11-14-2005

What's News At Rhode Island College

Rhode Island College

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Successful RITAP-RIC collaboration results in new five-year grant

BY Rob Martin
Managing Editor

The RITAP-RIC partnership is getting a renewed lease on life. That’s because RITAP – The Rhode Island Technical Assistance Project – recently received a $5 million federal renewal grant that will keep it in business and connected to the College for at least five more years.

RITAP is a statewide resource center that helps families, agencies, and institutions of learning to deliver quality education and support services for all children, including those with disabilities.

A collaborative effort between the Rhode Island Dept. of Education’s Office of Special Populations and Rhode Island College, RITAP has existed for 15 years; the last five have been in affiliation with RIC. Now that the new grant is official, its staff is looking forward to becoming a more visible part of the RIC community, and to offering new and continuing services to the state at large. RITAP has also reorganized into a six-person project team.

FSEHD introduces early spring courses, January 2006

BY Lauren Mesale ’06
Staff Writer

Beginning in January, the Feinstein School of Education and Human Development (FSEHD) is offering a series of courses and workshops designed to help pre-service teachers, in-service teachers and other education professionals to gain fresh, valuable knowledge and experience at a time when it may be most convenient for people in the academic field: in the weeks between the fall 2005 and spring 2006 semesters.

These course offerings will also help education majors to graduate on time or even early. Some courses are worth one or three credits while others are classified as no-credit.

“We are excited by this new venture which helps our students graduate earlier and offers the state’s teachers top quality professional development,” said Julie Wollman-Bonilla, dean of the Feinstein School of Education and Human Development.

RIC’s vision statement states that the College shall be recognized for “its importance as an intellectual, cultural, social, and economic resource for the State of R.I.,” and for “its success in the identification, recruitment, enrollment, and degree completion of both traditional and non-traditional students.”

DEAN JULIE WOLLMAN-BONILLA

CAMPUS VISIT: Recently, this outgoing turkey was spotted ambling about the grounds of the Kauffman Center on the east campus of RIC. Thanksgiving notwithstanding, these fleet-footed birds, once on the doorstep of extinction, have been thriving for decades, thanks in part to wildlife restoration programs.
For some 30 years, I have been involved in supervising study abroad experiences as well as serving as both a visiting fellow and as an exchange professor in London, Cambridge, Paris and Frankfurt. Since 1994, with the assistance of Mark Motte and Karl Benziger at the College, and Laurence Marlow at London South Bank University, I have supervised and led The London Course/Political Science 446/445. This is a six-credit summer experience, which includes a Summer Session I course in May/June on “British Politics and Cultural Studies”; a three-week July experience in Europe, I aim to take students off predictable paths, and jolt them into a new awareness of the particular urban landscape they are drifting through.

In their study abroad experience in Europe, I aim to take students off predictable paths, and jolt them into a new awareness of the particular urban landscape they are drifting through. The learning objectives have been to engage students to understand themselves as travelers and discoverers rather than as mere passengers between immense parentheses.

Like Molière’s character Monsieur Jourdain, I discovered that the method I was engaged in had a name. “Psychogeography” was the name that the philosopher Guy Debord gave this decoding of city streets as texts of contesting memory culture – a decoding of the effects/effects of the built environment on the emotions and conduct of human beings. Study abroad in The London Course puts an emphasis on walking as both an aesthetic practice and as a critical tool in uncovering the layers and texture, the hidden passages, the ghosts, and the palimpsests that connote the subterranean name that the philosopher was engaged in had a name. “Psychogeography” was the name that the philosopher Guy Debord gave this decoding of city streets as texts of contesting memory culture – a decoding of the effects/effects of the built environment on the emotions and conduct of human beings.

WILD ABOUT HARRY: RIC London Course student Shannon O’Neil at King’s Cross Station Platform 9 3/4, the number of the train platform that Harry Potter, of book and movie fame, must take in order to board the Hogwarts Express.
Learning Arabic opens cultural doors

BY Alison Strandberg, Staff Writer

Arabic is one of the six official languages of the United Nations and is spoken widely throughout the Middle East and parts of Africa. Arabic speakers can also be found on the Rhode Island College campus, in part because of RIC’s growing and long-standing Arabic language program.

