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What's News At Rhode Island College

Rhode Island College

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Six to receive honorary degrees

College to bestow over 1,000 degrees at 1999 commencement exercises

by Shelly Murphy
What's News Editor

More than 1,000 Rhode Island College undergraduate and graduate students will receive their diplomas during the 1999 commencement exercises. Once again this year, the ceremony will take place in the New Building. The exercises will be the first two graduates of the class set to graduate. The exercises are scheduled for May 20, beginning at 5:30 p.m. in the New Building.

Honorary degree recipient and staunch advocate for higher education, Feinstein, has decided to do it all again. The Providence-based university has decided to bestow over 1,000 degrees at 1999 commencement exercises. The exercises are scheduled for Thursday, May 20, beginning at 9:30 a.m. at the College of the Holy Cross in Providence.

The New Building will be the site of the exercises, which are scheduled for May 22, beginning at 9:30 a.m. in the New Building.

Mourners will celebrate the graduates' accomplishments. The exercises will be the first two graduates of the class set to graduate. The exercises are scheduled for May 20, beginning at 5:30 p.m. in the New Building.

Among the students accepting diplomas during the 1999 commencement exercises will be the first two graduates of the joint doctorate in education program offered collaboratively by RIC and the University of Rhode Island. Feinstein is a nationally known philanthropist and humanitarian whose commitment to positive change is reflected in his work with the Feinstein Institute for Public Service.

Feinstein is a national leader in the field of higher education, and his work has contributed to the success of many educational initiatives. He has contributed more than $50 million to charitable causes, some of his better-known beneficiaries include the World Hunger Program at Brown University, the Feinstein International Famine Center at Tufts University, the Youth Hunger Brigade, and the Feinstein Foundation for Public Service, among many others.

“Diverse” is the only word to describe the artwork of Dennis and Joanne Eckert. The Eckert’s farm house in Cranston was lived in “the student ghettoes” on Federal and Smith hills. But in 1984 they set up their business in a circle 1749 (“mildly haunted”) farmhouse in western Cranston. Today, with sons Wes, 3, and Wyatt, 6, they seem to be living an artist’s dream.

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In a barn studio next to the house, they work on ceramics, together in bronze-casting foundries and ceramics studios.

Where are they now...?

Retention Task Force shares strategy in Project REACH

by Shelly Murphy
What's News Editor

The Retention Task Force, commissioned by Rhode Island College President John Nazarian in 1997 to explore issues regarding student satisfaction and success at RIC, shared its findings and recommendations with the campus community recently.

The goal of the task force was to develop a comprehensive campus-wide program aimed at increasing student retention, strengthening student identification with the College, and providing the tools and resources for faculty and staff to successfully guide all students toward graduation. The task force's report introduces Project REACH: Retention Efforts: Advising, Communicating, Helping — a comprehensive program written strictly for Rhode Island College and aimed at enhancing academic and administrative systems already in place, or developing new programs that need implementation.

"Perhaps the most telling and encouraging discovery about the campus climate during the investigation was the high level of interest demonstrated by the entire campus community. Everyone showed interest in either trying to understand what contributes to a student's decision to drop out of college, or to help in identifying what best practices to implement in order to 'have a student,'" writes Clare Eckert, special assistant to the president and director of news and public relations.

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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 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.

SIXTIES SILLINESS: Alums who were at RIC in the 1960s may remember that in those days the junior class was the "sister class" of the freshmen. And along with helping the newcomers, the juniors dished out a little good-natured harassment. One tradition was that the walk from Roberts Hall to Craig-Lee Hall, which passes through the then Student Union (now the Art Center), would be off-limits to freshmen at certain times. So, above, we see two juniors in paper helmets patrolling the walk to keep freshmen out. (file photo)

EMPLOYMENT TRAINING: Lee Arnold, director of the R.I. Department of Labor and Training, looks over the shoulder of Richard Pistacchio a worker dislocated by the closing of Quebecor Federated in Providence. Arnold was one of several officials who visited the Center for Management and Technology Program. Arnold helped design the program. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

WHAT'S NEWS
AT RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE

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The Century in Retrospect - The 1920s

RICE replaces RINS

by Shelly Murphy
What's News Editor

In the final calendar year of the 20th century, What's News is providing a glimpse of the past by looking back at the 1920s - a decade of change, innovation, and growth. This is the third installment.

The 1920s were a time of reorganizing and rebuilding for the country and the world following the War Years with high hopes for the future. This first year of the decade marked a new era in Rhode Island too, specifically in regards to education.

In April 1920, the state General Assembly acted to change the name of the Rhode Island Normal School to the Rhode Island College of Education (RICE). It was more than just a name change; it was a recognition of the school's record of work and of the importance of higher education for teachers that is taught from the teaching viewpoint, according to an article in The Providence Journal dated May 2, 1920.

The elevation of the institution from a normal school to a college, enabled the College to expand its program from the two- and a half year teaching certificate program to a four-year college degree program and to eventually serve a greater number of students. According to a Journal article, Commissioner of Public Schools Walter E. Ranger noted that the availability of a higher education for teachers would help attract more qualified students to the profession, which was in the midst of a major shortage yet still paid salaries that in many cases did not keep up with the rising cost of living.

