What's News At Rhode Island College

Rhode Island College

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RIC alumni announce annual awards —

Alumna of the Year is Carmela Santoro

by George LaTour
What's News Associate Editor

Carmela E. Santoro of Providence, a Rhode Island College professor emerita in history and graduate of the Class of 1937, has been named Alumna of the Year by the RIC Alumni Association.

Professor Santoro, who retired at the end of 1982 after teaching history and other social sciences since 1967, was cited for her "loyal and dedicated" service to the College as an "outstanding example of educational support" of the alumni association, the RIC Foundation and "a stimulus to all alumni of special events and projects."

"A sweet alma of the past 35 years, she is an extraordinary role model for the alumni association," notes her citation.

Other alumni award winners and their awards were announced by Holly L. Shadoian, director of alumni affairs, who is Robert J. Salhany of North Providence, professor of mathematics, Faculty Award; Russell J. Monaghan of West Kingston, technical director, Roberts Hall auditorium and a member of the Class of 1970, Staff Award; Dr. Monique Picard Root, O.D., of North Kingston, an optometrist and member of the Class of 1978, the Charles B. Willard Achievement Award.

The Rev. Maurice H. Sykes of Cranston, associate director for shelter services at the Urban League of Rhode Island, Alumni Award for Service.

The Alumni Awards Dinner at which these recipients will be honored will be held Thursday, May 12, in the Donovan Dining Center. Reception is at 5:30 p.m.; dinner at 6:30 p.m. Ticket costs are $25 per person and may be obtained by sending your check to the Alumni Office, Rhode Island College, Providence 02908 by May 9.

Second in one year

School of Ed awarded accreditation in nat'l review

by Clare Eckert
What's News Editor

The challenges facing educators and institutions of higher learning today are as strenuous as those faced by the founders of American public schools 150 years ago when the first public school system opened in Massachusetts. Creativity, diversity, academic standards, curriculum building, and models for teacher education are being tested by public demand, policymakers and educators across the country.

Rhode Island College's School of Education and Human Development, with 135 years of experience in preparing aspiring students to cross the threshold of the state and nation's classrooms, passed the first test in preparing these individuals for the 21st century on the national level by receiving accreditation from the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) last month.

The accreditation award includes basic (undergraduate) and advanced (graduate) programs.

In a March 9 letter from the NCATE Unit Accreditation Board to RIC President John Nazarian, the good news was that the College received accreditation and that the review board "take this opportunity to congratulate you and your professional education unit for displaying the high quality necessary to be granted national accreditation, and to express appreciation for the cooperation received from the faculty, staff, and administration of your institution."

Dean of the School of Education David Nelson, who spearheaded the
Focus on Faculty and Staff

Carolyn Fluhr-Lobban, professor of anthropology, lectured at the University of Rhode Island and Wheaton College, both on March 10, as part of the celebration of Women's History Month. At URI's University Club her subject was "Women's Rights as Human Rights in Middle Eastern and Islamic Culture," at Wheaton, "Women's Rights as Human Rights in the Middle East: The Case of Domestic Violence." Fluhr-Lobban also recently had published two articles she wrote, "Personal Status Law in Sudan" in Everyday Life in the Muslim Middle East and "Info about Teaching Anthropology." "We Are Not Exempt" in Human Organization, a publication of the [organization].

Joan Bloom, associate professor at the Henry Barnard School and Anne Petry, professor of elementary education, recently spoke at an all-day workshop of the New England Regional Conference for Social Studies in Boston entitled "Teaching About Japan in its Anthropological Research: We Are Not Exempt." Bloom and Petry were one of the organizers of the event. She is the coordinator of the R.I. Social Studies in Boston entitled the Henry Barnard School and Rhode Island. After graduating with an associate's degree, Partridge began taking college courses at the Community College of Rhode Island and was accepted into the Rhode Island State's Leadership in Anthropological Research: We Are Not Exempt in Human Organization, a publication of the Society for Applied Anthropology. Partridge who knew, long before there were those like Elizabeth Partridge- a role model for women...and men!, receiving her degree only in 1984 and began studying her "first love" - English literature. Four years later, she completed her "first love" at 12:30 p.m. in Clarke Science Building 125.

Workshop: Assistive Technology. Dr. Jerry E. Melaragno, associate professor of biology, is the first professor of biology, is the first assistant professor of special education and coordinator with the Institute for Disabilities (Rhode Island's Regional Center, a mental health center? Did you have any prospects for jobs or graduate school? Did you think what was out there in the "real world?"

One of our speakers, Linda LaBrie, class of '72, who is the director of business and client relations for a large law firm, emphasized to seniors the importance of internships, networking and other volunteer efforts. Just as networking is crucial for those of us already in the workplace, so it is just as important for those starting out.

Linda also brought that message to students when she was the keynote speaker at the Economics/Management Department's Alumni Day held in the fall of 1992. About forty alumni participated in the day and shared their experiences and expertise with the undergraduate majors in the department. It's a terrific opportunity and we really should do more of that kind of program across other majors. The program will be held again this fall.

