What's News At Rhode Island College

10-19-1998

Rhode Island College

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Alumni celebrate, create traditions and memories

by Shelly Murphy
What's News Editor

With about two dozen activities packed into a 48-hour period and several other events within the week, Homecoming '98 did indeed live up to its billing of offering something for everyone. For the second consecutive year alumni were invited to "Come Back to RIC," and some did.

Several thousand alumni and friends came back to the College to revive old memories and traditions and create new ones. Groups with a strong showing included the Class of 1963, with 25 class members attending, and the Class of 1963 with 44 class members. Alumni came from coast-to-coast, from Narragansett, RI, to San Francisco, Calif., to Corvallis, Ore., to Fort Lauderdale, Fla., and points in between.

"From Friday evening's Alumni Cabaret performance through Saturday evening's historic dedication, we were highlighting the successes of our alumni. Our alumni represented 20 different states and our most successful reunions were from the classes of 1958 and 1963. The committees representing these classes worked for months planning events such as a night at Lincoln Hall," said Dean David E. Nelson for his long history of service to the community, the College, his profession and to students.

"His exemplary record shows his commitment to service-as-professional responsibility, service-as-teaching and, most importantly, service-as-humanitarian endeavor," said Nelson.

As the Thorp Professor, Oehlkers will deliver the Mary Tucker Thorp Lecture Thursday, Oct. 29, at 4 p.m. in the Faculty Dining Center. The title of the lecture is "The Three Faces of Service.

"Service, seen as professional responsibility, occupies much of Bill's time," noted Nelson.

The committee representing the class of 1958 was named the 1997-98 Thorp Professor. William J. Oehlkers of Barrington, a professor of elementary education, has been named the 1997-98 Thorp Professor in the Feinstein School of Education and Human Development at Rhode Island College.

At the groundbreaking for the $9.5 million new Performing Arts Classroom Facility at Rhode Island College on Nov. 2, Gov. Lincoln Almond formally recommended the new facility be named in honor of College President John Nazarian.

"Rhode Island College graduates are accomplished teachers and professors in the performing arts. They're acting on Broadway. Many are critically acclaimed artistes, composers and musicians. Some are even television stars," Almond said. "That says a lot about the education they receive here. "And let me just say, I can't think of a more fitting tribute to College President John Nazarian than to name this beautiful building in his honor. His vision and leadership have meant a world of difference to the College. That's why I am officially recommending the Board of Governors name this facility the John Nazarian Performing Arts Classroom Facility."

After a tearful congratulatory hug from his sister and thunderous applause from the crowd of about 200 gathered for this long-awaited event, Nazarian returned to the podium, stating, "How do you follow an act like that?"

Governor recommends naming facility to honor Nazarian

by Shelly Murphy
What's News Editor

Groundbreaking ceremonies for the new Performing Arts Classroom Facility took place Oct. 2 in the parking lot east of Roberts. L to r are Elia Germani and Jack Keigwin of the Board of Governors for Higher Education; Brian Hodess of Hodess Building Co.; architect William Warner; Michael Ryan of the Board of Governors; Gov. Lincoln Almond; RIC President John Nazarian; John Sullivan and Deborah Smith of the Board of Governors; Eleanor McMahon, former Commissioner of Higher Education; and Stephen Hubert, present Commissioner of Higher Education. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

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See Groundbreaking, page 4

Where are they now...

by Shelly Murphy
What's News Editor

Some college students take four or more years to "find themselves," both intellectually and with regard to a vocation. Then there are people such as David Jenkins, Class of 1989, who know what they want from the very beginning. A native of South Kingstown and son of an accountant, David pursued a double major at RIC: accounting and computer information systems. He had chosen RIC partly because it offered "a lot of value for your dollar." But after he got here he found that classes were small and the faculty cared. He particularly remembers Prof. Al Stecker as "a great help and great motivator," and Prof. Crist Dostie, who heightened David's awareness of the importance of interpersonal skills in the business world.

Straight out of the College he got a job at Metropolitan Insurance Co., where he worked in computer systems programming. In 1992 he married classmate Toni Scungio, who had been a math and computer science major at RIC. Then have two girls: Alex, 3, Brooke, 2, and a third child on the way.

In 1997 he became a contract software developer for Fidelity Investments in Boston. Driving to South Attleboro from Greenville, then taking the train every day to Boston was not David's favorite part of the job but Fidelity was...well, Fidelity.

Then this year, as if in answer to a prayer, Fidelity (and David) moved to its new facility in Smithfield, five minutes from his house.

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Focus on Faculty and Staff

Joan Glazer, professor of elementary education, presented a luncheon session address entitled “A Peaceful Future through Children’s Literatures” at the 26th World Congress of the International Board of Books for Young People in New Delhi, India, in September. Glazer, a graduate of the University of Delaware, has been a member of the Rhode Island Association of Administrators of Higher Education (RIAAO) for the past 10 years. RIAAO’s membership includes representatives from all colleges and universities in the state. It is the sponsor of the state’s only national, regional college fair, which was held the third Sunday of October at the Community College of Rhode Island’s Warwick campus. Glazer is also serving as co-chair of exhibits for the New England Academic & Professional Conference (NEACRAO) annual conference to be held in Nashua, NH in November.

