What's News



at Rhode Island College

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2005 commencements -

RIC graduation ceremonies honor and celebrate academic achievement

"Long road, positive end."

- Dina Cappalli 2005 graduate

Commencement days - undergraduate and graduate - arrived last month for approximately 1,400 RIC students who crossed the stage for a college degree and instantly entered the next stage in their lives, one that now includes the promise of stimulating careers and callings - and the academic standing to help them get there.

Undergraduate Commencement **May 21**

Warm atmosphere trumps gloomy skies and chilly temps

A strong wind – cold and constant – surged through the RIC esplanade on commencement day as a chain of rain clouds settled darkly over the campus. But the colorful regalia, the palette of vivid flowers, and row upon row of incandescent faces made it seem like a warm, sunny day...which, of course, it was for over 1,100 newly degreed grads and their families and friends.

The members of the Class of 2005 had endured many years (four? six? more?) of endless assignments, tough exams and the inevitable doubts about ever finishing. So they certainly weren't about to let a little bad weather sink their spirits.

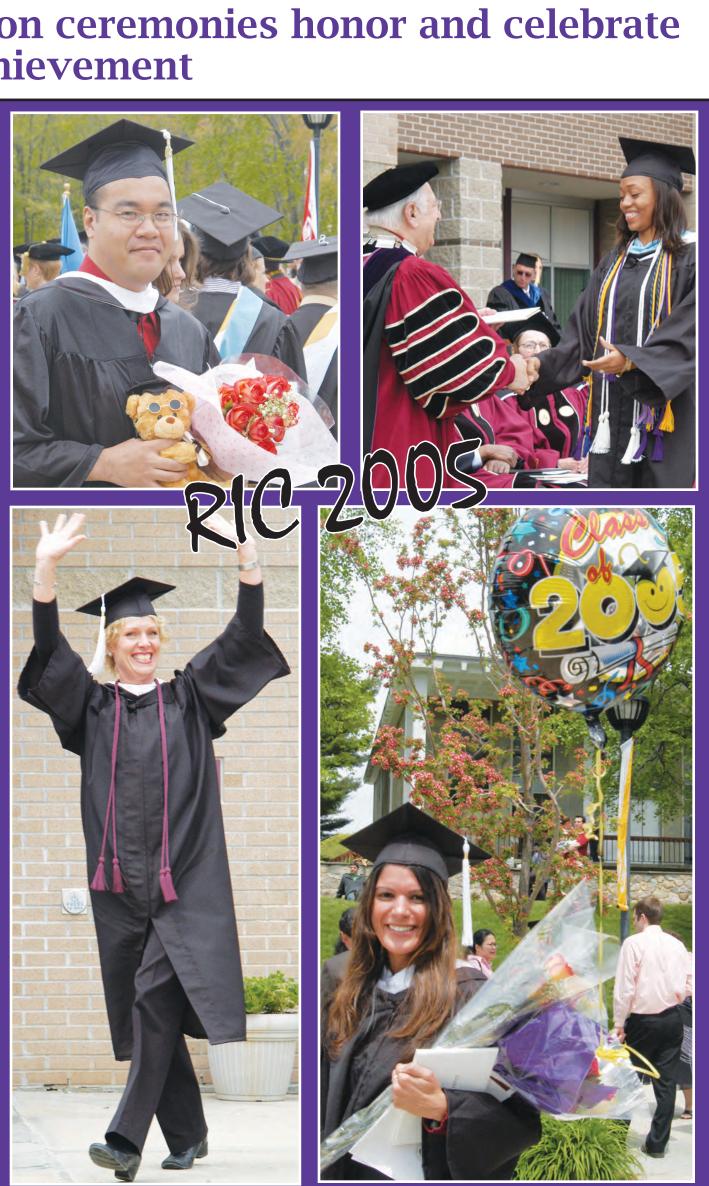
"I'm excited it's done, because it took so long to get here," said new grad Heather Black, an education major from Newport News, Va. "It's also a nice time to get together with friends and classmates you haven't seen in a while," she added.

Don Carrara of North Providence, an secondary education English major said, "It's rewarding for all of us in the education dept. It's been a hard journey."

Dina Cappalli, also of North Providence, a double major in elementary education and history, is a 36-year-old who first attended

Continued on page 10

Clockwise from upper left Lucky Rattanabandith, Quzette P. Nembhard receiving her degree from RIC President Nazarian, Rosa Brito, and Kathi Bacon, cheering before receiving her degree.



A long overdue graduation for Olive Plep '68

by Jane Fusco What's News Editor

t took 37 years but Olive Donahue Plep finally walked in the graduation procession in May to get her diploma.

Olive, now 60, earned her degree in education in 1968. She had married Herbert Plep, a Naval officer who was stationed in Newport, a month before graduation. The couple left for Herbert's duty station in Georgia right after they were married, so she couldn't attend the commencement exercises.

It was something she has regretted ever since.

"When you start asking yourself about the things you wish you had done, I wanted to graduate," Plep

Seeing her two children graduate over the last few years made her



OLIVE PLEP '68

realize what she had missed on that important day in 1968. At her son David's urging, she contacted Ellie O'Neill, director of RIC's Alumni Affairs, and asked if she could attend this year's ceremony. In her email to O'Neill, Plep wrote: "...my kids tell me to 'go for it,

NO. 1271

Rhode Island
College

Providence, R.I.

STUDENT IDENTIFICATION CARD
1965-1966

Disce Donahue
Signature

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Non-transferable violation warrants \$10.00 fine.

OLIVE DONAHUE PLEP'S STUDENT I.D.

Future grads?



Children from the RIC Cooperative Preschool present a check for \$125 to Peg Brown, vice president for development and college relations, for the Deborah Griffin Scholarship Fund. The money was raised through a bake sale.

mom!' - so, I am."

"I think we should do all that we can to make this happen," said RIC President John Nazarian when informed of the request.

Plep and her family were surprised that the College accepted her back so willingly. "This proves I can always come back home," Plep said.

Like many RIC students, Plep was the first in her family to attend and graduate from college. The oldest child of a struggling, single-parent family, Plep and her siblings were taught the value of an education by their mother who repeatedly told them that, "no one can ever take it (education) away

her financial limitations, he continually asked her if she was going to quit. She assured him she wouldn't. "He believed in me," she recalled.

Plep taught history in many schools as her husband's assignments took them all over the country.

"I was so well prepared for wherever I went to teach," she said. Other teachers often asked Plep for assistance in organizing their lessons when they saw how well prepared she was. "I would tell everyone that RIC was my foundation," she said.

Plep was glad to come back to RIC with her husband and family.



HERBERT AND OLIVE PLEP on their wedding day in 1968.

from you."

Plep said getting to RIC was difficult. As a student at St. Xavier's High School, she had to work late nights to pay for the tuition. She was often too tired to stay awake in class, causing her grades to slip. After high school, she went to junior college to improve her grades, determined to get a bachelor's degree. She wanted to be a teacher and RIC was affordable for her.

"RIC was the end of the rainbow for me. It gave me the chance I needed to go to college," she said.

Plep remembers how Frank Bucci in the admissions office urged her to finish school. Knowing It was the first time Plep had been back to the College since 1968.

She also took a new graduation photo. Herbert carried Olive's RIC yearbook photo with him while stationed off the coast of Vietnam. The photo became damaged by the salt air and sea elements.

Most importantly for Plep is that, "My college remembered me. If I had graduated from a big, mega university, they wouldn't remember me."

It is tradition in Plep's family to give a bouquet of roses to the graduate. After the ceremony, Plep brought her bouquet to her mother's grave. "She would be proud," she said.

Annual RIC Foundation Golf Day set for June 20

The Rhode Island College Foundation will hold its 16th annual Golf Day at the Metacomet Country Club in East Providence on Monday, June 20. Proceeds will go to the undergraduate scholarship program. Lunch begins at 11:30 a.m. followed by a shotgun start at 1 p.m. (Each player will play his own ball.) Dinner will be at 6:30 p.m. Cost of golf with lunch and dinner is \$175. Sponsorships are available from \$850 to \$5,000. Call 401-456-9625 for more information.

Michael lannone brings extraordinary lessons to his students

by Jane Fusco What's News Editor

t first glance, it is obvious that Michael Iannone is a survivor. Spend a few minutes with him and it is even more obvious that he is an inspiration.

Iannone graduated from the College on May 21 despite doubts, even his own, that he ever would. He is now ready to teach science to middle and high school students through life lessons that few people will ever know.

Iannone was seriously injured in the Station nightclub fire on Feb. 20, 2003, the deadliest fire in the state's history, killing 100 people. He was comatose for seven-anda-half weeks after the fire, lost an ear and a hand, sustained burns over much of his face and upper body, underwent more than 40 surgeries, followed by countless doctor visits and grueling physical therapy that put his education on hold.

But not for long.

Between surgeries, Iannone audited classes to catch up on what he missed. By the following January, less than a year after the fire and not even a third of the way through his recovery, he felt strong enough to continue his studies full time, and more determined than ever to earn his degree.

"Most people had doubts that I could come back so soon, but I wouldn't give them the satisfaction," he said. Returning to school wasn't

Returning to school wasn't easy for Iannone. He said he felt isolated at times.

"So many things had changed, the way I had to do things, the way I looked at things, the way people looked at me," he said. The staff at Mass. General Hospital, where he was taken immediately after the fire, taught him that he wasn't "a freak."

That's when the scientist in him took hold and he rationalized his future. He wanted to become a science teacher and that took

on a computer. Even more frustrating was trying to assemble an electronic portfolio for lesson plans.

Still, he endured. Iannone said that it was Daniel Snowman and Peter Meyer of the physical sciences department, and his advisor, Paul Tiskus, who encouraged him, giving him extra time and help when he needed it, never giving up on him.

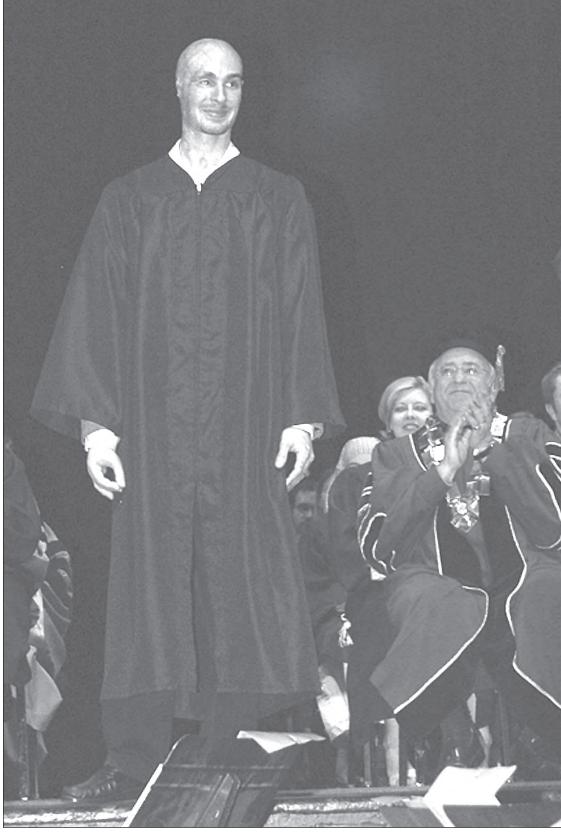
"They believed in me. Anything I needed, they did for me," he said.

Meyer had Iannone in classes before and after the fire. He said Iannone was one of his best students.

