What's News At Rhode Island College

Rhode Island College

5-10-1999

What's News? Newspapers

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Outstanding seniors honored at Cap and Gown Convocation

by George LaTour
What's News Associate Editor

You could tell it was going to be a joyous affair at the 1999 Cap and Gown Convocation at Rhode Island College, May 5.

The packed Robert Hall auditorium, which included the class of 1999, cheered and applauded even before the National Anthem was sung by senior Sarah A. Martinez and, of course, afterwards as well.

Cheers rose again and again as President John Nazarian and senior class member Jason Anthony, who spoke for the class, brought greetings to the graduating seniors, who were decked out for the first time in their academic regalia.

The convocation annually kicks off the commencement season at RIC, now in its 145th year.

Family members and friends of the class joined College administrative officers and department chairs or their representatives to honor outstanding graduates with a record number of awards.

Several of the honorees were students who chose to complete their undergraduate education simultaneously with raising a family, starting a career or returning to college after an absence of some years.

Some, in fact, all instances did so with perfect or near-perfect academic averages.

ARRIVING CAPLESS: Three seniors arrive at Roberts Hall for Cap and Gown Day ceremonies May 5. From left are Dorany S ao, Sid Gueye and Maii Sharanj. It is a tradition at the College that seniors do not don their mortarboards until Cap and Gown ceremonies. For more photos, see pages 6 and 7. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

See Cap and Gown, page 6

Faculty promotions, tenure announced

College President John Nazarian recently announced faculty promotions and tenure and hosted a reception in their honor Friday, May 7, at the President's House.

Those promoted to the rank of professor and their departments are: Peter Brown, history; Donald Dufur, history; Hsemong Kim, art; MacGregor Knalesky, elementary education; Patricia Medeiros Landurand, special education; Peter Meyer, physical sciences; Angela Murphy, nursing; Jeannine Olson, history; Marjorie Roemer, English; Patricia Thomas, nursing.

Those promoted to the rank of associate professor and their departments are: Ellen Bigler, educational studies; Mary Byrd, nursing; Gale Goodwin Gomez, anthropology/geography; Lisa Humphreys, mathematics/computer science; Marc Lamontagne, physical sciences; Charles Owens, biology; Russell Potter, English; Daniel Scott, English; Requel Shapiro, Henry Barnard School; Tomoji Shogenni, philosophy; Ying Zhou, mathematics/computer science.

The promotions will take effect July 1.

Ten faculty members have been granted tenure, effective July 1 of the year indicated.

They are: Ellen Bigler (1999), English; Mary Byrd (1999), nursing; Gale Goodwin Gomez (1999), anthropology/geography; Lisa Humphreys (1999), mathematics/computer science; Marc Lamontagne (1999), physical sciences; Ammarie Mumm (2000), School of Social Work; Russell Potter (1999), English; Daniel Scott (1999), English; Tomoji Shogenni (1999), philosophy; Ying Zhou (1999), mathematics/computer science.

MJSA and RIC to reveal state’s newest jewel at ribbon cutting

By Shelly Murphy
What's News Editor

Rhode Island College, which has played an integral role in the education and training of jewelry designers and craftsmen for years, is poised to expand its impact within the state's vital jewelry industry through a partnership with the Manufacturing Jewelers and Suppliers of America (MJSA). On May 24 at 1:30 p.m., the ribbon will be cut to reveal the state's newest jewel—a state-of-the-art jewelry industry training and educational facility, located in the Art Center on the RIC campus.

This unique facility is a collaborative effort, blending the strengths, talents and resources of the College and of the MJSA—a professional trade association which represents American jewelry manufacturers and their suppliers. College President John Nazarian and James F. Marquart, president and CEO of the MJSA, will officially open the facility, which houses about $80,000 in new equipment donated by MJSA members or purchased with grant money.

"This facility is a shining example of what higher education and industry can accomplish together. This collaboration will make state-of-the-art equipment and classes available to talented and knowledgeable college faculty available for students just entering the field and individuals working in the field who are seeking continuing education and advancement," said John Salomone, vice president for academic affairs.

"All of the students benefit from the location of this facility on a college campus. The College students gain practical knowledge and experience, and professional contacts from learning side-by-side with individuals who are currently working in the industry. The industry veterans benefit from exposure to the talent and energy, and the creative and intellectual challenge inherent in an academic environment. Success in the continuing education classes in a college environment may encourage these individuals to continue their education beyond the initial courses," Salomone said.

The facility will provide hands-on training for aspiring crafts people and industry veterans, creating a unique ladder for jewelry manufacturers. The education modules, slated to begin this fall, will focus on jewelry making, design, and related machining, soldering and welding, and finishing techniques.

Students completing the training modules will be eligible for
DAISY CHAIN: For this first issue of May 1999, we go back to May 1940, when it was a tradition at Rhode Island College for students to go out to the fields in spring and gather daisies for an enormous chain that was carried the College’s May Day celebrations. Above, members of the Class of 1942 carry the “Daisy Chain” down the steps of the now-demolished Normal School building in downtown Providence. Leading the procession is Lorena Ward Murphy, who later (from 1979 to 1986) became a member of the R.I. Board of Regents. To her left is Barbara Ryan Duffy. (Photo Courtesy of Lorena Murphy)

Focus on Faculty and Staff

An article written by Christine Mulebasy Szby, assistant professor of history and Barnard School, was published in the January issue of Young Children, a publication of the National Association for the Education of Young Children. The article, entitled “Why do some teachers resist offering appropriate extended activities for young children?,” was recently selected for reprint in First School Years, a professional journal of the Jewish Early Childhood Association.

