Shea, Morgan tapped for vice president posts

The Board of Governors for Higher Education confirmed the appointment of two vice presidents last month. Robert J. Shea Jr. of Barrington has been selected to fill the position of vice president for Business Affairs, and longtime CCRI employee Lela Morgan of Providence has been named vice president for Academic Affairs.

Shea has 24 years of management experience, from leading teams of 12 to complex organizations of more than 1,200. His work brought him to Rhode Island in 2004 as director of the leadership and management faculty at the U.S. Naval War College in Newport. In his new role, Shea will serve as the college's chief financial officer, will oversee the development and management of the college's budget and will be responsible for 12 departments and 250 personnel within the division of Business Affairs, including accounting, information technology, human resources, payroll, physical plant, bursar and campus security. He will have an active and collaborative role in strategic planning, policy development, forecasting and resource analysis for the college and also will serve as the college's fiscal liaison to the Board of Governors.

Morgan joined CCRI in 1967 as a professor in the Clinical Laboratory Technology Program and has served in a variety of positions throughout her career, including director/clinical education coordinator and chairwoman. Before coming to CCRI, she worked in various health care positions at the Miriam Hospital in Providence, Allen Memorial Hospital in Iowa and St. Joseph Hospital in Michigan. She also served as an adjunct faculty member in Bryant University’s Department of Biology.

In her position, Morgan is responsible for providing vision with academic and administrative leadership in the areas of educational policy, instructional planning, program review, academic personnel actions, faculty development, and resource planning and allocation.

Members of the Class of 1967 reminisce

Inez Mello ’87 values her CCRI degree the most.

Mediator takes neutral stance to solve disputes.

RI House honors alumnus with athletics award.
Reunited: Class of 1967 celebrates 40th anniversary

Ernie Colonna used to hitchhike to his 8:30 classes at CCRI's inaugural Providence campus from his North Kingston home when he was a student in the 1960s. "I ruined a lot of pairs of shoes," he joked.

But when Colonna returned to Rhode Island for his 40th reunion he took a much safer travel option — he flew. The Lake Charles, La., resident came back to reconnect with a piece of his past and witness firsthand the growth of the community college he knew in its infancy.

"In the embryonic years of the junior college system this campus was a dream," he said during the reunion celebration following commencement at the Flanagan Campus on May 18. "I came back to see that dream realized. The experience I had as a student was a powerful part of my life and a part of my history.

Colonna, an environmentalist who previously worked in the homebuilding and remodeling business, was one of 10 members of the Class of 1967 who attended the reunion. Members of the class were recognized during commencement and took part in a special reception after the ceremony.

The alumni were joined by President Ray Di Pasquale and faculty members to enjoy a buffet while perusing photographs of the college in its early years as well as a special Class of 1967 anniversary yearbook. Included in the anniversary yearbook was a letter to the class from then-president of the college William F. Flanagan. "You have seen this college begin," he wrote. "You have been part of its most significant and formative years — you have been part of the excitement and the pride that always accompanies birth and development." The yearbook also included updated profiles of class members with information ranging from their contact information ranging from their contact and business information to their most memorable moment at Rhode Island Junior College.

For Randall Slade, a professor at Mt. Sierra College in Monrovia, Calif., coming back to CCRI was an opportunity to revisit the memories of the turning point in his life. A high school dropout, he got a second chance at an education at CCRI.

He graduated first in his class with a 4.0 grade point average and transferred to the University of Rhode Island, where he earned a bachelor's and a master's degree in business.

The former Army officer and bank vice president was pleased to see how much CCRI has grown since he was a student 40 years ago.

"I'm very supportive of the community college philosophy," he said. "It's a great way to be much more inclusive, to offer opportunity to anyone who wants an education."

Listening to the commencement speakers' speeches, Slade was quick to notice a trend — all spoke of never losing sight of their goal, no matter what personal challenges may have been in the way of their path to success. "They all got what it means to have attended CCRI," he said.

Commencement ceremony creates 1,250 new alumni

The Community College of Rhode Island honored more than 1,250 graduates at its 42nd commencement exercises on May 18 at the Flanagan Campus in Lincoln.

Dr. Joseph F. Amaral of Cumberland, president and CEO of Rhode Island Hospital, served as keynote speaker and Cristian Potter of Providence was selected to be the student speaker. Potter, 29, has been admitted with a full scholarship to study economics at Brown University this fall. He has overcome several life struggles including the loss of his mother to an aneurism and his sister to cancer when he was 21.

Now he cares for his father, William, who has a degenerative brain disorder, and his teenage brother, Vincent, while working full time. Despite these many obligations, he also schedules frequent visits with his wife, who attends medical school in New York, and his children, who live in Virginia. He has finished his general studies program with a 4.0 GPA.

