

UNIVERSITY OF

RHODE ISLAND

SUMMER 2019

MAGAZINE

BLUE MINDS

URI scientists answer the powerful call of the ocean by making it their workplace, playground, and sacred space.



Aperture

THE ENDLESS BOND BETWEEN MOTHER AND CHILD

Matthew Palasciano '20

A young macaque clings to its mother at the local watering hole in Ubud, Bali, Indonesia, where Palasciano studied biodiversity, hydrology, and water resource management. He and two other students studied deforestation and illegal logging in Indonesia to understand the destruction these activities cause for wildlife and its habitat. Palasciano is studying geological oceanography and plans to pursue a master's degree in coastal geology and business administration. He hopes to work in cultural resource management and as a professional shark diver in the Bahamas. Palasciano is from Thomaston, Connecticut. His photo won first place in URI's Research and Scholarship Photo Contest this spring.



ALL THE WATER RETURNS TO HALL

Yeqiao Wang, Professor of Natural Resources Science

This rural village home in southern China is designed to collect rain-water from all directions through a rectangular opening in its sloped roof. The water is stored in a stone cellar underneath the central hall. This photograph showcases the wisdom of a sustainable rural routine presented by this 100-year-old eco-friendly house. Professor Wang is leading and engaging more than 300 scholars and practitioners from URI and around the world to develop a multivolume book series entitled *The Handbook of Natural Resources*. This photo was taken during one of his field trips for the series. Professor Wang is originally from China. His photo won second place in URI's Research and Scholarship Photo Contest this spring.





RAINING SPARKS

Laird French '21

This image of burning steel wool being spun on a rope was taken using an 8-second shutter speed as part of a project for ART 214, or Photography 1, for a long-exposure photo assignment. French is pursuing a bachelor's degree in marketing with an expected minor in fine arts and plans to move to Hawaii and become a professional photographer/videographer after graduation. French is from Kingston, Rhode Island. His photo won third place in URI's Research and Scholarship Photo Contest this spring.



YELLOW WARBLER

Stephen Brenner '18

Taken in Manitoba, Canada, this photo depicts research with URI's McWilliams Lab in Biological and Environmental Sciences monitoring the demographics, breeding success, and growth rates of long-distance migratory birds at the far northern reaches of their range in shifting habitats and climate. Brenner is from Buffalo, New York.

These photos by Brenner, Kirk, and Jaacks received honorable mentions in URI's Research and Scholarship Photo Contest this spring.



FUNGI GUTTATION

Riley Kirk, Ph.D. '23

This photograph shows a frost bolete mushroom that is experiencing a rapid growth phase. The yellow droplets on the pores are not dew, but the result of a process known as guttation: when a mushroom exudes fluid during high metabolic times. After this photo was taken in the Great Swamp Management Area in West Kingston, Rhode Island, the mushroom was collected and brought back to the laboratory for extraction and isolation experiments. Kirk, who is pursuing a doctoral degree in natural product chemistry, is from Charlestown, Rhode Island.



REEF MANTA

Jason Jaacks, Assistant Professor of Journalism

Jaacks captured this image while free diving in Raja Ampat, Indonesia. The reef manta was cruising through a cloud of plankton. Jaacks was working on a short film about sustainable fisheries practices in Indonesia, as part of a multiyear visual study of the biodiversity of the Coral Triangle region of the South Pacific. Jaacks is originally from Denver, Colorado.

Inside

UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND MAGAZINE • VOL. 1, NO. 3 • SUMMER 2019

CURRENTS

10

In Brief

URI news to keep you in-the-know.

11

Why I Teach

Pharmacy professor Erica Estus helps future pharmacists develop empathy.

12

Bay and Beyond

Learn to eat what's plentiful in local waters. Here's a summer recipe to help you get started.

13

Go Rhody

Big finishes for women's track and field and rowing.

14

Syllabus

Can *Game of Thrones* Make You Smarter?

14

Rhode Taken

Nursing alumna Bintou Marong seized every opportunity to forge a successful path.

16

Quad Angles

Sunshine Menezes, executive director of URI's Metcalf Institute, makes a case for embracing the limits of objectivity.

17

Ask Our Big Thinkers

It's tick season. Tips from URI's TickGuy, Tom Mather.

FEATURES

18

COVER STORY: Blue Minds

What is blue mind? We'll explain. And we'll introduce you to some of URI's bluest minds—a group of scientists who call the ocean their home, their workplace, their playground, and their sacred space.

30

Surf First

Peter Panagiotis '71 is a legend among surfers. He started URI's surf club and he's still in the flow.

34

The Internationalists

URI students are immersing themselves in the study of language and culture and tackling some of the world's toughest problems.

40

Fins, Flippers, and Finding a Dream Job

URI alumni are well represented at Mystic Aquarium, where many have landed dream jobs and all are dedicated to marine education and conservation.

Underwater archaeologist Bridget Buxton (far right), an associate professor in URI's Department of History, scans an ancient Roman shipwreck in Croatia using a prototype University of Girona 3DVR camera system.

NETWORK

46

Class Notes

52

Field Notes

Advice and insights from Cortney Nicolato '01, president and CEO of United Way, Rhode Island.

53

Close Up

Bill Eigen '90 learned to invest by flipping muscle cars in college. Now, he applies the same hands-on principles to bond trading.

54

Annotations

Vikki Warner '98 shares delightful, surprising excerpts from her book, *Tenemental*.

56

Caption This

Stroll down Memory Lane, check out the winners from the last issue, and send us your best caption for the summer photo caption contest.



34

The Internationalists

URI students are immersing themselves in the study of language and culture and tackling some of the world's toughest problems. Above, Cynthia Malambi '20 in Shanghai.

54

Annotations

Vikki Warner '98, modern landlady and author, shares delightful, surprising excerpts from her book, *Tenemental*.



COVER PHOTO OF ALEXANDRA MOEN: NORA LEWIS
PHOTOS, THIS PAGE: JACOB SHARVIT; COURTESY CYNTHIA MALAMBI; NORA LEWIS

New Chapters

We are shaped by our rich oceanographic heritage, our dynamic global spirit, and our shared values and vision. These themes will carry URI into new chapters in our extraordinary history.

IN THE PAST DECADE, URI has continuously challenged the notion that universities are slow to change, as we keep thinking big about our future, even while honoring our proud past. With the recent merger of the URI Alumni Association and the URI Foundation, we have taken the logical next step in our amazing institutional trajectory. As URI has advanced—with record enrollment, expanded faculty, and a renewed focus on research—these two great organizations have united around their shared vision and values.

The merger could not be happening at a more auspicious time. The effort was led by Tom Ryan '75, Hon. '99, chairman of the URI Foundation Board of Directors, and Dan Lowney '75, former president of the URI Alumni Association Executive Board. Going forward, alumni will experience the dynamism that URI has to offer in new and meaningful ways.

That dynamism is palpable in this issue of the *University of Rhode Island Magazine*.

The winning photo (inside front cover) in our annual Research and Scholarship Photo Contest, "The Endless Bond Between Mother and Child," depicts a baby macaque clinging to its mother at the local watering hole in Ubud, Bali, Indonesia.

Geological oceanography undergraduate student Matthew Palasciano '20 was there to study the destructive effects of deforestation and illegal logging. Matt's travels epitomize our global approach to education, underscored in "The Internationalists," which highlights the phenomenal growth of our language and culture programs, now among the largest in the nation. The story features more remarkable student photography from around the globe.



President David M. Dooley, Rhode Island Governor Gina Raimondo, Rhode Island Council on Postsecondary Education Chair Timothy DelGiudice, and Graduate School of Oceanography Dean Bruce Corliss celebrate the keel-laying for the R/V *Resolution*.

Even as we globalize, we remain true to our evolving mission as a land and sea grant institution. So it makes sense that we're taking a deep dive—pun intended—into our cover story, "Blue Minds," which will introduce you to a group of URI scientists whose work and play keeps them deeply connected and committed to the ocean. Alexandra Moen '15 earned her undergraduate degree from URI in marine biology. Now, as a dive instructor here, she is keenly aware that she is teaching future environmental stewards. Experiencing the ocean environment firsthand is key. "It's one of the greatest perks about my job that I can break that disassociation that we have—that what we do to the environment doesn't matter."

Earlier this spring, URI legend Robert Ballard was named lead investigator for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's ocean exploration institute, which URI was selected to host. This honor comes with a \$94 million grant over five years. Surveying 3 billion acres

of U.S. ocean territory, the institute will play a crucial role in improving understanding of the deep sea and will strengthen the "blue economy," which is expected to more than double its contribution to the U.S. economy and employ 40 million people by 2030.

The NOAA grant announcement was well timed, as we were just laying the keel of the R/V *Resolution*, a new \$125 million research ship that will have a home at our Narragansett Bay Campus as of 2022. The keel-laying ceremony, celebrating the start of construction of the *Resolution*, took place in May 2019 at Gulf Island Shipyards in Houma, Louisiana. I was honored to participate in the ceremony, along with Rhode Island Governor Gina Raimondo, Rhode Island

Council on Postsecondary Education Chair Timothy DelGiudice, Graduate School of Oceanography Dean Bruce Corliss, and members of URI's research vessel crew.

These two exciting developments herald a new chapter in the rich history of oceanographic research and education at URI, building on a legacy of excellence.

Speaking of a legacy of excellence, in our fall issue, we'll sit down with Tom Ryan to talk about his life, work, values, and what's next for the renowned businessman and philanthropist. And we can't wait to give you a first look at our impressive new engineering complex.

Until then,

David M. Dooley
President, University of Rhode Island



Detail of the spiral staircase under construction in URI's new College of Engineering complex, which will open this fall. The building will be a project-based platform for hands-on learning. We will showcase the new engineering complex in the fall issue of the *University of Rhode Island Magazine*.

Feedback

Write to us: urimag@uri.edu

Visit us and comment at uri.edu/magazine

From the Editor

I grew up in the Midwest, and I love to watch a storm roll in across a field. But I also love to watch waves roll in to shore. When I was a kid, we trekked to New England every summer to visit family and spend time at the ocean. We went to the beach, dug for clams, and took the ferry to Block Island. Those days on the ocean were magic, and when I'd lay down in bed, tired and sunbaked after a day playing in the waves, I could feel myself—hours later—still rocking and swaying.

Last fall, my friend and I asked one of our fitness instructors at the local YMCA, who happens to be Peter Panagiotis '71, aka Peter Pan (read about Peter in "Surf First" on page 30), if he'd teach us to surf. That weekend, we had our first lesson. I swallowed more salt water in that hour than ever in my life to that point. My arms hurt for days from paddling—hard—while Peter yelled, "Dig! Dig! You'll never catch a wave paddling like that!" But it was fun. Really fun. We surfed (Can you call it surfing if you aren't really standing up and you're under the board more than on it?) all winter long, Peter's contagious whooping and laughing inspiring us.

Surfing is much harder than I imagined. It is, as Alexandra Moen '15 points out in our cover story, "Blue Minds" (page 20), humbling. Of the myriad wonderful things about surfing, the chance to be out on the water in any and all weather is pretty high on the list. Rediscovering that feeling of floating while falling asleep after a day in the waves is up there too.

In the book, *Blue Mind* (see Lauren Poirier's piece on page 18), Wallace J. Nichols asserts that water "provides the most profound shortcut to happiness." And he has the science to back it up. The science is important and fascinating, but I don't need it to know that he's right.

The faculty and staff featured in "Blue Minds" feel a magnetic attraction to the ocean, and they respond by spending their free time on the water—many of them are surfers—and by dedicating their work lives to studying, knowing, and protecting the oceans—locally and around the globe.

The power and pull of the sea isn't unique to the University of Rhode Island. But we do have something special here. We are positioned—geographically and academically—to connect to the ocean's power on a daily basis in infinite ways. In



Good surfers make it look effortless. When you're learning, you realize it isn't. And you fall in—a lot—as I'm about to do here.

doing so, we make ourselves happier, and we deepen our relationship with the sea, helping to ensure its health and survival, and, with it, our own.

—Barbara Caron, Editor-in-Chief

Mentors play an important role for lots of people in their lives and careers. Do you (or did you) have a mentor? Or have you been a mentor to someone else? We'd love to hear your stories. Tell us at urimag@uri.edu.

Memories

Those [photo caption contest] pictures are such fun and bring back a million memories of my days at URI. My husband and I met there and shared many kisses under those old oak trees. We had 63 beautiful years together before he died last year at age 86. We have five daughters and 28 grandchildren/great-grandchildren....and it all started at good old Rhody! I look forward to the new pictures every month. Good job!

—Sandi Griffin '53

Kudos

I graduated with a degree in textiles and fashion, although freshman year I spiraled off the standard path into the magical world of the Theatre Department. And if I wasn't building sets or costumes, I was crewing with the Sailing Team. Both loves of mine to this day. When I received the latest alumni magazine, I was immediately captivated by the depth of the content and its ability to evoke empathy and understanding about people and events far outside my experience. I read this issue cover to cover, and mused the entire time, "THIS is where I went to school? Who knew so many interesting things were going on there!" I look forward to the next issue.

—Linda Meise '73

The feature on Marty Rojas and reading *Moby Dick* was delightful.

—Brett Rutherford '05

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Barberry-an Invasion

Good evening! Over dinner, I was enjoying the lovely new format of the URI Magazine—it looks great and is packed with informative articles. However, I was dismayed to see Japanese barberry as one of the featured plants in "Good for What Ails You" (Spring 2019). While this plant appears to have medicinal value, it is also one of the worst invasive species on the Rhode Island (and elsewhere) landscape, and I'm alarmed to think that anyone at URI is promoting its use (which means that people will want to grow it). Our own Alton Jones campus is infested with this plant, which has thorns, so the deer won't eat it; they eat everything else and the barberry continues to spread. [URI should] make sure that students and the public know what plants are an ecological issue in our landscapes. Touch base with Rhode Island Natural History Survey (RINHS), located at East Farm, if you have questions about invasive species in Rhode Island. Thanks!

—Lisa Lofland Gould, M.S. '72

Lisa is former director of RINHS and former director of the Rhode Island Invasive Species Council



Thank you, Lisa, for raising such an important point. Other readers contacted plant sciences professor Brian Maynard with the same concern. Of Japanese barberry, Maynard and garden coordinator Elizabeth Leibovitz say, "Don't plant it!" While the plant has a variety of medicinal uses, it is an invasive shrub that can be found in almost any yard, hiking trail, or wooded area in Rhode Island—and throughout the Northeast and much of the Midwest. It can establish itself in dense thickets, limiting native plants, altering soil composition, and harboring ticks.

