

Pursuing her dream

Veteran's calling to oral surgery came after injury

Staci Smith's life was changed in Iraq. A violent accident on a mission in 2006 left her seriously hurt, but also with a calling. Today she is a student at the Community College of Rhode Island, following her dream born, unlikely enough, in a war zone.

Smith enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps immediately after she finished high school in 2003.

"I felt like joining the Marine Corps would open more doors for my future than just staying in my hometown," she said.

The California native was stationed at Camp Pendleton in San Diego, just a few hours south of her home in Oroville, near Sacramento. She worked as an ammunition technician, responsible for the armament and firearms safety of her fellow Marines. In February 2006, her unit was deployed to Iraq.

Smith's tour came to an abrupt and violent end in August after only a few months in the country. She was part of a convoy delivering ammunition to fellow Marines in the city of Habbinyah, riding in a humvee as the "A Driver," the designation of the passenger who is ready, in case of trouble, to pop through a hatch in the roof and defend the convoy with a mounted machine gun.

To this day, no one is sure exactly what happened next, or why, but the last thing Smith remembers is being inside the vehicle as it flipped over. The driver had somehow lost control of the humvee and it slammed into a concrete road barrier.



Staci Smith plans to attend Tufts University to become an oral surgeon so she can help others the way a doctor helped her after a serious injury when she was serving in Iraq.

Smith was thrown out of the gunner's hatch, badly hurt, and was promptly evacuated. Her memories of the next several hours, as she drifted in and out of consciousness, are hazy: being driven to the nearest base, riding in a helicopter in an emergency medical evacuation to Balad, medics asking her if she knew where she was and whether she remembered anything.

"It was kind of like I was there but I wasn't there," Smith said. "It was surreal."

Smith had suffered a deep cut under her eye and devastating injuries to her jaw, which was shattered by multiple fractures. Fortunately,

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Students return to CCRI this spring for a variety of reasons

The Community College of Rhode Island welcomed a near-record number of students to campus on Jan. 25 for the beginning of the 2010 spring semester.

More than 17,000 students attended classes at the Flanagan, Knight, Liston and Newport County campuses, most returning from previous semesters but some attending college for the first time or returning after a long break.

At a lounge area of the Flanagan Campus, students sitting together between classes represented a cross-section of the people who are attending CCRI today.

James Rose, from North Smithfield, is in his second semester of general education courses and he hopes to transfer to a four-year college or university when this

process is complete.

"I figured I would do my general education classes here, where it's not too far [from home] and not too expensive," he said.

Rose added that he has been enjoying the college so far. "The professors clearly enjoy what they do. It makes coming to school a lot more fun," he said.

With him were his friends Jeff Allard, a fourth-semester student, and Libby Francisco, who was fresh from her first-ever college course, Italian I.

"I was confused at first, but now that I'm here it's understandable," Francisco said about attending college. It's a sentiment that many freshmen likely can relate to.

Near these students sat Laurie

Mancini, a freshman of a different but increasingly common type; Mancini already holds a bachelor's degree but is attending CCRI for the training she needs to change careers.

"I was in the mortgage industry for the past 18 years, and you know where that went," Mancini said. "Now I'm doing something I want to do as opposed to something I had to do."

When she was laid off, Mancini saw a listing of college programs that the Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training would help students to pay for. One of these was her current major, diagnostic medical sonography, which appealed to her as a way to help people and as a field with a reli-

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Students, faculty help organizations respond to Haiti

The disaster in Haiti has inspired people from all over the world to help in any way they can through steps large and small, from volunteering to visit the earthquake-rocked nation to donating to international relief organizations.

This outpouring helped to keep the earthquake's survivors alive for the initial aftermath, but a new phase of reconstruction is beginning: the people of Haiti will need a long-term investment in shelter and medical care as they rebuild their country.

People at the Community College of Rhode Island can help – and already are helping – with this effort.

Several local charities have combined their efforts and are visiting local schools. They have been appearing at campus events and has worked with student government to set up bins where students can make donations.

The Haitian Family Organization, a philanthropic group based out of Pawtucket, will deliver electrolyte tablets, water, medical items, sleeping bags, clothes, shoes, food, power generators, baby products and other items through the Dominican Republic and into small Haitian towns that were affected by the earthquake but have not yet received substantial aid.

The organization's longstanding ties in Haiti have ensured that the supplies will be delivered through a member of the Dominican congress and a sub-director of

immigration in Haiti.

"Whoever so far has shown us their support, we appreciate it," said Seide Richemond, a member of the Haitian Family Organization. "What we need now from people are money and medical supplies. Even their prayers are appreciated."

'These are people, these are mothers and fathers and children and we have to be there for them.'

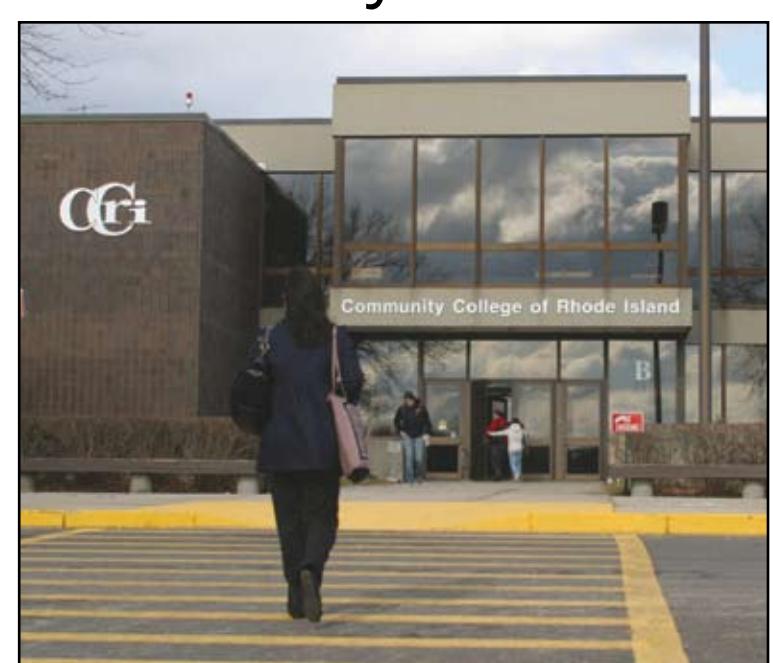
— Duikenson Merisier, CCRI student, member of the Haitian Family Organization

Richemond was a CCRI student hoping to become an electrical engineer when the earthquake struck Haiti, and he decided he needed to spend his tuition money on a cause greater than himself.

"I think school might have to be my second priority right now," he said. "I've got family and friends [in Haiti] who need clothes."

Richemond grew up in Haiti and lost a cousin in the earthquake who was studying in Port-au-Prince. He said that young people in Haiti frequently move from the countryside to the city to go to college and this meant

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Students come and go at the Flanagan Campus in Lincoln.

President reflects on participation in D.C. forum

Wherever he travels, Community College of Rhode Island President Ray Di Pasquale talks about the value of CCRI to the state and the good work of its staff and students. He recently took that message to the president of the United States.

Di Pasquale was the only Rhode Islander and the only community college president who participated in President Obama's Jobs and Economic Growth Forum in Washington, D.C., in December.

Obama invited more than 100 academics, business owners, union leaders and CEOs from companies such as American Airlines and Boeing to discuss ideas to stimulate job growth in the flagging economy. The forum was held in the Eisenhower Executive Office Building next to the White House and President Obama attended.

