5-12-1997

What's News At Rhode Island College

Rhode Island College

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Over 20 faculty receive tenure, promotions

President John Nazarian announced faculty promotions and tenure recently. A reception in their honor was held Tuesday, May 6, at the President’s House.

Those promoted to the rank of professor and their departments are: Thomas Cobb, English; Halil Copur, Management and Technology; William Holland, Educational Studies; Albert Salzberg, English, and Richard Tropper, Psychology.

Those promoted to the rank of associate professor: Ali Bahrami, Accounting and Computer Information Systems; Beverly Goldfield, Psychology; Jon Haues, English; Claus Hoff Hansen, Political Science; Shirley LaCroix, Henry Barnard School; Jianhong Liu, Sociology; Eun Jun Min, Communications; Leslie Schuster, History; Paul Tuskus, Educational Studies, and Felicia Wilczenski, Counseling and Educational Studies.

Promoted to the rank of assistant professor: Dante DelGiudice, Theatre.

All promotions are effective July 1.


Over 1,400 to receive degrees at 1997 commencement exercises

More than 1,400 Rhode Island College undergraduate and graduate students will receive their diplomas during 1997 commencement exercises. About 364 graduate students will hear remarks by Joseph A. Almagno, veteran educator and the executive secretary of the Providence Teachers Union, during ceremonies scheduled for Thursday, May 22, beginning at 5:30 p.m. in the New Building. Honorary degrees will be bestowed upon Justin Dart Jr., who is considered by many people here and abroad to be the “Martin Luther King of the disability movement.” Dart will receive an Honorary Doctorate of Law and will be the keynote speaker. Lea Eliash, a Holocaust survivor, who has devoted her adult life to speaking about the atrocities suffered by her family and millions of other Holocaust victims to warn about the horrors of the Holocaust, will receive an Honorary Doctorate of Public Service.

Almagno, who began his career as a teacher some 34 years ago after graduating with a B.A. from Siena College in Albany, N.Y. and a M.A. from Providence College in 1971. That year he became a principal, thus starting his administrative career in education. Over the years, he has held positions as assistant superintendent, deputy superintendent, and superintendent within the Providence School System.

From 1991 until 1993, when he began his current duties with the Providence Teachers Union, Almagno was chief of staff for Joseph Paolino, former mayor of Providence.

Among his achievements are reducing the drop-out rate in Providence schools by 37 percent during his term as superintendent, developing a collaborative with business groups, parents, and other school systems; spearheading a $107 million upgrade of school facilities, and working to recruit a teaching corps more reflective of the city’s increasing diverse population.

Recognizing that students are more likely to succeed in the classroom when their health and family needs are met, Almagno is known to have introduced school-based social service centers in the city of Providence, established child immunization centers, created school day-care programs and expanded the school dental care program to all Providence schools.

His community and civic leadership extends beyond the boundaries of educational organizations - most recently as a member of the Board of Governors for Higher Education - into groups such as the Rhode Island Philharmonic, Keep Providence Beautiful and First Night.
Focus on Faculty and Staff

Faculty and staff are encouraged to submit items of information about their professional endeavors to What's News, Office of News and Public Relations, 303 Roberts Hall.

Edythe Anthony, professor of biology, attended the annual meeting of the Experimental Society for Comparative Neuroendocrinology in Canterbury, England. She presented an invited lecture on "function of the mammalian hypothalamic-pituitary complex" in a day-long symposium on Comparative Neuroendocrinology of Vertebrate Reproduction and Growth. This presentation was co-authored by Patricia Overpeer, a member of the part-time faculty and recently graduated student, the biology masters program.

Dianne McAulay, adjunct professor in the Department of Educational Studies, presided over a problem sharing discussion at the Eakom Conference Center, Johannesburg, during the U.S.-South Africa Joint Conference on Education. During her visit, McAulay toured numerous schools in Soweto, Pretoria, Johannesburg and Cape Town. McAulay hosted Shirley Kokot, lecturer and professor in gifted education at the University of South Africa, Pretoria, recently. She visited various programs for the gifted in schools in Rhode Island, Massachusetts and Connecticut. McAulay presented "A developmental view of talent development" at the third annual New England Conference on Gifted and Talented Education, March 21-22, in Vernon, Conn. The presentation examined two school systems in a state of change: Moscow and South Africa. Emphasis was placed on national policy, funding, mutual problems and model programs.

Laurence A. Weil, assistant professor of political science, has had an article, "Organized Labor and Health Reform," published in the spring 1997 issue of The Journal of Public Health Policy.

Associate professor of psychology Duncan White participated in the Eastern Psychological Association's annual meeting in Washington, D.C. during April. White participated in a discussion group which addressed the relevance of comparative psychology within the context of present trends. This session was followed by a symposium in which he discussed the use of vertebrates (particularly the grain beetle) for classroom demonstrations of psychological and educational concepts. The symposium also included classroom demonstrations, laboratory exercises and research projects that focus on both descriptive and inferential statistical analyses.

