The message was simple and it rang loud and clear in Edwards Auditorium on September 7, when more than 300 TD students gathered for the fall TD Convocation.

The message was for students to be proud and to work hard.

"You all are what makes this campus beautiful," Director Gerald R. Williams said. "This campus would sure look plain without you."

Applause and cheers filled the auditorium as TD students celebrated who they are and where they came from.

Convocation also allowed TD students to see all the faces that make the program what it is. It was what Frank Forleo, Assistant Director for admissions, called "a meeting of the TD family."

Dr. Dougan shared a story of a man who overcame physical disabilities and one day sought to fulfill his dream and climb a mountain.

With his daughter by his side, Dougan explained, this man began his journey up the mountain and along the way reached a patch of ice. At this obstacle, the man began to doubt his confidence and no longer believed he could accomplish his goal.

Several times he fell and lost hope. If it had not been for the support and encouragement of his daughter, Dr. Dougan said, the man would not have achieved his goal. For each time the man fell, it was his daughter who repeated the encouraging words, "You can do it dad. You can do it. You're the best dad. You have worked too hard to give up now."

It was because of these words that the man found the strength to carry on.

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Inside TD News

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- Photos of Pre-Mat 2001
- TD Fam Jam rocks Memorial Union
According to Dr. Dougan, his story was intended to urge TD students to find their own voice of encouragement, whether it be within themselves, in a professor or in their advisor.

According to Mr. G., the success of TD lies in the students. “It is up to all of you to carry the torch of TD,” he said.

With the responsibility of carrying the TD torch comes the responsibility of academic maturity, and with academic maturity comes the issue of freedom, he said.

Frank stressed the importance of TD students finding a balance in their freedom between their academics and their social activities.

“Be responsible in your exercise of freedom,” he warned. “Be responsible in your freedom for yourself, for your family and for TD.”

Students were encouraged to get the grades that would allow TD to grow in its number of students, which would then increase the benefits of the TD program.

“Bankrupt TD and get those book awards,” Mr. G. urged. “We are asking you to stand up and be accounted for. Get on the dean’s list. We know you have it in you.”

According to Mr. G., the way to succeed in academics is through academic maturity.

What is academic maturity? Simply, it is the maturity to study for class when you would rather be doing something else.

“When you’re out chillin’ and it pops in your head that you should be studying and you decide to stay with your friends instead of studying, you have not reached academic maturity,” Mr. G. said.

“We are asking all of you to raise your game and to reach academic maturity,” Mr. G. said. “To get up and do what you told yourself you were going to do. It won’t hurt you. You will only feel good about yourself.”

As an advisor in the Talent Development Program, I am able to participate by assisting you as a student to be proactive in your life. We at Talent Development hope that you will participate in your own life by meeting with your advisor regularly and taking advantage of the help that is available in TD and at URI.

Now it is even more important for us, especially you as students, to continue with the routine and structure and participate in college life to maintain some form of continuity and direction.

By participating in TD, you continue the daily work of being the best individual and, in the end, by obtaining your bachelor's degree and any additional degrees you can obtain. During these times of economic unrest, a college degree is your best investment. Furthermore, by participating you not only help yourself but also you will help the country — just as much as giving blood or money to the disaster relief.

If there is a feeling of helplessness, knowing that one can make a difference because one continues the daily work by participating in life, and is involved in it, will help the country regenerate its morale. This is what makes America a great country — its people and their daily diligent work in whatever it may be.
Fam Jam makes big impression

Hits from popular artists such as P. Diddy, Ludacris, Nelly, Missy Elliott and many others sounded from the Memorial Union ballroom as TD kicked off its first TD Fam Jam.

Like convocation, Fam Jam was an occasion for TD students to meet and get to know one another.

“We felt the need for all of you [TD students] to see one another,” Gerald R. Williams, TD Director, said. “To see that TD is bigger than the advisors and is bigger than the crew you hang out with. It’s not about me. It’s not about the TD staff. It’s all about you [the students],” Mr. G. said.

At 11 p.m. Friday, September 7, the ballroom filled with 200 students dancing to music spun by TD’s own Lowell White.

Overall, Fam Jam was well received by students and staff alike.

According to Joanna Ravello, academic advisor, TD had hoped for more students to participate in convocation and Fam Jam. But the end result, she said, did prove successful.

“Those that did turn out [to Fam Jam] seemed to have a wonderful time,” Joanna said. “The point of convocation and the Fam Jam was fourfold. It was to motivate, it was to see all the beautiful colors of TD, to allow students to have fun before the semester and introduce staff. It absolutely accomplished what it was intended to for those students who attended.”

Sharon R. Forleo, Assistant Director for Educational Programming, said that for a first effort, Fam Jam went fairly well.

“I would do it again,” Sharon said, “but on a Thursday instead of a Friday.”

