Teacher Academy grad makes the grade

by Shelly Murphy
What's News Editor

The petite young woman, dressed in a flannel shirt and black pants with her long dark hair pulled back, looks like any other student as she faces the board. She marks the verbs in a sentence neatly printed on the board at the front of the classroom and takes a step back toward her desk. But unlike most other students, she doesn’t look to the teacher for approval. She is the teacher.

Although Shirley Sandoval appears young enough to be a student and many of her students virtually tower over her, she is the teacher of this sixth-grade class at the Gilbert Middle School in the Elmwood section of Providence. And there is no doubt who is in charge. Her charges are just 10 years younger than her — some have siblings older than her — they politely raise their hands to provide an answer to her question and straighten up immediately when she casually directs a question to one of them by name, innately sensing who may not be paying attention or may need further explanation.

She demonstrates the ability to see everything students are doing even as she faces the board and she knows when someone is trying to get away with something. All of this is second nature for any experienced teacher, but Sandoval exhibits this poise and control already in her rookie year as a teacher.

I am the only child of two wonderful parents, Coleen and Gary Nickerson. I am from Tiverton where I attended elementary, middle and high school.

Throughout my educational experience in this small town, I participated in many extracurricular activities both in school and in the community. Participating in such activities as TLC (Teens Leading Children) and teaching Sunday school led me to college to pursue a degree in elementary education.

Knowing that I wanted so desperately to become a teacher, I chose Rhode Island College where I have been striving to reach my goal by taking the courses needed for obtaining my degree in elementary education with a concentration in mathematics.

I am a member of Kappa Delta Pi, the national honor society in education, and serve on its executive board. Last year I participated in

In their
own
words...

Staci Lynn Nickerson
Class of 1999
Recipient of:
RIC Alumni Departmental Scholarship

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NOISES OFF cast members Alaysha Cotton, a junior from West Warwick, and sophomore Mark King of Warwick rehearse a scene from the Michael Frayn comedy to be presented by Rhode Island College Theatre Feb. 16-21 in Roberts Hall auditorium. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

Foundation assets near $7.7 million; Annual Fund pledges top $300K

The assets of the Rhode Island College Foundation had a market value of just under $7.7 million, an overall increase of 22 percent over the previous year, Executive Director Margaret Brown reported at the Foundation’s annual meeting on Jan. 19, 1999.

The 1998 Keep the Flame Burning campaign was an unprecedented success, according to Cheryl Precopio, Class of 1991 and director of the annual fund. “We broke all records with a total of $331,777 generated in gifts and pledges from all annual fund efforts.”

Since 1995, the market value assets of the Foundation have more than doubled, Brown reported. Of the funds held and managed by the Foundation, 38 percent are held in permanently restricted funds or endowments, where only the interest earned annually is expended. Most endowment funds support scholarships, awards, and particular departments. Those funds held in endowment grew by 16 percent in 1998. Nine new endowment were created which reflect the various interests of the donor base. Those endowments were listed in the last issue of What’s News.

In addition, Brown reported that the Foundation made over $160,000 in disbursements to promote activities at the College, including $149,000 in scholarships and awards, $7,000 to assist the College’s campaign to promote passage of the 1998 Higher Education Bond Referendum, and $6,500 to support faculty research projects.

See Fundraising, page 4
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 eras (Rhode Island College of Education or Rhode Island State Normal School). We invite your contribution of old photos, along with sufficient information about each such as who's in the photo and what they are doing, the year it was taken and place (if possible). In the meantime, we'll continue searching our files for interesting pictures of past College life.

THEATER HISTORY: This issue’s photo is circa 1970 and highlights Prof. James Bierden of math and computer science in Dylan Thomas’ Under Milkwood, a Readers’ Theater production directed by now Professor Emerita Elaine Perry. Unfortunately we cannot identify the three students in the picture. Anyone know? (file photo)

Nominations for Alumni Awards and Honor Roll due this week

Nominations for the 1999 Alumni Awards and Honor Roll which will be awarded at the annual Alumni Awards Dinner Wednesday, May 12 are being accepted through the end of this week. Please forward nominations and supporting material to the Alumni Office.

The awards to selected outstanding alumni are presented to graduates and community leaders whose personal and professional attainment and service to the College and community bring honor upon themselves and upon Rhode Island College.