At the same meeting, professor of psychology David Sugarman presented a co-authored paper by Robert Wellman of Fitchburg State College entitled "Elder and Young Adult's Perception of the Termination of Medical Treatment."


The next issue of What's News is Monday, June 9.

DEADLINE

for submission of copy, photos, is Friday, May 30 at noon.

WHAT'S NEWS

AT RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE

Editor: Clare Eckles
Associate Editor: George LaTour

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

Printing: TCI Press
This arts management major has an education AND experience

by George LaTour
What's News Associate Editor

This soon-to-graduate senior at Rhode Island College already has found her niche in the world of careers.

The fact is, Suzanne Dandurand Augenstein of North Scituate has been working in the performing arts arena for the past three years. She is office coordinator for the RIC Performing Arts Series, a student representative on the RIC Performing and Fine Arts Commission, and a past staff intern in the development office of the Providence Performing Arts Center, all positions held while a student in arts management.

"I'd like to manage a performing arts facility and get into booking acts," says Augenstein, who reports that she "loves working" in the college environment and particularly with her College boss, John F. Custer, director of the RIC Performing Arts Series.

Born and raised in Manchester, N.H., she is a daughter of Annette and the late Rene Dandurand of North Providence. She has a younger sister, Alisa, 15, and an older brother and sister, Kevin and Kerri, 13. She had attended the Community College of Rhode Island prior to her coming to RIC and was the recipient of voice scholarships at both institutions.

"I'm so happy at RIC," she attests, citing its "affordability" and "wonderful assistance" to her in designing her major. She had been a music major specializing in voice when she first came to RIC in 1993.

"But I realized I couldn't make a living in that and I already had a lot of management skills," she says, explaining that being a divorced mother of two and well over the traditional age of college students, following a career in voice would not be practical or feasible.

"I'm one to go for extra help if I need it and all my professors were willing to help" as she sought to design a new major.

After beginning her studies in arts management, "it helped that I've been able to work in my field right here on campus," she adds.

The Performing Arts Series at RIC brings in about 10 acts annually, featuring ballet, dance, chamber music, and virtually assuring her continued success after graduation May 24.

SUZANNE DANDURAND AUGENSTEIN in the Roberts Hall box office. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

As treasurer, bookkeeper and series coordinator for box office, administration and payroll (all of which require computer literacy) and supervisor of a staff of five, she was involved in grant writing, catering and artist liaison among other things, all serving to provide a strong supplement to her formal education and virtually assuring her continued success after graduation May 24.

What's News, Monday, May 12, 1997 - Page 3
RIC offers courses, children's camps this summer

Rhode Island College will offer about 415 courses this summer in two sessions. Session I begins May 27 and runs until July 3; Session II is from July 7 to Aug. 15.

Tuition for in-state students is $125 per credit for undergraduate courses, $150 for graduate courses per credit. Out-of-staters pay $290 per credit for undergraduate courses and $292 for graduate courses per credit. Other mandatory fees are charged.

Certain Rhode Island residents receiving unemployment benefits, senior citizens, Rhode Island National Guard members and disabled veterans may be eligible for tuition fee waivers.

All registration is conducted via touchtone telephone. Students already taking courses at RIC should have received a brochure in the mail. Assigned Personal Identification Numbers (PIN) and assigned times to register by phone are printed on the bulletin mailing label.

New student must call the Records Office at 401-456-8213. This is a PIN and a time to register.

Special summer offerings include: Political Science 360-61, European Union; Political Science 360-62, British Politics and Public Policy; a Workshop in London from June 28 to July 25; and the South Bank University in London are planning a pair of four-week summer session courses at the Business School of the South Bank University. One course will focus on the European Community; the other is a more independent research-oriented course on British politics and public policy that will involve substantial group work.

Until the end of the Partition of Africa in the 1880s, the new British colonial regimes turned to the technique of indirect rule through African traditional authorities, which sidetracked the movement by arranging for Fourah Bay College, essentially a theological institution, to affiliate with Durham University.

With the onset of the decolonization of Africa after independence, the book is invaluable to everyone, especially college teachers, researchers and students, interested in the topics of African traditional authorities, who would control emerging self-governments.

Research for the Book:
The research for this book was conducted between 1990 and 1992 as part of my doctoral work. The book is an offshoot of my doctoral dissertation at Dalhousie University.

Do You Plan Further Study on this Subject: Yes.

I am quite aware that this book will provoke additional and complimentary lines of inquiry. If these interested in the topic are not to be left with more questions than answers, it is my intention to extend the scope of the research beyond 1960 to illuminate the pushes and pulls of African, American, and East Europeans and Soviets on the way African universities developed after independence.

The stress will be on the concept of African traditional authorities, bureaucrats and teachers turned out by the universities, and what this did about the social, political and economic structures of contemporary African states. The outcome of this future study will constitute a new dimension in the continuing study of foreign powers' rivalries in Africa after independence.

