11-11-1996

What's News At Rhode Island College

Rhode Island College

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President John Nazarian credits efforts of College community for successful campaign - Results in: voters ‘approve’ referenda #2 and #3

by Clare Eckert
What's News Editor

F rom the southern borders of Rhode Island to the north, and on the east and west bays, Rhode Islanders cast their vote in the Nov. 5 election "got the message" and approved referenda #2 and #3.

"Everyone worked diligently to spread the message of the needs of the system of higher education," Rhode Island College President John Nazarian said. "Credit for this successful campaign is due to the hard work of the College community and the voters of Rhode Island. We are grateful to the citizens of the state for their vote of confidence, and to the governor, the General Assembly, the (higher education) Board of Governors, and to all others who assisted in the process of presenting these two bond issues before the voting pub lic."

The president extended his gratitude to all members of the College community who "worked continuously to deliver the campaign message from the beginning through election day to ensure passage of the referendum. They include members of the alumni association, the RIC Foundation, the RICSA, RIC/AFT, the performing arts department fac ulty, Student Community Government, Inc., Resident Student Association, Political Science Club and others.

For Gergy Tondreau from Lincoln, the message of the need for bond issues (at RIC, URI, and CCRI) (referendum #2) and for system-wide renovations, repairs, and construction of buildings at all three institutions (referendum #3), was decisive clearly. "I've been reading about them," he said, "They were well documented." Tondreau voted to approve both.

From one end of the state to the other, vot ers exiting their polling places throughout election day responded positively when questioned about their vote for the higher education bond issues.

Senior citizen Hazel Hollman of Narragansett said, "anything for education."

"Anything for education," said Toni Chute of North Kingston, who recently moved to Rhode Island. The young woman said her "vote was given because I've been a student" and she understands the ever-increasing needs of today's students and the need for the future.

Salvator Previle of Providence, who voted to approve both bond issues without hesitation, said "Education is important. They (the colleges and university) should get their fair share.

With the passage of referenda #2, for improved higher education telecommunications, President Nazarian said, "This gives the College the opportunity to catch up in the area of technology in terms of connecting us with the internet and the World Wide Web. Once the infrastructure is complete and networks are linked, it will allow us to offer courses in an electronic mode or a 'paperless' classroom." He added that "the importance of this new technology is that our students will be provided with the skills they need regardless of what profession they seek. Remember, technology is as important to those students preparing to enter the classrooms of tomorrow as teachers, as it is to those who will work in the field of computer technology.

The understanding and need for advanced telecommunications at colleges and universities across the country is a recent phenomenon. Since the late 1980s, the demand for computer literacy in the workplace and in American society in general has risen to the point that you need to fill the gas tank of your car, or deposit a paycheck, or watch your favorite television show, you need to know the basic techniques of computers.

On the other hand, according to the president, "the College's desire and need for a performing arts classroom facility (referendum #3) allows for the construction of this and renovations and repairs to URI and CCRI buildings) dates back over 25 years.

"The first musical performed here was done in 1963," he reminisced, "It was Carousel. Everyone was involved, professors as well as students. Ever since those days and from then on we have been seeking a facility that can support our student's academic needs and the quality of our performing arts faculty."

The president said he looks forward to working with Commissioner of Higher Education Stephen T. Hubert and the Board of Governors to start the projects, which will "take considerable time.

But in the meantime, as a member of College community as a student, faculty member, and administrative and personal and professional levels, the president said, "These are goals I have been striving for, for many, many years, I am pleased that the citizens of Rhode Island have approved of our support for Rhode Island College and for the system of higher education."

The first of its type for RIC —

RIC-RISD collaborate to prepare art-education on teachers

by George LaTour
What's News Associate Editor

A pilot program which provides practical experience in art education to Rhode Island College students, who are studying to become art-edu­
cation teachers in grades K-12, cur­rently is underway through an insti­
tutional collaboration with the Rhode Island School of Design (RISD), the premiere educa­
tion institution in Rhode Island, and RIC, the premier teacher educa­
tion institution in Rhode Island, and RISD, the No. 1 ranked art and design school nationally, has joined forces to provide RIC teachers-in-training an opportunity to participate in a "practicum" internship, that is, a supervised practical application in the RISD Museum of Art of previ­
ously studied teaching theory at RIC.

"Our primary goal is to provide our students with the best preparation in the classroom and the world of practice as possible," says Nancy Sullivan, chair of the RIC Department of Educational Studies.

The RIC students will observe RISD faculty with expertise in museum studies, using museum objects of art to teach a diverse class of inner-city school students at the RISD Museum in its after-school program.

"Their project has been going on since Sept. 30, and for two hours a week they will continue for the 11-week program at the end of which they will collaborate in a teaching exercise with these school stu­dents which will include the necessity of their developing a lesson plan according to specified criteria.

Some 11 RIC art-education stu­dents are participating in the first practicum under the supervision of Suzanne Pines, a Ph.D. associate pro­fessor of art education and program coordinator at RIC, and Caroline Villucci, associate curator of museum education at RISD.

A second part of the program — Practicum II, under the leadership of Vittorio O’Connor, adjunct instructor — is called the "Docent Program" which teaches art-education teachers-in-training to become effective tour guides for various student popula­

tions.

