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WHAT'S NEWS

AT RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE

Mt. Pleasant Teacher Academy creates limitless learning opportunities

by Shelly Murphy
What's News Editor

The Mt. Pleasant Teacher Academy is on the brink of two significant milestones this year: The college gradua-
tion of its first teacher and the completion of the freshman year of college for members of the first class to complete the full four-year curriculum at the Academy. The Academy, which started in 1992, is a partnership between the Providence School Department and Rhode Island College.

Like parents watching their first child go off to kindergarten at the same time their second child takes the first steps, these involved with the Academy brim with pride for its accomplishments and enthusiasm for its future. This spring, they are watching their initial students move one step closer to fulfilling the initial goals of the Academy. "Our students have become more independent, more responsible, and more motivated," said Dr. Edith Becker, assistant professor and RIC liaison to the Academy.

The Academy impacts the education for future teachers at both the high school and college levels with formal and informal interactions incorporated into the curriculum. And, in the process, the lives of students and educators from both institutions are enriched by diverse experiences.

The partnership between the two schools, which was formalized in 1996, makes the connection between the high school and the College a two-way street, literally. The Academy students walk up to the College campus for class and various lectures or programs and the College students go into the Academy to gain valuable field experience. RIC professors serve as adjunct faculty for the Academy and guest lecture at the high school on an ongoing basis.

RIC education students come into the Academy for field experience in the Diversity in the Public Schools course, hands-on experience as tutors for Academy students, and, in some cases, have the opportunity to teach diversity courses at the high school over the summer.

"The students are eager to learn about the Academy and its educational philosophy," noted Dr. Becker. "They have a genuine interest in teaching and want to learn as much as possible about the professional responsibilities involved in that career.

By the end of the spring semester, the Academy is on the brink of two significant milestones: The college graduation of its first teacher and the completion of the freshmen year of college for members of the first class to complete the full four-year curriculum at the Academy. The Academy, which started in 1992, is a partnership between the Providence School Department and Rhode Island College.

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The Way We Were...

This popular item in What's News will continue this year in order for you to be able to revisist your alma mater with a selection of photos from the past—your college's past, whether the current one (Rhode Island College) or past era (Rhode Island College of Education or Rhode Island State Normal School). We invite your contribution of old photos, along with sufficient 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 meanwhile, we'll continue searching our files for interesting pictures of past College life.

Mariano Rodrigues, professor of mathematics, was one of five recipients of the ICTM Award for Excellence and Innovation with the Use of Technology in College Mathematics for his work on "Integrating Student Web Pages in a Calculus Course." The award was presented at the 10th annual International Conference on Technology in Collegiate Mathematics in Chicago Nov. 6-9. The recognition included a cash award of $1,000 and a two-night stay at the Hyatt Regency Hotel during the conference at which he presented a paper, "Introducing the Chalktones and the all-male "Musicmasters. We have seen the Chalktones earlier in these pages, so for this issue we present the Musicmasters as seen in 1961, along with their director Abraham Schwartz, the first chairman of the RIC Music Department. (file photo)

BACK IN THE EARLY '60s, when most students at Rhode Island College were planning to be teachers, there were two choruses: the all-female "Chalktones" and the all-male "Musicmasters. We have seen the Chalktones earlier in these pages, so for this issue we present the Musicmasters as seen in 1961, along with their director Abraham Schwartz, the first chairman of the RIC Music Department. (file photo)

Focus on Faculty and Staff

Joseph Allen, assistant professor of mathematics, recently presented the paper "Curvature and Ahlfors-Schwarz Lemmas," a topic in theoretical complex variables, at the fall meeting of the Mathematical Association of America at Western New England College. Schwarz and Ahlfors had previously developed results concerning the norm-reducing properties of analytic functions from the unit disk on itself, the differential geometric nature of these maps, and generalizations to higher dimensional spaces. Allen focused on Ahlfors-Schwarz Lemmas for domains and manifolds in two-dimensional complex spaces and demonstrated that if the curvature of a volume is negatively bounded, holomorphic maps are volume-decreasing.

Marguerite M. Brown, executive director of the RIC Foundation, led sessions on "Challenges Facing the Volunteer" and "Leadership of Affiliated Foundations" at the recent leadership forum for public university and college foundation leaders entitled "Building a Stronger Foundation" in Tucson, Ariz. She also served on the forum planning committee.