Quantum Calculations

I enjoyed reading the article, "Quantum Quest" in the spring edition. Dr. Savoie is indeed a worthy subject. I found the article well-written. However, the observation on page 22 that, "Sixty bits can hold 120 possible values," is mistaken. Sixty bits can hold 2-to-the-power-of-sixty different values, which is over a quintillion already. A quintillion is peanuts to sixty qubits. I don't know the capacity of sixty qubits, but it is many orders of magnitude larger than that. As I understand it, each qubit can hold at least three values (1, 0, and between), sixty qubits, then, would hold over 42 heptillion values. That's about 42 million times that quintillion.

—Steven P. Warr, '72

Thank you, Steven, for keeping us on our toes. Our own Leonard Kahn, professor of physics, says, "The reader is correct. 60 bits can describe 2-to-the-power-of-60 different values (or states); however, in a classical computer, only one value can be represented at a time. In a quantum computer, 60 qubits can represent 2 to the power of 60 states simultaneously."

Enough Already

Really enjoy your new mag design. Lots of interesting short stories and especially love the great young entrepreneurs presented. But, the article and quotes from CNN lead international reporter Amanpour was really in poor form. Can't this be kept out of a publication by the Alumni Association? We are all gagging on the media trying to propagandize the news. Please! Rhode Island is a liberal state. We get it. Enough already.

—C. Provencal '71

SOCIAL SNAPS | INSTAGRAM



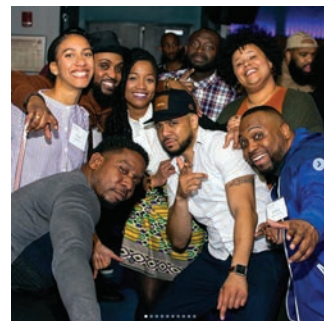
Fish-Eye Lens

The newest diving class offered at URI is advanced diving and underwater photography. @uriscubaprogram



A Man's Life

Harrington School film media and public relations major Justine Mirek '19 produced a film poignantly portraying her grandfather's struggle with Alzheimer's disease. @uriharringtonschool



Rooted in Community

URI's Alumni of Color Network gets together regularly, and always has a good time. @uriacn



Peace Out

Graduating seniors got creative with their caps in the #myuricap contest for a chance at VIP seating and parking for Commencement 2019. Cap by Savannah Mullarney '19. @universityofri

Currents

= IN BRIEF =

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Wind Power

Ørsted US Offshore Wind and Eversource have pledged \$4.5 million to support offshore wind education and supply chain development in Rhode Island. Three million dollars will be invested in higher education around offshore wind programs led by URI.



Big Boost for Biomed

The Rhode Island IDEa Network of Biomedical Research Excellence (INBRE), a partnership based at URI, was awarded \$20 million to further expand statewide research capacity in cancer, neuroscience, environmental health, and other biomedical sciences.



Listening to Whales

A group of URI students has developed an acoustic device that will detect the sounds of whales and other marine mammals near the Block Island Wind Farm. The device will send the sounds to a server where the students can monitor and record them.



Jasmin Johnson '22 models a piece designed by Killian Maloney '19.

Radioactive Dreams

URI's 16th annual Spring Splash Fashion Show, "Radioactive Dreams," featured creative designs from 10 Textiles, Fashion Merchandising and Design students; scholarships were awarded for outstanding work.

Go to uri.edu/about/quadcams



NOAA Coastal Management Fellows and 2019 M.M.A. grads Ben Sweeney, Leah Feldman, and Sabrina Pereira.

Climate Change Fellows

Three URI marine affairs master's degree grads received prestigious two-year National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Coastal Management Fellowships. Of the six national candidates selected, three were from URI. They will work with coastal communities to prepare for extreme events, like storms, and to manage the everyday impacts of coastal erosion and sea-level rise.

= NEWS TICKER =

Level Up

Marketing students from the College of Business placed third in the national Acura ILX Marketing Challenge for their semester-long "Level Up" campaign, successfully promoting the Acura ILX to young consumers.

Compassion Class

Thupten Tendhar, a URI grad student and former Tibetan Buddhist monk, created a series of online lessons to teach compassion. All students who completed the lessons showed positive changes in measures of compassion and overall well-being.

On Campus Anytime

New, high-definition cameras on the Quad at URI's Kingston Campus and overlooking the water at the Narragansett Bay Campus allow members of the URI community and the public to see the campuses from computers, phones, or tablets 24 hours a day.

Globe-Trotters

Sixteen URI students were named Beatrice S. Demers Foreign Language Fellows, and received grants to pursue language studies in Argentina, China, Germany, Italy, France, Spain, Japan, Taiwan, and Jordan.

Sweet Scholarship for STEM Teachers

URI's School of Education received \$1.2 million from the National Science Foundation's Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program to recruit, prepare, and mentor science and math teachers for high-need school districts.

= WHY I TEACH = Prescription: Empathy

Erica Estus

Clinical Associate Professor of Pharmacy



TO HEAR ERICA ESTUS TALK

about her career is to be reminded of that time in early childhood when you believed it was entirely possible to be a ballerina-firefighter-astronaut-mom.

In Estus' case, she wanted to be a pharmacist and an educator. She also had an interest in geriatrics, having grown up next door to her grandparents, an experience she appreciated fully, then and now.

So Estus, a 1996 graduate of URI's Doctor of Pharmacy Program, became an award-winning pharmacist-teacher-researcher—and also a mother and a yoga teacher. And she brings all this experience to bear in her teaching, working to improve communication between pharmacy students and the older adults they will one day serve.

She does this through intergenerational experiential learning; specifically, she takes her students to a local senior living community, where they spend a lot of time with the residents throughout the year—talking, doing activities, even putting on an annual "Senior Prom." The idea, Estus says, is to expose students to experiences that can't be fully simulated in a classroom—such as the challenges cognitive and physical decline pose for patients as they age. Experience with the patient population complements and expands upon the theories Estus teaches. "Social things—like empathy—you can't teach," Estus says. "Students have to experience those things themselves."

Pharmacy students learn that the generations separating them from the seniors don't matter so much. "The typical observation made is how alike they are and how easy it is to communicate with one another," Estus says.

The pace of a pharmacy can make a person feel stressed and rushed, Estus says. This can spill over into interactions between pharmacist and patron. Estus believes the more opportunities for students to communicate with the public, the better the future interactions will be

"We need more intergenerational communication to foster empathy and relationship-building." —Erica Estus

for both parties. "I think we need more of that intergenerational communication to foster empathy and relationship-building," she says. "There is more to it than just talking about medications and how they work."

Students find joy in realizing how much they can offer, and Estus finds happiness in watching her students discover new skills. "I find that students are very motivated and intelligent. The more experience and exposure they have, the

more they see the value in the service they're providing."

"My dad owned a pharmacy. I always wanted to be a pharmacist, but I also always wanted to be a teacher," Estus says. "When the opportunity arose to combine both of my passions, I knew I had to pursue it."

"Now I can't imagine doing anything else." •

—Marybeth Reilly-McGreen

= BAY AND BEYOND =
Eat Like a Fish

Learning to eat what the ocean provides can help sustain wild fish species.



WHERE WERE THE GREENS AND VEGETABLES IN your lunchtime salad grown? If you're among the three-quarters of Americans who, according to a 2018 Gallup poll, strive to eat locally grown foods, you may have purchased them from a farmers market or a community-supported agriculture program. Eating locally is widely recognized as healthier, fresher, good for local economies, and good for the environment. But what about the seafood you're grilling for dinner?

When it comes to fish, sustainable, local eating is equally important, but hasn't been as widely embraced. Over a hundred edible seafood species thrive off New England's ocean shores. But many of the most plentiful species are hard to find in local markets and largely unknown to consumers.

URI is a partner with Eating with the Ecosystem, a program working to change the demand for and availability of local, plentiful fish species. They promote a place-based approach to sustaining New England's wild seafood through healthy habitats, flourishing food webs, and short, adaptive supply chains. In other words, they want people to eat like a fish, which means eating what the ocean provides—adopting a supply-based, rather than a demand-based, way of eating. •

—Barbara Caron

Eating with the Ecosystem's new cookbook, *Simmering the Sea: Diversifying Cookery to Sustain Our Fisheries*, encourages readers to expand their seafood horizons.

Sarah Schumann '04 is a commercial fisher, an advocate for healthy marine ecosystems, a freelance educator and writer, and a co-author of *Simmering the Sea*. She shared this recipe for scup crudo—a refreshing, no-cook recipe that's perfect for summer.

SCUP CRUDO

2 scup, filleted and skin removed ¼ cup salt
 Rinse under cold running water and pat dry. Sprinkle salt on both sides. Let rest in refrigerator for 8 to 10 minutes. Rinse in a bowl of ice water. Pat dry. Thinly slice each fillet on a bias (45° angle).

Vinaigrette

¼ English cucumber, thinly sliced 2 Tablespoons cilantro, finely chopped
 2 radishes, thinly sliced 1 lime, juiced
 1 jalapeño pepper, seeded and diced 2 Tablespoons olive oil
 1 spring onion, thinly sliced Salt to taste

Neatly line plate with cucumber slices. Place sliced fish fillets on top. Mix radishes, pepper, spring onion, cilantro, and lime juice in a bowl. Slowly whisk in olive oil. Drizzle over fish. Sprinkle with salt. Serves 4.

HOW TO EXPAND YOUR LOCAL SEAFOOD HORIZONS

- Seek out **local species** you haven't tried before.
- Buy, cook, and use the **whole fish**.
- If you don't see the local fish variety you're looking for, **ask your grocer** or **fishmonger**. If you don't ask, they won't know you're looking for it.
- Order the fish** you're looking for in advance. Special orders let vendors know there's interest in lesser-known varieties of fish.
- When you're trying new varieties of seafood, **invite friends and family** to join you.

Simmering the Sea is a collaboration of *Eating with the Ecosystem*, Johnson & Wales University College of Culinary Arts, and the University of Rhode Island.



= GO RHODY =

Lotte Black Places Fourth in Nation

Best-Ever Finish by URI Woman Athlete

RHODE ISLAND JUNIOR Lotte Black finished fourth out of 12 runners in the 1500-meter final at the NCAA Track and Field Championships in Austin, Texas, in June.

Black was in 10th place with 400 meters to go; by finishing the last 200 meters of her race in 31 seconds, she finished in fourth place. Her final time of 4:13.02 broke her two-day-old school record by one hundredth of a

second to cap off a record-breaking year. Her finish in fourth place is the best-ever finish by a Rhode Island woman athlete in any sport.

Black set nine program records this year and was named A-10 Track Performer of the Week four times this season. In addition, she was named First Team All-American by the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association. •

—Michaela Benford



Varsity 8+ team members, sophomores Jennae Alexander (left) and Katie Usher (right), carry the team boat at the 2019 NCAA Championships in Indianapolis.

In the Swing

A Triumphant Season for URI Women's Rowing

RHODE ISLAND WOMEN'S rowing won its third conference title in four years and competed at the NCAA Championship for the second straight spring.

Head Coach Shelagh Donohoe was named A-10 Coach of the Year for the second straight season and the sixth time in her career. Her team placed 21st nationally at the NCAA Championship.

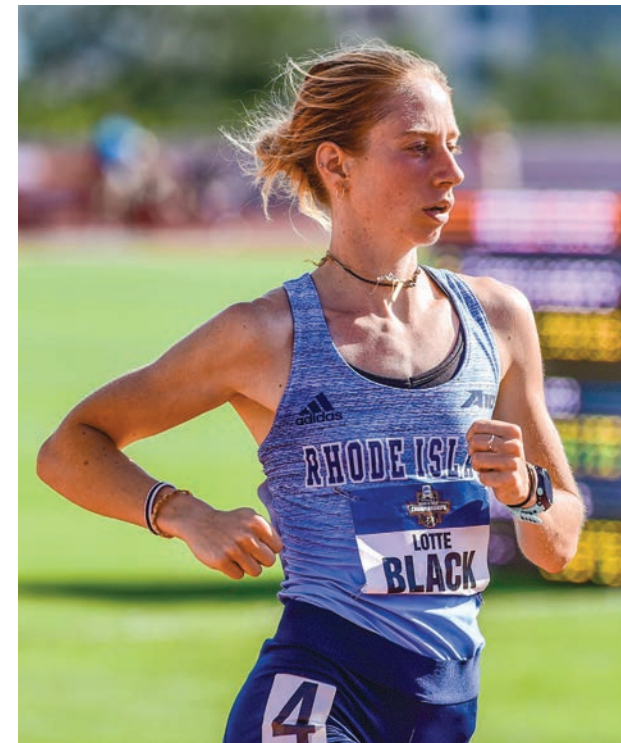
Rhody's Varsity 4+ team of coxswain Tory Bauer, Tinsley Copeland, Morgan Cody, Stephanie Erlacher, and Julia Fortin placed 19th in its flight. It was the highest finish ever by a Rhode Island boat at the NCAAs, held at Eagle Creek Park in Indianapolis from May 31 through June 2.

At the May 18 A-10 Championship on Cooper River in Pennsauken, N.J., Rhode Island had one of its best performances in program history.

All three scoring boats won their respective flights, giving URI a sweep of the competition. Seniors Erika Pena, Allie Reilly, and Maddie Van Ummersen all earned A-10 First Team All-Conference honors, while classmate Katie Shattuck was named to the second team. It was the third consecutive year Shattuck was named to the all-conference team.

While this year's team featured a big senior class (nine of the 23 URI rowers at NCAAs were seniors), there is a bright future for Rhode Island. First-year student Kat Gillies was one of 15 rowers nationally to be invited to USRowing's Under 23 Women's Olympic Development Program Camp, which will be held in Iowa City, Iowa, August 13–17. •

—Shane Donaldson '99



Lotte Black at the 2019 NCAA Track and Field Championships in Austin, Texas.

= SYLLABUS =

Obsessed with GAME OF THRONES?

It might be making you smarter. One URI professor capitalizes on the show's popularity to help her students understand Europe in the Middle Ages.

YEAS

"DRAGONS DO NOT DO WELL IN captivity," says *Game of Thrones* scene-stealer Tyrion Lannister, known for being witty, wise—and often drunk. When asked how he knows this, his reply—made with wine in hand—is: "That's what I do. I drink and I know things."

But making medieval history as vivid and memorable as the popular HBO series requires a little more than that. Professor Joëlle Rollo-Koster reasons that if her HIS 304 students can follow the shifting alliances in *GOT*, they can understand the dynastic intricacies of the Middle Ages. "Who's married to whom, why alliances are created, who's allied with whom against whom," she says, "This is the juice of history."

Based on George R.R. Martin's books, *GOT* is credited with energizing the field of medieval studies. But the show is "the work of fantasy writers," Rollo-Koster says. To separate fact from fiction, we asked her to rule on *GOT*'s historical fidelity. Here are her yeas and nays.

