

# What's News

## at Rhode Island College



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### Highlights

#### In the News

Sherlock Center forum to address need for special ed teachers

Upward Bound future in doubt

Gehrenbeck Lecture to highlight Albert Einstein

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Where Are They Now? John Veader '57, Jonette (Walker) Lopes '93

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Jeffrey Siegel's Keyboard Conversations, April 7

Bannister Gallery studio jewelry display, April 7-29

Faculty Recital, April 14

The Pirates of Penzance, by RIC Theatre, April 14-17

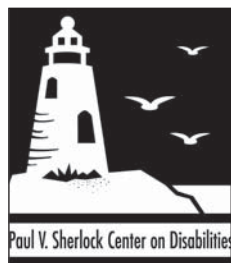
National Acrobats of Taiwan, R.O.C., April 19

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## Sherlock Center to hold forum on shortage of special education teachers

by Jane Fusco  
What's News Editor



The state could face a shortage of over 600 special education teachers by 2006. Forum is part of a statewide recruitment campaign to attract students and teachers of other subjects to careers in special education.

Why is special education a good career choice?

That will be the topic of discussion in a forum to address the impending shortage of special education teachers in the state, and recruitment efforts to attract new teachers to the profession,



RIC special education student teacher Olu Jones (right) reads with a student from the Greystone Elementary School in North Providence.

on April 12 at 3:30 p.m. in the Student Union Ballroom on the

Rhode Island College campus. The forum is part of a statewide effort to attract students and current teachers to a career in the various disciplines of special education.

The event is sponsored by RIC's Sherlock Center on Disabilities. The Sherlock Center was named for the late Paul V. Sherlock, long-time RIC professor, state representative and champion of disability services and education in Rhode Island.

Tom DiPaola, director of special populations at the R.I. Department of Education, will be the keynote speaker. Forum panelists include Barrie Grossi '91, CSPD coordinator, special populations/R.I. Department of Education; Anthony Antosh, director of RIC's Sherlock Center; Julie Wollman-Bonilla, interim dean of RIC's Feinstein School of Education and Human Development; Steve Imber, special education professor at RIC; Debra Abbruzzini, master teacher/

Continued on page 15

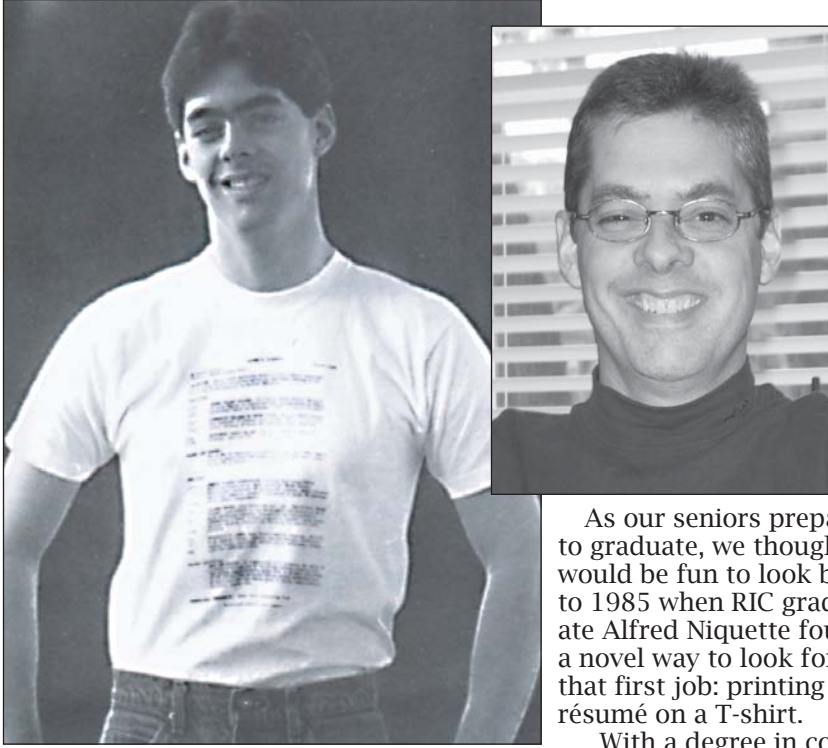


MERCI BOXCAR: After five years of restoration and refurbishment, the Merci train boxcar was unveiled in an exhibit at the Museum of Work and Culture in Woonsocket. The boxcar, originally sent by the French in 1949, was found in a junkyard in 1999 after being lost for over 30 years. Students of adjunct professor George Marshall's class conducted interviews of war veterans and used them for an interactive exhibit that portrays real-life war stories. See story on page 13.



## Looking Back

Here at What's News, we will feature historical photos from the College's past. Please go to your scrapbooks and send us photos with as much information as possible. All photos will be handled carefully and returned to sender. Send to: Rhode Island College, Office of News and Public Relations, Kauffman Center, Providence, RI 02908.



As our seniors prepare to graduate, we thought it would be fun to look back to 1985 when RIC graduate Alfred Niquette found a novel way to look for that first job: printing his résumé on a T-shirt.

With a degree in communications and public

relations, Niquette reckoned the competition for a job in advertising would be tough. He wanted an attention-getting entrée.

His prospective employers didn't get an envelope (remember this was before email. They got a box with a card saying, "Try me on. I guarantee I'll fit." Underneath was a white T-shirt with Niquette's résumé on the front.

"It worked," Niquette told *What's News* in 1986. "Out of 25 shirts sent out, I got 20 interviews. Some people didn't even have job openings, but they said they had to meet 'this T-shirt guy'. Even the receptionists were looking for me. It was also a good way to feel out the company I was applying to. I figured if they were stuffed shirts, I wouldn't want to work for them."

He even got national attention when *Reader's Digest* picked up the story from a Rhode Island College news release.

Shortly thereafter, Niquette got a full-time position with Ducharme Associates, a public relations agency where he had interned during his time at RIC.

Today he is a senior regional service advisor, covering Alabama, Florida, Mississippi and Tennessee, for the McKesson Corporation, a healthcare services and information technology company. He is married with three children and lives in Maitland, Fla.

And he has kept that knack for creating attention-getting résumés. He once applied for an internal promotion using a multimedia PowerPoint presentation.

He got the promotion.

Seniors, take note.

## The World at RIC



This regular feature of What's News looks at the links between the world and Rhode Island College. The story below was written by **Richard A. Lobban Jr.**, professor of anthropology and former director of the Program of African and Afro-American Studies.

To seek linkages between Li'l Rhody and huge Africa might be a peculiar mission. Yet the ties are many, for almost the entire European history in America. Yes, Rhode Island and Providence Plantations was closely tied to the slave shipping business. This trade involuntarily brought Africans from Ghana, Gambia, and the Slave Coast (modern Nigeria and Dahomey) to our state and especially to the Caribbean and Charlestown, S.C.

In the 18th century alone, more than 100,000 slaves were carried on Rhode Island ships. Less known is that the first slave trade business in Rhode Island was the export of Pequot and Narragansett war captive slaves while the state was governed by Roger Williams. Most of these Native Americans went into lifelong exile in the Bahamas and Bermuda. I've been down there and found modern descendants of those exported from New England.

A few of these Native Americans from Rhode Island were even transported to Africa to be sold there as slaves. Less appreciated is that the famed Industrial Revolution at Slater's Mill in Pawtucket was built on slave-grown cotton from the South and a substantial portion of the cloth produced was for use as a trade item in the slave trade. One may say that the start of maritime globalization was tied to our state, as it had connections to the Caribbean, Europe, and Africa. To trade for slaves, half of Rhode Island's production of thousands of "pipes" of rum was for export to Africa.

The name Rhode Island College was first applied to Brown University that was, in part, funded by money from the slave trade and, in part, even built by slave labor. But our Rhode Island College, founded in 1854, was built as an institution for training teachers. Rhode Island has sent missionaries to Africa and

has received thousands of refugees from war-torn Liberia seeking Temporary Protective Status.

Rhode Island is also home to thousands of Nigerians, and probably tens of thousands of Cape Verdeans. Consequently, RIC has many people from these nations on our campus. Over the years, there have been students, faculty, and guests speaking well over a score of African languages including Amharic, Arabic, Ashante, BaKongo, Coptic, Dinka, Fur, Igbo, Krahn, Krioulo, Mande, Manjaco, Nubian, Ovambo, Swahili, Tigre, Vai, Wolof, Xhosa, Yoruba, and Zulu, not to mention, French, Portuguese, and English.

Over the years, largely due to the Shinn Study Abroad program, we have sent RIC students to Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, and Morocco. For Cape Verde we operated a joint RIC/URI study abroad program there for three years.

In 1981, the Sudan Studies Association was officially incorporated in Rhode Island with Carolyn Fluehr-Lobban and myself being among the founders. The Sudan Studies Association has taken the leading academic role in hosting non-partisan conferences about all aspects of the Sudan. It supplies an international forum for its 300 members to engage in the complex debates on the north-south war and the peace agreements just concluded as well as the current conflict in Darfur. Its regular newsletter has been published for almost a quarter of a century. I have also taken scores of Rhode Islanders, including faculty and students, to Egypt for tours of the antiquities there and we have now started antiquarian tourism in northern Sudan.

Another link between the College and Africa is our Program of African and Afro-American Studies, which has been in existence for over three decades. This program not only boasts an undergraduate major or minor, but also has the capacity to award individualized MA degrees.

Thus the connections between RIC, Africa and the black community are long and enlightened.

— Richard Lobban Jr.

## Focus on Faculty and Staff

Faculty and staff are encouraged to submit items about their professional endeavors to What's News, Office of News and Public Relations, Kauffman Center, or email them to [cpage@ric.edu](mailto:cpage@ric.edu).

**Richard R. Weiner**, dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences and professor of political science and



RICHARD WEINER

**Karl Benziger**, associate professor of history and educational studies presented the paper "Assessment Governance: Standards, Rubrics and Self-Regulation," at a special conference of the American Political Science Association on Teaching and Learning, in a two-day workshop on Assessment of Student Learning Outcomes in Bethesda, Md. on Feb. 19 and 20. Weiner and Benziger also learned that another of their papers, "Piacular Subjectivity, Collective Conscience and the Imre Nagy Memorial," was selected for presentation

at a conference of the European Consortium on Political Research to be held in Budapest, Hungary this September.

**Jianhong Liu**, professor of sociology, has recently published three articles. Two were published in the *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Criminology*, Volume 37: "Social Transition and Crime in China: an Economic Motivation Thesis," and "Introduction: Crime, Law, and Criminological Research in a Transitional China" (co-author Roderic Broadhurst). The third, "Crime and Criminal



JIANHONG LIU

Justice in China," appeared in the *Encyclopedia of Criminology* Volume I, edited by Richard A. Wright.

## Rhode Island Writing Project hosts Annual Spring Conference

The Rhode Island Writing Project - now in its 20th year - will hold its Annual Spring Conference on Saturday, April 2 from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., in the Donovan Dining Center at Rhode Island College.

This year, the conference will feature Steven Zemelman, a sought-after consultant on school reform and literacy, as the keynote speaker.

Zemelman has developed Best Practice High School, a small model school, and is a leader of the new school reform movement in Chicago. He is also director of the Illinois Writing Project. Zemelman has authored numerous books, including *Subjects Matter: Every Teacher's Guide to Content Area Reading*, and *A Writing Project: Training Teachers of Composition from Kindergarten to College*.

The conference focuses on improving student achievement

through teacher development. In addition to the keynote address, 15 concurrent workshops will be offered throughout the day.

Presentations will highlight classroom strategies for teachers at all levels, with topics such as "The Growth of a Writer," "Demystifying the GLEs," "When Students Write the Way They Talk," "Customizing Texts for Your Classroom," "Writers' Notebooks," and "Beyond Books: Different Ways to Look at Literature."

Registration cost for the general public is \$50; Writing Project Fellows, \$40; student teachers, \$20. Fees include breakfast, lunch, the keynote address and two workshop sessions.

For more information, contact the Writing Project office at 401-456-8668 or [RIWP@ric.edu](mailto:RIWP@ric.edu), or visit [www.ric.edu/riwp](http://www.ric.edu/riwp).



# Upward Bound in danger of being grounded

Last June, Elka Arredondo, a soon-to-be graduate of Central Falls High School, credited Upward Bound with making it possible for her to attend college. The Colombian-born student said that because of the preparatory program for low-income students, she had become "more knowledgeable, more independent and more responsible."

Now, because of President Bush's planned budget cuts, that opportunity may no longer be available to students like Arredondo. The RIC-based program, which serves about 150 students a year, is marked for extinction, so that more federal money can be funneled into the No Child Left Behind education act.

Another program for low-income students, Talent Search, based at the Community College of Rhode Island, is scheduled to be slashed, as are the local Gear Up and Bridge to College programs. Higher education officials estimate that approximately 11,000 students in the state will lose crucial services if Bush's spending plan is enacted.

U.S. Sen. Jack Reed HD'99 said at a news conference Feb. 24 that he would fight to restore the endangered programs. "This isn't just altruism, this is common sense," he said. "If we don't make this investment, we will regret it for many years to come."

At RIC, the Upward Bound program was established in 1966 to provide high schoolers who were low-income, potential first-generation college students, with the skills necessary to succeed in their secondary and post-secondary educations.