John J. Saulses, vice president for academic affairs and professor of the Navy John Dalton to serve as a member of the Board of Visitors for the Marine Corps University. Marine Corps Commandant at Quantico, Va. The board is chartered to advise and make recommendations to the commanding general of the Marine Corps university on topics ranging from budgetary guidance to the institutional effectiveness of university programs. Saulses is a retired Marine Corps Major General.

Mary Faye and Shirley Lacroix, associate professors in the Henry Barnard School, presented a workshop entitled "Sound Waves Across the Curriculum" at the National Association of Laboratory's Schools annual conference in New Orleans, La., on Feb. 27. This presentation, based on a year-long study on integrating music in reading, was supported through a grant from the National Association of Laboratory Schools.

Lisa Humphreys, associate professor of mathematics, recently had an article (jointly written with S. Hill of Rowan University of Glassboro, N.J.) accepted for publication by the journal Computers and Mathematics with Applications. This theoretical article, entitled "Numerical Mountain Pass Multiple Periodic Solutions of a Nonlinear Spring," shows how the introduction of a nonlinear term in the classic spring model can produce dramatic results.

National Geographic Society resident keynoter speaker at RIGEA meeting

Sari Bennett, geographer-in-residence at the National Geographic Society in Washington, D.C., and professor of geography at the University of Maryland, will highlight the all-day annual spring meeting of the Rhode Island Geographic Education Alliance (RIGEA) at the Alton Jones Campus of the University of Rhode Island in West Greenwich on Saturday, March 28. An authority on geography, Bennett will deliver a morning talk, "Students Showcase Their Geography Skills," and lead a morning discussion on the topic. Building on the theme for Geography Awareness Week in November of this year, "Geography Puts the Pieces Together: People, Places and Patterns," geographers from the universities of Florida, North Carolina and Arizona will discuss population change in their respective states.

Edward A. Fornal, state geographer of Florida, director of the Institute of Science and Public Affairs and professor of geography at Florida State University; Douglas C. Wilms, professor emeritus of geography at East Carolina University and author of Retiring in North Carolina, and Malcolm C. Comesaux, professor of geography at Arizona State University and author of Arizona tourism and population, will make presentations.

All four are coordinators for the geography alliances in their states. A $25 fee covers morning coffee and pastry, lunch, coffee break and materials from the National Geographic Society.

Checks should be sent to RIGEA, Adams 122, Rhode Island College, Providence 02908 before March 20. For more information, call 456-8069.

RIGEA, based at RIC and supported by the National Geographic Society and other funding sources, works to foster greater awareness of geography by providing teaching materials, training and professional development for Rhode Island teachers from kindergarten through grade 12.

WHAT'S NEWS

AT RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE

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Student teachers can gain experience in England

Rhode Island College elementary education students in the Feinstein School of Education and Human Development have an opportunity to do their student teaching in England next fall.

Thanks to an arrangement with the University of Rhode Island, four students in the elementary education curriculum, including one in the masters program, have signed up already and seven more are considering it, reports Susan J. Schenck, director of clinical experiences in the Feinstein school.

Costs for the students will approximate those of a full-time student in residence at RIC plus air fare and any personal expenses while they are in England. Financial aid is available for students in the Student Teaching in England Program.

The students will arrange their own flights to and from England and, once there, will be housed in college’s residence halls. A chafer bus will transport them daily to their teaching assignments in nearby Lancaster and box lunches will be provided.

RIC teacher education students were told of the opportunity when they applied to student teach next fall, says Schenck.

Of the three undergrads committed to going, two are in the elementary education/special education curriculum.

The other is in elementary education and the graduate student is in the MAT program.

They must report in by Sept. 12 and then will undergo a one-week orientation period to the customs in Great Britain as well as the rules of the college and schools where they’ll be doing their practice teaching, says Schenck.

This orientation will include an introduction to the British national curriculum unlike in the United States where there is no national curriculum.

Their stay in England ends Dec. 18.

Schenck says students will be eligible for Rhode Island teacher certification upon successful completion of the student teaching experience.

For more information, contact Schenck at 401-456-8114.
RIC-Worcester State students study N.E. cities

What do Providence and Worcester, Mass., have in common? How have these two historic New England cities dealt with urban decline and suburban flight?

Students in Assistant Prof. Mark T. Motte's course, "Urban Political Geography," addressed questions like this when they presented the results of a semester-long comparative study of Providence and Worcester at a recent conference in Worcester.

Collaborating with Motte's students were undergraduates in a parallel course, "Analysis of Urban Systems," at Worcester State College taught by Steven Corey of the Worcester State Urban Studies Department.

