



WHAT'S NEWS

AT RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE

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Alumni to honor five awardees, 27 honor roll inductees

by George LaTour
What's News Associate Editor

Anne Walsh Cain of Atlanta, Ga., Class of 1964, has been named Alumna of the Year by the Rhode Island College Alumni Association which also selected four others for this year's alumni awards as well as named 27 inductees to its Honor Roll as outstanding RIC graduates and role models for students.



ANNE WALSH CAIN

They will be honored at the annual Alumni/Honor Roll dinner Thursday, May 14, starting at 5:30 p.m. in the Donovan Dining Center on the RIC campus. Tickets are

\$28 per person and may be obtained by calling the RIC Alumni Office at 456-8086 no later than May 7.

As honorary chairperson of the 1996 and 1997 Annual Fund campaigns, Cain initiated new programs to attract a higher percentage of givers and raised awareness for increased giving, says Ellie O'Neill, Alumni Affairs director.



ARTHUR SMITH

Under Cain's leadership, says O'Neill, new giving clubs as well as the class chair program were established. Commuting from Atlanta on a regular basis to ensure a successful fund drive, Cain helped the campaign total nearly a quarter of a million dollars, the highest amount ever raised, reported O'Neill.

Other award winners are the Rhode Island Historical Preservation &

Heritage Commission and Daniel Lugosch III, Alumni Service Award; Arthur F. Smith of Middletown, profes-



JANET O'CONNOR

sor of mathematics, Alumni Faculty Award; Janet O'Connor of Cumberland, associate director of the Office of Financial Aid, Alumni Staff Award; Linda Cipriano of Lincoln, Class of 1984, executive director of the YWCA of Greater Rhode

Island, Charles B. Willard Achievement Award.

Recognizing the importance of maintaining the history of the College, the R. I. Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission and Lugosch, managing partner/CEO of the Commonwealth Development Group, led an operation to preserve the artifacts from the downtown campus. Prior



LINDA CIPRIANO

to the demolition of the Old Normal School, later known as Rhode Island College of Education (RICE), these two parties were instrumental in securing the artifacts and transporting them to the Mt. Pleasant campus. The 50-plus tons of material symbolize an important link to the heritage of RIC, notes the citation.

Guiding, teaching, advising and influencing students over a 30-year period best describes in part Prof. Smith's contributions to the College, according to his citation.

Known as the gatekeeper of the department, he fields calls and

See Alumni award winners, page 8



TOGETHER FOREVER: Melissa D'Amico of North Scituate and Donald Ringuette of Pawtucket rehearse their roles as Polly and Tony in the RIC Theatre production of *The Boy Friend* which will be staged in Roberts Hall auditorium April 23-26. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

Annual Fund Phon-a-thon start breaks records

The Alumni Association's spring phonathon is off to a great start. In the first night of calling on April 6, the student callers raised over \$15,000 in pledges. "It was fabulous. The alumni were very receptive to the students. They were ready for the calls because we had sent a postcard in advance to let them know we would be calling. It really made a difference," said Cheryl Precopio, Class of 1991, and fund director. "Even the new students raised \$900 in the first night. The experienced callers raised close to \$2,000 each."

The spring phonathon will end

See Annual fund, page 8

Proud to be... a part of RJC!



Regina Marcotte, Class of 1925 and a very lively 93 years young, remembers student life in the '20s to be a little different from that of today. She commuted to RICE from Bristol on the electric train, which was more reliable, she says, than trolley cars. The demand for teachers was so great during World War I, the state had dispensed with the entrance exam. It was reinstated, however, for Regina's class. Two of her more memorable personalities were Dr. Florence Ross, the College's medical doctor, who required a physical exam of entering freshmen. Then there was speech Prof. Adelaide Patterson, whose lessons included having students run across the room yelling "fire!"

RIC Asian Student group schedules cultural event

The sights and sounds of Asian countries will fill the air at Rhode Island College on Saturday, April 25 at the second annual *Come Experience the Richness of Asia*, sponsored by the Rhode Island College Asian Students Association.

The cultural event will include a series of dances and fashions from different countries, a full ethnic dinner menu, and an open DJ music format beginning at 3 p.m. in the Student Union Ballroom. It is open to the public. Tickets can be purchased for \$4 at the Student Union Information Desk or at the door.

The audience will be entertained

See Asian festival, page 8

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.



COLLEGE CHEER: Gail Brady, Class of 1958, sends us this happy group of RICE coeds singing "a newly-written college cheer." Standing (l to r) are: Ann Cornell, Betty Ann Goselin, Pat Wildprett, Louise Terwilliger, Marge Jackson, Betty Burke, Gail Brady, Judy Giblin and Mary Pat Welch. Seated at the piano (l & r) are Betty Holihen and cheer composer Pat Toohy. Anyone remember the words?

Focus on Faculty and Staff



Ying Zhou, assistant professor of mathematics, recently had two articles published: "Unique Wave Front for Dendritic Spines with Nagumo

Dynamics" in the *Journal of Mathematical Biosciences* and "Using a Computer Algebra System to Teach Numerical Computing to Both Math and CS Majors" in the *Journal of Computing in Small Colleges*.

In the first article it is shown that using a system of non-linear partial differential equations as a mathematical model of a nerve fiber for a large number of factors, which include spine density, there is a unique signal propagating along the fiber whose speed is inversely proportional to the density of the spine. This is a significant finding since it may directly be involved in the learning process. The second article is a pedagogical paper which discusses the rationale and the approach for the teaching of numerical analysis.

Douglas G. Furton, assistant professor of physics, and student Todd Scungio of the physical sciences department, presented a paper entitled "Infrared Spectroscopy of Solids Containing Si-H Bonds: Source of the Interstellar 4.62 micron Absorption Band?" at the NASA Laboratory Space Sciences workshop held April 1-3 at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics. Furton also recently submitted a paper with Adolf Witt of the University of Toledo and Karl Gordon of Louisiana State University entitled

"Silicon Nals: Source of Extended Red Emission?" to the *Astrophysical Journal*.

David Greene, professor of chemistry, was co-author of a paper entitled "Activation of the Carbon-Sulfur Bonds in Benzothiophenes by Pre-Coordination of Transition Metals to the Carbocyclic Ring," which was presented at the American Chemical Society's national meeting in Dallas March 29-April 2. Greene's co-authors included member of Prof. Dwight Sweigart's research group at Brown University with whom Greene worked during his sabbatical leave in the fall of 1997.



Ellen Bigler, assistant professor of secondary education and anthropology, was invited by the Center for Puerto Rican Studies to present at the New York

State Association for Bilingual Education Annual Conference on March 2, in Rye, NY. The presentation was based on her article, "Dangerous Discourses: Language Politics and Classroom Practices in Upstate New York," which appeared in their CENTRO de Estudios Puertorriquenos winter 1997 theme issue focusing on the education of Puerto Ricans in the United States. She also presented a paper at the Ethnography in Education Forum on March 6, entitled "They're No Different than Earlier Waves: Euro-American Teachers Constructing the 'White Ethnic' Experience as the 'American' Experience."

Richard A. Lobban, Jr., professor of anthropology, has edited a



book entitled *Middle Eastern Women and the Invisible Economy* published by the University Press of Florida. The book is a collection examining the "invisible"

women of the Middle East and their vital economic activities. Focusing on daily and domestic life in communities where more than half the population lives and works, these essays highlight the struggles and hardships of women in the region and also establish the distance between this invisible world and the conflict over Islamic issues that dominate headline in the West.

In Memoriam —

Arlyne Harrower, former Alumna of Year, Foundation member

Arlyne Harrower, 73, of West Glocester, a former Rhode Island College Alumna of the Year noted more recently for her work with the RIC Foundation, died March 27 at Roger Williams Hospital, Providence. She was the wife of Harold W. Harrower.

She was to be honored, along with three others, by the Foundation at its ninth annual gala on April 24 for her many years of service and dedication to the College. A 1967 graduate of RIC in English where she also earned a masters in instructional technology, she also was to be honored as an inspiration to students May 14 when she was to be inducted as a member of this year's Alumni Honor Roll.

Born in Newark, N.J., a daughter of the late Herman and Ruth (Meyers) Silver, she lived in Greenville for 17 years before moving to West Glocester 25 years ago.

Mrs. Harrower also had a masters degree in English from Brown University. She taught English at East Providence High School until she retired in the mid 1980s. She also had worked as a nurse for many years.

She was named 1976 Alumna of the Year by RIC and served on the Foundation board of trustees.

Her community activities included service on the Gloucester Planning Board; the Conservation Commission, the Gloucester Land Trust, Ponaganset Civic Association and the Harmony Library board of trustees.

She was active in many professional organizations including the National, New England and Rhode Island Councils of Teachers of English, Women Educators, and the American Association of University Women.

Besides her husband, she leaves two daughters, Ellen Harrower of Boston and Jamie Harrower of Greenville; a son, Thomas Harrower of Warwick, and two grandchildren.

G.L.

The next issue of *What's News* is Monday, April 27. DEADLINE for submission of copy, photos, is Friday April 17 at noon.

WHAT'S NEWS AT RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE

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Jumping right in —

Alumnus finds niche as community police officer

by Shelly Murphy
What's News Editor

When Brian Thornton, Class of 1990, sees something that needs to be done, he jumps right in. That's why being a community police officer in South Providence is such a good fit for this six-foot, five-inch Rhode Island native who is also a captain in the National Guard with both mountaineering and airborne experience.

"I love jumping (skydiving). It's all about conquering fear. Normal people don't just jump out of a perfectly good airplane. But once you get over the fear, it's wonderful," Thornton says.

That zest for life carries over to his police work and played a factor in his desire to become a community police officer. Thornton is one of only 14 community police officers in Providence. He has been on the force for four years, working a variety of posts. He says he particularly enjoyed working the downtown (Central Station) or South Providence posts because there was a lot of activity. "I like to keep a lot of things in the air. I don't like going to work and being bored."

Thornton credits RIC and his ROTC experience at the College with preparing him for the work. "My RIC experience helped me in my job performance. ROTC was the first time I ever had someone really evaluate me, saying: 'This is what you did right and wrong. These are your strengths and weaknesses. Here's what you need to do to improve.'"

