



WHAT'S NEWS

AT RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE

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Pilot computer helps 'even tired' students want to keep on learning English

Outreach programs bridge gap for immigrants

by Shelly Murphy
What's News Editor

Imagine moving to a country where you don't speak the language. Even though you may have extensive education and professional experience in your home country, you end up working in a factory or driving a cab. You might even work two jobs to make enough money to survive. How do you: Learn the language?, Advance your skills?, Obtain appropriate cer-

everyday living English, and they help students gain skills or training that are in demand. These disciplines include computers, electronics, medical assistant and medical third-party billing.

Computers help break language barrier

This year the latest technology is being employed in a pilot project to make a dent in the language wall that so often keeps immigrants from realizing their dreams in America. Computer Assisted English Language Learning (CAELL) is a

'Once they get into the computer lab, they perk up and they don't want to go home.' — Giroux

tifications for your profession?, or all of the above when you are working constantly and struggling just to get by in this strange place?

This is the dilemma faced by many of the students who find help from the staff at Rhode Island College's Outreach Programs, located at the Center for Management and Technology in Whipple Hall. The Outreach Programs work exclusively with individuals who are "outside of the economic mainstream" because of their limited-English speaking capabilities and their cultural differences. This includes new immigrants and immigrants who may be unemployed or whose jobs have been eliminated.

The Outreach Programs encompasses several courses of study which provide English language and vocational training as well as job skills and job placement services. The programs help students learn English, including job specific and

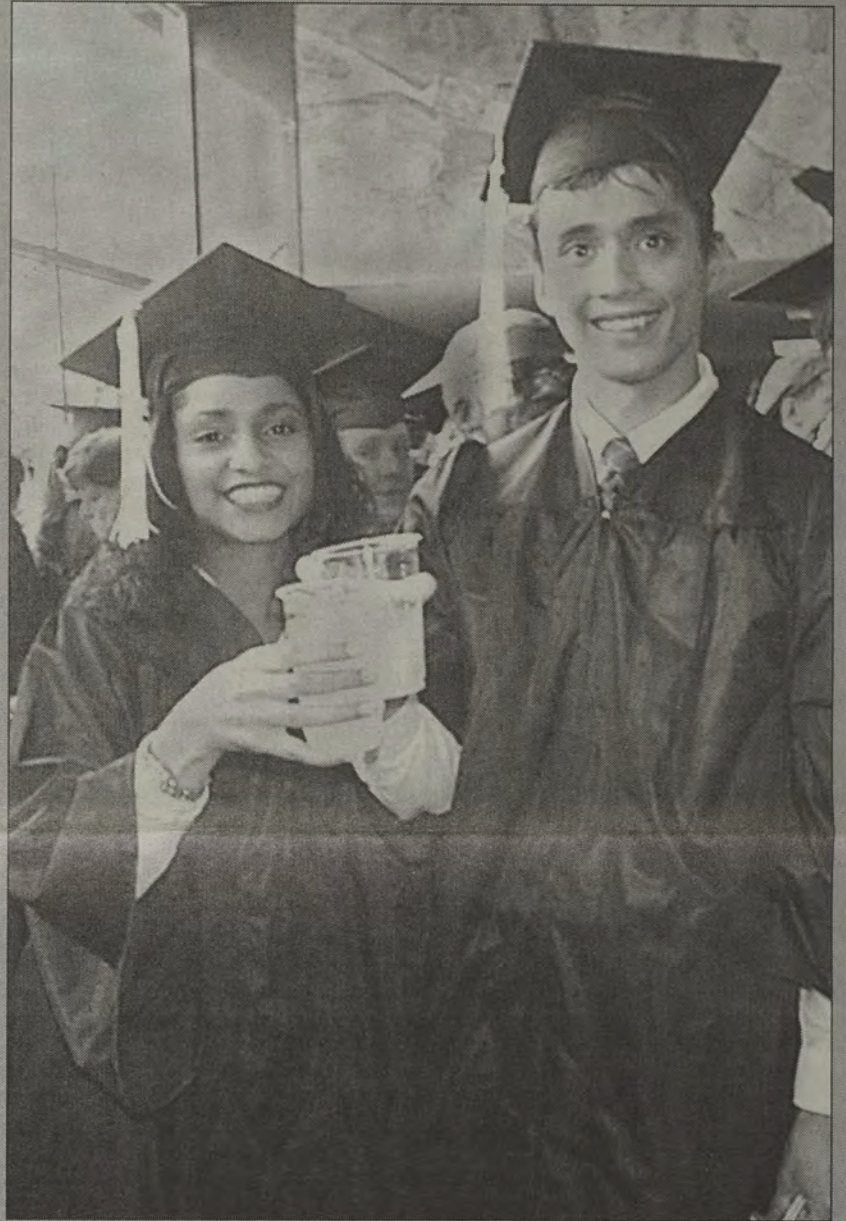
16-week course, consisting of three hours of class two days a week. In addition, the students have access to 10 hours of open computer lab time.

The first two hours of class provide traditional language instruction involving writing, reading, and grammar assignments and group discussion. The third-hour is individual learning in a computer lab.

Some immigrants are referred to Outreach soon after arriving in this country, but not all students follow such a direct path. Sometimes, they discover the Outreach Programs as a matter of chance. For instance, Nancy Bustos was a secretary in Colombia before she came to America nearly 25 years ago. She worked on an assembly line in a factory at Hasbro for 23 years until her position was eliminated last year when the company decided to move the plant out of the country. Now, as a displaced worker, she is finally

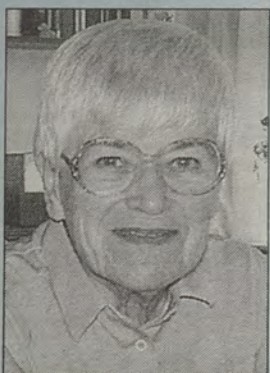
See Outreach staff, page 8

The future looks bright



A LEMONADE TOAST: Cap and Gown speaker Buffy Fermino (left) and Claiborne deB. Pell Award winner Robert Thistlewaite celebrate in the lobby of Roberts Hall after the ceremony at which graduating seniors don their mortarboards and academic gowns for the first time. For more on Cap and Gown Day, see pages 6 and 7. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

Proud to be... a part of RJC!



Mary Davey graduated from Rhode Island College of Education in 1941 and taught elementary school in Providence for 13 years. In 1954, she returned to RICE as director of public relations and alumni affairs, a post she held for 25 years, until her retirement in 1979. Her fondest memory of the old Normal School building was the music room, "a very large room on the south side of the third floor, overlooking downtown Providence." It was the setting for music classes, rehearsals, plays and small concerts. The director of the accapella choir was John B. Archer, whom Mary remembers as a kindly man who never refused to accept an applicant to the choir, but "arranged the seating so that those of us with limited talent could enjoy participating without spoiling what he formed into an excellent choral group."

Faculty promotions, tenure announced

Rhode Island College President John Nazarian has announced faculty promotions and tenure granted to faculty, and extended an invitation to the College community to join him at a reception to be held in their honor Friday, May 15, from 3-5 p.m. at the President's House.

The following faculty promotions take effect July 1:

Promoted to Professor

Yael Avissar, biology; Mary Foye, Henry Barnard School; John Gleason, special education; George Mack, music; Robin Montvillo, psychology; Carolyn Panofsky, educational studies; Barry Schiller, mathematics/computer science; Carol Shelton, nursing, and David Woolman, library.

Promoted to Associate Professor

Nancy Evans, art; Douglas Furton, physical sciences; Yolande

Lockett, nursing; Apollos Nwauwa, history; Betty Rauhe, health/physical education; Xae Reyes, educational studies; Joanne Schneider, history; Earl Simson, psychology; Ronald Tibbetts, Henry Barnard School, and Jane Williams, nursing.

Granted Faculty Tenure

The following faculty members have been recommended to the Board of Governors for tenure effective July 1 of the year indicated. The board is scheduled to act on these recommendations on May 27:

Nancy Evans, art (1998); Douglas Furton, physical sciences (1998); Apollos Nwauwa, history (1998); Betty Rauhe, health/physical education (1998); Xae Reyes, educational studies (1998), and Charles Snow, accounting and computer information systems (1999).

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.



CLOWNING AROUND? It seems appropriate that for this May issue of What's News we take a look back at this photo taken in May of 1947 and sent to us by Mary Lou Fillo Blecharczyk, who is in the center. To her right is Virginia Livingston Nichols, and to her left is Claire M. Beirve. All three are members of the Class of 1947, and the location is the terrace of the now-demolished Rhode Island Normal School building.

RIC alum coordinates music festival

John W. Fuzek, Class of 1990 and masters in 1994, is festival coordinator of the fifth annual Hear In Rhode Island Festival to be held at India Waterfront Park in Providence June 13-14 from 11 a.m. until 7 p.m. Fuzek is an accomplished singer, songwriter and guitarist who has performed in the Northeast for over a



JOHN FUZEK

dozen years. In 1994, he founded Hear In Rhode Island, an annual free festival which showcases the original music of Rhode Island artists. Assistant festival coordinator is Greg Bass.

