

# UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND

SUMMER 2020

MAGAZINE

## ART AS ACTIVISM

The stunning murals of  
Angela Gonzalez '16, aka AGonza,  
focus on community and  
what connects us.





# Aperture

URI's third annual Research and Scholarship Photo Contest attracted a stunning collection of photos from URI students, staff, and faculty.

The contest provides a unique opportunity for our researchers and scholars to convey their ideas and work, as well as their unique perspectives, through the images they capture.

We're proud to share this year's top-placing photos, which represent a range of disciplines—from oceanography to journalism. They include work by undergraduate and graduate students, as well as faculty, and they reinforce that time-tested adage: "A picture is worth a thousand words."

*1st Place*

## **MIGRATING SOCKEYE**

**Jason Jaacks, Assistant Professor of  
Multimedia Journalism**

Bristol Bay, Alaska is home to the most productive wild salmon fishery on the planet. Every year, millions of salmon return to the pristine watersheds of western Alaska to spawn, including this sockeye salmon on the Kanektok River. This photograph connects to a long-term visual research project that investigates the conservation status of Pacific salmon across their range. The photographs are being built into an archive documenting the challenges that salmon populations face, including the effects of dams, climate change, commercial and recreational fisheries, and threats such as mining, logging, and agriculture.







2nd Place

### COMING UP FOR AIR

Laird French '21, Undergraduate Student,  
Marketing and Photography

This photo was taken during a free dive while exploring a quarry in Westerly, Rhode Island, last summer. French says, "At a certain angle, amazing abstract reflections can be achieved using the surface of the water." As a photography minor and outdoor enthusiast, French often attempts to capture special moments in nature. This photograph is part of his documentary portfolio of work involving water and nature.

3rd Place

### PENGUIN POLAR PLUNGE

Kelton McMahon, Assistant Professor of  
Oceanography

This photo was taken during a National Science Foundation-funded research cruise to the Antarctic last spring to study how warming waters and disappearing sea ice are impacting the food webs supporting krill predators in the Southern Ocean. Here, a gentoo penguin leaps off a floating iceberg in the frigid waters of Mikkelsen Harbor in the Antarctic Peninsula in hopes of finding krill to eat, while avoiding being eaten by a hungry leopard seal or killer whale. Penguins are "canaries in the coal mine," often indicating the health of the ecosystem.



Honorable Mention

### FROM REEF TO MARKET

Elaine Shen, Ph.D. '23, Doctoral Candidate, Biological Sciences

With the sunrise, a fisheries collector prepares a freshly caught triggerfish for sale at the local market in Lombok, Indonesia. As part of her research in biological and environmental sciences, Shen got a firsthand glimpse at how small-scale fisheries in Indonesia operate; she often met fishers at landing sites as they arrived with boats full of colorful coral reef fish designated for personal consumption or sale, depending on the species.



Honorable Mention

### NATURE'S UNDERWATER 3D PRINTER: THE PARCHMENT TUBE WORM

Kotachi Liu '23, Doctoral Candidate, Ocean Engineering

This image is from a transmission electron micrograph showing the housing tube of a marine parchment worm. It shows a cross section of the material, made of highly organized nano-fibrils. These nano-fibrils are able to assemble rapidly underwater, making the material a potential template for novel 3D printing and underwater repair. Liu's research focuses on developing autonomous underwater vehicles through bioinspiration.



URI's Research and Scholarship Photo Contest is sponsored by the *University of Rhode Island Magazine*; the URI Division of Research and Economic Development magazine, *Momentum: Research & Innovation*; and the Rhode Island Sea Grant/URI Coastal Institute magazine, *41°N: Rhode Island's Ocean and Coastal Magazine*.

Honorable Mention

### WHERE DOES THE TIMBERDOODLE GO?

Colby Slezak, Graduate Student,  
Natural Resources Science

A timberdoodle, or American woodcock, is measured before release as part of research on the spatial ecology of this cryptic, forest-dwelling shorebird. In the last decade, tracking birds using radio-telemetry has produced detailed probability-of-use maps and influenced forest management conducted by the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management. By attaching state-of-the-art GPS transmitters to the birds in the fall prior to migration, detailed location data can be obtained as the birds migrate to their wintering grounds.





# Inside

UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND MAGAZINE • VOL. 2, NO. 3 • SUMMER 2020

## 7 Special Campaign Announcement

### CURRENTS

#### 18 In Brief

URI News to keep you in the know.

#### 19 QuadAngles

While teaching remotely, philosophy professor Cheryl Foster has missed the sensory and aesthetic variety of the URI campus.

#### 20 Cigar Box

Editor-in-chief of *The Good Five Cent Cigar* Theresa Brown '21 reflects on lessons learned covering the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### 21 You Can Quote Me

URI experts are quoted in the media frequently. Here are a few that bear repeating.

A URI equestrian team rider and his horse take a quiet lap last fall at Hunter Ridge barn in Ashaway, Rhode Island. Read about URI's equestrian team in "Join the Club" on page 36.

#### 22 The Takeaway

Entertainment looks a little different this summer. URI professors share their recommendations for what to read, listen to, and watch from home.

#### 24 The Class of 2020

The pandemic put a damper on graduation celebrations, but our grads deserve celebrating. Meet four of URI's phenomenal 2020 grads.

### FEATURES

#### 26 Origins of a Pandemic

COVID-19 is a zoonotic disease, which means it originated in animals. How do zoonotic diseases, like COVID-19, make the jump from animals to humans?

#### 36 The Other Athletes

Meet the dedicated athletes of URI Club Sports.

#### 50 The Big Picture

Muralist Angela Gonzalez '16, aka AGonza, focuses her art on what connects us.

### NETWORK

#### 52 Class Notes

URI alumni are amazing! Catch up with your classmates and get to know the newest and longest-standing members of the Rhody family.

#### 57 Your Stories

Susan Burlew Southard '77 reflects on being part of URI's crew team and how the experience influenced the rest of her life.

#### 59 Close Up

In her first year as a nurse, Julia Santucci '19 faced a public health crisis she couldn't have imagined. She did it with courage and dedication.

#### 60 Class Notes from Quarantine

In this special section of Class Notes, Rhody alumni share their experiences of life under quarantine.

#### 64 Caption This

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

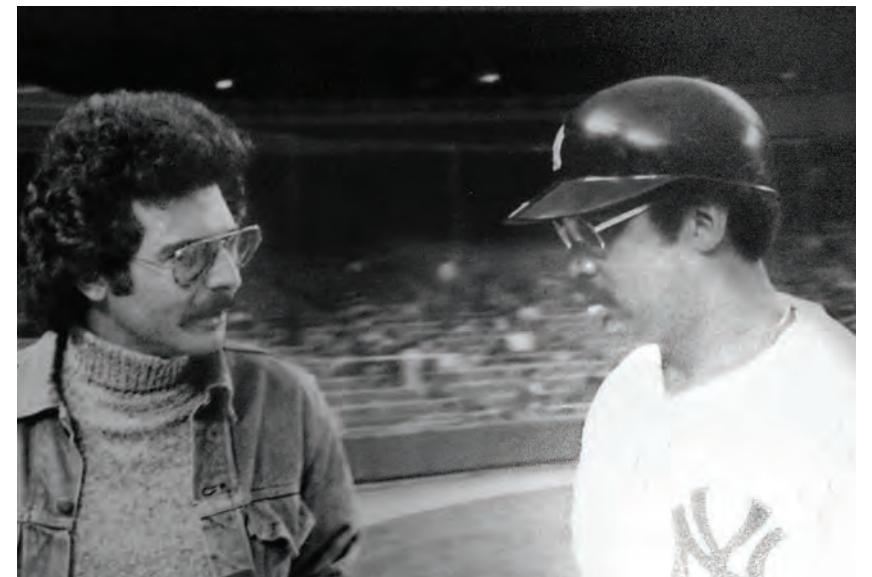


#### 32 Lessons from a Team-First Leader

President of Fry's Food Stores Monica Garnes '94 leads with heart and by making sure her team succeeds.

#### 44 Confessions of a Yankees Fauxtographer

Arnie "Tokyo" Rosenthal '73 documented an era of classic Yankees history. His story of making it into the Yankee Stadium press box, making a habit of it, and coming clean, is delightfully mischievous. Here, Tokyo chats with Reggie Jackson.





## Opportunity for Change

In the tumultuous first half of 2020, we've all had to make changes. The powerful movement that has grown and gained traction in the wake of George Floyd's murder is also about change—long overdue, systemic change. It's time. Let's not miss this opportunity.



Research universities must live in the real world—we must deal in facts, data, and truth, even when these are uncomfortable, inconvenient, or inconsistent with the myths we tell ourselves about who we are, and what our country is.

WHILE MAGAZINE production schedules dictate that I write my message many weeks—even months—in advance of when you will read it, I always strive for timely, relevant messages.

The cover of *The New York Times Sunday Review* section on May 24, 2020, read: “No One Knows What’s Going to Happen.” And recent months have proven, again and again, how true that is.

2020 has given us a pandemic resulting in illness and loss of lives and livelihoods. The pandemic forced schools, including URI, to quickly shift to remote education, and

resulted in a virtual recognition ceremony for our 2020 grads that was nothing like what they dreamed of, expected, and deserved.

Then, the murder of George Floyd, documented on video, in Minneapolis in May sparked worldwide protests demanding change. The video was shocking to many of us. But what we saw was only one heart-wrenching example of yet another manifestation of the systemic racism that has plagued the United States for over 400 years, as both Black Americans and Native Americans know all too well.

Let us not miss this opportunity to move the United States closer to becoming a country with “liberty and justice for all.” We have seen enough horrific videos that capture violence and injustice. Black lives matter.

Angela Gonzalez, aka AGonza '16, featured on this issue's cover, is not missing this opportunity. An activist whose tool is a paintbrush, she is moving us closer to liberty and justice for all through her murals. In the wake of recent vandalism in Providence, she saw boarded up storefronts as opportunities for community-focused art that would generate conversation and connection. “I am a protestor,” she says,

“a revolutionist's artist. My passion is changing things.” Gonzalez is an example of how each of us can contribute to positive change.

URI, and American higher education more broadly, has missed or mishandled too many opportunities to help guide our nation to becoming a just and humane society. Let us not squander this one. Let us agree that URI should exemplify a clear and consistent commitment to anti-racism, to equal justice, and to liberty and safety for Black Americans and other marginalized groups.

Let us not forget that research universities must live in the real world—we must deal in facts, data, and truth, even when these are uncomfortable, inconvenient, or inconsistent with the myths we tell ourselves about who we are, and what our country is. And we must prepare our students to live in the real world, to critically examine their own myths and assumptions, and to be prepared to succeed and lead in the global effort to overcome the challenges of the times in which they live.

Our transformation, in many ways, is just beginning.

Thanks to the Campaign for the University of Rhode Island—which we are proud to officially launch with this issue of *URI Magazine*, we will continue thinking and dreaming big. The campaign will allow us to expand student access to a URI education, boost innovative scholarship and research, strengthen programs that distinguish us among public research institutions, extend our global reach and influence, and develop the leaders who will solve tomorrow's complex problems.

We remain committed to researching, thinking, leading, creating, reflecting, and inventing. We do these things to make the world a better place. We do them to make the world a more just and humane place for all. We do them to make the world a safer and healthier place for all. And never has there been a time when what we do here is needed more.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "David M. Dooley".

David M. Dooley  
President, University of Rhode Island

# Big Ideas. Bold Plans.

The Campaign for the  
University of Rhode Island







# Announcing the \$250 Million Campaign for the University of Rhode Island

**URI IS MAKING TRANSFORMATIVE INVESTMENTS**  
in students, faculty, groundbreaking research, and  
our physical environment. The campaign will build upon  
our exceptional achievements and advance learning,  
research, and thought-leading academic activity.



“This campaign offers the opportunity for  
everyone to contribute something meaningful  
to making the University of Rhode Island even  
better, even stronger, and more resilient, and to  
raising our profile globally and nationally.”

David M. Dooley, URI President

*On the previous page:*  
Beibhinn Gallagher '21  
Major: Data Science  
Home: Charlestown, R.I.



CAMPAIGN PRIORITY  
Student Access

The campaign assures that URI will be the preferred destination for talented, hardworking students who have big dreams and ambitions, regardless of their financial circumstances.

“I was accepted to seven universities and I chose URI because of the financial aid I received. I want to be a doctor and I have a lot of schooling ahead of me. URI has provided me with unexpected experiences in and out of the classroom that have broadened how I think. I love it here.”

**Seraphina Negash '21**  
**Majors:** Health Studies and Cell and Molecular Biology  
**Home:** Providence, R.I.

**SERAPHINA NEGASH '21** is an idealist with a strong practical bent. She is studying to be a doctor because she believes that people, regardless of income or status, should have access to health care. She speaks fondly of URI faculty who have challenged her to think critically and ask tough questions while mentoring her even after the class is over. Her leadership skills and confidence have grown through her participation in student organizations and as a resident assistant. URI is home and the foundation on which to build a better future.

“URI has provided me with amazing hands-on opportunities early in my academic career. It has offered knowledge and experience I couldn’t gain sitting in a classroom. Because of these experiences, I can confidently say that I can’t imagine myself doing anything else.”

**Adelaide Levenson '21**  
**Major:** Chemistry  
**Home:** Woonsocket, R.I.

**ADELAIDE LEVENSON '21** wants to help protect the environment, and she believes research is the key to sustainability. She participated in three research projects in her first two years as a chemistry major. She worked on the creation of flame-retardant textiles, studied supramolecular compounds’ ability to capture pollutants from water, and assisted in the development of devices that detect nutrients in seawater. Her love of chemistry continues to blossom under the guidance of her professors, and her research earned her two summer research positions and a National Science Foundation summer undergraduate fellowship. Levenson found the formula at URI to achieve her dreams.

CAMPAIGN PRIORITY  
The URI Learning Experience

Academic and cocurricular activities develop students’ potential for leadership and discovery. We will expand and implement initiatives that improve academic performance, experiential learning, and career preparation. We will create more opportunities through the honors program, leadership development, athletics, and student health and wellness.





CAMPAIGN PRIORITY

Transformative Faculty Leadership

Teaching and research excellence define the University of Rhode Island. *Big Ideas. Bold Plans.* will build on a decade of strategic growth by generating transformative investments in faculty and state-of-the-art facilities. Attracting and retaining distinguished professors who make significant contributions to research and education will bring URI and our students to new heights.

“I tell students when they walk into my class that they are going to start a company in one semester. Over that time, they create a working prototype of a product they want to bring to market. They leave the course with a better understanding of design thinking and an entrepreneurial mindset. Life is an experiment, and I love sharing that idea with my students.”

**Kunal Mankodiya**  
Associate Professor in Biomedical Engineering  
Department of Electrical, Computer, and Biomedical Engineering  
College of Engineering

As a child, **KUNAL MANKODIYA** helped sell textiles at his family-owned shop in India. Now, he and an interdisciplinary team at URI marry textiles with sensors, computing, and the internet to improve health.

Professor Mankodiya founded the Wearable Biosensing Lab at URI, which has received national and international accolades. He received a National Science Foundation CAREER Award and was named the “Innovator-of-the-year” by Future Textiles Awards in Germany. Mankodiya organizes international scientific workshops and hackathons to promote entrepreneurial thinking.

URI students benefit from the synergy between teaching and research. Mankodiya’s course, Wearable Internet of Things, nurtures their entrepreneurial skills.

Faculty like Professor Mankodiya enable URI to better serve its students and raise its academic profile.

**SCOTT BREault ’21** saw a flyer in high school that combined his passions for cars and innovation: an internship at BMW through the URI International Engineering Program (IEP).

The flyer inspired him to apply to URI, and in spring 2020 he was interning at ZF Friedrichshafen AG in Germany, a company that creates systems that enable vehicles to see, think, and act.

Breault’s semester abroad was cut short due to COVID-19, but the IEP helped him transition to an internship at PI (Physik Instrumente), a German company with a facility in Auburn, Massachusetts.

The experience has demonstrated that he can “think globally and act locally.”

“The IEP is second-to-none and allows students to establish connections and take advantage of the many opportunities the program provides.”

**Scott Breault ’21**  
**Majors:** Mechanical Engineering and German  
**Home:** Milford, Connecticut



CAMPAIGN PRIORITY

Innovative and Distinctive Programs

Collaborative environments that draw on shared expertise generate high-impact research, creative work, and robust partnerships. The Academic Health Collaborative and Innovate@URI provide structure for this growth. Expansion of URI’s international programs and language programs will raise the profile of our students, faculty, and University in the global arena.



**DONALD H. DEHAYES** came to URI in 2008 as provost and vice president for academic affairs to oversee the intellectual enterprise and to encourage growth and innovation. Under his leadership, the 2016–2021 Academic Plan set clear goals to enhance URI's environment for superlative learning and discovery.

This “living plan” anticipated dramatic changes in the landscape of higher education and developed strategies to address disruptive technologies, access and affordability issues, student success and degree completion, and globalization.

These challenges and new ones will continue to present URI with opportunities. By building the URI endowment, the University will have access to resources that can be used to implement strategies that enhance URI and benefit students.

CAMPAIGN PRIORITY

Strategic Opportunities

Key strategic opportunities will provide financial agility for long-term success. This aspirational vision calls for an endowed opportunity fund to support new initiatives like advancing external partnerships and furthering URI's leadership in artificial intelligence and big data. Investment in athletic programs offers expanded visibility and growth potential. Increased support for the annual fund will provide immediate-use resources. Thoughtful planning and implementation of new ideas can assure a bright future for URI.

“For the University to take the next step, we need to be nimble and take advantage of opportunities that require quick action. Strategic endowed funds, combined with immediate-use resources, give us the agility to ensure URI's continued success.”

Donald H. DeHayes  
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs



\$250M

Campaign goal by 2024

\$175M

Campaign progress to date

“My wife Jean and I are committed to supporting the University of Rhode Island’s vision for the future and are pleased to invest in *Big Ideas. Bold Plans. The Campaign for URI.*”

Richard J. Harrington '73, Hon. '02  
Campaign Chair

CAMPAIGN.URI.EDU

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# Feedback

Write to us: [urimag@uri.edu](mailto:urimag@uri.edu)  
Visit us and comment at [uri.edu/magazine](http://uri.edu/magazine)

## From the Editor

Many of you responded to our invitation to share your “Quarantine Class Notes” earlier this spring (see page 60). It was amazing to read about your experiences, so I decided to write my message for this issue in the same spirit.

Back in March when URI shifted to remote learning, many staff members, including me, began working from home. I’m fortunate to have a job I can do from home and a home in which to do it. My partner and son were also working and going to school from home, so finding the space to work—and the Wi-Fi bandwidth—was a challenge. My daughter is in Maine doing an internship, so I claimed her room as my office. But we managed, and actually enjoyed much of our lockdown. We were healthy, comfortable, busy with work, and able to spend our free time doing things we enjoy. I read three books; did online yoga classes; logged a lot of miles walking, running, and cycling; got out to surf a few times; and even signed up for free online guitar lessons—that’s a story for another time.

That’s my in-kind note from quarantine. But now, as we’re getting ready to go off to print, the world is in crisis. We are

emerging from the closings and quarantines imposed earlier this spring, and many places are experiencing spikes in people sick with COVID-19. Our economy has been ravaged. And the May 2020 murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis—yet another Black life taken in a police encounter—proved again that 400 years of racism in this country has left us with a lot of work to do and a lot of changes to make.

The resulting demonstrations and protests have raised a great deal of awareness and have even sparked a handful of real changes, such as commitments from some cities to make major police reforms, the toppling of Confederate and slavery-era statues, the introduction of federal legislation addressing police reform, and promises from industries and organizations to address institutional racism.

By the time this issue arrives in your mailbox later this summer, it is my hope the list of changes will have grown exponentially. In the meantime, I’m starting a new book: *How to Be an Antiracist* by Ibram X. Kendi. It’s one of the faculty read/watch/listen recommendations on pages 22–23. We all have a lot to learn.

—Barbara Caron, Editor-in-Chief



Every day is bring-your-dog-to-work day when you work from home. That’s assistant editor Hammy the Wonder Dog.



## Love for Laurie

SO PROUD OF YOU, LAURIE. YOUR work is so important. Thank you for inspiring me.

