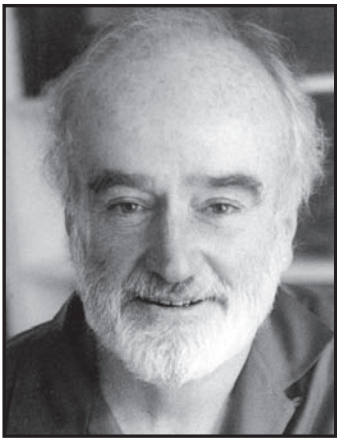


# WHAT'S NEWS @ Rhode Island College

Established in 1980 Circulation over 52,000

## RIC's 2007 commencements: 1,450 degrees, 4 honorary doctorates to be awarded in ceremonies May 17, 19



RON MCLARTY '69

*RIC, the state's oldest public institution of higher learning, now in its 153rd year, will award four honorary degrees, and confer more than 1,450 advanced and undergraduate degrees during upcoming commencement exercises.*

Pomp and Circumstance is in the air as Rhode Island College prepares for its 153rd commencement ceremonies for advanced degrees on May 17 and undergraduate degrees on May 19. Four honorary degrees and over 1,450 advanced and undergraduate degrees will be awarded.

Advanced degree commencement will be held on Thursday, May 17 at 5:30 p.m. in The Murray Center. Honorary degree recipients are H. Philip West, Jr. executive director of Common Cause of Rhode Island, who will deliver the graduate commencement address and receive a Doctor of Laws degree; and Wrenn Goodrum, artistic director of All Children's Theatre, who will be awarded a Doctor of Pedagogy degree.

Undergraduate commencement will take place on Saturday, May 19 at 9:30 a.m. on the College's esplanade. (If inclement weather, ceremonies will be moved indoors to The Murray Center).

Honorary degree conferrals at undergraduate commencement will go to veteran actor, director and acclaimed novelist, Ron McLarty '69, a graduate of Rhode Island College's class of 1969, who will receive a Doctor of Humanities degree and will also present the undergraduate commencement address; and George Graboys, a champion in the banking industry and leading businessman, who will be given a Doctor of Public Service award.

Members of the class of 1957 will celebrate their golden anniversary at commencement, leading the graduation processional. Representatives from each graduating class of the college from 1935 to 2006 will also march before this year's graduating seniors.

The class of 1957 will present the college with a gift of an endowed scholarship in their name.



PHIL WEST

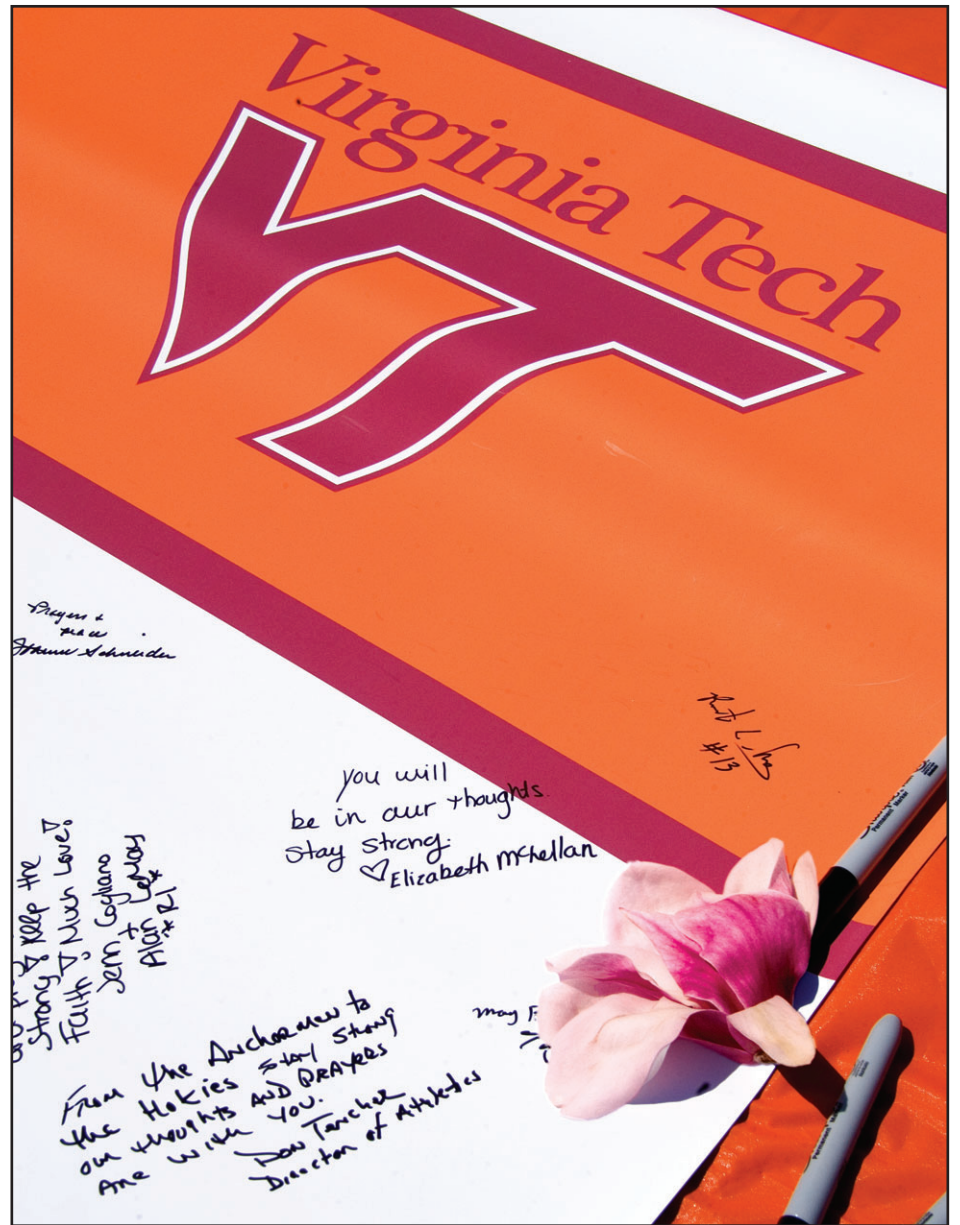


WRENN GOODRUM



GEORGE GRABOYS

**Cont. on p 14**



LENDING SUPPORT: This banner, signed with expressions of sympathy from the RIC community, was sent to Virginia Tech in remembrance of the victims of the April 16 shootings.

## A day of remembrance for Virginia Tech

Rhode Island College showed its support and solidarity to the Virginia Polytechnic Institute campus community with a Day of Remembrance, on April 23 on the

RIC campus quad, in the aftermath of the April 16 shootings at Virginia Tech that killed 33 and injured 15.

A moment of silence to remember

**Cont. on p 13**



ASKING THE TOUGH QUESTIONS: Members of the "RIC Press Corps" looked the part of old-time reporters on Higher Education Day at the State House on April 25. The students, all communications majors, spoke with legislators about campus activities and issues concerning higher education. Left to right are: (front row) Domenic Gianfrancisco, Peter Silveira, Lindsey Conklin, Ericka Atwell, Katharine Ricci, Alicia Vanasse. Back row: Nick Lima, Joe Graziano, Jeff Farias, Chris Buonanno.

## Wn Quotes...

"I am so excited and anxious, yet nervous about this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity ... and believe that I will gain so much by participating in this program."

– Leeann Schmitt, a RIC sophomore who will receive \$5,000 from the Michael Metcalf Memorial Fund to explore health care systems in South Africa this summer. She is one of four college students from Rhode Island to be named a 2007 Metcalf Fellow. [P 12]

"RIC really placed emphasis on community health and public health, which I think has helped tremendously since I have been working here."

– Bill Densmore '82, who works at the Adult Correctional Institution in Cranston, on the education he received in the College's nursing program. [P 5]

"What has really won me over about equations is, that they are 'the act of making equal two quantities.' This idea embraces a philosophical and socio-political aspect about life that drives my work. From an art aspect, it's about creating symmetry."

– Suzan Shutan, an artist whose exhibit, 'Dimensional Drawings,' will be at Bannister Gallery from June 7-28. [P 10]

## CAPE VERDE: ISLANDS OF PEACE AND PROSPERITY IN A TROUBLED REGION OF AFRICA

This regular feature of What's News looks at the links between the world and Rhode Island College. The story below was written by **Peter Karibe Mendy**, RIC associate professor of history.



PETER KARIBE MENDY

I arrived in Praia, the capital of Cape Verde, on Jan. 9, 2007, on a 55-minute flight from Dakar, Senegal, about 450 miles on the adjacent coast of West Africa. The new international airport was orderly and the immigration and customs officials serious and efficacious, yet courteous and welcoming. During the short ride to the city, via the new highway, and

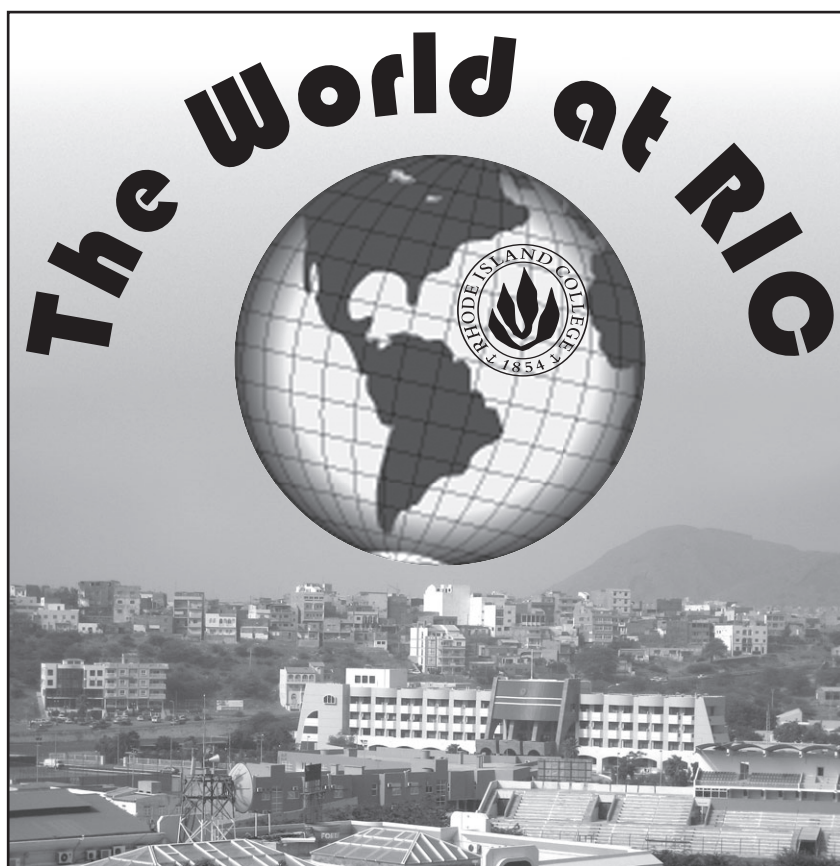
archipelago were quickly settled by the Portuguese, initially Santiago and Fogo. The settlers brought African captives from the nearby coast and created a slave plantation society. Cape Verde was the prototype of what the Americas would later become with the arrival of Christopher Columbus in the New World and the establishment of plantations. The African captives constructed the foundation of the new society with blood, sweat and great toil, and had a precarious existence that was harsh and short – especially during famines that regularly visited the islands.

