



WHAT'S NEWS

AT RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE

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Six to receive honorary degrees

College to bestow over 1,000 degrees at 1999 commencement exercises

by Shelly Murphy
What's News Editor

More than 1,000 Rhode Island College undergraduate and graduate students will receive their diplomas during the 1999 commencement exercises. Once again this year, the esplanade in front of the New Building will burgeon with activity and excitement as an anticipated 10,000 or more attendees — undergraduates, their friends and families, and faculty, staff and friends of the College — gather to celebrate the graduates' accomplishments.

Honorary degree recipient and staunch advocate for higher education, Sen. Jack F. Reed will deliver the undergraduate commencement address at the exercises which are scheduled for Saturday, May 22, beginning at 9:30 a.m.

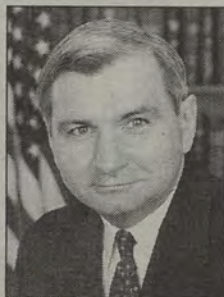
About 300 graduate students and their guests will listen to remarks by Alan Shawn Feinstein who is receiving an Honorary Doctorate of Pedagogy and will deliver the address at the graduate commencement exercises scheduled for Thursday, May 20, beginning at 5:30 p.m. in the New Building.

Among the students accepting diplomas at the graduate commencement exercises will be the first two graduates of the joint doctorate in education pro-

gram offered collaboratively by RIC and the University of Rhode Island. (See story, p. 3.)

Feinstein is a nationally-known philanthropist and humanitarian whose commitment to positive change — particularly with respect to service learning education programs and the alleviation of world hunger — has become legendary. His \$500,000 contribution in 1994 provided the funding to establish the joint RIC/URI doctorate program in education.

With an academic background in both journalism and education with his bachelors degree from Boston University and his masters degree from Boston State College, Feinstein began his career as a public school teacher in Massachusetts and Rhode Island and



JACK REED

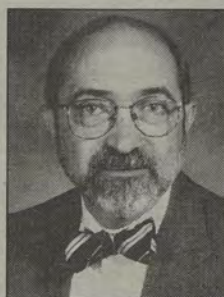


ALAN SHAWN
FEINSTEIN

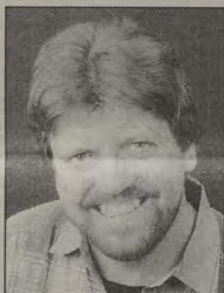
later founded an English school in Thailand. He authored a novel and several books for children.

Entering the world of business and finance, he established a financial advisory newsletter in 1974 with \$500 in savings; this newsletter and other financial advisory publications became among the most widely circulated of their kind in the world, reaching a readership of over half a million. It is the revenue derived from these enterprises, which he closed in 1996 to devote his full attention to philanthropy, which serve as the basis of the Feinstein Foundation.

To date, it is estimated that he has contributed more than \$50 million to charitable causes. Some of his better-known beneficiaries include the World Hunger Program at Brown University, the



DAVID CAPALDI



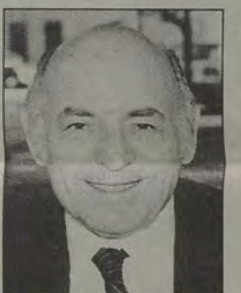
OSCAR EUSTIS

Feinstein International Famine Center at Tufts University, the Youth Hunger Brigade program, the Congressional Hunger Center, the Feinstein High School for Community and Public Service in Providence, the Enriching America Program, and the Feinstein Institute for Public Service, among many others. Of special significance to the College is his 1996 gift of \$1 million to endow the College's School of Education and Human Development, which was renamed to honor its benefactor. This gift remains the largest private contribution in the history of the institution.

Reed, the undergraduate speaker will receive a Honorary Doctorate of Public Service. The product of a working class



HELEN FORMAN



GEORGE WEIN

See Commencement, page 11

Where are they now...?

"Diverse" is the only word to describe the artwork of Dennis and

Joanne (Crowell) DeLomba, Classes of 1976 and 1978 respectively.

They met in the art classes of their favorite teachers: RIC professors Harriet Brisson, Sam Ames and Henry Pinardi. They explored almost every offering of the department: ceramics, textiles, sculpture, drawing, painting.

After graduation they worked

together in bronze-casting foundries and ceramics studios.



Marrying in 1981, they lived in "the student ghettos" on Federal and Smith hills.

But in 1984 they set up their own business in a circa 1740 ("mildly haunted") farmhouse in western Cranston. Today, with sons Wes, 3, and Wyatt, 6, they seem to be living an artist's dream.

In a barn studio next to the house, they work on ceramics,

See Where are they now?, page 8

Retention Task Force shares strategy in Project REACH

by Shelly Murphy
What's News Editor

The Retention Task Force, commissioned by Rhode Island College President John Nazarian in 1997 to explore issues regarding student satisfaction and success at RIC, shared its findings and recommendations with the campus community recently.

The goal of the task force was twofold: to research current policies and practices that would in some way impact student attrition; and to design, plan, and develop an integrated campus-wide program aimed at increasing student retention, strengthening student identification with the College, and providing the tools and resources for faculty and staff to successfully guide all students toward graduation.

The task force's report introduces Project REACH: Retention Efforts: Advising, Communicating, Helping — "a comprehensive program written strictly for Rhode Island College and aimed at enhancing academic and administrative systems already in place, or developing new programs

that need implementation."

The report includes nine specific recommendations and a host of initiatives to address the issue of retention. At a recent open forum for the campus community, members of the task force identified the top priorities as: quality advising, course availability, and consistent campus-wide dedication of efforts to help students achieve their potential.

"Perhaps the most telling and encouraging discovery about the campus climate during the investigation was the high level of interest demonstrated by the entire campus community. Everyone showed interest in either trying to understand what contributes to a student's decision to drop out of college, or to help in identifying what best practices to implement in order to 'save' a student," writes Clare Eckert, Retention Task Force chair.

"We need to foster and sustain that level of commitment and enthusiasm in order to help our students succeed and to realize their potential," said Eckert, special assistant to the president and director of news and public relations.

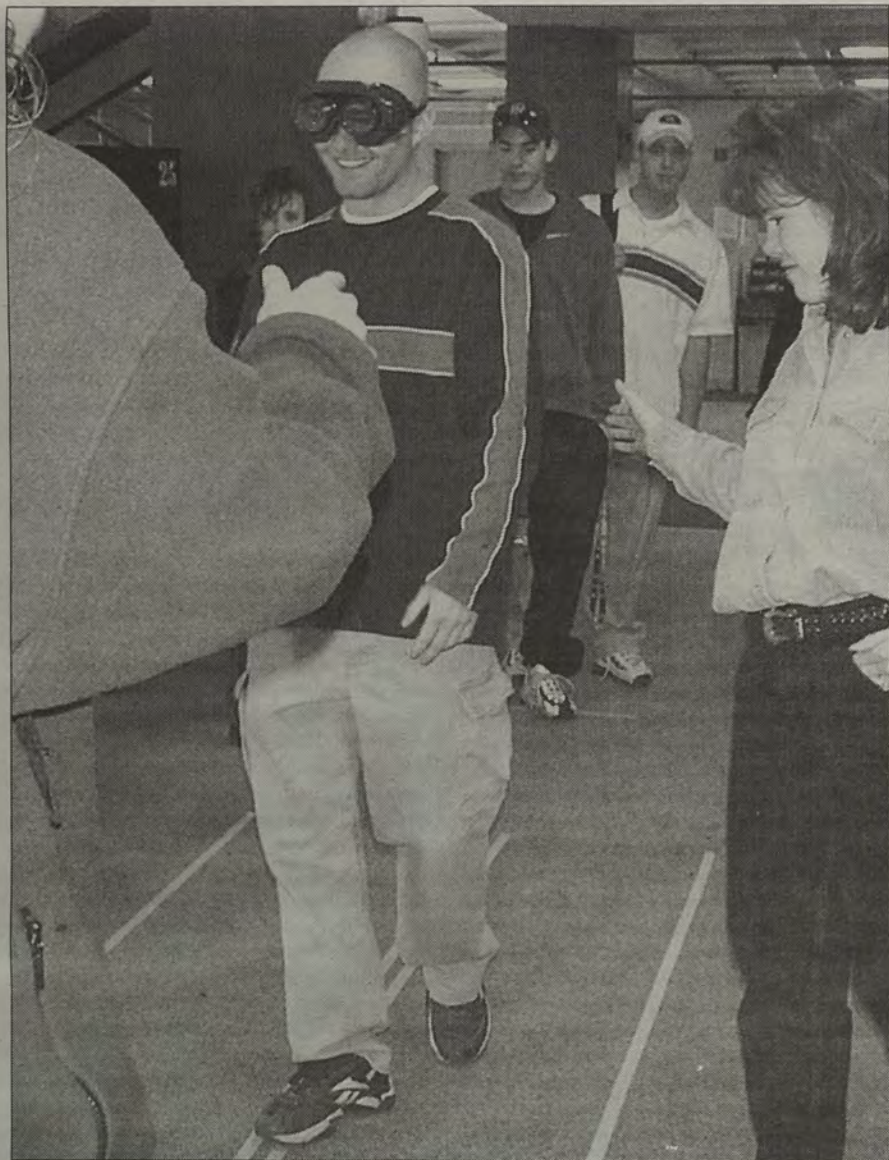
See Retention Task Force, page 8

The Way We Were...

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



SIXTIES SILLINESS: Alums who were at RIC in the 1960s may remember that in those days the junior class was the "sister class" of the freshmen. And along with helping the newcomers, the juniors dished out a little good-natured harassment. One tradition was that the walk from Roberts Hall to Craig-Lee Hall, which passes through the then-Student Union (now the Art Center), would be off-limits to freshmen at certain times. So, above, we see two juniors in paper helmets patrolling the walk to keep freshmen out. (file photo)



WALKING A STRAIGHT LINE: RIC Senior Ben Libbey tries to walk a straight line wearing special goggles that make the wearer feel like he or she has a blood alcohol level of .08 to .1. Students tried the goggles in Donovan Dining Center on April 6 as part of National Alcohol Screening Day. In addition, students could also attend an educational presentation, fill out a questionnaire and talk to a health professional about alcohol misuse. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

Focus on Faculty and Staff

Terrence M. Adams, assistant professor of mathematics, was involved in two theoretical presentations at the American Mathematical Society meeting at the University of Florida in March. His talk, "Finitary Reconstruction of a Measure Preserving Transformation — Preliminary Report," was written jointly with Andrew B. Nobel of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Adams also co-authored "Infinite Ergodic Index Does Not Imply Power Weak Mixing for Infinite Measure Preserving Transformations — Preliminary Report" jointly with Nathaniel Friedman of the SUNY-Albany math department and Cesar E. Silva of the Williams College math department.

