

Shipbuilder donates cruise ship to RIC, two other institutions



Bannister Gallery hosts two shows



WHAT'S NEWS @

Rhode Island College

Vol. 26 Issue 9
May 15, 2006

Established in 1980 Circulation over 52,000



RIC's 2006 Commencements May 18, 20 –

1,500 to receive degrees at ceremonies this month; six honorary doctorates to be conferred

RIC, the state's oldest public institution of higher learning, now in its 152nd year, will award six honorary degrees, and confer more than 1,500 advanced and undergraduate degrees during upcoming commencement exercises.

on May 20. Six honorary degrees and over 1,500 advanced and undergraduate degrees will be awarded.

Advanced degree commencement will be held on Thursday, May 18 at 5:30 p.m. in the Murray Center.



RAYMOND WARREN HOUGHTON

Rhode Island College will celebrate the graduation season with ceremonies for advanced degrees on May 18 and undergraduate degrees



DIANE POSTOIAN

Honorary degree recipients are Stanley Maynard Aronson, M.D., founding dean of the Brown Medical School, who will be



GEORGE S. LIMA

given a doctor of human letters and deliver the advanced degree commencement address; activist, labor leader, former state representative, and one of World War II's Tuskegee Airmen, George S. Lima, will receive a doctor of public service degree; Diane Postoian, well-

known performer, arts educator and once a driving force of the Looking Glass Theatre, will be awarded a doctor of fine arts degree.



ANNE M. SLINEY '87

Undergraduate commencement will take place on Saturday, May 20 at 9:30 a.m. on the College's esplanade. (If inclement weather, it will be moved indoors to the Murray Center). Honorary degree conferrals will go to Marian Wright Edelman, advocate for dis-

advantaged Americans and founder of the Children's Defense League, who will receive a doctor of laws degree and will also present the undergraduate

commencement address; educational leader and one of the founders of RIC's Upward Bound program, Raymond Warren Houghton, will receive a doctor of humanities;



STANLEY MAYNARD ARONSON

and Anne M. Sliney, nursing specialist for the Clinton HIV/AIDS initiative, is to be granted a doctor of science degree.

Members of the class of 1956 will celebrate their golden anniversary at commencement, leading the graduation processional. Representatives from each graduating class of the College from



MARIAN WRIGHT EDELMAN



SPRING STUDIES: RIC student Niyoka Powell does her studying with a laptop on the lawn of Adams Library.

Continued on p 12

Wn Quotes...

"I finally found a place (at RIC) that I felt comfortable. I'm accepted here, a part of things and not shunned. I'm encouraged and I'm pushed."

– RIC student Alicia Vanasse, who has Tourette Syndrome. [P 3]

"Nancy is extremely deserving of this honor, as she is no doubt the most well known advocate for the poor in the state's more recent history."

– Kate Brewster, executive director of The Poverty Institute at RIC on the late RIC professor Nancy Gewirtz, who was inducted into the Rhode Island Heritage Hall of Fame in April. [P 2]

"Education gave me the foundation to be where I am today and I am thankful to give something back." – Luther Blount, shipbuilder and owner of American Canadian Caribbean Lines of Warren, who is donating a cruise ship to RIC and two other higher education institutions. [P 9]



This regular feature of What's News looks at the links between the world and Rhode Island College. The story below was written by Christine Noel, who graduated from RIC in 2000 with a degree in music education and received honors in student teaching. She is director of the Carillon Women's Chorus and the Rhode Island Children's Chorus.

Thanks to the Shinn Study Abroad program I was given the opportunity to pursue an academic year of study in Hungary at the Zoltán Kodály Institute of Music. At age 21, I had never been abroad and suddenly found myself immersed in the richness of an international school (where I was the only American). The benefits from this opportunity were multi-fold. The rigorous schedule and superior level of instruction enhanced my musical and academic development, and the exposure to the diverse cultures, languages, and traditions of my peers evoked a curiosity to learn more about other countries and people. As a small community of students, we shared holidays, traditional meals, folk songs, laughs, and stories. This camaraderie was one of the most enriching aspects of the study abroad experience, and one that I had not expected.

While living in Europe I discovered that my limited foreign language skills placed me in the minority, since I was the only person at the Kodály Institute who did not speak a second language. Upon my return to the United States I worked, saved, and planned for my next journey. Within two years I enrolled in a full-immersion Italian course in Florence, where I lived



EUROPEAN LANDMARK: Christine Noel stands in front of the Hungarian State Opera House in Budapest.

for the next 18 months. After gaining fluency in the language, I was able to serve as assistant conductor to *Animae Voces*, a Florentine choir. What an incredible opportunity – to be able to instruct a group in their native language! It was my schooling and experiences in Hungary that made this international opportunity possible.

Currently I am a master of music candidate in choral conducting at Boston University. Through the Shinn program I was able to study abroad, and the experience has pro-

foundly affected my professional and personal life. By hearing some of Europe's finest choirs, I now have a standard of choral singing against which I measure every ensemble I deal with today. Whether I am conducting a university chorus or a group of children, I consistently draw upon the methods and techniques I learned at the Kodály Institute and from my international peers. I am grateful to Dr. and Mrs. Shinn, the committee, and the generous contributors for making the experience possible.

Late RIC prof. Nancy Gewirtz inducted into state hall of fame



NANCY GEWIRTZ

The late Nancy Gewirtz, who co-founded The Poverty Institute at Rhode Island College, was inducted posthumously into the Rhode Island Heritage Hall of Fame in April. She

and seven other prominent Rhode Islanders were recognized at this year's induction ceremony at Rhodes on the Pawtuxet in Cranston.

Gewirtz, a professor emerita of social work at the College and advocate for those less fortunate, died in November of 2004.

"Nancy is extremely deserving of this honor, as she is no doubt the most well known advocate for the poor in the state's more recent history," said Kate Brewster MSW '98, executive director of The Poverty Institute. "Nancy was a true champion of economic and social justice. Her contributions to our state, low-income people, and the social work profession are immeasurable."

Gewirtz began her career at RIC in 1978, helping to develop a master of social work program. The Poverty Institute, which Gewirtz directed for five years, was created in 1998 and is the only organization in the state to advocate for low-income Rhode Islanders.

In addition to Gewirtz, new

members of the Heritage Hall of Fame include M. Therese Antone, president of Salve Regina University; Daniel E. Doyle, founder and director of the Institute for International Sport; Edward J. McElroy, national labor leader; Barbara H. Roberts, cardiologist and author; Judge Bruce M. Selya, circuit judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals; the late Lloyd T. Griffin, Jr., political leader, social activist and entrepreneur; and the late Frederick Lippitt, civic leader and legislator.

The Heritage Hall of Fame, consisting of 520 Rhode Islanders from Roger Williams to present inductees, was created in 1965 to honor individuals who have brought credit or prominence to the state, and contributed to its history and heritage.

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What's News at Rhode Island College (USPS 681-650) is published by:

Rhode Island College
Office of News and Public Relations
600 Mt. Pleasant Ave.
Providence, RI 02908

It is published monthly from September to June. Periodicals postage paid at Providence, RI.

Printing: TCI Press, Seekonk, Mass.

POSTMASTER:
Send address changes to:

What's News at Rhode Island College

Office of News and Public Relations, 600 Mt. Pleasant Ave., Providence, RI 02908

Deadline:

Deadline for submission of copy and photos is noon the Thursday two weeks before publication date.

Telephone: 401-456-8090

Fax: 401-456-8887



**The next issue of
What's News
will be June 12, 2006.**

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

Tourette Syndrome doesn't stop RIC student

By Jane Fusco
What's News Editor

When Alicia Vanasse walks into a crowded room, she's not concerned about finding a seat. At a restaurant, her food choice is secondary. Going to a movie takes much more consideration than what to see. And attending class for this RIC junior isn't just about getting good grades.

What worries her most in any situation is the uncontrollable, high pitched squeaking sound that she might make at any time, and how those around her will react to it.

Vanasse suffers from Tourette Syndrome, a neurological condition that causes an afflicted person to emit shrill vocal noises (called tics) without warning, and sets off involuntary muscular movements or twitches.

Vanasse was 13 years old when she was diagnosed with Tourette's. Doctors believe it was the result of a throat infection that spread to her brain. There is no known cure.

"It changed my life and my family's life," she said.

School was especially difficult for Vanasse. Her absenteeism was high and she had to work harder than most to keep up with assignments. Students made fun of her and some teachers were uncomfortable having her in class.

"A student followed me around school one day with a whistle and blew it every time I ticked to make fun of me," she recalls. "Sometimes the stares and snickers were unbearable."

Her family was forced to take legal action to keep her in the mainstream public school system, a decision that Vanasse said made her more determined to get a good education.

She said she discovered the true



ALICIA VANASSE

meaning of friendship as the condition became more apparent in social settings. Her real friends stuck by her even when she was asked to leave stores, restaurants or theaters when the ticking got loud.

Today, she follows an advanced form of therapy and medication that helps minimize the tics and twitches. And she is pursuing a college education, taking a little longer than most, majoring in communications and hopes to make a career as an advocate for people with disabilities.

"I finally found a place [at RIC] that I felt comfortable," she said. "I'm accepted here, a part of things and not shunned. I'm encouraged and I'm pushed."

Vanasse now tells her professors and classmates about her condition at the start of the semester. She said she has found that after a while, her classmates forget she has the condition.

"It becomes easier when people understand," she said.

Valerie Endress, assistant professor of communications, has been a mentor and an occasional campus intermediary for Vanasse. Endress has urged Vanasse to become

involved with campus activities such as the American Democracy Project and last year's Congress to Campus program when RIC hosted former members of congress for a three-day visit. Vanasse is also a participant in this year's Emerging Leaders program, the student component of the statewide Leadership Rhode Island program that cultivates community leaders.

In addition, she is a consultant for a national organization for Tourette's, often speaking about the condition and helping fellow sufferers with their plight. And she coaches a softball team.

