

# WHAT'S NEWS

## AT RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE

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### Alumni teachers go for gold, rise to challenge of pursuing national board certification

by Shelly Murphy  
What's News Editor

Like Olympic athletes competing against the best of the best in the world, a handful of Rhode Island College graduates have accepted the ultimate challenge for a teacher. They have entered the competition for the teaching profession's gold medal: national board certification. Five RIC alumni who are teachers in the Coventry School System have or are currently comparing their teaching practices and skills against rigorous standards of excellence set by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS).

"National Board Certification is a voluntary process that exemplary teachers put themselves through to measure themselves against rigorous standards," says Kathleen Swann, Class of 1979, facilitator for national board certification for Coventry and the state of Rhode Island. Swann also received her masters from RIC in 1989 and is cur-

**National Board Certification Information Meeting**  
Thursday, March 12, 4 p.m.,  
Forman Center, Room C

rently enrolled in the joint doctorate of education program between RIC and the University of Rhode Island.

"The powerful part of the process is not whether you achieve certification. It's about professional development. Just by going through the process, teachers become better teachers. The process helps them take a step back and reflect and ana-



**ONE ON ONE:** Coventry first-grade teacher Susan Toohey Kaye, who has achieved national board certification, helps Tami Magana with her writing assignment. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

lyze their teaching," she says.

The National Education Association reports that there are over 2.5 million teachers in American public schools. Out of that number only 911 teachers in the entire country and only two teachers in Rhode Island have achieved this prestigious certification since it was established in 1995.

"National certification is not meant to replace state licensing which sets minimum standards. The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards establishes advance standards to recognize exemplary, experienced teachers," she added.

To be eligible to apply for certification, teachers must have three years' experience in the specific area for which they are seeking certification. The National Board offers six certifi-

cates for additional areas. The goal of the NBPTS is to improve student learning by strengthening teaching. "But until recently, the teaching profession had never defined the knowledge, skills and accomplishments that add up to teaching excellence. In contrast, physicians, architects and other professionals work under clear and objective standards for accomplished practice and must demonstrate their accomplishments on challenging sets of assessments," the NBPTS literature states.

Seeking certification is not a simple process, as the RIC alumnae who have or are currently pursuing certification attested to in a meeting during last week's February vacation. The dedicated teachers took a couple hours from their vacation to share

See Board Certification, page 8

### RIC Foundation to honor four at annual Gala

The Rhode Island College Foundation will honor four individuals for their years of service and dedication to the College on Friday, April 24 at its ninth annual gala to be held at the Westin Hotel. Arlyne Harrower of Chepachet; Theresa Howe and Mary Juskalian, both of Providence; and Frank Montanaro of Cranston will be honored at the event which also raises funds to support honor scholarships at the College.

The four honorees are:

Harrower, Class of 1967, is a long-time trustee who retired from the Foundation Board in 1997. She also has established an Endowed Scholarship in her name. She earned her masters in education from Rhode Island College and a masters in English literature from Brown University. She was the valedictorian of her class and was named the Rhode Island College Alumna of the Year in 1976. While working as an English teacher at East Providence High School, she also served as drama coach and class advisor.

Howe is a past president of the Foundation Board and also a long-time trustee. She joined the board in 1990 and served as president of the board from 1993 to 1995. She also served as the Foundation's representative on the Alumni Association Board for four years. The family business, Howe Jewelers, was established in 1967, and today Howe continues her involvement in the jewelry industry on

See Foundation Gala, page 4

### Retention Task Force announced: President encourages all to participate

Dr. Randi Levitz, a co-founder of the USA Group Noel-Levitz, Inc., and author of several books including *Power Strategies for Recruitment and Retention*, defined retention as "... hard to define, hard to package, and so all-encompassing that it's hard to know where to start and what to do." Even with all these barriers, college and university presidents across the country have placed retention issues as a top priority on their campuses.

Rhode Island College is no exception. "We've started (studying retention) and we're making progress," according to Clare Eckert, who was appointed last fall by President John Nazarian to head a College Retention Task Force to examine issues surrounding retention and to make recommendations.

Along with Eckert, members of

the Task Force, which met for the first time on Dec. 10, are Sandra Enos, sociology; Ava Gist, records office; Joan Glazer, elementary education; Christopher Greene, former managing editor of the Anchor and currently a student teacher; Robert Hogan, English; Eleanor O'Neill, alumni affairs; Charles Owens, biology; Richard Prull, institutional research and planning; Dolores Passarelli, OASIS, and Holly Shadoian, undergraduate admissions.

Eckert said Professor Enos' fall semester class, SOC 380, coincidentally studied retention at RIC. The students used focus groups as their primary means of information gathering. The first draft report was made available to the College's Task Force.

"The semester-long investigation

by Professor Enos and her students is very helpful to the current work of the Task Force," Eckert said. "We are grateful for the work that the professor and her students did, and the fact that Prof. Enos has shared the draft copy with members of the Task Force." Students who worked alongside Professor Enos were Donna Dickerman, Sandra Hevey, Yvette Mendez and Allison O'Neill.

Like the work of Enos' class, Eckert said, the Task Force will include focus groups in its development of opinions from students regarding issues of retention, as well as direct mail surveys and telephone surveys. The Task Force will recommend updating the official College Retention Report, which last was done in 1993 and to bring up-to-date

See Retention, page 5

In their own words...



Mary Ann Fonseca

Class of 1999

Recipient of:  
RIC Departmental  
Scholarship

I start my typical day awakening at 7 o'clock in the morning. It is time to wake my 10-year-old daughter, Rickia, and my 7-year-old, Amanda.

I feed, dress and get them ready for school. One gets dropped off at 8:15 and the other at 8:30.

Then I catch the first of three buses to bring me to Rhode Island College, where I am now matriculating and working part-time, as student help.

See Alumni Scholarship, page 5



## The Way We Were...

This popular item in *What's News* will continue this year in order for you to be able to revisit your alma mater with a selection of photos from the past — the College's past, whether the current era (Rhode Island College) or past eras (Rhode Island College of Education or Rhode Island State Normal School). We invite your contribution of old photos, along with sufficient information about each such as who's in the photo and what they are doing, the year it was taken and place (if possible). In the meantime, we'll continue searching our files for interesting pictures of past College life.



**DURING HAZING WEEK IN 1955 at Rhode Island College of Education, incoming freshmen were required to wear blue and gold beanies — at all times, according to Barbara Gibau Hackett, Class of 1955. She sent us this photo from the student newspaper which had the following caption: "Gloats Barbara Burns, junior, as she records the names of offenders: Eleanor Croghan, Claire Finan, Lois Lindermann, Barbara Finnegan and Betty Jones."**

## Chess Club hosts regional tourney

Rhode Island College Chess Club will host for the third time the New England Amateur Championship April 18 and 19 in RIC's Donovan Dining Center or Horace Mann Hall. The public is invited.

Any four-member amateur team under a master rating may compete, says James Della Selva, club president. An entrance fee will be charged. RIC Student Parliament is co-sponsor of the tourney.

Della Selva reports that the chess team competed in the U. S. Amateur Team Championships Feb. 14-16 in New Jersey. "We were in the running for the Top Under-Expert prize, but lost on a tie break and came in second," says Della Selva, who points out that Anatoly Karpov, the reigning F.I.D.E. world champion, played in that tourney with his own team.

In other tourney activity, the team competed in the Pan American Tournament over the Christmas-New Year holidays in Bowling Green, Ky., and came in fifth out of 25 college teams from the U.S., South America and Canada. RIC had won the Pan Ams in 1985 and placed third in 1993.

Alex Sherzer, a former RIC student on a chess scholarship who was

ranked then as an international master — one step shy of grand master which is the highest rating in the world of chess — is still playing chess, says Della Selva, only now in Hungary where he's studying to become a doctor.

Sherzer was analyzing some chess matches at a tournament a year ago in Hungary when he had the opportunity to meet the reclusive Bobby Fischer, who in 1972 was the uncontested world champion and considered at the time the greatest chess player of all time. Fischer joined Sherzer in analyzing some chess matches, says Della Selva.

In other news, Della Selva says 17-year-old Jorge Zamora Jr. of Providence, who was expected to come to RIC on a chess scholarship this year, has turned professional as a player and teacher. Zamora, the U.S. Junior Champion, represented the United States in Colombia in 1996 for the world chess championship.

Della Selva says Zamora tentatively plans to give chess lessons here this spring to RIC's first team. Chess lessons for beginners will be available from members of the RIC Chess Club. G.L.

Through fire and ice, he's there —

## Red Cross volunteer Steve Pechie brings relief to Maine storm victims

by George LaTour  
What's News Associate Editor

"If someone needs help, I can't just ignore that person and move on," says Steve Pechie of Cranston, a senior nursing major at Rhode Island College.

So, when the call came in from the Red Cross of Rhode Island for volunteers to go to Maine to provide emergency care to people impacted by the recent ice storms, Pechie put himself front and center.

He was one of three Red Cross volunteers and one staff member who drove up to the Auburn-Lewiston area toward the end of January, joining hundreds of other Red Cross volunteers from Maine and around the country.

There he found a scene out of Winter Wonderland with trees and everything else coated with ice crystal — "it looked nice but it was dangerous."

And that was probably the best of it.

Pechie says power lines were down, water-main lines had burst, utilities had been shut off and, when turned back on, houses sometimes caught fire.

"It was a mess," assures the 21-year-old Pechie, who has been a Red Cross volunteer for the past two-and-a-half years.

His job was mobile feeding supervisor which meant he directed four mobile feeding trucks and the kitchens that supplied them. They purchased food from donated funds in the Red Cross kitty.

As supervisor, he lucked out by getting to stay in various hotels that remained open, "but finding housing for the other volunteers was a problem." Some went to shelters in school gyms or the Augusta Civic Center.

Pechie worked 12-to-16-hours a day, often not stopping until midnight for a few hours of rest.

"People were very appreciative," he says, pointing out that while he and other volunteers were on a roadside taking photo-assessment pictures, a car stopped and the woman driver



**STEVE PECHIE**

leaned out the window, waved and shouted, "Thanks, guys!"

Another simply cried when the volunteers brought food to her house. "She was deeply moved that we had come from Rhode Island to help her and her family."

"As a volunteer in the emergency services department (of the Red Cross), Steve is usually helping people who are left with nothing following the devastation that accompanies a house fire," relates Brett Davey, Rhode Island Red Cross spokesperson.

"Steve has responded to more than 200 emergency incidents as a Red Cross volunteer. Helping is simply part of his personality," says Davey.

A son of Stephen and Cheryl Kemp, he attended the Cranston Area Career & Technical Center of Cranston West High School before coming to RIC. After graduating this May he plans to take his RN licensing exam and then will head to work as a second lieutenant for the U.S. Army Reserve Hospital Field Unit in Rhode Island.