Droughts and famines are salient themes in Cape Verdean history, not least because they have been the cause of spectacular death tolls which sometimes decimated about two-thirds of the inhabitants of some islands. The trinity of droughts, famines and

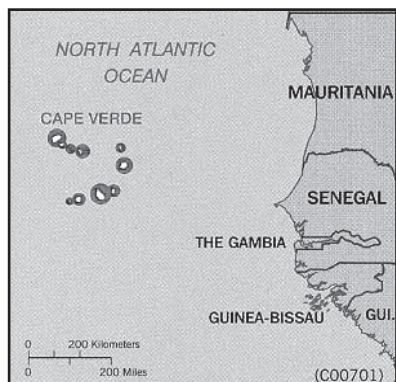
throughout my week-long stay in Santiago Island, I found myself constantly reflecting on the prevailing peace and development dynamism, which contrasted sharply with the situation in almost all of the other 15 countries in West Africa. Africa's most unstable region also contains some of the world's poorest countries. Cape Verde happens to be the single exception to afflictions of political instability and grinding poverty that characterize the region.

Since independence from Portugal in 1975, achieved through 11 years of bloody liberation war fought under the leadership of the legendary Amilcar Cabral and the PAIGC (African Party for the Independence of Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde), in the forests of Guinea-Bissau, 600 miles south, on the West African coast, the tiny island nation that was considered nonviable has recently been reclassified as a middle-income developing country, with a per capita income of \$1,720 (World Bank, 2006), the highest in West Africa (average of less than \$500) and among the highest in Africa (average of \$600 in Sub-Saharan Africa). With a population of 495,000, Cape Verde also has one of the best social indicators in Africa, including life expectancy of 70 years (49.9 years in West Africa); infant mortality rate of 27 per 1,000 live births (average of 94 per 1,000 in West Africa); and an adult literacy rate of 76 percent (compared to 61.5 percent in Sub-Saharan Africa).

Accidentally discovered in 1456 by Alvise Cadamosta and Antonio de Noli, Venetian and Genoese sailors in the service of Prince Henry the Navigator of Portugal, the 10 islands that make up the



Praia, the capital of Cape Verde



brutal exploitation underlie the significant movement of the population, particularly during the last 150 years. The first trickle started around the mid-19th century when New England whaling ships called at the archipelago for supplies and additional crew. Today, Cape Verdean Americans and post-independence Cape Verdean immigrants to the U.S. number significantly more than the population of the islands.

Following the abandonment of the project of unification with Guinea-Bissau, apparently in protest over the 1980 violent regime change by the military in that mainland "sister republic," Cape Verde's future seemed even more uncertain. But the country survived with responsible and effective use of international assistance, and significant remittances from the large Cape Verdean diaspora.

Cape Verde's international credibility would be greatly enhanced with the implementation of economic and political reforms, which established a free-market economy and multiparty politics in the early 1990s. The democratization process has resulted in the prevalence of an efficient rule of law, a vibrant civil society, and a high degree of transparency and accountability of officeholders. The deepening democratic culture is an important factor in the makeover of the archipelago into a middle-income developing country.

Cape Verde, poor in natural resources, with irregular rains and feeble agriculture, has become a beacon of hope in a region where hopes are dim, and in a continent associated with doom and gloom.

## WHAT'S NEWS @ Rhode Island College

**Editor:** Jane E. Fusco

**Managing Editor:** Rob Martin

**Design Manager:** Jennifer Twining '92

**Information Aide:** Pauline McCartney

**Photographer:** Gene St. Pierre '77

**Graphic Designers:**

Charles Allsworth '82, M '86

Lance Gorton '09

Paul J. Silva '03

**Copy Editor:** Ray Ragosta

**Staff Writers:**

Ericka Atwell '08

Gita Brown

Robert P. Masse '08

Lauren Mesale '06

Kerry McCartney

Katharine Ricci '07

Alison Strandberg

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



RON DUFOUR

## Dufour delivers Thorp Lecture

Ron Dufour, this year's Mary Tucker Thorp Professor, spoke about "Becoming American: Public and Private Identities in the Early Republic," in his Thorp Lecture on April 26.

Dufour, a professor of history, came to RIC in 1988. He has taught graduate and undergraduate courses on Western civilization, historiography, colonial and revolutionary America, the history of jazz and American popular music, and introductory surveys in American history. His seminars have focused on various aspects of market capitalism and political culture in the early modern Atlantic World and cultural contact in North America in the 16th and 17th centuries.

Active in service to College and community, Dufour served as history department chair from 1996-02, as assistant to the chair several times, and has chaired and been a member

of numerous College and department committees. He currently directs the Department of History's graduate program. He has also developed and led dozens of discussion programs in Connecticut and Rhode Island public libraries on topics ranging from adoption of the constitution to the history of jazz.

Dufour's major publications include *Modernization in Colonial Massachusetts, 1630-1763* and *Colonial America*. He was associate editor for jazz for *The American National Biography (ANB)* and has written over 30 essays for both the *ANB* and the forthcoming *African American National Biography*. He has also written over two dozen other reviews and essays.

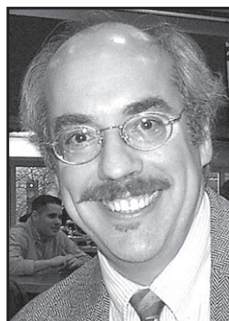
Born in Lawrence, Mass., Dufour graduated summa cum laude from Merrimack College and earned a PhD in early American history from The College of William and Mary, where he was also a Woodrow Wilson Fellow.

The Mary Tucker Thorp College Professorship is awarded each academic year to a full professor with at least six years of service at RIC who has demonstrated excellence in teaching, scholarship and professional and collegial service. The professorship honors the contributions of Mary Tucker Thorp, whose 41-year career at the College began in 1926.

Funding to support the professorship was provided by a bequest in the will of Mary Tucker Thorp and is held in the Tucker Thorp Fund, administered by the RIC Foundation.

# FOCUS ON Faculty & Staff

**Leslie Schuster**, professor of history and director of the Women's Studies Program, has had an article accepted for publication by the journal *The History Teacher*. The article, "Working-Class Students and Historical Inquiry: Transforming Learning in the Classroom," addresses teaching and learning in history and draws on Schuster's experiences in the course "The Nature of Historical Methods."



KARL BENZIGER

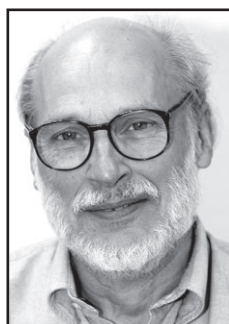
**Karl Benziger**, associate professor of history and secondary education, has written the monograph *Imre Nagy Martyr of the Nation: Contested History, Legitimacy, and Public Memory in Post Cold War Hungary*. It will be published by Lexington Books, the scholarly division of Rowman Littlefield.

**Joanne Schneider**, associate professor of history and department chair, has written *Age of Romanticism*, which will be published by Greenwood Press this month as part of Greenwood's series, *Guides to Historic Events, 1500 to 1900*. The monograph explores Romanticism's origins, its major British, French, German authors, musicians and artists, their respective artistic works and its environmental and political legacies.



JOANNE SCHNEIDER

**David C. Woolman**, director of the Curriculum Resources Center, presented a professional development workshop, *A World View of the Future: Teaching for Global Citizenship*, at the 38th Annual Northeast Regional Conference on the Social Studies in Boston in March. The session introduced frameworks for global education and covered the history of the idea of world citizenship. Teachers were invited to explore their own vision of a desirable future world and identify human attributes and capabilities needed to achieve these goals. The clinic concluded with a discussion of curriculum strategies for building essential skills for effective local, national and global citizenship.



DAVID C. WOOLMAN

## Faculty promotions, tenure announced

*Five RIC faculty members were promoted to the rank of professor, and nine were elevated to associate professor, announced RIC President John Nazarian on April 5. Also, four faculty members were granted tenure. Promotions and tenure will take effect on July 1. A reception in honor of the newly promoted and tenured was held April 19 at the President's House.*

### Promoted to professor .... Department

Mildred Bates..... School of Social Work  
 Jean Brown ..... English  
 Annmarie Mumm ..... School of Social Work  
 Jayashree Nimmagadda.... School of Social Work  
 Roberta S. Pearlmutter..... School of Social Work

### Promoted to associate professor

Robin Kirkwood Auld ..... Health & Physical Education  
 Lesley Bogad..... Educational Studies  
 Rachel Carpenter..... Adams Library  
 Susan Dell..... Special Education  
 Anne Goodrow ..... Elementary Education  
 Raimundo Kovac..... Mathematics & Computer Science  
 Mustafa Ozcan..... Educational Studies  
 Rebecca Sparks..... Mathematics & Computer Science  
 Rosemary Weston-Gil ..... Modern Languages

### Granted tenure

Lesley Bogad..... Educational Studies  
 Susan Dell..... Special Education  
 Anne Goodrow ..... Elementary Education  
 Roberta S. Pearlmutter..... School of Social Work

# Where is it?

*Do you know where on campus the close-up shown in this photo is located?*



*Turn to page 9 to find out.*

# NEWS FROM THE Foundation & Alumni Offices



**BY PEG BROWN**

*Vice President,  
Development and College Relations*



*Shh! Shh! giggle, shifting of feet, shh...shh...poking an arm, giggle...giggle...Welcome to an elementary school library full of young minds, with big dreams, and a universe to explore. And welcome to another story that ties a family's memories of the past to a gift for the future.*

Dr. Douglas G. Shemin and his wife, Kathleen Henderson, parents of Henry Barnard School students, have established an endowed fund to support the purchase of library material – especially books – and have added, with this gift, a new legend to the school's storied history. The endowment commitment evolved over several weeks while Dr. Shemin shared his motivation for making this gift.

He first wrote that as the father of Grace, now a third grader at HBS, and Juliana, a graduate of HBS and now a student at St. Mary Academy Bay View, he had long been impressed with the quality of instruction, staff, and administration of the school. "Our kids have loved the school as well. In particular, my wife and I have been very impressed by, and grateful to, the HBS team now working with our daughter Grace."

Dr. Shemin's aunt had recently died, and he wanted to honor her memory while assisting the school. "My aunt was a great reader who loved books and literature, and my mother – my aunt's sister, who died over 30 years ago was, as well. My mother also had a great professional interest in children's literature. She was a children's librarian in New York state before her death, and wrote three books for children in the 1970s."

But, there is so much more to Dr. Shemin's story. His aunt, Desiree Hoeneveld, was born in the Netherlands in 1931, with a congenital lung disease. While the disease is now treatable, no medications were available for his aunt as a young girl.

