UNIVERSITY OF

RHODE ISLAND

FALL 2022

MAGAZINE

WHERE LAND

ASIDSEA MEET

An introduction to the blue economy, and to URI's Coastal Resources Center, which has been helping people create and manage sustainable relationships with their coastlines for half a century.

Aperture

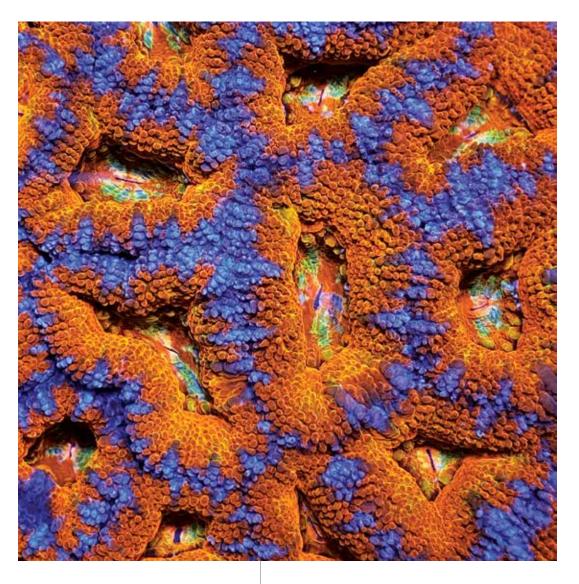
RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP PHOTO CONTEST

URI's fifth 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 and images, which represent a range of disciplines—from aquaculture to cell and molecular biology. This year, for the first time, all our winning photos were from URI students. Their photos reinforce that time-tested adage: "A picture is worth a thousand words."





First Place

"WATER COLLECTION OF A HONEYBEE" Casey Johnson '19, M.S. '22

Graduate student in plant sciences and entomology

"In the heat of summer, honeybees can often be found collecting water from puddles, gutters, and other unsavory sources," says Johnson, who is a graduate student in Professor Steven Alm's lab at the URI Agricultural Experiment Station at East Farm in Kingston. She continues, "We noticed that our honeybees were drinking water from sphagnum moss in the pots of pitcher plants, which led us to investigate the water-collecting behavior of honeybees on four local moss species. Here, a water forager honeybee rests on one of our observational moss setups, drinking water that she will bring back to her hive."

Second Place

"JAM-PACKED MICROMUSSA"

Michael Corso '24

Aquaculture and fisheries science major

"This Micromussa lordhowensis coral colony was shot at Love the Reef, a marine animal distributor/coral aquaculture facility in Wilmington, Mass., where I work," says Corso, who aspires to preserve tropical marine species. He continues, "In the wild, this species is found in the South Pacific and along Australia's Great Barrier Reef. The bioluminescent colors emanate from the coral's symbiont algae, zooxanthella. Rising ocean temperatures and acidification can prevent the corals from holding onto the algae they depend upon, resulting in coral bleaching. Land-based sustainable aquaculture efforts may be the last chance coral species like these have at surviving in our future environment."



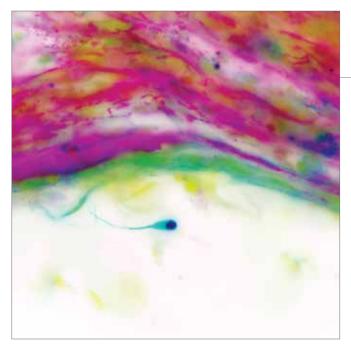
Third Place

"PIPING PLOVER CHICK"

Branden Costa, M.E.S.M. '21

Graduate student in environmental science and management, focused on conservation biology

Costa observed this juvenile piping plover foraging after a rainstorm on Washburn Island in Falmouth, Mass. "These birds," says Costa, who studies migratory bird behavior and population dynamics "are vulnerable to many threats before and after hatching, including predation, desiccation, human disturbances, and storm surges. They begin foraging for themselves mere hours after hatching and remain flightless for 25–30 days as they develop flight feathers for end-of-season migration. This chick was the last surviving member of its brood. The others were 'taken' by two off-leash domestic dogs. This chick demonstrates the unwavering resilience piping plovers must exhibit to survive."



Honorable Mention

"LAST NERVE"

Michelle Gregoire, Ph.D. '26

Doctoral student in cell and molecular biology

Nerves relay sensory or motor information in the body and are made up of nerve cells, or neurons, says Gregoire. "In Professor Claudia Fallini's lab, where I do my research, we study cellular pathologies in amyotrophic lateral sclerosis and frontotemporal dementia (ALS/FTD). We differentiate the neurons we study from induced pluripotent stem cells derived from patient skin or blood cells. Using immunofluorescence and our Leica DMi8 Widefield Fluorescence microscope, we visualized this stunning motor neuron. During the differentiation process, not all the stem cells differentiated into neurons, instead forming a mass of cells, visible here above the lone neuron."

Honorable Mention

"RADIOTAGGED DIAMONDBACK — TERRAPIN HATCHLING, SPRING 2021"

Carolyn Decker, M.S. '21

Graduate student in natural resources science

"This 9-month-old, rare salt marsh turtle is about the size of a poker chip and has just emerged from the secret sandy burrow where he spent his first winter," says Decker. "For my master's thesis, I documented the movements and habitat use of this species. This individual turtle helped us better understand the differing needs of hatchling and adult terrapins. My observations helped us to make wildlife management and conservation recommendations to protect the animals at all ages. This photo shows the tiny radio transmitter that was glued to the terrapin's shell so researchers could track his movements."



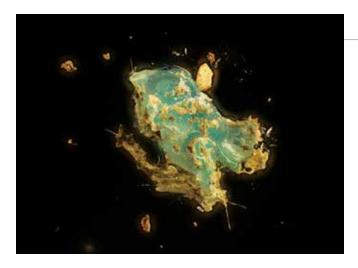
Honorable Mention

"MICROPLASTIC PARTICLE FROM NARRAGANSETT BAY"

Sarah Davis, Ph.D. '27

Doctoral student in biological and environmental sciences

"This strangely beautiful image of a 1 mm microplastic particle was captured with an Olympus BX63 automated light microscope," says Davis, who works with professors Coleen Suckling and Andrew Davies on a Rhode Island Sea Grant project investigating microplastic particles in Narragansett Bay. "For this project," she says, "we trawl a plankton net behind a URI vessel. The net collects material floating on and just below the water's surface; the material collected is processed and analyzed in the lab. By studying the concentration and characteristics of microplastics in our local environment, we can help inform decisions about mitigating pollution at the source."





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Photo by Ayla Fox '11

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Ewa Romaszewicz Aflame, 2011 Oil on canvas, 36" x 36"

To see more of Romaszewicz's work, go to ewastudio.com.

Ewa Romaszewicz is an instructor in URI's Department of Art and Art History. She completed *Aflame* at a time of dramatic personal transition, and says that in the painting, "one can see the visual transition from darkness to light," but that for her, it was "also a metaphorical transition." She notes, "What the viewer brings to the painting is as important as what my thoughts were in creating it."

After completing undergraduate work at Brown University in art and biochemistry, Romaszewicz worked in the pharmaceutical industry as a protein chemist. At the same time, she was completing her M.F.A. in painting at Indiana University, where she was teaching chemistry labs and color theory and design courses.

Romaszewicz says, "I use the landscape as a means to explore composition, color, light, mood, and emotion. Ultimately, my landscapes are metaphors for universal experiences and feelings."

Hello, URI Alumni and Friends!

hat an incredible year! It's hard to believe that just last August, hundreds of members of the URI community came out to warmly welcome Mary and me to campus. Since then, I have met hundreds more, from staff and students to farmers, football players, community partners, and alumni. I have relished this deep dive into our vibrant University community. This July, Mary and I took a step back (or rather up and down), hiking the Appalachian Trail across Maine and reflecting on the experiences we have had. The breathtaking view from Mount Katahdin was a fitting "big picture" end to our first year at URI.

In many ways, this past year has felt like scaling an enormous mountain, full of challenges and surprises but rich in opportunities and rewards, and I now have a clearer view of where we are and where we are going. Meaningful alumni gatherings from Florida to Providence to New York have shed light on who we are and encouraged me to set goals for who we want to be. Important conversations with our multicultural student groups, meetings with our LGBTQ+ community, and renewed dialogue with the Narragansett Tribe have reminded me that although we have come so far, we still have important work to do. And tours of some of our beautiful new facilities juxtaposed with outdated and declining buildings that house multimillion dollar programs have motivated me to pursue investments that will propel the University into this next phase of transformation. Stakeholders across our campuses helped us develop a 10-year strategic plan that will position URI as a hub that flourishes with activity and innovation, driving economic growth for Rhode Island and the region, and capitalizing on our role as the state's flagship research university.

One only needs to look at the features

in this issue of the magazine to know that the future of URI is bright. In "Where Using the Coast and Preserving It Find Common Ground," we learn about the Coastal Resources Center on our Bay Campus, which brings coastal communities in Rhode Island and around the world together to create and manage sustainable relationships with their coastlines. "A Walk Through Time" highlights an important new multidisciplinary undergraduate course that offers students opportunities to discover a more complete history of the Narragansett ancestral land on which the Kingston Campus sits. There's "Thinking Blue," which offers an introduction to the blue economy and the importance of the ocean and its resources to Rhode Islanders. We also get to know Sara Sweetman, Ph.D. '13, associate professor of education, whose expertise and love of learning led her all the way to Sesame Street. And finally, we learn about Erik Robles '22, a philosophy major and one of the first three recipients of the Gamm Theatre's new emerging artists of color fellowship, who came to URI to tackle life's big questions.

It's an exciting time at URI, and I am so glad to be here with you!

Marc B. Parlange
President, University of Rhode Island



Aflame is displayed in Green Hall, outside President Parlange's office. For Parlange, an avid runner, the painting calls to mind the trails and bike path near URI where he runs. Marc and Mary Parlange share exhibits of URI faculty artwork in their campus home, as well as in Green Hall, as one way of celebrating the talent of the URI community.

Feedback

We welcome and encourage letters to the editor. Write to us at urimag@uri.edu Visit us and comment online at uri.edu/magazine

RECALLING URI'S CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR WOMEN PROGRAM

Diane Sterrett's "Think You Know What 'College-Aged' Means?" (fall 2021) captured my attention. Illustrating, as it does, the University's interest in encouraging nontraditional students, the article brought back powerful memories of my student days in URI's CEW (Continuing Education for Women) program.

While the CEW and Age-Friendly University programs differ in significant ways, they are similar in their core belief that learning is not confined to any one age group. As an example of that, due to the opportunity CEW gave me, I earned my B.A., then M.A., and went on to teach English literature and rhetorical writing for 17 years at the former Becker College in Worcester, Mass., and after retiring, I published 10 novels. None of this would have been possible without URI's help.

—Jean Harrington '74

How has your life changed because of COVID?

COVID. It's still here and we seem to be adapting. We want to hear from you. Has your work situation changed? Did your priorities shift? What are you doing differently now? What's better and what's worse? How do you think the world around you has changed—or will change? Email us at **urimag@uri.edu**.

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A ROUND OF APPLAUSE FOR WEST WARWICK

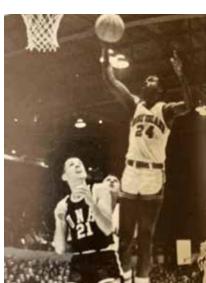


Bridge carrying the Washington Secondary Trail over the South Branch of the Pawtuxet River in West Warwick, Rhode Island.

As a librarian and alumni of the URI Graduate School of Library and Information Studies, I was excited to read the article, "Librarians, Out Loud" (fall 2021). As a former resident of West Warwick, R.I., I was disappointed by the slanted view the town received in the first four paragraphs of the article. West Warwick Public Library is only one of the hidden gems in town. Had the author taken the time to explore the area behind the library, she would have found pleasant suburban residential neighborhoods. West Warwick has invested in the revitalization of the business district and Arctic village. The town is host to the Arctic Playhouse Theatre, a portion of the East Coast Greenway Bicycle Path, and the upcoming redevelopment of the Arctic Mill will have 136 apartments and a craft brewery. New businesses are also coming to the town, such as Music Magick and Victoria's Sweets and Bakery. The town is working hard to improve and should be applauded. Please do not judge a book by its cover.

—John Fobert, M.L.I.S. '94 , professor and electronic resources librarian, Roger Williams University Library

CHARLIE LEE STORY BRINGS NOTES FROM FRIENDS AND FANS



"The Night Charlie Lee Made History" (fall 2021) elicited many notes, phone calls, and comments from Lee's former classmates, friends, and fans, all expressing fond memories, respect, and affection. Here are a couple of those notes.

Visit uri.edu/magazine/charlielee for more.

We all looked up to Charlie when we came to school. He was a great player. It was an honor to play against him in practice and to guard him, then to sit with him at the Union. Everybody wanted to sit near him and listen to him. Great article. All the best to him always.

—Steve Chubin '66

What memories. Danny Nilsson lived across the hall from me freshman year. Charlie Lee was a very exciting basketball player and Ron Rothstein was a great playmaker.

—David Greene '64

URI'S RICH BASKETBALL HISTORY

One of the great joys of attending URI was going to basketball games at Keaney Gym. I especially remember the great turn-around jump shots of Charlie Lee ("The Night Charlie Lee Made History," fall 2021). In December 1974, URI played DePaul in Chicago. I attended that game, which was won by DePaul, 50-48. The next day the Chicago Tribune reported that DePaul "almost lost to puny Rhode Island." I took umbrage at that. I sent a letter to the *Tribune* (which they published) reminding them that URI had a rich basketball history and was a pioneer of fast-break basketball.

—George McClintick '64





FEEDBACK GUIDELINES

University of Rhode Island Magazine welcomes letters to the editor addressing topics covered in the magazine. We do not publish letters containing obscenities, potentially libelous statements, personal attacks, or known false statements. All letters must be signed. Letters may be edited for style, grammar, typographical errors, content, and length. The submission of a letter to the editor does not guarantee its publication. Views expressed by readers in the Feedback section are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinions or policies of the University of Rhode Island Magazine. Please send letters via email to urimag@uri.edu.

CORRECTION

Dale Brown '61, a classmate of Charlie Lee's, called to say how much he enjoyed "The Night Charlie Lee Made History" (fall 2021), and to point out that the story incorrectly stated that Lee was "the first Black player to participate in a college game in the state of Georgia." In fact, Lee was the first Black player to participate in an integrated college game in Georgia. We apologize for misstating this, and we thank you, Dale, for making this critical distinction.

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FROM THE EDITOR

We're finally back in print for fall 2022! Thank you, readers, for your patience this year. We hope you enjoyed the spring and summer digital editions of *URI Magazine*. Paper supply problems persist, so we don't know what 2023 will bring, but we intend to continue publishing in print and online, although timing and frequency may be subject to change.

Paper or no paper, print or digital, there simply isn't enough time or space to share every great story that falls on the magazine's radar. Members of the URI community are out in the world making it a better, smarter, kinder, and more interesting place. Hardly a day goes by that I don't meet or hear about at least one of them.

While scrolling through Instagram this summer, I stumbled upon a photo from an AmpSurf event at Second Beach in Newport, R.I. AmpSurf organizes events in which volunteers help people participate in adaptive surfing. The caption gave special thanks to a "huge crew of soon-to-be physical therapy doctors" from URI who helped with the event.

When I reached out, I was put in touch with Bailey Ricci '21, a student in URI's doctor of physical therapy (DPT) program. She shared these photos and said, "I got involved with AmpSurf (along with other DPT students, through one of our professors who is a veteran involved in adaptive sports) to meet our "broadening experience" requirement—a service and leadership project in which we utilize our skills outside of a clinical setting. We were able to take what we've learned about transferring patients, fall risks, prosthetics, and safety and apply it to this experience. We quickly learned the challenges that come with transferring a patient to an unsteady surfboard while waves are crashing on the beach.

