

FIRST BLOOD DRIVE OF 2001

**PSA@RIC is an official co-sponsor
(with the Office of Health Promotion)**

Date: Wednesday, January 31, 2001

Time: 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

Place: Student Union Ballroom

I am delighted that PSA has taken the initiative to get involved in the Blood Drive effort. Such an energetic and large campus organization has the likelihood of raising the most units of blood EVER in a single drive on this campus. Go for it!

Mary B. Olenn

Office of Health Promotion

The PSA@RIC Report

Professional Staff Association at Rhode Island College
600 Mt. Pleasant Avenue
Providence, RI 02908-1991

EXECUTIVE BOARD

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Brian Allen-----x8034

Vice President
Robert Bower-----x8132

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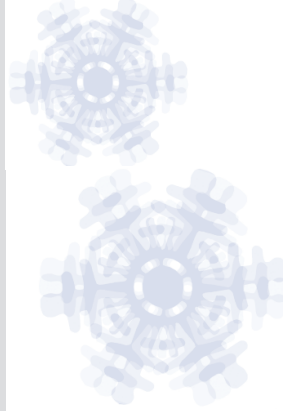
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Gray Cuenther-----x8394
Alan Salemi-----x8227

Members-at-Large

Anthony Carlino-----x8404
Debra Thomson-----x9651



PSA@RIC and RIC/AFT

Holiday Party

Wednesday, December 13

4:00 p.m.

Faculty Center

THE PSA@RIC REPORT

The Professional Staff Association at Rhode Island College

November 2000 Issue

Profiles of Our Professionals EQUAL PARTNERS IN EDUCATION

**Jack of Most Trades and Master of Even More:
An Interview with Charlie Allsworth by Gita Brown**

Gita: Charlie, you are graphic designer for the Office of Publishing Services responsible for the design of Rhode Island College publications. You also supervise work-study students (graphic design majors) on projects. And you are an adjunct instructor for the Department of Art. The majority of PSA@RIC members have worked with you or know of you as graphic designer but not many members know that you teach computer graphics and multi-media courses, as well as photography and prepress graphic design courses. How long have you been an adjunct at RIC?

Charlie: Almost 10 years now. I started out teaching a course in Macromedia Director. My students were mainly RIC teaching staff. It was a course on how to use Macromedia Director as an instructional tool. Then, when the division of Education and Human Development began to faze out the instructional technology program, the division of Arts and Sciences picked up my course. Under the Department of Art, I expanded my course to include not only multimedia presentation but computer animation and the creation of animated Web pages. The art department also asked me to teach courses on pre-press design and photography.

Gita: What are you teaching this semester?

Charlie: A 380 topics course on computer animation.

Gita: I hear all the time how RIC students love your course. Robert Murray, who's a student enrolled in your class this semester, pretty much echoed what I've heard many other students say. He said, "When I started Charlie's class, I had only a basic knowledge of computers. I used them to type term papers. But Charlie has the ability to make a complicated software program accessible to someone with little computer experience. And he does a better job of keeping you interested, than any instructor I've had. Once you've learned a concept, he gives you the freedom to explore further, to have fun

(Continued on next page)

Internship with Charlie Allsworth

by Gita Brown

For almost 15 years Charlie has supervised work-study students in pre-press graphic design and layout projects for the Office of Publishing Services. But it's been more than a work-study job for these students, it's been a form of internship. The only difference between the position they held with the publications office and an internship position at a graphic design firm is receiving college credit for their work.

Working in the Office of Publishing Services is a

comfortable and primarily stress-free setting for any

student to learn about graphic arts and the print-

ing industry. Although there were deadlines, the

student's school work always came first, ALWAYS. It's

rare for a student to find a job that is this flexible and

allows a student to focus on their school work while

learning and interning in their chosen field.

—Wendy Erickson, Class of '2001

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During the past year I noted a change coming that I both welcome and dread. Some of our members have or are planning to retire soon. But we are welcoming new members, all ages, different professions, in all divisions. "Times, they are a changing." While preparing for this year's annual meeting I was looking over some demographics of PSA. One startling item is that 38 PSA members were working at the College when our youngest member was born. About 58% of our members worked here under more than one President, (i.e. over ten years), and are receiving longevity pay. Over half of these are on their second longevity increment. So what does that mean for the 42% of the PSA members who are "new" to our association? To begin with, this is a good time to become involved. There is not a lot of competition to serve on a committee or run for office. As much as it is an honor to represent PSA as the president, I have not had to force a re-count at election time, if you catch my drift.