Rachel Filinso, professor of sociology and coordinator of the gerontology program, has recently published articles relating to health and gerontology issues in several journals. Her article, “A Cross-National Test of Propositions from the Neoliberal Perspective on Social Security Expenditures,” (written with Roger Clark, professor of sociology) appeared in the Journal of Aging & Social Policy. Another article, “Consumer Empowerment through Education” was published in the journal Educational Gerontology. A third article, “The Impact of the Community Care Act – Views from the Independent Sector,” was published in Health & Social Care in the Community.

AT RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE

WHAT'S NEWS

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W ith an engaging mixture of humor and story-telling, John H. Bracey Jr. challenged about 125 students, faculty and community members to take a closer look at the 

"Cost of Racism to White America" in the Rhode Island College Dialogue on Diversity Committee's fourth annual spring symposium.

Bracey, a professor in the W.E.B. DuBois Department of Afro-American Studies at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, delivered a thought-provoking address on April 21, imploving the audience to confront misconceptions about racism and its impact on society as a whole, historically and currently.

In just under an hour, he covered the gamut of topics: slavery, public schooling, democratic representation, affirmative action, violence and even sports.

"The most lasting consequences of the introduction of slavery to this country and the failure to deal with the legacy of slavery is the militarization of our society, the arming of America," he observed, just days after the tragedy in Littleton, Colo., where two high school students shot and killed 13 of their classmates in a rampage.

He illustrated how guns and violence became part of the American culture from the very beginning. "The Europeans landed in a country that happened to be inhabited by people. They armed themselves to take the land. In order to work the land, they imported slaves. Most people understand that if you exploit people and take away their land, they might get upset and might do something to get out of the situation, including killing you."

So it was prudent to arm themselves "and for every white American to know how to use a gun," Bracey said. "Once you get used to the notion that the way to run society is through arms, it's hard to get it out of the society. Look at the areas that are the most armed today, the former slave states in the South and New England, " he continued because (settlers) took their land and they might want it back. Look at the guns on the back of trucks in the South. You don't see guns hanging from Volvos or Subarus in Boston."

"What kind of society defines citizenship as being able to kill someone?" he asked rhetorically, recalling how slaves were refused citizenship after the Civil War because military service was necessary to be a citizen. "Slaves ran the plantations while the men were away fighting. They didn't rape and pillage. They took care of the babies, tilled the fields, and set by the hearth and fed _ the children. They were considered subhuman, but to rise up in anger and kill someone was how you got citizenship. Who's crazy?"

The consequences of taking away rights of citizenship had great impact on white society too, he said. He cites the lack of public schools "because the slaves might learn. So the solution was to keep whites stupid" and the delay in establishing social programs because during "the 20th century you had elected officials working for their own pocketbook, not the people in their district."

For instance, this country did not have social security, aid for women with children, workers compensation, an eight-hour work day until the 1930s. Other countries had these programs in the 1890s, Bracey noted.

Regarding affirmative action, he paraphrased a common argument that affirmative action (in colleges and universities) stigmatizes minority because they are let in because of their race, not their qualifications.

If a little bit of affirmative action hurts the black man's psyche, imagine what 200 years of racism has done to the white psyche. If the black American's psyche is hurt because he is accepted into college for the wrong reasons, imagine how confused whites are -- they think they are qualified," he declared to a round of laughter and applause.

"The fear behind segregation," he continued, "is if you let me in, I'll do better than you. If I was stupid, you'd let me in and watch me fail. If you let me in and watch me fail, you'd let me in and watch me fail. If you let me in and watch me fail, you'd let me in and watch me fail."

On a lighter note, he turned to the impact of racism on sports. Archie Robinson, the first black baseball player to play in the white major leagues, was on the bench in the black league: "He was not good enough to be a starter in the black league, but he wreaked havoc in white baseball. Racism gets you confused. Babe Ruth was the greatest of the white baseball players, not the greatest baseball player," he said. "Racism distorts your view of the world."

The cost to society is continual, he said, noting the public expenditures to "contain the black population." (Segregation) would rather spend $20,000 to put a black man in prison rather than $5,000 to give him a scholarship to college so he can become educated and get a good job. "When you look at the money spent on prisons, you could have given half of that money to the blacks and said don't do anything wrong and spend the rest to fix school buildings and buy more books for the library," Bracey said.

In summary, he noted, "The goal of any kind of discussion like this is to be able to see your face in the face of every human being on this planet. If we all are under pressure, there will be problems. You must see yourself and treat them like you would want to be treated rather than saying those people."

Following Bracey's remarks, Frank Graham, publisher of the Providence American, and Carol Bernal, of Progreso-Latino, delivered brief responses before the break-out workshop sessions began.