"We also had a lot of fun cheering on each veteran as they caught waves, meeting many wonderful people, and learning lots of great tips along the way."

Thanks to Bailey, Kayla, Megan, Laura, and Lillie for sharing your time and expertise with AmpSurf—and thanks to all of you out there making the world brighter for all of us.

—Barbara Caron, Editor-in-Chief

P.S. I'm going to take this opportunity to brag a bit about URI's DPT program: It's the only PT program in R.I., it's very competitive (admits 32 students per year from 400 applicants), and the program's grads have a 100% pass rate on the national PT exam and a 100% employment rate. Kudos to the DPT program!

Photos above:

- 1. Left to right: URI DPT students Bailey Ricci '21, Kayla Prior, Megan Byra '21, Laura Wong, and Lillie Haldeman.
- URI DPT students Bailey Ricci '21 (in black cap) and Megan Byra '21 (in green cap) with other AmpSurf volunteers and participants.

8 FALL 2022 PHOTOS: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS; URI SPECIAL COLLECTIONS UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND MAGAZINE 9

Currents

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Get more are ariched

= IN BRIEF =

POISED FOR SUCCESS

Bold coaching moves made earlier this year have increased excitement around the 2022–23 basketball season for URI's men's and women's teams.

Archie Miller signed a five-year contract as head coach of the men's team. He arrived in Kingston with a solid Atlantic 10

Conference record, winning two conference titles and making four NCAA Tournament appearances in six seasons at Dayton. Nationally ranked during three of his six seasons coaching the Dayton Flyers, Miller won A-10 titles in 2016 and 2017, earning conference Coach of the Year honors in the latter. He led the Flyers to four straight NCAA appearances from 2014 to 2017, including a run to the Elite Eight in 2014. Miller also reached the National Invitation Tournament (NIT) with Dayton in 2012 and with Indiana in 2019.

Tammi Reiss, who has served as head coach for Rhody women's basketball for two seasons, signed a new and unprecedented 10-year contract.

Last season, Reiss led the team to 22 wins, and the team had its best home record ever, at 12-2. Posting back-to-back winning records in league play, the Rams were 23-6 in the conference. Reiss' .597 career winning percentage is the best in program history, and this past season Rhody qualified for the WNIT for the first time. The team appeared in the Associated Press Top 25 poll this year, and Reiss garnered A-10 Coach of the Year honors for the 2020–21 season.

ADVANCING UNDERSEA INNOVATION

URI became a founding partner in the Northeast BlueTech Science and **Engineering Acceleration** Coalition, created to support collaboration and advance regional maritime research and innovation. As the only academic institution in the partnership—which also includes the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, MassChallenge, the Naval Undersea Warfare Center-Division Newport, and the new MITRE BlueTech Lab—URI is positioned to accelerate solutions to complex challenges unique

to a maritime environment.

CO En r

Addressing climate, clean energy, and national security issues fits with the University's broader goal of advancing blue economy innovation and

contributing to making New England the country's leading region for ocean science and technology. Faculty

working on renewable energy, unmanned undersea technology, climate science, and protecting the supply chain and national defense infrastructure will collaborate with peers and—leveraging

the new MITRE lab—will work to close gaps in research capabilities.

"This partnership presents a great opportunity to ... accelerate maritime innovation and enhance U.S. security and competitiveness," says URI President Marc Parlange.

NEWS TICKER



RECORD APPLICATIONS
Receiving more than 25,400
applications for a place in the
fall 2022 class, URI broke its
record for first-year applications. This year's applications
surpassed last year's record of
about 25,100.



RISE IN RANKINGS
URI's College of Nursing
master's degree program had
an impressive jump in recent
U.S. News & World Report
national rankings, breaking
the top 50, coming in at 45th
in the country.



TD HOUSE

URI's Talent Development Program, which has supported more than 4,000 students in its history, celebrated the opening of its first dedicated on-campus residence for TD scholars.



FULBRIGHT AWARD
Stephan Grilli, distinguished professor of ocean engineering and oceanography, received the highly competitive international Fulbright-Tocqueville Distinguished Chair Award and will teach and conduct "wind and wave" research in France.



INDIGENOUS SCHOLARSHIPS

URI established a new under graduate scholarship for citizens of the Narragansett Nation. Fifteen students for the 2021–22 academic year were awarded \$175,000 to pursue their studies at URI.



VETERANS WELCOME
URI earned a "gold" designation for its commitment to veterans and military-connected students—numbering nearly 300—and was one of only 25 tier-two research institutions in the U.S. to receive a designation of gold or higher.



= WHY I TEACH =

Data-Driven Compassion

Assistant Clinical Professor of Music Therapy Nicole O'Malley

N icole O'Malley, director of URI's music therapy program, holds in her hands a three-ring binder—the mammoth kind that can hold a ream of paper: material evidence of a program (and a philosophy) decades in the development.

Now in its second year, URI's music therapy program has 12 students—and growing interest.

O'Malley is a bit awed by it all. Creating the music therapy program was not something she'd planned or even had interest in—initially. She didn't want to be a teacher; she was already running a nonprofit, Hands in Harmony, managing her clinical practice, and raising two young children. A few years earlier, she'd written the standards for state laws concerning the certification of music therapy practitioners. She had enough to keep her busy.

But consulting on a program for URI led to an invitation to implement the five-year program in 2019 and then, at the urging of department chair Mark Conley, to teach a class. And it took just the one class for O'Malley to make a startling discovery. "Watching my students grow, seeing those aha! moments—I loved it."

In URI's undergraduate music therapy program, students learn to use therapies that help improve the sensorimotor, cognitive, language, emotional, and/or social functioning of their clients. It is the only music therapy program in New England to offer on-campus clinical training for students, who complete 1,200 hours of clinical training to prepare for national board certification.

"You can be compassionate and caring *and* data focused and scientific."

Music therapists are in high demand. They work in hospitals, schools, longterm care facilities, and neurorehabilitation centers. They are employed by psychiatric practices and community centers.

O'Malley prizes preparedness and thoughtfulness and holds her students to the rigorous standards she sets for herself as a practitioner.

"In the first five years of my career, I had to spend a lot of time in court advocating for clients. To prepare, I would dig into the literature and make sure my data was solid," says O'Malley. "I'd create reports and develop standards so high that they couldn't be disputed in court. I believe we should teach our students how to meet those standards."

O'Malley also wants her students cleareyed about the challenges therapists face. When students begin their clinical hours in their sophomore year, it's an emotional experience. "I tell them, 'You're going to laugh and you're going to cry.' In my practice," she says, "I've seen thousands of people; sometimes what they've been through is so horrific that you take a piece of it with you forever. A lot of the work I'm doing with the sophomores concerns how to handle challenging situations and how to be strong clinicians in the face of such heavy work."

Every experience—and emotion—is on-the-job training, says O'Malley. And all contribute to cultivating fortitude, resilience, and self-awareness. "You need to be able to access feelings and emotions; you have to have deep empathy. You can be compassionate and caring *and* datafocused and scientific," O'Malley says.

"Evidence and emotion drive me. That's the way I teach." •

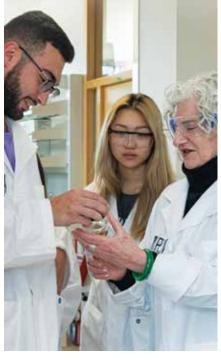
-Marybeth Reilly-McGreen

= BIG IDEAS. BOLD PLANS. =

A Time for Action

Campaign Expands Diversity and Opportunity Across the University







Big Ideas. Bold Plans. The Campaign for the University of Rhode Island has inspired alumni, parents, and friends to create new ways of supporting students. Scholarships, graduate fellowships, and honors program awards have all increased, but one area of particular focus has been diversity, equity, and inclusion.

As the University has embraced an active commitment to making positive change in this area, members of the URI community have contributed funds to help traditionally underrepresented students find access, opportunity, and success.

The Alumni of Color Network

established an endowed scholarship as part of their commitment to mentoring and connecting with students. ACN co-chairs Bobby Britto-Oliveira '06, M.S. '11, and Sara Monteiro '08 led the effort to establish the Alumni of Color Network Scholars Fund, and collective support from members of ACN and the broader community has helped the fund grow in its first year.

"It has been encouraging to see efforts toward the goals of true equity and representative diversity at URI. We can't shy away from the fact that we still have a long way to go as a society, but this level of support from our University community is making a real difference for our students."

—Sean Edmund Rogers, vice president for community, equity, and diversity and Spachman Professor of Human Resources and Labor Relations

An initiative by the American Indian/ Native American Advisory Council led the University to establish the Narragansett Undergraduate Scholarship for students who are citizens of the federally recognized Narragansett Nation. URI is awarding full scholarships to 15 to 20 students per year, while expanding recruitment of Indigenous scholars and curriculum development.

Roby Luna '04, a Talent Development alumnus, created the **Luna-Rivera SF Scholarship** through his company, Aretec. Working with his business partner and co-founder, Anthony Rivera, Luna hopes to create access for more students of color in the areas of data analytics and artificial intelligence. He also remains a mentor, working with the ACN and serving on multiple URI boards.

An anonymous donor established the Raymond M. Wright Fast Track Master's Engineering Endowment with a \$2.5 million gift. It honors retired College of Engineering Dean Raymond Wright and provides one year of tuition and fees for underrepresented students in the fast-track degree program, which offers an accelerated timeline to complete a bachelor's and master's degree in five years. •



= QUAD ANGLES =

This Is Not Your Grandmother's 4-H

By Christina DiCenzo

As a 4-H program coordinator, Christina DiCenzo '18 sees the organization adapting to meet young people "where they're at." DiCenzo has learned a thing or two about adapting, too.

"Meeting children 'where they're at' means that we must rise to meet new societal needs while still retaining enough of our 4-H essence to remain recognizable."

—Christina DiCenzo '18, 4-H program coordinator

et's play a word association game. I say "4-H" and you say, "Cows? Farms?" When the 4-H program began in 1902, much of it did indeed have to do with cows and farms. The 4-H program democratizes academia: liberating knowledge from the ivory tower and delivering it into the hands of the community. The ruralized population of Rhode Island demanded knowledge of agricultural technology and home economics. 4-H-educated young people learned about things like baking, milking, planting, sewing, and other critical skills of the period.

In 2019, I arrived for my 4-H job interview in a black dress and heels only to discover our offices were housed on a working livestock farm. I stuck around because, despite the manure, 4-H is fundamentally about youth development, not agricultural training. Youth development means something different today than in 1902. In 2022, only 18% of Rhode Island's population lives in a rural community. Most children in our state are not raised to pursue careers in agriculture, nor do they grow crops or raise livestock.

Although 4-H's roots are deeply embedded in agriculture, a changing demographic has challenged 4-H to branch into new areas such as STEM fields (science, technology, engineering, math), fine art, and communications. In some states, there are staff listings as niche as "4-H wetlands specialist." In short, this isn't your grandmother's 4-H program.

Still, agricultural education remains a valuable and pertinent subject for many Rhode Islanders. Generations of families turn to 4-H for our rich animal science programs. We must balance this more traditional need with the needs of urban communities. In any given month, I might plan both a horseback riding clinic and a teen science café.

This struggle to appeal to varied demographics is not unique to 4-H. Boy Scouts of America, with its historic ties to wilderness survival and public service, now offers badges for such activ-



4-H gives kids a chance to do hands-on projects in areas like health, science, agriculture, and civic engagement.

ities as "computer programming" to recruit members. Meeting children "where they're at," as we often say in 4-H, means that we must rise to meet new societal needs while still retaining enough of our 4-H essence to remain recognizable.

When it comes to individual 4-H educators, we all have past experiences and expectations that influence our perspectives. But if I refuse to suspend my perspective, how can I possibly meet kids where they're at? In this regard, 4-H has taught me reflexivity and humility. We are what the remarkable young people we work with need us to be. Or, if we are not, we learn to be. •

Christina DiCenzo '18 is 4-H program coordinator for URI's Cooperative Extension Rhode Island 4-H program. She graduated from URI with a degree in wildlife and conservation biology, completed a URI graduate certificate in science writing and rhetoric, and is currently enrolled in URI's master's in environmental science and management program, with a focus on environmental communication.

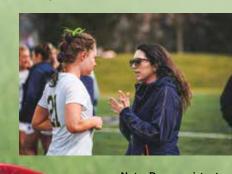


Women's Varsity Lacrosse Coming to URI

URI will welcome its newest varsity team, women's lacrosse, beginning in the 2025 season.

he URI Department of Athletics **1** announced in late 2021, just ahead of this year's 50th anniversary of Title IX, that it will add women's lacrosse as a varsity program. In July, Jenna Slowey was tapped as the program's first head coach.

Slowey comes to URI after spending the 2021–22 season as an assistant at Notre Dame, where she helped lead the Fighting Irish to an appearance in the NCAA Championship field. Before that, she spent five seasons as an assistant at Richmond, leading the Spiders to Atlantic 10 titles in 2018 and 2019, and a share of the regular-season title in 2021.



Notre Dame assistant coach Jenna Slowey (right) has been named the first head coach in Rhode Island women's

"As we build our program from the ground up, we wanted a leader with the ability to be patiently aggressive. Jenna Slowey fits the bill," Director of Athletics Thorr Bjorn says. "Jenna brings energy and enthusiasm, which will be required to start a new Division I varsity program. Jenna is highly respected in the women's lacrosse community, and she will work hard right away to recruit quality players who will enhance the URI Athletics culture while at the same time helping to grow the sport of women's lacrosse in Rhode Island."

Expected to begin competition in the Atlantic 10 during the 2024–25 season, women's lacrosse will become the 19th varsity team and 11th women's team at URI. It is the first varsity program to be added since women's rowing in 1996, the year that sport became NCAA-affiliated.

The decision to add women's lacrosse came after an internal feasibility study showed favorable economic impact along with Title IX compliance stability for the University.

"The opportunity to provide more opportunities for our student-athletes is exciting and significant for the overall growth of the University," Bjorn says. "Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 was a vital piece of law that has had a profound impact on our society.

We are proud to honor the 50th anniversary of Title IX by growing women's athletics at Rhode Island."

According to Title IX, "No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance."

While women's collegiate athletics is not specified in the language, it falls under the umbrella.

"It has been a tremendous pleasure to witness how dedicated our studentathletes are, not only to their sport and studies, but to the entire URI community," says University President Marc Parlange. "I look forward to welcoming women's lacrosse to the University. It is a growing sport on campuses across the country, and I am proud that we are adding this important program to our NCAA lineup."

URI currently offers women's varsity programs in basketball, cross country, rowing, soccer, softball, swimming and diving, tennis, indoor and outdoor track and field, and volleyball.

On the men's side, Rhode Island has baseball, basketball, cross country, football, golf, soccer, and indoor and outdoor track and field.

