Vocational training as well as job English, including job specific and everyday living English, and they help students gain skills or training that are in demand. These disciplines include computers, electronics, medical assistant and medical third-party billing.

**Outreach Programs Bridge Gap for Immigrants**

by Shelly Murphy
What’s News Editor

Imagine moving to a country where you don’t speak the language. Even though you may have extensive education and professional experience in your home country, you end up working in a factory or driving a cab. You might even work two jobs to make enough money to survive. How do you: Learn the language? Advance your skills? Obtain appropriate certifications for your profession?, or all of the above when you are working constantly and struggling just to get by in this strange place?

This is the dilemma faced by many of the students who find help from the staff at Rhode Island College’s Outreach Programs, located at the Center for Management and Technology in Whipple Hall. The Outreach Programs work exclusively with individuals who are “outside of the economic mainstream” because of their limited-English speaking capabilities and their cultural differences. This includes new immigrants and immigrants who may be unemployed or whose jobs have been eliminated.

The Outreach Programs encompasses several courses of study which provide English language vocational training as well as job skills and job placement services. The programs help students learn English, including job specific and 16-week course, consisting of three hours of class two days a week. In addition, the students have access to 10 hours of open computer lab time.

The first two hours of class provide traditional language instruction involving writing, reading, and grammar assignments and group discussion. The third-hour is individual learning in a computer lab.

Some immigrants are referred to Outreach soon after arriving in this country, but not all students follow such a direct path. Sometimes, they discover the Outreach Programs as a matter of chance. For instance, Nancy Bustos was a secretary in Colombia before she came to America nearly 25 years ago. She worked on an assembly line in a factory at Hasbro for 23 years until her position was eliminated last year when the company decided to move the plant out of the country. Now, as a displaced worker, she is finally discovering the Outreach Programs as a way to get back into a career.

**‘Once they get into the computer lab, they perk up and they don’t want to go home.’ — Giroux**

Pilot computer helps ‘even tired’ students want to keep on learning English

The future looks bright

Rhode Island College President John Nazarian has announced faculty promotions and tenure granted to faculty, and extended an invitation to the College community to join him at a reception to be held in their honor Friday, May 15, from 3-5 p.m. at the President’s House.

The following faculty promotions take effect July 1:

- Promoted to Professor
  - Yael Avissar, biology; Mary Foye, Henry Barnard School; John Gleason, special education; George Mack, music; Robin Montville, psychology; Carolyn Panofsky, educational studies; Barry Schiller, mathematics/computer science; Carol Shelton, nursing, and David Woolman, library.

- Promoted to Associate Professor
  - Nancy Evans, art; Douglas Furton, physical sciences; Yolande Lockett, nursing; Apollos Nwauwa, history; Betty Raubue, health/physical education; Xae Reyes, educational studies; Joanne Schneider, history; Earl Simon, psychology; Ronald Tibbetts, Henry Barnard School, and Jane Williams, nursing.

- Granted Faculty Tenure

The following faculty members have been recommended to the Board of Governors for tenure effective July 1 of the year indicated. The board is scheduled to act on these recommendations on May 27:

- Nancy Evans, art (1998); Douglas Furton, physical sciences (1999); Apollos Nwauwa, history (1998); Betty Raubue, health/physical education (1998); Xae Reyes, educational studies (1998), and Charles Snow, accounting and computer information systems (1999).
The Way We Were...

This popular item in What’s News will continue this year in order for you to be able to re-read your alma mater with a collection of photos from the past - the College's past, whether the current era (Rhode Island College) or past eras (Rhode Island College of Education or Rhode Island Normal School). We invite your contribution of old photos, along with sufficient information about each such as when 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.

JOHN FUZEK

A CAMBODIAN BLESSING DANCE was one of several highlights of the 2nd Annual “Come Experience the Richness of Asia” celebration held Sunday, April 25 in the Student Union ballroom. The event was sponsored by the RIC Asian Students Association. (What’s News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

Focus on Faculty and Staff

Joan Rollins, professor of psychology, was appointed to the Rhode Island Board of Examiners for Psychology in December 1997 by the Department of Health, with consent of G. Lincoln Almond. The board is responsible for licensing of psychologists in the state, for accrediting courses for continuing education of psychologists and for ethical standards for psychologists. The Rhode Island Psychological Association, on March 27, presented Rollins with the Masiker-Merenda award, which is presented annually to one person for “outstanding contribution to mental health in Rhode Island.” Rollins, Samuel Ciotola, Class of 1997, and Angelica Spirito, Class of 1999, co-authored a poster session at the New England Psychological Association which was held at Stonehill College in October. The title of the paper was “Permeability of Boundaries in Cross-Sex Friendships.”

