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What's News At Rhode Island College

Rhode Island College

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Spring Annual Fund phonathon garners over 725 new alumni donors

by Clare Eckert
What's News Editor

The Rhode Island College Alumni Association's Annual Fund spring phonathon effort has garnered more than 725 new alumni donors, according to Cheryl Precopio, Annual Fund director.

“One of our major goals this year was to increase participation to the Fund,” Precopio said. “We thank all of the new alumni donors for responding so positively to the calls. Their gifts will help to provide funding for student scholarships and emergency financial assistance.”

Precopio noted that the “class chair program” initiated for the first time this year has been “very successful” as well. “They have raised over $4,500 in pledges and acquired over 165 new donors to date.”

The program identifies chairs of various class years, who call members of their class seeking gifts to the Annual Fund. Precopio said that members of the class chairs program will continue calling through the summer months “to reach as many alumni as possible. “They have raised over $4,500 in pledges and acquired over 165 new donors to date.”

The fall phonathon will begin in October.

Amid pomp and circumstance over 1,400 students receive degrees at Commencement exercises

by George LaTour
What’s News Associate Editor

IT was a time of pomp and circumstance as another academic year closed at Rhode Island College and more than 1,400 students received bachelor’s and master’s degrees in separate ceremonies May 22 and 24. Gov. Lincoln C. Almond, in a letter to the more than 360 graduate students Thursday evening in the College’s New Building, termed it a “day of achievement for you” and urged them to pursue their dreams and “stay in Rhode Island.”

College President John Nazarian recalled the history of the College which began 143 years ago as “an experiment in education” as the Rhode Island State Normal School. Its job was to teach would-be teachers. In 1925 the first master of education degree was awarded.

Then as now, he told the graduate students, their attainment of the masters degree “is a magnificent accomplishment.”

Joseph A. Almagno, the executive secretary of the Providence Teachers Union, who received the honorary degree of Doctor of Education and served as the keynote speaker, told the approximately 2,000 people at the graduate ceremonies that the graduates, as educators, play crucial roles in stemming child abuse, teen pregnancy and other problems besetting youth.

“Government can never solve these problems,” he said. “Government doesn’t raise children — parents do, teachers do, coaches do, religious associations do.”

Anthropology grad discovers dreams do come true with determination and cultural understanding

by Clare Eckert
What’s News Editor

Tam Van Le had a dream. At 32-years-old in 1981, with a wife and four children, this South Vietnamese native left his homeland in search of a future. Under the safety of a night sky with 51 others crowded into a 12 x 2 1/2 meter boat, the journey began from the shores of the CoCong Province in South Viet Nam. From that day forward, Van Le became a member of a group of refugees Americans commonly refer to as “the boat people.”

With only sweet potatoes as nourishment, a wide-brimmed hat to shield him from the beating rays of a hot sun; meager personal belongings, and memories of his family to keep him alive until reaching America, Van Le successfully escaped from a country where he no longer felt welcome.

The decision to leave his family behind was the most difficult he has had to make in his 48 years on this earth. But in the early 1980s, with the destruction of the Viet Nam conflict still fresh, Van Le said of his decision, “If I died, I accept it. If my kids died, I couldn’t accept that.”

The steps he took 16 years ago to hide from the authorities in order to realize a future for his family, are unlike the steps he took on Saturday, May 24, at 9:30 a.m. when, as a member of the 1997 graduating class of Rhode Island College, Van Le now an American citizen - marched to the podium and received his BA in anthropology.

According to Carolyn Fluehr-Lobban, a 25-year professor of anthropology at RIC who has traveled the world, Van Le “is an absolute stand-out” in her memories of the hundreds of students she has taught.

“Tam really used anthropology to make a successful” integration of his
The Way We Were...

This popular item in What's News will continue this year in order for you to be able to revisit your alma mater with a selection of photos from the past — the College's past, whether the current era (Rhode Island College) or past eras (Rhode Island College of Education or Rhode Island State Normal School). We invite your contribution of old photos, along with along information about each such as who's in the photo and what they are doing, the year it was taken and place (if possible). In the meantime, we'll continue searching our files for interesting pictures of past College life.

Grants and Contracts announced

The following project directors have recently received grant and contract awards:

- From the Feinstein School of Education and Human Development: Anthony Antosh, from the RI Department of Mental Health, Retardation and Hospitals, "Mental Health, Retardation, and Hospitals Subcontract: 96-97," $245,760; and from the RI Department of Human Services, "Assistive Technology: Lenore Collins, from the RI Department of Human Services, "Refugee Training: 96-97," $102,157; and from the Providence Graphic Arts Association, "Providence Graphic Arts Association Training: $2,000; and from Docu-Print, Inc., "Providence Graphic Arts Association Training: $7,400; Karen Dionne, from the Providence/ Cranston Job Training Partnership, "Training Responsible Adults in Medical Assistant Field," $48,248; and from Docu-Print, Inc., "Providence Graphic Arts Association Training: $15,526; Christ Costa, from the RI Department of Human Services, "Dislocated Worker Training," $19,000; and from the RI State Legislature, "Legislative Pay Equity Commission, $18,404; Ezra Stieglitz and Pierre Morenon, from the Town of Pawtucket School Department, "Pawtucket School Department Assessment: 1997," $15,670; and "Rhode Island College Writing Assessment: 1997," $5,000; Marjorie Roemer, from the RI Department of Education, "Rhode Island College Writing Assessment: 1997," $5,000; and "Rhode Island Consortium of Writing: 1997," $5,000; and from the IBM Corporation, "IBM Writing Consortium Support," $500; and Timothy Cooley, from The New England Foundation for the Arts, "The Eurasia Ensemble," $300.

