



WHAT'S NEWS

AT RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE

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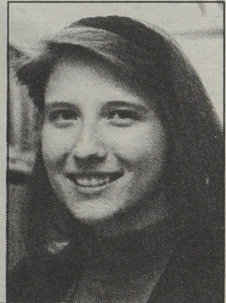
**RIC grad Quenby
Olmsted, Mellon Fellow**

Without TV she read a lot; now Harvard bound

by George LaTour
What's News Associate Editor

When she was about four years of age, the TV in her house on Providence's East Side broke and her parents never had it fixed or got a new one.

It's debatable if that fact alone can explain Quenby Olmsted's turning into a scholar, but the fact that she IS seems obvious, and she has a full tuition- and - fees national scholarship to Harvard for a



QUENBY OLMSTED

Ph.D. program to prove it.

"My friends thought it was the strangest thing," says Olmsted about not having a TV.

"I spent all my time reading" during those years growing up and attending RIC's laboratory school, Henry Barnard, "but despite my

Continued on page 8

Rhode Island College to award five honorary degrees during 1995 commencement season

Judith K. Sweeney, RIC Class of 1972, to deliver graduate school address

Harm J. de Blij, world renowned geographer and Good Morning, America correspondent to address undergraduates

by Clare Eckert
What's News Editor

The 1995 Rhode Island College undergraduate and graduate commencement ceremonies will have the flavor of the international and the local as over 1,700 students receive their degrees. Judith K. Sweeney, RIC class of 1972, who has been recognized nationally for her innovative teaching style and science curriculum initiatives, will address the graduate ceremonies Thursday, May 18, beginning at 5:30 p.m. Undergraduate commencement, scheduled for the following Saturday, May 20, at 9:30 a.m., will feature the world renowned geographer and special correspondent for *Good Morning, America's* "Geographically Speaking" series, Harm J. de Blij.

The location of this year's ceremonies holds special significance for the entire RIC community and the state because both celebrations will be held at the recently completed \$8.8 million building, once the site of the Michael F. Walsh Health and

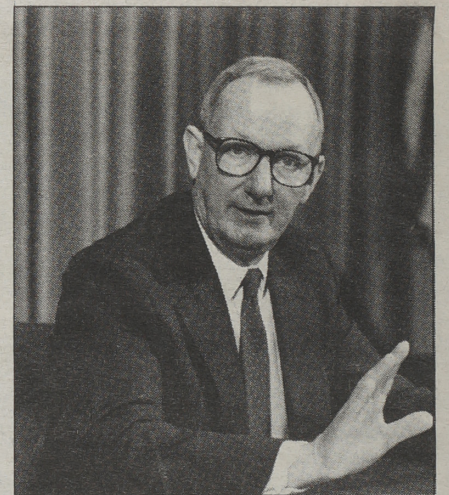


JUDITH K. SWEENEY

Physical Education Center, destroyed by fire in January, 1992. Traditionally, May commencements had been held in what was known as the Walsh gymnasium. Since the total destruction of Walsh and during the "new" building's construction, undergraduate ceremonies had

been temporarily held on the grassy area near the tennis courts, and the graduate ceremonies in Roberts Hall auditorium.

"With great pride and a sense of accomplishment," RIC President John Nazarian, RIC class of 1954, said, "we welcome all the graduates and their friends and families to join with us as we open the doors to this magnificent building. It is appropriate that the occasions of the 1995 commencement celebrations be the first College events held in the "new" building. What better way than this special day for all of us to thank this year's graduates - who have watched the building come to life over the past three years - for their patience in persisting with their education, than to invite them to be the first guests to enjoy this memorable occasion."



HARM J. de BLIJ

"That we also will have the pleasure of honoring one member of our own alumni family to address the 1995 graduate students during the commencement season, affords us that much more pride in the quality of education at RIC," President Nazarian said. "The completion of the new building gives us a renewed sense of hope for the future."

Judith K. Sweeney

A Rhode Island native and one of the country's foremost science educators, Sweeney was the 1991 recipient of the Christa McAuliffe Fellowship for her community-based project entitled, Chain Reaction, designed to improve elementary science education in her hometown of Lincoln. That same year, she was named Lincoln Teacher of the Year and was chosen as a presenter for the Soviet-American Science Educators Conference held at Moscow State University.

In 1992, Sweeney won three other awards: Rhode Island Teacher of the

Continued on page 10



CAPLESS: Three happy seniors wait to file into Roberts Auditorium for the College's traditional capping ceremony May 3. They are (l to r) Jadra Mainelli, Tara DeCubellis and Gina Rose. For more on Cap 'n Gown Day, turn to pages 6 & 7. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

Focus on Faculty and Staff

Ann E. Moskol, professor of mathematics, is the director and organizer of the first Sonia Kovalevsky High School Mathematics Day at RIC May 16 to introduce female high school students and their teachers from the Northern Rhode Island Collaborative to applications of mathematics and to encourage them to think of mathematics as an appropriate field for women to enter. Kovalevsky was the first woman to receive a Ph.D. in mathematics in 1874.

Among those scheduled to give workshops that day are Lisa Humphreys, assistant professor of mathematics, who will address "Using Math to Model Real-World Problems" and Gertrude R. Toher, assistant professor of elementary education, "Using Mathematics to Interpret Geographic Concepts."

Donna Christy, assistant professor of mathematics and secondary education, recently was invited by Texas Instruments to participate in a technology preview and product development conference in Fort Worth, Tex., to work with a prototype of the newly developed TI-92 graphing calculator and provide feedback to the firm for further development. This hand-held calculator has symbolic manipulative software, an interactive geometry system, three-dimensional graphing capabilities and other mathematical features which previously were only available on computer software. The product is expected on the market by the end of the year. Christy and others will be offering workshops on its use.

Gordon Sundberg, director of personnel services, and **John Taylor**, director of intramurals and recreation, were presented the 1995 Healthiest Heart Award by the American Heart Association and the Rhode Island Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Health at a reception at the Pawtucket Pawsox Clubhouse for their healthy lifestyles and their efforts to inspire and motivate others to adopt healthy lifestyles. June Nutter, RIC assistant professor of health and physical education, who is a member of the Governor's Council and helped to create this award, nominated Sundberg and Taylor.

Joanne Howard, technical assistance coordinator for the Rhode Island School-Age Child Care Project at Rhode Island College (Department of Education and Human Development), was the keynote speaker for Pre-Conference Session, "School-Age Child Care in New England: Where Are We in 1995?" as part of the New England Association for the Education of Young Children (NEAAYC) spring conference held recently in Fitchburg, Mass. Howard presented the national perspective of school-age child care including the effects of Congress's "Contract" legislation on school-age child care. In addition, Howard presented a workshop at the Rhode Island Early Childhood Conference on Saturday, April 8 entitled, "School-Age Policy

Development." Howard has served as a member of the Public Policy Committee for the National Alliance for School-Age Child Care since 1993 and is presently the chairperson for the Rhode Island Coalition for School-Age Child Care.

Pamela J. Manninen, assistant professor at the Henry Barnard School, recently had her article entitled "When Science and Writing Meet" published in *Writing Teacher*.

Chris Mulcahey Szyba, assistant professor at the Henry Barnard School, recently presented at two conferences and exhibited at the annual Rhode Island Art Teachers Association annual exhibit. "Clay Kachina Dolls" was an Experience Institute workshop she conducted at the National Art Education Association's annual conference in Texas. At the New England Association for the Education of Young Children conference in Fitchburg, Mass., she presented a paper on "Early Childhood Conversations About Art Making." The Rhode Island School of Design Museum of Art was the location of the RI Art Teachers juried exhibit, where Szyba received a fifth place award for her pastel drawing.

Cathleen Calbert, assistant professor of English, received a two-week residency fellowship from the Hambidge Center in Rabun County, Georgia for 1995. The Hambidge Center offers residency fellowships to artists in all fields from across America as well as from abroad. On its 650 acres in the Blue Ridge Mountains, it provides artists with both living and working space year round.

Athletic trainer **Kathleen Laquale** volunteered at the National Figure Skating Championships held in Rhode Island in January. In addition, she presented a session at the Eastern District Association of the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance in Springfield, Mass. She recently spoke at the Rhode Island Hospital University Orthopedics conference where she presented a session entitled "The Female Athlete: Current Issues in Sports Medicine." In April, Laquale appeared on Channel 12 TV speaking about exercise—how to get started in a program, how to stretch and how to take care of sore muscles.

At a paper and poster session at the annual meeting of the Eastern Psychological Association held in Boston in last month, **David B. Sugarman**, professor of psychology, and Elizabeth Babbitt, RIC Class of 1995, presented a paper titled "Impact of Victim's Sex and Withdrawal of Consent on Date Rape Attributions." Lynn Winquist, also of RIC Class of 1995, presented a poster session entitled "Meta-accuracy within and across Non-Overlapping Social Groups."

Chester Smolski, professor of geography and director of urban studies, presented a paper on "Saying 'No' to a Providence Downtown Shopping Mall?" recently at the annual meeting of the Urban Affairs Association meeting. The meeting marked the 25th anniversary of the association whose membership is made up of college faculty and practitioners from disciplines which have an interest and programs in urban affairs.

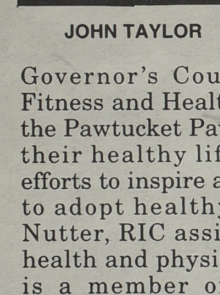


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JOHN TAYLOR

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ALUMN



ASSOCIATION & ALUMNI FUND NEWS

Well, it's that season — reunions, Cap 'n Gown, graduation. In just the past week, reunion celebrations were held by the Classes of 1950, 1932, 1935 and 1938. Phhhew! Those classes reminisced about their days as students and about their own graduations. I thought I would offer a bit of advice to the graduating seniors — since your Big Day is drawing near.

1. Your gown does not come out of the box already ironed.
2. Judge the weather conditions correctly, and you'll also make friends with sunscreen, a water bottle or a bag of Raisinets.
3. Tassels for undergraduates go on the right. After you cross the platform, move the tassel to the left. You'll look very smart!
4. If you haven't started your credential file in the Career Development Center, you're late but do it anyway.



5. If you want your parents to spot you in a sea of thousands of black hats and gowns, decorate your hat.

6. Applaud wildly for the Golden Anniversary Class. The Class of 1945 will be attending your graduation as the College's honored guests. In 2045, that will be you.

Best wishes Class of 1995! I'll be watching you at graduation and knowing that we are proud to count you among our alumni.

