

MAGAZINE

in Action.

Aperture

BUILDING ON CREATIVITY

Ben Anderson is an associate professor of three-dimensional art and sculpture in URI's Department of Art and Art History. An award-winning artist, he has taught at colleges and universities throughout the United States. Initially reluctant to teach, Anderson ultimately found it uniquely satisfying. "What I find stimulating," he says, "is the constant experimentation that can occur—where one student tries something and then another builds upon that, it's an infectious state of creativity."

In his own work, Anderson is interested in materials and object-making. He draws inspiration from the natural world and is building his library of ceramic molds representing local sea life, developing new glaze formulas, and exploring alternate firing techniques through an NSF EPSCoR grant.

This piece, *Baptismal*, was not a planned project; rather, says Anderson, "It grew spontaneously from a mound of freshly processed clay." He was showing some of his molds to his students to explain how they worked. Together, they ended up building this piece from those molds, working collaboratively on what became the finished piece. •

—Barbara Caron

Detail from Baptismal, By Ben Anderson, hand-built and press-molded stoneware, 23" x 14" x 17", 2009.

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The Class of 1970 celebrates its 50th Reunion this year. Members of the class recall the transformative years that led up to their graduation.

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Stroll down Memory Lane, check out last issue's winners, and send your best caption for this issue!

Ka Ki "Kay" Tse '19 at Ijen Volcano in East Java, Indonesia last summer. Tse visited Indonesia during a solo backpacking trip to Southeast Asia. Tse loves solo backpacking. "It gives me a chance to meet people, experience different cultures, and learn about myself," she says. Read about Tse on page 16.



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A visual guide to the Inner Space Center's Production Control Room and the team that keeps the show going, no matter what. Here, team member Jessica Kaelblein shoots video on location in the Canadian Arctic Archipelago.

38 Rediscovering URI's Agricultural Roots

Faculty, staff, students, and alumni are leading the way for a new generation of farmers and food producers. Saffron, pictured here, is just one of URI's many agriculture research areas. Most saffron is grown in Iran, but URI research is showing that it can be grown sustainably in local soil.





Signs of Spring

President Dooley on next-generation food producers, a new governing board, freedom of expression, and the Class of 2024.

SPRING IN NEW ENGLAND FREQUENTLY arrives late and then fades into summer too soon. Even so, it is invariably a time of growth and transformation, when the dull, drab landscapes of winter explode with color and new life, the robins really do return, the Quad is once again full of students, and Commencement concludes another special academic year.

At URI, we have become very familiar with growth and transformation. From our founding in the 19th century as an agricultural institution, to the 21st-century interdisciplinary sustainable agriculture and food systems programs featured in this issue of the magazine, URI has always been among the leaders in agricultural research and practice. Today, our students are preparing to lead a new generation of growers and producers in areas such as organic foods, aquaculture, animal management, and agricultural technology. The recent agreement with private sector partners to create an agricultural innovation campus is the most recent manifestation of URI's leadership.

The rapid increase in URI's partnerships with companies and organizations throughout Rhode Island, our growing impact on economic development in the state, dramatically increased enrollment and student success, and the surge of innovative, interdisciplinary research and scholarship at URI are among the reasons the Rhode Island General Assembly created, as part of the current state budget, a new governing board of trustees for the University. What does this mean? Greater agility. More flexibility. Faster decisions on funding and financial aid to meet

enrollment, administrative, and staffing needs. More opportunities for our community of scholars. And many more benefits. I ask those of you who live in Rhode Island to thank your state representatives, senators, and the governor for their support, which will, in turn, strengthen our position as a leading economic engine for Rhode Island.

The Board of Trustees will also support our drive to create academic programs that address societal issues and meet market demands today and into the future—like URI Online. Offering the academic rigor students have come to expect from URI and taught by URI faculty, URI Online represents a pivotal development in our evolution. We launched with undergraduate programs in communications and nursing, as well as master's programs in cybersecurity, dietetics, teaching English to speakers of other languages (TESOL), and health-care management, along with several certificate programs—and this is just the beginning.

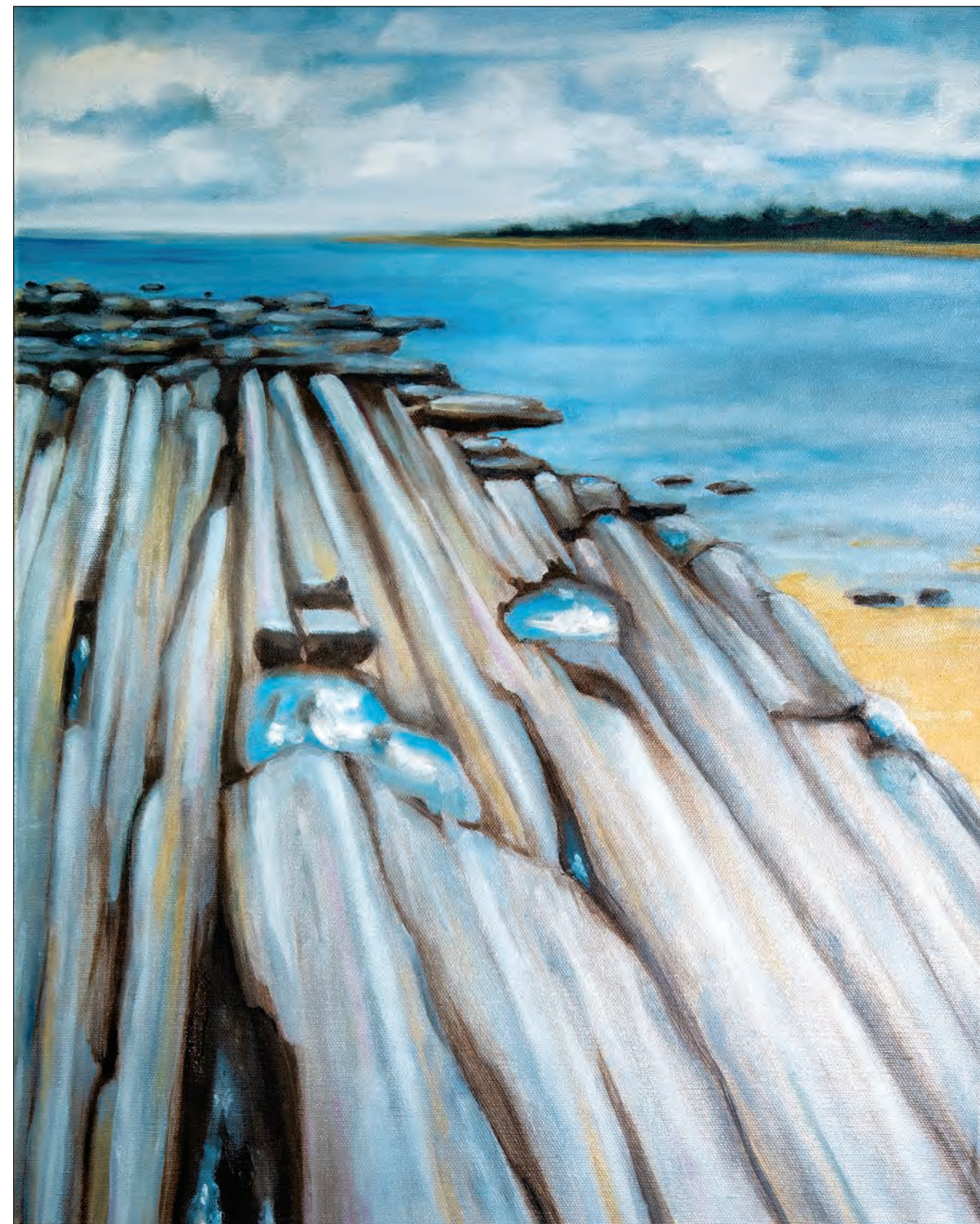
Like other 21st-century universities, we embrace online learning and other technology-based educational innovations. At the same time, we must reinforce our time-tested role as a safe place for civil discourse, disagreement, and the exchange of ideas and perspectives; a place where the freedoms of expression protected by the First Amendment—religion, speech, press, and peaceful assembly—are honored and advanced. In fact, the First Amendment is foundational to the values of all American universities. Perusing the stories in this issue that

showcase the URI community's views on the First Amendment, I could not help but reflect on the amendment's centrality to our own mission. A prominent member of our extended community who perfectly exemplifies the amendment's spirit is Laurie White '81, who established the Taricani Lecture Series on First Amendment Rights in honor of her late husband, Jim Taricani, Hon. '18, a renowned investigative journalist, who was, in her words, "a champion of the news media's First Amendment rights. He knew that protecting those rights is critically important—not only for a journalist, but for all of us."

Students are drawn to places where these sentiments are not only expressed, but brought to life in and out of the classroom. So I am delighted, but not at all surprised, to report that this year URI has broken records, receiving 23,500 applications for 3,250 spots in the Class of 2024. That's a testament to the university we are, and to the university we are becoming.

Onward and upward,

David M. Dooley
President, University of Rhode Island



WaterView

MICHELLE HENNING '22

"Bonnet Shores"

Oil on canvas, 16" x 20", 2019

A non-traditional student, Henning is finishing the art degree she started more than 20 years ago. Her husband's Army career and raising three children put degree completion on hold. This painting, for Professor Bob Dilworth's Painting II class, depicts the view from Bonnet Shores Beach in Narragansett, Rhode Island. Henning is an ocean lover, but says her favorite subject to draw or paint is the human figure. Says Henning, "I've always been an artist and known it was what I wanted to be since I was very young."

Feedback

Write to us: urimag@uri.edu

Visit us and comment at uri.edu/magazine

From the Editor

Last week, I read a 2015 piece from *The New Yorker* called, “Can Reading Make You Happier?” Maybe I was drawn to it because I knew it would validate my own answer to that question, which is a resounding, “Yes!”

The author puts forth the theory that “reading fiction is one of the few remaining paths to transcendence, that elusive state in which the distance between the self and the universe shrinks.” She goes on to discuss the history of a kind of therapy I’d never heard of, but, in fact, have used all my life: bibliotherapy, or reading books as a treatment for life’s troubles and challenges. Until I read this piece, I had no idea that bibliotherapist was an actual job. English majors, take note.

The author cites research about reading’s effects on the brain. In a nutshell, people who read fiction develop empathy. When we read about characters in books, we learn about and develop an understanding for them. This translates into our real lives in the form of empathy.

And even if you don’t buy into that research, the author continues, other studies have shown that reading is simply good for readers—putting them into a meditation-like state and leading to better sleep, lower stress and depression levels, and higher self-esteem.

Besides validating my own lifelong bookworm habits, the piece shores up my feelings about what we do in the *University of Rhode Island Magazine*: We tell stories that connect readers to fellow members of the URI community. While the stories you read here are rarely fiction, we aim to tell them in a way that invites you to understand and empathize with the characters.

So, in the interest of happiness, empathy, a better world, and a better night’s sleep—read on!

—Barbara Caron, Editor-in-Chief



Plastics are a problem for the Earth, its oceans and waterways, and ultimately for all of us. But we’ve become dependent on plastic. Do you have an idea—big or small—for tackling the problem? Are you making a difference in your daily life or in your business or research? Do you know fellow Rhody alumni who are taking on the plastics problem? Please let us know: urimag@uri.edu.



Recognition for William C. O’Neill ’57

ON PAGE 5 OF THE FALL 2019 issue of *URI Magazine*, there was a photo of the newly completed addition to the William C. O’Neill Bike Path, a spur connecting the main path to the URI Kingston Campus. I was disappointed and surprised that the photo and the brief description did not include anything about the name of

the bike path, especially since it is named after a URI alumnus, William C. O’Neill.

Bill was a member of the Rhode Island House of Representatives and later a member of the Rhode Island Senate. In addition to his URI degree, he held a master’s degree from Harvard University. I was a classmate and friend of Bill’s in

Peace Dale Elementary School, South Kingstown High School, and URI. Shortly before Bill died in 2003 at the age of 72, a small group I was involved in suggested naming the South County Bike Path for Bill. Ted Wright of Narragansett pursued the matter and the path was officially named for Bill.

—Charles Sweet ’51

Consider Goldenseal

In response to a story in our spring 2019 issue, we received this message:

GOLDENSEAL HAS MEDICINAL properties similar to barberry, and its native range includes Rhode Island, although there are no known native populations. So you can tell people to harvest wild barberry, but if they want to grow their own medicine, plant goldenseal,

but buy the planting stock from a cultivated source, not wild harvested. It is easy to grow but requires shade. There are a few other plants that also contain berberine.

—Dan Lawton ’88

Elizabeth Liebovitz, coordinator of URI’s College of Pharmacy Medicinal Garden, emphasizes our reader’s point about planting and not wild harvesting:

“Wild goldenseal populations are vulnerable to overharvesting, so don’t harvest wild goldenseal! Plant it!” Same goes for American ginseng, she says. Liebovitz adds, “Harvesting plants for medicine is a big factor in threatening wild plant populations with overharvesting,” and offers unitedplantsavers.org as a resource for information about conserving medicinal plants.



SOCIAL SNAPS | INSTAGRAM



Jazz Show Archived at URI
Show archives from late iconic Pittsburgh jazz DJ Ronald “Butch” Perkins were donated to URI, thanks to music professor Emmett Goods (right) and Calvin Stemley, (left) a close friend of Perkins.
[@uri_artsandsciences](https://www.instagram.com/uri_artsandsciences)



Rhody Rainbow
[@kristinamoyet](https://www.instagram.com/kristinamoyet) found a pot of gold on Upper College Road in February!
[@universityofri](https://www.instagram.com/universityofri)



Welcome to Brookside Hall!
URI opened its newest residence hall in February, featuring 500 beds, a café, and apartment units with full kitchens.
[@brooksidehalluri](https://www.instagram.com/brooksidehalluri)



Determination
URI’s Michael Scott captured a great shot at this track event at Boston University in January. URI’s Kristina MacLure (second from left) finished fourth in the 60-meter hurdles.
[@urimscott](https://www.instagram.com/urimscott)

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Titles Matter

I ENJOY READING ABOUT MY ALMA mater and keeping current with exciting news from campus. In the fall 2019 issue the headline story about the engineering building was especially exciting to me. My husband was an electrical engineering major and for my Ph.D., I closely worked with Dr. Vinka Oyanedel-Craver of Civil and Environmental Engineering.

I noticed that in the front-cover fold-out her title was noted as “assistant professor.” Dr. Oyanedel-Craver was actually promoted to full professor this summer, an achievement that marks her success in the field and as a faculty member. I strongly encourage you to correct this mistake ASAP, as the promotion to full professor occurs after a promotion to associate professor (from assistant) and therefore acknowledges a minimum of 10 years of service. This is no small feat, particularly for a woman in a male-dominated field. Titles are important

and we all work for our advancements. Proper recognition of these titles is therefore important.

—Dr. Laura Schiffman, Ph.D. ’14 and
Brandon Spirito ’13

Thank you for your message and for pointing out the error in Professor Oyandel-Craver’s title. We absolutely recognize the years of hard work involved in being promoted through faculty ranks, and strive to recognize that and accurately reflect faculty titles in this publication. In spite of our best efforts to verify all names and titles through multiple sources, we clearly missed this one. We corrected it immediately in the online version of the story, and offer our apologies and this correction here, in print. We also acknowledge the point you make about women faculty in a male-dominated field. It is an important point and we thank you for raising it.

= IN BRIEF =

Former Hasbro CEO Invests in URI College of Business



With a recent \$15 million gift, Alfred J. Verrecchia '67, M.B.A. '72, Hon. '04, and his wife, Geraldine, aim to elevate the prominence of the College of Business and the University, which, they say, "will continue to push the boundaries of learning and technology, practical experience, and interdisciplinary thinking."

The generous gift will create scholarships for high-achieving students, a fund for students pursuing competitive internships, and an emerging technol-

ogy fund for the college. The gift will also enable the University to establish its first faculty chair and a professorship in artificial intelligence and business analytics.

In honor of the Verrecchias' transformative gift and their years of dedication to URI, the University will establish the Alfred J. Verrecchia Center for Business Excellence, a hub for teaching, learning, and research to inspire the exchange of ideas and an entrepreneurial mindset.

Kudos for Improved Student Outcomes

A decade ago, over a three-year period, URI lost \$26 million in state support. Recent stories in two national publications praised URI's turnaround. In his story for *Forbes*, contributor Michael T. Nietzel said, "Although [URI] has yet to recover all its lost funding, it has achieved results that are nothing short of remarkable."

In the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, Kelly Field praised URI's student outcome successes over the last decade, including:

- 9% enrollment increase
 - 14% improvement in on-time graduation rate
 - 50% cut in racial achievement gap
- These improvements, said Field, "have translated into millions of dollars in tuition revenue that the university has used to hire dozens of new faculty members."



= NEWS TICKER =

A Decade Green

For the 10th year running, URI made *The Princeton Review's* Guide to 375 Green Colleges, for its commitment to sustainability, academic offerings and career prep, policies, and initiatives.

Neuroscience Degree

URI has a new undergraduate academic program in neuroscience. Students can choose from three areas of focus within the major, distinguishing it among neuroscience programs in New England.

What Your Spit Says

Matthew Ramsey, assistant professor of cell and molecular biology, received a \$2.2 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to identify which organisms promote healthy bacteria in the mouth.

