RIC Health Sciences: A Laboratory for Learning
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The Rhode Island College Alumni Association, founded in 1887, has existed to serve and promote interest in Rhode Island College. The association assists the college with its mission through its time, talent and resources – financial and otherwise. The Alumni Association provides financial support to the college primarily through an annual appeal, The Annual Fund.

This edition of the Rhode Island College Alumni Magazine features articles previously published by What’s News @ Rhode Island College, an online publication comprised of breaking news, features stories, arts and entertainment articles and more. The site is produced by the RIC Office of College Communications and Marketing and can be found at www.ric.edu/whatsnews.

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Rhode Island College: Working to Build the Nation’s Health Care Workforce

Dear Alumni,

RIC has long held a tradition of excellence in health care and in preparing our graduates for jobs in this critical sector of our economy.

Currently our nation is facing a major shortage of health care professionals in all fields – doctors, nurses, pharmacists, midwives and other community health workers. I am very proud that Rhode Island College is on the front lines, working to meet those needs.

In this issue you’ll have the opportunity to learn about some of RIC’s many success stories. You’ll hear about a dedicated member of our physical sciences faculty whose mentorship of students exemplifies the personalized student-teacher relationships that make RIC unique.

Whether it’s the heroism of a current student who continues to overcome the challenges of autism or a day in the life of one of our graduates in nursing who is leading an interdisciplinary team at Home & Hospice Care of Rhode Island, these stories will move and inspire you and fill you with a sense of pride for your alma mater.

You will also get a glimpse of some of our health sciences programs, which are expanding each year (we recently established new degree programs in medical imaging and health care administration). Our nursing programs are highly competitive, and our School of Social Work has been ranked the 15th most selective in the nation by the Journal of Social Work Education. Both schools recently joined forces, modeling the interprofessional teamwork so needed among health care professionals.

I am also pleased to announce that Jane Williams, dean of the School of Nursing, was recently selected to participate in an event at the University of Pennsylvania that included First Lady Michelle Obama, where the focus of discussion was on improving health care for veterans.

In addition, Lynn Blanchette, assistant professor of nursing, was awarded the 2012 Outstanding Graduate Student in Community Health/Public Health Nursing Award from the Association of Community Health Nursing Educators in recognition of her potential to transform education, practice and research.

And Anne Carty, RIC professor of nursing, was conferred the 2012 Nightingale Award for Academic Nurse Educator of the Year by the Rhode Island State Nurses Association on April 13 at the association’s Third Annual Gala. Also recognized that evening was First Lady of the State of Rhode Island Stephanie Chafee, who is an RN.

As president of Rhode Island College, I am inspired daily by the outstanding work of our faculty, students and alumni. RIC’s mission is to offer the finest quality of education in a caring community that values academic excellence. This is nowhere more evident than in the stories featured here.

Best wishes,

Nancy Carriuolo
President of Rhode Island College
(401) 456-8101
Dear Alumni & Friends,

Twelve years ago I joined the Alumni Association Board of Directors as a way to stay connected to Rhode Island College. I knew very little of its history and long-standing traditions. I was even less aware of the amount of time I would spend supporting its mission, and ultimately how I would play a small part in carrying its traditions forward.

As the 53rd president of the Rhode Island College Alumni Association, I am honored to have been given the privilege of leading this esteemed organization. This is something I could not have done without the support of the entire alumni board, executive officers and many members of the campus community. It has been a rewarding journey, and I have learned a great deal about an association that has continued to inspire a multitude of others to give back their time, talent and resources. A mission that has endured for many years.

“As you read the stories of our alumni excelling in the field of health care, and you observe the list of our outstanding Alumni Award winners, I know you will continue to feel the same sense of pride that is shared by many others.”

The Rhode Island Normal School Alumni Association was officially formed on October 28, 1887, naming Arthur W. Brown, Class of 1872 as its first president. The first meeting took place at the Providence YMCA. In 1928, the Associated Alumni of Rhode Island College of Education was reorganized by several leaders of the college community, including Mary M. Lee, ’28, Maisie E. Quinn ’12 and Edna Smith McKeon ’15, all of whom would eventually serve in the role of alumni president. At Alumni Day on May 21, 1960, the organization voted to change its name to its current moniker: “The Rhode Island College Alumni Association,” given the imminent change of the institution.

This year, as we celebrate the 125th anniversary, or “quasquicentennial,” of the Alumni Association, I am pleased to pass the torch (or in this case the flame!) to the next generation of alumni ambassadors. We can all be proud of the college’s evolution and considerable success over the years. This can be largely attributed to the leadership of the nine college presidents, and the countless number of faculty, staff, alumni, volunteers and friends like yourself. I would like to share with you just a few of Rhode Island College’s most recent highlights:

Rhode Island’s 2012 Teacher of the Year, Julie Lima Boyle ’94, M’06; Superintendent of the Year, Donna Ottaviano, ’81, M’86; and Assistant Principal of the Year, Jason Masterson ’04, M’06 are all alumni.

The state-of-the-art Bloomberg Finance Lab opened last fall in Alger Hall, and the renovation of the Recreation Center, the cornerstone of the east campus, is almost complete.

A newly revised general education program is being implemented in the fall; a student-athlete success center recently opened its doors, as well as a Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning; and enhanced partnerships between the Career Development Center and the academic departments are creating more opportunities for internships.

As I complete my term as alumni president, it is gratifying to know that we have so many recent successes at our alma mater, and numerous alums doing exceptional work in their chosen professions. As you read the stories of our alumni excelling in the field of health care, and you observe the list of our outstanding Alumni Award winners, I know you will continue to feel the same sense of pride that is shared by many others. Our Alumni Awards and Honor Roll committees, in conjunction with our academic deans, have once again selected an outstanding slate, and we hope you can join us in celebrating their accomplishments on Thursday, May 10.

We are all ambassadors of this fine institution, and our legacy depends on our collective voice within the greater community. Along with Kate Brezina, the new executive director of alumni affairs, and the staff of college advancement, the alumni association is grateful for the support you have given back.

As the college continues to have an enormous impact on the future of our society, I am more confident than ever that Rhode Island College’s best days lie ahead.

Sincerely,

Jason Anthony ’99, M’05
President, Alumni Association
Karen Almeida ’94: Success Through Experimentation

BY RAY RAGOSTA
Karen Almeida had the biochemist gene in her DNA. But it was there, and the proof is in her current position as a biochemistry professor in the Department of Physical Sciences at Rhode Island College.

After graduating from Lincoln (R.I.) High School, Almeida had no intention of going to college, but her mother had different ideas, so Karen Almeida went off to Syracuse University and earned a bachelor’s degree in advertising.

She moved to Washington, D.C., and worked in that field, often doing demographic work because of her talent for mathematics and science.

But she found the people in advertising too image oriented. “I feel more comfortable in jeans and a t-shirt,” she said during an interview in her Clarke Science office.

A little more experimenting was in order.

“My goal is to learn anything I can ... and publish my findings. I hope it assists someone else to further cancer research, possibly one of my students.”

So Almeida tried teaching English in Japan and spent one fall biking down the West Coast. Still, she wanted to keep searching, and at 25 she returned to Rhode Island.

Then she did something that might be considered atypical for an adventurous spirit. She took a summer course in general chemistry at Rhode Island College. That experience gave her a Rhode Island moment, too. Her professor, Arthur Laferriere, had gone to elementary school with her father.

“You know how Rhode Island goes,” she joked, “Everybody is related to everybody somehow. It’s like two degrees of separation.”

This time, however, the results of her experiment were positive. She earned a BA in chemistry from RIC, while working full-time, and went on to Brown University for a PhD in organic chemistry. Subsequently, she engaged in postdoctoral research at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in the Department of Biological Engineering.

At MIT she really got her bearings and began working in the area of cell and molecular biology, developing a recombination assay. An assay is a procedure for measuring the biochemical or immunological activity of a sample.

Almeida explained the mechanism behind recombination. She said, “Your DNA is constantly being damaged just from the very act of living and breathing; if your DNA is damaged to the point that it can’t be repaired, then cell death can occur or diseases can develop.

“As a defense, your body has developed pathways to repair that damage, and the vast majority of it gets repaired with no consequences.

“One of those repair pathways is called homologous recombination, and this one can be very dramatic because it requires finding another area within the genome. If it mis-aligns, if it picks the wrong spot, then you can have whole ends of the chromosomes swapping, which can have devastating, if not lethal, effects.”

According to Almeida, the rate of recombination can be indicative of problems. In general, the more recombination there is, the more unstable the genome, and the more likely cancer is to develop.

Almeida and her colleagues at MIT used fluorescent proteins from jellyfish to monitor such cell activity. When the proteins were truncated, they would cease fluorescing, but when they rejoined, they would resume. That would be a marker for when an event had occurred.

“We could see recombination under different conditions,” she noted. “We could investigate questions, such as, if you take out certain genes, do you get more recombination or less recombination?”

When Almeida returned to RIC in 2005 as a faculty member, her position was half funded by a Rhode Island INBRE (IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence) grant, allowing her to teach only 12 load hours per year, instead of the typical 24, and enabling her to spend more time in the laboratory. The grant also helped to provide new equipment for the labs at the college, so students could benefit as well.
One of the goals of INBRE is to develop the biomedical industry in Rhode Island by supporting education to train a highly skilled workforce.

Almeida was also a prime mover in developing a new Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry with a concentration in biological chemistry. The program has an intensive lab component that bridges the gap between classroom content and research methodology while exposing students to Almeida's research. That lab usually enrolls about eight students, instead of the 24 for a typical lab, allowing Almeida to take a more individualized approach to instruction.

Research, as Almeida emphasized, involves a lot of unknowns, and an individual must be comfortable in that kind of environment in order to be successful. In fact, as she explores new areas with her students, she is sometimes learning right along with them.

She commented, “In the more traditional college labs somebody knows the answer, but in the real world that is not the case at all. We can make a guess based on the literature that we’ve read. We can create a hypothesis on how this might be functioning, but nobody knows. Why bother doing it, if you already know it.

“Students really like that idea because you’re dealing with something new, but it’s also kind of scary because you oftentimes don’t know what to expect.”

Senior Angela Gargano, one of Almeida’s students, finds the biological chemistry major ideal for her interests as it combines chemistry with the opportunity to work with living things, like bacteria and yeast.

For her, Almeida’s laboratory is particularly exciting.

Referring to the hands-on experience students get, she said, “By doing it, you understand so much more.”

She added, “Research never stops. One thing leads to another, and if you find something, it can become part of the bigger picture.”

Gargano, like her fellow students, perform tasks such as extracting and purifying protein and using the Snap ID to visualize and identify proteins. The Snap ID is a piece of equipment Almeida acquired that reduces a five-hour task to a half-hour.

Gargano also has an interest in cancer research, and that fits well with her professor’s current work in the laboratory.

Almeida’s latest endeavor, which is funded through Rhode Island INBRE and the National Institutes of Health, relates back to her work at MIT, but concentrates more on cell energetics, which studies how energy is redistributed in biological processes. One focus of her investigations involves the negative effects of chemotherapy, which destroys healthy cells in the process of eradicating diseased ones.

She is studying how the levels of NAD+ (nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide), an important energy-generating molecule in the body, are maintained.

Cells need adequate amounts of NAD+ to remain healthy. During normal cell activity NAD+ levels essentially do not change, but when NAD+ is called upon to do additional tasks, levels can be depleted.

Almeida elaborated, “One of the enzymes that can deplete NAD+ levels is PARP (poly [ADP-ribose] polymerase), an enzyme that recognizes strand breaks in DNA and signals that repair is needed. . . . If PARP is really active, the NAD+ levels go down. PARP is going to be activated when you take chemotherapeutics because the chemotherapy is damaging the DNA, so I’m looking at the protein that is trying to restore those NAD+ levels, which is called NAMPT (nicotinamide phosphoribosyltransferase).”

While INBRE has funded several projects that involved Almeida, she also benefited from grants provided by the Rhode Island Science and Technology Advisory Council and the Champlin Foundations.

When asked about the end products of her research, Almeida remains realistic but determined. She noted, “My goal is to learn anything I can about the conditions for NAMPT activity and publish my findings. I hope it assists someone else to further cancer research, possibly one of my students. Am I going to cure cancer? Probably not. But I am part of the whole process.”

Karen Almeida is not a dreamer. After all, she is a scientist and scientists are generally methodical in their practice. But that doesn’t mean she can’t think outside the box. At RIC, she has combined her research and her teaching of undergraduates in effective and innovative ways. In her own life, she began her path to the biochemistry lab in an advertising agency. It doesn’t get much more unconventional than that.
Valerie Zabala ’11: Following in Some Impressive Footsteps

BY RAY RAGOSTA

“At Brown I work with a mixed bag – undergraduate students, MDs, PhDs – and the skill set I acquired at RIC is the same or a little better than the Brown students.”

Valerie Zabala ’11 – who was mentored by RIC biochemistry professor Karen Almeida, also a RIC alum – has been following a career path that is much like her former professor’s.

She attended Smith College but put higher education on hold for 10 years and worked as a retail manager before giving RIC a try in the particularly difficult field of chemistry. (Almeida was also a nontraditional student, coming to RIC after a brief advertising career.)

It wasn’t an easy start for Zabala either, but with Almeida’s encouragement, she not only completed her degree at the college but is also planning on earning a PhD.

