

WHAT'S NEWS @ Rhode Island College

Established in 1980 Circulation over 52,000



CONSTANTINE WILLIAM CURRIS
Honorary Doctor of Laws



HOWARD L. FINE
Honorary Doctor of Fine Arts



NICOLAS P. RETSINAS
Honorary Doctor of Public Service



BRUCE SUNDLUN
Honorary Doctor of Public Service

RIC announces 2008 honorary degree recipients to be awarded at commencements May 15 and 17

RIC, the state's oldest public institution of higher learning, now in its 154th year, will award four honorary degrees, and confer 1,517 advanced and undergraduate degrees during upcoming commencement exercises. The ceremonies will be the last for RIC President John Nazarian, who will be retiring in June after a 58-year association with the College.

RIC President John Nazarian will preside over his last commencement exercises in ceremonies for advanced degrees on May 15 and undergraduate degrees on May 17. Four honorary degrees and about 1,500 master's and bachelor's degrees will be awarded over the two days.

Nazarian will retire in June after a 58-year association with the College as a student, a professor, an associate dean, an administrator and president.

Advanced degree commencement will be held on Thursday, May 15, at 5:30 p.m. in The Murray Center. Nicolas Retsinas, director of the Joint Center for Housing Studies at Harvard University, will receive an Honorary Doctor of Public

Service degree and deliver the commencement address.

Undergraduate commencement will take place on Saturday, May 17, at 9:30 a.m. on the College's esplanade. (Ceremonies will be moved indoors to The Murray Center if inclement weather).

Constantine Curris, president of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities and long-time advocate for the public education system and its students, will deliver the commencement address and receive an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree.

Honorary degree conferrals at undergraduate commencement will go to Bruce Sundlun, former governor of Rhode Island, business executive, and civic leader, who will be awarded a Doctor of Public Service degree; and Howard Fine '81, M '04, premier acting teacher and much sought-after coach in the entertainment industry, and a double alumnus of RIC, who will be given a Doctor of Fine Arts degree.

Members of the class of 1958 will celebrate their golden anniversary at commencement, leading the graduation processional. Representatives

from each graduating class of the College from 1935 to 2007 will also march before this year's graduating seniors.

This year also marks the 50th anniversary of the College's move to the Mount Pleasant Avenue location from downtown Providence. The move represented much more than a new location and expanded facilities. It heralded a new College culture that signified the state's commitment to maintaining the school as a separate entity and provided for enhancement of academic programs, while offering thousands more students, mostly Rhode Islanders, with an opportunity for a college education.

This year's graduating class will offer a special tribute to Nazarian at the end of the ceremonies.

Established in 1854, Rhode Island College is the oldest public institution of higher education in the state.

Nazarian was named president of RIC on May 17, 1990. He graduated from the College in 1954 when it was known as Rhode Island College of Education (RICE) and remained on campus as a professor, a dean and an administrator before becoming president. He is also RIC's longest serving president and the College's second alumnus to be named president.

Bios on p 15



The oil painting *Autumn Sun* is one of Betsey MacDonald's newest works. A story about MacDonald, a teacher, artist and RIC grad student, is on page 14.

Wn Quotes...

"I truly am excited to become a part of one of the most proactive Div. III Athletic Departments in the country."

– Marcus Reilly, new head women's basketball coach. [P 7]

"In reality, designing is about understanding your resource package, which includes the physical space, the budget and the people you work with."

– Alan Pickart, RIC associate professor of theatre and set designer. [P 12]

"It was wonderful to allow all those who are involved in the program to celebrate its success and acceptance into the RIC community."

– Jill Holloway, on a March 19 reception recognizing the establishment of the Adult Educational Professional Development Center. Holloway is director of the Development Center, the newest affiliate of the David E. Sweet Center for Public Policy. [P 3]

This regular feature of What's News looks at the links between the world and Rhode Island College. This is the second of a two-part story written by **Hoth G. Chan**, who taught as an adjunct professor in RIC's Anthropology Department. In the April What's News, Chan wrote about his return in 2007 to his native country of Sudan, and the progress of that country's Comprehensive Peace Agreement.



HOTH G. CHAN

Developmental challenges facing South Sudan

My journey from South Sudan to the North Sudan and back by car had given me an inside view of what is taking place in both rural and urban areas. Although I did not visit the far northern states, some of the small towns I came across on my

way to South Sudan by car painted a clear picture as far as development is concerned.

Sudan can best be described as a country with a progressing head and decaying feet. Of its 26 states, the 10 states in the South do not even come close to the ones in the North. This is due to the marginalization of the South as a region even though it is where the oil is found.

The southern state capitals are no more than big villages, with grass-thatched houses. There are no parliaments and judiciary buildings in some of these capitals. State affairs are often held under the trees. There is money from oil revenues and other sources, but the mighty corruption in South Sudan is finishing off everything.

The lack of a proper system to coordinate government machinery is a big problem. Although NGOs (Non-Governmental Organizations) and UN agencies are trying to train people to run the government, some of these agencies have their own motives aside from building South Sudan. The donor countries that pledged in Oslo, Norway, before the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement to help South Sudan, are not sending the money. Some of these donors did in fact send money but these funds are being returned to the donor countries through consultants

who are paid unbelievable amounts for doing nothing. Some of the consultants who are supposed to act as advisors to the ministries are not even experts in their fields, but mere students.

Although the president of the Government of Southern Sudan, Salva Kiir, is asking all Southern Sudanese in diaspora to come home and help with development, the situation on the ground is not helpful. Those who came from the United States, Canada, Australia, Britain, etc., are finding it harder to live here. There are no incentives to attract these people back home, and it's hard for them to give up a good life in the West.

There are, however, dedicated South Sudanese from the West who are very patriotic and are helping this country with her developmental challenges. In fact, some of these individuals who came from the United States are now trying their best in the name of America to change the system in this country for the better. These individuals or groups of people will definitely need help from their adopted country. That is why institutions like Rhode Island College and the like should look into what they can do to help the South Sudanese people as they take baby steps in the long walk of development.

Professors Richard Lobban and Carolyn Fluehr-Lobban of RIC's Anthropology Department have tried their best to educate the American public and the rest of the world's citizens about the Sudanese problem. They have visited Khartoum and Juba in the South and have seen the real challenges on the ground.

This article gives you a hint about what is taking place in Sudan. The Darfur issue is in the news daily, but it should be remembered that the root causes and the solution to the Darfur problem can be found in Southern Sudan.

Sudan is the biggest country in Africa; it's a place where both Arabs and Africans compete for the control of that state. Moreover, Sudan is one of the oil producing countries where both the West and China are competing openly to control its oil market. It matters that people understand about Sudan and its politics for the above reasons, and also because as an American taxpayer, some of your tax monies are used for humanitarian purposes by the government to help the Sudanese people.

who are paid unbelievable amounts for doing nothing. Some of the consultants who are supposed to act as advisors to the ministries are not even experts in their fields, but mere students.

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Editor: Jane E. Fusco
Managing Editor: Rob Martin
Design Manager: Jennifer Twining '92
Information Aide: Pauline McCartney
Photographers:
 Gene St. Pierre '77
 Christopher Giroux '08
 Mike Shiel '11
Graphic Designers:
 Charles Allsworth '82, M '86
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Public Relations Assistant:
 Alicia Vanasse '08

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This year's induction ceremony for the Epsilon Chi chapter of Lambda Pi Eta at RIC took place on April 13 at the Wharf Tavern in Warren. Sitting, from left, are inductees Paula Richer, Luz J. Martinez, Rebecca Hoseason and Erin Flaherty. Standing, from left, are associate professors Harriet Magen and Audrey Olmsted, inductees Joshua M. Medeiros, Winston Langley, Patrick Cleary and Graham Bennett, and chapter president Anaridis Rodriguez.

The membership of Lambda Pi Eta is composed of undergraduate students with an interest in the communications field who have achieved academic excellence.

The organization was established by the Speech Communication Association as an affiliate organization and as the official communications honor society for undergraduates in 1994. In February of 1996, Lambda Pi Eta was inducted into the Association of College Honor Societies. There are currently more than 400 chapters worldwide.



The next issue of
What's News
 will be June 9, 2008

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



Jill Holloway, director of the new Adult Education Professional Development Center, is joined by Gov. Donald Carcieri and RIC President John Nazarian at a reception for the center in March.

Adult education is newest affiliate of RIC's Center for Public Policy

The Adult Education Professional Development Center is the newest entity to step under RIC's David E. Sweet Center for Public Policy umbrella, and is the first program of its kind in the state.

The primary goal of the Development Center is to serve the whole field of adult education and raise the quality of adult education in the state.

The Development Center serves individuals who need to earn their GEDs, as well as those who already hold GEDs or high school diplomas and want to go to college. The Development Center also offers U.S. citizenship courses, and opportunities for obtaining apprenticeships in various fields of employment.

"Adult education is a very large world," said Jill Holloway, the Development Center's director.

Holloway said that English language learners who attend the Adult Education Professional Development Center often arrive with little or no literacy from their home countries. The center helps adult students with all levels of English-speaking abilities.

"Someone may speak several languages, but English isn't one of them, so that person will have trouble finding a job here," said Holloway. "For example, a person who is from another country may be a certified doctor in his or her native country, but cannot get such a job here, because he or she doesn't speak English."

The majority of the funding for the Development Center comes from the Rhode Island Department of Education's Office of Adult

Education, which funds numerous programs throughout the state.

On March 19, RIC President John Nazarian hosted a reception recognizing the establishment of the Development Center. Governor Donald Carcieri and Jack Warner, the state's commissioner of higher education, attended.

