

## College Shorts

### 5K Run to benefit Athletics

The Rhode Island College Programming Board announced plans for the second annual RIC-End 5K Fund Run, scheduled for Sunday, April 26, at noon, to benefit the RIC athletic department for its recent loss of equipment in the Walsh gymnasium fire. The race begins and ends on the RIC campus. Entry fee is \$5 before April 21 and \$7 for post-entry or on the day of the race. Registration forms are available at the Programming Office, Student Union, room 310, or by calling 456-8045. Please leave a message including your name, mailing address and telephone number.

### Call for marshalls for Commencement

The Committee on Convocations is seeking volunteer marshalls for the May commencement ceremonies. All faculty and staff who are interested in serving are invited to contact Kathryn Sasso, chair, at Ext. 8022 or by writing to her at Roberts 310 by April 10. According to Sasso, "This Commencement will require additional help, as we are planning many changes in response to the loss of Walsh Center."

### Plays depicting black leaders

On Tuesday, March 24, at 7:30 p.m. in Gaige Auditorium, Harambee will present two one-person plays depicting black leaders, by the African-American Theatre Company. The plays are entitled "Can I Speak For You, Brother?" and "Sister, Can I Speak For You?" Tickets will be sold at the door for \$3 with college ID and \$4 for the general public. For more information, call 456-8085.

### Visiting professor to speak

On Wednesday, March 25 at 12:45 p.m. in Gaige 253, professor Stephen A. Kenton of Eastern Connecticut State University will discuss "Extending Results in Elementary Topology." This lecture will explain how research in pure mathematics is used practically to extend known results. All are welcome.

### Biology Dept. Colloquium

Jerry Melaragno, assistant professor of biology at Rhode Island College, will present the topic "Endopolyploidy in Plant Cells" Wednesday, March 25 at 1 p.m. in Fogarty Life Science, room 209, as part of the Biology Department Colloquium series. All are invited to attend.

# Student teacher's artwork to be hung at new children's hospital in R.I.

by Clare Eckert

Turning the mundane into a masterpiece for others to enjoy is the work of an artist. To exhibit their work in a public forum for others to appreciate is among an artist's goals.

Although Rhode Island College MATC graduate student Kerry A. Fallon never intended to become an artist, her latest accomplishment — like it or not — puts her into the category.

In fact, Fallon wants to become a teacher. But, after completing a methods-and-material-art-education course with instructor Paula Most last semester, she's a little closer to the aspirations of the artist. And probably, she says, closer to becoming the all-around elementary school teacher she's studying to become.

Most's fall class in printmaking was her first attempt at creating murals. The outcome of the class would be to complete a mural using a variety of item like sticks, styrofoam, sponges or any odds and ends children could work with to create a mural in an elementary school art class. The teacher wouldn't have to be an artist, but would be able — through "hands-on" experience — to teach her students in a creative way.

Most said she split her class into five groups. Each group was assigned the task of deciding what children's theme they would use to design a printmaking mural and then to actually become the "artist" and create it.

At first, Fallon, who was a member of one of the five groups, was hesitant. She thought her lack of experience would impede the project. "But because of budget cuts in schools, art is one of the first programs to go. I thought it would give us some insight into what classroom teachers would do," she said.

Fallon's group chose a birthday theme, with a clown, balloons, ice cream cones, and other party paraphernalia. They gathered raw potatoes, carrots, apples, styrofoam and other items and went to work. "It was really fun and we could tell how easy it would be to do with kids," she discovered. "With no art background, I found it was more important to accept the process than the final product."

Most was extremely pleased with the completed projects. "They were wonderful and colorful."



KERRY FALLON STANDS in front of her 'piece of art' at Rhode Island Hospital. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

So pleased with the class's murals, that she presented them to the Committee on the New Children's Hospital at Rhode Island Hospital of which she is a member. Most is also a co-founder of the Museum of Art, Rhode Island School of Design's Museum On-Rounds Program, that visits the hospital's pediatric unit every Thursday to "bring a sense of normalcy to a child who is away from home and to use art as a means to enrich their stay and introduce them to art history and the fun of creative thought."

"I knew the committee was interested in having murals done," she said, to fill some of the barren walls. "I had them framed and brought them in (for the committee to judge)." Three of the five were chosen as appropriate, and are now hanging in the Potter Building, the Crawford Allen Floor, and the Potter One, and the third is outside the Intensive Care Unit on Potter Two.

When the new children's hospital is completed in 1994, the murals will be transferred to it for permanent display. Most said she is appreciative of the classes donation to the hospital and knows they "will be enjoyed by the patients, staff and parents."

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Although Fallon and some of her classmates wanted to put them in safekeeping to show their students someday, she agreed that the children's hospital is a perfect setting.

Most said the new children's hospital committee is seeking artists or those people who would like to donate a piece of work. She invites people to call her at 456-9774 for further information.

## Nicole Lissade wins \$1,000 scholarship

Rhode Island College senior, Nicole Lissade, recent winner of a \$1,000 scholarship given by the Career Expo Planning Committee, Inc., headquartered in Boston, Mass., is certainly thankful for the money and will indeed put it to good use as she completes her education in December, but for this young mother, wife, and student, it represents "a recommitment to myself to continue helping other people."

"The monetary value is nothing compared to when I received the award...that I am an inspiration to my son as a role model and to knowing that I am (fulfilling) my social obligation," Lissade said.

The 1990 recipient of the RIC Rose Butler Brown Award, Lissade told a story about working at The Turning in Providence, which is a transitional house for alcohol and drug abusers, and her feeling that she has a responsibility to help others because, "I got help when I needed it and now I must give back. If not, who is going to help the next person."

The 26-year-old North Kingstown resident relayed this experience in an essay needed to complete her application form to compete for the company's most prestigious award. Other criteria used by the se-



NICOLE LISSADE

lection committee was undergraduate standing, grade point average, and recommendations.

Although Lissade will graduate with a degree in political science and business,

she says her community volunteer work will always be important to her life even though she intends on entering the business world once graduated.

"I am aware of the importance of my own self-sufficiency and look forward to a time when my finances are no longer limited and I will be able to contribute" in money and time to support deserving organizations, she stated.

Lissade was also recognized by the Brown University Outreach Program in 1991 for encouraging students to become involved in community service. Last Christmas, she organized a holiday party for the residents of The Turning, soliciting food and small gifts from the RIC faculty, staff, and students.