Candidates are chosen on the basis of professional achievement, community service and service to the College of alumni association.

The Honor Roll nominations are made through the academic departments, but input from the College community for all categories is encouraged.

The process is confidential and individuals should not be notified of their nomination.

The alumni award categories are:
- Alumna/Alumnus of the Year
- Charles B. Willard Achievement Award
- Alumni Service Award
- Alumni Faculty Award
- Alumni Staff Award

For more information or criteria for specific awards, contact the Alumni Office at 401-456-8086.

LIVE ON THE AIR: Prof. Frederic Reamer of the Department of Social Work is interviewed by telephone on Feb. 8 by Brian Lehrer of National Public Radio station WNYC in New York. Lehrer’s call-in program, called “On The Line,” was tackling the topic of professional ethics, a subject on which Reamer has written several books. (What’s News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

The next issue of What’s News is Monday, March 1.

To submit story ideas, photos, etc. call 401-456-8090 or email smurphy@ric.edu

WHAT'S NEWS
AT RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE

"WORLD CELEBRATION:" Children in Joan Bloom’s and Pam Manninen’s first grade classes in Henry Barnard School recently finished off a unit in cultures of the world with a celebration of crafts, games and food. Above, visiting a classroom "museum" are Shamari Woods and Erika Davis. (What’s News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)
The Century in Retrospect – The 1900s
A Circle of Teaching

by Shelly Murphy
What's News Editor

In the final year of the 20th century, What's News is providing a glimpse back to a college from a prior decade. In this first installment, the spotlight is on 1905.

The more things change, the more they stay the same. In 1905, the students and the classrooms looked very different in 1905, the former Rhode Island Normal School’s mission of opportunity and excellence was essentially the same as it is today.

In 1905, according to an archive copy of the catalog, the Normal School’s single aim is the preparation of teachers for the elementary schools and kindergartens of the state. “Tuition and textbooks were free for Rhode Islanders who signed an agreement to teach in the public schools of the state for at least one year after graduation or pay the state back for tuition—at a rate of $60 per year.

In 1905, the Mission has expanded and the College offers undergraduate and graduate degrees in about 90 programs, preparing students for a wide range of professions. Tuition is not free and the annual cost is about $26,000. In the fall of 1905, in-state undergraduate tuition and fees were about $8,100, excluding textbooks and supplies.

The qualifications of a good teacher described in the catalog as “both natural and acquired” were quite interesting. While evidence of intellectual ability was the chief criterion for admission, personal was viewed as a “natural qualification” needed to be a good teacher. It was deemed so important that “the condition is always implied that she may be dismissed whenever it becomes clear that she lacks conscientiously the natural qualifications of the good teacher,” the catalog stated.

These natural qualifications included: adaptability and tact, the ability to adjust... to the immaturity, several tests, experience with children or youth, and recommendations. Well, perhaps qualifications for successful students aren’t so different.

The impact of the College on the community and on families wasn’t so different either. Even then, generations of Rhode Islanders called the school their alma mater.

One of the graduates from 1905, Dr. Lysander Flagg, was last year’s chairman of the Warren School Board and superintendent of Warren High School. He relates that students had to pass a written examination before the Board of Examiners. "On the board was a cousin of her father’s—Annie’s father was also an educator. He taught school to work his way through medical school as a physician, but had served as chairperson of the Warren School Board and superintendent of Warren High School.

In 1902, Annie responded to an ad in the paper that the Normal School was opening a class for kindergarten teachers. "In my day, I went right into the Normal School—I passed any examination and graduated from Warren High School," Rather than starting the following September, she decided that January and earned an extra certificate as a result of the six-month class, which had only a total enrollment of only about 10 girls.

KINDERGARTEN IN THE 1900s: This snapshot from the 1905 Rhode Island Normal School catalog speaks volumes about the teaching environment and life itself in the 1900s.

Prof. Judith DiMeo cited as ‘Outstanding Woman’

by George LaTour
What's News Associate Editor

Judith H. DiMeo, a professor of special education at Rhode Island College, was presented with the Outstanding Woman in Educational Leadership Award at 1998 ceremonies at the Governor Sprague Mansion in Cranston.