“Over the years the buzz about the Arabic language program has grown through student word of mouth,” said Maricarmen Margenot, chair of the modern languages dept.

Richard Lobban, professor of anthropology and African studies, was one of the founders of the Arabic program at the College over a decade ago, and one of its first instructors. According to Lobban, “Arabic was introduced because it is a way to understand Africa and the Middle East.”

RIC President John Nazarian, who is of Syrian Armenian descent, is fluent in Arabic.

There are many other reasons students decide to learn Arabic – reasons that are as varied as the students themselves. Some have a military or security background and students themselves. Some have a different culture. “If you don’t understand the language, you won’t get very far in understanding people,” said Lobban. Gouda agrees and said that learning Arabic helps students to better understand events in the world today. Students interested in studying Arabic can contact the Dept. of Modern Languages at 401-456-8029.

Gouda welcomes students who are interested in learning about Arabic to sit in on a class. He can be reached via email at Mohamed@mail.uri.edu.

 rhsfsehd

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The FSEHD’s expansion of the continuing education curriculum in the form of a host of continuing education offerings meets with the College’s vision statement and strategic goal to “ensure a high-quality learning experience for all students” by making courses for professionals and pre-professionals available in early spring of 2006.

EARLY SPRING CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSES AVAILABLE


Praxis II Test Preparation Workshop (CURR 380). A non-credit “pit stop” workshop. For pre-service teachers and students who want to student teach, but have not earned a passing score on one Praxis II test by less than one standard error of measure. Jan. 10-13 and Feb. 11 and 25.


ESL for the Classroom Teacher (TESL 480/580). A one-credit course. Helps pre-service and in-service teachers learn about critical issues in working with second language learners. Jan. 3, 10, 14 and 17.

Classroom Management (CEP 480). A non-credit course. For pre-service and in-service teachers, and students within a year of entering student teaching. Students develop various techniques for classroom management. Three evenings from 4-6 p.m. Jan. 4, 11 and 18.


Individuals must register for all of these courses through the Ri-Connect system, www.ric.edu. Deadline for registering is Nov. 24. For more information, call 401-456-8110.
NEWS FROM THE Foundation and Alumni Offices

BY Ellie O’Neill
Director of Alumni Affairs

The State Employees Charitable Appeal campaign is underway, and will run through Nov. 21. The SECA effort is in conjunction with the United Way and the Combined Federal Campaign. Faculty and college employees can give to the Alumni Association’s annual fund through donor #4473. You can give to the RIC Foundation and support a particular campus program or fund by donating to the Foundation #4984. At your workplace off-campus, you should write in the Foundation or the Alumni Association if you would like your donation directed towards the College. Thank you to the many alumni, faculty, staff and friends who support the SECA campaign.

Looking ahead…

The Alumni Association has some great merchandise that we can ship to you before the holidays. Hooded sweatshirts as well as crew neck sweatshirts are available in athletic grey and navy blue. The College seal is embroidered on the left side. Short- and long-sleeve tee shirts are available in the same colors, and the College seal is silk screened on the shirt on the left side. For that special occasion, a College chair makes a great gift. Call the alumni office (401-456-8086) for information. Samples are available in the alumni office.

Our RIC on the Road events will take off in late January. To our friends in Florida, watch your mail and email news for dates and locations. If we don’t have your Florida address, please send it to us. As you know, postage is once again going up, so we’d like to increase our e-newsletter communications. Please, send your email address to alumni@ric.edu. Be sure to tell us your name also!

As we move into the Thanksgiving season and give thanks for our many gifts, all of us in the alumni and development offices thank you for your friendship and generosity.

The Legacy Walk continues … makes a great gift!

Phase II of the brick campaign is in full swing! Buy one for yourself or pay tribute to someone special.

Proceeds benefit programs of the Alumni Association and the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics, Intramurals, and Recreation.

For more information or to order, visit our website at www.ric.edu/givetoric/brick-campaign.htm or call 401-456-8827.

Rhode Island College Young Alumni Group Sponsors Community Service Event at the Rhode Island Community Food Bank

Food Sorting Night

Tuesday, Nov. 15
200 Niantic Avenue in Providence

One in ten Rhode Island households are food insecure and do not know where their next meal may come from. Please help the RIC Young Alumni Group sort food for our friends and neighbors in need.