David C. Woolman, professor in the curriculum resources center, presented a paper entitled "Schooling for Civility: Conflict Resolution Programs as a Response to Youth Violence" at the 40th international conference of the World Education Fellowship held at the University of Tasmania in Launceston, Australia, Dec. 30 to Jan. 4, 1999. The theme of the conference, which was attended by 264 educators from 17 countries, was "Educating for a Better World: Vision to Action." His paper analyzed the causes and extent of youth violence, surveyed its effect on schools and introduced curriculum programs that build skills of non-

violent social interaction and community. A conference report with a reflection group summary by Woolman is published on the web at <http://www.users.bigpond.com/nick-baik/wef.html>. After the conference, Woolman traveled widely in Australia to study curriculum development in Aboriginal studies and press coverage of issues in Australian education.

Kristen K. Salemi, director of student activities, had her article "Establishing and Nurturing Partnerships in Campus Activities: Guidelines for Student Programmers" published in the March issue of *Campus Activities Programming*.

Salemi has made a number of presentations for National Association for Campus Activities and the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators and is also affiliated with the College Personnel Administrators of Rhode Island.

Richard Olmsted, professor of philosophy, presented a paper entitled "Inerrancy and the Miraculous" to the mid-western regional conference of the Society of Christian Philosophers. The meeting was held at Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wis., March 24-25.



EMPLOYMENT TRAINING: Lee Arnold, director of the R.I. Department of Labor and Training, looks over the shoulder of Richard Pistacchio, a worker dislocated by the closing of Quebecor Federated in Providence. Arnold was one of several officials who visited the Center for Management and Technology on April 7 to observe the Electronic Pre-press Skills Training Program. Arnold helped design the program. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

WHAT'S NEWS

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Director of News and Public Relations: Clare Eckert

Editor: Shelly Murphy

Associate Editor: George LaTour

Staff: Pauline McCartney, Word Processing Supervisor; Gordon E. Rowley, Photographer; Cynthia L. Sousa, Writer/Technical Assistant; Kimberly Sherman, Student Graphic Designer

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The Century in Retrospect – The 1920s

RICE replaces RINS

by Shelly Murphy
What's News Editor

In the final calendar year of the 20th century, What's News is providing a glimpse of the College from each decade. This is the third installment.

The 1920s were a time of regrouping and rebuilding for the country and the world following the War Years with high hopes for the future. The first year of the decade marked a new era in Rhode Island too, specifically in regards to education.

In April 1920, the state General Assembly acted to change the name of the Rhode Island Normal School to the Rhode Island College of Education (RICE). It was more than just a name change; it was a recognition of the school's record of work and of the importance of higher education for teachers that is taught from the teaching viewpoint, according to an article in *The Providence Journal* dated May 2, 1920.

The elevation of the institution from a normal school to a college, enabled the College to expand its program from the two and a half year teaching certificate program to a four-year college degree program and to eventually serve a greater number of students. In the *Journal* article, Commissioner of Public Schools Walter E. Ranger noted that



STUDENT COUNCIL FROM 1929

the availability of a higher education for teachers would help attract more qualified students to the profession, which was in the midst of a major shortage yet still paid salaries that in many cases did not keep up with the rising cost of living.

"The teacher follows a calling just as the soldier who went to war followed a calling. Those men left good paying jobs to answer the call that brought them, in money, only \$30 a

month. I have noticed that the higher the call for service, the less pay there is for it. The teacher's service is one of them. The teachers are serving the cause of making our future citizens the kind the country needs," Ranger said.

He added, "There is a growing desire among teachers for higher education. Many who leave high school have to think about earning

their living and have to give up the college education they yearn for. They have to start right in training for their life work. Those to whom this a necessity go to the Normal School. But now they will have a real college where they can get the equivalent of a college education presented from teachers viewpoint," Ranger said.

Tuition for the four-year program was free, even for non-residents of the state, providing the students taught in Rhode Island schools for a minimum of two years after graduation. The change also elevated the head of the Normal School, John L. Alger, from Principal Alger to President Alger.

Other milestones for the College in the 1920s included:

- the opening of the new Henry Barnard School in 1928. Among the features of the new \$600,000 school was a unique demonstration room — a classroom with balconies for student teachers to sit in and observe the class and instruction methods with minimal disruption for the students.
- the official launching of the student newspaper, *The Anchor*.

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

Joint RIC/URI PhD in Education —

First two graduates of program to receive degrees at RIC

by George LaTour
What's News Associate Editor

"I'm very proud of the students we have in the program. I think they will make excellent educators," says Joan I. Glazer, professor of elementary education and co-director of the joint Rhode Island College/ University of Rhode Island PhD in Education program.

She is talking about the 32 active program participants in general and the first two graduates of the three-year program in particular.

They are Anne Hird of Providence and Helen "Tina" Barboza of Bristol.

Both have completed the three years of study and one year for preparation of their dissertation and have opted to receive their doctoral degrees at the RIC graduate commencement Thursday, May 20.

"The program is designed for scholar-practitioners, people who can do research and theory in education and apply it to solving real problems in real settings," Glazer says about the joint program which was initially agreed upon in 1991 by RIC President John Nazarian and URI President Robert L. Carothers.

As full and equal partners, their institutions would offer the first doctoral degree in education in the state.

It got under way in 1995 after receiving funding of \$500,000 from Rhode Island philanthropist Alan Shawn Feinstein.

Glazer says the proposal had

passed all the curriculum commitments at both institutions "but didn't have the money to start" until Feinstein's generous grant in 1994. The institutions agreed to pick up the cost of the program after that initial grant.

The program is run by a committee comprised of four RIC and four URI faculty with a co-director from each institution. The co-director at URI is Louis Heifetz.

In all respects, it functions as a single degree program with joint and equal program and administrative handling on the part of the two institutions. Students submit one application, pay one fee, file one set of materials for a program of study and one set of materials for taking the qualifying examination.

The equal partnership of the institutions is to be reflected on the diploma. In the space for the name of the institutions of higher education it proclaims: "The University of Rhode Island and Rhode Island College."

The degree ordinarily will be conferred at the graduation ceremony at the institution of the student's major professor, according to the agreement.

Hird and her husband, Jonathan, are the parents of 13-year-old twin

daughters, Erica and Alison. She received her bachelors degree in American civilization from Brown University in 1981 and her masters in library and information science at Simmons College in Boston in 1991.

She taught in the Providence elementary and middle school levels for three and half years; was director of a \$1.1 million grant from the Dewitt-Wallace Readers Digest Fund to revitalize Providence public school libraries, and was director of partnerships for the Public Education Fund in which she coordinated 40 school-business partnerships designed to promote each school's educational goals.

"I began to feel like I needed a stronger foundation in education," says Hird about her decision to get her PhD. "I didn't want to get to the point where my work responsibilities were out-distancing my education."

As part of her studies toward the PhD, she took "specialization courses" at MIT and the Harvard University Graduate School of Education "which was one of the things I liked...the flexibility of the RIC/URI program."

She has been working part-time since 1997 in the RIC Feinstein School of Education and Human Development as a special assistant



HELEN BARBOZA

to the dean.

After receiving her PhD, Hird will be looking for employment in academics and technology and looking at some alternative options in non-traditional areas in the K-12 arena.

One could say it's been a long run for Anne Hird, but she's used to that. In 1984 she crossed the finish line as the first American female runner in the Boston Marathon, coming in fourth place overall. In both 1980 and '84 she was a U.S. Olympic Trials qualifier.

Barboza and her husband, Benjamin, have two grown daughters, both married: Wendy Middendorf of Cincinnati and Sharon Whitehead of New York.

She received her bachelors degree in history education at the University of New Hampshire and her masters degree in reading at RIC.

A classroom teacher for 20 years in Warren and Barrington and principal in Barrington for six, she just started a new position as assistant superintendent at the Bristol-Warren Regional Schools.

Feeling the RIC/URI doctorate in education program is a strong one, Barboza says the "thing that made it the strongest was the cohort approach."

In other words, she explains, the same group of students moved together through the core courses, "so we have a real group identity."

There were nine PhD candidates in her group, a group which started out with 14, "and Anne and I are the first two to graduate."

Private Support

Marguerite M. Brown, Director



News from the Office of Development,
the Rhode Island College Foundation and the Office of Alumni Affairs

Gala raises \$20,000; Alumni schedules class reunions; Phonathon continues

Kudos to this year's Rhode Island College Foundation Gala Committee led by Secretary of State James R. Langevin, Class of 1990, honorary chair; Corrine Calise Russo, Class of 1985, chair; Theresa Howe, co-chair; and Lou Marciano, Class of 1960, auction chair, on a festive and successful evening April 9 at the Providence Biltmore.

The 230 guests, entertained by the Ray Edwards Orchestra, gathered to pay tribute to Foundation honoree, Joseph A. Neri Jr., Class of 1969, who was also marking his retirement after 30 years of service with the Johnston School Department. Neri received citations from Gov. Lincoln A. Almond, Lt. Gov. Charles Fogarty, U.S. Rep. Robert Weygand, the Rhode Island House of Representatives and Senate, and Providence Mayor Vincent A. Cianci.

Lively bidding on over 100 donated auction items contributed to a record breaking \$20,000 in net proceeds to support honors scholarships at the College.

These scholarships are awarded to incoming freshmen, transfer students, and upper classmen who are enrolled in the honors program and continue to meet high academic standards during their tenure at the College.

Support from the Gala and the Annual Golf Tournament, scheduled for Aug. 10, 1999 at the Warwick Country Club, assist the Foundation in making \$45,000 in grants for these scholarships during the academic year.

Next year marks the 35th anniversary of the Foundation. The Gala in 2000 will honor all of those individuals who have contributed to the Foundation's development and

growth over the past three decades.

Class Reunions scheduled

Ellie O'Neill, director of alumni

a f f a i r s , announces that there will be a total of 18 class reunions held between now and the end of the year. These include:

- **Class of 1932**—May 4, Wannamoisett Country Club

- **Class of 1935**—May 11, Ramada Inn, Seekonk

- **Class of 1938**—May 11, Larchwood Inn, Wakefield

- **Class of 1949**—Golden Anniversary Class, May 21-22

- **Class of 1943**—June 3, President's House, on campus

- **Class of 1940**—Sept. 10, Providence Marriott

- **Class of 1934**—Oct. 14, Crown Plaza Hotel (this is an additional reunion for this class)

In addition, the Alumni Office has organized a special celebration on campus for three of our most "senior" reunion classes. College President John Nazarian, Class of 1954, and the Alumni Association will host the members of the Class of 1934 (65th Reunion), the Class of 1939 (60th Reunion), and the Class of 1944 (55th Reunion), at a combined lun-

cheon on Friday, June 4, at the President's House on campus.

