



Currents

Your Community College News Connection

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The Community College of Rhode Island

October 2008

Fall enrollment is second-highest in CCRI history

Enrollment at the Community College of Rhode Island is the second-highest of all fall semesters and the third-highest for any semester in the college's 44-year history, President Ray Di Pasquale announced.

According to final enrollment numbers, 17,612 students are taking classes at CCRI's four campuses in Warwick, Lincoln, Providence and Newport and at two satellite locations in Downcity Providence and Westerly this fall. That number is a gain of 801 students, or 4.8 percent, over last fall. The fall headcount increased at every campus: 4.5 percent in Lincoln;

5.1 percent in Warwick; 5.7 percent in Providence and 10.7 percent in Newport.

In fact, the enrollment was surpassed only by two other semesters in the college's history – the 1992-93 academic year, when the state instituted a special tuition waiver with no income qualifications for senior citizens and the unemployed.

Traditionally, in times of economic downturn, enrollment at community colleges increases, and Di Pasquale said that is certainly the case here. He pointed to Rhode Island's 8.5 percent unemployment rate as a direct correlation.

"As I have said many times, CCRI is part of the solution to helping the state get stronger by educating the work force and helping students get good jobs," he said. "The challenge is working with the significant budget cuts that higher education has faced this year."

Di Pasquale applauded the work of the staff in the areas of Enrollment Services and Student Services

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Peter Woodberry, dean of Business, Science and Technology, and Ray DeAngelis (right), purchasing officer for the college, help direct students at the Knight Campus in Warwick on the first day of classes. CCRI's fall enrollment increased by 4.8 percent over last year.

Top four headcounts in CCRI history

Fall 1992	17,986
Spring 1993	17,627
Fall 2008	17,612
Fall 2007	16,811

Hidden gems

Theater, music, arts programs shine at CCRI

Are you in need of a professional voice coach or thinking of studying theater? Or are you looking to refine your painting technique? The Community College of Rhode Island may provide the next step for you to take.

The fine arts program at CCRI, which includes art, jazz studies, theater and music, is equivalent to the first two years at most four-year colleges or universities and it prepares students to transfer to those schools while giving them a solid foundation for a career in the arts world.

Corey Mulvey and Alan Tracy are two of those students studying classical performance and digital photography, respectively, who have their sights set beyond CCRI.

Mulvey, 22, is expecting to graduate next spring with his associate degree in fine arts, but a summer trip to Orlando,

See Arts, page 8



Music student Corey Mulvey was one of 25 chosen from across the country to study with stars of the Metropolitan Opera in Florida this summer.

Financial aid still available, even in troubled economy

Students at the Community College of Rhode Island typically receive more than \$18 million in financial aid each year. The money is distributed in many forms – grants, scholarships, loans and work study. All aid is awarded on the basis of need as determined by the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), the first required step in any financial aid process.

With today's troubled economy, however, many lenders are abandoning student loans at community colleges.

"We are seeing lenders that have supported our students for more than 20 years pull out because they believe our students are more at risk for defaulting on the loans," said Christine Jenkins, associate dean in the Office of Enrollment Services. "But before any of this news ever came out, CCRI sent out a request for information to all lenders we worked with in

previous years to determine who our recommended lenders would be; in other words, we wanted to find out who would best service our students."

So aid is available even in a troubled economy. CCRI does have lenders that will offer great benefits to eligible students.

The recommended lenders (see page 5) were selected on the basis of their quality service, ability to work with our information system and special benefits the lenders can provide to CCRI students, but students have the right to select any lender they wish.

In addition to the decreasing number of lenders, the state of the economy also affects the amount of money students borrow. Students are over-borrowing as an immediate solution to fill a void in their bank accounts, without thinking ahead to the time when the loans will come due.

See Financial, page 5

What's Inside

President's message; Joe Pavone named director of athletics, Imagine Preschool opens on Warwick campus, CCRI instructor prepares inmates for culinary jobs and more ...

Non-profit
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President's message to the college community

Students recognize value of community colleges

More than ever, Americans are realizing the value of community colleges. In times of economic downturn, enrollment at community colleges has traditionally increased. These new enrollees might include displaced workers seeking retraining for another field, members of the work force who want to obtain a degree to advance their job status and recent high school graduates seeking an affordable substitute to private higher education.

Here at the Community College of Rhode Island, the scene is no different. As you read on the front page, our fall enrollment is up 4.8 percent over last fall.

Many of you already have discovered that students can save tens of thousands of dollars by starting their education here and transferring to one of the many four-year colleges and universities with whom we have transfer agreements.

The Joint Admissions Agree-



ment program helps students make an easy transfer to a four-year degree program at the University of Rhode Island or Rhode Island College, and those who do well in their studies here will be rewarded with tuition discounts based on their GPAs. One 2008 graduate, Lisa Fortier of Woonsocket, said that her 30 percent JAA tuition discount brought the tuition at Rhode Island College

close to that of CCRI, enabling her to continue her studies for approximately the same cost as attending community college.

Beyond the potential savings and the ease of transfer, students tell us they study here for many other reasons. We offer 80 degree and certificate programs and classes at convenient times at four campuses and two satellite campuses. Small class sizes and a variety of services and resources for students make the learning experience a personal one at CCRI.

As the No. 1 provider of health care workers in the state, our allied health programs are highly regarded. You expect these kinds of programs at a community college, but did you know that CCRI offers an astounding nine foreign languages and has top-notch visual arts, music and theater programs?

And our graduates get results. In a survey of the Class of 2007, more than 94 percent reported be-

ing employed, continuing their education or both just six months after graduation. Other colleges and universities tell us that our transfer students are doing as well – and in many cases, better – than their native students.

It is easy to see why more and more students are choosing to start or continue their education here. In fact, this fall, we enrolled 17,612 students, the second highest fall enrollment in our history. We are glad that students are realizing the value and quality a CCRI education offers and are choosing to enroll here.

The economy has challenged all of us in our personal lives, and the college is not spared from the effects of difficult budgetary times. We will continue our level of service despite the recent budget cuts, and we are working to find ways to ease the burden on our students, too. For example, this fall we have expanded our offerings at our Westerly satellite campus and

offered classes on a fourth night, Thursdays, so that more of our students in southern Rhode Island can take classes close to their home, allowing them to save gas and time. Many students are choosing to take our online courses, in fields from computer science to health to music, or telecourses, ranging from marketing to law to child development, right in the comfort of their own homes.

There is a reason that more than 6.5 million students – nearly half of the entire country's undergraduate students – attend community colleges across the nation. Here at CCRI, we are as committed as ever to helping our students change their lives and achieve their dreams.

Ray Di Pasquale
President

News Briefs

Elected to leadership post

Robin Smith, dean of the college's Center for Workforce Training and Community Education, has been elected vice president of marketing for the American Society for Training and Development Bay Colonies Board of Directors. ASTD is an international association serving the professional needs of more than 55,000 practitioners, administrators, managers, educators and researchers in the field of training and development. The Bay Colonies ASTD Chapter is a growing affiliate of the national organization that includes more than 80 trainers, facilitators, executives and consultants. Membership is open to any individual who is interested in performance improvement and training.

Appointed to committees

Assistant Women's Basketball Coach Nicholas DiOrio, a member of the Women's Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) since 2006, has been appointed to the WBCA

State Farms Coaches All American Committee and the Russell Athletics/WBCA National Coach of the Year Committee. He will represent the Junior College Region 1, which includes all of the New England states. DiOrio, of Cranston, was elected to the Assistant Coaches Committee by his colleagues at the junior college level.

Faculty member honored

John Ribezzo of Cranston, chairman of the Business Administration Department, has been inducted into the Association of Collegiate Business Schools and Programs Hall of Fame. Membership in the Hall of Fame is designed to recognize educators and industry leaders who have made significant contributions to Region 1 of the ACBSP – the leading specialized accreditation association for business education programs – and its mission of excellence in business education. Since he became involved in the organization in 1991, Ribezzo has served in several capacities, including president of the region, and now serves as its treasurer. He has taught at CCRI for 30 years and is in his sixth year as department chairman.

