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Today's students are well immersed in the digital age and are completely fluent in a variety of technological tools and information sources. Recognizing this, campus libraries, including ours, have scrambled over the past decade or so to diversify the formats through which students are engaged in gathering information and gaining knowledge. Additionally, educational institutions have responded with the creation of virtual courses through distance learning. When our college embarks on implementing online learning initiatives, the library will be ready to play its role in providing authoritative and trustworthy resources to these students as well.

In this context, for the past two years, James P. Adams Library has dramatically expanded its digital and electronic information resources including:

- Credo Reference, streaming video in social work, business and economics as well as Music Online and more (please see page 5 for further details).
- Our digitization initiatives, funded through grants to increase access to special collections, including theses, dissertations, art collections and others, please visit <http://digitalcommons.ric.edu/>, navigate and explore.
- A pilot project with other members of the HELIN consortium to test patron driven e-books acquisition and other collection development collaboration.

But technology evolves so fast that we were just getting accustomed to the notion of all things "digital" when now comes the next big thing: "mobile." The library is ready with a mobile site to broaden access to our resources, services and activities. You can read more about it on page 4 and here is the link www.ric.edu/adamslibrarymobile.

Our next aspiration, if possible, is to expand to social media to increase our presence and enhance accessibility to our resources. And all these innovations are certainly timely: in the June 2010 issue of College and Research Libraries News (<http://crln.acrl.org/content/71/6/286.short>) ten trends have been discussed as they have a direct impact on current academic library practices. Your library will continue to play a central role in supporting teaching and learning at RIC. Enjoy this 6th issue of your newsletter and please let me know what you think. As always, I love to hear from you.

~Hedi BenAicha, Director
hbenacha@ric.edu



ALUMNI VOICES: Gregory Markley, Class of 1980

Earlier this year, the Library Director received a surprise email from RIC alum, Gregory Markley. Mr. Markley had seen our newsletter and offered an article for a future issue. Below, is Mr. Markley's email with accompanying text.

"Dear Hedi,

I found a copy of your Spring 2009 newsletter and noticed that you occasionally run "Alumni Voices" as a means for RIC graduates to express how much the JPA Library meant to them. With that in mind, I submit the following, which you can edit as you wish. Have fun as director of the RIC library. Good luck in these challenging budget times!

The Adams Library has special meaning for me on three levels. First, its source as a place for reading, research and study for me as an undergrad in 1975-1980. If I had a quarter for every hour I spent there I would probably now be living on Bellevue Avenue in Newport. My love of language and history grew as I found a variety of works on the Adams Library shelves. And I don't know where else on campus I could find a quiet area to study. Thanks for that, James P. Adams.

Second, the Library was (and I hope still is) a sort of Town Hall, as people held rallies and class get-togethers there. For the 1976 election I recall there was an elderly lady who was a Communist running for something. Also, there were

Right-leaning hopefuls, who like the radical older lady, did not get elected. But at least divergent sides of an issue got aired, and in a way that no shouting occurred to destroy the quiet inside the library. Thanks also for that, James P. Adams.

Finally, the Adams library was important as I was beginning a successful journalism career. When Adams had its grand reopening in September 1978, I wrote two stories for the RIC Anchor. The first was a straightforward news story, as I recall. But I also wrote a news-feature about the "cozy nooks and crannies" and welcoming atmosphere. Both articles were on the front page and well-received, which eventually propelled me into being co-executive editor in 1978-1979.

I did not revisit Adams until 2001, as I was traveling as a U.S. Army journalist. But my Adams experience was always with me. I am still an avid reader, participant in public forums, and writer. Adams ingrained in me a love for study and research. Thirty years after getting my RIC political science degree, I am pursuing my third masters. I have visited many libraries in a dozen states for work or fun. But Adams Library remains my sentimental favorite. I salute the library, and all who work there."

Gregory M. Markley is a historian and archivist residing in Auburn, Alabama.

Our Staff: Brenda Bocchini, Acquisitions Assistant

By Ellen Morais



When walking into the acquisitions office the first person you meet is Brenda Bocchini. Her smile lights up the room, and her personality is larger than life. Her distinct and infectious giggle can often be heard floating through the fourth floor corridors. Brenda is the person responsible for making sure that everyone in the Library has the supplies they need. Her diligence and organizational skills ensure that hundreds of

new books make it to the Library each year and mountains of gift books are counted, sorted and sent on their way to book stacks or sales.