As part of the duo Fuzek/Rossoni or as a solo, Fuzek has shared his music with many audiences via live shows, radio and television. This

music deals with his views of life and issues of which he is sensitive presented in a rock/pop/folk-based acoustic sound.

Fuzek, of Greenville, is currently planning his first full length solo project and other future plans include touring and working with Mary Ann Rossoni on a new Fuzek/Rossoni project.

Rock, jazz, folk, country, urban, ethnic and children's music are included in the acts of over 80 acts performed on four stages simultaneously. Family activities, art exhibits, arts and crafts vendors, food vendors and mind/body/spirit/health vendors are also featured.

Acts scheduled for this year's festival include Bill Petterson Band, Delta Clutch, Mary Ann Rossoni Band, Mark Cutler, Chris & Meredith Thompson, Barb Schloff, JP Jones, Tish Adams & Willie Myette and many others.

For more information or to volunteer at the two-day festival, call 401-949-0757.



A CAMBODIAN BLESSING DANCE was one of several highlights of the 2nd Annual "Come Experience the Richness of Asia" celebration held Sunday, April 25 in the Student Union ballroom. The event was sponsored by the RIC Asian Students Association. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

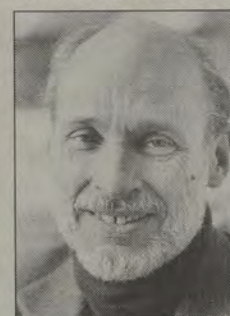
Focus on Faculty and Staff



J o a n Rollins, professor of psychology, was appointed to the Rhode Island Board of Examiners for Psychology in December 1997 by the Department of Health, with consent of Gov. Lincoln Almond. The Board is responsible for licensing of psychologists in the state, for accrediting courses for continuing education of psychologists and for ethical standards for psychologists. The Rhode Island Psychological Association, on March 27, presented Rollins with the Musiker-Merenda award, which is presented annually to one person for "outstanding contribution to mental health in Rhode Island." Rollins, Samuel Ciotola, Class of 1997, and Angelica Spirito, Class of 1998, co-authored a poster session at the New England Psychological Association which was held at Stonehill College in October. The title of the paper was "Permeability of Boundaries in Cross Sex Friendships."

Peter Allen, professor of anthropology, recently traveled to Kiel, Germany, for CINARCHEA, an international symposium and festival of archaeological films. Allen delivered a paper entitled, "Visual Resources in Archaeology: Problems and Promises of Proliferation." He also served as a member of the jury for the film festival, viewing approximately 35 films entered in the competition. Winner of the Grand Prize was a French film on the new underwater excavations in the Harbor of Alexandria, Egypt.

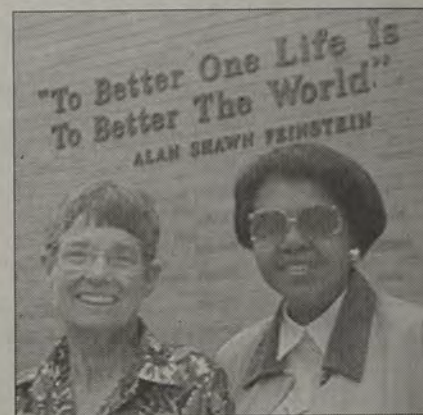
David Woolman, associate professor in the James P. Adams Library, chaired a panel presentation on the development of K-12 social studies guidelines in Rhode Island at the 29th Northeast Regional Conference on the Social Studies in



Boston on March 5. The panel introduced elements of *A Standards-Based Guide to Improving Social Studies Programs in Rhode Island Schools*, a document being developed by the Department of Education. The guide was written over the last year through a collaborative effort by curriculum specialists at the Department of Education, college professors and local social studies teachers. Other RIC faculty con-

tributing to this project were **Peter Moore** of economics and finance and **Anne Petry** from elementary education. Woolman wrote the chapter on resources for classroom instruction, outreach activities and professional development. He also presented a paper entitled "Globalization: A New Challenge for Education and Development in Africa?" at the 1998 annual conference of the Comparative and International Education Society in Buffalo, N.Y. on March 19. The paper was part of a panel organized by the Society for Educational Reconstruction on problems and prospects for education in developing countries being impacted by global economic development.

Elizabeth Henshaw, assistant professor of elementary education and **Elizabeth Rowell**, professor in the same department, made a presentation at the Annual Association of Teacher Educators Conference in Dallas, Texas, on Feb. 16 entitled "Helping Students Make a



ROWELL (LEFT) AND HENSHAW

Commitment to Multicultural and Anti-bias Education." They made a similar presentation in October at the Northeast Regional National Lab School Conference held at Henry Barnard School on the Rhode Island College campus. In November, the two presented at the Association of Educators of Young Children's annual conference in Anaheim, Calif. This workshop was entitled "Going from a Multicultural to an Anti-bias Perspective with Children's Literature." They will also make this same presentation in May at the annual conference of the International Reading Association in Orlando, Fla.

*Congratulations
to the
Class of 1998!*

—News and Public Relations

WHAT'S NEWS

AT RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE

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All in the family—

Like mother, like daughter: they share many things, including a RIC diploma

by George LaTour
What's News Associate Editor

A mother and daughter will graduate together May 23 from Rhode Island College, but that is not the only thing they have in common.

Both graduated from Cranston East High School where they had some of the same teachers; both will earn bachelors degrees in political science and public administration; both will pursue careers in public service; both share a deep love of their "biggest advocate," their mother and grandmother who died recently, and each has a strong admiration for the abilities and dedication of the other.

Dorothy E. McDonough of Cranston and her daughter Kellie will host "a big party" on graduation day at their home where Garry McDonough, a very proud husband and father, and other family members, Shayna and Garrett, will lead the celebration.

"Graduation will be a happy event, but to a degree will be sad also," notes Dorothy, who, with tears in her eyes, recalls her mother, Anne "Nana" McDonough who passed away in February.

"She was our biggest advocate," she says. "She hung out with us," adds Kellie. "We miss her terribly."

Dorothy graduated from high school in 1971 and entered RIC to study special education and art, but after one semester she married and moved to California for a brief period.

She and her husband raised their three children while both worked, Dorothy in the evenings, even while she sought to benefit society in other ways.

"I contributed in another way through all my public activities and a lot of advocacy work," relates Dorothy.

She has served as an elected member of the Cranston School Committee; worked as a tireless advocate for children and adults with disabilities; served on the executive board of the Rhode Island Association of School Committees, and most recently turned her time and talents to secure employment and training for economically disadvantaged and under-represented populations.

And she is active in the effort to develop school-to-work initiatives for the state Department of Education.

Recently she was one of the honorees at the YWCA's Outstanding Women Award ceremony.

"People can really have an impact on change," says Dorothy, "and I had done all I could at that level and needed a degree to do it at a new level."

She re-entered RIC in 1995 joining her daughter Kellie in the search for knowledge.

"I was very nervous about coming back as an adult," admits Dorothy, who credits the people in the political science department for being "really understanding — they treat adult learners with a lot of respect and credit you for your life experience."

Mother and daughter took some classes together.

"The first time it seemed strange (having your mother in class with you)," says Kellie, "but the teachers were more weirded out than me." She laughs at her creative vocabulary.

"We consulted each other on our



ALL IN THE FAMILY: Graduating seniors (l & r) Dorothy McDonough and her daughter Kellie. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

homework," says Kellie, "but people thought that Mom did my homework. She didn't. We have completely different views."

Kellie has been a resident assistant in the student living quarters and a work-study student in the office of Career Services. Additionally, she worked at Stop & Shop and all the while managed to be on the Dean's List as an outstanding student.

"I'm very proud of Kellie," says Mom. "And I'm very proud of you," says Kellie.

"We work hard at whatever we do," assures Dorothy.

At the recent Cap and Gown Convocation Dorothy was awarded

the John H. Chafee Award in political science as the outstanding student in that discipline.

She says now that she will have her degree she will continue to work in the public sector.

"If you want to improve things you really have to participate and it's a continual learning process. I've implemented policy before. Now I want to develop policy."

For daughter Kellie it will be on to graduate school — "I've been accepted at three schools" — and then she will go into public administration.

"She's her mother's daughter," observes Dorothy.



SECRETARIES' DAY was celebrated with a breakfast in the Faculty Center for the College's clerical staff on April 22. Above (l to r) Dottie Sullivan, psychology; Patricia McDonough, elementary education; and Debbie Iannuccilli, accounting; receive carnations from Lenore DeLucia, vice president for administration and finance. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)



What's News

Students intern in Mayor Cianci's office

Three Rhode Island College students served internships in or through Providence Mayor Vincent A. Cianci's office this year.

The three are Richard Mona of Cumberland, a senior majoring in justice studies; Gina Nardolillo of Cranston, a junior with a double major in psychology and justice studies, and Sharon McMichael of Cumberland, a senior majoring in marketing.

Mona worked at the Providence Police Department, transferring fingerprints from paper to the new Automatic Fingerprint Information System. A former auxiliary police officer for the Attleboro, Mass., department, Mona said he found working in a metropolitan police department "a real learning experience."

