

## **RIVIER ADDS AQUATIC RESEARCH LABORATORY**

*(From: Rivier Today, Spring 2009)*

**I**n October 2009, Rivier College opened an aquatic lab for student and faculty research. The lab includes both salt water and fresh water tanks.

Dr. Susan Barbaro, Associate Professor of Biology, says that the new lab is a great addition to Rivier's facilities. The College already had extensive instrumentation for protein characterization, microbe identification, tissue culture, anaerobic growth analysis, electrophoretic separations, centrifugation, enzyme assay, electronic cell counting and genetic analysis. "The new lab gives students another way to get hands-on experience, especially students interested in the biology program's new environmental science concentration," says Dr. Barbaro.

Working with Associate Professor Dr. Sue Cooke, senior biology major Ryan Carney has developed a research project examining how well crayfish detect different wavelengths of light. "Crayfish generally exhibit avoidance responses to light. Ryan is monitoring heart and ventilation rates while exposing the crayfish to light of different wavelengths across the visible spectrum and UV," Dr. Cooke explains.

In addition to advising student projects, both Dr. Barbaro and Dr. Cooke will conduct their own research in the lab. Dr. Barbaro's research focuses on microbial ecology in freshwater ecosystems, while Dr. Cooke will study the effects of temperature and salinity on lobster physiology. ■