Robert Tetreault named personnel services director

Robert G. Tetreault of Lincoln, the former associate director of administrative direction of Human Resources and Training, has been named director of Rhode Island College Personnel Services, replacing Gordon N. Sundberg, who retired.

His appointment became effective May 27.

Tetreault has more than 20 years of progressive responsibility in covering all aspects of human resource management both in the public and private sectors.

Prior to his last assignment with the State of Rhode Island, a position he held since 1991, he served in the corporate office as personnel director for Textron, Inc., the $8 billion conglomerate which employs some 40,000 people in 30 locations worldwide.

Before that he served as director of personnel administration at ITT Grinnell Corporation in Providence and before that held a number of positions with Texas Instruments, Inc. in Attleboro.

He holds a bachelor's degree in liberal arts from the University of Rhode Island and a masters of business administration in management from Bryant College. He has served on the faculties of both Bryan and Johnson & Wales University.

He is a member of the board of directors of the Northeast Human Resources Association and the Meeting Street Center, commissioner of the Rhode Island Affirmative Action Review Commission, commissioner of the Rhode Island Joint Legislative Pay Equity Commission, and executive board member of the Human Resources Association of Rhode Island.

Married to the former Vivian Desmarais of Lincoln, the couple has a son, Steven, who graduated from Rutgers University last year, and a daughter, Lauren, who will be a freshman at URI in September.
At 31st annual commencement—

35 Upward Bound grads all headed for college

by George LaTour
What’s News Associate Editor

“You should be extremely excited over this achievement,“ Cecilio A. Thomas, Upward Bound Class of 1991, told the 397 graduates of the program in ceremonies June 2 in Rhode Island College’s Donovan Dining Center.

“Carry on with all you have learned and continue to learn,” he urged the 35 graduates from the six target high schools that comprise the program. Thomas delivered the main address in which he likened their life’s journey to a road with its twists and turns.

“You have the opportunity because of the Upward Bound program to follow roads your parents couldn’t take. I know you will succeed in whatever you do,” he said.

Thomas noted that one of the Upward Bound students in the class was not present. Keary Chea, who died unexpectedly last December, was awarded a diploma posthumously. Thomas urged his classmates to keep in touch with Chea’s family and share with them their own progress as they enter college and beyond.

The graduation ceremony was dedicated to Chea’s memory. College President John Nazarian brought the official greetings of the College and offered his personal congratulations to them.

“You made a commitment and you kept it,” said Nazarian, “Your success has brought honor to you and your families and the Upward Bound program.”

Other speakers in the program included Mariam Z. Boyajian, program director, who gave a brief history of the program now in its 31st year, and Gary M. Pintefeld, vice president for student affairs, who offered a closing salute to the graduates.

Some 34 different institutions to date have offered acceptances to this year’s graduates, including RIC, Providence College, the University of Rhode Island, Boston College, Northeastern University, the University of Massachusetts, the University of Colorado, the University of Utah and Embry Riddle Aeronautical University.

Three Upward Bound Alumni Scholarships were awarded as well as one from each of the four target school districts. The winners of the ninth annual alumni scholarships and the colleges they will attend are Lucilanna M. Gomes of Hope High School, $1,000 (RIC); Ada C. Tillett of Central High School, $1,500 (Yale); and Robert L. Rawson of Shea High School, $2,000 (Connecticut).

Target School System Scholarship winners of $250 each, presented to the seniors with the highest academic average, were: Natalia Tamayo, Central Falls; Theouan Tan Nhet, East Providence; Jeffrey Pareira, Pawtucket; and Lucilanna M. Gomes, Providence.

The 1997 Outstanding Service Awards were presented to Arthur Elmasian, principal of East Providence High School; Dr. Emile Chevrette, former superintendent of Pawtucket Public Schools, and Lucilanna M. Gomes, Providence.

Each was cited for his or her outstanding service to the program and its students.

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Rhode Island Science Olympiad

$1,000 CHECKS TO SUPPORT a trip to the National Science Olympiad May 16 and 17 at North Carolina State University for Rhode Island winners from Classical High and the Nathanael Greene Middle School are presented by Dr. Ira Singer (third from left), of the Rhode Island Orthopedic Society, to John Short, principal of Nathanael Greene, and (to his right) Thomas Mezzanotte, principal of Classical. Others on hand May 9 in the President’s Dining Room are (from left) Paul Tlusks, local Olympiad director; College President John Nazarian, and Anna Saccoccio, Olympiad coach.

Former R.I. teacher named administrator in Ohio

Barbara (Golden) MacDonald of Westerville, Ohio, a 1971 Rhode Island College graduate in special education, has been promoted from educational consultant to that of assistant director for administrative and fiscal services in the Ohio Department of Education, Division of Special Education.

As educational consultant prior to her May promotion, she was named Employee of the Month by the Ohio State Board of Education.