The National Coalition of Educational Leaders, Inc. (NECEL), in presenting the award, cited DiMeo as Rhode Island’s education leader who “exemplifies the leadership qualities of courage, collaboration, caring, vision and intuition.”

DiMeo is known throughout the state of Rhode Island as a caring, collaborative and courageous educator whose vision for special education springs from her research and applied research examining the process of collaboration among special and general education teachers.

NECEL’s special recognition of DiMeo is based on her nationally recognized expertise and field work in collaboration, and collaboration as it applies to the field of special education.

NECEL’s goals are to empower all women to excel as educational leaders, and to enhance informal, non-positional leadership, support the balance between the professional and personal lives of its members; encourage members to experience their values as imperatives for action, and develop an infrastructure for outreach and collaboration with other organizations.

The coalition was founded through funding from the Ford Foundation in 1979 to support women in leadership throughout the Northeast states. RIC’s Nancy S. Sullivan, an associate professor of educational studies and director of the Center for Educational Management Development, was last year’s winner. Others who have won the award are Eleanor M. McMahon, former RIC president and vice president, and Josephine Kelleher, Phyllis Field, Mary Chicoine and Alice Sullivan.

DiMeo received both her bachelor’s and master’s degrees at RIC and did her doctoral work at the University of Connecticut. She had served as chair of the Department of Special Education in the Feinstein School of Education and Human Development.

She is co-director of the RIC-Central Falls Special Education Multicultural Professional Development School District Program and co-developer and presider of Classroom Alternatives Process/Classroom Alternatives Support Teams.

In this role she has provided professional development for general education teachers and principals in this problem-solving approach to classroom assessment and needs throughout the Northeast.

Among DiMeo’s previous honors are her recognition on the Leadership, Honor Roll of the International Council for Learning Disabilities (1987), and her recognition as the Thorp Professor of Distinguished Teaching (1989-90) at RIC.
RIC alum educates children through poignant stories

by George LaTour
What's News Associate Editor

Linda Crotta Brennan's first book was described as being as cozy as a cup of cocoa, as warm as a goodnight kiss. It has rhyming lines and cheery pictures that sparkle like the first snowfall celebrating a perfect winter day. That was Flannel Kisses, written for children ages 2-4 and published by Houghton Mifflin in the fall of 1997. It was a Children's Book of the Month Club selection.

You might say this Coventry resident is on a roll with sales of these books "doing very well."

A New Jersey native, she earned her bachelors degree, also in Early Childhood Education, at the University of Rhode Island, returned to New Jersey for two years, where she taught nursery school and day care, married Robert Brennan of Attleboro, Mass., and then relocated to Attleboro and began her masters at RIC.

That completed, she and her family, which now consists of daughters Lisa, Diana and Patricia, moved to Coventry. She joined the Society of Children's Bookwriters and Illustrators which got her started and, well, it's been one success after another since.

She's written numerous children's stories - "I stopped counting at a dozen" - all of which have been published in children's magazines such as Cricket, Ranger Rick, Flicker Magazine and Highlights.

Today, she's a full-time writer of children's stories and related activities.

Having started out as a member of the Society of Children's Bookwriters and Illustrators, she is now its New England coordinator, working with more than 1,000 members. Additionally, she "just became" the children's Class of 1969 reunion coordinator for the Rhode Island Audubon Society's newsletter.

As if this weren't enough, she also runs her own workshops for writers and offers a number of programs to schools, working with children from preschool on up to adults.

"I offer different kinds of programs, giving talks about my stories to younger children and writing workshops for older children and adults," she explains.

A pamphlet advertising her workshops states that "stories make us who we are" and she strongly believes that.

Brennan does her research and writing at home, using an IBM compatible computer.

"It takes a couple of months to do a magazine article. A book takes years," she says.

"I really enjoy (writing) non-fiction and write about weird topics," she says with a chuckle. "I love 'snow buggies' that climb around in winter on the snow or 'slime mold.' They're educational as well as being entertaining.

"But even when writing fiction, I try to be as accurate as possible, so I do research then, too." she assures.

Brennan says she "never watches TV" but gets a lot of her non-fiction ideas from newspapers and "things of interest to me."

Ideas come to her from her own childhood or "when I'm out walking the dog."