Graham noted that there are lessons to be learned and we haven't looked at those lessons. There are instances where people are getting along pretty well. We need to learn how they do that. For instance, when we send troops to Bosnia, it's a multi-cultural force. We are sending a message to Bosnia, 'We've worked it out here.' What we've failed to say is that the military is trained to get along. We are not privy to that training. We should be bombarded with that," Graham said.

Bernal commented that white supremacy continues in Rhode Island. "The low-income and poor Hispanics tell us how they are treated by temp agencies. We are destroying our own home, our society. We are sending troops to Bosnia to teach them to honor life, but we don't even do it in our own community," she concluded.

The topics and presenters for the workshops that followed were: Classrooms and the Language of Race; Classroom Use of Language; "Ray Rickman, Channel 36 "Bestsellers"; "Gay and Lesbian Lives in Education," Michael Gorman, RIC resident hall director; and Whiteness and White Privilege - A Conversation," Bracey.

TEACHER JOB FAIR: The fifth annual Teacher Job Fair April 22 at Johnson & Wales Inn, Seekonk, Mass., brought representatives from 85 schools from throughout the country to interview over 300 students from seven Rhode Island colleges and universities. Heather Alexion (above) of Smithfield, a Rhode Island College language arts major, interviews with Lyman Goding of the Plymouth, Mass., school department. "Many of the recruiters gave us excellent reviews of the fair and most particularly the caliber of the students who attended," reports Phyllis Hunt, of the RIC Career Development Center. (What's News Photo by George LaTour)

DIVERSITY SPEAKER John Bracey (left) walks to Gaige Hall auditorium with College President John Nazarian to deliver an address on April 21. Bracey, professor of sociology and African-American studies at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, spoke on "The Cost of Racism to White America." (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)
Students gain insights through urban experience course

by Shelly Murphy
What's News Editor

For the second consecutive summer, Elizabeth Henshaw, assistant professor of elementary education, is leading a group of future teachers on an exploration into territory where up to 64 different languages are spoken and many diverse cultural expectations coexist.

Beginning May 23, Henshaw will take a group of summer school students on a two-week journey into this intriguing multi-cultural microcosm of society. The goal is for students to gain understanding and insights about the realities of this environment and the people who work and live there.

During this course the students travel to diverse and unfamiliar venues as far away as the Rhode Island Island Training Center and as close as George West Elementary School on Mount Pleasant Avenue, just down the street from the College. While these venues are obviously not far away geographically, that is the point of the course which is entitled Multicultural Perspectives through Urban Experience.

The purpose is to provide education students the opportunity to experience the diversity and richness of the multi-cultural communities right here in Providence so they will be better prepared for travel to diverse and unfamiliar locations.

While these venues are obviously not far away geographically, that is the point of the course which is entitled Multicultural Perspectives through Urban Experience.

The students get to know the children, and their families, in the elementary schools. They get to talk to senior citizens in neighborhood centers in these communities to learn about their past and the problems they have faced. They go to the Training Center to meet the students there, because some of them are going to be back in the public schools," Henshaw said.

The class meets for three hours a day, 9 a.m. to noon, from May 25-26.

The first and last days of class are traditional lectures held on the College campus. The remainder of the classes and the learning take place in the field.

"The students get to know the children, and their families, in the elementary schools. They get to talk to senior citizens in neighborhood centers in these communities to learn about their past and the problems they have faced. They go to the Training Center to meet the students there, because some of them are going to be back in the public schools," Henshaw said.

Luncheon held for ‘graduates’ of electronic prepress skills training

A luncheon for the dislocated workers at Quebecor, who had just completed a few months in electronic prepress skills training in the Center for Management & Technology at Rhode Island College, was held April 30 in Alumni Lounge.

The class participants were left to guide them down the right path,” Henshaw said.

She moved forward to create and officially establish this intensive, yet relaxed urban experience for students. The class meets for three hours a day, 9 a.m. to noon, from May 25-26.

The purpose is to provide education students the opportunity to experience the diversity and richness of the multi-cultural communities right here in Providence so they will be better prepared for travel to diverse and unfamiliar locations.

For more information, contact Henshaw at 401-456-8567.

Nursing honor society inductees

Fifty nursing students and nine community leaders have been elected to membership in Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing. The members were inducted through Delta Upsilon Chapter at Large at Rhode Island College.

Sigma Theta Tau International is an organization of nurse leaders, scholars and students.

Junior students inducted were: Eric Bouson, Susan Boragine, Doreen Clare, Erik Chapman, Mary Correia, Ken Conquill, Elizabeth Crowley, Linda Darling, Linda Dix, Clairene Emile, Suzanne Fagarty, Brian Girard, Mary Hollis, Angela Lemoine, Denise Manchester, Robin Martellini, Amie Medeiros, Ellen McKenzie, Ian Miller, Marilyn O’Connor, Diane Reesendes, Valeria Sarmo, Karen Schafer, Tricia Smith, Beata Sochacka, Laurie Tagen, Terezinha Taveira, Kimberly Wripple, Mary Wright and Angie Wu-Chin.

Senior students inducted were: Sidney Cervi, Wei Ming Cheung, Holly Desimone, Karen Dodd, Melissa Estes, Steven Fortin, Kerry Gamble, Katherine Goun, Lizbeth Graham, Lisa Hebdad, Esther Menzah, Jane Miller, Elizabeth Mwalimu, Sabrina Papini, Rita Pearson, Mary Elizabeth Perry, Karen Pruse, Tracy Sivo, Joyce Shipley and Michael Smith.

