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What's News At Rhode Island College

Rhode Island College

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Alumni to honor five awarders, 27 honor roll inductees

by George LaTour
What's News Associate Editor

Anne Walsh Cain of Atlanta, Ga., Class of 1964, has been named Alumna of the Year by the Rhode Island College Alumni Association which also selected four others for this year's alumni awards as well as named 27 inductees to its Honor Roll as outstanding RIC graduates and role models for the College.

They will be honored at the annual Alumni/Honor Roll dinner Thursday, May 14, starting at 5:30 p.m. in the Donovan Alumni Center on the RIC campus. Tickets are $25 per person and may be obtained by calling the RIC Alumni Office at 456-4066 no later than May 7.

As honorary chairperson of the 1996 and 1997 Annual Fund campaigns, Cain initiated new programs to attract a higher percentage of givers and raised awareness for increased giving, says Ellie O'Neill, Alumni Affairs director.

Under Cain's leadership, says O'Neill, new giving clubs as well as the class chair program were established. Commuting from Atlanta on a regular basis to ensure a successful fund drive, Cain helped the campaign total nearly a quarter of a million dollars, the highest amount ever raised, reported O'Neill.

Other award winners are the Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission and Daniel Lugosch III, Alumni Service Award; Arthur F. Smith of Middletown, professor of mathematics, Alumni Faculty Award; Janet O'Connor of Cumberland, associate director of the Office of Financial Aid, Alumni Staff Award; Linda Cipriano of Lincoln, Class of 1984, executive director of the YWCA of Greater Rhode Island, Charles B. Willard Achievement Award.

Recognizing the importance of maintaining the history of the College, the R. I. Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission and Lugosch, managing partner/CEO of the Commonwealth Development Group, led an operation to preserve the artifacts from the downtown campus. Prior to the demolition of the Old Normal School, later known as Rhode Island College of Education (RICE), these two parties were instrumental in securing the artifacts and transporting them to the Mt. Pleasant campus. The 50-plus tons of material symbolize an important link to the heritage of RIC, notes the citation.

Guiding, teaching, advising and influencing students over a 30-year period best describes in part Prof. Smith's contributions to the College, according to his citation.

Known as the gatekeeper of the department, he fields calls and

See Alumni award winners, page 8
The Way We Were...

The popular item in What's News will continue this year in order for you to be able to revisit your alma mater with a selection of photos from the past — the College's past, whether the current era (Rhode Island College) or past 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 meantime, we'll continue searching our files for interesting pictures of past College life.

Focus on Faculty and Staff

Fong Zhou, assistant professor of mathematics, recently had two articles published: "Unique Wave Front for Dendritic Spines with Nagumo Dynamics" in the Journal of Mathematical Biosciences and "Using a Computer Algebra System to Teach Numerical Computing to BS Math and CS Majors" in the Journal of Computing in Small Colleges. In the first article it is shown that using a system of non-linear partial differential equations as a mathematical model of a nerve fiber for a large number of factors, which include spine density, there is a unique signal propagating along the fiber whose speed is inversely proportional to the density of the spine. This is a significant finding since it may directly be involved in the learning process. The second article discusses the rationale and the approach for the teaching of numerical analysis.


David Greene, professor of chemistry, co-authored a paper entitled "Activation of the Carbon-Sulfur Bonds in Benzothiophenes by Pre-Coordination of Transition Metals to the Carbocyclic Ring," which was presented at the American Chemical Society's national meeting in Dallas March 29-April 2. Greene's co-authors included member of Prof. Dwight Swigart's research group at Brown University with whom Greene worked during his sabbatical leave in the fall of 1997.

Ellen Bigler, assistant professor of secondary education and anthropology, was invited by the Center for Puerto Rican Studies to present at the New York State Association for Bilingual Education Annual Conference on March 2, in Rye, NY. The presentation was based on her article, "Dangerous Discourses: Language Politics and Classroom Practices in Uphstate New York," which appeared in their Centro de Estudios Puertorriqueños winter 1997 theme issue focusing on the education of Puerto Ricans in the United States. She also presented a paper at the Ethnography in Education Forum on March 6, entitled "They're No Different than Earlier Waves: Euro-American Teachers Constructing the 'White Ethnic' Experience as the 'American Experience.'" Richard A. Lobban, Jr., professor of anthropology, has edited a book entitled Middle Eastern Women and the Invisible Economy published by the University Press of Florida. The book is a collection examining the "invisible" women of the Middle East and their vital economic activities. Focusing on daily and domestic life in communities where more than half the population lives and works, these essays highlights the struggles and hardships of women in the region and also establish the distance between this invisible world and the conflict over Islamic issues that dominate headline in the West.

