Nurturing a community of healers

Since 1966, CCRI’s Nursing program has grown into a top-notch pipeline for graduates seeking a career in health care.
Sociology major Mary T. Sullivan Brooks is the winner of CCRI’s student photo contest held in September to commemorate the beginning of the college’s 47th academic year. Her black-and-white photo titled “Dream” was taken in the library at the Knight Campus in Warwick.
Welcome to the Fall 2011 issue of the Community College of Rhode Island’s Green & White alumni magazine. This issue pays special attention to CCRI’s Nursing program, one of several health care programs the college offers, and its alumni, students and faculty. Like many of our academic programs, the Nursing program fosters a tight-knit community of learners who are prepared for the challenges the professional world presents to them.

While the technology and various aspects of the nursing profession have changed over the years, one aspect has not: commitment to patient care. Dr. Carolyn Jarvis, an adjunct professor of nursing in Illinois Wesleyan University’s School of Nursing, once said, “The character of the nurse is as important as the knowledge she possesses.” CCRI’s students past and present work side by side with their instructors in the classroom, in clinicals and in health care facilities where they develop not only workplace skills, but also the character traits of compassion and confidence that will serve them well in their careers. Our graduates leave CCRI prepared because of their hard work and the dedication of faculty who push them to succeed.

CCRI is proud of all of its graduates, including the community of healers that have completed its nursing program. You can read about some of them starting on Page 4 of this issue. These alumni changed their lives at CCRI, and now they continue to change the lives of others in the community by providing critical care in their time of need. Thank you for your service and for making a difference in the lives of so many Rhode Islanders.

Ray M. Di Pasquale
President

The Community College of Rhode Island has begun its 47th academic year and the campuses are alive with activity. Students are studying in the libraries, attending presentations and volunteering in club activities. The cross country team and the men’s and women’s soccer teams are representing CCRI against local and regional competition – and winning. CCRI faculty, as always, are supporting students along the way as mentors and advisers.

Do you remember the first day of classes during the fall semester? How about the anticipation, the nerves and the excitement that came with it? As some of you may know, in my role as executive director of SkillsUSA, my office is located at the Knight Campus in Warwick. Every year, I feel that twinge of excitement at the start of a new academic year. Although it is midway through the new semester, that feeling of anticipation has not waned because there is much to look forward to.

In the months ahead there will be new exhibitions in the art galleries, theater productions by the talented CCRI Players and opportunities to connect with members of the college community at the CCRI Foundation’s fifth annual Changing Lives Celebration and the Alumni Association’s after-hours networking events. I encourage you to read the calendar of events on Page 11 of this issue and to visit the college Web site at www.ccri.edu to learn more about news and upcoming events.

CCRI is a lively community of learners inside and outside of the classroom. I invite you to return to campus to see what’s new. Alumni are always welcome!

Joshua M. Klemp ’04
President
CCRI Alumni Association
Student, alumnus start translation business
Pedro Montesino and Leudi Mena ’11 have co-founded a business that offers over-the-phone English/Spanish translation. Montesino, 20, and Mena, 21, with the help of many of their friends and family members who serve as volunteers, have been operating Amigo Interpreter since August, when they launched a promotional event with the radio station Latina 100.3. Read more about their venture at www.ccri.edu/alumni.

Professor’s art selected for display in D.C.-area defense building
The Department of Defense has selected several photographs and a painting by Community College of Rhode Island Art Professor Tom Morrissey to decorate a new government building in Washington, D.C., that will house offices for the Veterans Administration Wounded Warrior Project and other veterans’ services. It is an honor to be selected, and one that has a particular resonance for Morrissey, a former U.S. Army helicopter pilot and veteran of the Vietnam War. The pieces that the Department of Defense selected are mostly from Morrissey’s book “Between the Lines,” featuring photographs taken at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. The other works selected for display are photographs of Vietnam that Morrissey took after the war and one painting, “Badge,” a mixed media acrylic on canvas reminiscent of the colors and pattern of the military’s Vietnam Service Ribbon decoration.

Students benefit from book awards
Twenty-three Community College of Rhode Island students received a book award from the Alumni Association that helped them purchase textbooks this semester. Book awards are $250 grants that benefit students with financial need. Funding for the awards comes from alumni donations and other fundraising efforts. Recipients were honored during a breakfast with the Alumni Association board of directors on Oct. 11 at the Knight Campus in Warwick. To read more about these students and their accomplishments, visit www.ccri.edu/alumni.