The program, which is national, attempts to simulate the college experience by offering academic, counseling, career, tutorial and other services to students who attend weekly on-campus classes during the school year and stay at the College for six weeks each summer.

Upward Bound at RIC was one of the first colleges nationwide to host the program, which locally has helped to send more than 2,000 disadvantaged students to some of the best universities and colleges in the country.

## Sen. Kennedy's higher ed/training budget amendment passed

The U.S. Senate approved an amendment on March 17 to restore \$2.7 billion in higher education funding above the level in President Bush's budget for fiscal year 2006. This amount would allow for continued funding of several programs aiding low-income students, including those in the Upward Bound program. The amendment, introduced by Sen. Edward Kennedy, is only a first step in funding the programs. The Senate and U.S. House of Representatives will meet in conference on appropriations, before a final dollar amount and decision on programs to include is determined.

### Summary of Sen. Edward Kennedy's Higher Education/Job Training Budget Amendment:

#### Three Part Strategy to Meet the Challenges of a 21st Century Global Economy:

(1) Giving high schools graduates the opportunity to attain a college degree and better compete in the global economy by:

Securing resources for the Higher Education Student Aid Alliance proposal of a \$1.4 billion increase in Pell Grant funding to pay for a \$4,500 maximum grant today – not in five years. (Note: Seven Republican Senators have called for an immediate \$4,500 Pell Grant.)

Establishing as the Sense of the Senate that college tuition tax deductibility should be increased from \$4,000 to \$8,000 per year.

Securing resources for the Higher Education Student Aid Alliance proposal of a \$2 billion in Appropriations Committee discretionary authority to restore Bush budget eliminations of TRIO, GEAR UP, LEAP, Perkins loans, and provide for cost of college increases in work-study, graduate education, and SEOG scholarships.

(2) Ensuring America is competitive in the global economy by maintaining strength in math, science, and technology by committing to the resources needed to:

Provide new math, science, and special education teachers in high need schools a guarantee of up to \$23,000 in student loan forgiveness for four years of teaching. Estimated impact: 57,000 new math, science, and special education teachers per year to get full federal student loan forgiveness.

(3) Ensuring that all Americans have the opportunity to work by restoring Bush budget cuts to job training/adult literacy (\$975 million) and vocational education (\$1.327 billion).

Total Cost: Approximately \$6 billion in increased discretionary spending and an additional \$6 billion in increased deficit reduction paid for by closing \$12 billion in corporate tax loopholes already voted to be closed by the United States Senate as part of the FSC-ETI bill, but not enacted as per that legislation's conference report.



**FEDERAL BUDGET FIGHT:** U.S. Sen. Jack Reed spoke out against proposed federal budget cuts that would eliminate educational support services – including RIC's Upward Bound program – for thousands of low-income Rhode Islanders. His remarks came in a Feb. 24 news conference and rally at the Community College of Rhode Island.

"These students are now doctors, teachers, lawyers, and business executives in our community, and are quick to credit Upward Bound for its critical role in helping them realize their potential," said Mariam Z. Boyajian '70, director of Upward Bound at RIC. "It will be a great loss to future generations of at-risk students and to the community as a whole if a program that has been so successful at guiding and motivating our young people is eliminated."

Budget deliberations begin March 30 when the House of Representatives' Appropriations subcommittee submits its highest funding priorities.

Because the final budget could take months to complete, "I don't think we'll know anything definite until the fall," said Boyajian.

If funding for Upward Bound is eliminated, the program would cease to exist on June 1, 2006. Boyajian recommended that people write to their congressional delegation and governor in support of the program.



## Presidential Scholars



**PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS:** Eighty of the 240 seniors who were offered Presidential Scholarships from RIC, gather with President John Nazarian in Donovan Dining Center March 16 for a dinner sponsored by the admissions office. Students who accept the offer and maintain the required grade point average receive \$2,000 for up to four years.



# Foundation & Alumni News



Ellie O'Neill,  
Director,  
Alumni Affairs

The Alumni Association held a reunion in Washington, D.C. on March 9. We were greeted with 70-degree weather that soon turned to snow, freezing temperatures and high winds. That didn't keep

over 50 alumni and friends of the College from attending a great event at the Phoenix Park Hotel with honorary chair Congressman Jim Langevin '90. We were delighted our congressional delegation all stopped by to say hello. In addition to Langevin, Congressman Patrick Kennedy and Senators Jack Reed HD '99 and Lincoln Chafee attended.

Interested in getting more involved with the Alumni Association? We are hosting an informational evening on Wednesday, March 30 from 5:30-7 p.m. at the Alumni Office in the Kauffman Center. Perhaps you have some extra time to give back and become more involved with the College and us.

There will be several board openings this June and the board continues to expand the many working committees with non-board members. Displays of our Association's activities will give you an idea of how you can become involved.

Mike Lopes '71, chair of the board development/nominating

committee will be present, along with other board members, to answer your questions. If you can't attend and have an interest in serving, call the Alumni Office at 401-456-8086 or email us at alumni@ric.edu. You can visit our Web site for a description of board responsibilities.

This academic year the Alumni Association had the pleasure of awarding nearly \$88,000 in scholarship money. Thanks to the generosity of so many alumni who contribute to the Annual Fund, we awarded scholarships to almost 100 students. Three students received full scholarships under the children's academic awards. Incoming freshmen who are either children or grandchildren of alumni were awarded funds ranging from \$300-\$1,200.

Scholarship applications can be picked up in the Alumni Office or call us at 401-456-8086 and we will gladly mail an application out to you. The Association also distributes the Frank and Agnes Campbell (both Class of 1946) scholarship application for an incoming freshman interested in pursuing an education in teaching, and the Andreoli scholarship application for a RIC student who has demonstrated community service.

Applications are due in our office June 1 and students are notified of their awards around July 1.

Some other dates and information for you to keep in mind:

Saturday, April 9 we are hosting a luncheon for children

and grandchildren of alumni who have been accepted to the College. This event will be held in the Café at 12:30 p.m., prior to the Admissions Spring Acceptance party.

We have tickets for sale for the performance of the National Acrobats of Taiwan R.O.C. on Tuesday, April 19 at 7:30 p.m. in the Auditorium in Roberts Hall. It is a great night out for families looking for something to do during school vacation week.

Our e-news has received great reviews from our alumni. Send us your email address if you are not receiving it.

And, of course, one of my special events, The Alumni Awards and Honor Roll dinner will be held on Thursday, May 12 in the Donovan Dining Center.

Thirty-two Honor Roll recipients from all over the country will be honored for their achievements in their chosen fields. Six others will be honored with Alumni Awards.

What's News will carry a full story on the nominees in the next edition. The evening is a wonderful time to renew friendships with faculty and staff as well as to let our alumni know how truly proud we are of the work they do in the community.

Thanks to all of you who've purchased a brick or paver for the Legacy Walk. The first installment of bricks will take place this summer at the newly renovated soccer field. A special ceremony will be held at Homecoming, Oct. 1, to officially open The Legacy Walk.

Watch the mail in April for a special order form from Don

Tencher and me. If you want to order a brick using your computer, go to [www.ric.edu](http://www.ric.edu) and click on **BRICK CAMPAIGN**.

A certificate of appreciation will be sent to everyone who orders a brick or paver as well as to those they honor or memorialize.



HELEN LOMBARDI '40  
(FILE PHOTO)

Finally, a few words about a very generous alumna, Helen (Mullen) Lombardi '40 of West Warwick, who died March 10.

In the early 1990s, she approached the Alumni Association about hosting a golf tournament to benefit scholarships at the College. The site would be the Cranston Country Club, which she and her husband Anthony had founded.

Since the inception of the tournament in 1992, over \$110,000 has been raised to provide emergency scholarship funds to students.

On behalf of the scores of students who benefited from Helen's generosity, the Alumni Association extends its sympathy to Helen's children, Michael, Mary Patricia '68 and Diane.



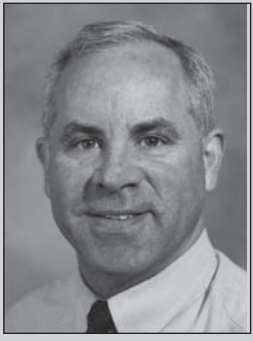
D.C. ALUMNI REUNION: (Photos clockwise from top) Left to right: Marybeth Peters '61, Congressman Patrick Kennedy, Congressman Jim Langevin '90, President Nazarian, Harry John '91 (John lives in Tennessee but was in Washington on business and attended the event), George Banks '94; Senator Jack Reed HD '99 (right) with Jay Carreiro '97; John Ciccone '93 and Amy Jennings Ciccone '96; and Senator Lincoln Chafee (right) with President Nazarian.





## (Not Just) Academically Speaking

### School of Social Work curriculum reflects profession's core values



by Frederic G. Reamer, Professor of Social Work

How does a school of social work faculty decide what to teach?

Certain topic areas are required by the Council on Social Work Education, the national organization that accredits schools of social work (just as accredited law and medical schools, to be accredited, must teach certain core content). Beyond that, faculty members pool their combined knowledge to fashion curricula and courses that reflect the

social work profession's core values and that address the needs of local communities.

What, exactly, are these core professional values that are reflected in the curriculum at the School of Social Work? The National Association of Social Workers (NASW) – the largest organization of professional social workers in the world – provides a Code of Ethics that is widely recognized as the profession's lodestar and standard of care. This code was ratified by the NASW's governing body after extensive preparation, discussion, and debate. In addition to a large number of specific ethical standards, the code identifies core values on which the profession's mission is based.

The code is crystal clear: "The primary mission of the social work profession is to enhance human well-being and help meet the basic needs of all people, *with particular attention to the needs and empowerment of people who are vulnerable, oppressed, and living in poverty*" (emphasis added). That is, one of social work's distinguishing features is its fundamental commitment, above all, to people who are the most vulnerable and least advantaged.

The School of Social Work faculty embraces this commitment and teaches accordingly. The school's curriculum and courses are designed to fulfill the mandates contained in the NASW Code of Ethics. Pursuit of social justice is the school's *raison d'être*. Course assignments and skill development exercises are designed to enhance graduates' ability to help individuals and families in need; administer programs and agencies; analyze, design, implement, and challenge social policies; and evaluate the effectiveness of programs and policies. As a result, today thousands of School of Social Work graduates

skillfully serve people who struggle with daunting challenges associated with poverty, substance abuse, physical illness and disability, mental illness, domestic violence, unemployment, homelessness, illiteracy, child abuse and neglect, elder abuse and neglect, and so on.

In agencies as diverse as the Department of Children, Youth and Families; Department of Human Services; Department of Mental Health, Retardation, and Hospitals; Elderly Affairs; Corrections; Child Advocate's Office; family service programs; community mental health centers; nursing homes; rehabilitation facilities; hospitals; schools; and counseling centers, School of Social Work graduates provide people with essential clinical services and serve as policy analysts, administrators, advocates, and researchers.

School of Social Work faculty members eagerly promote lively discussion and debate about competing perspectives.

During my 22 years on the school's faculty, I have participated in countless faculty meetings and classroom sessions where instructors and students wrestled with, debated, and dissected a wide range of competing ideological perspectives that circulate within and outside of the social work profession. Celebrating diversity – intellectual, political, social, ethnic, and cultural – is a core social work value. Hence, School of Social Work faculty members are not interested in "group think." Rather, faculty enthusiastically encourage and expect students and each other to formulate, critique, express, and debate their points of view on issues addressed in courses, and to assess their consistency with central social work values articulated in the NASW Code of Ethics.

I have seen and heard it happen time and time again. Members of our academic community – students and faculty – have different views and opinions about nearly every topic and issue addressed in classes. Students and faculty are encouraged to express their opinions and to do so respectfully.

We want healthy debate – debate that is grounded in forceful logic, ethical exchange, and responsible citation. Distortion, misrepresentation, leaps of logic, and quotation out of context and without permission do not, and should not, pass muster.

But respecting diverse opinions does not mean that "anything goes." When expressing their views, students and faculty are expected to "uphold and advance the values, ethics,

knowledge and mission of the profession" (NASW Code of Ethics). By way of analogy, law school students are not free to reject their obligation to uphold the U.S. Constitution or respect attorney-client privilege. Medical school students are not free to reject the Hippocratic Oath. Although there is room for debate in these professions about different schools of thought and ideologies, there are certain "bottom line" principles that must be upheld.

So too in social work. Certainly, there is plenty of room for thoughtful discussion, debate, and disagreement about the merits of diverse policies, programmatic initiatives, and interventions designed to help people and communities in need. There is room for liberal, conservative, libertarian, and radical views. Social workers and students who are uncomfortable with aspects of the profession's values and ideological positions should broach those issues. As private citizens, social workers and students are free to exercise their First Amendment right to express their views on moral and political matters that are vitally important to them. Social workers and students can, and sometimes should, participate in vigorous debate and social action on these issues and attempt to persuade colleagues to embrace their views and to shape or change relevant policies and positions. This is especially appropriate in an academic environment.

