Leading the Way

Rhode Island College graduates find success in a variety of fields

Robert Brooks ’82
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 Rhode Island College Alumni Magazine is published twice a year by the Rhode Island College Alumni Association.

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Message From the Rhode Island College President

Dear Alumni and Friends,

In this edition of the Rhode Island College Alumni Magazine, we are sharing some of the many wonderful photographs from the 2013 commencement ceremonies and the recent Alumni Awards Dinner.

This time of year, Rhode Island College focuses on celebrating our graduates and our alumni. As our graduating seniors move into the world with so much promise, they join legions of RIC alumni who continue to achieve remarkable success around the globe.

The alumni profiled in this issue represent a small group of graduates who have made significant contributions in their chosen fields and who credit Rhode Island College with providing the education and support needed to achieve success.

Rhode Island College has long been known for educating the state’s nurses, social workers and teachers. Not as well known is the fact that we also educate the CEOs, financial officers, lawyers, physicians, scientists and technicians who will be leading this state – and others – in the challenging times ahead.

Our graduates are prepared for these challenges, in part because of the well-rounded educations they have received at Rhode Island College, where students can engage in a combination of exceptional instruction, internships, field training and community service.

We realize that we need to adapt to ensure that we are meeting the changes of a rapidly evolving workforce. The ability to meet workforce needs was supported by the passage of Question 3 on the November ballot. This $50 million bond referendum will enable us to renovate and modernize Craig-Lee and Gaige halls and the nursing/allied health care area of the Fogarty Life Science Building, so they are designed and equipped for modern teaching.

However, we cannot stop now. We continue to explore new programs and opportunities to create a learning environment that adapts to the rapid-fire technological changes demanded in today’s society.

The college will continue to seek creative public-private partnerships to help fund modernizations to the campus, such as Alex and Ani Hall (an art center), the new Keefe Transportation Center and the Yellow Cottage. I also will continue to work with our talented administrators, faculty and staff in developing new methods to educate the next generation of college students. Our new general education program, which is highlighted in this issue, is an exciting example of the linking of new curricula and pedagogy.

As always, I will continue to seek ideas and insights from you, our alumni, to ensure that Rhode Island College meets the needs of tomorrow’s workforce by providing a quality education to the future leaders of Rhode Island.

As we celebrate the more than 1,700 graduates of the Rhode Island College Class of 2013, I also celebrate Rhode Island College’s alumni. You are an integral part of our past, present and future. I look forward to continue working with you as – together – we develop creative solutions to the challenges that lie ahead.

Best wishes,

Nancy Carriuolo

“ The alumni profiled in this issue represent a small group of RIC graduates who have made significant contributions in their chosen fields and who credit Rhode Island College with providing the education and support needed to achieve success.”
Message From the Alumni Association President

Dear Fellow Alumni,

The theme of this issue – RIC grads leading the way – is apt for today’s world. Being versatile is proving to be essential to thriving professionally in an increasingly competitive working environment.

When I graduated in 1986, it was still a widely held notion that you would find a job and remain with that company for your entire career. In fact, when I started working at a local bank, I met several colleagues who had been working there for more than 30 years. Very soon, however, the banking industry changed considerably and employees had to adapt to an ever-shifting landscape fueled by technological innovations and globalization.

Fortunately, RIC grads are well-equipped to deal with this new reality. With its central metropolitan campus and a diverse student body, Rhode Island College helps students cultivate an assortment of skills that enables them to thrive in this new era of multitasking.

Our alumni board members serve as vivid examples of achievement in a broad range of areas. Here are some examples:

Suzy Alba ’05 enrolled in AmeriCorps, a national service program, after graduating from RIC and went on to work at United Way, where she oversaw an annual charitable appeal that raised nearly $1 million a year. She now works as assistant director of annual giving for Brown University. She also was elected to the Smithfield Town Council in 2012.

Gina Wesley-Silva ’80 has had a variety of experiences, including serving as manager and lead singer of the R&B cover band Gina Wesley & DreamCatcher. She also wrote and recorded an original CD, created and published a newsletter for the Cape Verdean Progressive Center, and has acted in the film “Crooked Arrows” and local TV ads.

Wally Musto ’00 has worked in a variety of IT positions, from tech support and consulting to managing a team of delivery consultants for a $1 billion-a-year company. In his current management position with Forsythe Technology, Musto’s team works primarily with Fortune 500 companies to develop data-storage solutions.

Judy Spermulli ’03 works in communications for a public education, nonprofit association. She previously has worked for Providence mayors Joseph Paolino and Vincent Cianci and Rhode Island governors Bruce Sundlun and Lincoln Almond.

Karen Schnabel ’05 was the first graduate of RIC’s Certificate Program in Nonprofit Studies in 2005 and has been involved with several nonprofit organizations, including the Center for Women & Enterprise, Women’s Fund of Rhode Island, Family Service of RI and The Tomorrow Fund at Hasbro Children’s Hospital. She currently serves as academic grants officer at Salve Regina University.

Erin Plaziak ’93 is director of strategic planning for MetLife’s property and casualty division and the customer retention leader for personal lines. She joined MetLife in 1993 and has worked in public affairs, marketing, advertising and e-business. She has also served on the board of the Rhode Island Breast Cancer Coalition, her family’s foundation, and as a member of the National Breast Cancer Coalition.

With its central metropolitan campus and a diverse student body, Rhode Island College helps students cultivate an assortment of skills that enables them to thrive in this new era of multitasking.
Bridges ’12 Awarded Scholarship, Internship From Providence Law Firm

Malinda Bridges ’12, who is attending the University of Virginia School of Law, was awarded a $10,000 scholarship and summer internship from the Providence-based law firm of Adler Pollock & Sheehan.

Bridges, described as the type of daughter, college alumna and student intern “everyone would love to have,” was chosen from among more than 20 applicants to receive the firm’s annual Diversity Scholarship.

Robert Brooks ’82, managing partner of the law firm, said Bridges, 22, of Coventry, R.I., also being actively involved in the community.

The firm’s diversity committee also noted that Bridges was “incredibly interesting, articulate and well-grounded,” and that she would have “an extremely positive and profound impact” on the law firm and the profession.

Bridges said she became interested in the legal profession as a career after taking several criminal justice courses at Rhode Island College. She also became involved in the National Black Law Students Association Pre-Law Division, which she said “made me feel inspired.”

RIC President Nancy Carriuolo said Bridges graduated summa cum laude with a 4.0 grade point average last spring, while also being actively involved in the community.

“She’s just an all-around wonderful young lady,” Carriuolo said, adding that Bridges “has a great many friends and supporters here in Rhode Island.”

Laura Meade Kirk

Hispanic Graduation Rates at RIC Among Highest in Country

Rhode Island College ranks 20th among public colleges and universities in the country when it comes to improving the graduation rates of Hispanic students and 10th in terms of reducing the gap between the graduation rates of white and Hispanic students.

Those were among the findings of “Advancing to Completion,” a recent study by The Education Trust, a nonprofit organization that promotes high academic achievement for all students.

The study found that the graduation rate of Hispanic students at Rhode Island College nearly doubled between 2004 and 2010. During that same period, the gap between the graduation rates of white and Hispanic students dropped from 23.4 percentage points in 2004 to 6.9 percentage points in 2010.

“Rhode Island College is proud of the growing number of Hispanic students in our undergraduate programs; the students’ educational attainment and success are rising very quickly,” said Ron Pitt, vice president for academic affairs at Rhode Island College.

“We are committed to ensuring that Hispanic students, and all students, graduate from RIC and go on to successful lives and careers.”

Pitt noted that RIC has made a concerted effort to recruit Hispanic students, and they now make up nearly 11 percent of undergraduates and nearly five percent of graduate students at the college.

Rhode Island College has created several retention strategies to support these students, especially during their freshman year, Pitt said. The college is also the state’s first and only member institution of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities, which promotes and champions the success of Hispanic students in higher education.

“RIC is, first and foremost, about students,” Pitt said. “We will continue to identify new ways to assist our students with programs and supports that further their success in college and beyond.”

Nicole Wilson ’13
New Transportation Center Provides Shelter, Promotes Green Campus

Rhode Island College commuters who rely on public transportation to get to campus can now find shelter in the newly constructed Keefe Transportation Center near Roberts Hall.

The center was built in response to a request from students for a safe, weather-resistant place to wait for buses. RIC President Nancy Carriuolo responded by developing one of her many creative partnerships to get it built. She began by reaching out to Richard Gouse, president of the New England Institute of Technology (NEIT), to ask if his students would be interested in designing plans for the building. More than 15 NEIT students in two studio design classes took on the project as a competition.

Ron Stevenson, an architect for Saccoccio & Associates Architects who is an adjunct instructor at NEIT, worked with the students, and his firm refined the final plans. Construction began last June, with donations from the class of 2011, other private donations and a significant contribution by RIC alum John J. Smith Jr. ’63, ’67 M.Ed. In honor of Smith’s generosity, The Keefe Transportation Center was named after his deceased mother Anna Veronica Keefe Smith ’33, ’67 M.Ed.

It has been a huge hit in the RIC community, especially among bus riders. Cherryl Young, a RIC Outreach Program student who rides the bus every day, said, “I can sit down now and wait for the bus. It’s good to be able to wait for the bus out of the rain.”

“I can sit down now and wait for the bus. It’s good to be able to wait for the bus out of the rain.”

— Cherryl Young, a RIC Outreach Program student
Rhode Island College’s recreation center has undergone an extensive $12 million upgrade over the last two years and is now a state-of-the-art complex serving the college and local communities. The center is also getting rave reviews.

“The new recreation center is incredible. The setup looks great, and the new equipment is top-notch,” said Cody Ortega ’13. “It definitely blows our old center out of the water.”

Don Tencher, assistant vice president for administration and finance and director of athletics and recreation, said the renovations and upgrades were “long overdue.”

The recreation center now has a new, modern design with a welcoming main entrance and spacious student lounge equipped with Wi-Fi and televisions. The centerpiece is a new two-story cardiovascular and weight-training area with floor-to-ceiling windows. One wing is dedicated to intercollegiate athletics, including a wrestling facility, sports-medicine area, coaches’ offices, varsity training facilities and a multimedia room.

The field house is the home of a new five-lane, one-tenth mile indoor track and three indoor courts for basketball, volleyball and tennis.

