

# Early Enrollment Program Newsletter

Fall 2013  
Issue #11

## Modern Languages Rock!

### *Tiverton High Graduate Earns Award*

#### Office Staff

##### Associate Directors:

Marianne Gianfrancesco  
Susan Poor

##### Program Secretary:

Jane Lindberg

##### Student Assistant:

Kiana I. Peralta

#### Office Information

##### Phone:

401-456-8857

##### Fax:

401-456-8188

##### Email:

eep@ric.edu

##### Webpage:

www.ric.edu/eep

#### Mailing Address:

Early Enrollment Program  
Rhode Island College  
600 Mount Pleasant Avenue  
Forman Center 204  
Providence, RI 02908



***Ian Couto***

Last June, Tiverton High School senior and EEP student Ian Couto was one of two high school students awarded the Rhode Island Foreign Language Association Student of the Year. RIFLA gives a \$500 award annually to students who have achieved great success in foreign language studies.

Part of his reason for studying Portuguese is his heritage; Ian's parents emigrated from Sao Miguel, Azores. In addition to being a top Portuguese student at THS, he was a member of the Portuguese Language Club and "one of the most friendly and kind-hearted students I've ever come across," according to his Portuguese instructor Dennis Soares.

Peter Forrest, on-site coordinator for THS, adds a different perspective on Ian. For his Senior Project Ian expanded his range of singing and performed in three specific styles during his presentation. "I will remember Ian as not only a talented performer, but also as an

always enthusiastic and positive individual. With his talent and attitude, I would not be surprised to eventually see Ian perform on a Broadway stage."

When contacted, Ian stated that receiving the RIFLA award made him feel very accomplished. In addition he has nothing but praise for his Tiverton HS teachers and Mr. Soares in particular. "I could not have won this award if it were not for Mr. Soares, an incredible Portuguese teacher who helped me figure out how talented I really am as a student and gave me the confidence to reach beyond my limits."

Ian fulfilled RIC's second language requirement in his senior year at Tiverton High School with his EEP Portuguese class. He is focusing his first semester at RIC on general education classes, including a First Year Seminar on Portuguese Placemaking taught by Dr. Silvia Oliveira, EEP Portuguese Liaison. Second semester he will study Portuguese 202: Ethnomusical Traditions of the Portuguese Speaking Nation, an upper level class in the Portuguese major. Ian declared a double major in speech, language and hearing science and in Portuguese. Eventually he would like to pursue a master's degree in Portuguese. He is also involved in the National Student Speech Language and Learning Association Club and in the Portuguese Language Club.

While Ian has characterized his time at RIC as "life changing," Dr. Oliveira stated that Ian "is on a path of excellence at Rhode Island College." What an exciting time for a fine young man!

**“Marineros Narragansett hablan y enseñan español”  
Narragansett Mariners Speak and Teach Spanish**

“Her indefatigable dedication to teaching and learning truly defines the essence of an educator; she is dedicated, has a fantastic rapport with her students, has a true love for learning and is humble. Her students’ essays, PowerPoint presentations, and class projects are consistently outstanding, and their work is an accurate reflection of what college level work should be!”, says Dr. Maricarmen Margenot, Spanish liaison for EEP about Gabriela “Gaby” McNamara and her students at Narragansett High School.

It is easy to see why Dr. Margenot is so impressed with Gaby and her students; the EEP course, Spanish 113, extends far beyond the doors of the high school and well into the community. Students are not only learning all aspects of the Spanish language; they are also teaching it as well, creating lesson plans for students in grades 1 through 4. A project designed by their instructor, Gaby McNamara, the Mariners need to address instructional goals, as well as learning and behavioral objectives and develop a course syllabus before they step into an elementary classroom. In a “planificación” (plan) which looks like the work of a college student, Mariners create lesson plans with objectives, activities, evaluation, and materials. All their preparatory work must be reviewed by their instructor, and she then evaluates the effectiveness of their lessons, using a very concise rubric.

Elementary school students in kindergarten learn greetings, colors, numbers and the members of their family; by grade 4 students learn to count to 30 and to use school terminology using “verbos” such as **sentarse** (sit down), **repartir** (pass around) and **preguntar** (ask) and “materiales” such as **ficha** (handout), **pizarra** (chalkboard), and **cuadro** (chart) in their conversations with the high school students.

Kristen Manchester, on-site coordinator at Narragansett High School, credits the success of this program with the passion and determination of the high school students “who transform into teachers...the program has been extremely successful throughout the years; both elementary students and their teachers look forward to the return of Spanish 113 students every year.”

Gaby McNamara has certainly earned the accolades she has garnered from her students and colleagues!



## ***Portuguese Poetry Workshop***



On Thursday, November 14, 2013, thirty-eight Shea High School Portuguese students and their teacher, Ms. Cecilia Bernardo, attended a Portuguese poetry workshop led by four Portuguese-American poets who visited RIC for the day. Approximately ninety RIC students also attended.

