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What's News At Rhode Island College

Rhode Island College

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PHOTOGRAPHY BY GORDON E. ROWLEY

$62,500 approved for 32 faculty research projects

The Rhode Island College Faculty Research Committee recently has approved funding in the amount of $62,500 to cover 32 faculty research for the year 2000-2001, reported by Peter S. Allen, committee chair.

The RIC Foundation and Alumni Association has provided $36,809 of the total amount, according to Marguerite M. Brown, director of development. The rest comes from unrestricted College funds.

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

Yael Avisarri, biology, "Isolation and Characterization of Chlorobium Porphyrophilinogen Synthases," $2,840;
Pamela Benson, English, "Gualdrada and the Emperor’s Kiss: The Politics of Narrative in Florentine Legendary History," $2,442;
Peter Brown, history, "Medieval and Early Modern Russian Military and Ethnic Studies," $2,870;
Richard Cain, health education, "The Affect of Referent Others to Explain HIV-Related Attitudes of Behavioral Among Men at High Risk for HIV Infection," $1,338;
Karen Castagno, health and physical education, "An Investigation of Attitudes Towards Individuals with Disabilities by College Students Seeking Endorsement in Adapted Physical Education," $496;
Diana Delia, history, "Egypt from Cambyses to the Arab Conquest: An Anthology of Sources in Translation," $805;
David Espinosa, history, "Jesuit Higher Education and the Mexican Catholic Reform Movement (1971-1990)," $1,948;
Pamela Ferrario, art, "Bibliography of New Guinea," $840;
Rachel Filinson, sociology/gerontology, "The Culture of Esteem: An Ethnographic Study of an Ombudsman Program," $1,575;
Terry Hays, anthropology/geography, "As the spring semester came to a close and students were rushing to finish papers and projects, Prof. James Bierden and Pat Thomas finished a major one themselves—the draft of Rhode Island College's self-study report for the upcoming continuing accreditation visit by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC). Bierden and Thomas are co-chairing the College's self-study and preparation for the Oct. 15-18 NEASC visit. The self-study uses the 11 NEASC standards to describe and appraise all aspects of the College and to project future actions. The 11 standards relate to mission and purpose, planning and evaluation, organization and governance, programs and instruction, faculty, student services, library and information resources, physical resources, financial resources, public disclosure, and integrity. The self-study addresses each standard with a description, appraisal and projection for the future. The 100-page draft represents the collective efforts of about 130 faculty and staff who served on 15 subcommittees. One subcommittee was dedicated to each of the standards, except for the one relating to programs and instruction. That standard was divided into substandards—undergraduate, graduate, scholarship and research, instruction, and admission and retention—which were addressed by five subcommittees. The Standards for Accreditation establish minimum criteria for institutional quality, according to NEASC documentation. NEASC also expects institutions to work toward improving their quality, increasing their effectiveness, and continually striving toward excellence. During the visit, a team of about 10 surveyors will review prepared documents and conduct open meetings with faculty, students, the

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See Faculty Research, page 15

C telephones were as a colorul beach ball bounced over the heads of the 1,112 Rhode Island College graduating seniors Saturday, May 20, dispelling the gloom of overcast skies and chilly temperatures outside the Health, Physical Education, Athletic Complex where the annual commencement exercises took place.

The HPEAC, also referred to as the "New Building," was packed as overflow crowd of family members and friends of the graduates.

It was the first time in more than a decade that RIC's commencement had to be moved indoors.

The ceremony was held in the "New Building," was packed as for the year 2000-2001, reports Peter S. Allen, committee chair.

"I know many of you are the first in your families to get a degree," said Fuller, who added that he, too, was the first in his family to earn that distinction. "I congratulate you for reaching this milestone."

In the business of helping people, Fuller said it was appropriate that he'd been asked to speak at the College where many of the graduate students will go into the "helping professions" of teaching and social work.

He said that when he graduated from college, all he wanted was work and success. Soon enough, he realized that's all he had and found

THE TOWERING MORTARBOARD of Shannon Pearson, at the College's May 20 undergraduate commencement, clearly announces her major: art education. For more of the sights of commencement, see pages 8 and 9.

(What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)
NEW BILL OF RIGHTS: College President John Nazarian signs the new Student Bill of Rights in the Board of Governors Room on May 3. This is the first time the bill has been revised in 30 years. Observing the historic signing are (l to r) Mary Byrd, assistant professor in nursing and faculty chair of the Committee on Student Life: Nancy Evans, associate professor of art and chair of the Council of RIC; Scott Feiro, the student who originated the effort to update the document; and Dale Goodwin Gomez, associate professor of anthropology and secondary education and the previous chair of the Committee on Student Life. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

The Way We Were...

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

Sharon Mazeyck, coordinator of Career Development Programs, served on the panel at the Providence Journal Diversity Careers Fair in April at the Westin Hotel in Providence and in May at the Crowne Plaza. The career fairs offered to review and critique resumes by the panel which was comprised of career development professionals from Rhode Island's colleges and universities.

Christine Mulcahey, art specialist at the Henry Barnard School, recently attended and presented at national conferences. At the National Art Education Association Annual Conference in Los Angeles, she presented a paper, "Children's Perspectives on Their Drawings." At the American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting in New Orleans she presented "Understanding Children's Perspectives" at a paper session in the Arts and Learning Special Interest Group.

Patricia A. Thomas, professor of nursing and department chair, was given the LoAnna Whittier-Wood Recognition Award for excellence in nursing at induction ceremonies of the Delta Upsilon Chapter-at-Large of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing May 8 at the Quonset "O" Club.

Other awards to RIC nursing faculty were the Chapter Service Award for an individual member's contribution to the Chapter, Geraldine DeNucelo, assistant professor of nursing, and Research Award to support research projects, Patricia Quigley, assistant professor of nursing.

