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What's News At Rhode Island College

Rhode Island College

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KITES gets lift from donated sails on Aurora

by Shelly Murphy
What's News Editor

As any teacher can attest, the higher the outdoor temperature and the more brilliant the sun, the more students tend to drift out of the classroom—in mind, if not in body. In May, with spring fever well entrenched and summer vacation just weeks away, keeping elementary school students interested in science can tax even the most experienced and enthusiastic teacher.

Fortunately, an innovative business and education partnership between Island Development Corp., of Newport and the Rhode Island College-based KITES — Kits in Teaching Elementary Science — provides an ideal solution for teachers and students alike, IDC, which owns several properties in Newport, including the Marina Grill on Goat Island and Ocean Cliff, has donated the services of the Aurora and her crew to provide about 50 educational cruises for more than 2,000 elementary students from across the state in the coming weeks. The donation is valued at more than $150,000.

The sailing program is part of the science education reform initiative of the College-based KITES — Kits in Teaching Elementary Science — that has already received a grant from the Rhode Island Foundation to provide "capacity-building" funds. The Institute, which was created in 1998, is the only organization in the state whose mission is to effect systemic change by providing policy analysis, education and advocacy statewide on issues affecting the well-being of all low-income Rhode Islanders.

The grant will enable the Institute to increase its efforts in expanding educational opportunities for low-income families. The funds will help support the Institute's first full-time paid staff position and expand the education and advocacy efforts, according to Nancy Gewertz, president of social work and director of the Institute.

"We are very excited about the grant from the Rhode Island Foundation. Our work has been on a

See KITES, page 14

Poverty Institute at RIC receives $56,000 from RI Foundation

by Shelly Murphy
What's News Editor

The Poverty Institute at the Rhode Island College School of Social Work has been awarded $56,000 by the Rhode Island Foundation to provide "capacity-building" funds. The Institute, which was created in 1998, is the only organization in the state whose mission is to effect systemic change by providing policy analysis, education and advocacy statewide on issues affecting the well-being of all low-income Rhode Islanders.

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In Memoriam
Social activist Iola Mabray

Iola A. Mabray, 88, of Providence, who was instrumental in the formation of several educational programs for minorities, died May 27 at Roger Williams Medical Center. She was the widow of the late William A. Mabray.

Born in Providence, she was a daughter of the late James Lindsey and Martha (Gibson) Lindsey-Hall. As noted at spring commencement in 1991 when she was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Public Service by Rhode Island College, Mabray was one of those very significant Rhode Islanders whose social activism and concern for human worth have made lasting contributions to the lives of black and other minority youth and the poor.

"No history of the civil rights movement in Rhode Island could be written without including Mrs. Mabray," she was pivotal in developing educational opportunities for those numbers of minority children and adolescents.

She organized neighborhood youth for cleanup activities in an organization called the Lower Pleasant Street Association. In the East Side of Providence, was an original board member of Mt. Hope Courts, the first public housing built on the East Side. Founded the Lippitt Hill Tutorial Program housed at the Lippitt Hill School — now Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School — in Providence, and organized parents for the founding of the Mt. Hope Day Care Center and the East Side Community Action Board, Inc., while simultaneously obtaining her own high school equivalency and earning college credits at the age of 54.

After Martin Luther King Jr.’s assassination in 1968, Mrs. Mabray became one of the founders of the Urban Educational Center, a part of entry into higher education for the poor and members of the minority community. In the late 1970s, the center won an award from the U.S. Department of Commerce as one of the most innovative educational programs in the nation.

Mrs. Mabray assisted in the development of the Alternate Learning Project, which helps provide supportive counseling and educational services for dropouts and potential dropouts. A board member of The Providence Corporation, she was instrumental in the design of programs in the areas of education, housing and employment. In addition, she helped to establish ongoing scholarships at the University of Rhode Island for minority students.

In 1969, she came to RI Island, where she worked in a federally funded program called Project Eight, which provided educational counseling early enough for minority students to select college preparatory classes.

She leaves a son, Horace Mabray of Providence, two daughters, Carol of Smithfield and Beverly, both of Providence; 15 grandchildren, 31 great-grandchildren and 10 great-great-grandchildren. She was the mother of the late William A. Mabray Jr. and sister of the late Juanita Osborne, Barbara Lampkin and Shirley Mitchell.

Funeral services were held in the Olney Street Baptist Church, Providence.

Focus on Faculty and Staff

Steven King, assistant professor of industrial technology, successfully defended his dissertation at the University of Connecticut on April 29. His research study, entitled "Organizational Capabilities and Competitive Advantage: Mitigating Managers' Perceptions of Past Use, Past Payoff, and Future Use," investigated senior managers' perceptions of four propositions related to how a company develops competitive advantage. The final study concentrated on senior managers from five New England manufacturing companies. The study produced three new propositions for inclusion in his dissertation and for the management programs.

Michael S. Casey, assistant professor of management, presented a paper entitled "Principal Component Analysis of the AMT Transfer Characteristics: Results from Advanced Manufacturing Centers" at the 28th annual conference of the Northeast Decision Sciences Institute recently in Naples, Florida. The paper was published in the conference proceedings.

Joseph L. Costa, director of Student Support Services, has been elected president of the New England Educational Opportunity Association for a term beginning in the year 2000 when the NEEOA will hold its regional conference in Providence. NEEOA is an advocate for access to and success in post-secondary education for low-income individuals, first generation college students and college students with disabilities. Costa also has been appointed to the Rhode Island Council of Opportunities in Education, a part of NEEOA.

Joseph Schneider, associate professor of history, was elected vice president of the New England Historical Association and bi-anannual conferece held recently at Riverier College in New Hampshire. She will be responsible for organizing the conference programs for the October 1999 meeting which will be held at Suffolk University and the April 2000 meeting which will be held at Tufts University. Schneider is the co-complier of the Women in Western European History (1822-1982) and is completing a study of the emergence of public welfare in 18th century Germany.