He has been a volunteer for some time with the Civil Air Patrol 34th Squadron providing search-and-rescue missions and disaster relief.

Through fire and ice Steve Pechie can be counted on to be there.

## Focus on Faculty and Staff

**James E. Bierden**, professor of mathematics and secondary education, jointly presented a workshop with his wife, Margaret, library media specialist in Woonsocket, called "Math Between the Lines" at the Literacy Conference of the Rhode Island Council, International Reading Association. The focus of the presentation was on the use of hands-on activities for kindergarten and elementary school children to enhance their reading of literature.

Bierden also recently gave a talk on "The Road to Functions" to an audience of middle school teachers at a conference in Nashua, N.H. The presentation was designed to aid the teachers in presenting the concept of "function" using a variety of activities to enable their students to better understand mathematical functions.

Three members of the mathematics/computer science department gave presentations at the Mathematical Association of America/American Mathematical Association (MAS/AMS) joint meetings in Baltimore Jan. 7-10.

**Lisa Humphreys**, assistant professor of mathematics, gave presentations on "Undergraduate Research in Non-

Linear Differential Equations" and "Mountain Pass Solutions for a System of Partial Differential Equations: An Existence Theorem with Computational Results." The first was given during the MAA session "Establishing and Maintaining Undergraduate Research Programs in Mathematics," the second during the AMS session Partial Differential Equations.

**Helen Salzberg**, professor of mathematics, illustrated how mathematics can be used in baseball in her presentation "The SLOB in Baseball: A Mathematical Model for Judging Offensive Value" during the MAA session "Mathematics and Sports."

**Barry Schiller**, associate professor of mathematics, gave the pedagogical talk "Routinely Using Non-routine Problems" in which he presented innovative statistical examples during the MAA session "Teaching the Practice of Statistics at All Levels."

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# RIC and Coventry students ignite joy of reading, discovery in Coventry preschoolers

*Impact of volunteers reading in homecare provider locations apparent*



**PIZZA AND BOOKS:** A group of high school and college students involved in the pilot reading program gather at Rhode Island College for a pizza party and to meet Lt. Gov. Bernard Jackvony and talk about their experiences. Above (seated l to r) RIC student Linda Middleton shows a planbook and photos to the lieutenant governor and RIC President John Nazarian, while looking on are (standing l to r) Coventry Rep. Stephen J. Anderson (D-Dist. 42), college students Wendy Bettez, Susan Forte, Christine Landon, and Nancy Bertrand, and high school students from the West Bay Career and Technical Center Maria Lysikatos and Melissa Rollings. (What's News Photo by Gordon Rowley)

by Shelly Murphy  
What's News Editor

"Miss Linda's here! Miss Linda's here," the children excitedly chant in unison every time Linda Middleton arrives at Coventry home care provider Mary Hamilton's home. That enthusiastic greeting captures the impact the four-month old pilot reading program is having on the preschoolers.

Middleton, who is currently student teaching and will earn her bachelors in May from RIC, reads to the children in the program because as a parent, a grandparent and a teacher, "I understand the importance of starting them out reading young. I've been reading to my grandson since he was born and at nine months old, he grabs a book from his toy box."

The reading bug is taking hold of about 30 preschoolers in Coventry thanks to the efforts of students from Rhode Island College and the West Bay Career and Technical Center. The college and high school student volunteers read to preschool children in home-based day care facilities at least once a week. They report that the preschoolers look forward to their visits, actively participate in the reading sessions and related activities, and are full of ideas for books or topics for the next session.

At a "Get Acquainted" Pizza Party on the RIC Campus Wednesday, Feb. 11 afternoon, the college and high school students shared the reactions from the preschoolers and details on what they've learned about actively involving the preschoolers in reading. At the session, hosted by College President John Nazarian and Coventry Rep. Stephen Anderson, (D-Dist. 42) RIC Class of 1971, the students gained tips from their fellow readers and shared in the success of the program which was launched in late October at Hamilton's home in Coventry.

The volunteer readers actively engage the preschoolers in the stories,

initiating discussions and related activities to bring the characters and plot to life. Their creative efforts include having the children dress up as characters in the story and act in an impromptu play and creating paper puppets to help the children remember the story and bring it to life on their own at home.

Thirteen students, 9 from RIC and 4 from the high school, are reading in six daycare homes at this time, and the program is growing. It could become a model for a statewide program. "You are known as 'The Readers' by the daycare kids," Anderson, the sponsor of the pilot program in Coventry, told the volunteers. "They are very excited. Those kids are listening and you are

**Reading is the keyhole through which we peek and see the world. — Lt. Gov. Bernard Jackvony**

teaching them how to sit and pay attention. You are the pioneers. With the Lt. Governor's help, we will be able to expand this program, or a similar one, throughout the state."

Lt. Gov. Bernard Jackvony, who has created a RI Reads committee to promote volunteers reading to children in the classroom, said, "I tell kids that no matter what they want to do, if they read better, they will do that better. The purpose of RI Reads is to teach the importance and joy of reading. Reading is the keyhole through which we peek and see the world. The better we can read, the more we can see," he added.

The "Early Intervention for School Readiness Program" shares this goal as it focuses on teaching youngsters in pre-school to appreciate books and the art of reading.

"It's wonderful you kids are recognizing the affect you can have on the young people, the influence you can have, and the importance of giving back. It shows the kids that the community is interested in their reading," Jackvony said.

Nazarian, who serves on the RI Reads Committee along with Anderson, told the volunteers, "The satisfaction you get from participating in this program is invaluable. When

you see the look on the face of someone you helped to do something he couldn't do before, that reward is immeasurable."

The RIC students involved in the program are: Nancy Bertrand, Wendy Bettez, Kelly Cote, Susan Forte, Ana Freitas, Christine Landon, Linda Middleton, Bridget Morisseau, and Melissa Silva.

The RIC students have incorporated what they have learned in their elementary education and early childhood classes and are applying it to the projects they do with the children, said Madeline Nixon, professor of education and the College's liaison to the Coventry reading program. "I have such true admiration for these college students in hearing this call for help and immediately volunteering their time and expertise to work with these children. I firmly believe

not only will the students benefit from giving of themselves, but the knowledge they are giving to the children will bring them self-satisfaction and self-fulfillment. These are the students who are going to be the leaders of the profession in the future," Nixon said.

The high school students are: Maria Lysikatos, Jennifer Mularz, Jessica Pardee and Melissa Rollings. The program complements their curriculum in the child development program. As part of their curriculum, the high school students work in center-based preschools during their junior years and work in local schools as teacher assistants, according to Diane Thompson, their teacher. "This (home daycare reading) program gives them a chance to see another career option. They enjoy working with the smaller groups and the intimacy of the home setting," she added.

Pardee says she particularly enjoys the home-based daycare because the provider "has real heart" for the students and has a lot of good ideas. All of the high school students have been impressed by how much the children enjoy their visits. "They are so focused during the stories," Rollings said. And they always want me to stay and play, Pardee adds.



## What's News

### On-campus recruiting

The Career Development Center will be hosting a recruiting program again this year. Seniors graduating in January, May or August of 1998 are encouraged to participate in this program. Some of the companies that will have representatives on campus include: Blue Cross & Blue Shield of RI, Enterprise RENT-A-CAR, Core Business Technologies, Prudential Insurance Company, Raytheon Electronic Systems. For more information and a detailed list of representatives and the dates they will be on campus, stop by the Career Development Center in Craig-Lee 054.

Recruiting begins on March 2 and continues through April 21. Assistance with resumes and interviewing skills is available so that candidates will be well prepared.

### Resident assistant applications

The Office of Residential Life and Housing is pleased to announce that applications are now available for Resident Assistant (RA) positions for the 1998-99 academic year. Interested students can obtain application forms in the Residential Life and Housing Office in Sweet Hall. The deadline for completed applications is Friday, March 13.

To be considered for a position, a student must meet the following criteria:

- be a full time student with a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.25 as of the end of the spring 1998 semester;
- Have at least one complete semester of residence hall living experience or an equivalent group living experience;
- attain sophomore of higher academic standing (at least 30 credits) as of August 1998;
- must demonstrate leadership potential and show genuine concern for students;
- have no outstanding financial obligations to the College;
- cannot be on a judicial probationary status as of the start date of employment.

Each selected RA receives room and board for the academic year as well as a \$150 yearly stipend.

For more information, call 401-456-8240.

### SCG scholarship

Student Community Government, Inc. is seeking applicants for its Student Scholarship Award. Students must demonstrate campus and off-campus community involvement; have a least a 2.67 GPA; have completed at least 30 credits at RIC. Part and full-time students who fit this criteria are eligible to apply. Call 401-456-8088.



# HBS kids make Wish Come True for 4-year-old



**ALL SMILES:** George Wordell, 4-year-old cancer patient, sits on the lap of Rosemary Bowers (rear, fourth from left), of A Wish Come True, in Janice Newman's (seventh from left) class at Henry Barnard School. At George's right is Stephanie Leung who presented George with the Mickey Mouse hat befitting his up-coming trip to Disney World, courtesy of Newman's third grade class who surrounds them. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

by George LaTour  
What's News Associate Editor

A wish will come true for 4-year-old George Wordell of Little Compton thanks to the thoughtfulness of kids in the third-grade class of Janice Newman, of Pawtucket, at Rhode Island College's laboratory school, Henry Barnard.

The 21 eight-year-olds recently sold almost 1,000 used books at 25-cents apiece — with the help of their schoolmates throughout Henry Barnard, who collected many of the books over a two-week period — and raised \$240, half of which they donated to A Wish Come True, Inc. in Warwick so that a child with a life-threatening illness might have

his or her wish come true.

In young George's case, it will be a trip to Disney World in Orlando, Fla., which his family plans for him after a brief hospital stay for treatment of cancer.

It was all part of the school's participation in the Feinstein We Can Make a Difference Program. The students chose to send the other half of the money raised to the Rhode Island Community Food Bank.

On Feb. 10, George and his father, Dana, visited the Barnard School where A Wish Come True's founder and executive director Rosemary L. Bowers was on hand along with all the kids in Newman's class and, of course, Newman herself. Also on hand was Barnard assistant principal Haven Starr Jr., the College photographer and a *What's News* writer

— all leading to a rather festive occasion.

Young George was all smiles as third grader Stephanie Leung of Lincoln handed the boy a Mickey Mouse hat and bean bag toy on behalf of the class and all the students at Henry Barnard.

A check had already been sent to A Wish Come True to sponsor the trip to Disney World.

With all the excitement in Newman's class, a number of Henry Barnard parents who happened to be down the hall in the school office wondered what was going on.

When told, they went back to their homes and offices, raised some more money — \$160 in all — and sent the checks in to Mrs. Newman who, in turn, mailed them to A Wish Come True for George's trip.