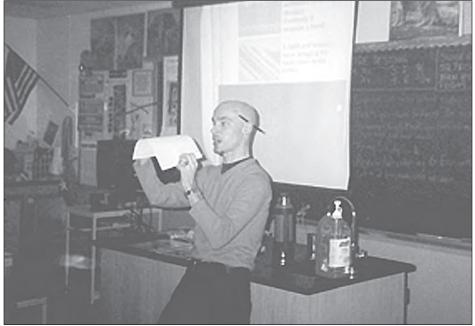
"The amazing thing is that after the fire, there was no change in him. He maintains the same level of enthusiasm. He never feels like he has a disability," Meyer said.

Iannone knew he would face even greater challenges as a student teacher. Kids are nervous enough adjusting to a new teacher, he said, but he was more concerned about their reaction to his appearance.

His first assignment was at Barrington Middle School. There he began his first class by pulling off his prosthetic hand and explaining its functionality. His students were instantly impressed with his direct approach and gave him their full attention in every class.



Michael Iannone receives the Educational Studies Award at Cap and Gown Convocation.



HEAD OF THE CLASS: Iannone student teaching at Barrington Middle School.

precedence over all else.

"If you're going to be upset, be upset for the first half hour and go on with your day," became his credo.

He set to the exhausting task of learning to use his one hand to do everything. It was particularly difficult in lab classes and working The students at Cranston West high school were stunned when he first entered the classroom. Iannone responded with, "if you think I look bad, you should see the other guy."

That put them at ease. Then he let them ask questions about

the fire and answered them as honestly as he could remember, he said, endearing him to the curious students.

Iannone brings to his class something most teachers cannot and hopefully never will – firsthand experience of what is in the textbooks.

"I tell my students that I am a walking science experiment," he half jokes.

An experiment who wasn't supposed to live beyond three weeks after waking from a coma, according to the medical team who treated him.

His professors know, too, how hard he fought and the difficulty he faced as they watched him meet each challenge of his recovery while maintaining his outstanding grades. For this, Iannone received this year's senior award in educational studies, which recognizes potential for excellence in teaching and academic success. The award was presented at the annual Cap and Gown exercises on May 4.

Tiskus said that Iannone's enthusiasm for science and learning is contagious. "Michael's sense of humor, playfulness, and style of teaching engages students. Michael serves as a role model for students in a variety of ways," he said.

Iannone was also the first recipient of the Michael J. Gonsalves scholarship specifically for RIC students affected in some way by the Station fire. Gonsalves, a well-known local radio personality and a 1986 graduate of RIC, was killed in the fire. Gonsalves' father, Neil, is a biology professor at the College.

Iannone knows his days ahead won't always be easy. He faces challenges that other teachers won't. He is still learning to perform some simple tasks and will probably need more surgeries.

"Like I tell my students, breathe in and out and take things one at a time," he said.

His students also learn right away to be prepared for anything in Iannone's class. "The kids don't know what I am going to do next because I don't know either," he said.

One thing they know for sure is that they have a teacher totally committed to their learning, and one who will test himself right along with them.

Big Sisters' director helped '05 grad step up to a better future

by Jane Fusco What's News Editor

ver the last 13 years, Priscilla Young and Yara Labrador have shared all the typical laughter and tears of a close friendship.

Today they share something else that is special to both of them – degrees from Rhode Island Col-

Young, a 1989 graduate of RIC, is the executive director of Big Sisters of Rhode Island, an agency that pairs mentors with girls up to age 18 who need friendship and guidance. Young was a Big Sister for many years before becoming its leader in 2002. Labrador was her Little Sister. Her young charge was 10 years old when they first

Like most 10 year olds, college was a foreign concept to Labrador at the time. To a poor, inner city child from a struggling, one parent household with four children, it also seemed beyond reach. But Young's mentoring and Labrador's determination made it a reality.

Labrador said that Young would tell her repeatedly, "My job's not over until you graduate from college."

So when Labrador walked across the stage at RIC's undergraduate commencement on May 21 to receive her diploma, Young knew she had completed a job well

Labrador is the first in her family to attend and graduate from college, and was the recipient of the first Big Sisters scholarship established in 2000. Labrador is now ready to teach Spanish and wants to do so in an urban school, because she says, she knows "where those students come from."

"Every child needs an opportunity to have a better life," Lab-



SISTERS: Big Sister Priscilla Young (left) and Little Sister Yara Labrador on graduation day.

rador said. "I want to help them have it."

Probably in the same way that Young helped her have a better life.

Young and Labrador spent three to four hours a week together, first learning to like each other, then soon realizing how much their time together meant. They went on hiking and camping trips, ate in different restaurants, cooked, gardened, went swimming, and became good friends.

More importantly, Young said, "I think I helped her figure out her life."

Young said that as a Big Sister, a woman develops a relationship with a young girl unlike any other. For one day a week, "I wouldn't be thinking about myself," she said.

For Labrador, her relationship with Young let her experience things that she would have been unable to do otherwise. Like going to the movies. "I couldn't do that growing up. We didn't have much money," she said.

Young took Labrador on a trip to Washington, D.C. when she graduated from Central High School.

Then, "she guided me through college. She was my motivation," Labrador said.

Though Labrador began her college experience in Florida, she quickly decided that it would be best to return home, to Providence, where her education would have a more practical application. Young encouraged her to apply to RIC, where another member of the College community has strong ties to Big Sisters.

Dorothy Pieniadz, RIC professor emerita of educational studies, was one of the founders of Big Sisters of Rhode Island in 1966 and is still an active supporter and advocate of the organization. Pieniadz established the first named endowment for Big Sisters in 2000 with a gift of \$50,000. Recently, she awarded the agency a \$10,000 gift with the challenge to match it, which the agency did. In addition, Big Sisters grants the Dorothy Pieniadz Great Heart Award each year to an individual or organization whose work has made a difference for girls or women in the state.

Young said that Labrador faced more struggles in her life than most young people. She saw how hard it was for Labrador to support herself financially and provide moral support to her family while maintaining her studies. Still, "she did the work," Young said.

"I am as proud of her as I would be of my own daughter," Young added, though she has no children of her own.

For her college graduation, Young gave Labrador a portrait painted by an artist friend of stairs leading up to the top of a landing.

"It represents the steps we take in life, what my Little Sister has accomplished in her life," Young said.

For Labrador, it's upward and still climbing.

The long road traveled: 2005 grad from East Germany graduates with honors

by David Cranshaw Staff Writer

Entering the United States in 1999 with a German/English dictionary and a box of flashcards, Daniela Hellmich embarked on an artistic and academic journey that earned her a bachelor of fine arts degree at RIC and placed her on the cusp of graduate school.

A native of the former German Democratic Republic (East Germany), Daniela Hellmich entered the United States six years ago with no formal education in English.

That made her first trip to the United States feel just like another trip to a foreign country, she said. She had the support of her husband, Joseph Shieber, an assistant professor of philosophy at Lafayette College in Pennsylvania who is fluent in German, to help her overcome the language barrier.

This, however, did not diminish her desire to gain the "independence that comes from being able to communicate on my own," she

Hellmich mastered a computer program called "English for Germans" to learn as much of the language as possible. She also used German/English flashcards to help her better communicate in English. In the end, the most difficult part of gaining fluency was making herself overcome the old habit of speaking to her husband in German.

"Forcing ourselves to be patient with the much slower process of conversation was probably the most difficult part," she said.

Patience proved to be a virtue as Hellmich reached a comfort level with the English language after six months and decided to enroll at RIC to become an artist specializing in ceramic design in 2001.

She said she was impressed from the beginning with the art program at the College, distinctly remembering the student work on display in the Art Center.

"The students showed a strong commitment to their work," she said.

Hellmich showed this same determination in earning a 3.93 GPA, departmental honors and successfully completing an honors project

under the direction of her advisor, Bryan Steinberg, associate professor of art.

"Professor Steinberg encouraged me to find my own artistic expression in ceramics and pushed me to excel," she said.

Mark Motte, professor of geography, who taught Hellmich in an honors seminar, saw the countless hours that Hellmich devoted to creating and refining her projects. She was able to take her practical knowledge of art and a strong understanding of three-dimensional objects to make creations that piqued the curiosity of those who observed her work, he said.

"She created pieces that made the viewer want to peel back the outer layers of her (work) to find out what was hidden inside," said Motte. "She wanted to surprise us, to treat us, to make us smile."

Hellmich will begin the master of fine arts program in ceramics in the fall at the Cranbrook Academy of Art in Michigan. Upon comple-



DANIELA HELLMICH

tion of the two-year program she hopes to begin a career as a ceramic designer and teach ceramics at the college level.

"Daniela will be a success in whatever she chooses to do, wherever she chooses to do it," said Motte. "She has the intelligence, creativity and tenacity to do very well," he said.

The end... or the beginning?

I find it difficult to sum up my four years here since no words could ever describe the feeling I get when I talk about being a member of the RIC community, and now a

Graduation day meant even more

than I ever expected.

I find it silly that I had thought about what that day would be like for so long. I wondered what the weather would bring, who our honorary degree recipients would be, and how I'd feel after walking across the stage. I had hoped that my farewell remarks would be well embraced and I'd make it through without mistakes or tears in my

Well, there were lots of tears that

I can never explain the emotions I felt as I marched by professors and staff members with whom I had formed such strong personal and professional relationships over the last four years.

Nor can I explain what I felt as I walked across the quad to *Pomp and Circumstance* with my fellow classmates knowing this would be the last time we would all be together on campus.

I never thought I'd feel so proud when looking up at President Nazarian from my seat knowing full well that it was much colder out than he had expected,



SUZY ALBA '05

nor did I know that the ceremony would be over in the blink of an eye and I'd wish I could have been out there in the cold just a little longer.

Graduation day has come and gone, and so has my undergraduate career at Rhode Island College. I know, however, that this really is only the beginning.

I leave here grateful to have received this degree and know that I am responsible to work even harder than I ever have during my undergraduate years to help ensure others have the opportunities that I have been given. I leave here knowing that true success lies in giving something

I may be leaving this campus, but I will forever be a part of the Rhode Island College community: a com-

munity that has nurtured and taught me everything I need to make a true difference in my life and the lives of others.

Thank you to all of my professors, staff members, administrators, and to my fellow RIC classmates and friends who I've worked with along the way. It has been an unforgettable four years and it has truly been an honor to represent the Class of 2005.

Everything I know, everything I am, and everything I will be...I owe to this College. - Suzy Alba, President, *Class of 2005.*

A graduate's message to his classmates



DAVID CRANSHAW '05

Com • mence • ment – The time at which something is supposed to begin. — Dictionary.com

After a long journey with countless bumps in the road, it is time for us as graduates of Rhode Island College to embark upon a new journey and meet the challenges of life head on.

Coming into this institution four, five or in some cases, more years ago, this event seemed like it was just a dream.

Who really knows what the future has in store. However, because of this institution, we are equipped with the knowledge and the skills to succeed. Now it is up to us to use these talents to make a difference in the world.

We may have had classes with the scientist who will cure cancer, a foreign diplomat who will help foster world peace, or the social worker or educator that will make the difference in the life of a child each and every day.

The sky is the limit. I encourage you to find that cause or belief that you are passionate about. Find that career that you can wake up every morning and say, I can't wait to go to work and leave my imprint on the world!

Continue to add to the rich tradition of over 150 years of excellence that has been established at RIC. Remember your college degree is only as strong as the college that issued the degree. Remain active alumni and ensure the vitality of your College for the next 150 years.