A ROSE TATTOO: Freshman Jonathan McDowell gets a temporary tattoo from Jim Fichera, as a souvenir of the many events of the student celebration RICEnd, held from April 27 o May 3. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

Apollos Nwauwa, assistant professor of history, publishes text

Title of Book: IMPERIALISM, ACADEME AND NATIONALISM: Britain and University Education for Africans, 1860-1960

Publisher: Frank Cass Publishers, London

Date of Publication: April 1997

ISBN: 0 7146 4668 7 (cloth)

Description and Purpose of the Book:

Of all the aspects of British "cultural imperialism" the one which Africans found most seductive was formal western education. Africans acquiring literacy in English were quick to realize that university education opened up prospects for economic advancement, individual attainment and dignity, and would ultimately provide the keys to political power and self-government.

It is that political aspect of higher education which is the theme of this book. Using a wide range of papers from the British Colonial Office, the archives of London University and Universities in Africa, as well as the writings of Africans, the author explores how these gained some sympathy from officials, but faced missionary hostility, which sidetracked the movement by arranging for Fourah Bay College, essentially a theological institution, to affiliate with Durham University.

From 1939, however, colonial reformers in Britain, and particularly an "academic lobby" began to advocate the foundation of universities in Africa. Dr. Nwauwa examines the political motivation of the idea and the complex story of how, by 1943, it was taken up by the Colonial Office as central strategy for "managing" African nationalism, in the hope of moulding new African elites who would control emerging self-government, for the creation of formal, pro-British regimes in the future.

The creation of university colleges, as part of an "empire" of London University, became a reality from 1948 and one of the most influential aspects of the colonial reforms which led to decolonization. This book is therefore essential reading for anyone interested in the themes of African nationalism, cultural imperialism, and the processes which led to decolonization.

Research for the Book:
The research for this book was conducted between 1990 and 1992 as part of my doctoral work. The book is an offshoot of my doctoral dissertation at Dalhousie University.

Intended Audience:
The book is invaluable to everyone, especially college teachers, researchers and students, interested in the topics of African traditional authorities, who would control emerging self-governments, and the history of higher education in British African dependencies.

Do You Plan Further Study on this Subject: Yes.

I am quite aware that this book will provoke additional and complimentary lines of inquiry. If these interested in the topic are not to be left with more questions than answers, it is my intention to extend the scope of the research beyond 1960 to illuminate the pushes and pulls of African, American, and East Europeans and Soviets on the way African universities developed after independence.

The stress will be on the concept of African traditional authorities, bureaucrats and teachers turned out by the universities, and what this did about the social, political and economic structures of contemporary African states. The outcome of this future study will constitute a new dimension in the continuing study of foreign powers' rivalries in Africa after independence.
Graduating senior Gustavo Loaiza's story is one of determination. The 32-year-old came to the United States from Medellin, Colombia in the early 80s as a young man. With an older brother in college in Colombia and five other siblings, Loaiza realized that his family would not be able to provide educations for all of the children.

So he left his homeland, as two of his brothers had, and came, not speaking English, with virtually no skills, to an unfamiliar country. "I left for economic reasons," he said, with remnants of his Spanish accent still audible.

He lived in Miami and New York, taking jobs where he could get them. "I worked in factories, did landscaping work, anything." He missed his family and friends. But all the while, Loaiza knew that in order to get ahead he needed a college education.

In the mid 1980s he ended up in Pawtucket. He started taking courses in English as a Second Language (ESL) at Progreso Latino, an agency which helps Latinos and other immigrant groups in the state achieve greater self-sufficiency.

Through his newly-formed friends and support group, Loaiza learned about Rhode Island College and started taking ESL courses here.

After acquiring the basic skills to speak, read and write in English, Loaiza, who had no computer experience but was intrigued by them, took a computer information systems (CIS) course.

That was it. He was hooked. Even though he had to spend much more time on his studies because of the language barrier, he persevered.

He like the College environment, the small class size and the CIS program at RIC because it is interdisciplinary and included courses in accounting, economics and management.

Everything was going well for him until the end of 1992. Loaiza, a young healthy man of 25, didn't feel well. He lost his appetite, was always tired and couldn't sleep. After two visits to the emergency room, doctors told Loaiza his kidneys were failing.

He started dialysis three times a week for three hours at a time. His arm became sore from the catheter doctors had inserted into it for the dialysis. Because of complications, doctors had to insert a catheter into his other arm. All this made it impossible for Loaiza to continue working part-time for a maintenance company.

"I worked in factories, did landscaping work, anything," he said. "I was so sick, it was very hard to go on. The thing that kept me going was my dream to get a college degree," said Loaiza.

After cutting a lot of bureaucratic red tape to get an emergency visa, he flew to the U.S. to donate his kidney to his younger brother.