Dr. Shemin writes, "With the invasion and occupation of the Netherlands by Nazi Germany during World War II, medical supplies and food became progressively scarce and she was constantly ill. She never attended school and was cared for and taught at home by her parents and her two sisters. One of her sisters was my mother. My mother immigrated to the United States after World War II with my father, an American physician. With the help of antibiotics developed during the War, and sent to her by my father, Desiree's health improved, although she remained frail.

"During her childhood, and throughout her life, perhaps because of her frailty and chronic illness, she developed a great love for reading and for books. In her adulthood, she worked in a school library, and then volunteered in the library in her village. Her little house, which was always peaceful, calm, and quiet, was full of books of every description – children's books from her youth, and books about history, travel, and gardening; biographies and autobiographies; mysteries, novels, and short stories. She learned three foreign languages, and she read books in Dutch, English, French, and German."

Desiree died in 2005, just short of her 74th birthday, at home.

In establishing the endowment, Dr. Shemin wrote, "Desiree Hoeneveld lived a very quiet life. She never married. She lived her entire life within a five mile radius from the house in the Netherlands where she was born. In her memory, and especially in memory of her love of reading, this endowment is established to purchase books for students at the Henry Barnard School. This will enable present and future students at Henry Barnard to learn what Desiree Hoeneveld learned during her life: that reading books can make you wise, and thoughtful, and tolerant, and that books can be friends when you are lonely, can make you smile when you are sad, feel better when you are sick, feel hopeful when you are discouraged, and give you courage when you are frightened."

And, we might add, give you the opportunity to dream.

This endowment, established by Dr. Shemin and his family, in memory of his aunt, Desiree Hoeneveld, will ensure that children can do all of these things...and connect with a small town in the Netherlands that was home to one extraordinary woman.



**GRACE SHEMIN**

## Proposed Alumni Association Board of Directors slate

The nominating committee of the Alumni Association's Board of Directors has prepared a slate of directors for 2007-08, as required by association by-laws.

### Article X

#### General Election Procedures

3. **Notification.** 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 board meeting.

The committee offers the following names for consideration for board positions:

#### Directors – terms to expire June 2009

Allan Fung '92, Cranston  
Paul Hackley '85, West Kingston  
Patty Nevola Testa '00, Cranston  
Sharon Garlington '80, Providence  
Barbara Smith '70, Barrington  
Syd Williams '53, Newport

#### Directors-at-large – one-year terms to expire June 2008

Michael Browner, Jr. '98, East Providence  
Jackie Sawyer-Nowell '92, Charlestown



PHONATHON CALLERS at the spring phonathon. From left are Meredith Garrity, Michele Liese, Ibilolia Holder and Amanda Gotay. Not pictured: Jessica Scott, Sarah Rochon and Juliet Fowler. Thanks to our alumni and friends for pledging over \$20,000 to the Spring 2007 Phonathon to benefit the Annual Fund.



## BRICK CAMPAIGN RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE

Be part of the *RIC Legacy Walk* –  
a thoughtful way to honor or memorialize  
someone special. To order, call 401-456-8827  
or download mail-in form at  
[http://www2.ric.edu/givetoric/pdf/brick\\_flyer.pdf](http://www2.ric.edu/givetoric/pdf/brick_flyer.pdf).

## Looking Back...



**POSTGAME POSE:** Roland Blais '55 submitted this photo, which includes some members of the 1954-55 R.I.C.E. soccer team after an away game. First row, from left are Dick Mainey '56, co-captain Vin Cullen '55, John Veader '57, Jack Kean '56, Dave Steele '56, Blais, Roger Vierra '56 and Andy Polouski '57; second row, from left are co-captain Joe Genereux '55, Bob Coelho '55, Don Verissimo, Dick Brochu '57 and Ben Winsor '57; rear is Everett Maxwell '57. Five players on the team are now members of the RIC Athletic Hall of Fame.

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.

# RIC nursing alums meet the challenges of working at ACI

BY KERRY MCCARTNEY

Staff Writer



Just off Route 37 in Cranston lie several buildings in a complex surrounded by a high chain-link fence and barbed wire. These buildings comprise the Adult Correctional Institution, a facility where those convicted of criminal offenses are sent to serve their sentences. More than 3,000 inmates reside within in these walls, requiring a variety of services, including medical attention. From colds to heart attacks, the ACI's nursing staff is the front line of defense for evaluating all the inmates who come to the prison.

"The nurses who work here must have excellent assessment skills," said Colleen Capezza '77, director of the nursing program at the ACI. "Quite often, the doctors depend on them to determine proper diagnosis."

Currently, the ACI employs 52 nurses who provide medical services to seven different facilities on three different shifts. Thirty-nine are licensed RNs and 13 are LPNs. Eight of these nurses are graduates of the Rhode Island College School of Nursing.

"We encompass everything here from first responders to listening and responding to patient's fears, like a counselor, so to speak," says Bill Densmore '82. "One of the most important qualities a nurse must have here is flexibility."

All the nurses echo that sentiment, agreeing that flexibility is the key to success in this non-traditional medical environment.

"We have incredibly high standards because of the challenging environment," said Capezza. "We look for self-confidence and maturity."

"I have learned you never know what is going to happen when you walk through those doors on a daily basis," says Devine Umoh '97. "You could be dispensing aspirin one minute and calling a code the next."

All medical services – from dispensing prescribed medication to insulin management – are provided on site at the ACI. Some clients have never seen a dentist or undergone a physical. Many are victims of drug and alcohol abuse and need to be taught how to care for themselves, including basic hygiene skills.

The nursing staff strives to provide coordination of care. In some areas such as Intake, the inmates are only there for a short time. Oftentimes, an ACI nurse is following up with an inmate's primary care physician or specialist that the inmate may have seen while not in custody. The nurses thoroughly research a patient's history to ensure continuity of care.

"You can never take anything for granted here," said Nancy Hull '06. "The doctors depend on us and our assessment skills. There is no room for error, our licenses are on the line."

All of the nurses who are RIC grads pay homage to the College's nursing program for helping them prepare for their current profession.

"RIC really placed emphasis on community health and public health, which I think has helped tremendously since I have been working here," said Densmore.

"The emphasis on research



Adult Correctional Institution in Cranston.

helped me develop the body of knowledge I needed to become a nurse, especially to work at the ACI," says Olufunmilayo Solanke '99.

Importantly, RIC has taught its candidates to dispel a common misunderstanding of the nursing profession.

"At first, I shied away from this profession because I feared becoming a servant to a doctor," says Umoh. "But, I was pleasantly surprised to learn that the school did not feed into that and worked hard to dispel that stereotype."

"RIC emphasized taking control of your profession and developing a working partnership with doctors," said Hull.

So what keeps these nurses working in a place surrounded by barbed wire and a fence?

"I find so much opportunity to not only learn but to teach," says Brenda Abelli '99. "A lot of our clients are just afraid because they do not know and they are looking to us for a little compassion and guidance."

"Our clients are so diverse, it gives you an opportunity to serve a population that really needs your help," said Corinne Deneault '05, a nurse who graduated from RIC with a bachelor's degree in psychology.

The ACI is not exempt from typical workplace challenges such as manpower and space shortages. But it also carries the extra burden of having a client population with a lot of emotional and physical

issues. Yet, the nurses are in agreement that this is the place they want to work.

"In the beginning, I thought I would run out the door with the workload and the challenges this client population presents," said Hull. "But, now, I know I will retire here."

"You have to have a self-confidence and a big sense of humor," said Abelli.

"For me, I have no regrets and I relish the challenges," says Umoh. "If I can make one client smile a day by calming his fears, then I know I am doing my job and that is enough for me."

Capezza noted that nursing supervisor Gordon Bouchard '00 – unable to contribute to this story because he was serving in Iraq – has brought tremendous dedication and hard work to his career at the ACI. The same can be said of all the RIC grads, who've found that working at the prison is anything but confining.



**ALUMNI NURSING TEAM:** (Front, from left) Nancy Hull '06, Corinne Deneault '05 and Olufunmilayo Solanke '99; (rear, from left) Brenda Abelli '99, Colleen Capezza '77, Devine Umoh '97 and Bill Densmore '82.

# RIC Athletic News



**BY DONALD E. TENCHER**

*Director of Athletics*



- Congratulations to coach Maria Morin and the entire women's softball team on their third consecutive Little East Conference regular season championship. Best of luck in the postseason.

- Kudos to pitching sensation Nicole Riley on breaking the NCAA's consecutive win streak record. Imagine winning 43 straight games! Congratulations also to Nicole for handling the streak with class by always crediting her teammates.

- Thanks to the Anchor Club membership for helping support the celebration last Thursday

evening honoring the men's basketball Elite Eight team and for subsidizing the awards.

- My deepest sympathy to the family of Dr. Ray Nedwidek, a former URI football coach, longtime professor and a fixture in the athletic and physical education community in Rhode Island since the 1960s, who passed away in April.

- Coach Walsh and his staff were recently recognized by the National Association of Basketball Coaches on their outstanding season.

- I want to thank Cox Sports Television for televising our

men's regular season game against Johnson & Wales and really stepping to the plate in support of the team's Elite Eight run by covering the first round of the NCAA tournament.

- Congratulations to Kathleen Luther '82 who was honored by Speaker of the House William Murphy at a State House Ceremony recognizing her as Rhode Island College's Athletic Alumna of the Year as well as the distinguished student-athletes.

- Lt. Gov. Elizabeth Roberts will be honoring the men's basketball team at a State House ceremony on May 9 at 3 p.m. for its NCAA Elite Eight finish.

- The RIC men's golf team under the direction of first year head coach Greg Gammell came within three strokes of winning the inaugural conference championship.

- Congratulations to the new superintendent of the Rhode Island State Police, Brendan Doherty, who started his higher education pursuits at Rhode Island College. Additionally, several of his command staff are RIC graduates, including future Hall of Famer Capt. Stephen Lynch '82.

- Congratulations to the men's tennis team on a fifth-place finish in the Little East Conference championship. With a team comprised of mostly underclassmen, the future looks bright.

- Thanks to an enormous staff effort led by Jo-Ann D'Alessandro '88, the athletic department has been awarded a major grant to promote drug and alcohol education programs on campus from the NCAA called CHOICES. More on this in a future issue.

## 11 HONORED BY RHODE ISLAND'S SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ten current Rhode Island College student-athletes and one alumnus were honored by 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, April 30.

The event was designed to give public recognition to men and women from Rhode Island College, 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 RIC were Michael Bonora, a junior wrestler from Nutley, N.J.; Kinsey Durgin, a senior men's basketball player from Greenwood, Maine; Caitlin Gavin, a senior women's soccer and lacrosse player from Portsmouth, R.I.; Kari Geisler, a senior women's basketball player from Deerfield, N.H.; Christie Lotti, a junior softball player from Waterford, Conn.; Eric Lonergan, a senior cross

country and track & field runner from North Kingstown, R.I.; Anthony Pierlioni, a senior men's basketball player from Plainville, Conn.; Nicole Riley, a senior softball player from North Providence, R.I.; Jeanne Rosa, a junior women's volleyball and softball player from Milford, Conn.; and Stephanie Wojciechowski, a senior women's volleyball player from North Kingstown, R.I.