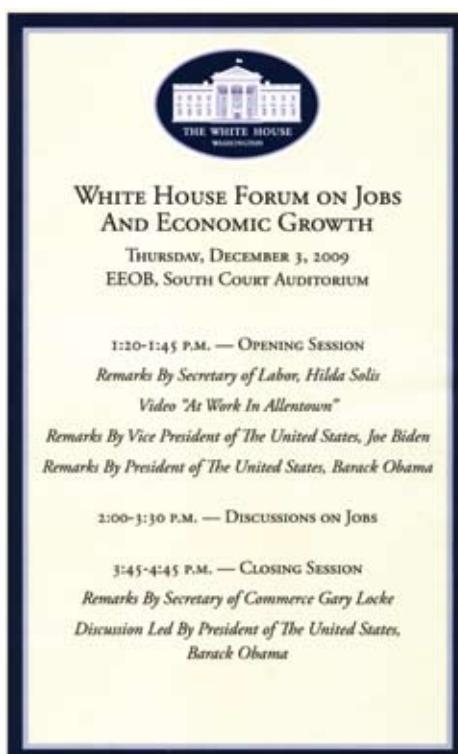
"It was a fantastic opportunity to represent education in that context and be the only person speaking for Rhode Island," Di Pasquale said. "Being a part of something as important as this is at best humbling. I walked away feeling like this was an incredible honor."

He also walked away with ideas for CCRI and for Rhode Island. Di Pasquale is working to organize his own forum at the college, inviting Rhode Island's government officials and legislators so he can share the ideas for job growth that were discussed in Washington.

"Let's take the best practices from across the country and talk about how to use them here," Di Pasquale said.

One idea is the concept of America's community colleges as an important source of job training and retraining, which President Obama advanced and reinforced during the forum's smaller workshops.

"It's because of President Obama that community colleges are back in the spotlight," Di Pasquale said. "He's made them a priority and we're extremely thankful for



CCRI President Ray Di Pasquale shakes hands with Congressman James Langevin during a press conference announcing Di Pasquale would participate in the White House Forum on Jobs and Economic Growth. Langevin nominated Di Pasquale for the honor, and Di Pasquale was the only representative from Rhode Island and the only community college president to attend the forum. At left is his invitation.

that, but now we need to make sure they have the funding to do what he wants them to do."

One goal of the proposed forum at CCRI is to find a way to give the college the funding it needs to match its expanding role: retraining individuals who are laid off or switching careers for the jobs of tomorrow while continuing to prepare those entering the work force for the first time.

Rhode Island Congressman Jim Langevin arranged for Di Pasquale to attend the forum and held a joint press conference with him at CCRI prior to the trip. No lawmakers were invited to attend the D.C. forum.

"I was excited when President Obama announced the forum and I wanted to make sure we could get Rhode Island a place at the table for that discussion,"

Langevin said.

"CCRI came to mind right away with the important work that President Di Pasquale is doing here."

During the press conference, Langevin and Di Pasquale highlighted the work that the college is doing in cooperation with the state of Rhode Island, such as creating nine new certificate programs in cooperation with the Department of Labor and Training.

Di Pasquale said that more funding will be necessary to identify the "jobs of the future" and prepare students to fill them.

He cited the work of Michigan's state legislature, which is using federal stimulus money for community college job training programs, as an example for Rhode Island to follow.

More such funds may be coming to

Rhode Island as the U.S. House and Senate also debate stimulus funding for America's community colleges, supporting both Pell Grants and workforce training programs.

The White House seems to be on board as well, with one conclusion of the Jobs and Economic Growth Forum being that community colleges are an affordable way to stimulate the economy by retraining the unemployed to return to work in new fields.

"With programs like these, there's lots of hope in these trying economic times," Di Pasquale said, adding that CCRI will benefit as the state's sole community college.

"We're going to fight for just one college," he said. "I think this is going to be a wonderful opportunity for us."

News Briefs

Spring JAA Days announced

JAA Days provide students with the opportunity to learn about the Joint Admissions Agreement (JAA) among the Community College of Rhode Island, Rhode Island College and the University of Rhode Island that enables students to move efficiently from an associ-

ate degree to a bachelor's degree and allows students to graduate from CCRI with an associate degree in General Studies and 60 credits that will apply directly to a specified bachelor's degree program at RIC or URI. JAA Days also allow continuing JAA students to meet with advisers. Spring JAA Days are scheduled to take place:

Tuesday, March 2, from 1 to 6 p.m. in Room 1040 at the Knight Campus in Warwick

Wednesday, March 3, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Atrium at the Liston Campus in Providence

Monday, March 15, from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the Atrium at the Newport County Campus

Tuesday, March 16, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Room 1040 at the Knight Campus

Wednesday, March 31, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the rear of the cafeteria at the Flanagan Campus in Lincoln

or at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 3; Thursday, March 25; and Thursday, April 8.

You will have the unique opportunity to learn the Italian language and culture and participate in cultural excursions to Rome, Pompeii, Orvieto, Assisi, Perugia, Florence and small towns of Umbria such as Todi, Narni, Spello and more.

Participants may register for the one-week program (June 23 to July 1); the two-week program (June 23 to July 8); or the three-week program (June 23 to July 15). The program is open to community members, professionals and college students with a common interest in the Italian language and culture.

For more information, please visit http://faculty.ccri.edu/mmansella/study_abroad_italy.shtml, call (401) 825-2011 or e-mail mmansella@ccri.edu.

hitting and drill repetitions. Players must bring their own bats and gloves and must wear sneakers. The fee is \$90, or \$70 for second members of the same family or an additional camp attended by one camper. Please call (401) 825-2405 for more information.

CCRI to host lecture on Western worldviews

The Community College of Rhode Island welcomes history professor and award-winning author Glenn Sunshine to present, "How we got here: History and worldview," at 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 11, in the Bobby Hackett Theater at the Knight Campus in Warwick. The event, which is sponsored by the CCRI Foundation, is open to the public and there is no fee to attend.

Sunshine, a professor of history at Central Connecticut State University, will discuss the ways

Western worldviews have developed from the Renaissance to the present. During the presentation, he will focus on the issue of modernity: why it arose, how it evolved, why it collapsed, and its implications for contemporary society. Sunshine has published three books and numerous articles on history, theology and culture online and on both sides of the Atlantic. His latest book, "Why You Think the Way You Do: The Story of Western World-

views from Rome to Home" (Zondervan, 2009), received the 2006 Acton Institute Book Grant. He has taught a variety of Bible, history and worldview seminars and courses around the United States and in Europe. He is also the content consultant for Wide Angle, a worldview program.

CCRI Players announce spring schedule

The CCRI Players will present the following productions during the Spring 2010 semester:

"Blocks, Blacks & Bentwoods: The Student Project" is a showcase of short plays and scenes that will be performed Thursday, March 4, through Sunday, March 7, in the Bobby Hackett Theater at the Knight Campus in Warwick. Tickets cost \$5 each. Showtimes are at 7:30 p.m. March 4; 8 p.m. March 5 and 6; and 2 p.m. March 7.

"A Time to Dance," written and performed by Libby Skala, is being presented in association with the Charles Sullivan Fund for the Arts and Humanities. It celebrates the 100-year life of award-winning dance therapy pioneer Elizabeth Polk through poverty, artistic repression, the Nazi regime and the joyous persistence of the human spirit. The show, which won acclaim at the 2009 New York International

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CCRI Currents

Your Community College News Connection

CCRI Currents newsletter is published 10 times per year by the Department of Marketing & Communications. If you have a story idea or comments on this publication, contact Kristen Cyr at kclcyr@ccri.edu or 825-1175.