Originally hired for the Curriculum Resources Center, Brenda jumped at the chance in 2003 to move into the faster paced Library Acquisitions office. Early on she knew that it was the right choice, and she and her new supervisor, Library Acquisitions Manager Debra Thomson, became fast friends. Deb took Brenda under her wing and continues to guide her. "I love Deb. Having a supervisor that I can count on is very important. Deb is compassionate and understanding and very patient with me," she says of her mentor. Brenda supervises a staff of four students without whom, she emphatically states, she could not do half of the work.

Brenda has a quick wit and will waste no time in telling you that handling gift books and book sales are a job unto themselves. Gifts are important. Many are added to the Library's collections, and those that aren't are donated to charities or sold by the Library. Proceeds from the book sales supplement Library funds and the Shinn Study Abroad Fund. In addition, Brenda makes sure that an ongoing book sale in the main lobby remains fully stocked. She organizes books by subject and rotates what gets put out. She also maintains statistics on gifts. Overall, Brenda loves handling the books that come through her office. In examining them she is constantly finding new areas of interest, but history remains her favorite.

In the Library Brenda has honed her technical skills. On a daily basis she uses not only the suite of Microsoft products but also technologies such as Millennium, an acquisitions system which includes the Library records of the HELIN consortium, and OCLC, a large international database of bibliographic information. She uses PeopleSoft and the Internet for ordering books and supplies, submitting requisitions, and processing reports with vendors and the Purchasing office. When asked what sticks out as the greatest accomplishment she has made on the job, Brenda comments that it is the constant adaptation to new technologies. "The more I learn, the more productive I can be...this job has its own knowledge."

Ever eager to lend a hand, Brenda sees each occasion to help as an opportunity to enhance her skills. She is heavily involved with events at the library, organizing behind the scenes details that make our events successes. Frequently she assists in the Director's Office. She is an example of what can happen with hard work and perseverance.

As a member of the Homecoming committee, Brenda enjoys participating in the evaluation of past results and finding ways to improve. Last year's lesson, "if it rains, move things into the student union!" she laughs. The largest part of her Homecoming activities; however, is centered on the annual book sale. Referred to in-house as the "BIG book sale," Brenda is the brains of the operation. It takes weeks of preparation and it is only because of Brenda's meticulous attention to detail that 10,000 books are moved into our main lobby each year. She supervises the students and staff volunteers and works with the Library Facilities Supervisor to set up the space. Her favorite part is creating the "come and read me" displays, as she calls them, and she is most pleased when she finds that featured books have been grabbed up. This annual sale coincides with both her birthday and her wedding anniversary; yet she is still here working the book sale. Now that's dedication! (This year's book sale, by the way, begins on October 2nd; we hope you can stop by!)

Brenda has been a state employee for nearly 16 years. She is resilient, having endured being bumped three times before coming to RIC. She began her career as a switchboard operator at T.F. Green airport and later relocated to the Division of Motor Vehicles then to the Department of Children Youth and Families where she provided clerical support to three social work units. Reading all those cases every day at DCYF was heartbreaking and emotionally draining for Brenda. Her health suffered and she knew it was time for a change. She was drawn to RIC by the opportunity to further her education. A lover of books, Brenda looked forward to being



Brenda, with husband Mark Bocchini

ward to being surrounded by them. "Reading takes me places in my mind where I've never been. It is a great escape."

A second generation Puerto-Rican, Brenda attended 15 different schools during her childhood and grew up knowing that she was not expected to succeed. Rather than being dragged down; however, proving everyone wrong became a driving force and motivated her to seek out further education. "At first, I just wanted to get my Associate's degree, nothing more, just to prove that I could do it. But once I started learning, I wanted more." She goes on to say, "It's like an open book; you see one page and can't just stop reading there, you have to finish it. There is no end to education; you just have to keep learning." She was the first in her family to receive a high school diploma and continues to work on a general studies degree. You could say she is now in competition with her daughter Christina, currently attending URI, to become the first college grad in her family. Her son Mark is in the honors program at LaSalle Academy.