## Foundation Gala

Continued from page 1

a private, by-appointment-only basis. Her business acumen is recognized, not only in the jewelry industry, but also in the food industry, deriving from her success with Broadway Bagel, with which she was affiliated for three plus years, and from her work in Rhode Island's gaming industry, in which she currently serves in a public relations capacity.

Juskalian is a former secretary of the Foundation Board, a trustee since 1980, and a current Foundation Board member. Her work on behalf of the Foundation has been extensive. Most noteworthy is her service with the Art Auction committee, bistro committee

and gala activities. She holds academic degrees from Rhode Island School of Design and Columbia University. She has worked as a designer and an art teacher. Her design work included automotive interiors, wall coverings, fabric design and children's wear. She was an art teacher for many years with the Providence school system and served as a cooperating teacher from Rhode Island College and Rhode Island School of Design.

Montanaro, an employee of Rhode Island College for 11 years and a Foundation trustee, is being honored for his many years of service to the College and to the Foundation. Of par-

ticular note is his work on the Annual Foundation Golf Day, which set new records under his leadership as co-chair last year. He is a project manager in facilities and operations at the College a state representative from Cranston/Coventry.

"Each year the Rhode Island College Foundation sets aside an evening in April to honor our own stars while simultaneously raising scholarship funds for star students. RIC actively seeks support for honors scholarships to assist in attracting and retaining Rhode Island's best and brightest to attend school in their home state. The contributions of these four individuals who have risen to the occasion whenever they were needed have helped the Foundation and the College immeasurably. We are pleased to be able to honor them with a public thank you at this event," said Marguerite M. Brown, executive director of the Foundation.

Proceeds of the gala, along with other Foundation events, support the Honors Program scholarships. Last year over \$38,000 was awarded to deserving students. "Since over 92 percent of our students are residents of Rhode Island," Brown noted, "these scholarships are an investment in the future of our state. About 25,000 Rhode Island College alumni live and work in our state currently."

The gala will include a silent auction and entertainment by Bob Saraceno featuring Clay Osborne. Tickets are \$60 per person. To obtain tickets or to donate an item for the auction, contact Suzanne Augenstein in the Development Office at 401-456-8105.



**GALA COMMITTEE:** (seated l to r) Theresa Howe, Joseph Neri, Isabel Picozzi, (standing l to r) Suzanne Augenstein, Lena Cosentino, Eleana Leonelli, and Mary Juskalian. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

RIC alumna Karen Davie —

## Heads National Hospice Organization

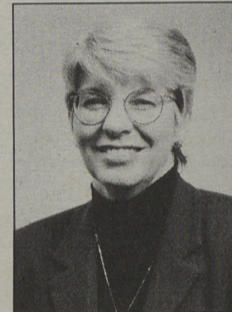
by George LaTour  
What's News Associate Editor

A Rhode Island College alumna, who worked for the United Way and served as chief of staff for the Rhode Island general treasurer and later lieutenant governor, has been named president of the National Hospice Organization (NHO) headquartered in Arlington, Va.

Karen A. Davie of Alexandria, Va., formerly of Coventry and a Class of 1976 sociology major, took over the reins of NHO Feb. 6 after her unanimous selection by the board of directors. She replaces the former president who held that position since 1984.

NHO was founded in 1978 and is the largest national non-profit public-benefit, charitable organization dedicated to advocating for the needs of terminally ill persons in America. It consists of some 5,000 hospice professionals in 2,300 hospice programs in 48 states, including Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia.

To take the post, she vacated the position as executive vice president and chief operating officer of the United Way of America which she had held for approximately a year. Prior to that she had served as acting president and CEO for a



short stint after having been senior VP and managing director and VP for government relations.

Prior to her leadership positions with the United Way of America, Davie had served as chief of staff for Roger N. Begin from 1988 when he was general treasurer of Rhode Island and later lieutenant governor.

Before her government service, she had worked in leadership positions with the United Way of Southeastern New England for five years, and has experience as a medical social worker in hospital, nursing home and home care settings.

While a student at RIC, Davie became a Visiting Honors Student in the Sociology Honors Program at Purdue University for two years, graduating from RIC magna cum laude. She obtained her masters in social work policy and planning in 1979 from the University of Connecticut.

She is a member of the Epsilon Class (1985) of Leadership Rhode Island and in 1990 served on the adjunct faculty of the RIC Graduate School of Social Work.

Davie, in a telephone interview from the NHO headquarters, says she has "very strong and positive feelings for Rhode Island College" and remembers well her days here, especially during the 1970s' Encounter program in which she served as a counselor with Dolores A. Passarelli, now Director of RIC's Office of Academic Support and Information Services (OASIS).

"The administration and faculty at RIC are superb," says Davie, specifically citing the "one-on-one relationship between students and faculty and folks within the administration."

The hospice program provides a comprehensive, medically directed, team-oriented program of care that seeks to treat and comfort terminally ill patients and their families at home or in a home-like setting.

In 1996 hospices cared for more than 450,000 patients and families throughout the United States.



## Retention

Continued from page 1

the official administrative and academic policy book.

"It is important that people have the necessary tools to do their jobs. These are but two resources. There may be others that would make sense as well," Eckert said. "However, it is equally important that we all understand that attrition of students is everyone's concern. The greatest thing about having the opportunity to work in an institution of higher education is the fact that each of us can make a difference in the life of a student. It may sound trite, but every time we help a student move toward the goal of earning a college diploma, we are helping ourselves, our families, our state, and our society-at-large."

Other areas being looked at are academic advising, identifying common strengths and priorities among all campus constituencies, and the integration of the quality service program into the final goals of retention.

"Basically, we start off with the framing statement: How can we best serve our students to ensure as many as possible a successful experience at Rhode Island College," Eckert said. "To come up with the answer, the Task Force will have to answer some preliminary questions like, 'What do the data show?', 'What are the resources needed to do the job?', 'What is the process of implementation for the most success?'"

Eckert said the Task Force is in the preliminary stages of a five-step approach: 1) reviewing existing information; 2) conducting analyses of present programs; 3) measuring student satisfaction (level of) expectations, etc.; 4) documenting the need for and benefit of an action, 5) establishing an action plan and creating a forum for sharing information.

Members of the campus community are invited to participate in the work of the group by mailing concerns and possible actions to any member of the Task Force. Eckert said people are also welcome to call her at 456-8090.

"We have had several campus members - faculty and staff - send the Task Force a note about their concerns," she said. "As the president said in his mid-year remarks to the community, '...we must all work together if we are to succeed.'"

## Alumni scholarship

Continued from page 1

I went back to school, attending the Community College of Rhode Island at the age of 25. It was very difficult to juggle my children's needs and my class schedule.

After a lot of hard work, late hours and five years later, I successfully graduated with an associate's degree in general studies.

I look forward to continuing my education at RIC. I also want to help people realize their personal potential so that they, too, can feel proud about themselves. It is easy to do things for other people but I want to learn the skills and techniques to advise others how to teach themselves.

I believe that I have a great deal of empathy towards others, and I look forward to the day when I become a social worker.

I am certain that if I continue my studies at the School of Social Work that I will be a positive addition to this institution.

I look forward to broadening my academic horizons, as well as continuing my personal growth. I am sure that both of these goals can be achieved at RIC.

# Alumna named school Superintendent of Year

by George LaTour  
What's News Associate Editor

**A** Rhode Island College graduate, Class of 1968, has been named Rhode Island school Superintendent of the Year by the Rhode Island Association of School Administrators (RIASA).

Diane DiSanto, head of the Smithfield School Department since 1994, was recognized by her peers for what her colleagues, teachers and former students have known right along: she gets things done.

Arthur B. Campbell, executive director of the RIASA, has characterized her as a "workaholic."

Perhaps "conscientious" would be a more appropriate label, but DiSanto admits to using the label "workaholic" when she accepted the award.

"I didn't see it as a negative because work has been a fundamental part of my life. I have made a real commitment to my work and I have worked very hard," she told the editor of her hometown newspaper, the *Observer*, which printed a feature article on her.

DiSanto began her career in education as a teacher of language for grades 4-8 at St. Matthew's School in Cranston from 1968-71. She has held posts in Cumberland, Central Falls and with the Rhode Island State



DIANE DISANTO

Department of Education where she was an early childhood special education consultant before going to Smithfield in 1990 as assistant superintendent.

As superintendent, she is credited with leading Smithfield through strategic and school-based planning involving all levels of the community, and writing a \$170,000 Working Wonders grant to develop content and performance standards and alternative assessment for K-to-12 in core subjects, among other achievements.

She was appointed by the governor and commissioner of education as co-chair of the Goals 2000 Rhode Island Comprehensive Education

Strategy; served as co-chair of Rhode Island's Technology Plan; is a representative of RIASA on the state's Policy Consortium to review practices of certification and to establish new directions, and a governor-appointed member of the Rhode Island Human Resource Investment Council School-to-Work subcommittee.

Her affiliations include membership in the American, New England and Rhode Island associations of school administrators, the latter of which she currently serves as president.

Her bachelors degree was in English and secondary education; her masters, also from RIC, was in counseling. DiSanto also holds a masters degree in special education from Providence College and a doctorate in educational leadership from Boston University.

Today, she says that she views education very differently from that of 30 years ago when she was starting out.

"This is the most exciting time ever in public education," she told *What's News*.

"Things are moving very rapidly... very engaging for students. It is a more challenging time, a time of accountability."

Her enthusiasm and positive outlook are contagious, but when she has that occasional bad day, she says, "I go to a school and visit a classroom. I see what we're doing. I see that we have a purpose."

## RIC history buff authors book on Johnston

by George LaTour  
What's News Associate Editor

The town of Johnston derives its name from Augustus Johnston, an attorney general from the time before the War of Independence with England, who later was banished because of his loyalty to the crown.

The town was dominated by residents of English and Irish background until Italian immigrants began moving in around the 1870s.

These and scores of other facts about Johnston, R. I., can be found in a new book entitled simply *Johnston* written by Louis H. McGowan, president of the Johnston Historical Society and biological technician at Rhode Island College for the past 20 years. The book is published in the Images of America series.

From its cover — a photo of a dozen rugged, leather-jacketed young motorcycle men who called themselves the Hurricane Riders in honor of Hurricane Carol which struck Rhode Island in 1954 — through its 128 pages are some 200 black and white photos vividly illustrating the transformation of the area from the Civil War to the 1960s.

