided to nearby high schools.

He describes a family-like bond between members of the team and says woodworking. He says a lot has changed woodworking anymore. ‘’

Foster Brother Program and coaches in the National Technical School in

Daniel McKenna Jr. with one of his Breeding Pigeons. (What’s News Photo by George LaTour)

Having been raised in what would generally be considered a less than healthy environment in New York City and then married to an abusive husband with two children by age 18, this Rhode Island community college honors graduate faced an uphill struggle to say the least.

“I don’t know how I survived it,” Dawn L. Huntley of Providence says now. Today, she is remarried to Cedric Huntley, a local man, and is so-proud of her sons Stephon, 20, and Dale, 17, who will soon graduate from Classical High School where he has been an outstanding athlete.

And, she has completed her undergraduate degree requirements as of last August with a 3.6 average overall (out of a possible 4.0) and an average “higher than that” in her justice studies. At RIC’s May 5 Cap’n Gown ceremony, she was the recipient of the 1993 Honors Van Hawkins Justice Studies Award as the outstanding justice studies student. The award honors the work and career of Premier Justice Studies Professor Mary Anne Hawkins of Newton, Mass., this is the third annual award.

Huntley feels she shares the award “unofficially” with two fellow students, Tina LaPierre and Teresa Desautel whom, she says, displayed a real competitive spirit.

How did she...How did she get interested in justice studies, she was asked.

“I was very much aware of co-dependency issues and all the issues revolving around substance abuse, so that’s why I took an interest” in these issues, she relates. From there, it was just a short step to justice studies and the work she performed fulltime for three years while a student at RIC at the state Department of Corrections in the substance-abuse program for incarcerated women.

About substance abuse: “That’s something that I speak about (with knowledge gained from personal exposure while growing up in New York City slums).” Today, she considers that knowledge “important.”

She throws her head back and allows herself a good laugh...at her self.

Another aspect of her volunteer work at the ACI while an undergraduate at RIC was her assistance to the director of the mentor program. Huntley helped recruit and train mentors for the female inmates in the substance-abuse program.

“We helped abusers with problems while they were still incarcerated, gave them support. I helped train the mentors and (then) matched them up (with inmates),” she relates.

The mentor program trains community members to help incarcerated addicts in their transition to life outside of prison, in addition, networked with community agencies and committees in the hope of better meeting the needs of drug-involved female prisoners.

Growing up in New York City slums, RIC Justice Studies student says — ‘I don’t know how I survived it’ by George LaTour

We are proud of Dawn, and recognize that her continued success in the criminal justice system will result in its improve-" noted Pamela Irving Jackson, director of the RIC Justice Studies Program, in Huntley’s Cap’n Gown citation.

To practice law Another reason Dawn Huntley took up justice studies was that she wants to prac-" tioned legal science and other "all good undergradu-" prepare her for that goal, she says, of being a lawyer who will concen-" pration toward her goal, the federal courts. Her studies at RIC included political science and other "all good undergradu-" trate on constitutional law and civil rights.

When asked why she moved to Rhode Island in 1977, Huntley says she "just moved." Rhode Island seemed as good a choice as any to get away from her inner-city environment at the time.

Now that she has her degree, she will have to law schools and "may move out of Rhode Island" as unceremoniously as she had moved in. Dawn Huntley, for now, fellow students, she notes, "I never stopped working all my life until now. I’ve been `respected for my work," she says then pausing, "thinking, "that’s good, I owe it to myself to be irresponsible – just once."

She shows her head back and allows herself a good laugh...at herself. For Dawn Huntley, irresponsibility would be asking my parents asked my brother and me how we would feel about becoming a foster family. Since then, there have been hundred-" we would feel about becoming a foster family. Since then, there have been hundreds of kids in our home. At one point there were seven foster children, two adopted brothers, two adopted sisters and my biological brother,” McKenna said.

The foster brother program shows you how to treat everyone with respect and inside our home. McKenna said.

The school year ends for McKenna in May, but it begins for his team of racing pigeons. McKenna says he’s in good company. At a recent awards ceremony, McKenna sat with RIC President John Nazarian, "Dr. Nazarian has been involved in pigeon racing for years," McKenna said.
Winners of this year’s Rita V. Bicho, Melody Stappas and Louis Appleton Memorial scholarships have been announced by the Rhode Island College music department, which also announced the winner of a new scholarship as well as the department’s Outstanding Service Award winners.

Jill Boyd of Riverside and Paul Barrette of North Providence, both juniors studying music education, are the winners of the Rita V. Bicho Memorial Scholarship, Boyd in the voice category; Barrette, strings. Announcement of their selection came at the 15th annual Bicho Concert at the College on May 3.

