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What's News At Rhode Island College

Rhode Island College

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My life has been a roller coaster ride full of adventure. I come from a loving family who have supported, loved and guided me from the day I was born. Due to some of the hills along the roller coaster ride, I have come to appreciate how lucky I am to have been brought up in my home environment. My family means the world to me and I mean the world to them.

I am a hard working, loving and committed person. I put at least one hundred percent in everything I do. My goal in life is to be an element of my environment. My family means the world to me and I mean the world to them.

When I grew up in my home I loved and was brought up in my home by my loving family who have supported, loved and guided me from the day I was born. My family means the world to me and I mean the world to them.

Chet Smolski retires after 42 years — ‘It’s been a pretty good life,’ says retiring dean of faculty at RIC

by George LaTour
What's News Associate Editor

The senior faculty member at Rhode Island College will retire from teaching and most — but not all — of his responsibilities at semester’s end this spring after 42 years of service that has had a profound effect on students, teachers and the community at large.

Chet S. Smolski of Bristol will relinquish his posts as professor of geography and director of Urban Studies, a post he held for the past 20 years, but continue his activity in the Geography Education Alliance, a statewide effort to promote better geography awareness among teachers and their students.

“His record of insightful articles in the local news media has impacted the thinking of a significant segment of the Rhode Island public,” says Epple, “to have been Chet’s colleague for some portion of this long and honorable career and to have been privileged to witness his enthusiasm for his profession and the people of Rhode Island.”

Joined the faculty

Having joined the faculty of the College, then called the Rhode Island College of Education (RIC), in 1953, some five years before the College moved to its present site in the Mount Pleasant section, Smolski served as an instructor at the College’s laboratory school, Henry Barnard, before moving to the College faculty proper in 1955.

“We were heavily into physical geography in those days,” says Smolski about his teaching. He describes “physical geography” as the more familiar study of landforms, climate and the like.

“You could have put all of our students and faculty in (today’s) Roberta Hall auditorium,” he says of the former College site, “and still have 200 seats left over. So you know all the students had to take a course in geography. We were a teachers college.”

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Alumni earmark $75,000 for scholarships

Scholarships grow in number as amount of giving increases

by Clare Eckert
What's News Editor

With each year more successful than the last as the Rhode Island College Alumni Fund grows — this year is a record-breaking final report of total giving of $226,100 — the number of Rhode Island College students with hopes and dreams for a brighter future has grown as well through scholarship assistance by the Alumni Association.

“Providing scholarship awards is the commitment of the Alumni Association to RIC students and is the major funding area of the Alumni Fund,” according to Alumni Association President Betty Gordon, Class of 1968. “It is as a direct result of the generosity of our alumni in terms of total increase in the number of alumni who donated and the amount raised. Since 1992 there has been a 200 percent increase in the amount of dollars awarded and/or earmarked for scholarships. As president of the association, I am extremely proud of my fellow alumni who have become part of this ever-expanding group of active supporters of their alma mater. I am pleased to report that for the 1995-96 academic year $75,000 will be awarded in scholarship and financial support. According to records kept by the Alumni Affairs Office, the scholarship and financial support fund went from $25,000 in the 1992-93 academic year to the current level of $75,000 for the 1995-96 year. In the past three years the number of student recipients has increased by 61 percent, from 40 students in 1992-93 to 66 students

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A BEEHIVE OF ACTIVITY: Workers from physical plant do a little spring cleaning in front of the Clarke Science building, while workmen above.

Recipients will be announced this June 1, except for the Class of 1940 scholarship, which is April 15.

Alumni Fund
Continued from page 1

in 1994-95, according to Holly Shadoian, director of alumni affairs. She expects the number of awards to go up again for 1995-96. Recipients will be announced this summer.

In addition to the increases in numbers of students receiving awards and the fund itself, the Association has designed a new program called the RICochet Fund. Shadoian said an award of up to $500 can be made as "a last resort for a student who has exhausted all other possibilities and still has need - especially in an emergency nature." The fund was established in December and is available to graduate students, undergraduates, full-time or part-time students.

Students receiving RICochet funding are not required to repay the association, but will be expected to donate five hours of volunteer service to the association within one year for each $100 requested. RICochet applications are acted upon monthly. The Office of Financial Aid is working closely with the association on this program, Shadoian said.

Scholarships are available in a variety of forms based on academic excellence and financial need. Among them include the Alumni Children Academic Award, Alumni Freshman Award, Graduate Award, Departmental Award and Financial Aid Award.

Each award is based on certain criteria such as essay, academic record or financial need. Shadoian noted, for example, that the Children Academic Award and Freshman Award are earmarked for children and grandchildren of RIC alumni.

In addition, the association selects the recipients of endowed funds for scholarships in the Foundation: The Frank & Agnes Campbell Scholarship; the Andreoli Scholarship, and the Class of 1940 Scholarship.

Last year three $3,000 scholarships ($2,700 plus $300 from the Campus Store) were given through the Alumni Children Award, two $1,500 graduate student awards were given out, and 21 varying amounts in departmental awards, as well as $25,000 in straight financial aid awards.

"Informing student scholarship recipients that their college experience will be a little brighter is one of the most rewarding aspects as president," Gordon said. "I am confident that in the years to come that the Alumni Fund will grow and grow and that more and more students will receive that phone call and letter telling them that their Alumni Association appreciates their efforts and to keep moving forward in their pursuit of an education."

According to "A Profile of Entering Freshmen Fall 1994" report for students who were freshmen in 1994, the total number of students taking loans has nearly doubled since 1990, with almost four out of 10 students depending on loans.