Prior to joining the department in 1979, MacDonald worked as a general education teacher in Rhode Island, a special education teacher in the Dayton City Schools, and a project teacher for the Miami Valley Special Education Regional Resource Center.

She is the wife of Allan J. MacDonald, a 1971 RIC graduate in psychology who now holds a Ph.D.

Wins Aime Forand Award

Irena Nedeljkovic, a student from the former Yugoslavia and graduate of the Class of 1997, has won the Aime Forand Award for the best honors project in political science, it was announced by Richard B. Weiner, dean of the College’s Arts and Sciences.

Nedeljkovic’s project was titled “Confronting Democracy: Does Serbia have a Democratic Future?” The native of Belgrade, Serbia, won $500 for the project which was supervised by Dean Weiner.

The award honors former Rhode Island Congressman Forand, who authored the legislation creating the federal Medicare system.

Nedeljkovic will work in management for a few years before turning to graduate studies in management, says Weiner.

Joan Murphy is senior class president

In the Cap and Gown Convocation story in the last issue of What’s News, Samuel L. Cintola Jr., a member of the Class of 1997, who gave greetings to the class along with College President John Nazarian, was incorrectly identified as senior class president. Joan Marie Murphy is senior class president. She introduced faculty member Robert L. Castiglione, who was selected by the students to address them.
Getting off public assistance with the help of RIC and the Central Falls Housing Authority

by Cynthia L. Sousa
What's News Writer

Michelle Casto wants "to get off public assistance and find a stable career as a legal secretary." The 26-year-old Central Falls resident has been receiving Section 8 Housing would help participants more quickly for the past two years. For several reasons, this wife and mother of two had to accept help from the government. She hopes this aid will be short lived.

This month Casto will receive her GED, the first step towards "self-sufficiency.

Her situation is looking brighter thanks to Kristen Koestner.

Koestner, program director of the Central Falls Housing Authority's (CFHA) Family Self Sufficiency (F.S.S.) program, received a masters degree in agency counseling from RIC in 1996. She is responsible for the establishment of a partnership between CFHA and Rhode Island College that helps interested participants receiving Section 8 housing become self sufficient.

As part of their course requirements, Murray Finley, department chair of the RIC counseling and educational psychology program, had candidates complete a curriculum (C.A.G.S.) grad students Jane M. Hudson (MA 1993) and Phyllis A. Barboza (BA and MA RIC) create and implement a curriculum that helps participants more quickly and efficiently obtain self-sufficiency status, both as prospective employees and in self-esteem.

A grant of $9,243 from the CFHA is supporting the research project led by Finley.

Koestner says the curriculum addresses many of the participants' needs and the obstacles that sometimes prevent them from reaching their dreams and fulfilling their goals.

Candidates in the program volunteer to take part in a 12-week program that not only gives them the tools that they will need to become self sufficient, but teaches them how to apply these new skills and knowledge. They meet in small groups once a week.

Twenty Central Falls residents are presently taking part in the program which was implemented in March. Jim Demus, a masters degree candidate, and Brenda Duncan, a certificate of advanced graduate study candidate, lead the group meetings along with Hudson.

The participants are given an agenda, homework assignments and take part in discussions.

Barboza says there was a great need for a program of this sort with welfare reform "coming down the pipe."

"The curriculum helps participants move from point A to point B to point C," she says. "For one person it may be going out to take an exam to drive a car, for another it may be to do student teaching. Our aim is to dispel their fears about moving ahead. We're here to support each other so that they're able to take that next step."

Emotional support, including stress and conflict management and self esteem, is addressed along with interview, job hunting, resume and cover letter workshops.

Koestner is finding the program to be "highly successful." She says she has received a lot of positive feedback from participants. "They're learning from one another and there's a lot more motivation than I've seen with past programs.

Casto is thrilled with it. "The program has helped me a lot," she says. "You meet others in similar situations and realize that you are not alone. Everyone in the group cares."

She says her self esteem has improved greatly over the last few months. She is also doing an internship in the CFHA that is helping her learn office procedure.

Finley is also very pleased with the program. "We are providing a great service for participants in the program and for our students who are learning how to motivate those who have motivation but don't know how to use it. It's a unique opportunity."

Last chance to purchase RIC Alumni Directory

The 1997 edition of the Rhode Island College Alumni Directory has been produced, printed and mailed to the over 2,500 alumni who ordered one. The culmination of the project completes an 18-month cycle of compiling information on nearly 33,500 alumni the College has addresses for.

The book includes several sections; the largest section is the biographical one. There is also a class year, a geographical, a career networking and an E-mail address sections.

When printing the directory, Harris Publishing Company produced an overrun of about 50 directories. To receive a copy, call the customer service department at 1-800-877-0554. The soft-bound edition is $56.99, hard cover is $59.99. There is also a $7.95 mailing and postage fee.

A copy of the directory is available at the reference desk in Adams Library. The Alumni Office also has copies for alumni to browse through; however, directories are not available for lending. The contract with the publisher prohibits the College from selling the book.

29 graduate with general ed honors

Some 29 Rhode Island College students graduated May 24 with General Education Honors, announced Spencer Hall, director.

Those designated (below) with (CH) have also earned College Honors. The McMahon Award for the outstanding graduating senior from the program was accorded to Kimberly Williams.