"It was wonderful to allow all those who are involved in the program to celebrate its success and acceptance into the RIC community," Holloway said of the event.

Holloway credited Mark Motte, assistant vice president for academic affairs and director of the Center for Public Policy, and Peg Brown, vice president for development and college relations, with helping to make the Development Center a reality.

She also acknowledged Johan Uvin, director of adult education for the state Department of Education, for his support, and recognized several Development Center staff members for its success — Janet Isserlis, who has run the literacy Resource RI website,

and adult education bulletin; Robin Adams, workforce development specialist; Barbara Bown, reading and literacy specialist; Judy Titzel, former interim director of the Development Center; and office manager Jill Ortiz.

Holloway has a positive outlook on the future growth and importance of the Adult Education Professional Development Center.

"Our goal in the future is to become much more effective and higher quality for all the students who come through our doors," she said.

The primary goal of the Adult Education Professional Development Center is to serve the whole field of adult education and raise the quality of adult education in the state.

Faculty promotions, tenure announced

Five RIC faculty members were promoted to the rank of professor, and six were elevated to associate professor, announced RIC President John Nazarian on April 7. Also, six faculty members were granted tenure. Promotions and tenure will take effect on July 1. A reception in honor of those newly promoted and tenured was held April 17 at the President's House.

Promoted to professor

	Department
Robert Cvornyek	History
Marc Lamontagne	Physical Sciences
Joanne Schneider.....	History
Daniel Snowman.....	Physical Sciences
William Wilson	Music, Theatre, and Dance

Promoted to associate professor

Desiree Ciabrone	Sociology
Joseph Foley.....	Music, Theatre, and Dance
Dena Janson.....	Adams Library
Maria Lawrence.....	Elementary Education
Mary Ellen McGuire-Schwartz.....	Elementary Education
Judith Stokes	Adams Library

Granted tenure

Linda Barker (2009).....	Henry Barnard School
Desiree Ciabrone '90 (2008).....	Sociology
Joseph Foley (2008)	Music, Theatre, and Dance
Susan Gracia (2009).....	Ed. Leadership/Psychology
Maria Lawrence (2008).....	Elementary Education
Mary Ellen McGuire-Schwartz (2008).....	Elementary Education

FOCUS ON

Faculty & Staff

Richard R. Weiner, dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, will see publication as lead article in *Central European Political Science Review* 9:59 (2008) of his extended essay "Institutional Complementarity and Reflexive Governance in Autonomous Social Law." Weiner also presented papers:



RICHARD R. WEINER

"Ideas, Constructivism and Complementarity in Institutionalism" at the 2007 Annual Meetings of the American Political Science Association in Chicago; and "The New Protocolism in TransNational Standard-Setting" at a section seminar of the International Political Science Association in Paris in July 2007.

In Memoriam —

Paul P. Chassé, retired RIC French professor

Paul P. Chassé, professor emeritus of French at Rhode Island College, died March 26 at his home in Somersworth, N.H. He was 81.

Born in Somersworth, Chassé was a professor at RIC for 32 years before retiring in 1997.

During his tenure at the College, he established the first course in Franco-American studies to be taught at a public institute of higher learning in New England. He also served as director of Franco-American ethnic heritage studies and of the MAT graduate program in French.

In 1970, Chassé was given the insignia of Chevalier de l'Ordre des Palmes Academiques — awarded to writers, artists and professors for their services to education — by the French consul general in Boston, Daniel Oriez. In 1971, he received the "Prix Champlain," the highest French literary prize that Quebec offers to non-residents writing in French and living in North America.

He was appointed to the American and Canadian French Cultural Exchange Commission



PAUL P. CHASSÉ

in 1973 by R.I. governor Phillip W. Noel and became the state's first secretary of culture.

In 2002, he received by royal decree the award of Commander of the Royal Order of the Monisaraphon by King Norodom Sihanouk of Cambodia.

Chassé received a BA in French from the University of New Hampshire in 1949 and an AM (1951) and PhD (1968) from Laval University in Quebec.

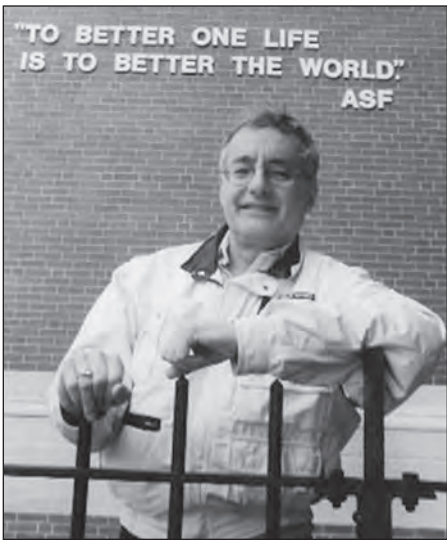
Prior to arriving at RIC, he was an instructor at Reach Preah Samphear College in Cambodia, UNH and Birmingham-Southern College in Alabama. He also taught a summer course that traveled to France and he lectured at educational institutions in Africa.

Chassé was an avid writer, authoring several books, poems and editorials.

He is survived by a sister, Pauline Chassé Rodier, of Englewood, Fla., and several nieces and nephews.

Donations in Paul Chassé's memory can be made to St. Charles Children's Home, 19 Grant St., Rochester, NH 03867.

NEWS FROM THE Foundation & Alumni Offices



ALAN SHAWN FEINSTEIN

RIC announces Feinstein Leadership Scholarships

Philanthropist Alan Shawn Feinstein announced on May 8 the donation of \$500,000 in endowed funds to Rhode Island College for Feinstein Leadership Scholarships to be awarded to high school students in the Feinstein Junior Scholars program who are accepted to RIC.

The scholarship is renewable for up to three years based on the students' academic standing.

"I look forward to seeing how the recipients of the scholarships, our former junior scholars, continue their commitment to helping to better the lives of others," Feinstein said.

A total of \$5,000 over four years is available for students who start as freshmen and continue to meet the requirements over the four-year period.

The College will provide a four-to-one match of funds so that each scholarship totals \$1,250 per qualified student.

In addition to being a Feinstein Junior Scholar, award winners must maintain the academic standards for their chosen field of study, perform community service, and write a yearly account of their achievements to be submitted to the College.

"The Feinstein Foundation has been very supportive of the College over the past 15 years, and this latest gift is a tribute to the commitment Mr. Feinstein has made to our students and the citizens of the state. Support for public higher education is vital to the future economy of the state. These scholarships will help to prepare our students for those future leadership positions," said Peg Brown, vice president for development and college relations at RIC.

RIC President John Nazarian said that these scholarship opportunities for all Feinstein Junior Scholars who enroll at Rhode Island College will significantly enhance the College's recruitment and retention efforts.

A limited number of scholarships will be available at the start of the 2008-09 academic year as the program gets underway.

Proposed board slate Alumni Association announced

The nominating committee of the Alumni Association Board of Directors has prepared a slate of officers and directors. According to our by-laws, "by May 15, the director shall notify all active alumni of the proposed slate, at-large nominees, and the date, time and location of the June board meeting. Election of officers and directors shall take place at the June board meeting."

The annual meeting of the Alumni Association will be Wednesday, June 11, at 5:30 p.m. in a location to be announced. Board members represent 11 communities, 12 different majors and six decades.

The nominating committee includes Marianne Needham '59 (chair), Jackie Nowell '92, Patti Nolin '84, Paul Hackley '85 and Ellen Kitchell '81.

Officers for 2008-10

- President** –
Vic Ventura '71 (Wakefield)
- Vice President** –
Jason Anthony '99 (Cranston)
- Treasurer** –
Bill Fazioli '86 (East Providence)
- Secretary** –
Kathleen Swann '79 (West Greenwich)
- Past President** –
Ellen Kitchell '81 (North Providence)
- Terms to expire in June 2010**
- Kristen Dean '93 (Providence)
Maggie Dooley '76 (East Providence)
Erin O'Gara Dollard '90 (Newport)
Kathy Sasso '69 (Smithfield)
Judy Spemulli '03 (Cranston)
Brian Mageau '02 (Cumberland)

At-large position, one year

- Michael Browner '98 (East Providence)
Joe Graziano '08 (Cranston)
Ann Gancz-Teixeira '82 (Cumberland)
- The slate joins the board directors below whose terms expire in June 2009**
- Allan Fung '92 (Cranston)
Sharon Garlington '80 (Providence)
Paul Hackley '85 (West Kingston)
Barbara Smith '70 (Barrington)
Patty Nevola Testa '00 (Cranston)
Syd Williams '53 (Newport)



Class of 1968 graduation celebration

Anyone interested in celebrating the 40th anniversary of graduation from Rhode Island College should contact Jim Dawson '68 at jdawson@ids.net or (401) 726-0565.



Each year, the RIC Children's Cooperative holds a bake sale to raise money for the Deborah Griffin Scholarship Fund. Griffin was a student at the College when she and four of her five children died in a tragic house fire. Presenting the check to Peg Brown, vice president for development and college relations, are Lawrence Wang, age 5, son of mathematics professor Dr. Bin Wang; Julian Gross, age 3; Martha Dwyer, head teacher at the co-op; and Jamie Lapierre, a sociology student serving as a student assistant in the co-op. The Deborah Griffin Fund has raised more than \$10,000 for music scholarships.



RIC YOUNG ALUMNI WELCOME THE CLASS OF 2008



WEDNESDAY, MAY 28, 2008
5:30 TO 7:30 P.M.
MCFADDEN'S
52 Pine St.
Providence, RI

Join us at McFadden's for food, fun and the opportunity to meet a few people with helpful information for recent graduates.

