



# WHAT'S NEWS

## AT RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE

Vol. 12 No. 17 May 18, 1992



**EYE-CATCHER:** One of the more creative mortarboards at May 6 Cap 'n Gown Convocation is the artist's palette of senior Marty Russell. For more photos and story see pages 6 and 7. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

## College Honors Program grows; enhances quality of education

by Cynthia DeMaio

Conventional wisdom in New England, the region where the first private colleges were founded, says that unless a student attends a private college or goes to school out of state, he or she will get a second-rate education, says Spencer Hall, director of the Rhode Island College (RIC) College Honors Program.

"This belief is particularly strong in Rhode Island among upper middle class families or those with students of strong academic ability," Hall says. He goes on to say that this is simply not the case, part of the evidence being the school's College Honors Program.

### Meeting the needs of top students

Hall notes that there is a broad consensus among educators today that colleges have a responsibility to their brightest students. "Deans and vice presidents around the country agree that any college lacking an honors program is at a disadvantage."

He says this recognition is a change from the thinking in the 1960s. Grappling with charges of "elitism," educators in that period redirected money and resources to students needing remedial training, neglecting the needs of top students. Thinking has evolved since then, and educators now try to help students at both ends of the academic spectrum.

As a result, "most high schools and colleges have instituted honors programs over the past 10 to 15 years," Hall notes. He speculates that these programs not only benefit students, they may ultimately help society as well. "The fate of the country may depend on these students. The things done by these students could keep us afloat or not," Hall said.

Comments from students, guidance councilors, and parents, indicate that the word has gotten around about RIC's honors program, Hall says. The enrollment has grown from 15 students in its first year of operation (1983) to 270 this

year. Hall notes that the College Honors Committee reviewed 170 applications this year and from them selected 50 to 60 students, the most the program can handle at this point.

### RIC's College Honors Program

The Honors Committee targets graduating high school students who are at the top 10 percent of their class and have strong SAT scores (generally over 1,050). However, the program is open to older students and those transferring to RIC from other schools. Any student with a grade point average of 3.2 after completing his first semester at RIC can apply to the program.

The scholastic quality of the candidates has risen in recent years, Hall says. "Four or five years ago it was rare to see an SAT score of 1,200. Now we are seeing more in the range of 1,100, 1,200, and 1,300. We looked at one SAT score of 1,540 recently."

The Honors Program director credits the downturn in the economy for much of the increase in quality applications. "Economic conditions are such now that a student who five years ago might have thought about going to a private school such as Bates or Boston University can't do it, even with financial help. More students have to stay in state."

The presence of students with strong academic abilities enriches the overall student body by providing diversity, much in the same way the presence of minority students contribute to diversity, Hall says. "We often overlook the fact that enrichment includes people from the upper ranges of academic performance."

In addition to enhancing school life for students of all abilities, the Honors Program is an important recruitment and

(continued on page 5)

The girl from Bogota graduates —

## Nearly sweeps math-science honors at RIC

by George LaTour

She came alone to America at the tender age of 9 from a suburb of the mean streets of Bogota, Colombia.

When she left the low economic strata that was her's from birth, with its lack of promise for the future, she carried with her only the knowledge of her native language (Spanish) and of the love of a mother who waited anxiously for her in Rhode Island.

Today, this very bright, utterly delightful and obviously much-loved daughter of Maria (Gomez) Heroux and stepfather, Ralph Heroux, stands on the brink of a promise-filled future.

Maria A. Gomez of East Providence graduates May 23 from Rhode Island College with, perhaps, as many academic honors as has ever been accorded a graduate in the 138-year history of the College.

The *summa cum laude*, 3.92 (out of a possible perfect 4.0) grade-point average, Honors Program student with a triple major (math, chemistry and physics) takes College Honors, General Education Honors and departmental honors in chemistry and math.

She also is the recipient of the Eleanor M. McMahon Award for outstanding scholastic achievement, the Christopher R. Mitchell Award in math and computer science, the Ronald J. Boruch Award in physical sciences, and the Departmental Physics Award.

As a point of reference, let it be known that achieving just one of the above honors or winning just one award as the outstanding graduate in a given academic discipline is considered an accomplishment of note.

After completing a summer fellowship at the AT&T Bell Labs in New Jersey, the 20-year-old math-science scholar will begin studies toward a Ph.D. in theoretical chemical physics at Brown University under a full four-year scholarship from AT&T and the National Science Foundation.

After that, she says in perfect, accent-free English, "I'd like to teach at a school where I can do research."

Where might that be, she is asked?

"I'll live where I can find a job," she says modestly. "I guess it depends on that, although I really don't like big cities," she confides.

Living in a suburb of Bogota, the capital city situated high in the Andes with more than 2 million inhabitants, Gomez would, on occasion, be allowed to go with

family or friends to other smaller cities but says her parents would not allow her into Bogota itself, which, apparently, suffers from a high crime rate as do most big cities.

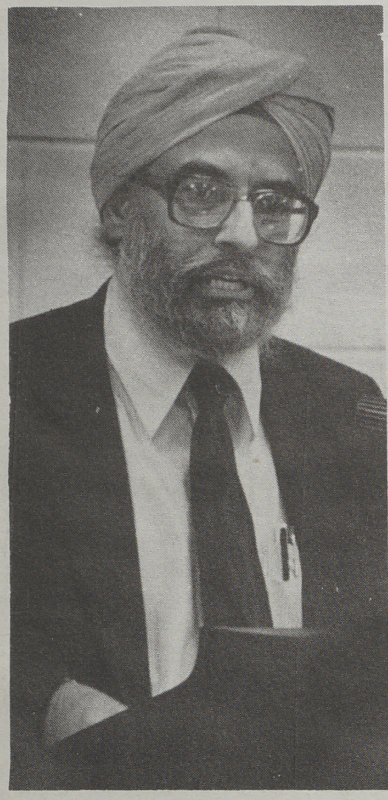
About her homeland, Gomez says you often could see "a lot of homeless kids wrapped in newspapers" in lieu of clothing. She shudders even today at the memory of her proximity to utter poverty.

But, she had family, a loving family, that cared for and protected her and always sought the best for her. When her mother left alone in 1979 "to try to begin a new life" in America for herself and her daughter, Maria stayed with her grandparents in Colombia.

(continued on page 8)



## Focus on the Faculty and Staff



**YET ANOTHER Journey Into the Self: Richard Wright in Africa and Asia' is the title of Amritjit Singh, professor of English, Thorp Lecture April 16 as Faculty of Arts and Sciences distinguished scholar.**

Gordon N. Sundberg, director of personnel services, recently attended the College and University Personnel Association's Academy for Human Resource Excellence and received certification in recognition of completing a senior seminar related to positioning and marketing the human resources function. Sundberg said he earned that human resources departments must rediscover their purpose, reconnect with their clients in a

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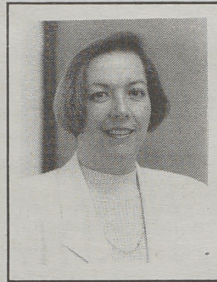
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more constructive linkage, clarify their key success opportunities and continuously evaluate their level of productivity, quality and customer service. The seminar was devoted to accomplishing this through a new value-adding approach and was conducted by Jac Fritz-enz, president of the Saratoga Institute, a well-published world authority on the design and implementation of staff strategic management and measuring systems.



Shape Lab, a new exhibit developed by the Children's Museum of Pawtucket and the Excellence in Teaching Mathematics Project at Rhode Island College headed by **Vivian R. Morgan**, as sociate professor of mathematics, opened at the Museum recently. It was designed to be a hands-on geometry lab and was funded by an Eisenhower Higher Education Grant.

**Victor L. Profughi**, professor of political science, was the keynote speaker at Providence Country Day School's annual Cum Laude Society evening lecture. Profughi spoke on "Complications in the Nomination Process, Implications for November" at the event which has held for the Cum Laude Society's new inductees, current members and faculty. Profughi has been an election analyst, has worked for Alpha Research Associates developing election polls and is head of the summer program of the Taft Institute for Politics.

Dimension Cable and Arts and Entertainment recently organized a three-part video and lecture series at the Central Library in Providence featuring **Maureen Reddy**, assistant professor of English. Reddy's lecture explored Sir Authur Conan Doyle's real life crime investigations and how they relate to the Sherlock Holmes Series. Reddy, crime fiction scholar and author of *Sisters in Crime: Feminism and the Crime Novel*, has recently given lectures at Harvard University and the Boston Public Library.

## Lenore DeLucia named vice president for administration and finance at RIC

Lenore A. DeLucia of Jamestown has been named vice president for administration and finance at Rhode Island College, it was announced by President John Nazarian.

DeLucia had served in that position on an interim basis since the appointment of Nazarian as president. Nazarian had held the vice president's position prior to being named president. Prior to her interim appointment, DeLucia had served the College as director of institutional research and planning since 1979.

DeLucia came to the College in 1962 as an assistant professor of psychology while working on her Ph.D. at Brown University. She had graduated from Pembroke College and received her master's from Brown in 1961; her Ph.D. in 1963.