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Learn about Summer Immersion Program in Italy

Would you like to learn how to prepare delicious Italian dishes, pastries and gelato while learning the Italian language and culture? Learn about the college's Summer Immersion Program in Italy at one of four informational meetings in Room 4080 at the Knight Campus in Warwick at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 25,

CCRI Athletics offers baseball camp in March

Two sessions of baseball camp will be offered at the Knight Campus in Warwick to help baseball players ages 7 and older get ready for the season. Camps are being offered from 8 to 11 a.m. Saturday and Sunday, March 13 and 14 and Saturday and Sunday, March 20 and 21. Camp activities include a computer analysis of each player and



Gov. Donald L. Carcieri responds to questions about the future of the biotechnology industry in the state during a recent visit from CCRI students and faculty. Student Ann Canole (left) served as class spokeswoman during the State House visit, asking the governor questions.

Biotech students discuss future of industry with Governor Carcieri

Students from the Community College of Rhode Island's Biotechnology program met with Rhode Island Gov. Donald Carcieri at the State House recently to discuss the future of the biotech industry in Rhode Island.

With the state capitol building decked out for the holidays, the CCRI students were received in the historic State Room, which is often used for press conferences, overlooking the city of Providence.

The six students and their instructor, Assistant Biology Professor Scott Warila, had an informal meeting and chat with the governor followed by an in-depth question-and-answer session about the future of their field in Rhode Island.

"I think biotechnology is very exciting for our state and for our nation," Carcieri said. "I think this is a real future for us."

He added that the Northeast is a hub for the biotechnology industry and that, with the proper investment, Rhode Island can become a particular center for the field, with Amgen Inc. and Alexion already here and CCRI, Brown University and the University of Rhode Island ready to train a qualified work force.

To accomplish this, Carcieri said his Governor's Workforce Board supports biotech workforce development at CCRI and URI. He said he would like to see younger students exposed to the sciences at an earlier age, encouraging them to consider science as a career.

Carcieri said that jobs in the sector are promising now and will steadily grow.

He cautioned, however, that the growth of biotechnology will take time and will be subject to the rough economy like every other industry.

"This economic recession is very severe and the demand will ebb and flow with the demands of the economy, but as you look ahead 10 or 20 years, there will

be a great need for a work force with skills in this industry," Carcieri said.

"I think those of you who are investing your time and energy into this industry are going to find that it's a good thing to do."

CCRI student Ann Canole served as class spokeswoman during the State House visit, asking the governor questions that the class had prepared, and then the floor was opened to general discussion. Canole already holds a bachelor's degree in microbiology and a master's of business administration, making her well-versed on the topic of the scientific industry. She said she enjoyed the discussion with Carcieri.

"I felt like he was really just talking to me; he was very personable," she said. "I was impressed with him and he's very enthusiastic about the program, I can tell."

Other students agreed.

"I think it was fantastic," said biotech student Kathy Greenwood. "The governor knew his stuff inside out. He's a great advocate for biotechnology and this just showed it again."

Greenwood was one of the organizers of the State House visit. She saw the governor speak about biotechnology at another event and thought that a meeting with CCRI's biotech students would be beneficial.

Warila agreed that the trip was helpful for the students and the college as a whole.

"The students want to know more about biotechnology's future in Rhode Island and we thought it would be a good idea to come [to the State House]," he said. "It's a great opportunity for them and a great opportunity for the program."

Biotechnology at CCRI is a three-semester certificate program but students may opt to apply their certificate credits toward an associate degree in science. Some go on to attend other institutions to earn bachelor's

and master's degrees.

Warila said CCRI is working to strengthen a transition agreement with URI allowing CCRI biotech students to transfer their certificate credits into URI's four-year biotechnology program more easily.

Warila said that not every student transfers or continues with his or her studies, with some CCRI graduates going right into the biomanufacturing field or using their newly acquired skills to work in other areas of science, such as research.

With the biotech industry growing, many of the students in CCRI's program are hoping to enter the field as a career change.

"I'm just looking for something that's stable in a market that's unstable. You're hoping that science is the way to go," said student Caroline O'Cain.

Another CCRI student, Diane Calechman enrolled after being laid off from her 11-year career as a computer technician for IBM.

"I went on the computer to see what would be growing in the future and I knew I wanted to work in the science or medical field," she said about how she came to the Biotechnology program.

Andy Chappell is the youngest of the biotechnology students, having attended URI right out of high school before transferring to CCRI.

"If you want to find a successful program at CCRI, just look where the nontraditional students are going," he said.

Chappell added that biotechnology is a good scientific field to enter to find work after college, one that is helped by its diversity.

"It's so broad," he said. "The word 'biotech' applies to so many different things. Technically, brewing beer is biotech."

To view a video of the students' visit with Carcieri, go to www.ccri.edu/publicrelations/Videogallery.shtml.

CCRI student receives 'Dollars for Scholars'

Community College of Rhode Island student Brian Lemus has always been active at school, and his hard work was rewarded when he was chosen for the Latino Dollars for Scholars financial award in January.

"It means a lot to me, I'm the first generation on my mother's side to go to college," Lemus said about his scholarship. "I'm proud because of who I am, my nationality and my hard work in high school."

Lemus and 18 other recipients were awarded \$1,000, which they can use however they see fit. Lilliam Abreu, secretary of the Dollars for Scholars Foundation and an admissions officer in CCRI's Office of Enrollment Services, said an advantage of the scholarship is that it allows the students to use the money to address their own specific needs, such as for books, tuition, school supplies or even transportation to classes. Lemus said he will spend most of his money on textbooks.

Since 1993, the Latino Dollars for Scholars Foundation of Rhode Island has bestowed this award annually to undergraduates from Rhode Island who attend college throughout the country in an effort to encourage Latino participation in higher education.

This year, the scholarships were presented at a ceremony at the Providence Marriott attended by U.S. Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, Attorney General Patrick Lynch and Providence Mayor David Cicilline.

Abreu said that the scholarship applicants were judged on their academic performance, community service activity, an achievement statement essay, involvement in the Latino community and financial need.

Lemus proved to be a strong candidate. A mathematics major in CCRI's Joint Admissions Agreement program, he is a member of the Unfiltered Lens, the Political Science Club, the Engineering Students Association and SIAM (Society of Industrial and Applied Mathematics.) He is a first-generation American born in Pawtucket to Guatemalan parents.



Brian Lemus

Lemus holds the unusual distinction of having two high school diplomas, one from Shea High School in his hometown of Pawtucket, and one from Keynote National High School, an online institution.

Lemus' parents wanted him to take classes from Keynote to receive what they felt was a good education, but Lemus wanted to attend a regular public high school for the social experience. As a compromise, he attended Shea during the day and worked on his online coursework at night.

On top of this extra school work, Lemus was also a math tutor at Shea during his junior year with the STAR program, short for Student Tutors Achieving Results. In his senior year, he had an internship with Tech Collective doing research and statistical analysis.

Lemus graduated from high school in 2009 and entered the University of Rhode Island Talent Development Program but he had difficulties with the academic transition and had to withdraw. Now at CCRI, he is refocusing his energies on academics before transferring to a four-year school.

Lemus applied to receive the Latino Dollars for Scholars Scholarship while he was still in high school, but he said he is happy to have received it while at CCRI.

"I was surprised that I received the award, I'm proud I've gotten something accomplished for the school," Lemus said.

