

URI Informed

Vol. 25 Issue 4 Fall 2018

THE URI EMPLOYEES' NEWSLETTER

A Guide to Working Dogs at URI

by Olivia Ross

Your first few days at the University of Rhode Island can be filled with cool opportunities, making new friends, going to the beach, or catching a soccer or football game. You may also see a friendly looking dog on a leash walking across campus with his human friend. You're eager to say hello because it reminds you of your four-legged best friend at home.

But, before you begin calling to the dog, consider this: your eagerness for this particular canine encounter could be a matter of life or death for its handler who relies on the eyes of that dog.

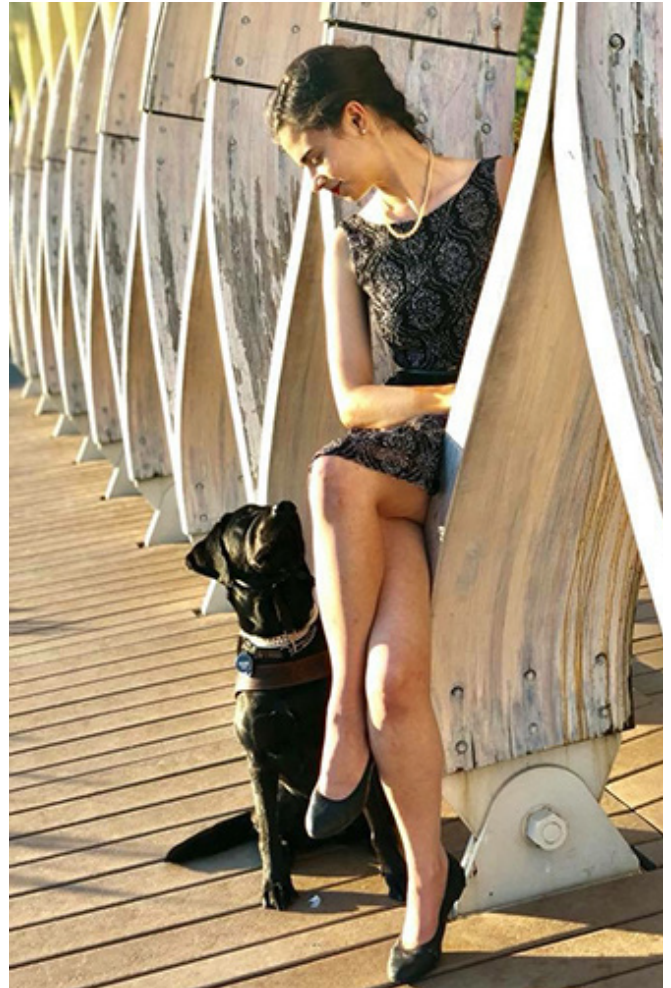
Ingrid is one of those well-known dogs on the Kingston Campus, and she serves as a set of guiding eyes for Aria Mia Loberti, a junior at URI who is legally blind and relies on the Labrador retriever to negotiate her busy class schedule and extra-curricular activities. So the best rule of thumb for those who want to greet Ingrid is to ask Loberti first.

Don't reach out to pet Ingrid. Don't talk to her because Ingrid is on the job for Loberti.

A triple major in philosophy, communications and political science, youth delegate to the United Nations and mentor to other students, Loberti relies on Ingrid to navigate every inch of URI's Kingston campus. From classes in Swan Hall to the biology lab in Woodward Hall, there is little time to stop along the way to introduce Ingrid to her admirers.

"Guide dogs are in charge of a life," explained Loberti. "These animals assist their handlers with a disability by executing responsibilities

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Aria Mia Loberti with her guide dog Ingrid. Photo courtesy of Audrey Loberti.

THE
UNIVERSITY
OF RHODE ISLAND

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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.

Loberti. *continued from page 1*

that a handler cannot. Ingrid is my eyes, and when she stops working because she is distracted or frightened, I am forced to stop and determine the source of the distraction, and work with Ingrid to get her focus back. Often, distractions like people trying to get Ingrid's attention are avoidable, all it takes is awareness and education, but these can threaten both of our safety. Feel free to ask me questions and address me, but follow the instructions on Ingrid's harness sign: 'Do Not Distract.'

During fall 2017, Loberti wrote an original piece of research on Guide Dog/Handler communication and perception and presented her work at the Western States Communication Association Conference in California in February of 2018.

