

MAGAZINE
RHODE
ISLAND
COLLEGE

WINTER
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2020-2021
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GENERATIONS OF RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE STUDENTS SHAPING THEIR WORLD

#RICSPIRIT DRIVE-THRU



The health and safety precautions required to prevent the spread of COVID-19 on campus required everyone to think of new and inventive ways to carry on with college events and traditions. One creative solution for staging what would normally be in-person events was to simply keep people in their cars. The School of Nursing's pinning ceremony, typically one of its most important rites of passage, was switched to a drive-thru event on Oct. 17, 2020 after twice being postponed. (See pg. 47 for more.) Also, several of the highlights of RICFest were staged as drive-thru events, including "Park, Look and Listen," a special performing arts experience on Oct. 3, 2020 and trick or treating on Halloween night.

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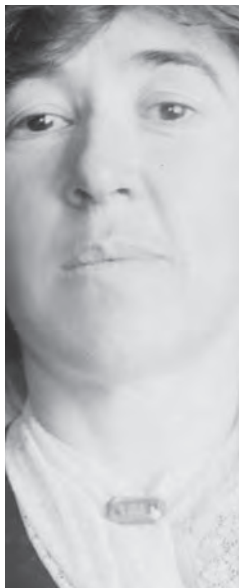
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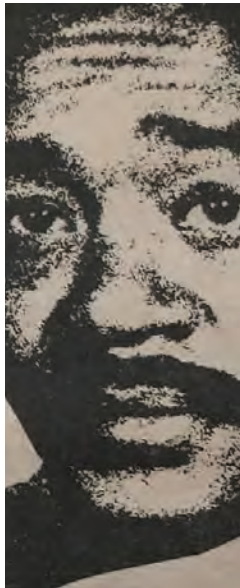
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-  /rhodeislandcollege
-  @RICNews
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-  # RICNews

Our RIC community is diverse – made up of students, faculty, staff, alumni and parents. Let’s hear *all* your voices. Tell us what you think of the stories. Let us know the topics you want to read about. Email us at occm@ric.edu Submit updates for the Class Notes section by emailing alumni@ric.edu.

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ABOUT THE MAGAZINE



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STUDENT ASSISTANTSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Rhode Island College Magazine is accepting applications from college students and graduates for its editorial and design assistantship/internship programs.

Students will receive practical experience in critical reading and analysis, research, fact checking and the general workings of a magazine and are encouraged to read widely, generate ideas and approach problems creatively. Those interested are invited to email occm@ric.edu.

FEATURED CONTRIBUTORS



Jhon Cardona is a Colombian immigrant who came to the United States three years ago with a knack for storytelling, despite almost no formal experience as a writer. He has since become a valuable contributor, in both English and Spanish, to the college's communications, writing stories for the RIC News website and having his work published in Spanish-language publications such as AmericaNews,

Acontecer Latino and Nuevos Horizontes. In this issue he spotlights the activism of three RIC students who are from different backgrounds but share the same desire to make their voices heard (Pg. 22). "Activism has been the most energetic way to ensure that the rights of every individual on the planet are respected," he says. "Equality and tolerance for each human being has been achieved through every single step taken by each activist in favor of justice."

Jhon also enjoys hiking and exploring new areas. This photo of Jhon was taken in October at the sand dunes in West Greenwich.



Elizabeth (Libby) Sullivan is currently finishing her bachelor's degree in creative writing at Rhode Island College. Her lifelong love of language has inspired her to pursue a career in authorship, and her upbringing in the heart of Providence has fueled her desire to create works that celebrate diversity and appreciate life. "The School of Nursing allowed me a chance to do just that with this article,"

she writes of her feature on the school's 50 anniversary (pg. 14). "Congratulations to all nursing staff, students and alumni for achieving such a momentous milestone during this dumpster-fire of a year."

This photo of Elizabeth was taken at Mt. Ranier in Washington state, which Elizabeth and her sister climbed last year.



COVER IMAGE: The cover photo was taken by Paul Connors M.A. '15. He photographed student activist Brooxana Pierre, who is involved with the Black Lives Matter movement, in downtown Providence where she participated in the largest demonstration in the state's history on June 5, 2020. The photo was taken in accordance with all COVID-19 health and safety protocols.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

NOW IS THE TIME TO BE BOLD

Dear Reader,

Good riddance to 2020. We all know this past year was full of unprecedented challenges and there's no sugarcoating the impact they've had on the RIC community – but the college has taken advantage of unexpected opportunities in the midst of those difficulties. In the face of it all, our faculty, staff and students have chosen to be bold.

Words cannot adequately express how impressed I am by the way our campus community has responded to both the challenges and opportunities over the past 12 months. Students

have capitalized on their cause to serve the Rhode Island community. Faculty have become changemakers in and out of the classroom. Alumni have emerged as mentors and community leaders in support of their alma mater.

One of the positive developments this year has been our effort to rebrand Rhode Island College. We are no longer content to remain the best-kept secret in higher education in New England. We have become the first-choice institution of opportunity for Rhode Islanders, including both traditional and nontraditional students continuing their education. We are an anchor institution for the state and an engine for its economic growth, particularly now as the state begins its recovery. Most of all, we are a close-knit, resilient, educational community that provides Rhode Islanders with cutting edge, experiential academics and crucial support services, whether on campus, online or a hybrid of the two.

That's why we launched our "Be Bold" campaign. We need to tell our college's story in a way that makes it clear in no uncertain terms: Our mission is to deliver an accessible, high quality, affordable education to all who seek it and to support Rhode Islanders at every step as they pursue their goals. Our mission is to develop the skilled, highly educated workforce that will lead Rhode Island into the future. Indeed, our mission is to be bold.

In the following pages, you will read some examples of the ways our campus community is living that mission. You'll meet students who have taken action on some of the biggest issues facing our society (pg. 22). You'll hear from faculty whose commitment to justice and social change outside the classroom embodies the principles they teach inside it (pg. 32). You'll learn about the ways our faculty, staff, students and alumni have engaged in groundbreaking research (pgs. 11 and 18), served their communities (pgs. 49 and 58) and celebrated their successes (pgs. 47, 53 and 56.)

As we prepare to embark upon a new year that will certainly bring its own set of challenges and opportunities, I am confident that Rhode Island College will continue to lead positive change in our state. We will work hard. We will adapt to uncertain circumstances. We will support each other. And in all of these endeavors, we will continue to be bold.

Yours in education,

Frank D. Sánchez
President
Rhode Island College



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SOCIAL MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

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@RICNews ON TWITTER



Hi there! Happy #RICSpirit Day! This #dogpic came to us courtesy of @amanda.mia. More of this, please. Send. More. Dogs. (Especially if they're wearing RIC swag.)
#RICNews #experienceRIC #rhodeislandcollege #schoolspirit #petsofinstagram #dog #dogsofinstagram #petphotography #gooddog #dogstagram



Yesterday one RIC alum celebrated a very big milestone: Mary Lafferty '41 turned 101 years young! Mary was a science teacher in Central Falls and Providence for more than 30 years and a trailblazer in her field, credited with being one of the first female teachers to push science experiments in the classroom. Marking the occasion with a socially-distanced party outside her home at Chapel Hill Senior Living, Mary was visited by Cumberland Mayor Jeff Mutter, and received birthday wishes from RI Education Commissioner Angelica Infante-Green and Congressman David Cicilline. Happy birthday, Mary! #RICAlumni #RICNews #womeninscience #scienceteacher



Rhode Island College (of Education), established as a four-year teacher education program in #1920. Today marks 100 years since the ratification of the #19thamendment, granting women the right to vote. We honor all the women who fought not only for the ballot, but for the entirety of their rights as citizens and for their places in the world. We honor the women who continue to fight to make their voices heard every day.
#RICNews #womensrighttovote #empowerment



@IAmAnImmigrant HOW IT STARTED: Bawi Uk, Myanmar; faced religious discrimination as a Christian. HOW IT'S GOING: Providence, Rhode Island social work student @RICNews & youth leader at @RefugeeDream

“

Many @RICAlumni & faculty in @RIMonthly's 2020 Excellence in Nursing Awards: Ashley McAuslin '08, Denise Flores '88, '09, Maria Medeiros '90, Judith Lynch '03, Rhonda Goldstein '82, Joan Salhany '76 & Prof. Melinda Hodne!

#proudfourstudents
#proudfourprofessors



Today we salute the #veterans among our campus community! So many of our faculty, staff, alumni and current students have served their country honorably. Folks like Joanne Barrett '13. While scientists race to develop a COVID-19 vaccine, she is working fastidiously to ensure that an approved vaccine will be distributed among the Rhode Island Air National Guard's 3,000 members and potentially 12,000 essential workers in Rhode Island. @ricstudentveterans
Go to ric.edu/news to read their stories. Thank you to all the men and women who are currently in uniform or have worn the uniform. Today is your day and our entire campus community is grateful for your service!

#RICNews #experienceRIC #RICSpirit #RICAlumni #rhodeislandcollege #veteransday2018 #veteransmonth #studentveterans



The turkeys are running wild! They usually make their home in the woods of East Campus, but today the folks from @ric_greenhouse caught them venturing all the way over to the nursing building. With so many of us learning, teaching and working remotely, campus is truly going to the birds.

#RICNews #experienceRIC #rhodeislandcollege #turkeys #turkey #birdsofinstagram #birdsoncampus #wildbirds #wildturkeys #wildlife #campus



Today we pay tribute to the Narragansett and Wampanoag peoples who occupied the land upon which our college was built and acknowledge and remember the painful history of genocide and forced removal of them from this land.

#indigenouspeoplesday @ric_diversity_equity_inclusion @unitycenterric @obomric



@MsJohns1314 Meet Mr. Sanchez! When he saw his @Alvarezhsprov community in need, he stepped up to become a @pvdschools substitute. A 2017 @RICnews grad in #publicrelations, Enrique is committed to helping students learn Spanish this year! #ittakesavillage @NathanBiah @YinkaAlege

#RICNews
#proudfourstudents



You've got heart! We want to take a moment on #RIC-Spirit Day to thank you for helping to keep our community safe while on campus by wearing your mask, maintaining six feet of social distance and washing/sanitizing your hands often. These small things will help us prevent the spread of #covid19 within our campus community and to our family, friends and coworkers outside of campus. Together we are #anchorstrong!

#RICNews #experienceRIC #maskupri #maskup #maskup #healthandwellness #covid19prevention #washyourhands



"Incredibly proud of the talented group of singers at my alma mater @RICnews. In the midst of a pandemic, they came together to raise their voices in an effort to unite & inspire fellow Rhode Islanders. Wishing you the best!" @JimLangevin



RIC students were asked to create short films documenting life during the pandemic. The results were touching, entertaining and enthralling. Watch them here!

@RICNews @RICStudentunion



We know it's different. We know it's a little weird. But you're doing great! Masks and social distancing help us prevent the spread of #covid19 on campus. Thank you for doing your part to keep our campus community safe and healthy! !

#RICNews #experienceRIC #RICSpirit #rhodeislandcollege #maskupri #maskup #socialdistancing #healthandsafety #healthycampus #wearyourmask #maskson #sixfeetapart #college



Hoy calentamos motores con el inicio de la celebración #HispanicHeritageMonth de nuestras comunidades hispanas y latinas, durante las siguientes cuatro semanas; una oportunidad para resaltar las diversas culturas, experiencias y contribuciones de nuestra comunidad en este estado. @unidos.rhodeislandcollege, uno de nuestros grupos de estudiantes hispanos (en la foto), invita a toda la comunidad de RIC a celebrar con ellos. Desde hoy hasta el 15 de octubre compartiremos historias de estudiantes, profesores y ex alumnos hispanos y latinos en honor al Mes de la Herencia Hispana.

Today we begin a four-week celebration of our Hispanic and Latinx communities during #HispanicHeritageMonth, an opportunity to highlight the cultures, experiences and contributions of these communities in our state. UNIDOS ("united"), one of our Hispanic student groups (pictured here), calls upon the entire RIC community to celebrate with them. From now through October 15 we will be sharing stories of Hispanic and Latinx students, faculty and alumni in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month.
#hispanicheritage2020 #hispanic #latinx #latinxstudents #unidos

RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE TODAY

News, notes and highlights from the campus community



RIC Welcomes New Chief Academic Officer

Rhode Island College entered a new era of academic leadership in July 2020 when **Helen Tate** was appointed the new provost and vice president for Academic Affairs. She succeeded Professor of Social Work Sue Pearlmuter, who served as the college’s interim chief academic officer for the prior two years.

Tate brings to Rhode Island College nearly 30 years of teaching and academic leadership, with emphasis on modernizing instructional delivery, enhancing academic operations and increasing faculty resources. Most recently she served as provost and executive vice president at Wingate University in North Carolina, where she worked with faculty to develop a university-wide, shared governance model; secured grant funding for faculty professional development to improve outcomes for underserved students; developed an academic program review process and scaled academic services for a 17 percent increase in enrollment over three years.

Prior to Wingate, Tate served as associate vice president for Academic Affairs and professor of communication at Georgia Southwestern State University, where she was responsible for student support and success initiatives as well as international programs and partnerships. Notably, she led efforts to improve first-year retention by 12 percent, while significantly increasing the credit hours successfully completed by first-year students.

An active member of the National Communication Association, Tate earned her doctoral degree in speech communication from Indiana University and her master’s and bachelor’s degrees in speech communication from Idaho State University. Raised in the western states of Idaho, Montana and Utah, she has lived in the southeast for the past 20 years.

“I am so pleased to join the RIC community, a community united in its commitment to our students and proud of its long history of serving Rhode Islanders with affordable, accessible and high-quality degrees,” Tate says. “Faced with the challenges of a global pandemic, I have seen this community rally around our students, demonstrating creativity, ingenuity and flexibility in the face of daunting challenges. I look forward to working with the faculty, staff and administration to advance the needs of today’s Rhode Island students for a stronger Rhode Island tomorrow.”

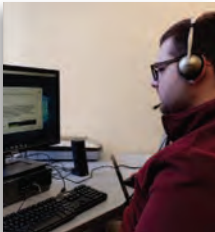
Disability Services Center Makes College Accessible for All – Even When It’s Remote

The Disability Services Center (DSC) at RIC, which is part of the Office of Eiversity, Equity and Inclusion, assists almost one thousand graduate and undergraduate students with reasonable accommodations and supports them in achieving their academic goals. “We serve students with all types of disabilities: mobility, hearing, vision, motor, psychological, learning, attention, speech, medical, developmental and other conditions,” notes DSC director Keri Rossi-D’entremont ’01, M.A. ’03. Last semester, the move from in-person classes to primarily remote learning brought on by the pandemic presented new challenges in supporting students with disabilities. Since then, the DSC

staff is making sure that RIC students who are registered with them receive their accommodations within remote learning. To accomplish this, DSC Assistant Director Karley Batalon and Coordinator Mia Downes ’10 continue to meet with students remotely to provide assistance, and Assistive Technology Coordinator Benjamin Dugas ’14, M.A. ’16 works with students with disabilities to request textbooks from publishers in other formats (e.g. Braille, e-text); secure adaptive equipment; add learning tools for students (like browser extensions and specific apps such as a talking calculator); install reading software on their laptops; and help students with

sensory and mobility disabilities obtain their course materials in audio, electronic or other accessible formats as needed. Last June, RIC’s first-ever campus-wide Accessibility Committee was established. Rossi-D’entremont and sociology professor Mikaila Arthur co-chair the committee, which has been engaged in short and long-term work, including both planning for the fall semester and making recommendations to enhance accessibility for students, faculty, staff, and visitors. With most fall classes being conducted online, the main focus was to make sure that students with disabilities received proper accommodations, which are very individual in nature and must

be directly related to each student’s disability. “One of the interesting things about teaching and learning online is that the environment provides greater accessibility to some while making things less accessible for others,” explains Arthur. “For instance, students with physical or mental health conditions that limit their ability to travel outside their homes are clearly better served in an online environment. And there is a vast array of things we can do, both institutionally and in terms of individual course design, to facilitate greater accessibility.”



M.S.N. Student Publishes Study on Toxic Exposure in Iraq Vets

Since 2018, RIC nursing student **Chelsey Poisson**, who served in the Rhode Island National Guard, has been talking to reporters and meeting with legislators to bring attention to the deadly effect burn pits have had on veterans of the Iraq War. Burn pits are places where military bases literally burn their garbage. The toxic smoke they produce, Poisson contends, has caused other-wise healthy Iraq War veterans to return with cancer, leukemia, respiratory illnesses and other chronic conditions.

Recently Poisson published research to support her claim in the “International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health,” a peer-reviewed journal. She surveyed more than 100 Iraq War veterans, who showed “a decrease in overall physical fitness and an increase in respiratory clinical symptoms compared with pre-deployment periods.”



Throughout her academic career, Poisson has made it her mission to advocate on behalf of Iraq War veterans, meeting with legislators in Rhode Island, Massachusetts and Washington, D.C. Her efforts made the front page of the Providence Journal and she has presented at five medical conferences. She’s currently working to push legislation that would increase screenings for burn pit exposure among veterans.

“Now that we have the evidence-based data to support the need for screenings,” Poisson says, “it will be easier to get legislators behind the bill.”



Protective equipment has been vital during the pandemic, and RIC has played a part in supplying the need.

Lifespan Health System Doesn't Forget a Favor

Back in March when the COVID-19 pandemic challenged Lifespan’s ability to provide personal protective equipment for medical staff, RIC Assistant Professor of Nursing **Lisa Connelly** and her students donated a batch of N95 masks from their personal supply.

That kind of altruism doesn’t go unanswered. In July Connelly contacted Lifespan’s director of supply chain and materials management to purchase face shields for RIC nursing students.

Lifespan responded by donating a whopping 500 face shields as a token of appreciation. Connelly was ecstatic. “One face shield will

be enough to get a student through the entire semester,” she says. “They will be used during labs, simulations and anytime students are within six feet of each other. The face shields can also be wiped down after each use and reused multiple times.”

