



Rhode Island College
Office of Research and Grants Administration

Annual Report
Fiscal Year 2011

Director's Message:

Friends,

Welcome to the first annual report of Rhode Island College's Office of Research and Grants Administration (ORGA). Since 1986, ORGA has been the college's central clearinghouse for most externally-funded research and programmatic grants and contracts with government agencies and private foundations. Today, the office works closely with the Rhode Island College Foundation to maximize grant revenue in support of the college mission. In its 25 years, ORGA has supported college faculty in securing competitive awards worth millions of dollars. This trend continued in 2011, with more than \$8 million generated from external agencies to support the research, teaching, and programs of 39 Principal Investigators.



This revenue, while important, does not do justice to the scope and breadth of Rhode Island College's research enterprise and the many individuals who contribute to its success. RIC faculty are committed to research as a means of creating new knowledge, engaging students and collaborating across disciplines and the larger community. In doing so, they are demonstrating and promoting the college's academic excellence and its strong role in the workforce and economic development of our state. ORGA is proud to support faculty and the institution in this work.

Building research capacity requires the support and encouragement of college leadership. In President Nancy Carriuolo, we are fortunate to have a leader who recognizes that a vital, active college-wide research community benefits every member of the campus and beyond. The support of, and commitment to, research by Dr. Ron Pitt, Vice President of Academic Affairs, encourages faculty to share a vision of professional development that includes research as an essential component. We thank them, as well as the faculty and staff who are working with ORGA to strengthen the viability and sustainability of the research enterprise at Rhode Island College in 2012 and beyond.

Lisa Smolski

Director

Office of Research and Grants Administration

Congratulations!



In Fiscal 2011, Faculty members generated **\$8,033,882** in grant awards through federal, state, and foundation sources. Their efforts continue to strengthen RIC's research capacity, broaden knowledge and scholarship across disciplines, encourage collaborative cross-institutional relationships, and foster a vibrant learning environment for students, faculty, and the entire RIC community.

(RIC President, Dr. Nancy Carriuolo, reviewed some of the college's achievements from the preceding six months and looked ahead to the next six months in a presentation to faculty and staff in the Student Union Ballroom on February 16, 2011)

ORGA Hosts Third Annual Principal Investigator (PI) Recognition Luncheon:

On October 20, 2011, RIC President, Dr. Nancy Carriuolo, thanked the PIs whose efforts generated more than \$8 million in externally funded grant awards. These awards support research as well as many community and educational projects. She acknowledged the role research plays in engaging students and faculty and strengthening RIC's role as a dynamic institution of higher learning.



Thanks to the hard work and commitment of 39 principal investigators, this year RIC submitted more proposals than ever before, and procured grants for more principal investigators than in any other year.

(Photo: L-R: Dr. Thomas Meedel, Dr. Eric Hall at PI Recognition Luncheon)



(Photo: L-R: Dr. Christine Marco, Dr. Beverly Goldfield, Dr. Steven Threlkeld at the PI Recognition Luncheon)

Principal Investigator	Projects
Karen Almeida	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • INBRE (Idea Network of Biomedical Research): DNA replication • INBRE: The influence of Energetics on DNA repair
Karen Almeida & John C. Williams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EPSCoR (Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research): Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF)
Anthony Antosh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities • Early Intervention • State Personnel Development Grant • Vision Services • Surrogate Parents/Educational Advocates • Positive Behavioral Supports Training for RI Training School • Dual Sensory Impairment • Positive Educational Partnerships • RI Alternate Assessment • Employment Training • RI Technical Assistance Project • Supported Employment Specialist Certification
Mariam Boyajian	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upward Bound
Deborah Britt:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • INBRE: Defining a Role for Bcp1 in DNA Damage Response of Saccharomyces Cerevisiae
Erik Christiansen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civil War Conference
Jennifer Cook	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New England Comics in the Classroom Conference • Rhode Island Writing Project
Glenisson de Oliveira	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project RITES (Rhode Island Technology Enhance Science Project)
Roger Eldridge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rhode Island Teacher Education Renewal (RITER)
Paddy Favazza	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing the Efficacy of the Special Friends Program • Young Athletes Project
Jenifer Giroux	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Graphic • TRAMA (Upward Mobility through Training, Employment, Careers) • TRABAC • Job Training Program Recertification