He spoke about opportunity as the way to a better life. "I believe poverty is a habit. You become accustomed to the things you accustom yourself to," he said. "If you give up on your dreams, if you stop working to change your life, it's easy to accept poverty. It's easy to say it's too hard or I don't have the time or I can't afford it. But if you are willing to work hard, and you seek opportunity, good things will happen to you. A wise man told me recently that good luck is the residue of hard work."

He told his fellow graduates that "CCRI, specifically, and community colleges, generally, are the most American of all places. This is where the working poor come to start their college careers. This is where the academically deficient become academically proficient. This is where the single mom can fit a class around her impossible overloaded schedule. This is where one can come and get professional and technical training to become or continue to be competitive in today's dynamic job market." He spoke about the struggles in his life, but said, "I came to CCRI and worked hard to restore my academic reputation. Now I'm going to the Ivy League. Where else would I have this opportunity?"

President Ray M. Di Pasquale gave the charge to the graduates, speaking about the college's theme of "Changing Lives" and how the words describe the students' and employees' strong passion and commitment to the college.

"Today, as I look across the sea of faces in the graduating class, I know that this will be a day that will indeed change your life, just as it did for me when I graduated, and it will also create outstanding opportunities," he said.


Green and White

Staff

('70) Pauline (Ward) Paquin is still working as a registered nurse in home health and also part time in a doctor’s office. She is semi-retired and enjoying life with music, singing in church, and playing the trombone, violin and piano. She is proud of her daughter, Donna Scattone, who works at the Warwick Campus of CCRI.

('71) Jane Borelli-Loonies, a licensed social worker and clinical director at Family Services of Rhode Island, announced that her daughter, Mia Campopiano, recently earned her Bachelor of Fine Arts at The Art Institute of Boston at Lesley University.

Pamela Morin and James D’Aquila were married Nov. 21, 2006, at the Graceland Wedding Chapel in Las Vegas.

('72) Eleanor Marchand retired after 30 years as a registered nurse with the VA Hospital in Providence and later in Connecticut. She is now working per diem as a pediatric home care nurse. She has 17 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

('73) Upon graduation, John Pacheco earned degrees in nursing and biology at Salve Regina and completed his master’s degree at Rhode Island College in 1989. He began teaching at CCRI in 1990, and found the students he taught to be diverse and eager to learn. He left teaching in 2000 to pursue a management position in Florida. He sends his gratitude to CCRI for giving him a chance to attend college and said he would not be where he is today if it wasn’t for CCRI.

('75) Stephen Lombardi graduated from the University of Iowa in 1978 and from Drake University Law School in 1981. He will leave for Moscow, Russia, on July 20 to climb Mt. Elbrus.

Capt. Charles S. Cason retired from the U.S. Army in 1996. He was a Lufthansa instructor pilot from 1996 to 2001 and has been an EMS pilot for home care since 2001. He divides his time between homes in Phoenix, Flagstaff and Wickford. He still enjoys painting.

('79) Dave Dunlap reports that, as a mechanical engineer, he has used what he has learned during his two-year period at CCRI more than any other part of his college education. He said his education at CCRI was excellent and a lot of fun, with great instructors and classes. He sends his regards to Errol Henlin, Richard Seammuller, Ken Prosser, Elmer Anderson and those in the math lab.

Patrick Barker is now retired. Jean Sullivan-Haggstrom, together with his husband, has started a new ministry called Walking in Light Inc. that works with the largest transitional housing program in Massachusetts. A registered nurse, she is using her nursing background as a missionary in Christian children’s camps.

('80) Doris E. Allen celebrated her 80th birthday on Jan. 2 and retired from nursing that same month. She is an organist at Evangelical Covenant Church. She exercises at the gym a few times per week and is a member of the water aerobics class. She has been widowed since 2000 and her oldest child passed away unexpectedly on Jan. 9.

Diane Dyal has been working for 11 years at a local newspaper called the Franklin Chronicle in graphic design and laying out the newspaper. In her spare time, she paints and enters photography contests.

('82) James Landry is the regional sales vice president for U.S. Xpress in Chattanooga, Tenn.

('84) Lisa Cardente has been appointed vice president and business unit manager in manufacturing operational and regulatory risk management at Citizens Bank.

('87) Jeanne Norton and Michael Chaves were married March 18, 2006, at the First Baptist Church in Warren.

('91) In May, Jacqueline Costanza graduated from Roger Williams University Law School with a Juris Doctor degree. She also received her bachelor’s degree from Roger Williams, graduating in the top 10 percent of her class, and was elected into Alpha Sigma Lambda Honor Society.