In addition to that substantial increase in the numbers of students, the financial aid office reports that the total loan value for the 1994-95 year will exceed $10.5 million, up from about $4.7 million in 1992-93. The median family income dropped for RIC freshmen from $40,200 in 1993 to $39,436 in 1994. The 1994 national average median family income for similar colleges to RIC was $40,580 according to the profile report.

Scholarship applications are available at the alumni office or may be requested by calling 456-8086. Deadline for all scholarships is April 15.

WHAT'S NEWS
AT RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE

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Deadline
Deadline for submission of photos, etc. is Friday, March 31.

Kristen Jalbert
Assistant Director of Development, Annual Giving Programs

I received a solicitation call last week from one of the many charities that asks for my support, a regular occurrence in all our lives these days. I listened to the telemarketer read me his script about the organization and what it does and stumble through what my gift would do for it. As I listened, I was mentally comparing his work to the work of student phonathoners who call for the Alumni Fund. To be honest, I was also congratulating myself on how well RIC students sound.

Yes, RIC College students are currently making calls to alumni seeking support for the 1995 Alumni Fund. After seven nights of calling, more than 2,500 alumni have pledged more than $80,000. This success is due to the alumni who recognize the efforts of students who are committed to an important cause. We try to take the time to bring you up to date on the College and tell you where your gift is going and how important it is to us. We also try to listen to what's going on in your life, what you think of RIC now that you've graduated. We may not always be successful, but we do try our best. Give us a chance when we call you. Your support is important to us and so is the person to person contact. We are truly interested in what your thoughts are about your alma mater.

Kristen Jalbert
Assistant Director of Development, Annual Giving Programs

In Memoriam — John A. Thompson

Mail Room colleagues of John A. Thompson, with whom they worked for 20 years before his retirement in 1987, expressed their sadness over his death on March 9.

"John was a very good worker; witty in his way and a very good friend," said Sharon A. Kaye.

"We'll all miss him very much," said Thomas R. "Tom" Maloney, reflecting the sentiments of many in offices throughout the Rhode Island College campus to whom John brought mail.

Mr. Thompson, 66, of Providence, died at Roger Williams Hospital. He was the husband of Antonetta (LaMarra) Thompson.

Born in Providence, a son of the late Daniel E. Thompson and Helen (Donahue) Thompson-Williams, he was a lifelong resident of Providence.

Mr. Thompson was a veteran of the Navy. He was a member of the American Federation of Federal, State, County and Municipal Employees Union Local 94.

Besides his wife, he leaves a daughter, Anne Marie Florio of Providence; a son, John Thompson of Johnston; seven grandchildren and four great grandchildren. He was the brother of the late Daniel E. Thompson Jr.

Funeral services were held March 13 from the Mariani Funeral Home with a Mass of Christian Burial in the Church of St. Anthony. Burial with military honors was at St. Ann Cemetery, Cranston.

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College Shorts

Softball captains announced

Head women's softball coach Tracy Johnson has announced that seniors Heather Skorski of Coventry and Amanda Johnson of Providence have been selected as captains for the 1995 women's softball team.

The team opened its sea- son this past weekend with games against randomly chosen opponents at the Women's Intercollegiate Training Camp in North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina during the spring break March 14-17.

Psychology Colloquium is April 19

The second in the two-part Pepperidge College's Colloquium on “Psychology: An International Science for a Shrinking Globe” will be offered Wednesday, April 19, at 12:30 p.m. in Horace Mann Hall 191 with Toon Cicu of The Hague, a Ph.D. psychologist from the University of the Netherlands.

The colloquium are being supported by the College and the Doctor of Psychology Degree Program. The colloquium are free and open to the public and academic community.

For more information call Thomas R. Malloy at 456-8177.

Collection to benefit Perry Middle School

Kappa Delta Phi, Slightly Older Students and the Campus Center are coordinating a collection to benefit the Oliver Hazard Perry Middle School in Providence. As part of the “America Technology for Schools Program” labels, receipts, proofs of purchase, UPC codes and lists from various stores and products are being collected to help the school gain “points” redeemable for a CD Rom computer.

For more information, contact Joanne Howard at 456-8594 or Kristen King at 456-8034.

Pollak energized with entrepreneurial spirit

Sometimes fatigue shows in the circles under his eyes. His hair, freshly washed and often fast-combed in several directions at once, can add as much as three "Kramer-style" inches to his 6'2" frame. Deadlines are keeping forward.

Of a fast-growing software company, he says, "We're not living in the past. We're looking forward." He is confident, energetic, and highly ambitious.

Athena Design, Inc., based in Boston, creates and sells spreadsheet software for 32-bit operating systems. Currently, Athena's product, NEXTSTEP® (available since Aug. 1992) and for OS/2® (available since Nov. 1994), the company was founded by Pollak in 1989, and has grown to employ 15 people full time.

Pollak has been programming since age 11. By the time he was 15, he was being flown from his home in the state of Rhode Island to Washington, D.C. by the Civil Defense Agency to fulfill a contract for work on an Emergency Broadcast System.

A software start-up was a natural progression for Pollak, who had been a consultant for a number of different state agencies and companies on projects ranging from factory automation services to presidential candidate John Kennedy.

During his years at RIC, he wrote two mass-market products: 64 Diskettes (which won an award as 1984 Consumer Electronics Show) and File & Report (a flat-file database system marketed by Spinnaker Software).

As an editor on the staff of The Anchor newspaper, Dave was largely responsible for introducing desktop publishing to the newspaper. He sold one of the first Apple Macintosh computers and a laser printer, making The Anchor the first school in the North Country to produce its own school newspaper.