Community leaders inducted were: James Badger, Rosemary Biagio, Diane Bifulco, Jennifer Ciali, Christine Hickey, Susan Korber, Youngjin Lee, Karen Mercer and Mary Morry.

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION of electronic prepress skills training at RIC’s Center for Management & Technology is presented to George Palazzo of Smithfield (left) by Lenore Collins, an associate professor at the Center.

Michael Sweeney, executive director of the Rhode Island Printing Industry Coalition looks on. A total of 15 former employees of Quebecor received certificates in Alumni Lounge on April 30. (What’s News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

A portion of the equipment used in the training was obtained from a Champlin Foundations grant. The Tripp Company also placed some of the equipment used for the training, says Collins.

DISCUSSING CULTURAL Diversity with guest speaker Edwina Void, left, early this semester are seniors Amanda Sequin, Frances Cruz, Joan Toohey, and Kate Birchell. Void’s visit was coordinated by elementary education professors Elizabeth Tollow and Elizabeth Henshaw coordinated the visit which was funded by the first Fenestra Professional Development Grant. (What’s News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)
**Providence becoming a model for creative development**

by George LaTour
What's News Associate Editor

uly 15 years ago the Wall Street Journal called Providence “a smudge on the way to Cape Cod.”

But today, it viewed as a “model for creative development among U.S. medium-sized cities,” according to a comprehensive study conducted by Rhode Island College students in two classes: — State and Local Government and Urban Political Geography.

Today, delegations from cities across the United States visit our state capital for clues on how to develop their own downtown areas, where NBC has developed a new hit TV show bearing the name “Providence,” notes Mark T. Motte, assistant professor of geography.

The 52 students in his and political science Prof. Francis J. Leazes Jr.’s joint project sought to find the causes for this dramatic shift in status.

The professors took the students on guided walking tours of the central city, conducted interviews with public officials, private investors, developers and real estate agents, and conducted archival research using an array of state, municipal and newspaper sources, among other study tools.

Both Leazes and Motte have long been interested in the dynamics that drive changes in the College’s host city and both have published articles on the subject.

This spring, they pooled their resources to take the students on an exploration of municipal politics, public financing, urban policy development, and the emerging geography of the city’s Capital Center District and the “New Downtown.”

They collaborated to develop an applied research course that would give students insights into the processes by which cities are built and re-shaped.

Both Leazes and Motte gave lectures to their respective classes on the political decision-making process, citizen participation, municipal and state budgetary processes, and urban planning/revitalization strategies.

The students attended forums with mayors of Fall River and Providence Mayor Vincent A. Cianci Jr.’s policy director.

Students were able to question these local officials “to test whether their reading about theories and models in specific texts matched with what happens in the real world,” says Motte.

The class study yielded “much valuable data” on the contribution that new buildings and urban design projects have made to the revitalization of downtown Providence, reports Motte.

The students found “well over a billion dollars” has been spent on public improvements to the downtown area in the last 10 years.

“While there has been a lag between public investment and a return on that investment (in terms of jobs and property taxes), private money started to appear on the scene during the mid-to-late 1980s,” the students noted.

They found that the public sector — federal, state and local — led the “renaissance,” spending funds on the relocation of the Narragansett Club to a new site; the revitalization of the rivers (the Moshassuck and Woonasquatucket); the construction of the Public Market Park; the development of the “Civic Center Interchange” and Memorial Boulevard; and the development of the Convention Center District and Capital Center to I-95 and the Route 9-10 Connector, and the construction of the Convention Center and Westin Hotel.

Other projects examined include the skating rink and redevelopment of Kennedy Plaza, the Masonic Temple and Veterans Memorial Auditorium and the new movie theaters on Washington Street.

The costs to the public sector include those of “aggressive economic development” that brought about these changes “have not and will not cease,” the students concluded.

Once the public infrastructure was put in place, private investors began to see the potential to make money in Providence, the study found.

To tempt private investment, Providence has signed a series of tax treaties with private corporations wishing to relocate to the city “although many of these new buildings will not pay property taxes at all for a decade or more,” according to the findings.

Buoyed by a healthy regional economy throughout the 1990s, builders have found opportunity for commercial and retail development.

The professors took the students to view developments such as: — Mercantile Plaza, a five-story retail center; the “new gateway” to downtown Providence developed along Route 10; American Express (in One Gateway Place condominiums) “all found profitable locations in the Capital Center District.”

Oral presentations and final research reports are due by the students on May 4 and 5.

“The most exciting part of this project is the cooperation between the two departments (of political science and anthropology and geography). That’s a welcome event,” says Leazes.

He feels the experience the project provided “has been valuable for the students who have learned how to do this kind of applied urban research.”

And that research confirms that the changes to the face of downtown Providence are real (as opposed to merely perceived), substantial and ongoing.

On April 30, the annual Sigma Xi poster session was held in the Faculty Center. Sigma Xi is a science research and honors society.

One full and nine associate members were inducted into the Rhode Island College chapter of Sigma Xi, at ceremonies led by incoming chapter president John C. Williams Jr., professor of chemistry, at the annual meeting.