—Donna Goldstein ’79

Laurie Lindemann, M.A. ’02 was featured in the spring 2020 story, “The Emotional Power of Tidying Up.”

## Watch Those Asterisks

HOW FAR WE HAVE COME! READING the featured article on “Speaking Truth,” I was brought back to 1963 when I served on the editorial board of the URI literary magazine. In those days, the name was *Paradigm*. We approved the issue and sent it to the printer, with a very well written and meaningful short story—that contained a certain four-letter word.

Remember, this was South County, the year was 1963. The printer called someone on the faculty (sorry, bad

memories do not last that long) to alert him that the publication was obscene. Needless to say, the entire editorial board was called in to discuss this. The compromise reached was that the story was printed, but the two middle letters were replaced with asterisks. For several months, usually in jest, certain students would comment to one another, “Asterisk you.”

Most of my memories of my days in Kingston were much fonder.

—Nada Chandler ’64

## Bibliotherapy? It’s What Children’s Librarians Do!

IN THE SPRING 2020 ISSUE OF *University of Rhode Island Magazine*, editor-in-chief Barbara Caron referred to a 2015 piece from *The New Yorker* magazine about bibliotherapy, i.e. reading books as a treatment for life’s troubles and challenges. When I was a children’s librarian in the late 1970s, bibliotherapy was a much discussed topic in the profession. Parents often sought “children’s books to help explain and mitigate....(fill in any kind of

children’s life experiences”). Children’s Librarians created book lists and counseled parents and kids. It’s what they do!

—Elsie Jenkins, M.L.S. ’75

Elsie Jenkins was children’s department head at Willimantic (Conn.) Public Library and at Mary Cheney Library in Manchester, Conn., and served as library director at Otis Library in Norwich, Conn., until she retired 18 years ago.

## Kudos

YOUR MAGAZINE KEEPS GETTING better. It’s great to read about the outstanding work that URI grads are doing all over the world. Keep up the good work.

—Bernard LaPorte ’58

MY WIFE (CANDICE MACHATA ’85) IS the URI grad, but we both devour the themed magazines. They draw us in and demand to be read. Fantastic new way of presenting our local flagship university. Keep up the excellent work!

—John Machata

## SOCIAL SNAPS | INSTAGRAM



**Moon Over Endeavor**  
GSO doctoral student Sarah Nickford captured this beautiful shot of a pink supermoon rising at the Narragansett Bay Campus in April.  
[@uri.gso](https://www.instagram.com/uri.gso)



**Team Excellence**  
Congratulations to the URI Chapter of the National Society of Black Engineers for earning the URI Robert Rainville Team Excellence Award.  
[@uriengineering](https://www.instagram.com/uriengineering)



**She Kills Monsters**  
Jess Ring ’20 recalls opening night for *She Kills Monsters*—rainy and almost canceled, but, in the end, opened to a full house: “It showed me how amazing a crew and cast can be when they work together.”  
[@uritheatre](https://www.instagram.com/uritheatre)



**Tribute to Class of 2020**  
Thank you to our crew members from Facilities Operations/Lands and Grounds for a special installation on the Quad in the form of a super-sized Rhody logo. #URI2020  
[@universityofri](https://www.instagram.com/universityofri)

PHOTO: JOSHUA ARAUJO

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## Freedom of Expression

We heard from readers with a range of reactions to our spring 2020 feature, “Why Are We Talking About the First Amendment?” Here are excerpts from two reader-submitted comments that represent the range of opinions our readers shared:

QUITE AN ARTICLE ABOUT THE FIRST Amendment! But I submit to the publisher that there is an abuse of the First Amendment tantamount to yelling ‘Fire’ in a crowded theatre. That is the voice of the press at large. There are too many journalists, their editors and their owners who spew grossly mis-quoted or mis-characterized statements of others—and in fact, pure lies—and the true travesty therein is no one is being held accountable!

—Stephen Benjamin ’71

JOURNALISTS ... ARE UNSUNG heroes of democracy ... to limit them or their free speech is to undermine the fundamentals of our democracy. Hats off to URI for publishing this excellent and heartwarming piece, and hats off to journalists and their real-world reporting all over the world, and especially our own Rhodies, who are scattered all over the world doing good.

—Paul James Hastings ’84



= IN BRIEF =



URI President Dooley Will Retire in 2021  
President David M. Dooley announced his decision to retire effective June 2021. Dooley, the University's 11th president now serving in his 11th year, said that "URI cherishes the values of equity, inclusion, and community. Consequently, it will be difficult to leave this special place, but I am convinced that the time is right for me to step down and for the University to seek a new president."



New Governing Body for URI Elects Leadership  
URI's new Board of Trustees held its first official meeting in April 2020. Margo Cook '86, was elected chair and Michael F. McNally, M.B.A. '81, was elected vice chair. The new Board will address the University's challenges and create partnership opportunities, and will oversee employment, property, purchases/procurement, and tuition setting. It will also approve the awarding of degrees and faculty tenure. The University president reports to the Board of Trustees.



\$6 Million Gift to College of Business  
A gift from S. Kent Fannon '74 and Diane Chace Fannon '74 will help renovate and expand Ballentine Hall, home of the College of Business, and will support the creation of a student success center. The couple, who met as students at URI and live in Texas, also committed \$50,000 for the College of Business annual fund.



Three Rams Join NFL Teams

For the first time since 1986, a URI player was selected in the NFL Draft. Wide receiver Isaiah Coulter '21 was selected by the Houston Texans in the fifth round. His Rhody teammate, wide receiver Aaron Parker '20, signed as an undrafted free-agent with the Dallas Cowboys, and another teammate, offensive lineman Kyle Murphy '20, signed with the New York Giants. The last time a URI player was taken in the NFL Draft was 1986, when Bob White went to the New York Jets.

Challenging Expectations: Disability in the 21st Century

Fall 2020 Honors Colloquium  
Tuesday evenings, 7 p.m.  
September 22–December 1, 2020

This year's colloquium will be virtual. Please join us online for these free events at uri.edu/hc.

= NEWS TICKER =

**School Garden Academy**  
A new URI Master Gardener initiative will help 70 schools in Rhode Island establish school gardens connecting kids to their food from an early age.

**New GSO Dean**  
Paula S. Bontempi, Ph.D. '01, a Graduate School of Oceanography alumna, comes to URI from the Science Mission Directorate of NASA Headquarters in Washington, D.C., where she served as acting deputy director.

**Ph.D. in Health Sciences**  
A new interdisciplinary program will focus on health, wellness, and quality of life, and will support identifying solutions to important societal health problems.

**Fulbright Awards**  
Five URI students were selected for the prestigious national Fulbright program, which awards grants to high-achieving students for research projects abroad.

**Top 100**  
URI's School of Education broke into the *U.S. News and World Report's* top 100 public graduate schools.

**Repurposing Sleep Apnea Machines**  
This spring, a group of URI students and faculty helped VentilatorProject.org collect and refurbish CPAP and BiPAP machines to serve as ventilators for patients with COVID-19.

**Certified Organic**  
URI's research farm has received organic certification. Several acres will be used for researching organic production and studying organic and conventional crop production.



= QUADRANGLES =

The Ambient Texture of Days

By Cheryl Foster

When URI switched to remote learning this spring due to the COVID-19 pandemic, students and faculty adapted. But as anyone will tell you, it wasn't the same. Professor of Philosophy Cheryl Foster explains that, besides missing each other, students and faculty were missing the sensory and aesthetic variety—the ambient texture—that they experience living, working, and learning on campus.

URI'S KINGSTON CAMPUS SITS ATOP A gentle hill. On any given weekday, when the trains from New York or Boston glide into Kingston station two miles below, Professor Heather Johnson, director of Writing Across URI, brings her travel writing class to a halt, and everyone listens. Long, steady whistles, wheels scraping rails, and, when the wind blows just right, muffled echoes of the automated station announcement, "Train approaching."

Meanwhile, at precisely 9:50 a.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, masses of people hum and flow past the corner of Taft Hall, where G and Dean Earl—that's Gerald Williams '92, M.A. '00, director of Talent Development, and Earl Smith III '90, College of Arts and Sciences assistant dean—take in the morning air and greet their many friends, students, and colleagues.

Across the Quad, Associate Professor of Plant Sciences Larry Englander shoulders his worn backpack and leads a posse of undergrads from tree to tree, scraping rimey green lichens. In the new engineering center, the scent of coffee hugs the café. Sophomores slip on mud as they lope, late for class, up the Elephant Walk. Mowers buzz, sending the scent of cut grass through windows in Washburn Hall. A few yards southward, traces of formaldehyde haunt the halls of Pastore—where (and I say this in true Rhode Island fashion) all the chemistry labs used to be.

Used to be. That's how we think about the contours of campus life now that most of us have decamped to remote learning and working. Before COVID-19 forced

our retreat to these digital spaces, our days were shaped tacitly by variation. The experience of learning on a college campus is no mere information exchange, not just the intake and outflow of abstract knowledge. It also entails embodied immersion and sensorial variety—the ambient texture of days.

Sensory and aesthetic variation lay powerfully latent in our lives, punctuating the mental demands of study and work through auditory, olfactory, and visual markers. Now, tamped down as our experience is by the flatness of screens and remote work spaces, we sense the loss of those campus places and the ambient texture of them.

Does it matter, though, that we're learning or working through machines? Isn't education about the mind? Seventeenth century philosopher and mathematician René Descartes famously concluded that even without a real body, every thought he had proved his existence as a thinking thing: "I think, therefore I am." And centuries before Descartes, medieval philosopher Ibn Sīnā (Avicenna in European traditions) devised his "Flying Man" thought experiment, wherein an intelligent person—newly born, blindfolded, floating in midair—could apprehend their existence as thinking, as soul—even without awareness of their body.

Yet how dull, indeed, would be an existence stripped bare of our sense and perception! Many Western philosophers have emphasized mind over matter, soul over body, thinking over feeling, but not all ignore the senses as powerful vectors of human experience. Some focus on what it means to be an embodied creature traversing Earth's forms and terrain.

And we are, after all, embodied creatures yearning for the forms and terrain of campus. We feel the yearning in our joints, sinews, and muscles—the felt weave of place. Distance learning serves its purpose, but until Oculus headsets approach the chimeric quality of the Star Trek Holodeck or the rain-soaked streets of The Matrix, the dissipation of aesthetic complexity in our learning and work lives leaves most of us somewhat deflated.

Joni Mitchell knew this and she put it in a song: "Don't it always seem to go/ That you don't know what you've got/'Til it's gone ..."

But our world isn't gone; we are just on retreat from its textures. As with all good retreats, this one may enhance what we see, think, and feel upon returning—and lead us to value it anew. •



Professor Cheryl Foster specializes in theoretical and applied aesthetics and environmental philosophy.





= CIGAR BOX =

## Adaptation

By Theresa Brown '21

From the true value of journalism to why it's important to cultivate a wide range of skills, Theresa Brown '21, editor-in-chief of URI's student newspaper, *The Good Five-Cent Cigar*, reflects on lessons learned covering the COVID-19 pandemic.

WHEN I TOOK OVER AS EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF *The Good Five-Cent Cigar* in December 2019, I knew exactly what to expect. I had previously acted as web editor and managing editor and saw no excuse to pass up the opportunity to finally be in charge of the paper I had dedicated so much time to already. I knew what I was doing and, while I was nervous, I was confident that, with all of my experience, things would run smoothly. So, when the COVID-19 pandemic shut down the URI campus—and the world—I jumped at the opportunity to continue to make it work.

The extended deadlines, 48 hours to edit, and late-night productions that *The Cigar* editors knew too well were gone, and we were met with a fast-paced chaotic schedule of writing, editing, and publishing as soon as new information was released.

The last two months of covering the pandemic have proven to me just how important the news is. When I say I'm pursuing a career in the journalism field, I often get comments like,

"That's a dying field." But it's in times of chaos, like this, that I'm grateful I have access to as much information as I do—thanks to the news. It proves to me that, even on a university newspaper level, the reporting we are doing is making a difference.

As an editorial board, we have completely changed the way we view *The Cigar*. We have transitioned to functioning like a real-world newsroom. Instead of having specific responsibilities, we have created a team that does it all: pitching, reporting, recording, editing, publishing, and photography. Our team includes our managing editor, Laura Weick '20; news editors Kate LeBlanc '22 and Nicole Wagner '22; and production manager, Mary Lind '22.

Our articles are reaching a larger audience than ever before, our website traffic is up, and our newspaper inbox is filled with questions and comments about what we are reporting.

Like many newspapers in recent years, we have recognized the importance of multimedia reporting. The pandemic forced us to transition to an online platform. During the last year, we have prepared for a larger online presence, more active social media accounts, and a fully-functioning weekly newscast supplemented by occasional breaking-news packages. The inability to produce a physical paper has allowed us to utilize and thrive through these resources.

While the experience of covering the pandemic has been a whirlwind of emotions, a battle to remain unbiased, and a chaotic process overall, *The Cigar* editors and I are grateful for the opportunity. URI stresses the importance of experiential learning; what better way to engage in experiential learning than this? We are testing the skills we've learned in the classroom even as we report on the same topic being covered by the famous journalists we admire. •



PHOTO: NORA LEWIS

=MEDIA SPOTLIGHT=

## You Can Quote Me

On announcing his plan to retire in June 2021:

“It is very difficult for me to express how much I have enjoyed and appreciated serving as your president for the past eleven years. No institution means, or has ever meant, more to me than the University of Rhode Island and its people.”

—David M. Dooley, president,  
University of Rhode Island

*Providence Journal*

On the impact of COVID-19, time spent outdoors, and risk of tick-borne disease:

“My colleagues and I were apparently seeing the same things as governments began imposing stay at home restrictions in mid-March; in particular, we saw an immediate jump in the number of people finding attached ticks.”

—Tom Mather, URI professor  
of public health entomology

*News-medical.net*

On plastics contamination in Florida water supplies:

"The worst [thing] is for a state such as Florida to pretend that there is neither a problem with PFAS nor contamination of drinking water."

—Rainer Lohmann,  
URI professor of oceanography

*Miami New Times*

On rebuilding the economy post-pandemic:

“We also need to really look at ourselves critically, much more honestly than I think we've been willing to do in decades now. What are our strengths? And that's easy. But, what are our weaknesses?”

—Len Lardaro, URI professor of economics

*The Public's Radio*

On the lasting effects of COVID-19 on science following the cancellation of a research project ten years in the making:

“If field programs that measure climate-relevant variables are being canceled or put on hold, this is a step backwards for our contributions to understanding a rapidly changing ocean.”

—Bethany Jenkins, URI professor of cell and molecular biology

*Smithsonian Magazine*

On organizing a peaceful protest in Harlem in the wake of George Floyd's death:

“It was an opportunity not only to protest what's going on in the community as far as policing and racism ultimately but an opportunity to bring the community together so we can discuss what we want for the future of Harlem.”

—Shawn Antoine II '19

*WPRI/Channel 12, Providence*

*Shawn Antoine II is a former Rams defensive back and is currently a filmmaker whose film, Showtime, took the 2019 Hip Hop Film Festival's "Best of the Fest—New Jack Winner," an award given to first-time directors.*

On survey findings by Yale and George Mason University showing that, despite the pandemic, Americans are still concerned about climate change:

“I'm excited by these findings. Taken together, the report's findings indicate that Americans are reaching, or maybe even have reached, a turning point.”

—Sunshine Menezes, URI professor of environmental communication

*The New York Times*



= THE TAKEAWAY =

Watch, Listen, and Read Like a Professor



**Holly Dunsworth, Associate Professor of Anthropology**

**READ**  
*The Sound of a Wild Snail Eating*  
by Elisabeth Tova Bailey

Last summer we moved, leaving my garden's colony of hundreds of snails behind. I miss "my snails" dearly—especially now, as I'd have days upon days to stare at them. I discovered so much about them by painting a dot on each snail's shell, specific to the year—some snails had four different colored dots! *The Sound of a Wild Snail Eating* is a perfect lockdown science read. It's the biography of a woman with a mysterious disease that keeps her bedridden; she becomes enthralled with a snail that her caregiver adds to a pot of wildflowers at her bedside.

**Travis D. Williams, Associate Professor of English**

**READ**  
*The Alchemist*  
by Ben Jonson  
*The Decameron*  
by Giovanni Boccaccio

For wit, scathing insults, physical comedy, and brilliant plot construction, Ben Jonson's play, *The Alchemist* is unsurpassed. Amid the humor, it tells a story about social class and how privilege dictates safety in a public health crisis.

And *The Decameron* is a collection of stories about 10 wealthy young Florentines who "self-isolate" in the countryside during a plague outbreak. They entertain themselves by telling 100 short stories—from farce to tragedy and from sexual to sublime. Each story is short, so consider enjoying a few each day—as delicious morsels before bed.

**David Howard, Professor of Costume Design**

**LISTEN**  
*Dressed: The History of Fashion* (podcast)  
*American Duchess* (podcast)  
**READ**  
*A Beautifully Foolish Endeavor*  
by Hank Green

*Dressed: The History of Fashion* explores (mostly) under-discussed elements in the field, including a fascinating episode about the Battle of Versailles and one about Fashion Week. And don't miss *American Duchess*—my favorite episode is "Enslaved People's Dress in the 18th and 19th Century, with Cheyney McKnight." And *A Beautifully Foolish Endeavor* is a must-read adventure/mystery sequel to Green's last book, *An Absolutely Remarkable Thing*, about the mysterious appearance all over the world of statues that do not "come in peace."

**Rachel Walshe, Assistant Professor of Acting and Playwriting**

**WATCH**  
Shakespeare's plays from the Globe  
Broadway shows on PBS  
Greta Gerwig's *Little Women*

The Globe Theatre in London is offering many plays free online. My favorites are *As You Like It* and *Measure for Measure*. PBS just made several Broadway shows available free online, too, including *In the Heights* and *Buried Child*. And Greta Gerwig's *Little Women* inspired me to reread Alcott's book, which I enjoyed even more as an adult—and you can see URI theater instructor Tony Estrella '93 as the March family's doctor!



**J. Jennifer Jones, Associate Professor of English**

**WATCH**  
*Koyaanisqatsi*

Philip Glass composed the music for this American experimental film in 1982, the same year he composed the New York Metropolitan Opera's *Akhnaten*, and you can feel the connection. You'll be mesmerized by the dance between Glass's musical composition and the images that evoke the relationship among humans, the Earth, and technology.



Shakespeare: "My all-time favorites are *As You Like It* and *Measure for Measure*."

— Rachel Walshe

**Sarah Eron, Associate Professor of English**

**VIRTUAL VISIT:**  
"Harry Potter: A History of Magic"

**READ:**  
Books Books Books Books

"Harry Potter: A History of Magic" (artsandculture.google.com/project/harry-potter-a-history-of-magic) from the British Library will delight Harry Potter fanatics. There are even some modern lessons in "muggle magic." But even though it's strangely easy these days to listen to the symphony or "visit" a museum online from home, we're all getting a bit too much screen time. So, consider reading paper books this summer—outside.

**Emmett Goods, Lecturer, Department of Music**

**LISTEN**  
"The Otherside of America"  
Meek Mill  
"FTP"  
YG  
"They Don't"  
Nasty C featuring T.I.  
"I Can't Breathe"  
H.E.R.  
"The Bigger Picture"  
Lil Baby  
"Walking in the Snow"  
Run the Jewels

Freestyle on Black Lives Matter (on YouTube)  
LL Cool J

I've been listening to response music to the racial tension in America. LL Cool J was my wife's favorite rapper (and crush), so I include him here in her memory. But also because, in the late 1980s, LL wrote a song about being racially profiled and pulled over by the police. Many artists of his generation made the shift from "rap artist" to "pop star" and we often forget how political their music was before their stardom. All of these tracks and artists provide unique perspectives



LL Cool J is one of the artists Emmett Goods is listening to this summer. Of LL Cool J's generation of rap artists, Goods says, "We often forget how political their music was before their stardom."

tives on social and political issues, including race and policing. South African rapper Nasty C shows that America isn't the only country dealing with racial inequality.

