

International adoption:



*Becoming
worldly
families*

Performing Arts Series:

The Flying Karamazov

Brothers

Nov. 17



WHAT'S NEWS @ Rhode Island College

Vol. 26 Issue 3

Oct. 24, 2005

Established in 1980 Circulation over 52,000

RIC to host 'Congress to Campus' program Nov. 13-15

BY

Jane Fusco, Editor

Two former members of Congress from opposing parties will be at Rhode Island College to discuss something that they actually agree on – that more students should consider careers in public service, and even run for Congress.

Jan Meyers (R-KS 1985-1997) and George Hochbrueckner (D-NY 1987-1995) will be at RIC Nov. 13-15.

Their visit is part of the *Congress to Campus* program, which sends bipartisan pairs of former members

of Congress, one Democrat and one Republican, for a three-day visit to college campuses around the country to help students better understand and believe in the nobility of public service.

"We try to give students a better understanding of Congress, which is confounding at times. We're concerned about the anti-politician feeling that seems to prevail in the country today," said David Skaggs, former Democratic congressman from Colorado and head of the Center for Democracy and Citizenship (CDC).

Meyers served for 12 years as congresswoman from the third district in Kansas. She was chair of the Small Business Committee, the

first woman to head a full committee in the U.S. House in 20 years.

She also served on the International Relations Committee, and the Economic and Education Committee, and was co-chair of the International Women's Leadership Conference of the Americas.



JAN MEYERS

Hochbrueckner served eight years as congressman from the first district of New York, distinguishing himself as a leader on critical issues such as defense conversion

and environmental protection, serving on the House Armed Services and Merchant Marine and Fisheries committees.



GEORGE HOCHBRUECKNER

Both former representatives have a long-standing history of leadership and distinguished records of service in the legislature. During their visit, Meyers and Hochbrueckner will conduct classes, meet with students and the local

Continued on p 13

State Home CD of orphans' stories released; RIC breaks ground to restore yellow cottage

A new CD of interviews with former State Home residents and staff is on sale (\$20 each) to help restore the yellow cottage, once living quarters for orphans, into a child welfare resource center. Cottage restoration groundbreaking was held Oct. 24.

The CD plays for less than an hour, but the voices, words, and images it conjures will remain long after.

"Let us build a home for such children" — *Stories from the State Home and School*, is a

56-minute audio CD that includes more than 30 interviews with former residents, employees and volunteers at the State Home and School for Children/O'Rourke Children's Center, Rhode Island's orphanage from 1885-1979, who were willing to tell their stories. The candid, descriptive and emotional accounts tell about life as a ward of the state by those who lived and worked there.

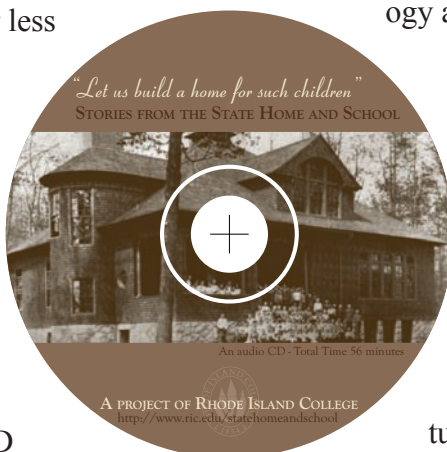
"Because there is no official his-

tory of the Home, we knew very little about daily life in the institution, about policies in place, about changes in population and about whether the institution afforded good care to the children it housed," said Sandra Enos '71, associate professor of sociology at RIC.

The CD was released on Oct. 24, the same day architects broke ground to begin renovation of the yellow cottage, once a dormitory and the last original remaining structure from the State Home, which will be converted to a teaching and resource center for issues concerning child welfare in the state.

The cost of the CD is \$20. Proceeds will support restoration of the yellow cottage.

The CD traces the paths of the children sent to the State Home,



ALL IN THE FAMILY: Suzanne Conklin, assistant professor of biology at RIC, holds her daughter Nina, 3, outside the Kauffman Center on RIC's east campus. Conklin adopted Nina from China in April of 2003. For more on recent international adoptions by those at the College, see page 14.

Continued on p 5

Wn Quotes...

"He is one of the bravest people I have ever met. So many other people would have given up." – Lori Martin '83, assistant to the dean of the School of Management, on José Labatón, a RIC student, who despite a disability, has completed a fellowship at RIC and is pointing toward a career in finance. [p 3]

"I wanted to give a child a better life than living in an orphanage." – Robin Pecunioso of RIC's human resources department, who adopted her daughter Sophia from China. [p 14]

"They are the most dedicated group of student-athletes I've ever been around. They have a winning attitude and want to win every time they step on the court." – Kelly Chartier, head women's tennis coach, describing her team, which won the Little East regular season and tournament championships. [p 6]



This regular feature of What's News looks at the links between the world and Rhode Island College. The story below was written by Ezra Stieglitz, professor of elementary education and coordinator of Overseas Programs for the Feinstein School of Education and Human Development.

In 2004, Harvard University reviewed its undergraduate curriculum for the first time in 30 years. It was reported in The Providence Journal on April 27, 2004 that the University concluded, "... students need ... a greater familiarity with the world that can only be gained from study abroad."

In a world that is constantly "shrinking," it is essential that students at institutions of higher education obtain a global perspective by completing an academic experience in another country.

To this end, the Feinstein School of Education and Human Development offers two overseas programs for students enrolled in teacher preparation programs. The first is a student exchange program with a college in the United Kingdom. Students enrolled in an elementary education teacher preparation program at St. Martin's College spend 12 days in Rhode Island and students enrolled in an elementary education teacher preparation program at Rhode Island College spend 12 days in England.

During these visits, students attend college classes, visit public schools, and learn about the local culture and environment. Besides the actual visits to each other's communities, the students are in contact with one another via an Internet forum established for program participants.

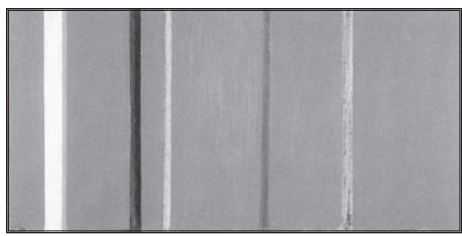
The second program provides students with the opportunity to student teach overseas. Undergraduate and graduate students seeking elementary or secondary education certification can complete a semester of student teaching at St. Martin's College in Lancaster, England, or James Cook University in Townsville, Australia. RIC students are placed in a regular classroom and supervised by a professional from an institution of higher education.

Each placement is preceded by an orientation program to acclimate RIC students to the country's system of education. All RIC requirements are met as a result of successfully completing a student teaching experience abroad. Stu-

dents are eligible for Rhode Island teacher certification upon successful completion of the student teaching experience.

Other than obtaining professional experiences in another country, student participation in an education abroad program is increasingly recognized as a tool for personal development. This aspect of studying abroad is described so well by RIC student Nicole Vanderheiden who completed a student teaching experience in Australia in the spring of 2005. She writes in her review of the program: "I feel that being in a foreign country with an open mind and an eagerness to learn is one of the most valuable experiences one can have. You learn so much about another culture by interacting with people on a daily basis. You learn how to communicate with others who have a different background – thereby reflecting more on your own country and culture." It certainly appears that education abroad has positive academic as well as nonacademic benefits.

'New Work' by RIC professor emeritus on exhibit in Newport



Too Blue, 2004. Oil/canvas, 24" x 48."

Don Smith, professor emeritus of art, has on display a group of about 50 works of watercolors and oil on canvas at the Newport Art Museum until Sunday, Nov. 6.

The exhibition, "Paintings of Don Smith: New Work," was gleaned from a larger group of approximately 300 pieces done from the fall of 2001 to the spring of 2005.

Smith will discuss his work and take questions on Nov. 6 at 2 p.m. at the museum, which is located at 76 Bellevue Ave. in Newport. Museum hours are Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sunday from noon to 4 p.m.

A 12-page illustrated booklet of Smith's work is available at the museum or by contacting the artist at 401-231-4540.

'Crimes against Humanity' workshop Nov. 8

An educator workshop on implementing genocide education into the curriculum will be held Tuesday, Nov. 8, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Alumni Lounge at Roberts Hall.

The workshop, conducted by the organization Facing History and Ourselves, is a follow-up to the first statewide Genocide Education Symposium held last March at the College. The event is sponsored by the Armenian Martyrs' Memorial Committee of Rhode Island.

During the course of the day, Facing History staff will introduce educators to the new resource

book, *Crimes Against Humanity and Civilization: The Genocide of the Armenians*, and consider the dilemmas faced by the international community during the genocide of 1915. In light of current human rights violations, this resource will provide entry points for teachers who want their students to examine the legacies of this history, including the struggle for the recognition of the genocide as a crime against humanity. Participants will explore strategies to bring this often-neglected history into the classroom.

Educators will be provided a Certificate of Attendance, along

with professional credit hours. Continental breakfast and lunch are included. The fee for the workshop is \$100 per person. Anyone interested in participating in the workshop should forward a check by Nov. 3 made payable to the Armenian Martyrs' Memorial Committee of R.I. in the appropriate amount. Mail checks to Genocide Education Workshop, 3 Steeple Lane, Lincoln, RI 02865.

For more information regarding the workshop, call Pauline Getzoyan at 401-486-3776, or Esther Kalajian at 401-885-9116.

What's News at Rhode Island College

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**The next issue of
What's News
will be Nov. 14.**

**Story ideas are welcome.
Call 401-456-8090
or email jfusco@ric.edu.**

School of Management internship allows student to advocate for personal cause

BY

Alison Strandberg, Staff Writer

José Lobatón probably would shrug it off if you called him a role model or an inspiration, but those words describe this standout Rhode Island College student perfectly. Lobatón, 33, a senior with a double major in economics and finance, can now add advocate to that impressive list of traits after completing a semester-long fellowship with the Rhode Island Governor's Commission on Disabilities (GCD).

Lobatón was born in Mexico but his family moved to Rhode Island when he was just six months old. In 1995, he was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. At the time of his diagnosis, Lobatón was an X-ray technologist at South County Hospital and was a clinical instructor at the Community College of Rhode Island. In 2000, Lobatón began using a wheelchair and found it greatly impeded his ability to work as a technologist.

At that point, Lobatón was at a crossroads in his life and unsure about the future. But, he said, "I was determined not to give up. I asked myself: 'Where should I go? What should I do?'" Using what he calls his "self resource," Lobatón made a decision to begin a new chapter in his life. After pursuing different avenues and investigating numerous resources, he enrolled at RIC to pursue higher education and a new career.

Earlier this year, the College's Career Development Center alerted Lobatón to a fellowship program at the GCD – knowing it would be a good match for someone with Lobatón's positive attitude and ability to advocate for those with disabilities.

The GCD's objective is to ensure that all people with disabilities are afforded the opportunities to exercise all of the rights and responsibilities accorded to citizens of Rhode Island and that each person with a disability is able to reach his/her maximum potential in independence, human development, productivity and self-sufficiency. The GCD Fellowship program provides semester-long, part-time placements with the Commission, working on disability policy and research.

Lobatón submitted an application and was called for an interview. His interview was conducted in front of the entire Commission. Lobatón must have done well – he was invited to join the GCD this past summer as the Mary Brennan Fellow focusing on public awareness. The program offers two other fellowships as well, the G. Frank Hanaway Fellow (focusing on architectural accessibility) and the Edward J. Schroeder Fellow (focusing on legislation).



FELLOWSHIP: Lori Martin (left), assistant to the dean of the School of Management, helps RIC student José Lobatón (right) complete a fellowship offered through an internship program at the College.

Lobatón completed his fellowship through the School of Management (SOM) Internship Program at RIC. The program enables students to earn academic credit while gaining professional experience. Juniors and seniors who major or minor in School of Management programs are eligible to earn academic credits during the fall, spring, or summer semesters. In addition to a professional placement, each student attends an internship course that meets every two weeks during the semester.