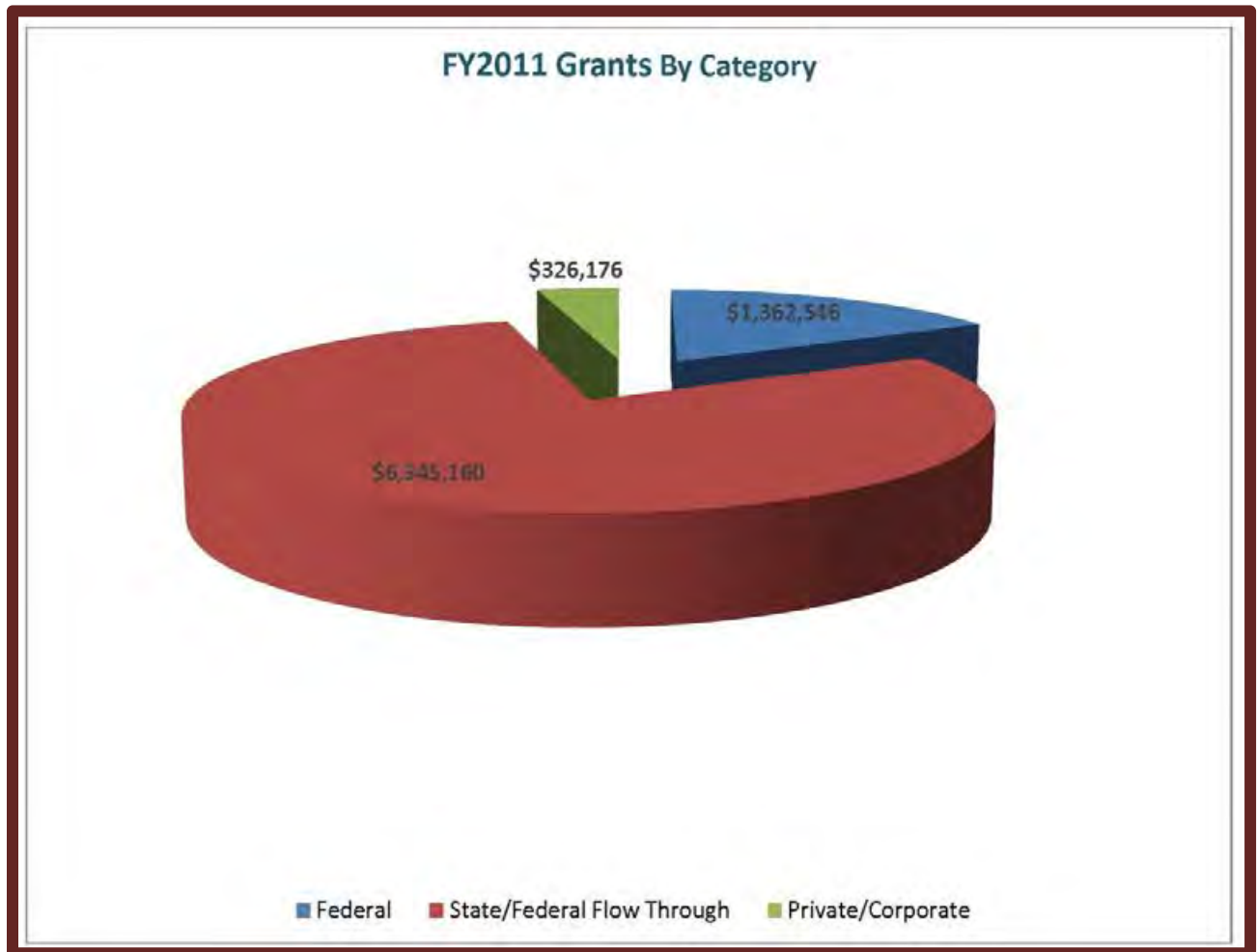
Principal Investigator	Projects
Jenifer Giroux	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Computer Assisted ELL & Career Exploration • Occupational Skills Training • WPGRI: Title 1 • Providence/Cranston Outreach • Dislocated Worker Training • Project ASPIRE • Case Management Outreach Program • United Collaboration of Training Resources • Scholarships for Project TRAMA • Upward Mobility
Tonya Glantz	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phase II System of Care Training Plan • Child Welfare Institute • System of Care/FCCP Training
Beverly Goldfield	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • INBRE: Early Comprehension of Nouns and Verbs
Kathleen Gremel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volgistics and Volunteers Collaborative
Kathleen Gremel & Lynn Blanchette	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Health Nursing Workforce in Rhode Island
Eric Hall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • INBRE: SURF Program Coordinator • EPSCoR: SURF
Ying Hui	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urban Multicultural Special Education
Maria Lawrence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rhode Island Geography Education Alliance Program Operations and Planning
Richard Lobban & Earl Simson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MURI (Multi Disciplinary Research Initiative)
James Magyar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • INBRE: SURF Program Coordinator
Thomas Malloy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • INBRE: Origins of Intergroup Conflict and Experimental Test of the Intergroup Relations Model
Christine Marco	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young Adolescent Sleep
Thomas Meedel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Functional Conservation of Myogenic Regulatory Factors (ARRA equipment supplement)

Principal Investigator	Projects
Rebeka Merson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • INBRE: Gene Divergence of AHR in Early Vertebrates
Robin Montvilo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HIV Prevention and Support Addiction and Recovery Strategic Planning 2011 • INBRE: Internet-based Addiction Counselor Education Study • Children's Friend and Service • Project Connect Statewide • Persons with Developmental Disabilities and Addiction Recovery
AnnMarie Mumm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family and Children's Trust
Julia Nesbitt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student Support Services
Cynthia Padula	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advanced Education Nursing Traineeship
Cynthia Padula & Belle Evans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rhode Island Geriatric Education Center
Beverly Paesano	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Writing Project • Rhode Island Writing Project • Carnegie National Reading Initiative Grant
Sue Pearlmutter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rhode Island Partnership for Family Connections • Consolidated Youth Services
Kathryn Sanders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S-STEM Quahog Cohort
Earl Simson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modern Language Studies in Portuguese
Sarah Spinette	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • INBRE: Investigating the Significance of Novel Forms of Ufd2a to Muscle Differentiation
Mary Sullivan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Problem Solving and Critical Thinking with Discrete Math • Building a Skilled Workforce for the Rhode Island Defense Industry
Steven Threlkeld	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • INBRE: Anti-inflammatory Intervention and Neurobehavioral Outcome in Neonatal Ischemia
Daniel Weisman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Restore: Evaluation • United Way Supported Housing • Can We Talk?

