



WHAT'S NEWS

AT RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE

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'Connection between the centuries' —

Class of 2000 graduates over 1,000 amid pomp and circumstance

by George LaTour
What's News Associate Editor

Cheers arose as a colorful beach ball bounced over the heads of the 1,112 Rhode Island College graduating seniors Saturday, May 20, dispelling the gloom of overcast skies and chilly temperatures outside the Health, Physical Education, Athletic Complex where the annual commencement exercises took place.

The HPEAC, also referred to as the "New Building," was packed as were the auditoriums in Roberts and Gage halls where closed-circuit television carried the ceremonies to an overflow crowd of family members and friends of the graduates.

It was the first time in more than a decade that RIC's commencement had to be moved indoors.

The previous Thursday evening 315 graduate students received their advanced degrees at the same site.

Graduate Commencement

The honorary degree of Doctor of Humanities was bestowed upon Millard D. Fuller, founder and president of Habitat for Humanity International, who delivered the main address to the graduate students.

"I know many of you are the first in your families to get a degree," said Fuller, who added that he, too, was the first in his family to earn that distinction. "I congratulate you for reaching this milestone."

In the business of helping people, Fuller said it was appropriate that he'd been asked to speak at the College where many of the graduate students will go into the "helping professions" of teaching and social work.

He said that when he graduated from college, all he wanted was wealth and success. Soon enough, he realized that's all he had and found

See Commencement, pages 8-9



THE TOWERING MORTARBOARD of Shannon Pearson, at the College's May 20 undergraduate commencement, clearly announces her major: art education. For more of the sights of commencement, see pages 8 and 9. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

NEASC team to visit RIC Oct. 15-18

Preparation for continuing accreditation under way

by Shelly Murphy
What's News Editor

As the spring semester came to a close and students were rushing to finish papers and projects, Profs. James Bierden and Pat Thomas finished a major one themselves — the draft of Rhode Island College's self-study report for the upcoming continuing accreditation visit by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC). Bierden and Thomas are co-chairing the College's self-study and preparation for the Oct. 15-18 NEASC visit.

The self-study uses the 11 NEASC standards to describe and appraise all aspects of the College and to project future actions. The 11 standards relate to: mission and purpose, planning and evaluation, organization and governance, programs and instruction, faculty, student services, library and information resources, physical resources, financial resources, public disclosure, and integrity.

The self-study addresses each standard with a description, appraisal and projection for the future. The 100-plus page draft represents the collective efforts of about 130 faculty and staff who served on 15 subcommittees. One subcommittee was dedicated to each of the standards, except for the one relating to programs and instruction. That standard was divided into substandards — undergraduate, graduate, scholarship and research, instruction, and admission and retention — which were addressed by five subcommittees.

The Standards for Accreditation establish minimum criteria for institutional quality, according to NEASC's documentation. NEASC also expects institutions to work toward improving their quality, increasing their effectiveness, and continually striving toward excellence. During the visit, a team of about 10 surveyors will review prepared documents and conduct open meetings with faculty, students, the

See NEASC, page 14

\$62,500 approved for 32 faculty research projects

The Rhode Island College Faculty Research Committee recently has approved funding in the amount of \$62,500 to cover 32 faculty research projects for the year 2000-2001, reports Peter S. Allen, committee chair.

The RIC Foundation and Alumni Association has provided \$15,000 of the total amount, according to Marguerite M. Brown, director of development. The rest comes from unrestricted College funds.

The grantees, their departments, projects and amounts approved are:

Yael Avissar, biology, "Isolation and Characterization of Chlorobium Porphobilinogen Synthase," \$2,840; Pamela Benson, English, "Gualdrada and the Emperor's Kiss: the Politics of Narrative in Florentine Legendary History," \$2,422; Karl Benziger, history, "A Kingdom Restored? Reshaping the Past: Interpretations of the Modern Nation State in Hungary," \$942;

Peter Brown, history, "Medieval and Early Modern Russian Military and Ethnic Studies," \$2,870; Richard Cain, health education,

"The Affect of Referent Others to Explain HIV-Related Attitudes Behaviors Among Men at High Risk for HIV Infection," \$1,338;

Karen Castagno, health and physical education, "An Investigation of Attitudes Towards Individuals with Disabilities by College Students Seeking Endorsement in Adapted Physical Education," \$496; Diana Delia, history, "Egypt from Cambyses to the Arab Conquest: An Anthology of Sources in Translation," \$935;

David Espinosa, history, "Jesuit

Higher Education and the Mexican Catholic Reform Movement (1971-1990)," \$948; Paola Ferrario, art, "Research in Digital Photographic Printing for the Fine Arts," \$2,450; Rachel Filinson, sociology/gerontology, "Evaluation of a Volunteer Ombudsman Program," \$1,575;

Terry Hays, anthropology/geography, "A Definitive Anthropology Bibliography of New Guinea," \$3,880; Claus Hofhansel, political science, "German Foreign Policy,

See Faculty Research, page 15

The Way We Were...

This popular item in What's News continues 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.



This issue's photo was sent to us by Carol (Silverman) Louison Berge '55 of Warren. It was taken in 1954 on the steps of the now-demolished Normal School building in Providence. L to r are Carole (Weiss) Flint, Louison Berge, and Carol Warner, all Class of '55. Louison Berge writes that she is a retired guidance counselor from the Taunton school system. Flint, she writes, works for WGBH in Boston, but she has lost touch with Warner.



NEW BILL OF RIGHTS: College President John Nazarian signs the new Student Bill of Rights in the Board of Governors Room on May 3. This is the first time the bill has been revised in 30 years. Observing the historic signing are (l to r) Mary Byrd, assistant professor in nursing and faculty chair of the Committee on Student Life; Nancy Evans, associate professor of art and chair of the Council of RIC; Scott Feiro, the student who originated the effort to update the document; and Gale Goodwin Gomez, associate professor of anthropology and secondary education and the previous chair of the Committee on Student Life. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

The Office of News and Public Relations
wishes its readers a safe and enjoyable summer.

What's News will resume publication in September.

Focus on Faculty and Staff

Faculty and staff are encouraged to submit items of information about their professional endeavors to What's News, Office of News and Public Relations, 300 Roberts Hall or email them to csousa@ric.edu.

Sharon Mazyck, coordinator of Career Development Programs, served on the résumé panels at the Providence Journal Diversity Career Fair in April at the Westin Hotel in Providence and in May at the Crowne Plaza. The career fairs offered to review and critique résumés by the panel which was comprised of career development professionals from Rhode Island's colleges and universities.



Christine Mulcahey, art specialist at the Henry Barnard School, recently attended and presented at national conferences. At the National Art Education Association Annual Conference in Los Angeles, she presented a paper, "Children's Perspectives on Their Drawings." At the American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting in New Orleans she presented "Under-

standing Children's Perspectives" at a paper session in the Arts and Learning Special Interest Group.

Patricia A. Thomas, professor of nursing and department chair, was given the Louisa White Honorary Recognition Award for excellence in nursing at induction ceremonies of the Delta Upsilon Chapter-at-Large of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing May 5 at the Quonset "O" Club.



PATRICIA A. THOMAS

Other awards to RIC nursing faculty were the Chapter Service Award for an individual member's contribution to the Chapter, **Geraldine DeNuccio**, assistant professor of nursing, and Research Award to support research projects, **Patricia Quigley**, assistant professor of nursing.

RIC nursing students inducted into honor society; awards presented

Twenty-nine nursing students and four community leaders were inducted into Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing through the Delta Upsilon Chapter-at-Large at Rhode Island College in ceremonies May 5 at the Quonset "O" Club in North Kingstown.

The society is comprised of nurse leaders, scholars and researchers. Founded in Indiana University in 1922, it currently has 406 chapters at more than 503 college and university campuses worldwide. It is committed to improving the health of the public by advancing nursing science, says Mary Byrd, associate professor of nursing and faculty counselor to the local chapter.

Membership in the society is awarded to bachelor's, master's and doctoral degree candidates who have achieved high scholastic averages, and to graduates of nursing programs who have made outstanding contributions to nursing as community leaders.

Juniors inducted are: Deborah Autiello, Fatima Bernardo, Elise Careau, Kevin Daignault, Alicia

Deroy, Jennifer Haggerty, Bonnie Kusiak, Marianne Mancini, Amy Peront, Barbara Richards, Gloria Rose, Jennifer Sargent, Brian Thornton and Kyong Winkler.

Seniors inducted are: Ronald Asal, Kathryn Cartier, Tara Cousineau, Kimberly Creighton, Linda Ethier, Christine Gadbois, Karen Joost, Judith Koegler, Linh Lam, Lynne Lerish, Richard Matte, Crystal Kennedy Mello, Cheryl Pappas, Linda Rathbun and David Silverman.

Community leaders inducted are: Nancy Conley, Elaine Massotti, Lisa Northrup and Mae Beth Ryan.

Awards were presented to three students of the RIC nursing department. The awards and the recipients are:

Undergraduate Student Scholarship, junior Alicia Deroy of Harrisville; Memorial Award for Excellence in Parent-Child Health Nursing (funded by the Steiner-Brem Family), senior Judith Koegler of Providence; Research Award to support research projects, senior Doreene Carr of Exeter.