Nardolillo worked with the Providence Police Department Youth Services Division. McMichael worked in the mayor's Special Events Office, attending press conferences and assisting in the planning of events.

Student yearbook on sale

This year's edition of the Exodus Yearbook is now on sale. It contains pictures of all of the major events of the past academic year, senior pictures, student organizations, sports and commencement. Entitled, *Ticket for the Future*, Exodus '98 is available to the entire College community for \$25. Order forms are available at the Student Union Information Desk. For more information, call 401-456-8257.

Great Plains donates software

Rhode Island College has recently been awarded a software donation valued at \$40,000 from Great Plains Software, Inc. of North Dakota. The donation is being made through the company's Education Alliance Network program which is designed to help schools utilize technology in the classroom. By joining the Great Plains' Education Alliance Network, a network which enables colleges around the world to provide Great Plains' client/server financial management software as a key component of accounting curriculums, RIC received Dynamics software and educational materials including instruction manuals, sample data, technical support and lesson guides. Jane Przybyla, assistant professor of accounting, was instrumental in obtaining the software donation which is being used in accounting and management information systems courses.



Private Support



Marguerite M. Brown, Director

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

My last column for the 1997-98 academic year begins with more good news that is a direct result of the energy and commitment of alumni and friends of the College.

This year's Foundation Gala netted just over \$10,000 to support honors scholarships. An enthusiastic and dedicated committee, led by Chair Isabel Picozzi and staffed by Suzanne Augenstein, set new records for auction items donated and proceeds realized. The ballroom at the Westin Hotel was decorated with art work from the students at the Henry Barnard School honoring our stars of the evening: the late Arlyne Harrower, Theresa Howe, Mary Juskalian, and Frank Montanaro. (See photos on page 12.)

The family and friends of the late Thomas J. Howell, professor, philosophy, formalized the creation of an endowed scholarship in Dr. Howell's name with a luncheon in the Alumni Lounge. Family, former students, and colleagues made contributions to the fund, which will benefit students in the philosophy department. Any who would like to make a contribution to the growth of this fund may send gifts to the Rhode Island College Foundation in Dr. Howell's name.

Commencement may be upon us;



HOWELL SCHOLARSHIP: A new endowed scholarship fund in the memory of the late Thomas J. Howell, a professor in the philosophy department, was announced on April 29 at a reception in the Alumni Lounge. Above, Richard Olmsted (second from right), treasurer of the RIC Chapter of AFT presents a check for \$1,000 to Richard Weiner, dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences. Looking on are Elena Leonelli, sister-in-law of Tom Howell and Tom's son, Philip. The philosophy department will be conducting a campaign to add to the endowment, which will benefit philosophy students. (What's News Photo by E. Rowley)

however, the offices of Alumni Affairs, Development, and the Foundation are in high gear for upcoming activities. The

Foundation's Annual Golf Day, which last year raised \$25,000 for honors scholarships, is scheduled for August 11 at the Warwick Country Club. Circle your calendar now for great golf, wonderful food, and a good cause.

The Alumni office is finalizing the schedule for Homecoming '98, scheduled for Oct. 2 and 3, 1998. This year will feature a reincarnation of the Cabaret, so popular in the 1980s, numerous reunions, athletic events, musical performances, and the Hall of Fame event, which will induct and honor former members in a formal ceremony.

This week also saw the classes of 1932, 1938, and 1935 host their 66th, 60th, and 63rd reunions, respectively. The energy of the members of each one of these classes is a model for all of us. They are proof that affection and support for Rhode Island College only increases with each passing year. We are all anticipating the Golden Anniversary Celebration of the Class of 1948, scheduled for commencement week-end.

Watch your mail later this month for this year's first edition of the Alumni Magazine.

Have a healthy and productive summer. I'll be talking with you again in September.

Alumni Office offers scholarships

Scholarship applications for the 1998-99 academic year are available in the Alumni Office. Last year nearly 70 students received assistance which is made possible through the Annual Fund appeal.

There are freshmen **awards for children and grandchildren of alumni** as well as a full tuition scholarship for the sophomore, junior and senior with the highest GPA who also happens to be a child or grandchild of an alumnus/a.

The Alumni Departmental Scholarship is available to all RIC students, who have a GPA of 2.75 or higher. This award is based on GPA and essay.

The Alumni Graduate Award is based on GPA and an essay. To be eligible, you must have earned your undergraduate degree at the College and must be accepted as a full-time graduate student in a RIC master's degree program.

The Alumni Office also reviews applications for the **Frank and Agnes Campbell Scholarship** which is for a sophomore, junior or senior who is a Rhode Island resident, with a GPA of a least a 3.0 and submits an essay.



MANY POLYHEDRA: Prof. George Hart (right) of Hofstra University explains his geometric figure based on the polyhedron, which he built from computer disks, to RIC junior and math major Katy Burkhardt, while Prof. James Schaefer looks on. Hart spoke for Math Awareness Day held in the Faculty Center April 30. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

Alumni Association announces annual membership meeting

The annual meeting of the Rhode Island College Alumni Association will be held on Wednesday, June 17 at 5:30 p.m. at Alumni House. Pursuant to Article X of the Constitution and by-laws, a slate of nominees for election as officers and directors of the Alumni Association will take place at the June meeting. At the March meeting of the board of directors, the by-laws were amended to reflect an annual election for six directors of the association.

For additional information, please call 456-8086.

Following is the proposed slate offered by the nominating committee:

Officers to be elected for a two year term

President: Paul Bourget
Class of 1969
Woonsocket

Vice Pres.: Margaret Moy
Class of 1986
Newport

Treasurer: Ellen Kitchell
Class of 1981
Cranston

Secretary: Inez Cote
Class of 1976
Narragansett

Past Pres.: Syd Cohen,
Class of 1940
Cranston

Directors to be elected for a two year term

Arthur Campbell
Class of 1963
Wakefield

Norma DiLibero
Class of 1981
Providence

Miguel Lopes
Class of 1971
Portsmouth

Marianne Needham
Class of 1959
East Greenwich

Irene Rupert
Class of 1995
Providence

Brett Williams
Class of 1994
No. Attleboro

Directors to be elected for a one year term

Suzanne Augenstein
Class of 1997
No. Scituate

Michelle Gregoire
Class of 1997
Seekonk

Phyllis Hunt
Class of 1980
Seekonk

Joseph Parfenchuck
Class of 1954
Pawtucket

Judy Roy
Class of 1974
Cumberland

Joyce Stevos
Class of 1965
Providence

At-Large Director

Lucia Napoli Amado
Class of 1992
Hope

Mother of two fulfills her destiny to teach

by Cynthia L. Sousa
What's News Writer

As a child, Peggy DeAngelis spent countless hours playing "school." In her own little world, she was always the teacher writing on the blackboard. The youngest of 11 children, DeAngelis should have taken this as a sign of things to come.

This month, this slightly older student, wife and mother will finally fulfill her destiny as she receives a bachelors degree in elementary education/special education.

DeAngelis, who holds a 3.95 grade point average, took a rather crooked road to getting where she is today. Originally from Long Island, N.Y., she went to Holy Cross College after graduating from high school. After one year, she left to marry her husband Lou, who is from Italy. Lou got a job as an engineer in Rhode Island so they moved here.

DeAngelis had always had a fascination with art, architecture and design so she enrolled in the interior design program at the Rhode Island School of Design. After receiving her degree, she taught classes at the Providence Learning Connection.

She soon became very involved in activities within East Providence where her two daughters, now 11 and 10 years old attend school. She joined the PTA organization and became very active in a variety of projects.

For example, when one of her daughters first started school, DeAngelis was surprised to discover that the school had no playground. She decided to do something about that and played a key role in raising funds, researching equipment, and getting necessary approvals to create a playground at the school.

Working with the principals and

teachers so closely, DeAngelis became envious of their profession. "Teaching is such a meaningful way to spend one's life," she said.

Although interior design was an interesting and fun career, DeAngelis wanted to do something that was more "human service oriented." She wanted to *teach*.

About that time, a friend who was attending Rhode Island College encouraged DeAngelis to go back to school. She enrolled even though she didn't know what to expect from the professors or herself since she'd been out of the classroom for a number of years.