David C. Woolman, professor in the Curriculum Resources Center, attended the 1999 conference of the Comparative and International Education Society in Toronto in mid-April. He chaired a session of four papers on the theme, The Media, Culture and Education: Jamaica, Japan, Korea and Australia and presented a research paper, "Australian Press Coverage of Curriculum and School Reform Issues," which examined the role of the media in reflecting and shaping policy debates in countries where pressure for social change has caused major challenges. Woolman presented a second paper, "Understanding the Modern World," in a panel presentation by the National Association for Educational Reconstruction, which examined some positive and negative aspects of "Modernism in the Global Age." The conference was attended by nearly 900 educators, primarily from over 60 countries. While in Toronto, he also visited elementary and secondary schools to observe multicultural curricula and community-school partnerships. Several faculty members and about 30 students from the Rhode Island College and Education and Dance department recently attended the 1999 American Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (AAHPERD) national convention held in Boston. Professors Karen Castillo, Betty Rauhe and Ben Lombardo presented at the convention. In addition, two Rhode Island College students were recognized for their excellence by the Eastern District Association of AAHPERD. Laura Murphy and Kristy Siravo were named Outstanding Student Majors from Rhode Island. Student Elizabeth Randle was recognized by the National Association for Sport and Physical Education and named Outstanding Physical Education Student from the New England region. The National Geographic Society’s new initiative for families called Teaching Adventure and School of Education and Human Development at Rhode Island College and student Philip Perry, professor of elementary education, is a co-author and director of the Rhode Island Student Support Services. Perry was elected president of the New England Student Support Services. Perry, with his program booklet along with eight other development team consultants who assist the Society’s program staff. The program’s goals are to increase family reading time with an exploration of travel, people, places and other cultures. Perry says the program is being field tested exclusively in RI this summer with every public library receiving copies to give to families with the help of the federal government.
Program gets renewed federal funding —

Upward Bound graduates 39: most going on to college

by George LaTour

What's News Associate Editor

The Upward Bound program at Rhode Island College heard the announcement at its 33rd annual graduation ceremonies June 3 in Donovan Dining Center that the federal government had renewed its funding for another four-year cycle even as this year's class of 39 received their certificates of completion of the college-preparation program.

Of the graduates, all except one will head to various institutions of higher learning throughout the United States in the fall. One has chosen to enter the Air Force.

In his address to the graduates, College President John Nazarian noted that no high school in the state approaches the Upward Bound Class of 1999's achievement: 100 percent of its graduates who chose to go to college were accepted.

"Your success makes it possible for others to believe in themselves," he told the class.

Upward Bound is the federal-funded college preparatory program that prepares selected students from the area's targeted schools for completion of high school and acceptance at college. All are first in their families to attend a four-year college or university.

Nazarian said Upward Bound's grant application for renewed federal funding had been approved in the amount of $460,000 for each year in the up-coming four-year cycle.

This is in addition to the financial commitment made by the College.

Keynote speaker Renia France, a member of the Upward Bound Class of 1983, who went on to complete a bachelor's degree at Boston College and an advanced study program at Harvard University, told the graduates the two most important things they can develop in college are the ability to learn and the ability to think.

She said it became apparent to her in her position as a human resource generalist at Brigham & Women's Hospital "that the one thing that was constant was change" and that they should be prepared to make the changes necessary "not only for a job or a career, but also for your life."

Other speakers included Mariam Z. Boyajian, program director; Kevin Austin, a member of the class, and Gary M. Pankenfield, vice president for student affairs and dean of students, who offered a salute to the graduates.

Three Upward Bound Alumni Scholarships were awarded as well as one from each of the four school districts in which participating high schools are located.

Presenting the 11th annual alumni scholarships was Luis P. San Lucas, chair of the scholarship committee and an Upward Bound alumnus from the Class of 1986.

The winners, their high schools, amount of award and the colleges they will attend are: Gloria J. Satgumam, Shea, $2,000; Brown University, William M. Buccella, Mt. Pleasant, $1,300, University of Massachusetts at Amherst; Juan C. Acosta, Central Falls, $1,000, University of Rhode Island.

Target School System Scholarships presented to the seniors with the highest academic averages are: Acosta, Central Falls, $225; Denise G. Gonsalves, East Providence, $250; Satgumam, Pawtucket, $250; Sayan Myo, Providence (Mt. Pleasant), $500.

The Outstanding Service Awards were presented to Arthur Zarrella, former Providence school superintendent; Leo Di Maio, director of the Talent Development Program at URI, and Regina M. Lavoie, supervising registered nurse at College Health Services.

Each was cited for contributions toward the success of the program and its students.
Almost $84,000 was pledged during the spring 1999 phone-thon for the Annual Fund, reports Margaret Brown, director of development.

"That, in itself, is incredible. However, just over $44,000, or 76 percent of the total pledged by our alumni and friends has already been collected. That's an unprecedented percentage!" More than 10 percent of the total pledged represents increases from previous donors and first time pledges from non-donors.

The Alumni Association changed its fiscal year from Jan. 1 through Dec. 30 to July 1 through June 30. "This left us with a 'bridge' of six months and a goal of $50,000 for the Annual Fund during this transition period. We particularly targeted previous donors who had given less than $100. Thus, no concerted effort was made to contact our major donors for this period," Brown remarked.

"One of the central factors in this success story is our team of dedicated and skilled student callers who work under the leadership of student Jennifer Courtney. Jen has been in her position for over a year, and she continues to surpass her own goals. Unfortunately for us (and wonderful for her), Jen will be leaving us in August as the Shinn Study Abroad Scholar. However, she has committed to spending the summer with us and to training a replacement.


Pledge reminders will be mailed during the first week of June, and the 'short fund' closes on June 10, 1999. All donors will be recognized in a full publication. The 1999-2000 Annual Fund kicks off in late summer with a goal of $30,000.

**Alumni Association plans summer, fall events**

Although the academic year is over, the Alumni Association isn't taking a break. The committees are at work on upcoming events. Mark your calendar.

- **Friday, June 30, 7 p.m.**
  - Night at the Paw Sox, sponsored by the Young Alumni Group. Box seats are available at a discount price of $6.50. For additional information, watch your mail for the Alumni Magazine or call the Alumni office at 456-8086.

- **Monday, Sept. 27, 1 p.m.**
  - Golf tournament at the Cranston Country Club to benefit the RICCoeth Effort and Geoscientific Opportunities for sponsorships available. Call the Alumni Office (456-8086) to be placed on the mailing list or for more information.

**Alumni Association annual meeting June 16**

At its annual meeting Wednesday, June 16, the Alumni Association will elect six new directors. The nominating committee places the names of the following alumni for election for a two-year term:

- Lucia Amos, Class of 1992
- Suzanne Augenstein, Class of 1997
- Phyllis Hunt, Class of 1986
- Joe Farbacher, Class of 1954
- Judy Roy, Class of 1974
- Ed Soares, Class of 1959

The slate will be voted on at the annual meeting at 5:30 p.m. at Alumni House.

**$60,500 approved for 32 faculty research projects**

Rhode Island College Faculty Research Committee recently has approved funding in the amount of $60,500 to cover 32 faculty research projects commencing in July and extending through next June.

Of the total amount awarded, $12,500 came from the RIC Foundation and Alumni Association, reported to committee chair Peter S. Allen, professor of anthropology. The rest came from unrestricted College funds.