WHAT'S NEWS

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When Brian Thornton, Class of 1990, sees something that needs to be done, he jumps right in. That’s why being a community police officer in South Providence is such a good fit for this six-foot, five-inch Rhode Island native, who is also a captain in the National Guard with both mountaineering and airborne experiences.

“I love jumping (skydiving). It’s all about conquering fear. Normal people don’t just jump out of a perfectly good airplane. But once you get over the fear, it’s wonderful,” Thornton says.

That zest for life carries over to his police work and played a factor in his desire to become a community police officer. Thornton is one of only 14 community police officers in Providence. He has been on the force for four years, working a variety of posts. He says he particularly enjoyed working the downtown (Central Station) or South Providence posts because there was a lot of activity. “I like to keep a lot of things in the air. I don’t like going to work and being bored.”

Thornton credits RIC and his ROTC experience at the College with preparing him for the work. “My RIC experience helped me in my job performance. ROTC was the first time I ever had someone really evaluate me, saying: This is what you did right and wrong. These are your strengths and weaknesses. Here’s what you need to do to improve.”

He says up to that point he had “skated by.” He went away to Babson College, where he earned B’s and C’s but didn’t really apply himself. “My father told me it was time to take responsibility. He stopped paying for college, so I came home.” He worked for a while as an office assistant in a law firm. The hours were long and the pay wasn’t great.

“I decided this was not my career choice,” he says. So he joined ROTC to earn money for school and came to RIC because of “availability and affordability.” When he graduated, he planned to go into the U.S. Army or Rhode Island State Police. Instead, he was assigned to an available position in the National Guard and he didn’t make the Rhode Island State Police force because he was 1 percent over the body fat requirements.

He drove a truck for awhile to make ends meet before he was able to get on the Providence police force. After several years of rotating beats, Thornton, who lives in Providence with his wife and two daughters, sought assignment to the community police force.

Jumping right in —

Alumnus finds niche as community police officer

by Shelly Murphy

Thornton and his partner, Nicholas Ludovici, have organized a clean-up on Saturday, April 18, from 9 to 3 p.m. Volunteers are welcome to join the group at 246 Prairie Ave. that morning.

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Book signing
Joseph R. Muratore, local historian of the Italian-American community and a professor of Rhode Island College’s Adams Library, will be on hand in the library’s main lobby Thursday, April 16, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. to sign copies of his book Italian-Americans in Rhode Island.

Copies of the book, published by Arcadia in its Images of America series, can be purchased at that time. Cost is $14.95. All proceeds will benefit the library.

Women in Prison program May 28
A conference titled “Women in Prison: From Research to Reality,” sponsored by the sociology and justice studies departments, will be held Thursday, May 28, at Roger Williams University. Presented by the Rhode Island Department of Corrections Women Division and Women in Transition, Inc., the aim of this conference is to bring academic researchers, practitioners and policy makers together to discuss ways to improve opportunities for women in conflict with the law.

The conference will be keynoted by Nicole Hahn Rafter, Ph.D., a well recognized authority on the history of women’s prisons. Sessions will feature presentations dealing with parenting, mental health, health issues and behavioral change.

For more information about the conference, call Sandra Eros at the sociology department at 456-8737 or contact Women in Transition at 781-8717.

The institute provides a week residency at Roger Williams University and a week commitment to Rhode Island College from July 6 to 17 with a day of orientation May 5. There is an expense for teachers who will receive teaching materials, lesson plans, initial teaching approaches and a method to make presentations to their peers.

By joining, teachers become members of a group of 14,000 teachers from throughout the country that have been supported by the National Geographic Society over the past 12 years.

Interested, apply by April 24 to: R.I. Geography Education Alliance, Rhode Island College, Adams Library 122, Providence, R.I. 02908. To obtain an application, call 456-8069 and leave a message.

ONE-ON-ONE: Providence community police officer Brian Thornton plays a little “hoop” at the playground on the corner of Pearl and Providence streets with neighborhood residents. (What’s News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

in domestic situations, people just need someone to listen to them and to calm them down so they don’t do something they’ll regret,” he says.