Projects Funded in Fiscal Year 2011:

Principal Investigator • Projects

<p>John C. Williams</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anticancer Agents and Antibiotic Polymers • INBRE: Microwave Synthesis
<p>John C. Williams & Paul Tiskus</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large Molecule/Small Molecule
<p>Jane Williams</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expanded Nursing Educational Capacity
<p>Joseph Zornado & Ronald Pitt</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning



Featured Projects

Collaborations

Several research projects were successfully funded through the Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (**EPSCoR**) and the Institutional Development Award (IDeA) Network of Biomedical Research Excellence (**INBRE**). These state-wide collaboratives, designed to develop Rhode Island’s research infrastructure, are supported by grants through the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH), respectively.



RI-EPSCoR Supported by NSF Grant #1004057

Total Awarded: \$91,394

Funded by the National Science Foundation’s EPSCoR Program, RIC (partnering with URI, Brown, Bryant, CCRI, Providence College, Salve Regina, RISD, and Roger Williams University) is working to build Rhode Island’s research capacity and national research and development competitiveness, especially in marine life and affiliated sciences. RI-EPSCoR is also committed to strengthening state-wide innovation and enhancing science and engineering training and education in order to better prepare students for the 21st Century workforce.

RIC 2011 EPSCoR Award Recipients:

Edythe Anthony , <i>Professor, Biology</i>	Principal Investigator (PI)
Eric Roberts , <i>Associate Professor, Biology</i>	Co-PI
Karen Almeida , <i>Associate Professor, Chemistry</i>	NAMPT: The Link Between Metabolism and DNA Repair
Roland de Gouvenain , <i>Associate Professor, Biology</i>	Effect of Forest Canopy of Gap on Tree Growth and Mortality in a Southern New England Deciduous Forest
Breea Govenar , <i>Assistant Professor, Biology</i>	Linking Community Structure to Ecosystem Function through Salt Water Marsh Food Webs

NSF S-Stem Program:

This National Science Foundation Program makes grants to institutions of higher education to support scholarships for academically talented and financially deserving students. The goal of S-STEM, as with EPSCoR, is to train students so that they can enter the workforce with a degree in science, technology, mathematics and/or engineering disciplines.

S-STEM Quahog Cohort

Kathryn Sanders, *Professor, Mathematics and Computer Science*

2011 Award: \$120,516

94% of the total award is for student scholarships

Now in year three of a five-year award, this S-STEM grant is funding a community of student scientists comprised of interdisciplinary groups majoring in biology, chemistry, computer science, mathematics, medical imaging, and/or physics. Each cohort forms part of a Science, Computing and Mathematics Learning Community that take courses together for their first two years. S-STEM students are introduced to research via a "Community of Practice" in their freshman year and join a research group as sophomores. As juniors and seniors, participants continue with courses in their respective majors, mentor younger cohorts and help recruit new cohorts, while becoming more deeply involved in their own research. It is notable that RIC, in 2009, was the sole recipient of this distinguished award.



RI-INBRE Supported by NIH Grant #P20RR016457

Total Awarded: \$776,177

The NIH Sponsored RI-INBRE collaborative brings together six major institutions of higher education (RIC, Brown, URI, Providence College, Salve Regina, and Roger Williams University) in order to build and support Rhode Island's biomedical and biobehavioral research capacity.

Areas of research focus of the RI-INBRE program are molecular toxicology, cell biology, and the behavioral sciences.

Guiding principles organizing the Rhode Island Biomedical Research Network:

- Prepare junior investigators to successfully compete for external funding to support continuing research;
- Increase the number of students being trained for careers in biomedical sciences;
- Provide access to instrumentation and bioinformatics for conducting cutting-edge research.

RIC 2011 INBRE Award Recipients:

Karen Almeida, *Associate Professor, Chemistry*
INBRE Research Focus: Molecular Toxicology
The Influence of Energetics on DNA Repair



Dr. Almeida's INBRE-funded research focuses on the repair of DNA damage encountered during active replication or S-phase. According to Dr. Almeida, the results of this research will identify multiple interacting partners of Nampt, which is a 55 KDa protein implicated in numerous human disorders including diabetes, ischemia, heart disease, and cancer; clarify the cellular conditions for Nampt activity; and assist in the targeting of cellular energetics for drug development.

(Photo: Dr. Almeida at the PI Luncheon)

Rebeka Merson, Associate Professor, Biology
INBRE Research Focus: Molecular Toxicology
Gene Divergence of Aryl Hydrocarbon Receptors (AHR) in Early Vertebrates

Dr. Merson's research program engages undergraduate students in studying the molecular and physiological pathways involved in environmental chemical stress. In the INBRE funded effort, students investigate the structure and function of shark and skate (cartilaginous fishes) receptors that regulate gene expression in response to environmental agonists. With the skate genome database and an experimental model that allows real-time examination of embryonic development, the Merson team is preparing to assess how contaminated sediments from Narragansett Bay impact egg-laying vertebrates. According to Dr. Merson, results from this research will provide information relevant to human and environmental health, and the health of local coastal habitats. The research activities involve productive collaborations with investigators at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, Mount Desert Island Marine Biological Laboratory, and other RI-INBRE supported institutions of higher education.