The grants, their departments, projects and amounts approved are:

- **Samuel Aizen, art, „Research into the Formal and Narrative Content in Figurative Art: Artacks and Allegory, a Tradition in Two Dimensions,“ $1,600.
- **Yael Avissar, biology, „The Effect of Geometrical Change in Frequency Magnetic Field Intensity on Excited State Proton Transfer Reactions in Micelles,“ $1,900.
- **Marc L. C. Lamontagne, physical sciences, „Protein Identification, Purification and the Determination of Stable Nitrile Isotope Compositions of a Novel Antiviral Bacillus Subtilis Protein,“ $1,500.
- **Beverly A. Goldfield, psychology, „Are There SES Differences in Parents’ Perception of Early Language Comprehension?“ $1,300.
- **Terrence E. Malloy, psychology, „Methodologies and Approaches in Intercultural Communication: A Critical Assessment of the Field of Future Direction,“ $1,000.
- **Leslie Schuster, history, „Recruitment and Organization of Export Labor,“ $1,000.
- **Andrea DiCicco, English/African-American Studies, „A Work Force in the Lawrence Area: History of the Haverhill Immigration Movement,“ $1,000.
- **Bret Rothstein, art, „On the Order of Things in the Borgia Court,“ $1,000.
- **William Martin, art, „Wood and Steel Sculpture,“ $1,332.
- **Charlie Maranzano, physics, „Excited State Proton Transfer Reactions in Micelles,“ $1,500.
- **Thomas M. Meedel, biology, „Using Gene Knockout to Study the Function of UMDF in Ascidian Embryos,“ $1,205.
- **Stefan F. Min, communications, „Methodologies and Approaches in Intercultural Communication: A Critical Assessment of the Field of Future Direction,“ $1,000.
- **Kelle Murphy, English, „Developments in the Study of Literary Genres and the Effects of Postmodern Art on the Classroom,“ $1,200.
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Collaboration between education and jewelry industry sparks learning, career opportunities

by Shelly Murphy
What's News Editor

On May 24, numerous pairs of gold scissors sliced the ribbon to open the new jewelry training and education facility on the Rhode Island College campus. The facility will bring art students and jewelry professionals together in a forum to inspire and actually produce jewelry designs for the next millennium.

Like a fine jewel itself, the jewelry facility is the product of many disciplines and ideas combined into a cohesive unit. In this case, the binding element is commitment to creation — of art and opportunity.

In his remarks at the ribbon cutting, College President John Nazarian commended the efforts of all involved in making the facility a reality. The facility will provide classes for art students as well as individuals currently working in the jewelry industry.

"That this facility has come into being is a tribute to a partnership between MJSA — the Manufacturing Jewelers and Suppliers of America — together with the state of Rhode Island and Rhode Island College," Nazarian said.

MJSA, based in Providence, is an international professional trade association. The new facility houses nearly $80,000 in equipment donated by MJSA members or purchased with grant money. Steven Fisher, chair of the art department, and Curtis LaFollette, professor of art, have been instrumental in the development of the program. Nazarian noted.

The facility features 12 state-of-the-art work stations as well as soldering and grinding equipment. Classes are slated to begin in the fall, Fisher said.

The interaction between students, educators, and those working in the industry is a key component of this facility, according to Steven Tegu, an international jewelry designer who was instrumental in bringing MJSA and RIC together to create the facility. Tegu, whose father, the late Steven Tegu, was a professor of modern languages at RIC for 36 years and was named professor emeritus, manages his own design studio based in Providence and has developed products for Bulova Watch Co., Tiffany's, Cartier, Revlon, Warner Bros. and Christian Dior Jewelry.

Tegu, who credits his time in the jewelry industry as design and fashion driven. These are strengths of Rhode Island. There is no place better to look for designs and ideas than where the fashion jewelry industry begins," he said.

To help nurture this pool of talent and perhaps ignite a spark in young artists, Tegu volunteered his time to work with art students at Central High School in a three-month School-to-Career pilot initiative. It also provided Tegu an opportunity to complete a circle by helping someone who once helped him. The art teacher in the Central High class where Tegu taught jewelry fabrication to 14 students for about three months this spring was Carole Harman — the art teacher who had mentored and encouraged him when he was a student at Hope High School in the 1970s. It was in her classroom that Tegu, who was doing an independent art study at Hope High upon returning to the United States after studying abroad, found an "artistic haven and discovered that his work had value."

"She pushed me to join a collaborative with some RISD (Rhode Island School of Design) students on Marcha's Vineyard. As a senior in high school, I was selling my jewelry designs."

Now, nearly 30 years later, Tegu had the chance to inspire his teacher's students. Tegu brought a portable jewelry shop with about 100 tools valued at about $2,000 to the art classroom and provided hands-on instruction. Tegu provided the energy and the tools, MJSA provided the silver.

MJSA is sponsoring similar programs in Mt. Pleasant High School, Attleboro High School, Choate Middle School in Attleboro and Central Falls High School, said David Doli, MJSA program manager.

The lesson plans for the program in the Tegu/Harman collaboration covered design concept, design layout, prototype development, engineering considerations, art history, costing, copyrights and intellectual property, and line manufacturing.

The students started with the basics by exploring a line drawing and then working with clay. Next, they worked with wire and then transformed their designs into an actual piece of jewelry.

"The do-it spirit in the classroom is almost alarming," Tegu said. "It is exciting to see the enthusiasm and creativity of the students. After they acquired the basic techniques, the spirit of individuality came through. They wanted to do their own thing." Harman said: "The students here are very wealthy in spirits" — and in creativity, added Tegu.

The applicability of the lessons is broad. "Everything is connected. If they work on something this small, they can work on something the size of a wall. They have learned something they can use forever," Harman said.

"It worked because Steven was the glue that held it together. Ninety-one percent of our students are non-white. Steven's ability to speak the language of many of the students and developed an immediate bond," said Kedrin Frias and April Perry — will be coming to RIC in the fall. This pilot program has already expanded their horizons regarding the possibilities in the arts. "It was a lot of fun. I've always like working with my hand, but it takes a lot more work than what I thought," Frias said.

Perry said, "I thought it was going to be a cool experience, but I never thought of working with metals. I'm not sure what I want to do yet, but I love art."

Frias added, "I know I want to be doing something with my hands that I like doing. When you're doing something like this, it's not work."
A triple-award winner in academics is grateful to RIC for her education

by George LaTour
What's News Associate Editor

“T’ll be so glad I came here,” says Amanda M. Sequin of Pawtucket, who graduated from Rhode Island College May 22 with degrees in Early Childhood Education and Spanish.

“Both programs gave me such a good education and I’m not in debt,” she adds.

This multiple award winner with the near-perfect academic average had felt dejected in high school when “all those out-of-state colleges” and prestigious, expensive Ivy League institutions where her classmates would go were posted.

