RIC's Y2K preparation on track

by Shelly Murphy
What's News Editor

With Jan. 1, 2000 just weeks away, Rhode Island College is putting the final touches on its fast-track implementation of the PeopleSoft Y2K compliant system. The multi-million dollar project officially began in November 1998 when PeopleSoft was selected as the vendor for all administration applications for the state's three institutions of higher education and KPMG was selected as the implementation partner.

Record setting implementation

RIC is implementing the system in a fraction of the time normally allotted — less than one year compared to three to five years. In addition, the College is the first institution in the world to implement the Student Administration modules 7.6. The Student Administration software includes programs for student registration, admissions, records, bursar and financial aid.

RIC launched this module in October with student registration for spring 2000 semester. The PeopleSoft system is integrated with the College's new Periphonics Voice Registration system, which was installed this fall. The student telephone registration for spring 2000 was delayed by two days in October due to unforeseen problems with the new voice registration system. The technical problems have been resolved. The student registration module will also provide an Internet-based registration capability that is slated to be operational for first summer session 2000.

The other PeopleSoft modules being implemented are finance and human resources, which went "live" in July. Six teams were created for implementation partner.

See Y2K preparation, page 8

Statistical chorus: Psych prof uses novel approach to teaching 'devilish' stats

by George LaTour
What's News Associate Editor

L
ike the nursery rhyme’s Little Tommy Tucker who sings for his supper, the students in a Rhode Island College psychology class sing — not for their supper — but for grades!

It’s arguably a new approach to teaching and one worthy of a psychology professor.

Jill E. Chafetz, assistant professor, came to RIC three years ago from Bard College in the mid-Hudson Valley in New York where she had her students sing occasionally so difficult facts might more easily imprint themselves in the students’ gray matter.

But she really got into it at RIC in her second year teaching Introduction to Psychological Methods "which is really statistics in psychology," she says.

What kind of statistics, you might ask...

Well, "descriptive statistics" which include mean median, standard deviation, z-scores, percentiles, ranks and then go on to inferential statistics which include t-tests, analysis of variants, correlation and possibly non-parametric tests and regression.

That’s all perfectly clear — to psychology students and others in the profession. The reader can easily assume that that sort of...

See Psychology, page 10

Phone-a-thon generates $36K

Seventeen Rhode Island College students called RIC alumni this fall receiving about $36,000 in pledges for the annual fund. A total of 966 pledges were made by alumni to help support student scholarships, faculty research projects and alumni-related activities.

Most of the students in this phone-a-thon were called by freshman Tara Russo, a nurse at Fatima Hospital, who appreciated talking to Tara about her experience at Rhode Island College and wish her much success.

The phone-a-thon right from the start. Their positive attitude really produced results.

"The phone-a-thon was very successful and exceeded last fall’s phone-a-thon total by $3,000. Our thanks to all of you who have made a pledge to help reach our goal of $310,000 for the 1999-2000 Annual Fund Campaign," Hoogasian said.

The personal appeal by current students is well received by alumni. For instance, Marguerite Russo ’93, of Cranston, made a $100 pledge when she was a called by freshman Tara Beaulieu. "Tara was so nice and friendly on the phone. I appreciated talking to Tara about her experience at Rhode Island College and wish her much success," Russo, a nurse at Fatima Hospital, wrote in a note accompanying her pledge.

Pledges can be sent to Annual Fund, Rhode Island College, 600 Mt. Pleasant Ave., Providence, RI 02908.

See Psychology, page 10

Communications and public relations was Lisa Gelsomino’s (Class of ’96) major at RIC. And every day she uses the knowledge and skills she acquired in college, in a way not in the way she envisioned when she was a student. You see, for the past two and a half years she has been a police officer in the Town of Smithfield, and she is happy in her work.

“Love every minute. Every day is different. It’s busy. You’re dealing with a whole community,” she said recently in a sparsely-furnished office at the police station.

Is it exciting? "Yes," she said. Perhaps not as exciting as television’s "NYPD" but...

We are called to situations that other people run from.

Most people think of Smithfield as a quiet bedroom community, but Gelsomino, 25, sees another side to the town. The town, she said, has its fair share of...
The Way We Were...

This popular item in What's News will continue this year in order for you to be able to revisit your alma mater with a selection of photos from the past — the College’s past, whether the current era (Rhode Island College) or past eras (Rhode Island State Normal School). We invite your contribution of old photos, along with sufficient information about each, such as who's in the photo and what they are doing, the year it was taken and place (if possible). In the meantime, we'll continue webdriver our files for interesting pictures of past College life.

During this harvest season, we look back to the student council dance in the fall of approximately 1957. And we are not sure of the location. Can anyone out there help us with this one?

Happy Holidays!
from the Office of News and Public Relations

DEADLINE for submission of text and photos is Friday, Jan. 22 at noon.

Story ideas are welcome. Call 401-456-8090 or email smurphy@ric.edu.

Focus on Faculty and Staff

Edward D. Bzowski, professor of educational studies, has been granted a U.S. patent as of July 27 for a cavity system for lockers. The system has a set of loosened vents formed in the door of the locker for ventilation of the interior, providing extra storage space within the interior of the locker. It is Bzowski's first patent.

Thomas Malloy, professor of psychology, served as the statistical analyst on a federally funded research project focused on AIDS risk behavior among sexually active, minority (African and Latin American), urban adolescents that included researchers from the University of Connecticut (C. Fisher), the University of Western Ontario (W. Fisher), and the State University of New York (S. Williams). Structural Equation Models were estimated using LISREL to test a theoretical model of AIDS risk/preventive behavior that is termed the Information-Motivation-Behavioral Skills Model. Results of this study were published (1999) in the Journal AIDS and Behavior.