But what about right now. What about "life after RIC" for graduating seniors? Maybe a networking opportunity is what we need—a chance for our seniors to network with you, our alumni. You could be in a management, business, education, social services, health care—the more diverse, the better. Whatever your field, you are one of RIC's most valuable natural resources.

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10 Ph.D. program acceptances...and counting

by George LaTour
What's News Associate Editor

Among the three of them, these Rhode Island College chemistry students—so far—have 10 college or university acceptances for graduate work leading to a Ph.D.

With no rejections at all, they are among an elite group from RIC headed into Ph.D. programs at various colleges and universities around the country.

Cheryl D. Jones of Warwick, Jeff M. Guevremont of Woonsocket and Amy L. McCann of Scituate, all senior chemistry majors who will graduate this spring, are excited to say the least.

Among their acceptances, all three share "green-light" letters from the State University of New York (SUNY) at Stonybrook, which this year for the first time had sent a representative to RIC specifically to assess and perhaps recruit chemistry majors who are about to graduate and who plan to continue their studies.

Of some 300 applicants to the SUNY doctoral program in chemistry only 35 have been accepted nationwide, including the RIC three, reports John C. Williams Jr., professor of physical sciences and one proud department chairman.

Of course, he's equally proud of chemistry majors Karen Hebner of Pawtucket and Tianshu Zheng of Providence, who will, in all probability, head to the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and the University of Illinois, respectively, for Ph.D. programs as well.

Jeff Guevremont already has decided he will take the SUNY offer and attend. Amy McCann says it is "likely" she also will attend SUNY. Cheryl Jones is waiting to hear from the University of North Carolina, which also has a fine Ph.D. program for chemists, before making up her mind.

Cheryl points out that SUNY at Stonybrook is "one of the top 25" colleges in the country for graduate chemistry work, so North Carolina will have to come up with a pretty good package to gain her nod of approval.

"Tuition is waived and we get teaching assistantships that help us with the costs of going to college for the Ph.D.," says Cheryl. This all averages out to about $15,000 a year.

"It takes between four to six years to earn a Ph.D." in this type of program says Laura F. Cooley, a Ph.D. assistant professor of chemistry.

"Let's see... $15,000 X 6 = $90,000!" Not bad. Not bad at all. Guess all that hard work does pay off.

Talk about hard work and achieving goals. Professor Cooley points out that last year Cheryl took first prize in chemistry/physics for a paper she did for the Eastern Colleges Science Conference, held at Central Connecticut State University.

And RIC students Maria Gomez, Christopher Reddy and Craig Morton were the conference winners for the three previous years.

Perhaps they should call it the Eastern Colleges RIC Science Conference with a track record like this.

Anyway, Cheryl's goal is to get that Ph.D. in physical/organic chemistry and then work in industry. Amy will work towards her doctoral in medicinal/organic chemistry and then, perhaps, work for a pharmaceutical house.

Jeff looks forward to earning his Ph.D. in physical chemistry. After that, he's not sure yet what he wants to do "but maybe something industry related."

None of the three rule out teaching careers, but all indicated that that would be decided upon sometime down the road. For now, it's a stick of difficult study outstretched with the carrot of big-industry pay checks dangling at the end.

ON THEIR WAY: Chemistry major seniors (from left) Jeff Guevremont, Amy McCann and Cheryl Jones are among RIC grads headed for Ph.D. programs. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

A few good artists

Spanish Club of Rhode Island College is looking for a few good artists to create an Hispanic cultural mural for the recently constructed Multicultural Center in the Student Union.

To that end, they plan to contact several high schools and the Alternate Learning Project in Providence to get nominations from art teachers.

Selected students, they say, will work with the Spanish Club members to come up with a theme for the mural.

Selected student artists will be able to learn about RIC and its campus, work with role models and, generally, have a good time.

Upon completion of the project, there will be a ceremony honoring the artists, says Irene Titmas, Spanish Club president.
Teacher certification info available
Career Development enhances services with software packages

by Cynthia L. Sousa
What's News Writer

For teachers or prospective teachers, finding out the requirements for becoming certified in their own or other states can require a lot of time and effort and can be quite frustrating, according to Judith Gaines, director of Rhode Island College's Career Development Center. She says they sometimes must call a number of offices for different information and often receive misleading information depending on who they talk to.

Now, RIC students and alumni can eliminate this confusion and save time and energy by using the RIC Career Development Center's software package from the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (NASDTEC). Purchased by the RIC School of Education and Human Development, this easy-to-use software, used on a Macintosh computer, allows educators to gain access to important information about certification requirements and procedures from all 50 states at the touch of a fingertip.

The program, in which information is updated annually, answers these questions and more about certification:

• What are the requirements for becoming certified in your state?
• How do I contact the certification office?
• Do you need to be a citizen of the United States to become certified?
• Is there reciprocity between your state and other states?
• Are there any required tests or examinations?
• Will I need to be fingerprinted?
• Hold a certificate in another state. What do I need to do to get a certificate in your state?

According to Gaines, the program is simple to operate and requires no training: "Users go directly to the information most important to them—certification requirements, fees, testing, transcript services, contacts, etc."