She described studying with her professor as “absolutely fantastic.”

“Dr. Almeida,” she said, “taught us to think about our personalities, interests, and what you are good at – not just technical skills. She taught us how to operate in the professional world, about computer programs, lab notebooks and many other details.”

Zabala had been working in Almeida’s lab for over a year, but in September, she entered a postbaccalaureate program at Lifespan’s Liver Research Center, affiliated with Brown University. Zabala is a research assistant under Dr. Suzanne de la Monte, a professor at Brown’s Alpert School of Medicine.

The idea of the Lifespan program is for college graduates to spend two years exploring fields that may interest them before they commit themselves to graduate studies, which for a PhD can take five to seven years.

“I didn’t know you could do this,” said Zabala, “until Dr. Almeida told me about it.”

Zabala learned a lot more from her mentor, particularly in the area of laboratory skills.

Zabala said, “At Brown I work with a mixed bag – undergraduate students, MDs, PhDs – and the skill set I acquired at RIC is the same or a little better than the Brown students.”

“I didn’t have to learn a lot more to work in this lab.”

She is currently researching how factors such as alcohol and obesity affect liver disease through the absence or presence of proteins.

Right now, Brown is high on Zabala’s list of graduate schools, and she is hoping to concentrate her studies in the field of molecular pathology. (Almeida has a Brown doctorate.)

It looks like another case of the right chemistry at RIC.
As a child, Lorenzo Crumbie ’11, who grew up in Jamaica, was stricken with chronic asthma, among other illnesses, which kept him in and out of hospitals most of his life. He said he was intrigued when his family physician would know what to do to make him feel better.

As a teenager, he began shadowing physicians in the ER and OR of Jamaican hospitals. He saw the injuries and illnesses being treated and said, “I wanted more than ever to help. I became caught up in the ways in which medical science has devised ways to fix these problems.”

He came to the United States in 2008 and enrolled at RIC as a biology major. His ambition was to go to medical school.

“RIC’s biology program was competitive, and I had superb interactions with the admissions office,” Crumbie said. “There was also a collegial atmosphere among the faculty and approachability by both faculty and staff. It was a win-win situation from the start.”

He said he’ll always remember the advice his RIC biology professor, Kenneth Kinsey, gave him:

“Dr. Kinsey said learning should be something that is active and not just a process of regurgitating information. He taught me to actively seek out knowledge.”

He also cited Suzanne Conklin, RIC assistant professor of biology, for teaching him to read deductively and to question data.

“The three years I spent at RIC were the most rewarding of my life.”

“The three years I spent at RIC were the most rewarding of my life.”
Emphasis in Conklin’s senior seminar was on reading primary science literature, scientific writing and making oral science presentations.

“Lorenzo was extremely friendly, hardworking, invested, knowledgeable and very willing to share his knowledge,” said Conklin. “I remember he always had his laptop open; and if someone had a question, he would look it up. His 20-minute public seminar was so polished he received thunderous applause.”

In his junior and senior years, Crumbie took on a research project in organic chemistry, under the direction of RIC professor of chemistry John Williams, spending many hours in the pharmacology and toxicology lab.

“One of the key problems in hospitals is antibiotic resistant bacteria,” Crumbie said. “Although hospitals make every effort to keep everything sanitized, it’s impossible to totally eradicate pathogenic [disease-causing] bacteria from every surface, for example, on catheter tubes and cotton gauze.

“Working with Professor Williams, my research project was to take plastics and cotton used to make these biomaterials and attach novel antibiotics to them that would be effective at either killing the bacteria or stopping the bacteria from growing.”

While his peers spent spring break sunning on the white sandy beaches of Jamaica, Crumbie sought out more knowledge at the pediatric pathology research lab at Children’s Hospital Boston. There he shadowed pathologist Dr. Kyle Kurek ‘93, director of the Pediatric Pathology Fellowship Program and pathology instructor at Harvard Medical School. He is also a 2011 recipient of the RIC Alumni Service Award.

“I met Lorenzo at a talk I gave at RIC’s Biology Departmental Seminar,” Kurek said. “He was very interested in my experience. Eventually, I arranged for him to spend spring break with me in the lab.”

Crumbie shadowed Kurek both in the lab and in the hospital. In the lab, they worked on isolating DNA from cancerous cells found in the bone tumors of children. The aim was to find the genetic cause.

“Pathologists are often called the ‘doctor’s doctor,’” explained Kurek. “I’m an anatomic pathologist, which means I spend my time studying and diagnosing disease. When a child has surgery or an endoscopy, tissue samples are removed so that I can render a diagnosis.”

Working closely with surgeons in the operating room, he makes diagnoses and ensures that all diseased tissue has been removed. He also works closely with oncologists to discuss the impact of the diagnosis on patient treatment.

The other half of Kurek’s time is spent in the research lab, trying to find cures for diseases.

“I always thought of doctors as practitioners, not researchers,” Crumbie said. “When I met Dr. Kurek, he broadened my understanding of their dual role. Physicians don’t just treat symptoms of diseases, they conduct research to understand diseases in order to prevent them.”

“The three years I spent at RIC were the most rewarding of my life,” Crumbie said.

After graduating from the rigorous biology program, he was hired as research assistant for Kaztronix, a recruiting agency, which contracted him out to Genzyme, a pharmaceutical company in Cambridge, Mass. Crumbie works in the Compound Library of Genzyme, where he prepares compounds for screening.

In the evening, he volunteers at the lab at Children’s Hospital Boston, where he continues to work with Dr. Kurek investigating pathologies. Crumbie is undecided if he should pursue an MD-PhD or just an MD.

Kurek has his own opinion on that. He said, “While Lorenzo is a gifted scientist-in-training, I think he would be an even better physician. He’s very dedicated and caring — qualities that make for outstanding bedside manner. Even if he becomes a physician-scientist in an academic institution, he will always be giving back to others.”

Recently Kurek heard from another RIC student who wants to become a physician-scientist, thus, his mentoring continues.

As director of the Pediatric Pathology Fellowship Program at Children’s Hospital, he oversees the education of medical students, pathology residents and fellows in his discipline. As an instructor at Harvard Medical School, he mentors students in their first two years of medical school.

“In many ways, I am where I am now because of RIC,” Kurek said. “I had the benefit of great professors in both the sciences and the humanities who trained me to become a critical thinker, an independent thinker, which is what it takes to be a good doctor and scientist.”

Kurek said that from his first semester in RIC professor of biology Lloyd Matsumoto’s honors course, the professor took him under his wing. Kurek worked in the lab with Matsumoto all four years at RIC, gaining the skills he needed to become successful in science and medicine.

“And we continue our relationship today,” Kurek said. “I visit him regularly, even though it’s been 20 years since I sat in his classroom.

“My mentor has become my role model. I hope I can be as dedicated a mentor as he has been.”
The health care field is in high demand. According to the U.S. Labor Department, the industry is projected to expand 16 percent over the next five years, creating more than three million new jobs across the nation.

In Rhode Island alone, the Department of Labor and Training projected over 13,000 new jobs in health care and social assistance by 2018, which would account for one third of all new job growth in the state.

In the fall of 2010 RIC implemented a BS in radiologic technology to help meet the growing national and local need for health care professionals. This program was broadened in the fall of 2011 to a BS in medical imaging in partnership with Rhode Island Hospital’s School of Diagnostic Imaging. Faculty from both institutions teach courses and clinicals.

According to Eric Hall ’81, co-director of RIC’s medical imaging program and chair of the biology department, “This expansion was a response to student demand for career options in the health care industry and a nationwide trend toward increasing the education level of medical imaging practitioners.”

The Joint Review Committee (the only accrediting agency in the field recognized by the U.S. Education Department), will be requiring, beginning in 2015, that any person taking the registry exam have a college degree.

RIC’s medical imaging students enroll in one of two four-year concentrations: radiologic technology or nuclear medicine technology.

“Our clinicals show us how to interact with the patients, give us hands-on training and help us critique our studies,” said Cory Legere, a RIC student in the program.

A radiologic technologist uses x-rays and the nuclear medicine technologist works with small amounts of radioactive materials to perform imaging exams of the human body and to assist physicians in diagnosing and treating diseases.
“This expansion was a response to student demand for career options in the health care industry, and a nationwide trend toward increasing the education level of medical imaging practitioners.”

RIC’s medical imaging program has proven to be quite popular. Currently, 17 RIC students are enrolled in clinical education courses, 207 are in pre-clinicals and 53 have applied to take clinicals beginning in June 2012. Clinical practicums are held at Rhode Island Hospital, Hasbro Children’s Hospital, Miriam Hospital and University Orthopedics.

RIC’s nuclear medicine technology concentration involves 18 months of intensive specialized clinical experiences, while clinicals for the radiologic technology concentration are more generalized and last for 24 months.

“Our clinicals show us how to interact with the patients, give us hands-on training and help us critique our studies,” said Cory Legere, a RIC student in the program.

When students graduate from either of these concentrations, they become certified through the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists or the Nuclear Medicine Technology Certification Board.

Graduates also have the option of earning a second BS degree by enrolling in RIC’s two-year certified diagnostic medical sonography or computed tomography program.

“[These] are optional additional programs that can provide credentials for specialized positions in the field,” said Hall.

Diagnostic medical sonography, more commonly known as ultrasound, uses sound waves to generate an image to assess various medical conditions. A computed tomography scan combines the use of x-rays and computers to display a cross-sectional image of the body’s tissues and organs.

Ellen Alexandre, program director of the School of Diagnostic Imaging, said that a certificate in computed tomography is highly recommended for graduates of the nuclear medicine program due to the new hybrid equipment that combines nuclear medicine technology and computed tomography.

Students also have the option of enrolling in a two-year certified radiologic technologist management program.

“Since many currently practicing technologists do not yet have a bachelor’s degree,” Hall said, “this program provides the necessary course work enabling them to complete their degree while providing management skills.”

The medical imaging program at RIC has proven so successful in its first year that there are plans for an additional concentration in magnetic resonance imaging (MRI).
Two New Nursing/Social Work
BY JAYASHREE NIMMAGADDA AND JUDY MURPHY

Interprofessional Simulations: Bringing Social Work and Nursing Students Together

In a collaborative simulation, two MSW students attend to a family member, while RIC nursing students deliver emergency care to the patient.

The Institute of Medicine and other patient safety groups have identified that miscommunication and lack of team collaboration are often the cause of medical errors. To prevent these errors, health profession educators are being urged to consider teaching undergraduate and graduate students from different professions together.

This educational collaboration is called Interprofessional Education (IPE).

Rhode Island College has begun a collaborative project by bringing nursing and social work students together in the School of Nursing’s Simulation Center. The “patients” (mannequins that are simulated using a computer) and their family members (played by trained actors) in the simulation add physical and emotional components to the presenting crises. Nurses and social workers attend to the patient and their family members in a coordinated manner. All of this professional activity is videotaped. Students and faculty then sit down to watch and debrief.

In addition, as the responsible faculty, we have added a research component to the project. The Institutional Review Board at RIC approved this pilot project, involving IPE simulations. The Readiness for Interprofessional Learning Scale is administered before and after the simulation using Survey Monkey. In addition, field notes are transcribed both during the simulation and during the debriefing.

We are analyzing this data to see what gains students have made through these exercises.

Last summer, we ran a few simulations with junior-level nursing students and found that since simulation was so new to them, they were not ready for the complexity of an interprofessional simulation.

We are now conducting IPE simulations with senior-level nursing students and graduate social work students. Students at this level have developed confidence in their knowledge and skill, and recognize the need for good communications between professions.

Stephen Godbout, one of the nursing students who participated in the simulation this summer, related that he felt much more comfortable working with the social workers at the senior level. He valued their insights and really felt that he learned much more from this simulation.

Students from different professions who learn together will understand each member’s role and develop trust and respect for the different perspective that each profession brings when providing patient care.
RIC Partners With Institutions in 3 States to Build Better Health Care Teams

BY GITA BROWN

RIC’s Schools of Nursing and Social Work have partnered with institutions in Rhode Island, Massachusetts and New Hampshire to work on a three-year project that targets interprofessional teamwork among health care professionals.

Funded by Partners Investing in Nursing’s Future (PIN), this project is tested locally and, if successful, shared nationally.

Jane Williams, dean of RIC’s School of Nursing, explained the importance of teamwork in health care:

“Nurses are part of a health care team, which includes physicians, social workers, pharmacists and physical therapists. If we can educate future health professionals to work well together as a team, we can improve the quality of care. Being part of an effective health care team will also improve nurse retention and satisfaction.”

PIN, which is led by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Northwest Health Foundation, is a multimillion-dollar investment in America’s nursing workforce and supports local foundations that advance the nursing profession in their communities. The lead foundation for this grant is Tufts Health Foundation.

The grant will provide a “wonderful opportunity to build on the existing strengths of our relationship with the School of Nursing and to introduce social work to other health professions,” said Sue Pearlmutter, dean of the School of Social Work. “Our graduates working in health care settings practice along with nurses, physicians, pharmacists and others, but may not be comfortable articulating their role or advocating for clients/patients and their families. Learning the skills of interprofessional practice will better prepare all our students for the health care systems of the future.”