('95) Melyssa Lentini and James H. Randall III were married Dec. 2, 2006, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Gray.

('98) Shelly K. A. Laberge and William J. Franks were married May 20, 2007, at the Embassy Club in Woosneck.

('00) Heidi J. Bedard and Christopher J. Jaswell were married Dec. 31, 2006, at the Church of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary.


('01) Jennifer M. Collins and Allen R. Smith Jr. were married Oct. 7, 2006, at St. Michael’s Church in Smithfield.

Heather L. Frobig and Timothy Ashworth were married Sept. 22, 2006, at Hope Congregational Church in East Providence.

Alicia Petrarca and Michael Mota were married Sept. 16, 2006, at St. John and James Church in West Warwick.

Jennifer Shaw and Richard Cirelli were married Oct. 7, 2006, at St. Timothy’s Church in Warwick.

('02) Kristen M. Lynch and John M. Couture were married Sept. 22, 2006, at St. Mary’s Church in Cranston.

(Continued on page 8)

Jaillah Munir writes: “I am currently finishing my B.S. in Justice Studies at Rhode Island College after transferring from CCRI. The move from CCRI to RIC was smooth. I must say that the quality of professors at CCRI is definitely apparent and my overall post-secondary educational experiences occurred within the walls of CCRI’s Knight Campus. The Community College of Rhode Island has been the stepping stone toward my career goals; CCRI has raised the bar for success and has planted a seed in my life that will one day contribute to my garden of social change as well as my strive for academic excellence. The Community College of Rhode Island contributed to my career when I entered the doors in 2002.”
Education adds up for accountant
Inez Mello ’87

At the age of 35 with a high school diploma and a 35-hour per week job as a bookkeeper, Inez Mello ’87 decided to make a change. Tired of feeling stagnant in her career, she chose to move forward with her life when she entered CCRI’s accounting program in the 1980s.

While Mello, now the director of state and local tax consulting at Kahn, Litwin, Renza & Co. Ltd., was a student, the school motto was, “The Turning Point,” a statement that still means something personal to her. When she talks about her CCRI experience, she talks about that statement and credits the college for opening the door of opportunity for her. “Everything I am today I owe to that college,” said the 55-year-old Smithfield resident. “Out of all the degrees I’ve received, that one still means the most to me.”

Mello is tenacious in achieving her goal to become an accountant and unwilling to give up or give in when she ran out of hours in the day. She’d take classes in the morning and go to work in the afternoon during the week. “I’d be up until 2 or 3 in the morning doing my homework,” she said. “If you want it badly enough that’s what you need to do.”

Mello didn’t want it badly enough and it showed. She earned a 4.0 grade point average and displayed a committed work ethic in her classes. Her desire to succeed was so palpable to her professors and fellow students that she was selected student speaker at commencement when she graduated in 1987.

“Education is the greatest gift a person can give to themselves,” she said. “No one can ever take it away from you.”

After graduating from CCRI, Mello was selected by William O’Hara, then president of Bryant University, to receive a full scholarship to complete the accounting program there. At the time the school was looking to attract nontraditional students and she was one of the first to receive the award.

She completed a bachelor’s degree in accounting in 1989 before accepting a position with a Fortune 500 company where she gained experience working on state taxes. The company valued education and paid for Mello to continue her studies at Bryant. In 1995, she earned a Master of Business Administration with a concentration in taxation.

In addition to her current position, Mello is an ambassador to the Providence Chamber of Commerce and she is chairwoman of the Small Business Initiative Council. She is a member of the Institute of Managerial Accountants and is the regional director of the New England Chapter of the American Society of Women Accountants. Mello also teaches micro- and macroeconomics at CCRI and has taught accounting at Bryant. The opportunity to teach is important to Mello because she believes it’s her duty to not only convey the subject matter, but also to impress upon students that it takes confidence to succeed.

In May 2007, she was recognized by the U.S. Small Business Administration with the Women in Business Champion Award for her overall accomplishments in accounting and education, including helping women in the field thrive and advocating for small businesses in Rhode Island.

While she was thrilled to receive the honor, the handwritten notes Mello received from former students as a result of the award were truly touching for her. “That’s the nicest reward in the world,” she said.

Lt. Matthew Fecteau (standing, second from right), a 2003 CCRI graduate, is pictured with his crew in Iraq. The High Point University graduate is working toward his MBA at Texas A&M University.

Lt. Matthew Fecteau ’03 braves Iraq

Spending days in the desert, working on command and losing comrades along the way have become part of Matthew Fecteau’s experience fighting the war in Iraq as a lieutenant in the 2nd Brigade of the 82nd Airborne Division of the U.S. Army.