“The patrols handle regular calls. We deal more with quality issues — loud music, litter, graffiti, etc. It’s about educating people, stopping certain behaviors. It’s not just about arrests. For example, they may not know there is a law that all trash cans need lids,” Thornton says.

Battling the trash problem is one of their initiatives with the arrival of spring. Thornton and his partner, Nicholas Ludovici, have organized a clean-up for their post as part of city-wide Glad-Bag-A-Thon. About 75 people are expected to pitch in to clean up the area on Saturday, April 18, from 9 to 3 p.m. Anyone interested in helping is welcome to meet the group at 246 Prairie Ave. that morning.

Preventing problems or cleaning up existing ones is what he enjoys. “I love my work. I am happy to go to work each day.”

I open this column on a very sad note. A long-time Foundation Board member, Arlyne Harrower, died March 27. Arlyne had been a member of the Board of Trustees, a friend of the College, and had been selected as an honoree at this year’s Foundation Gala on April 24. Contributions in Arlyne’s name can be made to the Harmony Library, Harmony, RI. We will miss her. [See obituary, p. 2.]

Annual Report of Gifts

Most of you have now received your 1997 Annual Report of Gifts. All of you should be proud of the record of giving by our alumni and friends to the College in 1997 that is documented in this 48-page publication. When dealing with a publication that includes almost 6,000 names, inevitably mistakes and omissions occur. We want to take this opportunity to recognize the following individuals:

Anchor Club

In memory of Thomas Pezzullo, Class of 1964

Dean’s Council

In honor of Lyle Perra, Class of 1964

Centennial Club

Alan Axelrod, Class of 97

Other Gifts

Louise H. Dolan, Class of 1943
Ed Halloran, Class of 1992
Ellenie Mikus, Class of 1932
Orianna H. Viall, Class of 1962

Gold and White Society

Sarah S. and Robert J. Black
Vera Sohwait, Class of 1935

Our apologies to the above mentioned individuals. We will be happy to make further corrections as you contact us.

Annual Fund Appeal

Paul Bourget, Class of 1969, this year’s Annual Fund Honorary Chair, has enclosed his first appeal for your consideration. You will be able to review the Annual Report of Gifts. This spring you can expect to hear from Paul and our student officers. Then we ask you to consider an unrestricted gift to the Annual Fund to support scholarships, faculty research, and alumni programs and events.

The spring phonathon began Monday, April 6.

Foundation Gala

Tickets are available for the Foundation’s Ninth Annual Gala to honor the Caroline A. Laudati, a psychologist with a private practice in California. “She was my father’s sister and was a great influence on us.” Brown said. •

RIC to host Nellie Mae session

The Rhode Island College campus will be the site for a statewide informational meeting for educators, funders and community leaders to learn about a new foundation being formed by Nellie Mae.

This new foundation will become the largest charity in New England focused on education and related grantmaking, according to the Nellie Mae. The level of funding is expected to approach $10 million each year.

The informational meeting will be held Friday, April 17, from 4 p.m. in Gaige Hall auditorium. Larry O’Toole, Nellie Mae’s chief executive officer, will be present to discuss the mission and goals of the foundation, answer questions and to hear participants thoughts about education issues affecting their communities.

“We are pleased to be hosting such an important meeting for the education development community. We were happy to be able to accommodate them when the Nellie Mae Foundation called us about holding the meeting at RIC,” said Marguerite M. Brown, director of development.

Nellie Mae is conducting a meeting in each of the six New England states to provide an informational session about the new foundation and the transition process. About 50 people are expected to attend each session.

Nellie Mae, located in Braintree, MA, is the largest non-profit provider of institutional-level funding nationally. Since creating the Nellie Mae Fund for Education in 1990, Nellie Mae has contributed over $4 million to schools, colleges and universities and community-based organizations.

CAROLINE LAUDATI (Photo taken in 1965 when she was a school principal)
Third annual Gehrenbeck Lecture to feature nationally known author

by George LaTour
What’s News Associate Editor

Nationally known author Ruth Leroy Sime will give the third annual Richard K. Gehrenbeck Memorial Lecture "When Race, Gender and Politics Wrote the Script: The Story of Lise Meitner, Nuclear Fission and the Nobel Prize." The event is at 8 p.m. Monday, April 20, in Waite’s Thresher Hall on the corner of Pine and Chestnut streets in Providence.