Family gives the gift of music to CCRI
When Sondra Pitts ’66 was in elementary school, she began her piano lessons on an old upright. After many years her mother, Sona Ahlijian, purchased a Baldwin parlor grand piano to continue Sondra’s studies. Now that Ahlijian is 91 and her daughter no longer plays, the family decided to give the piano to the Community College of Rhode Island for music students, receptions and performances. Their gift was shared during a reception following the annual meeting of the CCRI Foundation and Alumni Association held at the Knight Campus in Warwick on Sept. 7, where Dr. Audrey Kaiser, assistant professor of piano, entertained all in attendance by playing “Maple Leaf Rag” and “Autumn Leaves.” The family is thrilled that the piano has a new home at a familiar place. “A lot of people can enjoy it and I can visit it often,” Pitts said.

Art professor wins top award at international festival for film work
Community College of Rhode Island Art Professor Nancy Wyllie received the Persona Award for best work in the international Persona Art Festival exhibition. The festival was held at the Rag Factory, a gallery space in East London, and featured 40 artists from all over the world who displayed work in a variety of disciplines. Curators partnered with the University of Westminster, a world leader in the visual arts, to bring together artists from as far away as China, Greece and Slovakia. A video artist, Wyllie was recognized for her short film pieces “T-Minus Tome” and “Nothing.”
EVENTS

Expert discusses impact of media on children
Dr. Vic Strasburger, professor and chief of the division of adolescent medicine at the University of New Mexico School of Medicine, presented “Risky Business: What Everyone Should Know about the Impact of Media on Children and Adolescents,” on Oct. 14, at the Flanagan Campus in Lincoln. The event was sponsored by the CCRI Foundation.

Dr. Strasburger has been featured on National Public Radio and in Newsweek, The New York Times and USA Today. He also has appeared on “Oprah,” “The Today Show,” and “CBS Sunday Morning,” and has lectured in 45 states and on five continents.

Nine students are first to complete opticianry program
The first class of students to graduate from CCRI’s opticianry program were honored during a pinning ceremony at the Newport County Campus on July 6. The college celebrated the accomplishments of students Janetta Donovan, Ekaterina Flowers, Paul Geller, Yelena Kurchina, Mallory Pacheco, Matthew Parente, Allyson Reigstad, Dorothy Silva and Teira Tar. For more information about the program, go to www.ccri.edu/rehabhealth/optic.

NEWS

Fall enrollment is second-highest in history
Enrollment for the Fall 2011 semester at the Community College of Rhode Island is the second-highest of any semester in the college’s history. According to final enrollment numbers, 17,893 students are taking classes this semester at CCRI’s four main campuses in Warwick, Lincoln, Providence and Newport; two satellite locations in Westerly and the Shepard Building in Downcity Providence; through distance learning and training and development contracts.

This number is second only to enrollment in Fall 1992, when Rhode Island instituted a special tuition waiver with no income qualifications for senior citizens or the unemployed (see chart at right.)

CCRI Fall Classic raises $37,000 for student support
Bright blue skies welcomed participants, sponsors and volunteers to the picturesque Alpine Country Club for CCRI’s 17th annual Fall Classic on Sept. 19. This year’s tournament raised a record-breaking $37,000 for student financial support. More than 100 golfers enjoyed lunch and teed off in support of the college’s annual golf tournament, aided by a dozen CCRI volunteers.

Organizers attribute the success of this tournament to the generosity of its sponsors. Ameresco, Honeywell and Independent Insurance Agents of Rhode Island returned as presenting sponsors, while Atrion/Cisco and Picerne Military Housing were new additions to the presenting sponsor list. Delta Mechanical Contractors was another new entry in the role of cart sponsor. In addition, 13 corporate foursomes participated.

CCRI Foundation and Alumni Association elect new officers
New trustees and board members were elected and finance reports were presented during the annual meeting of the CCRI Foundation and Alumni Association held at the Knight Campus in Warwick on Sept. 7. After the meeting, trustees and board members attended a reception. To view a list of trustees and board members, visit the Office of Institutional Advancement Web site at www.ccri.edu/oia.

Top five headcounts in CCRI history

<table>
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<th>Semester</th>
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<td>Fall 1992</td>
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<td>Fall 2011</td>
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<td>Fall 2010</td>
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<td>Fall 2009</td>
<td>17,760</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring 1993</td>
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Much has changed in the field of nursing since Rhode Island Junior College graduated its first class of nurses in 1968. Amazing advances in technology, the emergence of HIV/AIDS and other pathologies, and the fluctuating state of the American health care industry have challenged nurses and nursing instructors to adapt.