Fecteau, a member of CCRI’s Class of 2003 and a Phi Theta Kappa honors student, went on to High Point University, graduating with a degree in economics before joining the Army.

For the past six months he has been stationed in Iraq, traveling most of the country by Black Hawk helicopter and getting acclimated to a new and often unpredictable environment. “Day to day,” he said, “Iraq can be an adventure.”

Whether it’s the onset of a sand storm or a new assignment, Fecteau’s job is to make him ready for action at a moment’s notice.

“When the colonel wants something done, I have to deliver immediately,” he said. “I work a good 12- to 14-hour day almost every day. Other days, we will work a good 20 hours or even go without sleep.”

Fecteau has gotten to meet the locals and has witnessed their economic hardships firsthand. Many Iraqi people are forced to take undesirable jobs to provide for their families, he noted, but they are continually striving.

“Regardless of their circumstances they remain positive,” he said. “I truly believe we as Americans can learn much about overcoming adversity from such a remarkable people.”

The most challenging aspect of Fecteau’s experience has been his treatment as a fellow soldier, which for him and other Army soldiers is like losing a member of the family.

“Don’t waste your time to feel sorry for ourselves, but we do remember those who were lost and celebrate their memory every day by continuing to fight against the injustices we see,” he said.

Seeing soldiers lose their lives is nearly matched by the pain of witnessing those wounded in action. Fecteau recalled when his commander’s chopper was shot down and another commander in his brigade was shot through both of his legs. Both survived.

“When we go out on patrols or in a Black Hawk I think about those high-ranking commanders and remember no one is untouchable,” Fecteau said. “I always remain on guard.”

Fecteau’s interest in the military is an extension of his attraction to politics. At CCRI, he served in student government, worked as a peer tutor and interned for Rhode Island Congresswoman Patrick Kennedy.

In professor James Glickman’s oral communications class, Fecteau remembered heated and contentious debates on controversial issues, but his professor never let the class get out of hand.

“He remained in control regardless of how chaotic the situation,” he said. “In the Army when a situation seems out of control I think back to the calm, cool professor Glickman and ask myself, ‘What would he do?’”

Fecteau, 24, was born in Queens, N.Y., and was raised in Pawtucket. He plans to continue his military career. “I want to stay in Iraq until the job is done — enabling a democratic government to function and protect their people,” he said. “I truly believe if Iraq becomes a functioning democracy the world will be a much safer place.”

David Russell doesn’t let the discrimination he encountered in many facets of his life as a black man bring him down. Instead, he uses education to build himself up. “I believe that education is power,” said the 48-year-old who is the first member of his family to receive a college degree.

Russell has already begun working toward a bachelor’s degree in social work from Springfield College after graduating with an associate degree in the same subject at CCRI this year. His studies have helped him increase his mentoring and leadership skills as a counselor at MAP, the only treatment center in Rhode Island for minorities with substance abuse problems. But what makes him good at his job, Russell said, is the combination of his academics and life experience.

“In the community I live in, I’ve seen a lot of people strung out. I’ve seen children from broken families. A lot of them have a lot of questions, but no answers,” he said. “I wanted to make an impact.”

Prior to attending CCRI, Russell spent 20 years as a certified personal trainer, a career that he gave up to return to school. For Russell, attending CCRI has given him a new sense of personal growth and helped him develop a voice he could use to be heard.

“Regardless of the circumstances they remain positive,“ he said. “I truly believe we as Americans can learn much about overcoming adversity from such a remarkable people.”

Russell lives in Providence with his fiancée, Mary Green. He has two daughters, a son and nine grandchildren.
Barbara Sunderland Manousso ’68 finds harmony in mediation

Being stuck in the middle comes naturally to Barbara Sunderland Manousso.

A CCRi student and a sole proprietor of a finishing school in her teens and 20s, her schedule was consistently jammed with obligations. Fast forward a few decades and she is still in between mode — now as a certified mediator in Texas, working with clients to resolve disputes and create compromise.

“I don’t take sides, I remain neutral,” she said. “That allows equal opportunity for expression on both sides of an issue.”

Throughout her life, Manousso has applied a similar tactic to her talents in modeling and music, giving them equal opportunity for expression. A frequent winner of beauty pageants and an accomplished tuba, trumpet and trombone player, she acquired a flair for the stage and launched a small baton twirling school at the age of 14.

Two years later, the business expanded to become a finishing school for pageant contestants offering modeling and makeup classes. Manousso eventually ran the operation from a building on Mineral Spring Avenue in North Providence and called it the “Barbara School of Charm and Modeling.” She also started “Cosmetics by Barbara,” employing more than 150 men and women as salespeople.