Lori Martin of the SOM Internship Program and the assistant to the dean of the School of Management, guided Lobatón's internship course. She describes Lobatón as an inspiration to the other students in her class. "José was able to bring his experience to the classroom. He definitely got his message out to the group and everyone just loved him." On a personal level, Lori was impressed with Lobatón's determination to succeed. "He is one of the bravest people I have ever met. So many other people would have given up." Lori also notes that Lobatón had a great deal of knowledge to share and even provided her with information for her to use in other classes.

For his internship, Lobatón focused on the public relations aspect of the GCD. He not only worked behind the scenes in the office but also worked to get the word out to the local media about the GCD. Lobatón was involved in Rhode Island's celebration of the 15th anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) held at the Rose Larisa Memorial Park in East Providence.

The park had previously been the center of a controversy. Critics said the park's stairs violated the disabilities act because there was not equal access for people in wheelchairs. The stairs were closed and plans were implemented to bring the park into compliance. The reopening of the stairs and the unveiling of a new wheelchair-accessible ramp was held on the ADA anniversary. In preparation, Lobatón had visited the park several times to monitor progress. He took pictures and graded the new facilities, including the ramp and pathways.

The day of the reopening drew media attention and Lobatón was interviewed by *The Providence Journal*. In the *Journal* story, he said that he hoped Larisa Park would be an inspiration to other towns and municipalities. He was also quoted as saying he had visited the park several times over the last few days, and it looked as if "they finally got everything together... It looks good." Lobatón even caught a glimpse of himself on the Channel 6 newscast that evening.

On a day-to-day basis at the GCD, Lobatón found he had special skills to fulfill his duties as a fellow. As a person living with a disability, he knows firsthand about the avenues that people can take to solve their disability-related problems. Since the GCD is a referral agency for people with disabilities, the office receives calls daily from people looking for resources and answers to questions. Lobatón often found he could answer questions other staffers could not and he knew firsthand where to refer people in need.

While Lobatón admits that the fellowship wasn't necessarily in

the field he plans to pursue after graduation, he found it was a great networking opportunity. And it reinforced one very important career goal. "...I want to find a career where I can help people," he said. Putting his soon-to-be completed finance and economic degrees to good use, combined with his desire to assist others, Lobatón hopes to one day be a financial advisor.

Overall, Lobatón feels his experience at RIC has been a positive one and credits the Office of Student Life for helping people with disabilities. "It is a great advocate for a person who has a disability and wants to get out there and continue with their life."

Lobatón is certainly that type of person, but he is not content to just continue with his life. Lobatón has strived to consistently improve himself despite difficult circumstances that many would find overwhelming. His determined spirit and positive outlook make him a life-long advocate regardless of what the next chapter in his remarkable life may be.

For further information on the GCD Fellowship program, interested students can visit the website at www.gcd.state.ri.us/. For information about the School of Management Internship Program, contact Lori Martin at 401-456-9637.

RIC Shinn Study Abroad Benefit

Thursday, Nov. 10

The Hi-Hat
3 Davol Square
Providence

6:30 p.m.
Hors d'oeuvres
Cash Bar
7 p.m.
Greg Abate
with RIC Jazz Quartet
7:30 p.m.
Raffle Drawings
8 p.m.
Greg Abate Quartet
10 p.m.
Greg Abate Quartet

\$30 per person in advance
\$35 per person at the door

For further information,
call 401-941-1542



NEWS FROM THE Foundation and Alumni Offices



BY
Peg Brown
Vice President,
Development
and College
Relations

As mid-term grades are issued, and Homecoming '05 is a fond, but fading memory, the Division is gearing up with preparations for the next *Alumni Magazine*, annual appeal, Annual Report of Gifts, and a special holiday greeting from President Nazarian.

Believe it or not, we are actually preparing the first communications related to Commencement '06. And amidst all of these preparations, we are looking for the appropriate mask and costume to wear when the RIC co-op children make their annual trick or treat visit to the President's Office on Oct. 28.

Homecoming '05 had many highlights, not the least of which was the perfect weather and 1,500 alumni and friends who joined us for the activities pictured in this publication. (See p 16.)

Of particular note for the development office, was the dedication of the Ducey Student Media Center, a component of the recently

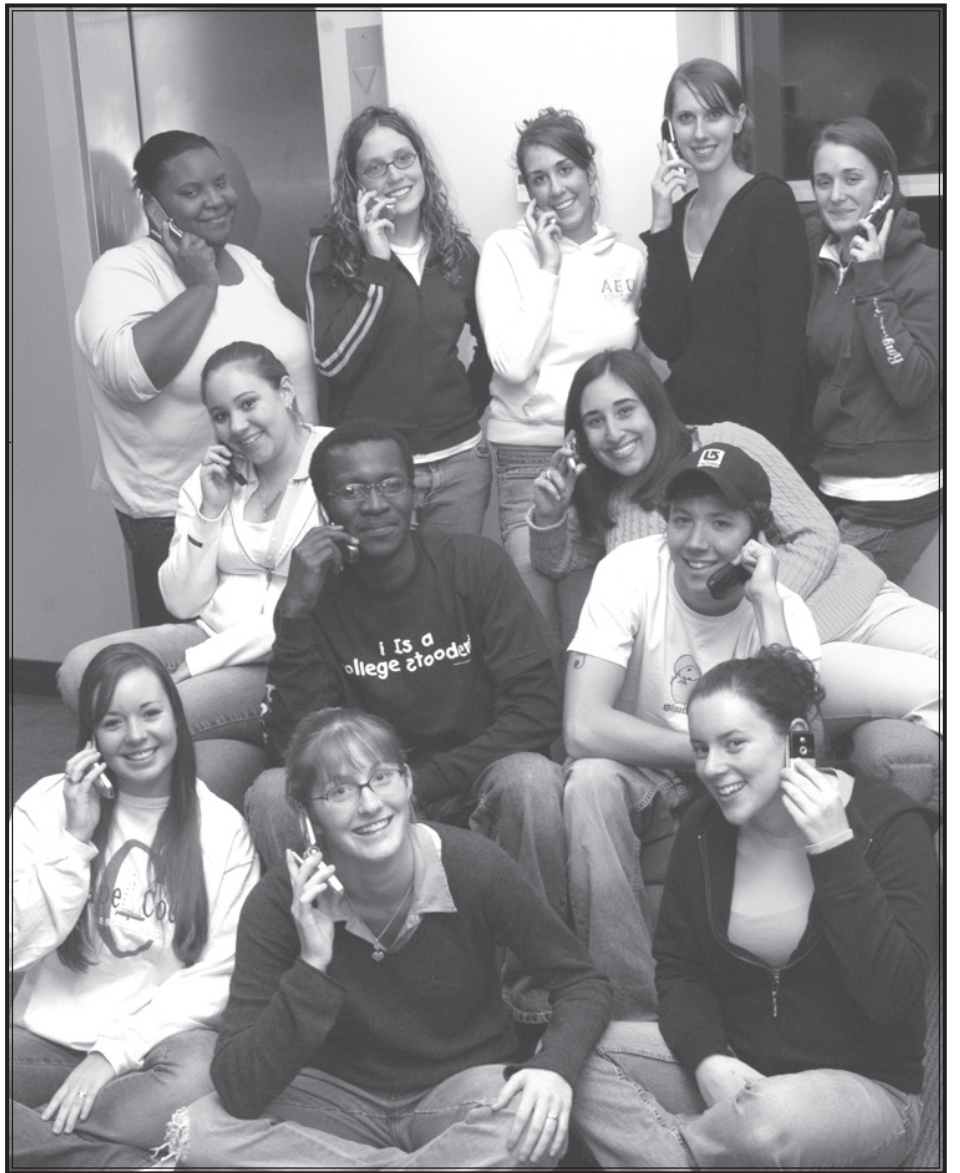
ing sophomore, junior, and senior English majors.

When thinking about a fitting way to honor the Ducey legacy, the naming of the Student Media Center seemed most appropriate. Annette served as a member of the English faculty for some 35 years as assistant, associate, and acting dean of Arts and Sciences, and as coordinator of fine arts. Included among the list of significant contributions she made during her teaching career is her service as advisor to many student organizations, including *The Anchor*.

Margaret (Meg) Carroll, director of the Writing Center, paid particular tribute to Annette's legacy as *Anchor* advisor, advocate, and mentor during the dedication ceremony, where many colleagues, friends, and students joined in the celebration and the unveiling of the permanent plaque that will hang in the Media Center's entrance.

The largest gifts to most organizations from individuals often are made through estate plans. Yet, with recent changes in the tax laws, very few of those estate gifts are created to avoid or reduce federal taxes. For example, just 1.2 percent of the 2.4 million Americans who died in 2003 left taxable estates. Essentially the estate tax no longer exists for the

RIC calling...



CELLATHON? A familiar sight all over the campus at RIC: students with cell phones up to their ears. Although communications technology is changing rapidly, the Alumni Association's fall phonathon for the Annual Fund is still done the old fashioned way – in a phone bank with land line (wired) phones. No fancy dialing equipment or cell phones! Alumni will hear the polite, young voices of students (including those pictured above) calling to ask for help. Please make a pledge when one of our students calls you.



College President John Nazarian unveils the Ducey Student Media Center plaque during the dedication on Oct. 1. Joining Nazarian are (l to r): William Dorry '03, former editor of *The Anchor*; Richard DelBonis '04; Zdenko Juskuv, president of Student Government; and Forrester Safford, executive editor of *The Anchor*.

renovated Student Union. The Media Center houses RIC-TV, *The Anchor*, and WXIN, all student-run organizations that produce student-centered communications on campus.

As we have reported before, C. Annette Ducey and her mother In-gamar A. Ducey, left the College a combined estate gift of nearly \$570,000, one of the largest ever received by the College. The gift endowed the Cathryn Annette Ducey Scholarship Fund that will provide scholarships for deserv-

vast majority who are considering estate plans that include charitable contributions for the first time.

With few tax incentives, the reasons most often cited for making a charitable gift are, "I want to give back," "I want to leave a legacy and make a difference for future generations," and "I want to be assured that my life's work will support the things I care about well into the future." We thank the Duceys, both mother and daughter, for entrusting the College with meeting all three.

PLEASE CONSIDER RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE AS PART OF YOUR ESTATE PLANNING.

The Rhode Island College Foundation & Alumni Association present

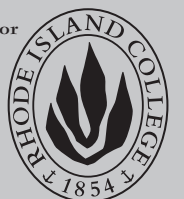
Long Term Care Planning... What You Need to Know

Ronda is a 1989 graduate of Rhode Island College and a 2000 Alumni Honor Roll Recipient in Economics/Finance.



Workshop conducted by
Ronda L. Warrenner '89, CFP®
Certified Financial Planner™/Financial Advisor
Legg Mason Wood Walker, Inc.

Thursday, November 3, 2005
Alger Hall
Rhode Island College
Light Buffet 5:30 p.m.
Workshop 6:15 to 7:45 p.m.



Name(s) _____ Class Year _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home phone _____ Email _____

Please respond by October 28. Space is limited.

Yes, I will attend the workshop.

You may also email alumni@ric.edu or call: 401-456-8827 to reserve

Clip & Send to:
Development Office
East Campus, Kauffman Center
600 Mt. Pleasant Avenue
Providence, RI 02908-1991

Call 401-456-8827 for further information. Please note that there is no fee.

(NOT JUST) Academically Speaking

An amazing journey "home"



BY
Patricia Nolin,
'84, M '87
Special Assistant
to the President

When I began my career at Rhode Island College, as coordinator of the College's

Sesquicentennial in March 2002, it was as though I had journeyed back home. As a double graduate of the College, I had enjoyed a career in the private sector before coming back to RIC. I knew this new undertaking would be a perfect fit for me. I was told that a centerpiece of the Sesquicentennial would be the State Home and School Project, and that I should speak with the key players who brought the project to the attention of the administration. Thus began another journey to another "home." What I came to learn throughout the first few months of 2002 was that the east campus of my alma mater contained so much history.

