

# URI Informed

Vol. 25 Issue 2 May 2018

THE URI EMPLOYEES' NEWSLETTER

## University of Rhode Island Announces 2018 Commencement Speaker

by Carol McCarthy

Gina McCarthy, a leading advocate for the protection of public health and the environment, will receive an honorary doctor of science degree and will address an audience of approximately 15,000 gathered for the 2018 undergraduate commencement ceremony on Sunday, May 20, at 12:30 p.m. on the URI Quadrangle, Kingston Campus.

McCarthy is considered an authoritative voice on environmental issues and their implications for society. She helped shape environmental and transportation policies in Massachusetts and Connecticut before joining the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in 2009. President Barack Obama named her administrator of the agency in 2013.

In addition, an honorary doctor of humane letters degree will be awarded to Jim Taricani, a widely respected investigative reporter who covered organized crime and government corruption in New England during a career spanning nearly four decades with WJAR-TV, the NBC affiliate in Rhode Island.

Along with McCarthy and Taricani, the University will award honorary doctorate degrees to Dr. Dharam V. Ablashi, a renowned scientist and humanitarian; Akihiro Nikkaku, a global business innovator and CEO of Toray Industries, Inc.; and Anne Mimi Sammis, a Rhode Island-based painter and sculptor who is internationally acclaimed.



**Gina McCarthy**

The honorary doctorate degree is the highest honor bestowed by the University, and these five men and women will join 428 esteemed individuals recognized with this distinction since URI's founding.

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THE  
UNIVERSITY  
OF RHODE ISLAND

THINK BIG  WE DO<sup>SM</sup>



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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.*

### **URI Commencement**...continued from page 1

"We are privileged to present honorary doctorate degrees to these distinguished individuals, whose accomplishments exemplify our common values of integrity, honesty, compassion, creativity and civic-mindedness," said URI President David M. Dooley. "Their achievements have made lasting contributions to our state, our nation, and the world."

#### **Gina McCarthy**

An independent thinker, consensus builder, and informed expert, McCarthy served as administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under the Obama administration. While there, she led efforts to meet historic public health and environmental protection goals at the agency, establishing the nation's Climate Action Plan and signing the

Clean Power Plan, which set the first national standards for reducing power plant emissions. That plan signaled the nation's commitment to climate action and imparted momentum to the international Paris Climate Agreement.

In 2017, McCarthy was named a fellow at the Institute of Politics at Harvard Kennedy School and a Richard L. and Ronay A. Menschel Senior Leadership Fellow at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, where she is a professor of Public Health Practice and director of the Center for Climate, Health and the Global Environment. McCarthy also works as an advisor to Pegasus Capital Advisors, a private equity fund that invests in wellness and sustainability.

#### **Dr. Dharam V. Ablashi**

A renowned virologist and humanitarian who has influenced the lives of thousands of people within the field of immunovirology research and beyond, Ablashi will receive an honorary degree of doctor of science. He is internationally known for his research on human and simian herpes viruses and the connection between viruses and cancer. He received his master of science degree at URI in pathology and virology. As a graduate student, he was a co-investigator on a research grant from the National Institutes



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of Health. In 1963, while studying at URI, he helped found the International House in Providence, whose mission is to promote friendship, connection, learning and global understanding, and he remains actively committed to that organization.

Ablashi served as a senior research virologist at the National Cancer Institute's Tumor Virus Laboratory for 23 years, and as an adjunct professor at Georgetown University School of Medicine. He co-discovered a human herpes virus 6 (HHV-6) with Dr. Robert Gallo in 1986 and advised NASA on the risk of viral infection to astronauts traveling to space with primates and developed medical research tools for Advanced Biotechnologies Inc. Ablashi is the scientific director of the HHV-6 Foundation, which he co-founded. Born in India, Ablashi holds a doctorate in veterinary medicine at Panjab University Veterinary College, received a diploma in bacteriology from the Indian Veterinary Research Institute.

**Akihiro Nikkaku**

An honorary degree of doctor of business will be bestowed on Nikkaku, chief executive officer and chief operating officer of Toray Industries Inc. and a visionary business leader. Nikkaku embraces the Toray Group's philosophy of "contributing to society through the creation of new value with innovative ideas, technologies and products." For Nikkaku, business growth is inseparable from sustainable business practices. He guides Toray to build sustainable, low-carbon, recycling-based communities by developing innovative technologies that address global environmental issues.



