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## Law School Update (Law School Feasibility Study)

Roger Williams University

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ROGER  
WILLIAMS  
COLLEGE

# THE BRIDGE

QUARTERLY MAGAZINE

FALL 1991

- Law School Feasibility Study  
Nears Completion

- Campaign for the 90s  
Up and Running

- Golf Tournament Raises  
Scholarship Funds

- New Trustees Join Board

- Homecoming, Parents Day  
a Success

**FINANCIAL VIABILITY**





# THE BRIDGE

THE MAGAZINE OF ROGER WILLIAMS COLLEGE; FALL 1991

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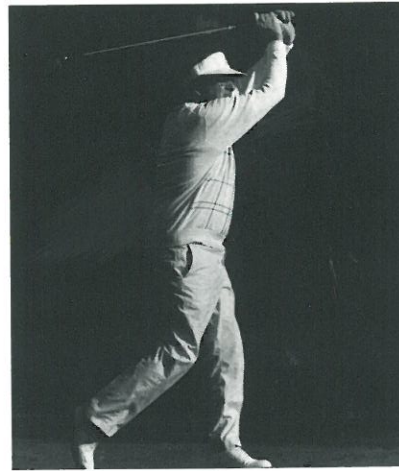
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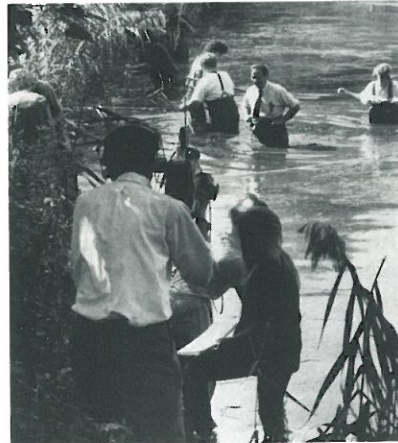
Contributing Photographers  
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Czajkowski Photographers, 13; Dorothea  
Hesse Doar, 11; Jean Duffy, 11; Kim Fuller, 10,  
21; Iceberg, 18; Eileen McClure, 6; Providence  
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the College Library used on the cover of the 1991-  
92 calendar was taken by Kim Fuller.

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published quarterly by the Department of Public Relations  
and Publications for alumni, parents, donors, volun-  
teer leadership, faculty, staff and friends of the College.  
Printing is by E. A. Johnson Company, East Providence,  
R.I. Typesetting assistance provided by Verbatim, Inc.,  
Providence. Subscriptions and single copies are available  
from the Department of Public Relations and Publica-  
tions, Roger Williams College, One Old Ferry Road,  
Bristol, R.I., 02809-2921. Please send news and change-  
of-address information to the Department of Public Rela-  
tions. Telephone, (401) 254-3178. Toll free out of state for  
the Alumni and Admissions Offices, 1-800-458-7144.



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## Law School Update

National law school enrollment trends and regional demand appear to offer significant opportunity for the establishment of a School of Law at Roger Williams College as early as Fall 1993, Dean Anthony Santoro of the Widener University Law School, Delaware, told the College community at a Sept. 26 assembly.

The proposed School of Law at Roger Williams College could potentially provide resources to enhance delivery of legal service through: access to legal research; availability of a forum for comment on the profession; and continuing education opportunities for the bench and bar, Dean Santoro, consultant for the Law School Feasibility Study, said.



Dean Santoro

He reported that start-up costs would remain in the \$11 million range estimated in the Law School Committee Preliminary Report submitted last May.

He also discussed advantages and disadvantages of a location on the Bristol campus and in the Providence area.

Dean Santoro's final report will explore the potential effects of the proposed Law School on legal education throughout the region and on existing undergraduate programs at the College.

The official Report of the Consultant has been submitted to College President Natale A. Sicuro and distributed to the Board of Trustees, Community Advisory Board and other key constituencies for input. The Board of Trustees will vote on the final report at its Dec. 3 meeting, and an announcement is expected shortly thereafter.

## Council Reviewing Plan for the 90s Progress

The College Planning Council has begun its biennial review of the Plan for the 90s. Consisting of members from the administration, faculty, staff and student body, the Council will analyze progress on all goals and objectives articulated in the Plan. Through discussion with and feedback from all constituencies of the College, the Council will determine which goals have been achieved, which are in progress and which need to be revised. The original Plan built in the review process every two years to maintain the currency of the document in terms of actual programs at the College and to allow for new, needed activities. The Council expects the updated Plan for the 90s to be completed by July 1, 1992.

## Record Enrollment Seen in Freshman Success Programs

National statistics show that nearly one-fourth of all college freshmen will not be enrolled at the same institution one year later. According to Karen Haskell, dean of students, this attrition occurs because many students are not adequately prepared for success in college.

Dr. Haskell co-chairs the Enrollment Planning Committee with Dean of Admissions Williams Galloway. Composed of faculty, staff and students, the Committee manages an ongoing program to create avenues for student success.

As part of this continuing effort, the College began the Freshman Seminar Program five years ago. This vehicle has proven so effective that enrollment has grown from one section in that first year to 28 sections — nearly two-thirds of the freshman class — in fall 1991.

The optional seminar teaches students effective study, test-taking, decision-making, problem-solving, self-expression and interpersonal-relationship techniques, in a setting that offers highly individualized attention from

faculty members. It also increases students' awareness of College resources that can enhance their success.

"Results show that students who take the seminar pass more courses, earn higher grade point averages, and are more likely to stay at the College," Dean Haskell said.

For those freshmen who choose not to enroll in the seminar, the College has established a new Freshman Advocate Program this year.

"College administrators have volunteered to 'adopt-a-student'," Dean Haskell explained.

Also new this year is the Retention Management System (RMS). This pilot program includes a questionnaire filled out by freshmen at June Orientation asking what they anticipate to be areas in which they will experience difficulty and success. During fall semester, freshmen meet individually with their "advocate" to discuss the RMS answers and see how they match with students' actual experiences.

Program participants contact the freshmen directly to get to know them and offer support.

"The advocates do not replace the student's academic adviser or other College resources. Rather, they are trained to provide referrals and reinforcement of resources such as the Academic Advisement/Learning Center or the Center for Counseling and Student Development," Dr. Haskell emphasized.

"By identifying potential problem areas early on in the College experience, we can help freshmen find solutions to keep them succeeding, and secondarily, to keep them enrolled at the College," Dean Haskell said.

## Renovation Projects Going Strong

Several major renovation projects on campus are in the works this semester. Renovation of the School of Business, formerly the library, will be completed this semester, with full occupation expected by January 1992. The Data General lab is up and running, and several classrooms on the ground floor have been in use since September.