The operation, done in Deaconess Hospital in Boston in February of 1994, was successful. Both men recuperated on schedule. "During the dialysis and the times that I was so sick, it was very hard to go on. The thing that kept me going was my dream to get a college degree," said Loaiza.

After taking three semesters off, Loaiza returned to RIC in the fall of 1994 to finish his studies. He worked part-time in the computer lab in Horace Mann. He made the dean's list twice and is hoping to make it this semester.

On May 24, he will proudly wear his academic regalia and receive his well-deserved diploma, finally realizing his long-sought-after dream.

"Without the help, encouragement and support of close friends, especially Hector Oschina and RIC admissions officer Maria Cano, I don't think I could have achieved this goal," Loaiza said.

But Loaiza's struggle is not over yet and his future is unknown. Doctors have recently informed him that his transplanted kidney is failing, leaving him disheartened.

Loaiza said he will focus on his health in the coming months. Here in the states, doctors will not perform a second kidney transplant, according to Loaiza. He is seriously considering returning to Colombia where he can obtain one or receive experimental medicines that may help him recover so he can return to the U.S.

Loaiza became a U.S. citizen in 1996 and does want to spend the rest of his life here. "My future is here," he said with a nod.
Going...going...gone!

Clockwise from upper left: Before the live auction, cheerleader Jennifer Silva shows off an array of autographed basketballs and a signed poster of Bruins hockey star Cam Neely; Celebrity auctioneer Ken Bell of ABC6 warms up the crowd; Professional auctioneer (and RIC grad, Class of 1974) Joseph Abbate handles the heavy bidding; Proud successful bidder for Mickey Mantle’s autographed jersey is RIC grad Alphonso DiGregorio, Class of 1976, athletic director at Hope High School; During the “silent” auction the RIC Pep Band entertains the crowd with popular songs. Lead singer Scott Morency is backed-up by (l & r) Michelle Clark and Kim DuBois, all RIC music majors; and During the live auction, RIC basketball defensive standout Derrick Campbell holds up a photo on canvas of Bruins great Bobby Orr.
Sports Memorabilia Auction a huge success

Over 250 sports fans gathered at the Providence Marriott Hotel on April 23 for the College’s first sports memorabilia auction, sponsored by the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics, Intramurals and Recreation. First up was a silent auction, with bidders registering their offers on paper. The 149 items on display ranged from a day of golf at the Quinnesset Country Club to a poster autographed by Bruins’ star Cam Neeley, from a 1978 Superman vs. Muhammad Ali comic book to an autographed photo of Phil “Scooter” Rizzuto.

Then the hard-core fans gathered at one end of the ballroom for the live auction of over 50 items, conducted by sports reporter Ken Bell of ABC6 and RIC alum Joseph Abbate. The bidding was at times intense, at other times humorous. Among the most hotly-contested items were a jersey signed by the late Mickey Mantle and surprise-of-surprises, a baseball signed by one-time Yale University pitcher George Bush.

All in all, a good time was had by all, as they say, and a yet-to-be-tabulated but reportedly considerable sum of money was raised to benefit student-athlete support programs.

Photos and text by Gordon E. Rowley
R.I. Consortium on Writing
summer offerings

A summer program for young writers, the 12th annual Invitational Summer Institute on Writing and Critical Literacy and the sixth annual Advanced Summer Institute, are being offered by the Rhode Island Consortium on Writing.

The summer program for young writers will be held at the University of Rhode Island from July 7-17 from noon to 3 p.m. on the Rhode Island College campus for students in grades 7-9. Students with a varied range of writing experiences are welcome to participate in this two-week workshop. Participation is limited to 25 students. Tuition is $50. Two need-based spots are available. Registration deadline is June 15. For more information call Barbara Welshberg of Cumberland at 723-0354.

The Invitational Summer Institute, also on the RIC campus, will run from July 7-31, Monday through Thursday, from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. It is for teachers of all subject and grade levels from K-University. It is a combined think-tank and writing workshop, exploring applied and theoretical issues in the teaching of writing and critical literacy. Participants include 20 outstanding classroom teachers and nationally acclaimed guest consultants.

Six graduate credits in English are available. The institute is free for those who do not wish academic credit.

For more information or application form contact Susan Ozbek of 156 Pine Hill Road, Scituate 02876.

The Advanced Summer Institute will be held on the RIC campus July 7-17 from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Monday through Thursday.

It will feature guest speakers, discussion of best classroom practices, time for journaling, writing groups and discussion regarding the teaching of writing. Facilitators are Anthony Frazza and Paula Preble. Graduate credit is offered. Registration forms are due by June 15. For more information contact Audrey Friedman of 20 Jefferson Drive, East Greenwich 02828.

The Consortium on Writing is an affiliate of the National Writing Project. It operates on grants from RIC and the National Writing Project with support from the College.

Additional information on any of its programs may be obtained by calling Marjorie Roemer, associate professor of English, at 456-8874.

Commencement Season
Thursday, May 22
Graduate Commencement
New Building, 5:30 p.m.

