

# URI Informed

THE URI EMPLOYEES' NEWSLETTER

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## University of Rhode Island Achieves Prestigious Carnegie R1 Status

by Dawn Bergantino

***The Carnegie Classification distinction places URI among the nation's top research institutions.***

The University of Rhode Island has ascended to the highest level of research universities in the United States by earning R1 designation in the latest Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education. The recognition reflects URI's broad impact and evolution into a world-class hub for research, innovation, entrepreneurship, and public scholarship.

The Carnegie Classification is widely recognized as a standard for evaluating institutions based on their research activity. As an R1 institution, URI joins a collection of U.S. universities noted for research excellence.

In 2023, the Department of Education counted 3,896 degree-granting postsecondary institutions in the United States. Of that total, approximately 187 have achieved Carnegie's R1 classification, placing URI among the top 4.8% of degree-granting postsecondary institutions nationally. URI is one of only two Rhode Island universities to earn the R1 distinction.

"This is a proud day for the University of Rhode Island, and for the many outstanding faculty, staff, and students who have contributed to our broad and deep impacts on Rhode Island, the nation, and the world," said URI President Marc Parlange. "The Carnegie R1 classification demonstrates

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The University of Rhode Island has earned an R1 classification in the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education. URI is one of only two Rhode Island universities to earn the R1 distinction which signifies very high research activity. (URI Photo/Sean McVeigh)

THE  
UNIVERSITY  
OF RHODE ISLAND



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

### Carnegie R1...continued from page 1

our elevated research enterprise, our emphasis on public scholarship, and our commitment to addressing the most pressing challenges facing our global society. This achievement also continues our remarkable momentum, including recognition as the top public university in New England, reflective of student achievement."

The "doctoral universities—very high research activity," or R1, designation signifies that URI has achieved the highest level of research activity, measured by the number of doctoral degrees awarded and the amount of spending on research and development.

Over the past decade, URI has made significant progress in expanding its research enterprise, securing major research funding, and fostering interdisciplinary collaboration across a broad range of fields.

- Doctoral degree student enrollment at URI increased 11% over five years, to 612 in the fall of 2024.

- Research expenditures increased 25% over five years, to \$144 million in fiscal year 2023.

- Publications by individuals with a URI affiliation increased 55% in Scopus over 10 years, to 1,172 articles published in 2023, and 28% in Web of Science, to 1,116 articles published in 2023.

The top-tier research designation also recognizes the University's continued investment in its academic programs and physical environment, including cutting-edge laboratories and research centers, and its commitment to fostering strategic partnerships with industry leaders and government agencies.

In recent months, the University celebrated progress on a multi-year modernization of its Narragansett Bay Campus. Supported by two voter-approved bond referenda totaling \$145 million, that work is expanding the University's global excellence in ocean science and leadership in the blue economy.

The University also commemorated a \$99 million renovation to its Fine Arts Center, unveiling a state-of-the-art space for students and faculty artists. And in November, Rhode Island voters approved an \$87.5 million bond for a biomedical sciences building on the Kingston Campus that will provide advanced laboratory space for researchers engaged in work across a range of biomedical, biotechnology, and science-related fields, as well as office space to support research.

Those improvements build on other key infrastructure investments, including the Fascitelli Center for Advanced Engineering,

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# Rhody Outpost Challenge

## ***URI Team “Jells” Together for Rhody Outpost Can Your Team Top Communications’ Winter Donation?***

That's a lot of sandwiches! (They hope). URI's External Relations / Communications team started the new year with a generous team drive for Rhody Outpost, gathering and donating a whopping 75 POUNDS of jelly, jerky and assorted other foodstuffs to the Outpost in January. Hearing that URI's on-campus food pantry for students had a lot of peanut butter - but not much jam to accompany - the University's creative team got to work bringing in cans and jars, in a "Jelly January" drive. The Comms team hopes to see if another URI department can top their record this spring.

Rhody Outpost serves approximately 80 students each week. Basic needs insecurity is a real challenge on college campuses today; the 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.

The Outpost is currently in need of more for its shelves, from almond butter and baking supplies to tea, as well as personal / household items.