The reunion classes of "fours and nines" — 1954, 1959, 1964, 1969,

College. If you have not received your copy, or find that we made an error, please contact the Alumni Office. Corrections will appear in the next issue of the *Alumni Magazine*, currently under production.

Alumni Honorees

You should also have received the four-panel brochure highlighting this year's alumni honorees. Reserve the evening of May 12 for this central event of our year. Tickets (\$30 per person) may be reserved by contacting the Alumni Office by phone at 456-8086; fax at 456-8851; or via email at alumni@ric.edu.

Reminder: The spring Annual Fund phone-a-thon continues through May 6.

An open invitation: The campus is in full bloom, and construction and renovations are proceeding at a rapid pace. Take a few moments to visit the campus, and enjoy the ambience of the commencement season.

Stop by Alumni House or the Development Office. We'd be happy to arrange a tour.

This is our last Private Support column for the current academic year. See you in September!



College President John Nazarian, Audrey Baptista and Ronald A. Baptista, Class of 1988, president of Rhode Island Blue Cross Blue Shield converse at the 10th annual RIC Foundation Gala. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

1974, 1979, 1984, and 1989 — will be holding reunions on Homecoming Weekend, Oct. 1 and 2.

Information for all reunion celebrations may be obtained by contacting the Alumni House at 456-8086.

Annual Report of Gifts

By now you should have all received your copy of the 1998 *Annual Report of Gifts*. We are very proud of this 52-page publication that highlights the generosity of our alumni and friends in support of the

10th Annual Foundation Gala memories



SILENT AUCTION: Considering a bid for a Degas print are (from left) Corinne Calise Russo, Class of 1985 and gala chair; and committee members Mary Juskalian and Jeanne Aubin Rose, Class of 1962. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)



TAKING A BREAK: Lou Marciano, a Foundation board member and the chair of the auction committee for the Gala, enjoys the festivities with his wife Gloria. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

Rose Butler Browne Award winner —

Social work grad overcomes obstacles for herself, others

by George LaTour
What's News Associate Editor

A 34-year-old African-American woman, a senior majoring in social work at Rhode Island College, believes — as did the late Rose Butler Browne — that she must overcome obstacles to better herself and her family.

Angela A. Downing of Fall River, a single mother of three young children who has worked to better her and her children's lives as well as the lives of scores of lower-income women at Dorcas Place, has been named the winner of this year's Rose Butler Browne Award at RIC.

She will receive the award at the annual Cap and Gown Convocation May 5 and with it a stipend to help further her education.

The award is named after Browne, who demonstrated outstanding leadership in professional and community affairs during her lifetime. She earned a masters degree in 1919 from the Rhode Island State Normal School, now Rhode Island College, and went on to obtain a doctoral degree in education from Harvard University in 1939, becoming the first African-American woman to do so.

In her autobiography, *Love My Children*, Browne attributed her belief that she "must overcome obstacles to better herself and her family" to her great-grandmother, Charlotte Ann Lindsay, who worked six years to buy the freedom of a Southern slave whom she had married, and then moved the family to Boston for a chance to better themselves.

Downing attributes much of her own success to the support of her mother, Sondra Yarbough, her sister, Marla Valois, who also is graduating this spring from RIC with a degree

in social work, and her late grandmother, Angie Hayden with whom she "spent a lot of time."

"At one point I was ready to give



ANGELA A. DOWNING

up and she encouraged me to go on," attests Downing, who felt discouraged in high school to the point that she quit. She later obtained her General Equivalency Diploma (GED) and then enrolled in a local community college and "found little support there."

She terms the obstacles (and those who put them there) in her life and in the lives of others she helps as "blockers." She'll not be discouraged, she insists.

She came to RIC, an institution she found "culturally diverse and very accommodating."

"It (RIC) really helped me to survive and thrive," she says. Instead of blockers, she found people anxious to help.

Downing started off last September as an intern at Dorcas Place, an adult literacy center in Providence whose clients have a low level of literacy, and shortly thereafter was hired as a full-time employee in support services.

A majority of the women are lower income and get some form of government assistance.

"We support them and help them get through any blockers they face in the community or in their personal lives so they can continue their education," Downing explains. Some of them are in abusive relationships as well and "we try to help them overcome that. They learn how to problem-solve and move on."

Downing says she plans to continue to work at Dorcas Place after her RIC graduation while pursuing a masters degree in social work at RIC. After earning a masters degree, she would like to be an advocate for women in her home state of Massachusetts.

"I always wanted to be in a position to advocate for people in my community," she says.

Her family, assures Downing, is very proud of her and her sister Marla for having successfully completed their college studies.

On commencement day Saturday, May 22, when Downing marches across the stage to receive her diploma from College President John Nazarian, she would like nothing better than to have her 9-year old daughter, Julia, walk with her on stage.

You see, explains Downing, little Julia feels that all the while her Mom was at college she and her sister and brother waited. It was as if "we went to school, too!"

After commencement, Downing's brother, Curtis Lopes, will drive the family in a limo from RIC to his house and a celebration, of course.

Marketing professor follows his dream

It's difficult to tell whether it's the product of a mid-life crisis or an ingenious way of giving his students a practical lesson, but Prof. Stephen Ramocki has just released a CD on which he sings 10 of his own songs.

"It's something I've wanted to do since I finished my PhD in 1979," says Ramocki, who teaches in the Department of Management and Technology. He has dabbled in free verse since his own college days. When he was about 32, he tried to find a musician or group to perform his songs, with no success.

"I didn't know the difference between a C and an F sharp myself," Ramocki admits. So he took guitar and voice lessons and practiced "thousands of hours." Then, at 52, he went into the Johnston recording studio of one of his student's, Ben Mesiti, and cut the album.

"I figured it was now or never... I think almost everyone has something he or she always wanted to do — a dream — that is outside their normal sphere of activities, but many never act on it," muses Ramocki, who emphasizes the power of creativity in his marketing and consumer behavior courses.

"Creativity always contains the element of risk, the risk of failure," he adds. But Ramocki isn't hoping to hit the Top Ten. Success for him will be "breaking even" by recouping the money he spent to produce 1,000 CDs.

Ramocki not only wrote and performed the songs for "Feeling Footsteps in the Snow," he accompanies himself on guitar, took the cover photographs and acted as his own producer, enlisting Mesiti, a senior and the owner of Music City Records, and Charlie Allsworth of the publications office who volunteered his time to design the cover and liner notes.

After the album was recorded, Ramocki sent the tape to Europadisk, Ltd. in New York to have the disks made.

Most of the songs were composed from 1976 to 1992. He describes them as "deep" with a strong existential bent, the result of his own philosophy which, he says, was strongly influenced by writers such as Albert Camus and John Updike. In the album's liner notes Ramocki writes: "...The songs reflect behavioral realities that occur in the mundane affairs of man, with lyrics that force

inescapable self confrontation...."

In style the songs are reminiscent of the folk songs of the 1960s and '70s. Titles include "Struggling to Stay Glued," "The Honest Man," and "Life's a Word Game of the Mind."



It's little wonder that Ramocki credits the influence of Bob Dylan and Maine folk singer Gordon Bok.

Ramocki has offered the album to the College's chapter of the American Marketing Association, as a fund raiser. He is advisor to the club, which currently has about 34 members. The album will be modestly priced at \$5. The club will keep 50% of sales receipts, while the rest will go to cover Ramocki's costs. He admits that he has broken a primary rule of marketing: that one first identifies the market then supplies the product.

But he demonstrates another valuable lesson, sometimes you just have to follow your dream.



What's News

A. John Roche Memorial lecture

Prof. Lawrence Buell of Harvard University will deliver the inaugural A. John Roche Memorial Lecture Tuesday, April 27, at 12:30 p.m. in Alumni Lounge, Roberts Hall.

The lecture honors A. John Roche, essayist and award-winning professor of English at Rhode Island College until his death March 9. The College community also is invited to a memorial service for Roche Friday, May 7, at 2 p.m. in Gage Hall auditorium.

Buell, a distinguished scholar of American literature, will speak on the topic of claims about U.S. poetic distinctiveness with special reference to Whitman, Dickinson and Gwendolyn Brooks.

The lecture is being sponsored by the English department with support from the College Lectures Committee. For more information, call 456-8028.

Master planner to present

Rhode Island College has engaged the services of a campus master planner to make recommendations regarding the integration of the East Campus, pedestrian and vehicular traffic, location of academic and administrative functions, landscaping, and campus signage. The planner, Goody, Clancy and Associates, has conducted an initial analysis of the issues, talked to a number of people on campus, and has made some preliminary recommendations.

Representatives from Goody, Clancy and members of the administration will be sharing these recommendations with the campus community on Thursday, April 29 from 10 a.m. to noon in Whipple 102. They will be seeking comments and suggestions as well as answering questions.

National certification for teachers

Informational meetings regarding National Board for Professional Teaching Standards Certification for teachers will be held Thursday, May 6, at 4 p.m. in the Forman Center at Rhode Island College and Wednesday, May 12, at 4 p.m. in the Galanti Lounge in the University of Rhode Island library.

Attendees will gain information on national board certification itself and funding and support that is available for teachers interested in pursuing this professional development opportunity.

A statewide initiative will provide funding to pay the application fee for a limited number of teachers in the 1999-2000 school year. Information on a course designed for teachers interested in national board certification will also be available. The course will be held June 5, 12 & 19 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. through the RIC office of continuing education. The fee for the course, which offers one graduate credit, is \$75.

For more information, contact Kathleen Swann, facilitator for National Board Certification at 401-222-4600, ext. 2215 or via email at kaswann@worldnet.att.net.