During his years at RIC, he worked as an editor on the staff of The Anchor the first school in the North Country to produce its own school newspaper. He says with amusement, "because I was bored with the shape of the magazine." He was driven to make it work.

Athena Design, Inc. energized with entrepreneurial spirit

David Pollak (at right) at Alumni Career Day with faculty member Abbas Behrani. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

This article was contributed by Sarah Frechette Garmany, Class of 1988, who has been a director of communications at Athena Design, Inc. for just over one year. A college friend and editorial colleague at The Anchor, David recruited Sarah to oversee the company's marketing and communications efforts.

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David Pollak (at right) at Alumni Career Day with faculty member Abbas Behrani. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

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What's News Writer
by Cynthia L. Sousa
What's News

Field experience acquaints RIC students with community service

Phillip F. Janes, workshop director of IN-SIGHT Enterprises Sheltered Workshop facility, estimated that his staff spent nearly 1,120 tedious task hours to only 226 hours a year doing payroll and other reports.

But in the near future, thanks to Rhode Island College students, employees there will reduce these tedious task hours to only 226 hours.

IN-SIGHT Enterprises is a private, non-profit agency serving the needs of the blind and visually impaired.

This agency is only one of over two dozen non-profits benefiting from the knowledge and expertise of RIC computer information systems students. All are enrolled in economics and management Prof. Jules Cohen's Applied Software Development Project class or Systems Analysis and Design class.

Across the state, agencies are receiving free software installation and training; having databases and spreadsheets set up, and receiving free instruction for their employees in word processing, file maintenance, report writing and desktop publishing.

Like many non-profit agencies, IN-SIGHT did not have the funds to obtain appropriate management information systems. Nor did they have the budget or necessary personnel to address the associated tasks.

By chance, Janes and Cohen met through a mutual colleague. IN-SIGHT presented their needs to Cohen's class and was later chosen as a class project.

Brian Campbell, a senior from Fall River, has been working with Janes since last semester. IN-SIGHT had a software package created for the agency in Maine. Campbell and other students modified the package and educated the workers as to its use and numerous benefits.

Campbell said the experience of working at IN-SIGHT made him realize how important it is for the programmer to be in contact with the user. "Being able to address the user's concerns immediately is very beneficial to all involved," he said. Campbell also has spent time training employees on a one-to-one basis in various areas including spreadsheets and databases. "It's been a great opportunity and has given me first-hand knowledge of what goes on in a non-profit agency," he said. "IN-SIGHT's employees will spend less time doing routine tasks and will have more time to serve their clients."

A team consisting of RIC students Brian Dugas, Michael DiRocco, Antonio Ferroce and Maxime Hypolite are working on tracking agency statistics for reports, grants and general accountability from about 20 professional staff members.

"There is a need for a system which will provide consistent, reliable methods of handling this task," said Janes. "The students are making progress on such a system."

The collaboration with RIC is working great, said Janes. "All the work the students have done makes information more quickly accessible and makes operation more efficient."

Ann Boyd, MIS manager of East Bay Mental Health in Barrington, agrees. She has been using Cohen's software for the past eight semesters.

"There's no question. What my students are doing now at these agencies, they wouldn't be doing for five to 10 years in the real business world," he said.

Cohen also feels the College has an obligation to acquaint its students with the needs of volunteerism and community service.

"As an educational, public institution, we should foster this type of activity."

"The non-profit agencies appreciate what we are doing for them and the students are learning a great deal. It's ideal," said Cohen.
FREDERIC REAMER

The fact that Frederic Reamer won the 1995 "Distinguished Contribution to Social Work Award" highlights both the importance of his work and the value of his topic: professional ethics. The award was presented by the Council On Social Work Education (CSWE), a prominent academic organization.

"Most professions, with the exception of medicine and law, are only about 100 years old," Reamer said. "Reamer is a professor in the graduate program of the School of Social Work at Rhode Island College.) Throughout most of their history, the various professions have had only superficial interest in ethics. But in the late 1970s and throughout the 1980s, they began to focus explicitly on these issues."

Reamer also gained interest in the field at this time, eventually becoming one of the pioneers to frame the profession's debate on values and ethics. One of his major accomplishments was a book on ethics for social workers written for The Hastings Center (an ethics "think tank"). The Center, using its earliest stage of development its ethics."

To help with these issues, the National Association of Social Workers is developing a new Code of Ethics for the profession. "Without a framework, the most basic than this," Reamer said. "Reamer, who is chairing the effort, says the old code does not have the purposes. There is nothing more core issues of the profession. Reamer feels there is more to be done. "I don't think this is an intellectual fad. Early in the growth of the field of ethics, some people were concerned this would be another fad. But I sensed that it wasn't."

"There is something compelling and fundamental about the core issues of the profession: its duty, its obligations, its purposes. There is nothing more fundamental than this," Reamer said.

The final reason for the current debate on ethics is the maturation of the field, Reamer said. "If you study the history of a profession, its earliest stage of development involves a preoccupation with the ethics of the profession, how to master the techniques of that field. The second (and current) stage involves asking harder questions on fundamental issues: the profession's mission, its code of morality, its ethics."

"Social work started in the late 19th century. It is only in the last 10 to 15 years that practitioners and academics have taken a hard look at basic issues. Prior to this period there was no intellectual apparatus to deal with the issues. The framework simply didn't exist," Reamer said.

Since then, people have used the concepts of moral philosophy courses in philosophy courses to develop a framework to deal with issues, Reamer said. "A typical social worker prior to the 1970s had personal values, but didn't have a formal way to deal with issues."