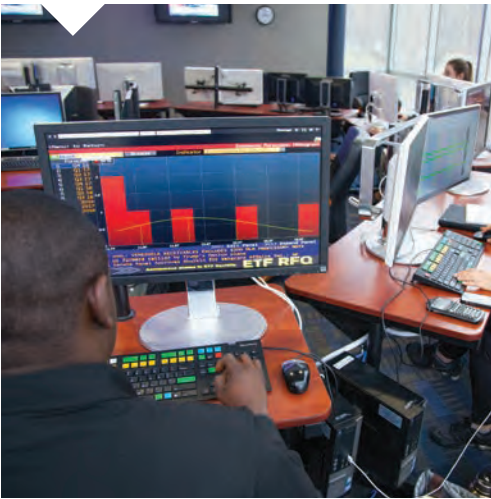
“We’re fortunate to have such a long-standing relationship with Lifespan Health System, our clinical partner,” says Dean of the School of Nursing Carolyn Masters. “Our undergraduate and graduate students benefit from engaging in quality patient care and our school benefits through this generous and timely donation.”

Computer Departments Join Forces

There’s a new academic department on campus, yet in some ways it’s not so new. Computer science has always existed within the Faculty of Arts and Science (FAS), while computer information systems was always housed within the School of Business. That is, until faculty from the two programs realized that they were stronger together. As a result, this semester the two departments merged under FAS as the newly christened Department of Computer Science and Information Systems.

“With the growth of technology-related careers in the State of Rhode Island, this new department allows us to highlight all of our technology-related programs under one department and potentially attract additional students to the college,” says Chair of the Department of Computer Science and Information Systems **Lisa Bain**.

“Now, when prospective students search the college website for technology degrees, they’ll all be in one place. With computer science and computer information systems under one roof, students will be better able to figure out which program is the right fit for them and it will be easier for them to move back and forth between programs.”



Students in computer science and business class at RIC



TOP: Helene Dufresne '62
LEFT: Abigail Testa (second from left) with her family

For the Testas, RIC is a Family Tradition

This fall, incoming freshman **Abigail Testa** followed in the footsteps of her two older sisters, mother and grandmother at Rhode Island College. **Helene Dufresne '62** was the first in the family to chart her future at RIC. Her daughter, Laura, followed in her footsteps. "I loved college. My long-term plan was to stay at RIC for the rest of my life," Laura says. When Laura's eldest daughter, Julia, began to think about college, Laura didn't try to twist her arm about RIC. Julia realized the appeal on her own. "I liked that RIC had a ton of available majors, programs and internships," Julia says. Laura's middle daughter, Georgia, a junior, and now her youngest, Abigail, freshman, are carrying on the tradition. Abigail hopes to pursue special education, working with autistic children. Despite the family history, Abigail was just like any freshman: somewhat nervous about transitioning from high school to college. However, she says it's reassuring that she can turn to her family. "Because my sisters, mom and grandmother have gone to RIC, I know I have a lot of support," Abigail says. "I'm excited." One family, three generations of #RICSpirit.



TOP: Shaina Weintraub, '18 LEFT: Antonio Santurri '18



Providence City Archives Packed with History and RIC Alumni

Tucked away on the fifth floor of Providence City Hall, the City archives holds an extensive collection of manuscripts, printed materials, blueprints and images spanning the city's founding in 1636 to the present. They're also stacked with something else: RIC alumni.

Shaina Weintraub '18, of the reference and multimedia administrator; deputy archivist **Britni Gorman '13**, and, **Antonio Santurri '18**, a paid intern currently working to attain a master's degree in history at RIC, are part of the team at the archives, injecting new life into obscure Providence history.

Gorman, in her senior year at RIC, worked alongside history professor Erik Christiansen doing inventory work on Providence's North Burial Ground. That experience called for her to do research at the archives.

"I fell in love with the place," she recalls. "I didn't have public history experience under my belt, so it was a learning process." Gorman says her relationship with Christiansen and other history and political science professors

at the college led to an unofficial partnership to allow RIC students like Santurri, Weintraub and others to intern at the archives.

Weintraub, who has used the archives' social media accounts to increase public engagement with Providence history, says she didn't become a history buff until she started taking classes at RIC.

"I actually hated history in high school," she says. "When I started taking classes with RIC professors **David Espinosa** and **Quenby Hughes**, I saw how history could have energy and excitement.

Through them, history started to speak to me." After an internship at the archives, she was hired full time. However, creating social media posts – predominantly on Instagram – wasn't initially part of her job description.

"I'm lucky there is so much content here," she says. "All I do is give it a voice. I'm happy that some of my postings are allowing people to see Providence in a different light."

Alumna and Current Student Connect Through Remote Internship

The last place **Jailene Perez** expected to discover her calling was in quarantine. Last summer the Rhode Island College English major interned at Providence Media Group, publisher of six award-winning lifestyle magazines, including *Providence Monthly*, *East Side Monthly* and *Hey Rhody*.

Due to the pandemic, the internship was completely online. Perez communicated with staff via email, Google docs or Google Meet sessions, where editorial meetings were held. "At first I felt a little intimidated, but even through the computer screen, I could feel their caring," she recalls. "Everyone wanted to be of help to me."

Perez is an English major, but prior to her internship she was never quite sure where that degree might take her. "Through my supervisor **Elyse Major**, the editor-in-chief of Providence Media, I learned that I can expand on my English degree as far as I'm willing to go with it," she says. "I can write. I can research. I can edit. For the first time, I don't feel afraid to tell someone that I'm interested in writing professionally. That's all because of this internship."

Major was just paying it forward. She's a RIC alumna who graduated with an English degree in 1993; she still remembers the first time an editor took a chance on her. Now that she's found what she calls her "dream job," she's providing similar opportunities for the next generation of fellow English students.

"As a proud alum, I'm always happy to host interns. Almost every semester we have at least two interns and most of them have been from Rhode Island College," she notes. And, she adds, "With an English degree, you're going to leave college being able to communicate well with people, which is invaluable to a lot of different professions."



Eva Coutinho '21 speaks with her mentor, Dana McCants Derisier '88, during the inaugural kickoff event for the CEO program

RIC Foundation Responds to Students' Needs with Care

The COVID-19 pandemic shined a spotlight on unmet needs throughout the Rhode Island College community. From the outset, the Rhode Island College Foundation sought to meet those needs through an effort called RIC Cares. The campaign raised more than \$60,000 from donors to support students' emergency needs.

"The RIC Cares initiative coalesced around engagement, activism and philanthropy," says RIC Foundation Executive Director **Ed Pacheco**. "Students, faculty, staff and alumni have rallied around each other. Their selflessness is proof of the resilience of our college community."

One major component of the campaign is the Emergency Response Fund (ERF), which provides grants ranging from \$500-1,000 for students grappling with basic needs. Since the pandemic began, the ERF has supported 63 students with grants for needs such as food, housing, technology, textbooks, health/medical expenses, transportation, educational supplies, phone assistance and tuition.

Funds will continue to support students as contributions from donors flow in, notes Foundation Assitant Director of Annual Giving **Chris Schuler '06**.

"I've been humbled by the response from the college, alumni and donors who supported our students during a critical time," Schuler says. "As an alum, I've never felt prouder to see such overwhelming generosity shown by our donors."

Alumni Association's CEO Program Connects Students, Alumni through Mentorship

"When I got to RIC one of the first things I wanted to do was find the career center to search for opportunities," says senior **Maria Caramadre**, a public relations and advertising major.

In January 2020, she overheard a conversation about the Career Empowerment Opportunity (CEO) program, an alumni-driven mentorship effort that pairs RIC students with college alumni who are leaders in their respective fields.

"It sounded great and I had to be a part of it," says Caramadre, one of 15 applicants selected to participate in the inaugural CEO class, which launched in February 2020, only weeks before the COVID-19 pandemic struck.

"We were worried we would lose commitment among student mentees when COVID hit, but that didn't happen at all," says RIC Alumni Engagement Coordinator **Gus**

Cantwell, who oversees the program. "They picked up the slack and became even more engaged with their mentors. It's very clear they want to participate."

More than a dozen Rhode Island College alumni and friends have volunteered their time to provide invaluable professional development skills to mentees.

Caramadre says her mentor, Anne **Marie DaSilva '87, M.A. '89**, an executive in the state's jewelry and luxury goods industry, has been invaluable.

"I've learned from Anne Marie to be more consistent about my goals and vision after college graduation," Caramadre says. "I feel like I would have done OK post-grad, but this program has given me an extra push and taken away all my anxiety. I feel very confident."

New Minor Prepares RI's Workforce for Jobs in Cybersecurity

Given the danger of cyberattacks, skilled cybersecurity workers whose job is to protect networks, devices, programs and data are at a premium, says RIC Assistant Professor of Computer Science **Suzanne Mello-Stark**. "More than half a million job openings in cybersecurity are available in this country," she said. "The problem is there are not enough people to fill them."

Mello-Stark is determined to change that. She recently initiated a new minor in cybersecurity at Rhode Island College that began with the fall semester.

"I'm hoping the minor will attract not only computer science students but students in all other majors as well. Any student majoring in any subject can benefit from this minor," she says. "No matter where you work, data is stored online, necessitating the need for cybersecurity."

Mello-Stark believes the workplace of the future is going to demand different skills. Learning how to maintain a safe online environment and to guard against encroachments on individual rights and privacies are some of them.



"Any student majoring in any subject can benefit from this minor," says Suzanne Mello-Stark

Golden Anniversary

RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE
CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF
NURSING EXCELLENCE

BY ELIZABETH SULLIVAN

PHOTOS BY GENE ST. PIERRE '77

The year was 1970. The Beatles had just broken up, gas was only 36 cents a gallon and under the leadership of RIC President Joseph Kauffman, Rhode Island College offered its students the chance to receive a baccalaureate degree in nursing (B.S.N.) for the very first time. Little did Kauffman know that this new program would eventually become one of the most successful and popular in the college's history.

The world looks a little different now than it did in the '70s, and so does RIC's nursing program. It has since evolved from a department into a school, serving not only undergraduate B.S.N. students but transfer and second-degree students as well.

In the past decade-plus, RIC's School of Nursing (SON) has managed to develop a master's degree (M.S.N.) program, a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program and four graduate certificate programs, while its students have kept a consistent pass rate of more than 95 percent on the NCLEX, the profession's national licensure exam. But that only scratches the surface of SON's success.

What's the secret? How has SON managed to maintain such a high degree of success over such a long period of time? Well, we were wondering the same thing. So we reached out to faculty and friends – both old and new – to recall the challenges, innovations and triumphs that have shaped the school into the crown jewel that it is today. In celebration of its golden anniversary, we'd like to share our findings with all of you.

HOW THE SCHOOL OF NURSING IS DIFFERENT

Rhode Island boasts an impressive number of colleges and universities for such a small state. So what attracts prospective students to Rhode Island College, particularly to its School of Nursing?

The School of Nursing caters to a wider range of demographics than most nursing programs in the state, including second-degree and master's degree students. Many of RIC's nursing students are the first in their families to go to college. The school's geographical and financial accessibility have opened the door for members of all communities to receive a quality education. As a result, Rhode Island College has equipped thousands of students with the tools they need to become registered nurses, nursing administrators, clinical nurse specialists and more – without acquiring a lot of debt.

Jane Williams, the School of Nursing's founding dean, who retired in 2018, sums it up pretty well: "RIC's School of Nursing has a unique culture nurtured by the faculty who offer extraordinary opportunities for students of diverse backgrounds to become the professionals they want to be."

HOW THE SCHOOL OF NURSING IS GROWING

Since its evolution from a department to a school in 2006, SON has produced more than 5,000 graduates and consistently leads the nation in exam scores and in-field performance.





Its physical expansion, as well as partnerships with St. Joseph Hospital and the Providence VA Medical Center, have led to extraordinary opportunities for students and citizens alike to benefit from expert medical care. And while the school itself has grown, its graduates have thrived alongside it.

Maria Ducharme is senior vice president of patient care services and chief nursing officer at The Miriam Hospital, but back in 1987, she was a new B.S.N. graduate. It's been 33 years since Ducharme walked, but she still remembers what it was like to have her goals realized through the nursing program:



"I felt surrounded by people with purpose, determination and enthusiasm. They role-modeled advocacy, professionalism and continuous inquiry. I knew what I wanted to be, but RIC helped me to learn who I wanted to be."

That realization propelled Ducharme into one of the top nursing management roles in Rhode Island. This was followed by an even more impressive achievement: effective Jan. 1, 2021, Ducharme will become president of The Miriam Hospital in Providence. She will be the first female nurse to serve as president of a hospital in Rhode Island.

Today, RIC nursing students get to reap the rewards of five decades of innovation and growth – namely state-of-the-art facilities and expert faculty. As both alumni and faculty grow into leaders in their field, the SON continues to progress toward a brighter future as a workforce engine for the state.

HOW THE SON IS PERSEVERING (IN UNPRECEDENTED TIMES)

Nursing is an incredibly challenging and dynamic field, and, as such, nursing education must fight to remain equally challenging and dynamic. This can prove difficult when funding is tight or space is limited (or, say, there's a global pandemic).

Despite all that 2020 has flung at them, SON's students and faculty have consistently succeeded against all odds. Professor of Nursing Debra Servello, SON's previous interim dean, proudly reports that SON "has

maintained a greater than 95 percent pass rate on the NCLEX for the past five years, with some classes hitting 100 percent."

When the pandemic twice prevented the school from holding its pinning ceremony – one of the most important traditions for nursing graduates – the faculty, along with the Student Nurse Association, made sure the third time was a charm, re-imagining it into a socially distanced "drive-through" ceremony held in the Fogarty Life Science parking lot in October 2020.

The real challenge, it seems, is continuing to offer the unique experience on which the school has built its reputation. The SON is well-known for its personalized, hands-on learning, which depends on techniques that aren't entirely practical during COVID-19.

As Servello notes, "Students who come to RIC often come to have in-person, face-to-face learning. The faculty have been challenged with quickly adapting to online learning."

Nonetheless, the faculty remain undaunted. As they continue to implement new online learning tools, the SON faculty are unanimously hopeful that they will overcome obstacles and provide educational opportunities that are just as rich and fulfilling as ever.

HOW THE SON IS CELEBRATING

RIC's School of Nursing has a lot of reasons to be proud. To mark its anniversary, past and present faculty, staff and alumni gathered virtually in December 2020, to celebrate five decades of commitment to personal and educational excellence. Much like the pinning ceremony, this is a re-envisioning of a previously planned in-person event. There were guest speakers and an award ceremony, including the bestowing of the Jane Williams School of Nursing Achievement Award to its first recipient, Dean Emeritus Jane Williams, as well as a poignant oration by recently retired SON faculty member Anne Carty.

Carty taught the first senior class back in 1973-74, when the nursing program was still in its infancy. During her time as a professor,

she recorded important events that occurred in the department and compiled them in a series of rhymes.

"For the 50th anniversary, I wrote a rhyme that presents the developments in the program from a historical perspective," she beams. "During the virtual event I read the rhyme."

Of course, the online Golden Anniversary festivities wasn't quite as glamorous as the in-person celebration was intended to be. From what we gathered from planning committee member Assistant Professor of Nursing Geraldine DeNuccio, the virus didn't dampen SON's celebratory spirit. Faculty, staff and alumni celebrated both collectively and independently with toasts, speeches, well-wishes and, as DeNuccio muses excitedly, a little style. "I even purchased a new ensemble and wore something a bit glitzy and gold!" she says.

HOW THE SON IS MOVING FORWARD

RIC's School of Nursing has been incredibly fortunate to have such exceptional leadership over the past five decades. That trend continues with the recent appointment of a new dean of nursing (see sidebar), following the retirement of the revered Dean Emeritus Jane Williams.

Williams stepped down after 13 years of dedicated and exceptional service at the helm. Her character and grace are considered unparalleled among her colleagues and students, and the partnerships and innovations that were implemented under her leadership have attracted national acclaim. Her achievements captured the interest of Gannon University Provost Carolynn Masters, who is bringing her 30 years of advanced nursing and administrative experience to RIC in her new leadership role.

Dean Masters is entering this position during a very critical time in the school's – and the entire profession's – history. How will she respond to the challenges brewing on the horizon? Well, she expresses the sentiment that the SON has always expressed: Bring it on.

"I want us to continue to be known as the leader in educating professional nurses and for excellence in all that we do," she says, adding, "because we do what is right, not what is easy." ↓

Elizabeth Sullivan is a senior at RIC; she is majoring in creative writing.

To learn more about the School of Nursing's Golden Anniversary, or its programs, visit ric.edu/nursing.



PREVIOUS PAGE
(top & second from top) The RIC Nursing program provides many experiential learning opportunities for students.

(second from bottom) Founding dean of the School of Nursing Jane Williams, who retired in 2018.

(bottom) Graduates from the School of Nursing.

THIS PAGE
Students enter the Rhode Island Nursing Education Center, a state-of-the-art facility operated jointly with the University of Rhode Island College of Nursing.

Meet the School of Nursing's New Dean, Carolyn Masters



Pittsburgh native Carolynn Masters found her calling at the young age of 12 while bedridden from a bout of rheumatic fever. The excellent care she received from the hospital staff inspired her to become a nurse, and with the persistent encouragement of her mother, she became the first in her family to pursue a college degree. She received her B.S.N. from Carlow University in Pittsburgh and her M.S.N. from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania. After completing her B.S.N., she was recruited to work at the same hospital where she discovered her passion for nursing. She later acquired a Ph.D. in nursing from Duquesne University.

Over the last 30 years, Masters has applied her advanced knowledge of nursing to several educational and administrative positions. She has held many distinguished titles at Gannon University, including provost and vice president of academic affairs, dean of the College of Health Professions and Sciences; and director of the Villa Maria School of Nursing.

A lifetime spent in Pennsylvania forged her into a dedicated Steelers fan, which has made the move to Rhode Island quite an adjustment.

Masters has approached each new occupation with the philosophy that compassionate nurses are essential to guiding patients from infirmity to health. She is currently preparing to apply that same philosophy to RIC's School of Nursing.

"We [nurses] have the greatest impact on individuals – to touch their lives, to make their day, to ease their suffering," she says. "I am blessed that I have that opportunity."

KEEPING AN ION PHYSICS

Lab research drives students to excel
under mentorship of Benjamin Young

BY GRACE LENTINI

“There are few things more beautiful than the core of a nuclear reactor,” says RIC Associate Professor of Physical Sciences Benjamin Young.

The core he’s describing is within a research nuclear reactor located at the Rhode Island Nuclear Science Center In Narragansett. Young has access to this facility and to the Department of Energy’s (DOE) 17 National Laboratories throughout the country, as well as the Surface Lab he’s built in Clarke Science on the RIC campus.