Anne K. Petry, professor of elementary education and co-coordinator of the Rhode Island Geography Education Alliance, has been elected to the Executive Planning Board of the National Council for Geographic Education. NCGE has over 4,200 members, including both university-based geographers and educators in elementary and secondary schools throughout the United States, Puerto Rico and Canada. Membership in this professional organization has rapidly expanded over the past 20 years, due to national interest and widespread efforts to increase and improve geography education. Petry’s three-year term on the Curriculum and Instruction Committee of the Board begins Jan. 1.

Barry Schiller, professor of mathematics, recently presented a talk entitled “Very Large Numbers” at the Northeastern Section of the Mathematical Association of America meeting at Keene State College, New Hampshire. A variety of ways was presented of encouraging competency in dealing with very large numbers, which can be used in elementary statistics, quantitative literacy, teacher training, and in higher division courses. At this meeting Schiller also presented the opening address entitled “Large Amplitude Periodic Behavior in a Nonlinear Mechanical System.”


Adams Library in the process of ‘going digital’

by George LaTour
What’s News Associate Editor

The task of putting Rhode Island College’s Adams Library “on-line” was described this week as “a work in progress” by the library director. Richard A. Olsen reports that the foundation has been set for the library to “go digital” but the work will go on for some time yet before it is complete.

RIC and five other institutions of higher learning in Rhode Island have been the recipients of approximately a half-million dollars in grants over the past several years toward this end — putting catalogs, lists of articles and, at times, the articles themselves and a host of other research materials on the Internet for easy access by students, faculty and others.

“Not at all,” insists Olsen. “Going digital” portends the eventual elimination of libraries? 

“Does ‘going digital’ portend the eventual elimination of libraries? Not at all,” insists Olsen. “We may decide sometime in the future — we’re in transition now — that we need no more libraries actually on the shelf, but we’ll always have books.”

**WHAT’S NEWS AT RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE**

Director of News and Public Relations: Clare Eckert
Editor: Shelly Murphy
Associate Editor: George LaTour
Staff: Pauline McCartney, Word Processing Supervisor; Gordon E. Rowley, Photographers; Cynthia L. Sowis, Written Technical Assistant

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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 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 for pictures portraying past College life.

**HOMECOMING ’94:** With the revival of Homecoming in the last two years, it’s appropriate that we look back at an earlier version of the same event. Back in the late 1970s and early ’80s, Homecoming focused on the soccer game, with its pre-game float parade and day-long tailgate parties. Above, cheerleaders and other students pose in front of their nautical “float.” (File Photo)

**WHAT’S NEWS**

Monday, Oct. 19, 1998
Walter Jasiownowski nears the finish line

Walter Jasiownowski ran a 59 minutes-plus race without incident. According to local legend, he ran that race to prove to the “sunny side of 40” that he could have a heart attack. The legend appears to have been true.

Walter’s wife, Carol, and his 11-year-old son, Jason, were on hand to see him cross the finish line. His wife, the former Carol Midura, and their 11-year-old son, Jason, did just that—ran to the top of the mountain.

The day-long event is being organized by the Dialogue on Diversity Committee at two sites on campus:

Promising Practices Committee (with Elizabeth Pytowski as chair) and the Cultural Media Fair with Workshops (with DeCredico and Janette van den Hout as chair).

The entire program is free and open to the public.

Authors speak on ‘North Pole Legacy’

S. Allen Counter, author of North Pole Legacy: River, White and Eskimo, will lecture on the “North Pole Legacy” Thursday, Oct. 22, at 1 p.m. in the Science Building 125. Counter, a neurophysiologist at Harvard Medical School and director of the Harvard-Polar Position, will give an account of his journey to the northernmost settlements in Greenland in search of a pair of the great-grandsons of Robert E. Peary and Matthew A. Henson.

The book explores the racial prejudices embedded in the 1906 polar expedition as well as conversations with those who worked to ensure the preservation of Peary’s legacy. The book also explores the legacy of those represented in the Peary-Henson Expedition: the African-American who was navigator, translator and mechanic on that expedition, receives full recognition for his contribution to the discovery of the North Pole. This fall, he ran in the Harvard Health and Seekonk Road races. At some point in the future, he says he’ll consider running in the Ocean State Marathon and, who knows, maybe even the grueling Boston Marathon. Would he ever attempt to run Mount Washington again? Absolutely.

Dialogue on Diversity Committee sponsors day-long fair, Promising Practices

Promising Practices: a Multi-Cultural Media Fair with Workshops, whose aim is to place K-12 natives in meaningful conversation with a variety of resource persons, exhibitors and diversity experts, is set for Saturday, Nov. 7, at Rhode Island College. Participation is open to students and faculty.

One group — the Road Runners from Rhode Island — had 40 runners in the race. A native Rhode Islander who grew up in Pawtucket, Walter graduated from Tulman High and then joined the Navy, serving in the Great Lakes area in Michigan for about a year and a half.

He then attended several colleges studying culinary arts and business administration before attending RIC where he earned a degree in vocational and industrial education in 1989. He’s worked at the Donovan Dining Center at RIC for the past nine years and is a member of the American Culinary Federation.