Practicum I concentrates on work­

ing with pupils from middle and sec­ondary schools, the Docent Program, elementary school.

"Our students learn how to teach using a museum environment," Pines says, noting that while the RISD after-school program was already established and running, this collabora­
tion marks a first for RIC of its type.

Last July, RIC offered three gradu­

deates in art education for K-12 teachers who participated in a professional development institute especifi­
cally for elementary school teachers at the RISD Museum of Art.

Using the museum as a classroom should be a part of the curriculum for all school teacher training, feels Pines. "It really fosters a greater appreciation by the students for the arts."

She points out that now school teachers might only take a class to a museum once a year for a field trip and merely stand by as observers with the students. Having actual teaching experience in a museum environment, using museum artifacts, that the RIC-RISD collabora­
tion is providing, would greatly enhance the instruction-learning process.

Sullivan reports that the collabora­
tive program was developed with Pines with RISD’s Vitulli and David Henry, head of museum of education, with the support of RIC’s Dean David E. Nelson, John J. Salesse, RIC’s vice president for academic affairs, as well as her own.
In Memoriam

Sociology Prof. Donald Perry, 58

Donald M. Perry, 58, of Providence, a member of the sociology faculty at Rhode Island College for nearly 25 years, died Sunday, Oct. 27, at his summer home in Sunapee, N.H. He was the husband of Sen. Rhoda E. Perry of Providence.

Joining the RIC faculty in July of 1972 as an assistant professor, he had previously taught at Dickinson College, Carlisle, Pa., and St. Lawrence University in New York.

Between these he served as an institutional social worker for the New Hampshire State Hospital in Concord.

Born in Bridgeport, Conn., a son of the late Francis and Therese (Sennenberg) Perry, he had lived in Providence for many years. He was a graduate of the University of Connecticut where he received his bachelor's degree in psychology and his masters and doctorate in sociology.

His wife, the former Sen. Rhoda E. Perry of Providence, and children, Samuel E. Perry of Exeter, N.H., two brothers, Francis Perry of Concord, N.H., and Mark Fullam; R.I. Commissioner of Education Michael Walsh; R.I.C.E. President William Galge; and director of athletics Robert Brown, (Providence Journal Photo)

In Memoriam —

Retired Prof. J. Howard Munzer

J. Howard Munzer of Warwick, a professor of administration, curriculum and instructional technology before his retirement in 1988, died Oct. 14 at Kent County Memorial Hospital at 76.

He was the husband of Rita R. (Smith) Munzer, a retired Warwick teacher.

Born in Milwaukee, Wis., a son of the late George F. and Elsie (Schmiedeck) Munzer, he lived in Michigan before moving to Warwick 34 years ago.

A Navy veteran of World War II, he served as a lieutenant in the South Pacific Theater. He was a 1947 graduate of the University of Wisconsin, received his masters degree from Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill., in 1966 and his Ph.D. from the University of Michigan in 1960. He was a member of Phi Kappa Phi.

He had taught and coached in the elementary schools of Lake Forest, Ill., and was a principal in the Wayne, Mich., school system.

During the 1970s, he was engaged in desegregation work in the South, serving in Nashville, Tenn., and San Francisco as a consultant in court cases. He contributed to the desegregation plans for Augusta and Richmond County, Ga.

He began his association with RIC in its graduate division and was director of the Curriculum Resources Center, chairmen of the Department of Elementary Education, and a member of the executive committee of the teachers' union, the RIC/AFT.

He was a member of the Central Congregational Church, Providence.

Surviving besides his wife are two sons, Samuel E. Perry of Exeter, N.H., and Alexander C. Perry of Providence, two brothers, Francis B. Perry of Norwalk, Conn., and Peter P. Perry of Newport, N.H.; three sisters, Nancy Kangas and Mary Jane LaJoie, both of Sunapee, and Susan Near of Newport, N.H.

Private memorial services were held in Sunapee.

The next issue of What's News is Monday, Nov. 25.

Deadline for submission of copy, photos, etc. is noon on Friday, Nov. 15.

WHAT'S NEWS AT RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE

Editor: Clare Eckert
Associate Editor: George LaTour
Staff: Pauline McCartney, Word Processing Supervisor; Gordon E. Rowley, Photographer; Cynthia L. Sousa, Editorial Assistant

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Postmaster: Send address changes to What’s News at Rhode Island College, Office of News and Public Relations, 600 Mt. Pleasant Ave., Providence, RI 02908

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Telephone/FAX: (401) 456-8090
FAX 401-456-8887

Printing: TCI Press

In memoriam —

Anthony Judge Jr., 86

Oldest student to graduate from RIC

Anthony "Andy" Judge Jr., 86, of Scituate, the oldest person to graduate from Rhode Island College at the age of 77 in 1987, died Sept. 29 after being stricken at home. He was the husband of Gloria (Paiva) Judge and the late Beverly (Diggle) Judge.

He had been a farm and commercial banker for 20 years for the former Industrial National Bank, now Fleet Bank, retiring in 1969.