Thanking the campus community for their effort, Lissade said, "It is because of their help" that she was able to give the residents some Yuletide cheer.

The Career Expo Planning Committee, Inc. is a non-profit organization that provides professional employment opportunities to undergraduate and graduate students of color. Each year volunteer members of the group sponsor a three-day career exposition and award scholarships to students meeting the criteria of the organization. Lissade was this year's most recognized person.





**RECORD YEAR FOR UPWARD BOUND** applications for the 26th annual class finds interested parents and students at the orientation program March 7 on the RIC campus. Some 239 students applied for the 74 slots available to students from the six target high schools. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

## Steady progress on Walsh Center project

What remains of the Rhode Island College Michael F. Walsh Health and Physical Education Center may appear to be a "forever in your dreams nightmare" as the campus community goes about the business of education.

Destroyed on Jan. 5 by a blazing four-alarm fire, the Center's remains are certainly an eyesore, and its demise has resulted in "Excedrine Headache 1992" for the administration, faculty, staff and students this semester.

But people are advised to take heart, be patient and positive while the College's administration toils at the task of attempting to finalize costs and contracts to make the campus "whole" once again.

According to Lenore A. DeLucia, vice president of administration and finance, the process seems like a long one, but progress has been made. College representatives have been meeting regularly with the insurance company to finalize necessary arrangements, she said.

In addition, DeLucia reports that David Presbrey Architects Inc. is working with Gilbane Building Company "to provide us with an estimate based on the cost of replacement in today's market that meets the current codes for handicapped accessibility, fire and other public building requirements."

Also, former occupants of the building are preparing inventory of losses, all of which takes time to gather, record and determine the cost of replacement, she noted.

The architect's report is due within three weeks, DeLucia said, adding that the comprehensive data should bring the College closer to finalizing the rebuilding project.

In the meantime, athletic department personnel are working out of the Adams Library building in rooms 116, 117 and 121 through 125. And faculty and staff of the Department of Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance have been relocated to Henry Barnard School rooms 162 and 225.

## Public symposium on urban corruption and politics is April 2 at RIC

The inner workings of politics and urban corruption, and the difficulties faced by law enforcement officials to unwind the deceit will be the topic of a public symposium at Rhode Island College Thursday, April 2, from 2 to 3:45 p.m. in the Student Union Ballroom.

"I Seen My Opportunities and I Took 'Em," is the title of the discussion to be explored by Bob Lucci, former New York City Police Department undercover officer and author of "Prince of the City" and Wayne Barrett, co-author of "City for Sale," an expose of the corruption exposed in New York City by the NAPP Commission during the 1970's and 1980's administration of Mayor Ed Koch.

U.S. Attorney Lincoln Almond and Attorney General James O'Neil will provide

commentary that links the New York City experience with the current scandals facing Rhode Islanders.

Organizer and moderator of the forum will be director of economic development Joseph Paolino, former Mayor of Providence and an adjunct assistant professor of political science at RIC.

"Rhode Island has been criticized as 'a state for sale' from the turn of the century to the present," according to Victor Pro-fughi, chair of the political science. "The recent attention given to irregularities in government in this state make this forum timely."

The free symposium is being sponsored by the Humanities at RIC and the political science department.

## Alaskans to make presentation here April 1 on 'The Last Great Wilderness'

Two years in the making, the multi-projector slide presentation, "The Last Great Wilderness," combines the work of 12 wilderness photographers to provide a close-up look at the fragile and beautiful Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in north-east Alaska.

That presentation, along with discussions by Alaskans concerned with oil development, will take place at Rhode Island College's Gaige Hall auditorium on Wednesday, April 1, from 7:30 to 9 p.m.

It is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be available.

Called the "Serengeti of the North," the refuge is home to grizzly and polar bears, arctic fox, snowy owls, tundra swans and countless other species, including migrating caribou. The Gwich'in and other native people use the resources of the refuge for their subsistence survival.

Oil companies reportedly want to swallow up the refuge's coastal plain into the neighboring Prudhoe Bay oil fields.

Out of 1,100 miles of Alaska's arctic coastline, the coastal plain of the refuge is the last 125 miles not yet open to development, say the Alaskans.

"Your presence at this event will help conservationists throughout the country who are working to prevent the exploitation and subsequent destruction of the refuge's coastal plain," they say.

The event is being sponsored by the Northern Alaska Environmental Center, the Alaska Conservation Foundation, the Sierra Club of Rhode Island and the RIC Campus Center.

For more information, call the Campus Center at 456-8034.

## WATCH FOR Graduate and Senior Show Exhibits at Bannister Gallery

Graduate Show, May 1-8  
Senior Show, May 14-23

## International Scene Lecture Series for Spring 1992

Rhode Island College will sponsor an International Scene Lectures Series for Spring 1992 entitled "The Survival of the Nation State in the 21st Century," beginning March 26 through April 20. The series is designed to enable participants to become better informed about the current crises affecting the nation state. The public is welcome to attend. All sessions will be held in the Alumni Lounge in Roberts Hall. The following are the topics to be discussed:

Thursday, March 26 - Alumni Lounge, 12:30 - 2 p.m. "Imagined Identities: Nation, State, Community" Kenneth Lewalski, professor emeritus of history, Rhode Island College.

Thursday, April 2 - Alumni Lounge, 12:30 - 2 p.m. "Political Confederation Models" Abbott Gleason, chairman of the department of history, Brown University.

Monday, April 13 - Alumni Lounge, 12:30 - 2 p.m. "Theocratic Models: From Theocracy to Democracy in the Middle East" John Esposito, professor of reli-

gious studies, College of the Holy Cross.

Thursday, April 16 - Alumni Lounge, 12:30 - 2 p.m. "Regional Economic Cooperation in the Former Soviet Union and Neighboring Countries" Alexander Portnyagin, University of Moscow, Institute of Political Linguistics.

Monday, April 20 - Alumni Lounge, 12:30 - 2 p.m. RIC Faculty Panel: Teaching the Future, Including the Future of the Nation State in the World. Participants: David Thomas, history department; Carolyn Fluehr-Lobban, anthropology; Halil Copur, economics and management; Kenneth Lewalski, professor emeritus.