Over the years, the Nursing program at the Community College of Rhode Island has established a tradition of excellence, with students who surpass the national and state average scores on the National Council Licensure Examinations (NCLEX) for registered nurses and practical nurses. The CCRI program has thousands of graduates who mostly remain in Rhode Island and are recognized as some of the state’s best-prepared nurses. They can be found in almost every health care facility in the state, and medical professionals in Rhode Island know that CCRI nursing graduates will come to the job prepared with hands-on experience and a rigorous education.

This exemplary program started slowly but quickly gained momentum. Rhode Island Junior College opened in 1964 and began offering its nursing program in 1966. That first class of nurses had 30 members, including William Wade ’68, who was one of only two men in the program.

Older than most of his fellow students at RIJC, he had been a medic in the U.S. Air Force and was attending college on the G.I. Bill to learn more about nursing.

He remembers the first nursing class as a tight-knit group who would often carpool to class at the disused Brown and Sharpe factory that made up RIJC’s campus and to clinicals at local hospitals.

As students in a new program at a new college, Wade said there was some apprehension at first.

“They used to call the school ‘reject’ you know, [a pejorative based on the RIJC acronym] and I suppose we felt like lesser students than those who went to four-year colleges at the time,” Wade said, “but we were anything but rejects. We supported each other and I think basically we were a very happy class.”

Whereas today’s students work on their general education requirements before entering the nursing program, early students took them at the same time as their nursing courses, making for a demanding two-year program.

“We didn’t go out and socialize a lot,” Wade said. “A lot of students worked, but I think we enjoyed ourselves while we were at school.”

Twelve of Wade’s classmates did not complete the program.

The RIJC nursing program began to develop a high reputation over the years, and attracted both students fresh out of high school and older, returning students with families and prior careers. The program grew exponentially. In 1967, 185 people applied to be members of RIJC’s second nursing class and only 62 were accepted, doubling the program’s enrollment. Four faculty members were added to teach the upper-level nursing classes to RIJC students for the first time, making a total of seven faculty, plus a program director.

The program continued to gain strength, adding 96 new students in 1968 and 150 in 1969, doubling the program’s enrollment yet again. It grew with the college, offering courses at the new Knight...
Campus in Warwick in 1972 and expanding to the Flanagan Campus in Lincoln in 1976.

A one-year practical nursing (PN) program was added in 1972, remaining separate from the associate degree nursing program until 1986.

By 1975, there were 484 people enrolled in the college’s associate degree nursing program and 137 enrolled in the PN program. The RJJC Nursing Department regularly received a number of applications many times greater than the number of available spots in each of its nursing programs.

Today the program has 617 students and 65 full-time nursing faculty.

Dean of Health and Rehabilitative Sciences Maureen McGarry said this growth comes in part from having highly qualified faculty and a program that offers a lot of options for students.

Those who wish to enter the work force as soon as possible can earn a PN diploma/certificate and apply to take the NCLEX-PN national licensure examination to become an LPN, or licensed practical nurse. These students can continue with their education and later apply to take the NCLEX-RN to become a registered nurse, or RN. This classification affords more opportunities in the medical field.

Other students skip the PN certification entirely in favor of RN status, and some students use CCRI’s transfer agreements with local four-year schools to earn a bachelor’s degree in nursing.

“It’s certainly an excellent program,” McGarry said. “And it’s not a problem to advertise the program because I know intimately how well the students do, as well as the high caliber of the faculty.”

The great popularity of the college’s nursing program, especially early on, was perhaps because the program filled a niche when it was created: It was a degree-granting program that could put students to work in just two years.

Most Rhode Island nursing programs in the 1960s and earlier gave graduates the LPN certification, were RN programs at hospitals or four-year bachelor’s degree programs, but RJJC students graduated as registered nurses with associate degrees.

Marcia Carr-Carvalho ’74 was one of the last nursing students to attend classes at the original RJJC campus – Providence’s Brown and Sharpe building which is now known as the Foundry and houses apartments and businesses. She stayed even when the Knight Campus was opened in the middle of her first year because she was accustomed to the Providence campus and liked her classmates. That class included a lot of working mothers, Carr-Carvalho said, and a few military veterans.

“We had a lot of Vietnam veterans in our class,” she said. “There were about half a dozen men who had been medics. They really added a bit of spice in a program that was mostly women.”