She rose to the rank of professor in 1969 and still holds that academic rank. In 1972, she became the associate dean of educational studies, and a year later was named acting vice president for academic affairs. She was later acting dean of educational studies and then head of institutional research and planning.

DeLucia has done extensive educational writing and consultation; holds membership in numerous professional organizations, including the American Psychological Association and the Association for Institutional Research, and has been heavily involved in the life of the community and College.



LENORE DeLUCIA

She was selected as the Outstanding Young Woman of Rhode Island in 1970, the Outstanding Educator of America for 1971, and the Woman of the Year by the Jamestown Business and Professional Women's Association in 1977, among other honors.

## 1992 Alumni Fund Kicks-Off



Tuesday, May 26, will be the first night of a series of phon-a-thons planned by Kristen A. Jalbert, assistant director of development for annual giving, to kick off the 1992 Rhode Island College Alumni Fund.

According to Jalbert, last year's record-breaking \$100,000 has spurred the College to set an ambitious \$120,000 total for 1992.

Patricia Ross Maciel, Class of 1961, is honorary chairperson for this year's drive, which will continue throughout the calendar year.



**A DECADE OF SETTLEMENT IN R.I.** is the topic as faculty from the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, the RIC Asian Student Association and the Asian Pacific Celebration Committee meet with leaders of the Socio-Economic Development Center for Southeast Asians Community (SEDC) April 30 at the RIC Faculty Center. Pictured are (from left) Chhem Sip of the SEDC, Dean Richard Weiner, history professor Tony Teng and Cambodian student John Chea. (Submitted Photo)



## College Shorts

### 'Shaping Math' workshop scheduled for May 22

The Excellence in Teaching Mathematics Project, directed by Vivian R. Morgan, Rhode Island College associate professor of mathematics and computer science, will sponsor a one-day workshop Friday, May 22 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the College.

"Shaping Math," an intensive seminar designed to enhance the teaching of geometry in the primary grades, will concentrate on conjecturing, constructing and connecting concepts.

Assisting Morgan will be Gertrude Toher, associate professor of elementary education; Prof. Rose Merenda of the Henry Barnard School, and Ann Seitsinger, an elementary education graduate student.

For further information, call Morgan at 456-8038.



### Faculty promotions, tenure announced

President John Nazarian recently announced the names of faculty who have received promotions and gained tenure. They are:

**To the rank of professor:** Louis Alfonso, educational leadership, foundations and technology; Margaret Hainsworth, nursing department; Mary Ball Howkins, art department; Elaine Magyar, physical sciences department; Judith Mitchell, English department; Carl Stenberg, English department.

**To the rank of associate professor:** Dorothy Bianco, psychology department; Joan Bloom, Henry Barnard School; Carolyn Panofsky, educational leadership, foundations and technology; Maureen Reddy, English department; James Schaefer, math and computer science department; Claudia Springer, English department.

**Faculty members who have been granted tenure:** Stephen Brown (1993), English department; William Holland (1993), educational leadership, foundations and technology; James McCroskery (1993), psychology department; Edward McDowell (1993), math and computer science department; Carolyn Panofsky (1992) educational leadership, foundations and technology; Carmela Rath (1993) Henry Barnard School.



### Upward Bound invites you to its '92 commencement

President John Nazarian and the staff, faculty and students in Rhode Island College's Upward Bound program invite you to attend the program's commencement exercises on Tuesday, June 9, beginning at 7:30 p.m. in Gage Hall auditorium on the RIC campus.

## RIC Debate Council's Phil Murtha —

# Wins national speech competition at MIT

by George LaTour

The next time you get engaged in verbal combat with that friend of yours who always seems to delight in drawing you into an argument — be forgiving.

He or she could be in training for a debating team!

You never know.

Take Phil Murtha of Pawtucket, for instance.

When growing up, and particularly as a student in that city's Tolman High School, he admits to having engaged in "a lot of arguing" which often started out merely as discussion, as most arguments do.

Even he didn't realize then that he was in training for a debating team.

But in training he was, and it paid off on the fourth weekend of this April past.

The Rhode Island College Debate Council member won the National Debate Championship's speech competition at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), beating some fierce competitors from MIT, Harvard, Yale and other similar nationally ranked colleges and universities.

And, adding insult to injury to the Ivy League egos: Murtha and his debate-team partner, David Pridham of Providence, a sophomore, nearly beat the current national team champs in debating from Harvard University.

Harvard only managed to squeak by the RIC Duo, 51 to 50.

You can almost hear them now: "Wheew! Please don't invite those RIC people here anymore. They're sooo argumentative!"

#### 45 colleges debate

Some 145 teams from 45 colleges and universities participated in the event which was held Friday through Sunday, April 24-26, before an enthusiastic audience of more than 200.

Murtha's topic — which he had to explore extemporaneously — concerned diplomacy at the United Nations. One of the requirements was that the speech be light in nature and entertaining as opposed to the Oxford-style of parliamentary debate called "off debating" wherein no holds are barred.

Another RIC debater by the name of Phil (Phil Sisson) in April of 1982 had earned the off-handed praise of *Time* magazine, no less, as that "too earnest competitor from Rhode Island College" when in the raucous-style of "off-topic" debate at Princeton that year he termed his opponent an "obnoxious fool."

RIC Debate Council coach Audry Olmstead, a Ph.D. assistant professor of communications, reminds us that Sisson was considered that year's national overall best debater on the basis of his competitive record of wins and losses.



NATIONAL SPEECH CHAMPION Phil Murtha of Pawtucket, a sophomore member of the RIC Debate Council, displays his winning silver platter, which will be engraved. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

Phil — Murtha, that is — told *What's News* after his recent victory, which represented the first time that a member of the RIC Debate Council has taken the national championship in the speech category, that he's "always liked speaking and engaging in argument."

So, his formal speaking/debating for RIC he sees as "a natural extension" of his high-school activities.

And, it should help in developing an effective career as a lawyer which he plans to be someday.

In the meantime, he's planning to take a stab at local politics this summer with a run for the state Senate or House of Representatives.

With a group of supporters, Murtha says, "We'll run it up the flagpole and if anyone salutes, we're on!"

#### Practical application

He's doing this, he admits, "for its practical application" value. Along with his mastery of formal speech making and debate, the experience of running for political office should stand him in good stead for the legal profession.

But, just to be sure he's covering all the bases (as any good speaker/debater must), Phil Murtha and friend, Jim Vickers of Cranston, a junior at RIC, have published, and are continuing to publish, their own newspaper, *The Examined Life*, which they are hand-delivering to the campuses of Brown University, neighbor-

ing Providence College and, of course, RIC.

Describing the publication as "quite a mixed bag" of ingredients, Murtha explains that it focuses on political issues and civil rights, but also gets into philosophical discussion as well.

"We may lean a little too heavily on that," he admits, saying he finds that philosophical writing can be a little boring to read at times.

He and friend Vickers use a Packard Bell 486 computer to write their stories. Then, they paste them by hand to page layouts and make their own copies "as cheaply as possible, because we're not flush right now."

As you may have suspected, Murtha, also a sophomore, is a dean's list student with a double major of philosophy and communications and minor studies in economics. In addition to his participation in the RIC Debate Council, he serves on RIC's Student Community Government board and stays in shape physically by various sports activities, none of the organized variety, however.

"I just don't have the time," he says.

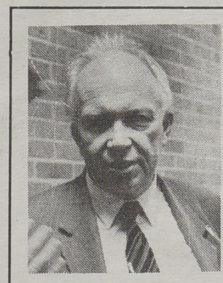
Getting ready to take his leave of his interviewer the other day, Phil Murtha in-

quired about the possibilities of a career in journalism. It was something he'd like to "discuss," he said.

"Oh, no you don't, Phil!"

## Personal perspectives offered on 'The Disintegration of the Soviet Union'

### Speakers include son of former Soviet premiere



Sergei Khrushchev, son of former Soviet premiere Nikita Khrushchev, was the featured speaker among those offering a personal perspective on "The Disintegration of the Soviet Union" at

the spring meeting of the Rhode Island Social Studies Association at Rhode Island College May 5.

Co-sponsored by the RIC Center for Industrial Technology's Project Graphic, those attending the meeting in the Student

Union ballroom saw a display of photographs by Albert Tavakalov entitled "The Fallen State: Photographs of the Soviet Coup." Tavakalov, now residing in Rhode Island, was a photographer in the former Soviet Union whose work appeared in *Tass*, the official Soviet newspaper.

Khrushchev's keynote address was on "The Disintegration of the Soviet Union: Causes, Consequences, Challenges." Khrushchev, who now resides in Rhode Island, is currently a visiting senior research fellow at Brown University's Center for Foreign Policy Development.

Judith Sweeney, a science resource specialist for the Northern Rhode Island Col-

laborative, gave a slide presentation and comments on education in the former Soviet Union based on her observations during a visit there last summer for the Soviet/American Science Education Conference at Moscow State University.

Following this, a panel discussion concerning the reaction and reflections of Soviet emigres from various republics in the former Soviet Union was conducted.