Childhood Nutrition

Health sciences professor Allison Tovar will serve on a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation panel creating national guidelines for healthy eating behaviors among children in the U.S.

Minority Research Scholarships

Bryan Dewsbury, assistant professor of biological sciences, and Niall Howlett, associate professor of cell and molecular biology, received a \$1.25 million grant from the National Institutes of Health for scholarships and stipends for minority students in the biomedical sciences.

Rhodes Finalists

Two recent URI grads, Madison Cook-Hines '19 (theater) and Autumn Guillotte '18, (history, philosophy) were finalists for the prestigious Rhodes Scholarship. Of 14 regional finalists, they were the only two from a public institution.

Eye Test Could Detect Alzheimer's

URI researchers are leading a \$5 million study that could lead to using an eye exam to help detect Alzheimer's disease years before symptoms develop. Led by Peter Snyder, URI's vice president for research and economic development and professor of biomedical and pharmaceutical sciences, the retinal screening tests may be able to detect the

buildup of amyloid plaque in the brain—a known biomarker for the neurodegenerative disease affecting 5.8 million Americans.

"The cells in the neuronal layers of the retina are the same types as cells in the brain that are attacked by the disease, so cell changes in the retina might reflect the same changes that are happening in the brain," Snyder said.

The five-year, Atlas of Retinal Imaging in Alzheimer's Study (ARIAS) is sponsored by BayCare Health System and funded largely by Morton Plant Mease Health Care Foundation and St. Anthony's Hospital Foundation in Pinellas County, Florida. Stephen Salloway, M.D., director of Neurology and the Memory and Aging Program at Butler Hospital in Rhode Island, and others, are also part of the ARIAS team.



= GO RHODY =

A New Home—on the Mound

Ciancola Scholarship recipient Tyler Brosius '20 knew there wasn't room for him in centerfield, so he found a new home—on the mound—and became one of the Atlantic 10's top relief pitchers.

CENTERFIELDER TYLER BROSIUS '20 arrived at URI one year after All-Conference and All-Region centerfielder Jordan Powell. After seeing no playing time as a redshirt freshman, Brosius was honest with himself about how the next few years would likely play out.

"I was playing behind a really talented veteran player and I knew I wasn't going to take his spot," Brosius says. "If I was going to contribute to the team, it would have to be in some other way. So I asked the coaches to give me a chance on the mound."

Brosius had made just one pitching appearance in high school, but Rams baseball head coach Raphael Cerrato agreed to give him a shot.

"Tyler's a great kid, and I respected his willingness to take on a new role," Cerrato says. "Coming to us with this idea showed a lot of maturity, and a strong desire to be part of the team, so I said, 'Let's do it.'"

Brosius made four appearances during that 2017 season, giving up six runs on six hits over 3.1 innings of work. Statistically speaking, the following season wasn't any better. He lacked command—issuing

10 walks and allowing 18 hits through 11.2 innings—and finished the year with a whopping 12.34 ERA.

Unwilling to believe that was his best, Brosius worked tirelessly in the offseason. In 2019, his effort paid off. He turned in a team-best 2.27 ERA with a 6-2 record, six saves, 32 strikeouts, and only six walks. Opponents hit just .195 off of him.

Call it a breakout season. Call it a reward for hard work. The one thing Cerrato won't call it is a surprise.

"He was filthy last fall, almost unhittable," Cerrato says. "Right from the beginning, he was coachable and willing to work. He kept at it, kept making adjustments. Once he figured it out, the confidence came. From that point on, he was our go-to arm out of the bullpen."

When Cerrato had to choose a 2020 Ciancola Scholarship recipient, he took a moment to reflect.

The scholarship honors the memory of Rams pitcher Joey Ciancola, who passed away in 2011 during his redshirt freshman season. It is awarded to the player who best embodies Ciancola's spirit

and character, takes pride in representing URI, displays a strong work ethic and commitment to his teammates, represents himself well in the community, and is a leader on and off the field.

It had to be Brosius. It was a no-brainer. "Tyler has come such a long way," Cerrato says. "He's gone from a non-scholarship outfielder to one of the best relievers in the country, with a realistic chance to pitch professionally."

It's not just his performance on the mound that demands respect, though.

"He's an excellent student, a guy you want representing your program, and someone the Ciancola family can be proud to have carrying on Joey's legacy," says Cerrato.

The gravity of that responsibility is not lost on Brosius.

"It's an incredible honor," Brosius says. "You play every day for your team, and your teammates, and your university. But to play for someone else, who didn't have the chance to fulfill his own dreams? That's something that will be in the back of my mind every time I step out on the field this season." •

—Jodi Pontbriand



= BAY AND BEYOND =

Git Along, Li'l Urchins

URI scientist Coleen Suckling and her students are studying the viability of sea urchin ranching in Rhode Island. Their work could predict whether sea urchins could be Rhode Island's next climate-resilient crop.

SEA URCHIN RANCHING? Yes. You read that right.

Atlantic purple sea urchins are common in coastal waters along the East Coast, and URI scientist Coleen Suckling thinks the Ocean State could become the home of a new industry to raise the spiny marine creatures for consumption in Japan and elsewhere around the world.

She has teamed with a company called Urchinomics, which is pioneering urchin ranching around the world. Suckling is testing a sea urchin feed the company developed in Norway to see if Rhode Island's urchins will eat the product and, in turn, become commercially appealing.

"Sea urchins are generally good at coping with climate change; they appear to be resilient to warming and

ocean acidification," said Suckling, URI assistant professor of sustainable aquaculture. "So they're a good species to turn to for commercial harvest. And you can get a good return on your investment from them."

The global sea urchin market is valued at about \$175 million per year, with about 65 to 70 percent of the harvest being sold to Japan. Urchins are primarily used for sushi, though they are also used in a variety of other recipes.

The edible part of the sea urchin is its gonad tissue—which chefs refer to as roe or uni. Suckling says it tastes "like what you imagine a clean ocean smells like"—but the tissue must be firm and bright yellow or orange to get the best prices.

At the Narragansett Bay

Campus, URI seniors Max Zavell, Anna Byczynski, and Alli McKenna are conducting a three-month trial on purple urchins caught in Rhode Island waters. The urchins are being fed a variety of foods to see how well they grow and if they become marketable. The students monitor water quality and regularly weigh and measure the urchins. They expect to have preliminary results this spring.

"If they become marketable, then it opens up a whole interesting range of potential options," Suckling said. "Under future climate conditions, there may be a need to diversify what we produce in the sea-food sector. And since urchins are good at coping with acidification, this could be a good opportunity here in Rhode Island to exploit sea urchins."

Even if the formulated diet works as expected, many additional questions remain before urchins could be raised commercially in the state.

"It's a local species, so we can potentially grow them here, but is it something the Coastal Resources Management Council and the Department of Environmental Management would be interested in?" Suckling asked. "Are there aquaculture farmers interested in growing them? Can we ranch them reliably? We're just taking the first step to see if it's worth the effort to answer these other questions."

"Part of my role is to try to understand what seafood we may need to turn to in a sustainable manner so we can maintain food security and economic security in the future," she added. •

— Todd McLeish



= ASK OUR BIG THINKERS =

Is Your Garden Ready for Spring?

Does spring fever have you itching to get out in your garden?

If so, Kate Venturini '06, M.A. '10, collected some great tips from URI Master Gardener volunteers to help you get ready for gardening season. Venturini is an outreach programs administrator with Cooperative Extension, and works with faculty, staff, students, and volunteers to extend science-based information to communities to help protect the environment. It may not be time to put tomato plants in the ground yet, but here's what you can do right now to help your garden grow this season:

Do a light version of what the pros call "site assessment." How much sunlight, wind, and water, and how many existing desirable plants do you have? Site assessment will help you identify where to plant a vegetable, herb, flower, and/or rain garden—or even a lawn or privacy screen.

Have your soil tested for pH and texture to determine its drainage capacity. This will help you choose plants that can thrive in your soil, or amend your soil so you can grow the plants you want.

Look around your yard for plants that didn't make it through the winter, and replace them with natives that attract pollinators and other beneficial insects. If nothing died over the winter, add native plants to your gardens anyway!

Make gardening easier by giving your garden tools some love. Pump up those wheelbarrow tires, bring your lawn-mower in for service, remove rust from tools, and sharpen and oil all blades!

Come to the URI Spring Festival! Saturday, May 2, from 9 a.m.–1 p.m. in the URI Botanical Gardens. Buy your veggies, herbs, perennials, and annuals, and grab free seeds! Proceeds support the URI Master Gardener Program.

For more on these and other topics

Visit uri.edu/mastergarden/gardeningresources or uri.edu/coopext.

Call or email the URI Gardening and Environmental Hotline at 401.874.4836 or gardener@uri.edu.

Video at uri.edu/magazine

= FAST BREAK =

What's In Your Wallet?

Simple basics for personal money management

BALANCING A CHECKBOOK (yes, that's still an important skill), filing personal income taxes, examining the costs and benefits of student loans, or calculating retirement needs are topics often overlooked at the collegiate level. But many college students—and even graduates—lack these simple, yet critical, skills.

Professor Jing Jian Xiao and Assistant Professor Nilton Porto of URI's Department of Human Development and Family Studies in the College of Health Sciences, teach courses that help students learn the basics they'll need now and for the rest of their financial lives—"Money Skills for Life" and "Personal Finance."

The tips to the right are just a few of the basics Xiao and Porto teach their students.

The last tip on the list is particularly important for college students to consider, given the ongoing student loan crisis in the United States. The average student leaves college with about \$30,000 in loans to repay, according to the Pew Research Center, and roughly 10 percent are late or delinquent on their loans. "It's OK to get a loan if you need one," says Porto, "Just make sure you are taking the right amount and that there is a plan in place to pay it back." •

—Patrick Luce '99

Let's face it, many of us, even if we think we know this stuff, could use some tips and reminders. Here are the basics, according to Xiao and Porto:

- ☐ **Put 10 percent** of your salary into savings every month.
- ☐ **Have an emergency savings** of at least three months of your income.
- ☐ **Housing and all other obligations** should be no more than 50 percent of your disposable income.
- ☐ **Establish and maintain good credit.** "Having enough savings is number 1, but good credit helps in an emergency," Porto says.

- ☐ **Use the Rule of 72** to determine how long it will take an investment to double: Divide 72 by the expected growth rate of your investment to get the number of years it will take to double. For example, if the growth rate is 8 percent, it will take nine years (72/8) to double the investment.
- ☐ **Limit student borrowing** to your first year's expected annual salary.



= SYLLABUS =

Science You Can Understand

Science literacy is critical—if people don’t understand what causes global warming and why it’s a problem, they won’t care about or participate in curbing it. But for science to be understood, it has to be communicated clearly. That’s the goal of SciWrite, a program that trains students to translate complex science so that even non-scientist audiences—the public and policymakers, for example—can understand it. How can you up your science literacy? Read on.

SCIENTISTS DON’T GET POLITICAL. Nancy Karraker heard this often as a student studying wildlife and conservation biology. “I was told, ‘You are not to be an advocate. Be impartial,’” she says. “But science literacy in America is on the decline. It’s our obligation to be advocates.”

An associate professor in the College of the Environment and Life Sciences, Karraker also has a master’s in teaching writing. She is one of the professors behind SciWrite, a program offering a two-year graduate certificate in science writing and rhetoric, as well as workshops, courses, and internships to URI’s academic community.

In the two-year program, students take courses in writing in the natural sciences, public engagement with science, ethics, and multimedia. They also complete a four- to six-week internship in which they translate an organization’s science into accessible writing: blogs, press releases, grant proposals, podcasts, etc.

“We would like to become known as the place to go to get training in science writing,” Karraker says.

At a moment in time when misinformation is rampant and scientific fact is challenged, programs like SciWrite are of vital importance. Increasing the public’s capacity and confidence in their knowledge of science, Karraker says, “will make them more likely to understand, for example, what a changing climate means for our coastal communities, how choices we make at the grocery store affect how much plastic ends up in our oceans, and how the purchase of a frog or turtle from the local pet store may contribute to the species’ extinction from the wild.” •

—Marybeth Reilly-McGreen



Nancy Karraker in Sulawesi, Indonesia, where, in 2017–18, she traveled on a Fulbright Fellowship to conduct research on the Southeast Asian box turtle.

You Can Build Your Science Literacy Too—Here’s How:

Use trusted sources of information. Karraker recommends:

- **theconversation.com/us**
Fact-based journalism from experts
- **envirobites.org**
*Expert summaries of recent environmental science research. Sister sites: **oceanbites.org** and **astrobites.org***
- **kids.frontiersin.org**
Frontiers for Young Minds, an open-access scientific journal written by scientists, reviewed by kids
- **nationalgeographic.org**
Familiar, trusted, 130-year-old global nonprofit focused on science and exploration

Become an environmental activist:

- Attend a protest march.
- Write to your state representatives.
- Join a land trust—an organization dedicated to purchasing and protecting open space.
- Join a community science organization such as URI’s Watershed Watch, which enlists the public in testing local bodies of water: **uri.edu/watershedwatch**.
- Monitor wetlands and frog communities with Roger Williams Park Zoo’s FrogWatch: **rwpzoo.org/frogwatch**.
- Join a global community of naturalists contributing to a database serving conservation biology efforts through **inaturalist.org**.

Read! Dive into these books about science and writing:

- *Bird by Bird: Some Instructions on Writing and Life*, by Anne LaMott
- *At the Water’s Edge: Fish with Fingers, Whales with Legs, and How Life Came Ashore but Then Went Back to Sea*, by Carl Zimmer
- *Classic Krakauer: Essays on Wilderness and Risk*, by Jon Krakauer
- *On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft*, by Stephen King
- *Cod: A Biography of the Fish that Changed the World*, by Mark Kurlansky
- *The Everglades: River of Grass*, by Marjorie Stoneman Douglas

PHOTO: DANA DRAKE

= MEDIA SPOTLIGHT =

You Can Quote Me

On detecting and stopping explosives used by terrorists:

“We think about how to detect and mitigate the threats for today, while we’re still realizing that if we get really good about today’s threats, there’s going to be a different threat tomorrow.”

—Jimmie Oxley, URI professor of chemistry and co-director of URI’s Center of Excellence for Explosives Detection, Mitigation and Response
CBS This Morning

On URI’s improving enrollment, retention, and graduation rates:

“The hardest part of student success is having the discipline to stick to it. These things take time. Progress is incremental; you have to stay the course.”

—David M. Dooley, president, University of Rhode Island
The Chronicle of Higher Education

On declining fertility and birthrates in the U.S.:

“It’s hard to have children because of a lack of affordable child care and not-very-generous policies for parental leave, especially in comparison to many European countries.”

—Melanie Brasher, URI professor of sociology and demographer
The Washington Post

On his team’s discovery of microplastics in the Canadian Arctic:

The plastic just jumped out in both its abundance and its scale.

—Brice Loose, URI professor of oceanography and chief scientist of the Northwest Passage Project
Reuters

On his \$15 million gift to URI’s College of Business:

“One of the challenges the University has had—the College of Business included—is we are trying to train students for jobs that don’t exist today. We want to make sure they have an education that will allow them to transition and be flexible and adaptable to new jobs that are going to come on the scene.”

—Al Verrecchia ’67, M.B.A. ’72, Hon. ’04, former chairman and CEO of Hasbro, Inc.
The Boston Globe

On what a Broadway actor feels like at the end of a day when he’s done two seven-hour shows:

“It always comes back to a profound sense of gratitude because you do it and you listen to the people who’ve come to see it and the effect that it had on them, and you say, ‘Well, screw any feelings that I had of exhaustion, I’m doing this for these people.’”

—Andrew Burnap ’13
People
Andrew Burnap made his Broadway debut last fall as Toby Darling in Matthew Lopez’s two-part, seven-hour-long production, The Inheritance.

On whether primates have an easier time giving birth than humans:

It’s not like a baby just falls out like some Monty Python sketch for nonhuman primates. They do struggle and still they have a seemingly much more easy childbirth than we have.

—Holly Dunsworth, URI associate professor of anthropology
Netflix series Sex, Explained, season 1, episode 5

On running new models that help researchers predict tsunamis more accurately:

[The success of our work has] helped us confirm that our modelling methodology is quite realistic. ... This is very important for hazard assessment from volcanic sources.

—Stefan Grilli, URI professor of oceanography and global tsunami expert
BBC News

= ANNOTATIONS =

Command Central

The Inner Space Center's Production Control Room translates science from the field into real-time, relatable stories

URI'S ONE-OF-A-KIND, INTERNATIONALLY known Inner Space Center delivers science, in real time, to the public and to other scientists. Using telepresence—the ability to interact with what's going on in one place while you're somewhere else—the center links scientists on research vessels at sea with other scientists, the media, and schools.

The production control room is the heart of the operation, turning all the incoming and outgoing feeds into seamless broadcasts. Producer Andrea Gingras '01 says, "Live production is like a puzzle. I try to put the pieces together before we even start so that when we say, 'That's a wrap,' the audience sees the full picture."

In October 2019, for example, the center used ship-to-shore telepresence in a pilot project funded by the National Science Foundation. The production control room crew put its telepresence chops to the test, connecting scientists on the R/V *Laurence M. Gould* in the Western Antarctic with classrooms around the country, giving students an incredible opportunity to interact in real time with scientists conducting critical research.