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Call for honorary degree nominations

The Honorary Degrees Committee of the Council of RIC has issued a campus-wide call for nominations of individuals worthy of consideration for honorary degrees to be awarded at the 1999 commencement ceremonies. Forms can be obtained by calling Michael De Geest-Van Gruisen, director of student government and assistant to the dean of students, or by sending an e-mail to msmith@ric.edu. Nominations of individuals worthy of consideration for honorary degrees to be awarded at the 1999 commencement ceremonies. Forms can be obtained by calling Michael De Geest-Van Gruisen, director of student government and assistant to the dean of students, or by sending an e-mail to msmith@ric.edu. Deadlines for nominations are Friday, Oct. 30, at 5 p.m.
School of Social Work ribbon cutting ‘a good day for us’

by George LaTour
What's News Associate Editor

At the ribbon-cutting ceremony Oct. 2 for the new site of the Rhode Island College School of Social Work, Dean George D. Metrey read a letter from President John Nazarian, a 1954 graduate of Rhode Island College, which opened as the College’s performing arts classroom facility. Nazarian had hoped to build the facility that is worthy of their talent, said Nazarian in his remarks, prior to the governor’s announcement. “The road has been a long one.”

A bond issue to finance it was narrowly defeated in 1976 and again in 1978. “But the College never lost hope. At RIC, we never do.” For generations, this institution has been a beacon of hope and opportunity for all Rhode Islanders, and in pursuit of a first-class performing arts program, the College has never waivered,” Nazarian told the crowd.

Finally, in 1996, the voters approved the $9.5 million bond issue to build the facility. Meanwhile, the College had continued to develop its academic and performance offerings “knowing that when the time was right, the resources would become available to build this facility.”

Today is that day, Nazarian proclaimed. “All I can say to you today is thank you for keeping the faith. I hope that you can all be with us once again in about 16 months as the facility opens its doors to students and to the public.”

Then, RIC’s beacon of hope and opportunity will shine brighter than ever because the architect, William Warner, has incorporated this concept literally into the plans. He has designed a tower over the main entrance upon which a beacon will be placed. This beacon will be illuminated on performance nights.

The beacon is just one of the symbolic elements of the building design. To preserve and celebrate the College’s heritage, significant artifacts from the College’s four previous homes were salvaged and incorporated into the design. Part of this heritage will be represented by the actual columns that stood at the entrance to the old buildings. Nazarian noted that the College’s home exactly 100 years ago.

In addition, a number of the original yellow — and very heavy — bricks from the College’s former buildings, serve as reminders of the history that has played out at the College and the acts yet to unfold in the new performing arts classroom facility.

Nazarian presented Almond with one of the ceremonial bricks with an engraved plaque commemorating the groundbreaking ceremony.

Then, in a series of five ceremonial groundbreaking rites, individuals involved in making the dream of a new facility close to a reality “broke ground” in the parking lot adjacent to Roberts Hall.

This groundbreaking, the culmination of two years of planning, marks the transition from planning to building, stated Leonore DelLucia, vice president of administration and finance, and45073 finance, as she introduced Nazarian, referring to him as: “The prime dreamer and planner of Rhode Island College. At the time, his building has propelled us forward. He has been the engine and the steersman of the vision that got us here today,” she said.

Construction crews began preparing the work site, including erecting a protective fence, last week. The firm constructing the building is Hodes Building Co.
Comedian dispenses doses of witty stress management and motivational advice with generous scoops of humor

by Shelly Murphy

What's News Editor

About 200 alumni, parents and staff members made the choice to go see Comedian Judy Carter at Homecoming '98 in Gaige Hall on Saturday, Oct. 2. In the words of Carter, they made "a humor choice" and based on the uproarious laughter that peppered her hour-long presentation "Parents Letting Go," they were glad they did.

A cartoony blend of stand-up comic and stress management, she brought her nationally known presentation to Rhode Island College as part of the offerings for the combined Homecoming and Family Day. Carter, a former teacher ("I couldn't handle all the money and prestige") dispensed doses of advice with a heavy portion of humor to make the medicine go down. On this morning, she was talking specifically to parents of incoming freshman and the students, but her tips for managing stressful transitions and life itself, like the humor, hit home with the entire audience.

"Some of you might be worried that your kids might make the same mistakes you made," she said. "Twenty years ago, all we cared about was dressing up, and rock and roll. And we had a president who was going to be impeached... Maybe things weren't so different," she concluded over the laughter.

Recalling the day when she left to go to college, she said, "My mother was wearing sunglasses. I thought this odd because it was raining. Then I realized she was crying. She walked over to her Visa card."

At the time Carter said she didn't understand. She just wanted to get away from the tears fast. Now, she understands, "I cried when my dogs were eating away at my yard."

"Make a humor choice. You can choose to get stressed out and drunk or laugh and drink," she joked. On a serious note, she said, "We must get ourselves together and realize that we are getting riled up. And to the parents she said, "You think, 'I won't be able to work, I'll get depressed.' I'll shout myself and then I'll be dead."

Those are unrealistic fears. If you don't do well on a test, what's really going to happen? You'll take it again.

And parents, you worry because you love them, she said. When we worry, "we plan the wreckage of our future. We put our fears on our kids. We need to transfer positive images."

Cross your arms, she instructed the audience. Now, cross them the other way. She said, "It feels uncomfortable, doesn't it? That's because we aren't used to doing it that way. We don't like change."

But we have more change in our lives than our parents did, she said, observing that her father had one job, one wife. "He could depend on his job, his wife, his pension. Today, the one thing that we can depend on is that we'll wear Depends," Carter said, referring to the television commercials advertising incontinence products.