- Nancy Ann Dooley, Director of Program Administration Rhode Island Higher Education Assistance Authority
- Linda Kent Davis, Director RIC Career Development Center
- Deborah O'Gara AmeriCorps Vista Programs

To RSVP and for more information, contact alumni@ric.edu or (401) 456-9625.

English honors & scholarships

Nazarian to be honored by VIPS on June 5



On April 16 in the Faculty Center, the English Department hosted a reception for the Sigma Tau Delta initiation (top) and the Honors and Scholarship recipients (above).



Rhode Island College President John Nazarian will receive the Helen King Lifelong Learning Award from VIPS (Volunteers in Providence Schools) at a luncheon on June 5. Nazarian will be honored for his outstanding educational contributions to the community.

Nazarian, who will retire in June, has had a 58-year association with the College as a student, professor, dean, administrator, vice president and president.

Also being honored at the VIPS 44th Volunteer Recognition Luncheon is Rhode Island School of Design President Roger Mandle, who is receiving the Helen King Lifelong Learning Award for his efforts to equalize opportunities for Providence public school children, and East Side resident Pearl Nathan, who will be given the Knowledge is Power Award for her commitment to education and the humanities.

Rhode Island Board of Regents Chair and former Rhode Island Supreme Court Justice Robert G. Flanders will give the keynote address.

In a VIPS release, the organization described as a highlight of Nazarian's tenure the creation of Schooling in a Democratic Society (FNED 346), a foundations

of education course now required prior to declaring an area of concentration in education. The field experience portion of the course, which requires a minimum of 15 hours tutoring in a diverse urban classroom, is coordinated by VIPS. The entire course is presented in collaboration with RIC, VIPS, the Providence Public School District and the Providence Teachers Union.

VIPS is a 45-year-old educational nonprofit whose mission is to provide academic and social support to academically struggling elementary, middle and high school students in Providence's public schools.

RIC faculty, students and alumni are encouraged to attend the event, to be held at the Rhode Island Convention Center at noon. Tickets are \$60. To purchase tickets, contact Phil Santos-Higgins at (401) 274-3240 (ext. 12), or email psantoshiggins@vips4kids.org.

Pay tribute with the gift of a brick in the Rhode Island College Legacy Walk.



BRICK CAMPAIGN
RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE

Buy a brick in honor or memory of someone special. We will notify the chosen person or their family of your thoughtful gift. Bricks @ \$150 each are 4" x 8" and Pavers @ \$300 each are 8" x 8." Order online at 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



ACROSS THE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR'S DESK



BY DONALD E. TENCHER

Director of Athletics



- We are very pleased to announce that Marcus Reilly has joined the staff as our new head women's basketball coach. Marcus has done a great job with the Community College of Rhode Island's program and I am confident that the Anchorwomen will be vying for a conference title under his tutelage.
- I want to extend my deepest sympathy to the family of Steven Baginski '77, who passed away several weeks ago. After being the athletic director for about a year, I was contacted by Steve, who told me how he enjoyed his time at RIC as a student and especially playing soccer. Every year or so, I would hear positive feedback on the athletic program from Steve as he read updates from his new home in Texas. On occasion, Steve even stopped by the campus on visits home. To his wife Kristen and his sons John and Mark, I am sorry for your loss and will truly miss Steve's annual contact.
- Once again, Rhode Island College will host all of the Rhode Island Interscholastic League's softball championships, as well as the finals in boys' lacrosse, girls' lacrosse and boys' volleyball.
- Congratulations to former Rhode Island College baseball coach Dave Stenhouse on his selection to the Rhode Island Heritage Hall of Fame. Coach Stenhouse is the only coach ever to take an Anchormen team to the College World Series.
- Thanks to the generosity of our donors, work has begun on an addition to the Dayna A. Bazar Softball Field. A new bullpen for the visiting teams, VIP seating, new fencing and lights will all be added over the course of the next month.
- Congratulations to retiring professors Tom Randall, Crist Costa, and Peter Glanz, who have been friends of the athletic program. Best of luck and you have a lifetime ticket for all RIC athletic events!
- Thank you to everyone who made the first year of our new CHOICES alcohol education program such a success (see story on page 7).

The culmination of an outstanding year came on Friday evening when the first Rhode Island College CHOICES Award was presented to Cathy Andreozzi on behalf of the Tori Lynn Andreozzi Foundation. Since a drunk driver struck Tori Lynn, Cathy has been relentless in delivering her message on making the right choices and spent an evening with over 100 RIC students discussing the importance of their decisions.

- Thank you to all of the student athletes who recently participated in the Little East Conference's clothing and food drive. Thank you also for all of your efforts throughout the year in community service projects, especially those at the Rhode Island Community Food Bank.
- Congratulations to Christie Lotti, who is the College's nominee for the NCAA Woman of the Year. Christie is one of the greatest softball players in school history, an outstanding student, and will be attending Springfield College as a graduate assistant in the fall.
- Tickets are now available for the Endless Summer Party to be held on Friday, July 18, in Narragansett. Brochures and registration information are available for players and sponsorship in the Anchor Club's Annual Golf Tournament. For information, visit our website or contact Tim McCabe at (401) 456-8007.
- Another great season for RIC athletic teams in the spring. As of this writing, the softball team has won its third straight Little East Conference Tournament and are off to the NCAAs. Several track performers are poised to qualify for the national championships, and the baseball team was approaching 25 wins and is near the top in conference standings!
- Congratulations go out to senior women's soccer student-athletes Mallery and Michaela Bileau, who received the Bertha Christina Andrews Emin Awards for outstanding achievements at the College's Cap and Gown Day.



RIC SOFTBALL TEAM

RIC softball wins LEC tournament for third straight season *Bilek named Most Outstanding Player as RIC readies for NCAAs*

By Scott Gibbons
Sports Information Director

The Rhode Island College softball team won its fourth Little East Conference tournament championship on May 3 in Willimantic, Conn. Head coach Maria Morin, who recorded her 300th career win in club's first victory this season, guided a team comprised of eight freshmen and nine sophomores, to go along with one junior and only three seniors, to another outstanding campaign.

Second-seeded RIC defeated fourth-seeded Keene State, 13-4, in the championship game at Spector Field on the campus of Eastern Connecticut State University to claim the title.

The victory raises the Anchorwomen's record to 33-7 as they hosted the NCAA Div. III New England Regional Tournament from May 8-12 at the Dayna A. Bazar Softball Complex.

The Anchorwomen, who clinched the 2008 Little East Conference regular season championship, along with Eastern Connecticut, for the fourth consecutive season, have now won the past three league tournaments. RIC, currently ranked No. 1 in New England, enters the NCAAs for the third straight season. Last spring, the team won the New England Region and advanced to the national championship round for the first time in school history.

Senior third baseman Krystal Bilek was named the 2008 Little East Conference softball tournament's Most Outstanding Player, as the Anchorwomen cruised through the tourney field with a 4-0 record.

RIC earned wins over fifth-seeded

Southern Maine in the first round, a dominant win over top seed and tourney host Eastern Connecticut, along with two wins over the Owls.

In the title contest, Rhode Island College trailed, 2-1, until the third inning when the Anchorwomen scored three times and never looked back. After sophomore shortstop Kelsey Souza scored on an error, freshman designated player Kayla Jandreau blasted a two-out, two-run homer to center field.

The Anchorwomen put the game out of reach with four runs in the fifth, led by sophomore right fielder Michelle Perrin's two-run double. RIC exploded for five runs in the seventh, led by a Bilek home run and RBI singles by freshman center fielder Donielle Mattoon and senior catcher Jeanne Rosa.

Sophomore pitcher Jenna Deveines earned the win, allowing four runs on five hits in 4.1 innings, before giving way to freshman Melanie Neece, who hurled 2.2 innings of shutout ball to close out the contest.

Neece and Deveines were solid in the Anchorwomen's four wins. Neece appeared in all four games, going 3-0 with a 1.19 ERA and 13 strikeouts in 17.2 innings of work. Deveines appeared in three games, going 1-0 with two saves, a 4.20 ERA and three strikeouts in 8.1 innings.

In addition to Bilek, Souza was outstanding at the plate, batting .667 with three runs scored, a double and five RBI. Jandreau batted .400 with six runs scored, a double, one homer and three RBI. Senior first baseman Christie Lotti batted .385 with five runs scored and a double.

Team Hall of Fame Award established

The establishment of a Team Hall of Fame Award highlights the 10th annual Rhode Island College Athletic Recognition Dinner and Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony. The event, held in conjunction with Homecoming, will take place Saturday, Oct. 4, at 7 p.m. in Donovan Dining Center.

This inaugural award will be given out semi-annually and the first recipient is the 1979 RIC baseball team. Under the direction of head coach Dave Stenhouse, the Anchormen went 24-13, captured the NESCAC Championship, won the NCAA Northeast Division playoffs and advanced to the Div. III College World Series for the only time in school history.

THE 1979 BASEBALL TEAM

David Alves	Dave Flanagan	Joe Rossi
Mike Anderton	Dan Furlong	Bill Serpa '81
David Andrews '79	Jay Grenier '81	Jim Siwy
Vincent Asermely '84	Bob Guillet	Lou Tessier '83
David Boudria	Mike Haggerty '81	Dave Turchetta '81
Mike Boyajian	Jack Haughey	Lou Villucci '80
Jim Crudele '81	Lee Higgins	John Votta
Jim Dennett	Tom Martin '82	Head coach: Dave Stenhouse
Mike Enos '89	Ron Nawrocki	Assistant coach: Art Pontarelli '71





Above, Mike Kennedy '73 (second from right) was recognized as RIC's Distinguished Athletic Alumnus at a Rhode Island House of Representatives reception in the House Chamber on April 28. From left: Steven Maurano, associate commissioner of higher education for external affairs, RIC president John Nazarian, and State Rep. Ken Carter.