Sound as easy as turning on a livestream? It's not. It takes a lot of equipment and a multitasking crew with technical know-how, science background, creative leanings, and communication skills—real communication skills—knowing how people listen and learn, and knowing how to effectively and authentically translate science into stories people can relate to. •

—Barbara Caron

Video at uri.edu/magazine



The ISC Production Control Room Crew, left to right: Andrea Gingras '01, producer; Ben Woods '22, intern/editor; Alex DeCiccio '10, director; Jessica Kaelblein '18, switcher; Derek Sutcliffe '11, engineer; Ryan Campos, audio engineer.

1 Core Crew. The brainchild of URI professor of Oceanography and legendary ocean explorer Robert Ballard, the Inner Space Center is directed by marine research scientist Dwight Coleman. Coleman and his team are the multitasking, multitasking core crew of the center's production control room.

2 Remote Science Within Reach. In July, 2019, an international team of scientists studied the rapidly changing Arctic Ocean aboard the Swedish icebreaker, *Oden*. The ISC shared the expedition in real time, moving deftly between researchers, audiences, and pre-produced video segments. The crew had to be ready to keep the broadcast going, even if the extreme Arctic environment disrupted their satellite signal with the research team.

3 Headset. Production control room staff direct broadcasts, quickly shifting from one site to another, injecting expert commentary, ancillary video, and more. They're a little like the crew that broadcasts a football game or any other live, multi-camera event staffed by dozens. But they do it with a small, rotating crew of five to eight people.

4 Switcher. The switcher is one of the most important pieces of equipment in the ISC. Jess Kaelblein '18 says, "Technical directing is like editing in real time. It's my job to switch between available videos and live cameras to create a dynamic and engaging show."

5 Audio. "Audio is critical," says production director Alex DeCiccio '10. "And it is the most complex thing we deal with in our work. If audio fails, it creates the worst kind of awkward silence." Audio engineer Ryan Campos adds, "Most people don't listen with the intent to understand. It's my responsibility to articulate and translate using sound, making the information more digestible."

6 Creativity Required. The book, *Creativity, Inc.: Overcoming the Unseen Forces that Stand in the Way of True Inspiration*, by Ed Catmull, president of Pixar and Disney Animation, is a model the team uses to inspire their workplace culture. They strive to cultivate a creative vibe and root out hidden forces that can cramp their creativity and problem-solving. "DeCiccio says, 'Our success is tied to how well we can creatively think of solutions to problems.'"

7 Lighting. You won't find standard-issue office lighting here. The crew favors softer task lighting that helps their creativity thrive. "I figure if we model our creative environment after the best out there," says DeCiccio, "We may stumble on a few interesting ideas." And, he adds, "It doesn't hurt that we work with the smartest people in ocean science. Big ideas for the big blue!"

8 Asset Library. Ten years' worth of video and growing. The production control room library includes ocean content, both deep-sea and topside in the field. The crew uses these video assets on every project. And with each new project, the library grows. Engineer Derek Sutcliffe '11 says, "During the live broadcasts, I watch and troubleshoot the computers handling the live stream and broadcast. I also maintain the production equipment, and later, I archive the show recordings."

= RHODE TAKEN =

Make Self-Discovery Your Major—No Matter What Your Degree Says

Ka Ki “Kay” Tse ’19



Last summer, Kay Tse solo backpacked in Southeast Asia. A four-day motorbike loop in Ha Giang, Vietnam’s northernmost province, (at left) was a highlight of her trip. She had never ridden a motorbike before, and says it was the experience of a lifetime.

psychology to her academic program as a second major.

Tse was on URI’s powerlifting team her sophomore and junior years. “The training taught me a lot about persistence. Even if you aren’t the strongest person on the starting line, if you work hard for what you want, you can achieve it—you just have to put the work in,” she says. “It made me mentally stronger and helped me to feel confident.”

Her relationships with professors like Christie Ward-Ritacco and Deborah Riebe were transformational.

“They took the time to know me,” says Tse. “They encouraged and supported me—and opened my eyes to new opportunities. I want to be that person for someone else. I want to be the person who listens and helps them find their way.”

Tse is attending Wake Forest University in North Carolina, working on her master’s degree in health and exercise science.

“I’m thankful for my experience at URI, for the teachers I’ve had, the friendships I’ve made, and the opportunities I’ve been offered. I thought I would come to school and mainly focus on academics, but I’ve learned so much about myself.” •

— Dawn Bergantino ’94

RHODE TO A DEGREE

Current Life Goals

Complete a master’s degree at Wake Forest, work as a clinical exercise physiologist, travel, then decide what’s next...

Surprising Superpower

At 5’1”, 120 lbs., Kay can squat 210, bench 135, and deadlift 315 pounds.

Internships

Weight Control and Diabetes Research Center at Miriam Hospital, Primal Athletes Training Center in Cranston, R.I.

Undergrad Research Assistantship

URI Kinesiology and Psychology Departments

Scholarships

Rhode Island Academic Promise, Francis H. Horn, and Centreville Bank Charitable Foundation

Best Outside-Her-Comfort-Zone Experience

Being a volunteer TA for KIN 300 (exercise physiology). “I had to lead review sessions in English, my second language. I gained public speaking skills and confidence.”

Pearl of Wisdom

“Listen to people when they’re talking. There’s always something you can learn from their life stories.”

Advice to Undergrads

“Seek opportunities. Get out of your comfort zone. New experiences always teach you something about yourself.”

URI Degree

B.S. 2019, kinesiology and psychology

= WHY I TEACH =

The Art of Teaching Active History

Rae Ferguson, Associate Professor of African-American History

AS A CHILD, RAE FERGUSON WOULD spy on spies.

Really, she would. Ferguson grew up on a farm in Wildflecken, Germany, during the Cold War era. She watched East German soldiers building barbed wire fences, and she surreptitiously listened to CIA agents. In her home. “My parents’ best friends worked for the CIA; my parents’ best friends were spies. I remember I would be seeing people testify on TV, and they were the same people who would sit around our dinner table on the weekends.”

Listening, really intently paying attention, is a skill Ferguson works to cultivate in her students. “I’ve always been aware that people don’t see each other,” she says. “I’m not cynical, but I question what it will take to see each other as human beings.”

This extends to the closely examined lives of historical figures. History has a way of myth-making. Historical figures become enshrined, apart from and above the rest of us. “My students come to class thinking of these people as anomalies,” she says.

Not true. Historical figures are, generally, ordinary people who felt called to act, Ferguson argues. “But that wasn’t the only thing that defined their lives,” she says. “These people weren’t that different from my students’ parents. We’re all struggling to figure out how we fit in. In what ways are we American?”

And so Ferguson steeps her students in videos, poetry, and primary source

materials to provide a holistic view of the people at the center of historic events. She rarely lectures, preferring to involve her students in projects that require introspection. “When we reach the civil rights movement in my intro-level class, I ask them to do some research on different civil rights organizations and choose one that they would have wanted to be involved with then,” Ferguson says. “Then they tell me about it in a short essay and make something creative.”

Students have written letters and newsletters, made videos, and created Twitter threads. “And, whether they know it or not, they’ve really captured the way these people spoke and thought about whatever it was they were involved in,” Ferguson says.

What Ferguson is asking of her students is what she is demanding of herself. She is working on a memoir of growing up in Cold War Europe.

Viewing oneself as an actor in history rather than an observer of it is citizenship, Ferguson says. “I want my students to see themselves as part of a historical thread that’s always moving, always changing. In class, I talk a lot about my

life and the lives of people I know in particular historical moments. Personal stories make students sit up and listen.

“I want them to really look at stuff, to be open to noticing something. Be more self-aware,” Ferguson says. “Be always reading or looking.”

And, she adds, “Follow a curiosity about things that are different.” •

—Marybeth Reilly-McGreen



Ferguson, who is also a prolific painter, says in her painting she follows her own curiosity, which is advice she gives her students. Ferguson is often accompanied on campus by her dog, Rakhi.

WHEN KA KI “KAY” TSE ’19 moved from Hong Kong to the United States with her family in 2012, her parents wanted her to have a better life.

As a first-year URI student in 2015, Tse had only been speaking English for a few years and wasn’t entirely comfortable making friends. “For a while I felt lost,” she says. “I thought I needed to have everything all figured out and I wasn’t sure what I wanted to do.”

What she knew about herself was that she’d always enjoyed physical activity, so she chose a kinesiology major, thinking physical therapy might be her career path. She dove into her studies and soon discovered that living on campus offered her newfound freedom and surprising opportunities.

She found friends—in her classes, through her job at the Fascitelli Fitness and Wellness Center, and through involvement in campus groups like the URI Service Corps, where she was as an alternative spring break leader. Her love of travel led to summer adventures in Ghana and Togo with Operation Groundswell, and to a backpacking trip through Europe after her junior year, which gave her time and space for some much-needed soul searching.

An internship at the Weight Control and Diabetes Research Center at Miriam Hospital broadened Tse’s perspective—she became interested in behavior change and what motivates people to want to be healthier. So she added

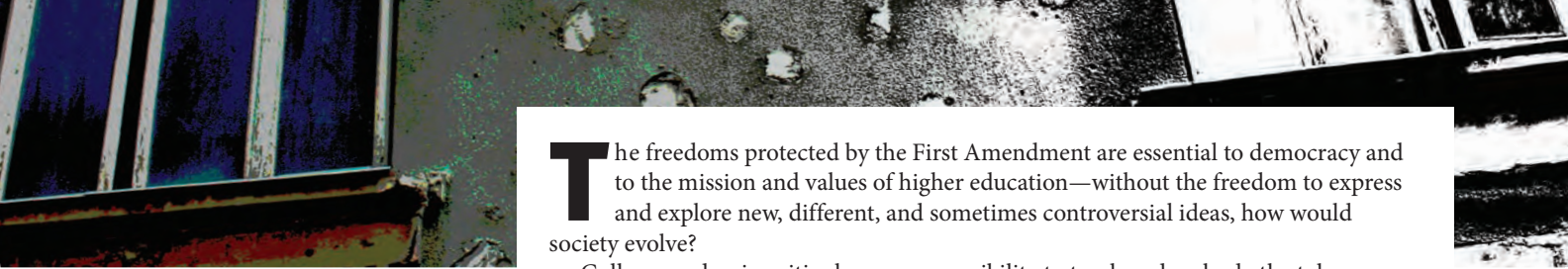


Why Are We Talking About the **FIRST** AMENDMENT?

By Marybeth Reilly-McGreen

This year, URI kicks off the Taricani Lecture Series on First Amendment Rights, in honor of the late Jim Taricani, Hon. '18. Taricani was a champion of First Amendment rights, and his wife, Laurie White '81, has made it her mission to keep his legacy alive. We asked other members of the URI community to share their stories about **why the First Amendment matters**. The result is a powerful collection of testimonials to the importance of the freedoms protected by the amendment—religion, speech, press, and peaceful assembly.





The freedoms protected by the First Amendment are essential to democracy and to the mission and values of higher education—without the freedom to express and explore new, different, and sometimes controversial ideas, how would society evolve?

Colleges and universities have a responsibility to teach and embody the tolerance that allows for civil discourse. Controversy can arise when one person's expression offends another. How do we manage that? How does the First Amendment work to advance scholarship and research across the disciplines?

The stories that follow are profiles in courage, integrity, and citizenship. They illustrate the importance of our freedom—and responsibility—to exercise our First Amendment rights.

Because Truth Matters

Bosnia was a different war.

"It was a different animal," CNN chief international anchor and host of PBS's *Amanpour & Company* Christiane Amanpour '83, Hon. '95, told a packed Edwards Auditorium last September at the annual lecture series bearing her name.

An animal hell-bent on annihilation.

Six months after the first Gulf War, Amanpour was covering the dissolution of the former Yugoslavia. "This was a civil war that was building to a genocide," Amanpour said. "This was something that affected me personally."

Journalists are taught that objectivity is

fairness, and that their reporting should reflect all viewpoints. But, in the case of the Bosnian genocide, practicing objectivity wasn't necessarily getting to the truth, Amanpour discovered. "Be truthful, not neutral: I learned that in Sarajevo," she said. It's become her tagline.

"And it came about because we were telling the truth: stories of civilians—men, women, and children being brutalized, besieged by the Bosnian Serbs, and their patrons, the Serbs, who had the armor, the personnel, the agenda—and who wanted to ethnically cleanse parts of Bosnia to create a white, nationalist, Serb entity to carve off and attach as a greater Serbia. They thought this was their opportunity."



"It made me examine what I was doing and what we had to do as journalists. What I had done was tell the truth. When you get all sides of the story, you're being objective. But when you then mistakenly believe that objectivity is neutrality, you create a false factual and false moral equivalence. In these situations, if you do that, you are an accomplice."

—Christiane Amanpour '83, Hon. '95

Christiane Amanpour '83, Hon. '95, at URI's Edwards Auditorium in September 2019.

World leaders did nothing, Amanpour said.

"Not the president of the United States, not the prime minister of Great Britain, nor the president of France. None of our democratic leaders wanted to follow their international duty under the Geneva Convention, which says when you see ethnic cleansing, genocide, deep violations of the most important international laws, you actually have to respond," Amanpour said.

But because the war happened in the era of 24/7 news, the world watched. "We didn't just do one story. We did all the important stories for years," Amanpour said. "Bosnia was the leading story around the world—in the United States, in Europe, and in Muslim countries—because it was Muslim civilians, European Muslims, who were being slaughtered like animals."

CNN and Amanpour were accused of bias. "I was upset and I had to re-examine our golden rule, objectivity," Amanpour told the audience. "It made me examine what I was doing and what we had to do as journalists. What I had done was tell the truth. When you get all sides of the story, you're being objective. But when you then mistakenly believe that objectivity is neutrality, you create a false factual and false moral equivalence."

"In these situations, if you do that, you are an accomplice."

Such situations underscore the value of the fourth estate, and, by association, the First Amendment, Amanpour said.

"We like to call ourselves the fourth estate. That's not just a throwaway title. That means we are fundamental pillars of what creates and maintains a strong and robust democracy," Amanpour said. "In countries where there is a strong journalistic profession, the countries are healthier."

"And in this world where information is one of the most important and valuable commodities, those who are the purveyors of the information, i.e., the journalists, have to continue to do that in an environment that is safe and free."



Omar Bah '10 outside the Refugee Dream Center in Providence, which he opened in 2015 to help refugees get information and resources about health care, employment, English language classes, tutoring, mentoring, and trauma counseling.

Because Despots Must be Exposed

The Gambia. 2001. Beaten, bloody, and drifting in and out of consciousness, 21-year-old journalist Omar Bah '10 lay curled in the fetal position, awaiting death in a cell so small he couldn't stretch his legs. He had been writing articles criticizing the country's dictator, Yahya Jammeh, when he was taken into custody by soldiers. Over the course of a day, Bah had been stabbed in the back with bayonets and his head bludgeoned with the butt of an AK-47. "They made a game of lifting me and throwing me in the air, and as I came down they kicked me and hit me with their gun butts," Bah recalls.

The cell was dark, fetid, and so hot that Bah couldn't tell if he was soaked in sweat or blood. Rats, geckos, and other lizards skittered across his body while mosquitoes fed on him.

"My bayonet wounds were deep and swelling," Bah recalls. "Soldiers would

look in and see if I was still alive, start kicking and hitting me, then leave and lock the door.

"I thought I was going to die."

But people had witnessed the torture. "The soldiers did not care to hide what they were doing, because it was condoned," Bah says.

After being held for the day, Bah was released because of public outcry—but that's where the support ended in Jammeh's Gambia. "You couldn't say anything; you couldn't do anything. No hospital would treat me; I was on my own."

"I get very angry when I speak about it."

Still, Bah returned to reporting. "I could not be quiet," he says. In 2006, though, he received a tip that Jammeh's men were coming for him again. Within hours Bah had fled his homeland for Senegal but was detained at the border by a soldier. Arms raised in surrender, Bah was horrified to see that the soldier was a childhood friend. His friend's face registered a similar surprise and horror. Then,

a moment of grace. The friend let him go and likely saved Bah's life. Bah arrived in Rhode Island a year later and became a United States citizen in 2012.

"Now I can say whatever I want without having to look over my shoulder," says Bah. "I think about it every day."

In 2010, Bah earned his bachelor's in communication studies from URI and in 2015 opened the Refugee Dream Center. It serves about 300 people a year and is "meant to empower and lift them to have a voice," Bah says. Refugees are offered help finding housing, jobs, trauma counseling, and health care. "The second part of the mission is advocacy. It's a lot of work but very rewarding," Bah says.

Bah now lives in South Providence with his wife and two young sons. He will earn his Ph.D. in June. Having grown up in a mud hut in a village where women carried water in jars on their heads and the village ambulance was a donkey cart, Bah is intent on teaching his children that opportunity is possible in his adopted country. "They know they are lucky to live in a country where they are not afraid to speak up and enjoy freedoms of every kind," he says.

"I want to live a life of example to them—one in which education is highly valued."

Bah's younger boy is interested in social justice. "When we're in the car, my

son makes me stop when he sees a homeless person. He gives all of his money to the homeless," Bah says. "Those actions make me cherish freedom even more. It is a gift and an opportunity to make a difference."

Bah is quiet for a moment. It's not easy to put into words such a turnabout of fortune. "That first day I set foot in the United States, I could look forward to what I would do in my life," Bah says. "America permitted me freedom, opportunity, and a chance for a second life."