"The paper elaborated on methods through which guide dog teams (humans and dogs) communicate verbally and nonverbally; discussed the changed self-perception of a person who is blind before and after receiving their guides; and elucidated means through which the general public's perception of the person who is blind changed in the presence (or absence) of a guide dog," explained Loberti, who hopes the paper might get published or selected for a chapter in a book in the future.

Her research, while still ongoing, supports the premise that handlers feel more accepted by the general public when they rely on a guide dog instead of a white cane.

"A white cane can be a communicative barrier," said Loberti. "It is important to see disability as a part of culture and to diminish stigma in general. A dog is a great way to open that door."

Ingrid has an exceptional understanding of both basic and complicated commands to pair with her understanding of 75 words, Loberti said. Her task is to guide Loberti around obstacles, both on the ground and overhead, while identifying spaces and places that Loberti frequents to keep the URI student safe.

"By the second week of a semester, our routine is well established and Ingrid knows where I need to be and when," said the Johnston resident. "She knows the routes I use and sometimes knows where I need to be based on the day of the week even if I might space out for a second."

But you won't see Ingrid basking in the affection of students or scrounging for food. She is

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URI Honors Public Safety Officials, Employees for Outstanding Service

by Dave Lavallee

The University of Rhode Island Department of Public Safety gathered in August to honor the accomplishments of several officers and administrators at their second annual awards ceremony.

“As public servants, they have shown a true commitment to our community, and their efforts and hard work are moving our department forward in providing the best delivery of police services for all community members,” said Major Michael Jagoda. “I also know that it is not always easy to meet every challenge we face as police officers. However, they are making a positive difference every day. This ceremony recognizes their continued dedication and commitment and their efforts do not go unnoticed and are appreciated.”

For his actions involving a drug arrest and response to a suicidal individual, Officer John Bush of Richmond was awarded the Medal for Outstanding Service. This honor is reserved for individuals who successfully perform an

extremely complex or difficult investigation; or demonstrate exceptional skill or ingenuity in the apprehension of a wanted person; or provide outstanding service to the public; or continuously achieve excellence in performance in duties over an extended period.

Sergeant Erica Vieira of Richmond, Officer Anthony Brito of Westerly and Detective Mark Brasil of Richmond were also awarded the Medal of Outstanding Service for their work identifying and apprehending a suspect who stole a series of MacBooks from the Robert L. Carothers Library in 2017. Officer Michael Intrieri of Westerly was also awarded the Medal of Outstanding Service for his continuous proactive patrol functions and subsequent drug arrest.

The department also honored two public safety department staff members:

Dispatcher Thomas Galluscio of Westerly was honored as the department’s Dispatcher of the Year for his consistent attention to detail and

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Public Safety Director Stephen Baker, Officer John Bush, Officer Anthony Brito, Officer Krystle Alexander and Major Michael Jagoda. (URI Photo/Michael Salerno)

Loberti. *continued from page 2*

trained to refuse food, so if you drop your sandwich while rushing to class or put a savory treat right in front of her face, she won't eat it.

Much of the communication between Loberti and Ingrid is from the feedback of the harness or leash. A gentle leader, a thin head collar that attaches to the leash and the neck collar, allows Loberti to feel the dog's gestures and actions.

"I'm not positive if this is a guide dog thing or just an Ingrid thing," said Loberti. "But, if someone comes from behind me and pets Ingrid, she physically jams herself into me so I can identify the distraction. She knows how to alert me with her whole body."

The difference between guide dogs or other service animals and emotional support animals is simple. Loberti said the latter are not responsible for performing tasks to mitigate or compensate for a handler's disability, instead they provide comfort and support simply by being present. Emotional support animals do not have public access rights like guide or service dogs. But emotional support animals are allowed on plane flights and in various forms of housing. Guide dogs and other service animals, however, must go everywhere their handler does."

Service and guide dogs are protected under the United States Department of Justice through the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990. Refusing service or entrance to a person because of their guide/service dog is illegal. It is also illegal to ask a guide/service dog handler for their dog's identification or for proof of a disability.

"Once the line between service animals and emotional support animals is blurred, public spaces could become flooded with dogs who are not properly trained, leading to a slew of other problems," explained Loberti.

Part of what sets Ingrid apart from her canine colleagues is the years of extensive training she underwent before being paired with Loberti.