Under Nikkaku's leadership, Toray pledged \$2 million toward construction of URI's College of Engineering complex and endowed \$2 million in engineering fellowships and scholarships. Toray consistently extends internship opportunities to students and remains actively involved in the

International Engineering program. In fact, of the more than six dozen engineers employed at Toray, 23 are URI graduates.

**Anne Mimi Sammis**

Sammis, a Rhode Island-based painter and sculptor whose work is commissioned around the world, will receive an honorary degree of doctor of fine arts. Concurrent with receiving this honor, URI is hosting an exhibition of her work titled "Expressions of Peace, Love & Joy" an exhibition of works by Anne Mimi Sammis" at Robert L. Carothers Library and Learning Commons April 20 to May 20.



In 2002, Sammis was commissioned by the Archbishop of Canterbury to create a sculpture in honor of Queen Elizabeth's Golden Jubilee. Sammis' sculpture, *He Has the Whole World in His Hands*, is on permanent display in Lambeth Palace, London. Her *One Thousand Years of Peace* exhibition of 30 bronze sculptures was shown at the United Nations in 1999, and later at The Hague, Netherlands. At her coastal Rhode Island home, Sammis holds weekly gatherings, where attendees share their art, encourage each other, and discuss topics related to art, spirituality, creativity, and inner peace. Her work and her willingness to share her gifts and support others' creativity have inspired thousands.

**Jim Taricani**

Taricani's unwavering courage in pursuit of the truth has long set him apart in his profession and beyond. Respected nation-



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## URI Professor Maureen Moakley to Speak at Graduate Commencement 2018

by Carol McCarthy

The University of Rhode Island has invited **Maureen Moakley**, a highly respected professor of political science at URI, local commentator and expert on political trends, as 2018 graduate commencement speaker. She will address an audience of more than 2,000 students and guests at the graduate ceremony on Saturday, May 19, at 9 a.m., at the Thomas M. Ryan Center, One Lincoln Almond Plaza, Kingston Campus.

Moakley's keen insights into politics and government have taken her far beyond the classroom — from the fractious halls of the Rhode Island Statehouse, to the colorful streets of Havana and beyond. With her extensive expertise in Rhode Island politics, American government, and politics and media, Moakley is a sought-after political commentator on radio and television.

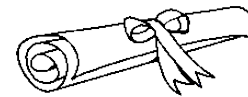
Moakley's incisive analysis of political trends has made her a vital member of Rhode Island Public Radio's weekly program, Political Roundtable, and she regularly brings her wit and acumen to the Rhode Island PBS television program, A Lively Experiment.

"We invited Professor Moakley to speak this year because her accomplishments and passion for the university, Rhode Island and, most of all, our students is legendary. We can think of no one better to deliver a message of hope and accomplishment to our graduate students as they transition to the next phase of their lives — as she herself retires from the University of Rhode Island," said Provost Donald H. DeHayes.

At URI, Moakley teaches American government, state politics and political theory. Her current research examines the question of statehood for Puerto Rico. In addition, she and colleague Richard McIntyre, professor of economics, created a semester-long study abroad program in Cuba. The program was established at an important time in history: In 2014, President Barack Obama restored ties with the Communist nation after more than a half century of diplomatic isolation.



She holds a Ph.D. in political science from Rutgers University and is the author of several books, including "The Political Life of the American States," "Party Alignment and State Politics" and "Rhode Island Politics and Government" (with Elmer Cornwell).



### **URI Commencement.**...continued from page 3

wide for his integrity, Taricani was sentenced to six months of home confinement in 2004 for refusing to disclose a confidential source who provided him with a surveillance tape reportedly showing a City of Providence official accepting a bribe. A federal judge imposed the sentence after fining Taricani \$85,000 and finding him guilty of contempt of court.

Taricani would then become a nationally recognized advocate of a federal shield law to protect journalists and their sources and traveled the country delivering dozens of speeches in favor of the "Free Flow of Information Act." He worked with the Reporters' Committee for Freedom of the Press to urge Congress to protect journalists, and he testified before the U.S. House Judiciary Committee in favor of the legislation.

