Engineer John Butler ’77 combines his passion for jazz and math

Visionary

Toni Gilberto McGuire ’75 is changing patient care at the Edward M. Kennedy Community Health Center
Welcome to the first issue of the Green & White alumni magazine. When you turn to Page 2 of this issue – not yet! – take note of the evolution of the Green & White over the past 11 years. What started as a news bulletin to share information about college programs, campus improvements and events and activities is growing along with our Alumni Association, which now stands 57,000 members strong.

With this issue, the Green & White has been transformed again, and this time it’s a full color magazine with more pages, more photos and more news, including profiles of distinguished graduates Toni McGuire ’76, who is featured on the cover, and John Butler ’77, whose story begins on Page 6. Toni’s route to becoming the president and CEO of the Edward M. Kennedy Community Health Center in Worcester, Mass., started when she enrolled at CCRI as a nursing student. John, a teacher and inventor, also got his start at the college as an engineering student. Their stories, like those of so many CCRI alumni, breed great pride in the college because of their valuable contributions to the community.

As you peruse these pages, you also will read about several members of the CCRI community and news updates from our campuses. Enrollment is soaring, students are changing their lives and our alumni, faculty and staff are receiving prestigious recognition for their diverse accomplishments.

I hope you are as proud of the people behind the stories in this magazine as we are to present them to you. As with any creative project, the development of this magazine is an ongoing process, so please let us know what you think of the new look and content.

Joshua M. Klemp ’04
President
CCRI Alumni Association
jklemp@ccri.edu
The first issue of the CCRI Green & White alumni newsletter was published in the fall of 1999, trumpeting the college’s first homecoming weekend on its cover. Over the years the newsletter has delivered information about college alumni and their special achievements in stories, photos and the class notes section. It also has provided alumni with news about college initiatives, programs and events, reflecting the growth of the institution, which now boasts 17,775 students. What started as a two-color newsletter transitioned to a four-color publication and has now come full circle as a full color, glossy magazine.
The CCRI Wellness Initiative has been recognized as a model for promoting health strategies in a new book titled “Winning Health Promotion Strategies.” The book shares tips, techniques and success stories based on author Anne Marie Ludovici-Connolly’s experience in implementing the state’s “Get Fit, Rhode Island!” program.

The CCRI Wellness Initiative was established after Gov. Donald Carcieri launched “Get Fit, Rhode Island!”, an award-winning program aimed to reduce the barriers that state workers face in leading active and healthy lifestyles, in 2005. Ludovici-Connolly, who served as director of the program, worked closely with CCRI Athletic Director Joe Pavone ’72 and Assistant to the Director of Administration Mary Baker to assist CCRI in building its Wellness Initiative.

To pick up a copy of “Winning Health Promotion Strategies,” visit www.HumanKinetics.com or call 800-747-4457.

Enrollment higher than last fall’s headcount

Enrollment for the Fall 2010 semester at CCRI surpassed last fall’s enrollment, making it the second-highest of any semester. With 17,775 students taking classes this semester at CCRI’s four main campuses in Warwick, Lincoln, Providence and Newport, as well as two satellite locations in Westerly and the Shepard Building in Downcity Providence, headcount increased by 15 students compared with last fall.

This total is second only to the Fall 1992 term, when Rhode Island instituted a special tuition waiver with no income qualifications for senior citizens or the unemployed.

CCRI chosen for VetSuccess program

The Department of Veterans Affairs has chosen CCRI as one of eight schools nationwide for its VetSuccess on Campus pilot program. The program assigns on-campus VA counselors to help veterans attending college under the Post-9/11 GI Bill make the most of their educational opportunities.

Micaela Black, CCRI’s new VetSuccess counselor, arrived at the college on Tuesday, Oct. 12, and meets with students on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

Being added to the VetSuccess program comes shortly after G.I. Jobs, a veteran-owned business, named CCRI one of the 2011 military friendly schools. The list honors the top 15 percent of colleges, universities and trade schools in the United States that are doing the most to welcome America’s veterans as students.

Alumni Association to honor outstanding graduates

The Society of the Knights Outstanding Alumni Awards will be presented during a gala induction ceremony at the Quidnessett Country Club in North Kingstown, R.I., on April 1, 2011, to CCRI alumni who have been active as community leaders, attained personal and professional success, provided volunteer service to the college community, and brought honor upon themselves and the Community College of Rhode Island. Honorees will be announced in the next issue of the Green & White.