I met with several professionals who all shared with me their particular interest in the project. Pierre Morenon, professor of anthropology, conveyed to me how important the project was. I saw and touched artifacts from the archeological digs that had been carried out on the grounds of the State Home. He pointed out the shadows of the foundations of other turn-of-the-century cottages, and how the topography hadn't changed over the years. Marbles and roller skates had been unearthed, as well as fine china.

Richard Hillman '83, supervisor from DCYF,

told me how the project began from a simple inquiry by the director of Trinity Repertory Theatre's production of *Cider House Rules*. From this came the discovery of 100-year-old leather-bound record books that detailed the operation of the State Home and stories of the children that inhabited its walls. People with direct links to the Home had contacted Richard. Many had grown up there. Others, while tracing their ancestry, found their relatives had been at the Home at some point in their lifetime.

Sandra Enos '71 and Diane Martell, professors of sociology and social work respectively, had been researching the history of child care programs and policies in Rhode Island. Many may be surprised to learn that the beginnings of child welfare emerged in the mid-19th century and much of it began on what is now RIC's east campus.

By now the State Home and School Project is well known to many on campus, as well as in the community. You may hear it referred to as the "yellow cottage" or the orphanage project. Whatever it is called, its development and progress is immeasurable.

I think back to May 2002, to the first time an organized group met to discuss plans for the project. Restoring the last remaining original wood structure from the orphanage was paramount. The group also agreed it was important to meet and interview those individuals who shared part or all of their childhood at the State Home or in later years, The Patrick I. O'Rourke Children's Center, and to offer opportunities for former residents and staff to meet each other. Lastly, it was necessary for the College to recognize each child in some

way, to tell the community that *every child matters*.

Three and a half years have gone by, and I am astounded by what has been accomplished since that first meeting. A memorial dedicated to all children who once lived at the Home is now on the grounds behind the Forman Center. Ground-breaking for the first phase of renovation to the yellow cottage has taken place, and continuous connections are being made with residents, staff, and their families. Fifty formal presentations, over \$400,000 in grants, and three professional videos later, I realize our hopes for this project are well on the way to fruition.

Working with a steering committee of such passionate individuals has been so exciting. This project has united the campus community, attracting several disciplines to explore its extensiveness. It has also brought about collaboration between academic departments, community representatives, elected officials, and administrators. I would be remiss not to mention, by name, committee members who have worked tirelessly on every aspect of the project: Peg Brown, Lisa Delmonico M '05, Debra DiScuillo, Sandra Enos, Jane Fusco, Richard Hillman, Susan Hughes '03, Diane Martell, Pauline McCartney, E. Pierre Morenon, Eva Neira '03, Karen Paley, Anne Pascucci, and Michael Smith '79. Of course, our work would not have taken place without an administration that had the foresight to know what this project would mean to so many.

Continued on p 7

State Home Continued from p 1

their first day there, daily life, changes to the institution over time, and what it was like to leave state care.

It ends with recommendations by the former residents and staff for improving the child welfare system.

The stories are evidence of the challenges of caring for the more than a half million children now living in group homes, private institutions and foster care, Enos said.

"When we hear the voices of the former residents on the CD, we can't help but be reminded of the pain and loss that children still suffer in our child welfare system today," said Enos.

Many participants chose to have family members present during the interviews, which took place in homes, libraries and other public places, and over the telephone.

Some participants lived at the State Home in the 1920s, others during the Great Depression, World War II and the decades that followed. Their accounts reveal that at some periods in its history, the State Home was a good place for children, and at other times, a troubled institution.

The CD is the latest undertaking by the State Home and School

Project at Rhode Island College, created as part of the College's Sesquicentennial, to re-connect with former residents and document their stories.

"It started with the discovery of turn-of-the-century records in a dusty basement of a nearly empty building," said Peg Brown, RIC's vice president for development and college relations. "It turned into a commitment by the College to preserve an historic wooden structure, through the efforts of a small team of visionaries who saw the chance to expand the focus on preservation to include the oral histories that mirror the human experience and inform policy decisions."

The oral histories collected from former residents and staff will be placed permanently in the State Home and School archives, which will be housed in the new resource center, for researchers to learn about the short and long term effects of living in state care from the perspective of those who lived it, and to better understand the situation of all children who must leave their homes and live among families and environments not of their making.

"We have just begun to understand the potential depth, breadth, and national significance of this project," Brown said.

The CD package also includes a teaching and resource guide for suggested class projects for

students from elementary school through college. Enos suggests that the materials can be used in combination with excerpts from the CD "to understand the connection between former residents' lives and their place in the larger sociological and historical contexts."

Established at the Walnut Grove Farm in a rural Providence area, the State Home was created "for the protection and support of such children as should come under the care of the State...where they shall have a fair and equal chance to become useful, worthy and self-supporting men and women, a blessing, not a burden to the State," as written by child advocate Elizabeth Buffum Chace in a memorandum to the General Assembly of Rhode Island on Feb. 22, 1880. Throughout its operation, the State Home provided a home for thousands of children relegated to state care.

The state turned the land once belonging to the State Home over to the College in 1990. It is now the grounds of the College's east campus.

In December 2004, RIC received a \$325,000 federal appropriation to refurbish the yellow cottage, and to develop educational programs to study public policy in the state. The Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Historical Commission also awarded the College a \$100,000 grant the month before to help restore the cottage.

Though worn by the elements and years of neglect, the cottage was found to be generally sound by architect Christopher (Kip) McMahon of the firm Robinson Green Beretta, and by Denis Beique, project manager for the Gilbane Company. Gilbane built the cottage circa 1885. Renovation plans include rotating displays of memorabilia, archeological finds, and historic information. The cottage will be equipped with state-of-the-art technology for multi-media presentations for public viewing and student research.

The cottage is eligible for historic preservation status.

The Rhode Island Foundation provided grant support of \$1,610 for the production of the CD. A July 2003 grant from the Rhode Island Council for the Humanities for \$7,760 has helped to fund the State Home's oral history project.

"The voices on the CD also remind us of the courage and strength of some of the residents who managed to overcome the obstacles of very difficult childhoods and emerged as individuals who have given us the gift of their stories," said Enos.

To order a CD, contact Patricia Nolin, 401-456-9854; pnolin@ric.edu. Visit www.ric.edu/statehomeandschool for more information on the State Home and School Project at Rhode Island College.

RIC Athletic News

FROM THE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR'S DESK



Donald E. Tencher

**Director
of Athletics**

• I want to thank all the alumni who participated in alumni games during Homecoming weekend.

It was one of the best turnouts in recent memory.

• Patty Nevola-Testa is coordinating an alumni game for women's soccer.

Anyone interested in participating can contact Patty by leaving a message at the RIC

Track Office at 401-456-4617.

• Everyone's invited to attend "Winter Sports Madness" (i.e., Midnight Madness) on Tuesday Nov. 8 at 8 p.m. More details to follow.

• Congratulations to basketball student-athlete Kamari Williams, who was selected by the NCAA for membership on its National Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.

• Congratulations to all of the fall sports teams on outstanding seasons to date. Women's tennis recently clinched the regular season conference title and won the Little East Conference Championship. Men's soccer is currently in first place with a big showdown coming with perennial power Keene State.

The women's soccer team is currently 9-2 and the women's volleyball team is 15-10. Both teams are currently in third place in conference standings.

• Once again, congratulations to all of our 2005 Hall of Fame inductees who were honored at the recent Athletic Recognition Dinner held in conjunction with Homecoming.

• It doesn't seem possible, but the winter sports season kicked off this past weekend.

• The first weekly "RIC Sports Talk Show" was produced this past week and was broadcast via the Internet.

The show will soon be aired on a local television station.

RIC women's tennis dominates Little East

**BY
Scott Gibbons,
Sports Information Director**

There have been a lot of great women's tennis teams at Rhode Island College, but the 2005 squad could be the best one ever. To say that the Anchorwomen were dominant this fall is a massive understatement. RIC posted an 11-1 overall record, a 7-0 conference mark and won both the Little East Conference Tournament, as well as the Regular Season Championship.

After losing its first match of the season to Salve Regina on Sept. 3, RIC steamrolled through the rest of the fall, winning its next 11 matches to clinch the Anchorwomen's third consecutive Little East Conference Regular Season Championship.

The Anchorwomen went into the 2005 Little East Conference Tournament as a heavy favorite and did not disappoint, taking home first place with 24 points. Plymouth State, which figured to be RIC's top competition, totaled a mere 14 points to finish second in the seven-team field. It was the program's sixth title, including the second in the last three seasons and fourth over the past seven campaigns.

The Anchorwomen won all three doubles flights and four of the six singles flights at the LEC Tournament, which was hosted by Western Connecticut on Oct. 14-15.

"This is the best team I have ever coached," Head Women's Tennis Coach Kelly Chartier '98 says. "They are the most dedicated group of student-athletes I've ever been around. They have a winning attitude and want to win every time they step on the court."

RIC went 13-0 in 2004, posting the first undefeated season in the program's history, but stumbled at the LEC Tournament with a second place finish. "We had a good nucleus of players coming back this year," Chartier says, "and the



LITTLE EAST CHAMPIONS: The RIC women's tennis team won the Little East Conference Tournament after posting the league's top regular season record. Team members: (front row, left to right) Tara Marchant, Liz Barrette, Alyson St. Amand, Megan Hall; (middle row left to right) Ashley St. Amand, Kseniya Gurvich, Ashley Barry, Margaret Funk, Ashley Cunday, Ashley Gorman, Heidi Beauregard; (back row, left to right) Head Coach Kelly Chartier, Carissa Wiles, Kathleen Brady, Cara Lustig, Samantha Zira, Natasha Roman.

additions of freshmen Megan Hall, Margaret Funk, Natasha Roman, plus Ashley Gorman, who was a transfer from Plymouth State, really made our lineup tough to beat. We were focused on putting together a solid season since the pre-season."

Hall was the Little East Conference Champion in the number two singles flight and teamed with senior Liz Barrette to take home the title in the number one doubles flight. She closed out the season with a 13-1 singles record and a 15-2 doubles mark, to go along with three Little East Conference Women's Tennis Rookie of the Week honors. Hall and Barrette's 15 doubles wins are a new RIC record for a season.

Barrette, who fell in the semifinals of the number one singles flight, was 11-3 in singles and 15-2 in doubles action on the season. She closes out her career with a

51-15 career doubles record, tying Donna Vongratsavay's '03 all-time career doubles victories total. She was 43-18 at number one singles for her career, facing the opposition's top player in every match, and is third all-time at RIC in career singles wins. She was named to RIC's All-75th Anniversary Women's Tennis Team last May.

Funk was the Little East Conference Champion in the number three singles flight and teamed with fellow rookie Roman to win the number two doubles flight. Funk was 13-1 in singles and 14-2 in doubles and was named the Little East Conference Women's Tennis Rookie of the Week once on the season.

Sophomore Kseniya Gurvich was the Little East Conference Champion in the number four singles flight and posted an 8-3 singles mark on the season.

Gorman was the Little East Con-

ference Champion in the number six singles flight and teamed with junior Tara Marchant to win the number three doubles flight. Gorman was 11-2 in singles and 14-4 in doubles on the season. Marchant, who lost in the Championship Match of the number five singles flight, was 11-3 in singles and 14-4 in doubles this fall.

Chartier's crew has simply been lights out since the end of the 2003 season, a year in which they were also the LEC Champions. The team has won 28 of its last 29 dual matches dating back to 2003, having gone 11-1 this year, 13-0 in 2004 and winning their last four matches of the '03 campaign. RIC has not lost on its home court since the 2003 season as well, going 17-0 since Sept. 16 of that year.

With the squad only losing Barrette from the starting lineup, they'll figure to be very tough to beat once again next fall.