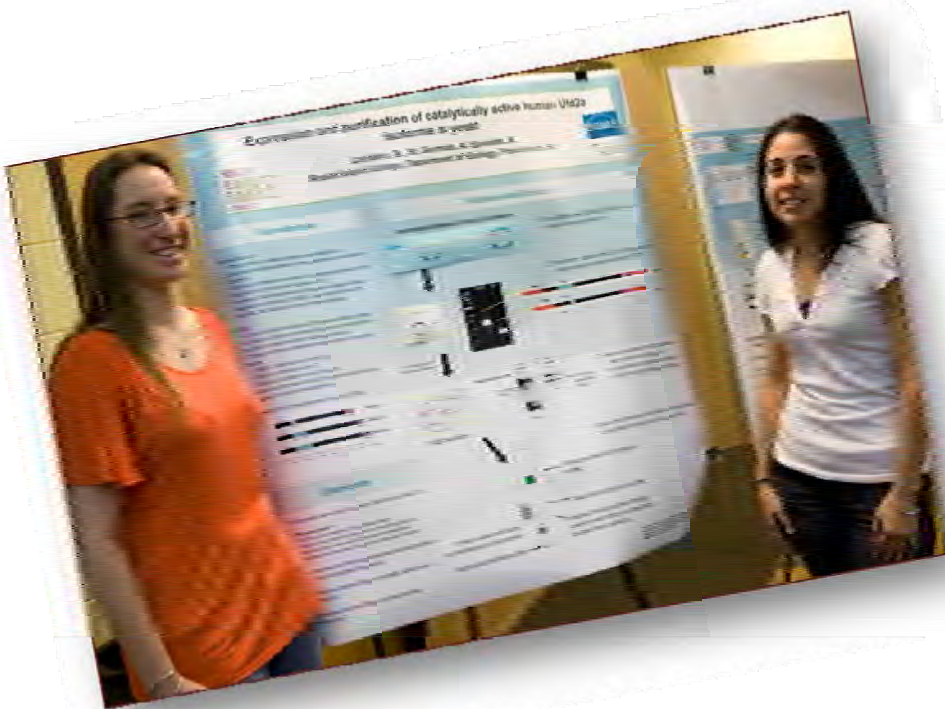


(Photo by R. Merson: Jessica Fernandes ('12) preparing skate embryos for in situ hybridization to identify developing structures where receptors are actively expressed)

Sarah Spinette, Assistant Professor, Biology

INBRE Research Focus: Cell Biology

Investigating the Significance of Novel Forms of Ufd2a to Muscle Differentiation



Dr. Spinette's INBRE-funded research addresses the hypothesis that the alternative isoforms of Ufd2a, an enzyme involved in the degradation of certain proteins, are important for the process of striated muscle cell differentiation and development. According to Dr. Spinette, whose research interests include skeletal muscle differentiation and development, protein degradation, and

protein-protein interactions, the INBRE-sponsored studies may provide insights into the mechanisms of cardiac and skeletal muscle development.

(Photo: Undergraduate student Amanda St. Germain (left) and MA student Brenda Cordeiro (right) present their research projects which utilize yeast to produce different human Ufd2a proteins in order to investigate their protein-protein interactions)

Robin Montvilo, Professor, Psychology

INBRE Research Focus: Behavioral Science

Internet-Based Addiction Counselor Education Study

Dr. Montvilo, Director of the Chemical Dependency & Addiction Studies (CDAS) Program at RIC, is leading an INBRE-funded study, in which RIC students and faculty within the CDAS program will conduct an investigation of an Internet-based preparatory training modality for addiction counselors, in an attempt to bridge the transmission gap between evidence-based research and substance abuse treatment practitioners. The goal of the project is to develop and implement an innovative Internet-based program to initially train CDAS students with a subsequent generalization to community-based practitioners.

Beverly Goldfield, Professor,
Psychology

**INBRE Research Focus: Behavioral
Science**

Early Comprehension of Nouns and Verbs

Dr. Goldfield's INBRE-funded research project consists of two studies that examine word comprehension in 14 to 18 month-olds. Dr. Goldfield's research seeks to determine whether children comprehend verbs as early as nouns. Research has shown that children say nouns well before they say verbs, but, according to Dr. Goldfield, we have yet to discover if they comprehend the verbs as early.



"Getting the true research experience, and being able to present it to other professionals is the fun part for me . . . One cannot get a glance from a major graduate program without having research experience. I am transferring from a private university where I did not have access to this type of academic experience." - Melissa Marcotte **(pictured above)**

(Photo below: Dr. Malloy at PI Luncheon)



Thomas Malloy, Professor, Psychology

INBRE Research Focus: Behavioral Science

An Experimental Test of the Intergroup Relations

**Model: Understanding the Origins of Intergroup
Conflict**

Dr. Malloy's INBRE-funded project provides intensive research training for undergraduate students. The experiments will test a theoretical construct of intergroup relations, called the intergroup relations model (IRM), which was developed by Dr. Malloy to explain a broad range of phenomena by which people communicate across differences. The experiments will yield data for testing of the theoretical predictions of the IRM. Four

undergraduates and one graduate student are actively involved in all phases of research. Students receive supervised training in the theoretical derivation of hypotheses, development of research methods and operations, skill in running participants through the experimental protocol, organization and management of data, analysis of data, organization of results, writing and publication of findings, and presentation of results at scientific conferences.

Deborah Britt, *Assistant Professor, Biology*

INBRE Research Focus: Molecular Toxicology

Defining a role for Bcp1 in the DNA damage response of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*

The goal of Dr. Britt's INBRE-sponsored research is to advance the understanding of DNA repair, using budding yeast, *S. cerevisiae*, as a model system to study the function of a protein known as Bsp1 in yeast, or BCCIP in humans. BCCIP acts as a tumor suppressor, promotes cell cycle arrest following DNA damage, and participates in DNA repair. Using molecular and cellular techniques, the research is designed to define the role of Bcp1 in the DNA damage response and gain insight as to the biological function of this molecule.