FACES IN THE CROWD

For in-depth features about the following individuals, go to www.ccri.edu/marketing/news_events/2010.

**Student Amanda Hannon fights bullies** – Hannon started a Rhode Island chapter of Stop Bullying Now!, a national campaign that educates students and parents about bullying, and was recognized for her efforts by YWCA Northern Rhode Island, which presented her with a Women of Achievement Award on Oct. 20.

**Sophie Chea ’08 seeks to eradicate water scarcity** – Chea, a double major in biochemistry and biomedicine at Bridgewater State College, spent 10 weeks in her native Cambodia as part of a humanitarian and research trip.

**Vin Cullen receives ‘ambassador’ honors** – The former CCRI Athletic Director and basketball coach was recognized as an Ambassador of Peace by the Institute for International Sport.

**CCRI biotechnology students succeed in the workplace** – CCRI biotechnology students Andrew Chappell, Linda Matthews and Kathy Greenwood have begun work with global biopharmaceutical company Alexion Pharmaceuticals, giving them the chance to gain experience in their field while helping to save lives.

**Professor John Mowry is an ice luge professional** – Mowry is experienced as an ice luge racer and an official, and recently was named as a member of the Technical Commission for the Federation of International Luge, the sport’s worldwide governing body.

**Angelina Cerrito ’69 is at home on stage** – Cerrito, 80, is a talented singer and composer, having penned more than 50 jazz songs over the years.
Community health centers are the passion of Toni Gilberto McGuire ’75

Nursing graduate Toni McGuire has grown in her career in health care from childbirth educator to president and CEO of a rapidly expanding community health center in Massachusetts.

By JULIE NOVAK

The waiting room of the Edward M. Kennedy Community Health Center in Worcester, Mass., is packed on a chilly fall day in October. Men, women and children fill the available seats, talking quietly among themselves, waiting patiently for their turn to see a medical professional to heal what ails them.

A row of receptionists invite prospective patients one by one to state their name and whether they have an appointment. Some speak Spanish. Some speak Portuguese. Some speak both, and more. The phone rings. Again. And again.

At the entrance of the center, a mural welcomes visitors with greetings in many languages, and the center’s population reflects this diversity. The center is a melting pot of foreign dialects and cultures and is home to 130,000 visits for 21,000 patients each year.

When Toni Gilberto McGuire ’75 walks in, she greets patients and employees with a cheerful hello and a warm smile. They respond in kind to a friendly face. McGuire took the reigns as president and CEO of the center in 2008 when it was called the Great Brook Valley Health Center. The center, which has 13 facilities in Massachusetts, follows a family practice model of care, offering preventive care services, routine check-ups, immunizations, management of acute and chronic illnesses, mental health and dental health services.

“I truly believe in our mission to create access to high-quality, comprehensive health care for all people,” she said. “It puts a smile on my face.”

After a two-week humanitarian trip to Cuba, one of McGuire’s first priorities was to establish a direction for the center that encompassed the ever-changing needs of patients and national health care reforms. Following an 18-month process, the center’s strategic plan, addressing funding opportunities and synchronization of efforts across each of the center’s facilities, was born.

Another major change for the center came on Aug. 25, the first anniversary of U.S. Sen. Edward M. Kennedy’s death. Kennedy represented Massachusetts for 47 years and was a longtime supporter of the Great Brook Valley Health Center and community health centers nationally. To honor and support the late senator, the Great Brook Valley Health Center was renamed the Edward M. Kennedy Community Health Center in honor of Kennedy’s father.

“It was a great celebration, and Worcester is proud of the distinction,” McGuire said.

The Worcester facility, the center’s largest, provides more than just health care. It epitomizes the community aspect of its mission with a location accessible to hundreds of local residents within walking distance or by public transportation. Farmer’s markets, where the value of food stamps is doubled, are held to encourage people to eat better and eat less.

McGuire’s office is located at 2000 Century Drive in Worcester, a short ride from the health center on Tacoma Street. The center’s administrative offices recently
moved into the new space to make more room for patient care. It has been an adjustment for McGuire, who thrives on all of the activity and one-on-one interaction at the clinic.