He authored two books, Judge's Opinion, published in 1987, and Judge's Second Opinion in 1993, and wrote a column called "Judge's Opinion" for the Observer, a weekly newspaper in Scituate. He was a member of the U.S. Department of Commerce's trade mission to Peru and Ecuador in 1961.

Among his many other affiliations, he was a member of the study committee for Land Grants for the New England Board of Higher Education. In 1964, he was chief of the Land Acquisition Program for the State of Rhode Island known as "Green Acres."

Besides his wife he leaves a son, Robert A. Judge of North Kingstown; a daughter, Cynthia Judge-Flagg of Jamestown; a stepdaughter, Deborah Imondi of Smithfield; three brothers, Alfred, Herbert and Richard, all of Cranston; a sister, Madeline Abornson of Warwick; five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

A memorial service was held at the North Scituate Baptist Church.

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**Kappa Delta Pi initiates over 50 new members**

The Rhode Island College Epsilon Rho chapter of Kappa Delta Pi, the international honor society in education, held its fall 1996 initiation on Tuesday, Oct. 22. Greetings were given by John J. Salessees, vice president for academic affairs, and congratulations to the group were offered by David E. Nelson, dean of the school of education and human development.

Thomas M. Calhoun, assistant professor of elementary education, of North Providence, and Ellsworth A. Starringer, executive board, professor of elementary education, of Barrington, received Faculty Appreciation Awards from the group. The initiation ceremony was conducted by Louise Krueger, president; Dawn Romans, vice president; Christine McKenna, treasurer; Cindy Xifaras, secretary; Kimberly_vigna, newsletter editor; Linda Middleton, foundations rep.; Joanne Ramondi, executive board; professor of elementary education.

James Betes, executive board; professor of educational studies John A. Bucci, chapter counselor.

Fall 1996 initiates were: Stephanie L. Alton; Michael J. Almeida; Wendy Gene Betz; Kristin L. Brown; Lori J. Bunte; Bryan M. Byerlee; Karen J. Cardoza; Tara M. Chambers; Melissa. Marilyn Cimini; Debbie DelSignore; J. Duplessis; Julie Ann Davis; Alicia Kelly J. Farrell; Laurie Ann Ferland; Gina Marie Fiorani; Susan Marie Lisdala Gomes; Kevin M. Gravac; Elizabeth Ann Hynes; Patricia P. Jutras; Alison N. Kane.

And, Robert Edward Kelly, Anita Louise LaPlante; Suzanne H. Leja; Robin Leherer Ben Hincks Lukowicz; Carmela Macknight; Judith Renee Mailhot; Candi Manalis; Mark W. Mazurcz, Erin K. O’Connell; Carla Orlando-Olivera.

Also, Heather E. Osborne; Lisa M. Owensby; Domenic A. Panterra; Laurie Ann Payne; Michelle Kearney Pendleton; Bonnie J. Prakal; Richard A. Picard; Kelly Christine Polvain; Kristin J. Prior; Kathleen A. Provoost; Elizabeth Randle.

And, Alison Marie Santos; Celeste Maykel Snell; Christopher L. Sousa; Bonnie Lee Trumbley; Kelly M. Viens and Lisa-Jean Vincent.

Kappa Delta Pi was founded on March 8, 1911 at the University of Illinois. Organized to recognize excellence in education, Kappa Delta Pi elects those to membership who exhibit the ideals of scholarship, high personal standards, and promise in teaching and allied professions. In 1994, Kappa Delta Pi established a Student-Faculty Interaction Committee, which creates small groups of students to invite a professor to lunch also.

**Annual Young Memorial Lecture**

"The Challenge to Higher Education" will be the topic of the third annual Robert M. Young Memorial Lecture Wednesday, Nov. 13, at 7:30 p.m. in Fogarty Hall 102 on "Person: A General Model of Person Perception." Hall 102 on "Person: A General Model of Person Perception."

Polishook is a national authority for his seminal contributions in the areas of interpersonal perception, social interaction, structural equation modeling, analysis of quasi-experimental data, non-independence in the analysis of variance and levels of analysis.

The committee encourages small groups of students to invite a professor to lunch also.

**Psych Colloquium**

Prof. David A. Kenny of the Department of Psychology at the University of Connecticut will address the psychology department’s colloquium Wednesday, Nov. 13, at 12:30 p.m. in Whipple Hall 102 on "Person: A General Model of Person Perception."

The lecture is free and open to the public.
100 attend the dedication of the Lough Student Resource Room

by Cynthia L. Sousa
What's News Writer

For 15 years, Polly Erickson, or "Miss Polly" as she was more fondly known, was fortunate to get up each morning and go to a job that was "tailored made" for her.

As head teacher of the Cooperative Playgroup, a campus organization sponsored by Student Community Government, which provides affordable child care to the College student community through the cooperative involvement of parents, Erickson loved working with young children and parents.

Looking back over the years and her recent retirement in May, this "people person" has collected hand-drawn pictures and cards and notes from moms and dads and has thousands of treasured memories of the many children and parents the Cooperative Playgroup has "a lifetime" of.

The playgroup, which is state licensed, provides daycare for three-to-five-year-olds whose parents are

The playgroup was and is a support system for less numbers of children and parents.

