What's News At Rhode Island College

Rhode Island College

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Alumni teachers go for gold, rise to challenge of pursuing national board certification

by Shelly Murphy
What's News Editor

Like Olympic athletes competing against the best of the best in the world, a handful of Rhode Island College graduates have accepted the ultimate challenge for a teacher. They have entered the competition for the teaching profession’s gold medal—national board certification. Five RIU alumni recently joined the Coventry School System have or are currently comparing their teaching practices and skills against rigorous standards set by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS).

“National Board Certification is a voluntary process that exemplary teachers put themselves through to measure their abilities against rigorous standards,” says Kathleen Swann, Class of 1979, facilitator for national board certification for Coventry and the state of Rhode Island. Swann also received her masters from RIC in 1989 and is currently enrolled in the joint doctoral education program between RIC and the University of Rhode Island.

The powerful part of the process is not whether you achieve certification, but about professional development. Just by going through the process, teachers become better mentors. Just by going through the process, teachers become better mentors. Teachers put themselves through to professional process, teachers become better mentors. Just by going through the process, teachers become better mentors. Teachers put themselves through to professional development. Just by going through the process, teachers become better mentors. Teachers put themselves through to professional development.

Retention Task Force announced: President encourages all to participate

Dr. Randi Levitz, a co-founder of the USA Group Noel-Levitz, Inc., and author of several books including Power Strategies for Recruitment and Retention, defined retention as “... hard to define, hard to package, hard to know where to start and what to do.” Even with all these barriers, college and university presidents across the country have placed a high priority on retention issues as a direct mail surveys and telephone surveys. The Task Force will recommend updating the official College Retention Report, which last was done in 1993 and bring up-to-date recommendations.

Along with Eckert, members of the Task Force, which met for the first time on Dec. 10, are Sandra Enos, biology; Ann Gist, records office; Joan Glazer, elementary education; Christopher Greene, former managing editor of the Anchor and currently a student teacher; Robert Hogan, English; Eleanor O’Neill, alumna affairs; Charles Owens, biology; Richard Prull, institutional research and planning; Dolores Passarelli, OASIS, and Holly Shaduan, undergraduate admissions.

Eckert said Professor Enos’ fall semester class, SOC 380, incidentally studied retention at RIC. The students used focus groups as their primary means of information gathering. The first draft report was made available to the College’s Task Force.

“The semester-long investigation by Professor Enos and her students is very helpful to the current work of the Task Force,” Eckert said. “We are grateful for the work that the professor and her students did, and the fact that Prof. Enos has shared the draft copy with members of the Task Force.” Students who worked along side Professor Enos were Donna Dickerman, Sandra Hevey, Yvette Mendez and Allison O’Neill. Like the work of Enos' class, Eckert said, the Task Force will include focus groups in its development of opinions from students regarding issues of retention, as well as direct mail surveys and telephone surveys. The Task Force will recommend updating the official College Retention Report, which last was done in 1993 and bring up-to-date recommendations.

ONE ON ONE: Coventry first-grade teacher Susan Toohey Kaye, who has achieved national board certification, helps Tami Magana with her writing assignment. (What’s News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

The four honorees are: Harrewer, Class of 1947, is a long-time trustee who retired from the Foundation Board in 1997. She also has established an Endowed Scholarship in her name. She earned her masters in education from Rhode Island College and a masters in English literature from Brown University. She was the valedictorian of her class and was named the Rhode Island College Alumna of the Year in 1976. While working as an English teacher at East Providence High School, she also served as drama coach and class advisor.

Howe is a past president of the Foundation Board and a long-time trustee. She joined the board in 1990 and served as president of the board from 1993 to 1995. She also served as the Foundation’s representative on the Alumni Association Board for four years. The family business, Howe Jewelers, was established in 1967, and today Howe continues her involvement in the jewelry industry on Rhode Island College's Executive Committee.

I start my typical day awakening at 7 o’clock in the morning. It is time to wake my 10-year-old daughter, Rickia, and my 7-year-old, Amanda. I feed, dress and get them ready for school. One gets dropped off at 8:15 and the other at 8:30. Then I hustle the third of three buses to bring me to Rhode Island College, where I am now matriculating and working part-time, as student help.

Newspaper of Choice 9/23/98

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See Foundation Gala, page 4
Red Cross volunteer Steve Pechie brings relief to Maine storm victims

by George LaTour
What's News Associate Editor

“If someone needs help, I can’t just ignore that person and move on,” says Steve Pechie, retired from the United States Army. "We were in the running and came in fifth out of 25 college teams. RIC had won the Pan American Junior Champion, represented the United States in Colombia in 1996 for the Top Under-Expert prize, but New Jersey. "We were in the running and came in fifth out of 25 college teams. RIC had won the Pan American Junior Champion, represented the United States in Colombia in 1996 for the Top Under-Expert prize, but New Jersey.

Any four-member amateur team can be counted on to be there. "If someone needs help, I can’t just ignore that person and move on," says Steve Pechie, retired from the United States Army.

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Focus on Faculty and Staff

James E. Bierden, professor of mathematics and secondary education, jointly presented a workshop with his wife, Margaret, library media specialist in Woonsocket, called "Math Between the Lines" at the Literacy Conference of the Rhode Island Library, International Reading Association. The focus of the presentation was on the use of hands-on activities for kindergarten and elementary school children to enhance their reading skills.

"MTT is dedicated to the teaching of technology in the classroom," Bierden recently gave a talk on "The Road to Functions" to an audience of middle school teachers at a conference in Providence. "We are interested in developing ways of teaching functions to their students to better understand mathematical functions."

