

A gala tribute to  
RIC benefactor  
Helen Forman



RIC art students  
dedicate children's  
book to Roger  
Williams Park Zoo



WHAT'S NEWS @

# Rhode Island College

Established in 1980 Circulation over 52,000

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**ADMISSIONS EXPRESS:** Potential RIC students and their families take a trolley tour of the RIC campus during the admissions office open house last month. The turnout of over 1,200 is believed to be the largest ever for the annual event. (See story and photos on page 8.)



**SHERLOCK CENTER'S NEW HOME:** Above is a rendering of the future home of the Paul V. Sherlock Center on Disabilities, which will be located on the east campus. The center's 30 programs are now spread over five locations on campus. The new center will bring all the programs under one roof and allow for program expansion. Funding for the center was part of a ballot initiative approved by Rhode Island voters last month for expansion of academic and public service facilities at RIC, and construction of a new building for the University of Rhode Island College of Pharmacy.

In addition to the Sherlock Center, RIC improvements include renovating Building 3 to house Student Financial Aid, two classrooms, and a small café; renovating Building 2 for academic use; improving traffic patterns; expanding and realigning parking; and completing the connecting corridor between the east campus and main campus. Completion of the RIC project is expected by the fall of 2009.

The ballot initiative will provide a total of \$7.8 million for RIC, and \$65 million for URI.

## Champlin Foundations grant to support new math, science and tech center

The Champlin Foundations has awarded Rhode Island College a grant of \$228,300 to support the establishment of a Center for Excellence in Mathematics, Science and Technology Education.

The Center will serve pre-service and in-service teachers, school leaders, 33 partnership school districts, K-12 students throughout the state, RIC faculty members and students, and the Rhode Island community at large through the College's Feinstein School of Education and Human Development (FSEHD).

"We are delighted to be able to make the dream of a Center for Excellence in Mathematics, Science and Technology

**Continued on p 12**

## United Way grant lets RIC's Outreach Programs offer insurance training

RIC's Outreach Programs has received a \$79,067 grant from the United Way of Rhode Island to offer a comprehensive insurance training course that will begin in January.

TRAIT (Training Responsible Adults as Insurance Technicians), a 26-week course that covers personal and commercial property and liability insurance, contract analysis and rating, and general insurance principles, will prepare unemployed and low-income adults to work in entry-level insurance jobs.

The program was developed to address the shortage of insurance workers in Rhode Island. It is the only insurance training course offered in the state that is not affiliated with an insurance agency.

Classes are free to the first 20 people to enroll who meet eligibility requirements. The program is also free for Rhode Island's Dept. of Human Services cash recipients and eligible clients of the Dept. of Labor and Training.

**Continued on p 12**



## Wn Quotes...

**"This program provides a solid foundation in all aspects of the insurance industry to ultimately provide a qualified, knowledgeable pool of candidates to work in the industry."**

– Jenifer Giroux, director of Outreach Programs at RIC, on TRAIT, an insurance training course to be offered at the College in January. [P 12]

**"What better way to hone our communications skills than to reach out to the community to help others,"**

– Lindsey Conklin, Communications Club president, whose organization, in association with the American Democracy Project, has established a year-long community giving campaign. [P 15]

**"They captured the heart of the zoo with the themes and colors they featured."**

– Jack Mulvena, executive director of Roger Williams Park Zoo, on the children's book written and illustrated by RIC students in Carol Harmon's art class. [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 David Greene, professor of chemistry.*

When Ridgway Shinn asked me to contribute a piece to this series, my first reaction was that I was not one of the many beneficiaries of the Study Abroad grant program founded by and named for him. What could I say of interest? Then he reminded me that Rhode Island College had in fact supported my own study abroad, in the form of a year-long sabbatical leave spent at Oxford University. That is true, and it is also true that that stay in the United Kingdom resulted in tremendous impacts on me, my research, and my family. The overall results were sufficiently positive that I would recommend such an experience to any faculty member or student at the College. And so I agreed to Ridge's request.

Some context about that leave first: At the time I was leaving an administrative post at the College that I had held for about a decade, one that allowed little time in a chemistry laboratory to pursue my scientific interests. Some retooling would be necessary to get me back into shape to direct the projects of RIC's science majors. Furthermore, I had never been abroad, and was eager to expand my horizons. My son, Dylan, was leaving Henry Barnard School, and so would be in a new environment in any event. My wife, Kathleen, was willing to forego a year of her part-time employment to make the experience possible,

having herself already spent a year abroad to great advantage as part of her collegiate experience. The stars were in alignment.

Things got even better when one of the United Kingdom's (and the world's) most prominent chemists, Michael Mingos, FRS, agreed to take me into his research group at Oxford for the year. I must admit to some inner trepidation in stepping into the laboratory of this author of over 400 scientific papers, multiple monographs, and three undergraduate texts. But in fact, Mike could not have been a more cordial and unassuming host. Not only did he help us find lodgings, but he introduced us into the general Oxford social and recreational scene. More importantly, he introduced me to a new area of scientific interest, the use of microwaves to speed up chemical reactions that were otherwise maddeningly slow.

Not only was the work exciting and productive, it was exactly what I needed in terms of reacquainting myself with my discipline. The project was not extremely complicated or expensive in terms of equipment; kitchen microwave ovens are easy to come by. I think that Mike chose this project for me because he knew it had carry-over value when I returned to RIC. In fact, several of my undergraduate research students here have extended this work, including the

development of two undergraduate laboratory experiments that have been integrated into the chemistry curriculum. RIC may have been the first school in this country to have microwave experiments in its undergraduate program, though it has now become much more common.

All was not work, however. While I was in the lab at Oxford, my son was being introduced to the rigors of a very different English educational system, while Kath was making new friends and doing volunteer work for Oxfam, whose home base is, of course, there. We tried mightily to make the most of our year abroad, with every weekend and holiday a new adventure. London, Stonehenge, Bath, Wales, Scotland, Ireland, Spain and France were all within easy reach, though we found April in Paris to be somewhat overrated due to inclement weather.

As I look back on this experience, I can't help wondering about ripple effects in our lives. Is the fact my son now flourishes as the globetrotting representative of a multinational corporation due in some part to these early international experiences? Are Kath and I more open to such experiences ourselves? I think yes on both counts, and so I shall continue to happily support Ridgway Shinn's Study Abroad Program. I commend it to your attention.

## What's News at Rhode Island College

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## In Memoriam – Frances Benson, retired nursing educator



FRANCES BENSON

received a Paul Maixner Award

Frances Benson of Pawtucket, an assistant professor emerita of nursing at RIC, died Nov. 27 at age 77.

Benson was on the nursing faculty at the College from 1975 to 1994. In 1984, she

for distinguished service from the Faculty of Arts and Sciences. She also received the Nurse Educator Award for 1991 at the Rhode Island State Nurses Association Convention.

Prior to her career at RIC, she was an assistant instructor and clinical instructor at Roger Williams General Hospital, and a staff development instructor at Miriam Hospital.

Benson earned a BS in nursing from Simmons College, and an MS in rehabilitation nursing (minor in teaching) from Boston University.

She is survived by five children and 10 grandchildren.

Memorial contributions can be made to the Seekonk Congregational Church Music Fund, 600 Fall River Ave., Seekonk, MA 02771.



The next issue of  
*What's News*  
will be Jan. 29, 2007

Story ideas are welcome.  
Call 401-456-8090  
or email [rmartin@ric.edu](mailto:rmartin@ric.edu).



# RIC chapter of National Society of Collegiate Scholars formed

**A**t an inaugural scholar society event for RIC students, Dan King, vice president for academic affairs, spoke on the theme of "Defining Excellence." And that's what 18 new inductees of The National Society of Collegiate Scholars (NSCS) are doing – in the classroom and in the community.

Rhode Island College has established a campus chapter of the NSCS, made official at an initiation

ceremony and dinner on Nov. 9 in the Faculty Dining Center.

The NSCS is the nation's only interdisciplinary honors organization for first- and second-year college students, according to the society. RIC joins about 225 other chapters at campuses in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

Students who have earned between 30 and 60 credits toward an undergraduate degree and have a grade point average of 3.4 or higher are eligible

for NSCS membership.

Benefits of joining the society include scholarships, leadership development, travel opportunities and career resources. Its mission is "honoring and inspiring academic excellence and engaged citizenship for a lifetime."

The chapter officers at Rhode Island College are Sunny S. Intwala, president, and Luis Muñoz, Jr., executive vice president. The group is advised by faculty member Lloyd H. Matsumoto, professor of biology.

"We now have an honor society that embraces all disciplines of the College," said Matsumoto. "The society puts our scholars on a national stage and on a par with students from many other prestigious colleges and universities."

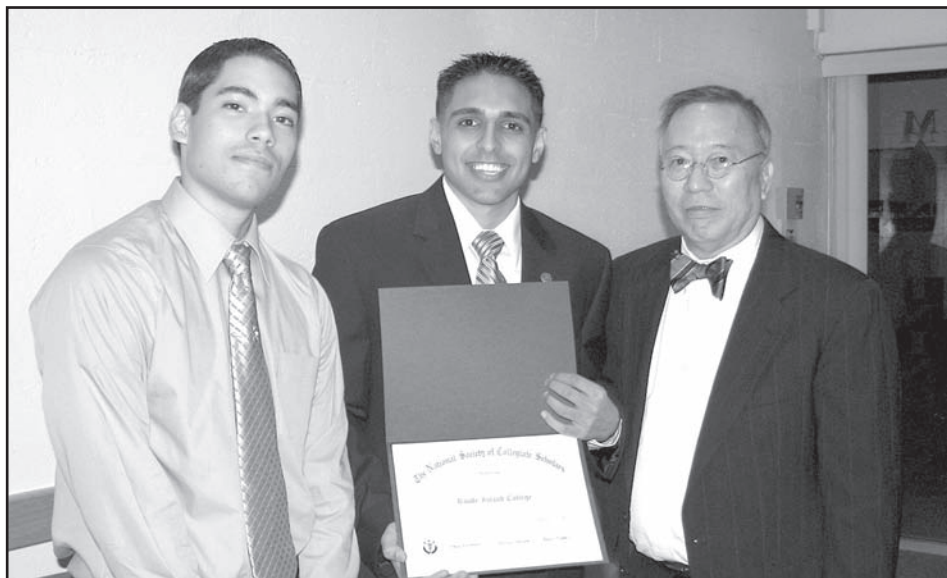
A guiding principle of the NSCS is giving back through local service, and Intwala plans

to "set up a tradition where we can help the community."