Inducted as a full member is June E. Williams, associate professor of nursing.


Above: SPLIT IMAGE: Before the ceremonies, Amanda Sequin tries on her mortarboard decorative mirror of the Alumni Lounge, with the help of Jason Anthony. Sequin received in Geography from Prof. George Epple.

Below: RIC physical plant.

Above: THE MAIN ADDRESS is given by Mark T. Motte, assistant professor of geography and director of the Study Abroad Program. At right: DOUBLE IMAGE: Motte is seen on a closed-circuit television monitor (left) and on the Roberts Hall auditorium stage. Above right: AT LAST, THE CAPPING: Becky Ivanussicelli (left) is capped by Jaimee McEloy.
From the study of human physical origins to spiritual destiny —
This 4.0 anthropology student wants to become a minister

by George LaTour
What's News Associate Editor

Highly motivated learner, student leader, Girl Scout leader, active member of church and mother of four, Monica J. Ouellette of Lincoln is the 1999 recipient of the James Rhode Island College. Outstanding Student in Anthropology.

From the study of human physical origins to spiritual destiny, Monica J. Ouellette of Lincoln is the 1999 recipient of the James Rhode Island College. Outstanding Student in Anthropology.

Ouellette received the honor at the Convocation May 5 as this year’s Ministry Fellow “because of your enthusiasm. I feel that a scholarship such as this will help relieve the burden.”

Perfect grade-point average of 4.0 has been “a good experience” with her track record at RIC. She entered RIC in the fall of 1997.

Ouellette feels her RIC education has been “a good experience” with her track record at RIC. She entered RIC in the fall of 1997.

She received the honor at the College’s annual Cap and Gown Convocation May 5 as this year’s outstanding student in anthropology.

Ouellette plans to enter the ministry in the United Church of Christ, anthropology.

“My parents were born and raised here and went back.” She studied at Wheaton College in 1982, got married to Arthur Ouellette Jr. in 1983, and then earned an associate’s degree in general education from the Community College of Rhode Island. She entered RIC in the fall of 1997.

Ouellette feels her RIC education has been “a good experience” with her track record at RIC. She entered RIC in the fall of 1997.

“Her achievements ... are astounding,” says George M. Epjle, chair of the anthropology/geography department.

Not so.

When I entered this institution of higher education I was in culture shock. It was out of place, like it was a big dream. When I became more comfortable, I decided to get involved.

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The Theological Education Association of Theological Schools. For Ouellette that should prove to be no problem. In her own quiet way, she is determined to succeed and if her track record at RIC is any indication, she will.

She hopes to attend Andover Newton Theological School in the fall.

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The workshops are free and open to the public. To reserve space, call the Feinstein School of Education and Human Development at 456-8612, or Brian McCadden, 456-9586.

While at RIC she served as vice president of Anthropology, the anthropology club; did an internship at Roger Williams Museum of Natural History working as the associate curator for cataloging and collections management; presented papers at the annual meetings of the Rhode Island College Anthropological Association.

“Her achievements... are astounding,” says George M. Epjle, chair of the anthropology/geography department.

Asked if she will have a celebration after graduation, she says, “I hope so. A nice big one is what I’m looking for.” She chuckles at her own plan.

At the commencement exercises her family, including her husband, Chris, her children: Ernest, 11; and Thomas, 9, will be there as well as her mother, Louise Vezineau, her sister Denise Arruda (another sister, Michelle, is in North Carolina).

It should be quite a celebration!

Nutrition lessons brought to life

by Jon Hauss
What’s News Staff Writer

Twenty-five students at Rhode Island College will graduate this month with General Education Honors, reports Spencer Hall, director of the College’s Honors Program.

Another four completed their studies last January, bringing the total this year to 29.

Seven of the May graduates also will receive College honors on the basis of a successful completion of a Senior Honors Project in their respective disciplines.

The workshops will be lead by Jane Callahan, professor of education at Providence College and Northeast coordinator of the National Service-Learning in Teacher Education Partnership.

The Feinstein School of Education and Human Development is sponsoring two professional development workshops on community service and service-learning in teacher education to be held Friday, May 28, 9:30 a.m. to noon, in Flommer Center A; and Friday, June 11, 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., in the Faculty Center, South Dining Room.

These students, their areas of study and project advisors are: Hope Davis, English, Barbara A. Schapiro; Kelly Cervera, sociology, Kitty Britto; Millie Davis, English, Betty C. Life; Vandala Davis, English, Mary J. Thum; Amanda Sequin, Spanish, Dix S. Cove; Andrea Ziobro, psychology, Sugarman.

Amanda Sequin is this year’s outstanding graduate of the Honors Program. She was given the Eleanor McMahon Award at the Cap and Gown Convocation May 5.

Sequin wrote her senior project in Spanish on a Spanish poet, a "first" for the Honors Program. Also for the first time this year, the honors graduates discussed their projects with other students and faculty during a seminar on May 16 in the Gaige Hall auditorium. A dinner in honor of the students followed in the Faculty Center.

Other students graduating with General Education Honors are: Cassandra Adams, art; Sara Barlow, art; Julissa Bartoli, Spanish; Mary Elizabeth Bevis, sociology; Aria Cefola, sociology; Mary lamb, psychology, Sugarman.