"It's scary when we watch TV. Are all Baby Boomers incontinent or just lazy? " she joked.

Carter urged the parents in the audience to view this transition as an opening -- to try something different and to take risks. She noted that historically people have made some of the greatest contributions of their lives between the ages of 45 and 70.

"Parenting skills can transfer," she said. "Look at Madeline Albright. As Secretary of State, she went into Bosnia and said, 'don't care who started it, just stop it right now.' What we need is a mother. Look at Exxon, 'clean up that mess or your stranded.'"

She recalled how she made a major transition in her life when she took a leap of faith and started Carter's Book Shop. She could write books, so I became an author. It was an opening, a chance to start over.

She urged the audience to identify what they really want to do and then realize that as you do that, you are willing to work. "I heard one person to next them on accomplishing that goal. The auditorium filled with nervous laughter as strangers, friends and family revealed their personal goals to each other in an unusual way.

"What's keeping you from achieving that goal, she quipped. Because we're afraid to take the risk, afraid we'll look silly, she told the audience to answer. She advised the audience to stop worrying about what they'll look like in 10 years or what they are "supposed to be."

"Know that you are OK and everybody else is screwed up. Know that you are a human being."

If we can't accept our own imperfections, we'll be highly critical of others. "If we continue to persist in your life," she said.

And finally, she offered one last tip: "Think of a time when two or more people are in an argument or confrontational situation, 'What if you agree with them? It changes the dynamic," she said.

Carter said she used this technique when pulled over for speeding. "I say, Thank you for giving me a ticket. I was speeding. You are doing a great job."

And, "You are the traffic cop, your ticket as legal protection because they are expecting resistance. She says, she hasn't received a ticket yet using this approach.

In closing she reminded the audience, "Life is like a pizza, while you are making other plans."

She added, "We are so busy spinning plates, we don't notice what's happening around us."

Carter's presentation was followed by concurrent parent workshops on communications and drug and alcohol use.

NOTED COMEDIAN Judy Carter, who spoke Oct. 3 at Homecoming '98 in Gaige Hall auditorium. The topic of her talk was "Parents Letting Go." (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

Thorp professor

Continued from page 1

by William Oehlkers

What's News Editor

For several years helping to establish standards and frameworks to guide student learning and achievement.

He came to this commitment following his sabbatical in New Zealand with his wife, Lois. There, he says, they saw the positive impact of national standards on student achievement.

He conducted workshops for fourth grade teachers in Rhode Island to help them prepare for testing students on the New Standards Reference Examination in language arts.

His grant-funded work with the North Scottie school district in literacy and computers has helped establish a base line of professional development for teachers and college students. He supports the field of reading by editing The Rhode Island Reading Review.

His commitment to the growth and health of the College and his department are seen in his services on such committees as the Shinn Study Abroad Fund, the Friends of Adams Library, the Feinstein School of Education and Human Development Governance Committee, and his service as department chair during the last accreditation process.

"Service as teaching captures Bill's level of teaching and commitment to student understanding of global issues," said Nelson, citing his development and teaching of a General Education 2000 core course titled "Global Development and World Hunger."

"Perhaps the most important way of understanding Bill's commitment to service is through his enduring commitment to service-as-human endeavor," said Nelson.

He has served his community through church, through lobbying efforts at the state and local government levels, and through participation at a Providence soup kitchen.

Oehlkers holds a bachelor of science in education degree from Concordia College in Illinois, a master’s degree in education from Johns Hopkins University in Maryland, and a doctorate in reading from the University of Maine.

Prior to joining the RIC faculty in 1971, he served as a laboratory school supervisor, reading consultant and classroom teacher.

The Thorp Professorship honors the contributions of Mary Tucker Thorp, a 1921 RIC graduate. The College spanned 41 years, from 1926 to 1967. In the Feinstein School of Education and Human Development, the Thorp Professorship is an award that rotates annually among professional service, scholarship and distinguished teaching.

continued from page 2

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NOTED COMEDIAN Judy Carter, who spoke Oct. 3 at Homecoming '98 in Gaige Hall auditorium. The topic of her talk was "Parents Letting Go." (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)
Homecoming '98 entertains and educates RIC alumni, friends and family

Homecoming '98 on Oct. 2 & 3, was billed as "something for everyone." Here is a look at only a handful of the many attractions.

Clockwise from upper right: "Dr. Smellsofine" of the Big Naxo Puppets entertains a couple of undergraduates on the College esplanade. Alumni Director Ellie O'Neill and Alumni President Joe Neri wave to the crowd from a window in Craig-Lee, during RIC-TAC-TOE, the College's take-off on the popular TV quiz show Hollywood Squares. Ryan Patrick, 13, is stuck in a Velcro tunnel at the Velcro Olympics, while (far right) Rodrigo Cordoba, also 13, climbs "Rocky Mountain," The American Band, under the direction of Gene J. Pollart, gives a concert on the esplanade. Holly Omigie, 5, creates "spin art" under the watchful eye of her father, Andrew, at the Kids' Activities Fair the Student Union Ballroom. Associate Professor of Art Hoong Kim helps Anna Blankstein (left) and Elaine Guny Cohen, both Class of 1941, "Explore the Internet and Web" during a workshop in Henry Barnard School. Finally, the two alumni soccer teams, the even-year alums in white, the odd-years in blue. The odd-years won 6-2. (See below their photo for names of the players.)

