URInformed

THE URI EMPLOYEES' NEWSLETTER

Vol. 32 Issue 3

DECEMBER 2024

University of Rhode Island Receives \$65 million Gift from Helen Izzi Schilling to Support Scholarships

The University of Rhode Island unveiled a \$65 million gift that will support scholar-ships for high-achieving students. The philanthropic gift—the largest in the University's history—is the result of an estate gift from the late Helen Izzi Schilling, a 1954 graduate of the University.

Based on a commitment made with her late husband to include the University in their will, the gift establishes the Helen Izzi Schilling '54 and Francis Schilling Scholars Program. The endowed scholarship will provide up to \$20,000 per year for four years to high-achieving undergraduate students majoring in a science, technology, engineering, or math field.

"This transformational gift shows that alumni believe in our University and in our students," said URI President Marc B. Parlange. "We are incredibly grateful for the Schillings' support of our mission and our students. URI has never been in a better place, due, in no small measure, to our remarkable community—the students, faculty, and staff across our campuses and the extraordinary alumni who carry their URI experience with them wherever they go."



Helen Izzi Schilling '54

The support adds to the momentum generated by URI's recently completed comprehensive campaign, which exceeded its goal of \$300 million for priorities across the University and raised over \$73 million for financial aid.

"With her forward-thinking generosity, Helen Schilling leaves a permanent legacy continued on page 2

THE
UNIVERSITY
OF RHODE ISLAND



URInformed

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If you have a suggestion for an article about a co-worker or colleague, or perhaps information about an event, or simply have an interest in being involved with the newsletter, you may send your request to:

URInformed, 73 Upper College Road, Kingston Campus or contact us by e-mail at: NGillespie@uri.edu

The editorial board reserves the right to select the material printed and to edit it to conform to space restrictions.

Please get involved! This is your newsletter and we need your support to make it work.

URI is an equal opportunity employer committed to the principles of affirmative action and values diversity.

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at the University, and her name will be remembered by students and their families for generations to come," said Lil Breul O'Rourke, president of the URI Foundation & Alumni Engagement. "An estate gift is really an investment in the future, and we remain deeply grateful to the Schillings for seeing URI as a worthy investment."

The Schilling Scholarship joins other merit scholarships at URI, providing four-year support along with leadership development and career guidance to students.

"The inaugural Schilling Scholarship will be awarded to undergraduates applying to URI for the Fall '25 admission cycle," said Dean Libutti, associate vice president for enrollment management and student success. "It will provide exceptional students with critical financial scholarship support and with leadership train-

ing and mentoring to help them achieve their most ambitious goals."

"My mother's education in the sciences formed the foundation of a career that was dedicated to helping people, and that started at the University of Rhode Island," said Paul J. Schilling, M.D. "She wanted to make a difference for her alma mater, but most importantly for the students going forward. I am glad that my parents will be remembered for giving students a head start to achieve their goals."

Helen Izzi Schilling graduated from URI with honors in 1954 with a degree in nutrition. Her family immigrated to the United States and settled in Rhode Island in the early 1900s and still maintains a significant presence in the state. She met her husband, Francis (Frank) Joseph Schilling, a native of Ohio, when they both enrolled in graduate programs at Ohio State University.

While at URI, Schilling was president of Kappa Omicron Nu and a member of Phi Kappa Phi, both national honor societies. She was a member of Alpha Xi Delta sorority and worked at Butterfield dining hall. After completing the highly competitive and continued on page 3



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rigorous combined Master of Science/Dietetic Internship Certification program at Ohio State University, she worked for five decades as a registered dietitian in various hospitals, taught at the university level, and developed her own consulting business. Frank Schilling, after completing his M.B.A., went on to a career at GE where he became a vice president and was head of GE Medical Systems, introducing CT and MRI scanners to doctors and hospitals in the 1970s.

"Helen Schilling was a highly accomplished alumna who found an extraordinary way to leave her mark on her university," said Margo Cook, chair of the URI Board of Trustees. "We are honored to carry on her memory at URI and excited to see this scholarship change the lives of our students."



Paul J. Schilling, M.D.



URInformed Word Search Winner

Congratulations to Leslie Dancy, History Department.

Please contact Nancy Gillespie, Communications and Marketing (4-4508) to claim your prize.

Check out the Word Search on page 5!