"The teacher follows a calling just as the soldier who went to war followed a calling. Those men left good paying jobs to answer the call that brought them in, money, only $30 a month. I have noticed that the higher the call for service, the less pay there is for it. The teacher's service is one of them. The teachers of serving the cause of making our future citizens the kind the country needs," Ranger said.

He added, "There is a growing desire among teachers for higher education. Many who leave high school have to think about earning a college degree for their living and have to give up the college education they yearn for. They have to go on as best they can for their life work. Those to whom this is a necessity go to the Normal School. But now they have a real college where they can get the equivalent of a college education, at least from teachers viewpoints," Ranger said.

Tuition for the four-year program was free, even for non-residents of the state, providing the students in Rhode Island schools for a minimum of two years after graduation. The change also elevated the head of the Normal School, John L. Alger, from Principal Alger to President Alger.

Other milestones for the College in the 1920s included:
- The opening of the new Henry Barnard School in 1928. Among the features of the new $600,000 school was a unique demonstration room - a classroom with balconies for student teachers to sit in and observe the class and instruction methods with minimal disruption for the students.
- The official launching of the student newspaper, The Anchor.

Research materials and photographs furnished from the Rhode Island College archives with the assistance and guidance of Martene Lopes, special collections librarian.

Joint RIC/URI PhD in Education —

by George LaTour
What's News Associate Editor

"I'm very proud of the students we have in the program. I think they will make excellent educators," says Joan I. Glazer, professor of library and information science and co-director of the joint Rhode Island College/University of Rhode Island PhD in Education program.

She is talking about the 32 active program participants in general and the first two graduates of the three-year program in particular.

They are Anne Hird of Providence and Helen "Tina" Barboza of Bristol.

Both have completed the three years of study and one year for preparation of their dissertation and have opted to receive their doctoral degrees at the RIC graduate commencement Thursday, May 20.

"The program is designed for scholar-practitioners, people who can do research and theory in education and apply it to solving real problems in real settings," Glazer says about the joint program which was initially agreed upon in 1991 by RIC President John Naccarato and URI President Robert L. Carothers.

As full and equal partners, their institutions would offer the first doctoral degree in education in the state.

It got under way in 1995 after receiving funding of $500,000 from Rhode Island philanthropist Alan Feinstein.

Glazer says the proposal had passed all the curriculum committees at both institutions "but didn't have the money to start" until Feinstein's generous grant in 1994.

The institutions agreed to pick up the cost of the program after that initial grant. The program is run by a committee comprised of four RIC and four URI faculty with a co-director from each institution. The co-director at URI is Louis Heft.

In all respects, it functions as a single degree program with joint and equal program and administrative handling on the part of the two institutions.

Students submit one application, pay one fee, file one set of materials for a program of study and one set of materials for taking the qualifying examination.

The equal partnership of the institutions is to be reflected on the diploma. In the space for the name of the institutions of higher education it proclaims: "The University of Rhode Island and Rhode Island College."

The degree ordinarily will be conferred at the graduation ceremony at the institution of the student's major professor, according to the agreement.

Hird and her husband, Jonathan, are the parents of 13-year-old twin daughters, Erica and Allison. She received her bachelor's degree in American civilization from Brown University in 1981 and her master's in library and information science at Simmons College in Boston in 1991.

She taught in the Providence elementary and middle schools for two levels for three and half years; was director of a $1.1 million grant from the Dewitt-Wallace Readers Digest Fund to revital- ize Providence public school libraries, and was director of partnerships for the Public Education Fund in which she coordinated 40 school-business partnerships designed to promote each school's educational goals.

"I began to feel like I needed a stronger education in education," says Hird about her decision to get her PhD. "I didn't want to get into the point where my work responsibilities were out-distancing my education."

As part of her studies toward the PhD, she took "specialization courses" at MIT and the Harvard University Graduate School of Education "which was one of the things I liked," the flexibility of the RIC/URI program.

She has been working part-time since 1997 in the RIC Feinstein School of Education and Human Development as a special assistant to the dean.

After receiving her PhD, Hird will be looking for employment in academic research and teaching and some alternative options in non-traditional areas in the K-12 arena.

One could say it's been a long run for Anne Hird, but she's used to that. In 1984 she crossed the finish line as the first American female runner in an Olympic Trial, not becoming in fourth place overall. In both 1980 and '84 she was a U.S. Olympic Trials qualifier.

Barboza and her husband, Benjamin, have two grown daughters, both married. Wendy Mendenhof of Cincinnati and Sharon Whitehead of New York.

She received her bachelor's degree in history education at the University of New Hampshire and her master's degree in reading at RIC. She is the principal in Barrington for six, she just started a new position as assistant superintendent at the Bristol-Warren Regional Schools.

Feeling the RIC/URI doctorate in education program supportive, Barboza says the "thing that made it the strongest was the cohort approach."

In other words, she explains, the same group of students moved together through the core courses, "so we have a real group identity."

There were nine PhD candidates in her group, a group which started out with 14, "and Anne and I are the first two to graduate."
Gala raises $20,000; Alumni schedules class reunions; Phonathon continues

Kudos to this year's Rhode Island College Foundation Gala Committee led by Secretary of State James R. Langevin, Class of 1986, honorary chair; Corrine Calise Russo, Class of 1985, chair; Theresa Howe, co-chair; and Lou Marciano, Class of 1960, auction chair, on a festive and successful evening April 9 at the Providence Biltmore.