Holly Shadoian, Director of Alumni Affairs

In memoriam— Professor Emerita of History Catherine Connor

Catherine M. Connor of East Bay Manor, Wampanoag Trail, a professor emerita of history at Rhode Island College, who taught from 1938 to 1964, and was dean of women for 24 years, died in April in Rhode Island Hospital. She was 92.

In June 1993, Professor Connor was one of the past teachers of the RIC Class of 1940 who were taken out and treated to lunch as a way of saying a belated "thank you."

Born in Woonsocket, she was a daughter of the late George and Elsie Jane (Gahan) Connor.

She was a 1924 magna cum laude graduate of Radcliffe College, now Harvard University, where she was elected to Phi Beta Kappa honor society. She served as president of her class in her junior year, and was elected class historian. At commencement, she was honored as one of 10 red tassel officers.

She received her master's degree from Columbia University, and studied at Brown and the University College in Dublin, Ireland. She completed her studies at the Harvard Graduate School of Education and was elected to the honorary education society, Pi Lambda Theta.

Miss Connor began her teaching career as an assistant at the Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration for two years before joining the faculty of Woonsocket High School, where she taught history and headed the history department for eight years. She was a charter member of the faculty council and served as chief marshal of commencement activities.

She was a member of the Providence Preservation Society, the Rhode Island Historical Society, the Hamilton House, the Providence Athenaeum, the American Association of University Professors, the Smithsonian Associates, the Biddeford, Maine, Historical Society, the National Retired Teachers Association and the Radcliffe Club of Rhode Island.

She served on the executive board of the National Conference of Christians & Jews, and was secretary of the World Affairs Council.

Miss Connor leaves a nephew, Paul F. Greene, of Jamestown, and two nieces, Ann Plante of Raynham, Mass., and Elsa Cha of Medford Lakes, N.J.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated in St. Sebastian Church, Providence. Burial was in St. Charles Cemetery, Blackstone, Mass.

G.L.

The staff
of What's News
congratulates
the graduates of the
Class of 1995
for a job well done!

The next issue of
What's News
will be published
in June.

WHAT'S NEWS AT RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE

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College Shorts

Study Abroad Fund tops \$100,000 mark!

The Ridgway F. Shinn Jr. Study Abroad Fund topped the \$100,000 mark with the proceeds from the benefit segment of the Rhode Island College Theatre production of *My Fair Lady* last month!

The Shinn Fund, held within the RIC Foundation, provides income to support undergraduate students in planned study outside the United States.

Established in the 1987-88 academic year by Prof. Shinn through the support of many of his friends, colleagues and former students, the fund enables deserving students to experience living and studying in another culture.

Music workshop this summer

A summer workshop entitled "Exploring the World of Music: An Integrated Approach" will be held July 11 and 12 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Henry Barnard School on campus.

Faculty members Shirley E. Lacroix and Mary M. Foye will present the workshop which is designed to introduce and involve kindergarten through eighth grade music specialists and teachers to new methods and activities integrating music in the curriculum. Through active involvement participants will experience an interdisciplinary team approach to the learning process.

The workshop can be taken for one credit. Participants should register for Music Education courses 480-20 through the Records Office. Call 401-456-8212 for tuition and fees.

Those interested in taking the workshop for no credit can register through the Henry Barnard School. Tuition is \$40 per person, including registration. Make checks payable to HBS Summer Music Workshop. Mail to Shirley Lacroix, Henry Barnard School, Rhode Island College, 600 Mt. Pleasant Ave., Providence, RI 02908. For additional information, call 401-233-0765.

Basketball camp

Rhode Island College's Department of Intercollegiate Athletics is holding a basketball camp for boys and girls eight years of age and older July 24 through 28 at the new building on campus.

Camp director James N. Adams, assistant athletics director and head men's basketball coach at RIC, said the camp will run from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. The RIC men's basketball team will serve as camp counselors. Several coaches and speakers are scheduled to take part in the program.

The cost for the program is \$100 if you pre-register, \$110 at the door. A non-refundable deposit of \$25 is required with the application.

Campers will receive lunch daily and a camper T-shirt. All campers are covered under camp insurance.

For additional information, contact Adams at 401-456-8007 or 401-751-0891.

RIC grad Liam Clancy gets nod from top dance company

by George LaTour
What's News Associate Editor

He's a modern dancer and a good one. So good, in fact, that the world couldn't wait until he graduated from college before beckoning him with a career contract.

Liam P. Clancy of Providence, a graduating senior at Rhode Island College with a degree in sociology and extensive experience with the RIC Dance Company, has already joined the ranks of Elizabeth Streb's Ringside dance company in New York City and will leave on a national tour in June.

Early next year he will leave with the company of seven top-notch professional dancers on a world tour, or close to it, with performance dates in Hong Kong, Brazil, Switzerland and very possibly Japan.

Considering himself very fortunate, the 26-year-old unassuming Navy veteran told *What's News* in a telephone interview from his brother's home in Union, N. J., last week that "I get to live my dream. I wake up in the morning and dance!"

He's rehearsing intently these days at the dance company's home in the Joyce Theater in Manhattan and anticipating going on the road.

Concerning the possible Japan visit, Clancy says a Japanese camera crew has been filming the company for its own television production in Japan on "New York Culture

on the Edge." He says they interviewed him and the other new company member and wanted to know why they chose dance as a profession.

Enthusiastic about Elizabeth Streb's dance technique, Clancy explains that most modern dance is done "on a horizontal plane" with dancers — as might be expected — staying mostly on their feet.

"She likes to manipulate space," he explains, emphasizing the "raw power and force of movement."

What that means is that the dancers might be seen often as not "dancing on their heads," Clancy says, laughing slightly at that vision.

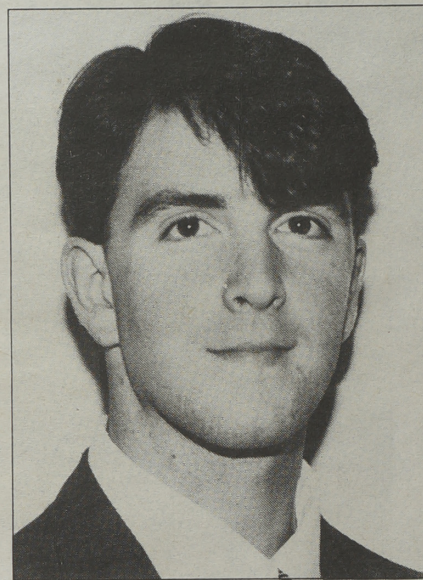
At RIC's Cap 'n Gown Day Convocation May 3, he was awarded the Yetta Rauch Melcer Dance Award as the graduating senior who has made an outstanding contribution to dance at RIC. While a student, he won a Special Talent Award for his dancing.

Clancy has been no slouch in the academic department either.

He graduates in sociology with a 3.6 (out of a possible 4.0) academic average, and was nominated for an award for outstanding service to the College and the community.

He's listed in *Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges*, and won the Ridgway F. Shinn Study Abroad scholarship in 1991, which sent him to study in London.

A son of the former Jean Bosley and the late Edward Clancy, Liam was born in Warwick, moved to



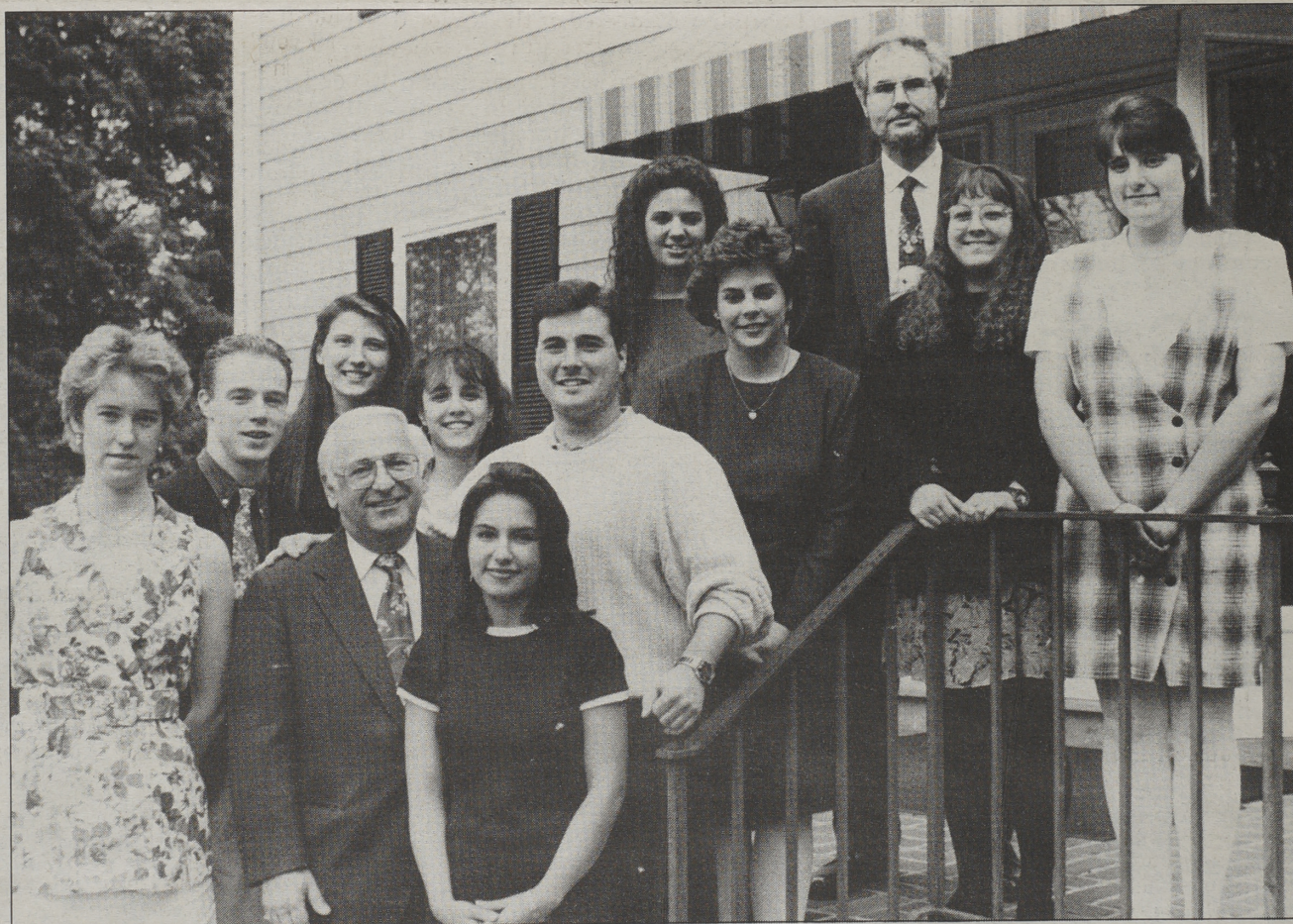
LIAM CLANCY

was born in Warwick, moved to Attleboro and graduated from North Attleboro High School. After high school, he served in the Navy for three years aboard the amphibious aircraft carrier, USS Pelilue.

