Cartoonist Frank Galasso found his calling at CCRI
To begin the Spring 2012 semester, Knight Campus Student Government welcomed evening students with doughnuts and coffee and shared information about campus clubs and activities on Feb. 1.
A message from the President

Higher education serves many purposes for the community and the individual. Through higher education, colleges and universities prepare future leaders. Through higher education, colleges and universities help students find a passion – and even a purpose in life.

The Community College of Rhode Island offers the accessible higher education Thomas Jefferson believed was essential to producing America’s future leaders. CCRI graduates leave the college prepared for transfer, employment or career advancement in Rhode Island and beyond. This journey of preparation is a collaborative one between student and professor where hidden talents are discovered and passions are cultivated.

Frank Galasso, featured on Page 4 of this issue, is one such example of a student who benefited from faculty guidance. With encouragement from Art Professor Don Gray, his budding career as a professional cartoonist took flight. Lori Dorsey ’90, featured on Page 6, is another example. Addicted to painkillers after a serious car accident, she completed a treatment program and enrolled at the college, anxious about her studies. On day one of college, she found a compassionate mentor in Professor Linda Corrente, who counseled her toward a career in human services.

As you read the inspirational stories about the college’s alumni, I encourage you to think about how your CCRI experience changed your life. I invite you to share your story with me by sending an e-mail to alumni@ccri.edu.

Ray M. Di Pasquale
President

A message from the President of the Alumni Association

The Spring 2012 semester is well under way and the Community College of Rhode Island Alumni Association will welcome a new class of graduates in May. This is an exciting time of year when the college begins to celebrate the accomplishments of its students, and the Alumni Association continues to lend its support to the college community.

In a challenging economy, the Alumni Association is a resource for networking and relationship-building. This semester, the Alumni Association has organized several events that bring alumni together: an after-hours networking event at Faial Restaurant & Lounge in Smithfield on Feb. 29; a coffee hour organized by CCRI’s new Nursing Alumni Chapter at The Miriam Hospital in Providence on March 8; and the annual golf tournament, a fundraiser that provides book award funds for students, on June 13.

The mission of the Alumni Association is to support the college, its students, faculty and alumni in a manner that enriches the lives of its members and the quality of the institution. I hope you will consider getting involved or offering your support in the months ahead.

Joshua M. Klemp ’04
President
CCRI Alumni Association
EVENTS

Alumni Association gathers at DUSK
The Community College of Rhode Island Alumni Association hosted an after-hours networking event for alumni and friends at DUSK in Providence on Oct. 27. Raffle and door prizes were awarded.

Changing Lives Celebration
The CCRI Foundation held its fifth annual Changing Lives Celebration, “A Cool Winter’s Evening” to honor three outstanding community leaders while raising funds to help even more students achieve their dreams. The Foundation honored Year Up Providence; Walter Jachna ’98 and Eileen Jeanes Jachna; and Independent Insurance Agents of Rhode Island as leaders in community, education and business, respectively, during a fundraiser held on Dec. 1 at Rhodes on the Pawtuxet in Cranston. The net proceeds from the celebration were $38,000.

Nursing Alumni Chapter hosts coffee hour
Community College of Rhode Island nursing graduates are joining together to form a new alumni chapter. Sponsored by the CCRI Alumni Association, the group will host its first coffee hour from 6:30 to 9:30 a.m. and 3 to 6 p.m. on Thursday, March 8, in Hurvitz Board Room No. 2 at The Miriam Hospital in Providence.

Current students and graduates of CCRI’s allied health programs are welcome to attend, network and share thoughts and concerns about the state of Rhode Island health care. Come meet President Ray Di Pasquale from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. and Dean of Health and Rehabilitative Sciences Maureen McGarry during the afternoon session.

Admission is free and coffee and refreshments will be served. RSVP online at www.ccri.edu/alumni, by calling 401-333-7150 or sending an e-mail to alumni@ccri.edu before March 1. If you cannot attend but would like to get involved in CCRI’s Nursing Alumni Chapter, contact Marisa Albini, director of alumni affairs and alumni development at alumni@ccri.edu.