The courses culminated in December in the student-led conference entitled "A Tale of Two Cities."

For their research projects, students from both colleges visited the downtown and surrounding neighborhoods of the two cities to study problems associated with urban decline.

Local economic development experts shared their knowledge of major construction projects as well as public sector planning initiatives.

"The planning and implementation of downtown projects like Waterplace Park in Providence and the Worcester Convention Center were studied to demonstrate how cities can be turned around and how similar projects are more than a waste of public money," reported Motte.

In their research papers and during the final conference, the strengths and weaknesses of recent development projects in both cities were compared to assess how well political and private sector leaders were working in 1997.

Motte explained that "students uncovered some striking similarities in the efforts by both city administrations to capture private investment. For example, both cities have struggled to improve the downtown structure and open space to create a more aesthetically pleasing environment and to open up land for new development."

While noting the similarities between the two New England cities, Professor Corey said, "Worcester is very much like Providence in its problems, and both cities are maintained to manage to maintain more of its neighborhoods."

Students also illustrated "sustained motivation" for learning about the politics and planning of the two cities, said Motte, adding that their final presentations were "highly impressive."

After the conference, Bonnie Kind, vice president for academic affairs at Worcester, encouraged Corey and Motte to continue their collaboration.

"The course has made the learning experience a vibrant and real one for the students," said Kind. "I hope you develop the model further."

Mergener Lecture explores issues of death and dying

The 1998 Henry and Jean Mergener Lecture, "Improving the Quality of Care at the End of Life," to be presented on Thursday, March 26 by Jean Teno, MD, MS, associate professor of Community Medicine, Brown University, marks a new era for the Mergener Lectureship. The lecture, a collaboration between the College of the University of Rhode Island, will bring the issues of death and dying to a broader audience.

Registration for the lecture begins at 6:30 p.m. and the lecture starts at 7 p.m. in the Chafee Building, Room 271 on the URI campus.

In 1987 Roland Mergener, then-director of the audiovisual department at Rhode Island College, made a gift to the Rhode Island College Foundation in memory of his parents, Henry and Jean Mergener. It was his desire that a lecture be presented that dealt with the issues of death and dying. The friends and family who joined Roland in contribution to the fund recognized that education in the area of death and dying was necessary and was an area that had not received focused attention.

"My desire to have a lectureship on death and dying is directed to changing the procedures of health care professionals in dealing with family and guardians. Perhaps a few health care professionals will become more sensitive and communicate more clearly and honestly with the surviving family and guardians."

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The lecture costs $20, but student admission is free. For more information, contact Margaret Hainsworth, RIC professor of nursing, at 401-456-9706.

The Rhode Island College Foundation Ninth Annual Gala honoring Arlyne Harrower, Theresa Howe, Mary Jonathan and Frank Montavonore

Friday, April 24, 1998

The Westin Hotel

p.m.

$60 per person

Black Tie Optional

For tickets or details, call 401-456-8105.

The Westin Hotel

THE NEW GLASS-ENCLOSED CORRIDOR surrounds the level above the Student Union ballroom. Recent renovations allow natural light to filter throughout the area and create a feeling of unity within the building. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)
The Teacher Academy helps students maintain their roots and reach for their dreams at the same time.

Like the dream of Geovani Escobar, a junior at the Academy, whose family is from Central America where poverty has prevented them from pursuing education. He says, “Most of my family had to drop out of school before graduating high school. My wife became a teacher but couldn’t continue to teach because of the conditions in Central America. If I become a teacher, that will be a big deal in my family.”

Edley's academic work is primarily in administrative law and in the role of government in the policy-making process, but also has included civil rights, federalism, budget policy, defense department procurement law, public interest litigation, and national security law.

In February 1995, he was asked to serve as special counsel to the President of the United States. In that capacity he led the White House review of affirmative action programs and participated in developing the President's July 1995 plan to go out of state, but my family is here and I wanted to still be involved with the Teacher Academy because I think it is great,” she said.

“The Academy prepared us for college. We came up to the campus every two weeks for seminars, lectures, and to talk to professors. They showed us a syllabus and told us what they would expect out of us for class. I thought that was really good,” Lyles added.

Lyles and other Academy graduates at RIC will go back to the Academy to share their experiences with the high school junior and seniors, adding one more dimension to the college experience.