# AN EVENING OF GRAPES & GRAIN

**June 9, 2018 • 5–7:30 p.m.**

*President's House Lawn  
URI Kingston Campus*

***Ninth Annual Benefit  
for URI Women's Athletics  
Hosted by Lynn Baker-Dooley***

*Enjoy a wide selection of fine wines,  
specialty beers, and select foods provided  
by area businesses.*

***Honorary Chair  
Kimberly Nelson '81, D.V.M.***

**\$125 per person**  
*Must be 21 years of age to attend.*

**For sponsorship opportunities,  
proxy bidding or event information,  
call Shana Greene  
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*Special thanks to*



Silent Auction  
Proxy Bidding now  
available online  
through June 8  
at 3 p.m.

**[uri.edu/grapesgrain](http://uri.edu/grapesgrain)**

**URInformed is now on the Web  
at**

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

**Browse the current issue of  
URInformed**

# Work underway on 500-bed Brookside Apartments complex

## *Newest URI residence hall to feature cafe, access to bike path*

by Dave Lavallee

Imagine living in a University of Rhode Island residence hall with a cafe and an outdoor seating area that runs along a restored brook and surrounding landscape.

Juniors and seniors won't have to imagine such a place once the fall 2019 semester rolls around, because that's when the new, 500-bed, 203,000-square-foot, Brookside Apartments will open on the Kingston campus.

"This new residence hall represents a huge step for us as we continue to build a vital and dynamic residential community on our Kingston campus," said Kathy Collins, vice president for Student Affairs. "Every element of Brookside encourages connection among students, facilitates learning in comfortable, small study areas, helps students learn life skills, like how to plan and prepare meals, and emphasizes the importance of our green spaces and sustainable transportation options. This building meets the increasing demand of our returning students to stay on campus during their time with us."

Construction started March 1 on the \$94 million project, and now the site, to the west and south of Heathman and Wiley halls, is a hub of sound and activity as heavy equipment operators prepare the area for the building. The project is being financed with revenue bonds supported by a combination of Department of

Housing and Residential Life revenues (95 percent) for the building and associated amenities and University general revenues (5 percent) for site and infrastructure work.

The complex will feature apartment suites of six and four single-occupancy bedrooms. Each suite will be furnished and has a full kitchen and two bathrooms.

The look of the building will be similar to URI's 600-bed Hillside Hall, which opened in 2012, but there have been some tweaks as this is an apartment building, including the elimination of large common lounges in favor of more hallway lounges, which are immensely popular features in Hillside. The tall walls of glass that allow generous amounts of sunlight into Hillside will also be key features of Brookside.

One of the striking components of Brookside will be the new cafe, which will be the first facility inside a housing unit run by the nationally recognized URI Dining Services. The 40-seat cafe will be a place where students can grab a quick sandwich and drink and dash off to class, study or hang out with friends, or move outside to the brick patio and landscaped seating areas along the restored White Horn Brook. A footbridge will connect Brookside to nearby residence halls.

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**ON THE HORIZON:** This is an exterior view of Brookside Apartments, now under construction at the University of Rhode Island. Renderings courtesy of Sasaki Associates, Inc.



# URI Researcher's TickSpotters Program Provides Timely Risk Assessment

by Dave Lavallee

Oh No! You've been bitten by a tick or find one on your clothes or pet. Your anxiety quickly builds as you wonder, "Is this a deer tick? Will I get Lyme disease?"

With University of Rhode Island Professor of Entomology Tom Mather warning that a tough tick season is looming this spring and summer, he also wants you to know that help is as close as the Internet or cellular data by using his TickSpotters program.

With your smartphone or camera, simply take a photo of a tick that you find on your skin or clothes and send it to TickSpotters.

Mather, a nationally renowned tick expert, director of the URI Center for Vector-Borne Disease and its popular TickEncounter Resource Center, works with doctoral graduate student Heather Kopsco and other team members to examine photos and provide an identification confirmation, a personalized risk assessment and case-appropriate prevention educational information at no charge to help people determine what their next steps could be.

