Mayor Jorge Elorza began his pursuit of higher education at CCRI

COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF RHODE ISLAND

Green & White
ALUMNI MAGAZINE

HONORING OUR ALUMNI

COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF RHODE ISLAND
Community College of Rhode Island Alumni Association’s

13th Annual GOLF TOURNAMENT

Wednesday, June 10 • Crystal Lake Golf Club, Mapleville, R.I.

Your support allows us to raise funds to defray the cost of books and tuition for CCRI students. Now more than ever, your support is needed to help students change their lives and achieve their dreams through a college education.

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Throughout this year we have heard a number of stories, memories and reflections from individuals who have spent time at CCRI. I am extremely proud to be part of an institution that has helped prepare so many students of all ages and backgrounds for careers and educational opportunities.

It is only fitting that the focus of this issue be our “Celebrating Alumni for 50 Years” event and the 26 distinguished alumni award recipients. As you read the brief biographies of these honorees included in this edition, I encourage you to think about how your experience at CCRI changed your life. These honorees span the decades, and their accomplishments are a true testament to the opportunities that a CCRI education can provide.

I want to extend sincere congratulations to all the honorees. This event is the one opportunity during the year for us to join together and celebrate our 64,000 alumni. These award-winners have achieved so much; they are leaders in their fields and their communities.

I believe that this historic year has shined a light on CCRI and the quality programs and services the college provides to our students and the community. The Community College of Rhode Island is truly changing lives. I encourage everyone to keep the excitement and momentum going beyond the anniversary. The support and involvement of our alumni and friends will strengthen the college and preserve our mission for years to come.

A message from the President
‘Lincoln: the Constitution and the Civil War’ panel exhibition to visit CCRI

As the American Civil War sesquicentennial comes to a close, the Community College of Rhode Island – in a collaborative effort between its Social Sciences and Library departments – will showcase a special historical exhibit in the Great Hall at the Knight Campus from March 25 through May 1. “Lincoln: the Constitution and the Civil War,” a traveling exhibition for libraries, was organized by the National Constitution Center and the American Library Association Public Programs Office. The traveling exhibition has been made possible by a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. “Lincoln: the Constitution and the Civil War” is based on an exhibition of the same name developed by the National Constitution Center.

In addition to the exhibition, which centers around the themes of the Constitutional issues Abraham Lincoln faced during the Civil War era concerning secession, civil liberties and emancipation, the Knight Campus will host several events sponsored by the CCRI Foundation and the Charles Sullivan Fund for the Arts and Humanities. An opening program will take place at 6:30 p.m. on March 25 in Room 1040, and will include presentations by Associate Professor Suzanne McCormack and Professor Jack Every, who serves as the project scholar, showcasing the themes of the exhibit. Additional programs will take place throughout the month of April, including a gallery night presentation about Civil War photography given by Professor Tom Morrissey at 6:30 p.m. on April 22 in Room 4080. The exhibition and all events will be free and open to the public.

“The highly visual exhibit and enriching programs will provide opportunities for our college community and local residents to connect with historical issues that may otherwise seem remote,” said project director Professor Kathy Blessing. “Through engagement with the graphic panels and attending scholarly presentations, we will gain a rounded view of what’s important to remember about the Civil War era and its impact on subsequent generations – including our own.”
A tribute to Dean Maureen McGarry

On Nov. 12, 2014, the Community College of Rhode Island lost a dear friend and colleague in Maureen McGarry, dean of Health and Rehabilitative Sciences. On Jan. 30, nearly 75 people, including faculty, staff, students and family members gathered at a memorial celebration in her honor at the Flanagan Campus.

Dean of Business, Science and Technology Peter Woodberry presided over the event, which a group of faculty and staff organized over the intervening months. The celebration featured a slideshow of photographs and favorite musical selections that friends, colleagues and McGarry’s family provided.

President Ray Di Pasquale began the afternoon by announcing that the health sciences wing of the Newport County Campus would be renamed the Dr. Maureen Young-McGarry Health Sciences Wing and noted on a permanent plaque.

The event featured planned speakers, who shared memories not just from McGarry’s quarter century at the college, but from her days as a nursing student at St. Joseph’s Hospital School of Nursing. In addition, the audience heard two musical selections performed by students Brianne Perry and Antonio Rodriguez with accompaniment by Professor Audrey Kaiser, as well as impromptu remarks from friends and family, including McGarry’s sister, Carol Hudson Young, pictured at right.

After the speaking portion of the program, attendees mingled, filling the hall with laughter, tears and stories of a truly unforgettable mentor, mother and nurse.

Coach Hopkins receives lifetime achievement award from Words Unlimited

CCRI baseball coach Ken Hopkins ‘76, who began his coaching career in the Johnston Youth Leagues in the 1970s, received an Amby Smith Lifetime Achievement Award at the 69th annual Words Unlimited banquet on March 1 at West Warwick’s West Valley Inn. Words Unlimited is Rhode Island’s organization of sportswriters, sportscasters and publicists.