CCRI Players present ‘tick, tick ... BOOM!’
Set in 1990, “tick, tick ... BOOM!” is filled with instantly appealing melodies and a unique blend of pop and musical theater styles. Its first full staging, revamped from Larson’s solo version to accommodate three performers, opened off Broadway in June 2001. For the CCRI production last fall, which was staged at the Knight Campus in Warwick and the Stadium Theatre in Woonsocket, director Theodore R. Clement incorporated a small ensemble to portray the range of incidental characters whom Jon encounters on his journey. The cast featured Alexander Rotella of Cranston as Jon; Laura Minadeo of Warwick as Susan; Billy Flynn of Providence as Michael; and Megan Cook of Warwick as Karessa. Members of the ensemble are Paige Barry of Woonsocket; Ryan Burniston, James Fontaine and Stephanie Rougier of Warwick; Jimmy Gracik of Providence; and Samantha Pike of Greene.
Runner makes CCRI history with national title
CCRI has its first national cross country champion and its first individual national champion in any sport in freshman Bobby Allen of Cranston, who finished first in the NJCAA Division III Cross Country National Championship race on Nov. 5. Bobby ran the 8,000-meter course at Holyoke Community College in 25 minutes and 23.46 seconds, giving him the win and First Team All-American honors.

Brothers work together to brighten walls
For identical twin brothers and Community College of Rhode Island art students Jordan and Justin Dubois, sibling rivalry long ago turned to a partnership and mutual drive. The twins worked for free on the mural in the Flanagan Campus cafeteria, completing it last summer. The lead chef of the campus cafeteria asked them to create the piece to brighten the area. “We were told ‘education, food and bright colors,’ and that's what we came up with,” Justin said. The mural incorporates the CCRI logo, a graduation tassel, an apple, an academic calendar and silhouetted students. It is mostly in acrylic paint but the twins used an airbrush gun to draw out some of the shadows.

Grant will fund college readiness program
The Community College of Rhode Island Foundation has received a grant to support a program that helps adult learners acquire the skills they need to pass General Education Development (GED) tests and persist in post-secondary education by reducing or eliminating the need to take developmental classes at the community college level.

The Lloyd G. Balfour Foundation, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee, has awarded the $100,000 grant to support the “College Now for Students Without a High School Credential” program, which was designed to increase the number of nontraditional students who enter post-secondary education and complete a certificate or degree after earning their GED credential.

Armed Forces Recognition Day
Dozens of people gathered at CCRI’s Knight Campus in Warwick on Nov. 4 in honor of Armed Forces Recognition Day. It was a day set aside by the college and its Student Veterans Organization to remember the sacrifices members of the United States military and their families make to preserve the freedoms that we have in our country. CCRI President Ray Di Pasquale was joined by U.S. Sens. Reed and Whitehouse, Maj. Gen. Kevin McBride, Chief Master Sgt. Lori Ashness and CCRI Vice President for Business Affairs and retired Navy Capt. Bob Shea.

All provided inspiring comments and included gratitude for Staff Sgt. Anthony Paolino, SVO president and coordinator of the day’s events.
Cartoonist Frank Galasso honed his craft at CCRI
If you have been in Rhode Island long enough, you are probably already familiar with the work of illustrator Frank Galasso.

His editorial sports cartoons capturing (and sometimes gently lampooning) star athletes and iconic moments in sports appeared in The Providence Journal from 1992 to 2007, and his drawings of Rhode Island landmarks, neighborhoods and towns can be seen on display throughout the state.

Although he did not graduate from the college, dropping out when his work began being published in newspapers, Galasso attended the Community College of Rhode Island from 1979 to 1981 and again in 1987.

He credits his art professors at CCRI with sharpening his skills and helping him get started as a professional cartoonist and illustrator.

“I went from being a barely average student in high school to being an excellent student at CCRI because of the atmosphere there,” Galasso said, “and it certainly got me into the field I’m in now.”

In 1987, Galasso was a 27-year-old student double majoring in art and music. He had worked for his father’s painting company and as a janitor with the state of Rhode Island, drawing for fun in his spare time but never having been published.

Art Professor Don Gray, who also worked for The Providence Journal, took an interest in Galasso and his work.