Along with RIC’s nursing and social work schools, the three-state collaboration in this project consists of the following:

In Rhode Island: the Brown University Warren Alpert Medical School, the University of Rhode Island College of Nursing and College of Pharmacy, the Edward J. Virginia M. Routhier Foundation of Rhode Island, the Rhode Island Center for Nursing Excellence and The Rhode Island Foundation.

In Massachusetts: the University of Massachusetts at Worcester Medical School and the University of Massachusetts Worcester Graduate School of Nursing, the Tufts Health Plan Foundation and the Massachusetts Area Health Education Center.

In New Hampshire: Dartmouth College Medical School, Colby-Sawyer College Department of Nursing, Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center and the New Hampshire Area Health Education Center.

“Our [social work] graduates working in health care settings practice along with nurses, physicians, pharmacists and others . . . Learning the skills of interprofessional practice will better prepare all our students for the health care systems of the future,” said Pearlmutter.

The project is built on the recommendations of the recent Institute of Medicine report, *The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health*, which focuses on the fact that patients receive safer, higher quality care when health professionals work in interprofessional teams, communicate effectively and clearly understand each other’s roles.

“This is a great opportunity for RIC’s School of Nursing to make a difference in the quality of patient care in the region and in the nation,” Williams said.
A Morning in the Life of Heidi Mikkelsen-McCabe
Home & Hospice Care of Rhode Island
BY GITA BROWN

Home & Hospice Care of Rhode Island in Providence is the third oldest hospice in the nation and the largest in the state. It is also an education site for Rhode Island College’s Schools of Nursing and Social Work.
“My introduction to the field of palliative and hospice care was a very serendipitous one,” Mikkelsen-McCabe said. “I consider myself fortunate to have landed in this field of nursing. If I can pass on the positive hospice message of comfort and quality of life for patients and their families through staff development and by sharing our wonderful organization with nursing students, I couldn’t ask for a better job.”
H eidi Mikkelsen-McCabe ’89, staff development manager of Home & Hospice Care of Rhode Island (HHCRI), has been a role model for community health nursing students at Rhode Island College and nursing students throughout the state.

Her interest in visiting nursing began when she did her RIC community health clinical experience at Northwest Visiting Nursing in Gloucester. She solidified her clinical assessment skills at Roger Williams Hospital. Thereafter she worked for eight years as a case manager on one of the Visiting Nurses Association (VNA) of RI therapeutic teams and spent a final three years as a case manager on the VNAs palliative care/hospice care team.

Joanne Costello, RIC associate professor of nursing, remembered what a great advocate Mikkelsen-McCabe was at the VNA for RIC’s nursing students.

“She worked closely with them, facilitating their learning and precepting every semester. She also made home visits with the students, to teach them about caregiver challenges, symptom management, skilled nursing interventions and assessments.

“Visiting the homes of patients with acute, chronic or life-threatening illnesses and seeing the commitment families made to care for their loved ones, impacted me deeply,” said Mikkelsen-McCabe.

“I decided I wanted to be where they did palliative care/hospice care all the time, every day. So I joined the team at Home & Hospice Care of Rhode Island.”

TEAM WORK

HHCRI serves approximately 3,400 patients a year who have life-threatening illnesses and have chosen not to seek aggressive, curative treatment for their illness.

HHCRI stresses an interdisciplinary team approach to care. The facility has a team of physicians, registered nurses, certified nursing assistants, social workers, spiritual care coordinators, grief counselors and volunteers who together coordinate an individual plan of care with the patient, the family and the patient’s physician. When new staff come in, Mikkelsen-McCabe orients them to everyone’s role at hospice.
ORIENTING NURSING STUDENTS

Mikkelsen-McCabe holds an orientation for staff once a month. She orients students who are doing their clinicals four times a semester.

“In the past 15 years, approximately 40 RIC nursing students have performed their clinicals at HHCRI,” said Joanne Costello, RIC associate professor of nursing.

RIC student Chloe Grenga, a senior, is currently in clinicals at HHCHRI working under nurse preceptor, Cathy Bedard.

“On my first day I met with Heidi McCabe who showed me around the building and where I would be placed for assignments, which would be different each week,” Grenga said.

HOUSE CALLS

The HHCRI team makes visits to patients in their homes, in nursing homes, assisted living facilities and hospitals, providing medical, emotional and spiritual care. A large core of over 350 volunteers go out to read to patients or to just listen or help patients with errands. Here, Mikkelsen-McCabe introduces new staff to Donna Dunn, volunteer coordinator.

Dr. Edward Martin, chief medical officer, talks with nurses in HHCRI’s inpatient unit, where patients receive 24-hour individualized care. HHCRI’s Philip Hulitar Inpatient Center is the only freestanding inpatient provider of hospice care in Rhode Island. The center has 24 beds.

After a morning of clinicals, Grenga returns to the RIC campus, where she and other students engage in a roundtable discussion about their clinical experience.

“After four weeks at hospice, I’ll be able to go out to homecare sites with my preceptor,” Grenga said.

Each year RIC professor of nursing Anne Carty sends eight RIC nursing students to HHCRI to perform their last of seven clinicals.

Like Grenga, they take part in an educational meeting with McCabe, they receive a tour of the facility, and are then paired with an RN, shadowing the RN as she visits her patients for that afternoon.

Grenga said, “The nurses here are very passionate about what they do. They deal with difficult situations every day, but they also have great coping skills.”
As a student, I interned at a hospice and immediately felt drawn to bereavement work,” he said.

Since the spring of 2009, O’Neill has worked as a grief counselor at HHCR. He is in the office about as much as he is on the road, driving out to visit his long-term-care clients and assessing how they’re functioning, eating, sleeping, coping and if they have a support system.

“The hardest part of grief is the isolation they feel. People just want to talk as soon as I walk in the door,” he said.

O’Neill is often asked if his work depresses him.

“If I never saw people in grief healed, yes, it would depress me,” he said. “But I see healing all the time.”

O’Neill, who is a new father, likens the process of grief to giving birth:

“Death, like birth, is the most natural experience in the world. Yet there's a great mystery about it. You're nervous, uncertain, unsure. Being a grief counselor is like being a good midwife. You're holding someone's hand in the dark and telling them that they'll get to a better place, even if they can't see it. You provide education, encouragement and strength to go through this transformative experience.”

Grief counselor Mark O’Neill ‘09 will sometimes meet with clients in HHCR’s chapel. The stained glass window behind him was handmade by RIC professor emeritus of psychology Tom Randall.

GRIEF COUNSELING

Mark O’Neill is a 2009 graduate of RIC’s Master of Social Work program. He was also co-president of the MSW student organization.
11:30 a.m.

EDUCATING AND BUILDING RESOURCES
At 11:30 a.m., Mikkelsen-McCabe returns to her desk to work on HHCRI’s new programs. The facility recently established a program for dementia patients called Joined in Care. Again, taking on the role of educator, she coordinated the program and instructed the interdisciplinary team members about the unique care needed for these patients.

She said, “Oftentimes end-stage dementia patients are unable to speak, walk or feed themselves. The Joined in Care program finds ways in which the team can connect with these patients so as to make their lives and the lives of their families meaningful.”

The team has adopted aromatherapy, hand massage and music therapy, among other tools, to support dementia patients.

Mikkelsen-McCabe is also a member of a team developing a program for end-stage heart disease patients to educate clinicians on best care practices for these patients. Additionally, she schedules outside speakers to make educational presentations to all members of the interdisciplinary team.

“My introduction to the field of palliative and hospice care was a very serendipitous one,” Mikkelsen-McCabe said. “I consider myself fortunate to have landed in this field of nursing. If I can pass on the positive hospice message of comfort and quality of life for patients and their families through staff development and by sharing our wonderful organization with nursing students, I couldn’t ask for a better job.”
Meet Eric: 
Life With Autism

BY GITA BROWN

When he was 16 months old, RIC student Eric Duquette had a grand-mal seizure – violent muscle contractions and loss of consciousness due to abnormal electrical activity in the brain. No one has been able to identify what brought on the seizure. Soon after, he had two petit mal seizures.

Two months later, his mother Judy Duquette began to notice changes in Eric. He went from having a 10-word vocabulary to having no speech at all. He avoided eye contact. “It seemed almost painful for him,” she said. Eric showed no interest in people and preferred to be alone. “He’d walk around children or bump into them as if they were pieces of furniture,” Judy said, “and he appeared to be deaf. He wouldn’t respond to his name. He’d also take an object, such as a pencil, and move it back and forth in front of his eyes in a repetitive motion.”

At Christmas Judy and her husband indulged Eric with 50 gifts. Instead of playing with the toys, Eric stacked them to the ceiling. Judy later discovered that giving Eric more than 10 toys at a time produced sensory overload, which brought on the stacking behavior.

By age three, Eric was referred to a speech therapist. Judy said it only traumatized him: “He would throw up all over himself.”

Finally, while sitting in the waiting room of her pediatrician’s office, an occupational therapist noticed that Eric was moving a pencil back and forth in front of his eyes. The therapist blurted out, “Do you know what your son is doing? He’s self-stimming. He has autism.”

Autistic individuals are sometimes known to self-stim (short-hand for self-stimulation). In some cases it helps with thinking or concentration, while in others it helps diffuse energy.

“As much as I needed to hear what was wrong with Eric, I was devastated,” Judy said. “All my dreams ended at that moment.”

When the pediatrician heard what had happened in the waiting room, he vehemently disagreed with the therapist and threatened to have her written up. Thereafter came numerous medical visits with neurologists and psychiatrists and other physicians, along with a battery of tests and scans, before it was determined that Eric did indeed have autism.

Judy said she sat in the shed and cried all day. Eventually she began reading everything she could on autism, most of which provided little hope. Yet one book became her bible –
commencement he delivered the salutation speech.

In high school Eric was named salutatorian for earning the second highest grade point average of his graduating class. At his commencement he delivered the salutation speech.

Let Me Hear Your Voice: A Family's Triumph Over Autism, by Catherine Maurice.

She also learned about applied behavior analysis (ABA), an intensive program that teaches children with autism how to talk, play and live in a social environment. Unfortunately, there was a two-to-three-year waiting list for an ABA therapist.

By the invitation of another mother with an autistic child, Judy was allowed to sit in on the child's ABA therapy session so that she could learn how to apply ABA with Eric at home.

First she created a distraction-free room in their home – the bathroom. She sat up a table and chair and began working with Eric eight hours a day.

“Eric could find anything as a distraction,” Judy said. “Even a speck of dust on the floor. And it was a task just to get him to sit still. I would open the book and tell him to touch the cow. He'd flip the table, throw things and cry.”

But one day Eric did touch the cow and Judy rejoiced. She phoned friends and family with the news. More importantly she discovered that Eric could learn, he could follow directions, he could sit in a chair and attend to her for five minutes.

Along with ABA, Judy applied other forms of therapy: diet (no wheat or milk products), vitamin therapy (B6, magnesium, Super Nu Thera, DMG and flaxseed oil), patterning, the Picture Exchange Program (speech therapy), and consultants (Susan Constable of RIC's Rhode Island Technical Assistance Project, Daniel Cohen of the New England Center for Children, the Groden Center and Pathways). She also joined what later became the Autism Project.

Within six months of ABA and the Picture Exchange Program, Eric began to speak and to reveal just how gifted he was. “His brain is like a computer,” Judy said. “He scans information and pulls it up when he needs it. At five, he knew facts that most five-year-olds wouldn't know; for example, the number of seconds in a day.”

A video clip of his speech aired on ABC News*. In the speech he remarked that the experts had told his parents he'd end up in an institution. Yet here he stood, with numerous offers of academic scholarships and acceptances into every college and university he had applied to: Bryant University, URI, RIC and CCCI. “At least the doctors got the institution part right,” he said.

Eric is now a Rhode Island College biology and Spanish major, a straight-A student, and on the dean's list each semester. He studies 12 to 18 hours a day. He gets up early so that he's fully prepared for class and he spends eight hours a day on campus.

“Once he knows what to do, he does it to perfection,” Judy said. “At the same time, his brain processes information slower than most people, which means he reads very slowly, so I let his professors know prior to the start of class that Eric will need extra time on tests and labs and that he'll need a quiet testing area.”

Eric mentioned a few more of his idiosyncrasies: “I tend to take what people say literally. I have trouble understanding sarcasm, body language and cues. After hearing a lecture by DARE on sexual harassment, I avoid girls altogether.”

“He's ethical to a fault,” Judy said. “He always says thank you. He's patient and tolerant of others. He never complains, never blames and is never embarrassed about his autism.”

Rather than label himself disabled, Eric defines himself as “different.” He said, “Webster’s Dictionary defines ‘different’ as ‘not the same, separate, out of the ordinary, extraordinary.’ I do feel that I've had an extraordinary life.”

Eric's goal is to become a pharmacist, and Jim Gallagher, CEO of CVS, is his mentor. Judy, too, is using her experiences to better the lives of others. She became a certified behavior analyst in May 2011. She is also a clinical supervisor (serving children with autism) and an educational autism consultant for the Grodin Center, all while currently writing a book about Eric.

Kids With Autism
Find One of Their Greatest Advocates in Susan Constable

BY GITA BROWN

Though Susan Constable has worked in the field of autism for 23 years only to witness the alarming rise in autistic children, she still has the same passion and love in her eyes for these kids as a teacher on her first day of school, and her advocacy work is tireless.

Constable is coordinator of the Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) Support Center under the auspices of the Rhode Island Technical Assistance Project (RITAP).