Friday, May 23
Commencement Gala
Donovan Dining Center, 6:30 p.m. reception, 7:30 p.m. dinner.

Saturday, May 24
Undergraduate Commencement
Espinalde in front of the New Building, 9:30 a.m.

1997 Commencement exercises
Continued from page 1

Among his awards and honors are: Outstanding Superintendent, 1989 from the National Alliance of Business; Friend of Education, 1988; Public Education Fund; 1990 Recognition Award, Latino Association of Rhode Island, and 1987 Achievement Award from the Rhode Island Order Sons of Italy.

Graduate students and their families and friends are invited to a reception immediately following the ceremonies in the Faculty Center.

Dart, who has been a wheelchair user since 1948 when he contracted polio at the age of 19, graduated from the University of Wisconsin with undergraduate degrees in history and education in 1953, and his masters degree in history one year later.

While a student, Dart founded the first organization to promote racial integration of the then-segregated institution.

As a crusader for those with disabilities, Dart played a leading role in the development and adoption of the 1966 Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA). He has served as vice chair of the National Council on Disability, chair of the Congressional Task Force on the Rights and Empowerment of Americans With Disabilities, and chair of the President's Committee on the Employment of People With Disabilities.

The Washington, D.C. resident has traveled widely to promote civil rights for those with disabilities, including at least four visits to every state in the United States and over 10 other countries.

Between 1980 and 1993, Dart had held five presidential, one congressional, and five gubernatorial appointments in the area of disability policy. He recently resigned as chairman of the President's Committee on Employment of People With Disabilities in order to devote his time as an international, full-time advocate for the civil rights and empowerment of people with disabilities, traveling throughout the world urging those with disabilities to register to vote and become active in public life.

In addition, he is the founder and CEO of three successful corporations, including Japan Tupperware, Ltd., which began with four employees in 1963 and grew to employ over 26,000 people.

He is the co-author of A Philosophical Foundation for Independent Living, published in 1982, and has written numerous articles and papers on disability policy and philosophy. He is also the editor of two books of poetry.

Throughout his life, he has received hundreds of awards and honors. Among these are the National Federation of the Blind Distinguished Service Award; National Association of the Deaf, advocacy for human rights Award for Distinguished Public Service; American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation; Epilepsy Foundation, for outstanding contributions to the passage of ADA, and others including international recognition.

He received an honorary doctorate in 1991 from the University of Rhode Island, Haven, and, in 1993, from the University of Illinois and Gallaudet University.

Honorary doctorate degree recipient Lea Eliash's horrific story begins in Lithuania where she was born and educated as a teacher. During the Nazi invasion into her country in 1941, Eliash, who by then was married to Solomon and had an 18-month-old daughter, found her life torn apart, her family members arrested and murdered, and she was forced to give up her only daughter in order to save the child's life.

As the horror grew, Eliash discovered that her parents, sisters, aunts, and uncles were taken to the bank of a nearby river, forced to dig their own graves, and shot. Her husband was taken to Dachau.

Forced to work at a German factory, warning others about the horror of the Holocaust so that such barbarism may be stopped in today's world and in the years to come. Fearing for her child's life, secretly, Eliash made arrangements to have her daughter taken in by a Catholic family in the city and given a new identity. The child was smuggled out of the ghetto in a sack and covered with blankets. If Eliash should survive, the Catholic family could keep her daughter.

Miraculously, all three survived and were eventually reunited.

In 1951, the family emigrated to New York; later that year they moved to Providence. The young girl, now 16, was enrolled in the Henry Barnard School. Mary Tucker Thorp, who is the namesake of the first residence hall on the RIC campus in Providence, and was the then principal of the elementary school, guided the young girl through her years at Henry Barnard. Solomon died in 1978.

Eliash has committed her life to warning others about the horror of the Holocaust so that such barbarism may be stopped in today's world and in the years to come.

A public reception will follow in Donovan Dining Center.
Sports Memorabilia Auction a huge success!

Over 250 people attended the first annual Athletic Auction held April 23 at the Providence Marriott.

By all accounts the evening was a wonderful success. The Rhode Island College Pep Band under the direction of Scott Morency was nothing less than superb. ABC6 sports anchor Ken Bell did a great job as the celebrity auctioneer. The food was well prepared and plentiful.

The silent auction items numbered close to 200. There were gift certificates for dinners, golf days and spectacular sports memorabilia. The live auction was filled with excitement as auctioneer Joe Abbate, Class of 1974, kept the bidding ongoing for items ranging from exciting getaways to a golf ball signed by President Ford to an Armand LaMontagne autographed Larry Bird print to Mickey Mantle's signed jersey. Over 30 items were included in the live auction.

Everyone in attendance received a RIC athletic t-shirt courtesy of REEBOK and Elmwood Sports. A great time was enjoyed by everyone in attendance, and the best part was that some much needed dollars were raised for student-support programs.