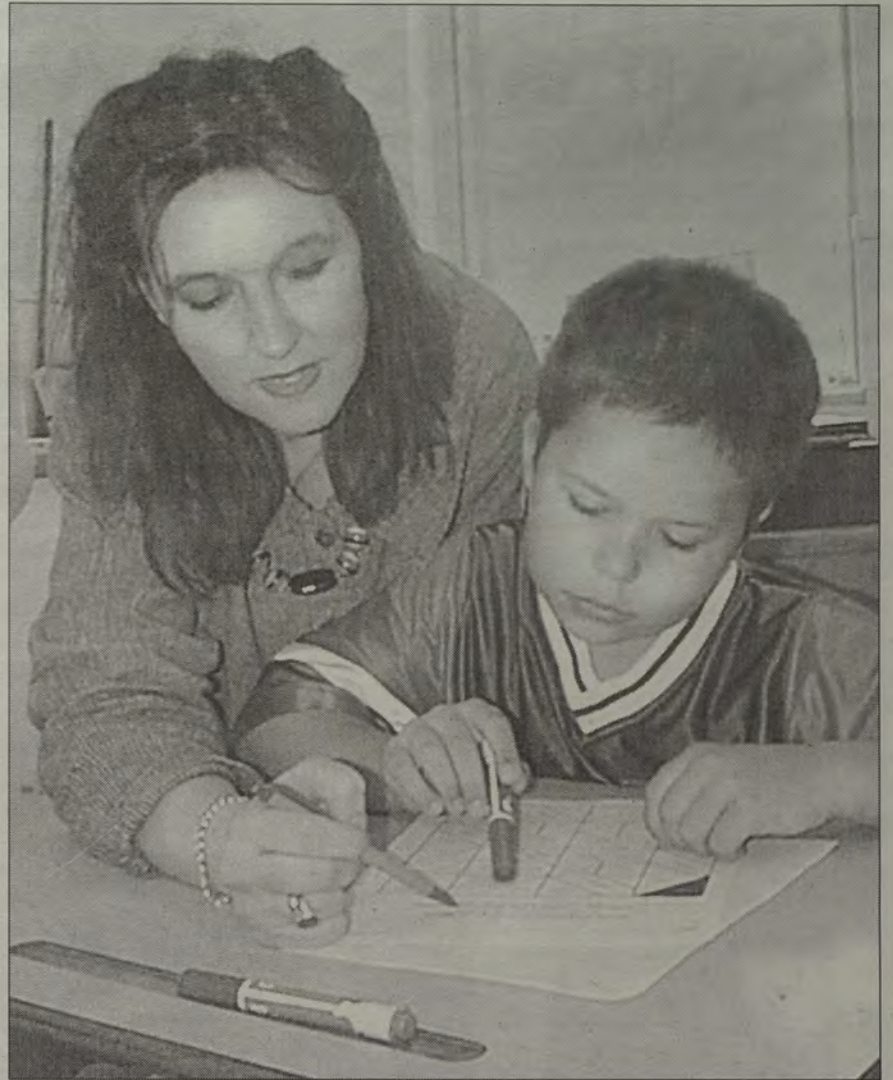
Her worries were unfounded. She excelled in her courses and thoroughly enjoyed every one of them. "All of my professors have been top-notch," she said. "I can't say enough about them. It has been a great experience."

DeAngelis admits that going to school and raising a family can be difficult. Luckily, she had lots of help. Her father, who is a young 87-years-old and jogs 10 miles a day, helps with her children; her husband does all of the cooking, cleaning and encouraging; and her daughters give her neck massages while she works at the computer.

"I would never have been able to do it without them," she admitted.

All of the hard work has paid off. For her enthusiasm for learning and dedication to teaching DeAngelis was awarded the Elementary Education Faculty Award at the College's annual Cap and Gown Convocation on May 6.

DeAngelis is eager to start her new career and to make a difference in the lives of her students. She believes that each child has an intelligence to offer, and that the teacher's task is to help each child develop a feeling of self-efficacy and the desire to become proactive. She does this not only in her classroom,



IN THE CLASSROOM: Student teacher Peggy DeAngelis helps fourth-grader Charles Walker with his assignment. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

but also through volunteering with Amos House and teaching a catechism class.

She is doing her student teaching in Betty Vendituoli's collaborative class at Colt Andrews Middle School in Bristol and is truly enjoying the experience.

Vendituoli said that DeAngelis is an outstanding teacher. "It comes natural to her," she said. "Her

enthusiasm, creativity and love for children is obvious in every lesson."

Vendituoli knows that DeAngelis has found her true calling.

DeAngelis wants her children, family and friends to attend her graduation ceremony to see the fruits of her labor. "I want them to know that the long journey was worth it. I want to celebrate with them."

24 General Education Honors students to graduate

Twenty-four students at Rhode Island College will graduate this month with General Education Honors, reports Spencer Hall, director of the College Honors Program.

About five more will complete their studies in January. Four of the graduates have completed distinguished senior honors projects and also will receive College honors.

The total number of students currently enrolled in the program is 235 and "interest seems to be at an all-time high," says Hall of the program which was instituted nearly a dozen years ago.

By the end of the semester, the College Honors Committee will have reviewed over 200 entering freshman applications for the fall, a record number, he says. Of these, it is expected that between 50 and 60 will be enrolled.

"Among them, we will welcome a small but growing number of students whose first language is not English, a testimonial both to the academic excellence and to the diversity of our student body," says Hall.

The May graduates listed below marked (College) are graduating with both General Education honors and College honors:

Brian Abalutzk, Natasha Axelson, Kristen Brown, Maria Cimini, Melissa D'Urso, Michael DelSignore (College), Brian Dillon, Alissa Florio, Ana Freitas, Meredith



HONORS GRADS: A reception for graduating seniors in the College's Honors Program was held at the President's House on April 23. Among those attending were (seated l to r): Melissa Karageorgos, Jane Monaghan, Kristen Brown, Natasha Axelson, Todd Scungio and (standing l to r) Dean Scungio, Michael DelSignore, Honors Program director Spencer Hall, Steven Pechie and Sean Gillooly. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

Gallo, Sean Gillooly, Christine Horan and Melissa Karageorgos.

Also, Michele I. Kelly (College),

Tracy Lafreniere, John Laiho (College), Scott Langlais, Heather Mitchell, Jane Monaghan, Stanley

Olszewski, Steven Pechie, Jason Rainone, Dean Scungio and Todd Scungio.

Cap and Gown Convocation honors outstanding seniors



UNPHASED BY THE RAIN are seniors (l to r) Bridget Morriseau, Lisa Tammelleo and Alison Gray, arriving at Roberts Hall for Cap and Gown Day.

The heavy rain that came down preceding Rhode Island College's annual Cap and Gown Convocation May 6 couldn't dampen the spirits of the Class of 1998 as they donned academic attire for the first time, kicking off the commencement season for the institution's 144th year.

Graduating seniors, family members and friends nearly filled Roberts Hall auditorium as College administrative officers and department chairs or their representatives filled the stage on which outstanding students in the class were honored with various awards for achievement.

The ceremony was marked by several "firsts," namely the presentation of the ceremony on two wide screens at the front of the auditorium, courtesy of the departments of communication and audiovisual, the Computer Center and conferences and special events; the presentation of the first Katherine Murray Prize in honor of the memory of the professor who taught for many years in the secondary education and anthropology/geography departments; and the serving as marshals by S.O.S. (Slightly Older Students) as a group for the first time.

The latter, noted Kathryn M. Sasso, director of Conferences and Special Events, seemed appropriate given that so many students today are older than what is considered "normal college age."

Outstanding among the outstanding students honored was John W. Laiho, who garnered four academic awards, including the Eleanor M. McMahon Award in the College Honors Program. He

also took top awards in mathematics and physical sciences with a perfect 4.0 in math and close to that in physics.

After the processional led by Vivian R. Morgan, chair of the Council of RIC and associate professor of mathematics, and a stirring rendition of the National Anthem by graduating senior Donald A. Ringuette Jr., College President John Nazarian officially welcomed the Class of 1998 and noted that the day was one for both celebration and reflection "as we look back on the long journey of the Class of 1998."

He also noted that the journey to this day had been longer for some than for others.

Chuckles rippled through the auditorium.

"Each of you has a story to tell; each of you has overcome obstacles in pursuit of your baccalaureate degree. That you have persevered in achieving your goal bodes well for your future.

"As we recognize your accomplishments, let us also pause to remember those who have helped you along the way: parents, spouses, children, family, friends, teachers, professors, advisors and others who have inspired you and helped to sustain you.

"They join with you in today's celebration and share in your success," he said.

Buffy M. Fermino, speaking for the graduating class, said she recognized "a few things on the faces of the audience today, not the least of which is satisfaction.

"We've had our ups and downs," she reminded her classmates, but "you are strong, intelligent and successful, so congratulations."

Willard F. Enteman, professor of philosophy, also addressed the students who had selected him for the honor.

He reminded them that college was a blend of liberal and practical education, and emphasized the importance of the former.

"The purpose of a liberal education is to free the students," he told them.