The 230 guests, entertained by the Ray Edwards Orchestra, gathered to pay tribute to Foundation honoree, Joseph A. Neri Jr., Class of 1969, who was also marking his retirement after 30 years of service with the Johnston School Department. Neri received citations from Gov. Lincoln A. Almond, Lt. Gov. Charles Fogarty, U.S. Rep. Robert Weygand, the Rhode Island House of Representatives and Senate, and Providence Mayor Vincent A. Cianci.

Lively bidding on over 100 donated auction items contributed to a record-breaking $20,000 in net proceeds to support honors scholarships at the College.

These scholarships are awarded to incoming freshmen, transfer students, and upperclassmen who are enrolled in the honors program and continue to meet high academic standards during their tenure at the College.

Support from the Gala and the four-panel brochure highlighting this year's alumni honorees. Reserve the evening of May 12 for this central event of our year. Tickets ($30 per person) may be reserved by contacting the Alumni Office by phone at 456-8856; fax at 456-8851; or via email at alumni@ric.edu.

An open invitation: The campus is in full bloom, and construction and renovations are proceeding at a rapid pace. Take a few moments to visit the campus, and enjoy the ambiance of the commencement season.

Stop by Alumni House or the Development Office. We'd be happy to arrange a tour.

This is our last Private Support column for the current academic year. See you in September!

10th Annual Foundation Gala memories

College President John Nazarian, Audrey Baptista and Ronald A. Baptista, Class of 1988, president of Rhode Island Blue Cross Blue Shield converse during the Alumni House at 456-8856.

Reminder: The spring Annual Fund phone-a-thon continues through May 6.

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A 34-year-old African-American woman, a senior majoring in social work at Rhode Island College, believes— as did the late Rose Butler Browne— that she must overcome obstacles to better herself and her family.

Angela A. Downing of Fall River, a single mother of two young children, has earned a master’s degree in social work at Rhode Island College, and went on to obtain a doctoral degree in education from the University in 1993, becoming the first African-American woman to do so.

In her autobiography, Love My Children, Browne attributed her belief that “she must overcome obstacles to better herself and her family” to her great-grandmother, Charlotte Ann Lindsay, who worked as a domestic servant for a Southern slave whom she had married, and then moved the family to Boston for a chance to better themselves.

Downing attributes much of her own success to the support of her mother, Sondra Yarbough, her sister, Marla Bacon, who also is graduating this spring from RIC with a degree in social work, and her late grandmother, Angie Hayden, with whom she “spent a lot of time.”

“At one point I was ready to give up and she encouraged me to go on,” attests Downing, who felt discouraged in high school to the point that she quit. Later she obtained her General Equivalency Diploma (GED) and then enrolled in a local community college and “found little support there.”

She terms the obstacles (and those who put them there) in her life and in the lives of others she helps as “blockers.” She’ll not be discouraged, she insists.

She came to RIC, an institution she found “culturally diverse and very accommodating.” “It (RIC) really helped me to survive and thrive,” she says. Instead of blockers, she finds people anxious to help.

Downing has been very proud of her and her sister Marla for having successfully completed their college studies.

On commencement day Saturday, May 22, when Downing marches across the stage to receive her diploma from College President John Nazarian, she would like nothing better than to have her 9-year-old daughter, Julia, walk with her on stage.

“Of course, I always wanted to be in a position to advocate for people in my community,” she says.

Her family, assures Downing, is very proud of her and her sister Marla for having successfully completed their college studies.

The lecture is being sponsored by the English department with support from the College Lectures Committee. For more information, call 456-8029.

National certification for teachers

Informational meetings regarding National Board for Professional Teaching Standards Certification for teachers in residence at the East Campus, pedestrian and vehicular traffic, location of academic and student services, parking, and campus signage. The planner, Goody, Clancy and Associates, will present an analysis of the issues, talked to a number of people on campus, and has made some preliminary recommendations.

Representatives from Goody, Clancy and Members of the administration will be sharing these recommendations with the campus community on Thursday, May 13, from 10 a.m. to noon in Whipple 102. They will be seeking comments and suggestions as well as answering questions.

What’s News

A. John Roche Memorial lecture

Prof. Lawrence Buell of Harvard University will deliver the inaugural A. John Roche Memorial Lecture Tuesday, April 27, at 12:30 p.m. in Alumni Lounge, Roberts Hall.

The lecture honors A. John Roche, essayist and award-winning professor of English at Rhode Island College until his death March 9. The College community also is invited to a memorial service for Professor Roche Friday, May 7, at 2 p.m. in Guige Hall auditorium.

Buell, a distinguished scholar of American literature, will speak on the topic of claims about U.S. poetic distinctiveness with special reference to Whitman, Dickinson and Gwendolyn Brooks.

The lecture is being sponsored by the English department with support from the College Lectures Committee. For more information, call 456-8029.

Master planner to present

Rhode Island College has engaged the services of a campus master planner to make recommendations regarding the future of the East Campus, pedestrian and vehicular traffic, location of academic and student services, parking, and campus signage. The planner, Goody, Clancy and Associates, will present an analysis of the issues, talked to a number of people on campus, and has made some preliminary recommendations.

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There was a fiesta on April 4 at Rhode Island College. It was the Admissions Office's "Spring Party for Accepted Students" and about 700 people turned out for the event. The South-of-the-Border theme was carried through the decorations and food (make-your-own-tacos) in Donovan Dining Center and even to the T-shirts worn by the student guides.