New computer classes

The Computer Studies and Information Processing Department debuts two new classes this fall, an online 3-credit course in computer forensics and a 1-credit course about podcasting.

In COMI-1140-102, Introduction to Computer Software (Podcasting), students will learn what podcasts are and their benefits as well as how to create, edit and publish their own podcasts. This 1-credit course will meet from 6 to 10 p.m. on Mondays from Nov. 24 to Dec. 22 at the Knight Campus in Warwick.

Also new this fall was COMI-8035-600, Introduction to Computer Forensics – the science of acquiring and analyzing evidence in digital form, such as files on a hard



Steven Jarett (left) of St. Joseph College in Connecticut recognizes Business Department Chair John Ribezzo upon his induction to the Association of Collegiate Business Schools and Programs Hall of Fame. Jarett nominated Ribezzo for the honor.

drive or network activity (e-mail, etc.) It is an exploding field with applications in criminal justice, corporate information technology, homeland security and the military.

There is a critical shortage of practitioners in Rhode Island and nationwide. This general introduction course serves the needs of criminal justice majors who are interested in technology, computer studies majors or anyone who has an interest in forensics.

The course is taught online using streaming video lectures and hands-on exercises that students perform on their own computers.

Writing Center launches Web site

The CCRI Writing Center has created an extensive Web site featuring information about its locations, policies, answers to frequently asked questions and helpful handouts in PDF format that students can download. The site is located at <http://www.ccri.edu/writingcenter>.

The site also contains information about a new 3-credit course, The Theory and Practice of Tutor-

ing Writing as well as information about working at the center and links to multiple external Web sites that might be useful to faculty and students.

Dr. Karen Petit, coordinator of the Writing Center, said some of the pages on the site initially were created and used as handouts for the spring semester. This summer, the handouts and other forms, photos and newly written material were collected and published online in time for the start of the fall semester. She said the site is the result of collaboration with CCRI students, faculty, and staff members who answered questions and gave feedback along the way.

"I loved the whole process of Web site design, especially the opportunity to express ideas in a different medium," Petit said. "Usually, I work with paper versions of texts, so the electronic form that a Web site takes is interesting. I also loved the chance to collaborate with many students, faculty and staff members at CCRI."

If you have questions or comments about the Writing Center's Web pages, contact Petit at 825-2279 or at kmpetit@ccri.edu.

New hires announced

Several new hires have been announced recently. They include: Jason Moniz, a student development counselor in Advising and Counseling in Warwick; Elsa Iannacci, a senior teller in the Bursar's Office in Providence; Paul Plante, a senior maintenance technician in the Physical Plant in Warwick; Crystal Bertrand, an enrollment services representative in the Office of Enrollment Services in Providence; David Broccoli, a police officer in Warwick; Susan Miller, a visiting lecturer in Library in Lincoln; Patricia Sinman, a visiting lecturer in Library in Warwick; Pamela Aguiso, a senior teller in the Bursar's Office in Warwick; Lynn McShane, an information aide in Dental Health/Hygiene in Lincoln; Emily Huggins, assistant professor of Nursing-ADN in Warwick; Maria Pezzillo, assistant professor of Nursing-LPN in Warwick; Michael Colucci, assistant professor of Nursing-ADN in Warwick; Cecile Roberti, assistant professor of business in Warwick; Harry Coli, semi-skilled laborer in the Physical Plant in Newport; Mary Ellen Gelinis, assistant professor in Administrative Office Technology in Warwick; Sarah Cichon, assistant professor in Administrative Office Technology in Warwick; Sandra Sneesby, assistant professor in Computer Studies and Information Processing in Warwick; and Dennis Ricci, a visiting lecturer in Social Sciences in Warwick.

Become a 'fan' on Facebook

CCRI's Facebook page is No. 1 among community colleges on the site. You can become a "fan" and help CCRI stay on top.

The college welcomes existing users and those new to Facebook to join the college's official page to band together into one network. Follow the instructions posted at <http://www.ccri.edu/alum/facebook.shtml> to join the CCRI page.



CCRI Currents newsletter is published 10 times per year by the Department of Marketing & Communications. If you have a story idea or comments on this publication, contact Kristen Cyr at kcyr@ccri.edu or 825-1175.

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Pavone takes the helm as director of athletics

Joe Pavone of Cranston has been named director of Athletics, Physical Education and Recreation at the college after serving as interim athletic director since August 2007. In the position, he will continue to manage CCRI's intercollegiate athletics, physical education and recreation and intramural programs and oversee management of the college's athletic facilities and equipment.

Pavone was selected as the top candidate for the position from a pool of 19 applicants by a nine-member search committee following a three-month search process.

A Providence native, Pavone is a 1970 graduate of Mt. Pleasant High School, where he played

baseball. He earned an associate degree in general studies in 1972 from CCRI, at that time called Rhode Island Junior College, and bachelor's degrees in health and physical education and a master's degree in health education from Rhode Island College. Pavone has continued post-graduate course work in administration and education.

At CCRI, Pavone has moved up the ranks in the athletic department during his 27-year career. Before being named interim director last year, he was associate athletic director, responsible for the day-to-day functions of both physical education and athletics on the Lincoln and Warwick campuses.

Under his guidance as interim director in the 2007-08 academic year, the Knights and Lady Knights athletics teams posted an 142-80-3 aggregate record filled with many highlights, including wins at six Region XXI Championships and participation in seven District Championships. Individually, CCRI's student-athletes achieved 40 All-Region XXI selections, seven All-District selections, 10 NJCAA/Coaches Association All-Americans and one All-Tournament Team selection. Six teams participated in national tournaments, including cross country, men's tennis, women's tennis, indoor track, track and field and women's basketball. In addition, more than



30 student-athletes transferred to four-year colleges and universi-

ties, with three of them receiving full-scholarships to play intercollegiate athletics at the Division I and II levels.

As tennis coach from 2000-03, he led teams to win three New England Championships and attend four national tournaments, ranking as high as ninth nationally in Division III junior college competition.

"I would like to thank the CCRI administration, staff and students for supporting me in the leadership of this prestigious and nationally recognized athletic program," he said.

Pavone has a daughter, Stephanie, a teacher in the Cranston school system; a son, Joe III; and granddaughter, Allyson.

Hundreds of schools to attend fair at CCRI

The Rhode Island Association of Admission Officers, in conjunction with Rhode Island's public and private high schools, will sponsor the 32nd Annual Regional College Fair from 1 to 3:30 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 19, at CCRI's Knight Campus in Warwick.

Students from all 62 Rhode Island high schools and several schools in nearby Connecticut and Massachusetts are invited to come and meet with college representatives from across the country. More than 225 institutions from Providence to Hono-

lulu participated in last year's college fair, which attracted more than 5,000 high school students and parents.

In addition to the dozens of displays, the program will include a financial aid presentation for students and families attending the fair. Lunch will be available before and during the fair.

The RIAAO fair will be the only regional college fair program in Rhode Island this fall and has been endorsed by the National Association of College Admission Counselors.

Stress workshop set

Students, staff and faculty are invited to a workshop "The Biophysiology of Stress" sponsored by the college's Success Centers in collaboration with Student Government from 1 to 2 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 21, in room 2706 at the Flanagan Campus in Lincoln.

Dr. Christa Johnson, who worked as a staff physician in the Emergency Department at Charlton Memorial Hospital for 21 years, will discuss the negative

impact that stress has on every system of our bodies and meditation and relaxation techniques that can counteract this damage.

In addition to her M.D. training, Johnson also has received training in mind body medicine at Harvard and UMass medical schools. For the last five years, she has been developing and teaching her mind, body, spirit medicine workshops and has written a companion book.

Fall JAA Days planned

The Joint Admissions Agreement, or JAA, is an agreement among the Community College of Rhode Island, Rhode Island College and the University of Rhode Island that enables students to move efficiently from an associate degree to a bachelor's degree. JAA students meeting all program requirements and graduating from CCRI with a GPA of 3.0 or higher, qualify for a tuition reduction of up to 30 percent.