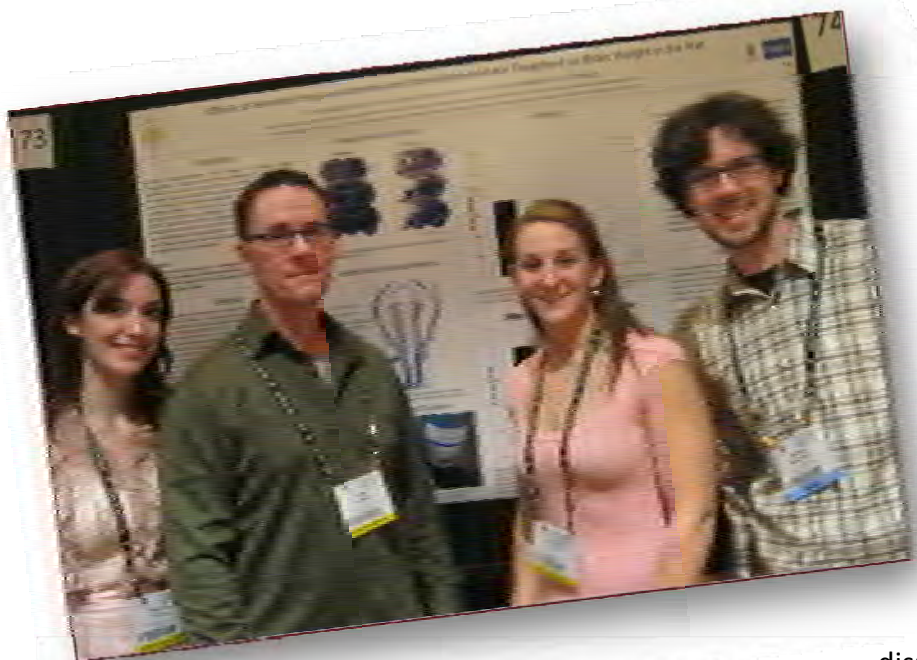
(Photo: Dr. Britt, Biology, at PI Luncheon with Dean Blanchette, School of Management)

Steven Threlkeld, *Assistant Professor, Psychology*

INBRE Research Focus: Behavioral Science

Anti-Inflammatory Intervention and Neurobehavioral Outcome in Neonatal Ischemia

Dr. Threlkeld's INBRE-funded research project will use rodent models to assess the efficacy of inter-alpha inhibitor proteins (IAIPs) in the prevention of neonatal brain damage and



subsequent learning impairments. According to Dr. Threlkeld, neonatal cerebral oxygen deprivation (hypoxia) and reduced blood flow (ischemia) can result from umbilical cord occlusion, prolonged labor, and preterm birth. Hypoxia and ischemia can produce an inflammatory response and neuronal cell death, which contribute to poor cognitive outcomes and learning

disabilities later in life. This research will assess potential long-term benefits of translational experimental treatment strategies.

(Photo: L-R: M. Dunn, J. Lennox, C. Gaudet, Dr. Threlkeld at 2011 Faculty for Undergraduate Neuroscience poster session, Washington D.C., SFN satellite event)

Eric Hall, Associate Professor,
Biology

James Magyar, Professor,
Chemistry

**INBRE--Summer Undergraduate
Research Fellowship (SURF)**

The SURF program at RIC offers summer research opportunities to qualified undergraduate students who are considering a career in biomedical or behavioral research. The goals of the program are to expose undergraduate students to laboratory research and to familiarize them with career opportunities in these areas of science. This ten week summer program involves a hands-on research project with a faculty member, supplemented by a series of workshops and group instruction in which students are exposed to a variety of general research issues and practices.



(Photo: L to R: Dr. Eric Hall, Dr. Eric Roberts, and Dr. Sarah Spinette)

John C. Williams, *Professor, Chemistry*
INBRE Research Focus: Molecular Toxicology
Anti-Cancer Agents and Antibiotic Polymers

Many of Dr. Williams' former undergraduate research students have completed Ph.D.s and pursued careers in industrial or academic chemistry. Currently, his undergraduate research group is involved in an INBRE-funded project designed to synthesize new estrogen-active compounds. Arylphosphonium salts are the antibiotic monomers in antibiotic polymers and are among the anti-cancer and estrogenic compounds that are potentially useful in fabricating medical plastics. Dr. Williams' research is synthesizing variations of these compounds in search of more active/selective antibiotics and potential anti-cancer agents.



(Photo: L to R: Kristen Chauvin ('14) and Dr. John C. Williams)