Carr-Carvalho chose the RJJC program because she knew she could be working in two years, and tuition of $250 a semester didn’t hurt, either.

“It was great for me,” she said. “You come in, you do your two years and you’re done.”

Carr-Carvalho said she still remembers her professors from those years.

“We all remember Miss Vivian Chartier,” Carr-Carvalho said. “She had been in the service and she ran a tight ship, but we learned.”

Carr-Carvalho also remembers Professor Lois Dobinsky and Professor Gertrude Godfrey, who wrote Carr-Carvalho a letter that she still has. It says, “Always remember that you as a nurse are an example for students to follow.”

Rosemary Costigan is a 1978 graduate and a member of the first class of students to attend the Flanagan Campus in 1976. She returned to join the CCRI nursing faculty in 1999. Early in her nursing career, she received orientation training from Carr-Carvalho at Memorial Hospital in Pawtucket.

In going from a CCRI student to instructor, Costigan has a unique perspective on the way the curriculum has changed.

“For one thing, I graduated before HIV,” she said. “In the early ’80s, that dramatically impacted medical practices and how we handle patients.” She added, “The pathologies that we’ve seen develop over the last three decades have been very complex.”

Today’s nurses must also reckon with a changing health care system in which many hospitals are cash-strapped and many patients are uninsured.

Costigan said today’s nurses have a need to advocate for those without insurance to get medical help and routine preventative health care.

Finally, there are the advances in computer technology that have driven the profession toward electronic record-keeping and the advances in medical technology that have changed procedures. Patients who would have been in an intensive care unit 30 years ago are now in a regular unit, Costigan said, and patients are hospitalized for much shorter durations.

“What we had days to do in the past is now down to hours,” she said.

CCRI began offering evening and weekend programs in 1988 at the Flanagan Campus and the Newport satellite campus to accommodate people with professional, family or other commitments during the day. The program still offers the same level of flexibility and convenience for students, and attracts traditional age students, older, returning adults as well as career-changers. Many working nurses were attracted to the nursing program to advance from LPN to RN.

As a result of their participation in the program, CCRI’s nursing graduates have wide-ranging career experiences in area hospitals, retirement homes and other facilities. For McGarry, this demonstrates the depth and breadth of the program. “I’m very proud to be a part of CCRI,” McGarry said, “and to inform others about this Nursing Department and the excellent programs we offer.”

If you would like to get involved with CCRI’s Nursing Alumni Chapter, please contact the Office of Alumni Affairs at 401-333-7101 or send an e-mail to alumni@ccri.edu.
William Wade ’68

William Wade, one of the original RIJC nursing graduates, is a visiting nurse. His first job was at a Veterans Administration Hospital in Manhattan, but he transferred to a different VA hospital in West Roxbury near Boston and worked there until retiring in 1994.

Two weeks later, he applied to work with the Visiting Nurse Association in Massachusetts and has been making home visits on a per diem employment basis for 16 years. He lives on Cape Cod and leads regular public health clinics on topics such as diabetes and psychiatric health in communities there.

With extensive experience giving home care, Wade has observed the improvements in the field that led to shorter hospital visits during his career.

“I was seeing people in homes that I remember seeing in intensive care units,” he said. “We would never dream of taking care of people like that at home [in the past], so it’s interesting to see how nursing has evolved over the years and as a profession.”

Mary Gamelin ’89

Mary Gamelin had already graduated from a one-year program at the Rhode Island School of Practical Nursing and had worked as an LPN for 20 years before enrolling at CCRI.

“Having been an LPN and worked in hospitals, I knew that CCRI had the most hands-on program,” she said. She also knew that CCRI graduates did well on their state board examinations to qualify as nurses.

Gamelin worked in the medical surgical floor of Kent Hospital but decided to become an RN to increase her qualifications and be able to work in other areas. She remembers her CCRI classmates as a tight-knit group of students who would study together and travel to classes and clinicals in groups. She still sees fellow graduates in various health care positions throughout the state.

After graduating from CCRI, Gamelin was hired to work in the emergency department at Rhode Island Hospital.

“I worked there for three months and it was crazy,” she said. “To keep my sanity I had to leave.”

Fleeing the hectic pace and long hours of the emergency room, Gamelin worked in the recovery room at St. Joseph’s Hospital, where she had had her start in nursing as a candy striper – a young hospital volunteer named for a distinctive striped uniform.

At St. Joseph’s, she worked with many patients recovering from neurosurgery who were frequently groggy or unconscious.

“I realized that I really missed the contact with the patients,” she said.