Tracy Caravella-Nadouz, assistant professor of health and physical education, chaired the Rhode Island Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (RIHPERD) fall conference Oct. 22 at Rhode Island College. Over 220 professionals and students met to learn and network. Other HPE faculty presented sessions and assisted in the conference organization.

Karen S. Castagno, assistant professor, presented “Strategies for Increasing Physical Activity among Sedentary Children,” Richard Cain, assistant professor, presented “Technology in the Classroom: Part I and Part II; Robin Kirkwood Auld, assistant professor, presented two sessions, “A Potpourri of Warm-up and Fitness Activities and How to Utilize Them” and “Helping High School Students with the Recruiting Process.” Castagno and Kirkwood Auld served as registration co-chairs. Betty J. Rauhe served as coordinator - the Rhode Island Civic Choral. The Rhode Island National Honor Society of Nursing in ceremonies Nov. 7 at the 56th Biennial Convention in San Diego. The Delta Upsilon Chapter-at-Large is comprised of RIC and University of Rhode Island nursing faculty.

Mary L. Burke, professor of nursing, and Margaret Hainsworth, professor emerita of nursing, received the Best of Image Award from Sigma Theta Tau International at the San Diego convention. The award was given for their article — co-authored with Georgene Enjes of East Carolina University — “Middle Range Theory of Chronic Sorrow.” Image is the society’s journal of nursing scholarship.

Stephen Fisher, professor of art, has an exhibition of his recent drawings and prints in the Lenore Gray Gallery, Kleist Center for Art and Drama at Baldwin-Wallace College in Berea, Ohio, this month.

Edward Markward, professor of music, was guest conductor of the Rhode Island Philharmonic Orchestra’s “Home for the Holidays” concerts Dec. 4 and 5 at Veterans Memorial Auditorium. Featured artists for the concerts were tenor Arturo Copaiha, members of the Festival Ballet of Rhode Island and the Rhode Island Civic Chorale. The concert will be performed again Friday, Dec. 10, for the workers at Taco, Inc. in Cranston as part of the educational outreach program of the philharmonic.

These performances mark the third consecutive season Markward has conducted the philharmonic. In addition, this past summer he made his debut at the internationally celebrated Newport Music Festival.

What's News, Monday, Dec. 6, 1999

PARTNERS IN PHILANTHROPY: Helen Forman '34 and Paul Bourget '69 were among more than 80 philanthropists honored by the Rhode Island Chapter of the National Society of Fund Raising Executives at Rhodes-on-the-Pawtuxet Nov. 16, which was designated National Philanthropy Day. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)
In this final academic year of the 20th century, What's Neat in providing a glimpse of the College from each decade. In this final issue of 1999, we complete this series with a look at recent history: the 1980s and 1990s.

by Shelly Murphy
What's News Editor

The 1980s started with the country battling inflation and an economic slowdown, and the College facing serious budget constraints as the state wrestled with the economy. Yet, with an enrollment of approximately 5,500 full time equivalent students and a waiting list of about 500 for space in the residence halls, the College was also dealing with the need for facility improvements and expansion.

In November 1980, the voters rejected a bond issue that would have supported an addition to the Walsh Gym and an addition to the Student Union.

On Sept. 16, 1984, President David Sweet suddenly passed away at the age of 51. John Nazarian, then vice president for administration, was named as acting president by the Board of Governors for Higher Education.

In October 1985, Carolyn Guardo was inaugurated as the seventh president of the College. A new College signature was adopted and the color burgundy was added to the College’s official colors of gold and white.

In the mid-80s, the economy improved and voters authorized funds for construction. In November 1984, voters approved $2.2 million for the construction of the Whipple Gym into the Center for Industrial Technology. In 1987, $2.5 million was approved for construction of a recreational complex.

In 1988, the College Bookstore was renovated and re-opened as the Campus Store. In 1989, work was completed on the Whipple Gym, which opened as the Center for Industrial Technology. Later that year, Phase 1 of the Recreation Center, which included an indoor swimming pool, opened.

In August 1989, President Guardo announced her resignation effective Jan. 1, 1990. Nazarian was named as acting president again. In May, the Board of Governors named Nazarian as the eight president of the College.

The 80s were also a time of academic growth with the official approval of the School of Social Work, which offered a bachelors program and the state’s first MSW program, and the addition of bachelor’s programs in accounting, marketing, and computer information systems.

The 1990s

The 1990s emerged quickly as a decade of growth also. In August 1990, the College broke ground on the New Building for the first time. The following year, the Walsh Gym was destroyed by a early morning fire; the New Building was built in its place.

In 1994, renovations of the Donovan Dining Center were completed. That same year, restoration of the old Chapin Homestead was completed, in part with funds donated by Helen Forman. The Sylvan R. Forman Center was dedicated in September.

In 1996, Alan Shaw Feinstein presented the College with its first-ever private gift of $1 million. In 1997, the School of Education and Human Development was named the Feinstein School of Education and Human Development.

In November 1996, state voters approved bond issues, including $5.6 million for telecommunications improvements at RIC and $8.6 million for the construction of a Performing Arts Classroom Facility.

The bond issue enabled the College to leapfrog forward with technology, creating walk-in computer labs for student usage and infusing computer technology into the classrooms and offices throughout the campus. The Technology Center at Horace Mann Hall was dedicated with a virtual ribbon cutting in November 1997.

As the year closed, renovations began on the Student Union building. The walls on the third level surrounding the ballroom below were replaced with glass to let natural light into the facility.

In 1998, ground was broken for the Performing Arts Classroom Facility, at which Gov. Lincoln Almond announced he would recommend to the Board of Governors that the new facility be named to honor President Nazarian.

That same day, a ribbon cutting ceremony officially opened the new home of the School of Social Work in a renovated former DCYF building on the Mt. Pleasant Avenue side of campus.