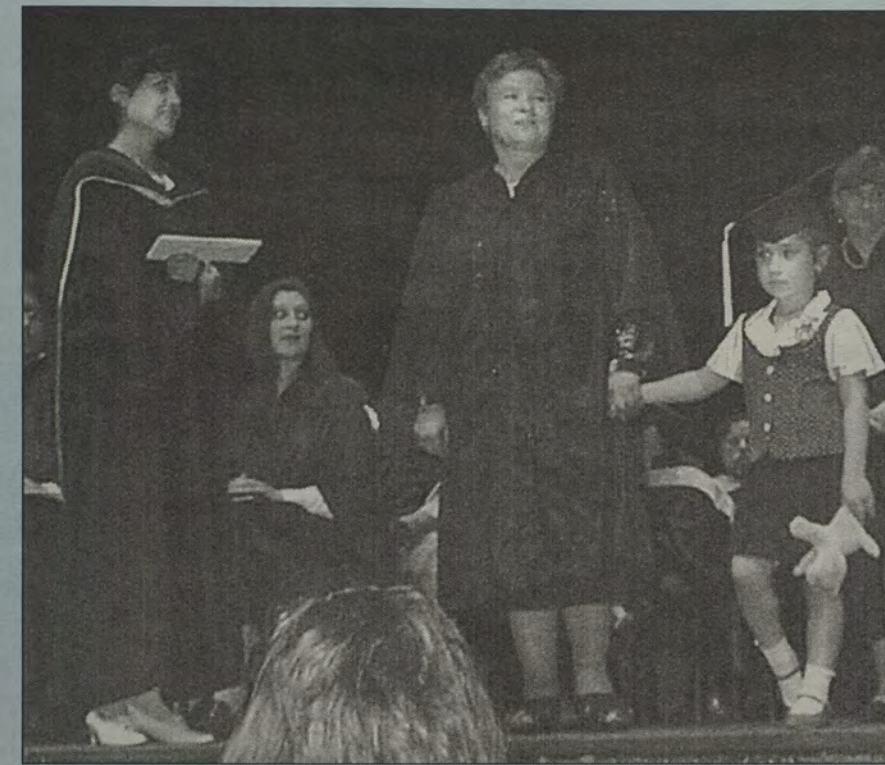
Gary M. Penfield, vice president for student affairs and dean of students, called for those seniors in the audience who had been selected to *Who's Who in American Universities and Colleges* to stand for recognition.

John J. Salesses, vice president for academic affairs, assisted by departmental chairs or their representatives, presented departmental awards.

Nazarian led in the Cap and Gown investiture.

An introduction to the RIC Alumni Association was provided by Ryan J. Brigham, senior class vice president. The senior class gift was presented by Connie A. West, secretary, and Brendan K. Larkin, treasurer.

Musical selections were provided by the RIC Wind Ensemble, Robert H. Franzblau, conductor. A reception was held in Roberts Hall lobby after the ceremony.



ELLA YANKO (center), recipient of the John Silva Memorial Scholastic Award, and her granddaughter Chaya, listen while the award is read. At left, waiting to present the certificate, is Natalie Sahba, interim director of the Center from Management and Technology.



A GOOD FIT: Jennifer Silva tries on her cap just before the official ceremonies.



CAP AND GOWN AWARD WINNERS and their awards: Judith McNulty, James Houston (Geography); Jeffrey Begnoche, Studio Art; William Hermans, W. Christina Carlson (Biology); Michelle Inman, Theodore Lemeska (Biology); Valerie Hassin, Communications Achievement (Speech and Hearing); Erin Costigan, Educational Studies Senior; Vernon Brown Jr., Katherine Murray Prize (Educational Studies) and Rose Butler Browne (RIC Foundation); Margaret DeAngelis, Elementary Education Faculty and Josephine A. Stillings (Special Education); Charles Meehan, Jean Garrigue (English); Scott Langlais and Eric Sturtevant, Film Studies Program Faculty; Michael Bettencourt, Rose Butler Browne (RIC Foundation); Erica Jacobson, Bertha Christina Andrews Emin Outstanding Achievement (RIC Foundation).

Also, Dawn Romans and Michael Almeida, Health and Physical Education Faculty Senior; Robert Thistlewaite, Claiborne deB. Pell (History); Alexander Butler, John E. Hetherman (Intercollegiate Athletics); Kelly Lange, Helen M. Murphy (Intercollegiate Athletics); Ella Yanko, John Silva Memorial Scholastic (Center for Management and Technology); Julia Wittig, Wall Street Journal (Center for Management and Technology); Brian Thibault, Richard A. Howland Computer; John Laiho, Christopher R. Mitchell (Mathematics and Computer Science) and Ronald J. Boruch (Physical Sciences) and Departmental Physics and Eleanor M. McMahon (College Honors Program); Amy Ricci, Nelson A. Guertin Memorial (Spanish);

Also, Bahij Salman; Tegu Polyglot (Modern Languages); Stacey Leach, Nursing Faculty - Undergraduate; Colleen Fullerton, Nursing Faculty - Undergraduate Registered Nurse; Frank Toti Jr., Peter Jeffrey Archambault Memorial (Performing Arts); John Baldaia, Cantor Jacob Hohenemser (Performing Arts); Marsha Ledoux, Alice K. Pellegrino Music Education; Kristen Vaillancourt, Rhode Island College Theatre; Michelle Gonya and Mary Kirkwood, Yetta Rauch Melcer Dance; Meaghan Richmond, American Institute of Chemists; John Laiho, Ronald J. Boruch (Physical Sciences) and Departmental Physics;

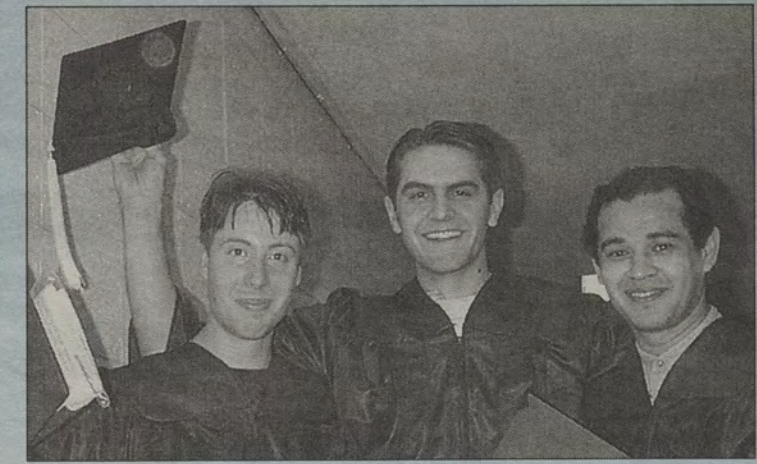
Also, Dorothy McDonough, John H. Chafee (Political Science); Robert Reynolds, North Providence League of Woman Voters (Political Science); Michael DelSignore, Herbert R. Winter for Academic Excellence in Political Science; Melissa Goudreau, Psychology Faculty Senior; Donald Jacques, Bachelor of Social Work Community Service; Susan Rose-Watts, Anthony E. Ricci Social Work Practice; Richard Mona, Mary Ann Hawkes in Justice Studies (Sociology); Melissa D'Urso, Lauris B. Whitman (Sociology); Shelly Allard, Elisa F. Bonaventura (Special Education); Bridget Morriseau, Josephine A. Stillings, (Special Education).



NEW THIS YEAR at Cap and Gown ceremonies are gigantic television screens that give the audience close-up views of the stage. On screens left and right, graduating vocalist Donald Ringuette, Jr. sings the National Anthem.



THEATRE MAJORS who will be heading for the bright lights are (l to r) Jason Rainone, Rebecca Burns, Diane Fauteux, Denice Handren and Melissa D'Amico.



THREE CHEERS: Three happy seniors seen just before ceremonies begin are (l to r) Jack Laiho, Dan Larson and Abraham Herrera.

Outreach staff members become teachers, friends, confidants

Continued from page 1

gaining the computer skills and the language skills needed to work in an office in America. And, just in case she can't find a secretarial job, Bustos has hedged her bets by also enrolling in the electronics program to make sure she'll be employable.

Gelfry Perez, a Central High School graduate who immigrated from the Dominican Republic with his family when he was 12 years old, is also benefiting from the programs as a result of chance. His position at a safety products company was eliminated and he was referred to Outreach. Bustos and Perez are both currently enrolled in the CAELL program.

Computer reduces anxiety

Using headphones connected to a computer and specifically-designed interactive software, the students work on their vocabulary, grammar, pronunciation or whatever they feel they need to at their own pace and without becoming self-conscious or anxious. The interactive computer program guides them through a variety of learning modules.

For instance, the grammar section covers everyday words. When the student clicks on the picture or word, the "teacher" on the screen pronounces the word, the student repeats it and is recorded, then the student hears that recording immediately to get a real sense of how it sounds compared to the "teacher."

The computers help the students get the most out of the class, says Jenifer Giroux, Class of 1995 and teacher of the computer-assisted English class. "After two hours of listening to the same person talk, they can get bored and tired. Once they get into the computer lab, they perk up and they don't want to go home. Class is from 6 to 9 p.m., and at 9:45, some of them are still here."

The program helps develop essential computer skills. Giroux has also



LANGUAGE LEARNING: Teacher Jenifer Giroux (left) helps Mary Te, who speaks Cambodian, learn English. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

discovered that the computer program can be a great asset in helping the student with very low-level English skills get involved sooner. "We first started using the computers for simple writing assignments. Even the students with low level

skills could do it on the computer," she recalls. This gave them confidence and helped them move ahead.

College seems possible

The location of the Outreach Programs on the College's campus is a strong motivator for the students,

according to Giroux and Karen Dionne, director of the Outreach Programs. "Being at RIC makes them want to learn more. When we toured the library one student said, 'Do you think I could be a student here?'" With their increased language skills and the familiarity and comfort-level gained from coming to the campus for class, it now seems possible for them to go to college, Giroux says.