RIC nursing students inducted into honor society; awards presented

Twenty-nine nursing students and four community leaders were inducted into Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing through the Delta Upsilon Chapter-at-Large of Rhode Island College in ceremonies May 6 at the Quonset "O" Club in North Kingston.

The society is comprised of nurses, scholars and researchers. Founded in Indiana University in 1922, it currently has 406 chapters at more than 503 college and university campuses worldwide. It is committed to improving the health of the public by advancing nursing science and to graduates of nursing programs who have made outstanding contributions to nursing as community leaders.

Juniors inducted are: Jennifer Haggerty, Bonnie Kueik, Marianne Manzelli, Amy Peront, Barbara Richards, Gloria Rose, Jennifer Sargent, Brian Titomanlio and Yong Wu.

Seniors inducted are: Ronald Asal, Kathryn Cartier, Taryn Cousineau, Kimberly Crighton, Linda Ether, Christine Gaido, Karen Joost, Judith Koeplinger, Linh Lam, Lynne Lerish, Richard Matte, Crystal Kennedy Melo, Cheryl Pappas, Linda Rathburn and David Silverman.

Twelve community leaders inducted are: Nancy Conley, Elaine Massotti, Lisa Nortrip and Moe Beth Ryan.

Awards were presented to three students of the RIC nursing department. The awards and the recipients are:

Undergraduate Student Scholarships: Junior Alicia Deroy of Harrisville; Memorial Award for Excellence in Parent-Child Health Nursing (funded by the Steiner-Brem Family), senior Judith Joost, and Research Award to support research projects, senior Dorothy Carr of Exeter.

WHAT'S NEWS
AT RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE

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UPWARD BOUND scholarship winners and program counselors are (from left center) Paul Couto and Daniela Melo of Central Fall High School, and Katherine Zharkova of Shea High School. Counselors are Claudia Erazo-Conrad and James Walker. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

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

Presenting the 12th annual alumni scholarships was Edmanuel (sic) Gill, chair of the scholarship committee and an Upward Bound alumnus from the Class of 1985.

The winners, their high schools and amount of awards are: Daniela Melo, Central Falls, $2,000; Katherine Zharkova, Shea, $1,500; and Ryan Jr., retired chair of the Shon High School Guidance Department, $1,000.

Target School System Scholarships of $500 each were presented to the seniors with the highest academic averages. They are: Betty Jeffries, East Providence; Lin Chen, Central Falls; Derek Beteloh, Pawtucket; Rayvan Miranda, Providence.

The Outstanding Service Awards were presented to Debra Catley-Pedro, retired chair of the Central Falls High School Guidance Department; Richard Escobar, associate director of admissions at Boston College; John J. Fitta, assistant vice president for finance and controller at RIC; and Jeremiah Ryan Jr., retired chair of the Shon High School Guidance Department.

Each was cited for contributions toward the success of the program. A reception followed the ceremony.

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Alumni Association Awards –
Alum feted for their accomplishments

Promising Practices fair slated for Nov. 4

The third annual Promising Practices multicultural media fair and workshops is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 4. The program, sponsored by the Rhode Island College Dialogue on Diversity Committee, will feature a keynote address, workshops and curriculum resources. The keynote speaker will be Diana Lam, superintendent of the Providence schools. Her topic will be “Integrating Concepts of Diversity into Sound Educational Policy and School Reform.”

There will also be a series of workshops on a variety of subjects related to “promising practices” that promote diversity in the classroom. A minimal fee will be charged for the day-long program. CEU credits will be available. For more information or to discuss new proposals and ideas, contact Promising Practices co-chairs Elizabeth Rowell at 401-456-8563 or via e-mail at erowell@ric.edu or Mark Matte at 401-456-8378 or mmotte@ric.edu.

Annual Fund approaches its goal of $301K

As the June 30 close of the first full cycle of the new fiscal year for the Rhode Island College Foundation and the Alumni Association approaches, the RIC Annual Fund is close to reaching its goal of $301,000.

“We are very grateful for the generosity of our alumni, faculty, staff, and friends who contributed to the annual fund this year. Nearly $100,000 was donated just since the beginning of April,” said Nancy Hoogasian, director of the annual fund. “This was an incredible pouring of support for the College and the programs supported by the annual fund.”

The annual fund is the funding mechanism of the RIC Alumni Association and provides unrestricted funding for a variety of programs, the largest of which is scholarship aid.

This past year, the Alumni Association awarded over $85,000 in scholarships. The annual fund also supports a wide range of faculty research projects, class reunions, alumni events, the Alumni Awards and Honor Roll event, Homecoming and the Alumni Magazine.

For further information or to make a donation to the annual fund by June 30, call Hoogasian at 401-456-8827 or email her at nhoogasian@ric.edu.

Mark your calendars for these upcoming events

Young Alumni Group hosts PawSox
vs. Columbus Clippers
July 28; 7 p.m.
$6.50
Call 456-9625 for tickets.

RIC Foundation
11th Annual Golf Day
Tuesday, Aug. 15
Warwick Country Club
$150 per person
Call 456-8118 to register.

Alumni Association
10th Annual Golf Tournament
Sept. 25
Cranston Country Club
$80 before July 1; $85 after
Call 456-8086 to register.

Homecoming –
Come Back to RIC
Oct. 13-14
Watch your mail for brochure.
Students and teachers learn from each other through VPDS

by Shelly Murphy
What's News Editor

T he students' expertise is readily apparent as they proudly open up their portfolios, which incorporate graphics, photography, music and text. The graphics appear, rotate, dissolve into others and fade away for these are not traditional portfolios, they are PowerPoint presentations showcasing the students' class work, Internet research, creativity and computer skills.

The portfolios are not those of students at Rhode Island College. They are the products of the work of fourth-graders at Veterans Elementary School in Central Falls, one of the College's six local partner schools in the Virtual Professional Development School (VPDS) Consortium.