Gift cards to local grocery/drugstores are also welcome for Rhody Outpost which even has an online Amazon wish list for easy ordering and shipping. Donations can be dropped off at the Dining Services Warehouse (Tootell Road) between 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. or left in the shed outside St. Augustine's Church (Lower College Road) anytime.

See their current needs at [uri.edu/rhody-outpost/](http://uri.edu/rhody-outpost/) or reach out to [barbara\\_sweeney@uri.edu](mailto:barbara_sweeney@uri.edu) with any questions.

If you decide to take the challenge, please let us know how many pounds of needed items your group donated; take a photo if you can and it will be in the next *URInformed*.





## University Mourns the Passing of Longtime Employee Antonio “Jay” Sciola Jr.

The University mourns the passing of Antonio “Jay” Joseph Sciola Jr., an employee at the University for 70 years in facility services. Jay, 91, of South Kingstown, passed away peacefully at home on Feb. 14. He was the beloved husband of 65 years of Barbara J. (Baton) Sciola.

Born in Peace Dale, Jay was the son of Antonio Sciola Sr. and Lucy (Angrisani) Sciola. He attended South Kingstown High School, excelling at various sports.

Jay started working at the university in 1950 – it was still known as Rhode Island State College then – at the age of 17, but was no stranger to hard work. He had worked as a caddy at a local golf course and at the state beach the previous summer, and needed a job.

“It wasn’t the case back then of looking to work,” he said in an interview in 2020. “You had to work to feed the family, your father needed help. I had two sisters and a brother. You didn’t have a choice. If you weren’t going to go to college, you were going to go to work. That’s why I went.”

With the exception of serving in the Air Force in 1952 and sick leave during the Covid-19 pandemic, Jay spent the next 70 years watching sleepy Rhode Island State College grow into the University of Rhode Island. He served in numerous roles – laborer, plumber, mason, carpenter, and supervisor – as the University swelled to more than 200 buildings over four locations, he said.

He retired from URI in 2020 as a mechanical and electrical shop supervisor in facilities services – and with the distinction of being the longest serving state employee. The University became a home to him, his wife recalled in an interview with The Providence Journal prior to his retirement.

When he was inducted into URI’s Lifetime Service Society in February 2022, his experience, knowledge, commitment, and leadership were recalled in the story about the ceremony: “He was a leader within his department, always on call and ready to tackle whatever maintenance concerns arose, even on his days off. Sciola impacted thousands of students across his many years of service to the URI community.”

I enjoyed the work I was doing,” he said in 2020 of working at URI for 70 years. “I became a licensed plumber, and I liked the people I worked with. I liked the direction that the University was going in. I knew someday it would be a highly accredited university. And it is.”

Along with the importance of family, friends and work, Jay enjoyed spending as much time as possible on Salt Pond in South Kingstown, crabbing, scalloping, quahogging, and fishing.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation in Jay’s name to the R.I. Shellfisherman’s Association, PO Box 1802, East Greenwich, RI, 02818-1802, or to the American Lung Association, PO Box 756, Osceola, WI, 54020-0756.



Jay and Barbara Sciola



# URI SPORTS 2025



V K A S C I T S A N M Y G  
B L C I C E H O C K E Y V  
A A R A R O W I N G R O M  
S C S E R A A C N T L A J  
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E W O L U Z O K I L S T I  
Y R X S O F T B A L L E W  
C L U B T E A M S W I N S

1. Baseball
2. Basketball
3. Club Teams
4. Cross Country
5. Football
6. Golf
7. Gymnastics
8. Ice Hockey
9. Lacrosse

10. NCAA
11. Rise
12. Rowing
13. Rugby
14. Sail
15. Soccer
16. Softball
17. Swimming
18. Team

19. Tennis
20. Track
21. Ultimate
22. URI (3x)
23. Volleyball
24. Wrestling
25. Wins

**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, Communications 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!

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Dept. \_\_\_\_\_

Campus Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Ext. \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

## Senate Commission, URI Launch Study to Examine Feasibility of State's First Public Medical School

*by Dawn Bergantino*

A Rhode Island State Senate study commission and the University of Rhode Island will partner with one of the nation's leading medical education consultants to study the feasibility of launching the Ocean State's first public medical school.