RI Department of Children Youth and Families RI Department of Education

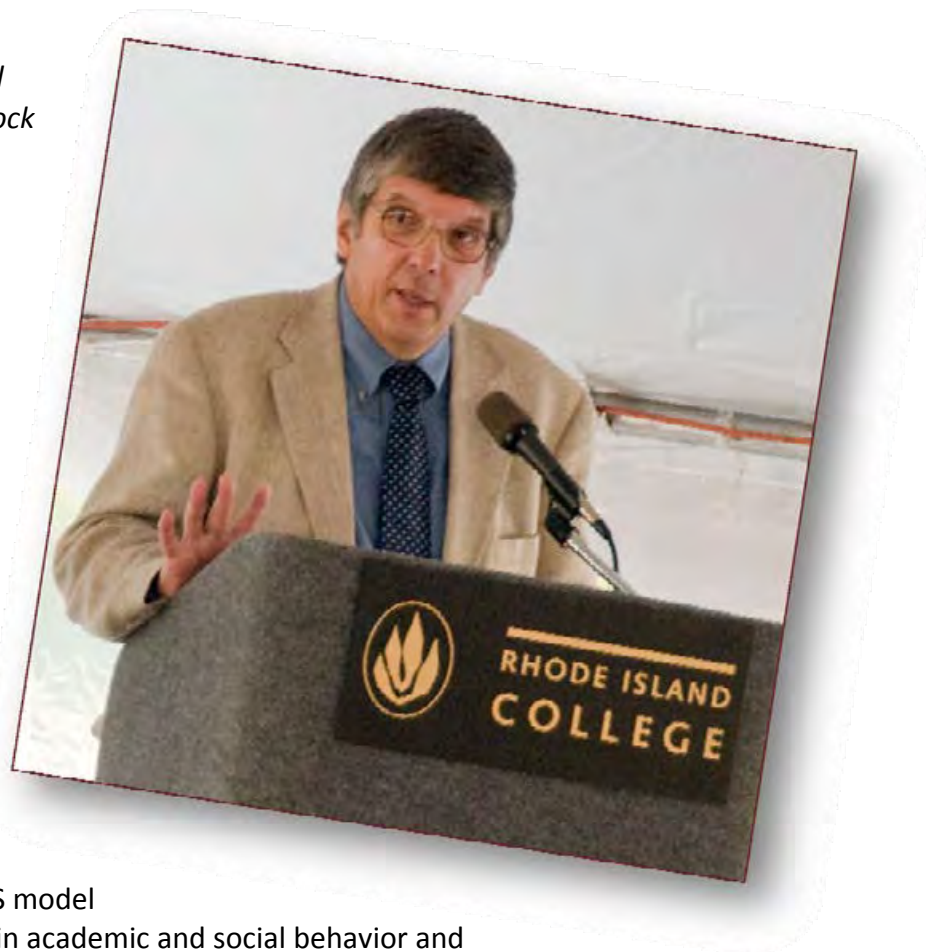
Since 2005, the Paul V. Sherlock Center on Disabilities at Rhode Island College has been awarded \$644,420 in combined federal and state grant funds to provide Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS) services. This funding allows the Sherlock Center to provide training and technical assistance to any school in the state of Rhode Island interested in implementing PBIS. The Sherlock Center has provided training in over 100 schools (8 cohorts and 11 districts) in PBIS.

Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS) for the RI Training School

Anthony Antosh, *Professor, Special Education; Director, The Paul V. Sherlock Center on Disabilities*

Total Awarded: \$22,000

Founded at RIC in 1993, the Paul V. Sherlock Center on Disabilities at Rhode Island College, is one of 67 national University Centers on Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, & Service (UCEDDs). This 2011 PBIS grant award through the RI Department of Children, Youth, and Families and Department of Education, supports external coaching by Sherlock Center staff on site at the RI Training School in order to enhance the Training School's capacity to educate its students, especially those with challenging social behaviors. The PBIS model establishes clearly defined outcomes in academic and social behavior and systems that support staff efforts.



(Photo: Dr. Anthony Antosh)

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) US Department of Education

UIUC received a prime award through the US Department of Education to support a project entitled ***Special Education-Research and Innovation to Improve Services and Results for Children with Disabilities***. RIC is working with UIUC in this multi-state collaborative four-year study designed to examine the effectiveness of “Special Friends” as a class-wide kindergarten program to improve social acceptance of children with disabilities.

(Photo: Dr. Patricia Favazza)



Establishing the Efficacy of the Special Friends Program

Patricia C. Favazza,
*Professor, Special
Education*

**2011 Funding:
\$267,832**

Dr. Favazza’s literacy-based program entitled “Special Friends” is being tested in kindergarten classrooms throughout Rhode Island and Illinois. Dr.

Favazza and her colleague,

Dr. Ostrosky from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, are examining the efficacy of a kindergarten intervention to promote acceptance of, and social interactions with, children with disabilities. The four-year study, considered timely and important, began in 2008 with funding from the US Department of Education’s Institute of Educational Sciences and runs through 2012.

Support from the Private Sector

In 2011, RIC faculty generated increasing interest from the private sector. Private foundations support a variety of campus activities including the Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning, humanities-focused conferences, and scholarships for select students.

The Davis Educational Foundation

Established by Stanton and Elisabeth Davis after Mr. Davis's retirement as chairman of Shaw's Supermarkets, Inc., The Davis Educational Foundation supports teaching in colleges in the six New England States.

Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning (FCTL)

Joseph Zornado, *Professor, English; Director, FCTL* and **Ronald Pitt**, *Vice President of Academic Affairs*

2011 Funding: \$62,079



This 3-year, \$187,826 grant award is now in its second year. This start-up funding supports the Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning (FCTL), directed by Dr. Joseph Zornado. FCTL is a college-wide collaboration among departments, disciplines, and schools designed to foster the professional development of faculty in teaching at Rhode Island College. The FCTL provides opportunities to discuss issues related to teaching, the latest scholarship on teaching and learning, and offers workshops and consultation services to faculty who wish to develop, enhance, and improve face-to-face, on-line, or hybrid teaching.

(Photo: Dr. Joseph Zornado at the PI Luncheon)



Rhode Island Council for the Humanities (RICH)

RICH's mission is to inspire and support intellectual curiosity by promoting a public appreciation of the Humanities, which RICH defines as "those aspects of our cultural life that help us understand ourselves and the world around us..."