“I felt out of,” she admits.

After all, she graduated from St. Raphael Academy with honors and was fourth in her class. She, certainly, could master the challenges of any of those other posted colleges or universities.

On May 5, she won the Eleanor M. McMahon Award as the outstanding graduate of the RIC Honors Program, the Elementary Education Faculty Award and the Nelson A. Cugiani Award in Spanish as the outstanding graduate in those disciplines.

In addition, she registered a “first” at RIC. As a non-native Spanish speaker, she wrote her senior honors thesis in Spanish, the first in the history of the honors program to be written in a language other than English.

She will graduate summa cum laude with a 3.88 grade point average of a possible 4.0, and is just delighted with her experiences at RIC.

“Dr. Dix Coons advised me for my thesis. He really went above and beyond to help me. I know he went the extra mile for me,” says Sequin, who also gave appreciative nods to Melissa Caprio, an instructor, and Marybeth M. Cannon, an assistant professor, both of the Henry Barnard School, and Patricia A. Cardeiro, professor of elementary education, “for their encouragement, recognition and inspiration.”

While at RIC Sequin worked as a circulation assistant in Adams Library; as a peer counselor for the Office of Academic Success Information Services (OASIS), and as an advisor to the parents program at Orientation for new students.

She served as vice president for the former Nightingale Nursing Student Network; was president of the Browne Hall Council, and was active with the Spanish Theatre of RIC (STRIC), performing in its productions and serving as its treasurer.

But that’s not all.

Off campus, Sequin volunteered as a fourth grade math tutor at St. Leo the Great parish in Pawtucket, as a first grade English-as-a-Second Language (ESL) tutor at the former Broad Street School (now the Feinstein School) in Central Falls, and with the Pawtucket Athletic League Community Center where she worked with young children.

Asked what she wanted to do now, Sequin replied, “Hopefully I’ll find a job.”

Would that mean a career as a teacher, she was asked. Sequin locked stunned and merely nodded “yes” as though there couldn’t possibly be any other answer.

She says she has experienced both private and public schools as a student or student-teacher, and would prefer to teach in an urban setting in Rhode Island, Massachusetts or Connecticut.

She’d like to get a master’s degree in language and literacy “but that could change.”

Sequin is the daughter of Albert and Linda Sequin of Pawtucket. She has two brothers, one older, Steven, and one younger, Ryan. Is her family proud of her? “Oh, yeah.”

Geography awards map new careers

Two non-traditional students at Rhode Island College have excelled in their unique course of study and been awarded the James Houston Award as the outstanding students in geography this year.

Hector J. Cardona of Pawtucket, a native of Colombia, who has U.S. Marine service in Operation Desert Storm and Operation Desert Shield, and Paul J. Pinault of Providence and formerly of Pawtucket, who already had a 25-year career as a chef and food production manager to his credit, are co-winner of the honor.

Cardona was bestowed at the College’s annual Cap and Gown Day Convocation May 5.

Cardona moved with his family from Colombia to New York City in 1967 and to Rhode Island in 1980.

He then moved to St. Augustine, Fl., where he attended St. Joseph’s Academy, graduating in 1987. A year later he joined the Marine Corps and served for nearly five years, traveling to many sites in Southeast Asia and the Middle East.

Returning to Rhode Island, he attended the Community College of Rhode Island where he met his future wife, Denise Martin. Both earned associate degrees at CCRI before transferring to RIC. Denise, a Cap and Gown award winner in communications, graduated in 1995.

Cardona worked full-time at an adolescent counseling center in Pawtucket while studying geography and anthropology part-time at RIC.

He will start work “the day after I graduate,” the 25-year Marine planning his archaeology research with Pierre Morenon, an associate professor of anthropology, for the state Department of Transportation in Narragansett.

Finally, one of nine children of Alice M. Pinault of Wakefield, a retired registered nurse, graduated from Tolman High School in Pawtucket in 1977 and attended CCRI (then Rhode Island Junior College) in the old Foundry Building in Providence.

He then served as chef and food production manager at a number of establishments such as Georges of Galilee, the Dunes Club in Narragansett and the Providence Marriott.

“So, I was out of school 25 years before I came to RIC,” observes Pinault.

“He has carried these talents into his double degree program — carver/technical education and geography — and into the community as a volunteer in school culinary arts curricula and the Alan Shawn Feinstein Soup Kitchen in Providence, demonstrating a remarkable ability to translate his academic work into service application,” noted his award citation.

While a student at RIC, he became a founding member of the Rhode Island Geographic Association and participated in the College’s NBC 10 Multimedia Project which resulted in the 1998 fall curriculum guide for teachers.

He graduated magna cum laude May 22 and plans to teach culinary arts in a vocational high school in the southern New England area.

GALILEE

AMANDA SEQUIN

Y2K project on track

The implementation of the PeopleSoft software system to upgrade Rhode Island College’s computer systems and ensure Y2K compliance is progressing on schedule, according to Vince Ross, director of MIS.

The planning phase, Stage I, has been completed and Stage II is well under way. On July 1, the first significant number of users are slated to go live, Ross reports. This group includes users in human resources and accounting. Dual operations of the PeopleSoft system and the existing Legacy system will continue until the decommission of the Legacy system after all users have been successfully transferred to the PeopleSoft system and ample time for data transfer has been allowed. The decommission date is anticipated to be March 2000.

The PeopleSoft system is being rolled out to departments and users according to a specific timetable. The next major group of users to be activated will be student systems which is slated to go live in November.

The roll-out team continues to evaluate identified users’ current systems and upgrade as necessary to meet the minimum requirements for running the PeopleSoft system and installing appropriate systems for identified users.
RIC Prof. Holland appointed education commissioner

by Shelly Murphy
What's News Editor

William R. Holland, professor of education and administrative leadership at Rhode Island College and executive director of the Rhode Island Association of School Principals (RIASP), is poised to take on a new title and a new role — Rhode Island Commissioner of Higher Education.

In July, after 11 years on the Rhode Island College campus teaching education administration and, more recently, fostering professional development for practicing school leaders as executive director of RIASP, Holland will turn his energies to just one position.

He has served as a full-time faculty member and a part-time executive director while also helping establish the education management graduate program and the Rhode Island Center for School Leadership, housed in Building 6 on the RIC campus.

"Now I can concentrate on one job, even though it is a challenging and multiple position," Holland said. "I'm realistic about the challenges here. I plan to go in and study, see what needs to be done, develop a collective vision of higher education for the next several years, build a consensus and try to get the legislature to support it."

Holland brings a total of 36 years of education experience to the position — 11 in higher education and 25 in elementary and secondary education. He earned his bachelor’s degree from the University of Rhode Island, a masters from the University of Massachusetts and a doctorate from Boston University. Holland brings a state-wide, regional and national perspective to the role.