Hopkins, who has served as head coach of the CCRI baseball team since 2001, became the college’s baseball coach with the highest winning record when the Knights defeated Roxbury Community College, 11-6, in March 2011. The CCRI Liberal Arts graduate has compiled a record of 354-164-2 to date, surpassing his former coach Harold “Whitey” Fell.

Hopkins competed at CCRI under Fell from 1974–76, serving as the team’s starting pitcher and amassing accolades and records at the college before moving on to Rhode Island College. In 1981, at age 27, he returned to CCRI to serve as the Knights pitching coach. Two years later, he took the reins from Fell as interim head coach, leading the team to a 20-7 season – the Knights’ best record in program history to that point and the college’s first national baseball ranking.

Hopkins took an 11-year hiatus from coaching baseball, but jumped at the chance to once again lead the CCRI Knights, returning in 2001. Hopkins’ coaching philosophy stresses the importance of success off the field as much as on the field: “Play hard, respect the game and be on time.”

Hopkins continues his journey as the Knights’ leader with a positive outlook on the 2015 season, saying this year’s team is “one of the finest squads in recent memory.”

Read more about Hopkins and his achievements on the Athletics Web page at www.ccri.edu/athl.
CELEBRATING ALUMNI for 50 YEARS

Continuing its 50th anniversary celebration, the Community College of Rhode Island will honor 26 of its distinguished alumni during “Celebrating Alumni for 50 Years” on March 26. The event will take place at Rhodes on the Pawtuxet in Cranston. Emceed by WPRI news anchor Mike Montecalvo with entertainment provided by Livingston Taylor, the evening’s program promises to be a unique event honoring the accomplishments of an elite group of alumni that has achieved success in a variety of fields.

While the Alumni Association typically honors a few graduates with its Society of Knights awards ceremony, the breadth and depth of this event is unique to the college’s golden anniversary.

In its 50 years in operation, CCRI has produced more than 64,000 alumni whose lives, careers and community service accomplishments stand as a testament to the college’s diverse environments – both in the sense of its academics and its student population. The alumni who will be honored at the event include former Liberal Arts graduates such as Joseph C. Cardin ’76, superintendent of the Rhode Island Training School, and Carl Tetzner ’66, owner of two successful Rhode Island-based businesses.

The breadth of the Performing Arts Department is represented as well, with two stars of stage and screen represented in the mix of honorees, including Screen Actors Guild Award-winner Lin Tucci ’71. And among those alumni whose success speaks to CCRI’s strong training in the sciences is Richard Cournoyer ’96, who began with an associate degree from the Engineering and Technology Department and went on to work at the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory on projects such as the Mars Science Laboratory Robotic Lander.

These accomplished alumni represent just a small segment of the honorees on hand for the event; CCRI looks forward to celebrating graduates who have gone on to serve in health care, academia, the arts, education, human services and other fields. Learn more about the event online at www.ccri.edu/alumni/celebrate.
**Lin Tucci ’71** has been named the recipient of the award for Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. Tucci, who resides in New York City, has been active on the stage and screen since graduating with a Liberal Arts degree concentrating in drama, performing on Broadway and in national tours in “Nunsense,” in the major motion picture “Showgirls” and more. She can be seen as a featured cast member on the hit Netflix original series “Orange Is the New Black,” a critically acclaimed comedy-drama that has received awards ranging from Critics’ Choice, Primetime Emmys, and the Screen Actors Guild, as well as several Golden Globes nominations. Tucci fondly remembers the place where she got her start: “If it wasn’t for CCRI, I don’t know what would have happened. It was the foundation for everything else. I honed my entire craft [at CCRI].”

**Sandra Pattie ’76** will receive the divisional award for Business, Science and Technology. Pattie graduated from the college with an associate degree in General Business and is president and CEO of BankNewport, where she has worked in various positions since 1985, including nine years as the bank’s COO. Pattie has more than 35 years of experience in the banking industry and is an active civic and business member, serving on the boards of the United Way of Rhode Island and the Newport Hospital Foundation. She also serves as a CCRI Foundation trustee as well as on the President’s Council at Providence College. She resides in Rehoboth, Massachusetts.