For most of the high school seniors in attendance, it was a second look at the College; many had also visited during the College's Open House last fall. It was another opportunity to see the facilities and talk with RIC students, faculty and staff members before making that all-important final decision on which college to attend. A number of visitors elected to pay their deposits and get an immediate RIC I.D. and, as a bonus, a "fiesta" T-shirt.

Here is a look at some of the activities.

Photos and text by Gordon E. Rowley

A MEXICAN SMORGASBORD: Framed by a basket of corn chips, Jennifer Lora (left) and Maghnee Charles, seniors at Mt. Pleasant High School in Providence, design their own tacos.

Above: IN THE MOOD: Cara Richeal tries on a sombrero charro to get in the fiesta spirit. At left: ON THE ROAD AGAIN: Kevin Clarke, a resident assistant in Thorp Hall, takes visitors on a campus tour.

Above: MAKING THE DECISION: Accepted students line up at the table of admissions graduate aide Jaros Jalilah, Class of 1996, to pay their deposits.

Left: SHOPPING STOP: Erin Quinlan, a senior at Pilgrim High School in Warwick, visits the Campus Store with her mother, Judi, RIC Class of 1969.
Retention Task Force report identifies opportunities

Continued from page 1

At the campus forum, Nazarian summarized the issue: "The College has to be consumer-friendly to students...freshmen, transfer students, and full-time students. That is not always the case. Not everybody is going to graduate. There are some students who just can't make it. For whatever reason. But other students leave because they think no one cares.

"Retention is not just a matter of numbers, of students who graduate or don't graduate. It's a matter of whether we are being successful in motivating and guiding these students to an education and to become contributing citizens."

In introducing the report and its recommendations, Nazarian commended the diligence of the members of the task force. Task force members were Sandra Erso, assistant professor of sociology; Christopher Greene, elementary education; Robert Hogan, professor of English; Eleanor O'Neill, director of alumni affairs; Charles Owens, director of institutional research and planning; and Holly Shadoian, director of admissions. Terry Riley-Wilcox, recorder/advisor in the Records Office, served as a vital resource for the task force.

A matter of priorities

Looking toward implementation and in response to questions regarding related costs from participants at the forum, Nazarian noted, "There are some recommendations that may cost money, but that we just aren't doing. Some things in there may cost money, but we are putting near-ness to a matter of additional resources. It's a question of where you put your priorities.

For example, he said, "Advising is part of every job. It is very well, others don't. People who advise need to know the facts and be able to give advice that is relevant to the student. We hear too often: 'The student doesn't even think about it until she has an advisor.'

"Advising is just one of the areas identified by the task force. That was apparent from the onset that there is no single or simple solution to the retention issue," Eckert said, noting that the task force wholeheartedly concurs with the sentiment expressed by others who have studied the campus and the authors of the 1997 book, Policies and Practices, A Focus on Higher Education Management.

"Any campus wishing to improve its performance in student retention must make a long-term commitment to the process and be prepared to change the campus climate and services to be responsive to student needs. There is no quick fix, nor is there any universal fix in student retention. Each institution must address its own special constituency and its special needs effectively.

"Although the answer may not be simple or immediate, the pursuit of solutions is vital to the College. "Addressing retention concerns is key to fulfilling our mission to helping any qualified Rhode Island resident who demonstrates our offerings to achieve his or her potential. If students are lost along the way because they don't receive adequate guidance or don't feel concerned about their work in the College, we have not met our mission. We owe it to those who have an individual commitment to student success," the report said.

"Certainly, there are good reasons why students drop out, but lack of knowledge about College procedures as to exiting the institution, better access to faculty advisers, and identifying early warning signs of disenagement of students with the College are within the College's control," the report states.

The retention and graduation rates for RIC students are consistent with national trends, based on the student population the College serves, which includes a large number of students who attend part-time while they juggle family and work responsibilities or are first generation college students.

Where are they now?

Continued from page 1

Retention Task Force recommendations

- We recommend that the College administration identify and support, through example, an on-going retention effort as a top priority in the management of the College that is well established to guide the process and implementation of retention efforts.

- We recommend that the Revising Student Agenda workshops, started in the fall of 1997, be enhanced through further programming and training.

- We recommend that annual programs and program reviews, and other means of tracking student satisfaction and success be instituted as a matter of policy.

- We recommend that an "office of" College Ombudsman be established, either through a new position or an add-on to the duties of an already existing position, and that the "charge" of the job be widely publicized to provide a place of redress for learning, both academically and administratively.

- We recommend that new software and technology useful in the work of retention and student satisfaction be supported.

- We recommend that a comprehensive review of course scheduling and course availability commence immediately.

- We recommend that a thorough review of the transfer student experience be initiated and be integrated as soon as possible into the full retention effort.

- We recommend that the College Student Handbook be updated on a more regular basis. Further, that all form letters sent to student by various offices be reviewed for clarity, courtesy, tone, and correctness.

- We recommend that the development of retention programs fall under the following areas to ensure integration, organization and coordination efforts across campus:

  - Training and Information
  - Course Clustering
  - Course Admissions
  - Student Experience
  - Student Services
  - Quality Service
  - Campus Communications
  - Advising and Mentoring (Academic Team Mentors)

Nonetheless, these numbers reveal areas of opportunity, Eckert observed.