Three members of the mathematics/computer science department gave presentations at the Mathematical Association of America/American Mathematical Association (MAA/AMS) joint meetings in Baltimore Jan. 7-10. Lisa Humphreys, assistant professor of mathematics, gave presentations on "Undergraduate Research in Non-Linear Differential Equations" and "Mountain Pass Solutions for a System of Partial Differential Equations: An Existence Theorem with Computational Results." The first was given during the MAA session "Establishing and Maintaining Graduate Research Programs in Mathematics;" the second during the AMS session Partial Differential Equations.

Helen Salzberg, professor of mathematics, illustrated how mathematics can be used in baseball in her presentation "The SLOB in Baseball: A Mathematical Model for Judging Offensive Value During the MAA session "Mathematics and Sports."

Another simply cried when the volunteers brought food to her house. "She was deeply moved that we had come from Rhode Island to help her community," relates Brett Davey, Rhode Island Red Cross spokesperson.

Steve has responded to more than 200 emergency incidents in his role as a Red Cross volunteer. Helping is simply part of his personality," says Davey.

A son of Stephen and Cheryl Kemp, he attended the Cranston Area Career & Technical Center of Cranston West High School before coming to RIC. After graduating this May he plans to take his RN licensing exam and then will head to work as a registered nurse for the U.S. Army Reserve Hospital Field Unit in Rhode Island.

He has been a volunteer for some time with the Civil Air Patrol for the past two and a half years. "We were in the running and came in fifth out of 25 college teams. RIC had won the Pan American Junior Champion, represented the United States in Colombia in 1996 for the Top Under-Expert prize, but New Jersey."

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Barry Schiller, associate professor of mathematics, gave the pedagogical talk " Routinely Using Non-routine Problems" in which he presented innovative statistical examples during the MAA session "Teaching the Practice of Statistics at All Levels."

Chess Club hosts regional tourney

Rhode Island College Chess Club will host a regional tournament in the New England Amateur Championship April 18 and 19 in RIC’s Donovan Dining Center or Horace Mann Hall. The public is invited.

Any four-member amateur team under a master rating may compete, says James Della Selva, club president. An entrance fee will be charged. RIC Student Parliament is co-sponsor.

Della Selva reports that the chess team competed in the U. S. Amateur Team Championships Feb. 14-16 in New Jersey. "We were in the running and came in fifth out of 25 college teams. RIC had won the Pan American Junior Champion, represented the United States in Colombia in 1996 for the Top Under-Expert prize, but New Jersey."

The team competed in the Pan American Tournament over the Christmas-New Year holidays in Honduras and Guatemala, and came in fifth out of 25 college teams from the U.S., South America and Canada. RIC had won the Pan Ams in 1985 and placed third in 1993.

Alex Sherzer, a former RIC student on a chess scholarship who was ranked then as an international master — one step shy of grand master, which is the highest rating in the world of chess — is still playing chess, says Della Selva, only now in Hungary where he’s studying to become a doctor.

Sherzer was analyzing some chess matches at a tournament a year ago in Hungary when he had the opportunity to meet the reclusive Bobby Fischer, who in 1972 was the uncontested world champion and considered at the time the greatest chess player of all time. Fischer joined Sherzer in analyzing some chess matches, says Della Selva.

In other news, Della Selva says 17-year-old Jorge Zamora Jr. of Providence, who was expected to come to RIC on a chess scholarship, has turned professional as a player and teacher. Zamora, the U.S. Junior Champion, represented the United States in Colombia in 1996 for the world chess championship.

Della Selva says Zamora tentatively plans to give chess lessons here to our files for interesting pictures of past College life.

Island State Normal School). We invite your contribution of old photos, along with sufficient information about each such as what is 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.

Through fire and ice, he’s there

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The Way We Were...

"We were in the running and came in fifth out of 25 college teams. RIC had won the Pan American Junior Champion, represented the United States in Colombia in 1996 for the Top Under-Expert prize, but New Jersey."
RIC and Coventry students ignite joy of reading, discovery in Coventry preschoolers

Impact of volunteers reading in homecare provider locations apparent

What’s News

On-campus recruiting

The Career Development Center will be hosting a recruiting program again this year. Seniors graduating in January, May or August of 1998 are encouraged to participate in this program. Some of the companies that will have representatives on campus include Blue Cross of Rhode Island, RENT-A-CAR, Core Business Technologies, Prudential Insurance Company, Raytheon Electronic Systems. For more information and a detailed list of representatives and the dates they will be on campus, stop by the Career Development Center in Craig Lott.

Recruiting begins on March 2 and continues through April 21. Assistance with resumes and interviewing skills is available so that candidates will be well prepared.

Resident assistant applications

The Office of Residential Life is up to announce that applications are now available for Resident Assistant (RA) positions for the 1998-99 academic year. Interested students can obtain an application from their Housing Office in Sweet Hall. The deadline for completed applications is Friday, March 13.

To be considered for a position, a student must meet the following criteria:

• be a full time student with a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.67 as of the end of the spring 1998 semester;
• have at least one complete semester of residence hall living experience or an equivalent group living experience;
• have completed at least 30 credits as of the start date of employment.

Each selected RA receives room and board for the academic year as well as a $150 yearly stipend.

For more information, call 401-456-8240.

SCG scholarship

Student Community Government, Inc. is accepting applications for its Student Scholarship Award. Students must demonstrate campus and off-campus community involvement; have a 2.67 GPA; have completed at least 30 credits at RIC. Part-time and full-time students who fit this criteria are eligible to apply. Call 401-456-8240.