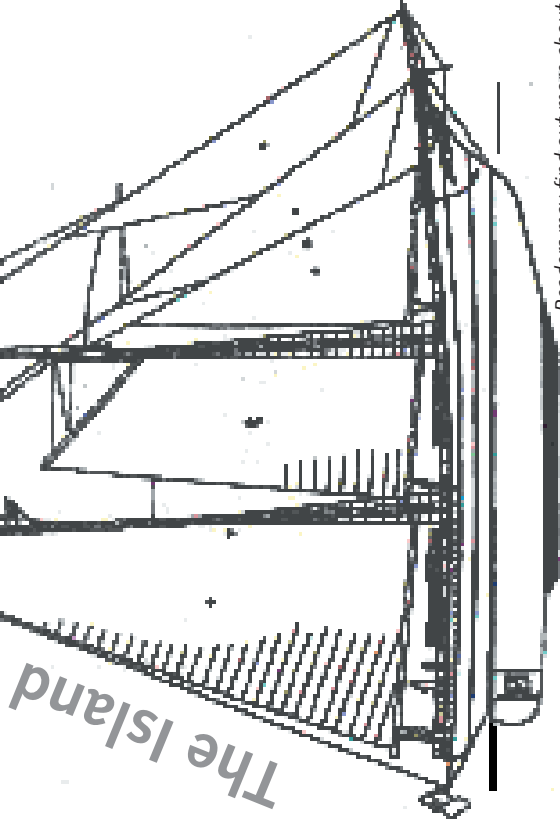
I did not begin as president. Serving on committees and the Executive Board are usually requisites to the four elected officer positions. Whether you have thoughts of pursuing an office or not, it is worth your time investment to find out how PSA works, how it approaches negotiations, grievances, conflict resolution, staffing concerns, etc. Not knowing leads to too many, "What's our union doing for us?" type questions. What's in the purview of PSA is different from what members may think until they become involved. We have a good relationship with our administration; it is not contentious. We bargain, negotiate, compromise, and work hard for the College by acting responsible in our demands and agreements. We are as much the College as they are. They hire administrators to do their job as we do ours and the faculty does theirs. Having stagnant leadership does no one any good.

Having new ideas, input, and direction can only improve our association. While I may be contemplating purchasing long-term care insurance, others are just planning to buy a house or to marry or to have children. We are that diverse in age, as we are in politics, religion, culture, and hopes for the future. Change is good and necessary. E-mail me or call me to let me know you would like to do your part in running this association.

At the beginning of this letter I was hoping to dwell on one or more likeable members who have recently retired. John Foley, a RIC alumnus, admissions director, vice president of College Advancement and Support, and Recreation Center director, and these were only his appointed jobs. A long-time RICSA and PSA member, he was involved with many, many activities which he spearheaded or supported that made Rhode Island College a better place for you and me. Thank you, John. If we all put a little of John's effort toward our job and in PSA we would have an outstanding College and Professional Staff Association. I'm sure you will read elsewhere more about John's life at RIC in the near future.

Fraternally,

Brian R. Allen

Readers may find out more about the building of the Island Rover through the internet at www.islandrover.org.

The known is finite, the unknown infinite; intellectually we stand on an islet in the midst of an illimitable ocean of inexplicability. Our business in every generation is to reclaim a little more land.

—T. H. Huxley

it so that a diesel engine can run on it. Our plan is to use that. Again, it's a demonstration of what can be done with industrial waste.

Gita: Will you be captain of this ship?

Charlie: No, I intend to be first mate. My cousin will be captain. But I'll be able to captain that boat if the situation arises. I intend to get a captain's license.

Gita: Well, you're somewhat of an old salt anyway; you served in the Navy, right?

Charlie: Back in the late 60s I served in the Navy for four years. I was radio operator during the Vietnam War.

Gita: Any other plans for this boat?

Charlie: About two years after launching the boat we want to circumnavigate the earth. The trip will take about five years . . . I don't know, when I look at that boat—at how big, how massive it is, I am awestruck. It's not every day you get to live out your fantasies. If I never get to see that ship hit water, just the building of this ship has given me the greatest satisfaction. ■

Gita Brown is a novelist, and writer/editor of the Office of Publishing Services, and editor of the PSA@RIC Report.

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over after building the destroyer would be stored.

This ship will also serve an educational mission in that it will have an oceanographic research lab. We're going to aid higher education instructors who need to link with a research ship. The University of Rhode Island has their own research vessel. The University of Connecticut has their own research vessel. The University of Maine has their own research vessel. But Rhode Island College does not. It becomes hard for a professor of marine biology to get passage on these boats. We're going to make our ship available to small educational institutions, professors with research grants. We will go where they want to go, and/or they can come along with us. Our itinerary will be loose enough so that we can make adjustments.

Gita: So, even in retirement you'll still be teaching.

Charlie: Yes, even in retirement I will be teaching. We've set up the Island Rover Foundation to get industry to support our mission—the reutilization of industrial waste and the support of oceanographic research. Through funding we'll be able to hire welders and other shipbuilders to complete the ship.