This will be the Young Alumni Group’s fifth annual community service night at the Rhode Island Community Food Bank. We are in a friendly competition with local college and university alumni clubs, culminating in the “Golden Pallet Award,” presented to the club who successfully inspects and sorts the most food during its evening shift.

Join us for pizza at 5 p.m. We will sort from 6-8 p.m.

Please R.S.V.P. for planning purposes.

Alumni, friends, and children over the age of 14 are welcome to attend.

To R.S.V.P. or for more information, call Shana Murrell at 401-456-9625 or email alumni@ric.edu.
(NOT JUST) Academically Speaking

Nursing scholarship awarded

Nola Monti, a nursing student at Rhode Island College, has received the Beneficent Congregational Church’s Doris Mathewson Scholarship for $1,000.

The church, as part of its Community Outreach Program, awards scholarships to help educate talented students who serve their communities. The Mathewson scholarship is awarded annually to a RIC student enrolled in the nursing program. Selection is based on academic performance and service to the nursing dept. and/or community.

The scholarship’s name-sake, Doris Mathewson ‘74, is a registered nurse who was assistant director of nursing at Rhode Island Hospital and parish nurse at Beneficent Congregational Church. She is a graduate of Rhode Island Hospital School of Nursing and earned a bachelor’s degree at Rhode Island College.

Monti was presented the award at the RIC nursing dept.’s welcoming reception for nursing students held in September. She also attended Beneficent Congregational Church in Providence, where she met Doris Mathewson and members of the congregation.
RIC fall sports continue winning tradition

BY Scott Gibbons, Sports Information Director

The success of the Rhode Island College fall sports teams didn’t stop with the women’s tennis squad’s Little East Conference regular season and tournament titles on Oct. 15. The men’s and women’s soccer teams, as well as women’s volleyball and men’s cross country programs, have earned plenty of honors as well in 2005.

Men’s soccer hosts LE championship game for the first-time ever

Head Coach John Mello’s men’s soccer team finished second in the Little East Conference for the second consecutive season and hosted third-seeded Plymouth State University in the semifinals of the four-team 2005 LEC Men’s Soccer Tournament. Sophomore forward Kyle Generex gave RIC the lead in the 21st minute, but the Panthers evened the game at 1-1 in the 55th minute. The two clubs were deadlocked for the remainder of regulation, as well as two overtime periods, and penalty kicks were needed to decide which team would advance. Sophomore goalkeeper Sean Gonsalves made a diving save on one of PSU’s attempts and Generex netted the deciding kick to send RIC to the championship game.

RIC was fortunate as fourth-seeded Western Connecticut State University downed top-seeded and 2004 LEC champion Keene State in the other semi-final game, which allowed the Anchormen to host the tournament championship game for the first time in school history.

RIC and the Colonials had battled to a 0-0, double overtime tie during the regular season, so more of the same was anticipated for the finals. Although the Anchormen outshot the Colonials, 17-9, neither team was able to score in regulation or in overtime. For the second time in four days, the Anchormen’s fate rested on penalty kicks.

A penalty kick shootout is the best of five attempts for both teams. RIC, which shot first, scored on its first five attempts and each time the Colonials answered with a goal of their own. Both teams traded goals through their first seven shots, until the Anchor-
Men’s Basketball
Fri. Nov. 18 vs Mt. Ida College # 5:30 p.m.
Sat. Nov. 19 Consolation or Championship # 2 or 4 p.m.
Tues. Nov. 22 Salem State  7 p.m.
Tues. Nov. 29 at Fitchburg State  7:30 p.m.
Thurs. Dec. 1 at Roger Williams  8 p.m.
Sat. Dec. 3 at Keene State *  3 p.m.

Women’s Basketball
Fri. Nov. 18 vs Skidmore College + 2 p.m.
Sat. Nov. 19 Consolation or Championship + Noon or 2 p.m.
Tues. Nov. 22 at Bridgewater State  7 p.m.
Tues. Nov. 29 at Westfield State  7 p.m.
Thurs. Dec. 1 at Roger Williams  6 p.m.
Sat. Dec. 3 at Keene State *  1 p.m.

Wrestling
Sat. Nov. 19 at Springfield College Invitational  5:30 p.m.
Wed. Nov. 30 Plymouth State ~  7 p.m.
Sat. Dec. 3 at R.I.T. Invitational  9:30 a.m.