"Everything you write comes from your own perspective, as it has a theme. Almost all literature is a theme. It should be entertaining."

She says oftentimes she uses her own children's ideas when she's writing. "I use incidents from my daughter's lives but make certain changes so it's not true,

"I'm presently writing a novel for children and it has a dog in it, a beagle-type dog, but he's not like my Toby."

Brennan says sometimes she asks her children to critique her work, but usually goes to a critique group, one of which she belongs to by mail.

Writing children's literature is "a very creative thing," she says.

For more information on her workshops, visit her web page at http://users.ids.net/~brennan/kid­writer.htm.

Alumni scholarship
Continued from page 1

Reading is Fun Week and was co-chairperson of the Reading is Fun Week book drive.

I am now a senior and I have truly enjoyed my time here. Now that I am taking the methods courses, and teaching in the schools, I am even more excited about becoming a teacher.

I have been fortunate in that I have received financial aid that has helped me a great deal with the expense of my education in the last three years at RIC. This scholarship will certainly help to ensure my success in completing my degree, I am even closer to achieving my long term goal of becoming a teacher.
HELPING OUT: Newly appointed Providence teacher Shirley Sandoval helps Gerald Salazar, 11, with his grammar assignment. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

"When a child gets it and you see the light bulb turn on, especially when it's a child whose whole perspective was so different from the one you have, it's a pleasing experience. I feel like I did something positive for the child," says Sandoval, who has been a teacher for 15 years.

The experience has been both rewarding and challenging, Sandoval says. "I've learned a lot from the children, and they've taught me a lot as well," she says. "We've worked together to make a positive impact on the students, and it's been a humbling experience."

Sandoval, who is originally from Bolivia, started working at the Gilbert Stuart School in Providence this fall. She has been teaching at the school for 15 years and has taught both English and Spanish.

She says that teaching at the Gilbert Stuart School has been a challenging but rewarding experience. "I've had to adapt to a new environment, but I've also been able to make a positive impact on the students," she says. "I'm proud to be a part of the school and the community."
Alum leaves indelible mark on customers


Walk into Glenn Silva’s establishment, at 1003 Mineral Spring Ave. in North Providence and you may feel you’re in the wrong place. Spotlessly clean white walls and floor. A purple sofa contrasted with lime green directors’ chairs. manicure table. Massage-therapy chair. It looks more like a beauty salon than a — tattoo parlor.

“I’m trying to dispel the old back-alley, drunken sailor image,” says Silva, 39, Class of 1985. With his neatly trimmed mustache and beard, short jet black hair, and rubber gloves, Silva looks more like an artist on E.R. than a tattoo artist.

But he’s been drawing since he was 10 or 11. At RIC he majored in art with a concentration in graphic design. Profs. Sam Ames and Don Smith were two of his mentors.

After graduation, he freelanced for rock bands and auto dealers, then worked for 6 1/2 years for Leviton, the electrical manufacturer, working on package designs. But in 1992, two friends, Toro and Don Smith were two of his mentors.

But in 1992, two friends, Toro and Jack Donovan, talked him into going south, to Biloxi, Miss., where the back-alley, drunken sailor image,” was practiced as far back as ancient Egypt. But the art reached its pinnacle in the South Pacific’s Marquesas Islands, where tribal elders had their entire bodies covered with tattoos. “The word ‘tattoo’ probably comes from the Tahitian word ‘tatau.’ ” No doubt mariners who visited such exotic places saw the art and spread it worldwide.

But it’s not just for sailors any more.

Donna Pattie is a Johnston housewife and mother of two teenagers. She has six tattoos, all hearts and flowers. “I wouldn’t go anywhere else. This place is as clean as an emergency room,” she explains. Her husband, Bob, a chrome plater, has four tattoos, the most noticeable being an American Indian on horseback and an Indian with a knife on his shoulder.

Traditionally, the most popular subjects are religious images, Native American animals, especially bears, dragons and reptiles; skulls and flowers. Very trendy just now, according to Silva, are “tribal” tattoos — entirely black, stylized animals or abstract designs resembling thorns or brambles.

Silva charges from $40 to $500 or $600 for a tattoo, the most expensive taking up to eight or ten hours (in several sessions) to complete. Although he has hundreds of stock designs, called “flash” art, on the walls of his studio from which customer choose, Silva prefers to make his own “custom” designs, sometimes from a clipping or photo that a client brings in.