**Antonia “Toni” McGuire ’75** is to receive the divisional award for Health and Rehabilitative Sciences. McGuire is a graduate of the college’s Nursing program, and now serves as president and CEO of the Edward M. Kennedy Community Health Center in Worcester, Massachusetts. A resident of Westborough, Massachusetts, McGuire has more than 25 years of experience working in or with community health centers, and in that state, serves as chairwoman of the executive board of the Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers and is a member of the Leadership Committee of the Kraft Family National Center for Leadership and Training in Community Health. She started, organized and managed the first-ever Department of Family Medicine at Boston Medical Center. McGuire is on the board of directors for Neighborhood Health Plan and serves as the chairwoman of the CHC Advisory Board for Neighborhood Health Plan. In Rhode Island, she serves on the Alumni Association board at the Community College of Rhode Island and as an adjunct lecturer of health care leadership at Brown University.
**Joseph C. Cardin ’76** earned an associate degree in Liberal Arts from Rhode Island Junior College, but didn’t stop there on his higher education journey. The Lincoln resident subsequently earned his bachelor’s and master’s of social work from Rhode Island College, degrees that he now puts to good use as the superintendent of the Rhode Island Training School. His work in juvenile justice, including involvements with the Rhode Island Juvenile Justice Advisory Commission, the Attorney General’s Justice and Domestic Violence task forces, and the Coalition for Juvenile Justice has earned him induction into the Rhode Island Criminal Justice Hall of Fame as well as the City of Cranston Hall of Fame. He practices martial arts and has been inducted two times into both the U.S. and the World Martial Arts halls of fame. Cardin credits the “committed” CCRI faculty and staff who “personally and unselfishly support and challenge students to achieve excellence” with his success.

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**Robert J. Cimino Jr. ’87** said he found his true calling in the medical technology field at CCRI, where he received an associate degree from the Medical Laboratory Technician program. He had doubts during his clinical rotations, when an “unpleasant experience drawing a patient blood sample” shook his confidence – but then-Department Chair Lela Morgan encouraged him, later on accompanying him to a trade show where, résumé in hand, he broke into the medical technology field. Now living in Indianapolis, Indiana, and working as the senior technical representative-Midwest region and international sales manager-South America for Helena Laboratories, he can look back on a long career managing teams and sales for an international company. Cimino is also a medical volunteer for both the Academic Model Providing Access to HealthCare and the Indiana Hemophilia & Thrombosis Center, through which he travels to Kenya to help facilitate laboratories and education to diagnose and treat patients with sickle cell anemia.

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**Jocelyn Bluto ’94** is a graduate of the Chemical Technology program, now residing in Warwick. Bluto works as a technical staff assistant in CCRI’s Chemistry Department, where she has received two employee recognition awards. “I loved the college so much I didn’t want to leave,” she said. “So I didn’t.” She is active in the technology community, particularly when it comes to advocating for women in technology and bringing opportunities for women in technology to CCRI. She was a member of the team that secured a National Institute for Women in Trades, Technology and Science grant in 1999, making CCRI one of the three community colleges across the nation to participate; she co-coordinated CCRI’s Women in Technology Expos for a number of years as well as the Tech Collective GRRL Tech Expo and she co-facilitated the Women Tech Project workshop at the National League for Innovation in 2002.

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**Virginia Cairrao ’83** is a graduate of the Dental Assisting program. The Bristol resident is employed as a dental assistant and dental office manager for Philip D. Barr, D.D.S., in Providence, where she has worked since 1983. Cairrao said that the coursework at CCRI gave her – in addition to a certification – “the education, confidence and ability to achieve success in an ever-growing profession.” Her awards and professional involvements speak to that commitment and that success: She was recently named President-elect of the American Dental Assistants Association and has served as president, secretary, recording secretary, legislative chairwoman and scholarship chairwoman of the Rhode Island Dental Assistants Association. While at CCRI, she earned the Helen Searles Award for Clinical Experience, and continues to volunteer at the Rhode Island Mission of Mercy free dental clinic at CCRI and the Dental Mobile Van clinic, as well as manage emergency shelters in Bristol and serve as the president of the Bristol Fire Department’s Ladies Auxiliary.
Doris M. De Los Santos ’02 had already excelled academically when she graduated magna cum laude from Pedro Henriquez Urena University in the Dominican Republic, her home country. But when she came to the United States, she knew that there was more work to be done. “Enrolling and successfully completing my degree at CCRI was one of the most important decisions I made when I immigrated to this country. It allowed me the opportunity to improve my language skills and solidified my confidence as a professional. My CCRI experience provided the foundation I needed to be who I am today,” said the Liberal Arts graduate. Now living in Providence, De Los Santos is the executive director of partnerships, development and community engagement for Providence Public Schools, and is actively involved in service to her own community through involvement with the Rhode Island Health Exchange, Rhode Island Small Business Advisory Council, Rhode Island Family Shelter and numerous other organizations. She serves as the governor’s appointee for the Rhode Island Parole Board’s Interagency Council on Homelessness and Affordable Housing. Her work has earned her recognition from the Hispanic United Development Organization and the Rhode Island Latino Civic Fund, and she was named one of Providence Business News’ 40 under 40 in 2010.

Richard J. Cournoyer ’96 has had a career that shows CCRI graduates the benefits of reaching for the stars. Since earning an associate degree in Science from the college, he’s amassed more than 30 years of manufacturing and engineering experience in the aerospace and defense fields – including making his mark on the NASA Mars Science Laboratory Robotic Lander project. Most recently the manager of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory’s Prototype and R&D machining services, a post he retired from in 2012, his career began closer to home as a tool and die maker at Electric Boat in Quonset. After progressing to manufacturing supervisor and process-engineering manager at EB, he went on to earn not just his associate degree, but a Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering and Master of Science in manufacturing engineering from Worcester Polytechnic Institute. Following his education and prior to his involvement with NASA, he worked in the private sector on the West Coast. He has made as much impact as a teacher as he has as a learner; while at WPI, he ran the industrial robotics/automation laboratory and served as an adjunct instructor. He also has taught design for manufacturability and assembly and cognizant engineering courses throughout NASA’s centers. He resides in Whittier, California.