"It's easy to understand why Alicia was chosen to represent RIC in Leadership Rhode Island. For those who are curious, it might help to know that it takes only a few moments to look beyond the tics and to see her extraordinary talent," Endress said.

Ann Roccio '79, the campus coordinator for students with disabilities, helps secure extra time Vanasse sometimes needs to complete her coursework and informs her when there might be something happening on campus that could set off her condition, like fire alarm testing.

Dolores Passarelli '74, director of the Office of Academic Support and Information Services (OASIS), assists Vanasse with course selection and placement, and said she is a determined and an enthusiastic student who tries 150 percent.

"She apologizes a lot. I tell her she doesn't have to, that she isn't any different than anyone else, and to have confidence in her abilities," Passarelli said.

Vanasse admits that her confidence wanes at times, especially when she's highly stressed and has to carefully divide her time not to overtax herself. Mornings are better for her to take classes. Some mornings are not good at all. She must avoid coffee, chocolate,

flashing lights and other forms of quick stimuli or she will tic and twitch excessively. The change of seasons in March throws off her body chemistry.

She has had several challenges dealing with law enforcement officers who thought her blinking eyes, twitching and excessive energy were caused by stimulant drugs. All are symptoms of Tourette's.

Vanasse said that movie and TV portrayals of people with Tourettes jerking and cursing rampantly are not accurate and have greatly damaged the image of Tourette's sufferers.

Through it all, her disability has been a learning experience more about other people rather than herself, she said.

"It's almost like having radar. People's instant reactions are their true feelings," she said.

But, she is driven, and her condition drives her to do and want more for herself.

So she opts for vanilla shakes instead of her favorite, chocolate, and soft, relaxing music to help her cope. She is completely focused on her courses, activities and something else that she hopes to do after college – create a Miracle League slow pitch baseball club for children with disabilities.

More so, she doesn't want sympathy, she wants understanding. She wants to be known for her caring attitude and accomplishments and not because she has Tourette's.

"Just because you have a disability, you're still a real person," she said.

She said that she will endure no matter how difficult it gets. "When I have bad times, it makes the good times better," she added.

Those who know her best know that she has her condition under control and she will persevere.

"This young woman is destined to become one of our most distinguished alums," Endress said.



AUTHOR! AUTHOR! (and dare we say, stand-up comic) Lynda Barry entertains the audience with stories, gestures and the rare ability to sing with her mouth closed (above) during An Evening with Lynda Barry April 5 in Sapinsley Hall in the Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts. Barry's book *The Good Times Are Killing Me* was the focus of the spring "Open Books-Open Minds" project at the College.

Open Books – Open Minds

The Common
Book Project



NEWS FROM THE Foundation and Alumni Offices



BY
Ellie O'Neill
Director of
Alumni Affairs

As we prepare for the end of the academic year and look forward to a new one, the nominating committee of the Alumni Association's board of directors has prepared a slate of officers and directors for 2006-08. According to our by-laws "by May 15, the director shall notify all active alumni of the proposed slate, at-large nominees, and the date, time and location of the June board meeting. Election of officers and directors shall take place at the June (21) board meeting."

Officers for 2006-2008

- President – Ellen Kitchell '81
- Vice President – Vic Ventura '71
- Treasurer – Bill Fazioli '86
- Secretary – Jason Anthony '99
- Past President – Marianne Needham '59

Terms to expire in June 2008

- Kathleen Swann '79
- Maggie Dooley '76
- Erin O'Gara '90
- Ann Gancz-Teixeira '82
- Kathy Sasso '69
- Brian Majeau '02

At-Large position, one year

- Joe Roch '90
- Bernie Treml '93

Reunion time

The following classes have received information on their reunions. For further details, call 401-456-8086.)

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|
| May 18-20 – Class of 1956 | June 6 – Class of 1945 |
| May 25 – Classes 1924-1938 | June 7 – Class of 1946 |
| May 31 – Class of 1941 | June 9 – Class of 1940 |
| June 1 – Class of 1951 | |

Reunion Committees

Are you a member of the Class of 1961 or 1966 and interested in planning a class reunion during homecoming weekend on Sept. 29 and 30? Please call Shana Murrell in the Alumni Office or email alumni@ric.edu.



ESTATE PLANNING was the topic of a workshop April 26 in Alger Hall 110. Above, David Prentiss, a Massachusetts attorney and adjunct professor in the School of Management, tells the audience (right) about revocable trusts. The workshop was sponsored by the Alumni Association and the RIC Foundation.



FUNDRAISING HONOR: Peg Brown, RIC vice president for development and college relations, was chosen Outstanding Fundraising Professional of the Year by the Rhode Island Chapter of the Association for Fundraising Professionals (AFP). She was selected for her contributions to the profession and the Rhode Island community. Brown was honored at a special luncheon at the AFP conference on May 12 at the Rhode Island Convention Center.



BIG APPLE RECEPTION: RIC President John Nazarian (front center) and representatives of the Alumni Office visit with RIC grads in New York City. Alumni from 1951-2004 attended the bi-annual RIC on the Road event, held in April at the Roosevelt Hotel. Bill Hutchinson, professor emeritus of theatre, and wife his Jeri McElroy, made the trip to catch up with former students.

The Young Alumni Group welcomes you to

"Your Next Career Move – Job Transitions for the Recent College Graduate

Tuesday, May 23
Helen Forman Theatre
6-8 p.m.

This presentation is for recent college graduates seeking their first professional job, and those looking for promotions, or to switch careers.

Presented by Ellen Weaver Paquette '76, CAGS '88, principal, Developpe, LLC, and Sharon Mazyck '74, M '91, interim director, Career Development Center.

Reception and hors d'oeuvres will follow the presentation. Although there is no cost for this event, for planning purposes we ask you to pre-register.

Sponsored by the Young Alumni Group, the event is also open to all alumni, faculty and staff. If you have any questions, please contact Shana Murrell at 401-456-9625 or email alumni@ric.edu.

Thank you, phonathon student callers

Despite juggling studies, part-time jobs, and student activities, eight RIC students showed up faithfully to phone alumni and raise an overall total of \$85,000 in pledges this year.

Our thanks to Erin Clements, Juliet Fowler, Ibilolia Holder, Michelle Liese, Sarah Rochon, Jessica Scott, Amy Shield, and Sarah Voccio.

Our 2005-2006 Annual Fund campaign is wrapping up and depends on phonathon donations.

Last year, the Annual Fund provided \$100,000 in scholarship aid to 120 qualified students as well as funding for faculty research projects

and alumni-related programs like homecoming, the alumni awards event, class reunions, and the *Alumni Magazine*.

If you haven't yet done so, please fulfill your phonathon pledge – send your donation today. The Alumni Association needs your help to continue providing scholarships and alumni programs.

For further information or to make a donation, call Nancy Hoogasian at 401-456-8827 or give conveniently online at www.ric.edu/givenow.

The fiscal year ends June 30.



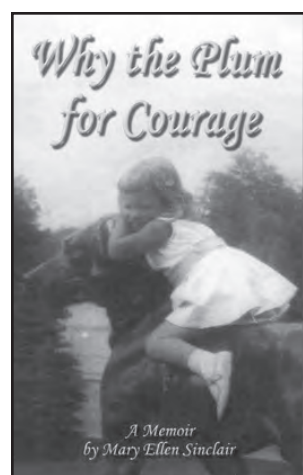
RIC CALLING: Student callers (front row l to r) are Ibilolia Holder, Sarah Voccio and Jessica Scott. (Back row l to r) are Juliet Fowler, Erin Clements and Sarah Rochon.

RIC alumni publish memoir, science fiction novel

By Lauren Mesale '06
Staff Writer

Mary Ellen Sinclair '78, and Christine Major-DePetrillo '97, M '04, have something in common. They each have recently made their mark on the literary world. Sinclair has published *Why the Plum for Courage* (a memoir) and DePetrillo has co-authored *Hybrid Seed* (a science fiction novel).

Sinclair's book, *Why the Plum for Courage*, takes place over a number of years, beginning in Rhode



Island in the 1950s and ending in New York City where she currently resides.

Why the Plum for Courage follows Sinclair from childhood

to adulthood as she finds the strength to overcome the obstacles life places before her. Making it through family crises and deaths, and moving out of state to follow her dreams, shows readers just how much courage Sinclair really has.

The novel also offers a take on the history of Rhode Island, as it references places like Roger Williams Park Zoo and Rhode Island College.

Sinclair said that like *My Enemy, Myself*, a book written by RIC alumna Meri R. Kennedy '85, *Why the Plum for Courage* addresses the issue of sexual abuse. Kennedy was abused by her oldest brother; Sinclair by her father.

Perhaps some readers who may identify with Sinclair's ordeal will be able to help themselves just as she did.

"I know that it [the book] can help a lot of people," said Sinclair.

Major-DePetrillo's work does not have a connection to Rhode Is-

land – *Hybrid Seed* is science fiction novel for adults.

The back cover of *Hybrid Seed* reads: "[E]xiled to the Mars Penal Colony for theft, Shikari Hawks emerges four years later as a TerraForce recruit... [A]s Shikari acclimates to military life, she discovers that a savage enemy, the XaracX, is stampeding through the galaxy to add Earth to its list of conquests.

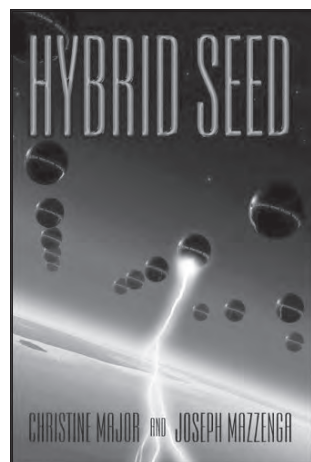
Constant nightmares send Shikari messages of both destruction by the XaracX and a mysterious hope from an ancient race, the Khrusymians... [N]ow Shikari must make a choice. Succumb to the XaracX or fight, accepting that she is... the *Hybrid Seed*."

According to Major-DePetrillo, she and her co-author, Joseph Mazzenga, "had a bunch of short stories that we had started independently but due to life's other pressing issues, never got the chance to develop."

