

Ocean Explorer Robert Ballard Will Deliver 2022 Commencement Address

World renowned ocean explorer and professor of oceanography Robert Ballard will deliver the keynote address for the University of Rhode Island's 136th Undergraduate Commencement from aboard his ship, the *E/V Nautilus*. Best known for his discovery of numerous significant shipwrecks, including the *RMS Titanic*, the German battleship *Bismarck* and John F. Kennedy's *PT-109*, Ballard received his doctorate in marine geology and geophysics from by Dawn Bergantino

URI in 1974 and was awarded an honorary Doctor of Science degree in 1986.

Ballard will address the class of 2022, their families and friends, at a ceremony that will also honor artist, designer, developer, and thought leader Barnaby M. Evans. Evans, the founder and executive artistic director of WaterFire Providence, will receive an honorary Doctor of Humane *continued on page 2*



Explorer **Robert Ballard** will address URI undergraduates from aboard his ship the E/V Nautilus on May 22. (URI photo/Mike Salerno)





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.

Commencement 22...continued from page 1

Letters degree. The ceremony will be held Sunday, May 22, at 12:30 p.m. on the Quadrangle of the Kingston Campus.

Evans created *WaterFire* in 1994 as part of an effort to rebrand and re-establish Providence as a destination. Using the city and its residents as part of his canvas, Evans designed WaterFire as a city-scale intervention that combines a design approach with aesthetics, land art, installation, site specific work, music, ritual and spectacle. In doing so he brought people together, creating a sense of community and providing a needed boost for the city's just finished river relocation plan.

Since it began, *WaterFire* has been called the "crown jewel of the Providence Renaissance." It has been a revenue generator and job creator. As a nonprofit arts organization, its mis-



Barnaby M. Evans, founder and executive artistic director of WaterFire Providence will receive an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters on May 22 (*Image courtesy of Barnaby M. Evans*)

sion is to inspire Providence and its visitors by revitalizing the urban experience. The WaterFire Arts Center, established in 2017, helped transform a former brownfields site into a vibrant urban arts center, bringing art into the community and making it accessible to all. *continued on page 7*

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URI Looks to URI Police Ranks for Its First Deputy Police Chief

The University of Rhode Island has named a veteran police officer with a lengthy record of success with the URI and North Providence police departments to the position of deputy police chief.

Paul Ricci is the first individual to hold the position of deputy police chief in the University's history. When Michael Jagoda was promoted from police major to police chief and director of Public Safety, the University eliminated the position of major and replaced it with the higher rank of deputy chief.

"Our department is constantly evolving and responding to the broader and more complex public safety demands of a growing global university," Jagoda said. "The promotion of Paul Ricci to deputy chief is an example of how our department is putting the best people in key positions. His training, experience and practical skill stood out from all the other candidates. The new position is part of the department's continuing commitment to building a progressive, responsive, and compassionate law enforcement agency that serves all members of the campus community."

Ricci had a 21-year career with the North Providence Police Department and held many positions and ranks during his tenure there, including administrative captain and acting assistant police chief.

A lifelong resident of North Providence, he wanted a career in law enforcement to make a positive impact and help people in his hometown. While serving as a member of the Community Policing Unit, Ricci helped it become nationally recognized and served as a model of the community policing philosophy.

"In that unit, we built lasting bonds with community members. Interacting with the community during presentations and events was especially satisfying, and I continue to enjoy partnering with our diverse community at URI," Ricci said. "Experiences that took place during the formative years to improve service and enhance public safety here at URI."

Ricci has worked at URI for nine years. In his new role at URI, he will run the day-to-day operations of the Police Department.



by Dave Lavallee

A NEW ROLE: **Paul Ricci** is the first in the University's history to be appointed deputy chief of police. *URI photo by Nora Lewis*

Working within the Department of Public Safety and other internal and external stakeholders, we will work hard to improve our service to the community and keep our campus safe," he said. "URI has a great police department, and the officers are very committed to helping our community members.

"Having been in law enforcement for much of my adult life, I will use that experience and my leadership skills to help my colleagues and the community by incorporating a fair, collaborative management approach. In my new position, I will continue to assess our operating procedures to find ways to improve the organization and our service to the public."

In his new position as deputy chief, Ricci works closely with the Director of Public Safecontinued on page 9

Newest Campus Police Officer Ready to Make an Impact Nicole Wagner joins URI after major success at police academy

by Dave Lavallee

Nicole Wagner always looked forward to the afternoon sessions at the Rhode Island Municipal Police Training Academy.

These were the moments when the cadets would leave their heavy sandbags outside – to be returned to tomorrow – and enter the class-room where they'd learn what it takes to be a police officer.

Wagner spent months learning from academic instructors and guest lecturers about the importance of policing, criminal procedure and traffic laws. She graduated from the police academy at the top of her class.