**KATHLEEN LUTHER**

Athletic Alumni from each school were also honored. Kathleen Luther '82 was RIC's Athletic Alumna Award recipient.

Luther, a 2000 inductee into Rhode Island College's Athletic Hall of Fame, was a standout on RIC's basketball team for three seasons from 1979-82. After spending one year at the University of Bridgeport, the guard joined the Anchorwomen and led the team to three consecutive EAIAW post-season appearances. She captained the team as a junior and senior.

After graduating from RIC in 1982 with a bachelor's degree in elementary education, she became a math teacher at Central Falls High School and currently serves as that school's director of athletics. She is a member of the Rhode Island Interscholastic Injury Fund Board and the R.I. Athletic Administrators Association.

Luther has always stayed active in athletics, serving as an assistant basketball coach at Brown University for two seasons in 1983 and 1984 before embarking on an 11-year career as the head coach for varsity softball at Central Falls High School. She was the varsity girls' basketball head coach at Central Falls High School from 1994-00 and was named Division II Central Coach of the Year in 1998-99 and 1999-00. CFHS girls' basketball received the Providence Journal Award for Sportsmanship under Luther's tutelage.

She was instrumental in developing, and is currently a coach, with the Central Falls Middle School softball team.

Luther is a 1977 graduate of Central Falls High School where she earned All-State honors in both basketball and cross-country.



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# RIC softball clinches third consecutive Little East Conference regular season championship

By Scott Gibbons  
Sports Information Director

You didn't think it could get much better than the RIC softball team's 2006 Little East Conference Regular Season and Tournament Championships, 35-8-1 record and winning two games in the NCAA Division III softball tournament, did you?

Despite turning over half of the starting lineup and plugging in 12 freshmen to the roster, head coach Maria Morin's troops are up to their old tricks and setting the stage for another outstanding postseason run.

The Anchorwomen clinched their third consecutive Little East softball regular season championship with a doubleheader sweep of UMass Dartmouth on Sunday, April 29 to up their record to 32-4 overall. That means that the Dayna A. Bazar Softball Complex, like The Murray Center in basketball this past winter, will be the place to be as Rhode Island College will look to capture the LEC tourney title and the automatic NCAA bid that comes with it.

It's hard to believe that this year's edition may yet surpass what the ladies on the 2006 squad achieved, but it's not out of the realm of possibility. The squad is currently ranked 13th in the nation, up four spots from the program's previous high water mark and ranked number one in New England. The team's success is a tribute to the veteran core and their battle-tested wills.

Senior pitcher Nicole Riley closed out last season with a 26-3 overall record and a personal 23-game winning streak. The North Providence native has proven she is one of the best players in the



**BATTERY MATES:** Pitcher Nicole Riley (left) and catcher Kristyn Alexander have been a winning combination for the RIC Anchorwomen this season.

country, starting this season on a 20-game winning streak that ended on April 22. Her combined 43-game winning streak shattered the previous record by eight games and is tops for Division II and III.

Only former All-American and U.S. Olympian Jennie Finch's 60-game winning streak is better. The '06 Little East Pitcher of the Year became RIC's all-time career wins leader on March 27, breaking Kim Warrington's '04 previous mark of 53 and has hurled a perfect game this spring. She will leave as the program's all-time leader in shutouts as well.

Riley's battery mate, senior All-Little East catcher Kristyn Alexander, is having an outstanding year in her own right. The East Wareham, Mass., native broke the RIC record for career RBI, previously held by future Athletic Hall of Famer Michele Fanelli '03, on April 14, and has been a stalwart behind the dish and in the three-spot in the batting order.

Every machine needs an engine, and junior All-Little East first baseman Christie Lotti is just that. The Waterford, Conn., native recently became RIC's all-time career hits and runs scored record-holder. She already held the softball records for the most triples, home runs, slugging percentage and total bases marks and owns the highest career batting average in school history. With Alexander wrapping up her career this spring, Lotti will be within striking distance of the all-time RBI mark entering next

season. One has to think that the RIC softball record book will become the '06 LEC Player of the Year's personal memoir in the near future.

Junior All-LEC third baseman Krystal Bilek started off slowly during the team's trip to Florida, but has heated up during the cold spring afternoons anchoring the team from the cleanup spot in the batting order and playing solid defense at the hot corner.

Junior shortstop/catcher Jeanne Rosa is back to the hitting form she showed as a freshman, while sophomores Justine Burgess and Kelli McCartin have solidified the defense at second base and in the outfield, plus are contributing at the plate.

An outstanding freshmen class has kept coach Morin and her staff scratching their heads trying to find playing time for an extremely deep bench. Freshman outfielders Jackie Dube, Davia Spado, Michelle Perrin and Jamie Mastrocola, along with designated player/second baseman Mandy Shurgot, are promising young All-Conference hopefuls, while rookie pitchers Jenna Deveines and Jamie Sacco are Riley's heir-apparents.

How far will this team go? Megan Ponte, a senior on last year's team, said jokingly while accepting the RIAIAW and Words Unlimited's Team of the Year awards this past February, "Good luck to this year's team. You have some big shoes to fill."

The 2007 RIC softball team likes how those shoes fit pretty well. Stay tuned.



## Endless Summer Beach Party

Saturday, July 21  
7 p.m. – midnight

at the North Beach Clubhouse  
79 Neck Rd. Narragansett, R.I.

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

## Anchor Club Golf Day set for July 16



The seventh annual Anchor Club Golf Day is set for Monday, July 16, at Pawtucket Country Club.

If you would like to play, or register a foursome, please call Tim McCabe 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!**

## TIM MCCABE NAMED ASSISTANT ATHLETIC DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT AND MARKETING



TIM MCCABE

Tim McCabe has joined the athletic department's staff as the assistant athletic director for development and marketing. McCabe replaces Mike Morrison, who left the department in July of 2006 to take a similar position at the University of Connecticut.

McCabe is responsible for handling the day-to-day management of Rhode Island College's athletic department's fundraising and marketing programs. He will also be the liaison for the Anchor Club, the official fundraising association for the Department of Athletics, Intramurals, and Recreation.

Prior to joining the Anchorwomen, McCabe was an athletic development intern at Boston College. During his tenure at The Heights, he administered and managed the donor privileged parking for

football, basketball and hockey. McCabe also supported the design and implementation of a new donor-based seating process for men's basketball and football.

He began his professional career in athletics in 2003, serving as the assistant to the athletic director at Deerfield Academy. During the summer of 2004, he served as a marketing intern for the New England Patriots, where McCabe helped promote the "Red Zone Tailgate" and increase ticket sales for the New England Revolution.

He is a 2000 graduate of Brown University with a bachelor's degree in both economics and organizational behavior and management. McCabe was a four-year letterman in football for the Bears, where he was a center on the 1999 Ivy League championship team.

The Dedham, Mass., native earned a master's degree in sports management from the Isenberg School of Management at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst in 2006.



# Spring party

## Fun for fall freshmen

Donovan Dining Center was the site of a beach party celebration and festive summer-style picnic on April 13 as the Admissions Office hosted the annual Spring Party for admitted freshmen. To help make that final college choice, students had an opportunity to meet with faculty to talk about majors, tour the campus and the residence halls, and be entertained by "S" crew, a RIC dance team. Students who enrolled that day received a Rhode Island College Class of 2011 beach towel. The day was an extraordinary success with a record number of students enrolling at the party.



## Teachers of tomorrow learn how to connect



PLUGGED IN: Students participate in a March 6 video conference in Gaige Hall.

BY ALISON STRANDBERG

Staff Writer



Technology has the power to bring people together. As the world increasingly becomes interconnected through technology, it makes sense that tomorrow's teachers learn how to make that connection.

On March 6 in Gaige Hall, elementary education preservice teachers had the chance to witness a live education video conference created for grades 5 through 8 while actual students participated.

Video conferencing uses audio and video technology to bring people at different sites together for a meeting. This technology takes people places they could not normally go, according to MacGregor Kniseley, professor of elementary education, who

arranged and coordinated this event on RIC's end.

"Video conferencing is a tool to bring people closer to places that are inaccessible. It brings people together in a less expensive way and they can interact," he said.

The video conference allowed students to learn in a place where their class would never be conducted – the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary, located about 115 miles south of the Texas/Louisiana border.

Several RIC faculty and students from Kniseley's Elementary Education 437 and 537 classes observed while Tanya Latraverse's Grade 5 class at Henry Barnard School participated in the video conference entitled *Secrets of the Gulf*. It explored mud volcanoes, ancient shorelines, coral reefs and evidence of human habitation within the sanctuary.

*Secrets of the Gulf* was developed by the University of Rhode Island's Office of Marine

Cont. next page



# RIC grads make room for baby business



BABY BELLANI: Owners Shannon Giorgio '98 (left) and Kelly LaChance-Guertin '02 at Bellani Maternity in Warwick.

BY LAUREN MESALE '06

Staff Writer



For Shannon Giorgio '98 and Kelly LaChance-Guertin '02 those afternoon conversations in the parking lot of their sons' pre-school have paid off. They've combined business with a need to help new mothers, and the result is that they've brought their newest baby into the world: Bellani Maternity.

Bellani is a maternity and baby center located on Bald Hill Road in Warwick that offers classes including prenatal yoga and itsy bitsy yoga, and a diverse selection of baby and maternity products like clothing, baby slings, toys and books. Several Bellani babies are even featured on the cover of the latest *Itsy Bitsy Yoga* series DVD, produced by Spirit into Life, Inc. They have also launched a new

class called "Barks and Bambinos," which teaches people how to successfully introduce a new baby into a home with dogs or cats. Dads have not been left out at the shop; they are welcome to attend most classes and a new Saturday morning support group has been created for fathers of all stages.

Both owners had volunteered countless hours of volunteer work for their sons' nonprofit pre-school, and one day realized that if they spent as much time building a business as they had on their volunteer work, it could be a great success. As parents themselves, they knew they wanted to open a facility that would provide new and expecting moms across the state with a wealth of parenting information and a sense of community.

"I realized there were few local resources for expecting couples looking for answers to pregnancy and parenting questions," said LaChance-Guertin. "Information available through books and the Internet was not comprehensive and

was too redundant," she explained. "We wanted to become a resource to help families make well-informed choices that are best for them."

"Both of us were very nervous when we first opened Bellani," said LaChance-Guertin. "But our business has grown tremendously in the past six months." She added that the same people keep coming back, and word-of-mouth advertising has brought in many new customers.

LaChance-Guertin and Giorgio agree that most new mothers who visit Bellani say that they wished they had known about their popular services like prenatal massage and prenatal yoga before having their children. They also said that an overwhelming number of customers were relieved to find answers from parenting and health experts at Bellani in a supportive atmosphere.