Major-DePetrillo earned her bachelor's degree in elementary education, and her master's in elementary education at RIC. Her cousin Jason Major '98, who received his BFA in painting and printmaking, designed the cover of the book.

Major-DePetrillo said that *Hybrid Seed* could benefit the RIC community, because it sends out the message that everyone is important.

Why the Plum for Courage, and *Hybrid Seed* can be purchased at www.amazon.com and www.barnesandnoble.com. *Hybrid Seed* is also available through www.publishamerica.com.



Faculty promotions, tenure announced

Five RIC faculty members were promoted to the rank of professor, and 17 were elevated to associate professor, announced RIC President John Nazarian on April 5. Also, 18 faculty members were granted tenure.

Promotions will take effect July 1, 2006; tenure will begin July 1 of the year indicated.

Promoted to professor

George Epple
Sharon Fennessey '67
William Martin
Daniel Scott
Joseph Zornado

Department

Anthropology
Henry Barnard School
Art
English
English

Promoted to associate professor

John Aflague
Charles Boisvert '91

Nursing
Counseling, Ed. Leadership
and School Psychology
English

Karen Boren
Douglas Bosch
Patricia Brennan
Krista Cournoyer

Art
Adams Library
Counseling, Ed. Leadership
and School Psychology
Physical Sciences
Communications
Accounting and
Computer Information Systems

Glênnison de Oliveira
Valerie Endress
David Filipek

English
Psychology
School of Social Work
Nursing
History
Music, Theatre, and Dance
Nursing
Political Science

Zubeda Jalalzai
Christine Marco
Diane Martell
Colette Matarese '82
Peter Mendy
Alan Pickart
Patricia Quigley
Thomas Schmeling

Department

John Aflague (2006)
Charles Boisvert '91 (2006)

Nursing
Counseling, Ed. Leadership
and School Psychology
English

Karen Boren (2006)
Douglas Bosch (2006)
Krista Cournoyer (2006)

Art
Counseling, Ed. Leadership
and School Psychology
Physical Sciences
Communications

Glênnison de Oliveira (2006)
Valerie Endress (2006)
Zubeda Jalalzai (2006)
Christine Marco (2006)
Diane Martell (2006)
Colette Matarese '82 (2006)
Peter Mendy (2006)
Alan Pickart (2006)
Patricia Quigley (2006)
Thomas Schmeling (2006)
Rebecca Sparks '96 (2007)

English
Psychology
School of Social Work
Nursing
History
Music, Theatre, and Dance
Nursing
Political Science
Mathematics and Computer
Science

Elaine Walsh '73 (2007)
Rosemary Weston-Gil (2007)

Henry Barnard School
Modern Languages

RIC Athletic News



FROM THE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR'S DESK



Donald E. Tencher
Director of Athletics

• Congratulations to alum Ed Lemoi '64 who was inducted into the Rhode Island Wrestling Hall of Fame. Also, congratulations to alumni Bill Nicynski '64 and Ron Felber '61 on their election to the Central Falls High School Hall of Fame.

• I want to thank everyone who supported and contributed to our 10th Annual Sports and Celebrity Memorabilia Auction held on April 27. It was another successful event that will enhance student-athlete support.

• Though the women's lacrosse team's record doesn't indicate it, the ladies have played ex-

tremely well this year, and junior center Caitlin Gavin is having another All-American season. She is one of the top players and scorers in the country.

• Congratulations to the women's softball team and Coach Maria Morin. The ladies clinched the conference regular season championship for the second year in a row and will host the post-season tournament at Bazar Field. Additionally, the New England polls have the Anchorwomen ranked as the best team in New England and 30th in the nation.

• Head Men's Golf Coach John Fitta and his team are having their best year since the golf program was instituted several years ago. Coach Fitta is going out very successfully as he announced his retirement recently. I want to thank Mr. Fitta for all of his efforts in getting the program going and attaining a level of competitiveness. Because of Mr. Fitta's effort, the new

coach will be inheriting a top-notch program.

• The baseball team is approaching another 20-win season. Head Coach Jay Grenier and his program continue to get better every year.

• Everyone will want to circle the date of July 14 on the calendar. That's the day that RIC will be having "An Endless Summer Party" on the beach in Narragansett. The event (see related information on this page) is one you won't want to miss and is sure to be a sellout. I want to thank Pat '61 and John Maciel, Maryann '70 and Tom '73 Dolan, and Carolyn '66 and Charlie '64 Wilkes for agreeing to chair this great new event.

• Congratulations to junior men's basketball player, Anthony Pierlioni, who has been chosen by the NCAA to attend its student-athlete leadership conference at Disney World later this month.

Rhode Island College sports camps

RIC will once again offer its summer sports camps from June 26-Aug. 4 for ages 8 and up.

Camps are offered in baseball/softball, tennis, basketball, gymnastics, soccer, volleyball, and cheerleading. Participants also go swimming daily in an indoor pool. Cost is \$140 per week, per student. For a brochure or further information, call 401-456-8007.

Anchor Club Golf Day set for July 17

The sixth annual Anchor Club Golf Day is set for Monday, July 17 at Pawtucket Country Club.

If you would like to play, or register a foursome, please call Mike Morrison in the RIC Athletic Office at 401-456-8260 to receive a brochure.

The cost is \$165 per golfer, which includes greens fees, favors, golf cart, refreshments, lunch, social hour and food stations. Lunch and check-in will begin at 11:30 a.m., followed by a shotgun start at 12:45 p.m.

There will be a reception with

food stations at 6:30 p.m., followed by awards and prizes at 7 p.m.

Don't miss this great event. Register today!



Barrette honored by the RIAIAW

Rhode Island College senior Liz Barrette received a Distinguished Student-Athlete award from the Rhode Island Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (RIAIAW) at a reception hosted by Rhode Island College on May 5.

Barrette, a physical education/health major, owns a cumulative grade point average of 3.52, and concluded a stellar career in women's tennis last fall.

She leaves RIC with a 43-18 career singles record and a 50-15 career doubles mark for 68.0 career points. Barrette is third all-time at RIC in career points, third in career singles wins and tied for first in



LIZ BARRETTE '06

career doubles wins. She is also 12th in career singles winning percentage and seventh in career doubles winning percentage.

As a senior in 2005, Barrette was the Little East Conference champion at number one doubles. While teaming up with freshman Megan Hall, the 15 doubles wins established a new

RIC single-season record. Barrette was named Little East Conference Player of the Week once on the season and was named the team's MVP.

She was named to the Rhode Island College All-75th Anniversary Women's Tennis Team in 2005.

SPORTS Events May 8 - 19

Men's & Women's Outdoor Track & Field

Fri.	May 12	at N. E. Open Championships +	10 a.m.
Sat.	May 13	at N. E. Open Championships +	10 a.m.
Thurs.	May 18	at ECAC Division III Championships \$	10 a.m.
Fri.	May 19	at ECAC Division III Championships \$	10 a.m.

+ hosted by M.I.T.
\$ hosted by Springfield College

Log on to www.ric.edu/athletics for updated schedules and results..

ENDLESS SUMMER BEACH PARTY

Friday, July 14, 2006

from 7 p.m. to midnight

at the North Beach Clubhouse,

79 Boston Neck Rd., Narragansett, RI.

Come have fun and enjoy a great evening with a host bar, live music and a surf & turf dinner.

There will be fun contests and great prizes.

Cost: \$75 per person

Proceeds to benefit the Rhode Island College Student-Athlete Support Center.



11 honored by Rhode Island's Speaker of the House and House of Representatives

By
Scott Gibbons
Sports Information Director

Ten current Rhode Island College student-athletes and one alumnus were recognized by the Honorable William J. Murphy, speaker of the house, and the Rhode Island House of Representatives, at a reception held in the House Chamber at the Rhode Island State House on Monday, May 1.

The event was designed to give public recognition to men and women from RIC, the Community College of Rhode Island, and the University of Rhode Island who have had significant achievements in their academic and athletic pursuits at their respective institutions. The honorees have also demonstrated exemplary citizenship and community service.

The 10 scholar-athletes from Rhode Island College were Liz Barrette, a senior women's tennis player from North Providence; Todd Bloom, a senior wrestler from Wantagh, N.Y.; Kinsey Durgin, a junior men's basketball player from Greenwood, Maine; Colleen Feeney, a sophomore women's basketball player from Providence;

Caitlin Gavin, a junior women's soccer and lacrosse player from Portsmouth; Kari Geisler, a junior women's basketball player from Deerfield, N.H.; Eric Lonergan, a junior cross country and track competitor from North Kingstown; Christie Lotti, a sophomore softball player from Waterford, Conn.; Kevin Payette, a senior men's basketball player from Woonsocket; and Kyle Teixeira, a senior men's soccer player from Warren.

Chris Reddy '92, a Cranston native and resident of East Falmouth, Mass., was RIC's Athletic Alumnus Award recipient. Reddy received a bachelor's degree in chemistry from Rhode Island College. He was a 1992 NCAA Division III Wrestling Academic All-American, and a three-time All-New England wrestler and a finalist in the 167 lbs. weight class his senior year, during which he served as team captain. The Anchormen captured the New England College Conference Wrestling Association (NECCWA) championship in each of the years he was on the team.

He went on to become a graduate student at the University of Rhode Island's Graduate School of Oceanography, earning his PhD in 1997.



Chris Reddy '92 (center) was honored as a Distinguished Athletic Alumnus by Speaker William J. Murphy and the Rhode Island House of Representatives at a reception in the House Chamber of the Rhode Island State House on Monday, May 1. Rep. Ken Carter (North Kingstown) is at left and Rep. Patrick Shanley (South Kingstown) is at right.

Reddy is widely recognized as a world leader in using novel analytical techniques to study difficult and "real world" environmental problems. His expert analysis and testimony on the North Cape oil spill led to a \$1.5 million increase in the damage settlement. For this work, Save the Bay honored him with its 1998 Environmental Achievement Award. Reddy's

work has been featured in *National Geographic*, *Scientific American*, *The Boston Globe*, and the *Los Angeles Times*, and he has also participated in numerous television and radio interviews.