RITAP is a grant-funded collaboration between Rhode Island College and the Rhode Island Department of Education to improve the education and life-long outcomes of people with disabilities.

With an office on the RIC campus and an office within the Rhode Island Department of Education, Constable joined RITAP’s ASD Support Center in 2001. Prior to that, she was the first director of the Autism Project of Rhode Island and taught children with autism for 10 years.

One of her roles at the ASD Support Center is to teach school staff how to work with ASD students. She remembers years ago consulting with Eric Duquette’s teachers in an elementary school in Smithfield, R.I.

Back then, she said, Eric’s autism presented significant behavioral challenges in school. He would try to escape from activities, and his team of teachers weren’t quite sure what to do.

“Predictability is the number one support for students with autism,” said Constable. “Eric needed to see at circle time that the activity had a beginning, middle and end. He couldn’t see that, which is why many of Eric’s challenging behaviors served the function of escape.”

She also advised the teachers to give Eric a pictograph of exactly what was going to happen that day and at what time. He needed to see what he would be doing, how much of it he would be doing, when it was going to end, and what he would be doing when it was over. Eric was also taught to ask for a break when he needed time away from activities.

Implementing these and other supports, Eric was able to learn and thrive.

“My role is to help school systems build their capacity to support the ever-growing number of students with autism,” said Constable.

According to the latest research, autism is dramatically on the rise across the country. Constable highlighted the statistics for Rhode Island: “In 1994, there were 41 students eligible for special education with autism,” she said. “In December 2011, there were 1,987 eligible students.”

Why the drastic rise? “There is a definite genetic link,” she replied, “but science still hasn’t identified all the genes.”

Constable also said a neurologist out of Harvard – Martha Herbert – is examining an environmental link to autism. Herbert wrote: “Genetics alone cannot account for the huge increase. This rapid rise is greater than genetic evolution can explain.”

Constable said, “We’re living in an environment where there are nearly 100,000 chemicals that weren’t here 50 to 100 years ago. The impact of an increasing amount of environmental triggers, coupled with genetic vulnerability, could explain the dramatic global increase. The jury is still out on environmental toxins.”

Constable teaches a course at RIC in the new graduate Certificate Program in Autism Education. It was Constable, along with others, who legislated to have the certificate program brought to RIC.

“As part of RITAP, I not only work for RIC, I also work for the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE). I was introduced to Peter Palumbo, a state representative, through RIDE’s educational liaison to the State House. Representative Palumbo has two children with autism. Together, in 2007, we created the Autism Commission. As part of that commission we legislated to have a Certificate Program in Autism Education at RIC.”

Because of the professional development being done in this certificate program, Constable is no longer the only expert consultant in the state going out to schools. Now experts can be trained within the local school systems. So far, 57 educators from across the state have completed, or are currently enrolled in, RIC’s certificate program.
“My role is to help school systems build their capacity to support the ever-growing number of students with autism.”

Constable’s goal is to see that every teacher in the state is educated and trained, because one of the greatest challenges for ASD children is grade-to-grade and school-to-school transitions.

The child may have one teacher who’s been trained and educated in ASD, but then the child moves on to the next grade or school and finds the teacher has not been educated and trained.

Constable, with support from RIDE, also established a statewide ASD Network, which is a professional development forum, open to the public, for the purpose of disseminating information on ASD.

“These forums present evidence-based practices proven to work if practiced with fidelity,” said Constable.

The most recent was a forum held on March 14 in RIC’s Student Union Ballroom. Priscilla Gillman, author of The Unromantic Child and parent of a child with autism, presented.

“Parents are so important in this process,” said Constable. “Judy Duquette is a shining example. Eric, too, is incredible. He just took organic chemistry at RIC, along with other courses, and got a 4.0.”

But Constable would also like to dispel the myths. There are various degrees of ASD, and every child isn’t going to present the same behaviors. For example, many people think that individuals with autism have special gifts, she said, or are savants, yet the number of savants is actually low.

Years ago when she was teaching children with significant autism, Constable had a group of triplets. One triplet had very significant autism, the other had a less severe form of autism and the other had a speech and language disorder. Again, within the ASD population, there is great variation.

Early diagnosis is the key to better long-term outcomes for individuals with ASD, she said. Right now, in Rhode Island, the age for diagnosis is four. Constable wants earlier detection, which means better outcomes.

These days, she does less consulting at schools and more statewide professional development.

With other staff at RIDE, she monitors, every five years, every school system in the state to ensure that they are providing supports to students with disabilities according to regulations. And she looks at the incidence of the numbers of students with ASD within specific school districts.

As secretary of the Autism Commission, Constable also remains on the move. Recently she, Representative Palumbo and the legislative commission wrote legislation that was enacted by the R.I. General Assembly requiring insurance companies to pay for autism treatment as of January 2012.

Constable has been a woman on the front lines of autism for over two decades. Driven by passion and love for these kids, she is, without question, one of autism’s greatest heroes.
The Birthing Business: A Nurse-Midwife’s Perspective

BY GITA BROWN

“Most women aren’t excited about having to put on a hospital gown and place their feet up in stirrups,” said nurse-midwife Kiersten Brennan, RIC assistant professor.

But midwives have been known to spend up to an hour with first-time patients educating them and listening to their concerns. And what may have started out as an uncomfortable clinical experience with a medical provider turns into a partnership.

Brennan has been an RN for 15 years and a midwife for over 10. This is her first semester teaching Maternal Newborn Nursing, with focus on labor, delivery and postpartum.

Though many of her nursing students will not be delivering babies, they are still required to take this course.

“Why?” Brennan said. “Because pregnancy is part of the lifecycle of women. The preconception care a teen receives affects the outcome of her pregnancies later in life.”

The word midwife is Old English for “with woman”: mid, meaning “with”; and wīf, meaning “woman.” Thus, a midwife is “a woman with” or “a woman assisting” in a delivery.

Today not all midwives are women, nor are they limited to delivering babies, but all midwives have a philosophy of care that emphasizes listening to and educating their patients.

“There is an art and science to nursing,” Brennan said. “I’m a nurse first, so I have the gentle touch most nurses have. But as a midwife, I’m listening to my patients and educating my patients so that they can make informed health care decisions.”

Another philosophy of midwifery is caring for the whole patient. Brennan said the major focus in medicine is illness. Midwives treat the illness, but they also treat the whole person.

A midwife will ask about a woman’s life and her family situation. They will assess her financial needs, nutritional needs, stressors and mental status. They’ll put her in touch with other professionals in the health care field, such as psychiatrists and social workers. “A midwife almost doubles as a social worker,” she said.

As far as labor, delivery and postpartum, midwives believe in not intervening in low-risk pregnancies (and according to the American College of Nurse-Midwives, most pregnancies are low risk). Should complications arise, midwives are equipped to manage high-risk situations. If need be, they will also collaborate with a physician.

Brennan recalled a midwife who used to sit and knit while her female patients were in labor. She said it brought an ease and naturalness to the experience. The midwife knew, of course, when it was time to step in. But she also knew when to suggest a simple change in breathing and when to let time do its work.

“It’s important that women know that giving birth is a natural experience,” Brennan said.

Brennan began her midwifery career at Women & Infants Hospital in Providence. “At any one time, 20 women were in labor,” she said. “You had to be ready to be pulled in to deliver a baby, even if the patient wasn’t your patient, because the patient’s doctor may not have been available.”

Brennan has delivered more than 500 babies at Women & Infants, along with providing other health care services for teenagers to postmenopausal women, including primary care, gynecologic exams and family planning services.

As a new RIC faculty member, she said, “RIC is a great college. I love the faculty. I love the students.” Brennan’s energy and enthusiasm for women’s health carries over into the classroom.

In the afternoon she holds clinicals in the RIC School of Nursing Resource Lab and Simulation Center, where students have the opportunity to practice on a “patient” (a computer simulated mannequin).

The mannequin they work on is male – called SimMan. In order for Brennan’s students to perform a postpartum assessment, SimMan has to be modified into a woman. She can hear and respond to questions. She can groan and cry real fluid. Her chest rises when she breathes and her heart sounds are synchronized with the EKG. She also has a radio pulse on both arms.

From a computer monitor in another room, Brennan watches the students’ performance. After the simulation, she and the students will sit and view the video, and Brennan will give them feedback on what they did well and the ways in which they could improve their skills.

“Learning to connect with and understand a woman during labor, delivery and postpartum is a process,” Brennan said. “As a new nurse you’re scared to death, so you’re only focused on the baby’s head coming out, then you start to realize that there are legs attached to the woman, and a face. Finally, you begin to see the whole woman and relate to her as a whole human being.”
In the RIC School of Nursing Resource Lab and Simulation Center, students learn to work with “patients” (mannequins that are computer simulated to behave like a human) prior to practice with real-life patients. Assistant professor of nursing, Kiersten Brennan (center), normally oversees eight students in the lab. Today she is supervising RIC student nurses Nicole St. Pierre, left, and Abigail Garcia.

The students will be doing a postpartum assessment. Postpartums take place in the morning after a woman has given birth.

Brennan observes students from the Command Center (the camera room), alongside RIC Lab Coordinator Fatima Morel-Silva. All the students’ actions are videotaped. Brennan is the voice of the mannequin, testing the students’ knowledge by asking questions a normal patient would ask.
Garcia begins with a blood pressure reading on the patient to make sure the patient doesn’t have gestational or chronic hypertension. St. Pierre and Garcia then begin a breast assessment to ensure the integrity of the skin. They ask how breast feeding is going and if there’s any pain.

The students also perform a newborn assessment: checking the baby’s interior fontanel (soft spot), reflexes and heartbeat. A hepatitis B vaccine is also administered.

As St. Pierre performs a uterus assessment, she warns the patient that “You’ll feel a little pressure.” She asks the patient if she’s having a lot of cramping and what her bleeding is like.

After clinicals, Brennan meets with the students to debrief. They watch a video of their performance and get feedback from Brennan on what they did well and how they could make changes in their performance.
Rhode Island College is well known for its outstanding athletic program and for its nursing program. The demands placed on RIC student-athletes who choose to take on both challenges can be taxing, but RIC has produced special individuals who excel in both areas.

Kate McCalligett ’05, a 2012 inductee into the RIC Athletic Hall of Fame and currently a nurse at Rhode Island Hospital, commented on her experiences as a track student-athlete:

“Being involved in nursing and in track was very demanding for me. It took a lot of time management, and there was definitely a lot of stress, but track helped me deal with that stress. It made me not only a better runner, but also a better student.”

McCalligett achieved one ECAC, 10 All-New England and 22 N.E. All-Alliance accolades. She also received the Helen M. Murphy Award and was selected in 2005 to RIC’s 75th Anniversary Women’s Track & Field Team.

RIC’s softball team is one of the college’s best all-time athletic programs, having been to the NCAA Division III Tournament in five of the last six years. Two of the team’s key contributors, designated player Laura DeNoncour ’12 and center fielder Amanda Perry ’12, embarked on careers in nursing.

Anne Carty, RIC nursing professor and faculty athletic representative, said, “Laura DeNoncour successfully managed the rigors of a nursing major, the demands of being on the softball team, and the additional time and energy required to be a class officer of the Student Nurse Association. She also received the School of Nursing Service Award.”

Amanda Perry earned All-New England, All-ECAC and All-Little East honors and finished up in the top five in many career statistical categories. She praised her teammates for helping her get through the tough times:

“I’ve always felt as though softball helped me complete my nursing degree. All athletes have a passion for their sport, a passion that really cannot be put into words. I just happened to be lucky enough to also find a passion for nursing. The long hours put into both left me overtired, but I truly believe I couldn’t have finished nursing school without the love and support of my softball family.”

RIC student-athlete Cynthia Gaudet

Perry, who hopes to work in the ER, recently passed her boards. “Passing the boards feels like stepping to the plate for the first time as a freshman,” she said, “the start to a great future.”

Cynthia Gaudet transferred to RIC in her third year and found the perfect marriage between a bio/pre-med/math major and a basketball. As senior guard of RIC’s women’s basketball team, she was a key factor in the Anchorwomen winning their first-ever Little East Conference Regular Season and Tournament Championships and competing in the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 1985. Once she graduates from RIC, Gaudet intends to go on to medical school.

Strengthened by the rigors of athletic and academic training, these special students, who have learned to perform well under pressure, have all the qualities needed for the demanding field of health care.
RIC Hosts White House Initiative on Hispanic Education

Calling it “White House week for Rhode Island College,” RIC President Nancy Carriuolo opened a special forum on improving education for the Latino community that featured Obama administration officials and local elected and community leaders.

The White House Initiative Hispanic Community Action Summit was held on Jan. 25 in RIC’s Alger Hall—the day after, noted Carriuolo, that RIC student Travis Escobar attended the president’s State of the Union address.

Carriuolo described the daylong event as an “important forum that will enable us to exchange ideas and insights as we work together to identify ways to enhance educational opportunities for Hispanics.”

Among the administration participants was RIC alum Brenda Dann-Messier ’73, whom Carriuolo characterized as “one of RIC’s great success stories.”

Dann-Messier, a U.S. Department of Education assistant secretary, leads efforts in adult education and career and technical education, as well as community colleges and correctional education. She oversees the administration of 11 grant programs in these areas, totaling approximately $1.9 billion annually.