Gamelin decided to go into psychiatric nursing and had to start her career from the bottom up, at first making a salary lower than the one she had earned as an LPN. She eventually became a liaison nurse, visiting psychiatric hospitals in Rhode Island and Massachusetts.

“It was challenging and it was exhausting mentally, but it was rewarding,” she said.

Gamelin is now semi-retired and does home visits with the Gateway Community Counseling Center.

Rosemary Costigan ’78

Rosemary Costigan started her career at Memorial Hospital in 1978, two months after graduating at age 20. She made $5.25 an hour and $4.75 at a second job at Women and Infants Hospital.

In the 1980s she earned a bachelor’s degree in nursing at Rhode Island College, which took her four years to complete on a part-time basis. She married a nurse anesthetist and has five children. In 1996, she earned a master’s degree from the University of Rhode Island and is working on a doctorate there. She has transitioned into teaching.

“Nursing has truly been a lifelong journey for me,” she said.

Costigan joined the CCRI faculty full time in 1999 after one year as an adjunct professor. She teaches medical surgical nursing and dosage and calculations.

“I always enjoyed teaching, even as a staff nurse,” Costigan said, “and it was a really great moment to be offered an opportunity to go back to the beginning and be able to give back [at CCRI]. It’s great to have a hand in shaping future nurses.”
Jessica Carvalho '08

Marcia Carr-Carvalho has spent her career at Memorial Hospital, starting there in 1974 as one of 40 new graduates hired.

“I never intended to be a lifer, but here I am 37 years later,” she said.

She has worked in many different areas of the hospital, from the medical surgical floor to the intensive care unit and has been an employee health nurse for the last 10 years. She earned her bachelor’s degree in nursing from Rhode Island College in 1997.

One of her co-workers at the hospital is her daughter-in-law, Jessica Carvalho, a 2008 CCRI graduate.

Carvalho started attending CCRI in 2000 and was not exactly sure what she wanted to do for a career until her boyfriend – now husband – James Carvalho suggested she become a nurse like his mother. She found that she had a passion for the profession and was attracted to CCRI’s program.

“The beauty of it was they had the night-and-weekend program so I could work during the day and afford to go to college,” Carvalho said.

She first came to Memorial Hospital as a nurse intern while still in school and worked as a certified nursing assistant.

“I would recommend that to any nursing student,” she said.

It was during this internship that Carvalho first started working in the hospital’s emergency room, where she remains on staff today.

“I was very scared at first going into the E.R. but I fell in love with it,” she said.

“It’s stressful, and it’s a different environment than on floors, but you’re learning something new every day. It’s nerve-wracking, but it’s exciting.”

Jessica, her husband and their 8-month-old son, James, live just a few minutes away from Marcia Carr-Carvalho, giving the baby access to two licensed nurses in times of ill health.

“It’s nice to have another nurse in the family,” Carr-Carvalho said. “Nurses like to have another nurse to talk to.”

Jessica Carvalho added, “No one else gets the gross humor.”

Nursing is even the basis for a family tradition in the Carvalho house. Years ago, Marcia Carr-Carvalho, at the time pregnant with her son, was caring for a patient who was recovering at the hospital. Although it is against the rules for nurses to accept gifts from patients, Carr-Carvalho’s patient insisted that she take some money to buy a present for the baby and she eventually gave in. She bought a toy ball and a Hallmark “Baby’s First Christmas” ornament that goes on the family Christmas tree every year.

“That’s 29 years ago and we still talk about [that patient] every Christmas,” Carr-Carvalho said. “There’s some people who just touch your heart and you never forget them.”

Carr-Carvalho has many cards and other mementos from her patients and has stayed in contact with some of them over the years.

In the emergency room, Jessica Carvalho’s experience with patients is a bit different. She doesn’t see patients for long enough to get to know them, and they are often in crisis at the time.

“You’re seeing them at the worst time in their life, usually,” she said. “You don’t get a lot of ‘thank-yous’ in the E.R., but when you do it means a lot.”
Year Up Providence

Oneyda Escobar of Providence wanted more out of her career than a dead-end part-time job. With a young son and career ambitions, she was eager for a new opportunity, one that would allow her to maintain her family obligations while climbing the career ladder. Then her cousin, Zuleyma Chavez, told her about Year Up, the eighth-fastest-growing nonprofit in the United States. Year Up strives to close the opportunity divide by providing young adults with the skills, experience and support that will empower them to reach their potential through professional careers and higher education.