Civil War Conference

Erik Christiansen, *Assistant Professor, History*

Total Awarded: \$1,500

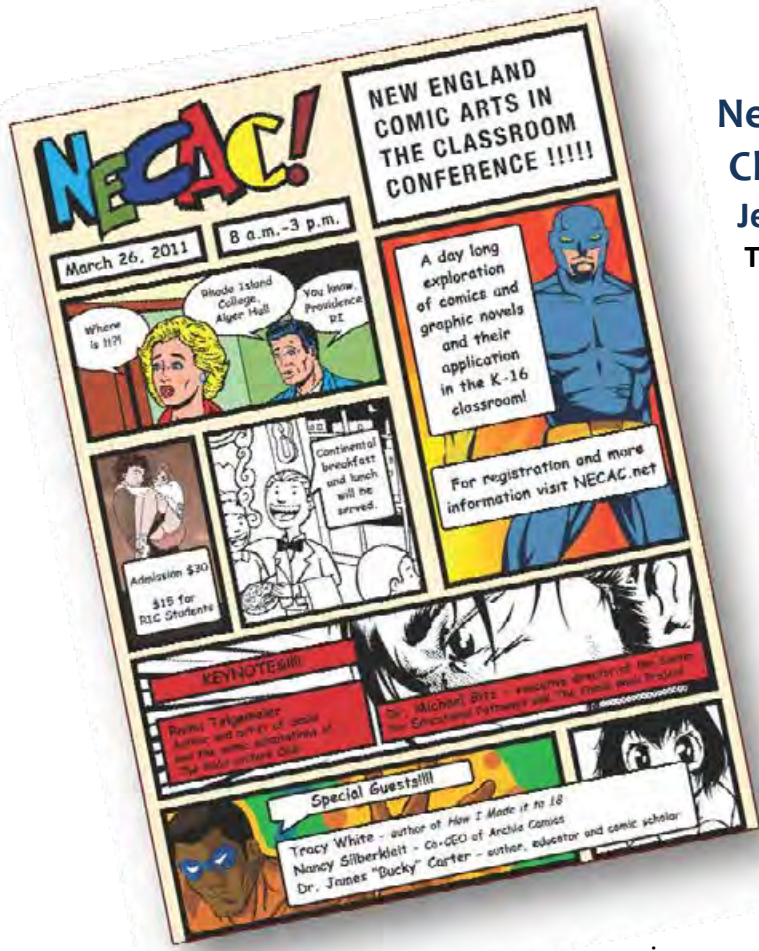
Sponsored by the college's History Department and RICH, this Civil War conference, coinciding with the 150th anniversary of the start of the war, was more than an academic event. According to Dr. Christiansen, the goal of the

conference was to help participants gain a better appreciation for the variety of forms of remembrance.

Along with academic and non-academic speakers involved with Civil War memory, the conference featured high school students as Civil War re-enactors, playing the RI 14th Artillery, an African American regiment; the Providence Brigade Band playing Civil War songs; and an exhibit on loan from the RI Historical Society.

(Photo: Student re-enactors as part of Rhode Island in the Civil War: Public History and Popular Memory. Held at RIC on April 8, 2011)





New England Comic Arts in the Classroom

Jennifer Cook, Associate Professor, English
Total Awarded: \$2,000

As visual media production and consumption plays an increasing role in daily life, educators find it vital to work with visual texts in classrooms. The New England Comic Arts in the Classroom Conference discussed the literary merit and credibility of graphic novels and explored how graphic novels can be incorporated in the K-12 classroom. Keynote speakers included Raina Telgemeier, author and creator of the graphic novel, *Smile*, and Dr. Michael Bitz, Executive Director of the New York-based Comic Book Project. The conference also offered K-12 educators and higher-education faculty an introduction to the richness of comic art and graphic novels and strategies on how to incorporate visual storytelling into literacy-based curricula.

(Photo: L-R: Dr. Jennifer Cook, Dr. Nancy Carriuolo, and Michael Gianfrancesco. Michael is a 2004 RIC graduate, currently enrolled in the MA in English Program, a teacher at North Providence High School, and co-Director of the NECAC Conference)



Emma Harris Foundation

Since 1965, the Emma G. Harris Foundation has supported Rhode Island-based technical and industrial training programs serving young women.



Scholarships for Project TRAMA (Training Responsible Adults as Medical Assistants)

Jenifer Giroux, Director, Workforce Development & Training, Outreach Programs

Total Awarded: \$16,000

The Outreach Programs Center at Rhode Island College has been providing vocational training and English-as-a-Second-Language instruction to unemployed, dislocated, and underemployed workers for nearly twenty years. This was the second year that the Emma Harris Foundation funded five scholarships for low-income women to train for careers in Medical Assisting through the TRAMA Program.