He currently serves as an associate scientist in the Dept. of Marine Chemistry and Geochemistry at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution.

RIC grad wins pageant crown

by Ericka Atwell '08
Staff Writer

Imagine you are at a beauty pageant and as each contestant approaches the runway, you are struck by her elegance. But this is not a typically pageant because these ladies are not walking, they are gliding in their wheelchairs.

The Ms. Wheelchair pageant, sponsored by the Ms. Wheelchair America Program Inc., involves more than just beauty. It allows women of achievement who utilize wheelchairs to successfully educate and advocate for individuals with disabilities.

Stephanie Booth '01 was named Ms. Wheelchair of Rhode Island last month.

Booth decided to fill out an application for the Ms. Wheelchair of Rhode Island pageant, in hopes of encouraging young children with disabilities to reach their goals.

The pageant requires two interviews with judges and a speech. Her speech was on teaching awareness of disabilities to children. "I want to teach children that we are more alike than different," said Booth.

She was diagnosed at a young age with muscular dystrophy. Muscular dystrophies are a group



STEPHANIE BOOTH '01

of genetic and hereditary diseases characterized by progressive skeletal muscle weakness, defects in muscle proteins and the death of muscle cells and tissue.

Booth was fairly mobile throughout elementary and high school, but by graduation, she knew she would need assistance to navigate the grounds of a college campus.

"I never felt like I was different, even though it was obvious that I was," Booth said.

Applying to RIC was an easy decision for Booth. She wanted a campus that was not too large, with classrooms that let her communicate and build closer relationships with her professors, which she did.

At first, Booth fought against using a wheelchair. She remembers using automatic door openers and elevators in the buildings on campus.

After graduation, her condition worsened. She became more wheelchair dependent. "It was hard for me because it kind of breaks your pride, but it is what it is now, and I can't let it get to me," said Booth.

Being responsive to her disease, Booth joined the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) to help others like her.

She has become an advocate for people with disabilities and plans fundraising events that raise money for their cause, such as the MDA's yearly walk. "It's cool because you get to meet others with the same disabilities and it is fulfilling for you," Booth said.

In August, Booth will travel to Arkansas to be a contestant in the Ms. Wheelchair of America pageant.



IN MEMORIAM: On April 27 the Masters of Social Work Student Organization (MSWSO) dedicated a flowering plum tree in memory of the late Barbara Cowan. Cowan, assistant professor of social work and advocate for women and children, taught in the social work program for 25 years and died suddenly in May of 2005. Above, Barbara Bryant of the John Hope Settlement House sings *Amazing Grace* at the dedication just outside the Social Work building.

Admitted freshmen enjoy a day at the beach, compliments of Admissions Office



By Holly Shadoian
Director of Admissions

The Admissions Office in April hosted a very successful Admissions Spring Party – our largest yield event for admitted freshmen. The theme was beach party and despite cool, rainy weather, there was standing room only for a crowd of over 600 in Donovan Dining Center.

The College radio station, WXIN, and Shryne, a live RIC band, provided music. Shakaz, a group of RIC dance students, performed a hip-hop routine to a cheering crowd. Faculty from every academic department along with a number of other academic and student offices (Financial Aid, Athletics, OASIS and more) were on hand to answer questions from students and parents.

Donovan Dining Center was transformed into a beach party paradise – complete with surfboards, lighted palm trees, shells, windows decorated like an aquarium, RIC beach balls on tables and hanging from the mezzanine, and a life-guard chair complete with a life-guard from the Recreation Center.

Students received surfboard key chains as they were greeted by the RIC Admissions student staff. Students competed for prizes – including the grand prize of a \$250 gift certificate to the Campus Store donated by RIC President John Nazarian – in limbo and beach trivia contests. Guests were treated to Del's lemonade, a Rhode Island tradition, as well as food and other refreshments.

The Admissions Enrollment tables were set up to look like a marine aquarium complete with dolphins and whales appearing to swim across the windows. Students who enrolled that day (and students who had already enrolled) received a RIC Class of 2010 oversized beach towel.

Dan King, vice president for academic affairs, addressed students and parents on the strengths of Rhode Island College and urged them to speak with the administrators, faculty and staff in attendance.

Outside, under a tent, the RIC picture board was set up for students to “picture themselves” at RIC. Student Community Government funded a surfboard simulator for guests to try.

Residence hall tours were one of the more popular features of the day. Over 40 RIC students served as guides for the five residence halls – and the rain didn't stop the guests from touring!

In connection with the Spring Party, the Alumni Office hosted its annual legacy luncheon in the Café for admitted children and grand-

children of alumni. Over 65 people attended.

Given the multitude of college choices available to prospective students, the RIC community put its very best foot forward and provided excellent support to Admissions for this important event.



A DAY AT THE BEACH: Pictured are some of the more than 600 people who enjoyed a beach-themed event for admitted freshmen last month.



New residence hall construction underway

Work on the residence hall project, which is being funded by a voter-approved 2004 state referendum, began in April.

Next time you're on campus, check out the west side of Sixth Avenue, across from the Office of Security and Safety. That's where construction has begun on the 367-bed residence hall slated for occupancy in the fall of 2007.

The Bacon Construction Company of East Providence is building the new hall, which will encompass 125,000 square feet of floor space, making it the largest structure on campus. Designed by RGB Architects of Providence, the facility has a projected cost of \$30 million.

The new hall will feature a mix of suite- and apartment-style units. The College's on-campus housing capacity will rise to 1,195, a 44 percent increase over the current capacity of 828 students, who reside in five existing

residence halls.

The project also includes construction of a new parking area for over 200 vehicles to be located adjacent to the future hall.

Fencing has been installed to isolate the construction area, resulting in curtailed parking on Sixth Avenue next to the site. In addition, that segment of Sixth Avenue will be narrowed to accommodate the project, necessitating extra care when driving in the area.

"We anticipate that the new residence hall will serve as a source of great pride to the College as it contributes to the recruitment and retention of students, a richer and more vibrant campus life, and the expansion of educational opportunities for the students that we serve," said RIC President John Nazarian.

An official groundbreaking ceremony is slated for later this month.



BEFORE: Construction has begun on the new residence hall on Sixth Avenue.



AFTER: Preliminary rendering of the hall, which was designed by RGB Architects of Providence.

Shipbuilder donates cruise ship to three New England institutions

By Jane Fusco
What's News Editor

Rhode Island College, Roger Williams University, and Wentworth Institute of Technology will assume ownership of a 175-foot cruise ship from Rhode Island businessman.

Luther Blount HD '00, shipbuilder and owner of American Canadian Caribbean Lines of Warren, is donating the M/V *Niagara Prince* cruise ship to Rhode Island College, Roger Williams University, and Wentworth Institute of Technology.

An agreement to transfer the ownership of the ship, valued at \$6.5 million, to the three schools was signed on May 1 at a press conference held at Blount Boats Inc. in Warren. The schools will accept joint ownership at the end of the ship's scheduled summer

and fall foliage cruises in October.

It is the first time that a cruise ship has been donated to local colleges, Blount said.

"Education gave me the foundation to be where I am today and I am thankful to give something back," said Blount. "I chose these three institutions for many personal reasons, coupled with my awareness that area schools are in need of funds for programming and campus improvements."

RIC awarded Blount an honorary doctor of commercial science degree in 2000. To date, it is the only degree of its kind issued by the College.

Roger Williams University President Roy J. Nirschel said that the university has had an association with Blount for years and awarded him an honorary doctorate in marine science in 2003.

"Our marine science students and faculty have teamed up with Mr. Blount to manage his shell-



IT'S OFFICIAL: RIC President John Nazarian (second from right) signs a document to assume joint ownership of the *Niagara Prince* cruise ship donated by shipbuilder Luther Blount. From left: Zorica Pantic, president of Wentworth Institute of Technology; Roy Nirschel, president of Roger Williams University; Nazarian; and Luther Blount. (Photo by Lance Gorton.)

fish hatchery on Prudence Island, which grows and releases millions of oysters a year," Nirschel said. Roger Williams University operates the only shellfish hatchery in the state of Rhode Island.

Blount graduated from Wentworth Institute of Technology in 1937 with a degree in machine construction and tool design. The college recently named one of their auditoriums for Blount after receiving a \$1 million donation from him.

"Having a relationship with Wentworth Institute of Technology for over six decades, Mr. Blount has set an example of alumni dedication that will benefit students for generations to come," said Zorica Pantic, president of Wentworth Institute of Technology.

The *Niagara*

Prince was commissioned in 1994 and is certified to carry up to 90 passengers and crew. The vessel can navigate shallow waters and under low-lying bridges using a retractable pilothouse, "so it can travel anywhere in the world," Blount said. In its 12 years of service, the ship has carried thousands of guests along all the cruise line's routes, including its most famous one from New Orleans to Chicago.

"By gifting one of his grandest creations to the three institutions of higher learning, Dr. Blount reaffirms his lifelong appreciation for the power of education. Rhode Island College joins with Roger Williams University and Wentworth Institute of Technology in extending its deepest gratitude to this exceptional individual on behalf of all the future students who will benefit from his philanthropy," said RIC President John Nazarian.



SHIP SHAPE: RIC President John Nazarian; Roy Nirschel, president of Roger Williams University; shipbuilder and benefactor Luther Blount; and Zorica Pantic, president of Wentworth Institute of Technology stand in front of the newly acquired ship.



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.



ALUMNI AWARDS 1981: In the last issue of *What's News*, we announced the Alumni Awards for 2006. For this issue we look back 25 years to 1981 when the recipients were (from left) Albina Hull Lakomski '47, the Alumni Service Award; Dixon McCool, the Staff Award; John S. Foley '67, Alumnus of the Year Award; Susan McGuirl '74, the Charles B. Willard Award; and Joseph Graham, the Faculty Award.

