RIC grad Quenby Olmsted, Mellon Fellow

Without TV she read a lot; now Harvard bound

by George LaTour
What's News Associate Editor

When she was about four years of age, the TV in her house on Providence's East Side broke and her parents never had it fixed or got a new one. It's debatable if that fact alone can explain Quenby Olmsted's turning into a scholar, but the fact that she IS seems obvious, and she has a full tuition-and-fees national scholarship to Harvard for a Ph.D. program to prove it.

"My friends thought it was the strangest thing," says Olmsted about not having a TV. "I spent all my time reading" during those years growing up and attending RIC's laboratory school, Henry Barnard, "but despite my

Continued on page 8

Rhode Island College to award five honorary degrees during 1995 commencement season

Judith K. Sweeney, RIC Class of 1972, to deliver graduate school address

Harm J. de Blij, world renowned geographer and Good Morning, America correspondent to address undergraduates

by Clare Eckert
What's News Editor

The 1995 Rhode Island College undergraduate and graduate commencement ceremonies will have the flavor of the international and the local as over 1,700 students receive their degrees. Judith K. Sweeney, RIC class of 1972, who has been recognized nationally for her innovative teaching style and science curriculum initiatives, will address the graduate ceremonies Thursday, May 18, beginning at 5:30 p.m. Undergraduate commencement, scheduled for the following Saturday, May 20, at 9:30 a.m., will feature the world renowned geographer and special correspondent for Good Morning, America's "Geographically Speaking" series, Harm J. de Blij.

Physical Education Center, destroyed by fire in January, 1992.

"That we also will have the pleasure of honoring one member of our own alumni family to address the 1995 graduate students during the commencement season, affords us that much more pride in the quality of education at RIC," President Nazarian said. "The completion of the new building gives us a renewed sense of hope for the future.

Judith K. Sweeney
A Rhode Island native and one of the country's foremost science educators, Sweeney was the 1991 recipient of the Christa McAuliffe Fellowship for her community-based project entitled, Chain Reaction, designed to improve elementary science education in her hometown of Lincoln. That same year, she was named Lincoln Teacher of the Year and was chosen as a presenter for the Soviet-American Science Educators Conference held at Moscow State University.

In 1992, Sweeney won three other awards: Rhode Island Teacher of the

Continued on page 10

CAPLESS: Three happy seniors wait to file into Roberts Auditorium for the College's traditional capping ceremony May 3. They are (l to r) Jadra Mainelli, Tara DeCubellis and Gina Rose. For more on Cap 'n Gown Day, turn to pages 6 & 7. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)
Ann E. Moskol, professor of mathematics, is the director and organizer of the mathematics, is the director and organizer of the Mathematics Department at RIC. Kovalevsky was the first woman to receive a Ph.D. in mathematics in 1874.

Problems " and Gertrude R. Toher, assistant professor of elementary education, "Using Mathematics to Develop Collaborative application of mathematics and to encourage them to think of mathematics as an approach to learning. Kovalevsky was the first woman to receive a Ph.D. in mathematics in 1874.

Among those scheduled to give workshops that day are Lisa Humphrey, assistant professor of mathematics, who will address "Using Math to Model Real-World Problems" and Gordtane R. Toher, assistant professor of elementary education, "Using Mathematics to Understand Geography." Dona Christie, assistant professor of mathematics and secondary education, recently returned from Texas Instruments to participate in a technology preview and product development conference in Austin, Tex., to work with a prototype of the newly developed TI-92 graphing calculator and discuss feedback with the firm for further development. This hand-held calculator has symbols that reflect the use of an interactive geometry system, three-dimensional graphing capabilities and other mathematical functions that were previously only available on computer software. The product is expected to be available by the end of the year. Christy and others will be offering workshops on its use.

Gordon Sundlow, director of the Pawtucket Pawsox Clubhouse for Youth, is offering workshops on exercise-how to get started in a program, how to stretch and how to take care of sore muscles. Furniture Films and Other Mathematical Features of the Pawtucket Pawsox Clubhouse for Youth, currently at the Rhode Island College Department of Education and Human Development, was the theme of the National Alliance for School-Age Child Care Project at Rhode Island College, Office of News and Publications Services, 600 Mt. Pleasant Ave., Providence, RI 02908. It is published throughout the academic year except during semester breaks. Second-class postage paid at Providence, RI.

WHAT'S NEWS AT RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE

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RIC grad Liam Clancy gets nod from top dance company

by George LaTour
What's News Associate Editor

H e's a modern dancer and a good one. So good, in fact, that the world couldn't wait until he graduated from college before beckoning him with a career contract.