There are 23 tattooing businesses in the Providence Yellow Pages. Type “tattoo” into a search engine on the Web and you’ll find hundreds of sites devoted to the art: books, magazines, equipment, “studios” (preferred to “parlors”), even profiles on Rembrandts of the epidermis. (Haughsman Andy Morfiew’s studio is a yacht sailing around the world.)

Tattooing — embedding dye in the skin with a needle or sharpened stick — was practiced as far back as ancient Egypt. But the art reached its pinnacle in the South Pacific’s Marquesas Islands, where tribal elders had their entire bodies covered with tattoos. “The word ‘tattoo’ probably comes from the Tahitian word ‘tatau.’ ” No doubt mariners who visited such exotic places saw the art and spread it worldwide.

Silva is riding the wave of the growing popularity of tattooing. “In the last five or ten years tattooing has become more mainstream,” he explains. He estimates that about 60 percent of his customers are women. Tattoos appear on high-profile clients and recording stars and on athletes have no doubt fueled the trend.

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Often he is asked to cover an old or faded tattoo with something new. Sometimes, after a divorce or breakup, a customer will ask for a name to be covered.

Perhaps the funniest request was from a man with a hairy chest who shaved, had forest animals tattooed on, then let the "forest" grow back.

Photos and text by Gordon E. Rowley
clear with his students. “I respect Greg for the fact that he is a playing and teaching musician. When he explains something, you know it’s something he knows,” says student Tom Casale, a student currently enrolled at the Community College of Rhode Island who comes to RIC solely for Abate’s music classes.

“I’ve seen him play at Chan’s (in Woonsocket). It’s a real thrill to see him in that setting, playing with people I idolize, and then come here and learn from him — from someone who really does it,” Casale adds.

In addition to teaching the theory and ensemble classes this semester, Abate was also filling in to conduct the Jazz Band course during adjunct professor George Gonzalez’s leave of absence.

These offerings could grow into a jazz minor, according to Robert Elam, chair of the music department. “Greg started by doing a workshop for us. He’s so good and it just began to blossom. The department has submitted a proposal for a jazz minor to the College curriculum committee. The proposal outlines courses for a 21-credit minor, which, if approved, could start as early as the fall 1999 semester.

Teaching jazz at a college wasn’t exactly in Abate’s career plan as a jazz musician from the beginning, but that’s because he didn’t really have a plan. “I started playing jazz instruments when he was in the fifth grade because of a knock on the door at his house,” he says. “I want them to benefit from teaching, harmony and melodic continuity, and he teaches or rather ‘conducts’ one-credit jazz ensemble workshops, laboratory classes in

THE MIDST: Internationally-known jazz musician Greg Abate conducts and plays in the RIC Jazz Ensemble during rehearsal in Robert’s Hall. (What’s News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

IN THE MIDST: Internationally-known jazz musician Greg Abate conducts and plays in the RIC Jazz Ensemble during rehearsal in Robert’s Hall. (What’s News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)
Sign-up for summer sports camps early

by Scott Gibbons
Sports Information Director

P
ortsouth's Sarah Kelly has been through a lot during her basketball career at Rhode Island College. There's been a losing rookie season, a major injury to overcome, a 20-win season and a coaching change. Through it all, Kelly has kept thinking about how she can help the team while doing her job in a workman-like fashion.

The senior point guard has started all but two games this season for the Anchorwomen. Through 15 games, she has currently averaged 5.2 points and 1.7 steals per game. Kelly has been instrumental in the backcourt, averaging 2.0 assists and 1.7 steals per game.

RIC Head Women's Basketball Coach Mike Kelley says, “Sarah really makes her presence known on the court. It's her team out there. We are a better team when she is on the floor.” Kelly scored a season high 16 points with 1.1 assists per game. Kelly led the team in scoring 3.6 and 2.1 per game respectively.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

MEN'S BASKETBALL

The men's basketball team is 6-12 overall and 2-7 (seventh place tie) in the Little East Conference. Head Coach James Adams' is six wins shy of 500 for his career.