The 90s were also a time of academic development. Both the Master of Fine Arts in Theater, offered collaboratively with the Trinity Rep Conservatory, and the joint University of Rhode Island/RIC PhD in education program began in 1995. In 1996, General Education 2000, a complete revision of the general education curriculum was implemented.

A finance major was approved for the Center for Management & Technology in 1999 and a masters in professional accountancy is currently proposed.

The year and the decade close this month with the much anticipated, or dreaded, Y2K imminent. The roll-out of the Y2K-compliant PeopleSoft package and necessary hardware is winding down. The College, like much of the world, looks forward to the new century —and the new millennium, even if it technically doesn’t start until the year 2001.

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

Note: Charles B. Willard served as president of the College from 1973 to his retirement in 1977. The name of the president at this time was incorrect in the Nov. 22 installment of Century in Retrospect.
Foundation & Alumni Affairs

Foundation News

- Members of the Rhode Island College Foundation and Alumni Association continued their year-long focus on board development at a training session on Monday, Nov. 29. Under the direction of Simone P. Joyaux, ACFRE, of Joyaux Associates, board members and trustees came together for four hours as part of our program of bringing together the volunteer leadership of the College to enhance support for the College as we begin the 21st century. Joyaux, well-known counselor for fund raising and organization development, led the group in exploring issues around philanthropy, advocacy, effectiveness, and accountability.

- Rhode Island College is headed for Florida! Shown above are four of the RIC problems they might see if they hit turbines, RIC's women's basketball team is headed to Florida on Jan. 1. The Foundation and Alumni Association will be hosting two events around the team's games. The first event will be held on Friday, Jan. 7 at 7 p.m. in the Campus Center. The second event, based on last year's successful West Coast luncheon, will be held at the Sanibel Harbour Resort, Ft. Myers, on Saturday, Jan. 8. Both will be after the evening. Our Florida friends should watch their December mail for details and reservation forms. If you will be traveling in Florida during these times, please contact the Office for Alumni Affairs.

We have almost 800 alumni living in Florida. We expect large numbers of you to dust off your yearbooks and join us!

- The State Employees Charitable Appeal (SECA) is currently underway on campus and at all state agencies. Once again you can select the Rhode Island College Foundation as your "charity of choice" by writing in #1064 on your pledge card. Your gift may be directed to the Foundation as unrestricted, to the Annual Fund, or to one of the endowment, department, athletic, performing arts, or other funds administered by the Foundation.

- Rhode Island College Foundation #4894

- For those of you considering a planned gift to the College, you may want to consider using retirement-plan assets, such as IRAs, 401(k)s, and other pension accounts. Although contributions to, and assets in, many kinds of retirement plans are not taxed, withdrawal and distributions — whether to the College or another charity, you might have opportunities to recommend how the monies given to the College are used. The importance of the impact of charitable giving to individuals and their families who have similar devotions by providing financial support for them to attend college in various parts of the world. Now, they have decided to formalize this commitment through an endowed scholarship at RIC. They are also establishing an endowed scholarship at SUNY-Buffalo, Rosati said.

The Angelo V. and Antoinette C. Rosati Endowed Scholarship will award two scholarships annually through the fund, which will be administered by the RIC Foundation. One scholarship will be awarded to a student who indicates his intention of becoming a priest. The name of the eligible student will be forwarded to the College by the Diocese of Providence. The qualified student must demonstrate financial need, be a full-time undergraduate student at RIC, and enroll in a year of art history as an elective.

The second scholarship will be awarded to an African-American female who pursues a major in art and who does not already have a full-time student. Preferences will be given to a Rhode Island resident.

Both scholarships will be renewable annually. Provided the students remain academically eligible to continue their chosen programs. The intention is to award scholarships to incoming freshmen who fulfill their criteria, and to support those students through graduation. The scholarships are to be awarded for the fall of the Roman Empire. "Rosati used to teach a whole course on religious influences on art."

In explaining the specific requirement for art history for the student studying the priesthood, Rosati said, "You can't separate the Catholic Church from the arts. The Church kept culture alive after the fall of the Roman Empire." Rosati used to teach a whole course on religious influences on art.

The second scholarship reflects his continued commitment to art education, his personal understanding of discrimination and his desire to remove barriers established by such discrimination. Reflecting on his personal experience, especially as a new immigrant during his youth, Rosati relates, "Italians were oppressed. Not as much as African-Americans today."

Marguerite Brown, executive director of the Foundation and director of development, said, "Together, Angelo and Antoinette have enriched the lives of students throughout the world. The creation of this scholarship is an extension of that work to help students here at home."

For more information about the scholarships, contact the Foundation office at 401-456-8105.

Leadership Training
Thirty representatives from the Rhode Island College Foundation and Alumni Association attended a Board Development and Training Session on Nov. 29. Pictured are (l to r) Claire G. Grist, Susan Breit, Claire J. Piccozi, Emily Smith, and Norma Dilibero ’81. This training session is the latest in a series focused on training volunteer leadership for the College for the 21st Century.

Wally’s News

Angelo Rosati, professor emeritus of art, and his wife, Antoinette, have donated $100,000 to Rhode Island College to establish an endowed scholarship to help students studying in two areas close to their hearts—art education and religion—at an institution close to their hearts, and their home.

The couple reside less than a block away from the Cathedral Avenue home they moved into when Rosati first joined the College in 1965. It was a new home for the Rosati's and the Mt. Pleasant campus was a new home for the College. Rosati, who was born in Italy and moved to New York in his youth, recalls, "I was interviewed at the old school and it started at the new campus."

They bought their home because it was convenient to the College, and Rosati often walked to work. They still walk on the campus from time to time and attend many RIC events.