As a resident of Providence, Manousso graduated from Hope High School. “I had been accepted to URI, but I didn’t want to give up my business,” she said. CCRi became the logical choice for its convenience and opportunity — Manousso could continue to study music and maintain her business. She became a hostess on local TV’s “Dialing for Dollars.” The commitment often meant missing from the TV station to the CCRi campus or vice versa. “I’d be all made up for TV wearing fake eyelashes when I showed up for class,” she recalled. “It was very funny.”

At CCRi Manousso majored in music and participated in the chorus, the a cappella choir and the orchestra. She remembers sharing a 10-member music class with nine men, among them were Bill Cowsill, lead singer and guitarist for “The Cowsills,” a popular family group in the 1960s that became the basis for “The Partridge Family” and Lee Waterman, a trumpet player.

She also remembers taking classes with music Professor Emeritus Lloyd Kaplan, who taught her how to recognize composers based on the themes in their style. “Whenever I go to concerts or have music playing in the background, I always think about how he taught us to analyze music and recognize composers,” she said.

After graduating from CCRi, Manousso continued to run her business.

In 1977, she earned a bachelor’s in semiotics and English from Brown University. She was in the second class of women to be accepted to Brown. “I was well-prepared for Brown because of the community college. It gave me the confidence I needed,” she said.

Manousso gave up her business after 16 years in operation and moved to Houston, Texas, where she started a new public relations and fund-raising company. She earned a master’s degree in public health from the University of Texas School of Public Health in 1987 and decided to pursue law, a lifelong interest. Soon after she started the program, Manousso was diagnosed with chronic fatigue syndrome and had difficulty juggling work and her studies in the grueling program.

The dean at South Texas College of Law recognized her plight as well as her ability for establishing and building relationships and suggested that she pursue a new area in the field — mediation.

Manousso found her niche. She completed thousands of hours of training to become a Texas Advanced Certified Mediator, as well as a certified arbitrator, negotiator and facilitator.

Since 1993, she has worked on countless local and federal issues, including couples facing divorce and employment disputes.

“My clients need somebody to help them facilitate the discussion, so that they can have a win-win situation,” she said. “You want to build relationships, not destroy them.”

Earlier this year, she received a doctorate in conflict analysis and resolution from Nova Southeastern University and was elected president of the Houston Chapter of the Association of Conflict Resolution. A specialist in elder care mediation, she lectures around the country on the subject.

Manousso still plays the tuba from time to time and is proud that her nephew, John Sunderland, who will be a sophomore at URI this fall, also attended CCRi. She resides in Houston with her husband, John, and can be contacted at mediation@manousso.us.

Mother of seven overcame illiteracy on path to graduation

Cathleen Torres approaches her job as a family service coordinator at the Gateway Healthcare’s Empowered Families CEDARR Center in Pawtucket with an “it takes one to know one” philosophy.

When she meets with parents who are struggling with family crises, she often finds herself saying things like, “Don’t change yourself. It’s going to be OK. Things will get better. Have patience.”

“I always wanted someone in my life who could have added a positive and healthy influence,” said the mother of seven who overcame illiteracy as an adult. “I think that is why I enjoy helping people and making a difference.”

Torres just graduated from CCRi with an associate degree in liberal arts. But the road to graduation was plagued with challenges. Raised by her Spanish-speaking grandmother in Manhattan, she was the oldest grandchild and responsible for taking care of her siblings and doing housework. She went to school when she could and learned to speak English, but never learned to read or write. At age 9, she moved to Rhode Island with her family, but three years later she moved out on her own to escape her grandmother’s abusive husband.

By the age of 14, she had her first child, Bryan. Torres learned to write her name and address but struggled to find work, applying to factory jobs without success. Unable to care for her growing family, she went on welfare.

When Bryan was in the fifth grade, he asked Torres to read him a story.

“I had to confess to my son I couldn’t read,” she said. “I made a promise to myself then and there that I would learn to read before I graduated from high school.”

Torres signed up for free literacy classes and learned to read. In 1996, she earned her GED while simultaneously working full time and caring for her family. “I kept focused,” she said. “Regardless of how the days went sometimes, I kept moving forward.”

Torres lives in Pawtucket with her husband, Rafael, and their three youngest children. She has worked hard to give them the experiences she never had as a child such as karate lessons and a family trip to Disney World.

“I had to grow up too fast and I didn’t want that for them,” she said. Torres is proud to say that all of her children who are older than 18 have graduated from high school. One child has graduated from college and two are now in college.

“I’ve always dreamed of making it this far,” she said. “It doesn’t matter where you’ve been or what struggles you’ve had. It’s not impossible to make what you want out of life if you’re willing to make sacrifices. If no one believes in you, you’ve got to believe in yourself.”