Gaines says the program is especially helpful to prospective teachers looking for job opportunities outside of state.

Users must schedule an appointment any Monday through Friday during normal business hours to use this software. Call 456-8031.

Other software packages available to students and alumni include the System of Interactive Guidance and Information (SIGI Plus), an interactive career decision-making program; the Federal Occupational Information System (FOIS), which describes the structure of the federal government, existing opportunities in the federal government, and how to apply for jobs; and Resume Expert Plus, a program that helps users develop and become registered into the Career Development Center's database. Once the database, resumes can be forwarded for specific positions that the office knows of.

SIGI Plus and FOIS are free; the fee for Resume Expert Plus is $25 (to purchase software). Call 456-8031 for information regarding any of the above mentioned services.

Psych colloquium set

Anne Savage, a Ph.D. in psychology from the University of Wisconsin who serves as director of research at the Roger Williams Park Zoo and is considered an expert in reproductive biology, will speak on "A Comparison of the Reproductive Biology of the Cotton-Top Tamarin in the Laboratory and the Field" at the Psychology Department Colloquium Series Wednesday, April 9, at 12:30 p.m. in the experimental psychology lab in Horace Mann Hall.

Savage, who is also an adjunct faculty member at Brown University, has done extensive research on animal behavior, conservation biology and reproductive biology. Her research on the cotton-top tamarin is currently supported by the National Science Foundation funding.

Free and open to members of the College community, it is being supported by funds from the College Lectures Committee and the psychology department.

Taft Seminar for Teachers to begin June 20

Application deadline May 10

The 1994 Taft Institute Seminar for Teachers, co-sponsored by Rhode Island College and the Taft Institute for Government, is scheduled for June 20 through July 1 on the RIC campus. Deadline to apply is May 10.

RIC has co-sponsored the two-week seminar for a number of years under the guidance of political science professor and department chair Victor Profughi. The Taft Institute for Government is the nation's leading non-profit, non-partisan organization committed to helping students and teachers understand two-party politics and the dynamics of the American political system.

Probable guest speakers are state office holders, including the governor, secretary of education, members of the state's congressional team, political reporters and politicians.

School teachers, librarians and administrators are invited to apply, along with elementary, secondary, ESL or community college teachers interested in history of government, civics or other social studies related areas, according to Profughi.

An introductory session for the seminar is scheduled for June 1 from 4 to 9 p.m. at RIC. Registering to attend will be notified of their acceptance by May 15. A $100 fee is charged for the course. Fellowships are available. Successful completion of the course will result in three graduate credits. For an application form or more information, contact Profughi at 456-8056.

Moses

Continued from page 1

The Algebra Project, a grass-roots movement for mathematics literacy, is teaching inner-city children in the Boston area and across the country, the social skills needed to think critically and solve problems collaboratively.

For instance, in Algebra Project classrooms, students are taught to challenge each other's assumptions through individual and small team classroom exercises.

Using real-life experiences, teams must reach agreement on what symbols are used in algebraic forms. Students, for example, may crowd into a subway to grasp the meaning of positive and negative numbers, or make diagrams of everyday experiences to demonstrate the meaning of equivalence.

That forces them to find ways to communicate and resolve differences among themselves, according to an article in The Boston Globe.

Moses, who graduated from Hamilton College with a degree in philosophy and French and holds a master's degree in philosophy from Harvard University, served as field secretary of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) in 1961-65 and director of SNCC activities in Mississippi from 1962-65. During this time he was an organizer of the Mississippi Freedom Summer in 1964.

He had taught mathematics at the Horace Mann School in Riverdale, N.Y., prior to his activities with SNCC and was chairman of the mathematics department for the Horace Mann School and a math teacher in Tanzania afterward.

He developed the curriculum for the Algebra Project in 1982 and became president of the National Algebra Project, Inc.
RIC practicum students benefit from School of Ed and Grove Ave. Elementary School partnership

by Clare Eckert
What's News Editor

The successful educational partnership between the East Providence Grove Avenue Elementary School and the Rhode Island College School of Education and Human Development is an endorsement of all the good that can stem from national educational reform when all parties involved are dead set on providing the very best learning environment for students.

The efforts have not gone unnoticed. As recent as four weeks ago, state and federal educational officials, who are responsible for setting goals for future generations of youngsters in k-12 classrooms, and for college students wanting to become their teachers, learned a few lessons of their own in Rhode Island.

"This would not be happening if we're looking at the academic side of things, now we're looking at all the needs of the students. All kids have the capacity to learn."

It's all part of a lesson on the circulatory system.

of Ed for RIC students who are studying to become elementary teachers. Each student must complete a practicum course in math, science, language arts, social studies and reading. Traditionally, a college's faculty approach is to have their students observe elementary classroom settings, develop lesson plans and discuss - among themselves - ways to improve. RIC's philosophy has always approached the practicum courses differently with a state more toward the "clinical" experience of actually placing student teachers in a classroom situation for an extended period of time. Now with the collaborative arrangement at Grove Avenue, practicum courses have gone one step further and taken on a broader meaning.