Rosati, who retired in 1985 from the College, after teaching here for 27 years, was a convert and John Paul II's favorite priest. He will be exhibiting in June or July at the Providence Catholic Club, Steele Street, and he is currently working on two large paintings to complement the one he painted 30 years ago for St. Anthony's Church in North Providence. With the church's consent, the original painting needed company to fill out the space, Rosati explained.

Incidentally, the church was recently selected as a Millennium Church by the Bishop of Providence. When the bishop saw the painting hanging at the front of the church, he wanted to meet the artist, a momentous occasion for Rosati.

The project is a perfect blend of two areas of lifelong devotion: art and the Catholic Church. Over the years, Rosati and his wife have helped others who have similar devotions by providing financial support for them to attend college in various parts of the world. Now, they have decided to formalize this commitment through an endowed scholarship at RIC. They are also establishing an endowed scholarship at SUNY-Buffalo, Rosati said.

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For more information about the scholarships, contact the Foundation office at 401-456-8105.
RIC’s Web site dons new look for new year

by Shelly Murphy
What's News Editor

The Rhode Island College Web site will mark the new year with a new look and organization. The revised Web Site, which will go live by mid-December, is the product of hours of research, consideration and design conducted by a 15-member team by faculty, staff and students.

“Our goal was to create a Web Site that was easy to understand and navigate, and that reflected the nature and feeling of our College,” said Karen Rubino, RIC’s Web manager. “We took a step back and tried to view the site from the perspective of someone who is not familiar with the College. So rather than organizing departments strictly by where the building is located, we tried to place them where it would be logical to find them based on function or services.”

In developing the revised site, the student Web design team and the Web Policy Advisory Committee, chaired by Clare Eckert, special assistant to the president, reviewed hundreds of pages of data regarding Web site development and usage.

“The site was to be visually appealing and professional, but we also wanted to make sure it could deliver the Web’s capabilities. We wanted to make it easy to get from one area to another and to find information as quickly as possible. We established logical links throughout, included a menu of main topics on each page, created a search feature,” Rubino said.

The result is a new home page featuring animated, rotating photos of students and campus activities and the following headings: Welcome, Academics, Foundation & Alumni, Admissions & Financial Aid, Athletics & Recreation, and Campus Life. A menu bar on the top of the home page has links for easy access to the Academic Calendar, Search A-Z, Library & Technology, and the Virtual Tour. The animation of the photos allows for flexibility to change the look of the Web site to reflect current activities or themes.

The second and third level pages incorporate design elements from the front page to create consistency and continuity throughout the site. The second level page lists links to key headings within that category. The third level includes basic information on the individual departments or areas such as the name and picture of the department head, the mission of the department, and contact information including telephone number, location and e-mail address.

The Web team is also developing templates for department level pages to make it easier for departments to create new pages. Training to use the software application selected for web management will be offered next semester.

In February, when classes resume, the Web committee will host a reception for the College community to re-introduce the site, and to share information about its development and how to get assistance in creating or maintaining pages.

The creation and launch of the new site was Phase 1,” according to Eckert. “In Phase 2, we will review the already posted pages for accuracy, consistency and timeliness. We will also start training classes and present the templates that departments can use to create new pages.”

The Web team will continue to be available to help design or customize departmental pages. A member of the team will be assigned to each department or area on the Web site so individuals know who to call for assistance. The team, which is directed by Rubino, consists of student members Mike Amaral, Joanne Crisostomo, Matt Graves and Jim Murphy. Additional student members of the Web team are needed.

The Web Advisory Committee members are: Belle Evans, associate professor of social work; John Denio, director of residential life and housing; Gray Goenter, computer manager; James Magyar, professor of chemistry; Paul Morin, president; student government; Richard Olsen, director of Adams library; Richard Parente, assistant professor of accounting and CIS; and Ezra Stiegitz, professor of elementary education.

For more information, contact Rubino at 401-456-8849, or through e-mail at therweb@ric.edu.

Nominations sought for RIC Alumni Awards/Honor Roll

Nominations are being sought for the 2000 Alumni Awards and Honor Roll, as reported in an article by Karen Rubino, web manager, in RIC’s Web site.

Rhode Island College will award the annual Alumni Awards for achievement and service to the College, but shall be employed by the College and have made a unique contribution to the College (e.g., wide student commendation for exceptional competence in teaching, printed publication, initiative in research, development of a new program, wide community recognition of contribution to the College). The governor of Rhode Island appoints all three members, rotating among the three public institutions of higher education-URI, CCRI, and RIC. The State law provides that one seat on the 15-member Board shall be held by a full-time student in good standing at one of the three public institutions of higher education, and that the student appointment shall rotate among the three public institutions. This member, appointed by the governor of Rhode Island, serves a two-year term.

The next vacancy, for a term of Feb. 1, 2000 through Jan. 31, 2002, is expected to be filled by a student from Rhode Island College who meets the stated criteria.

Full-time undergraduate and graduate students in good standing who are interested in being considered for the position should submit a letter indicating their interest, outlining their qualifications for the position, and a list of three references.

Board members are responsible for those students whose names are submitted by the Board, and who expect that their qualifications for the position will be reviewed and considered for nomination by the Board for the College for appointment to the Board, and who expect that their qualifications for the position will be reviewed and considered for nomination by the Board for the College for appointment to the Board.

Deadline for receipt of nominations is Dec. 10.

For more information on eligibility of student members, and the responsibilities of its members may be addressed to: Office of the President, Roberts Hall, Rhode Island College, Providence, RI 02908, Attn: Board of Governors File. The deadline for submission of letters or nominations is Dec. 10.

New training program for insurance technicians

Rhode Island College Outplacement Programs announces the beginning of a new program for Family Independence Program (FIP) recipients only, to prepare them to enter the insurance industry.