Alumni merchandise now available online

Please visit the Bookstore’s Web site at www.ccri.edu for alumni gifts and clothing.

Knights Campus 825-2134
Flanagan Campus 333-7011
Liston Campus 455-6101
Newport County Campus 851-1610
Three honored at first Changing Lives event

The CCRI Foundation recognized three Rhode Islanders as leaders in education, business and the community during its first “Changing Lives Celebration” and fund-raiser at the Liston Campus in Providence on May 10. On behalf of the Foundation, President Ray Di Pasquale presented awards to Dr. Brenda Dann-Messier, Sen. M. Teresa Paiva-Weed (D-Dist. 13) and Thomas W. Kelly for their achievements and contributions in helping CCRI continue to advance its mission of providing affordable higher education to students throughout the state.

“Tonight when we talk about changing lives and achieving dreams it’s all about our students and their success,” said outgoing CCRI Foundation President Ronald J. Caniglia. “We are honoring three outstanding individuals who have contributed to student success at CCRI through volunteerism, dedicating themselves to help students achieve things they never thought imaginable.”

Dann-Messier, president of Dorcas Place Adult and Family Learning Center, received the “Education Champion Award.” The center provides education and job placement services to more than 1,000 low-income adults and families each year, including CCRI students in the “Bridge to College” program.

“I accept this award not only for myself, but for the true champions of education — the thousands of students who come to learn to read, write and speak English,” Dann-Messier said. “We just provide opportunity, but it’s the students who take advantage of the opportunity to change their lives and achieve their dreams.”

The “Business Leader Award” was presented to Kelly, president and CEO of BankNewport and of OceanPoint Financial Partners, MHC. Since joining BankNewport, he has continued the organization’s commitment to supporting the communities it serves, contributing to many nonprofits and programs that enhance the quality of life in the area, including CCRI. Upon accepting the award, Kelly pledged to continue the partnership with CCRI as the Newport campus expands and the student population increases.

Paiva-Weed was recognized by the foundation as a “community servant” with the “Community Service Award.” A member of the Rhode Island Senate since 1992, she was unanimously elected to serve as Senate majority leader in January 2004. During her tenure in the Senate, she has led the legislative effort to reform the state welfare system and was instrumental in the passage of legislation that changed the manner in which judges are selected to a merit-based process.

“I accept this award not only for myself, but for the true champions of education — the thousands of students who come to learn to read, write and speak English,” Dann-Messier said. “We just provide opportunity, but it’s the students who take advantage of the opportunity to change their lives and achieve their dreams.”

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Sincerely,
Charlie Miller
CCRI Alumnus, 1983
Chief Information Officer, RI Higher Education Assistance Authority
CCRI Trustee

Dear Friend of CCRI:

I originally chose CCRI due to its affordability and high placement rates, yet upon arrival, I found so much more.

I found first-rate classes, attentive professors, specialized training programs, and many friends. CCRI quickly became a wonderful and integral part of my life.

After CCRI, I went on to earn a Bachelor of Arts and Master of Education and have since developed a rewarding career in computer technology.

Because CCRI has made such a tremendous difference in my life, I have made a bequest to the college. I know it will help provide future students with the opportunities that were afforded me.

I ask you, too, to consider the rewards of leaving a legacy to an institution that impacts students’ lives every day.

Sincerely,
Charlie Miller
CCRI Alumnus, 1983
Chief Information Officer, RI Higher Education Assistance Authority
CCRI Trustee

October 19, 2007

Also recognized as Honorary Alumni will be:

Nancy Abod, retired director of Public Relations and Publications
Robert Henderson, retired vice president of Business Affairs
Thomas E. Pitts Jr., retired lawyer

Tickets for this fund-raiser for student scholarships and alumni programs cost $75 each. Call 333-7150 or e-mail alumni@ccri.edu.
Golf
The Knights golf team dominated the Region XXI Championship, shooting a two-day team total score of 647. The nearest two competitors were Springfield Technical Community College with a score of 659 and Holyoke Community College with 697. The victory earned the team the second consecutive appearance at the national championship.

While the team victory was sweet, each individual performance was noteworthy on its own. Regional gold medalist CCRI freshman Joe Down- ing (Portsmouth) shot a two-day total of 149. Downing had a seven stroke lead going into the final round and was able to hold on with 85 to eight other competitors with a final round score of 76. A competitor said, “Joe is like a machine; when he gets in the zone he is almost unbeatable.”