The heated indoor Sandra E. Surdut Swimming Pool features five 25-yard lanes. Just outside the pool area is the Dr. Ivy Denise Locke Terrace, named after the late vice president for administration and finance.

The building also includes a multipurpose studio, 10 fully equipped locker rooms and an event entrance with a ticket booth.

The new facility “befits the outstanding students and student-athletes who attend and represent Rhode Island College,” Tencher said.

Nicole Wilson ’13

The new recreation center is incredible. The setup looks great, and the new equipment is top-notch. It definitely blows our old center out of the water.

– Cody Ortega ’13
Two RIC Seniors Win Kingston-Mann Awards

Rhode Island College students Julie Kessler and Jamilah Pittman received 2012 Kingston-Mann Student Achievement Awards for Excellence in Diversity and Inclusion Scholarship.

The awards are named for Esther Kingston-Mann, former director of the University of Massachusetts Boston’s Center for Innovative Teaching and founding director of the New England Center for Inclusive Teaching.

The awards “acknowledge the work of students who make a valuable contribution to diversity and inclusion scholarship by expanding our understanding of ideas and experiences that have not always been acknowledged or recognized by traditional disciplines.”

Kessler and Pittman were among nearly 30 students from several colleges throughout New England who competed for the 2012 awards. They were among seven students chosen for the awards.

Kessler, a senior sociology major with minors in creative writing and gender and women’s studies, won for her essay entitled “What’s in a Constitution? The Act of Covering in United States Society.”

Pittman, a senior majoring in management and social work, won for her essay entitled “Biracial Identity Development and Online Communities.”

Laura Meade Kirk

Historic Yellow Cottage Completed

Renovations to the Yellow Cottage, a historic building on the Rhode Island College campus that was once part of the state’s orphanage, are now complete.

The Yellow Cottage dates to the 1880s, when it was constructed as a dormitory for the State Home and School for Dependent and Neglected Children, one of the country’s first orphanages.

In 1990 the state turned over the land and buildings to Rhode Island College. RIC President Nancy Carriuolo developed a number of creative public-private partnerships to renovate the cottage for modern-day use.

With help from Roy Nirschel, former president of Roger Williams University (RWU), and Stephen White, dean of RWU’s School of Architecture, Art and Historic Preservation, she was able to secure the services of architect Charles Hagenah, a RWU professor.

Carriuolo also reached out to William Gilbane, president of the Providence-based Gilbane Building Co., which had initially constructed the Yellow Cottage. Gilbane donated the efforts of his company’s Young Professionals Group, and he also contracted with other companies, unions and individuals to complete the interior renovations – some at no cost.

Work was completed last fall, and the building has been transformed into classroom and office space. In the future, it will include a display for artifacts from the former orphanage.

Adjacent to the Yellow Cottage, a new garden was established in honor of the late RIC alum Richard Hillman ’83, ’96 MSW. A career employee of the Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families, Hillman had a passionate interest in the history of the Yellow Cottage and the “lost children” who once lived there.

Gita Brown

Kingston-Mann Awards winners Julie Kessler, left, and Jamilah Pittman
Rhode Island College is moving quickly toward a green leadership position. This year marks the first time the college has launched for-credit courses in sustainability, in addition to the green curriculum previously developed by RIC’s outreach and continuing education programs.

The new courses include “The Sustainable Systems Initiative,” taught in partnership with the Apeiron Institute for Sustainable Living, which provides hands-on learning experiences in emerging food, energy, green-building and weatherization systems.

Another offering is the “Geography of Rhode Island,” a field course that explores the shoreline and islands of Narragansett Bay to discover how the landscape has evolved over time in response to both natural and human impacts.

“Creating Sustainable Communities: Theory and Practice” teaches students how to evaluate the sustainability performance in individual communities.

These are just a few of the courses the college is introducing in the general curriculum in an effort to promote the importance of green initiatives and sustainability in today’s economy.

“What’s unique is that these courses were developed through partnerships,” said Del Giudice. “We have very aggressively followed the college president’s initiative by seeking partners, by being a good partner, and by regularly sponsoring and developing programming.”

Developing curriculum in sustainability studies is one of many green initiatives being instituted at the college. RIC President Nancy Carriuolo also has encouraged the integration of green business practices into many aspects of the college’s operations.

For example, in the past six years alone there has been an estimated 69 percent decrease in the amount of trash the college produces, and an increase in the collection of recyclable plastic, paper and bottles. In addition, more than 4,000 pounds of e-waste was donated to Goodwill Industries this year.

Rhode Island College also has partnered with Newport Biodiesel to convert used cooking oil from Donovan Dining Center into clean-burning biodiesel. The fuel is then used to heat homes and to power vehicles throughout Rhode Island.

The college has made major efforts to conserve energy by installing the latest energy-saving steam and condensate pipes, upgrading the boiler room for energy efficiency and retrofitting many buildings on campus with energy-efficient lighting. In addition, all major buildings have electronic building management systems used to control heating, ventilation and air conditioning in coordination with classroom and event schedules.

Campus computers have been equipped with power management software. With approximately 1,700 computers on campus, this software has resulted in considerable energy reduction and cost savings.

Rhode Island College holds an annual Green-Up, Clean-Up Day, during which faculty, students, staff and friends of the college volunteer to pick up litter and debris around campus.

The campus is the site of the Fruit Hill Farmers Market, as well as a home for beehives donated and maintained by the Rhode Island Beekeepers Association. To bring environmentally friendly car sharing to campus, the college recently formed a partnership with Zipcar.

“RIC’s strength will continue to be its commitment to exploring sustainability options in partnership with the greater Rhode Island community,” Carriuolo said. “Together, we can build a sustainable future for the college and for the state.”
These don’t sound like typical college courses: “Fried Brains,” “Rubbish” and “Mickey Mouse Monopoly.”

But Rhode Island College professors are employing creative and unusual courses such as these to entice students into developing the writing, oral communication and critical-thinking skills they will need to succeed in their college studies.

These are just a few of the new First-Year Seminars, part of a freshman-only core requirement that was developed as part of the college’s new general education program. The seminars are among several changes introduced to the general education program during the first major revision of the “gen eds” in 20 years.

Maureen Reddy, chair of RIC’s General Education Task Force and the Department of English, said college officials decided change was needed because the old general education requirements were no longer in line with national trends, nor were they providing the foundation needed to prepare students for the future.

“Students today come to college with new needs and are facing far greater and more complex challenges than in the past,” said Ron Pitt, vice president for academic affairs. “The employment picture today is very clouded, and, to be competitive in today’s global economy, students need every advantage the college can provide.”

The new general education program, which launched last August, consists of 10 four-credit classes, a new requirement for a second language and a 200-level or above “writing in the discipline” course, through which students will learn to write in a manner consistent with their majors.

But the biggest change – and the one that most people are talking about on campus – is the new First-Year Seminar program, which has made a strong first impression on students and faculty alike, according to several Rhode Island College professors and administrators.

“I have a lot of students who aren’t freshmen who look at these (course) titles and say, ‘I wish I could take these classes,’” said Jason Danely, an assistant professor of anthropology who taught one of the most popular First-Year Seminars called “Monsters.”

Danely’s students went to the Henry Barnard School to work with elementary school students to read about, draw pictures of and explore the concept of monsters with one another. The freshmen then analyzed and talked about their findings in class.

“It was important for my students to get the experience of collecting their own data rather than solely learning from the text or from me,” said Danely. “I wanted to give them ownership over their own education. They had to design the project and be professional in that situation, and a lot of them had to go outside their comfort zones.”

In addition to learning how to conduct research, students in First-Year Seminars are encouraged to make connections between course content and real-life skills. This is something the students in Robert Cvornyek’s seminar – “The Fix Is In: Sports Page Scandals” – know well.

“Sports help us to understand American history and life, especially the controversial aspects of our past and society,” said Cvornyek, a RIC history professor. “This course deals with issues of race, gender, class and community, and sports are an interesting way of getting students to take a look at these bigger issues and think about them in ways they haven’t before.”

The ultimate goal of the First-Year Seminar is to aid freshmen in their transition from high school to college, while instilling in them a sense of confidence and success that they will use in higher-level courses and beyond.

“The most rewarding moments were when the students started to understand how different the college experience is from their previous academic ventures,” said Anthony Galvez, assistant professor of communication and teacher of the First-Year Seminar “Video Games as Media.” “It was great when the students realized that the pursuit of knowledge can be rewarding,” he said.

“This is also at a point in students’ collegiate careers where, if you get an interesting topic, something students want to read and write about, it can sharpen their academic skills like writing, critical thinking and oral communication,” Cvornyek said.
First-Year Seminars are essential. They provide a strong sense of community, and the fact that such engaging content can be used to get students to sharpen their pre-existing academic skills is wonderful.

— Robert Cvornyek, history professor at Rhode Island College

These courses are considered to be valuable educational opportunities not only for first-year students, but also for RIC faculty. They offer professors the chance to choose topics of personal interest to them, as well as subjects that don’t directly connect to what they usually teach.

“I like to engage students in a topic they already know a lot about,” Danely said. “One of the first things I said in ‘Monsters’ was that since we’ve been studying monsters all our lives, we can use this knowledge to deepen our analyses and draw from different perspectives, like history, anthropology, literature and psychology, to talk about them.”

First-Year Seminars are limited to 20 students per course to promote “strong and extensive student participation,” said Reddy. The small class size also allows for students to develop personal connections with their professors and other freshmen.

“Many students felt comfortable taking part in class, chatting with me outside of class and sending emails about things they were witnessing that were linked to course material. This (informal talk) made me feel more confident that I was connecting with them,” said Desirée Ciambrone, associate professor of sociology who taught a First-Year Seminar called “Tattoos Aren’t Just for Sailors Anymore: Men, Women and Bodies.” “I really wanted my students to be excited about learning, about social science and being college students.”

Cvornyek said, “First-Year Seminars are essential. They provide a strong sense of community, and the fact that such engaging content can be used to get students to sharpen their pre-existing academic skills is wonderful.”

Although First-Year Seminars have only been around for this year, freshmen nominated several courses for best class for “Best of RIC 2012,” an award series sponsored by RIC’s Office of Student Activities. Robyn Linde’s “Human Rights” and Thomas Schmeling’s “Democracy” each won the title.

Though revision of the general education program was a lengthy task, it has been an important step forward for RIC students and faculty, Pitt said.