Escobar (left) credits the organization with preparing her to enroll at the Community College of Rhode Island and land a job at Covidien, a global company that creates medical devices and supplies. “It’s the best job I’ve ever had,” she said, adding that she plans to complete her associate degree at CCRI and transfer to continue her education in business and computer science. “Year Up has helped me change my life completely. I know for a fact I wouldn’t be where I am today if it wasn’t for Year Up and the people who support the organization.”

Harvard Business School graduate and pioneering technology company owner Gerald Chertavian established Year Up in Boston in 2000. The Providence location, where Escobar attended and is now a member of its board of directors, opened five years later. “We see ourselves as a bridge between urban talents and Rhode Island companies,” said Meghan Hughes, executive director of Year Up Providence (right). “We are changing the world one life at a time.”

Nearly all Year Up students live at or below the poverty line and are the first in their families to go to college. Over the past six years, Year Up Providence has served more than 500 students, including 277 graduates.

CCRI and Year Up Providence established a dual enrollment agreement to expand opportunities available to Rhode Island’s young adults. Upon graduating from the Year Up program, students will earn 23 credits from CCRI for their completion of college-level courses, including a corporate internship.

“Year Up and CCRI are about opportunity,” said CCRI President Ray Di Pasquale. “This partnership gives those with potential and desire the opportunity for education, hard work and empowerment, which are the foundations for success.”

Escobar could not agree more. The support network she has gained by enrolling in the Year Up program has changed her life – and that network continues to grow, even after she has graduated. “The relationship doesn’t end when the program ends,” she said. “It’s a program that sticks with you.”
Walter Jachna ’98 and Eileen Jeanes Jachna

A commitment to education is a resounding theme in the lives of Walter Jachna ’98 and Eileen Jeanes Jachna of Newport. Their connection to the college began after Walter, a business owner and graduate of Valley Forge Military Academy in Pennsylvania and Bridgewater State Teachers College, received an associate degree in paralegal studies from CCRI in 1998. Walter’s experience at the college and Eileen’s background in education led the Jachnas to give back to future students through the CCRI Foundation.

“I saw a need,” Walter said. “There were a lot of kids struggling financially and Eileen thought there was something we could do about it.” Eileen is a graduate of Salve Regina University, holds a master’s degree in French from Rutgers University and a master’s degree in English from Ohio University. She has taught at Rogers High School, the University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth and Bristol Community College. Walter is an account manager at Tuition Management Systems in Warwick, which helps families create payment plans to afford the cost of tuition. The company works with numerous schools, including CCRI, and hundreds of thousands of families.

The Jachnas established a scholarship in their name for students majoring in paralegal studies or nursing. Today the scholarship is also available to eligible students enrolled in the developmental disabilities services certificate program.

Rosemarie Amato, a 2009 recipient of the Jachnas’ scholarship, is one course shy of completing an associate degree in paralegal studies. As part of a CCRI-sponsored internship that later turned into a full-time job, she worked with disadvantaged youth, encouraging and guiding them to prepare for college. “The Jachnas’ scholarship didn’t just change my life, it also helped me touch the lives of a lot of young people in a positive way,” she said. Amato owns and operates No Place Like Home, a home décor business in Chepachet, and credits her CCRI education for her business savvy.

Walter became a trustee of the CCRI Foundation shortly after graduating from CCRI and the Jachnas continue to support the nonprofit’s mission through participation in its events and annual fund. Eileen served on the Foundation’s annual event fundraising committee for several years. They are both members of the John H. Chafee Society, the CCRI Foundation’s estate and planned giving program.

In addition to their support of the CCRI Foundation, Eileen has established scholarships at Rogers High School and Salve Regina University. They also are involved with the James L. Maher Center in Newport County, which provides opportunities for children and adults with developmental disabilities. Eileen’s parents were instrumental in founding the organization and Walter serves as president of its board of directors.

Independent Insurance Agents of Rhode Island

Founded in 1900, Independent Insurance Agents of Rhode Island (IIARI) works to enhance the competitive position of its members by satisfying their business, professional, educational and political needs. The business is located in Warwick.

Executive Vice President Mark Male (left) said IIARI provides advocacy, education opportunities and products and services to support agents in their mission to serve their clients, who are Rhode Island consumers. The organization also supports state agencies, including the higher education system, with risk management assessments and services.

“In today’s market and economic conditions it’s more critical than ever to have educated members who provide expertise and professional advice to their clients,” Male said. “Education is a critical foundation to their ability to do the right job for their customers.”