“He seemed to like what I was doing and it was good encouragement,” Galasso said. Early in the semester, Gray asked Galasso what he planned to do with his art. Galasso said he would like to be a sports cartoonist like Rhode Islander Frank Lanning, whose work he had imitated as a boy while learning to draw. Gray then gave Galasso a special homework assignment: Draw some sports cartoons and bring them to class. Galasso brought in a cartoon of Larry Bird, and many other works would follow.

The Evening Times in Pawtucket began running Galasso’s cartoons and he quit school in 1987 to devote time to his art.

“I started getting published and I was working [at my father’s painting company] and I didn’t have time for everything,” Galasso said.

“It was too tempting. Once you get the taste of being published you don’t want to stop.”

Galasso began syndicating himself, sending out four or five cartoons every week to newspapers throughout the country, and he was regularly published in 36 of them.


Galasso also drew political cartoons, which are a regular feature of newspaper opinion and editorial pages. He credits his mother for his interest in politics and remembers watching television news broadcasts with her when he was growing up.

Galasso worked on the Journal’s staff until 2002, when he became a freelancer again. He also has been a freelancer for the New York Post sports section since 2000.

Galasso has won numerous awards from the New England Press Association during his career, but his work no longer can be seen in Rhode Island newspapers because, he said, editors believe sports cartoons are old-fashioned. Once a mainstay of American newspapers, sports cartoons are now a rare sight, and there are only a few sports cartoonists left in the country, he said.

He said that there should still a place for sports cartoons in media because, in a digital age, they offer something unique and different.

“You see all the same photos in all the sports stores,” Galasso said. “It’s the Bruins holding up the Cup over and over.”

He added, “If you grew up with [sports cartoons] you still enjoy them and if you’re young you enjoy them because they’re new and different.”

Galasso’s art occasionally can be seen in newspapers throughout the region and on local news Web site golocalprov.com, Boston Red Sox fan site Boston Dirt Dogs, and the Web site for Boston’s WBZ television. However, he has mostly gone into business for himself, offering his unique artwork for sale.

When Galasso left the Journal staff, he began creating poster-sized drawings of Rhode Island landmarks, starting with Rocky Point in 2000. He since has created a Rhode Island poster showing unique businesses and locations in the state, posters for Cranston, Narragansett and Federal Hill, and several to commemorate sports events such as the Boston Bruins 2011 Stanley Cup victory.

“We have a very unique state,” Galasso said. “We have things that no other state has, and people are crazy for them.”

These posters require considerable time and research and Galasso writes the captions himself. When he can, he relies on the technique of projection that Norman Rockwell used: projecting a photographic image onto his easel to serve as a guide. He finishes the works with colored pencils and watercolor paint.

Galasso also is a musician, writing and performing with his band Five22. The group’s song “Come to Papi,” about Red Sox designated hitter David Ortiz, received radio airplay and was used during David Ortiz Night at Fenway Park in 2006.

Today, Galasso is working on the score for the local film “Irish Whispers,” to be shot in Boston this year.

Galasso has launched a product line of prints and mugs bearing his artwork and plans to expand into T-shirts. You can see a collection of his artwork or place an order at www.frankgalasso.com.
Lori Dorsey ’90

Recovery from addiction is a difficult, lifetime process, something that Lori Dorsey ’90 knows well. She talks freely of her experiences and, not only has she been clean and sober for 24 years, but her life’s work has been to help others get there as well.

Dorsey is a senior public health promotion specialist for the Rhode Island Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals. In this position, she helps fund, license and oversee mental health and substance abuse treatment agencies.

Dorsey dropped out of the University of Rhode Island in 1974 after just one semester and never thought she would complete a college education or have a career. She became addicted to prescription painkillers and developed a problem with alcohol after a serious car accident.

“Every day for 10 years it was back pain, drinking and pills,” Dorsey said. “Education was the farthest thing from my mind.”

Dorsey eventually completed a detox and 37-day inpatient treatment program and attended drug abuse counseling. She began her education with addiction-focused trainings that were held at the CCRI Knight Campus on Saturday mornings.

In 1988, she enrolled at the college to finish her education. She was a divorced single mother of two toddlers and had just begun her recovery from addiction.