LISE MEITNER

able atrocities and shameful lies. All of these touched her life, says Sime.

A great physicist, she lived at a time when physics was blossoming with new ideas and breakthroughs in atomic and nuclear structure.

Meitner was extremely capable and persevering. She worked her way up from "volunteering" in an institute that did not even officiously allow women inside, much less pay them to do research, to the distin-

guished position of professor in 1919.

Why was she excluded from receiving the Nobel Prize?

"Some might call it a careless decision," notes Sime. "Others would call it revisionist history or simply lies. One reason is the absence of her name from important published articles -- German persecution of Jews had a huge influence on scientific research. The Nazis stripped them of professorships, took their jobs (replacing them with "Aryans"), and made it politically difficult to include the names on research papers."

Long before the start of the war Nazism was making its mark on scien-

tific and history.

Sime was born in New York City, received her bachelor's degree in mathematics from Barnard College in 1940, and a Ph.D. in chemistry from Harvard University in 1946. She taught chemistry at Sacramento City College since 1968.

Her interest in Meitner began about 25 years ago, when she taught a class on women in science and dis-

covered that little attention had been paid to Meitner's life and work.

The Gehrenbeck Memorial Lecture honors the late Prof. Richard K. Gehrenbeck, who taught physics and the history of science at RIC for 22 years until his death in 1993.

The subject of this lecture would have been of great interest to Dick Gehrenbeck, who taught the history of nuclear fission at the beginning of The Nuclear Age.

"As a person with a great sense of justice, he would have been glad to see the story of Lise Meitner made right," observes Cooley, who says the lecture will be mostly non-technical and intended for a general audience.

After the lecture the audience will be invited to a small reception for the speaker and the Gehrenbeck family.

The lecture is being sponsored by the Gehrenbeck Memorial Lectureship Fund within the RIC Foundation, the RIC Lectures Committee and the physical sciences department.

Math Awareness Month features speaking program

Rhode Island College is observing Mathematics Awareness Month in April in conjunction with the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) with a speaking program on the theme of "Mathematics and Imaging" sponsored by the mathematics/computer science department.

Speakers from throughout the region have been invited to give presentations on mathematics and imaging on the college level to make the community aware of the nature and advances in mathematics.

Gov. Lincoln Almond has issued a proclamation designating April 1998 as "Mathematics Awareness Month" in recognition of the "importance of mathematics and Rhode Island College's prominent role (in mathematics)," reports Patricia Dulac, adjunct faculty member of the mathematics/computer science department.

Ann Moskol, organizer of the event, says Mathematics Awareness Month "is designed to make the community aware of mathematics and its value at all levels and to provide information to teachers and students alike and the opportunity to exchange ideas."

"It is a very comprehensive and spe-
cial series of talks and workshops which everyone should know about and view to enhance their knowledge of mathematics and provide new innova-
tions for teaching and learning."

The talk will be proceeded by a dinner at 6 p.m. at the India Restaurant nearby. Call 456-9654 or 456-8038 for more information on the dinner.

Ed Sandier, of Eastern Connecticut State University, will speak on "Fooling with Divergent Series" at 12:45 p.m. on April 29 in RIC's Gaige Hall 375.

George W. Hart, of Hofstra University, will present on "Polyhedra and 'Art' using computer images at 4 p.m. on April 30 in the Faculty Center.

Following this ceremony, a film will be shown to honor outstanding students, alumni and faculty of mathematics.

A reception and a poster session by RIC students follows.

Math Awareness Month will also feature special speakers.

Also involved in coordinating the event are the following mathematicians/computer science faculty members: Fred Harrop, Lisa Humphreys, Manano Rodrigues, Barry Schler and Ying Zhou.

Funding is being provided jointly through a grant by the RIC Lectures Committee and the Park City/Institute of Advanced Study.

For more information, call Moskol at 456-6038.

Students lend a helping hand

Twelve Rhode Island College students traveled to inner-city Philadelphia to spend spring break with those who are less fortunate.

The program was sponsored and coordinated by the Chaplains' Office in conjunc-

tion with the Redeemer Ministries Corps (RMC) of Philadelphia.

Students worked in four dif-

ferent placement during the day: Project Rainbow, a transitional housing program which offers single mothers and their children a temporary place to live; Old St. Joe's Outreach, an agency which provides service to the homeless through a clothing bank and a food kitchen; St. Barnabas, an emergency shelter for single mothers and their children in inner-city West Philly; and Our Mother of Good Counsel Center, a nursing home for previously homeless elderly women.