Peter Allen, professor of anthropology, recently traveled to Kiel, Germany, for CINARCHEA, an international symposium and festival of archaeological films. Allen delivered a paper entitled, “Visual Resources in Archaeology: Problems and Promises of Proliferation.” He also served as a member of the jury for the film festival, viewing approximately 35 films entered in the competition. Winner of the Grand Prize was a French film entered on the new underwater excavations in the Harbor of Alexandria, Egypt. David Woolman, an associate professor in the James P. Adams Library, co-chaired a panel presentation on the development of K-12 social studies guidelines in Rhode Island at the 29th Northeast Regional National Lab Educators Conference in Boston on March 5. The panel introduced elements of A Standards-Based Guide to Improving Social Studies Programs in Rhode Island Schools, a document being developed by the Department of Education. The guide was written over the last year through a collaborative effort by curriculum specialists at the Department of Education, college professors and local social studies teachers. Other RIC faculty contributing to this project were Peter Moore of economics and finance and Anne Petry from elementary education. Woolman wrote the chapter on resources for classroom instruction, outreach activities and professional development. He also presented a paper entitled “Globalization: A New Challenge for Education and Development in Africa?” at the 1998 annual conference of the Comparative and International Education Society in Buffalo, N.Y. on March 19. The paper was part of a panel presented by the Society for Educational Reconstruction on problems and prospects for education in developing countries being impacted by global economic development.

Sarah Henshaw, assistant professor of elementary education and Elizabeth Rowell, professor in the same department, made a presentation at the Annual Association of Teacher Educators Conference in Dallas, Texas, on Feb. 16 entitled “Helping Students Make a Commitment to Multicultural and Anti-bias Education.” They made a similar presentation in October at the Northeast Regional National Lab School Conference held at Henry Barnard School on the Rhode Island College campus. In November, the two presented at the Association of Educators of Young Children’s annual conference in Anaheim, Calif. This workshop was entitled “Going from a Multicultural to an Anti-bias Perspective with Children’s Literature.” They will also make this same presentation at the annual conference of the International Reading Association in Orlando, Fla.

Congratulations to the Class of 1998!

— News and Public Relations

WHAT'S NEWS

AT RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE

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What’s News at Rhode Island College (USPS-195) is published biweekly by Rhode Island College Office of News and Public Relations, 600 Mt. Pleasant Ave., Providence, RI 02908. It is published throughout the academic year except during semester breaks. Periodicals postage paid at Providence, RI.

Postmaster: Send address changes to What’s News at Rhode Island College, Office of News and Public Relations, 600 Mt. Pleasant Ave., Providence, RI 02908.

Deadline: Deadline for submission of copy and photos is noon Monday, two weeks before publication date.

Telephone/FAX: (401) 456-8460

FAX: 401-456-3887

Printing: TCI Press

RIC alum coordinates music festival

John W. Fuzek, Class of 1990 and masters in 1994, is festival coordinator of the fifth annual Hear In Rhode Island Festival to be held at India Waterfront Park in Providence June 13-14 from 11 a.m. until 7 p.m. Fuzek is an accomplished singer, songwriter and guitarist who has performed in the Northeast for over a dozen years. In 1994, he founded Hear In Rhode Island, an annual free festival which showcases the original music of Rhode Island artists. Assistant festival coordinator is Greg Bass. As part of the duo Fuzek/Rossoni or as a solo, Fuzek has shared his music with many audiences via live shows, radio and television. This music deals with his views of life and issues of which he is sensitive presented in a rock/pop/folk-based acoustic sound.

Fuzek, of Greenville, is currently planning his first full length solo project and other future plans include touring and working with Mary Ann Rossoni on a new Fuzek/Rossoni project.

Ric Clowning Around?

It seems appropriate that for this May issue of What’s News we take a look back at this photo taken in May of 1947 and sent to us by Mary Lou Fillo Blecharczyk, who is in the center. To her right is Virginia Livingston Nichols, and to her left is Claire M. Myette and many others.
Like mother, like daughter: they share many things, including a RIC diploma

by George LaTour
What’s News Associate Editor

A mother and daughter will graduate together May 23 from Rhode Island College, and that is not the only thing they have in common.

Both graduated from Cranston East High School where they had some of the same teachers; both will earn bachelors degrees in political science and public administration; both will pursue careers in public service; both share a deep love of their "biggest advocate," their mother and grandmother who died recently, and each has a strong admiration for the abilities and dedication of the other.

Dorothy E. McDonough of Cranston and her daughter Kellie will host a "big party" on graduation day at their home where Garry McDonough, a very proud husband and father, and other family members, Sharyna and Garrett, will lead the celebration.

"Graduation will be a happy event, but to a degree will be sad also," notes Dorothy, who, with tears in her eyes, recalls her mother, Anne "Nana" McDonough who passed away in February.

"She was our biggest advocate," she says. "She hung out with us," adds Kellie. "We miss her terribly."

Dorothy graduated from high school in 1971 and entered RIC to study special education and art, but after one semester she married and moved to California for a brief period.

She and her husband raised their three children while both worked. Dorothy in the evenings, even while she sought to benefit society in other ways.

"I contributed in another way through all my public activities and a lot of advocacy work," relates Dorothy.

She has served as an elected member of the Cranston School Committee; worked as a tireless advocate for children and adults with disabilities; served on the executive board of the Rhode Island Association of School Committees, and most recently turned her time and talents to secure employment and training for people with disabilities; served on the planning of events.