CCRI will sponsor JAA Days for students who are participating in the program and for students who would like to learn more about it. JAA Days are an opportunity for program participants to meet with advisers from CCRI, RIC and URI, and ongoing information sessions will help new students decide whether the program is the right transfer plan for them.

Remaining JAA Days are scheduled for:

- Tuesday, Oct. 14, from 9 a.m. to

3 p.m. in Room 1040 at the Knight Campus, Warwick.

- Wednesday, Oct. 15, from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the Atrium at the Liston Campus, Providence.

- Thursday, Oct. 23, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2 to 6 p.m. in the rear of the cafeteria at the Flanagan Campus, Lincoln.

Students enrolled in JAA are required to meet with a CCRI adviser and a RIC or URI adviser each semester and are encouraged to meet with a CCRI adviser prior to JAA Days. Those who do will be able to proceed directly to the RIC or URI advisers at JAA Days if they also bring a copy of their spring 2009 education plan from Advising and Counseling, a recent degree evaluation and an unofficial transcript printed from Pipeline.

For more information, or to register in advance, visit the Advising and Counseling Office, call 825-2384 or e-mail jaa@ccri.edu. Students do not need to register.



Kristen Greene (right) and Simmy Carter clean furniture in the preschool at CCRI's Warwick campus. The two run Imagine Preschool, which opened this fall.

Imagine Preschool welcomes young learners in Warwick

Kristen Greene and Simmy Carter have a shared passion for education and for children, and they have combined their energies and experience to establish Imagine Preschool at the CCRI Knight Campus in Warwick.

Imagine Preschool opened its doors last month and can enroll as many as 40 children ages 3 to 5. Greene, the preschool's director, and Carter, its nurse, lead a team of three teachers and a group of teaching assistants in launching the program. Because preschool is the first step in a child's education and their goal is to create lifelong learners, Greene and Carter want children to be engaged in learning each day.

"For example, the teacher will take a question such as, 'Why is the sky blue?' and present the scientific answer in a way the children will understand," Greene said to demonstrate one component of the curriculum. "We want our students to leave here at the end of the day excited about learning something new."

Play time is also an opportunity for learning. A game involving toy cars and ramps can easily turn into a lesson on speed and velocity or cooperation and sharing.

"We encourage problem-solving," Greene said.

The preschool is affiliated with The Providence Center, a nonprofit that provides treatment and support services for adults and children. Around the center, Greene and Carter are known as the "dynamic duo" for their team approach to early childhood education. Greene, who has worked in the field for 20 years, has a doctorate in early childhood, families and literary studies from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Carter, who has worked with children and families for 30 years, received a master's degree in social work from Boston University and has a bachelor's degree in nursing from URI.

Their joint concept of creating lifelong learners in education also extends to engaging parents in their child's preschool curriculum. "It's a new beginning for parents, too, and we want them to be a partner in learning with their child," Carter said. "They are the most important people in their child's education."

The preschool's partnership with CCRI will be a boon for students and faculty in need of child care, as they will be given prior-

ity enrollment status. It will also create new teaching and learning opportunities. Greene and Carter are working with faculty to give CCRI students studying early childhood education classroom teaching experience. They are also welcoming faculty and staff to volunteer their time with the preschool students.

CCRI President Ray Di Pasquale sees the partnership as an advantage for the college community. "We can provide more learning and teaching opportunities for our students and our faculty, and we have the added bonus of a preschool on site for the members of our community who wish to take advantage of this great educational service," he said.

Imagine Preschool will offer full-day services from 7:30 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. Monday through Friday. The cost is \$205 per child per week. The preschool may increase the flexibility of hours and scheduling at a later date.

To enroll, complete the application posted at www.imageri.org. The application fee is \$50 or \$65 for families that plan to enroll more than one child. Call Greene at 276-4142 for more information.

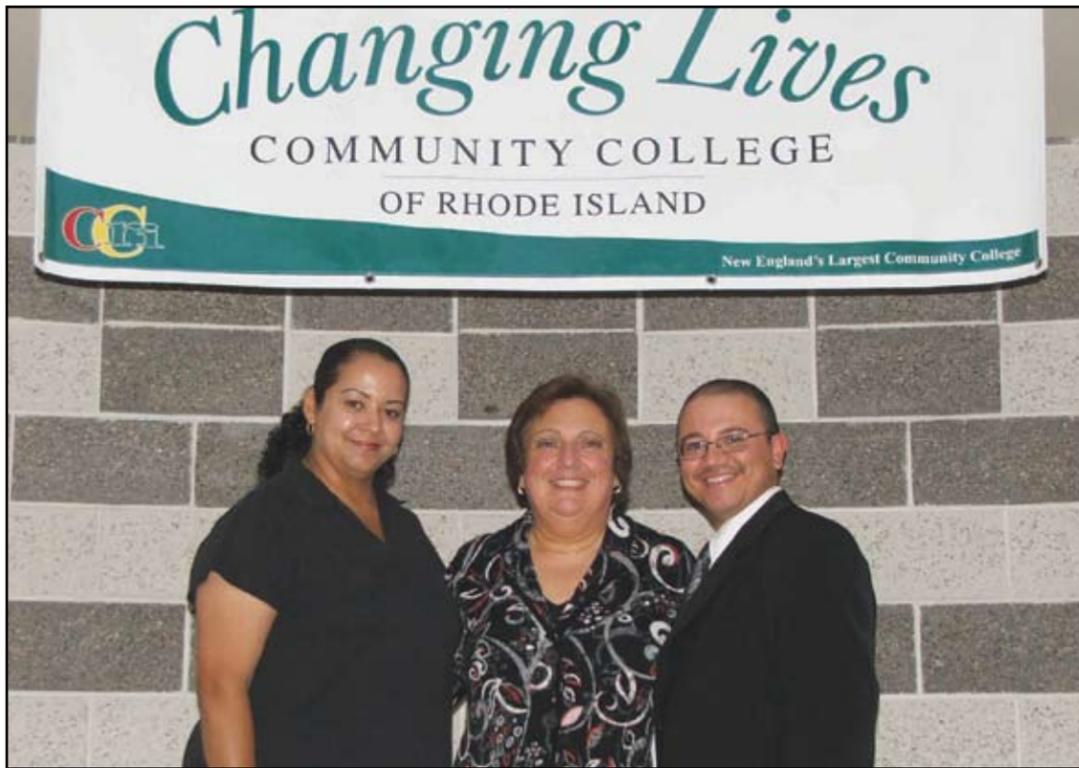
Two GED recipients honored with scholarships

Several GED recipients and those participating in classes to prepare to take the GED test were honored at a recent Celebration of Achievement sponsored by CCRI's Center for Workforce and Community Education's Office of Adult Education and Literacy.

Two exemplary students, Victor De Jesus of North Providence and Margarita Orsini of Providence, were awarded \$600 scholarships provided by The Providence Journal.

De Jesus told the crowd that he promised himself he would return to school after he dropped out in 1997 to work. But he soon landed a high-paying job and put school aside. He lost his job and, following the death of his grandmother, whom he called his "big supporter," he decided to sign up for GED preparation classes at CCRI. "It was overwhelming, but in the end, going back to school was the best decision I made," he said. He will use his scholarship to study computer science this fall. "I will work very hard to prove that they made a good investment."

Orsini had been out of school for 26 years after dropping out at age 16 when she came to CCRI to prepare for her GED. She had tried to obtain her GED elsewhere several times in the past but didn't find the



Margarita Orsini (left) and Victor De Jesus stand with Angela Salvadore, coordinator of CCRI's Transitions Pathways program, after receiving their \$600 scholarships, courtesy of The Providence Journal.

support she needed. "It wasn't until I came to CCRI and saw how much the staff cares that I knew I had come to the right place," she told the crowd. She said she will use her scholarship funds to begin taking general education classes to move toward her goal of working in the medical field.

Sharon Hoffman, director of adult education/literacy services for the Center for Workforce and Community Education, compared the program to Waterfire, where volunteers light the torches at sunset and keep them blazing until midnight.

"I think sometimes that our students – that you – are like those

torches. You have an awful lot of potential but need coaches, instructors, like the volunteers who light the torches ... [to] coax those flames and keep them lit."