Mather discussed TickSpotters, the prevalence of disease-carrying ticks across the country and steps people can take to prevent tick bites with NBC Nightly News medical correspondent Dr. John Torres, airing later this month

along with dozens of media outlets nationally.

The deer tick is particularly troublesome because besides Lyme disease it can transmit four other different types of germs, and during its nymph stage, it is the size of a poppy seed and difficult to spot. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, typical symptoms caused by an infected deer tick include fever, headache, fatigue, and a characteristic skin rash called erythema migrans. If left untreated, infection can spread to joints, the heart and the nervous system.

Since launching TickSpotters in 2014, Mather and his team have responded to more than 46,000 submissions, examined more than 35,000 pictures and provided information to those wondering if they are in danger of coming down with Lyme disease or other dangerous tick-borne diseases.

He and Kopsco view each submitted photo to determine whether the tick encountered is a deer tick, also known as a blacklegged tick, or one of the other six or seven most common human or pet-biting ticks found across North America.

"We respond by email with a detailed message confirming the type of tick, the tick's stage of development, how long it was attached, the

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*Dr. John Torres, at left, uses a magnifying glass to examine a poppy seed bagel, on which deer ticks have been placed, in the laboratory of URI Professor Tom Mather. URI photo by Nora Lewis.*

### **Brookside Apartments**...continued from page 6

“Food has frequently been an important element in building community. We expect that this will be a defining feature of Brookside that will lead to an entirely new and exciting residential community ” said Frankie Minor, assistant vice president for Student Affairs and director of Housing and Residential Life. “The cafe and outdoor seating and recreational areas will be open to all students.”

The new building will also have a demonstration/teaching kitchen to help students learn how to prepare healthy and enjoyable foods. Residents of the new housing facility will not have to purchase a meal plan.

The fully air conditioned residence hall will house a conference and presentation room and a 125-seat multi-purpose room with movable partitions.

“The amenities in this facility will allow it to be used by a larger segment of the URI and Rhode

Island community fulfilling our role as a public institution and community resource,” Minor said.

Cyclists will also be excited about the project because it coincides with construction of a 2-mile extension, which will be supported by a combination of a \$2.2 million grant from the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management and University funding. The extension from the William C. O’Neill Bike Path will provide direct access to the University’s Kingston campus. The O’Neill Bike Path will connect the Kingston campus through the villages of Peace Dale and Wakefield to Narragansett Town Beach. The extension is expected to be completed by fall 2019.

The project architect is Sasaki Associates, Inc., of Watertown, Mass and the general contractor is Bacon Construction Co., Inc., East Providence.



### **Ticks**...continued from page 7

chance for some disease and best next actions to help prevent possible disease. For example, if your tick was an American dog tick, there is pretty much no chance for that tick to pass on an infectious dose of the Lyme disease germ, and in the Northeast, little chance for other diseases either. It’s not a diagnosis but it is an informed risk assessment.”

Last May, TickSpotters helped 3,400 people who submitted photos. One night this week, the team received 164 photo submissions, and so far this month, there have already been more than 1,000 submissions. “Not too surprising, since May is the “tickiest” month of the year across North America,” Mather said.

“People have sent us emails telling us that if they hadn’t come to us, they wouldn’t have taken action,” Mather said. “People sometimes take our reports to their health providers, and the doctors “can’t believe how helpful the information is.”

Submissions regularly come from all over North America and occasionally from international locations, including Japan, Cuba, South

Africa and Europe. While most people in the northeast and mid-Atlantic states are concerned about deer ticks, these ticks are also commonly found in the upper Midwest and increasingly in the southeastern states. The Pacific coast has its own type, called western blacklegged tick. Deer ticks are widespread in Rhode Island and elsewhere, which Mather attributes to increasing numbers of deer appearing in suburban and even semi-urban backyards and along local roads. Deer are no longer restricted to the forests and fields in more rural areas.

“People tell us things like, ‘We’ve lived here for 15 years and have never seen ticks until now,’” Mather said.