RIC TO HOST PRE-SEASON BASKETBALL CAMPS

Directed by:
Former Stanford University star Christina Batastini
and RIC Head Men's Basketball Coach Bob Walsh



THE "GET YOUR GAME READY" CAMP

Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 19-20

9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Cost: \$135

- Pre-season conditioning drills
- Offensive skill development
- Unique teaching stations for offensive moves
- Position work specific to guards, forwards and post players
- 1-on-1, 3-on-3 and 5-on-5 games



THE "UNSTOPPABLE OFFENSE" CAMP

Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 26-27

9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Cost: \$135

- Extensive ball handling development
 - 1-on-1 moves
 - Attacking the basket
 - Reading the defense
- 1-on-1, 3-on-3 and 5-on-5 games



THE "LIGHTS OUT" SHOOTING CAMP

Friday, Nov. 25

9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Cost: \$75

- Personalized video analysis of each player's shot
 - Shooting fundamentals
 - Shooting footwork
 - Various shooting drills
- Competitive shooting games

Call the RIC athletic department at 401-456-8007 to receive an application form, or for any questions.

SPORTS Events Oct. 24 - Nov. 14

Men's Soccer

Wed. Oct. 26	Connecticut College	3:30 p.m.
Sat. Oct. 29	at Eastern Connecticut *	1 p.m.
Wed. Nov. 2	LEC Tournament Semi-Finals	TBA
Sat. Nov. 5	LEC Tournament Finals	TBA

Women's Soccer

Tues. Oct. 25	Western Connecticut *	4 p.m.
Sat. Oct. 29	Eastern Connecticut *	Noon
Tues. Nov. 1	LEC Tournament First Round	TBA
Thurs. Nov. 3	LEC Tournament Semi-Finals	TBA
Sat. Nov. 5	LEC Tournament Finals	TBA

Women's Volleyball

Wed. Oct. 26	Connecticut College	6 p.m.
Wed. Nov. 2	LEC Tournament Play-offs	TBA
Fri. Nov. 4	LEC Tournament Semi-Finals	TBA
Sat. Nov. 5	LEC Tournament Finals	TBA

Men's and Women's Cross Country

Sat. Oct. 29	at LEC/MASCAC Alliance Championships +	11 a.m.
Sat. Nov. 5	at ECAC Div. III Championships #	TBA
Sat. Nov. 12	at NCAA Div. III Regionals \$	TBA

Wrestling

Sat. Nov. 12	at Roger Williams Invitational	10 a.m.
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* Little East Conference contest + Hosted by Westfield State College
Hosted by Connecticut College \$ Hosted by Springfield College

Be sure to check out www.ric.edu/athletics for updated scores and standings.

DON'T MISS THE 11TH ANNUAL ANCHOR MADNESS

8 P.M., TUESDAY, NOV. 8, 2005
THE MURRAY CENTER

Academically...

Continued from p 5

I have spoken with many individuals who are fascinated with the project. They share stories about their own childhood, and the circumstances that influenced them as they grew. Perhaps delving into histories and childhoods evokes the special need in each of us to know more about our own family histories. I, too, was inspired to contact a relative in Canada to learn more about my own family history.

Home is defined in the dictionary as "an environment offering security and happiness...a valued place." For me, I'm happy to be home in an environment where its intellectual and cultural vision embraces such eclectic projects. The State Home and School Project ultimately reminds us how a society affects its children. How we educate and nurture vulnerable youngsters has and will continue to have a far-reaching impact on them and on our culture for years to come.

High school choruses to join RIC Chorus

The RIC High School Invitational Choral Concert takes place on Friday, Nov. 4 at 8 p.m. in Sapinsley Hall in the Nazarian Center.

The RIC Chamber Singers and the RIC Chorus, conducted by Teresa Coffman, associate professor

of music, will be accompanied by local high school choruses, for an evening of non-competitive choral performances. The concert offers high schoolers a unique learning experience, with each chorus having its own opportunity to show-

case its talents. The concert closes with a massed choral piece in which all ensembles participate.

Admission is free and open to the public. For more information, call 401-456-8144.

RIC students win awards in graphic arts

Fourteen Rhode Island College students earned awards at the International Graphic Arts Education Association competition held last summer.

The students created their winning entries in graphic communications classes of RIC's communications department.

The competition took place at Millersville University in Pennsylvania, the site of this year's IGAEA conference, held July 31-Aug. 4.

The contest draws approximately 500 entries from schools around the country.

In addition, a poster designed by RIC student Roseanne Cedroni for Graphic Communications Week was printed by Ryobi Company on the show floor of Print05 at the McCormick Place Convention Center in Chicago last month. It will also be used as the cover of the IGAEA's professional journal.

All students have taken classes with Lenore Collins, RIC associate professor of communications.

The IGAEA award winners by division:

Photo

Michelle Martin - 1st Place

Rebecca Butler - 2nd Place
Dana Schmidt - Hon. Mention
Anthony Bachinski - Hon. Mention

Prepress (digital output)

Katelyn Mroczka - 1st Place

Poster

Roseanne Cedroni - 1st Place
Andy DiMatteo - 4th place

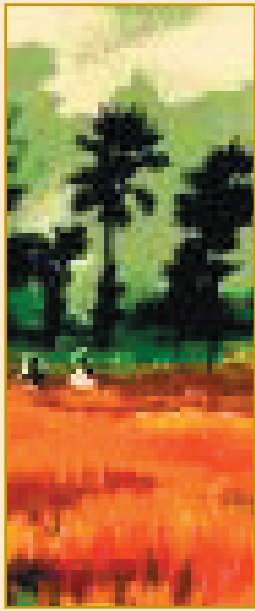
Web Site

Salomon Xiong - Best of Show
Dan Caparco - 2nd Place
Marc Daniels - 2nd Place
Meghan Follett - 3rd Place
Scott Trainor - 3rd Place
Joanna Shuhala - 3rd Place
Dana Schmidt - 3rd Place

Impressions of Cambodia

BY

Mary Ann Bromley, prof. of social work and John Riolo, coordinator of the Case Management Cert. Program



After more than three decades of war, occupation and isolation, including Pol Pot's four-year reign of terror from 1975 to 1979, and a bloody

failed coup attempt in 1997, Cambodia's scars are beginning to slowly show signs of healing.

We recently spent four months teaching social work case management in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. When we weren't teaching, we were busy traveling around the capital city, as well as other areas of the country, meeting people and learning firsthand about life in Cambodia approximately 12 years after the country's first free elections. The reader is invited to share in some of our experiences and impressions.

The Khmer empire of ancient Cambodia covered nearly all of Southeast Asia until around 1600. At the center of this empire was Angkor Wat, a 12th-Century Hindu temple and the world's largest religious monu-

ment according to the Smithsonian Institution. The Angkor district covers approximately 155 square miles and is comprised of 44 temples built between the 9th and 14th Centuries.

More than two centuries of neglect left the area overrun by dense jungle and giant strangler fig trees and their roots are deeply entwined with the ancient temple ruins. Today, Angkor is a protected archaeological zone and was designated a World Heritage Site in 1992. Restoration experts from various nations have differing views about how best to save the temples of Angkor. Currently, there is an attempt to restore the temples by piecing together fallen stones which have accumulated in large piles throughout the temple sites and to leave the tree roots entangled within the temple ruins as much as possible. New stones are used for reconstruction only as a last resort.

Immediately outside the temple district is a small informal landmine museum run by a local deminer (a person who clears landmines), Aki Ra. In his former life, Aki Ra was an involuntary child soldier of the Khmer Rouge and Vietnamese Armies and he was forced to lay landmines. Mr. Aki and his wife run the museum from their home and have also informally taken in many of the children who have been injured by landmines. Cambodia, with an estimated six million out of 10 million mines still left from the early 1990s, has the highest number of active landmines in the world today.

In addition, it is estimated that more than 539,000 tons of bombs were dropped on Cambodia during the American involvement in the war in Southeast Asian (1959-



Human skulls fill a display case at Tuol Sleng, a former Khmer Rouge prison that is now a museum of the Cambodian genocide under Pol Pot in the 1970s.

1979). Massive American bombing of Cambodia was aimed at stopping the flow of supplies and personnel from North Vietnam to South Vietnam during the Vietnam conflict. The United States Congress ended the bombing in Cambodia on Aug. 15, 1973.

Cambodia is one of the poorest countries in the world, ranking 130th out of 175 in the Human Development Index according to the 2003 Human Development Report published by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). The life expectancy is 56.4 years for Cambodian men and 60.3 years for women. Buddhism influences practically every aspect of Cambodian life, although it was Hinduism which predominated among early Khmers from the 1st Century until the decline of the Khmer Empire. Today, the population of Cambodia is approximately 13 million people, with at least half of the population under the age of 18.



MARY ANN BROMLEY



JOHN RIOLO

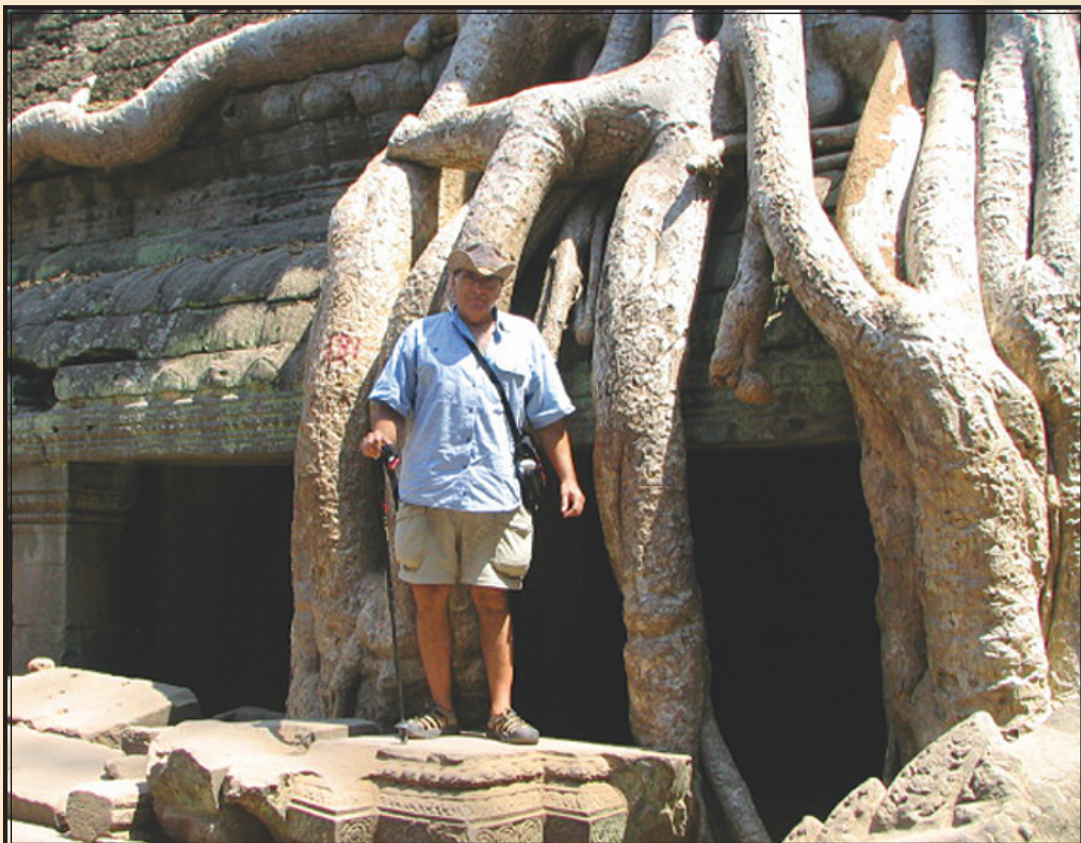
On Dec. 25, 1978, the Vietnamese invaded Cambodia and in less than a month, the Vietnamese captured the capital city of Phnom Penh and secured all of Cambodia except for some of the regions bordering Thailand. Most of the 70,000 to

100,000 Buddhist monks died during the Pol Pot regime and all but 55 Cambodian doctors are believed to have died during this time. Teachers and other intellectuals

were also singled out for imprisonment, torture and death.