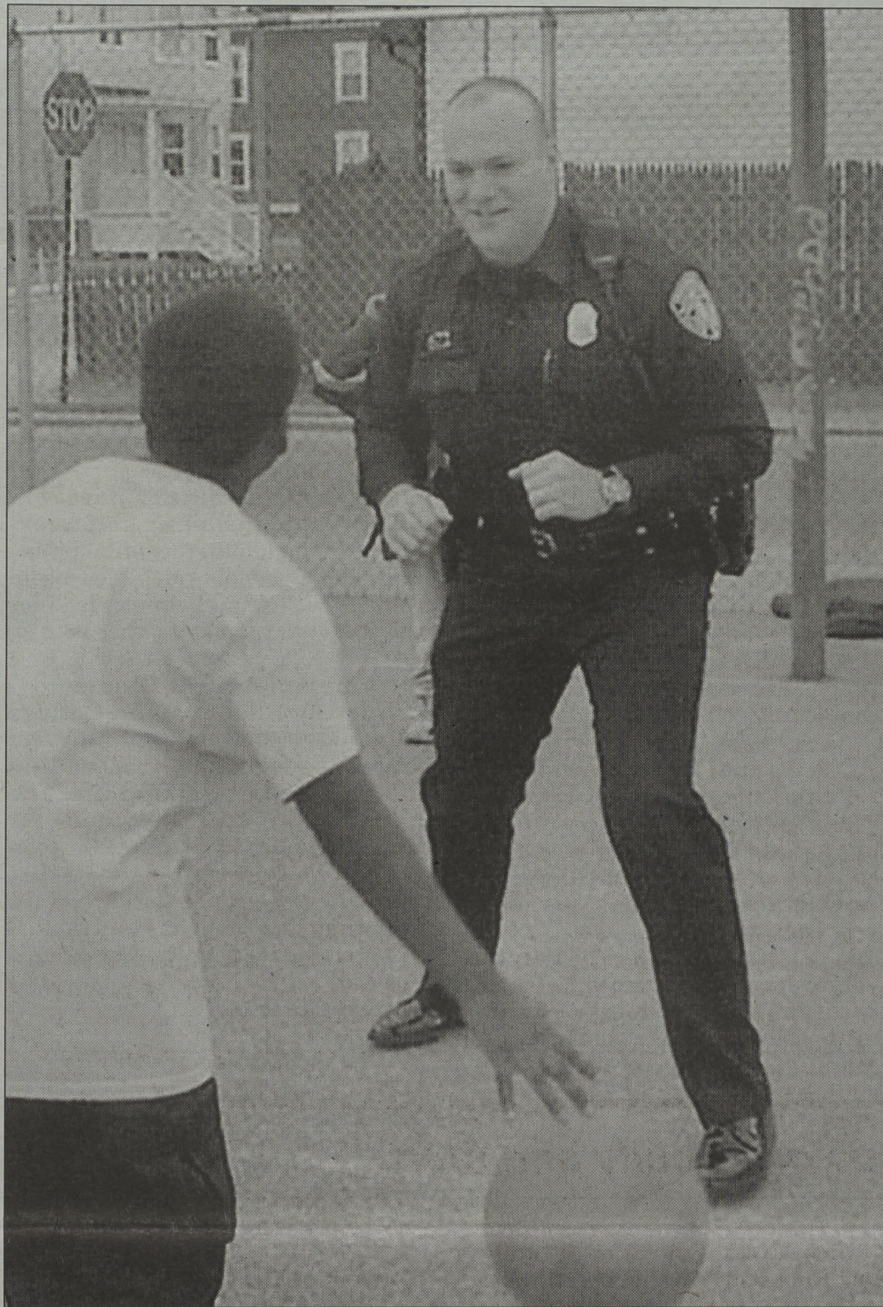
He says up to that point he had "skated by." He went away to Babson College, where he earned B's and C's but didn't really apply himself. "My father told me it was time to take responsibility. He stopped paying for college, so I came home." He worked for a while as an office assistant in a law firm. The hours were long and the pay wasn't great.

"I decided this was not my career choice," he says. So he joined ROTC to earn money for school and came to RIC because of "availability and affordability." When he graduated, he planned to go into the U.S. Army or Rhode Island State Police. Instead, he was assigned to an available position

Thornton and his partner, Nicholas Ludovici, have organized a clean-up on Saturday, April 18, from 9 to 3 p.m. Volunteers are welcome to join the group at 246 Prairie Ave. that morning.

in the National Guard and he didn't make the Rhode Island State Police force because he was 1 percent over the body fat requirement.

He drove a truck for awhile to make ends meet before he was able to get on the Providence police force. After several years of rotating beats, Thornton, who lives in Providence with his wife and two daughters, sought assignment to the community police force.



ONE-ON-ONE: Providence community police officer Brian Thornton plays a little "hoop" at the playground on the corner of Pearl and Providence streets with neighborhood residents. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

"I liked the bouncing around. It was a great way to really learn the city, but I wanted to have post responsibility and to get to know the people who live and work there. The community needs people who are involved," he says.

Community policing provides plenty of opportunity to get involved. Whether it's helping a resident repair her fence so suspected drug dealers can't allude police by running through it, helping bring together a landlord and a person who has been loitering for a face-to-face meeting to reach an understanding, helping rejuvenate and refocus community action

in domestic situations, people just need someone to listen to them and to calm them down so they don't do something they'll regret," he says.

"The patrols handle regular calls. We deal more with quality of life issues — loud music, litter, graffiti, etc. It's about educating people, stopping certain behaviors. It's not just about arrests. For example, they may not know there is a law that all trash cans need lids," Thornton says.

Battling the trash problem is one of their initiatives with the arrival of spring. Thornton and his partner, Nicholas Ludovici, have

organized a clean-up for their post as part of city-wide Glad-Bag-A-Thon. About 75 people are expected to pitch in to clean up the area on Saturday, April 18, from 9 to 3 p.m. Anyone interested in helping is welcome to meet the group at 246 Prairie Ave. that morning.

Preventing problems or cleaning up existing ones is what he enjoys. "I love my work, I am happy to go to work each day."

Preventing problems or cleaning up existing ones is what he enjoys. "I love my work, I am happy to go to work each day."



What's
News

Teachers welcome to Alliance Summer Geography Institute

Practicing teachers in almost any subject area are eligible to join the Rhode Island Geography Education Alliance by attending the Alliance Summer Geography Institute.

The institute provides a week residency at Roger Williams University and a week commuting to Rhode Island College from July 6 to 17 with a day of orientation May 9. There is no expense for teachers who will receive teaching materials, lesson plans, innovative teaching approaches and a method to make presentations to their peers.

By joining, teachers become members of a group of 14,000 teachers from throughout the country that have been supported by the National Geographic Society over the past 12 years.

If interested, apply by April 24 to: R.I. Geography Education Alliance, Rhode Island College, Adams Library 122, Providence, RI 02908. To obtain an application, call 456-8069 and leave a message.

Book signing

Joseph R. Muratore, local historian of the Italian-American community and benefactor of Rhode Island College's Adams Library, will be on hand in the library's main lobby Wednesday, April 15, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. to sign copies of his book *Italian-Americans in Rhode Island*.

Copies of the book, published by Arcadia in its *Images of America* series, can be purchased at that time. Cost is \$16.99. All proceeds will benefit the library.

Women in Prison program May 28

A conference titled "Women in Prison: From Research to Reality," sponsored by the sociology and justice studies departments, will be held Thursday, May 28, at Roger Williams University. Presented by the Rhode Island Department of Corrections Women Division and Women in Transition, Inc., the aim of this conference is to bring academic researchers, practitioners and policy makers together to discuss ways to improve opportunities for women in conflict with the law.

The conference will be keynoted by Nicole Hahn Rafter, Ph.D., a well recognized authority on the history of women's prisons. Sessions will feature presentations dealing with parenting, mental health, health issues and behavioral change.

For more information about the conference, call Sandra Enos at the sociology department at 456-8727 or contact Women in Transition at 781-8717.



Private Support

Marguerite M. Brown, Director



News from the Office of Development,
the Rhode Island College Foundation and the Office of Alumni Affairs

I open this column on a very sad note. A long-time Foundation Board member, Arlyne Harrower, died March 27. Arlyne was an active Board member, a friend of the College, and had been selected as an honoree at this year's Foundation Gala on April 24. Contributions in Arlyne's name can be made to the Harmony Library, Harmony, RI. We will miss her. (See obituary, p. 2.)

Annual Report of Gifts

Most of you have now received your 1997 Annual Report of Gifts. All of you should be proud of the record of giving by our alumni and friends to the College in 1997 that is documented in this 48-page publication. When dealing with a publication that includes almost 6,000 names, inevitably mistakes and oversights occur. We want to take this opportunity to recognize the following individuals:

Anchor Club

In memory of Thomas Pezzullo, Class of 1964

Dean's Council

In honor of Lyle Perra, Class of 1964

Centennial Club

Alan Axelrod, Class of 97

Other Gifts

Louise H. Dolan, Class of 1943
Ed Halloran, Class of 1992
Nellie Mikus, Class of 1933
Grace H. Viall, Class of 1962

Gold and White Society

Sarah S. and Robert J. Black
Vera Sohigian, Class of 1935

Our apologies to the above mentioned individuals. We will be happy to make further corrections as you contact us.

Annual Fund Appeal

Paul Bourget, Class of 1969, this year's Annual Fund Honorary Chair, has enclosed his first appeal for your continued support in this year's Annual Report of Gifts. This spring you can expect to hear from Paul and our student callers as they ask you to consider an unrestricted gift to the Annual Fund to support scholarships, faculty research, and alumni programs and events. The spring phonathon began Monday, April 6.

Foundation Gala

Tickets are available for the Foundation's Ninth Annual Gala to support honors scholarships. The event is scheduled for April 24 at the Westin Hotel. Tickets are \$60 each; black tie is optional. The committee chair, Isabel Picozzi, reports that many wonderful auction items will be available including golf week-ends, diamond earrings, fine paintings, and a gondola ride! Please join the festivities and help us reach for the stars (star students, that is).

Alumni Awards Dinner

Join the Rhode Island College Alumni Association as our alumni and friends honor outstanding alumni from all walks of life. The annual dinner, scheduled for Thursday, May 14, is a time for celebration and recognition of all that the College has done for each of us, and what each of us has contributed to his or her community. (See related story, p. 1 and watch for invitations in your mail.)

New Endowment Funds

The Foundation is pleased to announce that through the generosity of family and friends, the Juliet A. Romano Endowed Scholarship for Early Childhood Education has now

reached the full endowment level of \$5,000. The first scholarship from this endowment will be awarded during the next academic year.