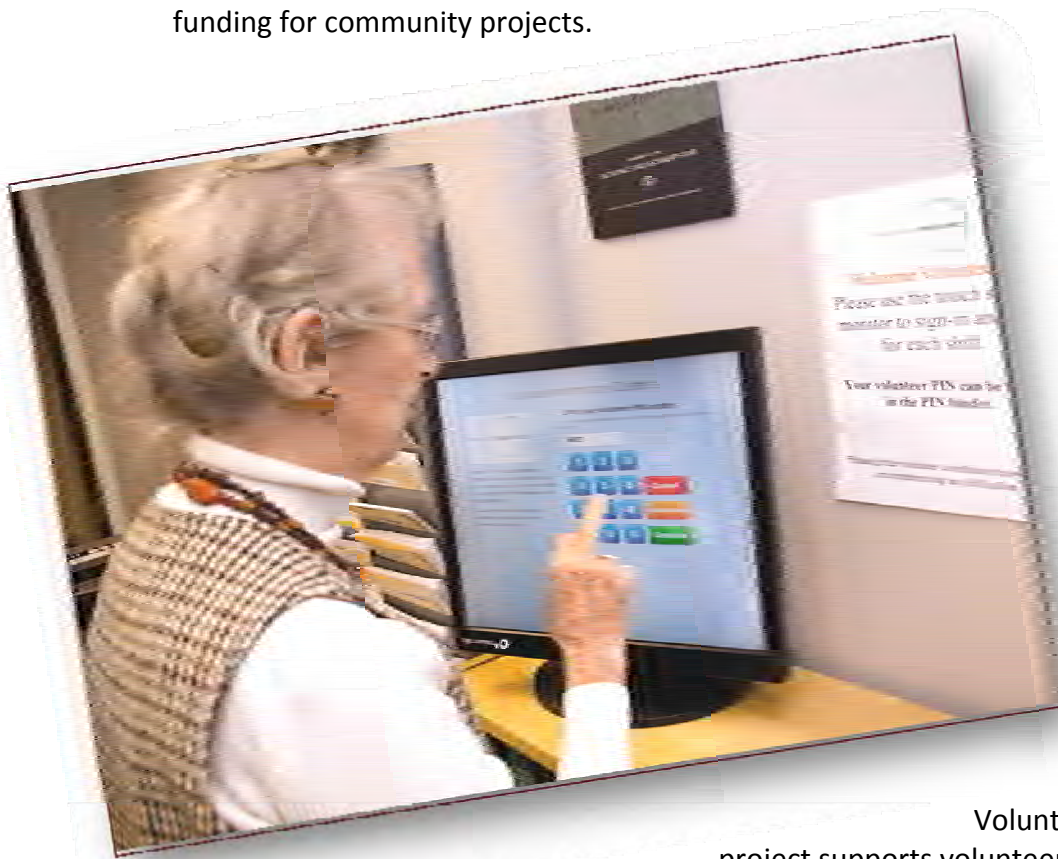


(Photo: TRAMA student and skeleton.)

Rhode Island Public Health Institute (RIPHI)

RIPHI, a non-profit corporation established in 1993, partners with state and community agencies and academic institutions to promote health and wellness for Rhode Islanders by

building capacity, providing health status assessments, assessment tools and training, and funding for community projects.



**Volgistics and
Volunteers
Collaborative**
Kathleen Gremel,
*Assistant Professor,
Nursing*
**Total Awarded:
\$1,995**

Professor Gremel is working with staff and volunteers at the Rhode Island Free Clinic to implement the Volgistics and

Volunteers Collaborative. This project supports volunteer operations management at the Rhode Island Free Clinic by increasing the capabilities of the Volgistics software program. Full implementation of Volgistics will allow automated time card functions, increase efficiency of staff, and provide informatics to support evaluation and effectiveness of Rhode Island Free Clinic's volunteer work force.

(Photo: Volunteer at Rhode Island Free Clinic accessing the Volgistics Software Program)

Innovative Projects in Development

Every year, RIC faculty, staff, and students explore new ways of learning, design exciting research projects, and develop collaborative relationships with community partners. In Fiscal Year 2011, 65 proposals were submitted to federal, state, municipal, and private entities for funding, of which 40 were new. Other projects remain in development, with the expectation that funding may be secured in coming cycles.



**Sue Pearlmutter, Dean, School of Social Work
At the Crossroads**

At the Crossroads is a public-private partnership comprised of eight organizations that are collaborating to establish an infrastructure for assuring that youth in the care and custody of the Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) can achieve educational stability and school success. RIC's School of Social Work, its Child Welfare Institute, DCYF, the Rhode Island Department of Education, Rhode Island Family Court, the Central Falls and Woonsocket local school districts, and the Rhode Island Foster Parents Association will engage in training and education, policy development and implementation, and relationship building and maintenance to assist youth to succeed in school. The target population includes 40 youth aged 10-17 in schools in two urban core districts in Rhode Island. Also included are the professionals working on behalf of these youth, their families, and other stakeholders.

(Photo: Dean Sue Pearlmutter speaking at the Child Welfare Institute Town Hall Meeting, May 26, 2011)

**Antoinette Gomes, Director, The Unity Center
LGBTQ Baseline**

The Unity Center, opened in 1994, increases cultural awareness by providing a safe forum for exploring issues pertaining to diversity, equity and inclusion. Through this work, the Center assists students in becoming informed, productive citizens.

The LGBTQ Baseline project will help the Unity Center advance equitable treatment and improve the quality of life of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ) individuals at RIC and in the broader community by proactively increasing awareness of LGBTQ issues on the campus. The Center will develop a profile of the college's LGBTQ population, expand its collection of LGBTQ-relevant titles, and sponsor a "Closets are for Clothes" program during the college's annual Diversity Week.



(Photo: Members of Helping Others Promote Equality...HOPE)

Mary Sullivan, Professor, Mathematics and Computer Science; Director, RI STEM Center

Stephen Ramocki, Professor, Management and Marketing

A CASE for STEAM: Transforming Stem Learning

A CASE for STEAM

developed out of the STEM to STEAM working group, a multi-disciplinary, multi-partner collaboration spearheaded by RIC President Nancy Carriuolo and RISD President John Maeda. This two-year pilot proposal was submitted in March 2011 to the National Science Foundation under their Transforming STEM Learning program.

This proposal will allow RIC to expand its partnership with the Providence After School Alliance to bring

together interdisciplinary teams of college faculty and students and community-based science educators to demonstrate experiential, creative problem solving in middle school after school programs. It will also develop a network of formal and informal hubs, both virtual and actual, that encourage flexibility, innovation and wide participation by all who want to increase their STEM literacy.

For RIC, **A CASE for STEAM** advances interdisciplinary teaching and learning opportunities for the college's faculty and students by including three of RIC's five schools: Education, Arts and Sciences and Management. *A CASE for STEAM* was positively reviewed by the National Science Foundation and is scheduled for re-submission in March 2012.



(Photo: Dr. Mary Sullivan and students in the STEM Learning Center)