Also at the House ceremony, RIC student-athletes were honored for significant achievements in their academic and athletic pursuits. Below, from left: Michael Bonora, Ryan Kelley, Brendan Casey, Sherri Heard, Nazarian, Christie Lotti, Erin Duffy and Kayla Fleming.



MARCUS REILLY

Rhode Island College introduced Marcus Reilly as its new head women's basketball coach at a press conference on Friday, April 18.

Reilly joins the RIC staff after spending two separate stints guiding the Community College of Rhode Island Lady Knights, compiling a 77-35 record in four years at the helm.

"I truly am excited to become a part of one of the most proactive Div. III Athletic Departments in the country," Reilly said. "Along with my family and my student-athletes, I look forward to becoming a positive and active member of the Rhode Island College community."

"We expect great things from Marcus and we feel he is an outstanding coach who is capable of taking the program to the next level," said Donald E. Tencher, RIC director of intercollegiate athletics.

In 2007-08, Reilly led CCRI to a 26-8 overall record and captured his second straight, and the program's fifth consecutive, New England Championship.

Marcus Reilly named head coach of women's basketball team

During 2006-07, Reilly guided the team to his first, and the program's fourth straight, New England championship and posted a 19-11 record. The team won the Northeast District championship and represented the Northeast in the national tournament in Arizona, where they reached the Elite Eight. For his efforts, Words Unlimited, Rhode Island's statewide organization of sports writers, sportscasters and sports publicists, named him the Female Sports Co-Coach of the Year.

Reilly served as top assistant and recruiting coordinator for Jacksonville State University from 2003-2006.

Reilly's first stint as CCRI's head women's basketball coach was from 2001-03, when he led the Knights to a 32-16 record.

Before joining the college ranks, he coached Cranston High School West from 1999-2001.

He earned a bachelor's degree in public policy in 1999 from Trinity College, where he played four seasons of basketball for the Bantams.

CHOICES program tackles alcohol responsibility

By Robert P. Masse '08
Staff Writer

Rhode Island College was the choice. Last year the RIC Athletic Department received a three-year grant from the NCAA to bring the national CHOICES program to the campus.

CHOICES programs use student-athletes or athletic-related events to deliver alcohol education and awareness initiatives to the campus. Programs are targeted to the overall student body, and are aimed at increasing collaboration between campus athletic departments and other campus organizations.

On April 28, the CHOICES group welcomed Cathy Andreozzi to speak at an event called "The Impact of Your Choices." A drunk driver struck Andreozzi's 12-year-old daughter, Tori Lynn, just after 2 p.m. as she was stepping off the school bus. Tori lived, but she suffered severe brain damage and broken bones. The once champion black belt is in a wheel chair and can only communicate with her eyes. The presentation showed how far the ripples of one bad decision can go in impacting the life of a family and community.

In 1998, after the association's growing concern nationwide of the misuse of alcohol by college students, the NCAA introduced the CHOICES program. The program provides individual affiliated campuses with grant funding of up to \$30,000 over three years. The selected schools implement and evaluate alcohol-related education and prevention programs.

The name CHOICES was selected "because college students are confronted with a variety of choices on a daily basis, some of which have lasting effects on their lives," according to the NCAA.

Don Tencher, RIC athletic director, said the competition for acceptance was unlike others the

department has been in. RIC is a NCAA Division III school, but in vying for one of 15 grants for the 2007-10 cycle, they had to compete with all three collegiate divisions.

While the grant is given to the Athletic Department, Tencher said branching out is the overall goal. "Whatever we offer, we offer the entire student body," he said.

The program takes a more focused concentration on responsibilities. In the past, RIC has invited speakers to the campus to speak to students about the dangers of alcohol use. The CHOICES program "offers a casual, safe environment for open discussion," said Susan Clark, CHOICES program consultant and evaluator.

Clark, an assistant professor of health education who teaches health and drug education courses, was chosen by Tencher to be a part of the CHOICES team. For the first year of the project, the goal was to get the project off the ground.

This goal is split into three parts: make connections with local organizations in the community, get students to become mentors and present programs to promote the message in an interesting way.

Since the program's inception, RIC has teamed up with the local chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), the Rhode Island State Police, high school organizations, RIC Student Community Government, RIC Office of Health Promotion and RIC Health Services. Each organization has participated in the program over the past year.

The student-mentor program involves non-drinking student-athletes who can carry their message of good choices to all students on campus. During the 2007-08 year, Jo-Ann D'Alessandro, an assistant athletic director, searched for qualified candidates in the

RIC Athletic Department. She said, however, that the mentor program is open to all RIC students, not just athletes.

The first priority of the student-mentors is to spread a message of responsibility to RIC students. The student-mentors will also travel to Rhode Island high schools on speaking tours. They will explain to students that you can enjoy college, be successful and have fun without drinking to excess.

"Kids see athletes as role models. When they go to the schools and send the message of having fun and being successful without having to drink, it takes away the myth that everybody in college drinks," said Clark.

Throughout the past year, the CHOICES program has had a number of events to promote the message of responsible choices. Last semester during exam week, the group reached out to the dorms, offering students health snacks late into the night, free of charge. Clark explained that the students were offered an alternative to drinking to "relieve the stress of exams."

This year, the group has hosted four guest speakers. Each event has drawn crowds of 50-100. One such event, on March 28, was "Over the Limit: Film and Discussion," presented by Lt. Scott Hemmingway of the R.I. State Police, in which the audience learned of the realities of DWI and DUI.

"This should shock your conscience," he said when speaking of the percentage of Rhode Island traffic related deaths that are alcohol related – 51 percent – a number 10 points higher than the national average.

"There is a huge ripple effect with DUI and it's not sterile. There are many times when death does not occur," Denise Alves of MADD RI told the audience.

According to a survey of the students after the event, 85 percent said the event was effective in increasing their awareness of the subject and helping them in making responsible decisions in regard to alcohol.

During the next two years of the grant, Clark and Tencher want the program to expand into the community and get non-student-athletes involved in the process.

They plan to do this through the distribution of CHOICES materials, including magnetic bumper stickers that say "Rhode Island College Anchormen and Anchorwomen: MAKING WINNING CHOICES," adding new programs that will pique student interests and branching out to more groups in the community.

The CHOICES program includes a lot of different pieces that separately have their own messages and goals – the realities of DUI and DWI in Rhode Island, the ripple effect of bad choices, alternative forms of entertainment without alcohol and promotion of responsible choices. When the pieces are put together, they create a full picture of what the program is about: responsibility in your choices at both school and in life.



Cathy Andreozzi (middle) received the Choices Award from Rhode Island College at the MADD Hatter's Ball, celebrating the MADD organization's 25th Anniversary, on May 2 at Rhodes on the Pawtuxet in Cranston. RIC Professor Susan Clark (left) and Peg Brown, RIC vice president for development and college relations, presented the award.

Convocation of Scholars

RIC's Convocation of Scholars is an annual showcase and celebration of the intellectual and creative life of the College.



Ying Zhou, professor of mathematics, delivers the Mary Tucker Thorp Lecture. Zhou presented her recent work on network synchronization: a step forward in understanding the spectacular Southeast Asian phenomenon of thousands of fireflies flashing on-and-off in unison.



RIC students are accepted into Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities at a reception in the Faculty Center.



Adams Library Special Collections is the site of this group photo of visiting scholars from the Republic of Cape Verde on April 23. Left to right are Carla Martin, Capeverdean Creole Institute (Boston); Manuel Brito Semedo, author and professor at Jean Piaget University; Inez I. Brito, Capeverdean Creole Institute (Boston); Joaquim Morais, director of the National Library of Cape Verde and president of the Institute of the National Library and the Book; Sandra Lima Rocha Teixeira, director of the Book, Institute of the National Library and the Book; Adelaide Monteiro, linguist, Institute for Research and Cultural Promotion; Daniel Spinola, scholar and television personality; and Marlene Lopes, special collections librarian, RIC.



Emeriti faculty members returned to campus from all corners of the globe to attend the Emeriti Appreciation Dinner that was held on April 25 in the Faculty Dining Center. Several of the emeriti faculty that enjoyed the evening are, from left, Bill Oehlkers, Jim Bierden, Lenore DeLucia, and John Pellegrino.



Dale Cranford, professor emeritus, participated in the event on April 25 and Organized the event on April 9.



Senior honors students presented posters of their work on April 28 in the Faculty Center.



The RIC Gerontology Center and Sherlock Center on Disabilities sponsored a conference on Technology and Aging on April 23. In the above photo, Laila Vehvilainen from the University of Massachusetts explains how to use the Internet as a tool for health and aging.



At the Faculty Research Conference on April 18, Sarah Spinette, professor of biology, explains the RIC FAST CORE program designed to formalize student research and develop a pipeline of high school students into postsecondary education and, eventually, into healthcare and industry.



P. William Hutchinson, professor emeritus of English, participated in the RIC Oral History Panel Presentation, held on April 25.

ACTIVITIES ABOUND... ACROSS THE CAMPUS



Center on April 16.



Students and faculty get ready to depart for Cornell University where they presented their research projects at the Northeast Regional Sigma Xi Student Research Conference on April 19. The participants are, from left, Liz Cuoto, Tom Meedel, John Williams, Lisa Chin, Dennis Bennett, Joey Salisbury, Nick Travis, Roland de Gouvernain, Sam Adediron, Jake Hicks, Stephanie Izzi, Janice Hall, Liam Burke and Ronnie Smith.