"With the addition of women's lacrosse, Rhode Island will be comfortably in compliance with all standards set forth by the NCAA and Title IX," says Bjorn. "As the profile of the University continues to shift, we had areas that needed to be addressed. With proper planning and the support of President Parlange, we worked to ensure we remain compliant moving forward through the creation of more opportunities for female student-athletes." •

-Shane Donaldson '99

= MEDIA SPOTLIGHT =

You Can Quote Me

On America's broken system of paying for nursing care and hospitals' failure to value nurses' impact on the quality of patient care:

66 Until nurses are not an expensive labor cost for hospitals but are seen as revenue generators and as vanguards of quality ... we're going to keep having this problem. 99

—Betty Rambur, URI professor of nursing and Routhier Chair for Practice

On Chernobyl under threat in Ukraine, and the concern for interruptions in power:

•• The reactors that are not operating still need cooling and depend on the electrical grid for running their cooling systems (pumps, control systems, valves). So grid connectivity is essential for cooling the reactors. 99

—Bahram Nassersharif, URI distinguished professor and nuclear engineering program director

The Irish Times

On the benefits of eating a plant-based diet:

66 The combination of fiber and phytochemicals from whole plant-based food sources that are nutrient dense and satiating have independent effects on things like cholesterol and blood pressure. 99

—Maya Vad<mark>iv</mark>eloo, URI assistant professor of nutrition and food sciences

On rogue black holes wandering the Milky Way, and their potential to wreak havoc in space, sucking up everything in their path:

⁶⁶They are not vacuum cleaners, otherwise we'd be in one. ⁹⁹

—Douglas Gobeille, URI teaching professor of physics

On the debate over whether President Lincoln suffered from smallpox as he delivered the Gettysburg Address:

66 It's important to remember that smallpox was incredibly frightening, because one out of three people [wasn't] going to survive. For Lincoln to have smallpox and then recover—it's such a precarious moment in our nation's history. 99

—Andrea Rusnock, URI professor of history

On plans by electric truck maker Rivian to build a manufacturing plant on an old farm in rural Georgia, and the unexpected pushback regarding the social and environmental impacts:

66 Climate change issues... affect the entire world, but the costs of addressing them have to be paid at the local level. 99 The clash over the Rivian plant 66 is a perfect example of that tradeoff. 99

—Emily Diamond, URI assistant professor of communication studies and marine affairs

The Christian Science Monitor

On the often-overlooked threat to supply chain problems from climate change:

Austin Becker, URI associate professor and chair of marine affairs

Slate.com



= MOMENTUM =

Research at the Forefront

URI researchers are working across disciplines to help find answers and solutions to benefit all of us.

STORM TEAM

What happens if a hurricane stalls right over Providence, resulting in floods caused by heavy, sustained rainfall? If the designated evacuation route floods, what then?

Thanks to URI researchers, emergency managers can see exactly what happens—and plan for it. Oceanography professors Isaac Ginis and Austin Becker, and Pam Rubinoff of the Coastal Resources Center, led a team that partnered with emergency managers across R.I., creating a tool to predict how flooding, hurricanes, storm surges, and sea-level rise will impact critical public infrastructure, such as generators, transformers, roads, and pump facilities.

The RI-CHAMP project—which has earned \$2.6 million in federal funding—features a digital dashboard that can overlay storm prediction models onto data points across Rhode Island that mark critical infrastructure locations.

Clara DeCerbo '18, director of the Providence Emergency Management Agency, says, "RI-CHAMP has done a really good job of including people from the practitioner realm, which makes the tool much more user-friendly and valuable."

WORKING KNOWLEDGE

"The production of any form of knowledge tends to be a political process. It is incumbent on scholars to be aware of our roles and responsibilities in this exercise to the extent that we can. We do this work because there is a desire to better understand our world and the human condition."

—Smita Ramnarain, URI associate professor of economics

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KALU, 29, 50

Ramnarain studies how gender-based assumptions in accepted economic theories limit our understanding of what is valuable and what sustains our lives and economies.





THE UNREMEMBERED

While researching the partition of British India, URI photography professor Annu Palakunnathu Matthew discovered the story of 2.5 million Indians who fought in World War II. The research led to a commission from the Kochi-Muziris Biennale, the biggest art festival in Asia, held in Kerala, India. A more recent installation at the Newport (R.I.) Art Museum highlighted the same theme.

Matthew believes art can help broaden people's knowledge of history. "People will rarely take out a history book and read it," she says. "Art can be a way to make history more accessible."

On a Fulbright-funded trip to India, Matthew collected photos and stories from families whose relatives served in WWII. For her Newport show, she created crystal cubes etched with the photos. The installation also included audio to connect the viewer with the personal stories of the soldiers.

"We are at a moment where memorials and histories are being reevaluated and reconsidered in significant ways," says Matthew. "Art can play a crucial role in shaping remembrance."



HELPING STUDENTS BECOME SCIENTISTS

Students in URI's MARC U*STAR program receive scholarships, faculty mentors, and academic and preprofessional support, including guidance on applying for Ph.D. and M.D./Ph.D. programs. The National Institutes of Health-funded program aims to increase diversity in biomedical fields by supporting students from underrepresented backgrounds.

Niall Howlett, professor of cell and molecular biology and principal investigator of MARC U*STAR, says, "By helping to create a community of student scholars with a strong sense of belonging in biomedical research, the program is promoting a sustainable and inclusive culture of undergraduate research excellence at URI."



EAST FARM: URI'S LIVING LABORATORY

For 94 years, URI's 85-acre East Farm, a mile from the Kingston Campus, has housed research ranging from plant science and entomology to fisheries and poultry science.

URI professor of plant sciences and entomology Steven Alm, who conducts honeybee research on the farm, calls it a hidden gem. "We can conduct field experiments here," he says. "Things you can't do in a 20-by-20-foot lab."

In the 1990s, URI's Master Gardener program, which trains people in environmentally sound gardening practices, took up residence at the farm. Today, Master Gardeners volunteer on grounds maintenance.

Dean of the College of the Environment and Life Sciences John Kirby says the farm has room to grow. He would like to see it used for interdisciplinary research that goes beyond traditional agriculture.

HOW DOES EXPOSURE TO MICROPLASTICS AFFECT BRAIN HEALTH?

There's lots of research on how microplastics affect oceans and marine life, but Jaime Ross noticed there wasn't much on how microplastics affect human health. The assistant professor of biomedical and pharmaceutical sciences, who also holds an appointment at URI's George and Anne Ryan Institute for Neurosciences, seeks to close this gap.

A series of pilot studies assessing the behavior of mice after acute microplastics exposure hint at startling results: striking changes in behavior and movement.

Ross and her team are seeking funding to expand and continue their research to answer questions about how microplastics interact with the body and how environmental and genetic factors impact the results of exposure.



Assistant Professor Jaime Ross (left) with undergraduate students Danielle Burge and Kristen Harder

For more on URI research, check out Momentum: Research & Innovation, the magazine of URI's Division of Research and Economic Development, at uri.edu/research/momentum



hen then-Governor Donald Carcieri announced in **V** 2007 that Rhode Island was going to host the nation's first offshore wind farm, he turned to the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC)—the state's regulatory agency for coastal issues—to develop the necessary policies, plans, and regulations to make it happen. And, as the council had done for nearly 40 years, it turned to the University of Rhode Island's Coastal Resources Center (CRC) for assistance.

Over the next two years, CRC staff created what they called an Ocean Special Area Management Plan (Ocean SAMP), the nation's first effort to develop a zoning plan for offshore wind in a marine region. The complex initiative included research by URI scientists into such diverse topics as marine geology, bird and whale migration, fish spawning, commercial and recreational fishing, shipping, cultural heritage, and tourism to identify the best location for a wind farm and a site that would create the least conflict with other user groups.

"It was a comprehensive look at our ocean and coastal resources and an enforceable plan to ensure that the way we develop that area of the water is balanced and considers the implications for the people of Rhode Island," says Jennifer McCann, M.M.A '94, the director of U.S. Coastal Programs for the Coastal Resources Center. "While it was driven by the governor's desire to see offshore renewable energy off our coast, it wasn't just about wind farms. We were able to increase the protection of various areas of our coast for economic development, for cultural reasons, and for environmental reasons that had nothing to do with offshore wind."

That's one reason the CRC has earned such respect and been so successful in the projects it has undertaken through the years. It has approached every coastal issue as a neutral observer, without preconceived notions, and with the needs of all stakeholders in mind. As a result, stakeholders buy into the process and are more likely to support the resulting decisions, even if they don't get everything they want in the end.

"When the wind farm developers went to get their final permit, the environmentalists and the commercial fishermen and the Narragansett Tribe were all standing shoulder-to-shoulder saying, 'We support this as long as you follow the Ocean SAMP," McCann says. "We had built this constituency that understood each other and supported each other, even though they came from different places. It's a great example of the way we do things."

The Coastal Resources Center has been advising governments and partner organizations on coastal issues—from aquaculture and coastal development to marine biodiversity and climate adaptation—for 50 years. Through it all, its 25-member URI-based team and numerous partners have used science and an inclusive participatory process to guide Rhode Islanders and people from around the world to find solutions to coastal challenges. As the organization looks back and celebrates its first half-century of achievements, it continues to confront emerging issues facing coastal zones and the people who live there.

CRC developed the zoning plan for the nation's first offshore wind farm, situated near Block Island, which launched in 2016.

"Coastal management is a placebased enterprise, and that place can be big or small. Increasingly it's the planet as a whole."

—Stephen Olsen, M.S. '70, former CRC director





Above, Pam Rubinoff, M.M.A. '90, a coastal resilience specialist for CRC, planting buffer vegetation on Narragansett Bay to help prevent soil erosion. At left (left to right), Donald Robadue, M.C.P. '76; Stephen Olsen, M.S. '70; George Seavey; and Virginia Lee, M.S. '79. All four were part of the early CRC staff, who Robadue describes as "renegade radical rabble-rousers charged with doing science and policy analysis hand in hand with the users who needed it."

oon after the Rhode Island General Assembly established the R.I. CRMC in 1971—without staff and with a limited budget—the Rhode Island Board of Regents approved the creation of the Coastal Resources Center at URI to provide the council "with the information it needs to do its job." According to Donald Robadue, M.C.P. '76, CRC's longest-serving staff member and its unofficial volunteer historian, the CRC's initial focus was gathering information and writing reports about coastal zone science, which could be used to educate the government appointees who served on the council.

Robadue describes the early CRC staffers as "a bunch of renegade radical rabblerousers charged with doing science and policy analysis hand in hand with the users who needed it." He adds, "We were probably the only university-funded group that raised money and did active policy work as if we were consultants to a very powerful agency."

Stephen Olsen, M.S. '70, was one of those early rabble-rousers, and served as CRC's director from 1975 to 2012. He says the organization soon evolved into a place that understood how to identify the issues that people care about. "Coastal management is a place-based enterprise, and that place can be big or small. Increasingly it's the planet as a whole," Olsen says. "You're there to work on issues that matter and to do that in a way that involves the stakeholders—not because you love stakeholders, but because you have to build a constituency and win their trust."

That process of addressing challenging issues by building constituencies and winning trust was created by Olsen, Robadue, Virginia Lee, M.S. '79, and other early staff members. It came to be called "the orders of outcome," and it's the same process CRC staff members follow today.

"It's a process where you really need to establish enabling conditions in order to

build the foundation of an effective, integrated coastal resources management effort," says McCann. "You need clear goals, a strong commitment from different levels of government and resource users, the capacity to implement it, and a constituency to advocate for it. It's a process that allows us to say, 'We need to establish these enabling conditions before we can see change, before behaviors change, and before we see environmental, economic, and other social changes."

The process has been used by CRC to address development of fragile barrier beaches, dredging and dredge spoil disposal, sustainable port operations, changing fisheries, management of the state's salt ponds, and more. But it was the success of the Ocean SAMP and the speed with which the nation's first offshore wind farm was approved that found McCann and her colleagues—Pam Rubinoff, M.M.A. '90, and Teresa Crean—in great demand. Agencies around the country

and around the world sought them out for training to learn from their experience.

Yet the staff was also already moving on to other issues. In another partnership with the CRMC, they developed a Beach SAMP—a special area management plan for the Rhode Island coastline to help communities prepare for the impacts of rising sea levels and increasingly severe storms. The project led to changes in state policy and a mapping portal that allows residents to better understand their coastal risks. Another special area management plan is being developed to synthesize the science and develop practical state policies to guide the state's use and management of Narragansett Bay resources.

One outgrowth of the Beach SAMP is the Providence Resilience Partnership, which mobilizes city business and civic leaders to advocate for infrastructure improvements in response to the growing threats from climate change. One of the leaders of the partnership is Curt Spalding, who has engaged with CRC for 30 years as director of Save the Bay, administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Region 1, and now as a professor at Brown University.

"CRC has been a partner and asset through all of this time to move forward the issues I've been working on," he says. "They obviously have a deep understanding of the environmental issues the coast and state are facing, and they're very strategic. They have a clear idea of what needs to be done, and they bring a pragmatic ability to adapt to the circumstances of the challenge, which I think sets them apart. They know how to get things done in Rhode Island, and that's not easy."

One of CRC's most recent efforts has been to evaluate the size and scope of Rhode Island's blue economy—industries closely connected to and dependent on the state's coasts and ocean—and to identify strategies to nurture and grow this important sector.

> Fishing canoes on the beach in Cape Coast, Ghana, where the CRC led a sustainable fisheries management project funded by a \$26 million USAID cooperative agreement.



"It's about figuring out the right amount that can be fished while still sustaining a robust ecosystem.

—Elin Torell, director, URI Coastal Institute and CRC International Programs



A demonstration for sustainable fisheries management in Komenda township, Ghana. Women are important in Ghana's fisheries, and CRC helped give them a voice in management and decision-making.

The influence of the Coastal Resources Center extends beyond Rhode Island. Its reach is felt across the country through its work with groups like the Northeast Regional Ocean Council, National Sea Grant College Program affiliates, and the National Park Service. However, the CRC may be best known for its international work in developing nations, where it has collaborated with governments in Africa, South America, Southeast Asia, and elsewhere since 1985. That's when officials from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) approached Olsen to advise other governments on coastal management.

"Internationally, the issues are about the same as in the U.S., but the speed at which things are changing in many places in the tropics is much, much faster," says Olsen. "The changes that happened in Narragansett Bay over a century and a half occurred in about 20 years in the Gulf of Thailand.

"The huge difference is that in other countries, government is much less powerful and established, so it was really the marketplace and the public that was determining the evolution of change in a given place," he adds. "We realized that we had to build capacity and promote a learning-by-doing process where we would work at relatively small scales. And it had extraordinary success."

With funding from USAID, CRC initially launched 10-year projects in Ecuador, Sri Lanka, and Thailand, then moved on to Tanzania, Mexico, and Indonesia. Olsen is particularly proud of CRC's work in Ecuador, where uncontrolled shrimp

farming was transforming the coastline and residents were being driven out—and occasionally shot.

"We managed to get the president of the country to adopt a coastal management plan, and it really became a social governance project, which many onlookers said couldn't be done," he says. "For me personally, it was a huge affirmation that what we had learned in Rhode Island about the struggles between conservation and development could indeed play out in a very different place."

In more recent years, USAID has funded CRC with \$26 million for a sustainable fisheries management project in Ghana that began in 2014 and \$25 million in 2018 for a similar project in the Philippines. At the time, these were the largest grants ever awarded to URI.

According to Brian Crawford, M.M.A. '86, Ph.D. '09, who led the Ghana project and recently retired after working at CRC for 34 years, the goal was to rebuild Ghana's marine fish stocks, which were collapsing due to overfishing. It was a food security issue, since the fish involved mostly anchovies, sardines, and mackerel—are almost all consumed locally.

Working closely with the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development and the Ghana Fisheries Commission, Crawford and his team succeeded in developing three community-based fisheries management plans, worked with fish processing groups to develop a healthier and more efficient fish smoker design—and a supply chain for building them—and ensured that the fishers had a

voice in management decisions. They even piloted a social safety net system to support vulnerable fishing families during the COVID pandemic that can also be applied in the future if closed fisheries result in significant loss of income.

"We made a lot of progress in getting the government to be more open to involving fisherfolk in the management of the fishery," Crawford says. "That was a major step forward, as demonstrated by the closure in 2019, when there was near-perfect compliance by fisherfolk. Prior to that, every time the government put a regulation in place, there was virtually no compliance because it was imposed from the top down. Rather than pointing fingers, now they're cooperating and working together toward more sustainable practices."