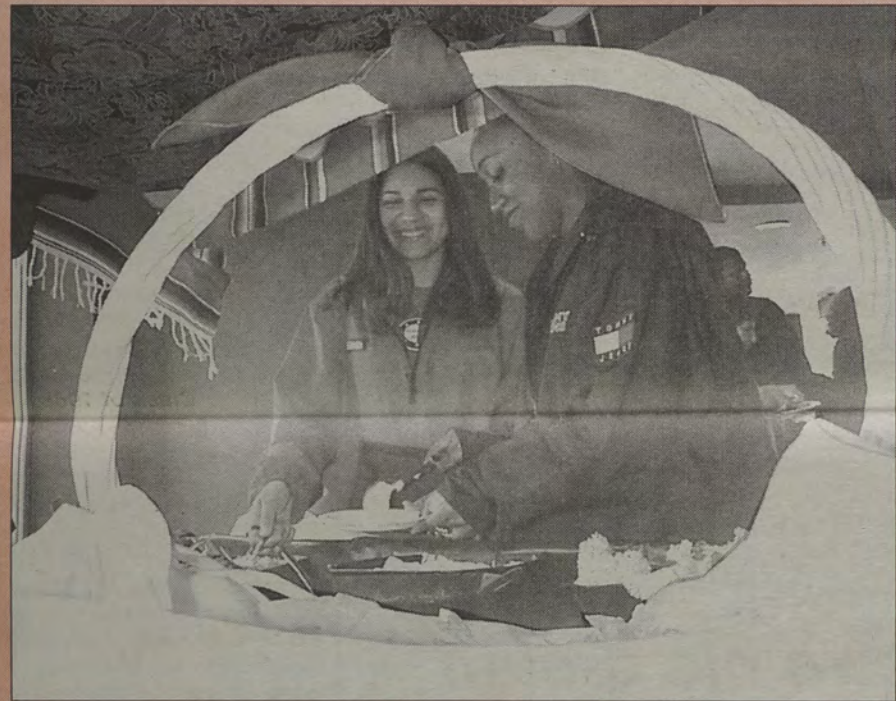
Seven-hundred attend Admissions Office Fiesta!

There was a fiesta on April 4 at Rhode Island College. It was the Admissions Office's "Spring Party for Accepted Students" and about 700 people turned out for the event. The South-of-the-Border theme was carried through the decorations and food (make-your-own-tacos) in Donovan Dining Center and even to the T-shirts worn by the student guides.

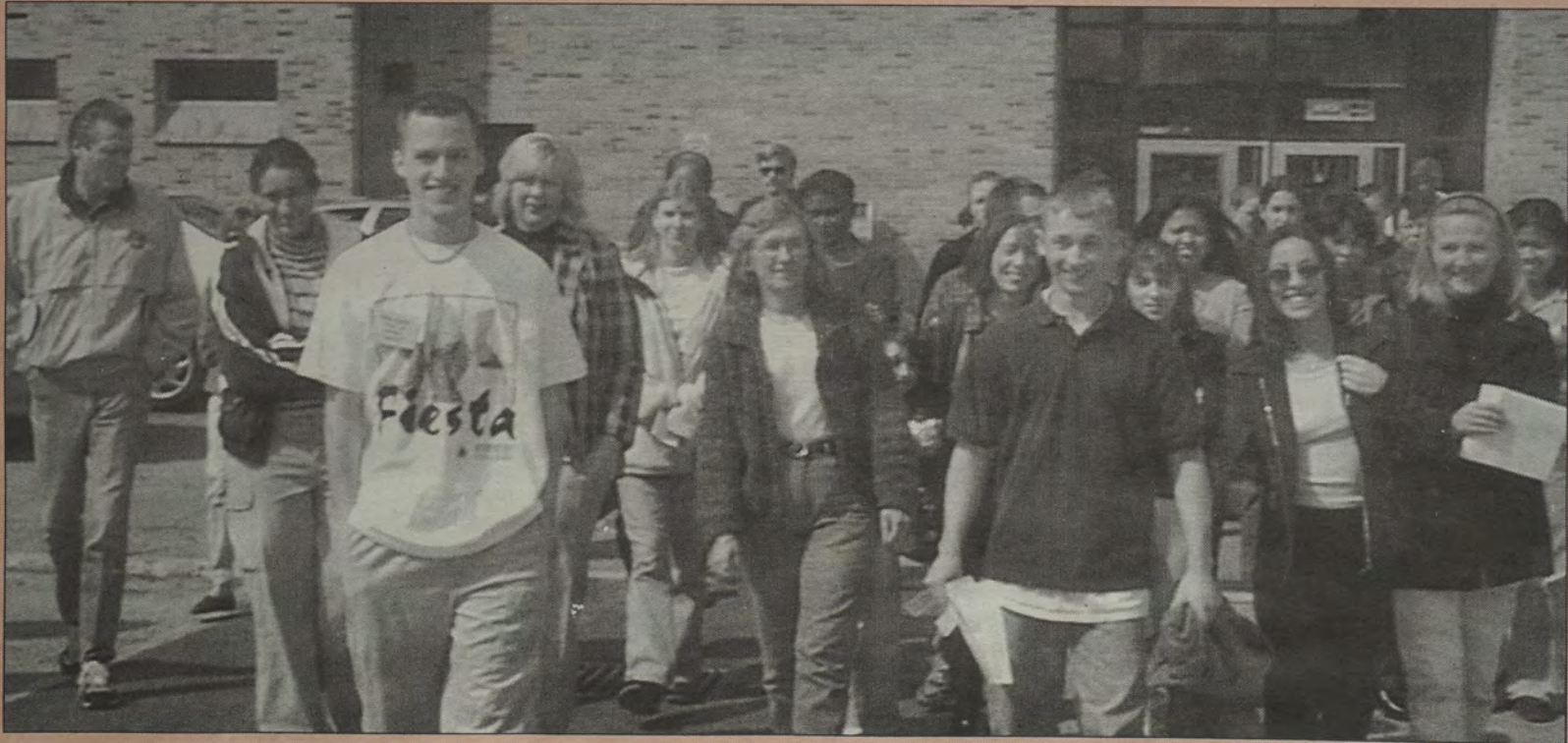
For most of the high school seniors in attendance, it was a second look at the College; many had also visited during the College's Open House last fall. It was another opportunity to see the facilities and talk with RIC students, faculty and staff members before making that all-important final decision on which college to attend. A number of visitors elected to pay their deposits and get an immediate RIC I.D. and, as a bonus, a "fiesta" T-shirt.

Here is a look at some of the activities.

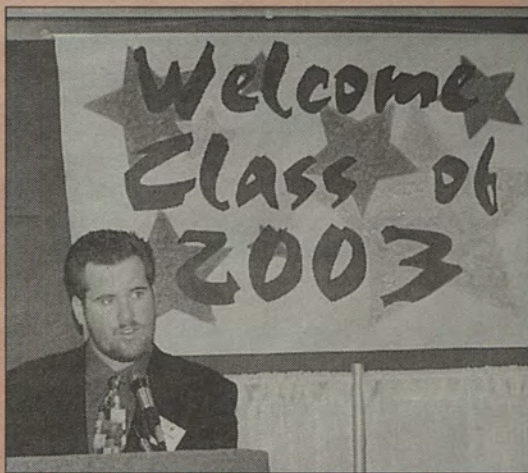
Photos and text by
Gordon E. Rowley



A MEXICAN SMORGASBORD: Framed by a basket of corn chips, Jennifer Lora (left) and Maghnee Charles, seniors at Mt. Pleasant High School in Providence, design their own tacos.



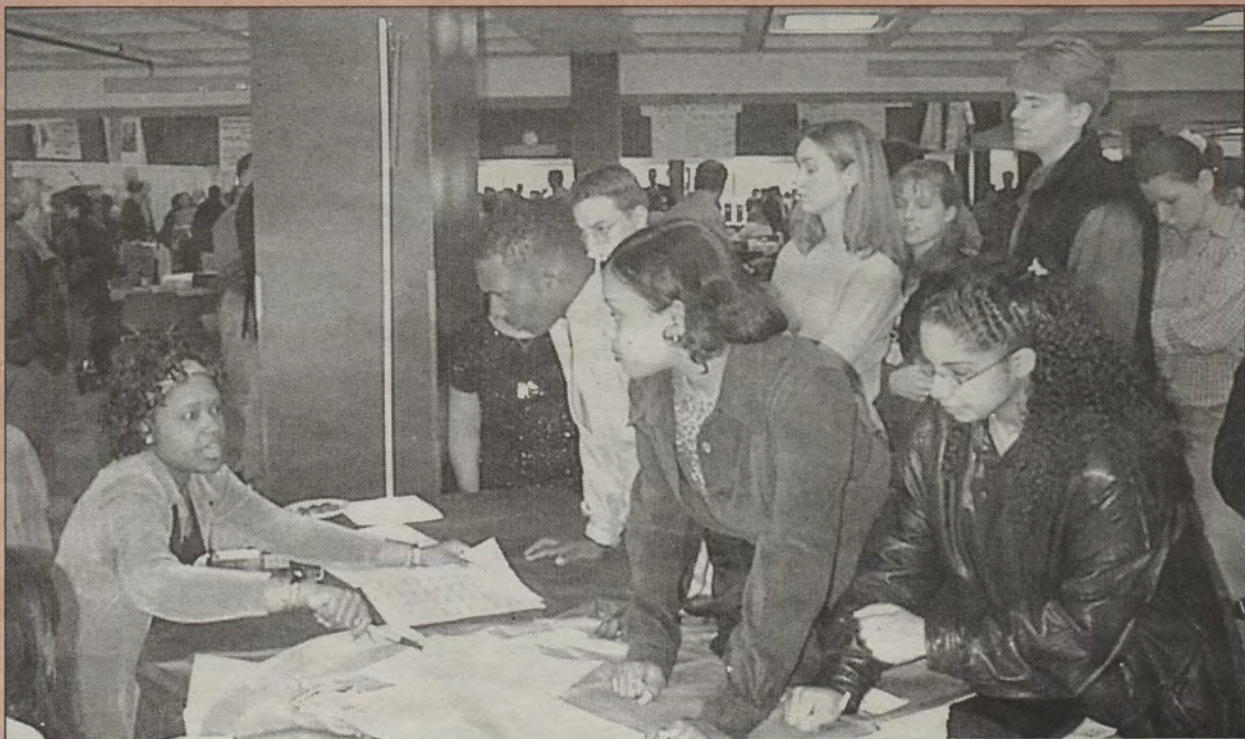
Above: IN THE MOOD: Cara Richeal tries on a sombrero charro to get in the fiesta spirit. **At left: ON THE ROAD AGAIN:** Kevin Clarke, a resident assistant in Thorp Hall, takes visitors on a campus tour. **At right: MAKING THE DECISION:** Accepted students line up at the table of admissions graduate aide Jarso Jallah, Class of 1998, to pay their deposits.