And she is active in the effort to develop school-to-work initiatives for the state Department of Education.

Recently she was one of the honorees at the YWCA’s Outstanding Women Award ceremony.

"People can really have an impact on change," says Dorothy, and I had done all I could at that level and needed a degree to do it at a new level."

She re-entered RIC in 1995 joining her daughter Kellie in the search for knowledge.

"I was very nervous about coming back as an adult," admits Dorothy, who credits the people in the political science department for being "really understanding -- they treat adult learners with a lot of respect and credit you for your life experiences."

Mother and daughter took some classes together.

"The first time it seemed strange (having your mother in class with you)," says Kellie. "but people thought that Mom did my homework. She didn't. We have completely different views."

Kellie has been a resident assistant in the student living quarters and a office of Career Services. Additionally, she worked at Stop & Shop and all the while managed to be on the Dean's List as an outstanding student.

"I'm very proud of Kellie," says Mom. "And I'm very proud of you," says Kellie.

"We work hard at whatever we do," assures Dorothy.

At the recent Cap and Gown Convocation Dorothy was awarded the John H. Chafee Award in political science as the outstanding student in that discipline.

She says now that she will have her degree she will continue to work in the public sector.

"If you want to improve things you really have to participate and it's a continual learning process. I've implemented policy before. Now I want to develop policy."

For daughter Kellie it will be on to graduate school — "I've been accepted at three schools" — and then she will go into public administration.

"She's her mother's daughter," observes Dorothy.

Students intern in Mayor Cianci's office

Three Rhode Island College students served internships in or through Providence Mayor Vincent A. Cianci's office this year.

The three are Richard Mons of Cumberland, a senior majoring in justice studies; Gina Nardollile of Cranston, a junior with a double major in psychology and justice studies, and Sharon McMichael of Cumberland, a senior majoring in marketing.

Mona worked at the Providence Police Department, transferring fingerprints from paper to the new Automatic Fingerprint Information System. A former auxiliary police officer for the Attleboro, Mass., department, Mona said he found working in a metropolitan police department "a real learning experience.

Nardollile worked with the Providence Police Department Youth Services Division. McMichael worked in the Mayor's Special Events Office, attending press conferences and assisting in the planning of events.

Student yearbook on sale

This year's edition of the Exodus Yearbook is now on sale. It contains pictures of all of the major events of the past academic year, senior pictures, student organizations, sports and community service. The 1998 edition of the Future, Exodus '98 is available to the entire College community for $25. Other forms are available at the Student Union Information Desk. For more information, call 401-456-8557.

Great Plains donates software

Rhode Island College has recently been awarded software donation valued at $40,000 from Great Plains Software, Inc. of North Dakota. The donation is being made through the company’s Education Alliance Network program which is designed to help schools utilize technology in the classroom. By joining the Great Plains’ Education Alliance Network, a network which enables colleges around the world to provide Great Plains’ client/server financial management software as a key component of accounting curriculums, RIC received Dynamics software and educational materials including instruction manuals, sample data, technical support and lessons. Jane Przybyla, assistant professor of accounting, was instrumental in obtaining the software donation which is being used in accounting and management information systems courses.
Private Support
Marguerite M. Brown, Director
News from the Office of Development, the Rhode Island College Foundation and the Office of Alumni Affairs

My last column for the 1997-98 academic year begins with more good news that is a direct result of the energy and commitment of alumni and friends of the College.

This year's Foundation Gala netted just over $10,000 to support honors scholarships. An enthusiastic and dedicated committee, led by Chair Isabel Pizzuti and staffed by Suzanne Augenstein, set new records for auction items donated and proceeds realized. The ballroom at the Westin Hotel was decorated with artwork from the students at the Henry Barnard School honoring our stars of the evening: the late Arlyne Harrower, Theresa Howe, Mary Juskulian, and Frank Montanaro. (See photos on page 12.)

The family and friends of the late Thomas J. Howell, professor, philosopher, formalized the creation of an endowed scholarship fund in Dr. Howell's name with a luncheon in the Alumni Lounge. Family, former students, and colleagues made contributions to the fund, which will benefit students in the philosophy department. Any who would like to make a contribution to the growth of this fund may send gifts to the Rhode Island College Foundation in Dr. Howell's name.

Commencement may be upon us, however, the offices of Alumni Affairs, Development, and the Foundation are in high gear for upcoming activities. The

Alumni Office offers scholarships
Scholarship applications for the 1998-99 academic year are available in the Alumni Office. Last year nearly 70 students received assistance which is made possible through the Annual Fund appeal.

There are freshman awards for children and grandchildren of alumni as well as a full tuition scholarship for the sophomore, junior and senior with the highest GPA who also happens to be a child or grandchild of an alum/um.

The Alumni Departmental Scholarship is available to all RIC students, who have a GPA of 2.75 or higher. This award is based on GPA and essay.

The Alumni Graduate Award is based on GPA and an essay. To be eligible, you must have earned your undergraduate degree at the College and must be accepted as a full-time graduate student in a RIC master's degree program.