And it is one-on-one patient care where McGuire got her start in the health care field. After graduating from Barrington High School in 1972, she had no plans to attend college and could not afford the cost of tuition. A job opportunity in the coronary care unit at Rhode Island Hospital, where she watched patient heart monitors for half hour periods on and off, came her way. On the off times, she explored the hospital.

“I got bit by the hospital bug,” she said. “I felt like I found something I didn’t know I was looking for.”

For McGuire, nursing seemed like a pragmatic and exciting field. She began taking courses at CCRI in 1973 while working full time, and her curiosity deepened. Hungry for knowledge and experience, she participated in as many hospital activities as she could, asking doctors and nurses if she could watch or help to learn more. It was not long before she received a promotion to nursing assistant.

At CCRI, McGuire found challenge in the nursing curriculum and compassion from the instructors. To gain acceptance to the nursing program, she interviewed with Kathleen Dwyer, dean of the nursing division. Based on her questions, McGuire remembers thinking, “Oh, this is going to be tough.” But it was more than that. It gave her new mentors such as Professor Jill DeGregorio, her favorite instructor who “took each and every one of us under her wing,” and Professor Katherine Corcoran, who “you wanted to be like.”

Early in her career, McGuire served as the prenatal care coordinator for a Brown University medical program in Pawtucket. As part of her role, she launched a new series of childbirth education classes for local residents, primarily immigrants, who had little trust in local health care. Dr. Larry Culpepper of Boston Medical Center and Boston University School of Medicine worked with McGuire in Pawtucket and later in Boston. He recalled the challenges McGuire faced in getting this program off the ground.

“The initial advertising of groups totally flopped,” he said. “So Toni hung out in the clinic, found pregnant patients and met with them individually. Within a couple of months two women agreed to meet together. Three or four years later we had oversubscribed classes several days a week.”

During this time, McGuire discovered there were no Spanish- or Portuguese-speaking childbirth educators in Rhode Island so the program offered scholarships to cover course materials and educated multiple instructors. With patient interest and more instructors, the education courses had become a success.

In the late 1980s, Pawtucket and Central Falls experienced high infant mortality rates, with 75 percent of pregnant women delaying prenatal care until after their first trimester, when many preventative care opportunities are no longer an option. McGuire was largely responsible for developing a promotional effort to encourage pregnant women to start prenatal care before the end of their first trimester. A March of Dimes grant funded this “Healthy Baby Lottery,” which gave prizes to patients for early enrollment and to staff responsible for scheduling appointments and reduced the number of patients delaying prenatal care to about 33 percent.

“Toni makes organizations work,” Culpepper said. “She has the magic touch to get people to work together, the creativity to come up with innovations that are successful, the passion for equity in health care – especially for underserved populations – and the practicality of an old Yankee to do a lot with a little.”

McGuire has held positions as chief executive officer of Manet Community Health Center in Quincy and health services director at Family Care Health Center in St. Louis. She previously served as director of administration and community affairs in the Boston Medical Center Department of Family Medicine and as system director for health education and promotion at Fallon Health Care System in Worcester. She earned a bachelor’s degree in sociology of the family from Maryville University of Saint Louis and received a master’s degree in public health from Saint Louis University.

McGuire said CCRI’s nursing program helped form the foundation of her career, and she is proud of her nieces, Darlene Dorocz ’08 and Erin Lavin Gill ’03, who also completed the program. A member of the CCRI Alumni Association Board of Directors, she believes in paying it forward, something she urges other CCRI nursing graduates to do.

“You have to give back because it makes the career foundations for others stronger,” she said.

McGuire has two adult children, Ryan and Jillian, and lives in Westborough, Mass., with her husband, Michael. One day, when it is time to retire, she wants to return to Rhode Island. But, for now, she is happy in Massachusetts making a difference in the lives of many people.

“I love my job and can’t imagine doing anything else,” she said. “Never say never, but this feels like home to me.”

“I truly believe in our mission to create access to high-quality, comprehensive health care for all people,” she said. “It puts a smile on my face.”

— Toni McGuire ’75
That dream didn’t exactly come true. In the summers during his high school years, Butler worked as a tool-making apprentice at the suggestion of his father, a manager of manufacturing and engineering who taught him how to run various machines. All of that tinkering with machines would steer him in a new direction to study engineering.

“I enjoyed putting pieces together to learn what made things work,” he said.