ALL SMILES: George Woddell, 4-year-old cancer patient, sits on the lap of Rosemary Bowers (rear, fourth from left), courtesy of Newman's third grade class who surrounds them. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

Foundation Gala

Continued from page 1

gala activities. She holds academic degrees from Rhode Island School of Design and Columbia University. She has worked as a designer and an art teacher. Her design work included automotive interiors, wall coverings, fabric design and children’s wear. She was an art teacher for many years with the Providence school system and, as of now, Newman herself. Also on hand was Barnard assistant principal Haven Starr Jr., the college photographer and a What's News writer.

A wish will come true for 4-year-old George Woddell of Little Compton thanks to the thoughtfulness of kids in the third-grade class of Janice Newman, of Pawtucket, at Rhode Island College’s laboratory school, Henry Barnard.

The 21 eight-year-olds recently sold almost 1,000 used books at 25-cent apiece — with the help of their schoolmates throughout Henry Barnard, who collected many of the books over a two-week period — and raised $240, half of which they donated to A Wish Come True, Inc. in Warwick so that a child with a life-threatening illness might have all lending to a rather festive occasion.

Young George was all smiles as third grader Stephanie Leung of Lincoln handed the boy a Mickey Mouse hat and bean bag toy on behalf of the class and all the students at Barnard. A check had already been sent to A Wish Come True to sponsor the trip to Disney World.

By George LaTour
What's News Associate Editor

To take the post, she vacated the position as executive vice president and chief operating officer of the United Way of America which she had held for approximately a year and a half that she had served as acting president and CEO for a short stint after having been senior VP and managing director and VP for government relations.

Prior to her leadership positions with the United Way of America, Davie had served as chief of staff for Roger N. Williams, who was general treasurer of Rhode Island and later lieutenant governor.

Before her government service, she worked in leadership positions with the United Way of Southeastern New England for five years, and has experience as a medical social worker in hospital, nursing home and home care settings.

While a student at RIC, Davie became a Visiting Honors Student in the Sociology Honors Program at Purdue University for two years, graduating with magna cum laude. She obtained her master’s in social work policy and planning in 1976 from the University of Connecticut.

She is a member of the Epislon Club (1986) of Leadership Rhode Island and in 1990 served on the adjunct faculty of the RIC Graduate School of Social Work.

Davie, in a telephone interview from the NHO headquarters, says she has “very strong and positive feelings for Rhode Island College” and remembers well her days there, especially during the 1970s’ Encounter program in which she served as a counselor with Dolores A. Passarelli, now director of RIC’S Office of Academic Support and Information Services (OASIS).

The administration and faculty at RIC are superb,” says Davie, specifically citing the “one-on-one relationship between students and faculty and folks within the administration.”

The hospice program provides a comprehensive, medically directed, team-oriented program of care that seeks to treat and comfort terminally ill patients and their families at home or in a home-like setting.

In 1996, hospices cared for more than 450,000 patients and families throughout the United States.
Retention
Continued from page 1

the official administrative and academic policy book. It is important that people have the necessary tools to do their jobs. These are but two resources. There may be others that would make sense as well," Eckert said. "However, it is equally important that we all understand that attrition of students is everyone’s concern. The most important thing about having the opportunity to work in an institution of higher education is the fact that education can make a difference in the life of a student. It may sound trite, but every time we help a student toward the goal of earning a college diploma, we are helping ourselves, our families, our state, and our country at large.

Other areas being looked at are academic advising, identifying common strengths and priorities among all campus constituencies, and the integration of the quality service program into the final goals of retention.

“Basically, we start off with the framing statement: How can we best support our students so that they can reach as many as possible a successful experience at Rhode Island College?” Eckert said. “To help answer this question, the Task Force has been charged with answering several preliminary questions like this: What are the resources needed to do the job? What is the process of implementation for the most success?”

Eckert said the Task Force is in the preliminary stages of a five-step approach: 1) reviewing existing information; 2) conducting analyses of present programs; 3) measuring student satisfaction; 4) completing analyses of expectancies, etc.; 5) documenting the need for and benefit of an action; 6) establishing an action plan and creating a forum for sharing information.

Members of the academic community are invited to participate in the work of the group by mailing concerns and possible actions to any member of the Task Force. Eckert said people are also welcome to call her at 406-8890.

“We have had several campus members - faculty and staff - send the Task Force a note about their concerns,” she said. “As the president said in his mid-year remarks to the community, ‘...we must all work together if we are to succeed.’

Alumni scholarship
Continued from page 1

I went back to school, attending the Community College of Rhode Island at the age of 26. It was very difficult to juggle my children’s needs and my class schedule. After a lot of hard work, late hours and five years later, I successfully graduated with an associate’s degree in general studies.

I look forward to continuing my education at RIC. I also want to help other people realize their personal potential so that they, too, can feel proud about themselves. It is easy to do things for other people but I want to advise others how to teach themselves.

I believe that I have a great deal of energy towards others, and I look forward to the day when I become a social worker.

It is important that I continue my studies at the School of Social Work that I will be a positive addition to this institution.

I look forward to broadening my academic horizons, as well as continuing my personal growth. I am sure that both of these goals can be achieved at RIC.

Alumna named school Superintendent of Year

by George LaTour
What’s News Associate Editor

Rhode Island College graduate, Diane DiSanto, has been named Rhode Island School Superintendent of the Year by the Rhode Island Association of School Administrators (RIASA).