"Ingrid's family consists of generations of dogs who were bred to guide humans," said Loberti. "During training, these dogs are exposed to countless scenarios and environments that prepare them for the experiences they will have in the real world. Between 13 and 15 months old, the dogs are put in their harness, the training



*The sign that Ingrid wears while she is working.
Photo courtesy of Aria Mia Loberti.*

only intensifies with more frequent tests.

Upon completion of Ingrid's training, Loberti, her lifestyle and even the URI campus were assessed to ensure that the two were a perfect match before anything was set in stone.

"Dogs that were bred and trained to guide can still be cut from the program if they are not the right temperament or if they cannot catch on," Loberti explained. "More than 250 people are involved in the training of one dog and the breeding, raising, training, equipment and lifetime care for a guide dog can cost thousands, and in some cases, up to a quarter of a million dollars. When you consider all of the money and time that goes into making a guide dog as exceptional as Ingrid, it is staggering to consider that someone repeatedly petting her or blocking her path can break her career."

So what do you do when you see Ingrid or another guide dog patrolling the campus?

"Never address the dog directly or enter her space without asking," said Loberti. "When I am

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URI Facts about Fall 2018

With record number of applications, incoming class is highly selective, diverse

by Carol McCarthy

The University of Rhode Island welcomed more than 3,200 members of the Class of 2022 to campus — the first student body largely born after the start of the 21st century.

Joining them are 500 transfer students, 2,000 graduate students, approximately 150 Finish What You Started students, thousands of returning classmates, and hundreds of concurrent enrollment high school students, creating a dynamic student body of more than 18,000.

Students, by the Numbers

This information reflects what we know about students expected to enroll for fall 2018. Final numbers will be confirmed in late October.

- The University's Office of Undergraduate Admission received and reviewed a record 22,775 applications for 3,250 spots in the incoming class. More than 1,400 transfer applications also were considered.

- Consistent with trends nationwide, 57 percent of the anticipated 3,750 new students (freshmen and transfers) are women and 43 percent are men. More than 23 percent have self-identified as students of color.

- About 47 percent of new students are from Rhode Island, and 53 percent are from out of state or foreign countries. Approximately 55 percent of the total student body is from Rhode Island. The University expects to enroll students from more than 44 U.S. states plus Washington, D.C., and Puerto Rico, as well as 49 nations.

- After Rhode Island, the top states represented in the freshman class are, respectively, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York and New Jersey.

- Admitted students have an average GPA of 3.54; SAT total score of 1185/1600; ACT score of 25.

- About 6,000 undergraduate students are assigned to one of the University's 24 on-campus residence halls, suites and apartments. URI traditionally houses most of the first-year class in residence halls.

- About 650 students will live in the 17 sororities, fraternities and specialty houses, Inter-

national Engineering Program houses and the Women's Center.

- There are 18 Living and Learning Communities, of which 13 are exclusively for first-year students.

- The University also houses approximately 250 graduate students and their families in Graduate Village apartments adjacent to campus.

- Popular majors for the incoming class are animal science, biology, business, criminology and criminal justice, engineering, kinesiology, nursing and pharmacy.

Academically Speaking

The new academic year brings the introduction of new majors, minors and certificate programs across disciplines. These include:

- Undergraduate majors: International studies; innovation and entrepreneurship

- Graduate certificates: aquaculture and fisheries; science writing and rhetoric

- Undergraduate certificates: Energy, economics and policy; innovation and entrepreneurship

- Interdepartmental minor: sports media and communications

On the Ballot

On Nov. 6, Rhode Islanders will vote on referendum No. 2, a \$70 million higher education general obligation bond that includes \$45 million for upgrades at the Narragansett Bay Campus, home of URI's Graduate School of Oceanography (GSO). The school is one of the world's premier academic institutions in oceanography and ocean exploration. Major advances in knowledge of the oceans arise from GSO's research, education and public service. Proceeds from the bond, if approved, would be used to upgrade the GSO pier — which will accommodate the newly awarded \$100 million National Science Foundation research vessel — to construct a 20,000-square-foot Ocean Technology building and a Marine Operations building, among other enhancements.

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Save the Date

The inaugural URI Well-being Conference was held Sept. 13 and 14, as URI marks important milestones in the institution's contributions to physical and mental health. The event includes a conversation with world-renowned Professor of Psychology James Prochaska as well as presentations and discussions with leading experts in population health and behavior change.