The graduates are: Allyson Ayotte, Kim Bogosian, Bethany Bryden, Bryan Byerlee, Carina Carnevale (CH), Joseph Carreiro, Stacy Delderfield (CH), Melissa Desmond, Edward Gouin, Amy Jervis.

And, Robert Kelly, Eva Kendrick, Maja Knezevic, Debbie Lafond, Kristin Laroeque, Shazia Latif (CH), Erica Lebrun, Amy Martinez, Virginia Mello, Nicole Messa, Irena Nedeljkovic (CH).

Also, Stanley Olszewski, Tamra Ringelin, (CH), Amy Schaub, Rosalind Sibielski, Magen Slesinger, David Upegui (CH), Kimberly Williams (CH) and Jennifer Zambrano.
Cranston's Ann Starks earns RIC diploma —

A victim of MS, this grandmother doesn’t have the word ‘can’t’ in her vocabulary

by George LaTour
What's News Associate Editor

Born with cerebral palsy, which she overcame as she grew older, this Cranston woman, contracted multiple sclerosis (MS) by age 40 but undeterred, she continued to fight for a meaningful life. "I'm a fighter," says Ann Starks, mother of three children and grandmother of three. "The word 'can't' isn't in my vocabulary."

Indeed. While raising her children she performed volunteer work for 14 years with the Cranston Community Action group and served as chairperson of its council. A soft-spoken woman who smiles easily, she knows compassion and how to apply it.

Her daughter, Rosanna Simmons, urged her to go back to school for her general equivalency diploma (GED) and then it was onto the Community College of Rhode Island for an associate degree in social work. During her time at CCRI, she did field work with the Cranston Community Action group working in adult day care with people with Alzheimer's.

Then in 1993 her daughter encouraged her to come to Rhode Island College for her bachelors degree in social work. While at RIC, she did field work for the South Providence Neighborhood Ministry, her MS being "kind of in remission now."

"All the (RIPTA) bus drivers know me," says Starks, who points out she took the bus every day to RIC "no matter what the weather."

Starks has high praise for RIC's faculty and staff: "Everyone here has been very supportive. Everyone helped me out."

On May 24, she received her BSW degree in ceremonies at RIC which were attended by two of her grandchildren, her mother and step-father, Anna and Frederick Almeida, daughter Rosanna, who received her own college diploma as an occupational therapist from Worcester State the week before, her sons, Thomas and James Jr. and husband, James Starks Sr.

A "double party" for Starks and her daughter was held May 31 at the Cape Verde Portuguese Club in East Providence.

Asked what she plans to do now that she has her college degree, Starks is quick to reply: "Go out and look for a job like everyone else — right?"

She "definitely" wants to work with the elderly or with children. Her advice to students wherever they might be: "Really open up your mind and listen to those around you.

Her advice to students wherever they may be: "Go out and look for a job like everyone else — right?"

She "definitely" wants to work with the elderly or with children. Her advice to students wherever they might be: "Really open up your mind and listen to those around you.

"It hasn't stopped Ann Starks."

ANN STARKS waits for the commencement march to begin.
(What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)
After all those years...

RETIREES FROM THE COLLEGE, who had their picture taken with President John Nazarian while attending the commencement gala on May 23 in Donovan Dining Center, are (I to r), first row: Filomena Russi/lo, Patricia Smith. Other retirees not pictured include: Armand Patrucco, Paul Chasse, Joel Fuerst, Richard Brinegar, Pauline Margerison, Elaine Ricci, Marie Lonardo, Lawrence LaFlammme, Abel DePina, Kwan Kim, Mariano Cacciola, Ann Tamboe, Rose Provost, and Richard Ferrucci. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

Geography Alliance teacher-consultants funded for study trip to Japan

CHECK PRESENTATION: Harvey Greenhalgh (third from left), director of human resources at Toray Plastics America, presents check for $2,500 to Chester Smoleski May 8 in Alumni Lounge to support a study trip to Japan for four teacher-consultants in the Rhode Island Geography Education Alliance. They are (from left) Carol Hoppe, Patricia Karmazyn, Maureen Powell and Joan Bloom.

The seminar will immerse the teachers in a culture about which they have studied and taught.

The program is sponsored by the Five College Center for East Asian Studies. A Fulbright-Hays award and the Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership are funding the seminar.

The seminar will immerse the teachers in a culture about which they have studied and taught, says Kathleen Woods Masalski, project director of the Five College Center. Japanese experts and ordinary people will host the group in Sapporo, Tokyo/Yokohama, Hiroshima and Kyoto/Osaka where they will hear lectures, take museum and walking tours with visits to factories, schools and homes, and a guided independent study.

They will be led by an experienced bi-national team, who will work closely with the resource people in Japan.

David George named physical plant director at RIC

The former director of physical plant at Skidmore College in New York, who has over 25 years experience in facilities maintenance, construction, energy conservation, and planning for college campuses, hospitals and military bases worldwide, has been named the new director of physical plant at Rhode Island College, replacing Richard Brinegar who retired.

David R. George of Scotia, N.Y. began his new duties at RIC May 5.

He is responsible for the maintenance and operations of the physical aspects of the multi-building campus, which includes buildings, roads, grounds and equipment, as well as preparing and supervising an annual budget and maintaining an inventory of necessary materials.