The Consortium is a $9.9 million national "technology infusion" initiative funded by a five-year U.S. Department of Education Technology Initiative Award. The initiative's purpose is to "infuse" technology into teacher preparation and K-12 schools. The goal is to help teachers (from kindergarten through college) and teachers in preparation learn how to use and apply new technology in the classroom to improve students' learning results. Through RIC, VPDS members are working to improve all states or territories included in the project.

The work going on in the Central Falls classroom is a prime example of what the VPDS is designed to do. They are investigating a subject matter and developing essential computer skills through which they can share what they learned with their classmates and others.

The shared learning is not only about Powerpoint. The kids, from four through 12, and from teachers, but also teachers at all levels learning from each other and from students. For instance, the elementary school students' expertise in Powerpoint, and computer in general, eclipses the technical skills of many of their teachers.

"These kids have taught the College students Powerpoint," said their teacher Nancy Carnevale, who is also a state trainer for teachers in technology. "We're (educators) all learning how to use the technology. It's new for many of us. These kids were born ready. At the beginning of the year, I teach one or two of the kids on Powerpoint and they teach each other. They explore and discover new things.

"They love to produce a product of value and to demonstrate what they have learned by teaching their classmates," DiMeo said.

The VPDS model also encourages collaboration and development between the College faculty and the teachers at the partner schools. There is much more extensive interaction between the teachers and faculty in setting goals, observing classes and student teachers and in professional development," DiMeo said.

For instance, Carnevale has taught on technology issues for the RIC faculty and she just recently completed a 45-hour literacy in English as a Second Language (ESL) course taught by Medeiros-Landurand and Nanc Cloud, assistant professor of special education. This course was a direct result of the professional development school partnership because the need was identified through the frequent interaction.

Working with them has changed my practices by enriching what I know and do. I have developed a deeper understanding of my students as learners and of their culture," said Carnevale.

The partnership also allows the faculty to explore new ideas. "We can talk about concepts in our courses and we can work with teachers to try it here," DiMeo said. "Our students get more extensive hands-on experience through the PDS partnership and our classroom assignment relate directly to the experience they are getting in the classroom. We can see the difference with first year student teachers coming in. I think they have more confidence and are ready to refine skills as opposed to building skills."

The College and Veteran's Elementary School had been working as a PDS for about five years prior to the Virtual PDS grant, which is just finishing its second year. "The virtual piece has allowed us to focus on technology. It's been a process of simultaneous renewal. It's rejuvenated the team spirit around something new as we all are learning from each other."

RIC's other local partners in the VPDS are the following Providence schools: Charles Forte Elementary; Robert F. Kennedy Elementary; Nathaniel Greene Middle School; George J. West Elementary and Henry Barnard School, the laboratory school located on the RIC campus.

The VPDS also connects the Rhode Island participants with colleagues across the nation through the Internet courses, ongoing e-mail correspondence and the annual conference. For the second time, RIC will host the annual conference for participants in the national grant. About 70 educators from as far away as Washington state and the U.S. Virgin Islands are expected to attend the conference on campus from June 23 to 25, according to Ron Tibbetts, RIC's site coordinator for the VPDS and principal of the Henry Barnard School.

"The computer equipment is just a tool... It's how you use it that makes a difference." -- Carnevale

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"Judy DiMeo, professor of special education at RIC and one of four RIC faculty members on the Central Falls VPDS team, elaborates, "Everyone is learning from everybody. That is embedded in what the PDS does.

Nancy has done professional development for the faculty. She is a great teacher and she has shared this with us. Now we are all using technology in our courses and in our lives." The other RIC members of the Central Falls team are John DiMeo, associate professor of special education; Pat Medeiros-Landurand, professor of special education; and Joseph McCormick, professor of spe-

COMPUTER SAVVY: Nancy Carnevale (standing), a teacher at Veterans' Elementary School in Central Falls, and Judith DeMeo (far left), professor of special education, view the projects of students who put technology to work in their regular assignments. The College and the school are partners under the Virtual Professional Development School grant. The students (front to back) are: Jose Muriel, 10; Elias Fuentes, 12; and Vanseea Depina, 10. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

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**Former high school drop-out graduates magna cum laude**

by George LaTour

**What's News Associate Editor**

During her three years at Rhode Island College, Doreen A. Shottek of Cumberland was a full-time student, a full-time parent, worked part-time in the evenings and volunteered her time at the RIC Cooperative Playgroup.

With the support of her family, she was able to overcome many adversities and, by her own admission, worked "very hard and had many sleepless nights" in order to complete her college courses with a 3.8 grade point average.

The magna cum laude graduate finished her studies last January and returned to campus Saturday, May 20, for the commencement exercises.

Shottek, who was near the top of her class in the college-prep course at Tolman High School in Pawtucket, dropped out of school before her senior year started.

"I felt bored," she says.

Realizing she had made a mistake, she immediately earned a general equivalency diploma (GED) and then proceeded to get a job as a flight attendant with Pan American Airlines. That job lasted four years during which she got married and had daughter, Alison.

"When she was born, I decided to go to the Community College of Rhode Island to be a better role model for my child," says Shottek.

She attended CCRi while working jobs as a customer service representative and waitress. She graduated with honors in June of 1996 with an associates degree in business management, and then enrolled at RIC in elementary education with a concentration in magna cum laude graduates of the Class of 2000.

Shottek is currently a substitute teacher holding a long-term position as the Youth Enrichment Teacher for two elementary schools in Cumberland. She hopes for a full-time teaching job by September.

**Leadership, service garners Rose Butler Browne Award for RIC senior**

by George LaTour

**What's News Associate Editor**

A volunteer with the Liberian Community Association of Rhode Island, who has served as a community organizer, advocate and outreach worker for the past two years in support of Liberian immigrants, has won the Rose Butler Browne Award at Rhode Island College.

The award, presented annually to a graduating senior at the Cap and Gown Convocation in May, honors the late Rose Butler Browne, a 1919 graduate of RIC, who during her lifetime demonstrated outstanding leadership in professional and community affairs.