Kings have power. Chief among the show's successes—social interaction is based on conflict and linked to power. Medieval kings and their lords held the power to make laws, levy taxes, enlist armies. *GOT* depicts this accurately. You see "independent states still owing their allegiance to the king of the Iron Throne."

Widows are important. In the 14th century, Isabella of France, aka the She-Wolf of France, ruled after overthrowing her husband, Edward II (who was eventually murdered). "She would be a good Cersei Lannister. Widowhood was when women had the most freedom in medieval times."

A Jon Snow can get ahead. Primogeniture—inheriting by the oldest son—protected family land and power in the Middle Ages. But illegitimate children could rise up. William the Conqueror, aka William the Bastard, who conquered England in 1066, was the Jon Snow of his day. "If the oldest son died, the bastard could do very well for himself."

Honor matters. *GOT* depicts a violent world of loyalty to oath and homage to a king, who can confiscate the land of nobles who defy him—all very medieval.

NAYS

Clergy aren't prominent. *GOT* includes religious leaders—the septons—but they don't play a large role. In the Middle Ages, every ruler had a council of clergymen. Clergy were everywhere."

Tears are in short supply. "In the Middle Ages, everyone was crying. A good sermon brought tears. I think what *GOT* does is take a modern view. Modern people don't want to know that knights were always crying."

There are castles without moats. "As a true medievalist, I get upset when I see castle walls but no moats."

The world is static. No technological or social advances, little political change—the Starks have ruled the North for thousands of years. "It is interesting that in the fantasy genre there is a kind of idolization for an unchanging world. We are a society that runs fast, but here we are admiring a fictional world stuck in immobility."

—Tony LaRoche '95

EXPERIENCING *GOT* WITHDRAWAL?

Now that the series has ended, you could binge watch all eight seasons...again. But why not try branching out? Visit the medieval collection at your local art museum, or grab a book about the Middle Ages. One of Professor Rollo-Koster's favorites is Terry Jones' *Medieval Lives*. Best known as part of the Monty Python comedy group, Jones also has a Ph.D. in medieval history from Oxford.

HIS 304 • WESTERN EUROPE IN THE HIGH MIDDLE AGES PROFESSOR JOËLLE ROLLO-KOSTER

This hands-on course delves into the social, economic, political, cultural, and religious history of Europe from the 11th to the 14th century. Students learn to ask historical questions rather than simply memorize history.

Students are encouraged to visit the medieval collections at local museums, including:

- Worcester Art Museum
- Boston Museum of Fine Arts
- Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum (Boston)
- RISD Museum (Providence)



= RHODE TAKEN =

Heavy Lifting

BINTOU MARONG '15

BINTOU MARONG NEVER HAD any doubt she would apply to the University of Rhode Island. The moment she stepped foot on campus she fell in love with its beauty and sense of community. That community molded her as a student and set her on a path of caring for others as a nurse. "URI built confidence in me," she says. "Think big is the motto—and I'm living by it."

Marong, who immigrated from Gambia at age 10, enjoyed an extensive support network. In the Talent Development (TD) program, she was guided by advisor Sharon Forleo and her colleagues. Forleo retired in 2016 but remains in touch with Marong to offer advice or a kind ear. And Marong counts as close friends fellow nursing students she met during TD's summer program just before her first year at URI. She also knows she can call on her former nursing professors for references or guidance—personal or professional. "I thought I would get my degree and get out," she says. "But years later I'm still in touch with all these people."

It certainly helped that her nursing clinicals consisted of only about 10 students, allowing personalized interaction among students, faculty, and patients. Meanwhile, a prestigious fellowship at Massachusetts General Hospital allowed her to apply classroom skills in a real-world setting with a caseload of patients.

Between her studies and nursing rotations, Marong joined URI's Honors Program. She found herself in classes with unique topics—like reality television. And she combined her love of powerlifting with an academic study of gender to produce a senior Honors project entitled, "The Weight of Gender."

Her combined experiences produced an impressive resume by the time she graduated



Bintou Marong '15 outside The Miriam Hospital in Providence, Rhode Island, where she works as a cardiac nurse. This fall, she will begin Duke University's Doctor of Nursing Practice program.

from URI. Hospitals quickly extended job offers, and Marong now works as a cardiac nurse at The Miriam Hospital in Rhode Island. She was accepted to Duke University's competitive Doctor of Nursing Practice program for fall 2019. She has her sights set on working in sports medicine.

"URI was an opportunity I would not have had back home," Marong says. "URI has so many resources. There's opportunity. You just have to take it." •

—Chris Barrett '08

RHODE TO A DEGREE

Mentor
Talent Development advisor Sharon Forleo, who "kept it real"

Second Home
"I can't think of URI without thinking of Talent Development, because my TD community was my support."

Career Inspiration
Her mother, aunt, and uncle were all nurses. While a student at URI, Marong worked as a certified nursing assistant alongside her mother.

Big Opportunity
The Carol A. Ghiloni Oncology Nursing Fellowship at Massachusetts General Hospital

Scholarships
• A.T. Anderson Memorial Scholarship
• Hardge/Forleo Grant
• Paul J. Kervick Family Scholarship Endowment

Senior Honors Project
The Weight of Gender — how women powerlifters and body-builders defy traditional ideas of femininity

URI Degree
B.S. '15 nursing, *cum laude*, with a minor in thanatology



= QUAD ANGLES =

Embracing the Limits of Objectivity

By Sunshine Menezes

Science is objective and neutral, right? Maybe not, says Sunshine Menezes. By acknowledging our human subjectivity, we can move toward finding ways to counterbalance it—by creating more diverse scientific teams, for example. And given the gravity of some of the real problems we face today, such as climate change, there’s no time to wait.

I WAS TAUGHT THAT SCIENCE IS objective and neutral. As I began my career, I proudly championed scientific objectivity in my work with policymakers, advocates, and journalists, rebuffing their agendas in favor of my facts. But I was missing part of the picture.



I’m a scientist and, to be clear, I categorically believe in the value of science. Scientific inquiry advances our understanding of the world and makes our lives infinitely better.

But I’ve learned that science is not the purely and consistently objective, value-neutral undertaking I once imagined. Maybe I’ve lived long enough to see that nothing—not even science—is as clear-cut as I once believed, and to recognize the shades of gray that our experiences and biases bring to every thought we have.

We live in an important cultural moment—the very concept of objectivity is under scrutiny from many sides, particularly with regard to science and journalism. While some who question objectivity do so for personal gain (politicians, most notably), this line of questioning shouldn’t be discounted. History shows that one person’s “objective truth” may not correspond with another’s. And even the best journalism amplifies (or reduces) attention to particular facts by virtue of who

is quoted and how the story is presented. The issue that deserves discussion among scientists, engineers, and the public is how researchers’ own biases can affect our questions, our methods, and the conclusions we draw from our data, and how recognizing those biases can make our work better and stronger.

Awareness of scientific bias with regard to those who are discriminated against is critical. One of the most egregious examples of scientific malfeasance is the Tuskegee syphilis study, a 40-year assault upon African American men conducted from 1932 to 1972 by the U.S. government. The study was touted by the U.S. Public Health Service as free health care to African American men to treat “bad blood,” a catchall term that included syphilis, anemia, and fatigue. In fact, the study was designed to observe the progression of syphilis, with no intention of treating the participants, even after a cure became available in 1947. But not all examples of scientific bias are so malicious or obvious.

A contemporary example of unconscious bias concerns artificial intelligence (AI). AI uses computer algorithms to illuminate patterns in massive data sets—patterns that inform many aspects of our lives, including health care, banking, and hiring decisions. While computers do the heavy lifting in this work, humans set the process in motion, which can allow researchers’ biases to influence the analyses through the initial questions they pose.

Scientists and engineers can start to address these inequities by recognizing

the impossibility of complete objectivity. Each of us has much to learn from people with different perspectives than our own, and there is ample evidence that diverse scientific teams are more productive and creative. Researchers are identifying ways to “co-create” knowledge with communities, asking questions about cultural relevance and interpretation, and considering how to communicate more inclusively. Metcalf Institute organized the #InclusiveSciComm Symposium last year, the nation’s first conference devoted to discussing these issues in the context of science communication. The demand was so great that we will hold the symposium again this September.

Acknowledging the limits of our objectivity might feel disorienting to scientists—and to journalists, too—who hold this as a basic tenet. But this limitation is part of our humanity. It’s universal. As we face the massive scale and complexity of current issues, such as climate change and the life-altering ethical questions of genetic engineering, it is high time that we accept our subjectivity and commit ourselves to the effort of doing the hard, valuable, and necessary work in front of us—undeterred, and even strengthened by an awareness of the limitations of our objectivity. •

Sunshine Menezes, Ph.D. ’05 is the executive director of URI’s Metcalf Institute for Marine and Environmental Reporting and clinical associate professor of environmental communication in the College of the Environment and Life Sciences.

= ASK OUR BIG THINKERS =

I Just Found a Tick. Now What?

It’s summertime. When the day ends, you’ve likely spent some time outside. Maybe you worked outside or had dinner on the deck. Perhaps you hiked or took a walk with your dog. Now there’s a tick on your arm.



URI’s “TickGuy,” Professor Thomas Mather, is ready to help. Director of the TickEncounter Resource Center, and co-creator of its popular TickEncounter website, here’s his expert advice.

If you find a tick on yourself or someone else, follow these steps:

- Disinfect the bite area with rubbing alcohol before removing the tick.
- Using pointy tweezers, grab the tick at or just above the head and pull firmly but slowly upward to avoid breaking the tick. Remember, regular household tweezers aren’t the right tool for removing ticks. Use pointy tweezers.
- Disinfect the bite area again with rubbing alcohol.
- Save the tick so that you can identify and, if necessary, have it tested for disease. Not every tick is carrying disease, but any tick could be. It’s important to correctly identify any tick found biting you.

Prevent and Avoid Ticks

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| Treat your yard, clothing, and shoes with tick repellent. | Protect your pets with tick repellent and vaccinate them against Lyme disease. | Perform daily tick checks on yourself, your children, and your pets. | Learn what kinds of ticks are active where you live, and which ones transmit disease. |
|---|--|--|---|

For information and help identifying the tick, and directions for testing, go to tickencounter.org

Video at uri.edu/magazine

Some of the most commonly found ticks in the Northeast



Got Blue Mind?

Here, student Lauren Poirier explains blue mind.

On the pages that follow, writer Marybeth Reilly-McGreen dives into our cover story, introducing you to some of URI's bluest minds.

Author Wallace J. Nichols defines blue mind as “a mildly meditative state characterized by peacefulness, unity, and a sense of general happiness and satisfaction with life in the moment.” He distinguishes it from red mind, which neuroscientist Catherine Franssen describes as an “edgy high, characterized by stress, anxiety, fear, and maybe even a little bit of danger and despair.”

Water is a shortcut to happiness, Nichols argues, and blue mind is what we experience when we spend time by the sea, a pond, a river, or just luxuriating in a long bath.

Psychologists, biologists, neurologists, researchers, surfers, fishers, swimmers, and beachgoers alike agree that there is just something restorative and peaceful about spending time in or near water. In *Blue Mind: The Surprising Science That Shows How Being Near, In, On, or Under Water Can Make You Happier, Healthier, More Connected, and Better at What You Do*, Nichols delves into the science behind this phenomenon. He argues that our brains are wired to distinguish relevant from irrelevant information—an evolutionary trait initially meant to protect us from impending danger. In the case of water, this phenomenon is easily

observable. The surface of a body of water is largely static, inducing relaxation in the beholder. But when there is a disruption on the surface of the water (a ripple or a wave) the change triggers the production of dopamine in our brains. And since human beings know the nature of a body of water is to move and change—and then revert to its original shape—our brains experience “regularity without monotony”—a condition the brain craves.

The sensation of feeling relaxed near or in water is something many of us have experienced, and people have recognized the profound effect water has on our health and well-being for centuries. But why is this so? Through a variety of disciplines—biology, neuroscience, psychology, anthropology, economics, and more—and a variety of research methods and technologies, Nichols provides insights and answers to this complicated question.

Here at URI, the ocean is a part of who we are. On the following pages, you'll meet URI scientists who personify the essence of blue mind. The ocean is their home, and, because they've discovered that it connects them to something greater than themselves, they're committed to caring for it. •

—Lauren Poirier

Lauren Poirier '21 is majoring in English and public relations and is an intern in URI's Marketing and Communications Department.

Blue Minds

For these URI scientists, the ocean is their workplace, their playground, their sacred space. And their love of the sea is a net gain for science, engineering, and the environment. Maybe even humanity itself.

By Marybeth Reilly-McGreen

“The ocean is home to me. And as wild as it sounds, I’ve never been so certain about something in my life.”

—Alexandra Moen, URI Diving Safety Officer

To hear Alexandra Moen ’15 describe it, seeing spider crabs molt is kind of like watching a Burning Man event underwater: It’s a large-scale spectacle. When spider crabs molt, they aggregate, climbing one atop another, creating mounds that can expand to nearly 100 meters long, according to BBC Earth’s *Blue Planet II*.

Moen witnessed the spectacle firsthand several years ago. While diving with her students in the waters off Taylor Point on the east side of Jamestown, Rhode Island, they came upon a molting. “What we saw was massive. Probably a 6-foot-tall ball of thousands of spider crabs,” she recalls. “They were shedding their exoskeletons for yards and yards. All visibility was taken up by spider crabs molting. It just blew my mind.”

It also provided Moen with a teachable moment beyond the scope of the day’s diving lesson.

“When you put yourself in an environment like that, you’re certainly connected with nature, and you develop a greater appreciation for protecting its resources,” Moen continues. “The connection we can create by bringing students directly into this underwater environment—I mean, there’s no better way to understand what’s going on.”

What exactly is going on?

“You see seasons underwater. You see this incredible fluctuation of productivity with life. In the winter, everything gets really quiet and you tend to have nicer visibility,” Moen says. “Come summer, nutrients in the water start getting a little heavier and your visibility goes down,

but all of these things have grown and you start to see all these tiny, little baby fish darting out of the eelgrass in the shallows, and you’re like, ‘Ah, this is beautiful.’

“You also see balloons, empty chip bags, six-pack rings, and fishing line. It’s one of the greatest perks about my job that I can break that disassociation that we have—that what we do to the environment doesn’t matter,” Moen says. “I can show students that it does matter; I literally submerge them in an environment where they can see the effect of that thinking.

“You just have to make the connection.”

In the book, *Blue Mind: The Surprising Science That Shows How Being Near, In, On, or Under Water Can Make You*

Happier, Healthier, More Connected, and Better at What You Do, author and scientist Wallace J. Nichols argues that people like Moen who’ve experienced “blue mind”—an at-homeness in the environment, in general, and the ocean, in particular—should share that experience with others—for the good of humankind and the planet.