Following a competitive request process, Tripp Umbach has been selected to lead the feasibility study.

The study follows the formation of a Rhode Island State Senate special commission, appointed by Senate President Dominick J. Ruggerio in July and co-chaired by URI President Marc Parlange and Sen. Pamela J. Lauria. The commission is charged with studying the state's health care workforce with a focus on educating and retaining primary care physicians, as well as examining how a medical school at URI could help alleviate that critical need.

"Few issues are as important as health care, and right now, our health care system is in critical condition," Ruggerio said when appointing the commission. "Strengthening the primary-care pipeline is an essential part of our work to make health care more accessible and affordable for Rhode Islanders."

Tripp Umbach is a nationally regarded firm with leadership in economic impact studies and consultation services for academic medical campuses and medical schools. Over the past three decades, the firm has measured the economic impact of all U.S. allopathic medical schools and more than 400 teaching hospitals for the Association of American Medical Colleges.

"We are excited to partner with such an experienced firm as Tripp Umbach," said Barbara Wolfe, URI provost and executive vice president for academic affairs. "They have worked extensively with both allopathic and osteopathic medical schools. This includes public universities with medical schools centered on primary and community care, such as the University of Houston and Washington State University."

As part of the study, Tripp Umbach will collaborate with a broad range of stakeholders throughout the state, including local and state-

wide health care organizations, federal and state agencies, research institutions, medical education providers, and policymakers and professional associations. Their collective input will help shape the study's direction and outcomes.

Complementing the work of the Senate Commission, the study will evaluate the need and feasibility of developing a medical education program at URI, recently named the number one public university in New England by The Wall Street Journal. The study will also examine and make recommendations regarding workforce development, medical school models, enrollment projections, accreditation standards, financial viability and required resources, capacity to support clinical training, and medical research opportunities.

"Through numerous undergraduate and graduate programs in health care fields, including several that are nationally ranked, URI is enhancing the physical and mental health of individuals and communities locally and globally," said Parlange. "We are dedicated to broadening our impact for the good of the state, and we look forward to partnering with health care providers and elected officials to examine the need for and feasibility of a public medical school for the benefit of all Rhode Islanders."

Rhode Island is experiencing a net loss of primary care clinicians, and the shortage is expected to worsen in the years ahead. The inability of many Rhode Island residents to find primary care physicians is resulting in the use of community health centers and urgent care facilities to meet their medical needs, which strains resources and creates additional pressures on the health care system.

"As a double alumna of the University of Rhode Island, I am proud to co-chair the Senate commission, which could help reshape the future of higher education at the University," said Sen. Lauria. "The central question before our commission is how we can best address the serious challenges facing primary care in our state. Rhode Island is on track to be short

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# ***Personnel Script***

## **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...**

Amanda Alker, Biomedical & Pharmaceutical Sc, Sara Anderson, Dining Board Operations, Christopher Barker, Enterprise Risk Management, Collin Binkley, Dean of Students Office, Benjamin Blodgett, Dining Board Operations, Madison Bogle, Dining Board Operations, David Bohmiller, Business Instruction, Renato Borrás-Chavez, CELS Academic Unit 2, Donte Brame, Human Resource Administration, Curiney Cain, Dining Board Operations, Lois Carnevala, Mech. Ind. & Sys. Engineering, Jane Carrick, CELS Academic Unit 3, Stephen Conca, Custodial Services, Zachary Cooper, Maintenance & Repair, Deirdre Cotter, Dining Board Operations, Cecile Cres, Info Tech Services, Nicholas D'Errico, Dining Board Operations, Subarna Das, Dean Engineering, Marisa DeMatteo, Child Development Centers, Marisa DeMatteo, Child Development Centers, Mileiry Delacruz, Business Instruction, Kassandra Depina, Human Resource Administration, Katelyn Durham, Univ Coll for Academic Success, Alison Enchelmaier, GSO Coastal Resources Center, Michelle Fasano, HRL Residential Education, Joshua Fishlock, Communication Studies, Alison Freeman, Dean Environment & Life Science, Matthew Fuller, Capital Construction, Roy Gilboa, GSO Research, Brian Goss, Police, Carol Graubard, Human Resource Administration, Johanna Harvey, CELS Academic Unit 2, Kathryn Hegarty, GSO Coastal Resources Center, Lori Herz, Strategic Initiatives, Tristram Howard, GSO Marine Office, Drake Jackson, Men's Football, Lydia Johnson, HRL Business