In the Philippines, CRC has established a Fish Right Program to help the government there implement a system of fishery management areas to boost the biomass of the fish harvested. "It's about figuring out the right amount that can be fished while still sustaining a robust ecosystem," says Elin Torell, director of URI's Coastal Institute and CRC's international programs. "It's also about how to control the harvest by using closed seasons, marine protected areas, or other measures, like the quotas used in the U.S."

Additional projects are currently underway in Malawi, Madagascar, Senegal, Nigeria, Kenya, Bangladesh, Cambodia, and elsewhere. In 2021, CRC was awarded \$15 million from USAID to help communities in several Pacific Island countries develop sustainable fisheries.

rorell says all of CRC's international projects focus on empowering women in the community. In Ghana, women play an important role in the fisheries through boat ownership, post-harvest processing, and other ways—but they were seldom allowed to participate in discussions about the fisheries. Now they can, thanks to membership on management committees and leadership training that helps them feel comfortable speaking out. Similarly, in the Philippines, where women collect oysters and mussels in intertidal zones, CRC helped to establish harvesting areas managed by women and provided economic training and tools to make their businesses more successful.

"CRC has become a global leader in women's empowerment in the fisheries sector," Torell says. "We look at women's economic empowerment and decision-making: How and when do they engage? What are the barriers to their engagement? We're making great strides in supporting their role in the fisheries, which is good for the whole community."

Another vital element in all of CRC's international projects is building the human capacity to ensure that project momentum can be sustained after CRC departs the region. In many places, training is offered—either in country or at URI—in fisheries management, climate change and coastal adaptation, and related topics, and many governments continue to request such training. Participants usually come from partner agencies and local universities.

Capacity building also often includes awarding scholarships to allow staff members from partner organizations to earn graduate degrees at URI in disciplines of critical need for their countries so they can bring what they learn back home and apply it in their future work.

"Ultimately, that's going to be what's most lasting and affects sustainability," Crawford says. "The proof in the pudding is what happens when a project ends. Does it carry on?"

Justice Mensah, M.S. '13, was a teaching assistant at the University of Cape

Coast in Ghana during the early stages of CRC's work in that country, and he was selected for a scholarship to enroll at URI to continue his interest in geographic information systems (GIS), which he had been applying to CRC's fisheries management project. Since completing his degree, he has been a GIS and remote sensing expert working on fisheries management for a local nonprofit group, Hen Mpoano (Our Coast).

"CRC literally held my hand, ushered me into my career, and continued to give me opportunities to grow and explore more territories within my career pathway," he says. "Over the past decade, the interventions of CRC in Ghana have impacted the lives of hundreds, changed some wrong attitudes and behaviors in fisheries, built capacities of individuals and institutions, empowered vulnerable and marginalized people, and made very important contributions to national policies on fisheries. CRC will always be remembered for laying the foundation for sustainable fisheries management in Ghana."

Ronnie Romero, M.M.A. '21, is making sure that CRC's work carries on in the Philippines. A research assistant at the Philippines National Fisheries Research and Development Institute (NFRDI) when he was awarded a scholarship to URI, his thesis examined his country's new ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management policies that were introduced through CRC's Fish Right Program. He says that the Philippines' new model of fisheries management is making fisheries more sustainable and gives the fishing community more of a voice in its management.

"I have been deeply involved in crafting fishery policies, and my master's degree has provided me with the tools for crafting holistic policies," says Romero, now a senior science research specialist at NFRDI. "I came to URI because I believe that its interdisciplinary approach best suits me toward improving the performance of my duties and functions as a member of my institute's policy-making working group."



"Solutions
require bringing people
together and
understanding
the problems
and then,
together,
coming up
with a solution
for that place
and time.

—J.P. Walsh, director, Coastal Resources Center

Left, fishers haul in nets at a marine sanctuary in the Visayan Sea in Cadiz, Philippines, where the CRC led the \$25 million USAID-funded Fish Right Program to help the government implement a fisheries management system. Below, women sorting and drying fish in the Philippines.

uilding human and institutional capacity to continue the work of the Coastal Resources Center is a crucial element of its success. The trainees and graduate students and hundreds of others who have worked closely in dozens of different projects, both locally and abroad, continue to carry the CRC message into all that they do.

"That network is strong, and we stay in touch with them," he says. "They're now major players in the middle management and senior management of the coastal and fisheries sectors of major governments around the world. They are an institutional force for change."

The CRC staff, many of whom have earned at least one degree from URI, are a force to be reckoned with as well.

"The success of the Coastal Resources Center is mostly about the people we have and the approach they take," says J.P. Walsh, CRC's director since 2018. "Solutions require bringing people together and understanding the problems and



then, together, coming up with a solution for that place and time. We guide that process and help with science understanding so they can see what solutions may work, and we help them in the decision-making process. We hold their hand along the way so they can see the science and see the problem and see the solution. And it works."

"We're committed to our cause, we're passionate about what we do, we have great technical expertise, and we want to continue to learn," adds McCann. "We don't just rest on our laurels. We know we have to learn and do better, and we love to partner. We love working at CRC because we feel like we're making this world a better place." •

Justice Mensah, M.S. '13 (top), worked with CRC in Ghana and was selected for a scholarship to enroll at URI. He returned to Ghana where he works in fisheries management as a GIS and remote sensing expert. Like Mensah, Ronnie Romero, M.M.A. '21 (bottom), worked with CRC, was awarded a scholarship to URI, and returned to his home country to work in fisheries management. Romero, from the Philippines, is a senior science research specialist who develops holistic fishery policies.

T USAID



Thinking Blue

The ocean has always been important to Rhode Islanders. With a new focus on the **blue economy**, URI is working to help the Ocean State take even better advantage of its opportunities.

GRIMALDI LINES

By Michael Blanding

blue economy

noun

blue econ∙o·my | \'blü, i-'kä-n'-mē\

Definition of blue economy

: local and global businesses and economic sectors that rely on use of or proximity to oceans and coastal areas especially those concerned with employing sustainable use of ocean resources and minimizing impact on ocean environments and habitats.

A bird s-eye view of the Port of Davisville at Quonset Point. The port is one of the top 10 auto import locations in North America. As the state's only public port, the Port of Davisville supports 1,700 jobs. The port is also a growing site supporting offshore wind construction staging and maintenance operations. URI alumnus Steven J. King '88 is the managing director of the Quonset Development Corporation, where he handles port operations and real estate transactions, as well as planning, engineering, design, and construction of infrastructure improvements.

THE OCEAN has always served as a pleasant backdrop to images of Rhode Island, appearing in postcards and tourist brochures as an omnipresent blue entity. Beyond its merely aesthetic role, however, the ocean plays a crucial role as the lifeblood of the state's economy. Rhode Island has more than 400 miles of coastline, curling around bays, inlets, and estuaries that reach deep into the Ocean State's interior and lend themselves to a wide range of industries. Between 6 and 9 percent of Rhode Islanders work directly within the so-called blue economy—dwarfing the 3 percent who make their living by the sea in Massachusetts, Texas, and California—and bringing some \$5 billion into the state's economy.

But even that number belies just how connected state residents are to the ocean. "It's an economic number, but it's so much bigger than that," says Jennifer McCann, director of U.S. Coastal Programs at URI's Coastal Resources Center (CRC). "It's who we are—it's what makes Rhode Island, and it's what makes Rhode Islanders." In March 2020, she coauthored a report on The Value of Rhode Island's Blue Economy. "Our history is rooted in the blue economy, from the Narragansett people who have long lived on our coastlines, to the water that powered the Industrial Revolution, to the geological features of our bay that have made it an ideal location for the defense industry," McCann says. The dominance of the ocean has only gotten stronger over the years, as the state has prospered by commercial fishing, shipping, and ocean-focused tourism, as well as burgeoning industries such as aquaculture and offshore wind.

The University of Rhode Island has played a key role in developing the blue economy, with the location of the University's main campus in Kingston—just 5 miles from the shore—both an advantage for research endeavors and a selling point for students. "The number one reason many students come to URI is the attraction of the ocean and the many aspects of marine sciences and policy they can study here," says URI President Marc Parlange, who cites his interest in climate, hurricanes, and wind engineering as part of what drew him here. "The ocean infuses every aspect of the University." For example, he points to the fact that URI was the first university in the U.S. to establish graduate programs in ocean engineering and adds, "We offer a unique range of ocean-focused courses and programs—



from Literature of the Sea to underwater archaeology; from marine affairs to environmental and resource economics, and more."

Even closer to the sea than the Kingston Campus, the Bay Campus in Narragansett is home to URI's acclaimed Graduate School of Oceanography and the University's Department of Ocean Engineering, as well as the CRC, established more than 50 years ago at the request of the state to assist in planning and developing Rhode Island's many overlapping coastal industries. More recently, URI has partnered with the University of Connecticut to form the National Institute for Undersea Vehicle Technology, consolidating the University's many defense-related research projects, and partnering with the U.S. Navy and local defense contractors to help design next-generation submarine and robotic technology.

Parlange hopes to lead the University into a new era, one focused on further developing the blue economy. He aims for the Bay Campus to become a hub of innovation, where students

will work closely with startup companies to create new technologies for ocean-related industries. He wants to grow URI's graduate programs, making URI the destination for interna-

tional and for both in- and out-of-state students to study ocean-related subjects. As a first step to that, URI budgeted an extra \$1.5 million last year for its Ph.D. programs, with the intention of attracting new students in many areas, including environmental economics, coastal ecology, oceanography, engineering, humanities, and business. "These are students who

"Our history is rooted in the blue economy, from the Narragansett people who have long lived on our coastlines, to the water that powered the Industrial Revolution, to the geological features of our bay that have made it an ideal location for the defense industry."

—Jen McCann, director, U.S. Coastal Programs, URI Coastal Resources Center

At the landing in Ninigret Pond, Charlestown, R.I., Rob Krause of Ninigret Oysters puts ice over his harvest in preparation for pickup and distribution. Aquaculture is one of Rhode Island's fastest growing sectors, with 76 farms and 319 acres, as of 2018. This low-impact green industry farms oysters, mussels, and seaweed that clean the water column (one oyster filters 50 gallons of water per day).

could have gone anywhere and chose to come here because of the outstanding interdisciplinary cohort of faculty, staff, and students we are building," he says.

30 FALL 2022 PHOTO: AYLA FOX UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND MAGAZINE 31



Aboard URI's R/V Cap'n Bert, former fish trawl assistant Joe Zottoli, M.S. '18 (left), and Captain Steve Barber haul nets during a fish trawl. **URI's Graduate School of** Oceanography has performed fish trawl surveys since 1959. The state-funded surveys of the bottom fish and invertebrate community in Narraganset Bay help keep tabs on fish populations to ensure sustainable fisheries, thereby supporting the long-term viabilty of Rhode Island's blue economy. The R/V Endeavor is visible on the horizon.

Parlange notes that only 1,000 of URI's 18,000 students regularly get out onto the water as a formal part of their studies. "I'd like to see all of our students and faculty get out onto the water, not just recreationally—sailing, swimming, kayaking, surfing—but also academically—doing hands-on ocean research, writing about the ocean, etc., on a regular basis," he says.

"URI can be the economic driver for the blue economy in the state and the region."

—Marc Parlange, president, University of Rhode Island

While URI is not the only university focused on ocean-based research—other prominent institutions include the University of Washington, the University of California–San Diego, the University of Miami, and Oregon State—Parlange aims to strengthen URI's position as the premier center for blue economy research

in the Northeast. Recently, URI received a \$500,000 Build Back Better phase one planning grant from the federal government to plan and develop eight separate projects with nearly 125 partners to help grow the state's blue economy. The projects include expanding an advanced array of sensors in Narragansett Bay, which are linked to computational models providing up-

to-the-minute data on ocean conditions for a wide range of industries.

The CRC, with sister program Rhode Island Sea Grant, works closely with partners, such as the Coastal Resources Management Council, to

plan and enhance the ocean-based economy; a chief goal is fostering sustainable development while preserving natural resources and traditional coastal and ocean uses. The CRC has consulted on coastal resilience issues such as responding to the threat of sea-level rise and stronger hurricanes due to climate change.

It has also been instrumental in training students for the state's resurgent aquaculture industry in oyster, scallop, and even kelp farming. And it provided crucial science to help site turbines for the country's first commercial wind farm off the coast of Block Island—a vital test case for the estimated 2,000 wind turbines that will appear along the Atlantic coast in the coming decade. "All of these industries are gobbling up our graduates because they recognize that URI is creating a workforce that is effective," McCann says.

In all these endeavors, McCann says, URI can serve as an "honest broker" to help balance competing uses of the coast—and mediate the sometimes-contentious turf wars that break out between the fishing industry, pleasure boaters, oyster farmers, conservationists, and marine shipping and coastal energy companies. "The University of Rhode Island is a trusted entity. We can listen to all sides and bring the best science and management practices to the discussion," she says. "We can make sure that the science being done is understood by decision-makers and hopefully integrated into decisions that are made."

Through the CRC and other university initiatives, URI also plays an important role in advancing the blue economy beyond the Rhode Island coastline. The CRC is widely recognized for its international work in helping the governments of developing nations build and manage sustainable fisheries. The center's work has included projects in Ghana and the Philippines, and most recently a group of Pacific Island nations. The University's global blue economy work is important, and, through it, URI is expanding its global impact.

But when it comes to the blue economy, Parlange sees URI's work right here in Rhode Island as critical. "URI can be the economic driver for the blue economy in the state and the region; an entrepreneurial hub that will attract industry, government, and nonprofits to Rhode Island to work with our students and faculty."

In the coming years, the ocean is bound to become even more important as a source of both food and energy for Rhode Island and the world—and as a threat to be managed as climate change continues unabated. With a focus on the blue economy, URI will continue to provide guidance for ocean-related opportunities and challenges in the future. "As we plan and develop this huge coastal and ocean infrastructure, we need to do it in a way that ensures all Rhode Islanders have access," says McCann, "so we're building strong passionate stewards for our coasts and oceans." •

Sectors of the Blue Economy

Primary Sectors of the Blue Economy

- Ocean defense
- Marine trades
- Tourism and recreation
- Fisheries
- Aquaculture
- Ports and shipping
- Offshore renewable energy

Secondary Sectors of the Blue Economy

- Higher education and research institutions
- Marine-focused advocacy and civic groups
- Government agencies that help build the blue economy workforce, invest in sustainable growth and innovation, and plan for the protection of coasts and ocean



32 FALL 2022 PHOTO: CATRINA NOWAKOWSKI ILLUSTRATION: CYNTHIA MCMILLEN UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND MAGAZINE 33

She Can Tell You



How to Get to Sesame Street

As a child, Sara Sweetman, Ph.D. '13, associate professor of elementary education, loved Sesame Street. Little did she know that her career would lead her right to that magical place, by way of URI.

By Dave Lavallee '79, M.P.A. '87



ITTING IN FRONT OF THE TELEVISION AS A little girl, watching Sesame Street, Sara Sweetman absorbed this lesson early: Learning can be fun, and you can make friends while doing it.

"I loved the Count, and I really felt like the short segments fit my personality," says the University of Rhode Island associate professor of education. "Since I was a kid, I have felt like Grover was a friend who was relatable because he didn't always get things right. But he always

Her connection to Grover probably helped her rally years later as a teacher in Bristol, R.I., when an activity went a bit wrong.

She decided to use onions to help her pre-kindergarten students physically grasp the shape of the letter O. She had the children cut the onions in two, paint the round portions, and use the painted sides like a stamp.