Liam P. Clancy of Providence, a graduating senior at Rhode Island College with a degree in sociology and extensive experience with the dance company, has already joined the ranks of Elizabeth Streb's Ringside dance company in New York City and will leave on a national tour in June.

Early next year he will leave with the company of some of the top-notch professional dancers on a world tour, or close to it, with performance dates in Hong Kong, Brazil, Switzerland and very possibly Japan.

Considering himself very fortunate, the 26-year-old unassuming Navy veteran told What's News in a telephone interview from his brother's home in Union, N.J., last week that "I got to live my dream. I wake up in the morning and dance!"

He's rehearsing intensely these days at the dance company's home in the Joyce Theater in Manhattan and anticipating going on the road.

Concerning the possible Japan visit, Clancy says a Japanese camera crew has been filming the company for its own television production in Japan on "New York Culture on the Edge." He says they interviewed him and the other new company member and wanted to know why they chose dance as a profession.

Enthusiastic about Elizabeth Streb's dance technique, Clancy explains that most modern dance is done "on a horizontal plane" with dancers as might be expected — staying mostly on their feet.

"She likes to manipulate space," he explains, emphasizing the "raw power and force of movement."

What that means is that the dancers might be seen often as not "dancing on their heads," Clancy says, laughing slightly at that vision.

At RIC's Cap 'n Gown Day Convocation May 3, he was awarded the Yetta Rauch Melcer Dance Award as the graduating senior who has made an outstanding contribution to dance at RIC. While a student, he won a Special Talent Award for his dancing.

Clancy has been no slouch in the academic department either. He graduates in sociology with a 3.6 (out of a possible 4.0) academic average, and was nominated for an award for outstanding service to the RIC community and the campus.

He's listed in Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges, and won the Ridgway F. Shinn Study Abroad scholarship in 1991, which sent him to study in England for a year.

A son of the former Jean Bosley and the late Edward Clancy, Liam was born in Warwick, moved to Attleboro High School. After high school, he served in the Navy for three years aboard the amphibious aircraft carrier, USS Pelline.

He gives "a lot of credit" to RIC dance director Dante DelGiudice for "bringing in professional dancers and choreographers" thereby giving RIC dancers "a chance to meet top people" in the profession.

Someday — after his performing career has ended — he hopes to open up an international dance school offering student exchanges with students from other countries.
RIC athletes honored; sneak look at new building given

Rhode Island College Intercollegiate Athletics, Intramurals and Recreation Department honored its own intercollegiate athletes at the annual Athletic Awards Dinner Sunday, May 7, in Donovan Dining Center.

The athletes and their guests were then given a sneak look of the new building, built to replace the Walsh Center which was destroyed by fire, by President John Nazarian, who told the gathering that the College had just received a certificate of occupancy the previous Friday.

At the awards ceremony Nazarian offered congratulations to all the athletes and the athletic department staff, headed by interim director Gail Davis, for "persevering in our difficult time since the gymnasium burned in 1992."

Receiving certificates and key chains, the following members of the 3.0 Club were recognized: Derek Barden, tennis; Tracey Bradley, volleyball; Peter Burns, tennis; Alex Butler, basketball; Dawn Camire, cross country; Stephanie Cleary, gymnastics/volleyball; Andrew Coughlin, cross country/track & field; Rollice Ernst, tennis; Lolita Lipa, gymnastics; Joceline Maurais, softball; Virginia Mello, gymnastics; Joan Murphy, tennis; Debra Napolitano, cross country/track & field; Sue Obara, track & field/gymnastics; Audra Plante, basketball; Pam Prendergast, tennis; Frank Ribezzo, baseball; Amy Schauble, softball, Sandra Spremulli, basketball; Maria Venanzi, basketball; Jennifer Verrelli, gymnastics.

New department chairman Donald E. Tencher provided the welcoming remarks:

"During this past year we have been constructing a new building which will replace the former Walsh Center. Construction was completed two weeks ago and I'm pleased to say we are now in possession of the new building.

"This new center will be home to our men's and women's athletic programs. The center will provide state-of-the-art facilities for our student athletes, and it will also be a focal point for faculty, staff and students.

"In addition to providing a new home for our athletes, the center will also provide a home for our intramural programs. Our intramural programs are a great way for students to get involved in athletics, and they are open to all students.

"I am proud to say that our student athletes have been very active in the construction of this building. They have been involved in every aspect of the construction, from the planning to the actual construction.

"I would like to thank all of our student athletes for their hard work and dedication during this past year. I am confident that this new building will provide a great home for our student athletes and I am looking forward to the future of our athletic programs.