One of the most notorious prisons during the Khmer Rouge regime is located in Phnom Penh and called Tuol Sleng which roughly translated means *a poisonous hill* or *a place on a mound to keep those who bear guilt*. Prior to being converted to a prison in 1976 by the Khmer Rouge, it was a high school. Whole families of prisoners, including their newborn babies, were taken there to be exterminated. More than 10,000 prisoners at Tuol Sleng were executed. These estimates do not include the estimated 2,000 children who were also killed there. Today, Tuol Sleng is a museum of the Cambodian genocide under Pol Pot.

Within the context of this history, signs of Cambodia's developmental struggle as it attempts to move successfully into the 21st Century are everywhere. Traffic, particularly in the capital, is a nightmare. There are few traffic lights and people frequently drive on the wrong side of the road, particularly at intersections. A Cambodian-



John Riolo stands in front of strangler fig roots growing over a temple at Angkor.

Cambodia: past and present

American friend who has been living in Phnom Penh for the past nine years explained to us as he was traveling down a one-way street the wrong way that in Cambodia, traffic signs are really only guidelines. *Lonely Planet Cambodia* travel guide sums it up best when it says "If there are road rules in Cambodia it is doubtful that anyone is following them. The best advice... is to take nothing for granted and assume that your fellow motorists are

passing in what appears to be hazardous formations. Small motorcycles called motos are used as taxis and provide a particularly thrilling ride. We saw two adults, three children and a small dog riding on one moto in Phnom Penh and most often, women ride sidesaddle. Live chickens, pigs and yes, even the kitchen sink are routinely transported on the back of a moto. For a more comfortable (but not necessarily safer) ride, a tuk tuk, which is a cart with seats pulled by a moto, is the taxi of choice.

Beggars in Cambodia are an ever-present reminder of the poverty in Cambodia. A typical worker in Phnom Penh earns \$1 a day for a 16-hour day, seven days a week. Police officers, frontline government workers, military personnel, teachers and other typical "middle-class" workers earn \$25 to \$35 per month. While the cost of living in Phnom Penh is much less than in the United States, these wages cannot pay a monthly electric bill, buy food for a family

for one month or pay the rent, even in a small apartment. Street begging, child labor, child prostitution and taking bribes or "tips" are understood ways to supplement a family's wages. It is not unusual to see families living in abandoned buildings and living on the street alongside museums, monuments, and government buildings. Minors aged 12 to 17 constitute 31 percent



A 17-year-old landmine survivor dresses in a Khmer Rouge uniform.

visually challenged psychopaths."

On one trip in the Southern part of the country we wondered if at some point the car in which we were riding might disappear in one of the many potholes created by landmines or bombs. Another time, traveling in the North, it seemed that our bus would surely end up down the mountainside due to the narrow roadways where traffic is



Two of the many street children in Cambodia.



Live chickens make the trip to market on the back of a moto, a small motorcycle frequently seen on the streets of Cambodia.

of the more than 88,000 sex workers in Cambodia. The number of children who are trafficked to other countries from Cambodia is not known but government statistics report an average of 400 Cambodian children who have been trafficked to Thailand are returned every month. Given this number of returned children, the number of children sent (usually as sex work-

almost doubled their secondary school enrollment rate (from 30 to 57 percent). Students in Cambodian public schools wear uniforms and parents are expected to send their children to school with about two U.S. dollars per day for their teacher. Thus, in addition to the need for children to beg or work (in legal or illegal



A street beggar, holding a baby, stands at a tour bus.

ers) is suspected to be astronomical.

Approximately 42 percent of women above 15 years of age have never attended school and only 12 percent of girls are able to complete secondary school. Twenty percent of primary school students, two percent of upper secondary students, and zero percent of tertiary education students are drawn from the poorest 20 percent of the Cambodian population. From 1990 to 1997, the secondary school enrollment rate in Cambodia declined from 32 percent of eligible children to 24 percent. During the same period, neighboring Vietnam

trades), poor families cannot afford the indirect costs of public school for their children.

One observation based on our sabbatical leaves us with a disquieting impression that while there are numerous international organizations with offices in Cambodia (for example, there are more than 40 non-government organizations working with Cambodians with disabilities), the gap is enormous between the amount of aid money given to these organizations and the effect on the Cambodian people in need. But this is a subject for further study and another article.

RIC Arts and Entertainment

THE FLYING KARAMAZOV BROTHERS *take flight in ...*

The Flying Karamazov Brothers – four comedians, musicians, jugglers and men about town – land at RIC next month for an evening of theatre and entertainment in the tradition of Monty Python. The show, *LIFE: A Guide for the Perplexed*, is certain to excite, delight and even bring a tear to the eye of audiences on Thursday, Nov. 17 at 8 p.m. in the Auditorium in Roberts Hall.

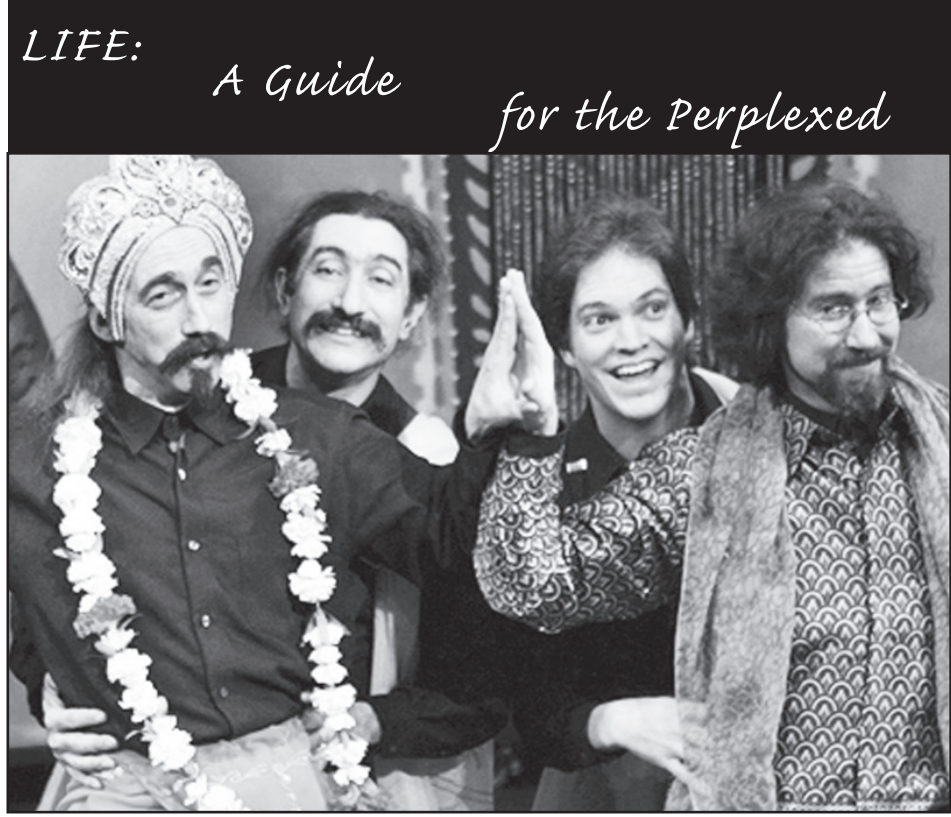
Filled with skits on the various stages of life, the show features several uniquely Karamazov elements: a circular, six-octave electronic instrument called a Juggletron, which the Brothers play while singing and juggling; the 4X4, where each Brother plays the other's musical

instrument while juggling and singing a different tune; the Gamble, which tests the juggling skills of the audience; and Jazz Improvisational Juggling, a signature set piece that is as thrilling as it is difficult.

Over 20 characters – all played by the four performers – keep *LIFE* pulsing including a Babylonian Emperor, an Indian seer, and the Man in Black. The Brothers also play many instruments, from pocket trumpet to double-necked guitar.

The Washington Post said of the ensemble: "...they can tickle your brain while thrilling your eyes."

The Karamazov Brothers are comprised of the show's writer Paul Magid



THE FLYING KARAMAZOV BROTHERS

(Dmitri), lyricist Howard Jay Patterson (Ivan), composer Mark Ettinger (Alexei), and Roderick Kimball (Pavel).

Tickets for the Flying Karamazov Brothers are \$30, with discounts for seniors, RIC faculty/staff/students and children. For your con-

venience, tickets can be purchased as follows: in advance via VISA or MasterCard by calling 401-456-8144 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays; online at www.ric.edu/pfa; or in person at the Roberts Hall box office until the time of the performance on the day of the event.

Arthur Miller's 'All My Sons' premieres at RIC Nov. 16

All My Sons, directed by Naum Panovski, associate professor with the Dept. of Music, Theatre, and Dance, will take the stage on Nov. 16-19 at 8 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday Nov. 19-20 at 2 p.m. in the Forman Theatre in the Nazarian Center.

Written and produced by Arthur Miller in 1947, *All My Sons* is a moving drama that established Miller as one of the leading voices of American theatre.

Set shortly after World War II, the play focuses on Joe Keller, a 61-year-old man who became rich as a manufacturer of second-rate airplane parts. With one son missing in action in the war effort, another son who is courting his brother's girlfriend, and

the questionable imprisonment of his colleague, Joe's struggles highlight the themes of father-son relationships and the battle between business and ethics.

Miller's idea for the story originated from an historic World War II incident of a manufacturer that knowingly shipped out defective parts for tanks, which led to the deaths of American soldiers.

The play, about "man's selfishness and greed that destroys the very fabric of a family is so timely and speaks to all of us," said Panovski.

Panovski is a professional theatre director and dramaturg, whose experience includes over 50 plays produced by theatres in the U.S, Eu-

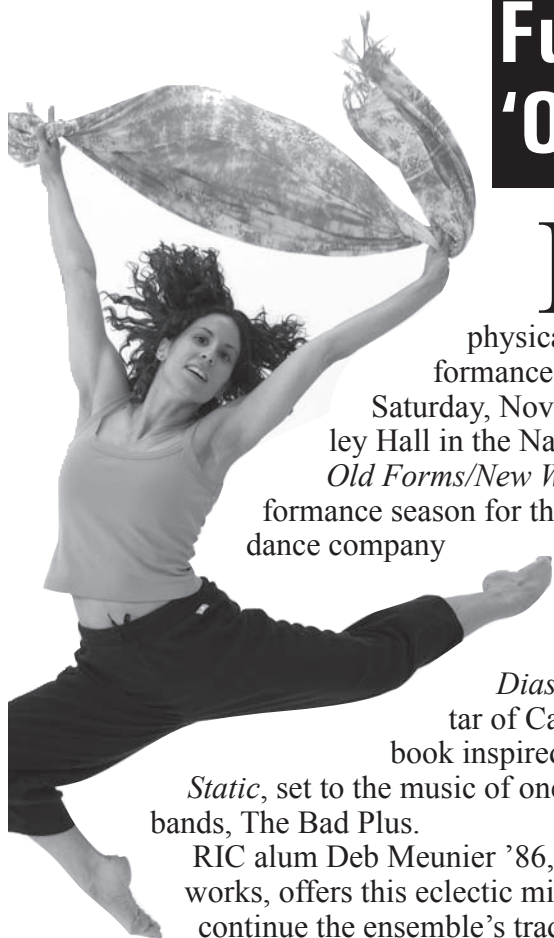
rope, and former Yugoslavia. He has authored two books, *Directing Poiesis* and *Theatre as a Weapon*, and has also written in publications around the world. *All My Sons* is Panovski's first project at the College.