Indeed, social work students should be exposed to wide-ranging, differing perspectives and encouraged to reach their own conclusions. Social work has a grand and compelling tradition of appreciating diverse views; tolerance of diverse views is important and commendable, as is social workers' wish to stake positions on controversial moral and ideological issues. However, there is a bright bottom line below which social workers *must not* fall when they engage in these debates and act according to their personal beliefs: Whatever positions social workers take, they must do so in a way that is consistent with the profession's democratically determined mission, values, and ethical standards, as articulated in the profession's Code of Ethics. To act otherwise is to violate social work's mission and core ethical principles.

That's what it means to be a social worker. And that's what we teach.

*EDITOR'S NOTE: The author is a professor in Rhode Island College's School of Social Work. He served as chair of the task force that wrote the current NASW Code of Ethics.*

## Visiting Fulbright professor brings India to RIC community

by Lauren M. Mesale '06  
Staff Writer

*"International education exchange is the most significant current project designed to continue the process of humanizing mankind to the point, we would hope, that nations can learn to live in peace."*

—J. William Fulbright

To many Rhode Island College students, India is just an outline on a map. Thanks to the Fulbright Scholar Program, a visiting professor of English from the University of Hyderabad, India, is helping to change that.

Sachidananda Mohanty, who began his career as an educator at the college level, chose to visit RIC on his Fulbright professorship because of its small size and potential for closer interaction between teachers and students.

Fortunately for Mohanty, he would not be without a familiar face at RIC. While attaining his MA in the late 1970s at the University

of Hyderabad, Mohanty was a student of Amritjit Singh, now a professor of English at Rhode Island College.

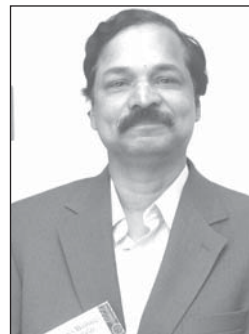
Mohanty shares Fulbright's goal of promoting a sense of the "global village" in the classroom.

Though the two nations share much in fields such as scientific research and computer technology, Mohanty said that much more must be done in order to bridge the gap of educational exchange.

"American students are exposed to currents of international thought," said Mohanty. He said that more can be done to navigate these waters, beginning with an increase in the exchange rate of Indian professors and students and their American counterparts.

He added that there are several cultural differences that separate India from America, specifically education at the college level.

Perhaps the most striking contrast is the level of interaction between students and teachers. In India, students are treated as if they are members of a teacher's family. Students, known as



SACHIDANANDA MOHANTY

"shishyas," frequently confide in their teachers, or "gurus."

Mohanty said that these relationships allow for the two parties to work together, promote a comfortable learning environment, and for students to strengthen their sense of self. Indian students, Mohanty said, appreciate gestures of care and concern, a custom that could also be beneficial to American students.

"A good teacher should have a larger concern for the welfare of the students by being a good intellectual role model to present the finer values of life and shaping the students' lives by being a good example," Mohanty said.

Mohanty has gained broader exposure to the RIC community as an observer in his colleagues'

classrooms. He has noticed that many students at the College are exceedingly bright and very inquisitive. He also admires how opinionated American students tend to be in a classroom setting.

Mohanty currently teaches Early Women's Writing in India 1898-1950, and Indian Poetry in English: Texts and Contexts, at RIC.

"As a teacher [Mohanty] is bright, passionate, and has the ability to infect his students with his energy and love for reading and writing," said Singh. "We at Rhode Island College are fortunate that our students will enjoy and learn from his global perspectives for one semester."

The Fulbright Scholar Program, the U.S. government's answer to international educational exchange, was proposed to Congress in 1945 by Senator J. William Fulbright of Arkansas. His vision was signed into law in 1946.

Fulbright Scholar Program grants are obtainable in over 130 countries. These grants allow scholars to lecture and conduct research in the United States.



# Sports

## From the Athletic Director's Desk

Congratulations to our 2005 Athletic Hall of Fame Class that will be inducted at Homecoming this fall. Inductees include: Shana Willis Sabatelli '98, softball; Marc DuBois '91, tennis; Mike Butler '86, baseball; Mike Manzo '95, baseball; Manuel Vinhateiro '69, wrestling; Vincent McCrystal '51, basketball; John Veader '57, soccer; and Joe Menard '60, soccer. The 2005 Hall of Fame Class will be featured in a future edition of *What's News*.



Donald E. Tencher  
Athletic Director

Some other recent developments...

Once again, congratulations to the men's basketball and wrestling programs on record-setting seasons. Kudos to men's Coach Jack Perri on his selection as conference coach-of-the-year, and Coach Jay Jones on his continued strong effort to bring the wrestling program back to championship caliber.

Indoor track student-athlete Manny Karngar recently attended the NCAA Division III Indoor Track Championships in Illinois where he finished fifth in the 800 meters earning All-American honors. Congratulations, Manny.

Kari Geisler, outstanding women's volleyball and basketball

player, has been selected as the recipient of the 2005 RIAIAW Distinguished Student-Athlete Award. Kari will receive her award at the organization's annual awards ceremony to be held on May 5. Congratulations, Kari.

Recently, 140 former student-athletes were selected for the All 75th Anniversary Team. Congratulatory letters have been sent.

Wrestlers Dave Paquette and Keith Nelson were selected to the 2005 National Wrestling Coaches Association Academic All-American Team. Great job, gentlemen!

Another great month to date at The Murray Center as over 10,000 people attended the Rhode Island Interscholastic Girls Basketball Championships, the New England Prep School Boys Basketball Championships, the Rhode Island Interscholastic Boy's Coaches All-Star Game and the R.I. USA Gymnastics Championships.

It was great to meet with so many of our outstanding alumni in Washington, D.C. during our recent RIC on The Road event. After attending these events, I continue to be so impressed with the truly outstanding alums we have all over the globe. Thanks for being there!



## Winter season accolades continue

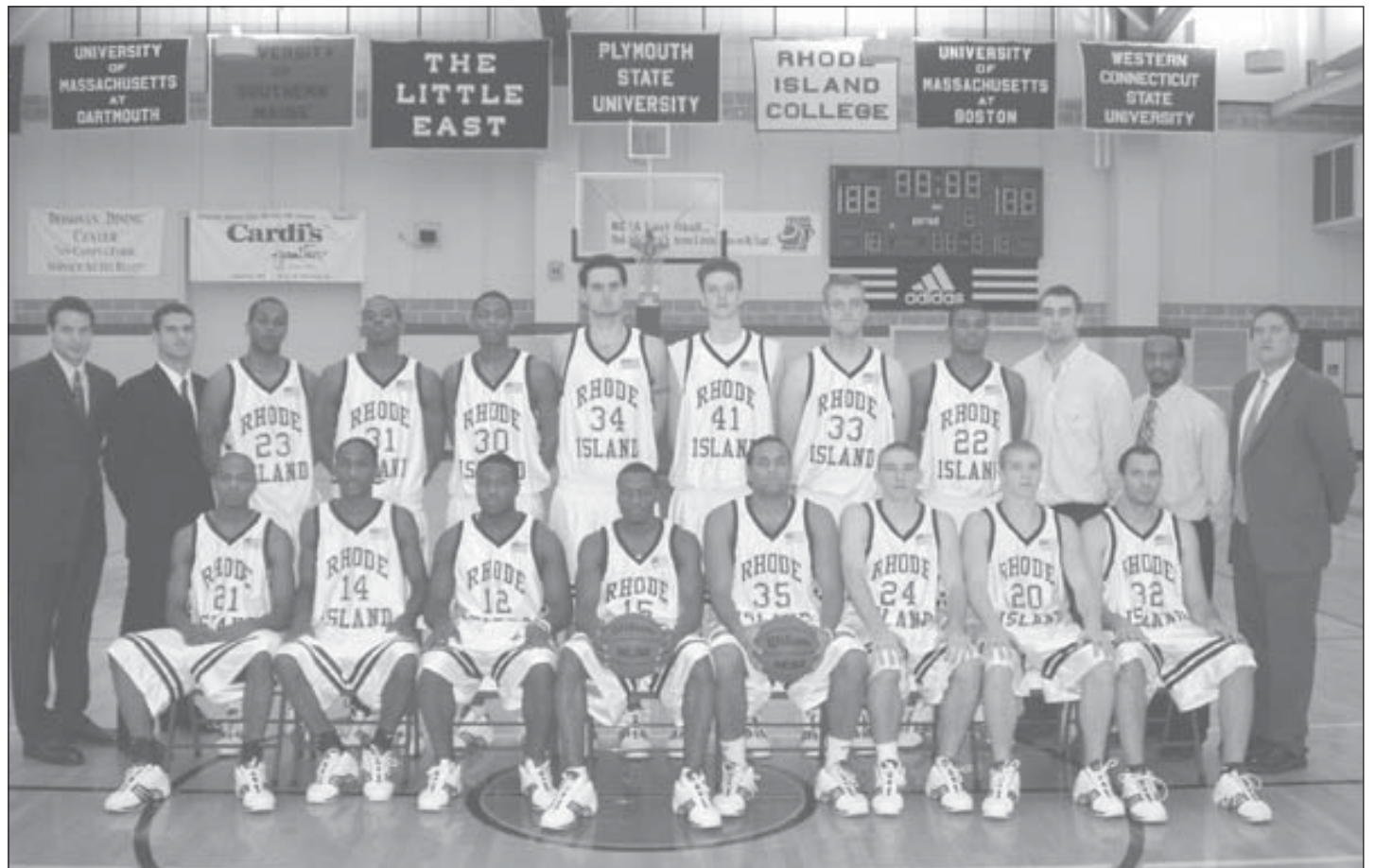
by Ryan Griswold  
Sports Information Intern

The men's basketball squad finished the winter with a 20-9 overall record and a 10-4 (first place tie) mark in the Little East Conference (LEC). Head coach Jack Perri coached the Anchormen to the program's first-ever LEC regular season championship, as they shared the title with Western Connecticut. RIC's 20 wins were the most in a season since the 1988-89 squad also won 20. For his efforts, Perri was named the Little East Conference Men's Basketball Coach of the Year.

Sophomore Kamari Williams (Springfield, Mass.) and senior Andre Daley (Boston, Mass.) earned All-LEC honors for their solid play throughout the season. RIC was selected as the fourth-seed and made it to the championship game of the 2005 ECAC Div. III New England Men's Basketball Tournament. This season marked RIC's first ECAC Tournament appearance since 1996-97, and it was RIC's first ECAC Tournament Championship Game since the 1982-83 squad won the tourney.



KEITH NELSON



2004-05 MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

Indoor track was highlighted by junior sensation Manny Karngar (Providence, R.I.) who earned All-American honors in the 800 meters, placing fifth overall, at the NCAA Div. III Men's Indoor Track and Field Championships hosted by Illinois Wesleyan University on Saturday, March 12. Karngar posted a time of 1:54.99.

Prior to that race, head coach Kevin Jackson's star runner placed first in his qualifying heat with a time of 1:55.18. Karngar's quest for All-American honors started when he qualified for the NCAA Championships with a second place, 1:53.13 effort in the preliminary round of the 800 meters at the New England Open Championships, hosted by Boston University, on Feb. 26.

Seniors Keith Nelson (Rhinebeck, N.Y.) and Dave Paquette (Ledyard,

Conn.) of the wrestling team were named Scholar All-Americans by the NCAA Div. III Wrestling Coaches Association. Nelson holds a 3.14 cumulative grade point average as a communications major. As a senior in 2004-05, he closed out his career earning All-New England honors with a third place finish at 174 lbs. at the NECCWA Championships. He was 34-10 at 174 lbs. with 136 points, 67 takedowns, seven reversals, 16 near-falls and six pins on the season.

Paquette has a 3.44 cumulative grade point average as a computer information systems major. As a senior in 2004-05, he earned All-New England honors with a sixth place finish at 157 lbs. at the NECCWA Championships. He was 21-13 at 157 lbs. with 79 points, 63 takedowns, 14 reversals, seven near-falls and one pin on the

season.

Junior guard Jamie Angell (Cranston, R.I.) and sophomore forward Kari Geisler (Deerfield, N.H.) earned All-Conference recognition for their play in women's basketball this season. Angell averaged a team-high 14.5 points and 3.5 assists per game along with 2.2 rebounds and 1.4 steals per game. She led the Little East in scoring, as well as free throw percentage with a .813 mark.

Geisler averaged a team-high 9.3 rebounds per game to go along with 10.4 points, 1.1 steals and 0.9 blocks per game. She led the Little East in offensive, defensive and total rebounds per game. Geisler was also 10th in the LEC in scoring. Her 459 career rebounds currently ranks her 11th all-time at RIC.



# Where Are They Now?

This year – the 75th anniversary of RIC athletics – we will catch up with former student-athletes and coaches who made important contributions to the College's sports program.

## Jonette (Walker) Lopes '93

Jonette (Walker) Lopes '93 was a four-year standout as a guard on the Rhode Island College women's basketball team from 1989-93. She alternated between the point guard and shooting guard positions during her career and helped lead the team to a 16-7 record as a senior.



**JONETTE LOPES '93** During that season, the Cranston native led the team with 79 assists for an average of 3.6 per game. She also averaged 9.4 points and 3.7 rebounds per contest and was second on the team with 28 steals. "Robin Gobeille and Jerilynn Johnson were our big scorers on that team [both had 20 ppg averages]. It was my job to get them the rock to score the points," Lopes remembers.