Called Project TRAIT (Training Responsible Adults as Insurance Technicians), it includes training in insurance terminology, agent and computer skills, computer literacy, business math and job skills.

Applicants are asked to consider all placement assistance and group counseling with an emphasis on problem solving.

The training sessions, funded by the state Department of Education, are scheduled to begin in early December at RIC.

For more information on eligibility, call RIC's Outplacement Program Coordinator Karen Dionne at 456-8689.

The Outplacement Programs is located in the RIC Center for Management & Technology, Whipple Hall, room 108.
Shacktown '99 raises over $1,000 for Habitat for Humanity

On Nov. 17 a "village" of sorts sprouted on the College's esplanade. It was "Shacktown '99," a collection of cardboard houses build by the RIC Chapter of Habitat for Humanity. Several brave souls actually spent the cold night of Nov. 17-18 in the houses.

The idea was to call attention to the plight of those with substandard housing and to raise money and attract volunteers for a house being built on Pembroke Street in Providence.

The Pembroke Street house is a joint effort of five area colleges, including RIC. In addition, students of the RIC Chapter are also working on a house on Putnam Street that is being built by Greater Providence Habitat for Humanity.

"Shacktown '99" raised just over $1,000 from pledges and the sale of miniature houses, which sold for $1 each.

On Nov. 27 and Dec. 4 the RIC Chapter worked on the houses and is planning more work dates during the spring semester. Anyone interesting in contributing or volunteering should call the RIC Chaplain's Office at 401-456-8168.

On Dec. 1, after three years of participating in Habitat for Humanity, the RIC Chapter achieved full certification in the organization.

Text and Photos by Gordon E. Rowley

MORNING finds Jennifer Butler (left) and Jessica Dumas comparing their sleep patterns in "Shacktown '99."

SNUG ACCOMMODATIONS: Brian Pappas and Melissa Jordan try out their sleeping arrangements. In all five people would spend the night in this cardboard "attack."

Text and Photos by Gordon E. Rowley
Y2K preparation

Continued from page 1

the implementation, including a program management team, a technical team, and one for each of the three modules. The teams consisted of staff from management and information systems, individuals from the specific departments involved in each module, and consultants.

“The PeopleSoft project teams have been working hard since Jan. 4, 1999 to get PeopleSoft in place at RIC,” said Vince Ross, MIS director. “We are happy that we are finally nearing the finish line. While one year may seem like a long time, for systems like PeopleSoft it is an extremely aggressive schedule. All of our administrative computing systems are being replaced, hardware and software.

“With a project of this magnitude, teamwork is essential. I have been extremely impressed with the way our teams have come together and solved time critical issues again and again on what at first glance seem to be ‘Show Stoppers.’ The real leadership for each team has been from the departments themselves. I have heard many times something is ‘impossible’ and routinely it is accomplished by the PeopleSoft implementation teams here at RIC. The functional leads have done a fantastic job, especially Karen Zifcak, Melissa Souza, Holly Shadiam, Bob Conrad, Jim Hanbury, and Burt Cross.”

He added, “Within the MIS department, Elaine Wilczek and Donna Konicki have worked many long nights and weekends since August of this year to accomplish the student data migration. They will have moved 80,000 individual student records, close to a million rows of information into PeopleSoft. Also, every course ever offered at RIC has had to be loaded into PeopleSoft, this can be a daunting task considering that some courses may be incomplete or course numbers reused.”

“Dennis McGovern and the Records Office have done a lot of work to set up the course catalog and spring schedule in PeopleSoft. Many others have made significant contributions, including Amy Sousa, who led the upgrade from PS 7.5 to 7.6, and Tim Bergeron, who has been the lead for the PeopleSoft financial systems technical support since the new system went live in July,” Ross said.

The PeopleSoft system will completely replace the College’s outdated mainframe legacy system. The new hardware is significantly more capable than the old Legacy system.

“We now have a total of 16 CPUs and 16 GB of RAM in our cluster of servers compared to a single CPU and 128 MB of RAM for the mainframe. During our recent peak period of registration we were only 20 percent utilized on our hardware which means we have a lot of room for growth,” he said.

The new system will allow authorized users across campus to access necessary data directly, rather than requesting reports from the Computer Center, as was necessary with the mainframe system. This will increase operating efficiency and allow users to generate specific reports and conduct in-depth analysis within their own departments. In addition, the data will now be interoperable, allowing for greater accuracy, accessibility and consistency of information. The PeopleSoft system is also user-friendly and, of course, Y2K complaint.

“Diana Larkin has done a wonderful job designing and rolling out new PeopleSoft reports that are accessible on-line to everyone. These same reports on the mainframe were harder to produce and usually just available as hard copy. With PeopleSoft you can even download them to an Excel spreadsheet, which can be very convenient for instructors who would like to manage course rosters electronically,” Ross said.

To ensure members of the College community have the access they need to the system and receive the support they need in the use of the system, the MIS department has established a PeopleSoft help desk at 401-456-9673.

Training was provided along the way as departments went ‘live.’ Classes for PeopleSoft users are being offered and a pre-class tutorial is available. Bill Angell is the lead for the PeopleSoft training at RIC.

“We can call and register for training classes or have Russ Chenot or Laurie Preux walk them through an initial use of PeopleSoft. Leni Hooper is the security administrator and enables PeopleSoft logons and passwords.

Hardware shuffle

Although the PeopleSoft system is the core of the College’s Y2K project, it is only part of the story. In addition to switching data to the new applications and testing systems, the College is also providing training and furnishing users with updated or new computers that can handle the sophisticated software.

Providing the necessary hardware to PeopleSoft users has created an interesting process in Network and Users Services, which oversees the computer labs, operates a help desk, and supports the College’s computer hardware needs.