The cast of characters includes Aaron Andrade as Keller, Marybeth Hampton as Mother, Nathan Holst as Chris, Allison Clark as Ann, Kevin Broccoli as George, Chris Rosenquest as Jim, Alexandra Smith as Sue, and Robert Lima as Larry, with 14 additional performers who serve as a chorus.

General admission is \$14. For more information, call the box office at 401-456-8144.



Fusionworks Dance Company to perform 'Old Forms/New Works'



Fusionworks returns to RIC in the Annual Fall Concert Series that features gutsy physicality and endless energy. Performances will be held on Friday and Saturday, Nov. 18 and 19 at 8 p.m. in Sapinsley Hall in the Nazarian Center.

Old Forms/New Works will begin the 19th performance season for this popular Rhode Island-based dance company and premiere four new works: the majestic and reverent *Te Deum*, the fun and hip-shaking romp, *Buenos Dias*, performed to the soaring guitar of Carlos Santana, and the comic-book inspired *Iron Man Meets Scuttle* and

Static, set to the music of one of the hottest up-and-coming bands, The Bad Plus.

RIC alum Deb Meunier '86, artistic director of Fusionworks, offers this eclectic mix of dances that promises to continue the ensemble's tradition of sassy, high-energy dancing.

Fusionworks' special guest artists are from the Rhode Island College Dance Company. They will be performing a new original work created for them by Meunier entitled *Under the Bridge*, a haunting and primal post-apocalyptic dance performed to the techno-industrial score of Rhode Island composer Keith Fracassa.

On Saturday evening, Fusionworks will present their extremely popular *Unwrapped* concert for the unabashedly curious, in which Meunier will provide a behind-the-scenes peek at the entire concert process. Through introductions to each of the dances, she explains the choreography, costumes, music and technical aspects.

To experience even more of this exciting troupe, join its members for *Completely Unwrapped*. Come early, watch the dancers warm up, experience the view from the stage, and attend a VIP reception with the artistic director and board members prior to the performance.

New this fall will be generous support provided by The Fannie Helen Melcer Endowment.

General admission tickets are \$20, with discounts for senior citizens, groups and students. For more information or for tickets to *Unwrapped* or *Completely Unwrapped*, contact Fusionworks at 401-946-0607 or www.fusionworksdance.org. Concert tickets are available at the Roberts Hall box office (401-456-8144).



HALLOWEEN COLLAGE CONCERT HAUNTS ROBERTS HALL

The annual Halloween Collage Concert promises a ghostly good time Friday, Oct. 28 at 8 p.m. in the Auditorium in Roberts Hall.

The event offers a change of pace for the performers. "Some of the featured music is light-hearted, while other music is satirical, strange and eerie," said Bill Jones, director of the concert, and professor in the Dept. of Music, Theatre, and Dance.

Witches Brew Concert stirs up spooky music Halloween night

The Witches Brew Concert will feature plenty of frighteningly good music on Halloween night, Monday, Oct. 31, at 8 p.m. in Sapinsley Hall in the Nazarian Center. Alec K. Redfearn and the Eyesores, Greg Abate, Bob Colonna, and many RIC faculty and friends will perform under the direction of RIC artist-in-residence Judith Lynn Stillman.

Alec K. Redfearn and the Eyesores have provided eclectic, thoroughly original ac-

The program, which will run for approximately 90 minutes, consists of 26 acts, with over 200 performers including RIC students and faculty, and fifth graders from the Henry Barnard School.

- RIC groups to perform are:
- African Music Ensemble
 - Brass Ensemble
 - Big Flute Band
 - Clarinet Ensemble
 - Concert Jazz Band

- Guitar Ensemble
- Saxophone Ensemble
- The Marimba and the Piano duos
- Trumpet Ensemble
- Chamber Singers
- Chorus
- Men's Chorus
- Women's Chorus
- The Henry Barnard Singers

The program also includes two dance acts: a tap dance choreographed by Elaine Colaneri,

and a jazz dance choreographed by Angelica Vessella.

All performers will be dressed in Halloween costumes.

The concert will be preceded by a small concert in the lobby, with five faculty members creating unusual and festive music.

General admission is \$7, free for anyone who wears a costume. For more information, call 401-456-8144.



ALEC K. REDFEARN

company for numerous theatre and dance troupes since 1997. The band's latest CD, *The Quiet Room*, is on a nationally distributed label. Redfearn is a songwriter, improviser,

accordianist, and composer who has been playing in the Providence area for about 15 years. He recently scored the Laura Colella film *Stay Until Tomorrow*, which has been touring the festival circuit.

Abate, an adjunct member of the RIC music faculty is widely considered among jazz writers and aficionados to be one of the best

companion for numerous theatre and dance troupes since 1997.

The band's latest CD, *The Quiet Room*, is on a nationally distributed label. Redfearn is a songwriter, improviser,

post-bebop saxophone players around today. A composer, arranger and recording artist, Abate is an adjunct instructor at RIC, where he teaches jazz improvisation and theory, and coaches jazz combos.

Colonna appeared at 2nd Story Theatre last season as Willy Loman in *Death of A Salesman* and this season as Candy in *Of Mice and Men*. He has been a professional performer for 45 years, appearing at The Huntington Theatre, Trinity Rep, The Old Globe, and The Bread Loaf School of English. He founded and was artistic director of The Rhode Island Shakespeare Theater from 1971-1990. Colonna has voiced over 5,000 radio commercials in the New England area, and has published a book of children's show business stories called *Zoe's Vaudeville Act*.

Admission to the Witches Brew Concert is free. For more information, call 401-456-8144.

Muir String Quartet returns Nov. 7

The Muir String Quartet returns to RIC as a part of the President's Music Series on Monday, Nov. 7 at 8 p.m. in Sapinsley Hall in the Nazarian Center.

Muir will play Mozart's *Quartet in D minor*, Shostakovich's *Quartet #14 in F-sharp Major*, and Dubussy's *Quartet in G minor*.

The Muir String Quartet, which includes violinists Lucia Lin and Peter Zazofsky, violist Steven Ansell, and cellist Michael Reynolds, is recognized as one of the most powerful string ensembles and is featured at major chamber music

series throughout North America and Europe. Ansell, Zazofsky and Reynolds hold honorary doctorates in music from RIC.

Muir began performing in 1980, earning rave reviews. It won the 1980 Evian International String Quartet Competition, and the Namburg Chamber Music Award in 1981. Muir was also featured on the acclaimed PBS broadcast, *In Performance at the White House*. The group is best known for its performances of the complete Beethoven String Quartet cycles.

Muir has premiered works by

such admired American composers as Lucas Foss (*String Quartet #4*), Joan Tower (*Night Fields*), and Ezra Laderman (*String Quartet #9*). The quartet has also appeared at numerous festivals, including Tanglewood, Versailles, and Fredericksburg, and gave the world premiere performance of the Native American work, *Circle of Faith*, on National Public Radio.

The Boston Globe praised the Muir String Quartet for its "sumptuous tone, exhilarating involvement, and extraordinary unanimity of purpose."

Admission is \$30, with discounts for seniors, RIC faculty/staff/students and children. For your convenience, tickets can be purchased as follows: in advance via VISA or MasterCard by calling 401-456-8144 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays; online at www.ric.edu/pfa; or in person at the Roberts Hall box office until the time of the performance on the day of the event.

Note: Join the artists at the President's Music Series pre-concert buffet in RIC's Faculty Dining Room. Reservations are required. Call 401-456-8144.

Bannister to showcase printmakers

"Off the Press - Ten Printmakers," an exhibition featuring the work of artists from the Printmakers Network of Southern New England, will be on display from Nov. 3-30 in Bannister Gallery.

The artwork was created using a variety of methods including silkscreen, woodcut, etching, collograph, lithography and experimental techniques.

Participating artists are Grace Bentley-Scheck, Claudia Fieo, Carol Strause Fitzsimonds, Barbara Harder, Victoria Jutras Kniering, Melody Leary, Jim Lee, Barbara Pagh, Kim Tester, and Jo Yarrington.

Guest curator for "Off the Press" is Barbara Pagh.

In the Bannister Gallery hall space, "Collaborative Prints" will

be exhibited. This selection of offset prints is by faculty and guest artists produced with Master Printer Jeff Bertwell at the University of Rhode Island Printshop.

Gallery hours during exhibits are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Thursdays, noon-9 p.m. Closed weekends and holidays. Exhibits and events are free and all are

welcome to attend. Accessible to persons with disabilities. For information on event dates and exhibit opening receptions, check the website at www.ric.edu/Bannister/ or call 401-456-9765.



Kim Tester. *Spirit Unbound - See Me Free, 2003. Screenprint, 24" x 16."*

Flutist Carol Wincenc to perform in Chamber Music Series

Internationally prominent flutist Carol Wincenc comes to RIC Nov. 2 for a free Wednesday Chamber Music Series concert.

Wincenc will collaborate with pianist and RIC artist-in-residence Judith Lynn Stillman at the event, to be held at 1 p.m. in Sapinsley Hall in the Nazarian Center. A question-and-answer session follows the performance.

A noted chamber musician, recording artist and collaborator, Wincenc has performed with the Guarneri, Emerson, Tokyo and Cleveland string quartets, Yo-Yo Ma, Jessye Norman, and Bella Davidovich, among many others.

She has recorded the complete Mozart *Flute Quartets* with the Emerson String Quartet, Foss' *Renaissance Concerto*, Joan Tower's *Concerto* with the Louisville Orchestra (d'Note), and Paul Schoenfield's *Klezmer Rondos* with the New



CAROL WINCENC (SUNY Stony Brook website photo)

World Symphony.

Wincenc was first prize winner of the Walter W. Namburg Solo Flute Competition and was the recipient of a Fulbright grant. Music publisher Carl

Fischer has published the first in a series of Carol Wincenc Signature Editions featuring her favorite flute repertoire.

Her series of International Flute Festivals at the Ordway Theatre in St. Paul, Minn. has grown into a popular U.S. tour.

Wincenc has been a faculty member of The Juilliard School since 1988, and of Stony Brook University since 1998.

Looking Back...

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



TAKING A PAGE from the 1981 yearbook, we look back to the soccer cheerleaders from the fall of 1980. Seated from left: co-captain Gail Mailhoe, advisor Patti Goldstein and co-captain Cathy Roach. Standing from left: Debbie Burke, Kathy McGrath, Diane Lanni, Mary Nunes, Ellen Shea, Sue Marciano, Yomaira Lubo and Sherri Bestwick.

James Fey to speak at Arthur Smith Memorial lecture

The Dept. of Mathematics and Computer Science invites the community to the third annual Arthur F. Smith Memorial Mathematics Education Celebration on Friday, Nov. 4, at 3:30 p.m. in the Faculty Center.

After a reception, the program will open with remarks about Art Smith, who passed away in 2003 after serving the College for 38 years as a teacher, mentor and advisor to math education students.

The Smith Memorial Lecture will be given by James T. Fey of the University of Maryland. His topic is "Relating Algebraic Structures to Teaching Secondary School Mathematics." Fey will discuss a new approach to the content and teaching of upper-division algebra classes that will make them more useful for the teaching of algebra in secondary schools. He will report on results of actual classroom experience with this new approach.

Fey is a nationally known math educator who has written extensively on topics such as reforming calculus instruction, proportional reasoning, "math wars" issues, and the value of mathematics education research.

The reception and lecture are free and open to the public. After the talk, there will be a dinner at the Faculty Center (\$18). To register or to obtain more information about the event, call Ann Moskol at 401-456-9761 or email her at amoskol@ric.edu.

RIC alum Lelia De Andrade to give keynote address at Promising Practices conference

Rhode Island College welcomes back alumna Lelia De Andrade '87 as the keynote speaker for the Nov. 5 Promising Practices Multi-Cultural Conference and Curriculum Resource Fair.

The conference, now in its eighth year, will have as its theme, "Supporting Diversity in the Learning Environment: Finding Constructive Ways to Prevent Hate, Violence, and Bullying."