The importance of giving of yourself, your talents and your time are virtues that are impressed upon us by the mission of the College and the instruction of the faculty. Stay active and involved, in the community and by helping to enrich the lives of others.

Most importantly, never forget your roots. I challenge each and every one of you to thank the people who made it possible for you to earn the distinction of being college graduate.

Class of 2005, I wish you the best of luck in all of your future endeavors. Now go forth and continue to prove to the community that the best and brightest come from the corner of Mount Pleasant and College Road right here at Rhode Island College.

50 years later, the Class of '55 remains closely connected to RIC



Peg Brown, **VP** for Development and College Relations

On a VERY crisp commencement morning, representatives of the Class of 1955 assembled in the Student Union Ballroom to prepare to march in the graduation procession, carrying the

banner that proclaimed their moment as the 50th reunion class. Amid sus-



GOLDEN CLASS: Members of the Class of 1955 were part of the undergraduate commencement procession May 21.

the Class chose to raise funds in memory of classmates Bob Coelho, Dave McCarthy, and Shirley Szarko Hewitt, all class presidents who had died early in their lives.

To date, over \$40,400 has been pledged or given to support the

Class Fund. This is the second largest amount ever raised by a 50th reunion class, the current record having been set by the Class of 1954. Prior to these most recent two years, the class record for reunion

giving was held by the Class of 1940 - a class that set the precedent for extraordinary giving during a 50th reunion year.

Members of the class who have pledged or given \$5,000 or more to the fund include:

Ennis Bisbano Roland Blais Mary Connole Wileen Coyne Barbara Hackett John Hagan Jane and Raymond Hart Barbara Kiely Carol Louison Berge Barbara Michelson Ruth Morse Lillian Mottola Patricia Patnaude Clare Renasco

Beverly Rossi

Ronald St. Onge

Members of the class who have

pledged or given \$1,000 or more to the fund include:

Patricia Berlam

Mary Terry Class members may continue to give to their fund either through outright gifts or gifts made through their estate plans. The

class will be working on a fund statement that will establish the criteria for making an annual scholarship award in honor of their deceased class leaders. All gifts should be made to the RIC Foundation, Class of 1955 50th

Anniversary Fund.

tained applause from the graduating students and their families, the repre-

BRIDE AND

GROOM GRADS:

(above) Raymond

and Jane Hart, both

1955 RIC graduates,

on their wedding

day, and at right in a

recent photo.

sentatives took their place under the tent and watched as two of their classmates, Nancy Bordeleau and Vin Cullen, joined President Nazarian on the podium to make a few remarks and present the College with their class gift.

Traditionally, 50th reunion classes have undertaken a significant fund-raising project, centered on their reunion. This year,

Nancy Bordeleau Vincent Cullen

Preparing for commencement: a race to the finish line

by Lauren Mesale '06 Staff Writer

ach May, undergraduate and graduate commencement takes place at Rhode Island College. The lawns are lush and green, the flowerbeds neatly groomed. Students cross the stage to accept their diplomas, wearing their regalia and breathing a bittersweet sigh of relief as their college days come to a close.

Little do they know that it takes over 1,000 man-hours of prep work and finishing touches during the week leading up to undergraduate commencement. The regalia, diplomas, invitations, and personnel do not magically appear. And the campus does not give itself a makeover for this special occasion. A look behind the scenes reveals how it all happens.

The path to a perfect graduation day is tread by countless members of faculty and staff, as every department contributes to the big day. Many departments offer volunteer ushers and attendants or specialized services. Many graduates return as commencement marshals.

No sooner do classes begin, than does the race – and it deserves to be called a race – to prepare for commencement day. In February, the Campus Store sends letters to students eligible to obtain their degrees, notifying them of the deadline for forms and where to pick up their cap and gown orders. Michelle Mare, of the Campus Store staff, then places the orders with Waldorf Cap and Gown Supply.

All the while, the Campus Store is inundated with calls from students. The number one question: "Which color tassel and hood represents my school of study?" The hood and tassel colors are: light blue, Feinstein School of Education and Human Development; gold, School of Management; citron, School of Social Work; and white, Faculty of Arts and Sciences.

"We are as helpful as possible to the students - we want everything to run smoothly for them during such a hectic time," Mare said.

Meanwhile, on the other end of campus, the Office of Conferences and Special Events is preparing for commencement week, too.

In December, musicians and sign language interpreters are chosen, and orders for ceremonial accessories, such as honor cords and honorary degree hoods, are placed.

Ceremonial marshals are recruited and materials for degree candidates' graduation packets are printed. In early April, mailings to dignitaries, faculty, staff, degree candidates and the parents of baccalaureate candidates are sent out daily.

"I begin to feel like a person who is trying to keep a series of fragile plates aloft by twirling them on the ends of poles," said Kathryn Sasso, director of conferences and special events at the College. "It's challenging and exhausting, but when it all comes together, it's exhilarating."

As spring arrives, the campus grounds are transformed into a picturesque backdrop for photographs.

About 6,000 chairs are rented and more than 200 cubic yards of mulch are spread. The final result is one at which the over 7,000 students, family members and faculty marvel.

Greg Gammell, assistant director of facilities and operations, landscaping and grounds at the physical plant, and Debbie Dunphy, assistant director of facilities – administrative and custodial services at the physical plant, work nonstop to ensure that a perfect commencement is brought to life.

Gammell and Dunphy have



CLEAN UP YOUR ACT: Debbie Dunphy '99 and Greg Gammell relocate the podium and chairs, upon the close of commencement week festivities.

found that with each year, many memorable and amusing stories of commencement day activities develop. One year, the grandmother of a soon-to-be graduate arrived just before 6:30 a.m. – three hours early – claimed a seat, and took on a knitting project while watching the crews finish setting up.

"We have had so many family members of the students show up early – we've even seen guests have breakfast and take naps in their seats," Gammell said.

It is usually a last minute decision as to whether or not the ceremony will be held inside The Murray Center or outside on the esplanade. Gammell and Dunphy agree that the worst-case scenario would be a forecast of rain after everything had been perfectly placed outside, since this would mean having to move everything into The Murray Center in a mat-

ter of hours – a surefire way to bring about chaos.

"So, every year, we make sure that Deacon Mike (of campus ministry) prays for sun," Dunphy said with a laugh.

One thing that everyone seems to notice are the vibrant blooms everywhere they look. Gammell said that for the past 10 years, the timing of the plants' blooming has been purposefully set to be in sync with commencement week.

By 3:30 p.m. on the Saturday of undergraduate commencement, everything (chairs and other equipment) is taken down and sent to URI for its commencement the next day, and the campus is quiet once again.

"It's one of the nicest days on campus," said Dunphy.

And the 7,000 people who attended this year's commencement agree.

RIC grads find success with Kaleidoscope Theatre

Two 2005 graduates of Rhode Island College's theatre program are taking their show on the road. Tommy Iafrate and Rob Ferland have officially become assistant artistic director and technical director, respectively, at Kaleidoscope Theatre. Both have worked part time for Kaleidoscope for several years. Iafrate has acted and directed, while Ferland created a state-of-the-art sound system. Their individual talents have come together to help the theatre troupe perform at many venues throughout New England.

At the College, Ferland was the first student to design the lighting for a Mainstage musical with the 2005 performance of *The Pirates of Penzance*. Ferland has also worked for five years as a technical assistant in Roberts Hall Auditorium, and has served as resident lighting designer for the Pawtucket Community Players for the past six years.

Iafrate graduated summa cum laude with a 4.0 grade point average, having double majored in theatre and physics. It's an unusual combination of studies, but a formula that worked for Iafrate.

He received the Ronald J. Baruch award for excellence in the physical sciences and appeared as Cousin Kevin in *The Who's Tommy* and as the Pirate King in *The Pirates of Penzance*, at the College.



TOMMY IAFRATE (left) AND ROB FERLAND

This summer, Kaleidoscope Theatre will, for the fourth year, offer a series of children's fairytale musicals at RIC. Among those RIC graduates and undergraduates appearing in this year's summer series will be Carolyn Cole '05, Fallon Healy '05, Ali Angelone '05, Liz Camboia '06, Jamie Dellorco '06, Kevin Broccoli '06, Jen Drummond '07 and Justin Robinson '08.

"I received a wonderful background in theatre

education at RIC and find that so many of our most talented actors are RIC grads or undergrads," said David Payton '77, executive director of Kaleidoscope Theatre.

This summer will mark Kaleidoscope Theatre's 28th year touring throughout New England with over 20 fairytale musicals, award-winning school-touring productions, dinner theatre murder mysteries and cabarets, plus several productions to help various special needs programs and organizations.

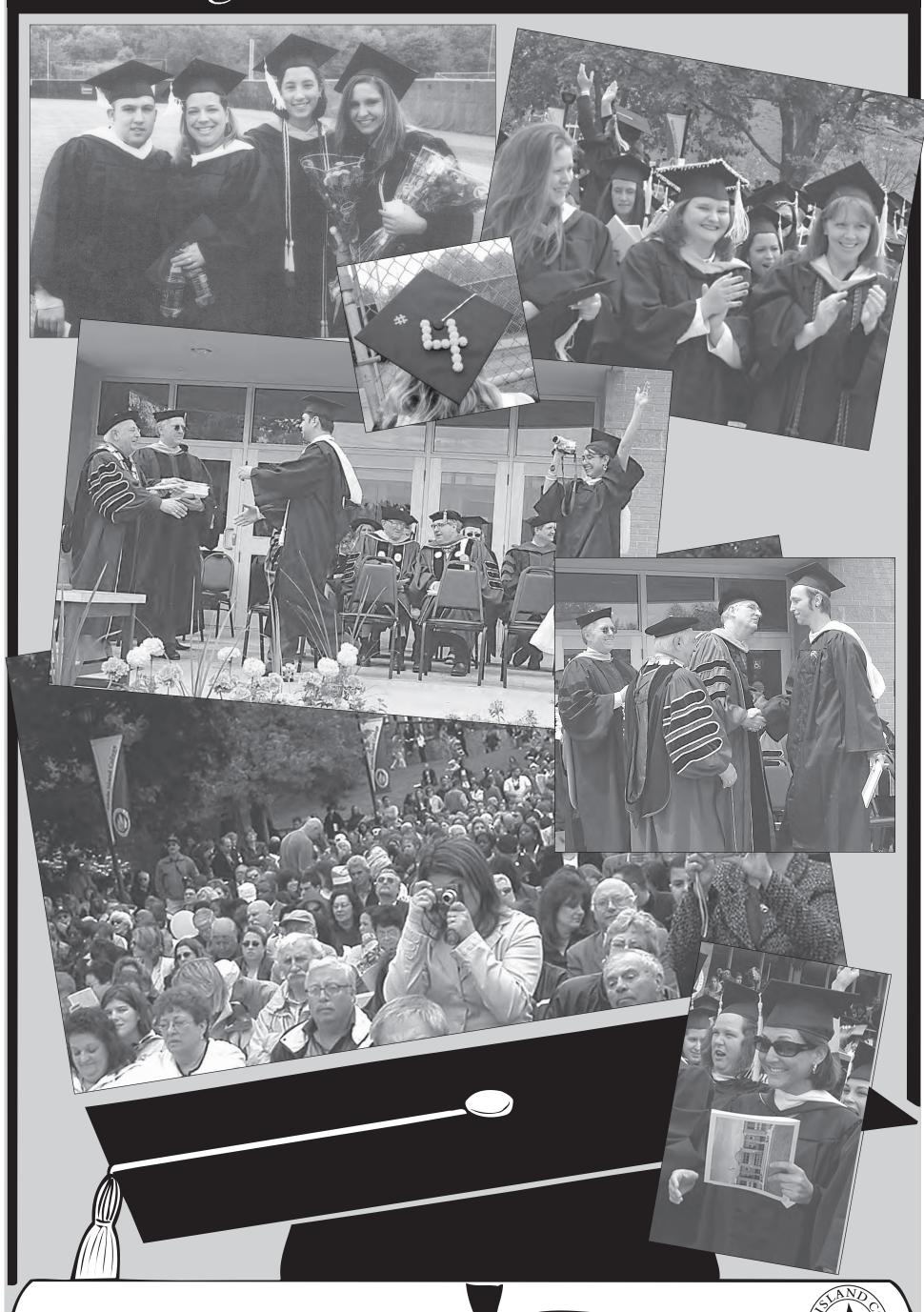
All RIC performances will be held on Tuesdays at 11 a.m. in Roberts Hall Auditorium.