I would like to thank everyone who supported this endeavor with special thanks to the following for without them this evening would not have been possible:

**Major Sponsors**

President John Nazarian
Jim White
Joe Gatta & REEBOK
Steve Moracco & Elmwood Sports
Michael J. Cleary
Richard Chagnon
Matt Gill, Class of 1970
Phillip Aynab
Green Valley CC
George Bowen
The Pawtucket Red Sox
Bud Croft, Sr.
Armand LaMontagne
Masterpiece Gallery
Villa Santini
Major Video
Foxwoods Resort & Casino
The Ivy Lodge, Maggie Mey
Arthur Corsini
B&T Sports

Sports Results

**Men's Basketball**

4/30 RIC Men's Basketball vs. Western Connecticut L 2-4
4/30 RIC Men's Basketball vs. Western Connecticut L 7-8
5/1 RIC Men's Basketball vs. Fitchburg State W 12-3

**Women's Softball**

4/29 RIC Women's Softball vs. Western Connecticut L 2-4
4/29 RIC Women's Softball vs. Western Connecticut L 3-4
4/30 RIC Women's Softball vs. Eastern Connecticut L 0-0
4/30 RIC Women's Softball vs. Eastern Connecticut W 8-7

**Men's Tennis**

4/30 RIC Men's Tennis vs. Roger Williams W 7-2

Janet Moran, a junior at Rhode Island College, was recently nominated for the Rhode Island Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Women's Distinguished Athlete of the Year award.

Moran has participated in two years of cross-country, one year of soccer and three years of track and field. In track she qualified for both the indoor and outdoor Division III Championships in the 1500m.

She is a nursing major and works part-time assisting clients with daily living skills at the Cranston Center for Developmentally Disabled Adults, a residential program. Additionally, she serves on the College Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.

The R.I.A. A.W. is made up of women's collegiate athletic departments from RIC, Brown, Bryant, Johnson & Wales, Roger Williams, URI and Salve Regina. There is one nominee from each school each year. The awards ceremony for nominees took place April 30 at Salve Regina.

**Aquatics open house June 12**

The aquatics department at the Rhode Island College Recreation Center will hold an open house Thursday, June 12, from 4-7 p.m. This is an opportunity for Summer Session students, faculty, staff, alumni and members of the community to see the facility. Everyone who attends will be eligible for a free pass to visit and use the Rec Center at another time. The pass may be used by an individual or family.

For more information, you may call Alan Salemi at 456-8227 or Janice Fifer at 456-8238.

**Student-athlete nominated for award**

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4/30 RIC Women's Softball vs. Eastern Connecticut W 0-0
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4/30 RIC Men's Basketball vs. Western Connecticut L 7-8
5/1 RIC Men's Basketball vs. Fitchburg State W 12-3

**Women's Softball**

4/29 RIC Women's Softball vs. Western Connecticut L 2-4
4/29 RIC Women's Softball vs. Western Connecticut L 3-4
4/30 RIC Women's Softball vs. Eastern Connecticut W 0-0
4/30 RIC Women's Softball vs. Eastern Connecticut W 8-7

**Men's Tennis**

4/30 RIC Men's Tennis vs. Roger Williams W 7-2
Semi-pro basketball player, model, paratrooper —

Graduating senior loves a challenge and he’s faced many

by George LaTour
What's News Associate Editor

"A great love of challenge mingled with unyielding determination to succeed have marked the defining elements of my character since my earliest years," attests Stefano Vranca, a native of a little village near Torino, Italy, who now resides in Providence. "I have found myself hungrily pursuing, I have to be honest about that," says Vranca.

"I've had some great experiences and a lot of luck. I have to be honest about that," says Vranca.

Vranca met that someone special in his life, a Brown University student, when Vranca began to date. "She was one of the reasons I came here (to Rhode Island). Also, I didn't speak any English and wanted to challenge myself in a different country," he relates.

He arrived in Rhode Island in 1993 "to look it over" and discovered RIC's affordability. He had managed to save some money beforehand and would have to finance his education on his own.

His parents, Antonio and Rita Vranca, and his younger brother, Vincezio, had all they could manage in Italy.

He returned to Bologna and worked for a year and then came back to Rhode Island and enrolled at RIC.

While here, he has been on the Dean's List on occasion and served as president of the Visitor and International Student Association (VISA). He hopes to graduate with honors.

In the summers of 1995 and 96, Vranca made trips to California where he studied at UCLA and later worked as a research analyst for a law firm in Santa Monica. While at UCI, he volunteered his services as a translator in the Italian department. A week later, he received a call from Castle Rock Entertainment to translate a text from Italian to English for Billy Crystal and a Castle Rock vice president.

Vranca got to meet the comedian/movie star who, in recent years, has added to his fame as the master of ceremonies at Oscar night. "It was a fun summer," assures Vranca, who seems to make the most out of life's situations. Of all the challenges he's faced in his life, a Brown University student, when Vranca began to date. "She was one of the reasons I came here (to Rhode Island). Also, I didn't speak any English and wanted to challenge myself in a different country," he relates.