**Martha Elena Rojas, Associate Professor of English**

**READ**  
*White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism*  
by Robin DiAngelo  
*How to Be an Antiracist*  
by Ibram X. Kendi

*Love in the Time of Cholera*  
by Gabriel García Márquez

*There There*  
by Tommy Orange

*On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous*  
by Ocean Vuong

*Know My Name: A Memoir*  
by Chanel Miller

*Postcolonial Love Poem*  
by Natalie Diaz

*Citizen: An American Lyric*  
by Claudia Rankine

*White Fragility* gave me better conceptual language for how to talk about structural racism and our own complicity with upholding white supremacy. Follow up with Ibram X. Kendi's *How to Be an Antiracist*. Then keep reading.

**Justin Wyatt, Associate Professor of Communication Studies and Film/Media**

**WATCH**  
*Mary Hartman, Mary Hartman: The Complete Series*  
*Ingmar Bergman's Cinema*

The complete Mary Hartman series on DVD offers 135 hours of soap opera satire from the

Ingmar Bergman (left) and Victor Sjöström in 1957, during production of *Wild Strawberries* in the studios in Solna, Sweden.

mid-1970s and a skewed world view that is memorable, disturbing, and amusing. *Ingmar Bergman's Cinema*, from the Criterion Collection, includes all 39 of the great Swedish director's films. Start with black-and-white classics like *The Seventh Seal*, *Wild Strawberries*, and *Persona*—questioning identity, existence, and the meaning of life, then move to the serious version of Mary Hartman, *Scenes from a Marriage*.

**Brian Caccioppoli, Marine Research Specialist, Graduate School of Oceanography**

**READ**  
*Barbarian Days: A Surfing Life*  
by William Finnegan

**LISTEN**  
StarTalk (podcast)

*Barbarian Days* is the ultimate coming-of-age surf adventure/wanderlust story. It's a great read while we are confined to our homes. And *StarTalk*, hosted by astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson, blends science and pop culture, examining everyday scientific principles in a light, comedic way.

**Bryan Dewsbury, Assistant Professor of Biology**

**READ**  
*Tales of Two Americas: Stories of Inequality in a Divided Nation*  
edited by John Freeman  
*Savage Inequalities: Children in America's Schools*  
by Jonathan Kozol

*Tales of Two Americas* is a collection of nonfiction and poetry from some of America's best writers reflecting on their experiences of inequality in major U.S. cities. A welcome addition to understanding inequity through personal narrative. *Savage Inequalities* is a bit dated, but the lesson on how social contexts yield inequitable social outcomes is still powerful. •





= THE CLASS OF 2020 =

## Phenomenal Grads

COVID-19 changed everything. The Class of 2020—at URI, and everywhere—didn’t get the celebration they deserved. But they sure are worth celebrating. Meet four of our phenomenal 2020 grads. To read more about them and meet other members of the Class of 2020, go to [uri.edu/features/meet-uris-newest-alumni](https://uri.edu/features/meet-uris-newest-alumni).



### Elise Felker '20

ELISE FELKER BELIEVES MUSIC CAN HEAL.

A music education major, she wants to take her love for teaching music beyond the classroom and into social rehabilitation, where she believes it is needed most.

“You’re not just teaching people rhythms and notes, you have an opportunity to teach people how to become fully formed human beings,” Felker says. “When you experience music through any medium, you feel human emotions and connections.” She says music educators have a unique opportunity and social responsibility to help their students be better humans, not just teach them techniques.

Last summer, Felker interned at a nonprofit music school in South Africa that helps underprivileged teens become entrepreneurs in the music industry. And this year, she joined social justice choir Voices 21C, participating in community outreach with people recently released from prison. “As music teachers, we preach that music is for all,” she says. “We have to uphold that motto.”

—Edhaya Thenmarasu '21

### Mohamed Chamseddine '20

MOHAMED CHAMSEDDINE DIDN’T PLAN FOR URI to change his life. But he’s sure it did.

Commuting from Middletown, R.I., it wasn’t until Chamseddine’s sophomore year, when he took a supply chain management class with College of Business senior lecturer Joe Estrella, that he declared his major.

From that moment on, things fell into place. He joined an academic fraternity and was selected for URI’s Business Student Advisory Council and Alumni Advisory Board. In September 2019, he attended a conference in Las Vegas where he met CEOs and CFOs from major U.S. companies.



Then Chamseddine suffered a tragic loss. His father died, and Chamseddine had to help run the family business. “I had to step up and help my mom—do the accounting and banking for the business,” he says. “I was balancing everything, and had to deal with school and loss.”

But he remained committed to school. “For him to become the student that he did, especially after going through all of that, shows a lot of fortitude,” Estrella says.

Chamseddine graduated with a job already lined up at the Naval Undersea Warfare Center in Newport.

—Ian Wiener '20

### Power Kanga '20

POWER KANGA WAS AN ATHLETE. RAISED IN Providence after immigrating to the United States from Liberia as a child, he came to URI on an athletic scholarship. The Talent Development scholar and aspiring engineer played football until an injury ended his college athletic career.

So Kanga dove into academics, learning how to pace himself and ask for help. He learned an important lesson from Professor Manbir Sodhi: “He taught me, if grades are your only motivation, you are not going to make it as an engineer,” says Kanga. With Sodhi, he traveled to India to study global sustainability in a J-Term class.

After joining the National Guard his sophomore year, Kanga joined URI’s Army Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC), graduated with a degree in industrial and systems engineering and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Army Reserves. His goal is to settle back in the Ocean State and start his own business. “What I really want to do is give back,” he says.

— Dawn Bergantino '94



### Rebecca Stevnick, Ph.D. '20

WHEN REBECCA STEVICK BEGAN WORKING ON HER Ph.D. in biological oceanography at URI’s Graduate School of Oceanography, she knew it would take at least four years to finish. So she decided to take on another project that she thought might take her equally long—an 18,000-piece 8-by-9-foot jigsaw puzzle.

Her research examined how environmental factors in Narragansett Bay affect oyster health and associated microbial communities. She also tested if probiotics might boost the microbial community in oyster hatcheries and which microbes interact best with the probiotic. She hopes that her research can be applied to efforts to clean estuaries and other waterways.

Stevick completed the puzzle—and the requirements for her Ph.D.—and began a postdoctoral fellowship at the Pasteur Institute in Paris in March. Although the pandemic closed her lab two weeks after she began her fellowship, she plans to spend the next two or three years there studying how microbes in zebrafish help prevent diseases or other pathogens from colonizing the fish.

—Todd McLeish





# MAKING THE *Jump*

How diseases like COVID-19 make the improbable jump from animals to humans, and how humans make it easier for them.

By Todd McLeish  
Illustrations by Traci Daberko

When University of Rhode Island herpetologist Nancy Karraker lived in Hong Kong, she spent considerable time visiting its wet markets—and those in mainland China—during her studies of the illegal trade in turtles, frogs, and other animals. She visited similar markets in Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, and elsewhere in East Asia. She quickly came to understand why they are called wet markets.

“Everything is wet—the floors, the tables, the people. You can’t help but get splattered when you’re in there,” says Karraker, an associate professor of natural resources science. “Hundreds of vendors are crowded into tight situations. Often you’ll see freshly slaughtered chickens and ducks, piles of bats and other native mammals, cage after cage of mixed species stacked on top of each other, some of which will be slaughtered in front of you.”

“You have huge densities of people in these enclosed spaces coming into very close contact with animals that are potentially infected with viruses that may be transmissible to humans,” she adds. “And then you have people living in very high densities, frequently meeting socially, so there’s a very high chance of passing a virus from person to person. And then the virus takes off.”

## ORIGINS OF A PANDEMIC

By now it’s a familiar story to many people around the globe, because that’s the likely scenario for how the COVID-19 pandemic got its start—at a wet market in China. But it could have begun that way in almost any country in the world, including the United States, because the trade in wildlife is ubiquitous, and more and more humans are coming into contact with potentially infected animals on a regular basis.

Illegal wildlife trafficking is a \$23 billion industry. Legal wildlife trade—regulated by the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and by state, provincial, and national regulations—is a \$300 billion business, which includes animals for the pet industry, food, and traditional medicine. The pet trade in the United States accounts for \$15 billion of the total legal wildlife trade.

As innocent as the pet trade may sound, animals sold as pets can easily transmit diseases to the many people who handle them along the way—hunters, shippers, sellers, breeders, and buyers among them. The pet industry also has a tremendous impact on populations of native species because so many animals are taken directly from the wild.

Karraker’s studies in China, Indonesia, and Thailand found that illegal turtle harvesting leads to dramatic declines in turtle populations, as well as a skewing of sex and age ratios in the wild, since females and older turtles are often larger and easier to see and collect. “In Indonesia, 80 percent of the turtles there are at risk of extinction because of collection,” she says. “And those turtles are either sold for food or traditional medicine in China or for pets in Europe, Japan, and the U.S.”

The trade in wild animals for use in traditional medicine—rhino horns, bear gall bladders, powdered turtle shell, and much more—is highly lucrative and mostly illegal. And almost none of it has been proven to provide the benefits that buyers seek. “But if Grandpa has cancer and you believe in these things as medicine, then you’ll pay top dollar to save Grandpa,” says Karraker, who taught the University’s first class in wildlife trafficking in spring 2019.

But it’s for local food markets in South America, Africa, and Asia that the vast majority of wild animals are captured and sold. Almost any animal that can be easily trapped or hunted might appear at a market and be sold relatively inexpensively. It’s at these markets, where animals are recently killed and are handled by many people, that zoonotic diseases—those transmitted from animals to people—are most likely to lead to a pandemic.



## LOCK AND KEY

Professor Tom Mather, a public health entomologist, uses a common analogy to explain how zoonotic diseases work. He compares them to a lock and key.

“You can’t get into your car without a key, and viruses can’t infect something unless their key lines up exactly with the receptors in the host they’re trying to infect. It’s very precise and very specific,” says Mather, who studies tick-borne diseases and teaches a course about zoonotic disease. “These spillovers from wildlife to people aren’t going to happen willy-nilly. Animals and people are exposed to germs all the time, yet

there are too many barriers to entry, but zoonotic disease germs find a way. Most are viruses, because they are more prone to mutation, and it often takes many mutations to allow a disease to make the

jump from animal to human and then from human to human. “Animals are probably shedding their germs all the time,” Mather says. “It’s just a

matter of whether those germs have the right key to get into something else. Some germs seem to have a master key and can

delivered to an immune population, others run into what Mather calls a “transmission or infection barrier,” and still others—like avian flu—cannot be transmitted effectively between people. Unlike those with COVID-19, patients infected with severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) and Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS) during the outbreaks of those coronaviruses did not typically transmit them to others before exhibiting symptoms, which enabled those deadly diseases to be contained more easily.

“Maybe the key didn’t match up well enough,” Mather says. “It can’t bulldoze its way through. A virus might make 100 mutations and only one will make the key work.”

According to the Wildlife Conservation Society, about 60 percent of existing human infectious diseases originated in animals. They are typically transmitted in one of three ways: through direct contact with wild or domestic animals; indirectly through the consumption of animal products; or by a vector like a mosquito, tick, or flea.

Although one might assume that consuming an infected animal would be the easiest way to transmit disease from animal to human, Mather believes that’s probably the least likely method, at least if the ani-

mal is cooked before eating. “If they’re cooked, that could inactivate the germs, and stomach acids aren’t typically conducive to most germs’ survival,” he says. “But it depends on where in the host the germ cells are first intro-

duced. The virus has to get into a cell that it can commandeer.”

That’s also why restaurants list warnings on their menus about the risks of eating uncooked seafood. For zoonotic diseases that begin with animals in the marine environment, the transmission usually happens through the consumption of uncooked marine life.

“Zoonotic diseases are the perfect storm situation,” says Marta Gomez-Chiarri, URI professor of fisheries and animal science who studies diseases in shellfish. “You have to have a susceptible host with an immune system that cannot fight the disease; you have to have a pathogen; and you have to have the right environment for the pathogen to cause disease. For most things that cause disease in the marine environment, those pathogens cannot survive in human hosts because of the difference in temperature between the ocean and people.”

One of the most common zoonotic diseases from marine animals is caused by the anisakis worm, a parasitic nematode that lives in the muscle of cod and haddock. If it’s consumed by humans, the worms burrow into the intestine and cause great pain and discomfort. It’s difficult to treat because the treatment typically used to kill the worms in fish can be toxic to humans.

“That’s why there is no cod or haddock sushi. The risk of transmission is just too high,” Gomez-Chiarri says. “But we’re not part of the normal cycle for the parasite to survive. We’re an incidental host, and in most cases, the disease ends with the incidental host and cannot be transmitted. “In the case of COVID-19,” she adds, “we may have been the incidental host, but the virus mutated so it became transmissible from human to human. Once you get that mutation, you can get more mutations in another host. Most of those mutations do not affect the ability of the virus to cause disease, but some can make it less or more virulent. It’s possible that the virus that came to the U.S. from Europe had experienced mutations that made it even more virulent.”

Lamb’s research combines a literature review to learn whether coronavirus transmission between birds and mammals has previously been documented; testing samples to evaluate the prevalence of

“Zoonotic diseases are the perfect storm situation.”

—Marta Gomez-Chiarri



## STUDYING ZOO NOTIC DISEASES

Juliet Lamb, who recently finished a post-doctoral fellowship in URI’s Department of Natural Resources Science, is now a Marie Curie Fellow at the Center for Functional and Evolutionary Ecology in France. There, she is studying the zoonotic potential of coronaviruses in seabirds.

“Seabirds are potential vectors for the spread of novel coronaviruses and other diseases among human societies, since they move long distances and cross oceans. They have been implicated in transporting other viruses—especially avian influenza—between geographically disconnected areas,” she says. “The opposite—human-to-wildlife transmission—is also a concern. Some seabird researchers who work on remote islands are worried about going to their field sites this year and potentially transmitting the disease to birds that otherwise wouldn’t come into contact with humans or other mammals.”

Lamb’s research combines a literature review to learn whether coronavirus transmission between birds and mammals has previously been documented; testing samples to evaluate the prevalence of

coronaviruses in birds; and an assessment of the role that migratory and social behavior of birds might play in disease dynamics.

Julia McIlmail ’20, who graduated in May with a bachelor’s degree in health studies, was enrolled in Mather’s zoonotic disease class during her final semester. She learned so much, so quickly, that she became an information source for her friends and family as the pandemic unfolded.

“It’s ironic how we were learning about zoonotic diseases in the middle of a zoonotic pandemic,” says McIlmail, who is working with Mather this summer before entering graduate school to study epidemiology. “It’s unfortunate how much science and history seem to be repeating themselves, but I guess everything is cyclical and we were due for a pandemic, as horrible as that sounds.

“We were studying the SARS pandemic-that-never-happened and the pattern of zoonotic disease, and then COVID-19 followed the exact same pattern,” she adds. “A lot of my friends thought it wasn’t going to be a big deal, and then it was.”



## THE BAZILLION DOLLAR QUESTION

Whether the pandemic will lead to the curtailment of the wildlife trade and its great risk of future zoonotic diseases and

pandemics is what Karraker calls “the bazillion dollar question.” Most countries—including China—already have regulations protecting their native wildlife from capture and sale, but little is done to enforce those rules.

“The thing that needs to happen is that countries like the U.S. need to stop playing such a big role

in the trade,” she says. “The U.S. is probably the largest legal importer of animals for pets, and I’m sure we’re a big part of the illegal trade, too. China has eaten most of its native turtles, and now they’re getting them from elsewhere. Increasingly, turtles from the eastern United States are being illegally collected, packaged, and shipped to China, and Americans are making loads of money doing it. That has to stop.”

The one thing Karraker says is not likely to happen in the wake of the pandemic is the shuttering of the wet markets in China and other countries that sell wild animals as food—despite China’s claims that it is doing so.

“I don’t know how they even could shut it down,” she says. “It’s like telling

people in Rhode Island that you can’t go to Stop and Shop any more. That’s how they get their food, and they see nothing strange about it.”

Steps can be taken—and must be taken—however, to make the wet markets more sanitary, Karraker says. “Could they package things differently? Could they change their health standards to reduce the risk of disease transmission? Yes.”

Most importantly, she concludes, the issues related to the wildlife trade and zoonotic disease transmission must be taken seriously by all nations and not allowed to return to their former status.

“We’ve seen a couple episodes—like SARS and MERS—that could really have turned into what COVID-19 has turned into, and thankfully they got batted down pretty quickly,” Karraker says. “We’ve gotten a wake-up call with COVID-19 that things can go south very quickly unless they are addressed, and I hope that all countries will think carefully about what their roles are and what they can do to address them.” •

“The U.S. is probably the largest legal importer of animals for pets, and I’m sure we’re a big part of the illegal trade, too.”

—Nancy Karraker

## HOW WILL THE WORLD CHANGE POST-PANDEMIC?

For cultural anthropologist Hilda Lloréns, the pandemic provided an opportunity to reflect on anthropological trends and tendencies in human societies.

“Immediately after a disaster, a common community and social response is to cooperate with each other to ameliorate the situation. Disasters bring people together, and there is a period of social reflection and reckoning about how to rebuild or bounce back better,” says Lloréns, associate professor of anthropology. “But like other types of catastrophes, pandemics also lay bare social inequalities, exposing deep political rifts in the social body.

“The duration and impact of the pandemic will likely dictate whether changes in well-established and accepted social behavior, such as handshaking and hugging, will take place,” she continues. “It’s too early to tell what the long-term socio-cultural effects of the pandemic will be. But in a capitalist society such as ours, in which the safety net (welfare, health care, and other social programs) has been corroded by neo-liberal policies, it is likely that the next few years will be plagued with greater social inequality and suffering.”

From an economic standpoint, the pandemic has been a disaster, with record-breaking unemployment, a dramatic drop in the stock market, a huge decline in consumer spending, and a similar drop in business investment. “There’s not

much we can do to prevent a recession,” said Liam Malloy, URI associate professor of economics, in a series of online lectures he presented in April 2020.

He believes that the pandemic’s long-term effect on the economy will depend on how quickly and effectively the virus can be contained. He points to numerous economic parallels between the current situation and the Great Depression and World War II. The Great Depression took more than a

“The pandemic’s long-term effect on the economy will depend on how quickly and effectively the virus can be contained.”

—Liam Malloy

decade to recover from; however, the nation ended up in a strong economic position at the end of the war.

“When this pandemic ends, are we going to be in the 1930s, looking forward to seven more years of economic malaise, slow growth, and high unemployment, or in 1945 where people are eager and willing

to spend and the economy recovers quickly?” he asks. “That’s an open question.”

One major change he foresees from the pandemic is more support for universal health coverage. Malloy says it doesn’t make sense to link employment and health insurance at a time when so many people have lost their jobs—and have therefore lost their health insurance—due to a health crisis.