As Danely said, “RIC faculty members have done a great job coming up with classes for students, and it’s only improving our ability as teachers. It’s new for all of us. But there is a lot of enthusiasm to make this work, and that’s a really big part in crafting a successful program.”
Leading the Way

John McNiff ’79
Rhode Island College graduates find success in a variety of fields

By Laura Meade Kirk

Name a career, and chances are you’ll find a Rhode Island College graduate among the ranks.

- Actress: Academy Award nominee Viola Davis ’88.
- CPA: Gina McDonald ’97, Lefkowitz, Garfinkel, Champi & DiRenzo.
- National Park Service ranger: John McNiff ’79, Roger Williams National Memorial.
- U.S. Congressman: James Langevin ’90.

A degree from Rhode Island College can lead just about anywhere, to any career – and even multiple careers in a lifetime, said Ron Pitt, vice president for academic affairs at Rhode Island College. “We don’t train students to serve in one job their whole lives. That’s not the modern reality. We educate them to prepare them for a lifetime of employment in a very rapidly changing employment picture.”

Some students come to Rhode Island College for a specific program. “But the biggest group of students is not in nursing or any other particular major,” Pitt said. “They’re undeclared. They’re not sure. It’s absolutely a normal and a natural part of the college experience to find themselves.”

McNiff, who was a history major and anthropology minor, said he had no idea where his college experience would lead. He worked in sales and archaeology before joining the National Park Service in 1996, and he now works as a ranger at the Roger Williams National Memorial in Providence. “RIC is a great place to get an education,” he said.

Lloyd Matsumoto, a professor in the biology department, noted that some of his students have gone on to become doctors, dentists and scientists.

P. William Hutchinson, who taught theater for 36 years and, after retirement, taught in the Master of Fine Arts program, said he’s seen theater students go on to become lawyers, novelists and teachers. “Others ‘discover’ their interest in theater because they enroll in general ed courses, which are taught by some of our best former MFA students,” he said. They go into theatrical careers they never envisioned when they first enrolled at Rhode Island College, he said.

But regardless of the field, one thing is clear – the educational foundation received at Rhode Island College has paved the way for future success.

In fact, Matsumoto said, a “Rhode Island College education in biology has enabled many of our students to take on leadership positions in their specific professions.”

The same can be said of many other programs at Rhode Island College, which has launched the careers of many architects, CEOs, financial analysts, lawyers, physicians, veterinarians and myriad others across the country.

In this issue, we profile three alumni who have found local, national and international success in their fields. They took different routes to Rhode Island College, but they all credit the college with giving them a great start to their careers.
Robert “Bob” Brooks ’82 knew he was going to college after graduating from Classical High School in Providence, but he hadn’t given much thought as to where he would go.

He decided to try Bryant University, but quickly realized he didn’t want a career in accounting or business. So he transferred to Rhode Island College to pursue a degree in public administration.

On his first day at RIC, his first class was American Government, a course taught by David Sweet, who was then president of the college. Brooks was impressed with the class and with Sweet, and he immediately knew he’d made the right decision.

Brooks, who is now managing partner of the Providence law firm Adler Pollock & Sheehan, said Rhode Island College provided a top-quality education at a fraction of the cost of higher-priced institutions.

“I knew I didn’t have the resources to go away and live at school,” said Brooks, who grew up in the Silver Lake Annex neighborhood of Providence. “I was in a situation where I needed to work part time, and I needed to commute to school.”

Rhode Island College was the perfect choice, he said, not only for him, but also for many friends and classmates who were just like him – “young people from modest means who wanted to get an education and get out into the real world and succeed.”

Brooks credits his professors, especially Milburn Stone, with encouraging him to gain work experience through internships. After graduating from RIC in 1982, Brooks went to work for former Providence Mayor Vincent Cianci. He also decided to pursue a law degree and attended Suffolk University in Boston. He earned his law degree in 1987 and started his legal career at Adler Pollock & Sheehan in 1988.

Brooks said he always knew he would be successful, even while a student at Rhode Island College, because he always worked hard to get ahead. But he never dreamed he would be in the position he now holds, as managing partner of Adler Pollock & Sheehan, a law firm with more than 70 lawyers in Boston, Providence and New Hampshire.

He has earned a host of accolades, including being named one of the “Top 20 Most Powerful Labor Attorneys in the Nation” in 2012 and 2013 by “Lawdragon” magazine and “Human Resource Executive.” He also was named one of Rhode Island’s best labor and employment attorneys by Best Lawyers in America, a peer review guide for the legal profession that also named him “2012 Lawyer of the Year, Labor Law-Management, Providence.”

Brooks recently visited Rhode Island College and was impressed with the renovations, improvements and expansions to buildings, residence halls and athletic facilities. “Everything is different,” he said.

But what has not changed is the quality of education the school provides, Brooks said.

“I think people would be surprised by the rigor of the educational experience at Rhode Island College and the number of students who go on to earn advanced degrees and are working in the learned professions,” Brooks said. “RIC students are successful because they’ve been well prepared.”

Student Mom Now Senior Vice President

At age 22, Marilyn Walsh was newly divorced with an eight-month-old baby. She had a high school diploma, but no job skills, and she needed a career to provide for herself and her son.

Rhode Island College offered her that – and more.

In 1971 Walsh enrolled in what was then a fledgling nursing program at Rhode Island College. She put her son, Joe, in day care on campus. She attended classes and worked part time while earning her four-year nursing degree.

“My focus at that point was to learn to be a nurse, to make a positive difference in the lives of others,” Walsh said. “… I chose Rhode Island College because I’d heard such wonderful things about it from my friends. When I started and began to meet my instructors and saw the quality of the program they were striving to put together at the time, I knew I was exactly where I wanted to be. And I was able to have my son with me on campus – it doesn’t get much better than that for a young mother looking to start her career and raise a child.”
Walsh graduated in 1975 and was hired as a day-shift nurse at the former Lying-In Hospital in Providence. She quickly rose through the ranks of nursing administration and went on to obtain her MBA. She is now senior vice president, chief human resources officer for Care New England, a network of hospital and medical providers with more than 7,000 employees.

She said she couldn’t have done it without the education, training and support she received from Rhode Island College – “especially the supportive services available on campus, which were a huge help to me,” Walsh said.

A native of Riverside and a graduate of East Providence High School, Walsh acknowledges that she was not a typical college student, even back in the early 1970s. Like many of her friends, she got married right after high school. “The only way to leave home was to get married. That was my ticket out,” she quipped.

But a few years later, when she and her husband divorced, and she was alone with her son, she realized she needed to find a career. A friend had recently enrolled in a new nursing program at Rhode Island College. So she decided to give it a try.

As the oldest of five children, she knew she had the caring and nurturing nature to become a nurse. “I was always the built-in babysitter. It was just part of my life, taking care of people. So it just seemed natural that I would go through college and get my (nursing) degree,” she said.

It wasn’t easy, but her family supported her every step of the way – watching her son so she could study, and encouraging her when she wanted to quit. “My mother gave me the confidence to keep going, and she is still a source of strength to me today,” Walsh said.

When she graduated in 1975, she was a member of the second nursing class to graduate from Rhode Island College.

Walsh said she has been fortunate to have a number of opportunities over the years, going from hands-on nursing to patient-care management, nursing administration, human resources and operations. “I decided to learn the nonclinical side – budgeting, financial forecasting and quantitative analysis – and these were not natural subjects for me,” she said. So she went back to school nights and weekends to earn her MBA from Bryant University in 1986.

After more than 30 years at the Lying-In Hospital, and later Women & Infants Hospital, she joined Care New England seven years ago.

Walsh said she encounters an amazing number of Rhode Island College graduates in her travels, locally, regionally and nationally. Among them is her younger sister, Mary Jane Andreozzi, who earned a degree in fine arts from RIC, attended the Rhode Island School of Design and is now chair of the visual arts department at St. Mary Academy Bay View in Riverside.

“When you see some of the marvelous careers that people have had coming from different programs at RIC, to me that demonstrates the quality of the organization,” she said. “I clearly would recommend it to any prospective students. It absolutely enabled me to be what I am today.”

From Chemistry Class to Capitol Hill

Christopher Reddy ’92 jokes that he can’t tell the difference between a trout and a bass, but he is a world-renowned expert when it comes to using chemistry to identify and solve problems in coastal and oceanic waters.

That expertise is why he was among the cadre of marine scientists called upon to investigate the effects of the Deepwater Horizon disaster of April 2010 that spilled more than 160 million gallons of crude oil into the Gulf of Mexico.

Reddy’s research is now at the center of a multibillion-dollar lawsuit filed against BP by the federal government, which is still trying to determine the exact extent of damage to marine and wildlife habitats, as well as to the local and regional economies.

Since the disaster, Reddy, who is a senior scientist at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in Woods Hole, Mass., has dedicated all of his efforts to this iconic spill.

This is not the career he imagined growing up in the Edgewood neighborhood of Cranston. He had planned to study chemical engineering and wrestle at a college in upstate New York after graduating from Cranston High School East in 1987.
But that college abruptly cancelled its wrestling program weeks before Reddy graduated from high school.

The father of one of his high school friends was Rusty Carlsten, the legendary wrestling coach at Rhode Island College at the time. Carlsten convinced Reddy to enroll at Rhode Island College instead.

Reddy said he planned to spend one year at RIC. But once he arrived, he never left.

Reddy said he was “not a great student.” But he was a great wrestler – three-times All-New England, a Scholar All-American and the only RIC wrestler to be part of five New England Championship seasons during the Anchormen’s golden years of wrestling. (He was inducted into the RIC Athletic Hall of Fame in 2008.)

He also was a talented chemist. Reddy’s professors tried to convince him to go to graduate school for chemistry after he graduated from RIC, but he opted to work as an environmental chemist instead. One of his bosses later introduced him to a professor at the University of Rhode Island’s Graduate School of Oceanography, and he began his studies of chemical oceanography.

After earning a doctoral degree in 1997, Reddy did a postdoctoral fellowship at Woods Hole for two years and was later hired as a tenure-track assistant scientist. Now a senior scientist, he is part of the institution’s senior leadership as the director of its Coastal Ocean Institute.

When the Deepwater Horizon exploded three years ago, Reddy got a phone call from a top government official who told Reddy, “Your life, as you know it, is about to change.”

And it has.