John W. Fuzek ’86 is a professional musician and freelance graphic designer living in Harmony. He graduated from the college with an Associate in Fine Arts degree, followed by a bachelor’s and two master’s degrees from Rhode Island College. During his musical career, Fuzek has opened for Livingston Taylor, the evening’s featured entertainment, several times. He has performed as part of the Fuzek-Rossoni Acoustic Duo, Forever Young Band (the Neil Young tribute band) and as a solo singer/songwriter/guitarist, earning citations from former Providence Mayor David Cicilline and the city of Providence as well as awards from the Providence Phoenix and Motif Magazine. He is the president of Hear In Rhode Island Inc., a nonprofit music production organization dedicated to bringing attention to the local musicians of the Ocean State, and was a founding member of the Rhode Island Songwriters Association, in addition to serving on the boards of Stone Soup Coffeehouse and the Northeast Regional Folk Alliance.
Normand E. Gamache Jr. ’78 earned his associate degree in Business Accounting from Rhode Island Junior College before going on to earn two bachelor’s degrees in business/accounting and criminal justice from Bryant University, as well as a master’s in administration of justice from Salve Regina University. “CCRI accepted me ‘on the last minute’ in 1975 and I have been a student ever since. The lifelong learning has sustained me through changes in career and geography,” said Gamache, who is now the director of public safety at the Rhode Island School of Design after a long and distinguished career in public safety for institutions in New York, Alabama and at Providence College. Gamache has participated in frequent professional development training in his field throughout his career and retired as a lieutenant with the Central Falls Police Department.

Dr. Michael J. Hayden ’77 is a graduate of the Nursing program who went on to become a doctor of osteopathy. Hayden, who trained at the University of South Florida and the University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine in Maine, owns and operates a private practice in Cranston. He is associated with Rhode Island Hospital, Hasbro Children’s Hospital and Kent Hospital, and holds memberships in the American Medical Association, the American Osteopathic Association and the Kent County Medical Society, among other professional associations. He has been active in mentoring medical students at Kent Hospital and served as an associate professor at Brown University. A resident of Cranston, he has been active in his community, including serving as the team physician of Cranston West football and a coach and board member of the Cranston West Little League.

Dr. Julie A. Landrio ’87, now of Winchester, Virginia, has spent her life working in the health care field, helping others. Her career path has been varied, beginning with completing the associate degree program in Radiography at the college’s Flanagan Campus (all the while being a basketball and softball standout), and she has never strayed from the pattern of academic excellence and achievement she enjoyed while starting out. “CCRI represents a supportive family that enabled me to grow intellectually and gain the confidence I would need to further my education and pursue a successful career,” she said. Earning honors from Phi Theta Kappa at CCRI and Phi Beta Kappa during her undergraduate years as a zoology major at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, Landrio went on to earn a place in the Alpha Omega Alpha honors society at Tufts University, where she attended medical school and graduated in 1995. She is board certified as a doctor of internal medicine and has been in private practice since 1998, earning patients’ choice awards and compassionate doctor recognition awards.

James Lee ’75 is a Liberal Arts program graduate who recently retired from his role as chief of the Civil Division in the Rhode Island Office of Attorney General. A resident of West Kingston, Lee holds a bachelor’s degree in psychology from the University of Rhode Island and a Juris Doctor from the University of California Hastings College of the Law. He has been honored with the Lifetime Volunteer Award for his work with the Rhode Island Legal/Educational Partnership, and has served as mock trial coach for both the Providence Hebrew Day School and New England Academy of Torah. To those students who will follow in his footsteps at the college, he counsels: “CCRI is one of Rhode Island’s best opportunities. Take advantage of it, work hard and ignore so-called limits on what you can achieve.”
**Alicia Marques-Jordan ’97** is living proof that CCRI is instrumental to nurturing the next generation of educational professionals. She played soccer and softball for the Lady Knights, earning the Rhode Island Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women Distinguished Student Athlete Award in 1997. After receiving her associate degree in General Studies from the college, she earned a dual bachelor’s degree in health education and physical education with an endorsement in adapted physical education. Today, she puts that knowledge to work at the Anna M. McCabe and Raymond C. LaPerche elementary schools in Smithfield, where she blends standard teaching best practices with the most up-to-date technologies available. Using everything from iPads to Twitter, Marques-Jordan is showing her students and fellow teachers how responsible use of technology can make learning more fun and efficient, embracing screen time for use in the gymnasium rather than seeing it as an enemy to physical activity. Her innovative techniques have garnered awards from the Rhode Island Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance. She was recently accepted to The Ohio State University to continue her education.