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Upward Bound graduates 34; scholarships to college awarded

by George LaTour
What's News Associate Editor

"Unless you try to do something beyond what you have already mastered, you will never grow. So look at the next phase of your lives as an opportunity to grow," Julian Quero, Upward Bound graduate of the Class of 1985, told the 34 graduates of the Rhode Island College Upward Bound program at its annual commencement exercises June 2 in Gaije Hall auditorium.

All 34 graduates have been accepted at colleges and universities and plan to begin classes in the fall.

A tax manager at PricewaterhouseCoopers, who had graduated from Boston College with a degree in economics after completing the Upward Bound program, Quero said that today companies are putting more emphasis on hiring people with college degrees "regardless of their major."

"What this means is that you should pursue your field of interest but maximize your exposure to other things. This, in turn, will open up more options for you after graduation," he said in his keynote address.

College President John Nazarian assured the graduates, their families and friends in attendance that the program "symbolizes what I feel is the very essence of the educational mission of Rhode Island College: that is, to provide an opportunity to improve oneself so that, in turn, one may make a positive difference in the lives of others."

He said he "cannot predict what happens now. Nobody can. But you have shown, by your reaching this milestone, that you have what it takes to succeed with your educational plans, your careers, and your lives."

Nazarian reported that Upward Bound's federal funding for the second year of the current four-year cycle has been received in the amount of \$473,858, a 2.7 percent increase over the current year, and is in addition to the support provided by the College. Federal support for the program has been continuous since 1966.

"Your success, and the success of those who preceded you in the Upward Bound program, have encouraged the federal government to continue its support of this pro-



UPWARD BOUND alumni scholarship winners and program counselors are (from left center) Paul Couto and Daniela Melo of Central Fall High School, and Katherine Zharkova of Shea High School. Counselors are Claudia Erazo-Conrad and James Walker. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

gram," said Nazarian. "Had you and your predecessors not done so well, I am sure that the federal government would not have offered its continued support."

Upward Bound is the federal-funded college-based program that prepares selected students from the area's six targeted schools for completion of high school and acceptance at college. All are first in their families to attend a four-year college or university.

A total of 39 colleges and universities granted acceptance to the graduates, who chose 15 to attend, including RIC, the University of Rhode Island, Boston College and Northeastern and Brown universities.

Nazarian noted that no high school in the state approaches the Upward Bound program rate of success with 100 percent of its graduates being accepted at college.

Other speakers included Mariam Z. Boyajian, program director, who opened the 34th annual graduation exercises which, she said, "recognizes the successes of the Class of 2000."

Gary M. Penfield, vice president for student affairs and dean of students, offered a salute to the graduates.

Three Upward Bound Alumni Scholarships were awarded as well as one from each of the four school districts in which the participating high schools are located.

Presenting the 12th annual alumni scholarships was Edmanuel (sic) Gill, chair of the scholarship committee and an Upward Bound alumnus from the Class of 1985.

The winners, their high schools and amount of awards are: Daniela Melo, Central Falls, \$2,000; Katherine Zharkova, Shea, \$1,500; Paul Couto, Central Falls, \$1,000.

Target School System Scholarships of \$500 each were presented to the seniors with the highest academic averages. They are: Betty Jefferies, East Providence; Lin Chen, Central Falls; Derek Botelho, Pawtucket; Razvan Mirica, Providence.

The Outstanding Service Awards were presented to Debra Catley-Pedro, retired chair of the Central Falls High School Guidance Department; Richard Escobar, associate director of admissions at Boston College; John J. Fitta, assistant vice president for finance and controller at RIC, and Jeremiah Ryan Jr., retired chair of the Shea High School Guidance Department.

Each was cited for contributions toward the success of the program.

A reception followed the ceremony.



What's News

28 inducted into psychology honor society

Some 28 Rhode Island College students who have achieved academic excellence were inducted into Psi Chi, national honor society for psychology majors, in ceremonies April 19 in Alumni Lounge, Roberts Hall.

Inducted were: Danielle Norton, Diane Whipple, Elise Arruda, Alivia Samo, Stephanie Enos, Heather Fink, Erin Heelon, Kenneth Hynes, Noah Dunn, Deanne Hall, Megan Hebert, Heather Madrid, Damien Baldino, Julia Bass, Todd Bianchino, Lisa Delomba, Jamie Durand, Kerri Ferraris, Erica Evans.

Also, Melinda Kennedy, Jazmine Mena, Scott Miller, Christina Millete, Mary Moffitt, Michael Morissette, Melissa Rodrigues, Amy Shaw and Jennie Silvia.

Summer Art Program

Registrations are being accepted for the 2000 Rhode Island College Summer Art Program. Classes are designed to provide a fun, relaxed environment for children ages 5-15, to satisfy their creative energies.

Classes will be offered in mixed media, sculpture, and drawing and will be held July 10-20, Monday through Thursday, from 9:00 am to noon. Fees for the two week program are \$170. Registration deadline is June 20, although early enrollment is recommended as class size is limited.

Brochures and registration information are available at the Rhode Island College Art Department at 456-8054.

New student orientation sessions

Some 1,500 freshmen and transfer students and their parents or guardians are expected to converge on the Rhode Island College campus for Orientation this summer, according to Dolores A. Passarelli, director of the Office of Academic Support and Information Services (OASIS).

All new freshmen are required to attend one of the seven Orientation cycles which begin July 5 and end July 20-21.

The program for parents and guardians — from 600 to 700 are expected — will be conducted July 6, 10 and 17 from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and July 11 and 18 from 5-9 p.m.

Orientation for transfer students is Aug. 21, 22 and 23.

Orientation, conducted annually for new students to the College, is an introduction to life at RIC and to what it offers students both intellectually and socially.



BEING HONORED by the Providence Police Department during its fourth annual awards luncheon June 4 at the Providence Convention Center is Rhode Island College Campus Officer Anthony DeCosta. At left, DeCosta (foreground) stands as a citation is read by Major Richard T. Sullivan (at podium) and Providence Police Chief Urbano Prignano waits to present the award.

In May of 1998, Officer DeCosta found and thereby saved the life of an elderly North Providence woman who suffers from Alzheimer's disease. Nora Carroll, 87, had wandered from her home and was found by DeCosta in woods adjacent to the campus. Doctors, according to Carroll's grandson, Michael Carroll, said the if she had stayed outside in the cold another hour, "she would not have made it." (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

Foundation & Alumni Affairs

Alumni Association Awards —

Alum feted for their accomplishments



ALUMNI AWARD WINNERS pose together after being recognized during the ceremonies May 11 in Donovan Dining Center. Seated (l & r) are Phyllis Hunt '80 and Sara Weiss '85. Standing (l to r) are Marlene Lopes, Stephen Anderson '72 and Anthony Carlino '78. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

Annual Fund approaches its goal of \$301K

2000 campaign ends June 30

As the June 30 close of the first full cycle of the new fiscal year for the Rhode Island College Foundation and the Alumni Association approaches, the RIC Annual Fund is close to reaching its goal of \$301,000.

"We are very grateful for the generosity of our alumni, faculty, staff, and friends who contributed to the annual fund this year. Nearly \$100,000 was donated just since the beginning of April," said Nancy Hoogasian, director of the annual fund. "This was an incredible outpouring of support for the College and the programs supported by the annual fund."

The annual fund is the fund raising mechanism of the RIC Alumni Association and provides unrestricted funding for a variety of programs, the largest of which is scholarship aid.

This past year, the Alumni Association awarded over \$85,000 in scholarships. The annual fund also supports a wide range of faculty research projects, class reunions, alumni events, the Alumni Awards and Honor Roll event, Homecoming and the *Alumni Magazine*.

For further information or to make a donation to the annual fund by June 30, call Hoogasian at 401-456-8827 or email her at nhoogasian@ric.edu.

Mark your calendars for these upcoming events

Young Alumni Group hosts PawSox vs. Columbus Clippers

July 28; 7 p.m.
\$6.50

Call 456-9625 for tickets.

RIC Foundation 11th Annual Golf Day

Tuesday, Aug. 15
Warwick Country Club
\$150 per person
Call 456-8118 to register.

Alumni Association 10th Annual Golf Tournament

Sept. 25
Cranston Country Club
\$80 before July 1; \$85 after
Call 456-8086 to register.

Homecoming—Come Back to RIC

Oct. 13-14
Watch your mail for brochure.

Promising Practices fair slated for Nov. 4

The third annual *Promising Practices* multicultural media fair and workshops is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 4. The program, sponsored by the Rhode Island College Dialogue on Diversity Committee, will feature a keynote address, workshops and curriculum resources. The keynote speaker will be Diana Lam, superintendent of the Providence schools. Her topic will be "Integrating Concepts of Diversity into Sound Educational Policy and School Reform."

There will also be a series of workshops on a variety of subjects related to "promising practices" that promote diversity in the classroom. A minimal fee will be charged for the day-long program. CEU credits will be available. For more information or to discuss new proposals and ideas, contact *Promising Practices* co-chairs Elizabeth Rowell at 401-456-8563 or via e-mail at erowell@ric.edu or Mark Motte at 401-456-8378 or mmotte@ric.edu.