Reddy has been propelled from his lab into the international spotlight. He has testified twice for Congress and once for the President’s Commission on the spill, and he frequently spends time on Capitol Hill briefing legislators on the disaster.

Both sides in the federal lawsuit have subpoenaed more than 50,000 pages of research and 3,000 emails about the case from him – information that could cost or save BP billions of dollars, depending on the outcome of the civil suit.

Reddy also has written many technical papers on the Deepwater Horizon, and he estimates that he has given 300 interviews, including one that resulted in a cover story on the Wall Street Journal.

Reddy credits his experience at RIC with enabling him to be able to explain what is going on in terms that people can understand – including describing his career.

“I study principally what happens when you dump a pollutant into the ocean. The ocean is sitting there, minding its own business, and someone comes along and pollutes it in one way or another. So my interest is (the gathering of information): ‘How is nature going to respond? What is nature going to do with this uninvited guest?’ I try to string all these pieces of knowledge together.”

“I’m still a chemist,” he said, “but my beaker is the ocean.”

Reddy, as have so many other alumni, found a world of opportunity as a direct result of his experience at Rhode Island College.

Christopher Reddy ’92
Bachelor of Science, Chemistry
Senior scientist at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution
Honors, awards and the ceremonial capping of the graduates highlighted the Cap and Gown Convocation on May 1. The photos, clockwise from top, show President Nancy Carriuolo with Travis Escobar, senior class president; Kyla Pecchia, president of Student Community Government, senior class vice president and class speaker; Assistant Professor Mark Gunning, chosen by the class to provide the convocation address; Professor Anne Carty with Tahrike Carter, honored as a scholar-athlete; senior music majors singing the national anthem; and (l-r) class officers Amy Marshall, Pecchia, Escobar and Marcia Diaz.
Senior class president Travis Escober addresses his fellow graduates.

President Nancy Carriuolo opens the 2013 Undergraduate Commencement.

Nicole Wilson '13 before receiving her diploma.

Senior class officer Amy Marshall’s flowers matched the brightness of a beautiful day.

Honorary degree recipient Marie Petrarca delivers the commencement address.

Graduating music majors singing the National Anthem.

Congratulations, Graduates

BACCALAUREATE DEGREES
This year’s commencement included a surprise ending, when a flash mob of RIC music, theater and dance students took the stage to perform their rendition of “(I’ve Had) The Time of My Life.”

Tabrike Carter ’13 receives a warm congratulatory embrace from President Carriuolo.

50th Anniversary Class of ’63 leading off the commencement procession.

Honorary degree recipients Robert and Marie Petrarca and Henry Leisur with President Nancy Carriuolo and Board of Education chair Eva Marie Mancuso.

Smiles of success for 2013 graduates Ashley Bettencourt, Stephanie Borges and Danielle Boucher.

A proud moment for 2013 graduate Joshua Brown.
Congratulations, Graduates

ADVANCED DEGREES
When Viola Davis, an Oscar-nominated and Tony Award-winning actress, returned to Rhode Island to receive the “Making a Difference” award from the Rhode Island Tourism Division last month, she praised her alma mater, Rhode Island College.

RIC students Sarah Pothier, Brendan Macera, Joseph Cherry, Neil Jeronimo and Tyler Indyck sang two songs from *The Music Man* to open the awards ceremony.

Davis credited her love of acting, in part, to her involvement in the arts at the college, where she earned her undergraduate degree in theater in 1988 and received an honorary doctorate degree in fine arts in 2002.

“Rhode Island College is where I found myself,” Davis said, during the award ceremony. “At RIC I had great professors and was involved in programs such as Upward Bound and student support services, which were instrumental in helping me find my passion.”

Davis also spoke about the importance of “making a difference” in a child’s life, particularly for children in her hometown of Central Falls, where many of her family members still live.

Growing up there in a poor black family carried a stigma, she recalled. “I always wanted to burst out of that stigma and show people what I was on the inside, which was fabulous.”

Davis has, in fact, achieved great success on both film and stage, and she continues to give back. “Every time I come back to Central Falls, I see myself in so many kids who want to go out and be somebody. I feel like I’m giving back to something larger than myself,” she said.

“I carry you everywhere – around the world – with me,” Davis said. “I always say, ‘I’m from Rhode Island.’ My alma mater is Rhode Island College. … Thank you for claiming me as your own.”
When Jo-Ann D’Alessandro played for the Rhode Island College women’s basketball team in the 1980s, she recalls the basketball court was in such disrepair that she impaled her knee on a nail when she fell in the middle of a game. “We laugh about it now,” D’Alessandro said, “but I was on the ground – I couldn’t get up because the nail was stuck in the flesh of my knee. Those were the conditions we played in.”

Today Rhode Island College is known for its state-of-the-art athletic facilities – not only the Murray Center, but also new tennis courts and an all-weather track. There also are new baseball, softball and soccer fields, complete with press boxes and scoreboards. And RIC’s athletics program is thriving, with a host of NCAA Division III championship teams in the past 10 years in nearly every sport – including baseball, men’s and women’s basketball, softball, golf, men’s soccer, softball, women’s tennis, volleyball and wrestling.

Rhode Island College now fields 21 varsity sports with nearly 350 athletes, as well as 26 club sports that involve hundreds more students in a variety of athletic competitions.

“It’s incredible, what we have now,” said D’Alessandro, who is associate athletics director at Rhode Island College. “We have tremendous athletic facilities and programming to help our student-athletes succeed, not only in athletics but in life after college.”

Much of that success, D’Alessandro and others said, is owed to Don Tencher, director of athletics and recreation and assistant vice president for administration and finance. “Don is the reason. … He’s the one who raises the money. He’s the one who implements all these programs. He’s the driving force behind it all.”

Bob Walsh, head coach of one of the most successful basketball programs in the college’s history, agreed. “Don’s vision is really the driving force,” he said. “… He has done more for this athletic department and the school than people realize and appreciate.”

Tencher remembers how bad things were when he came to Rhode Island College 18 years ago, after working as associate athletic director at the Community College of Rhode Island. “It was horrendous,” he said, bluntly.

The sports program, fields and facilities were in shambles. The Walsh Gymnasium had been destroyed by fire in 1992. From the ashes, Tencher began to build what is now one of the most dominant NCAA Division III sports programs in the region.

“The first thing we did was rebuild our facilities,” Tencher said. “Our facilities were the worst in the conference. The (college) president said we had no money, so we raised the money. Every facility you see today is the result of fundraising.”
He also hired coaches who believed in RIC and who could retain the Rhode Island high school athletes who were defecting to Division III colleges in Massachusetts and Connecticut. “We had good people in the (coaching) jobs, but we didn’t have good coaches. ... They were nice people, but they didn’t have what it took to win,” Tencher said.

Among those he recruited was Walsh, who at the time was an assistant coach of the Providence College basketball team. Walsh said he’d barely heard of Rhode Island College until the Friars needed to rent practice space there one year. “I did not know where the school was, even though it was just a mile down the road,” Walsh said.

But he knew the athletics program was already making great strides, even then. “The team was taking steps forward but hadn’t been able to get to that next level of winning championships,” Walsh said. So he took over as head coach and has taken the team to the NCAA Division III championships in seven of the past eight years.

Walsh said that’s simply what Tencher expects of the sports programs. “He expects the programs to operate in such a way that we expect success, and we expect to compete for national championships.”

Scott Gibbons, who’s been assistant athletic director for the past 15 years, agreed. He said of Tencher: “He’s highly motivated to make things the best they can be. That’s across the board. He holds everybody to high standards – coaches, staff and student-athletes alike. He expects the best.”

Rhode Island College also became successful in doing something it had failed to do for decades – recruiting top athletes from Rhode Island and nearby states. When D’Alessandro played for the RIC basketball team, she recalled, sports were almost an after-thought at Rhode Island College, and promising athletes from throughout the region were lured to other state and local colleges that were more competitive.

That’s not true anymore, as RIC recruits some of the top athletes from other area colleges, D’Alessandro said. The college also has made a commitment to the academic success of student-athletes, building a state-of-the-art student-athlete success center to help students succeed in the classroom, as well as in sports.

Academic success is critical to the success of the athletic program, Tencher said. “We need to earn respect on campus (by proving) that our kids are going to graduate. So we put in one of the strongest academic programs in the country. That program made our kids go to study hall and take a freshman orientation course that would make sure they were successful academically.”

As a result, Tencher said, Rhode Island College now attracts some of the top student-athletes in the region and is proud of its growing roster of scholar-athletes.

And that’s why RIC is seen as such a great program, Walsh said. “The kids really buy into what Rhode Island College stands for – giving kids a chance. ... Rhode Island College went from being the place where you only went if you had to (because there were no options) to being a destination for top students and top athletes.”

Walsh said the next step for Rhode Island College sports is to win a national championship. “People want to see Rhode Island College as one of the premier Division III programs in the country.”

But in the meantime, Tencher said, the sports program has helped shine the spotlight on all that Rhode Island College has to offer. “We’ve made the college a better place.”

“We have tremendous athletic facilities and programming to help our student-athletes succeed, not only in athletics but in life after college.”

– Jo-Ann D’Alessandro, associate athletics director
Farewell, Maestro

Professor Edward Markward retires after 40 years

By Gita Brown

Professor Edward Markward, who has trained scores of Rhode Island College students over the past four decades to become professional music teachers, conductors and performers, has retired. He led his final concert as conductor of the Rhode Island College Symphony Orchestra on April 29.

Markward, who is known for bringing great classical music of the past and present to Rhode Island, has been a legend in the region’s music community since he was hired by Rhode Island College’s music department back in 1973.

He taught voice and medieval and Renaissance music literature. He also was director of the Rhode Island College Chorus and the Rhode Island College Symphony Orchestra and founding conductor of the Rhode Island College Chamber Singers.

“Being a conductor is who I am,” he said. “It’s what I love. I could never see myself doing anything else.”

When Markward arrived at RIC, the symphony orchestra was small – between 40 and 55 members, depending on the piece being performed. The orchestra had always been a college and community orchestra, with members of the ensemble ranging in age from 18 to 60. “The orchestra has come a long way, and it’s been a long, long journey,” he said.

The orchestra now has 75 members. Sixty percent of the musicians are RIC students; the rest are community musicians, as well as a small number of professional musicians, many of whom were once Markward’s students. “When I first came to RIC, I didn’t think it was possible for the orchestra to perform the large works that they’re playing now; yet, in the last decade, they haven’t shied away from anything,” he said.