Dann-Messier, who earned a BA and MEd at RIC, said she was “thrilled to be back home in Providence.”

Prior to joining the Obama administration, she had served for a decade as president of the Dorcas Place Adult and Family Learning Center, a community-based adult education agency based in Providence.

“I carry the hopes and dreams of all the students that we served at Dorcas Place with me every day on the job,” she said.

Dann-Messier said that a notebook on her desk includes letters from students at Dorcas Place for President Obama and education secretary Arne Duncan. The letters contain the students’ hopes, dreams and aspirations.

“So when the bureaucracy gets a little tough to maneuver,” said Dann-Messier, “I take a moment and read their letters, and it inspires me and reminds me why I am in Washington.”

Several federal, state and local elected officials also attended the summit.

Sen. Jack Reed told attendees, “We all recognize the prosperity of this state and this nation will rest in large part on the success of the Latino community.”

He said it was necessary to tap into “the great power and influence of the whole community” and later added, “Education is the dividing line between whether we succeed or whether we fail.”
Gov. Lincoln Chafee told summit attendees, “We’re going to work together to have educational excellence in the State of Rhode Island.”

From left: Gov. Lincoln Chafee, Carriuolo and Providence Mayor Angel Taveras.

Providence Mayor Angel Taveras said, “We need to make sure that we educate our kids. If we want to be competitive in the future, we need to make sure that our children are ready to compete in the future.”

José Rico, executive director of the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics, explained that the goals of the forum were for participants to learn about what is happening in the communities, to connect everyone with the leaders in attendance and to come up with “clear action steps” going forward.

“The reason that we’re here today is because we know we’re all in this together,” Rico said.

Rico outlined the “open space” process to be used in the summit, which essentially allowed the participants to identify the topics, issues and questions they wished to explore.

Also addressing the forum from the Obama administration were Eduardo Ochoa, assistant secretary for post-secondary education; Elizabeth Grant, senior policy advisor in the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education; Gabriel Sandoval, senior advisor on civil rights for the White House Initiative; and Miriam Calderón, senior advisor for the Administration for Children and Families.

RIC Student Joins Sen. Whitehouse for State of the Union Address

Travis Escobar and Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse at a RIC forum last November.

Travis Escobar, president of the college’s Student Community Government, was a guest of U.S. Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse at President Obama’s State of the Union address on Jan. 24, 2012.

Escobar, a junior majoring in political science, is the recipient of a federal Pell Grant, a need-based award program for which Whitehouse has been working to maintain funding in the Senate.

In November, Whitehouse hosted a forum at RIC advocating for continuation of the grant. At the event, Escobar, a first-generation college student, spoke of his concern that Pell Grant reductions could negatively affect current and future students.

“I love this country because any hard working individual can achieve the American Dream,” Escobar said. “I would not be able to work toward my dream of becoming a congressman if it wasn’t for Pell Grants.”

“Travis’ story is a great example of how Pell Grants can help our kids achieve their dreams, and I’m glad he’ll be joining me to help send a message to Washington: don’t cut Pell Grants,” Whitehouse said.

RIC President Nancy Carriuolo said the RIC community was “honored” that Senator Whitehouse selected Escobar to be his guest at the State of the Union address. Carriuolo, who was the guest of Rep. James Langevin ’90 at President Obama’s first State of the Union address, said that “being present in the gallery at this national address by our president is a memorable and humbling experience.”

The number of students receiving Pell Grants increased by 16 percent between school years 2009-10 and 2010-11, and the purchasing power of these grants has declined.

Today, the maximum Pell Grant covers 32 percent of the cost of four-year public university tuition – down from 72 percent in 1976.

Last year, $12.5 million in Pell funding was given to approximately 3,000 RIC students, accounting for about one-third of the student body.

Whitehouse has introduced a resolution to make it clear that the program should not be cut in any deficit-reduction package.

“As the cost of higher education continues to skyrocket in our country, Pell Grants are now more vital than ever to Rhode Island families, and I’m committed to protecting this program from any attacks in Congress,” Whitehouse said.

Also attending the State of the Union address was RIC alum Erin Kavanaugh Flynn ’82, who was a guest of Congressman Jim Langevin ’90. Flynn is a leader in Rhode Island educational initiatives designed to help build a skilled workforce.
State of the Union: A Bird’s Eye View
BY ERIN KAVANAUGH FLYNN ’82, M’99

Have you ever been somewhere and thought to yourself, “How did I get here?” That was my exact thought on Jan. 24 as I sat in the gallery of the House of Representatives in Washington, D.C., awaiting the State of the Union address.

The last time I had been in Washington was as a high school junior as part of the Close-Up program. My interest in the political process started early and followed me to Rhode Island College, where I participated in the Rhode Island State Government internship program and the middle school civics program, Insight Rhode Island.

Now, here I was attending the State of the Union as the guest of U.S. Rep. James Langevin ’90.

After I arrived, Rep. Langevin’s staff made sure my day was full, arranging tours of the Capitol and Supreme Court, as well as a meeting and dinner with the congressman. Afterward, I accompanied him to a reception at House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi’s office prior to the speech.

Again I thought, “How did I get here?” Being a fan and news junkie, I always watched the State of the Union address. Now, seated in the gallery next to people who I thought couldn’t possibly be as excited as I was, my first impression was how small the floor of the chamber looked in contrast to how it always seemed to me.

As I looked down from the gallery to catch a glimpse of the elected officials, I saw that it was filled with people and was very noisy, in a lively way.

The speaker then rapped his gavel to gain control of the chamber and announced who from each branch would walk in with President Obama. I had always wondered how that was decided.

Television cameras were positioned at each corner of the gallery with a large one on the floor, and the press sat poised behind the speaker. From my location behind the camera, there was no guarantee that my co-workers, family or friends were going to be able to see me. As a requirement of attendance, phones and cameras had to be surrendered beforehand, so that meant no texting my friends or visual record of any kind. Oh well.

When the first lady arrived, a welcoming roar arose from the crowd. Minutes later, Rep. Gabriel Giffords, who was critically wounded in a shooting last year, entered the gallery and the roar grew. All the while the national press, with very large-lensed cameras, took pictures non-stop, shutters clicking constantly.

Then the sergeant-at-arms began announcing the arrivals. How exciting! Certainly what is very loud and clear on TV is a bit softer in real life. First the Supreme Court justices entered, followed by the Cabinet and finally the president. President Obama was hardly visible as elected officials on the aisle all tried to shake his hand. When the president hugged Rep. Giffords, there was a great round of applause.

Once the applause settled and the speech began, I could barely keep my eyes on the president. I wanted to take in every aspect of the scene unfolding in front of me. As the president spoke, I could hear him but I was looking at everyone in the room. One impression I had was just how many female elected officials there were. It also struck me how quiet it became and just how clearly the speech could be heard.

Someone asked me if getting up and down to offer applause was tiring. Not for me, I was enjoying the moment!

Rep. Langevin and I hoped the president would mention cyber security and at the very end of his speech, he did. Since the congressman had introduced the National Cyber Security High School Challenge to Rhode Island, my role over the past few years at New England Tech had been to promote the contest to high school educators.

Once the speech ended, everyone on the House floor left very quickly. The spectators in the gallery, however, are not allowed to leave their seats until the first lady and the president depart. So we waited for a short time before we lined up to have our phones and cameras returned. However, we were still held upstairs until the president exited. Then, we were finally allowed to head downstairs and make our way out of the building.

Just as I stepped outside the Capitol, I caught a glimpse of the presidential motorcade making its way back up Pennsylvania Avenue to the White House.

After a very hectic day, and only seeing a fraction of what truly happens in official Washington, it was now time for me to head back to my hotel and prepare for my trip back to Rhode Island in the morning.

What an adventure!

Editor’s Note: Erin Kavanaugh Flynn ’82, M’99 is currently the manager of admissions outreach and events at New England Institute of Technology. She received her BS in public relations and her MEd in technology education. Erin is a past Alumni Award winner and Alumni Association president.
Meryl Streep Donates $10,000 to Upward Bound at RIC

Actress Meryl Streep, who in February was awarded an Oscar for portraying Margaret Thatcher in The Iron Lady, has in turn made an award of her own – $10,000 – to Upward Bound at RIC in honor of the program’s most famous graduate, Viola Davis.

Streep’s donation is to Upward Bound’s Scholarship Endowment Fund, which was founded by Davis and her sister Deloris Davis Grant. Viola graduated from Upward Bound in 1983; Deloris in 1982. Both are also 1988 graduates of RIC.

The donation came from Steep’s Silver Mountain Foundation for the Arts.

This marks the second time Streep has donated to Upward Bound, which is designed to provide low-income, potential first-generation college students with the skills and motivation to complete high school and graduate from college. The first gift was made in May 2009 and was for $2,500.

The sisters founded the Scholarship Fund in 1988 as a way to give back to future generations of Upward Bound students, according to Mariam Boyajian, director of the program since 1981 and a 1970 RIC grad.

Since the first scholarship was granted in 1989, 55 graduating seniors have received major awards totaling $64,400.

Boyajian said she was “delighted” to receive the gift from Streep in honor of Davis. “It is striking to know that Viola continues to share her love and respect for this program with her peers, that she continues her personal support of this program from which she graduated, and that she is so committed to assisting the youth of her hometown and Upward Bound.”

According to Boyajian, “Viola is Viola . . . she holds the same values, high level of integrity, and connection to her family, her Central Falls community, the college and Upward Bound.”

Since 1966 the federally funded Upward Bound at RIC has served over 2,000 high school students. The program works to increase high school and college graduation rates of program participants and is committed to providing equal access and opportunity to students from specific target high schools who meet federal eligibility requirements.

Campus Banner Honors Viola Davis

Rhode Island College showed its pride in Oscar-nominated alum Viola Davis ’88 by erecting a campus banner recognizing the actress’ accomplishments. For her work in The Help, Davis garnered an Academy Award nomination for Best Actress and a Screen Actors Guild Award for Outstanding Performance by a Female Actor in a Leading Role.
A-Mirror-Ca: A Reflection on America’s Media-Driven Culture—a production written, directed and choreographed by Angelica Vessella ’97, M’07—won the Outstanding Writing, Ensemble, and Execution Award at the American College Theatre Festival (ACTF) on Jan. 28, 2012.

Three RIC students received awards at the event as well. Naysh Fox, a RIC musical theatre student, won The Richard Maltby Jr. Award for an outstanding musical theatre performance. Dan Larson, also a musical theatre major, and Kelli Noonan, a theatre student, were semi-finalists in the Irene Ryan Acting Competition.

The festival was held at Fitchburg State University in Massachusetts from Jan. 24 to 29.

Vessella, RIC director of dance, and Bill Wilson, musical theatre director at the college, worked together to make changes to the original script of A-Mirror-Ca, which was most recently presented on Dec. 2 and 3 in the Nazarian Center’s Sapinsley Hall, and featured 18 students from RIC’s dance and theatre programs.

The award was the only one of its kind given in the Region I, which traditionally involves institutions from Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine and Eastern New York.

Once Vessella and Wilson entered A-Mirror-Ca into the ACTF, a representative from the organization attended RIC’s production, and afterwards met with the staff, crew and students involved to discuss the show.

Several RIC students accompanied Vessella and Wilson to accept the award, and also to compete in both drama and musical theatre programs there.

The ACTF was founded in 1969 by The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. This national theatre program involves approximately 18,000 students in over 600 academic institutions across the nation.
World’s Leading Car-Sharing Service Zips Onto RIC Campus

On Jan. 27 RIC President Nancy Carriuolo drove the very first Zipcar on campus at the launch of RIC’s new partnership with the car-sharing service.

This convenient transportation option is now available 24 hours a day, seven days a week to students, faculty and staff 18 and older, and to members of the local community age 21 and over.

RIC members can join for $25, with rates on campus Zipcars starting as low as $7 an hour and $66 a day. Gas, insurance, reserved parking spots, up to 180 miles of driving per day and roadside assistance are included in the rates. Cars can be reserved for as little as an hour or for multiple days.

“The impact on campus will depend on how popular the cars are with staff and students. I am very enthusiastic and hope students who would normally drive to campus will take the bus, then use the Zipcars to take trips off campus,” said Carriuolo.

To start, RIC will offer two vehicles – a Ford Focus hatchback and Ford Focus sedan – located in Lot K near the Student Union. Zipcars are self-service and can be reserved and accessed at any time.

The campus Zipcars are just two of 37 throughout Providence, accessible to any member. Even if Zipcar members are no longer in Providence, they will have access to a car from any of the participating cities.

Facebook and mobile applications, including iPhones and Androids, are available to make reservations. The mobile apps also allow members to lock and unlock vehicles as well as locate them by honking the horn. Reservations can also be made over the phone or on the Zipcar website at www.zipcar.com/ric.

RIC President Nancy Carriuolo takes the first ride in a Zipcar on the RIC campus.
A Gift for the Ages

BY MARY THERESÉ MARTINEZ

Karen Davie ’76 is making a gift to the Rhode Island College community that draws on the past and looks toward the future. She vividly remembers her experience as a student, being mentored and learning to mentor others, and she wants to extend that enduring tradition. Davie, senior vice president for philanthropy and governance and president of the development foundation at Women & Infants Hospital, has made a provision in her will to benefit RIC. She intends this bequest “to honor the college’s educators and staff, and to challenge and inspire others to do the same.”