He reports to the assistant vice president for administration.

At Skidmore, George controlled an annual operating and capital budget of about $10 million; managed 1.5 million square feet of facilities on 800 acres with a work force of over 120.

He oversaw the construction of major building additions, completing ahead of time and on budget, and planned and implemented actions to replace the campus power supply system and chilled water plant, eliminating all major outages for five years.

He is also credited with installing computerized maintenance management and energy conservation systems and organized staff training that resulted in cost savings of $30,000 annually by eliminating costly service contracts.

Prior to his service at Skidmore which began in 1989, he directed new construction, design, maintenance, utilities, energy conservation, safety/security, housekeeping and telecommunications at St. Clare's Hospital in Schenectady, N.Y.

He served as director of engineering and was resident engineer for the United States Navy, serving at various military installations around the globe, including in Spain, Scotland, Philippines and Viet Nam.

As an enlisted man and later commissioned officer in the Navy, he earned 10 medals during his career, including the Navy Achievement Medal. He retired as a lieutenant commander with the Civil Engineering Corps.

George has a bachelor of science degree in mechanical engineering from Purdue University, Indiana, and a master of engineering degree from the University of Florida at Gainesville.

He is a member of the Association of Higher Education Facilities Officers and the American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Engineers.

George and his wife, Joanne, will reside in North Providence. They have three children.
On Brown & Sharpe and its 16-year strike —

Budner’s ‘Wonder of the World’ documentary to air on TV 36

June 12

Lawrence Budner of Wickford, professor of communications at Rhode Island College, has produced a 50-minute documentary about the Brown & Sharpe Company, its workers and American industrialism which also addresses the 16-year strike against the company by its workers. Now ranked as the longest strike in American history.

Entitled Wonder of the World, the film will be broadcast on Channel 36 on Thursday, June 12, at 10 p.m. and will be repeated at least two other times this summer, says Budner.

The program explores for a general audience what working for this world famous machine tool manufacturer means for its workers and their families.

Women and men who were apprentices, machinists, tool makers, union leaders and managers were interviewed.

Budner goes beyond the traditional textbook discussion of "development" and "progress" of industrialism to present industrial culture as human experience.

The production examines the history of the company and the gender, racial and ethnic aspects of working there.

Among the interviewees appearing in the documentary are Henry D. Sharpe Jr., company president; U.S. Sen. John H. Chafee; Robert Thayer, union representative; Margaret Tarbox, worker; John Coen, union local president; Stanley Banach, strike leader; Albert Klyberg, Rhode Island History Society president; Richard Jocelyn, director of public relations; John Gordon, director of human resources; Duncan Doolittle, vice president of the machine-tool division; Edward McElroy, former president of the Rhode Island AFL-CIO, and Ray Rogers, director of the corporate campaign that played a significant role in the 1981 strike.

Archival material used came from WPRI-TV, Channel 12, the Rhode Island Historical Society; photographer Duane Clinker; the Eastfilms Production Company and the Providence Journal.

They all seemed duly impressed when the Antonelli sisters (1 to r in foreground) Jamie, Dana, and Lisa, were interviewed.

Budner’s tour, but the first for the field trip to RIC. The purpose of the project is to develop an innovative pre-service professional development program for teachers.

"The pool looks really cool," observed one student.

"I liked the pool. It's big," noted one younger in a letter he sent to Joseph J. McCormick, professor of special education, who coordinated the Professional Development School Project with Prof. John and Judy DiMee.

Another noted in his letter of thanks that "Those big cookies were delicious" and "the 3 foot pool we saw and also the huge gym were very interesting." Seems like he left out a zero or two in describing the pool's size.

All the kids who wrote — and most of them did — said they were impressed with Rhode Island College and now knew which college they would attend.

"Later, when I grow up, I want to go to your college," was a typical comment.

"I think I will go to Rhode Island College. The thing is that I really didn't want to go to any college before my visit," admitted another.

"Now, you've given me a college to go to. I really had a good time! I hope to see you soon!" said a little girl in anticipation.

"When we went to Rhode Island College I had a better idea of where I'm going to college. I'm going to Harvard University," assured one youngster.

"Dear Mr. McCormick: Thank you for letting us see your college. We really enjoyed everything. It was not just good; it was great."

"Dear Dr. McCormick: Thank you for that awfully nice trip you arranged for us. It was nice of you to plan the trip and let us come. Would you thank the other students and professors? What a nice person you are!"

And so it went.

Many of the letters closed with "Your friend" and the signature. One added: "Love ya!"

And, of course, a "P.S." or "two: "It is a beautiful school."

"Thanks again."
RIC marks commencement in its 143 year

Clockwise from upper left: The procession, led by Associate Professor Vivian Morgan carrying the De/Sesto Mace, dignitaries and platform guests, makes its way down the esplanade toward the New Building. Members of the Golden Anniversary Class, the Class of 1947, are led by class officers Leonora Clancy Breg, and Genevieve Baughan Carroll, carrying the banner. Education major Lynn Smith displays the "I love my teacher" on her mortarboard. Alonzo Jones sings an a cappella composition he wrote himself for this special occasion. And Michelle Cote, one of more than 1,000 graduates, receives her diploma from President John Nazarian.