De Andrade is associate director of the Center for the Prevention of Hate Violence (CPHV) at the University of Southern Maine. In addition to a bachelor's degree at RIC, De Andrade earned a master's degree and PhD at the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University.

She was awarded a post-doctoral fellowship at the DuBois Institute at Harvard University.

In a recent workshop, De Andrade used interactive exercises to examine the impact of slurs and jokes directed at traditionally tar-

geted groups on a campus. Workshop participants were guided in developing practical skills needed for intervening when degrading language is used.



The Promising Practices conference offers K-12 educators and students in teacher-training a day of diversity-related education, materials and ideas. It will outline ways for curricula to explore issues of sexuality,

race, class, gender, religion and ethnicity, and examine strategies for achieving greater equity and more effective education for all students.

Over 25 workshops will be offered, and a "Youth Hour" roundtable discussion with the keynote speaker and college and high school students is scheduled.

The winner of the Outstanding Educator Award in multicultural education will also be announced at the conference.

Publishers and marketers of educational media will demonstrate



LELIA DE ANDRADE '87

and exhibit their products at a curriculum resource fair.

"This conference provides an excellent opportunity to learn

multiple strategies for enhancing academic experiences of young people," said Aaron Bruce, director of the RIC Unity Center and a co-chair of the College's Dialogue on Diversity Committee, which organized the event. "I'm looking forward to hearing Dr. De Andrade, who has done some amazing things with the Center for the Prevention of Hate Violence."

For more information on the conference, visit www.ric.edu/uap/promisingpractices.html, or contact Peter Mendy at 401-456-9696 (pmendy@ric.edu) or Joe Sciulli at 401-456-8569 (jsciulli@ric.edu).

RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE

Admissions Open House

Saturday, Nov. 12
1 - 4 p.m.

The Murray Center

Prospective students and families can:

- * Meet faculty
- * Tour the campus
- * Talk to current students
- * Learn about academic programs
- * Explore student activities
- * Find out about financial aid

Call 401-456-8234 to reserve your spot.

In case of severely inclement weather, event will be held Sunday, Nov. 13.

Congress to Campus Continued from p 1

community to provide insight and commentary about the work of Congress and government, and discuss issues of concern for the College and the state.

They will also participate in three public forums, including one with former Rhode Island congressional leaders and members of the local media.

Their underlying message: an appeal to public service and the importance of bi-partisan cooperation.

A forum for high school students will take place on Monday, Nov. 14 from 9:30-11 a.m. in Alger Hall. *Getting Started: Civic Engagement in High School* will include an interactive discussion between the former congress members and students on the inner workings of government and the importance of public service. Dan King, vice president for academic affairs at RIC, will moderate.

There will be a town hall meeting on Monday evening for the visiting former congressional people and the audience to discuss the links between academics and the community, women and leadership in public service, and strategies for increasing support for the nonprofit community. Moderators will be Kathy Swann, CEO of Leadership Rhode Island, and Mark Motte, professor of geography at RIC. The

meeting is from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in Alger Hall auditorium.

A media forum called *The Line in the Sand: Breaking the Partisan-ship Deadlock* will be on Tuesday, Nov. 15, at 9:30 a.m. in Alger Hall's multimedia center. The participants will discuss partisan deadlock on the state and national levels, along with issues facing Rhode Island. Media panelists include Scott MacKay from *The Providence Journal*, Bill Rappleye from NBC-10, Jim Hummel of ABC-6 News, and Glenn Laxton of WPRI-12/Fox Providence.

RIC was selected for the visit

because of its standing as the oldest public institution of higher learning in the state, and because of the diversity of its student population. It is the only state college in Rhode Island to participate in the *Congress to Campus* program to date.

"The *Congress to Campus* experience will show students the remarkable range of a congress person's role both in Washington and in the district. It will help students understand members of Congress as skilled public servants, negotiators, and consensus builders, rather than as partisan political hacks," said Victor Profughi, political sci-

ence professor at RIC.


Valerie Endress, communications professor at RIC, added that, "Because the former members of Congress can step back from the institution and reflect upon its strengths and weaknesses without the pressures of running for public office, they offer our students a unique perspective on governance in Washington, D.C."

The visit to RIC is part of the College's involvement with the American Democracy Project (ADP), a multi-campus initiative that creates an intellectual and experiential understanding of civic engagement for college students. *Congress to Campus* will help meet the objectives of the ADP by personalizing those individuals who perform a crucial role in the federal government.


The *Congress to Campus* program is sponsored by the Stennis Center for Public Service in partnership with the CDC at the Council for Excellence in Government, and the U.S. Association of Former Members of Congress.

The program was founded in 1976 by the U.S. Association of Former Members of Congress to introduce students to individuals with firsthand knowledge of representative democracy and a life dedicated to public service.

For more information about the *Congress to Campus* program, call RIC's Office of News and Public Relations at 401-456-8090.



"Congress to Campus" Public Forums

<p>Monday, Nov. 14 9:30-11 a.m.</p> <p>"Getting Started: Civic Engagement in High School" Student Union Ballroom</p> <p>R.I. high school students will learn about civic engagement from RIC students, followed by an interactive discussion with the former members of Congress on the workings of government and the importance of public service. Moderator: Dan King, vice-president for academic affairs.</p> 	<p>Monday, Nov. 14 6:30-8:30 p.m.</p> <p>"Town Hall Meeting: Community, Leadership & Public Service" Student Union Ballroom</p> <p>Moderators Kathleen Swann, CEO of Leadership Rhode Island, and Mark Motte, RIC professor of geography and director of the Center for Public Policy, will spark a discussion with the former members of Congress and the audience on such topics as the vital link between academics and the community, women and leadership in public service, and strategies for increasing support for the nonprofit community in R.I.</p>	<p>Tuesday, Nov. 15 9:30-11 a.m.</p> <p>Media Forum: "The Line in the Sand: Breaking the Partisan Deadlock" Alger Hall Multi-Media Room</p> <p>The <i>Congress to Campus</i> bipartisan team, plus Rhode Island's former members of Congress, and media representatives from <i>The Providence Journal</i>, NBC-10, ABC-6, and WPRI-12, will discuss the importance of moving beyond the partisanship divide in both state and national politics. Moderator: Victor Profughi, RIC professor of political science and director of the Bureau for Government Research and Services.</p>
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**To reserve seating, contact Pauline McCartney
at 401-456-8090; pmccartney@ric.edu**



FACES of RIC



How many people can go to work, do their job, then have everyone stand and applaud when they're done?

Steven Scarpetti does.

Scarpetti graduated from RIC in 1987 with a major in theatre, and he hasn't stopped performing ever since.

Not bad for someone who said that after college, he "didn't know where to go." Apparently, he found his way onto the stage in dinner theatres, in major theme parks and on cruise ships that took him around the world.

Through it all, he sang, acted and "moved around really well," he jokes because he doesn't consider himself a dancer.

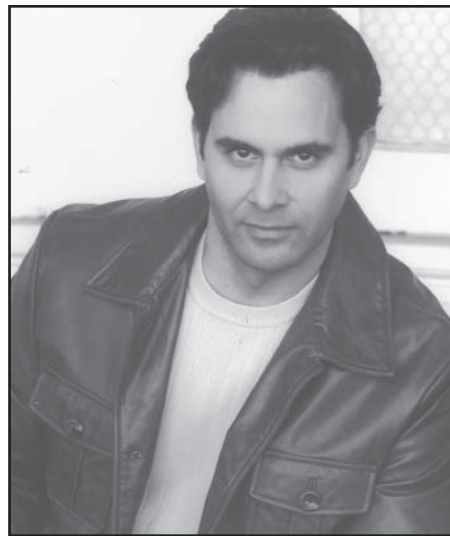
Scarpetti said he knew he wanted to be a performer since childhood when a career day in elementary school introduced him to the stage. His first acting role was as an elf in a school play when he was seven. "Hey, you gotta start somewhere," he said.

At RIC, he studied under Raymond Picozzi, professor of theatre, and remembers "the elaborate sets, huge orchestra and wonderful costumes and designers we had."

Scarpetti appeared in such RIC productions as *Kiss Me Kate*, *Guys 'n Dolls*, *Oklahoma*, *Man of LaMancha*, *Tom Jones* and the College's cabarets and says he still

gets together occasionally with his RIC co-stars to reminisce about all the "crazy rehearsals" and mishaps on stage.

Like the time the lighting board caught fire and started smoking



STEVEN SCARPETTI '87

on stage. "I sang *Oklahoma* to the fire trucks outside in costume that day," he said.

Then there was the time Scarpetti was rehearsing lyrics between scenes and forgot to go back on stage. "You'd better be bleeding," said one of the backup singers to him when he returned to the stage after she and another singer had to sing the song without him.

Patricia Nolin '84, M '87, assistant to the president and a class-

mate of Scarpetti's, remembers when Scarpetti spilled a tray of drinks on then acting president John Nazarian at the 1985 cabaret. "He (Scarpetti) was totally embarrassed," Nolin said. "We teased him that he'd never work in this town again."

Scarpetti must have taken that ribbing seriously because he headed for Busch Gardens in Virginia right out of college and landed the role of lead vocalist in their stage show.

Then it was onto Universal Studios in Florida where he played Dracula and Frankenstein in *Beetlejuice's Graveyard Review*, Universal Studios in Japan for *Carlos and Friends*, Disney World in Florida for a Broadway style dinner show, then to MGM Park in Florida and Disneyland, Calif. to play Gaston in *Beauty and the Beast*.

After that, he set sail for a six-month Caribbean cruise doing dinner shows, followed by an around-the-world cruise where he sang in a revue each night.

"The traveling was great. I got to see the world," he said.

Scarpetti said that every actor has a role tailor-made for him or her, and his was as Joseph in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* that he played in a small theater in Sarasota, Fla. "I

wanted to play that part since I saw the first national tour (of the show) in high school," he said.

Scarpetti said he is proud that he had the opportunity to perform with the late Jerry Orbach and Robbie Benson at the Las Vegas Hilton for the release of the *Beauty and the Beast* video. He was lead vocalist.

He also worked with comedian Wayne Brady and singer/actor Joey Fatone of 'NSYNC fame at Universal Studios before they were famous. "I gave them rides home since they didn't have cars at the time," he said.

Though at home on a stage, Scarpetti admittedly has stage fright. "I fought it my whole life," he said. "I usually get it right at the beginning of a show, then it fades as I become more comfortable with the show."

These days, Scarpetti is living in New York and is Broadway bound. "It's the only thing I haven't tried," he said.

Lately, he's had auditions for some major shows and is waiting – and hoping – for the callbacks.

"It's really hard in New York," he said, but it's what he "really wants to do."

In the meantime, he is relying on his fallback skills as a waiter and caterer, and computer skills for temporary employment to allow for time to go to more auditions.

Oh well, that's show biz.

International adoption: becoming worldly families

BY
Lauren Mesale '06,
 Staff Writer

For most Americans, bringing a child into the family is something that happens in the delivery room. But for an increasing number of parents-to-be, including three members of the RIC campus community, bringing a child into the family can take longer than nine months and requires a series of trans Atlantic (or Pacific) flights. These parents are waiting to adopt.

In 2004 alone, the U.S. government issued 22,884 visas to adopted children entering the country.

Suzanne Conklin, assistant professor of biology; Robin Pecunioso '99 of the human resources department; and Rob Shein, specialist with the arts and sciences department, have each experienced international adoption first hand.

Conklin adopted her daughter, Nina, from China, as did Pecunioso. There, most of the children available for adoption are girls, because they are seen as less valuable by the Chinese. Only boys can retain their family name, inherit property and take care of elderly parents, per the country's One Child Policy.

In the 1950s, the Chinese government urged its people to have large families to strengthen the country. Years later, a large-scale population growth caused the government concern that China would be unable to feed and support its citizens — hence the implementation of the One Child Policy in 1979. Those who violate this policy are subject to community ostracism or other penalties.