East Meets West Textiles Exhibit Explores Cultural Exchange in Fashion

by Tony LaRoche

As you enter the University of Rhode Island's Textiles Gallery in Quinn Hall, the first thing to catch your eye—though they are small—are the lotus shoes.

The shoes—red, green and black, and beautifully embroidered with flowers—were worn by women whose feet were tightly bound as young girls to make them an ideal 3 to 5 inches.

"Very small feet were much admired in Chinese culture," said Linda Welters, professor of Textiles, Fashion Merchandising, and Design. "Even though it distorted the feet and made the girls unable to walk freely without support, they were considered beautiful."

Juxtaposed with a late 19th century corset from the Royal Worcester Corset Company in Massachusetts, it seems a powerful statement about the lengths women go—willingly or otherwise—to conform to culture's expectations. But that is not totally the story here, just a provocative way to pull you in.

The story being told by "Fashioning East and West: The Cross-Culture of Materials, Methods, and Meanings," has a broader message – exploring a wider understanding of the cultural exchange of fashion between East and West.

"One thing we like to do is to put some 'wow object' first to bring people in and I do think the lotus shoes do that," said Susan Jerome, who manages URI's Historic Textile & Costume Collection. "It immediately makes the visitor think, 'OK, there's something different going on here. I need to think about culture and other cultures and how they interact."

The exhibit's story is told well. It goes beneath the surface, discussing social, political, and economic influences while weaving in facts about materials, construction, and cultural importance. Interspersed with about 20 well-chosen garments and accessories from China, Japan and Korea – all taken from URI's historic collection of 25,000 items – are plenty of wall posters and exhibit labels to educate the visitor. The exhibit is the work of about 10 students in two Textiles, Fashion Merchandising, and Design (TMD) master's classes who researched, curated and installed the exhibit—working with Welters and adjunct professor Rebecca Kelly.



A woman's, far left, and man's yukata from Japan, lounging attire that has become more popular than kimonos, are part of the exhibition "Fashioning East and West: The Cross-Culture of Materials, Methods, and Meanings" in the Textile Gallery in Quinn Hall. (URI Photos/Nora Lewis)

"We wanted to emphasize to visitors the cross-cultural exchange and that it's not just the West taking elements from Eastern fashion," said Aileen Valerio, of Robbinsville, New Jersey, a master's student in historic textiles and conservation, who was in both classes that put together the exhibit. "But we also wanted to communicate the importance of teaching collections and make the exhibit approachable for all TMD students."

Welters came up with the idea for the exhibition as a way to expose students in her graduate class TMD 570 Topics: Fashion East and continued on page 8



Holidaze 2024



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- 1. Bells
- 2. Candle
- 3. Candy
- 4. Christmas Tree
- 5. Cranberry
- 6. Decorate
- 7. Eggnog
- 8. Elf
- 9. Gifts

- 10. Grinch
- 11. Holidays
- 12. Holly
- 13. Lights
- 14. Nativity
- 15. New Year
- 16. Parties
- 17. Plenty
- 18. Rudolph

- 19. Santa
- 20. Saint
- 21. Sleigh Ride
- 22. Snow
- 23. Starlight
- 24. Stockings
- 25. Thanksgiving

DIRECTIONS: The object is to find the 25 hidden words within the grid. Words can be found horizontally, vertically, diagonally, backwards or forwards. Return the completed wordsearch to Nancy Gillespie, Communicaions and Marketing, Alumni Ctr. 73 Upper Coll Rd. Please include your name, address and e-mail with your entry. A drawing of all correct entries will determine the winner. A URI prize will be given to the winning entry.

The winner will be announced in the next issue of URInformed. Good Luck! ______Dept.____ Name

Campus Address _____ E-mail _____



Job Opportunities

The classified and non-classified application process is now automated so that you can apply on-line for positions here at the University. You will also be able to review the status of your application during the recruitment process, update your on-line application, and apply for positions that become available in the future. For the job opportunities visit:

https://jobs.uri.edu

We Welcome the Following People to our Community...