Kyle DeCosta (Pawtucket) finished 11 strokes behind his teammate with a score of 160, which secured second place for him. DeCosta followed his first round score of 82 with his best round of the season at 78. The Knights also grabbed the fourth-place win with finals of 91- and 6-5 in the Region XXI Championships. They finish season 17-14-1. Both games were late-innings bouts of bad luck for the Knights. Game 1 was a close one with a 2-1 score at the bottom of the fifth, but UCAP rallied and expanded its lead to 5-1 by the seventh, adding four more insurance runs in the eighth. Game 2, where the Knights faced elimination, brought a new sense of urgency. CCRI pulled a 5-2 lead into the top of the seventh inning with pitcher Dave Gladding (Cranston) cruising through the first six innings and with two outs in the seventh. The Knights’ luck started unraveling with an error on a fly ball that put a man on base for UCAP. A series of walks and hit batters quieted the score in the ninth as John Amore (Johnston) led the inning off with a base hit and was sacrificed over by Blake Burns (Osceola, Fl.), putting him in scoring position with one out. However, the Knights couldn’t rally enough to get Amore across the plate and the inning ended the Knights’ rally and season.

Baseball
The Knights baseball team fell to No. 12 ranked UConn-Avery Point with finals of 9-1 and 6-5 in the Region XXI Championships. They finish season 17-14-1. Both games were late-innings bouts of bad luck for the Knights. Game 1 was a close one with a 2-1 score at the bottom of the fifth, but UCAP rallied and expanded its lead to 5-1 by the seventh, adding four more insurance runs in the eighth. Game 2, where the Knights faced elimination, brought a new sense of urgency. CCRI pulled a 5-2 lead into the top of the seventh inning with pitcher Dave Gladding (Cranston) cruising through the first six innings and with two outs in the seventh. The Knights’ luck started unraveling with an error on a fly ball that put a man on base for UCAP. A series of walks and hit batters quieted the score in the ninth as John Amore (Johnston) led the inning off with a base hit and was sacrificed over by Blake Burns (Osceola, Fl.), putting him in scoring position with one out. However, the Knights couldn’t rally enough to get Amore across the plate and the inning ended the Knights’ rally and season.

Track & Field
Kevin White (Swansone, Mass.) earned First Team All-American honors with his first-place finish in the 400m hurdles in a time of 55.44 at the NJCAA Track & Field Nationals. White also placed fourth in the 110m hurdles with a CCRI school record time of 15.82. Joining White in earning All-American honors was Michelle McNamie (Cranston) who earned Second Team All-Ameri- can honors. Meanwhile, the CCRI men’s tennis team fought valiantly but came away from its national championship matches without a win. Though the team’s national championship dreams did not come true, its members can boast an excellent season. For the young program to have made the cut for nationals for the second year in a row shows that the CCRI Knights are building momentum and will continue to do so.

softball
The CCRI Lady Knights softball team suffered a loss to Orange County CC in the Region XXI Tournament championship games, with 3-1 and 4-1 the finals. With the losses, the Lady Knights end the season 12-9, but still claim the region title. Softball standout Jasmine Bonanca (Swansone, Mass.) leaves her two years behind after helping rewrite the CCRI softball record book. Bonanca holds the single-season record in hits with 46 set last year; the single game mark for triples with two in one game, a feat she accomplished in both careers; the career mark of 16 doubles and seven triples. She also ranks No. 2 in career hits with 80 and No. 2 in career batting average with an impressive .580.

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Nursing Chair Doris Aline Fournier retires after 38 years

Professor of Nursing Anita Creamer has a story about longtime colleague and retiring department chair Doris Aline Fournier that she likes to tell. In the 1980s, Creamer had a student in her class who desperately wanted to become a nurse to provide for her family. The mother of five, recently abandoned by her husband, attended two lectures on the Lincoln Campus from 6 to 9 p.m. each week with her children in tow. “The oldest was about 12 or 13 and would baby-sit the others in the atrium while their mother was in class,” Creamer said.

In awe of the student’s dedication, Creamer told Fournier about her. “Aline opened her pocketbook, wrote a check and said to me, ‘Would you give this to her for me?’” Creamer recalled. “And that wasn’t the only time I’ve seen her do that.”

Compassionate, generous, knowledgeable, disciplined and fair are just some of the adjectives members of the CCRI community use when talking about Fournier. During her 38-year tenure, she has developed a nationally recognized nursing curriculum, increasing its number of programs from two to seven, bringing on board new faculty, extending course offerings to all four campuses across the state and securing funding for state-of-the-art equipment in each of the nursing labs.

Fournier, of Warwick, has been instrumental in training thousands of Rhode Island’s nursing force and her efforts will have a lasting impact on health care in the state. She has served as department chair for 30 of her 38 years at the college, which is symbolic of the faith faculty place in her consistent leadership. “She has been here through thick and thin,” Creamer said. “She is CCRI’s nursing program.”