Diane DiSanto, head of the Smithfield School Department since 1994, was recognized by her peers for what she terms “articulation and forward-thinking of a school district.”

Arthur B. Campbell, executive director of the RIASA, has characterized her as a “workaholic.” Perhaps a “consciousness” would be a more appropriate label, but DiSanto admits to using the label “workaholic” when she accepted the award.

“I didn’t see it as a negative because work has been a fundamental part of my life,” she said. “I made a real commitment to my work and I have worked very hard.”

From her career in education as a teacher of language for grades 4-8 at St. Matthew’s School in Coventry from 1975-1980, DiSanto went on to post in Cumberland, Central Falls and with the Rhode Island State Department of Education as a teacher of language for grades 4-8 at St. Matthew’s School in Coventry.

The photos, accompanied by a detailed descriptive essay, provide a visual history of the town of Johnston and its people. The town was dominated by residents of English and Irish background until Italian immigrants began moving in around the 1870s.

These and scores of other facts about Johnston, R.I., can be found in a new book entitled Johnston: written by Louis H. McGowan, president of the Johnston Historical Society and a past 20-year history book of the town. The book is published in the Images of America series.

From its cover—a photo of a dozen rugged, leather-jacketed young motorcycle riders who called themselves the Hurricane Riders—through 212 pages, the Johnston Historical Society has captured the town's history.

The town of Johnston derives its name from Augustus Johnston, an attorney general from the time before our nation's War of Independence with England, who later was banished because of his loyalty to the crown.

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MICHAEL HIGGINS is an artist with a chainsaw. Above, Michael with a gigantic swan he made with the help of children in Cambridge, Mass.

“A walk around his garden reveals a wacky menagerie that includes a 10-foot caterpillar wearing seven pairs of size 14 Reeboks, an 8-foot jabbering dragon that redirected Michael’s career. When he was a kid growing up in Cranston, Michael loved to draw cartoons, that is, when he wasn’t working — beginning at the age of 12 — in a jewelry factory. After high school he enrolled at Rhode Island College and majored in art. He drew sports cartoons for the student newspaper, the handshake of a stevedore, and his handsome, sharply-chiselled face could have come from one of his sculptures.

“Waldo” is “Waldo,” a 14-foot white birch denizen of Michael’s garage back in the Mt. Pleasant section of Providence. But that’s getting ahead of our story. Michael is 43, five-eight, with long black hair tied in a ponytail. He has the shoulders of a lumberjack, the handlebar of a stevedore, and his handsome, sharply-chiseled face could have come from one of his sculptures.

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Board Certification – Continued from page 1

their experiences and to offer tips for teachers who may be considering applying.

Susan Toohey Kaye, Class of 1987, and five other candidates were aware of and realistic about what’s involved. “When I read in the pamphlet that teachers were spending 200 to 300 hours preparing the required mate­rials, I said, ‘If they are spending that much time, they aren’t using them effectively.’” The candidate, Kaye, who also received her masters degree from RIC in 1991. “When the first instructional materials arrived, I saw what was really involved. I ended up spending about 400 hours.”

Five alumnae lead the way

Toohey Kaye, is one of the two teachers in Rhode Island who have achieved the certification. The other one is Sarah Ennakas, a graduate of the University of Rhode Island and Providence College, who also teaches in Coventry. Suzanne Bartlett, Class of 1973 and RIC alumni, rec­ognizes this challenge is “ideal for me.”

The process consists of two-parts: preparing an extensive portfolio of the work that best exemplifies the candidate’s teaching practice and sitting for the exam. Thus far, five of the ten candidates have achieved this level. The portfolio must include: a videotape of two, 20-minute actual lessons in the classroom; a 15-page reflective analysis of the teaching involved in the taped lessons; a portfolio of work of several students at different levels with writings on how the teacher would adapt lessons for the varying levels; and sample tests of one student’s work over a period of time to show how it improved. The portfolio includes 70 to 100 pages of reflective writing, according to Swann.

This preparation, like training for the Olympic Games, requires patience and perseverance. “The teach­ers do this on their own time. They are totally dedicated to the profession and to the children. All of them have worked very hard to make sure it did not affect their students,” Swann said.

Knowing what is involved, the eternal question surfaces: Why? Why would anyone want to pursue such an ordeal?, the teachers were asked.

Because it’s there

The answer was a modification of the cliché about the mountain climber. Because it is there. Bartlett, who was one of the trailblazers among the five candidates, expressed enthusiastically about the personal and professional rewards of going through the process.

“The people who go for it are natural risk takers. It takes that to compare yourself against a rigorous set of standards,” said Bartlett. “It does inform your practice more than anything I’ve done in 26 years. It gives you the opportunity to com­pare yourself against those who are exemplary. I discovered that things I thought I was good at, I was not as good at and things I thought I was not so good at, I was good at.”

The common themes of self-real­ization and growth emerged as the teachers answered the question. Simoneau, a current candidate, decided to pursue certification after considering a doctorate program. “I enjoy going to school and learning new things, but I realized the doc­torate would lead me to administra­tive roles and I want to stay in the classroom. Plus I have a toddler and couldn’t commit the hours to a doc­torate program now. This seemed like the ideal program for me.”

The teaching profession is elevated with every teacher who applies. Going through this process is a matter of professional development.

**National certification is like Top Gun. It’s the best of the best.”**


“Support of family and colleagues is key to this endeavor, the teachers said. Miner, who teaches sixth grade next door to Simoneau, knew she would pursue certification someday when she first heard one of the original candidates discuss it at a conference in 1995. “The challenge appealed to me and I knew when the timing was right, I’d give it a shot.”