RIC to host R.I. Coalition for Affirmative Action event

The Rhode Island Coalition for Affirmative Action (RICAA) will offer a Spring 2006 program to help women and minorities achieve economic equity. The free event, "Women and Minorities Make Your Money Work For You – How the Economy/Business/Commerce Affects You," will take place Wednesday, May 31 at 2 p.m. in the Rhode Island College Faculty Center.

Leading Rhode Islanders from the business world will be featured, including Keith Stokes, executive director of the Newport County

Chamber of Commerce; Laurie White, president of the Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce; Jose Brito, president of the Greater Providence Merchants Association; and Juana Horton, chair of the R.I. Hispanic American Chamber of Commerce.

Refreshments will be served. For more information about the event, donations or advertising in the program booklet, contact Donna Fishman, RICAA chair, at 401-423-0397 or donnafishman@cox.net. The website for RICAA is www.ricaa.net.



ADDICTION & AGING was the focus of a "mini-conference" held April 26 in the Faculty Center. Above, David E. Kroessler, of Brown University School of Medicine, talks about drug addiction. Other panelists were George T. Ladd, of the RIC psychology dept.; Andrew S. Rosenzweig, of Brown University School of Medicine; and Marie A. Strauss, of the Rhode Island Department of Elderly Affairs. The moderator was Prof. Robin Montvilo '82, of the RIC psychology dept. The event was sponsored by the Gerontology Center, the Chemical Dependency and Addiction Studies Program and the psychology dept.

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.

William Aho, professor emeritus of sociology, recently delivered the keynote address at the symposium



WILLIAM AHO

"Pan in the 21st Century: the Scholarship and Music of Steel Drums," held at Clark Atlanta University in Georgia. Aho also presented and discussed his DVD *Steelband Music in Trinidad: The Creation of a People's Music*. Research forming the basis for the keynote address and DVD production was conducted under a National Endowment for the Humanities Research Fellowship for College Teachers awarded to Aho while he was teaching at RIC.

Ezra Stieglitz, professor of elementary education co-wrote a paper titled "The Case for Development of a New Test of Health Literacy," which appeared in the *Oncology Nursing Forum* journal in March. Other authors were Patricia



EZRA STIEGLITZ

of patient and family education at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York, N.Y.; and Glen Milstein, assistant professor of psychology at City College of New York.

The Massachusetts Association of Teachers of Speakers of Other Languages (MATSOL) and the Massachusetts Association for Bilingual Education (MABE) awarded **Patricia Medeiros Landurand**, professor of special education, with the MATSOL-MABE Achievement Award at the annual conference held recently. Medeiros Landurand



PATRICIA MEDEIROS LANDURAND

was presented this award for her 30 years of work on behalf of English language learners with disabilities at the local, state, national and international levels. Medeiros Landurand was also acknowledged for being a caring mentor and colleague to others in the field and for her leadership, commitment and contributions to mentoring teachers and encouraging them to become staff developers and advocates for culturally and linguistically diverse students.

RIC's dean of social work joins United Way of R.I.'s board of directors

Carol Bennett-Speight, dean of social work at Rhode Island College, was recently elected to the United Way of Rhode Island's board of directors, and will chair the Children, Youth and Families Impact committee.

Prior to joining Rhode Island College, Bennett-Speight was an associate professor and chair of the Social Work Dept. at Cabrini College in Radnor, Penn. She has been on the faculties of the University of Pennsylvania and LaSalle University in Philadelphia, and has worked as an employee assistance counselor and social worker.

Bennett-Speight is a member of several community and professional boards, including the Executive Board of Girl Scouts of America and the John Hope Settlement



CAROL BENNETT-SPEIGHT

House. According to their mission statement, United Way works to "break the cycle of poverty by giving children the tools to succeed in school, and by making sure that adults have the necessary skills to earn reasonable wages so that they may afford decent and safe housing."

"She brings to the table significant community and professional experience in a major area of concern for us," said Anthony Maione, president and CEO of United Way of R.I.

— Important Dates —

Graduate Commencement
Thursday, May 18
5:30 p.m.
The Murray Center

Undergraduate Commencement
Saturday, May 20
9:30 a.m.
On the Esplanade

Caught on campus



THE FIRST C. ANNETTE DUCEY AWARDS were presented to students in the English dept. on April 26. Recipients are (seated l to r) Daniel Reyes, Larry O'Brien and Holly Hunt. Standing from left are Peg Facker, Veronica Bruscini, Chris Sorel, Oneika Castro, Karen Sylvia and Kristen Cook. Awards varied from \$300 to \$3,500. The Ducey Scholarships, presented for the first time this spring, were funded by an endowment established by the Ducey estate.



NOT TAKING THE STAND: When Donna Christy '79, assoc. prof. of math and computer science, delivers her Maixner Lecture, she elects to sit down with her laptop rather than stand at the podium. The lecture, "Down a Path Filled with Whimsy and Math: A Photographic Journey into Their World," was given April 13 in the Faculty Center.



CHEMISTRY AND BIOLOGY students presented their year's research work in the Sigma Xi Physical Sciences Dept. Spring Student Research Symposium in April. Presenters, pictured above, included (seated from left) Kathleen Lopes, Brenda Cordeiro, Laura Hartnett and Por-Kim Seng. Standing l to r: Christopher Furey, Sam Adediran, Thomas Watson, Dennis Bennett, Sean Hersey, Gennadiy Berzetskiy, Yelene Trubitsyna, Christopher Latendresse and Sabrina Montfort. The senior students were inducted into the RIC Chapter of Sigma Xi as associate members on April 27.



TREE DEDICATION: On April 28, a dawn redwood tree was planted to mark the retirement of Prof. Jerry Melaragno of the biology dept. Melaragno, a botanist, cellist, catamaran sailor, cyclist and, according to the program, a "tree hugger," has taught at the College for 31 years. The ceremony also became an opportunity to distribute a new publication that Melaragno created, which describes and maps 60 different trees on the College campus. Above, Melaragno and biology dept. chair Edythe Anthony display the new publication. The redwood (*Metasequia glyptostroboides*), planted in his honor, is an unusual, deciduous conifer, and has a history of at least 50 million years.



MAKING A SPLASH: Stephanie Bailey, a sophomore, gets a little wet in the dunk tank April 19 during RIC-End, the traditional end-of-semester celebration that this year included a stand-up comic night, a D.J. "beach" dance party, and quiz show games.

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1935 to 2005 will also march before this year's graduating seniors.

The class of 1956 will present the College with a gift of an endowed scholarship in its name.

The honorary degree candidates are:

Stanley M. Aronson, M.D.

Stanley M. Aronson is a physician, educator, lecturer, historian, and author. The founding dean of the Brown Medical School, Aronson delighted and informed readers with essays published weekly in *The Providence Journal* that combine elements of history, science, philosophy.

A native of New York City, Aronson was educated at City College of New York, New York University College of Medicine, and Harvard University School of Public Health. His hospital training included service at Bellevue Hospital; Sydenham Hospital; the U.S. Veterans Administration Medical Center, Kingsbridge; the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Center for Cancer, and Mount Sinai Hospital, all in New York City, as well as the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology in Washington, D.C.

He has served on the faculty of Columbia University, College of Physicians and Surgeons; State University of New York, Downstate Medical Center; and at the Brown University School of Medicine. He has also served as visiting professor and adjunct faculty at institutions around the world, including Mexico, Brazil, Canada, England, Israel, and India, as well as institutions closer to home such as Yale, Dartmouth, Tufts, and Rhode Island College.

Aronson's hospital appointments have included chief of pathology and director of department laboratories at Kings County Hospital Center; neuropathologist and research neurologist at Kingsbrook Jewish Medical Center; and pathologist-in-chief at the Miriam Hospital in Providence. He has also been a consulting physician at 12 different hospitals. A veteran of the armed forces, Aronson served in the U.S. Army Medical Corps, attaining the rank of captain.

His professional service includes the American Academy of Neurology, the American Public Health Association, the American Academy of Cerebral Palsy, the International Society of Neuropathology, the Rhode Island Medical Society, the Association of American Medical Colleges Council of Deans, the National Academy of Sciences, the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, the National Foundation for Neuromuscular Diseases, the Committee to Combat Huntington's

Disease, the Medical Advisory Committee of Planned Parenthood of Rhode Island, the National Tay Sachs and Allied Diseases Association, and others.

Aronson's community service includes numerous board memberships, corporation memberships, trusteeships, and other leadership positions including institutions and organizations such as Butler Hospital, Women and Infants Hospital, Hospice Care of Rhode Island, the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island, the Jewish Home for the Aged, Interfaith Health Care Ministries, and others.

A prolific author, Aronson has published over 400 books, scientific articles and chapters in medical and biological journals and texts, and has also served on the edito-



rial boards of several professional journals.

His service has been recognized with numerous awards and honors, including the Charles Hill Award from the Rhode Island Medical Society, the Sturgis Award from the Hospital Association of Rhode Island, the Founder's Award of Hospice Care of Rhode Island, and the John H. Chafee Award of the American Heart Association. He is also a member of the Rhode Island Heritage Hall of Fame and holds an honorary doctorate from Tougaloo College of Mississippi.

Marian Wright Edelman

Marian Wright Edelman, Founder and President of the Children's Defense Fund (CDF), has been an advocate for disadvantaged Americans for her entire professional life. Under her leadership, CDF has become the nation's strongest voice for children and families. The mission of the Children's Defense Fund is to *Leave No Child Behind* and to ensure every child a *Healthy Start*, a *Head Start*, a *Fair Start*, a *Safe Start*, and a *Moral Start* in life and successful passage to adulthood with the help of caring families and communities.

Edelman, a graduate of Spelman College and Yale Law School, began her career in the mid-60s when, as the first black woman admitted to the Mississippi Bar, she directed the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund office in Jackson,

Miss. In 1968, she moved to Washington, D.C., as counsel for the Poor People's Campaign that Martin Luther King, Jr. began organizing before his death. She founded the Washington Research Project, a public interest law firm and the parent body of the Children's Defense Fund. For two years, she served as the director of the Center for Law and Education at Harvard University and in 1973 began CDF.