Paul Bourget, Class of 1969, has fully endowed a scholarship to support accounting students. While details governing the criteria for awarding the scholarship are not yet finalized, we also expect to make an award from this fund during the next academic year.

The Caroline A. Laudati Lecture Fund has also been endowed through a generous gift of her family. (See related story below.)

If you have an interest in establishing a scholarship or other fund in the Foundation, call me at 456-8105. As many of you know, the stock market continues to climb, and one of the best ways to make a gift is with appreciated stock. While taking advantage of tax credits for you and your family, you can make a significant impact on the lives of men and women and the communities in which they live and work. Contributions from individuals are the single most important influence in achieving an extra measure of excellence here at the College.

Aunt's love of life, dedication to teaching endures

by Shelly Murphy
What's News Editor

Caroline A. Laudati, who earned her teaching certificate from the Rhode Island Normal School in 1924, was a teacher and a student for all of her 93 years. Her tradition of educating and enriching the lives of others will endure, thanks to a gift from her family to establish the Caroline A. Laudati Endowed Memorial Lecture Fund.

"My aunt would be delighted that others were being educated on account of her. Her life was education," said her niece, Rosalyn Laudati, a psychologist with a private practice in California. "She was a powerful role model for my family. She was my father's sister and was like a third parent to us. She greatly influenced us, to the extent that we all have advanced degrees." Caroline and her sister both have Ph.D. degrees and her brother is pursuing his MBA.

Her impact on their lives extended beyond academics. Rosalyn explains, "She exposed us to things our parents had no interest in or no means to do. She took us to the symphony, to the theater in Boston and New York. She was a great influence on us culturally. She was also a psychologist for us."

For instance, when Rosalyn was experiencing "school phobia, my aunt sat on my bedside every night and talked to me. She and Dr. Mary Thorp concocted a plan to transfer me to Henry Barnard School and my phobia was cured." (Thorp was a member of the RIC faculty for 40 years, including 21 years when she

was the director of the Henry Barnard School. Thorp Hall and a memorial lecture honor her memory.)

Caroline's commitment to learning was evident even in her final days. "A few weeks before she died, I visited her at Christmas. She was pleased to get new books every week from the bookmobile. She was reading all the time. She died at age 93 with all her cognitive faculties. She was critiquing the news and giving her opinion."



CAROLINE LAUDATI
(Photo taken in 1965 when she was a school principal)

However, when Rosalyn made her weekly call to her aunt on Jan. 9, her father answered the phone and she knew her aunt had passed away. As the family gathered in Rhode Island that weekend, "We tried to think of what would be a good tribute for her. A very important part of grief work is to make a tribute," Rosalyn says.

They thought of RIC and wanted to get something moving quickly so they could list it in the obituary, which was to be published the next day. Rosalyn called the RIC development office, but it was a Saturday so the office was closed. Then her husband, James Pick, a professor at the University of Redlands, suggested she call security.

When she explained the situation and the urgency, Lt. Harold Ramsey, who answered the call, was able to help her by giving her the name of the director of development, Marguerite M. Brown, and the town she lived in. Rosalyn found the phone

number in the telephone directory and contacted Brown.

"The willingness of the security officer to listen to an unusual request and to take the initiative to provide information and assistance made the difference. As a result, the College community will benefit from the exchange of ideas and information in these lectures and the family was able to make a tribute that establishes a great legacy for their loved one," Brown said.

The Caroline A. Laudati Endowed Memorial Lecture will support an annual lecture under the aegis of the Feinstein School of Education and Human Development. The topics for the lecture will rotate among her three areas of interest: education, geography/environment and music. "She was a real renaissance woman. She traveled all across the world, including to Mexico in the 1930s. She loved music and musicals. She knew all the words to all musicals," Rosalyn recalls.

Caroline Laudati was a teacher and principal in the Providence School System for 46 years. She also served as principal of Veazie Street, Berkshire Street and Valley View Schools in Providence before retiring in 1970.

In addition to receiving her certificate from the former Rhode Island Normal School in 1924, she earned both her bachelors (Class of 1960) and masters in education (1964) from Rhode Island College. The fund was established as tribute to her far-reaching impact on education in Rhode Island and her commitment to thousands of students over four decades. The fund is open to additional memorial gifts in her name.

For further information, call Brown at 456-8105.

RIC to host Nellie Mae info session

The Rhode Island College campus will be the site for a statewide informational meeting for educators, fundraisers and key policy makers to learn about a new foundation being formed by Nellie Mae.

This new foundation will become the largest charity in New England focused on education and related grantmaking, according to the Nellie Mae. The level of funding is expected to approach \$10 million each year.

The informational meeting will be held Tuesday, April 21, from 2 to 4 p.m. in Gaige Hall auditorium. Larry O'Toole, Nellie Mae's chief executive officer, will be present to discuss the mission and goals of the foundation, answer questions and to hear participants thoughts about education issues affecting their communities.

"We are pleased to be hosting such an important meeting for the education development community. We were happy to be able to accommodate their needs when the Nellie Mae Foundation called us about holding the meeting at RIC," said Marguerite M. Brown, director of development.

Nellie Mae is conducting a meeting in each of the six New England States to inform people about the new foundation and the transition process. About 50 people are expected to attend the RIC meeting.

Nellie Mae, located in Braintree, MA, is the largest non-profit provider of federal and private education loan funds nationally. Since creating the Nellie Mae Fund for Education in 1990, Nellie Mae has contributed over \$4 million to schools, colleges and universities and community-based organizations.

Third annual Gehrenbeck Lecture to feature nationally known author

by George LaTour
What's News Associate Editor

Nationally known author Ruth Lewin Sime will give the third annual Richard K. Gehrenbeck Memorial Lecture "When Race, Gender and Politics Wrote the Script: The Story of Lise Meitner, Nuclear Fission and the Nobel Prize" Thursday, April 30, at 8 p.m. in Rhode Island College's Clarke Science Building 128.

It is free and open to the public.

Sime, of Sacramento City College in California, recently has published articles in *Scientific American* and in *Physics Today*. Her book, *Lise Meitner: A Life in Physics*, was published in 1996.

The book and her lecture at RIC speak about the life of an extraordinary woman physicist — Lise Meitner — working in the earlier part of this century.

The gist of Meitner's story is that she should have shared the Nobel Prize in 1944 for the discovery of nuclear fission, but was denied this honor for reasons having to do with the politics of the time, mainly due to the Nazi regime in Germany, according to Laura F. Cooley, associate professor of physical sciences.

When 60-year-old Meitner fled Nazi Germany in 1938 on the eve of World War II, she carried with her nothing but a few summer clothes, 10 marks in her purse and her lifelong passion for physics. Of Jewish origin, she fled for her life. Eight years later Meitner, co-discoverer of nuclear fission with Otto Hahn, watched as Hahn alone received the

Nobel Prize for their joint research.

Meitner was an extraordinary woman who lived in a time of great changes — intense discoveries, horri-



LISE MEITNER

ble atrocities and shameful lies. All of these touched her life, says Sime.

A great physicist, she lived at a time when physics was blossoming with new ideas and breakthroughs in atomic and nuclear structure.

Meitner was extremely capable and persevering. She worked her way up from "volunteering" in an institute that did not even officially allow women inside, much less pay them to do research, to the distinguished position of professor in 1919.

Why was she excluded from receiving the Nobel Prize?

"Some might call it a careless decision," notes Sime. "Others would call it revisionist history or simply lies. One reason is the absence of her name from important published articles — German persecution of Jews had a huge influence on scientific

research. The Nazis stripped them of professorships, took their jobs (replacing them with "Aryans"), and made it politically difficult to include their names on research papers.

"Long before the start of the war Nazism was making its mark on science and history."

Sime was born in New York City, received her bachelors degree in mathematics from Barnard College in 1960, and a Ph.D. in chemistry from Harvard University in 1964. She has taught chemistry at Sacramento City College since 1968.

Her interest in Meitner began about 25 years ago, when she taught a class on women in science and discovered that little attention had been paid to Meitner's life and work.

The Gehrenbeck Memorial Lecture honors the late Prof. Richard K. Gehrenbeck, who taught physics and the history of science at RIC for 22 years until his death in 1993.

"The subject of this lecture would have been of great interest to Dick Gehrenbeck, who taught the history of nuclear fission at the beginning of his course on 'The Bomb.'

"As a person with a great sense of justice, he would have been glad to see the story of Lise Meitner made right," observes Cooley, who says the lecture will be mostly non-technical and intended for a general audience.

After the lecture the audience will be invited to a small reception for the speaker and the Gehrenbeck family.

The lecture is being sponsored by the Gehrenbeck Memorial Lectureship Fund within the RIC Foundation, the RIC Lectures Committee and the physical sciences department.

Math Awareness Month features speaking program

Rhode Island College is observing Mathematics Awareness Month in April in conjunction with the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) with a speaking program on the theme of "Mathematics and Imaging" sponsored by the mathematics/computer science department.

Speakers from throughout the region have been invited to give presentations on mathematics ranging from the elementary and secondary levels through the college level to make the community at large aware of the nature and advances in mathematics.

Gov. Lincoln Almond has issued a proclamation designating April 1998 as "Mathematics Awareness Month" in recognition of the "importance of mathematics and Rhode Island College's prominent role (in mathematics)," reports Patricia Dulac, adjunct faculty member of the mathematics/computer science department.

Ann Moskol, organizer of the events, says Mathematics Awareness Month "is designed to make the community aware of mathematics and its value at all levels and to provide information to teachers and students alike and the opportunity to exchange ideas."

"It is a very comprehensive and special series of talks and experiences which should enrich their knowledge of mathematics and provide new innovations for teaching and learning."

The public lectures are free.

James King, of the University of Washington, made a presentation on April 6 entitled "Making Geometry Dynamic with the Geometer's Sketchpad," followed by a workshop.

Kim Plofker, of Brown University, will present "Women and Mathematics in Classical India" at 7:30 p.m. on April 20 in Waite's Thresher Hall on the corner of Pine and Chestnut streets in downtown Providence.

The talk will be preceded by dinner at 6 p.m. at the India Restaurant nearby. Call 456-9654 or 456-8038 for more information on the dinner.

Ed Sandifer, of Eastern Connecticut State University, will speak on "Fooling with Divergent Series" at 12:45 p.m. on April 29 in RIC's Gage Hall 373.

George W. Hart, of Hofstra University, will present on "Polyhedra and Art" using computer images at 4 p.m. on April 30 in the Faculty Center.