"People should use their rights as a catalyst for upward movement. They should exercise those rights in a civil society," he says. "And agree to disagree. It's OK. It's good."

"We leave ourselves uneducable if we dismiss people based on viewpoint; we leave the world uneducable if we strip someone of the right to speak on that basis. We can't have freedom from speech. If we don't protect everyone's right to speak their mind, the First Amendment is null and void."

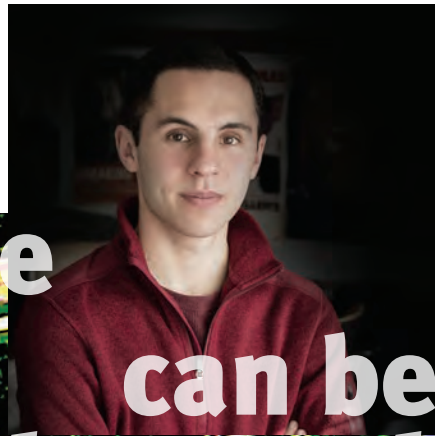
—Sam Foer '20, philosophy major

"As a journalist, you're there to tell people the truth, to be a monitor of power and a voice for the voiceless."

—Theresa Brown '21, editor, *The Good Five Cent Cigar*

"One thing about the First Amendment as the baseline for journalistic freedom is that it can be interpreted in many ways—but it's the journalist's job to interpret it in a responsible way."

—Ian Weiner '20, past editor, *The Good Five Cent Cigar*



"Part of the goal for any student in our department is that they understand what it is to be a good citizen in a democracy. And without First Amendment rights, there would be no democracy."

—John Pantalone, associate professor and chair, URI Department of Journalism



Vladimir Duthiers '91, Hon. '17, who was a reporter for *The Good Five Cent Cigar* at URI, got his big break in broadcast journalism when he accompanied CNN's Anderson Cooper to Haiti after the January 2010 earthquake. Duthiers, whose parents immigrated to the United States from Haiti, speaks Haitian Creole. He was part of the CNN team that won two Emmys for their coverage of the earthquake.

Because People Should be Remembered

On a spring evening in Nigeria in April 2014, 276 Chibok schoolgirls were kidnapped by the terrorist group Boko Haram. The world wanted the girls returned; the Nigerian government felt the pressure. At a Nigerian Ministry of Defence press briefing on the kidnappings, a government official threw a crumpled piece of paper at then-CNN correspondent Vladimir Duthiers '91, Hon. '17. In Nigeria, reporting the government unfavorably was tantamount to sedition.

"The official said, 'Vlad, stop being disrespectful. Stop propagandizing Nigeria,'" Duthiers recalls. "They believed the reporting we were doing was making them out to be bad guys. It was the first time I heard charges of unreal or fake news."

In that moment, Duthiers, now a CBS News correspondent and CBSN anchor,

realized that wadded paper lobbed in your direction can be a threat.

It wasn't the first time Duthiers risked retribution for his reporting. It wasn't even the first time that year. In January of 2014, CNN reported on the first gay Nigerian to come out on television. That year Nigeria signed the Same-Sex Marriage Prohibition Act into law. Duthiers' job put him at great risk.

"I could be thrown in jail for 10 years under this new law," Duthiers said in a television interview with Christiane Amanpour. The law made it illegal for anyone to associate with a person perceived to be homosexual.

But Duthiers was of the Amanpour school of journalism. "Nigeria has freedom of the press. Its journalists can be outspoken and critical, but they face harassment and violence. As an American journalist, what was horrific to see in Nigeria was people being rounded up on the suspicion of LGBTQ activity,"

Duthiers says. "People with no access to lawyers. It was very clear to the American journalists that this was not America."

"The First Amendment was something we dealt with every single day," Duthiers says. "You had to be very careful with what you wrote and what you said on the air. Governments monitor CNN and BBC. They were watching what we said and did."

Duthiers' reminiscing called to mind another anecdote: When covering former president of Liberia and convicted war criminal Charles Taylor's trial, a government official said to Duthiers and his producer, "Journalists: Your AK-47 is your pen."

It underscored the responsibility Duthiers carries and the risk he bears.

"Your life could be in danger whether you're in the United States or abroad," Duthiers says. "I tell young people that the role journalism plays in society places you under constant threat. You need to be aware that your life is at risk."

"The crowd could turn against you and the next thing you know, you're running for your life. You need to take responsibility and strive mightily."

The walls of Duthiers' office are covered with photos of people he's reported on. The photos bear witness to the subjects' suffering and tragedy—and joy. "I am honored that they allowed me to share their stories with others," Duthiers says. In some cases, speaking their truth is a thing his subjects can't do for themselves.

In 2016, in Haiti, in the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew, Duthiers was in a village totally flattened. He and his crew had finished filming and were packing up. A woman approached asking if Duthiers would write her name in his notebook. Others followed suit. "In writing their names down, I think they knew I would take their stories with me. They would not be forgotten," Duthiers says. "I still take that notebook out from time to time and read their names."

"It's a small thing I can do."

“The role of the journalist is to speak the truth and perform a watchdog function for the public.”

—Laurie White ’81

Because Sometimes You Have to Take a Stand

It was 1984 on a hot July afternoon in Providence, when, at the wake of legendary New England mafia crime boss Raymond Loreda Salvatore Patriarca Sr., two men exchanged a greeting and a rose. The gesture conveyed a profound respect that stunned the law enforcement officers observing. It’s not every day that you see mob bosses treating journalists with deference.

What witnesses saw was an exchange between new New England crime boss Raymond Patriarca Jr. and investigative broadcast journalist Jim Taricani, Hon. ’18. “Junior,” as Patriarca Jr. was known, had invited Taricani to his father’s wake and presented him with the rose. It was a mark of his father’s respect, Patriarca Jr. said.

“People understood Jim had a job to do, and they knew if he was covering the story, they would be treated fairly,” says his widow Laurie White ’81, who is president of the Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce. “But to have the mob boss’s son actually invite him to the wake! The FBI and the State Police and other law enforcement were watching the funeral home to see who went in, and when they saw him go in there, they said, ‘How the hell did you get in? Tell us who was in there.’”



Channel 10 reporter Jim Taricani, Hon. ’18, and his wife, Laurie White ’81, leaving federal court in December 2004 after Taricani was sentenced to home confinement for refusing to reveal the source of an undercover tape showing a Providence city official taking a bribe during the FBI’s Plunder Dome corruption investigation.

Taricani declined. His ethics wouldn’t allow it. Twenty years later, Taricani would deny law enforcement a second time, refusing to reveal a source who leaked him an FBI surveillance tape. For this, Taricani was held in civil contempt of court by a federal judge and sentenced to six months’ home confinement. The case turned Taricani, already a legend among journalists, into the face of the free press. He traveled the country lecturing on the First Amendment, the federal shield law, and the Free Flow of Information Act, even testifying for the bill before Congress in 2007. The Edward R. Murrow Award-winner for investigative journalism, Taricani received the prestigious Yankee Quill Award from the New England Newspaper and Press Association in 2007.

This year, URI will launch the Taricani Lecture Series on First Amendment Rights, a series established by Laurie White, which has received support from alumni and friends who are interested in First

Amendment issues and in sustaining Taricani’s legacy.

“After Jim’s passing, this concept of how to keep his work as a professional journalist alive revolved around the notion of how do we, during this particularly troubling time in our history, understand and appreciate the importance of the First Amendment and the freedoms afforded under it, particularly the rights of the press,” White says. “We want to keep that alive and inspire the next generation of ethical and responsible journalists—to continue to do that in a way that reflects our belief in our institutions and our democracy and our belief that journalists serve an essential role in our society.

“We are facing a real existential threat—the threat of powerful institutions to suppress the news,” White says. “The role of the journalist is to speak the truth and perform a watchdog function for the public.

“There is a need for the professional journalist to be protected.”

“The First Amendment is the backbone of what we do. There are public officials who are very careful about what they do, because they know there are people out there, like Spotlight, looking.”

—Thomas Farragher ’77, Hon. ’17

Because People Have the Right to Know

“I grew up in the stereotypical Catholic family: nine kids, all altar boys, in a house with a crucifix on the wall. A lightning storm would find my mother sprinkling the house with holy water,” Tom Farragher ’77, Hon. ’17, says.

So to be part of *The Boston Globe* Spotlight Team, which successfully sued the Catholic Church for sealed court records and broke the story about the protracted and systemic sexual abuse of children by serial pedophile priests in the Archdiocese of Boston, placed Farragher at odds with his spiritual teachers. “January 1, 2002, a Sunday, the story was on page one of *The Globe*. I’m walking into 7 a.m. Mass and Monsignor Eugene McNamara says, ‘What are you doing to us?’”

The fourth estate, freedom of the press, had done battle with the Catholic Church in one of the most Catholic cities in the country. And won.

“Judge Constance M. Sweeney, who ruled that the records should come out, is the hero of this story. You saw two worlds clashing in that moment,” Farragher says. “Rome answers to nobody. I covered the court hearings where the church was arguing against the release. That ruling



Thomas Farragher ’77, Hon. ’17, a journalism major at URI who was a reporter for *The Good Five Cent Cigar*, says that even as a student reporter, he took every assignment seriously. A reporter and former editor for *The Boston Globe* Spotlight Team, Farragher’s belief in the power and impact of journalism is unwavering.

was game, set, and match. And those records were complete, lengthy, and damning.”

It was a win for freedom of the press and for the victims—and a sea change for Boston. Cardinal Bernard Law resigned in December 2002. Two-hundred-and-forty-nine archdiocesan priests and brothers were publicly accused of sexual abuse. In the wake of *The Globe*’s revelations, the Catholic Church reported that more than 4,000 priests across the country had been accused of sexual abuse in the last 50 years.

The Spotlight Team won the 2003 Pulitzer Prize for Public Service. The real winner in a story like this, though, is the public.

“The First Amendment is the backbone of what we do,” Farragher says. “There are public officials who are very careful about what they do, because they know there are people out there, like Spotlight, looking. When a mayor or police chief would tell me, ‘No, no, that’s

not how it works,’ I would say, ‘The First Amendment is on my side.’”

In the 17 years since that Pulitzer Prize-winning Spotlight series, American newspapers have seen a precipitous drop in readership concurrent with exponential growth in internet media outlets. Competition for readers is fierce.

“Obviously it’s a splintered journalistic world now, but you look at the journalism *The Globe* is doing and there’s no question hard, vigorous journalism is being committed all the time,” Farragher says. “We have protected the nuclear core of what we do, and it is resonating. More people are reading *The Globe* online than ever in my 42 years of doing this.

I am hopeful about what we do, but the journalism world I walked into just doesn’t exist anymore. There’s great journalism being produced every day,” Farragher continues. “People have to be more discerning about who they go to and who they trust.”

Because Inequity Persists

Lorén Spears '89, Hon '17, executive director of the Tomaquag Museum and member of the Narragansett Indian Tribe, possesses a graciousness and patience 400 years in the cultivation when explaining that authors of the First Amendment ignored indigenous people. First, she must dispel misconceptions about indigenous people. Second, augment American history to include indigenous people. Third, explain what it is to be indigenous in modern society.

The country's formation depended upon the appropriation of indigenous land, a.k.a. theft, which required the vilification, dehumanization, and victimization of indigenous people, Spears says. "This notion of believing you have the right to do such a thing, to subjugate and dehumanize and victimize other human beings for your own goals," Spears shakes her head. "The First Amendment was not written for those being displaced, dispossessed, or violently (attacked) through genocide, war, and enslavement."

Resistance took many forms. Wars were waged—on battlefields, in classrooms, churches, and courtrooms. The federal government sought to deracinate indigenous people through conversion to Christianity, a European model of education, even detribalization. "Education was used against us as an act of war," Spears says. "To strip us of everything we knew, to take away our language, our religion, our cultures, to disrupt our families and communities, and to break apart our political structures in order to force us to adopt or assimilate into Eurocentric concepts of community."

Full access to the Bill of Rights for indigenous people is relatively new. The Indian Civil Rights Act was passed just 52 years ago. Religious freedom came 10 years later with the passage of the American Indian Religious Freedom Act in 1978.

"When you think about historical trauma, this is ongoing," Spears says. "There are still attacks on our sovereignty."

Spears and the Tomaquag Museum continue the fight through educational programming, activism, strategic partnerships with the Indigenous Empowerment Network, and other efforts to "create opportunity, uplift native voices, and honor native cultural knowledge," Spears says.



Lorén Spears '89, Hon '17, at the Tomaquag Museum in Exeter, Rhode Island, where she is the executive director. Spears is also an educator, author, activist, and indigenous artist.

"There is no Rhode Island history without Narragansett, Niantic, and other indigenous people's history," Spears says. "And there is no such thing as United States history without indigenous people's history."

"We're still reclaiming our rights," Spears adds. "We still don't often feel we're heard. We're not always at the table with the people that have the wealth, the power, and the control. So we're still pursuing these rights and these freedoms that are guaranteed under the Constitution."

Because Academic Freedom Matters

A 2017 survey conducted by the Annenberg Public Policy Center of the University of Pennsylvania highlights the need for a nationwide civics lesson:

- 37% of American adults surveyed could not name one right guaranteed to them under the First Amendment.
- 53% surveyed thought immigrants here illegally have no rights under

the U.S. Constitution.

- Only 25% could name all three branches of government.

Scientist and dean of the Graduate School Nasser Zawia is troubled. That people don't know their rights is distressing enough. But that people who do know their rights don't exercise them is equally unsettling.

"The First Amendment is very special to an academician because of tenure. Tenure was not designed to assure permanent job security but to protect academic freedom for faculty who want to speak truth to power and not fear for their jobs," Zawia explains. "We have faculty here who are tenured and secure but will not speak truth to power. People rely on academics to be unbiased, neutral judges who do the due diligence and scholarly work."

"We should be the ones the public trusts."

We are being tested as a country, Zawia says. Faculty should engage their students, openly discuss with them what's going on. "We're being tested about our tolerance, our diversity, our core values,"



Dean of the Graduate School Nasser Zawia spoke to the press at a November 2015 URI vigil condemning the terrorist attacks in Paris that month, which killed 130 people and injured over 400.

he adds. "Even about scientific beliefs."

The university community, Zawia says, should be able to converse, debate, and learn from one another. "It's a unique opportunity for students to come to a university and interact with so many different and diverse people," Zawia continues. "This is the time for them to learn how to work with the world. Our role as teachers is to steer this ship and make sure everybody gets a chance to speak their mind."

"Everybody deserves a chance."

Because Discomfort is Part of Learning

Imagine a knock-down-drag-out fight between college roommates conducted via text. While in the same room. Consider a student sending an emergency alert through Wildfire that sets off a campus-wide panic. Picture a controversial speaker invited to campus by one student group whose presence causes members of another to fear for their safety. Such are the situations college administrators face today, says URI's vice president for student affairs, Kathy Collins.

Complicating things further: the wild west that is social media and the legacy of well-intentioned elementary and

secondary schools' anti-bullying policies and curriculums, argue Erwin Chemerinsky and Howard Gillman in their book, *Free Speech on Campus*. "Many students associate free speech with bullying and shaming. Another difference is that some students extend the language of 'harm' and 'threat' to apply not only to traditional examples of so-called hate speech, but also to the expression of any idea they see contrary to their strongly held views of social justice," Chemerinsky and Gillman write.

"So how do we look at issues that could range from DACA to trans rights to the upcoming election and everything in between?" Collins says. "I want to create the opportunity for students to express all of their opinions."

"The most important thing to me when I consider the First Amendment and students' rights is that students understand there is a difference between their safety and their level of comfort. I hope students hear things that make them uncomfortable," Collins says. "I hope they have discomfort for life. I have worked all over the world, and I believe students should go and experience different places and different points of view. That's part of learning."



As vice president for student affairs, Kathy Collins oversees the lion's share of URI students' co-curricular experiences, navigating complex issues and the often delicate balance between freedom of speech and respectful dialogue on campus.

Christiane Amanpour agrees with Collins. Battlefield or classroom: Each setting offers the opportunity to take a stand.

"The idea that you have to be safe from ideas that conflict with yours is wildly wrong. **If not at university, where are you going to have the freedom to explore ideas that you don't like,** even people that you might not naturally gravitate toward?" Amanpour says. "It's here in this safe space that you can actually operate in areas that you are in conflict with or don't understand or that you think are offensive—that's how you grow and that's how you grow resilience. And that's how you grow intellectually and find your way in the world." •

Video at uri.edu/magazine

THE EMOTIONAL POWER OF TIDYING UP

By Nicki Toler

Her clients call her a wonder, a coach, guide, partner, teacher, motivator, and a force of nature. But Laurie Lindemann, M.A. '02, just wants to help people simplify their lives.



“It’s really about discovery. In this process you learn, or relearn, what is important to you.”

—Laurie Lindemann

Most of us spend our waking hours feeling overwhelmed. We have too much to do, too much to think about, and too much stuff—our actual physical possessions—weighing us down. Have you ever noticed how many items on our to-do lists are related to managing our stuff? Where did it all come from, and do we really need it?