Edelman served on the board of trustees of Spelman College, which she chaired from 1976 to 1987, and was the first woman elected by alumni as a member of the Yale University Corporation, on which she served from 1971 to 1977. She has received over 100 honorary degrees and many awards, including the Albert Schweitzer Humanitarian Prize, the Heinz

Award, and a MacArthur Foundation Prize Fellowship. In 2000, she received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian award, and the Robert F. Kennedy Lifetime Achievement Award for her writings, which include eight books: *Families in Peril: An Agenda for Social Change*; *The Measure of Our Success: A Letter to My Children and Yours*; *Guide My Feet: Meditations and Prayers on Loving and Working for Children*; *Stand for Children*; *Lan-*

terns: A Memoir of Mentors; *Hold My Hand: Prayers for Building a Movement to Leave No Child Behind*; *I'm Your Child, God: Prayers for Our Children*; and *I Can Make a Difference: A Treasury to Inspire Our Children*.

She is a board member of the Robin Hood Foundation, the Association to Benefit Children, and City Lights School, and is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, the American Philosophical Society, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences.

Raymond W. Houghton

Raymond W. Houghton's remarkable career in educational leadership has been rooted in the belief that personal and collective improvement of human existence resides in the education and enlightenment of people. A graduate of Pawtucket West High School, he entered the U.S. Army Air Force as an early enlistee during his senior year in high school at the height of World War II. Returning to Rhode Island after the war, he earned an AB in English literature and English expression from Brown University in less than four years, and remained at Brown to earn an AM in English and education. He subsequently earned a PhD in curriculum and foundations of education at the University of Connecticut.

Houghton began his career in

teaching in the Warwick public schools, where he would become director of Curriculum and Research in 1960. In 1961, he joined the faculty of Rhode Island College as professor of secondary education. He was responsible for the development of the master of arts in teaching (MAT) program at RIC, a program that was established to enable graduates of liberal arts colleges to attain the educational background necessary for them to become certified as teachers.

To serve under-prepared and disadvantaged youth from urban settings, Houghton was a founder of the Upward Bound program at Rhode Island College. In 1968, he conceived and founded the Urban Educational Center of Rhode Island (UEC) in order to bring higher education opportunities to the urban core of the state's capital city. The UEC was initially administratively associated with RIC and later evolved into what is today the Liston (Providence) Campus of the Community College of Rhode Island.

In the 1980s, as Houghton's career as an active faculty member at RIC began to wind down, he developed a relationship with historic Trinity College of Dublin, Ireland where, in addition to teaching, research, and service, he founded and served as director of Saor Ollscoil na h'Eireann (The Free University of Ireland). He was later honored for his service at Trinity with the awarding by that institution of the Magisteri in Artibus (*Honoris Causa*).

Houghton served as author, co-author, or editor of many publications, including the books *Education On The Brink: In Education, Emerging Goals In A New Millennium*; *Images of Berkeley*; *The World of George Berkeley*; *Questions from Beyond: Educational Queries for a New Millennium*; and *Learning and Intelligence: Conversations with Skinner and Wheeler*; and *Lime Rock Days: Life on the Farm, 1930s*.

Houghton served on the board of directors of Looking Glass Theatre, Notre Dame Hospital, and the Salvation Army, among others. He served as president of the International Berkeley Society, the Rhode Island Chapter of the American Guidance and Personnel Association, the Rhode Island Educational Theater Association, and the Rhode Island Philosophical Society, and was active in numerous other organizations.

George S. Lima

George S. Lima's life, which is profiled in the documentary film, *Black Men Can Fly*, demonstrates a lifelong commitment to social justice and economic opportunity. His resume includes the roles of political activist, labor leader, lawmaker, and service as one of World War II's legendary Tuskegee Airmen.

Lima, a Fall River native and son of Cape Verdean immigrants,

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joined the military in 1942 as a cadet at the Tuskegee Army Base in Alabama. In 1945, Lima and other black Air Corps officers were arrested for attempting to enter a white officer's club at a base in Indiana. Because of the incident, the Army ordered the base's clubs to be integrated.

Lima was educated at North Carolina A&T State University, Ohio State University, and the University of Louisville, and earned his BA at Brown University in 1948. While at Brown, he founded a chapter of Omega Psi Phi. He would later attend the American Leadership Seminar at Harvard University and also attended Harvard Business School.

Professionally, he was Rhode Island state director of the federal ACTION program and also worked for ACTION in Boston. Additionally, Mr. Lima was employed as an urban coordinator and program development specialist for the VISTA Office of Economic Opportunity in New York and Washington, D.C.

As a leader in organized labor, Lima served as the New England regional director of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) AFL-CIO, and also served as special assistant to the national director. Lima has also served as consultant and conciliator for the Laborers International Union of North America, AFL-CIO.

Lima was elected to two terms as state representative from District 83, East Providence. A member of the House Labor Committee, he was instrumental in the enactment of legislation requiring the participation of minority-owned businesses in state contracts.

He served as president of the Providence Chapter of the NAACP, as vice president of the East Providence Community Development Corporation, as chair of the East Providence Coalition for Human Rights, on the executive board of Citizens United for Fair Housing, as a member of the United Way Social Development Allocation Committee, as a board member of the National Catholic Council for Interracial Justice, and as a member of the Organizing Committee of the Congress for Racial Equality, among others.

Lima's most recent project is his founding of the Black Air Foundation, a non-profit organization for which he serves as CEO and president. The word "air" is both literal and symbolic, as the mission of the organization is to provide opportunities for black and minority youth to advance socially and economically by introducing them to aviation, radio and television (airwaves), and filmmaking as a career choices while also providing other support.

Mr. Lima is fluent in four languages and is a world traveler.

Diane Postoian

A 1976 graduate of Rhode Island College, Diane Postoian is a well known performer and arts educator who for 17 years served as the moving force behind the growth and success of Looking Glass Theatre, a Providence-based children's theatre. During her tenure with the non-profit Looking Glass, she served as artistic director, executive director, grant writer, program director, and performer, and also served as camp director for Looking Glass Arts Camp, a four-week program for 60 campers aged 6-15. Under her leadership, Looking Glass grew into an organization that put on performances for as many as 90,000 children a year. She has maintained a strong relationship to her alma mater and has served as mentor for theatre students at RIC throughout the years.

Now retired from Looking Glass to concentrate on her performing career, Postoian continues to inspire audiences of all ages with her work.

She has served as a motivational speaker for children and professionals who work with children, has developed a touring program for adolescents entitled "Fight the Hype" designed to promote media awareness, has developed "Story Theatre" for school and family groups, and developed a K-grade 5 touring classroom workshop entitled "Acting Naturally About Reading." At the Robert L. Bailey IV Elementary School in Providence, Postoian was responsible for designing K-grade 2 language arts classroom workshops.

Postoian has served as creative writing teacher with the Brown University Learning Community, developed a Saturday morning children's series, has conducted summer literacy programs for the Providence school dept. and has also worked with Very Special Arts RI and Very Special Arts Massachusetts. She has served as a guest instructor at Providence College on the topic of creative drama in elementary education curriculum. She also served as site coordinator for School One, an alternative high school in Providence, at which she established a job placement program for adolescents.

Earlier in her career, Postoian was a creative dramatist who taught multi-disciplinary arts programs for K-grade 6 youth and creative writing for ESL students in New York City's Chinatown at the behest of the city's Dept. of Cultural Affairs and the New York State Arts Council. She also served as assistant director at the Washington Market Preschool in New York, where she was responsible for the year-round education and supervision of over 100 3-5 year-old children.

Postoian has been recognized for her work with the Jabez Gorham Award for Arts Excellence presented by the Arts and Business Council of Rhode Island. She has received numerous competitive grants for her work, including

an Arts Exposure grant from New York City to promote reading and creative writing in ESL classroom settings as well as other education and performance grants from state arts councils of New York, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island.

Anne M. Sliney

Anne M. Sliney '87, nursing specialist for the Clinton HIV/AIDS Initiative, has advised and assisted governments in Africa and Asia in developing care and treatment programs for those infected with HIV. She has worked with the Ministry of Health of Kenya to design and implement a program to hire and train 1,000 Kenyan nurses for government health facilities, and in cooperation with the government of India, created a strategy and curriculum to train 35,000 nurses in HIV/AIDS nursing. With her Clinton Foundation colleagues, Sliney has helped develop ongoing programs in clinical mentoring for Lesotho, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, Ethiopia, and Vietnam.

She has also established an HIV Nursing Education Project in Belize, Central America. She organized a group of five nurses, one physician, and a respiratory therapist to begin the project in 2004. The project has maintained ongoing support for HIV nurses and public health nurses in that country.

Sliney received an associate degree in nursing from Community College of Rhode Island and a bachelor of science in nursing from Rhode Island College. She is an AIDS certified registered nurse, and is state certified as an HIV Counselor. Currently she serves as an adjunct professor for the Dept. of Nursing at RIC.