And there are plenty of issues facing social workers. "For example, the question arises under what circumstances, if any, you should violate a client's right to confidentiality (for example, suppose a client admits to being HIV positive but can't bring himself to tell his girlfriend). Or what should a practitioner do if he discovers a colleague is involved in unethical conduct?"

"Without a framework, the most well-meaning professional would be ill-equipped to deal with these issues," Reamer said. "To further complicate matters, state statutes are sometimes in conflict with common law and the social worker is caught in the middle."

"Part of our job as educators is to help people think through these cases. A professional must be able to defend his or her position to his peers and sometimes in court," Reamer said.

To help with these issues, the National Association of Social Workers is developing a new Code of Ethics for the profession. Reamer, who is chairing the effort, says the old code does not have the breadth or depth to deal with today's issues.

While Reamer and his colleagues have done extensive work in the area of values and ethics, Reamer feels there is more to be done. "I don't think this is an intellectual fad. Early in the growth of the field of ethics, some people were concerned this would be another fad. But I sensed that it wasn't."

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"Backstage" in biology

With as many as 900 students taking biology courses some semesters, it's obvious that a considerable amount of work must go on behind the scenes to prepare for this educational onslaught. What's News recently went "backstage" in the biology department to talk to those unsung staff members who make as many as seven "bio" labs a day run smoothly.

Louis "Louie" McGowan has worked 17 years at the College. Officially he is a "biology technician II." In truth, he is a jack-of-all-trades: repairing equipment, ordering and keeping track of supplies, maintaining the animal room, supervising student workers, you-name-it.

After serving as an electronics technician in the Air Force, Louie came to RIC to prepare to teach science. But family obligations and the opportunity in the biology department put his college career temporarily on hold. Oddly enough, when he got back to finishing his degree, in 1985, he had changed his major to his other great passion—history. (He is particularly interested in the history of Rhode Island mill villages and is an incorrigible collector of stamps, postcards, and railroad memorabilia.)

In contrast, there is greenhouse manager Dianne Huling who knew she wanted a career growing things as soon as she "was able to dig holes" in her grandmother’s garden. A degree in plant and soil science from URI was her ticket to RIC 22 years ago.

In addition to growing plants used in the biology labs (she recently sent 36 flats of peas over to Fogarty), Dianne welcomes bio students into the greenhouse to conduct experiments, art students who want to draw exotic plants, and gaggles of school children, community groups, and visitors who just drop in to talk horticulture.

What does Dianne do on her days off? She works at home in her garden and orchard, of course, growing vegetables, flowers, herbs, shrubs, heathers, and fruit.

Finally, there is laboratory coordinator Victoria "Vicky" Hittinger, who is responsible for laboratory "prep" for some 40 sections of biology students. With a masters in biology from URI and lab experience at Environmental Science Services, Miriam Hospital and the Veterans Administration Medical Center, Vicky is also called upon to teach some lab classes. She is the "mother confessor" to biology students helping them out with their studies and sometimes bailing them out of experimental jams. She also is known for her high energy level: skiing, playing golf, getting involved in the community, as well as raising a family.

As Biology Department chair Jerry Melaragno says, "There is an awful lot of work that goes on behind the scenes in biology."
It's been a pretty good life,’ says retiring dean of RIC

Continued from page 1

At that time, geography was a staple of most school curricula unlike in later years.

This lapse in geography instruction left a generation of students practically illiterate in the subject, prompting the move by the National Geographic Society to re-establish geography instruction in each state throughout the country through the newly established Geography Education Alliance.

The alliance is an endeavor with which Smolski has been extensively involved since before 1991 when he and Anne K. Petry, a professor of elementary education, who initiated it locally, secured the first of two $150,000 grants from the National Geographic Society.

But before that, Smolski had shifted his emphasis to the study of urban development — looking into the development of new towns — after his stint at the London School of Economics in 1968-69 under a National Science Foundation grant.

During that time he lived and worked in England’s first new town, Stevenage, and visited much of Europe.

“I was just turned on by European cities,” attests Smolmik, who made a return trip without benefit of grant monies in 1972-73 and lived in Stevenage again.

Considered an expert in the issues of urban development, Smolski, through the years, might have appeared to the casual observer to be a staff member of the Providence Journal, for which he wrote some 300 articles on urban affairs.

More recently, he has been writing that he believes “scholarship” articles dealing with urban issues and problems for the Providence Business News.

In a small town “Chet,” as he is known by his friends and colleagues, was born almost 69 years ago in a small town near Middleboro, Mass.

“I grew up in a small town and thought this was God’s answer to the good life,” he says.

“Like most other small towns throughout the country,” he recalls, it was a place from which many young men went off to war in the 1940s.

Smolski graduated from high school in 1947, then spent a few months at Groton School near Middleboro, Mass. before enrolling in the University of Wisconsin, where he majored in international relations.

He went to work as a teacher in 1952 at Fitchburg State College, then spent a few months at Groton School before joining the Henry Barnard faculty.

He has during the years also engaged in many professional meetings.

“We pulled weeds in the boiling sun in large gardens maintained by nearby institutions; set up pins in the bowling alleys; did dishes in the canteen,” Smolski never intends to completely retire.

“Like many young men returning from the war, Smolmik utilized the GI Bill which enabled him to pay his way through college.

He earned a bachelor’s degree in education from State College at Providence.

URBAN DEVELOPMENT EXPERT and retiring RIC professor Chet Smolmik stands in front of three-decker tenement houses in Providence, most of which, he says, were built between 1880 and 1930 to house immigrants flocking to America. (What’s News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

Bridgewater, Mass., a master’s degree from Clark University in Worcester, and continued post-graduate studies at Syracuse, Clark, the University of Wisconsin and Columbia, the latter occurring as recently as 1989.