Kaleidoscope's summer schedule is: Mother Goose, July 5; Snow White, July 12; Rapunzel, July 19; Beauty and the Beast, July 26; The Three Little Pigs, Aug 2; Cinderella, Aug 9; The Frog Prince, Aug 16; and The Emperor's New Clothes, Aug 23.

Tickets are \$6 in advance and \$8 at the door. A special offer of \$5 per person is available for groups of 25 people or more and for those buying season tickets with VIP seating. To purchase tickets, contact the RIC box office at 401-456-8144.

For more information on Kaleidoscope Theatre, call 401-942-3637.









Civic engagement theme of Cap and Gown Convocation

It wasn't graduation day, but caps, gowns and the sounds of *Pomp and Circumstance* filled Roberts Hall Auditorium in a May 4 ceremony honoring the Class of 2005.

The Cap and Gown Convocation celebrated personal achievement and the commencement season with academic awards, the announcement of the class gift and the traditional capping of the undergrads. Civic involvement emerged as a theme of the event, brought out in messages from student and faculty speakers, and RIC President John Nazarian.

Nazarian said of the Class of 2005, "I believe that (its) enduring hallmark will be the renewal of a sense of civic responsibility and community engage-

He pointed out that this year's Cap and Gown day was the anniversary of Rhode Island becoming the first colony to declare independence from Britain. "Today, 229 years later, the need for educated and public-spirited leaders remains as crucial as ever," said Nazarian. "Our communities will remain strong and vibrant as long as citizens take on the responsibilities of civic involvement. I have seen the class of 2005 take a special interest in these respon-

Nazarian said he hoped that the College would remember the class for its "leadership, scholarship and generosity."

Those attributes were recognized by Dan King, vice president for academic affairs, who announced departmental awards for over 50 soon-to-be grads

Ainsley Morisseau, a magna cum laude graduate, received three honors: the Eleanor M. McMahon Award for work in the College Honors Program, the Communications Achievement Award in public and professional concentration, and the Bertha Christina Andrews Emin Award for Outstanding Achievement.

Morisseau completed an honors project that studied the state of women in contemporary American politics and suggested ways that women could access positions of power at the highest levels. She is a co-founder of the Reading Across the Curriculum project and a leader in the Rhode Island High School Civic Engagement Project, the 2004 Debate Watch Program, the Urban Debate League of Rhode Island, and the Alcohol Task Force.

Angel M. Desmarais was the recipient of the James Houston Award in anthropology. Desmarais, who also has interests in biology, anatomy and forensics, has been working since last year as the first and only anthropological intern in the State Medical Examiner's Office.

Babacar Gueye, a native of Senegal who came to the U.S. in 1995 not knowing how to speak English, earned the Outstanding Student Award in Accounting. After completing a degree at the Community College of Rhode Island with highest honors, he took a full course load at RIC while working fulltime at night. Gueye is the first RIC student to receive a national scholarship from the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

Monique Renaud, winner of the Herbert R. Winter Award for Academic Excellence in Political Science, enrolled at CCRI in 1999, 39 years after coming to the U.S. from her native Quebec, Canada. In 2003 she transferred to RIC, where she has earned a GPA of 3.85 in political science.

Seniors who merited inclusion in Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges were recognized by Gary Penfield, vice president for student affairs.

The Cap and Gown Convocation is where graduating seniors are "formally invested in their robes," explained Nazarian. To accomplish the investiture, he placed caps on the heads of senior class officers, then all the 2005 candidates capped each other.

Valerie Endress, assistant professor of communications, was chosen by the class to offer the main address. She warned that the nation was "perceived to be in rapid moral and ethical decline." She told the students that they are less likely to vote than other demographics, giving them "virtually no voice as a political constituency." Endress, however, said that education for citizenship has long been "in the bones" of the College, and



DAVID CRANSHAW '05

cited many examples of civically engaged students at RIC. (The full address appears on next page.)

The student speech was given by David Cranshaw, who said that RIC "prepared us not only to be professionals in our chosen field but active members in the community as well."

Class officers Suzy Alba (president), April Arnold (vice president), Rachel Sokoll (secretary), and David Cranshaw (treasurer) presented Nazarian with a facsimile of an electronic message board to represent the class's gift to the College, which is mounted on a wall in the Student Union lobby.

The national anthem was sung by Nadezhda Maryanov and Lucky Rattanabandith, who also received the Cantor Jacob Hohenemser Award in music. The RIC Wind Ensemble closed the event by performing the College's Alma Mater song, composed by Grace Electa Bird, professor of educational psychology at the College from 1914 to 1942.

A reception for students and their families followed the ceremony in the McCarthy-Galvin Court-

Cap and Gown Day - 2005 recipients of special departmental awards –

Angel M. Desmarais, James Houston Award in Anthropology

Stephanie M. Farrar, Art History Award

Jeremy D. Swain, Studio Art Award

Excellence in Biology Zacharie J. Lacourse, Theodore Lemeshka Award in

Ainsley E. Morisseau, Eleanor M. McMahon Award in

the College Honors Program Ainsley E. Morisseau, Communications Achievement

Award in Public and Professional Communications Michael Iannone, Educational Studies Award

Kathryn I. Lucas, Educational Studies Award

Lisa R. Bucci, Katherine Murray Prize in Educational Studies

Emily K. Nuri, Katherine Murray Prize in Educational

Katherine S. Bellows, Elementary Education Award Jennifer A. Puniello, Jean Garrigue Award in English Matthew S. Ruggiero, Mark W. Estrin Film Studies

Tyla J. Perry, Rose Butler Browne Award Ainsley E. Morisseau, Bertha Christina Andrews Emin Award for Outstanding Achievement

Molly E. DeMarco, Bertha Christina Andrews Emin Award for Scholastic Excellence

Pamela Haczynski-Storme, Health and Physical Education Award

Elizabeth K. Parrish, Claiborne deB. Pell Award in

Michael P. Riley, John E. Hetherman Award in *Intercollegiate Athletics*

Katherine E. McCalligett, Helen M. Murphy Award in Intercollegiate Athletics

Kathleen E. Sweeney, John Silva Memorial Scholastic Award in the School of Management

Stephanie M. Pepper, W. Christina Carlson Award for Babacar Gueye, Outstanding Student Award in Accounting

Thomas J. Hazard, Outstanding Student Award in Computer Information Systems

Daniel S. Triggs, Outstanding Student Award in Marketing

Richard Lima Bairos, Wall Street Journal Award in Economics or Finance

Sara A. Czyzewicz, Richard A. Howland Computer

Yvette M. Mongeon, Christopher R. Mitchell Award in Mathematics

Cynthia Navarro, Nelson A. Guertin Memorial Award

Bryn A. Evans, Tegu Polyglot Award in Modern Languages

Matthew R. Furtado, Peter Jeffrey Archambault Memorial Award in Theatre Lucky Rattanabandith, Cantor Jacob Hohenemser

Award in Music Sarah N. Hodosh, Alice K. Pellegrino Music Education

Melissa M. Sparks, Rhode Island College Theatre

Kate E. Jasmin. Yetta Rauch Melcer Dance Award Jo-ann R. Sine-Calise, Nursing Award in Academic

Lisa M. Catalano, Nursing Award in Service Excellence

Elizabeth A. Jenkins-Donahue, Nursing Award for Undergraduate Registered Nurse

Molly E. DeMarco, Thomas J. Howell Award in Philosphy

Ryan D. Tassone, Thomas J. Howell Award in Philosphy

Babajide O. Okandeji, American Institute of Chemists

Thomas J. Iafrate, Ronald J. Boruch Award in Physical Science

Megan A. Almond, Departmental Physics Award Alison J. Lambert, North Providence League of Women Voters Award

Monique T. Renaud, Herbert R. Winter Award for Academic Excellence in Political Science

Erin E. Carr, Victoria Lederberg Psychology Award Ashley R. Folgo, Victoria Lederberg Psychology Award

Danielle M. Cardi, Bachelor of Social Work Community Service Award

Jessica L. Clark, Anthony E. Ricci Social Work Practice Award

Sarah M. Moreau, Mary Ann Hawkes Award in Justice Studies

Pamela T. Bliss, Lauris B. Whitman Award in Sociology

Plinio E. German, Elisa F. Bonaventura Award in Special Education

Amanda Frazer, Josephine A. Stillings Award in Special Education

Carolyn I Taylor Josephine A Stillings Award in Special Education



Recipients of special departmental awards at Cap and Gown Day 2005.

Cap and Gown Convocation address, May 4, 2005 by Valerie Endress, assistant professor of communications

President Nazarian, members of the administration, platform guests and honorees, faculty and staff colleagues, family and friends of our students, and most especially to the officers and members of the class of 2005, I am honored to have the opportunity to offer a few words today at the event that marks the beginning of our commencement festivities.

The class officers requested that I focus my remarks on the topic of civic engagement and, for the last few months, I have been concerned about how best to approach this speech. Everyone, it would seem, has something to say about the health and prospect of our nation's democracy and civic life. It is and has been for a very long time the favored topic for speeches during the commencement season. For that reason, it's difficult to discuss civic engagement without resorting to the clichés. Or, at least, I find it difficult.

According to the rules of the genre, I should tell the class of 2005 that, as the leaders of tomorrow, you possess both the capability and the confidence, the motivation and the drive to right many of the wrongs of the past, including those mistakes of my generation.

Still, will you do so? I certainly want to say yes; I probably should say yes according to the dictates of the occasion. But, in all honesty, I don't know. And here's why: Much of the research and writing on civic engagement tells us that we are in some amount of trouble. Some say that we have traded the spirit of democracy for wanton materialism; that we are a nation dominated by the rhetoric of individual rights at the expense of the public good; that we are a land of angry, anxious, fearful, careless, and despairing people. We blame our politicians for it all, and we want them removed from office. Even then, we have no real expectation that their replacements will serve us any better.

In essence, we have evolved from a state of grace, to a nation perceived to be in rapid moral and ethical decline. It is a grim portrait, drawn by those scholars on both the political left and the right. Christopher Lasch, for example, charges that we have willed to future generations a "culture of narcissism." Richard Rorty worries that we are in the midst of a long, national "nervous breakdown." Robert Bork envisions our lack of national purpose as a "Slouch towards Gomorrah."