The Anchorwomen of last season have been strong in the conference in assists, averaging 1.9 points per game. Payette is third on the team at 8.6 ppg. Jernigan leads the team in assists and steals, averaging 3.6 and 2.1 per game respectively.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Head Coach Mike Kelley's team is 11-10 and fourth place in the Little East Conference.

Coach Kim Zeiner's team is busy preparing for the ECAC Championships which will be held on March 7 at Springfield College.

Freshman Ellison Arruda set a new school record with a 9.450 score on floor against Southern Connecticut State University on Jan. 30. The old mark was 9.400 set by Jenna Dauw during the 1995-96 season.

The Southern Connecticut men's team is 2-5 on the year. Four of the Anchorwomen's opponents have been either Division I or II schools. Head Coach Ken Zeiner's team is busy preparing for the ECAC Four Place Championship which will be held on March 7 at Springfield College.

Freshman Ellison Arruda set a new school record with a 9.450 score on floor against Southern Connecticut State University on Jan. 30. The old mark was 9.400 set by Jenna Dauw during the 1995-96 season.

The team also qualified for the ECAC and the Division III New England Championships.

The program operates daily from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Participants can be dropped off as early as 8:30 a.m. and staff is on campus until 4:30 p.m. The days are filled with instruction and competition in the individual sport and participants can also use the College's swimming facilities.

The program runs Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Participants can be dropped off as early as 8:30 a.m. and staff is on campus until 4:30 p.m. The days are filled with instruction and competition in the individual sport and participants can also use the College's swimming facilities.

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Rhode Island College Dance Company celebrates 40th Anniversary Spring Concert Series

by George LaTour
What's News Associate Editor

The Department of Music, Theatre and Dance is inviting Rhode Island College dance alumni to itsRuby Anniversary Dinner and Celebration Performance Friday, March 5, starting at 5:15 p.m. reception in the Faculty Center, welcoming remarks and guest speakers, including dance choreographer Clay Taliaferro, at a 6-700 buffet dinner at 8:30 and performance at 8 in Roberts Hall auditorium. A post-performance dessert reception is set for 10 p.m. in the Alumni Lounge in Roberts Hall. Honorees at the dinner and 40th Anniversary celebration performance will be Billie Ann Burrill, Fannie Helen Melcer, Patricia Cohen, Jennifer Cooke, and the late Christine Hennessy and Dors Holloway Abels (in memoriam).

Tickets are $50 or $400 for a table of eight which includes tax-deductible contributions of $10 each to the Burrill/Melcer Dance Resource Library Fund and the Robert Melcer Dance Scholarship Fund.

For more information and reservations, call 456-9791 by Feb. 26.

DANCER-CHELROGRAPHER Clay Taliaferro has set a new dance piece for the RIC Dance Company's 40th Annual Spring Concert Series March 4-7.

Heir to the Jose Limon repertoire, Taliaferro provided the definitive interpretation of Limon's roles following his death in 1972. Today Taliaferro is a professor of dance at Duke University.

Additional repertory selections also will serve as tributes to distinguished recent faculty.

A new jazz dance by Cornelius Carter will be dedicated to Patricia Cohen and a new work by the ensemble's current director will serve as a memorial tribute to Christine Hennessy.

Both Cohen and Hennessy served as adjunct instructors in jazz and ballet respectively for more than 20 years. Hennessy was the recipient of an honorary degree from the College in 1981.

Jennifer Cooke is being honored as a former dance company director (after Melcer), and the late Doris Holloway Abels will have a tap dance dedicated to her by graduate student Mary Kirkwood. Abels taught dance at RIC with Melcer. She was later honored by the Dance Alliance of Rhode Island and the Rhode Island General Assembly for her contributions to the arts in Rhode Island.

Completing the program will be works by alumni members D.J. McDonald and Clars Vadeboncoeur. Premiered in the 1998 Winter Concert, these works demonstrate the talents and skills of past and present dancers. Alumni will include selected student works.

All heirs to a dance legacy that continues to be significant in its fifth decade, the 40th Spring Concert Series will celebrate the rich tradition of dance at Rhode Island College," says DeGiudice.

General admission tickets are $10 with discounts for senior citizens and students. RIC students admitted free of charge.