He gives "a lot of credit" to RIC dance director Dante DelGiudice for "bringing in professional dancers and choreographers" thereby giving RIC dancers "a chance to meet top people" in the profession.

Someday — after his performing career has ended — he hopes to open up an international dance school offering student exchanges with students from other countries.

General Education Honors Graduates



"The 23 students graduating this spring from the General Education Honors Program," says Spencer Hall, honors director, "remind us once again of the academically superior students we attract at Rhode Island College and of our responsibility to provide programs and opportunities for them just as we do for other segments of our diverse college community. Their presence enriches the College as a whole." Hall notes that some of the members of this year's class have been accepted to "some of the most prestigious graduate programs in the country" in a variety of disciplines, including Harvard (in history), the University of Georgia (in public administration), UCLA (in theatre), the Brown and Dartmouth medical schools, the universities of Connecticut and Rhode Island (in speech pathology) and Widener University (in neuro-psychology). "Equally significant," says Hall, "our honors students will be entering their chosen professions in the elementary and secondary schools, in government service, in business and technology and virtually all walks of contemporary American life." Pictured above (l to r) are Rebecca Morency, Mark Bradbury, Quenby Olmsted, President John Nazarian, Kara Chapman, Christina Coakley, Joseph Carreiro, Michelle Lemoi, Kristen Setera, Prof. Spencer Hall, Jennifer O'Brien and Cynthia Lawson.

RIC friendships always remembered



PATRICIA MARTINEZ
RECIPIENT OF THE ELEMENTARY EDUCATION FACULTY AWARD

by Cynthia L. Sousa
 What's News Writer

While most people her age are looking forward to retirement, Patricia Martinez, 59, is living "the most exciting time" of her life.

She is truly a unique woman and her past reflects her individuality and sense of adventure.

Born and raised in South Dakota, Martinez did not follow the path of most women of her time. Upon graduating from high school, she left the comfort of her small town and

enlisted in the United States Air Force.

There she received training in communications—learned how to repair radios—and was forced to "grow up," as she put it.

"The experience really helped me to mature, learn a skill and broadened my horizons," she recalled.

Martinez left the service, married and raised three children in New Mexico, a land she was introduced to in the service and fell in love with.

Later, she returned to the work force, relying heavily on her training in communications to land a job with EG & G, a high-tech electronics labo-

ratory in Albuquerque.

"I went from an assembler to manager of a prototype lab supervising 25 technicians," she said.

For the 17 years that Martinez worked for EG & G, the teacher in her motivated her to organize groups. She took courses at local colleges and taught math refresher courses and "team" concepts to the employees of EG & G.

"I really believe that teamwork—trust, cooperation, honesty and respect—is the basis of learning and productivity."

When Martinez's husband, a computer programmer, was offered a job in Rhode Island, she said the timing was right for her to finally get her formal teacher training.

After looking into the state's colleges and universities, Martinez chose Rhode Island College because of its size, location (she loves to walk and does so three miles each day!) and its teacher training reputation.

And, she doesn't regret the choice. "The professors in the education department are magnificent, and everyone has been very friendly and helpful."

This bubbly, energetic woman credits Prof. Nikki Thomas, assistant professor of elementary education, with instilling in her the goal of "making learning meaningful, relevant and worthwhile."

She has made many friends on campus and refers to them all as "good people." So thankful for the help she received from the Records Office employees, none of whom she even knows by name, that she baked them a cake for Secretary's Day recently!

"Everyone's been just great" she said. And the experience of living in Rhode Island was unique. "I learned a different language and culture," she said. "The first time someone asked me if I'd like a "grinder" I thought I'd die!"

She keeps in contact with her children, a daughter in Florida, a daughter in New Mexico, and a son in

Washington State, and their families, with the computer technology she has acquired over the years through e-mail and with Prodigy. "And, the technology has come in handy with my studies. I 'surf' the Internet all the time," she said.

This semester Martinez is doing her student teaching in a fifth grade class at Marieville School in North Providence. And she loves it! She said working with students this age is challenging and enjoyable because they are still young enough listen and want to learn.

Martinez is amazed at how much she learns each day—from the students she teaches—and from herself. "It just goes to show—education is truly a life-long process!"

After fulfilling her requirements, Martinez has taken courses in management, economics, sociology and anything else that interested her. She will receive a bachelor's degree in education this month with many more than the required number of credits. And, all of her determination has helped her maintain a perfect 4.0 grade point average!

She was also chosen as the 1995 Elementary Education Faculty Award recipient for her excellent academic record, her "intelligence, enthusiasm, energy and especially delightful way of working with children."

This summer Martinez's husband's job will move them again—this time to Florida. Martinez is looking forward to the move because she will be closer to family but said she will really miss the friends she's made in Rhode Island, especially at RIC. But with her trusty computer, those friends will be only a keystroke away!

She and her husband plan to eventually return to the mountains of New Mexico where she would like to teach (while getting her master's) in an economically deprived rural area and he plans to work from his home and fish.

RIC athletes honored; sneak look at new building given

Rhode Island College Intercollegiate Athletics, Intramurals and Recreation Department honored its own intercollegiate athletes at the annual Athletic Awards Dinner Sunday, May 7, in Donovan Dining Center.

The athletes and their guests were then given a sneak look of the new building, built to replace the Walsh Center which was destroyed by fire, by President John Nazarian, who told the gathering that the College had just received a certificate of occupancy the previous Friday.

At the awards ceremony Nazarian offered congratulations to all the athletes and the athletic department staff, headed by interim director Gail Davis, for "persevering in our difficult time since the gymnasium burned in 1992."

Receiving certificates and key chains, the following members of the 3.0 Club were recognized:

Derek Barden, tennis; Tracey Bradley, volleyball; Peter Burns, tennis; Alex Butler, basketball; Dawn Camire, cross country; Stephanie Cleary, gymnastics/volleyball; Andrew Coughlin, cross country/track & field; Rollice Ernst, tennis; Lolita Lipa, gymnastics; Joceline Maurais, softball; Virginia Mello, gymnastics; Joan Murphy, tennis; Debra Napolitano, cross



SENIOR AWARD WINNERS at the May 7 annual Athletic Awards dinner at Rhode Island College are (front from left) S. Hayden, T. Bradley, D. Napolitano, A. Coughlin, (middle from left) Rollice Ernst, N. Dziok, H. Skorski and J. Johnson, (rear from left) Claudia DeFaria, M. Venagro, J. Lindsay, S. Baum and F. MacDonald.

country/track & field; Sue Obara, track & field/gymnastics; Audra Plante, basketball; Pam Prendergast, tennis; Frank Ribezzo, baseball; Amy Schauble, softball,

Sandra Spremulli, basketball; Maria Venagro, basketball; Jennifer Verill, gymnastics.

New department chairman Donald E. Tencher provided the wel-

come and introduction to the 200 people in attendance.

Al Alexio, sports writer for the *Providence Journal*, was master of ceremonies.

Truth or dare: a student's take on student teaching

by Cynthia DeMaio
What's News Student Writer

Like many of the May 1995 graduates from Rhode Island College, I received my teaching degree this year. Unlike most graduates, however, I get to tell my story of student teaching. What is it like? There are as many answers as there are graduates. I was one of the lucky ones: placed in a school that values the students (Davisville Middle School in North Kingstown), assigned to a cooperating teacher (Robert Wright) who is as knowledgeable and interesting as a PBS commentator, and given students who are typical 13-year-olds (Team A from the 7th Grade). This is my story.

I've always wondered why people say teaching is a good job because you get the summers off. I would think a job would be good if you like what it is, not what it isn't. What I think makes the job is the kids.

Since the 6th grade when my class chewed up a substitute teacher, I knew that a big part of the job is crowd control. In fact, that's what kept me out of the profession for the first 15 years of my working career. The people at Davisville agree.

"You have to realize that this is an emotional age for these kids," said Ira Brown, Davisville Middle School vice principal. "The mature young person you dealt with this morning can be just as immature when you work with them in the afternoon."

Bob Wright, my cooperating teacher, concurs. "A kid can be asking you basic questions relating to quantum mechanics one minute and next minute he is kicking his buddy under the desk."

When I began student teaching, my wildest nightmares came true. Alone in the classroom, I was faced with many kids that wouldn't stop talking, ignored me when I ran activities, and left their assignments on the floor at the end of class. As a "student" teacher I carried very little weight.

Then a miracle happened. Bob stepped in and gave me pointers on class room control. "Give a kid one warning and then the consequences: lunch detention, a call home to parents, after school detention." Even this didn't work very well. Friends would intentionally poke each other in homeroom to get lunch detention with me. I was still the student (read: temporary) teacher.

Next Bob called in the senior member of the Davisville SWAS team. SWAS or "School Within a School" is a separate classroom for bright kids who have little motivation for school work. Ellen McKenna came in and observed me in action. She set down classroom ground rules and negotiated a "good behavior system" with the students. I was deeply grateful to Bob and Ellen for their efforts. What they did for me is the expression of teamwork at its best.

I continued to struggle with the kids and began to wonder if I wanted to spend the next 20 years of my life



DESIGNING: Student teacher Cynthia DiMaio (center) works with seventh-graders Noel Grandmaison and Allison Grace, who are designing weather stations in the classroom of Robert Wright at Davisville Middle School. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

RIC teachers get outstanding training

During the current academic year 453 students will have graduated from Rhode Island College with a teaching degree. This is more than any other school in New England. For those willing to leave New England, the job prospects are good, particularly in the South and Southwest, said Susan Schenck, RIC's director of clinical experiences.

No matter what their future, RIC students have received outstanding training during their years at the school. Who says so? The cooperating teachers the students apprentice under during their student teaching. "Most cooperating teachers are pleased with RIC students. I get complemented on how well prepared the students are," Schenck said.