I could continue, but in the interest of the class officers who are probably a little concerned about where this address is going, let me talk about the assessments in more meaningful and less apocalyptic terms. Robert Putnam is one of a long series of writers on community and civic participation who believes that we are becoming ever more alienated from our families, our neighbors, our communities, and our government. Bowling is his literal and driving metaphor. Years ago, he wrote, thousands of people belonged to bowling leagues. Today, they are more likely to bowl alone. As he argues,

Television, two-career families, suburban sprawl, generational changes in values – these and other changes in American society have meant that fewer and fewer of us find that the League of Women Voters, or the United Way...or the monthly bridge club, or even a Sunday picnic with friends fits the way we have come to live. Our growing [alienation] threatens educational performance, safe neighborhoods...every-

day honesty, and even our health and happiness.

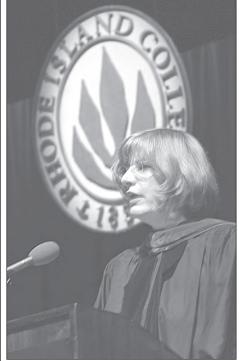
Perhaps that sounds too much like an assessment of your parents' lifestyle to be compelling. So let's lessen the generational gap and talk about this issue in ways the Class of 2005 might readily identify: You are still less likely to vote than any other demographic. And, as a consequence, your voting record exacerbates a vicious cycle, whereas candidates don't engage young people because they don't vote, and young people don't vote because candidates and politicians don't address those issues that are important to them. Thus, you have virtually no voice as a political constituency. If the majority of you voted, do you believe that Congress would be talking about the reduction or elimination of Pell Grants or other means for financing a college education? One has to wonder whether first-time home buying might not be a priority on the political agenda if you cast your ballot in greater numbers.

Beyond the issue of formal politics, let's move into the ideas that are closer to Putnam's notion of community. Despite the positive relationship that exists between campus and community involvement and career success, students across the nation are far less likely to view themselves primarily as members of a "community of learners." We know, for example, that a near majority of undergraduates today holds part-time or full-time jobs while they attend school

A near majority of undergraduates are commuters. And, most national surveys say that you are consumers who wish to get your training and credentials as easily, quickly, and cheaply as possible. Hence, your generation's need to complete professional training with as few distractions as possible makes it difficult to interest you in the broader goals of intellectual and personal development. This is the challenge that presents itself to administrators, faculty, and students alike who understand the vital need and essential value of civic engagement.

Many students of the Class of 2005 may agree that the demographics are a close fit, but that several of the attendant attitudes are not. Sometimes it is difficult for us to see that. Perhaps it is because the center of a civically-engaged college is not always visible, because it comes from within – it is a centrifugal force and it pulls many different constituencies into its core activities – a collaborative curriculum and co-curriculum.

To be sure, we have far too many students without the commitment and experience. Yet, inside this academic institution we have recognized that we



VALERIE ENDRESS

have a rare and critical role to play as a public good. It may be a cliché, but we <u>do</u> educate the next generation of leaders. We <u>do</u> address important societal issues that can change our world. We <u>do</u> preserve our cultural past in hope of laying the groundwork for the future.

It is telling, I think, that even those of us who occasionally have the illusion that we know a lot about what this College is up to, are surprised by everything that it is, in fact, doing. It is telling, too, that some of these efforts seem much more at the periphery of the College than at the center—sometimes creating the illusion that our reigning metaphor might be the amoeba, and not the metropolis or civitas. Still, it's clear that education for citizenship has been in the bones of this college for a very long time.

How we know this? From my corner of this world, it happens when students give up a weekend's worth of pay and several hundred dollars of their own money to brave the snow and sub-zero cold of New Hampshire to become part of the political process. It happens when these same students ask, "What's next?" and became the backbone and driving force to bring over 800 citizens to campus for DebateWatch, and then ask once again, "What's next?" only to begin plans for a myriad of other projects.

It also happens with far less noise and little fanfare in other parts of the campus, yet with no less significance. It happens when students open their minds to alternative food sources to feed the world's population. It happens when future teachers from RIC design social studies units focusing on citizen-

ship education for schools in Rhode Island. It happens when nursing students recognize the broader contributions of their profession, and collaborate with community activists to explore the intersect between health and public policy.

It happens when students learn that a seemingly simple act of collecting toothbrushes can help impoverished children. It happens when members of your class join forces with the Gray Panthers to assess the needs of the elderly in Providence. It happens when students create their own initiatives such as Journey of Hope, Komedy for Kids, Got Points, Project Awareness, the High School Engagement Project, the blood drives, the clothing drives, the food drives, and the voter drives. It happens when students choose to spend their vacation time on Alternative Spring Break and Habitat for Humanity. It happens when students choose to intern in public service and non-profit organizations, and to participate in service-learning initiatives across this campus. The list goes on and on and

These are our new generation's best and the brightest and they live in Rhode Island!

Nothing can quite match the awakening that occurs when these students come together as peers and, in those creative and critical moments, discover new ways of building community. They possess an experimental attitude, and a predisposition for playfulness conducive to both intellectual discovery and social innovation.

All of you in the graduating class will eventually face the choice of whether you contribute to the vital parts of society, or, whether you will eschew responsibility.



AINSLEY MORISSEAU

At the beginning of your professional careers, no one expects you to provide the blueprint for how you will lead accomplished lives or use your talents in a cause greater than your self-interest. These choices reveal themselves over time, and seldom arrive just once, or are resolved at one time, or permanently secure the course of your life.

Some of you will blaze like stars as soon as you graduate, while others will go quietly about their business and come to know the powers of civic engagement as parents and as grandparents. The choice is obviously yours about when, how, or even if you choose to work toward a revitalization of the civic community.

Again, I don't know if you will be different or better than the generations that preceded you. I don't know if you will reverse the trend toward cynicism that we never could, participate in the community in ways that we never would, open the gates for political participation, something that hasn't happened, but so desperately should. But if you do, we will be forever proud and grateful.

To the Class of 2005, my congratulations to each of you, and my best wishes for your journeys ahead.



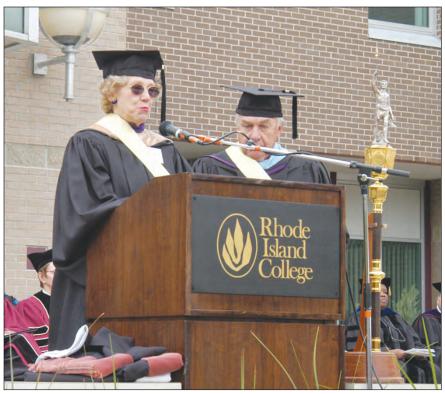
CAPS ON: Two students enjoy the capping ceremony at the May 4 Cap and Gown Convocation.



We'll remember alu



HONORARY DEGREE recipients with President John Nazarian. (Left to right) William Julius Wilson, Billie Ann Burrill, Nazarian and Friedrich St.Florian.



REPRESENTING the Golden Anniversary Class of '55, Nancy McIntosh Bordeleau and Vincent A. Cullen.



GRADUATION ELATION: A new grad is happy to be a part of

Commencement——

Continued from page 1

CCRI and spent the last three years at RIC. "I didn't think this day was ever going to come," she said. "Long road, positive end."

Gov. Donald L. Carcieri congratulated the class, and stressed the importance of people living in harmony, beginning in the home, which can then extend into the community, nation and world. "I would challenge you to aspire to above all else, be good people," he

Judge Frank Caprio, chair of the Board of Governors for Higher Education, told the students that the "challenges are so much more complex" today, but "one basic thing that will never change is human decency." Added Caprio: "During the course of your life, never forget who lent out a helping hand to you.'

RIC President John Nazarian, who wanted to ensure that his commencement message was "fresh and original," called in two "consultants" - a ten-year-old boy and a seven-year-old girl. The boy's advice for the graduates was to get a good job, work hard, don't do anything that you'll regret later and do something in life that you want to do. The girl cautioned against talking to strangers and stealing money, while always being careful, helpful and nice. (Nazarian's two advisors were Bryan and Christina, children of Michael Smith, assistant to the president.)

Nancy McIntosh Bordeleau and Vincent Cullen, both of the Class of 1955, presented the College with their class's golden anniversary gift, a \$50,000 scholarship fund that currently stands at over \$40,000. The gift was given in recognition of the three Class of 1955 presidents, Bob Coelho, Dave McCarthy and Shirley Szarko Hewitt, all of whom have passed

away. Bordeleau exhorted the grads to "make your influence felt for positive outcomes in every way you can. That will be your legacy."

Honorary doctorate degrees were awarded to retired RIC educator Billie Ann Burrill (fine arts), architect Friedrich St.Florian (fine arts), and Harvard University professor William Julius Wilson (humanities).

In his address, Wilson discussed the Welfare reform legislation of 1996, about which he is currently conducting a study. Wilson wants congress and the country to be aware of the Welfare reform's limitations. He said that thus far, many of the mothers who left the Welfare rolls netted only modest gains because they lost some benefits such as health insurance. He also noted that former Welfare recipients at the lower end of the economic spectrum need to be given extra attention.

Suzy Alba, president of the Class of 2005, told her classmates "success doesn't just mean promotions and paychecks." She exhorted the grads to "acknowledge and address the needs of our community."

Nazarian announced that plaques will be created as a new way to honor graduating classes that make "exceptional contributions to the College." The plaques will be placed on fences by the main entrances to the campus. The first to be displayed will recognize the Class of 2005, which donated an electronic message board for its class gift.

Marianne Needham '59, president of the RIC Alumni Association, urged the newest alumni to "support and advance our College...politically, financially, emotionally, and in spirit."

By the numbers

Graduate degrees awarded: 314

Undergraduate degrees awarded: 1,139

2005 Undergrad commencement day

high temperature: 57

2004 Undergrad commencement day

high temperature: 87

Years John Nazarian has presided at commencement: 17

Years Kathy Sasso has

coordinated commencement: 26

Number of 2005 commencement marshals: 71

the commencement festivities May 21.

rays...graduation day



Graduate Commencement May 21

Grads urged to provide a vision for those in need

Anthony Maione graduated from RIC in 1975 - but he never would have arrived on campus had others not seen his potential and spurred him to fulfill it.

In his address, Maione, president and CEO of United Way of Rhode Island, gave credit to some of the people who altered the arc of his life, hoping his example would encourage the grads to change the lives of others.

Maione also received an honorary doctor of humanities degree at The Murray Center graduate commencement, which recognized 314 January, May and August advanced degree recipients.

He told of how at age four, he lost his father, forcing his mother and older brother to support the family. Times were difficult financially. "When minimum wage went up, we got a raise," said Maione.

His mother had a dream for him: someday he would go to college. Maione, however, settled for taking a business course of study in high school, and did not even consider higher education until one of his teachers challenged him with extra schoolwork, and steered him toward college prep classes.

His guidance counselor made him take the SATs and helped him secure a college grant. Maione also took advantage of Pell grants to pay his college tuition. After earning a bachelor's degree from RIC, he went on to achieve a master of business administration degree from the University of Rhode Island.

Today, he said, 40,000 children in Rhode Island live below the

poverty line. "I am out of patience with this," he said. "It robs children of a vision, and how to get there." He told the graduates, "You have to provide a vision for their future that they can't see."

future that they can't see."

Maione said, "Your reward could be to guide a kid who didn't know how to dream." He added, "It's in your hands."

Sherwin J. Kapstein, longtime educator, former executive director of the National Education Association in Rhode Island, and a former state representative, received an honorary doctor of education degree.