For the RIC chapter, that will include visits to Hasbro Children's Hospital in Providence at Halloween and Christmas, volunteering in homeless shelters, and making donations of clothing and other articles to those in need.

The new members will join more than 500,000 lifetime members across the country. The NSCS is a member of the Association of College Honor Societies.

For more information about NSCS or the RIC chapter, contact Tom Smith, director, chapter development, at 202-265-9000/ smith@nscs.org, or Lloyd Matsumoto at 401-456-9539/lmatsumoto@ric.edu.



**SCHOLAR SOCIETY:** From left, RIC students Luis Muñoz, Jr. and Sunny Intwala are joined by Professor Lloyd Matsumoto at the inaugural event of the RIC chapter of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars. Intwala serves as chapter president, Muñoz is executive vice president, and Matsumoto is faculty advisor.

## NASPA "Star" award goes to RIC undergrad



**STAR POWER:** Brittany Wilson receives the 2006 NASPA Region I Catch a Rising Star Award from Scott Kane (left), dean of students, Office of Student Life, and Gary Penfield, vice president for student affairs.

RIC student Brittany Wilson received a 2006 NASPA Catch a Rising Star Award at a ceremony in her honor at RIC in November.

Her award was for Region I of NASPA, which is an acronym for National Association of Student Personnel Administrators.

Wilson met award criteria that included making a significant campus contribution, academic achievement, leadership, and an interest in the student affairs field.

Wilson, a resident assistant in Browne Hall, is president of the student multicultural organization

Harambee, through which she participated in the National Black Student Leadership conference. On campus, she has also been involved in a domestic violence awareness program, and other organizations.

Letters of recommendations on her behalf were written by Kristen Salemi, director of the student union; Teresa Brown, director of residential life and housing; Amanda Surgens, residence hall director of Browne Hall; and Joseph Costa, director of Student Support Services.

## 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 rmartin@ric.edu.*

**Joseph Levi**, assistant professor of Portuguese, recently published his ninth book – *Compromisso e Solução.*



JOSEPH LEVI

*Escavidão e as irmandades afro-brasileiras. Origem e formação das confrarias religiosas no Brasil Colonial (1552-1822)*

(Berlin: LIT Verlag, 2006).

The work is based on original documents from many sources and countries, including the Lima Library of the Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C. Levi's analysis explores the origins and the formation of lay brotherhoods in colonial Brazil.

**Alicebelle Rubotzky**, associate professor of nursing, has been inducted as a fellow into the



ALICEBELLE RUBOTZKY

National Gerontological Nurses Association (NGNA). The ceremony honoring those who have made outstanding contributions to gerontological

nursing and the national organization took place at the national convention in Cincinnati, Ohio, in October. Rubotzky was presented a plaque acknowledging her work furthering the goals of gerontological nursing. She

was commended for the regular column, "Ask the Gerontology Nurse" in *Seeking Innovation in Gerontological Nursing (SIGN)*, for several other articles on timely subjects in SIGN, for participation on the NGNA Research Committee, and for presentations at national conventions.

**John M. Niska**, associate professor of middle level education and coordinator of the Middle



JOHN M. NISKA

Level Program at RIC, was elected president-elect of the National Association of Professors of Middle Level Education (NaPOMLE). His election

came at the Annual National Middle School Conference held in Nashville, Tenn., in November. Niska, who served for two years as one of two professors representing the East Region, will serve as president-elect for two years and will be installed as president at the Annual NMSA Conference to be held in Denver in November 2008. Niska, a board member of the American Education Research Association's Middle Level Special Interest Group, recently completed designing and writing the professional development publication, *Advocacy and Advisory: Now More Than Ever*, which will be released by the National Middle School Association in the spring.



# NEWS FROM THE Foundation and Alumni Offices



**BY**  
**Peg Brown**  
 Vice President,  
 Development  
 and College  
 Relations

**M.** I would like to transfer \$100,000 to begin an endowed fund in my mother's name. You know, four of us in the family graduated from Rhode Island College.

**S.** That's also good, because under this new provision you can transfer up to \$100,000 a year directly from your IRA. That means you could transfer \$100,000 before Dec. 31 of this year, and another \$100,000 next year if you wanted to. The current provision only allows these gifts through the 2007 tax year — at least for now. There are some exclusions, like gifts to charitable remainder trusts, donor advised funds and private foundations, but the Rhode Island College Foundation would not be excluded.

**M.** I understand that this kind of distribution would not generate taxable income or a tax deduction, even if I do not itemize my tax return. Is that correct?

**S.** Absolutely! It's a rare opportunity for you and others who choose to act under this provision to avoid receiving your required distribution AND avoid paying income taxes on it. Any charitable distributions you might make count toward your minimum required distribution.

**M.** Steve, I'm very excited about this chance to distribute some of my funds before my death and to see them support the College and the programs I love. May I make an appointment so we can go over the details?

**S.** Of course, Michele. But let's make it next week. This tax year is almost gone. Of course, if we miss this year's deadline, we can still transfer \$100,000 in 2007 and still reap some benefits. How about next Tuesday?

*The individuals in this dialogue are fictional, of course. But the information is not. The recently signed congressional Pension Protection Act of 2006 indeed allows individuals who might not have a great deal of disposable income to make a significant gift to a charity of their choice without facing, in effect, a tax penalty.*

*If you are interested in learning more about your options, please contact Peg Brown at the RIC Foundation, 401-456-8440/mbrown@ric.edu — or talk with your financial advisor. This may be an opportunity to make a gift you thought might never be possible.*

"Steve, I read recently that I could use my IRA to give directly to the Rhode Island College Foundation. Is that true? Can I really use some of my retirement savings to directly support a fund in the Foundation without tax consequences?"

"Michele, the short answer is 'yes,' but there are a few rules. Let me ask you a few questions so that I can fully answer your question."

**S.** How old were you on your last birthday?

**M.** Seventy-two.

**S.** That's good, because these new charitable rollovers are available to people aged 70 1/2 or older. How much were you thinking about transferring to the Foundation?



## Rhode Island College for the Holidays!

- Captain's Chair** — with gold College seal • black with cherry arms  
 #0001 \$275.00
- Captain's Chair** — with black College seal • cherry  
 #0002 \$300.00
- Boston Rocker** — with gold College seal • black  
 #0003 \$280.00
- Boston Rocker** — with black College seal • cherry  
 #0004 \$300.00
- Director's Chair** — in natural wood • chair with black canvas/gold seal, lettering  
 #0007 \$45.00
- Canvas Only**  
 #0009 \$15.00
- Samples displayed in Alumni Office. Chairs may be picked up at Alumni Office. Direct shipping available for \$40.00.
- Diploma Frames**  
 10 x 12 inch polished brass frame, complete with burgundy matte, emblazoned with gold foil-stamped RIC logo
- #0011 Italian Rosewood triple matted diploma frame \$30.00
  - #0012 Black metal frame with matte \$90.00
  - #0013 Black metal frame with matte \$30.00

- Rhode Island College Pen**  
 blue with gold print, Rhode Island College Alumni Association and logo  
 #0019 \$7.00
- Small California Cuddle Bear**  
 Maroon shirt with white lettering  
 #0026 (Brown) \$8.00
- Coffee Mug**  
 10 oz coffee mug — white with gold seal  
 #0032 \$6.00
- Stainless Steel Travel Mug**  
 14 oz travel mug — with black seal  
 #0034 \$6.00
- Fleece Pullover Jacket**  
 Hunter green or navy with the RIC logo  
 Adult sizes S, M, L, XL, XXL
- #1244 (Green) \$35.00
  - #1245 (Blue) \$35.00
- RIC Alumni Wear**  
 Adult sizes M, L, XL, XXL
- Grey or Navy
  - #1234 (Crew Sweatshirt) \$20.00
  - #1236 (Hooded Sweatshirt) \$25.00
  - #1238 (Short Sleeve Tee) \$8.00
  - #1240 (Long Sleeve Tee) \$10.00
- Baseball Cap**  
 Khaki with burgundy seal  
 #1242 \$15.00
- Windbreaker**  
 Navy blue windbreaker with white embroidered RIC logo  
 Adult sizes S, M, L, XL  
 #1246 \$20.00



### Rhode Island College Alumni Association Order Form

To order: return order form to Alumni Office, RIC, 600 Mt. Pleasant Avenue, Providence, RI 02908 or fax to (401) 456-8851. Orders may be picked up at the Alumni Office or shipped

(\$40.00 charge for chairs to be shipped. Please see postage charge chart for additional cost)

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

METHOD of Payment:  Check  Visa  Mastercard

Credit card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Checks should be made out to RIC Alumni Association

Please call me when order is ready for pick-up • Questions? call (401) 456-8086

Item #	Size	Qty	Item name / Color	Price	Total

Postage: up to \$25 ..... \$4.95  
 \$25.01 — \$50.00 ..... \$6.95  
 \$50.01 — \$75.00 ..... \$7.95

\$75.01 — \$100.00 ..... \$8.95  
 \$100.01 — \$175.00 ..... \$9.95  
 \$175.01 up ..... \$11.95

7% tax (clothing exempt)

Postage \_\_\_\_\_  
 Total \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE PRINT INFORMATION.