THE MELODY STAPPAS ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP in music is presented to Ester Zabinski during a concert by the RIC Chorus and Vocal Ensemble May 5 in Roberts Hall auditorium. Melody Stappas was a RIC music major who graduated in 1982 and died a year later. Inset is Melody's mother, Denolda Stappas, who established the scholarship. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)



Students and teachers learn from each other through VPDS

by Shelly Murphy
What's News Editor



COMPUTER SAVVY: Nancy Carnevale (standing), a teacher at Veterans' Elementary School in Central Falls, and Judith DeMeo (far left), professor of special education, view the projects of students who put technology to work in their regular assignments. The College and the school are partners under the Virtual Professional Development School grant. The students (front to back) are: Jose Muriel, 10; Elias Fuentes, 12; and Vanseea Depina, 10. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

The students' expertise is readily apparent as they proudly open up their portfolios, which incorporate graphics, photography, music and text. The graphics appear, rotate, dissolve into others and fade away for these are not traditional portfolios, they are Powerpoint presentations showcasing the students' class work, Internet research, creativity and computer skills.

These electronic portfolios are not those of students at Rhode Island College. They are the products of the work of fourth-graders at Veterans Elementary School in Central Falls, one of the College's six local partner schools in the Virtual Professional Development School (VPDS) Consortium.

The Consortium is a \$9.9 million national "technology infusion" initiative funded by a five-year U.S. Department of Education Technology Initiative Award. The initiative's purpose is to "infuse" technology into teacher preparation and K-12 schools. The goal is to help teachers (from kindergarten through college) and teachers in preparation learn how to use and apply new technology in the classroom to improve students' learning results. Through RIC, Rhode Island is one of only nine states or territories included in the project.

The work going on in the Central Falls classroom is a prime example

"The computer equipment is just a tool... It's how you use it that makes a difference." – Carnevale

of what the VPDS is designed to do. The students are learning the subject matter and developing essential computer skills through which they can share what they learned with their classmates and others.

The shared learning is not only students learning from each other and from teachers, but also teachers at all levels learning from each other and from the students. For instance, the elementary school students' expertise in Powerpoint, and computers in general, eclipses the technical skills of many of their teachers.

"These kids have taught the College students Powerpoint," said their teacher Nancy Carnevale, who is also a state trainer for teachers in technology. "We're (educators) all learning how to use the technology. It's new for many of us. These kids were born ready. At the beginning of the year, I teach one or two of the kids on Powerpoint and they teach each other. They explore and discover new things."

Judy DiMeo, professor of special education at RIC and one of four RIC faculty members on the Central Falls VPDS team, elaborates, "Everyone is learning from everybody. That is emblematic of what the PDS does. Nancy has done professional development for the faculty. She is a great technology teacher and she has coached us. Now we are all using technology in our courses and in our lives." The other RIC members of the Central Falls team are John DiMeo, associate professor of special education; Pat Medeiros-Landurand, professor of special education; and Joseph McCormick, professor of spe-

cial education.

"What we have started with the faculty will have a domino effect. For example, if they model the use of Powerpoint in the classroom, it will raise the expectation level for the students. As the students (education majors at the College) do projects using technology in the classroom, they will see that it is an integral

part of their work," Carnevale said.

"Teachers need to be nurtured to learn it. It's new for many of us. It's beyond just word processing. Using technology in the classroom is more than just having access to computers. The computer equipment is just a tool, like a pencil. It's how you use it that makes a difference," she said.

Carnevale uses the Powerpoint software as a learning tool in the classroom because it "forces you to bring it all together — visual skills, oral skills, written composition. It also hits on all the disciplines," she said.

The students bring their classroom writing assignments and social studies research projects into Powerpoint and produce an animated presentation. They get pictures, graphics, music and research material from the Internet with Carnevale's guidance.

"Incorporating the Internet into the classroom is a very thoughtful process. It takes a lot of outside work. You need to research it, check out the site and links to make sure it is appropriate," she added.

Once the Powerpoint presentation is complete, the students use an LCD projector purchased with funds from the Consortium, to present their individual or small group projects to the entire class so everyone can benefit from their work. Working in small groups, they learn from each other and build upon each other's strengths, Carnevale noted.

"They love to produce a product of value and to demonstrate what they have learned by teaching their classmates," DiMeo said.

The VPDS model also encourages

collaboration and development between the College faculty and the teachers at the partner schools. "There is much more extensive interaction between the teachers and faculty in setting goals, observing classes and student teachers and in professional development," DiMeo said.

For instance, Carnevale has taught on technology issues for the RIC faculty and she just recently completed a 45-hour literacy in English as a Second Language (ESL) course taught by Medeiros-Landurand and Nancy Cloud, assistant professor of special education. This course was a direct result of the professional development school partnership because the need was identified through the frequent interaction.

"Working with them has changed my practices by enriching what I

know and do. I have developed a deeper understanding of my students as learners and of their cultures," said Carnevale.

The partnership also allows the faculty to explore new ideas. "We can talk about concepts in our courses and we can work with teachers to try it here," DiMeo said. "Our students get more extensive practicum experience through the PDS partnership and our classroom assignment relate directly to the experience they are getting in the classroom. We can see the difference with first day student teachers coming out of this practicum. They have more confidence and are ready to refine skills as opposed to building skills."

The College and Veteran's Elementary School had been working as a PDS for about five years prior to the Virtual PDS grant, which is just finishing its second year. "The virtual piece has allowed us to focus on technology. It's been a process of simultaneous renewal. It's rejuvenated the team spirit around something new as we all are learning from each other."

RIC's other local partners in the VPDS are the following Providence schools: Charles Fortes Elementary; Robert F. Kennedy Elementary; Nathaniel Greene Middle School; George J. West Elementary; and Henry Barnard School, the laboratory school located on the RIC campus.

The VPDS also connects the Rhode Island participants with colleagues across the nation through Internet courses, ongoing e-mail correspondence and the annual conference. For the second time, RIC will host the annual conference for participants in the national grant. About 70 educators from as far away as Washington state and the U.S. Virgin Islands are expected to attend the conference on campus from June 23 to 25, according to Ron Tibbetts, RIC's site coordinator for the VPDS and principal of the Henry Barnard School.



SEVEN HONORS STUDENTS made their final project presentations on May 1 in the Alumni Lounge. Seated from left are: Kristen Williams, Kathleen Hardiman, Doreene Carr and Gerald Ross. Standing from left are: Michael Derosa, Kerri Ferraris and Kristen Hoffman. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

Former high school drop-out graduates *magna cum laude*

by George LaTour
What's News Associate Editor

During her three years at Rhode Island College, Doreen A. Shottek of Cumberland was a full-time student, a full-time parent, worked part-time in the evenings and volunteered her time at the RIC Cooperative Playgroup.

With the support of her family, she was able to overcome many adversities and, by her own admission, worked "very hard and had many sleepless nights" in order to complete her college courses with a 3.8 grade point average.

The magna cum laude graduate finished her studies last January and returned to campus Saturday, May 20, for the commencement exercises.

Shottek, who was near the top of her class in the college-prep course at Tolman High School in Pawtucket, dropped out of school before her senior year started.

"I felt bored," she says.

Realizing she had made a mistake, she immediately earned a general equivalency diploma (GED) and then proceeded to get a job as a flight attendant with Pan American Airlines. That job lasted four years during which she got married and had daughter, Alison.

"When she was born, I decided to go to the Community College of Rhode Island to be a better role model for my child," says Shottek.

She attended CCRI while working jobs as a customer service representative and waitress. She graduated with honors in June of 1996 with an associates degree in business management, and then enrolled at RIC in elementary education with a concentration in math.

At RIC, Shottek received the Rhode Island Commission on Women Freda H. Goldman Education Award, the Bruce and Marjorie Sundlun Scholarship, the Feinstein School of Education and Human Development Class of 1940 Scholarship, two Alumni departmental scholarships, and the Elementary Education Faculty Award — along with Corrine Zisiades of North Smithfield — as the outstanding



ASHTON SCHOOL teacher Doreen Shottek, a May grad, works with students (l to r) Chris Ray, Allie Bowen and Kaitlin Sarazin. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

graduates of the Class of 2000.

Shottek is currently a substitute teacher holding a long-term position as the Youth Enrichment Teacher for two ele-

mentary schools in Cumberland. She hopes for a full-time teaching job by September.

Leadership, service garners Rose Butler Browne Award for RIC senior

by George LaTour
What's News Associate Editor

A volunteer with the Liberian Community Association of Rhode Island, who has served as a community organizer, advocate and outreach worker for the past two years in support of Liberian immigrants, has won the Rose Butler Browne Award at Rhode Island College.

The award, presented annually to a graduating senior at the Cap and Gown Convocation in May, honors the late Rose Butler Browne, a 1919 graduate of RIC, who during her lifetime demonstrated outstanding leadership in professional and community affairs.