“We are always exploring new avenues and ways to strengthen the connection with the College,” Reyes says. For the first time this year, the Academy seniors are taking an actual class at the College for which they will earn high school credit as well as two college credits under the Early Enrollment Program. The course, entitled “Topics in College Learning” explores issues of language in contemporary society. Students will compare and contrast varieties of language as they are used in different contexts and settings, and acquire the knowledge and critical skills needed to communicate effectively with different audiences, especially within the context of academia.

“This is a good experience,” said one senior in the Academy, “even though the classes are too tough.” She added that it seems as soon as they get involved in the class, it’s time to go back to the school.

“Class is too short.” What better words of praise could a teacher get from a student. As a writer, teacher and philosopher, Robert Fulghum says in All I Ever Need To Know I Learned in Kindergarten, “Be aware of the people in the styrofoam cup. The roots go down and the plant goes up and nobody really knows how or why, but we are all like that.”

The Teacher Academy helps students maintain their roots and reach for their dreams at the same time.

Following a film about the Masai women of Africa, a discussion concerned with cultural authenticity and cultural relativism will be conducted. Carolyn Fluharty, a professor, anthropology; Carol Shelton, associate professor, nursing;

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RIC students help build a house for Maria!

It's a raw, overcast Saturday on Potter Avenue in South Providence. There are a few rainy moans among the two dozen workers who carry shingles, insulation and sheetrock through the three-unit house going up on what was once an abandoned lot. But it's a cheerful crowd. A few of these workers are experienced carpenters. The vast majority, however, are unskilled volunteers — including 15 Rhode Island College students, a dean of the College and a RIC staff member.

The RIC Chaplain’s Office is once again involved in Habitat for Humanity. Habitat for Humanity International (HFHI) was founded in 1976 by a wealthy Alabama couple, Millard and Linda Fuller, who gave up their affluent lifestyle, sold all their worldly goods, and went off to Mbandaka, Zaire, (now the Democratic Republic of Congo) to build housing for 2,000 people. Three years later, they returned to the United States and continued their humanitarian work. Volunteers flocked to their cause. The organization grew, and as far HFHI has built or rehabilitated more than 60,000 houses worldwide for low-income families. Perhaps their most famous volunteer is former President Jimmy Carter. He and his wife, Rosalynn, give a week of each year — and their building skills — to HFHI.

The houses are not “give-aways,” however. Although they are built with volunteer labor and tax-deductible donations of money and materials, the prospective owner must contribute 500 hours of work, or “sweat equity,” to the project, thereby ensuring that the family building skills — to HFHI.

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**Jobs open up and employers are searching —**

**Student corporate recruitment on RIC campus is brisk**

by George LaTour
What's News Associate Editor

"The economy — and thus the job market — is on a roll. If anyone remains who doubts this message, headlines should quash uncertainties: "Unemployment at 32-Year Low" mingled with "Consumer Confidence at 28-Year High" and "No Trace of Inflation" on the front pages of newspapers. The unemployment rate in Rhode Island paralleled the national rate at 4.7 percent until the latest report which now shows the national rate at 4.6.

Universities and colleges say that recruiters are returning to campuses in droves, reports the New York Times. Surveys show that employers will add thousands of new jobs in the coming months. Companies that downsized workers a few years ago are struggling to replace them.

The National Association of Colleges and Employers is reporting some of the highest recruitment and employment of new college graduates in years, according to the Times. At Rhode Island College, the Office of Career Development reports as the corporate recruitment season opens there are already as many companies scheduled to come on campus to conduct interviews with graduating seniors (those graduating in January, May or August of 1998) as there were all last season. The recruiting, started March 2, is scheduled to go on until at least April 21.

"The national trend is up," says Nancy Peters, in charge of corporate recruiting, Career Development Office, who notes that "a lot of schools are closing their recruiting dates" ostensibly because most if not all graduating seniors have been placed. "I don't think we'll have no trouble exceeding last year's total of 57 corporate recruiters," says Peters.

She adds that there is "a real variety" of corporate recruiters coming to the campus this year. Computer positions are high as is the demand for teaching, nursing, accounting, retail (management) and social work.

Peters says most employers do a pre-screening of the graduates by requesting a copy of their resumes and then select which students they want to interview.

The Career Development Office provides workshops for students to learn resume writing skills as well as job-search strategies for both in-state and out-of-state positions developed for students and alumni considering out-of-state employment, and interviewing skills.

Other services for seniors include individual career counseling, skill development workshops, a job posting system, career resource library and professional resume bank.

The resume bank for seniors — as well as graduate students and alumni — is in the process of being set up now. It will be available to employers who need someone right away, says Peters.