Operations, Lisa Jones, Education, Lisa Jones, Education, Kenneth Kenyon, Custodial Services, Sarah Kienle, CELS Academic Unit 2, Jaswanth Reddy Kommuru, Provost for Academic Affairs, Nicolas Leffray, Info Tech Services, Natalie Lundsteen, Graduate School, Rey Magro, Center Career Experiential Edu, Rachel Marinelli, Strategic Initiatives, Heather McClary, Research Office, Simon Metcalfe, CELS Academic Unit 3, Madeline Mitchell, Communications & Marketing, John Moore, Recreational Services, Jake Morency, Public Safety Administration, Neil Nachbar, Communications & Marketing, Ashley Olah, CELS Academic Unit 2, Oluwatoyin Omisore, Communications & Marketing, Katie Palardy, Dining Board Operations, Michael Parente, VP Student Affairs, Claire Pearsall, Pharmacy Practice, Zanyck Pereira, Dining Board Operations, Nicholas Phillips, Communications & Marketing, Eliana Ritts, CELS Academic Unit 2, Alyenny Rondon, Dining Board Operations, Bryan Roy, CELS Academic Unit 2, Shelby Salmons, Interdiscp Neurosc Prog, Saiontoni Sarkar, GSO Rhode Island Sea Grant, Teresa Schwemmer, GSO Research, Ting-Yu Shih, Biomedical & Pharmaceutical Sc, Patrick Sorensen, CELS Academic Unit 2, Natalie Sorrentino, Dining Board Operations, Chelsie Sullivan, Elec Computer & Bio Engr, Megan Sullivan, GSO Research, Thomas Thiem, Chemical Engineering, Timothy Valton II, HRL Facilities, Merina Varghese, Biomedical & Pharmaceutical Sc, Yuxin Yang, Chemistry, Lin Zhao, Elec Computer & Bio Engr, Matthew Zucconi, CELS Academic Unit 2

## **... and Say Goodbye to ...**

Lisa Alofsin, Health Services, Danielle Bailey, GSO Research, Edwige Bellier, CELS Academic Unit 2, Clarence Bishop III, Financial Strategy & Planning, Keri Chernoff, Univ Coll for Academic Success, Keith Clavin, Professional & Public Writing, Emily Cribas, CELS Academic Unit 2, Kevin Crimmins, Parking Services, Maruth-Shah Emicar, Department of Nutrition, Ronald Heisler, Dining Board Operations, Kayla Kurtz, Dean Engineering, William Lynch, Dining Board Operations, Ellen McGough, Physical Ther-

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### **Comings and Goings**...continued from page 7

cal Therapy, Robin Mosher, Human Resource Administration, Phoebe Neel, CELS Academic Unit 2, Pearl Noone, Dining Board Operations, Paraskevi Petropoulou, Languages, Vanessa Pichardo, Department of Nutrition, Joshua Poirier, Dining Retail Operations, Aryan Safaie, GSO Research, Veronica Seeram, Instruction Support, David Serra, Research Office, Nichea Spillane, Psychology, Elliot Vosburgh, CELS Academic Unit 2, Kiyomie Warsaw, Dining Board Operations, Amy White, Student Activities, Munaiah Yeddala, Chemistry

### **... and Best Wishes To Those Who Retired**

Neil Clapperton, State Crime Lab, Jeremy Collie, GSO Faculty, Gayla Gazerro, Strategic Initiatives, Stephanie Good, Education, Wayne Wenchao He, Languages, Leslie Poldajda, Human Resource Administration, Pamela Rubinoff, GSO Coastal Resources Center, Stephen Tondra, Mail Services, David Ullman, GSO Research, Zongqin Zhang, Mech. Ind. & Sys. Engineering,

### **In Memoriam**

- ❖ Antonio “Jay” Joseph Sciola, Jr.,  
URI Facilities



### **Carnegie R1**...continued from page 2

infrastructure investments, including the Fascitelli Center for Advanced Engineering, a \$125 million, 190,000-square-foot technologically advanced engineering center that opened in 2019.