In addition to earning degrees in their subject area, such as math or social studies, RIC students are required to get field experience starting in their sophomore or junior year. Their first clinical experience involves visiting classrooms to observe special education, ESL (English as a second language) and regular education classes. In the first semester of their senior year, they spend roughly eight weeks teaching at two different schools. Their final semester consists of the student teaching experience: 12 weeks of classroom work at one or more schools.

"RIC has had one of the heaviest schedules of clinical experience in the Northeast," Schenck said. The College's program of practical experience was established in the early 1970s. Many other schools are turning to this approach to provide more preparation for their preservice teachers.

RIC students are fairly happy with their student teaching experience. "Our biggest challenge is to make sure there is a good match between the student and the cooperating teacher, she said. "Considering the number of students involved every year, it's not always easy." Schenck says her office does all of the placements for students in the fields of elementary education, early childhood, and special education. Faculty in secondary education, art, music and physical education recommend cooperating teachers for their students and the Office of Clinical Experiences finalizes the placement.

The two biggest concerns of cooperating teachers about the student teaching program is "split placement" and the issue of classroom management.

"Classroom management is a second area of concern that I hear about consistently. Although classroom control is touched on in some courses, the faculty believe students will get experience when they get out into the schools. They feel it is something you learn on the job," Schenck said. "Teachers, on the other hand, would be happier if students would come to them with a full repertoire of teaching skills."

Ira Brown, assistant principal at Davisville Middle School (DMS) in North Kingstown, has worked with several RIC student teachers during his 23 years in education. "I have found the kids from RIC to have a good working knowledge of their subject areas," Brown said.

This is one of three key strengths a person needs when going into teaching, Brown said. "First you should have a thorough working knowledge of your subject. On what else can you base your lessons?"

Secondly, Brown suggests that a good teacher will show signs of his or her interest long before they decide to pursue the field.

Finally, a successful teacher must have confidence in what they do. "That's not to say they won't make mistakes. It's okay if a student teacher makes mistakes, I did. Even first year teachers do. The first several years of teaching is about growth. You don't come into the profession knowing everything. But you do have to believe in yourself," Brown said.

in this kind of turmoil. It was then I realized that no matter how many weeks a person has off in the summer, if he or she can't stand the kids, each school day would seem like an eternity.

It was at this point in my student teaching experience that a second miracle took place: my relationship with the students improved. I can't put my finger on what happened, but I think it had to do with feeling more comfortable with laying down the law.

Being firm with kids is the way a teacher sets up a safe environment. My cooperating teacher is brilliant in his subject, but he is even better at handling the kids. He insists that they respect themselves, their peers, and the adults in the class.

Simple rules are consistently enforced: one person talks at a time, if it's not yours, don't touch it until you ask the owner, no name-calling in class. As I fell into his method of teaching, kids started to snap into shape and the classroom started to relax. The kids felt safer and we started to have fun.

For all their trying ways and unpredictability, once they come around seventh graders offer a lot of warmth. Overall, they are still innocent and care about what the teacher thinks. I've seen more than one student get teary-eyed when privately reprimanded by a respected teacher.

They also lack the self-consciousness of older adolescents. One group of students was assigned to teach the class about air pressure. They put on a science extravaganza that had me laughing for 15 minutes. They did "air pressure Jeopardy" with three guests, the host, and a young woman at the blackboard taking questions out of envelopes.

At intermission, the host interviewed each contestant. One boy began his life story saying "Well, I was born in Australia, and then my family moved to China. From there we went to Brazil and on to New Jersey. Then I turned two."

At the end of Jeopardy, the students did a parody of the Budweiser frog commercial, squatting on the floor pretending to be frogs. Each croaked a syllable until they sounded out the phrase "air-pressure."

I think crossing swords with the students, especially the boys, is an important part of the process they use to get to know you. This story is typical of a 13-year-old's response to being reprimanded. One young man was unhappy with the third quarter science grade I had given him and later I had to send him out of the room for bad behavior. I expected to be snubbed for life.

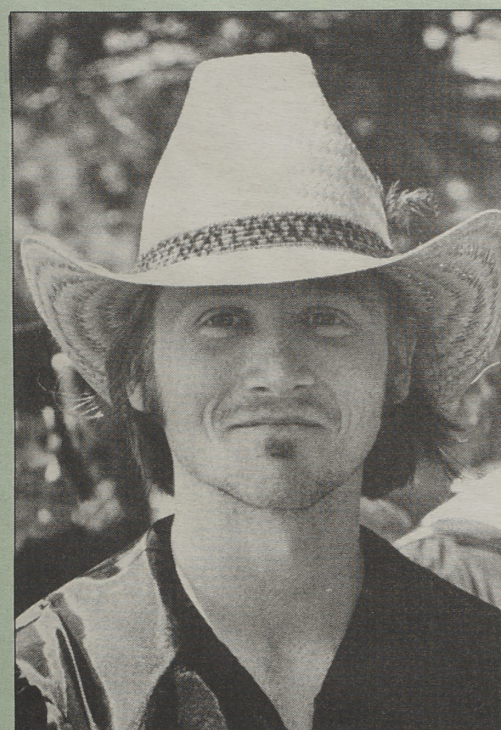
The next day he was building a weather station and asked for help. While we fashioned the tail of his wind vane, we got into a discussion about my experience at the school. "Do you get paid for student teaching?" he asked. "Oh, no," I answered, "in fact I have to pay to come here (referring to my tuition). "How much?" he asked. "Twelve hundred dollars," I said. "A MONTH?" he said with alarm.

I reassured him that my tuition was for the whole semester. He thought about this very carefully for a minute. Then the kid who needed to improve his grades and who had recently been disciplined for acting up said to me in a very earnest tone: "Mrs. DeMaio, you should have called me before you came to this school. I could have gotten you in for free. I would have snuck you right past that principal."

Seventh graders are old enough to discuss the wonders of nature including black holes in space and what's at the end of the universe. And they are still innocent enough to see the whole world as their oyster. They have a twinkle in their eyes and aren't afraid to try new things.

With the help of my colleagues and the good nature of the kids, my student teaching experience turned out to be a very positive one.

Cap 'n Gown Day '95



Departmental awards, speeches bring applause

Rhode Island College Class of 1995 applauded itself upon President John Nazarian's official welcome to the start of the commencement season May 3 in Roberts Hall auditorium, and later applauded each other for individual academic achievements which led to departmental awards.

The class also applauded each of the speakers, especially the faculty member it had chosen to address them, David L. Abrahamson, an associate professor of mathematics.

Abrahamson, donned in full academic attire as were other faculty members present and — for the first time — the members of the Class of '95 itself, nearly had them "rolling in the aisles," as the saying goes, with comments and observations such as: "Nazarian is not only the president of the College, but a client as well."

This take-off on the popular TV ad for a hair-replacement club by the club president alluded to the fact that President Nazarian also attended RIC as a student.

Christine A. Kelly, chosen to speak on behalf of the class, told the seniors that the memories of their college experience "will last us a lifetime."

"We were all terrified about the future" as entering freshmen, she recalled, adding that the question most asked by each was "Do I have what it takes to make it?"

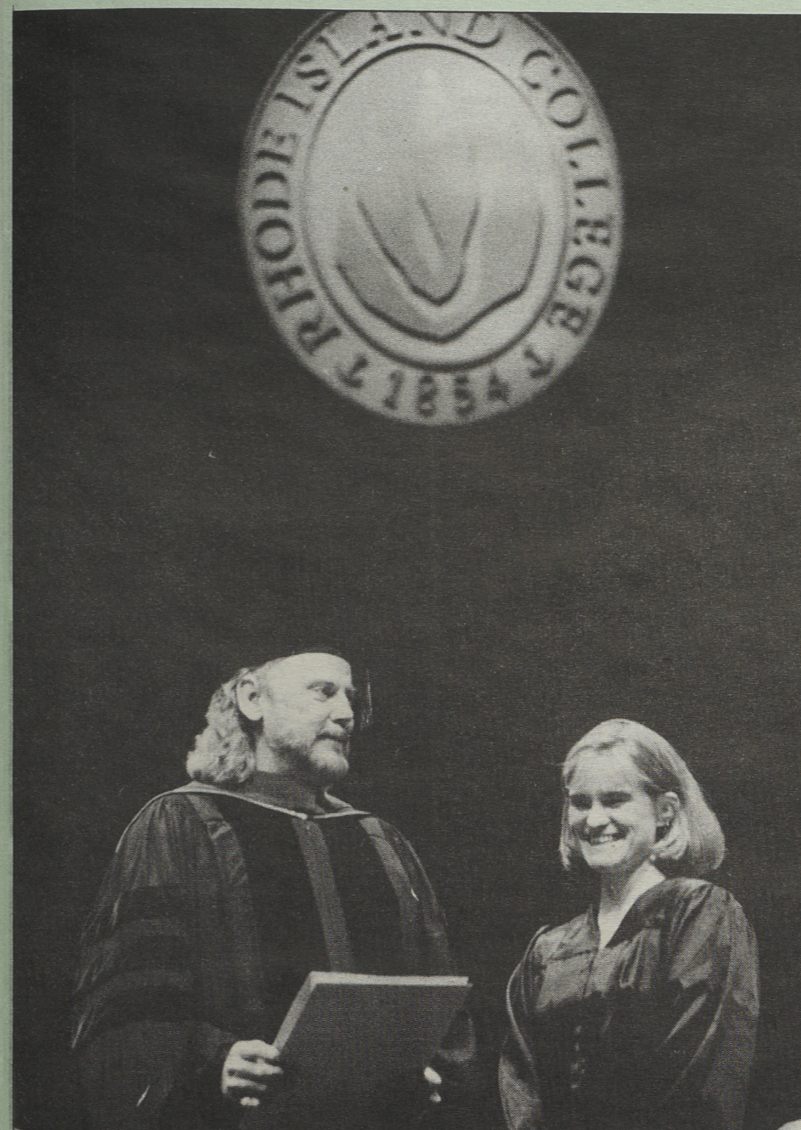
"Each of you should be proud. You did what it took and made it," she said.

Kelly noted the help and encouragement received by the class from parents, guardians, friends, faculty and staff and said the Class of 1995 "owes a tremendous debt of gratitude" to them all.

Departmental award citations were read by John J. Salesses, vice president for academic affairs. The awards were presented by chairs of the various departments.

President Nazarian presided over the formal Cap 'n Gown Investiture whereby the students capped each other.