Walter Crocker, interim director of the Liston Campus in Providence, where the ceremony was held, congratulated the participants

and said this is the first step in moving ahead in what he called a "credentialed society." The more credentials you get, he said, the better your pay and satisfaction.

"You'll never be the same for having come here to CCRI but, then, that's why you came here in the first place," he said.

Dr. Johan Uvin, state director of adult education for the Rhode Island Department of Education, told the students this is their first step toward higher education.

"You should be so proud of yourself. This is a major, major milestone. Look in the mirror tomorrow and feel good about it," he said.

He encouraged them to further their educations to reach what he called the tipping point, which, in a study of 35,000 GED recipients in Washington state, was achieved with the equivalent of one year of college, after which participants were able to obtain a certificate in a high-growth job field.

"Once you reach [the tipping point] and move beyond it, you have access to any further education that you desire and will be in a position where you will be able to pay for that ever-increasing gas and food," he said. "If you want to, you will reach that tipping point because you have what it takes and you have proven that."

Discount for workshops with 'world's fastest reader'

CCRI students, staff and faculty members are invited to learn techniques to succeed in today's information-crammed world with Howard Stephen Berg, the world's fastest reader, at a discounted price.

CCRI's Center for Workforce and Community Education will host three courses on Friday and Saturday, Oct. 17 and 18, in War-

wick. In "How to Learn Anything Faster and Better," participants will be trained in the learning strategies for reading, studying, test-taking and writing used by Dallas students who were able to complete high school in 2.5 years with 30 to 45 college credits. The class will be offered from 7 to 9:30 on Friday, Oct. 17, at a cost of \$19 for CCRI affiliates or for

\$39 for the general public.

In "Mega Speed Reading," from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 18, Berg will describe more visual method for reading that will increase your reading speed by 100 percent; show you how to boost your comprehension, retention and recall of complex information; and more. The cost for this program is \$29 for CCRI

affiliates or \$69 for the general public.

Berg will show you how to output text in record time in "How to Overcome Writer's Block," offered from 2:30 to 5 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 18. You will learn how to organize thoughts so complex writing assignments can be completed quickly and efficiently; how to sustain writing under

the pressure of a deadline; how to juggle multiple writing tasks; and more. The cost is \$19 for CCRI affiliates or \$39 for the general public.

For full course descriptions, visit <http://www.ccri.edu/cwce/personal/speed.shtml> or call 333-7070 for registration information. All prices include the \$5 CWCE registration fee.

College creates new ad campaign to boost enrollment

The CCRI Department of Marketing and Communications has unveiled a new ad campaign for the 2008-09 academic year that focuses on the theme of "Change your life. Achieve your dreams."

Three ads in the series highlight successful graduates of CCRI's business and fine arts programs, as well as talented student-athletes who have transferred to compete at four-year institutions. The fourth ad features health care professionals who hire and work with the college's allied health graduates. To view the new ad series and learn more about the alumni and professionals involved, visit <http://www.ccri.edu/change/>.

Over the course of five weeks, the ads appeared in 25 daily and weekly newspapers around the state of Rhode Island, targeting the readership of 39 cities and towns as well as members of the state's Spanish-speaking communities.

In addition, the print campaign was reinforced by professionally produced radio spots that highlight the "Change your life. Achieve your dreams" theme. The spots flooded the airwaves on select stations that appeal to the college's target markets.

Beth Taub
Neonatal Intensive Care Unit
nurse manager
Women & Infants Hospital
"CCRI graduates come prepared with those critical thinking skills that help them succeed, and I think that sets them apart."

John Camp
Radiology manager
Roger Williams Medical Centre
South County Hospital
"CCRI graduates come out of school ready to hit the ground running. They are very professional, very knowledgeable and have a good level of confidence."

Laurie Browning
Emergency Department and
Women's Wing manager
South County Hospital
"I find that CCRI graduates are well-prepared and very mature. And the faculty at CCRI is wonderful, with a high level of qualification."

Change Your Life. Achieve Your Dreams.

Chances are, a Community College of Rhode Island allied health graduate has touched your life. CCRI is the state's No. 1 provider of allied health professionals – including nurses, lab technicians, radiologists, phlebotomists, respiratory therapists, dental hygienists, and physical and occupational therapist assistants. You will find our graduates in hospitals, physicians' offices, laboratories, long-term care centers and other clinical settings across the state.

Our graduates are highly regarded and sought-after in the health care field. Managers like Beth Taub, John Camp and Laurie Browning hire CCRI graduates because they know they are prepared to meet the demands of these challenging, rewarding professions.

Once you decide to change your life, CCRI offers you the choice, flexibility, value, convenience and support needed to achieve your dreams.

Take that next step to change your life.
Apply for enrollment now by calling 401-825-2003
or by visiting us online at www.ccri.edu/oes.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF RHODE ISLAND

Candy Castaldi '80
Senior Vice President
Circulator Division
Teco, Inc.

Steven Issa '75
Regional CEO
Managing Director
N.E. Commercial Lending
Sovereign Bank

Armeather Gibbs '88
Chief Operating Officer
United Way of Rhode Island

Change Your Life. Achieve Your Dreams.

Competition in business is fierce! Just ask Candy Castaldi, Steven Issa or Armeather Gibbs, three graduates of the Business Administration Program at the Community College of Rhode Island who have risen to the top of their professions. They began their academic careers at CCRI, where they learned the fundamentals necessary for building a strong foundation for success in a challenging and global business environment.

Class sizes are small and professors bring actual business experience to the classroom, creating an exciting learning atmosphere that prepares students for an array of careers in the fields of accounting, financial services, general business, management and marketing.

Once you decide to change your life, CCRI offers you the choice, flexibility, value, convenience and support needed to achieve your dreams.

Take that next step to change your life.
Apply for enrollment now by calling 401-825-2003
or by visiting us online at www.ccri.edu/oes.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF RHODE ISLAND

Two of the four ads feature health care professionals who hire CCRI graduates (left) and prominent members of the Rhode Island business community who are alumni of the college's business program.



Art Professor Mary Benton speaks with visitors to her exhibition during an opening reception on Oct. 2. The show will run through Oct. 24.

Benton exhibits decade of work

Art Professor Mary Benton's exhibition "Revisited Memories Two," works from her decade at the college, are on display through Oct. 24 at the Knight Campus Art Gallery.

In her work, Benton said she plays with the photographic image as a representation of what she saw and what the camera recorded. Pieces in this exhibition include altered Polaroids that she scanned, then further altered digitally, digital mergers of photographs with painted still lifes and a digitally altered series of images of women wearing mink coats whom she photographed while on sabbatical in Italy in 2006.

"Reworking the images lets me revisit the experience and reconfigure the memory it evokes

through my own cultural, political or personal resonances," she said. "I can waltz between the pleasure of memory and the more complex and difficult larger picture we know as life. Focus is affected by time, edges are blurred and attention to details is diverted by experience."

Benton's altered Polaroids – shot with a SX-70 and manipulated using a toothpick, dental tool, finger or whatever was handy while developing, then again after they were scanned into a computer – include a series of chairs as well as scenics, including "Altered Appleton," a photograph taken in the Wisconsin town where she earned her bachelor's degree at Lawrence University. In "Almost Little Compton," she

digitally merged elements from other photographs and added some hand-coloring.

Benton said she changed her focus from Polaroids in 2001 while in Europe when she couldn't find the film she needed. She mailed her cameras home and took another tack, merging photographs of still lifes with scanned versions of her oil paintings of them. She sometimes adds oil paint to the finished print, as well.

Benton, who earned her Master of Fine Arts from Rhode Island School of Design, teaches graphic design and digital art courses.

Hours for the gallery, in room 3500 on the third floor of the round building at the Warwick campus, are from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Policy answers copyright issues

For college faculty members across the country, there has been a longstanding national debate over what is within the scope of employment of faculty and, thus, what intellectual property belongs to the educational institution as opposed to the individual faculty member.