Students Rebeca Aker, Jennifer Butler, Jennifer Congdon, Amy Gonzalez, James Brown, Elizabeth Jaeger, Tracee Johnson, Melissa Jordan, Michelle Laiberte, Jennifer O'Donnell, Christopher Shamp, Robert Taboada and Kerri Zilles helped out on Project Rainbow's day care program, delivered soup and brown bag dinners to the homeless and helped the nurs-

ing home patients with daily activities.

Evenings were spent together in prayer and discus-

sion. Students got to know each other better while shared their thoughts and experi-

ences.

One experience was an eye-

opener for many of the stu-

dents who were struck by the harsh and blinding neces-

sity of poverty. They worked hard and learned a lot and had fun while making a difference.

Spring Admissions party gives prospective students a taste of RIC

The Rhode Island College Office of Undergraduate Admissions held its "Spring Party for Accepted Freshman" on Sunday, April 5. And according to Holly Shadoian, director of undergraduate admissions, it was a great success. Over 700 prospective students and their parents flocked to the event, centered in Donovan Dining Center and the Student Union ballroom.

More than two dozen students took the plunge, as it were, and enrolled, thereby qualifying for an instant RIC I.D. card.

There seemed to be an increased interest in living on campus among those attending, said Shadoian. For the first time during an admissions open house, all five residence halls were open to view and the tours of the residences, which began an hour before the official beginning of the party, proved to be very popular.

The most popular aspect, however, was undoubtedly the ice cream sundaes, served up by administrators, faculty and staff.

Here is a glance at the day's activities:

Photos and text by Gordon E. Rowley
Asian Festival
Continued from page 1
and informed about the ceremonial dances of the different countries; India, Hmong, Laos, and Cambodia, as well as watch the famous dance of the Chinese New Year - the Dragon Dance. All dancers and models are RIC students, except for the Chinese group which is from the Ukraine. Tous Vie, a social work student, will act as emcee.

A dance party follows dinner, with music, special ethnic foods, and cultural performances. People are encouraged to bring in music to participate in the open DJ format.

According to ASA President Tia Dong, "The students are putting this together to raise awareness about the different cultures of the Asian communities. It's important for Rhode Islanders to know that each culture represents its own history."

For further information, call Prof. Beverly Cooney, ASA advisor, at 401-456-8121, Dong, at 227-9912, or ASA Vice Asian Festival

Annual Fund
Continued from page 1
May 7, but a few students will continue to call alumni throughout the summer to ask for their support for the 1998 Annual Fund, which uses the theme "Keep the Flame Burning!"

“We have hired 22 of RIC’s finest students who are very enthusiastic about working as an advancement representative on our campaign. We have found that students’ calling alumni creates a very positive atmosphere. The student representatives enjoy talking to students and reminding people about their own careers at RIC,” President Brown said.

A record-breaking $250,000 was raised last year through the generosity of alumni and friends. This year’s goal is $300,000. Donations to the annual fund “keep the RIC flame burning” through scholarships, improving SWATS and development grants and alumni programs.

For more information, call the Alumni Office at 456-8086.
Sports Roundup

Baseball

The baseball team is 2-2 overall and has yet to play a game in the Little East Conference. RIC returned home from a rainy trip to Florida with a 1-3 record. Third baseman/designated hitter Brian Fineberg leads the team in hitting with a .406 batting average. First baseman Jim Fitzgerald is batting .378 with five home runs and five RBIs. Shortstop Ed Silverio is batting .379 with a team-high six runs scored.

Lefty pitcher Chris Lyons is 1-1 with eight strikeouts in 15 innings of work. Mike Bento is 1-0 with seven strikeouts in 12⅓ innings.

Women's Gymnastics

The Anchorwomen closed the season with the most impressive performance at the 1998 Division III Women's National Collegiate Gymnastics Championships hosted by Rhode Island College on March 27 and 28. RIC registered its highest point total of the season with a 142.025 mark and finished in eighth place. Amy Bright was named an All-American and placed seventh in all-around competition. She had marks of 9.590 in the vault, 8.850 on the bars, 8.950 on the beam and 9.225 in the floor exercise for a combined score of 35.795.