“Our deepest, most primordial emotions drive virtually every decision we make, from what we buy to the candidates

we elect,” Nichols writes. “We need to tell a story that helps people explore and understand the profound and ancient emotional and sensual connections that lead to a deeper relationship with water.

“The Blue Mind story seeks to reconnect people to nature in ways that make them feel good, and shows them how water can help them become better versions of themselves.”

Nowadays, Moen’s blue mind finds its expression in surfing as well as diving.

“What attracted me to the sport more than anything was how hard it looked. What better way to be both at home and to be challenged than surfing?” Moen says. “I am learning things every single time I paddle out. My god, does it humble me.

“But, I am a strong believer in the benefit of experiencing all of these things. In a world where everyday tasks are becoming simplified and less challenging, we are losing what it means to be part of something bigger than ourselves,” Moen continues. “Something we cannot control or simplify. For me that is nature, and, more specifically, surfing. It has helped me become more confident and proud of myself.

Pride, amazement, wonder, joy, happiness, peace, respect, awe, protectiveness: Such are the feelings and emotions URI professors and staff speak of when talking about their beloved ocean and the influence it exerts in their work—and lives—in ways big, small, and surprising.

Alex Moen emerges from a dive while teaching a class at URI’s Narragansett Bay Campus. “You see seasons underwater,” says Moen. “You see this incredible fluctuation of productivity with life.”



Rick Rhodes ponders the waves at Point Judith Lighthouse in Narragansett, Rhode Island. “When you surf,” says Rhodes, “the power of the ocean just surges under your feet.”

“Change starts with having a personal environmental ethic, and that ethic is to do no harm. Take care of what you have.”

—Richard C. Rhodes III, Executive Director, Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors and former Associate Dean, Research, College of the Environment and Life Sciences

Richard C. “Rick” Rhodes III figures he’s been surfing for 50 years, three to four days a week. “As frequently as there are waves,” he says.

How much does Rhodes love the ocean? Sit a spell. And fair warning: Surfing stories are like fish stories. With each telling they grow more epic.

Rhodes had just returned from a work trip to Morocco, where he’d surfed intense waves. “I returned to winter in Rhode Island and these puny, little waves about head-high in Matunuck,” Rhodes recalls. “A wave caught me right in the back and I started falling down. The wind caught my board and it hit my head.”

Rhodes blacked out. When he came to, he saw a trail of black in the water. Blood. Other surfers were yelling, asking if he was OK. Rhodes assured them he was fine and began paddling in. When he got into the car and caught a look at himself in the mirror, he was stunned. “I looked like I’d been in an axe fight.”

Rhodes called his wife, telling her he was headed to the hospital. He’d likely need a stitch or two—or so he thought. “In the ER, two nurses and the PA on duty were surfers. They said, ‘Wow, that’s so gnarly. How’d you do that?’”

He laughs, still amused that they were impressed. Rhodes’ injury was significant:

a gash that ran from the bridge of his nose to the middle of his forehead, arching over his left eyebrow. It required seven stitches.

“But when I tell the story, seven stitches grows to 70,” Rhodes quips. “The worst day of surfing is better than the best of a whole lot of other things. Even if you get skunked, you’re still in the water.”

While he is quick to point out that he came to URI for his career—“The really strong attraction was the job”—Rhodes considers the Atlantic to be quite the job perk.

“What I enjoy is being able to tap that source and utilize the power of the ocean for pure, unadulterated fun. It’s unlike anything else. That thing that you’re riding is moving, and you’re moving in a different dimension, and that is the coolest feeling in the world,” Rhodes says. “The power of the ocean just surges under your feet.”

The up-close-and-personal relationship Rhodes has with the ocean has made him an advocate of scientific literacy; essentially he wants people to understand scientific concepts and processes so they can make informed and ethical decisions in their personal and professional lives, as well as at the polls. In his current job, Rhodes examines the way we raise food—and how much food we raise. Climate

change, saltwater inundation in soil, nutrient-deficient land: These are just some of the issues we face in the near future, he says. And then there’s pollution. Every year, approximately 9 million tons of plastic waste enter the ocean, according to a May 2019 *National Geographic* article, “Little Pieces, Big Problems.”

How to change things?

“Change starts with having a personal environmental ethic, and that ethic is to do no harm. Take care of what you have,” Rhodes says. “We were taught as graduate students to be unimpassioned observers of science. But your job—as a scientist, as an educator—is to provide a context for data. You are also responsible for providing environmental literacy.

“We are all caretakers in this, and we all have a stake in this.”

Brian Caccioppoli at work on Ninigret Pond, a coastal salt pond in Charlestown, Rhode Island. Caccioppoli, an avid surfer, says his work mapping shorelines and seafloor depth is completely intertwined with his love of surfing. "When you go out on the water," he says, "your brain clears."



"The ocean is an almost magnetic thing to people who are drawn to it."

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

Brian Caccioppoli '11 came to URI to study marine biology as an undergraduate, but fell in love with coastal geology. He studies climate change, erosion, and other factors affecting coastal geography. He works with other marine research specialists and lab techs mapping shorelines and seafloor depth, and surveying the marine life there. Plainly put, Caccioppoli's work monitoring and documenting change provides answers to such questions as why and how beaches are altered—by single events (like storms) and over time—which, in certain cases, places Rhode Island in a better position to seek federal funding. "What I do is pragmatic science," Caccioppoli says.

Pragmatic science can be disheartening. For instance, beach replenishment—adding sand to an eroding shoreline to reduce storm damage and coastal flooding—can feel futile because, says Caccioppoli, "It's not unheard of for a beach to lose a third of replenished sand within just two years." But Caccioppoli

presses on. His stake in this work extends beyond the bounds of professionalism. "I want to know what's going on and how it will affect what I love to do," he says. "It's all intertwined for me."

What Caccioppoli loves to do is surf. He's been at it for 14 years. Growing up on Long Island, he and his family were at the beach three to five days a week in the summer. Surfing was an instant addiction. "The first wave I caught, I knew I was in trouble. I knew it was going to change decisions I made on a daily basis," he says. "The first time you get your feet on the board and catch a wave, it feels like you're flying."

"When you go out into the water, your brain clears. You stop focusing on anything other than the pure experience of being on the ocean," Caccioppoli continues. "Your burdens are gone. You come out and the tasks you have to do don't seem so huge. It's such a mood elevator, such a stress reliever."

Yet surfing sometimes grants Caccioppoli an up-close-and-personal

view of the tension that is climate change. One way climate change manifests itself, for instance, is in more frequent and powerful storms. Storms produce better surf. "But climate change could also result in the disappearance of some of our current surf breaks," says Caccioppoli. "Quite a few local surf spots break best at lower tides—Matunuck, for example. We know sea level has risen over the past century here in Rhode Island. That trend will result in higher sea levels, which will inevitably result in changing surf breaks, possibly rendering some nonviable."

In talking of his fellow New England surfers, Caccioppoli characterizes them as "fully committed" to the sport. In observing him talking about his research and his chosen sport, the phrase fits him, too. Caccioppoli smiles at the suggestion.

"The ocean is an almost magnetic thing to people who are drawn to it," he says.

For the past nine years, Emily Clapham '02, M.S. '04 has directed a surfing program at Narragansett Town Beach for children with disabilities. She is assisted by student volunteers whose interests range from speech and language to education and kinesiology. The program—Catching Waves for Health, URI Xtreme Inclusion—serves children with varying degrees of abilities, including Down syndrome, autism spectrum disorder, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, cerebral palsy, and developmental delays. Surfing lessons are free for participants, and student volunteers can get college credit for their work. In Clapham's near decade of experience, she has seen surfing and surf therapy have a positive effect on children's physiological, social, and emotional responses. Clapham first noted such outcomes in her own mental, emotional, and physical health, and was eager to share the benefits with others.

"I know I have a clearer head on the water," Clapham says. "I'm calmer when

"Children will stop and cheer for others when they catch a wave. They get excited for each other as they learn and grow together."

—Emily Clapham, Associate Professor, Department of Kinesiology

I'm surfing, when I'm experiencing the rhythmic motion of the waves."

Clapham's work has attracted attention and funding from such sources as the John E. Fogarty Foundation for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities, the Gronk Nation Youth Foundation, and the Doug Flutie Jr. Foundation for Autism.

And while the benefits are myriad for anyone who surfs—improvement in core and upper-body strength, cardiorespiratory endurance, balance, self-esteem, and confidence—for children with disabilities, these gains are amplified, and other gains are also apparent.

"Goals are focused around cognitive, physical, and social gains," Clapham says. "Children will stop and cheer for others when they catch a wave. They get excited for each other as they learn and grow."

Participants also aren't held to a single right way to surf. Some kids want to boogie board, some stay in the white water. "One little boy wanted to sit on the board backward to watch the waves," Clapham recalls.

One of the greatest accomplishments to be had for the kids Clapham works with is the sense that doing such a thing as surfing earns people's attention and respect. "It is not an easy activity and takes strength, patience, and perseverance to be successful," says Clapham. "The ocean can be very humbling."

"Surfing gives them street cred because they're doing this cool thing—they're surfers," Clapham says. "They're actually out there doing it."



Emily Clapham works with Tessa Eagan in Catching Waves for Health at Narragansett Beach. Clapham has observed the positive effects of surfing and surf therapy on children in the program and has experienced it herself: "I'm calmer when I'm surfing," she says.

Brennan Phillips '04, Ph.D. '16 is in the midst of packing up much of his deep-sea robotics lab—URI's Undersea Robotics and Imaging Laboratory—for a trip. There is much to see and wonder at—hardware, electronics, 3D printers, and computers everywhere. Phillips and his group create complex machines—Phillips calls them “systems”—for oceanographic and deep-sea exploration. To the untrained eye, these systems look like little robots. With their low-light imaging systems, manipulators, and lightweight, low-cost technology, these units are affordable and well-suited for capturing images of remote, unexplored undersea environments. “We’re trying to push the limits of the technology out there now, much of which is big, heavy, and clunky. We’re trying to make it smaller and lighter,” Phillips says.

“I never really get away from my work. That’s how I operate—by being completely immersed. We’re trying to push the limits of the technology out there now.”

—Brennan Phillips, Assistant Professor of Ocean Engineering, Graduate School of Oceanography

Phillips learned to surf as an undergraduate at URI. To hear him talk about it, surfing seems more another aspect of his education than simple recreation.

“It was the hardest thing I’ve ever tried to do. I had no idea how hard it was going to be. But I like to be challenged. The first day, I borrowed a board.” The next day, Phillips went to a local surf shop, bought a 9-foot board, and brought it home to Peck Hall.

“My junior and senior years, I got serious. It was like joining the mob,” Phillips jokes. “This is my sport. I run, ski, and bike, but surfing is my number-one favorite thing to do in the whole world.”

Phillips is a year-round surfer. “I like to be in nature. If you pay attention, there are days all year-round when there are waves. I aspire to get out once a week.”

Whether in or out of the water, Phillips thinks about how human beings might



access the ocean without disruption. How might one of his small, lighted, bulldozer-like machines, for instance, take scientifically accurate photographs of the ocean floor when its very presence causes marine life to scatter?

Like his fellow surfing scientists, Phillips’ work and play intertwine. He talks of the day when all that goes into making underwater robots could be applied to tailoring fins or wetsuits. Already, there is an Australian robotics lab focused on surfboard design, he notes.

“I never really get away from my work,” Phillips notes. “That’s how I operate—by being completely immersed.”

Brennan Phillips at work in the Solomon Islands, where he was part of a team investigating an unexplored underwater volcano.



“The fluidity of the ocean is comforting to me. The boundless nature of it. It’s amazing.”

—Austin Humphries, Assistant Professor of Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Science, Department of Fisheries, Animal and Veterinary Sciences

Austin Humphries estimates he spent about 200 days on the water last year—nearly seven days a week from May to September and all of January.

An assistant professor of ecosystem-based fisheries science, Humphries took about 75 research dives last year and calculates he spent more than 100 hours underwater. “I interact and interface with the ocean on a daily basis. I fish, surf, dive, and sail.”

Humphries studies fisheries and coastal management in the United States, as well as in developing countries such as Kenya, Indonesia, and Ghana. He and his team collect data on fish populations, fishers’ catches, and where fish go and how that impacts livelihoods. To do this, they compare heavily impacted ecosystems with those that have less of a human fingerprint. With these data, they create simulations for fishery managers or fishers to use in decision-making. This could mean limiting the number of fish that can be caught in an area, or promoting a certain type of fishing gear.

“We look at the influence or ramifications of different management strategies and how those strategies translate into fisheries’ catches and well-being,” Humphries says. “It’s a challenge to work in places with poor infrastructure, but it can be incredibly rewarding and is often at the invitation of fishers and fishery managers. The first thing I do when starting a research project is go to the place

and talk to people about what they want done. Then we build from there.

“They’re hard problems, and there’s never one answer,” he says.

The work suits Humphries, a Virginian, who worked as a fisher in Alaska after graduating from college. “I recognize and sympathize with the plight of fishers. They face wicked problems.”

“Wicked” not in the Rhode Island sense, but as a descriptor of a problem that is difficult, if not impossible, to solve because of its interconnectedness with other problems. Still, you get the sense that Humphries is more than content to grapple with the impossible and that the sea has more than a little to do with it.

“The fluidity of the ocean is comforting to me,” Humphries says, “the bound-

less nature of it. For the amount of time I’ve spent around it, for the marine life I’ve had the opportunity to react and respond to—it’s amazing.

“From an intellectual point of view,” Humphries says, “the ocean’s vastness provides perspective on life and problems.

“And if you look at it the right way, it offers a form of hope.” •

Austin Humphries studies fisheries ecology and management in the U.S. and developing nations. Above, he talks to a Ph.D. student on a boat about site selection for a survey. Below, he dives on a coral reef in Raja Ampat, Indonesia, to survey fish communities. Humphries makes note of the “boundless nature” of the ocean. “The marine life I’ve had the opportunity to study, react and respond to—it’s amazing.”





SURFERS OF URI

URI students, staff, and faculty are drawn to the ocean to feel its power, channel its beauty and healing qualities, and experience the incomparable thrill of catching a wave.

URI's student surfers agree that surfing is beyond sport; it's a way of life. Some are even exploring courses of study that incorporate their love of the ocean—and they're coming up with super-chill big ideas for the future.

Meet them at uri.edu/magazine.

Left to right: marine research specialist **Brian Caccioppoli '11, M.S. '15**; **Kiran Reed '20**; dive safety officer **Alexandra Moen '15**; associate professor of kinesiology **Emily Clapham '02, M.S. '04**; assistant professor of ocean engineering **Brennan Phillips '04, Ph.D. '16**; **Laird French '21**; **Jake Fagan '22**. In front, Alexandra Moen's dog, **Arrow**.