CCRI has unveiled a new Intellectual Property Policy, approved by the R.I. Board of Governors for Higher Education, to address any questions that arise regarding the ownership of copyrights, patents and trademarks developed by CCRI faculty and staff.

"This new policy has resolved faculty's longstanding concern about ownership of copyrights in material that faculty develop for their courses, as well as the work they create outside of their classrooms," said Daniel J. Donovan, J.D., professor in the Legal Studies Department. "I am confident that this will encourage more faculty members to research and write books or articles, knowing

that they will own the copyright to the material."

A Web site entitled "Copyrights and Intellectual Property," which can be accessed from <http://www.ccri.edu/copyright>, has been created to provide details of the new policy, with the goal of answering as many questions as possible. Not only does it house the new policy, but there also is a complete summary, which is helpful to read before reviewing the formal policy and its related attachments.

Basically, items of intellectual property developed by employees within their scope of employment are considered to be "work-made-for-hire." This work belongs to the employer, in this case the college or, more technically, the Board of Governors. The new policy has established the right of ownership for faculty in lecture notes, articles, books, art and music works and other publications created by the faculty member, which are not to be considered

"works-made-for-hire."

There is also a set of proposed policies to follow on the use of copyrighted material belonging to others for anyone teaching a distance learning course. These policies are based upon the federal TEACH Act of 2002, which expanded the copyright exemption for online courses and is also explained on the Web site.

For those who would like to learn more about copyright law in general, there is a document on copyright basics from the Library of Congress's Copyright Office, a PowerPoint presentation from a session "Copyright Issues for Faculty" that Professor Donovan held for a higher education conference in 2003 and other related documents and guidelines.

These resources are provided to address any number of issues. The Web site is designed to be as comprehensive as possible, but anyone with additional questions or concerns can contact the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Financial aid available

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"The key is smart borrowing," said Jenkins. "There is so much we can do to explain how to borrow the right way. Students interested in financial assistance should fill out the FAFSA immediately but then work with counselors in CCRI's enrollment services office to figure out the best aid for them.

"So as the old cliché goes, buyer beware. Students should be careful what they read and come to CCRI for the best source of information. We are here to help students understand the mountain of financial aid information."

Students interested in seeking financial assistance should contact the Office of Enrollment Services at 825-2003 or via e-mail at financialaid@ccri.edu.

CCRI instructor prepares inmates for culinary jobs

Bill Tribelli has gotten a good deal of press for his role as a culinary arts instructor at the Rhode Island Training School and as the author of "Jailhouse Cooking: The Poor Man's Guide to Cooking," but something less known is the many hours he spends teaching inmates about food safety and culinary arts at the Adult Correctional Institutions, preparing them for a variety of positions in the food service industry upon their release.

Tribelli began teaching at the ACI a year ago as an instructor for the Community College of Rhode Island, with which the Rhode Island Department of Corrections has a contract to provide educational training for offenders. You'll find Tribelli at one of the five adult prisons where he teaches every Saturday and three nights per week – that's on top of his work at the Training School and as a "restaurant specialist" with his business, Tribelli Consulting.

When he first began, Tribelli said, "I wondered, who the heck will hire them?" but his mind since has been changed. "It's really opened my eyes," he said of his experience teaching adult inmates. "I found it rewarding and encouraging that some of my students from the prisons were chefs and, in several cases, executive chefs prior to their incarceration and, upon completion of their sentence, have been able to return to their old positions."

Tribelli teaches CCRI's Food Safety Managers Certification class every Saturday. He has 10 groups of 15 students enrolled in the 21-hour class, held on three consecutive Saturdays. When one group completes the class, another begins. All restaurants and caterers are required by state law to have one out of every 10 employees certified. Some of the topics covered in the class include proper cleaning and sanitation of food, how to "hold" and store product, proper temperatures and more. "Often it's not cooks but servers or bartenders who cross-contaminate," Tribelli said.

Will Jackson, CCRI's Department of Corrections coordinator, said it's certainly a challenge to teach 15 or more students in the basics of food safety within the confines of the state prison, yet Tribelli still has an 80 percent student passing rate on the National Restaurant Association examination that results in the all-important ServSafe Certificate. All 14 of the last group to take it passed with grades in the high 80s and 90s.

Graduates receive a CCRI certificate stating that they attended the class and certification from the Association indicating that they have passed the exam and noting test results. They then can apply to the state of Rhode Island and, for a \$50 fee, will receive a certificate good for three years.

Tribelli also teaches Culinary Arts in the women's facilities and will begin teaching the TIPS course for servers. The class does not involve inmates in preparing



Bill Tribelli

or touching alcohol but provides instruction on liquor laws, server liability and how to shut someone off.

"We're trying to get them to be job-ready," he noted, adding that even those who won't be getting out for a few years are able to sit in on the class and get their certification later, when their release is imminent.

Tribelli's food safety and culinary courses are part of a large array of CCRI vocational and academic courses held at the ACI. Other courses that have been or will be offered include building construction, welding technology, computer literacy, lead abatement supervisor, office administration, OSHA workplace safety and facilities management, as well as English, math, social science, humanities and other classes that meet the requirements for CCRI associate degrees.

Tribelli believes there is a real demand for ex-offenders with the proper certification and skills to work in the restaurant and catering field.

"There are lots of good behind-the-scenes jobs out there. College graduates with culinary degrees want more money and prestige, but there are lots of men and women leaving prison who just need a decent, steady job that will keep them from the downward spiral that might bring them back and will enable them to support their families," he said.

The food safety and culinary classes are in high demand.

"It's a mandatory certification that's not difficult to achieve," Tribelli said, "and you need it if you're going to be responsible for people." Many of his students are serving time for domestic or drug-related charges. He finds they are much better students and far more mature than the youthful offenders he works with at Training School, largely because they have reached a point in their lives where they are tired of making self-destructive choices and ready to turn their lives around.

Jackson said statistics consistently show that any level of education while incarcerated yields lower recidivism rates. And, according to a report in the Boston Globe on Aug. 5, participation in programs at the post-secondary level while incarcerated yields the most striking result – reducing recidivism by 80 percent.

2008-09 recommended Stafford Loan lenders

- Bank of America
- Edamerica
- Rhode Island Student Loan Authority

For more information about financial aid, visit www.ccri.edu/oes/FA/types_of_FA.shtm.

Recent graduates share stories of success

Salzat hopes to pursue career in forensic science

On the same day aspiring forensic scientist Amanda Salzat, 22, of Warren graduated from the Community College of Rhode Island with an associate degree in Law Enforcement, her 4-year-old daughter, Jalynn, "graduated" from a preschool program at Head Start in Warren.

Salzat is studying this fall at the University of New Haven – one of few schools in the area offering the program – and Jalynn started full-day kindergarten. The new challenges that await them do not seem the least bit daunting to Salzat, who is eager to continue her education. After what she has learned juggling responsibilities as a mother, student, worker of two part-time jobs and intern with the Rhode Island Department of

Health, the future holds nothing but possibility.

"A lot of people who were in my situation as a young mom would have given up, but I stayed focused," she said. "My mom brought me up to always stay focused on school."

Pregnant with Jalynn during her senior year at Coventry High School, Salzat never lost sight of her dream to go to college and entered CCRI when Jalynn was 6 months old. Her mother, Helen Henry, a 1994 graduate of the college, baby-sat while Salzat jockeyed between classes, studying and getting to work at 3:30 a.m. for the start of her shift at UPS in Warwick to load the delivery trucks. She has worked her way up to supervisor since she started

there four years ago. On the weekends, she waitresses at a local restaurant.

"I don't sleep and it's hard to get work done, but you make sacrifices," Salzat said. "When I'm here at school, I don't socialize. I study."

She also takes advantage of learning opportunities. Salzat interned at the state Department of Health for two semesters, participating through CCRI's Cooperative Education and Career Placement program, which gives students the opportunity to develop contacts and acquire hands-on experience in their field for course credit.

The experience has been invaluable for Salzat, who worked in the labs at the Chapin Building on Orms Street in Providence. The



internship exposed her to possible career fields in the industry and new technology that's been put into practice. In the toxicology lab, she tested samples of blood

and urine, disposed of hazardous waste and cataloged samples using an online database. She also had the unusual experience of witnessing an autopsy performed by a state medical examiner.