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**Elaine Manteiga ’81** is a graduate of the Human Services Department and is now working as a special education teacher at North Cumberland Middle School. She earned both bachelor’s and master’s degrees in education at Rhode Island College, and continues affiliation with that institution, along with Johnson & Wales University, as a cooperating teacher and mentor. Manteiga has been awarded the Special Education Teacher of the Year Award as well as the Crystal Apple Award, and has been named to Empire’s “Who’s Who of Women in Education” twice. She credits the college with helping her “find her strengths and passions,” and brings that same support and encouragement to the students she continues to mentor and guide today.

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**Marc C. Masone ’00** is receiving this honor posthumously. He resided in South Kingstown from 1998 until his death in 2012. An accomplished artist, potter and muralist, Masone received an Associate in Fine Arts degree from the college and, according to his father, at the time of his death was planning to go back and get a bachelor’s degree because he aspired to be an art teacher. His fine art and humanitarian work left a visible mark on his community; one can view his murals along a warehouse in Peace Dale as well as on Rhode Island bike paths, and he owns the patent on the “Wave Dip Technology” bowl design. His family has founded the Marc Masone Foundation for Developing Artists to celebrate his life by establishing a scholarship for art majors at the college, assisting artists who cannot afford to pay for space at art fairs and to create awareness about aneurysms.

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**Melissa Nassaney ’98** is a graduate of the Physical Therapist Assistant program who works in adult rehabilitative services at Rhode Island Hospital, where she is a senior therapist specializing in pelvic floor and orthopedic therapy. After her training at the college, she obtained a bachelor’s degree in science and a master’s degree in physical therapy from URI. She earned a doctorate of physical therapy from MGH Institute for Health Professions in Boston. The West Kingston resident’s work has appeared in peer-reviewed publications and at national meetings, and she maintains an active membership in the American Physical Therapy Association. Nassaney established and chaired the Rhode Island Women’s and Men’s Health Special Interest Group in 2012, among other advocacy work at the local and federal level. Additionally, she assisted in creating and editing the R.I. Physical Activity Resource Guide as a member of the American Heart Association’s Physical Activity and Health Committee. She received the Outstanding Alumni Award from the URI physical therapy program in 2012 and Emerging Leader Award from the American Physical Therapy Association in 2010.
Lynn M. Ruggieri ’81 has spent a good deal of her life as a student. Now, as the old saying goes, the student has become the teacher. The Barrington resident is a graduate of CCRI’s Retail Management program who has gone on to become an associate professor of accounting at Roger Williams University. She has risen to this rank after earning bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Bryant College, an MBA from Providence College and a law degree from University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth. Her teaching work has earned her two nominations for the University Excellence in Teaching Award in 2012 and 2014.

“I am grateful for the exceptional and quality education I received at CCRI. It was a solid academic foundation that provided the knowledge and skills to continue on,” Ruggieri said. Outside of the classroom, she has been active in celebrating the veterans community in Rhode Island, serving as keynote speaker for the Bristol Veterans Day celebration in 2013 and volunteering and presenting at meetings of Korean War veterans and at the Rhode Island Veterans Home in Bristol.

Vi Pham Williams ’03 of Newport has amassed more than nine years of customer service experience in the health care technology industry after graduating from CCRI and Bryant University. Williams works as the HCIS coordinator at Meditech in Foxborough, Massachusetts, managing 17 hospital accounts across the United States and Canada. Prior to that position, Williams served as senior applications specialist for the same company in its Westwood, Massachusetts, office. She was an invited participant at the Women’s Summit hosted by Bryant University in 2014. She said, “CCRI and its Access to Opportunity program makes higher education affordable to students from all backgrounds.”

Kathleen Santilli ’74 is a graduate of the Nursing program. A certified case manager for Aetna, she was named case manager of the quarter in 2014 after working with the company for 14 years. Colleagues have lauded her outstanding work ethic and compassionate support, particularly following the multiple catastrophic injury accident at the Dunkin’ Donuts Center during the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus in 2014. She no doubt puts the skills learned in the Nursing program and her long career as a registered nurse to work as she helps manage cases in the field for AIG. She was certified as a rescuer by the American Heart Association, and has received commendations from Gov. Philip Noel in 1975 for her volunteer work in foster and adoption services with the Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families. A former resident of California, she also volunteered with the Red Cross Disaster Team in that state.
Peter J. Santini ’66 of West Warwick is a graduate of the Liberal Arts program who credits his time at the college with giving him “the opportunity, character, skills and responsibility to engage in lifelong learning.” He has spent his career imparting that love of learning to new generations, both at the West Warwick School Department and as an adjunct instructor at the University of Rhode Island. Out of the classroom, Santini was heavily involved in extracurricular activities, designing sets for the Baker House Theater in Providence, coaching soccer for West Warwick High School and running his own photography studio, among other things. This Renaissance background should come as no surprise to his classmates, who will remember him for making a 3-D mosaic as the first graduating class’s gift to the college, serving as the first Alumni Association president in 1967–68, founder and president of the Sheilders in 1966 and participating in the production of “West Side Story” at the college. He received the U.S. Army Commendation Medal for Meritorious Service from 1984–1994.