The report provided the following short facts:

- The retention and graduation rates for RIC students entering as freshmen over the last several years are between 45 and 48 percent.
- Most take more than four years to receive undergraduate degrees. (16 percent of editions of prints and paintings to sell their work."

- 84 percent reported that they were satisfied or very satisfied with the College, and 84 percent reported that they were not involved in any extracurricular activity, a critical, yet overlooked element in student success.

- 37 percent of the respondents had achieved upper class status before the beginning of their first term. Some have demonstrated the academic ability to be successful at college work.

- 84 percent reported that they were not involved in any extracurricular activity, a critical, yet overlooked element in student success.

- "Certainly, there are good reasons why students drop out, but lack of knowledge about College procedures as to exiting the institution, better access to faculty advisers, and identifying early warning signs of disenengagement of students with the College are within the College's control," the report states.

- The retention and graduation rates for RIC students are consistent with national trends, based on the student population the College serves, which includes a large number of students who attend part-time while they juggle family and work responsibilities or are first generation college students.

Building community

"What we discovered during this intensive project is that the reason for leaving are as diverse as our student body. Some come because of the reasons, such as family commitments and the like, are out of the control of the College, some come because of the reasons around which we can focus our efforts did emerge," Eckert said.

- Communications — how we deliver and receive information;
- Cross-discipline university; and each other;
- Connections — how we interrelate academically with students.

The focus of our recommendations is to build a sense of community at Rhode Island College which maintains students' individual goals set by the campus through intellectual growth, common values, and strong interspersing of personal and academic issues in introducing the recommendations.

(See listing of recommendations on this page.)

The 1998 Retention Task Force report provides a guide to increasing the number of students who determine whether they have had a successful and valuable experience they have here is successful and worthwhile.

In conclusion, the report notes, "Across the country, college and university leaders report that if retention coordinator efforts are replaced by processes, procedures, and programs are perceived by the community as directed, important, and crucial, then they work."

For more information or to obtain a copy of the report, contact Eckert at 401-466-8090.
Ben Libbey paces RIC Baseball

by Scott Gibbons
Sports Information Director

Senior Ben Libbey is the piston in the engine that drives the Rhode Island College baseball team. In the field, he plays centerfield, covering a lot of ground and shutting down oppositions’ scoring chances. At the plate, he bats leadoff, setting the table for RIC’s power hitters to knock in runs.

RIC Head Baseball Coach Scott Perry says, “Ben is one of the most important players on our team. He is a hard nosed batter at the plate who uses his speed to his advantage. He stretches a lot of singles into doubles and can steal bases with regularity. In the field, he can run down a lot of hits and cut them off, holding runners to only one or two bases.”

The Cranston resident is off to the best season of his career, batting .332 through the club’s first 19 games. He is one of only two players on the squad to have started and played in each of the team’s 19 contests this spring.

The 5’8”, 150 pound Libbey has scored a team-high 16 runs and has compiled eight RBI on the year, leading the Anchormen to only one or two bases.

“Ben is the consummate catalyst,” Head Coach Dick Ernst’s troops picked up a pair of 9-0 wins over Bridgewater State on April 6 and Somerset-Magnus on April 7. Paul Perry leads the team with 8.5 points. Perry is 6-2 in singles and 5-3 in doubles. Prendergast has been impressive at number two singles, posting a 5-3 mark in eight matches.

Despite the injury late in the season, Libbey had an outstanding year as a junior in 1998. He played in 29 games, starting all of them. An offensive catalyst, he led the team with a .343 batting average, 45 hits, 65 total bases and 10 steals on the year. He was second on the team with 25 runs scored. Libbey added 18 RBI on the year.

One of his most memorable moments came in the team’s 7-2 win over Southern Maine, the defending Division III National Champions at the time, last April. He doubled in the tying run and scored the winning run in the bottom of the ninth inning.

Libbey didn’t play in the spring of ’97, but did well in his first season at RIC in 1996. He played in 30 games, batting .313 with a team-high 27 runs scored. He added 14 RBI, four doubles, two triples and two home runs on the year. He also led the team with nine stolen bases.

Prior to coming to RIC, Libbey originally attended Arizona State University. “Someone gave me a [Arizona State] shot when I was a kid and I just started following their team.” Upon arriving in Tempe as a freshman, Libbey joined the Sun Devils’ baseball team during the fall season in 1994. “The baseball program there was top-notch,” he remembers. “It was really a professional atmosphere.”

However, the distance from his home in Cranston was a drawback. Libbey returned home after Christmas and began taking classes at RIC in the spring of 1995.

Libbey starred for four years as an outfielder at Cranston East High School from 1990-94. The team made it to the final four of the Rhode Island State Baseball Championships during his sophomore year in 1992. Growing up as a youth in Cranston, Libbey played with the Cranston team’s baseball coach Dave Walsh is leading the club with a .408 batting average. He also is one-two on the squad with 22 runs scored and 22 RBI. First baseman/designated hitter Christian Morin is batting .380 with eight runs scored and eight RBI on the year.

The men’s tennis team is 3-5 overall and 1-1 against Little East Conference opposition. Head Coach Dick Ernst’s troops picked up a pair of 9-0 wins over Bridgewater State on April 6 and Somerset-Magnus on April 7. Paul Perry leads the team with 8.5 points. Perry is 6-2 in singles and 5-3 in doubles. Prendergast has been impressive at number two singles, posting a 5-3 mark in eight matches.