The event is sponsored by the offices of the vice president for academic affairs, the dean of arts and sciences, the Study Abroad/International Studies Program, conferences and special events. This series has been coordinated by Carolyn Fluehr-Lobban (456-8006), and Kenneth Lewalski (456-8109).

Call either coordinator for further details.



**DONATION:** (l to r) Alyssa Spolidoro, John Charette, Michelle Tessitore and Daniel Voisin, students of the RIC Accounting Association, presented Rosemary Bowers, executive director of "A Wish Come True" with a \$130 contribution from the proceeds of a fundraising candy sale held last semester. Bowers visited the campus recently to accept the check and describe her organization to the student group. "A Wish Come True" is a non-profit organization that grants terminally ill children between the ages of three and 18 one special wish chosen by the child. Bowers founded the organization 10 years ago. Since then about 400 children have been granted their wishes. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)



# Riiinnng! Hello. Yes. Un huh. So, you've got bugs in your basement?

by George LaTour

"Hello. Rhode Island College Department of Biology."

"Hi. I'm calling about spiders in my cellar."

"They're really quite large, and I thought they might be Black Widows. You know...the poisonous ones!?! And, they're crawling all over the place."

"Yyyyuck!" thinks department secretary Frances M. Taylor to herself as she shivers a bit, but coolly, calmly and collectedly, offers a professional response.

"I'll be glad to check that out for you. Would you hold on a minute?"

She checks the roster to see who's available just then to give the caller some advice. Prof. S. Salman Wasti of Gloucester "is very good at identifying bugs and telling how to get rid of them" but he's in class just then.

However, Dr. Kenneth P. Kinsey of Providence is nearby and having overheard one side of the telephone conversation, inquires if he can be of help.

The question having been repeated to him by Taylor, he advises her to tell the caller that there are no Black Widow spiders known to be in this area and, hence, the "visitors" to his cellar are not dangerous.

"I relayed that information to the caller and was about to suggest he get an exterminator when he said: 'Oh, o.k., I'll just step on them.'"

"Yyyyyuck!" again by you-know-who.

## I hate bugs!

"Sometimes, I have to laugh," relates Taylor, of North Providence, "of all places for me to work...I hate bugs!"

But, she assures, everyone in the department (including her) does his or

her best to be accommodating to the always-concerned callers; to answer their questions, to provide advice and to demonstrate over and over again the College's concern for their concerns.

After all, they are part of "our public," the people we serve, the taxpayers.

"The faculty here are so helpful," says Taylor, who has been in the biology department for the past four of the 14 years she's been at RIC. "We help every time we can, but sometimes we have to refer them to the URI Hotline toll-free number. I keep that handy at all times because they're all set up for these calls."

Calls come in all the time about insects in the basement, bats in the attic and injured birds outside. What to do? How to do it?

It sure helps to have a sense of humor...and a lot of patience.

## A huge moth

"Last spring, a man came in with a huge moth in a big jar. With its wings spread it was probably this big," Taylor says as she holds her hands six-to-eight inches apart.

"He kept attempting to unscrew the jar cover and asking me, 'Do ya wanna see it? Here. Lemme show ya.' I was ready to jump out the window!"

Kinsey chuckles and tells of the time a man called about a Tomato/Corn Worm, which is described as "a big, green, ugly worm with a spike on its back."

"He called and wanted to know why the worm had stopped eating," reports Kinsey, adding, "I was quite impressed that someone thought of it as a pet. He was concerned it wasn't eating."

Kinsey says the critter in question eventually turns into a moth and flies away.

Another caller was concerned that a Praying Mantis in his backyard would be hard-pressed to make it through the winter and, so, should it be brought in the house until spring, he wondered.



FRANCES TAYLOR: Bugs on the line.

Kinsey explained — and one imagines he does so with patience and respect — that to bring the big green bug into the house would interfere with its life cycle and the as-yet unborn next generation. The caller, quiet satisfied with the information, says he'd leave the Praying Mantis alone and hope for others next year.

## Bat on the grille

"Then, there was the call from a local radio-station deejay. It was around Halloween and we thought it was probably a joke," relates Taylor. The person calling said he had just driven to work from Coventry and had a bat — a live bat — stuck in his pick-up truck grille!

Dr. Edythe L. Anthony of Greenville, renowned for her expertise on the bat, went downtown "and found a really rare (for Rhode Island) species (of bat) in the grille of his truck, and it was still alive."

"And, hanging on for dear life, I'm sure," interjects Taylor.

Anthony freed the bat and brought it back to the College where it later died of its injuries.

"Tell him the one about the Newport bat," Taylor prompts Anthony.

"Well, we received a call concerning a bat in the attic of an eloquent Newport home and it had been setting off an indoor motion-alarm system and the police were getting tired of that," says Anthony in what Newport Police would undoubtedly consider the understatement of the year.

You can just envision the alarm sounding at the police station for the 14th night in a row or, perhaps, the 14th time in one night!

"Doctor Anthony went to Newport," says Taylor, "and removed the bat and got invited to stay for lunch."

"She's just wonderful," attests Taylor, pointing out that Anthony "has crawled up into attics in the heat of summer" to remove bats for people. This she does with a net or heavy gloves.

## Are very serious

"Most who call are very serious," explains Kinsey, "and, relieved when we show concern."

Many of the calls involve injured birds. Kinsey says if the birds are old enough to have feathers, they can be saved; if not, there's very little chance of doing so. And, then you'd have to feed them insects or hamburger and provide water from an eye dropper, and, in most cases, you won't be too successful.

A call came into Taylor not long ago about a pet ferret that had lost all of its hair. The pet owner wanted to know what to do for it.

"The poor thing," Taylor says, "A bald ferret. I didn't know what to tell them. I referred the caller to the URI Hot Line."

And, so it goes.

The phone rings. Fran Taylor braces herself and answers. She never knows what to expect.





# On the job with...

A call came into the the Rhode Island College telephone operators office asking, "Could I speak to Carol?"

Trying to be as pleasant as possible, Lois M. Dandeneau, who's worked the switchboard for the past six years, first says to herself, "Out of 10,000 people on this campus, I'm suppose to know which Carol they want!" But to the caller, Lois says politely, "If you give me her last name, I'll try to direct your call."