Symbu K. N'Tow of Providence, who came from Liberia to this country in 1984, graduated from RIC May 20 with a degree in social work. She will return to RIC in the fall to begin study for a master's degree in social work.

Arriving in Boston upon coming to the U.S., she attended school and worked there until coming to Rhode Island in 1991. She is the husband, Sand N'Tow, the parents of two children, Sonie and Dwayne.

Much of her work has entailed organizing monthly health workshops for elderly who have been abused by their own family members.

N'Tow devotes much of her time to helping those who are disadvantaged and unaware of the rights to which they are entitled.

Because of the civil war in that country, many Liberians fled to the United States where they were granted temporary protection status. Now, they no longer enjoy that status, says N'Tow.

This is a country that the American government is telling its own citizens not to travel to and yet they are considering sending Liberians back," says N'Tow.

"That possibility troubles me," N'Tow feels the Liberians here "work very hard" and "are law-abiding citizens" and deserve more consideration.

N'Tow says there are over 10,000 Liberians in Rhode Island. Next September, many of them may be deported back to their homeland, which "is not a safe country to go to," she says.

"This is a country that the American government is telling its own citizens not to travel to and yet they are considering sending Liberians back," says N'Tow.

Rhode Island College President John Nazarian was a featured guest on a segment of the cable television talk show School Talk which was videotaped May 25. The segment, which featured Nazarian and Chris Carr, president of St. Martin's College in Lancaster, England, was aired on WSBE, Channel 36 on June 3 and is slated to air again on Saturday, July 8 at 3:30 p.m.

The program can also be viewed on the Internet at www.onworldwide.com, according to Nadja Varnay, School Talk producer and host. School Talk, which is taped at Bridgewater State College, is a weekly television talk show dedicated to discussing topics of national and international interest relating to education.

The segment featuring Nazarian and Carr focused on student exchange programs for education students and compared the British and American systems for teacher preparation. RIC and St. Martin's College have developed several exchange programs in recent years.

For more information about these programs, contact Ezra Steiglitz, professor of educational administration and coordinator of study abroad for the Feinstein School of Education and Human Development at 401-456-8560 or via e-mail at esteiglitz@ric.edu.

For more information about School Talk, contact Varnay at 508-285-3469.

**Nazarian on School Talk**
Justice Studies award winner has chosen a career in law enforcement

by George LaTour
What's News Associate Editor

A Rhode Island College graduate picked up his second "OASIS" degree in May about the same time his wife gave birth to their third child. As if that weren't enough excitement in his life, Joshua Smith's job is that of a Woonsocket policeman who works full-time on the "Zombie Squad." The most recent degree is in Justice Studies; the newest addition to his family is a second son, Joshua James-Paul Smith, who joins Joshua and Gina's other children, Jesse and Kristina, the third of "gravyard shift" (referred to as the "Zombie Squad" by the Woonsocket police) finds Smith "mostly patrolling" the city's streets by car late night until dawn.

The 30-year-old Smith, who earned "predominantly all A's" in Justice Studies in course work completed in two and-a-half years, is this year's Mary Ann Hawkes Award winner in Justice Studies as the outstanding student in that discipline. He was cited, along with other graduating senior departmental award winners, at May 3 Cap and Gown ceremonies in the Auditorium in Roberts Hall.

Smith is the 10th winner of this award, which honors sociology student Emerita Mary Ann Hawkes of Wellesley, Mass. Hawkes is known for her many years of work in corrections.

The son of James and Marlene Smith of Cumberland, Smith graduated from Cumberland High School before entering RIC for a bachelor of general studies degree, which he earned in 1995.

"Law enforcement was something I had wanted to do, but when I first came to the College, I was in education and kind of switched around a lot. However, something inside me said, 'I really want to be in law enforcement.'"

As many undecided students do, he went to see Dolores A. Passarelli, director of the Office of Academic Support and Information Services (OASIS), "and she was very helpful in setting me up in the bachelor of general studies program with four concentrations: teaching, health, biology and sociology. Sociology is where I started taking my law enforcement classes."

After his first degree, he worked in health care and also as a martial arts instructor, teaching women's self-defense for Cumberland's Recreation Department from 1995 to 1997.

"Nevertheless, I worked really hard," he says. "I'm no genius - just someone who worked really hard." - Lori Streker

WOONSOCKET'S FINEST and one of Rhode Island College's academic award winners is Joshua Smith who got his second degree from RIC May 20. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

4.0 grad 'no genius' just someone who 'worked really hard'

by George LaTour
What's News Associate Editor

Lori Streker of Warwick, who was this year's outstanding graduate in accounting and management and technology department with a perfect 4.0 grade point average, credits God, the support of her family and her success.

"Whatever you put into something is what you're going to get out of it." - Lori Streker

A 1979 graduate of Cranston West High School, she was employed as a bookkeeper for several years, married Michael Streker and had two children, Sheena and Joel. During this period she provided home schooling for her children and performed volunteer work for the Rhode Island Guild of Home Teachers as a county representative.

Then she decided to pursue an associates degree in general studies at the Community College of Rhode Island. "I took that because it allowed me to explore different areas," says Streker, who graduated in December of 1997 with highest honors and induction into Phi Beta Kappa scholastic honor society.

She transferred to RIC where she's been on the Dean's List every semester for the two and half years it took her to complete her studies. "It's a profession that took a lot of soul-searching," he says, but now he's certain he made the right decision.

"Without a doubt, this is the career for me. I'll be going the full stretch," Smith assures.

Communications honor society inducts 13

Thirteen communications students were inducted into Lambda Pi Eta, the national communications honor society, in ceremonies April 20 in the Alumni Lounge. The induction capped the day-long annual Communications Day at Rhode Island College.