What’s News, Monday, April 26, 1999 - Page 9
The band, conducted by senior
Don Dupre of Lincoln, an assistant
to director George Gencatello, will
perform “April in Paris,” “Deadly
Schmeddy,” “Spain,” “Caravan,” “Sing, Sing, Sing,” “Milestones”
and “Wind Machine.”
Lusk, a professor of trombone at
Penn State University, is equally at
home in the classical and jazz
worlds. Prior to his appointment at
Penn State, he performed and
recorded with the Chicago Symphony
Orchestra, the Eastman Wind
Ensemble, the Chicago
Contemporary Chamber Player,
Chuck Mangione, and the Woody
Herman Thundering Herd.
More recently he has toured exten-
sively throughout the United States
and performed at the International
Trombone Workshop.
He continues to have an active
playing career as a soloist, clinician
and freelance musician. He has per-
formed in New York on such
Broadway shows as Phantom of the
Opera, Miss Saigon, Les Miserables,
Victor/Victoria, and Beauty and the
Beast.
As a member of the Woody
Herman Alumni Band, he has per-
formed throughout the eastern
United States and Europe, including
a recording and performance in
Carnegie Hall with that ensemble.
Lusk holds undergraduate and
graduate degrees from The Eastman
School of Music and a performance
certificate from Northwestern
University. He is a clinician for the
Selmer Instrument Company and is
published through the assistance of
The Selmer Instrument Company and
Roberts Music Company.
General admission tickets are $7,
with discounts for senior citizens and
civic groups. RIC students admitted
free.

Trombone workshop
Lusk will conduct the Southeast
New England Trombone Choir
Workshop from 1:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Thursday, April 29, in Roberts Hall
auditorium. It is open free of charge
to all high school and college trom-
bonists.
For more information, call Rob
Franzblau, director of the RIC Wind
Ensemble, at 456-9014.

Nursing students
elected to honor society

Fifty nursing students from RIC
have been elected to membership in
Sigma Theta Tau International
Honor Society of Nursing.
The students will be inducted as
undergraduate students from RIC
through the local chapter Delta
Upsilon Chapter at-large.
The induction ceremony will be
held on Sunday, May 2, at 12:30 p.m.
at the Quonset ‘O’ Club in North
Kingston.
Sigma Theta Tau International is
an organization of nurse leaders,
scholars, and researchers. The honor
society, founded at Indiana
University in 1922, currently has
chapters at more than 400 college
and university campuses worldwide.
Membership in the society is
awarded to bachelors, masters and
doctoral nursing candidates for
scholastic achievement and to
graduate of nursing programs who
have made outstanding contributions to
nursing.

Soprano Diana McVeY in Chamber Music Series April 28

Soprano Diana McVeY, who twice
won the coveted Rita V. Bicho
Memorial Scholarship for excellence in
vocal performance while a stu-
dent at Rhode Island College, will
perform in the last entry in this sea-
son’s RIC Chamber Music Series
Wednesday, April 28, at 1 p.m. in
Robert’s Hall 155 (rehearsal hall).
The program will include works by
Strauss, Schubert, Berg, Rachmaninoff,
Mozart and Bernstein. Elizabeth Dean Gates
will accompany her on horn for a
Schubert piece.
McVeY has sung leading roles with
Adalgisa in Bellini’s Norma, Lucia in
Mozart’s The Old Maid and
Thief at the works of Carl Orff,
Leonard Bernstein and Richard
Cumming. She has performed the orato-
rios of Handel, Mozart and Bach.
McVeY also is well known for her por-
trayal of leading roles in the operettes
of Gilbert and Sullivan and recently sang the
role of Anna in Cumming’s opera The
Picnic at Trinity Repertory Theatre.
For more information, call John
Folliettno, series coordinator, at 456-
8544.

RIC Wind Ensemble, Jazz Band concert
features trombonist Mark Lusk April 30

Rhode Island College Wind
Ensemble and Jazz Band will share
the Roberts Hall auditorium stage
Friday, April 30, for an 8:15 p.m.
concert entitled “Passages” which
will feature guest trombone artist
Mark Lusk.
The ensemble program, conducted
by Rob Franzblau, will include works
by Mozart (Serenade No. 10 in B-
flat), Malcolm Arnold (Four Scottish
Dances), Frigyes Hidas (Rhapsody
Flat), Malcom Arnold (Four Scottish
Dances), and the Beatles.

21st annual
Bicho Memorial
Concert May 3

Rhode Island College Chorus and
Symphony Orchestra, conducted
respectively by William Jones and
Edward Markward, will present the
21st annual Rita V. Bicho Memorial
Scholarship Concert Monday, May 3,
at 8:15 p.m. in Roberts Hall
auditorium.
In the first half of the program,
the chorus will perform Renaissance
motets by Palestrina, Hassler and
Victoria; “Fantasia,” written by John
d’the chorale motet is one of the
goldes of Renaissance Europe.
The American artists will also be
performed as well as Randall
Thompson’s well known “Prostiana” and
even portions of settings by
Robert Frost.
Following an intermission, the
tradition of presenting the students
Scholarship(s) will be made. The
winner(s) each year are selected by
the music faculty on the basis of in-
tent and contribution to the
Department of Music, Theatre
and Dance.
Bicho served on the music faculty
for 30 years until her retirement in
1970 when she was named professor emeritus. The scholarship was
established in her name in honor of her
lifelong dedication to teaching and music.
The RIC Symphony will then per-
form Beethoven’s mighty Symphony
No. 5 in C Minor which, according to
Markward, "is arguably the most
famous symphonic work ever penned."
A donation of $10 is requested for
general admission; $5 for senior citi-
zens and non-RIC students. RIC stu-
dents admitted free.
All proceeds go to support the
Bicho scholarship fund.

