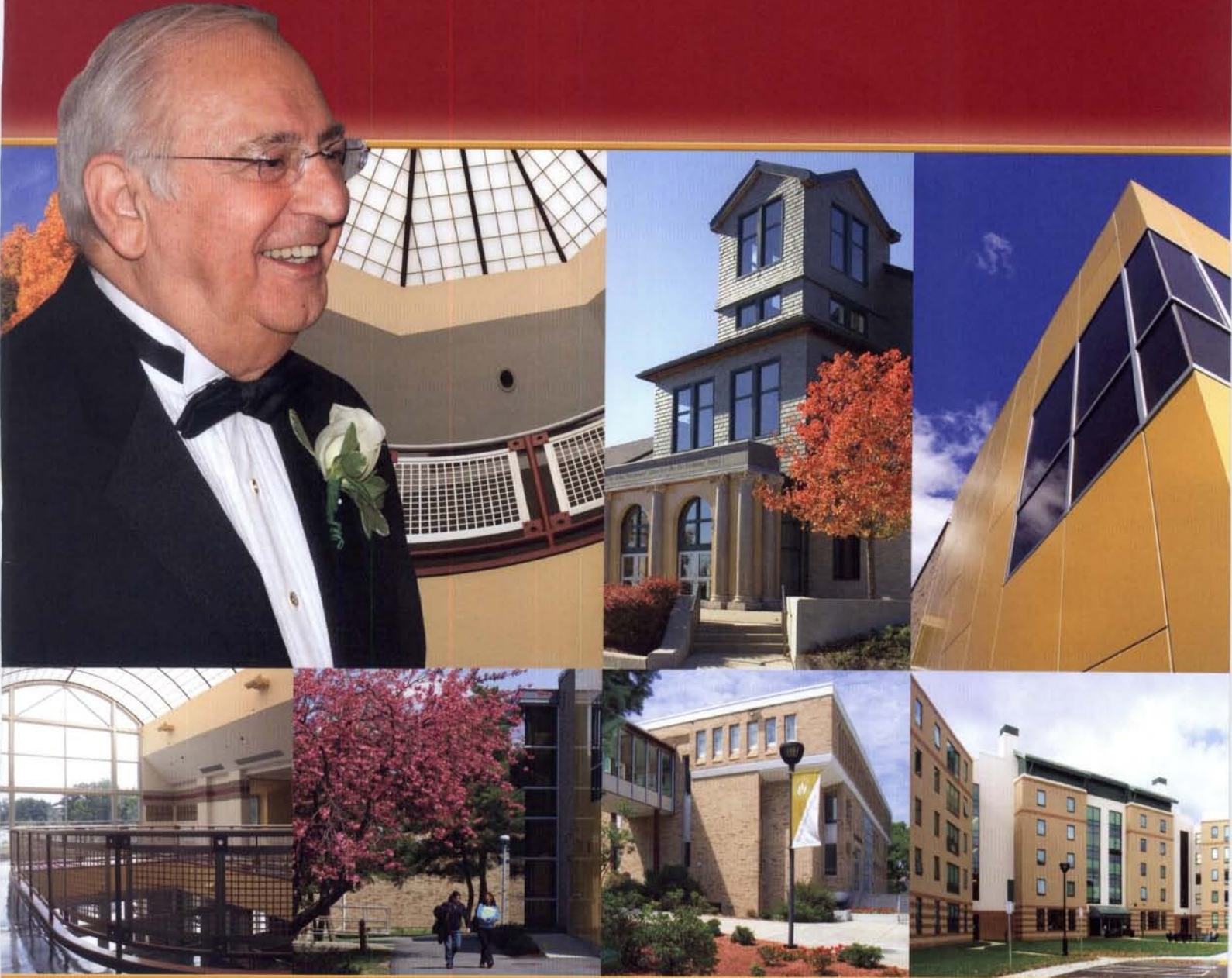


Rhode Island College

Alumni Publication



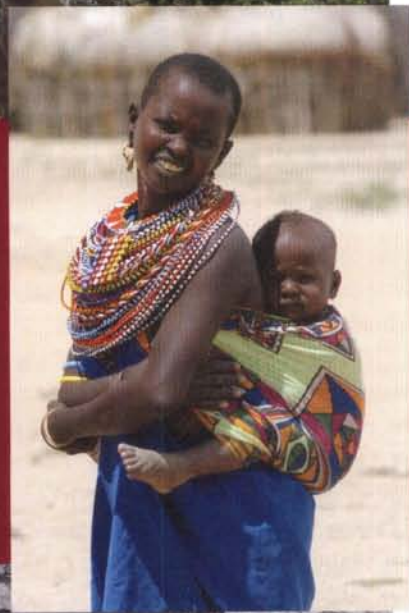
John Nazarian Retires Leaving The Legacy of a Lifetime

Harry Kasanow, Class of 1976



Harry at Machu Picchu.

Mom and child
Samburu Masai.



Starway to Heaven
Nile Selsela.



It's been a wild — and wildly successful — ride for Harry G. Kasanow CFP®, BS and MEd, an alum who's succeeded in his many endeavors. A chance encounter at a Head Start school where his significant other at the time worked in Philadelphia, led to them moving to Providence so Harry could attend RIC and become a teacher. When Harry showed the little ones how to plant flower and vegetable box gardens, the supervising teacher said to him, "You would make an amazing teacher...did you notice how much these children love you?" On that note, Harry set aside his work with rock n' roll bands and his studies at Temple University to transfer to RIC.

Harry taught at The Wheeler School in Providence for five years and then taught in the Denver, Colorado, area for another five years. By that time, Harry was working and studying for a PhD in education at the University of Colorado and eking out a subsistence living. Hawaii and his second significant other beckoned — she chose law school and Harry chose a new career — that of financial planning. "I wanted to help people reach their goals and dreams and be able to own a home, a car, and afford to travel internationally," he said.

Harry drives a Prius and lives in the mountains of Manoa in Honolulu in an historic home built in 1931. Chosen in 1981 as the runner-up to the Colorado State Teacher of the Year, he attributes the student teaching he did at RIC as meaningful and fun. "So many professors, including Professors Jim Betres, Tom Calhoun, Ray Picozzi, Ann Petry and Terry Belcher, had profound influences in my professional teaching career," he said. "Those influences carried through to my personal life and have made me a consummate professional. We've remained close friends during these past 34 years." Harry is honored to have also been named by both *Worth Magazine* and *Medical Economics Magazine* as one of the top wealth managers in the country.

Even as he juggles full-time work as a wealth manager/certified financial planner (CFP®) Harry is serious about his passion for photography. He has begun to show in galleries and has had great commercial success with his pictures. They have been seen in two shows in Honolulu and another show in Sydney, Australia, and can be viewed on his website: www.kasanowandassociates.com (choose the Currency tab and view back issues).

Even though it's been decades since Harry taught those pre-school children in Philadelphia how to plant fruits and vegetables, he's come full circle; yet another hobby is growing orchids, cacti and tropical fruits in Hawaii. A textbook case of "you never know where life will lead you," Harry laughed when he recalls the career path his high school counselor envisioned for him. "He thought I should be an auto mechanic."

Although other RIC alumni may live in equally beautiful locales, Harry might want to prepare for an onslaught of visitors weary of Rhode Island winters. "Some of my favorite days are spent hiking, paddling in my outrigger canoe, and enjoying lazy hours on the beach communing with the ocean," he said. Despite his travels from one part of the country to another, Harry counts among his closest friends two people he met at RIC, Leroy and Diane Davis. The friendship of more than 34 years is strong and forever.