Above: RIC SOPHOMORE Michael Waterman, a member of the Outdoor Activities Adventure Club, who lives on campus, urges potential students to get involved in non-academic student activities. **At left: THE FINANCES:** An unidentified parent talks to Janet O'Connor, associate director of the Office of Financial Aid.



Left: SHOPPING STOP: Erin Quinlan, a senior at Pilgrim High School in Warwick, visits the Campus Store with her mother, Judi, RIC Class of 1968.



Retention Task Force report identifies opportunities

Continued from page 1

At the campus forum, Nazarian summarized the issue: "The College has to be consumer-friendly to students freshmen, transfer students, all students. That is not always the case. Not everybody is going to graduate. There are some students who just can't make it for whatever reason. But other students leave because they think no one cares."

"Retention is not just a matter of numbers, of students who graduate or do not," he added. "It's a matter of whether we are being successful in motivating and guiding these students to get an education and to become contributing citizens."

In introducing the report and its recommendations, Nazarian commended the diligent work of the members of the task force. Task force members were Sandra Enos, assistant professor of sociology; Ava Gist, recorder; Joan Glazer, professor of elementary education; Christopher Greene, elementary education; Robert Hogan, professor of English; Eleanor O'Neill, director of alumni affairs; Charles Owens, assistant professor of biology; Dolores Passarelli, director of academic support and information services and of career development; Richard Prull, director of institutional research and planning; and Holly Shadoian, director of admissions. Terry Riley-Wilcox, recorder/advisor in the Records Office, served as a vital resource for the task force.

A matter of priorities

Looking toward implementation and in response to concerns regarding related costs from participants at the forum, Nazarian noted, "There are some (recommendations) that don't cost additional money, but that we just aren't doing. Some things in there may cost money, but it's not necessarily a matter of additional resources. It's a question of where you put your priorities."

For example, he said, "Advising is part of everyone's job. Some do it very well; others don't. People who advise need to know the facts and be able to give advice that is helpful to the student. We hear too often that a student doesn't even think he or she has an advisor."

Advising is just one of the areas identified by the task force. "It was apparent from the onset that there is no single or simple solution to this issue," Eckert said, noting that the task force wholeheartedly concurs with the sentiment expressed by others who have studied this complex issue, such as the authors of the 1997 book, *Policies and Practices: A Focus on Higher Education Retention*, published by The American Association of State Colleges and Universities.

They concluded that, "Any campus wishing to improve its performance in student retention must make a long-term commitment to the endeavor and be prepared to change the campus climate and services to be responsive to its students' needs. There is no quick fix, nor is there any universal fix in student retention. Each institution must address its own special constituency and its special needs effectively."

Although the answer may not be

Retention Task Force recommendations

- We recommend that the College administration identify and support, through example, an on-going retention effort as a top priority in the management of the life of the College. And that a structure be established to guide the process and implementation of retention efforts.
- We recommend that the Creating a New Service Agenda workshops, started in the fall of 1997, be enhanced through further programming and training of campus personnel.
- We recommend that annual programs and program reviews, and other means of tracking student satisfaction and success be instituted as a priority within the retention effort.
- We recommend that an "office of" College Ombudsman be established, either through a new position or an add-on to the duties of an already existing position, and that the "charge" of the job be widely publicized to provide a place of action for problem-solving, both academically and administratively.
- We recommend that new software and technology useful in the work of retention and student satisfaction be supported.
- We recommend that an extensive review of course scheduling and course availability commence immediately.
- We recommend that a thorough review of the transfer student experience be initiated and be integrated as soon as possible into the full retention effort.
- We recommend that the College *Student Handbook* be updated on a more regular basis. Further, that all form letters sent to student by various offices be reviewed for clarity, courtesy of tone, and consistency.
- We recommend that the development of retention programs fall under the following areas to ensure integration, organization and coordination of efforts across campus:
 - Training and Information
 - Course Clustering
 - Freshman Experience
 - Senior Experience
 - Quality Service
 - Campus Communications
 - Advising and Mentoring (Academic Team Mentors)

simple or immediate, the pursuit of solutions is vital to the College. "Addressing retention concerns is key to fulfilling our mission to helping any qualified Rhode Island resident who can benefit from our offerings to achieve his or her potential. If students are lost along the way because they don't receive adequate guidance or

don't feel connected to the College, we have not achieved our mission or served those individuals," Eckert said.

To obtain a comprehensive understanding of the retention issue, the task force talked to and surveyed students, faculty and staff. Initial findings included:

- Generally, students hold faculty in high regard in the classroom. They report that faculty are engaging in the classroom and that they challenge students in course content.
- Faculty report that they don't always have the information they need to advise students and often feel uncomfortable in that setting.
- Staff report problems of communication within their individual departments and divisions and note that they feel a general lack of knowledge about the work of other departments that affect them.

To gain understanding from the students' perspective, the task force conducted face-to-face interviews, focus groups, and telephone and direct mail surveys of students who had not completed their studies at

RIC. Findings included:

- 84 percent of the students did not seek advice from faculty or staff or bring their concerns officially to the attention of College administration before leaving.
- 37 percent of the respondents had achieved upper class status before dropping out, demonstrating their academic ability to be successful at college work.
- 84 percent reported that they were not involved with any extracurricular activity, a critical, yet overlooked element to student success.

"Certainly, there are good reasons why students drop out, but lack of knowledge about College procedures as to exiting the institution, better access to faculty advisement, and identifying early warning signs of disengagement of students with the College are within the College's control," the report states.

The retention and graduation rates for RIC students are consistent with national trends, based on the student population the College serves, which includes a large numbers of students who attend part-time while they juggle family and work responsibilities or are first generation college students.

Nonetheless, these numbers reveal areas of opportunity, Eckert observed.

The report provided the following observations:

- The retention and graduation rates for RIC students entering as freshmen over the last several years are between 45 and 50 percent.
- Most take more than four years to receive undergraduate degrees. (16 percent of freshman entering in the fall of 1990 graduated in four years; 37 percent graduated in five years, and 45 percent took six or seven years. The national average for students in like institutions is about 45 percent by the sixth year.)
- At face value, this means that for every 10 students entering the College, only about five will walk away with a degree from RIC and it will probably take six or more years.
- About 25 percent of RIC's matriculating freshmen students do not return for their sophomore year.
- About 63 percent of the respondents to the direct mail and telephone survey reported that they dropped out sometime within four semesters at RIC, the crucial freshman/sophomore timeframe.

Building community

"What we discovered during this intensive project is that the reasons for leaving are as diverse as our student population. Some of the reasons, such as family commitments and the like, are out of the control of the College, but common themes around which we can focus our efforts did emerge," Eckert said. These themes are:

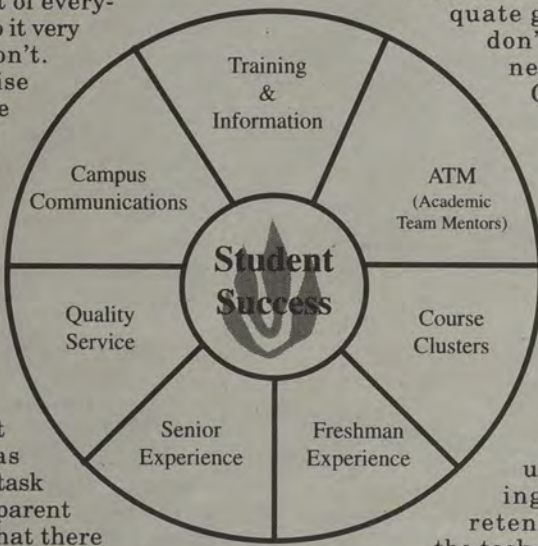
- Communications — how we deliver and receive information;
- Culture — how we treat each other
- Connections — how we interrelate academically with students.

"The focus of our recommendations is to build a sense of community at Rhode Island College which maintains students' individuality, yet links the campus through intellectual growth, common values, and strong interpersonal relationships," the report states in introducing the recommendations. (See listing of recommendations on this page.)

The 1998 Retention Task Force report provides a guide to increasing the number of students who determine — once enrolled — that the experience they have here is successful and worthwhile.

In conclusion the report notes, "Across the country, college and university leaders report that if retention coordination and collaboration processes, procedures, and programs are perceived by the community as directed, important, and crucial, then they work."

For more information or to obtain a copy of the report, contact Eckert at 401-456-8090.



Where are they now?

Continued from page 1

sculpture, drawing and painting. They display their work at majors venues such as the New York Gift Show and the Buyers' Market of American Crafts, held in Philadelphia, and sell their work through 200 galleries and shops throughout the country.

It difficult to categorize their style. In fact, they make a point of having what Dennis calls "multi-layers of styles" going at the same time. When pressed, they describe their work as a blend of traditional and contemporary. For example, one of their teapots incorporates a faux white

birch log as well as spirals and a checkerboard pattern.

What's in store for the future? In the near future, the DeLombas will represent Rhode Island at the "Big E" — a.k.a. the Springfield (Mass.) Fair — in September. Then there are editions of prints and paintings to attend to. And of course ceramic orders to fill.

In fact, their artworks are selling so well, they are looking into turning much of the production over to others and concentrating on design.

"We don't want to turn into a factory," said Dennis.

RIC Athletics



DONALD E. TENCER

*director of intercollegiate athletics,
intramurals and recreation*

456-8007

Space still available in summer camps

Sports camps offered for the third straight year by the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics, Intramurals and Recreation have become extremely popular. To date, applications are well ahead of last year but it's not too late to sign-up. Camps will commence on June 28 and run through Aug. 13.

The goal of the camp program is to provide a structured instructional environment that is competitive and most importantly, fun! The staff is comprised of local college coaches, interscholastic coaches and

Rhode Island College student-athletes. College facilities are used for all of the activities. Participants can bring their own lunch or purchase their lunch in the College's dining center.

A typical day features a morning filled with instruction. Afternoons include competitive events as well as swimming. The camp activities start at 9 a.m. and end at 4 p.m. However, supervisors are on site starting at 8:30 a.m., and the staff is available until 4:30 p.m.

In addition to quality instruction,

each participant receives a Rhode Island College T-shirt. During the week, guest speakers from the collegiate and professional ranks participate in the instructional program.

Camps scheduled for this summer include basketball, baseball/softball, gymnastics, soccer, cheerleading, track and field, football and tennis. The cost for a week is \$119.

For additional information or to obtain a brochure, please contact the intercollegiate athletic office at 401-456-8007.

Ben Libbey paces RIC Baseball

by Scott Gibbons
Sports Information Director

Senior Ben Libbey is the piston in the engine that drives the Rhode Island College baseball team. In the field, he plays centerfield, covering a lot of ground to shut down opponents' scoring chances. At the plate, he bats leadoff, setting the table for RIC's power hitters to knock in runs.