Remembering the incident last week during an interview, Lois laughed and shook her head. "Some people think we know exactly where everyone is all day long."

Dandeneau and Barbara Blackwell, her co-worker for the past five years, have been told a few tales over the years - "people tell us their life story" - and have been asked a lot of questions, like "what is the zip code, what time is it, what schedule are we following, did we have class today," and on and on. Between the two and their crew of about eight students, they answer about 500 calls a day.

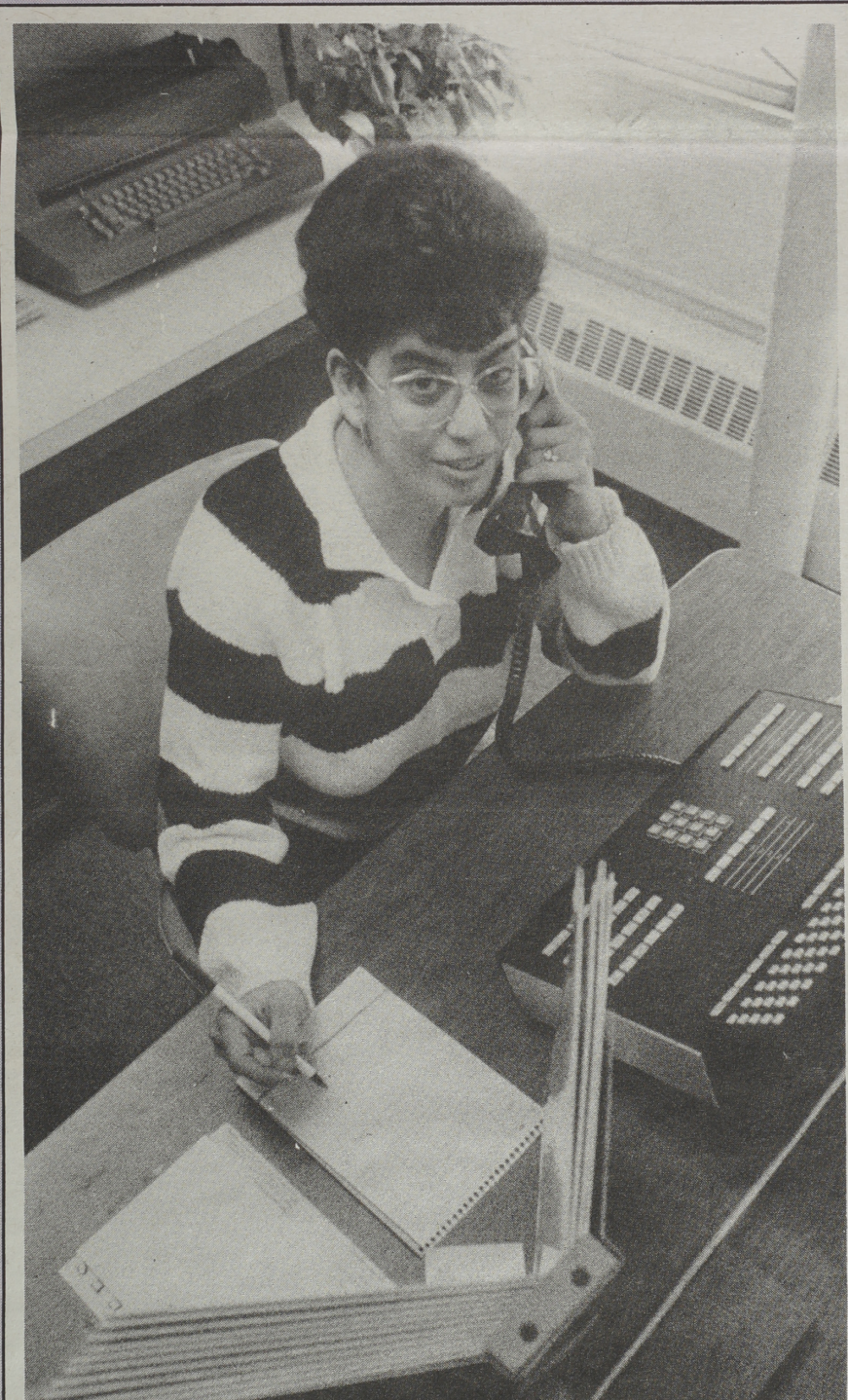
But answering phones is not all they do. Lois explained that they are responsible for the entire campus's billing system, making sure repairs are done on about 1500 lines and each telephone unit and computerizing every telephone number available to College personnel.

"We keep track of all the lines on campus, the class of service people have, the location of the equipment, making any changes that are necessary, and billing each department," Lois says. One piece of equipment that helps the women out is the Customer Administration Panel, a number coded instrument that keeps track of all the lines at all times, and assists the two when AT&T or New England Telephone come in to make repairs.

Since the beginning of this academic year, Lois and Barbara have been computerizing all the telephone lines according to personnel, location, number, and whether the number is limited to local calling or unlimited usage. It's a major project, but once completed, will assist them in organizing their office, she says.

For the past couple of years, they have also been responsible for the FAX machine. One of the nice things about having the fax in their office, Lois says, "Is we get to put a face to a voice" because people either come to their office to pick up a fax or they walk in to fax something out.

They also direct people to the right department or student organization when calls come in for events or programs. "Some people are very nice," Lois says. But those that want her to "go find John Doe and tell him he's got to be at work at 5" can tickle their funnybone and test their patience!



*Photos by  
Gordon E. Rowley*

*Text by  
Clare Eckert*



CLOCKWISE from above right: Lois M. Dandeneau; Barbara Blackwell at the office computer; Barbara back to the phones, and (left) Lois again.





## Geography finalists

**FINALISTS** for the four-week Geography Institute at the National Geographic Society this summer are (l to r) Maureen Spaight of Martin Junior High, East Providence; Jane Malone of Henry Barnard School; Denise Frederick of the Davisville Middle School, North Kingstown; Patricia Karmozyn of the Aulstin T. Levy School, Harrisville; Roberta Gosselin of the Winman Junior High, Warwick; Alida Frey of Henry Barnard School; David Smlith of Scituate Junior-Senior High; Carol Zona of the Marieville School, North Providence, and Willilam Piacentini of Park View Junior High, Cranston.