LET GO AND BREATHE

Enter Marie Kondo, the decluttering guru who started a movement with her first book, *The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up*, published in the United States in 2014. Kondo’s novel approach did not focus on finding the perfect container, storage unit, or custom-designed closet. She wanted us to let go, to release things that were not serving us well—even if they were “still good” and we “might want them someday.” She wanted us to be able to breathe.

It actually was a life-changing message for Laurie Lindemann, M.A. '02, who lost her husband, John P. Caito '81, to cancer in 2010 when their daughter was only 7. When Lindemann read Kondo’s book, she realized that in addition to raising her daughter, working, taking classes, and dealing with grief, she was struggling under the burden of all the things her husband left behind. That included “a house and two enormous barns full of old cars without engines, useless farm machinery, soup cans full of nails, and more. So much more. Too mind-boggling to even describe,” she says. “To add to my grief, I had to admit that all these things weighed me down both mentally and physically. I understood that although they made John happy, they had the opposite effect on me.”

Lindemann was inspired by Kondo’s book and followed its guidelines to declutter her

home—and she saw something different, something that worked for her. When she learned Kondo would be appearing at New York City’s 92nd Street Y, she hightailed it from her East Greenwich, Rhode Island, home to Manhattan for the event.

By the time the presentation was over, Lindemann was sold—and was the first to put her name on the Kondo mailing list. “That night, on the drive home, I was already thinking about how I could do what Marie Kondo was talking about,” she says. Before Kondo had even mentioned training consultants, Lindemann imagined she was one. She knew she could do it. A natural entrepreneur, she had started a graphic design business when she was still in her 20s, earned a master’s degree in communications at URI, and completed a web design certificate—also at URI. She had worked for years in communications, design, and operations and was running her own web design business. But her interest in Marie Kondo’s approach was based on something deeper and more basic than her entrepreneurial spirit.

“After doing the process myself, I finally felt hopeful again. I felt a renewed sense of energy, of myself,” she says. “I wanted to help other people feel like I did.”

Today there are 353 certified KonMari™ consultants in 43 countries worldwide. Lindemann was in the first class of consultants, and formed her business, Declutter Pronto, in 2016.

Now, five years after that trip to New York to see Marie Kondo, Lindemann is a certified master consultant, the highest level of KonMari™ certification, which requires 1,500 hours of client work. Her company’s tagline is “organizing without judgment,” and she works with people throughout New England, and beyond.

“People don't realize why they are holding onto things. That is why so much emotion comes with letting go.”

—Kerry Evers, co-president and CEO, Pro-Change Behavior Systems, Inc.



Lindemann helps people bring order to their lives by letting go of things that weigh them down. When it's time to organize, tools like these boxes are essential, says Lindemann.

FINDING THE MAGIC

Lindemann says there are plenty of misconceptions about her work. The Kondo promise of the “life-changing magic of tidying up” is a pretty tall order. And it's not easy. “This is hard work, both physically and emotionally,” says Lindemann, who adds that like all work, it can be tedious.

The goal is not to eliminate your possessions and live a minimalist life—and at its core, it's not really about organizing. “When people ask me what I do, I tell them I help people simplify their lives,” she says. “Isn't that what most of us want?”

“I think we all want to live and work in a space that supports us, that makes our lives easier, better, without spending so much time and energy managing our possessions,” she says. “How much of our time, and our lives, do we want to spend managing our things?”

“In the KonMari” method, we touch everything and we work by category instead of location,” says Lindemann. The five categories are: clothing, books, paper, miscellaneous (a huge category that

includes kitchen items, electronics, etc.), and sentimental items. Clients start with clothing, the easiest category, and work their way toward the most challenging: sentimental items. Lindemann says completing the earlier, easier categories—and experiencing that success—can create a powerful momentum.

“What's important to understand is that I don't tell my clients what to do, what to keep. They choose. It's really about discovery. In this process you learn, or relearn, what is important to you.”

According to Lindemann, the magic is the outcome of the process. “Decluttering is the critical first step,” she says. “Once we declutter, we can actually see the things that have meaning for us. That's when the magic happens. We can be reacquainted with something we love, something that's been buried under clutter and life's responsibilities. We can, in some ways, rediscover ourselves. And that can feel like magic.”

READY FOR CHANGE

People call on Lindemann for many reasons. They are downsizing, moving out, moving in, or moving on after a significant loss—of a loved one, a job, a way of life. What they have in common is a need to change something that is burdening them—and to be successful, they have to be ready to change.

“Change is hard, and change without assistance is harder,” says Kerry Evers, M.A. '96, Ph.D. '98, co-president and CEO of Pro-Change Behavior Systems, Inc., a leading behavior-change consulting firm, founded 23 years ago by URI psychology professor emeritus James Prochaska, director of the Cancer Prevention Research Center at URI, and developer of the transtheoretical method of behavior change, which integrates stages, processes, and levels of change.

“What Laurie is doing is helping people see the benefit to changing their environment,” says Evers, who is familiar with Lindemann's work. “When people reach out to her, she can help them through the

process. She's like a coach who can tell what people need and take them through the changes.”

We know letting go of well-established behaviors is difficult. So is letting go of the things that surround us. “People don't realize why they are holding onto things,” says Evers. “That is why so much emotion comes with letting go.”

IT'S ALL ABOUT RELATIONSHIPS

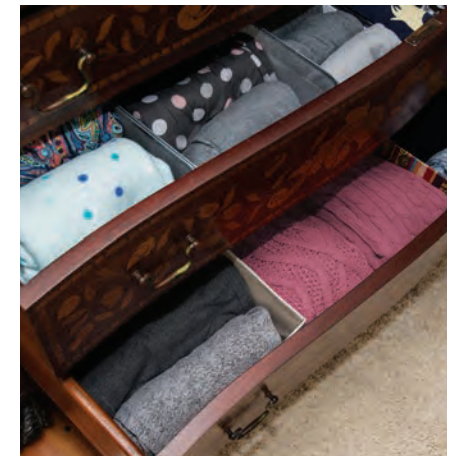
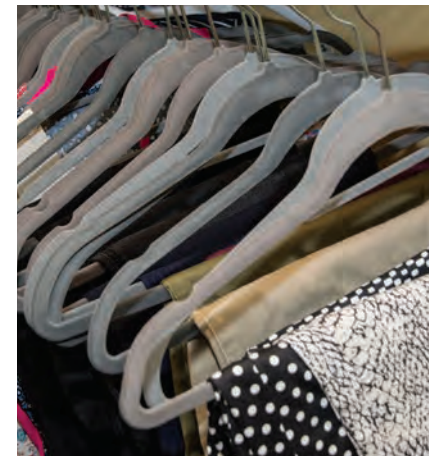
Lindemann says her ideal client is anyone who calls her and asks for her help.

A lot of people fit into that category. Many have read Kondo's book. Some have stacks of books about organizing. They are retired, recent grads, couples, singles, families with children. With families, Lindemann works with each person individually—including the children.

“This work is about relationships. It's so personal. Trust—and the absence of judgment—are essential,” says Lindemann. “People are trusting me to be in their homes. I take that very seriously. It's a privilege to help remove clutter so that they can live more meaningful lives. I've experienced this myself and I've seen it repeatedly with my clients.”

Kerri Leonard is one of them. She lives with her family outside Boston, runs three businesses, and is a mom of two. Leonard, who discovered she had attention deficit disorder when she was in her late 30s, says her home and family life were defined by chaos. Concern for her children is what brought her to Lindemann. How was growing up in such a disordered household affecting them?

She had read the Kondo books, but knew she needed help. “Somehow Laurie knew exactly what I needed. She's intuitive. There's a depth there. She understood the emotional impact of the work we were doing,” says Leonard, who stresses Lindemann's empathy, endless energy, humor, and her ability to know when it's time to take a break, which is important because, says Leonard, “this is exhausting work.”



ORGANIZING 101

Ready to take the first steps toward finding the magic? Once the decluttering is done, try these quick tips.

▲ Hang tough

Matching hangers in your closet (above, left) showcase your clothes, provide a cohesive look, and allow you to easily find what you're looking for.

▲ Think vertically

No more piles! Organize your drawers vertically—the Kondo method encourages folding so items stand vertically (above, right), making them easier to see and retrieve. Also great when packing a travel bag!

▲ Divide and conquer

Boxes are the quintessential organizer. They divide drawers, or other spaces, into sections. Use what you have—shoeboxes, gift boxes, bamboo cutlery holders—as long as they are rectangular or square.

▲ No hide-and-seek

Make everything you use visible. Don't tuck things away in hidden spots—you'll forget where they are. Take ownership of your things and eliminate plastic bins and storing items off-site.



McGiveney and Harbin enjoy a rare quiet moment together at their home in West Kingston, Rhode Island.

LOVE

Makes a Family

By Paul Kandarian

When Marc McGiveney '92 and Deb Harbin '92 met as nursing students at URI in 1988, they were adults with children of their own. When they married four years later, they blended their families, including their four children, and proceeded to adopt four more. Five of their eight children had special needs. But they were special parents. And they knew they had plenty of the one thing all children need—love.



Above, Norman helps the grandkids in the kitchen, which is always a busy place. Right, Deb's work scrubs are often her at-home attire, too.

To the uninitiated, chaos seems to reign at a big house deep in the West Kingston, Rhode Island, woods. Marc McGiveney '92 and Deb Harbin '92 built the house for their family, which includes eight children—five with special needs, and four of those adopted—and five grandchildren. But for them, it's not chaos. It's just life.

Squatting on the floor, playing with a toy, and staring at the noisy scene around him is their son, Luke, 21, who has Down syndrome. Luke, whom they adopted as an infant, is gently tapping one of his many stuffed animals to his lips, "It's sensory stimulation," explains Marc. Luke occasionally flings the stuffed animal across the room.

Standing quietly and gently smiling amid the noise is another son, Norman, 27. They adopted Norman when he was 5. He had a litany of physical, medical, and emotional problems—"A perfect fit for this family," says Marc. He was born to a mother with substance abuse issues and

*It's not chaos.
It's just life.*

he suffered numerous strokes as an infant. Norman now works part-time in a silk screen shop and is a volunteer with the local fire department.

Marc and Deb have two other adopted children who are now grown and living

and working outside the home: Jonathan, 27, adopted at the age of 4, who had serious adjustment issues after a dozen previous foster placements; and Will, adopted at 16, who had significant learning and social disabilities, likely exacerbated by the fact that he had also been shuttled around foster care.

Rounding out the household are two special-needs adults, a couple, who live under Marc and Deb's care in a supportive living arrangement.

Stopping in to lend a hand are Deb's daughters, Emily Flynn, 36, and Nathalie Morrissey, 31. Emily and Nathalie's little ones scamper about, adding excitement to the busy scene. In the living room, Deb's other daughter, Vanesa, 38, born with Rett syndrome, a crippling neurological disorder, lays curled and smiling in her small chair, doted over by the grandchildren, her face locked into a smile as she silently takes it all in. "Vanesa," says Deb, "is small in stature but huge in presence!" Marc's daughter, Ellen, 37, also lives nearby and often stops in to visit or help out.

Deb, 63, just home from work as senior director of nursing at Perspectives Corporation, stands at the counter, still in nursing attire, chopping potatoes. Her only notable lament, it seems, is that the main course has not been attended to prior to her arrival.

"You'd think someone would have put the ham in the oven," she sighs with a laugh, looking pointedly at husband Marc, 67, a retired nurse. Marc, a calm and good-natured man with a long white



Marc with son, Luke. Marc and Deb adopted Luke, who has Down syndrome, when he was an infant.

ponytail and matching beard, just shrugs.

Amid the chaos, Haley, a small, furry rescue dog, runs from human to human seeking head pats and belly rubs. Hiding from the noise somewhere is Louis the cat.

This is a typical day in this household. Chaotic?

"Nah, this is quiet," Nathalie laughs, as the din grows and dinner is prepared. "Now, Christmas—that's insane."

Marc and Deb met at URI in 1988 as nursing students. They married July 3, 1992, not long after graduation.

But they almost never met. Marc had to battle to get into URI, having earned a C in high school chemistry back in 1968. He had to convince the University to take a chance on him.

"I said, 'Hey, I'm footing the bill here, and it's on me. So if I don't make it, I don't make it, that's on me,'" Marc says. "I could see their point. URI has a great nursing program and they weren't letting just anyone slide in." But he got his chance—and graduated with a 3.15 GPA.

Marc and Deb were both older students with families, and they met in a study group.

Marc, outspoken and opinionated, rubbed Deb the wrong way. He had what she describes as an "annoying conservative streak," which, she concedes, time has tempered.

"I didn't have much use for him when we first met. He had this kind of nonchalance," she says. "He used to argue that the people who had Medicaid had the same care as people with private insurance. With me being a single parent of a special-needs child I had to take to a clinic all the time, I knew that wasn't the case. So at first I thought he was a jerk."

"I wasn't aware then," Marc says.

And Deb adds, "He's come around."

He learned a bit about health care early on out of necessity. His first wife had Hodgkin's disease, and he had to learn how to care for her. At the time, Marc owned Island Records in Newport, and one of his customers told him being a male nurse might be a better career option for him—albeit for less-than-

altruistic reasons.

"He said only three percent of nurses are men, so nursing would be a great place to meet chicks," Marc laughs. "But he also said nursing is recession-proof. That stuck with me."

Family circumstances forced both Marc and Deb to leave URI for a short time, and when they returned, they gravitated toward one another once again, rekindling their friendship. Their respective marriages had ended in the interim, and they began dating. Marc jokes that they would "steal kisses in the elevator."

They both had small children, loved nursing—and each other. They moved in together in November 1991, graduated a month later, and married the following July.

"It went faster than we expected," Deb says dryly. "We were poor, in debt, with families to raise, and we both got jobs as RNs."

Deb worked her way up at Perspectives Corporation—an agency that provides services and support for children and adults with disabilities in



Above, the grandkids play with family dog, Haley, as Vanesa looks on. Inset, Norman gets a hug from his brother, Luke.

Rhode Island— for 24 years before becoming senior director of nursing. But it almost didn't happen at all.

"I almost didn't hire her. She was very, very outspoken," says Judy Niedbala '78, chief operating officer at Perspectives. "Turns out, she became a loud, outspoken advocate because she needed to for her daughter. Her strength is representing herself as a parent of a disabled child at meetings with other parents. That's powerful. And she's constantly challenging us as a provider to make sure we're doing the right thing."

"She's very direct, but you can be direct with her," Niedbala says. "You can say if she's out of line and she'll accept it."

Marc spent 27 years in nursing, including 12 in the emergency room at Rhode Island Hospital, where he organized the first nurse's union; for the last of his ER years, he also worked full time as the school nurse at Chariho Regional High School, where the kids called him the school "nurse." He stayed at Chariho for 20 years, retired in June, and is writing "a

novel of suspense, revenge, and coming of age." He's also home a lot more to take care of his family, something longtime friend Phil Hoffman '73 calls "remarkable."

"They're amazing, both of them," says Hoffman, who met Marc in 1972 when he and his wife, Sue, took Marc in as a boarder. "They make a great couple. Deb's more realistic and grounded, and Marc's got this incredible imagination. They mesh well. And taking care of those kids ... nothing fazes them."

In that seemingly chaotic seven-bedroom home, with its adaptable architecture of wide open spaces and wide door frames—specially designed by Deb to accommodate wheelchairs—things run smoothly, thanks in no small part, they say, to URI.

"We learned so much there—professionalism, global leadership, critical



The family relaxes together at the end of a typically busy day. Deb is surrounded by Norman, Vanesa, Emily, Nathalie, and other extended family members.

thinking," Deb says.

And Marc adds, "Everything we have sort of goes back to URI; it really made us able to think of others."

Which comes in handy in a home like theirs.

"It seems crazy, but that was our normal," says Emily, a 2007 URI doctor of pharmacy grad, now operations manager for Westerly Hospital's pharmacy. She credits her upbringing with sparking her career in health care: "As I was growing up, I'd sometimes ask my parents why they kept adding to the family, and they'd say, 'Every child deserves a family and to be loved.'"

For their part, Marc and Deb don't see anything at all unusual about having a house full of people; they've often opened their doors to friends in need, taking them in, giving them what they need to get back on their feet.

"You can't leave helping people to others," Marc says. "Jon, Norman, Luke, Will—they would've had different—and worse—lives if not for our adopting them."

"It's more selfish than that," Deb adds. "It makes us feel good. That's why we do it."

"My life's philosophy is simple: If you can do it, do it," Marc says. "You see

"Every child deserves a family and to be loved."

—Marc McGiveney '92 and Deb Harbin '92

someone who needs help, help. Sometimes it's easy, sometimes it's hard. But we've never bitten off more than we can chew."

"Through all the challenges, by believing and having faith, it always comes back to you in spades," Deb says. "What we give out is miniscule compared to the fullness it gives to our lives." •

Our Roots are Showing

By Todd McLeish

An awakening of sorts is underway—at URI and across the globe. There's growing recognition that the 20th century's industrial approach to farming and food production is unhealthy for people, animals, soil, and the environment, and is environmentally and economically unsustainable. So what's to be done? At URI, where agriculture is central to our history and mission as a land grant university, our faculty, students, and alumni are rediscovering our agricultural roots, taking a new, interdisciplinary approach to practical agriculture, and leading the way for a new generation of farmers and food producers.

In late October, a section of the University's agronomy field is blooming with gorgeous purple saffron flowers. Although 90 percent of the global harvest of saffron—the world's most expensive spice—comes from Iran, plant sciences professor Rebecca Brown has demonstrated that the Ocean State has the potential to claim a share of the market as demand grows in the United States.