RIC Head Baseball Coach Scott Perry says, "Ben is one of the most important players on our team. He's a hard-nosed batter at the plate who uses his speed to his advantage. He stretches a lot of singles into doubles and can steal bases with regularity. In the field, he can run down a lot of hits and cut them off, holding runners to only one or two bases."

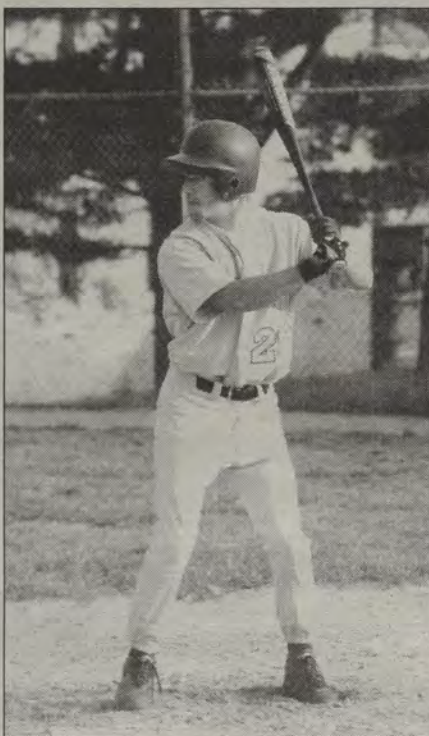
The Cranston resident is off to the best season of his career, batting .432 through the club's first 19 games. He is one of only two players on the squad to have started and played in each of the team's 19 contests this spring.

The 5'8", 150 pound Libbey has scored a team-high 16 runs and has compiled eight RBI on the year. Libbey has eight extra base hits on the year, leading the Anchormen with three triples. He has also stolen a team-high six bases. With 35 hits so far, he has a chance to break the school record for the most hits in a season (55). There are 13 games left in the regular season, not including the post-season.

Although RIC is off to a 5-14 start, Libbey is optimistic about the team's chances. "We began the year with high expectations," he says. "Although we've been in almost every game, we haven't come through in key situations. I'm confident, once we start getting key hits, we'll turn it around heading into the Little East Conference Tournament."

Libbey's success this spring is even more remarkable considering he

underwent off-season surgery to repair the damaged rotator cuff in his right shoulder. "I injured my shoulder sliding into second base against Daniel Webster last season. I missed five games, then came back for the LEC Tournament. I didn't know I partially tore my rotator cuff until after the season." After the



surgery last June, Libbey underwent the painful process of rehabilitation for three months. "I give a lot of credit to my physical therapist, Terry Moreno," Libbey says. "She kept me in the right frame of mind and eased my frustrations." Despite not swinging a bat, or picking up a ball all summer, Libbey had a solid fall season which has carried over into the spring. "My shoulder is a little stiff from time to time, but there isn't any pain."

Despite the injury late in the season, Libbey had an outstanding year as a junior in 1998. He played in 29 games, starting all of them. An offen-

sive catalyst, he led the team with a .363 batting average, 45 hits, 65 total bases and 10 steals on the year. He was second on the team with 25 runs scored. Libbey added 18 RBI on the year.

One of his most memorable moments came in the team's 8-7 win over Southern Maine, the defending Division III National Champions at the time, last April. He doubled in the tying run and scored the winning run in the bottom of the ninth inning.

Libbey didn't play in the spring of '97, but did well in his first season at RIC in 1996. He played in 30 games, batting .313 with a team-high 27 runs scored. He added 14 RBI, four doubles, two triples and two home runs on the year. He also led the team with nine stolen bases.

Prior to coming to RIC, Libbey originally attended Arizona State University. "Someone gave me a [Arizona State] hat when I was a kid and I just started following their teams." Upon arriving in Tempe as a freshman, Libbey joined the Sun Devils' baseball team during the fall season in 1994. "The baseball program there was top-notch," he remembers. "It was really a professional atmosphere."

However, the distance from his home state was a drawback. Libbey returned home after Christmas and began taking classes at RIC in the spring of 1995.

Libbey starred for four years as an outfielder at Cranston East High School from 1990-94. The team made it to the final four of the Rhode Island State Baseball Championships during his sophomore year in 1992. Growing up as a youth in Cranston, Libbey played with current RIC teammate Jay Pilderian and against teammate Keith Croft.

Libbey is an elementary education major who plans to graduate in May, 2000. He hopes to begin a career in teaching and coaching baseball after graduation.

Sports Roundup

BASEBALL

The RIC baseball team is 5-14 overall and 1-4 in the Little East Conference. Head Coach Scott Perry's team picked up its first LEC win of the year with a 7-6 victory over UMASS-Dartmouth on April 15.

Dave Walsh is leading the club with 17 RBI on the year. The first baseman/designated hitter is batting .358 with 13 runs scored, seven doubles, two triples and two home runs on the year. Second baseman Andy Barron is batting .349 with seven runs scored and six RBI.

Keith Croft and Dennis Soito are each 2-1 to lead the pitching staff.

SOFTBALL

The softball team is 13-15 overall and 2-4 in the Little East Conference. Head Coach Maria Morin's team has earned conference wins over Eastern Connecticut State (5-1) and Southern Maine (11-3) in the early going.

First baseman Rachel Medeiros is having an outstanding season. She leads the team with a .408 batting average, and is also tops on the squad with 22 runs scored and 22 RBI. First baseman/designated hitter Christie Moreira is batting .360 with eight runs scored and eight RBI on the year.

Pitcher Lea Wiggins is 6-8 with a 2.17 earned run average and a team-high 44 strikeouts in 106.1 innings.

MEN'S TENNIS

The men's tennis team is 3-5 overall and is 1-1 against Little East Conference opposition. Head Coach Dick Ernst's troops picked up a pair of 9-0 wins over Bridgewater State on April 6 and Southern Maine on Apr. 8.

Paul Perry leads the team with 8.5 points. Perry is 6-2 in singles and 5-3 in doubles action. Pat Prendergast has been impressive at number two singles, posting a 5-3 mark in eight matches.

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TRACK AND FIELD

The men's and women's track and field team put forth an outstanding effort in their first action of the season at Wesleyan University on March 27. The Anchorwomen placed first out of 14 schools with 124 points on the day.

Melinda Roczynski, who hails from East Providence, has qualified for the Division III NCAA National Championships in the high jump. The championships will be held at Baldwin-Wallace College in Berea, Ohio, in May. Roczynski broke the school record in the high jump with a 5'5" effort at the RIC Invitational on April 3.

The women's team has done so well that several student-athletes have qualified for the New England Division III Championships, which will be held at Springfield College on April 29-30: Crisolita daCruz in the hammer, Joyelle Galli in both the long and triple jumps, Crissy McCullah in the javelin, Roczynski in the high jump, Angelina Stewart in both the long and triple jumps, and Keely Subin in the 200 meter dash.

RIC Wind Ensemble, Jazz Band concert features trombonist Mark Lusk April 30

Rhode Island College Wind Ensemble and Jazz Band will share the Roberts Hall auditorium stage Friday, April 30, for an 8:15 p.m.



concert entitled "Passages" which will feature guest trombone artist Mark Lusk.

The ensemble program, conducted by Rob Franzblau, will include works by Mozart (Serenade No. 10 in B-flat), Malcolm Arnold (Four Scottish Dances), Frigyes Hidas (Rhapsody for Bass Trombone and Wind Ensemble) and the Beatles.

The band, conducted by senior Don Dupre of Lincoln, an assistant to director George Goneconto, will perform "April in Paris," "Deadly Schmedly," "Spain," "Caravan," "Sing, Sing, Sing," "Milestones" and "Wind Machine."

Lusk, a professor of trombone at Penn State University, is equally at home in the classical and jazz worlds. Prior to his appointment at Penn State, he performed and recorded with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the Eastman Wind Ensemble, the Chicago Contemporary Chamber Players, Chuck Mangione, and the Woody Herman Thundering Herd.

More recently he has toured extensively throughout the United States and performed at the International Trombone Workshop.

He continues to have an active playing career as a soloist, clinician and freelance musician. He has performed in New York on such Broadway shows as *Phantom of the Opera*, *Miss Saigon*, *Les Miserables*, *Victor/Victoria*, and *Beauty and the Beast*.

As a member of the Woody Herman Alumni Band, he has performed throughout the eastern United States and Europe, including

a recording and performance in Carnegie Hall with that ensemble.

Lusk holds undergraduate and graduate degrees from The Eastman School of Music and a performance certificate from Northwestern University. He is a clinician for the Selmer Instrument Company and is published by Lyceum Press, including the recent *Trombonists Guide to the Unaccompanied Cello Suite of J.S. Bach*.

Support for the concert is provided by the RIC Performing and Fine Arts Commission. Lusk appears through the assistance of The Selmer Instrument Company and Roberts Music Company.

General admission tickets are \$7 with discounts for senior citizens and non-RIC students. RIC students admitted free.

Trombone workshop

Lusk will conduct the Southeast New England Trombone Choir Workshop from 3:30 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 29, in Roberts Hall auditorium. It is open free of charge to all high school and college trombonists.

For more information, call Rob Franzblau, director the RIC Wind Ensemble, at 456-9514.

21st annual Bicho Memorial Concert May 3

Rhode Island College Chorus and Symphony Orchestra, conducted respectively by William Jones and Edward Markward, will present the 21st annual Rita V. Bicho Memorial Scholarship Concert Monday, May 3, at 8:15 p.m. in Roberts Hall auditorium.

In the first half of the program, the chorus will perform Renaissance motets by Palestrina, Hassler and Victoria. According to Jones, "the choral motet is one of the glories of Renaissance Europe."

Two American spirituals also will be performed as well as Randall Thompson's well known "Frostanian" and seven settings of poems by Robert Frost.

Following an intermission, the traditional presentation of the Bicho scholarship(s) will be made. The winner(s) each year are selected by the music faculty on the basis of talent and contribution to the Department of Music, Theatre and Dance.

Bicho served on the music faculty for 30 years until her retirement in 1979 when she was named professor emerita. The scholarship was established in her name in honor of her lifelong dedication to teaching and music.

The RIC Symphony will then perform Beethoven's mighty Symphony No. 5 in C Minor which, according to Markward, "is arguably the most famous symphonic work ever penned."

A donation of \$10 is requested for general admission; \$5 for senior citizens and non-RIC students. RIC students admitted free.

All proceeds go to support the Bicho scholarship fund.