"But the onions caused them to cry and wipe their eyes with their paint-covered hands," recalls Sweetman. "Then, the fire alarm rang for a fire drill, and there I was, standing outside with my students, their faces covered in paint and tears."

Sweetman has carried that Sesame Street lesson—that learning can and should be fun—to her work as a classroom teacher, URI professor, and as a consultant to PBS children's television and the national Ready to Learn Initiative.

"This idea was solidified by my fourth-grade teacher who made learning joyful," Sweetman says. "She smiled from the beginning of the day to the end, modeling that joyful learning approach. I decided as I began my career to create that type of learning space."



Sweetman's path to URI, and eventually to PBS, began when, as a public-school teacher in Jamestown, R.I., she participated in a URI program called Guiding Education in Math and Science Network (GEMS-NET), which gives Rhode Island teachers opportunities to learn innovative science and math teaching methods, along with integrating such work with writing and literacy. Initially funded by the National Science Foundation, GEMS-NET is now supported by 13 participating public-school districts in Rhode Island.



Since I was a kid, I have felt like Grover was a friend who was relatable because he didn't always get things right. But he always rolled h



In 2007, Sweetman was named GEMS-NET's teacher-in-residence, and in 2010 she became the program's director, carrying out the leadership position even as she completed her Ph.D. in education at URI. She still serves in that role today.

GEMS-NET founder and URI professor of education emerita Betty Young was pleased when Sweetman, her former doctoral student, was hired to take over.

"Sara has a contagious enthusiasm for STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) and implementing instructional practices that engage learners to love science and math," Young says. "She creates, she teaches, she leads."

Seeing Sweetman during GEMS-NET training sessions with Rhode Island teachers, one gets a sense of the girl who was inspired by her fourth-grade teacher and by Grover. She moves among groups of elementary- and middle-school teachers with a smile and laughter, helping them learn how to teach their young students about drag and inertia by constructing parachutes. Workshops like this have become foundations for innovative teaching in classrooms around the state.



Sweetman's work with PBS began in 2011 when a friend who works at *Sesame Street* connected her to the

show's director of education, who asked Sweetman to come to New York to discuss STEM education. She even starred in some *Sesame Street* episodes.

During the taping of four *Sesame Street* shows in 2011, one of which occurred in 90-degree heat in New York's Central Park, she was inspired by the pluck and good nature of the children who appeared with her in the shows along with Murray the Muppet and Oscar the Grouch.

"I remember the dedication of the *Sesame Street* actors working under the Muppet costumes in that heat and still taking time on their breaks to talk with children walking by in the park," Sweetman said. "I also remember the natural abilities of the children to eagerly engage in the science. They didn't need to memorize lines because the science was fun and real for them."

That first visit to *Sesame Street* launched a string of consulting and research work for PBS shows. In addition to *Sesame Street*, Sweetman has worked extensively on PBS shows and accompanying digital learning materials for *The Cat in the Hat Knows a Lot of About That!* and the network's newest effort, *Elinor Wonders Why*.

Along with six fellow researchers from URI, she conducted an eight-week study of Rhode Island preschool students to determine whether watching *The Cat in the Hat Knows a Lot About That!* and using its companion digital teaching and learning materials helped them develop a better understanding of science and of who scientists are. The results of multiple

analyses showed that the free and accessible media had a positive effect on children, regardless of gender, socioeconomic status, or whether they received special education services.

"Media often portrays unrealistic views of science and engineering, as well as who is included in the work," Sweetman says. "Media like *The Cat in the Hat Knows a Lot About That!*, that is intentionally designed to be inclusive of people and places and that shows authentic science and engineering practices, has the potential to start all kids on a path toward building a more diverse and innovative future."



Lawrence Mirkin, producer of *The Cat in the Hat Knows a Lot About That!* for Portfolio Entertainment and owner of Mirkin Creative Inc. of Toronto, praises Sweetman's work, calling her "the fabulous Sara Sweetman."

"She understands young kids and their development stages," says Mirkin. "She knows science. And she understands story and entertainment. She is as funny as she is smart—and compassionate. I want her involved in every project I do for kids, and I envy her students who get to spend even more time with her than I do."

PBS sought out Sweetman again to review proposals for new children's programming that eventually led to one of its more recent hits, *Elinor Wonders Why*, and the show's accompanying digital learning media and curriculum.

Sweetman worked with the show's creator, Jorge Cham, who holds a Ph.D. in robotics from Stanford University, and Daniel Whiteson, who holds a Ph.D. in physics from the University of California, Berkeley. With them, she developed scripts, educational games, and a wide range of free teaching and learning resources.

"Sara was an invaluable member of our team," says Whiteson. "She always had her finger on what aspect of a concept would be tricky for viewers to understand, and ideas for how to break it down, make it digestible, and keep it fun."

Cham adds, "Sara is a joy to work with. Her vision for how to depict the process of science and asking questions to little kids really matched what we were trying to do with the show."



Before designing the curriculum for Elinor, Sweetman and her team worked with educators at URI's Child Development Centers in Kingston and Providence and Rhode Island PBS, as well as Rhode Island teachers and home childcare providers, to develop and test the plans.

Elinor, an animated rabbit, and her friends, Ari, a bat, and Olive, an elephant, celebrate 4- to 5-year-olds' ability to ask questions and make careful observations of the natural world.

"The Cat in the Hat Knows a Lot About That! focuses on physics, while Elinor Wonders Why focuses on the natural

world," Sweetman said. "The Cat focuses on experimental and engineering design and Elinor focuses on asking questions and making observations as she encounters the outdoors."

Sweetman has become so adept at teaching and developing science content that people she works with sometimes assume that she is a scientist.

"I often am introduced as a scientist, but I have to correct that," Sweetman says. "You never learn as much as you do when you have to teach the material. In my work with GEMS-NET, I am continually excited to work with URI scientists and am inspired by the classroom teachers in the GEMS-NET program. They always bring something new to our workshops, a new way

Sweetman adds, "You also learn that even scientists don't know everything, so they are excellent role models for all of us to continue learning."



And what keeps Sweetman going as a full-time professor, director of GEMS-NET, and consultant and researcher for PBS and its Ready to Learn Initiative?

"I so enjoy the curiosity and perspectives of preschoolers and elementary schoolchildren and the way they observe and ask questions," Sweetman says. "Also, with every new TV show I work on, come different experiences and missions." •

Even scientists don't know everything, so they are excellent role models for all of us to continue learning.





HOW TO BUILD A BUDDING SCIENTIST

Got a curious kid in your life? URI associate professor of education and PBS consultant Sara Sweetman, Ph.D. '13, offers these tips to help parents, quardians, grandparents, and older siblings encourage youngsters to think and explore like a scientist.

Scientists have fun!

Show kids that scientists are not always solitary and serious. They are regular people who can be fun, creative, disorganized, and hardworking. And they get to do some exciting and fun things.

Ouestion and observe

Ask kids questions that will get them thinking. Simple questions, like: What do you notice about that tall tree? Why do you think the slide at the playground is so hot today? How do you think that weed grew through the crack in the sidewalk? Get them to notice what's around them. You don't need to go to fancy museums or science centers to help them learn about science. It is all around you.

Allow exploration

Avoid always saying, "No." Obviously, you and your children need to be safe, but allowing them to touch and feel things and to get dirty helps them learn. Some kids put beach sand in their mouths, but did you know that some scientists put beach sand in their mouths to sense the size of the granules, the texture?

Be observant

When you see something interesting or unusual, ask kids if they saw it, too. Compare colors, shapes, patterns, and textures of objects. This can be a great way to learn about nature's connection to our engineered environment.

Find the answers together

It's not important that you have immediate answers to unusual or tough questions. You can say, "Let's check that out and find out about it together." The adventure can continue in a library or at home as you research and learn something new together.

Learn from mistakes

If your child makes a mistake, celebrate the learning that it can lead to. Forgot to water a plant and it withered? Find out why, together. Discoveries often come from mistakes.

Give them hope

Science is forcing us to face serious issues, like climate change, and that can make kids feel anxious. Try not to make them feel hopeless. Empower them by showing them ways they can help: turning off lights and running water or riding their bikes, instead of driving, to a friend's house. Expose them to stories about scientists who are developing solutions to the problem.

Lorén Spears '89, Hon. '17, director of the Tomaquag Museum, beside a large stone monolith outside the URI library. The monolith represents the only visible acknowledgement at URI of the Narragansett Nation. Completed in 1994, it is the work of Newport artist John Benson. 40 FALL 2022

A new multidisciplinary undergraduate course offers students opportunities to discover and preserve a more complete history of the land on which the Kingston Campus sits. From the land itself, to how buildings are named, to the changing experience of women on campus, the course will be shaped—as the University itself has been—by those who are a part of it.

By Marybeth Reilly-McGreen

t's a bone-cold December day, and the atmospheric pressure presages the snow predicted for mid-afternoon. Lorén Spears '89, Hon. '17, executive director of the Tomaquag Museum, arms folded under her shawl, stands for a portrait beside the 12-foot-high Westerly red granite monolith on the Robert L. Carothers Library and Learning Commons plaza. The monolith leaves her a little cold.

The monolith's text, phonetic spellings of Narragansett words taken from Roger Williams' *A Key into the Language of America*, reads "Nippenowantawem Nippenowantawem Mequanamiinnea Mequaunamiinnea." Translated, the phrase, which repeats, means, "I am of another language. Remember me." The call to "remember" the Narragansett people implies that the tribe no longer exists, Spears explains.

A new multidisciplinary course, URI Campus: A Walk Through Time, aims to correct such errors as it examines the history of the land on which the Kingston Campus sits.

Spears is frank and forthright in talking about how settler colonialism devastated the Narragansett Tribe and how that history relates to URI. The arrival of European colonists was cataclysmic for her ancestors. An initial offensive of war, enslavement, rape, and murder was followed by policymaking and legislation that left the Narragansett people much reduced in number and largely stripped of ancestral lands and power.



Above, the 140-acre Oliver Watson Farm was built around 1796 and purchased by local citizens in 1888 to be used as an agricultural experiment station and school. Watson House still stands, the oldest structure on URI's Kingston Campus, a visible reminder of the University's history. Organizers of A Walk Through Time aim to reveal a more complete history, including that of the Indigenous people upon whose ancestral land the University sits. Below, Catherine DeCesare, assistant professor of history and one of the course instructors, on the steps of Watson House.



The University of Rhode Island's Kingston Campus sits on Narragansett ancestral land. In light of that, Spears says, some have questioned why the Tomaquag Museum, which has plans to build a new facility on 18 acres of university land, would seek to collaborate with the University.

"My answer has always been that if you want people to broaden their perspectives or to hear or understand a broader Native perspective, you have to collaborate," Spears says. And those collaborations can be impressive in scale—such as the new museum, which will comprise four buildings and cost \$104 million—or in scope, such as this new course, which enlists undergraduates in research that will educate generations to come.

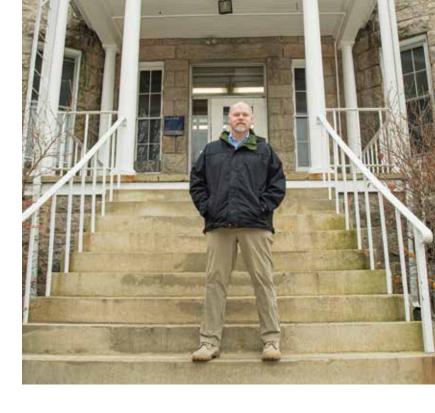
This is a complicated history

URI Campus: A Walk Through Time started as a walking tour in 2019. Organized by several academic departments in collaboration with the Tomaquag Museum, the tour was wellreceived, spurring Spears, along with Kristine Bovy, archaeologist and chair of URI's Department of Sociology and Anthropology; Rod Mather, historical archaeologist and then-chair of the Department of History; and Catherine DeCesare, historian and assistant professor of history, to co-create a one-credit, one-time online course in 2020. A course for alumni followed in 2021. Later that year, the organizers reconvened to deliver a URI Center for the Humanities lecture as part of the center's yearlong series, Memorials and Commemoration in the U.S. In spring 2022, undergraduates took a three-credit honors version of the course led by DeCesare.

Team-taught and interdisciplinary, A Walk Through Time is ambitious and mutable. Each semester, the focus of the course will change, depending on the interests and expertise of the principal professor teaching it. DeCesare's focus is women's history—specifically women's experiences at URI in the 1960s and '70s. The course's aim remains constant, though: to educate students about "the long and complicated history of the URI campus land, including ancestral Narragansett land use and effects of European colonization," according to its syllabus.

"The URI campus is a cultural landscape, a built environment representing our priorities, our prejudices, what we want to remember, and what we want to forget, too."

-Rod Mather, historical archaeologist



The course spans 5,000 years of history, moving from present to past as it juxtaposes URI's development with the history of the Narragansett people using a variety of resources: written documents, maps, artifacts, photography, oral histories, and law. The course provides a unique opportunity for undergraduate students to conceive and conduct original research through projects that will become source material for subsequent classes. Theory is, in effect, put into practice as students pursue projects requiring them to evaluate sources and evidence with the critical eye of anthropologists, historians, and archaeologists.

Spears is pleased with the progress thus far.

"When we did the first walk, the first thing I did was to speak in my language, to acknowledge the land that we're on, to open with what some people would deem a prayer or a blessing, and to ground us in this place," she says. "As people have become more aware of historical inequities and the voices missing from conversations around our history, there's been this move to include more voices. Working at Rhode Island's only Native-led museum opens the door for us to partner on these kinds of projects."

This is a global conversation

A Walk Through Time tethers history to material features of the campus. Green and Quinn halls recall the campus of the 1930s; the Quad, the last decade of the 19th century and first decade of the 20th century. The Watson House addresses 18th- and 19th-century Colonial farming; the Niles Burial Ground (aside the

south entrance to the Ryan Center) recalls the 17th century. Plains Road and its adjacent parking lots become the backdrop for thousands of years of Indigenous people's land use. "The focus of the walking tour was this relationship between the University, American traditions, Indigenous people, the land, the landscape's history, and ways of knowing," Mather says.

Mather expects that the archive the course generates will expand to include other historically underrepresented groups.

"Everything we've done so far has focused on this relationship between Euro-Americans and Indigenous people, but there are other stories we haven't told yet. Catherine DeCesare is looking at women on campus. We would also like to look more thoroughly at the African American experience on campus."

Each of the three professors involved in the project intends to pursue discrete lines of historical inquiry that reflect their respective areas of expertise. "My central interest is the campus as cultural landscape. When you read the cultural landscape, when you understand how people have been using a place, you understand what their priorities are, how they affect the place, how the natural environment shapes the way people live in the space, and the kinds of resources they're trying to extract," Mather says. "The URI campus is a cultural landscape, a built environment representing our priorities, our prejudices, what we want to remember, and what we want to forget, too.

"The construction of the landscape, for instance, is full of conscious and subconscious meaning," Mather continues. "And it reinforces

42 FALL 2022 PHOTO: NORA LEWIS; URI SPECIAL COLLECTIONS UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND MAGAZINE 43



Kristine Bovy, archaeologist and chair of URI's Department of Sociology and Anthropology, at the Niles Burial Ground, outside the south entrance to URI's Ryan Center.

certain messages, right? So, if we have 95 percent of our buildings named after white men, then that conveys something."

And so, looking at the names of campus buildings in the aggregate invites analysis of institutional priorities over time—and a deeper understanding of the cultural landscape in which the URI community lives, learns, and works. Mather sees this as a welcome opportunity for course correction. "We can't continue along the road we have, and the first thing to do is to raise awareness, to start the conversations. And then, from the conversations come actions.