The support within the Coventry school system has been a major fac­tor in their endeavors. “The admin­istration and the union were very supportive,” Toohey Kaye recalls. “They told us whatever we needed, we could have. People were wonder­ful to rely on. They’d come in and turn on the camera when I needed it.”

In fact, Coventry has received national recognition for its certification program. Swann, the facilitator, Toohey Kaye and Bartlett were among those invited to attend a national conference in D.C. and to submit a poster presentation of the program. While in Washington, Toohey Kaye and the other teachers who have achieved national certification met President Clinton at the White House where he commended the pro­gram in an address. “Through volun­tary national standards, parents and teachers can make sure all their children in all of our schools get the skills they need,” he stated, adding that “…with support from the busi­ness community and from states…more teachers are now being challenged to fulfill their greatest potential.” In his 1997 State of the Union address, the President announced his support for the goal of having more than 100,000 teach­ers seeking National Board Certification during the next five years.

The Coventry program is consid­ered exemplary, Swann said. Coventry pays the $2,000 applica­tion fee for teachers and provides credits toward their next pay raise or for teachers who go through the process, whether they achieve certi­fication or not.

“The process has a very close con­nection to the classroom and bene­fits day-to-day teaching more than any workshop could. It touches every aspect of teaching,” said Toohey Kaye.

And the learning that occurs is not limited to teaching. The lessons for both teachers and students also include technology, flexibility, and even compassion and empathy.

Martinei, who teaches third grade, has learned to use the com­puter knowledge as a direct result of this process. And she has pushed flexiblity to new limits as she has experienced the challenges of video­taping live lessons.

**Flexibility is vital**

“We had a fire drill in the middle of my taping, I stopped the tape, but when we came back in I discovered I hadn’t turned the camera off. The battery was dead. I had the class do another activity while the battery charged. Then I said, ‘Take Too and start the lesson again. And it was Halloween. But the kids were great.”

On another occasion after Martinei discovered that a tape of a lesson which had gone really well had no sound, she broke the news to the class the next day, adding, “You are the only ones who can really appreciate this.” It was true and they were so sympathetic, she recalls.

The value of the lessons learned along the way to certification and the positive impact on the students, the teachers and the profession itself are noted by those involved in edu­cation. Coventry Rep. Stephen Anderson, (D-Dist. 42), Class of 1971, has been instrumental in gain­ing financial support for teachers interested in seeking national board certification. Last year, he intro­duced a bill in the state legislature to obtain funds to defray the cost of applying. It did not go through, but this year $5,000 was placed in the supple­mentary budget for this purpose. This amount has been matched by the Rhode Island Foundation.

For next year, Anderson is looking for additional money to be placed in the budget which is currently being developed in the state legislature.

“The teaching profession is ele­vated with every teacher who applies,” said Anderson, an eighth grade social studies teacher in the Exeter-West Greenwich school system. “Going through this process is a matter of professional development. National certification is like Top Gun. It’s the best of the best.”

The $10,000 available for this year will be awarded through a statewide collaborative set up to support teach­ers and school districts in the certification process. Two general informa­tional meetings have been scheduled to help educate and inform Rhode Island teachers, teacher educators, administrators and policy-makers about the NBPTS, the certification process and the opportunities available to teachers who wish to seek national certification. Mary Dean Martinelli, vice president, programs for the advancement of teaching, NBPTS, will conduct a meeting on Thursday, March 12 at 4 p.m. in the Forman Center, Room C on the RIC campus. She will also conduct a meeting on Wednesday, March 11 at 4 p.m. in the Galant Lounge at the library on the University of Rhode Island campus.
### Academic support for student-athletes expanded

The athletic department at Rhode Island College has long recognized that helping our student-athletes involved more than excellent coaching and physical training. We are committed to our student-athletes' performance not only on the court in the field, but also in the classroom.

As part of our faculty/staff mentor program, which was established last year, dedicated members of the College community volunteer to mentor a team. They provide team members an attentive ear, a guiding hand, or a pat on the back as needed. They help the athletes with logistics like course advising and registration.

To build on the success of this program, the athletic department is introducing a student-athlete study hall program to help maintain satisfactory academic performance and achieve their fullest potential.

Beginning this month, we will be staffing a study hall equipped with computers and assistance in achieving these academic goals. The combination on the court, study hall, faculty/staff mentor program and now the study hall program will create an unbeatable team to support our athletes' development as student-athletes.

### RIC Athletics

**Director of Intercollegiate Athletics, Intramurals, and Recreation**

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### Women's Basketball

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### Men's Basketball

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### Wrestling

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<td>Big Red Invitational</td>
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### Women's Indoor Track

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<td>Alliance Championships (Reykjavik, MA)</td>
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### Anchor Notes

**Women's Basketball**

The Anchorwomen are 13-10 overall and 6-7 (fourth place) in the Little East Conference. Frank Minikon leads the LEC in field goal percentage, making over 58 percent of his attempts from the field.

**Men's Basketball**

The Anchormen are 13-10 overall and 6-7 (fourth place) in the Little East Conference. Frank Minikon leads the LEC in field goal percentage, making over 58 percent of his attempts from the field.

**Women's Gymnastics**

The Anchorwomen traveled to Cornell University on Saturday, February 14 to take part in the Big Red Invitational. Cornell, Ithaca, Brown and Cortland State also took part in the meet. RIC finished the day in fifth place with a combined score of 167.400. Michelle Pelletier placed third in the vault event with a season-high score of 9.775. Laura Murphy led all RIC gymnasts with 34.525 all-around score.