Lyons taught a social studies practicum class at Grove Ave last fall, along with elementary education assistant professor Macgregor Kniseley, who teaches science. (Valerie Duarte, assistant professor of elementary education whose area is mathematics, also began her practicum classes at Grove Avenue this semester.)

So rewarding" the experience has been for Kniseley, the classroom teachers and the student teachers, that the science professor continued this semester.

Leslie Logan, RIC Class of 1973 and a teacher for 21 years, the last six of which have been at Grove Avenue, and Donna Hawkins, fifth grade teacher for four years at the school, are as pleased as Kniseley with the arrival of the RIC students at their doors.

"It would not be happening if not for the restructuring," Logan said referring to the school-based management system of operation and the enhanced on-site clinical approach to practicum learning.

A special aspect of the clinical approach by Kniseley has been to invite the two teachers onto the RIC campus to hold workshops for the student teachers prior to coming into the teachers' classrooms. So committed are Logan and Hawkins to the success of their students and the future success of the student-teachers that both have provided the seminars on their own time.

"There's a transition going on," Logan said. "I look at it as an opportunity for my students." She said the youngsters "bond well with the college students, (and) become very, very attached. It's actually good for both. (Grove Avenue) accentuates the positive and the relationships help to foster that initiative."

Hawkins added that there are "lots of different ways that kids learn. Our goal is to ask what I can do to get these kids to learn and how can we do it. Teachers want to make kids whole."

The Grove Avenue classroom "looks forward to having the (RIC) students come in. Their interest level is high" when the student-teachers are participating.

As a veteran teacher, Logan remembers that 20 years ago, I was looking at the academic side of things, now we're looking at all the needs of the students. All kids have the capacity to learn."

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Of the collaborative effort between Kniseley and the teachers, Logan said, "I'm part of the generation that was taught that college level professors were up there on a pedestal. That I would be teaching a workshop...that I would be a clinical teacher... (today) I would have told you, you're nuts!" She said the arrangement produces winners. "The pre-service teacher wins, I win and my students win. There's a great sense of balance."
Rhode Island College's Plant Engineer John H. "Jack" Vickers' official office is located at the far side of the campus on the second floor of the Physical Plant building. This is where he hangs his hat each day at 7:15 a.m. when he arrives, and the place in which he sits at noon and eats his brown-bag lunch brought home. It's also where he pumps out blueprints on his Computer-assisted Design (CAD) computer for campus projects, and figures out how to save the College money in reimbursements, rebates and grants to the tune of nearly $4.5 million dollars since his arrival at RIC in 1980, $2.56 of which came from a U.S. Department of Education low-interest loan he authored to renovate the Stone Building.

But his "real" office is the entire campus. That's right - every building, every electrical outlet, every underground heating line and water valve, all the roofs, ceilings, and the "things" that are connected between the ceilings and roofs - all of it - every square inch of it - well, that's the real Vickers office.

"Did you know that different components of a building have their own lives?" he asks. "I have to keep my eyes open to know what's up. Before a building is turned over (to the College) I'm already working with what we got; trying to improve on it and figuring out how to maintain it."

Vickers enjoys figuring out how things work, and knowing the nitty gritty details of the designs. He is the "point of contact" for the multimillion dollar projects ongoing at the College, and the technical advisor to the construction teams, who ask questions like "where do they tie into the water system." He's the one who knows "where everything is underground."

Based on his temperament, good humor, and precision, Vickers, who entered West Point Military Academy at 17 years old in 1953, graduated in 1957, and completed his military career 23 and one-half years later, retiring as a Colonel in the U.S. Army - is by all accounts still an "officer and a gentleman."

Vickers said he wasn't surprised at his career choice of engineering. "My father told me I was going to be an engineer," he recalled. What surprised him a bit was his entry into West Point. "I was shocked going into the military." But, he said, "I met good people, especially my classmates."

Vickers received his bachelor's degree from the military academy, and earned a civil engineering master's degree from the University of Illinois in 1954. He has had paratrooper and Ranger training, and spent one year in Korea, two years in Vietnam and five years in Germany as part of his military service.

A native of Connecticut, Vickers and his wife Barbara, and three children - John, a captain in the Army; Elizabeth, RIC Class of 1989; and Jennifer, a fourth year URI civil engineering student - discovered Rhode Island in 1976 when they were stationed on Aquidneck Island while Vickers attended the Naval War College as an Army officer. Three years later, the Vickerses decided to make Rhode Island their home, eventually settling in Portsmouth.

RIC is his second career, and Vickers likes it like that. "The people here are patient and understanding. They are really appreciative when you help and they're happy when you get something done."

Vickers is extremely polite and gracious, as well as being a task oriented worker. He is regimented in his approach to his daily duties, and places "high" and "medium" priorities on every task he undertakes. Vickers knows what he wants to accomplish, and sets out to do just that. As this reporter has learned through experience, Vickers can be counted on for quick, precise and accurate answers when asked. His willingness to help is exemplary. All that coupled with a positive outlook about the future of the College - even with all the financial constraints considered - is endearing.