In early November, the computer lab in Horace Mann Technology Center looked like a computer assembly line. As the integrated process, about 60 Pentium 3 (450MHz) computers were installed into each lab, each computer tower.

The Pentium 3s replaced the Pentium 2 (350MHz) computers, which were to replace older Pentium 2 (325MHz) computers in the teaching labs in Gaige Hall. The older Pentium 2s will then be distributed to PeopleSoft users, and the computers that had been in use by the PeopleSoft users will be distributed to another office or department that needs them.

“Our goal is to have the newest machines in the labs so the students’ have access to the latest technology,” Dennis Sousa, senior information technologist, explained. “To save money we bought the Pentium 3s without Zip drives and took the Zip drives out of the Pentium 2s. Then we will replace the older Pentium 2s in Gaige with these new ones and give those Pentium 2s to PeopleSoft users. By the time we install those and roll down the old computers replaced by the Pentium 2s to someone who may not have any computer experience, we will have touched about 300 machines.”

So, when the new machines came in, the computer technician and desktop support team went into action: disconnecting the older machines, removing the Zip drives, boxing the older machines, installing the Zip drives into the newer machines and connecting them to the network. They operated on about 20 machines at a time, completing the process in just two hours each time.

The assistance of Maureen Tobin, technical support specialist, and the innovative software ImageCast were integral to the process. ImageCast allows Tobin to set up an “image of a PC” with the appropriate software, preferences and settings and create an image that can then be written onto a machine in a matter of minutes rather than hours.

“We have created two images — a lab image and an administrative image. The lab image has all the software and settings that run in the labs. So we are able to cast this image quickly onto multiple computers at once. We cast a lab image in about 25 minutes. If you did it individually, it would take at least 32 hours for each computer,” Tobin said.

Before disconnecting the computers to be distributed to administrative users, they cast the administrative image onto those computers.

“That way they are good to go and all we have to do is set up the specific things like e-mail for an individual user,” Sousa said.

In addition to taking the job of upgrading the computers, ImageCast also helps in supporting the systems. “It has revolutionized the way we troubleshoot,” Sousa said. “We don’t have to worry about what’s wrong with what might be conflicting or set incorrectly, we just cast a new image.”

MASS PRODUCTION: The RIC technical staff, including RIC senior Peter Mwasaru (foreground), install Zip drives into new Pentium 3 computers in the Tech Center in Mann Hall. (What’s News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

*FEARS, TEARS, JEERS AND CHEERS* in middle schools is the theme of a workshop for music educators given by David G. Reul on Nov. 17 in the Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts, Reul is an independent educational consultant, who was a middle school band instructor for 36 years in Oconomowoc, Wis. The title of the workshop was “Behold the Young Adolescent: Keys to Success in Middle Level Music.” (What’s News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)
From the athletic director's desk

I can't help but reflect on all the things we in the Department of Recreation and Athletics do. Intramurals and Recreation are thankful for all the support we have received this season. At the same time, because there are so many who have a strong belief in Senator Paul S. Laxalt, I can't help but wish that we could continue to have as much support as we receive this season and that we can help us as continually strive to improve. So, please give us your best this holiday season! We truly appreciate everyone's efforts.

I would not be able to get the job done without the support of the Paul Boulenger, the Jim Whites, and the Donald plantation, without the support of the

events and Recreation.

Dear Santa,

First, maybe you could find a way to bring some gifts to all the people that work so hard in making our programs successful: the Department staff, from the coaches to the support staff, the athletes to the student-employees; the campus community, from the faculty to the physical plant, from the housekeepers to the janitors, to all those that work in the Student Services Center. We really appreciate everyone's efforts.

Thank you for your continued support. It would also allow us to work outside of the so-called normal school hours. We would be more productive with your help as we continually strive to improve. So, please give us your best this holiday season! We truly appreciate everyone's efforts.

Please give everyone hope as we enter the next millennium!

Donald E. Tencher, Director, Intercollegiate Athletics, Intramurals and Recreation

Sports Roundup

Men's Basketball

The men's basketball team is currently 0-3 overall and has yet to see action in the Little East Conference. Junior Adam Adams is in his 2nd year as the team's head coach, the longest tenure of any current RIC coach.

The Anchor men dropped both games they played at the 1999-00 season. "Anita is a tremendously bright person who will be one of our top gymnasts this season. Her top event is the vault. In addition, Anita knows how to balance her academics as well as her athletic endeavors. She sets a great example for the whole team." The Anchor men are in uncharted water for the first time in several years. Many of the program's all-time great have been either All-American or All-North Eastern in the last two seasons, including two-time All-American Amy Bright. "We have a lot of new faces on the team this year," the 5'2" Chase says. "We know that this will be a building season for the future."

Chase points out freshmen Sahjadh Ajhmad and Shannon Huchey as two newcomers to the team this season. Along with Chase, sophomore Elise Arruda, who qualified for the ECAC championships, and Kristen Oliver, are the only returning veterans on the team this season. The squad's lone senior, Alicia DeFranze, is red- shirting this winter due to a back injury she suffered over the summer.

Chase is hoping the team qualifi -

For the National Collegiate Athletics Championships after missing out for the first time in three years in the Little East Conference.

Chase placed 717th in the all-around with a score of 10.100 at the ECAC Championships. She was tied for 17th with a score of 9.100 on vault, 30th with a season-high score of 9.700 on bars, 32nd on beam at 9.217, and 47th on floor exercise and 51st in all-around competition.

Chase has season-high marks of 9.300 on vault against Southern Connecticut/Canisius, 7.500 on bars at the NCGA Championships, and 5.450 on floor against Springfield, 8.875 in the floor exercise and 3.625 in the all-around against Springfield.