Symbu K. N'Tow of Providence, who came from Liberia to this country in 1984, graduated from RIC May 20 with a degree in social work. She will return to RIC in the fall to begin study for a master's degree in social work.

Arriving in Boston upon coming to the U.S., she attended school and worked there until coming to Rhode Island in 1991. She and her husband, Saah N'Tow, are the parents of two children, Sonie and Dwayne.

Much of her work has entailed organizing monthly health workshops for elders who have been abused by their own family mem-

bers.

N'Tow devotes much of her time to helping and advocating for those who are disadvantaged and unaware of the rights to which they are entitled.

Because of the civil war in that country, many Liberians had fled to the United States where they were granted temporary protective status. Now, they no longer enjoy that status, says N'Tow, but are under "Deferred Enforced Departure" status which, "if not renewed in September will mean the refugees will become illegal aliens and be forced back home."

N'Tow says there are over 10,000 Liberians in Rhode Island. Next September, many of them may be deported back to their homeland, which "is not a safe country to go to," she says.



SYMBU K. N'TOW

"This is a country that the American government is telling its own citizens not to travel to and yet they are considering sending Liberians back," says N'Tow.

That possibility troubles her. N'Tow feels the Liberians here "work very hard" and "are law-abiding citizens" and deserve more consideration.

"I am a Liberian, by virtue of birth and a naturalized United States citizen. I came to this country as an immigrant and a single mother. As a result of the difficulties I encountered...I decided to play an active part in making sure that others who come after me do not endure the same," says Symbu N'Tow.

Her Rose Butler Browne Award recognizes the considerable efforts she's made to that end.

Nazarian on School Talk

Rhode Island College President John Nazarian was a featured guest on a segment of the cable television talk show *School Talk* which was videotaped May 25. The segment, which featured Nazarian and Chris Carr, president of St. Martin's College in Lancaster, England, was aired on WSBE, Channel 36 on June 3 and is slated to air again on Saturday, July 8 at 3:30 p.m.

The program can also be viewed on the Internet at www.onworldwide.com, according to Nadjia Varney, School Talk producer and host. School Talk, which is taped at Bridgewater State College, is a weekly television talk show dedicated to discussing topics of national and international interest relating to education.

The segment featuring Nazarian and Carr focused on student exchange programs for education students and compared the British and American systems for teacher preparation.

RIC and St. Martin's College have developed several exchange programs in recent years.

For more information about these programs, contact Ezra Steiglitz, professor of elementary education and coordinator of study abroad for the Feinstein School of Education and Human Development at 401-456-8560 or via e-mail at esteiglitz@ric.edu.

For more information about School Talk, contact Varney at 508-285-3469.

Justice Studies award winner has chosen a career in law enforcement

by George LaTour
What's News Associate Editor

ARhode Island College graduate picked up his second RIC degree in May about the same time his wife gave birth to their third child. As if that weren't enough excitement in his life, Joshua Smith's job is that of a Woonsocket policeman who works full-time on the "Zombie Squad."

The most recent degree is in Justice Studies; the newest addition to his family is a second son, Joshua James-Paul Smith, who joins Joshua and Gina's other children, Jesse and Kristina; the third or "graveyard" shift (referred to as the "Zombie Squad" by the Woonsocket police) finds Smith "mostly patrolling" the city's streets by car late night until dawn.

The 30-year-old Smith, who earned "predominantly all A's" in Justice Studies in course work completed in two-and-a-half years, is this year's Mary Ann Hawkes Award winner in Justice Studies as the outstanding student in that discipline.

He was cited, along with other graduating senior departmental award winners, at May 3 Cap and Gown ceremonies in the Auditorium in Roberts Hall.

Smith is the 10th winner of this award, which honors sociology professor emerita Mary Ann Hawkes of Wellesley, Mass. Hawkes is known for her many years of work in corrections.

The son of James and Marlene Smith of Cumberland, Smith graduated from Cumberland High School before entering RIC for a bachelor of general studies degree, which he earned in 1995.

"Law enforcement was something

I had wanted to do, but when I first came to the College, I was in education and kind of switched around a lot. However, something inside me said, 'I really want to be in law enforcement,'" relates Smith.

As many undecided students do, he went to see Dolores A. Passarelli, director of the Office of Academic Support and Information Services (OASIS), "and she was very helpful in setting me up in the bachelor of general studies program with four concentrations: teaching, health, biology and sociology. Sociology is where I started taking my law enforcement classes."

After earning that first degree, he worked in health care and also as a martial arts instructor, teaching women's self-defense for Cumberland's recreation department from 1995 to 1997.

The seed of a career in law enforcement had been planted earlier. Then in 1997 he became involved with the Woonsocket Citizens Police Academy, which "basically allowed citizens to see the inner workings of the police department and meet some of the personnel."

This "very much" influenced him and served as the "water for the seed" and that's when he decided to follow police work.

He came back to RIC for a second degree — in Justice Studies — and on March 14, 1999 joined the Woonsocket Police Department. After training at the Rhode Island Police Academy, he began his career in law enforcement.

"It's a profession that took a lot of soul-searching," he says, but now he's certain he made the right decision.

"Without a doubt, this is the career for me. I'll be going the full stretch," Smith assures.



WOONSOCKET'S FINEST and one of Rhode Island College's academic award winners is Joshua Smith who got his second degree from RIC May 20. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

4.0 grad 'no genius' just someone who 'worked really hard'

by George LaTour
What's News Associate Editor

Lori Streker of Warwick, who was this year's outstanding graduate in accounting in the management and technology department with a perfect 4.0 grade point average, credits God, the support of her family and the Rhode Island College faculty for her success.

Down-playing her own role, the *summa cum laude* graduate with the double major of accounting and computer information systems says she's "no genius — just someone who's worked really hard."

"Whatever you put into something is what you're going to get out of it." — Lori Streker

A 1979 graduate of Cranston West High School, she was employed as a bookkeeper for several years, married Michael Streker and had two children, Sheena and Joel. During this period she provided home schooling for her children and per-



LORI STREKER

formed volunteer work for the Rhode Island Guild of Home Teachers as well as for her church.

Then she decided to pursue an associates degree in general studies at the Community College of Rhode Island. "I took that because it allowed me to explore different areas," says Streker, who graduated

in December of 1997 with highest honors and induction into Phi Beta Kappa scholastic honor society.

She transferred to RIC where she's been on the Dean's List every semester for the two and half years it took her to complete her studies.

While at RIC, she earned a Financial Executives Institute Award in accounting, was listed in *Who's Who Among Students at American Universities and Colleges*, and served as a member of the Accounting Association, the Institute of Management Accountants and the Computer Science and Math Club.

"Whatever you put into something is what you're going to get out of it," she says.

Streker says RIC was "the only choice I had financially" for a college education and found it "a pleasant surprise."

She considers RIC "a good value" one that provides "an excellent education" with caring faculty and small classes.

Streker feels that the education she's received has prepared her well to pursue a business career.

A strong believer in life-long learning, Lori Streker plans to get into the job market while pursuing further education on a part-time basis.

Communications honor society inducts 13

Thirteen communications students were inducted into Lambda Pi Eta, the national communications honor society, in ceremonies April 20 in the Alumni Lounge. The induction capped the day-long annual Communications Day at Rhode Island College.

Those inducted were: Julie B. Ciaramello, Sharon Brouillard, Dave Major, Kristen Crozier, Michelle Ahlberg, James Smith, Richard Fredette, Suet Pik Au Yeung, Michael Halloran, Ashley Mello, Chris DiFazio, Yaviri Grosso and Paul Reece.

A number of panels in the Faculty Center looked at careers and issues in the field of communications.

John DePetro '87, the "Independent Man" of WHJJ-AM morning talk show, told the audience of students and faculty that he "still looks back at things I learned at RIC's radio station."

He discussed some of his experiences in the many aspects of radio in which he's been involved since his RIC graduation from disc jockey to music director to program director to general manager to talk show host, and assured "communications is a tremendous field to get into."

Class of 2000 graduates amid pomp and circumstance

Commencement

Continued from page 1



CONGRATULATORY TWIRL: Joseph Saifi grabs his graduating sister, Carol-Anne Saifi, as she emerges from the New Building, and twirls her around.

that wasn't enough. He and his wife sold their possessions, gave their money to the poor, and initiated a ministry — Habitat for Humanity — based in housing.

He urged the graduates to "lift the limits from your thinking" for they are among "the privileged and elite of the world" and can give much to the world.

The honorary degree of Doctor of Fine Arts was bestowed upon Barnaby Evans, best known as the creator of *WaterFire* Providence and a leading historical preservationist and photographer.

Among the other speakers at the graduate commencement were Providence Mayor Vincent A. Cianci Jr.; Sarah T. Dowling, chair of the state Board of Governors for Higher Education; Susan A. Hogan, master's candidate, and RIC President John Nazarian, who reminded the graduates that "life is fragile."

Nazarian noted that the dean of the School of Social Work George D. Metrey could not be with them that night due to an automobile accident that took the life of his wife, Cheryl.

"The Metrey Family is in our thoughts and prayers tonight," he said.

