School of Education awarded $325,000 in grants

By Stephanie Mostaccio

Rider University’s School of Education has recently received two grants from the N.J. Department of Education, totaling $325,000.

The School of Education received word in September that it had been awarded the two grants for which it applied, including the N.J. PACE-TP Grant (N.J. Project for the Advancement of Clinical Education for Teacher Preparation) and a special education grant in support of the N.J. Department of Education for Restructuring Teacher Preparation Programs to Support Education of Children and Youth with Disabilities.

Running for the N.J. PACE-TP Grant, worth $156,000, was highly competitive. Rider was one of the three colleges chosen to receive the grant out of the 22 that applied. The application process for this grant was very complex. In order to apply, the Education Department needed to fill out a 25-page packet explaining what the money would be used for, Dr. David Oliver, the chairperson of the Department for Teacher Education, thought, it was wise to apply for this grant.

“I thought it would be worth applying for because it will allow us to meet the new for our programs for the students,” he said.

The N.J. PACE-TP Grant will do just that. The money is going towards creating a program in Ride-TP Grant’s program, where students studying to be middle school teachers will perform their field training and student teaching with the same teacher at the same middle school.

Five students will be sent to train at Timberview Middle School in Hightstown, New Jersey. The remaining five will train at Community Middle School in Plainsboro. Dr. Carol Brown, the Associate Dean for the College of Education, sees this grant as a mentoring grant since one specific teacher will mentor the students as they train. Brown is one of many who is grateful for the grant as well as the opportunity to enhance the education of the students studying to be middle school teachers.

“I’m delighted to get the money,” she said. “When you want to create new programs, it’s really wonderful to have financial support like this.”

The special education grant, worth $169,000, was not only competitive. Every university in New Jersey had the opportunity to apply and many other universities besides Rider were chosen to receive the grant. The money from this grant will be utilized in several ways.

The School of Education will work to align our programs with the new code while revising and improving our existing programs,” said Dr. Michele Kamens, an associate professor for the Department of Teacher Education, who said she is not only grateful for the grant, but also for the excellent support from the controller’s office. She said she especially extends her gratitude to Michele Evanschik and Mike Rutkowski.

A portion of the money will be used to restructure the Special Education Department in alignment with the new standards recently set by the N.J. Department of Education.

The new standards are similar to the N.J. Professional Standards for Teachers, which outline the knowledge, dispositions and performances that will be expected of teachers in N.J. to be certified.

“Many students are still in support of peer-to-peer sharing of information,” said Professor Adam Molinski, who said that so long as prices for albums remain as high as they are, people will continue to redistribute illegally. “Some of these CD prices are getting so outrageous that it doesn’t pay to buy them,” he said. “The price to manufacture a CD is so insignificant to what they’re charging for them that the only albums I buy are ones from ‘indie’ groups because ‘they’re making so little share.”

By Randy Townsend

Two early-90s model Saturns were reported missing from the O-Lot this week, bringing the total of cars stolen from the parking lot to four this semester alone.

Both vehicles were four-door model SL-2 Saturns. Last week, two 1989 Honda Accords were stolen from the campus. According to Lt. Charles B. Edgar of the Lawrence Police Department, Saturns and Sunnys are among the most popular cars among auto thieves.

In its usual way, said Edgar. “Once a group of kids has successful stealing one kind of car, they continue to steal that kind of car. After a while, they’ll move on to another kind of car.”

Last week, West Windsor police apprehended four juveniles suspected of allegedly swiping the two Accords from the O-Lot. It is not suspected that there is any connection between the incidents involving the two Hondas and the stolen Saturns said Vicke Weaver, director of Safety and Security at Rider.

“At this point, there is no reason to believe it was the same people responsible,” said Weaver.

One of the vehicles, a 1993 Saturn, was found parked unoccupied in the Mercer County Community College parking lot in Trenton the same night it was reported. Most damage to stolen cars is found to the door where the thieves break in, said Lt. Edgar.

“There was no ignition damage,” said Edgar. “There were fingerprints that were taken, but they haven’t been matched yet.”

Security is now advising students that have early 90s model Saturns to contact the Security office.

“We will provide temporary parking arrangements,” said Weaver. “We want to let people be aware that when [crime] does happen, we can work together to prevent it from happening again.”

Security has also taken other precautions in the recent string of auto thefts. They have sent out alert bulletins to let people know they received reports of the robberies and have been carefully monitoring vehicles, particularly Saturns, stealing.

No, You Use Tire for Laundry

A dry chemical fire extinguisher was discharged by an unknown suspect in the laundry room in Hill. On Saturday at 2:51 a.m., Security was dispatched to Hill, where the fire alarm was sounding and a building evacuation was taking place. Inside, Security found that the suspect had removed clothes from washers and dryers and threw them on the floor, spraying the contents of the fire extinguisher directly into the room. The Lawrenceville Township Fire Department arrived and determined that ventilation of the laundry room to remove the dust a would take a while, especially since there are no windows, and the residents were taken to the Alumni Gym to wait. Anyone with information is asked to call x. 5025.

Security Reminders

Residents are reminded to take home all valuable property over Thanksgiving break. All students are reminded to ensure that they lock their car doors and keep their registered license plates, insurance cards and any other valuables with them, rather than leaving them in the car. Security appreciates students’ continued cooperation in locking their cars.