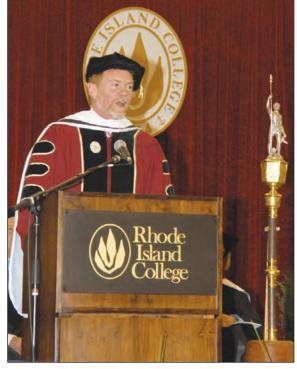
Michael F. Ryan '74, vice chair of the Board of Governors for Higher Education, cited his former boss, the late U.S. Senator John Chafee, as a good example for the grads to follow.

Chafee had an enthusiasm for finding solutions to problems and a willingness to try to make life better for people, said Ryan.

Nazarian asked the graduates to remember faculty, family, friends, fellow students, and workplace colleagues who have contributed to getting the degree. "Their names will not be found on your diploma, but theirs will be found in your heart," he said.

Monette J. Patrie, who received a master of professional accountancy, gave the student address.

The ceremony also included students who received doctorates of philosophy in education, a program offered jointly by RIC and the University of Rhode Island. Certificates of advanced graduate study, a program of 30 credits or more beyond the master's level, were also awarded.



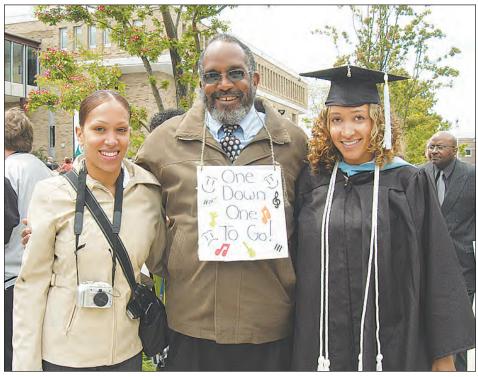
GRADUATE ADDRESS. Anthony Maione '75 delivers the commencement address for advanced degree candidates.



ALUMNI ATHLETES, marking the 75th anniversary of intercollegiate athletics at RIC, march during commencement exercises.



NEARLY DISGUISED: Associate Professor Ken Ainley poses with three graduate students wearing flowered sunglasses.



PROUD FATHER: John Johnson wears a sign indicating daughter Hannah (right) has graduated while daughter Sarah (left) is next.

RIC retirees recognized at Commencement Gala

Rhode Island College marked the retirements of 31 employees at the College's annual Commencement Gala, held May 20 in the Donovan Dining Center.

The retirees (of the past year through this month):

Brian R. Allen, director, Campus Center, 24 years

R. Carol Barnes, associate professor of anthropology 38 years

George R. Bassett, campus police officer, 23 years

Barbara A. Blackwell, information services tech II, Network & Telecommunications, 17 years

Adrien J. Blanchette, campus police officer, 33 years

Charles W. Bohnsack, professor of biology, 30 years

Lawrence Budner, professor of communications, 32 years

Dolores Carney, cook's helper, College Dining Services, 10 years

John F. Custer, executive director of Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts and professor of theatre, 36 years

Karon R. Dionne '91, director of Outreach Programs, School of Management, 15 years

Natalie A. DiRissio, senior word processing typist, Dept. of English, 37 years

Robert W. Elam, professor of music, 31 years

Willard F. Enteman, professor of philosophy, 23 years

Ernest J. Heon, campus police officer, 15 years

Robert E. Hogan, professor of English and secondary education, 30 years

William Holland, professor of educational leadership, 17 years

Ellen, W. Hunt, clerk secretary, School of Social Work, 35 years

Janice M. Kelly, senior clerk stenographer, Dept. of Philosophy, 20 years

Patricia A. **Keogh,** clinical training specialist, Child Welfare Institute, 3 years

Alice M. Konis, cook's helper, College Dining Services, 20 years

Rebecca G. Lassan, professor of nursing, 29 years

Peter R. Moore, professor of economics, 38 years

June A. Nutter, assistant professor of health and physical education, 16 years

Dennis M. O'Malley, director of Bannister Gallery, 22 years

Rene H. Perreault Jr., assistant director, Office Services, 34 years

Rosalie Petrone, cook's helper, College Dining Services, 10 years

Mariano Rodrigues, professor of mathematics, 40 years

Pamela C. Rubovits, professor of psychology, 31 years

Elizabeth A. Ruggiero '65, associate professor, Henry Barnard School, 32 years

Barry Schiller, professor of mathematics, 39 years

James W. Walker, counselor, Upward Bound, 26 years

David A. Wilson, director, Audiovisual Dept., 32 years



(Above) RETIRING FACULTY posing with the President at the May 20 Commencement Gala are (from left) Mariano "Rod" Rodrigues, Elizabeth Ruggiero, Barry Schiller, Carol Barnes, Peter Moore, RIC President John Nazarian, William Holland, Pam Rubovits, Willard Enteman and Bob Elam.



(At left) STAFF RETIREES posing with the president at the Commencement Gala May 20 are (from left) Karon Dionne, Rene Perreault, President John Nazarian, Ellen Hunt and John Custer.

John Custer's decades-long run on RIC stage coming to a close

by Rob Martin What's News Managing Editor

ohn Custer's manner is wry, understated, owing perhaps to his upbringing in Pennsylvania Dutch country.

When asked if he's enjoyed his long career at RIC he said, "Usually it's been too busy to get disgruntled about anything." (You can take that answer as a yes.)

Custer is retiring from the College this month, 36 years after this one-time "theatre gypsy" came in from the cold for a permanent job that allowed him to provide a stable life for his family.

While at RIC, Custer has taught theatre production, set and lighting design, and technical theatre. He's been in charge of the Roberts Hall Auditorium since he arrived on campus, and for the past 28 years, has run the College's acclaimed Performing Arts Series. In 2000, he was named executive director of the newly opened Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts.

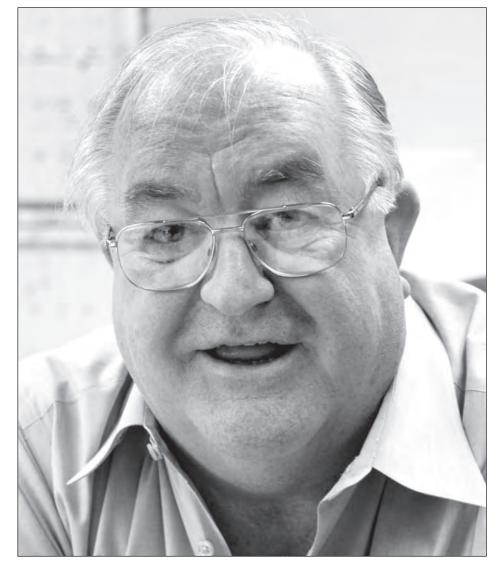
Custer discovered his passion for theatre at age 14, when he began showing up at the local community playhouse to do what he He worked in winter stock from September to May, then summer stock in June, July and August - always moving from theatre to theatre. These were the years - the 50s and 60s - before the rise of regional theatres such as Trinity Repertory Company gave artists an opportunity to settle in one place.

Along the way, he earned a BA from the University of Washington and an MFA from the University of Wisconsin. He arrived at RIC in 1969.

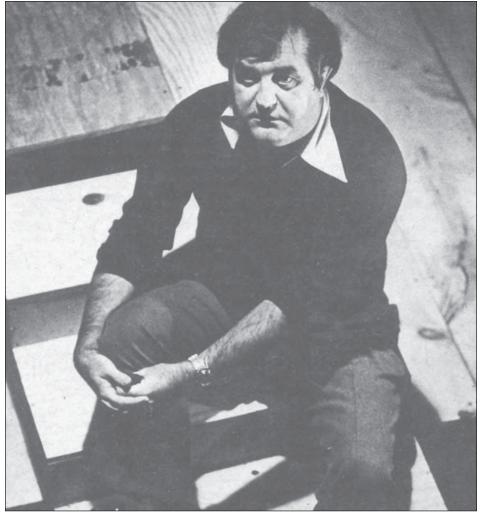
His time at the College has allowed him to fully satisfy his taste for show business. "The working environment and the people allowed me to do a little bit of the many things I enjoy doing," said Custer.

As a professor of theatre, he has taught set and lighting design, and technical theatre, and has worked on over 100 productions at RIC. (He also was a lighting designer at Trinity Rep for over 100 shows from 1975-86.) He has also been on the administrative side, in the role of facility manager overseeing bookings for all of RIC's performance venues.

Custer is well known locally for being director of the Performing Arts Series, which brings professional talent to the College and



JOHN CUSTER, in a 1981 photo (left) and last month (above). Custer will retire from RIC on June 25 after 36 years with the College.



called "scut work," the little backstage tasks that every production requires.

After high school, he got a job as an intern at a professional company, the Allenberry Playhouse resort in Boiling Springs, Penn. The director there got him a job at another theatre, and he "bummed around the country," for many years working exclusively in theatre in Washington state, Indiana, Texas and North Carolina. The only exception was a two-year stint in the Army during the Kennedy administration.

offers students an intimate appreciation of the arts and artists. The series, originally run by the Committee on Fine Arts, was inaugurated in 1962 by then RIC president William Gaige. It became Custer's responsibility in 1977, and has since evolved into an important provider of popular entertainment in Rhode Island.

Over the decades, hundreds of performers have made their way to RIC as part of the series. There are about a dozen performers Custer said he will most remember, a list that includes actors Estelle Parsons, Vincent Price and Julie Harris,

musicians Joshua Bell and Yo-Yo Ma, mime Marcel Marceau, juggler Michael Moschen, puppeteer Philippe Genty, singer/actress Barbara Cook, singer Sandra Reaves-Phillips, the Paul Taylor Dance Compay, and the Muir String Quartet.

As director of the series, he is responsible for the booking, marketing and "health and good will" of the artists.

"A lot of them needed a lot of coddling," said Custer of the artists, who are always made to feel comfortable when they come to RIC. "I tell staff, 'look at it like they're visiting your home."

For the most part, his dealings with the artists and their agents have been positive.

"The truth is, I can count on one hand the number of performers I regret presenting," said Custer.

He has occasionally managed to book performers, such as cellist Ma, before their careers – and fees – began to soar. Ma, who played RIC in 1985, has more than quadrupled his cost since then, pricing himself out of playing the 900-seat Roberts Hall Auditorium.

As for the availability of talent, Custer notes that the College's Providence location is helpful, since he can book acts "enroute" – those playing a weekend in New York City, then traveling to Boston the following weekend. Custer signs them to play at RIC on weekdays in between and can get large discounts on their fees.

Currently, the Performing Arts Series is comprised of the President's Music Series featuring the Muir String Quartet and other chamber music; Jeffrey Siegel's Keyboard Conversations; and the Potpourri Series, which includes six to nine music, dance or theatre events each academic year.

The 2005-06 season will see the addition of the Adams Foundation Piano Recital Series featuring classical pianist Ruth Laredo as the first performer in the new series.

Custer said that one attribute he has brought to the College over the years is the desire to complete a job regardless of the time required. "I come from a very strong work ethic in my family," he said.

Among his favorite College memories are being involved with the earliest productions of the RIC Summer Cabaret and bringing the first Muir String Quartet's performance of the Beethoven Cycle to campus.

He's also taken pleasure in "seeing many students succeed in their chosen fields," and witnessing the opening of the Nazarian Center.

He was grateful for the "tremendous support" he received from the College administration over the years, especially from RIC president John Nazarian and Gary Penfield, vice president for student affairs.