Photos and text by
Gordon E. Rowley

ALUMNI WIN AGAIN! (But of course, both teams were alums.) 
L to r front row: Joao Rosario, Class of '84; Joe Silvestro '95; Alfonso DiGregorio '79; Matt Giannusa '90; Joe Potenti '92; John Foley, Jr. '92; Ralph GlenFrancoese '91; Domenico Palerma '77; Rick Hoppe '79; Peter Connell '91; and Mike Pezzino '77. Second row L to r: Zeb Lopes '70; Malcolm MacDonald '94; David Robinson '84; Dennis Brob '78; Carleton "Del" Delando '82; Chris Blanchette '98; mascot Michael Austin Foley, 2, and his grandfather coach John Foley '67; official Dennis Bred '79; Mike Schwart '79; Howard Boyes '80; Paul Crei '95; Joseph Coelho '93; Fernando Silvestri '93; Antonio Barrera '92 and Louis Cabra '90. 


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Photos and text by
Gordon E. Rowley

ALUMNI WIN AGAIN! (But of course, both teams were alums.) L to r front row: Joao Rosario, Class of '84; Joe Silvestro '95; Alfonso DiGregorio '79; Matt Giannusa '90; Joe Potenti '92; John Foley, Jr. '92; Ralph GlenFrancoese '91; Domenico Palerma '77; Rick Hoppe '79; Peter Connell '91; and Mike Pezzino '77. Second row L to r: Zeb Lopes '70; Malcolm MacDonald '94; David Robinson '84; Dennis Brob '78; Carleton "Del" Delando '82; Chris Blanchette '98; mascot Michael Austin Foley, 2, and his grandfather coach John Foley '67; official Dennis Bred '79; Mike Schwart '79; Howard Boyes '80; Paul Crei '95; Joseph Coelho '93; Fernando Silvestri '93; Antonio Barrera '92 and Louis Cabra '90.
Homecoming ’98
Continued from page 1

Park, Bay Cruise, brunch and tables at the Alumni Cabaret—said Ellie O’Neill, director of Alumni Affairs.

Homecoming ’98 activities actually started with the Alumni Golf Tournament on Monday, Sept. 28 which drew 100 golfers and raised $8,500 for the RICCher Fund. The official kick-off of Homecoming ’98 was the groundbreaking for the new performing arts classroom facility and the ribbon-cutting for the School of Social Work’s new home on Friday, Oct. 2.

Several later hours eyes shifted to the stage in the Donovan Dining Center for the return of the Alumni Cabaret (see story, page 10) and to the Trinity Brewhouse for the Young Alumni Group Kick-Off Event.

Young Alumni Group

The Young Alumni Group’s debut event was a tremendous success even though many of the 100 or so pre-registered alumni spent the evening stuck in a major traffic jam that essentially immobilized Providence when a tractor-trailer overturned on I-195. Even so, there were representatives from each of the 12 years included in the Young Alumni Group (1987-1998) as well as representatives from the classes of 1989, 1990 and 1991 and even a soon-to-be 1999 graduate, according to event coordinator Phyllis Hunt. The group shared stories and laughs with old friends, made new friends, and updated their extended RIC family on their lives.

Alumni surfers

In addition, some alumni took advantage of the opportunity to surf the Web for the first time or to gain more experience on the web during the workshop entitled “Explore the Internet” facilitated by Heemong Kim, associate professor of art. For Anna Blankstein, Class of 1941, the experience was indeed “new” since it was her first time using a computer.

The former Woonsocket teacher who retired after 36 years in the profession introduced the basics of Internet access and found the technology truly amazing. “I want to learn more about it,” she said.

For Paul Colardo, Class of 1987, who has been dabbling with the Internet for the past four months, the workshop was a chance to learn a little more about accessing the Internet and Web pages. He said he “came back to RIC” for Homecoming to see the campus that he always enjoyed “I like this place,” he said. His son, Michael, is a freshman at RIC and may return soon to supplement his industrial technology degree with a masters degree.

RIC-Tac-Toe and other games

Meanwhile, the mall was beginning to bustle with activity of kids (of body and/or spirit) playing Velcro Olympics, scaling the Rocky Mountain Climbing Wall, and enjoying the music of The American Band which entertained not only those on the mall itself, but also those gathered for RIC-Tac-Toe — the college’s own version of the old television game show “Hollywood Squares.” Hosts Kristen Salami, director of student activities, and Eric Butash had College President John Nazarian and Dolores Passarelli, director of OASIS, occupying the center square of the game, which is based on the even older game of tic-tac-toe.

Other “celebs” occupying squares were Frank Anzevono and Alan Saleni, representing the Recreation Center; students Mike Zappa and Jessica Tempest, representing Student Community Government, Inc.; Rich Hollis, hall director and Jessie Maurice, student resident assistant (RA); professors Bob Castiglione and Jim Bierden, representing the faculty; Vice President Gary Penfield and Father Joe Pescatello, representing student affairs; Ellie O’Neill, director of alumni affairs; and Joseph Neri, Class of 1969, Holly Shadoian, director of undergraduate admissions; husband Charlie, Class of 1986 and president of the RIC Foundation; and son Jeffrey, Phyllis Hunt, of career development, and Kathy Sasso, director of conferences and special events.