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**Jewelry design students explore new facets of craft**

by Cynthia Sousa
What's News Writer

Rhode Island and the jewelry industry have long been intertwined, creating a rich tradition of craftsmanship and creativity. Rhode Island College offers a unique program that is a hidden jewel for those truly dedicated to the art of jewelry design: a bachelor of fine arts degree in jewelry design and modelmaking, according to Curtis LaFollete, professor of art.

In a remote corner of the RIC art center, students use tools to forge, cast and fabricate various types of metal into contemporary jewelry designs under the direction of faculty members who are both skilled educators and skilled artists.

About 40 students are currently enrolled in the program which offers hands-on courses in metal, jewelry design and modelmaking, according to Curtis LaFollete, professor of art.

The reputation of the program is spread mostly by word of mouth within the industry. Many people working in the trade are attracted to the program and some companies encourage them to enroll, often reimbursing them for the cost of courses. Over two dozen graduates of the program are working in the Providence area as modelmakers.

The success of the program has prompted some students to drastically alter their career plans. For instance, exchange students planning to spend only one semester at RIC end up changing their majors to jewelry design and graduating here.

When the bachelor of fine arts program was established, courses in metals were offered. About 10 years ago, courses in modelmaking and jewelry design were added and the program was established.

"Some of the aspects of the program were tailored after those offered by the now defunct Jewelry Institute. The technical aspects were translated into a college curriculum," LaFollete said.

The program is designed to provide the formal education needed to advance in the jewelry industry, while developing individual style. After graduating, students know how to apply their skills in an industrial environment.

LaFollete, a prominent figure in American metalsmithing, stresses that the program differs from that of a trade school in that it helps students develop the conceptual skills necessary to work in the industry.

Alumni have gone on to prestigious arts schools such as Cranbrook Academy of Art, Southern Illinois University, Chicago Art Institute, the University of Georgia, Louisiana State University and others, according to LaFollete.

The faculty includes adjunct professor Jonathan Bonner, an internationally renown metalsmith. Bonner has worked in the field for many years and his work appears in many museums and private collections. He appears on the cover of Metalsmithing magazine, the trade magazine of the profession.

LaFollete, who received a BFA from the University of Kansas and an MFA from Cranbrook Academy, has been teaching at RIC for 25 years and has many gallery connections on the east coast. His work was included in an exhibit entitled "American Masters of the Holloware in the late 20th Century" at the Georgia Museum of Art. He also had a solo exhibit at the National Ornamental Metal Museum in Memphis.

Adjunct professor Yizhak Elyashiv teaches modelmaking, where students are introduced to the mechanical and conceptual skills required to produce wax models of objects.

In July RIC will host the 19th Antique & Period Jewelry & Gemstone Conference. The conference, which attracts collectors, dealers, designers, jewelers, retailers and others, includes an unusual variety of provocative and timely lectures, workshops and special events. The emphasis is on how to deal with the constantly changing practical and challenging problems facing the experienced jeweler and the neophyte. For more information, call 401-456-8054.
Olympic champ Sara DeCosta keynote speaker at gymnastics championship banquet

Brown University and recently scored 140.100 in its last dual meet against the University of Bridgeport. RIC finished third at the Eastern College Athletic Association (ECAC) Championships held at Ursinus College on February 28.

Senior co-captain Laura Murphy, a veteran of two trips to the NCGAs in 1996 and 1997, is looking forward to making the trip to Providence. Being a native of Providence, Rhode Island, Murphy says, "I'm glad that the last meet of my career is at home. The fact that it's competing in front of the home crowd, "My sophomore year we hosted and won the ECAC Championship. Being able to compete in your own gym is a big help."

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The electrifying Rennie Harris dance troupe in ‘Pure Movement,’ March 27

by George LaTour
What’s News Associate Editor

Back in the 1970s, before rap became big business and hip-hop sold shoes and soda on TV, break-dancing was a new burst of defiantly expressive street virtuosity. Though remnants of its early dynamism inflects newer dance styles, Philadelphia choreographer Rennie Harris and his troupe Pure Movement still keep the original break and bondrous from hopping and burning in their thrilling displays of physical communion, notes Brenda Dixon of Dance Magazine.

Rennie Harris-Pure Movement will bring its dance from the streets — flips and handstands, spins and splits, kung fu kicks and all the other acrobatics that go into hip hop and break-dancing — to the stage in Rhode Island College’s Roberts Hall auditorium Friday, March 27, at 8 p.m. as part of the Performing Arts Series.