Youths invited to spend vacation at Kids' College

The Community College of Rhode Island's Center for Workforce and Community Education will host its popular Kids' College program during school vacation week, April 19 to 23, at the William H. Davies Career and Technical High School in Lincoln.

The program is geared toward children 8 to 12 years old and will run each morning Monday to Friday. Children can sign up for programs that explore the arts, science and more. Parents can register their children for the entire morning – two 90-minute

classes – or for one 90-minute class.

The cost is \$130 plus a \$5 registration fee for the half-day program or \$70 plus a \$5 registration fee for one class. A discount is available for those who register by April 2.

A full-day Kids' College program also will run this summer in two-week sessions from July 12 to 23 and July 26 to Aug. 6 at the CCRI Knight Campus in Warwick. To learn more, visit www.ccri.edu/cwce/personal/kidscollege.shtml or call (401) 825-2033.

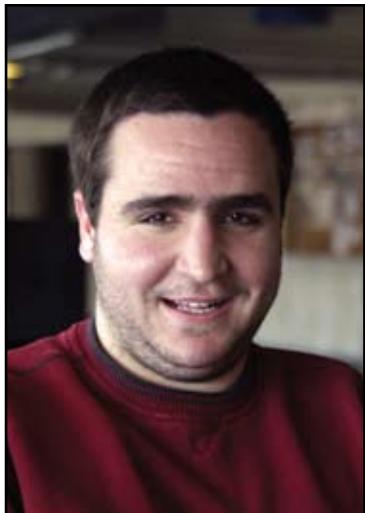
Heard on campus ...

What is your resolution for 2010?



"My resolution is to not shave for all of 2010."

– Keith Riessen



"My resolution is to eat better and possibly lose some weight."

– Shawn Gaccione



"My resolution is to complete my studies."

– Faija Islam



"My resolution is to travel more."

– Delachance Hakizimana



"My resolution is to get a 9-to-5 job by the end of the year."

– Jessica Buono

Help sought for earthquake victims

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they were killed in disproportionate numbers, leaving many rural families bereft.

But the members of these charitable organizations have faith that Haiti can recover. Dukenson Merisier, another member of the Haitian Family Organization and a CCRI computer engineering major, returned to America from a visit to Haiti two days before the earthquake.

"I saw the way they were struggling, but these are very resilient people. Every time they fall down, they find a way to get back up again," he said.

But Merisier added that Haiti will need help in this effort.

"I would like to have everybody lend a helping hand, it doesn't matter what you do, just do it," he said.

The Haiti Charity Hope Foundation also is involved in the donation drive. The Central Falls-based group has been visiting the small town of Lamothe, Haiti, since 2006 and is raising money to build an orphanage and a well for clean drinking water. It will send a group of doctors, teachers and construction workers in April.

Also contributing is Help for the Children, a Providence-based group that will send doctors and engineers to Haiti at the end of February to treat long-term injuries and build a clinic.

Marie Gabriel, the founder and president of the Haiti Charity Hope Foundation, said the country will need long-term care. Gabriel has been returning to Haiti for 10 years, even before founding the Charity Hope Foundation, and has been driven to alleviate the country's suffering.

"The place I was helping was a disaster before the disaster," she said, adding that some people spent years without seeing a doctor. The poverty she saw in Haiti's rural areas inspired her to return regularly with supplies and a group of volunteers to make whatever difference she could.

"If I have a beautiful house, I want them to have a beautiful house. If I eat well, I want them to eat well too," she said.

CCRI Associate Professor of Human Services William Pelliccio also has experience in Haiti, having visited last in 2007 with a relief organization based out of Boston. He describes it as a beautiful country beset by problems.

"It was utterly poor. When I was there in 2007 they were having a lot of political problems and civil unrest so the United Nations was controlling the country," Pelliccio said. "People were in abject poverty, they didn't really look at you or try to hustle you like they do in other third-world countries, but as soon as I would make some kind of attempt to talk to them, they would soften right up."

Pelliccio was visiting in the wake of flooding and he knows there is more to Haiti than a poor nation.

Merisier knows this, too. He remembers Haiti as a nation of homes and families, with a strong sense of community, one that has faced many disasters with dignity.

"We know the history of Haiti and how it used to be," he said. "We want to show everyone what it used to be. These are people, these are mothers and fathers and children and we have to be there for them."

People can donate directly to the Haiti Charity Hope Foundation online at www.hchf.org, the Haitian Family Organization at www.haitianfamilyorganization.org or by calling Help for the Children at (401) 206-7966.

Students back in classes for spring

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able job market.

Josephine St. John is another nontraditional student this semester. She is already a graduate of CCRI and Rhode Island College and works as a nurse. She is returning to CCRI to finish prerequisites for a master's program she will attend at the University of Rhode Island.

"I want to have a broader education to be able to help my patients in more specific ways," she said. Like St. John, art student Jessi Peralta also plans to attend another school after CCRI. He will take classes at the New England Institute of Art this fall after he completes his second year at

CCRI studying graphic design. Peralta said that he saved money by attending CCRI for his first two years of college, which let him stay close to home and finish general education requirements while learning the basics of his chosen field.

"CCRI was the best choice for me," he said.

Other students said their reason for returning to CCRI this semester was the convenience of the school's several campuses and night classes, which makes it possible to attend part time around their work schedule. One such student is Ashley Medeiros, who takes nursing courses at the Liston Campus.

"I like how this campus is

small and convenient; it's nice," the East Providence resident said.

CCRI's students are coming to campus with different ages, educational backgrounds, schedules, and reasons for attending, and they are met by a staff that ties them all together.

"My classes are full; all the students were there, geared up and ready to go," said Associate English Professor Maureen Abbott about her first day of classes for the spring semester. "It was great to see them."

Her colleague, Associate English Professor Ann O'Leary, agreed. "The students are spirited. They're ready to come back," she said.

Smith hopes to help others as oral surgeon

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major.

She hopes to attend Tufts University beginning in the fall or spring of 2011 in preparation for dental school and an ultimate career in oral surgery.

In the meantime, she continues to serve others as best she can. She is active with the Wounded Warrior Project, a nonprofit organization that helps soldiers injured in the line of duty transition back to civilian life and cope with any long-term or permanent injuries they have. The organization also puts on concerts and other events for veterans.

"It's an all-around support system for when they get back," Smith said.

As both a volunteer and an alumna, the group's term for wounded veterans, Smith has acted as a spokeswoman for the group, appearing on "The Rhode Show" television program to promote a recent fundraiser.

Smith is also active on campus, serving as executive vice president and academic vice president of Student Government in Lincoln. Chenot serves with her as the vice president of finance.

"It's intense, that's for sure, but it's a lot of fun too," Smith said about her extra responsibilities.

Smith said her desire to serve on Student Government comes from wanting to contribute to her campus, where she is taking the first step toward her career.

"I think it's completely true what they say, that they're changing lives," she said about CCRI. "All the professors that I've had here are really amazing."

There is only one downside so far for the California native, transplanted now to North Providence: New England winters.

"I enjoy snowboarding and playing in the snow, but shoveling and having to clean off my car is not very fun," she said.

Enrollment Services pilots student ambassador program

You may have seen them at a transfer fair or in the advising and counseling office when you went to register for classes last semester. Or perhaps their black blazers stood out at an athletic event. Whatever the case may be, the student ambassadors were all over CCRI campuses during the fall semester.

The three students who served as ambassadors were part of a pilot program in the Office of Enrollment Services (OES). As part of her graduate school practicum, Admissions Officer Ruby Morris-Jones proposed bringing a student ambassador program to CCRI while simultaneously thinking of new ways to increase student enrollment.