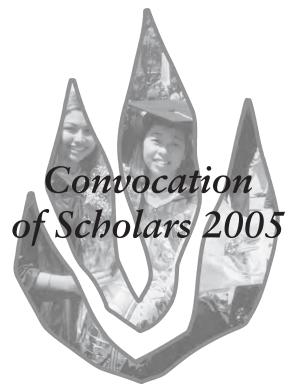
This Providence resident, who turns 68 in July, now has five grandchildren. Retirement from his RIC job will give him the opportunity to travel, with extensive forays into Asia and Europe as part of his future itinerary.

After so many years of being deeply involved in show business, Custer is not about to fully cast aside his life's calling: he plans to be a consultant in theatre and performing arts administration after his retirement from the College.

So, quite possibly, the RIC community has not seen the last of John Custer.

RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE

he 2005 Convocation of Scholars held April 25 through May 4 highlighted the many facets of the campus and included faculty, students, and emeriti of the College. A diverse menu of lectures, presentations, and celebratory events enhanced the beginning of the commencement season.



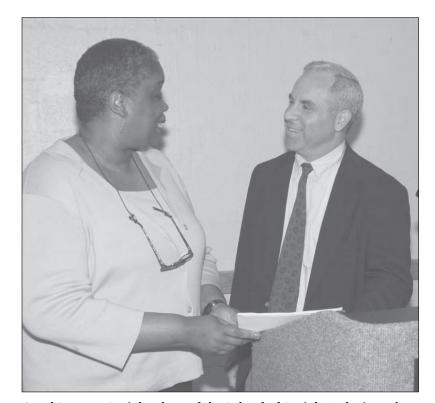
APRIL 25 - MAY 4



Kate Brewster, director of The Poverty Institute at RIC, addresses the audience celebrating Community Initiatives and Partnerships.



Raymond Picozzi, professor emeritus of theatre, and wife Alberta '64, and (inset), Sidney Rollins (left), professor emeritus of education, and Chet Smolski, professor emeritus of geography, at the dinner during Emeriti Appreciation Evening in honor of all emeriti faculty and their contributions to the College.



Carol Bennett-Speight, dean of the School of Social Work, introduces this year's Thorp Lecture presenter, Frederic (Rick) Reamer, professor of social work.



Nursing students gather at Public Policy Presentations.



Kenneth Gloss of the Brattle Book Shop in Boston, appraises an historic book with Joan Dagle, professor of English, and Debra Thomson, library supervisor. A lecture by Gloss was sponsored by the Friends of Adams Library.



Lisa Humphreys, professor of mathematics, stands between Mark Motte (left), professor of geography, and President John Nazarian, at the Promotion and Tenure reception held at the President's residence.



Patricia Nolin '84 (center), special assistant to the president, chats with Dean's List students at a reception held in their honor.



und graduates 32 college=ready students

RIC's Upward Bound program, which provides at-risk high school students with the skills needed to succeed in college, held commencement exercises for 32 students on May 31 in Gaige Hall Auditorium.

The nationwide program offers academic, counseling, career, tutorial and other services to students who attend weekly on-campus classes during the school year and stay for six weeks at the College during the summer.

Mariam Z. Boyajian, director of Upward Bound at RIC since 1986 and assistant director for five years before that, said that the College was one of the first in the country to host the program (1966), and has helped send more than 2,000 area disadvantaged students to some of the best higher education institutions nationwide.

Featured speaker at the ceremony was Aderito Dos Santos, a 1996 Upward Bound and Shea High School graduate. Service awards were given to James Walker, a counselor in the Upward Bound program who is retiring in June after 26 years, and John Denio, assistant dean of students/director of residential life at Bryant University and a former director of RIC's Office of Residential Life and Housing.



2005 Upward Bound graduates:

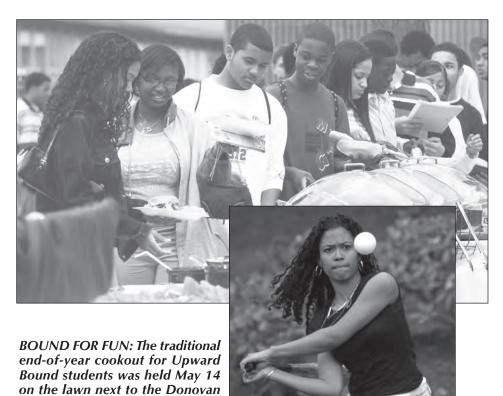
Dennis R. Boyd Arthur O. Cooper Jamie Delfin James K. Dorbor Jr. **Luis Carlos Dos Santos** Jennifer K. Evora Jose Rafael Frias Jr. **Andrew Gutierrez Anjum Yusuf Hava** Alexander Henao Joseph K. Josiah Nyasia Marie Lindo **Shelby Maldonado** Jeffry C. Martins Hitesh U. Mistry Shani Navila Monteiro

Dining Center. (Above) UB classmates stack their plates; (right)

graduate Jamie Delfin steps into

a pitch.

Katiusca Ogando Ajoke C. Ogundolani Olaide N. Olatawura Ezekiel Oluwaseun Olukoya Patricia Ann Paglia **Khambay Phasouvor** Stephanie A. Pineda Annie M. Ratanasim Thesyln Cesarina Rodriguez Cassandra B. Santos Jelissa Andrea Suarez Ariana Tejeda **Noelly Michelle Tiburcio Elizabeth Carol Tremblay** Diana C. Von Kathy K. Young



Generatic of Hope and Achievems sipc UPWARD BOUND ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP recipients (above, from left) Elizabeth Tremblay, Hitesh Mistry and Jennifer Evora. At left, Upward Bound commencement speaker Aderito Dos Santos.

Upward Bound scholarship awards:

Jennifer Evora, Shea High School (Brown University) 1st place scholarship – \$2,000

Hitesh Mistry, Shea High School (Bentley College) 2nd place scholarship – \$1,000

Elizabeth Tremblay, Hope High School (Lesley University) 3rd place scholarship – \$500

Target school district scholarship awards (\$500 each):

Jeffry Martins, Hope High School **Jennifer Evora**, Shea High School

Patricia Paglia, East Providence High School Jelissa Suarez, Central Falls High School

Dean's List

Andreina M. Abreu Stephanie L. Accetta Vivien Acevedo Ronnelle S. Adams Marianne Adduci Samusi Adediran Mojisola O. Afolabi Nichole L. Aguiar Charles P. Ahern Jenna F. Albanese Andrew J. Aldrich Sharon A. Alfonso Jeffrey M. Allard Stacey A. Allard Rebecca L. Allen David J. Allison Brittany J. Almeida Joao T. Almeida Sonia M. Almeida Stephanie M. Almeida Megan A. Almond Rebekah M. Alves Michael A. Amalfitano Daryl K. Amann Amanda M. Amaral Jennifer M. Amaral Kvle O. Amaral Melissa L. Amaral Daniel P. Amatore Leonard E. Amatore Antonio J. Ambrosio Michael R. Amend Samuel B. Ames Philip M. Amylon Amanda R. Anacleto Jennifer Anastacio Richard Anatone Justine M. Anderson Kristen L. Anderson Brian M. Andrade Catarina M. Andrade Christie Andrade Jacqueline M. Andrade Jessica L. Andrade Julio M. Andrade Alyson B. Andrews Danielle D. Andrilenas David H. Angell Maribeth Angell Pamela R. Angell Alison M. Angelone Desiree Arcand Nicole R. Arena Karim Arias Kaitlin E. Armstrong April A. Arnold Stephanie L. Arremony Daniel J. Arrigan Jamie M. Arruda Sarah E. Arsenault Lynne D. Asselin Holly N. Auchmoedy Timothy A. Audette Monique R. Audette David G. Aulenbach Gayane Avagyan Nazeli Avagyan Jane A. Avedisian Melissa M. Ayala Kieran Ayton Erika N. Babat Leah D. Babat Mary K. Babbidge Melissa D. Babcock Iulie M. Bacon Christina A. Baggesen John T. Baier Heather Bailey Caasi P. Baima Richard Lima. Bairos Katherine M. Baker Jamie L. Banes Christina A. Banville John C. Barber Brandy C. Barga Monica Barglowski Daniel C. Barletta Matthew L. Barreto Christine M. Barrett Elizabeth D. Barrette Katherine M. Barrette Ashley R. Barry Brian E. Bass Nicole E. Batalon Michelle A. Batchelder Josie Batista Kolu S. Baysah Janet E. Beaubien Jennifer J. Beauchemin Kelly A. Beauchemin Emily I. Beauchemin Vanessa Beauregard Nicole D. Belisle Sara J. Belisle Jennifer L. Belleville Katherine S. Bellows Christine M. Beltrami Bridget M. Bender Kristyn M. Benedetti Christina M. Benevides Jessica L. Benevides Jeffrey K. Bennard Casandra E. Bennett Lauren M. Beraldi John R. Berchem Rosalie Berrios

Lynn E. Bertherman Kristen N. Berthiaume Amanda L. Bertoncini Iill A. Bertoncini Ashley L. Bessette Kvle N. Best Allen E. Bestwick Tess E. Bettencourt Kristin N. Bianco Michelle M. Bianco Kristen R. Bibeault Merissa L. Biello Allison L. Bienenfeld Lyndsey A. Biern Mallary J. Bileau Michaela K. Bileau Michael P. Bilodeau Joshua B. Bilsky Brian R. Birch Janelle E. Bird Stacey L. Bird Stanley M. Bis Erin E. Bishop Heather C. Black Linda C. Blair Mary M. Blanco Ruth D. Blanco Iennifer L. Bliss Pamela T. Bliss Elizabeth A. Bochichio Gail D. Bohannon Tara-anne Bonadie Justin S. Bongiardo Malaina M. Borden Erica Borges Robert D. Borges Christine A. Borrelli Jessica A. Botelho Michael S. Botelho Allen M. Bouchard Brittany L. Bouchard Iodie M. Bouchard Melissa A. Bouchard Michelle L. Bouchard Rebecca L. Boulanger Jeremy B. Bourget Leisa L. Bourget Robert A. Boyd Brittany D. Boyle Alicia L. Bradbury Julie A. Bradford Melissa A. Bradford Vanessa A. Brailsford Nicole T. Branca Lee M. Braun Jonathan P. Brennan Joshua D. Brennan Meghan P. Brennan Bethany F. Bressette Katie J. Bressette Danielle M. Bridge Danielle E. Brien Dawn K. Brightman Breezy N. Bringhurst Amanda J. Broccoli Matthew I. Brocklehurst Brett C. Broesder Danielle L. Brooks Jessica S. Brooks Cynthia L. Brousseau Melissa A. Brousseau Lystra M. Brown Maggie S. Brown Melissa S. Brown Tammy S. Brown Tara M. Brown Regina A. Brule Carolyn E. Brunelle Meaghan E. Brunelle Katie L. Brunero Jessica Bryant Lauren A. Bryda Cara M. Bubár Elena A. Bucci Michelle L. Burckardt Andrew E. Burke Liam P. Burke Dorothy N. Burleson Brian M. Burns Daniel Burns John K. Burns Ryan M. Burns Laura A. Buss Michael C. Butler Melissa J. Butts Daniel Byun Ellaine T. Cabellon Cathy J. Cabral Daniel J. Cabral Jason Cabral Jessica L. Cabral Peter E. Cabral Colleen A. Caceres Marcia K. Cady Erin K. Cahill Casandra L. Calcione Stacey L. Caldarone Christopher C. Caldwell Lauren E. Caliri Kristin C. Calouro Joshua D. Calvi Mayra M. Calzada Brian A. Camara