According to Sharon, many students said they did not attend Fam Jam because of other parties on campus, and many had made plans to go home for the weekend.

“It was a good turnout,” sophomore Jason Goncalves said of Fam Jam. “I didn’t know there were this many people in TD.”

“This should happen more than once a semester,” freshman Jerry Nicoleau said. “It’s a good time. You don’t get to see every face on campus.”

Sophomore Noubi Phommarath also said she had a good time at Fam Jam. “The music is pretty good and I am meeting lots of new people. I would definitely come to another Fam Jam.”

LOWELL WHITE spinning hot beats for students at the TD Fam Jam.

AFTER HAVING a good time at Fam Jam, these friends pose together for a quick photo-op outside the Memorial Union Ballroom.
TD Summer Pre-Matriculation Program 2001

THESE GIRLS sure have their hands full.

COUNSELORS AND students join together to play a little ball at the pre-mat barbeque.

STUDENTS LINE-UP to fill their plates with corn on the cob, ribs, potato salad and much more.

HEY, MAN you gotta have some of this food! It’s really great.

STAFF SIGN in pre-mat students at Browning.

THESE GUYS find a great place to eat.
EVERYONE HELPS out in this family.

WHOEVER said moving in was easy.

THIS STUDENT wastes no time getting settled into her new room.

TD Congratulates ...
Spring 2001 Dean’s List students, as well as, students with an equivalent or higher GPA.

Samuel Balaoing
William Bennefield
Erica Bonner
Anthony Brito
Angela Cayamcela
Samden Chea
Ponreay Chek
Roth Chhim
Ruh Crisostomo
Soanny Delgado
Patricia DosSantos
Chantal Duncan
Susana Fortich
Maxford Foster
Sonia Gaitan
Marcela Garces
Naomi Gobern
Christina Hernandez
Sokhoeun Im
Nefertiti Jaquez
Phouthone Khousakoun
Tou Kue
Xiongming Kue
Qin Lin
Naomi Love
Neya Ly
Sherry Mejias
Justynian Missiuro
Sophat Moeuy
Thaou Nguyen
Joshua Nickerson
Tick Nirandone
Karen Nordon
Babatunde Ologun
Idrialis Perez
Sarah Perez
Sameth Phin
Arranya Phok
Gean Pineda
Penelope Poulard
Borivine Pradith
Cathryn Rapoza
Derek Rezendes
Adilson Riberio
Matthew Robinson
Claudio Rodrigues
Juan Salas
Sonn Sam
Travis Savoie
Kevin Schumann
Ratkanhha Siv
Vannaly Sivilai
Vladimir Torrico
Loveline Umoh
Silcia Ventura
Hircanys Vicioso
Daniel Xiong
Raphael Yepez
His name will carry on

TD honors former director Leo DiMaio

He is a man who made dreams come true. A man known to come to your door if you did not show up for class. A man who fought for equality and forever changed the face of the University of Rhode Island.

Leo F. DiMaio Jr. is that man. In 1968, Dr. HArold Langlois with Mr. D. and Rev. Arthur L. Hardge established the Talent Development program at URI, a program designed to give opportunity to people of color and those from disadvantaged backgrounds. In his 31 years at TD, Mr. D. influenced the lives of thousands. Although he retired from the program in November 1999, his presence and influence will remain a part of TD history.

In honor of his numerous accomplishments and devotion to TD and its students, the TD Family, University President Robert L. Carothers, former R.I. governor Bruce Sundlun, Judge Frank Caprio the Narragansett Indian Tribe delegation and several other dignitaries gathered outside Taft Hall to celebrate the dedication of the Leo F. DiMaio Student Conference Room on June 1.

Over 200 sat in attendance on the warm, sunny afternoon to celebrate and speak on behalf of Mr. D.

Describing Mr. D. as “a man who carries a big stick but carries it with love,” President Carothers said he was deeply moved and humbled by the stories of TD and by its commitment to students.

“TD is a program fueled by passion for what is right and just. It is a program fueled by love,” President Carothers said.

According to Mr. D., he is a man with three loves: his wife Ilene, to whom he has been married for 47 years; the ACI, where he worked for 13 years; and TD.

“Eleven of TD’s original 13 members graduated,” Mr. D. boasted. “Talent Development students have gone on to achieve various honors and accomplishments. They have gone on to become doctors, police officers and engineers. All of this the success of students who were not supposed to make it,” Mr. D. said.

“Members of TD are the rocks on which TD was built on,” Mr. D. said. “It’s you, TD students, that give me life, energy, and passion. TD students are remembered every day.”

“He recalled TD being confronted by people who asked, “How do you expect these students to succeed? They are not college material.” Infuriated by this kind of ignorance, Mr. D. looked these individuals in the eyes and told them to “go to hell.”

“Members of TD are the rocks on which TD was built on,” Mr. D. said. “It’s you, TD students, that give me life, energy, and passion. TD students are remembered every day.”