Panel moderator was Lenore Collins, director of Project Graphic at the RIC Center for Industrial Technology. Panelists, now Rhode Island residents, have all participated in Project Graphic at RIC.



*San Francisco bound...*

# Tim Robertson answers 'the call from the west'

by Clare Eckert

Timothy "Tim" S. Robertson, 24, will head to the west coast shortly after graduating from Rhode Island College on May 23 with a degree in theater to find fame and fortune.

Relocating to San Francisco is not unusual for a RIC theater grad. But for Robertson, who has only held "one day job" since high school, it's a "make or break" move as far as his work history goes.

"I tried once at getting a real job," he said. "I lasted one day and I quit!" he said jokingly. "My family calls it my day-job!"

Actually, Robertson, who spent that "day job" as a busboy for a Ponderosa restaurant, has worked hard at developing his special talents of piano-playing, acting and arts management - for money or pleasure - since he was five-years-old.

Better known to the RIC arts community as the rehearsal and performance pianist for the College's stage productions and cabarets, and as the Performing Arts Series Director John Custer's "right hand" for the past six years, Robertson began his professional career in Roberts Hall Auditorium as a sophomore student at Cumberland High School.

His first RIC production was in the spring of 1984 when the College staged the musical "Kiss Me Kate." Robert W. Elam, chair of the music department, who had been Robertson's piano teacher since the seventh grade, was the conductor for the play and asked Robertson to work with him as assistant music director.

"It was a great opportunity for me," Robertson said, adding that he was already familiar with RIC and the campus because occasionally he would visit his mother, Arlene R. Robertson, who worked for the College throughout his youth. (She is currently the Department of English's secretary.)



TIM ROBERTSON

Two years after his first professional appearance at RIC and after graduating from Cumberland High School in 1986, Robertson enrolled as a freshman studying for a degree in music performance. Two years later, this refreshing young man found he "wasn't into the academic thing" and left "to try working."

Robertson took a job at Trinity Repertory Company as assistant house manager. "I took care of the audiences, box office,

subscriptions and marketing," he said. It was great experience for the budding young actor, who hadn't yet tested his stage presence, but unconsciously was moving in that direction.

In 1990, Robertson returned to RIC, enrolling as a theater major. "I was more focused, older, wiser and more experienced," he said. It was during the spring of that year, as auditions began for the

College's production of *Mame*, that Robertson thought a "change of pace" from the musical pit to the stage would be new and exciting.

Although his intention was to "try and get into the chorus," Robertson's tenor voice and ability earned him the male lead role as Beauguard.

Playing the piano has been his "bread and butter" for years, having played at weddings, private parties and lounges, but he said, "performing on stage was a lot more enjoyable because it was new and more exciting."

He did get into the chorus during the College's 1991 stage production of *Peppin*.

All in all, Robertson has been the pianist for nine of RIC's plays and has been on stage for two. He also has worked with theater professor Raymond L. Picozzi on four summer cabarets and will collaborate with Picozzi on this summer's show before he leaves for the coast.

Robertson enjoys the freedom of organizing a cabaret and especially likes the "idea of working on musicals because you get to pick your own favorites."

His favorite music comes from Gershwin and Cole Porter, Judy Garland and Gene Kelly movies, "or anything from Hollywood with singing and dancing. I was born 40 years too late!"

The 24-year-old is a delightful person, with a wonderful sense of humor who has learned through his education at RIC and his work experience on the piano or on stage or behind the scenes that what he has worked so long and so hard at for 19 years will never be wasted.

"It's a crazy life...(the theater)...lots of hard work...but I wouldn't want it any other way," Robertson said. Sitting at a desk in a tie and jacket is definitely not for this young man. Anyway, he says, "I only own one suit!"

# Justice Studies award winner, aims for public service career

by George LaTour

This graduating college senior was involved in a move to stop legalized sports betting before the recent incidents occurred involving Rhode Island students allegedly taking and making bets on athletic contests.

For this and for his work on behalf of the Governor's Justice Commission and other activities supporting his community involvement and interest in justice studies, Cranston's Kevin J. Burke has been named the Mary Ann Hawkes Award in Justice Studies winner at Rhode Island College this year.

The award honors the work and career of Professor Emerita Mary Ann Hawkes of Newton, Mass. This is the second annual award.

When his name was called and his academic average read at RIC's May 6 Cap and Gown Convocation, at which outstanding members of the graduating class are honored, ooowwws and ahhs were heard.

The older-than-average age student, who returned to continue his education some dozen years after his graduation from Cranston East High School, had earned a 3.8 (out of a possible 4.0) cumulative average in his major.

Recognized by faculty as "a superior student" and by professionals in the community for his efforts in formulating policy initiatives at the Governor's Justice Commission, Burke says he hopes now to qualify for a position with that group.

The commission is a federally funded unit which distributes these funds to various criminal justice groups in the state, such as the state police for its drug enforcement efforts, and the DARE Oper-



KEVIN BURKE

ation Weed and Seed program, relates Burke.

"It's difficult to say what's down the road for me. It's a tough job market out

there, but definitely something in public service," assures Burke.

Go to college

The son of Ida and the late Harold Burke, who died when Kevin was 18, he served in the military for a time after high

school, traveling to Europe three times as an enlisted man in the Air Force.

Then, he decided to go to college.

"The justice-studies major was what drew me to RIC," he says, adding that he's glad of that decision. "The level of professionalism and caring among the people in the sociology department is incredible," he attests.

"A great deal of credit should go to them," feels Burke.

While a student intern with Strategy Corp., says Burke, he got to work with Lou Gorman of the Boston Red Sox on behalf of the Rhode Island/Massachusetts Coalition Against State Sponsored Sports Gambling.

Massachusetts, he says, had proposed allowing sports betting, but "sports figures, law enforcement people, religious groups...were all against it. This was particularly relevant because it was before the recent gambling problems with students."

Burke says the issue has yet to be resolved.

Among his other community-based interests was his creation of a substance-abuse proposal for the National Education Association and corrections policy and planning "particularly in regard to alternatives."

Burke doesn't hesitate to speak out on justice issues, either. A number of his letters to the editor addressing the various needs of justice in the community have been printed in newspapers throughout the state.

There does seem to be a need out there for justice; for people who are concerned with it, and for those like Kevin Burke who is interested in bringing it about. A very big need!



# ★ HONORS

(continued from page 1)

public relations tool for the college, Hall says. "Because there is an honors program here, parents and students recognize the school's commitment to academic excellence."

Many honors students receive scholarships to attend RIC. Hall points out that the RIC Foundation "is very generous in its support of the honors scholarship." The Foundation funds 40 half-tuition scholarships. Thirty-three graduating seniors have attended school on the Governor's Academy Scholarship. The Faculty Scholarship currently funds several scholarships and will increase the number it sponsors in the coming year.

## The Honors Curriculum

The College Honors Program consists of two parts: general education honors and the senior project. A student may take the general education honors by itself, earning a general education honors designation on his or her transcript. But to receive the "College Honors" designation, the student must complete both parts.

All students at RIC take a freshman composition course and 12 general education courses. These courses encompass the traditional liberal arts disciplines. Honors students take at least eight of the 13 courses in the honors sections. Honors classes are kept small and are conducted in a seminar format. They are innovative in content and emphasize class discussion.

The senior project involves one year of directed study totalling six credits during the senior year. The student works independently with a faculty advisor on a topic of his or her choice.



**HONORS PROGRAM STUDENTS** at the President's House May 1 for a reception with President John Nazarian (front center) are (standing from left) Doug Olney, Michael Gianfrancesco, Kristine Filippini, Elizabeth Reilly, Kristina Anulewicz, Alexandra Harrington, Michelle Gordon, Colette Richards, Colette Cote and Bobby Bina; (seated from left) Tracy Kraus, Maria Gomez, Terrence Shea, Spencer Hall, program director, and Robin Mercier.

Maria's advisor, Laura Cooley of the physical sciences department, urged her to submit a paper on her work to the Eastern Colleges Science Conference held this spring in Annapolis. Maria followed her advice and her paper won first place in the chemistry section of the conference.

An East Providence resident, Maria will go to Brown University in the fall. She has received both an AT&T fellowship and a National Science Foundation fellowship for her graduate work. She will

A math major with a concentration in secondary education, Tracy chose to write a six-week lesson plan for 10th grade geometry for her senior project. Her research included interviews with RIC faculty, school observations and surveys of high school students.

In talking with students, Tracy asked them what they like about geometry, what they don't like, and what they would change. She said she was surprised at the

society and a lack of passion in people. "T.V. is the new god," Terry says. *Equus* is saying a lack of religious expression ultimately takes its toll. "People have passion in them, they have to let it go," he says.

As director, Terry worked with his staff to discuss and come to agreement on the play's message. Then every technical aspect of the play, from the costumes, to the

*Honors classes are kept small and are conducted in a seminar format. They are innovative in content and emphasize class discussion.*

number of students who didn't like the subject. Their most common reason was it is "hard" or "boring."