Markward has been described by his students as a professor with “a relentless pursuit of musical perfection,” a conductor with “impeccable technique” and “an inspirer of youthful musicians to heights few would have believed possible.”

“Impiration is one of the most important qualities a conductor can have,” said John Di Costanzo ’84, one of Markward’s former students, who now is music director and associate artistic director of Tri-Cities Opera in Binghamton, N.Y.

Markward has been cited by the Providence Journal as a “pillar of the music community.” He has conducted for numerous music organizations in Rhode Island and elsewhere. He has served as music director for the Bel Canto Opera Company, music director/conductor for Opera Rhode Island, associate conductor of the Providence Opera Theater, principal guest conductor for the Brooklyn Symphony Orchestra in New York and founding conductor of the Festival Chamber Orchestra of Rhode Island. He is currently conductor of the Rhode Island Civic Chorale and Orchestra.

“It is difficult to imagine what the Rhode Island College music department will be like after Ed retires,” said music Professor Rob Franzblau. “He’s had such a huge influence on our students and on our programs. I will miss him very much, but I have no doubt that his musical presence will continue to be felt in the community for many years. He’s simply one of the most talented and hardworking conductors I have ever known.”

Markward said he is proud to have been a part of Rhode Island College’s music faculty. “Our faculty bring a wealth of professional experience to the classroom,” he said, “and they believe that our students deserve the same education, the same passion, the same dedication and attention that a student receives at a high-priced school. … I have been fortunate to have worked with extraordinary colleagues, both in the department and in other disciplines.”

Above all else, he said, “I have had the privilege to associate with some extraordinary students whose talent it has been my good fortune to help uncover and nurture.”
I have had the privilege to associate with some extraordinary students whose talent it has been my good fortune to help uncover and nurture.

– Professor Edward Markward
How did Rhode Island College prepare Cranston Mayor Allan Fung ’92 for a year of headline-making controversies including the removal of a prayer banner at Cranston High School West, an ordinance allowing backyard chickens and the cancellation of a father-daughter dance at an elementary school?

“(RIC) taught me a lot about what I have to do as mayor – to listen to people, to take into account other perspectives as I make my decisions on different types of policy issues,” Fung said during a recent interview in his office at Cranston City Hall.

RIC also helped him master the art of flexibility, so he can move from trying to resolve a budget crisis one minute to fielding phone calls from reporters at The New York Times and BBC News, asking why nearly a quarter of the city’s 2,600 stop signs were installed illegally.

“That’s some of the craziness that can come with the life of a mayor,” he said, flashing his trademark grin. “It’s been challenging – but also a little fun.”

Fung, a three-term mayor, credits Rhode Island College with launching his legal and political careers. “RIC provided for a great education at a great value and allowed me the opportunity and flexibility to work and save up money for my career. … (The college) really gave me the opportunity to pursue my future dreams.”

Born in Providence, he attended Classical High School and started college at the University of New Haven in Connecticut. But he quickly realized that it wasn’t the right choice for him. So he applied to RIC, though he says he was nervous at first, wondering how he would fit in as a transfer student. Those fears were quickly dispelled, he said. “As soon as I walked into those classrooms and started participating in those classes, I knew that RIC really was the right place for me, and I had made the right choice,” he said.

Fung said he tried to take advantage of all that RIC had to offer – academically, athletically and socially. He was a member of the tennis team and student government, and he enjoyed RIC’s social life, including attending shows by one of his fellow students, stand-up comic Richard “Ace” Aceto, now of Comedy Connection fame.

Fung notes that he’s not the only successful politician to emerge from Rhode Island College, citing, among others, U.S. Congressman James Langevin and House Speaker Gordon Fox.

“RIC’s got a great deal to be proud of,” Fung said. “It started the careers of many great public servants who are doing a lot for their communities now.”

Fung said he’s proud to serve as mayor of Cranston, and he views Rhode Island College as a great resource for residents of his city and the entire state. “Cranston’s a great community that really is representative of our state, and we’ve got a lot of RIC students who live in our city who are from a similar type background that I had growing up. I’m glad that Rhode Island College is a resource for them. Who knows? Maybe one day, one of those females or males who is sitting in those political science classes (at RIC) might be the next mayor of Cranston.”
John J. Smith Jr. – Friend of the College in Many Ways

By Gina Wesley-Silva ’80

John J. Smith Jr. ’63, ’67 M.Ed. is a familiar face around the Rhode Island College campus – often attending Rhode Island College Foundation meetings, attending events or speaking with staff members in Roberts Hall.

A longtime member and past president of the Rhode Island College Foundation, Smith also is a generous supporter of the college. His recent $100,000 donation to help fund the Keefe Transportation Center is just the latest example of his commitment to RIC.

In recognition of his generosity, the center was named after his mother, the late Anna Veronica Keefe Smith ’33, ’67 M.Ed.

Smith began attending RIC in 1959, following in the footsteps of his mother. “RIC gave me a great opportunity to fulfill my dream, which was first to become a teacher and then to become a principal,” he said.

“When I graduated from Rhode Island College in 1963, I was accepted into the graduate program and went on to receive my master’s degree,” he said. Ironically, his mother decided to return to RIC to get her master’s degree at the same time. They received their degrees together, in the same ceremony in 1967.

Smith said he learned a great deal as a student at RIC, mostly because of the dedication of his professors, “especially Dr. Mary Tucker Thorp, Dr. Ridgway Shinn and Professor S. Elizabeth Campbell.” Smith said other great influences in his life were his parents, particularly his mother, who had an impressive career in education that lasted more than 30 years before she retired in 1976.

Smith’s teaching career began in Cumberland in 1963, where he started as a fourth-grade teacher. “As a student, I had loved the fourth grade, so I wanted to teach fourth grade,” he said. “I wanted to teach history and social studies and teach about the Northmen, the Norsemen and the Vikings, which happened to be the first unit in grade-four studies at that time. It was perfect.”

During his 35 years as a teacher and principal in the Cumberland school system – 30 of them as principal – he served at several schools, including the B.F. Norton School, Community School and the Cumberland Hill School, from which he retired in 1998. During his teaching career, he also taught in the adult education program in Cumberland for 20 years. After retirement, he continued as a substitute teacher and principal in the school system, and he helped to start the school department’s centralized preschool program in 2001.

In addition, Smith supervised student teachers for 10 years at Providence College and taught at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth. He also served as a substitute principal in the Coventry school system, especially at the Blackrock School. He also has been an usher at the Providence Performing Arts Center for more than 20 years, and he serves on the staff of the Keefe Funeral Home in Lincoln.

Smith said the two most important things he’s learned over the years are that it’s important “to enjoy what you are doing” and to always “give back.” Given that he has found personal fulfillment in his career in education and has continually supported the educational community in general, it seems he has lived what he learned.

“I still have a great love of education, and I think that the future is now,” he said. “You have to give children as good a start in life as possible, through proper education and nurturing and showing them that there are people who really care. And that, to me, is very important!”
Greetings From the Executive Director

Dear Alumni and Friends,

We have dedicated the last year and a half to making sure our alumni in Rhode Island and surrounding areas have had opportunities to get involved with the college and the alumni association.

In May we celebrated and honored our accomplished alumni, friends and students at the annual Alumni Awards Dinner.

This summer we have lined up a series of events for our alumni, which we hope will enhance your connection to the college. I hope you will be able to join us on June 15 for RIC Night at the Pawsox, on July 20 for our Alumni Summer Gathering at the Newport Polo Grounds and on Aug. 8 for the Alumni Summer Gathering at Oceanside Pier restaurant in Narragansett.

We also are already planning for this fall’s 2013 RIC Alumni Association Liberty Mutual Cup Golf Tournament in memory of Helen Lombardi ’40, and for homecoming activities.

The golf tournament raises money for the association’s RICochet program, a fund that benefits students in emergency situations and supports alumni scholarships. Please save the date – Sept. 23, at the Cranston Country Club. It’s a day of fun that is for a great cause.

Homecoming 2013 is scheduled for Oct. 1-5. We will be sending you details soon. Many of the activities and programs are based on feedback we received from our online survey. Thank you for that feedback, and please plan to join us on campus for our homecoming activities.

The Office of Alumni and College Relations has also placed great emphasis on the annual giving program. This year our goal for the annual fund is $250,000, and we are almost there! You may have noticed additional solicitations by mail and email, asking you to support the annual fund. We also are calling alumni and friends to encourage everyone to donate.

We are very close to our goal, and with your help, we know we can make it this year. Please support the alumni association today with a gift. Call our office at (401) 456-8086 or donate online at www.ric.edu/2013AnnualFund.

Enjoy the spring edition of the Rhode Island College Alumni Magazine, and I hope to see you soon!

Best wishes,

Kate Brezina

2013 – 2014 | Calendar of Events

JUNE 15  
RIC Night at the Pawtucket Red Sox  
2 to 3:15 p.m.  
Kids free clinic  
5 p.m.  
Meet and greet  
5 p.m.  
USA vs. Spain  
$12 per person

JULY 20  
Alumni Summer Gathering at Newport Polo Grounds  
4 p.m.  
Meet and greet  
5 p.m.  
USA vs. Spain  
$10 per person

AUGUST 8  
Alumni Summer Gathering  
6 to 8 p.m.  
Oceanside Pier restaurant, Narragansett  
$10 per person

SEPTEMBER 23  
Alumni Association Liberty Mutual Cup Golf Tournament in Memory of Helen Lombardi ’40  
11:30 a.m.  
Registration and lunch  
1 p.m.  
Shotgun start  
Cranston Country Club  
$125 per person

OCTOBER 1-5  
Homecoming 2013  
RIC Campus

OCTOBER 25  
RIC Night at the Jack-O-Lantern Spectacular  
5:30 p.m.  
Roger Williams Park Zoo  
$10 adults  
$8 children

DECEMBER 7  
Alumni Holiday Gathering  
6 to 8 p.m.  
Aspire restaurant  
Hotel Providence  
$20 per person

JANUARY 11  
Wicked at Providence Performing Arts Center  
More information to come.

Reserve today online at ric.edu/go/alumnievents or call (401) 456-8086 or email alumni@ric.edu
The Jack-O-Lantern Spectacular last fall attracted nearly 250 alumni and family members to Roger Williams Park in Providence to view more than 5,000 illuminated jack-o-lanterns on display.