She began her nursing career in 1978 as a staff nurse in the adult medical-surgical unit at Rhode Island Hospital, moving to Notre Dame Hospital in Central Falls in the same capacity in 1981. Beginning in 1986, she spent 14 years as an ambulatory care nurse at Memorial Hospital of Rhode Island, responsible for assessing patients in an urgent care setting, triaging, and monitoring vital signs, laboratory values, and symp-

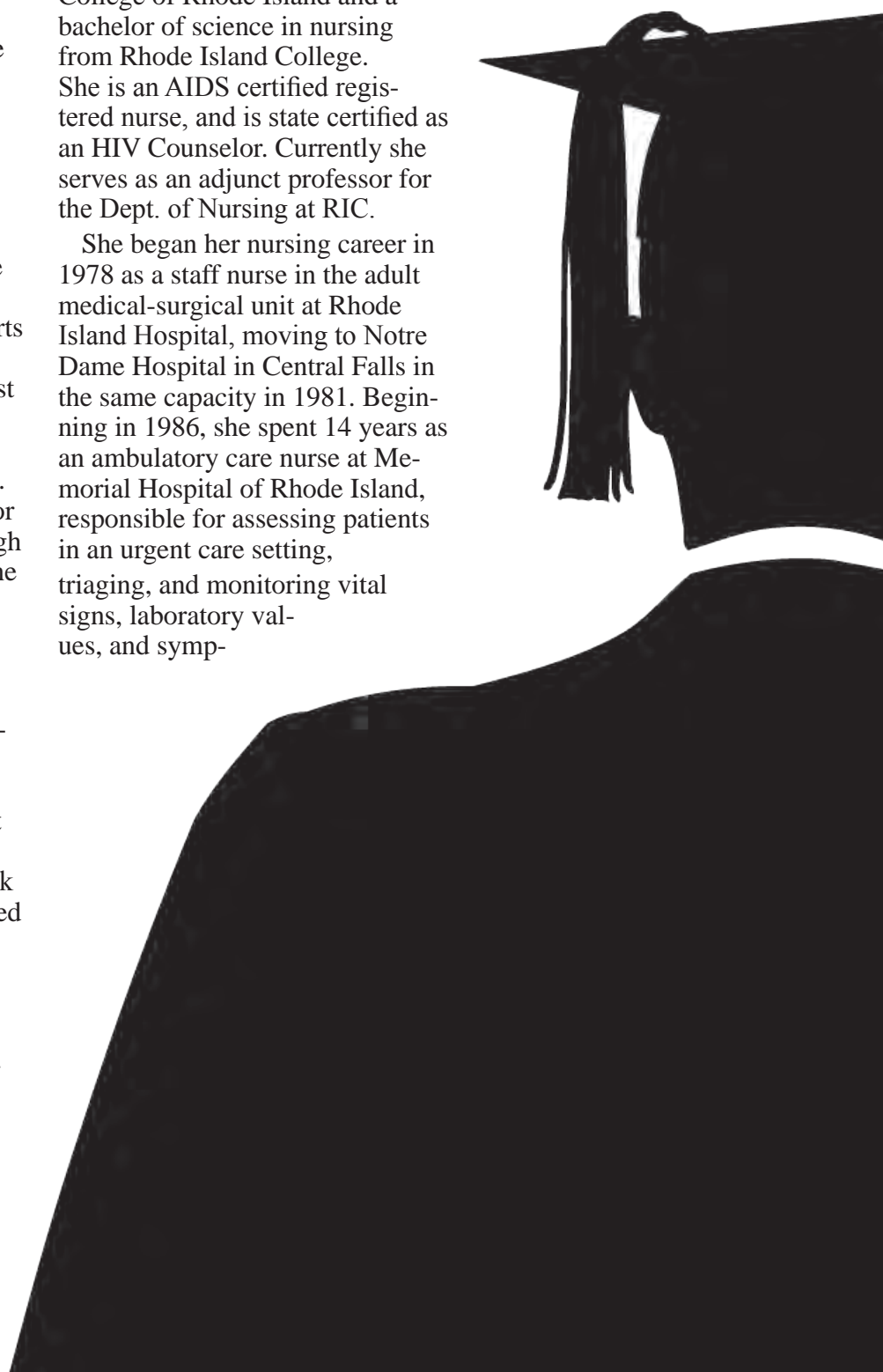
toms. Sliney became the infection control coordinator and clinic nurse for the Hope Center for HIV Care at Memorial in 2000. From 2001 to 2004, she was an HIV medication adherence nurse for AIDS Care Ocean State, providing education to clients in the community regarding antiretroviral therapy and assessing barriers to adherence and designing interventions to assist clients with medication adherence.

Sliney's professional activities are numerous. She is immediate past president and a founding member of the Rhode Island Chapter of the Association of Nurses in AIDS Care.

A frequent lecturer on HIV Nursing for undergraduate nursing students, Sliney has been a presenter for the Brown University AIDS Program's annual "HIV in Primary Care" symposium and served as a preceptor for senior nursing students at RIC during their community health clinical rotations.

She has conducted a year-long study of low cost interventions in medication adherence, funded by Abbott Laboratories, and has completed course work in Principles of Infection Control given by the Association of Professionals in Infection Control and training in Pediatric HIV Care in Kampala, Uganda.

She has also authored the study "HIV Related Anemia" which won the Anemia Case Study Award sponsored by Ortho Biotech.



RIC Arts and Entertainment

Upcoming shows at Bannister Gallery...

Annual Student Exhibition

The Annual Student Exhibition May 11-20 features the work of graduating seniors of the Rhode Island College art dept. The juried show displays representative works from all disciplines within the department, including ceramics, drawing, graphic design, jewelry design, painting, photography, printmaking, and sculpture.

Works by Ida Schmulowitz

From June 8-July 20, the Bannister Gallery presents *Ida Schmulowitz: Expressive Landscapes*. Schmulowitz's mural-sized oil paintings offer contemporary expressions and

interpretations of landscapes. The exhibition features new work related to the artist's vision of the Providence area, while pursuing a larger inspiration associated with her studio practice. A reception follows the artist's lecture on June 15 at 6 p.m.

Gallery hours during exhibits are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 11 a.m.-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.



IDA SCHMULOWITZ: EXPRESSIVE LANDSCAPES. Ida Schmulowitz. *Highway* Painting (detail). Oil on canvas, 6' x 8'.



ANNUAL STUDENT EXHIBITION. Lila Jarzombek. Untitled (detail). Intaglio with surface roll.

RIC SummerArt Program to offer workshops for children ages 5-16

Classes meet July 10-20, Monday through Thursday, from 9 a.m. to noon at the Art Center on the Rhode Island College campus. All classes are taught by certified, experienced art teachers who provide a relaxed yet stimulating environment for students to explore their creative interests.

Classes offered:

- **Mixed Media** – Ages 5-11

Painting, drawing and printmaking projects to develop visual awareness.

- **Sculpture** – Ages 8-11

Clay, papier-mâché, wire, cloth, plaster and cardboard will be used to explore three-dimensional space.

- **Clay Works** – Ages 10-13

Hand-building techniques of pinch, coil and slab. Students will use different clays such as firing, air-dry and Sculpey.

- **Drawing** – Ages 12-16

Study of still life, interior space, and natural and man-made forms.

Tuition and supply fee for each class is \$210, which includes a non-refundable registration fee of \$20. Classes are small and early registration is recommended. For a brochure describing the program, call the RIC Dept. of Art at 401-456-8054, email cmulcahey@ric.edu, or visit www.ric.edu/hbs.



RIC alum William Finlay named to national dance museum board

William Finlay '72, chair and associate professor of theater at Union College in Schenectady, N.Y., has been appointed to the board of the National Museum of Dance & Hall of Fame in Saratoga Springs, N.Y.

Finlay, a director and choreographer, was on the performance faculty at Boston University from 1981-1994 and was a founding director of the Blue Heron Theatre company in New York City.

His work has been seen at Trinity Square Repertory Company and the American Repertory Theatre among many others. Since 1999 he has been artistic director of the Saratoga Shakespeare Company.

"The duties of a board member of the National Museum of Dance are similar to many other boards in that they are responsible for the financial well being of the organi-



WILLIAM FINLAY '72

zation," said Finlay.

This aspect of the board's work is especially important now because the museum has recently become a sole entity, after separating itself administratively from The Saratoga Performing Arts Center, added Finlay.

A 2002 RIC Alumni Honor Roll recipient, Finlay has positive thoughts about his days as the College. "More and more I have come to realize what a wonderful experience it was to have been a dancer at RIC and what superb training was offered and has continued to be offered at the College," he said. "And even though I sensed this many years ago, I now know for certain that dance at Rhode Island College is vitally important to the soul of the school and also in many ways to the cultural fabric of the city."

The National Museum of Dance & Hall of Fame in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., is the only museum in the nation dedicated to American professional dance. Established in 1986, it is located in Saratoga Spa State Park.

The museum features a growing collection of photographs, videos, artifacts, costumes, biographies and archives examining seminal contributions to dance.

In 1987, the Museum recognized Fred Astaire, George Balanchine, Katherine Dunham, Martha Graham, Doris Humphrey, Lincoln Kirstein and Bill 'Bojangles' Robinson, among others, as founders and innovators of American professional dance. Over the years, more than 30 dancers, choreographers, teachers, designers, critics and patrons have been similarly honored.

RIC grad opens young minds to new ways of learning

by Christopher Farrell '06
Staff Writer

A classroom full of eight and nine year olds are staring at you. They're waiting, sitting on the edge of their seats, anticipating the next word you are going to say. Are you intimidated yet? Jen Jendzejec '93 isn't. This Coventry third-grade teacher's task is to open the mind of each student, and she does it every day. And it's not only the students and their parents who are noticing. Jendzejec recently became one of 19 teachers across America to be awarded the prestigious Amgen Award for Science Teaching Excellence.

The recipients of the award will receive \$5,000, and their schools will be given the same amount in a grant towards the expansion or enhancement of a science program. The award recognizes extraordinary contributions by educators who are elevating the level of science literacy through creativity in the classroom and motivation of students.

The description fits this Rhode Island College graduate to perfection.

"I always try to find different ways to teach things," says Jendzejec. "I want to be able to go home at night, look back and say I made a difference in one child's life."

Taking education outside the textbook, Jendzejec teaches lessons of life as well. For example every day she reads a story about a hamster to her class.

"At the end of each chapter the hamster learns a new lesson in what it means to be a friend," said Jendzejec. "You should see how many students ask me every day what Wally the hamster learned today."

She is always looking for ways to reach students so they get the maximum benefits from their schooling.

Those passions recently led her on a two-year leave with fellow teacher Deb Kolling to explore the avenues of differentiated instruction. The theory is a form of teach-

ing that maximizes the number of students a teacher reaches in a day. Jendzejec and Kolling researched methods such as brain reaction to stimuli, and multi-level intelligences. These methods have opened up new avenues in everyday learning.

"It examined methods to assure that you are connecting with the maximum amount of students at all times," said Jendzejec.