"Thank you for your support, and I look forward to seeing you all at our first home game in the new building."
Truth or dare: a student's take on student teaching

by Cynthia DeMaio
What's News Student Writer

Like many of the May 1996 graduates of Rhode Island College, I received my teaching degree this year. Unlike most graduates, however, I am going to tell you my story of student teaching. What is it like? There are as many answers as there are graduates. I was one of the lucky ones placed in a school that values the teaching of science, math, and language. I was one of the lucky ones placed in a school that values the students (Davisville Middle School in North Kingstown), assigned to a cooperating teacher (Robert Wright) who is as knowledgeable and interesting as many have been. I was given students who are typical 13-year-olds (Team A from the 7th Grade). This is my story.

I've always wondered why some teaching is a good job because you get the summers off. I would think a job would be good if you like what it is, not what it isn't. What I think makes the job is the kids.

Since the 6th grade when my class chewed up a substitute teacher and I knew that a big part of the job is crowd control. In fact, that's what kept me out of the profession for the first 10 years of my working career. The people at Davisville agree.

"You have to realize that this is an emotionally charged group of kids," said Ira Brown, Davisville Middle School vice principal. "The mature young person who can turn it around can be as immature when you work with them in the afternoon."

Bob Wright, my cooperating teacher, concurs. "A kid can be asking you basic questions relating to quantum mechanics one minute and next minute he is kicking his buddy under the desk."

When I began student teaching, my wildest nightmares came true. Alone in the classroom, my experiences with many kids who wouldn't stop talking, ignored me when I ran activities, and left their assignments on the floor at the end of class. As a "student teacher" I carried very little confidence.

Then a miracle happened. Bob stepped in and gave me pointers on class room control. "Give a kid a warning and then the consequences: lunch detention, a call home to parents," he said. "For a few days it didn't work very well. Friends would intentionally poke each other in the humor to get lunch detention with me. I was still the student (read: temporary) teacher.

Next Bob called in the senior member of the Davisville SWAS team. SWAS or "School Within a School" is a separate classroom for bright kids who have little motivation for school work. Ellen McKenna came in and observed me in action. She set down classroom ground rules and negotiated a "good behavior system" with the students. I was deeply grateful to Bob and Ellen for their efforts. What they did for me is the expression of teamwork. It's best: I continued to struggle with the kids and began to wonder if I wanted to spend the next 20 years of my life in this kind of turmoil. Then I realized that no matter how many weeks a person has off in the summer, if he or she can't stand the kids, one school day would seem like an eternity.

It was at this point in my student teaching experience that a second miracle took place: my relationship with the students improved. I can't put my finger on what happened, but I think it had to do with feeling more comfortable with laying down the law. Being firm with kids is the way a teacher sets up a safe environment. My cooperating teacher is brilliant in his subject, but he is even better at handling the kids. He insists that simple rules are consistently and carefully reprimanded by a respected teacher. One young man was born in Australia, and then my family moved to China. From there we went to Brazil and on to New Jersey. Then I turned two.

DESIGNING: Student teacher Cynthia DiMaio (center) works with seventh-graders Noell Grandmaison and Allison Grace, who are designing weather stations in the classroom of Robert Wright at Davisville Middle School. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

At the end of the semester, the student and I began to design a weather station with a focus on the Budweiser frog commercial. We examined the weather station to be frogs. Each ducking station, available until they sounded out the phrase "air-pressure." The next day he was building a weather station and asked for help. We thought about this very carefully for a minute. Then the kid who needed to improve his grades and who had recently been disciplined for acting up said to me in a very earnest tone: "Mrs. DeMaio, you should have called me before you came to this school. I could have gotten you in for free. I would have knocked you right past that principal."

Seventh graders are old enough to discuss the worries of nature including black holes in space and what's at the end of the universe. And they are still innocent enough to see the whole world as their oyster. They have a twinkle in their eyes and aren't afraid to try new things. With the help of my colleagues and the good nature of the kids, my student teaching experience turned out to be a very positive one.
Cap 'n Gown Day '95

Departmental awards, speeches bring applause

Rhode Island College Class of 1995 applauded itself upon President John Nazarian's official welcome to the start of the commencement season May 3 in Roberts Hall auditorium, and later applauded each other for individual academic achievements which led to departmental awards.

The class also applauded each of the speakers, especially the faculty member it had chosen to address them, David L. Abrahamson, an associate professor of mathematics. Abrahamson, donned in full academic attire as were other faculty members present and — for the first time — the members of the Class of ’95 itself, nearly had them "rolling in the aisles," as the saying goes, with comments and observations such as: "Nazarian is not only the president of the College, but a client as well."

That take-off on the popular TV ad for a hair-replacement club by the club president alluded to the fact that President Nazarian also attended RIC as a student.