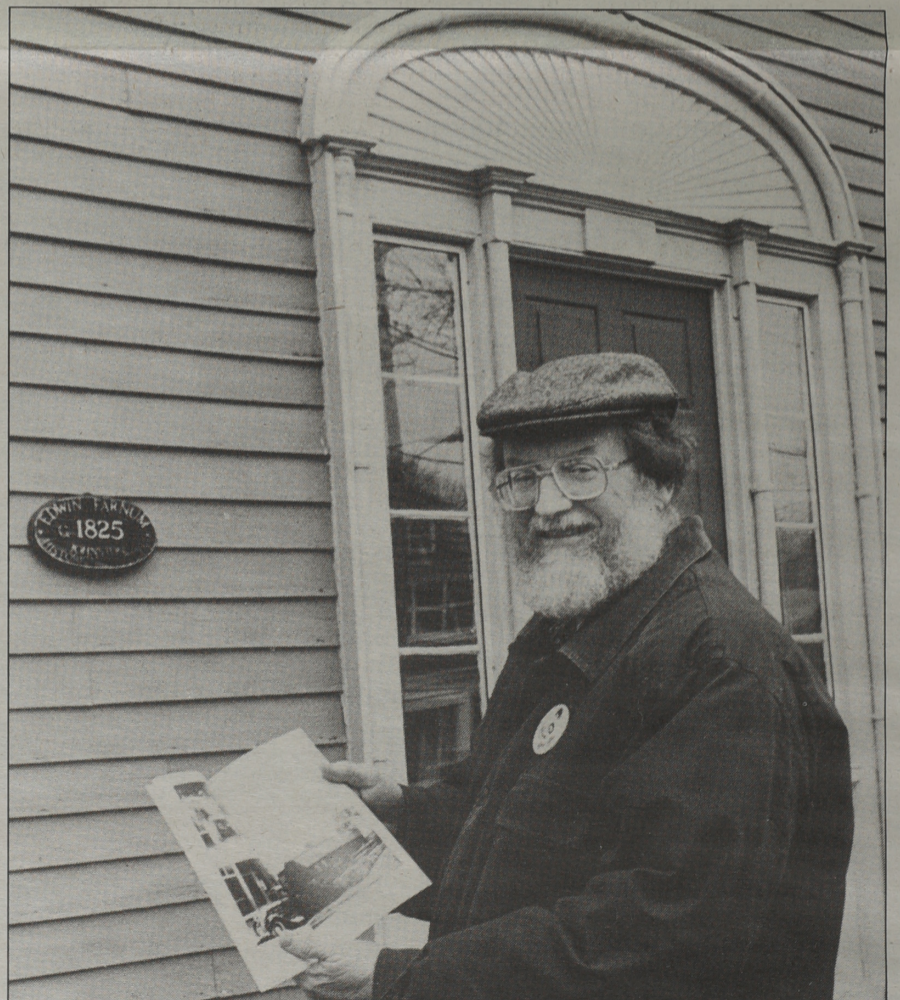
"The photos, accompanied by a detailed introduction and informative captions, allow us to see just how much (and how little) has changed in this community over 100 years," writes McGowan.

McGowan regularly writes the society's newsletter and in 1984 — the town's 225 anniversary — co-authored a pamphlet for the occasion.

Born in England, the son of a U.S. serviceman and an English woman, McGowan came to this country with his mother in 1946 aboard the Queen Mary and has lived much of the time since in Johnston. He received a bachelors degree in history from RIC in 1985.

He has an appreciation of history and a love of his town which led him and Steve Merolla, Pat Macari and Dan Brown, all officers of the Johnston Historical Society, to compile the photographs and produce the book.

"We basically went from having virtually nothing to acquiring a few hundred pho-



**SURROUNDED BY HISTORY:** Louis McGowan stands beneath the fan doorway of the 1825 Farnum House in Johnston and displays a copy of *Images of America*. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

tos," says McGowan.

The group pored over about 340 old pictures loaned by townspeople who heard of the project through advertising, but mostly by word of mouth, says McGowan.

They spent the better part of a year putting it together.

The book was printed by Arcadia, publishers of the Images of America series which boasts of over 100 titles in the series. The American headquarters for Arcadia is in Dover, N. H., but it is an English outfit. The book was printed in England with

some of the expense being borne by the Johnston Historical Society.

Sales of the book are "going extremely well," says McGowan, who adds that "people have been very receptive. The books fills a need."

The paperback book costs \$16.99. It is available from the Johnston Historical Society, 101 Putnam Pike, Johnston, RI 02919. McGowan asks that prospective buyers first call the society at 231-3380.

It also is available in the RIC Campus Store.



# RIC alum is 'cartoonist with a chainsaw'



MICHAEL HIGGINS is an artist with a chainsaw. Above, Michael with a gigantic swan he made with the help of children in Cambridge, Mass.



Above, A TEN-FOOT CATERPILLAR who wears seven pairs of size 14 Reeboks. At right, a "TERROR TREE."



"That dragon changed my life," says Michael Higgins.

He is standing on a pile of sawdust next to a carving of a four-foot great blue heron in his workshop just south of Tiverton Four Corners. "That dragon" is "Waldo," a 14-foot white birch denizen of Michael's garage back in the Mt. Pleasant section of Providence. But that's getting ahead of our story.

Michael is 43, five-eight, with long black hair tied in a ponytail. He has the shoulders of a lumberjack, the handshake of a stevedore, and his handsome, sharply-chiseled face could have come from one of his own sculptures.

When he was a kid growing up in Cranston, Michael loved to draw cartoons, that is, when he wasn't working — beginning at the age of 12 — in a jewelry factory. After high school he enrolled at Rhode Island College and majored in art. He drew sports cartoons for the student newspaper, *The Anchor*, and played catcher on the RIC baseball team.

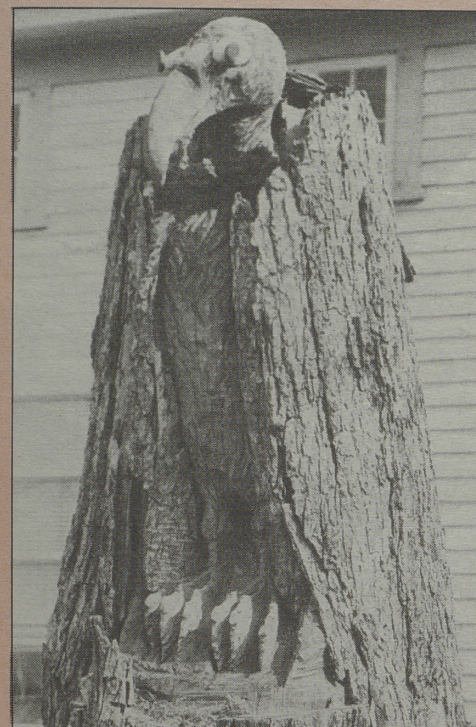
"But after graduation (in 1978) I had a job waiting for me in the jewelry industry," he explains. He wore a suit and tie for several years, working as production manager — until he longed for "something completely different."

He loved the outdoors and while dating a landscape designer, hit upon the idea of working in a nursery. He sent out 27 resumes and took the first offer — at Weston nursery in Berlin, Mass. The suit and tie were gone. He was a laborer, loading bags of fertilizer onto trucks. But he felt free.

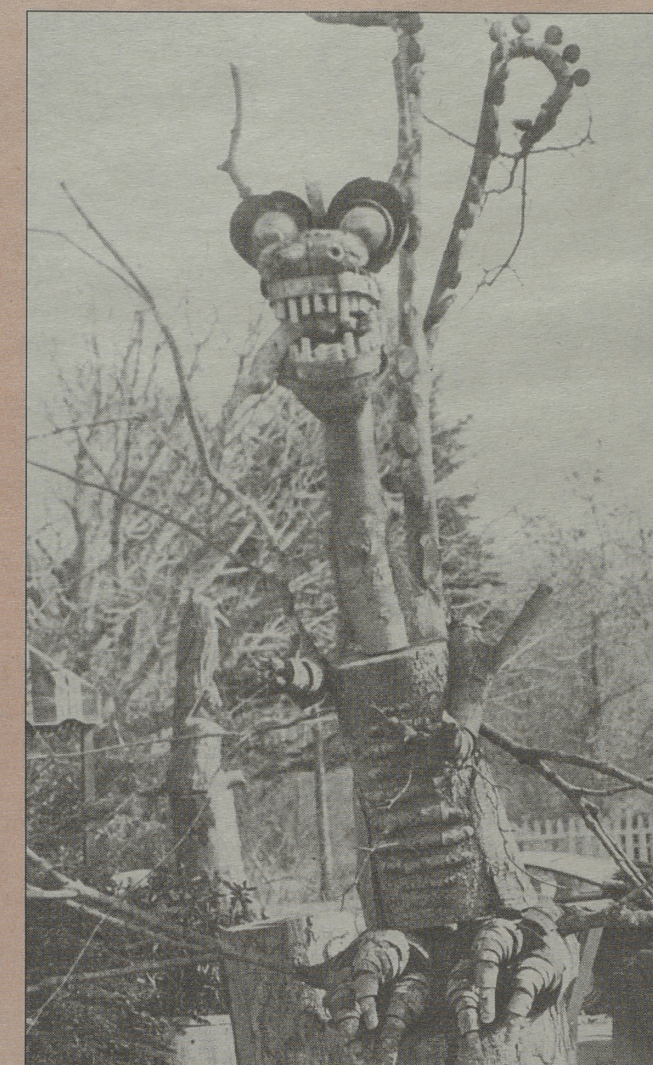
As a creative outlet he made reindeer out of birch logs and sold them by the side of the road. He met Sean Conway, the designer for the first Rhode Island Spring Flower & Garden Show, and through him, landscape designer Michelle Sousa. In 1995 she asked Michael to create a sculpture for the "Magical Secret Garden," the flower show display for Sylvan Nurseries of Westport, Mass.

Hence came "Waldo," the strobe-eyed, smoke-breathing dragon that redirected Michael's career.

Waldo was so popular, Michael turned to sculpture full-time and established the Magic Garden in Tiverton, with business partners Michelle Sousa and longtime friend Ronald Palmer.



VINNIE THE VULTURE, who stands guard on Main Road, just south of Tiverton Four Corners.



Photos and text by Gordon E. Rowley

A walk around his "garden" reveals a wacky menagerie that includes a 10-foot caterpillar wearing seven pairs of size 14 Reeboks, an six-foot pebble-eyed vulture who stands guard over Main Road, penguins, mermaids, owls, bunnies, baby dragons, you-name-it — all done with a Husqvarna chainsaw. It's little wonder that one observer described him as a "cartoonist with a chainsaw."

"I don't want to get into a finished look with chisels and sandpaper, because eventually I want to work in stone," he says to explain the rough-hewn look of his work.

The demand for his crazy critters has become so great Michael often works 15-hour days. He has become so adept with his Husqvarna, he can carve teeth, tongues, even the inside of mouths. One of his favorite "demos" is to carve what he calls "terror trees," fang-faced demons that take a few minutes to make but are a big hit with kids.

In fact, demonstrations, or what he calls "chainsaw performances," which usually include Waldo and sometimes include music and strobe lights, take up an increasing amount of his time. Waldo and friend have made over 90 appearances throughout the northeast in the last two years. And last Halloween Michael performed for 31 days straight at Spooky World in Berlin, Mass.