The 2018 Honors Colloquium, Reimagining Gender: Voices, Power, Action, will address questions about the relevance of gender in shaping human rights, how gender identities connect with outer aspects of inequality and how our rising consciousness about gender leads to vibrant social conversations, power restructuring and new possibilities. The free series, featuring leading voices with diverse perspectives, is held every Tuesday at 7 p.m., through Dec. 4 in Edwards Hall, 64 Upper College Road.

URI Innovation with Impact 2018 is a new series of events and programs which began Sept. 21 that showcases the creative and boundary-pushing work and impact of students, faculty, staff, alumni and industry partners. The series includes the showcase of Undergraduate Research, Scholarly and Creative Works, Health-Hacks RI 2018, Inclusive SciComm Symposium and the ribbon-cutting for the Artificial Intelligence Lab in the Robert L. Carothers Library and Learning Commons, the first such lab to be housed in a college library.

Construction Zone

In the last 12 years, nearly \$900 million has been invested in renovating or constructing about 1 million square feet of building space on campus. Improvements in 2018 and 2019 include:

•**The Robert J. Higgins Welcome Center:** The expansive center on Upper College Road opened its doors to students and families this month. An official ribbon-cutting was held Sept. 26.

•**College of Engineering:** The \$150.5 million, 186,000-square-foot complex will offer some of the best engineering education facilities in the nation when it opens in 2019.

•**Brookside Apartments:** A new, apartment-style residence hall for upperclassmen is under construction on the northwestern edge of campus. It will welcome its first residents in fall 2019.

•**Ongoing upgrades:** The Rhode Island legislature approved a \$12 million initial phase of improvements at the Fine Arts Center in June. During this phase, performance spaces will be improved as will the building's mechanical systems; roofing will be replaced or repaired; windows will be enlarged; and exterior walls will gain insulation and surface overlays. Renovation and expansion projects also are in the planning and design phases for Ranger Hall and Meade Stadium, and infrastructure work continues to enhance campus sustainability, aesthetics and function, as well as transportation and parking.

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Students fill the walkways on the Kingston campus as they head to class. (URI photo/Nora Lewis)

Financial Facts (2018-19)

Undergraduate tuition and fees:

- In-state, \$14,138
- Out-of-state, \$30,862
- Regional, \$22,324
- Undergraduate Room/Board, \$12,452

Graduate tuition and fees:

- In-state, \$14,924
- Out-of-state, \$27,552

Financial aid (2018-19):

- 75 percent of students receive aid
- More than \$92 million (awarded by URI)

Olivia Ross, an intern in the Marketing and Communications Department at URI and public relations major, wrote this article.



Loberti..continued from page 4

not in a rush, I welcome people who want to ask questions. It is even alright to ask if you may pet Ingrid, but to please not be offended if I say no. Ingrid is taught that when her harness is on, she is working and working only for me. For her to be pet, I have to take the harness off, which means I have to be in a safe space. Other than that, it is important that people communicate with Ingrid through me. While Ingrid is of course a dog, she is also a working piece of medical equipment. She is like a white cane or a pair of glasses, so would you come up and start petting either of those?

“Extending a hand directly to the dog poses an obstacle that she will work to get around,” said Loberti. “Generally, just use your best judgement when it comes to approaching or not approaching a guide dog and their handler, keeping in mind that when a dog is in their harness, they are working.”

Public Safety..continued from page 3

fective communication in relaying important information to URI first responders. Galluscio received numerous letters of thanks from both inside and outside the department for his exemplary work.

Fiscal Management Officer Lora Frisella, of Wakefield, was honored as the Public Safety Employee of the Year for her consistent effort in administering the budget of eight departments in public safety.

“I would like to congratulate all the award recipients for their accomplishments,” Jagoda said. “I continue to be impressed by the dedication and commitment that all police and security officers and dispatchers put forth in their daily activities. I sincerely appreciate their hard work throughout the year, and their efforts make our campus a safer place to live, work, and learn in.”

In addition, several new officers were sworn in by Director of Public Safety Stephen Baker during the event. The department welcomed Officer Krystle Alexander of Newport, Bruce Atwell of East Providence and Andrew Tainsh of Warwick. Brito and Intrieri also received promotions.

Additionally, the department welcomed two new staff members. Joseph Trotta of Narragansett joined the department in June as an electrician with Alarm Services. Abigail Bernier, of Wakefield, began working with the Environmental Health and Safety branch in March as the new Industrial Hygienist.