Tracy used these responses to write a curriculum to make geometry "come alive." For example, to demonstrate the concept of a radius, she uses a length of string with a pencil attached. "By holding the string in place and making a circle with a pencil, students see that the radius is the same distance from the center of the circle at any point. They can also understand that a circle is made up of individual points."

Tracy hopes to teach math in a Rhode Island school after graduation. She is currently student teaching at Cumberland High School.

The villainous judge in RIC's production of *Sweeney Todd*, Terry Shea, says he would recommend the honors program to everyone. "Even if you weren't in the advanced placement classes in high school, if you want to learn, honors is the way to go."

This theater performance major chose to direct the play *Equus* for his senior project. In the first semester of his project, Terry researched the life of Peter Shaffer (the playwright), reading many of his plays, and reading critiques of the play and its various interpretations. He also visited Bradley Hospital to learn about childhood mental illness.

He then directed the play, which ran in Roberts Hall auditorium last October. Terry's preproduction research led him to believe the story is as much about the self-awakening of a psychiatrist as it is about the agony of a boy who blinds seven horses. At the heart of the play is the message that there is a lack of worship in

music, to the way the lines were delivered, reflected this vision.

Terry says he chose *Equus* because it is rich in symbolism. He added that it's "full of good parts so it's a natural attraction for actors."

A Providence native, Terry is moving to San Diego after graduation. There he hopes to work in film, television and theater. He plans to go to the University of California in the Fall of 1993.

*'Because there is an honors program here, parents and students recognize the school's commitment to academic excellence.'*

His personal intensity and desire to experience as much as possible are reflected in the multitude of things he did during his undergraduate years. Terry gained background in the technical aspects of theater by building sets, doing lighting, and doing sound production. He acted in summer stock theater in Rhode Island, Maine, and New Hampshire. He also was a D.J. for the campus radio station, WXIN, and wrote for the student newspaper, *The Anchor*. "There is a lot going on campus, people should take advantage of it," he said.

What does the honors program ultimately accomplish? It is the honor students such as Maria, Tracy and Terry who will improve our social, economic, and political system, Spencer Hall says. "I believe it's the upper 10% who make major contributions. The effort we put into them comes back 100 fold."



TRACY KRAUS

## The Honors Students

Because of small class size, students in the Honors Program get a chance to get to know others who they might otherwise not meet because of differing majors, Hall says. Math majors associate with theater majors, science majors with education majors.

Maria Gomez, a soft-spoken senior who is graduating with a triple major in math, chemistry and physics, says she enjoyed the less structured format of honors classes that included more discussion than lecture. "You heard other people's point of view and it forced you to say something during class." She noted that tests were different, too. "There were more essay questions. You weren't required to memorize things as much as think about how events tied together."

Maria's senior project was a laboratory study of the compound ruthenium trisbipyrazine. This material is a photosensitizer used in systems which generate electricity. Maria studied the acid-base properties of this material as it absorbs light of certain energies.

pursue a Ph.D. at Brown and hopes to teach and do research when she completes school.

While at Brown, Maria will work with Jim Doll on theoretical/chemical physics. Maria has already done research with him and a paper she co-authored is scheduled to be published in the *Journal of Chemical Physics* this year.



Tracy Kraus, originally from West Warwick, came to RIC because of its Honors Program. This energetic, upbeat student said RIC tried to recruit her as a high school senior, but she went to Providence College (PC) for her freshman year. Tracy says she reconsidered RIC, however, and transferred in her sophomore year. While PC has an honors program, she described it as "more history-based" and said she prefers the program at RIC.



### Cap 'n Gown 1992 —

## 'One Moment in Time'

In the 1992 Cap and Gown Convocation May 6, which marked the beginning of spring commencement activities at Rhode Island College, one of the speakers asked three groups to stand.

Professor of Elementary Education James J. Betres called for all those graduating seniors who had been involved in volunteer work while students. A large number of students, dressed for the first time in their academic regalia, stood.

Next, Betres asked all who have been raising families while students to stand. Another large segment of the more than 1,000 graduating seniors rose to their feet.

He then called for all those who, while full-time students, had worked full-time or part-time jobs. A third contingent stood.

At that point, virtually the entire graduating class was standing in Roberts Hall auditorium.

"This represents what Rhode Island College is all about," said Betres as applause broke out from family, friends, fellow students, College administrative officials, faculty and staff.

It was a perfect demonstration of some of the changes that have occurred over recent years — perhaps even a generation ago when most college students were fresh out of high school, lived with their parents and attended school full time without the worry or need of having to work for anything more than pin money — "Happy Days" (the hit TV sitcom) on the college level.

Speaking to the Class of '92, fellow senior John K. Campbell termed RIC "our training ground...a place we'll always remember."

He brought appreciative chuckles to the audience when he credited President John Nazarian for "always being there, meeting with us, talking with us and even eating with us. How brave you are!"

Campbell recalled a song popular in 1988 "when most of us were freshmen" called "One Moment in Time" which, he said, referred to a time "when all our dreams are but a heartbeat away."

He told his fellow graduates this was their moment.

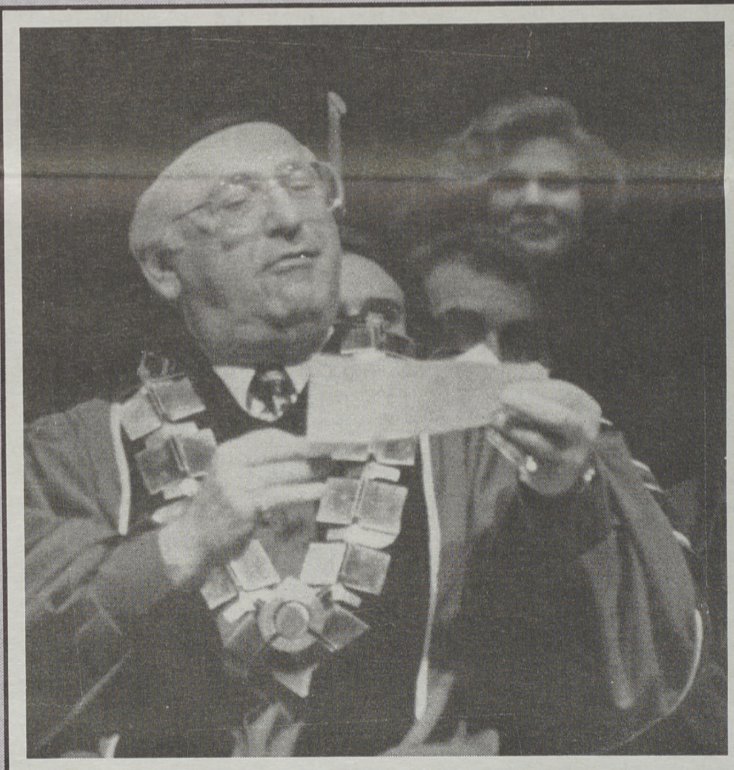
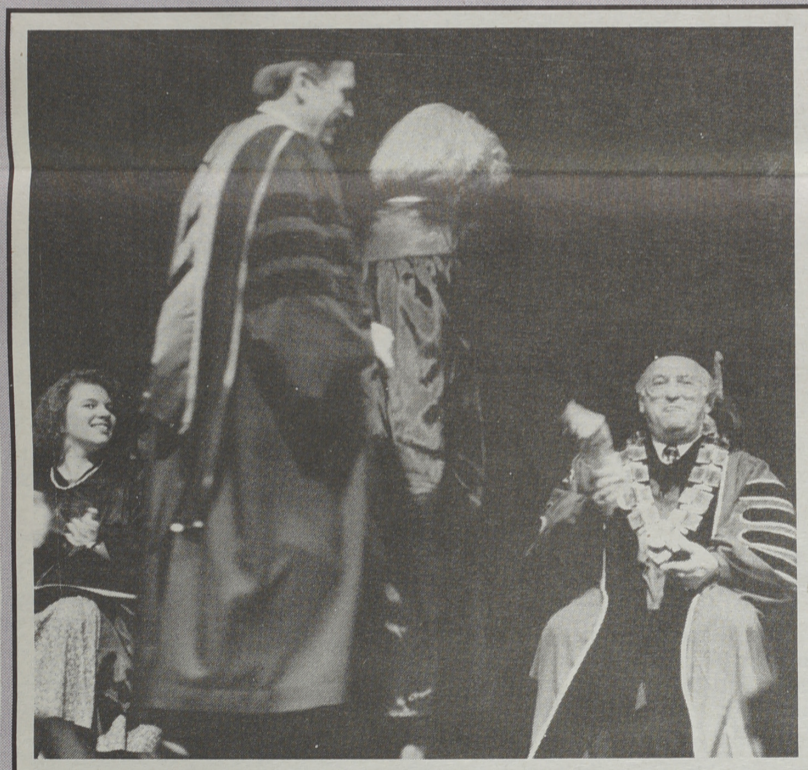
Nazarian led the formal cap-and-gown investiture.

John J. Salesses, vice president for academic affairs, with the assistance of department chairpersons, presented the departmental awards for excellence. Gary M. Penfield, vice president for student affairs, introduced the students recently named to "Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges." The class gift — a check for \$2,000 — was presented to President Nazarian by Allan W. Fung, class treasurer.