STRIC to present 'El Medio Pelo / The Ordinary Man'

Spanish Theatre of Rhode Island College (STRIC) will present its 19th annual spring Spanish drama, *El Medio Pelo (The Ordinary Man)*, Saturday, May 1, at 8 p.m. and Sunday, May 2, at 3 p.m. in Gaige Hall auditorium.

A special performance for high school students of Spanish will be given Thursday, April 29, at 9 a.m.

The play, by the acclaimed Mexican playwright Antonio Gonzalez Caballero, takes place in Apaseo, described as a "one-horse" town.

The female protagonist, Paz, who once had money and is considered part of the upper class, is forced to work outside the home due to the debts of her father and the untimely death of her husband. Guadalupe Marcial, the "ordinary man" declares his love for Paz and it goes on from there.

Cast members and their hometowns are: Carla Cuellar, Cranston; Frances Cruz, Maria Lancellotta, Yovanny Pena, Steve Russillo, Rosemary Moronta and Roberto Taboada, all of Providence; Luis Escobar, Pawtucket; Leslie Rodriguez, Woonsocket; Cristina James, West Warwick.

M. Francis Taylor, associate professor of modern languages, is the director.

Tickets are \$4 in advance and may be purchased in Craig-Lee Hall 141, or \$5 at the door (\$4 for RIC students with I.D.) For more information, call 456-8029.

Soprano Diana McVey in Chamber Music Series April 28

Soprano Diana McVey, who twice won the coveted Rita V. Bicho Memorial Scholarship for excellence in vocal performance while a student at Rhode Island College, will perform in the last entry in this season's RIC Chamber Music Series Wednesday, April 28, at 1 p.m. in Roberts Hall 138 (recital hall).

The program will include works by Strauss, Schubert, Berg, Rachmaninoff, Mozart and Bernstein. Elizabeth Dean Gates will accompany her on horn for a Schubert piece.

The recital is free and open to the public.

McVey has sung leading roles with the Ocean State Light Opera and

the Bel Canto Opera Company, and has appeared as soloist with the RIC Philharmonic, the RIC Chorus and Orchestra, the Rhode Island Civic Chorale and Orchestra, the West Bay Chorale and the American Band.

Her roles and repertoire have ranged from Adalgisa in Bellini's *Norma* and *Laetitia* in Gian-Carlo Menotti's *The Old Maid* and the *Thief* to the works of Carl Orff,

Leonard Bernstein and Richard Cumming. She has performed the oratorios of Handel, Mozart and Bach.

McVey also is well known for her portrayal of leading roles in the operettas of Gilbert and Sullivan and recently sang the role of Anna in Cumming's opera *The Picnic* at Trinity Repertory Theatre.

For more information, call John Pellegrino, series coordinator, at 456-8244.



Nursing students elected to honor society

Fifty nursing students from RIC have been elected to membership in Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing.

The students will be inducted as undergraduate students from RIC through the local chapter Delta Upsilon Chapter-at-Large.

The induction ceremony will be held on Sunday, May 2, at 12:30 p.m. at the Quonset 'O' Club in North Kingston.

Sigma Theta Tau International is an organization of nurse leaders, scholars, and researchers. The honor society, founded at Indiana University in 1922, currently has chapters at more than 400 college and university campuses worldwide.

Membership in the society is awarded to bachelors, masters and doctoral nursing candidates for scholastic achievement and to graduate of nursing programs who have made outstanding contributions to nursing.



THORP LECTURER: Carolyn Fluehr-Lobban, professor of anthropology, prepares for her Mary Tucker Thorp Lecture on "Scholarly Humanism" April 16 in the Faculty Center. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

Sigma Xi dinner April 30

The annual Sigma Xi Honors Undergraduate Research Symposium, at which students who have done research at Rhode Island College during the past year will give oral presentations, will be held Friday, April 30, in Clarke Science 106 from 2-4 p.m.

A public scientific poster session will be held in the Faculty Center from 4:30-5:30. It will include work by undergraduate and graduate students, faculty and other members of the community. It will be accompanied by a reception.

Sigma Xi's annual dinner and initiation of newly elected students will follow.

Sigma Xi, the scientific research society, recognizes research accomplishment in any field of pure or applied science.

Kenneth Miller, author, award-winning teacher and distinguished professor of biology at Brown University, will give the annual RIC Chapter of Sigma Xi's public lecture entitled "Science and Human Values: What Can the Larger Culture Learn from Science?" at 7:30 p.m. in Fogarty Life Science Building 050.



ISLAND MOVING COMPANY dancers Michael Bolger and Eva Marie Pacheco perform in Miki Ohlsen's *Absence of Lavender* which will be part of the dance concert at Rhode Island College's Roberts Hall auditorium at 7 p.m. Sunday, May 9. The company will present a program perfect for a Mother's Day outing, performing dances romantic, humorous and engaging. The concert is sponsored in part by RIC's Department of Music, Theatre and Dance. Tickets are \$15 (\$8 for senior citizens, students and children under 12). Also, the company will perform the program Monday, May 10, at 10 a.m. for school groups. Tickets are \$4 per student. For tickets or information on both performances call 847-4470. (Photo by Nadia Toulouse)

Commencement

Continued from page 1

family, Reed was born in Providence on Nov. 12, 1949 and grew up in Cranston. He attended St. Matthew's Elementary School, graduated from LaSalle Academy, earned a bachelors degree from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1971 and a masters of public policy from Harvard in 1973.

From 1973 through 1977, Reed, a paratrooper, served as Infantry Platoon Leader, Company Commander, and Battalion Staff Officer in the 82nd Airborne Division while stationed at Fort Bragg, N.C. He then returned to West Point where he joined the faculty as associate professor in the department of social sciences.

In 1979 Reed left the army to attend Harvard Law School, where he received his degree in 1982. He practiced law in Washington, D.C. before returning to Rhode Island where he joined Edwards and Angell, one of New England's leading law firms. He was elected to the Rhode Island Senate from Cranston in 1984 and served for three terms before his 1990 election to the U.S. Congress from the state's Second Congressional District, which includes Rhode Island College.

Among his Congressional committee assignments was the Education and Labor Committee and its Postsecondary Education subcommittee; while on this subcommittee Reed helped to shape the 1983 reauthorization of the Higher Education Act. After three terms in Congress, Reed was elected to succeed Sen. Claiborne Pell and quickly stepped into Pell's long-held role as a national leader in the field of higher education.

Despite his status as a freshman senator in the minority party, the respect with which Reed is held among his colleagues for his drive, intelligence, and bi-partisanship led to the enactment of two of Reed's proposals as part of the 1998 reauthorization of the Higher Education Act: a grant program to assist teacher education programs at colleges and universities to develop partnerships with elementary and secondary schools, and a second proposal to strengthen the SSIG program, which provides financial aid for low-income students. Reed has been a frequent visitor to Rhode Island College and has worked with the College on a number of important issues, most recently collabo-

rating on a conference to promote economic opportunity for women.

Other honorary degree recipients for the 1999 commencement season are: David Arthur Capaldi, Oskar Eustis, Helen Ginsburg Forman, and George Theodore Wein.

David Arthur Capaldi Doctorate of Pedagogy

Capaldi, Class of 1964, earned his bachelors of education in mathematics and physical science and also earned his MAT and his CAGS in mathematics and mathematics education at the College. President of the Rhode Island College Alumni Association during 1972-73, Capaldi was also named to the 1992 RIC Alumni Honor Roll for Mathematics. Capaldi, who is retiring as head of the mathematics department at Toll Gate High School in Warwick after a 35-year career as a teacher in that system, is considered by many to be an unofficial ambassador for mathematics education in Rhode Island. He has served as president, chair or member of numerous statewide and national mathematics and education organizations.

However, it is for his work in the classroom that Capaldi has won his greatest acclaim. From his very first year at Gorton Junior High, when he was selected Teacher of the Year, Capaldi has demonstrated a commitment to students that has not diminished in over three decades. His honors include four Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching, a 1992 Milken Award for Excellence in Teaching, and the RI Commission on Women's Title IX Award. He was selected as Teacher of the Year a second time at Gorton Junior High, twice at Winman Junior High, and in 1994 won a student election as Toll Gate High School Educator of the Year.

Perhaps not coincidentally, as an adjunct faculty member at the College, student evaluations of his performance have been consistently high. Declining numerous opportunities to pursue an administrative position over the years so that he might remain in the classroom, Capaldi is a model of the "thoughtful practitioner" that continues to serve as the basis of the College's commitment to teacher education.

Oskar Eustis Doctorate of Fine Arts

Oskar Eustis is now in his fifth year as artistic director of Trinity Repertory Company, one of the nation's most renowned regional theaters and long regarded as the jewel in Rhode Island's

cultural crown. He will assist in the hooding of MFA degree recipients. Born in Minnesota in 1958, Eustis began his career as a child actor. In 1976 he moved to New York City and founded the Red Wing Theatre Company. He has won numerous awards for his work, including six Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Awards and 11 Drama-Logue Awards for his LA production of *Angels in America*. His commitment to new play development has taken him to Utah's Sundance Institute and the Midwest Playlabs in Minnesota.

Eustis' service to the theater community includes a long association with the National Endowment for the Arts and in 1988 he served as a judge for the Fulbright Fellowship. A member of the Rhode Island Film Commission, Eustis is currently on the adjunct faculties of Brown University and Rhode Island College, where he was instrumental in the establishment of the College's MFA in Theatre program which just last year awarded its first degrees.

Helen Ginsburg Forman Doctorate of Humanities

Helen Forman, Class of 1934, may very well be the embodiment of the ideal College alumna. While perhaps most widely known for her 1994 gift to the College in the amount of \$250,000 to help fund renovations of the East Campus building that now honors her late husband, Sylvan, Forman long ago adopted the College as her second "family."

Named by the RIC Alumni Association as its Alumna of the Year in 1989, Helen has been a tireless volunteer at College functions for many years. Her drive and persistence have often amazed those of more recent generations and her success during annual Alumni Fund phonathons is legendary.

Forman is a lifelong learner; in addition to her bachelors and masters in education and certificate in gerontology from the College, Forman has studied at Providence College, the University of Rhode Island, Brown University, and the University of London, completing 90 hours of study beyond the master's degree.

She was a special education teacher for 22 years before her retirement in the late 1970s and also served as a cooperating teacher for the College. She has endowed scholarships in the department of music, theatre, and dance and has also set up an endowment to help support the Forman Center. Most recently, Forman has named the College as sole beneficiary of her estate. Having lived modestly all her life

— her late husband Sylvan was a postal worker — Helen Ginsburg Forman's contributions to the College in all their forms demonstrate a remarkable commitment to the College and to its future students.