"I stepped back and tried to figure out what programs we, as an institution, were missing that other colleges and universities had in place to be creative in recruiting new students," said Morris-Jones. "Because student ambassadors were once new students themselves, they are able to share their own college experiences and perhaps persuade others to continue their education at CCRI."

Several students interviewed for the open positions last summer and three were chosen to represent OES as student ambassadors – Tessa Constant, Zahra Malko and Greg Rebelo. They got involved right away, working in the OES office on the Flanagan Campus in Lincoln, showing new students how to log into MyCCRI, serving as greeters for events coordinated



Admissions Officer Ruby Morris-Jones (left) initiated a student ambassador program at the college as part of her graduate school practicum. With her are the ambassadors who took part in the pilot program, Greg Rebelo, Tessa Constant and Zahra Malko.

by Student Government and ushers for theater productions and participating in high school visits with Morris-Jones where they shared their personal experiences.

"I remember when I was in high school in the inner city (South Bronx). It was a 10 percent graduation rate. None of us thought about going to college. So the idea of me going to high schools to talk about college, I thought, was important," said Constant. "I told one girl I was going to check up on her. She was shocked that someone would take an interest in her

like that."

The dozens of assignments the ambassadors received provided them with an opportunity to increase their team-building skills, network with other departments at CCRI, increase their knowledge about the college and improve their communication skills.

"I saw my job as to make students aware of the value and responsibilities of CCRI," said Rebelo. "One thing that was attractive to me was the communication aspect. I had a lot of experiences to share about the school, about what should

be done, tricks of the trade and how things really are from the inside."

Malko summed up her time as one of the first CCRI student ambassadors, "I'm really involved with the school and I am always looking for something new to do, so that's why I wanted to be a student ambassador. I tell the students that the most important thing they can do is get involved. I've met so many people through this; it was a great experience."

Though the program is being reviewed as a possible ongoing initiative, Morris-Jones is

After president's resignation, team leads Liston Campus

The Liston Campus of the Community College of Rhode Island operates under a unique form of student government. When the campus' president resigned in September, a group of students formed the Liston Student Leadership Team, a democratic group that operates with every position that the other student governments have except for a president.

This new government has been operating since December and was officially sworn in during Liston Student Life Day on Feb. 8. The all-day event also featured a raffle, lunch, and booths representing various student groups and outside organizations that students can join.

The idea behind the student leadership team is that it is a new kind of government to suit the unique needs of the Liston Campus.

"Relative to our diversity on our campus, we thought it would be good to have something different," said Stu Mundy, the team's vice president of finance. "There's more democracy on a leadership team and there's greater representation than just having a president."

Liston Student Life Day featured many organizations and groups, such as the Delta Epsilon Chi business club, the Law Enforcement Club, the Latin American Student Organization, the Non-Violence Club

'There's more democracy on a leadership team and there's greater representation than just having a president.'

— Stu Mundy, vice president of finance, Liston Leadership Team

and the Black American Student Association.

Representatives of Rhode Island Secretary of State Ralph A. Mollis were present to register students to vote, the Rhode Island Family Court sought volunteers to be child advocates and the National College Advising Corps gave students advice about planning their education.

"I think this day is great because it gives students a chance to see what's here on campus and out there in the community," said Dion Baker, vice president of finance and public relations. Baker is also this month's acting chairman, a position that rotates each month.

"It gives each of us as individuals a chance to build up our skills in public speaking, organizing and leadership," he said about the rotating chairperson

position.

Another important reason for Student Life Day was to give students a venue to meet their representatives on the Leadership Team and share any concerns they have about the campus.

"At the end of the day it's really going to come down to these people. We can't do anything if the students don't tell us anything," said Bill Lewis, the community organizer of the leadership team.

Elsa Tavares, the team's secretary, said students may not necessarily be aware of the leadership team, its members, or its goals. "I wasn't even aware who was on the leadership team before this. That's why we wanted

to have such a big event today," she said.

But the team does have some goals already. They want to have more classes offered at Liston because commuting to other campuses can be difficult for students without cars and with tight work schedules.

Lewis said that there are few majors that can be completed entirely at Liston, while students at Warwick or Flanagan have an easier time remaining there for their entire academic careers.

He also said he also hopes the team will promote general academic excellence, stressing the differences between high school and college and the importance of diligent work. "This is academia; you have to shape it up

pleased with how it worked last semester. "The most rewarding aspect of this program is knowing these three students will not forget their experiences as CCRI student ambassadors. They have shown dedication and have put 100 percent of their effort into making this program a success."

Each of the three student ambassadors received an appreciation certificate, signed by President Ray Di Pasquale, in recognition of their hard work and dedication to the CCRI Student Ambassador Pilot Program.

In November, the three student ambassadors had the opportunity to meet with CCRI President Di Pasquale off campus to learn more about the qualities of a good leader. During this luncheon, President Di Pasquale provided thoughtful answers to questions the students asked as well as hints about what it takes to become a leader.

"To lead you need to be realistic, optimistic, listen carefully to those around you and have a passion for what you do," Di Pasquale said. "You also have to have tough skin and not be afraid to take a chance."

Di Pasquale continued, "You have to love what you are doing and live and breathe it. The three of you represent why I love what I do. You inspire me. I choose to work at the community college because of you; to help you prepare for your future."

Liston Campus

here," he said.

The leadership team seems to have what it needs to accomplish these goals and more.

"They work really beautifully together. They have the goal of bettering the Liston campus in mind," said Associate Dean of Student Life and Service Learning Rebecca Yount.

She added that the leadership team originally was established as a solution to a particular problem – the resignation of the president at the Liston Campus – but it may become the permanent form of government in Providence.

"It takes really strong leaders coming together to make this work," she said, "and we have that here."

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... advanced technology that will enable CCRI to create a model of excellence in health care education.

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CCRI's \$5.5 million "Imagine: The Campaign for Endless Possibilities" will help the college strengthen its Allied Health programs, build new state-of-the-art facilities, establish scholarships and enhance its athletic program to strengthen its foundation for the future.

Do you want to help CCRI students on their path to success? Visit www.ccri.edu/imagine or call (401) 333-7150 to learn how you can support these college initiatives that will help students change their lives and achieve their dreams.



Bill Lewis, the community organizer of the Liston Campus Leadership Team, listens to speakers during the annual Student/Faculty Leadership Conference at Sprague Mansion. The conference brings together the student leaders at all four campuses to share ideas for greater interaction.

Campus leaders interact at annual conference

The holiday season is about coming together, so the Thursday before Thanksgiving was a perfect time to gather the student leaders from the Community College of Rhode Island's four campuses in one place.

Members of the Student Governments, the Student Ambassador Program, Campus Compact/AmeriCorps, student clubs and organizations, and faculty advisers joined one another for the annual Student/Faculty Leadership Conference.

The event was held at Sprague Mansion in Cranston, where participants discussed their recent activities, themes of civic engagement and leadership, and ways to bring CCRI's campuses closer together to encourage a greater sense of community.

"We are the Community College of Rhode Island and the sooner we come together, the sooner we can knock down walls and barriers," said Ella Laprocina, co-vice president of public relations for the Liston Campus Student Government Leadership Team.

Raymond Beltran, president of the Student Government at the Flanagan Campus, also said that a unified student body among the campuses is important and applauded the conference.

"This government is about building community within the college ... so anything that can develop a platform for there to be more community at CCRI is excellent," he said.