"All over the country, universities are starting to come to terms with their own racial geography," Mather says. "There's been a reckoning across university campuses that's important. Land-grant institutions, the whole land-grant system, as wonderful as it was in many ways, was predicated on taking land that the federal government had acquired through treaty or seizure or military action from Indigenous people. So land-grant colleges and universities have got to think about this.

"The conversation is not just a URI conversation. This is a national and global conversation."

This is breaking new ground

Given her expertise in Rhode Island history and women's history, DeCesare has expanded the course. In 2021, she enlisted Abigail Dodd '22, a College of Arts and Sciences undergraduate research fellow, to comb university records for women's involvement on campus over a 30-year span beginning in the 1950s. Dodd's list will become a resource for future students in the course. DeCesare has also partnered students in the course with URI graduates who participated in the alumni course. Her students will interview the alumni to create an oral history of campus life.

"Students are working on major projects, building out narratives on topics of their choice—for example, women's sports, Title IX, sororities, or majors. The most prominent major in the 1950s and 1960s was home economics, and [through their alumni interviews] they'll see that transition." DeCesare is describing how her students will see that over time, the areas of study or activity in which women on the URI campus have been involved has transitioned or expanded.

Students' archival research, presentations, and oral reports will be preserved for subsequent student scholars' use. Over time, the archive will grow as students conduct and interpret original research destined to become part of the University's—and Rhode Island's—historical record. Put another way, the students will become historians. DeCesare is excited at the prospect.

"This is breaking new ground in terms of historical research and finding new voices and things to write about," DeCesare says. "I mean, this is what it's all about."

"We are not rewriting history. We are including facets that have been erased from the documentation of the history."

—Lorén Spears '89, Hon. '17, director, Tomaquag Museum

This history is invisible

Situated in the shadow of the Ryan Center, Niles Burial Ground is easily overlooked. Stone walls and a white picket gate enclose land believed to hold "the remains of the ancient and diverse settlers," according to a plaque affixed to the stone wall, which is the burial ground's only marker. There are no headstones here. The plaque's last two sentences explain why: "This burial ground could contain the remains of the Niles family as well as Native Americans and African Americans who worked this land. It is preserved to acknowledge our past and enrich our future."

For Spears, the language of commemoration is often vexing. In her Center for the Humanities lecture last fall, Spears began, "I must acknowledge the 400 years of conquest colonization, genocide, land dispossession, enslavement, forced assimilation, detribalization, and erasure of the Narragansett and other Indigenous nations of the Americas. I must also acknowledge the bravery, resilience, perseverance, and adaptability of our ancestors, who ensured our continuation, passing forth our traditional ecological knowledge, language, history, and culture, while contributing to the creation of this colony, state, and country.

"There is no U.S. history without Indigenous people's history, and there is no Rhode Island history without Narragansett, Niantic, and other Indigenous people's history. This is our homeland since time immemorial. We are still here."

So, Spears contends, to say Native and African Americans "worked the land" does more than just skirt the issue. Such language obfuscates, conceals, and dissembles. It undermines the historical record.

"When people say of Indigenous peoples, 'Oh, they were servants.' No, we weren't servants. We were slaves. Because we were forced, kept against our will for long periods of time, and victimized by violence."

Besides language or description that undermines the historical record, there are gaps, or archival silences, in the record—periods of history in which the experiences of some groups of people are undocumented, omitted. How do you address that? What can be done for the nameless who may be interred in Niles Burial Ground, for instance? What can be done when there is no historical record from which to begin? Bovy and her colleagues see A Walk Through Time as a multipronged method to address, augment, and amend the past.

"As archaeologists and historians, we realized that this land had a much deeper past, a

much deeper history," Bovy says. "We initially focused on the history of the University, and especially the Narragansett ties to this land because this history is invisible to most members of our community."

That the collective energies of scholars with differing areas of expertise are being brought to bear on the history gets to a more complete picture, too. Archaeology, history, museum archival work—each informs and complements the others.

"Archaeology is another way that we know about the past. We systematically excavate objects; we record their context, and we analyze them," Bovy says. "And the power of archaeology is really in providing information about people and activities that is left out of written records."

Supplement the disciplines with the power of an inquisitive and motivated student body and progress is assured.

"Our students will help us do the research and fill in some of the gaps in these important periods of time," Bovy continues. "They'll help build out that content. We're going to highlight what is visible, what's invisible, what's remembered and not remembered, and what's memorialized and not memorialized on this land."

The truth is the truth

Opportunities to recover erased histories have the potential to expand minds, Spears says. For that reason, she says, the University will find a willing partner for this work in the Tomaquag Museum. Beyond the obvious benefit of building an archive, Spears believes a course like A Walk Through Time can move the community past errant history toward a more equitable—and honest—future. Eventually, Spears hopes there'll be enough material compiled to create a Native studies program at URI.

"Partnerships like A Walk Through Time broaden people's understanding of the history of this campus and take it beyond the literal creation of the campus. People like to term such things 'revisionist history.' I disagree wholeheartedly. We are not rewriting history. We are including facets that have been erased from the documentation of the history."

Spears invokes the words of the late Ella Sekatau, Narragansett poet, historian, ethnohistorian, and medicine woman, to punctuate her point:

"The truth is the truth is the truth—waiting to be recovered." •

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PHOTOS: NORA LEWIS; BRUNO PEREIRA

The Intention of One Line of Dialogue

If you're pondering that idea, you're engaged in philosophy, says actor and philosophy major Erik Robles '22.

By Marybeth Reilly-McGreen

n entrepreneur since middle school—he ran a pop-up candy store out of his back pack—Erik Robles '22 wasn't looking for URI to provide him with a career path. He wanted to tackle life's big questions.

"I know how to make money," says the philoso phy major and co-founder of Complex Ambition, a company that creates content about urban music. "I went to school to gain knowledge. Philosophy foregrounds the big questions. It's ask ing the why; it's asking the how. Without that, we are nothing."

In his final semester, Robles completed an independent study of ancient Western philosophy with Douglass Reed '04, assistant professor of philosophy, and finished a 10-month fellowship for emerging artists of color at the Sandra Feinstein-Gamm Theatre in Warwick, R.I. Robles, who earned a minor in theater, was one of three fellows in the inaugural year of the program. The Gamm's goal is to provide a real-world immersive experience and mentorship to its fellows. Robles' goal is to become a stage and screen actor. Should you wonder what philosophy has to do with theater, Robles argues they're inseparable.

"An actor I was working with, Jonathan Higginbotham, was actually on Broadway in *Slave Play*. He was recently at the Gamm, and he'd come down from doing a scene and we would talk at length about the intention of one line. That's philosophy right there."

Robles appeared in the Gamm's production of *A Lie Agreed Upon* and assisted director Joe Wilson Jr. in its production of *An Octoroon*. He returned to the stage for the Gamm's final show of the 2021–2022 season, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

A spirit of resilience

A Providence, R.I., native, Robles attended Classical High School where he played baseball. His dream of an athletic scholarship ended when he injured his pitching arm. It also put college further out of reach. Robles grew up in a working-class home, and asking his parents to help pay for college struck him as "exorbitantly expensive and indulgent," he says. But mentors at Classical encour aged Robles' ambitions and his talents in music, acting, philosophy, and writing.

Erik Robles '22 on set at the Gamm Theatre

Their faith in Robles paid off. "I was eventually accepted into the Talent Development program, and I knew I had to take advantage of it. I was essentially able to attend school for free," Robles says.

Once at URI, Robles added to his network mentors who recognized his depth and drive. Anthony Estrella '93, Gamm artistic director and Robles' senior acting instructor at URI, says his student makes a lasting impression. "He challenges himself and is not afraid—even with more experienced collaborators—to engage deeply and risk. He's passionate, which also means he recognizes passion in others. That's a magnetic and necessary quality to success in any endeavor. I'm proud to collaborate with him in any way—the classroom, the rehearsal hall, the stage; he seems to recognize already that they really are all one. That's rare."

Rachel Walshe '01, associate professor of theater, Gamm teaching artist, and production dramaturg on *Octoroon*, calls Robles "the kind of student that renews a teacher's commitment to the institution of higher learning. He was never, even for a moment, in a classroom to do what was required to get a grade and simply move on," she says. "He sought to identify the intrinsic value of every iota of his coursework."

The Gamm experience, and the chance to observe professional actors, has been invaluable, Robles says. "These people really care about what they do. They do it with a sense of intentionality and such passion, such love. You just want to work harder because they inspire you."

A passion for inquiry

One of the challenges for the inquisitive mind is paring down interests. It's a topic he and Cheryl Foster, a philosophy professor based in URI's political science department, have spoken about at length. "Erik has the kind of mind that springs fully into action at the interface of books and speech, literature and performance, ideas and feelings, silence and gesture," Foster says. "Even in the most ordinary of moments, Erik grasps the sheer power of embodied communication where people and cultures collide."

"The classroom, the rehearsal hall, the stage; he seems to recognize already that they really are all one. That's rare."

—Anthony Estrella '93, URI acting instructor and artistic director, the Gamm Theatre

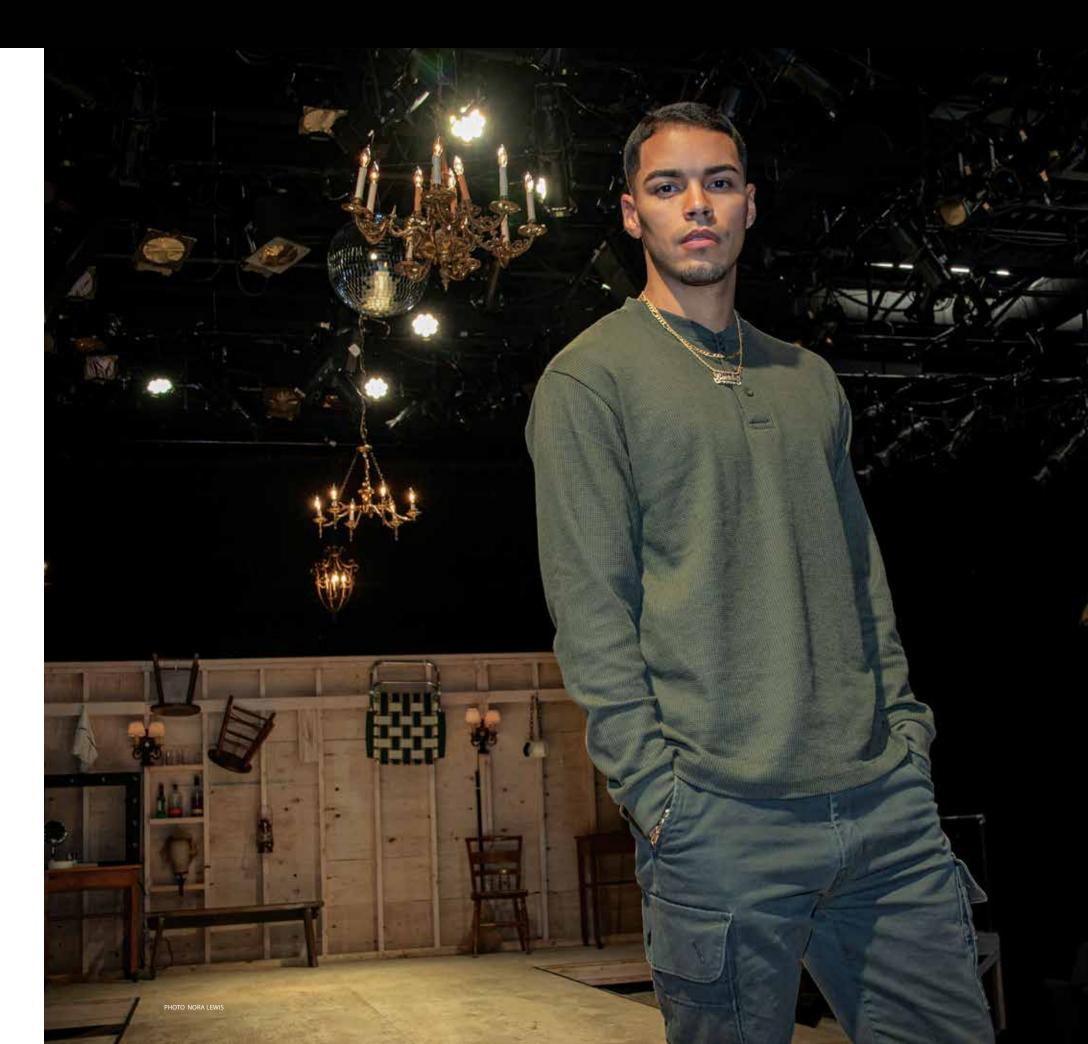
Reed recalls the moment Robles announced his intention to pursue a degree in philosophy. It was the fall of 2018 and Robles was taking Reed's course, Philosophy 110G: Love and Sex. Robles and Reed had a one-on-one meeting a few weeks into the semester. "Erik told me that he was planning on majoring in philosophy. I was overjoyed when he explained what it is he likes about philosophy. He expressed a genuine curiosity about the world and a passion for inquiry.

"I was even more impressed when I found out that he was an entrepreneur and had been running his own business for the past few years," Reed continues. "Erik did not need a college degree for financial reasons; he was in school because he loves to learn."

Since graduating, Robles has acted with the Commonwealth Shakespeare Company, playing Claudio in Much Ado About Nothing in Boston and the role of Mario in the Martha's Vineyard Playhouse's production of Burning Patience. This fall, he returns to the Gamm, where he'll appear in a production of Sweat, directed by Walshe.

Robles has a message for students like himself. "Learning will open you up. There are things you'll come to learn and people you'll meet who will change your perspective on the world.

"And that broadening of perspective is going to make you realize that you can do so much more than you believed you could." •



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 by email to urimag@uri.edu or online at alumni.uri.edu.

1945

Ralph Nardone writes, "I have thoroughly enjoyed 77 fulfilled years since graduating from Rhode Island State College (as URI was named until 1951). My rewarding accounting and corporate tax career in the nuclear industry included employment with Arthur Andersen & Co., Getty Oil Co., and Texaco. During those years I participated in several associations for financial professionals, initially in accounting fraternities including as president of the Maryland chapter of the National Association of Accountants now Institute of Management Accountants, and eventually in corporate taxes with membership in the Tax Executive Institute. I was further enriched through wonderful experiences supporting community activities such as finance chairman of the mid-Maryland chapter of the Multiple Sclerosis Society.



Ralph Nardone '45 says, "This is me with my great-grandchild, Abigail...Class of 2042!

Claude Trottier '60 and the Biking Sig/Road Scholars with URI President Marc Parlange in December 2021.

Catholic Church (Cheverly, Maryland) Parish Council, and coaching youth sports. Of most importance to me has been my family, consisting of Ruth, my wonderful wife of 50 years, five children, 22 grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. In retirement, I continue in family activities, bridge groups, book clubs, theater, stock market investing, tax return preparation, and greeting friends at the pool."

1959

Harold E. Uttley was honored as a new Inspector General Honorary of the 33rd Degree of the Scottish Rite in Greensboro, N.C., on November 20, 2021. He has been a Master Mason for over 60 years.

1960 L"Miko" Scarb

Marcel Paul "Mike" Scarbel writes, "Audrey and I celebrated 65 years of wedded bliss on August 25, 2021. We have four sons and six grandchildren and a greatgrandson due to arrive in January 2022. I retired in 1991 after 30 years with GE in upstate NY. We moved to Virginia after a three-month tour of the U.S. and Canada in a motor home to be near two of our sons and to get away from the cold and snowy winters of NY. We have enjoyed traveling to the Holy Land, Spain, Thailand, Greece, France, China, Ireland, Russia, Egypt, Central Europe, and Hawaii between 2000 and 2011. Now that we

are old and feeble, we stay home to enjoy reading, cooking, and TV."