George Theodore Wein Doctor of Fine Arts

Jazz impresario George Wein, considered to be the "father" of the music festival format, has had an enormous impact on the national and international music scene by pioneering the association of corporate sponsors with music events, thereby vastly extending the reach of such festivals to large numbers of people. Forever known as the founder of the Newport Jazz Festival in 1954 — the world's first all-jazz music festival — Wein's company, Festival Productions, Inc., maintains offices in six cities. It produces some 1,000 music events annually, including the JVC Jazz Festival in New York City and Newport, the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival, Ben & Jerry's Newport Folk Festival, and Newport Jazz Festivals in such cities as Sarasota, Fla., and in Rome and Torino in Italy.

In 1973, Wein founded the New York Jazz Repertory Company and in 1982 he established the "Newport Jazz Festival All-Stars," which has toured and recorded worldwide and which gives Wein an opportunity to showcase his own considerable skills on the piano.

Wein was born in 1925 and began studying classical piano at the age of 8; however, by the time he was 15 his love for jazz had taken root. Due to the influence of his father, a distinguished plastic surgeon, Wein attended Boston University as a pre-med student. However, his passion for music soon prevailed and after graduation, Wein got a job playing jazz at a Chinese restaurant for \$90 a week. From there, he was asked to assemble all the groups to play at a local club.

He was so successful in this that he soon leased a room at Boston's Copley Square Hotel and called it "Storyville," which quickly became one of the nation's top jazz venues. Wein later opened Mahogany Hall, a second jazz club dedicated to the traditional jazz form. During this time, he also wrote a jazz column for the *Boston Herald* and taught a jazz course at Boston University. During the summer, Wein closed his clubs in the city and brought the show to a resort area, which he named Storyville Cape Cod. From there, it was a short jog westward to Newport, and the rest, as they say, is history.

RIC CALENDAR

APRIL 26 – MAY 10

Tuesdays

Noon to 1 p.m. — *Bible Study* in the Chaplains' Office, SU 300. Conducted by Larry Nichols.

Wednesdays

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

27 Tuesday

12:30 p.m. — *A. John Roche Memorial Lecture* in the Alumni Lounge, Roberts Hall. Prof. Lawrence Buell of Harvard University will deliver the inaugural lecture.

8 p.m. — *Theatre*: Ken Ruta as Oscar Wilde – "Diversions and Delights" in Roberts Auditorium. Reserved seating \$18. Part of the Performing Arts Series.

28 Wednesday

8:30 a.m. to noon — *Conference*: The Gerontology Club is sponsoring a Conference entitled "Quality of Life in Long-Term Care Settings: Ombudsmen Make a Difference." In the South Dining Room, DDC to examine issues related to the oversight of long-term care for older adults. The conference is free and open to the public.

12:45 p.m. — *Lecture*: "Using Fractals and Chaos in Ion Channel Proteins" in Gaige Hall 373. Part of Math Awareness Month.

1 p.m. — *Music*: *Blackstone Chamber Players* in Roberts Hall. Part of the Chamber Music Series.

4 to 5 p.m. — *Lecture*: "Lessons about Mathematics from the Timing of Heart Attacks" in the Faculty Center. Part of Math Awareness Month.

29-2 Thurs.-Sun.

Spanish Theatre of RIC (STRIC): El medio pelo (The Ordinary Man) will be presented on the following dates in Gaige Hall auditorium: Thursday, April 29 at 9 a.m.; Saturday, May 1 at 8 p.m.; and Sunday, May 2 at 3 p.m. Tickets may be purchased in advance in Craig-Lee 141 for \$4. They will be \$5 at the door. For further information, call 456-8029.

1 Saturday

RIC Trip: Canoe Trip to Wood River. Bus leaves SU at 10 a.m. and returns at 5 p.m. \$7 tickets for students at SU Info Desk (includes bus, lunch and all gear). For further details, call 456-8045 for details.

3 Monday

8:15 p.m. — *Music*: *RIC Symphony Orchestra and Chorus* in Roberts Auditorium. 21st Annual Rita V. Bicho Memorial Scholarship Concert. General admission \$10; students free. Call 456-8244 for more information.

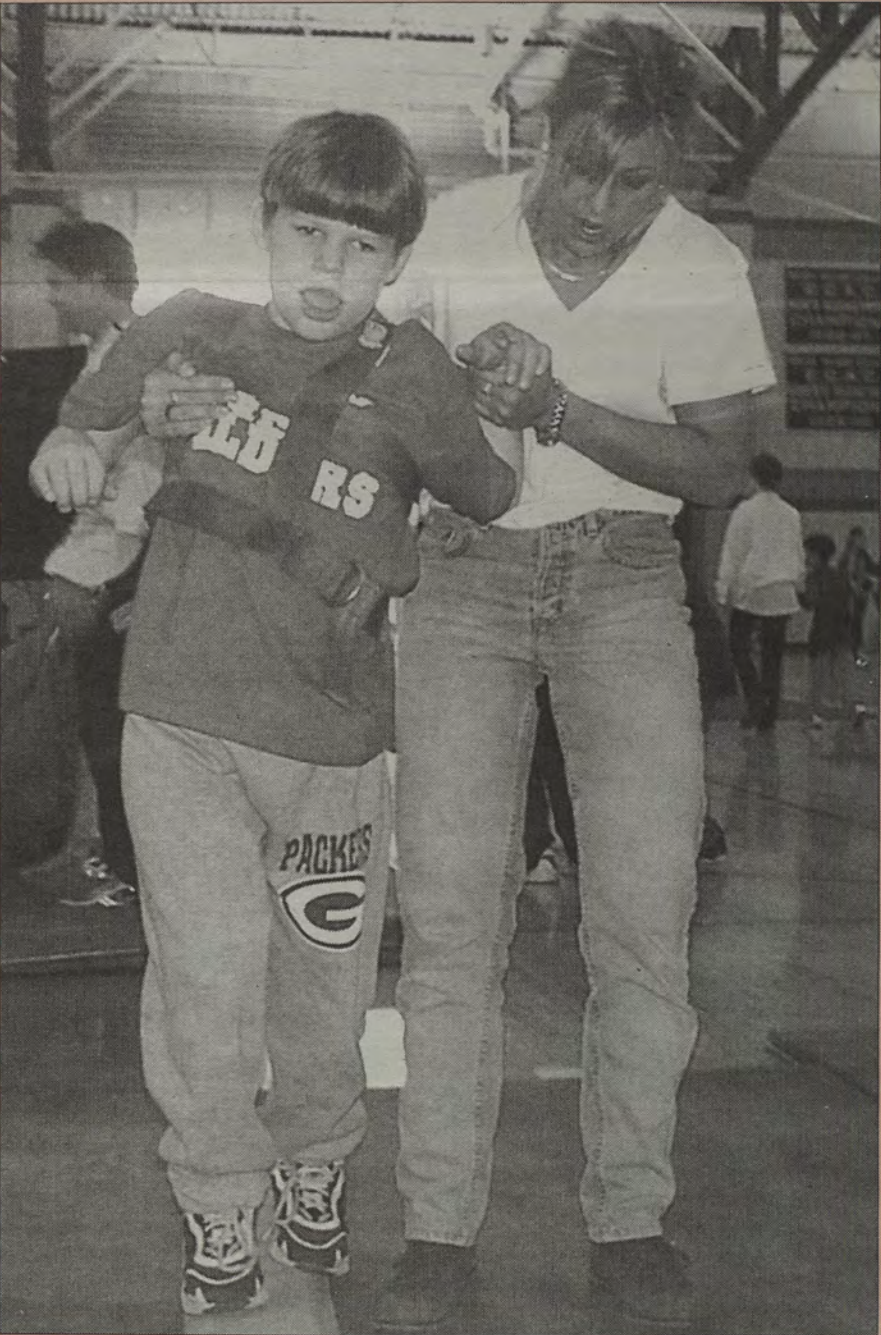
5 Wednesday

RIC Sports Memorabilia Auction at the Providence Marriott (6:30 p.m.-preview; 7 p.m.-reception). There will be over 200 silent auction items and, at least, 35 live auction items along with food, door prizes, a jazz band, and a cash bar. Tickets are \$10 and will be available at the door or by calling 456-8007. *All proceeds will benefit student athlete support programs.*

7 Friday

2 p.m. — *Memorial service* for A. John Roche in Gaige Auditorium. For further information, call the Department of English, 456-8028.

Special Olympics training



A HELPING HAND: Amy Andrews, a RIC junior, guides Colton Beaudry, 9, over the low balance beam during the R.I. Special Olympics motor activities training day, April 9, in the New Building. The event was sponsored by the Department of Health and Physical Education and run by students in the Adapted Physical Education course. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

Sports Events

Baseball

April 29	FITCHBURG STATE	3:30 p.m.
May 1	at Western Connecticut State (2-9) *	Noon
May 3	JOHNSON AND WALES	3:30 p.m.
May 5	CONNECTICUT COLLEGE	3:30 p.m.
May 8	EASTERN CONNECTICUT STATE (2-9) *	Noon

Softball

April 26	JOHNSON AND WALES (2-7)	3:30 p.m.
April 27	at UMASS-Dartmouth (2-7) *	3:30 p.m.
May 1	at UMASS-Boston (2-7) *	1 p.m.
May 5	Little East Conference Playoffs (Round One)	TBA
May 7	Little East Conference Playoffs (Round Two)	TBA
May 8	Little East Conference Championships	TBA

Men's Tennis

Apr. 28	ROGER WILLIAMS	3:30 p.m.
Apr. 29	at Salve Regina	3:30 p.m.
May 5	at UMASS-Boston *	3:00 p.m.

Men's and Women's Track and Field

May 1	at New England Div. III Championships #	10:30 a.m.
May 8	at ECAC-Division III Championships ^	TBA

HOME GAMES/MEETS IN CAPITAL LETTERS

- * Denotes Little East Conference opponent
- # Denotes hosted by Springfield College
- ^ Denotes hosted by Williams College

Notice of Affirmative Action and Nondiscrimination

Rhode Island College is committed to equal opportunity and affirmative action. No student, employee, or applicant will be denied admission, employment, or access to programs and activities because of race, sex, religion, age, color, national origin, handicap/disability status, sexual orientation/preference, or veteran status. This College policy is in concert with state and federal nondiscrimination laws. Inquiries concerning the College's administration of the nondiscrimination laws should be addressed to the College director of affirmative action. Reasonable accommodation upon request.