Among a host of great memories, Lopes recalls RIC's 57-56, come-from-behind win over Southern Maine on Dec. 2, 1989. RIC trailed by 15 points, 40-25, at the half, and by as much as 27 in the second

half. "Our coach, Ken Hopkins, put the freshmen in to shake things up and we clawed and scratched our way back into the game and eventually won," said Lopes.

As a student, Lopes double-majored in sociology and criminal justice and earned a bachelor's degree in 1993. She currently works for Mental Health Services, a subsidiary of Gateway Healthcare Corporation, in the Children's Intensive Services Program. "We deal with kids who have severe, moderate and mild mental health issues," she said. "We go to schools and into their homes to help train parents to deal with children's psycho-education."

She still hits the hardwood regularly, playing with alums Cathy Lanni '88, Jo-Ann D'Alessandro '88, Renee Walker '93 and Kristen Manzi '93. "We play in Woonsocket and Cumberland a lot," Lopes said. "My teammates and a lot of other former RIC women's basketball players and I are friends for life. They are great people and we have a lot of fun. We're there for each other through thick and thin."

Lopes resides in Tiverton, R.I. with her husband Peter and their children Dan and Emma.

## John Veader '57

John Veader '57 came to the Rhode Island College of Education in the fall of 1953 after graduating from East Providence High School in hopes of pursuing a career as a history teacher. "A teacher of mine in high school, John Greene, was a godfather figure to me and he



**JOHN VEADER '57**

urged me to pursue a career in teaching," Veader remembers, "and RIC was the place to go." During his playing days for the Townies, he played football, hockey and basketball. But as an undergraduate at RICE, Veader didn't have many athletic options. "The only sports offered were soccer and basketball. In order to keep my competitive juices flowing, I signed on for both."

Veader played four years in soccer as a goalkeeper and four years of hoop as a guard. Although he wasn't experienced in soccer, head

coach Bob Brown thought enough of Veader to put him in as the starting goalie. Veader responded by earning All-New England honors from his sophomore through senior campaigns.

After earning his bachelor's degree in education in 1957, Veader returned to East Providence where he was a social studies teacher for the next 25 years.

He served as the social studies department head for 25 years up until his retirement in 1992. He earned a master's degree in history from the University of Rhode Island in 1966.

Veader has kept active in coaching, serving as an assistant football coach for the past 42 years. He's currently the quarterbacks coach at East Providence High School, a position he's held for the past 10 years. The Townies have been the Rhode Island Div. I State Champions four of the past six seasons.

He was inducted into the Rhode Island Football Coaches Hall of Fame in 1997.

Veader resides in Barrington with his wife Lee. He has two sons, Andrew and Mark.

# RIC spring sports preview

by Mike Christie  
Assistant Sports Information Director

Following successful fall and winter sports seasons, it's now the spring sports teams' turn to continue the winning tradition in 2005. The women's lacrosse and outdoor track & field teams, and the men's tennis, golf, and outdoor track & field squads have been busy preparing for their seasons. The baseball and softball teams have already completed their respective spring trips and are back in Providence to begin their 2005 campaigns.

Rhode Island College baseball continues to improve year-by-year under head coach Jay Grenier. The team completed their spring trip to Clearwater, Fla. with a 4-4 record against clubs from all over the nation. The Anchorwomen return their best pitcher from a year ago, senior James Milano (Johnston, R.I.), as well as Second Team All-Conference outfielder, junior Mike Naylor (Warwick, R.I.).

The RIC softball squad is coming off its spring trip to Orange, Calif. with a 4-4 record. Head coach Maria Morin is looking to lead her team to its seventh-consecutive season with 20 or more victories. The Anchorwomen are led on the mound by sophomore Nicole Riley (North Providence, R.I.), and at the plate by 2004 Little East Conference Rookie of the Year, sophomore Kristyn Alexander (East Wareham, Mass.).

Head coach Ryan Angel has the RIC women's lacrosse team poised to continue their winning ways. The lacrosse program, in just its fourth year of existence last spring, won seven games. That more than doubled the program's previous win total of three over the last two seasons. Leading the Anchorwomen will be sophomore midfielder Caitlin Gavin (Portsmouth, R.I.) who received First Team All-Little East Conference honors a year ago. She also set school records for points, goals and ground balls in a season.

Head coach Kevin Jackson will lead both the men's and women's



**MANNY KARNGAR**

outdoor track & field squads this spring. The men will be led by junior Manny Karngar (Providence, R.I.) who is coming off an indoor season in which he earned All-American honors in the 800 meters. Returning All-Alliance/Little East runners senior Kate McCalligett (Warwick, R.I.) and junior Dana Skorupa (Cumberland, R.I.) are leaders on the track and will look to guide their fellow Anchorwomen to success.

The men's tennis team, under first-year head coach Joe Testa, and the men's golf team, led by head coach John Fitta, will each work to lead their respective teams to success in 2005. On the tennis court, senior Julio Andrade (Cranston, R.I.) plans to continue his success coming off last spring in which he reached the semi-finals of the third-flight at the LEC tournament.

## Sports Events

March 28 - April 18

Baseball			
Tues.	March 29	at U.S. Coast Guard Academy	3 p.m.
Thurs.	March 31	Salem State College	3 p.m.
Sat.	April 2	Keene State College * (DH)	Noon
Mon.	April 4	at Bridgewater State College	3:30 p.m.
Tues.	April 5	Babson College	3:30 p.m.
Thurs.	April 7	at UMass Dartmouth *	3:30 p.m.
Sat.	April 9	at Univ. of Southern Maine * (DH)	Noon
Tues.	April 12	UMass Dartmouth *	3:30 p.m.
Wed.	April 13	at Roger Williams University	3:30 p.m.
Sat.	April 16	UMass-Boston * (DH)	Noon
Softball			
Wed.	March 30	at Worcester State College (DH)	4 p.m.
Sat.	April 2	University of Southern Maine * (DH)	1 p.m.
Sun.	April 3	Wheaton College (DH)	2 p.m.
Tues.	April 5	at Bridgewater State College (DH)	3 p.m.
Thurs.	April 7	Johnson & Wales University (DH)	3:30 p.m.
Sat.	April 9	at Keene State College * (DH)	1 p.m.
Tues.	April 12	at U.S. Coast Guard Academy (DH)	3 p.m.
Thurs.	April 14	Salve Regina University (DH)	3:30 p.m.
Sat.	April 16	at UMass-Boston * (DH)	1 p.m.
Women's Lacrosse			
Thurs.	March 31	at Roger Williams University	4 p.m.
Mon.	April 4	Salve Regina University	4 p.m.
Wed.	April 6	UMass Dartmouth *	4 p.m.
Sat.	April 9	at Keene State College *	1 p.m.
Sun.	April 10	at Castleton State College	Noon
Thurs.	April 14	at University of Southern Maine *	4 p.m.
Sat.	April 16	at Plymouth State University *	1 p.m.
Mon.	April 18	Curry College	4 p.m.
Men's Tennis			
Tues.	March 29	at U.S. Coast Guard Academy	3:30 p.m.
Sat.	April 2	Salem State College *	1 p.m.
Mon.	April 4	at Nichols College	4 p.m.
Thurs.	April 7	Curry College	3:30 p.m.
Sat.	April 9	Thomas College	1 p.m.
Mon.	April 11	at Western Conn. State University *	4 p.m.
Thurs.	April 14	Becker College	4 p.m.
Sat.	April 16	University of Southern Maine *	1 p.m.
Men's and Women's Outdoor Track and Field			
Sat.	April 2	Rhode Island College Invitational	11 a.m.
Sat.	April 9	at Bryant College Invitational	11 a.m.
Sat.	April 16	at Univ. of Albany Invitational	11 a.m.
Men's Golf			
Mon.	April 18	Nichols & Wesleyan University	Noon
Wed.	April 20	Newbury & Wentworth	Noon

\* Little East Conference game/match



# Nursing degrees offer Liberian mother and daughter chance for a better life in U.S

by Rob Martin  
What's News Managing Editor

Rachel Garnett-Bloe and her daughter Frances Bloe have remade their lives — again. Last semester, each earned bachelor's degrees in nursing from Rhode Island College. "I felt we accomplished something we started," said Rachel of their feat. Those words, however, apply equally as well to her and daughter's lives, which have taken them from the brutal civil war of their Liberian homeland to a new beginning in Rhode Island.

Until the late 1980s, life in Liberia was peaceful and prosperous for Rachel, Frances and the rest of their family. They lived in Monrovia, the country's capital city, where Rachel was an assistant deputy commissioner for customs at the Ministry of Finance. Her husband, Trobel, worked as an administrative assistant to the deputy minister for revenues, and their children went to some of the best schools in the country.

Then came a prolonged civil war that devastated the West African nation. Trobel was targeted for assassination when a rival tribal group sought to exterminate the tribe to which he belonged. The family was forced to flee the city, escaping into the countryside only hours before Trobel's pursuers arrived at their house in Monrovia.

While in hiding, the family obtained travel documents with the help of a friend. The destination was the United States, where political asylum would be offered. In 1990, with no money and no possessions, Rachel, Trobel, and two of their children, Diasmer and Trobel Jr., traveled by plane to New York, and soon after settled in Pawtucket, where a friend of the family was living.

Several weeks after her arrival in the U.S., Rachel gave birth to her fifth and youngest child, Beulah-Faith. But two other children remained in Liberia — oldest daughter Frances and son Jehu-Richard. Because the school the two attended was still in session, they were unable to get travel visas from the American Embassy.

Rachel and Trobel attempted to locate their children with the help

of the International Red Cross and then-Senator Pell, but the civil war had escalated and Frances and Jehu-Richard became displaced. They lived with their grandmother for a time, then an aunt, traveling from county to county, often without access to a telephone. Finally, they were located by the Red Cross and reunited with their family in the U.S. in 1994, aided by the efforts of the Calvary Baptist Church in Providence and state Rep. Joseph Newsome, also of Providence.

In Rhode Island, Trobel found temporary clerical work, while Rachel earned income as a home health aide, nursing assistant and dry cleaning worker. The family was boosted spiritually and tangibly by the Calvary Baptist Church, then under the leadership of Pastor Paul Schoonmaker. Two friends from the church, Michael and Kathlene Correia, helped them find an apartment — no easy task for a big family. With the help of the South Providence Neighborhood Ministries, the family received clothing, food, and referrals for employment and other needs.

As her children approached college age, Rachel decided to better her earnings. She attended Diman Regional School of Nursing in Fall River for a year, becoming a licensed practical nurse. Then, after six years as an LPN, she entered RIC's nursing degree program in 2001, with a plan of becoming a registered nurse.

Frances, meanwhile, attended Community College of Rhode Island before being accepted into the nursing program at RIC, the year before Rachel.

"I knew the ins and the outs of the program," said Frances. "I said (to my mother)... 'we can do it together.'" Besides, she added, "I needed a partner."

Rachel was glad to join her daughter at RIC, but had some concerns. "I loved the fact that we were in class together, but I didn't want to take (away) her independence and fun," she said.

In January, their hard work was rewarded when mother and daughter participated in the nursing school's traditional pinning ceremony at Rhodes on the Pawtuxet in Cranston. At the event, Nursing Director Jane Williams



**MOTHER-AND-DAUGHTER GRADS:** Liberian emigrants Frances Bloe (left) and her mother, Rachel Garnett-Bloe, joined other RIC nursing students for the traditional pinning ceremony at Rhodes on the Pawtuxet in January.

and RIC President John Nazarian recognized their accomplishment — both the degree and the long journey they took to be there. The audience responded with a standing ovation.

Rachel said that of the many sacrifices she made to graduate, the hardest was time — the hours she usually spent with her family that were given over to study. But, she said, "It's difficult for me to quit." And she knew she needed to get her money's worth: "I have to pay back the loan," she said with a smile.

Getting the degree was "stressful," agreed Frances, who gained a bachelor's in psychology at the same time she finished her nursing degree. She was grateful for the encouragement of her sister Diasmer, who works as a research and project manager at a Pennsylvania healthcare foundation.

When asked why they decided to pursue a career in healthcare, Rachel, who also holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from Liberia, said, "We from Africa have the value of serving. In the health field, we help people."

Frances said, "Culturally, that's what we do — help each other and we have fun doing that."

Frances also believes that being emigrants and speaking English with a Liberian accent would be a significant barrier to their being given a chance for employment in other areas.

Both now work as graduate

nurses in Providence, under the supervision of registered nurses. Rachel is at The Miriam Hospital, and Frances is at Roger Williams Medical Center. In three months they will take the NCLEX exam to qualify them as RNs.

Rachel wants to specialize in community and public health nursing, which would incorporate her administrative and managerial skills. Frances would like to work with school-age children, particularly young women at risk for pregnancy and violence.

Family members are now taking the steps to become U.S. citizens. It takes five years to become a legal resident and another five to gain citizenship. They are in the fifth year of the process. Rachel thanked U.S. Congressman Patrick Kennedy for his assistance in facilitating the effort.

Though a 2003 peace agreement ended many years of civil war in Liberia, the security situation in the country is still considered unstable, and a long period of rebuilding of the social and economic infrastructure looms.

"I want to help Liberia as much as possible," said Rachel. "I have more to share. My life has been blessed — my children have received a lot of opportunities."

Rachel hopes that her family's story will motivate people to stick with their goals until they are realized. "Wherever you are, there's still hope," she said.