Men’s and Women’s Indoor Track
Sat. Dec. 3 at Alden Invitational (Brown University)  10 a.m.

# Wheaton College Tip-Off Tournament game
Little East Conference contest
^ Skidmore College Tip-Off Tournament game
^ NECCWA opponent

Fall sports
Continued from p 6

Jeanne Rosa moved into second place with 1,274 career assists.

Women’s soccer ties RIC win record
Head Women’s Soccer Coach Ryan Angel’s team concluded the fall with a 10-8 overall record. It was the best season in school history as the Anchorwomen posted a .556 winning percentage and tied their own record for wins in a season.

The season could have been even better as RIC lost its last three games by a score of 1-0. Two of those losses, against top-ranked Eastern Connecticut and Western Connecticut came in double overtime.

The team loses one senior, Katie Benevides, to graduation and the core is in place for the Anchorwomen to take the next step in 2006.

Lonergan piles up honor in cross-country
Junior Eric Lonergan has come into his own this fall as he has earned both All-Alliance/Little East honors, as well as All-Eastern College Athletic Conference accolades this fall.

Lonergan placed seventh out of 110 competitors at the Alliance Championships and the MASCAC, with a time of 26:10.67. It is the second consecutive season Lonergan has earned this honor.

He came back a week later and placed eighth out of a field of 265 runners at the ECAC Championships with a time of 26:13.

Be sure to check out www.ric.edu/athletics for updated scores and standings.
BY Dante Del Giudice  
Director of Dance

The Rhode Island College Dance Company will share a Winter Concert performance with the New York-based Alexandra Beller/Dances on Friday, Dec. 2 at 8 p.m. in Sapinsley Hall in the Nazarian Center. Beller is a firebrand from the downtown Manhattan dance scene, and her works are hard-hitting and visceral dance/theatre interventions on charged cultural issues.

Beller’s title for the evening, You Are Here and Other Possibilities, provides a framework for an evening of repertory dance that will explore her intended aim of “…creating a physical and intellectual flow that is capable of shifting the social and cultural stasis,” she said.

Beller’s new You are Here simultaneously debunks the postmodern idea of shifting and fluid identity while also situating the modern subject as enclosed within an order that makes human connections difficult and transient. Her set is a confining chain-link fence that separates viewer from performer. Her inspiration for the work is Sartre’s No Exit. A longer version of the work will receive its New York premiere at the Dance Theatre Workshop in the spring of 2006.

Beller will also perform us, a solo exploring her relationship with, and critique of, the USA and the current state of political affairs. RIC dancers will perform two of her works – Diet Coke Can Save Your Life and or are you just happy to see me?

Diet Coke becomes an instrument of the pervasive cultural imperative for “real” feminine beauty and the excessive injunction for sacrifice to attain desirability. in or are you just happy to see me? Beller presents the raw dehumanization of women in urban/public spaces when they are objectified through casual and sexist remarks.

Beller’s choreography explores the simply normal, marginalized, or the abject, and the works often use text and theatrical elements to illuminate relationships, desires and losses. She has described her work as “inspired by both the fall of a limb and turn of a sonnet, by the architecture of bodies and the archetype of dystopia.”

Jennifer Dunning of The New York Times wrote in a 2002 review: “Probably best known as the little dynamo who tore through the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company for six years, Beller proves that she is just as exhilaratingly exuberant in her own work. She is also an impressive actor as well as a choreographer with smart, zany ideas.”

Beller is currently an artist in residence at HERE in New York and has also held the same position at Dance Space Center. She is a fellow at the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee, and has been a visiting artist at various colleges and universities. Alexandra Beller/Dances has been extremely active in New York as well as throughout the United States and in other locations internationally.

General admission for the Winter Concert with Alexandra Beller/Dances is $12 with discounts for seniors, groups and students. Tickets are available at the Roberts Hall box office (401-456-8144). For more information please contact Dante Del Giudice at 401-456-9791.
RIC Symphony Orchestra to perform Shostakovich’s Fifth; flutist Mary Ellen Guzzio featured soloist in Mozart concerto

BY Edward Markward
Conductor, Symphony Orchestra

The RIC Symphony Orchestra, in its second performance of the 2005-06 season, will tackle Dmitri Shostakovich’s monumental Symphony No. 5 in D Minor, one of the great orchestral works of the 20th century. The concert takes place Monday, Dec. 5 at 8 p.m. in Sapinsley Hall in the Nazarian Center.