A reception, hosted by President Nazarian, followed on the lawn outside of Roberts Hall.



**100-YEAR-OLD PIN:** Rhoda Mowry of Harrisville, a bachelor of social work graduate, proudly wears the pin given to her grandmother 100 years ago upon her graduation from what was then the Rhode Island Normal School, the forerunner of today's Rhode Island College. Her grandmother, Class of 1892, was Maude Baker. She went on to become a teacher, but had to resign upon getting married, which, as we understand it, was the practice in those days. At that point, around 1896, she developed and ran Smithfield's first library out of her home. Rhoda Mowry's daughter, Deborah Wood, is a 1988 RIC grad and her niece, Mary Ellen Mowry, is a 1982 grad.



Photos by  
Gordon E. Rowley

Text by  
George LaTour



**AFTER RECEIVING THE EMIN AWARD** (far left) for outstanding achievement, Tracy Kraus hands President Nazarian her 'assignment' in math. Earlier, the president, who is also the College's senior math professor, had challenged Tracy to solve a problem involving probability and jokingly threatened not to sign her diploma until she found the answer. Moments later (second from left), Tracy, in her seat behind the president, glances up to see the president's reaction. He deemed the problem solved. At top left, Barbara Forte (back to camera) takes a picture of classmates (from left) Doreen Williams, Augustina Aguocha, Elizabeth Mosher and Nancy Lofgren. At bottom left, by-standers at the Cap 'n Gown Convocation — members of the Cooperative Play Group — could boast of having three mothers among the 1992 graduates. Above, the award winners in this year's senior class. Their names and awards (all left to right) are: 1st row — Christine Faria, Bachelor of Social Work Community Service; Rachel Lennon, Lauris B. Whitman Award in Sociology; Laura Moran, Jean Garrigue Award (English); Cheril Tessier, Bertha Christina Andrews Emin Award for Scholastic Excellence (by RIC Foundation); Suzette Lambert, Cantor Jacob Hohenemser Award (music); Melissa Brule, Helen M. Murphy Award (intercollegiate athletics); Anthony DeStefanis, Claiborne deB. Pell Award (history); Matthew Bodziony, Studio Art; Sandra Costa, Tegu Polyglot (modern languages); Lynn Sawyer, Outstanding History; John E. Hetherman Award (intercollegiate athletics); 2nd row — Robin Pomposelli, Athony E. Ricci Social Work Practice; Heather Chapman, Peter Jeffrey Archambault Memorial (communications and theater); Terrence Shea, RIC Theatre; Tracy Kraus, Bertha Christina Andrews Emin Award for Outstanding Achievement (by RIC Foundation); Dina Bredeau, Nursing Faculty (undergraduate award); Jacquelyn Potter, Nursing Faculty (undergraduate registered nurse award); Beth Puniello, Joseph A. Stillings Award (special education); Martha Johnston, Elementary Education Faculty Award; Paula Frank, Nelson A. Guertin Memorial (French); Patricia Faucher, Evelyn Walsh Prize (history); 3rd row — John Campbell, Cap 'n Gown speaker; Carl Peterson, Epsilon Pi Tau, Beta Sigma Chapter (industrial technology); Joan Pirraglia, Wall Street Journal Award (economics and management); Anne Kotch, Health and Physical Education Faculty Senior; Collette Cote, W. Christina Carlson Award (biology); Nancy O'Rourke, John H. Chafee Award (political science co-winner); Maria Gomez, Eleanor M. McMahon Award (College Honors Program); Christopher R. Mitchell Award (math and computer science), Ronald J. Boruch Award (physical sciences), Departmental Physics Award; Robert Silvia Jr., Richard A. Howland Computer Science; Josephine Maynard, Theodore Lemeshka Award (biology); 4th row — Kevin Burke, Mary Ann Hawkes Award in Justice Studies; Jeffrey Major, Film Studies Program Faculty Award; Sanford Cook III, John Silva Memorial Scholastic (economics and management); Christopher Reddy, American Institute of Chemists Award. Not pictured are Kimberly Donahue, John H. Chafee Award (political science co-winner); Diane Turner, Psychology Faculty Senior; Elena Pagliarini, Leonelli Family Memorial Award.



## RIC athletes honored at 12th annual awards dinner May 3



**ATHLETIC AWARD** recipient (at right) is senior Scott Carlsten, who receives a watch from President John Nazarian while William Baird, director of intercollegiate athletics applauds. Carlsten, a four-year member of the champion RIC wrestling team, has been named to the Division III All-American Wrestling Team.

Members of the Rhode Island College Wrestling Team were the stars at the 12th annual awards dinner for graduating athletes May 3 at the Quonset "O" Club, North Kingstown.

Winners of their fifth straight New England Wrestling Conference title, the 10 wrestlers were headed by Scott Carlsten, who has been named to the Division III All-American Wrestling Team, with the rank of fourth best nationally with a win-loss-draw record of 163-17-1. He was presented a watch by College President John Nazarian.

The honored team members, in addition to Carlsten, are Ken Plouff, Jamie

Warden, William Cutler, Jay Jones, Damon Popella, Kevin Timme, Lonnie Morris, Chris Reddy and Wally DiGesse. Reddy also was honored for having been selected to the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Scholar All-American Team.

Honored also was Little East Conference men's cross country champion Kevin O'Neil, and the Division III NCAA 1991 American hammer-throw champion Andy Lemoi.

Each of the 33 graduating senior athletes was presented a special plaque, reports William M. Baird, director of intercollegiate athletics.

## ★ GOMEZ

(continued from page 1)



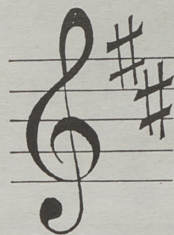
**ACE STUDENT** Maria Gomez chats about life in Colombia, the love of her parents and her successes at RIC from which she graduates May 23 with academic honors galore. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

## Memorial music scholarships awarded

Winners of this year's Rita V. Bicho, Melody Stappas and Louis Appleton Memorial scholarships have been announced by the Rhode Island College music department.

Jason Rivard of North Dighton, Mass., a junior; Diana McVey of Greenville, a music education senior; and Maria Gallo of West Warwick, a music education junior, are the winners of the Rita V. Bicho Memorial Scholarship. Announcement of their selection was made at the 14th annual Bicho Concert in Roberts Hall auditorium May 4.

Each received \$500 from the Bicho Fund which is housed in the RIC Foundation. The scholarships honor the late Rita V. Bicho, who retired from the College's music department in 1979 after serving with distinction on the faculty for 30 years.



Winner of the Melody Stappas scholarship is Joseph Carvalho of Pawtucket, a senior studying for a bachelor of music-in-performance degree. His award was \$250.

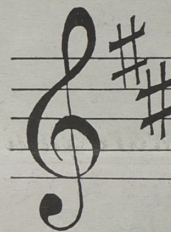
The award is given to a sophomore or junior piano major, who "reflects the joy and inspiration that Melody Stappas gave to everyone she encountered." It was noted at the presentation at the recent Festival of New American Music that Carvalho, a two-time winner of this scholarship, is an organist at the Greek Assumption Church, the position that Melody occupied for three years.

Melody graduated from RIC in 1982 and died in 1983.



**STEVEN DeCESARE**  
Louis Appleton Memorial Scholarship

Winner of the Louis Appleton Memorial Scholarship is Stephen DeCesare of Johnston, a senior majoring in music-in-performance. His award is \$250. The award recipient must be a music major in keyboard or voice, a sophomore or junior currently active in church music as a performer or director. This scholarship, in honor of the late Louis Appleton, who graduated in 1974 and died in 1983, also was presented at the Festival of New American Music on May 1.



Her mother knew. There was little chance for any kind of a future for her daughter in Colombia.

College in Colombia is "very expensive" and is "for the wealthy people only," says Gomez. "If you're poor there, you just stop going to school. And, without a degree, you can't get a good job. There are a lot more opportunities here, especially educational opportunities...with different groups trying to help you get an education."

She cites one of them as an example, the National Hispanic Scholarship Fund, which provided her with some assistance.

"I always liked math and then when I saw how they (math and science) related, I got to like science," she explains.

She could have attended a school with special programs for Spanish-speaking students, but Gomez says her parents wanted her to go to a school in Rhode Island where only English was spoken, so she would have to learn it.

"It was really hard at first," she'll tell you, but worth it in the long run. For starters, it helped immensely when she attended Classical High School in Providence and then East Providence High where she graduated third in her class.

*My father was really excited. He joked that now 'We won't have to support you anymore!'*

When she first arrived in Providence "Mom babysat (to earn money) and stayed with different families," relates Gomez, who seems so proud of her mother and so appreciative of her mother's efforts to not merely survive, but to live, and to make sure her only child knew the difference.

Being an only child, says Gomez, might help explain her academic success.

"Maybe because of that, they (her mother and step father, a Rhode Islander whom Maria's mother married sometime after her daughter's arrival in Rhode Island) had a lot of time to help me out with school stuff."