**FACULTY FORUM:** Participants in the annual Faculty Research Colloquium are (from left) professors Neil Gonsalves (chair), Maureen Reddy (presenter), Meradith McMunn (moderator) and Krisjohn Horvat (presenter). The event is sponsored by RIC Alumni Affairs, the RIC Foundation, the Faculty Research Committee and the Friends of Adams Library.

**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS  
2007 Alumni Awards/Honor Roll**

Alumni Awards are presented in May to graduates, faculty, staff and community leaders whose personal and professional attainment and service to the College and the community bring honor upon themselves and upon Rhode Island College. Nominations and supporting materials should be sent to the Alumni Office by **Feb. 1**. Winners will be honored at the Alumni Awards Dinner on May 10, 2007.

**Categories:**

- Alumna/Alumnus of the Year
- Charles B. Willard Achievement Award
- Alumni Service Award
- Alumni Faculty Award
- Alumni Staff Award
- Young Alumni Award

Nomination forms are available in the Alumni Office and on the Alumni Affairs website ([www.ric.edu/alumni](http://www.ric.edu/alumni)). Call the Alumni Office at 401-456-8086 for additional information.

**Feinstein Foundation challenge at RIC**

Rhode Island College alumni who would like to donate to their alma mater are being offered an incentive to donate by Dec. 31, 2006. The Feinstein Foundation is challenging donors to give generously this holiday by giving \$100,000 to non-profit agencies and schools in Rhode Island.

Total contributions made to RIC between Nov. 1 and Dec. 31 will be counted. The College may be eligible to receive a portion of the \$100,000 special holiday fund.

Gifts can be directed to the Annual Fund or any other fund or endowment at the College.

Donations can be made securely online at [www.ric.edu/givenow](http://www.ric.edu/givenow) or sent to Office of Development, Rhode Island College, Kauffman Center, 600 Mt. Pleasant Avenue, Providence, RI, 02908.

Please indicate how you would like your donation designated. For more information, call Nancy Hoogasian at 401-456-8827.



**RIC-OGNITION:** Marianne Needham '59 (left) and Marie Fraley were recently honored by the College for their generosity and volunteerism at the National Philanthropy Day luncheon. The ceremony was held at the Rhode Island Convention Center and was sponsored by the Rhode Island Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals. Needham has served as president of the Alumni Association, and is active in her class activities. Fraley has been instrumental in the creation of and fundraising for the Institute for Portuguese and Lusophone World Studies, the newest affiliate of RIC's Center for Public Policy.

PLEASE CONSIDER  
RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE  
AS PART OF YOUR ESTATE PLANNING

**A Great Holiday Gift!**



**BRICK CAMPAIGN  
RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE**

This holiday season, pay tribute to someone special with the gift of a brick in the Rhode Island College Legacy Walk.

Bricks @ \$150 each are 4" x 8" and Pavers @ \$300 each are 8" x 8."  
Order online at [www.ric.edu](http://www.ric.edu) or contact Nancy Hoogasian at 401-456-8827.

You and those you honor will receive a special Legacy Walk Certificate of Appreciation.

Partial proceeds benefit programs of the Alumni Association and Intercollegiate Athletics

**ORDER FORM**

Yes! I want to order: \_\_\_\_ Brick(s) @ \$150 each \_\_\_\_ Paver(s) @ \$300 each

Size dimensions are: Brick 4" x 8" Paver 8" x 8"

Please check one. I want the charitable gift portion (87%) of the purchase price to benefit:

Alumni Association     Athletics

Check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ enclosed, made payable to: Alumni Association or RIC Athletics

I prefer to charge: \_\_\_\_ MasterCard \_\_\_\_ VISA

CARD # \_\_\_\_\_ EXP DATE \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ CLASS: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Please print information as you want it to appear. One character, symbol per block and leave an empty block for space between words. We recommend only one name or family name per brick or paver. Please indicate your class/year. Example: John Jones '98, All-American. Clip and send this form to RIC Brick Campaign, Kauffman Center, 600 Mt. Pleasant Avenue, Providence, RI 02908.

**BRICK - 3 lines, 18 characters per line including spaces and punctuation**


**PAVER - 6 lines, 18 characters per line including spaces and punctuation**


Circle one: This BRICK/PAVER is  In honor of  In memory of  
 Please send gift card to:

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Please note: If you would like to purchase multiple bricks and/or pavers, please photocopy this form. RIC reserves the right to edit messages or punctuation to comply with engraving guidelines. If you have questions, please call 401-456-8827. Thank you!



# RIC Athletic News



## FROM THE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR'S DESK

## One million reasons for thanks



**Donald E. Tencher**  
Director of Athletics

The holiday season is always a time of reflection on just how

wonderful life is, a time to give thanks for the many blessings we've received.

Tuesday, Nov. 28 is a date for which I will be forever thankful, and a day that causes me to reflect on the enormous support the athletic program has received. That was the day I was informed that the athletic endowment had surpassed the \$1 million mark – actually

\$1,000,349.

Although that is a significant number, more important is the number of people that have joined our athletic family to make that dollar figure a reality, and who have invested in the intercollegiate athletic program's future.

Indeed, I am reminded of the incredible amount of hard work and contributions by so many that have gone into building today's athletic program at the College.

While working to make this endowment a reality, the RIC athletic family has raised an additional \$4 million, which has been used to transform the College's athletic facilities

into some of the finest in the conference.

These facilities are representative of the outstanding student-athletes who now represent Rhode Island College.

Special thanks must be given to Peg Brown, vice president for development and college relations, who 10 years ago took the time to educate not only me but also anyone who wanted to hear about the vital importance of fundraising and stewardship.

With the College having less than \$3 million in hand at the time, and the intercollegiate athletic program less than \$15,000, Peg often spoke about the importance of endowment, and the fact that it was not for the present but an investment in the future.

I also want to thank RIC President Nazarian for his leadership, support, and a vision of excellence that has been the impetus for our efforts.

While I deeply appreciate everyone's support, there is still plenty of work to do. Plans are underway to expand our student-athlete support area to ensure that those participating in sports are as successful in the classroom as they are in the arena. It also may soon come to pass that our soccer field will be named "Alumni Field" in honor of our many distinguished alums.

And of course, as Peg Brown would say, "There is the future, we must continue to invest in our future!"

## Men's basketball ready for breakout season



KINSEY DURGIN

*Anchormen down Div. I Iona and earn top spot in Little East preseason poll.*

The Rhode Island College men's basketball team is ready for the 2006-07 season and has already opened some eyes around

New England with some big wins early in the year. The Anchormen traveled to Div. I Iona on Friday, Nov. 3 and shocked the Gaels, winning 81-72 in an exhibition contest. Sophomore transfer Bobby Bailey was one of five Anchormen who scored in double figures with 17 points, to go along with four rebounds, two assists and two steals. Iona was the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference champs and an NCAA Tournament participant last season.

Head Coach Bob Walsh's team was picked for the top spot in the annual Little East Conference Men's Basketball Coaches' Preseason Poll for the second consecutive season. The Anchormen opened the season at the Tufts Tip-Off Tournament and downed Endicott, the three-time Commonwealth Coast Conference champions and NCAA tourney participants, 79-53. The win set up the title game against host Tufts, who was ranked 12<sup>th</sup> nationally. Senior guard and Tournament MVP Kinsey Durgin scored 23 points in a 95-84 win. Once again, the Anchormen had five players score in double figures overall, including 15 by All-Tournament selection Tirrell Hill.

With seven upperclassmen and five seniors on the roster, the Anchormen look to be one of the top teams in New England.

Once again all home games will be broadcast via the Internet on [www.ric.edu/athletics](http://www.ric.edu/athletics). Rhode Island College will air selected games on video via the Internet beginning with the Jan. 13 contest vs. UMass Boston, so if you can't make it to The Murray Center, you can listen and watch on your computer from the comfort of your home or office.

## RIC hosts first Winterfest Mark Fullam '60

The annual Fall Homecoming continues to be very successful, so successful that many people wished it happened a number of times throughout the year. Additionally, over the past few years during the winter season, RIC has hosted reunions for basketball, gymnastics and wrestling alumni.

The athletic dept. is pleased to announce that on the weekend of Friday, Feb. 2 and Saturday, Feb. 3, we will be combining many winter activities and events as the College plays host to its first Winterfest.

It will be a weekend full of activities for students, alumni, parents and members of the College family. There will be sporting events, skating at the Bank of America Center, sleigh rides, an outdoor hot dog roast and much more.

For more information on the 2007 Winterfest, check future editions of *What's News* as well as the College website.

Rhode Island College was saddened by the loss of Athletic Hall of Famer Mark Fullam '60, who passed away in his home in Florida on Nov. 17 at the age of 72.

A memorial for Fullam was held in the Kleniewski-Foley Hall of Fame Lobby of The Murray Center at RIC on Saturday, Dec. 9. In addition, a memorial fund in Fullam's name has been established to benefit Rhode Island College student-athletes. Donations can be made to Rhode Island College Athletics and sent to 600 Mt. Pleasant Ave., Providence, RI 02908.

## Nazarian chosen for Division III Presidents Council



JOHN NAZARIAN

RIC President John Nazarian has been appointed to the NCAA Division III Presidents Council. He will be one

of 15 chief executive officers from universities and colleges across the country responsible for shaping the philosophical framework of NCAA Division III intercollegiate athletics.

Nazarian's term is for five years, and is effective immediately.

Among the duties of the Presidents Council are to establish and direct general policy, create a strategic plan, oversee aspects of the budget, sponsor legislation, approve championship regulations, and advise the Executive Committee regarding the NCAA president's employment.