The way Vickers sees it all is summed up when a determined smile crosses his face, and he unquestioningly responds to an inquiry about the future of the campus in light of the money problems. "All sorts of good things are happening!" All you have to do is take every day as it comes, keep your nose to the grindstone, and never give up.
The Accreditation Review NCATE review, which included 12-months of preparation; a 500-page self-study; a 250-page list of revised programs of study; and 12 curriculum portfolios to learn of more than 100 faculty administrators; the RIC students, and all other committed educators, we could not have accomplished this enormous task in one-year.

This accreditation review is the second evaluation the School of Ed has achieved in the past year. In October, the College received news that the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (NASDE) had awarded it state and regional accreditation.

According to the Dean, both accreditation undertakings have been "challenging and revealing." The processes required the mutual effort of the Office of the Dean, appropriate academic departments, and individual faculty.

Nancy Sullivan, assistant professor education and educational leadership coordinator, called the fundamentals of satisfying deadlines for documentation to both organizations a "nightmare" at the onset of both reviews. She said, "it was an extraordinary amount of work. Each document and report must be precise, accurate and detailed."

Besides revisions and additions to the undergraduate and graduate curriculum, the accreditation system was revised to include k-12 constituencies. Another major step in organizing the work of the accreditation process was to define a philosophy or "knowledge base" of how student-teachers will be taught at RIC and to design an operational model around that theory, Nelson said.

When the selection of the knowledge base or "The Reflective Practitioner" was identified and presented, it was coupled with the model of implementation on the premise that teachers are decision-makers and leaders, and as such they explore issues and problems, they implement or act on their decision in teaching; and reflect or analyze through collegial conferences, experiential knowledge and research. In making the choice of "The Reflective Practitioner" as the knowledge base, the School of Ed positioned itself for the 21st century in teacher education. And in so doing, realized that new endeavors encounter new challenges, according to the Dean.

The initiation of the new knowledge base and the model was noted in the accreditation team's report on the final report, along with balancing the teaching, scholarship and service of the graduate faculty. As a result, additional documentation will be submitted to NCATE in August 1994. Such data will support the unit's progress.

RIC alumni announce annual awards

Continued from page 1

Staff Award

Monaghan, his citation says, is described by faculty colleagues as one of the College's unsung heroes. "It has been his quiet professionalism and expertise behind the scenes which has brought great success to the many events held in Roberts Hall auditorium. His training has prepared many of his students for careers in the 'real world,'" it says.

Charles B. Willard Achievement Award

Doctor Root is cited for her career achievements. "Active in her community as well as her profession, she was recently named a Fellow in the Academy of Optometrists, an honor given annually to only 10 percent of the practicing optometrists in the United States and Canada. Doctor Root is a past member of the alumni association board.

Alumni Service Award

Reverend Sykes is cited for his "uniting efforts, compassion and advocacy" on behalf of homeless. An administrator of the state's two largest facilities for homeless, the Welcome Arnold Shelter and the Urban League Shelter, he is "a true role model for service to others."

"They (NCATE) believe that the theoretical framework has not been in place long enough," Nelson said. "As a result, it may not have been fully represented in programs and course proposals themselves for a long enough period of time." He said that the College's accreditation team leaders have begun the process of responding to the stipulation of the knowledge base paradigm and will be prepared to report back to the national board in a timely manner.

The accreditation process is a "productive and healthy process of renewal," Nelson said. "It allows us to reflect on what we do and make necessary curriculum, programmatic and policy changes." An outcome of the year-long work "has driven the School of Ed to submit a restructuring plan so that we will be better positioned to meet the concerns of the accreditation team and fulfill the institutional mission."

Nelson called the NCATE report "a fair and accurate assessment." The report suggested that the restructuring of the School of Ed will ultimately put it in a better position to fulfill a more coherent and more structured sequence of our programs of study."

In his recent "Proposal to Restructure the School of Education for Student Development," submitted to the President, Nelson said "...the changes that have taken place within the professional unit at RIC have been dramatic" and have allowed the school the opportunity to prepare for the future. "Such a change of direction at RIC with a national focus."

Streamlining of departments and integration of faculty are efficiently and more successfully. The overriding design will focus in on three general areas, teaching, classroom practices and school administration.

Nelson outlines the basic approach by noting that "improved utilization of clinical experiences. But at RIC the model of faculty, students, curriculum and empowering practitioners, along with incorporating the philosophy of teaching, learning and the role of the facilitator in team environments of team sharing and cooperative learning, and "moving toward curriculum reform which includes a national model of curriculum of core studies to replace patchwork curricula" are the important factors in the formula for success.

"Teaching," he writes, "is the essential profession - the one that makes all other professions possible. In the United States in the 1990's, education is a profession undergoing tremendous change and restructuring. Methods are changing, we discover more about how students learn; classrooms are changing along with the demographics of our society; school and home leaders ask educators to meet all of the new challenges and responsibilities they are being asked to shoulder."