When she came to RIC, she did so on full scholarship for four years in the College's Honors Program, which is reserved for the best and brightest. That, she says, was a "great help" to her parents.

And, when she learned of her full scholarship (plus a stipend for living expenses) for advanced studies at Brown, she says, laughing softly, "My father was REALLY excited. He joked that now 'We won't have to support you anymore!'"

Be assured, no one will have to (financially) support Maria Gomez again, at least while scientists are in big demand.



# Image and essence reconciled in honor student's college experience

by Cynthia DeMaio

"Education is like youth, it's wasted on the young," jokes Michele O'Malley, who graduates magna cum laude this year with a bachelor of general studies. Currently the studio manager of Star Trak broadcast production facility in Cranston, Michele has had a fitful yet rewarding educational career.

Michele, then Michele Passarelli, attended Rhode Island College (RIC) between 1971 and 1974, only to drop out at the end of her junior year and join a Top 40's rock band. She returned to RIC in 1978, going to school for a couple of years before marrying Jack O'Malley of Warwick in 1981. In 1984 she joined Star Trak where she currently works full-time casting and booking talent for radio and television commercials and business videos.

Often in the limelight, Michele represented Rhode Island in the Miss America Beauty Pageant in 1972 during her sophomore year at RIC. "I got involved because of the scholarship money. I was singing in a club and the Pawtucket Jaycees approached me. They said they'd sponsor me for the Miss Pawtucket pageant." After capturing the Miss Pawtucket title, Michele went on to the state pageant. "Through some sort of accident I won that, too," she says.

Until that point, Michele says she hadn't realized that she would have to go on to the national contest. "I was overwhelmed," she says.

**Consumers...should be aware that R.I. College is the best value for the money.**

The pageant was held in Atlantic City in 1972. "It was the best and the worst week of my life," Michele says. "The best, because I got to experience something not many people do." She notes that 250,000 young women participate in local and state pageants yet only 50 go to the national level.

"The Saturday night the pageant was televised I thought to myself how unlikely it was that I was there. I was the daughter of immigrant parents. I was not pretty in the conventional sense. I thought to myself, 'There may be one girl out there watching this program that is looking at me and saying, she's not totally stunning, if she can make it, maybe I will try, too.'"

The week was the worst in her life "because I am not totally stunning and I was with 49 other girls who were," Michele says. While another young woman won the pageant, Michele did win the talent section for her performance of the music from Cabaret.

Michele expresses mixed feelings about the pageant. She says that the women who win "Miss Congeniality" are the nicest girls, but are also the ones that everyone senses have no real chance at the top spot. "The party line is that the contestants are judged on: interview, talent, evening gown and swimsuit, in that order. But the reality is that this is a beauty pageant." Michele says that this realization was hard for her to accept at the time.

She adds, however, that the pageant organization was very good to her. She notes that Miss America is the largest scholarship foundation for women in the country. Each contestant receives money from both the national association and from the state organization.



MICHELE O'MALLEY

Furthermore, several public appearances were open to Michele because of her association with the pageant. She participated in two USO tours in 1973 and 1974. The first in Europe, the second in Asia. She was also asked back to the pageant in 1976 as the featured performer during the national telecast of the ceremony.

Michele now focuses her vocal abilities on commercial work. She sings jingles for commercials including "Look who's saving at Almacs," and the Chevy Center's "Gets to the heart of it." She says like jazz singing or rock singing, there's an art to singing jingles. "You give the most you can in the short time you have."

**'Through school, I've gotten a better understanding of myself as a person.'**

While Michele has enjoyed success in the social aspects of life, she says as she grew older she began to crave a deeper sense of accomplishment. "My whole life was geared to being an external achiever. Now I'm at an age where the external is starting to age," Michele says.

"In 1990 I met a high school classmate in a department store. She asked me if I was ready for the big twentieth reunion the next year. I started thinking about finishing my college degree. I figured there are a lot of intelligent people walking around with college degrees and I thought I was intelligent, too. That September I went back to school."

James Bierden of the mathematics department became Michele's advisor. He and Michele worked out a program where she would graduate with a BSG, a bachelor of general studies. "The BSG is

designed for people with large gaps in their educational history. I think it fills in for the old bachelor of liberal arts," Michele says.

The two years that followed her return to school were "the best in my life," Michele said. "I now look at myself as an intelligent, capable woman. My whole life had been geared to appearances. I was in superficial occupations. As a band member you have to sound good and look good. No one in the audience cares about your mind. They don't care if you have problems. They want see and hear someone who's upbeat."

In contrast, school is internally gratifying Michele said. "I have been able to accomplish what others ask of me. I found out that I do have a mind and well-developed thought processes. Through school, I've gotten a better understanding of myself as a person."

As for the future, Michele hopes to continue her education at the graduate level, studying library science. She says this choice surprises people, as they associate libraries with dust and quiet. But Michele says a library is a lively place when people come in for help. "People are a big part of the equation," Michele feels.

Library science intrigues Michele because she enjoys research and detail work. She adds that library science is one of the last careers open to the generalist, someone who has an interest in a variety of fields.

Reflecting back at her experience at RIC, Michele says the school is the "premier educational product in the state of Rhode Island. Consumers, that is the students, should be aware that Rhode Island College is the best value for the money. RIC is the ultimate consumer product."

Michele notes that she is the third woman in her family to be a RIC graduate. Her sister Lucretia graduated with a bachelor's degree in 1968 and her sister Dolores (now director of new student programs at RIC) received her bachelor's in 1974 and her master's degree in 1978.

As for education being misspent on the young, Michele says that, in general, older students seem to appreciate school more because they are paying for it themselves and they bring more experience to schooling. "I know there are a lot of younger students who work as well as go to school. But I would recommend to the 18-year-olds to take everything you can out of college. Go for the brass ring. Do the best you can because this is your job for the next four years."

**Congratulations to the Class of 1992!**

**WELL DONE!!!**



## Alums involved in 'How the Other Half Loves' in Pawtucket

Two Rhode Island College alumni are involved in the Community Players of Pawtucket end-of-season production of *How the Other Half Loves*, which runs June 19-28.

Sandy Boyer, Class of '72, is directing the show, while Lee Hakeem, Class of '70, is producing it.

Boyer's involvement with theater began during her undergraduate days at RIC, where she performed under the direction of Elaine Perry and P. W. Hutchinson.



After her graduation, she continued to act with a number of local community theater groups while raising a son, Peter, who is familiar to *What's News* readers for his accomplishments in the field

of music composition.

Now, it is rare when Sandy is not working on a show in one capacity or another.

She has appeared professionally in the venues of children's and dinner theater. Her roles have included those in light comedy, intense drama and musical thea-

ter. In a recent production of *The Dining Room* for The Academy Players in East Greenwich, she portrayed eight vastly different women.

A new venture for Boyer combined her teaching background with her theatrical experience when she created an acting course which she conducted at the Colonial Theater in Westerly.



Hakeem serves on the board of the Community Players of Pawtucket. Over the years, he has become a favorite character actor of audiences there. He also performs in a number of other community

theater productions.

Since graduation, he has taught in the North Attleboro school system. An Air Force veteran, he has served in the Rhode Island National Guard for the past nine years.

If you are interested in seeing *How the Other Half Loves*, you may call 274-8227 for tickets.



The Rhode Island College athletic program is \$2,036.50 healthier, thanks to the generosity of the student body. Members of RIC Programming raised \$1,036.50 at last month's Fund Run with over 140 runners participating in its second annual fundraiser. Also, a \$1,000 check was presented to the athletic department from RIC's student governance. Pictured above is Michael Arpin of Providence, who took first place in the 18-35-year-old category.

Next issue  
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is June 22

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### Two to share Rose Butler Browne Award

Pamala J. Therrien, a sophomore, and Michael DiPina, a senior, are this year's co-winners of the Rose Butler Browne Award for their outstanding leadership in community affairs, announces Sharon Mazyck, selection committee chairperson.



PAMALA THERRIEN

Therrien, 35, who holds an associate of arts degree from the Community College of Rhode Island, was cited for her work-study at Dorcas Place in Providence where "she demonstrated her commitment to improving the lives of others" as an instructor of a class on independent living skills.

She is credited with having organized the curriculum and with having utilized creative ways to assist low-income single parents (predominately women) to improve their life skills and economic conditions. Therrien is a single parent of two daughters.

DiPina was cited for his work as a fulltime residential counselor for North American Family Institute since July 1991 whereby he prepared young men for independent living. "Michael has demonstrated a superior commitment to the residents through many hours of uncompensated time to assist residents with their educational and personal goals."



MICHAEL DiPINA

An English major, DiPina plans on obtaining a doctorate in clinical psychology. Therrien is working on a degree in secondary education with a concentration on general science, but says she is considering a social work career.

The award was established in 1976 by friends and admirers of Dr. Rose Butler Browne, who earned her master's degree at Rhode Island College and, in 1939, became the first black woman to earn a doctoral degree in education from Harvard University. A crusader for black rights and author of the book *Love My Children*, she was awarded an honorary degree from RIC in 1950 and had a residence hall named for her in 1969. She died at age 89 in 1986.