Each received $250 from the Bicho Fund which is housed in the RIC Foundation. The scholarship honors 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.

Winner of the Melody Stappas Memorial Scholarship for $250 is Regina Ferrucci of Cranston, a sophomore majoring in music performance.

The award is given to a sophomore or junior studying piano, who “reflects the joy and inspiration that Melody Stappas gave to everyone she encountered.” M. Stappas, a pianist/organist, graduated from RIC in 1982 and died a year later.

Winner of the Louis Appleton Memorial Scholarship for $250 is Kristan Oberoi of Smithfield, a sophomore studying music education.

The award, for one who is a music major currently active in church music as a performer or director, honors the late Louis Appleton, who graduated in 1974 and died in 1983.

Both the Stappas and Appleton awards were presented at the April 30 Collage Concert at RIC.

Maria V. Gallo...

Music and teaching are near to her ‘home and heart’

by Clare Eckert

The sun must shine a little brighter in West Warwick when Maria V. Gallo sits down at her Baby Grand Kielb piano at her music and dance studio and begins to play her favorite classical music. An award winning pianist, singer and scholar, with a broad smile and a petite frame, Gallo has been playing piano since the age of five.

“Music is something that is very important in my life,” said the 21-year-old, who graduated from West Warwick High School and was the recipient of the Paul Douglas Teachers Scholarship, awarded to an outstanding senior high school student interested in pursuing a teaching career.

On May 22, Gallo will graduate from Rhode Island College with a cumulative grade point average of 3.88 in the Honors Program and a degree in music education and a minor in mathematics, with hopes of fulfilling her dream of sharing her love for music with junior high school students one day.

Besides the Paul Douglas Teachers Scholarship she received upon her graduation from high school, she also was the recipient of the RIC Presidential Scholarship award as a freshman student and a scholarship from the College’s music department.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 1993

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In her sophomore and junior years, the petite woman was chosen to receive the music department’s Rita V. Bicho Memorial Scholarship for outstanding musical accomplishments.

And on May 5 during Cap and Gown Day ceremonies, Gallo received the Cantor Jacob Hohenemser Award, given annually by the music department to “an outstanding graduating student of music.”

Modest about her accomplishments, she quickly credits her family for their encouragement and the music faculty at RIC for “being able to share their talents” with her during her tenure at school. Gallo said she is especially grateful to faculty member, Judith Sullivan, who has been her instructor at RIC for four years.

She has been a member of the College’s Wind Ensemble, the RIC Symphony Orchestra and has performed in the RIC Choir. Soon, she said, she will be looking to perform with other musical groups.

“IT’s important to perform in some capacity (while teaching) to keep you up to date and to continue playing,” Gallo said. “I am looking to get involved with other musical groups.”

Becoming a teacher is very near to her “home and heart.” Her mother, Frances, is a 1971 graduate of RIC and the principal at Eldridge Elementary School in East Greenwich. Her father, Robert is a teacher at the junior/senior high school in Scituate, and brothers, John, 20 and Steve, 16, both stand-out football athletes at West Warwick High School are considering the teaching profession.

Her advice to other young people thinking about music is to “relax, and try to make practice (sessions) enjoyable. Think about the fun aspects.”

from the staff
of What’s News
In Memoriam —

Classical singer Dana McGovern dies at age 42

Dana E. McGovern Jr., of East Greenwich, a 1980 Rhode Island College graduate who went on to distinguish himself in Rhode Island musical circles as a classical bass singer, reportedly was struck and killed by an Amtrak train April 22 outside Boston’s Back Bay Station. He was 42.

McGovern had performed in a number of music and theatre productions at RIC, including last year’s Rita V. Becho Memorial Scholarship Concert which featured Haydn’s “Die Schopfung” (The Creation).

Mr. McGovern worked as a sales representative for T. & J. Container Systems of Johnston since 1987 and was a substitute teacher in the East Greenwich public schools. He had coached basketball for the Town Recreation Department.

Born in Providence, he was a son of Mr. and Mrs. Dana E. McGovern Sr., of East Greenwich. Besides his wife, Esperanza M. (Molina) Berry-McGovern and his mother, he is survived by a son, Michael Berry; a daughter, Melissa Berry, both at home; a brother, William McGovern of East Greenwich, and a sister, Sharon McGovern in California.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at Our Lady of Mercy Church, East Greenwich. Burial was private.

RIC Theatre to present its Hit Parade 1993 this summer

Rhode Island College Theatre this summer will present Hit Parade 1993, another in its continuing series of “successful” musical reviews, announces Edward A. Scheff, professor of theatre.