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Spring 2005

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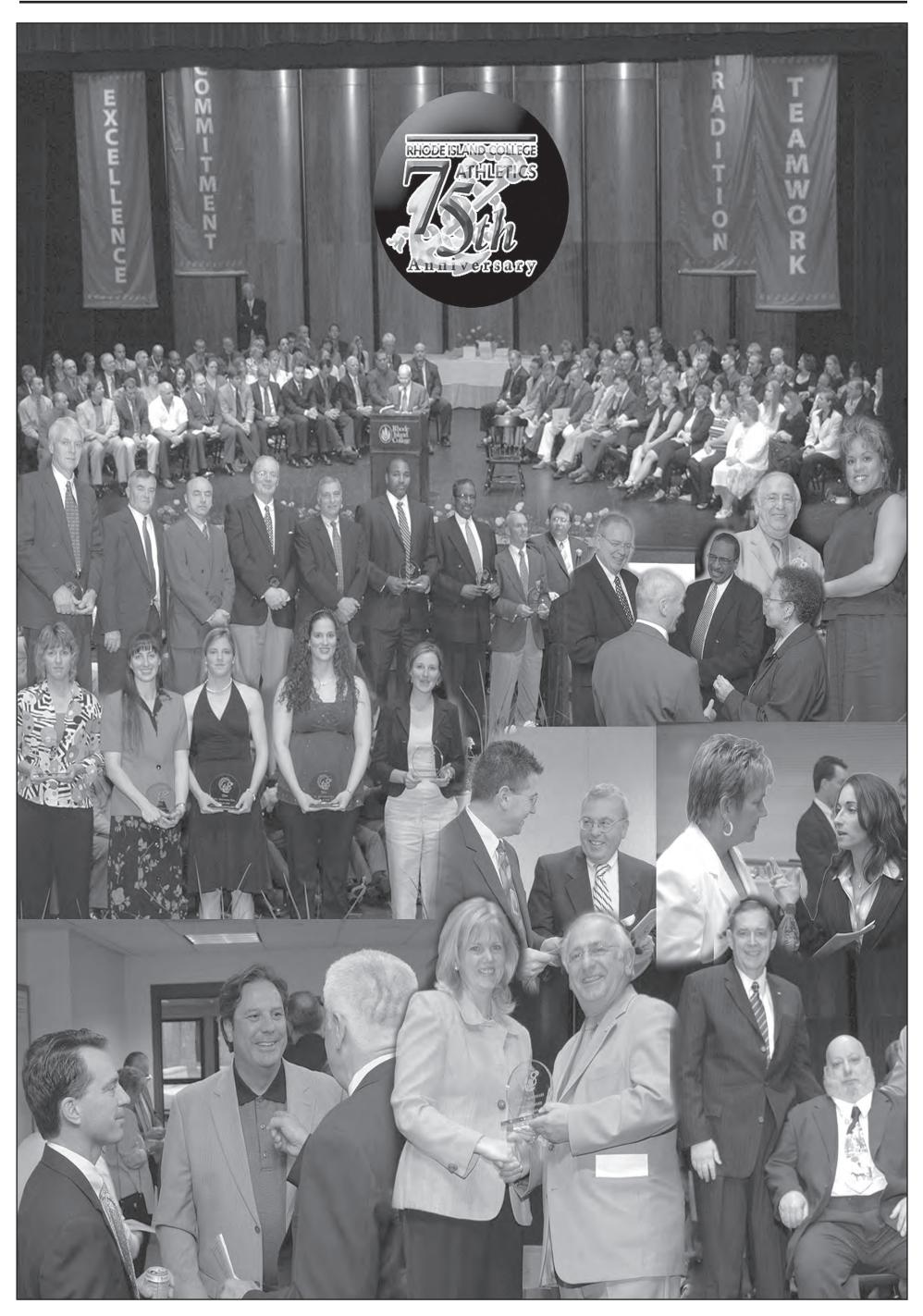
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Full-time students who attain a minimum grade point average of 3.25 in any semester have their names placed on the Dean's List in recognition of their scholastic achievement.

RIC Athletics All-75th Anniversary Induction



RIC celebrated 75 years of athletic excellence in a gala event in Sapinsley Hall in the Nazarian Center on May 21. The ceremony included the induction of the All-75th Anniversary Teams in recognition of the milestone.



RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE





75 years of intercollegiate athletics

"If you're looking for purity in college sports go look in Division III. You won't find it anywhere else." - Bill Reynolds, sports writer, *Providence Journal*, September 4, 1997

Athletics at Rhode Island College, the oldest public institution of higher learning in the state offer studentathletes the opportunity to compete, grow, and experience the team effort in preparation for life's lessons. With women's basketball as its first team sport in 1929, so began the history of athletics at RIC. Now in its 75th year, RIC Athletics are stronger and better than ever, built on a legacy of determination, spirit and excellence.

Anniversary

The Past...

Congratulations to the All-75th Anniversary Teams selected in recognition of this milestone.

The All-75th Anniversary Teams

WOMEN'S SPORTS

Women's Basketball

Monique (Bessette) Clauson Jo-Ann D'Alessandro '88 Claudia DeFaria '96 Christine Donilon '85 Doreen Grasso '90 Jackie Hultquist '83 Cathy Lanni '88 Robin (Gobeille) Orticerio '93 Jennifer (Cook) Spadoni '00 Melissa (Andrescavage) Veresko '95

Women's Cross Country

Karolyn (Walsh) Bowley '92 Karen (Ceresa) Burbine Sharon (Hall) Galloway '87 Marybeth (Crawley) Malley AnnMarie (Gower) Marino '84

Women's Gymnastics

Nancy (Raymond) Alvernaz '83 Amy Bright '00 Jenna Daum '98 Caren Normandin '05 Cathy (Dusza) Stengel '89

Softball

Jo-Ann Avedisian '80 Monique (Bessette) Clauson Michele Fanelli '04 Gail Henderson '82

Shana (Willis) O'Connor '98 Elizabeth Penkala '79 Maureen (O'Donnell) Pinksaw '80 Kathy Pinto Cristina (Alnas) Smith '03 Kim Smith '88 Karen (Swanson) Sorrentine '81 Kim Warrington '04

Women's Tennis

Liz Barrette '06 Cheryl (Serras) De Petro '86 Laurel Horta '03 Susan (Landry) Miceli '86 Meghan Mooney '05 Cynthia Murray '02 Marisa (Petrarca) White '85

Women's Outdoor Track

Valerie (Verducci) DeAngelis '97 Chris (McDermott) DiPretoro '88 Sharon (Hall) Galloway '87 Kristine (Nicholas) Greene '90 Jeanne (Berthasavage) Lucey '86 AnnMarie (Gower) Marino '84 Kate McCalligett '05 Melinda Roczynski '00 Maria (Teeman) Santopietro '93 Keely Subin '01

Women's Volleyball

Debbie Allen '90 Lori Botelho '90 Sharon (Ferns) Lyons '90

Kristen Norberg '84 Ruth (Harnois) Plante '84 Jennifer (Schulte) Cournover '93 Tamara Sutton '84 Brandee (Trainer) Lapisky '02

MEN'S SPORTS

Baseball Karl Allaire

John Almon Mike Butler '86 Mike Cantone Jim Dennett Mike Enos '89 Dave Flanagan Eric Gibree '05 Steve Long Mike Manzo '95 Jim McGlynn '90 Tim Mercer '78 Joe Mikaelian '80 Earl Porter Joe Rossi Paul Shaughnessy '78 Len Silva '87 Jim Siwy John Wilkins '83

Men's Basketball

Karl Augenstein Alex Butler '98 Mike Chapman '84 Mike Creedon '70

Ron Felber '61 Ray Huelbig '72 Bill McCaughey '67 Dick Rouleau '68 Troy Smith '93 Mike Van Leesten '65 Charlie Wilkes '64 Rickie Wilson '72

Men's Cross Country

Jesus Berrio '89 Jim Bowden Jim Dandeneau '91 Ron Gillooly '82 Kevin O'Neil '96

Men's Soccer

Joe Aguiar '60 Orlando Andrade '76 Tim Brown '02 Euclides DeMelo '84 Lionel Jean '74 Jeff Lavigne '00 Joseph Luzzi '93 Stephen Lynch '82 Domenico Petrarca '77 Brian Samson '72 Kyle Teixeira '06 Jim Whitaker '58 Jim White '74

Men's Tennis

Art Bentley '75 Marc Dubois '91 Doug James Toby Lindsay Peter Prendergast '93 Joe Testa '01

RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE

ATHLETICS

Men's Outdoor Track

Jesus Berrio '89 Tom Conley '02 Ron Gillooly '82 Jose Gonsalves Andy Lemoi Scott McCoy Jim Phillips Vuth Phok Chris Puleo '03 Luis Rivera '89 Tim Rudd '05 Jamere Wilkins

Wrestling

Brian Allen '96

James Barbera '91 Scott Carlsten '94 Jeffrey Condon '80 William Cotter '96 Edward Gomes '69 Robert Haigh '70 Scott Martin '89 Lonnie Morris '96 Richard Reavis Mike Riley '05 James Soares '81 Manuel Vinhateiro '69 George Webster '77



THE FIRST PAUL BOURGET '69 AWARD WINNER - Dave Bouthillier

Fostered the development of RIC's award-winning Student-Athlete Success Program. The award recognizes individuals or groups who have made significant contributions to the athletic program.

PIONEER AWARD WINNERS

Bob Brown - athletic director credited with building the RIC athletic program after WW II. G. Gail Davis '60 – an exemplary coach who excelled in women's intercollegiate athletics at the college. Dorothy Kleniewski '42 – organized underground women's athletic teams as a student-athlete. Lois Testa Lynch '57 – RIC's only Olympian, competing in the 1956 Summer Games in Melbourne, Australia Catherine T. Murray '34 - A member of RIC's first athletic team, along with her sister Mary '33. The Murray Center, RIC's intercollegiate athletic competition facility, is named in honor of The Murray sisters. Lou Yosinoff '40 - Played all sports as a student-athlete and was a member of the College's only football team.

The Present...

Today, as a highly competitive and successful Division III school, the college offers 19 varsity sports. Congratulations to our 330 student-athletes who excel both in the classroom and in the arena, and to a dedicated team of coaches and staff who led RIC to its most successful year in history including...

- Women's Softball, Regular Season Champions/ECAC Champions
- Men's Baseball, Tournament Champions/NCAA Championship Participant
- Women's Volleyball, Regular Season Champions
- Women's Tennis, Regular Season Champions
- Men's Basketball, Regular Season Co-Champions/ECAC Runners-Up
- Men's Wrestling, Third Place New England Finish
- Men's Soccer, Conference Championship Runners-Up

The Future...

Through the generosity of our alumni, friends and benefactors, and with the support of the college community, we continue to lay the groundwork for continued success in the future, as we add to our:

- \$1.2 million endowment to enhance Intercollegiate Athletics
- \$4 million development fund for facility renovation and enhancements
- \$50, 000 kick-off gift for an expanded student-athlete academic success center

Graduation 2005

A festive day from top



















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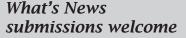
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The Office of News and Public Relations encourages members of the faculty, staff and administration to submit news stories, feature articles and department information for publication consideration in What's News.

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