Undergrad Commencement

Nancy Evans, chair of the Council of RIC, led the procession of seniors into the gym to the strains of "Pomp and Circumstance." Christine M. Noel sang "The National Anthem" followed by the invocation by Michael Napolitano, chaplain.

Gov. Lincoln C. Almond brought the official greetings of the state and told the seniors to "always look to the future with hope."

The governor urged the students and their families to support a \$63 million bond issue he's proposed to enhance academic facilities among the state's colleges and universities. The proposal will be on the ballot in November.

Cheers and applause greeted

Nazarian when he addressed the "members of the Class of 2000."

"I am proud of the can-do spirit of the graduates," he said.

The honorary degree of Doctor of Pedagogy was bestowed upon Gordon M. Ambach, one of the nation's leading experts on federal and state education policy making, who delivered the commencement address.

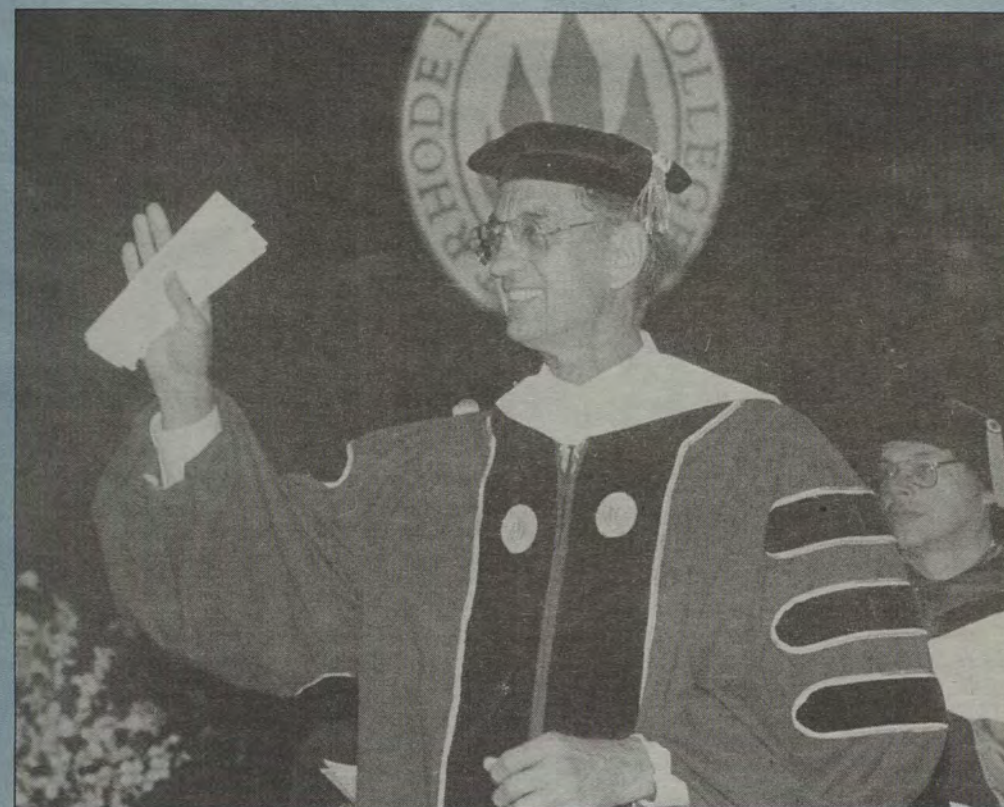
A graduate of Hope High School whose 44-year career in education has included 10 years as the New York state commissioner of education, he told the seniors the Class of 2000 "is the connection between the centuries" and encouraged them to take on leadership roles in their new careers through personal connections which include workplace coaching, creativity and global connections.

Others awarded honorary degrees were Luther H. Blount, entrepreneur and inventor from Warren, who founded the Blount Marine Corp. He was named a Doctor of Commercial Science.

And Edward J. Liston, president of the Community College of Rhode Island since 1978. He was named a Doctor of Public Service for his work as "one of the nation's most influential community college leaders." Liston will retire this month.

The Golden Anniversary Gift of \$15,000 was presented to Nazarian by Edward R. Silva and John W. Trombi, members of the Class of 1950. Calling themselves the "Nifty 50," Silva said the College had given his class "a wonderful chance to be something better."

Among the other speakers were William Turner, a member of the Board of Governors whose daughter, Kathy, was among the graduates; Peggy E. Sandoval, class president who offered farewell remarks to the class, and Paul A. Bourget, alumni president, who welcomed the class into the RIC Alumni Association.



ACKNOWLEDGING A STANDING OVATION, after his address at graduate commencement on May 18, is Millard D. Fuller, the founder and president of Habitat for Humanity International.

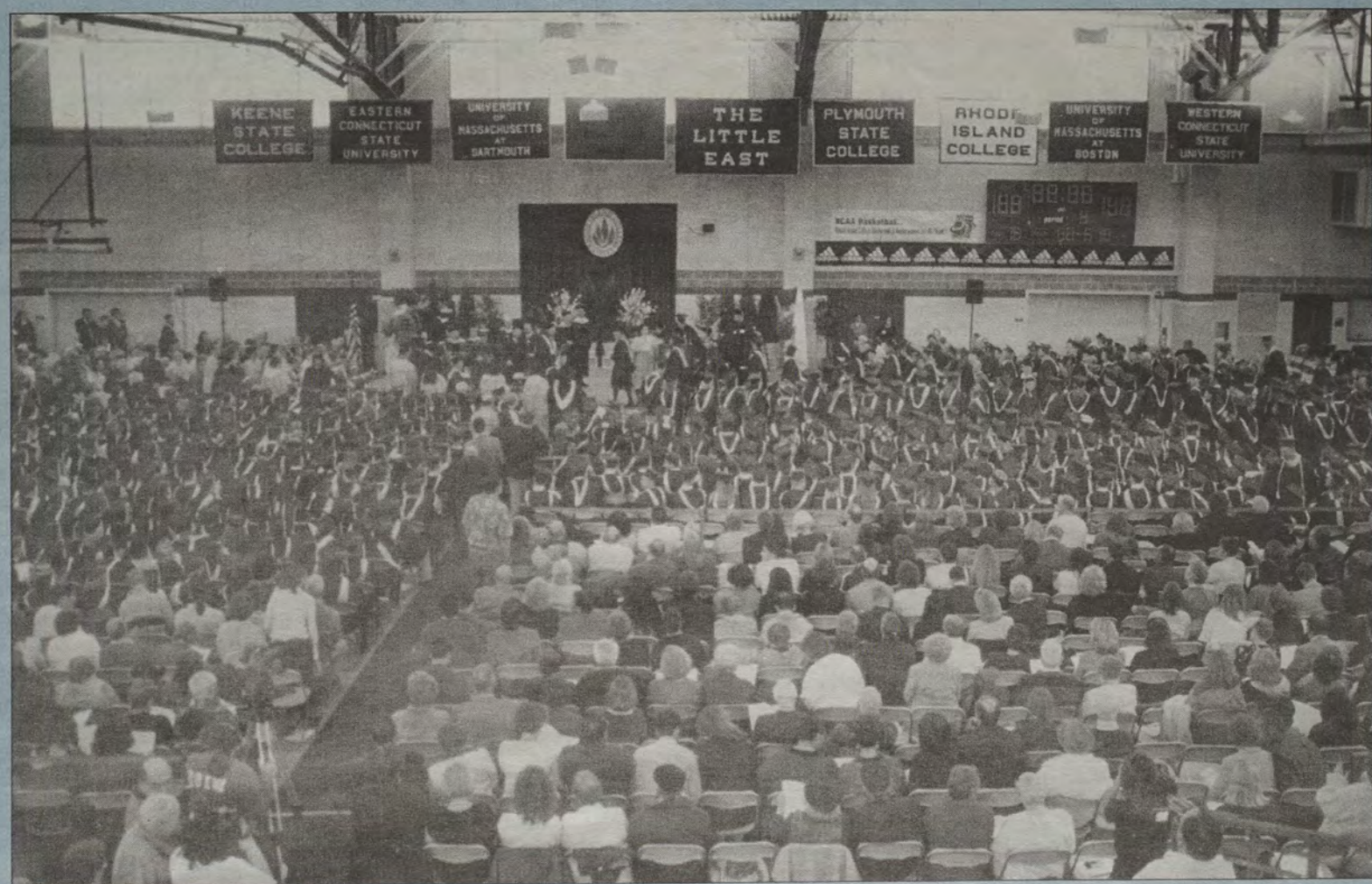


A CHEESEBURGER IN PARADISE is the theme on the mortarboard of Melissa Moran, a psychology major and Jimmy Buffet fan.

Photos by
Gordon E. Rowley



PHOTO OPPORTUNITY: Graduate Olatubosun Akinrolabu poses with family members, while his father, Class of '80, (at right), dressed in his native Nigerian costume, takes photos.



AN ESTIMATED CROWD OF 5,000 pack the New Building as inclement weather forces commencement exercises indoors for the first time in 13 years.