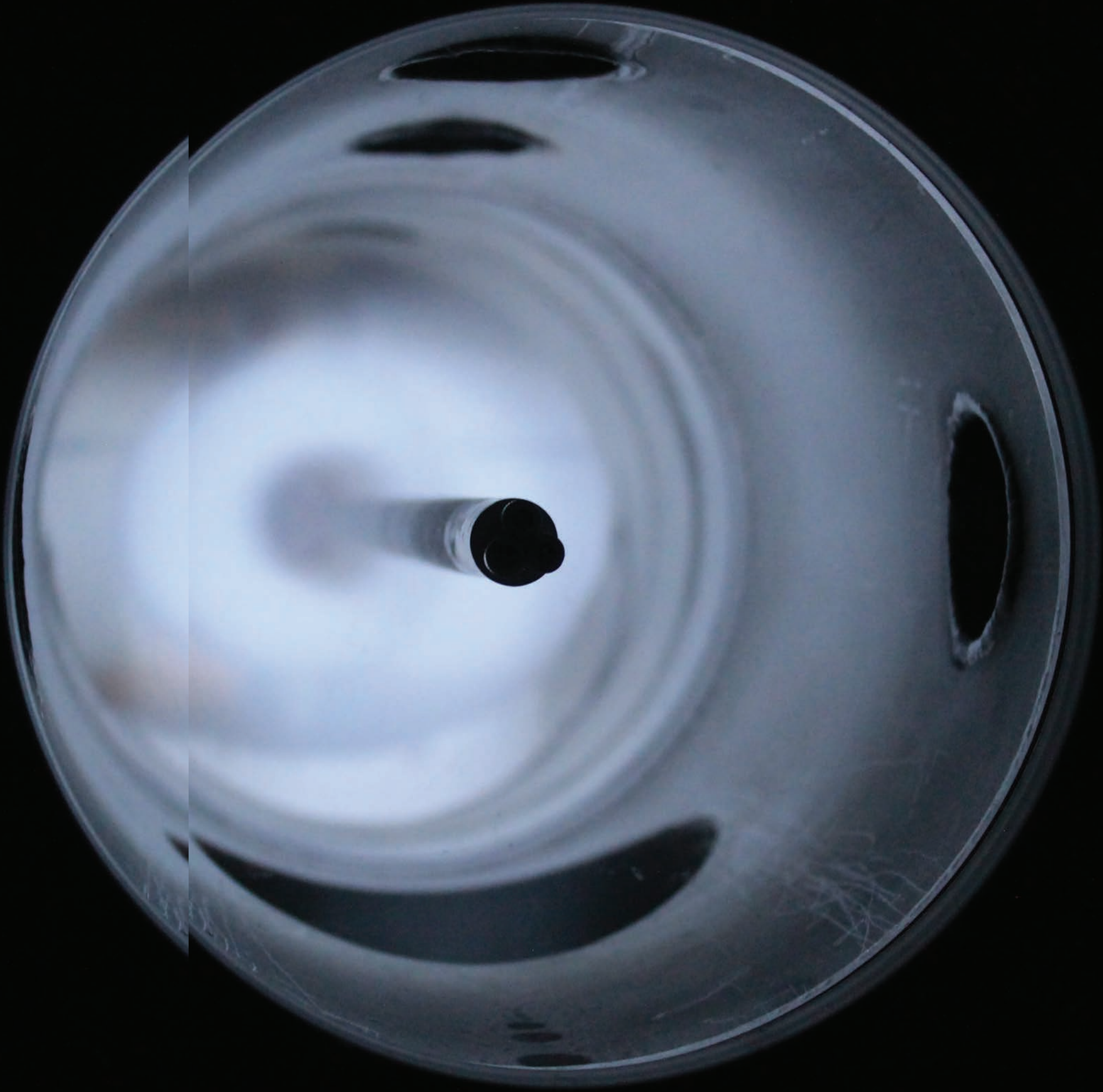
Many undergraduate students don’t get lab experience outside of coursework, where experiments have been done thousands of times and don’t produce new information. However, Young takes his duties as a mentor seriously. He strives to involve his students in his ongoing projects, both on- and off-campus.

“There are students who aren’t strong performers in the classroom who just come to life in the lab,” he says. “It’s my job to help students decide if they want to work on problems that don’t yet have solutions. And that only happens in the lab.”

The problems Young likes to work on have evolved over time and are mainly stumbled upon by accident. Even as a child he enjoyed working on problems.

“I was really good at taking things apart and less adept at putting them back together,” he says. “As I ruined more and more things, I developed an intuition for putting them back together and working on problems. I was having fun performing experiments long before I knew what scientists actually did or that you could do it for a living.”

A light placed in an ultrahigh vacuum chamber in the Surface Lab that Professor Benjamin Young developed at Clark Science. He encourages students to pursue lab research both on campus and at the Department of Energy’s Nuclear Science Center in Narragansett.



“We're not building widgets to solve these problems, we are building the *knowledge* that will enable [widgets] to work”

— Professor Benjamin Young, speaking on the work he is doing for the U.S. Department of Energy

When Young was an undergrad at Slippery Rock University in Pennsylvania, one of his professors deeded him with the keys to the kingdom - the physics storeroom. He didn't have room in his schedule for an internship because he was working full-time while taking 18 credits, but in the storeroom Young was able to “play with all the demo and lab equipment with little idea what any of it was for,” he recalls. “I may have learned more there than in the classroom.”

His time in the lab continued to grow during graduate school at the University of Rhode Island. That's when he learned there are fantastic national laboratories, 17 of them in fact, where you can do research for free. All you need is a great project.

Currently, he is working on a project funded by the DOE using spectroscopy. He's investigating ultrafast dynamics in photocatalytic and photovoltaic materials.

“It was a brand new project for me,” Young says. “I've been having a ball learning both new physics and taking measurements on ultrafast time scales.”

This project has an added layer of interdisciplinary collaboration with chemists from the University of Rhode Island. Because of their background, the chemists approach problems from a different perspective, which provides a rich experience for both Young and his student researchers, who take on projects like rebuilding detectors and other experimental capabilities. Other students in Young's classes visit the facility through field trips, even if they're not directly involved in a project. With a resource this good, Young can't help but share the wealth with as many students as possible.

In addition to taking full advantage of outside resources, Young has managed to create opportunities for experimentation on campus, where he built an ultrahigh vacuum chamber in his lab at Clarke Science. There, he's able to concentrate on lithium battery ion research. It might sound wonky, but this field has an everyday impact.

“Do you remember the old advice to drain rechargeable batteries completely before recharging them?” Young asks.

BELOW: Close up of atomic cleaning of a single crystal of silica (eye-level to Lisa, in the photo on right)



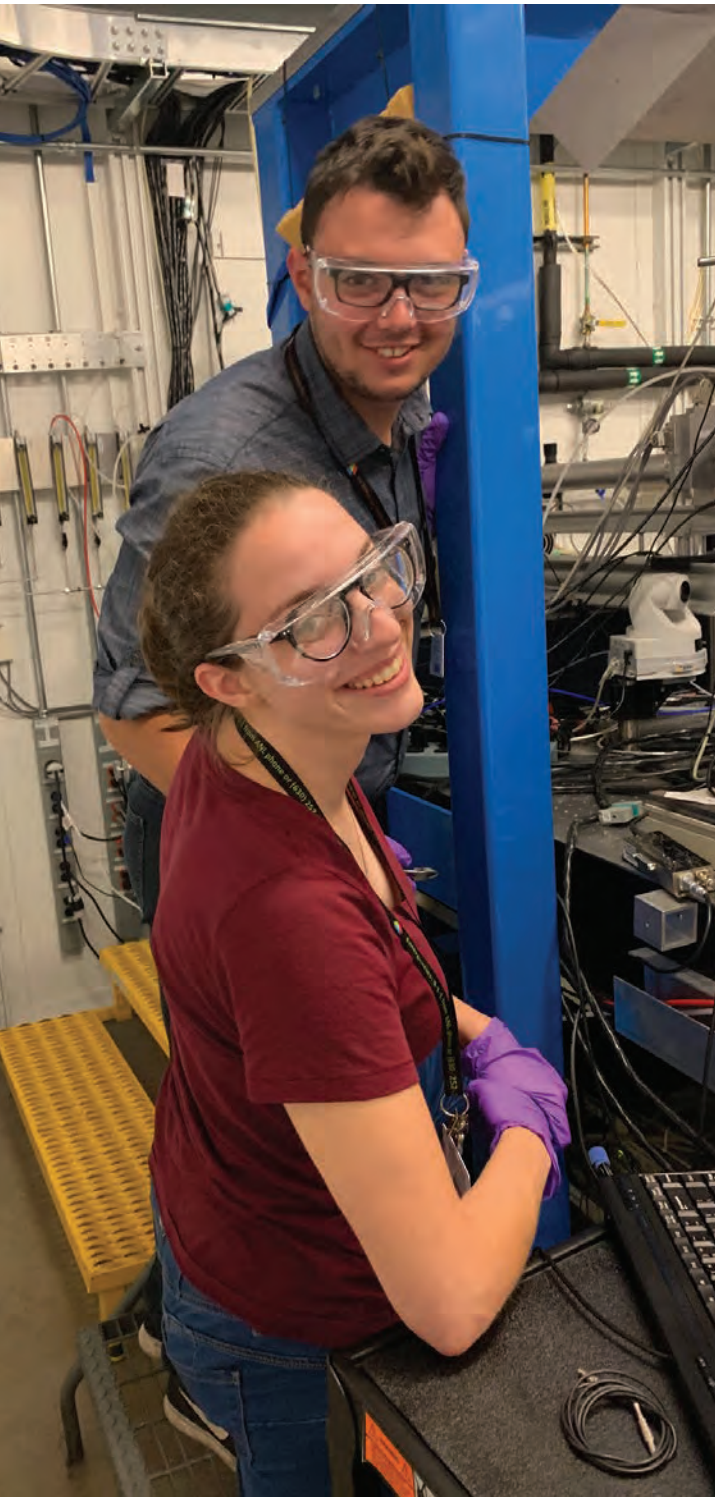
TOP: Lisa (Bucci) Cante '04, M.A. '19, a former student of Prof. Benjamin Young, launches the first successful test on the Temperature Programmed Desorption Instrument she built in the RIC Surface Lab. The experiments help determine effective cleaning methods to extend the life cycle of solar panels. If solar panels could be cleaned effectively, they would last much longer, thereby increasing global demand and reducing waste.

“Lithium ion battery technology solved that problem and has been largely responsible for making hybrid and fully electric vehicles cost competitive – or nearly so – in the market.”

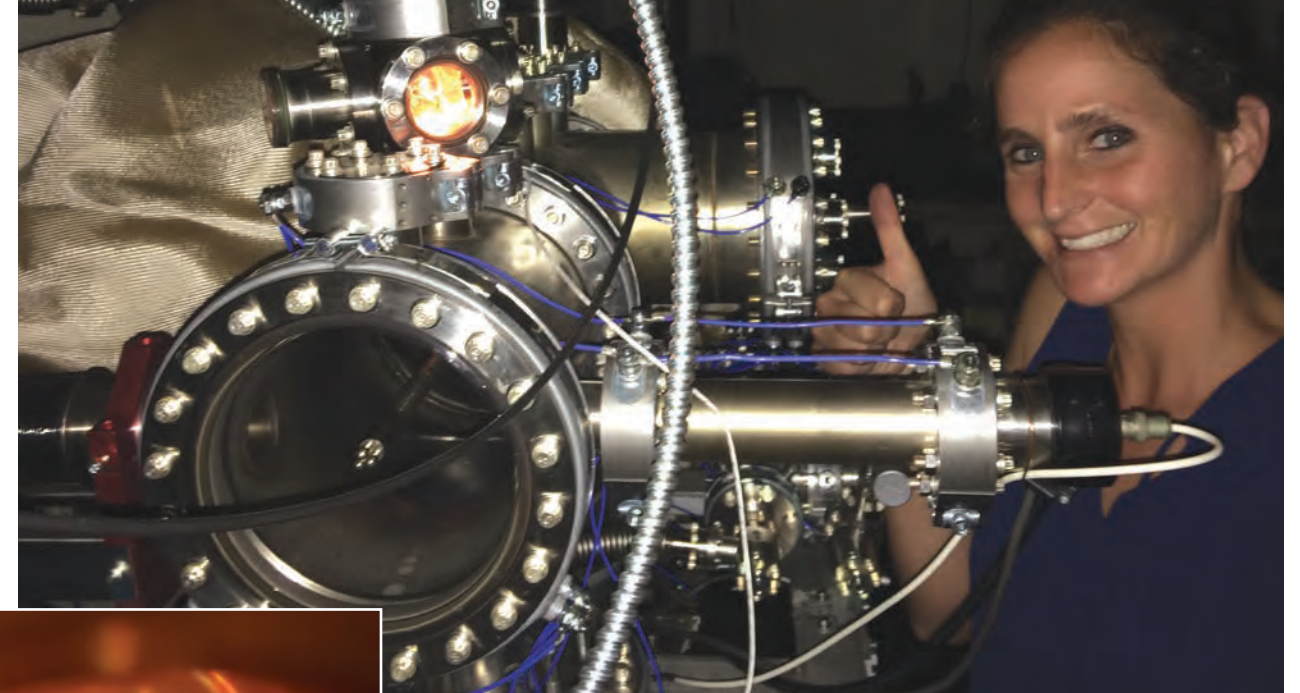
If Young is able to fully harness the technology he is currently working on, the amount of energy a battery can store could be increased tenfold. It would also enable the weight of the battery to be reduced tenfold, which could potentially allow an electric vehicle to drive from here to Ohio on one charge. This kind of lithium ion battery research is crucial as other renewable energy sources continue to gain traction.

“Having capable battery technology available when alternative fuel supplies from sun, wind, etc. finally scale up will be critical,” he explains. “The DOE project seeks to add more information on the solar photochemistry involved in the fuels part. So, while we're not building widgets to solve these problems, we are building the knowledge that will enable them to work. I hope we can contribute solid information soon enough to matter.”

Young's ideal use of his research would be to help reduce the world's reliance on fossil fuels. But for now, he just feels lucky to make a living working on problems that don't yet have solutions. ⚡



ABOVE: Jacqueline Escalastico '21 and Nathan Girard '21 are preparing to conduct a NEXAFS experiment at the Advanced Photon Source, Argonne National Laboratory. If your idea is granted time in a National Lab, it means you beat out thousands of other applicants. “You pack all the science you can get into those days,” says Young. “Both Jacqueline and Nathan are fantastic students, attuned to how significant the opportunity is.”



Associate Professor Benjamin Young in the Surface Lab he helped develop at Clark Science.

Grad student Martin Lynn at the Rhode Island State House. Lynn is a member of the Sunrise Movement dedicated to ending climate change.

SHAPING THEIR WORLD THROUGH ACTIVISM

Rhode Island College students lead a new generation of protest movements

BY JHON CARDONA
PHOTOGRAPHY BY PAUL CONNORS M.A. '15

“Don’t take away my right to protest,” says Martin Lynn, a grad student at RIC studying math and computer science. Like many activists across the country, he wants people to understand the importance of fighting for what you believe in.

The 1960s are often thought of as the heyday of student activism in this country, thanks to groups like Students for a Democratic Society and the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, who actively protested against the injustices of their time.

But students today, in large numbers, are getting active once again, both around the country and here at Rhode Island College. They are advocating for the rights of those who do not have a voice. The groups are different today, but the issues have remained almost exactly the same: racial justice, women’s rights, LGBTQ+ rights and environmental justice.

Brooxana Pierre, a RIC student and activist for Black Lives Matter, knows how it feels to be treated differently because of the color of your skin. After graduating from high school, she felt the need to advocate for her people, to bring awareness and to educate them on what is just and what is not.

“The purpose of my activism is to really show people that Black lives do matter,” she says. “We need our voices to be amplified, because our voices and our dreams matter. We live

in a society that’s not for us, not built for us, a society that constantly says that we don’t matter.”

Lynn is a member of the Providence Sunrise Movement, the local chapter of a national youth group dedicated to fighting climate change. He has been working toward incorporating social justice with climate issues, supporting Black, Indigenous People of Color and LGBTQ+ leadership and training, and taking part in direct and long-term education about systemic racism in the United States.

Lynn has been demanding answers on climate change since he was a little boy. As a child, he was concerned about the fumes from car exhausts. He learned that the fumes affected not only humans but animals and was frustrated by adults who told him not to worry because somebody else would take care of it. That was not his style. After earning his degree in writing and music at a nontraditional school, he came to realize that he couldn’t ignore the situation any longer.

“Climate change is the greatest existential crisis that humanity has ever faced,” Lynn says. “The evidence is unequivocal that what needs to be done is not getting done. You look around and you realize that no one is doing anything about it, so you stand up and say, ‘I have to do something about this.’”



“When we fight for ourselves, we are connected to others. So, we are really fighting for a group of people, for the world, for humanity. That definitive moment when a person takes action can help so many people.

— Brooxana Pierre



TOP: RIC student Brooxana Pierre is involved with the Black Lives Matter movement. She participated in the protest in Providence on June 5, 2020 that was said to be the largest in the state's history.

OPPOSITE PAGE: (top) A photo taken by grad student and activist Salena Gibbs at the January 2017 Women's March at the Rhode Island State House.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Student and activist Martin Lynn says he doesn't make a habit of attending protests, but he did participate in a September rally outside the State House after the death of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, where he took this photo. He calls it a "life-changing experience."

BOTTOM LEFT: Pierre and fellow Black Lives Matter activists.

This is why he joined the Sunrise Movement, founded in 2017. "There are a lot of people who feel the same way I do, and we are standing up at the same time and finding each other to create these organizations."

While Lynn's organization is fairly young, Salena Gibbs is fighting for a cause that harkens back to the 1800s: women's rights. A grad student currently pursuing her master's degree in justice studies, Gibbs got involved in activism in 2016.

"RIC introduced me to activism," she says. "As a freshman, I worked at the Women's Center and that is where I took off."

Gibbs feels that activism is important for her as a woman of color and a person with depression – which, she says, is rooted in oppression. Becoming an activist was an opportunity to push for change and touch the lives of others who suffer from mental health disorders, Gibbs says. She believes it's especially important now, during the pandemic and a period of heightened awareness of institutionalized racism. "I've learned that there needs to be more intersectionality and inclusion, so that we create more equity and equality at the same time," she says.