Nelson said that the direction the School of Ed is headed, is in the forefront of educational reform for teaching institutions. "The knowledge base gives it the meaningful framework, while the model makes it come alive."
The Science Olympiad: A fun day to ‘show what you know’

by Cynthia DeMaio
What's News Student Writer

For one Saturday in March, Donovan Dining Center was transformed from a place to meet and eat into a working laboratory of science projects. In fact, in buildings all over campus, junior and senior high school students were demonstrating their science abilities and competing for a chance to go to national competition in Tucson, Ariz., this May.

Rhode Island College has hosted the Rhode Island Science Olympiad for the past four years, said co-director Barry Gilbert, a professor of physical science at RIC. The Olympiad consists of roughly 20 events and is open to all schools in the state, both public and private. This year 12 junior high schools sent teams and 14 high schools were represented.

"RIC is pleased to host the event and provides its facilities free of charge," Gilbert said. "It's a good thing to do in general because it promotes science education. It's also an outstanding recruiting tool. You have bright kids coming here who are early in their scholastic careers. (Because of the Olympiad) these kids know there is science going on at RIC," Gilbert said.

Paul Tiskus, assistant professor of secondary education at RIC and state coordinator for the Olympiad, agrees that the competition may attract kids to science. "Kids get to do a project and see how it works. It's a good way for them to demonstrate what they know without tests or grades. The ultimate thing, though, is that they have fun," Tiskus said.

It's 11 a.m. and junior high teams are doing final test runs on their "mission possible" devices. The west side of Donovan Dining Hall is lined with wooden framed boxes five feet high. The students' assignments is to use the most complicated combinations of electrical, mechanical, heat, and chemical energy possible to power a paddle which will pop a balloon. Team members are easy to pick out because of matching tee-shirts, parents are easy to pick out as they ready their video cameras.

The doorways in Clarke Science are lined with event titles such as "Designer Genes," "Keep the Heat," and "Metric Mastery." On the second floor, students are racing their mousetrap vehicles. The action of the trap's spring must be used to propel the car. Nicole Tetreault and Amy Farrell of Cumberland Middle School have record albums for the rear wheels of their vehicle. The lightness and size of the vintage albums gives the car a mechanical advantage, Nicole explained.

The Olympiad appeals to the type of youngster who "likes to fool around in the basement building things," said Judy Sweeney, Olympiad co-director, Lincoln High School. "The Olympiad exposes students to the type of science careers. (Because of the Olympiad) some students were shown that science is hard, others enjoy it," said Sweeney.

"It's a good way for them to demonstrate what they know and what they can do." said Macgregor Kniseley, assistant professor of elementary education. "The Olympiad exposes students to the type of science careers that are available to them. Some of the topics included in the book are "About the Unions," "Exploring the Soaps," "Approaching the Agents," "Reflections on Personal Management," " Casting Directors" and "Sample Resumes."

The acting consultant to give seminar

Former talent agent Brian O'Neil, who attended Rhode Island College in the early 1970s and who is now a career consultant to actors, will return to RIC Thursday, April 21, to present a seminar based on his recently published handbook Acting as a Business: Strategies for Success.

Sponsored by the Department of Theater and Dance, the seminar will be given in Alumni Lounge in Roberts Hall from 2:45 p.m. to 4 p.m. It is free and open to the public.

"As an undergraduate at RIC, O'Neil acted in RIC Theatre productions, then moved to New York City where for the past 20 years he has acted and served as a talent agent and personal manager, representing actors for theater, films, television, commercials, and radio.

In New York City, he frequently is a guest lecturer at some of the finest drama schools, studios and conservatories, according to P. W. Hutchinson, professor of theater here.

According to his publisher, Acting as a Business is a practical guide to help actors function as business persons, and provides the information and tools necessary to develop careers.

"Actors have long been told it is vital to persist to survive. By illustrating practical and proven methods and strategies, this book shows them how," says the publisher.

Some of the topics included in the book are "About the Unions," "Exploring the Soaps," "Approaching the Agents," "Reflections on Personal Management,” "Casting Directors" and "Sample Resumes."

For more information contact: Cynthia DeMaio (ext. 8016)
The Spanish Theatre of Rhode Island College presents comedy beginning April 28

The Spanish Theatre of Rhode Island College (STRIC) will present a play entitled La Barca Sin Pescador (The Boat Without a Fisherman), a comedy in three acts by Alejandro Casona. The play will be performed Thursday, April 28, at 9 a.m.; Saturday, April 30, at 8 a.m.; and Sunday, May 1, at 3 p.m. in Gaige Hall Auditorium.

Tickets are $3 in advance; $4 at the door. Students with a valid RIC I.D. will be admitted for $3.

For further information, call 456-8029.

The event is sponsored by the Performing and Fine Arts Committee and the Department of Modern Languages.

To perform operatic duets April 20

Gregory Ciccolo, tenor, of Boston, Mass., and Cecelia “Cookie” Schiano Rodi, soprano, of Cranston, will sing operatic duets in a recital on April 20, Chamber Music Series at Rhode Island College’s Roberts Hall 138 (recital chamber) at 1 p.m.

The recital is free and open to the public. With Ciccolo and Rodi will be Michael Strauss on piano.