"It's tolerant of arid conditions, which is why it's mostly grown in the poor, dry soils of southeastern Iran," she says. "But until now, no one had tried to grow it in Southern New England's moist, rich soils."

With the help of postdoctoral fellow Rahmatallah Gheshm, who grew the spice in Iran for 27 years, last year's campus saffron yield per acre was about triple that of Iran's.

"It's an attractive crop because you don't need sophisticated farm equipment or technology to grow it," she says. "It's a lot less work to grow than vegetables, though it's more labor intensive to harvest, which is why saffron is so expensive. It also doesn't have insect or disease problems here, and you don't have to water it. All of that is attractive to farmers."

The saffron experiment is just one of URI's many sustainable agriculture initiatives, which include numerous research projects, new faculty members, an aca-

Below, saffron flowers bring spring to URI's agronomy fields in October. Above, inset, the stigma of the saffron flower is harvested and dried to produce saffron, the world's most expensive spice, which sells for about \$5,000 per pound, wholesale. Demand for saffron in the U.S. is growing as more people from the Middle East and South Asia move here, and as appreciation grows for cuisines from those regions.



Plant sciences and entomology assistant professor John Taylor studies strategies used by ethnic communities to grow native vegetables in urban settings. One such strategy is polyculture—growing multiple species together to increase the yield of all. Here, amaranth, bitter melon, and sweet potato grow symbiotically at the URI agronomy fields.



An experienced farmer with degrees in horticulture and entomology, URI Cooperative Extension researcher Andrew Radin does outreach and consultation with the local farming community. Here, he shows local farmers a trellis system for growing tomatoes.

ways to improve production of tomatoes—the number one crop in high tunnels—by evaluating container mixes, calibrating nutrient requirements, and monitoring the occurrence of plant diseases and insect pests.

Envisioning the Future of Food Production

Sustainable agriculture research at URI doesn't focus just on crops in the soil. Department of Fisheries, Animal and Veterinary Sciences faculty members Marta Gomez-Chiarri, Austin Humphries, and Coleen Suckling are conducting studies of sustainability in the aquaculture and fishing industries, and Katherine Petersson, also in Fisheries, Animal and Veterinary

Sciences, is studying sustainable methods for controlling parasites in sheep. And that's just the food production side of the issue. Still other faculty are examining the topic from the perspective of economic sustainability, health, nutrition, culture, and communication. Such diverse ways of

thinking about sustainable agriculture made it ripe for the establishment of a new interdisciplinary major. Launched in 2016, the major in sustainable agriculture and food systems emerged as a result of requests from students for a course of study that combined food production with classes in business, health sciences, nutrition, policy, economics, hunger studies, and more.

"It also came about because employers and alumni said they want to hire people

who have a broad education about food security, sustainability, and climate change and have diverse skills," says Gomez-Chiarri, professor of aquaculture and coordinator of the sustainable agriculture major. "We had a lot of faculty doing sustainability in many departments, so we just had to package it in a way to provide the right guidance to students. The interdisciplinary nature of the program—requiring broad knowledge in the social sciences and the natural sciences—also means it's a program that can easily be done as a double major with another discipline.

"More than anything, this major is about training students to have a vision of the future for what they want food systems to become and to make them understand

the challenges of sustainability and getting big companies to buy into it," she adds.

Students in the program choose one of three focus areas: food production, food and society, or nutrition and food. They are required to complete a capstone project and an internship, many of which are conducted at commercial farms or the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management. Graduates might end up working in small- or large-scale food production on land or sea, finding innovative and safe ways to distribute and market food, or developing and enforcing policies that ensure food security and safety.

The first student to enroll in the program was Shayna Krasnoff '17, who is now in the Peace Corps in Uganda, where

she is an agribusiness advisor, training farmers in record-keeping, financial management, and related topics. She credits the major with providing her with the opportunity to explore what she described as "a budding interest" in sustainable agriculture.

"I'm passionate about supporting small-holder, regional farmers, both domestically and internationally, and helping them to stay ahead of trends in the food system and stay competitive in the market," she says. "Through my Peace Corps service, I have seen the need for the development of supply chains that enable small farmers to easily meet the demand from buyers and receive fair market price for their produce."

demographic major, and several campus measures designed to develop agricultural practices, products, and policies that reduce the environmental impact of food production while also considering economic sustainability and social justice for farming communities. The efforts attest to URI's long history in agricultural research and education, and its commitment to leading a new generation of growers in an effort to create a sustainable system of food production.

How Can We Grow More Food in Less Space?

Plant sciences and entomology assistant professor John Taylor is looking for ways to produce more food in smaller plots by using different nutrient inputs and tillage strategies and by cultivating several crops in the same space in a practice called polyculture.

"In polyculture, you're growing multiple species together to get more production from a unit of area compared to growing those crops in monoculture," he says. "It's a way to maximize the use of space. In Chinese-origin household gardens, they sometimes double production because they have a vine crop growing vertically on a trellis with a leafy ground layer below. It helps the household be more food secure."

He is also teaming with the Southside Community Land Trust in Providence to

evaluate the use of urban-adapted high tunnel systems, temporary greenhouses that help extend the growing season. By pairing raised beds in the tunnel with native flower beds that capture rain dripping off the tunnel, he is helping urban residents intensify production in small spaces.

"If we're going to meet the goal of producing 50 percent of the region's food needs by 2060," as proposed in a report prepared in 2014 by Food Solutions New England, "then a lot of our food is going to have to come from small-scale production in urban backyards and vacant lots," says Taylor, the first of several new professors hired as part of the sustainable agriculture program. He is finding that the yield from his urban farming experiments is much higher than production from conventional farms in Rhode Island.

Cooperative Extension researcher Andrew Radin is also working to make the best use of high tunnels. "It's like we brought a patch of North Carolina coastal growing conditions to Rhode Island," he says. "It enhances productivity and makes things grow and ripen faster." He is testing



John Taylor's initial polyculture studies focused on amaranth, a leafy green vegetable popular among African, Asian, and Caribbean cultures, and bitter melon, a warty, cucumber-shaped fruit with medicinal values favored in India and Southeast Asia. He is growing the two, along with a sweet potato variety grown for its leaves.

Where Theory Meets Practice

URI alumni were employed in the sustainable agriculture field long before the academic major was established. Jayne Merner Senecal '02 grew up in the industry. In 1977, her father started Earth Care Farm in Charlestown, Rhode Island, to produce farm compost, and now Senecal manages the farm, which uses sustainable practices so the land remains healthy for future generations. The compost she produces—known around Rhode Island as Merner's Gold—increases the biological activity, drought tolerance, and nutrient density of the soil to which it is added.

"Lots and lots of carbon can be captured and stored in the soil through the simple process of building soil health by adding compost," she says.



Jayne Merner Senecal '02, with her father, Michael Senecal, who started Earth Care Farm in 1977. Jayne now manages the farm, which produces Merner's Gold, a compost prized by local farmers and gardeners for boosting soil health.

Most of the efforts to make agriculture more sustainable in Rhode Island are guided by Ken Ayars '83, M.S. '86, chief of the state Division of Agriculture, who works with partners to develop policies and programs to perpetuate local farming.

"That means, among many things, focusing on local sustainable food sys-

tems, connectivity between farmers and consumers, ecologically balanced farming, and all that is necessary to keep agriculture viable within Rhode Island and New England," he says, noting that the growing interest in sustainable agriculture emerged from the region's reliance on imported food, the increasing awareness of the ecological benefits provided by healthy farmland, and a growing desire to know where our food comes from.

Many alumni are joining the effort.



Matty Gregg '09 owns Forty North Oyster Farms on Barnegat Bay in New Jersey, where he is helping to bring oysters back to the Mid-Atlantic coastal ecosystem.

EXTENDING OUR ROOTS: URI'S AGRICULTURAL LEGACY LOOKS OUTWARD

From the turf fields to the dining halls, URI is reaching out to showcase its agricultural expertise in a variety of ways, beyond our academic programs and faculty research.

In January, URI's Business Engagement Center hosted the fourth annual Food System Summit, a gathering of hundreds of government, academic, and business leaders for discussions about how to better support the state's increasingly important food economy. This year's event featured conversations about how climate change is affecting the regional food supply.

According to BEC executive director Katharine Flynn, the first Food System Summit generated the idea of establishing a Food Center on campus, a resource center where farmers, growers, producers, distributors, servers, retailers, and others can easily

access URI's agricultural resources, food expertise, researchers, and business support programs. It will also provide students with unique opportunities to network with the sustainable agriculture industry and gain practical experience in the food sector.

The Food Center will be housed in the former turfgrass research building on Plains Road beyond the athletic fields and will contain conference rooms, office space, the Cooperative Extension's Plant Protection Clinic (which helps community members identify pest insects and diseases on their plants), and a vegetable washing station where food grown on campus can be

washed to meet food safety standards.

The University's newest agricultural initiative is the creation of an Agricultural Innovation Campus on 50 acres at Peckham Farm, to include more than 25 acres of greenhouses and a 15,000-square-foot Agriculture Innovation Center, which will be URI's hub for agricultural innovation, entrepreneurship, internships, and education. The campus will be developed in partnership with Rhode Island Mushroom Co.; American Ag Energy Inc.; Verinomics, Inc.;

and VoloAgri Inc.; with startup funding allocated from a state bond approved by voters in 2016.

URI Dining Services is also doing its part to contribute to the University's sustainable agriculture efforts. It's partnering with local farms, fishers, and vendors to make "eat local" more than just a catchphrase, and its food waste is converted to compost through a partnership with the Compost Plant, a Providence business focused on diverting organic waste from landfills to high-quality compost. URI's Dining Services is even growing herbs, salad greens, and tomatoes in the dining halls to reduce procurement time and product costs.



An Enlightened Food System

In Cranston, Rhode Island, Corey Confreda '14 is helping to make his family's farm—one of the largest in the state—more sustainable by installing swales—shallow channels around growing areas to capture water and reduce fertilizer runoff—and by planting a cover crop between the rows to capture even more water, among other strategies. "We take farming sustainability seriously," he said. "We try to implement new methods each year to reduce our impact on the environment."

Matty Gregg '09 owns Forty North Oyster Farms in New Jersey, where his shellfish operation filters the water in Barnegat Bay, provides nursery habitat for fish and crabs, and offers places for marine life to hide from predators. Along with his URI roommate Scott Lennox '06, he also established the Barnegat Oyster Collective, a multi-farm organization that accounts for half of all farmed oysters in New Jersey and was featured in the award-winning documentary *The Oyster Farmers*.

"Economic sustainability is equally important to any viable business," says Gregg, who was named a Small Business Innovator of the Year in 2017 by *The Asbury Park Press*. "Our strategic geographical location between Philadelphia and New York allows us to sell in those markets with a smaller carbon footprint. Most of that carbon [produced by transporting our oysters to market] is negated through carbon sequestration, a product of growing oysters en masse." Oysters, which use carbon to make their shells, permanently remove carbon from the ocean and the atmosphere. Adds Gregg, "Every dollar we make is reinvested in growing more oysters and removing more carbon."

In Rhode Island, Perry Raso '02, M.S. '06, owner of Matunuck Oyster Farm, was a finalist last year for the first New England Leopold Conservation Award for business owners who inspire others with their dedication to ethical land, water, and wildlife habitat management. Raso preaches not only a farm-to-

table philosophy, but also pond-to-plate, as he supplies his oysters to his restaurant, Matunuck Oyster Bar, and grows much of the produce served there.

"As farmers, it's no longer our job just to come up with innovative ways to grow our product," he said in a recent speech at Providence's Business Innovation Factory. "We also must engage in dialogue, education, and even conflict in order to meet our goals and in order to create a more resilient and self-reliant food production system."

URI's sustainable agriculture program is doing just that. By reflecting on the University's founding as an agricultural college and recognizing the growing importance of creating a more enlightened food system for the future, it is educating a new breed of agriculturist and developing improved methods of food production to ensure food security for all. •



= CLASS NOTES =

Let your classmates know what you're up to. Reunions, gatherings, career or academic updates, weddings and birth announcements, retirements, exhibition openings, travel, or your favorite URI memories. Submit notes and photos: email: urimag@uri.edu, online: alumni.uri.edu.

1960

Claude Trottier writes, "I just published my second book on Ciba-Geigy: *Ciba-Geigy to Novartis to Ciba Specialty Chemicals* based on acquisitions, joint ventures, mergers and divestitures."

1964

Rich Barron has been in Lions Club International for 48+ years, currently serving as secretary to the Binghamton, N.Y., club. He enjoys volunteering on projects, including children's vision screening and community improvements. The Lions' causes include the environment, hunger, childhood cancer, diabetes, and vision. Rich received his B.D. from Andover Newton Theological School (now Andover Newton Seminary at Yale Divinity School) and his D.Min. from the Theological School of Drew University. He was a pastor at many churches throughout the Northeast.

1973

Sidonia Dalby wrote to share the sad news that fellow '73 classmate **Jackie Schmidt Blei** died in October 2019 after a cou-

rageous battle with cancer. She was inducted into the Smith College Athletic Hall of Fame on a Saturday and died the following Tuesday. She was an outstanding field hockey coach at Smith...and a 3-sport athlete at URI...before Title IX!!! She was an inspiration to students and colleagues!

1970

See pages 50–53 for a story on the Class of 1970.

Al Divoll writes: "In the years since graduating and a stint in the Army, I've worked in retail operations big and small. Today I own two small shops including Toys Ahoy! in Essex, Conn. I recently joined fellow classmates to plan our 50th reunion (May 15–17, 2020). It's been great reconnecting with fellow alumni, many of whom I haven't seen in 50 years. It only takes a few minutes and the stories come back to life! Those were the days! I encourage my classmates to attend one or all of the events scheduled. They range from campus tours to the Saturday

evening lobster boil with music and dancing (optional), to the honor of leading the graduation procession for the Class of 2020. Hope to see you then!"

1973

Phil Hoffman, see page 36

Joe Light, M.L.S. '73 writes: "I was among the first residents at the Graduate Village apartments when they opened in September 1972. A number of grad students had a regular Sunday morning touch football game on the athletic field across route 138. I remember New Year's Day 1973 when the temperature was in the mid-60s and we played in shorts and T-shirts. The game continued for several years, and on a few occasions we were joined by then-URI President Frank Newman."

1977

Thomas Farragher '77, Hon. '17, see page 25

1978

Charles Roland (Remillard) Alexander is the author and

illustrator of a series of books about a dog named Flash. Details at charliealexanderandhis.palflash.com.

Judy Niedbala, see page 36

1979

Catherine Hanrahan became the proud grandmother of Emerson Robert Hanrahan on December 14, 2019 (see Births and Adoptions, page 46).

1980

Donna Russo Morin is thrilled to announce that her ninth book, *Gilded Summers*, a novel of Newport's Gilded Age, is officially an international bestseller. She is currently working on its sequel—*Gilded Dreams*, to be released in June 2020—an homage to the Rhode Island women who brought American women suffrage...a celebration of the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage coming up on August 18, 2020. Donna will be teaching and mentoring at Ireland Writers' Tours in July 2020. She can be reached at donnarussomorin.com.



1988

Duval (Masta Ace) Clear gathered with friends and family for Alumni and Family weekend on the Kingston Campus in October 2019. He was presented with a framed copy of the fall 2018 *University of Rhode Island Magazine*, which featured Ace as the cover story. Left to right: Corrinne LePore (parent of URI sophomore Angelina LePore '22), Mark House, Duval (Masta Ace) Clear '88, Ray Doll '89, Schea Clear (Ace's wife), Milan Clear (Ace's daughter), and Scott Santos, aka DJ Finesse, who attended URI from 1987–91.



Kelly Lockwood-Primus '84



Thomas Fuchs '90



James Kinney '92

1991

Vladimir Duthiers, '91, Hon. '17, see page 23

1992

James Kinney of Warwick, R.I., was named vice president, sales and business relations of Delta Dental of Rhode Island. He will oversee new business development efforts, existing client relationships, and dental community insurance producers for Delta Dental of Rhode Island and its subsidiary companies. Previously, Kinney held leadership positions at OneDigital Health and Benefits and at DMS Dental.

Deb Harbin, see pages 32–37

Marc McGiveney, see pages 32–37

1982

Wendy M. Weber-Lockner, North Atlantic-Appalachian regional director for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, was among 15 winners of the inaugural Theodore Roosevelt Government Leadership Awards who were recognized September 19, 2019, at the Washington National Cathedral by the Government Executive Media Group. Wendy was lauded for making significant investments in people at all organizational levels and creating a program to strengthen supervisory excellence. Her 2018 Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey engagement scores were among the highest in the federal government.

1983

Christiane Amanpour, '83, Hon. '95, see page 20

Ken Ayers '83, M.S. '86, see page 42

1984

Kelly Lockwood-Primus became CEO and president of Leading Women on December 31, 2019. She was formerly president and COO. The company is shaping the future of workplace dynamics by advocating women's advancement and engaging male allies to bring gender balance to leadership. Kelly, a senior-level executive from the

consumer products industry, has been with Leading Women since 2013 and has positioned the company for future growth with the recent launch of Leading Women's Conference Services Division and the expansion of the organization's programming for diversity and inclusion beyond gender.