Audience contestants representing “X” and “O” were asked to pick a square of celebs to answer trivia questions such as “Do whales have a sense of smell,” “What will Haley’s Comet next return?” or “What is Madonna’s real name?”

After the celebs, adorned with outrageous props such as rubber toma­­­­hawks, yo-yos, funny hats or soap bubbles, answered the question, often comically, contestants were asked if they agreed or disagreed with the celeb’s answer.

The contestant to make “tie-tac-toe” first was the lucky winner of one of the very colorful and sought after Homecoming “T-shirts.”

Highlights of the afternoon included a student/faculty recital, athletic events, and Successfully Speaking, a panel presentation by successful multi-cultural alumni and friends. The day concluded with the Athletic Dedication Ceremonies honoring former inductees of the RIC Athletic Hall of Fame and former winners of the John E. Hetherman/Helen M. Murphy awards, the Dayna A. Bazar Memorial Softball Field and the Marocco Family Student-Athlete Academic Center.

At the Hall of Fame and Individual Recognition Dinner which followed the ceremonies, a surprise announcement was made the induction of College President Nazarian as an honorary Hall of Fame member. (See story, page 9)

Homecoming ’98 concluded just as it opened — with a golf tournament on Sunday. About 35 participants in the Athletic Golf Tournament raised funds to support athletic programs.

THE PANEL of Homecoming ’98’s “Successfully Speaking,” a workshop that highlighted the successes of multicultural alumni, consisted of alumni who are faculty and staff at Rhode Island colleges and universities. Left to right are Keisha Gonzalez and her husband Osias of Benk+Boston, Class of 1998; Antoinette Littlejohn, counselor at the Community College of Rhode Island, Class of 1978; and Kenneth Walker, professor-emeritus of educational studies. (What’s News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)
Rhode Island College held their first-ever baseball and the annual men's soccer alumni games during the Homecoming festivities on Oct. 3. Nazarian, as they were treated to hors d'oeuvres, some of California's finest wines, and the sounds of a string quartet. Attendees were able to amble around the lobby inspecting the individual hall of fame plaques that had been erected in tribute to each inducement.

Following a welcome by Athletic Director Don Tencher, Nazarian agenda as Nazarian was joined by donors Steve and Linda Marocco as they cut the ribbon to officially open the Center which will provide academic and life skills support to RIC's 300 student-athletes.

The sisters of John E. Hetherman, Class of 1940, Julia H. West and B. Marie Hetherman Dunn, joined the President in cutting the ribbon to officially dedicate a most fitting tribute to Helen Murphy and the late Hetherman. These awards are presented on an annual basis to RIC's outstanding senior male and female student-athletes.

The ceremony in the new athletic building concluded with Nazarian unveiling a permanent plaque honoring those members of the RIC Athletic Hall of Fame. This plaque will serve as a lasting tribute to those inductees who contributed so much to the spirit and history of RIC athletics.

Guests moved to the Donovan Dining Center where they were treated to a first class dinner served by the College's dining staff.

Following the nosh, individual presentations symbolic of the evening were made to all of the Murphy and Hetherman Award winners as well as all of the Hall of Famers in attendance.

The final event of the evening was a visual presentation conducted by Director of Development Peg Brown which detailed RIC's long athletic history, the successes of its student-athletes and the growth of its athletic program. The evening concluded with a special induction of RIC's newest Hall of Fame inductee, John Nazarian (see box for details).


Homecoming 'reconnects' RIC athletic family

by Scott Gibbons

Sports Information Director

Rhode Island College held their first-ever baseball and the annual men's soccer alumni games during the Homecoming festivities on Oct. 3. The varsity baseball team scrimmaged the baseball alumni prior to the Anchormen's game against Keene State College.

The annual men's soccer game was a battle between the odd-year graduates, coached by John Foley ('67), and the even-year graduates, coached by John Sadlier ('58). Twenty-eight RIC alumni took part in the game. Dennis Brod ('78) was the referee.

The odd-year graduates took a 2-1 lead into halftime, eventually winning the game 6-2. Mike Fearon ('77) netted three goals for the odd-year grads. Also scoring were Peter Connell ('91), RIC's all-time leading scorer. Domenico Petracca ('77) and Fernando Silvestre ('93). Matt Giannini ('80) and Joseph Potenzi ('92) scored the only goals for the even-year grads.

After the games, the baseball and men's soccer alumni squads headed into half-time, eventually winning the game 6-2. Mike Fearon ('77) netted three goals for the odd-year grads. Also scoring were Peter Connell ('91), RIC's all-time leading scorer. Domenico Petracca ('77) and Fernando Silvestre ('93). Matt Giannini ('80) and Joseph Potenzi ('92) scored the only goals for the even-year grads.

Katie Hagan scored the club's only goal and neighbor Jessica Robitaille made 14 saves in the loss.

The women's tennis team rounded out the day's action. RIC was also facing an NEC opponent, the University of Southern Maine. Head Coach Dick Ernst's squad won its third consecutive match with an 8-1 victory over the Huskies. RIC improved to 6-2 overall and 2-0 in the NEC with the win.

The win was especially sweet for senior Trisha Haworth, who won perhaps the biggest match of her career. Haworth faced Suzanne DeGoli an, the reigning Little East Conference champion at number one singles.