He has served as superintendent of two school systems in Massachusetts before returning to his home state where he served as superintendent in Narragansett for five years prior to joining the RIC faculty.

Holland has served as president of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges and member and past chair of the New England Association of Secondary School Principals of Secondary School Administration.

Holland's experience as an educator and administrator at all levels of public education provides a solid foundation for building the consensus and establishing collaborative relationships between schools and colleges he envisions creating as commissioner. This collaboration is an area of expertise for Holland who consulted for NEASC on a schoolcollege collaboration project from 1986 - 1990.

"The connection between elementary and higher education is a priority. It affects pre-service and in-service training, and affects the quality of the faculty and teachers working together can help ensure the success of students in high school and into college."

Holland also brings a familiarity with the three institutions — RIC, URI and the Community College of Rhode Island — and their individual missions and goals.

"I know the presidents. I already have positive feelings about what I consider to be stable stewardship of all three institutions. The commissioner needs to forge successful working relationships with all three presidents, both individually and collaboratively. It's appropriate for the three presidents to advocate for their own institutions needs and concerns, while the commissioner needs to consider all 38,000 students in the system."

Although Holland had been interviewed for a Providence Journal story the previous day, he willingly squeezed in an interview for this article just before heading out to a meeting at the College of Higher Education. "I feel very indebted to the Rhode Island College community. President Nazarian has been incredibly supportive of me and the development of the collaborative. I feel good about what I have done here and I know I can leave it and it will go on."

Holland identifies three primary goals: teacher preparation, the commissioner role itself, and faculty research.

Regarding teacher preparation, Holland said, "We have to demonstrate that we are not preparing teachers the same way we did in the 1960s. We have changed the way we prepare teachers, especially at RIC. We need to show demonstrable progress on testing and student achievements to change the public perception."

Holland believes the commissioner should have a strong public presence, especially in the statehouse. "It will require a lot of energy. You need to be in the statehouse where you need to be and networking all the time. The presidents (of the institutions) do this now. As commissioner, I'll work cooperatively with the presidents."

A third priority is faculty research, "at all of the institutions but especially at URI which is trying to move to the next level as a research institution. It is important to the economy because it creates new products and new processes."

Holland also noted that continued infrastructure improvements for all three institutions are a major priority, citing in particular, URI's proposed Aquidneck Island campus, the eastern end of the RIC campus and the performing arts classroom facility. "The rehabilitation of existing facilities at URI as well as building a convocation facility."

Earns degree 10 years after high school —

This grad believes in taking her time and doing it right

by George LaTour
What's News Associate Editor

With an almost perfect grade-point average and the physical sciences department's Ronald J. Boruch Award as the outstanding graduate in chemistry at Rhode Island College this year, Lise M. Greenough of Harrisville received her diploma May 22, capping off 10 years of intermittent study.

"I'm not sure what I want to do yet but graduate study... will have to wait," she says.

"After 10 years getting this degree, I want to take some time off from book study."

The daughter of Raymond and Louise Tellier of Harrisville graduated Burrillville High School in 1989, entered Burrillville Technical High School to study electro-magnetic field.

In her sophomore year she won the American Polymer Chemist's Award for excellence in organic chemistry and the local section of the American Chemical Society Award for outstanding performance by a junior chemistry major. Most recently, she completed a research project under the direction of Prof. Joanne C. Williams Jr. and Barry Gilbert on the perturbation of calcium ion diffusion by electromagnetic field.

The results of this work were presented at the National American Chemical Society meeting last August in Boston. As department chair Douglas G. Furton, an associate professor of physical sciences, noted in her Cap and Gown award presentation May 5: "It is noteworthy that she has done all this while working full time as a pharmacy technician (at CVS) and analytical chemist (at Evans Plating in Centereida), fields that she intends to pursue after graduation."

Whatever she decides, it's sure she'll take her time, evaluate the situation and then do it right.
Final commencement of the millennium showcases College's mission

Continued from page 1

EVEN THE FACULTY: Assistant Professor Paola Ferrario displays an antique Brownie camera on her mortarboard. Why? She teaches photography.

THE FIRST TWO graduates of the joint RIC/URI Ph.D. in education program, Anne Hird (left) and Helen Barboza, speak at graduate commencement exercises in The New Building May 20.

FAMILY AFFAIR: Maryann Fonseca, accompanied by her daughter Amanda, 9, receives her diploma from President John Nazarian.

GRANNY GRAD: Before the ceremonies begin, Bernadette Coletta holds her grandson, Anthony Verduchi, 9 months.

FRONT ROW SEATS: Happy class officers and soloists stand during the recessional. From left are: Aaradhana Prajapati, president; Sokumthe Dong, vice president; Sara Barkett, secretary; Adam Nagle, treasurer; and Sara McMillan, who sang The National Anthem.

A donation of $500,000 had made it possible to establish the RIC-URI partnership. URI President Robert L. Carothers was on hand for the occasion and assumed RIC President John Nazarian in hooding the two graduates.

"This is certainly a significant moment in the history of this institution and accordingly, tonight we seek to establish what I expect in time will become a new tradition at our graduate commencements," said Nazarian.

Keynote speaker Feinstein urged recipients of the graduate degrees to devote themselves to public service, saying they have an opportunity and an obligation to make a difference in others' lives and in the world. Go out and change it. Don't have to perform big miracles, he said, "You can perform little ones."

Feinstein was awarded the honorary degree of doctor of pedagogy. Oscar Eustis, artistic director of the Trinity Repertory Company, was awarded an honorary doctorate of fine arts.

Other speakers at the graduate ceremony included Sarah T. Dowling, chair of the Board of Governors for Higher Education, who urged the graduates "to do good and do well" and "don't forget us because we will never forget you," and Providence Mayor Vincent A. Cianci Jr., who told the graduates, "We look forward to the great success you'll achieve."

Nancy Evans, chair of the Council of RIC, who led the procession and recession at both ceremonies, observed that the commencement ceremonies were taking place in the 145th year of the College.

Gov. Lincoln C. Almond, speaking at Saturday's ceremonies, informed the audience that the General Assembly had approved naming the College's soon-to-be-constructed new fine and performing arts facility after Nazarian, who has been a part of the College for nearly half a century.

Almond assured he would sign the measure, making it official. "I am proud of my association with this institution and all that it represents," said Nazarian.

He ran down a long list of RIC graduates who recently were honored for their outstanding achievements. "The fulfillment of their promise began with an education at Rhode Island College," said Nazarian, who then told the bachelor degree recipients, "Your future is limited only by the scope of your dreams and your willingness to work to turn those dreams into reality."