Poets and students explored creative placemaking through poetry and practiced writing their own poetry. The high school students experienced a typical college class in creative writing, interacted with RIC students and professors and spent some time familiarizing themselves with the RIC campus. Dr. Silvia Oliveira, Assistant Professor in the RIC modern language department, organized the event and characterized the learning experience as “a magical day.” Guest poets from around the USA included Millicent Borges Accardi, Amy Sayre Baptista, Carlo Matos, and Paula Neves.

Dr. Oliveira, who is the EEP Portuguese liaison, also participated in the workshop and plans to extend more invitations to EEP Portuguese classes during the spring semester.



**Dr. Silvia Oliveira**

## ***Smithfield Teacher Finalist for National Language Teacher of the Year.....***

Margarita Boyatzi Dempsey, EEP French teacher at Smithfield High School, was one of five finalists for the National Language Teacher of the Year Award. Margarita was selected to represent the Northeast Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages. The award for the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) is “intended to elevate the status of the language teaching profession at the state, regional, and national levels by creating opportunities for recognizing the most accomplished members of the profession.”



Margarita has been a long standing EEP instructor, has a host of teaching experiences outside of RI, and holds a number of professional affiliations.

When Dr. Ghislaine Geloin, French liaison for EEP, was notified of Margarita’s selection, she noted, “Indeed she is one of the strongest EEP instructors in French who deserve our appreciation for making the EEP strong”.

## Congratulations

We are pleased to announce that the following teachers are among the newest EEP instructors for 2013-2014:

*Diane Amaral*/Mt. Hope HS/  
Math 247

*Dulcidia Benros*/Cranston  
East HS/Spanish 113

*Saul Disla*/Cumberland HS/  
Spanish 113

*Cheryl Gesualdi*/  
Cumberland HS/Math 240

*Jeremy Graney*/Bishop Hendricken HS/Biology 111 & 112

*Delores Grant*/Central Falls HS/English 118

*Helaine Hagen*/Mount Pleasant HS/Chemistry 103

*Michael Kropman*/  
Burrillville HS/Math 247

*Natalie Leduc-O'Brien*/  
North Smithfield HS/  
Political Science 202

*Dr. Peter McCarthy*/  
Scituate HS/Chemistry 103

*Patricia Risley*/Chariho  
HS/French 113 & 114

*Melissa Rounds*/  
Cumberland HS/Spanish  
113

*Amy Ricci-Tum*/Cranston  
East HS/Spanish 113

*Richard Santurri*/Classical  
HS/Physics 150 I & II

*Krystle Simas*/Coventry  
HS/Spanish 113

*David Upegui*/Central Falls  
HS/Biology 111

*Susan Vollucci*/Central  
Falls/Art 201

### *New Program On-sites*

We are pleased to welcome four new on-site coordinators to EEP for 2013-2014:

Cheryl Anderson/Cranston West HS

Buddy Comet/Central Falls HS

Michael Kropman/Burrillville HS

Jane Renza/Tolman HS

### *Retirement*

We extend our deepest appreciation to Lou Ventura who retired from Bishop Hendricken High School in June 2013. As an EEP biology instructor, he was an invaluable advocate and resource for EEP and for his students. We offer our sincerest congratulations to Lou and wish him a relaxing retirement.



### *EEP Instructor News.....*

#### AWARD



Congratulations to Patty Lucciola, Art 201 teacher at North Providence High School for being selected 2013 RIAEA Outstanding Secondary Art Educator of the Year! She was recognized by the organization in an awards ceremony in October for her “extraordinary dedication and service to art education...and for implementing a model art education program that has increased community awareness of the importance of Art education in RI.”

When asked how she felt about receiving the award Patty stated, “My students’ accomplishments are a testament to the exemplary art program we have here at NPHS. I am proud to be a part of it.”

**BRAVO, Patty!**

## EEP Bulletin Board

**Registrations for  
EEP courses for  
SPRING 2014 courses  
should be sent to us by  
March 1. Students  
MUST complete the  
registration process if  
they want second  
semester credits for  
their EEP courses.**

### ***Requesting RIC Transcripts***

***“How to” information for your students:***

***Go to***

***<http://www.ric.edu/recordsoffice/pdf/transcriptrequestform.pdf>***

***Students should download the form, complete, and mail to RIC Records Office. There is a place to circle EEP student, so students don't need to know their student ID to request a transcript.***

***Ask for 2 copies! One for self, one to be sent directly to the college or university the student plans to attend (generally to the attention of the admissions office unless otherwise specified).***



### ***Meet Kiana Peralta***

Kiana I. Peralta is a freshman at the college this year, majoring in social work. We are fortunate to have her on staff as a student assistant.

A 2013 graduate of Central High School, Kiana is a former EEP student and debate team member. She is very excited to be a RIC student living on campus, and working in the EEP office.