“At age 33, I thought I was too old [for college] and I had a lot of social anxiety,” she said. “I was terrified but knew I had to get a life.”

A chance encounter on her first day of school put her on the path to her career. Dorsey began having an anxiety attack just before entering a classroom for the first time and met Professor Linda Corrente, at that time the chairwoman of the CCRI Human Services department.

Corrente gave Dorsey some orange juice and struck up a conversation. As their relationship grew, Corrente counseled Dorsey on what career she may want to pursue.

Dorsey began to excel in her classes and her interest in human services solidified during an internship in a family counseling center for alcohol and drug issues. She graduated in 1990 and went immediately to Rhode Island College, where she studied human services and sociology.

Dorsey has pursued many different jobs in her field and has seen it change over the years, with emphasis moving from treatment to recovery.

“One of the reasons I’m so open about [my recovery] is that one of my biggest goals is to eliminate the stigma [of addiction],” she said.

Dorsey encourages people of any age to go back to school and credits CCRI with helping her make a new start, calling the college “a huge part of my story.”

Dan Moriarty ’73

In a career built on helping others, Dan Moriarty ’73 has strived to make a positive impact on the lives of the people he serves.

Moriarty is the coordinator for education and training at the J. Arthur Trudeau Memorial Center, an organization that provides care for individuals with developmental disabilities as well as their families. He works closely with individuals, offering clinical counseling, support and family interventions. He also is responsible for developing and training staff members to enhance their day-to-day work.

The Trudeau Center is a close partner with the Community College of Rhode Island, Moriarty’s alma mater. In collaboration, the two have offered a financial literacy course to individuals receiving support, giving them the tools to manage their finances and take increased control of their lives, furthering their independence.

Moriarty said he is particularly proud of the program between the college and the Trudeau Center. There is a graduation ceremony at the end of the program that he said makes “the people we support feel very empowered.”

Unsure of what he wanted to do for a career after finishing Mount Pleasant High School in Providence, Moriarty applied to just one post-secondary school: Rhode Island Junior College, as CCRI was then known.

He started in the fall of 1971 at the college’s old Promenade Street location in Providence and moved in his sophomore year in 1972 to the new Knight Campus in Warwick. He is proud to say he was in the building the day it opened.

Moriarty’s uncle, always a role model to him, was a social worker and Moriarty decided to investigate this career path at RIJC.

“I hooked up with some good professors who shaped where I was going and I just took it from there,” he said.

He majored in education and social services and had an internship with the Rhode Island Juvenile Diagnostic Center (RIJDC). After graduating in 1973, he attended Rhode Island College and went on to graduate school at Virginia Commonwealth University, where he received a master’s degree in social work with a specialization in social group work. He came back to Rhode Island and returned to work at RIJDC for the first 22 years of his career.

Moriarty, who serves on the Alumni Association Board of Directors, also is an adjunct faculty member at CCRI. He said he looks forward to learning from his students and tells them that making a difference “is not so much the degree, it’s who you are and the commitment to what you do.”

Moriarty is continuing his own education with a faculty fellowship at the University of Rhode Island in gerontology and geriatrics, with a particular focus on Alzheimer’s disease.

“Life is a journey, and the learning and accomplishment don’t have to stop as long as you want to continue on that journey,” he said.
Carol Patnaude '78

Carol Patnaude '78 has taught both children and adults in a varied human services career.

She was the co-owner of a preschool and kindergarten for 23 years before becoming a full-time member of the CCRI faculty in human services, passing on what she has learned in her career to a new generation.

“I remember being really excited about early childhood education from the moment I started my career and I still am,” Patnaude said.

Early childhood is defined as birth through age 8.

Patnaude joined the CCRI faculty as an adjunct in 1990 while she was a co-owner of Friends’ House Pre-school and Kindergarten in Warwick.

“One thing I like about working with children is their joy, hands down,” she said. “I always wanted to be a teacher from the time I was very young.”

Born and raised in South Providence, Patnaude enrolled at Rhode Island Junior College in 1976 to pursue early childhood education.

Three of her former professors are now her co-workers. She completed three field experiences at Rhode Island Junior College before going on to Rhode Island College to earn a bachelor’s degree in early childhood education in 1981 and a master’s degree in education in 1987.