When she thinks back on her time at RIC, Davie recalls the lasting contribution made to her by what she calls the “first-class faculty.” A sociology major, Davie was impressed with how the professors in her department connected to their students well beyond the classroom. For Eunice Shatz, this spilled over into Sunday evening salons at her home, where undergraduates were welcomed, along with faculty and guests, for spirited conversation in a convivial atmosphere. Thomas Ramsbey, with his warm encouragement of students’ ideas, and Mary Ann Hawkes-Sanders, with her zeal for justice, also communicated a meaningful message to Davie. Together, she asserts, “These professors taught what it meant to be a contributing member of society.”

As an undergraduate, Davie also learned about contributing to the well-being of her fellow students. She participated in the Encounter Program for two summers as a counselor to incoming freshmen, preparing them to take advantage of RIC’s many opportunities. She singles out James Cornelison, then director of the program, and later assistant vice president for administration and finance, for his remarkable dedication.

Davie recalled, “He knew how important the transition was for first-time students, many of whom had never been away from home before, and he increased my leadership skills as I helped them. He was also a champion of diversity and a model of commitment.”

Davie herself has embraced that kind of commitment. She has remained involved with RIC as an adjunct faculty member in the School of Social Work and in the Certificate for Undergraduate Study in Nonprofit Studies program, as a trustee of the Rhode Island College Foundation, as a devoted alumna, and now with her bequest, as a member of the Gold and White Society.

She knows that students and faculty at RIC continue to live out the pattern of excellence she experienced: “I recognize that to do well at anything you must take the time to establish goals and then decide which path to follow to achieve success. It was true when I first walked on the RIC campus and it is still true today.”

Davie’s path has led her to meaningful work in health care, currently at Women & Infants Hospital, and previously as the CEO of the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization and National Hospice Foundation and the chief operating officer of United Way of America. Her career illustrates her passionate dedication to service, and she is just as passionate about RIC. The story of how she got her sociology degree is a case in point. While at RIC, Davie had the opportunity to study sociology in the honors program at Purdue University. She decided to accept this offer, but arranged to have all her credits from these studies transferred back in order to get her degree from RIC. She valued and respected the institution that much, knowing that her degree from RIC would convey a powerful message.

Meaning, commitment and passion are the ingredients of an excellent education, an education for life, the kind of education Davie is upholding through her estate gift to the college.

“I am very supportive of my alma mater,” she reflects. “RIC had a significant impact on my life. Naming the college in my estate plan was an easy way to assist generations of students who will follow me.”

Davie is transforming what RIC gave her into a gift for the ages.

If you would like to explore the possibility of a bequest to Rhode Island College and membership in the Gold and White Society, please call Jim Salmo or Maggie Dooley in the Office of College Advancement at (401) 456-8086 or e-mail jsalmo@ric.edu or mdooley@ric.edu.
Alumni Association Welcomes New Executive Director Kate Brezina

BY KRISTEN DEAN ’92

In November the Alumni Association welcomed its new executive director, Kate Brezina. Kate brings a wealth of experience in education and alumni programming to the Rhode Island College community. She hopes to use that experience to bring more alumni back to RIC to share their talents and reconnect with their alma mater.

A native of New Jersey, Kate earned her bachelor’s degree in business administration from Salve Regina University and her master’s in elementary education from Lesley University in Cambridge, Mass. She taught in the Fall River school system before becoming an associate director of alumni and parent programs at Salve Regina. She became interested in pursuing the position at Rhode Island College after researching the institution and talking to some of its graduates.

“So many people in Rhode Island have been affected by RIC in such positive ways,” she said.

Perhaps the most important voice was that of her husband, Luca Dewey, who earned his elementary education degree at RIC in 2008.

“He talked a lot about the experiences he had at RIC,” Kate said. “He’s very proud to be a RIC graduate.”

Kate spent her first few months at RIC getting to know the college’s faculty, staff and especially its alumni. She says she’s heard many interesting stories about their experiences as RIC students and the wide range of places their careers have taken them.

Part of Kate’s job involves working closely with the Alumni Association Board of Directors. She has spent time getting to know the board’s members, gaining an understanding of why they’ve chosen to become involved and finding ways to ensure that they remain engaged. It’s important to her to know what loyal alumni want, what their past experiences with the college have been and what tools they need to stay connected. She says the board is a dynamic group and involvement offers a creative outlet for alumni to use their experience and skills.

Because alumni are busy and may not find the time to visit the college, one of Kate’s first initiatives is to schedule “RIC on the Road” events at local companies that employ RIC grads. The first two events took place in March at Rhode Island Hospital and CVS Caremark. The events are one way for the Alumni Association to get out into the community where RIC alumni live and work, rather than sitting back and waiting for alumni to come to the association. Attendees can learn more about volunteering, events and other opportunities to get involved while networking with their fellow RIC grads. For the association, it’s an opportunity to learn more about what alumni want and need to stay connected.

Other events planned for 2012 include the traditional activities, such as Homecoming and the Alumni Golf Tournament, as well as some new ones. Kate noted that there are over 35,000 alumni in Rhode Island alone, so community events have the potential to be highly successful for both the Alumni Association and the alumni themselves. Much of the planning for 2012 has been based on listening to alumni and designing programs to meet their interests. For example, several alumni have expressed interest in a sporting event, which led to a night at the Pawtucket Red Sox scheduled for later this summer.

She also wants alumni to understand how their involvement helps Rhode Island College students today. The Annual Fund, for example, offers approximately $100,000 every year in scholarships to students in need. The golf tournament benefits student scholarships and the RICOchet fund is an aid program for students in need of emergency financial assistance. Kate hopes to build relationships with the students who benefit from the Alumni Association today so they are more likely to give back to Rhode Island College as tomorrow’s involved and connected alumni.

In addition to a robust slate of alumni events, Kate’s vision for the future of the Alumni Association is focused on getting more alumni involved in ways that allow them to use their talents and have a positive experience. She is also focused on providing a variety of ways for alumni to show their commitment, so they can find a connection regardless of the level of involvement they’re seeking and the amount of time they have to spend. It’s about building relationships and maintaining them over time.

“Volunteers want to make sure that their time is used in the best possible way,” Kate said. “My job is to pave the way and to make sure you have a good experience. I want to help you find ways to continue your relationship with your alma mater.”

To find out more about the Alumni Association and how you can become involved, visit http://my.ric.edu/alumni.php or call (401) 456-9625.
A Message
From the Executive Director

Dear Alumni and Friends,

I am delighted to be here at Rhode Island College as executive director of alumni and college relations. Since I arrived in the fall, I have met numerous loyal alumni of this institution. It has been wonderful to see how much you do for RIC! Thank you also for sharing your stories. Throughout, I have been struck by the overwhelming theme expressed by so many of you: that your student experience here at RIC shaped who you are today.

In the coming months, you will be offered a number of exciting opportunities to connect with Rhode Island College. Members of the Alumni Association will be partnering with the Office of Alumni and College Relations to host a series of fun events, including our cornerstone event, the Annual Alumni Awards Dinner; a night at the Pawtucket Red Sox; and an event at the Newport Polo series, to name a few. In addition, we are working closely with the college deans of all the divisions to help foster your connection with your RIC department.

In October we welcomed over 1,200 alumni, students and community members to the campus for Homecoming weekend, Sept. 30 – Oct. 1, 2011. We hope you will save the date for this year’s Homecoming, Oct. 3 – 6, 2012. We will be celebrating with a dynamic agenda that preserves RIC traditions and maybe even creates a few new ones! Here are a few photos from this year’s festivities:

December saw the Young Alumni Group and the Alumni Association gathering at Dave & Buster’s here in Providence. A great time was had by all, as you can see from the photo below. If you couldn’t make it to this get-together, we hope you can be there next time!

It is an honor to represent this vibrant community at RIC and to foster our fabulous alumni programs. Please know that you are an integral part of RIC: we could not do what we do without the tireless alumni volunteers who give so much. I invite you to visit the campus soon and learn about ways to Reach, Inspire and Connect with your RIC. The Office of Alumni and College Relations is located in Roberts Hall. Stop by and see me; my door is always open!

Kate Brezina
Executive Director of Alumni and College Relations

RIC graduates enjoying a night at Dave and Busters. Left to Right: Mayor Allan Fung ’92, Jennifer Bifulco ’02, Brendan Larkin ’98 and Mitchell Cohen ’92.

Renee Bernard David ’85, Dr. Cynthia Padula of Rhode Island College’s School of Nursing and Victoria Gill Kenna ’89 gather at Rhode Island Hospital for the RIC on the Road event on March 13.
Stay Connected to Rhode Island College
Mark your calendar. Attend an event!

Thursday, May 10
Alumni Awards Dinner
5:30 p.m., Donovan Dining Center

Thursday, May 17
Graduate Commencement
5:30 p.m., The Murray Center

Saturday, May 19
Undergraduate Commencement
9:30 a.m., Campus Quad

Friday, May 18 – Sunday, May 20
Class of 1962 Golden Celebration
Join members of the Class of 1962 for a weekend of events!

Tuesday, June 12
Class of 1952 Reunion Luncheon
12 Noon, Roberts Hall, Alumni Lounge

Friday, June 15
Classes of 1930 – 1947 Reunion Luncheons
12 Noon, Alger Hall

Wednesday, June 27
Class of 1957 Reunion Luncheon
12 Noon, Roberts Hall, Alumni Lounge

Friday, June 29
Rhode Island College Night at the Pawtucket Red Sox
Meet and Greet Tailgating Reception, 5 p.m.; Game, 7 p.m.
Committee members needed! Contact us (401) 456-8086

Saturday, July 14
Alumni Summer Gathering at the Newport International Polo Series
Behind the Scenes Tour, 4 p.m.; Game, 5 p.m.
Committee members needed! Contact us (401) 456-8086

Thursday, Aug. 16
Jersey Boys at the Providence Performing Arts Center
Exclusive Alumni Reception with General Manager Alan Chile ’82, 6:30 p.m.; Show, 7:30 p.m.
Committee members needed! Contact us (401) 456-8086

Monday, Sept. 24
The Helen Lombardi ’40 Memorial Golf Tournament
Registration and Lunch, 11:30 a.m.; Shotgun Start, Scramble Format, 1 p.m.
Committee members needed! Contact us (401) 456-8086

Wednesday, Oct. 3 – Saturday, Oct. 6
Homecoming 2012
Committee members needed! Contact us (401) 456-8086

Saturday, Oct. 27
Jack-O-Lantern Spectacular
Roger Williams Park Zoo, 6 p.m.
Committee members needed! Contact us (401) 456-8086

Questions? Contact the Office of Alumni and College Relations at (401) 456-8086.

RIC Alums Provide Words of Advice to Student Workers

From left, Tom Anderson ’83, Alycia Astarita ’11, Pat Poirier ’11, Michelle Burckhardt ’08 and Wally Musto ’00. Not pictured, Rachel Desmarais ’07.

Student Union employee midyear training for student staff took place on Jan. 22, in the Student Union Ballroom. The program featured a panel of six Rhode Island alums who worked in the Student Union as undergraduates. The panelists shared their perspectives and advice about their transition to the working world. Participating were Tom Anderson ’83, Alycia Astarita ’11, Pat Poirier ’11, Michelle Burckhardt ’08, Wally Musto ’00 and Rachel Desmarais ’07.

Common themes heard throughout the evening included: get involved, research salaries and benefits of positions in your field, create and update a résumé, develop your work habits early, don’t wait until junior or senior year to visit the Career Development Center, and use staff as resources.
2012 ALUMNI SERVICE AWARD
Marianne Gouveia Douglas ’72
President/CEO, Horizon Enterprises, Inc.
Marianne Gouveia Douglas has worked extensively in the fields of education and business. Her seminars, books and programs have provided proven positive strategies to help participants create the lives they want for themselves. She is an award-winning former teacher who was nominated as a hero for The Oprah Winfrey Show for her work with teens and bullying.

2012 ALUMNA OF THE YEAR
Deloris Davis Grant ’88, M’94
High School English Language Arts and Drama Teacher, Central Falls High School
Deloris Davis Grant is renowned as one of the finest teachers, advisors and mentors in her profession. She is a graduate of Upward Bound, and her involvement with that program as a teacher, tutor and co-founder of the Upward Bound Alumni Scholarship Fund is emblematic of her personal dedication to the transformative power of education. During her remarkable tenure at Central Falls High School, Deloris has touched the lives of countless students and colleagues. Her expertise has been tapped for numerous education task forces throughout the region, and she has given generously of her time and talent to Rhode Island College over the years.

2012 CHARLES B. WILLARD PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
Victoria Gailliard-Garrick ’75
Director/Principal, William M. Davies Jr. Career and Technical High School
Victoria Gailliard-Garrick has served as director of William M. Davies High School since 2002. She has made the Davies School a model where superior academic achievement gives students the critical skills to be competitive in their future careers. She is being recognized for her leadership ability, administrative prowess, love for learning and respect for humanity.

The Alumni/Honor Roll Awards are presented annually in May to graduates whose personal and professional attainment and service to the college and the community bring honor upon themselves and upon Rhode Island College. This year we recognize seven Honor Roll inductees, along with seven $1,000 student scholarship recipients. Scholarship monies are provided by Rhode Island College’s Alumni Association. Did you attend class with one of these award recipients? Mark your calendar today – come back to campus and celebrate with us!
Robert Walsh just celebrated his seventh season as head coach of the men’s basketball team. He has presided over one of the most successful periods in the program’s history. Under his leadership, Rhode Island College has made seven consecutive trips to the postseason and six straight appearances in the NCAA Tournament – one of only five teams in the nation to accomplish this feat.