It was exhausting, he says, but you can tell that Michael loves kids. He uses words such as "interactive" and "reinforcement" a lot. He has created a 2,000-pound camel for kids to climb on in the Marco Polo Exhibit at Roger Williams Park Zoo, and a life-size cow for the new Children's Museum in Providence. One of his favorite "interactive pieces" is a gigantic swan built with the help of children at the 1997 Riverfront Arts Festival in Cambridge, Mass. Each child signed his or her name on the swan's individual wooden feathers.

He also likes to talk to kids about preserving the environment, about the selective cutting of trees (He gets HIS wood from tree surgeons and forest managers) and about chainsaw safety.

Even Michael's boots rivet kids' attention. For safety purposes, they are covered with Kevlar, the same material that goes into bullet-proof vests. And what kid can resist a guy with bullet-proof boots?

Above, ONE OF A FAMILY OF DRAGONS who inhabit the Magic Garden in Tiverton. At right, A BIRCH FRUITFLY, perhaps an image that remained in Michael's head from freshman biology. And below, THE GREAT BLUE HERON just before it left the studio for the Roger Williams Park Zoo exhibit in this year's Rhode Island Spring Flower & Garden Show.





## Board Certification — Continued from page 1

their experiences and to offer tips for teachers who may be considering applying.

Susan Toohey Kaye, Class of 1987, advises candidates to be aware of and realistic about what's involved. "When I read in the pamphlet that teachers were spending 200 to 300 hours preparing the required materials, I said, 'if they are spending that much time, they aren't using their time effectively,'" recalls Toohey Kaye, who also received her masters degree from RIC in 1991. "When the box (of instructions and other certification materials) arrived, I saw what was really involved. I ended up spending about 400 hours."

### Five alumnae lead the way

Toohey Kaye, is one of the two teachers in Rhode Island who have achieved the certification. The other one is Jim Erinakes, a graduate of the University of Rhode Island and Providence College, who also teaches in Coventry. Suzanne Bartlett, Class of 1972 and RIC masters degree in 1978, has successfully completed 8 of the 10 components of the comprehensive assessment and is retaking those two portions this year. Three other RIC alumnae — Joyce Martinelli, Class of 1978 and RIC masters degree in 1981; Kathleen Miner, Class of 1973; and Robyn Simoneau, Class of 1988 and RIC masters degree in 1989 — are current candidates for certification.

The process consists of two-parts: preparing an extensive portfolio of the work that best exemplifies the candidate's teaching practice and sitting for a day-long exam. The portfolio must include: a videotape of two, 20-minute actual lessons in the classroom; a 15-page reflective analysis of the teaching involved in the videotaped lessons, samples of work of several students at different levels with writings on how the teacher would adapt lessons for the varying levels; and samples of one student's work over a period of time to show how it improved. The portfolio includes 70 to 100 pages of reflective writing, according to Swann.

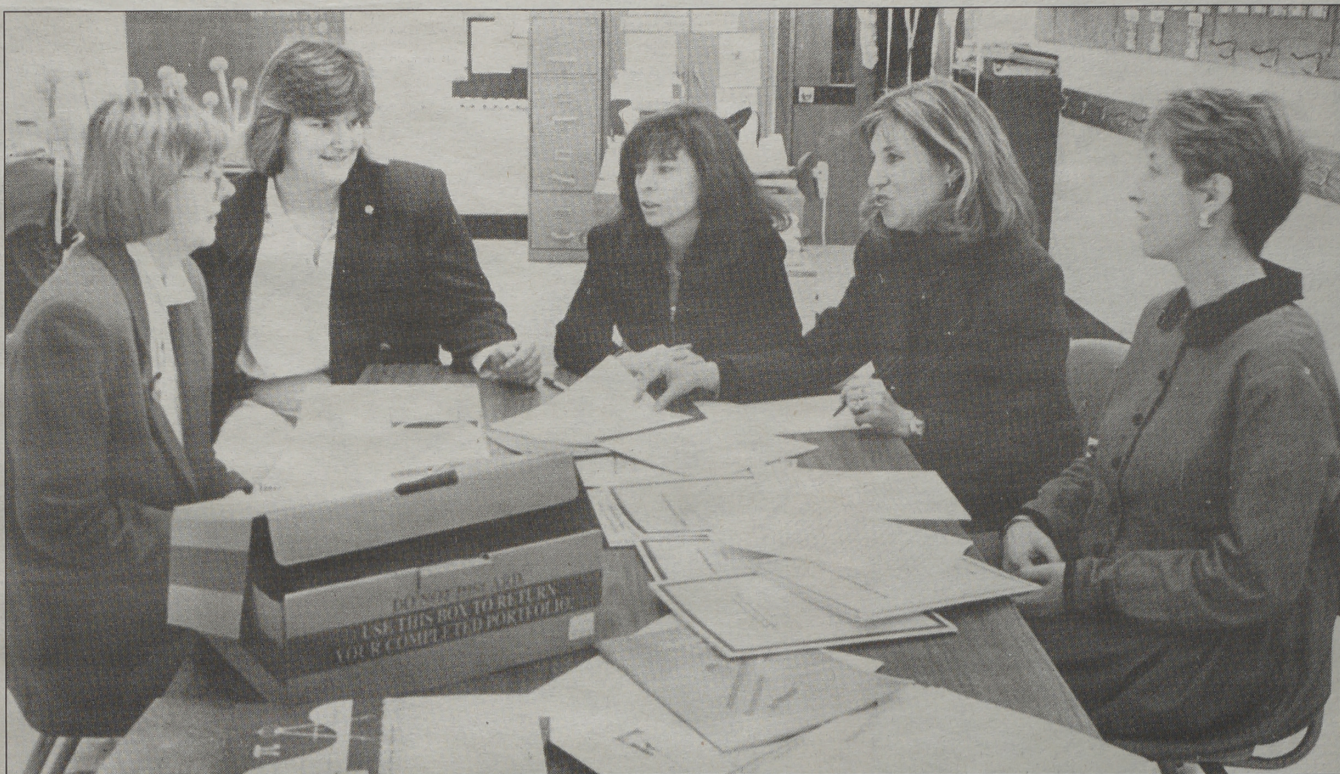
This preparation, like training for the Olympics, requires intense dedication and perseverance. "The teachers do this on their own time. They are totally dedicated to the profession and to the children. All of them have worked very hard to make sure it did not affect their students," Swann said.

Knowing what is involved, the eternal question surfaces: Why? Why voluntarily subject yourself to such an ordeal?, the teachers were asked.

### Because it's there

The answer was a modification of the cliché about the mountain climber: Because it is there. Bartlett, who was one of the trailblazers along with Toohey Kaye, speaks enthusiastically about the personal and professional rewards of going through the process.

"The people who go for it are natural risk takers. It takes that to compare yourself against a rigorous set of standards," said Bartlett. "It does inform your practice more than



**EXTENSIVE PREPARATION:** Coventry teachers (l to r) Suzanne Bartlett, Robyn Simoneau, Joyce Martinelli, Kathleen Swann, and Susan Toohey Kaye discuss requirements for national board certification. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

anything I've done in 26 years. It gives you the opportunity to compare yourself against those who are exemplary. I discovered that things I thought I was good at, I was not as good at and things I thought I was not so good at, I was good at."

The common themes of self-realization and growth emerged as the teachers answered the question. Simoneau, a current candidate, decided to pursue certification after considering a doctorate program. "I enjoy going to school and learning new things, but I realized the doctorate would lead me to administrative roles and I want to stay in the classroom. Plus I have a toddler and couldn't commit the hours to a doctorate program now. This seemed like the ideal program for me."

tary national standards, parents and teachers can make sure all their children in all of our schools get the skills they need," he stated, adding that "...with support from the business community and from states...more teachers are now being challenged to fulfill their greatest potential." In his 1997 State of the Union address, the President announced his support for the goal of having more than 100,000 teachers seeking National Board Certification during the next five years.

The Coventry program is considered exemplary, Swann said. Coventry pays the \$2,000 application fee for teachers and provides credits toward their next pay raise for teachers who go through the

On another occasion after Martinelli discovered that a tape of a lesson which had gone really well had no sound, she broke the news to the class the next day, adding, "You are the only ones who can really appreciate this." It was true and they were so sympathetic, she recalls.

The value of the lessons learned along the way to certification and the positive impact on the students, the teachers and the profession itself are noted by those involved in education. Coventry Rep. Stephen Anderson, (D-Dist. 42), Class of 1971, has been instrumental in gaining financial support for teachers interested in seeking national board certification. Last year, he introduced a bill in the state legislature

to obtain funds to defray the cost of applying. It did not go through, but this year \$5,000 was placed in the supplementary budget for this purpose. This amount has been matched by the Rhode Island Foundation. For

**"The teaching profession is elevated with every teacher who applies. Going through this process is a matter of professional development. National certification is like Top Gun. It's the best of the best."**

**— Coventry Rep. Stephen Anderson, eighth grade social studies teacher in the Exeter-West Greenwich school system**

Timing and support of family and colleagues are key to this endeavor, the teachers said. Miner, who teaches sixth grade next door to Simoneau, knew she would pursue certification someday when she first heard one of the original candidates discuss it at a conference in 1995. "The challenge appealed to me and I knew when the timing was right, I'd give it a shot."

The support within the Coventry school system has been a major factor in their endeavors. "The administration and the union were very supportive," Toohey Kaye recalls. "They told us whatever we needed, we could have. People were wonderful to rely on. They'd come in and turn on the camera when I needed it."

In fact, Coventry has received national recognition for its certification program. Swann, the facilitator, Toohey Kaye and Bartlett were among those invited to attend a national conference in D.C. and to submit a poster presentation of the program.

While in Washington, Toohey Kaye and the other teachers who have achieved national certification met President Clinton at the White House where he commended the program in an address. "Through volun-

process, whether they achieve certification or not.

"The process has a very close connection to the classroom and benefits day-to-day teaching more than any workshop could. It touches every aspect of teaching," said Toohey Kaye.

And the learning that occurs is not limited to teaching. The lessons for both teachers and students also include technology, flexibility, and even compassion and empathy.

Martinelli, who teaches third grade, has learned to use the camcorder that has been in her house for years and has improved her computer knowledge as a direct result of this process. And she has pushed flexibility to new limits as she has experienced the challenges of videotaping live lessons.

### Flexibility is vital

"We had a fire drill in the middle of my taping. I stopped the tape, but when we came back in I discovered I hadn't turned the camera off. The battery was dead. I had the class do another activity while the battery charged. Then I said, 'Take Two' and started the lesson again. And it was Halloween. But the kids were great."