The Alumni Office also reviews applications for the Frank and Agnes Campbell Scholarship which is for a sophomore, junior or senior who is a Rhode Island resident, with a GPA of at least a 3.0 and submits an essay.

HOWELL SCHOLARSHIP: A new endowed scholarship fund in the memory of the late Thomas J. Howell, a professor in the philosophy department, was announced on April 29 at a reception in the Alumni Lounge. Above, Richard Olmsted (second from right), treasurer of the RIC Chapter of AFT presents a check for $1,000 to Richard Weiner, dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences. Looking on are Elena Leonelli, sister-in-law of Tom Howell and Tom's son, Philip. The philosophy department will be conducting a campaign to add to the endowment, which will benefit philosophy students. (What's News Photo by E. Rowley)

Foundation's Annual Golf Day, which last year raised $25,000 for honors scholarships, is scheduled for August 11 at the Warwick Country Club. Circle your calendar now for great food, wonderful food, and a good cause.

The Alumni office is finalizing the schedule for Homecoming '98, scheduled for Oct. 2 and 3, 1998. This year will feature a reincarnation of the Cabaret, so popular in the 1980s, numerous reunions, athletic events, musical performances, and the Hall of Fame event, which will rekindle and honor former members in a formal ceremony.

This week also saw the classes of 1932, 1938, and 1935 host their 60th, 65th, and 60th reunions, respectively. The energy of the members of each one of these classes is a model for all of us. They are proof that scholarship and support for Rhode Island College only increases with each passing year. We are all anticipating the Golden Anniversary Celebration of the Class of 1948, scheduled for commencement weekend.

Alumni Association announces annual membership meeting
The annual meeting of the Rhode Island College Alumni Association will be held on Wednesday, June 17 at 5:30 p.m. at Alumni House. Pursuant to Article X of the Constitution and by-laws, a slate of nominees for election as officers and directors of the Alumni Association will take place at the June meeting. At the March meeting of the board of directors, the by-laws were amended to reflect an annual election for six directors of the association.

For additional information, please call 456-8086.

Following is the proposed slate offered by the nominating committee: Officers to be elected for a two year term

President: Paul Bourget
Class of 1969
Woonsocket
Vice Pres.: Margaret Moy
Class of 1986
Newport
Treasurer: Ellen Kittich
Class of 1981
Cranston
Secretary: Inez Cote
Class of 1976
Narragansett
Past Pres.: Syd Cohen,
Class of 1940
Cranston

Directors to be elected for a two year term

Arthur Campbell
Class of 1963
Wakefield
Norma DiLibero
Class of 1981
Providence

Alumni Directors to be elected for a one year term

Suzanne Augenstein
Class of 1997
No. Scituate
Michelle Gregoire
Class of 1997
Narragansett
Phyllis Hunt
Class of 1980
Portsmouth
Joseph Parfenchuck
Class of 1997
No. Attleboro
Phyllis Lopes
Class of 1971
Providence
Mary Anne Nathan
Class of 1959
East Greenwich
Irene Rupert
Class of 1953
Pawtucket
Brett Williams
Class of 1994
Seekonk

At-Large Director

Lucia Napoli Amado
Class of 1982
Hope
Mother of two fulfills her destiny to teach

by Cynthia L. Sousa
What's News Writer

As a child, Peggy DeAngelis spent countless hours playing "school." In her own little world, she was always the teacher writing on the blackboard. The youngest of 11 children, DeAngelis should have taken this as a sign of things to come.

This month, this slightly older student, wife and mother will finally fulfill her destiny as she receives a bachelor's degree in elementary education/special education.

DeAngelis, who holds a 3.95 grade point average, took a rather crooked road to getting where she is today. Originally from Long Island, N.Y., she went to Holy Cross College after graduating from high school. After one year, she left to marry her husband Lou, who is from Italy. Lou got a job as an engineer in Rhode Island and they moved here.

DeAngelis had always had a fascination with art, architecture and design, and she enrolled in the interior design program at the Rhode Island School of Design. After receiving her degree, she taught classes at the Providence Learning Connection.

She soon became very involved in the community within East Providence where her two daughters, now 11 and 10 years old attend school. She joined the PTA organization and played a key role in raising projects.

DeAngelis became very active in a variety of activities within East Providence and was awarded the Elementary Education Faculty Award at the College's annual Cap and Gown Convocation on May 6.

For example, when one of her daughters first started school, DeAngelis was surprised to discover their school had no playground. She decided to do something about that and played a key role in raising funds, purchasing equipment and getting necessary approvals to create a playground at the school.

Working with the principals and teachers so closely, DeAngelis became envious of their profession. "Teaching is such a meaningful way to spend one's life," she said.

Although interior design was an interesting and fun career, DeAngelis wanted to do something that was more "human service oriented." She wanted to teach.

About that time, a friend who was attending Rhode Island College encouraged DeAngelis to go back to school. She enrolled even though she didn't know what to expect from the professors or herself since she'd been out of the classroom for a number of years.

Her worries were unfounded. She excelled in her courses and thoroughly enjoyed every one of them. "All of my professors have been top-notch," she said. "I can't say enough about them. It has been a great experience."