A student band performs period music during the English Department's celebration of Shakespeare's birthday on April 23 in Craig-Lee Hall.



her Burr addresses an Self Awareness, Change Organizational Life in Alger Hall



us of theatre at left, and J. history, participate in the d in Alger Hall on April 29.



admissions spring party

This year's Annual Spring Party for accepted freshmen featured an election theme. It offered the chance to meet RIC faculty, tour residence halls, and participate in prize contests. Alima Dance International (RIC Dance Team) performs below left.





SEAN HERSEY



DIANA LIZARAZO



SUNNY INTWALA

Graduating biology students finalize honors theses

Graduating biology majors Sean Hersey, Diana Lizarazo and Sunny Intwala finished their biology honors research theses. Along with several other students working with professors, these students gained hands-on research experience in the laboratory, but brought their work to the next level. Each student undertook faculty-student collaborative research projects and produced a written thesis disseminating their results.

Honors research theses:

AHR Protein Localization in Cells

Sean Hersey collaborated with Rebeka Merson, assistant professor of biology, to assess cellular localization of shark AHR proteins, and to determine the effect of environmental chemicals. AHR proteins, encoded by aryl hydrocarbon receptor gene, mediate the toxicity of dioxin and dioxin-like chemicals.

Harnessing the power of biotechnology, Hersey fused the shark AHRs genes to the green fluorescent protein gene (GFP), introduced them into mouse cells, and visualized AHRs using the GFP signal and their association with fluorescent stains that localize to specific cell structures.

Next, he performed time course experiments to describe the effects of PCB126, an environmental pollutant, on AHR location. Studies will continue this summer when Hersey and Merson go to Mount Desert Island Biological Laboratory in Maine to use spiny

dogfish shark cells. Sean has applied to graduate programs for this fall.

PHA Accumulation in Bacteria

Diana Lizarazo's research with Dana Kolibachuk, associate professor of biology, explored the diversity of genes encoding enzymes that synthesize polyhydroxyalkanoic acid (PHA).

PHA is a bacterial storage material with application as a biodegradable plastic and is produced in bacteria by the action of the PHA synthase protein. The bioluminescent B-18 *Vibrio* bacterial species produces PHA with unique properties, which may be due to the activity of its PHA synthase enzyme.

To explore the diversity of PHA synthase genes (*phaC*), Lizarazo used polymerase chain reaction (PCR) technology to identify and isolate *phaC* genes from other *Vibrio* species. Using electroporation, they optimized the conditions to introduce DNA into the B-18 species. Lizarazo will be going to Brown University for a PhD in pharmacology.

Mutant Proteins Involved in Heart Disease

Sunny Intwala worked with Eric Hall '81, associate professor of biology, to investigate long QT syndrome (LQTS), a congenital heart condition characterized by mutations in potassium voltage-gated channel family genes, which regulate timing of the cardiac cycle.

One member of this family, known as

HERG, is involved in LQTS. Mutated HERG proteins were isolated from transgenic rabbits (HERG-G628S) and used to study their assembly properties.

Intwala's research involved testing the hypothesis that the mutant proteins form heteromultimeric channels with normal proteins. The first step in this project was the isolation of the HERG protein, which was accomplished successfully.

The project will be extended to optimize experimental conditions for the isolation and assembly of the proteins into functional channels in vitro. Intwala has been accepted to the Brown Medical School Early Identification Program.

Julia Twining '94, a student in the School of Nursing's master's program at RIC, recently received the Oncology Nurse of the Year Award presented annually by the Rhode Island and Southeast Massachusetts Chapter of the Oncology Nursing Society. The award is given to an oncology nurse nominated by peers in recognition of nursing excellence, compassion and skill in the care of cancer patients and their families. Twining's nomination described her as a mentor, a "go-to person" on the unit and a calm and reassuring presence for staff as well as patients.



JULIA TWINING



This display at Gaige Hall is part of the Lost Steps program at RIC.

RIC's Lost Steps program personalizes impact of drunk driving

Forty-four pairs of shoes, representing the 44 Rhode Islanders killed by drunk drivers last year, plus photos and personal stories of some of the deceased, lined the steps of Rhode Island College's Gaige Hall on April 30, as part of Lost Steps, an initiative to show the impact of driving under the influence of alcohol.

The shoes tell something about the wearer. A teenager's rollerblades. Green beach flip-flops. Women's black high-heel sandals. Grass stained sneakers. A little girl's white patent leather

shoes for First Communion. Most of the shoes look worn. Others look as if they were saved for a special occasion, occasions the wearers will never see.

Rhode Island ranks 8th among the states with the highest drunk driving rates, with 20.4 percent of motorists driving under the influence, according to the National Survey on Drug Use and Health issued April 22.

RIC health officials hoped that such a compelling display of empty shoes and photos of the people who died at the hands of drunk

drivers help create a personalized experience to help inform and educate students to make better decisions for themselves and their friends about drinking and driving.

"Lost Steps is an educational moment to put yourself in the shoes of the deceased when you make decisions about drinking and driving," said Mary Olenn of RIC's health promotion office and co-coordinator of the program.

Olenn said that educators need to start with students to address the high numbers of Rhode Islanders reportedly driving under the influence of alcohol, and that college administrators must take responsibility to make students aware of the dangers, risks and large number of deaths resulting from drinking and driving.

"This behavior is dangerous to themselves and the community," Olenn said of those who drink and drive. "It is stunning to see how many children and young adults die this way."

The Centers for Disease Control reports that motor vehicle accidents are the leading cause of death in the United States for people ages

24 and under. MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving) claims that drunk driving is the most frequently committed violent crime in the United States.

In fall 2006, RIC introduced Alcohol.edu, an online alcohol prevention course for incoming freshmen that motivates students to change their attitudes and behavior towards drinking, and provides information

"Lost Steps is an educational moment to put yourself in the shoes of the deceased when you make decisions about drinking and driving," said Mary Olenn of RIC's health promotion office and co-coordinator of the program.

on helping roommates or friends who overindulge. The course takes about three hours to complete. The entering freshmen in 2006 and 2007

who completed the course reported that two out of three students do not drink any alcohol. Of the 2007 entering freshmen that reported alcohol consumption, 23 percent said that they drive after or while drinking.

"Unfortunately, those who do drink, do it in very risky ways," Olenn said.

Students majoring in community health programs at RIC distributed wallet reminders to dial *77 from a cell phone to report erratic driving to the Rhode Island State Police.

HOT ROOMS:

suggested reading on summer vacation



JUDITH STOKES

By **Judith Stokes**
*Serials Librarian
and Assistant
Professor*

In 2004, Adams Library launched a completely new "Browsing Collection" of popular books.

By arrangement with a commercial service, the library rents a selection of brand new books to lend while they are still new, and returns them when they have passed their best-selling prime. (Books that have lasting value to RIC, however, are retained and moved to the permanent collection.) According to circulation figures, the Browsing Collection has become a great success, and that piqued my curiosity. Which books are the hottest new books at RIC?

In the April issue of What's News, we looked at the fiction books in the Browsing Collection that have been borrowed most frequently, as of spring 2008. This month, we'll check out the top 10 non-fiction books. Then, in June, I'll review 10 of my favorites. Perhaps among these books you will find some to put on your personal summer reading list.

TOP 10 POPULAR NON-FICTION BOOKS

1. *Blink: The Power of Thinking Without Thinking* by Malcolm Gladwell explores why our snap judgments and instinctive responses are so often right. He describes a form of rapid cognition called "thin-slicing" during which our unconscious "draws conclusions based on very narrow 'slices' of experience" guiding us to quick insights. His examples are many, ranging from art authentication to "speed dating" and taste testing. Then he moves on to the "dark side of blink." Manipulating our first impressions is the marketer's art, and Gladwell includes interesting examples of this, as well.

2. *The World is Flat: A Brief History of the Twenty-First Century* by Thomas Friedman attributes rapid globalization to three events: the collapse of communism, the dot.com bubble that funded over-investment in fiber-optic telecommunications, and the rush to engineer solutions for the Y2K problem. Friedman shows how and why so much of the American service economy has been outsourced (telemarketing, accounting, computer programming, engineering and scientific research, etc.) and how foreign manufacturing has become so responsive to American market demand.

3. *Stick Figure: A Diary of My Former Self* by Lisa Gottlieb is based on the dairies she kept when her sole ambition was to become "the thinnest eleven year old on the planet." Gottlieb's struggle with anorexia is recounted with all the self-conscious preteen vulnerability that let it happen.

4. *Godless: The Church of Liberalism* by Ann Coulter is not about religion. It is yet another Ann Coulter book about those pesky liberals: "Although they are Druids, Liberals masquerade as rationalists," ... "Actual science excites them only if it involves some sort of Nazi experimentation with human embryos." ... "Environmentalists want mass infanticide..."

5. *Garlic and Sapphires: The Secret Life of a Critic in Disguise* by Ruth Reichl recalls her experiences as the food critic for *The New York Times*, a position that wields so much power that her picture was posted in New York restaurant kitchens before she even arrived in the city. All told in good humor, Reichl's account of her costumes, fabulous food and restaurant gossip make this a fun read for foodies and others.

6. *The Glass Castle: A Memoir* by Jeanette Walls recalls her childhood and the dream house, like all her father's promises, that was all boasting and no building. Youthful energy and natural affection carry Walls and her siblings along, until the father's alcoholism and the mother's infantile behavior drags the family down into cold, hungry, hopeless poverty. One by one, Walls and her siblings leave home, help one another recover and build new lives.