1989

Robert (Bob) Kelley was appointed to the Board of the State and Local Government Benefits Association (SALGBA). He works for the North Carolina Office of State Human Resources. In addition to his URI degree in consumer affairs, Bob holds an associate's degree with honors in computer information systems from Wake Technical Community College in NC, as well several human resources professional designations. He belongs to

1990

Ann Martini and Brett Davey get together regularly with Professor Emerita Linda Levin. Read Ann's story about Levin on page 49.



= HAPPENINGS =

50TH REUNION • MAY 15-17, 2020



GOLDEN GRAD REUNION • JUNE 5-6, 2020





BIRTHS AND ADOPTIONS



Emily (Beckwith) McGrath '10 and **Andrew McGrath '10** were married in Narragansett in 2016 and welcomed baby Dylan Rhodes McGrath in July 2019. Emily writes, "We now live out in San Francisco but named him after our special little state where our relationship started."



Kevin Hanrahan '10, M.B.A. '17, and **Kirsten (Shaw-Munderback) Hanrahan '10** welcomed their son Emerson Robert Hanrahan on December 14, 2019.

Kendall Smith wrote *Vault 21-12*, a thriller published in 2015, and *The Father Apprentice*, to be published by Familius Publishing in spring 2021.

1996
Glenn Bassar (see Emily Fried Bassar '98).

Kerry Evers, M.A. '96, Ph.D. '98, see page 30

1998
On October 5, 2019, **Emily Fried Bassar** and her husband **Glenn Bassar '96** realized their dream of opening a fine wine and craft beer store in Coral Springs, Florida. Emily, a former teacher, and Glenn, a wine industry veteran, moved to Florida eight years ago from New York. They missed the fine wine shops they had been used to. Now they give customers an international selection of interesting, small production, estate-grown wines. Their motto is, "come in...drink better." They want to give wine and beer enthusiasts a world-class experience and educate novices in a non-intimidating environment. They invite URI alumni to visit and let them know you're a fellow Ram! Tastings every Saturday. bassersfinewine.com.

1998
Jennifer Silva is a singer-songwriter and recording artist who performs with her five-piece band throughout New York City. She is a dynamic vocalist and storyteller, with emotional, evocative lyrics. *Bluest Sky, Darkest Earth* is her most recent album of original music (2018), produced and engineered by Reed Black Vinegar Hill Sound. Her next record will be released in 2020. Find her at sheissilva.com and on Instagram: [@sheissilva](https://www.instagram.com/sheissilva). Jennifer lives in Brooklyn with her husband, **Joseph Lipari '99**, and her two daughters, Penelope and Vivienne.

2001
Andrea Gingras, see page 14

2002
Laurie Lindemann, M.A. '02, see pages 28–31

Perry Raso '02, M.S. '06, see page 43

Jayne Mercer Senecal, see page 42

2005
Rachael Goldberg of Morristown, N.J. was recently named executive director of Liberty Hall Museum in Union, N.J. She has served the museum in various capacities for more than 10 years. In her new role, she will provide direction as the museum strengthens its unique school program and encourages repeat visitors. In addition to her URI degree in history, Rachel holds a master's degree in American history from Monmouth University, and a certificate in historic preservation from Drew University.

2006
Kate Venturini '06, M.A. '10, see page 11

2007
Giselle Mahoney was elected a partner at RDW Group, Inc., an integrated communications firm.

Giselle came to RDW in 2017 as senior account executive. In her new role, she builds client relationships, supports strategy development, and leads day-to-day execution of tactics. Giselle has 12+ years of marketing, PR, and communications experience with nonprofit, government, and private organizations focused on public service, healthcare, work force development, and B2C. A member of the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA,) she has been a board member of the Southeastern New England Chapter PRSA since 2013, serving as president in 2014; she is currently treasurer and president-elect.

2008
Tony Nunes was named artistic director of the United Theatre in Westerly, Rhode Island. He has been with the United Theatre project since 2013, first as a volunteer and later as an event and marketing consultant. Prior to becoming artistic director in October 2019, he was assistant vice president of public relations for Washington Trust, and before that served as a member of the PR team at Mohegan Sun. Tony was one of the first graduates of URI's film media program. He is



Andrew Burnap '13 stars on Broadway in *The Inheritance*.

also a core contributor for the parenting blog *GeekDad*, an award-winning screenwriter, and a past entertainment writer for film publications including *Fangoria* and *Starlog* magazines. Born and raised in Westerly, Tony lives in nearby Hopkinton with his wife Marybeth and their three children.

2009
Matty Gregg, see page 42

Casey Stockman, Pharm.D. '09 was named vice president of pharmacy at Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island. She works closely with Neighborhood's chief medical officer and senior management staff to oversee and coordinate Pharmacy Department activities. Casey began working for Neighborhood in February 2019, and previously served as a specialty drug consultant and vice president of specialty pharmacy. Before that, she held several leadership positions at Magellan Rx Management. Casey lives in Tiverton, Rhode Island.

Kellene Young of Kailua, Hawaii, has joined Anthology's Public Relations Group as a senior account executive. Her responsibilities include strategic communications planning, client account service, media relations, and writing for travel and corporate accounts. She brings more than eight years of communications experience to the com-



Casey Stockman '09

pany, having served as associate director of internal communications for McCann Worldgroup in New York and in various communications positions at IBM.

2010
Omar Bah, see page 21

Alex DeCiccio, see page 14

2011
Derek Sutcliffe, see page 14

2013
Andrew Burnap is playing Toby Darling on Broadway in *The Inheritance*, Matthew Lopez's two-part, six-hour epic play.

Eugenio Fernandez '13, M.B.A. '13, Pharm.D. '13, see page 48

John Shannon, M.E.S.M. '13 of Mansfield, Mass., recently completed a nearly three-year project to stabilize the Mosul Dam in Iraq as part of a task force with his employer, AECOM, a U.S.-based multinational engineering firm. The dam, once called "the most dangerous dam in the world," provides critical water supply, hydropower, and flood protection for northern Iraq and had exhibited significant foundation issues since its inception in 1985. John worked 12-hour shifts, six days a week providing quality assurance oversight to foundation drilling and grouting, as well as geologic logging of the foundation through rock coring. He worked closely with the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, the Ital-



Joseph Galindo '14

ian firm Tervi, and the Iraqi Ministry of Water Resources to ensure the stability and safety of the Mosul Dam. He also trained the Iraqi MoWR personnel who took over after AECOM left. He met people from different cultures and backgrounds and learned about Iraqi culture and history. He is honored to have been part of this important and successful mission!

2014
Corey Confreda, see page 43
Mea Duke, see back cover

Joseph Galindo accepted an associate position in the litigation department at the law firm Duffey & Sweeney. Previously, he was a law clerk for Justice Francis Flaherty at the Rhode Island Supreme Court. His experience includes a year-long clerkship for the Rhode Island Supreme Court Trial Court Law Clerk Department, doing research and drafting decisions for Justices Brian Stern and Richard Licht. He serves as a member of the Rhode Island Supreme Court Rules of Evidence Committee, and previously volunteered for the city of Central Falls Law Department.

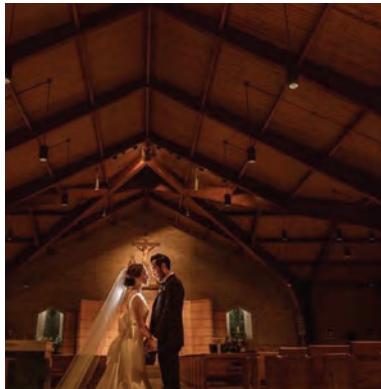
2017
Shayna Krasnoff, see page 41

2018
Jessica Kaelblein, see page 15

2019
Kay Tse, see pages 2 and 16



ENGAGEMENTS AND WEDDINGS



Matthew Grimes '08 and **Jesse Watson '09** married on December 6, 2019, in Morristown, N.J.

Jeff Karnes '80 and **Martha Santini '80** married on June 2, 2019.



Amanda Stikeman '17, M.S.A. '18, and **Tony Messina '17, M.S. '18,** are excited to share the news of their engagement. The couple is currently living in the Boston area, and a May 2021 wedding is planned.

= CLOSE UP =

Meet an Innovative Pharmacist Focused on People

Eugenio Fernandez Jr. '13, M.B.A. '13, Pharm.D. '13, grew up in Providence, the son of Cuban refugees. After amassing an impressive list of degrees, he went back to the neighborhood he grew up in with a big idea: a pharmacy focused on people, in all their complexity.

EUGENIO FERNANDEZ RADIATES AN infectious enthusiasm. The founder of Asthenis, a unique community pharmacy grounded in providing reliable health information, his goal is to help as many people as possible, holistically. His URI degrees—biology, psychology, pharmacy, and business—and his graduate degree in public health from Harvard give him the broad perspective he needs to meet that goal. “My colleagues complained that a 15-minute doctor’s visit wasn’t enough to diagnose and treat.

What if someone forgot to ask a question, or didn’t understand? I saw a need for reliable health educa-

tion outside the doctor’s office.” That’s when the idea for Asthenis was born.

He gave up a job opportunity at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, returned to the Providence neighborhood he grew up in, and poured heart, soul, and savings into launching Asthenis.

“I didn’t want to focus on just the clinical health side—people are more complex than that,” he explains. “People have trouble eating, sleeping, don’t know where to live.”

So Asthenis dispenses not just prescriptions, but also health education and resources. “We don’t turn anyone away. We point them in the right direction. Even if they don’t need a prescription, people can come in and ask questions. It’s an initial triage. We help patients decide whether to go to the ER, or if they can help themselves, or wait for a doctor’s visit. We help them make informed decisions.”

He credits his URI professors in shaping his thinking. “My professors at URI challenged me to think big. This is my interpretation.” •

—Diane Sterrett

Opened in July 2018, Asthenis means patient in Greek, which serves as Fernandez’s constant reminder to focus on people, not administration.

= LOOKING BACK =

Linda Levin Didn’t Want to Be a Teacher. She Became a Really Good One.

If you were lucky enough to take a class with journalism professor Linda Levin in the 1980s and ’90s, you surely remember her. Maybe you’re even still in touch with her. Her no-nonsense teaching style, her devotion to her students, and her pure enjoyment of teaching are her unforgettable legacies.

LINDA LOTRIDGE LEVIN never wanted to be a teacher.

“‘Don’t be a teacher!’ I heard this 10,000 times a day from my mother,” Levin recalls. No matter. Levin wanted to go to medical school. But her mother—a driving force in her life—would not send her. It was the 1950s and Levin’s mother thought the expensive degree would be a waste of money since she believed her daughter would probably get married, have babies, and never work as a doctor. “So I had to choose another major,” Levin says. “I had a typewriter and I didn’t mind writing.”

As a student at Michigan State and later Boston

University, Levin was inspired by two professors who “knew so much” and also gave life to the material, and she emulated them. Years later at URI, Levin taught about Joseph Pulitzer by donning a full beard and suit to depict the iconic journalist and publisher. “I wanted it to be fun,” she says. “If you can’t have fun, why go?”

“She was always highly engaged,” recalls Brett Davey ’90, currently the director of marketing at South County Health. “She never mailed it in, not even once. It’s clear how much she loved teaching and her students,” he says. “There’s a reason so many of us have stayed close with her decades after graduating. She’s fun to be around. Always has been.”

But a professorial career was not initially on her radar. After graduating, Levin became a successful health and medicine reporter and enjoyed it immensely. She



Professor Emerita Linda Levin in her Providence home. Shane Donaldson ’99 says, “Linda Levin kicked my butt on a regular basis, and I could not be more thankful for it. She had an incredible impact on so many students.”

married *Providence Journal* reporter Len Levin and together they raised two girls. One day, Levin recalls, she was approached by an administrator at her daughter’s elementary school. Would she be willing to teach an after-school news writing class to fourth-graders? She accepted the challenge. “I hated it! They wouldn’t settle down,” she says. “I was always yelling at the little pissers.”

In 1983, Levin was offered a position teaching journalism at the University of Rhode Island. This time, she was smitten. She’d found her niche with college-age students. “I had great students,” she recalls. “I loved them and wanted them to be successful.”

“She was a one-of-a-kind professor,” remembers Gregg Perry ’88, president at the public relations firm the Perry Group. “She’s sarcastic, funny, no bull. At the same time, she was caring and compassionate

and wanted students to be their best.”

Steve Greenlee ’91 was a journalism major in his sophomore year and had not yet met Levin. He knocked on her door to inquire about an internship and found a lifelong mentor. “She had no reason to help me,” says Greenlee. When he landed a job as assignment editor at *The Boston Globe* nine years after graduating, Levin was the first person he called. Now managing editor at the *Portland Press Herald* in Maine, Greenlee credits his career to Levin. “She takes a lifelong responsibility for her students,” he says.

Levin thrived as a professor and in 2001 became

the chair of the journalism department. She developed expertise in First Amendment issues, media law, and the history of journalism. The recipient of many industry awards, she has been a fellow of the Poynter Institute for Media Studies, the American Press Institute, and the Annenberg Washington Program. Levin is the author of *The Making of FDR: The Story of Stephen T. Early, America’s First Modern Press Secretary*. She retired from teaching in the classroom in 2012. But those of us who were fortunate enough to study with her continue to consider her lessons on a daily basis. •

—Ann Martini ’90

= YOUR STORIES =

Four Years That Changed a Generation

This year, URI's Class of 1970 celebrates its 50th reunion. In early May 1970, just a month before URI's graduation exercises, student strikes on college campuses across the United States, including at URI, were organized to protest the expansion of the Vietnam War into Cambodia. At Kent State University, the National Guard shot and killed four students during a protest. What was it like to be a college student during that complicated and uniquely transformative era? Class of 1970 alumni share their stories.

DENNIS LYNCH '70 GAVE THE student Commencement address in 1970. His address was insightful and powerful. He summarized the changes that defined the years from September 1966—when most of the Class of 1970 arrived at URI as first-year students—to June 7, 1970, when their graduation ceremonies took place.

"In these four years," Lynch said, "things have changed. Our music has changed, our style of dress has changed, our lifestyle has changed, but more importantly, our minds have changed. These four years past have been the most blinding array of rapid evolution since this tiny sphere in the universe first began forming."

Members of the Class of 1970 point out that it wasn't always all about protests and resistance; there were still friendships, exams, football games, walks at the beach, romances, books, and all the other things URI alumni typically point to as hallmarks of their time here. But it was, by all accounts, a time of shockingly fast-paced social and cultural transformation.

Lynch's characterization rings true today for members of the Class of 1970, who recall those years in the stories that follow.

FROM ORDER TO TUMULT

In 1966, we lived in a world defined by boundaries—parental and societal. We grew up watching TV shows like *Donna Reed* and *Father Knows Best* that

reflected family life and the morals and values of the time. When I entered URI that year, we didn't question authority and we complied with rules. Week-



Marilyn Conti Zartarian

night curfew was 10 p.m. No men were allowed in the female dorms—but if your dad was helping you carry in luggage, you yelled, "Man on the floor!"

But life began to change. As seniors, we had no curfew; men frequented our dorms. The scent of marijuana escaped from closed doors. Vietnam and Kent State changed us. We weren't followers anymore. We went on strike.

In 1966, the campus was our orderly world. In 1970, the tumultuous world was our campus.

— Marilyn Conti Zartarian '70

BEST/WORST OF TIMES

It was the best of times. Finally free from the cultural restraints of first- and second-generation parents, we were able to explore academic, social, and



Janice E. DiLorenzo

multicultural opportunities. When we began at URI, we had to wear skirts to the dining halls and even classes. By the time we left, we were wear-

ing jeans or Army surplus clothes every day.

It was also the worst of times. Rallies against the war were regular occurrences on the Quad. Friendships were strained, young men left for Canada; some left for war. Names of those killed were relayed in hushed tones. No one was without an opinion. Finally, the University was shut down just prior to graduation. Sadness, black armbands, and anger permeated among the smiles of our parents. We were ambivalent about our futures.

— Janice DiLorenzo '70

VOICE OF CHANGE

They called us "Baby Boomers" because of the uptick in births following World War II. Most of us had relatives who had fought in the war. For many, the



L. Allen Divoll Jr.

war formed the basis of our beliefs about our government. During the 1960s, students generally went with the flow. It was a period of perceived "student apathy." Gradually, students began to question some of the nation's policies. There was a developing concern about social responsibility. The "silent majority" was in contrast to vocal activists. The voice of reason became clouded by the voice of change. Not everybody understood everything. The correctness of our role in Vietnam was still a point for discussion.

URI could never be confused with Berkeley, but Kent State and the Cambodian invasion changed many minds and yielded a focus. URI's participation in the student strike (unthinkable just a few years earlier) was a result of that focus.

— Allen Divoll '70



"Our music has changed, our style of dress has changed, our lifestyle has changed, but more importantly, our minds have changed."

— Dennis Lynch '70



BECOMING ACTIVISTS

Those days between 1966 and 1970 held many changes. As college students, we seemed destined to participate. In the beginning of my sophomore year as



Dianne "Dede" Davis Berg

a member of the Student Senate, I was asked to represent URI at the Associated Student Governments' Conference in San Francisco. The conference was held during Thanksgiving break and the planners thought Thanksgiving dinner for students from across the country should be held at the Playboy Club. During the next two years, conversations and awareness changed. Activism nationwide concerning civil rights, women's rights, and the Vietnam War became part of campus life and many of the old rules were questioned. We would not be going back to the Playboy Club in the years to come.