Baritone Gabriel Alfieri to perform works by RIC's Cumming in Chamber-Music Series

Baritone Gabriel Alfieri will perform works by composer Richard Cumming of the Rhode Island College adjunct music faculty on the Wednesday, Feb. 17, Chamber Music Series starting at 7 p.m. in Roberts Hall 138 (reception at 6).

Cumming will accompany on piano. The recital is free and open to the public.

The program will be Shaun's aria from The Picnic and Tomatos in the Starlight, both by Cumming. Selections by other composers will be Poet's aria from Tights and, Slim's aria of Mice and Men, David's aria from A Hand of Bridge, John Proctor's aria from The Crucible and St. Ignatius' aria from 4 Saints in 3 Acts.

Alfieri made his debut at the Newport Music Festival last July with works of Cumming and Theodore Chanler.

In addition to the two first prizes from the Rhode Island chapter of the National Association of Teachers of Singing, he recently was chosen as one of only three male semi-finalists in the 1998 International Opera Singers Competition at the New York Center for Contemporary Opera.

Last November, he presented a solo recital of American Songs and Arias at Sarah Lawrence College in New York, which he repeated in Vienna, Austria, in January of this year.

There, he also appeared as part of a series of concerts and master classes in tribute to composer Cumming with whom he frequently works.

Alfieri will appear in the spring premiere of Cumming's opera The Picnic and Wildwood Park at the Trinity Repertory Theater in Providence.

Cumming, who has resided in Providence since 1966, has served as composer-in-residence for the Trinity Repertory Company in addition to his teaching at RIC and other institutions
**Tango Buenos Aires**

**forecast: ‘Hot and humid’**

by George LaTour

What’s News Associate Editor

Direct from Buenos Aires, Argentina, Tango Buenos Aires, in its first coast-to-coast tour of the United States, will stop at Rhode Island College Thursday, Feb. 25, for an 8 p.m. performance in Roberts Hall auditorium as part of the College’s Performing Arts Series.

The three-part show by the company of 25 dancers and musicians will show tango’s roots, richness and passion as it takes the audience from one production number to another as presented through the years from 1905 to the present.

The Argentine tango has a mixture of African and Spanish antecedents, and also a strong influence from the Argentinian *callejona* which is sung by Gauchos, the Argentine “cowboys.”

In its beginnings, the tango was an ill-famed dance, being very fashionable in dance halls and cabarets, and also because the choreography called for the couple to hold each other very close. Tango choreography allows for the rhythm and perfect coordination of the dancers.

The tango’s constant companion is the piano, although it has been accompanied by the violin, guitar and flute. Nowadays, the most typical instrument is the bandoneón, which is an accordion similar to the concertina.

As noted by Molly Glentzer for the Houston Chronicle, there are not many steps in the tango; what matters is a couple’s interpretive style, smoothness, speed and carriage. Each of the company’s six dancing couples brings its own personality to the intricate footwork, which picks up considerable speed in the second act.

“Here is the leg as lethal weapon, with ferocious yet precise interlocking knees, complex syncopation, smooth-as-velvet turns, swirling hips, lightning-fast displacements of the feet, dramatic full-body drags and complex during life.”

“The sexiest moment comes during a bare-chested solo turn by spitfire dancer Nestor Ruben Guede, whose footwork also suggests flamenco training. He and partner Lucia Miriam Alonso work up a leg- and hand-snapping frenzy that finishes with both shouting a gleaming ‘Ole!’” wrote Glentzer.

“The city’s become a torrid-zone since Tango Buenos Aires hit town,”

“Exhibits sensuality and sexual energy...a revelation,” said The New Yorker.

Tango Buenos Aires was created for the “Jasmínas” festival at the famous Buenos Aires cabaret, “Michelangelo,” by renowned composer and tango director Osvaldo Requena. The company met with tremendous success and was immediately added to the season of the General San Martin Municipal Theatre.

In 1986, the company traveled to the United States to represent Argentina at the Latin-American Festival, which took place at the Delacorte Theatre in New York City’s Central Park.

Since then, the company, under Requena’s direction, has toured extensively throughout the world.

Reserved seat tickets are $21 with discounts for senior citizens and students, and may be ordered in advance by telephone via VISA or Mastercard by calling 456-8194 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. For in-person sales, the box office is open weekdays from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and up to the time of performance on Feb. 20.