"It's not for everybody," Salzat said. "Ever since I was little I was interested in science and gathering evidence at a crime scene. I chose law enforcement as my major because some forensic scientists start out as police officers before they become investigators."

Salzat graduated with a 3.6 GPA and is confident her future will work out as long as she doesn't stop to rest.

"I know my hard work will pay off one day," she said. "I'll have plenty of time to rest when I retire."

LeShane finishes with perfect 4.0

Now that James LeShane of Lincoln has seen what education can do, nothing is stopping him.

LeShane, 46, returned to school 27 years after his high school graduation and graduated from CCRI with a 4.0 GPA this spring.

He is studying political science and English at the University of Rhode Island this fall; his participation in the Joint Admissions Agreement and his high GPA will earn him a 30 percent tuition reduction. Later, he wants to attend law school and then run for political office: governor, then president. "I want to fix the financial mess that we're in," he said.

LeShane said his time at CCRI has taught him the value of education. "After 27 years of doing different jobs, even though I felt like I always had it in me, I didn't go to school," he said. "I didn't have a push in that direction. I was taught that if you work hard, you get ahead in life."

"In this global economy we live



in now, it's increasingly important for our students to have the best education possible," he said.

It's something he wants to instill in his daughter, Mary Catherine, who turns 13 this fall.

"She will at least have someone push her in that direction. I want her to know that her father is successful, and that is going to be my legacy," he said. "When life takes

those inevitable turns for the worse, persistence, determination and education offer a way out."

He began taking classes at CCRI after he saw the notice about the tuition waiver for disabled American veterans in the course catalog. As a member of the R.I. Army National Guard, he was injured in Guatemala in 1994 and was declared 20 percent disabled.

"It felt almost overwhelming to come back to school after such a long period of time," he said. "But there was an ease in the way I just glided back into it."

LeShane said he was "impressed by the level of knowledge of my professors and the quality of education I received."

"We're constantly reshaping ourselves. CCRI taught me to be a little more flexible and not so rigid. I learned to open my mind up to other ideas and points of view," he said. "I really enjoyed my stay here. I look at it like the building blocks to my future education."

Gordon now able to follow passion

Lindsay Gordon, 22, of Warwick has battled mental illness most of her life while trying to pursue her passion for learning.

Basically homebound for several years because of depression that set in around the age of 8, she was held back in ninth grade because she missed so much school. Though she started high school on the honors track, she was removed from the program because of her frequent absences.

By the time Gordon reached her senior year in high school, the regular classes were not challenging enough, but her illness-based absences kept her from getting back on the honors track.

To quench her thirst for knowledge, Gordon dropped out of high school, earned her GED soon after and then enrolled at CCRI. After years of various treatments for her illness, Gordon found a medication that allowed her to focus on her goals.

"The medicine finally made me feel like I had an actual life again," said Gordon. "CCRI was a great transition point for me. I wouldn't



have gotten into my top choice school two years ago, but CCRI gave me this opportunity and now I can apply to those more selective schools."

During her time at CCRI, Gordon, a liberal arts major, became a fixture in the theater department and took part in many productions. One of her toughest roles was as stage manager in the spring production of "Prin."

"Theater is one of my passions, but it's not practical for me and I am

very pragmatic," Gordon explained. "I want to make sure I have a future with a steady, interesting job."

At CCRI, Gordon gained the knowledge and self-confidence she will need to study linguistics and eventually teach English as a second language.

"CCRI is a great place to grow up and get skills needed to be a serious student," said Gordon. "I am in a better place as far as being disciplined at work and knowing what I want out of life; freshmen at four-year schools aren't usually ready for that."

Gordon looked back on her two years at CCRI. "You meet a lot of great people here and they all have their own reason for being here. You can always change the course of your life if you have the mind and discipline to do it."

With her 3.8 GPA in hand, she plans to apply to Georgetown and University of Massachusetts-Amherst, but will spend the next year earning money to pay the higher tuition she will encounter at the school she chooses to continue her educational journey.

Chea aspires to be pharmacist one day

Sophie Chea, 30, of South Attleboro, Mass., values her education at Community College of Rhode Island in part because she knows she couldn't achieve in her native country what she has here.

"It's only in America where a woman has a chance to stand up to society and become who they want to be," she said. "Graduating from CCRI means so much to me, but more importantly it means everything to my parents to know I made it this far and fulfilled their dreams."

Chea was born in Cambodia in the time of the Khmer Rouge. She, her parents and siblings moved from refugee camp to refugee camp, often getting only a can of rice and two fish to feed all of them for the day.

The family moved to Washington state when Chea was about 5, then lived in California for 10 years before moving to Attleboro.

What she values most about living in America is her freedom, she said. "I don't like to take no for an answer. In my country, there are certain things you cannot do or say, especially as a woman, but here I can express myself."

With two daughters of her own, Kaileen and Lorelei, now ages 10 and 7 respectively, she decided to attend CCRI.

"I didn't want to be a stay-at-home mom," she said. "I want my kids to have a better life. I wanted myself to have a better life."

It wasn't always easy. Those around her asked who would baby-sit and where she would get the money. She spent four years at the college, first attending part time while her children were young, taking one or two classes per semester.

She became more and more involved in the college, last



year being elected by her peers as Student Government president at the Flanagan Campus in Lincoln.

"CCRI has changed my life for the better and I have changed CCRI for the better, too," she said. "I felt like my presence had an impact."

She took two courses of study: General Studies and Science Track B and transferred to Bridgewater State College in Massachusetts to study biochemistry with hopes of later getting into a pharmacy program. "Pharmacy is job security, but the challenge is to be accepted to a program."

What she liked best about CCRI, she said, is that it is a community. "Even though we have four campuses throughout Rhode Island, I feel whole at any campus that I go to. We seem connected at any campus. We have a common goal to achieve."

She said CCRI has given her the chance to join clubs and groups, travel to different places and participate in events and conferences. "It's a lifelong change," she said. "At CCRI, I feel like a big fish in a small pond. Most students feel like small fish in a big pond."

Chea is ready for whatever life brings her: "The future is always changing, but I'll grow with it."

Recent graduates share stories of success

Draine on his way up the ladder

Jody Draine of Cumberland started his first day of work at Teknor Apex in Pawtucket at the bottom of a barrel. Wearing gloves and a mask and using mineral oil, a squeegee and an air hose, he cleaned a 5,000-pound blender that had been drained of a chemical compound heated at 200 degrees. It was summer 1996.

"It was the middle of August and well over 100 degrees," Draine recalled. "It wasn't exactly my dream job."

At the time a single father, Draine took the job to escape a dead-end position at a convenience store, where he worked 85 to 100 hours per week to make ends meet and provide for his then 6-year-old son, Ryan. It didn't matter that the work was more labor intensive and his pay was 50 cents less an hour – he took the position at Teknor Apex because it was "a company with a good reputation" where he could "move up the ladder and build a career," he said.

Draine talked to his uncle, a technician at the company, who helped him get a foot in the door. From the first day forward, determination to get ahead was foremost on Draine's mind. Curious, he started asking his co-worker's questions about their positions and the inner workings of the company. "When I took chemical samples to the lab to be tested, I'd ask the technicians, 'Why are you doing that? What is this machine for?'"



The more Draine learned, the more quickly he advanced within the company ranks. "In two years, I was making twice as much," he said.

A supervisor approached Draine about going back to school to learn chemistry – the company would pay his tuition and expenses – if he wanted to continue working in product development. The subject, once daunting for him in high school, became a welcome challenge this time around.

"I had always wanted to go to school but, as a 19-year-old with a young son, I knew I didn't have the time. Being a good father was more important," he said.

Draine, now 37, graduated from high school in 1988, taking on the responsibilities of fatherhood soon after. He came to CCRI in 2001 at the suggestion of his supervisor

and found a nurturing environment with professors willing to go the extra mile to help him through the program while he was working third shift full time, being a parent and coaching his son's soccer and baseball teams.