In her spare time Brenda enjoys cooking, reading, playing board games, dancing, and spending evenings by the fire pit. She has an adventurous streak and loves taking nature walks, particularly near the water. She is married to her high school sweetheart, Mark Bocchini, and they can often be found walking on Blackstone Boulevard near their home.

The E Column: JSTOR

By Judith Stokes



"Hi, Mom! Can you help me? I have to write a paper and the library here doesn't have JSTOR!" said my exchange-student daughter on the phone from Prague. As a continuing student with a current library card, however, she had not lost access to JSTOR when she left home. She just had to log in through her home library's website rather than go directly to the JSTOR website.

Many in the RIC community will recognize the name JSTOR (pronounced "jay-store"). It first came to Rhode Island College in 1999 as an online collection of 119 interdisciplinary scholarly journals. JSTOR was an extraordinary resource. Every page of each journal, from the very first issue, was expertly scanned and every word was searchable. Not intended to compete with journal publishers (many of whom were selling subscriptions to online versions), JSTOR created an Internet accessible digital archive of retrospective issues; journal content was provided on schedules that held back the latest 5 years or so.

Among scholars JSTOR has gained notoriety because it includes the most widely held titles in academic libraries, hence the most well-known scholarly journals in the world. When publishers realized that JSTOR's popularity could be used to increase rather than diminish demand for current subscriptions, agreements were negotiated that allowed "links to recent content" in the JSTOR database, thereby overcoming the effects of excluding current issues. In January JSTOR will launch "Current Scholarship," a new service that will make JSTOR the online home for current journals

published by university presses who will realize lower costs by using JSTOR rather than maintaining separate e-publishing platforms.

Thanks to the support of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, JSTOR employs the best available technology. Three servers on two continents provide constant service to libraries, while maintaining "dark" archives, unaffected by public access. It has never had "downtime." JSTOR continues to grow, off-setting digitization costs with library purchases and covering ongoing expenses with annual subscription fees.

JSTOR is one of the most popular online resources Adams Library has to offer. It now includes 1,198 journals, with more than 100 titles to be added in 2011. Although not inexpensive to purchase, when measured against usage, i.e., by the number of article downloads per dollar spent, it is the best bargain we have found.

You can learn more about JSTOR on its website, <http://www.jstor.org/>. With a current library card, you can access JSTOR content (from wherever you are) via our website, <http://www.ric.edu/adamslibrary/>. When you key your name and library card number, they are matched to our records, and the connection to the database is passed through as if to a computer on campus. In the box headed "Find," click on "Online Resources A-Z." Click on JSTOR. Browse or search. Enjoy!

Blackboard @ RIC

By Brian Baker

Blackboard is RIC's new on-line platform that replaced WEBCT as of July 1, 2010. At the August 25th Opening Coffee, President Carriuolo announced that this semester more than 60 faculty members will offer courses through Blackboard. The College's practice in offering online courses is essential in meeting the needs and demands of students in the 21st century.

Digitization and the internet have made an incredible difference in the library field. Many library resources are available electronically, and users are capable of doing research at

their own convenience. The James P. Adams Library is firmly committed to providing resources that are accessible to students and faculty 24/7. That's why the Library is making its presence known in the Blackboard forum. Faculty can now request that library resources be integrated into a course reserve list (see our E-Reserves Guidelines* for more information). Course reserve lists can be comprised of electronic resources from Ebrary, Artstor, streaming media databases, and e-journal databases. Linking these course reserve lists



from Blackboard pages makes library resources available more quickly and seamlessly than ever.

The Library began offering electronic reserves in August of 2002. For the

Reserves staff this involves scanning and creating pdf files of photocopied articles, book chapters, and packets. In the very near future we will be offering snippets of films, via streaming video format made from DVDs and VHS-tapes that the Library has in its collection. Stay tuned to this exciting new development!

*E-Reserves Guidelines can be viewed at: <http://www.ric.edu/adamslibrary/about/access/eresguide.html>

Our Resources

A Fossilized Dinosaur: Student Perceptions of Library Resources

By Kieran Ayton



Library information is like a fossilized dinosaur for many of today's students. It is not organized and accessible in the way that they need it to be. While librarians may be information experts, this expertise will not be utilized if it is not visible to our students. One important way we are trying to reach users is through online resources, such as the library databases.