He went to work as a teacher in 1952 at Fitchburg State College, then spent a few months at Groton (Massachusetts) High School before joining the Henry Barnard faculty.

He has during the years also engaged in many professional meetings.

During that time he lived and worked in England’s first new town, Stevenage, and visited much of Europe.

Additionally, he visited all of the then 22 new towns in Great Britain. Subsequent travel brought him to investigate urban development in existing urban settlements in Europe, Brazil, Israel and the United States.

Highlight of family life

He considers the “highlight of my family life” the two trips to Europe on which he managed to bring his family, his wife, the former Theresa Brouillard, and their three children, Lisa, Paula, Rena and Mike.

“We spent four months driving from London to Istanbul, Turkey.” (Mrs. Smolski graduated from RIC after raising the family and then earned a master’s degree in social work from Boston University, Smolski proudly relates. She served as a clinical social worker until her own retirement six years ago.)

For more than six years, the Smolskis lived in Providence.

He considers this time the “most productive of my career.”

Smolski says “living in Providence was both fascinating and frightful.” He explains that living in cities “gives you a range of emotions.”

On the other hand, “living in the country is peaceful, but dull as hell,” says the urban scientist with a chuckle.

As long as his health holds out, Smolski never intends to completely retire.

“My wife is agreeable with the idea of my keeping up with the Geography Alliance,” says Smolski, who will continue on as co-coordinator with Professor Petry in their Curriculum Development Center office in Horace Mann Hall.

All in all, says Smolski, “It’s been a pretty good life. I have no complaints.”

Rhode Island Geographic Education Alliance holds spring conference

“Changing Earth” is the title of the Rhode Island Geographic Education Alliance’s spring conference for K-12 teachers. The event is scheduled for Saturday, April 8, beginning at 8:30 a.m. at the Whippinng Pines Conference Center at the Alton Jones Campus.

Several sessions geared for various teaching levels are planned as well as a keynote address by Peter Cornillon, professor of oceanography, Graduate School of Oceanography, University of Rhode Island.

A $35 fee covers the cost of refreshments and lunch and materials from the National Geographic Society, and other groups. To register or for further information, call 456-8069.

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6th annual R.I. Science Olympiad at RIC April 8

Some 600 students from 34 junior and senior high schools are expected to converge on the Rhode Island College campus Saturday, April 8, for the sixth annual Rhode Island Science Olympiad.

In addition to demonstrating what they know about science and having a lot of fun in the process, they’ll vie for the honor of being selected to represent the state in national competition at Indiana University at Bloomington on May 19-20.

The Olympiad is a scientific/athletic competition divided into two divisions: Division A for those in grades 6 to 9, and Division C for those in grades 9 to 12. It is open to all schools in the state, public and private.

Opening ceremonies are set to begin at 9 a.m. in the Donenon Dining Center. Events will take place throughout the day, concluding at 4 p.m. at the Center and in or around other buildings on campus, including the Henry Barnard School.

Included in the events will be one called the "Scrambler" in which students will design, construct and shoot a device capable of launching an egg a distance of 8-12 meters as fast as possible and have the device stop closest to the finish line, and "Tower Building" in which students are given certain parameters and material and told to design and build the lightest tower to carry a standard load.

Then there’s the "Trajectory Contest" in which students will design, construct, calibrate and shoot a device capable of launching a tennis ball into a target area, and "Mousetrap Vehicles" in which the contestants will construct a vehicle which uses a standard one-spring mousetrap as its sole means of propulsion to traverse a certain distance.

There will be biology, chemistry and physics labs in which students can demonstrate their proficiency, and a "Pentathlon" whereby teams will traverse five obstacles on a course much in the manner of the TV program "Battle of Network Stars." Along the way there will be physical and mental obstacles to test their knowledge in five science areas.

All in all, there will be 34 separate events plus a non-competitive Science Bowl wherein one representative from each school will team up in a "College Bowl" format of toss-up and bonus questions related to all areas of science.

"Kids get to do a project and see how it works," says Paul Tiskus, assistant professor of educational studies and Olympiad director. "It’s a good way for them to demonstrate what they know without testing or grades.

"The ultimate thing, though, is that they have fun," he adds.

Depending on how well they do in the Olympiad exposes the students to other kids with similar interests. By hosting the event, RIC helps to create "a positive experience for kids," Tiskus feels.

First time out was ‘great success’ —

RIC Workshop at Sea is offered again

F lushed with success from its first time out at sea last spring, Rhode Island College is offering its Workshop at Sea again from May 14 to 20.

Described as "A Tall Ship Learning Adventure," it is being offered in conjunction with the Rose Foundation and its Tall Ship, the HMS Rose, sailing out of Newport to sites unknown, although stops at Block Island and Martha’s Vineyard can be expected.

It is a chance for land luggers to gain some knowledge about sailing and sea ecology and earn college credits if desired.

"Imagine spending a week aboard a full-rigged ship — not as a passenger, but as part of the crew, helping to sail her and in so doing learning the ropes, managing the helm and participating fully in the life of the ship," suggests Mary Grady, a part-time instructor of geography at RIC, who initiated the program last year.

She herself has been a crew member many times on the ship, a replica of the British frigate of the same name, which was built in Hull, England in 1757, and was a crew member for the Black Pearl in a 1977 Tall Ships race from Newport to Norfolk.

"I’ve been lucky to have such great experiences," she says, "and it is important for students to get out there too, if they want to understand and care about the marine environment. A trip on the Rose is an ideal way to connect people with nature."