"Often these parents are juggling jobs, classes and parenting. It can get quite hectic," said Erickson.

The parents would put in their hours at the playgroup and meet parents with the same problems. "Many friendships were formed there."

And "Miss Polly" was always there for the parents, some of whom actually called her "Mom."

Each year, she said she tried to incorporate projects that would benefit others. The playgroup raised over $500 for the American Heart Association's Turkey Walk last year and often participated in the Toys for Tots program. Her father, a retired veterinarian, once travelled to the Dominican Republic to volunteer his services. When he went, the playgroup collected toys and clothing for the children in the Dominican Republic.

"It's important to teach youngsters about charity," she said.

Erickson said one of the highlights of being involved with the parents was when they, some after several years and children later, actually graduated. Erickson often served as a Commencement Marshal and said that when a parent graduated she felt very proud because she knew how hard they had worked.

Many faculty and staff members were able to enroll their children at the playgroup over the years as space permitted.

Professors of physics sciences Elaine and James Magyar's three sons attended the playgroup for a 10 year period. "They really enjoyed it," Elaine recalled.

As a faculty member she said it was helpful for her to be a playgroup member. "I got to know the students who were also members in a different perspective, as parents. "I appreciated the juggling act that students with small children have to do—juggling academics with the sometimes difficult responsibilities of parenting," she said.

Erickson is impressed with the work of Erickson, who she said was a super teacher and had a great way of working with the children and the parents. "When I got involved with the playgroup it was great to have day care right on campus," she remembers.

As an avocation to Sweden this summer and visiting her children and grandchildren in the states of Pennsylvania and Virginia, Erickson is adapting to retirement quite well. She has joined a fitness center, has resumed dried flower arranging and often participates in the Toys for Tots program. As a retired veterinarian, Erickson often served as a Commencement Marshal and said that when a parent graduated she felt very proud because she knew how hard they had worked.

Because of her involvement with the playgroup, she said she appreciates the children of the Dominican Republic and often participated in the Toys for Tots program. Her father, a retired veterinarian, once travelled to the Dominican Republic to volunteer his services. When he went, the playgroup collected toys and clothing for the children in the Dominican Republic.

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Erickson admits that deciding to retire was one of the toughest decisions of her life. "It's tough to give up what you love to do," she said.

She only hopes that she made it easier for those parents attending school. "And by the sounds of things, she did."

A party for Erickson will be held at the Recreation Center on Saturday, Nov. 16 from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Her entire family is looking forward to attending including her parents, who live in North Kingstown and are in their 80s.

The pool will be open for swimming until 3:30 p.m. All co-op alumni and their families are invited. A $5 donation per family is suggested.

For more information about the playgroup or to RSVP to the party, call 401-456-8154 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

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Upward Bound
1966-1996
President John Nazarian and Ms. Viola Davis, Class of 1983, Honorary Chairpersons request the honor of your presence at the Thirtieth Anniversary Celebration Gala of the Rhode Island College Upward Bound Program Saturday, Nov. 16 Donovan Dining Center Reception at 6 p.m. Dinner at 7 p.m. Entertainment by TWYCE following Call 401-456-8081 for ticket information

Accommodations for disabilities upon request. Call 401-456-8081 for assistance.
Lara Hakeem grew up in the theatre so — Theatre is the life for her

by George LaTour
What's News Associate Editor

Lara Hakeem (pronounced Hah-keem) has the sort of a ring to it, don't you think? It's fun to pronounce and it would be eye-catching on a billboard or theatre marquee.

And that's just the goal of this 21-year-old Rhode Island College senior with the double major of theatre performance and public professional communications.

With a childhood rich in theatre traditions, talent and a love for theatre professionals — the Pawtucket resident wants nothing more than to have her name up in lights for regional or New York performances, maybe even Off-Broadway or ... who knows? If talent and dedication have anything to do with it, one can rest assured this lead performer in such productions as RIC Theatre's Mother Courage and 42nd Street and the Pawtucket Community Players' Anne Frank and Into the Woods, will succeed.

She's had the help of her parents, Leon and Lorraine Hakeem, the RIC theatre and communication departments, the Los Angeles comedy troupe, The Groundlings, and the Howard Fine Acting Studio in Hollywood where RIC alumnus Howard Fine (Class of 1981) holds sway (What's News, Monday, Nov. 11, 1996 - Page 5).

Met in theatre

Hakeem's parents met one another in the theatre, she relates. Her dad was a performer and another in the theatre, she relates. Her honors project this year at RIC was David Mamet's The Woods, which she will direct and star in, along with student colleague John Prata.

As an aside, Hakeem points out that since early childhood her nickname, courtesy of her grandmother, has been 'Sarah Bernhardt' after the famous turn-of-the-century French actress.

At RIC, Hakeem especially credits her academic advisors P. William Hutchinson in theatre and Audrey P. Olmsted in communications for "greatly helping" her along not only with her studies but with her plans for her career.

"I was fortunate enough to land a part in the David Burr directed Crimes of the Heart in my freshman year," says Hakeem, indicating that since that auspicious RIC beginning she has grown theatrically in leaps and bounds.