Michelle Pelletier established a new school record with a 9.650 score in the floor exercise during the first night of competition. Pelletier finished the championships ninth in the vault and 11th place in the floor exercise.

Kate Goyette placed 12th on the bars with a two-day total of 17.950.

Softball

The Anchorwomen are currently 8-6-1 overall and have yet to play a game in the Little East Conference. Catcher Jennifer Sahalski leads the team with a .339 batting average. She also has ten runs scored and four RBIs. First baseman Marie Valentine is batting .341 with a team-high nine RBIs. Second baseman Monique Marchand is batting .359 with nine runs scored and seven RBIs.

Pitcher Erika Rodriquez is 4-1 with a 0.65 ERA and 11 strikeouts in 21 innings. Lena Higgins is 2-3 with a 1.99 ERA and is batting .294. Shana Willis is 1-2 with a 2.74 ERA and is batting .308.

Men's and Women's Track and Field

The men’s and women’s track and field teams took part in the Bridgewater State College Invitational on March 28, 1998. Keely Subin placed second in the 400 meters with a time of 54.4 seconds. Kerri Dubord placed third in the 200 meters with a 24.27 seconds. Janet Moran was third in the 200 meters and fourth in the 200 meters with times of 67.1 and 29.9 respectively. Sarah Truythor was sixth in the 3,000 meters with a time of 13 minutes, 19 seconds.

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RIC Theatre offers ‘a Valentine’ to the era of the ’20s

director has strong background in musicals

by George LaTour

What's News Associate Editor

The musical sating the mania of the 1920s, The Boy Friend, will be staged April 23-26 by Rhode Island College Theatre in evening and matinee performances at the Performing Arts Center’s Hall Auditorium.

This is the revue that so solemnly lapsed-poor the era of speakeasies, cloche hats, draped gowns, and homes at the knee, that it ran for well over three and half years in London, where it was born. New Yorkers thronged delightfully to it for over 60 weeks after its thunderous opening night there in September 1954.

That The Boy Friend was no mere Broadway success, but a national phenomenon, was proved by the hit show scored on some 35 other cities that it visited during an 18-month tour, and also by a phenomenal amount of letter mail.

Elders in search of their lost youth, and lost youths in search of their elders’ backgrounds, made The Boy Friend into one of the biggest hits of its time.

The tale on the period of The Charleston, hip-flasks, coonskin coats and Rudy Vallee was written by a man named Sandy Wilson who could only have known the era from a playboy’s view, since he was born in 1924. But all the same, with his songs, his plot and his dialogue, he skilfully barreled every plot idea, song lyric and saxophone-heavy, cymbal-crashing tune-style that characterized the early kind of jazz of the Twenties.

For a plot he took the one about the poor boy who falls in love with the rich girl’s best friend. Polo. No, we do not mean the rich boy in disguise. The heroine’s widowed father meets up with an old flame from Paris and love is rekindled. The heroine’s three girl friends are also endearing.

Meanwhile there are the era’s customary stilted music cues.

There is a song titled “I Could Be Happy With You,” in which the heroine, pop gets his old flame and the three girl friends says “yes,” adding up to the happiest ending of a musical’s first act.

As for the audience it was not without a reaction.

About this, the two talk about the music and dance and a complete change from last year’s RIC Theatre production of The Boy Friend.

The director of the musical The Boy Friend, to be staged by Rhode Island College Theatre April 23-26, has some definite ideas about presenting this “spoof” of the Roaring ’20s.

First off, he is NOT presenting it as a spoof, despite the curtain speech that labels it as such.

William M. Wilson Jr., originally from Detroit but now Providence, thinks of the RIC production as “more of a Valentine to the era.”

“I’ve seen the musical done both ways”—as spoof and straight (much in the manner of No No Nanette in 1927 which he terms “real”).

“I don’t think they winked at the audience and made fun of it,” says Wilson, adding, “I don’t want the actors to be cardboard cutouts. I want them to be real, to have depth.”

“Don’t want the actors to be cardboard cutouts. I want them to be real, to have depth.” — William Wilson

Not-with-standing this, “they may be overblown and bigger than life” in their portrayal of the characters in the Sandy Wilson (no relation) musical done on Broadway in 1954.

It was the era of The Charleston, hip-flasks, coonskin hats and Rudy Vallee — ingredients with which a delightful souvenir can be made.

The three-act musical — unusual today when most musicals are two acts — runs between two and two-and-a-half hours and is guaranteed to please.