Those inducted were: Julie B. Ciaranello, Sharon Brouillard, Dave Major, Kristen Crozier, Michelle Ahlborg, James Smith, Richard Predette, Suet Pik Au Yeung, Michael Halloran, Ashley Mello, Chris DiFazio, Yaviri Grosso and Paul Reece.

A number of panels in the Faculty Center looked at careers and issues in the field of communications.

John DePetro '87, the "Independent Man" of WELJ-AM morning talk show, told the audience of students and faculty that he "still looks back at things I learned at RIC's radio station."

He discussed some of his experiences in the many aspects of radio in which he's been involved since his RIC graduation from disc jockey to music director to program director to general manager to talk show host, and assured "communications is a tremendous field to get into."
Class of 2000 graduates amid pomp and circumstance

Commencement—Continued from page 1

that wasn't enough. He and his wife sold their possessions, gave their money to the poor and initiated a ministry—Habitat for Humanity—based in housing.

He urged the graduates to "lift the limits from your thinking" for they are among "the privileged and elite of the world" and can give much to the world.

The honorary degree of Doctor of Fine Arts was bestowed upon Barney Evans, best known as the creator of WaterFire Providence and a leading historical preservationist and photographer.

Among the other speakers at the graduate commencement were Providence Mayor Vincent A. Cianci Jr.; Sarah T. Dowling, chair of the state Board of Governors for Higher Education; Susan A. Hogan, master's candidate, and RIC President John Nazarian who reminded the graduates that "life is fragile."

Nazarian noted that the dean of the School of Social Work George D. Metrey could not be with them that night due to an automobile accident that took the life of his wife, Cheryl.

"The Metrey Family is in our thoughts and prayers tonight," he said.

Undergrad Commencement Nancy Evans, chair of the Council of RIC, led the procession of seniors into the gym to the strains of "Pomp and Circumstance." Christine M. Noel sang "The National Anthem" followed by the invocation by Michael Napolitano, chaplain.

Gov. Lincoln C. Almond brought the official greetings of the state and told the seniors to "always look to the future with hope." The governor urged the students and their families to support a $63 million bond issue he's proposed to enhance academic facilities among the state's colleges and universities. The proposal will be on the ballot in November.

Cheers and applause greeted Nazarian when he addressed the "members of the Class of 2000."

"I am proud of the can-do spirit of the graduates," he said.

The honorary degree of Doctor of Pedagogy was bestowed upon Gordon M. Ambach, one of the nation's leading experts on federal and state education policy making, who delivered the commencement address.

A graduate of Hope High School whose 44-year career in education has included 10 years as the New York state commissioner of education, Ambach told this year's graduating class of 2000 to "recognize the connections between the centuries" and encourage them to "think like leadership role models through personal connections which include workplace mentoring, creativity and global connections."

Others awarded honorary degrees were Luther H. Blount, a pioneer and inventor from Warren, who founded the Blount Marine Corp. He was named a Doctor of Commercial Science.

And Edward J. Liston, president of the Community College of Rhode Island since 1978. He was named a Doctor of Public Service for his work as "one of the nation's most influential community college leaders." Liston will retire this month.

The Golden Anniversary Gift of $15,000 was presented to Nazarian by Edward R. Silva and John W. Trombi, members of the Class of 1950. Calling themselves the "Nifty 50," Silva said the College had given his class "a wonderful chance to be something better."

Among the other speakers were William Turner, a member of the Board of Governors whose daughter, Kathy, was among the graduates; Peggy E. Sandoval, class president who offered farewell remarks to the class, and Paul A. Bourget, alumni president, who welcomed the class into the RIC Alumni Association.

ACKNOWLEDGING A STANDING OVATION, after his address at graduate commencement on May 18, is Millard D. Fuller, the founder and president of Habitat for Humanity International.

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY: Graduate Olatunbosun Akinrolabu poses with family members, while his father, Class of '80, (at right), dressed in his native Nigerian costume, takes photos.

AN ESTIMATED CROWD OF 5,000 pack the New Building as inclement weather forces commencement exercises indoors for the first time in 13 years.

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY: Graduate Olatunbosun Akinrolabu poses with family members, while his father, Class of '80, (at right), dressed in his native Nigerian costume, takes photos.
Athletics

11 with RIC ties honored by RIBGHE

Ten current Rhode Island College student-athletes and one alumnus have been honored by the Rhode Island Board of Governors for Higher Education at the second annual Distinguished Student-Athlete Awards Reception held in the Governor's State Room at the Rhode Island State House on Wednesday, May 3.

The event was designed to give significant public recognition to men and women from the Community College of Rhode Island, Rhode Island College and the University of Rhode Island who have had significant achievements in their academic and athletic pursuits at their respective institutions. The honorees have also demonstrated exemplary citizenship and community service.

Laura DiSano, Chair of RIBGHE Athletics Committee, was the master of ceremonies. Gov. Lincoln Chafee and RIBGHE Chair, Sally Dowling, attended the reception.

The Rhode Island College Distinguished Student-Athlete award winners were: Jennifer Cook, a senior from West Warwick who plays women's basketball and softball; Stephanie Friorio, a junior from Johnston who plays women's soccer, indoor track and outdoor track; Joan Hencler, a senior from Warwick who plays women's soccer; Beth Laco, a junior from Westerly who plays women's basketball; Jeff Lavigne, a senior from Glendale who plays men's soccer; Sean Magee, a senior wrestler from St. James, N.Y.; Joe Manzella, a sophomore wrestler from Lemont; Mass.; Jennifer Robitaille, a junior from Greeneville who plays soccer; Grandea Trainer, a sophomore from North Kingstown who plays women's volleyball and Erica Waltonen, a sophomore from West Greenwich who plays women's volleyball and basketball.

The RIBGHE also honored a Distinguished Student-Athlete Alumnus from each school. Cranston's Vin Cullen '55 was RIC's award-winner.