Despite a constant battle for each point, Haworth defeated DeGoli an in straight sets 7-5, 6-2. Additionally, MeLah Hupp led her team-lead-
Homecoming '98

Cabaret 'alumni' came back and wowed the crowd

by George LaTour
What's News Associate Editor

Alumni from the much-touted Rhode Island College summer Cabarets of years past once again graced the stage (albeit a makeshift one in Donovan Dining Center) for sort of a reprise of their roles from the decades of the '70s and '80s in Alumni Cabaret '98 on Oct. 2.

It was part of the annual Homecoming festivities Friday and Saturday, Oct. 2 and 3, which invited all alumni to "Come Back to RIC!"

Their performance — easily one of the many highlights of Homecoming this year — was marked by outstanding stage presence, singing and musicianship. All nine performers acted every bit the professionals that they are, having kept their hands in and feet on one stage or another since graduation.

"They're all professionals and it (the show) came together rather quickly," said William M. Wilson, assistant professor of theatre and the show's producer.

A couple of rehearsals preceded the actual performance which lasted a little over an hour.

A packed Donovan Dining Center greeted the Cabaret troupe with applause and registered its delight and time again as they performed a selection of popular show tunes.

After the opening number, Fredric Scheff, Class of 1983, sat alone at the corner of the stage and mesmerized the audience with his rendition of "Bring Him Home" from Les Miserables. As his tenor voice exhales the long closing notes of the song, you could hear "ohs" and "ahs" from the audience.

This WAS a special night!

The show was fast paced and fun all the way through. Perhaps the most fun in a single selection was registered by Patricia "Patti" Nolin, Class of 1982 with a master's in 1987, whose rendition of "Second Hand Rose" would have done Barbra Streisand proud.

With an old floppy hat, camp dress and fox stole which she swung around over her head, she belted out the catchy tune and held the audience in the palm of her hand. The applause rose to cheers.

Those responsible for this grand success include Diane Gustiotti, RIC 1985, who served as music director and played the keyboards. Karen Melior, associated with RIC since 1976 and a RIC "honorary alumna" for the evening at least, who was on percussion. Both arranged all the music and rehearsed the cast.

Others were Scheff, who currently lives in Los Angeles with his wife and four children and is performing in the second national company of The Phantom of the Opera as the understudy for the tenor's role of Piangi while singing in the chorus. While at RIC he performed with the RIC Chamber Singers, the Rhode Island Civic Chorale and the Providence Opera Theatre.

Nolin performed in the RIC summer Cabaret in 1982, '85 and '86 as well as the 1984 summer production of Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris. In 1992 she joined the cast of Charlie Hall's Ocean State Follies which regularly sings — all in good fun, of course — Rhode Island's politicians.

Daniel Milligan, Class of 1984, performed in the '85 Cabaret as well as in Donovan Dining Center. He has appeared in local TV commercials, off-off Broadway in New York and in a movie filmed in Los Angeles.

In 1990, he, Nolin and Susan Iacobellis, Class of 1988, created Night Music, a cabaret-style review that performed all over southern New England.

Iacobellis appeared in the '86 Cabaret as well as the summer productions of Jerry's Girls and Company of Clowns. Main stage productions at RIC included Anything Goes, Oklahoma, Guys and Dolls and Hello Dolly.

Dan Kirby performed in at least two summer Cabarets and is the writer, director and producer of For Sentimental Reasons, a 1940's musical review that he has performed with locally, nationally and internationally.

Debra Takian Pijolian appeared in Jerry's Girls in the summer of 1989 and was the assistant choreographer for the RIC productions of Anything Goes, Oklahoma, Guys and Dolls and Hello Dolly.

Patti Nolin suggested as much when she observed for an appreciative audience, "This might be a tradition!"

The audience registered its approval with a standing round of prolonged applause.

The Alumni Cabaret was sponsored by the Department of Music, Theatre and Dance, the Rhode Island Foundation and the RIC Alumni Association.
SPARX duo in Chamber Music Series

Energy, virtuosity and commitment are the trademark qualities that distinguish SPARX, the flute and harp duo that will perform in the Rhode Island College Chamber Music Series Wednesday, Oct. 21, at 1 p.m. in Roberts Hall 138 (recital chamber).

The recital is free and open to the public.

The program will consist of Go ard ar’s Allegretto, Opus 316, No. 1; Bozza’s Deux Impressions; Engelbrecht’s “Sonatina,” Saint-Saëns’ “Fantaisie,” Opus 124; “Chants Peruvians” collected and arranged by Marguerite Beclard d’Harceurt; and Monodello’s “Poem.”

SPARX’s versatile playing has celebrated the elegance and depth of the flute and harp duo. It has been honored with many regional and national awards, including prestigious Chamber Music America Ensemble residency matching grant and the American Composer’s Forum performance incentive grant.

Flutist Joan Sparks earned her master of music performance degree from Temple University where she was a student of Murray Panitz, the distinguished former principal flute of the Philadelphia Orchestra.

She has taught flute at Temple, Pennsylvania Ballet and has been a principal harpist for the orchestra of the Curtis Institute of Music. In Philadelphia, she has a bachelor of music degree from Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia. Her musical repertoire ranges from period instrument performances and recordings of 18th and 19th century works to premieres of new pieces written for her.

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She has taught flute at Temple, Pennsylvania Ballet and has been a principal harpist for the orchestra of the Curtis Institute of Music. In Philadelphia, she has a bachelor of music degree from Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia. While a student, she won first prize in the Robin Harp Competition and began her association with the Delaware Symphony where she was principal harpist from 1980-1989.