URInformed Word Search Winner

Congratulations to **Flavia C Follador Alves, Custodial Services!**

Please contact Shawn Simmons in the Provost's Office (4-4410) to claim your prize.

Check out the Word Search on page 9!

Lighting, steam heat improvements lead to big energy savings at URI *Moves mean lower carbon impact, less light pollution*

by Dave Lavallee

Since 2006, the University of Rhode Island has saved 11 million kilowatt hours of energy, reduced annual steam consumption by 89 million pounds and reduced carbon dioxide emissions by almost 26 million pounds. Such achievements are being recognized nationally.

The U.S. Department of Education earlier this year named the University of Rhode Island a 2018 Green Ribbon School. The University received the Postsecondary Sustainability Award, and it is the only university or college in New England to be selected for a Green Ribbon honor. Earlier this year, the Princeton Review named URI among the nation's greenest colleges for the eighth straight year.

"The University is strongly committed to sustainability, and has made outstanding progress in reducing greenhouse emissions and solid waste streams," said Vice President for Administration and Finance Abigail Rider. "We are deeply honored to be named a Green Ribbon School, and we continuously evaluate and

implement additional improvements which increase our sustainability."

A year-long project was recently completed to replace the campus' exterior lights with about 1,900 high-efficiency, light-emitting diode (LED) lamps and accompanying fixtures to limit the spread of light. In addition to the enhanced lighting, the fixtures provide a standardized, clean look across campus. The only fixtures that weren't replaced are those in historic campus areas that mimic light poles of earlier eras. However, the lights themselves have been replaced with LED units.

The Division of Finance and Administration and its Business Services Department, Facilities Services Department, Office of Capital Projects, Department of Campus Planning and Design and Office of Sustainability have been aggressively pursuing energy-savings measures University-wide for more than a decade.

The latest light project eliminated all high-pressure sodium units, which caused an or-

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Members from URI's Council 94, Local 528, raised \$1074 from their fundraising yard sale on September 8th, 2018 to benefit the South Kingstown Animal Shelter. Pictured from left to right are Bob Crudele, Denise Soriano Birch, Vicki Dube, Brad Brown and Rob Pennoyer. Photo by Robin Cook



FALL FROLIC!



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

1. Pumpkin
2. Puppy
3. Hayride
4. Farmer
5. Sleigh
6. Hockey
7. Leaves

8. Wreath
9. Candles
10. Turkey
11. Halloween
12. Bats
13. Apples
14. Owl

15. Witch
16. Chrysanthemum
17. Flurries
18. Sweater
19. Frost
20. Umbrella
21. Soccer

22. Barn
23. Chilly
24. Cider
25. Soup

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 Shawn Marie Simmons, Provost Office, Green Hall, Room 109. 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 _____

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...

Gifty Ako-Adounvo (Global Strategies & Acad Part); Samantha Armenti (Computer Science); Bruce Atwell (Police); Margaret Benz (Faculty Senate); Donald Boldt, Jr. (Dining Central Operations); Rafael Borja (GSO Marine Office); Todd Brothers (Pharmacy Practice); Alison Burke (Student Life); Clarissa Cavarsan Muller (Ryan Institute Neuroscience); Ashlie Champlin (Dining Central Operations); Majay Charley (Undergraduate Admissions); Michael Conti (Computer Science); Leslie Dancy (History); Andrew Davies (CELS Academic Unit 3); Katerina Denardo (Bookstore); Jeffrey Douglas (HRL Residential Education); Seray Ergene (Business Instruction); Gordie Ernst (Women's Tennis); Stephanie Fagan (Health Services); Nikita Francis (Ryan Institute Neuroscience); Peter Freeman (GSO Coastal Resources Center); Rachel Garcia (Student Life); Michael Geary (Women's Basketball); Rahmatallah Gheshm (CELS Academic Unit 1); Lindsay Grim (Dining Central Operations); Allison Hall (Counseling Center); Jie Han (Mathematics); Zoe Hutchinson (GSO Research); Karlis Kaugars (Info Tech Services); Sean Krueger (Faculty Affairs); Anthony LaRoche (Communications & Marketing); Sakeenah Lambert (Women's Basketball); Elizabeth Leibovitz (Biomedical & Pharmaceutical Sc); Jessica Linicus (Dean Business); Stephen Locke (Mail Services); Cory Macchiono (Women's Basketball); Tracey Manni (Communications & Marketing); Clyde Manns Jr. (Women's Basketball); Jessica Martinez (Graduate School); Gabriel Matthias (GSO Marine Technicians); Keri-Ann McAlice (ATC -Academic Testing