The voyage may be taken for a cost of $600 or $750 if taken for credit. Three college credits may be earned through Geography 380 that will be recorded by RIC’s Continuing Education program. And, the staff of the Rose takes care of all the paperwork, assures Grady, who says that the credits can be transferred to most other institutions.

A 50 percent deposit is required upon registration. Deadline is May 1 and only 30 people will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis.

Last May, 24 participants ranging in age from 17 to 68 boarded the training vessel, the largest training ship in the country — the HMS Rose is not a cruise ship — for its maiden voyage in the RIC program.

Of the 24, 14 took the trip for credit. Nine were from RIC. Others came from the University of Rhode Island, Worcester PolyTechnic and other schools from New York and around New England.

The initial story on the first trip, printed in What’s News last February, was picked up by the media and circulated widely, contributing to the excellent response, says Grady.

Despite some rainy and rather chilly weather for last spring’s trip, Grady says “we had some great sailing nonetheless, and the students’ spirits were unclouded.”

Most of them climbed high into the rigging to try their hand at setting and furling the ship’s huge square sails, and enjoyed themselves immensely while having a learning experience they will never forget," she says.

The 179-foot, square-rigged Tall Ship is the largest active wooden Tall Ship in the world. Built in 1970 in Nova Scotia, it carries three masts, a flying jib on the bow and a spanker sail on the stern and boasts 24 cannons.

Canadian made and American owned, the ship is normally docked at Bridgeport, Conn.

The crew, under Capt. Richard Bailey, will provide instructions on sailing (which will include navigation and chart reading) and, certainly, no one will be forced to do anything he or she doesn’t want to — like climbing the 130-foot main mast.

Grady will provide instructions on geography, sea ecology and the coastal environment.

For more information or to sign up, call Mary Grady at (401) 456-8005 or (401) 454-8475, or write her at the anthropology/geography department, Gaige Hall, Rhode Island College, Providence 02908.
It's Spring! RIC Celebrates the Arts

by George LaTour
What's News Associate Editor

Its spring and Rhode Island College is offering a broad and varied Celebration of the Arts with a flurry of performances, films, exhibits and lectures, open to the public.

The events begin April 5 with a film of an American mate, who face the extinction of their way of life. Entitled Where the Rivers Flow North, it will be shown in Gaige Hall auditorium at 7 p.m. Directed by Argentine film maker Raul Tosso, a discussion will follow with the producer, Jay Craven.

The Spring celebration ends with the May 18-27 Annual Senior Art Show in Bannister Gallery. In between is an array of events, many of which will be the subject of individual write-ups in these pages as they approach.

April 6-29, an exhibition of the work of the late artist, Robert Esau, a native of Providence, will be shown in the RIC Art Center. An artist's lecture by the prominent abstract painter is slated for April 6 at 5 p.m. in Horace Mann 193.

From April 6-8, The Growing Stage, under the direction of Jennifer Rhoads, will present On the Verge or the Geography of Yearning at 8 p.m. in Roberts Little Theatre for which a donation is requested.

Pygmalion

The Gabriel Pascal film classic Pygmalion, which was the source for the musical My Fair Lady, will be shown at 10 a.m. and again at noon on April 26 in the Student Union Video. My Fair Lady, the beloved Lerner and Loewe Broadway musical, adapted from the Pascal film and the George Bernard Shaw play, will be shown in the Gaige Hall auditorium on April 27 at 7:30 p.m. Directed by Argentine film maker RIC April 20-22 and 2 o'clock matinée April 22 and 20, all in Roberts Hall auditorium. Reserved seat tickets are $12. Discounts for students and senior citizens are available except for Friday and Saturday evening performances.

Theatre Professor Raymond Piccozzi welcomes in the Dance Series. Performances include an all male dance group and an all female dance group. Friday and Saturday evening performances will be shown at 7:30 p.m. and again at noon on April 26 in the Student Union Video. Jazz with the Dan Moretti Quartet will perform in the Theatre Series Chamber Music Series at 1 p.m. in Roberts Hall 138 (retractable chamber). Other performances in the series - all at the same time and site — are those of guitarist Mychal Genovesi on April 19, and Wendy Hoffman, mezzo-soprano Metroplitan Opera national competition winner, on April 26.

Mountainview

Mountainview, a dancefilm, produced from the collaborative efforts of choreographer Marta Renzi and film director John Sayles, is slated for April 13 at 7:30 p.m. in the Recreation Center Annex. A discussion with Marta Renzi will follow.

The Muir String quartet will end its series of critically acclaimed performances on April 24 at 8 p.m. in Gaige Hall auditorium. Cellist Ronald Thomas will be featured. Reserved seat tickets are $16 with discounts for students and senior citizens.

On April 25, Germina, a film about a Mapache Indian woman up-rooted from her indigenous setting, her assimilation into the "civilized" domain of the dominant culture, and its destructive impact on her life, will be shown at 7 p.m. in The Forman Center auditorium. Directed by Argentine film maker Raúl Tosso, a discussion will follow with Tosso.

A film in Spanish, S.O.S. Galápagos, which is based on texts by Argentine writer María Elana Walsh and directed by Tosso, will be shown at 7 p.m. April 26 in The Forman Center auditorium. The film includes animation. A discussion with Tosso will follow.

The College's Department of Music will stage the annual Film and Video Festival at 7:30 p.m. April 27 in The Forman Center auditorium. Rhode Island high school videos will be evaluated and prizes awarded. Videos by RIC students as well as by winning entrants will be shown. The festival includes critiques and comments by local video makers.

Another film in Spanish, El Centenario (The Centenarian), will be shown at 7:30 p.m. in the Recreation Center Annex. A discussion with Marta Renzi will follow.