Commencement
Continued from page 1

leaders do, neighbors do, mentors do. "You have the poise, the confidence, the knowledge, the skill and the opportunity to lead," Almagno said. "Don't pass it up."

In the baccalaureate ceremony Saturday at which more than 7,000 people sat or stood in designated areas on the College esplanade under at times threatening skies and a chilly morning chill, Governor Almond, Chairman of the Board of Higher Education George Graboys and President Nazarian all delivered a similar message thanking the voters for supporting bonds that will improve the state's education system, including educational initiatives and a fine arts center at RIC.

Delivering the commencement address, Justin Dart Jr., who is regarded as the father of the 1991 Americans with Disabilities Act, spoke of empowerment and the "most important issue for America, for humanity."

Using a wheelchair since contracting polio in 1948, Dart has been a crusader for those with disabilities for decades and has held five presidential, one congressional and five gubernatorial appointments in the area of disability policy.

He was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws.

Lea Eliash, a Holocaust survivor who has committed her life to speaking before every possible audience to warn of the horrors of the Holocaust so that it will never be repeated, received the honorary Doctor of Public Service degree.

The Class of 1947 gift of a check for $13,355 was presented to Nazarian by class members Leonora Clancy Breg and Genevieve Baughan Carroll.

Farewell remarks were made to the class by Class President Joan Marie Murphy, and a moving composition and performance of a piece entitled "Without You" was given by graduating senior Alonzo T. Jones.

As on numerous occasions throughout the ceremony, the graduates stood and applauded loudly.

U.S. Sen. Jack Reed, Congressman Bob Wegand and Secretary of State and RIC grad Jim Langevin were on hand for the occasion. Lt. Gov. Bernard A. Jackvony brought the official greetings of the state to the graduate students on Thursday evening.

Degrees were conferred by President Nazarian; a welcome to the alumni association was extended to the graduates by Sydney Cohen, Class of 1940, and chair of the Council of RIC Vivian La Ferla Morgan opened and closed the ceremonies.

Photos by Gordon E. Rowley
ON EXHIBIT AT AIRPORT: Edward R. Stahowiak, graphic design major at Rhode Island College, stands proudly next to his display at the T.F. Green Airport. The showcase depicts all aspects of the College. A poster collage, yearbooks and a violin are some of the objects that are present. It will be on display for the remainder of the year.

Rhode Island College, stands proudly next to his display at the T.F. Green Airport.
Athletic awards night culminates year of success

On Sunday, May 4, in Donovan Dining Center, the College honored more than 300 student-athletes and their coaches at the annual awards ceremony. It was a wonderful event that made us all realize how lucky we are to have such outstanding young people representing our institution.

Gary Penfield, vice-president of student affairs, welcomed everyone on behalf of an ailing President John Nazarian. Following Penfield, Peter Glanz, the chair of the Athletic, Intramural and Recreation Policy Committee, presented Scholar-Athlete Awards to more than 27 athletes who were successful in the academic arena as well as athletically (a complete list of all award winners is included at the end of this article).

Associate Director of Athletics Gail Davis and Assistant Athletic Director Jim Adams presented awards to all of the student-athletes who received recognition by the ECAC Conference, the Little East Conference, the NCGA and the NCAA. In addition, four student-athletes received special awards for a leadership competition from the Disney Company.

Each coach presented most valuable player awards, followed by presentations of RIC watches to seniors. Final awards were the Dayna A. Bazar Award, the Helen M. Murphy and the John E. Hetherman Awards. The Dayna A. Bazar Award is presented to a student who personifies the characteristics of the late RIC softball star who was killed in a motorcycle accident in her freshman year. This year’s winner was Jessica Schiano. Banice Bazar, Dayna’s grandfather, made the presentation to Jessica. The Helen M. Murphy Award went to Valerie Verducci. The John E. Hetherman Award was presented to Robert McAdam.

Senior Awards:
The following students were recognized for their athletic participation during their College years. Each received a RIC watch as a gift from the College during the annual awards ceremony: Mike Marques, Derrick Campbell, Nicole Centazzo, Shelly Allard, Brenda Robertson, Faith Birtwell, Ellen Davenport, Jenna Daum, Virginia Mello, Sue Paul, Tammy Drape, Amy Schauble, Manuel Caetano, Dan Ackroyd, Scott Fortune, Vuth Phok, Emanuel Vincent, Alex Butler, Sean Seimbab, Alonzo Jones, Jason Corniselli, Dennis Lanni, Dave Maynard.

In addition, the following students received special recognition for awards received:

Little East Conference Awards: Christine Martin, Jennifer Crock
Alex Butler, Erin Short, Joan Hender, Rui Dias, Ken Bliss, Sara Kelly

ECAC Conference Scholar-Athletes - Amy Schauble, Alex Butler

NCGA All-Americans: Sue Paul, Nicole Centazzo, Jenna Daum, Virginia Mello.

Dayna A. Bazar Award: Jessica Schiano

John E. Hetherman: Robert McAdam

Helen M. Murphy: Valerie Verducci

Scholar-Athlete Award Winners:
Athletes maintaining a 3.0 grade point average were recognized. They were: Jessica Martin, Stephanie Cleary, Kelly Lange, Faith Birtwell, Sara Gurrie, Elisa Perez, Valerie Verducci, Manuel Caetano, Eileen Butler, Megan McCormick, James Fitzgerald, Jonathan Leddy, Amy Schauble, Monique Marchand, Michelle Palletier, Laura Murphy, Virginia Mello, Dennis Lanni, Beth Rupert, Vuth Phok, Marissa Mancini, Shelly Allard.