IIARI is a staunch supporter of education not only for its members, but for the community at large. That is why, for many years, the organization has consistently supported the CCRI Foundation through event sponsorships that support scholarships for students as well as a buildings and grounds fund that pays for repairs and improvements to CCRI’s four campuses. Their support is unrestricted, which gives the college flexibility in spending for timely, critical needs where allocated funds may not be available.

“We want to give back to Rhode Island and we feel that supporting the CCRI Foundation is the best way to do it,” Male said, recognizing that the majority of CCRI graduates live and work in Rhode Island. “Without discrimination, CCRI is there for all students and has the potential to impact many, many more lives than we can do individually. In our minds, CCRI gives more back to us collectively than we’ll ever give to CCRI. That’s why we do it.”
‘70s
1978
Fire Chief Magazine selected Robert Perry as the 2011 Volunteer Fire Chief of the Year. A volunteer firefighter for more than 40 years, Perry has served as the chief of the 300-member Union Fire Protection District in Peace Dale since 2004. He previously served as deputy chief for training and development for 16 years.

The New England Council on Crime and Delinquency (NECCD) awarded Laura Queenan, a probation and parole aide in the Interstate Office of Adult Probation and Parole at the Rhode Island Department of Corrections, has been promoted to the position of correctional officer lieutenant.

2001 Angelo R. Musto Award for Laura Queenan, a probation and parole aide in the Interstate Office of Adult Probation and Parole at the Rhode Island Department of Corrections, with the 2011 Angelo R. Musto Award for her contributions to the organization. The award was presented at NECCD’s 72nd Annual Training Institute held in Mystic, Conn.

‘80s
1982
Carl Mattson, a longtime resident of Coventry and owner of Blarney Stone Energy, was elected to serve the residents in the town of Coventry as a councilman in District 2 on April 5, 2011.

Karen McKenna has accepted a position as an accounting supervisor for the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority.

1988
Marie Eich of Saunderstown was recognized as Nurse of the Year during Rhode Island Hospital’s annual employee service awards dinner. She works in the hospital’s Children’s Neurodevelopment Center, which cares for children who have autism, attention deficit disorder and epilepsy.

‘00s
2004
Danilo Claros of North Kingston, a 12-year veteran of the Rhode Island Department of Corrections, has been promoted to the position of correctional officer lieutenant.

2005
Kathryn Cote graduated from Rhode Island College with a bachelor’s degree in accounting and summa cum laude honors.

Jessica Dubois has moved her art gallery to Sandywoods Farm in Tiverton, a residential artist and agricultural community.

Megan Gasbarro and Elliott LeFaiver ’05 were married at the Metacomet Country Club in East Providence on June 26, 2011.

2008
Danielle King of Warwick participated in a radiography program at West Virginia University Hospitals and received a bachelor’s degree in radiography from Alderson-Broadus College in Philippi, W.Va. She passed the national board exam and is enrolled in a nuclear medicine program.

2010
Christopher Bouvier was sworn in as an officer for the Woonsocket Police Department.

Sandra Pattie ’76 to succeed Kelly at BankNewport

When Sandra Pattie ’76 started at BankNewport in 1984 as a loan officer, she had an ambitious goal.

“I decided maybe 25 years ago that I would like to be president of this bank,” she said.

Pattie will officially achieve this goal at the beginning of next year, when she succeeds Thomas W. Kelly, retiring president and chief executive officer.

“I’m very excited,” she said. “This is a great organization with a lot of history and I’m very proud to be taking over.” Pattie is the bank’s executive vice president and chief operating officer and she has managed almost every area of the bank’s operations over the years.

Pattie graduated from Rhode Island Junior College with an associate degree in business management and went on to Providence College, taking classes at night and working at Coventry Credit Union during the day. She graduated in 1984 and began working at BankNewport, steadily advancing in the organization.

Outside of her bank work, Pattie is active in the community. She is a board member of United Way of Rhode Island, a member of the Providence College President’s Council, a member of the board of governors for Newport Hospital and has been a CCRI Foundation trustee for 10 years.

“I just wanted to give back,” she said of her philanthropic work.

Pattie has had several opportunities to combine her work for BankNewport and CCRI.

The bank has participated in CCRI events and Pattie sat on the fundraising committee for the Newport County Campus. The campus atrium is now dedicated to BankNewport and the bank sometimes holds events there.

As a Foundation member, Pattie is a regular visitor to the Knight Campus and has seen a lot of change there since her days as a student. She said the college’s diversity has increased in terms of the student body and the academics.