Pierre believes there is connectedness to be found in all of these causes. "When we fight for ourselves, we are connected to others. So, we are really

fighting for a group of people, for the world, for humanity," she says. "That definitive moment when a person takes action can help so many people. For myself and other people who took that first step, we've made an impact and encouraged people to care more about these issues."

That was the purpose of the Black Lives Matter march through downtown Providence to the State House that took place on June 5, 2020. Reports say it may have been the largest protest in the state's history. Pierre was there and could feel the passion of people who want to be heard.

"There was a point when the police officers started facing the youth, and people were really scared of what was going to happen – but then the police started marching, too," Pierre recalls. "That was such a powerful day, even though there is still much work to be done. That was a great stamp in history to show that we are not giving up, we are not backing down."

Despite a curfew and some rain, many activists stayed at the march until late into the night. "These are our lives we have to fight for," Pierre says.

For Gibbs, one of the most memorable moments was this year's Juneteenth protest. Celebrated on June 19, 2020, to commemorate the day, in 1865, when emancipation from enslavement



was proclaimed in Texas, Juneteenth has taken on increased significance as many have called for making it a national holiday. What Gibbs saw that day in Providence's Kennedy Plaza was a lot of people from different backgrounds and movements coming together to make their voices heard.

"Looking at the crowd, I'd never seen so many people who were so encouraged to go to a protest," she says. "I think that changed my approach a lot when it comes to activism."

Lynn, on the other hand, doesn't normally attend protests; however, when he attended the protest in honor of Ruth Bader Ginsburg a few days after her death, it was a life-changing experience, he says. "That was pretty big. People were really aligned," says Lynn. "There were a lot of organizations trying to stop judges, who have a history of bias, from holding positions of power in the government."

"The speeches were incredible," he continues. "Before the end of the protest, both of Rhode Island's U.S. senators released a joint statement about the Supreme Court nomination, which turned into another protest a week later. A lot of what inspires me is not just what is said or what happens at the protest, but what comes out of it. The fact that more protests are happening and more media is covering them is a really inspiring thing for me. It means that people care and want to talk about these issues."



Brooxana Pierre stands next to a temporary mural of Breonna Taylor that was painted in downtown Providence this summer by local artist Kendel Joseph.

Pierre believes that being an activist and taking part in the history being made has opened her eyes and changed her. “It has made me more of a loving and assertive person,” she says. “Standing up for what’s right has really helped me use my voice and my passion.”

Lynn’s activism comes from an intense need to do good. “When I see a crisis, I jump into action,” he says. “In doing that, I’ve found a great community of people who feel the same way, who are inspired to act the same way and who are just as fearless as I am. I have a lot more power than I think, and the ability to do more things than I think. I also recognize that I don’t have to be the best at something in order to make a difference. I can lean into the power of community.”

In spite of her ongoing battles with depression, Gibbs feels inspired by people who recognize her activism and courage. “I hear them say that I inspire them because I am able to get out of my comfort zone, be a leader and create change,” she says. “They say it’s amazing because most people are too scared to do that.”

Even though these activists are still young, they see that there are tools being used by the next generation which they didn’t have. According to Lynn, most of the activists he encounters are 16, 17 or 18 years old. Social media is one of their most important tools.

“During COVID, it has been almost impossible to engage in activism without the use of social media,” he says. “Even apart from COVID, social media is a powerful thing. Every activist knows this.”

Social media platforms are the main tools to keep people informed, whether it is about the location of a protest, the actions to take, sharing links for petitions or to uplift partner organizations.

“We’re sharing positive thoughts and keeping the hope alive in people,” Pierre says. “There is so much going on that it is easy to become sad and numb to everything.”

Pierre believes it’s the role of older activists to take care of the youth. “Make sure they know you believe in them and that you support them,” she says. “Many of these young activists, who had no experience with leadership, are nonetheless becoming leaders through camaraderie, community and the desire to uphold their responsibility to advocate for themselves.”

Lynn adds, “People younger than me are leading this movement, and I am supporting them in the best way that I possibly can.” ↓

A CENTURY OF SUFFRAGE

2020 marks the centennial of the 19th Amendment. Of course, Rhode Island's early activists got started a little earlier than that.

BY ANNIE KENNEDY M.A. '09

Rhode Island may be small, but it fights for its freedoms - and it tends to throw the first punch. By attacking the British warship HMS Gaspee in 1772, Rhode Islanders launched the first act of war leading to the American Revolution. On May 4, 1776, Rhode Island was the first colony in America to declare independence, months before the Declaration of Independence was signed. So it shouldn't be a shock that our little state was the first on the East Coast to lead women's suffrage in a meaningful way when it passed a 1917 "presidential suffrage" law giving Rhode Island women the right to vote in presidential elections. Three years later, the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution extended voting rights to women. It hadn't been an easy victory.

"Both in Rhode Island and nationally, the women's suffrage movement had been largely unsuccessful for decades," notes RIC Associate Professor of History Elisa Miller, Rhode Island's state coordinator of the "Online Biographical Dictionary of the Woman Suffrage Movement in the United States." In addition to her own research on Rhode Island suffragists, Miller supervised around twenty Rhode Island College students who wrote suffrage biographies for the project as assignments in history courses.

The first women's suffrage organization in Rhode Island was founded in 1868, she says, and it took them half a century to earn presidential voting rights in 1917. They were able to achieve this before suffragists in other states through "persistence and innovative tactics."

"By the early 20th century, they had become good at tactics like open rallies by Kennedy Square, giving speeches on corners or addressing workers at mills and factories during lunch hour," Miller says. "They were also saavy and successful lobbyists, even though they didn't have political rights or voting rights."

Once women got the vote in 1920, Republicans and Democrats courted them, passing a flurry of social reform bills in the early 1920s on issues like maternal and infant health care, while suffragists in and beyond Rhode Island became leaders in local political parties in order to more directly effect change.

RIC Emeritus Professor of History J. Stanley Lemons was the first to offer a women's history course at Rhode Island College. Among his extensive publications is "The Elect: Rhode Island's Women Legislators, 1922-1990," in which dozens of local female politicians were interviewed.

Lemons says the first woman elected to the Rhode Island General Assembly was suffragist Isabelle Ahearn O'Neill in 1922. She had been an effective campaigner on behalf of Democratic candidates in 1920, and when she got her chance two years later, she served in both the Rhode Island House of Representatives and the Senate before being appointed to a federal position by President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

"The fact that she was even able to run for office in a system totally dominated by men was remarkable," Lemons notes. Even with the power

to vote afforded by the 19th Amendment, women could only run with the approval and patronage of the party boss until the primary system began in 1948. "So, even O'Neill had to have close ties to the political boss in her district," he says. "She and her family lived just a couple doors away from Thomas Dorney, boss of the First Ward Democrats."

In 1948 Florence Murray became the first woman to be elected who didn't first have to get the nomination from a party selection committee (or boss), and more women followed suit. Today, 40 out of the 113 members of the State of Rhode Island General Assembly are women, as is our governor.

Racial equality was another battle waged by Black suffragists. Not all American women received the right to vote from the 19th Amendment. Black women in the South had to wait 45 more years until the Voting Rights Act of 1965 passed. Yet Professor Miller cautions that it's important to understand that Black women in the North did obtain the right to vote from the 19th Amendment.

"The narrative that only white women earned the right to vote from the 19th Amendment erases the efforts of Black women who fought hard for universal suffrage and who made tremendous use of their voting power, becoming social and political leaders," Miller says.

Two such leaders in Rhode Island were Black suffragists: Bertha Higgins and Mary Jackson. Born into a poor southern family before moving to Rhode Island, Higgins viewed voting rights for Black women as a means of fighting for racial equality in the United States. After obtaining the right to vote in 1920, Higgins became both a local and national political leader.



TOP LEFT: The use of symbols drawn from ancient Greece and Rome appealed to conservative values and asserted the respectability of the movement.

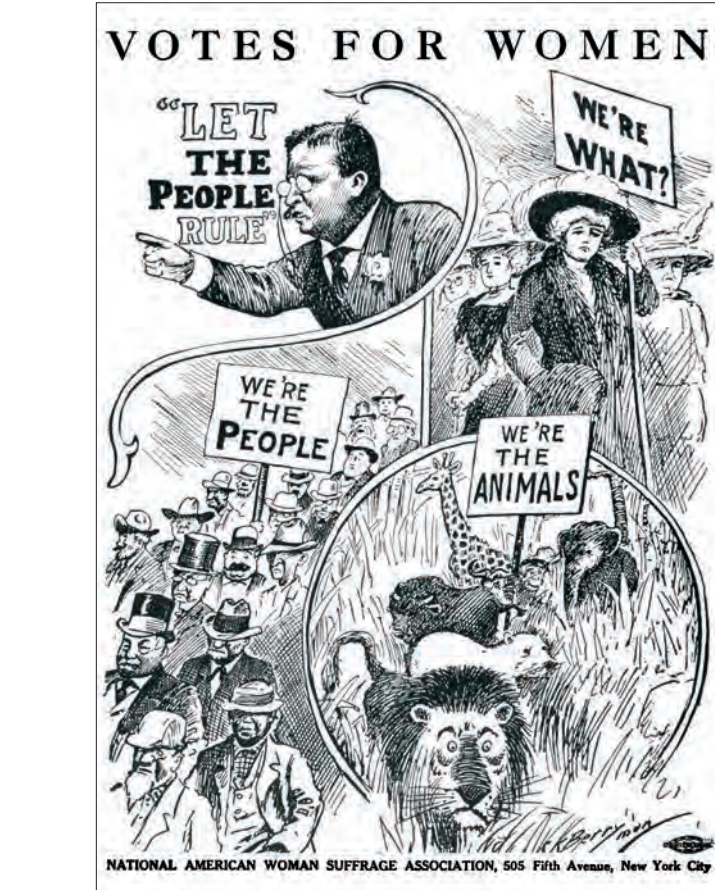


TOP RIGHT: Bertha Margaret Boye's iconic poster was hung in shop windows during the 1911 California Suffrage Campaign.



Rose O'Neill Kewpie Poster, 1915. O'Neill became the best-known and highest-paid female commercial illustrator in the United States and earned a fortune and international fame by creating the Kewpie, the most widely known cartoon character until Mickey Mouse.





BOTTOM LEFT: Pictures, from early engravings and photographs to colorful posters, proved central to suffragists' efforts to change expectations for women, fighting back against the accepted norms of their times.

A LEGACY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE

BY
GITA
BROWN

Most of us don't tend to think of social workers as activists. Yet since the late 19th century, when the American social work profession was first established, social workers have been fighting for economic, political and social justice on behalf of the vulnerable and oppressed. Among the battles they fought and won were the Social Security Act, Medicaid and Medicare, the Fair Labor Law, laws to protect children from industrial exploitation and the prevention of child abuse and neglect.

Social workers are the epitome of the phrase "I am my brother's [or sister's] keeper" no matter your national, racial, ethnic, economic, gender or ideological differences, and they continue today to engage in social and political action, particularly with and on behalf of vulnerable and oppressed people.

Widely recognized in Rhode Island and throughout southeastern New England as a center of excellence in education, training and advocacy, RIC's School of Social Work has within its mission statement a commitment to "social and economic justice in accordance with the NASW Code of Ethics." Over the years, faculty have shown what that looks like on the ground.

"For the past 40 years, the School of Social Work at Rhode Island College has dedicated itself to teaching students strategies for creating and sustaining social, economic and environmental justice," says interim dean of the School of Social Work Jayashree Nimmagadda.

"Several of our faculty are active change agents, working closely with community members on challenging societal conditions. As a result, advocacy and direct action are central to our students' educational experience," she says.

2020 became a defining year for the State of Rhode Island when the activism and organizing efforts of Associate Professor of Social Work Wendy Becker led to the signing into law of the Rhode Island Uniform Parentage Act, granting equality to same-sex parents and those reliant on assisted reproductive technology.

The new legislation repeals an outdated law regarding parentage and replaces it with a law that recognizes the diversity of today's families and gives children the security of a legal tie to their parents, regardless of the circumstances of their birth or the sexual orientation, marital status or gender of their parents.

Mural in Guardo Hall, at the School of Social Work, painted by artist Tiffany Cabral.



“No one creates social change alone. You have to mobilize people at the grass roots level, working from the bottom up, top down and the sides, so to speak.”

— Deborah Siegel
RIC Professor of Social Work



For the past 40 years, the School of Social Work at Rhode Island College has dedicated itself to teaching students strategies for creating and sustaining social, economic and environmental justice.”

— Jayashree Nimmagadda
RIC Interim Dean of the School of Social Work



ABOVE LEFT: RIC Associate Professor of Social Work Wendy Becker's advocacy led to the passage of the Rhode Island Uniform Parentage Act, which ensures equality for LGBTQ parents. RIGHT: R.I. Gov. Gina Raimondo signs the Rhode Island Uniform Parentage Act into law on July 21, 2020.



Advocates for the Rhode Island Uniform Parentage Act celebrate equality for LGBTQ parents outside the State House on the day the bill was signed.

Frederic Reamer, Rhode Island College Professor of Social Work



In building her coalition, Becker reached out to LGBTQ Action RI, an alliance she is a part of, gaining their backing along with the support of a group of interested parents. Together, they formed the Rhode Islanders for Parentage Equality coalition.

During the four years that led to the signing of the bill, Becker listened to countless pain-filled stories by parents whose children were born through insemination or surrogacy and who had met with numerous roadblocks in establishing a legal tie to their own children.

"Essentially they were being asked to adopt their own children," Becker says. "They had to hire a lawyer and go through a very expensive and intrusive process to prove that they will be good parents in ways that heterosexual couples would never have to go through. They had to undergo a home study, obtain references, talk about how they're going to parent and advertise for the sperm donor who had already signed away their rights. It's an extensive, expensive, humiliating process to essentially adopt your own children."

Among other important protections, the new law provides clear standards for determining parentage for children born through assisted reproduction, surrogacy and to same-sex parents who aren't married; it ensures equality for LGBTQ parents to establish their parentage like other families; it provides a clear standard for courts to resolve competing claims of parentage; and it improves access, efficiency and consistency in Rhode Island family courts.

"It feels great to know that all families will be treated equally and will be protected moving forward," says Becker.

It was through coalition building that the new law was made possible. "No one creates social change alone," says Professor of Social Work Deborah Siegel. "You have to mobilize people at the grass roots level, working from the bottom up, top down and the sides, so to speak," she says.

Siegel has been on the front lines of advocacy and community organizing for more than 40 years and she hasn't done it alone. Currently, she is advocating with and on behalf of people experiencing homelessness, in partnership with the House of Hope; she is developing an integrated behavioral health program, in collaboration with the Rhode Island Free Clinic; she is working to reduce poverty, as part of an interfaith coalition; and she organizes her community each year to lobby at the State House for legislation to end gun violence.

During the 2020 presidential election, Siegel and her faith community joined the national effort to engage people to vote. "I find that most people care and want to get involved in change," says Siegel. "They just don't know how to help or they don't have the discretionary time to spare. I mobilize people in many ways. I show them how they can do just one small, doable thing such as make a phone call, write a postcard, knock on a door, attend a webinar to learn about an issue and then sign up to do a specific task. I give them the information they need to take action. Then I coach them and accompany them to an activity."

Faculty like Professor of Social Work Frederic Reamer work with government agencies and think tanks providing the seminal research reports that shape the debate on social justice issues.

He became a pioneer in professional and practical ethics in social work by conducting his own extensive research on ethics and applying it to the field of social work.

He later chaired the national task force that wrote the current code of ethics adopted by the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) and insisted on adding language that highlighted the profession's core commitment to promote social justice.

Over the years, he has trained Rhode Island's human services professionals and led ethics trainings in agencies across the country and abroad. His expertise is sought after on the local, national and international levels.

Reamer notes that social work organizations like NASW highlight the educators' ethical duty to confront toxic forces within our society. "As a social worker, I am heartened and inspired by my profession's earnest determination to confront virulent forces. These are the instincts that make me proud to be a social worker."

When asked how optimistic he is that real change can happen in this country, Reamer replies, "Our nation's history is filled with inspiring advocacy efforts that led to profound social change, but we have a long, long road ahead of us. Our obligation as social workers is to travel this road and to do our very best to fulfill the social justice and advocacy mandate that is at the core of the NASW Code of Ethics."

"I am hopeful, as well," Siegel adds. "When we give up hope that we can co-create a better world, we stop trying to create one." ↓



FOUR YEARS OF OPEN BOOKS

BY DRAGAN GILL

TEXTBOOKS ARE EXPENSIVE. HERE'S WHAT RIC IS DOING ABOUT IT.

Textbook costs have risen at an unbelievable rate in the last few decades – faster than inflation, most child-care costs and even some medical costs. The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports a rise in costs of nearly 1,000 percent in the last three decades. This has become a real barrier in assessing a college education. In a 2016 Florida State Textbook Survey, 66.5 percent of students reported not purchasing a required textbook and 47.6 percent reported taking fewer courses due to textbook costs.

Rhode Island College decided to address this problem in 2016 by becoming a leader in the Rhode Island Open Textbook Initiative. This state-wide, five-year challenge set by R.I. Gov. Gina Raimondo aimed to save students \$5 million in five years. This fall marks the start of the fifth and final year of the challenge.

The initiative is coordinated by the Rhode Island Office of Innovation and a steering committee comprised of one librarian from each of the 11 participating colleges and universities across the state who encourage faculty to adopt open textbooks and open educational resources (OER). These are textbooks and teaching and learning materials that are both free to use and shared with an open license, which allows for more flexible use than traditional copyright.

In the first four years, faculty adoptions of OER saved Rhode Island College students an estimated \$807,600, contributing to a statewide total of \$3.8 million as of Spring 2020.

Each college works towards this goal in its own way, meeting the needs of its unique faculty and students while striving to make college in Rhode Island more accessible and affordable. Rhode Island College uses the professional development model focused on educating faculty through workshops and trainings about the need for affordable materials, the benefits of switching to open textbooks and how to adopt and use OER in the classroom. So far, 51 faculty members have already adopted an open textbook or OER and dozens have attended workshops on related topics. Following the workshops, faculty continue to receive one-on-one assistance in looking for materials for their courses.

Additionally, an ad hoc committee has worked on a range of campus efforts to raise awareness and make processes around OER adoption part of the college's institutional practices. This committee includes faculty champions who have adopted open textbooks and OER, Learning for Life, the Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning, User Support Services and the Disability Services Center.

