Potpourri Part 1

[Apart 2 Next Week]

Air quality and general conditions in Gaige Hall

Approximately a year ago, an air quality study on Gaige Hall was conducted by Northeastern Environmental Testing Laboratory, Inc. The results were shared with the Union about three weeks ago at a formal meeting attended by President Nazarian, RIC/AFT President Jason Blank, Cy Cote (Security and Safety), Ed Brady (Physical Plant) and Dr. Ivy Denise Locke (RIC VP for Administration and Finance).

The report concluded that the air quality in Gaige, which includes criteria for carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, hydrogen sulfide and mold, is acceptable and well below any danger thresholds. However, the report also delineated areas of concern which should be remedied, including:

- cleaning the building’s entire ductwork system
- cleaning the west side basement mechanical room
- establishing a preventive maintenance program for the HVAC system
- cleaning and disinfecting the outside perimeter wall ventilator units
- replacing all stained ceiling tiles and floor tiles throughout the building

To date, most of these recommendations have been implemented. At the end of April, there will be a HVAC tune-up, essentially cleaning the system. This will improve the system’s performance and should satisfied faculty and staff concerns. There will be a space by space inspection to determine whether carpets should be removed or any source of pollutants must be addressed. Faculty can help maintain air quality by keeping all air vents free of obstacles. Please report to departmental secretaries problems with the physical plant, including air temperature, cleanliness and noise. **We are promised that there will be immediate response. A new “Trackit System” will be put into place, meaning that a work order cannot be closed until the originator (e.g., faculty member) verifies remediation.**

Faculty questions about water quality, fire safety and elevator safety in Gaige have been answered satisfactorily. However, there remains the necessity to be vigilant concerning Gaige and all buildings on campus. Re. the latter, the discussion at the formal meeting addressed similar issues in other buildings as well as unique problems in some buildings (e.g., emergency lighting system in the first floor inner classrooms of Mann).
Grievances

There is a grievance in Special Education. There are potential grievances in Social Work and Economics and Finance. The Union reinstituted the grievance concerning the “complaint resolution policy and process (free speech and academic freedom).” Re. the latter, we are progressing “with all deliberate speed.”

Contract Committees

The Union has appointed faculty representatives to all committees mandated by the Contract. At the present time, the administration is completing its recruitment of appointees. These committees will begin to operate this month. However, the Faculty Development Committee has completed its work for 2005-2006. A list of recipients appears below. We congratulate all the recipients as well as the committee.

Applications for next year are being accepted now.

Faculty Research Grants 2005-2006
Principal Investigator List

PI: Allen
PI: Bigler
PI: Brockbrader
PI: Bogad & Johnson
PI: Boren
PI: Brennan
PI: Brown, P
PI: Carty
PI: Castagno
PI: Dagle
PI: deOlivera
PI: Endress & Zornado
PI: Filinson
PI: Geloin
PI: Goodrow
PI: Grund
PI: Jackson
PI: Kovac
PI: Lawrence
PI: Liu

PI: Magen
PI: Malloy
PI: McGuire-Schwartz
PI: Meedel
PI: Montvilo
PI: Moskol
PI: Mulcahey
PI: Olmsted, A
PI: Olmsted, R
PI: Olson
PI: Reddy
PI: Rowell
PI: Schapiro
PI: Simons
PI: Singh
PI: Sullivan
PI: Teng, Howkins, Lawrence, Rowell
PI: Thomas
PI: Delia White
PI: Zhou

TIAA/CREF

On March 23, April 6, April 19, May 9, May 10 and May 25, 8:30 AM – 3:30 PM, counselors from TIAA/CREF will be on campus. With the exception of March 23 (Donovan 204), all sessions will be held in the new Kelly Board Room. To schedule an appointment, go to www.tiaa-cref.org/moc or call Pearl Ajayi at 1-800-842-2004.
New Members
We welcome as new members of the RIC/AFT the following faculty members:

- Mark Handler (Adams Library)
- John Summerlin (Music, Theatre and Dance)
- Naum Panovski (Music, Theatre and Dance)
- Janet Johnson (Educational Studies)
- Maria Lawrence (Elementary Education)
- George T. Ladd (Psychology)
- James Barton (Elementary Education)
- Micah Fierstein (CEP)
- Karen Capraro (HBS)
- Peter Mendy (History)
- Jeanne M. Schwager (Nursing)
- Eric Roberts (Biological)
- Susan Zuckerman (Communications)
- Richard Dube (Mathematics and CS)
- Jay MacCubbin (HBS)
- Carmen Sanchez (HBS)
- John Jespersen (Adams Library)
- William M. Wilson, Jr. (Music, Theatre and Dance)
- Claire Creamer (Nursing)

In Memoriam: Peter Harman

Peter devoted 34 years of his professional life to Rhode Island College as a faculty member and administrator.

He earned his bachelor’s degree from Purdue University, an MBA from Butler University and a PhD in Economics from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He came to the College in 1971 as an assistant professor of economics. Early in his career, Peter was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship and took his family with him as he spent a year teaching in Liberia.

He was first and foremost a teacher - it was his passion. Former students credit him for their appreciation of economics and for his outstanding teaching ability. Peter’s peers recognized him for his teaching in presenting him the David Harris Teaching Award in 2001.

From 1980 to 1996, he left the full-time faculty to serve as Director of the College’s Computer Center. While director, he was awarded the Alumni Association’s Staff Award for outstanding contributions to the College. He missed the classroom and began teaching part-time. In 1996, the Woonasquatucket Valley Rotary Club selected Peter as a team member for the Group Study Exchange Program to England.

He returned to the economics faculty in 1996 on a full-time basis and gradually began teaching courses in computer information systems. Peter was promoted to full professor in 2002 and was awarded Emeriti status following his medical retirement in August of 2005.

Peter loved golf. He was a founding member of the RIC Faculty/Staff Golf League, member of the Midville League, RIC Circuit League, and a member of Lincoln Country Club. He served as the faculty mentor to the RIC Men’s Golf Team.

He is survived by his wife, Becky Horne, sister Helen Coelho of Molokai, Hawaii, daughter, Jennifer Meadows of Chico, California, son Jeffrey Harman of Gainesville, Florida, two granddaughters, Amina & Celia, and godson, Jeff Shadoian.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in Peter’s memory to the Rhode Island College Foundation, Peter W. Harman Scholarship Fund.

Holly Shadoian, Director of Admissions