Holiday gatherings brought together alumni and friends for a party at Dave & Buster’s in Providence and at our holiday reception on campus last December.
The Rhode Island College Alumni Golf Tournament benefits the RICochet Fund, which provides assistance to students in emergency situations and supports alumni scholarships. The 22nd annual tournament, held last fall in memory of Helen Lombardi ’40, was won by Chris Floyd, Joe Zornado, Glenn Scott and Gary Grund.
Homecoming 2012 was again a celebration enjoyed by a great mix of alumni, students, families and friends. The festivities included arts and crafts, athletic events, concerts and more. The Class of 1963 (above) kicked off its golden anniversary with a breakfast at the home of RIC President Nancy Carriuolo.
Alumna of the Year Award
Anne Colafrancesco De Stefano ’66
Volunteer, Leader, Donor and Friend to Rhode Island College

Charles B. Willard
Professional Achievement Award
Mike Montecalvo ’84
Co-anchor
WPRI-12 and FOX Providence

Alumni Service Award
Channavy Chhay ’01
Executive Director
Socio-Economic Development Center for Southeast Asians

Young Alumni Award
Dave Cranshaw ’05
Senior Writer and Editor
University of New Haven

Rhode Island College Alumni Award Winners

Alumni Faculty Award
Mary M. Sullivan
Professor of Mathematics
Member of the Secondary Education Department
Director of the Rhode Island STEM Center

Alumni Staff Award
Carol (Benedetti) Peck
Clerk Typist
School of Nursing
Rhode Island College

Special Award for Distinguished Service to Alumni
Patricia “Patti” (Horan) Doyle ’84
Senior Vice President
RDW Group

Special Award for Distinguished Service to Alumni, in Memoriam
Richard J. Walton
Adjunct Faculty
President, Adjunct Faculty Union
Rhode Island College
Alumni Awards Dinner
May 9, 2013

Doris (Arroyo) Blanchard ’97, Channavy Chhay ’01, Thomas Verdi and Luis San Lucas ’88, ’92.


Alumni Honor Roll

Dean Earl Simson presents Alumni Association Honor Roll certificates to Zohar Moyal ’14 and Shawn Cournoyer ’97 during the awards ceremony.

RIC’s Sustainability Coordinator Jim Murphy ’07 (l) and Interim Associate Vice President Jenifer Giroux ’95, ’06 M.A. (r) pose with scholarship winner Rene Breton ’14.
Award winner Patti Doyle ’84 with her mother, Ann Horan.

Award winner Mike Montecalvo ’84 with Gary Penfield, vice president for student affairs.

Alumni Association President William Fazioli ’86, President Nancy Carriuolo and honor roll recipient Doris Blanchard ’97.

Rhode Island College

Student scholarship winner Andy Montan ’14 with Professor Pam Jackson.

Board members Walter Musto ’00 and Mark Paolucci ’85.
Alumni Awards Dinner

Rich Walton Jr. accepts a distinguished service award on behalf of his father, the late Richard J. Walton, adjunct faculty.

Student scholarship recipient Sandra (Roy) Laverdiere ’13 and honor roll recipient Thomas Barbieri ’91.

Channary Chhay ’01 accepts her award.

Board member Mathies Santos ’82 was one of the masters of ceremony.

Student scholarship winner Jonathan Suero ’14 with Dean David Blanchette.
1933
Faith (Potter) Leighton celebrated her 101st birthday on Jan. 16.

1955
Eileen (Ryan) Monopoli, Lillian (Monopoli) Mottola, Eilene (Helfand) Smith, Sylvia (Messerlian) Agabian and Clare (Burke) Reñasco recently gathered to celebrate the 80th birthday of Nancy (McIntosh) Bordeleau’s husband Roland.

1959
Classmates gathered at the home of Don Babbitt in July to discuss plans for two class reunions – one in September 2014 to celebrate the start of their first year of college, and one in 2018 to celebrate the 59th anniversary of their graduation.

Ed and Ellen (Spencer) Riley were guests of Don Babbitt in June. They visited with old friends and classmates, then toured Europe before returning home to Queensland, Australia.

Pauline Ucci Dyson of Buffalo, N.Y., and her husband Steve celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with festivities in Rhode Island hosted by their children and attended by family and friends, including six grandchildren. Among the guests was niece (Mary) Lyn Ucci ’78 of Atlanta, Ga., a former special education teacher in Bristol. The Dysons traveled to Berlin, Germany, in fall 2012 for his sabbatical research at the German Institute of Archaeology.

Beverly (Crocker) Fitzgerald is president of the Rotary Club of the Galleria Area in Houston, Texas.

1969
Ron McLarty authored his fourth novel published last year. The Dropper is a haunting tale of two brothers and the harsh, and sometimes brutal, world left behind in pursuit of a dream called America.

1971
F. John Harrington received the Rhode Island College Athletic Alumnus Award in April 2012 when the Rhode Island House of Representatives recognized the state’s student- and alumni-athletes.

1972
Marianne Douglas received a Jefferson Award last year for her achievements in creating a program and curriculum in schools across Rhode Island to help students overcome life’s challenges. She also received a Rhode Island College Alumni Service Award in May 2012.

1974

After almost 25 years in the field, Barbara S. Jamara has retired from teaching deaf, blind and multihandicapped students.

Nadjia Varney M.Ed. is the producer/host of School Talk, an ongoing, weekly half-hour TV/Internet talk show about education, now in its 25th year.

1975
Charles (Chuck) Mello was appointed interim co-principal of the Block Island School last September. He retired as principal of the Hugh Cole Elementary School in Warren last July.

1976
David Andreoni, department chairman at Medway High School in Massachusetts, will retire at the end of the school year in June.

Mary E. Cochrane has joined AdCare Outpatient Services in North Dartmouth, Mass., as director.

1969
Christine A. Courtois has co-authored a book, Treatment of Complex Trauma: A Sequenced, Relationship-Based Approach, published in November 2012 by Guilford Press.
1976

Peter L. Nero retired in July 2012 as superintendent of Cranston Public Schools. He is now superintendent of North Stonington Public Schools in Connecticut.

Janet Rufful is principal of Blessed Sacrament School in Providence.

Robert Fox retired after 27 years as a technology educator in Block Island, Coventry and Narragansett, R.I., and in Old Saybrook, Conn.

Cliff Harbour received the University of Wyoming’s 2012 Hollon Family Award for Teaching Excellence in Off-Campus Programs. The award was established in 1986 to recognize contributions to the outreach programs, including distance education, at the University of Wyoming.

Nancy Corrigan Wilbert is enjoying a 34-year teaching career, including positions in Eastern Europe, Southeast Asia and, now, Seekonk, Mass. She is a consulting author for School Arts magazine, an educational consultant/presenter and pet portrait artist.

Suzanne (Wood) Forte has been an educator with the Margate (N.J.) Board of Education since 1988. She also is an adjunct faculty member at Cumberland County College and Montclair State University.

Joyce Applegarth was nominated as the 2012 Daily Press (Victorville, Calif.) Person of the Year.

1980

MaryAnn Casale returned to higher education full time last fall as an assistant professor of education at West Virginia Wesleyan College. She previously was an elementary school principal in Cranston, an adjunct professor at the Community College of Rhode Island and an elementary school teacher.

Melinda Smith was appointed superintendent of North Providence Schools last December. She had been director of curriculum, instruction and professional development for the Lincoln Public Schools. She replaces interim superintendent Timothy Ryan ’94 CAGS.

Brian Marcotte has been re-elected to the board of directors of the National Business Group on Health. Marcotte is vice president of compensation and benefits at Honeywell International.

Donna Ottaviano retired last July as superintendent of the North Providence Schools. She now is the executive director of the East Bay Educational Collaborative.

1981

Deborah Coppola is now associate chief nursing officer at Rhode Island Hospital.

1982

John Reynolds authored The Fight for Freedom in May 2012. This is a coming of age tale that traces his years in the civil rights movement.

Lisa Zapatka is chief nursing officer at St. Vincent Hospital in Worcester, Mass.

Laura J. Albanese was inducted into the 2012 Cranston Hall of Fame.

Jean Domenico Rogers recently authored the book Kids Under Fire: Seven Steps to Combat the Media Attack on Your Child.

1983

Kenn Hazell received a Ph.D. in Global Leadership with a specialization in Educational Leadership in Nursing from Lynn University in Boca Raton, Fla.
1984

Donna Raptakis is principal of Pothier Elementary School in Woonsocket. She was a Coventry School Department administrator and special education teacher.

1985

Mary E. Leach was named senior vice president, mortgage origination and operations, at Bank Newport last October. She was previously at Bank Rhode Island.

Alex Russo served as a reader for the Educational Testing Service’s U.S. History Advanced Placement Exam in 2007, 2010 and 2012. Russo is a history teacher at North Attleboro High School and an adjunct professor at Johnson & Wales University and the Community College of Rhode Island.

Victor C. Santos is the assistant vice president of human resources at Cape Cod Community College.

1986

Al Gomes’ music firm named Big Noise celebrated its 22nd anniversary in 2012. Gomes has worked with entertainers such as Freddy Cole, Kittie, Ryan Shore and Jim Brickman.

Mary McMurtery was named Rhode Island Art Educator of the Year 2013 and Special Needs Art Educator of the Year by the Rhode Island Art Education Association. She teaches at Birch Vocational Center in Providence.

Mark J. Spalding has been appointed director of special education for the Hartford, Conn., public schools.

1987

Marianne Manzi Adams is the school nurse at Narragansett Elementary School.

Deirdre Donovan teaches music part time to students in grades pre-K to 8 at the St. Paul School in Cranston while serving as cantor at St. Joseph Church in Providence.

Denise de Hertogh was promoted last July to director of corporate compliance and risk management at Visiting Nurse Home Care in Lincoln.

Leonard Harmon was named chair for the marketing undergraduate program and chair of the master of organizational leadership program at Nichols College in Dudley, Mass.

1988

James Lombardi III was appointed last December to serve as the North Smithfield town solicitor. Lombardi has a private practice and is also treasurer for the city of Providence.

Actress Viola Davis was named to “12 Who Made a Difference in RI in 2012” by GoLocalPro.com. She was credited with helping her alma mater by volunteering to record a radio ad in support of the bond initiative. Davis was also praised for her philanthropic support of other Rhode Island programs. Also see page 21.