"I'm not putting all my eggs in one basket," she says with a smile, explaining that she is open to either immediate grad school studies (after her RIC graduation) or performance first and then grad school.

"I thought I might be swallowed up, but it made me more eager to get going," confides Hakeem, adding, "California made me a lot more confident."

Eggs in one basket

At this point, Hakeem is looking at graduate schools and the possibility of performing in regional theatres after her graduation. The grad schools on her list include Harvard, Yale and Juilliard.

During the past summer, she spent much of her time doing resumes in preparation for grad school, while also memorizing monologues.

"I'm not putting all my eggs in one basket," she says with a smile, explaining that she is open to either immediate grad school studies (after her RIC graduation) or performance first and then grad school.

"I'm not putting all my eggs in one basket," she says with a smile, explaining that she is open to either immediate grad school studies (after her RIC graduation) or performance first and then grad school.

She's visited Yale thus far and other regional theatres "so see and feel the atmosphere."

"I thought I might be swallowed up (by Hollywood), but it made me more eager to get going. — Lara Hakeem

LARA HAKEEM with Neil Santoro in the recent RIC Theatre production of Picnic. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

California to study improvisation with The Groundlings, a noted L.A. comedic "institution" which has produced the likes of Pee Wee Herman, Elvira, Pat Morita, Laraine Newman and Phil Hartman and served as a springboard for Saturday Night Live performers.

"I had heard a lot about The Groundlings," says Hakeem, who auditioned for a chance to study with them, was accepted and then attended "intense study" with a class of 16 students, creating monologues.

Then it was the Howard Fine Studio, which was nearby, and to which one has to be recommended from one in the field to gain access. There Hakeem studied stage combat with Fine, whom she describes as an "incredible teacher."

Stage combat, in case you're wondering, is the art of faking combat on stage — fighting, fencing and the like — and how to do it safely. It's another skill Hakeem has added to her stage abilities.

"I was_really good with students," Hakeem says, "and I'm giving and encouraging you," she says.

She says she didn't get to actually meet and talk with him but she heard to somebody taking some of his acting classes.

She did "get in touch" with Doug Wright, casting director for Warner Brothers and also a RIC grad and Pawtucket Players alumnus, and talked show business with the director of "Party of Five," the TV show on Fox, whom she had met in New York.

All total, Hakeem spent 10 weeks in Hollywood adding to and honing her stage skills and making contacts.

"I thought I might be swallowed up, but it made me more eager to get going," confides Hakeem, adding, "California made me a lot more confident."

Great American Smokout

For 20 years, the American Cancer Society (ACS) has been organizing the Great American Smokout, calling widespread public attention to the importance of quitting smoking by asking smokers to try quitting for at least one day. In Nov. 1996, the ACS reported that a large number of the approximately 46 million adult Americans who smoke will be encouraged to quit.

To show the healthful benefits of a smoke-free lifestyle, Rhode Island College Office of Health Promotions is sponsoring a program through the American Cancer Society's "Smoke the Dragon." Santos, a renowned hypnotist will perform for and talk to the RIC community about the effects of smoking on him as a performer. The event is scheduled at noon on Thursday, Nov. 21, at the Donovan Dining Center. (Note: This is not a quit smoking by hypnosis seminar.)

Reading of the poetry of the late P. Pearson

Writers' Circle will present the premiere of the late Philip B. Pearson's poetry with a reading by Harold Ashton, assistant professor of English and poetry personality, on Sunday, Nov. 24, at 3 p.m. at the Providence Athenaeum, 251 Benefit St., Providence.

A musical performance is scheduled immediately after for light refreshments will be available. Tickets are $8, the proceeds of which will partially benefit the library. Reservations may be called 461-6691.

Pearson, founder of the "The Live Poetry Society," had been a professor emeritus at Rhode Island College where he taught for 30 years before retiring in May. A biology professor-turned-poet, many of his poems deal with man's struggle to control and master the mysteries of nature.

Author/filmmaker on campus

Author/filmmaker Elizabeth J. Peacock of the Center for Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Texas, will be on campus for several events at Rhode Island College, Nov. 19, including the showing and discussion of her new film, The Road to Peace: Israelis and Palestinians at 2 p.m. on Fogarty Life Science 207.

The film is open to the public as are her classroom appearances the same day at 8 a.m. in Gaige 213 and 10 a.m. in the Forum Center.

Both of these will involve the screening of her film The Veiled Revolution and a discussion of her book, Guests of the Sheik, as well as her newest (and as yet unpublished) book, In Search of Islamic Peace.

Her visit is made possible by funds from the Committee on College Lectures, the office of the dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences and the office of the President.
What's News, Monday, Nov. 11, 1996

St. Joseph's Hospital and RIC working together

In May of 1995, students in St. Joseph Hospital School of Nursing began taking courses in the physical and social sciences at Rhode Island College. Based on the campus of Our Lady of Fatima Hospital, on High Service Avenue in North Providence and only a stone's throw from the RIC campus, the program is a three-year course of study resulting in a diploma in nursing. Ninety-three students, 14 of whom are male, are currently enrolled in the program.