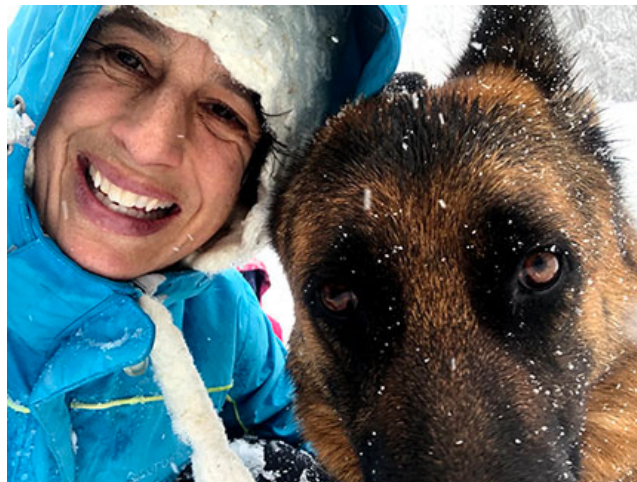
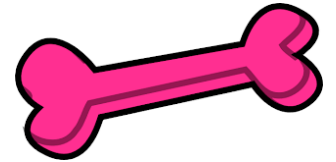
“More than just a crowd-sourced tick survey, TickSpotters is also about building relationships,” said Mather, who is a member of the Northeast Center of Excellence in Vector Borne Disease at Cornell University and a member of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Lyme Disease Working Group’s prevention sub-committee.



# Kathy Conlon and Mako

Kathy Conlon, an Academic Advisor in the College of Business and her German Shepherd, Mako, whom she adores. Mako is two years old and has German parents.

Kathy got her when she was 9 months old and she was already named, but she definitely lives up to her shark namesake. She was the breeder's top pick and had already won prizes in the showing for her beautiful gait, but they discovered she was missing a tooth. So, despite being "imperfect" by AKC standards, she is perfect to me. I take her running, hiking, snowshoeing, and everywhere in the car. She is our family pet and watch dog. Bummer for our kitty, Spirit, though as she is not a big fan so we have to keep them separated. Anyway, she is my pride and joy and I wanted to share her with you. Her pictures are in my office, along with numerous wolves, my other favorite animal. These are a few, of us romping in the snow this winter.



# 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...

Abigail Bernier (Environmental Health & Safety); Stephen Beuth (GSO Marine Office); Matthew Champlin (GSO Receiving/Stockroom); Jana Clark (Univ for Coll for Academic Success); Jared Cooper (HRL Central Office); Michael Cuqua (AHC Research); Sammy Dearborn (Maintenance & Repair); Vincent DiCarlo (Media & Technology Services); Brian Doorley (Custodial Services); Felton Dyer Jr. (GSO Marine Office); Zachary Fernandes Jr. (Business Service Other); Christopher Ferraro (Dining Central Operations); Sandy Gallo (Athletics' Custodial Services); Christine Getter (Ryan Institute Neuroscience); Rachel Gibson (Dining Central Operations); Kelvin Gorospe (CELS Academic Unit 1); Gary Guilmette (HRL M&R Facilities); Micheal Haiderer (Custodial Services); Kelly Harris (Center Career Experiential Edu); Lauren Josephs (CELS Academic Unit 1); Kelli Kidd (Health Services); Rhonda LaPorte (Philosophy); Vincent Maher (Dining Central Operations); Heather McNair (GSO Research); Anthony Miller (Custodial Services); Eugene Otto Jr. (GSO Marine Office); Heather Paskalides (Research & Econ Dvlpmnt); Kevin Rogers (CELS Academic Unit 2); Mark Schortmann (Custodial Services); Jane Shartenberg (Dining Central Operations); Gail Shibley (Custodial Services); Peter Snyder (SPA-VP Res & Econ Development); Anthony Tavares (Custodial Services); Manuel Teixeira (Maintenance & Repair); Michael Tortorella (GSA Marine Office); Lisa Vincent (Kinesiology); Xiaozhen Wang (Elec, Computer & Bio Engr); Joseph Wilbur (Recreational Services); Lingxiao Xie (Biomedical & Pharmaceutical Sc); Michael

Yarworth (Landscape & Grounds Maintenance).