**TANGO BUENOS AIRES**

**dances “The Song of Buenos Aires.”**

**Bassist Edwin Barker in Chamber Music Series Feb. 24**

Double bassist Edwin Barker, the principal string bass player with the Boston Symphony Orchestra who has performed in North America, Europe and the Far East, will perform James Yannatos’ Variations for Solo Contrabass; Bach Suite #1 in A major, and Bottesini Concerto #2 in B minor in the Rhode Island College Chamber Music Series Wednesday, Feb. 24, at 1 p.m. in Roberts Hall 138 (recital hall).

Deborah DeWolf Emery will accompany him on piano.

The recital is free and open to the public.

Acknowledged as an accomplished solo and ensemble player, Barker has performed and recorded with the Boston Symphony Chamber Players and with Collage, a Boston-based contemporary music ensemble, in addition to the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

He performed the world premiere of James Yannatos’ Bass Concerto (which was written especially for him) with Ales III and subsequently with Collage. He was the featured soloist at the New England premiere of Gunther Schuller’s Bass Concerto, conducted by the composer, with the Boston Pro Arts Chamber Orchestra.

In 1995, Barker was chosen by Maestro Sir Georg Solti to lead the bass section of the United Nations’ orchestra “Musicians of the World,” an orchestra comprised of prominent musicians from the world’s finest orchestras.

On the 100th anniversary season of the Boston Symphony he was invited to inaugurate the program with a solo performance of the Koussevitzky Bass Concerto, a performance which propelled him as having possessed “everything that makes great artistry — tone, technical equipment, temperament, repose, a keen sense of rhythm and fine conception.”

His latest CD, *Three Sonatas for Double Bass*, recently has been released by Boston Records.

For more information, call John Pellegrefo, series coordinator, at 456-8194.

**EDWIN BARKER**

**THE MUIR QUARTET will make its third and last appearance in this season’s Performing Arts Series’ Chamber Music Series on Monday, March 1, at 8 p.m. In Gaige Hall auditorium. On the program will be works by Mozart, Berg and Beethoven. Tickets are $15 with discounts for senior citizens and students. Before the performance, members of the audience are invited to the RIC Faculty Center for a pre-concert buffet starting at 6 p.m. Cost is $17.50 per person ($15 for donors and students). Pre-paid reservations are required and can be made by calling 456-8194.**
**Sports Events**

**Weekly Winter Athletic Schedule Feb. 15 - March 1**

**Men's Basketball**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 15</td>
<td>UMASS-DARTMOUTH *</td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>Feb. 20</td>
<td>at UMASS-Boston *</td>
<td>3 p.m.</td>
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<td>Feb. 24, 27, 28</td>
<td>at Little East Conference Tournament</td>
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**Women's Basketball**

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<tr>
<td>Feb. 18</td>
<td>JOHNSON AND WALES</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 20</td>
<td>at UMASS-Boston *</td>
<td>1 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 24, 27, 28</td>
<td>at Little East Conference Tournament</td>
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**Wrestling**

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<tr>
<td>Feb. 20</td>
<td>DIV III NEW ENGLAND CHAMPIONSHIPS</td>
<td>10:30 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 21</td>
<td>DIV III NEW ENGLAND CHAMPIONSHIPS</td>
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**Men's and Women's Indoor Track and Field**

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<th>Opponent</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 20</td>
<td>at Division III New England Championships</td>
<td>10 a.m.</td>
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**Women's Gymnastics**

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<th>Opponent</th>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 17</td>
<td>at MIT (tri-meet with Vermont)</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 20</td>
<td>at University of Bridgeport</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 27</td>
<td>at Southern Connecticut State University</td>
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**HOME GAMES/MEETS IN BOLD**

* Denotes Little East Conference game
# Denotes men at Wesleyan University, women at Smith College

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**African American History Month continues**

Psalms One, a five-member vocal ensemble from Brockton, Mass., is one of the groups which will be featured at a Gospel Concert Monday, Feb. 22 at 7 p.m. in Roberts Hall auditorium. Tickets are $2 at door. The event is sponsored by the RIC Praise Ensemble and the Performing and Fine Arts Commission of RIC as part of the African-American History Month celebration. For more information, call The Unity Center at 401-456-8791.