The history of CCRI Athletics and Vin Cullen are almost the same. Since the fall of 1965, Cullen remains the only director of athletics and men's basketball coach CCRI has ever had.

Cullen has made his mark nationally, both as a leading athletic administrator and a basketball coach. He has served the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics (NACDA) as a member of NACDA's Executive Committee and its secretary. He has been a delegate to the Goodwill Games in Moscow and a member of the Kickoff Classic Games Committee. He is also the chair of CCRI's Continued Education Department.

He recently received Words Unlimited's Small College Achievement Award and was inducted into the Rhode Island Scholar-Athlete Hall of Fame by the Institute for International Sport on May 6.

His success as a basketball coach is equally astounding. He just completed his 36th season without ever missing a game. One of only five members of the executive board of the NJCAA Basketball Coaches Association, he was selected National Basketball Coach of the Year in 1991 and has been inducted into the NJCAA Hall of Fame. He was selected by the U.S. Olympic Committee as an assistant coach at the 1987 Olympic Festival. His current won-loss record is an impressive 668-253.

Hall of Fame Class of 2000

The Rhode Island College Department of Intercollegiate Athletics, Intramurals and Recreation recently announced the Athletic Hall of Fame Class of 2000. Nine former RIC student-athletes/coaches have been selected and will be officially inducted at the Athletic Recognition Dinner, held in conjunction with Homecoming on Saturday, Oct. 14.

This year's inductees are: Joe Aguiar '61 who was a soccer student-athlete and coach; Billie Ann Burrill who was a master swimmer and fencing coach; Kathy Kelly-Luther '80 who was a basketball student-athlete and coach; Lora Testa Lynch '57 who was an Olympic athlete and the National Shot Put Champion; Dick Magarian '52 who was a wrestling coach and is the current director of the Rhode Island Interscholastic League; Cesar Palomeque '77 who was a basketball student-athlete; George Tracey '51 who was an official, coach and educator; Silvio Tartaglia '53 who was a soccer student-athlete and the former president of the Rhode Island Soccer Officials Association and James White '74 who was both a soccer and basketball student-athlete and an educator.

Spring Sports

MVPs named

Baseball:
Luke Hardiman
Tennis:
Joe Testa
Men's Track and Field:
Dan Fero
Women's Track and Field:
Keely Subin

HONORED: Student-athletes pose with College President John Nazarian following the RIBGHE Distinguished Student-Athlete Awards reception at the State House. Pictured (1 to r) are Jen Cook, Stephanie Friorio, Joan Hencler, Jessica Robitaille, Brandee Trainer, Nazarian, Erica Waltonen, Beth Laco, Jeff Lavigne, Sean Magee, and Joe Manzella. (Photo by Scott Gibbons)
rite graduate infuses drama, history and real life into classroom

by Shelly Murphy
What's News Editor

Although she has been recognized as "a wonderful asset to the social studies teaching profession and her students, this year's Katherine Murray Outstanding Future Teacher Award recipient didn't set out to be a teacher. In fact, Carina Cournoyer '97 and Rhode Island College Education (RITE) program '90 didn't know what she wanted to do when she came to Rhode Island College as a freshman in 1985, or even when she graduated magna cum laude in 1997, with a double major in anthropology and archaeology and a minor in geography.

"My interests and strengths have always been in social studies and English," Cournoyer says, but she wasn't sure exactly how she would turn her interests into those general disciplines into a career. Her journey toward that decision started with an anthropology elective at Cranston High School West and culminated with her earning her RITE certification. Along the way, she conducted fieldwork in a Cree Indian community in Canada, studied in Montreal for a year, and served as a school-to-career specialist for a year through the AmeriCorps VISTA.

After her interest was piqued by the initial anthropology class, she applied for early acceptance to RIC whose anthropology department was highly recommended by a teacher at her high school, earned a RIC Foundation honors scholarship, and entered the Honors Program. "The Honors Program at RIC was challenging. I liked the way I could tailor my education and integrate English and history," she said. As an undergraduate, she was selected as a Robert C. Byrd Scholar and awarded a Ridgway F. Shinn Study Abroad grant to attend McGill University in Montreal, where she completed her junior year.

In the summer prior to her year at McGill, she spent two weeks in a Cree Indian community in northern Quebec doing fieldwork on indigenous rights and the James Bay Hydroelectric Project for her honors project. Her interest was sparked by a film on the Cree Indians that she saw in a class taught by Pierre Mercure, associate professor of anthropology. "The film showed the differences in the Cree Indians lives since the hydroelectric dams were built. It affected their hunting grounds. There was some compensation. Their lives are changing dramatically. They are modernizing rapidly."

In the 1970s when the film was produced, "they were still very much a hunter-gatherer society," although changes from the influx of money and modern society were beginning to occur, Cournoyer said. When she visited the Cree community, the differences even from the time of the film were striking. Although fur trading was still very much a part of their lives, the signs of modern life were apparent. "It's an 11-hour drive north of Montreal. It's in the middle of the woods with just a gravel road leading to it. When I got there, they were developing a youth center and building a police station," she recalled.

The next fall, Cournoyer studied at McGill University, focusing on Canadian history, culture and indigenous issues. She returned to RIC for her senior year. Upon graduation, she joined AmeriCorps VISTA community service program to gain experience and broaden her options. "I wasn't sure what I wanted to do. I wasn't ready for graduate school, although I was considering it. I also was considering going into education."

"I've always liked interacting with youth. Teaching is a good opportunity to make a significant change, to affect youth's lives in a positive way. It's also a way for me to convey my excitement about learning and the subject matter to students. It has ended up being so much fun. It's amazing what you can get teenagers to do. They have a bad rap. It's gratifying when you see them create something they are really proud of."

The stops along the way, helped Cournoyer define her career and are reflected in her choice this spring, during her student teaching at North Smithfield Junior-Senior High School, she had the eighth-grade geography class debate Cree rights. The students researched papers, created visual projects and debated both sides of the issue for two days in class.