Sylvia Ann Soares ’93 graduated from the Theatre program at the college and has performed professionally since 1965. Her career has spanned work as a writer, poet, director, producer and performer. She toured U.S. service clubs in Germany and was instrumental in the black theater movement in New York in the 1960s. She toured nationally in the Pulitzer Prize-winning play, “No Place To Be Somebody,” and also with the Negro Ensemble Company. Professional regional credits include Trinity Repertory Company (as a founding member), McCarter Theatre, Cincinnati Playhouse, Los Angeles Shakespeare Festival, Mark Taper, Ford’s Theater, New Repertory Theatre and Boston Playwrights’ Theatre. Soares’ television credits include “Kojak,” “Good Times,” “Baretta,” “Three Sovereigns for Sarah” and others. Returning to Providence from Los Angeles in 1981, she has performed with Trinity Rep, R.I. Feminist Theatre, Perishable Theatre, Brown University Summer Theater, Providence Black Rep, Rites and Reason, Mixed Magic, AS220, Rhode Island School of Design, University of Rhode Island and others. She holds awards and distinctions from R.I. Children’s Crusade for Higher Education and earned a degree in theatre arts from Brown University in 1995. She belongs to Actors Equity and SAG-AFTRA, and volunteers in the community. She has given talks on local Cape Verdean history funded by the R.I. Council for the Humanities and has presented a play about slavery in Rhode Island.

Carl J. Tetzner ’66 of Narragansett was one of the members of the first graduating class at CCRI, then Rhode Island Junior College. That the beginning of the state’s community college coincided with Tetzner’s graduation from high school was a stroke of luck that would continue to have a profound impact on him long after he had left the halls of the Foundry building in Providence. “When I graduated from high school, a lot of my friends were going to Providence College or places like it. I had the aptitude, but I didn’t have the money,” he said. “For me, CCRI was the opportunity to continue my education … it changed my life. If CCRI hadn’t been there, I wouldn’t have gone to college. CCRI was one of the stepping stones that got me to where I am today.” After college, Tetzner was selected to attend officer school in the U.S. Army. After he returned from service, he spent many decades as a corporate leader, and then decided to take up the one position he hadn’t held in his long career – owner of his own business. Now, Tetzner owns and operates two businesses in Rhode Island: Homestar Mortgage, which he owns with his son Stephen, and Phil’s Main Street Grille, with his other son Kenneth.
Like many students who walk through the doors of CCRI, Providence Mayor Jorge Elorza found himself donning a green and white tassel at commencement exercises in 2005. Though Elorza—who by then had gone on to graduate from the University of Rhode Island and Harvard Law School—was not graduating that day, he attended for an equally meaningful reason: He was commencement speaker.

“I was so honored to have been asked to speak,” he said. “I received two standing ovations, and I think it was because I spoke in a tone that came from direct experience. So many students that I saw receiving diplomas that day were there because they overcame significant personal challenges and wanted to make something better of themselves. I’d like to think that my personal story resonated with so many people in the crowd, and it was very special to me to be able to say thank you to CCRI for the role that it had played in my life and offer those students words of encouragement and advice.”

Indeed, Elorza’s story has much in common with his fellow CCRI students—both then and now. The son of two Guatemalan immigrants who came to Rhode Island to find a better life for their children, Elorza was born and raised on the city’s West Side. He described his parents as being very supportive, but that wasn’t enough to overcome what he called his “immaturity” as a young high school student. After he was rejected from the four colleges he applied to—URI, Rhode Island College and Johnson & Wales University among them—he knew it was time for a change.

“I knew I had the capacity to succeed, but I never tried very hard. My options then were to go to work in the same factory with my parents or get my act together. I had always felt as though I had something to contribute, but then I was seeing my friends go off to college and I was stuck at home. It brought me down to earth; it was very humbling,” he said.

When Elorza announced his intention to go to college after all—the first member of his family to do so—his parents remained supportive, and he was able to attend CCRI as a full-time student. He attended classes at the nearby Liston Campus in Providence from 1994 to 1995, borrowing his mother’s car for transportation. And with his renewed focus and determination, he did well enough to transfer to URI the following year. But what he remembers just as much as the impact of the classroom and professors is the assistance he received from CCRI staff members, who helped him find his way in a college environment and prepared him to take that next step.

“I didn’t know anyone who was a college graduate. There was not one person I could turn to and ask for advice,” he said. “With CCRI’s Educational Opportunity Center—particularly Stephanie Cruz, who remains a close friend to this day—I had someone looking out for me, who could walk me through the process and get me ready for a four-year college. I owe a big debt of gratitude to CCRI for helping me during this crucial point in my life.”

The college undoubtedly sparked a fire in Elorza, introducing him to new subjects, study skills and a brighter future that eventually would include not only a degree from an Ivy League institution, but an appointment as a professor at Roger Williams University.