LaChance-Guertin has a son and daughter, ages five and three years; Giorgio has two sons ages four and two.

All four children have served as testers, trying out classes and products like baby slings and high chairs. Their husbands help out at home by cooking, baking and taking care of their children.

LaChance-Guertin and Giorgio's parents play a role in the business as well by helping out in the store on weekends. Neighbors helped to paint the walls, assemble furniture and set up displays to prepare for the center's grand opening last fall.

Both women credit professors at RIC with their success. Giorgio took as many classes as possible with Randy DeSimone, associate professor of management and marketing. She said of DeSimone, "He always pushed my classmates and me to work harder, think

further. That inspired me to enter the business world."

Giorgio has also been pursuing a second bachelor's degree — this time in nursing, which will prepare her for a master's in midwifery. For now, however, she is solely focused on making Bellani a success.

LaChance-Guertin first became interested in helping others from a very young age. So, when faced with having to choose a core four class as an undergraduate student, she enrolled in "Childbirth Across Four Cultures," taught by Carol Shelton, professor of nursing, who she said was "an amazing resource." Soon after meeting Shelton, LaChance-Guertin was inspired to become a certified birth and post-partum doula, someone who helps women during labor and after returning home from the hospital.

"I've taught new moms things like how to make a sandwich while holding your baby," said LaChance-Guertin. "My goal has always been to create an environment to help women to become successful, balanced moms."

LaChance-Guertin also credits Tom Randall, professor of psychology, with being supportive of her and the other non-traditional students in her psychology classes. Randall valued the real-life experiences they had as parents or married individuals.

Giorgio graduated with a BA in management; LaChance-Guertin with a BA in psychology. LaChance-Guertin's husband Paul, whom she met at RIC, graduated in 2002.

"They're a part of the business, too," said Giorgio.

For more information on Bellani Maternity, visit the website at [www.BellaniMaternity.com](http://www.BellaniMaternity.com), or call 401-234-1279.

## Technology cont.

Programs and Immersion

Presents. Numerous schools and after-school programs from across the world participated in 50-minute live feeds. The first 10 minutes of the program served as an orientation, followed by a 30-minute broadcast from expedition sites including the Navy's research submarine NR-1, the SSV *Carolyn Chouest* support vessel and the remotely operated vehicle *Argus*. The live feed concluded with a 10-minute session answering questions students had emailed to the researchers.

While the children participated in the video conference, Kniseley's students observed them and saw their reactions. For them, the experience was more about learning how to use video conferencing technology and to begin thinking about applications.

"We lack experience and this is our first opportunity to play with it, to build our experience and to think about the benefit and challenges

when using this technology with education students and children," Kniseley said.

He believes this technology has the opportunity to engage students in a way traditional methods often cannot.

"Another benefit is that we explored with the researchers," he said. "We were part of their expedition. They brought us to the floor of the Gulf and we could view in real time images that few human beings have ever seen. That can be highly motivating for students."

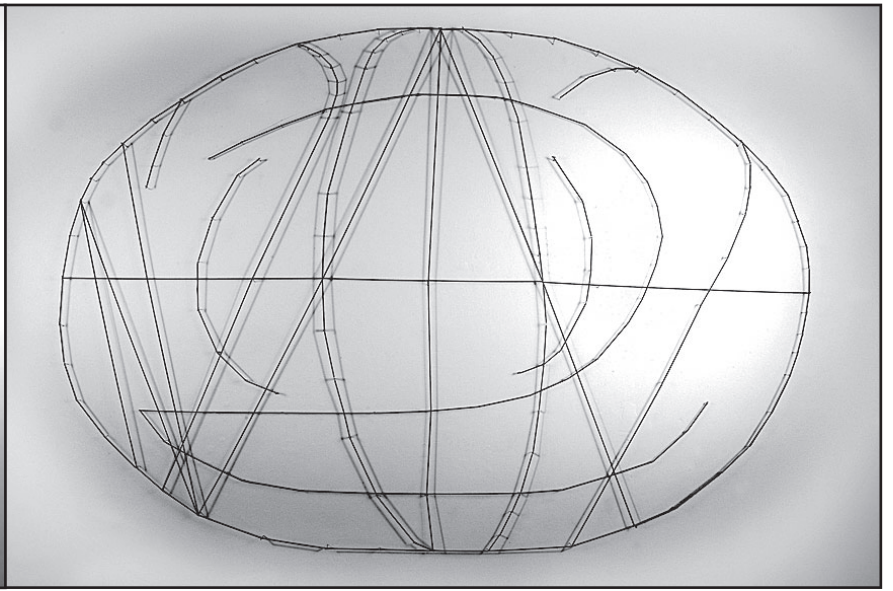
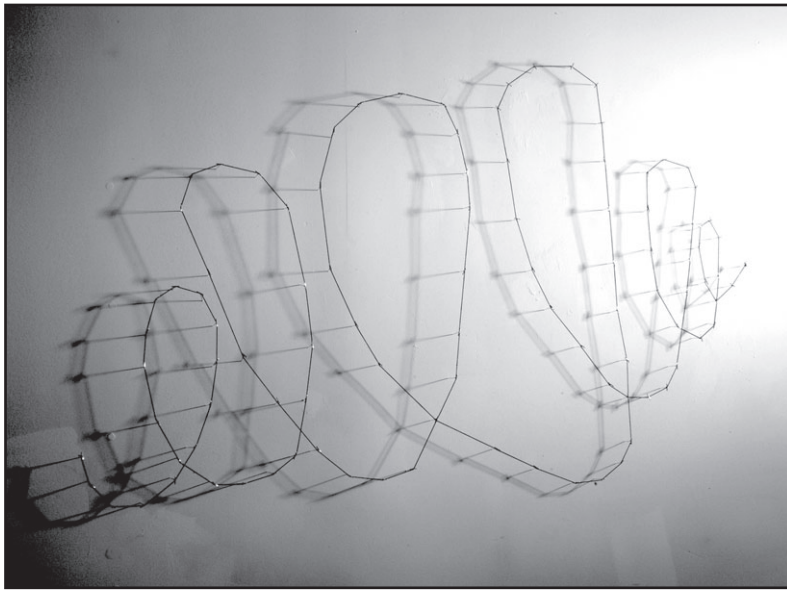
Kniseley sees the classroom of tomorrow embracing this technology. "In the future, education students will be able to flip a switch at a moment's notice and observe a classroom of children in another part of the state or the far reaches of the earth," he said. "Video conferencing is another way for our education students to learn how to teach."

Kniseley said he hopes that classrooms on campus will have the video conferencing capability in the future.

## Campus close-up revealed



It's a ball toss game in the Henry Barnard playground area!



This Lyme disease drawing is one of Suzan Shutan's *Language of Disease* creations. Alchemic-Periodic symbol drawings by Shutan.

## Drawing on new dimensions: Suzan Shutan at Bannister Gallery



BY RAY RAGOSTA

Staff Writer

Suzan Shutan has been working as an installation artist for some 30 years. But the medium does create certain challenges for her, as she noted, "Being five feet, it is not easy to create such large works. You have to climb up and down ladders just to take a look at what you are making, but the idea of making an artwork that you can walk into, in which all the variable parts add up to the whole, is just so exciting."

It is like, she added, "installing an idea in space."

Shutan has received various awards and grants, including an Artslink International Award, an Art Matters Grant, and an Artist Residency at Yaddo, and has exhibited in the U.S. and abroad.

From June 7-28 Bannister Gallery will feature her installation work at in an exhibition titled *Dimensional Drawings*. A reception is scheduled for June 21, Providence's Gallery Night, from 5-9 p.m..

That title, *Dimensional Drawings*, underscores yet another twist in Shutan's career as an installation artist. Her concentration is on line, an element more readily associated with drawing, but her particular use of the line – her extending it out into space – allows the line to inhabit two and three dimensions and expands Shutan's ongoing investigation into perception and optical illusion.

"I loved the illusionary play on shape and space in Bugs Bunny cartoons," Shutan said, "when Elmer Fudd would chase Bugs into a black hole

and Bugs would get rid of the hole once he jumped in by taking it with him down under. Elmer could not find him because no hole existed."

Around 1980, Shutan began drawing with black masking tape, a process by which she could extend her line "onto all kinds of surfaces – like walls, floors, ceilings and objects."

Then, in 2005, Shutan made a surprising discovery while watching her aunt wrap her knitting yarn around t-pins. She noticed that the yarn created shadows, adding another dimension, which could be varied depending on distance to create stronger lines or stronger shadows. This observation led her to add depth to her "drawings."

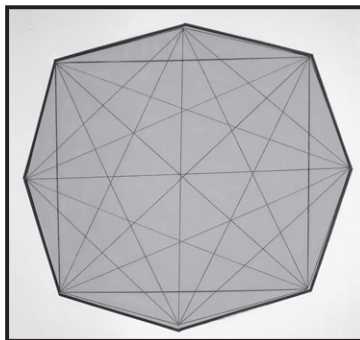
Shutan's work is also characterized by strong political and environmental concerns. One wall of her *Dimensional Drawings* installation, named *The Language of Disease*, was motivated by her reaction to the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami and the rampant spread of disease that followed, as well as by personal connections.

"I watched news reports," she remembered, "calling for medical help to combat the onset of new raging diseases once thought to be eradicated, like cholera and polio. At the same time, three friends began developing symptoms of polio, HIV and bird flu. One had contracted polio in India at a very young age, and while she lived with early onset, the symptoms stopped until recently."

For *The Language of Disease*, Shutan totally reverses the scale of reality by rendering microscopic

organisms as wall-sized structures, much larger than any demonstration models or textbook illustrations. But for Shutan, who seems regularly to think in paradoxes, this extreme enlargement also involves reduction, specifically a reduction to a set of lines that may appear funny, quirky and even to have a "personality."

She explained, "If I could reduce a disease by minimizing it into a shape, then into lines, then into a language of expression and feeling (not unlike concrete poetry), then perhaps it would begin to put a face on disease, humanize it and simplify it."



A recent work of Shutan's based on geometric forms.

In order to mine further visual material, her research on disease now extends into how diseases react

to drugs and mutate, and it has introduced her to biosemiotics, a relatively new field that joins biology with sign-systems study.

"The idea of biosemiotics," she noted, "is that every living organism has evolved from semantic structures; they build their own subjective universe by producing signs that correspond to elements of their world."

The essences of communication – signs, symbols and language – are a steady preoccupation for Shutan, and this morphs into different areas of expression, though most of these have recently been centered on mathematical and scientific concepts.

For instance, she constructed a work based on a combination of Periodic Table equations and alchemical symbols, when in 2006 she was invited to participate in

an exhibit titled *Elementum*. The object was to have artists create a piece based on one or all of the elements: fire, air, earth and water.

This piece, incidentally, will be recreated for her exhibit at Rhode Island College.

Shutan recognizes that mathematical concepts, such as equations, can act as significant, symbolic reflections and descriptions of the world and can carry multiple resonances.