Also, Shannon McLoughlin, Sara McMillan, Terence McMillan, Adrian Nagle, Gina Nardolillo, Colleen Rogers, Beth Ruppert and Craig Turcotte.

Continued from page 1

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In the past year I have been president of the Residential Student Association as well as Student Community Government. As a lifeguard at the College Recreation Center, I worked with students to improve their swimming ability. I have been a residence assistant through which I shared my college experience with students.

In the past year I have been president of the Residential Student Association as well as Student Community Government. As a lifeguard at the College Recreation Center, I worked with students to improve their swimming ability. I have been a residence assistant through which I shared my college experience with students.

In addition, I have held two part-time jobs to pay tuition.

This scholarship will allow me to continue to be a student even when they feel lost in the world of higher education.

I would like to continue in these leadership roles but do not feel that I can give up the things I have been able to do and maintain a decent grade-point average.

I would like to give up the two part-time jobs and continue with all the activities, but without some type of aid that will not be possible.

I feel that a scholarship such as this one will help relieve the burden.

While at RIC she served as vice president of Anthropology, the anthropology club; did an internship at Roger Williams Museum of Natural History working as the associate curator for cataloging and collections management; presented papers at the annual meetings of the Rhode Island College Anthropological Association.

My most important goal is to successfully complete my education at RIC. This education is not just limited to my academics, but includes other areas.

There are many ways in which I have gone about fulfilling my goals, but the most obvious is my involvement in the many clubs and organizations to which I belong.

When I entered this institution of higher education I was in culture shock. It was out of place, like it was a big dream. When I became more comfortable, I decided to get involved.

The workshops will be lead by Jane Callahan, professor of education at Providence College and Northeast coordinator of the National Service-Learning in Teacher Education Partnership.

The workshops are free and open to the public. To reserve space, call the Feinstein School of Education and Human Development at 456-8612, or Brian McCadden, 456-9586.

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**Sports Roundup**

**BASEBALL**

The RIC baseball team is 6-8 overall and 2-8 in the Little East Conference. Head Coach Scott Perry's team hosted a big ECAC/Robbins Distinguished Student-Athlete (RIBGHE) and was recently nominated to the ECAC/Robbins Scholar-Athlete Award.

Fox to receive Murphy Award

by Scott Gibbons

Sports Information Director

Senior Joy Fox has been chosen to receive the Helen M. Murphy Award, which recognizes not only athletic prowess, but also values community and campus involvement. Fox is an excellent women's tennis player and outstanding student as well.

The Murphy Award was established in 1979 and sponsored by the faculty of the Henry Barnard School to honor an outstanding Rhode Island College senior woman athlete. The award is named for Helen M. Murphy, a member of the first Barnard School class in 1907 and founder of the Rhode Island Barnard School, beginning in 1941, until her retirement in 1979.

The Murphy Award is given to a female student-athlete who contributes to RIC athletics and other campus/community activities. She demonstrates good leadership skills and shows academic excellence.

Fox closed out her career this fall with 35 career points, the seventh highest total in school history. She is sixth all-time with 26 career singles wins. Fox's 567 career winning percentage is third in school history. She is 12th all-time in career doubles victories. What's even more impressive, is that Fox set all those records in only two years of competition.

RIC Head Women's Tennis Coach Dick Ernst says, "Joy is one of the finest players I've ever coached. Her intelligence on the court is unparalleled. She is a tenacious competitor who always finds a way to win. We'll miss having her on the court next fall a great deal."

This past fall, despite not playing organized tennis in over two years, Fox compiled a singles record of 13-2 and won the three singles flight at the Little East Conference Championships. She was also 9-5 at number one doubles on the year. The team closed out the year with a 10-12 overall record and a second place finish at the LEC Championships. Fox was undefeated against conference opponents, posting a 5-0 mark on the year. She was also a team captain in 1998.

The two-time LEC champion has enjoyed a true college experience, getting to see and do a lot of different things over the past four years. Fox, who was a winner of a Rhody Student-Athlete scholarship in 1997-98, spent that academic year in Ireland. She has been a regular contributor to The Anchor over the past three years.

Prior to traveling to Europe, Fox enjoyed an outstanding sophomore campaign at RIC in 1996. After missing her freshman season due to a broken foot, Fox didn't miss a beat. She was 13-2 and posted a record of three singles flight champion at the LEC Championships. Her intensity and desire to win catapulted her to the best singles record in school history that year.

Fox came to RIC after an outstanding career at St. Mary's Bay View Academy. She was a four-year letterwinner on the tennis team and a three-year singles player her senior year. She also played softball for three seasons while in high school.

Her cumulative GPA is 3.34. Fox was named a Distinguished Student-Athlete by the Rhode Island Board of Governors for Higher Education (RIBGHE) and was recently nominated to receive the ECAC/Robbins Scholar-Athlete Award.
RIC alumna sings her way to the top of Christian music chart

by George LaTour
What's News Associate Editor

The envelope, please... And the winner for Pop/Contemporary Song of the Year and Inspirational Recorded Song of the Year...Avalon!

Rhode Island College alumna Cherie Paliotta, formerly of Johnston, one of four members of the Christian music group, Avalon, couldn’t have been more happy of the excitement. "Any nomination is an honor, but to receive six (including Artist of the Year) was overwhelming. I just feel so blessed lately."