He had clearly come a long way from the beginnings of what he called a “middling” academic career: Now, he was a role model for other students with whom his personal story no doubt resonated as they attempted to break from the molds into which history had funneled them.

CCRI’s role in Elorza’s past makes his current appointment all the more special; the college has two campuses in the capital city—the Liston Campus and the satellite in the Shepard Building—and the city’s new mayor is thrilled to have the college represented in the community he is charged to lead. The accessibility of the college to the communities within the city makes it an invaluable resource now and in the future, he said.

“We have a skills gap here in the city, as well as significant unemployment challenges. As CCRI was a bridge to me, I see CCRI being a bridge to careers for our young people and adults. I look forward to working and partnering with the college to make sure we are aligning our resources at the community college level with the needs of the community and the anticipated needs of our business community as well,” said Elorza.

“I owe a big debt of gratitude to CCRI for helping me during this crucial point in my life.”

— PROVIDENCE MAYOR JORGE ELORZA
EVENTS

WINTER/2015

Visit www.ccri.edu/president/5k to learn more and to register.

REGISTER ONLINE

- $20 or $10 for CCRi students (with valid student ID)
- $5 for the kids’ 1K fun run

Money raised through the event will fund student book scholarships at the college.

Visit www.ccri.edu/president/5k to learn more and to register.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION presents

Niagara Falls
Festival of Lights

Niagara Falls/Ontario, Canada

Friday, Dec. 4, to Sunday, Dec. 6

JOIN US!

Experience outstanding accommodations at the Sheraton on the Falls and enjoy dinner in the Fallsview Restaurant, featuring breathtaking views. See the spectacular “Festival of Lights” and visit a chocolate factory that is sure to give you a sweet time. Explore and shop in the picture-postcard town of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

COST (per person):
- Single occupancy $479
- Double occupancy $399
- Triple occupancy $389
- Child rate $319

A $50 deposit is due with your reservation.

Passport is required.

Learn more at www.ccri.edu/alumni.

10 a.m. Saturday, April 11
Flanagan Campus in Lincoln

CCRI

RUN/WALK

plus KIDS’ 1K FUN RUN

Friday, Dec. 4, to Sunday, Dec. 6
When John Barrette started his journey through higher education in 1964, he may have been the first in his family on the way to graduating from college, but he certainly wasn’t alone: Walking alongside him were the faculty, staff and first graduating class of the Community College of Rhode Island.

Barrette said that, in those early years of what was then Rhode Island Junior College, students and administrators essentially had mutual goals. “If the first class was unsuccessful, then the junior college wouldn’t have been a success. We knew it was in all of our best interests to succeed,” he said of his counterparts in the Class of 1966. “In the end, I think most of us went on to a four-year college and probably succeeded in life.”

For Barrette, who entered college straight out of high school with little idea of what that success might look like, CCRI and, later, Providence College were instrumental in helping him forge that path. “It gave me a chance and an environment in which I could succeed in an educational setting,” he said.

After six years in the Marine Corps during the Vietnam War, Barrette worked for Atlantic Richfield Oil in marketing and sales. Based on his experience, he eliminated that field as a long-term career possibility – not enough interest in it, he explained – and decided to pursue further education at Rhode Island College to become a teacher.

“I always loved kids, and I thought I should go back and do what I liked. I took postgraduate courses in special education and taught for over two years at a school in Massachusetts for socially maladjusted students,” he recalled. While teaching ultimately wouldn’t become Barrette’s career, his work at the school led him to his next step: He was hired to work at the Rhode Island Training School, but when a prison riot in April 1972 disrupted the Adult Correctional Institutions, his talents were diverted there. After working in the education department, he moved into administration, where he found his calling, eventually working for the Office of the Attorney General and the state court system, retiring as the Supreme Court administrator in 2003.

He keeps active in retirement by volunteering his time helping an elderly neighbor, golfing, swimming, spending time with his wife and playing pickleball (“The newest sport in the United States,” he explained, played with a wiffle ball on a space resembling a tennis court.) But he has taken on another role in the past year: donor.

“It’s a chance to give back to the institution that helped me,” he said of his choice to give financially to CCRI. “School is a necessary part of today’s success in life, and without a college education, it’s hard to get a decent job. I was one of eight children. When I wanted a degree, the college was there as an affordable option for me, and I hope that my donations can help somebody receive the same benefits I did.”

To learn how to establish a scholarship for students or donate to the Alumni Fund, call the Office of Institutional Advancement at 401-333-7150.

Calling all Class of 1966 members

The Community College of Rhode Island will honor members of the first graduating class at commencement on Friday, May 15, in the Vincent A. Cullen Field House at the Knight Campus in Warwick. If you are a member of the Class of 1966, we would like to invite you to join us on this special occasion.

For more information, please contact the Office of Alumni Affairs at alumni@ccri.edu or 401-333-7150.
1970s

1974 — Laurie (Griffin) Zisiades earned employee of the month for December 2014 at Day Kimball Hospital in Putnam, Connecticut.