U.S. Sen. Jack Reed, delivering the main address at the undergraduate commencement, noted that an average of 12 children die each day from gunfire in America — about one every 100 minutes — and said society must begin arming its children with greater educational opportunities, not guns.

He was awarded an honorary doctor of public service. Other honorary degree recipients at the undergraduate ceremony were George T. Wein, founder of the Newport Jazz Festival, doctor of fine arts; Helen Forman, a 1934 RIC graduate, retired special education teacher and long-time benefactor of the College, doctor of humanities; and David A. Capaldi, a 1964 RIC graduate, who is retiring as head of the mathematics department at Toll Gate High School in Warwick, doctor of pedagogy.

The Golden Anniversary class gift of a check for $10,600 was presented to the College president by Lena Aloia Cosentino and Christine Curran, members of the Class of 1949.

Other speakers at the undergraduate commencement were Michael F. Ryan, representing the Board of Governors; Aaradhana K. Prajapati, president of the Class of 1999, who delivered the farewell address, and Paul A. Bourget, president of the RIC Alumni Association, who welcomed the class as alumni.

Photos by Gordon E. Rowley
SINGING ALUMS: Members of the RIC Pep Band provide entertainment at the sports auction. From left are: Mary Ann Lasore, Class of 1983; Jack MacNamara, Class of 1976; and Kelly Lange, Class of 1998.

THE WINNER IS: Sports anchor Jess Atkinson of WPRR-12 draws the winning raffle ticket for a Joe DiMaggio signed baseball, while RIC's Frank Anzalone holds the bowl.

WHAT AM I BID? Andy Coughlin (left), Class of 1996, holds a photo of Muhammad Ali, while auctioneer Joseph Abbate, Class of 1974, asks for bids.
Youth Organization (CYO) retreat
year to become a youth minister, working with teenagers in a Catholic Educational Studies Senior Award (magna cum laude) and the operations manager, responsible for a number of promotions later he was awarded the Katherine Murray Prize in educational studies at the College’s recent Cap and Gown convocation and graduated May 22 with a degree in secondary education/social sciences with a specialization in bilingual education.

Ribezzo came to Rhode Island as a teenager in 1984 to study English for one year at Central High School as an international student. She returned to Guatemala and entered the University of San de Carlos where she majored in international relations. She completed all her course requirements in a five-year program of study but did not complete the thesis that was required to graduate.

Each year during this period she had visited her two sisters here, one living in Coventry and the other in Boston. On one of these trips she met her husband-to-be, Louis Ribezzo. Now married, the couple has two young children.

Education grad left lucrative job to complete education; graduates with high honors, award

A Woonsocket man, who left a lucrative job as purchasing manager for AAI FosterGrant, in Smithfield to complete his education, has done so earning high honors (magna cum laude) and the Educational Studies Senior Award as the outstanding graduate in his field this year.

Dennis J. Jutras graduated from Lincoln High School in 1982 and enrolled at Rhode Island College in its Honors Program but left after one year to become a youth minister, working with teenagers in a Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) retreat program.

Later, he worked for Our Lady of Good Help in Mapleville for about two years as a youth ministry coordinator, and then started his climb up the corporate ladder.

He started as a receiving clerk for the former R.K. Koch, a jewelry distribution firm. Within five years and a number of promotions later he was operations manager, responsible for the coordination of 2,000 field staff throughout North America.

Then it was a move to AAI FosterGrant, manufacturer of jewelry, small leather and optical goods, as purchasing manager, overseeing the expenditure of $85 million annually and coordinating delivery of domestic and overseas products.

His rapid climb came as no surprise to those who know the Eagle Scout and 1982 CYO Youth of the Year.

He saved his money and last May left his employment and came back to RIC where he studied secondary education with a concentration in history full-time, carrying an amazing 3.5 credits and, even more amazing, doing so with a perfect 4.0 academic average.

"Mr. Dennis Jutras is one of the best students I have worked with in the teacher preparation program...since 1972," said Milburn J. Stone, professor of political science and supervisor of Jutras’ student teaching.

He added, "I have never worked with a student teacher better prepared to work with a diversity of subjects and range of students."

Said Ellen Bigler, associate professor of educational studies, with whom Jutras did his teacher preparation: "He is absolutely super, and I do not doubt that one day he will be a leader in social studies education in the state."

"I finally reached the goal I set in April 30."

also, the following won the Bicho Family Endowed Prize in Strings, Cynthia Coffey, Melody Stappas, Endowed Memorial Scholarship; Andrew Galuska, Louis Appleton Memorial Scholarship, all awarded at the College Concert March 25. Also, Jason Thompson, Katherine Breyer-Kruger Scholarship, awarded at the RIC Wind Ensemble concert April 30.

Also, the following won the Bicho Family Memorial Scholarship: Dominique Daou, voice; Wendy Ros, strings; Jacob Stott, keyboard, and Patricia Bentley, woodwinds. These were awarded at the annual Bicho Concert May 3.

Sandra Godinho and Donald duPage received the Very Outstanding Service Award at the Student Recital May 4.

Guatemalan native displays caring attitude, skills as bilingual teacher

In 1994, she enrolled at RIC — "I was the first in my family to attend a university, so I made a commitment to myself to finish high school no matter what."

She has alternated between attending part-time and full-time while working for Travelers Aid as a youth worker dealing with runaway kids, a position she still holds.

While at RIC, Ribezzo returned to Central High for her student teaching experience. "I wanted to go back. It was a wonderful experience. Some of my teachers are still there," she says.

She was cited for her skill in reaching bilingual students there, and at her classes at RIC, grows to be "very supportive of newer immigrant students, encouraging them and assuring them that they could persevere," notes Ellen Bigler, assistant professor of educational studies.

Ribezzo is high in her praise of RIC faculty — "all of the teachers were really accommodating" — and cites especially the efforts on her behalf of Robert Cvernyek, assistant professor of history.

She is active in the Rhode Island Hispanic community, working for United Guatemalans in Action where she helps inform immigrants of immigration laws, among other duties.

She already is employed as a substitute teacher in Central Falls and looks to a full-time teaching position by next fall. G. L.

Music awards given

A number of Rhode Island College students have won endowed scholarships in music ranging from $200 to $1,000 this spring and were presented certificates of award at various College performances and ceremonies.

The award winners and the scholarships are: Aimee Parenteau, Alice Pellegrino Music Education Award, and Daniel Connant-Anton, Jacob Hehnenmeyer Award, both presented at the Cap and Gown convocation May 5.

Also, Alicia Ruggiero, Drabienko Family Endowed Prize in Strings, Cynthia Coffey, Melody Stappas Endowed Memorial Scholarship; Andrew Galuska, Louis Appleton Memorial Scholarship, all awarded at the Collage Concert March 25.