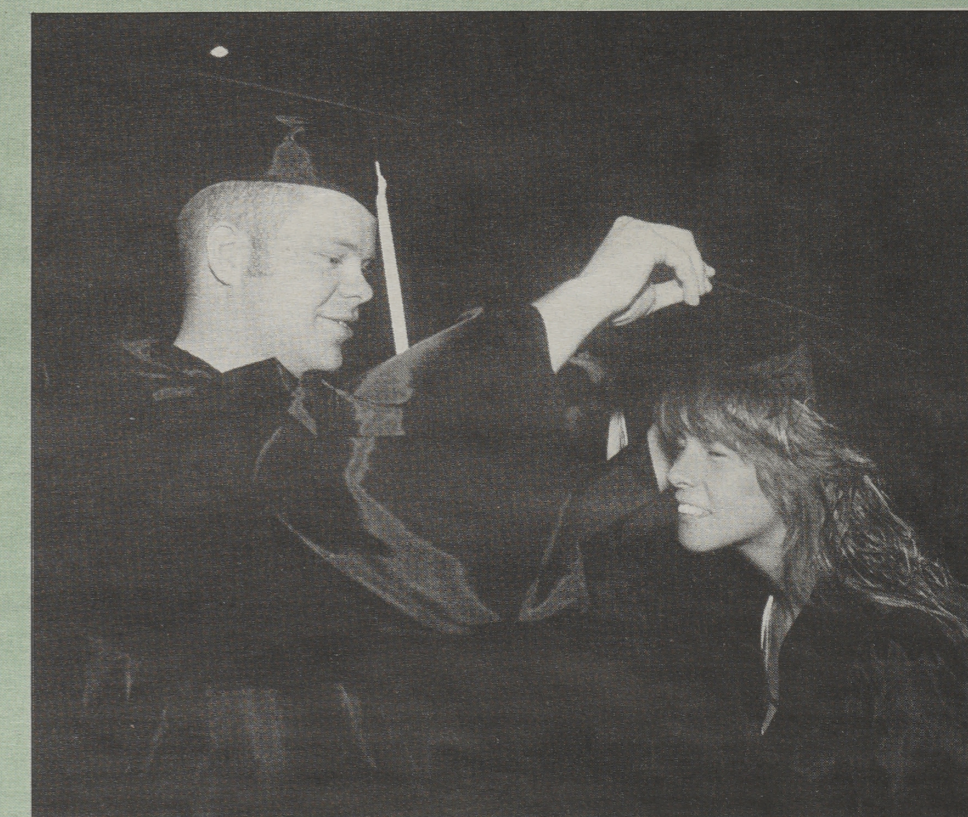
A reception hosted by the president followed on the southeast lawn of Roberts Hall.



Text by
George LaTour
Photos by
Gordon E. Rowley



Clockwise from left: Cap 'n Gown Day honorees pose for a group photo on the steps of the New Building; non-conformist Peter Berkowitz, recipient of the Studio Art award, files into the auditorium; Music Department Chair Bob Elam listens to the accolades before presenting the Cantor Jacob Hohenemser award to Rebecca Phillips; Prof. David Abrahamson delivers the humorous, main address; and finally, the capping moment: Terry Powers caps Kelley Hewes.



CAP 'N GOWN AWARD WINNERS and their awards: (front row from left) Alicia Lekos, Tegu Polyglot — modern languages; Heidi Kulkin, Lauris B. Whitman Award— sociology; Lynn Winquist, co-winner, Psychology Faculty Senior; Susan Valis, Bertha Christina Andrews Emin Award for Outstanding Achievement; Cristina Serradas, John Silva Memorial Scholastic — economics and management; Joanne Papineau, Theodore Lemeshka Award — biology; Rebecca Phillips, Cantor Jacob Hohenemser Award— music; Regina Ferrucci, Alice K. Pellegrino Music Education; Allison O'Neil, Art History; (middle row from left) Nancy Sullivan, Bachelor of Social Work Community Service; Lisa Letourneau, Nursing Faculty — Undergraduate Registered Nurse; Cynthia Lawson, co-winner, Psychology Faculty Senior; Kara Chapman, Bertha Christina Andrews Emin Award for scholastic excellence; Deborah Maynard, Christopher R. Mitchell Award — mathematics and computer science; Jodi Johnson, Helen M. Murphy Award — intercollegiate athletics; Kharyssa Rhodes, James Houston Award — anthropology; Quenby Olmsted, Eleanor M. McMahon Award — College Honors Program; Frederick MacDonald, John E. Hetherman Award — intercollegiate athletics; (rear row from left) Stuart Plymessa, Peter Jeffrey Archambault Memorial — theatre and dance; Debbie Valatka, Josephine A. Stillings Award — special education; Julie Gaspar, Nelson A. Guertin Memorial — Spanish; Eileen James, Jean Garrigue Award— English; Mary Gavigan, Nursing Faculty — Undergraduate; Patricia Martinez, Elementary Education Faculty; Mark Bradbury, John H. Chafee Award — political science; Michael Simoncelli, Herbert R. Winter Award for Academic Excellence in Political Science; Eric Tucker, Rhode Island College Theatre.

1995-96 Faculty Research Awards

The 1995-96 Faculty Research Awards have been announced by MacGregor Kniseley, chairman of the Faculty Research Committee.

The Rhode Island College Alumni Council added \$5,000 for the awards, supplementing the \$32,500 budgeted by President John Nazarian, reported Kniseley.

The awards, arranged alphabetically by primary author, follow:

Samuel P. Ames, Research into the Formal and Narrative Content in Figurative Art: A Search for Social Significance in Post Modern Paintings; Yael Avissar, Isolation and Properties of the Enzyme Porphobilinogen Synthase from *Chlorobium Vibrioforme*; Pamela J. Benson, Translating Italy in Sixteenth Century England;

David M. Blanchette, Somatotypical Effects in Print Advertising; Mary E. Byrd, Processes, Contextual Factors and Consequences Involved in Public Health Nurse Maternal-Child Home Visiting; Anthony S. DiBona, Metal Sculpture Project 1995; Ronald P. Dufour, The Shaping of a Capitalistic Society: Republican, Liberal, and Humanitarian Cultures in Connecticut, 1750-1850;

Marc Ertan-Lamontagne, The Effect of Radical Metabolites of Alcohol on Critical Biomolecules; Mark W. Estrin, Orson Welles: Polemics and Conversations; Rachel Filinson, Long-Term Care Policy for the Aged: A Comparison of the U.S. and U.K.; Carolyn Fluehr-Lobban, Islamic Humanism: The Writings of Egyptian Jurist Muhammad Salid Al-Ashmay; Mary S. Foote, Characteristics Essential for New Graduate Registered Nurses Seeking Employment in Healthcare Organizations;

Douglas G. Furton, Deposition of Diamond-Like Carbon at Low Temperatures by DC Glow-Discharge; John J. Gleason, Case Study: Juvenile Offenders in Justice System Criminal; Beverly A. Goldfield, Word Learning and the Vocabulary Spurt; Margaret A. Hainsworth and Mary L. Burke, Chronic Sorrow: Developing a Mid-Range Theory; Terence E. Hays, Paul Wilz's Pioneering Anthropological Research in New Guinea (Continuation); Claus Hofhansel, The Harmonization of European Union Export Control Policies: The Single Market, Article 223, and the Arms Industry;

Krisjohn Horvat, Wall Hung, Cantilevered Sculptures; Kay F. Israel and Laurence Weil, Who Set the Agenda: Rhetoric, Participation, and Governance; Jianhong Liu, Determinants of Non-Offense Duration of Chinese Offenders; Elaine S. Magyar and James G. Magyar, A Comparison of Ground and Excited State Reactivities of Arylcyclopropanes; Judith Maloney, Totem Suite; Charles Marzzacco, The Effect of Micelles on Excited State Charge Transfer Reactions; Meradith T. McMunn, Creating a Computer Readable Photographic Data Base for the Illustrated Medieval Manuscripts of the Roman de la Rose in American British Collections;

Thomas H. Meedel, The Role in Ascidian Muscle Development of CiMRF; A Gene Related to Vertebrate Muscle Regulatory Genes; Jerry E. Melaragno, Investigations on the Relationship Between Endoreduplication and Cell Size in Arabidopsis; Eung-Jun Min, Korean National Cinema: Discourse of Resistance to the Dominant Filmic Language and Hollywood Conventions; Darek Niklas, Vori and Nomenklatura on the Social Origins of Organized Crime in the Former East Bloc; Richard Olmsted, Negation in Religious Philosophy: East and West; Jeannine E. Olson, The Women Close to John Calvin; Carolyn P. Panofsky, Reading to Children: Developing a Culture of Literacy Considered in Socio-Historical Context (Phase 2); Constance Pratt and Linda Cathers, Maternal-Fetal Attachment in High Risk Pregnancy;

Elizabeth H. Rowell, A Review of the Images of Women in Editorial Cartoons from 1990-1996. Do the Cartoons Reflect Social Change or Perpetuate Traditional Stereotypes; Lisa G. Russel, Studio Endeavors; Caroline Moakler and Gertrude Toher, The Influence of Contextual Manipulatives on the Problem Solving Performance of Novice Problem Solvers; Duncan A. White, The Effects of Extremely Low Frequency Magnetic Field Intensity on the Development and Learning Behavior of the Grain Beetle; Richard C. Whitten, Large Scale Paintings of Imaginary Architectural Interiors.

Quenby Olmsted, Mellon Fellow, heads to Harvard

Continued from page 1

father's belief, I don't know if that had anything to do with my turning out to be an outstanding student."

Her father is Richard R. Olmsted and her mother, Audrey P. Olmsted, both Ph.D. faculty members at RIC. Richard, in addition, is president of the RIC American Federation of Teachers, Local 1819, so, without too big a stretch of the imagination, one can see why his daughter might have chosen labor history as her field.

Or, perhaps, it is just another coincidence.

Anyway, while a high school student at the Lincoln School in Providence, she won both state and national History Day awards for her papers concerning the 1934 textile strike in Rhode Island and a 1943 strike by the American Federation of Musicians.

At RIC, her Honors Program project thesis concerned itself with Communist labor organizer Ann Burlak (circa 1930s), who now resides in Boston and whom Olmsted personally interviewed.