“The U.S. is the only rich country without universal health coverage, and that needs to change,” he says. “There are so many reasons to have universal coverage—from humanitarian reasons to civic reasons to economic reasons—and it will be interesting to see whether or not this pandemic leads to that kind of permanent change.” •





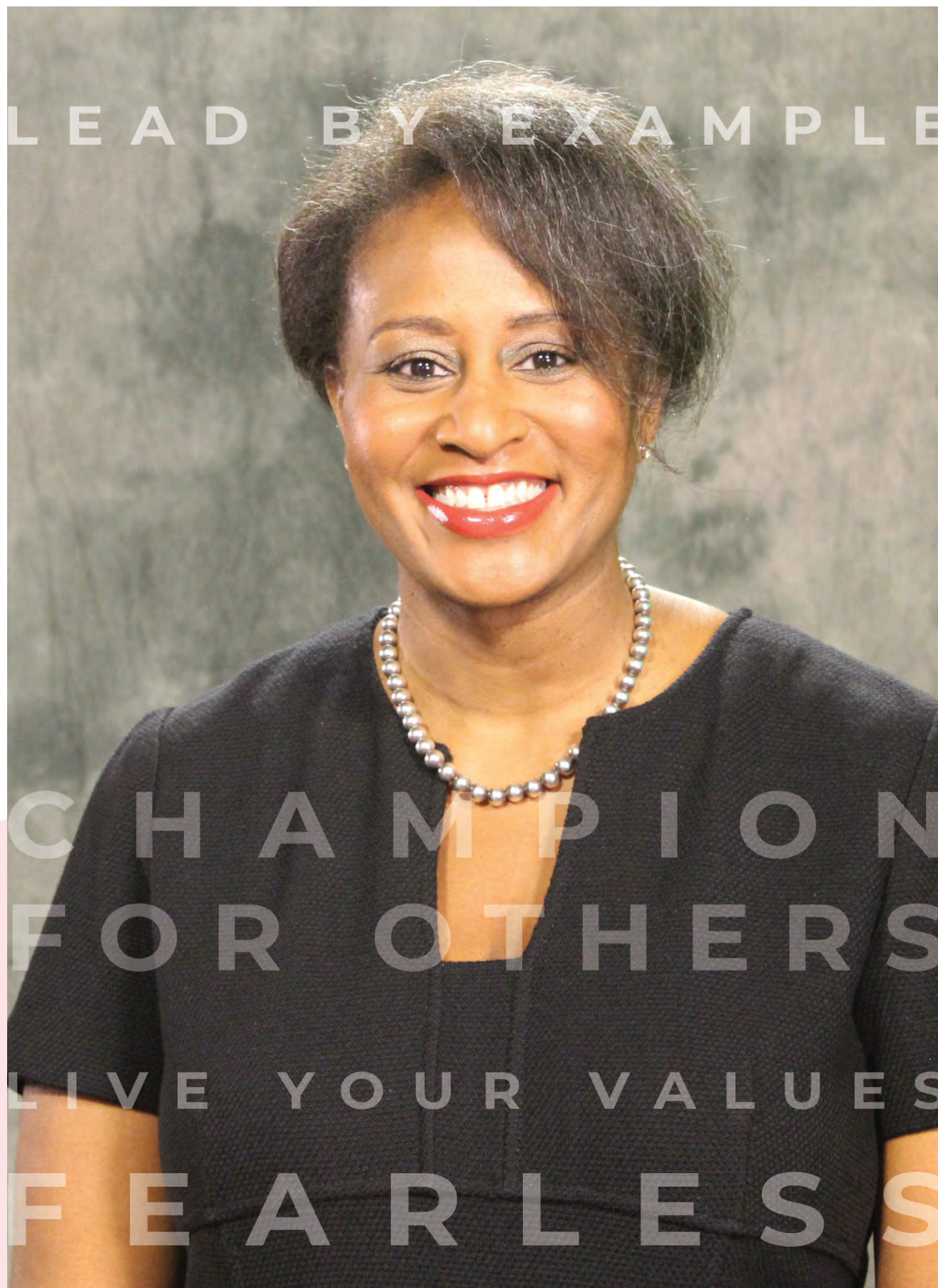


PHOTO: COURTESY MONICA GARNES

## LEADERSHIP POINTS

She remains one of the top scorers in URI women's basketball history. But Monica Garnes '94, president of Fry's Food Stores, is still earning points for being a team-focused leader who helps others succeed. On the basketball court, in the produce aisle, or as an industry trailblazer, she's always on top of her game.

By Nicole Maranhas

**Start by making the bed.** This is advice Monica Garnes '94 lives by, and she cites a famous speech by U.S. Navy Admiral and former SEAL William McRaven when she considers the power of this simple act. "Making your bed is the first completed task of the day," says Garnes. "It sets the day on a positive note and starts the ball rolling."

For sure, the ball has already been rolling for Garnes. As president of Arizona supermarket chain Fry's Food Stores, she is the first Black division president in parent company Kroger's history, and an industry trailblazer whose work has been touted by *Fortune* and *Food & Wine*. She earned a spot in URI record books while captain of the women's basketball team, ending her four-year career as one of the University's all-time top scorers. She could begin any morning with a sense of accomplishment before ever making the bed.

But this is about discipline, pride in your work. It's taking satisfaction in a crisp corner or a squarely folded sheet. In this way, you create the foundation for whatever happens next.



However you were feeling about your local grocery store before the pandemic hit, you likely felt different by the end of March. So much for the quick stop to pick up a bag of frozen veggies or extra paper towels on the way home, or the mundane hub of overstocked shelves and 'cleanup in aisle four.' In a tense, transformed world, something shifted: For many, the supermarket became a sort of lifeline, and its workforce—or the delivery truck carrying pallets of household staples—heroic.

Garnes might be less surprised to find greater meaning in a grocery store. Throughout a diverse range of roles in her 25 years with Kroger—human resources coordinator, public relations manager, district manager, vice president of merchandising—and in her current position as Fry's president, Garnes has made a career out of seeing connections that others might miss, whether forging a path to work with local farms or taking a hands-on approach to hunger relief. In short, she sees how her

work builds community. "When you can find ways to uplift others or give them a sense of connection, it's a welcome joy," she says.

It is a career she almost overlooked. In 1994, she was a new URI grad with a degree in business management when she attended a job fair back in her home city of Columbus, Ohio—armed with a stack of resumes and an eye out for something that fit her young vision of professional life: 9 to 5, maybe a skyscraper. She recalls how the representative at the Kroger's booth needed to flag her down to get her attention. "I was walking around," she says, "looking at all the other careers that seemed sexier at the time." Despite her initial indifference, the rep piqued her interest in the company's management training program. She was hired into the program at the start of the new year—and she found that she felt a connection to the industry, recalling her own family memories of the local Kroger's as a kid. "I could remember vividly the grocery ads out on the kitchen table, my grandmother with her list, or my parents taking us to a grand opening," says Garnes. "It was like this natural tie I had almost forgotten."



Almost immediately, Garnes stood out to higher-ups as a quick-learning talent. Former Kroger president Bruce Lucia, who retired as head of the Atlanta division in 2018 after 44 years with the company, remembers the first time they met. "You could see how people just wanted to work with her," Lucia says. "She was a confident leader, and she had a great positive energy."

With Lucia as a mentor, Garnes progressed in her career, leaning into her natural curiosity and her willingness to take on new things. "You have to embrace having the humility to ask questions," says Garnes. "I always tried to push myself to learn in the hopes people would see I was challenging myself." Within a few years, her consistent hard work led to a key promotion as assistant produce buyer, but she quickly discovered she was in for a tough road: "I was excited," she says. "Then one of the store managers said to me, 'You should have checked with me first."





As a player and team captain at URI, Garnes earned a spot in the record books as one of the University's all-time top scorers.

do this,' but I was able to push through, and it has helped me relate to people who are in those roles today. Even though I couldn't see the future beyond the daily schedule, I figured out how to be the best I could be to draw from that experience when other opportunities came up." (When she did move on, it wasn't before ditching the notebooks and transitioning the department to modern technology.)

"She got great results in every role she had," says Lucia. Plus, something else: He reflects on her interactions with the other associates, the way she would call others over to recognize their contributions. "You'd see them smile, the sense of pride," he says. "That's the trait of a good leader, and Monica understood that right away."

The sentiment is echoed by Tina Crean, who has worked with Garnes for five years and considers her a mentor. "People gravitate toward her," Crean says. "She is very present, very calm in stressful situations, and she is there to listen and to support. She gives people the confidence to be their best."



### Once upon a time, Garnes wanted to ride a bike.

She still had training wheels, and she remembers watching her older siblings, Brian and Myra, riding their own bicycles around

the neighborhood when it struck her that there was only one way to learn. The training wheels had to go. "It took trial and error, falling down and getting back up," says Garnes. "But later that day, I was riding my bike."

It's a simple memory that speaks to her lifelong zest for a good challenge, an inner confidence she attributes to a background in sports and growing up as the youngest of three, in a tightly knit family that shares her best memories: picnics, road trips, afternoons in the park playing softball and tennis. Her parents emphasized education, making sacrifices to send all three kids to parochial school, which she credits for the values that have shaped her life. "I grew up in a culture of 'do unto others,'" she says. "That combination of a strong education and my amazing parents, the way they showed up for us and for each other, set an example for who I am and what I expect from myself."

Garnes loved music—she played clarinet, first chair, up to the high school marching band—but in fourth grade she discovered basketball in the footsteps of her sister, Myra. Garnes played other sports, volleyball and softball and later cross-country, but she was a basketball standout. By freshman year of high school, she found herself in an unusual spot, pulled in dual directions by the freshman and varsity teams.

"We were lobbying for her to play on the varsity team," says Myra. "There were politics about whether a freshman could play varsity, but we needed her." Despite pushback from some players and their parents—and a freshman coach who wasn't eager to give up her star—it was eventually agreed that Garnes could play two quarters for each team. Myra remembers when her little sister took the varsity court for the first time. "I don't remember how many points and rebounds she got, running around the court, smiling," Myra says. "Monica sometimes has an unassuming personality, but she's very serious about making sure the people around her are successful." Within a few games, Garnes was a starter on the varsity team. (She is averse to gloating. "I figured my skills would speak for themselves," she says. "But I didn't go in with the attitude of 'I'm the best.' I knew I had plenty to learn, and I wanted to help.")

URI was an easy sell for the high school recruit. "When I went to visit the campus on my college tours, it just felt meant to be," Garnes says. "It was my first time on the East Coast, and it was so beautiful, and I felt a great connection to the team."

Former URI teammate Monica Williams '95 remembers how easily Garnes, by sophomore year, took incoming freshmen like Williams under her wing. "She was a leader even before



Monica Garnes at the 2019 Progressive Grocer's Trailblazer Awards with (from left) sister Myra, dad Harold, and mom Julia.

she became captain [in her junior year], setting the parameters of expectation—workouts, being on time," Williams says. "She did it in a way that brought people together."

Those years on the team proved valuable training ground, not only in balancing the competing demands of classes and basketball, but in embracing challenges, or the small victories, as they came. "We were so often playing against girls who were bigger and taller, and that takes a certain level of strength and determination," says Williams. "We lost a lot of games, but it's a testament to your character if you can keep playing and getting better. Monica helped us to understand that."

The Rams may have been in rebuilding mode back then, but they finished the team's first winning season in nine years during Garnes's senior year. She ended her basketball career with 1,160 points and 877 rebounds, making her a member of the University's elite 1,000-point club and earning her a spot as one of its top four rebounders of all time, alongside URI Hall of Famers Michele Washington '86, Naomi Graves '82, and Ellen Quantmeyer '86. (This spring, graduating senior Nicole Jorgensen became fifth on that list.)

"When I see my name in the record books, it's the culmination of years of support from my family, my friends, coaches, and teammates since the fourth grade," says Garnes. "I'm proud to be among so many great women."



**How to lead in a crisis: Live your values.** This is a daily credo—"I try to show up as Monica every day"—that guides her work, particularly in cultivating an environment where everyone feels heard and counted, in the workplace and beyond. "When I think of how grocery stores are at the center of communities, I think about how we can give people a sense of connection to each other," she says. Among recent initiatives, Fry's has provided drive-through COVID-19 testing and supported hunger-relief efforts through Kroger's Zero Hunger | Zero Waste Foundation. But Garnes has also made hunger a personal mission, bringing teams from Fry's to pack emergency food boxes for local families in need.

"She walks the walk," says Tom Kertis, president and CEO of St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance, one of the largest food banks in the United States, which partners with Fry's. "She demonstrates that she's willing to do what it takes to help. I've not seen other leaders at her level do that."

Outside of work, she does find time for herself. She cooks and travels. She plays golf, taking after her dad, a longtime golfer. She remains a dedicated basketball fan, keeping in touch with her URI teammates by group chats or meet-ups at the Women's Final Four. But community is always close to her heart: She serves on the board for the Phoenix Suns Charities, is dedicated to giving back to URI, and volunteers with a local school, taking groups of elementary kids to nearby hiking trails via public transit—exposing them to the outdoors and exercise, but also demystifying the light rail system. "I want them to grow up seeing that there's nothing to keep them from going the places they want to go," she says.

She is living proof. Among numerous industry accolades, she was honored in 2016 as one of *Fortune* and *Food & Wine's* "Most Innovative Women in Food and Drink," in recognition of her work to build collaborations between Kroger and local farms, not to mention her name on various lists of Arizona's most out-



Fry's leadership team members at a 2019 holiday store visit to store #51 in Chandler, Arizona. From left: Division Kroger personal finance manager Theresa Keating, store manager Melinda Fair, deli/bakery merchandiser J.J. Mattison, and Monica Garnes.

standing and influential women in business. In 2018, she became the first Black division president in Kroger's then-135 years of history, adding to a long line of firsts she has experienced both as a woman and a woman of color. "It's a very humbling honor to be considered a trailblazer, but my hope is that in ten years there won't be these firsts," she says. "One thing I love about my role is that it gives women and people of color an opportunity to see themselves in roles they've never dreamed of. I take that responsibility seriously to make sure I am available for mentoring and answering questions."

The desire to open doors for others is in her DNA. Her sister Myra tells the story of a childhood family reunion in Alabama, where the kids—dressed in their matching yellow reunion outfits—stood at the edge of a sandpit, looking down the steep sides, but afraid to jump. "Monica was always the first for adventure," Myra says, recalling how her sister charged down the slope, and the others followed suit. "We'd take swimming lessons together, and I'd stand at the side of the pool, afraid, and she would be shouting, 'Come on, you can do it! Let's go to the high dive!' I've always admired that about her. She is fearless."

Garnes will tell it differently, of course, that it was those around her—family, friends, mentors, teammates, and colleagues—who have given her courage. She lives by a Jane Howard quote: "Call it a clan, call it a network, call it a tribe, call it a family. Whatever you call it, whoever you are, you need one."

"I stand on the shoulders of an amazing support system and so many people who believed in me," Garnes says. "It has made the difference in my life."

Perhaps it comes down to this for Garnes. There are two ways to be a champion. You can stand among the greats, with your name in the record books. But you can also use your voice—on the basketball court, every day at work, in the community, even as a kid at the edge of a sandpit or a swimming pool—to be a champion for others. •



# JOIN THE CLUB

By Grace Kelly

When you think about sports at URI, you might think first about varsity sports like basketball, football, or track and field. But look again, and you'll find a group of dedicated, competitive club athletes. URI's club sports teams have earned national championships, a world title, and have even spawned Olympians.

URI club sailing team members Kevin Stamp '22 (left) and incoming captain Luke Ingalls '21 on Point Judith Pond last fall.

PHOTO: NORA LEWIS





## Crew: The Commitment

Club crew members get in an early morning workout in the fog on Narrow River last fall.

The some-540 students of URI's club sports programs are not only competitive—practicing six days a week, sometimes seven—they also run the show: They hire coaches, manage club finances, book and host tournaments, and coordinate transportation. Some teams—like hockey and field hockey—have tryouts. Some, like sailing, don't have tryouts, but expect participants to have experience. And many—like crew and rugby—accept anyone and everyone." If there is a pertinent use for the term "level playing field," this is it.

Club sports are an often-misunderstood niche within college sports. They receive about thirty percent of their funding from student fees. The rest of their operating expenses come from fundraising (much of that from alumni) and membership dues, which can vary greatly from team to team. But don't make the mistake of thinking these athletes are "just" club athletes. Like varsity athletes, they train hard, compete against other schools, and vie for national championships.

These are their stories.

**It's 6 a.m. at the URI Boathouse, and all is dark.** A groggy crew of novices gather in the boat bay, hands clenched in sweater sleeves. It's too windy to go out on the water today, but that doesn't mean the crew has the day off.

Instead, coaching staff lead a grueling two-hour session of rowing machine and bodyweight exercises. They keep the pace in what sounds like an aerobics class from hell: "Three, two, one, switch!" he bellows, as rowers strip off their shirts and change places, hopping on and off the ergometer. Steam rises from their shoulders.

This is URI club crew. But you might be surprised it's "just" a club sport.

There's a lot to live up to. Banners and awards are scattered throughout the boathouse. Listen to the speech—no, the monologue—Coach Edward Slater makes on this blustery Thursday morning:

"Starting tomorrow, if you're not here, you're not on this team. Period," Slater says. "You have a choice. Show up tomorrow and you're on the team. If you don't, I wish you well." He raises his voice. "This is *not* a team of desperation. This team requires being here and supporting each other. Those who've come before you for fifty-three years haven't handed out participation awards. They've gone after national championships. And our goals *are* championships! Our first result is getting here and getting jacked up to the goddamn eyeballs!" he shouts. "Is that clear?!" A murmur goes through the group. "I gotta hear you!" he yells.

"YES!" the rowers reply.

"All right, good. Make your choice

today. I'll see this team tomorrow."

URI crew is a commitment, and with a rich and spectacularly successful history, it's easy to see why.

Established in 1966, the team launched itself onto Worden's Pond with two donated rowing shells, a leaky skiff, and a young assistant math professor, Ralph Kopperman, for a coach. Fast forward, and the club has produced national championship winners and an Olympic medalist: Jason Gailes '92, who won a silver medal in the men's quad at the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta.

"Rowing is the ultimate team sport," says Jeff Sweenor '86. "It requires extreme individual effort, but if you're not coordinated with everyone else in the boat, you actually make the boat slower."

Sweenor is president of the Friends of URI Crew and owner of a successful building company in Wakefield, Rhode Island. He started rowing as a lifeguard, hauling a dory through the waves. As a college student, he worked out at the same gym as the coach of the crew at the time. "He found out I went to URI and said, 'Hey, would you be interested in rowing?'" says Sweenor. "I said, 'Sure.' I made the varsity boat my freshman year; my sophomore year, we won a national championship."

Years later, he realized what crew really did for him.

"My rowing experience taught me that how you do anything is how you do everything," says Sweenor, who helped rebuild the boathouse when it burned down in 1992. "I've built my company by hiring people who share that perspective."

## Equestrian: The Bond

**It's a cold, bright, fall morning, and Hunter Ridge Barn in Ashaway, Rhode Island—**about 30 minutes from URI's Kingston Campus—is humming with life. A group of dogs runs around playing as horses peek out of stalls, curious about the rowdy canines.

"It's nice having the dogs run up to you when you get here," says Jessica Peterson '20, president of the equestrian club. "It's like a therapy-dog session!"

The power is out after a blustery night, but Peterson's enthusiasm can't be dampened. She gushes about the equestrian team as a group of riders trot, canter, and post around the indoor ring, kicking up dust that swirls in the early morning sunlight.

"This is Bianca," she says as she offers her palm to a white horse. "She's an upper-level horse. It's funny, because even though she definitely has a little sass to her, she loves walk-trotters." Walk-trotters

are beginner riders, which the team happily accepts. "At our shows, she'll be a little sassy and spunky for our upper-open riders (the highest division), but you put a walk-trotter on her, and she has her little ears forward, head down, nice and relaxed."

The equestrian team is unlike other teams in that the bond is not only human-to-human, but also human-to-equine.

"Horses are responsive to the rider's energy; if you're nervous and tense, they feel that and respond to your mood," says Peterson.

Working closely with the horses fosters a sense of respect and responsibility for the animals' well-being.

"We take a lot of pride in the health of our horses, and Wendy, our coach, has always said that the horses' health needs to come first," Peterson says. "That's something we really ingrain in the new riders, because the horses are the ones doing



Jessy Peterson '20 knows the importance of a rider's bond with her horse.

eight-hour days of lessons for us. They're working so hard, we should do everything we can to keep them in good shape."

## Sailing: The Legacy

**Eighty years. A lifetime. Almost a century.**

That's how long URI students have navigated the waters of Point Judith Pond as a part of the club sailing team. Their legacy is strong and full of champions, but they had a scrappy beginning.

The club started in 1935 with Rhode Island State College engineering professor Edson Schock. After a hiatus during World War II, the team was resurrected in the late 1940s. In 1951, the same year Rhode Island State College became the University of Rhode Island, a group of students built the first sailing center at Marina Park. "Sailing center" is really a misnomer; it was more like a shack that grew into its present iteration as the URI Sailing Pavilion in 1992. But the shack was home to some of URI's sailing greats, including current coach, David "Moose" McClintock '77.

McClintock is tall and solid, and steers his motorboat with large, wide hands. "Let's do it again!" he yells, as students in small dinghies lean their bodies over the edge, booms swinging to the other side. They're practicing racing starts, and even in the fading sunlight, you can't miss



URI sailing coach David "Moose" McClintock '77 has been sailing all his life. He's keeping the URI club sailing legacy alive and well.

McClintock's grin. He's loving every minute of it.

"I don't remember when I first started sailing," says McClintock. "We just did it from the second I was born."

When he started at URI in 1972, he changed majors just so he could be on the water. "I started as a math major, but realized that all my classes and labs were in the afternoon," he says. "I changed my majors to English and history so everything was done by 11 a.m. After classes,

I'd run back to the dorm, eat lunch, then go straight to the boathouse."