In addition to her role as chairwoman, Fournier has been involved in a number of college activities, including the academic advisory committee, the sabbatical committee and the fire science advisory board. She has attended CCRI’s annual spring dinner and been on the board of directors for National Nurses Week and the American Nurses Association.

Reflecting on her career, Fournier is proud of the connections she has made statewide and the visibility she has helped create for nursing education and for female faculty members. “I’ve given a lot of myself to CCRI and to this program,” she said. “It’s something I care about deeply.”

Not one to take a day off for illness or pleasure, she thrives on change — “it’s never dull and never boring” — and running a tight ship.

“She expects high standards from faculty and students so she is firm, but she is just as compassionate,” said CCRI Dean of Nursing Maureen McGarry. If Fournier leads with what Paulette Osterman, chair of the level 2 nursing program, calls “military style,” it has a lot to do with her experience in the U.S. Army. Serving stints in Texas and Germany over a period of two-and-a-half years, Fournier was a captain in the Army Nurse Corps. It was through the Army she met her husband and moved to Rhode Island, where she accepted a teaching position with the Rhode Island School of Practical Nursing. She joined CCRI three years later in 1969.

A retirement party honoring Fournier was held May 11 at the Crowne Plaza in Warwick. She is working through the summer to help her replacement Margaret Clifton, currently an associate professor of nursing at CCRI, take the reins. When she does officially retire, Fournier has some unusual plans — at least for her. On the agenda? “Visiting family, just relaxing and living life,” she said.

New career rewards Wendy Baker ’07 for her determination

Wendy Baker’s foray into college stalled when she married and had children. After seven years of marriage, she found herself single and ready to start school again full throttle. “When I started a family there never seemed to be a good time for me to go after my dreams,” she said. “I decided I didn’t want to struggle to support my kids,” she said.

Baker graduated from CCRI on May 18 with high honors as a member of the Kappa Beta Delta Honor Society. A business major with many accounting and business courses under her belt, she started a new job in accounting receivable with a North Kingstown graphics firm four days before graduation.

“I did this for me and my family. I put the effort into it and now it’s rewarded me,” she said.

Baker started taking classes in 2006, cranking six or seven courses into the fall and spring semesters. Typically, a full-time student takes four or five. She also took three courses during the summer to advance her degree. Each week, she worked 20 hours in the library performing a number of duties and gaining new skills. “It gave me a lot of valuable work experience I can use in my new job,” she said.

Baker’s determination to finish her degree got her through the tough times of balancing her roles as mother and student. Often, she said, it seemed as though there were never enough hours in the day and there was always a bill to pay. She always did her homework at night after her children went to bed. “I can’t say it was easy. There were so many times I was ready to throw in the towel,” she said. “The biggest challenge was sticking to it and making it work.”

Baker, 31, lives in West Warwick with her son Kyle, 9, and daughter Hailey, 5. “My son is so proud of me,” she said. “He’s telling everyone his mommy is graduating.”

Alumni Class Notes continued ...

(’03) Kevin Kretchman Jr.

is now the assistant program director of Phoenix Houses of New England, the country’s largest nonprofit substance abuse treatment provider. He has also gained his license as a chemical dependency clinician with the assistance of CCRI.

Sonja Marsxon and Arthur Butts IV were married Oct. 8, 2006, at St. Timothy’s Church in Newport.

(’04) Patrick M. McCarthy

II graduated from Rhode Island College in May with a degree in public and professional communications.

Melissa (Turner) Picard and Mathew Picard were married in July 2004 and have a baby girl, Katelyn Marie, born April 6, 2006.

Elizabeth A. Valente and Michael A. Zarro were married Nov. 4, 2006, at the Hotel Viking in Newport.

(’05) Kevin D. Dello Iacocco

received his bachelor’s degree in theology from Providence College on May 20. He plans to study for a master’s degree in biblical studies at Providence College during the 2007-08 academic year.

Veronica Bruscini was the first place winner in Division 5 (College Level) for poetry in the 2007 R.I. Council of Teachers of English Student Writing Contest. She attended awards ceremony at the Johnson & Wales Pepsi Forum on May 3, where she presented her poem “Dusk at Crescent Park.” The poem was published by the council.

Dawn M. Shurtleff and Joseph D. Fontaine were married Sept. 16, 2006, at St. Alban’s Church in Centerdale.

What’s new in your life?

Fill out the information request form on the back of the newsletter and let us know what has been going on since you graduated from CCRI. Return it soon to be included in the Fall 2007 issue of the Green & White.

(’06) Jessica L. Blake and Joseph C. Vick were married Oct. 7, 2006, at St. Patrick’s Church in Providence.

Jessica Nickerson and Michael Kelly Jr. were married Oct. 14, 2006, at the Congregational Church in Scituate.