



RI Board of Governors
for Higher Education

Rhode Island Women in Higher Education *Spring Conference*

Friday, April 30, 2004 ~ Rhode Island College ~ Faculty Dining Center

1:00-1:45 Luncheon and Book Signing by Regina Barreca (see reverse for her bio)

1:45-2:00 Induction of Honorary Members

- ~ Rhode Island First Lady Suzanne Carcieri
- ~ Judge O. Rogeriee Thompson

2:00-2:45 Leadership for Women in Higher Education: Heads Up or Heads Down?
Dr. Jack Warner, commissioner, Rhode Island Office of Higher Education

2:45-3:15 Who's Laughing Now?: Women, Humor and Success
Dr. Regina Barreca, author and professor of English literature and feminist theory, University of Connecticut

3:15-4:00 Problem-Solving Exercise

4:00-4:15 Brief Business Meeting

- ~ Financial contribution by presidents
- ~ Regional ACE meeting on Thursday, September 23, 2004
- ~ Bylaw for succession planning
- ~ Other new business

4:15-4:30 Closing Remarks

4:30 Adjournment

— over —

Honorary Members



Suzanne Carcieri
Rhode Island First Lady

Sue Carcieri was born in Cranston, Rhode Island, and grew up in that city and in East Greenwich. She attended East Greenwich High School where she was a member of the Rhode Island Honor Society and the National Honor Society. While a student in high school, she met her future husband, Governor Don Carcieri. Mrs. Carcieri earned a bachelor's degree in biology from the University of Rhode Island and a master's degree in health education from Rhode Island College. She taught science in East Greenwich and in Kingston, Jamaica, while the governor directed operations for Catholic Relief Services West Indies.

Mrs. Carcieri has served on the boards of Rhode Island Catholic Social Services, Save the Bay, and the Rhode Island Philharmonic. She currently serves on the boards of Dorcas Place Literacy Center, the Rhode Island Academic Decathlon, the Institute for the Study and Practice of Non-Violence, and the Rhode Island Community Food Bank. She and her husband are the co-founders of the Academy Children's Science Center in East Greenwich. Mrs. Carcieri has joined the Leadership to Keep Children Alcohol Free, and she has spent her first year as first lady working on preventive health care initiatives and collaborating with education agencies and organizations to support and develop programs that increase student participation and achievement in math and the sciences.



O. Rogeriee Thompson
Associate Justice, Rhode Island Superior Court

Judge O. Rogeriee Thompson currently serves as an associate justice for the Rhode Island Superior Court, a position she has held since 1997. Previously, she was an associate judge with the Rhode Island District Court for nine years. During her 30-year law career, Judge Thompson has been senior partner with Thompson & Thompson, assistant city solicitor for the City of Providence, an associate with McKinnon and Fortunato, and a senior staff attorney for Rhode Island Legal Services, Inc. An author and consultant, she serves on numerous committees and boards. Some of her current activities include the Board of Directors of the Nellie Mae Education Foundation, the Board of Trustees for Brown University, the Board of Directors for the RI Children's Crusade for Higher Education (chair), the Supreme Court Advisory Committee on Women and Minorities, and the Public Advisory Board for Dorcas Place.

Judge Thompson is the recipient of numerous awards and honors, most recently the William A. Heathman Award for Law and Justice from the RI Black Heritage Society (2004) and the Thurgood Marshall Award from the Providence branch of the NAACP (2003). She earned her undergraduate degree at Brown University and her J.D. from Boston University School of Law, and she holds honorary degrees from URI and Bryant College.

Featured Presenters



Regina Barreca

Author and Professor of English Literature and Feminist Theory, University of Connecticut

Hailed as “smart and funny” by *People* magazine, Gina Barreca is the celebrated author of the best-selling *They Used to Call Me Snow White, But I Drifted* [now in its nineteenth printing], *Perfect Husbands (And Other Fairy Tales)*, *Sweet Revenge: The Wicked Delights of Getting Even*, and a collection of essays, *Too Much of a Good Thing is Wonderful*. She recently edited *Don't Tell Mama: The Penguin Book of Italian American Writing* (named one of the year's best books by National Public Radio) and *A Sit-Down with the Sopranos: Watching Italian American Culture on T.V.'s Most Talked About Series*. Her brand-new book, *The ABC of Vice: An Insatiable Women's Guide*, was co-written with cartoonist Nicole Hollander. Her next book, *I'm With Stupid: One Man, One Woman, and 10,000 Years of Misunderstanding Between the Sexes Cleared Right Up*, co-written with Gene Weingarten of the *Washington Post*, will be out in spring 2004.

Dr. Barreca is a professor of English literature and feminist theory at the University of Connecticut. She has served as an advisor to the Library of Congress for work on humor and the American character. An award-winning columnist for the *Hartford Courant*, she has also regularly published articles in *The New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, the *Chicago Tribune* and many magazines. She has appeared on scores of radio and television programs, including *20/20*, *48 Hours*, the *Today Show*, and *Oprah*.



Jack Warner

Commissioner, Rhode Island Office of Higher Education

Dr. Warner has been an educator for 34 years. Prior to his appointment as commissioner of higher education in Rhode Island in July 2002, he was associate chancellor at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth. Earlier, he spent nearly five years as vice chancellor of the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education, the state coordinating board for 15 community colleges, nine state colleges, and five campuses of the University of Massachusetts. Previously, he served for 17 years as dean of student affairs at Bristol Community College in Fall River. Dr. Warner is a past president of the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators and a member of the New England Student Affairs Think Tank. He holds a doctorate in educational administration from Boston College and taught in the college's Graduate School of Education for the past 11 years, prior to becoming commissioner.

Dr. Warner has led numerous workshops and classes on leadership issues and has served as a guest faculty member at Bryn Mawr's Summer Institute for Women in Higher Education Administration.