In choosing a college to supplement the core courses offered by St. Joseph's, administrators there were attracted to RIC not only by its close proximity to Fatima, but more importantly, by the reputation of the RIC's Department of Nursing, which has just had its accreditation status extended for eight more years by the National League for Nursing.

"Since well over 50 percent of our graduates go on for a bachelors degree immediately after graduation, we were also looking for a place where they could make a smooth transition into a baccalaureate program," says Marilyn Horan, assistant director of the St. Joseph's program. Many St. Joseph grads also go on for masters degrees, she adds.

"St. Joe's" students take all their nursing courses, as well as nutrition, pharmacology and math at their own school. RIC offers them general psychology and human development, sociology, gerontology, anatomy, physiology, microbiology and ethics. Some classes are held on the RIC campus; for others, RIC faculty members travel to classrooms on the Fatima campus. What impression do RIC faculty members have of St. Joseph's students?

"They are mature, diligent and dedicated," says assistant professor of biology Eric Hall. "Most of all, they care."
First Christopher Naylor road race raises over $13,000

AND THE WINNER IS: Sean Livingston of Pawtucket (left) receives a check for $200 for winning the first annual Christopher J. Naylor Memorial 5K Road Race, held in Roger Williams Park on Oct. 13. One-hundred seventy-two entrants participated. Presenting the check is Christopher’s brother Michael, while Christopher’s widow, Linda, looks on. Christopher Naylor was killed in 1995 during a robbery attempt while working in downtown Providence. He earned bachelors and masters degrees from Rhode Island College. Proceeds from the race, over $13,000, will help to establish a scholarship fund in Christopher’s name for students at RIC and at the Community College of Rhode Island. Next year’s race is tentatively set for Sunday, Sept. 21. (What’s News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

Cities 2000—

Trying to help improve Rhode Island cities

by Cynthia L. Sousa
What’s News Writer

The homeless. Crime. Allocation of resources. Taxes. Environmental issues. Poor population. Reclamation of the landscape. All of these are problems in cities across the nation. Specifically, they are problems in the eight cities in attendance in the first meeting of its kind.

Locally, Francis J. Leazes Jr., Rhode Island College professor of political science and chair of the department, and Mark Motte, assistant professor of geography, are trying to help improve the cities of Rhode Island.

This summer, they held a conference on campus called “Rhode Island Cities 2000.” This joint initiative of the RIC geography and political science departments, had mayors, city managers, planning directors, economic development directors and finance directors from the states eight cities in attendance in the first meeting of its kind.

Representatives from Central Falls, Cranston, East Providence, Newport, Pawtucket, Providence, Warwick and Woonsocket were there, and in an open dialogue, talked about the problems existing in their respective cities.

The group actively participated as Carl van Horn, director of public policy at Rutgers, facilitated the event, providing the group with theoretical questions pertinent to the issues facing cities across the nation.

And, throughout the day, city officials from Providence realized their city shared a lot of the same problems as Newport, who shared problems with Woonsocket, etc.

Conclusion: cities across the state are facing the same fiscal and other problems and are having trouble getting beneficial legislation passed at the state level.

Solution: form a cohesive group of members from cities, share advice, coordinate on services and form a coalition to lobby at the state level to get legislation passed.

This has been conference organizers Leazes’ and Motte’s brainchild and they hope to see it come to fruition.

By providing a forum, “we hope to help the administrators identify their common problems and form a strong voice for positive change for their residents,” Motte said. He and Leazes have identified several initiatives for Cities 2000: policy forum and development of professional development and training; and applied research. Leazes and Motte believe that RIC can provide the technical and policy-relevant skills that a part of city heads in city government could benefit from. “We can help city heads in city government,” said Motte.

At RIC, they want to develop an outreach component to help city heads in city government with their state’s or their cities’ problems. They also hope that sometime in the future they will be able to market the agency’s research capabilities that we have at RIC to help cities with planning, policy analysis, budgeting and housing problems.

The organizers said the organization will be self-sustaining. They are doing some aggressive grant writing and are looking into private sources to help the group get off the ground.

According to the assistant professor, the participants all expressed an interest in coming back. They were able to collaborate in a neutral forum and recognize common themes.

A second forum for Cities 2000 members was held Monday, Oct. 28. Professor David Walker from the political science department at the University of Connecticut spoke on the theme of federal, state and local fiscal trends as they affect cities.

Again, the city managers and planners that attended felt the forum was beneficial, according to Motte. “It was another positive and growing experience.”

Motte hopes that this group of city leaders will continue to work together; they are planning on having another forum, but this time will be held in another city.

As the group grows, offerings in the form of seminars and lectures will be open to interested persons.
Help wanted: RIC mascot. High spirited, fun, no-name. We'll name you. Join the fun today!

Students, alumni, faculty, staff and friends of Rhode Island College athletic teams...Hear Ye, Hear Ye.... Get your creative juices flowing because we need your imaginative suggestions to name an official College mascot. Yes, you read it right. The first official College mascot!

Now, don't be alarmed, the nicknames of Anchormen and Anchorwomen will continue in the same tradition they have in years past. The addition of an official mascot will serve to complement the athletic team's nicknames in a visible way. Parading along the sidelines at athletic events and participating, when appropriate, at other College activities, are all part of what we expect this latest addition to our community to do.