DeAngelis admits that going to school and raising a family can be difficult. Luckily, she had lots of help. Her father, who is a young 87-years-old and jogs 10 miles a day, helps with her children; her husband does all of the cooking, cleaning and encouraging; and her daughters give her neck massages while she works at the computer.

"I would never have been able to do it without them," she admitted.

All of the hard work has paid off. For her enthusiasm for learning and dedication to teaching DeAngelis was awarded the Elementary Education Faculty Award at the College's annual Cap and Gown Convocation on May 6.

DeAngelis is eager to start her new career and make a difference in the lives of her students. She believes that each child has an intelligence to offer, and that the teacher's task is to help each child develop a feeling of self-efficacy and the desire to become proactive. She does this not only in her classroom, but also through volunteering with Amos House and teaching a catechism class.

"I am doing my student teaching in Betty Vendituoli's collaborative class at Colt Andrews Middle School in Bristol and is truly enjoying the experience."

Vendituoli said that DeAngelis is an outstanding teacher. "It comes natural to her," she said. "Her enthusiasm, creativity and love for children is obvious in every lesson."

Vendituoli knows that DeAngelis has found her true calling. DeAngelis wants her children, family and friends to attend her graduation ceremony to see the fruits of her labor. "I want them to know that the long journey was worth it. I want to celebrate with them."

24 General Education Honors students to graduate

Twenty-four students at Rhode Island College will graduate this month with General Education Honors, reports Spencer Hall, director of the College Honors Program. And six more will complete their studies in January. Four of the graduates have completed distinguished senior honors projects and also will receive College honors.

The total number of students currently enrolled in the program is 235 and "interest seems to be at an all-time high," says Hall of the program which was instituted nearly a dozen years ago.

By the end of the semester, the College Honors Committee will have reviewed over 200 entering freshman applications for the fall, a record number, he says. Of these, it is expected that between 50 and 60 will be enrolled.

"Among them, we will welcome a small but growing number of students whose first language is not English, a testimonial both to the academic excellence and to the diversity of our student body," says Hall.

The May graduates listed below marked (College) are graduating with both General Education honors and College honors:

Brian Abalutzk, Natasha Axelson, Kristen Brown, Maria Cunliff, Melissa D'Urso, Michael DelSignore (College), Brian Dillen, Alissa Florio, Ana Freitas, Meredith Gallo, Sean Gillioly, Christine Horan and Melissa Karageorgos.

Also, Michele I. Kelly (College), Tracy Lafreniere, John Lahee (College), Scott Langlais, Heather Mitchell, Jane Monaghan, Stanley Ozlowski, Steven Pechie, Jason Rainone, Dean Scungio and Todd Scungio.

HONORS GRADS: A reception for graduating seniors in the College's Honors Program was held at the President's House on April 33. Among those attending were (seated l to r): Melissa Karageorgos, Jane Monaghan, Kristen Brown, Natasha Axelson, Todd Scungio and (standing l to r) Dean Scungio, Michael DelSignore, Honors Program director Spencer Hall, Steven Pechie and Sean Gillioly. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)
Cap and Gown Convocation honors outstanding seniors

The heavy rain that came down preceding Rhode Island College's annual Cap and Gown Convocation May 6 didn't dampen the spirits of the Class of 1998 as they donned academic attire for the first time, kicking off the commencement season for the institution's 144th year.

Graduating seniors, family members and friends nearly filled Roberts Hall auditorium as College administrative officers and department chairs or their representatives filled the stage on which outstanding students in the class were honored with various awards for achievement.

The ceremony was marked by several "firsts," notably the presentation of the ceremony on two wide screens at the front of the auditorium, courtesy of the departments of communication and audiovisual, the Computer Center and conferences and special events; the presentation of the first Katherine Murray Prize in honor of the memory of the professor who taught for many years in the secondary education and anthropology/geography departments; and the serving as marshals by R.O.S. (Slightly Older Students) as a group for the first time.

The latter, noted Kathryn M. Sasso, director of Ceremonies and Special Events, seemed appropriate given that so many students today are older than what is considered "normal college age."

Outstanding among the award-winning students honored was a blend of liberal and practical education, as evidenced by the academic awards, including the Eleanor M. McMahon Award in the College Honors Program. He also took top awards in mathematics and physical sciences with a perfect 4.0 in math and close to that in physics.

After the processional led by John B. Morgan, chair of the Council of RIC and associate professor of mathematics, and a stirring rendition of the National Anthem by graduating senior Donald A. Ringueste Jr., College President John N. Tsamtson officially welcomed the Class of 1998 and noted that the day was one for both celebration and reflection "as we look back on the long journey of the Class of 1998."

He also noted that the journey to this day had been longer for some than for others.

Chuckles rippled through the auditorium.

"Each of you has a story to tell; each of you has overcome obstacles in pursuit of your baccalaureate degree. That you have persevered in achieving your goals bodes well for your future."

"As we recognize your accomplishments, let us also pause to remember those who have helped you along the way: parents, spouses, children, family, friends, teachers, professors, advisors and others who have inspired you and helped to sustain you."