**FROM LIBERIA TO RHODE ISLAND:** Two members of a Liberian family, Rachel Garnett-Bloe and daughter Frances Bloe, recently earned nursing degrees at RIC. Though civil war in Liberia temporarily separated their family in the 90s, it is now intact, as this recent photograph shows. (Seated, left to right) Jehu-Richard, Rachel, Frances and Trobel (Sr.); (standing) Diasmer, Beulah-Faith and Trobel (Jr.).





**PRINTING PRIMER:** Third graders at Henry Barnard School get a lesson in printing, tutored by RIC students from the communications department. Above from left, Julia Zubigo and Anna Tanalski work with RIC student Pat Ritacco. Full story in next edition of What's News.

# RIC celebrates Jazz Appreciation Month



The College gets ready to JAM@RIC in April with on-campus festivities that include high school and college Cool Nights, a New England Jazz Hall of Fame exhibit, a guest orchestra, WGBH jazz documentary and a jazz cabaret.

In celebration of Jazz Appreciation Month, RIC steps up with Jazz JAM@RIC, a month-long celebration honoring jazz and highlighting student and professional jazz musicians.

A College Cool Night on April 8 will feature the sounds of the RIC Concert Jazz Band, conducted by assistant professor of music Susan Nicholson. Jazz bands from Warwick High School, under the direction of Metro Narcisi III, and Cranston East High School directed by Mark Colozzi '91 will also perform. General admission

first 15 inductees are a core part of the exhibit presented by The New England Jazz Alliance.

With a little help from The New Life Jazz Orchestra joined by conductor, arranger and tubist, Kendrick Oliver, and vocalist Kevin Mahogany, RIC will be celebrating Count Basie's Centennial and the Kansas City Sound on

April 9. Ron Gill, WGBH host of the *Jazz Gallery*, will also present

a half hour documentary titled, *A Boston Jazz Memoir*. Events begin at 8 p.m. in Sapinsley Hall in the Nazarian Center. General admission is \$25 and free for RIC students.

The Barrington High School Jazz Band, directed by Barbara Hughes, and the CCRI Jazz Band led by Steven Lajoie, will perform at the second College Cool Night on April 13 at 8 p.m. in Sapinsley Hall in the Nazarian Center. Admission is \$10 and free for RIC students.

Jazz Cabaret will be at the Forman Theatre on April 22 at 8 p.m. It will feature Greg Abate, sax; Michael Kregler, piano; Steve Johnson '82, bass; Michael Odabashian, drums; and Shawnn Monteiro, jazz vocalist. General admission is \$10. RIC students admitted free.

In 2002, The Smithsonian Museum of American History designated April as Jazz Appreciation Month (JAM). This dedication spurred a national recognition of jazz. The theme for the fourth annual 2005 Jazz Appreciation Month is "Jazz, made in America, enjoyed worldwide."

A diverse group of individuals, organizations, institutions and federal agencies are actively involved with the JAM.

In 2003, JAM@RIC was added to the RIC Spring Celebration of the Arts, an event observed by RIC since 1985. Its purpose is to highlight professionals and students in the performing and fine arts.

The Performing and Fine Arts Commission sponsors the Spring Celebration of the Performing Arts. Robert Elam, director of the commission, is also chair of the performing arts advisory committee. He described JAM@RIC to be spontaneous, never ordinary and completely genuine.

"JAM pays tribute to jazz both as a historic and living American art form," said Elam.



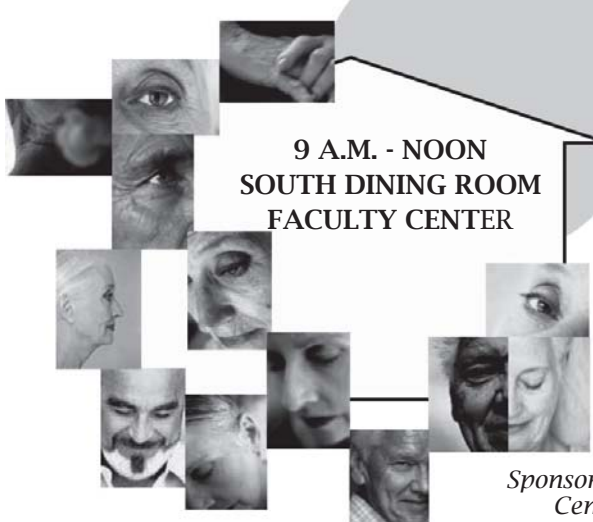
KENDRICK OLIVER

is \$10 and free for RIC students. Performances will take place at 8 p.m. in Sapinsley Hall in the Nazarian Center.

The history of jazz will be on display April 8 and 9 at The New England Jazz Hall of Fame exhibit, which will be in the Sapinsley Hall lobby. The contributions of the

## ENVIRONMENT & AGING

**A FREE MINI-CONFERENCE  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 2005**



**9 A.M. - NOON  
SOUTH DINING ROOM  
FACULTY CENTER**

This workshop will examine issues related to environment and aging. Topics include the importance of housing for seniors, housing options for low-income seniors, affordable assisted living, the social environment, and consumer-directed home and community-based services.

The program is open to the public free of charge and offers continuing education credit. No preregistration is necessary. Call 401-456-8732 for more information.

*Sponsored by The RIC Gerontology Center and the Program in Geography*



**HUMAN RIGHTS 101:** Amnesty International president, junior Mike Philbin (left), and treasurer, junior Lisa Chin, take part in the first Human Rights 101 Forum held on March 2 in the Student Union Ballroom. The student chapter of Amnesty International at RIC organized the event to discuss the role of student organizations in promoting human rights. Seven student clubs on campus including NAACP, Palestinian Alliance, Organization of Multicultural Students and Professionals of America (OMSPA), Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, Rainbow Alliance, and the VDAY Campaign participated in the dialogue that was moderated by Aaron Bruce, director of the Unity Center. "It is our responsibility as conscious individuals to support the rights of everyone," said Bruce. (Photo by RIC junior Garine Palandjian)



# Arts & Entertainment

## World acclaimed tumblers return to RIC

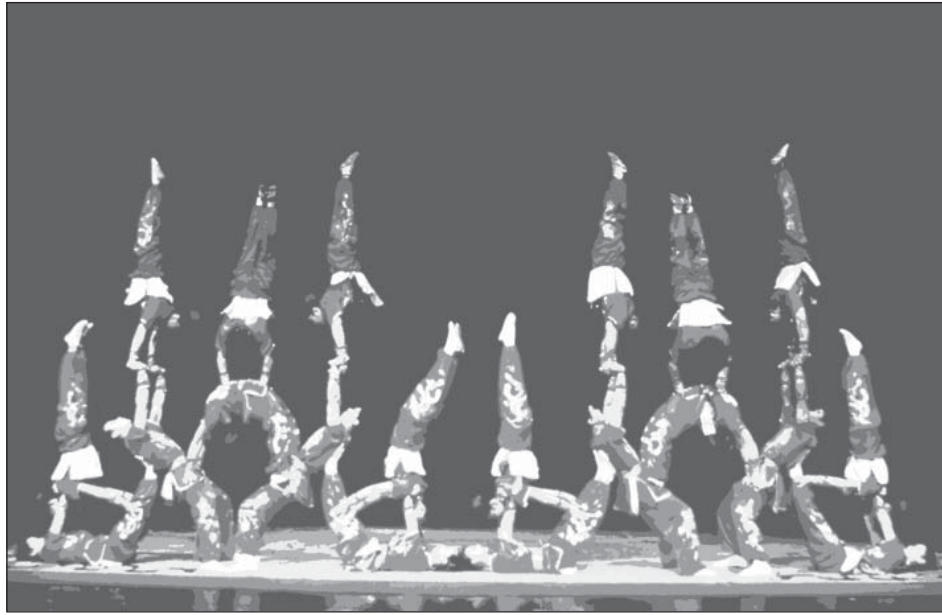
**P**icture this: A performer attempts a handstand on the top of ten chairs placed precariously on four bottles.

Another entertainer steadies a desk in the air using only her feet while a third artist balances himself on a razor-sharp knife.

These breathtaking stunts will be on display as The National Acrobats of Taiwan, R.O.C. return to Rhode Island College with a spectacular new presentation of feats that push the limits of the human body. Showtime is set for April 19 at 7:30 p.m. in the Auditorium in Roberts Hall.

The presentation will combine the majesty of acrobatics, dance, spinning plates, balancing, juggling, fire and magic with comedy and music to make a show perfect for the whole family.

The National Acrobats of Taiwan uphold a history of over 2,500 years of this ancient art form that is a distinctive part of Chinese culture. The group, made up of 35 members, was founded almost 25 years ago as the Fu Hsing Chinese Acrobatics Troupe. The group



THE NATIONAL ACROBATS OF TAIWAN, R.O.C.

later merged with the National Fu Hsing Dramatic Arts Academy and the National Kuo Kuang Academy of the Arts to form its current manifestation, which focuses on disciplined education, incessant practice and awe-inspiring performances.

Troupe members go through an average of eight years of strict training to attain a spot in this internationally renowned company. They are considered to be the foremost acrobats in all of China and are led in this production by director Lo Jih-Hung

(also known by his western name, Dante Law).

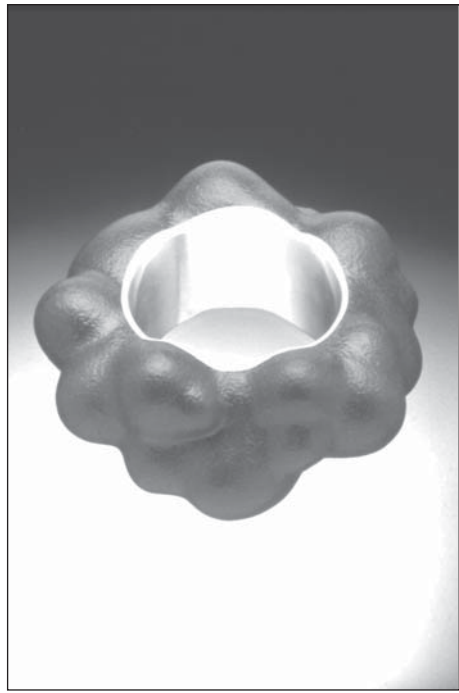
The artists combine highly structured movements and extraordinary flexibility with everyday objects such as plates, bottles and chairs to provide endless thrills that keep the audience on the edge of their seats.

Their current program, *The Chinese Blossom*, explores the relationships of earthly phenomenon like the sun, moon, water and fire, and their roles in generating the essence of Chinese culture.

In 2002, the troupe performed to a standing-room-only crowd at the College.

Reserved seating for the National Acrobats of Taiwan R.O.C. is \$28 with discounts for students and seniors. Tickets can be purchased in advance via VISA or MasterCard by calling 401-456-8144 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays; visiting on-line at [www.ric.edu/pfa](http://www.ric.edu/pfa); or in-person at the Roberts Hall box office until the time of the performance on the day of the event.

## Studio jewelry display features alternative methods and materials



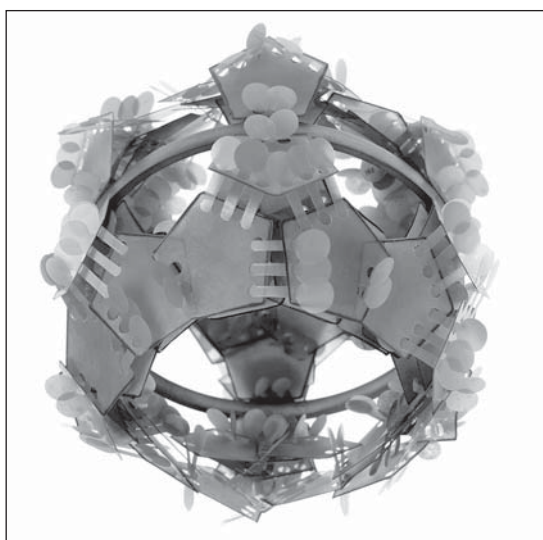
Joe Wood – “Lumpy” – bracelet, 1999, 3D computer print w/ epoxy resin, enamel powder, silver. (Photo by Dean Powell)

concepts of art, craft and design. The result is a display of distinctly new and interesting jewelry designs.

Many works utilize lightweight materials such as plastic, aluminum, and paper, while others achieve form through the use of new technology, such as rapid prototyping and digital imaging. Ranging from the subtle to the flamboyant, these works celebrate the body as they blur the boundaries of jewelry, and often stretch wearability to its limits.

Germans Doris Betz and Bettina Speckner, and Americans Daniel Jocz and Jennifer Sholtis, are among those who will display their new creations.

The exhibit will kick off with a talk by Joe Wood, an exhibitor in the show and chair of the Massachusetts College of Art's fine arts 3-D dept. Sondra Sherman, assistant professor of art at RIC, will curate the exhibit.



Svenja John – “Vize” – bracelet, polycarbonate, plastic. (Photo by Silke Mayer)

Jewelry has been one of the signature industries in Rhode Island since the early 1900s. So it's fitting that Rhode Island College will be the venue for “Alternatives: Materials/Means,” a Bannister Gallery exhibition that explores the latest in unconventional methods and substances used in the construction of studio jewelry. The show, running from April 7-29, will showcase the work of 14 studio jewelers from America and abroad.