“URI’s designation as an R1 university is a testament to the dedication, expertise, and vision of our entire academic community,” said Barbara Wolfe, provost and executive vice president for academic affairs. “This milestone reflects the perseverance of faculty who have dedicated years to URI, believing in our potential. It is a testament to our early-career faculty, who joined URI determined to make a lasting impact on our community, the state, and the world. And, it reflects the intellectual curiosity, interdisciplinary collaboration, and relentless pursuit of innovation that define our faculty.”

URI, as a public land- and sea-grant institution, has significantly grown its partnerships and industry relationships over the past decade in ways that enhance innovation and contribute to broad economic development for the state of Rhode Island and the region. Consistent to its land-grant mission, URI is leading research that improves lives and serves society—locally, regionally, nationally, and globally.

### **Medical School**...continued from page 6

about 100 primary care providers by 2030, which could leave 180,000 Rhode Islanders without access to primary care coverage. It is imperative that we act thoughtfully, expeditiously, and decisively to strengthen the primary care workforce and pipeline in Rhode Island.”

While Rhode Island is home to a private medical school, no new medical schools have been established in the state since 1972 and no public medical school exists in the state.

The final feasibility report is expected in June 2025. The special commission is scheduled to issue its recommendations to the Senate no later than Dec. 20, 2025.

### **URInformed Word Search Winner**

Congratulations to **Verna Lafreniere, New Student Transitions, Welcome Center.**

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

***Check out the Word Search on page 5!***



# *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



**Marilyn Monroe** and **Al Capone**, a brother sister team of dachshunds from a litter of 7. Al was the first born and Marilyn was the last born. They are very loving dogs and they constantly hang out together. They are a true yin and yang team. -- **Steven Gronski**, 2nd Shift Supervisor MTS shop.



## *The Pets Corner 2*



Our goldendoodles -- **Winston** (top) is just 9 months and **Finn** who just turned 4.  
-- **Cherie Taylor**, PCC Administrative Assistant



# Cook's Corner

Share your favorite recipes in the Cook's Corner

## Irish Brown Bread

### Why is brown bread so popular in Ireland?

In Ireland, brown bread is as common as a pint of Guinness. Most versions are made with Irish beer, too! The bread became popular many years ago due, in part, to the low cost of wheat flour. Back then, white flour was more expensive. That's not the case anymore, but it has continued to stick around.

### Ingredients:

- 2 Tbsp. salted butter, melted, plus more for the pan
- 1 cup rolled oats, divided
- 3 cups whole wheat flour
- 2 tsp. baking soda
- 2 tsp. kosher salt
- 1 cup stout beer, such as Guinness
- 1 cup buttermilk
- 1/4 cup molasses
- 2 Tbsp. honey

### Directions:

1). Preheat the oven to 350°F. Butter a 9-by-5-inch loaf pan. Roughly chop 1/4 cup of rolled oats.

2). Evenly coat the bottom and sides of the pan with the chopped oats, tapping out any excess and reserving them for the top of the loaf. Set aside.

3). In a large bowl, whisk together the remaining 3/4 cup of rolled oats, flour, baking soda, and salt. Make a well in the center of the dry ingredients. Add the melted butter, stout, buttermilk, molasses, and honey. Stir until just combined, being careful not to over mix. Transfer the mixture to the prepared pan, smooth the top with a small offset spatula, and scatter the reserved chopped oats over top.

4). Bake until a skewer inserted into the center of the loaf comes out clean, 45 to 50 minutes. Allow to cool for 10 minutes, then remove from the pan and transfer to a wire rack to cool completely before slicing.



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at  
<http://web.uri.edu/urinformed/>

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***The URI Employees' Newsletter***

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