"They join with you in today's celebration and share in your success," he said.

Buffy M. Ferris, speaking for the graduating class, and she reminded her classmates, but "you are strong, intelligent and successful, so congratulations."

William F. Emerick, professor of philosophy, also addressed the students who had selected him for the honor.

He reminded them that college was a blend of liberal and practical education, and emphasized the importance of the former.

"The purpose of a liberal education is to free the students," he told them.

Gary M. Prefford, vice president for student affairs and dean of students, called for those seniors in the audience who had been selected to Who's Who in American Universities and Colleges to stand for recognition.

John J. Sabolke, vice president for academic affairs, assisted by departmental chairs or their representatives, presented departmental awards.

Nazarian led in the Cap and Gown invocations.

An introduction to the RIC Alumni Association was provided by Ryan J. Bridgham, senior class vice president. The senior class gift was presented by Connie A. Wool, secretary, and Brenda A. Horner, treasurer.

Musical selections were provided by the RIC Windensemble, Robert H. Frankland, conductor.

A GOOD FIT: Jennifer Silva tries on her cap just before the official ceremonies.

NEW THIS YEAR at Cap and Gown ceremonies are gigantic television screens that give the audience close-up views of the stage. On screens left and right, graduating vocalist Donald Ringueste, Jr., sings the National Anthem.

THEATRE MAJORS who will be heading for the bright lights are (1 to r) Jason Railana, Rebecca Bunn, Diane Fautsch, Denice Handren and Melissa D'Amico.

THREE CHEERS: Three happy seniors seen just before cere­mony begin are (1 to r) Jack Lelho, Dan Larson and Abraham Herrera.
Success speaks loud and clear

Outreach staffers Gurevich and Del LaCruz provide strong example for fellow immigrants

by Shelly Murphy
What's News Editor

If the students in the Outreach Programs ever doubt whether they can become successful, they have to do is look across the room or in the next office for inspiration. Staff members Leonard Gurevich and Vidal Del LaCruz could motivate even the most tired and frustrated individual with their personal stories.

A little help from friends

When Gurevich, his wife, and their two daughters immigrated to Latvia, they were referred to the Outreach Programs by the Rhode Island Community College Resettlement. In Latvia, he was a magazine journalist, one of his daughters was a physician and the other one just started her education in computers. The family came to Providence because his wife's mother lived here, but they couldn't speak English well enough to find work in their professions.

Now, after honing their English skills in the Outreach Programs and receiving specialized training such as job related terminology courses, his daughter who is a physician is finishing her residency in internal medicine this year at The Miriam Hospital and the daughter who is a computer programmer is working in Boston. Gurevich splits his time between helping others benefit from the Outreach Programs and working for Eliot Urgang, PhD, a Brown University professor who translates Russian scientific articles into English for publication. Urgang is a psychiatrist who also has a PhD in Russian. Gurevich is pleased to be working in the publication "vacation" again, but says, "I couldn't do it without working for him (Urgang)."

Upon hearing this, Dionne interjects, "He is just modest." She recalls how he taught himself to type faster in just two weeks to meet the requirements of the job. He also helps Urgang with the translation to make it as accurate and smooth as possible.

A long and winding road

Del LaCruz found his way to the Outreach Programs via the state training office about 15 years after he immigrated from the Dominican Republic. He and his wife arrived in New York with their four-month-old daughter in their arms and dreams of success in their heads. He quickly discovered that his three years of medical school from the Dominican Republic didn't count and the language barrier prevented him from continuing. Now, in addition to working on his English, he is enrolled in Outreach's electronics program and is planning to go to college for electronic engineering.

Bustos, who says she didn't expect to like the computer, was surprised at how much she does and how much she learns from it. Giroux says Bustos is at every open lab period and is often the first to arrive and the last to leave.

In addition to the CAELI project, Outreach Programs encompass three other programs to provide English language and vocational skills training. These programs are: Project GRAPIC (Giving Refugees a Promising Headstart in Computers); Training Responsible Adults in Computers and Electronics; and TRAMA (Training Refugees to be Medical Assistants). Students may be referred by a governmental program, such as the Department of Labor Training with funds through the Joint Training and Pension Program, or from a refugee agency, by their employer or by themselves. The referring organizations often cover the tuition for the students.

"The focus is employment. And no matter which training program they are in, learning English is the barrier," says Dionne. "We have physicians and people with PhDs who end up working in entry level jobs because they don't speak the language well enough or don't have the specific vocabulary."

The staff also helps the students acclimate to this country and to overcome the barriers between education and subsequent employment. These issues include transportation, day care issues, and even domestic abuse. "We are not only their teachers. We become their friends, their counselors," says Dionne, who is a licensed mental health counselor and conducts group and individual counseling sessions for students.

Several of the staff members are graduates of the programs including Leonard Gurevich, whose wife, and Del LaCruz, who works part-time as Dionne's administrative assistant and also serves as the bilingual counselor for the Russian refugees; and Vidal De La Cruz, who serves as the bilingual counselor for Hispanic students and the program recruiter. (See story below.)