## 20 graduates named to 1992 Alumni Honor Roll

by Holly Shadoian  
Alumni Director

Twenty alumni of RIC will be honored as role models for students in their undergraduate major. This new recognition program of the RIC Alumni Association was designed to honor career achievements of alumni and to create an awareness among our undergraduate students of alumni role models.

Recipients were chosen by a selection committee from nominations received from academic departments and other interested alumni. Criteria for selection included the following: an alumnus/alumna with an undergraduate degree who has been out for at least five years; has achieved success in his/her field; and is a role model for undergraduates whose success demonstrates the value of a Rhode Island College degree.

Recipients will be honored at the Annual Alumni Awards Dinner to be held on campus on May 14. A photograph and information about each winner will be mounted, framed and presented to their respective departments for display.

Honorees are:

Anthropology: Gretchen Sommerfield '83, attorney with Lotus Software, Boston, MA, of Belmont, MA; Art: Joseph (Jay) W. Lacouture '78, chair art department, Salve Regina University, of Newport; Biology: Judith Kiernan Sweeney '72, science teacher Lincoln Jr./Sr. of Johnston; Communications: Debra DeSegna, '77 Master, RI Family Court, Providence, of Providence.

Also, Computer Science: Nancy Tracy '85, management engineer, New England Telephone, of Esmond; Economics: David Pollak '87, President, Athena Design, Boston, of Boston, MA; Elementary Education: Dr. Lorna Duphiney Ed-

mundson '64, Academic Vice President, Loyola Marymount College, Tarrytown, NY, of Mt. Kisco, NY; Health Education: Andrea Ferreira '78, Director Pawtucket Heart Health Project, Pawtucket, of Pawtucket.

And, Geography: Dr. William Renwick '73, associate professor of geography, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, of Oxford, OH; History: Ellen Geoffrey '82, vice president of finance/administration division of The Boston Financial Group Limited Partnership, Boston, of Rehoboth; Management: Elaine Nelson '84, President, RI Carbide Products Co., Providence, of Providence; Marketing: Michelle Saillant Boyd '84, Senior product manager, Playskool Baby Inc., Hasbro Industries, Pawtucket, of Cranston.

Also, Mathematics: David Capaldi '64, Mathematics department chair, Tollgate High School, Warwick, of Warwick; Music: Dr. David Mancini '77, Associate Professor, head of the theory department, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX, of Plano, TX; Nursing: Marjorie Stenberg '74, nurse epidemiologist, VA Hospital, RI, of N. Providence; Philosophy: Anthony Maione '75, executive director, The Samaritans, Providence, of N. Kingstown; Physical Education: Donna Raposa '76, elementary physical education teacher, East Providence School Department, of Riverside.

And, Psychology: Dr. Joseph S. Rossi '75, assistant professor of psychology, URI, of Providence; Social Work: Francine Connolly '77, director of field education, RIC Social Work program, of Warwick; Theatre: Wanda Schell, artistic director, Theatre for Emily, Providence, of Providence.

## Moore and Belisle co-captain baseball team

Head baseball coach, Raymond Tessaglia, has reported that senior Brendan Moore of Uxbridge, Mass. and junior Dan Belisle of Woonsocket have been selected as captains of the 1992 squad.

Moore hails from Burrillville High School and last year performed as the starting pitcher for the Anchormen on seven occasions, posting a team best 3.20 ERA and emerging as the only pitcher to sport a winning record of 4-2.

When not on the mound, Moore fueled the line-up at second base batting .292 with a .458 slugging average.

Belisle has enjoyed a three year batting average of .327 and he is a .479 career slugger.

The starting third baseman was the latest RIC baseball athlete to be granted All-New England status in 1990 when he was selected to the third team.

## 'Writing Rhode Island' to celebrate state's own writers

As part of Rhode Island College's 1992 Spring Celebration of the Arts, a series of readings by some of Rhode Island's current authors and a panel discussion are planned from April 6-30.

Entitled "Writing Rhode Island: Imagining the Landscape," the participants are either natives of the state or writers who have used the landscape of Rhode Island extensively in their work.

John Casey, who won the National Book Award for fiction in 1989 for his novel *Spartina*, which chronicles the struggles of a fisherman in South County, will read from his work April 6 at 8 p.m. in the Student Union ballroom; Ann Hood, a native of West Warwick and author of four novels, including *Somewhere off the Coast of Maine*, will read April 15 at 8 p.m. in the Faculty Center.

Also, Galway Kinnell, a Pulitzer Prize-winning poet and native of Pawtucket among whose books is *When One Has Lived a Long Time Alone*, will read April 22 at 8 p.m. in the Providence Public Library; Daniel Asa Rose, a fiction writer and essayist whose books include the

novel *Flipping for It*, which is set in Providence, and Jeffrey Greene of Connecticut, many of whose poems focus on Rhode Island, will read from their works on April 28 at 7:30 p.m. in the Cranston Public Library on 140 Sockanosset Cross Road.

Also, Jean McGarry, a native of Providence and author of three books of fiction, including *Airs of Providence*, will read April 29 at 8 p.m. in the Faculty Center. Elliot Krieger, editor of the *Providence Journal Magazine*; John Roche, of the RIC English faculty; author Geoffrey Wolff of Jamestown, Hood, Krieger and McGarry will be among the panelists on the current state of writing in Rhode Island.

The panel discussion will begin at 2 p.m. on April 30 in the Faculty Center. All events are open to the public free of charge. The program is made possible by grants from the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts, the Providence Journal Company, the College Lectures Series and the Performing and Fine Arts Commission.



**PREPARING FOR** the Rhode Island College Foundation Gala, scheduled for Sunday, April 5, at the Johnson and Wales Airport Hotel beginning at 5 p.m. are (left to right) John Dougherty, foundation treasurer and ticket chair; Joseph A. Neri Jr., Gala general chair; Lynn G. Vinacco, secretary to the Office of Development and College Relations, and Elena A. Leonelli, Gala Souvenir Program chair.



# Progressive thought and changing demographics characterize today's nursing programs

by Cynthia DeMaio

The 1990s are a time of growth for the nursing profession in many different ways. Increased demand for nurses, coupled with a better image and increased salaries, has made this field very attractive to traditional and nontraditional students alike, said Dr. Constance B. Pratt, nursing department chair at RIC. Furthermore, the nursing profession is proposing changes which could extend health care to the poor and lower costs for everyone.