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

Camille Abdel-Nabi (Undergraduate Admissions); Christine Antonelli-Savoie (Recreational Services); Joshua Caulkins (Online Learning & Teaching); Andrew Clemente (DataSpark); Christopher Condit (GSO Coastal Resource Center); Amy Folz (Student Services); Megan Fox (Student Life); Kayla Friend (Pharmacy Practice); Jessica Greene (CELS Academic Unit 2); Lowell Hillman (Dining Central Operations); Karen Ho (Biomedical & Pharmaceutical Sc); Daniel Hurley (Men's Basketball); Mary Jane James-Pirri (GSO Research); Kayla Jones (Dining Central Operations); Daniel Kenyon (HRL M&R Facilities); Aaron Koehler (Police); Megan Lane (Cancer Prevention Research Ctr); Donna Neville-DeAngelis (Undergraduate Admissions); David Siart (Fire Line Safety); Sean Thompson (Univ Coll for Academic Success); Bingfang Yan (Biomedical & Pharmaceutical Sc); Eric Youncofski (Men's Basketball).

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

Joseph Demartino (Research & Econ Dvlpmnt); Mary Fetherston (Media & Technology Services); Patricia Gardiner (Kingston Library); Heather Harwood (Central Receiving); Sara Hickox (GSO Office of Marine Programs); Linda Palazzo (GSO Security); Connie Pritchard (CEPS Strategic Initiatives); Zenobia Rhyner (Research & Econ Dvlpmnt); Linda Schmid (Dining Central Operations); Howard Smith (Dining Central Operations).



## In Memoriam

- ❖ Lois Schuler, Higher Ed Financial Office Pre-Audit Clerk, Student Loan Office
- ❖ Megan Yakey, Executive Assistant 1, Graduate School
- ❖ Otto Dornberg, Professor Emeritus, Languages
- ❖ Ryozo Glenn Kumekawa, Professor Emeritus, Intergovernmental Policy Analysis Program & Community Planning

# Cook's Corner

Share your favorite recipes in the Cook's Corner

## Healthy Granola

Welcome spring and snacking! We all like to snack and trying to make it healthy can be a struggle. With salty potato chips and sugar packed granola bars it is so hard to stay clean. By making a healthy snack you can cut out many additives and control what you eat. This month we are making Healthy Granola!

Start with all your favorite snacking ingredients.....This is the fun part you get to pick what goes in your granola!

### *The Basics:*

Oatmeal, Olive Oil, a Sweetener (honey, maple syrup, brown sugar, coconut sugar), almond flour, Vanilla and cinnamon.

### *Add ins:*

Nuts, chocolate chips, sunflower seeds, pumpkin seeds, chia seeds, flax seeds, dried cranberries, dried cherries, coconut, chocolate covered raisins, prunes, or whatever you enjoy.

### *Directions:*

In a large mixing bowl add

1-2 cups oatmeal

¼ cup olive oil

Sweetener to taste (no more than a ¼ cup)

½ cup almond flour (or a flour of your choice)

2 teaspoons vanilla

1 teaspoon cinnamon

Mix these all together and taste. Is it sweet enough? Do you have enough vanilla/cinnamon? Adjust if needed.

Now add in about a ¼ cup of each extras. If you like more of one thing and less of another adjust. For the seeds add about 1-2 tablespoons of each.

Mix again, really incorporate the oil and flour this will help bind the granola so you get granola nuggets! Taste Again!

Put on a cookie sheet and bake for about 15/20 minutes in a 350\* oven. This recipe does not usually stick. You can spray the cookie sheet with Pam.

Remove and let cool completely.

At this point you will have burned your fingers eating the granola as it cools.

Use an upside-down spatula to break up the granola. This will help it stay in clumps. Put granola in an air tight container and enjoy! If granola loses it's crunch re-bake for 10 minutes.

There are no limits to what kind of granola you can make. Give it a try and stay healthy!

*Calories will depend on what ingredients you choose.*



## 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:  
Nancy Gillespie  
ngillespie@uri.edu**





**URInformed**

*The URI Employees' Newsletter*

73 Upper College Road, Kingston Campus



## URInformed Call for Contributors

We need a new contributor to create **word search and/or word unscramble puzzles** with URI or seasonal theme.

We publish 4 or 5 times per year.  
If you are interested please contact:  
Nancy Gillespie  
[ngillespie@uri.edu](mailto:ngillespie@uri.edu)