# RIGEA GROWs

**BY**  
**Maria Lawrence '82, M '91**  
 Assistant Professor of  
 Elementary Education

The Rhode Island Geography Education Alliance (RIGEA) successfully engaged teams of elementary and middle school teachers this past summer in a weeklong July institute held at the Coastal Institute at the University of Rhode Island Bay Campus.

GROW – Geography and Reading about Our World – was the result of a National Geographic Education Foundation grant awarded to RIGEA in the fall of 2005.

Rhode Island College, which has hosted the Alliance since its inception in 1991, offered the RIGEA GROW institute for three graduate credits to the GROW participants.

Thirty-two teachers from eight Rhode Island school districts experienced daily workshops in the Five Themes of Geography and the integration of reading and other literacy skills. All of the participants received free materials and abundant resources for their classrooms, to support the development and implementation of lessons or units during the beginning of the school year that utilized their summer institute experiences.

In November, GROW teachers who elected to earn three graduate credits as part of their institute experience, convened on the RIC campus to share their

efforts. Teachers held or are holding Geo-Fests as a way to showcase their work and that of their learners. Geo-Fests have taken on a variety of forms, such as school-wide displays for parent night, the production and publication of websites, and dedicated school spaces for more permanent displays. Teacher teams within schools and across districts worked collaboratively between July and November, and continue to do so. Geo-Fests are intended to disseminate to a larger and more public audience the importance and value of geography in the school curriculum and the lives of children.

RIGEA, with the support of the College, was able this year to highlight geography as an academic discipline through this special opportunity. The 2006 National Geographic-Roper Survey indicated a desperate need for increased geographic literacy in the United States.

Geography, while stated as a core content area in the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, is the only academic content area that has not received federal money since the passing of that legislation. Fortunately, dedicated teachers and teacher leaders in Rhode Island are committed to advancing geography education.

To find out about RIGEA membership and upcoming events, please contact Maria Lawrence, RIGEA Coordinator, at 401-456-8565 or visit the RIGEA website at [www.ri.net/RIGeo/rigea/home.html](http://www.ri.net/RIGeo/rigea/home.html).

## 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.



**MAKING PLANS:** Preparing for the RIC Alumni Association spring fashion show circa 1984 are, from left, Kathryn Sasso '69 (director of conferences and special events), Holly Shadoian '73 (now director of admissions), and Noreen Andreoli M '80, then president of the RIC Alumni Association.

## SPORTS Events Dec. 12 - Jan. 29



### Men's Basketball

Tues.	Dec. 12	at Coast Guard	7 p.m.
Fri.	Dec. 15	<b>Springfield</b>	7 p.m.
Thurs.	Jan. 4	<b>Bridgewater State</b>	6 p.m.
Thurs.	Jan. 6	at Eastern Connecticut *	3 p.m.
Tues.	Jan. 9	<b>Southern Maine</b> *	7:30 p.m.
Thurs.	Jan. 11	at Framingham State	7 p.m.
Sat.	Jan. 13	<b>UMass Boston</b> *	3 p.m.
Tues.	Jan. 16	<b>Western Connecticut</b> *	7:30 p.m.
Sat.	Jan. 20	at Keene State *	3 p.m.
Tues.	Jan. 23	at UMass Dartmouth *	7:30 p.m.
Sat.	Jan. 27	<b>Plymouth State</b> *	3 p.m.

### Women's Basketball

Tues.	Dec. 12	at Wesleyan	7:30 p.m.
Sat.	Dec. 16	<b>Westfield State</b>	1 p.m.
Thurs.	Jan. 6	at Eastern Connecticut *	1 p.m.
Tues.	Jan. 9	<b>Southern Maine</b> *	5:30 p.m.
Thurs.	Jan. 11	at Pine Manor	6 p.m.
Sat.	Jan. 13	<b>UMass Boston</b> *	1 p.m.
Tues.	Jan. 16	<b>Western Connecticut</b> *	5:30 p.m.
Sat.	Jan. 20	at Keene State *	1 p.m.
Tues.	Jan. 23	at UMass Dartmouth *	5:30 p.m.
Sat.	Jan. 27	<b>Plymouth State</b> *	1 p.m.

### Wrestling

Fri.-Sat.	Dec. 29-30	at Citrus Duals (Ft. Lauderdale, FL)	9 a.m.
Fri.-Sat.	Jan. 12-13	at Budd Whitehill Duals (at Lycoming)	9 a.m.
Wed.	Jan. 17	at W.P.I. +	7 p.m.
Sun.	Jan. 21	at NECCWA Duals (at Bridgewater St.)	10 a.m.
Thurs.	Jan. 25	at Western New England +	7 p.m.

### Men's & Women's Indoor Track & Field

Sat.	Jan. 13	at Wesleyan Invitational	10 a.m.
San.	Jan. 20	at Coast Guard Invitational	10 a.m.

### Women's Gymnastics

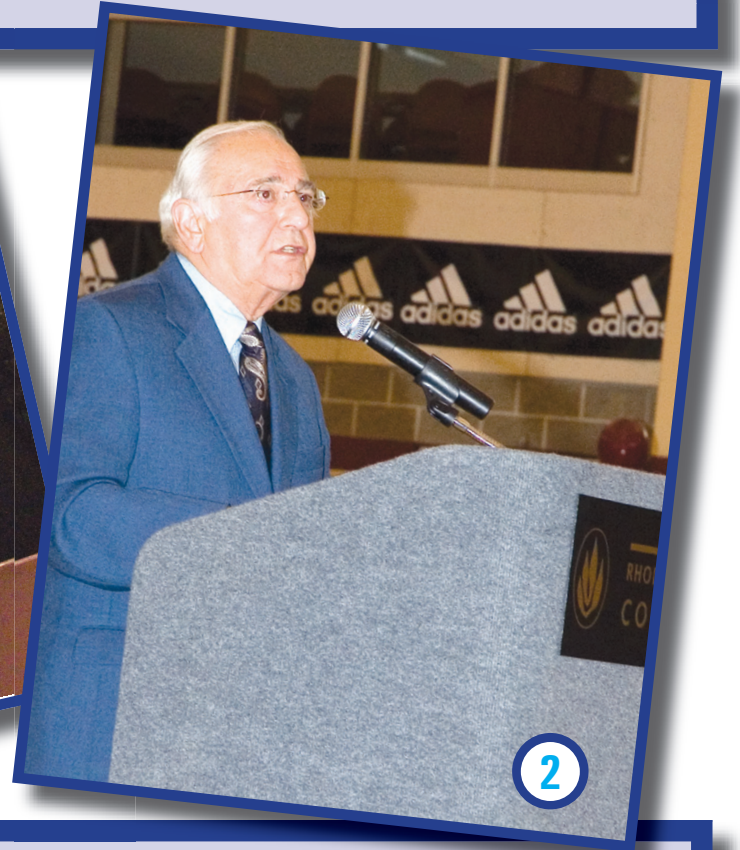
Sat.	Jan. 13	at SUNY Brockport	1 p.m.
Sat.	Jan. 20	<b>Ithaca, S. Connecticut &amp; Bridgeport</b>	1 p.m.
Sun.	Jan. 28	at Springfield	1 p.m.

### Home contests in bold

- \* Little East Conference contest
- + New England College Conference Wrestling Association contest



# Admissions Open House showcases benefits of a RIC education



The benefits of a Rhode Island College education were on display last month at the annual Admissions Open House for potential students and their families. The day began with a multicultural brunch (1), followed by the kick-off address in The Murray Center by RIC President John Nazarian, who welcomed a crowd of about 1,200, believed to be the largest ever for this event (2).

At the event, attendees took campus tours on a trolley (3), attended sessions on admissions, financial aid, liberal arts and education, and met with faculty members from all areas of academia, including the dance program, led by Associate Professor Dante Del Giudice '79 (4).

"The college search process can be an overwhelming experience for juniors, seniors and their families," said Holly Shadoian '73, director of admissions, who spoke to the assembled audience (5). "Getting current and first-hand knowledge is really the best way to make an informed decision about which college is the best fit. Our Admissions Open House provided the opportunity for people to meet and talk with our students, staff and faculty."

And, if they were lucky, they got to take home RIC merchandise and other prizes awarded in the grand finale raffle (6).





# Students' book celebrates Roger Williams Zoo

BY

**Katharine Ricci '07**  
Staff Writer

Inspired by their own happy childhood memories at Roger Williams Park Zoo, five students in Carol Harmon's Methods and Materials in Art Education class wrote a children's book called *Peek-a-BOO ZOO*, and presented the book to zoo executive director, Jack Mulvena.

Writing and illustrating a children's book in this class is not unusual since it is a class requirement. What makes this book unique is that the authors of *Peek-a-BOO ZOO* chose to dedicate their book to Roger Williams Park Zoo, rather than local schools or people in traditional forms of education. The book also comes at a good time for the zoo because its \$11 million bond issue passed last November.

Mulvena was in attendance at the students' official class presentation of their story to accept an original copy of the book on the zoo's behalf.

"I think they did a fabulous job," he said. "They captured the heart of the zoo with the themes and colors they featured."

The student authors/illustrators are Richard Marques, Danielle Fonseca, Kirstie Mahon, Lindsey Giorno and Kaitlyn Maigret.

At first the students were unsure what they wanted their book to be about.

"Then we started looking at our pictures, [and] we saw the animals on the page and decided that the zoo would be our theme," said Maigret.

According to Harmon, none of the students knew each other personally before collaborating on the project, but they got



along extremely well.