The program has given Perez the confidence to continue his education. When he graduated from high school, he started working and tried to take a few classes at the Community College of Rhode Island, but the rigors of work and the language barrier prevented him from continuing. Now, in addition to working on his English, he is enrolled in Outreach's electronics program and is planning to go to college for electronic engineering.

Bustos, who says she didn't expect to like the computer, was surprised at how much she does and how much she learns from it. Giroux says Bustos is at every open lab period and is often the first to arrive and the last to leave.

In addition to the CAELL project, Outreach Programs encompasses three other programs to provide English language and vocational skills training. These programs are: Project GRAPHIC (Giving Refugees a Promising Headstart in Computers); TRACE (Training Responsible Adults in Computers and Electronics); and TRAMA (Training Responsible Adults to be Medical Assistants). Students may be referred by a governmental program such as the state Department of Labor Training with funds through the Joint Training and Partnership Act (JTPA), by a refugee agency, by their employer or by themselves. The referring entities often cover the tuition for the students.

"The focus is employment. And no matter which training program they are in, learning English is the barrier," says Dionne. "We have physicians and people with PhDs who end up working in entry level jobs because they don't speak the language well enough or don't have the job-specific vocabulary."

The staff also helps the students acclimate to this country and to overcome the barriers to their education and subsequent employment. These issues include transportation, day care issues, and even domestic abuse. "We are not only their teachers. We become their friends, their counselors," says Dionne, who is a licensed mental health counselor and conducts group and individual counseling sessions for students.

Several of the staff members are graduates of the program including Leonid Gurevich, originally from Latvia, who works part-time as Dionne's administrative assistant and also serves as the bilingual liaison for the Russian refugees; and Vidal De LaCruz, who serves as the bilingual counselor/liaison for Hispanic students and the program recruiter. (See story below.)

All of the Outreach Programs are funded entirely by grants, contracts and tuition. The pilot project has been funded by a grant from the Alan Shawn Feinstein Foundation and is seeking additional funds from the Rhode Island Foundation. The first class will graduate May 29 and students are already signed up for the next class.

Success speaks loud and clear

Outreach staffers Gurevich and Del LaCruz provide strong example for fellow immigrants

by Shelly Murphy
What's News Editor

If the students in the Outreach Programs ever doubt whether they can make it, all they have to do is look across the room or in the next office for inspiration. Staff members Leonid Gurevich and Vidal Del LaCruz could motivate even the most tired and frustrated individual with their personal stories.

A little help from friends

When Gurevich, his wife and their two daughters immigrated from Latvia, they were referred to the Outreach Programs by the Rhode Island Office of Refugee Resettlement. In Latvia, he was a magazine journalist, one of his daughters was a physician and the other daughter had just completed her education in computers. The family came to Providence because his wife's mother lives here, but they couldn't speak English well enough to find work in their professions.

Now, after honing their English skills in the Outreach Programs and receiving specialized training such as job related terminology courses,

his daughter who is a physician is finishing her residency in internal medicine this year at The Miriam Hospital and the daughter who is a computer programmer is working in Boston.

Gurevich splits his time between helping others benefit from the Outreach Programs and working for Elliot Urgang, PhD, a Brown University professor who translates Russian scientific articles into English for publication. Urgang is a psychiatrist who also has a PhD in Russian. Gurevich is pleased to be working in the publication vocation again, but says, "I couldn't do it without working for him (Urgang)."

Upon hearing this, Dionne interjects, "He is just modest." She recalls how he taught himself to type faster in just two weeks to meet the requirements of the job. He also helps Urgang with the translation to make sure it is as accurate and smooth as possible.

A long and winding road

Del LaCruz found his way to the Outreach Programs via the state training office about 15 years after he immigrated from the Dominican Republic. He and his wife arrived in New York with their four-month-old daughter in their arms and dreams of success in

their heads. He quickly discovered that his three years of medical school from the Dominican Republic didn't carry much weight in America, especially when he couldn't speak English.

De LaCruz ended up driving a cab in New York to support his family. He eventually obtained a certificate in electronics, but was still hindered by his limited English skills.

He and his family came to Rhode Island in search of a better environment to raise their children. He started a cleaning business, working all night to make ends meet. He found out about Outreach Programs through JTPA and called to get into the electronics program TRACE, but the class was full.

Dionne recalls, "He said 'I need to come. My English needs to get better. I need to get more electronics.'" He came to the Outreach Programs as a volunteer assistant to the electronics instructor to help with translation for the job-specific English.

He would work all night cleaning offices and then spend all day here in the classroom, Dionne recalls. Since then he has graduated from the class and found a place for himself on the small staff. He and his wife now have four children.

RIC Athletics



DONALD E. TENCHER

director of intercollegiate athletics,
intramurals and recreation 456-8007

Thank you, RIC student-athletes

The 1997-98 academic year and the intercollegiate athletic season are drawing to a close. It has been a very good year as our teams continue to improve and the wins far outweigh the losses. I am also extremely proud of the many other accomplishments of our student-athletes that very often go unnoticed.

They are extremely dedicated individuals who continually work at succeeding in the athletic arena, the classroom and in the community - all for the good name of Rhode Island College. I had the good fortune of attending a recent benefit for the Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence with several of our student-athletes and coaches.

I was so proud to see our student-athletes and coaches in action. They were helping young people with their

athletic skills, signing autographs and just plain giving their time to our future generations. Very few people know how much time our student-athletes and coaches give to local charities, school sportsmanship days, reading programs and other special events in the community.

So as the days left in this academic year wind down we recognize the athletic accomplishments of our student-athletes, but I want to extend my sincerest appreciation for the things they do beyond the athletic arena. The things that put a smile on a youngster's face when he finally makes that long-sought- after basket or the look of accomplishment as she spells a word correctly. Keep up the good work because you are making a difference.

Sports Roundup

Baseball

The baseball team has won five of its last seven games, improving its record to 12-15 overall and 4-7 in the Little East Conference. Head Coach Scott Perry's team closed out the regular season May 3. The LEC Tournament started on May 5.

Leftfielder Ben Libbey is batting .404 as the squad's leadoff hitter. He has scored a team-high 23 runs and knocked in another 16. He has seven doubles, two triples and two home runs in 24 games.

Shortstop/third baseman Ed Silverio is batting .333 with 17 RBI, 14 runs scored and seven doubles in 26 games. Rightfielder Mike Bento is hitting .333 with 12 runs scored and five RBI in 25 games.

Silverio, Bento, Keith Croft, Chris Lyons and Dennis Soito each have two wins as pitchers.

Softball

The Anchorwomen are 16-16-1 overall and 6-8 in the Little East Conference. RIC lost in the quarterfinals of the LEC tournament, falling to Eastern Connecticut State University 2-1 in Willimantic on April 29. Head Coach Maria Morin's team closed out their season at Salve Regina University on May 5.

Leftfielder Jennifer Cook leads the team in batting with a .356 average through 31 games. Cook has 21 runs scored, 14 RBI, four doubles and two home runs this season.

Pitcher/outfielder Shana Willis is batting .324 with 20 runs scored and a team-high 23 RBI. Willis is 5-6 with a team-low 1.98 earned run average. Willis has 26 strikeouts in 77 and 2/3 innings pitched.

Freshman pitcher Erika Roderiques owns the club's best record, posting a 7-4 mark in 11 appearances. Roderiques has a 1.99 ERA in 59 and 2/3 innings.

Men's and Women's Track and Field

The men's and women's track and field team took part in the Alliance Championships held at Bridgewater State College on April 25. The championships featured schools from the Little East Conference and the MASCAC. RIC finished ninth with 11 points.

Keely Subin placed third in the 400 meters with a time of 61.06. Subin finished fourth in the 200 meters with a time of 27.86.

Janet Moran was sixth in the 400 meters with a time of 64.84.

The 4 x 100 relay team of Kerri Dubord, Stephanie Florio, Moran and Subin placed sixth with a time of 53.63.

Men's Tennis

The Anchormen finished the 1998 season with an overall record of 7-5. Head Coach Dick Ernst's team won their final four matches of the year in a row. The team finished third at the LEC Championships with 12 total points earlier in the season.

Pat Prendergast owns the club's top singles record, posting an 9-4 record in 13 matches. Prendergast had the top singles winning percentage on the team, winning nearly 70 percent of his matches. Prendergast also led the team with 11.5 points.

Senior captain Joe Ramos was 6-6 (.500) in singles matches and 5-7 (.416) in doubles action. Ramos was tied with Joe Testa for second on the team with 8.5 points.

Testa and Prendergast played the entire season at number one doubles. The two compiled a record of 5-5 to lead the team in that category.

Seniors, outstanding athletes honored at annual dinner

by Scott Gibbons
Sports Information Director

The Rhode Island College Department of Intercollegiate Athletics, Intramurals and Recreation held its annual athletic awards dinner at Donovan Dining Center on Saturday, May 9.