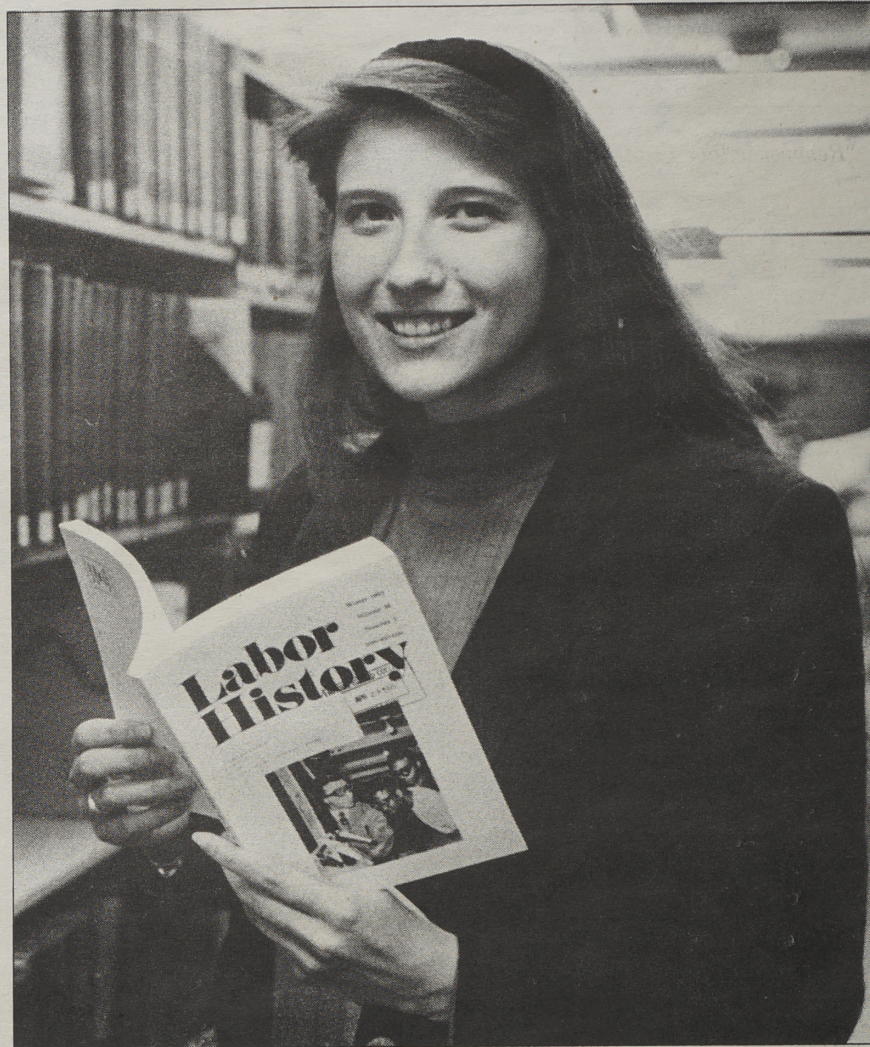
Olmsted later read part of her paper on Burlak at a regional conference at Westfield State College, Connecticut, where she was inducted into the Pi Alpha Theta honorary history society.

In September, she leaves for Harvard via a 1995 Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship in Humanistic Studies (on the graduate level) to specialize in American labor history. The award includes all tuition, fees and books plus a stipend of \$13,250 for living expenses for the first year of study in what could be a seven-year program.

Olmsted explains that after the first year, Harvard will be giving her a Winthrop Fellowship to cover the costs of her second year and, thereafter, she'll be expected to teach and thus earn her way toward that doctoral degree.

Scholastic achievement and honors seem to have followed the 19-year-old college senior.

She finished high school in three years, skipping her senior year to come to RIC on an early enrollment program. Three years later, after



QUENBY OLMSTED

(What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

one year at McGill University in Montreal sandwiched in between two years at RIC and "a lot of summer classes" she's ready to graduate.

By the way, she liked RIC more than McGill, she says, explaining that RIC's smaller class sizes and the accessibility of faculty are much more appealing.

She'll graduate summa cum laude (with highest honors) on May 18 with College Honors, General Education Honors, Department Honors in History and the Eleanor M. McMahon Award, which goes to the graduating senior in the College Honors Program judged to be the best on the basis of his or her overall scholastic achievement

and the quality of the senior honors project.

The supervisor of her honors thesis, Prof. J. Stanley Lemons, when asked to comment on his association with Olmsted and her achievements, replied that "it was a joy working with her. She has such a sunny disposition."

Then he paused slightly and added: "She graduated from high school in three years; college in three years, and is going to Harvard on a big scholarship at age 19...."

What else needs to be said?

Quenby Olmsted — after achieving her Ph.D. — plans a career in college teaching.

Conference set on Educational Advocacy for Special Needs Children

A conference on the Educational Advocacy for Special Needs Children is set for Friday, June 2, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Sylvan R. Forman Center auditorium at Rhode Island College.

The conference will bring together the various professionals involved in the education of children in state

Rhode Island's coordination and collaboration in educational advocacy. The goal of the conference is to improve communication between and among service providers and school systems.

Laureen D'Ambra, child advocate for the State of Rhode Island, will provide the introduction to the con-

Department of Education, and Anthony Antosh and Judith H. DiMeo, both of the RIC special education department.

President John Nazarian and Peter McWalters, commissioner of Education, will open the conference. David E. Nelson, dean of the RIC School of Education and Human Development, will offer closing remarks.

The conference is being sponsored by the Office of the Child Advocate and RIC in conjunction with the state Department of Education.

The conference is limited to 125 participants. Fee is \$25 made payable to RIC and sent to the Office of Continuing Education and Summer Sessions at the Forman Center, 600 Mt. Pleasant Ave., Providence 02908.

The goal of the conference is to improve communication between and among service providers and school systems.

care, the focus of which is the educational needs of these children.

Panel discussion will examine issues that social workers, educators, foster parents and educational advocates encounter.

Special attention will be given to

ference and serve as moderator of the panel on "Special Education Law in Rhode Island."

Other moderators of panel discussions include Thomas DiPaola of Providence College, the project director of the Rhode Island Technical Assistance Project of the

For Gallo students, 'it's study, study, study'

by Clare Eckert
What's News Editor

"Respect is love in plain clothes."

For the past six months or so something very special was going on in the quiet suburban area of Warwick where Ralph V. Mastrangelo lives. By January, he just couldn't keep the lid on any longer. It had to do with all those positive qualities that develop when a family pulls together, understands one another's struggles and successes and keeps moving forward together...and independently. For Mastrangelo, it had to do with pride and respect; an excitement for learning and love.

Suzanne M. Gallo, 48, is engaged to Mastrangelo. A mother of four, Gallo, is a nursing student at Rhode Island College, her fiancée's alma mater, Class of 1973. Her life had been as a homemaker for over 20 years until 1992 when she enrolled to take one course in the nursing program at the Community College of Rhode Island. "I was frightened about academics," she said. "My heart was beating in my chest the first day...why did I put myself in this position?" she questioned. Her self-confidence heightened as she persisted in her studies through the semesters and in the summer. In 1994, she was accepted into the nursing program at RIC. Today, she is a full-time student and anxiously waiting to begin her clinicals expecting to graduate in a couple of years. "I can't wait to be in the hospital...everything is like, oh, I don't know," she said pursing her lips. "I've just got to get in there and see!"

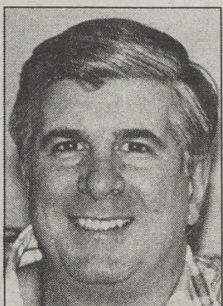
Meredith A. Gallo, 18, is a freshman Honors Program student at RIC. She lives at home, studying English (for now) as a major, worked two jobs through the year as a work-study employee at the Warwick Public Library and a regular employee at the local Dunkin Donuts. She's interest in law, perhaps traveling abroad through the RIC Foundation Shinn Study Abroad Program and is patient about her career choice.

Christina M. Gallo, 23, is the 1995 RIC grad in the household. She will receive her degree in nursing on May 20 and has already started

sending out her resume. She lives off campus with two other nursing students in an apartment and has worked for the past three years about 20 to 25 hours a week during the school year at a group home in Cranston and up to 40 hours a week during semester breaks and the summer months to help pay her way. Her speciality in nursing is medical/surgical. She believes that "nursing is an art...the art of caring."

And then there's Joanna M. Gallo, 15, a sophomore at Pilgrim High School and Little Leaguer, Stephen, 12, a seventh grader at Aldrich Junior High School.

Realizing Christina's pending graduation day this month and feeling a sense of pride in all the "ladies of the house," Mastrangelo called *What's News* last January to share their story.



RALPH MASTRANGELO

"I just," he began, "I looked at the changes in the atmosphere (in the home) and was proud of Suzanne and the job she was doing in balancing all this," he said. "The effort she was putting into it all. As I said it was all remarkable. She's humble about her own accomplishments, but I was proud of her and her daughters." (And maybe just a little afraid to tell Suzanne that a reporter would meet them at their home on Saturday afternoon for a picture and interviews. Ralph didn't spill the beans to Suzanne until Thursday night at dinner!)

Suzanne is energized by life. Her face lights up when she talks about her college experiences, children and adventures in life. She doesn't look much older than her daughters and when all three are in the same room, it's like listening in stereo. The Gallo trio are complimentary to one another and similar. Educationally, this is Christina's year, and party plans have already begun to gel as the big day arrives.

Mom said, "It's been great being in school together. We're all at the same place, doing the same things, and stressed out at the same time!"

The atmosphere is different in the house, Suzanne agrees with

and then as growing into adult women. They are my major achievement."



ALL FOR ONE AND ONE FOR ALL: Meredith and her Mom, Suzanne and sister, Christina, smile for the camera outside their Warwick home.

Mastrangelo. "It's study, study, study. I know now what the kids have gone through. It's like we're all in this together. And it's different. I'm learning from them."

Being an "older than average" student doesn't phase Suzanne. "In time, I found out that there is no age barrier when it comes to education. I've made friends no matter the age."

Oddly enough, the three - although full-time students - rarely meet up on campus... "too busy." They each have their own lives. Meredith works, studies and plays the piano, and Mom wallpapers, paints, or does just about anything that has to do with "using my hands." Christina said her mother is a role model for her in that "she brought up a good family" and Suzanne said her pride "stems from having the experience of watching (her daughters) first as children

and then as growing into adult women. They are my major achievement."

Last summer before Suzanne entered RIC as a full-time student, and Christina began her final year here with Meredith not far behind her as a freshman, Mom began remodeling the kitchen, as well as studying and caring for Joanna and Stephen. By the time September rolled around and throughout the winter, everyone was on tight schedules and Suzanne couldn't find the time to finish wallpapering.