Whether in high school or college, students today are often familiar with library databases. When a student is writing a paper a multi-disciplinary database like Academic Search Premier is a useful supplement to his or her research. As a librarian, I will often begin by explaining that a library database is a collection of magazine and journal articles that have been digitized online. Usually halfway through the student will stop me and say, "Oh, you mean that Ebsco thing?" or "Is that what Gale is?" The student is identifying the database, not by its name, but by the vendor that sells it. Students have already been introduced to these databases in their high schools. However, they have no understanding of what "Ebsco" really is (it's a vendor that sells databases like Academic Search Premier to libraries with digital versions of magazine and journal articles). And why would they?

For today's young researcher, information retrieval is based around the "website concept" (collections of online information that are free, instantly available, and continuously updated), as opposed to the "resource concept" (books and journal articles

which are static forms of information and do not change). When librarians divide up information sources using the "resource concept" (the catalog is where you look for books and the databases are where you find articles) we are structuring information the way we see it, not the way the student does.

In my view, students would use the library's online resources if the articles from them showed up in a Google search. Of course, this is not possible at the moment due to the fact that most online library resources require library barcode logins when accessed from home. Because the library's online information is purchased and not freely accessible, Google's search engine spiders can't index it to make it show up in a Google search. This summer the Library purchased a new database called Credo Reference, which allows students to search in one library database and from there link out to additional databases and free websites with high quality information. It is the library's way of trying to recreate a Google search experience for the students.



Note: The Library welcomes the return of Kieran Ayton, adjunct librarian in the Reference Department. A January 2006 graduate of Rhode Island College, Kieran received his MLS from Simmons College.

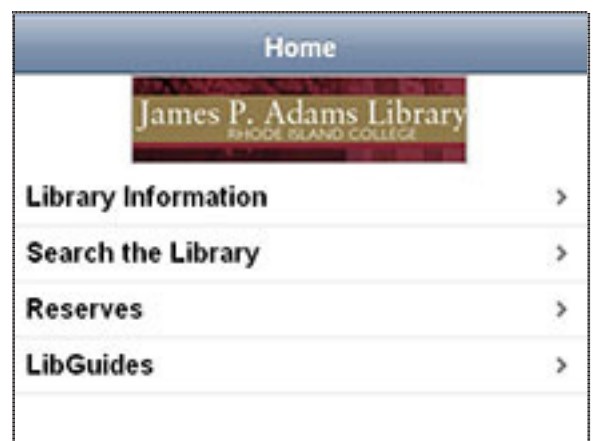
A Library in the Palm of Your Hand!



Check out the library's new mobile website!
<http://www.ric.edu/adamslibrarymobile>

There is no 'app' to download. Just visit the link above to search for books, DVD's, E-books and mobile versions of our most popular library databases right from your phone.

We hope you enjoy this new feature!
Send feedback to **kayton@ric.edu**



Our Collections: Digital Initiatives in the Library

By Kresten Jespersen

DigitalCommons@RIC collects, preserves, and provides access to scholarship by students, staff, and faculty at Rhode Island College. In the year since its acquisition by Library Director Hedi BenAicha, we have begun to populate this site with dissertations, theses, and honors papers, and the College Slide Library.

Special Collections Projects

Meeting its commitment to the Rhode Island Council for the Humanities (RICH), the Library has uploaded about 100 images from the Collection of the late Professor Emeritus Chet Smolski into its own Digital Commons gallery. About 100 Op-Ed pieces on Providence and the creation of the Capital Center accompany the images; these have been scanned and are ready for metadata entry.

Our second digital project, at the request of Special Collections Librarian Marlene Lopes, is a set of slides from the Cape Verdean Collection. Created by anthropologist David Baxter during the 1980's when he lived in the Cape Verde Islands, they document development in this republic's early years of independence. Thus far about 400 of the 1000 images

have been scanned. Marlene and I are working together to determine the metadata content that would best describe these jewels and make them accessible to both scholarly and community researchers.

Selected Works Faculty Web Sites

A significant project, just getting off the ground, is the Profile Pages/Selected Works component of the Digital Commons. For each participating professor Selected Works (SW) gives a profile, featuring scholarship, curriculum vitae, contact information, biography, and a photo on what amounts to a hassle-free private webpage. At least one publication is necessary to start an account. This summer I began approaching faculty for permission to publish articles in our Digital Commons, and, to date, 40 faculty members have consented.