Athletics

Sports Roundup

Baseball

Head Coach Scott Perry's team finished the 2000 season with a 10-24 overall record and a 5-9 (fifth place) mark in the Little East Conference. The Anchormen were eliminated from the Little East Conference Tournament with a 4-3 loss to UMASS-Dartmouth in the first round.

Junior third baseman Scott Virgulak was named First Team All-Little East Conference. He played in 32 games, starting 31 on the year. He batted .377 with 114 at-bats, 24 runs, 43 hits, 16 RBI, 10 doubles, two home runs, 59 total bases, a .518 slugging percentage, .454 on-base percentage and a .849 fielding percentage. Virgulak's 43 hits were the 10th most in a single season in RIC baseball history.

Softball

Head Coach Maria Morin's team finished the season with a 23-17 overall record and a 9-5 (third place) mark in the Little East Conference. The Anchorwomen defeated Plymouth State College 3-0 in the first round of the LEC Tournament. RIC fell in the double elimination second round with a 5-1 loss to Southern Maine and an 8-0 loss to Western Connecticut State University. RIC's 23 wins were a team record for a single season, surpassing last year's mark of 22 by one game.

Senior first baseman Rachel Medeiros and junior pitcher Lea Wiggins were named First Team All-Little East Conference at their respective positions. Katie Costigan was an Honorable Mention to the All-LEC team at designated hitter, quite an accomplishment considering she is only a freshman.

Men's Tennis

Head Coach Dick Ernst's team closed out the 2000 campaign with a 5-6 overall record and a second place finish at the Little East Conference Championships.

Senior Joe Testa was the Little East Conference Champion at both number one singles and doubles. Testa is sixth all-time at RIC in career points, seventh in career singles victories and fifth in career doubles victories.

Senior Pat Prendergast was the LEC Champion at number two doubles with Testa. He is third all-time at RIC in career doubles victories, fourth in career points and sixth in career singles victories.

Sophomore Paul Perry was the Little East Conference Champion at number four doubles.

Men's Track and Field

The men's outdoor track and field team finished the season with an 11th place finish at the 2000 Little East Conference/MASCAC Alliance Championships. Head Coach Dick Hoppman's team finished fifth among Little East Conference institutions with 19 points.

Dan Fero was named All-Alliance/Little East in the steeplechase event, placing sixth overall in that event.

Women's Track and Field

The women's outdoor track and field team finished the season with a seventh place finish at the 2000 Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) Division III Championships. Head Coach Matt Hird's team placed 20th at the 2000 New England Division III Championships. RIC placed second in the Little East Conference, and third overall, at the 2000 Little East/MASCAC Alliance Championships.

Senior Melinda Roczynski closed out her career in dramatic fashion by being named All-ECAC and placing first overall in the high jump with a leap of 5'01.75" at the ECAC Championships. She was named All-New England in the high jump, placing third with a leap of 5'00.00" at the New England Championships. She placed first overall, and was named All-Alliance/Little East, in the high jump with a leap of 5'02.00" at the Alliance Championships.

Roczynski holds both the RIC indoor and outdoor high jump records at 5'04.25" and 5'05.00" respectively. 1999-2000 marked the second consecutive year that Roczynski was the Alliance Champion in the high jump event for both the indoor and outdoor seasons.

11 with RIC ties honored by RIBGHE



HONORED: Student-athletes pose with College President John Nazarian following the RIBGHE Distinguished Student-Athlete Awards reception at the State House. Pictured (l to r) are Jen Cook, Stephanie Florio, Joan Hencler, Jessica Robitaille, Brandee Trainer, Nazarian, Erica Waltonen, Beth Iacoi, Jeff Lavigne, Sean Magee, and Joe Manzello. (Photo by Scott Gibbons)

Ten current Rhode Island College student-athletes and one alumnus were honored by the Rhode Island Board of Governors for Higher Education at the second annual Distinguished Student-Athlete Awards Reception held in the Governor's State Room at the Rhode Island State House on Wednesday, May 3.

The event was designed to give significant public recognition to men and women from the Community College of Rhode Island, Rhode Island College and the University of Rhode Island who have had significant achievements in their academic and athletic pursuits at their respective institutions. The honorees have also demonstrated exemplary citizenship and community service.

Laura DiSano, Chair of RIBGHE Athletics Committee, was the master of ceremonies. Gov. Lincoln C. Almond and RIBGHE Chair, Sally Dowling, attended the reception.

The Rhode Island College Distinguished Student-Athlete award-winners were: Jennifer Cook, a senior from West Warwick who plays women's basketball and softball; Stephanie Florio, a junior from Johnston who plays women's soccer, indoor track and outdoor track; Joan Hencler, a senior from Warwick who plays women's soccer; Beth Iacoi, a junior from Westerly

who plays women's basketball; Jeff Lavigne, a senior from Glendale who plays men's soccer; Sean Magee, a senior wrestler from St. James, N.Y.; Joe Manzello, a sophomore wrestler from Leominster, Mass.; Jessica Robitaille, a junior from Greenville who plays soccer; Brandee Trainer, a sophomore from North Kingstown who plays women's volleyball and Erica Waltonen, a sophomore from West Greenwich who plays women's volleyball and basketball.

The RIBGHE also honored a Distinguished Student-Athlete Alumnus from each school. Cranston's Vin Cullen '55 was RIC's award-winner.

The history of CCRI Athletics and Vin Cullen are almost the same. Since the fall of 1965, Cullen remains the only director of athletics and men's basketball coach CCRI has ever had.

Cullen has made his mark nationally, both as a leading athletic administrator and a basketball coach. He has served the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics (NACDA) as a member of NACDA's Executive Committee and its secretary. He has been a delegate to the Goodwill Games in Moscow and a member of the Kickoff Classic Games Committee. He is also the chair of NACDA's Continuing Education

Committee and a member of several other boards. Cullen was recently named the first recipient of the 1998-99 NACDA/Continental A.D. of the Year in the Junior College Division.

He was one of the founding members of the National Alliance of Two Year College Athletic Administrations (NATYCAA), and served as national president in 1995. NATYCAA honored Cullen with the L. William Miller Award as the nation's outstanding athletic administrator in 1997.

He recently received *Words Unlimited's* Small College Achievement Award and was inducted into the Rhode Island Scholar-Athlete Hall of Fame by the Institute for International Sport on May 6.

His success as a basketball coach is equally astounding.

He just completed his 35th season without ever missing a game. One of only five members of the executive board of the NJCAA Basketball Coaches Association, he was selected National Basketball Coach of the Year in 1991 and has been inducted into the NJCAA Hall of Fame. He was selected by the U.S. Olympic Committee as an assistant coach at the 1987 Olympic Festival. His current won-loss record is an impressive 668-253.

Hall of Fame Class of 2000

The Rhode Island College Department of Intercollegiate, Athletics, Intramurals and Recreation recently announced the Athletic Hall of Fame Class of 2000. Nine former RIC student-athletes/coaches have been selected and will be officially inducted at the Athletic Recognition Dinner, held in conjunction with Homecoming, on Saturday, Oct. 14.

This year's inductees are: **Joe Aguiar '60** who was a soccer student-athlete and coach; **Billie Ann Burill** who was a master swimmer and fencing coach; **Kathy Kelly-Luther '80** who was a basketball student-athlete and coach; **Lois**

Testa Lynch '57 who was an Olympic athlete and the National Shot Put Champion; **Dick Magarian '62** who was a wrestling coach and is the current director of the Rhode Island Interscholastic League; **Cesar Palomeque '77** who was a basketball student-athlete; **George Tracey '51** who was an official, coach and educator; **Silvio Tartaglia '53** who was a soccer student-athlete and the former president of the Rhode Island Soccer Officials Association and **James White '74** who was both a soccer and baseball student-athlete and an educator.

Spring Sports MVPs named

Baseball:
Luke Hardiman

Tennis:
Joe Testa

Men's Track and Field:
Dan Fero

Women's Track and Field:
Keely Subin

RITE graduate infuses drama, history and real life into classroom

by Shelly Murphy
What's News Editor

Although she has been recognized as "a wonderful asset to the social studies teaching profession and her students," this year's Katherine Murray Outstanding Future Teacher Award recipient didn't set out to be a teacher. In fact, Carina Cournoyer '97 and Rhode Island Teacher Education (RITE) program '00 didn't know what she wanted to do when she came to Rhode Island College as a freshman in 1993, or even when she graduated *magna cum laude* in 1997 with a double major in anthropology and archaeology and a minor in geography.

"My interests and strengths have always been in social studies and English," Cournoyer says, but she wasn't sure exactly how she would turn her interests in those general disciplines into a career. Her journey toward that decision started with an anthropology elective at Cranston High School West and culminated with her earning her RITE certification. Along the way, she conducted fieldwork in a Cree Indian community in Canada, studied in Montreal for a year, and served as a school-to-career specialist for a year through the AmeriCorps Vista.

After her interest was piqued by the initial anthropology class, she applied for early acceptance to RIC (whose anthropology department was highly recommended by a teacher at her high school), earned a RIC Foundation honors scholarship, and entered the Honors Program.