Jennifer Beninson (SPA - VP Res & Econ Devel), Clarence Bishop III (Financial Strategy & Planning), Kallie Bonneau (Business Instruction), Keyla Campbell (Library Public Services), Lois Carnevalla (Mech. Ind. & Sys. Engineering), Amy Carroll-Fabregue (Research Office), Raymond Cartagena (Janitorial Services), Jeongyeob Chae (GSO Research), Aimee Colome (Dean Environment& Life Science), Erica DeAngelis (Athletics Administration), Adolman Dilone (Nutrition & Food Sciences), Kevin Drumm (CELS Academic Unit 1), Alison Enchelmaier (GSO Coastal Resources Center), Caitlyn Fallon (Women's Softball), Katherine Fernandez (New Student Transitions), Amy Fernands (Gerontology), Amy Flynn (Facilities Services Admin.), Dennis Flynn (HRL Facilities), Alison Freeman (Dean Environment& Life Science), Victoria Fulfer (GSO Research), Matthew Fuller (Capital Construction), Eric Gempp (Emergency Management), Nathaniel Gewandter (Dining Catering Operations), Joseph Gilmartin (Dining Cafe Operations), Keith Gopie (African& Afro-American Studies), Kurt Gorter (Custodial Services), Essence Harrison (Learning Assistance Center), Joanne Haworth (Dean Nursing), Morgan Hellyer (Recreational Services), Becky Hill (Human Resource Administration), Renee Ioannilli (International Education Office), Jaewoong Jung (Physics), Julia Kardos (CELS Academic Unit 1), Kristin Kimble (GSO Research), Abigail Lee (Honors Program), Callum Lewis (GSO Coastal Resources Center), Jingyi Li (Enrollment Management), Stieg

Lindeblad (Dining Board Operations), Peter Massarone Jr (Institutional Research Office), Monique McAfee (Dining Board Operations), Margaret McGregor (Dean Pharmacy), Colin Murphy (Capital Construction), Emily Piergustavo (Women's Softball), Taylor Rigatti-Menna (HRL Business Operations), Scott Schnur (CELS Academic Unit 2), Federica Scucchia (CELS Academic Unit 3), Arvind Sekar (Info Tech Services), Heather Sharpes-Smith (URI Online), Lisa Shen (Psychology), Jakayla Steele (Dining Board Operations), Melanie Thibeault (CELS Academic Unit 2), Eliza Travisano (Dining Board Operations), Elliot Vosburgh (CELS Academic Unit 2), Emma Walker (Global Initiatives), Lisa Walsh (Dining Cafe Operations), Adeline Whalen (Undergraduate Admissions), Bismark Kyere Yeboah (Facilities Other)

... and Say Goodbye to ...

Kevin Agostinucci (Ryan Institute Neuroscience), Jacob Aguiar (Instruction Support), Christine Akcer (Women's Softball), Emilio Alvarado III (State Crime Lab), Allyson Antin (Business Instruction), Caleb Bierman (Communications & Marketing), Kenneth Bingham (Dining Board Operations), Anne Culbert (CELS Academic Unit 2), Khrystal Dehate (Dean Nursing), Gretchen Duggan (HRL Business Operations), Diana Fontaine (GSO Research), Jeffrey Hanson (Mech. Ind. & Sys. Engineering), Lynnea Lau (Research Office), KatieMarie Magnone (Chemistry), Robert McConnell Jr. (Janitorial Services), Kristen Riley (Dean Pharmacy), Nicholas Round (HRL Facilities), Bryan Roy (CELS Academic Unit 2), Shawn Simmons (Provost for Academic Affairs), Andrew Single (CELS Academic Unit 2), Justin Tanner (HRL Facilities), Timothy Trainor (Dining Board Operations), Jacquelyn Zerba (Human Resource Administration)

... and Best Wishes To Those Who Retired

Dwight Coleman (GSO Research), Katherine Favreau (Dean Environment& Life Science), David Lamb (Facilities Services Admin.), Dennis Lyons (State Crime Lab), Anne Veeger (Provost for Academic Affairs), Baohong Zhang (CELS Academic Unit 3)

Comings and Goings...continued from page 6

In Memoriam

- Heidi Kirk Duffy, past Chair and Member Emerita, IEP Advisory Council
- Marsha Feld, Faculty Emerita, Chair, Graduate Department of Community Planning and Executive Director, URI Urban Field Center
- ❖ John Leo, Professor Emeritus, English
- John Grandin, Associate Dean, Students & Curriculum, Acting Dean of Arts and Science, Director, International Engineering Program (IEP), Co-Chair, IEP Advisory Board
- Maureen McDermott, Director of Student Involvement and the Memorial Union
- Neil Williams Ross, New England Extension Agent, RI Sea Grant, GSO



URInformed is now on the Web

http://web.uri.edu/urinformed/

Browse the current issue of UKInformed



Rhody Football

For the first time in 39 years, No. 10 Rhode Island football captured a league title, knocking off in-state rival Bryant 35-21 in the regular-season finale for both teams Saturday.