**Wrestling**

The wrestling team is 8-9 overall and 2-2 in the Pilgrim Wrestling League. The team will take part in the New England Wrestling Championships on February 21 and 22 hosted by Roger Williams University, Jason Cornick is ranked first in New England at 150 pounds. Cornick is ranked first in New England at 150 pounds. Cornick is ranked first in New England at 150 pounds.

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### Head Coach James Adams says,

"Kenny is a gifted offensive player. He can make a lot of different things happen on the floor. He can score and pass the ball to his teammates for easy shots."

A lot of people look at how many points you score," he says, "but I get just as much satisfaction out of setting up one of my teammates for a good shot." Senior forward Frank Minikon, a teammate of Bliss' at East Providence High School, has been a recipient of many of those passes this season and is leading the conference in field goal percentage.

Bliss is a 1992 graduate of East Providence High School, has been a recipient of many of those passes this season and is leading the conference in field goal percentage.

Bliss is a 1992 graduate of East Providence High School, has been a recipient of many of those passes this season and is leading the conference in field goal percentage.

**Kenny Bliss: Leaving his mark on RIC basketball**

**by Scott Gibbons, Sports Information Director**

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Performing Arts Series presents—

London’s Aquila Theatre Co. productions of ‘Birds’ and ‘Julius Caesar’ March 9, 10

by George LaTour

What’s News Associate Editor

Rhode Island College’s Performing Arts Series will offer a double-barrel treat when it presents the Aquila Theatre Company of London in two productions: Aristophanes’ Birds on March 9 and Shakespeare’s Julius Caesar March 10 in Roberts Hall on the University of Rhode Island campus.

Pre-performance “chats” about the productions by a member of the theatre company will be held in Alumni Lounge, Roberts Hall, at 7 p.m. before each show. There is no charge to attend and the public is invited.

Having gained a well-earned international reputation, Aquila is one of the foremost producers of touring classical theatre.

Founded in 1999 by Peter Meineck, the company has won both critical and academic acclaim for its work worldwide, which included extensive touring throughout Europe, the United States and Canada, regular runs at the Shaw and Place theaters in London, and performances Off-Broadway in New York.

Aquila has received a prize for dramatic excellence from the Greek government, and two prestigious British Council touring awards.

Famous for “Classics made relevant...superb acting and clever staging,” said The New Yorker of Aquila.

Aristophanes’ Birds

Birds is the story of two Athenians in search of a better life away from a city rife with corruption, petty disputes and war.

It tells the story of an ordinary Athenian, Makedo, who sets out with his friend, Goodhope, to escape the hustle and bustle of congested city life. These old men are tired of the law courts, politics, false oracles and military antics of their fellow citizens — who had been involved in the long and costly Peloponnesian War with the Spartans — and they resolve to seek out a place to live where they can end their days in peace and tranquility absolving themselves of their civic responsibilities.

To this end they seek out the Hoopoe, who is the mythical king, Tereus, famous in Athenian legends.

On meeting Hoopoe, and taking advantage of his advice, our heroes soon discover that there is no place in the known world that can evade the far reaching clutches of the Athenian Empire. The Hoopoe tells of his life with the birds, and their easy existence of eating and loving.

This is perfect, and Makedo hatches an amazing idea: They will found a city of the birds and live among them.

With guest composer/conductor Robert Jager —

RIC Wind Ensemble, Chorus to perform ‘Wind Songs’ in concert March 13

Robert Jager, noted composer with over 100 published works to his credit, will conduct his most recent composition, “The Grandeur of God,” in its east coast premiere at the Rhode Island College Wind Ensemble and Chorus concert Friday, March 13, at 8:15 p.m. in Roberts Hall auditorium.

Written in 1997 for chorus, wind ensemble and organ, the piece will feature the combined forces of the chorus and wind ensemble.

Entitled “Wind Songs,” the concert also will include works for chorus and wind ensemble alone, conducted by Edward Markward and Rob Franzblau, respectively. Included will be Jager’s Esquisse de Corps and Sketches on a Tudor Psalm by Fisher Tull.

New compositions by RIC students will be highlighted.

In addition, Jager will conduct workshops and classes with RIC students and area music teachers during his three-day stay here.

One of the most well-known composers in the band area today, Jager was born in Binghamton, N.Y., in 1939 and attended the University of Michigan. Currently, he is professor of music and coordinator of academic studies in the Department of Music and Art at Tennessee Tech University in Cookeville, Tenn.

He has received commissions from some of the finest performing organizations in the world, including the American Bandmasters Association, Republic of China Band Association, Tokyo Kosei Wind Orchestra, the China Band Association and the U.S. Air Force, Marine, Army, and Navy bands. He has conducted and lectured throughout the U.S., Canada, Europe, Japan and the Republic of China. His music has been performed by the Boston Symphony Orchestra and others.

Jager has won a number of awards for his music, including being the only three-time winner of the American Bandmasters Association Outstanding Award.

Tickets for the concert are $7 with discounts for senior citizens and students. For more information, call 456-8014.

Cello, piano duo in Chamber Music Series March 11

“For sheer musicianship, there are few finer combinations around” is how one critic described the cellist and piano duo of James Wilson and Joanne Kong who will perform in the Rhode Island College Chamber Music Series Wednesday, March 11, at 1 p.m. in Roberts Hall 138.

The program will consist of Bach’s Sonata in D Major; Beethoven’s Sonata in A Major, Opus 69; and Faure’s Sicilienne, Opus 78; Elegy, Opus 24, and Papillon, Opus 71.