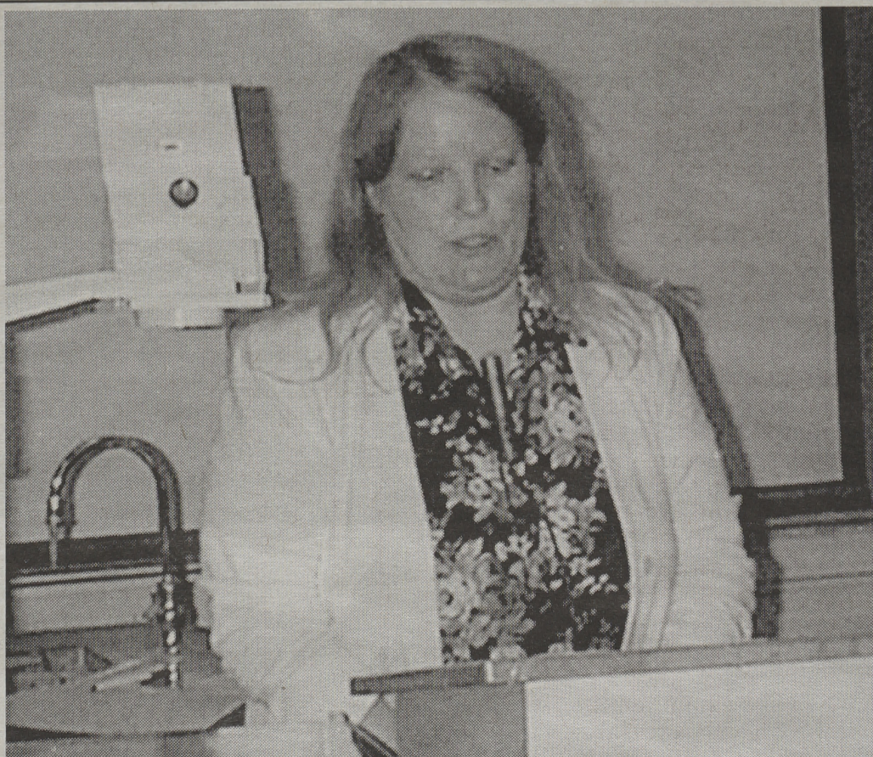
Following this, a ceremony will be held to honor outstanding students, alumni and faculty of mathematics.

A reception and a poster session by RIC students follows.

Also involved in coordinating the event are the following mathematics/computer science faculty members: Fred Harrop, Lisa Humphreys, Mariano Rodrigues, Barry Schiller and Ying Zhou.

Funding is being provided jointly through a grant by the RIC Lectures Committee and the Park City/Institute of Advanced Study.

For more information, call Moskol at 456-8038.



MAIXNER LECTURE: Edythe Anthony professor of biology delivers the Paul Maixner Distinguished Teaching Lecture in Clarke Science 128 on April 1. The title of her address was "Chance and the Prepared Mind." (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)



What's
News

SummerArt camp

SummerArt, a children's art mini-camp, will be held at the Henry Barnard School from July 6-16. Classes will be held from 9 a.m. to noon, Monday through Thursday, each week. The program is designed to provide a relaxed, yet stimulating environment in which students can explore — in a fun, exciting and individualized way — their creative interests. Classes will be offered for children ages 5 through 15 and will include mixed media, sculpture, introduction to computer art and drawing. Tuition (which covers all materials) is \$150. For further information, contact Chris Mulcahey Szyba at 401-456-8128 or 456-8054.

Students lend a helping hand

Twelve Rhode Island College students traveled to inner-city Philadelphia to spend spring break in service of those who are less fortunate.

The program was sponsored and coordinated by the Chaplains' Office in conjunction with the Redeemer Ministry Corps (RMC) of Philadelphia.

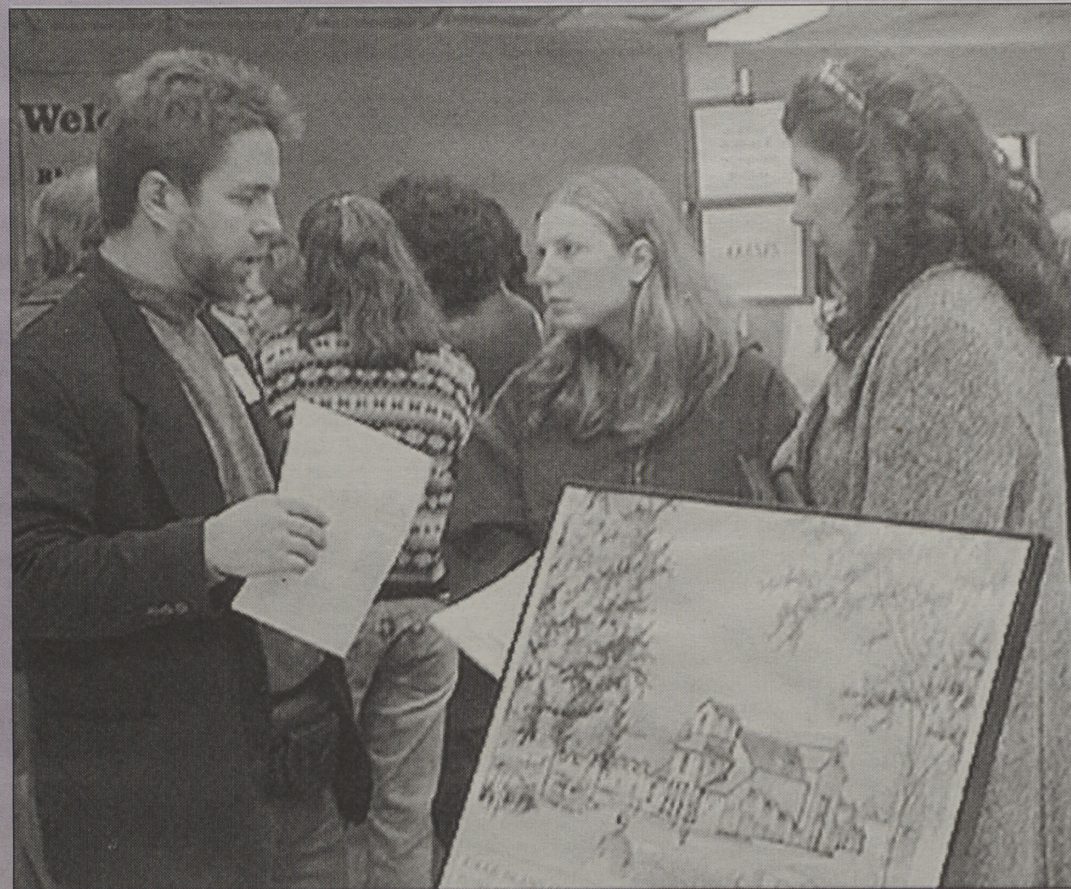
Students worked in four different placement during the day: Project Rainbow, a transitional housing program which offers single mothers and their children a temporary place to live; Old St. Joe's Outreach, an agency which provides service to the homeless through a clothing bank and a food kitchen; St. Barnabas, an emergency shelter for single mothers and their children in inner-city West Philly; and Our Mother of Good Counsel Center, a nursing home for previously homeless elderly women.

Students Rebecca Akers, Jennifer Butler, Jennifer Congdon, Amy Gonzalez, Elizabeth Jaeger, Tracee Johnson, Melissa Jordan, Michelle Laliberte, Jennifer O'Donnell, Christopher Shamp, Robert Taboada and Kristina Viera helped out in Project Rainbow's day care program, delivered soup and brown bag dinners to the homeless and helped the nursing home patients with daily activities.

Evenings were spent together in prayer and discussion. Students got to know each other better and shared their thoughts and experiences.

The experience was an eye-opener for many of the students who were struck by the harsh realities of the inner-city poor. They worked hard and learned a lot and had fun while making a difference.

Spring Admissions party gives prospective students a taste of RIC



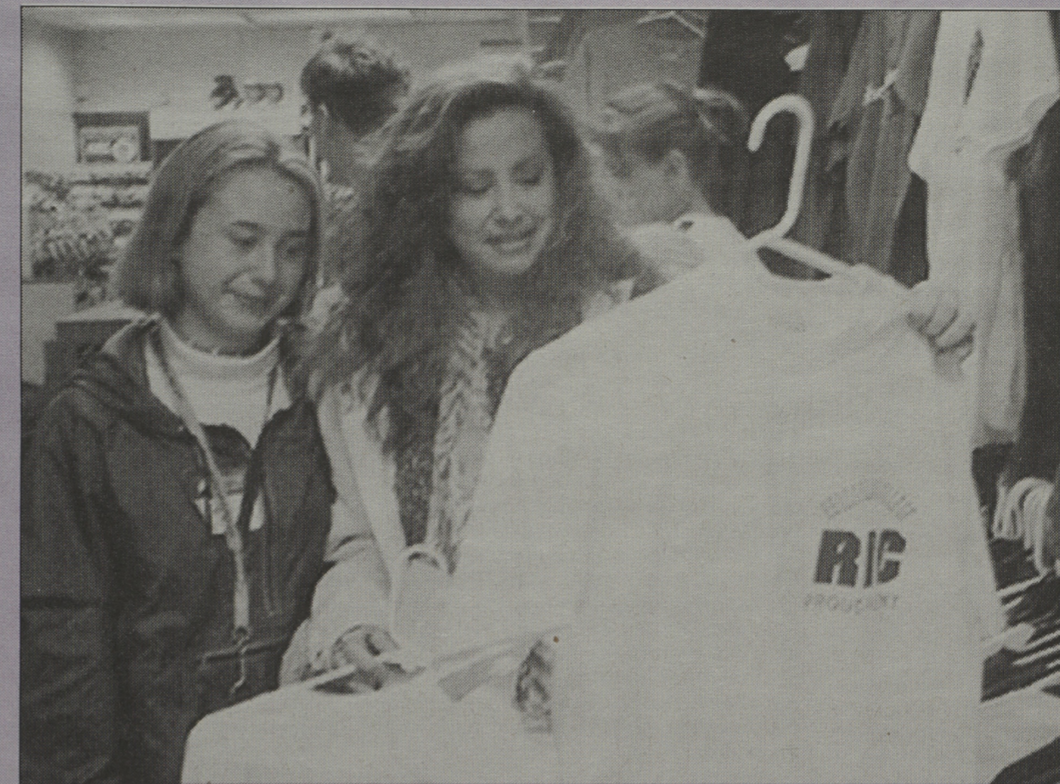
The Rhode Island College Office of Undergraduate Admissions held its "Spring Party for Accepted Freshman" on Sunday, April 5. And according to Holly Shadoian, director of undergrad admissions, it was a great success. Over 700 prospective students and their parents flocked to the event, centered in Donovan Dining Center and the Student Union ballroom.