For the Rams (10-2, 7-1 CAA Football), it is the first league title in 39 years and the first CAA Football title. Overall, it is the program's seventh title, with each of the previous six coming in the Yankee Conference.

Rhody Outpost Donations Needed Great Holiday Giving Opportunity

Rhody Outpost is open to serve students at the University of Rhode Island who are experiencing basic needs insecurity. Rhody Outpost serves approximately 80 students each week.

Basic needs insecurity is a real challenge on college campuses today. It's estimated that up to 30% of college students are affected by food insecurity in the United States. The Rhody Outpost food pantry was created to help address this issue at URI.

The pantry provides food and other items at no charge to students and is managed by the Dean of Students Office with staffing by student and community volunteers. The pantry serves all URI students who are food and/or housing insecure and need help making ends meet.

Rhody Outpost is in need of the following items: rice, cooking oil, pasta, ramen, chickpeas, snacks (chips, crackers, cookies), nuts, peanut butter, jelly, tuna fish, sardines, macaroni and cheese, canned tomatoes (crushed, diced, sauce, etc.), liquid hand soap, dish soap, laundry detergent, and toothpaste.

Gift cards to local grocery/drugstores are also always welcome, as are donations directly to Rhody Outpost or via the URI Foundation & Alumni Foundation. (Donors can also give to the URIFAE Students First Fund, and type "Rhody Outpost" in the memo line.)

Rhody Outpost is located at the Dining Services Warehouse, 10 Tootell Road, in Kingston, between Flagg Road and West Alumni Avenue, with the pantry open for pickup on Fridays from 3 to 5:30 p.m. (except holidays), or by appointment.

Donations can be dropped off at the Dining Services warehouse between 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. or left in the shed outside of St. Augustine's Church on Lower College Road anytime.



West to a wider view of fashion – not just in the West.

Eastern fashion, she said, has been historically overlooked. "Fashion as a term has been associated with the West forever until quite recently. Historians haven't recognized [Eastern fashion], but it definitely is there. So we wanted to place Eastern and Western fashion systems on an equal footing."

Rae Koch of Providence, a graduate student in historic textiles and conservation, noted examples in the exhibit in which the cultural exchange benefited both East and West.

For example, a woman's yukata that is part of the exhibit was made in Japan and shipped to the West. Unlike traditional yukatas sold in Japan, the informal garment – worn at summer festivals and around the house – was made with a large pleat in the back allowing it to be worn over a bustle style skirt, fashionable in the West in the mid-1800s. Later, that adaptation was also sold in Japan, where Western dress had become more prevalent, said Koch, who was part of Kelly's class, TMD 548: Exhibition and Storage of Historic Textiles class, which installed the exhibit.

"Those details were adapted in both directions and it's really fun that we have them in our collection at all," he added. "It's really cool to be able to highlight some unique aspects of these garments."

A Japanese silk pajama set, decorated with tiger lilies, provides an example of globalization, Rae said. As early as the 1870s, artists painted Western women in kimonos. By the 1920s, American women were wearing Japanese kimonos around the house. The rise of informal wear brought in pajamas with pants, starting in the English culture and spreading to the U.S. Eventually, Japan capitalized on the trend.

"The style of clothing was important to women, who were starting to wear pants instead of dresses all the time. The casual clothing allowed them to break out of a lot of formality in what people were wearing," Koch said.

The exhibit also highlights the use of Eastern fashion elements in contemporary fashion, which raises questions of whether the design exchanges are a form of appreciation or appropriation, Valerio said.

The mamianqun skirt, a style that dates to the Song Dynasty (960-1279), was popular in China over several dynasties. The colorful skirt was worn by brides. More recently, aspects of the skirt have been appropriated into global fashion, many times without honoring Eastern clothing traditions.

"There's a Dior skirt designed in the same silhouette and it was called the hallmark Dior look, which upset people," Valerio said. "And then Princess Diana wore the same type of skirt for her engagement to Prince Charles, and it wasn't exactly traditionally worn.