Wilson joined the RIC faculty as an assistant professor for theatre last September, coming with a strong background as director and choreographer with such productions to his credit as The Music Man, Godspell, South Pacific, Fiddler on the Roof, Carousel, The Sound of Music and Anything Goes for university and community theatres. The Boy Friend is his first production at RIC.

He has a bachelor of fine arts degree in musical theatre performance from Western Michigan University; a master of fine arts degree in directing from Wayne State University where he also has done course work toward a Ph.D.

About The Boy Friend, Wilson says, “It’s most fun to work on, with full of energy, song and dance and a complete change from last year’s RIC Theatre production of The King and I.”

GL
George Masso Quartet to play jazz, pop tunes in Chamber Music Series April 15

The George Masso Quartet, featuring jazz trombonist George Masso who has played with the likes of Benny Goodman, Bobby Hackett and George Shearing, will perform in the Rhode Island College Chamber Music Series Wednesday, April 15, at 1 p.m. in Roberts Hall 138.

In addition to Masso, the quartet is comprised of Chris Neville on piano, Bob Petterutti on bass and Artie Cabral on drums.

Masso, an active jazz and studio musician, has literally made thousands of professional performances and recordings over the past 50 years.

In addition to having performed and recorded with Goodman, Hackett and Shearing, he was a member of the "World's Greatest Jazz Band."

He has been active as a trombonist in a wide variety of situations including recordings, television and movie soundtracks and national and international touring groups.

He has spent many years as a musical educator in Connecticut and Rhode Island, having lived for 22 years in Scituate. He lived in New York City for the next 20 years and currently lives in Narragansett.

Most recently he spent five weeks last fall touring Europe with a jazz ensemble.

Bus trip planned for Peter Boyer's Carnegie Hall premiere

Peter Boyer's (Class of 1991) The Phoenix will premiere at Carnegie Hall in New York City on Sunday, May 17.

The New York Youth Symphony will perform the work at its gala concert at 2 p.m. Carnegie Hall is located at 57th Street and 7th Avenue. The cost for door-to-door transportation and a general admission ticket to the concert is $28. Reservations should be made through the Alumni Office at 401-456-8086. Seating is limited, so reservations are encouraged.

Musical savant DeBlois to perform in Chamber Music Series April 22

Tony DeBlois, a 23-year-old musical savant from Waltham, Mass., will perform on piano in the Wednesday, April 22, Rhode Island College Chamber Music Series beginning at 1 p.m. in Roberts Hall 138.

Being born weighing 1 1/4 lbs. was only the first obstacle that he had to overcome. Additionally, he is blind and autistic.

DeBlois has been playing piano since the age of 2 and has gone on to win numerous awards and a degree magna cum laude from Berklee College of Music.

His awards include the coveted Reynolds Society Achievement Award, the Foundation for Exceptional Children's "Yes I Can" award and the Panasonic-sponsored Very Special Arts Ishihak Perman Award.

He was the subject of a CBS made-for-TV Movie of the Week "Journey of the Heart" which was inspired by actual events in his life.

As DeBlois' "Let me do it independently" attitude inspires the many people who meet him, his talents are being noticed internationally.

Stories about him have been broadcast on both National Public Radio and Voice of America radio stations. Spots about him have aired in documentaries in Rome, Japan and London, and Virginia Arosen's 1996 book Different Moods, Different Voices contains a chapter about him.

Besides piano, DeBlois plays the organ, harmonica, guitar, harmonica, English bells, violin, banjo, drums and trumpet.

For DeBlois, there are no "roadblocks" but mere obstacles to be cast aside or skirted. His favorite phrase seems to be, "I haven't learned that yet."

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

The Rhode Island College Foundation Ninth Annual Gala

Honoring Ahhsen Harmonz, posthumously; Thereau House, Mary Jackluke and Frank Montanaro

Friday, April 24, 1998
The Westin Hotel
7 p.m.
$90 per person
Black Tie Optional

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

November

Rhode Island College is observing Mathematics Awareness Month in April in conjunction with the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) with a speaking program on the theme of "Mathematics and Imaging" sponsored by the mathematics/computer science department. See story on page 5.

Tuesdays

noon to 1 p.m.—Bible Study. Chaplain Larry Nicholls is conducting Bible Study. Everyone is invited to join him in the SU 300 for an informal discussion of the Bible. Bring your own lunch.