Other collaborators in these projects have included Management Information Services, former Interim Provost Sue Pearlmuter, Vice President for Administration and Finance Stephen Nedder, the College Council and the RIC Bookstore.

The last four years have been a success for open textbooks and OER at Rhode Island College – and by extension, a success for its students. As the next phase of this work begins, the college is excited to build on this success, by working with new partners, engaging with students to develop their advocacy skills, working directly with the Student Public Interest Research Groups and addressing unique issues at RIC. ↓

RIC Assistant Professor Dragan Gill is a reference librarian at the Adams Library and co-chair of the Rhode Island Open Textbook Initiative Steering Committee.

To learn more about open textbooks and OER visit library.ric.edu/open.

PHOTO ESSAY

ACTIVISM AT RIC THROUGH THE YEARS

A Demand for 'Student Power' at RIC." So read the headline in the Providence Sunday Journal on March 3, 1968. In a year full of protests over the Vietnam War, racial injustice and other major national issues, these students were making their voices heard on something much closer to home. Perhaps inspired by then-RIC-president Dr. Charles B. Willard, who had previously exhorted students to "be angry with the world as you find it" and to "stand for something and improve the situation with which you find fault," activists among the student body used the dedication of the new Student Union to stage a protest against the decision not to rehire a popular history professor, Ara Dostourian, over what the administration cited as a lack of "professionalism."

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



Dostourian, a self-described "Christian Marxist," was part of an effort to unionize Rhode Island College faculty during a time when administrators considered unionization in higher education "not professional." Although Dostourian was not the only "union agitator" among the faculty, he was the only one who was not tenured and, thus, was subject to dismissal. The move to dismiss him proved to be the spark that lit a flame among students, who presented President Willard with a list of three demands: a reversal of the decision not to rehire Dostourian, the appointment of a student-faculty evaluation committee, and the distribution of annual written reports about their evaluations to non-tenure faculty.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

STUDENT INVOLVEMENT SPEAKER SYMPOSIUM

THURS., FEB. 29, 1968



CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

The demonstration surprised many observers, including Providence Journal writer Wallace Roberts, who remarked, "In many quarters RIC has never been regarded as anything more than a stronghold of **apathy**, an impregnable bastion against substantial controversy." He attributed this, at least in part, to its status as a largely commuter school. "Because the students do not for the most part live in dormitories, they see very little of each other apart from classes, and so they have much fewer opportunities to become concerned about major issues in groups," he theorized. The protest resulted in a Student Involvement symposium attended by an overflow audience in what was then Mann Auditorium. Upon his arrival at the symposium, Professor Dostourian received a standing ovation. He left after the spring semester and was not rehired.



The Class of 1968 is continuing to celebrate the activism of the era. They have funded a new stained glass window, to be installed at Roberts Hall, as their 50th anniversary class gift to the school. The design depicts the issues and culture of their college years, including tributes to Martin Luther King, Robert Kennedy and the anti-war movement.



NATIONAL VIETNAM MORATORIUM

WED., OCT. 15, 1969



The Rhode Island College community joined students, teachers, activists and demonstrators all over the country on Oct. 15, 1969, for the Moratorium to End the War in Vietnam. The nationwide protest and teach-in was observed on the RIC campus with a vigil, workshops, guest speakers and ecumenical services. Beginning at noon the day before, students kept an all-night vigil in the Student Union, during which the names of all U.S. casualties of the war were read aloud. Many national protests were characterized by protesters carrying signs with the names of dead U.S. soldiers and names of destroyed Vietnamese towns.



HOUSING LOTTERY PROTESTS APRIL 1981

Increased demand for on-campus housing in the early 1980s led the college to adopt a "housing lottery," in which names would literally be drawn from a hat to determine which students would receive rooms. Protests, meetings and a "Committee Against Lottery Legislation" (CALL) resulted. The lottery was eventually canceled and a new housing proposal was adopted. One of the solutions suggested by CALL was to convert the single rooms in Willard Hall into doubles for incoming freshmen. Willard remains freshmen housing to this day.



ESTABLISHED 1928 April 7, 1981

Proposed Dorm Lottery Meets Heavy Opposition

by Jill Spiegler
Anchor Staff Writer

Two weeks ago dorm students were told they may not have a room again next year, then again they may, it all depends on the pick of the lot.

Dorm residents rallied all last week against the Housing Department's proposed Lottery system, which if enacted, will mean that all residents, no matter how far they come, will pick a number out of a hat April 27 which will determine if they have a room next year or not.

Dawn Criscioni, a resident of Willard suite A, is heading a committee, CALL, (Committee Against Lottery Legislation) to look for alternatives to and deal with the Lottery proposal. After marching a group of 2-300 resident students to the president's house last Monday night in the rain, and

Tuesday night with little more satisfaction, the committee sat down with the Housing Department Thursday afternoon and came up with some alternative proposals. The most popular alternative with dorm residents was suggested by Weber resident, Bob Farley. Farley suggested they turn Willard Hall into a freshmen dorm, doubling the single rooms and tripling the double rooms; therefore the remaining three dorms would go to upperclassmen. Browne would become co-ed as is Weber Hall, and Thorp would most likely remain an all-female dorm.

Last Thursday night a meeting was held in Willard Rec Room. Across a ping-pong table the Housing Staff; Gary Penfield, Vice-President of Student Affairs, pro-tem, and members of CALL met with approximately 100 dorm residents to explain the Lottery

situation and the latest proposals. CALL spokeswoman Dawn Criscioni explained the alternative proposals to the residents. The first proposal is to change Willard Loft and Browne's lower lounge into living quarters. The second concerned turning an old building behind Walsh gymnasium into dormitory space, the same building Kappa Delta Phi has had their eye on for a fraternity house. The third proposal, most discussed that evening, meant "donating" Willard Hall as a freshmen dorm. "Boos" were heard at the mention of converting Willard, but cheers responded to the consequence of making Browne co-ed.

Most of Thursday's meeting was a question and answer period. The question was asked, Why do we have to save 40 per cent of the

cont. pg 5
see LOTTERY

COGE, English Dept. Settle Dispute Over Minority Issue

by Annamaria Stoddard Curriculum Committee These of the literature courses wi

BOBBY SEALE WEDS., FEB. 25, 1981



SCAN TO HEAR THE DIGITIZED RECORDING OF BOBBY SEALE AT RIC

Black Panther co-founder Bobby Seale's 1981 lecture at Rhode Island College was sponsored by Harambee, the multicultural student organization that today remains an important presence on campus, creating programming and providing cultural experiences focused on the African Diaspora (African-American, Afro-Caribbean, Continental African).





Bobby Seale speaking to RIC Political Science classes last Wednesday. Photographed by Bill Taylor.

Black Panther Co-founder Speaks at RIC

by Veronica Perkins
Anchor Staff Writer

Bobby Seale has sat gagged and bound in a Chicago courtroom, co-founded the Black Panther Party with Huey P. Newton, ran for mayor in the city of Oakland, California, was involved in negotiations with prisoners during the Attica uprising and calls the sixties an aborted movement.

Last Wednesday, Seale spoke to the RIC community about his past, his current situation, and only four officers returned. Perhaps further proof of

Seale said that because brothers (black men) were raised in a white male chauvinistic society, their values are contrary to black females. "You see," said Seale, "too many black men have their penises in front of their egos or their egos in front of their penises." To emphasize what he meant by this statement he recalled an event that happened to him in Oakland. A male member of the Black Panther Party had raped a female member of the party. The punishment resulting was that



ROSE BUTLER BROWNE

1968

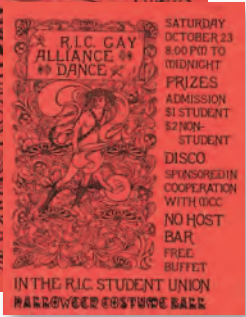
Rose Butler Browne, for whom RIC's Browne Hall is named, was an educator, author and advocate. She earned her master's degree from Rhode Island College (then called the Rhode Island Normal School) in 1919 after receiving her bachelor's degree from Rhode Island State College (now the University of Rhode Island). She later went on to Harvard University, where in 1939 she became the first Black woman to receive a doctorate in education. She enjoyed a long and illustrious career on the faculty of several colleges, including North Carolina College (now North Carolina Central University), where she served as chair of the Education Department. She was also an activist for civil rights, once refusing to send students into teaching jobs in West Virginia as long as the state's Board of Education paid Black educators less than white ones. Her career would have been impressive in any era, but the fact that she came of age in the time of Jim Crow and before the modern civil rights movement makes her accomplishments even more remarkable. In this way, her entire life could be considered an act of protest.



RIC GAY ALLIANCE DANCE

SAT., OCT. 23, 1976

This poster advertises a Halloween Ball being held in the RIC Student Union and hosted by the RIC Gay Alliance, a precursor to today's more expansive and inclusive LGBTQ+ organizations like the RIC Pride Alliance.



The RIC Women's Center and RINOW held a lecture on the Equal Rights Amendment, which was introduced for ratification by the states in 1972. Although Rhode Island ratified it in 1972 and the necessary total of 38 states did eventually pass it, due to a complex set of challenges and legal questions, it still has not taken effect as the 28th Amendment to the Constitution.

WOMEN'S RIGHTS LECTURE

WED., MAR. 11, 1981

ERA-it's impact on
WOMEN'S LIVES

a lecture and discussion
with **Patricia M. Dwyer**
R.I. Coordinator, N.O.W.



Wed. March 11 2-4 pm
Student Union - Chambers Rm.
Sponsored by
RIC Women's Center



BOND RALLY

TUES., OCT. 2, 1956

Rhode Island College (then called the Rhode Island College of Education) was on the ballot in 1956, when voters were asked to approve a bond funding the construction of the new Mount Pleasant campus. Students rallied in support of the bond in front of the college's former home, which was located where Providence Place Mall now stands. The bond was passed and the current campus opened in 1958



This photo essay was compiled and curated by the editors of the magazine in collaboration with Special Collections at the Adams Library. Digital Archivist and Special Collections Librarian Molly Bruce Patterson and Digital Initiatives Coordinator Andrew Davis assisted with photo curation, documentation and digitization. Their efforts were invaluable to assembling this selection of Rhode Island College history.

ABOUT SPECIAL COLLECTIONS: The James P. Adams Library's Special Collections consists of rare and special books, papers, manuscripts, artifacts and collections of source materials. Topics include education, ethnic groups in Rhode Island and socio-political materials. Special Collections also include the College Archives, a repository of the history, records and memorabilia. Faculty and Student scholarship, including faculty and alumni publications and student theses, are collected and works may also be submitted to the DigitalCommons@RIC repository. The Library's Digital Initiatives Unit, which manages the DigitalCommons@RIC repository, stewards unique digital collections, and digitization and research in support of online access. Special Collections is currently open to RIC students, faculty and staff by appointment, M-F, 9am-noon and 1pm-4pm. For appointments, contact Molly Bruce Patterson at mbrucepatterson@ric.edu or 401-456-9653.

AROUND CAMPUS

NEWS AND PROFILES
FROM THE COLLEGE
COMMUNITY

School of Nursing

School of Social Work

School of Business

Feinstein School of Education and
Human Development

Faculty of Arts and Sciences

Performing and Visual Arts

Faculty Highlights

Athletics

SCHOOL OF NURSING

NURSE PINNING CEREMONY DRIVES THROUGH COVID

BY JEFF THEODORE

Rhode Island College's traditional pinning ceremony for School of Nursing graduates was postponed twice this year thanks to the COVID-19 pandemic, but a third attempt proved to be the charm.

After a month of planning, a drive-through pinning ceremony in the Fogarty Life Science parking lot went off without a hitch on October 17, 2020. Pinning is a symbolic ritual for new nursing graduates, originally created by the Florence Nightingale School of Nursing in London.

"Nurses are tenacious and determined types of individuals," says RIC Dean of the School of Nursing Dean Carolyn Masters. "We weren't going to let this opportunity pass by to properly welcome graduating nurses into the profession."

"As the graduates came through in their cars, we had faculty dressed in their regalia, balloons everywhere and music and dancing in the parking lot. It turned out to be very meaningful and exactly what we needed to prove that some good things are coming out of this COVID experience," she says.

Gabrielle Pommenville and Vanessa Mansi, two RIC seniors who are members of the Student Nursing Association, planned the drive-through affair with assistance from faculty.

"It's obviously disappointing to not have a traditional pinning ceremony, but I think this setting was still a good way to recognize the grads for all the work they've done in their four years of nursing school," Pommenville says. "That's a big achievement in your life."

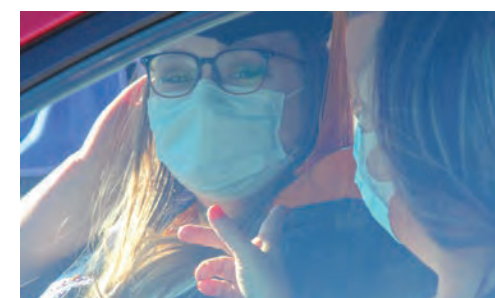
Faculty members wore gloves and masks as they interacted with the nursing grads, who were accompanied by proud parents, children and others inside their cars.

"There were tears of joy and excitement, as the nursing grads got the chance to connect with nursing faculty one last time to say thanks," Masters says.

Pommenville and Mansi are gearing up to plan the next pinning, which is scheduled for January.

"Because of COVID, it will likely be another drive-through, but we hope to plan it closer to students' graduation," Mansi says. "That way, we anticipate more grads will participate." ↓

Scenes from the drive-through pinning ceremony held by the School of Nursing in October.
PHOTOS COURTESY
KAVINDA ARTHENAYAKE



RIC STUDENT INVESTORS CLINCH A TOP SPOT IN NORTHEAST COMPETITION

BY JEFF THEODORE

A team of School of Business students displayed their sharp investment skills by soaring to second place among 23 college teams across the Northeast that were vying for the Adirondack Cup, a stock-investment competition for finance-savvy students.

Created eight years ago, the Adirondack Cup enables students to test their investment research skills by tracking hypothetical investments. The competition requires teams from participating schools to create and manage a mock \$1 million portfolio of five small-cap stocks. Small-cap stocks are defined as publicly traded companies that have a market capitalization ranging from \$152 million to about \$5 billion, such as Papa John’s and Uber. Per the competition’s rules, each stock selected had to come from a different sector, such as technology, health care or consumer goods. Once initial portfolios were established, teams were only allowed to alter their portfolios once during the six-month competition.

In a testament to the team’s acumen, particularly during one of the most volatile periods in the stock market’s history, RIC was one of only three colleges to emerge with a positive return – 13.18 per-cent – on their stock portfolio during the cup. The other two were Wesleyan College, which won the contest, and the Saunders School of Business at Rochester Institute of Technology, which came in third place.

The seven members of the RIC team are all finance majors: Jake Bonn, Brandon Costa, Nathaniel Crawley, Emi Escobar, Brandon Frankina, Kenny Andrade Gomes and Katie Lavallee.



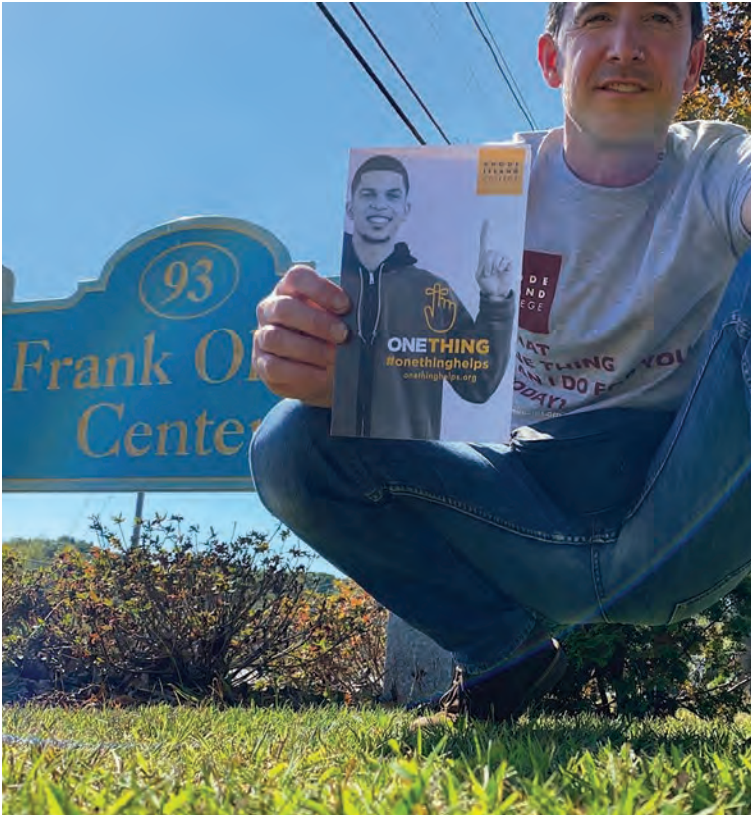
U.S. STOCK EXCHANGE IMAGE COURTESY OF KEENAN CONSTANCE

“The competition was a lot of fun and a great learning experience – it taught me a lot about small-cap investing, leadership and teamwork,” Lavallee says. “Aside from having such a talented team, I believe one of the greatest factors leading to our success was the bearish investment approach we took when selecting our sectors and stocks.”

Frankina said he thinks that the investment competition will give him an edge as he pursues a career in financial planning. “I plan on managing money in the future and this experience helped me learn a good stock-picking strategy,” he says. “Considering the tough economic environment, our team performed well.”

Jake Bonn, this year’s team captain, said the team researched their initial investments, working hard to find stocks that they thought would perform above average. Bonn also credited advisor and RIC Assistant Professor of Finance Kemal Saatcioglu with the team’s success.

Saatcioglu says he enjoyed advising the students and considers the competition a “perfect example of an experiential learning experience with students applying, firsthand, many of the concepts and skills they’ve acquired throughout their education at RIC.”



“ONE THING” HELPS

Isolation is often the unspoken barrier to wellness. Through a joint effort with Leadership Rhode Island, the School of Social Work is doing "One Thing" to fight loneliness. And now you can, too.

In addition to the direct health and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, there are many peripheral effects. One of the most persistent and pervasive is loneliness: we’re quarantined, working from home and unable to see our friends and loved ones.