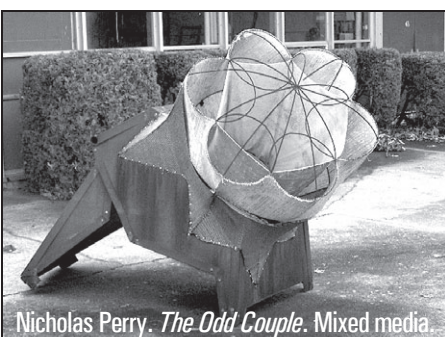
"What has really won me over about equations," Shutan stated, "is, that they are 'the act of making equal two quantities.' This idea embraces a philosophical and socio-political aspect about life that drives my work. From an art aspect it's about creating symmetry."

She has made parallel investigations with regard to geometric shapes and their implications for human communication through the language of symbols. One example is the star polygon.

This figure can take different forms and convey a variety of meanings, according to Shutan. "When the polygon is used as a five-point shape or pentagram, it is often related to occult symbolism like Wicca but also the Jewish Kabala. As a hexagram (six points), it is the Jewish Star of David. It can represent celestial objects like the Marian Star or, as an octagram (eight points) it is seen in motifs of Hindu and Islamic architecture."

In these latest inquiries, Shutan searches a fairly broad range to find the unanticipated connections between things, and in the process, she ventures into areas not readily associated with art, even in this age dominated by science and technology.

Still, she manages to circle back to the stuff of art – imagination, myth, and ultimately what it means to feel and be human.



Nicholas Perry. *The Odd Couple*. Mixed media.

## STUDENT ART SHOWCASE AT BANNISTER MAY 7-19

The Annual Student Exhibition, a juried display featuring the work of graduating seniors of RIC's Department of Art, will be held May 7-19 at Bannister Gallery. A reception is set for May 10 from 5-8 p.m.

Representative works from all disciplines within this vibrant and innovative department will be on display, including ceramics, drawing, graphic design, jewelry design, painting, photography, printmaking and sculpture.

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.



Sarah Walsh and John Wise paint sculptures in a SummerArt class in July 2006.

## RIC SummerArt Program offers creative exploration for ages 5-16

*Classes meet July 9-19, Monday through Thursday, from 9 a.m. to noon at the Art Center on the Rhode Island College campus. Now in its 15th year, the program provides a stimulating yet relaxed studio environment for young artists to develop their creative skills.*

### Classes:

#### Mixed Media – Ages 5-7

Students will experiment with a variety of media in producing two- and three-dimensional projects. The class allows them to express their natural creativity and increase awareness of the world around them.

#### Mixed Media – Ages 8-11

Young artists will use various media to learn the basics of design and composition. Painting, drawing, printmaking, and design are some of the projects explored. The class will help develop visual awareness and build on skill development.

#### Sculpture – Ages 8-11

Materials such as clay, papier-mâché, cardboard, wire, cloth, and plaster allow students to explore and interpret their three-dimensional world.

#### Clayworks – Ages 9-13

Love to play with clay? This class will explore hand building techniques of pinch, coil and slab construction. Students will experiment with texture, pattern, and colored glazes, and assist with the firing process.

#### Drawing – Ages 12-16

Students will experiment with various drawing materials as they explore the natural and man-made world. They will work on design, composition, and skill development as they study line, space, shape, value and texture.

*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 Department of Art at 401-456-8054. For additional information, email [cmulcahey@ric.edu](mailto:cmulcahey@ric.edu) or visit the website at [ric.edu/hbs/summer\\_art.html](http://ric.edu/hbs/summer_art.html).*

# NYC filmmaker visits RIC, tells “hole” story

BY KATHARINE RICCI '07

Staff Writer



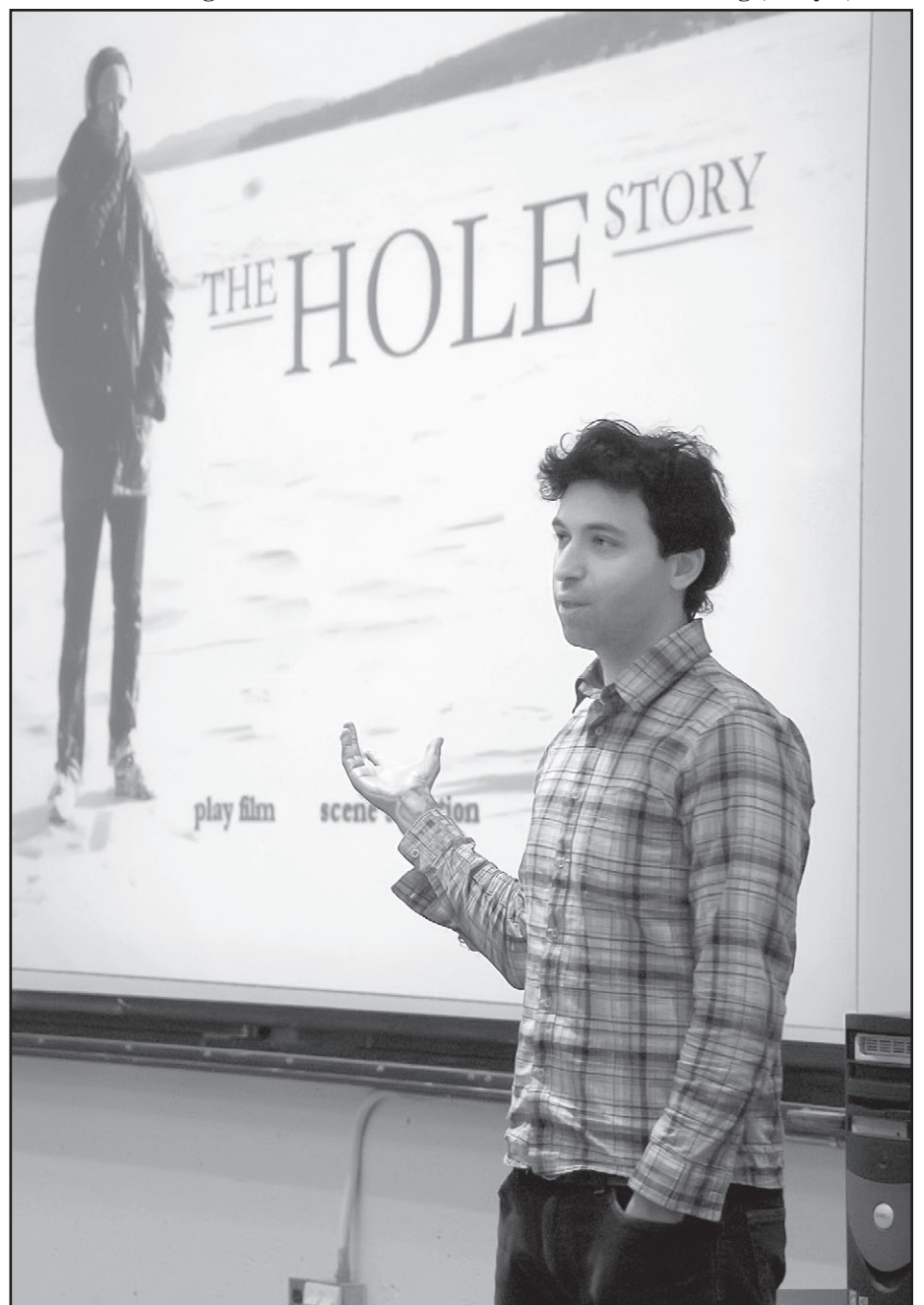
“Make films, not excuses,” said Alex Karpovsky, an independent film director who visited RIC on March 29.

He gave this advice to a crowd of about 30 students and faculty, based on his personal experiences creating his first full-length film, *The Hole Story*. The film studies department sponsored a screening of the movie followed by a Q&A with Karpovsky.

*The Hole Story* has received wide critical acclaim. Some have described it as a “fictumentary” and “fictionalized nonfiction,” but Karpovsky calls it an experiment between truth and fiction.

For his film, Karpovsky rejected the idea of a traditional script. Instead he crafted an outline of what he wanted, gave what he calls his non-actors (Brainerd, Minn., locals) a general explanation and went from there. At one point, the film incorporates a mental health center, and uses its real mental health patients as actors.

Tired of editing karaoke videos for a living, Karpovsky’s road to filmmaking began when he pitched ideas for television pilots to cable executives. Soon he realized the executives were not going to buy his concepts, so he took his favorite show idea, *Provincial Puzzlers*, an



THE HOLE STORY: Alex Karpovsky responds to questions from students after they viewed his film.

exploration of small town mysteries, and decided to make the pilot episode himself. Karpovsky and a small film crew traveled to Brainerd, where they planned to document a 400-foot by half mile long mysterious hole that appeared, despite arctic temperatures, in the middle of the frozen North Long Lake. To their shock, a day before their arrival the hole had frozen over just as inexplicably as it had appeared.

Karpovsky took his dilemma and turned it into *The Hole Story*, which comedically explores fractured human dreams, desperation, and what it takes to become an American legend. The film has been shown in over 25 film festivals, including the 2006 Newport Film Festival.

After the screening, the questioners asked about

the reality of breaking into filmmaking to which Karpovsky, who graduated from college but never went to film school, responded, “Make movies, don’t make excuses.” He said he put his whole movie cost, about \$20,000, on a Discover card, and has been able to gradually pay it all off and still manage to make a profit.

Right now, Karpovsky, a native of Boston, lives in New York City and is editing his next film, about sightings of a woodpecker species in Arkansas thought to be extinct in the 1940s. He is also in talks with the Discovery Channel about possibly creating a real *Provincial Puzzlers* cable show, but until then, the first episode can be found in the special features section of *The Hole Story*. The DVD is available at [www.indiepix.net](http://www.indiepix.net) and [www.netflix.com](http://www.netflix.com).



**RIWHE CONFERENCE:** Peg Brown (left), vice president for development and college relations, presents a certificate recognizing Fidelity Investments as a strategic partner in philanthropy and support of women's issues to Holly Jensen, senior public affairs manager for Fidelity. The presentation came during the Rhode Island Women in Higher Education Conference held at RIC. At the conference, Brown was selected to be the new state coordinator of RIWHE.

# RIC student gets first-hand account from honors thesis subject

At times, completing an honors thesis can take a student far beyond the walls of the library and the security of the classroom. In early March, third-year student and English major Eric Dolce attended the Left Forum 2007 Conference at the Cooper Union in New York City. The conference, titled "Forging a Radical Political Future," featured over 80 panels and hundreds of scholars and activists discussing global politics. Dolce is writing an honors thesis on the poetry and life of South African poet and activist Dennis Brutus. Brutus attended the conference and spoke on the current social and economic climate of South Africa. After his speech, Brutus and Dolce met to discuss Dolce's project.

Born in 1924, Dennis Brutus was the motivating force behind a movement to exclude South Africa from world sports events like the Olympics because of the government's policies of racial segregation. Initiated in 1948 and abolished in 1993, these policies, known collectively as apartheid, strictly enforced a state of affairs where whites were systematically given power and opportunity ahead of the black majority of the population. In effect this policy meant that non-white South Africans (more than 80 percent of the population) had no economic, political or personal power.