7. *The Sociopath Next Door: The Ruthless Versus the Rest of Us* by Martha Stout reveals that four percent of Americans have a mental disorder that they do not suffer from, but everyone around them does, sooner or later! Yes, some sociopaths are criminals, but many are charming, successful people who go through life without ever feeling guilt, shame or remorse, no matter what they do.

8. *Marley and Me: Life and Love with the World's Worst Dog* by John Grogan is a sweet, light-hearted tale of a huge neurotic dog and the family he loves. Grogan's humor and affection come through to make this a book even cat lovers will enjoy.

9. *What Jesus Meant* by Garry Wills considers the ubiquitous phrase, "What Would Jesus Do?" citing chapter and verse to make it very clear that what Jesus did do was disrupt the religious orthodoxy and violate the social taboos of his time. This feeling yet scholarly account emphasizes Jesus' radical message, although it thoroughly divorces religion from politics, and demonstrates the shortcomings of both literalist and liberal doctrine.

10. *A Briefer History of Time* by Stephen Hawking and Leonard Mlodinow is indeed briefer, especially on math, but longer on dark matter and dark energy than Hawking's best-selling *A Brief History of Time* (1988). In clear and lively prose, the authors explain and illustrate relativity and quantum mechanics "for the rest of us," sharing their excitement and wonder in the pursuit of the elusive "Grand Unified Theory of Everything."



During a demonstration on Climate Awareness Day, Nat Harris, above, of Newport Biodiesel explains how his company processes waste vegetable oil from restaurant fryers to produce fuel used in diesel engines.

Daniel Katz from the Jewish Community Day School (foreground) and Adam Luther from Lonsdale Elementary School in Lincoln examine the large globe that was on display in Gage Hall during RIC Climate Awareness Day on April 16.

Climate Day



RIC Student Activities' spring 2008 Emerging Leaders Program

Students who attended Emerging Leaders workshops are, from left, Jessica Enos '11, Matthew Hicks '10, Valeria Canar '11, Jennifer Ferguson '11, Bryan Diggle '09, Kehinde Gomes '08, Jennifer Almeida '09, Marissa Weiss (assistant director, Student Activities), Kervin Leonidas '09, Jeremy Pendergast '10, Veronica Bruscini '08. (Not pictured: Anita Abotsi '10, Ken Calci '08, Ashley Dalton '11, Anjum Hava '09 and Bienvenue Ndahiriwe '10)

Beginning in February 2008, the Office of Student Activities at RIC launched the Emerging Leaders Program, which is designed to help students to develop their leadership potential through participation in a series of workshops and experiential learning opportunities. The workshops are organized into six key areas: self-understanding, cultural competency, communication and

teamwork, social responsibility, professionalism and mentorship. The program aims to provide a foundation for students to become confident, aware and engaged citizens. The first segment of the program, self-understanding and cultural competency, was offered during the spring 2008 semester. The above students attended six workshops led by experienced professionals, participated in a ropes course and cultural plunge exercise, and were recognized at a ceremony at the end of the semester. These students will continue onto the second segment of the program, communication, teamwork, and social responsibility for fall 2008, while a new group of students will begin with segment one.

For more information on the program, please contact Marissa Weiss, assistant director, Student Activities, at mweiss@ric.edu or (401) 456-8149.

Setting the stage – Alan Pickart

By Ray Ragosta
Staff Writer



ALAN PICKART

About a week and a half before the opening of the musical *No, No, Nanette*, the chassis of a radio-controlled truck, a “Raminator,” sat amid the clutter on Alan Pickart’s desk.

“It will be used to make that vacuum cleaner run around,” he explained, pointing to an old black upright vacuum resting a couple of feet in front of his desk, “Luckily it’s plastic so it doesn’t take much to move it. I got it for 10 dollars at Salvation Army.

“The vacuum, which is ‘possessed,’ is used by the maid in *Nanette*, who doesn’t do very much, and then it’s supposed to blow up. But I haven’t figured out how to do that yet.”

An associate professor of theatre at Rhode Island College, Alan Pickart, at different times, has worked on scenery, lighting, sound and special effects for a wide range of productions, including Wagner’s *Siegfried* for the Royal Opera in London, as well as system design for Disney Magic cruise ships.

Last fall, Pickart designed the set for RIC Mainstage Theatre’s production of *One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest*. It straddled the line between abstract and realistic with imposing chain-link fence panels on both sides of the stage leading the eye to the nurses’ station, which served as the control center of the institution where the action occurs.

When the inmates took over the station during a wild, clandestine party, they sparked a harsh reaction from the administration that marked the beginning of the end of the inmate’s rebellion against the authoritarian Nurse Ratched.

Pickart’s inspiration for using those panels has two aspects. While they provided an effective visual complement to the story line, they were practical as well. When asked to do the sets for *Cuckoo’s Nest* by director Jamie Taylor, Pickart thought a bit and remembered that Festival Ballet Providence, for which he does design work, had used fence panels in a production of *Romeo and Juliet*, so he borrowed them.

“In reality,” Pickart noted, “designing is about understanding your resource package, which includes the physical space, the budget and the people you work with. And in designing you always want to stretch a little. Realism is expensive so I often work a little more abstractly. I also like that the abstract gives you

more freedom.”

The people in that “resource package” include directors, and the workings of a director-designer collaboration vary.

“Sometimes,” Pickart reflected, “a choreographer or director has a strong idea of where they want to go.”

He then went on to discuss his collaboration with Viktor Plotnikov, a guest choreographer with Festival Ballet, on *Coma*, a piece that premiered at Veterans Memorial Auditorium in the spring of 2007, and was reprised this past February. A main visual element of that piece consisted of comatose dancers lying prone on platforms swinging across the stage.

Pickart continued, “The main idea was Viktor’s, so my contribution was mainly engineering. The problem was developing a balance system that could accommodate a dynamic load – loading and unloading – so the dancers could get on and off without the platforms flying up.

“What I enjoy most is a collaboration in which the sum is greater than the parts – a partnership that is based on trust. I also feel that spontaneity can be valuable, though not all designers work that way.”

While a good part of scenic design lies in its visual aspects, there is more than meets the eye, according to Pickart.

He said, “I tell students that design is a universal language. I try to give audiences something attractive or interesting to look at. But sometimes the script dictates that I keep them a little on edge.

“Design, however, can also affect interactions on stage, particularly traffic patterns. I start with a ground plan that takes those patterns into consideration. If you have a good ground plan, everything flows from that.”

Pickart conceded that he might be a frustrated dancer. Besides *Coma* he has recently worked on Festival Ballet productions of *Swan Lake*, in April, and *Cinderella*, last October. He also teaches a course in dance production at the College, which Pickart summarizes as “being part stagecraft and part conceptual, with a lot of avant-garde work, such as Nederlands Dans Theater.”

Cinderella, another Plotnikov collaboration, employed a set composed entirely of geometric shapes.

Pickart recalled, “The dancers would carry around and assemble different shapes into a fireplace and furniture, as well as panels to make walls.

“I also created a bubble forest from



This theatre set is for RIC Mainstage Theatre’s November 2007 production of *One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest*. It was designed by Alan Pickart, RIC associate professor of theatre.

acrylic spheres with lights inside. When the dancers would move through them, the bubbles would slowly fly out. ... I don’t know where that idea came from.”

Some of Pickart’s main influences have dance connections: Desmond Healey, who works in opera and ballet; Santo Loquasto, who has designed for renowned choreographer Paul Taylor, as well as for Woody Allen films; and interestingly, writer and filmmaker Jean Cocteau, whose work in the field of dance is not widely known.

Cocteau created librettos for Ballet Russe, including the 1917 Satie-Picasso venture *Parade*, and scripted (and some say created costumes for) Roland Petit’s 1946 ballet *The Young Man and Death*, a favorite of Pickart’s.

“That’s the ballet at the beginning of *White Nights*, the film with Baryshnikov and Gregory Hines,” he mentioned.

Pickart admits he also has a penchant for the technical, which fuels his interest in sound design, and that is “all about equipment,” he noted. In addition to creating sound environments for stage productions, he has designed and built audio systems for dance studios.

His technical inclinations show in recollections of his favorite projects.

One was a 1996 production of Wagner’s *Siegfried* at the Royal Opera in London. He was working for a company that specialized in fire effects and explosions.

Pickart recalled, “The hearth where *Siegfried*’s sword was tempered was a cooker – what we in the states call a range – and there were a lot flames and things bubbling over. Then the sword comes out in a long fish pot.”

Another memory involves his first show for Art Park in Lewiston, N.Y. He was helping his mentor, Robert T. Williams, stage *Teddy and Alice*, a play about Teddy Roosevelt and his feminist daughter Alice.

Pickart got up, went over to some filing cabinets, and took down a white panel illustrated with the façade of a the White House. He then went on to explain how sections slid open to reveal rooms where the action took place.

Recently Pickart has again been sharing the backstage with his mentor. Williams has done the sets for the last two RIC Theatre Mainstage musicals, *Damn Yankees* and *No, No, Nanette*.

It is a situation that Pickart continues to enjoy, as he confirmed, “I try to work with him as often as possible, as he is a talented designer and is very good with the students.”

Though one can wager that Pickart is really hoping that the vacuum cleaner explodes on cue.

Public education exhibit reflects on RIC's past

A free exhibit showcasing the history of public education in Rhode Island is currently on display at the R.I. State Archives, 337 Westminster St., in downtown Providence.

"Educating Rhode Island: A History of Public Schooling" will be open weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. through June 30. Free parking is available at the In-Town Parking lot adjacent to the State Archives.

The exhibit features many original manuscripts, including the 1854 act that created the State Normal School – the forerunner of Rhode Island College – along with photographs from 1958 of the construction of RIC at its current location.