Christine A. Kelly, chosen to speak on behalf of the class, told the seniors that the memories of their college experience "will last us a lifetime."

"We were all terrified about the future" as entering freshmen, she recalled, adding that the question most asked by each was "Do I have what it takes to make it?"

"Each of you should be proud. You did what it took and made it," she said.

Kelly noted the help and encouragement received by the class from parents, guardians, friends, faculty and staff and said the Class of 1995 "owes a tremendous debt of gratitude" to them all.

Departmental award citations were read by John J. Salesses, vice president for academic affairs. The awards were presented by chairs of the various departments.

President Nazarian presided over the formal Cap ‘n Gown Investiture whereby the students capped each other.

A reception hosted by the president followed on the southeast lawn of Roberts Hall.

CAP 'N GOWN AWARD WINNERS and their awards: (front row from left) Alicia Lekos, Tegu Polyglot — modern languages; Heidi Kulski, Laurie B. Whitson Award — sociology; Lynn Winquist, co-winner, Psychology Faculty Senior; Susan Valls, Bertha Christina Andrews Emin Award for Outstanding Achievement; Crista Barrasso, John Silva Memorial Scholarship — economics and management; Joanne Papineau, Theodore Lemoschka Award — biology; Rebecca Phillips, Cantor Jacob Hohenemser Award — music; Regina Fucci, Allen K. Pellegino Music Education; Allison O'Neill, Art History; (middle row from left) Nancy Sullivan, Bachelor of Social Work Community Service; Lisa Lattumani, Nursing Faculty — Undergraduate Registered Nurse; Cynthia Lawson, co-winner, Psychology Faculty Senior; Kiko Chapman, Bertha Christina Andrews Emin Award for scholastic excellence; Deborah Maynard, Christopher R. Mitchell Award — mathematics and computer science; Joel Johnson, H. M. Murphy Award — intercollegiate athletics; Karysa Trudelle, James Houston Award — anthropology; quantity control; Barbara M. McNichol Award — College Honors Program; Frederick MacDonald, John E. Hetherman Award — intercollegiate athletics; (rear row from left) Stuart Plymesser, Peter Jeffrey Archambault Memorial — theatre and dance; Debbie Varma, Josephine A. Stilings Award — drama; Julie Gasper, Leonard R. Gruen Memorial — Spanish; Elizabeth Ellen James, Jean Veghigian Award — English; Mary Gervasi, Nursing Faculty — Undergraduate; Patricia Martinez, Elementary Education Faculty; Marc Blanchard, John H. Chafee Award — political science; Michael Simoncelli, Herbert R. Winter Award for Academic Excellence in Political Science; Eric Tucker, Rhode Island College Theatre.
Queny Olmsted, Mellon Fellow, heads to Harvard

Continued from page 1

Queny Olmsted, at 22, will leave in May for an early enrollment at Harvard, where she plans to study American labor history. At Rhode Island College, her Honors Program professor, Professor J. Stanley Lemons, when asked to comment on his associate and her work said: "She's ready to graduate."

"By the way, she liked RIC more than McGill," she explained, "so she's more accustomed to the American labor history."

The conference will bring together various professionals involved in the educational and cultural life of Rhode Island. The conference is being sponsored by the Office of the Child Advocate, RIC and the State Department of Education.

Panel discussion will examine issues that social workers, educators, foster parents and educational advocates encounter.

Special attention will be given to the focus of which is the educational needs of these children.

The goal of the conference is to improve communication between and among service providers and school systems.

Conference set on Educational Advocacy for Special Needs Children

A conference on the Educational Advocacy for Special Needs Children is set for Friday, June 2, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Rhode Island College Library Center, 600 Mt. Pleasant Ave., Providence 02908.

The goal of the conference is to improve communication between and among service providers and school systems.

The conference will bring together the various professionals involved in the education of children in state Rhode Island's coordinator and collaborator in educational advocacy. The goal of the conference is to improve communication between and among service providers and school systems.

Laureen D'Ambra, child advocate for the State of Rhode Island, will provide the introduction to the conference and serve as moderator of the panel on "Special Education Law and the Quality of the Senior Honors Project." The conference is being sponsored by the Office of the Child Advocate and RIC in conjunct with the Department of Education.

The conference is limited to 125 participants. Fee is $25 made payable to RIC and sent to the Office of Continuing Education and Summer Sessions at the Forman Center, 600 Mt. Pleasant Ave., Providence 02908.
For Gallo students, ‘it’s study, study, study’

by Clare Eckert

What's News Editor

"Respect is love in plain clothes."