His teammates went on to have successful sailing careers. "That team was the basis for the team that won the nationals in 1977," McClintock says. And that was just the start. The club went on to produce All-Americans Ed Adams '78, Gary Knapp '79, Lars Guck '91, and Skip Whyte '71, who spent 17 years coaching Olympic sailing teams—including a 2004 gold medal win in Greece—then came back to URI to coach the sailing club from 2013–2019.

In 1981, the team officially became a club sport, and in 1990 the keelboat team became the only U.S. team to win the Collegiate Keelboat World Championship, and is still the only URI athletic team to ever win a world title.

And the tradition of excellence hasn't diminished. For current team captain Chris Pearson '20, who grew up on the water, sailing at URI was a whole new experience.

"The first day of practice I got my ass kicked. Everyone was really good. It was humbling. When somebody was crushing you, there were no social barriers between you and them; I'd just go up to them and ask how they were beating me so hard," he laughs. "That's how you learn on teams like this."



## Men's Lacrosse: The Professionals



The URI men's club lacrosse team has seen a revival over the last few years, culminating in a 2019 conference championship.

### Team president Maxwell Hastings '20 was pleasantly surprised when he

drove by the field on Plains Road on Welcome Day and saw the URI club lacrosse team playing. "I thought, 'That's cool. I'll have to try out for the team,'" he says.

And Hastings threw himself into it. The senior nursing major was part of the program's revival, and during his tenure the team has grown, garnering an Adidas equipment partnership, more than 1,000 Instagram followers, and most importantly, a conference championship title.

Of leading the team, Hastings says, "The off-field stuff was so much bigger than I expected. I didn't know what I was getting myself into. It feels like a full-time job, like managing a sports program by yourself. I mean, hiring a coaching staff is something I never thought I would have to navigate."

"Winning the conference last year was a culmination of everything, of all the on-field and off-field work the guys put in, especially the juniors," says Hastings. "We didn't have any seniors last year. It's such a young program, but they stuck it out, even when we were getting our butts kicked by everyone and no one was supporting us. It's really good to see this come full circle for us."

## Men's Hockey: The Coach

**Practice is starting.** Players dump dozens of pucks onto the ice in Boss Arena. Coaches and players zip around, taking shots, twirling sticks, and skating backwards. This is URI men's club hockey, and it's anything but a game.

The club traces its history back to 1951, when it was founded by rink name-sake Bradford Boss '55.

Half a century later, at the opening of the arena in 2002, Boss declared, "I invite all Rhode Islanders to lace up their skates, grab a stick and a puck and join the fun because the Kingston Ice Age has begun."

The man at the helm of URI men's hockey during this Ice Age has had quite a run.

As today's practice starts, Coach Joseph Augustine floats onto the ice, silver hair glinting under the bright lights, and unwraps a piece of candy with his teeth and a gloved hand.

Augustine drives an hour-and-a-half round trip from Scituate to Kingston four days a week to run practice. He's coached more than 1,000 games, run thousands of practices, and led his team to more than 630 wins.

Augustine grew up playing hockey on the ponds around Chicago. "I just played outside like everybody, on ponds, wherever we could find a sheet of ice. I didn't really play organized hockey until I was 13 or 14. And I kind of went from there."

"Kind of went from there" means the left-shot defenseman played for Boston College, a slew of professional teams, and then coached at Brown University before coming to URI in 1989.

Christian Rigamonti '94 is the general manager for the team today, but in 1990, he played at URI under Coach Augustine. "Back then, we practiced in the West War-



URI men's club hockey coach Joe Augustine keeps the team on their toes in January 2019, during game 1,002 of his URI coaching career.

wick Civic Arena, twenty minutes away," Rigamonti says. "We didn't have a rink, we didn't have locker rooms ... it was a lot different."

The thing that hasn't changed: Augustine.

"He's strict and demanding, but at the end of the day, he wants to see everyone get better," says Rigamonti. "He feels that if you work hard and try your best, you're going to get better. He wants his hockey program to be successful; the reputation of this program means a lot to him. The people in the program mean a lot to him."

"When you're playing," says Augustine, "you don't think about it. But when you're done, you realize it's been such a big part of your life ..." he trails off. "Some guys can walk away from it, but after I finished playing, coaching filled that void."

## Men's Rugby: The Biggest Fan

### Kevin Cronan '77 bleeds Keaney blue.

Wearing a URI rugby shirt, he picks through a box filled with mementos: rugby boots, a threadbare rugby shirt with blue stripes, trophies, framed photos of his teammates. Then he opens a scrapbook, turning the pages until a bumper sticker catches his eye.

"It takes leather balls to play rugby," it says. He blushes and continues flipping through the scrapbook. "I had that bumper sticker on my car for a while, but when I started working at a Catholic school, I decided it was probably best to take it off," he says.

Cronan is fanatical about URI rugby. He's spent almost 50 years collecting pieces of team history and has even written a book about playing rugby at URI in the 1970s. *Rugby: Tries and Knock Ons* (written under pen name Conor Murphy) tells the story of a winning bunch of ruggers—from the free beer at practices to the 1979 New York Sevens Rugby Tournament title win.

Cronan joined the team in 1975, com-



Kevin Cronan '77, second from left in the back row, says, "I had the old zinc oxide sunscreen on my nose that hot May weekend in 1980. It was the New England Rugby Football Tournament at Hope High School in Providence. We lost in the semifinals to the Boston rugby men's team, the eventual winners that year."

ing from track and field. "I was looking for something to keep me busy during downtime, so I tried this strange game," he writes. "Some of the students I saw playing rugby had long hair and cut-off jean shorts, but it was the 70s. A few of them did not look very athletic either, so I decided to show up at one of their practices at the end of the season and see how I'd fare against them."

So began his love affair not only with this "strange sport," but with a school, a time, and a team.

"Those that played this very physical game for the Rhody rugby team, especially when we were at our best, winning matches and being discussed throughout the New England rugby circuit, will never forget the team and its players' camaraderie."

## Volleyball: The Champions

### Zach Johnson '21 huddles with his teammates getting pumped for their

next match in a tournament the team is hosting on this December morning. Aside from shouts of support from parents and friends, the soundtrack of the day is mainly squeaking shoes and the smack of palm against volleyball.

Volleyball isn't a sport for the faint of heart: The average speed of the ball during a spike is 82 miles per hour. Not many people would be willing to put themselves in front of a ball going faster than a car on Route 95, but for this team—the first club sport at URI to win a national championship since 2011—it's what it takes to win.

"The championship was something we were very lucky to accomplish last April," says Johnson, a marketing major. "It was



Club volleyball team captain Zach Johnson '21 keeps the team energy up.

the first time for the program—and it could be the only time for a while." He pauses, then adds, "But, obviously we're competing to win it again this year."

Johnson is tall and blond with slow, loping movements that accelerate to rapid-fire during matches. He's been playing volleyball since high school, and as a captain of a championship club team, his

biggest challenge is motivating people to take it seriously.

"It's a club sport, so you're volunteering your time, and no one is forcing you to do this. But we have to motivate people to get better and we have very, very high-intensity practices," he says. "There is an expectation that we will come back where we left off."



## Gymnastics: The Comeback Kids



Ashley MacGregor '20 on the uneven bars at the 2019 NAIGC Nationals in Daytona Beach, Florida. Assistant coach Michael Franco is on the right.

### In early 2008, first-year student Erika Sloan Carbone '11 received an

ominous text from the seniors on the then-varsity gymnastics team. The message: Mandatory team meeting, be there. "I remember thinking, 'Are we in trouble for something? What's going on?'" says Carbone.

Due to budget trims, URI was cutting its D1 varsity gymnastics program, along

with men's swimming, men's tennis, and field hockey.

The news was a gut punch. "It was devastating," says Carbone. "I was a freshman and still had three years ahead of me." Carbone and teammate Krista Dominici Healey '10 decided there had to be a way to stay at URI and still do gymnastics. "And that," says Carbone, "is how the club team started."

To corral recruits, Carbone and Healey handed out flyers in the cafeteria, messaged girls on Facebook, and spread the news that the gymnastics team wasn't going anywhere.

"Our first year as a club team we had about 12 girls; we competed the season and went to Nationals, not knowing what to expect. The next year, we recruited back one of our D1 teammates, Lindsay Diamond '11, and that year—2010—we won NAIGC Nationals," says Carbone. "It was our redemption."

Since then, the URI gymnastics club team has established itself. "We are a competitive program," says the club's now-president Emma Mangione '20. "We compete nationally with two teams, and every year at nationals both our teams qualify for finals, two of only six teams in the nation."

But the team hasn't forgotten its roots. "Our alumni stood in dining halls and handed out flyers; they went into dorms and asked girls, 'Hey, did you ever do gymnastics? Do you want to do gymnastics?'" says Mangione. "They built this team from the ground up. We're very lucky with how we started and how we grew."

## Swimming and Diving: The Lessons



Lilly Margolis at the 2018 Club Nationals.

"Swim taught me some great lessons about work ethic and respect."

—Lilly Margolis '19

### Lilly Margolis '19 first dipped her toes into pool water when she was 6 years old.

"My mom coached at the YMCA, so swim became part of my life from a young age," she says. "She signed me and my sister up for the swim team, and I fell in love." She swam throughout elementary, middle, and high school and has been coaching for more than eight years.

But she didn't swim at URI until her junior year, because initially, the club team was only men.

She remembers the moment she found out the team was turning coed, the moment she found out she could finally swim for her school. "I was out celebrating my birthday and one of my friends—the captain of the club swim team—told me, 'We're turning coed. You can swim

now!' I got so excited that I called my parents at 1 a.m. and was like, 'I finally get to swim!'" she says.

The team made it to nationals her senior year, a sweet send-off for Margolis. "My last year, we all really bonded, and then the whole team went to nationals. That was really nice."

Since graduating, she's had an injury that's prevented her from joining a master's team, but she still coaches and is glad to share the lessons she learned from swim with a new generation of water lovers.

"Swim taught me some great lessons about work ethic and respect. That's why I like coaching: I get to show the kids why I fell in love with it and teach them what I learned so they can not only become better swimmers, but better people."

## Women's Hockey: The Tenacious



Women's club hockey incoming captain Jill Gonsalves '21, a nursing major, gives it her all against Penn State in a recent match.

### They were down 5-0 to UMass.

"It was a rough game," says URI women's club hockey captain Madison Balutowski '21. "The coaching staff got a little discouraged." But instead of resigning themselves to a loss and a post-game locker room chastising, the players rallied. "We came together and acted like we were winning the game. We still lost, but it was the best hockey I've played," says Balutowski.

The URI women's hockey team is used to fighting the odds. While it has a storied 20-year history—reaching the final four in national championship tournaments nine times and earning 10 conference titles—it has struggled to get out of the shadow cast by the men's team.

"When people think of hockey, they think of the physicality and body-checking—and that's something women's hockey doesn't include," says Balutowski. "We're more skill-oriented, whereas men's hockey can get rowdy."

But she's quick to add that the reason they play a less physical game is out of their hands. "USA Hockey rules limit body-checking in women's hockey," she says. "In men's hockey, they can body-check and open-ice hit; in women's, you can have contact, but you can't charge

from across the ice and slam someone into the boards."

What does Balutowski think about this? "They're looking out for us, but at the same time," she says, "you look at men's and women's rugby and there are no rules differentiating what they can do; it's kind of a downfall for us; we have the same protective equipment as men's hockey, but we have different rules."

In the meantime, they work to spread the word that a more technical game of hockey can be riveting to watch. "The women's team attends the men's games, and we see all the students and alumni that come and support them," she says. "Then we look in the stands at our games and it's the same four or five families."

"But we're finally starting to see some change," Balutowski says. "We got so excited the other day because we were in the Memorial Union and saw a poster with our home game schedule. As long as club sports keeps pushing for us, that will make a difference." •

Visit [uri.edu/magazine](http://uri.edu/magazine) for more on club sports at URI, including tennis, field hockey, women's lacrosse, women's Ultimate, women's rugby, men's Ultimate, and men's wrestling.

## AUTHOR'S NOTE:

When I started this story in September 2019, the world was a different place. Wide-eyed first-year students were trying out for teams, and new coaches were onboarding. Throughout the fall, winter, and early spring, URI's club teams practiced, fundraised, competed, won, and lost.

Seniors looked forward to leaving their club sports on a high note, some even to championship wins. But the COVID-19 pandemic changed everything.

Schools around the country were shuttered, and URI followed suit. "When the University made the decision to move to online instruction for the remainder of the semester, we had no choice but to cancel all activities," says Joe Wilbur, coordinator of club sports.

"The seniors were hit hard," says senior lacrosse player Maxwell Hastings. "We were all texting about how sad it was we would never have our senior night or get another chance to put the jersey on. We didn't even have a last practice together—or a last game, or even an end-of-year meeting." Hastings leaves a team that worked hard to rise in national rankings, coming in 15th in the nation with, he notes, serious aspirations of competing for the national title.

"We had just returned from Nashville where we had a great showing against some of the nation's top teams. Our last game of the season was against the number-two team—we ended up losing by one goal in the last 30 seconds of the game," he says. "This group had a real shot at the national title, and we were just starting to hit the stride of our season."

"It's been really tough," says senior gymnast Emma Mangione, her voice breaking. "It's been kind of hard to grasp and come to terms with. I started gymnastics when I was two years old. So, on top of finding out that my team isn't going to be able to compete anymore, all of a sudden I'm done with what's been the biggest part of my life, for my whole life."

But while the pain of a season ended early is still raw, she is grateful for her time at URI and on the team. "A lot of gymnasts don't go to a college where they have a club team, where they can keep competing," she says. "So, I think just knowing that our program gave me the opportunity to continue doing what I love for three and a half years. I'm so lucky to have had that."

—Grace Kelly



# My Career as a Baseball Fan Photographer

By Arnie "Tokyo" Rosenthal '73



**Assigned to cover a Yankees game** for a local cable channel in 1977, Tokyo Rosenthal was excited to go to a game for free. He discovered that with his press pass, he'd been handed the keys to the Yankees kingdom. He would return to the stadium again and again for almost a decade, weaving an incredible story and capturing baseball history on film.

**I**n the summer of 1958, I entered Yankee Stadium for the first time. I was 6 years old. My dad, a "Bronx Boy," dressed me in a mini-Yankees uniform, which I didn't take off for days. Seeing the stadium in color for the first time (we had a black-and-white TV) was overwhelming. I'd never seen anything that green before—and haven't since.

Ten years later, on Memorial Day 1968, I was back at Yankee Stadium for a doubleheader. That day, Mickey Mantle played what many consider his last great game. I was invited by my friend, Jerry LaMonica, to sit in the press box. His uncle was the stadium's ticket manager. Jerry and I made the long trek by bus and subway from Long Island up to the Bronx. Mantle hit two homers, two doubles, and a single, as he went five-for-five in the first game. Manager Ralph Houk gave Mickey Game 2 off.

As James Earl Jones said in *Field Of Dreams*, "Baseball has marked the time." And as the next decade passed, it marked my time, as well. The Mets went to the World Series twice, and the Yankees had been in a playoff drought of biblical proportions.

**I**t was 1977. I had finished college and was getting my master's degree in visual and communications arts. A new phenomenon—cable TV—was sweeping the nation. Public access television allowed amateur producers and directors to turn pro overnight. I was honing my videography skills at Manhattan Cable and any other video

facility that would have me when I was asked to direct a weekly talk and news show called *Sports '77*, hosted by a college kid named Bobby Leeds. One day, Bobby called and asked me to join a crew taping interviews on the field at Yankee Stadium. "Meet me at the press gate," he said.

I thought it would be a one-time opportunity, and I was going to make it the best night of my life! A lifelong memorabilia collector, I intended to bring home anything that wasn't nailed down. I shoved loose baseballs into my lens case. Paul Blair broke his bat during batting practice and tossed it aside; soon it was under my arm.

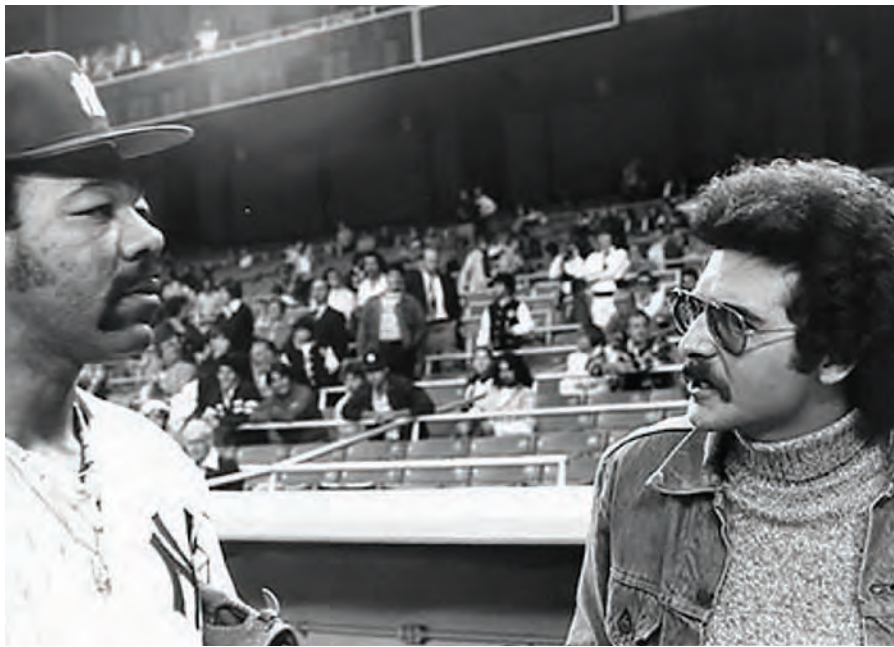
After batting practice, we left the field and assembled at the press box—land of unlimited free hot dogs, Carvel, soda, and, arguably, the best seats in the house. We were parked in the auxiliary press box—a euphemism for the least important press. But as I sat down, directly to my left and separated only by a plate glass window was "The Boss," George Steinbrenner, in his private box. If the view was good enough for him, it certainly was for me, too.

I don't remember the ride home that night; I'm fairly certain I floated back to Long Beach, New York, where I was living that summer in a rented cottage. I was thinking about how to describe the entire event to my father. And how I would tell my grandchildren about the time I went on the field at Yankee Stadium. After all, when would I ever get to do this again?

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That's me with Roger Maris (left) and Mickey Mantle on opening day at Yankee Stadium, 1978. I looked down the tunnel next to the dugout and there they were. I was instantly 10 years old again, the age I was in 1961 when they both ran after Babe Ruth's single-season home run record. With total disregard for the circumstances, I told a newfound photographer friend that I was going to stand between Mickey and Roger and he had to shoot a picture. Mickey gave me a harsh look when I asked if he'd pose with me, and basically looked away. I'm down a step from them so I look like Woody Allen with my idols.





Cliff Johnson, great acquisition, 1977, with yours truly. Photo by Carrie Klein.

» For me, this was like knowing how to part the Red Sea. Could it possibly be this easy?

Ten days later, Bobby Leeds called again and asked if I'd bring the crew. He would be out of town and a substitute host would conduct the interviews. What he told me next would change my daily routine for years to come: how to get free press passes for the crew.

He said to call Anne Mileo, assistant to the head of media relations, tell her I was with *Sports '77*, and that I would like to bring a crew to the game for interviews. For me, this was like knowing how to part the Red Sea. Could it possibly be this easy? Would she want to know more about the show? Who we wanted to interview? My blood type?

But it was the shortest phone call in my soon-to-be-long broadcasting career. Before I could finish my request, she cut me off and said there would be four passes at the gate. I imagined getting to the gate, finding no passes, and begging to speak to Anne Mileo, who would be out ill that night. But it worked, smooth as silk, and we were on the field again.

I wasn't as boisterous this time and I don't remember pilfering anything. I thought this would be my swan song, as I knew Bobby would soon return to school and the show would be canceled. But, I started to think, could the show live on, if only in the minds of myself and Ms. Mileo?

I began to ask myself if anyone actually watched *Sports '77*. Or, more importantly, did any members of the Yankees watch it?

Even more importantly, did Anne Mileo watch it? I began to hatch a plan.

What if I only wanted two passes this time? I could say our budget was tight and we were just shooting some stills to go along with the stories. It sounded plausible. What's the worst that could happen? She could say no. Or call my bluff. Or she could say, "There will be two passes waiting for you at the press gate."