Surf FIRST

By Paul Kandarian

PETER PANAGIOTIS '71, BETTER KNOWN AS PETER PAN, STARTED URI'S SURF CLUB IN 1968.

He's long since become a surfing legend, famous for finding the most out-of-the-way waves. He's inspired and influenced local surfers through his long-running surf camps and competitions, his radio surf reports, and as the owner of several South County surf shops—but mostly through his infectious love of surfing. Pan lives by the mantra,

"SURF FIRST. EVERYTHING ELSE SECOND."



ALWAYS IN THE FLOW.

Pan catches a perfect ride at one of his favorite spots in Narragansett, Rhode Island.

A SK PETER PAN IF THERE'S

any better surfing on the planet than the Narragansett, Rhode Island, waters he loves best, and you do so at your own risk. It's like asking Santa Claus if he'd live anywhere but the North Pole.

Pan, who doesn't gladly suffer foolish questions, says, "Nahhh," with a disgusted wave of the hand. And in the nasally, cackling tone he's famous for, responds, "Narragansett—it's the best place. People say, 'Oh, it's great in

Westerly,' or, 'It's great in Newport.' I tell 'em, 'OK, if it's so good in Westerly and Newport, terrific; stay there. Just stay the hell out of Narragansett; it's crowded enough as it is.'"

Studying in the then-new art program at URI back in the day, Pan so loved surfing that he started the University's first Surf Club, still in existence, though its activity fluctuates from year to year.

"I started it in '68," Pan says. "We started competitions with other clubs, and I still run contests for them every once in a while."

Never one to mince words, Pan fought for money to kick off the URI Surf Club, using a nifty bit of logic.

"I remember going to the Student Senate and fighting for money, and finding out they gave out like 400 bucks for rope for the mountain-climbing club," Pan recalls. "I said, 'Hey, you gave 400 bucks for rope, you can give us 400 bucks for trophies. We always got money after that.'"

Manhattan-born, Pan was Rhode Island-raised, coming here as a baby with his Greek parents. He took up surfing as a kid, and at 69 is still a kid at heart: He works when he has to, teaching mostly fitness classes or snowboarding or whatever pays the bills. But every spare moment, he's out on the water.

In addition to his work with the URI Surf Club, Pan helps URI kinesiology professor Emily Clapham '02, M.S. '04, who runs a surf therapy program for kids with disabilities, called Catching Waves for Health. She's run it for 10 years, and Pan has helped since the beginning, including designing wetsuits that are easier to get in and out of than standard wetsuits. "That's huge for these kids, some of whom have a hard time waiting," Clapham says. "This way, they're in and out of the water much faster."

Pan also loans boards and gear to the kids' parents and caretakers when they want to get into the water with their kids.

"Without question, Peter's an integral part of the success of our program," says Clapham. "He'll come and watch from afar and then call me up later to give me advice on what board would work better for each child. And on the last day of the program, when we give out medals, he's the one handing them out."

As to his overall legend, Clapham says, "He just loves surfing and wants to share the stoke with everybody."

RACHEL MCCARTY '10 WAS PRESIDENT

of the URI Surf Club from 2009–2010, and vice president before that. Growing up in the Washington, D.C., area, McCarty, whose parents attended URI for graduate school, had heard of Pan before she came to Rhode Island.

"Peter's great," says McCarty, who learned to surf as a youngster back home. "He's always been so good to the URI kids. We'd go to his shop, Narragansett Surf & Skate Shop, and pick his brain, and he'd give us breaks on gear."

If not for the URI Surf Club, says McCarty, now soft goods buyer for The Kayak Centre of Rhode Island in Wickford, "I don't think I'd have made it past my first year of school."

She had applied to another college, her first choice, but didn't get in. She came to URI, she says, "kinda bummed out, but my dad said, 'Go for a year.'"

She soon discovered the URI Surf Club. McCarty says the club, along with waves to surf almost literally right outside her door, "made a huge difference in my life. I stayed at URI, loved it, and haven't left the state since."

Make no mistake, she says, the Power of Pan is quite real.



"HE JUST LOVES SURFING AND WANTS TO SHARE THE STOKE WITH EVERYBODY."

—Emily Clapham '02, M.S. '04, Professor of Kinesiology and Director, Catching Waves for Health



VINTAGE VIBES.

Some early '70s classics from Pan's scrapbooks. Above, Pan and friend, Mario Frade, at the 1971 URI Winter Surf Contest. Below, Pan's Volkswagen Beetle—which doubled as a board caddy—at Monahan's dock. That's Pan out there on the waves.

"I knew how to surf when I got to URI, but his influence on me was mainly just seeing him on the water. He's amazing, always stoked," McCarty says. "And it's a miracle if you can see him at all, because he's always finding these out-of-the-way spots where the best surf is. Just spotting him is almost magical."

Pan's daughter, Tricia Panagiotis '01, who now runs Narragansett Surf & Skate Shop, is understandably one of her dad's biggest fans.

"It's great having your dad around all the time, surfing with him," she says. "I remember at 13, it was like minus 17 one day. I had ice on my suit, and Dad's out there with me, all pumped up. He gets so excited; you can't help but catch it."

To look at Pan the man is to feel jealous that someone pushing 70 can look so good. Pan shrugs at the compliment, admitting, "Hey, I'm an old fart now."

He feels his age from time to time, especially when he teaches fitness classes all day and then surfs.

"If I was smart, I'd surf first and then teach," he says in that nasally chuckle. "I tell ya though, if the waves are good, I do go surfing, and then teach class. Then I'm just dead at night, but who cares. I'm surfing, that's all that matters." •





} The Internationalists

By Laurel McLaughlin '92

URI has become a unique training ground for students immersing themselves in language and culture and tackling some of the world's toughest problems.

▲ These students and recent grads all studied language with another discipline. Left to right: Alison Otto '18, German International Engineering Program; Richard Lisi '18, kinesiology and Italian; Africa Smith '18, dual major in Africana studies and political science, minor in justice, law, and society, and studied Spanish; Meredith Shubel '18, communications and French; Cynthia Malambi '20, political science and French; Sandra Deeb '20, French International Engineering Program.

Imagine standing in a small, crowded *alimentari*, a specialty grocery shop somewhere in Tuscany. The air is dense with the earthy smell of cured prosciutto and salami, and you're dying to sample some with a hunk of salty, freshly baked schiacciata bread.

Your Italian isn't half bad. Now it's just a question of ordering. You rehearse, break apart, and rearrange the words in your head. You need to get the pronunciation just right so the proprietor doesn't make The Face. If you've ever struggled with language proficiency, you've seen it:

the furrowed expression of strained attention people get when they discover you don't really speak their language.

URI language students likely never see The Face.

Alison Otto '18, a graduate of the German International Engineering Program, was working on an internship at a company near Stuttgart, Germany, when she met up with friends from URI for the annual Wasen spring festival. In the impromptu community of strangers gathered around the communal tables drinking beer, singing, and sharing stories,

Otto struck up a conversation with two Germans. When they learned she was from the United States, they were surprised—her German was so good, they didn't peg her as a foreigner. "That was a real highlight for me because I had started in German 101 my first year, and my fluency improved so much," she says.

Raising the Bar

Increasing numbers of URI students are adding a second language to their list of achievements, and an institution-wide commitment to fluency and excellence is preparing them for a multicultural, international workplace.

"Our goal is to build a high level of language proficiency and cultural competence so that students are prepared to study abroad," says Karen de Bruin, chair of the Department of Modern and

Classical Languages and Literatures. The department sets ambitious goals for the level of proficiency students attain, and it fosters a culture of immersion on campus. The language department has become a diverse international enclave on campus where students from different continents and cultural traditions converge, converse, and find new ways of seeing the world.

And they've earned some recognition for this approach. In a recent *New York Times* opinion piece, Bénédicte de Montlaur, the cultural counselor of the French Embassy in the United States, argues that Americans should be creating opportunities for students to learn other languages, not slashing those opportunities. And she cites URI among the universities that have "restructured programs to emphasize the ability to work, socialize, and research across languages."

Cynthia Malambi '20, originally from

the Democratic Republic of the Congo, spent part of her childhood in the Kpomassé refugee camp in Benin. Like many children in West Africa, Malambi learned French in school. She spoke Swahili and Lingala at home, and the camp brought together people from a variety of nations. She understands some Kikongo, Fon, and Mina and can even speak a few words. "We had to use language to connect to each other, so it was something we just picked up without learning it formally," she says. Malambi continues to seek language as a way to connect at URI, where she majors in political science and French and is also studying Chinese. "I am interested in international human rights, particularly on the continent of Africa. French is spoken in many nations there, and China has been investing widely in Africa over the past decade," she says.

▼ Emily Hadfield '18 completed the Chinese International Business Program and is currently in Beijing, China, finishing the Chinese Flagship Program. She took this photo during a 2017 summer immersion program. While there, she traveled to the Kubuqi Desert in Inner Mongolia, where she experienced a unique and vibrant sect of Chinese culture, riding camels in the desert and living in a yurt in the grasslands outside the capital city of Hohhot.



► Africa Smith '18 snapped this photo upon arriving in Cuba for a 2017 J-Term class, Dynamics of Social Change in Cuba (PSC 415). "The old-school red car pulled up next to us, playing loud, traditional music, and the driver began talking to our driver, a friend of his," says Africa. "This was my first time leaving the country and using my passport. My Spanish skills—learned from my mother, who is from Costa Rica, were minimal, but this trip made me want to explore the language more, so I took Spanish classes when I returned to URI. The trip also gave me a greater perspective on global blackness and on being Afro-Latina."



"Language is a medium that helps people become more self-aware, and it has the power to transmit values across generations."

— Richard Lisi '18

A Community of Interwoven Cultures

This generation of students at URI has tapped into international education as a way to connect who they are and what they want to do in the world.

Donna Gamache-Griffiths, director of the International Business Program, says URI's strength lies in embracing global diversity. "The University has done so much to support the internationalization of our programs and make them accessible for our students. We have forged connections and partnerships with colleges and universities around the world and added a global component to our curricula campus-wide," she says. "The diversity of our community is a tremendous asset. Many of our students grow up speaking another language in addition to English, and we value that knowledge."

Richard Lisi '18, a kinesiology graduate enrolling at Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School this fall, studied the Italian language and culture because it's an important part of his heritage. "Language is a medium that helps people become more self-aware, and it has the power to transmit values across generations," he says. It also enriches his perspective on his chosen field. "It will help me be more open to the diverse needs of my patients," Lisi says. "Learning another language gives people a cross-cultural empathy."

Africa Smith '18, who graduated with a dual major in Africana studies and political science and a minor in justice, law, and society, grew up speaking English, but her mother, who was born in Costa Rica, is bilingual. Smith chose to participate in a J-Term program in Cuba because she knew that speaking Spanish

and connecting with people there would add something to her education. But she was surprised by how much she connected to her own culture. "I didn't expect to see so many people who looked like me," she says. She enjoyed learning about the Afro-Cuban music tradition and seeing how different groups within the African diaspora express their culture.

When Smith mentored other students, she encouraged them to consider a trip abroad as part of their college experience. "Sometimes it's hard to see yourself in a place at first," she says. "I want to make a space for myself."

Meredith Shubel '18, a communications and French major, agrees that studying abroad is something everyone should consider. During her study-abroad experience in France, she met students from France, Australia, Mexico, and Poland, among others. "For me," says Shubel, the

most valuable part was living with people who weren't from America—and learning new things from them every day." She noticed that most of her friends spoke at least two languages. "It is much more common for people to speak two or even three languages in other countries," she adds.

Visionary Programs

Owing, in part, to the success of their programs, the language department has grown during a time when other universities are scaling back or even cutting certain languages. According to surveys conducted by the Modern Language Association, course enrollments in languages other than English at U.S.

colleges and universities fell by 9.2 percent between 2013 and 2016. At URI the opposite is true. For the same period at URI, the number of students majoring in languages grew from 511 to 655, a 28 percent increase. Now one of the largest language programs in the nation, the department has increased the number of languages offered, and the number of students pursuing joint majors, double majors, or minors has grown considerably.

Another key to the boom in language study at URI is the high level of collaboration between colleges and departments to create interdisciplinary programs with a global focus. With the founding of the International Engineering Program more than 30 years ago, URI created a successful

▼ Professor of Geosciences Thomas Boving took this photo during a 2018 J-Term class in Indonesia, which introduces students to the culture, natural resources, environment, and geology of this developing Asian nation. During the class, students explore Mount Ijen, an active volcano in Java. The climb begins at 2 a.m.—so the students can see the spectacular sunrise at the rim of the crater. They climb down into the crater wearing gas masks to protect them from the noxious gases inside. This photo shows two students at the edge of the lake at the bottom of the crater. Filled with dangerously acidic water, the turquoise lake, which is partially visible through the gases in this photo, is deceptively beautiful.





▲ Caitlyn Picard '18 majored in English and journalism. She traveled to Rome with Professor Daniel Carpenter and his Myths of Rome (CLA 396) J-Term class in January 2017. They visited the ruins of the Roman Forum and the grave site of Julius Caesar. When the sun began to set, Picard was moved by the beauty of the site and the history it held, capturing the moment with this photo.

model that many institutions follow. These signature international programs share key features, including the development of a high level of language mastery and a full year spent abroad to study and work at internships.

The international engineering, business, and computer science programs now offer language tracks in German, French, Spanish, Italian, Japanese, and Chinese. The Chinese Flagship Program challenges students to achieve superior language proficiency and a B.A. in Mandarin Chinese as well as a bachelor's degree in a chosen field. It is one of only 12 programs in the United States in which students can start with no knowledge of Chinese and progress to a professional level of proficiency while earning a second degree in another

discipline. Students in the International Textiles, Fashion Merchandising and Design Program can choose either Italian or French. The International Pharmaceutical Sciences Program offers a dual degree in pharmaceutical sciences (B.S.P.S.) and in French, German, or Italian (B.A.). This year, a new International Studies and Diplomacy Program launches, with language tracks in German, French, Spanish, Italian, and Chinese.

Students follow a rigorous course of language study within the context of their major, learning through language and building vocabulary specific to that discipline. They also master the practical details of living and working in another culture—and even how to order a sandwich without embarrassing themselves.

Uniquely Prepared to Help Change the World

How will URI's language students apply what they've learned? Cynthia Malambi will promote human rights and help amplify the voices of refugees throughout the world. Africa Smith will empower communities of color and connect them to opportunities around them. Alison Otto will create clean, renewable energy systems. Richard Lisi will be an empathetic healer and enjoy long conversations with his Italian-born grandfather. As a technical writer for a Rhode Island PR firm, Meredith Shubel is already helping to educate people in emerging technologies, like infrared sensors for autonomous vehicles. She is also staying in touch with

friends from around the world and working on mastering Spanish and Russian.