One of these experiences was at a Providence preschool called Federal Hill House, where she met one of her mentors in the field, Eunice Stoskopf. Stoskopf’s departure from Federal Hill House in 1981 to teach at CCRI created the job opening that Patnaude needed to be hired at the pre-school. Stoskopf’s eventual retirement from CCRI allowed Patnaude to join the faculty there.

After one year at Federal Hill House, Patnaude opened her pre-school and kindergarten in 1982 with Cathy Costantino ’80, a fellow CCRI graduate.

As time went on, Patnaude became interested in adult education as well. She met regularly with the parents of her preschool and kindergarten students as a way of building partnerships with them, and decided that working with an adult population could also be rewarding.

After she was hired at CCRI as an adjunct faculty member, Patnaude divided her time between CCRI and the preschool until closing Friends’ House in 2005. She now teaches child development courses in health and nutrition, curriculum and parent-child relations, while also overseeing student field placements.

In all of her classes, Patnaude encourages her students to be “open to learning and respectful of young children as capable and competent learners.”

Patnaude’s students often become teaching assistants, family child care specialists, workers for the Head Start school readiness program or employees at Hasbro Children’s Hospital. Many go on to Rhode Island College or the University of Rhode Island to earn a bachelor’s degree and become teachers themselves.

Patnaude said she enjoyed working with children during her career and is happy to pass her experiences on to her students.

“I feel like I’ve been so fortunate to have two careers that I’ve enjoyed,” she said.
Jo Anne Mixner '85

Jo Anne Mixner shows that it is not necessarily a particular job or degree that allows someone to make a difference, but individual spirit.
Mixner believes in random acts of kindness such as paying a stranger’s parking meter toll or giving them small gifts. On the surface, she hopes that these acts will brighten someone’s day but, taken together, and especially if the recipients pass them along, they can add to the store of goodness in the world.
Mixner organized this sentiment when she founded the Wakefield branch of Guerrilla Goodness, part of a national movement that commits anonymous acts of kindness. Mixner requested her photo not be published with this story because she is such a strong believer in the group’s anonymous nature.
Guerrilla Goodness organizes “kindness missions” in which the group’s volunteers donate items to the community or commit small acts of goodness.

The original inventor of the Guerrilla Goodness concept is Patience Salgado, who runs a blog about her experiences called “The Kindness Girl.” Mixner read about her in O, The Oprah Magazine.

“It kind of spoke to me,” Mixner said, “because when I moved here from North Carolina, I needed something to help me connect again to the community.”

Mixner is a Rhode Island native but she lived out of state for 20 years. She is a past president of the Rotary Club in North Carolina and worked with that state’s epilepsy association. She wanted to continue her charity work in Rhode Island.

After her move, the local Rotary Club and other organizations did not fit into her busy work schedule, so she hit upon the Guerrilla Goodness concept as a way to give back on her own time.

One of the group’s activities illustrates its “pay it forward” philosophy. Members formed a “chocolate chain,” leaving candy bars on the door handles of parked cars and asking the recipients to do the same for someone else.
Mixner received an e-mail after this mission from a mother thanking her for her efforts. The mother and her daughter were out shopping for someone else. When they got back to the parking lot, they found the candy bar and note from Guerrilla Goodness on their car, and the mother was able to tell her daughter that kindness will be rewarded.

“That made it for me,” Mixner said. “If nothing else comes of this, I will cherish that one story of that little girl.”
Mixner graduated with a dual major from the Community College of Rhode Island in liberal arts and business administration in 1985. She transferred to Bentley University on a full scholarship, graduating in 1987, and has been an employee of the Internal Revenue Service for 21 years.

“I’m just thankful that CCRI gave me my educational foundation and that I’m able to make this world a little bit of a better place for folks.”
Mixner’s Guerrilla Goodness chapter is the only one in Rhode Island so far but she said anyone is welcome to get involved with hers or start his or her own.

Elaine Manteiga ’81

Elaine Manteiga ’81 was never the best student in school, but her understanding of what it’s like to struggle in the classroom inspires her today in her job as a special education teacher.