With my girlfriend in tow as the still photographer (she had a Nikkormat camera and some knowledge of how to shoot it), we picked up the two passes at the press gate.

My girlfriend—and future wife—Carrie Klein, was—and is—very attractive, and I worried she might create a stir with the players. Meanwhile, her instructions were to get pictures of me talking to the players. I looked professional with



My beautiful wife, Carrie Klein, in the dugout. She captured some great shots of me talking with the team on her Nikkormat camera.

Carrie along playing the role of photographer. I was also spot-on about the players making a fuss over her.

"Can I get you some coffee?"

"Would you like some water?"

"Do you come here often?"

Suddenly I felt threatened; all these well-built guys in skin-tight polyester were hitting on my girlfriend. And what



Enjoying Graig Nettle's pre-game sarcasm.

could I do about it? But once batting practice ended, their chance to fuss over her was over, and the rest of the evening went well. By night's end, I had photos of myself with Yogi Berra, Graig Nettles, and Reggie Jackson—among others.

Carrie was flattered and having fun on the field, but she was bored silly in the press box. I don't think we stayed until the end of the game, but the free Carvel kept her there for a spell.

Now, I thought, I had to get my father in on this. He had brought me to my first game, taught me Yankees history, and sat with me through the pennant-less drought of the late 1960s and early 1970s.

I had noticed that, except for the fuss Carrie attracted, no one was paying much attention to me. My very distinguished-looking father would be a striking figure on the field. He actually looked a lot like Steinbrenner. What if we got busted? But I calculated the risk and decided we could pull it off.

After explaining to Dad how it worked, I had the usual conversation with Anne, picked up my father in front of his factory on Madison Avenue, and headed north to the ballpark. Dad was dressed in a three-piece suit.

We drove around the Bronx for a bit, my father showing me his old haunts—where he played stick ball, where he once fell, and the famous building he lived in on the Grand Concourse with the fishes on the front wall. Then we parked at the ballpark and proceeded to the press gate.

Our passes were waiting for us. I



In the dugout. Photo by Carrie Klein.

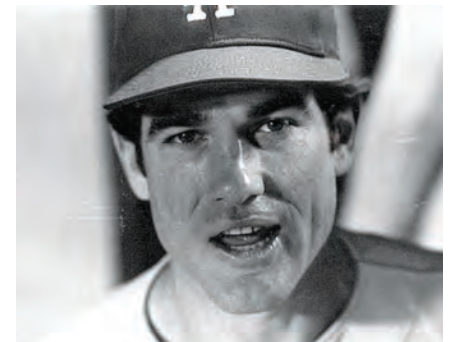
whispered to Dad to just follow me. We made a sharp right down the old steel steps to the right of the press gate, and walked two flights down to the tunnel below the stands. Another right and 10 yards later we were at the crossroads.

To the right was the clubhouse, or locker room, which was still virgin territory for me. To the left was the tunnel to the dugout and the entrance to the field. We went left.

My dad found a spot behind the batting cage and took in the pitches one by one, amazed at the velocity from such a close vantage point. He attracted little or no attention. I was a four-time press box veteran; I figured everyone recognized me by now as a member of the working press—and famous producer of *Sports '77*.

Nettles hit a walk-off homer to end the tied game, and we escaped to the car, two excited kids who had just gotten away with something special. I didn't know then that my father only had four more years on this planet, so looking back, the night meant even more than I knew. It was, in fact, the last baseball game we ever attended together. But it wouldn't be my last, not by a long shot.

The same year, I landed a job at a rehabilitation center producing "before-and-after" tapes of the center's clients. I was also the in-house AV provider—slide shows, movie presentations, audio, etc. But they also wanted me to be a photographer and they had what, at that time, was a state-of-the-art Nikon with an assortment of lenses.



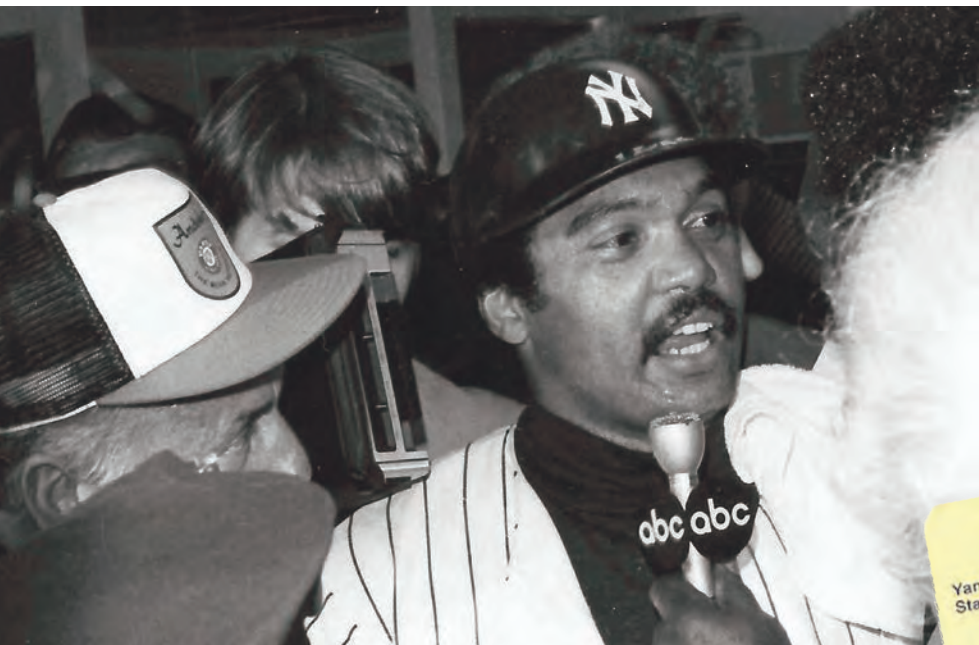
Steve Garvey before Game 1 of the 1977 World Series. He was actually asking me about my Nikon F—true story!

I figured I could learn how to shoot this camera on the fly, so I told them I knew how to use it. Fact was I had no clue. The only thing I could do was load the film—barely.

The Yankees made the 1977 playoffs. A quick call to Anne Mileo and 48 hours later I was sitting in the press box for the American League playoffs between the Yankees and the Kansas City Royals. Next to me was a Nikon camera just itching for me to learn how to use it. I was practicing a little, but I still didn't really know what an F-stop was, nor did I know anything about depth of field, film speed, flash, strobe, or wide-angle. But I felt very legitimate with the camera around my neck and a case full of lenses.

The playoff games were televised nationally. Howard Cosell, Mel Allen, and Joe DiMaggio were there. I was beside myself. But I had a job to do: Shoot pictures—and see how they came out.





Reggie Jackson in the Yankee Clubhouse immediately following his 3-home-run game and the Yankee victory in Game 6 of the 1977 World Series.

The five-game series would end with the Yankees winning Game 5 in Kansas City, so the locker room celebration pictures I aspired to shoot would have to wait. But I took pictures of the two games in New York. Some were sharp, in focus, well-lit. Others were blurry, poorly lit, blank, and poorly framed.

The Yankees would be playing Los Angeles in the World Series, so I was determined to get better at this fast. I also knew that eventually I would have to shoot something at my real job, which I desperately needed to hold on to.

To get the World Series press credential, it was the same easy process, except this time I picked up the pass at a mid-town hotel.

On the field before the game, there were lots of celebrities. The easiest pre-game target was Dodgers' manager Tommy LaSorda. He was so animated, and I managed to get some close-ups of him.

The Yanks split the first two games in New York, took two out of three in Los Angeles, and came home to close the show. I decided that, should they win, I'd make my locker room debut and get shots

of the celebration. But I had no idea that I'd witness one of the greatest performances in World Series history as Reggie Jackson hit three home runs on three swings and the Yankees were world champions.

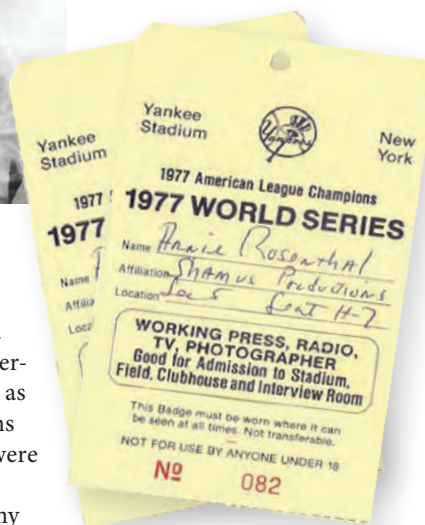
By the top of the ninth, I made my way to the locker room. I didn't want to miss the champagne spray, and I was determined to witness and shoot the awarding of the World Series trophy. There was a line outside the clubhouse; the press wasn't allowed in until the entire team was back.

When the team barreled down the tunnel and into the clubhouse, the champagne began to flow and spray. New York Mayor Abraham Beame awarded the trophy to George Steinbrenner, and the press was all over Reggie. My best shot of the festivities was one of Thurman Munson celebrating with coach Dick Howser, both doused in the bubbly.

The season was over, and my Yankee photographer career might have ended there, too. But I was already thinking about next season. So before the uniforms were dry, I called my favorite Yankee employee. The conversation went some-



Dodgers manager Tommy Lasorda, prior to game one, 1977 World Series.



thing like this:

**Arnie:** "Hi Anne, it's Arnie from *Sports '77*. I just wanted to thank you for all the support."

**Anne:** "My pleasure, Arnie. I trust you got everything you needed?"

**Arnie:** "Sure did. By the way, I hate to always bother you, so is there any way I could get a full-time pass for next year?"

**Anne:** "Shouldn't be a problem. Just send me a letter requesting it during spring training down in Florida."

1978, here I come!

I was back in the press box for the Yankees' dramatic 1978 season, which ended with another Yankees World Series win against the Dodgers. I kept the job at the rehab center, and they even sent me to Nikon School for a crash course. I went back to the press box every year until 1984.



Yankee owner and "Boss," George Steinbrenner, receives the World Series trophy. He is flanked by NYC Mayor, Abe Beame, and then-Representative, soon-to-be Mayor, Ed Koch. This is in the Yankee locker room, 1977.

» *My Yankees photos moved with me and Carrie from one NYC apartment to another, and then across the country and back. Most have been waiting to be seen for more than 35 years.*

In late 1985, I found myself president of a national sports cable TV network. Now, I could legitimately have a press pass to any sports event in the world. Ironical, huh?

We had a steady stream of guests in our studios for live interviews. One day, boxing promoter Don King came by. Being a major fight fan and former amateur boxer, I visited the green room to introduce myself. After exchanging pleasantries with "DK," I was introduced to his publicist, Joe Safety. His name was familiar. He said he'd been in Major League Baseball for years and had most recently been the head of media relations for the Yankees.

I asked Joe if he ran the press box during his time with the Yanks. He said yes. I said I was sure he ran a tight ship, one in which no one who didn't belong there ever got in.

He looked at me quizzically and nodded yes. And then I told him the whole story: Anne Mileo, the letters, the passes—everything. It was all very cleansing.

Joe asked for an outside line (if you're old enough, you might remember those) and called Anne Mileo, who had recently retired. He repeated the story to her. She remembered me, the show—everything. They both found the whole story outrageously funny.

I don't want my dishonesty, resourcefulness, or exploitative nature to shed any bad light on those I misled. They were all really nice people who I unwittingly took advantage of.

Editor's note: *This story is edited and excerpted from Rosenthal's book, A Fauxtographer's Yankee Stadium Memoir, which is available from Amazon Kindle. Rosenthal is a writer and musician who lives in North Carolina. His most recent book is Our Last Seder.*



Close play at home, 1978 World Series. Davey Lopes, Reggie Smith, and Thurman Munson. Note Smith helping the umpire make the call.



Thurman Munson celebrates the 1977 World Series victory. That's coach Dick Howser with a towel on his head in the foreground on the right. Future Braves manager Bobby Cox (he was Yankees first base coach in 1977) is on Munson's left.



Billy Martin holds court before Game 1 of the 1977 World Series.

My Yankees photos moved with me and Carrie from one NYC apartment to another, and then across the country and back. Most have been waiting to be seen for more than 35 years.

I hope you enjoy them as much as I cherish letting them loose on the world. •





# MURALIST AGONZA GOES BIG

A “revolutionist’s artist,” Angela Gonzalez ’16 believes in the power of art—and of artists—to spark conversation, bring people together, and inspire change.



**W**hen artist Angela Gonzalez ’16 encounters racism or discrimination, she reaches for her paints and brushes. Why? Because, she says, conversation has greater impact than an argument. “I’ve seen violence, I’ve watched people have bad experiences,” Gonzalez says. “Art helped me in my own mental health. It was therapeutic.”

## WHAT CONNECTS US

Gonzalez figures what’s good for the individual is also good for the community. So, when vandalism on Providence’s Westminster Street in early June forced many shop owners to board up their storefront windows, Gonzalez and other muralists offered to cover the plywood sheets in art. The artist, whose nom de guerre is AGonza, painted a portrait of her friend, Miss Rhode Island USA Jonét Nichelle.

“I came down to Westminster Street and saw what was going on and wanted to do something about it,” she says. “In my art, I’ve always focused on what connects us. I’m doing what we should be doing: uniting and supporting each other.”

Gonzalez grew up in Providence’s Manton Heights, but spent her teen years in the Dominican Republic. At URI, she found a home in the art department. And she found mentors: Edward Shear, academic advisor in the Talent Development Program; and art professor Bob Dilworth. “Bob would say, ‘Bring your color out. Bring who you are. Go big or go home,’” Gonzalez says.

## NEIGHBORHOOD HEROES

Weekdays, Gonzalez is a social worker who works with children with disabilities; off-hours she’s working on a pair of murals for Providence’s



Hartford Park. Her subject: the neighborhood’s residents. “I want kids to look at it and see their grandmother there and know that they can be inspired by the people around them,” Gonzalez says. “You don’t need to look to celebrities. You can look to the people of your community.”

This desire to paint neighborhood heroes is why she chose to put Miss Rhode Island USA Jonét Nichelle’s likeness on Westminster’s Street’s Queen of Hearts boutique. Response to the mural has been overwhelmingly positive. Museums have expressed interest in buying the mural, and Gonzalez is in talks to auction it off with proceeds to be donated to a Black Lives Matter nonprofit. One day she wants to create a nonprofit of her own, an organization of artists dedicated to transforming their communities through the arts. “I am a protester, a revolutionist’s artist,” Gonzalez says. “My passion is changing things.”

Certainly, Gonzalez’s work commands attention. In the course of creating the mural, construction workers and passersby would strike up conversations with Gonzalez, affirming her belief that activism takes many forms and art inspires.

After stopping and studying the mural, one little girl told Gonzalez she, too, wanted to be an artist, saying, “I’m going to paint mommy on the wall.” •

—Marybeth Reilly-McGreen



“In my art, I’ve always focused on what connects us.”

—Angela Gonzalez ’16



# Network



## = 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](mailto:urimag@uri.edu) online: [alumni.uri.edu](http://alumni.uri.edu)

**1960**  
**Claude Trottier** writes, "I have published another book, *How Geigy Became a Major Chemical Company in the U.S.* I am also raising a puppy for the Guiding Eyes for the Blind this summer. A URI student will continue with raising the puppy during the school year. I am doing this in memory of my fraternity brother Manuel "Duke" Germano '60, the first visually impaired student at URI."

**1969**  
**Evelyn (Rocci) Commentucci '69, M.S. '72** sends an update: "Following graduation, I formed and was president of P.R.I.D.E. (Promote Real Independence for the Disabled and Elderly) and authored two manuals with graphics and images on how to alter garments. The manual was presented to health team mem-

bers of many institutions in Connecticut and Rhode Island. It was used extensively in lectures I conducted across the United States as a traveling lecturer and was distributed in Britain, Australia, Canada, and Alaska. I served for six years on the URI Board of Directors as well as on the Textile Advisory Council. I was a member of the Grants Foundation Committee for three years starting in 1980. In 1970, I established Sewtique in Groton, Connecticut, hiring several URI students as interns and later as full-time staff. I sponsor two URI scholarships: one for students of Italian heritage, and the other for Textile, Fashion Merchandising and Design students. I have had three marriages! I am 92 going on 93 in November this year and still active on campus, visiting regularly with staff, and a contributor to the University."

**1970**  
The spring 2020 *URI Magazine* story, "Four Years That Changed a Generation," elicited a lot of nostalgic and heart-warming comments, and prompted some to note the similarities between the way the spring semester of 1970 ended due to the war and the student strikes, and the way the spring semester of 2020 ended due to the coronavirus pandemic. Read those comments at [uri.edu/magazine](http://uri.edu/magazine).  
Ironically, the Class of 1970 marked their 50th reunion in much the same way they marked their graduation—with changed plans, fear, and uncertainty. But like they did then, and like all of us must do now, they found reasons for hope and joy, and put together a video for the Class of 2020. It's worth a watch, and you can find it at [alumni.uri.edu/2020](http://alumni.uri.edu/2020).

**1972**  
**Roy Daniel** writes, "I have retired after 35 years with Five Star/Lancaster paint and hardware distributors. I continue in my favorite avocation, officiating high school football in Suffolk County, N.Y. for the past 28 years."

**1973**  
**Arnie "Tokyo" Rosenthal**, see page 46

**1977**  
**Kevin Cronan**, page 41  
**David "Moose" McClintock**, page 39

**Thomas Pendergast** retired from Deloitte Consulting LLP after 20 years. During his career, he traveled the globe implementing technology solutions for engineering construction companies. Thomas and his wife Linda have settled in Coventry, R.I., where they will enjoy gardening, golfing, fishing, and traveling.

**1978**  
**Neil McNulty** writes, "I have been blessed with a good family, great career, and good health since leaving the campus WAY back in May 1978. Seems like yesterday. I founded a company that grew from one office to offices nationwide, was CEO of two large nonprofits, and president of a very large nonprofit. Also served 20 years as a Marine Corps officer. (Became a second lieutenant on the Quad at graduation!) Wrote a book, *The Quick 30/30 Job Solution*, which became an Amazon best-seller. Have given lots of speeches, including at college commencements. I am fairly well-known here in Virginia, not so much in R.I. Love to visit each summer. In summer 2018, I went to my freshman dorm room on the top floor of Browning Hall (432), overlooking the Elephant Walks and clinic. My room was EXACTLY the same as when I left it in 1974! Always a place in my heart for URI!"



**L. Vincent Murray '78, M.C.P. '89** placed a handful of hand-painted quahog shells at the main entrance to URI's Kingston Campus in early June. The entrance is a popular spot for photos, and Vin's hope was that new grads, who didn't have the celebration they deserved this spring, would take the shells as a remembrance. Thank you, Vin!

**1979**  
**Linda Pendergast** retired from Private Consulting in Landscape Design. She developed her passion for it while testing products for the URI Master Gardener program. She is celebrating a new grandson and now has five grandchildren. Linda and her husband, Thomas '77 have settled in Coventry, where they will enjoy gardening, golfing, fishing, and traveling.

**1983**  
**Karin Oatley** writes, "I am a 1983 graduate (B.A.) from URI's College of Arts & Sciences. In 2001, I applied and was offered a position as researcher at the Cancer Prevention Research Center. After a 19-year career at URI, I am leaving to pursue my private psychotherapy practice in Newport, R.I. I will take my years of research in behavioral medicine to practice full time in the real world environment of my therapy room. I went from a URI graduate, to a URI employee, to a URI legacy family with both daughters attending URI. Our oldest, Caroline, graduated in May 2020 with her B.S. in wildlife and conservation biology, and our youngest, Fallon will graduate in spring 2021 with a B.A. in psychology. I am leaving URI as one of my mentors and PI on several grants I've worked under is also leaving—Jim Prochaska—I'll take his BIG ideas along with me!"

**1984**  
**Robert Barbarisi** was named vice president of construction management at Preload LLC. Bob is a leading expert in the water storage industry, having managed some of the largest products in the U.S. including the \$1.8 billion Northeast Water Purification Plant in Houston, T.X., the \$900 million Vista Ridge Water Supply Project serving San Antonio, Texas, and the \$7.4 million Fullerton Reservoir Project in Baltimore County, M.D. Preload, established in 1930, has completed more than 4,000 liquid storage projects throughout the world. Recently, Bob managed a

substantial upgrade for the city of East Providence Water Utilities Division.