For the past six months or so something very special was going on in the quiet suburban area of Warwick where Ralph V. Mastrangelo lives. By January, he just couldn't keep the lid on any longer. It had to do with all those pictures that develop when a family pulls together, understands one another's struggles and successes and keeps moving forward together...and independently. For Mastrangelo, it had to do with pride and respect, an excitement for learning and love.

Suzanne M. Gallo, 48, is engaged to Mastrangelo. A mother of four, Gallo is a nursing student at Rhode Island College, her fiancee's alma mater, Class of 1973. Her life had been a homemaker for over 20 years until 1992 when she enrolled to Mastrangelo. A mother of four, Suzanne had the heart was beating in my chest the first day...why did I put myself in this position?" she questioned. Her son, John Nazarian, was about to graduate from RIC, "It was frightening about academics," she said. "My pride and respect for my sons was the main reason I was doing in balancing all this," she said. "The effort she was putting into it all. As I said it was all remarkable.

"I just," he began, "I looked at the changes in the atmosphere (in the home) and was proud of Suzanne and the home we were making."

Suzanne is energized by life. Her face lights up when she talks about her college experiences, children and adventures in life. She doesn't look much older than her daughters and when all three are in the same room, it's like listening in stereo. The Gallo trio are complimentary to one another and similar. Educationally, is a challenge this year and parent plans have already begun to gel as the big day arrives.

Mom said, "It's been an amazing school in showing school together. We're all at the same place, doing the same things, having the experience of watching her daughters" first as children and then as growing into adult women. They are my major achievement."

Last summer before Suzanne entered RIC as a full-time student, and Christina began her final year here with Meredith not far behind her as a freshman, Mom began remodeling the kitchen, as well as studying and caring for Joanna and Stephen. By the time September rolled around and throughout the winter, everyone was on tight schedules and Suzanne couldn't find the time to finish wallpapering.

Not to worry, thought Mastrangelo. On the rough surface of the unfinished kitchen, just above the stove, he drew a huge heart with an arrow through it dedicated to the family to let them know all is well...and to keep up the good work.

The wall will be there tomorrow.

The following faculty promotions and tenure have been announced by Rhode Island College President John Nazarian, effective July 1.

**To the rank of professor: Paul Archinetti, English; Edythe Anthony, biology; Anthony Antosh, special education; Pamela Brell, educational studies; Judith DiMeo, special education; Richard Feldstein, English; Rachel Feldstein, psychology; Frances Leazes, political science; James Magyar, physical science; Peter Moore, economics/management; Mamie Oliver, School of Social Work; John Pellegrino, music; Barbara Schapiro, English; Daniel Weisman, School of Social Science.**

**To the rank of associate professor: David Brell, educational studies; Cathleen Calbert, English; Donald Christy, mathematics/computer science; Douglas Cumming, theatre/dance; Sharon Fennessey, Henry Barnard School; Abbas Kazemi, economics/management; James McGuire, industrial technology; Sandra Rasmussen, nursing; Marjorie Roemer, English.**

**Faculty granted tenure: David Brell, educational studies; Cathleen Calbert, English; John Carroll, philosophy; Donald Christy, mathematics/computer science; Douglas Cumming, theatre/dance; Sharon Fennessey, Henry Barnard School; Ailia Roemer, economics/management; Pamela Manninen, Henry Barnard School; Sandra Rasmussen, nursing; Marjorie Roemer, English and Nazanin Sahba, School of Social Work.**

**PROMOTION AND TENURE RECEPTION at the President's House May 2 finds (lo to) Mamie Oliver, School of Social Work; Nazanin Sahba, Industrial Technology; President John Nazarian, and Peter Moore, Economics and Management.**
1995 Honorary degree recipients—continued from page 1

Year: Rensselaer Outstanding Science Teacher, and she was a winner of Rensselaer’s Career Foundation Educator Award as an “exemplary educator.”

Considered a model par excellence for women in science and all teachers,” Sweeney is on leave from her teaching position at Lincoln High School and as a resource specialist for the Northern Rhode Island Collaborative while she works as curator of education at the Museum of Natural History in Roger William Park.

Sweeney earned her master’s degree at Worcester Polytechnic Institute in 1981 and has done post-graduate work in science and computer technology at RIC and other local colleges. She has devoted her career to upgrading K-12 science programs in the state, serving as president of the Rhode Island Science Teachers’ Association and co-chair of the Rhode Island Science Olympiad.

She will receive an honorary degree of Doctor of Pedagogy.

Harm J. de Blij

Television producer, writer/editor, university professor, author, co-author and editor of 33 books and world traveler, Harm J. de Blij has been recognized by the Association of American Geographers for “outstanding service” as an American geographer, and shares a 1993 Emmy award with others from the network television show, Good Morning, America. He will receive a honorary degree of Doctor of Humanities.