To take General Chemistry II, a required course, Draine needed a background in algebra – something he lacked. Dr. Elizabeth Arendt, a chemistry professor at the Flanagan Campus in Lincoln came to his rescue.

"She told me, 'I'll teach you the math if you're willing to do the work.'" Arendt would stay after hours, sometimes as late as 11 p.m., to tutor her eager student before he went back to work. His hard work has paid off and he graduated with a 3.73 GPA. He also is a member of the Phi Theta Kappa honor society.

Draine is now a product development specialist at Teknor Apex. The position gives him new freedom to research and to develop new products while negotiating with companies from around the world that produce raw materials. The German classes he took with Professor Carol Panaccione came in handy while Draine was consulting with a company from that country recently.

Draine continues to study chemistry at the University of Rhode Island this fall. "CCRI has been the best experience for me personally and professionally," he said. "It's like home."

Barbosa dreams of being diplomat

Ailton Barbosa, 22, of Pawtucket has already transferred to Rhode Island College, where he is studying political science. But it was important for him to finish up one class at CCRI and attend commencement to receive his associate degree on May 16.

"Many students don't see it as an accomplishment, they see it as a transition. But it is a big deal. We have worked hard to get to this point, why not celebrate it?"

Barbosa, a native of Cape Verde, came to America when he was 15 and first attended Hope High School in Providence. He then moved to Pawtucket and graduated from Shea High School.

"I didn't have a sense of what America would be like," he said. After graduation, he attended a college prep program at Dorcas Place, a nonprofit agency that helps adults realize their full potential through literacy, employment, advocacy and community involvement.

The nonprofit even paid for his first class at CCRI, a philosophy class. He began ESL classes at the Liston Campus in Providence. Interested in political science, he became a General Studies major and enrolled in JAA, the Joint Admissions Agreement program, to ensure a smooth transfer to RIC.

He eventually would like to obtain a master's degree in international relations, and his dream job



is in the international arena, perhaps as a diplomat. "The perfect job would be as a diplomat between America and Cape Verde," he said. "I dream of that often enough."

Barbosa was elected Student Government President at the Liston Campus for the past academic year. He and his peers at the other campuses worked hard to unify the college's four locations.

"It was an eye-opening experience. I grew up a lot," he said. "The students were able to gain a lot of respect from the administration. We really do have a say."

He said the position helped him with public speaking and gave him the confidence to stand up in front of a crowd and know that he was sure of what he was speaking

about.

"All of these tools will be necessary and are going to help me in my future," he said.

He said he believes he is well-prepared for his studies at RIC. "The material is not necessarily more complex, but there is more volume. Whereas at CCRI we might be assigned 15 pages to read, at RIC, it's 35 pages."

Another difference he noted is the size of the campuses. At Liston, he knew so many people. He'd come in and say hi to the security staff and always could find friends in the Atrium. At RIC, he finds himself on his laptop in a corner of the cafeteria instead. But it's only a matter of time before Barbosa finds his niche at RIC, too.

Service to others is likely to be part of the mix, no matter where he is. This summer, Barbosa spent some time visiting his relatives in Cape Verde, then traveled to the Dominican Republic to help children with AIDS in hospitals there. It's an opportunity he learned about from Natalia Yotharath, a coordinator and counselor at the Educational Opportunity Center at the Liston Campus.

"I definitely have a lot to thank them for," he said of those who work at the Liston Campus. "Without the staff and faculty at the Providence campus, I would not have made it to where I am today."

Grassini is taking soccer talent to RIC

Soccer player and General Studies major Stephanie Grassini, 19, of Warwick is the definition of student-athlete at the Community College of Rhode Island. The talented midfielder and hard-working student was the backbone of CCRI's women's soccer program with her speed and creative play, but a torn ACL in her right knee prematurely ended her 2007 season and threatened to halt her athletic career for good last October.

For most athletes, the injury is a devastating one with a long road to recovery. Grassini, one of the Lady Knights' co-captains, took it in stride and continued to support her team from the sidelines while she endured surgery and physical therapy.

During the CCRI Athletic Awards ceremony this spring, Grassini received the Ann Cullen Scholarship Award for her active involvement in athletic program as a player and as a cheerleader – a testament to her sportsmanship during a difficult season. The award also recognizes academic success.

Modest about her accomplishments, Grassini lets her hard work speak for itself. The sport of soccer is in her blood, and it's not just because her father, Dennis, was her coach at the college. The CCRI all-star has racked up a host of accolades during her two years of collegiate play to prove her talent is more than genetic.

In 2007, she was named one of six national finalists for the National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA) Junior College Women Player of the Year Award, receiving the most votes of any player from the Northeast Region. She was also named First Team NSCAA All-American and Second Team NJCAA All-American. In 2006, she received the college's Joseph Andre Jr. Student-Athlete Award, which recognizes a CCRI student-athlete who demonstrates leadership, academic success and sportsmanship.

During her playing career she was twice named to the NSCAA All-Northeast Region Team and the NJCAA All-New England Region First Team. She helped lead the Lady Knights to two New England Championships, two Northeast District Finals, and national top 10 rankings in both the NJCAA and NSCAA national polls. She finished her CCRI career with 14 goals and 20 assists.

Grassini inevitably grew up around the game. As an infant, her parents brought her to the sidelines as they cheered on her older sisters while they competed in recreation and competitive leagues. She be-



gan playing around the age of 4, following in her sisters' footsteps in the rec leagues. At 12, she began playing in the Massachusetts Premier League before going on to join her high school team at Pilgrim in her native Warwick.

Her father, a coach for more than 20 years and also a graduate of the college, has been at the helm of the CCRI women's soccer program for the past eight seasons. His tenure includes winning the NJCAA National Championship in 2002. He has been coaching Stephanie, his youngest daughter, for the past two.

What's it like to have your father double as your coach? "I didn't get any special treatment at all," Grassini said. "He pushed me just as hard as the rest of the team."

"Playing soccer at CCRI has been a great experience for me and it's enabled me to go to the next level. But academics are just as important. Without that, and my teammates, I could not have achieved what I have at this college," she said.

Grassini graduated from CCRI with a 3.20 GPA. She is a two-year CCRI Presidential Scholarship Award recipient and a 2008 R.I. House of Representatives Scholar-Athlete Award recipient. She also received the Rhode Island Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women Scholar-Athlete award. She has transferred to Rhode Island College this fall to continue her soccer career, study psychology and earn a bachelor's and a master's degree. One day, she would like to work with children.

Grassini could have played soccer at a number of colleges after graduating from high school, but she chose CCRI for its variety of general education offerings, athletic opportunities and proximity to home. "It's a great place to come to figure out what you want to be and it prepares you for the next level, both academically and athletically," she said. "It truly is a great place to start."



Above is Alan Tracy's "Providence Bus Tunnel."

Arts programs shine at CCRI

From page 1

Fla., for a prestigious vocal operatic training program called V.O.I.C. Experience is a highlight of his life. During the program, which annually only accepts 25 students nationwide, Mulvey trained with stars of the Metropolitan Opera.

"I have never been out of New England before, so this is a very big deal for me," said Mulvey. "I just know that I will be a very different vocalist when I return for the fall semester."

Mulvey, who chose to attend CCRI because he thought it would be the best place to prepare for college life, credits the quality of CCRI faculty with his success in music so far.

"Professor [Amanda] Santo takes an in-depth interest in her students. She doesn't just go through the motions," said Mulvey. "If it weren't for her I wouldn't have applied to the V.O.I.C. Experience. She is so passionate about helping her students."

"Vocally, Corey has grown immensely the past two years and has become a very serious music student," said Santo, adjunct music faculty and CCRI alumna. "His musical education at CCRI is a great springboard for him, and with the tools he's acquiring here, I know we can expect great things from him."

Tracy, 42, a digital photography and honors student, is also accomplishing great things. A father of two, he attends classes part time while working full time as an event planner for the career services office at the Rhode Island School of Design.

"I was in hotel event sales for 11 years before starting this job," said Tracy. "Art was always in the background until I came to work at RISD five years ago. Since my job responsibilities allow art into my life every day and my boss supports my CCRI education, I have no barriers."