The program will include Puccini’s “O mio babbino caro,” “Chi bel sogno di Doretta” and “Donna son vidi mai;” Verdi’s “Alfredo’s aria” from La Traviata; and Mascagni’s “Vio lo sapete” from Cavalleria Rusticana in Part 1 and Puccini’s “Love Duet” from Tosca in Part 2.

Ciccolo recently performed the role of Cavaradossi in Tosca with the Bel Canto Opera in Providence. Other operatic roles include those of Don Jose in Carmen with the Brooklyn Lyric Opera in New York.

‘Multiculturalism and the Arts’ is topic for Celebration of the Arts

Rhode Island College’s Spring Celebration of the Arts will feature a talk on “Multiculturalism and the Arts” Thursday, April 14, at 7 p.m. in Gaige Hall auditorium by Marta Moreno Vega, director of the Caribbean Cultural Center in New York City.

Ms. Vega is recognized nationally as an advocate for greater equity in art funding for culturally specific organizations. Her address will focus on current issues on her discussion of proposals to achieve greater equity.

It will be followed by a roundtable discussion with representatives from a wide range of Rhode Island arts/cultural organizations.

In the spring of 1993, Ms. Vega wrote as the first person, “The Rhode Island National Cultural Arts Policy of Diversity and Equity: An Open Letter to President Clinton,” which appeared in the National Association of Artists Organizations newsletter.

Serving as spokesperson for New York’s Network of Cultural Centers of Color, she outlines a five-point proposal asking the President to consider the “development of a cultural-arts policy that celebrates and makes cultural diversity and equity the centerpiece of its policy, insuring that national cultural arts agencies have an operational mandate to be inclusive.”

As head of the Franklin H. Williams Caribbean Cultural Center, Ms. Vega develops numerous programs on the maintenance and growth of African cultural traditions in the Caribbean as well as North, South and Central America.

Also, Ms. Vega helped create two other vital cultural organizations in New York City, El Museo del Barrio, a museum which is devoted to the heritage and culture of Puerto Ricans, and the Association of Hispanic Arts, an arts service organization that provides advocacy and technical assistance for Latino artists and cultural groups nationwide.

Those participating in the roundtable discussion include Winnie Lambrecht, director of the Folk and Ethnic Arts Programs at the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts; Karen Baxter, Rites and Reactions Theater, Neal Bron, Trinity Repertory Company; Sadyawang Kue, Hmong United Association; Peter Calvert, Portuguese Cultural Foundation.

And Doreen Bolger, Rhode Island School of Design Museum; Tereann Greenwood, Rhode Island Philharmonic Orchestra; Ella Sekatau, Narragansett Indian Association; Umberto Crenca, AS 220, and Leonard Smith, Expansion Arts/Rhode Island Foundation.

The keynote address and roundtable discussion are free and open to the public.

Ensemble Abendmusik to present music of 17th century

Ensemble Abendmusik, a period-instrument orchestra and chorus devoted to music of the 17th century, will perform in Rhode Island College’s Chamber Music Series Wednesday April 13, at 1 p.m. in Roberts Hall 138 (recital chamber).

Under the direction of James David Christie, conductor and organist, the ensemble will perform William Byrd’s Mass for Four Voices, Thomas Tomkins’ “A Fancy for Two to Play” and Giasomen Carissimi’s “Historia de Jephto.”

The recital is free and open to the public.

Ensemble Abendmusik made its debut at the 1987 Boston Early Music Festival in which The Boston Globe dubbed it a “team of early music all-stars.”

The program will include Puccini’s “O mio babbino caro,” “Chi bel sogno di Doretta” and “Donna son vidi mai;” Verdi’s “Alfredo’s aria” from La Traviata; and Mascagni’s “Vio lo sapete” from Cavalleria Rusticana in Part 1 and Puccini’s “Love Duet” from Tosca in Part 2.

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Gypsy Rose Lee, the legendary first of eight children in a family of Minsky burlesque, and the mother who drove her to fame are the subjects of the roving musical. The show, coming to Rhode Island College’s Roberts Hall auditorium stage in the annual RIC Theatre’s end-of-season bash April 21-24.

Evening performances Thursday, Friday and Saturday are at 8 o’clock with Sunday and Saturday matinees at 2.

Gypsy is based on the best-selling autobiography of the same title by Miss Lee’s author, to describe Miss Lee’s expertise, “strip tease” being considered too common.

Its stage adaptors were Arthur Laurents and Stephen Sondheim, the team that wrote West Side Story. Jule Styne, composer of Funny Girl, Girls Are Ringing and other Broadway hits, supplied the musical score for this outstanding success with a record of playing 22 months on Broadway in its initial staging. It won the Tony Award as Best Musical.

Cavalcade of vaudeville

This cavalcade of vaudeville’s heyday in the 1920s starred Ethel Merman as Mama Rose in its original 1959, Angela Lansbury in the starring role of Louise (played by Jennifer L. Barrette, a senior from Woonsocket) and Vanessa Zamen, both from Johnston; Lynsey Sickach of North Providence; Russell Robillard of Seekonk, Glenn Hosford of Seekonk. RIC faculty member James Bierden of North Providence plays the father, and junior Eric C. Tucker of Providence, plays Herbie, the mother’s devoted friend and manager who becomes horrified by their tempestuous stage mother.