In addition, the mascot will be used as a marketing tool for the athletic program, and will assist our outstanding cheerleaders in building team spirit and a sense of pride during our athletic competitions.

An example of how other colleges and universities name and use mascots is at the University of Alabama. The football team is called the Alabama Crimson Tide, yet their mascot is an elephant.

Starting now through the holiday season, suggestions and ideas are welcome and can be dropped off or mailed to RIC MASCOT, Athletic Department, Rhode Island College, Mt. Pleasant Ave., Providence, 02908.

Once all of your ideas are gathered, a committee of students, faculty, alumni, and staff will review each and select a slate for final approval by the President.

So, put your thinking cap on...name the Mascot....and win a prize!!!!

Spiking the ball!

HIGH HITTER: RIC's Erica Agren (No. 11) spikes the ball during a volleyball game against Endicott College on Oct. 15 in the New Building. RIC won (15-9, 15-5, 15-6). (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)
RIC Theatre presents the modern classic —
‘Six Characters in Search of an Author’
Nov. 14-17

by George LaTour
What’s News Associate Editor

Luigi Pirandello’s modern classic, Six Characters in Search of an Author, is to be brought to the stage of Roberts Hall auditorium by Rhode Island College Theatre Nov. 14-17 for evening and matinee performances. This is the tantalizing drama

that has probably had more presentations in America, since its first overwhelming New York success in 1922, than any other play of the 20th century coming from the European continent, except possibly the plays by Chekhov.

No less than seven major productions of Six Characters were given in New York within the 41 years following its 1922 premiere. The production that opened there early in 1963 ran for 547 continuous performances over the course of 69 weeks.

As the title implies, the play tells of six imaginary characters — four adults and two children — who belong in a play but are doomed to wander in a sort of limbo of unborn souls because their author never finished his work with them.

Thirsting to have their story told

to its heartbreaking end, they invade a theater where a troupe of actors is rehearsing some other play, and plead with the director to let the embittered crises of their lives be acted out to the end.

As the director agrees, Six Characters proceeds on a double level of telling the story of the half-dozen “unrealized” individuals, and a portrayal of the contrast between real life and the distortion of reality that results when real life is twisted into acceptable cliches of the stage.

As the father of the family of fictional characters attempts to reenact the events that have led them to tormenting guilt and communications, the director keeps interrupting to say that such scenes will never do in a play — no one would believe them. They must be made more effective by this or that customary theatrical device.

The father protests that these devices will falsify the story, and insists that his story must be told in that form, as he knows it. But then his wife and his stepdaughter charge that this truth is not the truth as THEY know it.

The audience has the chance to judge which of the versions of the truth is the true verity, and whether what is true in life can seem true on the stage — “fascinating parlor-game” as one critic has called the play, and “far more intriguing than a murder mystery” in the words of another.

Frank Toti of Cranston has the part of the father among the set of author-seeking characters, Lara Hakeem of Pawtucket that of his accusing step-daughter, and Kim Williams of Warwick that of his ill-treated wife, Al Denis of North Kingstown that of his sullen son, Sean Weiner of Cranston and Edith Rebello of Providence, the children whose fate is most tragic of all.

Weiner and Rebello had participated in the Performing Arts Summer Camp last summer at RIC.

Steve Demers of Pawtucket will be seen as the grudging director. Others in the cast are James DaPonte of North Smithfield, Jay Walker of Cranston, India Jensen of Junction City, Ore., Matthew Barber and Portia D’enid of North Providence, John Prata of Warwick, Berenice Mondi of Pawtucket, Sarah Martini of Cranston, Edwin Cottle of Providence and Sarah Craveiro of Bristol.

As the first play ever to be acted entirely on a bare stage that represents a bare stage (there have been many others that have since imitated this), Six Characters would not seem to offer any opportunity for scene design, but in line with the play’s theme that nothing on the stage can be real, there will have to be some scenic and lighting effects all the same, all the more subtle for seeming not to exist.

Christopher Averbathy is the designer who is attending to this detail along with the technical direction. Barbara B. Matheson is in charge of costumes.

P. William Hutchinson is the director overseeing all these details, and particularly handling the suspenseful element over what is real and what is illusion, so as to turn Pirandello’s famous question mark into an exciting exclamation point.

Thursday, Friday and Saturday performances will be at 8 p.m. with a Sunday matinee at 2 o’clock. Reserved seat tickets are $10 with discounts for senior citizens and students, and may be purchased in advance by telephone via VISA or Mastercard by calling 456-8060. The box office is open for person sales 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. daily. For more information, call 456-8060.

Mezzo-soprano D’anna Fortunato
in recital Nov. 20

Music from the new and old world from folklore, salon and opera house, from lute song to cabaret, songs from five centuries will be performed by mezzo-soprano D’anna Fortunato with Timothy McFarland on piano and Richard Schilling on guitar in the Rhode Island College Chamber Music Series Wednesday, Nov. 20 at 7:30 p.m. in Roberts Recital Hall, room 138.