The loneliness and isolation that come with these safety precautions can have a powerful impact on our wellbeing.

That’s why the School of Social Work (SSW) partnered with #OneThingHelps, a campaign to fight loneliness created by a team of participants in Leadership Rhode Island (LRI). The idea is simple: everyone can do just one thing to help others overcome their loneliness.



On October 1, students and faculty from the School of Social Work, along with members of the Leadership Rhode Island program, delivered “Kindness Kits” to nonprofit workers around the state as part of the “One Thing Helps” campaign to combat loneliness.

On Oct. 1, 2020, volunteers from the SSW and the team from #OneThingHelps put that idea into action. They delivered “Kindness Kits” to 60 social service agencies around the state to show appreciation for their work. The kits contained jars of RIC honey, made in our own campus beehives; RIC-branded water bottles; the previous edition of this magazine; and some personal protective supplies. Richard Davia and Rebecca Twitchell, two LRI participants who helped launch #OneThingHelps, documented some of their stops along the way, bringing a sweet surprise to those whose focus everyday is on helping others.

Helping others helps your community. See how others are doing one small thing to make one big difference. Visit onethinghelps.org to gain knowledge, get helpful tips and share happiness.



BY JEFF THEODORE

SHINING A LIGHT ON HORACE MANN HALL

After 50-plus years of classrooms and faculty offices with few windows, FSEHD’s home on campus is on the cusp of welcoming an abundance of natural light.

Things are looking brighter at the Feinstein School of Education and Human Development (FSEHD) – or at least they will be soon. After 50-plus years of classrooms and faculty offices with few windows, Horace Mann Hall, FSEHD’s home on campus, is on the cusp of welcoming an abundance of natural light. The building is currently undergoing a \$25 million renovation that will feature windows in all class and seminar rooms and throughout a new faculty office wing.

This will be the first significant update to the building since it was built in 1971. Aside from the increased light, FSEHD Dean Jeannine Dingus-Eason says the renovations to the 46,000-square-foot building, which are targeted to be completed by summer of 2022, will include intentional spaces for students to gather.

“I’m excited that the building will have open spaces where students can meet up and just be students,” she says, noting that the architectural firm, LLB Architects, is the same one that designed renovations for Gage Hall and Craig-Lee Hall. “It’s important that since Rhode Island College is a mostly commuter campus, there should be more spaces for peer-to-peer interaction. In many ways, the incidental learning that goes on in those spaces is just as important as what happens in the classroom.”

Kevin Fitta, director of capital projects at RIC, says the building will also become easier to navigate. “The new structure will be organized in a much more intuitive and user-friendly manner,” he says.

The building’s former iteration contained 10 classrooms and a small lecture hall. The center and north sections of the building have now been demolished, while its three-story tower is being transformed into six classrooms and three seminar rooms “designed to simulate the type of spaces that teachers will teach in after they graduate,” Fitta says.

The project also includes a new three-story wing for the dean and faculty offices, construction of which got underway in mid-November. The classrooms are also being technologically equipped for video coaching, a best practice that allows teacher candidates to reflect on and evaluate their teaching practice with faculty mentors, full-time teacher mentors and one another for continuous improvement. Mechanical, electrical, plumbing and roof improvements are also being made in the building, along with a new elevator.

Dingus-Eason says she expects the renovated building, where about 950 education majors take courses each year, will draw curious onlookers as they enter the west side of campus on College Road.

“When prospective students and their parents come for tours, they’ll see our building is front and center on campus,” she says. “I hope people will drive by and say, ‘What a beautiful edifice, I wonder what’s going on in there?’ I believe the building truly captures the energy of RIC’s slogan: “Be bold.” ⬇

DIVERSE PATHS THROUGH ARTS AND SCIENCES

BY GITA BROWN

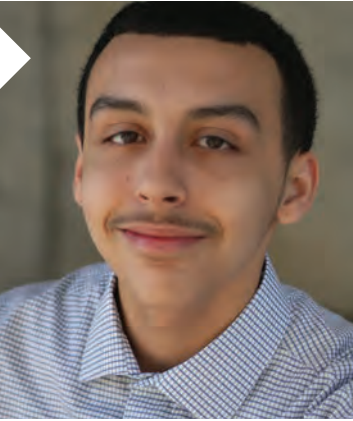
Before the start of the school year, we spoke with three incoming freshmen about their goals, aspirations and the careers they plan to pursue. All three of their paths wind through different departments.

Raymond Baccari, Communication

WPRI 12 journalist Tim White occupies somewhat of a saintly status in the eyes of freshman Raymond Baccari. It’s not just because White is an award-winning broadcast journalist, which Baccari hopes to become, but because he hosts his own TV program called “Newsmakers” and gets to interview local politicians. “That’s my absolute dream job – political journalism,” says Baccari.

Baccari’s passion for political journalism was nurtured at Trinity Academy for the Performing Arts, where he attended high school. During his junior and senior years, he produced two documentaries in which he interviewed elected officials – including U.S. Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, R.I. House Minority Leader Blake Filippi and R.I. GOP Chair Sue Cienki – on topics ranging from gun control to the electoral college. “It was great preparation for a career in broadcast journalism,” Baccari says. “Now, at RIC, I hope to build on those skills.”

He also hopes to become part of RIC Anchor TV. “I have this really great idea for a political talk show,” he says. “It would be similar to Tim White’s ‘Newsmakers.’” ⬇



Kimberly Nieves, Sociology

RIC is a family affair for Providence native Kimberly Nieves. She is attending Rhode Island College with her mother, who is an accounting major, and her older brother, who transferred to RIC from CCRI.

Now that she’s here, Nieves is 99 percent sure that she wants to spend the next four years studying sociology, particularly in prison reform.

“I took an AP “Government and Politics” course and a “U.S. History II” course at my high school that blew my mind,” she says. “I saw how connected everything is at such deep levels. I saw how history repeats itself and that some of the same problems we have today are fundamentally the same problems we had in the past, just packed a little differently. The more I learned, the more I wanted to learn.”

In high school, Nieves was a member of Youth in Action, an afterschool program that instills leadership and activism. Although she has participated in marches, Nieves would not describe herself as an activist or even a community organizer.

“I’m more reflective by nature,” she says. “I want to be a lifelong researcher.” ⬇



Sebastian Borgia, Environmental Studies

Sebastian Borgia grew up a Boy Scout and is a lover of the great outdoors, which may account for his desire to steward the natural world.

While teaching a middle school afterschool program on the environment, Borgia became interested in environmental studies as a career. He chose it for his area of study rather than a science major because he wants to gain a broad knowledge of the field first before specializing in one area.

“I like science a lot; it’s my favorite subject,” he says. “By having environmental studies as my

major, I can find out which branch of the field I want to focus on and then go to grad school and hone in on a specific area.”

In the meantime, he intends to join the student-run Environmental Club and get involved with the Bee Education Center. The 18-year-old considers himself an activist and hopes to make an impact on climate change issues.

“It would be great if I could make a difference by the work that I do,” he says. “Maybe we should all strive for something bigger and better that will affect future generations.” ⬇



A Sacred Art and a Business Plan



"It grew into a passion and now I see it as my purpose." -Tempestt Spivey '20

How does one connect a management degree, a love of dance and a deep and abiding spirituality? For RIC senior Tempestt Spivey, they all come together in something called liturgical dance – a form of prayer and worship through bodily movement. Since the age of 11, Spivey has been ministering to others through liturgical dance at the Bread of Life International Worship Center. By age 15, she began leading the youth dance ministry as principal choreographer. "It grew into a passion and now I see it as my purpose," she says. Today, she ministers at churches throughout Rhode Island. Her dream is to use her management major and dance minor to open a Christian dance studio and offer lessons in both traditional and liturgical dance. She's using her management skills to begin planning aspects of her studio, such as how to structure an organization around her own values, the importance of targeting a racially diverse demographic and how to keep dance lessons affordable for low-income families. The hope is that she will draw people of all ages and races to discover dance the way she did: as an outlet for self-expression and to connect them to something greater than themselves.

A Musical Journey in Digital Space

During the pandemic, Rhode Island College student Jack Zornado gave his five-year-old Golden Retriever, Oliver, top billing on his extended play (EP) recording titled "Best Dog in the World" (BDITW). The EP was a project Zornado had been working on with his music professors but was forced to do independently after the pandemic's arrival. Aside from working on "BDITW," Zornado, primarily a pianist, singer and songwriter, has shared his collection of original compositions on streaming platforms like Spotify and Apple Music and helped friends navigate a new world of expressing their art through virtual means. For Zornado, that's nothing new. "I'm lucky that I've had a lot of experience sharing music performances online," he says. "So, a lot of things didn't change for me because of the pandemic." His skills came in handy when Professor of Music Teresa Coffman, conductor of the RIC Concert Chorus, asked for his assistance to create the chorus' virtual video (see story on page 53). Zornado, a member of the chorus, jazz combo and chamber singers, says it brought him comfort to contribute. "I was really proud of myself and the whole group for putting that together," he says. "It made me feel better to make others feel better, especially considering all the anxiety we're facing these days."



Jack Zornado outside the Nazarian Center

Meet the Second Class of Miranda Scholars



Kiera Bryant



Scarling Ferrera

When Lin-Manuel Miranda, his father Luis and the Miranda Family Foundation created the first-of-its-kind Miranda Scholarship at Rhode Island College to champion first-generation and underrepresented students in the performing arts, five students were chosen from the Department of Music, Theatre and Dance. Two of them graduated in May 2020, but there is always more talent waiting in the wings. Theatre major Scarling Ferrera and dance major Kiera Bryant are the new 2020 Miranda Scholars. Bryant, who is also pursuing a minor in the School of Business, hopes to one day create a community center offering performance and art classes – just like the one where she spent her weekends while growing up in Roxbury, Connecticut. "I want to offer to other young people what saved my life and what gave me a purpose in this world," she says. Meanwhile, Ferrera, who grew up in the Dominican Republic, hopes to create more space for her culture in theatre. "It means so much because when I was growing up, I never saw myself – a Latina woman – making it here," she says. "Now I have the opportunity to inspire others."



The RIC Concert Chorus was placed into Grammy consideration in two categories for its virtual performance of the composition "When I Think of You." Students and faculty were presented with official certificates and a letter confirming the honor in a masked and socially-distanced ceremony in Sapinsley Hall on October 2, 2020.



RIC CONCERT CHORUS MAKES HISTORY WITH GRAMMY CONSIDERATION

BY GITA BROWN

In late March 2020, members of the Rhode Island College Concert Chorus who were stuck at home and separated from each other due to the pandemic felt the need to connect and create something together. At the start of the school year, they never could have imagined that they would be creating a virtual performance. When they began working remotely on their individual parts of the composition "When I Think of You," they could never have imagined that they would be eligible for not one, but two Grammy nominations.

The Recording Academy placed the chorus on the official ballot for the categories of Best Pop Duo or Group Performance and Best Music Video. This is the first Grammy consideration for a music performance group at RIC in the college's history.

Chorus Conductor and Professor of Music Teresa Coffman was as surprised as anyone when she heard the news. "Apparently, someone in the industry viewed the video online and found enough artistic merit in it that they submitted it to the Recording Academy," she says.

"This is a huge honor and a major recognition for Rhode Island College," she went on. "We are a small institution and yet we have a disproportionate amount of internationally famous performing artists who graduate from here. I cannot tell you how proud I am

of the hard work and talent of our students, which we have known about for decades but that has now touched a larger audience."

Composed by Lara Farnell, with text by Sara Teasdale, "When I Think of You" was produced by Coffman and one of her students, Jack Zornado, a double major in music and film studies (see "A Musical Journey in Digital Space," on page 52), who served as engineer, mixer, mastering engineer and bass section leader. Pianist was K. Michelle Beaton.

Soprano, alto, tenor and bass singers – in all, 32 choral members – recorded their parts a cappella on their cellphones and then sent their recordings to Zornado, who layered their vocal tracks on top of the piano/conductor video. The final video took over 100 cumulative hours to produce and was posted online in May 2020.

Although the chorus did not ultimately receive a nomination, member Hailey Deltano notes that even making it into Grammy consideration is an achievement for concert choirs everywhere. "When COVID-19 first shocked the country, none of us knew where to turn," she says. "We were forced out of school, where we felt safe and inspired, and forced out of our regular routines. To be included on this Grammy ballot is not just for us, it's for choir members across the country who, like us, were ripped from rehearsal rooms but still kept the music alive in our hearts." ↓

FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

Fulbright-Hays Grant Funds Course in Guatemala

RIC Assistant Professor of World Languages Education Erin Papa has been awarded a Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad Program grant of more than \$60,000 to lead current and pre-service K-12 educators to Guatemala for a four-week seminar course beginning in the summer of 2021. Grant funding will cover all 13 of the participants’ travel and in-country expenses, while students will be responsible for their tuition and fees. Titled “Topics in World Languages Education,” Papa’s course provides a study of both the Spanish and Mayan (K’iche’) language and culture and a comparative analysis of the Guatemalan and U.S. educational systems. A reciprocal exchange with Guatemalan educators will also occur.

With the continued growth in enrollment of Guatemalan youth in Rhode Island’s K-12 educational system, particularly K’iche’-speaking Mayan Guatemalans, Papa’s program will be of particular benefit to educators working or preparing to work in RIC’s partner school districts – Providence and Central Falls – that currently serve the largest numbers of Guatemalan youth.



IMAGE COURTESY OF THE RISD MUSEUM

Community-specific styles defined Maya traje (traditional clothing) of the K’iche’ people of the Guatemalan central Highlands.

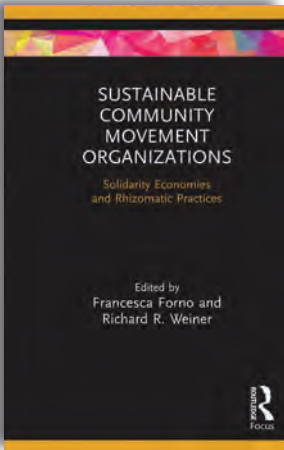
Professor Richard Weiner Publishes New Book

Professor of Political Science Richard Weiner has co-edited a new book titled “Sustainable Community Movement Organizations: Solidarity Economies and Rhizomatic Practices,” in collaboration with Francesca Forno of the University of Trento, Italy.

Published in April 2020 by Routledge Taylor & Francis Group, Weiner’s latest book is a volume of essays that shine the light on an emergent wave of community-based, sustainable economies, such as cooperative banks led by Black women in the diaspora, and alternative forms of political participation, such as the new commons in Southern Europe.

“This imaginative and often audacious volume searches for alternatives... social organizations from below, fresh forms of political participation and the flexibility of networks,” writes Ira Katznelson, Ruggles professor of political science and history at Columbia University. The book is also “an empirically grounded call for us to look way

beyond capitalism to create a better present and future,” writes University of Toronto’s Ann Armstrong, director of the Social Enterprise Initiative.



Researchers at RIC Collaborate on Important Immigration Study



A team of researchers from RIC led by Professor of Counseling, Educational Leadership and School Psychology Kalina Brabeck recently collaborated with researchers from the University of Houston and the Migration Policy Institute on a landmark immigration study.

The study documented the prevalence and effects of mental health conditions, such as anxiety, depression and PTSD, in Latino adolescents, comparing high school students

in an area with high levels of Immigration and Customs Enforcement arrests and deportations (Harris County, Texas) with those in an area with low enforcement (Rhode Island). “This study documents widespread fear of immigration enforcement and high levels of anxiety, depression and PTSD symptoms across a sample of Latino high school students – levels that were high for youth born in the United States as well as those born outside the country,” the authors noted. More than half of the Latino high school students surveyed reported symptoms of mental health conditions that were significant enough to warrant treatment.

This study garnered national attention upon its release, receiving coverage from NBC News and the Spanish language edition of “People” magazine, among others.



I think the better question is why have white, middle- and upper-class, English-speaking students without disabilities been the primary benefactors of our educational system? What social and educational policies have given them an advantage?" –Adrienne Goss

MY AREA OF EXPERTISE

Q & A with Adrienne Goss, Assistant Professor of Education and Social Policy, Educational Studies

INTERVIEW BY GITA BROWN

Last year, the State of Rhode Island assumed control of Providence public schools after decades of low performance. As policy decisions get underway, the expertise of Adrienne Goss has been tapped by community leaders and organizers.

Goss is an assistant professor of social and educational policy and author of the “Rhode Island Education Policy Primer,” which highlights long-standing inequities in Rhode Island’s education system that directly impact nonwhite, low-income, emergent bilingual and special needs students.

Each chapter of Goss’ primer gives an overview of how public education operates in Rhode Island and ends with recommendations.

Goss is also founder of the Social Policy Hub for Equity Research in Education (SPHERE) at Rhode Island College, housed within the Feinstein School of Education and Human Development. SPHERE’s mission is to engage faculty and students in research on educational practices and policies that advance equity and justice for Rhode Island schoolchildren.

What have been SPHERE’s initiatives thus far?

One of our first initiatives was a Faculty Fellows Program, which provides an opportunity for education faculty to leverage their research to inform policymakers in Rhode Island, including the Rhode Island General Assembly and the Rhode Island Department of Education. SPHERE will be releasing some of the fellows’ work this year. I hope to expand this program, as well, to faculty in other divisions across the college in the coming years.

You are also developing curriculum and courses in social and educational policy. Can you talk about those?

I created a graduate-level course called “Youth Social Policy and Action,” which I am teaching

in the Feinstein School of Education’s Youth Development Program. This course examines connections between policy and the lives of young people. Focus is on how youth have used activism to impact public policy. I’m also on the URI/RIC joint Ph.D. program committee, which is working to re-imagine curriculum and program requirements for the joint Ph.D. in education.

As the state works to improve Providence public schools, who should be at the policy table?

Parents, families, teachers and students. They are directly affected by the policy decisions that get made.

Your primer highlights long-standing imbalances in the educational system that unduly affect nonwhite, Hispanic, low-income and emergent bilingual students and students with disabilities. Why have these populations, in particular, had such a long history of inequities?

I think the better question is why have white, middle- and upper-class, English-speaking students without disabilities been the primary beneficiaries of our educational system? What social and educational policies have given them an advantage?

What is the most important thing we can do to improve student achievement among low-income students?