The five-to-eight all male African-American troupe in baggy jeans, T-shirts and sneakers perform feats of virtuosity dancing. They are real trouppers, and their performances are always an energy fest that would galvanize even the most jaded audience," writes Dance Magazine’s Gottschild.

Reserved-seat tickets are $18 with discounts for senior citizens and students. In-person sales, the Roberts box office is open daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. or until time of performance.

One of the country’s most acclaimed emerging artists, Harris is a pioneer in the evolution of hip hop dance who has toured internationally with Run DMC and Curtis Blow. His powerful company also has been featured in performances with Harry Belafonte and Rosie Perez.

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Performing Arts Series presents —

The electrifying Rennie Harris dance troupe in ‘Pure Movement,’ March 27

by George LaTour
What’s News Associate Editor

Alumnus wins prestigious Pollock-Krasner Foundation art grant

by George LaTour
What’s News Associate Editor

A 1974 Rhode Island College art education graduate’s work has been viewed by a distinguished committee of art professionals who selected him as winner of a prestigious Pollock-Krasner Foundation grant of $25,000 to continue to pursue his artistic endeavors in the coming year.

Roger A. Bultot, formerly of Woonsocket and now New York City, is a self-employed artist represented by O.K. Harris Works of Art in New York City. He says the principal aim of his painting is to assist the viewer to better observe and appreciate the innate aesthetic qualities present in urban vernacular architecture.

“The initial source of the imagery of my paintings is found exclusively within the boundaries of the City of New York,” says Bultot, explaining that the areas depicted are predominately of working-class neighborhoods in the boroughs of Brooklyn, Queens and The Bronx.

The Pollock-Krasner selection committee, comprised of distinguished persons from the art world who are past recipients of the grants, judges the applicant’s artistic merit — "recognizable though not necessarily recognized excellence" — to identify the grant’s impact in giving the artist concentrated time for his/her work, allowing him/her to prepare for exhibits and other professional opportunities, and advancing his/her career.

To date, the Pollock-Krasner Foundation has awarded 1,679 grants totaling almost $20 million to established visual artists of professional achievement in 50 countries.

It was founded in 1984 by Lee Krasner, a recognized painter who was married to Jackson Pollock, one of the greatest figures in 20th century painting. He died in 1956. Krasner knew clearly what she wanted her foundation to do, based on her own direct experience as a struggling artist — “I want it to go to help emerging self-employed artists. That’s what I know. That’s my foundation.”

After receiving his degree at RIC, Bultot worked for a time at WSBE-TV in Providence and at Woonsocket Junior High School before earning a master’s degree in studio art from New York University, New York and Venice, Italy.

He received two doctoral fellowships from New York University’s Department of Art and Art Education. From 1977 until 1990 he worked at the O.K. Harris Works of Art before coming self-employed.

Bultot, son of Arthur and Therese Bultot of Woonsocket, has exhibited his works widely in both group and solo exhibitions.

His work has won numerous awards and prizes, including those from the Providence Water Color Club and the Newport Art Association, and appears in selected collections including those at the Museum of the City of New York, the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, the Hospital Trust National Bank Headquarters, and at sites in Venice, Italy.
RIC Symphony to feature

Polish violinist, winner of Chester Performance Award; R.I. premiere of ‘Afro-American Symphony’ in concert March 23

by George LaTour
What's News Associate Editor

Polish violinist Joanna Kurkowicz, winner of the Harvard Musical Association Arthur W. Foye Prize and, consequently, the 1998 Rhode Island College Foundation Chester Fund grant for performance at RIC, will perform in the RIC Symphony Orchestra concert Monday, March 23, at 8:15 p.m. in Roberts Hall auditorium.

The concert, after intermission, will feature the Rhode Island premiere of the late William Grant Still's "Afro-American Symphony.

Also on the program will be "Miroflos" for String Orchestra by Phillip Lambro and Concerto in D Major for Violin and Orchestra, Opus 35, by Pyotr Ilich Tchaikovsky. The orchestra will be conducted by RIC's Edward Markward.

The concert is admission free due to the donation from Providence music devotees Samuel and Esther Chester, who have underwritten the performers' fees.

The Süddeutsche Zeitung paper of Munich, Germany, described violinist Kurkowicz's performance as one of "... obvious virtuosity...one could hardly play better.

The Santa Barbara Telegram-Tribune praised her as "...an extraordinary violinist with talent and stage presence...her performance was stellar."