The recital is free and open to the public.

Both of the performers bring diverse backgrounds to their musical partnership.

Kong has been recognized for her versatility as a chamber musician, pianist and harpsichordist. Her numerous awards include the Grand Prize in the 1985 International Piano Recording Competition and fellowships to the Bach Aria Festival and the American Academy of the Arts in Europe.

She is on the faculty at Virginia Commonwealth University, and has been master class pianist for Arleen Auger, Gian Carlo Menotti, Timothy Eddy, Gabor Rejto and Alice and Eleanor Schoenfeld.

Wilson is known to audiences in North America, Asia and Europe as cellist of the critically acclaimed Shanghai String Quartet.

He twice was selected to perform in the prestigious Piatigorsky Seminar for Cellists at the University of Southern California. He serves of the faculty of the University of Richmond.

Robert Jager was invited to perform his Wind Songs with the RIC Wind Ensemble and Chorus in the series March 13, at 8:15 p.m. in Roberts Hall auditorium.

In addition, Jager will conduct workshops and classes with RIC students and area music teachers during his three-day stay here.

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Forgotten dreams, hot jazz, intriguing human landscapes are subjects —

RIC Dance Co. 39th annual Spring Concert Series is March 5-8

Lost and forgotten dreams, fundamental and experimental vocabularies, hot jazz and intriguing and disarming human landscapes are subjects of the Rhode Island College Dance Company’s 39th annual Spring Concert Series Thursday through Sunday, March 5-8, in Roberts Hall auditorium.

Performances March 5-7 are at 8 p.m. and on March 8 at 2 p.m. An all new repertory will include new works by guest artists Wendell Beavers, Peter Schmitz, JoAnna Mendl Shaw, Angelica Vessella, and a student work by Mary Kirkwood.

Shaw’s mysterious and dreamlike Bed will open the program. This work creates an atmosphere of intrigue and sensuality as dancers live and relive the private and troubled recollections of a lead female figure, says Dante DelGiudice, RIC dance director.

Shaw is a New York-based choreographer whose international credentials as a teacher and choreographer include work in Japan, Canada, Yugoslavia, Scotland, Wales and Switzerland. She was in residence at RIC in January to create Bed.

Beavers’ Untitled Sextet for 36 Limbs is next on the program. Employing a movement vocabulary derived from Body-Mind Centering somatic work, the piece provides a singular and abstract human landscape filled with beauty, irony and even humor, says DelGiudice.

Beavers is a master teacher and an associate director of New York University’s Experimental Theatre Wing. He has been instrumental in the development of Viewpoint Theory, a directorial approach that merges postmodern theatre and dance methods in a performance form closely aligned with the physical theatre movement.

He created Sextet while in residence at RIC in January.

Vessella, a 1997 alumna of the College and dance company, has been invited back to create her seventh work for the company — Shades, a piece drawing inspiration from blues and funk. Vessella operates the Neon Dance Theatre in Johnston.

Senior Mary Kirkwood has created Body of Love to music by Otis Redding, Sarah McLachlan and Janet Jackson which offers a suite of dances celebrating the body and desire.

Completing the program will be Schmitz’ We Forget Ourselves in Watching, a work created last fall and premiered in the December Winter Concert with Peter Schmitz and Dancers.

Watching draws the audience into a familiar yet strange world of human interaction, says DelGiudice.

Schmitz is currently a guest artist on the dance faculty at Middlebury College and performs throughout the northeast in his own work and as a member of the Creach/Koester Dance Company.

Tickets are $10 with special rates for groups, senior citizens and students. Reservations may be made by calling the Roberts box office at 456-1906. In-person sales are available at the box office.

The ‘Boy Friend’ is coming!!

The joyful show satirizing the manner of the 1920s, The Boy Friend, will be the spring musical presented by Rhode Island College Theatre in the newly renovated Johnston, Vt. The exhibit is being sponsored by the RIC Art Club.

There are the era’s stylishly stilted musical numbers — a son titled “I Could Be Happy With You,” which offers a suite of dances celebrating the body and desire.

Completing the program will be Schmitz’ We Forget Ourselves in Watching, a work created last fall and premiered in the December Winter Concert with Peter Schmitz and Dancers.

Watching draws the audience into a familiar yet strange world of human interaction, says DelGiudice.

Schmitz is currently a guest artist on the dance faculty at Middlebury College and performs throughout the northeast in his own work and as a member of the Creach/Koester Dance Company.

Tickets are $10 with special rates for groups, senior citizens and students. Reservations may be made by calling the Roberts box office at 456-1906. In-person sales are available at the box office.

Ian Harvey’s ‘New Paintings’ at Bannister Gallery
March 5-28

“New Paintings” by Ian Harvey will be on exhibit in Rhode Island Colleges’ Bannister Gallery March 5-28.

Opening of the exhibit is March 5 from 7-9 p.m. A slide lecture by Harvey is set for March 5 at 5 p.m. in Alger Hall 116.

Both the exhibit and slide lecture are free and open to the public.

“Harvey explores an approach to image making which might be termed “maximal,” but because his guiding principle is inclusive rather than exclusive, this concept is just a temporary handle by which we might grasp for a moment the rolling perceptual flux which is both simultaneous and objective point of reference in his work,” according to Dennis O’Malley, gallery director.

“Characterized by an infinity of specifics, his drawings and paintings contain a pervasive instability,” adds O’Malley.

Critic Donald Kuspit in a recent essay writes: “...Harvey’s combination of reprise and passion, parody and high purposiveness, iron­nec­one­ness and emotional urgency, historicism and excess, show postmodernism at its best.”