It also details the emergence of the Narragansett Indian School and the School for the Deaf, as well as petitions dealing with equal educational opportunity for children of color and child laborers.

"People will be surprised to learn that free public education for all Rhode Island children did not happen overnight," said Secretary of State A. Ralph Mollis. "This exhibit highlights the progress we have made in extending access to a good education to all our children."

For more information on the "Educating Rhode Island" exhibit at the State Archives, call (401) 222-2353 or visit www.sec.state.ri.us.

New Summer Session course to explore environmental education

The six-week field course will introduce students to issues in environmental science and offer ideas and strategies for teaching complex topics.

Workshop in Environmental Education (GEOG 350), a new RIC Summer Session course, will be offered on Thursdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. beginning May 22.

The course, which runs for six weeks, will provide an in-depth analysis of global warming; watersheds, coasts and oceans; human impact on the planet; global population and food and development issues; No Child Left Inside; green technology and biodiversity.

"This course is a great opportunity not only for future teachers, but anyone with an interest in learning more about their local environment," said class instructor Mary Grady.

"There is so much to discover right here in Rhode Island, from our local farms to our bay to our urban sustainability initiatives, to help reveal the complex relationships between people and nature," added Grady, who is a freelance writer and editor of *Natural News Network*.

Planned visits include Save The Bay, the Coastal Institute at URI and Audubon's Environmental Education Center in Bristol, local farms and 17 Gordon Avenue in Providence, where students will learn more about green buildings and alternative energy strategies.

Class guests will include experts on forestry and wildlife and representatives of the R.I. Environmental Education Association, the state Department of Environmental Management and various education outreach workers from grass-roots environmental groups.

For more information, call (401) 941-1246 or email marygrady@cox.net.

Trio Rhode delivers exceptional performance

By Morgan Santos
RIC Student

On Thursday, April 10 there was an incredible concert on campus performed by Rhode Island College's faculty trio – Trio Rhode. The ensemble consists of John Sumerlin on violin, Rebecca Thornblade on cello and Philip Martorella on piano, all talented professors within the music department. The group performed trios of Mozart, Turina and Dvorak, a program that clearly displayed the group's versatility.

The musicians, who have collective degrees from the Juilliard School, Oberlin Conservatory, Cincinnati Conservatory and the Manhattan School of Music, prove that such top-notch



TRIO RHODE

and expressive playing complemented Thornblade's, and the two added to Philip Martorella's virtuosic piano abilities.

Keep an eye and an ear open for their next performance – likely in fall 2008 – and be sure to come hear our talented faculty, who are some of the best musicians in the area, give yet another outstanding concert.

training yields exceptional results. Thornblade's musicality is utterly natural. At another one of her concerts, an audience member commented that her playing was entirely unselfconscious and heartfelt. Watching and hearing Thornblade play is an experience not to be missed. Similarly, Professor Sumerlin's sweet

RIC SummerArt classes set for July 7-17



Sarah Walsh, who has been in the SummerArt program for the past three years, works on a project.

The Rhode Island College SummerArt program is once again offering several two-week art workshops for children ages 5-16. This is the 16th year of this successful program, which features workshops designed to provide a relaxed yet stimulating environment in which students can explore their creative interests.

Most classes are held in the Rhode Island College Art Center, providing an enriching studio environment for young artists. SummerArt dates are July 7-17, Monday through Thursday, from 9 a.m. to noon. Classes are offered in Mixed Media for ages 5-7 and ages 8-11, Sculpture for ages 8-11, Clayworks for ages 9-13 and Drawing for ages 12-16.

Tuition and supply fees for the two-week sessions are \$220. Classes are small and early registration is recommended. For a brochure describing the program, please call the RIC Art Department at (401) 456-8054, visit www.ric.edu/hbs, or email cmulcahey@ric.edu.



Nancy Carriuolo, left, interim vice president for academic affairs, addresses fifth graders from Hopkins Hill Elementary School in Coventry on April 30. The Feinstein School of Education and Human Development/Special Projects hosted 60 students from the school as part of Feinstein's Math Mentors partnership program, through College for Every Student, a national organization that promotes early college awareness, access and success for all students.

Thirteen RIC students were recruited by Special Projects to serve as ambassadors during the visit. The ambassadors participated in an introductory talk, escorted the student groups to their tour locations and served as lunch companions. Three tour locations were arranged at the Nazarian Center, Recreation Center and Residence Life.



RIC grad student has passion for animals and art



Educator and equine expert Betsey MacDonald with her Morgan horses.

By Lauren Mesale '06
Staff Writer

Betsey MacDonald wears more hats than many people: she is an artist, illustrator, educator and most recently, a graduate student.

Last year, MacDonald decided to return to school at 56. She is currently a graduate student in her second semester at RIC, pursuing a degree in studio art. She has

been granted a sabbatical from her position as an art instructor at Cumberland High School.

At an early age, MacDonald began to develop a talent for drawing animals – especially horses – which led her to study art in college, in addition to a career in the sciences. She received a BFA from the University of Massachusetts, and then proceeded

to take pre-med courses. MacDonald later became a certified teacher of high school sciences. She was even able to incorporate art into some of her lessons.

“I don’t think science is far removed from art,” MacDonald said. “The whole explanation of light and color requires an understanding of chemistry and physics. It may be why I don’t paint a chestnut horse with brown paint.”

MacDonald has a passion for painting Morgan horses. She has three of her own (JCP Lionheart, Whipporwill Ella G, and Willopond Knight Traveler), who often serve as her subjects.

MacDonald has created numerous commissioned works, including signs for Battleship Cove in Fall River, Mass., bow designs on boats, and, of course, paintings of horses. She has authored a children’s book, and is working on a book called *The Horse: Bit by Bit*, which takes a detailed look at the body and evolution of the horse. MacDonald has also illustrated several books,

including *Fish Hawk: The Story of the Osprey* by Gil Fernandez.

During her time at RIC, MacDonald has been positively influenced by several art instructors. She cites Lisa Russell, associate professor, Stephen Fisher, professor, and Richard Witten, associate professor, as being some of her most inspirational educators.

“[Russell] was my inspiration to pursue a graduate degree and to focus on oil painting,” said MacDonald.

MacDonald’s graduate experience thus far has truly been a positive one. “This has been the best year of my life,” MacDonald said.

Upon returning from her sabbatical, MacDonald plans to share her enthusiasm, knowledge, and love of creating art, with her high school students.

Works by MacDonald will be displayed July 18 and 19 at Tyrone Farm, in Pomfret, Conn. All are welcome. For more information, visit MacDonald’s website, www.BMacDonald.net, or www.TyroneFarm.com.

RIC faculty helping to make Wish Bags come true

By Peter Silveira '08
Staff Writer

Carole Harman HD '03 and Don Chabot '77 are long-time acquaintances, professors of art and community activists.

Both are also adjunct faculty at RIC, each instructing an art education course to aspiring elementary school teachers.

Now, combining their love of the arts and passion for teaching, they

are co-instructing a Wish Bags weaving class for fifth-graders at Curvin McCabe Elementary School in Pawtucket.

“It’s a nice interaction time for the kids,” said Chabot, who was able to facilitate the project through a grant of \$1,000 from VSA arts of Rhode Island.

VSA stands for “Vision of an inclusive community, Strength through shared resources and Artistic expression that unites us all.” It is a nonprofit education organization dedicated to providing opportunities for children with disabilities to actively participate in the arts.

Wish Bags are African-based items with ties to South America, India and the Middle East. They are typically decorated with images and materials that are important to the weaver.

The grant covers the cost of supplies, such as yarn, cords and raffia, a palm tree whose large leaves yield a fiber useful in making mats, baskets and other products.

Chabot has stretched every possible dime from the grant, saving money in a variety of ways. He even crafted the looms on which the bags are woven from different pieces of wood instead of buying them premade.

Chabot and Harman teach two classes at



A fifth-grade student at Curvin McCabe Elementary School in Pawtucket begins the first phase of the Wish Bag weaving process.

the elementary school, consisting mainly of fifth graders.

Several children in both classes suffer from different types of learning disorders, including motor skill deficiencies such as apraxia, a neurological disorder characterized by the loss of the ability to execute or carry out learned, purposeful movements.

The class helps the students to improve figure-ground perceptions

and identify spatial relations between objects, and can also boost their self-esteem.

Participating in a hands-on, interactive project has encouraged some of the children to serve as role models.

Brandon, a student in the class, “used to be very quiet and keep to himself,” said Chabot. “Now he’s more outgoing and is a big help to the other kids.”

When the project is finished, each student will have his or her Wish Bag framed and hung on display at the school.

There is also an event to showcase the Wish Bags scheduled for June, to which parents, teachers, administration and students will be invited.

Also assisting in the weaving project are Marsha Codeiro, the occupational therapist at Curvin McCabe, and Chau Nguyen, a student-teacher from the Rhode Island School of Design.

Harman, a retired Providence public school art teacher, received an honorary doctorate (pedagogy) from the College in 2003.

Chabot has been teaching art for over 30 years. This is his 20th year in Pawtucket, with 12 of them spent at Curvin McCabe.

RIC grad wins Silver Medal for CPA exam in Rhode Island



JESUS ORTEGA

Jesus Ortega '04, MPAC '06, has been awarded the Silver Medal for achieving the second highest score of all candidates who took the CPA exam in Rhode Island during 2007. Ortega, the recipient of both an undergraduate and graduate degree from

RIC’s Accounting Program, is currently a domestic tax specialist for Hasbro, Inc. Each year, several hundred candidates sit for this exam in Rhode Island, and, on a national basis, only about 1 out of 5 candidates even pass all 4 parts during any given year.