The national honors were announced at the 39th Annual Dove Awards (which is to Christian music what the Grammy awards are to pop) in Nashville, Tenn., March 24.

Last year, the group was named the 1998 New Artist of the Year by the Gospel Music Association Dove Awards, and its single, "Testify To Love," held the No. 1 position on the top of the Christian music chart for a record six consecutive weeks and was recently used as a centerpiece of an episode of television's 'Touched By An Angel' featuring Wynonna.

For Paliotta, a music education grad from the Class of 1994, it has been a dizzying rise from local to national. "I was the front singer for a group called The Sojourners which featured her uncle, Ron Termale."

Only for a year
"I only did that for a year, but we did cut an album. That's how I got my start in Rhode Island," says Paliotta.

Of course, in the years between and ever since, the mezzo-soprano has been singing in one church choir or another, the latest being the New Life Worship Center in Smithfield "whenever I'm in town."

Paliotta sang in the Ric Choir all four of her years at the College and was the front singer for the Ric Jazz Band as well. Off and on over the years in Rhode Island she also sang at weddings and private parties.

After her graduation from Ric, she taught music in Westerly for a spell and then went to Newport, Tiverton, and Lincoln, and then singing with a group called Soul'd Out.

With her reputation growing by leaps and bounds, it didn't take long before she was invited to join the group, Avalon, replacing singer Nikki Hanson, who left to pursue a solo career.

That was 10 months ago and ever since it's been one performance after another - usually three or four per performance a week in three or four separate cities. Their bookings are handled by the big-league William Morris Agency.

Avalon in the United States, contemporary Christian music is big in states like Texas, Tennessee, North Carolina, and generally across the South.

"There's a whole world of Christian music that people in New England are not familiar with," says Paliotta.

"We have music that sounds just like pop only with Christian lyrics. I'm not ashamed to say that I'm really proud of the way God is using us," she says.

The album she refers to is called In a Different Light. It was released March 23, marking Avalon's third recording and the follow-up to its 1997 recording, A Maze of Grace, which reached the No. 1 position on the Billboard Christian sales chart and has remained on the Billboard Heatseekers Chart for over 63 weeks. Avalon has eight consecutive number one Christian radio singles to its credit.

Members of the group, aside from Paliotta, are Jody Mcbrayer, Jody Potter, Michael Passons, Jody Mcbrayer and Ric's Cherie Paliotta.

Dove Awards
The 1999 Dove Awards aired in syndication across the country in late March-early April (locally it was on Channel 5 in Boston on March 28) with Avalon opening the telecast with its "Testify To Love" award-winning single.

"What is the future hold for Cherie Paliotta?"
"I want to continue to sing professionally and as a job," she says, adding that by doing this she "makes a pretty good living - but I'm not a millionaire."

She says, however, that her income is "climbing" when she travels, "so blessed lately."

Her home base these days is an apartment in Brentwood, Tenn., but she gives her parents a "call weekly" and "as much as I can," coming home for every holiday "and we're very family-oriented."

She considers her college experience a "one and a lot of work" but it did instill in her desire to - someday - go back into teaching again.

She assures, "I'd love to bring my performance experience into the classroom."

We have music that sounds just like pop only with Christian lyrics. I'm not ashamed to say that I'm really proud of the way God is using us. -- Paliotta

Ribbon cutting
Continued from page 1

MJS Certification of Competency. They may also choose to continue their education and pursue a fine arts degree.

In addition to RIC and MJS, the facility is supported by grants from the Rhode Island Economic Policy Commission and the Human Resources Investment Council to bolster the jewelry industry in Southern New England.

Approximately, 25 percent of the manufacturing jobs in Rhode Island are jewelry-related, and currently no local manufacturing program exists to support the industry through continuing education.

"This is a prime time to begin cross-training veteran manufacturing workers and creating school-to-career opportunities," said David Doll, MJS program manager. "It makes sense for the region, and it makes sense for the jewelry industry as a whole."

Overseas trade opportunities are expected to increase substantially when certain Asian-Pacific Economic Cooperative (APEC) nations, including China, attempt to join the World Trade Organization in December. "When trade barriers come down, we will need a workforce to support a manufacturing boom," said Marquart, "Locally, and nationally, we need to get the word out to students about the potential for jobs worldwide."

"The training facility at RIC will be a prototype for similar training programs throughout the country. The involvement of MJS, other states have already begun to duplicate the program, including California and New York, he said.

For more information, contact Clare Eckert at RIC, 401-456-8090, or David Doll at MJS, 600-444-MJS, ext. 3061.
Jennifer Courtney said she was overjoyed to be named this year's winner of the Shinn Fund scholarship and that she was grateful for the support it provided for her studies.

"I've wanted to study in Spain for a long time," she said. "The Shinn Fund scholarship is a great opportunity to do that."

Her selection was announced at the reception following the matinee performance of Cabaret Saturday, April 24.

Despite her choice to take-intensive Spanish language study in both Barcelona and Valencia, Courtney's real interest is history. Currently she is studying Spanish labor history at RIC and hopes someday after gaining both a master's degree and PhD to teach European history at the college level.