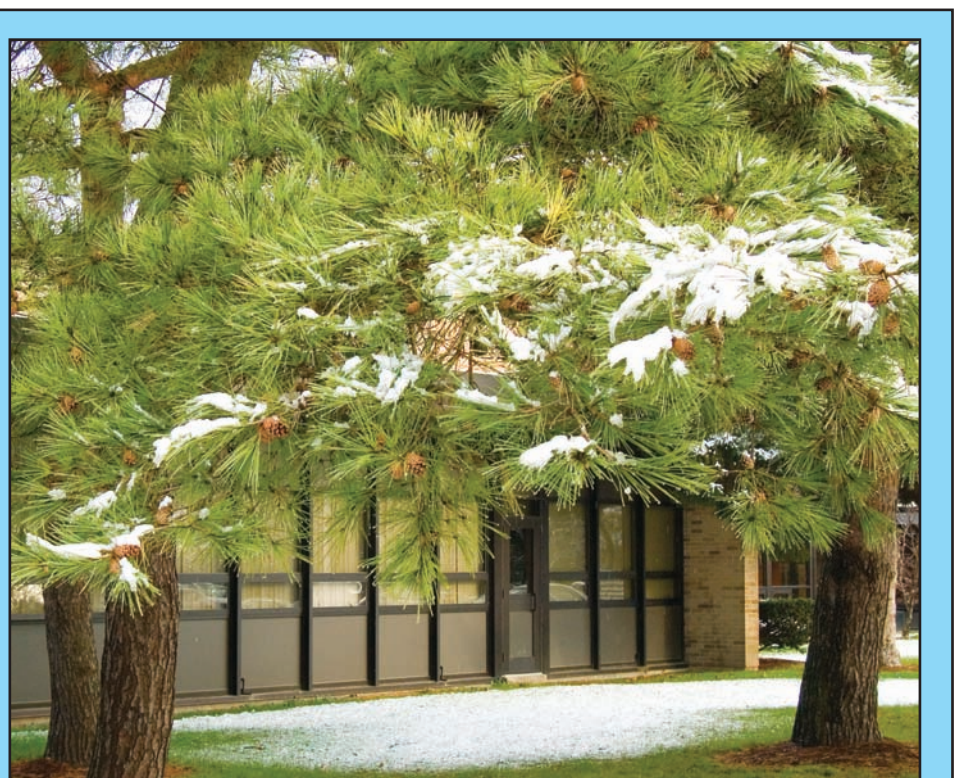
"No one was the boss," said Harmon.

The book will be kept in Roger Williams Park Zoo's educational dept. where over 50,000 children who visit the zoo or are involved with the zoo's programs will have the chance to see it.

Besides the book about the zoo, three other groups in the class wrote, illustrated and presented books.

*Penny's Not So Perfect Party*, about a little girl who falls asleep and dreams about her birthday party before it really happens; *Stitching Together: Friendship through the Tides*, about finding friendship in the least expected places; and *The Travels of Tye*, a story of a little boy's teddy bear that has adventures of its own at the carnival, were also presented.

PEEK-A-BOO! Above is Ollie the Elephant, one of the zoo animals children will meet when they read the book *Peek-a-BOO ZOO*. Below, left to right, Kirstie Mahon, Richard Marques, Danielle Fonseca, Kaitlyn Maigret, Lindsey Giorno, Shareen Knowlton (of the R.I. Zoological Society) and Jack Mulvena display the book.



FALL CONTRAST: Campus foliage comes alive every fall, including (above left) this stately oak tree and its companions near the entrance to RIC on Mt. Pleasant Ave. (Photo: Janine Tegu '75). Above right, a late-fall dusting of snow speckles the scotch pines in front of Alumni Lounge in Roberts Hall. (Photo: Gene St. Pierre).



# JEFFREY SIEGEL SPOTLIGHTS SCHUMANN

## IN LOVE IN JAN. 30 CONCERT

BY

**Ray Ragosta**  
 Staff Writer

Following his October Keyboard Conversations concert about Beethoven, Jeffrey Siegel moves on to the next generation of great 19th-century composers with *Schumann: Musical Love Letters*. This "conversation" will take place on Jan. 30, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. in Sapinsley Hall in the Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts.

Siegel will focus on the music of Robert Schumann, whose fame as a composer just about matches the notoriety of his love affair with Clara Wieck.

Robert met Clara while he was a piano student of her father, Friedrich Wieck. Around that time, Robert became engaged to another of Wieck's students, Ernestine von Fricken, who herself inspired Schumann in two of his most notable works *Carnaval*, Op. 9 and *Etudes symphoniques*, Op. 13.

But in 1835, Robert's love for Clara burgeoned, and by the end of the year, Schumann broke off his engagement with Ernestine. The break provided Robert with some relief careerwise as well, since having learned of Ernestine's illegitimate birth, he feared that it would adversely affect his future prospects.

Clara's father, however, did not approve of the match and began a series of maneuvers against the couple that lasted until September 1840. The conflict involved charges of drunkenness against Schumann, a defamation of character suit against the elder Wieck, and a long, enforced separation that left Robert so much in despair that he tried to forget Clara by initiating an affair with another woman — a fact he later confided to Clara.

The strife ended in July 1840 when,

in the absence of parental consent, a court order finally allowed the couple to marry, with the wedding taking place in September of that year.

What adds a special dimension to Robert and Clara Schumann's relationship was that both were formidable composers. As Siegel's programming shows, their dialogues encompassed both the technical and inspirational levels of musical composition.

Siegel will be playing Robert Schumann's *Variations on a Theme*

*by Clara Wieck*, Op. 14; *Romance in F-Sharp Major*, Op. 28; *Three Novelettes*, Op. 21; and the *Sonata No. 2 in G Minor*, Op. 22.

Besides the overt tribute implied in the title

of the Op. 14 *Variations*, Robert, in his *No. 8 Novelette*, quotes from one of Clara's nocturnes. His *Romance in F-Sharp Major* emulates duet textures from the second of Clara's own works in this form, and Clara's criticisms influenced the first published version of Robert's *G Minor Sonata*.

The dialogue worked both ways. For instance, Clara's *Variations on a Theme of Robert Schumann*, Op. 20 was dedicated to her husband and presented to him on his birthday on 1853. Sadly it was the last such occasion they spent together. In 1854, after continuing bouts with mental illness, Robert had himself committed to a sanatorium, where he died in 1856, at age 46.

For a deeper appreciation of the

complex relationships between the Schumanns' love and music, hear what Jeffrey Siegel has to say concerning *Musical Love Letters*— and experience the music itself.

Primarily, Keyboard Conversations are concerts. Each piece is played in full, with a commentary preceding it, and the program ends with a question-and-answer period.

Leonard Slatkin, music director of the National Symphony Orchestra in Washington, D.C., said of Siegel's Keyboard Conversations: "His

presentation and performance add immeasurably to the listener's understanding of how and why a piece of music exists. I can't think of anyone who does this kind of programming better."

Jeffrey Siegel has been soloist with the New York Philharmonic, Berlin Philharmonic, London Symphony and the Orchestra

of La Scala, among others. He also has collaborated with many of the pre-eminent conductors of our time, including James Levine, Lorin Maazel and Michael Tilson Thomas.

Siegel's Keyboard Conversations will return to RIC on April 17 with *Liszt: The Devil Made Me Do It*.

*Tickets for this concert are \$25, with discounts for seniors, RIC faculty/staff/students and children. 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 at the box office in the lobby of the appropriate performance venue, which will be open for sales two hours prior to performance start time.*



JEFFREY SIEGEL

## MICHAEL MOSCHEN MAKES MAGIC AT RIC, JAN. 26



MICHAEL MOSCHEN

Michael Moschen, one of the world's most original, mesmerizing illusionists will be performing on Jan. 26 at 8 p.m. in the Roberts Hall auditorium.

Moschen creates fluid, seamless pieces of awe-inspiring illusion. His feats appear to defy both gravity and logic, but Moschen has a profound understanding of physics and mathematics, which provide the basis for his masterful juggling acts.

*The Boston Globe* writes, "Moschen walks a fine line between entertainment and high art," and the *New York Times* raves, "In Mr. Moschen's hands, juggling becomes a balletic art ... (he) elevates a minor theatrical art to visionary heights."

Moschen has appeared internationally on stage, television and in movies. His film credits include *Annie*, *Hair*, and as David Bowie's hands in *Labyrinth*. He's performed with the Big Apple Circus, Lotte Goslar's Pantomime Circus, and Mr. Berky in the

*The Alchemedians* Off-Broadway. He's toured throughout North and South America and been featured at theatre and dance festivals in Hong Kong, Perth, Edinburgh and Barcelona.

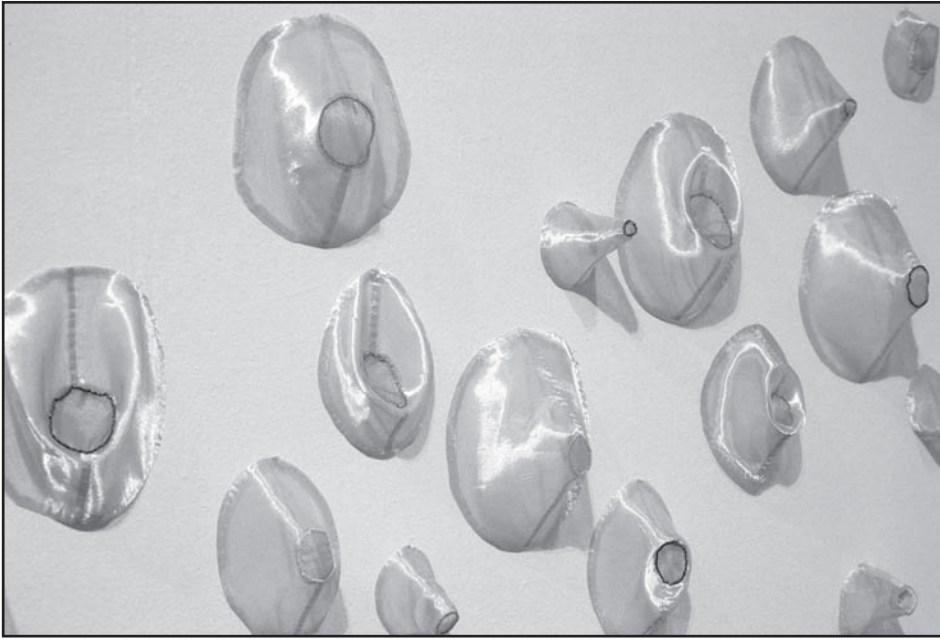
He has also given the keynote address for the National Conference of Teachers of Mathematics in 1996, and for the Association of New York Teachers of Mathematics in 1998.