"It was something I was interested in and provided a way to get them excited and get them to think analytically about Native American issues," Cournoyer said. "Eighth-graders are at a great age where they are still enthusiastic about learning. You can infuse drama into the classroom, and they'll partner with you."

Cournoyer is dual-certified to teach English and social studies in secondary education, grades 7-12. She is pursuing an endorsement in English as a Second Language so she can more effectively teach second language students in her classes.

She is interested in language culture in part because most of her family speaks Italian. Her father was born in Italy and his family immigrated when he was 12 years old. Her mother's family also speaks Italian. She recalls being at family gatherings and not understanding the conversation. She started studying Italian when she was 18 and is now an active participant in the discussions.

Cournoyer is currently substitute teaching and looking for a permanent position. Her husband, Mitchell Cournoyer '97, who also graduated from the RITE program, is currently substitute teaching and continuing to work as a dispatcher for the West Greenwich Police Department, where he worked while pursuing his degree and teaching certification.

Case Management Institute awards certificates

CASE MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATES: The School of Social Work awarded certificates of completion to graduates of its Case Management Institute May 18 in the Forman Center. Above from left are Catherine Houle, Claudia Barber, Josefa Cruz, Justine Gregory, Yvette Wheeler, Sherry Konicki, and Charlene Ventre. Presenting certificates is Mary Ann Bromley, professor in the School of Social Work, while John Riolo, institute coordinator, looks on. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)
Dean's List for Spring 2000 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.

Jennifer A. Cabral
Joanne A. Cabral
Michelle M. Cabral
Ahmad M. Cadiz
Nancy M. Cadiz
David H. Cahn
Kathleen A. Cahill
Sandi A. Calandra
Julie A. Callahan
Lauren A. Callaway
Kelly A. Callender
Cheryl A. Callihan
Kathleen A. Callihan
Dennis M. Callihan
Lynn E. Callihan
John M. Callihan
Sara A. Callihan
Mark A. Callihan
Kristen A. Callihan
Donna S. Callinan
Michael A. Caliendo
Patricia A. Calcagno
Jennifer A. Calsone
Joyce A. Callum
Holly L. Callum
Allison A. Callum
Eleanor A. Callum
Kelly A. Callum
Jennifer A. Callum
Laura A. Calkins
Sarah M. Calhoun
Sarah A. Calhoun
Jennifer A. Calhoun
Andrew P. Calhoun
Jennifer N. Calhoun
Laura A. Calhoun
Amy A. Calhoun
Brooke A. Calhoun
Dana L. Calhoun
Kelly A. Calhoun
Lindsey A. Calhoun
Mary M. Calhoun
Michelle A. Calhoun
Melissa A. Calhoun
Tina M. Calhoun
Kelsi A. Calhoun
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RIC professor helps Lincoln with substance abuse study

Research and surveys can become very costly, as Victor Profgghi, professor of political science, knows. So when he was contacted by the Town of Lincoln's Substance Abuse Prevention Council to conduct a survey of town residents to evaluate the impact of the Council's efforts and information on what people think they should do in the future, Profgghi said he would do it for free.

He contracted with the town to conduct a telephone survey of about 400 randomly selected town residents and suggested the coordinator, Janet Hindley '96 and MSW '98, approach the College development office regarding using its telephone bank. The development office donated the use of the telephone bank and a portion of the costs associated with the survey, which was completed recently.

Recognizing the need for additional data, Profgghi donated his professional services to develop and analyze a second survey that is to be administered to Lincoln's middle and high school students.

SEMINARS CONDUCTED FOR PRINT INDUSTRY

The Graphic Communications Center program in the Center for Management and Technology offered two seminars sponsored by Rhode Island College and the Printing Industries of Rhode Island this spring in the graphics labs in Whipple Hall.

Representatives from 12 companies participated in a three-day color management seminar that was held on three Fridays in April.

Leonard Collins, associate professor of industrial technology, brought in a national trainer to instruct the participants on ways to ensure that the color viewed on the computer remains consistent throughout a multiple mode of color.

The second seminar was a half-day session attended by 20 participants from local companies on printing four colors on a two-color press. The Larson Company of Connecticut and Accel Company, in partnership with RIC and PIRI, put the seminar together. The Hamada press used for the seminar was part of the equipment added to the IT Graphics area through a Champkin grant last year.

ADMISSIONS GUIDES pose outside of the Forman Center. From left are: Jennifer Cyr, Kim Malone, Katie Anderson, Michael Crittenden, Kally Hanifin, Susan Chen, Tim Touchette and admissions officer Irene Rupert and admissions representative Jason Anthony. The guides provide tours of the campus throughout the year. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

NEASC

Continued from page 1

Office of Higher Education and the Board of Governors for Higher Education.

Accreditation is voluntary and applied to the institution as a whole. NEASC, which is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education, accredits approximately 200 institutions in the six-state New England region.

The upcoming College-wide accreditation is important not only because there is an external agency that reviews what the College is doing, but because it allows us as a institution to look at ourselves, to evaluate what we are doing and what we must do as things around us change," College President John Nazarian said.

"The process is designed in such a way that things that are not working well will be highlighted while those that are working well will not. It is an opportunity for us to take a look at ourselves and to make appropriate changes as we refine the self-study," Bierden said.

Bierden and others in charge of the College's finances are due to a grant and is nearing the end of that period. They needed an evaluation of the impact of their efforts and information on what people think they should do in the future," Profgghi said.

He contracted with the town to conduct a telephone survey of about 400 randomly selected town residents and suggested the coordinator, Janet Hindley '96 and MSW '98, approach the College development office regarding using its telephone bank. The development office donated the use of the telephone bank and a portion of the costs associated with the survey, which was completed recently.

Recognizing the need for additional data, Profgghi donated his professional services to develop and analyze a second survey that is to be administered to Lincoln's middle and high school students.