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Sandra Godinho and Donald duPage received the Very Outstanding Service Award at the Student Recital May 4.
Dean's List for Spring 1999 semester

Full-time students who attain a minimum grade point average of 3.25 in any semester have their names placed on the Dean's List in recognition of their scholastic achievement.

Catherine A Allen
Robert G Adams
Catherine M Alexander
Kim M Anderson
Michel A Arlong
Robert M Aspinwall
Catherine A Ayala
Kathleen A Baca
Kathleen M Baker
Theresa R Barden
Kari L Barnes
Kathleen L Berta
Courtney L Bickford
Mary J Bisby
Amanda B Bishop
John W Blackmore
Linda C Blakely
Joyce M Blount
Fumiko S Bonk
Lucie E Bobadilla
Barbara B Boissonneault
Mary L Boudreau
Beata M Bourque
Gregory L Bowron
Kathleen M Bower
Elena E Brown
Liz M Brown
Kathy S Brown
Catrina M Brown
Kathleen D Burns
Helen K Burton
Andrea C Butch
Jennifer L Byers
Kathleen M Cacoulis
Melissa E Cadieux
Stephanie M Cai
Kristin L Callihan
Allie M Campbell
Deirdre A Campbell
Mary K Carpenter
Carolyn M Carson
Emily A Casadei
Sharon M Cassart
Renee J Cates
Jeffrey B Clark
Karin A Clashman
Joanne R Clark
Matthew A Clark
Molly A Clay
Jeanine A Coughlin
Terri L Coulter
Mary L Crossley
Catherine A Coyle
Lesa J Crummey
Kathleen M Curley
Jocelyn K Dahle
Sarah J D'Ambrosio
Kathleen M Dacre
Beverly M D'Andrews
Jennifer L DeBord
Kristin L DeBode
Sally J DeMuro
Kathleen M DeMuro
William D DeMuro
Michael A DePuy
Sandra A Delvecchio
Lene A Delgado
Jennifer A Deluca
Katherine S Deluca
Jennifer K DelVecchio
Lori J DelVecchio
Jennifer R DelVecchio
Jennifer L DelVecchio
Sharon Ann Dell
Katherine M Dellaposta
Laura J Dellaposta
Ann M Dellaposta
Maryann A DelVesco
Dina M DeWeese
Shannon M DeWiren
Joyce M DeWeese
Kathryn M DeWitte
Kathleen M DeWitte
Sandra M developmental education

Congratulations to all!
KITES
Continued from page 1

which started in Rhode Island through the KITES program in 1995. KITES has grown from that seed of an idea to a viable project that provides ready-to-use kits to more than 30,000 K-6 children in Rhode Island. It supports about 350 teachers with deliverables of everything they need to do science in the classroom and the professional development necessary to make it all work. It brings teachers, students and scientists together in exploring the world around us and applying what is learned.

On Monday, May 24, the sailing program added a couple more dimensions, bringing the business community into the picture and bringing the kits out of the classroom into a real-world setting. About 50 fifth-graders from Providence’s Camden Elementary School and Newport’s Cranston-Calvert Elementary School, dressed in ethnic and Colonial attire, kicked-off the program at an inaugural reception and said:

Invited guests included Sen. Jack Reed, Lt. Gov. Charles Fogarty, Rep. Paul Crowley of Newport, Education Commissioner Peter M Waltz and College President John Nazarian. The speakers commended the collaborative approach of business and education and highlighted the importance of involvement from the community in education to provide access for all children and keep students connected with the community and with their own education.

As Crowley stated, “It’s these kinds of programs that make public education so special. Bringing kids from Newport and Providence here and putting them together on a boat... may be some friendships will be established. It shows them the diversity of this state.”

Nazarian pointed out the power of public-private partnership in education. “This brings excitement and interest and helps integrate science, math, reading and language skills into the curriculum.”

Directing his comments at the students, he said, “I hope you have fun, learn a lot about science and other subject matters. And, most of all, have a happy sailing.”

With that and the news from Patricia Joseph of IDC that it was time to get ready to go abroad, the attentive and quiet students roared to life. Although the morning was misty and chilly, the young sailors and budding scientists were eager to go. They donned life jackets and bounded aboard the 101’ classic wooden sailing ship. With her two masts and seven bright red sails, the Aurora, which is reminiscent of the Tall Ships era, provided the perfect setting for the students to learn about ocean navigation, history and a few other things.

As the ship glided away from the marina, the crew gave the new sailors their first lesson of the day: Sailing requires teamwork and participation. The children were shown the ropes, literally, and with a strong heave, followed by a loud ho, the magnificent red sails began to rise under the watchful eye of the captain.

Once under way, the real work began. Ron DeFranco of the East Bay Collaborative, KITES partner, pulled out the plankton nets while the teachers, Linda Meit of Newport and Nick Imordi of Providence, readied the bottles and bug boxes to hold the samples. Suddenly, the Aurora was transformed into a busy laboratory as the small nets were plucked over the sides into the bay and young clung to the handles and pulled the nets up to reveal their treasures. “Veronica, come over here,” one student called excitedly to his classmate as he pulled up his net, eager to see and share what he had discovered.

“I caught this one,” another student declared, proudly showing his sample of seaweed suspended in the water. In response to a query about what they were discovering, the simple reply, “We’re finding out how

This is a great learning experience for them.”

To date the Institute’s efforts have been successful in convincing the Providence school system to purchase the science kits so that students could benefit from hands-on learning like students in schools that are officially in the KITES program. Of course, it is a more scientific context. “We take the samples back to the classroom and measure the pH and the salinity, and examine it under a microscope” to see what microorganisms may be there. He also noted that the students use the KITES kits to measure salt in regular food and drinks “to show them what they are ingesting.”

While the port and starboard of the ship were dedicated to scientific research, the fore of the ship was an enclave for journal writings and the aft was designated as a navigational fortress with the crew joining in on the fun and learning with a group of students over a navigational chart to demonstrate how to read the maps and identify buoys.

Observing all the activity, Imordi said, “This is a great learning experience for them.”

The impact of the program was not lost on Tom Roos, the CEO of IDC, who just casually observed the activity. “I remember as a kid looking out the window and wanting to be out more rather than in the classroom,” he said. “I got the idea to do this about a year ago when I saw the Aurora sailing around during the week. Most of our charters are on the weekends or during the evenings. This was an opportunity to help students learn and gain a different perspective.”