Not to worry, thought Mastrangelo. On the rough surface of the unfinished kitchen wall, just above the stove, he drew a huge heart with an arrow through it dedicated to the family to let them know all is well...and to keep up the good work.

The wall will be there tomorrow.

Faculty promotions and tenure announced

The following faculty promotions and tenure have been announced by Rhode Island College President John Nazarian, effective July 1.

To the rank of professor: Paul Anghinetti, English; Edythe Anthony, biology; Anthony Antosh, special education; Pamela Benson, English; Joao Botelho, educational studies; Judith DiMeo, special education; Richard Feldstein, English; Rachel Filinson, sociology; Frances Leazes, political science; James Magyar, physical science; Peter Moore, economics/management; Mamie Oliver, School of Social Work; John Pellegrino, music; Barbara Schapiro, English; Daniel Weisman, School of Social Work.

To the rank of associate professor: David Brell, educational studies; Cathleen Calbert, English;

Donna Christy, mathematics/computer science; Douglas Cumming, theatre/dance; Sharon Fennessey, Henry Barnard School; Abbas Kazemi, economics/management; James McGuire, industrial technology; Sandra Rasmussen, nursing; Marjorie Roemer, English.

Faculty granted tenure: David Brell, educational studies; Cathleen Calbert, English; John Carroll, philosophy; Donna Christy, mathematics/computer science; Douglas Cumming, theatre/dance; Sharon Fennessey, Henry Barnard School; Alema Karim, economics/management; Pamela Manninen, Henry Barnard School; Sandra Rasmussen, nursing; Majorie Roemer, English and Nazanin Sahba, center for management & technology.



PROMOTION AND TENURE RECEPTION at the President's House May 2 finds (l to r) Mamie Oliver, School of Social Work; Nazanin Sahba, Industrial Technology; President John Nazarian, and Peter Moore, Economics and Management.

1995 Honorary degree recipients—continued from page 1

Year; Rensselaer Outstanding Science Teacher, and she was a winner of the \$25,000 Milken Family Foundation Educator Award as an "exemplary educator."

Considered "a role model par excellence for women in science and all teachers," Sweeney is on leave from her teaching position in Lincoln High School and as a science resource specialist for the Northern Rhode Island Collaborative while she works as curator of education at the Museum of Natural History in Roger William Park.

Sweeney earned her master's degree at Worcester Polytechnic Institute in 1981 and has done post-graduate work in science and computer technology at RIC and other local colleges. She has devoted her career to up-grading k-12 science programs in the state, serving as president of the Rhode Island Science Teachers' Association and co-chair of the Rhode Island Science Olympiad.

She will receive an honorary degree of Doctor of Pedagogy.

Harm J. de Blij

Television producer, writer/editor, university professor, author, co-author and editor of 33 books and world traveler, Harm J. de Blij has been recognized by the Association of American Geographers for "outstanding service" as an American geographer, and shares a 1993 Emmy award with others from the network television show, *Good Morning, America*. He will receive an honorary degree of Doctor of Humanities.

His distinguished broadcast career has brought him into the homes of thousands of Americans as a regular correspondent to breaking news stories in hot spots around the globe, such as the recent unfolding events in Bosnia and Somalia.

A former editor of the National Geographic's science journal, *National Geographic Research*, he has worked tirelessly to inform and educate the public on matters relating to the world around them, using the classroom and the media as forums.

Born in the Netherlands and educated in South Africa, he was awarded his master's and Ph.D. from Northwestern University. de Blij taught at Michigan State University during the 1960s and has served as professor of geography at the University of Miami since 1970 and distinguished professor of geography in the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University since 1990.

He has worked in or visited more than 100 countries, with most of his efforts concentrated in Africa. Publications that he has authored, co-authored or edited have been translated into several languages ranging from Chinese to Italian.

During the 1970s, de Blij became interested in the geographical aspects of wine production, consumption, tradition and culture, and has published several books on the topic. He writes a regular wine column for the journal, *Focus*.

Sister Carol McGovern

The honorary degree of Doctor of Public Service will be posthumously bestowed upon Rhode Island's "champion of the poor," Sister Carol McGovern, who died of cancer April 5 at the age of 53.

Sister McGovern's life belonged to those less fortunate. She was one of the state's tireless advocates for the powerless and destitute. As executive director of Amos House and president of the Rhode Island Coalition for the Homeless, the Sister of Mercy spent her energy feeding the needling and working to alleviate some of the struggles faced by those who could take comfort in her kind words and

ever-present smile.

A 1964 graduate of Salve Regina University where she earned her degree in education, Sister McGovern took her final vows into the religious life three years later. She earned her master's degree in religious education in 1974 from St. Michael's College in Vermont.



SISTER CAROL MCGOVERN
File Photo

Considered a friend by people from all walks of life, she "possessed a softness about her that allowed her to speak the truth" without turning people off. In an April 6, Providence Journal Bulletin obituary Sister McGovern is quoted as saying the following about her work at Amos House: "I have a real passion for the people who come here. They are my family, they truly are my family."

She was a founder of the Rhode Island Coalition for the Homeless, and was president of its board. She was a member of the board of directors of Sunrise House, a member of the board and a counselor-advocate of the Rhode Island Rape Crisis Center, a member of the Campaign to Eliminate Childhood Poverty and the Rhode Island Right to Housing NOW. In addition, Sister McGovern had served on the Governor's Inter-Agency Council for the Homeless, the Governor's General Public Assistance Task Force, the People First Budget Coalition and the Emergency-Assistance-to-Families Commission.

Eugene Edward Lee

Internationally recognized scenographer, Eugene Edward Lee, who brought attention to Rhode Island as a scenic designer for Trinity

Repertory Company for more than 25 years will receive an honorary degree of Doctor of Fine Arts. National audiences should recall Lee's production designs for the comedy hit, *Saturday Night Live*, as well as his innovative landmark productions as Amiri Baraka's *Slave Ship* (Chelsea Theater Center, 1969), the revival of Leonard Bernstein's *Candide* for which he won a Tony (Chelsea Theater and Broadway, 1974), Stephen Sondheim's *Sweeney Todd* (Broadway, 1979) for which he won another Tony Award, and dozen of production at Trinity Rep.

Lee holds a bachelor of fine arts degree from The Art Institute of Chicago and Carnegie Mellon University, and a master of fine arts degree from the Yale Drama School.

Drawing his style from within, Lee says, "artists have styles that you can recognize instantly. I have



EUGENE EDWARD LEE

always thought that that is what the stage designer should have. At base, we're artist and craftsman with a tradition. I have always thought there should be a point of view." His point of view "resides in the relationship between the performer and the spectator - all else is secondary."

Lee has produced designs for several movies, rock concerts, and has collaborated with British director Peter Brook. In the Rhode Island community of his theater colleagues, he is referred to as "a cultural and artistic resource for the state."

Willy Heeks

Another Rhode Island native, Willy Heeks, who was a neighbor of the College while growing up in the adjacent Children's Center, recently used Bannister Gallery as the site of

the exhibit of the first career survey of his works as his "homecoming."

Heeks, an international contempo-



WILLY HEEKS

rary artist, who was educated at The Whitney Museum of American Art in New York and the University of Rhode Island, BFA, Class of 1972, will receive the honorary degree of Doctor of Fine Arts.

The 44-year-old critically acclaimed artist's works are in the permanent collections of the Museums of Modern Art in New York and San Francisco, as well as in the Corcoran Gallery in Washington, D.C., the Boston Museum of Fine Art, the Brooklyn Museum and the Peter Stuyvesant Foundation in Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

Heek's one-man and group exhibitions number in the hundreds. Articles and reviews of his work have appeared in several art journals, including *Art Forum*, *Art in America*, *Art International* and *Arts* magazine.

Among the many honors and awards he has received include the Artist Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts, 1978, 1987 and 1989; Painting Award from the American Academy & Institute of Arts and Letters, 1989; Louis Comfort Tiffany Award, 1985, and the Harriet and Esteban Vicente Fellowship in Painting, 1984.

Following his April exhibition at Bannister Gallery, plans are underway for the show to tour museums and galleries throughout the country.

Receptions for graduates, families and friends will follow both cere-



ON HAND FOR SECRETARIES DAY which was observed April 26 in the Faculty Center are (l to r) Bernadette Doyle and Donna Loomis, both of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences Office; Bette Brady of the Office of Personnel Services; President John Nazarian; Jane Lindberg of the President's Office, and Ellen Hunt of the School of Social Work Office.

RIC nursing grad adds one more guarantee for quality care

by Cynthia L. Sousa
What's News Writer

Jamison Risser's wife, Millie, was a nurse. They had eight children. So it was only natural for him to want one or two of his daughters to follow in his wife's footsteps.

Little did Jamison, Class of 1975, know that six of his eight children would become nurses!

This year, one of those daughters, Mary Gavigan, will receive her nursing degree from Rhode Island College.

Sister Janine Risser-Sperry received her degree from RIC in 1979 and works as a visiting nurse in Massachusetts. "And, she's one darn good nurse!" says Mary.

Mary's oldest brother, Mike received his degree in 1993 from the University of Rhode Island and works at Kent County Mental Health Center.

Brother Jim will also graduate from URI this month with his nursing degree. Mary credits him with prodding her into getting her degree. He also does work for Kent County and Rhode Island Hospital.

Judy Slattery, Mary's sister, will receive her degree from the Community College of Rhode Island this month. She followed the path of sister Margaret Allaire who graduated from CCRI in 1984 and whose husband, George, is also graduating with his nursing degree from there this month.

All in all, if you're part of the Risser extended family and you fall ill, you can be guaranteed the best help around!

Mary said after doing a variety of jobs for several years after getting married, including running a mail order business with her husband, she decided to get her nursing degree.

Growing up with a mother who came home with stories about what happened in the maternity ward at the hospital Mary said it was only a matter of time before she would eventually enter this line of work.

Since coming to RIC three years ago, Mary has taken to the nursing program like a duck takes to water! She has managed to be a successful student in the curriculum, while using and further developing her leadership skills.

She has served as vice president of the Rhode Island College Nursing Club, and the Rhode Island College Student Nurse Association, in addition



LIKE MOTHER, LIKE DAUGHTERS...AND SONS: Millie Risser (sitting) is surrounded by her children who are all nurses like she was. Standing l to r are Judy Slattery, Jim Risser, RIC graduating senior Mary Gavigan, George Risser and Margaret Allaire. Nurses missing from the photo are son Mike, daughter Janine Risser-Sperry and son-in-law George Allaire.

tion to her role this year as treasurer of the Student Nurse Association of Rhode Island.