## Faculty research awards for 1992-93

The Rhode Island College Faculty Research Committee recently announced the following awards for 1992-93:

- Edythe Anthony, A Microarchitectural Study of the Hypothalamic-Pituitary Systems in Mammals.

- Yael Avissar, Characterization of the Plasmid pYA1 Containing a Cloned Fragment of *Chlorobium vibrioforme* DNA.

- Pamela Benson, Translating Italy in Renaissance England.

- Mary Burke, An investigation of the Potential for Chronic Sorrow in Maternal Caregivers of Adults with Multiple Sclerosis.

- Laura Cooley, Studies of Excited-State Proton Transfer in a Series of Ruthenium Complexes.

- Carol Cummings, The Development of a Sex and Family Life Education Curriculum Guide for Grades K-3.

- Stanford Demars, The Religious Camp Meeting Summer Resort.

- Anthony DiBona, Blacksmithing Project—1992.

- Rachel Filinson, The Impact of Clinical Intervention on Elder Abuse Victims.

- Carolyn Fluehr-Lobban, Twentieth Century Development of Islamic Law in the Sudan: Under British or Sudanese Control.

- Barry Gilbert, An Investigation of the Effects of Low Frequency Magnetic Fields on Epithelial Cell Growth.

- Margaret Hainsworth, An Investigation of the Potential for Chronic Sorrow in Spouse Caregivers of Individuals with Multiple Sclerosis.

- Terence Hays, Gender Ideology and Gender Imagery in the New Guinea Highlands.

- Krisjohn Horvat, Continuing Series of Wall-Hung, Cantilevered Sculptures.

- Pamela Jackson, Ethnic Visibility, Minority Group Threat and Police Mobilization. A Comparison of France and the United States.

- Dena Janson, A Bibliography of the Cistercian Order in England and Wales, 1128-1540.

- Kathryn Kalinak, Music and Melodrama: The Model of the Silent Film.

- Wendy Knickerbocker, Billy Sunday's Career as a Professional Baseball Player, 1883-1890.

- Richard Lobban, Research Travel Grant to Write Contracted Book on Republic of Cape Verde.

- Elaine and James Magyar, Studies of Acrylcyclopropanes and Courmarins.

- Thomas Malloy, Mathematical Models of Children's Interpersonal Perceptions: Accuracy, Meta-Knowledge, and the Attractiveness Stereotype.

- Judith Maloney, Stimulating Realities: Historic Recreations and Illusiosm in American Amusement, Art and Entertainment Forms.

- Charles Marzzacco, Light induced Proton and Electron Transfer Reactions.

- Meredith McMunn, An Iconographic Catalogue of the Illustrated Manuscripts of the *Roman de la Rose*: The Italian Manuscripts.

- Jerry Melaragno, An Anatomical Investigation of Variations in the Developmental Pattern of Stomatal Complexes in the Leaf Epidermis of *Arabidopsis thaliana*.

- Mamie Oliver, Idaho Ebony: Blacks in Idaho's White Press 1863-1916.

- Jeannine Olson, Marriage, Divorce, and the Family in Calvin's Geneva.

- Carolyn Panofsky and Pat Cordeiro, Toward an Understanding of "Direct" and "Indirect" Instruction. An Empirical Approach.

- Maureen Reddy, Crossing the Color-Line.

- Elizabeth Rowell, An Ethnographic investigation of Literacy Programs in Pre-Kindergarten Settings.

- Joanne Schneider, Count Rumford, Munich's Poor and the Problems of Poverty.

- Amritjit Singh, Richard Wright and His Policies An Intellectual Biography of the Final Phase.

- Ellsworth Starring, Longitudinal Study of Avian Species in Barrington, Rhode Island.

- Carolyn Swift, Elizabeth Melville's "Godlike Dreame" (1603). Continuing Study.

- Ezra Stieglitz, The Design of an instrument for Assessing a Reader's Comprehension of Longer Discourse Through the Use of Narrative Prose.

- Duncan White, A Behavioral Assessment of Peripheral Vision Loss with Aging and the Recovery of Function with Practice: Part II.

- Panajotis Votoras, A Literary Translation from the Greek of the 12-th Century Byzantine Folk Epic *Digenis Akritas*.

## Clues from the deceased give help to the living

by Cynthia DeMaio

One junior at Rhode Island College has an unusual full-time job which he calls a "golden opportunity" for students in the health care field. Mike Mazzotta of Johnston is an autopsy technician at the morgue in Rhode Island Hospital.

Mike applied for the job four years ago after seeing a posting in the Fogarty Life Science Building. Although autopsies may seem gruesome to the lay person, Mike says the findings that come out of them often advance medical knowledge.

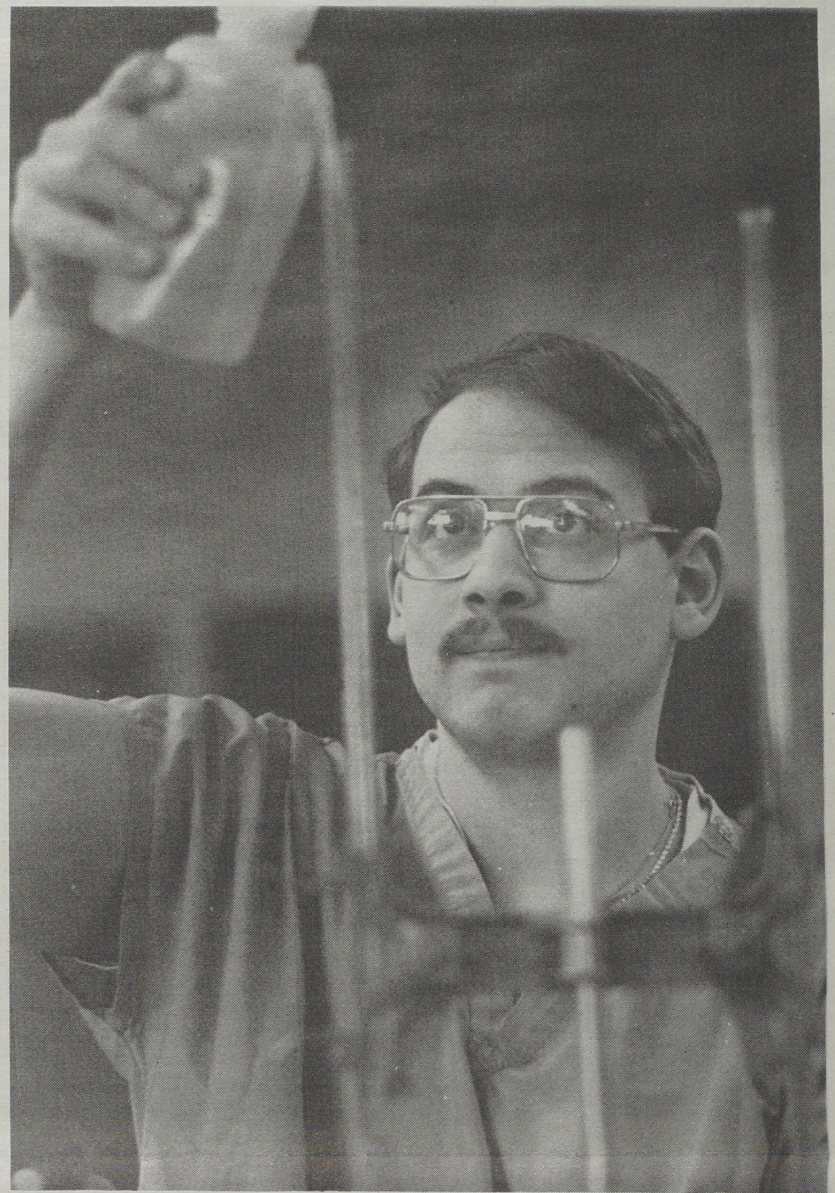
"We work on the deceased patient to help the living," Mike says. He notes that the word "autopsy" is Greek for "seeing with one's own eyes." For example, physicians at Rhode Island Hospital are currently studying a rare congenital heart disease which strikes young children. The doctors hope this research will help other physicians recognize the symptoms of the disease and treat children before it's too late.

Most autopsies performed at the hospital are on persons 65 years old or older, Mike says. Generally, they are done at the request of the family and are used to determine the cause of death. "The information provides piece of mind to the family," Mike says.

### Mike's job is to assist the pathologist during the autopsy.

He adds that the procedure does not interfere with burial plans as it usually does not take more than four hours. If performed in the morning, the deceased can be brought to a funeral home in the afternoon and a funeral can take place the next day. "We work quickly so not to inconvenience the family," Mike says. He notes that there is no change in the physical appearance of a person when the procedure is done correctly. "You could go to 10 wakes and you'd never know who underwent an autopsy," Mike said.

While the morgue at Rhode Island Hospital generally handles older people, the medical examiner's office usually handles young adults. State law stipulates that persons who die violent deaths, such as car accidents, or from drug overdose, be sent to the medical examiner's office for an autopsy. Persons who die in a public place, such as drowning victims, and people who died in the hospital within 24 hours of being admitted are also sent there.