Most Valuable Player Awards:
The following were named “most valuable player(s)” for the academic year: Women’s Tennis - Joy Fox Men’s Tennis - Joe Testa Men’s Basketball - Alex Butler, Volleyball - Ellen Davenport Women’s Basketball - Sarah Kelly, Softball - Shana Willis, Gymnastics - Nicole Centazzo, Baseball - Jon Leddy, Men’s Cross-Country - Doug Moore, Women’s Cross-Country - Valerie Verducci, Men’s Track & Field - Vuth Phok, Wrestling - Dennis Lanni, Men’s Soccer - Don Denham, Women’s Soccer - Joan Hencer, Cheerleading - Shannon Gidy, Amy Hines, Women’s Track & Field - Valerie Verducci.
American Band names new director

Gene J. Pollart of Kingston, a University of Rhode Island Ph.D. music professor and director of bands, has been named the 12th director of The American Band in an unbroken line of succession reaching back to the historic ensemble's founding in 1837.

He replaces Rhode Island College music professor Francis Marincinik, who reorganized the band in 1978, brought it to its present nationally recognized status, and led the group until his unexpected death in May of last year.

Pollart, who served as the band's interim music director for the 1996-97 concert season, also is conductor of URI's Symphonic Wind Ensemble. His selection follows a nationwide search which saw a total of 25 applicants.

Pollart, 57, is a Colorado native who came to URI in 1976. He received his bachelor's and masters degrees in education from the University of Colorado, and his Ph.D. in education from Columbia Pacific University. Before joining URI's faculty, he held positions at California State University, the University of Wisconsin and South Dakota State University. He also taught in the public schools of Colorado and Washington.

He is an accomplished percussionist, having performed professionally as timpanist with the Fresno Philharmonic Orchestra, the Artists International Opera Company and the Providence Opera Theatre. He has performed as a jazz drummer with the renowned pianists Don Grubin and Nilo Menendez.

He maintains an active schedule as guest conductor, clinician and music adjudicator and is president of the Rhode Island Music Educators Association.

He is married and has two children and a granddaughter.

The American Band today is made up of some 60 adult musicians, most of whom hold degrees in music and many of whom have RIC affiliations.

A typical season for the band will feature some 12 concerts or more indoors and outdoors in virtually every community in its home state of Rhode Island and other cities and towns in Massachusetts and Connecticut.

It will celebrate its 160th concert season next fall.

Gene J. Pollart

Summer reading list announced by Student Engagement in Learning Committee

Innumercy by John Allen Paulos

Why do we know so little about mathematics? And what is the social cost of mathematical illiteracy? John Paulos argues that our inability to deal with very large numbers, or the probabilities associated with them, results in misinformed governmental policies, confused personal decisions, and an increased susceptibility to pseudo-sciences of all kinds.

Paulos interposes his discussion with amusing anecdotes, and applies his discussion of numbers and probability to the stock market scams, medical claims, sports records, sex discrimination, and much more. This is a book which has appeal even for those who can't balance a checkbook.

Push by Sapphire

Using provocative street language, Sapphire tells of a teenager who was raped by her father and has given birth to two of his children. The compelling narrative is told by Precious, who recalls the years of her life from her mother and father, and her years of sitting in classrooms and never even learning how to read. Precious' story is sad, courageous, and very touching as she narrates her efforts at learning how to read while attending an alternative school in Harlem. It is her teacher, a woman who understands what can happen to a child in the ghetto, who bullies Precious into learning to read, to write in her diary, and finally to discover the truth of her own life.

Worlds of Pain by Lillian B. Rubin

First published in 1976, this classic by the best-selling author Lillian B. Rubin has been universally hailed as one of the most insightful and important books ever written about working class families. Now in its important new introduction, Rubin looks at the changes in working class life over the past 25 years, including the entry of women into the labor force, the rise of immigration, and above all, the explosive new role of ethnicity and race.

VIOLA DAVIS, RIC 1988, who last spring was a Tony nominee for her role as Vera in August Wilson's drama, Seven Guitars, this spring (March through May) played a leading role in Craig Lucas' God's Heart at Lincoln Center in New York City. During June, she will be playing a role in a new play at the McCarthey Theatre in Princeton, N.J., and in the fall of 1997, she will play a leading role in an Off-Broadway production of Anderson's new play, Defying Gravity.

Distinguished adjunct faculty to teach theatre, dance in fall

The assistant chair of Rhode Island College Department of Theatre and Dance reports that a number of “distinguished adjunct faculty” is scheduled to teach in that department in addition to the regular faculty.

The adjunct faculty are: Randall Rosenbaum, executive director of the Rhode Island Council on the Arts, who will teach Theatre 319: Performing Arts Management; Bonnie Baggesen, dance and musical theatre director at Trinity Repertory Company, who will teach Theatre 317: Stage Management; and also, William Damköhler, leading actor with the Trinity Rep, who will be teaching Theatre 320: Character Study; Psychology Realism (during the spring semester he scheduled to teach Theatre 321: Character Study: Transformation and will direct the February production of Neil Simon's Brighton Beach Memoirs); Alvy Jones, artistic director of the Providence Repertory Company, who will teach Dance 302: Musical Resources for Dance, Dance 305: Choreography II, and Dance 324: Improvisation and Performance.