His distinguished broadcast career has brought him into the homes of thousands of Americans as a regular correspondent to breaking news stories in hot spots around the globe, such as the recent unfolding events in Bosnia and Somalia.

Founder and editor of the National Geographic’s science journal, National Geographic Research, he has traveled tirelessly to educate the public on matters relating to the world around them, using the classroom and the media as forums.

Born in the Netherlands and educated at the Art Institute of Chicago and Carnegie Mellon University, de Blij has worked in or visited more than 100 countries, with most of his efforts concentrated in Africa. Publications that he has authored, co-authored or edited have been translated into several languages ranging from Chinese to Italian. University, and a master of fine arts degree from The Art Institute of Chicago and Carnegie Mellon University.

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During the 1970s, de Blij became interested in the geographical aspects of wine production, consumption, tradition and culture, and has published several books on the topic. He writes a regular wine column for the journal, Focus.

Sister Carol McGovern

The honorary degree of Doctor of Public Service will be posthumously bestowed upon Rhode Island’s “champion of the poor,” Sister Carol McGovern, who died of cancer April 5 at the age of 53.

Sister McGovern’s life belonged to those less fortunate. She was one of the state’s tireless advocates for the powerless and destitute. As executive director of Amos House and president of the Rhode Island Coalition for the Homeless, the Sister of Mercy spent her energy feeding the needy and working to elevate some of the struggles faced by those who could take comfort in her kind words and ever-present smile.

A 1964 graduate of Salve Regina University where she earned her degree in education, Sister McGovern took her final vows into the religious life three years later. She earned her master’s degree in religious education in 1974 from St. Michael’s College in Vermont.

Repertory Company for more than 25 years will receive an honorary degree of Doctor of Fine Arts. National audiences should recall Lee’s production designs for the comedy hit, Saturday Night Live, as well as his innovative landmark productions as Amiri Baraka’s Slave Ship (Chelsea Theater Center, 1980), the revival of Leonard Bernstein’s Candide for which he won a Tony (Chelsea Theater and Broadway, 1974), Stephen Sondheim’s Sweeney Todd (Broadway, 1979) for which he won another Tony Award, and dozen of production at Trinity Rep.

Lee holds a bachelor of fine arts degree from The Art Institute of Chicago and Carnegie Mellon University, and a master of fine arts degree from the Rhode Island School of Design.

Drawing his style from within, Lee says, “artists have styles that you can recognize instantly. I have

SISTER CAROL MCGOVERN

File Photo

Considered a friend by people from all walks of life, she “possessed a softness about her that allowed her to speak the truth” without turning people off. In an April 6, Providence Journal Bulletin obituary Sister McGovern is quoted as saying the following about her work at Amos House: “I have a real passion for the people who come here. They are my family, truly they are my family.

She was a founder of the Rhode Island Coalition for the Homeless, and was president of its board. She was a member of the board of directors of Sunrise House, a member of the board and a counselor-advocate of the Rhode Island Rape Crisis Center, a member of the Campaign to Eliminate Childhood Poverty and the Rhode Island Right to Housing NOW.

In addition, Sister McGovern had served on the Governor’s Inter-Agency Council for the Homeless, the Governor’s General Public Assistance Task Force, the People First Budget Coalition and the Emergency-Assistance-to-Families Commission.

EUGENE EDWARD LEE

Internationally recognized scenographer, Eugene Edward Lee, who brought attention to Rhode Island as a scenic designer for Trinity Repertory Company for more than 25 years will receive an honorary degree of Doctor of Fine Arts. National audiences should recall Lee’s production designs for the comedy hit, Saturday Night Live, as well as his innovative landmark productions as Amiri Baraka’s Slave Ship (Chelsea Theater Center, 1980), the revival of Leonard Bernstein’s Candide for which he won a Tony (Chelsea Theater and Broadway, 1974), Stephen Sondheim’s Sweeney Todd (Broadway, 1979) for which he won another Tony Award, and dozen of production at Trinity Rep.

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WILLY HEEKS

The 44-year-old critically acclaimed artist’s works are in the permanent collections of the Museums of Modern Art in New York and San Francisco, as well as in the Corcoran Gallery in Washington, D.C., the Boston Museum of Fine Art, the Brooklyn Museum and the Peter Stuyvesant Foundation in Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

Heeks’s one-man and group exhibitions number in the hundreds. Articles and reviews of his work have appeared in several art journals, including Art Forum, Art in America, Art International and Arts magazine.