"The Honors Program at RIC was challenging. I liked the way I could tailor my education and integrate English and history," she said. As an undergraduate, she was selected as a Robert C. Byrd Scholar and awarded a Ridgway F. Shinn Study Abroad grant to attend McGill University in Montreal, where she completed her junior year.

In the summer prior to her year at McGill, she spent two weeks in a Cree Indian community in northern Quebec doing fieldwork on indigenous rights and the James Bay Hydroelectric Project for her honors project. Her interest was sparked by a film on the Cree Indians that she saw in a class taught by Pierre Morenon, associate professor of anthropology. "The film showed the differences in the Cree Indians lives since the hydroelectric dams were built. It affected their hunting grounds. There was some compensation. Their lives



CARINA COURNOYER, Katherine Murray Award winner, with the notebook she used to teach a class on the history of Woonsocket. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

are changing dramatically. They are modernizing rapidly."

In the 1970s when the film was produced, "they were still very much a hunter-gather society," although changes from the influx of money and modern society were beginning to occur, Cournoyer said. When she visited the Cree community, the differences even from the time of the film were striking. Although fur trading was still very much a part of their lives, the signs of modern life were apparent. "It's an 11-hour drive north of Montreal. It's in the middle of the woods with just a gravel road leading

to it. When I got there, they were developing a youth center and building a police station," she recalled.

The next fall, Cournoyer studied at McGill University, focusing on Canadian history, culture and indigenous issues. She returned to RIC for her senior year. Upon graduation, she joined AmeriCorps VISTA community service program to gain experience and broaden her options. "I wasn't sure what I wanted to do. I wasn't ready for graduate school, although I was considering it. I also was considering going into education."

The school-to-career position pro-

vided an opportunity to explore the field of education. "It gave me a good theoretical background dealing with education issues such as education reform. It also gave me experience in grant writing and (the opportunity) to talk to principals and teachers," she said of her VISTA experience.

"I've always liked interacting with youth. Teaching is a good opportunity to make a significant change, to affect youths' lives in a positive way. It's also a way for me to convey my excitement (about learning and the subject matter) to students. It has ended up being so much fun. It's amazing what you can get teenagers to do. They have a bad rap. It's gratifying when you see them create something they are really proud of."

The stops along the way, helped Cournoyer define her career and are reflected in her teaching. This spring, during her student teaching at North Smithfield Junior-Senior High School, she had the eighth-grade geography class debate Cree rights. The students researched papers, created visual projects and debated both sides of the issue for two days in class.

"It was something I was interested in and provided a way to get them excited and get them to think analytically about Native American issues," Cournoyer said. "Eighth-graders are at a great age where they are still enthusiastic about learning. You can infuse drama into the classroom, and they'll participate."

Cournoyer is dual-certified to teach English and social studies in secondary education, grades 7 - 12. She is pursuing an endorsement in English as a Second Language so she can more effectively teach second language students in her classes.

She is interested in language culture in part because most of her family speaks Italian. Her father was born in Italy and his family immigrated to America when he was 12 years old. Her mother's family also speaks Italian. She recalls being at family gatherings and not understanding the conversation. She started studying Italian when she was in the ninth grade and can now be an active participant in the discussions.

Cournoyer is currently substitute teaching and looking for a permanent position. Her husband, Mitchell Cournoyer '97, who also graduated from the RITE program, is currently substitute teaching and continuing to work as a dispatcher for the West Greenwich Police Department, where he worked while pursuing his degree and teaching certification.

Case Management Institute awards certificates

CASE MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATES: The School of Social Work awarded certificates of completion to graduates of its Case Management Institute May 16 in the Forman Center. Above from left are Catherine Houle, Claudia Barber, Josefa Cruz, Justine Gregory, Yvette Wheeler, Sherry Konicki, and Charlene Ventre. Presenting certificates is Mary Ann Bromley, professor in the School of Social Work, while John Riolo, institute coordinator, looks on. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)





ADMISSIONS GUIDES pose outside of the Forman Center. From left are: Jennifer Cyr, Kim Malone, Katie Anderson, Michael Crittenden, Kally Hanifin, Susan Chen, Tim Touchette and admissions officer Irene Rupert and admissions representative Jason Anthony. The guides provide tours of the campus throughout the year. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

RIC professor helps Lincoln with substance abuse study

Research and surveys can become very costly, as Victor Profughi, professor of political science, knows. So when he was contacted by the Town of Lincoln's Substance Abuse Prevention Council to conduct a survey of town residents to evaluate the impact of the Council's efforts and to provide guidance in the planning process, he looked for ways to stretch the group's budget.

"The task force had a five-year

grant and is nearing the end of that period. They needed an evaluation of the impact of their efforts and information on what people think they should do in the future," Profughi said.

He contracted with the town to conduct a telephone survey of about 400 randomly selected town residents and suggested the coordinator, Janet Hindley '96 and MSW '98, approach the College development office regarding

using its telephone bank. The development office donated the use of the telephone bank and a portion of the costs associated with the survey, which was completed recently.

Recognizing the need for additional data, Profughi donated his professional services to develop and analyze a second survey that is to be administered to Lincoln's middle and high school students.

Seminars conducted for print industry

The Graphic Communications Center program in the Center for Management and Technology offered two seminars sponsored by Rhode Island College and the Printing Industries of Rhode Island this spring in the graphics labs in Whipple Hall.

Representatives from 12 companies participated in a three-day color management seminar that was held on three Fridays in April.

Leonore Collins, associate professor of industrial technology, brought in a national trainer to instruct the participants on ways to ensure that the color viewed on the computer remains consistent throughout a print production workflow comprised of many pieces of equipment and multiple modes of color.

The second seminar was a half-day session attended by 20 participants from local companies on printing four colors on a two-color press. The Larsen Company of Connecticut and Accel Company, in partnership with RIC and PIRI, put the seminar together. The Hamada press used for the seminar was part of the equipment added to the IT Graphics area through a Champlin grant last year.



COLOR MANAGEMENT: Chad Senecal '98 of Barrington Printing, left, and Kevin Kelliher of Island Printing, discuss color profile issues at a color management seminar in the graphics lab in Whipple Hall.

NEASC

Continued from page 1

Office of Higher Education and the Board of Governors for Higher Education.

Accreditation is voluntary and applies to the institution as a whole. NEASC, which is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education, accredits approximately 200 institutions in the six-state New England region.

"The upcoming College-wide accreditation is important not only because there is an external agency that reviews what the College is doing, but because it allows us to look at ourselves, to evaluate what we are doing and what we must do as things around us change," College President John Nazarian said.

"The process is designed to measure institutional effectiveness," Bierden said. "NEASC is looking for the extent to which the activities at the College are consistent with its mission and that we have a mechanism for solving problems."

In leading the two-year effort, Bierden and Thomas gained insights and broadened their perspectives of the College. "The self-study gives us an opportunity to see and to talk about the College's successes, to identify areas of concern, and to make projections about the future," Bierden noted. For instance, Thomas said, compared to the last study (in 1990), the College's finances are better (due to an improved state economy), our technology is significantly improved, and strong new academic programs have been developed.

Yet, the process of evaluation and improvement continues. "As is often the case, positive conditions also can have negative consequences. It may be argued that a healthy economy, especially in terms of employment, can have a detrimental effect on college enrollment," the committee states in the overview section of the draft. "New facilities increase the need for resources to maintain them. Technology always has bugs. The College has experienced all of these negative effects, but on the whole, things are good."

The work on the NEASC self-study began in August 1998 when Nazarian appointed Bierden, professor of mathematics and secondary education and director of bachelor of general studies degree program; and Thomas, professor and department chair of nursing, as co-chairs of the effort. That fall, the subcommittees were created and the research work began in earnest. In the spring 1999 semester, the subcommittees drafted outline reports for review and comment by the co-chairs. The subcommittees then wrote their final drafts. The co-chairs met with various subcommittees and also made a presentation about the continuing accreditation process to the Student Community Government.

Finally, in the spring 2000 semester, the 15 separate reports were coordinated into one document. Now that the draft is complete, the co-chairs are seeking comment from the College community. They have posted the document on the College's web page (www.ric.edu) and have placed copies on reserve at Adams Library. The co-chairs would appreciate written comments. This summer, they will consider the comments and make appropriate changes as they refine the self-study, which is limited to 100 pages.

"NEASC has specific guidelines to which we are responding. Not everything everyone wants to say will be included in the self-study, but the College community will have the opportunity to share comments with the surveyors while they are on campus in October," Bierden said.

For more information, contact Bierden at 401-456-9781 or via e-mail at jbierden@ric.edu or Thomas at 401-456-8013 or pthomas@ric.edu.

May graduate plans to continue in her own business and teach

by George LaTour
What's News Associate Editor

After 22 years of owning and building her own interior design business, Deborah Martin-Estrella of Smithfield decided the time had arrived to consolidate her previous encounters with several institutions of higher education and found that Rhode Island College — which she refers to as Rhode Island's best kept secret — offered just the right program to meet her academic goals.

On May 3, she was given the Bertha Christina Andrews Emin Award for scholastic excellence by the RIC Foundation at the College's annual Cap and Gown Convocation.