Claude Trottier writes, "The Biking Sig/Road Scholars meet regularly in Rhode Island for bicycle rides and lunch. The group is composed of retired URI alumni ranging from 1959 to 1970, who were active in Sigma Chi during their college years. We have been meeting for over 15 years, and this year we were honored to have President and Mrs. Parlange attend our December luncheon. The Parlanges were given URI Road Scholar T-shirts for their participation with the group."

1964

Herbert Peterson writes, "Gail and I are still enjoying life's ride—on an 80-year-old Russian army motorcycle. Seems appropriate."

1968

Eugene Stevick, M.A. '68, recently celebrated his 80th birthday. He continues to practice as a psychologist in Pittsburgh, PA, where he enjoys choral singing, woodworking, and tennis. He would enjoy hearing from classmates at 260 Morrison Dr., Pittsburgh, PA 15216 or estevick@gmail.com.

1970 Stephen Olsen, M.S. '70, see page 20

1972 Steve Cheslow, see page 62

1973



Michael McElroy Esq. has been recognized by the **Rhode Island Bar Association** as the recipient of the 2022 Ralph P. Semonoff Award for Professionalism. The Rhode Island Bar Association presents this award every other year to one attorney who exemplifies professionalism in the law and advances the calling of professional practice through leadership, high standards of integrity, commitment, and dedication. McElroy has also



Herbert Peterson '64 is still "enjoying life's ride."

been re-elected to serve a fourth term as President of the Rhode Island Bar Foundation, which is the charitable arm of the Rhode Island Bar Association.

1974

Bob Lorentson writes, "My new, five-star reviewed book, *Hold* the Apocalypse—Pass Me a Scientist Please, has recently been published. It is a collection of humorous, science-themed

essays that, as one reviewer commented, 'is a joyful adventure into new ways of looking at the world.' Other enthusiastic reviews have come from people as diverse as a former president of the Sierra Club, and the creator of the Zippy the Pinhead comic empire. While the book may not, in fact, hold back the apocalypse, it will, as yet another reviewer noted, 'have you laughing all the way there.'

My author website is www.boblorentson.com."

1976
Donald Robadue, M.C.P. '76, see page 21

1977

Jane McLamarrah, PE, ENV SP, was inducted by Clemson University into the Thomas Green Clemson Academy of Engineers and Scientists on October 21, 2021. Membership in



THE FIRST FEMALE RHODY RAM MASCOT

Mara Kahn '75 writes, "June 23, 2022, marked the 50th anniversary of the enactment of Title IX. Many know Title IX as groundbreaking legislation that protects people from sex-based discrimination in education programs and activities that receive federal assistance. Yet, many do not know the history and struggle for its implementation.

"As a sophomore in 1973, I made Title IX history at URI by becoming the first female Rhody the Ram mascot. Previously always male, the mascot was deemed an athletic position under Title IX. By naming a woman, Title IX was satisfied, and no major men's sports were lost. There was much controversy, often hateful, over a woman (and one barely 5 feet tall) taking over as Rhody.

'Through the next years I was part of a politely militant group of female student-athletes who worked to secure permission for women to use formerly non-coed training facilities, such as the indoor track and weight rooms.

"Yes, that's me as Rhody. I now live in the Sonoma, Calif. wine country."

the academy is the highest honor bestowed by Clemson's College of Engineering, Computing and Applied Sciences with fewer than 0.2 percent of alumni inducted to the academy. She was the first woman to receive a Ph.D. in civil engineering from Clemson in 1985. She credits the strong background she received from her B.S. in civil and environmental engineering from URI in 1977 in contributing to this accomplishment.

1979



Karen Conti '79, M.B.A '85, executive vice president of corporate development and strategy at Epsilon Systems Solutions, Inc., was recently elected to the Naval Submarine League (NSL) board of directors. The NSL Board includes executives from the Submarine Force (retired), industry and academia. The NSL Board promotes scientific, educational, and charitable support for the Submarine Force, ensuring that Americans understand the need for a strong undersea component of the U.S. Navy.

Virginia Lee, M.S. '79, see page 21

1982 **Gail Hartnett Roderigues** received her BFA in photography, with a minor in education



and women's studies. She received the Helen Ellis Grant for Art project grant in 2001, 2003, 2018, and 2021 and recently published a children's book, Women of Westport.

1984

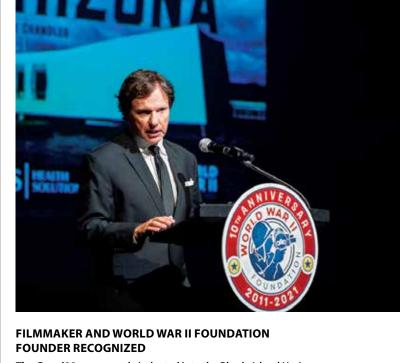


Lisa Simeone has been welcomed onto the board of directors of KTGY as she brings a wealth of expertise that align with the firm's commitment to continuously searching for better. Simone's appointment comes on the heels of KTGY's acquisition of Simeone Deary Design Group, which she founded in 2002.

1985



Dawn (Mirone) Bartz, A&S, was appointed Superintendent of Schools in Smithfield, RI, beginning July 1, 2022.



Tim Gray '89 was recently inducted into the Rhode Island Heritage Hall of Fame. Gray has produced 29 documentary films to date focused on World War II, narrated by some of the most prominent names in Hollywood, sports, and music. He is the recipient of American Public Television's National Programming Excellence Award. He is also president and founder of the nonprofit World War II Foundation. The R.I. Heritage Hall of Fame was founded in 1965 to honor native Rhode Islanders and their contributions in bringing notoriety to the state. Gray is a former television sportscaster and journalism major at URI.

1987 and 1988 Deb Weinreich '87 and **Gregg Perry '88** of the Perry Group, a public affairs, marketing, and communications agency headquartered in Providence, RI, received the 2022 Public Relations Society of America community relations campaign Silver Anvil Award for work on behalf of the Papitto Opportunity Connection (POC). The Perry Group is the agency of record for POC.

1988 Steven J. King, see page 28

1989 Robert (Bob) Kelley spoke at the 2022 HEALTHCARE ЯEVOLUTION® virtual conference for human resource and

benefits professionals in April. His topic was an employer case study on financial wellness. The focus was on how financial stress affects employees, which has been further highlighted by the COVID-19 pandemic and its associated economic downturn as many employers now recognize the significance of financial wellness as part of a broader employee wellness strategy and a critical factor in recruiting and retaining talent.

Lorén Spears '89, Hon. '17, see page 40

1990

Jonathan Barnett, a Wealth Management Advisor, has earned the use of the Certified Financial Planner™ and CFP® certification marks in accordance with CFP Board certification and renewal requirements at Bulfinch Group. Jon specializes in developing comprehensive financial plans that are tailored to each client's unique life goals. He greatly enjoys serving as a trusted advisor through plan development, implementation, and beyond.

Pam Rubinoff, M.M.A. '90, see page 21

1991 April Pariseault, see page 27 1992



Margarita Robledo Guedes has joined Rhode Island Builders Association as a program manager, where she will develop and grow the organization's minority business training initiative. Prior to joining the RIBA. Guedes worked as Outcome Broker for the Green & Healthy Homes Initiative in Rhode Island. She is a resident of North Providence, R.I.

Cathy Dwyer, see page 27 Anthony Estrella, see page 48

Kimberly Perry writes,

1993

"Finally got my tiny house. We have lots to get done but it is still perfect. We recently relocated to Gastonia, N.C. Love living in the South, a big change from Rhode Island weather. Currently working at

the Daniel Stowe Botanical

Garden. Currently in a relationship with my high school sweetheart; we reconnected a few years ago after a 40-year separation. Love is good the second time around."

1994



Ana Barraza '94, M.S. '04, was chosen as interim director of diversity and outreach at Roger Williams University School of Law. She brings with her a wealth of knowledge and experience to help future lawyers "achieve success through empowerment, advocacy, and collaboration." She has also been selected as one of the new members of the inaugural Equity Leadership Institute with the Rhode Island Foundation. The Equity Leadership Initiative intends to cultivate, mentor, and seek access for individuals who identify as Black, Hispanic or Latino, Indigenous, Asian, and multiracial from across sectors to build a pipeline of leaders of color in positions of influence in Rhode Island.

Jennifer McCann, M.M.A. '94, see pages 20-33

Nomi Hague '95, M.L.I.S. '00, became the new youth services librarian at the Cranston (R.I.) Public Library Auburn branch in November 2021. Nomi was

1995 most recently director of the and Central America. His other Langworthy Public Library in



Kimberly Perry '93 loves her tiny house.

Hope Valley, R.I., a position she held since 2019. Prior to that, she was assistant director of the Cross Mills Public Library in Charlestown, R.I.

1997 Lt. Col. John H. Larch III,

BSCE, was awarded the Legion of Merit by the North Carolina Army National Guard in recognition of his retirement from the U.S. Army. Larch was commissioned through the URI ROTC program and served 23 years with the military, most of it as a Special Forces (Green Beret) officer. His service included tours in Bosnia and Afghanistan, as well as South



awards include the Bronze Star, Combat Infantryman Badge, Special Forces Tab, and Coveted Ram's Head Device. He is now living in North Carolina with his wife Mary Ann where he serves as the assistant regional engineer, regulating the state's public drinking water supply program.

Cindy Moreau, see page 27



1998



Jill (Weiner) Makowski, currently in the role of clinical pharmacy specialist in infectious disease and antimicrobial stewardship for Southcoast Health, has just completed her M.B.A. in organizational leadership from UMASS. She was accepted into the Mitchell Hamline School of Law Health Care Institute fall 2021 cohort of the Health Care Compliance Certification course. When Jill is not working, she enjoys showing sports cars, dining out, traveling, and spending time in the kitchen. She makes

her home in Tiverton, Rhode Island with her husband.

Domingo Morel, a political scientist at Rutgers University, is writing a book about the Talent Development Program at URI. Developing Scholars: Race, Politics, and the Pursuit of Higher Education is scheduled to be published in late 2022 by Oxford University Press. Morel, an alum of the Talent **Development Program as well** as a former academic advisor for the program, examines the political factors that led to the creation of Talent Development in 1968. The book also examines the political factors, including the student protests of the 1970s and 1990s, that have contributed to the survival and growth of the program over time.

BIRTHS AND ADOPTIONS



Lauren Alexander '11 and Eric Alexander '11 welcomed their second child, Jack Edwin Alexander, on November 3, 2021.



Ezra, who is the son of **Derrin Almada '09** and Amy (Resnick) Almada '08 with Kali, who is the daughter of **Candice Hazel '10**



Emily Spenser '16 and Thomas Spenser '15 welcomed their first child, Mila, after meeting at URI, getting engaged in Narragansett, and marrying at an intimate COVID ceremony in Narragansett. They recently had Mila's newborn photoshoot and dressed her in URI gear.



Matt Burak '10 and Michelle (Krawczynski) Burak, Pharm.D. '11 welcomed their daughter, Mia Kathryn Burak, on January 11, 2021.

Scott Norris has been promoted to partner at the accounting firm UHY LLP. Based in Melville, NY, Norris advises clients across a range of issues including accounting, auditing, and financial reporting.

Dara (Willenbrock) Macchi

has been appointed senior vice president, marketing and data analytics at American Eagle Financial Credit Union. Macchi joined AEFCU in 2018 with more than 20 years of marketing experience, having spent the last 12 years in financial services. She earned her Bachelor of Science degree in marketing from URI and is also a graduate of the

Connecticut School of Finance and Management. A resident of Farmington, Conn., Macchi serves as a board member for the Farmington Public School Foundation and is on the steering council for the Women's Leadership Center at the University of Saint Joseph. She is also an executive sponsor of AEFCU's Diversity and Inclusion Council.

2000 Jessica Brilli, see page 59

Rachel Walshe, see page 48

2003 Chhandak Basu, Ph.D. '03,

was honored with the Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime

Achievement Award in 2021 as a leader in biology, research, and higher education. Basu is a professor and research scientist at California State University-Northridge (CSUN) where he studies plant biotechnology and plant molecular physiology. In addition to his appointment at CSUN, he works as a research affiliate at the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory's Origins and Habitability Laboratory.

Sarah (Hartenstein) Patterson, the bird and mammal curator at the St. Augustine Alligator Farm (Fla.), was awarded the 2021 Sustainability Award by the Association of Zoos and



NURSE WINS TIKTOK DANCE CONTEST TO RECOGNIZE ESSENTIAL WORKERS

Faryn-Ashley Easterling '15, a nurse and Providence native now living in Miami, Fla., recently won \$10,000 in a TikTok dance contest held by the digital bank Laurel Road. Although Easterling claims not to be much of a dancer, she proved herself wrong by putting together an entertaining and "infectious" (pun intended) dance to win the top prize in the month-long contest that was open to registered nurses across the U.S. Laurel Road put together the contest to recognize and reward nurses as essential workers. The competition was kicked

off by Nurse Kala, a TikTok star who racked up tens of millions of views for her upbeat dance routines throughout 2020.

Scan to see Easterling's winning moves.



Sarah (Hartenstein) Patterson '03 is the bird and mammal curator at the St. Augustine (Fla.) Alligator Farm.

Aquariums in recognition of her work preserving the Vietnam Pheasant. This magnificent bird was named a critically endangered species and was thought to be extinct in the wild due to defoliation, poaching, and loss of habitat after no sightings for over 20 years in its native forests of Vietnam. The international zoological community is trying to prevent its total extinction and repopulate them in the wild. Since 2016, Patterson has

served as the survival plan coordinator for the North American Region, tracking birds, fueling a project to obtain DNA records, and matching them for breeding. The World Association of Zoos and Aquariums has recently bestowed upon her the International Studbook. This information will aid her in her role on the Vietnam Species Recovery Team, which is actively working to restore this species in its native range.

Roger Sylvia recently graduated from the Air Command and Staff College at Air University, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama, with an M.A.S. in military operational art.

2004 Douglass Reed, see page 46



Clarissa M. Uttley '04, M.S. '06, Ph.D. '08, was awarded a Distinguished Scholarship Award by Plymouth State University for faculty and staff whose work and commitment have distinguished both themselves and the university. Uttley is a professor, program coordinator of curriculum and instruction, and leader of the education academic unit at Plymouth State. She is also a certified pet therapy handler and an equine massage therapist, and recently completed a program in animal nutrition. Human-animal interaction is her scholarly focus, and she

seeks opportunities to disseminate her work to benefit others. She has published articles, co-authored book chapters, and presented at national and international conferences. Her recently published book explores adolescents building relationships with pets as a form of healing.

2012

Nicole Patel, Pharm.D. '12, was promoted to director of pharmacy services at St. Vincent's Medical Center in Bridgeport, Conn. Nicole has spent her entire career moving up the ranks at St. Vincent's and is now poised to help expand pharmacy services at St. Vincent's as part of Hartford HealthCare Corporation.



Nicole Patel, Pharm.D. '12 with senior director of pharmacy services for Hartford HealthCare Eric Arlia '93.

2013

Jennifer (Nale) Fisher joined the Princeton-Blairstown Center as communications and special events manager, responsible for spearheading media outreach, drafting marketing and

promotional materials, and coordinating fundraisers and other special events. She will also ensure that PBC's mission is shared with stakeholders and the public. Jennifer works with the director of development and communications to build infrastructure for fundraising, grant writing, and special projects.

Kimberly Manchester Massaroco accepted the position of marketing manager for Leonard Valve Company, a 110-year-old commercial plumbing valve manufacturer based in Cranston, Rhode Island. Specializing in industrial (B2B) marketing, she brings 20 years of experience working in all aspects of marketing, from research to new product commercialization, and is responsible for Leonard Valve's marketing projects and activities. Kimberly uses her family name (Manchester) professionally and

invites plumbing engineers and

other industry professionals to

connect with her on LinkedIn.