Mitigate the effects of poverty. The policies we make around housing, health care, child care, etc. can often exacerbate poverty and outweigh the effects of education policy. If we really want to improve schools for low-income children, we need to make targeted investments in the social supports that help them come to school ready to learn. ↓

ATHLETICS NEWS IN BRIEF

Statewide Award for Tennis Star



Jenna Lisi on the RIC courts

Rhode Island College sophomore Jenna Lisi was presented the 2020 Jill Craybas Award as the USTA Rhode Island Female College Player of the Year in October 2020.

This award represents a clean sweep of distinctions for Lisi, who led the Anchorwomen to their third consecutive Little East Conference (LEC) Championship and 15-1 overall record in 2019. Lisi was also named LEC's Player of the Year, Rookie of the Year, Tournament Most Valuable Player and First Team All-LEC in both singles and doubles.

She joins RIC Assistant Coach Sadie Campanella, the 2016 recipient of the Craybas Award. Lisi was 14-1 (.933) at primarily No. 1 singles and 15-1 (.938) at primarily No. 1 doubles for 21.5 points on the season. ⬇

Two RIC Athletes Named to Little East Conference Hall of Fame



Rachel Riley-Schafer is one of two former RIC basketball stars in the Little East Conference's 2020 Hall of Fame class.

IMAGE COURTESY LITTLE EAST CONFERENCE

Athletes Achieve on and off the Field

In 2019-20, Rhode Island College student-athletes earned 20 All-Conference honors to go along with one All-American, four All-New England, two Player of the Year and two Rookie of the Year Awards. RIC head coaches were selected as Coach of the Year three times. During fall 2019, 14 student-athletes posted a 4.0 GPA, 170 earned a 3.0 or better and 122 made the Dean's List. Spring 2020 was also outstanding as 23 student-athletes registered a 4.0 GPA, 155 earned a 3.0 or better and 110 made the Dean's List. Congrats to all our Anchormen and women on their success.

R.I. House of Representatives Recognizes Student Athletes Past and Present

Rhode Island House of Representatives at a virtual reception streamed from the R.I. State House in June 2020.

The event was designed to give significant public recognition to men and women from Rhode Island College, the Community College of Rhode Island and the University of Rhode Island who have had significant

Ten current Rhode Island College student-athletes and one alumnus were recognized by R.I. Speaker of the House Nicholas Mattiello and the

achievements in their academic and athletic pursuits at their respective institutions.

Among the current students being honored were members of the men's and women's basketball teams, women's tennis and men's baseball, including juniors, seniors and one recent graduate. Also honored was RIC Athletics Hall of Famer Charlie Wilkes '64, '67, who received an Athletic Alumnus Award for his outstanding basketball career from 1960-64. The guard played 98 career games and totaled 1,094 career points. As a senior in 1963-64, he averaged 10.2 points and 3.1 rebounds per game and led the Anchormen to a 22-8 overall record and the New England State College Athletic Conference Championship. ⬇

ATHLETE SPOTLIGHT

Basketball Hall of Famer Returns Home to Fulfill Purpose-Driven Mission in Rhode Island

Former Rhode Island College Basketball Coach Bob Walsh recalls how Bobby Bailey '10, whom Walsh considers one of the best players he's ever coached (and was recently named to the Little East Conference Hall of Fame - see opposite page), used to hold back on scoring points to ensure that his teammates could rack up points, too.

"We would joke with him and say, 'It's OK, Bobby, you can go ahead and score 20 points, but he always worried about those around him,'" Walsh says. "He's extremely selfless, and one of the most intelligent and measured individuals I've ever been around."

Bailey's selflessness is on full display these days. After a stint on the West Coast working in the Los Angeles Rams' public relations office, Bailey has returned to his hometown to fill a newly created position as minority outreach coordinator in Fall River, the tenth largest city in Massachusetts.

"I'm walking by faith because there's no precedent and no systems in place for this position," Bailey says. "But this is an opportunity to bring diverse voices from the community to the table and identify city services they need. This brings out the humanitarian side in me." The work in the Rams office was strenuous, with Bailey toiling about 65 hours per week.

"People would say to me, 'That's my dream job,' but everyone wants to work in sports until they actually 'work' in sports," Bailey says. "You're proofreading media guides, prepping players and coaches for interviews and compiling pre-and post-game statistics. People don't realize the



"[Bobby Bailey] is one of the most intelligent and measured individuals I've ever been around."
—Coach Bob Walsh

long nights this work requires." However, Bailey says he wouldn't trade the two years he spent with the Rams for anything.

"It was an amazing experience because from day one, my boss threw me in the fire to learn," he says. "As employees, we were encouraged to engage in open dialogue. Nothing was off-limits, as long as we respected the values of the organization and the way things operated. If I saw something that could be improved, I could state it. I felt like a part of the locker room."

Walsh says Bailey's return home will be a perfect fit.

"When I recruited Bobby to come to RIC, he had an uncommon awareness of the impact that education could have on his life academically and athletically," Walsh says. "I think he sees the impact that opportunity and education can have for those kids who are growing up now in his hometown."

Now that's he's back, Bailey, 35, is contemplating settling in with his girlfriend to start a family.

"While living in L.A., I saw so many people who had money, but I started to realize even with all that money, they had no purpose," he says. "I'm confident that I can build for myself, but what about all the people out there who need my help? It's important for me to help people rather than sit on an island somewhere helping myself." ⬇

ALUMNI Q & A

THE PEOPLE GO IN FRONT OF US. WE TAKE THEIR LEAD.

INTERVIEW BY GITA BROWN
PHOTOGRAPHY BY PAUL CONNORS M.A. '15

Fighting for injustice is a labor of love for Chanravy Proeung '09, a Khmer American, who was catapulted into the role of an activist more than 10 years ago.

Proeung's parents were refugees of the Viet Nam War. She became not only a first-generation American but the first in her family to graduate college, earning a degree in nursing in 2009 at Rhode Island College. Yet her life work would lead her into the community, where she would pour all her energy into grassroots organizing and building a collectively resourced vision.

Proeung is former executive director of the Providence Youth Student Movement, which she led from 2010-2014. In 2016, on a Soros Justice Fellowship, she worked in solidarity with domestic and international groups around human rights violations against Southeast Asian Americans, twice testifying at the United Nations in Geneva about racial profiling, mass incarceration and mass deportation of Southeast Asians. In 2017 she co-founded SISTA FIRE, an organization that invests in the direct leadership of women of color.

In the following interview, Proeung talks about how she emerged as a leader in the effort to include the Southeast Asian community and women of color in the larger struggle for social justice in America.

Chanravy Proeung '09, the daughter of Khmer refugees who fled the Vietnam War, at the Watt Th. Karam Cambodian Khmer Temple, Providence.



On social media, you posted the quote: "To become a successful leader, begin by putting yourself in over your head ... putting yourself in the deep end." It takes a lot of courage to jump in the deep end over your head, doesn't it?

Yes, but I think if you want to create change, you have to step out of fear. One of my other favorite quotes is by Audre Lorde, who said, "When I dare to be powerful – to use my strength in the service of my vision, then it becomes less and less important whether I am afraid."

When did you decide to become an activist?

While I was in college, there had been a series of suicides of young men in the Southeast Asian community – four in total, and all back-to-back, including a close relative. I realized something was wrong within my community, and I needed to find out what it was. Many Vietnamese, Laotians, Hmongs and Cambodians came to America as a result of war and genocide in their countries. I saw a lot of mental health issues that went unaddressed. My grandmother was clearly struggling with PTSD but there was no translator for her at the hospital. I started to see the holes and inconsistencies in the system and I left college pissed.

I volunteered for PrYSM – the Providence Youth Student Movement. I had been searching for what it means to be a Southeast Asian in America, and I found my identity there. PrYSM helped me understand where my community came from – the history of migration, war, genocide and survival here in the United States.

I saw how we inherited American racism. There was a lot of racial profiling of Southeast Asian men. That criminalizing narrative pushed a lot of our young men into the juvenile justice system, just like Black and Latino men. Gangs formed because of a lack of social support. There were no supports to access jobs, no translation and interpretation for our community, and no access to any other social services. All of these issues are based in systemic racism – the root cause of inequality. I began asking, "What can I do for my community?" I saw that I was more effective in the community as an organizer than as a nurse.

Why was SISTA FIRE created?

SISTA FIRE came out of necessity. My partner in this work, Ditra Edwards, had returned to Rhode Island after over 20 years of working in the national field. We began to have conversations, asking, "What kind of support systems do Black women, Indigenous women, Southeast Asian women, LatinX women, trans women have in the State of Rhode Island? "Where is the leadership pipeline for the growth and development of women of color?" And "How do

we create a space that can support and nurture leadership in women, build collective power and change political conditions?"

Where does change for SISTA FIRE start?

The most important part of any process of change is grounding the work in the communities that are directly impacted, talking to folks who have the lived experience, allowing them to tell their stories and developing not only community-led solutions but a collective vision for change.

What issues in the community are SISTA FIRE currently working on?

Right now, we're providing economic relief to community members as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. We're developing a campaign for reproductive justice to address Black maternal and infant mortality. Black women are four times more likely to die in the hospital giving birth than white women. And we're addressing police violence against black and brown bodies through the lens of gender-based violence.

At the end of the day, SISTA FIRE's work is about changing systemic racism and oppression through leadership development. I lead what we call a Sista Circle; it's a 13-week training for women of color who are interested in organizing. We're fighting for a new world. This current system of violence against black and brown bodies is not working for us anymore. We're tired of our kids dying by the hands of the police. We're tired of the public education system not nourishing our kids' brain development, their critical-thinking skills and their identity. We want basic housing, universal health care. You have people wondering if they should pay their rent or buy food.

In 2018 more women of color took seats in Congress than they've had in our nation's history. As a seasoned grassroots organizer, what advice would you give these sisters going forward?

These women have been trailblazers in a larger system that hadn't been working for us, and they're trying to move the collective visions of their communities. They've done the on-the-ground organizing and listening. What's different about them is that they continue to go back to the community and keep listening. Once you get disconnected from that base and forget to listen to your community, then you're no longer creating change. That's going to be important going forward.

Do you see yourself ever returning to nursing?

I would like to do nursing, but every time I try to galvanize in that direction, I get pulled back into fighting for the community. That's where my heart is. The community needs us. ⬇

THE FUTURE IS BOLD

RICFOUNDATION.ORG



SCAN TO LEARN MORE

RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE has always embraced and demonstrated an unwavering commitment to equity, diversity, inclusion and opportunity. The RIC Foundation, Division of College Advancement and the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion are working together to implement initiatives to support our diverse community of students, faculty and staff. We recognize that in order to truly uphold these principles, we must take action. We must make bold investments and provide distinctive opportunities for students pursuing higher education and seeking economic prosperity, particularly those from historically underrepresented and disadvantaged backgrounds.

As a first-choice institution for students of color, especially our growing LatinX population, we must invest in educational experiences that expand our students’ knowledge of the history, culture and contributions of those whose diverse stories are woven into the fabric of our state, our nation and our world. Simultaneously, we must retain and recruit faculty that reflect the diversity of our student body while also providing the tools and competencies needed to actively engage students of all backgrounds through face-to-face or online instruction.

We can put our values into action, which is why we’re launching a new fundraising campaign called The Future is BOLD, which will focus on supporting four areas of need: (1) Endowed scholarship support for underrepresented students across all majors, (2) Faculty grants supporting diversity training and professional development, (3) Direct investments in programming to enhance Black studies and humanities programs, and (4) Emergency response funding in the form of financial aid supporting students’ basic needs, such as food and housing insecurities.

AREAS OF NEED

- 1. ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP
- 2. FACULTY GRANTS
- 3. PROGRAMMING
- 4. EMERGENCY RESPONSE FUND

1. ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

Dedicated to supporting underrepresented students pursuing a four-year college degree. Funds will be used to support students who graduated from a Rhode Island high school and demonstrate academic excellence.

2. FACULTY GRANTS

Promoting professionals of color entering the field and preparedness to engage all communities. Awarded for the purposes of diversity training for faculty and staff and innovative and evidence-based approaches for diversity in education.

3. PROGRAMMING

A fund dedicated to supporting the Black studies and humanities programs. Funds will be used for, but not limited to, scholarship, research, speakers, lectures, professional development and investments that advance the mission of the Black studies and humanities programs.

4. EMERGENCY RESPONSE FUND

Addresses students’ basic needs, including challenges such as food and housing insecurities.

YOU CAN CHOOSE TO SUPPORT ONE OR MORE OF THESE CRITICAL AREAS.

YOUR GIFT WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE, STUDENTS AND FACULTY.

HUNDREDS OF DONORS. THOUSANDS OF STUDENTS, FACULTY AND STAFF. INFINITE IMPACT. TOGETHER, WE CAN.

As a leading regional public college, Rhode Island College personalizes higher education of the finest quality for undergraduate and graduate students. We offer vibrant programs in arts and sciences, business and professional disciplines within a supportive, respectful and diverse community.

Visit ricfoundation.org to learn more, or contact RIC Foundation at 401-456-8460 or GivingToRIC@ric.edu.

CLASS NOTES

Approximately 70% of RIC alumni stay in Rhode Island after graduation, but we've got more than 65,000 alumni around the world, including every state and dozens of countries.

#RICNews
#RICspirit
#RICAlumni

1941 Mary Lafferty celebrated her 101st birthday on August 26 at Chapel Hill, a senior living center in Cumberland, with staff, Cumberland Mayor Jeff Mutter and the local fire and police departments. Lafferty, who is beloved by many, was one of the first teachers to push for hands-on science experiments in the classroom back in 1941. She taught for more than 30 years in Central Falls and Providence.

1964 For his contributions to the men's basketball team during his undergraduate career, **Charlie Wilkes**, M.A.T. '66, was made a 2020 recipient of the RIC Athletic Alumnus Award. A virtual ceremony was held at the Rhode Island State House, presided over by Speaker of the House Nicholas Mattiello.

1965 Joyce Stevos, M.Ed. '97, Ph.D. '05, was awarded the 2020 Honorary Chairs' Award for Lifetime Achievement in the Humanities by the Rhode Island Council for Humanities. A RIC adjunct professor in the Department of Educational Studies and a retired administrator for the Providence School Department, Stevos was responsible for implementing the study of Black history, the Holocaust, the Armenian genocide and law-related education in Providence public schools. She is board president for Trinity Academy of the Performing Arts and has sat on the board of the Narragansett-Cooke-Gaspee chapter of the National Society of Daughters of the American Revolution, the Rhode Island Black Heritage Society and the Heritage Harbor Foundation.

1967 Antranig Avakian, M.Ed. '76, was honored by the Providence Armenian Youth Federation (AYF) at their 2020 annual Varantian Ball for his lifelong dedication to the AYF and the Armenian community of Providence.

1974 Joe Houlihan's new novel, "Tangled in the Web," about a guy, a boat and a search for love, was self-published in 2020. Houlihan also writes a column for the Block Island Times called The Ferry Dock Scribbler.

1976 Joan Salhany was named Nurse Executive of the Year as part of the 2020 Excellence in Nursing Awards by Rhode Island Monthly and the Rhode Island State Nurses Association. Salhany is currently vice president of operations at Gateway Healthcare, Inc.

1978 Ken Hopkins was elected mayor of Cranston on November 3. He previously served on the city council.

Sandra Glaser Parrillo was elected to the board of Washington Trust Bancorp, Inc., with her term ending in 2023. She is also president and CEO of the Providence Mutual Fire Insurance Company, director of the Champlin Foundation and the Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce, a member of the American Society of Chartered Property Casualty Underwriters (CPCU), and an executive committee member on the board of trustees for the American Institute for CPCU.

1982 Rhonda Goldstein was named Community Health/Home Health Nurse of the Year as part of the 2020 Excellence in Nursing Awards by Rhode Island Monthly and the Rhode Island State Nurses Association. Goldstein is a staff nurse at Cedars Home Health in Cranston, Rhode Island.

1987 Tracey Woods created the artwork that was showcased in Macy's store windows at their New York Herald Square headquarters and flagship store, which opened in 2020. Woods' work will also be featured at the San Francisco and Chicago flagship stores.

1988 Denise Flores, M.Ed. '09, was named Nurse of the Year in a Non-traditional Setting as part of the 2020 Excellence in Nursing Awards by Rhode Island Monthly and the Rhode Island State Nurses Association. Flores is head nurse and school nurse teacher for the Barrington School Department.

1989 Gina Valdes is a case investigator for the Rhode Island Department of Health.

True Thoa, M.S.W. '90, received the Outstanding Refugee Award by the Minnesota Department of Human Services, which is given to former refugees for their leadership in the community and their volunteerism and service to Minnesota and its residents. Thoa has been recognized for his work with mental health services for local refugees.

1990 Maria Medeiros was named Researcher of the Year as part of the 2020 Excellence in Nursing Awards by Rhode Island Monthly and the Rhode Island State Nurses Association. Medeiros is research nurse for the Lifespan Cancer Institute at Rhode Island Hospital.

Thomas D'Agostino has co-authored a new book titled "Haunted Litchfield County," published by Arcadia Publishing and The History Press. The book details the hauntings and paranormal activity in Litchfield, Connecticut, and is the latest of 13 books D'Agostino has co-written with Arlene Nicholson.

Melissa Frost was recently promoted to executive assistant II to the chief information officer at the University of Rhode Island.

1992 Brian Casey was appointed vice chair of the board of directors of the National Restaurant Association and the National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation. A 35-year hospitality industry veteran and lifelong resident of Rhode Island, Casey is president and owner of Oak Hill Tavern and The Company Picnic Company in North Kingstown. He was also chairman of the Rhode Island Hospitality Association, which named him Restaurateur of the Year in 2013 and Caterer of the Year in 2008.

Elizabeth Folcarelli was appointed chief executive officer of Martha's Vineyard Community Services.

1993 Kerin DaCruz was named vice president of Patient Care Services and chief nursing officer at Lawrence + Memorial Hospital in New London, Connecticut. DaCruz takes on this role after more than 28 years of experience in the field of health care. She will assist with the division of Yale New Haven Health, which includes Lawrence + Memorial Hospital, Westerly Hospital and others in the region.

A literary work by **Rhodes Pierre** titled "I Remember" was published in the latest edition of "History Lessons: Writers without Margins: Volume V," an annual, independently published journal of writing by locals in the Greater Boston area.

1994 Dorothy Costa has been appointed the global head of people and transformation at International Game Technology, after holding the position of vice president of people and transformation for North America.