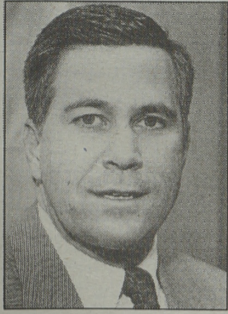
next year, Anderson is looking for additional money to be placed in the budget which is currently being developed in the state legislature.

"The teaching profession is elevated with every teacher who applies," said Anderson, an eighth grade social studies teacher in the Exeter-West Greenwich school system. "Going through this process is a matter of professional development. National certification is like Top Gun. It's the best of the best."

The \$10,000 available for this year will be awarded through a statewide collaborative set up to support teachers and school districts in the certification process. Two general informational meetings have been scheduled to help educate and inform Rhode Island teachers, teacher educators, administrators and policy-makers about the NBPTS, the certification process and the opportunities available to teachers who wish to seek national certification. Mary Dean Barringer, vice president, programs for the advancement of teaching, NBPTS, will conduct a meeting on Thursday, March 12 at 4 p.m. in the Forman Center, Room C on the RIC campus. She will also conduct a meeting on Wednesday, March 11 at 4 p.m. in the Galanti Lounge at the library on the University of Rhode Island campus.



# RIC Athletics



## DONALD E. TENCHER

director of intercollegiate athletics,  
intramurals and recreation 456-8007

## Academic support for student-athletes expanded

The athletic department at Rhode Island College has long recognized that helping our student-athletes involved more than excellent coaching and physical training. We are committed to our student-athletes' performance not only on the court in the field, but also in the classroom.

As part of our faculty/staff mentor program, which was established last year, dedicated members of the College community volunteer to mentor a team. They provide team members an attentive ear, a guiding hand, or a pat on the back as needed. They help the athletes with logistics like course advising and

registration.

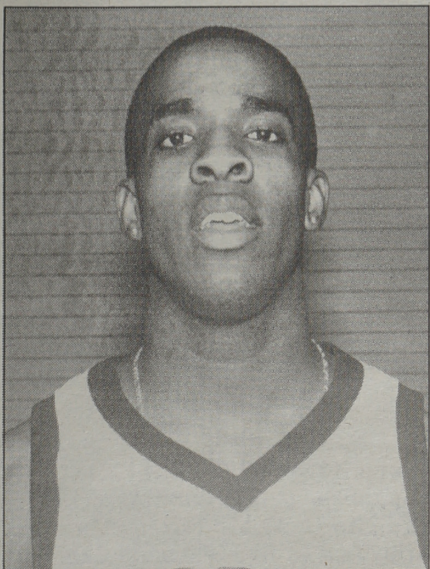
To build on the success of this program, the athletic department is introducing a student-athlete study hall program to help athletes maintain satisfactory academic performance and achieve their fullest potential.

Beginning this month, we will be staffing a study hall equipped with computers to provide students additional structure and assistance in achieving these academic goals. The combination of our coaching program, faculty/staff mentor program and now the study hall program will create an unbeatable team to support our athletes' development as a

## Kenny Bliss: Leaving his mark on RIC basketball

by Scott Gibbons  
Sports Information Director

Rhode Island College senior Kenny Bliss is putting the finishing touches on an outstanding basketball career this season. As the Anchormen's



KENNY BLISS

starting point guard, he is the Little East Conference's leading scorer and assist man. Through 22 games, Bliss is averaging 19.4 points and 4.7 assists per game. "This season has definitely been the most enjoyable of my career," the six foot guard says.

Bliss began the season on an offensive tear, scoring 31 points in the opening game against Johnson

and Wales University, and helping the team to win four of its first five games. Things were looking good, until loose cartilage in his left knee began giving him trouble in early December. He had knee surgery just before Christmas and immediately began the rehabilitation process. Remarkably, he only missed one game and was able to accompany the team on its annual trip to Florida. "I knew I had to get the knee fixed or I wasn't going to be able to do the things I wanted to do on the floor."

Entering the spring semester totally healthy, Bliss has had some amazing games. He scored the 1,000th point of his career at Eastern Connecticut State University on Jan. 10, becoming only the 25th player in the 60 year history of RIC men's basketball to accomplish that feat. He scored a career-high 36 points, making 16 of 21 shot attempts from the field, in the team's 90-88 overtime win at Western Connecticut State University on Feb. 10.

"That was one of the best games I've ever had. Not only was it a conference win on the road, but it got us back in the race for a home court game in the Little East Conference playoffs." Currently, he is among the leaders in the conference in almost every offensive category. He is tenth all-time in career scoring at RIC with 1,260 points.

This year has been a coming out party for the lightning quick guard from East Providence. In previous years, Bliss was often overlooked because of playing alongside All-American Alex Butler who gradu-

ated last spring. As a junior in 1996-97, he filled the sixth man role and finished the season as the squad's second leading scorer. Despite starting only five of the team's 27 games, he was an Honorable Mention to the All-Little East team.

Head Coach James Adams says, "Kenny is a gifted offensive player. He can make a lot of different things happen on the floor. He can score and pass the ball to his teammates for easy shots."

"A lot of people look at how many points you score," he says, "but I get just as much satisfaction out of setting up one of my teammates for a good shot." Senior forward Frank Minikon, a teammate of Bliss' at East Providence High School, has been a recipient of many of those passes this season and is leading the conference in field goal percentage.

Bliss is a 1992 graduate of East Providence High School. He originally attended Fitchburg State College before transferring to RIC. "I like playing close to home. My family is able to see me play and I can go home when I want to."

Bliss is a communications major and is minoring in creative writing. After the season is finished, he plans to serve an internship at one of the local media outlets. "I'm interested in sports and would like to work in either radio or television after I graduate."

The men's basketball team is currently 13-10 overall and 6-7, fourth place, in the Little East Conference. The Anchormen are in good shape to host an opening round game of the Little East Tournament when it begins on Feb. 24.

## Sports Roundup

### Men's Basketball

Date	Opponent	W/L	Score
02/07	Eastern Connecticut	W	89-85 OT
02/10	at Western Connecticut	W	90-88 OT
02/14	Southern Maine	W	72-47
02/17	at UMASS-Dartmouth	L	74-91
02/19	Wheaton	H	69-62

### Women's Basketball

Date	Opponent	W/L	Score
02/07	Eastern Connecticut	W	55-48
02/10	at Western Connecticut	L	51-67
02/12	at Lasell	W	83-27
02/14	Southern Maine	L	56-60
02/17	at UMASS-Dartmouth	W	83-74

### Wrestling

Date	Opponent	W/L	Score/Place
02/07	at Roger Williams	L	19-20
02/10	Coast Guard	L	11-26
02/14	Bridgewater	W	30-17
02/14	Trinity (at Bridgewater)	L	12-39

### Women's Gymnastics

Date	Opponent/Tournament	W/L	Score
02/14	Big Red Invitational	5th place	167.400

### Men's and Women's Indoor Track

Date	Opponent
02/07	at Bowdoin College-Quad Cup
02/14	Alliance Championships (Roxbury, MA)

## Anchor Notes

### Women's Basketball

RIC is currently 17-5 overall and 10-3 (second place) in the Little East Conference. The Anchorwomen are ranked seventh in New England in Division III. Nicole Taylor leads the team in scoring and rebounding, averaging 11.0 points and 6.4 rebounds per contest. MeLeah Hall is among the conference leaders in assists and steals, averaging 4.4 and 3.5 per game respectively.

### Men's Basketball

The Anchormen are 13-10 overall and 6-7 (fourth place) in the Little East Conference. Frank Minikon leads the LEC in field goal percentage, making over 56 percent of his attempts from the field. James Thomas leads the conference in rebounding and blocked shots, averaging 9.2 and 1.7 per game respectively.

### Women's Gymnastics

The Anchorwomen traveled to Cornell University on Saturday, February 14 to take part in the Big Red Invitational. Cornell, Ithaca, Brown and Cortland State also took part in the meet. RIC finished the day in fifth place with a combined score of 167.400. Michelle Pelletier placed third in the vault event with a season-high score of 9.275. Laura Murphy led all RIC gymnasts with 34.525 all-around score.

### Wrestling

The wrestling team is 6-9 overall and 2-2 in the Pilgrim Wrestling League. The team will take part in the New England Wrestling Championships on February 21 and 22 hosted by Roger Williams University. Jason Cornicelli is ranked fifth in New England at 150 pounds. Cornicelli is 19-8 in 27 matches this season. Freshman Jeremy Von Flatern has been a welcome addition to the squad this semester, posting an 8-1 mark at 190 pounds.

### Men's and Women's Indoor Track

The men's and women's indoor track team recently took part in the Alliance Championships held at the Reggie Lewis Complex in Roxbury, MA on Sunday, February 15. Member schools of the Little East and the MASCAC took part in the event. Keely Subin placed first in the 200 and 400 meter events with times of 27.43 and 61.60 respectively. Sarah Traynor placed seventh in the 3,000 meters with a 12:04.96 time.



**Performing Arts Series presents —**

**London's Aquila Theatre Co. productions of 'Birds' and 'Julius Caesar' March 9, 10**

by George LaTour  
What's News Associate Editor



**ARISTOPHANES' 'BIRDS' as performed by the Aquila Theatre of London.**

Rhode Island College's Performing Arts Series will offer a double-barrel treat when it presents the Aquila Theatre Company of London in two productions: Aristophanes' *Birds* on March 9 and Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar* March 10 in Roberts Hall auditorium at 8 p.m.

Pre-performance "chats" about the productions by a member of the theatre company will be held in Alumni Lounge, Roberts Hall, at 7 p.m. before each show. There is no charge to attend and the public is invited.

Having gained a well-earned international reputation, Aquila is one of the foremost producers of touring classical theatre.

Founded in 1990 by Peter Meineck, the company has won both critical and academic acclaim for its work worldwide, which included extensive touring throughout Europe, the United States and Canada, regular runs at the Shaw and Place theaters in London, and performances Off-Broadway in New York.

Aquila has received a prize for dramatic excellence from the Greek government, and two prestigious British Council Touring awards.

"The Classics made relevant...superb acting and clever staging," said *The New Yorker* of Aquila.

**Aristophanes' Birds**

*Birds* is the story of two Athenians in search of a better life away from a city rife with corruption, petty disputes and war.

It tells the story of an ordinary Athenian, Makedo, who sets out with his friend, Goodhope, to escape the hustle and bustle of congested city life. These old men are tired of the law courts, politics, false oracles and military antics of their fellow citizens — who had been involved in the long and costly Peloponnesian War with the Spartans — and they resolve to seek out a place to live where they can end their days in peace and tranquillity absolving themselves of their civic responsibilities.

To this end they seek out the Hoopoe, who is the mythical king, Tereus, famous in Athenian legends.

On meeting Hoopoe, and taking advantage of his advice, our heroes soon discover that there is no place in the known world that can evade the far reaching clutches of the Athenian Empire. The Hoopoe tells of his life with the birds, and their easy existence of eating and loving.