Harvey is a graduate of Columbia University School of the Arts. Works in this exhibition were created with the support of grants from the Triangle Artist’s Workshop, Monroe, N.Y. and the Vermont Studio Center in Johnston, Vt. The exhibit is being sponsored by the RIC Art Club.

Hours for the gallery, which is located in the RIC Art Center, are Tuesday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6-9. The gallery will be closed during Spring Break, March 16-23.

IMAGE NO. 79 by Ian Harvey, 1997, mixed media on paper, 64” x 144”
Notice of Affirmative Action and Nondiscrimination
Rhode Island College is committed to equal opportunity and affirmative action. No student, employee, or applicant will be denied admission, employment, or access to programs and activities because of race, sex, religion, age, color, national origin, handicap/disability, sexual orientation/identity or marital status. This A. College policy is in concert with state and federal nondiscrimination laws. Inquiries concerning the College's administration of the nondiscrimination laws should be addressed to the College director of affirmative action.
Reasonable accommodation upon request.

**RIC CALENDAR**

**MARCH 2016**

**Tuesdays**

11 a.m. — Stress Management Laboratory for students. Counseling Center, Craig- Lee 130. Call 456- 8649 for more information.

1 p.m. — Interfaith Bible Study. Everyone is invited to join the group for an informal discussion of the Bible. Bring a lunch. Student Union 300.

**Wednesdays**

12:30 - 1:45 p.m. — Catholic Student Association. Make friends, share faith, pray and discuss. Food and refreshment provided on a bi-weekly basis. Student Union 300.

1 p.m. — Workshop for Success: Public Speaking in SU Ballroom. Free. Sponsored by the Office of Student Activities, 456-8034.

**Thursday**

Noon to 1:30 p.m. — Perfectionism & Procrastination: Our Self-Critical Voices in CL 130. Do you often delay completing assignments? Catch yourself feeling guilty about your lack of self discipline? This workshop will assist participants in assessing the causes of their own procrastination and formulating strategies to reduce it.

5 p.m. — Art: Ian Harvey Slide Lecture in Alumni 116.

**Friday**

7 p.m. — RIC Women’s Gymnastics at Mass. Institute of Technology.

6 p.m. — RIC Women’s Gymnastics at Springfield College.

**Saturday**

9 a.m. — RIC Men’s Softball at Babson College.

1 p.m. — RIC Men’s Baseball at Webber College.

**Sunday**

9 a.m. — RIC Women’s Softball at St. Benedict’s College.

11 a.m. — RIC Women’s Softball at Smith College.

7 p.m. — RIC Men’s Baseball at Eckerd College.

**Sports Events**

**Monday**

9 a.m. — RIC Women’s Softball at St. Benedict’s College.

11 a.m. — RIC Women’s Softball at Smith College.

7 p.m. — RIC Men’s Baseball at Eckerd College.

**Dialogue on Diversity committee sponsors lecture/workshops**

As part of Rhode Island College President John Nazzarian’s initiative to address issues of diversity at the College, the Dialogue on Diversity Committee will sponsor an address by Christopher Edley Jr., senior advisor to President Clinton for the Race Initiative and consultant to the President’s Advisory Board on Racial Reconciliation, Wednesday, March 25, from noon to 2 p.m. in Gaige auditorium.

Edley will explore the importance of diversity and inclusion in creating a dynamic and democratic community locally as well as globally in an address to the College community. In addition, the committee has scheduled a series of related workshops from 2-15 to 3 p.m. The schedule is as follows:

Speaker: Christopher Edley, Jr., professor of law at Harvard University; author of Not All Black and White: Affirmative Action, Race and American Values, to speak on “Race and American Values.”

Respondents: Community leaders including Howard Phengomphe, of the Southeast Asian Youth and Family Development Program; and Richard W. Rose, Class of 1966, assistant U.S. attorney district of Rhode Island

Racial and Ethnic Identity and Schooling: Viewing of the highly acclaimed film, Skin Deep, followed by a discussion of how race and ethnicity affect the lives of students.

Professor Ellen Bigler, Departments of Anthropology and Educational Studies

Donovan Dining Center, room 202

The Schools and the Community: An exploration of the interaction that is needed between the schools and the community for successful teaching and learning to be realized. Emphasis will be on the importance of language and cultural diversity.

Professor Xae Reyes, Department of Educational Studies

Donovan Dining Center, Alumni Lounge

How (Not) to Respect Other Cultures: Following a film about the Masai women of Africa, a discussion concerning cultural authenticity and cultural relativism will be conducted.

Professor Carolyn Fluhr-Lobban, Department of Anthropology

Professor Carol Shelton, Department of Nursing

Craig-Lee, room 105

Everything You Wanted to Know About White Folks/ Folks of Color-But Were Afraid to Ask: An exploration into the implicit meaning of being effective allies in an exercise and model for dialogue between white folks and folks of color around touch and confrontational questions.

Leonard D. Perry, Dean of Student Life, Brown University

President’s Dining Room, DDC

From A Multi-Cultural to an Anti-Rais Perspective: The development of ideas to help foster an anti-bias perspective utilizing children’s literature with pre-K to grade three students

Professor Elizabeth U. Henshaw, Department of Elementary Education

Professor Joseph Bellows, Department of Elementary Education

Unity Center

Diversity and Student Leadership: A Conversation with Christopher Edley Jr., moderated by Professor Armitri Singh, Department of English

Adams Library, Fortes Conference Room.