Among the many honors and awards he has received include the Artist Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts, 1978, 1987 and 1989; Painting Award from the American Academy & Institute of Arts and Letters, 1989; Louis Comfort Tiffany Award, 1985, and the Harriet and Esteban Vicente Fellowship in Painting, 1984.

Following his April exhibition at Bannister Gallery, plans are under-way for the show to tour museums and galleries throughout the country.

Receptions for graduates, families and friends will follow both cere

ON HAND FOR SECREATRIES DAY which was observed April 26 in the Faculty Center are (l to r) Bernadette Doyle and Donna Loomis, both of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences Office; Bette Brady of the Office of Personnel Services; President John Nazarian; Jane Lindberg of the President’s Office, and Ellen Hunt of the School of Social Work Office.
RIC nursing grad adds one more guarantee for quality care

by Cynthia L. Sousa
What's News Writer

Jamison Risser's wife, Millie, was a nurse. They had eight children. So it was only natural for him to want one or two of his daughters to follow in his footsteps. Little did Jamison, Class of 1975, know that six of his eight children would become nurses!

This year, one of those daughters, Mary Gavigan, will receive her nursing degree from Rhode Island College.

Sister Janine Risser-Sperry received her degree from RIC in 1979 and works as a visiting nurse in Massachusetts. "And, she's one darn good nurse!" says Mary.

Mary's oldest brother, Mike, received his degree in 1993 from the University of Rhode Island and was a Kent County Mental Health Center.

Brother Jim will also graduate from URI this month with his nursing degree. Mary credits him with prodding her into getting her degree. He also does work for Kent County and Rhode Island Hospital.

Judy Slattery, Mary's sister, will receive her degree from the Community College of Rhode Island this month. She followed the path of sister Margaret Allaire who graduated from CCRI in 1984 and whose husband, George, is also graduating with his nursing degree from there this month.

All in all, if you're part of the Risser extended family and you fall ill, you can be guaranteed the best help around.

Mary said after doing a variety of jobs for several years after getting married, including running a mail order business with her husband, she decided to get her nursing degree.

Growing up with a mother who came home with stories about what happened in the maternity ward at the hospital Mary said it was only a matter of time before she would eventually enter this line of work.

Since coming to RIC three years ago, Mary has taken to the nursing program like a duck takes to water! She has managed to be a successful student in the curriculum, while using and further developing her leadership skills.

She has served as vice president of the Rhode Island College Nursing Club, and the Rhode Island College Student Nurse Association, in addition to her role this year as treasurer of the Student Nurse Association of Rhode Island.

In addition, she was selected as a Ladder in Nursing Careers (LINC) participant by Kent County Memorial Hospital, a program that selects and supports students of nursing who are employed and pursuing health care careers.

For her excellence in clinical practice, leadership within the Department of Nursing and service to the College and community, Mary received the Nursing Faculty Award this year.

Having been employed at Kent County Hospital as a nutritionist on a part-time basis Mary feels that this experience has given her some additional insight into what to expect when she is employed. "I got to see the operations of the hospital from a position other than a nurse."

As an older-than-average student, Mary believes pursuing a profession later in life is beneficial in many ways and difficult in others. "You know what you want and are determined to make it," she said. "But juggling family life and a job with school work is difficult at times!"

Mary believes the most important quality to have to become a nurse is to be down-to-earth. "You also have to be grounded in reality or you'll have greater trouble dealing with sickness and death," she said. Compassion and respect for your fellow human being also applies, according to Mary.

Mary's decision to attend RIC was based on location and the school's philosophy of treating the 'whole' person. "I agree with that theory. Through small group clinical experiences, nursing students develop close relationships with faculty members. "The program offered me exactly what I needed," she explained. "I feel well-prepared to take on a career."

The school's reputation for nursing is 'excellent' Mary vows. She said the hospitals in the area consider RIC student nurses to be 'good nurses,' qualified and able.

Mary and her husband Bill live in North Scituate. They have a daughter, Valerie who attends Elm's College and a son, William Jr. who attends CCRI. And, you guessed it! He will perpetuate the family's calling next year by enrolling at RIC in the nursing program.

FIRST DEBRA A. DUMONT MEMORIAL scholarship winner is Amy Ritter of Providence, Class of 1997. (second from right.) Others pictured from left are Debra's sister, Patricia; Michael Turcotte, who established the scholarship in Debra's memory; Debra's stepmother, Catherine; her father, Gordon, and Patricia Thomas of the RIC Nursing Department. The awarding ceremony took place April 27 in the Faculty Center. The scholarship was established a year ago in April to honor the memory of Debra Dumont, a senior nursing student, who was killed in an auto accident just prior to her graduation.
Gordon M. Sundberg, director of the Office of Personnel Services, announced the follow­
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Professor of nursing, 1973-94; Kenneth A. McVay,
Committee on student engagement in learning suggests reading list as part
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The Committee on Student Engagement in Learning has dis­
tilled the following summer reading list. It is being recommended for all
faculty, staff and students, alumni
and friends of the College, with the goal of creating some intellectual
common ground on which members of our community can talk and
learn across conventional boundaries
of classes, disciplines, etc.