There is no recession in the number of applicants to RIC's department of nursing, noted Pratt. Enrollment has escalated over the past two years, with 315 people applying for 144 slots in the Fall 1992 semester.

"People have always seen nursing as a viable profession during hard economic times," Pratt said. The Hospital Association of Rhode Island reports there are currently 350 vacancies for registered nurses in Rhode Island. This trend is expected to continue. The state Department of Health projects the demand for registered nurses (RNs) to increase by 22% between 1988 and 1995 and the demand for licensed practical nurses (LPNs) to increase by 19% over the same period.

Compounding the shortage is the fact that the supply of RNs is expected to increase only 12% and that for LPNs may actually decline by 1995.

Nursing services are in demand due to a combination of technical and social factors. As stated in a long-range plan submitted to the state Board of Governors for Higher Education this February, the expansion of medical technology has made more treatments available to the average patient. There are an increasing number of patients to be treated due to the aging of the population, and there is an decreasing number of new nursing graduates because of a decline in the age groups that have traditionally supplied new students.

## *Nursing services are in demand due to a combination of technical and social factors.*

While there are proportionally fewer young nursing students, there are a growing number of older students and men entering the discipline.

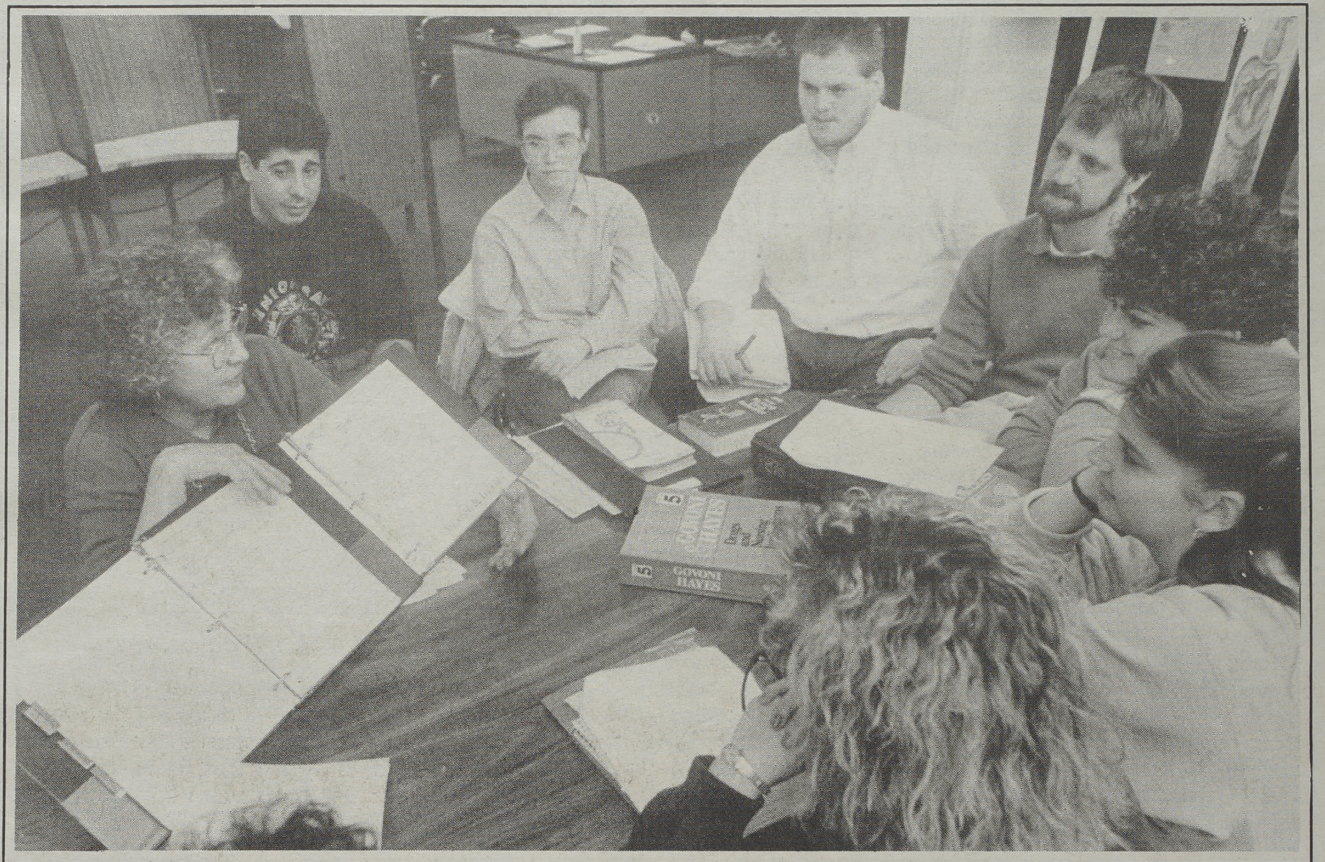
"We have 825 majors in the nursing department at RIC and 9% are male," Pratt said. The men are typically in their late 40's or early 50's and have had careers in other fields. "One of our students was the vice president of a financial institution that closed during the banking crisis. At this point in his life, he can afford to come to school and do something he likes," Pratt said.

"Many men tell me they always wanted to be in health care but were drawn into another career and became 'trapped' in it. Then they come to a point in their life where they can make a change," Pratt said.

She noted that nursing has always been a viable profession and that the men who become involved in the field are able to move into management positions faster than females.

The stigma of being a male nurse has almost vanished over the past 10 years, Pratt adds. The first male nurses, many of whom were medics in the service, met resistance, however.

"In 1974 I brought my first male nursing student to a hospital in Rhode Island. The staff told me he would not be allowed in the delivery room and that he could not teach mothers how to breast feed. I said to them: 'If he were a male intern would you think twice about it?' After that there was no problem," Pratt said.



**MEN AND WOMEN NURSING STUDENTS** gather around a nursing faculty member (left) to discuss some specifics about their chosen profession. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

The salaries, working conditions, and status of nurses have improved significantly in recent years. "Salaries are better than they were five years ago. In fact, some of our graduates are making more money than the nursing faculty at RIC," Pratt said. Nurses at individual hospitals have pushed for administration to study and identify the responsibilities of nurses. More complete job descriptions have led to higher salaries, Pratt noted. Before job descriptions were written, nurses' salaries had not kept pace with other positions in the hospital, she said.