Senior Chris Blanchette was named the men's soccer team's Most Valuable Player. One of the top backs in the Little East Conference, Blanchette was known for his rugged defense. He played in 17 games this fall, starting all of them, and registered one assist for one point.

Joan Hencler was named the women's soccer team's Most Valuable Player. The sophomore forward was second on the team in scoring with seven goals and seven assists for 21 points.

Senior Kelly Lange was named the women's tennis team's MVP. Lange, who also received the Helen M. Murphy award for contributions to RIC athletics, led the team in singles and doubles victories. She owns a career record of 24-20 in singles and 19-17 in doubles matches.

Jessica Arrighi was the women's volleyball team's Most Valuable Player, an impressive accomplishment considering she is only a freshman. Arrighi ranked in the top five on the squad in virtually every offensive category. She led the team in hitting percentage and service aces.

Freshman Laurie Giguere received the men's and women's cross country team's Most Valuable Player award. She posted consistent times throughout the fall, running her best time of 21:53 at the Little East Championships. Giguere was also a qualifier to the ECAC Division III Championships.

Senior Kenny Bliss was named the men's basketball team's Most Valuable Player. Bliss led the Little East Conference in scoring and assists, averaging 19.9 points and 4.4 assists per game. Bliss was a First Team All-Little East Conference All-Star and was selected to play in the New England Division III All-Star game.

Junior forward Nicole Taylor was

the women's basketball team's MVP. Taylor, an Honorable Mention to the All-Little East team, played an important role on RIC's 20-7 and ECAC Tournament qualifying team. She led the Anchorwomen in scoring and rebounding, averaging 11.1 points and 6.0 boards per game.

Senior Jason Cornicelli was named the wrestling team's Most Valuable Player. He was named a Pilgrim Wrestling League All-Star and finished third in New England at 150 pounds. Cornicelli ranked in the top five in the Pilgrim League in take-downs and escapes.

Senior Laura Murphy was the women's gymnastics team's Most Valuable Player. Murphy, a 1998 National Collegiate Gymnastics Association Academic All-American, placed 15th at the National Championships in all-around competition with a mark of 35.325.

Sophomore catcher Dan Williams was named the baseball team's Most Valuable Player. One of the top backstops in the Little East, Williams has caught every inning of the team's 26 games played. He is batting .309 with 16 RBI and 15 runs scored.

Sophomore catcher Jennifer Sabatelli was the softball team's MVP. Sabatelli made the move from the outfield to behind the plate this spring. Like Williams, Sabatelli has caught every game for RIC. She is batting .308 with a team-high 22 runs scored and 14 runs batted in.

Senior captain Joe Ramos was the men's tennis team's Most Valuable Player. He posted a record of 6-6 at number two singles and was 5-7 at number two doubles. Ramos made it to the quarterfinals of the Little East Conference Tournament in the number two singles flight.

Freshman Keely Subin was the men's and women's track & field team's Most Valuable Player. Subin has placed in the top ten in the 200 and 400 meters in virtually every meet this spring. She qualified for the New England Division III Championships in both the indoor and outdoor seasons.

Senior Shannyn Gity was named the Cheerleaders' Most Valuable Player. Gity captained the team this year, cheering at soccer, basketball and wrestling matches throughout the year.

1998 Athletic Awardees

Senior Athlete Award Winners

- Shannyn Gity
- Jennifer Silva
- Kelly Lange
- Christopher Blanchette
- Ben Libbey
- Jonathan Leddy
- Tom Mellen
- Stephanie Marshall
- Jane Viveiros
- Shana Willis
- Laura Murphy
- Kelli Doorley
- Frank Minikon
- James Thomas
- Oscar Victorino
- Kenneth Bliss

- Todd Scungio
- Jason Cornicelli
- Brian Sclama
- Janet Moran
- Joe Ramos

Student Athlete Award Winners

- Jillian Krebill
- Jenn Silva
- Kelly Soscia
- Shannon Gity
- Lisa Gregoire
- Kelly Lange
- Amanda Williams
- Lori Casali
- Kate Wolloff
- Lauren Brown

- Carolina Gazzolo
- Joan Hencler
- Megan McCormick
- Kristy Siravo
- Christopher Blanchette
- James Fitzgerald
- Thomas Mellen
- Jennifer Cook
- Meaghan Davis
- Monique Marchand
- Katie Goyette
- Jennifer Nichols
- Michelle Pelletier
- Christine Martin
- Todd Scungio
- Danny Saccoccio
- Janet Moran
- Kerri Dubord



THE EVERETT DANCE THEATER performed and conducted workshops for the RIC students in Dance 306 (*Dance for Children*) at Henry Barnard School on April 27. Above (l & r) Eddie Silvestre and Marvin Novogrodski of Everett work with HBS student volunteers (l & r) Brent Toder and Courtney Woodcock. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

Endowed music scholarship winners named

Robert W. Elam, chair of the Department of Performing Arts, announced the winners of this year's endowed scholarships in music which range from \$100 to \$750.

They are: MaryBeth Gremour, the Katherine Bryer Kruger Scholarship; Thomas Conlon, the Louis Appleton Memorial Scholarship; Cynthia Coffey, the Melody Stappas Memorial Scholarship; Erin Quinton, the Drabienko Family Endowed Scholarship. These were awarded at the May 1 Rhode Island College Wind Ensemble concert.

Winners of the Rita V. Bicho Memorial Scholarship, presented at the 20th annual concert in her name May 4 are: Christine Noel, Eric Ventura, Christopher Farias and Christopher Mink.

Recipients of music awards with no monetary benefits, which were presented at the annual Cap and Gown convocation May 6, are John Baldaia, the Cantor Jacob Hohenemser Award, and Marcia Ledoux, the Alice K. Pellegrino Music Education Award.

Other awards from the Department of Performing Arts presented at the Cap and Gown convocation include Frank Toti, the Peter Jeffrey Archambault Memorial Award; Kristen Vaillancourt, the Rhode Island College Theatre Award, and Michelle Gonya and Mary Kirkwood, the Yetta Rauch Melcer Dance Award.

Alumni fill major roles in play

Diane Samuels' *Kindertransport*, now playing at the NewGate Theatre in Providence, has a number of Rhode Island College alumni and former students involved in the production.

Directed by Stephen E. Pennell, Class of 1978, the cast includes Nicole Dingee, Class of 1995; Janette Gregorian, Class of 1976; and Clare Vadenboncoeur, Class of 1983 and individualized masters in theatre.

The production staff includes Patricia Tulli-Hawkrige, Class of 1981, dialect coach, and Carol Drowne, Class of 1978, publicity; plus former students Jennifer Greenwood, sound design; Kath Whelan, costume design; Andrew Hall, technical director, and former faculty member John Gavis, set design.

The moving drama, set in Hitler's Germany, plays until May 16.

O'Malley publishes third essay on Danish artists

An essay by Rhode Island College Bannister Gallery director Dennis O'Malley was published recently in Denmark in a 72-page, hard-bound catalog printed for the exhibition "Circus Humanus" by the artist Michael Kvium at the Aarhus Kunstmuseum, Aarhus, Denmark - Nov 15, 1997 - Jan 18, 1998.

Kvium is a Danish painter and multimedia artist. O'Malley's observations on his paintings were complemented by an accompanying essay by curator Lennart Gottlieb, who organized the exhibition with support from the Sony, Thomson, and Fredgaard corporations.

This was O'Malley's third published essay on Danish artists in the past two years.

His first project, an essay on the digital photographer and painter Balder Olrik was quoted by Barry Schwabsky in the *New York Sunday Times* this past April.

How did O'Malley arrive at his growing stature as an insightful writer on Danish art?

"This all started with a Bannister Gallery exhibit which I sponsored for the New York painter, Peggy

Cyphers. Ironically, I wasn't able to see her show as I was on sabbatical in 1990 and had my first opportunity to travel to Europe when her exhibit came up. So, I was on my way to Austria when her show opened.

"But, apparently, she liked the short blurb I had written for her exhibit PR and five years later when her husband, Miles Manning, took over as director of the DCA Gallery in New York he contacted me about exhibiting and writing commentary on Danish artists. He said that the Danes were very much interested in commentary on their work by American writers.

"After I wrote the essay on Olrik's work, I was contacted by other artists and curators who had read that piece and who were excited by my point of view. So, I've been able to have two other essays published, based primarily on the interest of these artists.

"I must point out the importance of the Internet and the World Wide Web in enabling these collaborations. While I had seen original work in New York by all of these artists,

the bulk of communications and editing has taken place through e-mail.

"The final versions of the essays were first published on the College's web server, where they could be accessed by the designers in Denmark, with all the typography and text inserts appearing as envisioned by the author."

In 1995, O'Malley created one of the first comprehensive World Wide Web sites at RIC. He is a self described PowerMac "fanatic" and a jack-of-all-trades — "in the form of a curse," he notes.

The Bannister Gallery website can be accessed at <http://www.ric.edu/Bannister>. It contains archives on exhibits since '95, current shows, and information on the gallery and Edward Mitchell Bannister, in memory of whom the gallery was dedicated in 1978.