Now, after a 23-year career in engineering, with more than 15 U.S. patents for electrical wire processing inventions to his name, Butler’s career has come full circle. He is the chairman of the mathematics department and the data analyst at Beacon Charter High School in Woonsocket, R.I. In addition, he serves as the adviser to the math and robotics clubs and he established the school’s jazz band, which gives him an outlet to share his musical talent with others.

“When John first arrived at Beacon, there was no music program or extracurricular outlet for students with an interest in music,” said Michael Skeldon, academic dean at Beacon Charter. “John invested a lot of time to put together a small group with a drummer and a pianist to get the club started. They would have jam sessions in his classroom on Friday afternoons and he filled in for students when necessary.”

At Beacon, Butler is known and praised for being a bit of a workaholic. He joined the teaching roster during the school’s infancy six years ago, quickly establishing a reputation for going the extra mile to help a student, even if that means staying beyond the final bell. When he gets on a roll developing a new project or curriculum, it’s not unusual for him to stay at Beacon working into the wee hours of the morning.

“John is the only other staff member who gets to work before I do,” Skeldon said. “If any single person bleeds Beacon blue, it’s him. He’ll take on any task to improve a student’s experience and education.”

Butler’s own education is a lifelong pursuit. When he switched careers from engineering to teaching, he enrolled at Providence College, where he earned a Master of Arts in Teaching mathemat-
ics in 2003. He went on to attend the University of Rhode Island, where he earned a Ph.D. in education in December 2009. The university recognized his dissertation, titled “Exploring Some Inattended Affective Factors in Performing Nonroutine Mathematical Tasks,” in April when Butler received the Kappa Delta Pi 2010 Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation Award. All told, he has spent 25-and-a-half years in the classroom.

Butler applied the same nonstop work ethic to his engineering career, which took root in the summer months during high school. After graduating from high school in 1973, he enrolled at CCRI, graduating with an Associate of Science degree in Engineering. He transferred to Western New England College (WNEC) in Springfield, Mass., where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering in 1979. At WNEC, he served as president of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (AMSE) Student Section. During his senior year, he placed first in the AMSE Regional Conference, placed second in the National Design Engineering Contest and was a presenter at the AMSE Annual Meeting. He also received the WNEC Engineering Book Award.

With his background and skills, Butler was an attractive recruit in a burgeoning field. He was tapped for a job at Artos Engineering in New Berlin, Wisc. In just a year, at age 25, he received a promotion to the position of project engineer, where he was responsible for designing and supervising installations of automated wire-processing machines throughout Europe. After taking a new position at General Electric Medical Systems in Milwaukee designing X-ray equipment, Butler and a friend founded Mechtrix Corp., where he designed automated machines and supervised their installation for companies in the United States and in Europe. Butler flourished in the industry, researching and engineering patents for tools that specialized in an automated process for stripping insulation along the length of electrical wires, a feat that engineers had attempted unsuccessfully for more than 40 years.

Chrysler, Ford and General Motors, among other auto manufacturers, use Butler’s technology in their production of wire harnesses. Several of his patents greatly affected the way cars were made. “Those designs virtually changed the entire automobile industry,” he explained.

Shortly after relocating to Wisconsin, Butler married Corliss E. Manning ’77, a registered nurse who graduated from CCRI’s nursing program. Together they raised three children: Bryan, Andrew and Brittany. Bryan was diagnosed with leukemia and Corliss, a nurse, cared for him. As Bryan’s medical bills, totaling $1 million, stacked up, Butler spent hours devising a system to coordinate health insurance payments. In 1995, the Butlers moved back to Rhode Island to be closer to their support network of family and friends during Bryan’s illness.

“It got to the point where it was a huge burden for us emotionally and we needed more support from family,” he said.

Today, Bryan’s leukemia is in remission. Butler enjoys spending time with his children, now grown, as well as his 21-month-old granddaughter, Emiliana, who is Brittany’s child.

“Emiliana and I have our dates on Sundays,” he said. “It’s something I really look forward to.”

Now well into the fall semester of a new school year, Butler is at home at Beacon, drawing on his broad range of experience in engineering, education and music. “I’m in teaching for the rest of my life,” he said. “The feeling I get when a student succeeds, well, there’s nothing quite like it.”
Changing Lives Celebration honors Reed, Winters and Honeywell

By ROBERT PRELIASCO

Every year, the Community College of Rhode Island Foundation holds the Changing Lives Celebration to honor individuals and business partners who have championed the college and its mission to help students change their lives and achieve their dreams.