A recent advertising campaign by the National League for Nursing helped bolster the image of nurses. The theme of one ad was: "If all it takes to be a nurse is caring, than anyone could be a nurse." A 1-800 telephone number appearing on the screen generated many inquiries from people interested entering the field, Pratt said.

Doctor's attitudes toward nurses has also changed. "The younger physicians coming out of medical school have much more collegiality with nurses than when I graduated. They respect nurses' knowledge, because they know nurses have a lot of information which will help them treat the patient," Pratt said old-fashioned protocol required nurses to stand when a doctor came on the floor. It also stipulated that a physician entering an elevator could go to his floor first even if a nurse were already traveling to a different floor.

In addition to receiving more respect and better salaries, today's nurses serve on important hospital committees. "The nurse's input is (now) valued. She is the one who deals directly with patients.

Since year one there was never a nurse on a policy-making or ethics committee. Now I would say that every hospital in the state has a nurse on its major committees," Pratt said.

Nursing schools are actively working toward solutions to escalating health costs. A long range plan for nursing education in Rhode Island was developed by representatives from RIC, URI, CCRI, and the Rhode Island Office of Higher Education. The plan, presented this February to the Board of Governors, is currently under consideration.

The educators note that "the cost of health care continues to escalate at a rate that far exceeds that of inflation, and services are being priced out of the market for those who do not have private insurance or receive government assistance or who are not independently wealthy." The long range plan states that placing ceilings on reimbursement has, in many instances, only reduced the number of physicians willing to provide services.

The plan predicts that a worsening economy will make competition for tax dollars keener, and that health care programs for those most in need will increasingly come under attack. More individuals will be in jeopardy of losing benefits unless something is done, the report states.

The nursing profession has proposed a framework for change in a proposal called Nursing's Agenda for Health Care Reform. Included in this proposal is that suggestion that health care be administered in places that people can reach easily and feel comfortable in such as at schools, homes, places of work, and other community facilities. The plan also moves the emphasis of health care from treatment of illness to prevention of illness.

In Rhode Island, educators are proposing the use of nursing students and faculty in nurse-managed community clinics. These centers would care for both the general community and special need groups such as the homeless, the elderly, and teenage mothers. Programs would include health promotion, family planning, the development of appropriate lifestyles, and well-baby care. Nursing students would gain hands-on experience at the clinics and faculty could keep abreast of new equipment and nursing techniques. Other state universities including those in Kentucky, Tennessee, and Colorado have established such clinics, Pratt said.

In the area of education finance, a re-occurring issue which faces the three state schools is whether or not money could be saved by consolidating the nursing programs. The long range plan to the Board

of Governors addresses this issue, noting the similarities and differences between these schools' programs and students.

Nursing graduates from CCRI are either RNs with an associate degree or are LPNs. RIC and URI offer baccalaureate degrees in nursing. URI also has masters and doctoral-level nursing programs. Undergraduate programs produce nurses who can practice in a variety of different setting, the plan states. Graduate programs are intended to produce specialists in particular areas.

The most recent study into the possibility of consolidation was a Blue Ribbon Commission which submitted its recommendations to the state in 1987. It concluded that while there is some overlap, "Review of these programs has shown that sustained demand for nurses and the number of applicants to these programs warrant continuation of all three."

## *Nursing schools are actively working toward solutions to escalating health costs.*

*A long-range plan presented this February to the BOG, is currently under consideration.*

RIC and URI offer different climates for different students, the writers of the long range plan argue. Students enrolled in the RIC and URI bachelor's degree programs are considerably different. "RIC attracts students from the immediate geographic area including Providence. The students tend to be older, second-degree candidates who have transferred from the Community College and already have an RN," the plan states.

"In contrast, URI takes a much large number of out-of-state students (50% on average) and tends to have more students of the traditional college-age group. The university also attracts students who want to be part of a university environment," the plan states.



# Alum wants others to 'listen and learn from Generation X'

by Clare Eckert

They've been described as a "back-to-basics bunch" who wish life could be simpler. They are said to have grown up in a time of drugs, divorce and economic strain. Many have reared themselves and intend to avoid marriage until much later than their parents to avoid the heartache they felt as "latchkey kids."

They understand the economic importance of gaining a college education and they want more for less. They are considered passive in their approach to life, and demonstrate little-to-no-interest in climbing the corporate ladder right out of college.

The "they" are the relatively small baby-bust group, referred to as the "twentysomething" generation — 18-to-29-years old — who are reported to be "poorly understood by everyone from scholars to marketers," according to a July, 1990 *Time* magazine article.

Timothy J. Norton, who graduated with a B.A. in English from Rhode Island College in 1984, says the statistics and the research may all be well-founded. But he disagrees that the generation "has nothing to say" and demands "they should not be forgotten."

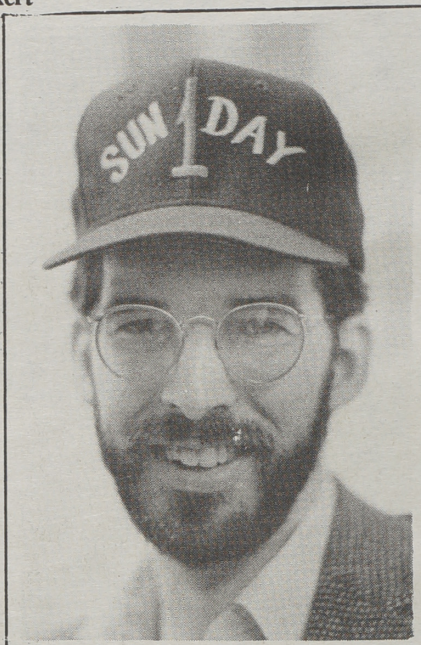
Norton blames the media for much of the passivity layed on the generation. And warns the politicians, decision-makers, and business leaders of the world to pay stricter attention to this age-group.

"These people are about to inherit the world and without an outlet to speak their minds and one that takes them seriously, they will become victims instead of explorers," said Norton, who received his master's degree in English from the University of Rhode Island.

The 31-year-old freelance writer and part-time teacher, has come up with an idea that he hopes will fill the media "hole" and expose "this demographic population being neglected" to the masses.