First performed in 1937, Symphony No. 5 was ostensibly written as an “artist’s response to just criticism” after Shostakovich’s opera Lady Macbeth of the Mtsensk District had been severely condemned by Soviet leader Joseph Stalin and other authorities.

Shostakovich himself explained the symphony program this way: “I saw man with all his experiences in the center of the composition, which is lyrical in form from beginning to end. In the finale the tragically tense impulses of the earlier movements are resolved in optimism and joy of living.”

The symphony stopped Soviet criticism for a time at least, but late in life the composer expressed a different view of his work: “I think that it is clear to everyone what happens in the Fifth... It’s as if someone were beating you with a stick and saying, ‘Your business is rejoicing, your business is rejoicing,’ and you rise, shakily, and go off muttering ‘Our business is rejoicing, our business is rejoicing.’”

The concert opens with a delightful, evocative, impressionistic work for string orchestra by the American composer Philip Lambro. It also includes Mozart’s wonderful concerto in G Major for Flute and Orchestra, featuring RIC faculty member Mary Ellen Guzzio as flute soloist. Guzzio is an assistant professor of music at RIC where she teaches flute, chamber music, sight singing, woodwind methods, and music appreciation.

Emelianoff highlights Wednesday Chamber Music Series Dec. 7

The Wednesday Chamber Music Series, featuring world-renowned cellist Andre Emelianoff and Judith Lynn Stillman, pianist and RIC professor of music, takes place at 1 p.m. on Dec. 7 in Sapinsley Hall in the Nazarian Center. A question-and-answer session follows the performance.

Emelianoff, winner of the National Endowment for the Arts 1985 Solo Recitalist Award, headlines the concert. He has toured as chamber artist and soloist in Europe, Asia, and North America, and has given recitals around the world as an American Ambassador for the Arts. He has been principal cellist of the New York Chamber Symphony, the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra, the Musica Sacra and a member of the Cleveland Orchestra.

Emelianoff is currently a faculty member at the Juilliard School in New York, where he has been a member of the chamber music faculty since 1992, and cello faculty since 2000. “It is always a joy to work with the distinguished New York cellist, Andre Emelianoff,” said Stillman. “He is a brilliant and energetic performer.”

Admission is free. For more information, call the box office at 401-456-8144.

RIC Wind Ensemble invokes ‘Angels and Demons’ Dec. 2

Get ready for a night of supernatural sounds from the RIC Wind Ensemble as conductor Rob Franzblau leads the band through an orchestral world of Angels and Demons on Friday, Dec. 2 at 8 p.m. in the Auditorium in Roberts Hall. Guest appearances by local jazz artists Greg Abate and Greg Wardson add to the spirit of the event.

The fanciful concert title refers to the inspiration behind the music. Charles Cushing’s impressionistic Angel Camp, written in 1952 in honor of the United States Military Academy’s sesquicentennial, is a set of variations on an ancient setting of the 34th Psalm. The Angel of Fame, receiving only its second world performance, is a 2005 creation of Boston-area composer Michael Weinstein, inspired by the painting of the same name in the Rhode Island School of Design’s art museum. Weinstein will be working in residence with the Wind Ensemble the week prior to the concert, and he will be in attendance at the concert.

Ghost Train, an evocative and thrilling work by Californian Eric Whitacre, will showcase Abate on soprano and Wardson on piano. It is a symphony-length fantasy suite fusing classical and jazz styles.

Audiences around the world are familiar with jazz saxophonist Abate’s “rear back and blow” approach to improvisation. The Chicago Tribune said of Abate: “...the sharp angularity of his phrases and the often startling pauses in his fast-moving lines give his work a feeling of constant invention and creativity.”

Also on the program is O Magnum Mysterium by Morten Lauridsen, a joyful score based on the Latin text, which has been performed frequently since its 1994 premiere. It will be conducted by student Jonathan D’Amico.

“I’m thrilled that Greg Abate and Greg Wardson will be performing with us again,” said conductor Franzblau. “We were fortunate to work with them a few years ago in a performance of Michel Legrande’s Images, and I was absolutely blown away by their artistry. Ghost Train will showcase their talents, but it also gives the Wind Ensemble some outrageous music to sink their teeth into. I think it will both delight and scare the heck out of the audience.”