**1985**  
**Peter Miniati III** has joined F.L. Putnam Investment Company as a private client advisor in the firm's Providence, R.I., office. Peter has served the wealth management needs of Rhode Islanders for more than three decades. He most recently served as managing director, wealth planning at Napatree Capital. Prior to Napatree, he held senior client advisory roles at Fleet Boston Financial Group and Washington Trust. Mr. Miniati serves on the finance and investment committees and boards of several local social service and educational agencies, including Saint Raphael Academy. He is a past president of the University of Rhode Island

Alumni Association, past treasurer of the University of Rhode Island Foundation and the Rhode Island Historical Society. He holds a J.D., cum laude, from Suffolk University Law School and the Certified Financial Planner professional designation.

**1986**  
**Jeff Sweenor**, page 38

**1992**  
**Michael Miga '92, M.S. '94** was a lead investigator on a multi-year collective effort between engineers, surgeons, and scientists that resulted in a \$2.3 million, four-year grant awarded by the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering of the National Institutes of Health to improve laparoscopic liver surgery and liver cancer ablation therapy. Michael is a professor at the Vanderbilt University School of Engineering.

### College of Nursing

Do you know a College of Nursing grad, professor, administrator or other individual who has made an impact on health care in the community? The College of Nursing is accepting nominations to honor 75 "Luminaries" in celebration of the college's 75th anniversary. The nominees should have excelled in contributions to professional practice, education, research and/or advancement of the college. Nominees should demonstrate an interest and commitment to the mission and vision of the college, and have made impactful contributions to the profession and/or the college. To make a nomination, visit [uri.edu/nursing/75th](http://uri.edu/nursing/75th) or email [sophia\\_mayhew@my.uri.edu](mailto:sophia_mayhew@my.uri.edu).

**Holly Zimmerman '94** is the first international woman to reach the finish line of the 2018 Mount Everest Marathon. The Mount Everest Marathon consists of a journey through the Khumbu Valley of Nepal where adventurers from around the globe battle high-altitude sickness, deplorable sanitary conditions, freezing temperatures...and enjoy every minute of it. Once they reach their destination, Mount Everest Base Camp, they turn around and run a marathon, the highest marathon in the world, back to civilization. Holly, an American extreme sports athlete, has also completed a 257-kilometer ultramarathon through the Sahara Desert, the Boston Marathon, and a marathon in the Arctic, and takes part in mountain and desert ultras, mud runs, and endurance bike races. Holly currently resides in Germany with her husband and four children. She enjoys traveling all over the world and motivating others. She encourages others to be active by speaking at companies, sporting events, in women's groups, and at charities. Additionally, she volunteers in schools where she trains kids to take part in local races.



## Big Ideas. Bold Plans.

The Campaign for the University of Rhode Island

In this issue of the magazine, we are excited to bring all alumni the news of *Big Ideas. Bold Plans. The Campaign for the University of Rhode Island*. This is an effort that all of us can take pride in. By working together, we have the chance to build on URI's past success and shape the University for the future, while giving students and faculty what they need to do their best work.

Stay tuned in the months ahead for good news about our progress and achievements. You can find more at [campaign.uri.edu](http://campaign.uri.edu) and will see highlights online and in future issues of the magazine.

Michael D. Fascitelli '78, Hon. '08, Chair Campaign Leadership Phase

Richard J. Harrington '73, Hon. '02 Chair, Campaign Public Phase



Correction:

In the spring 2020 issue, we mistakenly printed the following class note for Wendy M. Weber-Lockner '82; however this class note should have been attributed to Wendi Weber '92:

**Wendi Weber '92**, 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. Wendi 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.

1994

**Monica Garnes**, see page 32

**Christian Rigamonti**, page 40

1995

**Brian C. O'Malley** was part of a February 2020 screening of short animated films that focused on independent Rhode Island animators. RIIA (Rhode Island Independent Animators) showcased six animators who live and work in the state of Rhode Island and produce their short films with a very low budget or no budget at all. Some do it all solo, and some have "collaborative" teams. Brian taught drawing, painting, and 2-dimensional design at URI from 2001 to 2015 as an adjunct faculty member, and now teaches at CCRI and Roxbury Community College.

1996

**Greg Silva** of Cranston, R.I., has joined TW Financial, a private wealth advisory practice of Ameriprise Financial Services. Greg will serve as senior vice president for the firm, where he will continue his career as one of the top wealth managers in Rhode Island. Greg was recently named a Five Star Professional Wealth Manager, for the seventh consecutive year, and brings over 20 years of investment experience to his new practice. Greg is a URI College of Business graduate and also serves on the Finance Advisory Board for the college. He is a Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) and specializes in retirement planning and investment management.

1998

**Sheila Felice, M.A. '98** has been appointed to serve on The Brain Injury Association of Rhode Island (BIARI) Board of Directors. She is a Rhode Island native, a human services executive, and serves as vice president of learning and organizational development of Navigant Credit Union. In addition to her position on the BIARI board, Sheila is active in the Society for HR Management, and gives back to her community as vice president of the Katie DeCubellis Memorial Foundation, a volunteer with the Special Olympics, and orator and Gala Committee member for Sons of Italy.

2000

**Mary Ellen Doherty, Ph.D. '00** was inducted as a fellow in the American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM) this spring. She has years of clinical experience as a certified nurse-midwife, maternal-child clinical nurse specialist, family nurse practitioner, childbirth educator, and expert witness for the legal system. She has also held teaching engagements at Northeastern University and University of Massachusetts, Lowell. Additionally, she is currently a professor of nursing at Western Connecticut State University, where she teaches a variety of courses in the undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral curricula. She is also an active researcher. Mary Ellen's first book, *Nurses in War: Voices from Iraq and Afghanistan*, co-authored with twin sister Dr. Elizabeth Scannell-Desh and based

on three research studies, was released in 2012 by Springer Publishing Co. A follow-up book, *Nurses After War: The Reintegration Experience of Nurses Returning from Iraq and Afghanistan*, was released in 2016. Mary Ellen also has research studies published in a wide variety of professional nursing journals.



2005

**Patrick Golden** will participate in the 11th annual Run to Home Base, presented by New Balance. The event raises funds for Home Base, a partnership of the

Red Sox Foundation and the Massachusetts General Hospital, dedicated to healing the invisible wounds for veterans of all eras, service members, military families and families of the fallen through world-class clinical care, wellness, education, and research. Patrick says: "I am participating in Run to Home Base 2020 to honor my friend Kevin Slein and the profound impact that he had on me and so many others. It is my hope through an ongoing effort, that myself and others are able to continue to raise awareness and support in our communities, which will help to provide more resources for our first responders, military personnel, and their families." Now in its 11th year, this event has brought together participants from across 41 states. The race starts and ends in historic Fenway with a home plate photo finish.



**Betsy Earle '03** announces that the Florida-based company she founded, Event Driven Solutions, celebrated its 10-year anniversary on March 17, 2020. Founded in 2010, the company specializes in tradeshow logistics, management and corporate events. The mission is to simply provide outstanding service in all areas of tradeshow and event on-site management throughout the United States.

2007

**Alicia Piazza** is the president/co-founder of The Spark Social, Inc., a Providence-based social media marketing agency. The Spark Social was named a 2020 Inno on Fire honoree by Rhode Island Inno, a local network that brings together innovative startup and tech ecosystems. Formerly known as 50 on Fire, Inno on Fire is an annual celebration of the people, enterprises, and organi-



Alicia Piazza '07

zations throughout the Ocean State that are making the biggest impact on the local innovation economy. The Spark Social, Inc. was recognized for its thought leadership in the design and media category. The company, launched in 2019 by Pawtucket resident Alicia Piazza and Coventry resident Nicole Eller, provides custom, creative, and impactful social media marketing and management services for local businesses.

2009

**John Bartlett** of Erie, Pa., is a new associate with Knox McLaughlin Gornall & Sennett, P.C. Mr. Bartlett will focus his practice on elder law, Medicaid planning, estate and trust planning, and estate administration. He has previous experience as a fiduciary advisor at a large financial institution, administering trusts, reviewing estate plans and monitoring compliance for individuals and families. His private practice experience



ENGAGEMENTS AND WEDDINGS

**Tom DiMarco '09** married Katie Pratt DiMarco on July 12, 2019 in Bristol, R.I. They honeymooned in Tahiti, Bora Bora, Moorea, and Nuku Hiva. URI friends in attendance were (from left in photo): Tom Riley '10, Elise Fitzgerald '10, Holly Huston O'Brien '09, Andrew O'Brien '10, Zach Stolow '10, Katie Pratt DiMarco (bride), Tom DiMarco '09 (groom), George Bryan Shanklin '09, Ian Harney '09, and Rick Harrison '08. Not pictured: Christina Weise Harney '07, M.S. '08.

**Krista Dominici Healey**, page 42

2011

**Erika Sloan Carbone**, page 42

2013

**Ryan Thompson** has made it through to the final six in The International TEFL Academy's annual International Teach Abroad Film Festival on April 2, 2020, in Chicago. Ryan submitted his film "Life's Cross-Training" and is competing to win three grand prizes: \$2,000, \$1,000, and \$500. International TEFL Academy's Teach Abroad Film Festival is the first film festival of its kind in the U.S. that highlights the work of incredible people teaching English as a foreign language to non-native speakers around the world.



John Bartlett '09

includes a variety of legal issues including estates and real estate. Mr. Bartlett joins a team of 40 attorneys who have been providing quality legal services to businesses, governmental entities, nonprofit organizations, insurance companies, financial institutions, individuals, and families for over 60 years.

2016

**Angela Gonzalez, (AGonza)** page 50

2019

**Lilly Margolis**, page 42

**Julia Santucci**, page 59

2020

**Mohamed Chamseddine**, page 24

**Elise Felker**, page 24

**Maxwell Hastings**, page 40

**Power Kanga**, page 25

**Emma Mangione**, pages 42–43

**Jessica Peterson**, page 39

**Rebecca Stevnick, Ph.D. '20**, page 25





= IN MEMORIAM =

Katherine Chrostowski Caroselli '40, M.S. '57  
Lester Bills '41  
Ruth Palley Tepper '41  
Florence Wallander Jones '46  
Marian Vartabedian Baker '47  
John Chiaverini '47  
Nancy Waite Blydenburgh '48, M.A. '75  
Patricia Records Curry '48  
W. Everett Lundberg '49  
Vahan Melkonian '49  
Earl Sweeney '49  
Ada Farron '50  
Bertha Healy Francis '50  
George Gilbert '50  
Charles Soliozy '50  
Betty Broadbent Vaughn '50  
Benito Zannini '50  
Norma Pearson Barney '51  
Pauline Quinn Fallow '51  
Gloria Giusti '51  
Charles Moll '51  
Alec Voight '51  
Irving Boehm '52  
Robert Fortin '52  
Elizabeth Quanstrom Mongeon '52  
Kenneth Panciera '52  
Beverly Munro Richardson '52  
Edwin Roche '52  
Roger Shawcross '52, M.S. '68  
Maria Spaziano Charrette '53  
Donald Oldman '53  
Dorothy Kenyon Palmer '53  
John Rozzi '53  
Jonathan Tobey '53  
Robert Corry '54  
Mary Appleby DeLuise '54  
Kathleen Dwyer '54  
Richard Brandolini '55  
Marvin Kassed '55, M.A. '76  
Donald McGinniss '55  
Jay Miller '55  
William Mulhall '55  
Jacquelyn Carlesi Scott '55  
Thomas McCool '56  
Joyce Huling Flint '57  
Kenneth Seal '57  
Aldo Albanese '58  
Richard Brown '58  
Mary Lawton Iannetta '58  
Julius Notardonato '58  
Robert Vermette '58  
Marianne Trubin Zwanger '58  
George Marrah '59  
Joseph Masso '59  
Joann Turo '59  
Rosemary D'Agostino DiLeone '60

Marilyn Bradley Howard '60  
Gail Matterson Vazal '60  
Salvatore Butera '61  
Delia Manno '61  
Charles West '61  
Alan Massey '62  
Raymond Whitehead '62  
Gilbert Lavallee '63  
Alexander Ondis '63  
Donald Sorterup '63  
Joan Panek Virdinlia '63  
Orlando Andreoni '64  
Richard Cronin '64  
Richard David '64  
Gerard Desrosiers '64  
Allan McGuy '64  
Stephen Tucker '64  
Donald Wilkinson '64  
Patrick Brown, M.P.A. '65  
Joseph Buesing '65  
Edmund Cappuccilli '65  
Robert Leathers '65  
Frederic Miner '65  
Richard Montanaro '65, M.S. '89  
S.G. Payne '65  
Joan Plourde Phillips '65  
Kenneth Przybyla '65  
Penelope Quinn '65  
Carolyn Kenny Gill '66, M.A. '71  
Edward Sowa '66  
Ruth Weed Szabo, M.L.I.S. '66  
Janice Test '66  
Trudi Howard Cronin '67  
Nancy Powell Dickerman '67  
Sybil Goren Henry '67  
Edward Peters '67  
James Shaw '67, M.S. '72  
Raymond Smedberg '67  
William Bray '68  
Gordon Burns '68  
Frank Peduto '69  
Ronald Vokey, M.C.P. '69  
Phillip Wasylean, M.L.I.S. '69  
J. Stanley Cobb, Ph.D. '70  
Charles Doyle '70  
Wanda Lojko Howard '70, M.A. '82  
June Birchard King '70  
Barbara Martineau '70  
Regina Miga '70  
W. Gary Peigelbeck '70  
Linda Perra '70, M.A. '84  
Jack Thompson, M.A. '70  
Carla Buckley '71  
Mary Clark '71  
Carol Crossley '71,  
Robert Jackson, M.A. '71, Ph.D. '84  
Susan Kullberg '71  
Joanne McIrrath '71, M.S. '76

John Pleasants, M.M.A. '71  
Frank Schmitt '71  
John Tilley '71, M.A. '73  
Anthony Bettez '72  
Kurt Carlson '72  
Robert Greene '72  
Harvey Snyder, M.B.A. '72  
Alice Babcock '73  
Dante Boffi, M.S. '73  
Donato Ferrara '73  
Lois Greco '73  
Bonnye McGill '73  
Joseph Duffy M.A. '74  
Raymond Gannon '74  
Constance Pratt '74, M.S. '77  
Nancy Sweetnam, M.L.I.S. '74  
Robert Watkins '74  
Thomas Curry, Ph.D. '75  
Richard Drawbaugh, M.S. '75, Ph.D. '77  
Alan Goldsmith, M.S. '75  
Lynn Metz '75  
John Greslick '76  
David Westcott '76, M.C.P. '79  
Meredith Hall Anderson '77, M.S. '82  
Kimberlee Moore Babbitt '77  
Melissa Boyce '77  
Barbara Carraher, M.A. '77  
Michael Coletti, M.S. '77  
Ann Juknis, M.L.I.S. '77  
Dale Rundlett '77  
Nancy Ververis '77  
Margaret Young, M.S. '77  
Meredith Brouillette '78  
John Crouch '78  
Carolyn Lamarre, M.C.P. '78  
Craig Wilcox '78  
Thomas Brady '79  
Arlene Fenstermacher '79  
Joan Macaulay '79  
Christine Demsk, M.L.I.S. '80  
Peter Massad '80  
Michael DiMaio, M.L.I.S. '81  
Reina Berg '82, M.A. '87  
John Nickell '82  
Ying Sun, M.S. '82  
Thomas Carlson '84  
Beatrice Childs '85  
John Edge '86  
Donald Jones, M.P.A. '86  
David Paolo '87  
William Grosvenor, M.S. '87, Ph.D. '93  
Jeffrey Baris '88  
John Brennan, M.S. '89  
Robert LeBlanc '89

Henry H. "Harry" Anderson Jr., Hon. '90  
Joseph Borgia, M.S. '91  
Daniel Coski '91  
Peter Clark '92  
Maura McCaffrey '92  
Elaine Ponton Fiorenzano '93  
Iris Mello, M.S. '93  
Lilla Woodhouse '93  
Mia Rowland, M.A. '95  
Darran Simon '98  
Jason Killian '01  
Cynthia Carter '03, M.A. '07  
Talia Delmonico '05  
Rita Palombo '05  
Zachary Hill-Joseph '06  
Deborah Younce '06  
Amber DiSanto '08  
Christopher Murphy '15

FACULTY AND STAFF

Jean Bianchini, former administrative assistant at the URI Foundation

Judy Brayman, former custodial staff

J. Stanley Cobb, Ph.D. '70, professor emeritus of marine biology and ecology

Marjorie Kathleen Ellis, professor emeritus of kinesiology

Joseph Gemma Jr., former custodial staff

William Kovacs, professor emeritus of civil engineering

Donald McCreight, professor emeritus of fisheries, animal, and veterinary sciences

William Penhallow, professor emeritus of physics and astronomy

Robert Sheath, former professor of botany

Ying Sun, M.S. '82, professor of electrical, computer and bio-medical engineering

Jack Thompson, M.A. '70, associate professor emeritus of journalism

Fritz Wenisch, professor emeritus of philosophy

Leonard Worthen, professor emeritus and associate dean of pharmacy

= YOUR STORIES =

# The Power of Persistence

Susan Burlew Southard '77 wrote to share her story of rowing at URI. From hard morning workouts in icy water to that exhilarating feeling at the start of a race—crew would come to influence Southard's life in countless ways.



**Top:** URI rowers. **Southard is on the right.** **Bottom:** Southard at the 1974 Davenport Regatta on Lake Quinsigamond in Worcester, Mass.



**Practicing on Narrow River. Southard is second from left.**

A FRESHMAN AT URI IN 1973, I WAS recruited by the volunteer crew coach in one of the dining halls—food tray in hand as I slowly worked my way toward the infamous “freshman 15.”

Rowing was a club sport in the 1970s and the focus was on the men's team. We had a male volunteer coach who could only offer minimal coaching time to us pesky, insistent women who just wanted to row and race. We got hand-me-down rowing shells, but we didn't complain; we just wanted to participate. I clearly remember trying to use the weight room in the gym with some of my teammates and being politely told the equipment was reserved only for the foot-ball players. At that time, Title IX packed little punch in the face of the realities on campus.

My memories include foggy mornings on Narrow River; hitting ice chunks with my oar; blistered hands; muddy, cold socks; and our coach reminding us that “pain builds character.” Very few of us had any real exposure to athletic competition in our lives at that point. The nervous anticipation at the starting line of a race was a feeling I had never experienced—it was exhilarating!

After graduation I ended up working in the western U.S., in rugged, steep terrain, as a soil surveyor. The fitness and pain tolerance I developed on crew prepared me to do that strenuous job. Participating in athletics taught me what

my body could do—and taught me the importance of staying fit. Today, I still participate in swimming and 12K running races. Last year, I helped teach an outdoor field class in the southern Andes in South America, and, while hiking to field sites, I felt the old, familiar breathing patterns of rowing kick in.

My sister—whose introduction to rowing was when our URI coach let her go out in his coach's launch during practice one day—became a varsity rower in college, and a twice-over national junior rowing champion who qualified to compete in the Olympic Trials. My oldest daughter, after hearing me talk about rowing at URI, ended up a varsity 4-year oarswoman for the University of California at Davis.