"We wanted to present this information ... and let the viewer interpret things on their own."

Another example, she said, is a young boy's vest – part of a Korean Hanbok ensemble that includes an equally small jacket. The vest was made with a small pocket, a feature influenced by Western culture. The ensemble originally had a satchel to carry belongings. "They didn't really need the pocket," she said. "But when the influence came in, they called it a 'barbarian' pocket."

The exhibit was also an opportunity for students to research and work with items in the URI collection – some more than 150 years old – that don't normally get explored by students.

"The students showed a lot of care in handling items and in the thought they put into the exhibit," said Kelly. "One of the things the students really get out of the second half of the class is that experience of working to a museum professional standard. We really try to get these two classes to mimic the real museum work environment."

Along with researching the items and writing up exhibit labels, students installed the garments, including carefully stitching garments where needed and building the forms to the exact measurements of the garments. Koch said the students wanted to make the exhibit visually appealing while also exhibiting pieces as they would have traditionally been used.

"I had done some installation work in exhibitions before, but this was the first time really digging into creating the story, writing the labels, and curating where objects go in relation to each other," Said Koch.

"This was the first opportunity that I really had to work on the whole curatorial process. That was really valuable for me," Valerio said. "I've learned ?

URI's Fall Commencement Will Celebrate More than 550 Graduates

by Tony La Roche

The University of Rhode Island celebrated the accomplishments of more than 550 undergraduate and graduate students at the 2024 Fall Commencement on Saturday, Dec. 14, in the Ryan Center on the Kingston Campus.

URI's fall commencement was added last year as a new tradition on the annual commencement calendar, allowing the University to recognize students who complete their degrees in the fall and might not be able to return for the spring commencement ceremony. The new ceremony has proven popular as more than 550 students registered to participate this fall – about 150 students above the University's first fall commencement. About 3,000 friends and family are expected to cheer on the graduates.

Fall commencement featured one, unified ceremony that honors doctoral, master's, and bachelor's degree candidates — unlike the spring festivities that are spread out over eight college-based ceremonies. The spring ceremonies are set for May 16-18, 2025. Graduates who participate in the fall ceremony can also return for the spring program.

URI President Marc Parlange presided over the ceremony, which included remarks from URI Board of Trustees member Cortney Nicolato '01, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs Barbara Wolfe, and a student speaker, who has yet to be named.

Exhibit...continued from page 8

that the research and the story that the object tells is so paramount to the curatorial process and designing an exhibition. And that's what helped us develop the themes that united our exhibition."

"Fashioning East and West" will be on display into March in the first-floor gallery in Quinn Hall, 55 Lower College Road, Kingston. The gallery is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.



Rhody Basketball

Rams Rally Past PC For Ninth Straight Win!

Rhode Island overcame a 10-point firsthalf deficit to win its ninth straight game and knock off in-state rival Providence. Best Wishes
for a
Wonderful
Holiday Season
from
The URInformed
Editorial Board!



The Pets Corner



Send us your favorite photo of you and your pet.

We need a high resolution jpg.

Your name and department

Your pet's name, breed

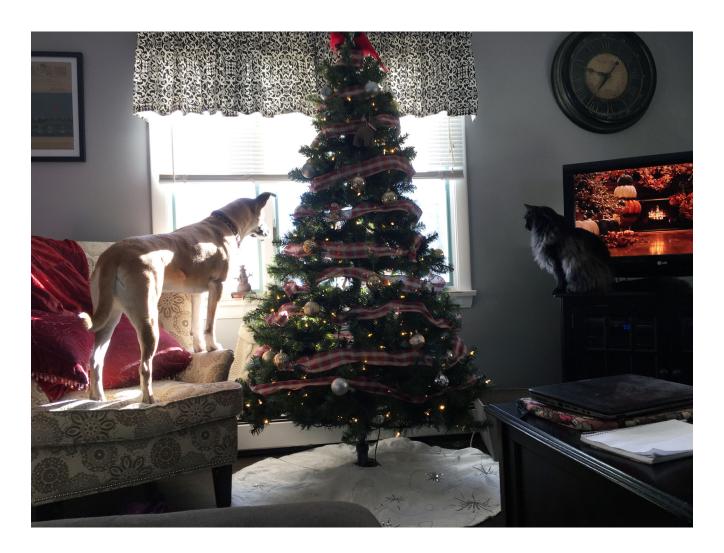
One or two sentences about your pet.