1978 — Scott Bill Hirst became the second moderator in the history of the Ashaway Fire District in 2011. He is a former member of the Board of Fire Commissioners, serving two nonconsecutive three-year terms. Bill is in his fifth and first nonconsecutive term as a member of the Hopkinton Town Council.

1980s

1980 — Ken Finlay was appointed fire chief by the Cumberland Fire Committee to oversee the new consolidated department.

1990s

1994 — Paul Martellini was recently sworn in as second in command at the Rhode Island Division of Sheriffs.

2000s

2003 — Stephen Flori and Erin Munroe were married on Sept. 6, 2014, at St. Catherine’s Church in Warwick, with the Rev. Pierre Plante officiating. They went to Punta Cana in the Dominican Republic on their honeymoon.

2010s


Calendar of events

This calendar lists some of the upcoming events and important dates involving Community College of Rhode Island students, alumni, faculty and staff. For more information about what is happening at CCRI campuses, visit www.ccri.edu.

March 27

“Naked in Alaska,” a one-woman play by Valerie Hager, Knight Campus, Warwick

April 7 to 11

All College Week 2015, events at all CCRI campuses

April 11

CCRI 5K run/walk, Flanagan Campus, Lincoln

April 16 to 19

Student-directed one-act plays, Liston Campus, Providence

May 15

Commencement, Knight Campus, Warwick

June 10

Alumni Golf Tournament, Crystal Lake Golf Club, Mapleville

June 12 to 14

“Hello Broadway,” Knight Campus, Warwick

In memoriam

The Green & White Alumni Magazine publishes “In memoriam” in honor of college alumni.

David R. Bilgor ’73
Sandra L. (Criscione) Cannella ’83
Judith A. Elliott ’95
Bernard W. Hedderson ’90
Marc G. Langevin ’82
Carolyn P. (Austin) MacEwen ’81
Elizabeth M. Maddalena ’82
Alexandria J. (Piermont) Ouellette ’91
Ann L. Spinard ’70
Laure A. Thayer ’74
Ronald E. Waclawik ’83
The first RIJC men’s basketball team

Front row (from left) are Dale Westburg, John Barbara, Bob Lahoud, Fred Cahir, Antony Lato, Jack Richardson and Don McDuff. Standing (from left) are Head Coach Vin Cullen, Dave Howe, Joe Barron, Bob Duckworth, Joe Yurasits, Ken Williams, Al Cabral and Terry Cannon.

The team won 11 games and lost six in the 1965–66 season. The team played its home games at Rhode Island College’s Whipple Gymnasium until the construction of the Knight Campus. Over the years, the men’s basketball program has been the most successful community college program in New England, posting 20 or more wins in 23 seasons, making national championship game appearances and compiling an all-time 943-420 record for a .692 winning percentage in 49 seasons.
CCRI ALEX AND ANI BANGLE

In honor of the Community College of Rhode Island’s 50th year, the CCRI Alumni Association has partnered with Alex and Ani to create the first-ever community college signature patented expandable wire charm bangle, made in America with love.

Proceeds from the sale of the CCRI charm bangles, which feature the college’s seal, will provide financial assistance for students through Alumni Association scholarships and book awards.

Bangles are available at all four CCRI Bookstore locations and on the Bookstore website at www.ccri.edu/bookstore.

MEMBER UPDATE

If you’re not receiving a discount on your auto insurance, PLEASE CALL METLIFE AUTO & HOME®: 1-877-491-5087

Community College of Rhode Island’s Alumni Association members will get a discount on auto insurance!

MetLife Auto & Home has screened top insurers to find companies that will offer competitive rates to our members. All you need to do is call one number to get multiple quotes from top-rated insurers that have agreed to give you an immediate member discount.

As a member of the Community College of Rhode Island’s Alumni Association, you could save hundreds** every year with discounts like these:

- Up to 15% member discount
- Up to 20% discount based on length of membership
- Up to $250* credit for claim-free driving
- Extra savings with a multi-policy discount

Get FREE quotes from top-rated companies.
Call 1-877-491-5087 today!

*NY drivers must pay state-mandated minimum deductible before using this benefit. **Savings are based on an annualized average savings for a group auto policy where the customer provided his/her prior premium and prior carrier at the time of the original quote (between 01/10-12/10) and where the written auto premium amount resulted in a price less than the disclosed prior carrier’s premium. Discounts may not be available from all carriers and are only available to those who qualify. Coverages, discounts and billing options are subject to state availability, individual qualification and/or the insuring company’s underwriting guidelines.

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We’re looking for a few good alumni

The Community College of Rhode Island is always seeking unique stories about members of the college community, especially alumni.

Are you a graduate who is changing lives or helping others achieve their dreams? Share your story with us for possible coverage in a future issue of the Green & White or on the CCRI website.

Please send your story to: CCRI Office of Alumni Affairs, 1762 Louisquisset Pike, Lincoln, RI 02865, alumni@ccri.edu