The artists modify existing technology and use materials from other disciplines to create hybrid objects that incorporate the different

## ‘The Pirates of Penzance’ casts anchor at RIC

The Rhode Island College Theatre performance of the musical *The Pirates of Penzance* will take place April 14-16 at 8 p.m. and April 16-17 at 2 p.m. in the Auditorium in Roberts Hall.

*Pirates* is a two-act comic operetta, written by Sir William S. Gilbert, with music composed by Sir Arthur S. Sullivan. The show, the duo's most popular production, made its U.S. premiere in New York City in 1879. It marked the birth of their second of nine operettas in a period of 12 years.

The production is an updated version of the 1879 original composition. It resurfaced in 1980, in New York City's Central Park, which led to a successful and entertaining romp through Broadway.

The amusement revolves around the escapades of a young man named Frederic and his zany pirate friends, blundering policemen

and a clumsy major general, all taking place during the reign of Queen Victoria. The pirates prove to be more sincere than the so-called “respectable” members of Victorian England.

Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Pirates of Penzance* is directed by Bill Wilson, RIC associate professor of theatre, and chair of the music, theatre and dance dept.

Reserved seating is \$18. For ticket information, call the box office at 401-456-8144.





# Siegel continues year-long 'Conversation'

Renowned composer and pianist Jeffrey Siegel combines commentary with musical mastery in his end-of-season Keyboard Conversations® concert on April 7 at 7:30 p.m. in Sapinsley Hall in the Nazarian Center.

The concert will feature the "Magnificent Melodies of Tchaikovsky and Rachmaninoff" including Tchaikovsky's *Humoresque* and *Dumka* and Rachmaninoff's *Etudes Tableaux*.

The 19th-century Russian Composer Pyotr Ilyich



Tchaikovsky is best known for producing some of the world's most performed ballets including *Swan Lake* and *Sleeping Beauty*, while 20th-century Russian performer Sergey Rachmaninoff is recognized for his elegant piano concertos and symphonies.

Keyboard Conversations® offers a unique concert-plus-explanation

format in which Siegel speaks to the audience about the music before performing each work in its entirety. Newcomers to classical concerts have greeted

these programs with enormous enthusiasm because they are presented in an informal, accessible and highly entertaining manner. Seasoned music lovers are continually enlightened by Siegel's erudition and delighted by his wit.

"As human beings, we need to be moved, affected and inspired - and if we lend an open ear and willing heart, great music can inspire us uniquely," wrote Siegel on his Web site, [www.keyboardconversations.com](http://www.keyboardconversations.com).

The *Toronto Sun* newspaper said Siegel is "A musical bridge-builder in action. He shows just how illuminating the combination of words and abstract music can be."

*Reserved seating is \$25 with discounts for students and seniors. Tickets can be purchased in advance via VISA or MasterCard by calling 401-456-8144 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays; visiting on line at [www.ric.edu/pfa](http://www.ric.edu/pfa) or in-person at the Roberts Hall box office until the time of the performance on the day of the event.*

## Talents of RIC music, theatre and dance faculty to be showcased in memorial concert

Educators become entertainers when the music, theatre, and dance dept. comes together for the second annual Faculty Recital on April 14 at 8 p.m. in Sapinsley Hall in the Nazarian Center.

"It is wonderful for the students to see their professors perform and a great performance opportunity for the faculty members," said Teresa Coffman, associate professor of music and organizer of the event. The program will include about 20 faculty members.

Proceeds from the event will go to the Deborah Griffin Memorial Scholarship Fund. Griffin was a music education student at RIC when she was killed along with four of her five children in a house fire nearly five years ago.

The idea for the concert originated with the student chapter of the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) at RIC as a way to raise money for a scholarship for music majors at RIC, while also keeping Griffin's memory alive on campus. The goal is to eventually raise enough money through this yearly show to establish an endowed scholarship

### Wednesday Chamber Music Series -

## Stevie Holland, Jordan Rudess headline April concerts

The Wednesday Chamber Music Series continues to go *Back to the Future* this spring with concerts by jazz vocalist Stevie Holland and progressive keyboardist Jordan Rudess.

Both events are free, open to the public and will be held at 1 p.m. in Sapinsley Hall in the Nazarian Center. A question-and-answer session will follow each performance.

Judith Lynn Stillman, artistic director of the *Back to the Future* concerts, said she was "thrilled" to be able to offer the campus



STEVIE HOLLAND

of the Year. She's versatile too: a noted storyteller, Holland has performed in concerts, cabaret and theatre.

Her recording debut as a singer/lyricist came with the 1999 release of *Do You Ever Dream?*, a pop CD of songs about faith and hope. She followed that with *This Is America*, a single written in response to September 11. The song was performed at events for victims' family members and served as a fundraiser for the Families of Freedom Scholarship Fund.

In 2002, Holland opened the pages of the American standard songbook, performing in a popular show entitled *Almost Like Being In Love*, which led to a CD of the same name.

Her 2004 work *Restless Willow* showcases classic standards (*Lush Life*, *Summertime*) as well as lesser-known songs (*Zoot Walks In*, which features a scat vocal and sax duet with David "Fathead" Newman). The CD can be heard on jazz radio stations across the country, and was made a Publisher's Pick by *Jazz Review*.

### Jordan Rudess

He's a composer, producer and performer, and on April 20, keyboardist Jordan Rudess of the



JORDAN RUDESS

two such "acclaimed and diverse artists."

Said Stillman: "Stevie is a magical singer - charming, poised, sophisticated, with a captivating style. Jordan is a wild man - cutting edge, replete with creative genius and a technique which rivals Vladimir Horowitz."

### Stevie Holland

One of the outstanding voices in jazz will bring her heart-and-soul renditions to RIC on April 6.

Stevie Holland has quickly gained prominence in the jazz sphere, most recently winning *Back Stage Magazine's* 2004 Bistro Award for Outstanding Vocalist

band Dream Theater will put those talents to work in a solo show at RIC.

Stillman and Rudess studied together in the Juilliard School of Music's pre-college division, from elementary through high school. "He began improvising masterful music as a youngster," said Stillman. "We were all awed by Jordie's amazing talent, and had the sense that he was destined for greatness in his own inimitable way. Our life paths have taken very different directions since our early classical training at Juilliard, and it is exciting to reconnect."

Rudess' progressive style and consummate skills have led to a very busy and rapidly rising career. He and Dream Theater have just completed the studio album *Octavarium*, scheduled for release in June. That month the band will start its latest world tour with shows across Europe. Rudess also recently released a rock solo album *Rhythm of Time*, and this month, he played several acoustic shows with the band Blackfield.

Rudess, who studied classical piano at the Juilliard School of Music at age nine, joined Dream Theater in 1999, when the highly acclaimed *Scenes From a Memory* studio album was released. The New York performance of *Scenes* performed at the Roseland Ballroom is available on DVD under the title *Metropolis 2000: Scenes from New York*.

The band's double album, *Six Degrees of Inner Turbulence*, was released worldwide in January 2002, followed by the 2003 studio album, *Train of Thought*.

Rudess has recorded two albums with Liquid Tension Experiment as well as keyboard tracks for David Bowie's 2002 album *Heathen*, a rock duo CD with drummer Rod Morgenstein and his own solo efforts *4NYC* (2002) and *Feeding the Wheel* (2001). He has also lent his talents to many other artists' recordings.



TERESA COFFMAN

at RIC.

The original scholarship fund was established by Thomas Lawlor, adjunct professor of music at RIC. It continues to benefit students in the Providence public school district who wish to further their music education through private lessons.

"The recital takes place for all the right reasons and the faculty members happily donate their time and talents," said Coffman.

The student organizers of the event include Amanda Howard '04 and senior music major Marlena Gervelis along with ACDA members Richard Sylvia, a sophomore vocal performance and music education major, and senior music education major Amanda Hopkins.

*Those interested in donating to the scholarship fund can contact the Rhode Island College Foundation at 401-456-8105. Donations will also be accepted at the concert.*

*For more information contact the box office at 401-456-8144.*



## Personal loss leads to life of 'Compassion' for Kathleen Soares

by Jackie Crevier '04  
Staff Writer

**K**athleen Soares '87, M '96 knows about loss. Her second child died of an illness at four-and-a-half months old. Today, Soares is the chapter leader for the Greater Providence Chapter of the Compassionate Friends Organization, a national nonprofit self-help group made up of volunteers that give support and hope to those who have lost a child or a sibling.

Soares's only daughter, Emma Elizabeth, was born with Vaters Syndrome. She did not have an esophagus and suffered from profound congenital heart problems. She died on June 28, 1998.

Hasbro Children's Hospital was the only home Emma knew. Soares, husband Jim '84, and their son, Derrick, spent nearly every moment of Emma's life at the hospital by her side. "I was never able to bring this beautiful little girl home," said Soares.

Soares said, "We expect to bury our parents, grandparents and possibly a spouse. But we never expect to bury our child."

She found a role model and friend in the late Nancy Gewirtz, who gave her strength to care for her sick daughter. Gewirtz, a well-known proponent for advocacy, was a professor of social work and co-founder and director of The Poverty Institute at Rhode Island College.

"Nancy was proof that if you give people education, you empower them and give them the opportunity to change," she said. "I called upon the great skills she taught me so many times in the course of caring for my daughter," Soares said.

She joined The Compassionate Friends Organization four months after Emma died. This organization became her lifeline. At the first meeting, she talked with other parents experiencing the same grief at different stages of the bereavement process.

Some had children who died years ago while others were dealing with a recent loss. Many parents were grieving the loss of

an adult child as well. "I didn't feel alone," said Soares.

She feels indebted to Compassionate Friends and wanted to ensure that bereavement support is there for others. Soares said it is important to educate the public about parental bereavement since some people don't know how to respond to a grieving parent. Even just saying, "I am sorry" is enough, she said.



KATHLEEN SOARES

Soares said that the work of Compassionate Friends would benefit social work students who need to understand how to talk to bereaving parents. She credits her own educational background in social work to be an additional source of comfort in her everyday coping. "I can bring so much to the table given

the personal, educational and professional experiences I have had to help this chapter reach out to others," said Soares.

The local chapter of Compassionate Friends reaches out to over 600 families throughout Rhode Island and southeastern Massachusetts.

Now, seven years later, and with another son, Kendall, Soares is still moving forward.

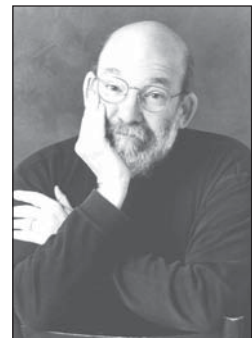
"When someone asks me how many children I have, I always say three, two sons and a daughter," she said. She says Emma's name often in conversation. Emma would have been seven years old in February.

Along with her role as a volunteer advocate, Kathleen Soares will always be Emma's mom, and shares the importance of that recognition with other grieving parents who need to cope and go on with their lives.

Compassionate Friends meetings are held on the second Monday of each month at Central Congregational Church on the East Side of Providence. A meeting open to the public will be held at 7:30 p.m. on April 11 at the church, located on 296 Angell Street.

"This is a valuable opportunity," said Soares who explained that these open meetings are held once a year to give individuals the opportunity to gain insight into issues surrounding parental bereavement.

## Reading by novelist Frederick Busch set for April 21



FREDERICK BUSCH

Frederick Busch, one of America's premier novelists, essayists and short story writers, will be reading from his latest work on April 21 at 8 p.m. in the Student Union Ballroom at Rhode Island College.

Busch is the author of over 20 volumes, including *The Night Inspector*, *Don't Tell Anyone*, *A Dangerous Profession*, and the forthcoming novel *North*.

The event is free and open to the public.

## 10th Gehrenbeck Lecture commemorates centennial of Einstein's seminal works

"The important thing is not to stop questioning." — Albert Einstein

Albert Einstein forever changed our view of the universe. This year, the Richard K. Gehrenbeck Lecture will celebrate the legendary physicist's contributions to the scientific community with a presentation by John Stachel, director of the Center for Einstein Studies at Boston University. The event will be held on Tuesday, April 5 at 8 p.m. in the Clarke Science Building, room 128, at Rhode Island College.

The lecture, entitled "Einstein: The Man Behind the Myths," will focus on some common myths about Albert Einstein, his scientific contributions, and how his views on various social, political and educational issues are still relevant today.

This year, widely known as "The World Year of Physics," marks the centennial of the writing of Einstein's landmark papers concerning electromagnetic radiation of light, special theory of relativity, and statistical mechanics.

John Stachel received his PhD in physics from Stevens Institute of Technology and was a research associate in physics at the University of Pittsburgh.

Stachel, professor emeritus of physics at Boston University, is the founding editor of *The Collected Papers of Albert Einstein*. His most

recent book, *Einstein from 'B' to 'Z'*, a new edition of *Einstein's Miraculous Year: Five Papers That Changed the Face of Physics*, is due out in May. He has also written over 100 articles on theoretical physics, history and philosophy of science, and the Marxist approach to social issues.

The lecture is presented in memory of Richard Gehrenbeck, who taught physics and astronomy at Rhode Island College for 22 years, until his death in 1993. He received his doctoral degree from the University of Minnesota in the history of science. His course, *The Rise of Modern Science*, was an innovative lab-based introduction to that field.