RIC to present
‘El Medio Pelo /
The Ordinary Man’

Spanish Theatre of Rhode Island
College presents its 19th annual spring
Spanish drama, El Medio Pelo (The
Ordinary Man), Saturday, May 1, at
8 p.m. and Sunday, May 2, at 5 p.m. in
Gauge Hall auditorium.
A special performance for high
school students of Spanish will be
given Thursday, April 29, at 9 a.m.
The play, by the acclaimed
Mexican playwright Antonio
Gonzalez Caballero, takes place in
Apuseno, described as a “one-horse
country.”
The female protagonist, Paz, who
once had money and is considered
part of the upper class, is forced to
work outside the home due to the
deaths of her father and the
debts of her husband. Guadalupe
Marcial, the “ordinary man” declares his love for Paz and it goes to
them.
Cast members and their home-
towns are: Carla Cuellar, Cranston;
Francisco Cruz, Maria Lanceotttta,
Sovanny Pena, Steve Rusililo,
Rosemary Moranita and Roberto
Tabalda, all of Providence; Luis
Escolar, Rese Rodriguez, Woonsocket; Cristina
James, West Warwick.
M. Francis Taylor, associate pro-
fessor of modern languages, is the
director.
Tickets are $4 in advance and
may be purchased in Craig-Le Hall
141, or $5 at the door ($4 for
RIC students with I.D.). For more
information, call 456-8029.
Values: What Can the Larger From 4:30-5:30. The annual Sigma Xi Honors Undergraduate Research Symposium, which at st students who have done research at Rhode Island College during the last year will give oral presentations, will be held Friday, April 30, in Clarke Science Building 131 from 4 to 5 p.m.

A public scientific poster session will be held in the Faculty Center from 1 to 4 p.m. This session will include work by undergraduate and graduate students, faculty and other members of the community. It will be accompanied by a reception.

Sigma Xi’s annual dinner and initiation of newly elected students will follow.

Sigma Xi, the scientific research society, recognizes research accomplish­ ment in any field of pure or applied science.

Kenneth Miller, award-winning teacher and distinguished professor of biology at Brown University, will give a lecture at the symposium. The RIC Chapter of Sigma Xi’s public lecture entitled “Science and Human Values” is scheduled for April 7 at 7:30 p.m. in Fogarty Life Science Building 050.

Dr. Miller has been an advocate for teaching evolution in the science classroom. His book “Science and Human Values” outlines the potential outcomes of a scientific approach to answering important questions in moral and ethical discourse.

Dr. Miller will discuss topics related to religion and science, and the implications of proposed legislation in the state of Rhode Island that aim to promote creationism in public schools.

Dr. Miller is a member of the National Academy of Sciences, and a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He was one of the founding editors of the journal “Science Education.”

Members of Sigma Xi, the Scientific Research Society, are scientists who have completed and defended a thesis or dissertation in the sciences, engineering, and mathematics. Sigma Xi members have been recognized in all fields of science, technology, and engineering, and are among the most accomplished scientists, engineers, and mathematicians in the world.

SIGMA XI MOVING COMPANY dancers Michael Boiger and Eva Marie Pacheco perform in Miki Ohlsen’s Absence of Lavender which will be part of the dance concert at Rhode Island College’s Roberts Hall auditorium at 7 p.m. Sunday, May 9. The company will present a program perfect for a Mother’s Day outing, performing dances roman­ tic, humorous and engaging. The concert is ICCA’s Department of Music, Theatre and Dance. Tickets are $15 (8 for senior citizens, students and children under 12). Also, the company will perform the program Monday, May 10, at 10 a.m. for school groups. Tickets are $4 per student. For tickets or information on both performances call 877-4476. (Photo by Nadia Toulouse)

Commencement Continued from page 1

Capaldi, Class of 1964, earned his bachelor of education in mathematics and physics education at the College. President of the Rhode Island College Alumni Association during 1973-74, Capaldi was also named to the 1992 RIC Alumni Honor Roll for Mathematics. Capaldi, who is retiring as head of the mathematics department at Toll Gate High School in Warwick after a 35-year career as a teacher in that system, is considered by many to be an unofficial ambassador for mathematics education in Rhode Island.

He has served as a committee chair or member of numerous statewide and national mathematics and education organizations.

However, it is for his work in the classroom that Capaldi has won his greatest accolades. The very first year at Gorton Junior High, when he was selected Teacher of the Year, Capaldi has continued to be nominated to that position for many years. His honors include four Presidential Awar­ ds for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching, a 1992 Milken Award for Excellence in Teaching, and the RIC Commission on Women’s Title IX Award. He was selected as Teacher of the Year a second time at Gorton Junior High, twice at Winn­ man Junior High, and in 1994 won a student election at Toll Gate High School Educator of the Year. Perhaps not coincidentally, as an adjunct faculty member at the College, Forman has studied at Providence College, the University of Rhode Island, Brown University, and the University of London, completing 90 hours of study beyond the master’s degree.