For more information about these courses contact Hutchinson at 456-9883.
Alumna honored as ‘Teacher of Year’

Deborah Marciano, (BS 1976, M.Ed. 1988), a teacher in the Cranston School Department and former professor in the Elementary Education Department, has been selected as “Classroom Teacher of the Year” by the Association for Childhood Education International (ACEI)-RI state branch.

Marciano’s selection is to honor her work with college students in teacher training as well as her literacy teaching skills with children in the Cranston school system. ACEI executive board members include Caroline Moakler, Elaine Walsh, Joyce Heist and Stacy Sheriden of the current Henry Barnard faculty, as well as Ruth Whipple and Rose Merenda, HBS Childhood Education International (ACEI)-RI state branch.

Boyer wins Carnegie Hall commission

Composer-conductor Peter Boyer, RIC Class of 1991, recently won the FIRST MUSIC national composers competition, for which the prize is a commission to compose a new work to be premiered by the New York Youth Symphony at Carnegie Hall next season. According to Boyer, his selection will be called The Phoenix, based on the legend of the great bird which is consumed in flames and rises from its ashes.

In addition, he received another orchestral commission from the American Jazz Philharmonic, a Los Angeles-based orchestra. He has been invited to compose a work for the inaugural season of the Henry Mancini Institute, an innovative program for talented young instrumentalists beginning this summer. Boyer will conduct the premiere of his new work, Celebration Overture on, Aug. 16, at the Richard and Karen Carpenter Arts Center in Long Beach, California.

Also, he recently was involved with his first Hollywood film, serving as orchestra on the MGM animated feature Babes in Toyland, for which he worked under two-time Emmy-winning composer Mark Watters. The score was recorded in London this past January, and will be released internationally in December. (Boyer’s original score for the short film Covenant has played at more than 15 major festivals in the US.)

Boyer, who is a resident of Los Angeles, Cal., completed his first year as a visiting professor of music at the newly-named Claremont Graduate University in Claremont, Cal. He has been reappointed to the position.

Center for Management and Technology introduces students to manufacturing careers

The Rhode Island College Center for Management and Technology hosted over 150 students and teachers from Central and Cranston East High Schools and Perry Middle School May 14 at an event celebrating Manufacturing Renaissance Week.

Students toured the center which houses the accounting and computer information systems, the economics and finance and the management and technology departments, toured the campus and had lunch.

Shades of the 1950s: Members of the fifth and sixth grades of Henry Barnard School look like Mousketeers from the old television show as they sing Disney songs during their spring music festival in Roberts Hall auditorium on May 29. Under the direction of HBS music teacher Shirley Lasco, the children sang, danced and played instruments in what was billed as “A Disney Celebration In Honor of the 25th Anniversary of Walt Disney World.” (What’s News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)
‘How-to’ course in applied political science offered

This summer Rhode Island College will keep the tradition of the Taft Institute of Government alive in Rhode Island by two how-to courses in applied political science, each two weeks in length.

One will be offered in each of the two summer sessions.

The Taft Institute of Government, held at RIC in the summer sessions for a number of years, is not currently funding seminars outside of the New York City metro area, reports RIC Prof. Victor L. Profughi, who ran the sessions here.

The first session workshop was held May 27 to June 6. A how-to emphasis, the course focused tips on running successful local grassroots campaigns.

The second session, Workshop in Political Action and Participation, July 7 - 17, Monday through Thursday from 4-9 p.m., in Craig-Lee Hall 224, will explore variables through which citizens may influence decision makers and public policy decisions.

It is open to both graduates and undergraduates for either graduate or undergraduate credit.

Secondary and elementary teachers of social studies, English as a Second Language or who are interested in encouraging greater political participation on the part of their students are especially encouraged to register.

It also will be devoted to active participation. The course instructor will be Profughi, a Ph.D. professor of political science and a consultant and pollster with Quest Research and Design Group.

For information on how to register, call Profughi at 949-1384.

Harmful virus discovered by Computer Center sleuths

by Clare Eckert

What's News Editor

Sherlock Holmes or Angela Lansbury couldn't have done it better than the sleuths at Rhode Island College Computer Center last December when they uncovered a potentially harmful computer virus on campus which led to yesterday’s (May 8, 1997) arrest by the Rhode Island State Police of Christopher Tourtellot, 19, a sophomore at RIC.

Tourtellot was charged with the alleged criminal activity announced that all should stop what they were working on, leave all "as is," and exit the room. All, except one person, Christopher Tourtellot.

Mission Accomplished.

Dickie notified the appropriate College authorities, who in turn brought in the Rhode Island State Police (RISP) to do a formal investigation of the allegations.

According to a May 9, RISP's press release, "The arrest resulted from a complaint received from authorities at Rhode Island College concerning their discovery that virus files were copied onto an IBM server at the College on November 27th and December 10th of 1996.

Following these discoveries, College personnel created a program to identify files being copied onto the computer system. This program sounded an alarm on December 12, 1996 which led to the identification of Tourtellot."