More than two dozen students took the plunge, as it were, and enrolled, thereby qualifying for an instant RIC I.D. card.

There seemed to be an increased interest in living on campus among those attending, said Shadoian. For the first time during an admissions open house, all five residence halls were open to view and the tours of the residences, which began an hour before the official beginning of the party, proved to be very popular.

The most popular aspect, however, was undoubtedly the ice cream sundaes, served up by administrators, faculty and staff.

Here is a glance at the day's activities:



Photos and text by Gordon E. Rowley



TOP OF PAGE: Jessica Audette (left) and her mother, Cheryl Fleming, shop in the Campus Store. AT LEFT: English professor Spencer Hall, director of the Honors Program, explains his program to prospective students. BELOW: Peggy Sandoval, Class of 1999, addresses the capacity crowd in Donovan Dining Center.



TOP OF PAGE: Prof. Rob Franzblau of the music department talks with Bethany Benak and her mother, Sherry Hill, of Old Saybrook, Conn. ABOVE LEFT: Vice President for Student Affairs Gary Penfield makes a sundae for Jessica Lovett of Johnston. ABOVE RIGHT: A campus tour pauses on the esplanade. AT RIGHT: Melissa Silva (left) of Fall River looks over the student newspaper The Anchor with her parents Dennis and Bernadette.



Alumni award winners/honor roll

Continued from page 1

inquiries for people who want to become high school mathematics teachers and is relied upon as a specialist in matters of certification.

According to Helen Salzberg, chair of the department, "Dr. Smith has been the heart of the Graduate Committee, the expert on our graduate programs, the organizer of master's exams and arranger of independent studies, and a major participant in the recent revision of our M.A. program."

Described as "a compassionate listener and advisor to students and parents, and a resource to faculty and staff," O'Connor displays sensitivity to all who call upon her for advice and information, according to her citation.

Serving as interim director in the Office of Financial Aid in several instances, as well as serving on numerous committees in her nearly 20-year tenure on campus, she displays the qualities of a team player.

Noting that the recipient of the Willard Achievement Award shall be "an outstanding citizen who has made an important contribution to the state which reflects the ideals of service to which RIC is committed," the Alumni Association cites the executive director of the YWCA of Greater Rhode Island, Cipriano, as one who is responsible for an organization that offers programs to thousands of women and their families.

Throughout her professional and personal life, she has contributed numerous hours as a volunteer serving on boards of directors and task forces. In 1997 she was honored by Justice Assistance for her work on behalf of services to victim populations.

Honor Roll

All Honor Roll recipients are graduates of the College, have been out of RIC for at least five years, recognized for their achievement in their chosen field and considered role models whose success demonstrates the value of a

RIC degree.

A photograph and background information on each winner is mounted, framed and displayed in the Board of Governors Conference Room in Roberts Hall for one year and then sent to the respective departments for permanent display.

Accounting/Computer Science: James F. Reynolds, Class of 1989, assistant treasurer/application development manager, State Street Corporation, Boston.

Art: Gerry Perrino, Class of 1980, M.F.A., Syracuse University; has been teaching at RIC since 1983 as well as RISD, UMASS-Lowell and Syracuse where he was recognized for Teaching Excellence. His work is exhibited in private collections in the U.S. and Europe.

Bachelor of General Studies: Diane Warren, Class of 1980, freelance actress, writer, director. She has appeared on Broadway, Off-Broadway and with regional theatre groups, including Trinity Repertory. Her TV credits include *All My Children*, *Guiding Light*, *One Life to Live* and *Ryan's Hope*.

Biology: Anibal Melo, Class of 1982, M.A., RIC; M.D., University of Washington, St. Louis. He's a physician at Jewish Hospital of St. Louis.

Career and Technical Education: Carl Lauro, Class of 1978, M.Ed., Providence College; serves as an assistant principal, Central High School and administrator of After School Programs, Providence. Recipient of a Teacher Excellence Award.

Chemistry: Christopher Reddy, Class of 1992, Ph.D. in chemical oceanography, URI; serving as a postdoctoral scholar, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute. Honored by Save The Bay and the Governor's Office for research related to the North Cape Oil Spill. Discovered the diesel fuel was twice as toxic as originally thought.

Communications: Dante Bellini Jr., Class of 1980, executive vice president, the RDW Group, Inc., Providence. In addition to being a partner, he is responsible for major accounts. Active with Justice Assistance, past president R. I. Ad Club, he

does pro-bono work for Paul Newman's Hole In the Wall Gang Camp for seriously ill children.

Dance: Nola Rocco, Class of 1981, M.F.A., UCLA; assistant professor of dance and theatre at SUNY, Potsdam. Noted by the *LA Times* as an "ambitious choreographer," she served as coordinator for the R.I. Dance Consortium.

Economics: Kelly Chaston, Class of 1988, M. A., University of New Hampshire; Ph.D., Boston College; associate professor of economics, Davidson College, Davidson, N. C.

Elementary Education: Susan Schenck, Class of 1973, M.Ed., RIC; Ph.D. from the University of Connecticut; she serves as director of Clinical Experiences at RIC. Returned to RIC from the College of Charleston provost's staff. Under her leadership, the area of clinical experiences has undergone extensive redesign and improvement.

English: Arlyne Harrower, Class of 1967, M.E., RIC; M.A., Brown University; former English teacher; RIC Foundation trustee; Alumna of the Year in 1976; donated funds to the English department for the Harrower Award for Graduate Students in English. This honor is given posthumously as Harrower died March 27.

Health/Physical Education: Jacqueline Cardillo, Class of 1989, M.Ed., RIC; integrated arts/physical education teacher, Attleboro School Department. Her leadership in the program, her participation in professional meetings, regionally and nationally, and her professional publications are fully reflective of her dedication to the profession.

History: Maureen Taylor, Class of 1978, M.A., RIC; library director, R.I. Historical Society; published author on historical topics. In 1996 awarded the Gilbert Doane Award from Rhode Island Genealogical Society.

Management and Technology: James McGuire, Class of 1970, M.Ed., Ball State University; Ph.D., University of Connecticut; associate professor, RIC; Certified as senior industrial technologist; serves as National CAD Drafting Skills contest chair.

Management: Margaret M. Lynch, Class of 1985, J.D., Suffolk University; special assistant to the Rhode Island attorney general. She serves as the chief of the domestic violence/sexual assault unit; active with R.I. Rape Crisis Center and R.I. Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

Mathematics: Gerald G. Magnan, Class of 1965, M.A.T., RIC; Ph.D., Idaho State University; chair since 1976, mathematics department, Bristol Community College. Teaches more than 20 different courses. Received Scriptor and Scroll Award from BCC for exceptional service and leadership.

Music: Peter Boyer, Class of 1991, M.M. and D.M.A., Harrt School of Music, University of Hartford; visiting professor of music, Claremont Graduate University;

promising young composer, winning multiple national competitions. His new work *The Phoenix* will premiere at Carnegie Hall, in May.

Nursing: Cynthia Joly, Class of 1983, M.S., URI; nursing professional with 35 years of diverse experience; nursing school instructor as well as operating room staff nurse.

Political Science: Davida Andrews, Class of 1985, M.A. Brandeis University; business development officer, assistant VP, Chase Manhattan Bank, N.Y.

Political Science/Public Administration: Scott M. Simoneau, Class of 1987, M.P.A., University of Connecticut; policy analyst, Connecticut General Assembly; developed recommendations to improve long-term care delivery system for the elderly.

Psychology: Anne Gormly, Class of 1966, M.A. and Ph.D., University of Illinois; vice president and dean of faculty, Georgia College & State University; an American Council on Education Fellow; an outstanding teacher and scholar, strong record of scholarship in professional journals and author of several textbooks.

Secondary Education: Maureen Whalen Spaight, Class of 1970, M.A.T., 1981; social studies teacher, East Providence; R.I. Teacher of the Year, 1998; Keizai Koho Fellow, Japan 1997; National Council for Geography Education Distinguished Teaching Award; active in the R. I. Geography Education Alliance; participated in Marco Polo Expedition, a U. S. Navy and National Geographic on-site study of Mediterranean region and North Africa.

Social Work: Carol Brotman, Class of 1989, M.S.W., RIC; coordinator of housing issues for the Poverty Project at RIC School of Social Work; as a volunteer, has devoted her energies to working with the poor and oppressed; nationally recognized housing expert.

Sociology: Carol Zangari, Class of 1975, J.D., Suffolk University; trial attorney, Anderson, Anderson & Zangari, Providence.

Special Education: Lucy Miller, Class of 1978, M.Ed., Idaho State University; educator on loan, North Carolina Department of Public Instruction; 1997 National Technology Teacher of the Year by *Technology and Learning* magazine and Microsoft for organizing SWAT team — Students Working to Advance Technology.

Technology Education: Michael Barnes, Class of 1988, M.Ed., RIC; Ph.D., University of Connecticut; department chair of technology education, Ponaganset High School; 1997 Milken National Educator Award; 1997 Fulbright Memorial Fund Scholar-Japan.

Theatre: Mary O'Leary, Class of 1977, Producer of ABC-TV's *One Life to Live*; guest lecturer on "Producing a Daytime Serial" at over 20 universities and colleges in the U. S.

Asian festival

Continued from page 1

and informed about the ceremonial dance and clothing of the cultures of India, Hmong, Laos, and Cambodia, as well as witness the famous dance of the Chinese New Year — the Dragon Dance. All dancers and models are RIC students, except for the Cambodian group which is from Fall River. Toua Vue, a social work student, will act as emcee.

The menu planned for the evening dinner, which begins around 7 p.m., will come from local restaurants specializing in ethnic foods. Each country's delicacies will be represented.

Annual Fund

Continued from page 1

May 7, but a few students will continue to call alumni throughout the summer to ask for their support of the 1998 Annual Fund, which uses the theme "Keep the Flame Burning."

"We have hired 22 of RIC's finest students who are very enthusiastic about being an instrumental part of our campaign. We have found that students' calling alumni creates a very positive connection. The alumni enjoy talking to students and remi-

A dance party follows dinner, with music played from different Asian cultures. People are encouraged to bring in music to participate in the open DJ format.