Wednesdays

12:30 to 1:45 p.m.—Catholic Student Association meets in SU 300. Any Catholic student who would like to be a part of this group is asked to drop in on any meeting. You can join at any time. Pizza and refreshments are provided on a bi-weekly basis.

13-Monday

9:30 to 10:30 p.m.—Discussion: "Funding the Arts and Artists in New England"—a day-long celebration of the arts, with panel discussions and public forums. Keynote address by Gigi Bolt, director of the theatre program, National Endowment for the Arts, Rhode Island College Center and Gaige Auditorium. For more information, call 456-8194.

15-Wednesday

1 p.m.—Chamber Music Series: George Mason's Jazz Quartet in Roberts 138.

12:30 to 1:30 p.m.—Brown Bag Lunch Discussion: "25 Years of Conflict: Mexico, the US, and the Petroleum Controversy" in Gaige 211. Sponsored by the History Department 456-8039.

17-Friday

6 p.m.—Spring Cotillion at Providence Biltmore. $15 tickets available at SU Info Desk. Sponsored by R.S.A., 456-8240

20-Monday

8 p.m.—Comedian: Andy Richter from the Conan O'Brien Show in Donovan Dining Center. Tickets are $3 with RIC I.D. $5 without. Sponsored by RIC Programming. 456-8045.

21-Tuesday

2-4 p.m.—Nellie Mae Foundation state-wide informational meeting for educators, fundraisers, and policy makers to learn more about the new organization. Larry O'Toole, Nellie Mae's CEO, discusses mission and goals of the new foundation. Gaige Hall auditorium. For more information, call 1-800-335-5626, Ext. 2316.

22-Tuesday


12:50 to 1:50 p.m.—Brown Bag Lunch Discussion: "Two Chinas, One China, Two Systems, and Beyond" in Gaige 203. Sponsored by the History Department, 456-8039.

1 p.m.—Chamber Music Series: Tony DeBlois, jazz piano in Roberts 138.

Sports Events

Softball

April 14 W. Conn. St. (DH) 3:30 P.M.
April 21 UMass-Dartmouth (DH) 3:30 P.M.
April 23 at Roger Williams 7:00 P.M.
April 25 UMass-Boston (DH) 1:00 P.M.

Baseball

April 14 at Roger Williams 3:00 P.M.
April 18 W. Conn. St. (DH) 1:00 P.M.
April 21 Johnson and Wales 3:30 P.M.
April 25 at Rhode State (DH) 3:30 P.M.

Men's Tennis

April 11 at S. Maine 1:00 P.M.
April 14 Suffolk 3:30 P.M.
April 16 UMass-Dartmouth 3:00 P.M.
April 18 Little East Championships TBA
April 19 Little East Championships TBA

* held at Plymouth State College

Track & Field

April 11 at Conn. College Invitational 10:00 A.M.
April 18 Tri-State Championships # 10:30 A.M.
April 25 Little East Championships + 10:00 A.M.

# Denotes meet held at Bryant College
+ Denotes meet held at Bridgewater State College

Wellness

10:30 p.m.—Glass Blowing at Gaige 203. Sponsored by the History Department, 456-8039.

27-Monday

7 p.m.—Fashion Show in Student Union Ballroom. Sponsored by Rehobokee.

Annual Sports Auction to be held May 6

The second annual RIC Sports and Memorabilia Auction will be held on Wednesday, May 6 at the Providence Marriott. All proceeds from the event go toward the academic support program that was established this year. Items to be auctioned off include a variety of memorabilia as well as trip, event tickets, golf packages, and dining experiences. Additionally, there will be refreshments, entertainment, and a free gift to all attendees. Tickets are $10.

For additional information or to purchase tickets, call the Athletic Department at 456-8007.

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 services because of race, sex, religion, age, color, national origin, handicap, disability status, sexual orientation preference, or covered 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.

Cap and Gown Day

Wednesday, May 6

12:30 p.m.—Robert's Hall auditorium

Graduate Commencement

Thursday, May 21

5:30 p.m.—New Building

Commencement Gala

Friday, May 22

6:30 p.m.—Donovan reception and dinner at 7:30 p.m.
Music by Avenue A
The cost is $175.00 or $2 for $30.
For reservations, call 401-456-8022.

Undergraduate Commencement

Saturday, May 23

9:30 a.m.—Esplanade in front of New Building

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