Sandra Deeb '20, a French IEP student, believes that learning a language is important because it makes us care about each other more. "When you study another culture, you see the world from that perspective, and it helps you treat the world with an equal level of respect," she says.

Deeb has a strong will to do good in the world, and the field of ocean engineering interests her because of the potential for discovering new forms of renewable energy. Her family came to the United States from Syria. "In that part of the world, ongoing conflicts are often related to fossil fuel. Working on sustainable forms of energy is one way that I can help," she says.

"When you study another culture, you see the world from that perspective, and it helps you treat the world with an equal level of respect."
— Sandra Deeb '20

"There is inherent value in the study of the humanities," says Sigrid Berka, executive director of the International Engineering Program. "The liberal arts foundation students receive by learning the language, the literature, and the perspective of another culture builds not only intellectual skills like critical thinking and novel approaches to problem-solving, but also empathy and altruism." •

Fins, flippers AND FINDING A DREAM JOB

By Todd McLeish



Allie Seifter Bruscato '11 works closely with many of Mystic's marine mammals, including this beluga whale. Below left, one of Mystic's Steller sea lions; Below right, Mystic has a diverse display of jellyfish, including these blue blubber jellies. Below, facing page, the aquarium entrance welcomes more than 800,000 visitors each year.



A beluga dives, displaying its distinctive tail flukes.

URI's connection with Mystic Aquarium affords one-of-a-kind opportunities for URI students and alumni.

The University of Rhode Island and Mystic Aquarium, in nearby Mystic, Connecticut, have forged a special relationship. At Mystic Aquarium, you'll find URI alumni in a variety of roles and URI students working on internships. There's an upper-level undergraduate seminar on marine mammals taught at the aquarium, and a URI faculty member doing important research on beluga whale reproduction. Ask any of them what they love about their work at Mystic, and they'll tell you it's the exposure to the animals and the one-of-a-kind chance to do rewarding work.

DREAM JOB

When Allie Seifter Bruscato '11 was a child growing up in Brooklyn, she often visited the New York Aquarium, and she quickly decided that she wanted to pursue a career as a marine mammal trainer. It's why she decided to study marine biology at the University of Rhode Island.

As a student at URI, she dived in Honduras with the Scuba Club and researched stingrays and endangered North Atlantic right whales. After graduation, she worked as a marine mammal

observer on an icebreaker off the coast of Alaska, in small planes off the Georgia coast, and on a dredge off the New Jersey coast. Her desire to work with marine mammals never waned.

She eventually landed her dream job at Mystic Aquarium's Arctic Coast and Pacific Northwest exhibit. She spends every day with beluga whales, harbor seals, Steller sea lions and northern fur seals. She couldn't be happier.

"It's so great to be here," Bruscato said. "It takes a lot of hard work to get here, there's a lot of competition, and it definitely takes a lot of dedication to make sure everything runs smoothly for the animals. And a lot of teamwork. But I've been here for five years and hope to continue my career here."

Bruscato is one of many URI students, faculty, and alumni who have benefited from a unique partnership between URI and Mystic Aquarium. Some have enrolled in a URI class taught entirely at the aquarium, while others have conducted research there or served as interns in any one of a dozen different aquarium departments. A lucky few—today that number is eight—work as permanent

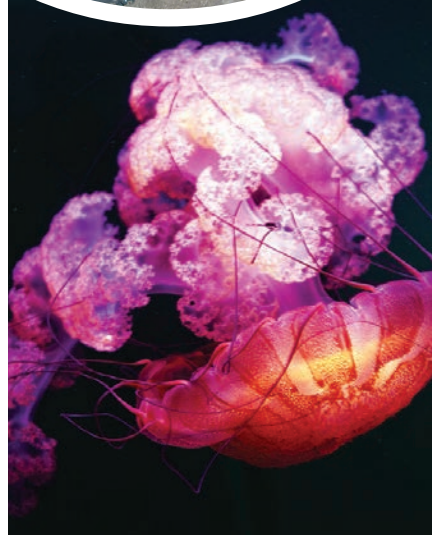
employees who care for the animals, educate the public, and ensure that visitors have the best experience possible.

Five URI alumni serve as marine mammal trainers at Mystic: Bruscato, Jen Rock '06, Lindsey Nelson '06, Alycia Coulumbe '16, and Rachael DesFosses '15.

In most cases, the animals are not trained to perform or entertain guests. Instead, trainers help the animals learn how to work with staff and veterinarians who are responsible for monitoring their health. For example, Bruscato spent time this winter and spring helping a 19-year-old harbor seal learn how to get an X-ray.

"I'm responsible for all of his husbandry behaviors, his diet, and his overall health care," Bruscato says. "Now he knows how to go on the radiograph plate and he allows our vets to scan his body with a light. He's ready for that procedure whenever he needs it."





Top, sea horses feed in Mystic's main gallery; center, a beluga whale surfaces, showing the species' distinctive rounded head (melon); bottom, a brilliant jellyfish displays its colors.

THE COOLEST CLASS

Most URI students who get to experience Mystic Aquarium behind the scenes do so when they enroll in Seminar on Marine Mammals (AVS 440), an upper-level course held entirely at the aquarium. The class was first taught more than 35 years ago in collaboration with the University of Connecticut, but today more than 90 percent of the students enrolled are from URI, primarily those majoring in marine biology and animal science. Co-taught by postdoctoral fellow Justin Richard, Ph.D. '16, who worked at the aquarium as a beluga whale trainer before earning his doctorate at URI, and Mary Ellen Mateleska, director of conservation programs at the aquarium, it features weekly guest speakers from around the country discussing such topics as dolphin communication, marine mammal stranding and rehabilitation, dive physiology, and aquarium veterinary care.

Robert Kenney, Ph.D. '85, emeritus marine scientist at URI's Graduate School of Oceanography, has led one class session each year since 1983, focusing on whale bioenergetics and feeding strategies. In his sessions, he draws on his decades of experience studying right whales.

According to Richard, one theme of his class is applying scientific literature to the field of marine mammal biology.

"My biggest role is overseeing the assignments where students are challenged to dig into the scientific literature and learn how to evaluate articles and understand how they can be applied to marine mammal conservation and management," he says.

In addition to the weekly lectures, students get a behind-the-scenes tour of the aquarium and go on a whale watch.

The Seminar on Marine Mammals at Mystic "was the coolest thing I did at URI."

— Rachael DesFosses '15

"That class was the coolest thing I did at URI," says DesFosses. "All the different speakers gave such an interesting perspective about the field, and I just soaked it all in. It helped me confirm that working with marine animals was what I really wanted to do."

Kaitlyn Quirke '18 had a similar reaction to the class.

"It's definitely not an overstatement to say that the class changed the entire trajectory of my career," she says. "I was a marine bio major, but I wasn't sure what I was going to do with it. And when the class brought in all these different



Steller sea lions are among the largest species to call Mystic home. Just as in the wild, Mystic's sea lions eat a diet of fish and invertebrates, such as squid; below left, coral on display; below right, northern fur seal pups haul out for a rest.



professionals from the field, it showed me that there's so many directions you can take with a career in marine mammals. I molded the rest of my education around that one class.

"We got to see so much of what goes on behind the scenes at the aquarium and how to apply what we were learning in class," she adds. "We felt like VIPs one night a week."

Before the end of their respective classes, Richard invited DesFosses and Quirke to help him with his research on beluga whale reproductive physiology, and he advised them to join the volunteer

program at the aquarium, which gave them a competitive advantage when applying for the aquarium's highly competitive internships.

SEAL THE DEAL

"I think what made me stand out during my internship interview was that I was willing to volunteer first," Quirke said. "I proved during my volunteer time that I'm reliable and a hard worker, so they knew that about me going in."

Quirke's internship in guest services and the marine mammal husbandry department—which includes working with

a harbor seal—continues through August 2019. And then she has her fingers crossed that she will get hired to work with animals or in another public outreach role.

DesFosses completed three internships at the aquarium before she was hired full-time, but she says it was all worthwhile. "It's the coolest job; it's everything I could have imagined it would be and more," she says. "I don't think I could ever want anything more with my career than what I'm doing now."

A BAD DAY AT WORK? NOT HERE

Not every URI grad who works at the aquarium works with marine mammals, of course. Megan Priede-Sousa '06, for instance, is the assistant supervisor of fish and invertebrates, which means she is responsible for almost everything that has to do with the aquarium's marine life—with the exception of the birds, mammals, and reptiles.

And Tyler Bawden '17 helps ensure that visitors to the aquarium have a positive experience. As a guest services captain, he answers questions from guests, ensures exhibits are staffed, helps run the shows, trains new staff, and handles guest complaints. It's exactly the kind of job he hoped for when he earned his degree in wildlife biology—a combination of wildlife conservation and environmental education.

"Every day working with guests and animals is strangely unique," he says. "All the animals have as many personalities as our staff does, and our guests can make or break the day. We have a really good team that helps support whatever comes our way, from making sure our shows open up, telling people about feeding times, wandering around addressing issues, and making sure the front desk is taken care of. If something doesn't seem right, we work on it."

While he doesn't get hands-on with the animals every day, he helps manage VIP tours and beluga whale encounters, and he gets plenty of opportunities for wildlife encounters of his own.

"Everything is so unique here," Bawden says. "On any given day I might want to hang out with the fur seals or be surrounded by the reptiles—they're my



African penguins, like this Mystic resident, are endangered. Their population has declined 90 percent over the last 60 years. Mystic is a part of worldwide efforts to address and reverse the decline. Below, children enjoy a Mystic exhibit.

bread-and-butter. I can't say I have a favorite animal, but I also don't have a least favorite."

For Gabby Woodford '14, working at the aquarium often means she's on the road presenting educational programs about marine life to audiences near and far, all of which involve showcasing some of the aquarium's animals, from crabs to sea urchins to reptiles.

"I could be doing a birthday party at the aquarium or at someone's house; I might go to a school and do multiple programs in one day; or bring a touch-tank to a conference; or take people on tours," she says. "We even have weeklong programs sometimes."

She enjoyed the fieldwork she conducted while earning her wildlife biology degree, including searching for salamanders in West Virginia, conducting an inventory of reptiles and amphibians on Fire Island National Seashore, and learning to track birds by first tracking her professor through the woods. But when it came time to look for a job, she was most interested in those that featured environmental education.

"If people don't know about an animal, they don't know to care about it," says Woodford. "So education is the most important part of conservation."

It's especially fun for me to watch kids learn about why it's so important to protect these animals."

"It's really hard to have a bad day when you're out there and you get to see beluga whales and sea lions every day," concludes

"If people don't know about an animal, they don't know to care about it. So education is the most important part of conservation."

— Gabby Woodford '14

Quirke. "There's a lot of hard work going on behind the scenes to take care of all of the animals, but all that hard work is absolutely worth it." •



Justin Richard, Ph.D. '16, teaches URI's popular Seminar on Marine Mammals at Mystic and conducts research with Mystic's belugas.

UNDERSTANDING BELUGA REPRODUCTION

Justin Richard's experience at Mystic Aquarium extends beyond his former career working with beluga whales and his present role co-teaching the marine mammal seminar. He also conducts beluga whale research at the aquarium, and since 2013, more than 35 URI students have been part of his research team.

He became interested in learning more about beluga reproductive physiology after working with one of the whales that was involved in the first-ever artificial insemination of a beluga.

"I realized that little was known about beluga reproduction, and there was a lot that Mystic's animals could teach us about it," he says. "There is a very clear connection between understanding beluga reproduction and understanding their population dynamics in the wild. If we're going to understand how populations grow, we have to understand their reproduction."

That led him to collaborate with Becky

Sartini, associate professor of animal science and an expert in mammalian reproductive physiology.

"Studying Mystic's belugas year-round helps us fill in the knowledge gaps that studying them in the wild leaves, because the animals breed in the late winter in the Arctic when they're completely inaccessible," Richard says.

He has spent the last five years validating methods of measuring reproductive hormones. For instance, he figured out he could identify when female whales have ovulated and the status of their pregnancy from hormones in the mucus from their exhalation or blow. He has also validated the use of ultrasound to assess male reproductive physiology.

Now he's trying to link behavioral observations with these physiological measures so he can determine a whale's reproductive status based entirely on the behaviors they exhibit.

"They're very showy animals, almost like birds, in that the males perform a lot of display behaviors, which suggests that the females are choosy about who they mate with," he says. "And that leads to many different management and conservation questions, especially as beluga habitat changed rapidly with the loss of Arctic sea ice." •

There is a lot that Mystic's animals can teach us about beluga reproduction. "There is a very clear connection between understanding beluga reproduction and understanding their population dynamics in the wild."

— Justin Richard, Ph.D. '16

Network

THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND FOUNDATION & ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT

The Alumni Association and Foundation are excited to present their new shared identity as URI Foundation & Alumni Engagement. Alumni volunteers and staff at both organizations thoroughly explored this change and concluded that combining their services would provide the best outcome for alumni. As always, we look forward to helping you connect with URI and with one another.

A SINGLE ALUMNI VOICE IN SUPPORT OF THE UNIVERSITY

Working together, we will pursue a mission to inspire and steward support for URI, and to inform and engage alumni as committed partners of the University, its mission, and its traditions. In all its activities, the institution strives for transparency, integrity, collaboration, accountability, and respect.



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



Congratulations Class of 1969 on your 50th reunion! Special thanks to the reunion committee and to all who contributed to the record-breaking \$1 million class gift.



= CLASS NOTES =

= 1960 =

Richard A. Durst, Professor Emeritus of Chemistry, Cornell University, has been reelected to the Presidium of the European Academy of Sciences for a second four-year term. This experience allows him to interact with colleagues in a variety of disciplines throughout Europe. In addition, he is continuing to present a special lecture on pathological science to chemistry and biology students at the University of Regensburg (Germany). He has been giving this lecture for several years and, since he is being invited back, it appears to be well-received by the students. It is a two-hour lecture covering a variety of topics

ranging from the weight of the human soul to cold fusion and beyond. He was also invited to give a condensed version of this talk, "Pathological Science and the Perils of Thinking Outside of the Box," at Pittcon 2018 in Orlando, Florida, last year.

= 1971 =

Thomas Connor '71, M.S. '76 wrote, "I read with interest and a smile the account of Norm Schoeler '70 about his experience helping build Heathman Hall. I also had a similar experience one summer at URI. I was a laborer and mason's tender the summer of 1970 working on Gorham Hall. I, too, lugged the bricks and stirred the mortar. Masons were paid by the

number of bricks they laid so they did not want to wait around too long for the summer help. We all got good tans and strong backs from that summer. The following few years, I worked as a lab assistant in the Department of Microbiology and waited tables 'down-the-line' at Giros Restaurant in Wakefield. A fistful of beer mugs was still a lot lighter than 12-inch cinder-blocks or brick tongs full of bricks. After I obtained my master's degree we moved to Texas, so my daughters never got to attend URI. In 1982, I obtained my doctorate from the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston in preventive medicine. I taught at the

University of Texas School of Public Health, Houston, and then worked as a research scientist for the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health in Cincinnati until my retirement in 2018."