Starting with his alma mater, Norton has organized his first public forum, composed of six RIC students, to discuss "how the media has misdefined the generation of college students," titled, "Generation X: The Forgotten Demographic."

As producer/director of a local access cable talk show, *One-Sunday*, and along with his partner, RIC alum, John Geoghegan, Class of 1991, he plans to televise the discussion in association with



TIMOTHY J. NORTON

North-Nook Productions during his 4 p.m. timeslot on the statewide interconnect sometime in late April or early May. (The exact date was unavailable at the time of publication because of the RISDIC hearings.)

Norton's belief that the "twentysomething" generation has been forgotten runs deep. "College-age adults are the single most group that are ignored by political pollster and the national press," he laments. "They would rather consign them to an identity than to explore their thoughts."

He will tape the show, Monday, April 13, between 8:30 and 9:30 a.m. in Horace Mann, room 193. The College community is invited to attend and participate. A moderator will be walking through the audience encouraging people to speak out, Norton said.

The six RIC student-panelists are, Matthew Flynn, Robin Nadeau, Suzanne Miller, Jeff Fiedler, Philip Murtha and David Pridham. Norton said he has already received approval from Salve Regina University in Newport to tape a show next semester and says that Brown University is also interested.

"There are some brilliant young college age students around," he says. "My hope is that this first show at RIC is the start of a national forum for college students." Norton said he will approach the National Endowment for the Humanities and find corporate funding to travel to colleges and universities to promote the concept.

## ★ ENROLLMENT

(continued from page 1)

— shows the percentage of self-reported minority group members has increased again this year and now stands at 10 percent as compared to 8.6 percent last year.

However, the majority of new freshmen continues to be white, female, first-generation college students, commuting from local communities. Most are 18 years of age and are from predominately middle class families of Roman Catholic background.

### The headcount is up

The headcount is up 488 students or 5.2 percent compared to last year's enrollment at this time.

Richard W. Prull, acting director of Institutional Research and Planning, notes that the College's spring headcount "has always decreased slightly compared to the previous fall's level, but for the first time this spring enrollment is actually slightly higher (up 20 students or 0.2 percent). Prull says this is due both to higher retention and new students enrolling in spring.

And, the current full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment of 6,798 has set a new spring record.

"Over the past five years, overall headcount enrollment has increased 25.8 percent and FTE enrollment 27.2 percent," says Prull.

A breakdown of enrollment to undergraduate and graduate categories finds the undergraduate increasing to an all-time spring semester high of 7,600, up 5.3 percent over last spring's previous high of 7,216, while the graduate enrollment increased 4.9 percent, from 2,109 to 2,213.

### Entering freshmen profile

The entering freshmen profile notes that there are signs that the College's freshmen are gradually becoming less homogeneous in terms of their background characteristics.

The percentage of self-reported minority group members now stands at 10 percent while the percentage of non-native English speaking students in the freshman class increased from 7.5 percent last year to 8.7 percent this fall.

"While these changes are small," says Prull, "they are more than likely the beginning of a trend toward more diversity in the freshman classes entering the College, a change which has been forecasted by demographers to affect higher education in the 1990s and beyond."

The self-identified minority group members with the greatest representation this year are African-American, 3.2 percent, and Asian American/Oriental, 2.6 percent.

Almost five percent identify themselves as "other." Based on the racial/ethnic categories used in the survey and other College enrollment data, it appears likely that this group is composed predominately of Hispanic and Cape Verdian students, according to the report.

Reasons given most often for attending RIC continue to be reported as "low tuition" (54 percent) and "good academic reputation" (49 percent).

The next two most important reasons for choosing RIC are "wanted to live near home" (35 percent) and "graduates get good jobs" (33 percent).

### Other highlights

Other highlights of interest include:

- RIC was the first-choice school for 66 percent;
- 95 percent of the freshmen expect to obtain at least a bachelor's degree at the College while 36 percent plan to get an advanced degree at RIC;
- Like their counterparts nationally, the primary reason cited for deciding to go to college was to "get a better job;"
- As with past freshmen surveys RIC students consistently rate themselves lower than their peers nationwide in terms of abilities with one exception: RIC students rated themselves higher than their peers on "artistic ability;"
- The percentages of RIC freshmen reporting average high school grades of B through A-plus increased again this fall, reaching the highest point since 1984;
- 63 percent of the RIC freshmen report that they are "middle-of-the-road" in political orientation compared to 54 percent of the students nationwide.

## Art teachers display their work

Rhode Island Art Teachers Association, whose members teach art in both public and private schools, had an exhibit of members' work at the Rhode Island School of Design this month.

Comprised of about 50 pieces done in a range of different media, the exhibit marked the fifth time that the association's annual show has been hosted at the RISD art museum.

Members of the association serve on state and local committees in an effort to further the growth of art education programs in Rhode Island schools, and sponsor various art activities including scholastic art awards, Youth Art Month and the Rhode Island Distinguished Merit Program.

## American Theatre Festival cites Perry

Elaine F. Perry, an associate professor of theatre at Rhode Island College, has been cited by the American College Theatre Festival for her continued excellence in ACTF activities.

Perry, the New England chairperson of ACTF, an organization with which she has been involved since 1978, was presented the Kennedy Center Medallion in recognition of her "contribution to theatre in New England" in ceremonies Saturday, Feb. 29, at this year's festival site at Fairfield University in Connecticut.

Festival XXIV ran from Feb. 27 to March 1.

Perry said four RIC theatre students competed for the Irene Ryan acting scholarship and one of those made the finals with 15 others from around the country. She is Marilyn Brown, a candidate from a RIC show last spring. Brown graduated last spring.

Through the years, RIC has had a number of regional winners in the theatre festivals and two individual national winners, one for costume design and one Irene Ryan scholarship for acting. In addition, the College has had two of its productions re-mounted for presentation to a national audience at the Kennedy Center, *The Robber Bridegroom* and a student-written play, *Mind Binder*.



ELAINE F. PERRY

Perry has been involved in every aspect of ACTF activities, having served as vice chair for three years prior to becoming chairperson. She has adjudicated theatre productions in all six New England states and run adjudication workshops as well.

Perry resides in Cranston with her husband, Dr. Eugene H. Perry, RIC professor emeritus in political science.