A captivating performer who is a genre in himself, this upcoming show by Moschen promises to be a perfect night of entertainment for families.

*Tickets for Michael Moschen are \$32 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 at the box office in the lobby of the appropriate performance venue, which will be open for sales two hours prior to performance start time.*



# Cristin Searles exhibits at Bannister *Art Under Construction*



Cristin Searles. *Romance* (detail). Installation.

Cristin Searles, a Providence-based conceptual artist, perceives her sculptures as a method of deconstructing her material while providing for an intriguing level of formalism in her installations. For her Bannister Gallery exhibition, which runs through Dec. 29, Searles has constructed a site-specific sculptural installation from starched silk organza.

*Gallery hours during exhibits are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Thursdays, noon to 9 p.m. Closed weekends and holidays. Exhibits and events are free and open to the public. Accessible to persons with disabilities. For information on event dates and exhibit opening receptions, check the website at [www.ric.edu/Bannister/](http://www.ric.edu/Bannister/) or call 401-456-9765.*

BY  
**Dante Del Giudice '79**  
**Director of Dance**

The winter break provides some relief from the pressures of the previous semester. It can also provide an opportunity for more extensive immersion in one's education if work, skiing, or just a reduced schedule is not your need or preference.

The RIC Dance Company conducts guest residencies each January to bring in new repertory and provide students with an opportunity for intense study between semesters. This year, guests will include New Hampshire-based Drika Overton from Jan. 8-13, and Rhode Island's Nathan Andary from Jan. 15-20.

Rhode Island community dancers are also invited to open morning company classes Jan. 9-13 and 16-20 with fees of \$8 per class. Classes are held in the Melcer Studio from 10-11:30 a.m., and reservations are not required.

Drika Overton's career as a jazz tap artist has spanned over two decades and includes work as a producer, director, educator, performer and choreographer. She is the creator and artistic director of the internationally recognized

Portsmouth Percussive Dance Festival and the popular production *Clara's Dream: a Jazz Nutcracker* as well as works throughout New England and the U.S.

Overton has been a featured artist at the New York City Tap Festival, the Southeastern TapExplosion in Atlanta, the New England Artist's Congress, Liz Lerman's Dance Exchange's Shipyard Project, and numerous jazz clubs, concerts, and festivals. She is the artistic director of MaD Theatricals, a unique collaboration of nationally and internationally recognized jazz and tap artists, and co-directs and choreographs for the Youth Jazz Dance Project.

Nathan Andary is the artistic director of Andary Dance, a new and refreshing force in Rhode Island's contemporary dance scene. Andary Dance, a national touring company, was created in 2001 as a consortium of dance performers dedicated to the creative and innovative advancement of postmodern dance and the arts. Andary's award-winning dances have been described as innovative, fluid, physical and visually exciting. He received a choreography fellowship from the Rhode Island State Council for the Arts in 2004.

Call 401-456-9791 for more information. (Skiers welcome!)

## RIC's Wendy Becker and partner overcome obstacles, wed in Mass.

BY  
**Kerry McCartney**  
**Staff Writer**

On Oct. 8, 2006, Wendy Becker and Mary Norton exchanged marriage vows in Capron Park in Attleboro, Mass.

The day was years in the making for Becker, RIC assistant professor of social work, and her partner, Norton, a director of research administration for biology and medicine at Brown University.

"In society, people know what your relationship means if you are married. Marriage is socially recognized and valued," said Becker. "We wanted that for ourselves, but especially for our children.

"As parents of two wonderful young children, our desire to marry has always been with them in mind. We want them to feel their family is as worthy as any other," said Becker.

Providence residents Becker, 45, and Norton, 46, have been a couple for more than 18 years. Together, they have two adopted children, a son, Mickey Becker-Norton, and a daughter, Hannah Becker-Norton. They had not discussed marriage until the Massachusetts ruling.

After the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court ruled in 2003 that same sex marriages were legal in the state – making it the only state in the nation to legalize such marriages – the floodgates were opened as same sex couples flocked to the state to obtain marriage licenses. The legality of these marriages has provoked passionate controversy throughout the United States. Rhode Island has been no exception.

The couple applied for a marriage license in May of 2004 in Attleboro. Their application

was denied after Governor Mitt Romney directed city and town clerks to stop issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples from other states, citing a 1913 law that forbids non-residents from marrying in Massachusetts if their marriage would not be legal in their home state.

Becker and Norton decided to sue the state. They joined couples from Connecticut, Maine, New Hampshire, New York and Vermont in the lawsuit. Their plaintiffs were represented by a lawyer from GLAD, (Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders), a New England legal rights organization that works to end discrimination against people based on sexual orientation, HIV status, and gender identity and expression.

"This was our opportunity to speak against discrimination – to teach our children that this type of discrimination is wrong," said Becker.

The Massachusetts Judicial Supreme Court ruled in March of 2006 that clerks could not issue licenses to same-sex couples from states with laws that prohibit gay marriage, upholding the 1913 law. This ruling meant that plaintiffs from Connecticut, Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont would not be able to marry in Massachusetts. The ruling specifically excluded Rhode Island and New York, citing that no specific laws

existed prohibiting same-sex marriages in these states.

In July 2006, a New York appellate court ruled that the state's ban on same-sex marriage was constitutional, placing the New York couple into the category prohibited under the 1913 Massachusetts law.

However, in September 2006, Massachusetts Superior Court Judge Thomas Connolly ruled that an "exhaustive search" turned up nothing in Rhode Island's constitution, state laws or Supreme

serving as ring bearer and flower girl. Judge Donna Nesselbush and the Rev. Maryellen Butke presided over the ceremony with family members and friends in attendance.

"I hope people noticed that the sky did not fall down by our marriage," said Becker. "People experience discomfort by what they do not know or understand, but that discomfort must not be allowed to dictate public policy."

GLAD attorney Michele Granda, who represented Becker and Norton, applauded the ruling in a press release.

"At last the fence of discrimination has been removed at the border of Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Loving, committed Rhode Island couples can now affirm their relationships in the most public and respected way our society knows," said Granda.

Immediately after the Massachusetts ruling, however, Rhode Island Attorney General Patrick Lynch issued this statement: "This ruling does not authorize same-sex marriage in Rhode Island, and it does not mean that Rhode Island will recognize a same-sex marriage performed in Massachusetts. As I have consistently explained, only the Rhode Island legislature or a Rhode Island court can decide if a same-sex marriage is valid in Rhode Island."

Despite potential challenges to the legality of her marriage in Rhode Island, Becker expresses optimism.

"The world is changing. Look how much it has changed just in these two or three years," said Becker. "If all the naysayers could come and see what a kind and loving household we live in with our children, it might cause them to think twice."



WEDDING DAY: From left, Mary Norton, the Rev. Maryellen Butke, Wendy Becker and Judge Donna Nesselbush celebrate Norton and Becker's marriage in October.

Court case law that expressly forbids same-sex marriage.

This ruling cleared the way for Massachusetts' clerks to issue same-sex couples from Rhode Island marriage licenses after the Massachusetts Attorney General Tom Reilly refused to appeal the case despite pleas to do so by Romney.

Soon after, Becker and Norton made their commitment official in a small wedding ceremony in the Attleboro park with their children



**TRAIT**

Continued from p 1

In addition, students are taught insurance terminology and general operating procedures of an insurance agency. An 80-hour internship is included in the course, along with classes in business writing, financial and computer literacy, and basic office skills. Job placement services are provided as part of the program.

"This program provides a solid foundation in all aspects of the insurance industry to ultimately provide a qualified, knowledgeable pool of candidates to work in the industry," said Jenifer Giroux, director of Outreach Programs at RIC.

Upon completion of the course, students will be ready to take the state's insurance licensing exam. Rhode Island state law requires a license to sell or provide consultation for insurance.

The classes are taught by insurance professionals or people who have worked in the field.

Applicants must be at least 18 years old, fluent in English, have a high school diploma or GED, and be unemployed or working below their earning capacity or level of competence.

The TRAIT program was created by RIC's Outreach Programs in conjunction with local insurance agents. It is a spin-off of a program that started at the College eight years ago for the Dept. of Human Services to train people for entry-level insurance positions.

Debby Anderson was a customer service representative for various insurance companies for 47 years and helped design the program. She also teaches some of the classes.

"Insurance is a great economic entity in Rhode Island. The insurance business has mushroomed in the state over the last few years. I hope to be able to spark an interest in young people to have a career in the industry as I did," Anderson said.

Giroux said that the Independent Insurance Agents Association contacted her office over the summer asking to restart the program based on the College's success in training students and placing them in full-time positions.

"They were anxious to get a new program started given the need for skilled insurance workers at this time," said Giroux.

Around the same time, the United Way was seeking programs to assist adults to enter or re-enter the workforce.

"I submitted a proposal for the insurance technician training because it leads the way to a career path," Giroux said.

RIC's Outreach Programs serve minority and under-represented communities in the state by offering certificate programs that assist unemployed, under-employed and dislocated workers in finding jobs within six months to a year after completing the course. It has helped more than 2,000 students from over 30 countries in the last 15 years.



**ON STAGE:** RIC alum and undergrad performers (front row from left), Paul Morin '05, student Meagan McNulty, student Albert Jennings, and (back row from left) Linda Succi '72, Greg Geer M '01 and Lisa Coningford '85 appear in The Community Players' production of *The Music Man*. The Pawtucket theatre group performed at Jenks Junior High School in Pawtucket from Nov. 17-Dec. 3.