All of the Outreach Programs are funded by grants, contracts and tuition. The program is being funded by a grant from the Alan Shown Feinstein Foundation and is seeking additional funds from the Rhode Island Foundation. The first class will graduate May 29 and students are already signed up for the next class.

LANGUAGE LEARNING: Teacher Jenifer Giroux (left) helps Mary Te, who speaks Cambodian, learn English, (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

discovered that the computer program can be a great asset in helping the student with very low-level English skills get involved sooner.

"We first started using the computer for simple writing assignments. Even the students with low level skills could do it on the computer," she recalls. This gave them confidence and help them move ahead.

The location of the Outreach Programs on the College's campus is a strong motivator for the students, according to Bustos and Karen Dionne, director of the Outreach Programs. "Being at RIC makes them want to learn more. When we toured the library one student said, 'Do you think I could be a student here?'" With their increased language skills and the familiarity and comfort-level gained from coming to the campus for class, it now seems possible for them to go to college, Giroux says.

The program has given Perez the confidence to continue his education. When he graduated from high school, he started working and tried to take a few classes at the Community College of Rhode Island, but the rigors of work and the language barrier prevented him from continuing. Now, in addition to working on his English, he is enrolled in Outreach's electronics program and is planning to go to college for electronic engineering.
Thank you, RIC student-athletes

The 1997-98 academic year and the 10th athletic season are drawing to a close. It has been a very good year as our teams continue to improve and the wins far outweigh the losses. I am also extremely proud of the many other accomplishments of our student-athletes that very often go unnoticed. They are extremely dedicated individuals who continually work at succeeding in the athletic arena, the classroom and in the community—all for the good name of Rhode Island College. Found in the page are images of buildings and students. If so, please remove them. I applaud the Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence with several of our student-athletes and coaches. I was so proud to see our student-athletes and coaches in action. They were helping young people with their athletic skills, signing autographs and just plain giving their time to our future generations. Very few people know how much time our student-athletes and coaches give to local charities, school sportsmanship events, and special events in the community.

So as the days left in this academic year wind down we recognize the athletic accomplishments of our student-athletes, but I want to extend my sincerest appreciation for the things they do beyond the athletic arena. The things that put a smile on a youngster's face when he finally makes that long-sought-after basket or the look of accomplishment as she spells a word correctly. Keep up the good work because you are making a difference.

Sports Roundup

Baseball

The baseball team has won five of its last seven games, improving its record to 12-15 overall and 4-7 in the Little East Conference. Head Coach Scott Cowpert has compiled a record of 5-5 to lead the team in that category. Rightfielder Mike Bell has hit .333 with 12 runs scored and 12 doubles in 25 games. Leftfielder Ben Libbey is hitting .404 as the squad's leadoff hitter. He has 11 doubles and two home runs. Silverio, Bento, Keith Croft, Chris Lyons and Dennis Soto each have two home runs.

Softball

The Anchorwomen are 18-16-1 overall and 6-6 in the Little East Conference. RIC has led in the conference's final, falling to Eastern Connecticut State University. Head Coach Mary Ann Harlin led her team to its third game this season at Salve Regina University on May 5.

Men’s and Women’s Track and Field

The men's and women's track and field team took part in the All-East Championships held at Bridgewater State College on April 25. The championships featured schools from the Little East Athletic Conference and the MACSC-RC finished ninth with 11 points. Fool Subin placed third in the 400 meters with a time of 60.06. Subin finished fourth in the 200 meters with a time of 27.98. Janet Moran was sixth in the 400 meters with a time of 64.84. The 4 x 100 relay team of Kerri Durbord, Stephanie Florio, Moran and Subin placed sixth with a time of 53.93.

Men’s Tennis

The Anchorwomen finished the 1998 season with an overall record of 7-5. Coach Dick Ernst's team was their final four matches of the year in a row. The team finished third at the LEC Championships with 12 total points earlier in the season.

Pat Prendergast owns the club's top singles record, posting an 9-4 record in 13 matches. Prendergast had the top singles winning percentage on the team, winning nearly 70 percent of his matches. Prendergast also led the team with 11.5 points.

Senior captain Joe Ramos was 6-6 (5.000) in singles matches and 5-7 (41%) in doubles action. Ramos was tied with Joe Testa for second on the team with 17 points.

Testa and Prendergast played the entire season at number two doubles. The two compiled a record of 5-5 to lead the team in that category.

Seniors, outstanding athletes honored at annual dinner

The Rhode Island College Department of Intercollegiate Athletics, Intramurals and Recreation held its annual awards dinner at Donovan Dining Center on Saturday, May 9.

Senior Kelly Longo was named the women's tennis team's MVP. Lange, who also received the Helen M. Murphy award for contributions to RIC athletics, led the team in singles and doubles victories. She owns a career record of 24-20 in singles and 19-17 in doubles matches.

Jessica Arrighi was the women’s volleyball team's Most Valuable Player. An impressive accomplishment considering she is only a freshman. Arrighi ranked in the top five on the squad in virtually every offensive category. She led the team in hitting percentage and service aces.