This fall I will hold several workshops on creating content so that professors will learn how to control a site within its individual branding and structure parameters. The workshops will explain how content is first placed in the Digital Commons

and then collected into Profile Pages/Selected Works. Professors will learn how to create readership lists, publicize their articles, and generate monthly readership updates on the number of downloaded articles. I also hope to create a Camtasia tutorial video to refresh professors on the process after the memory of the workshops has faded.

Rhode Island College is a community of scholars. Selected Works facilitates for us this sense of a common enterprise that binds us together for the sake of the students. Please join in this initiative to collocate campus scholarship in one accessible and well-maintained website so that students and the public may better benefit from our intellectual labor.



New Resources!

Here are some new online reference tools, examples of the kinds of materials that today's college students need to fulfill the requirements of their course of study. Please try out these databases and let us know how you like them! Send comments to cweiss@ric.edu

CREDO Reference

(<http://0-www.credoreference.com.helin.uri.edu/home.do>)

- Easy access to trusted content from over 70 of the world's leading academic publishers* and 460+ reference sources
- Seamless linking to other valuable and trusted information sources
- Speeds your research
- Powerful tools that help answer questions or find the perfect paper topic

*includes ABCCLIO, Cambridge University Press, Elsevier Science, Routledge, and Wiley

STREAMING MEDIA:

Counseling and Therapy in Video

(<http://0-ctiv.alexanderstreet.com.helin.uri.edu/>)

The largest and richest online collection of video for social work, psychotherapy, psychology, and psychiatric counseling

- Able to be searched or browsed
- Provides a means to rapidly select footage of interest from hundreds of hours of video

Films on Demand

(<http://0-digital.films.com.helin.uri.edu/featuredvideos.aspx>)

1,000+ business- and economics-related videos that can be:

- Shown in their entirety or in segments in the classroom
- Posted online in Blackboard and E-Reserves
- Accessed through the Library catalog

Music Online: Listening

(<http://0-muco.alexanderstreet.com.helin.uri.edu/>)

- Audio, and scores on the web indexed for subjects, historical events, genres, people, cultural groups, places, time periods, and ensembles.
- Keyword and fielded search capabilities.
- Enables creative and highly targeted queries.

In the Archives:

From the Scrapbook of Jennie Frances Saulino, Class of 1932

By Marlene Lopes



Yearbook photo of Jennie Frances Saulino

At the start of a new academic year it is interesting to look back to the past. This summer Ms Jean R. Boshco donated to the Archives a scrapbook created by her mother, Jennie Frances Saulino. Here are some highlights of her life, eighty or so years ago, as a Rhode Island College student.

It is with pleasure that we announce that you have been successful in the competitive tests for admission to the College of Education with the class that is to enter on Thursday, February 2. So Jennie begins her scrapbook, with a letter signed by President John L. Alger. She is instructed to report to the Assembly Hall to receive her class assignments and the keys to her coat and book lockers.

As attested by her report cards, Jennie did well academically, beginning with her first semester. In addition to Education, her coursework included Art, English, Ethics, Health, Geography, History, Library Science, Manual Arts, Mathematics, Music, Political Science, Science, and Sociology. Foreign languages and culture were a special interest. She studied both French and Italian, was vice president of the French Club, and chaired a committee to form the first Italian Club.

Jennie saved dance cards and favors and other mementos from college sponsored social events, such as the All College Formal, the Junior Prom, RICE Cap and Gown Dance, the Senior Reception, the Farewell Dance, holiday celebrations, and much

more. My favorite is a note to Miss Saulino from Al of Al Williams and His Troubadours, "Pep, Rythm and Syncopation," *Hello School Teacher. Do you want a ride home? What time are you through?*

Fliers, programs, and newspaper clippings document milestones: the All College Night program, Junior Week festivities, Cap and Gown, Commencement week. The pace was different then, as evidenced, for example, by a Class Day program that listed among its exercises the presentation of Degree Pins, the Class Day oration, and the reading of the class poem, prophecy, and will. After which, *The Members of the Graduating Class, their guests, the Faculty, the Marshalls, and Sophomore escort, and the Senior B Class are cordially invited to attend a tea and reception at Henry Barnard School....*

Jennie Frances Saulino graduated from the Rhode Island College of Education on June 28, 1932. True to her dream, she became a teacher.