**Champlin grant**

Continued from p 1

Education a reality," said Julie Wollman, dean of FSEHD.

Recent state and national initiatives have addressed teacher quality and student interest and achievement in mathematics, science and technology. RIC leads the state in programs that prepare new teachers and provides continuing education for current teachers. The establishment of this Center will allow the College to publicize, disseminate and expand the College's initiatives, and form partnerships with industry, regional education collaboratives, schools, and state, regional, and national organizations to improve content knowledge and pedagogy. In addition, it will help encourage K-12 students to consider careers in mathematics, science and technology.

"The grant will help us to establish RIC as the state's hub for STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) teacher education for those in teacher education programs and for practicing teachers who'd like to enhance their content knowledge and explore state-of-the-art teaching strategies using instructional technology," Wollman said.

Ongoing preparation of teachers in math, science and technology, and the availability of materials and research-based models for teaching real-world applications, will more deeply engage students in science, math and technology learning. Moreover, students will develop awareness of how important these content areas are in preparing for careers.

Over the next eight to ten months, state-of-the-art electronic classrooms will be installed that are conducive to collaboration, exploratory

laboratory work, use of the latest instructional technology and other manipulative materials, and demonstration teaching activities.

Among the technology items budgeted for the new Center are 26 laptop computers, eight digital camcorders, two digital projectors, 15 laboratory tables, two computer stations, computer software, a mobile electronic cart and a document reader.

"Virtual and hands-on explorations made possible by the new technology the grant will provide will improve RIC's preparation of teachers for the future," said Wollman.

The Center will provide RIC undergraduates in elementary and secondary teacher education programs (250 students per semester) with extensive course-based and individual experience using an array of technology and hands-on materials for a variety of classroom and professional development goals. About 90 percent of the state's teachers are RIC graduates, and many pursue professional development or graduate coursework through RIC.

The Center will have a direct impact on the public schools in the state, helping teachers to improve their content knowledge and to provide more challenging math, science and technology content instruction to raise the achievement level of Pre-K-12 students. The Center will also be open to cooperating teachers who work with RIC students to help them improve their knowledge and skills, and will provide in-service workshops and other developmental activities.

As a comprehensive initiative, the Center has the potential to transform math, science and technology education in Rhode Island and to provide a ready workforce for the state's companies that rely upon employee expertise in math, science and technology.

**Photographer joins News/Public Relations staff**

Eugene (Gene) St. Pierre '77 of Cranston has joined the Office of News and Public Relations as the College photographer/videographer.

His responsibilities include producing images for *What's News at Rhode Island College* and other College publications.

St. Pierre has provided photographic services and video and multi-image slide presentations for firms throughout his career. He worked for UNICOM, Inc., in Providence, where he was



GENE ST. PIERRE

responsible for the sale and delivery of computer technologies and network services to K-12 and higher education institutions in New England. He also holds

sales/technology certifications from Apple, Compaq, Cisco Network Systems and Microsoft.

More recently, St. Pierre has provided web design, graphic and photographic services for SSP Designs, an interior decorating business.

St. Pierre belongs to the Society for Photographic Education, the Wickford Art Association and the National Association of Photoshop Professionals, among other organizations. He also enjoys kayaking and golf, and spends one day a week at Bishop Hendricken High School in Warwick, where he advises the digital photography club in an after-school program.

St. Pierre graduated from St. Raphael Academy in Pawtucket and then RIC with a bachelor's degree in art with a concentration in photography. He is continuing his studies here in the media studies graduate program.

"I hope that my images can assist in successfully promoting the College's profile, vision and goals to the community," said St. Pierre.

To view some of St. Pierre's work, visit [www.genestpierre.com](http://www.genestpierre.com).



**GUITARIST:** Music education student Henry Derix '08 from Westerly finds a quiet place to sneak in some extra practice time between classes.



## Math professor travels to Turkey, presents geometry education paper



LIVE FROM TURKEY: Vivian La Ferla points to the poster form of the paper she presented at the mathematics conference.

BY

**Katharine Ricci '07**  
Staff Writer

Vivian La Ferla loves math. So much, in fact, that she traveled all the way to the Middle East for a conference primarily to discuss formulas and theories and how best to teach math with other professors.

To take part in the conference, La Ferla, associate professor of mathematics, wrote a paper explaining her approach to teaching geometry to preservice teachers – people who will become math teachers themselves. Her paper was then evaluated by math faculty across the globe, and she was invited to present it and provide a descriptive poster at the Third International Conference on the Teaching of Mathematics, held in Istanbul, Turkey last summer.

Why Turkey?

“In Turkey they’re doing a lot with geometry,” said La Ferla. “It’s a place where there’s a lot of faculty members who are there working on geometry as it applies to education. It’s become a minicenter.”

La Ferla’s paper, “Teaching the Proof in Geometry: Geometric Reasoning through Visualization, Communication and Polya’s Process,” explores a method she designed to help students decode and ultimately better understand geometry proofs.

According to La Ferla, students who excel in algebra may not understand geometry because reasoning and proof has long been at the heart of Euclidean geometry and not necessarily included in other content areas. It should, however, be used in all content areas according to the National Council of Teachers

of Mathematics, Principles and Standards for School Mathematics.

“When a student writes a proof, what is their thought process?” said La Ferla. “I want to find where their stumbling blocks are.”

La Ferla’s paper details her theory of using communication, visualization and Polya’s Process.

Communication means pairing and grouping students together to figure out problems instead of having them work it out on their own.

According to La Ferla, visualization means effective use of techniques such as color coding, where colored outlines are used to “pull” figures embedded in other figures out of an illustration in order to help students better understand the figure and the proof.

Polya’s Process is a four-step strategy for solving a math problem: understanding the problem, devising a plan, carrying out the plan, and looking back on the problem. La Ferla’s utilization of Polya’s process is unusual because while the process is taught in many math classes, it is not normally taught in geometry.

For 31 years, La Ferla has watched her geometry students either methodically write their proofs without thinking them through or not be able to write them at all. She said her method encourages students to completely reason through the process and the proof.

La Ferla wrote in her paper, “The Mathematical Association of America acknowledges that *proof* is a notoriously difficult mathematical concept for students.”

With the support and freedom given to her by the math dept., La Ferla just might make the proof a little less difficult for her RIC students.

## Two RIC students recognized at Kingston-Mann awards event

RIC students Adria Britto '06 and Katrina Horsch were honored for contributions to the scholarship of diversity and inclusion at the Second Annual Kingston-Mann Awards Banquet held at UMass Boston in October. Also recognized were students from UMass Boston, Lesley University and Massasoit Community College.

Britto was a prize winner for her paper “Perpetuating the Cycle: Immigration and Gentrification in Washington Heights and Beyond”; Horsch received an honorable mention for “Volunteering.”

The honorees were selected by an awards committee of faculty from UMass Boston, the University of New Hampshire, Rhode Island College, Lesley University and Massasoit Community College. Essays under review received a blind reading by committee members. Carolyn Panofsky, professor of foundations of education, has served as the RIC member of the committee since the awards began in 2005.

The student scholarship awards program originated as part of the New England Center for

Inclusive Teaching and Scholarship (NECIT), and was named for founding director Esther Kingston-Mann, an award-winning scholar and professor at UMass Boston.



**AWARDS CEREMONY:** Among the RIC attendees of the Kingston-Mann Awards Banquet are (from left) Marjorie Roemer, professor of English; student Adria Britto, who was a prize winner; Roger Eldridge, interim associate dean of the Feinstein School of Education and Human Development; student Katrina Horsch, who received an honorable mention; and Ellen Bigler professor of anthropology and educational studies. Roemer sponsored Britto’s award submission, while Bigler sponsored Horsch’s submission.

### New computer-science course first of its kind in R.I.

A new spring-semester course at RIC, Topics in CS – Software Testing (CS450), will introduce students to the processes, tools and skills required of software testers. The course features content offered for the first time in Rhode Island. Classes will meet Wednesday evenings beginning Jan. 24.

Students will learn the basics of test planning, design, development and execution/validation, and how those activities fit within various system development lifecycles. The course illustrates defect detection in each phase of software development, using peer reviews and unit, integration, system and user-acceptance testing. Also to be explored are two unique testing areas: security and usability.

Topics in CS – Software Testing will be taught by Kate Sanders, chair of RIC’s Dept. of Mathematics and Computer Science, and Marc René, who has over 15 years of experience in software testing and is currently director of quality services for the Business Project Management Office at MetLife Auto & Home.

A solid background in computer science through data structures is a prerequisite for the class. For further information, contact [ksanders@ric.edu](mailto:ksanders@ric.edu). To register, go to [www.ric.edu/tech/online](http://www.ric.edu/tech/online) or call 401-456-8213.



**SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS:** Frank Bucci '54, M '58 (left) and Camille Bucci (right) award scholarships to students Julie Sylvia and Mitchel Voyer for their active participation in student affairs. Among their many activities at RIC, Sylvia and Voyer are special projects assistants in the Office of Student Activities and orientation peer counselors for OASIS. The Frank A. and Camille S. Bucci Endowed Scholarship in Student Affairs is awarded annually and administered by the RIC Foundation.



# Open house proves physical science is cool



**SCIENTIFIC ANALYSIS:** James Magyar, professor of chemistry, and several scientists-in-training measure the effectiveness of insulating materials at the physical sciences open house last month.

BY

**Luis D. Munoz '07  
and Karen H. Almeida,  
Assistant Professor of Chemistry**

Have you ever wondered how ocean currents move? Or what is the best material to insulate your home? Do you know why hunters use lead shot instead of aluminum? All these questions and many more were explored at the annual Physical Sciences Departmental Open House on Oct. 22. The open house was an opportunity for students to demonstrate what science and their classroom experiences have been like at RIC. Over 100 faculty members, students, friends and family members explored the sciences through hands-on activities, lab tours, student presentations and chemistry demonstrations.