Each year, an active scholar is brought to the College to present a public lecture on a topic related to the history of science. The lecture is sponsored by the Gehrenbeck Memorial Lectureship Fund (RIC Foundation), the Rhode Island College Lectures Fund and the Dept. of Physical Sciences.

The presentation is open to the public. A reception for John Stachel and the Gehrenbeck family will follow.

Members of the RIC community are invited to join the Dept. of Physical Sciences for a dinner honoring John Stachel and the Gehrenbeck family at 6 p.m. on April 5 in the Faculty Center. Tickets for the dinner are \$15. Call 401-456-8049 for reservations.

The Dialogue on Diversity Committee  
of Rhode Island College  
presents

*The Tenth Annual Spring Lecture*

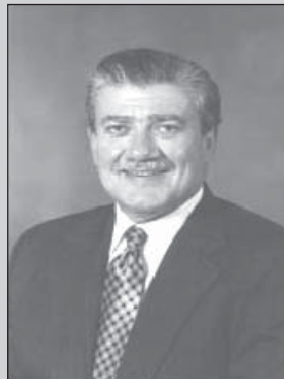
**Exploring Disability:  
Socially, Economically  
and Culturally**

Wednesday, April 13, 2005  
12:30 p.m. (workshops 2:00-3:00)  
Gaige Auditorium

Rhode Island College

**John D. Kemp, featured speaker**

John Kemp has a federal and legislative law practice in the areas of disability, rehabilitation, health care and nonprofit organizations. He currently serves on the state department's Advisory Committee on Persons with Disabilities, which advises the secretary of state, as well as on the boards of several national disability nonprofit organizations.



Kemp also has personal experience with disability — he uses four prostheses to live an independent and productive life. He recently co-authored and co-edited the book, *Reflections From a Different Journey*, published in 2004 by McGraw-Hill. The book is a collection of essays by writers who reflect on their personal experience with disability beginning in early childhood.

The Spring Lecture is free and open to the public.

The program has been generously supported by the President's Office and College Lectures Committee.

Contact Diversity co-chairs Mary Ball Howkins (401-456-9511), Tony Teng (401-456-8640), or Elizabeth Rowell (401-456-8563) for further information.



# RIC students bring historic Merci Boxcar to life in museum exhibit

by David Cranshaw '05 and Jackie Crevier '04 Staff Writers

*After 56 years of neglect, a gift from the French is the centerpiece of a new display at the Museum of Work and Culture in Woonsocket, and RIC students and their professor are to thank.*

In 1947, American journalist Drew Pearson oversaw a relief effort that sent over \$40 million dollars in supplies to the European countries hit hardest by World War II.

This act of kindness was reciprocated by France on Feb. 7, 1949 when one of the 49 Merci train boxcars, sent to each of the 48 states and Washington D.C., rolled through Providence to say thank you (merci) to the Americans for their support. The boxcar was filled with gifts for the Americans. After a tour of Rhode Island and the distribution of the gifts, the boxcar was put on display at Burlingame Camp, now Burlingame State Park, in Charlestown. After about 20 years, the boxcar was sold to a local junk dealer.

A newspaper article in 1999 placed the abandoned boxcar in a junkyard in Charlestown. This story piqued the interest of Jacques Staelen, a general manager of several textile mills in Woonsocket, who embarked on a five-year odyssey of restoration and refurbishment leading to the exhibit in the Museum of Work and Culture.

George T. Marshall, adjunct professor of communications at RIC, befriended Staelen from previous museum projects and joined the effort in 2000.

It may have taken nearly six

decades for the Merci boxcar to reappear in Rhode Island, but only a semester of work for Marshall and his students to help transform this nearly forgotten piece of history into an interactive exhibit.

Marshall and the students in his TV production class conducted interviews of veterans from each of the first two World Wars, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and soldiers who were part of the more recent United States-led invasion of Iraq, and turned them into a display that greets the visitors to the exhibit.

They created a simulation of what it was like to ride in the shaking and pulsing railcar, with the squeaking peels of the rails, all to the sounds of the soldiers' voices.

The students worked on every aspect of the video production, from the filming, interviewing, designing the set, coordination of the technical equipment, right down to public relations and hospitality.

"Few people get the opportunity to produce something so emotional and relevant to today's world climate," said senior James O'Hayer.

The project was not without obstacles. The boxcar was found scarred by fire and stripped of its wheels and distinctly French exterior decorations. Additionally, the steel structure of the car had to be sawed in half to fit through the doors of the museum.

Marshall said he involved his classes in the project to show students that getting involved in a community activity should not be daunting, and it gave students real-life experience in the communications field.

"These experiences were not glorified. They were not fun at all," said Marshall. "These were life



**A TRIP TO YESTERYEAR:** Accompanying the boxcar exhibit at the Museum of Work and Culture is a display of uniforms that soldiers wore during the various wars.

and death experiences, and young people, unless they experienced it themselves, don't get it."

Marshall also said the project was important because it would be the only museum exhibit in Rhode Island that focused on the role of military veterans from all wars.

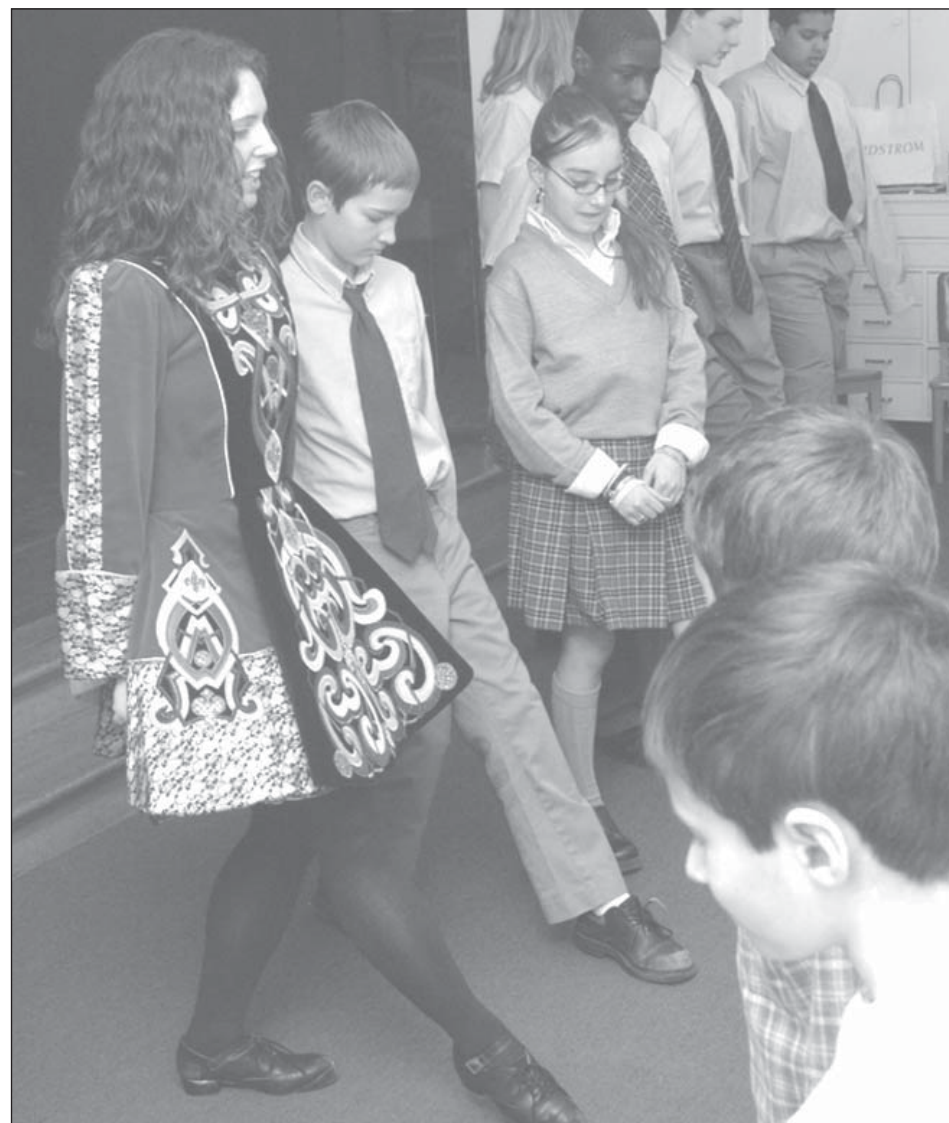
The Rhode Island boxcar is the only one remaining in southern New England. The car sent to Massachusetts is lost and Connecticut's car was destroyed by fire.

In a Jan. 2 article by the Associated Press, Staelen said that the boxcar is a symbol of enduring friendship between the United

States and France despite the two countries' disagreement over the war in Iraq.

Today, through the hard work of Marshall and Staelen, and a group of dedicated RIC students, the actual stories of war and kindness live on for new generations to embrace.

*The Work and Culture Museum is located at 42 South Main Street in Woonsocket. The museum is open Monday through Friday 9:30-4, Saturdays 10-5 and Sundays 1-5. Call 401-769-9675 for more information.*



**DANCING LESSONS:** Julie King (left), a teacher at St. Paul's School in Cranston, gives a lesson in Irish step dancing to Henry Barnard School students on St. Patrick's Day. A troupe of 6th, 7th and 8th graders from St. Paul's also entertained the Barnard students with jig and reel dances.

## What's the buzz? National Geographic Bee comes to RIC April 1

The Rhode Island finals of the 2005 National Geographic Bee will take place Friday, April 1 at Rhode Island College from 1-6 p.m. Sixty-nine students representing schools from across Rhode Island will compete for state-level honors and a chance to participate in the national finals. This is the Bee's 17th year of competition.

The National Geographic Bee is designed to encourage the teaching of geography and to test students' knowledge of the subject.

Students in grades four through eight are eligible for all three levels of competition: school, state and national. State finalists were selected in January through individual school bees and written examinations.

During the Rhode Island finals, a series of preliminary rounds will narrow the field to 10 finalists. The final round, moderated by Mark Motte of RIC's political science dept. will determine first, second and third place winners.

The first place winner of the Rhode Island Bee will receive \$100 and other prizes, and move on to become the Rhode

Island representative in the national finals at the National Geographic Society Headquarters in Washington, D.C., on May 24-25.

The Rhode Island finals of the 2005 National Geographic Bee will be administered by the Rhode Island Social Studies Association (RISSA) and coordinated by Patricia M. Jarvis '70 and Roger P. Gagnon '68, both retirees of the Woonsocket school system.

Students will be greeted by RIC President John Nazarian. Faith Fogle, of the Rhode Island Dept. of Education, will bring the greetings of the commissioner of education.

Moderators will be Gale Goodwin Gomez, chair of the anthropology dept., George Epple, Richard Fiddler, and Terence Hays also of the anthropology dept., and Jeffrey Blais, professor of economics and finance.

Stanford E. Demars, Mark Motte and Millburn Stone, of the dept. of political science dept.; Tony Teng, of the history dept.; and Robert J. Sullivan '53, professor emeritus of anthropology and geography, will judge.





# BOOK MARKS

This regular feature showcases books authored by Rhode Island College faculty.

## Race and Racism: An Introduction by Carolyn Fluehr-Lobban

AltaMira Press  
304 pages, (June publication)

### Publisher's summary

In her newest book, anthropologist Carolyn Fluehr-Lobban examines the foundations of race in American society. She demonstrates how race and racism are not openly confronted or challenged in American communities or educational settings. Many families still live in segregated communities - especially ethnic sub-communities - and attend largely segregated public and private schools. The author offers a simple and accessible explanation of the biology of race and a cross-cultural perspective on the social context of race, color-coding, ethnicity and ethnocentrism.

There are few places in the world where race is not a factor in society and politics, but the author finds abundant evidence that is a dynamic and pliable concept, as seen in the overturning of the slave system in Haiti, or the American civil rights movement. Fluehr-Lobban's book is a fascinating and thoughtful assessment of the nature of race and racism. Her book will be of value to readers and instructors in anthropology, sociology, education, and ethnic studies.

### Author bio

Carolyn Fluehr-Lobban is a professor of anthropology and African studies at RIC. She is noted for Islamic studies, particularly in Egypt and Sudan, where she has conducted research and lectured for almost four decades. Her work *Islamic Law and Society in Sudan* has recently been translated and released in an Arabic version, while her *Islamic Society in Practice* is now available in second-edition paperback.

Fluehr-Lobban is a well-known lecturer on topics that humanize the Muslim world, and is involved in human rights matters and political asylum cases. Currently she is on sabbatical and conducting studies on Islam in Africa.



## Korean Film: History, Resistance, and Democratic Imagination by Eungjun Min, Jinsook Joo and Han Ju Kwak

Praeger Publishers  
208 pages, (2003)

### Publisher's summary (excerpt)

This work begins by investigating the history, industry structure, and trends of filmmaking in Korea, then examines how Hollywood films have affected both Korean mainstream and nonmainstream film industries in terms of both means of production and narrative. The authors analyze the ways in which Korean films of recent years have represented the modernization process in Korea itself, as well as the ideological implications that arise from the cinematic constructions of Korean imagination. *Korean Film* attempts to consider the films as a popular cultural form that have a life beyond their theatrical runs: stars, genres, and key movies become part of any culture's identity, and in their narratives and meanings can be located evidence of the ways in which a culture makes sense of itself. Korea has never before been given such an extensive treatment of this central idea, and here for the first time, the nation's culture and cinema are merged into one discussion that both reflects and shapes our understanding of it.