Maybe the photo will tell us all we need to know.

Contact:

Nancy Gillespie

ngillespie@uri.edu



What's on the front lawn? Is that a sleigh?

Aubrey (left) and Max (right) -- Submitted by Dawn Bergantino, Communications & Marketing

Cook's Corner

Share your favorite recipes in the Cook's Corner

Pumpkin Latte Coffee Cake

Warm spices blended with earthy pumpkin make this coffee cake perfect for an autumn brunch. When purchasing canned pumpkin for this recipe, be sure to buy pure canned pumpkin puree, not pumpkin pie filling.

Ingredients:

5 eggs

2 teaspoon instant espresso coffee powder or instant coffee granules

1 8 ounce package cream cheese, softened

²⁄₃ cup sugar

2 tablespoon all-purpose ftour 1 teaspoon vanilla

3 cup all-purpose ftour

2 teaspoon baking powder

1 teaspoon pumpkin pie spice

½ teaspoon baking soda

½ teaspoon salt

½ cup butter, softened 1 ½ cup sugar

²/₃ cup canned pumpkin

1 cup buttermilk or sour milk*

1 recipe Streusel

1 recipe Coffee Drizzle

Streusel

½ cup packed brown sugar

1/3 cup rolled oats

1/4 cup all-purpose ftour

½ teaspoon pumpkin pie spice

1/4 cup butter, cold

Coffee Drizzle

1 ¼ cup powdered sugar

1 teaspoon light-colored corn syrup

1 tablespoon cooled Espresso or strongbrewed coffee

Directions:

1). Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Grease a 13×9×2-inch baking pan; set aside. In a small bowl stir together two of the eggs and the espresso powder; set aside. In a medium bowl beat cream cheese with an electric mixer on medium speed until ftuffy. Beat in the 2/3 cup sugar, the 2 tablespoons ftour, and the vanilla until smooth. Beat in egg-espresso mixture;

set aside.

- 2). In a medium bowl stir together the 3 cups ftour, the baking powder, pumpkin pie spice, baking soda, and salt. Set aside.
- 3). In a large bowl beat butter with an electric mixer on medium speed for 30 seconds; gradually add the 1-1/2 cups sugar, beating until ftuffy. Add the remaining three eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Beat in pumpkin. Alternately add ftour mixture and buttermilk to pumpkin mixture, beating after each addition until combined. Spread half of the batter in the prepared baking pan. Spoon half of the cream cheese mixture by small spoonfuls on top of the batter. Add the remaining batter in spoonfuls; carefully spread over the cream cheese mixture. Top with spoonfuls of the remaining cream cheese mixture. With a knife, swirl batter to marble. Sprinkle with Coffee Streusel.
- 4). Bake in preheated oven for 45 to 50 minutes or until a toothpick inserted near center comes out clean. Cool in pan on a wire rack for 45 minutes. Spoon Coffee Drizzle over coffee cake in a lacy pattern. Cool completely on wire rack.

Streusel:

1). In a medium bowl combine brown sugar, rolled oats, ftour, and pumpkin pie spice. Using a pastry blender, cut in butter until crumbly.

Coffee Drizzle:

- 1). In a small bowl stir together powdered sugar and corn syrup. Stir in enough cooled espresso or strong- brewed coffee (1 to 2 tablespoons) to make drizzling consistency.
- 2). Prepare as directed. Cool baked cake completely but do not spoon Coffee Drizzle over coffee cake. Wrap in foil; overwrap in plastic wrap. Freeze for up to 3 months. Thaw in the refrigerator overnight. To serve, top with Coffee Drizzle.

*To make 1 cup sour milk, place 1 tablespoon lemon juice or vinegar in a glass measuring cup. Add enough milk to make 1 cup total liquid; stir. Let stand for 5 minutes before using. *Nutrition Facts:* Per serving: 574 calories; total fat 21g; saturated fat 12g; cholesterol 140mg; sodium 408mg; total carbohydrate 89g; total sugars 58g; protein 9g; vitamin c 1mg; calcium 131mg; iron 3mg; potassium 199mg

--Recipe By BHG Test Kitchen

THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND

THINK BIG ₩E DO"

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The URI Employees' Newsletter 73 Upper College Road, Kingston Campus

Happy Holidays!