In the 1960s and early 1970s



RIC student Eric Dolce (right) presents a College jersey to poet and political activist Dennis Brutus, who is the subject of Dolce's honors thesis.

Brutus was a hated figure for those defending sports apartheid. Knowing that if white South Africa was deprived of its fanatical sports devotion it would be forced to change, he helped secure suspension from the Olympics in 1964 and expulsion in 1970.

His opposition to the apartheid government caused him to be prohibited from participating in all political and social activity. His writing was banned throughout South Africa, and he was banned from writing new material altogether. During an attempt to escape the country to attend an Olympic meeting in Europe in

1963, he was shot, arrested and subsequently sentenced to 18 months of hard labor. He was imprisoned in an island prison off the coast of Cape Town, South Africa. One of his fellow inmates was Nelson Mandela.

Brutus is the author of 12 collections of poetry, and is the recipient of many international honors and recognitions for his writing and activism. He has been awarded honorary degrees at numerous educational institutions around the world, and is currently based at the Center for Civil Society in Durban, South Africa. He is an in-demand speaker

worldwide. His current activism is aimed at the World Bank and International Monetary Fund influence in South Africa.

Dolce said that given the fact that Brutus' life has been filled with important people, incidents, and activities, it was surprising that he was so accessible and modest about his role in South African history. When asked about the way his poetic work and his political activities fit together, Brutus told Dolce that things just fell into his lap.

After the interview, Dolce accompanied Brutus to his scheduled reading held elsewhere on the Cooper Union campus. The two remain in contact as Dolce continues his research.

Meeting Brutus has given Dolce a fresh perspective on the poet's work. Some of their conversation will become a part of the thesis Dolce will complete in fall 2007. Dolce says that meeting Brutus "was a great opportunity to come face to face with a world-class poet."

Dolce's thesis advisor is Daniel Scott, professor of English, who said of Dolce meeting the subject of his thesis: "It's a really unique opportunity. It was a really good coincidence that they could meet in New York."

Honors theses can be proposed in any academic area. About 15 to 20 Rhode Island College seniors write honors theses each year.

## R.I. Foundation names RIC sophomore a Metcalf Fellow

A South African adventure on tap for Leeann Schmitt this summer.

RIC sophomore Leeann Schmitt of Warwick will forfeit some of the carefree days of summer to explore health care systems in South Africa. She is one of four college students from Rhode Island to be named a 2007 Metcalf Fellow. Schmitt will receive \$5,000 from the Michael Metcalf Memorial Fund held in the Rhode Island Foundation.



LEEANN SCHMITT

"I am so excited and anxious, yet nervous about this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity... and believe that I will gain so much by participating in this program," said Schmitt in a news release.

A 2005 graduate of Toll Gate High School, Schmitt is a member of the RIC Student Nurses Association and volunteers at Women & Infants Hospital in Providence.

"I love the medical field because you can make all the difference in someone's life," she said.

The other Metcalf Fellows are Kyle Anderson of Providence, a junior at Springfield College; Cara Beller of Bristol, a junior at Hofstra University; and Camia Crawford of Wakefield, a junior at Brown University.

Their experiences – all self-designed adventures outside of college class work – are intended to promote personal growth through travel. More than 50 Metcalf Fellows have had experiences in places from Appalachia to Zaire since 1990.

Metcalf was chairman and publisher of the *Providence Journal* before he died in a 1987 bicycling accident. In helping to establish the Metcalf Fund in his memory 17 years ago, Metcalf's wife Charlotte wanted to create transformative experiences that were a departure from the usual scholarship.

Schmitt, a nursing major, will apply her Metcalf award toward an International Scholar Laureate Program Delegation on Nursing in South Africa. She will spend 12 days researching health care systems in Cape Town, Durban and Johannesburg as one of 80 U.S. nursing students nominated to attend the program.



ORAL HISTORY COMMITTEE: (Seated, from left) Brenda Rapoza '82, Ellie O'Neill, Marlene Lopes, Patricia Nolin '87 and Rob Bower; (Standing, from left) P. William Hutchinson, Kathryn Sasso '69, Thomas Ramsbey and James Bierden.

## Oral History Committee request photos, memorabilia

In preparation for the celebration of the 50th anniversary of Rhode Island College's move from downtown Providence to the Mt. Pleasant campus, the Oral History Committee has been conducting interviews with emeriti faculty, alumni and others over the course of the last two years. Now that the interviews are nearly complete, the committee is

planning to produce a publication featuring this work. The College community is invited to send photos from the 1950s and 60s for this publication. Memorabilia for display is also welcome. Items can be loaned or contributed to a permanent archive celebrating the 50th anniversary. Contact Kathryn Sasso at 401-456-8022 or ksasso@ric.edu.

# RIC social work professor produces essay series for local NPR affiliate

BY ROB MARTIN

Managing Editor



Frederic (Rick) Reamer's calendar is like many email inboxes: over the limit.

In addition to his teaching load, The RIC professor of social work serves on the Rhode Island Parole Board, chairs a social workers' association ethics committee, sits on the editorial board of several social work journals, edits the *Social Work Knowledge Series* for Columbia University Press, and recently testified as an expert witness in a federal case on behalf of a California university and the Children and Family Services department in Los Angeles.

So two months ago, when National Public Radio and its Rhode Island affiliate, WRNI, asked if he would produce a local version of NPR's essay series *This I Believe*, Reamer carefully weighed the offer before agreeing to do it.

As it turns out, his decision was a good one – for him and for area listeners of NPR.

*This I Believe* offers personal stories and reflections in which people highlight the core values and beliefs that guide their lives. The essays are approximately 500 words, or three minutes of airtime. The project is based on the Edward R. Morrow 1950s radio series of the same name.

The national series, which has aired segments by Colin Powell, Gloria Steinem, Bill Gates and

William F. Buckley Jr., has received a positive response since it debuted in 2005. Based on its success, NPR decided to introduce regional editions of the series in a handful of markets, including Rhode Island.

Reamer's association with NPR began two years ago, when his essay about justice was one of the first featured on a national broadcast of *This I Believe*. During the past year, he participated in several public NPR events for the series, before being asked to lead the local presentation.

As an academic, Reamer disseminates ideas, mostly through publishing and classroom teaching. The chance to use a new platform – the airwaves – to reach people proved "irresistible," he said.

Reamer has full creative control over the series. He recruits essayists, screens unsolicited submissions, and edits the pieces selected for broadcast. After some training from WRNI's executive producer, Mark Degon, he now sits behind the glass in the station studio and coaches the essayists on which words to emphasize, when to slow down and when to pause.

"I'm learning a lot about a trade



ON AIR: Frederic Reamer (right) records an episode of *This I Believe* with guest essayist Rabbi Alvan Kaunfer at the WRNI studio in Providence.

I knew little about," said Reamer. "I'm meeting some remarkable people through this and hearing some remarkable ideas – lots of driveway moments, as they say in NPR land."



FREDERIC REAMER

Reamer sees the series as an opportunity to showcase the insights and wisdom of area residents, and to build community within the state.

"These essays will help to form a mosaic of some very special people in Rhode Island," he said.

Already, a dozen segments have been recorded for broadcast. Last month Simcha Davis, a seventh grader from Community Preparatory School in Providence, spoke about her love of laughter and how humorous memories of her grandfather helped her cope with his death. In another, a woman tells of how her mother, afflicted with multiple sclerosis, connects to her husband through a bottle of perfume.

*Providence Journal* reporter G. Wayne Miller has an essay about the importance of connecting with others through stories. And Rhode Island Poet Laureate emeritus Tom Chandler talks about the possibility of hope in a world where bad news often dominates.

WRNI is running one locally produced essay each week on Wednesday during *Morning Edition* (at 6:35 and 8:35 a.m.) and during *All Things Considered* (at 5:44 p.m.).

Reamer compared most radio broadcasts to an ice sculpture: the words are transient, melting away shortly after they're aired. But *This I Believe* essays, both national and local, are being preserved online, creating an electronic time capsule for access by anyone in the future.

"I think words matter," Reamer said. "[They] have the capacity to inspire, to alter the direction of people's lives."

That's why he finds the time in his busy life to give voice to what Rhode Islanders believe – in their own words.

To hear local *This I Believe* essays aired on WRNI or for more information about the series, visit the station's website at [wrni.org](http://wrni.org) and click on RI *This I Believe*.

## Virginia Tech Cont.

the victims was held at exactly 11:50 a.m. at the entrance to the Murray Center. Students were encouraged to wear the Virginia Tech colors of maroon and orange throughout the day. Lapel ribbons were distributed.

A 10-foot banner bearing the RIC and Virginia Tech seals and imprinted with the words "What we have once enjoyed we can never lose. All that we love deeply becomes a part of us," once spoken by Helen Keller, was erected on the quad for people to sign with their expressions of sympathy and support.

The banner was sent to Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Va.

Andrew Jarbeau, RIC's Student Government treasurer, contacted James Tyger, Virginia Tech's student

government president, to offer condolences and lend support. Tyger told Jarbeau that Virginia Tech students were planning to build a memorial on campus. According to Jarbeau, Tyger suggested that RIC students send a card to them to hang on the memorial.

Jarbeau said that he and other members of Student Government didn't think a card alone would express the depth of emotions that RIC students felt for the Virginia Tech students dealing with this tragedy, so they decided to design a banner for RIC students and staff to sign for the memorial.

"As students at RIC, we can only imagine the heartbreak that the Virginia Tech students are going through. As a college community, we will be in support of Virginia Tech every step of the way,"



SOLIDARITY: The RIC community participates in a Day of Remembrance in support of Virginia Tech on the campus quad on April 23.

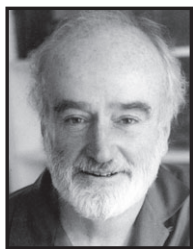
Jarbeau said.

"This tragedy has affected everyone associated with a college campus," said Gary Penfield, vice president for student affairs at RIC. "Our students have planned this

event with the utmost of sympathy and support for their counterparts at Virginia Tech, and have become evermore mindful of the fact that something like this can happen anywhere or at anytime."

**Honorary Degrees Cont.**

**Ron McLarty '69**  
**Doctor of Humanities**  
**Undergraduate Commencement Speaker**  
**May 19**



A native of East Providence, R.I., and a member of Rhode Island College's class of 1969, Ron McLarty is a veteran actor, accomplished playwright, prolific audiobook narrator and acclaimed novelist. While earning his BA in English, he was active in the College's theatre productions. He has said that it was the faculty of the College that inspired in him an interest in writing and helped him develop his craft. His education at Rhode Island College would manifest itself in many ways throughout an impressive and successful career in the humanities.