According to ASA President Tia Dong, "The students are putting this together to raise awareness about the different cultures within the Asian communities. It's important for Rhode Islanders to know that each culture represents its own history."

For further information, call Prof. Tony Teng, ASA advisor, at 456-9751, Dong, at 272-9919, or ASA Vice



RUBE GOLDBERG INVENTION: Bob Douglas (right) of North Providence High School lights a match to set off a "transfer energy machine" during the Rhode Island College Science Olympiad, held April 4 in Donovan Dining Center. At left, fellow classmate Tim Starr times the machine. Over 600 students from 46 junior and senior high school competed in the day-long event. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

RIC Athletics



DONALD E. TENCHER

*director of intercollegiate athletics,
intramurals and recreation* **456-8007**

Thousands attend NCGA Championships

The last week in March was quite a busy one around the RIC campus as the College hosted its first ever national gymnastics championship. Over 150 gymnasts and coaches converged on the state to participate in the National Collegiate Gymnastics Championship at RIC.

The week started with the teams arriving on Wednesday from all over the country and checking into the championship headquarters at the Providence Marriott. That evening, Gov. Lincoln Almond hosted a State House reception for the student-athletes at which the House of Representatives presented each team participating with a citation.

Thursday was a day for practice and sightseeing as some teams visited historic Newport and got a chance to see our fabulous shoreline as well as Narragansett Bay. That evening was a sellout and Sara DeCosta, keynote speaker and the Ocean State's newest Olympic gold medal winner, was outstanding. The evening ended with entertainment.

Friday was the day to get down to business as the day was filled with coaches' meetings and the team com-

petition. Over 1,000 people attended on Friday to see some of the country's best Division Three gymnasts in action. Awards were given out by Lenore DeLucia, vice president of administration and finance, the event honorary chairperson.

Saturday was the individual championship and another record crowd attended. The student-athletes were just outstanding both on the competition floor and in all the activities that were held.

RIC certainly came out of the week with a big time national reputation for hosting this event. It will surely pay great dividends in future recruiting and in hosting future national championships.

I would like to thank everyone who played a role in this outstanding event. I would particularly like to thank the committee: Paul and Cathy Pelletier, Dick and Dottie Stapleton, Stephanie Cleary, Lolita Lipa, Jenna Daum, Frank Anzeveno, Kim Zeiner, Gail Davis, and Scott Gibbons. Lastly, I would like to thank the RIC gymnastic team for a great season!

Sports Roundup

Baseball

The baseball team is 2-7 overall and has yet to play a game in the Little East Conference. RIC returned home from a rainy trip to Florida with a 1-3 record. Third baseman/designated hitter Brian Fineberg leads the team in hitting with a .406 batting average. First baseman Jim Fitzgerald is batting .378 with four runs scored and a team-high eight RBI. Shortstop Ed Silverio is batting .379 with a team-high six runs scored.

Lefty pitcher Chris Lyons is 1-1 with eight strikeouts in 15 innings of work. Mike Bento is 1-0 with seven strikeouts in 12 and 1/3 innings.

Women's Gymnastics

The Anchorwomen closed out the season with an impressive performance at the 1998 Division III Women's National Collegiate Gymnastics Championships hosted by Rhode Island College on March 27 and 28.

RIC registered its highest point total of the season with a 142.025 mark and finished in eighth place. Amy Bright was named an All-American and placed seventh in all-around competition. She had marks of 8.950 in the vault, 8.850 on the bars, 8.950 on the beam and 9.225 in the floor exercise for a combined score of 35.975.

Michelle Pelletier established a new school record with a 9.650 score in the floor exercise during the first night of competition. Pelletier finished the championships ninth in the vault and 11th place in the floor exercise.

Kate Goyette placed 12th on the bars with a two-day total of 17.950.

Softball

The Anchorwomen are currently 8-5-1 overall and have yet to play a game in the Little East Conference. Catcher Jennifer Sabatelli leads the team in hitting with a .381 batting average. She also has ten runs scored and four RBI. First baseman Stephanie Marshall is batting .341 with a team-high nine RBI. Second baseman Monique Marchand is batting .359 with nine runs scored and two RBI.

Pitcher Erika Roderiques is 4-1 with a 0.65 ERA and 11 strikeouts in 21 innings. Lea Wiggins is 2-2 with a 1.99 ERA and is batting .294. Shana Willis is 1-2 with a 2.74 ERA and is batting .268.

Men's and Women's Track and Field

The men's and women's track and field team took part in the Bridgewater State College Invitational on March 28, 1998. Keely Subin placed second in the 400 meters with a time of 64.3 seconds. Kerri Dubord placed third in the 200 meters with a 29.8 second time. Janet Moran was third in the 400 meters and fourth in the 200 meters with times of 67.1 and 29.9 respectively. Sarah Traynor was sixth in the 3,000 meters with a time of 13 minutes, 13 seconds.

Gymnastics co-captains finish collegiate career in style

by Scott Gibbons
Sports Information Director

When Rhode Island College hosted the 1998 Division III Women's National Collegiate Gymnastics Championships on March 27 and 28, it marked the last time senior co-captains Kelli Doorley and Laura Murphy would compete in collegiate gymnastics. Murphy, the only four-year letter winner on this year's roster, and Doorley, who battled an assortment of injuries throughout her career, were the cornerstones of the team this winter.

First year Head Coach Kim Zeiner, who took over for Dick Stapleton who stepped down after last season, relied heavily on Murphy's and Doorley's leadership abilities. "As a coach, whenever you come into a new situation, you want to have athletes who are good people on and off the floor," Zeiner says. "Coaching Kelli and Laura has been a pleasure. They worked with the younger gymnasts on the team and generally made my job a lot easier."

Murphy averaged scores of 8.777 in the vault, 8.210 on the bars, 8.018 on the beam and 9.075 in the floor exercise in 1997-98. Her average all-around total, which includes each event score, was 34.265 for the season. "I feel I've come a long way since my freshman year," the Swansea,

MA resident says. "My all-around scores were in the low 30's when I first got here and they improved into the 34 range this year."

This season, Murphy registered season-high marks of 8.975 in the vault at the Eastern College Athletic Conference Tournament held at Ursinus College, 8.850 on the bars against MIT, 8.850 on the beam against Bridgeport, 9.425 in the floor exercise and 35.325 in all-around competition at the NCGA Championships. She performed very well at the NCGAs, finishing 15th in all-around competition, narrowly missing a chance to be named All-American.

"I thought I did well this season, but I wish I could have done a little better at the NCGAs," the 1994 graduate of Joseph Case High School in Swansea says. "I wish I had one more year to compete," she smiles. An excellent student, Murphy was also named an Academic All-American by National Collegiate Gymnastics Association.

Her score of 8.850 on the bars is 17th all-time in RIC history in that event. She is sixth all-time with a

career-best score of 9.425 in the floor exercise. Her all-around total of 35.325 points total in all-around competition is seventh all-time. Each of her career-high marks were set this winter.

Murphy, a community health/school health major is hoping to find work in her field after graduation. She continues to concentrate on her gymnastics and is planning to take part in the Bay State Games this summer. She also helps coach at Joseph Case High School in Swansea and at her hometown gym, Paramount Gymnastics.

Kelli Doorley's season was remarkable considering what she had to physically endure to compete each day. Despite battling a bad back for most of the year, she didn't miss a meet all season. Her typical practice day began with a half an hour of treatment in the training room. After a two and a half hour practice, it was back to the training room for ice treatments and stretching for 20 minutes. "I'd like to thank our trainer, Jerry Shellard, for all of his help this year. I wouldn't have been able to compete at such a high level without him," she said.

Doorley, a 1994 graduate of South Kingstown High School, originally attended the University of Rhode Island, but transferred to RIC after her sophomore year. "I am really glad that I came to RIC because I was able to compete in every event, not just specialize in one."

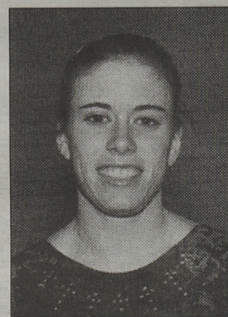
The Peacedale, RI resident averaged scores of 8.578 in the vault, 8.213 on the beam and 8.730 in the floor exercise this season. Doorley averaged a combined score of 31.588 in all-around competition in 10 meets.

She registered season-high scores of 8.950 in the vault and 9.150 in the floor exercise against Springfield and 8.900 on the beam against Bridgeport. Her top all-around performance was a 32.650 score in the Springfield meet. Doorley placed 21st in all-around competition at the NCGAs. Her scores of 9.200 in the vault and 9.050 on the beam, both set in 1996-97, rank in the top 15 all-time at RIC.

Doorley, a communications major with a minor in public relations, is looking to pursue a career in the sports industry. She is currently a coach at Aim High Gymnastics Academy in East Greenwich, RI, owned by Amy Nelson, a former RIC women's gymnastics assistant coach. Doorley says, "Even though I'm not competing anymore, I still want to be involved with gymnastics. I am very interested in coaching at the high school level someday."



KELLI DOORLEY



LAURA MURPHY

RIC Theatre offers 'a Valentine' to the era of the '20s with 'The Boy Friend'

by George LaTour
What's News Associate Editor

The joyful musical satirizing the manner of the 1920s, *The Boy Friend*, will be staged April 23-26 by Rhode Island College Theatre in evening and matinee performances in Roberts Hall auditorium.

This is the revue that so hilariously lampooned the era of speakeasies, cloche hats, dresses with no waistlines and hems at the knee, that it ran for well over three and a half years in London, where it was born. New Yorkers thronged delightedly to it for over 60 weeks after its thunderous opening night there in September 1954.

That *The Boy Friend* was no mere Broadway success, but a national one, was proved by the hit the show scored on some 35 other cities that it visited during an 18-month tour, and also by a phenomenal sale of its record album.

Elders in search of their lost youth, and lost youths in search of their elders' backgrounds, made *The Boy Friend* into one of the biggest hits of its time.

The tale on the period of The Charleston, hip-flasks, coonskin coats and Rudy Vallee was written by a man named Sandy Wilson who could only have known the era from a playpen's view, since he was born in 1924. But all the same, 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 early kind of jazz of the Twenties.

For a plot he took the one about the poor boy who falls in love with the rich girl posing as a poor girl.

Only in this case, the poor boy also turns out to be a rich boy in disguise.