For her post-graduate studies, she would like to return to California - "I kind of grew up there" - and attend the University of California in San Diego.

She will leave Aug. 8 to fly to Barcelona. She will spend the fall semester in Barcelona and in Valencia where she will study at the Instituto de Estudios hispanicos.

Courtney is a daughter of Richard and Michaeleen Courtney of Kodiak, Alaska. She has two sisters, one older and one younger, both of whom are in college in South Dakota. Her father, retired from the military, currently works for the National Weather Service.

Courtney's mother is originally from East Greenwich. Her grandparents, William and Elizabeth Stearns, reside in Coventry.

Courtney gets to see her parents in Alaska a couple of times a year.

She has never been abroad before, but with a Dad in the military all those years, she's been all over the continental United States and, of course, to Alaska. She moved to Rhode Island four years ago.

At RIC, she has been active in Student Community Government and has worked in the Alumni Office for the past two and half years, helping with fund raising.

Ellie O'Neill, director of Alumni Affairs, is happy about Courtney's selection by the Shinn Fund but says, "I'll hate to lose her. She's a delightful person and a real worker."

Courtney will return to RIC to finish up her undergraduate education before heading to California.

The Shinn Fund, held within the RIC Foundation, provides income to support undergraduate students in planned study outside the United States. Established in the 1987-88 academic year by Professor Shinn through the support of many of his friends, colleagues and former students, it annually names one or two students as recipients. Courtney is the only winner this year.

MUSICAL SCHOLARS: Scholarships of $800 each were awarded to four music majors during the 21st Annual Rita V. Bicho Memorial Scholarship Concert May 3 in Roberts Hall auditorium. The awards are made from the Bicho Family Endowment established in memory of Rita and her sister Mary, both of whom were teachers of music. From left are: Jacob Stott (for keyboard), Wendy Rios (strings), Dominique Oarson (vocals) and Patricia Bentley (woodwind, brass and percussion). All are juniors. At right is Prof. Robert Elam, music executive/assistant chair of Department of Music, Theatre and Dance. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

RIC-led performance to benefit MS victim

A one-time-only performance of an original play by veteran Trinity Rep actor and writer Ricardo Pilts-Wiley will be staged Wednesday, June 2, at 7:30 p.m. in the Upstairs Theatre at Trinity Rep, the proceeds of which will go to support the medical expenses of a multiple sclerosis victim, LaDawna Jones.

Jones is the sister of Alonzo Jones of Providence, a Rhode Island College graduate, class of 1997, who studied communications and theatre. In his senior year he portrayed the king in The King and I by RIC Theatre.

He and his mother, Iona, are spearheading the efforts to produce the play, which features gratis performances by 31 artists. Many of the performers, including Jones and RIC alumni Eric and Jennifer Mudge Tucker, have RIC connections.

The play, Night and Shakespeare, is described as a musical celebration of the night and the freedom that it brings. It is a collection of poems and songs dealing with "night themes" such as love, pain, loneliness and the fear of lacking the courage of your convictions, says Jones.

Tickets are $20; $15 for students, senior citizens or the disabled and $30 for patrons (priority seating) and can be purchased at the box office or by calling Trinity at 351-4242.

Annual Senior Show at Bannister Gallery May 13-22

The annual Senior Show, a juried exhibition highlighting the work of seniors graduating from the College's Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Fine Arts programs, will be held in Rhode Island College's Bannister Gallery May 13-22.

The opening is May 13 at 7 p.m. The exhibit is free and open to the public.

The show features works from all Department of Art studios, including ceramics, design, drawing, fibers, metal, painting, photography, printmaking and sculpture.

Hours for the gallery, located in the RIC Art Center, are Tuesday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6 to 9. For more information, call Dennis O'Malley, gallery director, at 465-9765.

Registration begins for two-week SummerArt camp

The Rhode Island College SummerArt Program, a mini-art camp for children ages 5-15, is currently accepting registrations.

Classes are designed to provide a fun, relaxed environment for children to satisfy their creative energies.

This year the program will run from July 12-22, Mondays through Thursdays from 9 a.m. to noon. Classes will be held in mixed media, sculpture and drawing.

Fees for the two-week program are $165. Registration deadline is June 26. Early enrollment is recommended as class size is limited. Brochures and registration information are available in the art department, 465-8004.
Getting into the swing of spring

PUTTING ON THE GLOVES: Heidi Jordan (left) and Emily Spritz box in an inflatable ring during RIC End '99 activities April 28. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

SWEET TREAT: Senior Marwa Bahgat makes herself a sundae on the esplanade April 28. The distribution of free ice cream was part of RIC End '99 activities. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

SELF-DEFENSE: Rob Catallozzi gives a martial arts demonstration in the Student Union ballroom on April 20. Catallozzi, who holds a 2nd degree black belt in karate, is an instructor at Ichiban Karate in Wakefield. His visit was sponsored by the Asian Student Organization and was one of several events in celebration of Asian Week. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

Sports Events

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Notice of Affirmative Action and Non-Discrimination
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, pregnancy, or veteran status. This College policy is in accord with state and federal non-discrimination laws. Inquiries concerning the College's administration of the non-discrimination laws should be addressed to the College Director of Affirmative Action. Reasonable accommodation upon request.