This is perfect, and Makedo hatches an amazing idea: They will found a city of the birds and live among them.

*Birds* was first performed at the City Dionysia Festival in Athens during the spring of 414 BC.

**Shakespeare's Julius Caesar**

Against a backdrop of a society undergoing tumultuous upheavals, *Julius Caesar*, Shakespeare's greatest Roman tragedy, shows us a man at the very pinnacle of power.

An audience does not have to look far to see the modern relevance of a play that portrays an empire torn by political intrigue and conspiratorial ambition, leading to the assassination of the head of state.

Yet the murder of one man on the brink of absolute power (Caesar) in essence is merely the backdrop for the very human struggle that Brutus faces.

He weighs the love he feels for his friend Caesar against his own beliefs in what is the right and honorable path of action, for the good of the Republic.

As with all Shakespeare's great tragic heroes, we enter into the turmoil of Brutus' mind, agonize over the choices he has to make and finally witness the terrifying consequences of his actions.

It is a play rich in both political and personal conflict that speaks its message as loud today as it did 400 years ago, when it was first performed at the Globe Theatre in London.

Reserved seat tickets are \$18 for one performance or \$31.50 for both with discounts for senior citizens, faculty, staff and students and may be obtained in advance by telephone via VISA or MasterCard by calling 456-8194. For in-person sales, the Roberts box office is open daily from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. or until time of performance.

**Cello, piano duo in Chamber Music Series March 11**

"For sheer musicianship, there are few finer combinations around" is how one critic described the cello and piano duo of James Wilson and Joanne Kong who will perform in the Rhode Island College Chamber Music Series Wednesday, March 11, at 1 p.m. in Roberts Hall 138.

The program will consist of Bach's Sonata in D Major; Beethoven's Sonata in A Major, Opus 69; and Faure's Sicilienne, Opus 78; Elegy, Opus 24, and Papillon, Opus 77.

The recital is free and open to the public.

Both of these artists bring diverse backgrounds to their musical partnership.

Kong has been recognized for her versatility as a chamber musician, pianist and harpsichordist. Her numerous awards include the Grand

Prize in the 1985 International Piano Recording Competition and fellowships to the Bach Aria Festival and the American Academy of the Arts in Europe.

She is on the faculty at Virginia Commonwealth University, and has

been master class pianist for Arleen Auger, Gian Carlo Menotti, Timothy Eddy, Gabor Rejto and Alice and Eleonore Schoenfeld.

Wilson is known to audiences in North America, Asia and Europe as cellist of the critically acclaimed Shanghai String Quartet.

He twice was selected to perform in the prestigious Piatigorsky Seminar for Cellists at the University of Southern California. He serves of the faculty of the University of Richmond.



**JAMES WILSON-  
JOANNE KONG DUO**

**With guest composer/conductor Robert Jager —**

**RIC Wind Ensemble, Chorus to perform 'Wind Songs' in concert March 13**

Robert Jager, noted composer with over 100 published works to his credit, will conduct his most recent composition, "The Grandeur of God," in its east coast premiere at the Rhode Island College Wind Ensemble and Chorus concert Friday, March 13, at 8:15 p.m. in Roberts Hall auditorium.

Written in 1997 for chorus, wind ensemble and organ, the piece will feature the combined forces of the chorus and wind ensemble.

Entitled "Wind Songs," the concert also will include works for chorus and wind ensemble alone, conducted by Edward Markward and Rob Franzblau, respectively. Included will be Jager's *Esprit de Corps* and *Sketches on a Tudor Psalm* by Fisher Tull.

New compositions by RIC students will be highlighted.

In addition, Jager will conduct workshops and classes with RIC students and area music teachers during his three-day stay here.

One of the most well-known composers in the band area today, Jager was born in Binghamton, N.Y., in 1939 and attended the University of Michigan. Currently, he is professor of music and coordinator of academic studies in the Department of Music and Art at Tennessee Tech University in Cookeville, Tenn.

He has received commissions from some of the finest performing organizations in the world, including the



**ROBERT JAGER**

Tokyo Kosei Wind Orchestra, the Republic of China Band Association and the U.S. Air Force, Marine, Army and Army Field bands. He has conducted and lectured throughout the U.S., Canada, Europe, Japan and the Republic of China. His music has been performed by the National Symphony Orchestra and others.

Jager has won a number of awards for his music, including being the only three-time winner of the American Bandmasters Association's Ostwald Award.

Tickets for the concert are \$7 with discounts for senior citizens and students. For more information, call 456-9514.



Forgotten dreams, hot jazz, intriguing human landscapes are subjects —

## RIC Dance Co. 39th annual Spring Concert Series is March 5-8

Lost and forgotten dreams, fundamental and experimental vocabularies, hot jazz and intriguing and disarming human landscapes are subjects of the Rhode Island College Dance Company's 39th annual Spring Concert Series Thursday through Sunday, March 5-8, in Roberts Hall auditorium.

Performances March 5-7 are at 8 p.m. and on March 8 at 2 p.m.

An all new repertory will include new works by guest artists Wendell Beavers, Peter Schmitz, JoAnna Mendl Shaw, Angelica Vessella, and a student work by Mary Kirkwood.

Shaw's mysterious and dreamlike *Bed* will open the program. This work creates an atmosphere of intrigue and sensuality as dancers live and relive the private and troubled recollections of a lead female figure, says Dante DelGiudice, RIC dance director.

Shaw is a New York-based choreographer whose international credentials as a teacher and choreographer include work in Japan, Canada, Yugoslavia, Scotland, Wales and Switzerland. She was in residence at RIC in January to create *Bed*.

Beavers' *Untitled Sextet for 36 Limbs* is next on the program. Employing a movement vocabulary derived from Body-Mind Centering somatic work, the piece provides a singular and abstract human landscape filled with beauty, irony and even humor, says DelGiudice.

Beavers is a master teacher and an associate director of New York University's Experimental Theatre Wing. He has been instrumental in the development of Viewpoint Theory, a directorial approach that merges postmodern theatre and dance methods in a performance form closely aligned with the physi-



**RIC DANCERS will perform works by JoAnna Mendl Shaw (above), RIC grad Angelica Vessella, Wendell Beavers, Peter Schmitz and senior Mary Kirkwood in its 39th annual Spring Concert Series March 5-7.**

cal theatre movement.

He created *Sextet* while in residence at RIC in January.

Vessella, a 1997 alumna of the College and dance company, has been invited back to create her seventh work for the company — *Shades*, a piece drawing inspiration from blues and funk. Vessella operates the Neon Dance Theatre in Johnston.

Senior Mary Kirkwood has created *Body of Love* to music by Otis

Redding, Sarah McLachlan and Janet Jackson which offers a suite of dances celebrating the body and desire.

Completing the program will be Schmitz' *We Forget Ourselves in Watching*, a work created last fall and premiered in the December Winter Concert with Peter Schmitz and Dancers.

*Watching* draws the audience into a familiar yet strange world of human interaction, says DelGiudice.

Schmitz is currently a guest artist on the dance faculty at Middlebury College and performs throughout the northeast in his own work and as a member of the Creach/Koester Dance Company.

Tickets are \$10 with special rates for groups, senior citizens and students. Reservations may be made by calling the Roberts box office at 456-8060. In-person sales are available at the box office.

## The 'Boy Friend' is coming!!!

The joyful show satirizing the manner of the 1920s, *The Boy Friend*, will be the spring musical presented by Rhode Island College Theatre in April.

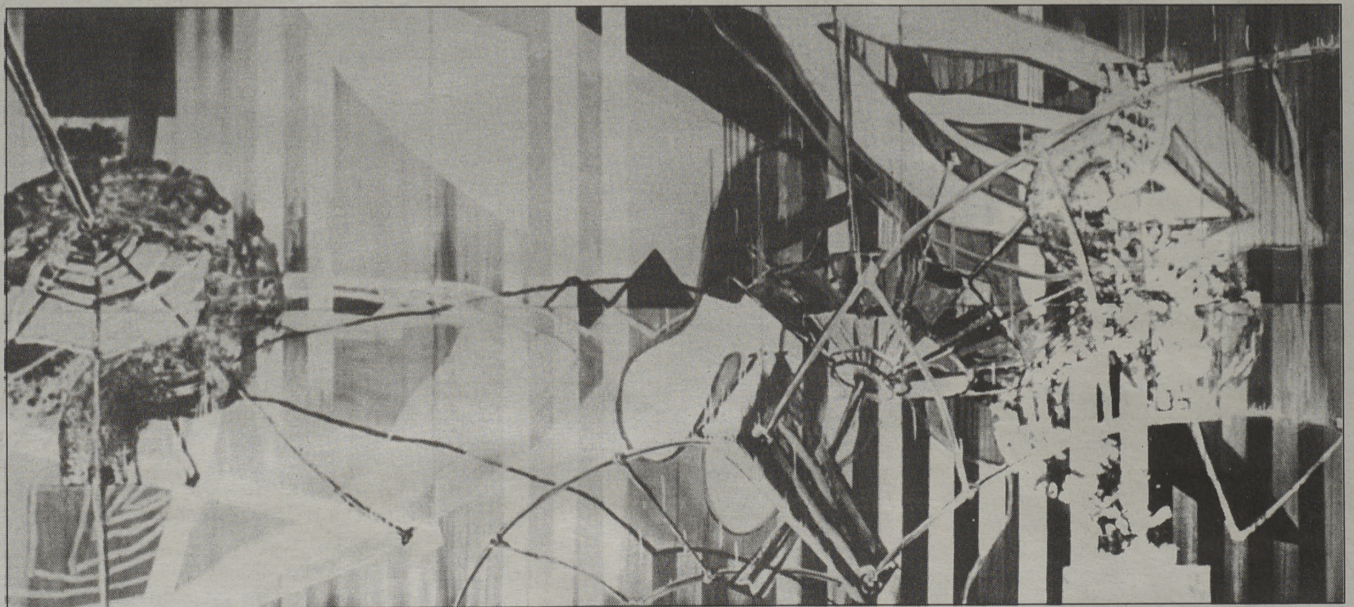
This is the revue that so hilariously lampooned the era of the speakeasies, cloche hats, dresses with no waists and hems at the knees, that it ran for well over three-and-a-half years in London where it was born. New Yorkers thronged to it for over 60 weeks after its thunderously received opening night on Broadway in September of 1954.

The spoof on the period of the Charleston, hip-flasks, coonskin hats and Rudy Vallee was written by Sandy Wilson. With his songs, his plot and his dialogue, he slyly burlesqued every plot idea, song lyric and saxophone-heavy, cymbal-crashing tune-style that characterized the jazz of the '20s.

There are the era's stylishly stilted musical numbers — a son titled "I Could be Happy With You, If You Could Be Happy With Me," and another with the line "In our attic we'll be ecstatic." There's a tango specialty and sessions with the two-step, the Charleston, the bunny hug and the Lindy hop. All accompanied by an orchestra unafraid to use a battery of saxophones, cymbals and a banjo.