The heroine's widowed father meets up with an old flame from Paris and love is rekindled. The heroine's three girl friends are wooed by as many handsome men (wearing white flannels, blazers and boaters) but hold up their answer until the magic of midnight. At the stroke of 12, hero gets heroine, pop gets his old flame and the three girl friends says "yes," adding up to the happiest ending of a musical comedy since 1929.

Meanwhile there are the era's customary stilted music cues.

There is a song 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 is a tango specialty and sessions with The Charleston, the two-step, the bunny hug and the Lindy Hop. All are accompanied by an orchestra unafraid to use a battery of saxophones, drum blocks, cymbals and a banjo.

The Boy Friend is more than a satire, how-

ever, for it also recaptures the quite real entertainment values of the Twenties. The recreated flappers and figures out of John Held Jr.'s cartoons from the footloose times of Scott Fitzgerald are not only funny, they are also endearing.

William M. Wilson Jr., assistant professor for theatre in the RIC Department of Performing Arts, who directs the musical, says despite a curtain speech saying the musical is a "spoof," he thinks this production is more "a Valentine to the era."

The wanton abandon of the Twenties, the short bobbed hair and flat chests of the girls, the "collegiate" boys, are not gone forever. They are all to be found once again in *The Boy Friend*.

Melissa D'Amico of North Scituate will have the role of the show's heroine, Polly Browne, in which Julie Andrews made

her

American debut in the New York production. Donald Ringuette of Pawtucket will be seen as the object of her affection, Tony, the socialite in modest disguise.

Elizabeth M. Parrillo of Webster, Mass.; Kimberly R. Malone of Lewiston, Idaho; Denice M. Handren and Rachel L. Bodner, both of Johnston; Diane E. Fauteux of New Bedford, Mass.; Laurie-Lee M. Dillon of Portsmouth, and Alaysha A. Cotton of Cranston will be seen as her gushing school-mates.

Beckley Andrews of Gloucester will play the flirtatious and coy Maisie and her real-life brother, Andy Andrews, a stereotypical Roaring '20s young man, the rich and attractive Bobby Van Husen. Sarah A. Martini of Cranston will be seen in the droll character of the headmistress of their French school, Mme. DuBonnet.

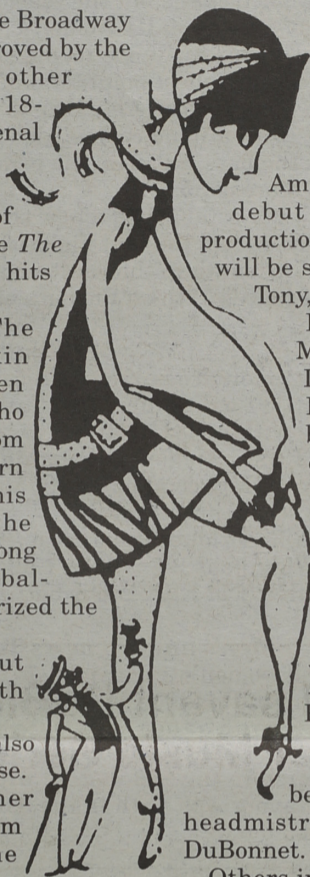
Others in the cast are: Laura C. Brittan of Portland, Ore.; James M. Calitri of Wakefield; Bonnie M. MacKay and Michael Ricci Jr., both of Providence; Derek A. and Douglas W. Perry of Cranston, and Adam Twiss of Newport.

Kristen F. Vaillancourt of Providence is stage manager and Tania M. Rocha of East Providence is assistant stage manager.

Evening performances at 8 p.m. will be Thursday, Friday and Saturday, April 23, 24 and 25. Matinee performances at 2 p.m. will be Saturday and Sunday.

Tickets are \$14 with discounts for senior citizens and students and may be purchased in advance by telephone via VISA or MasterCard by calling 456-8060.

The box office is open daily from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and until time of performance.



Director has strong background in musicals



BACKSTAGE: William M. Wilson Jr. behind the scenes in Roberts Hall auditorium.

The director of the musical *The Boy Friend*, to be staged by Rhode Island College Theatre April 23-26, has some definite ideas about presenting this "spoof" of the Roaring '20s.

First off, he is NOT presenting it as a spoof, despite the curtain speech that labels it as such.

William M. Wilson Jr., originally from Detroit but now Providence, thinks of the RIC production as "more of a Valentine to the era."

"I've seen the musical done both ways"—as spoof and straight (much in the manner of *No No Nanette* in 1927 which he terms "real.")

"I don't think they winked at the audience and made fun of it," says Wilson, adding, "I don't want the actors to be cardboard cutouts. I want them to be real, to have depth."

"I don't want the actors to be cardboard cutouts. I want them to be real, to have depth." — William Wilson

Not-with-standing this, "they may be overblown and bigger than life" in their portrayal of the characters in the Sandy Wilson (no relation) musical done on Broadway in 1954.

It was the era of The Charleston, hip-flasks, coonskin hats and Rudy Vallee — ingredients with which a delightful soufflé can be made.

The three-act musical — unusual today when most musicals are two acts — runs between two and two-and-a-half hours and is guaranteed to please.

Wilson joined the RIC faculty as an assistant professor for theatre last September, coming with a strong background as director and choreographer with such productions to his credit as *The Music Man*, *Godspell*, *South Pacific*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Carousel*, *The Sound of Music* and *Anything Goes* for university and community theatres. *The Boy Friend* is his first production at RIC.

He has a bachelor of fine arts degree in musical theatre performance from Western Michigan University; a master of fine arts degree in directing from Wayne State University where he also has done course work toward a Ph.D.

About *The Boy Friend*, Wilson says, "It's the most fun to work on, full of energy, song and dance and a complete change from last year's RIC Theatre production of *The King and I*."

G.L.

Special tickets to Saturday matinee to benefit Shinn Study Abroad Fund

Tickets to *The Boy Friend* Saturday matinee ordered through the Rhode Island College Foundation will benefit the Ridgway F. Shinn Study Abroad Fund.

Such tickets are \$25 and entitle the holders to the performance and a reception afterward in Whipple Hall 102 at which winners of the 1998-99 Shinn awards will be announced.

Those who made contributions or purchased matinee tickets by April 15 are eligible to win a weekend in the Berkshires in a luxury condo with dinner for two in the Lenox House and two tickets to the Norman Rockwell Museum. The drawing will take place at the reception.

To get matinee tickets that will benefit the Shinn Fund, write or call Lynn Vinacco at the RIC Development Office, 600 Mt. Pleasant Ave., Providence, RI 02908. Telephone: 456-

8105. Checks should be made payable to the RIC Study Abroad Fund.

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 Professor 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.

Any undergraduate with one year of full-time study at RIC and in good academic standing in any field of study is eligible to apply. Grants are for a minimum of three months and a maximum of 24 months, and are of variable amounts.

George Masso Quartet to play jazz, pop tunes in Chamber Music Series April 15

The George Masso Quartet, featuring jazz trombonist George Masso who has played with the likes of Benny Goodman, Bobby Hackett and George Shearing, will perform in the Rhode Island College Chamber Music Series Wednesday, April 15, at 1 p.m. in Roberts Hall 138.



GEORGE MASSO

The performance is free and open to the public. On the program will be Burke-Johnson's "Pennies from Heaven," Duke Ellington's "Do Nothin Til You Hear from Me," Antonio Jobim's "Triste," Ray Noble's "The Very Thought of You," Thelonius Monk's "Blue Monk" and Vincent Youmans' "Sometimes I'm Happy."

In addition to Masso, the quartet is comprised of Chris Neville on piano, Bob Petteruti on bass and Artie Cabral on drums.

Masso, an active jazz and studio musician, has literally made thousands of professional performances and recordings over the past 50 years.

In addition to having performed and recorded with Goodman, Hackett and Shearing, he was a member of the "World's Greatest Jazz Band."

He has been active as a trombonist in a wide variety of situations including recordings, television and movie soundtracks and national and international touring groups.

He has spent many years as a musical educator in Connecticut and Rhode Island, having lived for 22 years in Scituate. He lived in New York City for the next 20 years and currently lives in Narragansett.

Most recently he spent five weeks last fall touring Europe with a jazz ensemble.

Bus trip planned for Peter Boyer's Carnegie Hall premiere

Peter Boyer's (Class of 1991) *The Phoenix* will premiere at Carnegie Hall in New York City on Sunday, May 17.

The New York Youth Symphony will perform the work at its gala closing concert of its 35th season.

The RIC Alumni Association and the Department of Performing Arts is sponsoring a trip to New York City May 17 to be a part of the audience who will witness this premiere.

The chartered coach will depart

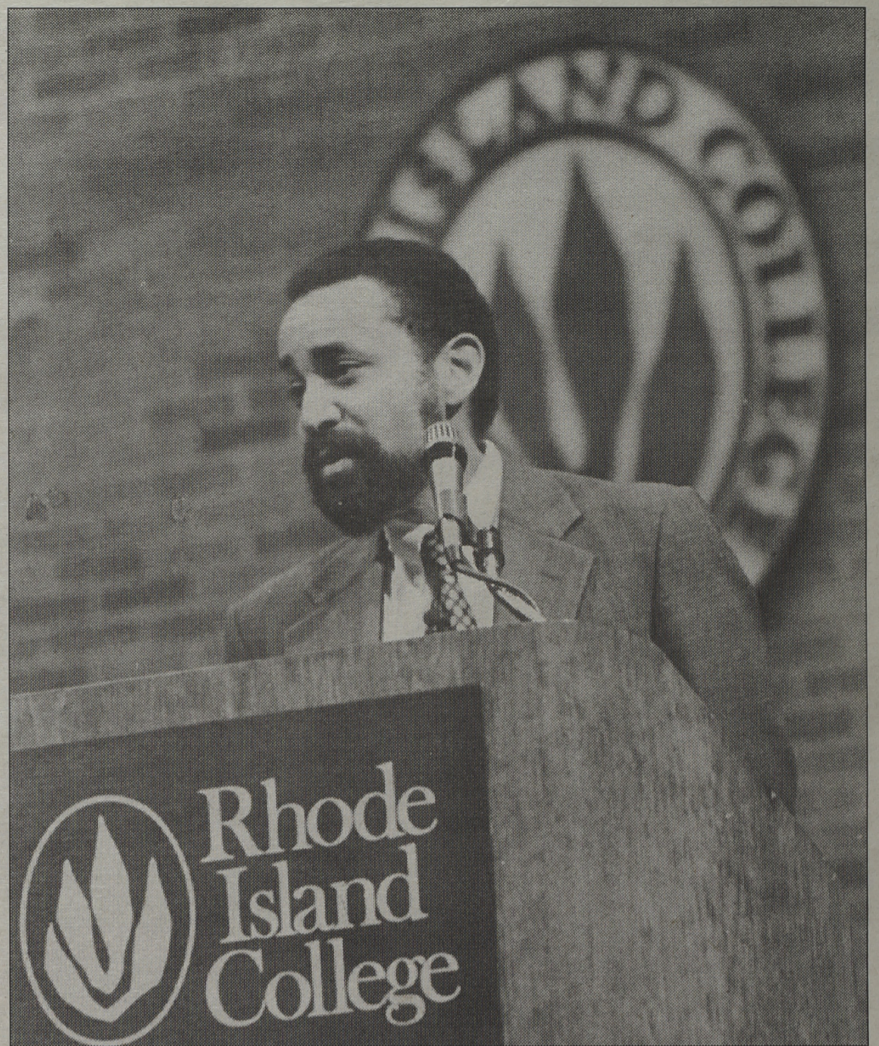
from Roberts Hall at 8:30 a.m. and will return at approximately 9 p.m. This will allow participants a few hours on either end to sightsee.