Several students said that the annual Leadership Conference serves just that purpose – allowing students to see the leaders of clubs and student governments from other campuses, which do not often mingle.

"I don't usually get to see a lot of the club members from other campuses," said Patrick Gabrielson, president of the Anime Club and a member of the Political Science Club, as well as a Student Government senator for the Knight Campus. "I hope we can do something else like this in the future and I hope other students from other clubs can

attend," he said.

Dion Baker, a member of the Liston Leadership Team, said the conference is a great environment for interaction and cooperation.

"I think it's great because we get to interact with everybody in a no-stress environment," he said.

Guests enjoyed a Thanksgiving-style lunch buffet before a speaking program representing the different student groups and organizations that were present. Members of each student government updated their peers about events at their campuses and shared ideas for greater campus interaction and hosting activities within each campus.

Next, members of the Student Ambassadors pilot program introduced themselves and explained their mission: visiting local high schools and college fairs to give prospective students advice about attending CCRI (see related story on Page 5.)

Ruby Morris-Jones, an admissions officer at the Flanagan Campus and director of the Student Ambassador Program, said it is about investing in students, both those thinking about going to college and those already at CCRI.

"The purpose of the program is to provide students with a leadership opportunity – an opportunity to step outside of CCRI," she said.

After the speaking program, the student leaders gathered for team building activities, an activity that Rebecca Yount, associate dean of Student Life and Service Learning, said is important for a group of student leaders that is newly elected every year.

She added that the conference is a great way for the students to meet and discuss issues of shared interest.

"It's a real delight to be able to bring the four campuses together," she said.

"Each year it gets better and better. I really see the students growing with this."

Liston Campus welcomes state's poet laureate to monthly reading

Some came for the free pizza and stayed for the poetry as the Community College of Rhode Island's Liston Campus hosted state Poet Laureate Lisa Starr at one of its monthly poetry readings on the afternoon of Dec. 2.

Students passing through the always-busy Atrium were pleased to find free pizza and soda, and a large crowd of students soon joined those who had come specifically for the reading.

The room was noisy at first, as students who hadn't come for the program enjoyed their meal and chatted with friends, even during the beginning of the reading. But as the poetry went on, the room soon grew quiet and the casual assembly of students became a large and captive audience. Passers-by slowed to listen while students on the second floor balcony leaned on the railings.

For Starr, the way the event came together represents her interpretation of poetry as an art form – something that sneaks up on us and lets us reconnect with our emotions amidst our busy lives.

"I think it's wonderful that you're having a poetry event in a public place," she said before reading her work. "Maybe someone who's convinced themselves that they don't like poetry will hear something they can relate to."

There was plenty to relate to, between Starr's and area poet David Dragone's readings on nature,



Rhode Island Poet Laureate Lisa Starr speaks in the Atrium at the Liston Campus in Providence during a monthly poetry reading.

family, love and death. Retired CCRI English professor Charles Sullivan drew laughs with his quick and light-hearted poems, sometimes only a few lines long.

After these readings, the event opened up for students to come to the microphone.

CCRI student Linus Powers read one of his original poems entitled "Let Me Think."

Powers, 21, said he has been writing music lyrics and poems his whole life, with poetry being his favorite medium.

"It offers the freedom to write with less constraints," he said.

Another student, Katie Cabral, read a monologue she wrote for a

theater class that she adapted into a poem.

"I felt the inspiration. I've never read in front of people before," she said.

Many students chose to read the works of famous writers, such as Walt Whitman, William Shakespeare and Langston Hughes.

One student's reading of a poem by rapper Tupac Shakur led to a discussion about the merits of hip-hop artists and slam poets compared to traditional writers.

"I thought it was really remarkable," Starr said about the afternoon. "For me, writing is about giving people a voice for their own thoughts and emotions. I think when we have a number of voices speaking we get community, and it was thriving at CCRI."

This form of community is created every month at Liston, not always featuring such distinguished guests, but always showcasing CCRI students and professors.

The readings are organized by English Professors Margaret Connell and Ellen Mroz and Associate Professors Ann O'Leary, Maureen Abbate and Laurie Sherman.

"It's for students and anyone else to hear poems read aloud, as most poems are intended to be," Sherman said. "It's sort of a dying art form and we'd like to keep it alive."

The next poetry readings will be held at noon on Friday, March 19, and at 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, April 14.

Students present business plans

The newest business on Providence's trendy Thayer Street, Triple C's Bakery, promises "our own twist on traditional cakes, cookies and cupcakes." Customers can order custom pastries for special occasions with any shape or design – that is, if the business existed.

Triple C's Bakery was the winning entry in the Delta Epsilon Chi Business Plan Competition, in which Community College of Rhode Island students presented mock business plans to demonstrate their marketing and entrepreneurial skills last semester.

The event was sponsored by the Business Administration Department and the CCRI Flanagan Campus chapter of Delta Epsilon Chi (DECA), an international association for students interested in business and marketing.

Ten teams of five students presented business plans in the Flanagan cafeteria for enterprises such as Rising Star Daycare, Patriot Pizza and Ultimate Experience Sports Bar.

Judges were Professor Jack Renza and Assistant Professor James Isherwood from the Business Administration Department, and Sol Solomon, a member of the Rhode Island Board of Governors for Higher Education and retired chairman of the Business Administration Department at CCRI.

The students competed for \$500 in donations from Cengage

Learning, a company that produces the marketing and management textbooks that the students need for their coursework.

With such a useful prize on the line, the students put their best work forward.

"The presentations went very well. I really give the students who participated and got up there a lot of credit," said Business Professor Carol Rowey, who required students from her Introduction to Business class to participate in the competition as a final project.

Student Casey Dextradeur said that this was, as far as final exams go, a fun way to end the semester.

"What we had to do was use everything we've learned so far. We already passed the written test so it was nice to use all of it in one place," he said.

Dextradeur's group wrote a business plan for Patriot Pizza, a restaurant dedicated to the New England Patriots. The pizza shop would display team memorabilia, serve pizzas named for famous players and would arrange promotions with members of the team.

Sports was a popular theme at the competition, with the second place team proposing the Ultimate Sports Bar, to be built in the Lincoln Mall.

Group member Eric Finegan said the bar would feature televisions in every booth, a college night to attract nearby CCRI and

Bryant University students and special events during big games for every sport.

"We want the customers to feel as if they're at the game," he said. "In a bad economy people still love sports and will go to a sports bar."

Business student Zahra Malko, president of DECA, said that teaching students to consider business and economic problems was part of the exercise.

"If they do want to become entrepreneurs they can see how difficult it really is," she said. "There's so much detail that goes into a business."

Aside from their marketing and management skills, Malko said the students gained valuable public speaking experience. This will come in handy for those students attending the DECA International Career Development Conference in Kentucky this April.

There, participating CCRI students will present the same type of mock business plans with a much larger audience and field of competitors.

For now, the DECA club is attending conferences closer to home and looking to attract more members by helping with Business Administration Department events such as the Business Plan Competition. Rowey, who is also the faculty adviser for DECA, said this is the first time the CCRI Business Administration Department has held the competition.

CCRI program helps turn animals into therapy pets

Pearl Salotto believes in paws-on learning. The Community College of Rhode Island instructor has been teaching pet-assisted therapy courses since 1996, showing students how to train a family pet to treat schoolchildren, hospital patients, the elderly and other groups for motivational, educational and therapeutic purposes.

"The theory is that pets make our world a better place," Salotto said. "Pets enhance the lives of any given person in any given situation."