Center); Derek McHugh (Joseph Moreino (Business Services Other); John Morgan (GSO Receiving/Stockroom); Laura Motley (Publications); Colleen Mulcahey (Counseling Center); Theodore Myatt (Research Office); Samantha Neary (Univ Coll for Academic Success); Cassandra O'Brien (Harrington School); Mark Payne (Business Services Other); Melissa Pearce (Computer Science); Romanuel Percy (Undergraduate Admissions); Gina Perrotta (W Alton Jones Operations); Max Ponticelli (Theatre); Dominique Popescu (Ryan Institute Neuroscience); Valerie Richard (Dining Central Operations); Katie Roberts (Women's Rowing); Alana Russell (CELS Academic Unit 1); Susan Sahagian (Dining Central Operations); Jerry Sargent Jr. (Ram Computers); Margaret Schedl (CELS Academic Unit 3); Melissa Schenck (International Engineering Prog); Abhik Sen (Ryan Institute Neuroscience); Madhav Sharma (Mathematics); Kyle Sidlik (Communications & Marketing); Erin Spear (Dean Business); Pierre St. Germain (Dining Central Operations); Elizabeth St. Louis (Pharmacy Practice); Colleen Suckling (CELS Academic Unit 1); Collin Syfert (Communication Studies); Edward Tarnoski (Central Stores); Fatima Tobar Santamaria (Nutrition & Food Sciences); Melva Trevino Pena (CELS Academic Unit 2); Joseph Trotta (Fire Life Safety); Elizabeth Varkonyi (CELS Academic Unit 1); Tanadej Vechsuruck (Economics); Jill Wainwright (AHC Finance & Administration); Natalie Weisfeld (Nutrition & Food Sciences); Chelsea Zabel (Univ Coll for Academic Success); Xinmu Zhang (Biomedical & Pharmaceutical Sc); Guangyu Zhu (Computer Science).

... and Say Goodbye to ...

Kristen Besler (Counseling Center); Taunica Cerullo (Chemistry); Laura Ferrell (Undergraduate Admissions); Jessica Goren ((Pharmacy Practice); Kirk Haltaufderhyde (CELS Academic Unit 3); Velaida Harris (Women's Basketball); Melissa Hordes (Pharmacy Practice); Jeffrey Koinin (Physical Therapy); Leonard Taylor (NCAA Compliance Office); Robert Lipterman (CELS Academic Unit 3); Patricia MacDonald (Disability Services Student);

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Personnel...continued from page 10

Danielle MacGregor (Pharmacy Practice); Shannon Madden (Writing & Rhetoric); Martha McConnell (GSO Dean); Skyler Mendes (Learning Assistance Center); Brian Mullen (CELS Academic Unit 1); Leticia Orozco (Recreational Services); James Perry Jr. (Univ Coll for Academic Success); Amanda Dawson Schaeffer (Dining Central Operations); Joanne Schwartzkopf (Research Office); Tiffany Smythe (GSO Coastal Resources Center); Mark Snow (Landscape & Grounds Maintenance); Stephanie Tobey (Women’s Basketball); Jeanette Vaganek (AHC Finance & Administration); Walter Wetmore, Jr. (GSO Marine Office); Heidi Wright (CELS Academic Unit 1).

... and Best Wishes To Those Who Retired

Andrew Alcusky (Business Service Other); Peter Ferrara Jr. (University Computing Systems).

In Memoriam

- ❖ Luke Samuel Albert, Professor Emeritus, Biological Sciences
- ❖ William A. “Bill” Bowers III, Assistant Director, Marketing and Promotions, Athletics (ret.)
- ❖ Joy Spanabel Emery, Professor Emerita, Theatre
- ❖ William “Bill” Falk, Assistant Professor, Physical Education for Men, Head Coach, The Rams (ret.)
- ❖ Robert Fuquea, URI Residence Hall Manager (ret.)
- ❖ Richard L. Hauke, Professor Emeritus, Botany
- ❖ Blanche R. Murray, President of both the University of Rhode Island Foundation and Alumni Association.
- ❖ Americo W. Petrocelli, Vice President, Business and Finance (ret.)
- ❖ Domenic Valentino, Professor Emeritus, Psychology



Lights...continued from page 8

ange glow, and metal halide lights, both of which are less efficient than LED lamps. All of the walkways, roads and exteriors of campus buildings are now illuminated with LED lights.