As a television actor, McLarty has over 100 appearances to his credit, most notably as Sgt. Frank Belson in *Spenser: For Hire*, Judge William Wright in *Law & Order*, Coach Harris in *Champs*, Dr. Talley in *Sex and the City*, Judge Harold Wallace in *The Practice*, and Atty. Lipman in *Judging Amy*. His career in film began in 1977 with a performance in *The Sentinel*. He was a 1984 nominee for an ACE Award for Best Actor in a Dramatic or Theatrical Program for the movie *Tiger Town*, a story about the Detroit Tigers that also starred Roy Scheider.

As a stage actor, McLarty has appeared in numerous productions, including many that he directed. He has appeared on Broadway in *Moonchildren* (1972) and *Our Country's Good* (1991). He has also written dozens of plays.

McLarty is also noted for his body of work as one of the country's leading audiobook narrators, with over 100 works to his credit, including the narration of several books authored by Stephen King, Danielle Steel, Richard Russo, Elmore Leonard and Scott Turow, among many others.

It was his collaboration with Stephen King that led to his emergence as a published novelist of national repute. Beginning with the early years of his career, McLarty's passion for writing led him to expand 10 of his plays into full-length novels, but his efforts to interest a publishing house were unsuccessful. In 2000, he was able to interest Recorded Books in producing his third novel, *The Memory of Running* (initially begun as a poem), as an audiobook. It was believed to be the first recorded audiobook of an unpublished novel. As luck would have it, Stephen King listened to the production and pronounced it, in a column published in *Entertainment Weekly* as "...the best novel you won't read this year."

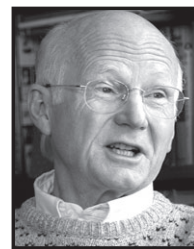
King's endorsement led to a bidding war by publishing firms that reached seven figures. *The Memory of Running* was published by Viking Press in 2004 and became a bestseller. Warner Bros. has obtained the rights to the film version of the novel, for which McLarty has written the screenplay.

In January 2007, Viking published McLarty's second novel, *Traveler*, which has also met with both critical and popular acclaim. While *The Memory of Running* is rich with local color and McLarty's reminiscences of the Rhode Island of his youth, almost all of the main action in *Traveler* takes place in Rhode Island.

McLarty has been honored by the Rhode Island College Alumni Association with its 2005 Charles B. Willard Achievement Award. His first novel, *The Memory of Running*, is the 2007 featured selection of "Reading Across Rhode Island," sponsored by the Rhode Island Center for the Book at the Providence Public Library.

**A LOOK AT THE 2007**

**H. Philip West, Jr.**  
**Doctor of Laws**  
**Graduate Commencement Speaker**  
**May 17**



For the past 18 years, H. Philip West, Jr. served as executive director of Common Cause of Rhode Island, a non-profit organization committed to the ethical reform of government.

A native of rural Grahamsville, N.Y., and son of a Methodist minister, West became influenced by the teachings of the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. and became an activist in the fight for civil rights as a Hamilton College undergraduate in the early 1960s. Later, while attending Union Theological Seminary at Columbia University, and then as an ordained United Methodist minister assigned to some of the toughest neighborhoods in New York City, West expanded his activism, working with street gangs in the South Bronx, and later serving as executive director of a community center in the city's Bowery section. In that role, he witnessed first hand a culture of corruption on the part of some government officials with which he dealt – and the indifference of many other officials who accepted these injustices with little or no apparent protest.

In 1988, when his wife was offered a position as director of a battered women's shelter in Rhode Island, West followed her to their newly adopted state. Unemployed by the move, West answered an ad seeking an executive director for Common Cause of Rhode Island, hoping to engage his grass-roots organizing skills and passion for fairness and ethical treatment of all individuals in an effort to improve upon what many had described as a state beset with significant systemic ethical challenges.

As executive director of Common Cause, West is credited as a key leader in the battle to enact numerous governmental reforms. These include a successful Ethics Commission challenge to a sitting governor; merit selection of all judges; downsizing of the General Assembly; four-year terms for state general officers; more comprehensive disclosure requirements for lobbyists; new campaign finance limits and disclosure requirements; closing of "revolving door" appointments for state appointed and elected officials; protection of citizens who petition government from "SLAPP-suits"; new laws against nepotism; restoration of the right to vote for felons upon release from prison; measures to make the process of legislative redistricting more open; advocacy for online access to legislative information and other reports by public officials, lobbyists and state vendors; and strengthening of laws requiring public access to government meetings and records.

His most recent notable successes have included the long struggle for passage of a Separation of Powers amendment to the Rhode Island Constitution (approved by voters in 2004), and the subsequent efforts to enact implementing legislation in the General Assembly – a task that still continues.

In addition to his work with Common Cause, West served as president of Greater Elmwood Neighborhood Services. He has also been active in relief efforts in Africa, assisting victims of civil wars in Mozambique and Liberia and working in anti-apartheid efforts in South Africa. RIC's Alumni Association presented West with its 1996 Service Award for his contributions to the state and nation that reflect ideals of service to humanity.

In 2006, West retired from his post at Common Cause and began the process of writing a book about his experiences.



# HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENTS

**Wren Goodrum**  
**Doctor of Pedagogy**  
**Graduate Commencement**  
**May 17**



Wren Goodrum serves as artistic and executive director of All Children's Theatre, based in Pawtucket. Educated at the North Carolina School of the Arts where she earned a BFA in 1975, Goodrum continued her theatrical education

culminating with a performance in *The Beggars Opera* in the West End – London.

Returning to New York City, Goodrum was a founding member of Theatre Arts Alliance, a repertory Off-Off-Broadway theatre company. She acted with the group for three years, highlighted by a performance of *Old Flames Off Broadway*. Reflecting her interest in children's theatre, Goodrum established the Afterschool Drama Club at the Bank Street School, nurturing that program over five years to include two performing ensembles, five classes, and a membership of more than 75 young people. She subsequently founded a for-profit acting troupe of children, called *Kidsplay*.

Goodrum arrived in Rhode Island in 1985 where she started Afterschool Youth Theatre classes under the auspices of the Trinity Rep community programs. She founded The Washington Street Players, a youth ensemble, in 1986, and produced two plays for that group. She also directed over 90 students at the Broad Street School in an original play written specifically for the students that focused on the contributions of racial and ethnic minorities to the history of Rhode Island. In addition, Goodrum directed two productions for Looking Glass Theatre.

In 1987, Goodrum founded All Children's Theatre, which, since its inception, has instructed thousands of young people in the theatre arts with a focus on the education and enrichment of children ages 4-18. The company provides acting classes, supports an ACTing Ensemble that produces several productions each year, offers outreach programs for community-based organizations, and holds annual summer camps. In addition, All Children's Theatre promotes playwriting through its Rhode Island Youth Playwriting Competition and Festival, now in its 12th year.

Among its many accomplishments and accolades, the company was selected in 1998 by the Providence Performing Arts Center to perform a series of productions for audiences of middle school students. These included *I Never Saw Another Butterfly* in 1998, *Mill Girls* in 2000, *Anne Frank and Me* in 2002, *Zink: the Myth, the Legend, the Zebra* in 2004 and, most recently, a performance of *We Are the Dream; the Legacy of Martin Luther King* in February 2007.

All Children's Theatre's original production of *Mill Girls* was awarded two Moss Hart Winged Trophy Awards by the New England Theatre Conference in 1999 for Best Overall Production and Best Production in the Youth/Children's Theatre Division.

The company has been honored and recognized by the *Rhode Island Parents' Paper* as "Family Favorite" (2001) and "Best Children's Theatre in Rhode Island" (2003). That same year, *Rhode Island Monthly* readers also named it "Best Children's Theatre in Rhode Island."

For her efforts in promoting the arts through the production of quality children's theatre, Goodrum received the Citizens' Bank/Providence College Good Citizens Medal in 1999 and the Jabez Gorham Award from Business Volunteers for the Arts – Rhode Island in 2000.

**George Graboys**  
**Doctor of Public Service**  
**Undergraduate Commencement**  
**May 19**



George Graboys was born in Fall River, Mass., in 1932, and holds an AB from Dartmouth College and a JD from the University of Pennsylvania. He is a member of the Rhode Island Bar.

Graboys' career has centered principally on banking and finance, education, law, and service to the not-for-profit community.

He came to Rhode Island in 1958 to practice law, shortly thereafter becoming a senior executive with U.S. Finance Corp. before it was purchased by Citizens Bank in 1969. He spent 24 years with the Rhode Island-based Citizens Financial Group, serving as president, chairman and CEO for 17 years, while providing vision and leadership during a period of unprecedented growth, including the building of Citizen's 14-story downtown headquarters and the bank's 40-acre East Providence operations center.

He also spearheaded the acquisition of Citizens in 1988 by the Royal Bank of Scotland Group, Europe's second largest bank. Graboys served on the board of the Royal Bank of Scotland for four years until his retirement from Citizens in December 1992. His professional leadership has been recognized by both *New England Business* and *Ocean State Business Magazine*, which named him Businessperson of the Year.

Graboys served on the Rhode Island Board of Governors for Higher Education, the state's governing board for all public institutions of higher education, for three consecutive terms from 1983-1992. After his retirement from Citizens and at the expiration of his third term on the board, Graboys maintained his active involvement in public higher education by accepting an appointment as adjunct professor and executive-in-residence at the University of Rhode Island College of Business. He taught Strategic Management courses until 1995 when he accepted an invitation from Rhode Island Governor Lincoln Almond to return to the Board of Governors, this time as its chair. During his chairmanship, he also served for one year as the state's commissioner of higher education. Graboys was also a founding member of the board of the Rhode Island Children's Crusade for Higher Education and served as its first chair.

In 2005, Graboys was named to chair the board of the Rhode Island Foundation. He has also served as a trustee and director of Miriam Hospital and the United Way of Southeastern New England, including service as chairman of the 1993 campaign. He helped found the Minority Investment Development Council and served as chairman of the Rhode Island Urban Project. In addition, he has served as chairman of the board of AAA of Southern New England.

Graboys has received many awards for his civic and charitable endeavors, including the Anti-Defamation League's Torch of Liberty Award, the Brotherhood Award presented by the National Conference for Community and Justice (NCCJ), the International Institute Citizen of the Year Award, the Leadership Award of the Rhode Island Children's Crusade for Higher Education, and the Providence Rotary Club Citizen of the Year Award. He holds honorary doctorates from Bryant University, Johnson & Wales University, the New England Institute of Technology and the University of Rhode Island. He has been recognized by Dartmouth College with its Class of 1954 Award.



# WHAT'S HAPPENING Around the Campus



**MAGICAL TREE HOUSE:** Students from John Arango's class at Henry Barnard School enjoy reading a book inside the tree house constructed in the school library during Reading Week last month.



**LAYING ON THE PAINT:** Art student Liliya Kryz '07 uses a palette knife to put the finishing touches on a large oil painting.



**FACING THE FUTURE:** Janice Gomes '07, an art education major, applies a glaze to her ceramic sculpture. Gomes will be graduating this month and begins her teaching career in September.



**ART OUTDOORS:** Many art students are finding the warm sunshine and colorful views of spring outside of the classroom to be ideal for working on end-of-the-semester projects.