Collection Development By Carla Weiss

The process of building the collection of books, non-book material, and electronic resources for the James P. Adams Library is described in its newly revised Collection Development Policy. Included are procedures for both selection and de-selection of materials, examination of methods of acquisition, options for preservation, and evaluation of the collection to determine how well it serves user needs.

So that we can better ascertain what materials should be added to our collection, library liaisons have been assigned to all academic departments of the College. With the evolution of how we access information resources in this increasingly electronic world, it is important to regularly review and revise our Collection Development Policy. You may view our policy online at: <http://www.ric.edu/adamslibrary/about/Collection%20Development%20Policy%202010.pdf>

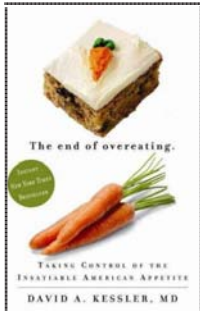
Did you know... you can access from your office a list of faculty and staff publications? Simply go to the Library Web-site, <http://www.ric.edu/adamslibrary/>, select "Course Reserves by Instructor" from the sidebar on the left, then type in Faculty. Click on "Faculty Publications Rhode Island College," and the list, divided into two parts because of its size, will appear. Memo to Authors: If you do not see your publication (book, CD, DVD) listed, please let us know, and, budget permitting, we'll buy it. Better yet, why not donate that extra copy to the Library?

Book Reviews:

The End of Overeating: Taking Control of the Insatiable American Appetite

by David A. Kessler, MD (Rodale, ©2009)

A Review by Judith Stokes



Pediatrician and former FDA Commissioner David A. Kessler, MD, explains the neuroscience of overeating. Certain foods -- those laden with fat and sugar and/or salt -- override the body's self-regulating mechanisms by operating on the brain's reward center, stimulating increased appetite rather than satiety. Larger portions of these foods provide more stimuli, reinforcing the desire and suppressing the feeling of fullness. Some individuals

are more susceptible than others, but the ever-present advertising and availability of highly tempting foods in our environment, along with the cultural changes of recent decades that now permit us to eat anytime and anywhere (for example, in the library), have caused conditioned hypereating to become a wide-spread problem. Willpower is not the answer. If it were, dieting would result in lasting weight loss. Avoiding the stimuli does work, but doing that without constantly refusing social occasions, some business meetings, and perhaps avoiding entire neighborhoods,

has become more and more difficult in our culture, which is why obesity appears to be contagious.

Like Eric Schlosser, who wrote this years' Open Books—Open Minds common book, *Fast Food Nation*, Dr. Kessler shows who profits from understanding the power of fat, sugary, salty foods. An entire branch of the food industry now focuses on sensory science, with the stated goal of increasing the hedonic value of food products. Like Michael Pollan, author of the best-seller, *In Defense of Food*, Kessler also stresses that “food,” meaning what we now think of as “whole food,” is entirely different from the “food products” we are now offered nearly everywhere. Kessler quotes an industry expert: “If you can find that optimal point in a set of ingredients, you may well be on your way to converting that array of chemicals and physical substrates into a successful product.”

As FDA Commissioner, Dr. Kessler introduced standardized nutrition labeling. In this book he further advocates that the percentage of added sugars, refined carbohydrates, and fat be prominently displayed on labels, and that restaurant menus be mandated to show calorie totals. As with tobacco use, Kessler points out, until we change our social norms so that we associate the health consequences of obesity with the food products that cause it, we will continue to put our children, not to mention ourselves, at risk.

Zeitoun

by Dave Eggers (McSweeney's Books, ©2009)

A Review by Ellen Morais



Zeitoun, the true story of Abdulrahman Zeitoun, a Syrian-American and well-known business owner, recounts the appalling behaviors and misappropriation of resources that filled the chaotic city of New Orleans in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

Despite calls for evacuation and his wife's pleas to join her and their four children as they flee to safety in Baton Rouge, Zeitoun stays behind to secure his company's job sites and monitor his rental properties. Later he is overtaken by a sense of purpose as he helps others in need. He journeys in his canoe, enjoying the calm and relative quiet of the mostly vacant city as he makes his way through the streets of his now submerged neighborhood. He assesses damages, transports water and food to those stranded, assists with rescue efforts, and cares for a number of dogs abandoned in flooded homes. For two weeks Zeitoun, no stranger to hard work, enjoys the sense of accomplishment he receives from these tasks, while his wife Kathy worriedly follows media reports that New Orleans is in a state approximating Martial

law, with murders, rapes, looting, general lawlessness, and the growing threat of typhoid, cholera and dysentery. In daily contact with his wife, Zeitoun insists that things are not that bad where he is and that he has a purpose here; he is doing good.