Admission to Angels and Demons is $7; $5 for senior citizens and non-RIC students; free for RIC students, faculty and staff.
New head of Bannister paints enthusiastic portrait of gallery

James Montford, new director of Bannister Gallery, has chosen an alternative name for himself – a name that at once describes how he sees himself, and also celebrates his West African heritage. His self-created moniker, Ari, means “one who makes marks.” Montford has been making his mark in the art sphere for many years – exhibiting, curating, teaching, raising awareness – most recently at the Rhode Island School of Design where he was curator of community programs. In that capacity, he helped connect the general public to the RISD art museum’s educational initiatives and exhibitions.

The Bannister leader, who calls his new job “a wonderful opportunity,” believes that increasing public accessibility to the arts is essential. “Art is at the core of all civilization and the mission of cultural institutions is to engage the audience in ways that celebrate this,” he said. Montford has already begun to further the College’s effort to increase its arts profile by displaying works of art from Bannister’s permanent collection on the walls of the School of Social Work. It’s a deed that he hopes to repeat for other campus buildings.

He plans to make more extensive use of the Gallery Hall Space, located just outside the gallery proper. To that end, he has established a hall exhibit featuring Bannister collection artwork selected by students, whose writings about the art will also be displayed. He also wants to make more extensive use of the College’s art scene by having “view” exhibit openings that are held at 5 p.m., so that those on campus can attend before leaving for the day. The art agenda will be further advanced during the spring semester, when Montford will teach a class at RIC on gallery practice.

Montford highlighted several exhibits coming next year to Bannister. From Feb. 9 to March 2, some never-before-shown works owned by local art collector Walter Stone will be on display. A traveling show from Washington, D.C. – “Walls of Heritage, Walls of Pride: African American Murals” – will be show-cased April 6 to May 4. During the summer break – a downtime traditionally at the gallery – a show currently in development called “Expressive Landscapes” will feature the paintings of local artist Ida Schmulowitz. It is set to run from June 8 to July 20.

Being an African American, Montford said he was pleased to be appointed head of a gallery in memory of Edward Mitchell Bannister, a 19th century artist who was also an African American. For 25 years Montford has explored artistically and educationally the African diaspora, focusing on the African American holocaust. He has taught courses on African American art and was involved in RISD diversity grants, and the New England Foundation on the Arts grants, a Pollock-Krasner Foundation grant, Vermont Studio Center and Wurlitzer Foundation residencies and many others.

He has participated in curated exhibitions and community projects including the Queens Museum of Art, the Brooklyn Museum, the Slater Museum, Wadsworth Athenaeum, etc. Montford coordinates RITAP’s website, publications and professional development activities, and manages the project’s office located in the former Alumni House on the west side of the RIC campus. Also at that location is the RITAP resource library, which features reference materials for special education and educational best practices resources for students and families.

The reason for RITAP’s being awarded the renewal grant was due to the project’s strong track record in helping students develop special education and educational best practices. “We, as a group, bring a wide variety of expertise and strengths to the team,” said Grossi. “We, as a group, bring a wide variety of expertise and strengths to the team,” said Grossi. “We, as a group, bring a wide variety of expertise and strengths to the team,” said Grossi. “We, as a group, bring a wide variety of expertise and strengths to the team,” said Grossi.

The Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) Support Center, directed by Sue Constable, offers help to individuals with the disorder, as well as to affected families and to professionals in the field.

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For Kim Grant, it’s a dog’s world—and cats too. All pets in fact, because pets are her passion. This once aspiring arts critic and newspaper reporter put her journalistic career on hold in 2002 to establish KimsPets.com, an online pet pampering business that provides unusual gifts and services for pets and their humans.

“I love animals and having a pet business just seemed like a natural fit,” Grant said.

Unlike the pet superstores, Grant’s business puts pet care on a personal level for pet owners. She organizes mixers for singles and their pets, fundraisers for animal rescue groups, and offers a line of pet Bereavement items.

“I look for products that are safe for pets and humans, and get the paws up from my quality assurance team—Cricket, my dog and Fletcher my cat,” Grant said. Both her pets are rescues that she took in as strays.