The Modern Languages Department staged a Spanish-language play for area high school students on April 25 in the Gaije Hall auditorium. RIC students Rolando Yoharathra, right, and Julian Montoya engage in spirited conversation during the play.

A look at the 2008 honorary degree recipients

CONSTANTINE WILLIAM CURRIS
Honorary Doctor of Laws
Undergraduate commencement speaker



In Oct. 1999, Constantine Curris became chief executive of the American Association of State Colleges and

Universities (AASCU), a national association of more than 400 public colleges and universities.

Under his leadership at AASCU, the American Democracy Project was established to increase the attention that American colleges and universities give to issues of civic engagement and political action. Rhode Island College was one of the earliest institutions to embrace this initiative and remains one of its most active centers.

He has served as president of three public universities – Murray State University (1973-1983), the University of Northern Iowa (1983-1995) and Clemson University (1995-1999).

Born in Lexington, Ky., Curris began his work in higher education in 1965 as vice president and dean of the faculty at Midway College in Kentucky. In 1968, he became director of academic programs for the West Virginia Board of Education. From 1969-71 he was dean of student personnel programs at Marshall University in West Virginia, and for the following two years was vice president and dean of the faculty at the West Virginia Institute of Technology.

Curris received a BA in political science and an EdD in higher education from the University of Kentucky, and an MA in political science from the University of Illinois.

HOWARD L. FINE
Honorary Doctor of Fine Arts



A double alumnus of RIC, Howard Fine is recognized as a premier acting teacher and sought-after coach

in the entertainment industry. The Rhode Island native is the founder of Howard Fine Acting Studio in Hollywood, Calif.

His career as an acting educator has roots in New York, primarily at the American Music and Dramatic Academy, where he also headed the Acting Department. His passion for coaching professional actors and actresses led to his relocating to Hollywood in 1985. Past and present students include stars such as Brad Pitt, Salma Hayek, Justin Timberlake, Val Kilmer, Jennifer Connelly, Jim Belushi and dozens of others.

Fine is also a celebrated theatre director. He began directing in New England, staging a variety of productions from the dramatic works of Ibsen and Chekhov to musicals, such as *Anything Goes* and *Stop the World, I Want To Get Off*. For 11 consecutive years, he has directed the critically acclaimed AIDS benefit, *Divas: Simply Singing*, performed at the Wilshire Ebell Theatre in Los Angeles.

Fine received a DramaLogue Award and an Ovation Award nomination for direction for Lee Blessing's *Fortinbras*, and was director of the award-winning production of *G.R. Point*, starring Craig Sheffer, at the Callboard Theater.

He received a BA from RIC in 1981 and an MA from the College in 2004.

NICOLAS P. RETSINAS
Honorary Doctor of Public Service
Graduate commencement speaker



Nicolas P. Retsinas was appointed director of Harvard University's Joint Center for Housing

Studies in 1998. The center conducts research to examine and address the most critical housing and community development issues in America.

Earlier, Retsinas served as assistant secretary for housing-federal housing commissioner at the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development and as director of the Office of Thrift Supervision. He was the executive director of the R.I. Housing and Mortgage Finance Corporation.

Retsinas also served on the board of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Federal Housing Finance Board and the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation. He has lectured and written extensively on housing, community development and banking issues.

In 2001, he received the Housing Leadership Award from the National Low Income Housing Coalition. The following year, he co-edited *Low-Income Homeownership: Examining the Unexamined Goal*, published by the Brookings Press, and in 2004, he co-authored *Opportunity and Progress: A Bipartisan Platform for National Housing Policy*.

Retsinas is also a fellow at the National Academy for Public Administration and the Urban Land Institute.

He earned an AB in economics from New York University and a master's degree in city planning from Harvard University.

BRUCE SUNDLUN
Honorary Doctor of Public Service



Bruce Sundlun served as governor of Rhode Island from 1991 to 1995. His most memorable accomplishments

during his two terms include deftly handling the state's most serious banking/fiscal crisis in its history, construction of the Convention Center and the state's new airport terminal, and completion of the new Jamestown Bridge.

Sundlun, who was born in Providence, served during World War II in the U.S. Army Air Corps as a B-17 Flying Fortress pilot. He reached the rank of captain, and during the war, served in the England-based 384th Bomb Group and was shot down over Nazi-occupied Belgium. He received the Purple Heart, Chevalier of the Légion d'honneur, Distinguished Flying Cross, and Air Medal with oak leaf cluster.

From 1949-51, Sundlun served as an assistant U.S. attorney. From 1954-72, he was a special assistant to the U.S. attorney general. Sundlun also was an elected delegate to the Rhode Island Constitutional Convention of 1985.

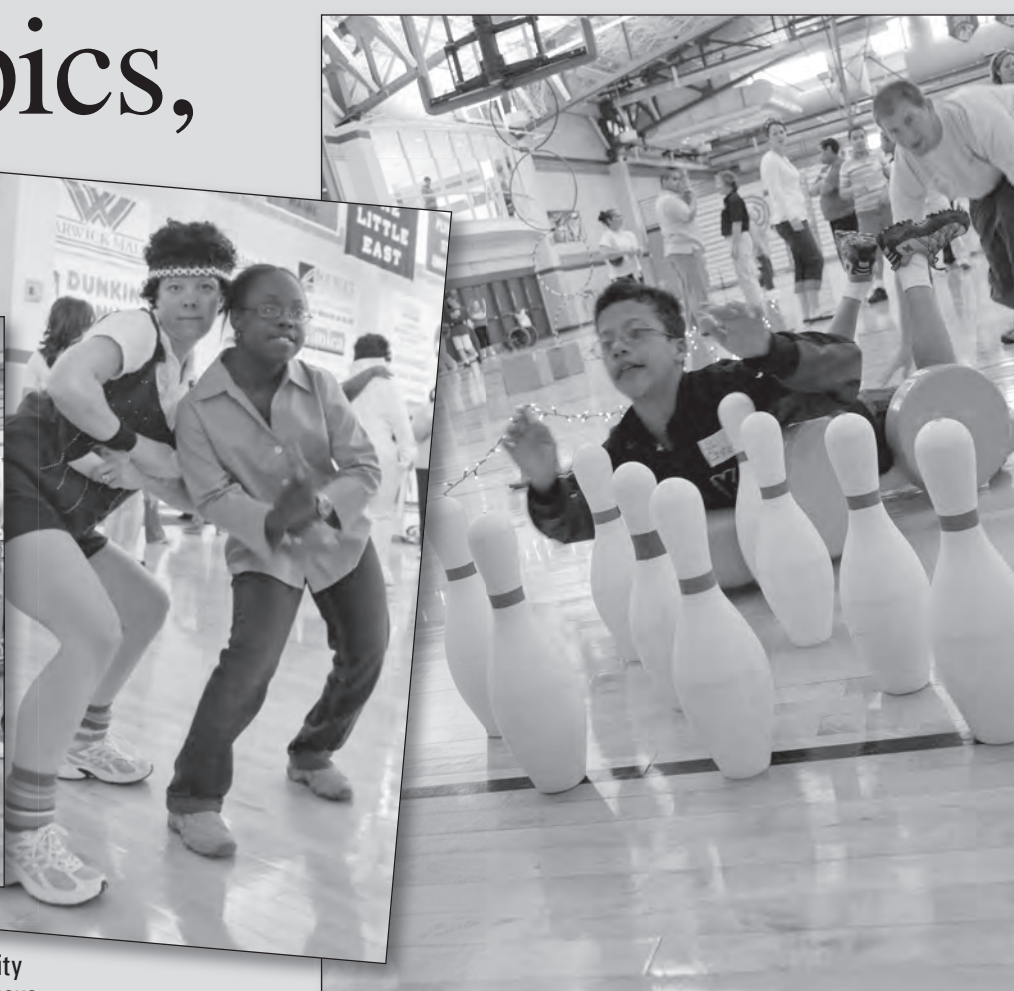
He was chairman of Providence Review Commission, Providence Housing Authority and Trinity Repertory Company Board of Trustees; chairman/CEO of Outlet Communications; and president of the Outlet Company, the R.I. Chamber of Commerce Federation and Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce.

Sundlun received a BA from Williams College and LLB from Harvard Law School.

Special Olympics, special time



RIC's Department of Health and Physical Education hosted its annual Motor Activities Training Day for Special Olympics on April 25 in The Murray Center. RIC students develop and stage specific activity stations that allow the Olympians to explore and experience different ways to move.



“Rhode Island College has been my life’s work...”



a night to honor



JOHN NAZARIAN
June 20, 2008

the most memorable night of the year

THE TRIBUTE TO JOHN NAZARIAN
JUNE 20, 2008
RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE CAMPUS



*A night to honor...
Commitment, Leadership, Service...
A life dedicated to the State and the Community...
A life spent in service to others.*

JOIN THE SALUTE TO JOHN NAZARIAN'S EXTRAORDINARY CAREER

Join the Rhode Island College community for a very special tribute to President John Nazarian, who will retire this summer after 54 years at the College.

The Rhode Island College community invites you to join us as we honor John Nazarian, a man who has devoted his life and presidency to ensuring access, opportunity and mentorship to Rhode Island students seeking a college degree.

The June 20 celebration will be a memorable evening of music, entertainment and tributes as we salute John Nazarian's extraordinary career.

Tickets are \$100 per person.

Tribute Program and Champagne Reception begins at 6:30 p.m. on the Rhode Island College campus.

If you would like more information or to become a tribute sponsor, contact Denise Males, event coordinator, at (401) 456-8105; dmales@ric.edu. Visit the tribute website at www.ric.edu to learn more about John Nazarian's life and legacy, to make a gift to the Tribute Fund, or to share a memory.