Justice Mensah, M.S. '13, see page 24

Sara Sweetman, Ph.D. '13, see pages 34-39

2014 Brian Feroldi, M.B.A. '14,

published Why Does the Stock Market Go Up? in April 2022. He writes, "I had no idea what the Dow Jones, S&P 500, or Nasdaq were when I was 22. I



also had no idea why the stock market went up and down every day or why it has been such a great place to build wealth. I've spent the last 20 years of my life studying the stock market. That has allowed me to answer all the guestions I had about investing when I was just starting out. This book is the result."

2016



Andrew Morin joined the law firm of Halloran Sage. He practices in municipal and state government and environmental and land use at the firm's Hartford, Conn. office. During law school at Roger Williams University, Morin served as a law clerk with Halloran Sage, as an intern with the R.I. Office of the Attorney General, and as a Rhode Island Sea Grant Fellow. He graduated from URI with a B.A. in marine affairs.

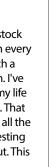
2017 Lauren Josephs, M.S. '17, see page 27

Vanessa Garcia Polanco,

2018 Christina DiCenzo, see page 13

CELS environmental and natural resources economics major, was recognized as one of the 2021 Emerging Leaders in Food and Ag. This national initiative is designed to build a stronger future for our food

and agriculture sector. Joe Zottoli, M.S. '18, see page 32



YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS WIN COMPETITION

Andrew Bikash '20 and Ben Grossman '21 won first place in the U.S. Association for Small Business and Entrepreneurship (USASBE) experiential education competition. They met as freshmen at URI and have worked to bring their KANU app to market since then. They have been instrumental in growing URI's Launch Lab offerings, and their app is used widely in the College of Business. They are also expanding to other universities, such as Drexel and Florida Gulf Coast. The KANU platform helps students test their entrepreneurial ideas quickly by providing platform resources and a campus marketplace.

Pictured above: Professor John Wilson, Drexel University; Julienne Shields, CEO of USASBE; Bikash; and Grossman.

2020

First Place in the 2022 Entrepre



Aria Mia Loberti was selected to portray the lead character in the Netflix miniseries, All the Light We Cannot See, based on the book by Anthony Doerr. She will play Marie-Laure, a blind teenager in Nazioccupied France during WWII. Loberti, who has long been an advocate for people with disabilities, won the part after a worldwide search for blind and low-vision actresses. She says, "I was so shocked. It's just ludicrous. There were thousands of people [who auditioned] and it's a lead role. It was such a fun audition process and it was very empowering. That's all I was

seeking—a new experience, a challenge. I didn't expect anything more to come of it. I think it was just pure shock when I learned." Loberti is a US-UK Fulbright Scholar and a Ph.D. student in rhetoric at Pennsylvania State University.

2021

Melissa Morales is among the first Peace Corps volunteers to return to overseas service since the agency's unprecedented global evacuation in March 2020. The Peace Corps suspended global operations and evacuated nearly 7,000 volunteers from more than 60 countries at the onset of the COVID pandemic. Morales will serve as an environmental volunteer in Zambia and is eager to support the community in Zambia.

Ronnie Romero, M.M.A. '21, see page 24

2022

Abigail Dodd, see page 44 Erik Robles, see page 46



ENGAGEMENTS AND MARRIAGES

Lydia Moore and Nick Samos '07 were married on Sept 18, 2021 on Orange Beach, Alabama. They currently reside in Poulsbo, Wa.

Kimberly Rameika '15 and Philip Matteson '14 were married on Block Island on September 18, 2021.

Elizabeth (Plotkin) Calore '17, a College of Nursing alumna, married Andrew Calore on April 24, 2021, at Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church in East Greenwich and celebrated with a reception at Ocean Cliff in Newport. URI alumni pictured are from 2016, 2017, 2019, 2020, and 2021 with majors including nursing, psychology, engineering, elementary education, special education, business, and textiles/fashion.

Amanda Stikeman '17, M.S.A. '18, and Tony Messina '17, M.S. '18, married on May 22, 2021, in Derry, N.H. Amanda graduated from the College of Business and Tony graduated from the College of Engineering. The couple is currently living and working in the Boston area.

Leen Alsahli '18 (CELS, biological sciences) celebrated her wedding to Khalil Manasra in December, 2021, in Illinois with several URI alumni in attendance.









- 1. Lydia Moore and Nick Samos
- 2. Kimberly Rameika and Philip Matteson
- 3. Elizabeth (Plotkin) Calore and Andrew Calore
- 4. Amanda Stikeman and Tony Messina
- 5. Shannon Oliver and Adam Capwell
- 6. Kevin Christofaro and Jacqueline Coutu

Our sincere apologies to the Oliver/Capwells and to the the Couto/Christofaros, whose wedding announcements were miscaptioned in the fall 2021 issue.

Shannon Oliver '19 and Adam Capwell '19 were married on October 9, 2021, at the Meadowbrook Inn in Charlestown, R.I. They currently reside in Smithfield, R.I.

Kevin Christofaro '10 and Jacqueline Couto '11 were married on May 1, 2021.







= CHAPTER AND CLASS ANNOUNCEMENTS =

CALLING ALL URI ROTC ALUMNI!

URI's Army ROTC Alumni Chapter is conducting a national search to find and connect with past Cramer's Sabers Battalion alumni of all class years. Alumni of the program include commissioned officers from URI, Roger Williams University, and Salve Regina University. If you are a ROTC alumnus and want to stay connected with the program, its alumni, and current cadets, please reach out to Ryan Rausch '06 at URIROTCAA@gmail.com.

> We send a quarterly newsletter and have the following platforms to reconnect with the program: LinkedIn: URI ROTC Alumni Group (linkedin.com/groups/96094) Facebook: URI ROTC Alumni Chapter (facebook.com/urirotcalumnichapter)

56 FALL 2022 LOBERTI PHOTO: COURTESY NETFLIX AND RYAN COLLERD UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND MAGAZINE 57



= NICHE =

Every Picture Tells a Story

Jessica Brilli '00 paints from old Kodachrome slides. She is drawn to mid-century suburban American scenes, bringing them to life with unique color palettes. Brilli, who earned a B.F.A. in painting at URI, has shown her work in group and solo exhibitions across the United States and abroad, but her latest exhibition space, book covers, is bringing her work to a broad new audience.

There are many places a painter might display their work—museums, galleries, private collections. One that might not come as quickly to mind is the cover of a book.

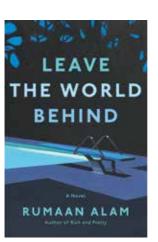
In 2020, Jessica Brilli's painting, "Night Swimming," was used in the design of the book cover for Rumaan Alam's best-seller, *Leave the World Behind*. The success of the novel, which was a finalist for the prestigious National Book Award, has drawn even more attention to the work of Brilli '00.

So, how does a painter's work land on the cover of a critically acclaimed bestseller?

"A lot of my work is online," Brilli says. "And from there, a couple of publishers have reached out to ask me if they could use my work."

One person who found her work online and reached out was Allison Saltzman, a senior art director at HarperCollins in New York City. Saltzman discovered Brilli's work on an art blog, *The Jealous Curator*, in 2012. When Saltzman was tasked to work on the cover for Charles Simic's 2019 collection of poetry, *Come Closer and Listen*, she turned to Brilli and a working relationship was formed.

"The book is, like, 90 percent realistic; then there's this little bit where you're like, 'Did that just happen? Is this really happening?" Saltzman explains. "Jessica's painting worked perfectly because it straddles the line of real and surreal."



Brilli, originally from Long Island, N.Y., currently living in Quincy, Mass., looks to the past to inspire her work. Many of her paintings feature homes, buildings, cars, and scenes from the mid-20th century. The prolific Brilli captures the sleek lines and design of this period in her paintings.

"It's hard to put a finger on why I like the era so much," Brilli says. "I think it's the simplicity of the design and the elegance of things. The cars back then were almost like sculptures."

The source material for her paintings is another art form, photography. Brilli had been using family photographs for years before she hit a upon the idea of buying slides that people were selling online. When she buys the slides, she owns the rights and can use them as subjects for her paintings, like "Night Swimming."

"I'm inspired by the good photography, mostly. Kodachrome slides, things like that," Brilli says. "I gravitate toward pools as a subject. I found some really awesome photos that were night shots at this pool in Oklahoma, so I bought the slides on eBay."

Brilli is currently represented by Kobalt Gallery in Provincetown, Massachusetts, and recently had her own exhibition, "On the Brink" at Walker-Cunningham Fine Art in St. Louis, Missouri. Her next exhibit just may be on the shelf in a bookstore near you. •

—John Canale

View more of Brilli's artwork at jbrilli.com.

New England Yards, 2021

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George Geaber '38 Richard Bohning '40 Ruth (Nichols) Reynolds '40 Elsie (Paine) Tygenhof '40 Helen Abrams '41 Margaret (Thackeray) Stone '41 Henry Nardone '43, Hon. '93 Marguerite (Geoghegan) Thoren '43 George Zaslow '43 Gail (Graham) Church '45 Marion (Dunham) Deitzler '46 Helen (Bardell) Eaton '46 Robert Ortoleva '46 Grace (Stover) Ryder '46 Eleanor Beaver '47 Esther (Tickton) Katz '47, M.A. '70 Elizabeth (Davies) Wyckoff '47, M.S. '54 William Berndt '48 Lloyd Coon '48 Edward Dahl '48 Jean (Kenney) Hanna '48 Lydia (Rodrigues) Kohler '48 Richard Serdjenian '48 Alice (Cox) Shea '48 Walter Tokarz '48 Muriel (Milot) Caouette '49 Bernard Ciolfi '49 Charles Cost '49 Robert Curtis '49 George Hanuschak '49 James Hoey '49 Stephen Hurley '49 Winifred Kelley '49 Richard Moore '49 Barbara (Hadfield) Parris '49 Albert Petrarca '49,

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M.A. '68

Betty (Connaughton)

Joseph Casale '50,

M.B.A. '64

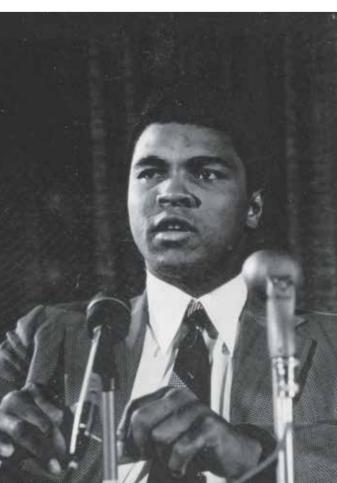
Slocum '49, M.A. '87

Anne (O'Connor) Drury '50

= FAMOUS FOOTSTEPS =

1971: 'The Greatest' Comes to Kingston

From politicians to musicians, athletes to poets, URI has hosted many notable visitors over the years. Thanks to URI's library archivists for sharing details of this historic visit from the legendary Muhammad Ali.

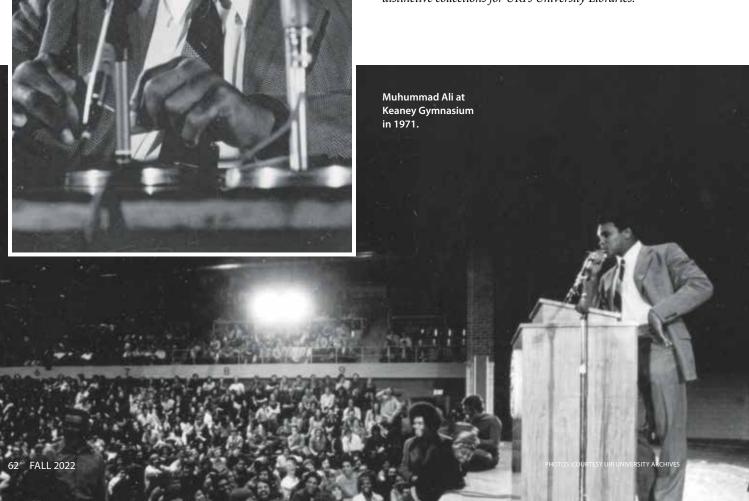


n April 15, 1971, legendary boxer and activist Muhammad Ali visited URI, holding a press conference at Keaney Gymnasium. The visit occurred just over a month after Ali's first professional defeat—he lost to Joe Frazier at Madison Square Garden—in the ring, and just four days before the Supreme Court heard oral arguments on Clay v. United States and the question of Ali's religious objection to participation in the Vietnam War. The court sided with Ali and expanded the exceptions for conscientious objectors to be excepted from the draft.

Reporting on Ali's appearance in The Good 5 Cent Cigar (April 21, 1971), Steve Cheslow '72 wrote, "Ali now speaks in a subdued tone; but his words hit the crowds just as lightning-quick jabs hit his ring opponents. [...] His charisma, left me more impressed than I had been after any of his ring exploits." •

-Karen Walton Morse

Karen Walton Morse is an associate professor and director of distinctive collections for URI's University Libraries.





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the LIGHT

Konnorónhkwa, Aliens Don't Believe in Us Wetompasin: I Love You, My Sister Nancy Perry Lopes '73 (2020)



Painting the Light Story 1987 Sally Cabot Gunning, '73



Aliens.

Don't

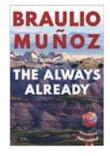
Believe

Robert Counts '74,

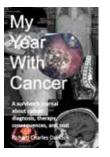
M.S. '81

(2021)

in Us



The Always Already Braulio Muñoz '73 (2021)



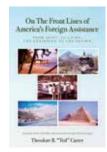
My Year with Cancer Richard Davids '71 (2022)



Columns (Volume 2) Michael A. Battey '74 (2020)

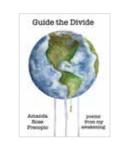


The Parent Trap



On The Front Lines of America's Foreign Assistance Theodore B. "Ted" Carter '60 (2021)

POETRY



Guide the Divide: poems from my awakening Amanda Precopio '21 (2021)



Amazing Holiday Paws Karen Petit '85, M.A. '87, Ph.D. '94 (2020)



Corwin and Friends: We Can Do It Christine Carr '93



(2020)

Goodnight Exomoon: An Astronomical Parody Kimberly K. Arcand '98 (2021)



CHILDREN'S AND YOUNG ADULT BOOKS

a Strange Land Hank Ellis '76, M.S. '81 (2021)



The Promise: Journey to Aunt Rita: An Alzheimer's Story for Young Children Kevin Cronan '77 (2022)



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How to Be a Creative Genius (in 5 simple steps) Tom Nixon '74 (2021)



I Am 99: A Southern Resident Orca Story Keri Newman '94 (2021)

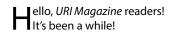
= CAPTION THIS =



Photo Caption Contest

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

Submit entries by January 15, 2023



The last photo caption contest appeared in the fall 2021 issue—which was the last print issue. We're glad to finally share the winning captions from fall 2021.

The photo inspired a lot of caption ideas. Many of them, including some of our winners, fell into the broad themes of cold calling, Frosty the Snowman, and melting.



FALL 2021 WINNERS

WINNING CAPTION

"Hello, Frosty? We've been trying to reach you regarding your car's extended warranty."

—Luis Lopez '19

RUNNERS-UP

"This is going to take a while. It's another business student making cold calls."

—Mary Patty, M.S. '12

"I want one ticket to Miami."

"Roundtrip?"

"No. One way."

—Bill Fuesz '77

"Hey, Frosty! How long are we going to be chillin' out here?" —Judi Barton '69



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JAHNAE DRUMMOND '24



"The scholarship I received makes me feel acknowledged for the hard work I put in at URI and certainly eases some of the stress of taking out loans."

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