► **Peter Panagiotis**, page 30

= 1972 =

Waverly Lowell of Oakland, California, principle in the ONDA Group consultants, recently retired after 20 years as the curator of the Environmental Design Archives at the University of California, Berkeley. Prior to her position at Berkeley she served a decade as the director of the National Archives – Pacific Sierra Region. An elected fellow of the Society of American Archivists, she authored *Living Modern: A Biography of Greenwood Common* (2009).

= 1974 =

Thomas Lamb of East Greenwich, Rhode Island, retired as chairman and CEO of Centreville Bank in April 2019. He joined the bank in 2014 and

remains on the board of trustees. He previously ran Wickford Consulting LLC and held positions at Fleet Financial Group and Old Stone Bank.

= 1982 =

Harold Horvat of Cranston, Rhode Island, has been elected chairman and CEO of Centreville Bank. He was elected president and COO of the bank in 2018, and will remain as president in his new role. He joined the bank in 2014, and previously held leadership positions at a number of community banks. He also serves as treasurer on the board of directors for FRIENDS WAY, the only family bereavement center in Rhode Island.

= 1983 =

John R. Gouin of Corpus Christi, Texas, a podiatric surgeon, retired from the U.S. Army (colonel) after nearly 36 years of service. He returned from Iraq in 2005 after serving approximately one year as a special staff officer assigned to the 228th Combat Support

Hospital. His military awards include: Legion of Merit Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medals, Army Commendation Medals, Army Achievement Medal, Good Conduct Medal, Reserve Components Achievement Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Iraqi Campaign Medal, and the Overseas Service Ribbon for Operation Iraqi Freedom in Tikrit and Mosul. He earned Special Forces Tab, EIB, CAB, Order of Military Medical Merit.

Col. James M. Manni was appointed director of public safety and superintendent of the Rhode Island State Police by Governor Gina Raimondo on March 1, 2019. Manni retired from the Rhode Island State Police in 2015 after serving for 25 years. In 2016, he was appointed town manager of Narragansett. Before joining the Rhode Island State Police in 1990, he spent five years as a special agent with the United States Secret Service.



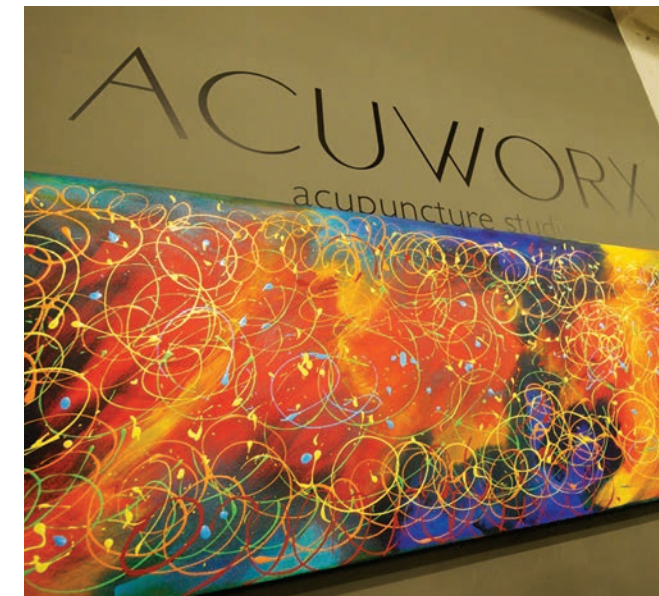
Thomas Lamb '74



Hal Horvat '82



James Manni '83



Mark Finne (left) at Acuworx gallery opening. Far left, Finne's *KraBB NeBBYooLa* (2019). Acrylic on canvas. 72" x 24"

= 1995 =

Mark Finne of Randolph, New Jersey, opened his "Spring Aw8kening" gallery show and sale in March 2019 with a private reception held at Acuworx Acupuncture Studio in Jersey City, New Jersey. In honor of spring equinox, more than 100 invited guests attended the opening party, featuring 17 of Mark's vibrant, original acrylic-on-canvas paintings. Ten percent of sales was donated to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Essex, Hudson, and Union Counties (New Jersey).

= 1986 =

Lauren Adler Caudill of Richmond, Virginia, is a partner in the law firm of Jacobs, Caudill & Gill. She has recently been appointed by the Virginia General Assembly to serve as a judge on the Henrico County General District Court. She took the bench on June 1, 2019.

= 1985 =

▶ **Robert Kenney, Ph.D. '85**, page 42

= 1990 =

▶ **Bill Eigen**, page 53

= 1996 =

▶ **Erica Estus, Pharm.D. '96**, page 11



Kathleen Vigness-Raposa '98

= 1998 =

Kathleen Vigness-Raposa, M.S. '98, Ph.D. '10 received the 2019 Distinguished Service Award in April 2019 at the annual meeting of the U.S. Regional Association for Landscape Ecology in Fort Collins, Colorado. The award recognizes individuals for their exceptional contributions to the society. Vigness-Raposa became co-chair of the organization's Foreign Travel Award in 2011, then chair in 2012, until she stepped down from that

role in 2018. The nominators for the award noted that "the participation of foreign scholars has always enriched our conferences, and the presence of so many members of the next generation of landscape ecologists is very much facilitated by these awards. Administration of these awards is a significant amount of work, and I believe the leadership of Dr. Vigness-Raposa ensuring this committee runs smoothly deserves recognition." Vigness-Raposa currently serves as the vice president of environmental programs at Marine Acoustics Inc.

▶ **Vikki Warner**, page 54

= 2000 =

Nikki Noya (communication studies) was crowned Mrs. D.C. America on April 14 at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. Noya, an executive producer and co-host of the cable TV travel show, *The Jet Set*, will compete in the Mrs. America Pageant in August in Las Vegas.

= 2001 =

▶ **Cortney Nicolato**, page 52

= 2002 =

▶ **Emily Clapham '02, M.S. '04**, page 25

= 2004 =

Jacqueline Odell Hermsen, M.A. '04 received a 2019 Varsity Club Award from her high school alma mater, Worcester Academy, for soccer, basketball, and track and field. For the past 15 years she has been executive director of Northeast Seafood Coalition in Gloucester, Massachusetts.

▶ **Brennan Phillips '04, Ph.D. '16**, page 26

▶ **Sarah Schumann**, page 12

= 2005 =

▶ **Sunshine Menezes Ph.D. '05**, page 16



Nikki Noya '00

= 2006 =

Caleb Manchester of Boston, Massachusetts, has been awarded the Center of Real Estate Alumni of the Year Award by the University of Connecticut. After earning his Bachelor of Science in business from URI, Caleb went on to earn his MBA from the University of Connecticut. The award honors an accomplished alum in the real estate industry.

▶ **Lindsey Nelson**, page 41

▶ **Megan Priede-Sousa**, page 44

▶ **Jen Rock**, page 41



BIRTHS AND ADOPTIONS

Andrew Finan '07 and **Dianna (Schoder) Finan '07** welcomed their daughter Harper Layne Finan on December 29, 2018.

Morgan (McGowan) Handwerk '09 and Michael Handwerk welcomed baby girl Nora Elise Handwerk on November 29, 2018.

= 2009 =

The class of 2009 College Student Personnel cohort met in April for a 10-year reunion in Providence. Classmates present were: Jared Abdirkin '07, M.S. '09; Stephanie Alliette, M.S. '09 and family; Daniel Cline '07, M.S. '09; Kat Keyes, M.S. '09; Jess Raffaele '04, M.S. '09; Richard Song '07, M.S. '09; and Harry Twyman, M.S. '09.

= 2010 =

▶ **Jason Smith**, back cover

= 2011 =

▶ **Allie Seifter Bruscato**, page 40

▶ **Brian Caccioppoli**, page 24

= 2012 =

Jared Sell writes, "Currently, there are four URI alumni working on the Hollywood Studios Expansion at Walt Disney World. Myself, Catherine Cronin '18 (electrical engineering), and Will Depina-Gomes '18 (landscape architecture) are working on Star Wars Galaxy's Edge, the single largest land expansion in Disney Parks history. Steve Pratt '15 (mechanical engineering) is supporting Disney's Skyliner, a new form of transportation that will bring guests from several resorts to Epcot and Hollywood Studios."

= 2014 =

▶ **Gabby Woodford**, page 44

= 2015 =

▶ **Rachael DesFosses**, page 42

▶ **Bintou Marong**, page 15

▶ **Alexandra Moen**, page 20 and front cover

= 2016 =

▶ **Alycia Coulumbe**, page 41

▶ **Justin Richard, Ph.D. '16**, pages 42 and 45

= 2017 =

▶ **Tyler Bawden**, page 44

Melanie Bonacasa has moved from New York back to Rhode Island to become social media coordinator and assistant for the Picerne Family Foundation.



Class of 2009 College Student Personnel reunion.

Adrianna Nordhill of Portsmouth, Rhode Island, has been accepted to the Peace Corps and departed for Vanuatu in April to begin training as a primary education English teacher-trainer volunteer. Prior to joining the Peace Corps, she served in AmeriCorps with City Year in Providence, working at Pleasant View Elementary in Providence and as a behavior specialist at Forest Avenue Elementary in Middletown. During her first three months of Peace Corps service, Nordhill will live with a host family in Vanuatu to become fully immersed in the country's language and culture. After acquiring the necessary skills to assist her community, she will be sworn into service and

assigned to a community in Vanuatu, where she will live and work for two years in cooperation with the local people and partner organizations on sustainable, community-based development projects that improve the lives of people in Vanuatu.



Adrianna Nordhill '17

= 2018 =

▶ **Stephen Brenner**, page 3

▶ **Kyla Duffy**, page 50

▶ **Emily Hadfield**, page 35

▶ **Richard Lisi**, page 36

▶ **Alison Otto**, page 34

Nicole Pallozzi, Miss Rhode Island USA 2019, represented Rhode Island in the Miss USA pageant in Reno, Nevada, in May 2019.

▶ **Caitlyn Picard**, page 38

▶ **Kaitlyn Quirke**, page 42

▶ **Meredith Shubel**, page 34

▶ **Africa Smith**, page 36



Nicole Pallozzi '18



WEDDINGS

At left, **Brian Barrett '12** to **Kayla Whiting '12, D.P.T. '15** on September 15, 2018. Brian and Kayla wrote, "When the band made the announcement for the photo, it was pretty special to see how deeply Rhody was represented at our wedding: URI classes of 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1992, 2002, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, and 2019 were present."

Shawn Sanders '13 to Deanna Willbanks on October 21, 2018.



= YOUR STORIES =

A vintage camera travels the world, bridging generations and forging friendships.



SHORTLY AFTER MY story, "Falling for Film," was published in the fall 2018 issue of the *University of Rhode Island Magazine*, I got a message from Alex Larson '77, a retired corporate economist who lives in Texas. He reached out because he had some enlarger lenses he wanted to donate to the Cage (the film photo lab in URI's Fine Arts Center).

I told him that the Cage would be happy to accept any donations he had, and after some correspondence back and forth, he mentioned that he had a 1983 Leica R4s (a very nice camera) that he hadn't used in years and asked if I would be interested in it. He had been traveling between Rhode Island and Texas, to visit his mother, and said that next time he was in Rhode Island, he would bring it with him.

In the meantime, I moved to Dublin, Ireland, to spend a year working and traveling before figuring out my future plans. So when Alex next came up to Rhode Island, I put him in touch with a good friend, and fellow photo nerd, Matthew Meigs '20 who is a film and writing student at URI and works in the Cage.

They met for coffee, chatted for a few hours about all things photography, and Alex gave him the camera to use in the meantime. Ironically, shortly after receiving the camera, Matt took it with him on a road trip back to Texas to attend the SXSW Film Festival.

In May, I came home to Rhode Island for a visit. While home, I met up with Matt, got the camera (spent some time freaking out over how cool it was), and brought it back to Dublin with me.

Alex described the camera as a "no strings gift," asking only to be updated from time to time on its travels. He told me he had traveled extensively with it over the years and was eager to have it passed on to someone who would continue its journey.

The life of this camera has been undoubtedly legendary, wandering across the country and abroad, capturing thousands of moments in time with each click of the shutter. I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to continue its legacy of world travel, while also keeping the art of film photography alive. Thank you, Alex. The Leica and I will keep you posted on our travels. •

—Kyla Duffy '18



= IN MEMORIAM =

- Thomas Verrecchia '41
- Ira Bornstein '42
- Donald Johnstone '42
- Pearl Blackmar '45
- Joseph Tkacheff '46
- Katherine Brinnier '47
- Marjorie Mandell '47
- Phyllis Goodwin '48
- Barbara Marcus '48
- Henry Pointon '48
- Alice Topakian '48
- Errol Carpenter '49
- John Hood '49
- Claire Inglis '49
- Hubie Kapowich '49
- Shirley Mac Cue '49
- Mary Shepley '49
- Naomi Alpern '50
- Benjamin Curtis '50
- F. Ward Harper '50
- Barbara Hecker '50
- Pasco Macera '50
- Mary Ann Pawlikowski '50
- Dorothy Perryman '50
- Robert Saute '50
- Paul Simoneau '50
- Ernest Testa '50
- W. Donald Wilson '50, M.B.A. '68
- Donald Gavin '51
- John Gomez Jr. '51
- Harold Kjellman '51
- Kenneth Resnick '51
- Charlotte Spungin '51
- Dorothy Hunter '52, M.S. '71
- Lee Mongeon '52
- Marvin Perry '52
- George Sarantos '52
- John Saul '52
- Marilyn Eisenberg '53
- Jeanette LaRiviere '53
- Arthur Leigh '53
- Rodolfo Barbone '54

- Lt. Col. Gary R. Bill '54
- Robert Bray '54
- Filomena Buonanni '54
- Alfred Letizia '54
- Howard Haronian '55
- John Turner, M.A. '55
- Marilyn Boris '56
- Robert Heffernan '56
- Frank Cambio '57
- Lorraine Peterson '57, M.L.I.S. '72
- Mary Petrarca '57
- Ernest Deluski '58
- Harold Fracassa '58
- Joseph Gray '58
- Susan Miller '58
- Marylyn Peel '58
- Howard Cox '59
- Roger Garreau '59
- Maurice Landry '59
- Hrant Shoushanian '59
- Geraldine Blake '61
- Joseph Leylegian '61
- Ivar Johnson '62
- Lester LeBlanc '62, M.S. '63, Ph.D. '66
- Stuart Schachter '62
- Carol Wilbur '62
- Alan Barnicoat '63
- Anthony Guarino, M.S. '63, Ph.D. '66
- Gwendolyn Hart '63
- David Potter '63, M.S. '65
- George Behan, M.A. '64
- Joseph Castaldi '64
- Jeanne Willis '64
- Louis Fiore '65
- James Hurst '65
- Patricia Panciera '65
- Tommy Adams, M.P.A. '66
- Calvin Gudmundson '66
- Nancy Manfredi '66
- Lt. David Cole, '67