We've been able to build the ribs of the ship but we need to hire shipbuilders to build the outside skin of the ship. We need assistance in electrical and communications equipment and in installing the engine.

One other unique feature of the Island Rover is that it won't run directly off a diesel engine, it'll run off of an electric motor. There's a company whose taken deep fryer grease—the grease the fast-food places use to deep fry french fries—this company is using this grease and adding certain additives to

As we go to press with this newsletter your negotiating team is working hard to bring our members a tentative agreement that you can enthusiastically endorse. One thing that has become clear during this long process is that we in the Professional Staff Association at Rhode Island College need to work harder at promoting ourselves in order to receive the recognition we deserve.

At our most recent Executive Board meeting and at the Annual Meeting we discussed ways of accomplishing this. You are beginning to see the phrase "Equal Partners in Education" associated with PSA@RIC. It is important that you help us to keep this idea before the administration, our faculty colleagues, the Board of Governors for Higher Education, the legislature, and the general public. Too often the role of staff at our higher education institutions is undervalued. That is partly because when we do our jobs well, things run smoothly and we are often not heard from or seen by the general public.

But particularly as the job of educating our students in the 21st century becomes more technically complex, the need for staff as equal partners is becoming increasingly evident. We have always been essential in providing services to students, from their first inquiry about college as a high school student to their proud walk across the platform at Commencement ceremonies—and even as in their role as alumni throughout their professional lives. And now we play the critical role of making sure that

our faculty and students have the ability to com-

municate effectively with the new technologies.

An ad hoc PSA committee is discussing ways to showcase our members and the work we do. You will see evidence of this as you read through this newsletter. In the future, besides profiles of our talented staff and PSA-sponsored blood drives you are likely to see workshops and seminars on topics of general interest led by our professional staff.

Announcements will go to politicians when Rhode Island College staff in their constituency are recognized for outstanding achievement. We ask your help by volunteering or identifying other ways we can be effective in promoting ourselves.

Take pride in the work you do. And work together to demonstrate that we are indeed "Equal Partners in Education."

Sincerely,

Rob Bower



instantaneously. And I get my grade instantaneously. If I pass the exam, I am given a password by the professor, such as Sasquatch, which allows me to go on to the next chapter. I'm able to learn at my own speed. I'm able to go back over lessons and even retake the exams.

Gita: How did you find out about this navigation course?

Charlie: Through the internet.

Gita: Need I have asked.

Charlie: It's called remote learning and it's great for adult education or for people who live in remote areas or for those who don't have the capability to get to class. Rhode Island doesn't offer a course in navigation that is convenient for me to get to in terms of my schedule and time.

Gita: Why are you taking a course in navigation?

Charlie: (Charlie's eyes begin to smile. He is in his element now.) I'm preparing for that time in my life when I retire. I'll be eligible for retirement in two and a half years. My cousin and I are building a ship in Maine. It's a top sail schooner.

Gita: What's her name?

Charlie: The Island Rover. The ship is 113 feet long, 22 feet wide, and the mast is over 100 feet tall. It'll weigh about 98 tons.

Gita: How long have you and your cousin been working on this ship?

Charlie: Three years. It should be launched in the spring of 2004. We're building it in Freeport, Maine, in my cousins backyard; a wooded area two miles from the water.

Gita: Two miles from water? How are you going to get this 98-ton boat from the woods to the water?

Charlie: (Laughs.) Let's just say it's going to be an event. I believe the whole town of Freeport

Look for a story in each issue on a PSA@RIC member.

Issues will be published quarterly.

Also send letters to the editor.



The Ribs of the Island Rover

will be there to see it moved to the water. Boat movers and house movers already want to bid on the job. Once it gets to the water a barge will tow it to Portland, Maine. Two cranes will lift it off the barge and into the Atlantic.

And this ship has an educational mission. More than 90% of this boat will be built out of used or recycled materials. The navigation and computer equipment will be new. But most of the ship will be built of industrial surplus and waste. We're demonstrating that a ship of this magnitude can be built with surplus waste. We want industry to be more aware of recycling waste materials. Through auctions and the buying of scrap metal, industry could save a lot of money and reduce waste.

Gita: How do you and your cousin acquire the surplus? Where do you go?

Charlie: We get it through auctions. Sometimes from companies that are going out of business. For example, my cousin bought the kitchen of a Friendly's restaurant that was going out of business,—the stainless steel stove, stainless steel walk-in refrigerator and walk-in freezer, and the ice-cream machine.

My cousin's retired now, but he used to work as a surplus material handler for a shipyard. One of his jobs was to take any surplus materials and keep an inventory of it and assist the company in reutilizing this material. The shipyard would get a contract, say, from the Navy to build a destroyer, and any material left

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