The goal of the One Child Policy was to keep China's population

below 1.3 billion by the year 2000. Today, China is home to 1.2 billion people and is the world's fourth largest country.

China's agencies match the children with prospective parents, who then receive a referral, which includes a photograph of the child to be adopted. Once the referral is received, American parents-to-be travel as a group to China, taking in the sights of Beijing before heading to the orphanage. Adoptions are finalized at the American consulate. The child then becomes a U.S. citizen once he or she is brought to America.

Most of these travel groups are large, but Conklin's was relatively small — only 10 babies were adopted. Conklin was in China during the SARS epidemic. Fortunately, she was able to complete the process of adopting Nina, but shortly after her departure from China, all adoptions were halted because of the disease.

With the SARS epidemic over, Pecunioso's time spent in China was not as dramatic as Conklin's.

Conklin's daughter was eight and a half months old at the time of adoption in April of 2003, and is now three years old. According to her mom, she is a big talker, forming eight- or nine-word sentences and carrying on conversations. Like many three-year-olds, she has an active imagination. Nina is also a problem solver — she loves puzzles, according to her mother.

"She is happy, healthy and funny," said Conklin.

Robin Pecunioso's journey began with a routine home study program in which a representative from the adoption agency meets with the prospective parent or parents three times and counsels them about international adoption. Candidates work with the agency representative in writing a biography and answering questions regarding their education, personal history, and work, and most importantly, their views on parenting. The dossiers she provided, and the report from her home study program were sent directly to China for processing.

China has a quota system for adoptions, in which there is a strict ratio of single- to two-parent adoptions. In Pecunioso's case, there were only two available placements for children with single parents — one was already spoken for, so

she leapt at the chance for the other and was accepted.

"I chose to adopt from China because everything is very structured," Pecunioso said. "It is also one of the few countries that allows for single-parent adoptions, and you are pretty much guaranteed a baby girl."

Although Pecunioso requested a baby up to 18 months old, her daughter, Sophia, was 22 months at the time of her adoption.

"I wanted to give a child a better life than living in an orphanage," Pecunioso said.

Sophia is adjusting well, speaking and learning the alphabet and numbers. A serious Dora the Explorer fan, she also enjoys spending time with her cat, Tigger.

tried to talk them out of adopting from Russia, claiming that orphans there were unhealthy and suffering from fetal alcohol syndrome, and tried to get them to adopt from the Ukraine instead. Using the agency would have cost the Sheins upwards of \$40,000. They soon decided that this was not the route for them, and opted to go through with an independent adoption.

"Officially, it costs nothing — zero dollars — to adopt a Russian child. So, where would that \$40,000 go?" asked Rob Shein. "I think that many agencies and couples are in it for different reasons."

In February 2005, the Sheins decided to hire a private lawyer, a former Russian family court judge, who also took care of the paperwork, for a fee of \$10,000. The



RIGHT AT HOME: (L-r) Oksana and Natasha Shein relax and enjoy a summer's day in their backyard.

Russian adoptions, can be quite different from Chinese adoptions, as Rob Shein and his wife, Reid, discovered. Many people seeking to adopt a child from Russia are discouraged by agencies, who claim that the children are all of ill health.

The Sheins saw adoption as an opportunity to help Russian children. Both speak Russian. Rob was a Russian linguist with the U.S. Army, and Reid studied the language at Brown University. They knew that depression, suicide, and prostitution were common for Russian orphans, especially girls. After the age of three or four, these children lose all hope, since most couples are only interested in adopting infants and toddlers who have not yet developed a sense of Russian culture, or a grasp of the Russian language.

The Sheins wanted to adopt two older girls, preferably sisters, because they would have already shared a bond, and because it is rare for sisters to be adopted into the same family.

In December of 2004, the Sheins enrolled in a home study course that cost \$2,000 and contacted an adoption agency. The agency had

couple read the lawyer's book on Russian adoptions, then met with her in early March. The paperwork was completed in just eight weeks.

By the third week of May, the Sheins were on a plane to Russia to meet their future daughters for the first time in person. Upon their arrival, the paperwork was submitted to the Russian Ministry of Education (which operates the Russian equivalent of DCYF) on a Monday. On Tuesday they had their reference.

The Sheins had requested sisters aged 4-10. They drove out to the orphanage as soon as they got their reference. There, the Sheins met with the establishment's director, a doctor, and a local Russian family relations official. They learned of the circumstances of the girls being placed in the orphanage and then they met face-to-face. The girls, Natasha and Oksana, agreed to stay with the Sheins at their hotel in the regional capital from that Tuesday to Saturday to get to know each other and find out if they would make a good family.

"It was really tough bringing them back to the orphanage that



SMILING FOR THE CAMERA: (L-r) Robin and Sophia Pecunioso.

Continued on p 15

Adoption

Continued from p 14

day,” said Rob Shein.

The Sheins finished their paperwork to officially adopt Natasha and Oksana, then flew back to Rhode Island to await their family court date. Originally, it was supposed to be in July, but because the home study agency had recorded incorrect information on their paperwork, the court date was postponed until August.

When they returned to Russia for court, the judge was impressed that the Sheins could speak Russian. Reid addressed the judge in Russian: “Vash chyot,” and “Vash chyort,” meaning “your check/bill,” and “your satan,” respectively, instead of “Vasha chest” (“your honor”). Laughter filled the courtroom.

From court, the Sheins brought the girls to the U.S. Embassy in Moscow to obtain the girls’ visas and medical exams. The doctors were amazed at how healthy the girls were. The other 25 couples at the embassy were adopting less healthy children, all under the age of four.

On Aug. 6, Natasha and Oksana became U.S. citizens when their plane landed at 6:15 p.m. (about 2 a.m. Russian time) in New York. It was the girls’ first time on an airplane. They made it out of the airport in a matter of minutes, got in the car, and began the long drive home, snacking on granola bars and juice boxes that Rob Shein had stashed in the car in advance.

“You haven’t heard ‘Are we there yet?’ until you’ve heard it in Russian,” he joked.

The Shein family arrived home in Jamestown at 10 p.m., full of energy and excitement.

“We couldn’t believe it was over,” said Rob Shein. “It was a lot of hard work, but we didn’t regret a thing.”

Natasha, 8, and Oksana, 9, are in the third and fourth grades at the Melrose School in Jamestown. The family speaks Russian at home, and the sisters are slowly learning more English.

“The girls are fearless – they had to take care of themselves and each other in the orphanage for three years – and the orphanage’s accommodations were a step up from where the girls had originally lived,” said Rob Shein. “They are true survivors.”

Both girls are avid readers of Aleksandr Pushkin, the proclaimed “father of modern Russian literature” – but they love SpongeBob, too.

“The College has been very supportive,” said Rob Shein. “The Human Resources Dept., the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Dean Weiner’s office, they were all very helpful. And everyone gushes over the girls when they visit me here.”

These three experiences with international adoption may have been very different, but Conklin said it best for everyone: “It just felt right.”

FOCUS ON Faculty and Staff

Faculty and staff are encouraged to submit items about their professional endeavors to What’s News, Office of News and Public Relations, Kauffman Center, or email them to cpage@ric.edu.



ELIZABETH DALTON

Elizabeth (Betsy) Dalton, MEd ’90 assistant professor of special education and university affiliated programs, was honored by PARI for her work as a founder of

TECHAccess of Rhode Island and as an educator, advisor and mentor to persons with disabilities. She was recognized at PARI’s 33rd Anniversary Celebration and Awards Dinner, held Oct. 20 at Rhodes on the Pawtuxet in Cranston.

William Pett, adjunct professor of English, had two entries published recently – “A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur’s Court,” and “Dinosaurs” – in *The Greenwood Encyclopedia of Science Fiction and Fantasy Themes, Works, and Wonders*, 2005. He also

published “The Old Family Djinn” in *CrossTIME Science Fiction Anthology*, vol. IV, 2005, and won 4th Prize in the 4th annual *CrossTIME Science Fiction* contest. He also presented “Dead Babies: Two American Gothics,” X-Files and Literature Panel, Northeast Modern Language Association, April, 2005, and “Exposing the Class System through Magic,” Children’s/Young Adult Literature Division, at the International Association for the Fantastic in the Arts, last March.

Roger Clark, professor of sociology, had an article, co-authored with two RIC undergraduates, Ashley Folgo and Jane Pichette, cited in the “Magazine and Journal Reader” section of *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, the section that points to recent academic research of particular interest. The citation appeared in the May 5 online version of the *Chronicle*,



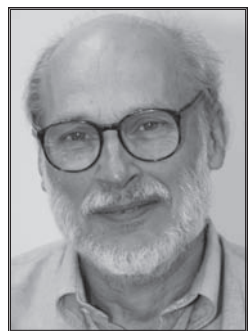
ROGER CLARK

as well as the May 20 hard-copy version. The article, “Have There Now Been Any Great Women Artists? An Investigation of the Visibility of Women Artists in Recent

Art History Textbooks,” was the lead article in the May issue of *Art Education*. It is the second article that Clark has published with student co-authors this year. The first, “Women of the World, Re-Write: Women in American World History High School Textbooks from the 1960s, 1980s and 1990s,” appeared in the January/February edition of *Social Education*, and was co-authored with Kieran Auton, Nicole Frechette and Pamela Keller. *The Chronicle* also cited an article by Clark and Heather Fink, a recent RIC graduate, last October.

Prof. Woolman assists ethno-historical research project

David C. Woolman M ’72, professor in the Curriculum Resources Center, recently contributed data to the archives of the website *Welcome to Sukur: A Culture of the Mandara Mountains*. This site documents current ethno-historical research of the Mandara Archaeological Project on the



DAVID WOOLMAN

Montagnard community in the highlands of northeastern Nigeria. The culture of Sukur is recognized for its elaborate stone architecture, historic role in iron production, intensive ter-

race agriculture, caste-based social organization, traditional ceremonies, and regional recognition of its chief’s power of investiture. In 1999 the unique cultural landscape at Sukur was designated as Nigeria’s first World Heritage Site by UNESCO.

Woolman visited Sukur in December 1966 while teaching African history at the Government Teacher Training College in Mubi as a Peace Corps volunteer. After discovering the Sukur website last fall, he contacted its author, Professor Nicholas David of the University of Calgary, a leading scholar in Sukur studies. This collaboration led to publication of Woolman’s photographs and journal description of the 1966 visit (See www.sukur.info/Images/Archival.htm).

Woolman’s contribution enabled David to determine that Usaani, the aging Sukur chief, was still in power in late 1966 and to document structural changes in some stone walls, a decline in the upkeep of ritual areas (due to Christian conversions), and a fashion transition – traditional dress worn everyday in 1966 is now reserved for ceremonial occasions. Sukur now has a development association, primary school, and a small museum. A proposal has been made to the governments of Cameroon and Nigeria for joint establishment of an International Peace Park in the Mandara region to facilitate ecotourism and community development as a strategy to reduce poverty and empower local people.



Diversity Week

STORYTELLER Len Cabral emotes during his presentation in the Student Union Ballroom Oct. 4. Cabral was invited by Student Activities to appear as part of Diversity Week (Oct. 3-7). His presentation or “Informance,” as he calls it, was geared primarily toward elementary education majors and focused on the power of storytelling and its use in education with imaginative literature, history and cultural diversity. (What’s News photo by Lance Gorton ’09.)

Homecoming – plenty of fun in the sun!



Over 1,500 alumni, students and their families, and friends of the College enjoyed RIC Homecoming 2005 on Oct. 1. With sunny skies and nearly 80-degree weather, the upbeat atmosphere was contagious. New attractions this year were a mega-moon bounce and a climbing wall for children and students to enjoy (hmmm...looks like one of the vice presidents enjoyed the climbing wall!). Several dedications took place on campus. Reunions for the Class of 1956 and 1965 were held Friday evening, along with a Young Alumni event at RiRa, in downtown Providence.