This trio appeals to sophisticated or lay audiences, young and old. The music is rarely esoteric, obscure or arcane for its own sake. The artists, all soloists in their own right, come together for recitals that are interesting in their historical connections and cultural cross-currents.

They use six languages and five centuries of vocal music from Northern and Southern Europe and the Americas.

“The guitar and keyboard repertoire is rich, varied and unexplored,” says Fortunato. “Very few guitarists, let alone audiences and critics, have heard a recital. Particularly when the guitar is slightly amplified, the genre is enormously satisfying for player and listener alike.”

The pianist plays music originally intended for harpsichord or forte piano and sometimes plays orchestral or chamber reductions.

Fortunato has appeared internationally with the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, Music Sacra and the New York General Societym among others. Her festival engagements are numerous as are her singing appearances with major orchestras. She has played leading roles with the New York City Opera, Glimmerglass Opera and the Boston Opera, among others.

She records for Harmonia Mundi, Nonesuch, MusicMasters, Musical Heritage, London Records, Vox, Northeastern and Newport Classics. Pianist McFarland is conductor of the Belmont Symphony and teaches piano at UMass. Schilling is one of Boston’s most experienced and versatile guitarists.

The recital is free and open to the public. For more information, call John Pellegrino, series coordinator, at 456-8244.

D’ANNA FORTUNATO

EMOTION CHARGED: Frank Toti (left), who plays the father in RIC Theatre’s production of Six Characters in Search of an Author, gives a tongue lashing to his accusing step-daughter played by Lara Hakeem while Steven Demers, who plays the director, looks on. (What’s News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)
Gilbert and Sullivan's "Pirates of Penzance" has gone through yet another transformation. Following the hit musical (1980) of the hit comic opera (1879), a ballet version has been created by the Queensland Ballet, Australia's classical dance company.

The world's only dance version of the Gilbert and Sullivan hilarious light opera, featuring dancers as well as singers, will be performed under the heading of "Pirates! The Ballet" in Rhode Island College's Performing Arts Series Monday, Nov. 25, at 8 p.m. in Roberts Hall auditorium.

Like the update that starred Linda Ronstadt, "Pirates! The Ballet" had a creative team spearheaded by Americans, orchestrator Henry Aronson and choreographer Daryl Gray. Aronson's musical contact with opera (1879), a ballet version has been created by the Queensland Ballet, Australia's classical dance company.

The storyline, for those unfamiliar with the original, starts when the character, Frederic, was yet a little boy. His nurse (Ruth) is told to care for him and "apprentice him to become a ship's pilot."

However, she hears the word incorrectly and apprentices him to a band of pirates, remaining with them herself as a maid-of-all-work.

Although Frederic loathed the trade to which he had thus been bound, he dutifully served; and, as the curtain rises, his indentures are almost up and he is preparing to leave the band and devote himself to the extermination of piracy.

New York guest choreographer Gray and Australian designer Christopher Smith have added a silent-movie feel, reminiscent of a 1920's Broadway environment, to the ballet although use restraint so that the genre is not excessively exploited, noted Australia's The Courier Mail under a headline "Pirates makes a hearty ballet" in April of 1991 when the world premiere was performed in Brisbane.

"Audiences will be delighted with a variety of dance forms from classical to musical-comedy tap dancing and even some funk movement," said Australia's Southern Star. And, "Aronson has arranged Arthur Sullivan's famous lilting melodies to suite the production."

As Australia's longest-established professional dance company, The Queensland Ballet celebrates 36 years of vitality, movement, music, athleticism and vibrant, classical dance.

PIRATES! THE BALLET is performed by the Queensland Ballet.

Chamber Music Series —

"The Great American Song Book" with African-American composers Nov. 13

The Jubilee Trio will present a program of vocal music entitled "The Great American Songbook: African-American Composers and Classical Song" in the Wednesday, Nov. 13, Rhode Island College Chamber Music Series at 1 p.m. in Roberts Recital Hall 138.

Contralto Marion Dry, baritone Robert Honeysucker and pianist Leslie Amper will offer a blend of art songs by the more traditional American composers in this genre, such as Samuel Barber, Aaron Copland, Charles Ives and Stephen Foster, with songs and spirituals by less familiar but equally distinguished African-American composers including William Grant Still, Harry Burleigh, Florence Price, J. Rosamond Johnson, George Walker and Frederick Hall.

Possible selections include "Come Down, Angels," "Death of an Old Seaman," "The Things Our Fathers Loved — and the Greatest of These is Liberty," "Minnivet Cheevy" and "Zion's Walls.

The recital is free and open to the public.

The trio artists also have had busy solo performing careers both nationally and internationally. However, they felt it was vital in this era of violence and continuing racial and ethnic tension to come together to create harmony out of diversity, and, through their performances, to demonstrate the richness of our own national musical heritage.

Vocalists Dry and Honeysucker have extensive repertoires in oratorio and opera and have drawn the praise of both critics and audiences. Pianist Amper's playing has been hailed by the Boston Globe as "ravishingly beautiful" and "altogether quite stupendous."

For more information, call John Pellegrino, series coordinator, at 456-8244.
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, 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 directed to the College director of affirmative action. Reasonable accommodation upon request.