She has won numerous competitions in this country and Poland, and been recognized for her achievements in the performing arts by the Presser, Olevsky, Kosciuszko foundations in addition to the Harvard Musical Association (no relation to Harvard University), which was founded in 1837.

She has performed widely in this country, including solo recitals at the Lincoln Center, Jordan Hall, Boston, and Harvard University's Paine Hall. Kurkowicz is the concertmistress of the Boston Philharmonic and is a member of Metamorphosen and the Orpheus chamber orchestras, and has been featured as a soloist on several radio and television programs in the U.S., including WGBH in Boston.

A native of Lublin, Poland, she came to the U.S. in 1992 to complete her second master of music degree at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Her first masters degree — earned with distinction — was from the Padereweski Conservatory of Music in Poznan, Poland.

She currently works with Masuko Ushioda under the auspices of the Artist Diploma program at the New England Conservatory in Boston.

Composer William Grant Still was known as the "dean of African-American composers." Born in Mississippi in 1895 and reared in Arkansas, he became the first African-American composer to have a symphony performed by an American orchestra.

His "Afro-American Symphony" was premiered by the Eastman Rochester Philharmonic with Howard Hanson in 1931. The work was performed by 34 other American and European orchestras during the 1930s.

"You will glean from his biographical data other important firsts," notes Markward, who adds that "the Rhode Island premiere is long overdue, and I'm proud to say that it is the Rhode Island College Symphony Orchestra that is undertaking it."

The Chesters, in an effort to aid young and talented concert artists from New England, endowed the RIC Foundation in 1996 with $25,000 to establish a performance award in their names.

Kurkowicz, as winner of the annual Puchalski Scholarship underwritten by the Harvard Musical Association, is the third recipient.

Additional support for the performance is provided by the RIC Performing and Fine Arts Department, the Rhode Island College Foundation, the Rhode Island Arts Council, and three anonymous donors.

Chamber Music Series features clarinetist and pianist March 25

The Rhode Island College Chamber Music Series Wednesday, March 25, will feature the clarinet of Steven Jackson and piano of Stephen James in a program of works by Debussy, Stephen James and Brahms beginning at 1 p.m. in Roberts Hall 138.

Claude Debussy's Premiere Rhapsodie; unannounced French recital pieces; James' newly composed solo for piano, and Johannes Brahms' Sonata in Eb major, Opus 120, No. 2 comprise the program.

It is free and open to the public.

Born in Chicago, Jackson began playing clarinet at age 9. He later studied at Boston University where he received his bacher's in music.

He has participated in the Marboro, Mostly Mozart, Tanglewood, Blossom and Shreveport music festivals, and was a member of the Boston Wind Quintet which won five first prizes in national chamber music competition.

Presently, he performs with several orchestras in the Boston area where, in recent years, he was a touring principal clarinetist of the Boston Lyric Opera, Boston Ballet and the Boston Pops.

Esplanade Orchestra.
His awards include those from the Boston University Tanglewood Institute and the National Endowment for the Arts. Jackson can be heard on the Sony Classical, Dorian, Gasparo, CRI and Marlboro Recording Society labels.

James, who holds a master's degree in piano from BU, has performed for the Tanglewood Music Center Chamber Series, the American Repertory Theatre and the Artists Foundation of Boston, among other venues.

He is a composer as well as a pianist and completed his doctoral degree in composition at BU where he received the Malloy Miller Composition Award in 1986.

He was a Crofts Fellow in Composition at the Tanglewood Music Center and a member of the Center for Compositional Study at the Aspen Music Festival.

Currently, he teaches piano performance at Worcester State College and composition and music theory at BU.

For more information, call John Pellegrino, series coordinator, at 456-8244.

Performing arts summer camp at RIC July 13-31

Rhode Island College is offering its Summer Performing Arts Camp July 13-31 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday for youngsters 12 to 16 and currently in grades 7-11.

The subjects of acting, improvisation, auditioning, music and dance will be on the program as well as appearances by special guests who will provide special instructions.

Campers will be grouped by their individual levels of experience and age so that their participation will be as rewarding as possible, assures Edward Scheff, managing director of theatre and dance.

All campers will participate in all aspects of the camp so that in the three-week period they will become acquainted with, and more proficient in, several areas of the performing arts, says Scheff.

Tuition is $900 plus a $30 nonrefundable application fee. Limited scholarships are available. Application deadline is May 21 and enrollment is limited.