This year’s event, held on Oct. 21 at the Liston Campus, honored U.S. Sen. Jack Reed, as the college’s Community Champion, Honeywell as Business Champion and philanthropist Roberta Jenkins Winters as Education Champion.

CCRI President Ray Di Pasquale called Reed, who has directed hundreds of millions of dollars to Rhode Island’s economy, infrastructure and public education during his career, “Our eyes, our ears and our voice in Washington.”

During an acceptance speech for his award, Reed thanked the other recipients and the faculty and staff of the college for their work in education.

“Higher education is the great engine that drives this country,” he said, “but it has to be the goal of all of us to help out.”

He added, “I’m so proud of this community college, my community college.”

It is not just individuals who help CCRI with its mission, as Honeywell demonstrates. The company has had a relationship with the college for more than 40 years, starting with the installation of heating controls at CCRI’s Warwick campus.

Honeywell’s commitment to the college has grown since then and the company is a regular sponsor of the CCRI Fall Golf Classic, a scholarship fundraiser.

“They are a Fortune 100 company and to us they are so much more,” Di Pasquale said. “Their commitment to our college lies deeper than just the bricks and mortar of our campuses.”

Honeywell District General Manager Chris Valentine said the company is committed to helping CCRI’s students achieve their goals.

“I have four kids of my own who have gone through college so I know how valuable an education is, and I believe our company feels the same way,” he said. “We’ve been working together for 40 years and we look forward to the next 40.”

Honored in the category of Education Champion was Roberta Jenkins Winters, an avid fundraiser for the community college. When her son, Jona-

than, passed away at age 31, she decided to honor his memory by establishing a scholarship. She considered donating to Brown University, near her home, but her late husband, Arthur Jenkins, had other ideas. He took Winters to visit CCRI’s Liston Campus because he thought that CCRI does the most out of any college to help Rhode Islanders lead successful lives.

“And I left that day thinking, he’s absolutely right; this is where my money has to go,” Winters said. “CCRI changes lives and it changed mine by being a part of it. There isn’t a school that deserves it more and there aren’t students who deserve it more.”

When Winters was approaching her 71st birthday, she didn’t opt for a traditional birthday celebration. Instead, in 2003, she held her own 71-mile bike-a-thon around the San Francisco Bay area, where her daughter lived, and raised pledge donations from family and friends to contribute to the scholarship in Jonathan’s name. Her employer, Residential Properties Ltd., agreed to match her fundraising.

Winters spent more than a year in spinning classes preparing to ride this great distance. Today, the Jonathan Fund that Winters founded with her bike-a-thon is worth more than $85,000.

In addition, in 2001, Winters and her husband were co-chairs of a $400,000 CCRI comprehensive campaign to update the dental hygiene lab at the Lincoln campus.

One of the students helped by the Jonathan Fund was in attendance at the Changing Lives Celebration. Nursing major Tessa Constant, who is now a CCRI Student Ambassador and the student representative on the Board of Governors for Higher Education, applied for the scholarship two years ago when she did not think she would be able to return to CCRI for another semester.

“Receiving that scholarship made me see that there’s hope; it gave me the confidence to apply for the Student Ambassadors and the Board of Governors position,” Constant said. “I think winning that scholarship was a turning point. If they picked me, anything was possible.”

Support CCRI through United Way, SECA

CCRI alumni and friends are invited to participate in the 2011 United Way/Rhode Island State Employees Charitable Appeal (SECA), which was formed in 1984 to allow state employees to contribute money to local and regional health and welfare organizations. Giving options include #6252, the CCRI Foundation and the Alumni Association. Donations to the Foundation and/or the Alumni Association support important college-wide initiatives including Imagine: The Campaign for Endless Possibilities, student scholarships, educational equipment purchases, campus events, athletics and facility improvements. If you would like to restrict your gift to an established Foundation scholarship or to the Alumni Association, please send an e-mail to foundation@ccri.edu with your preference.

For more information, call 401-333-7150.
Alumni gather at Bo’s Bar and Billiards
CCRI alumni and friends enjoyed an afternoon at Bo’s Bar and Billiards sponsored by the CCRI Alumni Association on Sept. 23. Attendees came together for food and drink, a friendly game of pool and caricatures by artist Noa Teplow Juarez.