Vranca, who seems to make the most out of life's situations.

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STEFANO VRANCA

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realization of a once distant goal," he wrote on applying for an alumni association scholarship which he later received.

That "once distant goal" will soon be achieved when the senior graduates May 24 from Rhode Island College with a degree in economics.

Along the way, he has studied at three universities in Italy, earning a degree in accounting; played semi-professional basketball; served as platoon sergeant in the Italian Airborne Infantry, which included 21 parachute jumps, one of which was a night combat jump into Yugoslavia; worked for a time as a fashion model, and served as translator for Hollywood's Billy Crystal for a Castle Rock Entertainment movie script.

To top it all — if that's possible — Vranca has landed a job with the world's third largest "professional services firm" which boasts of 740 offices from Angola to Zimbabwe with annual revenue just in the U.S. of $1.5 billion. He will start work as an associate in the financial advising services of Coopers & Lybrand out of its Manhattan office June 23 and then undergo five months of training in Texas, Virginia and, perhaps, Japan.

Already fluent in Italian and English and "proficient in Spanish, perhaps Japanese won't prove too much of a hurdle for him. Nothing else seems to have.

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SCG announces first endowed scholarship awards at annual STORGY event

Junior David Noble, a political science major from Pawtucket and junior Erica Jacobsen, a nursing major from Ashaway, were awarded the first Student Community Government, Inc. scholarships at the annual STORGY awards ceremony held at the Providence Marriott April 24.

SCG established this scholarship during the 1995-96 academic year to honor and reward students who have made significant contributions to community life, both on and off the RIC campus.

Noble is president of the RIC Political Science Club, serves on Parliament and has run two state senate campaigns.

Jacobsen is president-elect of the RIC Nursing Nursing Club, serves on the finance committee of SOG, Inc., and is a resident assistant (RA) in Browne Hall.

Each year SCG, Inc. highlights achievements by students and student organizations at the awards ceremony.

Special recognition awards were given to Kristen Brown, editor of the yearbook, and John Valerio, editor of The Anchor, for their work and dedication to their publications.

In addition, Anthony Impagliazzo, SCGI president, presented awards to Clare Eckert, directress of news and public relations, and Michael Smith, assistant to President John Nazarian, for their work promoting last year's higher education bond issues.

SURPRISE, SURPRISE: A replica of a theatre poster with a "Thank You. Well Done" message is unveiled before a surprised Raymond Picozzi at the Inn at the Crossing in Warwick May 4 on the occasion of his retirement party celebrating his 15 years as director of the RIC Musical Theatre program and 36 years at the College. The poster is the creation of Edward Stahowiak of the News and Public Relations Office. (What's News Photo by George LaTour)

Addresses contemporary history students at RIC—

Survivor tells of terror of Nazi concentration camps

by George LaTour
What's News Associate Editor

Describing himself as having been "a Polish farmer—not an expert, not a specialis," Junior Zygfryd Baginski, new 80, related his experiences for contemporary history students at Rhode Island College May 1 of life in two Nazi concentration camps in Poland in World War II.

"Now everything I talk about is history. Fifty-three years ago it was terror," he assured the packed class in Gaige Hall as students in the classes of Kathy Pannozzi and Robert Czvernyak sat in respectful silence and awe.

Dressed in an impeccable gray suit and standing with his 6'3" body ramrod straight, Baginski told of how he went from 220 lbs upon his arrest by the Gestapo on June 13, 1944, to 72 lbs by the time of his being set free by American soldiers on April 11, 1945.

Starvation, beatings, torture and death were his companions as he witnessed the "incredible inhumanities.

Born in Providence of Polish parents, who returned to their native country—"a big mistake," Baginski told them with their two sons in 1922, Baginski got no consideration by the Nazis of the fact that he was a U.S. citizen. Rhode Island College May 1 of life in two Nazi concentration camps in Poland in World War II.

"Everything was kept secret. We didn't know what was going on or how the war was going," related Baginski, who said everyone pretty much kept to himself. He seldom got to talk to his brother, who was also a prisoner with him. There were no women or children with them.

"Two prisoners escaped one night. The head commandant asked for five men. The commandant of our block picked four men who were standing beside me, looked me in the eye, passed me, and picked the man to the other side of me.

"The men were taken behind the barn. We heard the shots which took their lives. To this day, I do not understand how I escaped being shot," related Baginski.

Having lost so much weight, his hair having turned gray and being sick with swollen glands in his neck, he was hospitalized at one point.

"The gland in my neck was so swollen that it looked my jaw and mouth teeth were tightly clenched.

"Very seldom did anyone leave the hospital alive. There were no supplies in this hospital.

"One man had gangrene in his arm. Three times they amputated parts of his arm using no anesthetics.

"In a few days, General Patton's army arrived. The first soldier we saw was a black American soldier. He was throwing chocolate candy bars and Camel cigarettes through the open windows. We were free."