“With our old fixtures, light was not distributed efficiently, but now we have concentrated it where we need it,” said David Lamb, assistant director of Facilities. “The new fixtures are designed to distribute light better, reducing light pollution.”

As part of the project, the University also received an incentive from National Grid to replace the lighting in building stairwells with sensor-equipped LED lights. When no one is in the stairwells, the sensors dim the lights to save energy. When someone is there, the lights return to full power.

Major unseen improvements

Another major facilities upgrade was the installation of thermal insulation to the traps, valves and strainers located in the mechanical rooms of the University’s steam system. Until new technology was developed, it was difficult to insulate this equipment, but Lamb said all of it is now wrapped in removable and reusable Kevlar-like materials.

Lamb said 2,000 steam fittings in up to 50 buildings were insulated. Because of the insulation, classrooms and residential living quarters near this equipment are more comfortable.

“We project these steam system improvements will save about 8 to 10 percent in annual energy costs by reducing our natural gas consumption, which reduces our carbon emissions as well,” Lamb said.

His team also replaced 800 feet of 40-year-old steam line near Bressler Hall and the Memorial Union. That bare pipe was replaced with a state-of-the-art insulated line.

And because the University is recovering its costs through less consumption of natural gas and electricity, it is moving to install air conditioning in Edwards Hall, the University’s historic venue for major lectures and other programs.

“Edwards Hall is a beautiful, historic building that welcomes thousands of visitors each year, and once we complete this project, Edwards will be beautiful and comfortable year round,” Lamb said.

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ROBERT J. HIGGINS WELCOME CENTER



Photos by Nora Lewis

Cook's Corner

Share your favorite recipes in the Cook's Corner

Wholesome Brownies

These delicious brownies are courtesy of *Jane Brody's Good Food Book*.

Ingredients:

- 1 (6-ounce) package semi-sweet mini chocolate chips (1 cup)
- 5 1/3 tablespoons butter
- 1 cup rolled oats, quick-cooking (scant cup)
- 1/2 cup almond flour (optional)
- 1/4 cup wheat germ
- 1/3 cup dry milk powder, nonfat
- 1/2 teaspoon baking powder, double-acting
- 1/4 teaspoon salt (optional)
- 1/2 cup walnuts, chopped
- 2 eggs
- 1/4 cup brown sugar, packed
- 2 tablespoons sugar, white
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 350°F.
2. In the top of a double boiler or in a small heavy saucepan over low heat, melt the chocolate chips and the margarine. Remove the pan from the heat and stir the mixture until it is smooth. Set it aside.
3. In a medium bowl, combine the oats, wheat germ, dry milk, baking powder, salt, and nuts. Set the mixture aside.
4. In a large mixing bowl, beat the eggs and mix in the brown and white sugars and the vanilla until the mixture is thick. Stir in the melted chocolate mixture. Fold in the oats mixture until it is just blended. Pour the batter into a greased 8-inch square baking pan.
5. Bake the brownies for 20-25 minutes or until the top is crisp but a toothpick inserted in the center of the pan comes out slightly moist. Set pan on a rack to cool completely before cutting the brownies into 5 strips in each direction.

Serves: 25 -- Total Calories: 95 -- Calories from Fat: 47 -- Food exchanges per 1 brownie:
1 FRUIT, 1 1/2 FAT



Lights...continued from page 11

During the summer, the University replaced an additional 1,000 feet of uninsulated steam line with state-of-the-art insulated steam line between Green Hall and Fogarty Hall.

Next up, is the replacement of 54,000 interior lights on the Kingston campus with LED units, installation of plug load management technology and software to provide energy savings on window air conditioners and other ancillary equipment during unoccupied hours.

While all of these are important projects, Lamb stressed the importance of individual actions. "We are doing system-wide improvements, but equally important are steps individuals can take, like shutting off lights when not in a room, turning the temperature up on your air conditioning, turning down the heat, and calling for service when it's too hot in your room, office or classroom instead of opening a window in the dead of winter."

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

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URInformed

Invitation to the Pets Corner

We know how much people like their pets. It's up to you to show us just how much.

Please 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.

The deadline for the next issue is May 1.

Contact:

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The URI Employees' Newsletter

73 Upper College Road, Kingston Campus



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