The theory is so progressive that she and Kolling tour the state and share their findings with other elementary school teachers in workshops. They have also created a group for the support of higher education called S.A.S. (Supporting All Students). The group holds the workshops and gives guidance to fellow teachers who are looking for new ways to connect with their students.

Her thirst for extending knowledge outside the classroom has not slowed since receiving the award. In a few months, Jendzejec will be going to Alaska with her advisor from her days at RIC, MacGregor Knisley, professor of elementary education, to investigate why certain clouds in the atmosphere are beaming for longer periods of time than before.

The clouds have gathered different types of gasses over time and glow when the sun sets. The recent extension of their glow has attracted scientists around the nation. Jendzejec has been invited to investigate the phenomenon and when she returns, she will be able to share her findings with the class using DVDs and digital video.

The class will also be able to email the science team to learn more about the clouds in the Earth's atmosphere.

Jendzejec has a hunger for expanding her students' breadth of knowledge. "I love kids and their parents. All the building blocks of their future education are in elementary school, and to be more specific, about the third grade."

Recalling her own time as a Coventry elementary school stu-



Jen Jendzejec works with her third-grade students in Coventry.

dent, Jendzejec believes that negative experiences often stay in a child's mind more than positive ones.

"I still remember the times I got in trouble. Most students remember those moments more than the good ones. Children remember the emotional parts of their brain first."

With that in mind, Jendzejec said that teachers can start becoming more conscious of how they react to students.

When asked why she stayed in Coventry to teach, her answer is elementary: "It's a connection to the community for the students. They feel comfortable because they know me. They see me and my husband out around town and it opens discussions that make them feel more comfortable. I'm not only their teacher, I'm their neighbor as well."

Though Jendzejec is setting standards in education, you'll never

hear her say it. She passes the credit to the institution that opened her mind and gave her confidence to advance young minds: Rhode Island College.

"So much of my background is from RIC. The feedback, the innovation, the enthusiasm. So much of the curriculum is about guiding the student and finding better ways to help their education," said Jendzejec.

She remembers the day she graduated from RIC as "the beginning of a whole new chapter."

"Throughout the classes, as it all came together, that day your whole picture comes into view about what teaching is all about," Jendzejec said.

So as she gets ready for another walk across the podium – this time at The Providence Biltmore to receive her Amgen award this month – the picture of what teaching is all about will be on display for all to admire.

Nursing dept. garners lead prevention awareness award

By Joanne Costello
Assistant Professor of Nursing

The Dept. of Nursing received a Professional Education and Public Awareness Award at the Rhode Island Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program's Annual Meeting at the Newport Hyatt in April.

The award was given in recognition of outstanding efforts to educate health professionals and the public about environmental health issues. The theme of the meeting was "On the Road to Healthy Housing." Also honored were the Childhood Lead Action Project,

the Motley Rice law firm, and the Dept. of the Attorney General for their work in promoting healthy environments for families in Rhode Island.

The public/community health nursing faculty at Rhode Island College and health professionals from the state's Dept. of Health have collaborated over the past two years to enhance the abilities of undergraduate nursing students to conduct home environment assessments. This is in light of the serious threats that home environments may present to families and the opportunity for community nurses to prevent them.

Students participate in a comprehensive curriculum coordinated by

the Dept. of Health that has included air quality, injury prevention, asthma, lead and home inspection. They then have a hands-on experience inspecting a historical home that functions as a preservation-learning laboratory, assessing the home for environmental risks.

A city code enforcement officer and a nurse who serves as a case manager for families who have experienced lead poisoning, as well as Dept. of Health Lead Program professionals and RIC nursing faculty, lead the home assessment and facilitate interactive learning.

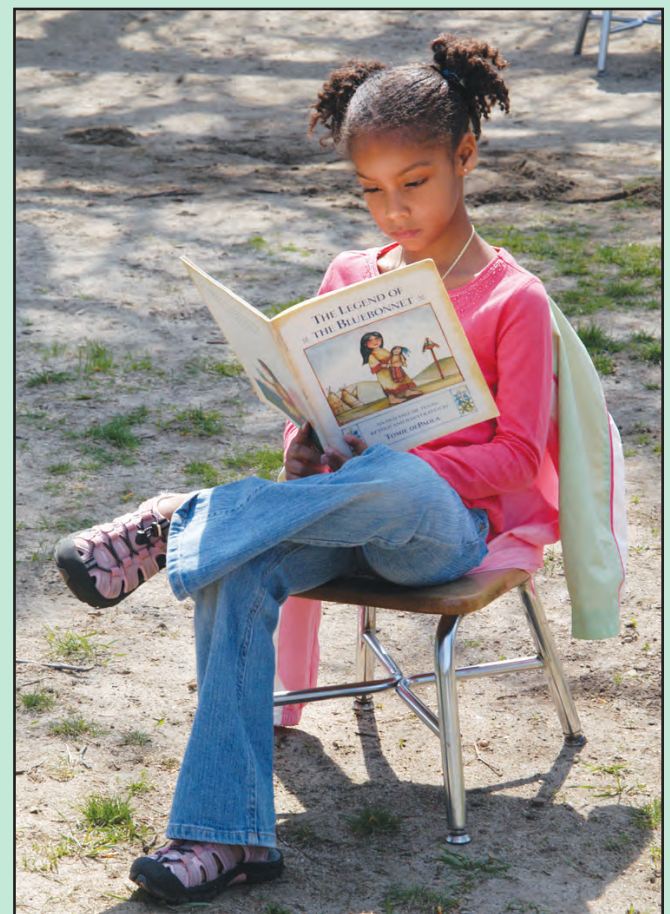


NURSING HONOR: Joanne Costello, representing RIC's nursing dept., receives the Professional Education and Public Awareness Award from William Hollinshead, medical director of the Div. of Family Health, R.I. Dept. of Health.

Across the campus...



WRITING PANEL: A panel discussion and dinner for reading teachers was held April 5 in the Faculty Center. Titled "Helping Diverse Learners to Become Better Readers," the discussion included panel members (below from left) Eni Desmond, ESL teacher in Cumberland; Eusebio Lopes, principal of George J. West Elementary School in Providence; and Celeste Bowler, director of elementary education in West Warwick. The moderator is Robert Carey, assoc. prof. of elementary education (left).



TV-TURN-OFF WEEK was celebrated April 24 to 28 at Henry Barnard School. Each day the students had a diversion (such as read a book or play a game) to substitute for TV watching. On Thursday it was "Drop Everything and Read." Above, first grader Jasmine Hyppolite reads in the schoolyard.



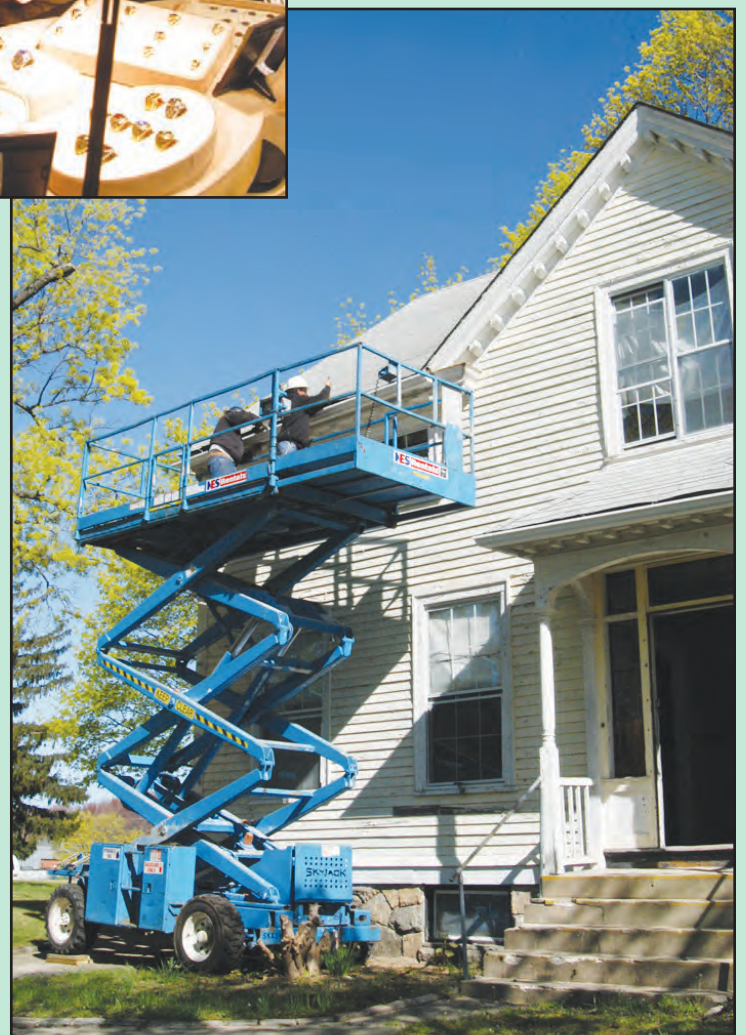
WHO'S WHO: Forty-nine students from RIC were selected to be included in the 2005-2006 edition of *Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges*. Above, at ceremonies in the Student Union Ballroom April 19, Jose Lobaton receives his certificate from Michael Smith '79, assistant to the president.



GRAD FEST '06 was a new initiative by the Commencement Office and the Campus Store to help graduating seniors prepare for commencement. For one day (April 5) in one place (the Student Union Ballroom) seniors could purchase caps, gowns and hoods; order class rings, graduation announcements, diploma frames and yearbooks; visit Career Services, Financial Aid, and the Alumni Association; check their status with the Records Office; learn about Senior Week activities; and have a formal picture taken. At left, Brook Reid and her aunt, Myrna Messier (right), look over college rings.



A CHECK FOR 5,000 EUROS is presented to College President John Nazarian by Ricardo Cortes, consul of the Providence Portuguese Consulate. The gift was made during a reception for the Friends of Portuguese Studies April 4 at the President's House.



RENOVATIONS BEGIN: Workmen begin taking down gutters and down spouts on the College's yellow cottage, one of the remaining buildings of the State Home and School, the state's former orphanage, in preparation for lead paint abatement of the exterior.