She has worked for 20 years at North Cumberland Middle School with special needs students ages 11 to 15. Her students may have learning disabilities, attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder, autism, emotional trouble or physical impairments.

Working with this population can be a challenge because most students have trouble absorbing the day’s lesson, but for different reasons. Manteiga must know each of her 20 students individually and teach in a way that works best for each of them.

“I like to get to know the kids one on one,” she said, “and, hopefully, if you do your job, you can see a difference in them within a year.”

Special education has a famously high burnout rate, Manteiga said, with many teachers lasting only two or three years in the field. She said that potential special education teachers need to be certain that this is what they want to do.

Fortunately, Manteiga is certain.

“There’s never a dull moment; it truly is never boring,” she said.

“Besides raising my children, it’s been my favorite thing.”

North Cumberland Middle School has a rotating class schedule, and Manteiga divides her day between teaching lessons to smaller groups in her own classroom and being part of the classroom instruction of her fellow teachers. She is a strong supporter of individual attention for special needs students because she said they are all capable of learning, but it comes to them in different ways.

“If you have students that are challenged, they’re not going to learn like everybody else,” she said. “They’re not going to read and write like the students next to them, so how do you assess how they’re understanding the concepts being taught?”

The answer is to work with each student closely and create an individual education plan that can meet his or her particular special needs.

Though not on the same level as her current students, Manteiga remembers struggling in school herself and that experience inspired her to become a special education teacher. A lifelong Rhode Islander, she chose to attend CCRI’s Flanagan Campus in Lincoln to stay close to her home in Cumberland.

Manteiga did field work at several schools during this time, including Meeting Street School.

She graduated with a degree in elementary education and special education, earned a bachelor’s degree in education from Rhode Island College in 1984 and a master’s degree in education from the same school in 1990.

Manteiga attended North Cumberland Middle School as a child and is glad to be back. When she first started on the faculty, some of her co-teachers had had her as a student.

“I’ve come full circle,” Manteiga said. “It’s like coming home but I’m on the other side of the desk now.”
Vincent A. Cullen
Hired as a mathematics professor in 1965, Vin Cullen had no idea he would become the architect of the college’s enormously successful athletic program. Asked to spearhead the fledgling program, he assembled a powerhouse cast of coaches, planned the future field houses in both Warwick and Lincoln and guided the men’s basketball teams to unparalleled success. When he retired as athletic director and basketball coach in 2002, Cullen had compiled a 711-270 record, good for 10th all-time among junior college coaches for wins. At the time of his retirement, he was the all-time winningest college basketball coach in New England.

Dr. Robert A. Silvestre
Robert A. Silvestre began his community college journey in 1964 as one of Rhode Island Junior College’s 13 founding faculty members. He started out as an instructor of science, mathematics and pre-technical education and was chairman of the Biology Department. He also served as dean of Arts and Sciences and dean of Instruction before retiring in 2002 as vice president for Academic Affairs. Among his many accomplishments, Dr. Silvestre is credited with establishing CCRI’s nursing, dental hygiene, radiology and other health sciences programs. He was instrumental in creating The Center for Business and Industrial Training and designed the biology and chemistry labs at the Knight, Flanagan and Liston campuses.

Charles R. Wilkes
Charlie Wilkes spent 40 years at CCRI. He was hired as a math professor in 1967 and served as an assistant basketball coach under Vin Cullen for 30 years. In addition to his teaching and coaching roles, Wilkes was the first director of the Knight Campus field house when it opened in 1972. Upon retiring from coaching in 1997, Wilkes served as the Department of Athletics academic coordinator and undertook further development of the Student-Athlete Academic Support Program. His work with the program bolstered the academic performance of hundreds of athletes.

The festivities will begin with a cocktail hour, followed by the induction ceremony and dinner.

The CCRI Foundation established the Hall of Fame in celebration of the college’s 30th anniversary in October 1994. It honors individuals who have excelled in their careers and made significant contributions to the mission of the college. Since 1994, there have been seven induction ceremonies that celebrated the accomplishments of 38 Hall of Fame members.

For reservations, or to read about Hall of Fame members, go to www.ccri.edu/hof.
1974
Marcia (Kohut) Rabaiotti is an insurance professional working for Maffe Financial Group. She has 12 years of experience in the industry.