Replacing the annual College Concert this year on April 28 will be "A Festival of New American Music" with the RIC Wind Ensemble under the direction of Francis Marciniak.

Rhode Island high school bands, along with the RIC Wind Ensemble, will perform original works specifically commissioned for them by composers Thomas Duffy, Reber Clark, Larry Lipkin and David Maslanka.

Time and place are 8 p.m. in Roberts Hall auditorium. Admission of $5 will be charged.

The 17th annual Rita V. Bircho Memorial Scholarship Concert is set for May 1 at 8:30 p.m. in Roberts Hall auditorium.

Soprano Diane Alexander, mezzo-soprano Georgette Rose Hutchings and tenor Frederick Schell will accompany the RIC Chorus and Symphony Orchestra and the West Bay Chorale for the performance under the direction of Edward Markward. Robert Cleasby will direct the West Bay Chorale.

The Graduate Art Show is scheduled to begin April 9-25 in Bannister Gallery, with the opening on Thursday, May 4, from 7-9 p.m.
The May Dance Concert is planned for May 6 with the RIC Dance Company performing new works by student choreographers starting at 8 p.m. in Roberts Hall auditorium. Tickets are $6 with discounts for students and senior citizens.

Partnerships key to student success: expert to present topic April 13

From the nation's Goals 2000 model to site-based management, the Institute for Responsive Education has been focused on the ways in which families and communities can be at the center of the design, implementation, and evaluation of school reform efforts.

Through the program called "action research," Palanki has helped to promote building partnerships between families, communities and schools to develop a community-wide vision that is comprehensive and that integrates learning and social needs with educational goals and expectations.

As part of the "action research," participants implement strategies tailored to particular needs and continuously evaluate their effectiveness on going bases, making changes when necessary.

Palanki's presentation will include discussion on the Institute's League of Schools Reaching Out program. She explains that the League is an international network of over 90 schools dedicated to achieving student success through family-school-community partnerships.

In addition, she will introduce the Institute's Responsive Schools Project, a far-reaching community-based vision of new partnership of family, educators and community can work to meet higher intellectual and citizenship goals for all students.

Workshop areas Palanki and her Institute colleague Carol Sills Strackland are scheduled for 6:30 and 8:30 p.m. April 27 in Roberts Hall auditorium. Tickets are $6 with discounts for students and senior citizens.

Rhode Island College Theatre presents My Fair Lady

Book and Lyrics by Alan Jay Lerner
Music by Frederick Loewe
Adapted from George Bernard Shaw's Play and Gabriel Pascal's Motion Picture
Original Production Directed by Moss Hart

Directed by Raymond Piccozzi
Music Direction by Robert Elam
Choreography by Elaine Colaneri

April 20, 21, 22 – 8 p.m.
April 22, 23 – 2 p.m.
Roberts Auditorium

Reservation only with VISA or MasterCard 456-8060

Reasonable accommodation upon request.
Funded in part by the RIC Performing and Fine Arts Commission
Blackstone Chamber Players will perform March 29

A single composition, “Quatuor pour la fin du temps” (Quartet for the End of Time), will comprise the Blackstone Chamber Players performance in the Rhode Island College Chamber Music Series Wednesday, March 29, at 1 p.m. in Roberts Hall 138 (recital chamber).

The Olivier Messiaen work was the impetus for the unusual combination of instruments.

Formed in the spring of 1994, the Players is comprised of John Sumerlin on violin, Ian Greitzer, on clarinet, Janet Chapple on cello, and Joan Orvis on piano.

Sumerlin joined the music faculty at RIC in 1989. His concert career began under the auspices of Young Concert Artist in Performance while he was at the Manhattan School in New York.

Later a student of Dorothy DeLay in New York and Cincinnati, he twice won the coveted Starling Prize and a special career award from the Herzberg Music Foundation.

A frequent recitalist in the United States, Canada and Europe, Sumerlin also was founder and first violinst of the Harrington String Quartet, performing more than 60 concerts in the U.S. and Mexico. His quartet became one of the 10 chosen from world-wide auditions to compete in the first Banff International String Quartet Competition in Canada.

Orvis and Chapple are sisters, born in Billings, Mont. Since they lived in different parts of the country, they had little chance to play sonatas and other chamber music performances together.

Chapple has been a performer and teacher of cello in Rhode Island for some 30 years. Her sister moved to Providence in 1991 upon her retirement after many years as a professor of music at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville. Since then, the sisters have been working together regularly to build a repertoire of cello and piano pieces and to play chamber music with others.

Greitzer is the principal clarinetist with the Rhode Island Philharmonic and the Boston Classical orchestras and performed with the Boston Ballet, the Boston Pops and the Monadnock Music Festival.

He has recorded for a number of labels, including Philips, Koch and NorthernStates Records.

The performance is free and open to the public.

For more information, call John Pellegrino, series coordinator, at 456-8244.

Works of internationally known artist from Providence on exhibit in Bannister Gallery

Willy Heeks, 1988, mixed media on paper, 30" x 22 1/2".

The first career survey of works by Willy Heeks, an internationally known, contemporary artist who was born in Providence and studied at the University of Rhode Island College’s Bannister Gallery April 6-29.

This collection, spanning the period from 1986 to 1993, provides a “unique overview of the intellectual and stylistic struggle that has led to Heeks’ eminence stature in American painting,” according to Krisjohn Horvat, exhibition curator.

Critic Barry Schwabsky, in an essay written for this exhibition, cites Heeks as prominent among “a number of artists who emerged in the 1980s with a new freedom in painting, a new kind of expressionism, and an interest in abstract painting, not for its own sake, but as a means for renewing painting’s ability to picture, not the appearance, but the complexity of contemporary reality.”