Students benefit from Alumni Association Book Awards
For students struggling to make ends meet while they attend college, every dollar counts. That is why every semester the CCRI Alumni Association gives out Book Awards, $250 grants to help students with financial need buy textbooks.

This semester’s Book Award recipients were honored during a breakfast with the Alumni Association on Oct. 12 at the Knight Campus.

Student Robin Walker, who is studying to become a nurse, said the Book Award helped her to return to college after being laid off from her position working with handicapped children. “If I didn’t have the money for textbooks, I wouldn’t have been able to attend this semester.”

If you would like to contribute to the CCRI Alumni Association to support the Book Award and other programs, you can do so online at www.ccri.edu by following the “Give to CCRI” link at the top of the page. You also may call 401-333-7150.

CCRI Fall Classic raises more than $28,000
Sponsors, golfers and contributors rose to the challenge at the 16th Annual CCRI Fall Classic, which raised nearly $28,000 for student financial support in a tournament that was aided by sunny skies blanketing Narragansett Bay and Warwick Country Club.

The 124 golfers who played in the Sept. 20 tournament were assisted by more than a dozen CCRI volunteers. Ameresco, Honeywell and the Independent Insurance Agents of Rhode Island were this year’s presenting sponsors. Other tournament sponsors included Adler, Pollock and Sheehan as reception sponsor and Pare Corp. as cart sponsor.

Following golf, a reception and auction was held.

CCRI marketing department wins two awards
The CCRI Department of Marketing and Communications won two Medallion Awards, which recognize outstanding achievement in communications, at the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations District 1 conference on Oct. 25.

NCMPR, an organization representing communications professionals at community and technical colleges, held its District 1 conference at the Renaissance Hotel in Providence. CCRI was the host college for the conference, and President Ray Di Pasquale gave the welcome speech.

The college won a Silver Medallion in the Print Advertising Series category for its newest advertising campaign, which began in July. CCRI also won a Bronze Medallion for its Course Highlights publication in the Newsletter A (Print) category.
Women’s soccer wins 10th consecutive District XXI championship in 2010

By RICHARD COREN

As CCRI women’s soccer coach, Dennis Grassini ’73 has experienced an incredible run of success. In 2002, Grassini’s squad delivered the college’s lone national championship with an undefeated season, while in 2003 the team was national runner-up. Last season, Grassini and his associate head coach, Kathy Bannan ’96, guided the women to a 17-3 record, a District XXI championship and an eighth-place finish at the NJCAA National Championship.

The 2010 season promised to be different. Gone were a number of star performers from the past two seasons, including top scorers Alexis Smith, Ashley Choiniere and Stephanie Morse. In addition, twin sisters Katy and Jessica MacAndrew, who were expected to provide scoring punch and leadership for this year’s young team, unexpectedly departed before the school year.

“We lost the MacAndrew sisters to Bryant very late, and I was counting on them for scoring,” said Grassini. “But it was a great opportunity for them.”

A young, relatively inexperienced team struggled early, with two losses and a tie in its first four games, but the squad rebounded, finishing the season with a five-game winning streak and finished undefeated in Region XXI play for the 10th consecutive year.

“We’ve really struggled to score this year,” Grassini said. “Our kids are not natural scorers and I’ve told them that if we can’t put the ball in the net, that will be our ultimate demise. What has saved us is that we have a solid defense and an All-American goalkeeper in Melody Lawrence.”

Lawrence, a sophomore, has allowed just 13 goals in 15 games and has pitched a school-record 23 shutouts in 36 career starts. Her performance in 2009 earned her first team All American honors by both the NJCAA and the National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA).

“Melody is one of the hardest-working goalkeepers that we’ve ever had and she’s getting Division I looks,” Grassini said. “Along with that, we’ve had some pleasant surprises as the season has progressed. Young players like Rebecca D’Andrea, Stephanie Choiniere, Haley Durkin and Lauren Saritelli have really stepped up for us. We don’t have that one big goal scorer but we have some balance in our scoring.”

Along with their tremendous success on the pitch, the women’s soccer team has always represented CCRI well. This season, for the last regular season match, a 1-0 win over Bryant & Stratton from New York, the team decided to don pink socks, wristbands and warm-up T-shirts to commemorate and raise money for Breast Cancer Awareness Month. After the game, the team sent a check for $1,055 to the Gloria Gemma Breast Cancer Resource Foundation.