Join RIC Theatre for a rollicking good old time at Roberts Hall auditorium April 23-26, Thursday through Saturday at 8 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday at 2 p.m. and watch *What's News* for more on this musical.

## Ian Harvey's 'New Paintings' at Bannister Gallery March 5-28



**IMAGE NO. 79 by Ian Harvey, 1997, mixed media on paper, 64" x 144"**

"New Paintings" by Ian Harvey will be on exhibit in Rhode Island Colleges' Bannister Gallery March 5-28.

Opening of the exhibit is March 5 from 7-9 p.m. A slide lecture by Harvey is set for March 5 at 5 p.m. in Alger Hall 116.

Both the exhibit and slide lecture are free and open to the public.

"Harvey explores an approach to image making which might be termed "maximal," but because his guiding principle is inclusive rather than exclusive, this concept is just a temporary handle by which we might

grasp for a moment the roiling perceptual flux which is both simultaneously a subjective and objective point of reference in his work," according to Dennis O'Malley, gallery director.

"Characterized by an infinity of specifics, his drawings and paintings contain a pervasive instability," adds O'Malley.

Critic Donald Kuspit in a recent essay writes: "...Harvey's combination of reprise and passion, parody and high purposiveness, ironical innocence and emotional urgency, historicism and excess, show post-modernism at its best."

Harvey is a graduate of Columbia University School of the Arts. Works in this exhibition were created with the support of grants from the Triangle Artist's Workshop, Monroe, N.Y. and the Vermont Studio Center in Johnston, Vt. The exhibit is being sponsored by the RIC Art Club.

Hours for the gallery, which is located in the RIC Art Center, are Tuesday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6-9. The gallery will be closed during Spring Break, March 16-23.



# RIC CALENDAR

## MARCH 2 - 16

### Tuesdays

**11 a.m.** — *Stress Management Laboratory* for students. Counseling Center, Craig- Lee 130. Call 456-8094 for more information.

**Noon- 1 p.m.**—*Interfaith Bible Study*. Everyone is invited to join the group for an informal discussion of the Bible. Bring a lunch. Student Union 300.

### Wednesdays

**12:30 - 1:45 p.m.**—*Catholic Student Association*. Make friends, share faith, pray and discuss. Food and refreshment provided on a bi-weekly basis. Student Union 300.

### 2 Monday

**1 p.m.**—*Workshop for Success: Public Speaking* in SU Ballroom. Free. Sponsored by the Office of Student Activities, 456-8034.

### 3 Tuesday

**12:45 to 1:45 p.m.**—*Water Volleyball* in Recreation Center Pool. Free. Sponsored by Aquatics, 456-8227.

**1 to 2:30 p.m.**—*Car Wars* in CL 130. Are you one of those people who engages in dangerous and provocative driving behavior (swearing, yelling, "flipping people off," flashing high beams, deliberately slowing down, etc.) or reacts dangerously to those who do? This workshop will seek to understand the sources of these behaviors and to recommend practical methods for those who want to curb their "road rage."

### Sports Events

#### 6 Friday

**7 p.m.**—*RIC Women's Gymnastics* at Mass. Institute of Technology.

#### 13 Friday

**6 p.m.**—*RIC Women's Gymnastics* at Springfield College.

#### 15 Sunday

**9 a.m.**—*RIC Women's Softball* at Babson College.

**1 p.m.**—*RIC Men's Baseball* at Webber College.

#### 16 Monday

**9 a.m.**—*RIC Women's Softball* at St. Benedict's College.

**11 a.m.**—*RIC Women's Softball* at Smith College.

**7 p.m.**—*RIC Men's Baseball* at Eckerd College.

#### Notice of Affirmative Action and Nondiscrimination

Rhode Island College is committed to equal opportunity and affirmative action. No student, employee, or applicant will be denied admission, employment, or access to programs and activities because of race, sex, religion, age, color, national origin, handicap/disability status, sexual orientation/preference, or veteran status. This College policy is in concert with state and federal nondiscrimination laws. Inquiries concerning the College's administration of the nondiscrimination laws should be addressed to the College director of affirmative action. Reasonable accommodation upon request.

### 4 Wednesday

**11 to noon**—*Managing Test Anxiety* in CL 130. Does the thought of taking a test cause you to feel anxious or send you into a panic? Do you get nervous, lose sleep the night before or go blank during an exam? You're not alone. Come and learn some new tips on coping with this common problem.

**4 p.m.**—*Night Skiing at Wachusett Mt.* Bus leaves SU at 4 p.m. and returns to SU at 11:30 p.m. Lift tickets only \$12 (plus additional packages) Information available at SU Info Desk. Sponsored by RSA, Housing, O.A., and Student Activities, 456-8240.

**7:30 p.m.**—*Film: L.A. Confidential* in Horace Mann. Sponsored by the Student Film Society. General admission \$2, RIC students \$1.

### 5 Thursday

**Noon to 1:30 p.m.**—*Perfectionism & Procrastination: Our Self-Critical Voices* in CL 130. Do you often delay completing assignments? Catch yourself feeling guilty about your lack of self discipline? This workshop will assist participants in assessing the causes of their own procrastination and formulating strategies to reduce it.

**5 p.m.**—*Art: Ian Harvey Slide Lecture* in Alger 116.

### 5-8

*Dance: 39th Annual Spring Dance Concert Series* in Roberts Auditorium. 8 p.m. March 5-7; 2 p.m. (matinee) March 8. General admission \$10; senior citizens, groups, and non-RIC students \$8; RIC students \$4.

### 5-28

**7 to 9 p.m.**—*Art Opening: Ian Harvey-New Paintings* in Bannister Gallery. Characterized by an infinity of specifics, Ian Harvey's drawings and paintings contain a pervasive instability. Critic Donald Kuspit writes, "Harvey's combination of reprise and passion, parody and high purposiveness, ironical innocence and emotional urgency, historicism and excess, show postmodernism at its best...."

### 7 Saturday

**Noon to 5 p.m.**—*7th Annual OlympRICS* in Recreation Center. Free. For more information or to be on the Commuter Team, contact Kristen Salemi, 456-8034. Sponsored by Rec. Center, Residential Life and Housing and Student Activities.

### 8 Sunday

**11:30 a.m.**—*Brunch Bingo* in DDC. Free Bingo. Sponsored by Student Activities, 456-8034.

### 9 Monday

*Washington Wizards vs. Boston Celtics*. Bus leaves S.U. at 5 p.m. \$15 tickets available at Info. Desk. Sponsored by RIC Programming, 456-8045.

**8 p.m.**—*Theatre: Birds* performed by *Aquila Theatre Company of London*. Written by Aristophanes. Part of the Performing Arts Series in Roberts Auditorium. Reserved seating \$18, senior citizens and RIC faculty/staff \$17, non-RIC students \$14, RIC students \$5.

### 10 Tuesday

**8 p.m.**—*Theatre: Julius Caesar* performed by *Aquila Theatre Company of London* written by William Shakespeare in Roberts Hall Auditorium. Reserved seating \$18, senior citizens and RIC faculty/staff \$17, non-RIC students \$14, RIC students \$5.

### 11 Wednesday

**11 a.m.**—*Nutrition Fair* in DDC. Sponsored by Health Promotion, 456-8061.

### Dialogue on Diversity committee sponsors lecture/workshops

As part of Rhode Island College President John Nazarian's initiative to address issues of diversity at the College, the Dialogue on Diversity Committee will sponsor an address by Christopher Edley Jr., senior advisor to President Clinton for the Race Initiative and consultant to the President's Advisory Board on Racial Reconciliation, Wednesday, March 25, from noon to 2 p.m. in Gaige auditorium.

Edley will explore the importance of diversity and inclusion in creating a dynamic and democratic community locally as well as globally in an address to the College community. In addition, the committee has scheduled a series of related workshops from 2:15 to 3:30 p.m. The schedule is as follows:

**Speaker:** Christopher Edley, Jr., professor of law at Harvard University; author of *Not All Black and White: Affirmative Action, Race and American Values*, to speak on "Race and American Values."

**Respondents:** Community leaders including Howard Phengsomphone, of the Southeast Asian Youth and Family Development Program; and Richard W. Rose, Class of 1986, assistant U.S. attorney district of Rhode Island

**Racial and Ethnic Identity and Schooling:** Viewing of the highly acclaimed film, *Skin Deep*, followed by a discussion of how race and ethnicity affect the lives of students.

Professor Ellen Bigler, Departments of Anthropology and Educational Studies. Donovan Dining Center, room 202

**The Schools and the Community:** An exploration of the interaction that is needed between the schools and the community for successful teaching and learning to be realized. Emphasis will be on the importance of language and cultural diversity.

Professor Xae Reyes, Department of Educational Studies. Donovan Dining Center, Alumni Lounge

**How (Not) to Respect Other Cultures:** Following a film about the Masai women of Africa, a discussion concerning cultural authenticity and cultural relativism will be conducted.

Professor Carolyn Fluehr-Lobban, Department of Anthropology  
Professor Carol Shelton, Department of Nursing  
Craig-Lee, room 105

**Everything You Wanted to Know About White Folks/Folks of Color-But Were Afraid to Ask:** An exploration into the meaning of being effective allies in an exercise and model for dialogue between white folks and folks of color around tough and confrontational questions.

Leonard D. Perry, Dean of Student Life, Brown University.  
President's Dining Room, DDC.

**From A Multi-Cultural to an Anti-Bias Perspective:** The development of ideas to help foster an anti-bias perspective utilizing children's literature with pre-K to grade three students

Professor Elizabeth U. Henshaw, Department of Elementary Education  
Professor Elizabeth Rowell, Department of Elementary Education  
Unity Center.

**Diversity and Student Leadership: A Conversation with Christopher Edley**  
Moderated by Professor Amritjit Singh, Department of English  
Adams Library, Fortes Conference Room.

**1 p.m.**—*Music: James Wilson, cello, and Joanne Kong, piano*. Part of the Chamber Music Series in Roberts 138.

**12:30 to 2 p.m.**—*Symposium on Imperialism and the Making of the Twentieth Century* in Whipple 102.

### 12 Thursday

**4 p.m.**—*To Build a Better Teacher. Become National Board Certified*. Informational session in the RIC Forman Center. For more information, call Kathleen A. Swann, facilitator for National Board Certification, at 222-4600, Ext. 2250.

### 13 Friday

**8:15 p.m.**—*Music: RIC Wind Ensemble with RIC Chorus "Wing Songs"* in Roberts Auditorium. General admission \$7, senior citizens and non-RIC students \$5, RIC students free.

### 15-21

*Alternative Spring Break Service Project*. This will be in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. For further information, call the Chaplains' Office at 456-8168.