O'Malley also maintains a Home Page at <http://acad.ric.edu/domalley.html>.

O'Malley is currently on a sabbatical leave and working on a new internet publication titled "TERMINUS98." G.L.



FORMAN SCHOLARSHIP: Helen Forman (left) awards the Sylvan and Helen Forman Scholarship in Theater to Laura Ames, while Prof. P. William Hutchinson looks on. The award was made just before the curtain for *The Boy Friend* on April 23 in Roberts Hall auditorium. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

1998 Commencement dates

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

Combination of luck and perseverance make good story for RIC Alum journalist

by Paul Tencher
What's News Intern

Life after Rhode Island College can be hectic. Looking for a job can be incredibly frustrating and it always seems as if there are more downs than ups. Joseph Hutnak, Class of 1993, and now editor of the *East Greenwich Pendulum*, has a message for all of you out there in graduate land: A "stroke of luck" will come around! For positive proof of this, look at Hutnak's story.

Hutnak's journey into a career in journalism came through an unusual mode. When he entered RIC he was initially interested in becoming a French teacher. He bulked up on courses in language and European history.

In his freshman studies he took a mandatory class in ethics and journalism. He hadn't thought much about the class since he really had no interest in the subject. This ethics class was taught by Carl E. Stenberg, now professor emeritus, who became his mentor. The class, but more importantly Stenberg, as he put it, "turned my whole life around."

It was in this otherwise ordinary course that as Hutnak states, "something happened." Through guidance from Stenberg, Hutnak began to look at the media in an entirely different way. He began to see the problems with the media's standards.

"Before the class I was an outsider. Now I wanted to be part of the solution." This change in focus led Hutnak to a change in image, but more importantly a change in education: "I looked around my French classes and history classes and that wasn't where I wanted to be. All of a sudden it just clicked."

It was about this time that Hutnak met another inspiration in his early career as a journalist, Clare Eckert. Eckert helped him change classes, got him started with *The Anchor*, the student newspaper, and became a source of support in his changes. "Her (Eckert's) wealth of information and experience helped me because I had a real-live resource that I could call and ask 'What do you think?'"

At the beginning of his sophomore year, Hutnak changed all his classes around in order to change his course of studies. With the help of Spenser



NEW EDITOR: Joe Hutnak, Class of 1993, is the new editor of the East Greenwich Pendulum. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

Hall, professor of English and director of the honors program, Hutnak began to shift from education to English with an emphasis on writing. He took as many English courses as he could to get him back on track to graduate in four years, but also to prepare him for what loomed in the distance: Graduation and the "real world."

As the clouds of Graduation Day became closer and closer, Hutnak knew he had to "make plans to get out." Once again Eckert was there to help out and her help could come at no better time. Eckert helped him get a job with *The Observer*. "Dropping Clare's name was good enough for them."

The realization of Hutnak's dream to be a journalist finally came full

circle in an instant at graduation. It happened as Hutnak received his diploma and looked off the stage to see Stenberg looking up at him. Later, Stenberg embraced him and to Hutnak this symbolized that "The man who had led me down the path, was proud of what I had done."

At this point things were going well for Hutnak. After a series of odd jobs his aggressive job-seeking landed him a position with the *Kent County Daily Times*. After only four months of covering the Exeter/West Greenwich area Hutnak was thrust into the main West Warwick beat. This accomplishment would lead to his next job at WKRI 1450 radio station. Here Hutnak said, "Choose a title and I had it."

With life going well Hutnak could not see the foreboding problems.

When WKRI went out of business, Hutnak lost his job and reluctantly went on unemployment. Things seemed low as Hutnak had to work at a gas station just to get by.

It was with a stroke of luck, something Hutnak talks about to a large extent, that his mother heard about a job at *The Chariho Times*. Hutnak realized he, "needed to get out of the gas station as soon as possible."

The move to *The Chariho Times* came at the best time. At that paper he would meet the man who, according to Hutnak would, "save my journalism career." This man was Editor Eric White and to Hutnak he was the best thing for him at that time because White, "allowed me to exert my own style." With this creative voice Hutnak won much praise from his peers and was promoted to his present job as editor of the *East Greenwich Pendulum*.

Hutnak's philosophy hasn't changed much in the transition from beat reporter to editor. He still feels the media has relied too heavily on justifying news stories in the wrong ways. "We only do the stories because it is what the public wants. The "right-to-know justification has been forgotten." Hutnak feels the media has exploited the term "journalism business." The media has been influencing the word business over the root of the job of reporting.

Hutnak resides in Johnston, always close to the family which is so important to him: "My Mom and Dad raised four kids on part-time jobs and their work ethic was an example to us. None of the kids gave a second thought about our education's because our parents instilled in us the importance of education." Hutnak knows that RIC was the "right place for him to be," and his total educational experience placed him on the right track from graduation day to his present activities.



Paul Tencher, a senior at Bishop Hendricken High School in Warwick, has been interning in the News and Public Relations office during the spring semester. He will attend Seton Hall in the fall.

RIC team effort results in publication of book 'Against Islamic Extremism'

by George LaTour
What's News Associate Editor

In an effort leading to "a real Rhode Island College product" involving the collaboration of a professor and professional staff person along with the support of College research funds, the writings of "an intellectual of the modern Islamic world" have been published in a book, *Against Islamic Extremism*.

The book, by Muhammad Sa'id Al-Ashmawy, former chief justice of the High Court of Cairo, "helps to build a more balanced and accurate awareness of the full spectrum of Muslim thought," according to book reviewer John O. Voll of Georgetown University.

Based on lectures during the 1980s in Europe and the Middle East and articles written by the chief justice, the book was four years in the making.

"The book was produced through the generous support of the RIC

Faculty Research Fund" which allowed Gita Brown, a writer-editor in Publication Services, "to edit the lectures and papers of the author into a readable form in the English language," says RIC's Carolyn Fluehr-Lobban, professor of anthropology and chair of general education.

Brown worked with the English translation of the Arabic-written articles. The lectures were in English.

Fluehr-Lobban wrote the book's lengthy introduction of Al-Ashmawy to an English language audience and provided insights to the author's ideas.

"This is a real Rhode Island College product," says Fluehr-Lobban, who is herself the author of six books.

She first met Al-Ashmawy in 1983 while she was in Cairo to speak on "Contemporary Issues in Islamic Law" and served on a panel with him.

Al-Ashmawy lectured at RIC in the 1984-85 academic year as well as at Harvard and Brown universities.

She notes that he is widely recog-



CAROLYN FLUEHR-LOBBAN

nized for the forcefulness of his writing in the intense struggle to redefine Islam in the modern world and especially for his courage in remaining in

Egypt and standing up to extremists while under constant armed guard.

Referring to the book, Brown — also a published author and daughter of a Muslim — says, "There is a lot about the Koran and how it is misinterpreted by the Muslims themselves."

Because of his political and ideological position, his life is considered to be "on the line," says Brown.

She terms the book "very readable" especially to one interested in Middle Eastern politics or religion.

It is divided into three parts: Islam, Judaism, Christianity; One Religion, One Vision, Many Paths; Islamic Religion and Politics; Islamic Law and Contemporary Politics and Society.

Published last February by the University Press of Florida, it is available only in the hardcover edition at \$49.95 and may be ordered via fax at 1-800-680-1955 or VISA or MasterCard at 1-800-226-3822.

Fluehr-Lobban says it probably will come out in softcover next year and be available in the RIC Campus Store.

Foundation Gala great success: \$10,000 raised for honors scholarships



(L to r) COLLEGE PRESIDENT JOHN NAZARIAN; Joyce Stevos, of the Providence School Department; Al Smith and his wife, Debbie, who is a member of the Board of Governors for Higher Education, enjoy the reception prior to the Gala. Sen. Jack Reed and Rep. Robert Weygand addressed the attendees at the reception.



CONSIDERING VAN GOGH print during the silent auction are (l & r) Jeanne Rose, Class of 1962, and Pauline Dubuc. Over 60 items, all donated by alumni and friends of the College were offered during the silent auction.



(L to r) JOHN FITTA, assistant vice president for finance and controller, his wife Cathy, Fran Villanova and her husband, Lincoln businessman Raymond Villanova. The Villanovas were the successful bidders for several of the items offered at the silent auction.

About 170 friends of Rhode Island College attended the ninth Annual Foundation Gala on April 24 at the Westin Hotel. The event honored four individuals and raised money for honors scholarships. This year's honorees are: Arlyne Harrower of Chepachet, posthumously; Theresa Howe and Mary Juskalian, both of Providence; and Frank Montanaro of Cranston.



GARY PENFIELD, vice president for student affairs and dean of students, dances with Ginny Perelson. Music was provided by the Bob Saraceno Band featuring Clay Osborne.

Photos by
Gordon E. Rowley



HONOREES of the RIC Foundation gala (l to r) Ellen, Dona and Jamie Harrower, daughter-in-law and daughters, respectively, of the late Arlyne Harrower, honoree; Joseph Neri, Foundation president; honoree Theresa Howe; College President John Nazarian; and honorees Mary Juskalian and Frank Montanaro.