1978
Scott Bill Hirst became the second moderator in the history of the Ashaway Fire District on Sept. 13, 2011. He was elected on July 21, 2011. He is a former member of the governing board and the board of fire commissioners, serving two nonconsecutive three-year terms from 1994-97 and from 2007-10. He also is serving his first term as a member of the Hopkinton Town Council.

Terry Shea is the founder of Games on the Go, a business based in Florida that rents out an RV filled with the latest arcade games for birthday parties and other events. He has developed the mobile arcade concept as a national franchise opportunity. Visit the business’ Web site at www.GamesOnTheGoUSA.com and read more about Shea at www.ccri.edu/alumni.

1981
Walter Hope is employed by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. He was appointed by Gov. Deval Patrick as a justice of the peace in November 2011.

1984
Liz Dyer was hired as the nurse practitioner for Block Island Medical Center.

1986
Carol Browning and Thomas

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.

1968
Paula J. Judd

1974
Veronica Howard

1979
Thomas E. Green

Hewes were married at the West Valley Inn in West Warwick on July 10, 2011.

1988
Armeather Gibbs was named the managing director of the Rhode Island Economic Development Corp.’s urban finance and business development programs.

1989
Capt. Richard Quinn retired from the Cumberland Police Department and has taken a job with the Rhode Island Capitol Police.

1992
Since graduating from CCFI, Scott Dowd has held positions in the telecommunications, retail management, luxury goods and automotive industries. Now he has found his niche as a park ranger working for the U.S. National Park Service. He has been married for 12 years and lives in Massachusetts.

2000
Ann Marie Marshall served on the North Kingstown Parades Committee to organize a ceremony in remembrance of the 70th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor.

2004
Frank Ritz and Melissa McCormick were married at St. Mary’s Church in Cranston on Aug. 26, 2011.

2007
Lindsey Goryl and Arlindo Pacheco were married in the Cathedral of Sts. Peter and Paul in Providence on July 29, 2011.

2009
Jennifer Burns and Matthew Cipriano were married at the Good News Bible Chapel in Attleboro, Mass., on May 7, 2011.

2010
Amanda Nall received a distinguished visiting chef scholarship from the College of Culinary Arts at Johnson & Wales University, where she is studying for a Bachelor of Science degree in culinary arts and food service management.

Gina Romblad opened her own massage therapy business, called Deeply Kneaded, in Woonsocket.

Alumni memories sought for Knight Campus documentary
CCRI student Lawrence O’Leary is merging the past and present with a documentary film about the Knight Campus to commemorate the building’s upcoming 40th anniversary.

As a member of instructor Norman Grant’s TV Production II class in the Spring 2011 semester, he worked on the film with fellow students Elizabeth Almeida, Tara Buitta, Tyler Clays and Ronald Wilson.

The project proved to be more time-consuming than the students had imagined and the semester ended before it was finished.

“We realized that was too big of a project to handle in one semester so I took it on as an individual project,” O’Leary said.

He is now working with Grant to finish the untitled documentary, which he expects will take about six more months.

O’Leary has been conducting interviews with alumni, retired and active faculty and staff, and one of the building’s original architects, Bob Reilly. Aside from the historical facts, he is seeking unique stories, particularly from alumni, about the building’s history.

“So far I’ve covered history, architecture, construction, the history of the Knight Farm, stories and speculation, mysteries and discovery, opinions, reactions, opening day, and current reactions,” he said. “There’s also a piece about education as it was back then, as it progressed through the development of the school and new developments over the last 10 years.”

To share your campus memories for the documentary, contact Lawrence O’Leary at actoroleary@gmail.com. To read more about the project, go to www.ccri.edu/alumni.
It doesn’t take an alumnus to see the value of a CCRI education. Greg Ahlijian is not a graduate of the college but became a regular donor after his sister, Sondra Pitts ’66, a former president of the CCRI Alumni Association, showed him the impact a CCRI education can have.

“I saw the benefit of the community college in her life and wanted to support her involvement,” Ahlijian said. “I really believe in the value of community colleges. They offer a high-quality education at a low cost.”