In addition, she was selected as a Ladders in Nursing Careers (LINC) participant by Kent County Memorial Hospital, a program that selects and supports students of nursing who are employed and pursuing health care careers.

For her excellence in clinical practice, leadership within the Department of Nursing and service to the College and community, Mary received the Nursing Faculty Award this year.

Having been employed at Kent County Hospital as a nutritionist on a part-time basis Mary feels that this experience has given her some additional insight into what to

expect when she is employed. "I got to see the operations of the hospital from a position other than a nurse."

As an older-than-average student, Mary believes pursuing a profession later in life is beneficial in many ways and difficult in others. "You know what you want and are determined to make it," she said. "But juggling family life and a job with school work is difficult at times!"

Mary believes the most important quality to have to become a nurse is to be down-to-earth. "You also have to be grounded in reality or you'll have greater trouble dealing with sickness and death," she said. Compassion and respect for your fellow human being also applies, according to Mary.

Mary's decision to attend RIC was

based on location and the school's philosophy of treating the "whole" person. "I agree with that theory." Through small group clinical experiences, nursing students develop close relationships with faculty members. "The program offered me exactly what I needed," she explained. "I feel well-prepared to take on a career."

The school's reputation for nursing is "excellent" Mary vows. She said the hospitals in the area consider RIC student nurses to be "good nurses," qualified and able.

Mary and her husband Bill live in North Scituate. They have a daughter, Valerie who attends Elm's College and a son, William Jr. who attends CCRI. And, you guessed it! He will perpetuate the family's calling next year by enrolling at RIC in the nursing program.

FIRST DEBRA A. DUMONT MEMORIAL scholarship winner is Amy Ritter of Providence, Class of 1997, (second from right). Others pictured from left are Debra's sister, Patricia; Michael Turcotte, who established the scholarship in Debra's memory; Debra's stepmother, Catherine; father, Gordon, and Patricia Thomas of the RIC Nursing Department. The awarding ceremony took place April 27 in the Faculty Center. The scholarship was established a year ago in April to honor the memory of Debra Dumont, a senior nursing student, who was killed in an auto accident just prior to her graduation.



Retirees all smiles at reception



RECEPTION FOR RETIREES was held April 26 in the President's Dining Room in Donovan Dining Center. Pictured from left are Alice Grellner, English; Thomas Pustell, Counseling Center; Annette Ducey, English; William Aho, Sociology; Chester Smolski, Anthropology/Geography, and President John Nazarian.

Gordon M. Sundberg, director of the Office of Personnel Services, announced the following members of the College community who have or will retire before July 1. They will be honored at the annual Commencement Gala Friday, May 19. Retirees and their years of service are:

Faculty: Frances Benson, professor of nursing, 1975-94; Rena M. Maddox, assistant professor of nursing, 1973-94; Kenneth A. McVay, assistant professor of industrial technology, 1981-94; Carl E. Stenberg, professor of English, 1960-94; William R. Aho, professor of

sociology, 1977-95; C. Annette Ducey, professor of English, 1960-95; Mary Alice Grellner, professor of English/educational studies, 1969-95; Elaine F. Perry, associate professor, 1968-95; Enrico V. Pinardi, professor of art, 1967-95; Chester E. Smolski, professor of anthropology/geography, 1953-95; Ronald M. Steinberg, professor of art, 1973-95; Lawrence F. Sykes, professor of art, 1967-95.

Administrative staff: Richard M. Comerford, security, 1979-94; Lorraine L'Heureux, office services, 1976-95; Ruth McVay, academic affairs, 1984-95; Thomas E. Pustell, counseling

center, 1976-95.

Support staff: Anita L. Alterio, Office Services, 1982-94; Edward Avarista, Custodial Services, 1988-94; Helen P. Fura, Bursar, 1984-94; Claire E. Improta, Dining Services, 1969-94; John W. Zanghi, Custodial Services, 1984-95; Edward W. Laurenzo, Custodial Services, 1984-95; Agnes M. Brousseau, Anthropology/Geography, 1974-95; Felix Ricci, Campus Store, 1991-95; Vahan Bajakian, Custodial Services, 1986-94; Aldora Harnois, Dining Services, 1976-95; Ella Spagnola, Modern Languages, 1983-95.

Committee on student engagement in learning suggests reading list as part of out-of-classroom initiatives

The Committee on Student Engagement in Learning has distilled the following summer reading list. It is being recommended for all faculty, staff and students, alumni and friends of the College, with the goal of creating some intellectual common ground on which members of our community can talk and learn across conventional boundaries of classes, disciplines, etc.

It is hoped that some of these books will become supplementary readings in a number of courses next year, but in addition out-of-class cracker-barrel discussions on each book will be scheduled and announced later to broaden the conversation.

The committee has selected books that connect with the theme of next year's October Series, "BORDERS." Thus, these works consider borders that exist between stages of development, genders, nations, races, social classes, and cultures, and even within a biological organism. Happy reading!

• Anzaldua, Gloria. *Borderlands: La Frontera*

Borderlands explores a number of different borders in ways which embody many of the issues which will be discussed during the October Series. Anzaldua, who grew up on the border of Mexico and the United States, explores her experience of being caught between two cultures. The book is rich, challenging and filled with thought-provoking insights. The author has written a blend of political and religious history, narrative, and poetry interspersed with the languages of the border, Castilian Spanish, Tex-Mex, North Mexican dialect, and

Nahuatl, the language of the indigenous population.

• McCarthy, Cormac. *All the Pretty Horses*

Written by a native of Pawtucket, this national book award winner chronicles the idyllic, sometimes comic adventure of a young man from Texas as he crosses the border into Mexico. In this modern-day Western, there are plenty of horses, gunplay, and romance. At another level, the geographic boundary seems only symbolic of the cultural and psychological borders the protagonist must negotiate as he locates and defines himself.

• Menchu, Rigoberta. I, Rigoberta Menchu: *An Indian Women in Guatemala*

This autobiographical account by the 1992 winner of the Nobel Peace Prize recounts the lives of the Quiché Indians of Guatemala. Beyond a discussion of their culture, it depicts the human rights abuses the ladino population has meted out against the native peoples. Rigoberta continues her efforts to end those abuses. The Nobel Prize Committee described her as "a vivid symbol of peace and reconciliation."

• Reddy, Maureen. *Crossing the Colorline: Race, Parenting, and Culture*

Crossing the Colorline, which has received national attention, is an exploration of the effects of racism and gender on our society. Maureen Reddy, a member of the Rhode Island College English Department and the Director of the Women's Studies program, writes about the politics of feminism and anti-racism from the perspective of a white mother of black children. She will be schedul-

ing an October date to meet with students, faculty and staff for an informal discussion of her book.

• Rose, Mike. *Lives on the Boundary*

Rose uses his own narrative about his youth in a Los Angeles ghetto and his years as a teacher of "under-prepared" students as the basis for his exploration of class and cultural boundaries. Rose attacks the soul-killing philosophy of education based upon the medical model of remediation, a model which sees only diagnoses, defects, and deficits instead of human beings in a cultural context. He argues that "a failed education is social more than intellectual in origin" and in responding to a friend's suggestion that "education is one culture embracing another," Rose explores ways in which the "metaphor plays out." He says: "Education can be a desperate smothering embrace, an embrace that denies the needs of the other. But education can also be an encouraging, communal embrace—at its best an invitation, an opening."

• Tannen, Deborah. *You Just Don't Understand*

This popular bestseller by a Georgetown University Linguistics professor describes males' and females' different "conversational styles." Men, focusing more on status and independence, tend to engage in "report talk;" women, more concerned with connection and intimacy, engage in "rapport talk." If lack of awareness of these differences is the source of much misunderstanding and conflict, the hopes is that awareness can reduce these "asymmetries" and enable us to more adroitly cross the border of "gender-

Safe Sun Exposure Time

Rhode Island College Health Services will resume the daily announcement of the Safe Sun Exposure Time on Friday, May 26, at 11 a.m. This public service will continue until the end of September.

Radio and TV weathermen may take advantage of the RIC Sun Index Meter readings which are provided free of charge for the asking, reports Dr. James J. Scanlan, director of Student Health Services.

The obvious benefit of this index is to raise public consciousness about the danger of overexposure to the sun's rays, in particular the peril of skin cancer, says Scanlan.

Public policy presentations by RIC nursing students

Rhode Island College student nurses in the Class of 1995 recently made the following public policy presentations in the Student Union ballroom and Faculty Center:

Bone Marrow Transplant 101; Adolescent Smoking; Unlicensed Assistant Personnel & RN Accountability; Smoking in Children; Drug Use During Pregnancy; Patient Care Technicians; Informed Consent & Abortion;

Domestic Violence; Child Physical Abuse; Helmet Laws & Children; Assisted Suicide in Terminally Ill Adults; Elderly Abuse; Mandatory HIV/Hepatitis B. Testing in Prisons; Violence in the Health Care Setting; Prevention Recognition, Diffusion; Domestic Violence; School Sex Education Programs; Organ & Tissue Donation; Issues-Child Abuse.

lects."

• Taylor, Charles, Jurgen Habermas, Michael Walzer, et. al. *Multiculturalism: Examining the Politics of Recognition*.

Multiculturalism is the term used to describe the demands made upon public institutions by many people who are looking for recognition and respect for their particular identities and differences. In several tightly written essays, leading philosophers of our time consider the extent to which it is possible that a society's culture need not be homogeneous, that it could be a shared mutual recognition of different forms of life coexisting in their multiplicity and integrity. Many of the essays explore the extent to which the recognition of cultural particularity is compatible with a sensitivity for universally shared interests in, for example, such concerns as civil and political liberties, health care and education.

• Thomas, Lewis. *Lives of a Cell*

During the October Series, the biology faculty will be presenting a panel about viruses as "border" organisms. In his classic collection of notes or meditations entitled *Lives of a Cell*, Lewis Thomas shares his reflections from the point of view of an active biologist engaged in the border pushing process. This collection consists of 29 brief essays (5-8 pages in length) that are best read thoughtfully one a day. Dr. Lewis ponders technology and death, viruses and extraterrestrial life, whale songs and human language, fear, hormones, and Zen archery. We are invited to share this range of considerations through writing that is remarkably graceful, eloquent and wise.