—Dianne "Dede" Davis Berg '70

TRANSFORMED FOREVER

As a URI freshman in September 1966, I recall Labor Day weekend being filled with excitement. My parents moved me into Peck Hall with just two suitcases, which held my clothing, sheets, towels, and toiletries.

Freshmen were required to wear beanies to distinguish us from upperclassmen. This rule, like many others, was just accepted. We could wear



Victoria T. Salcone Cataldo

what we wanted to classes and daytime meals, but girls had to wear skirts or dresses for evening meals. Interestingly,

our skirts were so short, our fingertips could touch the hems. Pants would have been more conservative. But we complied without question.

There was a curfew, after which the dorm doors were locked. There was one pay phone per floor, and anyone walking by was responsible for answering calls and finding the person needed. There was one TV in the downstairs rec room for the entire dorm, and boys were allowed to visit only in that space.

By our graduation in 1970, we were no longer the same students. We became protesters, and defied authority on many levels. The repercussions of the Vietnam War and Kent State had transformed us forever. And beanies were never part of freshman orientation again.

—Victoria Salcone Cataldo '70

RALLY IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

November 15, 1969—the Moratorium to End the War in Vietnam. Five or six of us piled into a car and took off to attend this massive rally in Washington, D.C. We made a stop at my home in New Jersey where parents graciously fed us and allowed us to crash for a few hours before we caught the bus to D.C.

It was a bright, clear, chilly November morning. The bus parked and we joined the crowds in front of the Washington Monument. I was overwhelmed. I'd never experienced such a mass of humanity. But I was also exhilarated—here we were, thousands of us, young and old, peacefully united in a common cause. It's estimated that a quarter of a million people attended. Peter, Paul and Mary and Pete Seeger sang. Senators George McGovern and Charles Goodell, and Coretta Scott King spoke.

Later in the afternoon, a couple of us were resting near the National Archives when all hell broke loose. A small faction of protestors got violent and the police lobbed tear gas into the crowd. A wall of humanity surged toward us and we ran in any direction we could to get out of the fray. That finished us, and we made



Frederick Strickhart



THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND had never exactly been known as a hotbed of radical politics. But on the morning of Friday, May 1, 1970, readers opened the campus newspaper, *The Beacon*, to find clear evidence that Bob Dylan's 1964 anthem, "The Times They Are a-Changin'," still rang true.

"49,024 Have Died in Vietnam," the top headline reported.

The only other headline on the page read, "Student Senate Supports Strike."

That day, students and faculty held an emergency rally on the URI Quad to call for a stoppage of classes the following Monday. The immediate purpose was to protest President Nixon sending troops into Cambodia and the death of four students on the pastoral grounds of the Kent State campus. URI joined a group of 175 universities and colleges from across the U.S., becoming one of the first schools in New England to join the strike.

On Tuesday, May 5, an overflow crowd, primarily students, packed Edwards Auditorium and almost all

our way back to the bus. Luckily, we were all there. Eyes and lungs burning, we boarded the bus, then got back in the car and trucked on back to URI. We got back in the early hours of the morning, exhausted and happy.

Did we make a difference? No. Not at all. President Nixon vowed that the protests would not sway his decisions about the war. Later that month, he gave his famous (infamous?) speech praising the "silent majority" who, he claimed, supported the war. But for me it was, and will remain, a high point. For the first time in my young life, I stood up to my parents and the establishment and fought for what I believed in.

—Frederick "Rick" Strickhart '70

For more photos from the 1970 Grist, go to uri.edu/magazine



Art Stein speaking at URI during the student strike of 1970.

part in the strike—or not. Students were permitted to complete the spring term in the way they believed would be most beneficial personally and to the broader community. The principles of equality and freedom of choice prevailed.

—Art Stein, Professor Emeritus of Political Science

CLOSING IT DOWN TO OPEN IT UP

endorsed the strike. We adopted the slogan, "Close it down to open it up," referring to our aspirations for the URI strike: opening our minds and hearts and broadening our perspectives through workshops and discussions on a variety of topics, such as how biological warfare affects civilian populations and the health of our planetary home.

The faculty senate concluded, after some heated discussion, that no student would be penalized for taking

Professor Stein started teaching at URI in 1965. His former political science colleague, Professor Emeritus Al Killilea, says, "Art is a gentle and thoughtful man," who, in the turbulent late 1960s and beyond, earned the respect of colleagues and students alike.

In 1999, Stein was one of the co-founders of URI's Center for Nonviolence and Peace Studies, and his committed approach to active social justice has continued unabated over the past half-century.

WAR CHANGED EVERYTHING

Like a tsunami, the anti-war movement engulfed American campuses. In the spring of 1966, I visited URI to inspect my future campus. It was graduation



Robert V. Bolderson

weekend, and President Lyndon Johnson was receiving an honorary degree. Professor Elton Rayack, protesting the Vietnam War, was escorted off the podium by two University officials. Professor Rayack later became my advisor.

Until 1968, I believed in the inherent good will of government. The war changed everything and the government mistrust we felt engulfed most

U.S. campuses like a virus. When the strike occurred in the spring of 1970, the protests effectively ended the last couple weeks of school. I was co-captain of the track team and was preparing for the Penn Relays. I remember Coach Tom Russell telling me that "none of the other athletes reported for practice." I explained to Coach Russell the reasoning for the strike and told him I couldn't let the anger I felt politically interfere with my relationships or responsibilities. My beliefs over the years have not changed.

We were the Baby Boomers, born to parents of the "Greatest Generation." Our URI experience taught us to question the misuse of authority and power. Today's political turmoil reflects past times. Protest, alienation, upheaval—perhaps there is nothing new. I often reflect on what Yogi Berra so eloquently stated: "It's like déjà vu all over again." •

—Bob Bolderson '70



= IN MEMORIAM =

Lloyd Howard '41
Marguerite (Kent) Repass '41
Isadore Fine '42
Robert Aldrich '46
William Cowen '48
Nancy Bosworth Crutchfield '48
William Benesch '49
Manuel Caetano '49
Bernice (Anderson) Durfee '49
William Ferrigno '49
Milton Kilberg '49
Dorothy (Nolan) Lux '49
Richard Volk '49
George Currier '50
Anthony Iadicola '50
Charles Johnson '50
Charles Richardson '50
David Rosenfield '50
Richard Whaley '50
Banice Bazar '51
Umberto Capuano '51
John Hunnewell '51
Joan (Beattie) Klaserner '51
Ardashes Nahabedian '51
Albert Russo '51
John Saillant '51
Jean (Goday) Vaas '51
Warren Chernick '52
Edward Coulter '52
Everett McPhillips '52
Aaron Wishnevsky '52
Herbert Michel '53
Robert Pinault '53
Edwin Quigley '53
Michael Sarkesian '53
J. Paul Wilson '53
Miriam (Leino) Eldridge '54
Gloria (Siegel) Ladow '54
Donald Ornstein '54
Raymond Taylorson '54
Herbert Waltzman '54
Pauline (Hogan) Behrens '55
John Przybyla '55
Elmer Armstrong '56
Joseph DeChristofaro '56
Earle Messere '56
Edgar Vatcher '56
Paul Benoit '57
Harvey Chernov '57
Robert Downs '57
Charles Hirsch '57

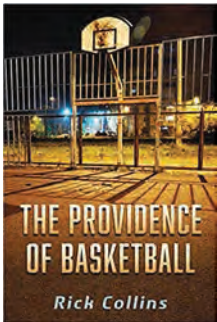
Wallace MacDonald '57
John O'Leary '57
Eugene Zagarella '57
Paul Boorujy '58
Patricia Lund '58
Harrou Melikian '58
Cecilia (Pereira) Mull '58
William Racca '58
John Donnelly '59
Peter Taudvin '59
Arthur Weddell '59
Martin Grossman '60
Charles King '60
Conrad Supski '60
Lynn (Nevins) Thornwall '60
Roland Bettez '61
Robert Ciolfi '61
Edward Cunningham '61
Robert Jellison '61
Ronald Mack '61
Austin O'Toole '61, M.A. '67
Louis Placella '61, M.S. '66
Milton Steen '61
Thomas Stones '61
Richard Bender '62
Albert Cote '62
David Dence '62, M.S. '66, Ph.D. '71
Francis Kaczynski '62
Carol Ray '62, M.A. '75, M.L.I.S. '80
Richard Risio '62, M.A. '71
Betty (Hodgkinson) Wedderburn '62
Thomas Cronin '63
Susan (White) Jung '63
John Silva '63
Donald Colavecchio '64
Edward Fitzpatrick '64
Anthony Cipolla '65
James Finglas, M.S. '65
Mary (Guertin) Guthrie '65
Frank Votolato '65
Marcia Reback '66
John Robillard '66
Howard Matthews '67
William McCaffrey, M.A. '67
Charles Moffitt, M.A. '67
Janet Boucher '68
Marcia (Fuller) Dillenbeck '68
Joseph Mercier, M.A. '68
Hadassah Stein, M.L.I.S. '68
Muray Friedman '69
Robert Helton, M.S. '69

Lawsanna Binks, M.A. '70
Richard Bradlee '70
Jean Edwards, M.L.I.S. '70
Nancy (Nuttall) Finlayson '70, M.L.I.S. '75
David Hann '70
Meredith (Greene) Katzman '70
A. Lorraine Racine '70
Norman Richards, Ph.D. '70
Janina (Kiluk) Babiec '71
Edythe Menke '71
Carolyn Winn, M.L.I.S. '71
Anthony Connors '72, M.A. '76
Joseph Plante '72
Jerome Roderick '72
Janice (Boston) Sieburth, M.L.I.S. '72
Christopher Swistak '72, M.A. '73
Jacqueline (Schmidt) Blei '73
David Burr '73
Barbara Naughton '73
John Newbury '73
Robert Tuthill '73
Eileen (Lammers) Butterfield, M.L.I.S. '74
Jon Choiniere, M.A. '74
Gordon Cleary '74
George Muller, M.A. '74
Charles Pietras '74
William Riley, M.B.A. '74
Kathryn (Hickey) Testa '74
Robert Evans '75
Ellen Geltzer, M.L.I.S. '75
Brian Gilgun '75
Angelo Macera '75
Amelia Revkin, M.A. '75
Christopher Shartel '75
Alfred Inman '77
Mary (Peduzzi) Lenzen '77
Barbara (Quinn) Peterson, M.L.I.S. '77
Janet Shea '77
Carol Tufts '77
Louise Healy '78
Barbara Lightman '78
Lucy Brill '79
June (Keenan) Capece '80
Paul Daigneau '80
Thomas Drennan, M.A. '80
Stephen Sujecki, M.A. '81
Alice (Trask) Fossett, M.L.I.S. '82
Jessie (Lowell) Schoepfer '82
Mark Brickell, M.S. '83

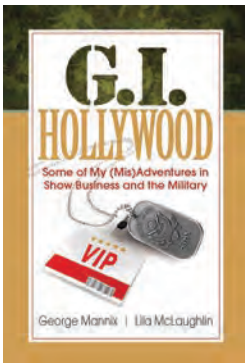
Paul Martel '83
Anne-Louise Attar, M.L.I.S. '84
Michael Chmielewski '84
James Monaghan '86
Kenneth Walsh, M.S. '86
Stephen Gardella '87
William Dober '89
Michael Soares, M.S. '89
Christopher Cote '91
Margaret Ferry, M.S. '92
Edward McDowell, M.S. '93
Michael Risser '93
Jane Nelson '94
Shawn Flanagan '96
David Lincoln '97
Christine Johnston '99
Steven Gears '11
Erica Hopkins '21

Faculty and Staff

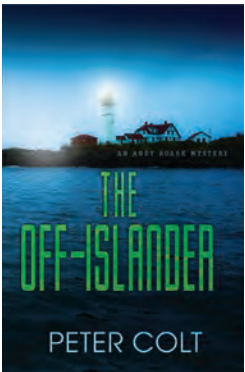
Henry Biller, professor emeritus of psychology
Kathleen D'Aguanno, former telecommunications staff
Dilip Datta, professor emeritus of mathematics
Janet Deignan, former administrative assistant
Thomas Drennan, M.A. '80, former head golf coach
Richard Fraenkel, professor emeritus of art
Walter Gross, former professor of education
Peter Merenda, Hon. '03, professor emeritus of psychology
John Norris, professor emeritus of kinesiology
John O'Leary '57, former co-chair of the Department of Physical Education (now Kinesiology) and football offensive line coach
Janice (Boston) Sieburth, M.L.I.S. '72, professor emeritus of education
Raymond Taylorson '54, professor emeritus of plant science and entomology
Roy Twaddle, former lecturer, business
Harold "Chris" Waters, professor emeritus of French



Rick Collins '78
The Providence of Basketball (2019)



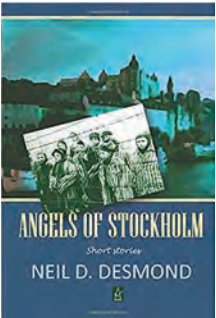
Michael George Mannix '01 and Lila McLaughlin
G.I. Hollywood: Some of My (Mis)Adventures in Show Business and the Military (2018)



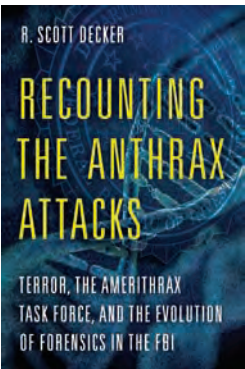
Peter Colt '96
The Off-Islander (2019)



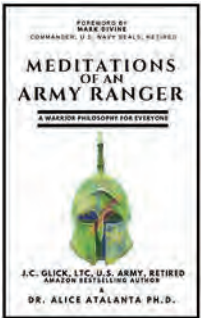
Donna Russo Morin '80
Gilded Summers (2018)



Neil Desmond '92
Angels of Stockholm (2018)



R. Scott Decker '76
Recounting the Anthrax Attacks: Terror, the Amerithrax Task Force, and the Evolution of Forensics in the FBI (2018)



J.C. Glick '95 and Dr. Alice Atalanta
Meditations of an Army Ranger: A Warrior Philosophy for Everyone (2019)



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Check out the latest books by alumni authors—and share your recently published book at uri.edu/magazine. Or send a cover image, along with author, URI grad year, book title, and year published, to urimag@uri.edu.



= PLAYLIST =

Listen to the latest records by alumni artists—and share your recently recorded music. Send an album cover image, along with your name (and band/group/artist name, if different), URI grad year, album title, year released, and where/how listeners can find your record (in stores, on Spotify, etc.), to uri.edu/magazine.



Jennifer Silva '98
Bluest Sky, Darkest Earth (2018)
Available on Spotify and all other music platforms



= CAPTION THIS =

Photo Caption Contest

Do you have a funny idea for a caption for this photo from the URI Archives? Email your caption to urimag@uri.edu or respond at uri.edu/magazine.

Submit entries by
May 15, 2020

FALL WINNERS: LAB WORK



Winning Caption

"A skeleton crew hard at work."

—Bill Rosenberg '77

Runner-Up

"Steve and his cat were last in the add/drop line for comparative vertebrate anatomy."

—Bill Walton '78

Honorable Mention

"Where are they now? Timmy and Lassie donate their bodies to science."

—Don Yost '83

IN THIS CIRCA 1976 PHOTO FROM THE URI Archives, Professor Harold Bibb (far right) helps senior zoology major Wayne Mollohan '76. In back, Professor Clarence Goertemiller (in lab coat) helps other students in the lab.

We were thrilled to hear from Wayne's daughter, Meghan Mollohan Ferguson '06, who said, "That's my dad, Dr. Wayne Mollohan, and Professor Harold Bibb. My dad says this was likely the chordate anatomy and morphogenesis five-credit course he took as a sophomore. He went on to Tufts Dental School. Back in 2005, I told my dad about this professor that I had, Harold Bibb. When he heard his name, he instantly remembered that he also had him as a professor."

We also heard from Bill Walton '78, who said, "The picture brings back memories of my days as a zoology major."

Harold Bibb became a member of URI's faculty in 1972. He was appointed dean of the Graduate School in 1995, and retired in 2010. He was the speaker at URI's first Black Scholar Awards Program in 1998. Clarence Goertemiller was hired to URI's faculty in 1965 and retired in 1993. •

PHOTOS: COURTESY URI DIGITAL ARCHIVES



URI Day of Giving is April 23.
That means 24 hours to
give and double your impact
with the day's matching
challenges.

Be a part of the action and show the Rhody community what matters to you.

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- Scholarships
- Immediate priorities
- Your academic college
- Varsity and club athletics
- ...and much more

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To stay above the pull and run

MEA DUKE '14

22" x 26", oil on canvas, 2017
meaduke.com

Award-winning artist Mea Duke has a unique perspective. Her paintings, prints, and sculptures often depict marine-related subjects, such as container ships or life jackets.

For many of her paintings, like this one, she references open-source press photos documenting modern maritime disasters to call attention to the operational reality of the global shipping industry. Here, she depicts a sinking barge in the Mississippi River.

"Taking to the water," says Duke, "is a deeply substantial part of our collective histories and modern existence. It embodies all of the challenges, dangers, triumphs, and absurdities that come with the territory." •