Ahlijian is a major contributor to the Ahlijian-Pitts Scholarship, which helps qualifying students pay for their tuition and fees, books or other academic supplies.

“I’ve been impressed with the recipients of the scholarship,” Ahlijian said. “I am aware of their history and how hard they’ve worked and how well they’ve persevered.”

Ahlijian also champions education by mentoring children at the Jasper Mountain Center near his home in Eugene, Ore. Jasper Mountain is an accredited nonprofit treatment center that addresses the needs of children recovering from abuse. Since 2008, he has taught classes on nature and trees, character development and poetry.

Last year Ahlijian published a children’s book titled “The Large Rock and the Little Yew.” This uplifting and powerfully written story about courage, perseverance, self-respect and hope was inspired by the children at Jasper Mountain and an ancient yew tree growing at Wakehurst, England. The book tells the story of a yew tree seedling that finds itself starting life with seemingly overwhelming conditions and, through self-discovery, conquers its challenges and grows to become a majestic tree.

“I drew upon the inspiration of the children I was teaching and the photograph of the tree in Wakehurst,” Ahlijian said. “I put the two together and this story was the result.”

Each Jasper Mountain student receives a copy of the book upon graduation that contains personalized wishes from teachers and staff. The book also has been recognized for distribution by other child-centered agencies such as Boy Scouts of America, Oregon Trail Council and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Lane County, Oregon.

Each of the eight chapters teaches a life lesson, Ahlijian said, lessons that can apply to people of all ages. “I’ve had several adults read the story and derive meaning from it.” During this past year, sales of the book have raised more than $25,000 for Jasper Mountain. More information is available at www.litleyewtree.com.

“The Large Rock and the Little Yew” is Ahlijian’s second book, after a collection of poetry and prose titled “Reflections in My Quiet Hours” that he published independently in 1976. He is working on a book of children’s poems about elephants drawn from his travels in Africa in the 1980s and ’90s.

Ahlijan has had a lifelong interest in nature. He received a bachelor’s degree in landscape architecture from the University of Oregon and has been self-employed in arboriculture for more than 30 years. He also is a published wildlife photographer and has displayed his abstract oil paintings in galleries on the West Coast.

Despite his many projects in Oregon, Ahlijian said he will remain involved with the Community College of Rhode Island. “The quality of the students at CCRI encourages me to continue to support the scholarship fund,” he said.

Calendar of events
This calendar lists some of the upcoming events and activities 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.

2012

Alumni Association After-Hours
An alumni networking event
Feb. 29, Faial Restaurant & Lounge, 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

Nursing Alumni Chapter Coffee Hour
A social event for students and graduates of CCRI’s allied health programs
March 8, Hurvitz Board Room No. 2, The Miriam Hospital

Spring recess
No classes
March 12 to 18

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
April 22, Kirkbrae Country Club, Lincoln
See Page 9

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

Commencement
May 18, Knight Campus, Warwick

10th Annual CCRI Alumni Association Golf Tournament
June 13, North Kingstown Country Club
Inauguration Day
The CCRI community celebrated the inauguration of the college’s fourth and current president, Ray Di Pasquale, on March 23, 2007. Jack Warner, former commissioner of higher education, presents Di Pasquale with the presidential medallion as former Gov. Don Carcieri looks on. Following the installation, the field house was transformed into celebration headquarters for a community reception featuring the best of Rhode Island culinary delights. Di Pasquale is now serving his seventh year as president.
Community College of Rhode Island Alumni Association

10th ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

North Kingstown Golf Course
615 Callahan Road
North Kingstown, R.I. 02852

For more information, to pre-register or to sponsor, call 401-333-7150 or visit www.ccri.edu/alumni/golf.
CCRI introduces Knightline, an e-newsletter for alumni and friends

The first issue of Knightline, an e-newsletter for CCRI alumni and friends, was delivered in January. This new publication will be sent three times per year in January, April and September to share college and alumni news.

Visit www.ccri.edu/alumni to read the first issue. To sign up for our mailing list, go to www.ccri.edu/alumni and click on “MyAlumni & Friends.” In addition to Knightline, the college may send you occasional updates about important happenings at CCRI.