"I haven't experienced a professor who wouldn't give me that extra step that I needed to achieve what I wanted to do. CCRI professors seem willing to help anyone who asks."

He was one of 40 artists out of 600 applicants chosen to participate in "Experiencing the War in Iraq," a multimedia art exhibition displayed regionally earlier this year.

Tracy mounted a series of four digital images on a 54-inch chalkboard, creating a three-dimensional interactive display where exhibition visitors could comment on the Iraq war. In addition to the traveling exhibition, Tracy displayed this particular work at CCRI's Honors Forum last semester.

"I directly relate the honors program to preparing me to do this show, hands down. Without it, I wouldn't have been ready," said Tracy. "Though I would have worked on it anyway, my project moved faster because honors let me work on what I wanted to as an artist."

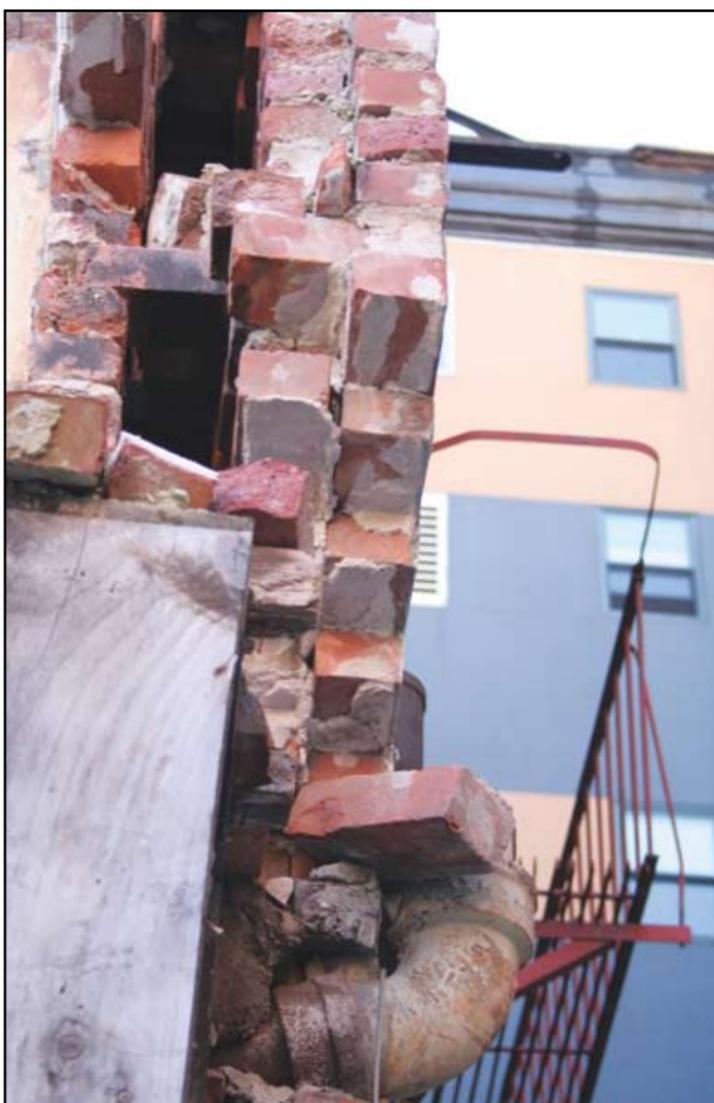
Digital Photography I professor Tom Morrissey said of Tracy's work on the Iraq exhibit, "Alan had a focus with this project that transcended typical boundaries commonly drawn between different courses. Whether he knows it or not, Alan's commitment to his work passes positive creative habits on to other students, creating a



Digital photographer and honors student Alan Tracy was one of 40 artists out of 600 to participate in "Experiencing the War in Iraq," a regional multimedia art exhibition.

great synergy found only at community colleges."

Both Tracy and Mulvey are considering furthering their education at Rhode Island College.



Alan Tracy's digital photography "Downcity Hanging Brick."

Monagle to head coaching staff for women's basketball

Kevin Monagle has been named head coach of the women's basketball team, bringing 15 years of coaching experience at the NJCAA, post-graduate and high school level to the Lady Knights.

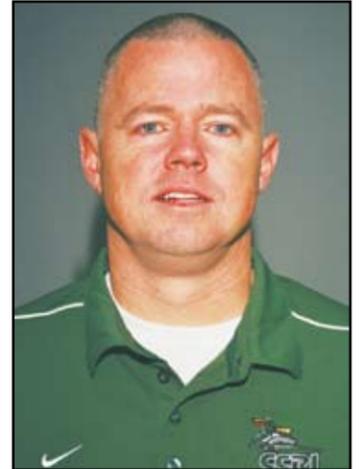
Monagle spent the last two seasons as assistant coach for the CCRI Knights men's basketball team under Rick Harris, helping the Knights win two Region XXI Championships and one Northeast District Championship that led to an appearance at the NJCAA Division II National Championship.

Before coming to CCRI, Monagle spent two seasons as assistant coach at Naval Academy Preparatory School in Newport and six seasons as the varsity boys basketball coach at East Providence High School. Under his leadership, East Providence had two 18-plus win seasons, went to the state quarterfinals twice, semifinals once and the finals in 2003. He was RIBCA Division IAA Coach of the Year in 2001.

In addition to his duties as teacher and coach, Monagle is a commander in the U.S. Naval Reserves. Born and raised in Wilmington, Del., he holds a bachelor's degree from Villanova University and a master's in education from Old Dominion University. He lives in Rumford with his wife Marthe-Anne and their four children. He is a mathematics teacher at East Providence High School.

Assistant Coach Nick DiOrio has been with the Lady Knights for the last two seasons and will continue to serve a variety of vital roles for the women's basketball program and the Athletic Department.

DiOrio came to CCRI after four years as a student assistant to the men's basketball program at Western New England College, where he obtained his bachelor's degree in business administration and a con-



Kevin Monagle

centration in sports management. His duties there included recruiting, scouting and skill workouts. At CCRI, DiOrio, a resident of Cranston, also serves as an assistant to the sports information director.

Assistant Coach Sue Pacheco, an instructor and a member of the Sports Medicine Program at CCRI, also will continue with the team, primarily responsible for strength and conditioning in addition to her duties as athletic trainer. A graduate of Plymouth State University with a bachelor's degree in athletic training, she is now working on her master's in exercise science and health promotion with a concentration in performance enhancement and injury prevention.

Laura Mahoney also will serve as assistant coach. She most recently held the same position at New England College in HENRIKER, N.H., where she obtained her bachelor's degree in sport and recreation management. As a student, she was captain of the women's basketball team her junior and senior years, and earned MVP honors for three years. In her senior year, she was named the college's female athlete of the year and also earned the Women's Softball Coaches Award.

All campuses see enrollment boost

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who, with several frozen, unfilled positions, "are doing double- and triple-duty work" and served nearly 4,600 students in the weeks before the start of the semester with registration, testing and other enrollment issues. He also thanked faculty members, many of whom took additional students into their full classes.

"Never in 35 years in higher education have I been more proud than I am of the staff and faculty of the Community College of Rhode Island."

In these difficult economic times, he said, the college is trying to assist students who are coping with the increased cost of living by offering more options to take classes closer to home or online. Distance learning enrollment increased by 24 percent this fall; nearly 900 students will take one or more of 90

courses from home this semester.

The college also expanded offerings at its Westerly satellite location this fall by adding courses and holding classes on an additional night and saw an enrollment increase of 27 percent. Enrollment at the college's other satellite, in Downcity Providence, increased by nearly 30 percent for fall.

"Our goal is helping students transition to college in a way that is convenient and economical for them. As we go forward, we expect to further increase our enrollment at our satellite campuses, offer more courses at our Newport County Campus – which saw a nearly 11 percent increase in enrollment this fall – and offer even more online courses," he said. "It's true these budgetary times are challenging, but we continue to see opportunities and we're going to keep moving ahead to serve the residents of Rhode Island."