The newly renovated physics lab in the Clarke Science Building was the site of numerous experiments designed to get people thinking about physics. Children and adults were encouraged to make



Mad wizard David Greene, who is also a RIC professor, performs experiments for attendees of the open house.

predictions before conducting experiments to see if they were correct. A favorite demonstration was the computer-interfaced force sensor in which two cars crash together. Andrea Del Vecchio, assistant professor of physics, explained that the computer can instantly graph the resulting forces on the cars, showing visually that the force exerted on each car is equal in quantity but opposite in direction.

Other elegantly simple demonstrations mimicked the famous experiment of Galileo at the Leaning Tower of Pisa. Equipped with a cannonball and a musket ball, Galileo disproved Aristotle's theory that objects fall at a rate dependent on their mass or bulk. Although there were no cannon balls in Clarke Science on Sunday, the experiment was repeated with a lead ball, wood ball and crumpled filter paper ball. The lesson was obvious: mass is not important, gravity can accelerate objects at the same rate no matter what they are made from.

Mass is an important variable, however, when it comes to firing a rifle. Plastic balls were compared to metal balls by loading them into a "gun" equipped with a device to read the firing velocity. Without fail, the heavier metal ball shot out faster than the plastic one.

Especially popular were electricity experiments that allowed people to set up their own battery-powered circuits, which if done correctly would turn on light bulbs. Children had a great time stringing together three and four lights, noticing that the overall output of light remained constant, so that the brightest bulbs were in the single circuits.

In honor of National Chemistry Week, which was Oct. 22-28, the chemistry activities centered on the national theme: "Your home – it's all built on chemistry." Elaine Magyar and James Magyar, professors of chemistry, enthusiastically encouraged free

exploration of the activities, and were ready to explain any concept that perplexed the children.

A favorite for everyone was Oobleck, a substance primarily composed of cornstarch that was used to teach the kids about liquids and solids. As they reached into a container and pulled out some Oobleck, they realized that the solid matter turned to liquid or slime. Although the mechanisms that cause this to happen may have been too complex for some of the children to understand, it set forth questions that they will come to answer throughout their education. Chemistry suddenly became fun and interesting.

The kids had the opportunity to create their own bouncing balls using a mixture of glue, food coloring, water and borax. Hands-on activities were set up for older kids that involved temperature analysis, measuring the effectiveness of insulating materials, which continued the theme of home chemistry.

Ocean currents were reproduced in the lab by Sarah Knowlton, assistant professor of physical science. She gently layered cold, blue-colored salt water with room temperature, yellow-colored fresh water, explaining density differences along the way. The salt water neatly slid under the fresh water with a green layer of mixing between, modeling water movement in the oceans.

Students involved in research at RIC were able to present their work, demonstrating the intellectual capacity that stems from scientific curiosity. Their research posters, which were displayed in the second floor hallway of the Clarke Science Building, covered topics ranging from organic molecule synthesis to computational modeling of proteins and bacterial toxicity screens. Anyone interested in the kinds of research ongoing in Clarke Science can wander through the hallways and read the latest results, or just stop by the lounge and talk to faculty members and students.

The final demonstration captured everyone's attention. Parents, children, faculty and students sat together within a large lecture hall, as the "mad wizard" David Greene, professor of chemistry, began to relate magic to chemistry. Everyone loved the idea, since Halloween was right around the corner. It was as if the world of Harry Potter had suddenly found its way to RIC.

Greene demonstrated through "magic tricks" – assisted by scientific reasoning – that ink could be invisible, making words appear on a blank sheet of paper to captivate the audience. Apples and flowers were rapidly frozen in liquid nitrogen to such low temperatures that they shattered when dropped to the ground. Greene closed his show with an explosion that was loud and quick, sending a warm breeze through the audience as this year's open house came to a grand finale.

## New technologies take center stage



RIC student Sharon Desper records with a stylus on a Tablet PC connected to a digital projector.

RIC students taking the course Teaching Elementary School Science (ELED 437) are working this semester with children in science education at Washington Oak Elementary School in Coventry. Thanks to funding awarded by Hewlett Packard last summer, some of the school's classrooms are well equipped with technology to enhance the presentation of information. The school is seeking additional funds to bring 21<sup>st</sup>-century technology to other classrooms.

In the Washington Oak classrooms, a digital projector is linked to a Tablet PC, scanner, printer, and Internet. In less than a minute, RIC students scan and project images of digital photos, illustrations, student work and more. They use a wireless remote while presenting with PowerPoint; record students' ideas on the Tablet PC, and use PowerPoint and Word files on the laptop to present components of the scientist notes.

A digital camera captures evidence during an observation, which learners use to make claims about how the world works and what can be observed directly. And, learners can view a digital photograph of themselves "doing science" as a way to assess their understanding of science content, process, and attitudes.

– Greg Kniseley, professor of elementary education



"Bulb Lights!" A digital image captures evidence – and Washington Oak student Chris Doucette – as part of a science project at the school.



# RIC's Comm. Club, ADP collect for the community



**HELPING HANDS:** Communications Club president Lindsey Conklin (left) and Alicia Vanasse, American Democracy Project student coordinator, pack food items for a campus-wide holiday food drive. The food was delivered to the R.I. Community Food Bank during Thanksgiving week. The drive was part of the Communications Club Help Us, Help You, Help Others year-long campaign for students to help others less fortunate in the community.

The Rhode Island College Communications Club, in association with the College's American Democracy Project (ADP), has established a year-long community giving campaign called Help Us, Help You, Help Others, that started with a campus-wide holiday food drive in November and will continue with other seasonal initiatives throughout the school year. During the month of November, over 250 pounds of non-perishable food items were collected at drop-off points in Adams Library, Alger, Gage, Kauffman Center, Student Union, School of Social Work, and Whipple. The food donations were delivered to the R.I. Community Food Bank

during Thanksgiving week.

Throughout December, the club will hold a Warm Hands, Warm Hearts scarf, mitten and hat collection in conjunction with St. Theresa's Church winter clothing drive. The church, located on Fruit Hill Avenue in North Providence, is in need of warm clothing and accessories for adults and children in the area. Donation boxes will be set up in various locations around the campus until Dec. 22.

A Sweetheart Cupcake sale is coming on Valentine's Day to benefit the American Heart Association. Cupcakes will be sold for \$1 each on campus. Faculty and campus departments are urged to purchase advance orders for their classes and co-workers.

A summer Sun and Fun

collection of sunglasses, sunscreen and outdoor toys and games will be organized in April for the Boys and Girls Clubs of Rhode Island.

Details of each initiative will be publicized around campus.

The Communications Club was revived at the beginning of this academic year by Lindsey Conklin, a communications major who also serves as the club's president. She and classmate Alicia Vanasse, student coordinator of the ADP, have joined forces to involve members of the two clubs in campus activities that assist local philanthropic organizations in the community.

"What better way to hone our communications skills than to reach out to the community to help others," said Conklin.

Conklin said she wanted to restart the Communications Club, which had been dormant for several years, to bring communications students together outside of the classroom and to provide more activities for students "to work on fun programs and help build resumes."

Conklin came to RIC last year after transferring from Northern Arizona University and saw the camaraderie among RIC students as an opportunity to form the club with a specific mission.

Vanasse, who has been active in the ADP, a national, multi-campus initiative to create a greater understanding and commitment to civic life, said that the relationship between the two clubs is a natural partnership.

"Communications and civic engagement work hand-in-hand in the business world, so why not start now, as students, to learn how to work with our peers to help the community. It will make it that much easier when we get out into the real world," said Vanasse.

There are 12 members in the Communications Club and 10 students in the ADP.

Jane Fusco, director of news and public relations at RIC and advisor

to the Communications Club, said that the members of both groups are serious about their causes and are learning that their work can be meaningful as well as fun.

"The collaboration between the two groups makes for better student representation on campus and in the community. It's the ideal way for students studying communications to learn and apply effective communications skills and strategies that will merit results," Fusco said.

In addition, the Communications Club is planning visits to local media organizations and public relations firms to give students a first-hand look at possible career paths.

For more information about Communications Club/ADP activities, call Lindsey Conklin at 585-737-3989 or Alicia Vanasse at 401-241-6719.



**DONATION DRIVE:** Jesse Rivet (left), president of the Student Nurses Association, and Carisa LaPlante, vice president, load items collected in a campus drive to benefit the Providence Ronald MacDonald House, which provides temporary housing to families of pediatric patients in area hospitals.



**LOOKING UPWARD:** Outstanding Alumni Award recipients from RIC's Upward Bound program help celebrate 40 years of preparing at-risk high schoolers for college at the Legacy of Success Gala in Donovan Dining Center. Over 300 attended the event, which was held Oct. 28.





# A GALA EVENT

## A TRIBUTE TO

### HELEN GINSBURG FORMAN '34

**R**hode Island College rolled out the red carpet on Nov. 4 for a tribute to Helen Ginsburg Forman '34, who left the College \$5.1 million, the largest single gift ever given to a Rhode Island state college by an individual. Forman was a special education teacher in the Providence and Warwick school systems, who had taught every grade from kindergarten through high school throughout her teaching career. She died in August 2005 at the age of 93.

The evening began with a reception and silent auction in the Nazarian Center's Forman Theatre, named in her honor, followed by a performance of *Yellowman* by Dael Orlandersmith, presented in partnership with the Providence Black Repertory Company. Forman, a patron of the arts at the College, requested that the money be used to endow scholarships for students of music, theatre and dance, and special education. In addition, she designated a portion of her bequest to support an endowment for the James P. Adams Library and the President's Music Series.