But it is her pet mixers and social club that have become her signature mark in the pet world, gaining popularity daily with waiting lists for the events.

So far, Grant has organized two such events at a private dog park with an indoor facility. There are hors’d’oeuvres for the humans and biscuit tasting—the canine alternative to wine tasting—doggie cakes, contests for the pets and pet portraits. Since the mixers were such a big hit, Grant recently began a Singles and their Pets social group that meets once a month for a dog walk and socializing. The group currently numbers 200 and is growing quickly.

One pet owner asked if she could bring her llama to the mixer. An unusual request but Grant thought it would be an interesting addition to the party, though she said, “I have yet to see the llama.”

Grant said that most of her clients are professional females ranging in age from 30-50, and that her customers tend to buy more for dogs than cats.

The pet stroller is one of her most popular items, along with the baskets and urns for remembering dearly departed pets.

Last year, Grant was invited to attend the third annual Search and Rescue Service Dog Day in New York City to meet Captain Scott Shields and animal activist Jane Goodall. Shields and his dog, Bear, were the first canine search and rescue team to arrive at ground zero after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. Bear died of injuries he sustained at ground zero.

“They are both heroes,” Grant said proudly.

Grant also sells t-shirts honoring the more than 300 dogs that helped with search and rescue efforts after the Sept. 11 attacks.

While at RIC, Grant was given an internship in the public relations office of the Roger Williams Park Zoo in Providence, sparking her interest to work with animals. She participated in RIC’s student-designed concentration program for journalism, taking courses at various colleges and universities around the country as part of the National Student Exchange (NSE) program, which led her to Winthrop University in South Carolina.

She moved to North Carolina in 2000.

“I was a technical writer at the time. I thought the research triangle area would be better suited for me with the abundance of high-tech firms,” she said.

Grant credits English professor Carl Stenberg for her editorial success, remembering that it was Stenberg who “encouraged me to pursue a writing career.”

Grant also remembers helping many turtles cross the roads at RIC.

But it was Sid, her beloved cat of 12 years, whose death in 2001 prompted Grant to launch kims-pets.com. She was laid off from her job as a technical writer and “used my tax return money to start my online business,” she said.

Today, Grant is considered an expert on pets and pet care, and is often a featured guest on local talk shows, and a contributing author of pet-related news stories and feature articles for various publications.

For more information on Kim Grant’s pet services, visit www.kims-pets.com.
R.I. ART TEACHERS and RIC art education majors gathered in the Faculty Center Oct. 6 for the fall meeting of the Rhode Island Art Education Association. Above, Mary McMurry, president of the organization, addresses the 70-75 people in attendance.

KATRINA RELIEF: One half of the more than $11,000 raised on campus by a week-long collection drive to aid hurricane relief agencies is presented by representatives of the College to Major Robert Pfeiffer of the Salvation Army Oct. 5 at its headquarters on Eddy Street in Providence. From left are: Nicole Giambusso, a RIC senior who helped organize the drive; Major Pfeiffer; Michael Smith, assistant to the president; and Valerie Endress, assistant professor of communications. The other half of the money raised was given to the American Red Cross of Rhode Island.

“DAYS OF THE DEAD”: Throughout Mexico, on Oct. 31, Nov. 1 and 2, it is believed that the dead come from beyond and are welcomed into homes to visit with the living. Special foods are prepared, and sugar skulls, flowers, candles, incense and food adorn home altars in remembrance of the dead. RIC celebrated the festival with a workshop on making sugar skulls, altars in the Unity Center and Gaige Hall, as well as videos, food and music. At right, freshman Roxanne Roca makes sugar skulls in the Unity Center.

BUCKET BREAKING: Inclement weather drove groundbreaking ceremonies for renovations to the Yellow Cottage on the College’s east campus indoors on Oct. 24. Buckets of sand in the Kauffman Center proved a worthy substitute for rain-soaked earth. Handling the golden shovels are: (l to r) College President John Nazarian; Richard Hillman ’83, supervisor, office of director at DCYF; Debra GiScull, implementation aide at DCYF and former resident of O’Rourke Children’s Center; Pierre Morenon, assoc. prof. of anthropology; Orestes Monterecy, director of capital projects; and David DeQuattro of Robinson, Green, Beretta Corp.