For over 46 years, Jason Blank has mentored and taught legions of students. He demonstrates his love of teaching every time he steps into the classroom. Faculty and staff know and appreciate Jason for the role he plays as president of RIC/AFT Local 1819. His years at Rhode Island College have been devoted to the welfare of students, faculty and the RIC community.

Maria Cimini has served as a member of the RIC Young Alumni Group for several years. A lifelong Rhode Islander, Maria has enjoyed serving her community through neighborhood volunteer activities, political activism and her career as a social worker. She ran a successful campaign for state representative and on November 2, 2010, was elected to represent District 7 in Providence. Maria works as a research associate at the Feinstein Center for a Hunger Free America.
1940s

1949

Edward and Catherine (Harrold) McCrophy of North Attleboro, Mass., celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on October 13, 2011. They have six children and 15 grandchildren.

1960s

1960

After coming out of retirement twice, once in 2000 to serve as principal of Nantucket High School, and once in 2009 to fill a vacancy at Nantucket Elementary School, Joseph Aguiar retired for the third time last June with over four decades of public school experience.

1961

Marybeth Peters, former U.S. register of copyrights, has joined the Virginia firm Oblon, Spivak, McClelland, Maier & Neustadt, L.L.P as senior counsel in the trademark and copyright practice group.

1964

Richard “Dick” Hanaway (master’s) and his wife, Betty, were awarded honorary doctor of business degrees from Plymouth State University in New Hampshire for their support of the artistic and cultural enrichment of the university and the region.

1965

Michael S. Van Leesten has been selected by Governor Chafee and approved by the Rhode Island Senate to be one of the seven members of the I-195 Redevelopment District Commission.

1967

Linda Smith Chafee, John B. Coduri and Ellen L. Madison have co-authored the book Built From Stone: The Westerly Granite Story, which documents the history of the granite industry in Westerly.

1969

As part of its fifth anniversary, The Chorus of East Providence honored

Betty (Cameron) Capaldo and Gaston Malloy ’76 for their enrichment of local music education.

Rhoda B. Tillman (master’s) has been appointed senior peer counselor coordinator for Community Counseling Services in Tunkhannock, Pa.

1970


1973

Janice L. Gerundio has received ministerial credentials with the Assemblies of God; she works at Victory Assembly of God in Providence and Barnabas Ministries in East Providence.

1974

Doris (Champagne) Helmich has been named the interim president of Central Arizona College.

Elizabeth “Beth” Roberge (master’s) has been appointed to the newly created volunteer position of seniors liaison for the City of Pawtucket.

1975

A. Anthony Antosh (master’s), director of the Paul Sherlock Center on Disabilities, has been chosen by the Rhode Island School Superintendents’ Association as the recipient of the 2012 Paul Crowley Award.

1976

Deborah L. Marciano is an associate professor of education at Valdosta State University in Georgia.
1977

Philip A. Conroy Jr. (master’s) has been appointed the 18th president of Vermont Technical College.

Ocean State Theatre Company has named Stephen Evangelista (master’s) as chairman of their Board of Directors. He is the chief executive officer for the New England region of the Arthritis Foundation.

Jan M. McIntyre-Ba was installed as Worthy Grand Matron of the Grand Chapter of Rhode Island, Order of the Eastern Star.

Music teacher Marilyn (Sullivan) Hostetler was named the 2012 Jamestown Teacher of the Year.

1978

Sandra (Glaser) Parrillo, Christopher M. Reddy ’92 and Anna M. Cano-Morales ’99 (master’s) were honored at the University of Rhode Island’s 2011 Distinguished Achievement Awards, where they were Deans’ Award recipients.

Timothy J. Pigott has been hired by Bay State Savings Bank in Worcester, Mass., as a vice president and commercial loan officer.

1979

Maureen P. Farrell-Kenner was the Providence Teacher of the Year in 2004 and a finalist for Rhode Island Teacher of the Year.

1980s

1980

Retired Army journalist Gregory M. Markley is an adjunct professor for Central Texas College at Fort Benning, Ga., and a part-time writer for the weekly Opelika Observer. He and his wife, Angeline, live in Auburn, Ala. He and 1979 RIC Anchor co-editor Katherine Cross-Das have recently regained contact with each other. Kate and her husband, Deben, live in Alaska.

John R. Rossi (master’s) has completed his career as a professor of cyber security at the National Defense University in Washington, D.C. He says he is now enjoying a “permanent summer vacation.”

1981

Author and poet Theresa (Murphy) Gleason has been published in Nursing Spectrum Magazine, The New Guard Literary Review, Appalachia: Journal of the Appalachian Mountain Club and Shadow and Light: A Literary Anthology on Memory. She writes under the pen name Thoreau Raymond.

1981

The Rhode Island School Superintendents’ Association has chosen North Providence superintendent Donna (Briggs) Ottaviano to be its 2012 Superintendent of the Year.

In addition to being a Quality Improvement Nurse Educator in the emergency room at Sturdy Memorial Hospital, Iraqi War veteran Colonel Gloria Vignone is also commander of the 399th combat Support Hospital in Devens, Mass.

1982

Adrianna M. DosSantos is a caseworker at Seekonk Human Services.

1983

Carol Anne Costa has been inducted into the Rhode Island High School Girls Tennis Coaches Association Hall of Fame.

1983

Heidi J. Lewis earned her MBA from Rosemont College in 2008 and is employed as a project manager of quality and patient safety at Penn Medicine in Philadelphia.

1984

Elementary special education teacher Michele (Perreault) Coppa (master’s) was named the 2011 Narragansett Teacher of the Year.

Wrestling USA Magazine has selected Judith (Perlow) Gordon as its 2011 Coach’s Wife of the Year for her support, over the past 42 years, of her husband, Steve, and the students on his teams. She is a registered nurse and manager at Community VNA Hospice Care in Attleboro, Mass.

Brian McMahon ’79, senior finance director for information systems in Citizens Bank’s Treasury & Balance Sheet Strategies Department, has been promoted to senior vice president. McMahon joined the company in 2005 and has held positions of increasing responsibility at the company.
1985
The 2004 Winifred Currie Alumni Award in Education was awarded to retired educator Rosemarie (Boschen) Buote (master’s) by Gordon College in Wenham, Mass., for her work on the Massachusetts Board of Education and in the community.

William J. Fazioli was recently highlighted in Providence Business News. He is a senior managing consultant for PFM Group at their newly opened office in Providence. Founder and president of Newberry Public Relations and Marketing, Inc., Elisabeth (Newberry) Galligan spends her weekend nights playing keyboard and singing with the rock ‘n’ roll band Full Circle.

Ashaway second grade teacher Patricia (Aiello) Pearce was named the 2012 Charho Teacher of the Year.

Joseph “Joe” Callahan is the director of sales at WOON Radio in Woonsocket. Last fall, the Joseph L. McCourt Middle School in Cumberland welcomed Bethany (Kolodziej) Coughlin as their new assistant principal.

Robert J. Gerardi Jr. was named superintendent of the Maynard (Mass.) School District. Dayan B. Moore, owner of GG2G, was the recipient of the 2009 Eileen Fisher Women’s Business Grant, the 2011 ReSet Social Enterprise Grant and the 2011 Connecticut Green Business Award.

1990s

Elizabeth (Minchin) Dalton (master’s) has recently retired from her position at the Sherlock Center and Rhode Island College where she has been part of the community for over 18 years.

Reverend Robert L. Varnam (master’s) has been named interim minister at East Side Church (Baptist-Disciples of Christ) in Sharon, Pa. This is his eighth interim assignment in the American Baptist Churches USA interim ministry program, helping churches transition from one pastor to another.

Thomas A. Barbieri, principal of Hugh B. Bain Middle School in Cranston, has been named 2011 Middle School Principal of the Year by the Rhode Island Association of School Principals.

Incumbent Americo “Rico” Mello was re-elected as city councilman of Ward 3 in Peabody, Mass., where he resides with his wife and two children. He is a clinical psychologist and administrator at Northeast Behavioral Health.

Des Moines-based Principal Financial Group has promoted James “Jim” Ellis to manager of facilities security, which includes oversight of the access control, physical security design and security officer operations areas.

Frank Casale ’86 was appointed senior vice president of Citizens Bank in the Commercial Enterprise Banking Department. Before joining Citizens last March, Casale was a business banking executive at Sovereign Bank. He has worked in the banking industry since 1987. Casale is a board member of the Ocean State Business Development Corporation and the Rhode Island College School of Management advisory board.

Louis “Lou” Cerbo ’84 (master’s) has been appointed clinical director/psychologist for the Rhode Island Department of Corrections. He is responsible for mental health and substance abuse treatment within the state’s correctional facilities.

Donna Marie King ’85, graphic designer/communications coordinator for the YMCA of Pawtucket, has received the American In-House Design Award for her layout of the Pawtucket YMCA’s 2010 Annual Report. More than 4,000 entries were received nationwide in over 25 categories, and only the top 15 percent were chosen by Graphic Design USA. King has been with the YMCA of Pawtucket since 2005, and this is the second year in a row that she has been recognized by Graphic Design USA. In addition to her graphic design expertise, King is also responsible for all in-house marketing campaigns, special events photography, website design and maintenance, and creation and distribution of monthly e-newsletters.
1993
Communications consultant Elyse (Press) Major has been a contributing writer for magazines, including Cottages & Bungalows, Romantic Country and Romantic Homes.

1994
Julie A. Lima Boyle, a Coventry High School English teacher, was named the 2012 Rhode Island Teacher of the Year.

Laura (Tague) Marlane was appointed interim director of the Providence Community Library, where she most recently served as interim director.

Jamie F. Moran was named partner and executive director of the Providence Community Library, where she most recently served as interim director.

1996
Donna M. Naradowsy returned to Rhode Island College to serve as administrative assistant to President Nancy Carriuolo.

1997
Nicole (Murray) Kettelle received a 10-year longevity award from the Rhode Island Department of Corrections, where she works as an adult counselor at the John J. Moran Medium Security Facility. Author and former reporter Raina C. Smith has recently released her first novel, a thriller, titled The 13th Apostle.

1998
Bridget (Hefty) Morisseau has been appointed assistant superintendent of the Smithfield Public School District.

1999
Rhode Island National Guard Technical Sergeant Steven D’Amico presents the Stay on Track program to elementary school students throughout the state. The program aims to educate and encourage students to make healthier life choices.

Recently, Jonathan C. Dupre was inducted into the Kappa Delta Pi International Honor Society for Education and received a Community Champion Award from NRI Community Services. He was listed in the 2009 Cambridge Who’s Who Registry for executives and professionals.

The Public Theater, led by artistic director Oskar Eustis (HD), performed The Human Scale at The Cameri Theatre in Tel Aviv, Israel, becoming the first American production ever performed at The Cameri.

2000
Michael S. Geary (master’s) was promoted to assistant professor of English at Bristol Community College in Fall River, Mass.

2001
Portsmouth High School English and American studies teacher Donald L. Carrara decided to step down from his role as the school’s drama department head so that he could spend more time with his wife and their new baby.

Mia (Nocera) Godbout, a resident choreographer for the State Ballet of Rhode Island, and composer Christine “Christy” Isles ’10 have partnered to create a new contemporary ballet that will be performed as the first act of the State Ballet’s Tour de Ballet. The performance will be held in Rhode Island College’s Roberts Hall in May and will feature ballets from composers around the world.

2004
Tara M. Mancini earned her master’s degree at American University in Washington, D.C., and is working as a research assistant at Georgetown University Health Policy Institute’s Center for Children and Families.

2005
As part of the Small Matters of Great Importance exhibit at the Edward Hopper House in Nyack, N.Y., Lisa A. Delmonico (master’s) received the Award for Excellence for her film installation, Ocean Window/City Window. In 2010 her film, My Haul Video, was screened at the Long Island Film Biennial in Huntington, N.Y. She teaches film studies as an adjunct faculty member at Westchester Community College.

Jessica (Wells) Galterio is an admissions counselor at Post University in Waterbury, Conn. She and her husband, Kiley, reside in Oakville, Conn.
Anthony D. Roderick has been promoted to senior accountant at DiSanto, Priest & Co. He is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Rhode Island Society of Certified Public Accountants.

2006
Lincoln High School art teacher Susan M. Kolenda has been showing her students new and interesting techniques in her Asian Art course, which she conducts in LHS’s newly dedicated “Confucius Classroom.”

2007
After serving as assistant principal of East Greenwich High School for four years, interim principal Michael Podraza (master’s) was unanimously appointed as the school’s permanent principal.

Anthony F. Rainone and his band Sweet Eve have completed their debut album from Capitol Records titled Shadow Over Me. He is a guitarist and singer and performs using the stage name Tony Francis.

Upon returning from her dream trip to East Africa, where she worked with women affected by gender-based violence, Amanda J. Sagarin began working as the program director of a domestic violence agency in Massachusetts.

2008
Jeffrey L. Cotnoir is the manager of annual programs and alumni relations for the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.


Science teacher Jessica (Goeyette) Waters was named the 2012 Beacon Charter High School Teacher of the Year.