The concert is at 2 p.m. Carnegie Hall is located at 57th Street and 7th Avenue. The cost for door-to-door transportation and a general admission ticket to the concert is \$28. Reservations should be made through the Alumni Office at 401-456-8086. Seating is limited, so reservations are encouraged.

Off to Washington, D.C.!



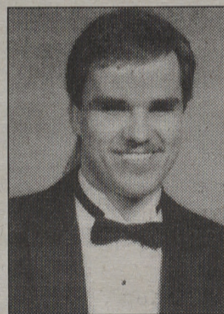
STATE CHAMP: Adam Lesnikowski, a 6th-grader at Jenks Junior High in Pawtucket, is the winner of the 10th Annual Geography Bee, held April 3 in Gaiage Hall auditorium. Adam will represent Rhode Island in the National Geography Bee in Washington, D.C. Above, he receives an Atlas from the competition moderator Prof. Mark Motte. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)



CLINTON ADVISOR: Christopher Edley Jr., senior advisor to President Clinton for the Race Initiative and consultant to the President's Advisory Board on Race Reconciliation, delivers an address entitled "Color at the Close of the Century" on March 25 in Gaiage auditorium. Edley's visit to the College was sponsored by the Dialogue on Diversity Committee, which also held several workshops during the day-long event. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

Musical savant DeBlois to perform in Chamber Music Series April 22

Tony DeBlois, a 23-year-old musical savant from Waltham, Mass., will perform on piano in the Wednesday, April 22, Rhode Island College Chamber Music Series beginning at 1 p.m. in Roberts Hall 138.



TONY DEBLOIS

Being born weighing 1 3/4 lbs. was only the first obstacle that he had to overcome. Additionally, he is blind and autistic.

DeBlois has been playing piano since the age of 2 and has gone on to win numerous awards and a degree *magna cum laude* from Berklee College of Music.

His awards include the coveted Reynolds Society Achievement Award, the Foundation for Exceptional Children's "Yes I Can" award and the Panasonic-sponsored Very Special Arts Itzhak

Perlman Award.

He was the subject of a CBS made-for-TV Movie of the Week *Journey of the Heart* which was inspired by actual events in his life.

As DeBlois' "Let me do it independently" attitude inspires the many people who meet him, his talents are being noticed internationally.

Stories about him have been broadcast on both National Public Radio and Voice of America radio stations. Spots about him have aired in documentaries in Rome, Japan and London, and Virginia Aronson's 1996 book *Different Minds, Different Voices* contains a chapter about him.

Besides piano, DeBlois plays the organ, harmonica, guitar, harpsichord, English bells, violin, banjo, drums and trumpet.

For DeBlois, there are no "roadblocks" but mere obstacles to be cast aside or skirted. His favorite phrase seems to be, "I haven't learned that yet."

For more information, call John Pellegrino, series coordinator, at 456-8244.



The Rhode Island College Foundation Ninth Annual Gala

honoring Arlyne Harrower, posthumously; Theresa Howe; Mary Juskalian; and Frank Montanaro

Friday, April 24, 1998
The Westin Hotel
7 p.m.

\$60 per person
Black Tie Optional

For tickets or details, call 401-456-8105.

RIC CALENDAR

APRIL 13 — 27

Month-long

Rhode Island College is observing Mathematics Awareness Month in April in conjunction with the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) with a speaking program on the theme of "Mathematics and Imaging" sponsored by the mathematics/computer science department. See story on page 5.

Tuesdays

Noon to 1 p.m.—*Bible Study.* Chaplain Larry Nichols is conducting Bible Study. Everyone is invited to join him in the SU 300 for an informal discussion of the Bible. Bring your own lunch.

Wednesdays

12:30 to 1:45 p.m.—*Catholic Student Association* meets in SU 300. Any Catholic student who would like to be a part of this group is asked to drop in on any meeting. You can join at any time. Pizza and refreshments are provided on a bi-weekly basis.

13 Monday

9:30. to 4:30 p.m.—*Discussion: "Funding the Arts and Artists in New England"*—a day-long celebration of the arts, with panel discussions and public forums. Keynote address by Gigi Bolt, director of the theatre program, National Endowment for the Arts. RIC Faculty Center and Gaige Auditorium. For more information, call 456-8194.

13-17 Mon.-Fri.

Personal Training Week in Rec Center Pool. By Appointment — call today! Sponsored by Aquatics 456-8227.

15 Wednesday

1 p.m.—*Chamber Music Series:* George Masso's Jazz Quartet in Roberts 138.

12:50 p.m. - 1:50 p.m.—*Brown Bag Lunch Discussion: "25 Years of Conflict: Mexico, the US, and the Petroleum Controversy"* in Gaige 207. Sponsored by the History Department 456-8039.

17 Friday

6 p.m.—*Spring Cotillion* at Providence Biltmore. \$15 tickets available at S.U. Info Desk. Sponsored by R.S.A., 456-8240

20 Monday

8 p.m.—*Comedian:* Andy Richter from the Conan O'Brien Show in Donovan Dining Center. Tickets are \$3 with RIC I.D.; \$5 without. Sponsored by RIC Programming, 456-8045.

21 Tuesday

2-4 p.m.—*Nellie Mae Foundation state-wide informational meeting* for educators, fundraisers, and policy makers to learn more about the new organization. Larry O'Toole, Nellie Mae's CEO, discusses mission and goals of the new foundation. Gaige Hall auditorium. For more information, call 1-800-338-5626, Ext. 2516.

22 Wednesday

TBA—*Auditions for Senior Speaker for Cap and Gown Convocation* on May 6. Sign ups at S.U. Info Desk. Sponsored by Class of 1998, 456-8088

12:50 p.m. to 1:50 p.m.—*Brown Bag Lunch Discussion: "Two Chinas, One China, Two Systems, and Beyond"* in Gaige 207. Sponsored by the History Department, 456-8039.

1 p.m.—*Chamber Music Series:* Tony DeBlois, jazz piano in Roberts 138.

23-26 Thurs.-Sun.

Theatre: *The Boy Friend.* This musical revue hilariously lampoons the 20s—the era of speakeasies, the Charlestown, the bunny hug, the Lindy hop, hip-flasks, coonskin hats, and Rudy Vallee. Call 456-8060 for ticket information.

23 Thursday

7 p.m.—*Earth Day Slide-Show Presentation: Western Wilderness Issues.* Horace Mann 193. For more info. call Barry Schiller, 456-9654.

24 Friday

7 p.m.—*Ninth Annual RIC Foundation Gala.* This year's event honors Arlyne Harrower (posthumously), Theresa Howe, Mary Juskalian and Frank Montanaro. The Westin Hotel. \$60 per person. Black tie optional. For tickets or details, call 456-8105.

25 Saturday

3 p.m.—*Second annual Come Experience the Richness of Asia* sponsored by the Rhode Island College Asian Students Association (ASA). The event features dancers and fashion from different countries, ethnic foods and music. Tickets \$4. Student Union Ballroom. Call Tony Teng, ASA advisor, at 456-9751.

27 Monday

7 p.m.—*Fashion Show* in Student Union Ballroom. Sponsored by Harambee.

Sports Events

Softball

April 14	W. Conn. St. (DH)	3:30	P.M.
April 21	UMASS-Dartmouth (DH)	3:30	P.M.
April 23	at Roger Williams	7:00	P.M.
April 25	UMASS-Boston (DH)	1:00	P.M.

Baseball

April 14	at Roger Williams	3:00	P.M.
April 18	W. Conn. St. (DH)	1:00	P.M.
April 21	Johnson and Wales	3:30	P.M.
April 25	at Keene State (DH)	1:00	P.M.

Men's Tennis

April 11	at S. Maine	1:00	P.M.
April 14	Suffolk	3:30	P.M.
April 16	at UMASS-Dartmouth	3:00	P.M.
April 18	Little East Championships *		TBA
April 19	Little East Championships *		TBA

* held at Plymouth State College

Track & Field

April 11	at Conn. College Invitational	10:00	AM
April 18	Tri-State Championships #	10:30	AM
April 25	Little East Championships +	10:00	AM

Denotes held at Bryant College

+ Denotes held at Bridgewater State College

Annual Sports Auction to be held May 6

The second annual RIC Sports and Memorabilia Auction will be held on Wednesday, May 6 at the Providence Marriott. All proceeds from the event go toward the academic support program that was established this year. Items to be auctioned off include a variety of memorabilia as well as trips, event tickets, golf packages and dining experiences.

Additionally, there will be refreshments, entertainment, and a free gift to all attendees. Tickets are \$10.

For additional information or to purchase tickets, call the Athletic Department at 456-8007.

Commencement dates

Cap and Gown Day

Wednesday, May 6
12:30 p.m.
Roberts Hall auditorium

Graduate Commencement

Thursday, May 21
5:30 p.m.
New Building

Commencement Gala

Friday, May 22
6:30 p.m.
Donovan reception and dinner at 7:30 p.m.
Music by *Avenue A*
The cost is \$17.50 or 2 for \$30.
For reservations, call 401-456-8022.

Undergraduate Commencement

Saturday, May 23
9:30 a.m.
Esplanade in front of New Building



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.