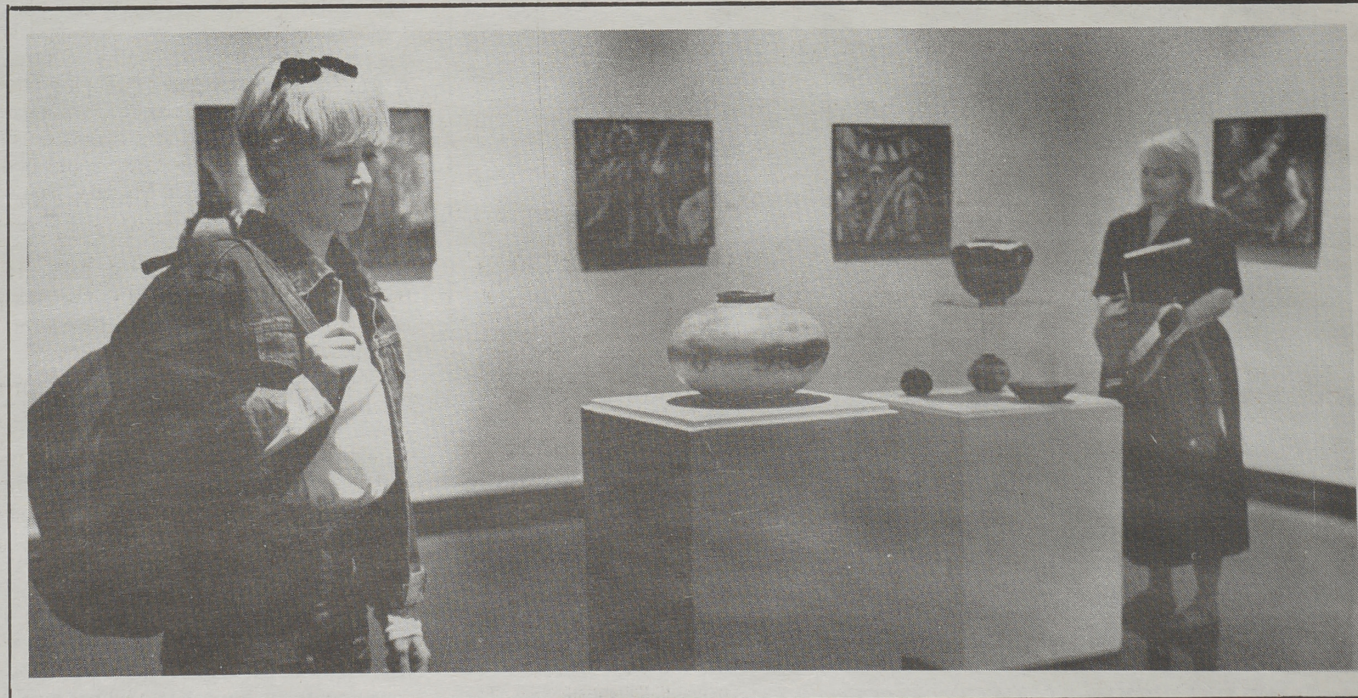
MIKE MAZZOTTA

Mike's job is to assist the pathologist during the autopsy. "I do the laborer's work. I make sure the right ID tag is on the right person. I set the patient up, get the instruments ready, review the charts. From this information, I tell the doctor what we're facing: AIDS? Hepatitis? Old age?"

From this experience Mike has learned to read medical charts and pick out key

points to review with the physician. He also works in the laboratory preparing dyes to study damaged tissue.

After graduating from RIC in 1993 with a B.S. in biology, Mike plans to attend either medical school or physician's assistant school. He feels his current job has provided valuable hands-on experience. "You can dissect a thousand cats and not learn as much about medical science as you can on this job," he assures.



GALLERY GOERS: Pam Forden (left), a senior, and Margaret Benson, a junior, browse Bannister Gallery during a recent showing of the work of graduate students Chi Hao Cheng, Anne Leathers Jervis and Mary Lynch. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)





## Spring Break

TAKING A REST on the lawn of Adams Library during a tour of the RIC campus are 8th graders from the Oliver Hazard Perry Middle School, along with their assistant principal Frank DuVally, RIC's Tony Gomes, a student support services counselor, and RIC sophomore Lee Ann Ayotte. They are part of the Equity 2000 group which visited the campus on May 2. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

## P. Thomas elected president of Visiting Nurses

Patricia A. Thomas of Providence, an assistant professor of nursing at Rhode Island College, has been elected to a second, one-year term as president of the board of directors of the Kent County Visiting Nurse Association, it was recently announced.

Thomas is a registered nurse who holds a Ph.D.

Others from RIC elected to the board are Jules Cohen of the economics and management department; Dolores Amitrano of the nursing department, and part-time nursing faculty member Richard Perreault.

Anne E. S. Carty of the nursing department was appointed to serve on the association's professional advisory committee.

The association has been serving the community since 1908. It is a Medicare-certified home-health agency accredited by the National League for Nursing.

Last year, its staff made nearly 37,000 visits, an increase of 21 percent over the previous year.



PAULA ADREGA, social science major at RIC, has been selected to serve as a Program Intern during Presidential Classroom's 1992 Summer Session of the Senior High School Program. She will spend a week in Washington in June. Adrega plans to graduate in May 1993.

## Magaziner addresses faculty in economics/management at retreat

Faculty in the economics and management department held an off-campus retreat on August 24 at which Ira Magaziner, as guest speaker, addressed the "Challenge for America's Future."

Magaziner noted that productivity has been growing very slowly since 1973, and says, "We are increasingly relying upon foreign borrowing and investment.

"Either foreign investment will not continue at the same rate or interest rates will have to increase," he said.

"Real wages are down 13 percent from 1973," he said, adding that the "distribution of income in this country has become more skewed than any of the industrialized economies."

"Approximately 25 percent of children in the U.S. are born into poverty. The answers to these problems lie in increasing productivity and achieving a more equal distribution of income throughout our economy," said Magaziner.

Magaziner presented four major recommendations to address these challenges. His first suggestion is to improve the skills in the labor force, especially those in the lower socioeconomic levels.

"We need to move toward high performance work organizations with highly trained front-line workers. Whereas we presently are a low wage skill economy, we must strive to become a high wage high skill economy."

Magaziner suggested we accomplish this by developing a quality control system on our kindergarten-through-grade 12 educational system. "Skill levels must be doggedly pursued, and dropouts must be prevented. All Americans should obtain a Certificate of Initial Mastery. Some would do this earlier than others," he said.

A major problem is that we basically forget about the 75 percent of our population who do not attend college. "We have, in essence, created a two-tier system — academically and socially. We should set up professional vocational associations which would assist in implementation of training in tracks which would be held in high esteem. It would be highly desirable if companies were compelled to spend a small percent of their profits on training."

Other developed nations do this. This would also provide a rational link between education and employment opportunities. The government should also provide a four-year financing scheme which would be available to all who seek to further their educations, he advised.

Magaziner's second recommendation revolves around expanding technology and its applications.

"Most developed countries spend a higher percentage of their GNPs on research and development relative to the United States," he said.

Whereas, we are currently spending around three hundred million on commercial R&D, Magaziner suggests we should be spending about 10 billion annually.

Magaziner's third recommendation involves a revamping of our infrastructure and investment in our own economy. To accomplish this, he said, we must make a transition from military to commercial investment. There will be four keys to the accomplishment of this reconstruction. They call for modernization of our transportation system, updating of our communications systems, increased efficiency in dealing with solid waste, and the generation of more efficient energy.

Magaziner's fourth area mandates the reinvesting of government. "Our health care system is in shambles," he said.

"We are spending close to 12 percent of our GNP on health care, and we are receiving less than other countries that are spending much smaller percentages. Fifty-one percent of our health care costs are administratively related. This compares to 27 percent for other countries."

He said that Medicare and Medicaid are creating "tremendous paper trails." The implications of the welfare system were also discussed. Magaziner believes that the solution lies in making all members of society productive, and able to earn a liveable wage.

A question rose as to what faculty can do to assist these processes. Magaziner suggests that colleges should be paying more attention to teacher education. Additionally, we should make our students aware of all the above concepts, he said. "Furthermore, we should interact with the community to develop professional programs and to provide additional training."

A question on the illegal drug problem was raised. Magaziner believes that the solution to our drug problem resides in the attention we must focus on upgrading skills and education in the labor force and in providing productive, esteem-building opportunities for all our people.

Magaziner is adamant that all of these issues must be rectified within 10 years or else "the United States will likely lose forever its potential to be a world economic power."

Contributed by the faculty of the Department of Economics and Management



SAMPLING HIGHER EDUCATION are Chaiden Chey (left) and Paula Dul, both 10 and both fifth graders at the Carl Lauro Elementary School in Providence. Here they try out a bunk in the David E. Sweet Residence Hall during a recent visit to the campus as part of the educational leadership, foundations and technology program which exposes minority kids to the potential offered by college.