As an alumni of TD, if I live to be half the man you are, [Mr. D.] then I will have lived a good life.”

Jhomphy Ventura
at dedication

Working as an aide for Lt. Gov. Charles Fogarty at the time of the dedication, TD alumnus, Jhomphy Ventura class of 2000, presented Mr. D. with a citation on the lieutenant governor’s behalf.

Ventura announced that he had insisted on presenting the citation to Mr. D. because of the special meaning it held for him.

“As an alumni of TD,” Ventura said with tears in his eyes, “if I live to be half the man you are,” Ventura said to Mr. D., “then I will have lived a good life.”

OVERCOME WITH emotion, TD alumnus Jhomphy Ventura presents Mr. D. with a citation on behalf of the lieutenant governor.

TD HALL OF FAME

The success of TD alumni also was recognized on June 1 as TD celebrated the achievements of four outstanding individuals who were inducted into the TD Fall of Hame. Inductees were chosen because of the social and academic contributions they have made to TD and to the community.

Dr. Noreen Coachman (posthumous) - Class of ’73

TOLD BY her high school guidance counselor that she was not college material, Dr. Coachman not only graduated from college but also went on to work at several hospitals throughout the state and publish numerous works. According to a close friend, Christine Roundtree, who accepted the award on Dr. Coachman’s behalf, “Dr. Coachman’s accomplishments appear easy, automatic, and a wonderful process to success, but as a black woman she faced a lot of discrimination along the way. It was TD and Mr. D. who told her [Dr. Coachman] that she could succeed and gave her the opportunity to do it.”

Dr. Jose Gonzalez - Class of ’76

DESCRIBED AS “a man with a lot of spirit, a strong will and intellect,” Dr. Gonzalez is proof of everything TD strives to be. An immigrant from Puerto Rico, Dr. Gonzalez’s plans for his future did not include a college education, but centered on the Vietnam War. Had it not been for his high school guidance counselor introducing Dr. Gonzalez to Leo DiMaio, then director of TD, Dr. Gonzalez would be leading an entirely different life. Immediately upon graduating from RIC, Dr. Gonzalez received his master degree and taught prisoners in New York, helping these individuals obtain their high school degrees. Completing his Ph.D. program at Harvard in 1991, Dr. Gonzalez remains the only Harvard doctorate recipient in TD.

Judge Roberto Gonzalez - Class of ’73

HIS NAME is well known throughout the city of Providence for his practice of law and his efforts in helping to develop the Latin community in Providence. Since graduating from college, the achievements of Judge Gonzalez have been highly acclaimed. A recipient of the Golden Eagle award for best attorney, Judge Gonzalez also has been featured in Successful Rhode Islander’s magazine in 1990. Those closest to him describe Judge Gonzalez as a man dedicated and committed to the practice of law.

Mr. Khoi Pham (posthumous) - Class of ’00

A PERSON whose star shines especially bright, Pham was inducted into the TD Hall of Fame not because he died but because he lived. Touching all who he came to know, Pham demonstrated what the human spirit truly is. Intelligent and hard working, he held a constant love for life. He used his gifts every day of his life and continually gave back to others. According to Frank Forleo, “His [Pham] spirit is with all those who knew him. Khoi will always be remembered and loved by his second family, TD and URI.”

TD STAFF, along with University President Robert L. Carothers, prepare to unveil the Leo F. DiMaio dedication plaque. The plaque featuring Mr. D. is located in the newly named Leo F. DiMaio Conference Room.
**TD Brochure & Handbook**

THIS SEPTEMBER, TD introduced its first brochure and handbook, which provides a brief outline of the TD program. The brochure is a quick reference for potential students on how to apply to TD and what requirements are necessary for admission. The handbook functions as a guide for students and focuses on the policies and procedures of the program.

**Alumni Reunion**

PLANS FOR the TD reunion are currently under way. The reunion is intended to unite alumni and celebrate the program’s 35 years of success. The reunion is scheduled to take place the second or third Saturday in August 2003. It is important that all TD alumni contact the office with their current contact information. Alumni may update their information by either calling the office at (401) 874-2901, e-mail: tdinfo@etal.uri.edu or via the TD website www.uri.edu/talent_development/

**Hardge Memorial**

URI HONORED the life and work of Rev. Arthur L. Hardge with a memorial statute on September 2, 2000. The statute was designed by Arnold Prince, father of TD alumnus Joshua Price class of 1991. The statue, located in front of the Multicultural Center, stands approximately 9 feet tall and features a copper sculpted image of the Reverend’s face with a Bible in his hands. The memorial is supported by a marble stand that includes a brief outline of the numerous achievements accomplished by Rev. Hardge in the 56 years of his life.

**TD News - Spring Issue**

- Behind the scenes of TD Recruiting.
- Bridging the Digital Divide.
- DiMaio Scholars.

These stories and more next issue.

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