Salotto said she has seen animals inspire depressed nursing home residents to leave their rooms, children with autism to emote, physical therapy patients to move while playing with a dog, and elementary school students to do their homework, attempt to stay off drugs and improve their behavior.

"The pet can motivate anyone who is in love with that pet to do what you want them to do," she said.

Salotto's DJ Pet Assisted Therapy Program at CCRI, named for her first dog, DJ, is taught in three separate courses that take about a year to complete. Salotto said that, unlike other programs that use shelter animals or that train animals but not people, her method allows students to work with their own family pets and receive a course in the theory of the profession prior to bringing

their pets to school.

However, when the pets do get involved, they and their owners are carefully trained.

"We don't try to change the pet's personality; he or she can be calm or enthusiastic and active," Salotto said.

Whatever their natural temperament, all the pets are specially trained for experiences related to the sights and sounds they will encounter at nursing homes, agencies and schools. This class is an eight-week "paws-on" session at Delmira Kennel in Exeter, where the dogs are acclimated to things such as wheelchairs, school bells, stairs and handicapped elevators.

After their pets pass this course, students take them on a 16-week internship that makes up the third course of the program.

Each student must create his or her own pet therapy program at a school, hospital or other location where one is not already in place.

After completing the one-hour-per-week internship, graduates of the course receive a certificate from CCRI and can apply for credentialing from the Windwalker Humane Coalition for Professional Pet Assisted Therapy, a nationwide professional organization.

"The philosophy is that pet-assisted therapy is a profession and professionals in any field have to be educated at a college



Pearl Salotto, who directs CCRI's pet-assisted therapy program through the college's Center for Workforce and Community Education, and her therapy dog, Panda Girl, pose before a display at the Liston Campus in Providence honoring some of the program's late therapy pet graduates.

or university," Salotto said.

Over the years, Salotto has educated hundreds of people

in this profession and has participated herself with several of her own animals, starting in

1986 with DJ.

Salotto was a school teacher in the Bronx at the time and had never heard of pet-assisted therapy.

"I happened to be at a library in New York City and somebody put a little brochure in my hand about it," Salotto said.

She enrolled in a program at Mercy College, first working with her beloved DJ and subsequently working for 14 years with Maj-En, touching countless lives as well. Today she lives and works with Panda Girl, a 10-year-old Great Pyrenees, and Angel, a Samoyed puppy.

CCRI has graduated many pet assisted therapy animals over the years, and a display case on the CCRI Liston Campus honors the work of those who have died: Maj-En, Fallon, Abbie, Scout, Dazi, Max, Oscar, and DJ.

"All these pets who have greeted students for 12 years and are no longer with us continue to inspire students to work with their own family therapy pets to build a better world," Salotto said.

The next beginner course in the Pet Assisted Therapy Program will begin on March 16 and will be offered from 3 to 5 p.m. Tuesdays at the Liston Campus in Providence.

For more information, call (401) 333-7070 for more info or visit www.ccri.edu/cwce/career/pet.shtml.

UCONN grad students learn about community colleges

Administrators at the Community College of Rhode Island hosted their potential future counterparts during a recent visit from graduate students in the University of Connecticut's Higher Education and Student Affairs program, which prepares graduates to work in a college or university.

The students were members of a professional group for their major called the University of Connecticut Student Affairs Association (UCSAA) and visited CCRI to gain some professional insight.

"We've heard a lot of good things about CCRI. It has a good national reputation," said Drew Cekada, vice president of communications for UCSAA.

He added that with community colleges gaining popularity nationwide, the UCONN students wanted to see firsthand how one is run.

"It's not something we hear much about because we come from a huge Division I school, but we wanted to get that diverse perspective," Cekada said.

Cekada and 23 of his fellow students attended a panel discussion led by CCRI Associate Vice President for Student Services Ronald Schertz. Several CCRI staffers sat on the panel representing many areas of the college's administration, including admissions, enrollment services, counseling, athletics and more.

Members of the panel introduced themselves and spoke



Associate Vice President for Student Services Ron Schertz leads a panel discussion for University of Connecticut graduate students who visited CCRI to learn more about community college administration.

about their careers in higher education, discussed day-to-day operations of the college and answered student questions.

Cekada said the visiting students were mostly concerned with learning what makes a community college different from a four-year institution in terms of its administration and student body, and what it is like to work there.

CCRI is a great place to have these questions answered because it is the only community college in its state, the largest in New England and serves a larger student body than many four-year institutions nationwide.

Several panel participants said the biggest difference between CCRI and other colleges is that there are no dormitories, a fact that influences the work of administrators and the ability

to create a student community.

"I never get a call in the middle of the night that there's a fire in a residence hall, but you lose that ability to have everybody in one place," said Assistant Dean for Student Success Michael Cunningham, who has worked in residential life at other schools.

Cunningham said the lack of a central population makes it harder to communicate with students and build a community.

"When everybody lives on campus it's easy to schedule a meeting because the students don't have to come back," he said. He added, "Some of them don't want to be part of your community, and you need them to be part of your community."

Another difference, Cunningham said, is simultaneously a challenge and a blessing: the

diversity of the student body. In one of his College Success courses, Cunningham said he taught students ranging in age from 17 to 47, both going to school for the first time.

"Reaching those students in the same three-hour slot each week is a challenge, but it makes you a better teacher and they have much to offer each other," he said.

"The diversity here is amazing," he added. "It's truly diverse in a racial and ethnic background but it's also diverse in age and ability. It's a multi-faceted diversity that makes the classes more rich."

At the start of the panel discussion, Schertz pointed out one more difference for educators at CCRI: the fact that much of the student body needs at least one remedial course upon

entering the college. Facing this challenge is in keeping with the school's mission to help people from all circumstances improve their situation.

Other issues discussed were how to administer across several campuses, dispensing student aid, and addressing student transfers and dropouts – usually because of a lack of funds.

Schertz worked with the UCONN students to plan their visit and holds a doctorate from the university himself.

"It's a pleasure for us to meet you here at the Community College of Rhode Island," he said.

Elizabeth Rapoport, the student group's professional development coordinator who worked with Schertz to plan the visit, said the UCONN students appreciated the opportunity to hear about the experiences of people in their field.

"We're really grateful that the CCRI staff could take some time out of the day to talk to us," Rapoport said. "Networking with professionals like this is going to make the difference for us in the future."

After the panel discussion, the students took a guided tour of the Knight Campus.

"It's a beautiful campus; very different from what I'm used to," said UCONN student Jacqueline Guzman. "I'm interested in working at a community college so this is giving me some insight about schools outside the state."

CCRI tenor wins vocal competition

Second-year student Antonio Rodrigues will perform as a soloist with the 23-piece Rhode Island Civic Chorale & Orchestra, Rhode Island's oldest continuing community choral ensemble, on March 20 as one of four winners of the group's second annual Collegiate Vocal Solo Competition. He also won the competition last year.

Judges for the competition were three of New England's most respected singers, none of whom lives in Rhode Island or is affiliated with any college in the state. Each has appeared on numerous occasions as a soloist with the Chorale. The winning soloists will perform Mozart's "Missa Brevis in C Major, KV220" ("Spatzenmesse") with the group.

"This year's entrants were



Antonio Rodrigues

outstanding, and demonstrate the depth of musical talent that Rhode Island's colleges, universities and community colleges have the pleasure of training," said Dr. Edward Markward, the orchestra's conductor and artistic director. "We definitely look forward to performing with the winners at our upcom-

ing concert."