Perhaps the biggest impact on Capaldi has been his work in teacher education for many years. His drive and persistence have often amalgamated those of more recent genera­ tions and her success during annual Alumni Fund phonathons is legendary.

In a fascinating lesson in addi­ tion to her bachelor’s and master’s degrees in education and the certificate in gerontology, Forman has studied at Providence College, the University of Rhode Island, Brown University, and the University of London.

Perhaps the biggest impact on Capaldi has been his work in teacher education for many years. Capaldi and his wife, Helen, decided to focus on teacher education after their three sons graduated from college.

Capaldi was named Storyville Cape Cod. From there, he was asked to assemble all the groups to play at a local club.

Wein founded the New York Repertory Company and in 1952 he established the “New­ port Jazz Festival All-Stars,” which toured and recorded worldwide and which gave Wein an opportunity to showcase his own considerable skills on the piano.

Wein was born in 1925 and began studying classical piano at the age of 8. However, by the time he was 15 he had taken root. Due to the influence of his father, a distinguished plastic surgeon, Wein attended Boston University as a pre-med student. However, his passion for music soon prevailed and after graduation, Wein got a job playing jazz at a Chinese restaur­ ant for $50 a week. From there, he was asked to assemble all the groups to play at a local club.

Wein opened Mahogany Hall, a second jazz club dedicated to the traditional jazz form. During this time, he also wrote a jazz column for the Boston Herald and taught a jazz course at Boston University.

During the summer, Wein closed his clubs in the city and brought the show to a resort area, which he named Storyville Cape Cod. From there, it was a short jog westward to Newport, and the rest, as they say, is history.
RIC CALENDAR

APRIL 26–MAY 10

Tuesdays
Noon to 1 p.m. — Bible Study in the Chaplains’ Office, SU 300. Conducted by Larry Nichols.

Wednesday
12:30 to 1:45 p.m. — Catholic Student Association meets in the Chaplains’ Office, SU 300.

27 Tuesday
12:30 p.m. — A. John Roche Memorial Lecture in the Alumni Lounge, Roberts Hall. Prof. Lawrence Buell of Harvard University will deliver the inaugural lecture.

8 p.m. — Theatre: Ken Ruta as Oscar Wilde — "Diversions and Delights" in Roberts Auditorium. Reserved seating $18. Part of the Performing Arts Series.

28 Wednesday
3:30 p.m. to noon — Conference: The Gerontology Club is sponsoring a conference entitled “Quality of Life in Long-Term Care Settings: Ombudsmen Make a Difference.” In the South Dining Room, DDC to examine issues related to the oversight of long-term care for older adults. The conference is free and open to the public.

1 p.m. — Music: Blackstone Chamber Players in Roberts Hall. Part of the Chamber Music Series.

Thursday
4 to 5 p.m. — Lecture: “Lessons about Mathematics from the Timing of Heart Attacks” in the Faculty Center. Part of Math Awareness Month.

29-2 Thursday
Spanish Theatre of RIC (STRIC): El medico pelo (The Ordinary Man) will be presented on the following dates in Gaige Hall Auditorium. Thursday, April 29 at 9 a.m.; Saturday, May 1 at 8 p.m.; and Sunday, May 2 at 3 p.m. Tickets may be purchased in advance in Craig, Lee 141 for $4. They will be $6 at the door. For further information, call 456-8029.

29-2 Friday
2 p.m. — Memorial service for A. John Roche in Gaige Auditorium. For further information, call the Department of English, 456-8028.

Friday

Sports Events

Baseball
April 29 at Western Connecticut State (2-9) *noon
May 1 Johnson and Wales (2-7) noon
May 3 Connecticut College noon
May 5 Eastern Connecticut State (2-9) noon

Softball
April 26 at UMass-Dartmouth (2-7) *3:30 p.m.
April 27 at UMass-Boston (2-7) *3:30 p.m.
May 1 Johnson and Wales (2-7) *1 p.m.
May 5 Little East Conference Playoffs (Round One) TBA
May 7 Little East Conference Playoffs (Round Two) TBA
May 8 Little East Conference Championships TBA

Men’s Tennis
April 28 Roger Williams 3:30 p.m.
April 29 at Salve Regina 3:30 p.m.
May 5 at UMass-Boston *3:00 p.m.

Men’s and Women’s Track and Field
May 1 at New England Div. III Championships TBA
May 8 at ECAC Division III Championships TBA

HOME GAMES/MEETS IN CAPITAL LETTERS

* Denotes Little East Conference opponent
# Denotes hosted by Springfield College
> Denotes hosted by Williams College

Notice of Affirmative Action and Nondiscrimination
Rhode Island College is committed to equal opportunity and affirmative action. No student, employee, or applicant will be denied admission, employment, or access to programs and activities because of race, sex, religion, age, color, national origin, handicap/disability status, sexual orientation/gender identity, or veteran status. This College policy is in concert with state and federal nondiscrimination laws. Persons concerning the College’s administration of the nondiscrimination laws should be addressed to the College Director of affirmative action. Reasonable accommodation upon request.

A HELPING HAND: Amy Andrews, a RIC junior, guides Colton Beaudy, 9, over the low balance beam during the R.I. Special Olympics motor activities training day, April 5, in the New Building. The event was sponsored by the Department of Health and Physical Education and run by students in the Adapted Physical Education course. (What’s News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)