This year there will be two completely different revues, says Scheff, featuring the music of such great composers as Richard Rodgers, George Gershwin, Irving Berlin, Cole Porter, Stephen Sondheim, Andrew Lloyd Webber and Alan Jay Lerner.

Revue I will be presented July 8-10; Revue II, July 29-31. All performances will be in the air conditioned Roberts Hall auditorium starting at 8 p.m.

The shows will highlight the songs that made the Hit Parade during the 1930s, ‘40s and ‘50s, with old favorites from Hollywood, Broadway and Tin Pan Alley.

The cast will be comprised of both RIC and non-RIC performing artists: Jennifer Mudge, Daniel Kirby and Eric Tucker, all of Providence, Rachel Padoll of Pawtucket, Kelly Lynch of Smithfield and Donald Sheehan of Pembroke, Mass.

Director will be RIC theatre Prof. Raymond Picozzi of Newport; the choreographer, Elaine Colaneri; the musical director, Joseph Parillo; the set design, Douglas Cumming; the costumes, Susan Kandelzak; the lighting, Edward Scheff. Parillo will be at the keyboard with Dan Scheff at the drums.

Tickets are $12 with discounts for senior citizens and students. For more information, call 456-8000.
Christa Albrecht—

On the ‘write’ track

by Cynthia L. Sousa

Over the past weekend, thousands of Rhode Islanders visited their local cinema to watch a movie. Or they rented a movie and watched it in the privacy of their home.

The majority of movie-goers watch for the sake of being entertained and to relax. Recommending a movie to friends because “it was good” or not recommending a movie is as much as people get to critically analyzing or examining a movie’s merits or low points.

One viewer among us is in the minority: Rhode Island College senior film studies major Christa Albrecht of Seekonk, Mass.

Albrecht, who has a strong creative writing background, has long pursued her interest in film criticism, defined as “critically breaking films down, analyzing them and writing reviews.”

And, she has been doing this while maintaining a 3.85 average at RIC, writing a 115-page novella and several short stories and poems (some of which have been published), working part-time at CVS, occasionally babysitting and spending her free (?) time riding her motorcycle!

The 22-year-old was born in Oklahoma and raised in Colorado and Texas. Her family moved to Massachusetts in 1986. She graduated from Seekonk High School in 1990.

Albrecht says she has been writing creatively since she was a young child and that her interest in film studies manifested “when I found out that it was a scholastic area which I could study legitimately.”

When she was searching for a college to pursue her interests, she found that “RIC was the only school around” that had a program that suited her.

“I was very impressed with their attention to film, critical film analysis,” she says. “The faculty had extensive backgrounds in critical film analysis.”

Albrecht says she has enjoyed the changes her courses have made in the way she watches films. “The films have all become bigger, I absorb more and feel like I am participating in the film rather than just watching it.”

During her sophomore year, Albrecht received the English Writing Award and in her junior year she received the Film Studies Award. Recently Albrecht was chosen as the Film Studies Program Faculty Award recipient for “demonstrating outstanding scholarly achievement and unusual promise in the discipline.”

Her 26-page short story titled “In Heat” will be published in Shoreline, the RIC English department’s literary magazine in the fall, which she says she is very happy about. “I’m flattered that they would consider publishing a story of this size.”

Two weeks ago she gave her first public reading of the short story at a party celebrating Shoreline’s fifth year of existence. Her novella is, according to Albrecht, “short on plot and heavy on themes.” She says it is a “tragedy of the human spirit” involving someone who wants to break all the attachments in her life.

After graduation, Albrecht and her “motorcycle buddy” John Silvia of Jameswowa, plan to travel across the country for four to six weeks on their motorcycles, camping along the way.

Albrecht received her motorcycle, a Suzuki Savage, last December as a gift from Silvia and says she and her friend don’t have any specific travel route mapped out, although Omis, Colorado, will be one of their stops. Albrecht grew up in the small town of 500 and says it is “deeply rooted” in her, although she now calls New England her home.

PRESENTING HER PAPER on The Relationship Between Mistreatment as a Child to Adult Relationships and Self-Esteem at the second annual Student Psychological Research Conference April 28 in the Student Union ballroom is Kathleen Carty. (What’s News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

WRITING CONTEST WINNERS, all first place in the annual high school contest area (front from left) Alison Franklin and Elizabeth Shah-Hosseini, both of the Wheeler School, and Vanessa Smith Valliere of Mount St. Charles; (rear from left) Evan Sciarra of Wheeler; Rachel Cane of Lincoln, and Rachael Arestad of Wheeler. Each received pens courtesy of the Quill Company, Providence. The contest is sponsored by the Rhode Island Council of Teachers of English, M. Alice Greffner of RIC, president, and RIC. She is Alumni Lounge on April 29. (What’s News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)