1989

Thom Cahir is now field director at the Rhode Island AFL-CIO.

Lisa Johansen, a history teacher at Coventry High School, was named 2012 Rhode Island History Teacher of the Year in September by the Rhode Island Historical Society.

1990

Paintings by Francis “Bud” Cook were on display in January and February at the Silver Circle Gallery in Putnam, Conn. The exhibit included works by four artists who meet regularly at the gallery’s art studio. Cook is an illustrator whose fine art endeavors consist primarily of drawing and painting the figure.

Patricia Coyne-Fague was promoted to assistant director of administrative services for the Rhode Island Department of Corrections last spring. She was chief legal counsel. She joined RIDOC’s legal team as senior legal counsel in 2000.

1991

James H. Andrews is an adjunct faculty member at the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work Graduate Division. He has taught at Seton Hill University and Case Western Reserve University. Most recently, he was awarded the 2012 Outstanding Field Instructor Award by the Pitt School of Social Work.

Marc Dubois was inducted into the first Mount St. Charles Academy Athletic Hall of Fame class. He played tennis while in high school and at Rhode Island College.

Steve Hawkins is on the staff of the Kodaikanal International School in India. Before moving to India last year, he taught in Maine, Hawaii and Costa Rica.

Kathleen Kelly was promoted to chief legal counsel for the Rhode Island Department of Corrections last August. She joined the RIDOC legal team in 2005.

Lisa Jacques is assistant superintendent of schools in North Providence. She previously was principal at Coleman Elementary School in Woonsocket and a math teacher at the high school in Woonsocket.
1991
Father Richard A. Narciso is the pastor at St. Elizabeth Church in Bristol. He was installed as the 10th pastor of the parish last September.

1992
Tara D’Aleno is the 2012-2013 Coventry Teacher of the Year. She teaches at Tiogue Elementary School.

Robin Nadeau was recently promoted to senior director of alumni success at Year Up Boston. She was also selected to participate in the 2011-2012 class of the Institute for Nonprofit Management and Leadership, a program at Boston University’s Graduate School of Management Executive Education Program. She has served as senior director of program at Year Up Boston since 2008.

Toniann Napolitano is the principal of Garden City School in Cranston.

1993
Kristi Craig, math teacher and department leader at Burrillville High School, is the 2013 Burrillville Teacher of the Year.

Kelley Nickson Morris was appointed planning and community development director of Cumberland last September.

1993
Jeannine Nota-Masse was appointed assistant superintendent of Cranston public schools last September.

1994
Carrie L. Guerra has joined Visiting Nurse Home Care as a registered physical therapist. She was previously coordinator of the aquatic physical therapy program at Sturdy Memorial Hospital.

Sheila Mastrostefano is a registered nurse working as a school nurse at Little Learners Preschool. Last fall, she spoke to students in the child development program at the Cranston Area Career and Technical Center about career paths and choice.

Kim A. Ripoli is associate director of Veterans Affairs in Rhode Island. As a member of the U.S. Navy, she was most recently assigned to the regional advocate for the Chief of Naval Operations’ Navy Safe Harbor Program with the rank of senior chief.

Timothy Ryan CAGS, who served as interim school superintendent in North Providence last year, is now the executive director of the Rhode Island School Superintendents’ Association.

1995
Elizabeth Afonso is a guidance counselor at Narragansett High School. She had been a mathematics teacher at Lincoln High School.

Kelly Brum, a second-grade teacher at Rockwell Elementary School, is the 2013 Bristol-Warren Teacher of the Year.

Jeffrey Smith is assistant principal at Smithfield High School. He was at Narragansett High School in the same position.

1996
Sean H. Mullervy recently was awarded the Chartered Retirement Planning Counselor (CRPC) and Certified Financial Planner (CFP) designations. He is a branch manager and financial advisor with Raymond James, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.

1997
Paul Stoub has been named ritual director at Temple Emanu-El in Providence. He had served on the synagogue’s board of directors.

Gina DeFusco, a speech-language pathologist in the Sharon, Mass., public schools, received her M.S. in speech-language pathology from Nova Southeastern University.

1998
Yanaiza Gallant, a reading teacher at Lillian Feinstein Elementary School, in Providence, received the 2012 Milken Educator Award. She is one of 40 teachers nationwide to receive the award that honors teachers who show leadership and serve as role models for their peers.

1998
Candace Breen had her second child in 2011. She is a member of the Institute for Luxury Home Marketing and a licensed Realtor in Rhode Island and Massachusetts.

Nicole Monte, a first-grade teacher at Agnes B. Henessey School in East Providence, is the 2013 East Providence Teacher of the Year.

Alan J. Tenreiro is principal at Cumberland High School. He is also chairman of the Pawtucket School Committee. He had been assistant principal at Smithfield High School.

1992
Brian David Handrigan is the co-founder of Click With Me Now, a one-click, no-download Web co-browsing technology company. He is a graduate of the Capital Innovators Accelerator program and won a national contest to launch at DEMO 2012 in October in Silicon Valley in California.
1999

Tom Fitzgerald joined Bank Rhode Island as senior vice president, team leader, in the commercial banking division last December. He previously was at Washington Trust Company and Citizens Bank in Rhode Island. He is treasurer of the board of directors for New Urban Arts, a nationally recognized community arts studio in Providence.

Jodi Seth is manager of public policy and communications in Washington, D.C., for Facebook. She had been communications director for former Massachusetts Sen. John Kerry. She made the switch last December.

2000

Kevin M. DeJesus became a postdoctoral research fellow last May for the RIC-MURI Project in Providence.

Jennie Johnson was named to “12 Who Made a Difference in RI in 2012” by GoLocalProv.com. She is executive director of City Year Rhode Island and was recently appointed chair of the Providence Children and Youth Cabinet to work with representatives from school districts and community organizations to increase awareness of the problems caused by chronic absenteeism and to identify and implement strategies to improve school attendance.

Lori Keough was appointed state director of nurse registration and nursing education for the Rhode Island Department of Health last September. She is a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Massachusetts Boston and an assistant professor of community health nursing at University of Massachusetts Dartmouth.

Philip LeBoeuf joined Visiting Nurse Home Care last October as a billing reimbursement specialist. He previously worked at CVS Caremark.

A documentary titled 41 by Christian de Rezendes aired on PBS in February, right before the 10th anniversary of The Station nightclub fire. 41 paints the portrait of the fire’s youngest victim, Nicholas “Nick” O’Neill, at age 18.

2001

Amanda Vetelino was named the 2012 Rhode Island Teacher of the Year by the State Association of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

2002

Michael Bento, an eighth-grade mathematics teacher in Coventry, welcomed a son Jacob Lawrence last September.

Antonio DiManna is the principal of B.F. Norton Elementary School in Cumberland. He was a principal in Scituate.

Stephanie (Florio) Fraser received a master’s degree in teaching math from Providence College last year.

Michelle Losardo M.Ed. is principal of Msgr. Gadoury Primary Regional School in Woonsocket. She had been a pre-kindergarten teacher there.

Carla Fazio Morris taught dance full time in South Bronx, N.Y., before moving with her husband to Dublin, Ireland, where she will continue her dance career.

2003

Nicholas Alfred is Jamestown’s 2012-13 Teacher of the Year. He teaches seventh- and eighth-grade math at Lawn Avenue School.

2004

Roger Brown was appointed assistant principal of Boggy Creek Elementary in the Osceola, Fla., school district last December. He has been with the district since 2007.

Nikki Carrara teaches dance in Rhode Island and directs DoubleShift Dance Theatre.

2005

Julie Robinson is a regulatory attorney and in-house counsel for GeneLink Biosciences, Inc.

2006

Patricia Hoefler wrote “Technology Approaches to Final Papers and Projects” for Increasing Student Engagement and Retention Using Social Technologies: Facebook, E-Portfolios and Other Social Networking Services, which was published in November 2012.

Cynthia Proffitt received a Master of Library and Information Studies degree from the University of Rhode Island last year.

Karen E. (Seagrave) Schnabel is a grants officer at Salve Regina University in Newport.

Kristen Biello is director of sales for the Hampton Inn Coventry/Warwick, a Buffalo Lodging Associates property. She joined the hotel staff last July. She previously was sales manager at the Newport Harbor Hotel and Marina.

Stefanie Caliri will receive an M.S. in nonprofit management and philanthropy from Bay Path College this year. She is principal and development director at Balmoral Meadows Consulting.

Jason LaDuke is an elementary school teacher in the Burrillville School Department.
2007

Amanda Nadeau has received a Juris Doctor degree from New England Law School in Boston.

Nate Tronerud received a master's degree from California State University-Long Beach and composed the music for Ellen Kushner's audiobook *Swordspoint*, his second audiobook score.

2008

Kenneth Calci received a Master of Public Administration degree and a certificate in sustainability politics and policy from the University of New Hampshire in 2012.

Jeffrey Cotnoir became leadership gifts officer in December 2012 at The New School in New York City.

Shelly Kozun began teaching sixth grade at Narragansett Pier School in 2012.

Amanda (Jordan) LaDuke is a special education teacher in the Middletown School Department.

Manuel “Greg” Matos authored *Shattered Glass: The Story of a Marine Embassy Guard*, a compelling look at his experiences as an enlisted Marine who was front-and-center during an al-Qaeda attack on a U.S. consulate.

Jessica Waters, a science teacher at Woonsocket’s Beacon Charter High School for the Arts, is the 2013 Rhode Island Teacher of the Year.

2009

Ryan Brennan has received a Master of Library and Information Studies degree from the University of Rhode Island.

Sergio DeSousarosa has been promoted from deputy warden to warden by the Rhode Island Department of Corrections.

Josephine Francis received an M.S. in evolutionary anthropology from Durham University last year.

Jonathan M. Gibbs M.Ed. became the wellness teacher at Foxboro High School in Massachusetts last August.

Nicole Riley is the head softball coach at Rhode Island College, succeeding Maria Morin who stepped down after 18 seasons. Riley played for Morin as an Anchorwoman.

2010

Stephanie Antononi is the music teacher at Stanley M. Koziol Elementary School in Ware, Mass.

Rui Montilla received an M.S. in human development and family studies from the University of Rhode Island in 2012 and is an area director at Bryant University. Rui is engaged to Jasmine Rezences ’11.

2011

Karen Contois is a special education teacher at Narragansett Pier School.

Katherine Griffin is a special education teacher at Narragansett Pier School.