“What becomes immediately apparent upon viewing this work is the joy of the act of painting, of mark-making placed in an ethereal space,” says Horvat, himself an artist and member of the RIC art faculty.

He adds: “While the impetus of so much in contemporary painting is about the point/countercue mechanics of art history — a dialogue about itself, to itself — Mr. Heeks’ work eschews that incestuous exercise.”

Most of Heeks’ paintings have a vastness about them, regardless of their physical scale, but without the sweeping gestures that strive for the heroic.

“These are paintings about intimacy that, while having a stylistic edge to them, are not ashamed to be beautiful,” assures Horvat.

The work of Willy Heeks formed a prominent part of the 1992 Corcoran Gallery Biennial, and is in the permanent collections of the Museum of Modern Art in New York and San Francisco, as well as the Corcoran Gallery in Washington, D.C., the Brooklyn Museum of Art and the Peter Stuyvesant Foundation in Amsterdam.

Reviews and articles about his work have appeared in all the important art journals, including ArtForum, Art in America, ArtInternational, and Arts magazine.

Heeks will discuss his art work on Thursday, April 20, at 7 p.m. in Horace Mann Hall, Room 193.

The exhibit and artist’s talk are free and open to the public.

The exhibition, as are all this season at Bannister Gallery, is supported in part by the RIC Art Club, the Artist Co-op and the RIC Film and Lectures Committee.

Exhibit opening is Thursday, April 6, from 7:30 p.m.

Regular hours for the gallery, which is located in the RIC Art Center, are Tuesday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6-8.

For more information, contact Dennis O’Malley, gallery director, at 456-9765 or 8054.
**Sundays**

8 p.m.—Catholic Mass to be held in Sweet Lounge.

**Mondays**

11 a.m. to 1 p.m.—Volunteer at a Soup Kitchen. Meet in Chaplains’ Office, SU 300 at 11 a.m. For further information, call the Chaplains’ Office at 456-8168.

**Tuesdays**

11 a.m.—Biofeedback-Assisted Relaxation to be held in Craig Lee 130. This is an ongoing group sponsored by the Counseling Center. For further information, call 456-8094.

Noon—Bible Sharing in the Chaplains’ Office, SU 300. For further information, call the Chaplains’ Office at 456-8168.

7 to 8:30 p.m.—Catholic Student Association meets in Alumni Lounge, Roberts Hall, first floor. For further information, call the Chaplains’ Office at 456-8168.

**Thursdays**

Noon—Prayer Service held in the Chaplains’ Office, SU 300. For further information, call the Chaplains’ Office at 456-8168.

**28 Tuesday**

8 p.m.—Comedy Night to be held in Coffeeground. Free. Sponsored by RIC Programming. Call 456-8045 for further information.

**29 Wednesday**

Noon to 2 p.m.—Noontime Series with band “Bud Collins” to be held in Donovan Dining Center. Free. Sponsored by RIC Programming. Call 456-8045 for further information.

12:30 p.m.—Q and A session for interested students with Dean Nelson and representative faculty on teaching and teacher education program admissions. Horace Mann 195 Lecture Hall, University of Connecticut.

1 p.m.—Chamber Music Series featuring The Blackstone Chamber Players in Roberts Recital Hall, room 139.

**30 Thursday**

12:30 p.m.—Q and A session for interested students with Dean Nelson and representative faculty on teaching and teacher education program admissions. Student Union Ballroom.

**Sports Events**

**27 Monday**

3 p.m.—RIC Men’s Baseball vs. Bridgewater State College at Bridgewater State

**28**

2 p.m.—Duck Pin Bowling Night. Bus leaves Student Union at 8:30 p.m. $5 includes three games, shoe rental, pizza, transportation. Sign up and tickets at SU Info Desk and Recreation Center Front Desk. Individuals and teams of five welcome. Sponsored by RIC Recreation Center, 456-8400, and Campus Center, 456-8034.

**31 Friday**

8:30 p.m.—Duck Pin Bowling Night. Bus leaves Student Union at 8:30 p.m. $5 includes three games, shoe rental, pizza, transportation. Sign up and tickets at SU Info Desk and Recreation Center Front Desk. Individuals and teams of five welcome. Sponsored by RIC Recreation Center, 456-8400, and Campus Center, 456-8034.

**5 Wednesday**

12:30 to 2 p.m.—Knowing When to Quit Workshop to be held in Craig Lee 130 with Dr. Tom Lavin. Call the Counseling Center, 456-8094, for further information.

**7 p.m.—Film: Where the Rivers Flow North with lecture by filmmaker Jay Craven. For further information, call the Performing Arts office at 456-8194.

**6-29 Thursday**

Art: Willy Heeks, Paintings 1986-93. The opening will be from 7 to 9 p.m. on Thursday, April 6 in the Bannister Gallery.

**6-8 Thursday**

8 p.m.—Theatre: On the Verge or the Geography of Yearning will be presented by The Growing Stage and held in Roberts Little Theatre. Donation requested.

Notice of Affirmative Action and Nondiscrimination
Rhode Island College is committed to equal opportunity and affirmative action. No student, employee, or applicant will be denied admission, employment, or access to programs and activities because of race, sex, religion, age, color, national origin, handicap/disability status, sexual orientation/preference, conviction record, or veteran status. This College policy is in concert with state and federal nondiscrimination laws. Inquiries concerning the College’s administration of the nondiscrimination laws should be addressed to the College director of affirmative action. Reasonable accommodation upon request.