New Child Advocate Handbook was distributed to attendees at the fifth annual Advocacy for Children Conference in May. Above, Nancy Gewirtz, director of the Poverty Institute and professor of Social Work, left; Ronald Thorpe, vice president of programs, Providence Public Charter School; Laureen D'Ambra, Esquire, Rhode Island child advocate; and College President John Nazarian display copies of the resource guide entitled Office of the Child Advocate Handbook: A guide to the ocean, navigation and Island Child Welfare System. The conference was sponsored by the Office of the Child Advocate and RIC. The Rhode Island Foundation provided funding to help produce the handbook, which is an easy-to-read overview of procedure and law. A free copy can be obtained by calling the Office of the Child Advocate at 222-6500.

Volunteer basis. We have done good work, but it has been frustrating that we could do better,” Gewirtz said. “This will allow us to hire a full-time assistant director and undertake new initiatives to expand economic opportunities for low-income families.”

In awarding this grant, the board of directors of the Rhode Island Foundation declared its support for the Institute “because of the comprehensive focus of the systematic and structural issue hurting all of Rhode Island’s poor.”

The Foundation also noted the collaborative approach of the Institute in working with other community programs with a similar or related goal. "The Institute’s mission complements several other efforts in the state to improve the well-being of disadvantaged populations, and we see your work as drawing from the initiatives of other groups as well as providing essential information for those groups so that their work is better informed. In particular, we note your association with the Wiley Center and Rhode Island Kids Count," the award letter states.

To date the Institute's efforts have included staffing the Welfare Implementation Task Force to guide the Department of Human Resources in implementing the Family Independence Act, presenting workshops about the FIA, monitoring the state’s Welfare to Work plan and testifying before the Human Resource Investment Council on several aspects of the plan.

There are a variety of funding sources available to the state in the wake of the federal welfare bill, but there is no “map” for the source and scope of funding, no plan for assuring that the funds are spent effectively and efficiently to develop work opportunities or to purchase training and work-readiness programs that will actually lead to jobs,” the Institute wrote in its grant application.

The Institute serves as an independent voice working to promote economic security for low-income Rhode Islanders. We will be a catalyst for planning process.

We can help create a map and understanding of all the funding programs available to assist the state in making the transition from welfare to work.

Among the planned initiatives is a conference for policy makers, community leaders, advocates and providers to provide an overview of the funding and requirements, bring national experts to present on “best practices” and creative uses of the funds to maximize opportunities, share successful strategies and start the planning process. The Institute will also provide an analysis of the new Workforce Investment Act of 1998 and its impact on Rhode Island.
First class of Case Management Program earns certificates

Twelve women from communities around the state comprised the first "graduating class" of the Case Management Certification program at Rhode Island College's School of Social Work and were presented certificates May 18 in the Forman Center.

The certification program provides 15 college credits for those interested in an immediate occupation in case management and possibly a future career in social work. Those completing it may choose to go on and earn a baccalaureate degree, according to Mary Ann Bromley, professor of social work and director of the Case Management Institute.

"It's a job training program," said Michele Rathbun of Scituate, one of those receiving a certificate of completion. "You learn case management in social services. If you want to go on and add to the 15 college credits, you can and get your degree."

"The program is a great help," assured Christine Pope of West Warwick, "it helps you get your foot in the door."

Social work case management, explained John Riolo, institute coordinator, is a method of providing services whereby a case manager assesses the needs and arranges and advocates for a package of multiple services.

To this end, the program is designed to provide "a high quality educational training program for entry level, paraprofessional case managers."

George D. Metrey, dean of the School of Social Work, welcomed the graduates and their families to the presentation ceremonies; Rathbun and Terri N. Winston, of Providence, addressed their fellow students in the class; John J. Salesses, vice president for academic affairs, was the keynote speaker and presented the certificates along with Riolo; Bromley offered the closing remarks.

The graduates and their hometowns, in addition to Rathbun, Pope and Winston, are: Linda J. Allen and Sandra L. Carr, both of West Warwick; Christine Arsenault, Dawn M. Ivey and Beverly A. Weed, all of Newport; Georgene M. Carle, Providence; Maureen Free, Portsmouth; Ann A. Rodriguez, Cranston; Kim L. Walker, Middletown.

Biology/chemistry dual major graduates summa cum laude

Stephanie Corsetti of Providence is this year's winner of the W. Christian Carlson Award in biology for her "demonstrated potential in research." She graduated May 22 summa cum laude from Rhode Island College with the dual major of biology and chemistry.

Also in May, Corsetti received an associates degree in nursing from the Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI).

A daughter of Donato and Maria Corsetti of Providence, she had left her studies at CCRI prior to coming to RIC to travel to Italy to provide care for her ailing grandmother in the village of Belmonte Castello.

"And that's where I got my love for the medical field," explains Corsetti.

She spent seven months there before her grandmother died. Corsetti came back to Rhode Island with her grandfather, who has since passed away.

While at RIC, she tutored chemistry to students and worked nights as a certified nursing assistant (CNA) at Rhode Island Hospital. To relax, Corsetti enjoys basketball, softball, hockey and soccer, although she did not play on College teams.

Her research, conducted at the hospital and entitled "The presence of arginine vasopressin and its mRNA in rat choroid plexus epithelium" has been published in journal of Molecular Brain Research.

Corsetti plans to continue her education in the medical or nursing fields where she sees "a lot of possibilities" for a career. G.L.

The Office of News and Public Relations congratulates the graduates of 1999 and wishes everyone a great summer!

See you in September!

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY CLASS members march in the procession at the undergraduate commencement on May 22. Holding the banner are Christine Melone Curren (left) and Lena Aloia Cosentino.
Progress abundant on campus this spring

Naming

Continued from page 1

Completion of the performance space in the new facility is expected by January.

Groundbreaking ceremonies were held last Oct. 2 as Gov. Almond and a host of other officials, including representatives from the designers, William Warner Architects, lifted the first shovel full of gravel marking the start of construction.

The facility will address the unmet needs of the performing and fine arts programs, which have been operating in space designed in the mid-1950s to serve 1,000 students. Those same spaces now serve a College enrollment of about 8,800 students.

Accolades were heaped on Nazarian by both chambers in the General Assembly preceding its vote on the measure.

The Council of RIC noted that President Nazarian “is a major supporter of the performing arts at the College, having overseen the development of a performing arts program without peer among the institutions of higher learning in this state, and the creation of a highly acclaimed and recently integrated Department of Music Theatre and Dance” in its resolution endorsing the naming of the building for Nazarian.

Retirees recognized

RETIREES: Recent retirees from the College were honored and photographed with the president at the Commencement Gala in Donovan Dining Center May 21. From left are professors Judith Babcock of management and technology, Robert Viens of physical sciences, Margaret Hainsworth of nursing, Curtis LaFollette of art, President John Nazarian, professors George Anderson of mathematics and computer science and Jan Marecsak of health/physical education and Jean Corrigan, a cook’s helper. (What’s News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)