At the NCGAs, she finished 5th on vault with an 8.725 score, 6th on floor with a score of 8.700, 6th with a score of 8.750 in the all-around, and 20th in all-around competition with a score of 33.175. Chase chose RIC over the University of Vermont, Western New England, UMass Dartmouth, and Quinnipiac University.

Prior to coming to RIC, Chase competed for both her Southbridge High School team and the Southbridge YMCA club team. She was named both All-State and All-Conference in 1994, 1995, 1996 and 1997.

Chase hopes to go on to graduate school to study either exercise science or sports medicine after her gymnastics career at RIC is completed.
Swing is king (again) —

'Swingtime!' a jumping, moving, grooving good time at RIC Jan. 27

by George LaTour
What's News Associate Editor

In a scene right out of the '30s and '40s, young men spiffed up in wide ties and suspenders, zoot-like suits and black-and-white striped shirttails started several young women whose Mary Janes gleam as their dresses flare with the spins and dips of the music of swing.

It's the stage in the Auditorium in Roberts Hall at Rhode Island College. That date: Thursday, Jan. 27. That time: 8 p.m. And RIC's Performing Arts Series is presenting Swingtime! It's a 'jumpin', movin', and groovin' good time' featuring Warren Vache's New York City All Star Big Band and Lincoln's Jivin' Lindy Hoppers on their national tour with the lively music of swing.

The band will feature frequent performers from jazz impresario George Wein's JVC Jazz Festival, whose organization, Festival Productions, is co-producing Swingtime! with Columbia Artists Management, Inc.

The high energy six-member swing dance ensemble, the Jivin' Lindy Hoppers, have won wide acclaim in both the U.S. and Europe for preserving the great American popular dance styles from the 1930s, '40s and '50s.

These dances have enjoyed renewed popularity across America in recent years.

The musical backbone of Swingtime!, which will feature everything from the jitterbug to the Lindy Hop, will be fresh arrangements of the swing components of the great band leaders of the Swing Era such as Duke Ellington, Benny Goodman, Tommy Dorsey, Woody Herman, Harry James, Gene Krupa and Glenn Miller.

Vache has performed in major jazz festivals all over the world, including the Newport Jazz Festival, the JVC and Playboy Jazz Festivals, and in top venues such as the Kennedy Center, Carnegie Hall, the 3rd annual Jazz of Los Angeles, the Vienna Opera, the Royal Festival Hall and Lincoln Center.

His club dates have included those at Minton's, the Note, Sweet Basil and Blue Note in Tokyo.

He trained Richard Gere to play the trumpet for Gere's role in the film The Cotton Club and has performed on the soundtrack for many movies, including Biloxi Blues.

His recent releases, "Horn of Plenty" and "Talk to Me Baby" showcase his mastery of the cornet and the jazz idiom.

His playing "can sound quietly elegant or fiercely exciting," according to Max Jones of the Melody Maker publication.

The Lindy Hoppers were established in London in 1984 by Terry Monaghan and Warren Hay on the cultural intersection of two trends: the 1980s revival of interest in the Lindy Hop and the 1984 upsurge of dancing in the United Kingdom.

They organized weekly workshops in London's East End and within 11 months were on stage with the Count Basie Orchestra at the Royal Festival Hall.

The multi-cultural ensemble has given hundreds of workshops and performances since and has won major awards for both its performances and pioneering work in education.

Where are they now?

Continued from page 1

domestic disturbance, routine drug arrests, traffic violations, etc. And Gelmontino likes solving problems.

She even likes her midnight to 8 a.m. shift. "I have the whole day to myself," she explained. "I was on days, I'd go home. Take a shower, eat. And it was time to go back to work. I've gotten used to going to work again," raising her shoulders as if to say "what's the attraction?"

It's not the career she was aiming for at RIC in the classes of Kay Israel and Moyne Cabbage, two of her favorite teachers. But she served an internship at an advertising agency and found desk work "boring." Even a sales and advertising job at a daily newspaper didn't excite this Johnston resident. But somehow all along the idea of police work had been at the back of her mind.

So she filled out an application, "took the test" and never looked back. Now she is enrolled at Roger Williams University working on a degree in criminal justice.