Twelve-year-old Amy Dziobek of Johnston; Lynsey Sicksch of North Providence; Russell Robillard of Seekonk, Glenn Hosford of Seekonk. RIC faculty member James Bierden of North Providence plays the father, and junior Eric C. Tucker of Providence, plays Herbie, the mother’s devoted friend and manager who becomes horrified by their tempestuous stage mother.

There were considered smash hits.

One of the show’s song hits added to the gaudiness of Minsky burlesque, and then on to become an international celebrity, the driving force is the formidable and tempestuous stage mother who propels her two daughters to stardom. Christine Perron (Mama Rose), a senior from Pawtucket, will be starred as this ambitious, aggressive mother who battles the hard road to show business for her singing and dancing talents.

Daughter number one—at least in her mother’s opinion—is June (played by Dawn M. Pearson, a junior from East Providence), who had been the breadwinner of the family as a child vaudeville star and who, in later life, achieved fame as actress June Havoc. The gawky adolescent, daughter number two, is Louise (played by Jennifer L. Barrette, a senior from Woonsocket) who, just when Mama Rose’s star-making dream seems fool-proof for the way, gets her Big Break in a Kansas burlesque house where she begins her sky-rocket career by changing her name to Gypsy Rose Lee and taking off Mama’s apron strings.

Twelve-year-old Amy Dziobek of Johnston; Lynsey Sicksch of North Providence; Russell Robillard of Seekonk, Glenn Hosford of Seekonk. RIC faculty member James Bierden of North Providence plays the father, and junior Eric C. Tucker of Providence, plays Herbie, the mother’s devoted friend and manager who becomes horrified by their tempestuous stage mother.

Show’s song hits

One of the show’s song hits added a new turn of phrase to everyday speech—“Everything’s Coming Up Roses,” sung jubilantly by the battling stage mother in a moment of early success for her children. Other hits from the show include “You’ve Got to Have a Gimmick,” “Let Me Entertain You,” “Together, Wherever You Go,” “You’ll Never Get Away From Me” and “Small World.”

RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE

Prepping Gypsy before her on-stage appearance is Mama Rose (senior Christine Perron) at left. Senior Jennifer Barrette plays Gypsy in the RIC Theatre production of the same name. (What’s News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)
### Sports Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>3 p.m. - Men's Tennis. RIC vs. Bridgewater State College. Home.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>10:30 a.m. - Men's Track &amp; Field. Tri-State Championships at Bryant College. 10:30 a.m. - running events; 11 a.m. - field events.</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>3 p.m. - Women's Softball. RIC vs. Suffolk University. Away.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>2 p.m. - Women's Track &amp; Field. Boston College Relays.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>3 p.m. - Women's Track &amp; Field. Boston College Relays.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>3 p.m. - Women's Softball. RIC vs. Plymouth State College. Home.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>1 p.m. - Men's Baseball. RIC vs. Roger Williams University. Home.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>1 p.m. - Men's Baseball. RIC vs. Roger Williams University. Away.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>3 p.m. - Women's Softball. RIC vs. Worcester State College (DH). Away.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>3 p.m. - Women's Softball. RIC vs. Western New England College (DH). Home.</td>
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### RIC Calendar

#### April 11-25

**Sundays**
- 8 p.m. - Catholic Mass will be offered every Sunday evening in the Thorp Lounge.

**Mondays**
- 11 a.m. - McAulay House Volunteers meet in the Chaplains' Office, SU 300, to work in the soup kitchen from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Noon to 1 p.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous. Open meeting.

**Tuesdays**
- Noon - Bible Sharing in the Chaplains' Office.

**Daily Prayer**
- Daily prayer will be held in the Chaplains' Office, SU 300, at 11 a.m.

**April 7-30**
- David Macaulay Exhibit - "The Way He Works" in Bannister Gallery. Hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 11-4 and Tuesday and Thursday even from 6-9. Free and open to the public.

**Monday**
- 8 p.m. - Music Concert: Maria String Quartet, The Beethoven Quartets, VI. Performing Arts Series. Reserved seating $14, general admission (open seating) $12. There will be a pre-concert reception.
- 12:30 p.m. - Psychology Colloquium. Anne Savage, Ph.D. in psychology from the University of Wisconsin whom serves as director of research at the Roger Williams Park Zoo and is considered an expert in reproductive biology, will speak on "A Comparison of the Reproductive Biology of the Cotton Top Tamarin in the Laboratory and the Field" in the experimental psychology lab in Horace Mann Hall. Free and open to members of the College community.

**Wednesday**
- 10:30 a.m. - Women's Tennis. RIC vs. Wheaton College. Away.
- 10:30 a.m. - Men's Tennis. RIC vs. Bryant College. Away.
- 1:30 p.m. - Women's Track. RIC vs. University of Massachusetts-Boston. Home.
- 2 p.m. - Men's Tennis. RIC vs. Roger Williams University. Away.
- 3 p.m. - Men's Tennis. Little East Conference Championships. Site: University of Massachusetts-Boston.