Freshman Laurie Giguer received the men's and women's cross country team's Most Valuable Player award. She posted consistent times throughout the fall, running her best time of 21.53 at the Little East Championships. Giguer was also a qualifier to the ECAC Division III Championships.

Senior Kenny Bliss was named the men's basketball team's Most Valuable Player. He posted a record of 6-6 at number two singles and 5-7 at number two doubles. Ramos made it to the quotenews of the Little East Conference Tournament in the number two singles flight.

Freshman Keely Subin was the men's and women's track and field team's Most Valuable Player. Subin has placed in the top ten in the 200 meters in four of five meets this season. She capped off the fall, running her best time of 21.53 at the Little East Championships. Giguer was also a qualifier to the ECAC Division III Championships.

Senior Oscar Vitor was the women's basketball team's MVP. Taylor, an Honorable Mention to the All-Little East team, played an important role on RIC's 7-7 and ECAC Tournament qualifying team. She led the Anchorwomen in scoring and rebounding, averaging 11.3 points and 6.0 boards per game.

Senior Jason Cornicelli was named the wrestling team's Most Valuable Player. He was named a Pilgrim Wrestling League All-Star and finished third in New England at 150 pounds. Cornicelli ranked in the top five in the Pilgrim League in take-downs and escapes.

Senior Laura Murphy was the women's gymnastics team's Most Valuable Player. Murphy, a 1998 National Collegiate Gymnastics Association Academic All-American, placed fourth in all-around on the LEC Championship in all-around competition with a mark of 38.325.

Senior Kevin Williams was named the baseball team's Most Valuable Player. One of the top back­up pitchers for the Anchorwomen, he has caught every game for RIC. He is batting .308 with 16 RBI and 15 runs scored.

Sophomore catcher Jennifer Sabatelli was the softball team's MVP. Sabatelli made the move from the outfield to the plate this spring. As a catcher, Sabatelli has caught every game for RIC. She is batting .308 with a high-22 runs scored and 14 runs batted in.

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Kvium is a Danish painter and multimedia artist. O'Malley's observations on his paintings were complemented by an accompanying essay by curator Lennart Gottlieb, who organized the exhibition with support from the Sony, Thomson, and Fredgaard corporations.

This was O'Malley's third published essay on Danish artists in the past two years.

His first project, an essay on the digital photographer and painter Balder Olrik was quoted by Barry Schwabsky in the Times. How did O'Malley arrive at his point of view? "This all started with a Bannister Gallery exhibit which I sponsored with HBS student volunteers (I & r) Brent Todero and Courtney Woodcock. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

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Combination of luck and perseverance make good story for RIC Alum journalist

by Paul Tencher
What's News intern

L
ife after Rhode Island College can be hectic. Looking for a job can be incredibly frustrating and it always seems as if there are more downs than ups. Joseph Hutnak, Class of 1993, and new editor of the East Greenwich Pendulum, has a message for all of you out there in graduate school: A "stroke of luck" will come around! For positive proof of this look, Hutnak's story.

Hutnak's journey into a career in journalism came through an unusual mode. When he entered RIC he was initially interested in becoming a French teacher. He bulked up on courses in language and European history.

In his freshman studies he took a mandatory journalism course. Hutnak didn't think much about the class since he really had no interest in the subject. This ethics class was taught by Carl E. Stenberg, now professor emeritus, who became his mentor. Hutnak really didn't think much of it, but he kept it in the back of his mind.

"Before the class I was an outsider. Now I wanted to be part of the solution," says Hutnak of Al-Ashmawy, and how he began to see the problems with the media's standards.

"His (Eckert's) wealth of information and the way he helped me because I had a real live resource that I could call and ask What do you think?" was the biggest lesson from that time.

It was about this time that Hutnak met another inspiration in his early career as a journalist, Clare Eckert. Eckert helped him change in image, but more importantly a change in education. "I looked around my French classes and history classes and that wasn't where I wanted to be. All of a sudden I took English classes."

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Foundation Gala great success: $10,000 raised for honors scholarships

About 170 friends of Rhode Island College attended the ninth annual Foundation Gala on April 24 at the Westin Hotel. The event honored four individuals and raised money for honors scholarships. This year's honorees are: Arlyne Harrower of Chepachet, posthumously; Theresa Howe and Mary Juskalian, both of Providence; and Frank Montanaro of Cranston.

CONSIDERING VAN GOGH print during the silent auction are (l & r) Jeanne Rose, Class of 1962, and Pauline Dubuc. Over 60 items, all donated by alumni and friends of the College were offered during the silent auction.

(Gary Penfield, vice president for student affairs and dean of students, dances with Ginny Perleson. Music was provided by the Bob Saraceno Band featuring Clay Osborne.)

Photos by Gordon E. Rowley

HONOREES of the RIC Foundation gala (l to r ) Ellen, Dona and Jamie Harrower, daughter-in-law and daughters, respectively, of the late Arlyne Harrower, honoree; Joseph Neri, Foundation president; honoree Theresa Howe; College President John Nazarian; and honorees Mary Juskalian and Frank Montanaro.