On September 6th; however, Zeitoun and three companions are taken into custody and transported to a makeshift outdoor prison resembling a dog kennel. After being questioned, harassed, and psychologically abused, without having been charged or permitted a phone call, they are told they are suspected of terrorism. After three days they are transferred to a maximum security prison where they endure even harsher treatment. Meanwhile, Zeitoun's family fears the worst. Thirteen days after his disappearance, Kathy learns that he is in prison but not how she can reach or see him. How is it possible in America for there to be trials without witnesses, she laments; how can my government make people disappear? Ten days later Abdulrahman Zeitoun is finally released.

This book is a shocking account of how the U.S. government failed its people in their hour of need. Zeitoun's story is *not* fiction. That this all happened while residents of New Orleans were without food, trapped in attics, and begging for rescue from rooftops and highway overpasses, is most disturbing. In the end, Zeitoun stands as a prime example of what we think can never happen in a civilized society.

The Big Read

By Sharon Giacobbi

I had the opportunity to enjoy last spring's The Big Read "Kick-Off Celebration" and wanted to say how wonderful it was.

The opening remarks by RIC President Nancy Carriuolo, Christine Taylor (Director of The Big Read), and Adams Library Director Hedi BenAicha were well received by the primary audience of students from Central Falls High School, Nathaniel Greene Middle School, and Hugh Bain Middle School. As each school was recognized, cheers, hoots, and hollers erupted from the audience. This enthusiastic audience of approximately 400 attendees practically filled Sapinsley Hall. Besides the students, it included invited guests, Rhode Island Lt. Governor Elizabeth Roberts and Robin Kall, creator and host of the weekly radio show "Reading with Robin." Vice Presidents Ron Pitt and James Salmo and Professor Jean Brown, President of the Friends of the Adams Library, were also in attendance.

From the moment that RIC alumnus David Schifino's "Poe Rap" started to play, the audience became noticeably captivated, totally enjoying the rap music with its Poe subject twist. As it ended, David Keltz, a nationally recognized Poe interpreter, emerged on stage in full character as Edgar Allen Poe. His performance brought to life many of Poe's stories and poems including "The Black Cat," "Eldorado," "Spectacles," "Annabel Lee," and "The Raven." He had the audience enthralled.

During the question and answer period following his performance, David Keltz stayed in character. It was obvious from the questions asked that the students were keenly interested in Edgar Allen Poe. They also seemed amazed at Keltz's ability to maintain Poe's character until the end.

It was a great event. Kudos to all involved in bringing The Big Read to Rhode Island College.



From left, RIC Prof. Jean Brown, Lt. Governor Elizabeth Roberts, Robin Kall, RIC President Nancy Carriuolo, Library Director Hedi BenAicha, and Program Director Christine Taylor from The Big Read at the Kick-Off Celebration.



Robb Dimmick performs for students at The Big Read finale in Gaige Auditorium.

Note: After the Kick-Off event, The Big Read continued with a focus on teachers and students of all levels of education, including elementary, middle and high school, as well as college students and the general public. A writing contest was held among the elementary and middle school students while a series of lectures, films and dramatic readings provided the opportunity for local and regional college faculty members to participate as lecturers and panel facilitators. Several hundred copies of Poe's work with accompanying reader's guides were also distributed. Local actor, Robb Dimmick, performed dramatic readings of Poe's work at several of the events, including the finale where he also performed the winning entries to the writing contest. Overall, The Big Read at RIC was a great success! For more information on all The Big Read events held at RIC please see our LibGuide at: http://ric.libguides.com/Big_Read_Edgar_Allan_Poe

REACH. INSPIRE. CONNECT.



<http://digitalcommons.ric.edu/fromthesteps/>

FROM THE STEPS
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