Within a few weeks, 400 of the 600 sick prisoners died. "I was one of the survivors," said Baginski. "I was kind of lucky."

After the war, he was detained for over two years in Stuttgart, Germany, until—finally—a relative managed to send him $200 for a ticket back to the U.S.

As a U.S. citizen suffering internment in a Nazi concentration camp, he may be entitled to some financial reparation from the German government, but that is to be decided after a September deadline for reporting and documenting such cases.

Baginski had been a draftsman for a Rhode Island firm and resides in the Mount Pleasant section, close to RIC, with his wife, Jean. They have three grown sons, all engineers.

Pannozzi explained that a former student of hers became acquainted with Baginski, whom he was to replace on a job. This led to the first of several invitations over the past several years for Baginski to lecture at the College.

Even today, more than half a century after the nightmare of living in concentration camps, Baginski told his audience he still dreams of those days.

"The dreams. Always the dreams. And you wake up and you're here and you've survived."
The Rhode Island College Class of 1997 donned academic attire for the first time May 7 and nearly filled Roberts Hall auditorium for the annual Cap and Gown Day convocation during which outstanding students were awarded departmental honors.

The day marked the beginning of the commencement season for RIC, now in its 143 year. It ends with commencement May 24.

Students gathered outside in joyful anticipation as chilly winds swirled about their black academic robes. It wasn’t long before the procession, headed by Prof. Vivian R. Morgan, chairperson of the Council of Rhode Island College, marched into the auditorium with the faculty — many in colorful robes — leading the students.

College President John Nazarian extended an official welcome to the class for the occasion "marked by the joy of achievement."

"You are Rhode Island College," he told them, "and Rhode Island College is you."

"As we are about to enter an entirely new world after four, five, six or seven years here," observed class president Samuel L. Ciotola Jr. to the delight of the seniors, "every person who graduates will affect the lives of every other person."

He urged them to cherish their network of friends and "put your minds to something" and go out and do it. "We can change the course of the world."

Gary M. Penfield, vice president for student affairs, announced those chosen to Who’s Who Among Student in American Universities and Colleges. John J. Salesses, vice president for academic affairs, assisted by the department chairs, presented departmental awards.

President Nazarian led in the Cap and Gown investiture. Robert L. Castiglione, professor and chairman of the philosophy department, addressed the students, who had selected him for the honor.

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

FOR THE FIRST TIME: Before entering Roberts Hall auditorium, Ken Farrelly holds a mirror for Jill Baker-Lawrence, as she tries on her mortarboard.

CAP ‘N GOWN AWARD WINNERS and their awards: Jay Paul, Evelyn Walsh Prize (History); Rosalind Sibielski, Film Studies Faculty; Amy Lamoureux, Jean Garrigue (English); Laurie Marcotte, Cantor Jacob Hohenemser (Performing Arts); Lara Hakeem, RIC Theatre; Charlene Majkut, Elementary Ed Faculty; Valerie Verducci, Helen M. Murphy (Intercollegiate Athletics); Tobi Piascik, Elisa F. Bonaventura (Special Ed); Keith Nabb, Christopher R. Mitchell (Math and Computer Science); Dana Duges, Richard A. Howland Computer Science; Jason Martin, Art History; Alison Carroll, Claiborne deB. Pell (History); Amy Martineau, Bertha Christina Andrews Emin Award for Scholastic Excellence (RIC Foundation); Angelica Vessella, Yetta Rauch Melcer Dance.

Also, Toni Drowne Dainty, Emin Award for Outstanding Achievement (RIC Foundation) and John H. Chafee (Policical Science); Loretta Di Bartolo, Bachelor of Social Work Community Service; Margaret Gomes, Anthony E. Ricci Social Work Practice; Amy Ritter, Nursing Faculty-Undergraduate; Nathan DiMeo, Film Studies Faculty; Michael Boisvert, Health/Physical Ed Faculty Senior; Robert McAdam, John E. Hetherman (Intercollegiate Athletics); Christine Angell, Lauris B. Whitman (Sociology); Virginia Branca, Mary Ann Hawkes (Justice Studies); Renee Sepe, Josephine A. Stilings (Special Ed); Domingo Perez-Cruz, Nelson A. Guarden Memorial (Spanish); Shelly Cortese, Mary Ann Hawkes (Justice Studies); Leon Schultz, Tegu Polyglot (Modern Languages); Lori Backman, Communications Achievement (Public Relations); Kimm Williams, Eleanor M. McMahon (College Honors Program); Jeffrey Barba, John Silva Memorial Scholaristic and Wall Street Journal Award (Center for Management and Technology); Peter Walsh, Herbert R. Winter (Political Science); Lawrence Signore, North Providence League of Women Voters; Jane Alger, Ronald J. Boruch (Physical Sciences); and Sandra Lonardo, Anthony E. Ricci Social Work Practice.