2009
Sarah L. Fortin is a toddler teacher and school-age coordinator at Breezy Knoll Child Care Center in Smithfield.

In 2011 Eric L. Lonergan won the Cox Providence Rhode Races half-marathon for the second time, having previously won in 2009.

Former teacher and women’s soccer coach Amanda G. Rinn was sworn in as one of the newest police officers with the Westerly Police Department.

2010
Former freelance reporter Angelena K. Chapman has joined the staff of the Kent County Daily Times.

Amy M. Jackman graduated from the Rhode Island State Police Training Academy and is now employed as a Rhode Island state trooper.

Joshua C. Laguerre and fellow members of Washington and Lee University School of Law’s Black Law Students Association (BLSA) recently participated in the moot court and mock trial competitions at NBLSA’s regional competition, where they placed second in both competitions, qualifying for the national competition in Washington, D.C.

Justine McGillivray (master’s) is a college guide with The College Advising Corps. She is currently advising at West Warwick High School, where she is working to increase college enrollment and graduation rates.

Elizabeth W. Sutton is currently a graduate student in Bay Path College’s Master of Occupational Therapy program.

Miriam Hospital research assistant Kristen A. Walaska has co-authored the manuscript “Feasibility of a portable pedal exercise machine for reducing sedentary time in the workplace,” which has been published in the British Journal of Sports Medicine.

2011
Benjamin Silva earned the highest score of all student test-takers on the Certified Management Accountant exam and one of the top 10 scores in the nation overall. In recognition of his performance, the Institute of Certified Management Accountants will present him with the Priscilla S. Payne Student Performance Award at their annual conference in June.

Just before graduation, Talia Triangolo and four classmates were invited to perform the opening number of the annual American College Theater Festival at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C.

Shaun Patrick Murphy ’02 earned his PhD in biochemistry, molecular and cell biology, from the Institute of Molecular Biophysics at Florida State University under the guidance of professor Hank Bass. The main focus of his research was to use molecular genetics and high-resolution 3-D microscopy to dissect the behavior of a model organism’s genetic material at meiosis. Murphy has accepted a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of California, Davis, under the guidance of Dr. Daniel Starr, where they will be studying how positioning of the nucleus in the cell is linked to diseases in humans.

Michael J. Costa ’08 has been appointed to the Robert A. Birman Executive Director Chair of Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra of San Francisco, Calif. As executive director, Costa will be the chief administrative officer of Philharmonia Baroque, operating the Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra, the Philharmonia Chorale, Philharmonia Baroque Productions and the Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra Period Instrument Trust.
1927
Eleanor F. Caulfield Sheridan in April ’10 (103 years old)

1931
Lucy Key Ritchie-Rennick in February ’12 (103 years old)

1933
Eileen Fitzpatrick Smith in February ’11

1934
Katherine “Kay” E. Flanagan Hand in July ’11
Louise M. Boland O’Mara in November ’11

1935
Margaret M. Whalen Hopwood in May ’11
Theresa C. Lefebvre Verrier in August ’11

1937
Marie C. Commette in July ’11
Stella Simons Glassman in August ’11

1938
Adeline B. Gorman Flynn in April ’10
Virginia “Ginny” J. Higgins Rubery in August ’11

1940
Mary “Betty” E. Amadon Strong in June ’10

1942
Avis E. Rathbun Cormier in February ’12
Virginia F. Lord Jordan in July ’11

1944
Marie Z. Gawrada in August ’11
Virginia R. Hill Murby in November ’11
Anne Lally Sheridan in November ’11

1945
Margaret Grady Bresnahan in October ’11
Gertrude E. Smith Hoogasian in August ’11
Mary Townsend Russo in October ’11

1948
Eleanor M. Crook Guerin in August ’11
Dolores M. Lindemann Neville in August ’11

1949
Helene Rottenberg Nemtzow in June ’11
Elizabeth “Betty” M. Cullen Tammany in February ’12

1950
Thomas J. Lennon in January ’11
Elizabeth “Libby” R. O’Neill Lennon in May ’11
Lillian N. Migone in July ’11
Leo A. Savoie in July ’11

1951
Joan M. Vaslet Jordan in August ’11
Edward J. McGunnagle in May ’11

1952
Phyllis A. Broburg in December ’11
Doris M. Callahan Jennings in June ’11
William I. Swift in May ’11

1954
Maureen D. Murphy in January ’12
Judge Robert J. Rahill in January ’12

1955
Barbara A. Hill Barden in May ’11
Joseph A. Coccia in November ’11 (master’s)

1957
James E. Daly Jr. in October ’11
Andrew J. Polouski in August ’11
Delfina Trindade Sales in October ’11
John R. Veador in September ’11

1959
Cynthia E. Heywood Goguen in July ’11
Katherine M. Kenney in October ’10
John “Jack” F. O’Rourke Jr. in June ’11

1961
Patricia Carr Messier in January ’12

1962
Ellice Chorney Beerman in November ’10
John Chirico Jr. in October ’11
1963
Carol-Ann R. Callaghan in July '11

1964
Eloise Carty in August '10 (master's)

1967
Evelyn B. Fuller Ferrin in June '11 (101 years old)
Barbara J. Greene Gilfillan in September '11
Margaret I. Scott in October '11 (master's)

1968
Deacon Thomas J. Bouchard in July '11 (master's)
Captain C. S. Quinn Jr. in October '11 (master's)
Janice “Jane” Duyser Tiffany in June '11 (master's)
Kathleen M. Bagley Yarbrough in November '11

1969
Margaret M. Brear in February '12
Robert F. Carey in January '12
Elizabeth “Betty” S. Gallone Corrigan in August '11
Austin J. Donnelly II in August '11 (master's)
Helen M. LeBlanc in February '11

1970
Suzanne L. Silva Pompei in July '11
Patricia A. Heinsohn Robinson in August '11
Sr. Claire Vanasse in July '11 (master's)

1971
Margaret M. Mulhearn Grenga in November '11 (master's)
Barbara S. Danilowski Halliwell in May '11

1972
Charles J. Bell in May '11
Rev. Dr. Ralph Patterson in June '11 (master's)

1973
Anthony “Tony” Caruso in January '11
Lorraine V. Hall Davol in August '11
Patricia L. Iacovone Fleury in July '11 (master's)
Mary Anne May Kwolek in August '11
Ann E. Berriman Murphy in September '11 (master's)
Wilmer “Bill” T. Stevens in April '11 (master's)

1974
Betty A. Brier Curran in August '11 (master's)
Carol A. O’Brien Swenson in July '11

1975
Sr. Estelle M. Gravel in August '11 (master's)
Justine H. Sprague Sherburne in April '11
Betsy R. Tierney Wolten in March '10

1976
Carol L. Chochoh-O’Brien in August '11

1977
Rev. Frederick K. Jellison in October '11 (master's)
Mary M. Braga Roderick in August '11

1978
Paulette I. Ross Pavao in April '11

1979
Cornelius J. Haggerty Jr. in August '11
Laraine “Lorie” M. Barrows Kindstedt in August '11 (master's)

1980
Katherine M. Harnett in June '11 (master's)

1982
Deborah J. Mansi in June '11
Captain Frank A. Reddington Jr. in December '11

1983
Douglas D. Butera in August '11
Richard M. Comerford Sr. in August '11 (master's)
Stephan C. Flanagan in June '11 (master's)

1985
Sara Wheaton Weiss in August '11

1986
Flora Leigh Curry in May '11
Elsa Dias in March '11

1987
John S. Wikiera in June '11 (master's)

1988
Thomas Higgins in August '11

1991
Maureen A. Tandy Kempf in July '11 (master's)

1992
Karen E. Smith Sullivan in February '12

1993
Cecile E. Gautreau Davidowicz in July '11

2008
Linda G. Rego Appleget in June '11

HONORARY DEGREE

1983
Aristides M. Pereira in September '11

1994
Spann Watson in April '10
In Memoriam –
John Sapinsley,
RIC Professor Emeritus

John Milton Sapinsley, RIC professor emeritus of economics who, along with his wife Lila, has been among the most generous supporters of the college, passed away on Feb. 29. He was 89.

John Sapinsley joined the RIC faculty in 1970, fulfilling a lifelong ambition to teach after retiring in his mid-40s from a career as president of Carol Wire and Cable Co.

He taught at RIC for 17 years, advancing from assistant professor to associate professor, professor and Joint Council for Economic Education professor.

In 1978 he served a year as acting vice president of academic affairs.

"John was generous, intelligent and devoted," said RIC President Nancy Carriuolo. "He will be missed greatly at Rhode Island College."

Sapinsley was a member of RIC's 1854 Society, along with his wife, and the two have been "among the college's most generous donors," said Carriuolo.

Sapinsley Hall in the Nazarian Center is named in their honor.

"I will always remember John's love for the college and his good-natured embarrassment when I would introduce a performance in Sapinsley Hall by pointing out that the hall's namesakes were seated in our audience," Carriuolo said.

Donations in his memory may be made to Rhode Island College, 600 Mt. Pleasant Avenue, Providence, R.I. 02908 or Common Cause of Rhode Island, 245 Waterman St., Suite 400A, Providence, R.I. 02906.
1984
Thomas Hewes to Carol Browning in July ’11

1986
Patricia Cronin to Deborah Kass in July ’11

1988
Patricia M. Monteiro to Thomas Lee in June ’11

1991
Donna M. Burns to Thomas J. Tuciarone in November ’10

1997
Kerry L. O’Brien to Erin M. Sousa in October ’10

2001
Dawn DiPetrillo to Neal McCormick in October ’10

2002
Michael J. Bento to Loriann C. Veloso in July ’10

2003
Julia E. Danenberg to Ramon L. Sanchez in June ’11

2004
Shawn M. Blake to Stacey L. Nichols in December ’10
Aaron M. Gencarelli to Elizabeth N. Scorpio in May ’11
Ololade Falola to DeShawn Williams in July ’11

2005
Jessica M. Wells to Kiley R. Galterio in September ’09
Tara M. Comella to Lucio D’Urso in October ’10
Candice Pomfret to Jeremy Gaucher in December ’10
Ainsley Morisseau to J. Mario Cantoral in October ’11

2006
Jamie Aldoupolis to Laura Diliberto in June ’11
Giana Nassi to Nathan Nolette ’06 in July ’11
Christopher Furey to Marissa Kielbasinski ’08 in October ’11

2007
Brittany J. Almeida to Andrew DiOrio in April ’11
Kimberly Smith to Craig Cote in July ’11
Victoria L. Tyan to Jason M. Carroll in October ’11

2008
John J. Mitchell to Danielle H. Johnson in April ’10
Amanda Bento to Nicholas Klaiber in July ’11
Ronnie J. Rodrigues to Sherry A. Vieira in November ’11

2009
Melinda A. Cardillo to Julio Paiva in June ’11
Heather Weaver to Michael Boucher ’10 in July ’11
Michael Zervas to Amy Departhy ’10 in October ’11

2010
Gregory J. Clark to Meaghan E. Hall in October ’10

2011
Colleen E. McGovern to Brian T. Munce in April ’11
Tiffaney A. Rhea to Michael W. Cayton in May ’11
Save the Date

The Helen Lombardi ’40 Memorial Golf Tournament
Monday, September 24, 2012

Golf for a cause and support our current Rhode Island College students this fall!
Help with the planning today!
Contact us at alumni@ric.edu or (401) 456-8086.

Advantages of Being a RIC Alumnus

All Rhode Island College alumni have access to a wide range of valuable benefits. Stay connected to Rhode Island College and take advantage of the benefits below.

Performing Arts Series Tickets:
The Performing Arts Series at Rhode Island College is pleased to announce our ticket discount program. RIC alumni are able to purchase single tickets for any Performing Arts Series event at a substantial discount. To receive a discount, simply ask for it when purchasing your tickets by phone, (401) 456-8144, or at the box office. The alumni discount is not offered to online ticket purchasers.

Alumni E-News:
E-news is an electronic newsletter sent monthly to alumni and friends of Rhode Island College. It contains news updates about the college as well as what is happening for our alumni and friends. Are you on the e-news list? Send your e-mail address to alumni@ric.edu to receive alumni e-news.

Liberty Mutual:
Liberty Mutual provides special rates and offers for Rhode Island College Alumni Association members.

The Rhode Island College Alumni Association Visa® Platinum Card:
The Rhode Island College Alumni Association and U.S. Bank have teamed up to provide the Rhode Island College Alumni Association Visa credit card. When you sign up to receive your Visa Platinum Card, RIC benefits with an initial payment from U.S. Bank. The rewards to your alma mater continue as you use your card, since a percentage of purchases are donated to RIC! Apply today; call 1-800-853-5576, extension 9104.

Alumni Class Notes and News

Update your personal information online at http://my.ric.edu/alumni_benefits_update.php or mail to Alumni Office, Rhode Island College, 600 Mt. Pleasant Avenue, Providence, RI 02908-1996; fax to (401) 456-8851; or email to alumni@ric.edu. Deadline for the next issue of the Alumni Magazine is June 30, 2012.
Record-Setting Season for Women’s Basketball

RIC’s women’s basketball team recently completed the most successful season in team history with the program’s first-ever Little East Conference regular season and tournament championships. The team, which reached the second round of the NCAA Div. III tournament, finished the season with a 25–4 overall record.