Performing with Rodrigues will be winners Dania Hadi, soprano, and Kristina Marsland, mezzo-soprano, both seniors at Rhode Island College; and Heath Mayo, baritone, freshman at Brown University.

The concert will be held at 8 p.m. at the Cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul, 30 Fenner St., Providence.

Other works on the program include Charles Ives' "General William Booth Enters into Heaven," Gabriel Fauré's "Cantique de Jean Racine," Pachelbel's "Nun danket alle Gott" and the world premiere of contemporary composer Michael DeQuattro's "With One Voice," commissioned by the Chorale. For tickets, call (401) 521-5670 or e-mail info@ricco.org.

News Briefs

From page 2

Fringe Festival, will start at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, March 16, in the Bobby Hackett Theater at the Knight Campus in Warwick.

The Players will finish the academic year with a performance of "Much Ado About Nothing" by William Shakespeare, directed by Theodore R. Clement, from April 15 through 18 at the Flanagan Campus in Lincoln.

AS220 exhibition at Knight Campus Art Gallery

"Do It! Show It! Sing It! Work It!" an exhibition of the artwork of AS220 artists and friends, runs through March 4 at the Knight Campus Art Gallery in Warwick.

AS220 is a nonprofit community arts space in downtown Providence whose mission is to provide an unjurred and uncensored forum for the arts. The exhibition is a celebration of all the creative energy of all those who help to make AS220 a vital community art space.

Artists featured in the exhibition include Mia Acosta, Alexis Avedisian, Dawn Beagan, Moira Brady, Stephen Brownell, Nicole Chesney, Paul Clancy + Alyn Carlson, Jonathan Clark, Susan Clausen, Umberto Crenca, Susan Dansereau, Carmel Dundon, Lyn Goeringer, Edgardo Gonzales, Hope Hardesty, Scot Lapham, Viera Levitt, CW Roelle, Miguel Rosario, Ashley Vick, Anthony Villavincencio, Leigh Waldron-Taylor, Neal T. Walsh and Uriah Zoegar.

The gallery is located in Room 3500, on the third floor of the round building at the Warwick campus, 400 East Ave. Gallery hours are from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday and 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday. For more information, e-mail gallery director Viera Levitt at knightgallery@ccri.edu.

New art exhibition opening in Lincoln

Middletown resident Paula Marie Visnoski will exhibit "Revelation: One Woman's Journey" at the Community



"Predators & Prey," and award-winning watercolor by Middletown artist Paula Visnoski, will be on display in the exhibition "Revelation: One Woman's Journey" at the Community College of Rhode Island's Flanagan Campus Art Gallery from March 1 to 19.

College of Rhode Island's Flanagan Campus Art Gallery from March 1 to 19. An opening reception will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. on Thursday, March 4.

This exhibition features a selection of recent works that visually translate Visnoski's creative and life journey through watercolor, drawing, painting, photography and graphic arts. She will give an informal talk and discussion session at 7:30 p.m. during the March 4 reception.

Born and raised in Hudson, Mass., Visnoski said she became aware of her artistic abilities when she was about 5 years old. "I couldn't stop drawing on things," she said. Throughout her academic years, her art teachers molded her abilities into what would be a lifelong pursuit and she was named "Most Artistic" among her high school class. She studied with Lawrence Cron, known for his watercolors and graphic design work, and attended Worcester Art Museum and Worcester State College, studying fine art, graphic design and photography.

In 2006 she became a Member of the National Association of Photoshop Professionals and was an Editors' Choice winner for her photograph "Wetlands." She also has participated in national juried art exhibitions and competitions and was a 2008

winner for her watercolor painting "Predators & Prey" in the international juried online art exhibition and e-zine presented by The Manhattan Arts International Web site titled "Celebrate the Healing Power of Art 2008."

In 2009, her work was published in New Art Review Publications "Dimensions of Disclosure," featuring the top new artistic talents of the year. Also last year, her photograph "Into the Light" was a finalist in the International Photography Juried Competition sponsored by Canon and Photographer's Forum Magazine in the "Best of Photography 2009."

Most recently, Visnoski received four awards for her watercolor painting "Mortality" in The American Art Awards (online) juried art competition. Visit her Web site at www.pmvART.com.

The gallery is located in Room 2420 on the first floor at CCRI's Flanagan Campus, 1762 Louisquisset Pike, Lincoln. Gallery hours are from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. For more information, send an e-mail to flanagangallery@ccri.edu.

New hires announced

The following new hires recently were announced: James Miller, associate professor in Social Sciences in Warwick; and Maria DePalma, chief accountant in the Bookstore in Warwick.

Women's soccer team, coach honored with Words Unlimited awards

(NSCAA) Coach of the Year for the North Region of Division I women's soccer.

Grassini completed his 10th year at the helm of the CCRI women's soccer program. Prior to becoming head coach at CCRI, Grassini served as the top assistant of the program since its inception in 1994. Grassini, along with Associate Head Coach Kathy Bannan, has guided the women's soccer program to an impressive 150-26-3 record.

The CCRI Lady Knights soccer team ended its season with a 17-3 record, winning its ninth consecutive Region XXI title and its first district title since 2003, when the team was the NJCAA Division I women's soccer runner-up. Seven players were selected First Team All-Region XXI.

The team won its first seven games before falling to district rival Monroe Community College 2-0 on Sept. 26.

The women won their eight remaining regular season games, including a dramatic 1-0 victory vs. No. 10-ranked Schoolcraft College from Livonia, Mich., a team that later made it to the 2009 NJCAA National Championship Tournament. During the regular season, the Lady Knights gave up only two goals, both to Monroe Community College. Freshman goalkeeper Melody Lawrence set two new school records with eight consecutive shutouts and 15 total shutouts.

The team continued its winning ways in the District G Northeast District Tournament, but it did not come easy. In their first game, the women squared off against Mercer County Community College of Trenton, N.J., a team they beat 6-0 in September, but in this game Mercer came out on fire, scoring two quick goals. The Lady Knights responded with four unanswered goals for a hard-fought 4-2 victory.

In the second game of the District G Northeast District Tournament, the Lady Knights defeated Monroe Community College by a score of 2-0. Midfielder Stephanie Morse was credited with shutting down Monroe's Anne Beinetti, setting up scoring opportunities and blocking opponent's shots. Sophomore Ashley Choiniere scored the game-winning goal.

With the win, the Lady Knights advanced to the NJCAA National Championship Tournament at Tyler Junior College in Tyler, Texas. The team lost 1-0 to Paradise Valley Community College as well as a double overtime battle against Polk State College, the No. 1-ranked team in the nation, by a score of 3-2 to end their record-breaking season.

Because of the Lady Knights' success, Grassini was voted National Soccer Coaches Association of America

Grassini was instrumental in guiding the program to three consecutive New England Regional Championships and three straight national NJCAA tournament appearances in 1996, 1997 and 1998.

He has been involved in coaching for more than 20 years and holds a national license from the U.S. Soccer Federation and NSCAA state and regional goalkeeping diplomas. He has served on various boards and committees throughout the Rhode Island youth soccer ranks and also coaches and volunteers for the Rhode Island Women's Soccer League. He also has been a member of the Region XXI coaches committee and serves on the NSCAA All-Northeast Region and All-American committees.

A CCRI alumnus, Grassini graduated in 1973 with an associate degree in business administration.

He earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from Providence College in 1975. Grassini is now the bursar at CCRI, a position he has held since 1988.

He was the recipient of the 2006 Rhode Island Legislative Award – CCRI Distinguished Alumni Award.