The work on the NEASC self-study began in August 1998 when Nazarian appointed Bierden, professor of mathematics and secondary education and director of bachelor of general education degree program; and Thomas, professor and department chair of nursing, as co-chairs of the effort. That fall, the subcommittees were created and the research work began in earnest. In the spring 1999 semester, the subcommittees drafted outline reports for review and comment by the co-chairs. The subcommittees then wrote their final drafts. The co-chairs met with various subcommittees and also made a presentation about the continuing accreditation process to the Student Community Government.

Finally, in the spring 2000 semester, the 15 separate reports were coordinated into one document. Now that the draft is complete, the co-chairs are seeking comment from the College community. They have posted the document on the College's web page (www.ric.edu) and have placed copies on reserve at Adams Library. The co-chairs would appreciate written comments. This summer, they will consider the comments and make appropriate changes as they refine the self-study, which is limited to 100 pages.

"NEASC has specific guidelines to which we are responding. Not everything everyone wants to see will be included in the self-study, but the College community will have the opportunity to share comments with the surveyors while they are on campus in October," Bierden said.

For more information contact Bierden at 401-456-9281 or via email at jbierden@ric.edu or Thomas at 401-456-8013 or pthomas@ric.edu.

COLOR MANAGEMENT: Chad Senecal '98 of Barrington Printing, left, and Kevin Kelliber of Island Printing, discuss color profile issues at a color management seminar in the graphics lab in Whipple Hall.
May graduate plans to continue in her own business and teach

by George LaTour
What's News Associate Editor

After 22 years of owning and building her own interior design business, Deborah Martin-Estrella of Smithfield decided the time had arrived to consolidate her previous experiences with several institutions of higher education and found that Rhode Island College — which she refers to as Rhode Island's best kept secret — offered just the right program to meet her academic goals.

On May 3, she was given the Bertha Christina Andrews Eminent Award for scholastic excellence by the RIC Foundation at the College's annual Cap and Gown Convocation. On May 20 at the undergraduate commencement, she received her diploma for having completed a bachelor's degree in career and technical education with a 3.78 (out of a 4.0) cumulative average.

A native Rhode Islander, she had attended St. Mary's Academy at Bay View for nine years and then transferred to Cranston West High School where she graduated. She attended the University of Rhode Island, the Community College of Rhode Island from which she earned an associate's degree in general studies, and the Rhode Island School of Design.

"It was around 1980 when I began a series of classes, all over the page," says Martin-Estrella. "Basically, it was kept secret - offered just the right encounters with several institutions, and the Rhode Island, the Community School where she graduated. She attended the University of Rhode Island, the Community College of Rhode Island from which she earned an associate's degree in general studies, and the Rhode Island School of Design.

She and husband, Michael, have two grown sons, both graduates of Boston College. One is a certified public accountant and the other a financial analyst. Both work in Boston.

Martin-Estrella did her student teaching at New England Tech and eventually plans to see if they have any openings. "Other than that, it was a very positive experience," said Martin-Estrella.

"The biggest thing I found was how to pursue this goal I have of teaching interior design," she says.

Martin-Estrella explains that there is no certification for teaching interior design "so I'd be breaking new ground."

She says the "area is becoming more and more professional" and there are standards nationally "but not at present in this state."

In the meantime, she plans to pursue a master's degree in interior design at Suffolk University in Boston which, she says, has a new program on the master's level.

Her goal is to teach while maintaining her interior design business.

Having accumulated over 90 credits at these institutions of higher learning, she entered RIC in September of 1999 and focused on the degree that she was to complete in a year.

"I was pleasantly surprised about RIC. Being a mature student and having been other places, I found it was such a positive experience," said Martin-Estrella.

"The biggest thing I found was how to pursue this goal I have of teaching interior design," she says.

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"The biggest thing I found was how to pursue this goal I have of teaching interior design," she says.

Martin-Estrella explains that there is no certification for teaching interior design "so I'd be breaking new ground."

She says the "area is becoming more and more professional" and there are standards nationally "but not at present in this state."

In the meantime, she plans to pursue a master's degree in interior design at Suffolk University in Boston which, she says, has a new program on the master's level.

Her goal is to teach while maintaining her interior design business.

Plan to join us!

Dedication of the
John Nazarian
Center for the
Performing Arts

Sept. 15, 2000

2 p.m. ribbon-cutting
ceremony, followed
by tours

This event marks the beginning
of a year-long dedicatory season
featuring special performances
and events.

THE JOHN NAZARIAN CENTER
for the Performing Arts nears
completion, down to the sur­
rounding cement work and land­
scaping. (What's News Photo by
Gordon E. Rowley)

Retirees recognized at Gala for years of service

STAFF RETIREES who attended the
Commencement Gala pose with College President John Nazarian.
From left are: Joan Walker, administrative secretary to
the vice president for academic affairs; Bert Cross, director
of the records office; Lois Lews, eligibility technician in
financial aid; Barbara Matheson, costume designer
for music, theatre and dance; Angela Capasso, senior word
processing typist in security and safety; Frances Taylor,
principal clerk-typist in biology; and Nazarian. (What’s
News Photo by Gordon E.
Rowley)

FACULTY RETIREES who attended the
Commencement Gala pose with
College President John Nazarian. From
left are: Arthur Laferriere, professor of
physical science; Ellsworth “Red”
Starring, professor of elementary
education; Edward Scheff, professor of
theatre; Mayne Cubbage, professor of
communications; Patricia Lyons, associate
professor of elementary education;
Dix Coons, associate professor of
modern languages; James Turley,
assistant vice president and dean of
the graduate school; and Nazarian.

Nazarian announced that all of these
retiring faculty members as well as two
members not present — Paul angh-
linetti, professor of English, and Joseph
McSweeney, associate professor of
English and Secondary Education —
had been named professors emeriti.
(What’s News Photo by Gordon E.
Rowley)