1995 Peter Weaver has been appointed principal of the middle/high school in the Wilton-Lyndeborough, New Hampshire, public school district. Prior to that, he was building principal for three years and assistant principal for 15 years at Spaulding High School in Rochester, New Hampshire.

Joseph Starnes was named chief operating officer of MOCingbird, a Rhode Island-based startup that provides health-care professionals a place to maintain and monitor education and certification requirements.

1997 Jean Salera-Vieira, D.N.P. '19, was elected to the board of directors of the National Certification Corporation, where she will serve as the certified nurse representative to the nominating committee. Currently Salera-Vieira is a perinatal CNS at Newport Hospital and an adjunct faculty member at Rhode Island College.

Raina Smith was appointed director of public relations, media relations, communications and government affairs for all of Care New England's hospitals and clinics. Smith will focus on strategic leadership and the organization's goal of providing quality health care.

1998 Vicki Gillerin was named director of the Traffic Safety Institute at the State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota. Prior to this appointment, she was the institute's DUI instructor and a senior probation officer for Manatee County.

1999 Nathan Biah was elected as state rep for District 3 in Providence on November 3. He is principal of Jorge Alvarez High School, also in Providence.

Andrew DeMelia is the new assistant vice president for facilities and operations at Bryant College in Smithfield. Prior to this appointment, he worked for Aramark for 17 years, serving most recently as the district manager of facilities for the Northeast region.

2002 Dorothea Maynard was elected to the board of directors of the Council on Aging in Swansea, Massachusetts.

Kelly Perron married Eric Lantz on October 5, 2019. She also earned her South Carolina license as an alcohol and drug counselor in May 2020.

2003 Judith Lynch was named Nurse Leader of the Year as part of the 2020 Excellence in Nursing Awards by Rhode Island Monthly and the Rhode Island State Nurses Association. Lynch is currently clinical manager of the ICU at The Miriam Hospital.

2004 Justin Boudjouk was one of four Rhode Island College alumni honored with the 40-Under-Forty Awards in 2020 by Providence Business News. Boudjouk is senior vice president and senior director of risk management at Citizens Financial Group (Citizens Bank) in Providence.

Antonio Crombie was recently promoted to senior manager at Deloitte, one of the Big Four accounting organizations and the largest professional services network in the world by revenue and number of professionals.

2004 Christin Goff has been appointed Rhode Island coordinator of the English-Speaking Union's National Shakespeare Competition. An actor, educator and director, in 2018 Goff earned certification to teach "Rehearsal Room Pedagogy" (an active learning technique) from the Royal Shakespeare Company in England and is currently working on a master's degree in Shakespeare and education at the

University of Birmingham in the UK. She directed RIC Theater's final, pre-COVID-19 Shakespeare play, "Much Ado About Nothing," and currently coaches and instructs actors in Rhode Island.

2006 Robin-Louise Burkitt released her new book in 2020 titled "The Storm of Life," a collection of poems navigating joy, faith and suffering, written in honor of her late mother, Linda.

2007 Michael Podraza, a principal for 10 years of East Greenwich High School, has been appointed assistant superintendent of East Greenwich public schools.

2008 Robert Segama is currently managing director for NTT DATA, a multinational IT services provider.

Derek Dubois, M.A. '10, was one of four Rhode Island College alumni honored with the 40-Under-Forty Awards in 2020 by Providence Business News. Dubois is director of the CVS Health retail pharmacy revenue cycle, responsible for the oversight of \$60 billion in annual revenue across more than 900 pharmacies.

Ashley McAuslin was named Clinical Practice Nurse of the Year as part of the 2020 Excellence in Nursing Awards by Rhode Island Monthly and the Rhode Island State Nurses Association. Ashley is an emergency department registered nurse and an emergency department patient safety officer at Miriam Hospital.

2009 Nick Charello, a member of the Rhode Island-based media production and marketing company Eleven Design, was co-writer on the award-win-

ning documentary film "The Craft: Rhode Island," which picked up a Grand Prize at the 2019 Rhode Island International Film Festival. Filmed over the course of almost two years by Eleven Design partners - Dave Ricci, Nick Charello, Beth Ricci and Chris Ricci - "The Craft" explores the personal and professional histories of nine of the state's most well-known brewers and takes a close look at Rhode Island's iconic brew, Narragansett Beer.

2010 Joshua Laguerre completed his juris doctor degree in 2014 at Washington & Lee University School of Law and is currently bank examiner at the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Division of Banks in Boston.

2011 Anne Dickson, C.U.S. '14, was one of four Rhode Island College alumni honored with the 40-Under-Forty Awards in 2020 by Providence Business News. Dickson is chief operating officer for the Capital Good Fund in Providence, providing loans, health and financial coaching to low- and moderate-income families.

2012 Thomas Ricci was recently promoted to director of finance at Women & Infants Hospital. He married Kathleen Ricci on August 22, 2020.

Financial Literacy Youth Initiative founder **Marcy Reyes** was named PBN Business Women Awards 2020 Achievement Honoree. Reyes has had successful corporate roles, she says, but felt the need to give back.

Charon Rose was promoted to Deputy Treasurer for Financial Empowerment and Community Outreach by Rhode Island General Treasurer Seth Magaziner. She previously served as Director of Outreach and Constituent Relations.

Sandra Victorino was one of four Rhode Island College alumni honored with the 40-Under-Forty Awards in 2020 by Providence Business News. Victorino is director of acute care services at the Providence Center, co-founder of the Latino Mental Health Network of Rhode Island, board member of the Women's Fund of Rhode Island and vice president of the board of Recycle A Bike.

2013 Leonela Felix was elected state rep for District 61 in Pawtucket on November 3. She currently works as an ethics educator and ADA coordinator for the City of Providence.

Rhonda Miller, M.A. '13, a reporter and audio producer for WKU Public Radio in Bowling Green, Kentucky, won a 2020 second place Green Eyeshades Award from the Society for Professional Journalists for Public Service in Radio Journalism for a series of stories on hunger in Kentucky.

2014 Steve Roberts and J. Joseph, skateboarders-turned-designers, fundraised \$75,000 and won grants so that a street-level skate park could be built for kids in New Haven, Connecticut's Scantlebury Park.

2018 Omar Reyes was appointed director of adult programs and policies at the R.I. Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner. Reyes will work to support adult students, specifically in underrepresented populations, through new initiatives, programs and policies.

Stephanie Teixeira was recently promoted to assistant health center director at the Providence Community Health Centers at Chafee.

RETIREMENTS

Paula Blackmore '72
Richard Crenca '74
A. Catherine Ferguson '71
Douglas Greenberg '70
Anne McLaughlin '75
Juan Javier Merida '91, '01
Denise Morel '76
Joseph Neri '69
Jacqueline Taylor '74
Nancy Telford '69
Yvette Cartier Trahan '70
Amy Tully '71
Janice Walsh '78

IN MEMORIAM 2020

1944
Alice (Henry) Wynne in April 2018
Marie (Zampini) Hawkes, M.Ed. '74, in July 2020

1945
Mary Madeline (Fay) McGrath in July 2020

1947
Shirley (Sassing) Kessler in August 2020

1948
Mary (Azar) Goyette in August 2020
Barbara (Stamp) Mosher in June 2020

1950
Margaret (Brady) Kelley in April 2020

1951
Paul Donovan in May 2020
Dorothy (Kelly) Hazelton in August 2020

1953
Claire Andrews in May 2020
Mary (Macioci) McConnell in March 2020

1954
Veronica (Kenny) Farrell in April 2020
Mary Moorhouse in January 2020

1955
Carol (McCarthy) Jalbert in September 2020
Barbara (Murphy) Smith in February 2020

1957
Everett Maxwell in April 2020

1958
Raymond O'Connell in March 2020
Elizabeth (Goselin) Parillo, M.Ed. '69

1959
Joseph McCormick in April 2020

1960
Judith Brown in May 2020

1961
Jane (Fontaine) Genereux in September 2020

1964
Maureen (Mackie) Roitman in June 2020

1965
William Berger in July 2020
Beverly-Ann (Trementozzi) Gill in January 2020

1966
Margaret (Kerins) Barabash in March 2020

Ronald Clement in February 2020
1967
John Casey, M.A.T., in April 2020
Anthony Ciccone in March 2020

1968
Eva Marie (James) Bareiss in May 2020
Ronald DeSilva in July 2020
John Dwyer III in January 2020
Muriel (Craig) Harper, M.Ed., in August 2020

Dr. Robert Jackson in March 2020
Wendy (Potter) Rocchio, M.S., in September 2020

1969
Collette Santy in April 2020

1970
Joan Lemos in April 2020
Lorraine (Simonelli) Lafrate in May 2020

1971
Jean (Bifulco) Cardarelli in January 2020
Doris (Salisbury) Latham, M.Ed., in May 2020
Daniel Sylvester in January 2020

Charles Sweeney, M.Ed. '76, in March 2020

1972
Edward Wiezbicki, M.A., in February 2020

1973
Kenneth Conley, M.Ed., in July 2020
Mary Fermanian, M.Ed., in June 2020
Sandra (Dennis) Gould in April 2020
Harry Hatch in March 2020

1973
Veretta (Mielke) Jungwirth, M.Ed., in August 2020
Brian Mulvey in May 2020
Faith (Morra) Pudjunis in June 2020
Jane (Cohen) Sackett, M.Ed., in September 2020

1974
Virginia Da Mota, BA, '75 M.A. in May 2020
Christine (Sassen) Devine in July 2020
Rose (Waian) Ganim in August 2020

1975
Marie "Marylou" Messa in August 2020
Beryl (Lovering) Nichols, M.A., in January 2020
Paula (DiSanto) Ruggieri, M.A.T. '92, C.A.G.S. '92, in July 2020

1976
Ann (Green) Sheridan, M.Ed. '81, in August 2020

1977
Marita (Miller) Vecchione, M.Ed. '91, in February 2020

1978
Susan (Provencal) Foley in August 2020
Anita (Kalman) Kerzner in June 2020
Caroline (Torrey) Scott in April 2020

1979
Lena (Azar) Dame, M.S., in July 2020
John Durnin III in June 2020
Mary Jane (Cola) Heeder in June 2020

1980
Charles Carlucci Jr. in August 2020
Roy DePalma in May 2020
Gloria (Buonanno) Radway, M.A., in March 2020

1981
Deborah (Pandolfini) Glavin in June 2020

1983
Christopher D'Ambrosio in May 2020
Barbara (Harris) Friedman, M.S.W., in April 2020

1984
Nancy (Olsen) Ross, M.Ed., in June 2020

1986
Joan (Gerard) Sampers in January 2020

1987
Margaret (Lonergan) Notardonato, M.Ed., in July 2020

1990
John Turn in March 2020

1991
Elizabeth (Braga) Callaghan, M.Ed., in July 2020

1992
Margaret Young, M.Ed., in February 2020

1993
Alvin Kurzer, M.A., in July 2020

1994
Nancy (Lloyd) Conley, M.Ed., in August 2020

1996
Ann (Kelleher) Ackerman, M.A.T., in May 2020
Terrence Goodwin in July 2020

1998
Ann (Towle) Dolbashian in January 2020

2000
Lindy (Pilibosian) Muraca, M.S.W., in June 2020

2008
Kamari Williams in April 2020

2009
Edmund D'Attelo Sr. in July 2020



ALUMNI NEWS

ALUMNI BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SCOTT ALLINSON '97
COLLEEN CALLAHAN '72, M.ED. '76
JAMES D'AMBRA '68
DANA MCCANTS DERISIER '88
SHAREN GLECKMAN '84
KEVIN MCHUGH '72
DIANE MEDEROS '72
ROBIN MONTVILO '82
MONICA PAIGE '96
MIA PALOMBO '18
MARCY REYES '12
ED RONDEAU '62
PAMELA RYAN '92
KEVIN SAN '12

WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS

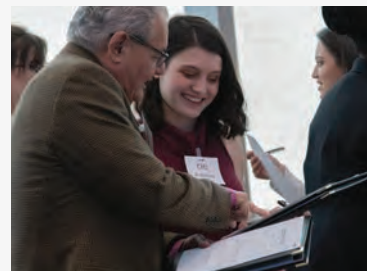
TAMAR RUSSELL BROWN '02
EMMANUEL ECHEVARRIA '10
DEBRA SERVELLO '85

Interested in getting involved?
Volunteer to be on one of our Board of Director committees.

Alumni Awards/ Honor Roll Committee	College History and Heritage Committee
Alumni Engagement and Outreach Committee	Communications Committee
Alumni Scholarship and RICochet Program Committee	Finance Committee
	New and Recent Alumni/Student Engagement Committee

Contact the Office of Alumni Relations at alumni@ric.edu for more information.

C.E.O. Career Empowerment Opportunity



Rhode Island College is pleased to introduce the Career Empowerment Opportunity (CEO) program, an alumni-driven mentorship opportunity that prepares Rhode Island College students for career success. CEO connects students with RIC alumni who are leaders in their fields and offers personal and professional development opportunities that prepare students to be career ready on day one.

Through one-on-one mentor meetings, facilitated sessions and networking lunches, RIC alumni share their experiences, networks and job opportunities with students interested in the same field.

The benefits are priceless. Students gain access to a regional and national network of industry leaders as well as a mentor within their job field, while increasing the job and social skills essential for professional growth.

CALL FOR MENTORS

We are looking for alumni to become mentors for our upcoming cohort. If you are interested, contact the Office of Alumni Relations at alumni@ric.edu. Mentors are paired with students in their field of interest. These relationships are expected to include one-on-one monthly meetings in person and/or by Zoom/phone.

A Toast to 50 Years!



The Class of 1970 classmates raised their glasses with RIC President Frank D. Sánchez and the Alumni Association as they celebrated their official Golden Anniversary Reunion as part of the RICFEST Homecoming and Family Weekend kickoff activities. Classmates reminisced about their time at Rhode Island College, shared fond memories of other classmates and professors, and shared in the accomplishments and changes at RIC over the years. The celebration also included live music from alumnus Claudius Cooper '19 on piano and undergraduate Emily Gaye '22 on guitar and vocals.



Graduate School Alumni Affinity Group

The purpose of the Graduate School Alumni Affinity Group is to encourage a continuous bond between graduate alumni from all schools of the college. You will connect with each other through online discussion groups, job postings, social events and networking opportunities. Membership is free and open to all graduate alumni.

If you are interested in learning more or would like to receive a list of upcoming events about the Graduate School Alumni Affinity Group, please contact the Office of Alumni Relations at alumni@ric.edu.



RICFEST Homecoming and Family Weekend

The Alumni Association re-imagined RICFEST Homecoming and Family Weekend this year to provide a safe, contactless and enjoyable experience for alumni, students, parents and friends of the college. RICFEST, which typically takes place over the first weekend of October, was expanded to encompass the entire month, providing on-campus, drive-in events and virtual content every weekend in October.

Virtual events available all month included a tour of Bannister Gallery's 3-D Faculty Art Exhibition; an in-depth look at the RIC beehives with Jim Murphy '07; access to the Adams Library Digital Commons yearbooks from 1926 to 2007; a campus tour; a marketplace of handmade work by alumni, local artists and authors; and on-demand yoga, Pilates and health seminars, as part of the Healthy Habits at Home event.

Additional highlights of RICFEST included "Park, Look & Listen," a drive-through performance by the Department of Music, Theatre and Dance students; a Carpool Cinema, where attendees drove onto campus, received their popcorn and candy and enjoyed double-features that included "Grease," "The Goonies" and "Remember the Titans"; and a drive-through Trick or Treat event, with seven spooky spots throughout the campus for a fun Halloween experience.



UPCOMING VIRTUAL EVENTS

The Alumni Association transitioned to virtual programming to ensure alumni are still able to receive valuable resources and skills as part of their alumni benefits. Thanks to the help of countless alumni and friends of the college, the Alumni Association relaunched the Personal & Professional Development Series along with numerous other events and virtual social gatherings.

Stay up-to-date on news and upcoming events by checking out our social media pages or contact us via email: alumni@ric.edu.

/RhodeIslandCollegeAlumni
 @ricalumni
 @RICAlumni
 /groups/161780

 "Story Time!" WITH BRENDAN KIRBY '04	 "Simplify Your Savings & Spending Strategies" WITH PAOLO CATUCCI '96
 "Hit the Ground Running" WITH JACKIE GREAVES	 "Estate Planning 101" WITH RHODES PIERRE '93
 "Success Principles" WITH TARA HALL '92	 BEGINNER'S GUIDE: "Creating Accessible Online Written Content" LYDIA ROGERS '13
 "Mental Health Action Management: Compassion Fatigue" SAMANTHA SANDLAND M.S.W. '17	 "Mindful Movements for the Whole Family" WITH JOAN EVANS '97
 "A Balanced Life Financial Workshop" WITH ANISSA ARTHENAYAKE	 "Make Your Words Matter" WITH DAVID COURY '81
 ANCHORS AT HOME Anchored at Home Virtual Hangout	 "New Alumni Job Search Bootcamp," "Resume Strategies," "LinkedIn & Personal Branding," CAREER DEVELOPMENT CENTER & ANTONIO TALAMO
 New & Recent Grad: Y2K Trivia Night	 RIC Graduate School Alumni Virtual Hangout
 "Retirement by Design," "Ready or Not: Preparing for the Unexpected," "Will Power: Your WILL, Your Way" RHONDA WARRENER '89, M.A. '12	 "The Pain Preventing Diet," "Train Your Brain & Lose Your Pain," "Fit, Fun & Feisty...at 50!" WITH TIM WARREN '83

If you are interested in presenting as part of our Personal & Professional Development series, please contact us.

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WHY I GIVE

"I believe as Rhode Island College alumni we bear the responsibility to give back because the college has done so much for us.

I consider RIC like family because it's been a consistent thread throughout my life since graduating in 1965.

I give back to RIC because of the opportunities it gave me to go out and follow my dreams and make a difference in the world.

I received a solid education, my passions were fed, and I donate frequently to help establish scholarships so other young people can complete their own education.

The college has grown so much since the time I first arrived as a student. In the future, I see it as an affordable opportunity for so many people. It gives them a chance."

—Joyce Stevos '65
MEd '97, PhD '05

A native of Rhode Island, Stevos is a retired teacher and administrator in the Providence Public Schools, where she led the implementation of the study of Black history, the Holocaust and the Armenian Genocide. She also served as a consultant to develop and incorporate Trinity Academy for the Performing Arts Charter School in Providence.