“People are probably more aware of the value of CCRI now,” she said. “A few years back it was not the jumping-off point it is now.”

She added, “[CCRI] shouldn’t be a hidden gem, it should be out there for everybody to see.”

To read more about Sandra Pattie ’76, go to www.ccri.edu/alumni.

In memoriam

The Green & White Alumni Magazine now publishes “In memoriam” in honor of college alumni. Because of space constraints, content is limited to an individual’s name and class year.


To read more about Sandra Pattie ’76, go to www.ccri.edu/alumni.
Calendar of events

This calendar lists some of the upcoming events involving Community College Rhode Island students, alumni, faculty and staff. For more information about what is happening at CCRI campuses, go to www.ccri.edu/marketing. For team athletic schedules, visit www.ccri.edu.

2011

“Mark Freedman: Paintings”
A solo show featuring paintings from California and Rhode Island on display through Nov. 23.

Thanksgiving recess
No classes
Nov. 24 to 27

Changing Lives Celebration
6 to 9:30 p.m., Dec. 1, Rhodes on the Pawtuxet, Cranston

“Tick, Tick . . . Boom!”
A musical by Jonathan Larson presented by the CCRI Players
Dec. 1 to 4, Knight Campus
Dec. 30, Stadium Theater, Woonsocket

Final exams
Dec. 19 to 22

2012

Leap Year Party
An alumni after-hours networking event
5 to 7 p.m., Feb. 29, Faiàl’s, Smithfield

“A Contemporary American’s Guide to a Successful Marriage, ©1959”
A comedy by Robert Bastron presented by the CCRI Players
March 1 to 4, Flanagan Campus, Lincoln

All College Week
A celebration of CCRI students, alumni, faculty and staff
March 26 to 30

Hall of Fame Induction
A ceremony to honor individuals who have made substantial contributions to the college
Time and location TBA

The Annual Student Project
Student-directed one-act plays
April 26 to 29, Liston Campus, Providence

Commencement
May 18

10th Annual CCRI Alumni Association Golf Tournament
7:30 a.m., June 13, North Kingstown Country Club

Why I give: Ken Fuller ’66

Ken Fuller ’66 has donated yearly to the Community College of Rhode Island’s Alumni Annual Fund for about 20 years, ever since he paid off his student loans. He gives because of all that the college gave him.

“[Rhode Island Junior College] was one of the two or three turning points in my life,” he said. “I had a very poor high school performance, got into the junior college by the skin of my teeth and I ended up on Wall Street.”

Fuller was in RIJC’s first graduating class and found a vibrant faculty that got him excited to learn.

“I think the college was extremely fortunate, for a school that was just starting its first year, to recruit the quality of staff that it did,” he said.

Fuller remembers professor A. Curtis Bessette, a retired naval officer known to students as Commander Bessette, who taught politics, telling him that the Berlin Wall would fall during his lifetime. He remembers Rita Lepper of the Art Department, whom he credits for every inspiring moment he has spent in an art gallery, and Dr. David Freeman, who exposed Fuller to philosophy for the first time.

Fuller said the college gave him a second chance after high school, and he believes it has offered the same to many students since.

“It was a great experience and I am extremely proud to have been part of the first class of a college that has affected so many lives since,” he said.

After RIJC, Fuller briefly attended the University of Rhode Island, served in the Vietnam War and attended Temple University and Columbia University. He has spent his career as a portfolio manager at a money management firm in New York City.

Fuller said that, with all he has accomplished in his life, CCRI is one of the organizations he has been most proud to be a part of.

“It was a remarkable time in my life,” he said, “and one of the best times.”
In the weeks after 9/11, Community College of Rhode Island students banded together to support the individuals and families affected by the terrorist attacks. Alumni Association President Joshua Klemp’04, who was president of student government at the time, helped organize a campaign to have supplies delivered to ground zero.
IMAGINE

A theater where students can shine.

The campaign to renovate the Bobby Hackett Theater at the Community College of Rhode Island is under way.

To give, visit www.ccri.edu/oia or call 401-333-7150.
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

Keep in touch!

The Community College of Rhode Island Alumni Association is dedicated to the development of alumni programs designed to encourage dialogue between alumni and the college. As part of our efforts to keep CCRI alumni informed without the need to print, we invite you to send us your e-mail address at alumni@ccri.edu. Alternatively, you may complete our online contact form at www.ccri.edu/alumni. In return, we will send you updates about alumni activities as well as CCRI news from time to time.