Text and photo by Gordon E. Rowley
EDWARD SCHEFF

Other exciting things
Cabaret was not the only activity for Scheff and the department in those days.
"We also did some other exciting things," including a Performing Arts Festival, a production of "Man of LaMancha" and Jacques Brel is Alive and Well... both in Gaige Hall auditoriums; a concert of Broadway dance numbers; showings of three of the most famous Hollywood musicals, and orchestra and band concerts.
"We did all of this in an eight-week period from late June to mid-August. It was amazing!" declares Scheff.
In the meantime, he and his wife, Helene, who is well known through-out the state as director of the Chance to Dance programs, raised four children: Fredric, who in recent years has sung in the national touring production of Phantom of the Opera; Carolyn and Jordan, all RIC grads, and Daniel, who graduated from the University of Rhode Island. The Scheffs have made their home in North Kingstown for many years.
"We're coming up to our 41st wedding anniversary for which Congress will give Helene a medal for service to the arts," adds Scheff with an admiring shake of his head.
"Once I became managing director of (RIC theatre programme) there was only one summer when I wasn't engaged in some kind of organized activity connected with the theatre," says Scheff.
Along the way, he served on numerous departmental and College committees. In the early 1970s he was secretary of the Council of RIC and chair of the Curriculum Committee, both while teaching "at least half time" — two or three courses a semester.
His favorite course
His says during that 15-year period his in-course topic was an introduction to theatre to non-theatre majors — "trying to excite people who didn't give a hoot about theatre.
Scheff currently serves on the Governor's Task Force on Literacy in the Arts and is a volunteer chair of the Rhode Island Alliance for Arts Education, an affiliate of the Kennedy Center Alliance.
He says coming to RIC was "one of the best career moves of my life," adding that he and the people he's worked with over the years "have had our differences at times, but we've always been able to disagree agreeably. I wouldn't trade it all for anything."
Scheff says he has "no specific plans" after his retirement, but he will continue with the Task Force and as a volunteer chair of the Alliance for Arts Education.
Elsworth Starring
Starring, of Barrington, joined the RIC faculty in 1972. One of the projects with which he was involved was the establishment of the NASA Center and serving as the Northeast Regional Associate for the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum.
Asked what he would do after retirement, he replied: "Anything I want to!"
Edward Bzowski
Bzowski, of Johnston, has been on the RIC faculty for 32 years, during which time he has been on phased retirement for the past several years during which time he did volunteer work as a teacher in Jamaica and Poland.
After his official retirement, he plans to continue teaching in Rhode Island but will "get involved with his "service work" going to Surinam in Dutch Guiana to help students who would like to study the endangered large turtles there. And "maybe in October I'll go to Italy to teach English."
RIC Orchestra concert features violinist John Sumerlin
Violinist John Sumerlin will be the featured artist in the Rhode Island College Symphony Orchestra concert Friday, Dec. 10, at 8 p.m. in the Auditorium in Roberts Hall.
The concert is part of a two-season retrospective by the orchestra of 20th century music and is conducted by Edward Markward, who is on loan from the College Symphony Orchestra.
"I'd like a nickel for every hour I waited in the lobby of the ballroom while the shows were being performed," says Scheff.
"But during the intermission I heard the most wonderful show of the summer season, Prodigy," says Scheff.
A program that would put most Broadway musicals to shame, Cabaret's popularity started to ebb.
For a number of reasons, including air conditioning and stage problems, the show was moved to Roberts Hall auditorium.

Site changed for Dec. 8 Chamber Series concert
The Rhode Island College Chamber Orchestra concert, Dec. 8, concert of holiday music will be held in the John Nazarian Center for the Arts and is volunteer chair of the Alliance for Arts Education.
Soprano Jeanne Maciel, baritone Gabriel Affieri and pianist David Harper will perform new and traditional arrangements of Christmas songs and is director of the Alliance for Arts Education.

Holiday party for underprivileged children
The Resident Student Association (RSA) at Rhode Island College will host its annual holiday party for underprivileged children from the Rhode Island Federation of Student Services, Dec. 9 from 6 to 9 p.m. in Weber Ballroom.
"The RSA is looking for people who are willing to sponsor a child for the party as well as people who will perform musical selections. For more information, call Cara at 521-2224.

Film Studies Program
The Film Studies Program will be presenting a discussion of "The New Documentary in the Digital Age." Tuesday, Dec. 7, 10 a.m., in Horace Mann 183, with Bonnie MacDonald, Lee Rothstein, and Larry Budnick. Admission is free and open to the public. Although documentaries are enjoying a great popularity due to classroom use and cable television, screenings, there will be a role for the traditional motion picture and disc storage age. The faculty panel will be considering the structure, creation and other elements in an age of CD-ROM's and DVD-ROM's which offer random access audio and video tracks, video tracks, still photos, and texts in equal availability for the user. For further information, call 401-456-8638.

Music for the New Millennium — Jan. 23
"Music for the New Millennium" in the Clarion Concerts American Band's annual Young People's Concert Sunday, Jan. 23, starting at 3 p.m. in the Auditorium in Rhode Island College's Roberts Hall.
The one-hour musical program for children will feature Star Wars music complete with a galactic parade.
Children are invited to don space costumes for the event. Those that do will get a discount on the $5 ticket price for the band member Michael Thommen.
Gene Pollart will direct the 65-member band in the concert which has been presented each year for nearly 25 years. The idea for a Young People's Concert was generated by the late Francis Martrinink at RIC.
Tickets may be purchased at the door at the time of the concert.

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Sundays
10 p.m. — Catholic Mass in the SU Ballroom. Conducted by Fr. Joseph Pescatello. All welcome.

Mondays
10 to 11 a.m. — Bible Study will be held in Student Union 300.

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

6 Monday
8 p.m. — Music: RIC Chorus Presentation of the Sylvan & Helen Forman Endowed Scholarship for Music in the Auditorium in Roberts Hall. Theresa Coffman, conductor. General admission is $7. For further information, call 401-456-8194.

9 Thursday
4 p.m. — Annual Holiday Dinner. —“Times Square 1966.” Featuring a talent showcase of RIC students competing for a Millennium price package. Hors d’oeuvres will be served at 4 p.m. followed by a dinner buffet at 4:45 p.m. Admission price for the college community $10 and students on the meal plan will have one meal’s worth of points deducted. DDC.

7 p.m. — Art: Annual Art Club Auction in Bannister Gallery.

Friday
8 p.m. — Music: RIC Symphony Orchestra in the Auditorium in Roberts Hall. John Sumerlin, violin, and Edward Markward, conductor. General admission is $7. For information, call the Auditorium box office at 401-456-8144.

10 Monday
8 to 10 p.m. — Second Annual LASSO Auction in Student Union Ballroom. Tickets are $5 at SU Info Desk and door. Sponsored by LASSO, 401-456-8285.

3 Sunday
3 p.m. — Music: American Band Annual Children’s Concert in the Auditorium in Roberts Hall. General admission $5. For information, call the Auditorium box office at 401-456-8144.

24 Monday
Classes resume.

27 Thursday
8 p.m. — Music & Dance: Swingtime in the Auditorium in Roberts Hall. Performing Arts Series. Reserved seating is $20. For information, call the Auditorium box office at 401-456-8144.