I treasure my memories of rowing at URI and the impact it had not only on me but on my family. I also treasure the friendships I made, which, almost 50 years later, continue today. I also like to think that our persistence as women rowers back then helped develop the foundation and legacy for the successful Division I women's rowing team that exists today at URI. •

— Susan Burlew Southard '77

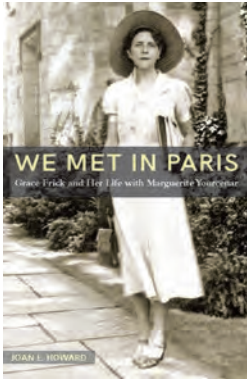
*Editor's note: Today, you can find URI crews in both varsity and club sports. Women's rowing is a varsity sport, while the club crew is co-ed. Read about club crew on page 38.*





= BOOKSHELF =

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



*We Met In Paris: Grace Frick and Her Life with Marguerite Yourcenar* (2020)  
Joan Howard, M.A. '76



*Diamond and Pearls* (2020)  
Julien Ayotte '63



*Sunday at 8:30: Two Decades of Life Planning* (2019)  
Darlene Ryan '79 and Rebecca Thompson



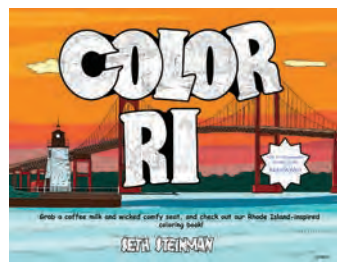
*Secrets of a Millionaire: A Powerful Step-by-Step Plan to Real Wealth* (2020)  
Adam Kessner '98



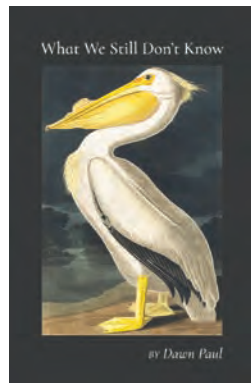
*On the Edge: Poems* (2020)  
Nancy Mattoon Kline, M.L.S. '73



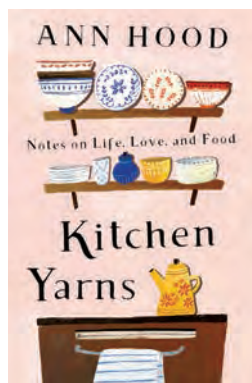
*Raptor Bloom* (2020)  
Thomas Belisle '71



*Color RI* (2019)  
Seth Steinman '11



*What We Still Don't Know* (2019)  
Dawn Paul '79



*Kitchen Yarns: Notes on Life, Love, and Food* (2019)  
Ann Hood '78



= CLOSE UP =

## Nursing from the Heart

In her first year on the job as a nurse, Julia Santucci '19 found herself in the trenches fighting the coronavirus pandemic. She's faced the challenge in stride, as nurses do, with courage, dedication, and lots of heart.

JULIA SANTUCCI '19 SPENT HER CHILD-hood at the beach, hanging out with her best friend, Jenna Carey '19, and, when she got older, teaching kids—and adults alike—to surf. Back then, she couldn't have known that someday she'd be on the front lines of a pandemic.

"I didn't grow up knowing I wanted to be a nurse," she says. "But when I was in high school, my dad was in the hospital a lot. I saw what nurses did. I saw them save my dad's life. I saw the huge difference they made for my family. The idea that I could do that for someone else was appealing."

For those who know her, it just makes sense that Santucci would make a career of caring for others. "When we were kids, she would always become friends with people who needed a friend," says Carey, who adds that in high school, Santucci would often make a point of sitting and talking with the kids who had special needs. "She's very caring; She thinks of everyone else before herself."

She's also the kind of person who likes to learn and practice things until she gets them right. And nursing dovetailed perfectly with that quality.

"She had this quiet confidence about her," says her pediatric clinical instructor, Kate Saylor, M.S. '11. "She wanted everything to be perfect and she wanted to make sure she was doing everything correctly."

The science of nursing fascinated Santucci, but when she started working with patients, she really fell in love. "I enjoyed my science classes, but once we started clinicals and I actually got to be in the hospital, I loved it. I knew that was the environment I wanted to work in," she says.

She graduated from URI in May 2019, and in September, started as a nurse in the internal medicine unit at Rhode Island Hospital. She was nervous, but soon eased into the rhythms of hospital life.

"The hospital is its own self-sufficient little world," she says. "When you're in there, the outside doesn't really exist." Six months later, and the outside world

breached the hospital walls in the form of the novel coronavirus. Santucci's floor was the first to see the effects.

"As it got closer to the East Coast, we prepared, but it still seemed so far away," she says. "Then, when it hit, our unit was the first to accept the positive patients. It's unprecedented. We've never dealt with something like this in our lifetime."

She's tending to patients who've contracted the highly contagious virus, but, she says "I wasn't so nervous for my own health in the beginning. I was more afraid of giving it to someone else."

And Carey says that mentality perfectly defines Santucci. "She puts other people before herself, realizes the importance of what she's doing, and doesn't take it lightly," says Carey. "She does everything with her whole heart, she's not scared of much, and she wants to help others in any way she can." •

— Grace Kelly





= CLASS NOTES FROM QUARANTINE =



The University of Rhode Island Quad in Kingston.

Thank you, Rhody alumni, for sharing your experiences in this special edition of Class Notes. Many of you recounted the challenges of isolation, uncertainty, illness, and loss. But your notes also revealed an incredible capacity to adapt and an instinct to find and focus on the positive. As the world continues to change quickly, presenting us with even greater challenges, we need those qualities more than ever. Thank you for the inspiration, encouragement, and, most of all, for giving us all another reason to be proud of our URI alumni community.

Here are a selection of excerpts from the many notes and photos you shared. While we can't fit them all in print, they're all included, in full, at [uri.edu/magazine](http://uri.edu/magazine).

1952

**Mary Cozzolino Gray '52, Hon. '96**

We moved to Kingston in 1960 and have had occasion to visit campus almost daily. I love to walk the Quad. What saddens me now is the silence. No hustle and bustle of traffic and students rushing to class. Lately, a few 2020 grads have met on the Quad to take pictures in their caps and gowns. I look forward to the day when they all return and bring the energy, crowded sidewalks—and traffic. I won't even complain about the traffic.

1956

**Arthur Cappon**

My wife and I are hunkered down. I am 91 now and taking no chances. At night, we watch old CDs of movies and Broadway shows, and are delighted to discover that they now seem new! We have no idea what will come next. We hope businesses will recover soon to avoid a major depression. I felt more secure growing up during the first one, than I do now.

1959

**Joseph Marriott**

My wife, Mary Ann, and I are 'old-farts' who planned to celebrate our 60th anniversary with a three-week Road Scholar cruise on the Adriatic Sea. Our cruise was cancelled. Our son's Christmas gift to us was tickets to a now-cancelled Johnny Mathis concert (his version of "Misty" is OUR song). Fortunately, I stocked up on wine before the N.Y. lockdown. We count our blessings. We are fortunate to be vertical, active, and involved, and not concerned with food and shelter.



Joseph '59 and Mary Ann Marriott



Richard Goldsmith '68 Zoom party for his grandson's birthday.

1968

**Richard Goldsmith**

We had a Zoom party for our grandson's 11th birthday with all the grandparents, parents, uncle, and aunts!



**Roberta Mudge Humble '68, M.A. '71**

I'd be adapting better if we could gather a great URI basketball team. Go Rhody!

1969

**Frank Feraco**

I am a hard charging businessman. For me, anything that stops me from fulfilling that capacity is NOT GOOD! I have become more aware of folks who need help and are not self-sufficient. It is TIME to get back to our normal lives and remain cautious about spacing ourselves properly. Be well and safe. God bless America.

Visit  
[uri.edu/magazine](http://uri.edu/magazine)  
to read these notes,  
and more, in full.

1970

**Virginia Hickey**

When I was at URI as an art student, our drawing and sculpture professor, the wonderful Robert Rohm, told us that eventually we would have to learn, as artists, to be alone, to create on our own. He urged us to find the discipline to walk into the silence of an empty studio, go to work, and make a life built from that. What a gift that advice was. In these strange times when life seems to have stopped, I enter the studio daily and try to find meaning in it all.

1971

**Allen Hale**

My life hasn't changed all that much other than the inability to travel. I live in Thailand; Travel—local and international—is a big part of our lifestyle. The COVID-19 crisis has robbed me of some of my sense of control over my life and restricted many of my freedoms. I have confidence that better days will come—someday. I am making plans, travel plans, for those days.

1973

**David Jordan**

It has taken one virus to bring our planet to its knees and we must learn the lessons this calamity offers, or future generations—our children and their children—will suffer the consequences. We are all part of One World, and if there is anything good to take away from COVID it is perhaps that awareness.

1975

**Jeffrey Ross**

As a podiatric surgeon in the Save the Extremity Program (STEP) at the Baylor College of Medicine, I am at the hospital daily. We are blessed with sufficient PPE, and I am honored to contribute to the health and well-being of my patients. Since patients' family members are not permitted to visit their loved ones, health care providers now serve as support systems for our patients. I could think of nothing I would rather be doing than this work.

1976

**Shirley Jensen Hanley**

The pandemic shutdown started right around my birthday in mid-March. The last few weeks of March I sewed masks. The next week I pulled out that unopened 1,000-piece Charles Wysocki puzzle. My son, who is in grad school in New York City came home on March 12. Within a week, all of New York state was shut down. We were safe. Then my sister-in-law, who manages a motel, got the virus.

1977

**Michael Morrow**

The biggest plus during this time period? We got a puppy!! Since we are with her all the time, that dog is getting a lot of attention!



Michael Morrow '77

1982

**Beth McManus Cullen**

Since mid-April, several URI Delta Zeta sisters have enjoyed each other's company via Zoom. We are URI friends for life. Nancy Lee Sceery '82 captured our essence: "The bottom line is that our friendship, bond, and genuine caring about each other, our loved ones, and our families transcends all time, illness, politics, and conspiracies."

1988

**Robert Alvine**

My company has maintained full employment so that our employees can continue to support their families. In addition, we gave more than \$45,000 to Camp Rising Sun, a camp for kids with cancer that is now providing PPE to children at cancer hospitals. URI is always close to my heart, so I also donated to the URI Students First Fund. We need to keep those in need in our minds during this time.

1989

**Sheila Gray**

My daughter, Shannon Brassil '15 began working as a nurse in the ICU at South County Hospital in 2018. She has stepped up to the challenge of this pandemic. While caring for the sickest patients, she has also become their friend/family member/comforter due to restrictions on visitors. She never fails to have a smile and a word of encouragement for others. She is my hero.



Shannon Brassil '15 is a nurse in the ICU at South County Hospital.



“One of the most challenging and hurtful aspects of this was the inability to visit my dad.”

—Marc Bernarducci '91



Kim Germain Daly '97 volunteers at Boston Hope.



Allison Lacasse '07 with her new French bulldog puppy, Copley.

1991

**Marc Bernarducci '91, Pharm.D. '95**

My life changed when I received a call around 1:30 a.m. on March 26. My 75-year-old father, who had not been feeling well the week prior, had been transferred to the ICU after being delivered to the emergency room the previous afternoon. Fortunately, my father miraculously beat the COVID-19 virus, after spending his 76th birthday alone in the ICU, battling for his life. One of the most challenging and hurtful aspects of this was the inability to visit my dad.

**The Rev. Elizabeth L. (Myers) Nelson**

I am an Episcopal priest, and had planned to retire just before the pandemic hit, when I found myself needed by a little church close to my home. It was about a month before the pandemic hit. With no Sunday worship scheduled, I began sending uplifting messages to my parishioners and we began drive-through services on Palm Sunday.

1992

**Susan Rancourt**

I own a race management company called Rhode Races (I was on the track team at URI) and we produce half and full marathons. Our April and May events were canceled due to COVID-19, with the rest of our 2020 season in jeopardy, as well. We've been transitioning to virtual events and continuing to build our running community. With so much negativity in the world today, one of the few things left for us to do is get outside for a run or walk.

1993

**Francisco Bechara**

Hopefully, through this, we can learn that the world is one and that what separates us needs to be put aside.

1994

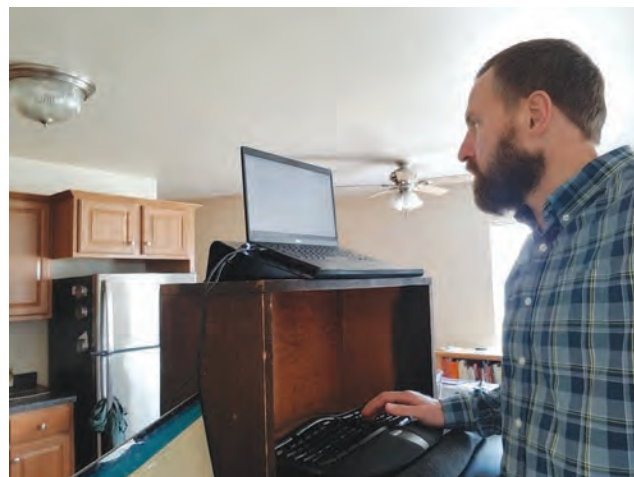
**Ed Hannan**

I love being around my wife and children all the time. I see how they learn. I see how they behave. I haven't been this close to their day-to-day life since they were in preschool.

1997

**Kim Germain Daly**

I felt a calling to help and stepped back into nursing to support COVID-19 efforts in Massachusetts. I've been volunteering at Boston Hope, a field hospital at the Boston Expo and Convention Center. It has been so rewarding and I am inspired by all the selfless health-care workers who are stepping back in to lend their expertise and support.



Pieter deHart '00 in his home office.

“I am privileged with good health, a job I love, and a supportive family.

I have all the tools I need to weather this storm.”

—Joanna Ravello '97, M.S. '99

**Joanna Ravello '97, M.S. '99**

Some days, I fight irritation that the lines at the stores are long and many things unavailable, as well as the sense of isolation that, as an introvert, I shouldn't feel. Other days, I think about unemployment, people struggling to make car and mortgage payments—and losing their loved ones, and I think, “I am privileged with good health, a job I love, and a supportive family. I have all the tools I need to weather this storm.” I try to set my intention to have more of the latter types of days.

2000

**Pieter deHart**

Working remotely has been an adjustment—including my makeshift standing desk in the kitchen! But I am thankful for the security of my job. My saving grace has been running outdoors and competing in a remote, virtual weekly race challenge with members of my running club. That and a Friday night virtual cocktail hour with friends and family have kept the mental quaran-monsters away.

2007

**Allison Lacasse**

My new French bulldog puppy, Copley, has given me light on the darker days. I am thankful for technology and the ability to connect with loved ones. I feel for URI's Class of 2020, as my graduation day on the Quad is one of my happiest life memories. I believe that we will come out of this pandemic with more compassion, empathy, and gratefulness for the little things in life.

2008

**Laura Shulder**

I am a laboratory animal scientist. I have never been more proud to work in this field. We are working tirelessly to develop a drug or a vaccine to help with this pandemic, and also to deliver life-saving medicines to patients. It is truly inspiring to be a part of the effort.



2012

**Taylor Booth**

I rode my roller coaster of emotions, and I now see this time as an opportunity to expand my contribution as a leader. The globe is going through a paradigm shift, and we are all capable of creating the future. I also bought six chicks and planted a veggie garden to stay grounded. Thanks for the agricultural roots, URI!



**Melissa Fajardo '12, M.S. '14**

Life under quarantine? Honestly, I love it. Aside from the new precautions I have to take and missing the liberty of doing and going wherever I want, whenever I want, I work from home and feel like I can get more done. It was an easy transition! My dog gets regular exercise and I have set goals for my physical and mental well-being.

2013

**Paul Lutsky**

The toughest part of the COVID-19 pandemic is hearing the devastating stories of small business owners who have dedicated their lives to run a successful business and, almost overnight, that business is in jeopardy. I've found optimism hearing different ways business owners are getting creative and pivoting to succeed in a time with such uncertainty.

**Michael Levin**

When quarantine restrictions are lifted, I think the biggest changes will be how cautious people will continue to act with physical interactions (hugging, hand shaking, etc.). I think this will take time to go back to normal.

2014

**Kevin Gemmell**

My friend and I are both engineers in San Diego, California. We created the 5,000 Mask Challenge. We have family and friends that are on the front lines, and we've seen PPE shortages across America. Our mission is to donate 5,000 masks to health-care workers. 5000maskchallenge.webnode.com

2015

**John Del Padre**

I've been able to work from home, but my wife, Hayley, is a nurse at Rhode Island Hospital. Shout out to her and all the health-care workers who are helping protect the rest of us! (photo)

2016

**Luke Hayden**

I work for a medical device company and our biggest client has asked us to make antibody testing kits for the entire U.S. population. I'm an analyst in the manufacturing division. Silver linings? I've noticed random acts of kindness more than ever. Last week, I saw a man buy an elderly woman her groceries when her credit card was declined. We can stay connected and lift each other's spirits during the hard times.

We are all part of One World, and if there is anything good to take away from COVID it is perhaps that awareness

—David Jordan '97

2017

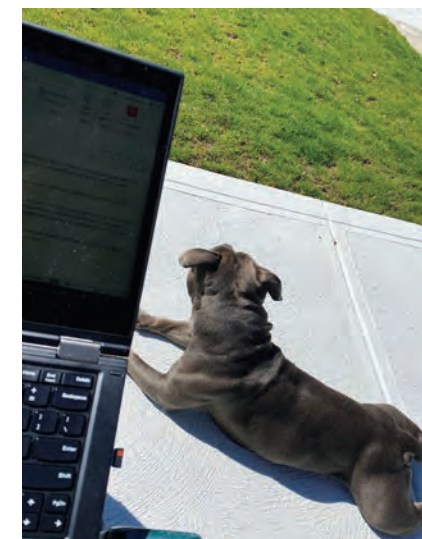
**Lismary Perez**

I am using my art to boost our optimism and overall morale during these times of such negativity. We can find optimism in organic/geometric shapes and lines, and having no restraints can be a positive aspect in our lives.

2018

**Matt Warner**

Since I graduated from URI, I've been working as an ED Nurse at a Level 1 academic trauma center. I fear that I may get sick, that I may unknowingly spread the virus. But the virus has brought many of our staff together, fighting a common enemy. I don't know what post-pandemic life will be like, but I hope that it retains an element of stronger community.



Melissa Fajardo '12, M.S. '14 gets exercise with her dog.



Lismary Perez '17 uses art to boost her optimism.



Matt Warner '18 is an ED Nurse.



= 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](mailto:urimag@uri.edu) or respond at [uri.edu/magazine](http://uri.edu/magazine).

Submit entries by  
September 15, 2020



— SPRING WINNERS: BALLET CLASS WITH HERCI MARSDEN —



**Winning Caption**  
Peter Pan auditions.  
—Norm Campbell '57

**Runner-Up**  
"There's only a "few good men" at any barre."  
—Linda O'Neil Bednarek '66

**Honorable Mention**  
Barre Flies  
—Jill Mason '82

THIS 1966 PHOTO, "BALLET CLASS WITH Herci Marsden," sure generated a lot of creative and fun ideas for captions.

It also generated a pretty wonderful email from Herci Marsden's daughter.

Marsden's daughter, Ana Marsden Fox, said her mom was "so surprised to see herself in the spring issue of *URI Magazine*." She went on to explain that her mom "was expecting her second child at that time, and continued to teach right up until delivery. The photo at that moment was when she would ask the students to jump.

"Jump with all you've got! Be free and jump!"

According to Ana, her mom is doing well at 82 years old and still teaching in Lincoln, Rhode Island! She sent this more recent photo of her mom, and says her mom "really got a 'kick'" out of seeing her photo in the magazine.

Thank you, Ana. And thank you, Herci. We really got a kick out of hearing from you!

And thank you, readers, as always, for your caption ideas! Keep 'em coming! •



PHOTOS: COURTESY URI DIGITAL ARCHIVES

## Big Ideas. Bold Plans.

The Campaign for the  
University of Rhode Island



**THE CAMPAIGN FOR URI** will celebrate the stellar achievements of our community and create new opportunities for students and faculty. There are many ways to be a part of it: tune in for online events, follow URI in the news and on social media, mentor students and young alumni, or give to an area that is important to you.

The Campaign is an occasion for all alumni to make new connections and move the University forward together.

### CAMPAIGN PRIORITIES:

- Student Access
- The URI Learning Experience
- Transformative Faculty Leadership
- Innovative and Distinctive Programs
- Strategic Opportunities

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[CAMPAIGN.URI.EDU](http://CAMPAIGN.URI.EDU) \ 401.874.7900



= EPILOGUE =

“Look to art and see what genius  
emerges in turbulent times.”

— Emmett Goods, trombonist and  
URI music lecturer

ESSENTIAL EXPRESSION

Emmett Goods teaches jazz, trombone, and music history courses in URI's music department, including Music as a Form of Social Protest and the History of Hip-Hop and Black American Culture. He comes from a rich musical background and has shared stage and studio with world-renowned jazz, Latin, and Motown artists.

“You can say something in a song that you wouldn't necessarily say with your regular voice in a crowd,” Goods says. “If you put your deepest, most heartfelt feelings to some chords and apply a melody to it, now you've provided this palette by which you can express what it is that you really feel.” •

*What's Emmett Goods listening  
to this summer? See page 23.*