On May 20 at the undergraduate commencement, she received her diploma for having completed a bachelor's degree in career and technical education with a 3.78 (out of a 4.0) cumulative average.

A native Rhode Islander, she had attended St. Mary's Academy at Bay View for nine years and then transferred to Cranston West High School where she graduated.

She attended the University of Rhode Island, the Community College of Rhode Island from which she earned an associate's degree in general studies, and the Rhode Island School of Design.

"It was around 1980 when I began a series of classes. Basically, I was all over the page," says Martin-Estrella.

Having accumulated over 90 credits at these institutions of higher learning, she entered RIC in September of 1999 and focused on the degree that she was to complete in a year.

"I was pleasantly surprised about RIC. Being a mature student and having been other places, I found it a very positive experience," said Martin-Estrella.

"The biggest thing I found was how to pursue this goal I have of teaching interior design," she says.

Martin-Estrella explains that there is no certification for teaching interior design "so I'd be breaking new ground."

She says the "area is becoming more and more professional" and there are standards nationally "but not at present in this state."

In the meantime, she plans to pursue a master's degree in interior design at Suffolk University in Boston which, she says, has a new program on the master's level.

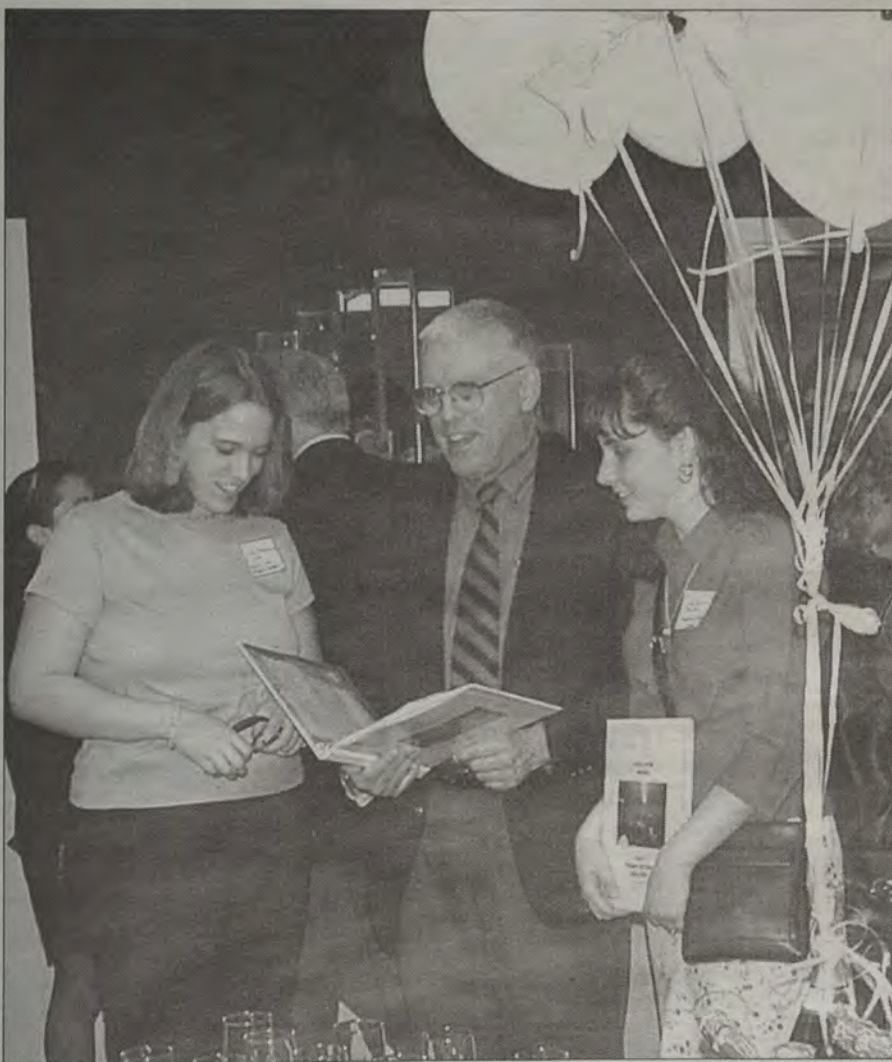
She and husband, Michael, have two grown sons, both graduates of Boston College. One is a certified public accountant and the other a financial analyst. Both work in Boston.

Martin-Estrella did her student teaching at New England Tech and eventually plans to see if they have any openings. "Other than that, it would have to be vocational schools where I would have to develop a program."

Her goal is to teach while maintaining her interior design business.



INTO INTERIOR DESIGN: Deborah Martin-Estrella with some of the materials she uses in her own interior design business. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)



STUDENT TEACHERS' RECEPTION: A reception to celebrate students as new teachers and to honor Carina Cournoyer, the Katherine Murray Award winner and other award recipients was held May 12 in the Alumni Lounge. Above, Robert Hogan, professor of English, looks over the notebooks of Lisa Pasonelli (left), who taught English at Park View Middle School in Cranston, and Kate Desilets, who taught English at Ponagansett High School. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

Faculty research grants

Continued from page 1

Multilateralism and the Eastern Enlargement of the EU," \$1,500; Krisjohn Horvat, art, "Sublimation: The Sculpture Series," \$1,485; Pamela Irving Jackson, sociology, "Citizenship as the Institutionalization of Class Conflict in Industrial Society: The Case of Immigrant Workers in the United States, France and Germany," \$1,441;

Dana Kolibachuk, biology, \$1,547; Marc Lamontagne, physical sciences, "The Development of a Novel HPLC Detection Scheme for the Analysis of Biologically Significant Compounds," \$2,450; Jianhong Liu, sociology, "Transition to Market Economy and Crime Trends in China," \$3,800; Thomas Malloy, psychology, "Development of a Statistic to Estimate the Relative Effects of the Stimulus and the Perceiver's Organization of the Stimulus in Interpersonal Perception," \$1,375;

William Martin, art, "Research in Hot Metal Working for Sculpture," \$1,380; Charles Marzzacco, physical sciences, "The Effects of Micelles on Chemical Reactions," \$2,400; Meradith McMunn, English, "The Iconography of Yseult in Illustrated Medieval Manuscripts," \$1,695;

Thomas Meedel, biology, "Identification of Cis-regulatory Elements of CiMDF, the MkyoD-family gene of Ciona Intestinalis," \$2,270; Apollos Nwauwa, history, "Neo-colonialism and Academe: The

British Intellectual Imperialism in Colonial Africa, 1940-1960," \$3,900; Mindy Ochsner, elementary education, "Locating, Sustaining and Disrupting Gender Discourses: A Feminist Poststructuralist Study of Gender in Three Kindergarten Classrooms," \$1,550;

Jeannine Olson, history, "Nicolas Des Gailars," \$3,498; Steven Rivers, physical sciences, "Determination of Thickness and Index of Refraction for Tungsten Trioxide Thin Films," \$1,424; Bret Rothstein, art, "On the Order of Seeing in Early Netherlandish Painting," \$2,770; Lisa Russell, art, "Analysis and Interpretation of Form and Space Relationships," \$2,500;

Daniel Scott and Amritjit Singh, English, "The Harlem Renaissance's Infant Terrible: A Wallace Thurman Reader," \$1,012; Bryan Steinberg, art, "3-D Synthesis of Ceramic Form," \$1,850; Duncan White, psychology, "The Effects of Extremely Low Frequency Magnetic Field Intensity on the Development and Learning Behavior of the Grain Beetle, *Tenebrio molitor*: Part IIIc," \$1,355;

Felicia Wilczenski, counseling and educational psychology, "Utility of the School Independence Measure in Assessing the Needs of Children with Attention and Learning Challenges," \$600.

Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts nears completion

Plan to join us!

Dedication of the John Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts

Sept. 15, 2000

2 p.m. ribbon-cutting ceremony, followed by tours

This event marks the beginning of a year-long dedicatory season featuring special performances and events.

THE JOHN NAZARIAN CENTER for the Performing Arts nears completion, down to the surrounding cement work and landscaping. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)



Retirees recognized at Gala for years of service



STAFF RETIREES who attended the Commencement Gala pose with College President John Nazarian. From left are: Joan Walker, administrative secretary to the vice president for academic affairs; Bert Cross, director of the records office; Lois Lewis, eligibility technician in financial aid; Barbara Matheson, costume designer for music, theatre and dance; Angela Capasso, senior word processing typist in security and safety; Frances Taylor, principal clerk-typist in biology; and Nazarian. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)



FACULTY RETIREES who attended the Commencement Gala pose with College President John Nazarian. From left are: Arthur Laferriere, professor of physical science; Ellsworth "Red" Starring, professor of elementary education; Edward Scheff, professor of theatre; Moyne Cabbage, professor of communications; Patricia Lyons, associate professor of elementary education; Dix Coons, associate professor of modern languages; James Turley, assistant vice president and dean of the graduate school; and Nazarian.

Nazarian announced that all of these retiring faculty members as well as two members not present - Paul Anghinetti, professor of English, and Joseph McSweeney, associate professor of English and Secondary Education - had been named professors emeriti. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