“We try to be good role models. When you’ve had as much success as we have through the years, you’re under the microscope,” Grassini said, “and we never want our reputation blemished. This has been a great group to work with and I have always insisted that the team look and behave a certain way. We’re a nationally recognized program and we are proud representatives of CCRI.”

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Name: Jolene Bell
Women’s soccer player, 2000 and 2001
Graduation year: 2001
Current residence: Cumberland, R.I.
Current occupation: Police officer, Cumberland, R.I.
Accomplishments: Valedictorian of police academy class; master’s degree in Criminal Justice from Roger Williams University

“Of all the paths I could have taken during that time of my life, going to CCRI and playing on the women’s soccer team was one that I have come to appreciate more and more as time goes on. The contacts I made there have been paramount in my career decision and growth in the field, and my experiences on the soccer field helped me grow in more ways than just as a player. I only hope more people consider taking the same path.”
'70s

1972

Lauranne Howard is the substance abuse coordinator at the Rhode Island Department of Corrections. She began her new role in early May, bringing many years of experience in the field of substance abuse, mental health and criminal justice. She is responsible for the coordination and oversight of all substance abuse treatment within the RIDOC.

1973

Richard Sullivan was promoted to the position of senior vice president at Starkweather & Shepley Insurance Brokerage Inc.

Elizabeth Hughes is an accountant in the Controller’s Office at CCRI.

'80s

1981

Laura Sullivan volunteers at the Tomaquag Museum doing maintenance and makes improvements to the museum. She is an avid gardener and has many fruit trees and gardens of her own in addition to caring for those at the museum.

1986

Mitch Kaplan wrote a book titled “Jazz Flute,” published by Mel Bay.

1988

Jane (Daignault) Angell has five children ages 9, 11, 13, 14 and 18.

'90s

1992

Jason DiGrado was promoted to the rank of lieutenant for the Smithfield Police Department.

Les Hubbard plays several instruments, including electric bass, drums, keyboard, guitar and trumpet.

1993

After graduating from CCRI, James Pennington and his wife relocated to Arizona. He completed a bachelor’s degree in social work at Northern Arizona University in December 1996, two months after his son, Wesley, was born. He has retired from counseling and is very active in the Democratic Party as a precinct captain for his district. He also published his first poetry book, “Life’s Journey Destination Unknown with Profanity Inherited” and makes sterling silver and beaded jewelry.

1997

Natalie Vecchio recently held a painting workshop at the Cumberland Public Library.

'00s

2001

Merianne George and Scott Serydynski were married at the Church of the Transfiguration in Cranston on May 7, 2010.

2002

Thomas Burns was sworn into the Cumberland Police Department. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 2002 to 2009, including 12 months in Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

2006

Classmates Graham MacCoy and Nicole Stringer were married at the Quonset ‘O’ Club in North Kingstown on June 12, 2010.

Artist Therese Miller has always enjoyed art and recently entered a watercolor titled “Chipper” in an art show in Bellingham, Mass., and won the ribbon for best of show. She has two grandchildren.

Riley O’Neill, a certified family life educator, is completing a master’s degree in human development and family studies at the University of Rhode Island.

2007

Joseph Fratus and Jamie Schoeninger were married at Independence Harbor in Assonet, Mass., on April 24, 2010.

What’s new in your life?

New job? Promotion? Retired? Relocated? Let your former classmates know what’s new with you!

Please send your information to:

CCRI Office of Alumni Affairs
1762 Louisquisset Pike
Lincoln, RI 02865
E-mail: alumni@ccri.edu
Fax: 401-333-7111
On June 26, 1980, the Board of Regents voted unanimously to change the name of Rhode Island Junior College to Community College of Rhode Island, marking a new decade and a new beginning for the state's community college, as reported in the Summer 1980 issue of RIJC's Knightly News. A bill was submitted to the General Assembly to rename the college, the mission statement was rewritten, and stationery, signs and logo were changed to reflect the college's new identity as a "community college."
CCRI Professor Roberta Mudge Humble has created a new parlor game that will challenge your knowledge of Rhode Island. It’s called Rhode Side and comes with 125 picture cards to test your familiarity about places in Rhode Island you might see out your car window. Rhode Side is in a limited edition run of 2,500 and sells for $20. The game is available at a number of Rhode Island stores and online. See www.westerlyarmory.org.