- Gerard Beaudette, M.L.I.S. '68
- Hannibal Costa '68, M.P.A. '72
- Lindell Clark Northup '68, M.S. '77
- Lt. Thomas Rodman '68
- Katherine MacGregor, M.L.I.S. '69
- Mary Murphy '69
- Robin O'Leary '69
- Thomas Richmond '69
- Martha Serenbetz '69
- Thomas Bourn, M.S. '70
- Bradley Butcher '71
- Joseph Goodman '71
- Veronica Maher, M.L.I.S. '71
- Dorothy Yamzon '71
- Dorothy Fay '72
- Mildred Hoffman '72
- William Black '73
- John Marshall '73, M.B.A. '75
- Robert Mattson '73
- Donna Potter '73
- Diane De Palm '74
- Dorothy Young '74
- Frances Sadler '75
- Gregory Shepard '75
- Irene Miele '76
- Patricia Millar '76, M.S. '81
- Candace Salvo '76
- John Scaria '77
- Donna O'Neill '78
- James Ronald, M.S. '78
- Christopher Courtney '79
- Karen Kazin '79, M.S. '00
- Elaine Pereira, M.A. '79
- Valerie Anastasia '80
- Diana Kennett, M.S. '83
- Sherrie Manni '83
- Robert Reilly '83
- William Hurley '85
- Ivanna Hanushevsky '86
- Gerald DeGiulio '87
- John Brezinsk '90

- Crist Costa, M.B.A. '90
- Curtis Norwood, Ph.D. '93
- Maj. James Brophy (USMC) '05
- Benjamin Delaney '10, M.S. '11
- Gregory Hanna '11
- Kathleen Gremel, Ph.D. '13
- Dominique Franco '20
- Suhail Habeeb '22

Faculty and Staff

- Amanda Moss Cowan, former assistant professor of management
- Marguerite Bumpus, professor emeritus of education
- James Cooley, professor emeritus of electrical, computer, and biomedical engineering
- Frank DeLuise '48, M.S. '50, professor emeritus of engineering
- John Desmarais, former housekeeper
- George Fitzelle, professor emeritus of human development and family studies
- Catherine Jacob, former associate registrar
- Dorothy Jacobs, professor emeritus of English
- Mark Moffett, former assistant professor of ocean engineering
- Elizabeth Smith, former senior clerk typist
- Frederick Test, professor emeritus of mechanical engineering

= HAPPENINGS =



DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS
OCTOBER 5, 2019



ALUMNI & FAMILY WEEKEND
OCTOBER 25-27, 2019



50TH REUNION
MAY 15-17, 2020



GOLDEN GRAD REUNION
JUNE 5-6, 2020

More Information at alumni.uri.edu

= FIELD NOTES =

Work Hard and Choose Courage

CORTNEY NICOLATO '01

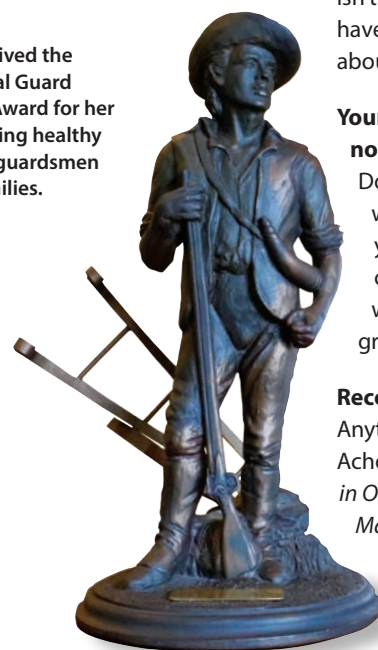
President and CEO, United Way of Rhode Island



“I still use every aspect of my URI finance degree, but now I’ve married it with my passion to serve.”

—Cortney Nicolato

Nicolato received the Army National Guard Minuteman Award for her work promoting healthy lifestyles for guardsmen and their families.



CORTNEY NICOLATO '01 IS CERTAIN THAT SHE HAS THE best job in Rhode Island. “This state and its amazing people have given so much to me. Now I can help the state be its very best,” she says. “United Way brings together the community, the corporate sector, and nonprofits to do extraordinary things.” After 13 years in Texas, native Rhode Islander Nicolato returned to her home state last year to lead United Way of Rhode Island. She invites you to learn more about this important work at uwri.org.

Here, Nicolato shares some advice, answers, and insights.

Essential personality traits for success in your field

Resilience is a critical part of working in a nonprofit. You have to adapt and respond to routinely changing needs.

Your path not taken

I love business and was laser-focused on working in the for-profit sector. But I was taught to be a servant leader and community advocate, and that was missing for me. I still use every aspect of my URI finance degree, but now I’ve married it with my passion to serve.

Best advice you ever received

Always lead with integrity, even when that isn’t the easy road. Then you will always have confidence, because the work is about something greater than yourself.

Your advice for aspiring nonprofit leaders

Don’t let perceived barriers get in your way. Push past them by putting yourself out there. Work hard, choose courage over comfort, and show the world that you are destined for greatness.

Recommended reading

Anything by Brené Brown and Shawn Achor. And *New Power: How Power Works in Our Hyperconnected World—and How to Make It Work for You* by Jeremy Heimans and Henry Timms.

Best and worst work habits

Best: I’m good at staying calm, cool, and collected even in the toughest moments. That’s an important trait for any leader.

Worst: I believe in my work, so I struggle to “shut off.” Case in point: I am typing this at 11 p.m. on a Wednesday night!

Work fuel: Coffee or tea?

After 13 years living in the South—iced tea...all day.



Favorite object in your office

The Army National Guard Minuteman Award, which I received in 2008 for my work with the American Heart Association on the Decade of Health Campaign, which promoted healthy lifestyles for Army National Guardsmen and their families. It’s the most prestigious honor bestowed by the Guard to a civilian.

Hardest thing about your job

Seeing the inequities Rhode Island families face saddens me. United Way is focused on building systems in the areas of education, housing, and financial stability that are equitable for all. It’s hard but necessary work.

Can’t get through a day without...

Hugs from Jacob and Ian, my two amazing kids. •



= CLOSE UP =

Hands-On Trader

WILLIAM EIGEN III '90

If you only had one word to describe Bill Eigen '90, it'd have to be value-driven. At 16, the only car he could afford was one that didn't run. He towed that Mustang back to his dad's driveway, got it running perfectly, and drove it for a year. Then he sold it and tripled his money, repeating the process five more times through college to help pay tuition. That value-hunting philosophy drives him still. As a bond trader at J.P. Morgan, it has led to much success and a loyal client following. And he still collects muscle cars—at a bargain.

—Diane M. Sterrett

Read more about Bill Eigen at uri.edu/magazine

In *Tenemental: Adventures of a Reluctant Landlady*, author Vikki Warner '98 recounts her purchase of a tenement house in Providence and her dream of establishing an urban utopia—at least within the bounds of her chain-link-fenced yard.

The neighborhood: “My Providence brethren have simply learned to live with the patterns of waste and grift in the city, mostly by devising artful new ways to complain and joke about it in our hardass Yankee way. But we stay here because we really love this place. We even love that it is often openly terrible. New Englanders love punishment.”

Tenants she's known: “I've filled [the house] with an outlandish array of people (80 percent male) and animals (60 percent feline): punk farmers, herbalists, body piercers, musicians who play metal, punk, country-rock, psych, and folk (or some combination thereof), chefs, bike mechanics, angry straight couples, boisterous gay couples, couch-crashers, geeks, losers, insomniacs, hippies, alcoholics, artists, pit bulls, Dachshunds, Chihuahuas, ferrets, and a bona fide cat parade.”

The myth of the nasty landlady: “The women I know who rent apartments to tenants are fairly young, dangerous with a spreadsheet, and firmly in charge of their homes and lives, so we might want to update the accepted shorthand ‘generic landlady’ image of an angry, broom-wielding old lady.”

Potential perils of planting a garden: “We joked about dead bodies; secretly I was slightly anxious that we might encounter one. In the heart of a formerly mob-controlled neighborhood, digging down is a dicey prospect.”

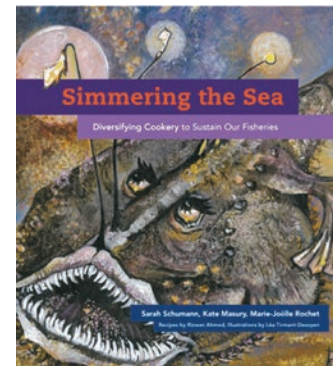
No regrets: “Buying the house and selecting a long line of opinionated outsiders to live in it with me has added to a series of proclamations: I'm tough and capable, and nobody can tell me how to live; I want to be with my weirdo brethren; we spit on your plywood mansion out in the suburbs. Even when none of the above is particularly true—when the experience of owning the house is terrible and I've stopped wholly believing in it—even then, I'm happy it's not ordinary.”

—Marybeth Reilly-McGreen

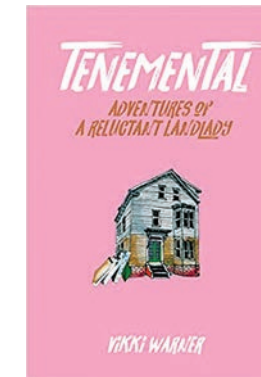
= ANNOTATIONS =
This (Weird) Old House

= BOOKSHELF =

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



Sample a recipe and read more about why and how to expand your seafood horizons on page 12.

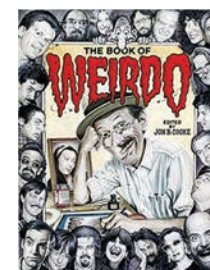


Meet Vikki Warner and read excerpts from *Tenemental* on facing page.

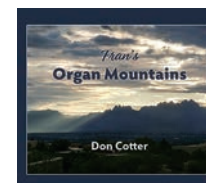
Sarah Schumann '04 (with Kate Masury, Marie-Joelle Rochet, and Rizwan Ahmed) *Simmering the Sea: Diversifying Cookery to Sustain Our Fisheries* (2018)

Vikki Warner '98 *Tenemental: Adventures of a Reluctant Landlady* (2018)

In the Spring 2019 issue, the year of publication for Arnie “Tokyo” Rosenthal’s book, *Our Last Seder*, was incorrectly listed as 2013. It was published in 2017. We apologize for the error.



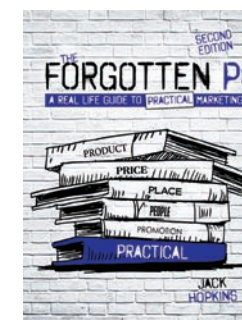
Jon B. Cooke '17 *The Book of Weirdo: A Retrospective of R. Crumb's Legendary Humor Comics Anthology* (2019)



Donald J. Cotter '52 *Fran's Organ Mountains* (2018)



Marianne Holmes '75 *Arriving in Time for Dinner* (2018)



Jack Hopkins, M.B.A. '77 *The Forgotten P: A Real-Life Guide to Practical Marketing* (2018)



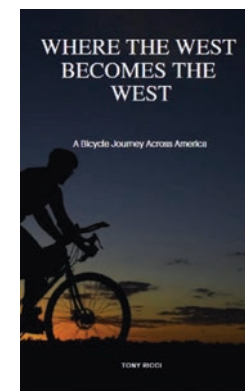
Michael Keith '76, Ph.D. '98 *Stories in the Key of Me: New and Selected* (2019)



Nikoo K. McGoldrick '84 and James A. McGoldrick, M.A. '89, Ph.D. '91 *Highland Crown* (2019)



Stephen Priest, M.S. '71 *Outdoor Play: Fun 4 Seniors* (2019)



Tony Ricci '74 *Where The West Becomes The West: A Bicycle Journey Across America* (2019)




Al Roberto '65 *The Blue Meteor* (2018)



Brett Rutherford '05, M.A. '07 *Break Every Bond: Sarah Helen Whitman in Providence* (2019)

= 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
September 1, 2019

SPRING WINNERS: OCEAN ENGINEERS, 1965



Winning Caption


"I only bought one item. Why is my CVS receipt this long?"
—Sharon Clarke '91, M.L.S. '06

Runners-Up

"...and I'm gonna start a pharmacy called CVS, and we're gonna make sure everyone gets a receipt...a big receipt."
—Judy Nazemetz '72

North Pole retains Ernst & Young to audit Naughty-Nice List.
—Jill S. Mason '82



 READERS HAD LOTS OF fun coming up with captions for this 1965 photo of the late Professor of Ocean Engineering Foster Middleton (back) and the late Gilbert Fain '58, M.S. '61, Ph.D. '68 (front).

Professor Emeritus of Ocean Engineering Malcolm Spaulding shared his insights about the photo: "After completing his Ph.D. at URI, Gil, who was Foster's graduate student, went on to become a faculty member at UMass, Dartmouth. Foster and Gil were extensively involved in developing side scan sonar systems (used to create images of large areas of the ocean floor) at the time this photo was taken. My best guess is that in this photo, they were likely looking at print output of side scan images."

While none of the captions you, dear readers, sent in, referenced side

scan sonar work, many of you did geek out quite creatively with funny captions referencing punch cards, programming errors, IBM, Apple, Bill Gates, and even a good real-life story about a 1963 divide-by-zero error on an IBM 360, which resulted in a flurry of error-message printouts that looked much like the printout in this photo—thanks to Dan Nichols '63 for his wonderful story.

But our winning caption, one of the runners-up, and the majority of the submissions—by far—referenced the familiar scrolling CVS receipt. Toilet paper jokes were a close second. What can we say? Bathroom humor never seems to go out of style.

Thank you, as always, for your funny and creative captions. Please keep them coming! •



Thanks to you!

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Yoruba

JASON SMITH '10

Jason Smith has always created art. Growing up in Newport, Rhode Island, his family encouraged his creativity. His longstanding interest in mythology, religion, and ancient cultures inspired a series that explores belief systems and their artifacts—relief carvings, codices, sculptures, and monuments. Part of that series, *Yoruba* depicts a creation myth of a marshy world to which the gods descended on spiderwebs, enlisting a pigeon, a five-toed hen, and a chameleon to solidify and dry out the earth.

Yoruba, Jason Smith, 18" x 24",
oil on Dura Lar, 2012