Melissa Kay is a licensed loan officer at Seacoast Mortgage Corp. in Pawtucket. She joins her father and sister in the business.

Alyson Saccoccia received an M.Ed. in learning, diversity and urban studies from Vanderbilt University last year.

Christina Tavana is assistant women’s soccer and women’s lacrosse coach at Rhode Island College. She played women’s soccer for four years at RIC and women’s lacrosse for two years at RIC.

Maria L. Vargas Zamarripa welcomes two children, Marcos Andres, born in the summer of 2010, and Paulo Facundo, born in the spring of 2011.

2012

Shengqiang Chen completed a 2012 Tech Collective IT summer fellowship program. Chen worked on database administration at The Rhode Island Foundation. The eight-week pilot program was funded through the Governor’s Workforce Board and the Rhode Island Job Development Fund.

Keith Hamilton signed with the BBC Bayreuth 2, a German professional basketball club, last October.

April Oberhelman is now the head volleyball coach at Cranston East High School. She was an assistant coach.

Kaitlyn Poole completed a Tech Collective IT summer fellowship program last year. She worked as a member of the IT training and development team at CVS Caremark. The eight-week pilot program was funded through the Governor’s Workforce Board and the Rhode Island Job Development Fund. She has been hired by APC by Schneider Electric.

Peter Sankowich was employee of the quarter for October to December 2012. He is a patrolman with the Exeter Police Department in New Hampshire.

Nicholas Soltsyik began teaching math at Narragansett High School last year.
IN MEMORIAM

1932
Rosalind M. Mulcahey – October ’12 (100 years old)

1933
Ellen V. Gorski – November ’12 (102 years old)

1937
Agnes F. Rattigan Gorman – May ’11
Avis L. Briggs Willis – July ’12

1938
Sophie L. Stizpeck Leddy – June ’12
Kathryn M. Carley – October ’12
Eleanor “Ellie” Rae Gladding – November ’12

1939
Sylvia Kniznik Fain – July ’12
Adam A. Imbriglio – July ’12
Mary C. McGovern – September ’12
Elda E. Petrucci Coppa – October ’12
Loretta M. Slezak Jusczyn – October ’12

1940
Anna M. McCourt Scullin – December ’12
Linnea M. Bockert Spink – December ’12

1941
Edith Fogell Calderara – May ’11
Frances I. Graben – August ’12
Ruth C. Donahue Frechette – September ’12
Doris R. Tyson Kitchen – December ’12

1942
Irene Plant Leard Straka – November ’12
Marguerite E. Genua – December ’12
Louise Vock Schofield – December ’12
Jacqueline M. Gadoury – January ’13
Marion Sword McCabe – February ’13

1943
Gabriella M. Lukasiewicz Krzyzek – August ’12
Virginia A. Wilcox – October ’12

1945
Elizabeth L. Schofield Allen – June ’12
Louise Morris Fallon – October ’12
Pauline Detonnancourt Boisvert – January ’13

1946
Gladys Gannon Geib – June ’12

1947
Albina M. Hull Lakomski – September ’12

1948
Ann F. Lankowicz Szuchy – October ’12
Hope E. Hohler Maynard – December ’12

1949
Shirley A. Campbell Greene – October ’12
Lillian Moura deMelo – March ’13

1950
Janet E. MacLaughlan – September ’11
Marilyn A. Duggan Leach – September ’12
Martha L. Quilty Vaillancourt – November ’12

1952
Margaret “Peg” M. Hagan Davis – October ’12

1954
John L. LaCouture – June ’12
Margaret “Peg” M. Hoard – January ’13

1955
Robert H. Hamlin – December ’11

1958
James “Jim” S. Whitaker – August ’12

1959
Clarence “Mike” C. Gortemiller Jr. – March ’12

1960
David A. Lawton – September ’12

1961
Barbara J. Frederick Simone – August ’12
Joan E. Edwards Quitadamo – September ’12
Carlton C. Brownell – February ’13

1962
Charles “Charlie” E. Lawton – July ’12
Marjorie A. Nashawaty – September ’12
Michael J. Iacona – October ’12

1963
Robert D’Alessio – February ’10
Rev. Janice M. Wilkins Meikle – June ’12
George “Ned” E. Tobin III – August ’12
Muriel N. Butler Andrews – November ’12

1964
Lawrence A. Arnold – December ’12
Louis P. Filippelli – March ’13

1965
Alan P. Mack – November ’12

1967
Gwendolyn M. Gaudet Westerman – January ’13

1968
Denis A. Julien – May ’12
Wilfred “Skee” F. Carter III – January ’13

1970
Gary W. Glatki – November ’11
Albert J. Saunders – March ’12

1972
Vincent J. Nardacci – July ’12
Marion H. Reed Sorensen – August ’12
Jeremiah Kevin Sullivan – August ’12
Dr. Manuel L. da Silva – October ’12
Margaret “Peggy” M. Hanley Corrigan – December ’12
Ellen T. Harrower – February ’13

1973
Robert E. Paola Sr. – October ’12
Thelma Mullins Whalen – November ’12
Harold E. Smith – March ’13

1974
Norman A. Fournier – September ’12
Judy A. Roy – March ’13

1975
Lisa Ann Ruggieri Detri – May ’12
Celestino “Sal” J. Marsocci – December ’12
Denise M. Lambert Caron – January ’13

1976
Estelle M. Gagnon Pelletier – November ’11
Leda G. Delle Donne Proulx – August ’12
Don L. Winslow – November ’12
Edith C. Alger Schade – October ’12
Paul N. Bouffard – February ’13

1977
Lisa F. Bryant Poirier – December ’11
Claudia C. Kelly Resnick – July ’12
Carol A. Jacques – October ’12
RIC Bids Farewell to Arts Advocate Anne Murphy

Anne Murphy, a 1959 Rhode Island College graduate who was one of the nation’s leading advocates for the arts, education and technology innovation, died in April at her home in Washington, D.C. She was 74.

Murphy, who received an honorary Doctorate of Humanities degree from RIC in 2009, was best known for her work as executive director of the American Arts Alliance, now known as the Performing Arts Alliance, a consortium of hundreds of theater, dance and opera companies. At the time of her death, she was an advisor to the National Center for Research in Advanced Information and Digital Technologies, known as the Digital Promise, which she helped create in 1999.

“We are deeply saddened to learn of the loss of Anne Murphy, a true friend of Rhode Island College and the entire arts community,” said RIC President Nancy Carriuolo, who attended Murphy’s memorial service on May 11. “She leaves behind a tremendous legacy, for which we are grateful.”

Murphy, a native of Providence, has said she was fortunate to have found her passion in life during her years at Rhode Island College. Her class was the first to graduate from RIC’s Mount Pleasant campus. She later was a volunteer during President Kennedy’s 1960 campaign.

After graduating, she taught elementary school in Rhode Island before moving to Washington to work for former Rhode Island Congressmen John Fogarty and Robert Tiernan. During her tenure as a congressional staffer, she worked on legislation establishing the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and National Endowment for the Humanities. She later worked for the NEA and the Public Broadcasting Service to develop public policy on federal funding of the arts.

She also was director of the American Arts Alliance, serving as a national spokesperson for the professional arts community. She is credited with beginning the trend of bringing performing artists to Capitol Hill to testify during hearings.

Described as a life-long learner, visual artist, chef, entertainer and world traveler, her home was filled with art, much of it her own.

When she returned to RIC in 2009 to receive her honorary degree, she made college history by being the first member of a golden anniversary class to be chosen as a commencement speaker. Her address included a favorite quote by Thomas Edison: “Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work.”

“" We are deeply saddened to learn of the loss of Anne Murphy, a true friend of Rhode Island College and the entire arts community. She leaves behind a tremendous legacy, for which we are grateful. "

— RIC President Nancy Carriuolo
1989
Kris M. Sao Bento to Terrance M. Price Jr. – May ’12

1996
David Venancio to Kimberly Wilson – August ’12

1999
Bonnie L. Renfrew to Paul R. Lawless III – April ’12

2001
Jennifer A. Francis to David C. Jubinville ’02 – August ’11

2003
Kristen Twardowski to Joseph Columbo – April ’12
Michael Guarnieri to Anna Lea Smith – August ’12

2004
Michael Monahan to Christine D’Ambra – May ’12
Alicia Mahoney to Brian Heon – October ’12

2005
James MacDonald to Sarah MacDonald ’08 – July ’12
Lauren A. Bryda to Nickolaus W. Eibel – July ’12
Stephanie Lavoie to John-Paul Verducci – August ’12

2006
Matthew J. Juhnowski to Danielle M. Hogan – May ’12
Kevin M. Littlefield Jr. to Brittany L. Bouchard ’09 – July ’12
Erica Borges to Joseph Vitelli – October ’12
John T. Lowell to Sara E. Baumgartel – October ’12

2007
Jason LaDuke to Amanda Jordan ’08 – August ’12
Rebecca Garofalo to Christopher Pizzuti – September ’12

2008
Kenneth Calci to Susan Stamp – December ’11
Jennifer Amaral to Robert Fleury – June ’12
Laura A. Blasko to Andrew P. Moretti – June ’12
Ashley T. Carline to Keith R. Crozier – July ’12

2009
Danielle Carter to Nelson DaSilva – July ’12
Marissa M. Trinque to Patrick D. Ruff – June ’12
Breah R. Anderson to John M. Wood – August ’12

2010
Briana M. Hopkins to Patrick M. Casey – July ’12
Elisa Macera to Steven Longo – June ’12

2011
Kathryn C. Cote to Henrique J. Simoes – September ’11
Lauren A. Fezette to Ryan M. LePage – June ’12
Michaela Pallante to Edward Doucet – September ’12

2012
Sheena Vassal to Brian Paulino – June ’12
Benefits 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
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. E-news contains news updates about the college as well as what is happening with our alumni and friends. Are you on the e-news list? Send your email 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 offer 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 by calling 1-800-853-5576, ext. 9104.

Alumni Class Notes and News
Update your personal information online at http://ric.edu/alumniaffairs/benefits.php or mail to Alumni Office, Rhode Island College, 600 Mt. Pleasant Avenue, Providence, R.I. 02908-1996; fax to (401) 456-8851; or email alumni@ric.edu. Deadline for the next issue of the Rhode Island College Alumni Magazine is Aug. 15, 2013.
Students enjoy the view from the balcony of the Forman Center.