Most recently, she was the principal harpist for the orchestras of the Pennsylvania Ballet and has been a member of the music theory faculty at Curtis Institute of Music. For more information, call John Pellegrino, coordinator, at 456-9244.

National Association master teacher certification, the organization’s highest award.

Harpist Anne Sullivan began her career as a concert harpist at age 12 when she appeared twice as soloist with the Philadelphia Orchestra. She has a bachelor of music degree from Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia.

While a student, she won first prize in the Robin Harp Competition and began her association with the Delaware Symphony where she was principal harpist from 1980-1989.

Most recently, she was the principal harpist for the orchestras of the Pennsylvania Ballet and has been a member of the music theory faculty at Curtis Institute of Music. For more information, call John Pellegrino, coordinator, at 456-9244.

The performance is free and open to the public.

MFA in Theatre kicks off 4th year of program

CLASS OF 2001 THESPIANS: New candidates in the RIC/Trinity Repertory Theatre Conservatory master of fine arts in theatre program gather for a luncheon in the President’s Dining Room Sept. 25. They are (standing I to r) Ralph Petrarca, Andy McDonald, Sasha Olinick, James Rana, Julie Carpineto, Adam Twiss, Kerrie Brown, Lian-Marie Holmes, Tim Smith, Christina Lazarakas, Tanya Anderson, Jennifer Swain, Sandy York, Kat McIntosh and Tiffany Givens. Seated (I to r) are Stephen Bersonan, co-director of the conservatory; P. William Hutchinson, program coordinator; College President John Nazarian; and Brian McLennan, conservatory co-director.

The program — now in its fourth year — boasts its largest class yet with 15 students, bringing the total enrollment for the three-year course of study to 28, says Hutchinson. The program had its first graduating class last spring when nine students earned their degrees, including Jennifer Mudge Tucker and Eric Tucker, both RIC grads, who are now members of the RIC adjunct theatre faculty. Both are also the newest members of Trinity Repertory Theatre.


The Triple Helix, comprised of pianist Lois Shapiro, violinist Bayla Keyes and cellist Rhonda Rider, will perform Haydn’s and Dvorak’s piano trios in the Rhode Island College Chamber Music Series Wednesday, Oct. 28, at 1 p.m. in Roberts Hall 138 (recital chamber).

The performance is free and open to the public.

Shapiro has performed as soloist and collaborative artist in concerts throughout the United States and abroad. Her musical repertoire ranges from period instrument performances and recordings of 18th and 19th century works to premieres of new pieces written for her.

A winner of New York’s Concert Artists Guild Award, Shapiro has recorded on Channel Classics, Centaur, AFKA, MLAR and Pierrot Records with widespread critical acclaim.

A founding member of the Muir String Quartet with whom she won the Evian and Naumburg awards and subsequently played over 1,000 concerts on the international touring circuit, Keyes performs chamber music and solo repertoire.

An active performer in Boston Musica Viva, Sonos and the Boston Chamber Music Society, she is known as a champion of new music, recently premiering concertos in both Europe and America. Keyes has recorded for Video Artists International, Ecloclassics, CRI, Musical Heritage, EMI-France and New World Records.

Rider is a member of the Naumburg Award winning Lydian Quartet with which she maintains a demanding schedule of concert tours in both the United States and abroad as well as performing and teaching responsibilities as part of the quartet-in-residence of Brandeis University.

She has garnered significant recognition as a soloist with accolades which include New York’s Concert Artists’ Guild award and most recently and Aaron Copland Fund Grant. She is an advocate for new music, her solo disc of contemporary cello music (1989) and her trio disc with Shapiro (1986) both having been cited as Best of the Year in the Boston Globe.

For more information, call John Pellegrino, series coordinator, at 456-9244.
**Sports Events**

**Weekly Fall Athletic Schedule Oct. 19-Nov. 2**

**Men’s Soccer**
- Oct. 20 at Western Connecticut State University * 7:00 p.m.
- Oct. 24 SOUTHERN MAINE * 1:00 p.m.
- Oct. 27 at Wentworth 4:00 p.m.
- Oct. 31 at UMass-Boston * 10:00 a.m.

**Women’s Soccer**
- Oct. 20 W. CONN. ST. * 7:00 p.m.
- Oct. 24 at Southern Maine * 1:00 p.m.
- Oct. 30 at Bryant College 3:30 p.m.
- Oct. 31 at UMass-BOSTON * 1:00 p.m.

**Women’s Tennis**
- Oct. 20 at Emmanuel 3:30 p.m.
- Oct. 22 at Johnson and Wales 3:00 p.m.

**Women’s Volleyball**
- Oct. 19 SUFFOLK UNIVERSITY 7:00 p.m.
- Oct. 21 ENDICOTT COLLEGE 7:00 p.m.
- Oct. 22 at Little East Tournament 7:00 p.m.
- Oct. 24 at Little East Tourament 7:00 p.m.
- Oct. 27 at Roger Williams University 7:00 p.m.
- Oct. 29 at Clark University 7:00 p.m.

**Men’s & Women’s Cross Country**
- Oct. 31 at Little East Conference Championships 7:00 p.m.
- Nov. 7 at ECAC Championships TBA

**HOMEGAMES IN BOLD**
* Denotes Little East Conference Opponent