For application materials or more information, call 456-8639.
**Notice of Affirmative Action and Nondiscrimination**

The College is committed to equal opportunity and affirmative action. No student, employee, or applicant will be denied admission, employment, or access to programs and activities because of race, sex, religion, age, color, national origin, handicap, disability status, sexual orientation or preference, or veteran status. This College policy is in concert with state and federal nondiscrimination laws. Inquiries concerning the College's administration of the nondiscrimination laws should be addressed to the College director of affirmative action. Reasonable accommodation upon request.

**Sports Events**

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<td>Monday</td>
<td>9 a.m.-</td>
<td>RIC Women's Softball vs. St. Benedict College.</td>
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<td>11 a.m.-</td>
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<td>7 p.m.-</td>
<td>RIC Men's Baseball at Eckerd College.</td>
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<td>RIC Men's Baseball vs. Cedarville Ohio.</td>
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<td>2 p.m.-</td>
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<td>RIC Women's Softball vs. Nichols College.</td>
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<td>19</td>
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<td>10 a.m.-</td>
<td>RIC Men's Baseball vs. Merrimack.</td>
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<td>11 a.m.-</td>
<td>RIC Women's Softball vs. Wesleyan College.</td>
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<td>RIC Women's Softball vs. Aurora College.</td>
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<td>3:30 p.m.-</td>
<td>RIC Men's Baseball at Warner Southern.</td>
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<td>8:30 a.m.-</td>
<td>RIC Men's Baseball vs. Framingham State +.</td>
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<td>RIC Men's and Women's Track and Field RIC Relays.</td>
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<td>Tuesday</td>
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<td>RIC Men's Baseball vs. U.S. Coast Guard Academy.</td>
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<td>3:30 p.m.-</td>
<td>RIC Women's Softball at Bryant College.</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>3 p.m.-</td>
<td>RIC Men's Baseball vs. Framingham State. Home.</td>
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<td>4 p.m.-</td>
<td>RIC Women's Softball at Clark University.</td>
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<td>27</td>
<td>Friday</td>
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<td>RIC Men's Tennis at URI.</td>
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<td>RIC Women's Gymnastics at NGCA National Championships.</td>
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<td>28</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>11 a.m.-</td>
<td>RIC Men's and Women's Track and Field at Bridgewater State College Invitational.</td>
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<td>2 p.m.-</td>
<td>RIC Women's Gymnastics at NGCA National Championships.</td>
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<td>Tuesday</td>
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<td>RIC Men's Baseball at Suffolk University.</td>
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<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>3 p.m.-</td>
<td>RIC Women's Softball vs. U.S. Coast Guard Academy.</td>
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<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>3 p.m.-</td>
<td>RIC Men's Baseball vs. Worcester State College. Home.</td>
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**RIC CALENDAR**

**MARCH 16 - 30**

**Tuesdays**

11 a.m. — Stress Management Laboratory for students. Counseling Center, Craig-Lee 130. Call 456-8084 for more information.

Noon-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.

**20 Monday**


8:15 p.m. — Musician: Alicia Engstrom in Roberts Auditorium. Trumpet and trombone. $10, non-RIC students $8. Call 456-9707 for more information.

**25 Wednesday**


12:30 to 2 p.m. — Public Lecture: "Color at the Close of the Century: Politics, Policy and Law" with Christopher Edley in Gaige Hall Auditorium. A special conversation with students on diversity and the University. For more information, contact Joe Costa, 456-8237, Armitjit Singh, 456-8609, or Carol Shelton, 456-9841.

1 p.m.—Music: Steven Jackson, Clarinet, and Stephen James, piano. Part of the Chamber Music Series in Roberts Hall 138.

**26 Thursday**

6:30 p.m. — The 1998 Henry and Jean Mergener Lecture, "Improving the Quality of Care at the End of Life." The lecture, a collaboration between the College and the University of Rhode Island, will bring the issues of death and dying to a broader audience. Chafee Building, Room 271 on the URI campus. See story on page 4.

**28 Saturday**

All day — Annual spring meeting of the Rhode Island Geography Education Alliance (RIGEA) at the Alton Jones Campus of the University of Rhode Island in West Greenwich. Sari Bennett, geographer-in-residence at the National Geographic Society in Washington, D.C., and professor of geography at the University of Maryland, will highlight the meeting. See story on page 2 for more information.

**29 Sunday**

WAVE Outdoor Leadership Adventure Low Ropes Course Program at Roger Williams University. Bus leaves SU at noon and returns SU at 8 p.m. $5 ticket includes dinner and transportation. $5 returned to those who attend.

Sponsored by Student Activities, 456-8034.