### Author bios

Eungjun (E.J.) Min is a professor of communications at Rhode Island College. Min has authored several edited articles and books, including *Reading the Homeless: Images of the Homeless Culture on Media* (1999). He received a PhD from the Ohio State University, and an MA and BA from Temple University. His research focuses on cultural approaches to studying media representations, their construction, and their impact on culture.

Jinsook Joo is a professor of film studies at Central (Chung-Ang) University in Seoul, Korea.

Han Ju Kwak is a PhD candidate of Critical Studies at School of Cinema and Television, University of Southern California.



## Student Employment Internship and Undergraduate Job Fair

All RIC students are invited to attend The Student Employment Office's first-ever Internship and Undergraduate Job Fair on Wednesday, March 30 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Student Union Ballroom.

Employers will have internship opportunities related to students' majors, as well as part- and full-time employment opportunities for the summer and year-round. Some

internships are paid; those not paid may qualify for credit.

Students should bring multiple copies of their résumé and dress appropriately because this will be an ideal opportunity to make a first impression with a variety of employers.

For more information and a list of employers, visit our Web site at [ric.edu/careerdevelopment](http://ric.edu/careerdevelopment).



**ON THE MOO-OVE:** School of Social Work faculty members Mary Ann Bromley and John Riolo, who are providing case management training in Cambodia, have captured some intriguing sights in this Southeast Asian country. The picture above was taken in Siem Reap, and is a common occurrence on all streets and roadways in Cambodia, according to Bromley. She pointed out that although the American phrase "Wait 'til the cows come home" does not have universal meaning, in Cambodia at least, "the cows do come home every day on their own!" (A full account of Bromley and Riolo's trip will appear in What's News this fall.)



**QUARTETTO DI VENEZIA:** Members of the Italian musical ensemble talk with senior music major Kathy Bacon and President John Nazarian (right) during a reception for the quartet in the Alumni Lounge after its performance March 7. (Inset) Italian vice consul Ronald Del Sesto reads a proclamation honoring the quartet.

## RIC SummerArt Program to offer workshops for children ages 5-16

Classes meet July 11-21, Monday through Thursday, from 9 a.m. to noon at the Art Center on the Rhode Island College campus. The program provides a relaxed yet stimulating environment for students to explore their creative interests.

Classes offered:

- Mixed Media - Ages 5-11  
Painting, drawing and printmaking projects to develop visual awareness.
- Sculpture - Ages 8-11  
Clay, papier-mâché, wire, cloth, plaster and cardboard will be used to explore three-dimensional space.

- Clay works - Ages 10-13  
Hand-building techniques of pinch, coil and slab. Students will use different clays such as firing, air-dry and Sculpey.

- Drawing - Ages 12-16  
Study of still life, interior space, and natural and man-made forms.

Tuition and supply fee for each class is \$200, which includes a non-refundable registration fee of \$20. Classes are small and early registration is recommended. For a brochure describing the program, call the RIC Dept. of Art at 401-456-8054, email [cmulcahey@ric.edu](mailto:cmulcahey@ric.edu), or visit [www.ric.edu/hbs](http://www.ric.edu/hbs).



# Sherlock Center

Continued from page 1

elementary special education; Keri Rossi, special education recruitment coordinator for the Sherlock Center; and Ester Brito, coordinator for the Rhode Island Parent Information Network and current RIC student pursuing a degree in special education.

The forum will focus on the needs of students with disabilities and efforts to recruit and train qualified special education teachers.

“Now more than ever, Rhode Island needs individuals with intelligence and competence to become the special education teachers of tomorrow,” said Rossi.

A self-assessment report issued in 2001 by the Rhode Island Department of Education, stated that Rhode Island faces a possible shortage of more than 600 special education teachers by 2006. Approximately 20 percent of Rhode Island’s students have disabilities and the need for specially trained teachers. The number of students with disabilities has increased by more than 1,000 students each year for the past 10 years.

The report also examined the turnover rates for current special education teachers and graduation rates from Rhode Island’s colleges and universities that prepare special education teachers.

According to information provided by the State Improvement Grant Partners Group from a survey of 21 special education administrators in the state, special education teacher attrition averaged 20 percent in a two-year period. Of those teachers that leave special education, most indicated taking positions in the general education system or leave the teaching profession entirely.

Additionally, 25 to 30 percent of Rhode Island’s teachers will be eligible for retirement by 2006.

The state’s colleges and universities that prepare students to become special education teachers graduate on average 128 prospective teachers a year (80 percent graduate from RIC), and approximately 640 in a five year period. Rhode Island projects the need for a minimum of 1,250 new special education teachers over the next five years. This leaves a gap of 610 special education teachers to meet the rising demands.

Although there are needs in several areas, Antosh said that secondary special education and severe disabilities continue to be the greatest areas of concern.

In 2002, Rhode Island received a State Improvement Grant from the United States Department

of Education’s Office of Special Education Programs to improve student performance and increase access to general education for students with disabilities. The Sherlock Center has responsibility for implementing several of the project goals. The grant funds are used to improve low performance of area schools through technical assistance, to recruit and train special education teachers, to increase the preparation of general education teachers to teach children with disabilities in the general education classroom, and to train and support leadership personnel in Rhode Island schools.

Grant activities promote professional development so that all students with disabilities are taught by highly qualified teachers, and promote the expansion of opportunities for children with disabilities to participate in the general curriculum and improve their performance on state assessments and on other outcome measures.

Along with the need to recruit more quality special education teachers, the grant provided funding for a recruitment coordinator to develop a comprehensive statewide campaign to recruit and prepare special educators and related service providers. Rossi was hired for the position in 2003. She is working with RIC and other colleges to inform the community of the need for more special education teachers and the programs that prepare teachers.

The Sherlock Center is part of a national network of 61 University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities. Founded in 1993, the Sherlock Center works to promote the participation of individuals with disabilities in school, work and society.

The Sherlock Center has collaborative activities with five colleges and universities in the state, four departments of state government and several private organizations in Rhode Island. Last year, more than 80 percent of the school districts and human service organizations in the state received technical assistance and/or training from the Sherlock Center. The Sherlock Center conducts about 200 training sessions a year.

The Sherlock Center brings specialized knowledge and support to persons with disabilities, their families, and professionals and paraprofessionals who provide direct support services. It operates with a trans-disciplinary approach, advocating that every person who intervenes in the life of a person with a disability or his/her family needs a comprehensive base of knowledge.



This continuing series features RIC grads whose career paths have taken some unusual turns.

Jim Vickers would rather write in a coffee shop than in his office.

“I find the atmosphere invigorating and I love good coffee,” said the publisher/editor of *Motif* magazine, the state’s newest arts and culture newspaper.

Vickers said that this practice began during his days at Rhode Island College when he would study in the campus coffee shop rather than in the library or at home.

Vickers entered RIC with the intent of majoring in political science and eventually going to law school, but along the way, he became more interested in literature and philosophy.

“It was Professor Paul Anghinetti who put me on the road to becoming a writer,” Vickers recalls. “He was stringent about teaching students the proper way to write.”

Vickers still remembers those stern lessons and how they turned him into a proficient writer. “I kept taking his (Anghinetti’s) classes and killing myself.”

On campus, Vickers started a philosophy magazine called *The Examined Life* with other philosophy students, wrote sports articles for *The Anchor* student newspaper, was president of the Philosophy Club, a member of the Political Science Club, and part of student government.

Vickers said that it was at RIC that he developed a love of the arts by being exposed to poetry, philosophy, playwriting and theatrical performances.

“Before coming here to college, I had none of these sensibilities,” he said.

Vickers also credits some of his political science and philosophy professors as major influences in his way of thinking.

He remembers political science professor Fran Leazes as being “a rebel” and allowing students to “debate anything” in class. “It was refreshing to come to a college where you weren’t asked to toe the party line,” Vickers said.

He added that Robert Castiglione, professor of philosophy, leant practicality to philosophy. “It was that practicality that grounded me,”



JIM VICKERS '94, M'98

Vickers admits.

Learning to make meaningful statements about human existence metaphorically is what then led him to the English dept., and to writing, which had a stronghold on him in his post-graduation pursuits. Vickers became the assistant managing editor at a local newspaper and quickly learned the art of journalistic writing, integrity and credibility. He said he enjoyed the work from the start, despite the “long hours, low pay and high stress” of the job.

Before long, Vickers decided to merge his passion for writing with his love of the arts to help form *Motif* magazine.

“The state needed a cultural newspaper not based on the criteria of alternative newspapers,” he said. “It’s the only place where everything you want to know about the arts is in one place.”

Vickers said that credibility is in short demand when writing about the arts since most of the writing is advertising driven, and it’s important to stay within the criteria.

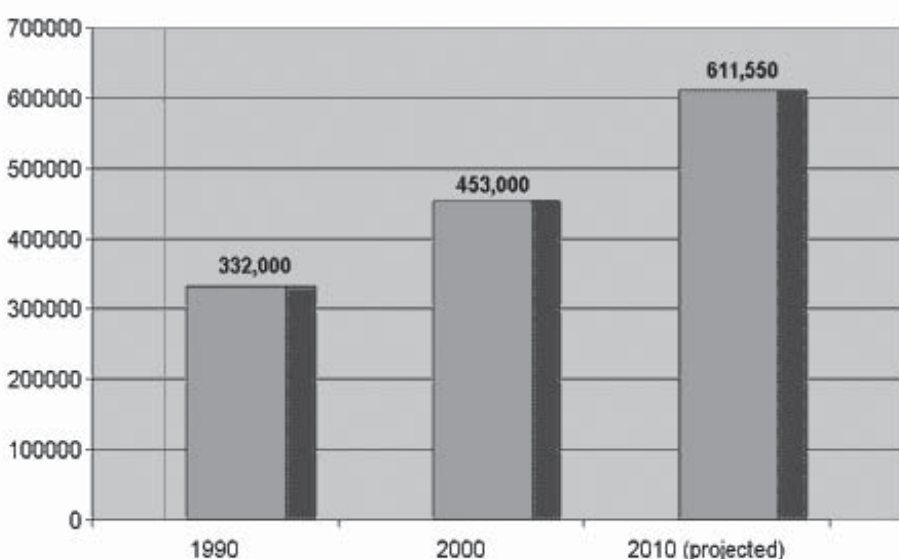
“When writing about culture, you have the opportunity to lend a perspective or insight. For example, you might not like a play (you’re reviewing) but you have to look at what was done well,” he said.

Vickers likes that his writing creates a record of time and place that will last.

What’s in the future for this politically minded, literate philosopher with his finger on the pulse of culture and fine arts?

To open up a performing arts center in the southern end of the state, so as not to compete with the John Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts, though he reminds us that imitation is the sincerest form of flattery.

Demand for Special Education Teachers 1990-2010 (National)



Graph courtesy of the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Statistics



# The Back Page

## Represent your graduating class at Commencement 2005



Last year, we began a new tradition at the College. Each graduating class from 1934-2004 marched with the dignitaries in procession at commencement. It represented a link between the new graduates and the alumni association



Some class representatives from Commencement 2004.

If you are interested in representing your class at commencement, please contact the Alumni Office at [alumni@ric.edu](mailto:alumni@ric.edu).

We are looking for graduates of the following classes to participate on May 21 from 8:30 - noon. A complimentary lunch follows the Commencement exercises.

1937	1950	1964	1972	1982	1994	1990	1996
1939	1957	1965	1975	1983	1995	1991	1997
1942	1958	1966	1976	1984	1996	1992	1998
1943	1962	1968	1977	1987	1997	1994	2000
1944	1963	1970	1981	1989	1998	1995	2004



ON BOARD: The College is continuing its successful billboard campaign that began last year during the Sesquicentennial. The new design (above) debuted in March on Rte. 95 north at the Branch Ave. exit (also visible from Rte. 146). Look for the new billboard in April and May on Rte. 95 at the General Building driving north (Warwick/Cranston line); in September and October on Rte. 95 at the Charles Street exit driving south; and in November and December on Rte. 195 at Pike Street driving west (also visible from traffic heading into downtown Providence).

## Alumni Board Information Session

*Are you interested in serving on the Alumni Association board of directors and learning more about the Association?*

An informational session outlining duties and responsibilities will be held on Wednesday, March 30 at 5:30 p.m. in the Kauffman Center located on the east campus. Visit our Web site for directions or call Ellie O'Neill at 401-456-8460.

## What's News at Rhode Island College

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The next issue of What's News will be April 18, 2005.

Deadline for submission of copy, photos, etc. is Thursday, April 7, at noon.

Story ideas are welcome. Call 401-456-8090 or email [jfusco@ric.edu](mailto:jfusco@ric.edu).

## What's News submissions welcome

The Office of News and Public Relations encourages members of the faculty, staff and administration to submit news stories, feature articles and department information for publication consideration in *What's News*.

Send materials directly to our campus office in the Kauffman Center on the east campus or email [jfusco@ric.edu](mailto:jfusco@ric.edu) or [rmartin@ric.edu](mailto:rmartin@ric.edu). All materials are subject to editorial review.