It is hoped that some of these books will become supplementary readings in
numerous courses next year, but in addition out-of-class cracker-barrel discussions
on each book will be scheduled and
announced later to broaden the con­
versation.

The committee has selected books that connect with the theme of next year's October Series, "BORDER." Thus, these work considers borders
that exist between stages of develop­
gment, genders, nations, races, social classes, and cultures, and
even within a biological organism.

* Anzaldua, Gloria. Borderlands: La Frontera
Borderlands explores a number of different borders in ways which
embody many of the issues which will be discussed during the October Series. Anzaldúa, who grew up on
the border of Mexico and the United States, explores her experience of being caught between two cultures.
The book is rich, challenging and filled with thought-provoking insights. The author has written a blend of political and religious his­
tory, narrative, and poetry inter­
spersed with the languages of the border, Castillian Spanish, Tex­
Mex, North Mexican dialect, and

Nahuatl, the language of the indige­
nous population.

* McCarthy, Cormac. All the Pretty
Harvests
Written by a native of Pawtucket, this national book award winner chronicles the idyllic, sometimes
crude adventure of a young man from Texas as he crosses the border into Mexico. In this modern-day story.
where there are plenty of guns,
gunplay, and romance. At another level, the geographic boundary seems only a piece of the larger
and psychological borders the pro­tagonist must negotiate as he locates
and defines himself.

* Menchú, Rigoberta. I, Rigoberta
Menchú: An Indian Woman in Guatemala
This autobiographical account by the 1992 winner of the Nobel Peace Prize recounts the lives of the
Quiché Indians of Guatemala. Beyond a discussion of their culture, it depicts the human rights abuses the
laboring population has meted out
against the native peoples. Rigoberta continues her efforts to
end those abuses. The Nobel Prize
Committee described her as "a vivid
symbol of peace and reconciliation."

* Reddy, Maureen. Crossing the
Colorline: Race, Parenting, and Culture
Crossing the Colorline, which has
received national attention, is an exploration of the effects of racism
and gender on our society. Maureen
Reddy, a member of the Rhode Island
College English Department and the
Director of the Women's Studies pro­
gram, writes about the politics of feminism and anti-racism from the
perspective of a white mother of
black children. She will be schedul­ing
an October date to meet with
students, faculty and staff for an
informal discussion of her book.

* Rose, Mike. Lives on the Boundary
Rose uses his own narrative about
his youth in a Los Angeles ghetto
to warn teachers of "under­
prepared" students as the basis for his exploration of class and cultural
definitions. Rose explores the
several possibilities of the border pushing process. This collec­tion consists of 29 brief essays (5-8
pages in length) that are best read
thoughtfully one a day. Dr. Lewis
Reddy explores ways in which the
"metaphor plays out." He says:
"Education can be a desperate smothering embrace, an education
that denies the needs of the other.
But education can also be an encour­
aging, communal embrace—at its
best an invitation, an opening."

* Tannen, Deborah. You Just Don't
Understand
This popular bestseller by a
Georgetown University Linguistics
professor describes males' and
females' different "conversational
styles." Men, focusing more on sta­tus and independence, tend to
grow in "report talk," women,
more concerned with connection
and intimacy, engage in "rapport talk." If
lack of awareness of these differ­
ences is the source of much misun­
derstanding and conflict, the hopes
is that awareness can reduce these
"asymmetries" and enable us to more
adroitly cross the border of "gender­
less."

* Taylor, Charles, Jurgen
Habermas, Michael Walzer, et al. Multiculturalism: Examining the
Boundaries
Multiculturalism is the term used
to describe the demands made upon
public institutions by many people
who are looking for recognition and
respect for their particular identities
and cultures. Rose deftly treats
written essays, leading philosophers
of our time consider the extent to
which the recognition of cultural
individuality is compatible
with a sensitivity for universally
shared interests in, for example, such
crusades as civil and political
liberties, health care and education.

* Thomas, Lewis. Lives of a Cell
The biologist faculty will be presenting a panel about viruses as "border.
" How do viruses cross the borders of host cells? In the history of notes or meditations entitled Lives of A Cell, Lewis Thomas shares his
sentiment that "only the border is an active biologist engaged in the border pushing process. This collec­tion consists of 29 brief essays (5-8
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