"I didn't expect it. I knew I did well on tests, but I didn't think I was valedictorian," said Wagner, who is originally from Mansfield, Massachusetts, but now based in Richmond. "It made me feel good, and it gave me a sense of confidence going into my job saying 'I do know this material."

After graduating with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Johnson & Wales University in 2020, Wagner said she felt primed for the academic rigor of the academy. She helped her classmates by making and sharing study guides for major exams because she had a background in the field. Yet, she knew she still had a lot to learn.

"The academy taught me to expect the unexpected," Wagner said. "Things can change in a split second. They kept saying 'keep your head on a swivel.' Be prepared at any moment."

After her graduation in May, she was ready to get to work. She joined the URI Police Department full-time as a University Police Officer (UPO) I. Now, just a year after her hiring, she's already been promoted to UPO II.

Wagner said she appreciates the one-of-a-kind sense of community that comes with being a police officer at a university like URI. Wagner has attended many community events throughout her past year on campus, such as URI Police's pop-up outside the library during finals weeks in December, where she helped hand out snacks to students alongside some other officers.

Her first day on the job after graduating from the academy was a big one: the May 2021 com-



Officer Nicole Wagner. URI Photo by Michael Salerno Photography.

mencement weekend – one of the largest events on campus since the COVID-19 pandemic began. While working at the event, she said many parents approached her with gratitude for keeping their children safe. Despite only being at URI for a short time at that point, Wagner was touched.

After seeing what events like Commencement, Alumni and Family Weekend and New Student orientation looked like in Kingston, Wagner knew she wanted to find ways to engage with the community in these crowded spaces. For this reason, she took it upon herself to become a bicycle-certified police officer. She said she appreciates the ease and accessibility of being able to traverse the crowded, traffic-heavy campus on a bike during major events.

Wagner also recently became taser-certified and is now serving as one of two taser instructors for the URI Police Department.



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1. Alumni	10. Future	18. Photos
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3. Celebrate	12. Honors	20. Regalia
4. Congrats	13. Hugs	21. Resume
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8. Finals	17. Party	25. URI (appears
9. Friends		times)

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	e announced in th	e next issue	of URInformed.	Good Luck!
Name				Dept
Campus Address				

URI's Partnership with U.S. Navy, and UConn Continues to Make Impact on Research and Workforce Development

URI has received more than \$16 million through partnership

by Neil Nachbar

When the National Institute for Undersea Vehicle Technology (NIUVT) was formed in 2017 as a partnership of the University of Rhode Island, the University of Connecticut and General Dynamics Electric Boat, it created collaborative opportunities in applied research, technology transition and workforce development.

"The institute educates individuals for the shipbuilding industry, transitioning not only technologies, but a solid knowledge-base to further advance the next generation and next platforms of undersea vehicles," said Arun Shukla, the institute's co-director of NIUVT and URI Simon Ostrach Professor of Mechanical, Industrial, and Systems Engineering.

The National Institute for Undersea Vehicle Technology has had a profound impact on the local economy by preparing students for defense-related careers, providing further education for those working in the defense industry, and partnering with governmental agencies and companies that have defense contracts.

More than \$16 million has been awarded to URI for institute research projects and workforce development, including \$5,5 million for 20 projects this year. Funding for this year's projects was approved on April 12.

When the institute was created, 12 technical areas were identified as having strategic importance to the Navy with regard to undersea vehicle technologies. URI and UConn have a rich history of research and collaboration with the Navy in these areas.

All five of URI's engineering departments – chemical; civil and environmental; electrical, computer and biomedical; mechanical, industrial and systems; and ocean engineering – are represented in the collaborative's research projects.

In most cases, researchers from the two universities, or multiple researchers from the same university, along with collaborators from Navy-related companies, work on a project.

Through the latest round of funding, Helio Matos, assistant professor of mechanical engineering at URI, will work with UConn engineering professors Ali Bazzi and Rainer Hebert to determine the properties of 3D-printed materials for underwater vehicles.

"I've met some of the UConn faculty through NIUVT-sponsored events," said Matos. "We share many of the same goals and visions for the future regarding smart materials and manufacturing, and our areas of expertise complement each other."

URI ocean engineering professors Brennan Phillips and Stephen Licht will use the funding to further their research on soft robotics used at great depths in the ocean.

"Stephen and I have been collaborating in innovative ways to achieve delicate manipulation of soft robotics in the deep ocean for over seven years," said Phillips. "NIUVT has provided a new pathway to explore these topics much further."

Other research projects underway involving URI and UConn researchers cover topics such as signal detection and identification, innovative sensors and sensing, shock mitigation, vibration and drag reduction, and challenges associated with power.

"The Navy's continued financial support of collaborative research and workforce development enables us to develop cutting-edge technologies, prepare the next generation for high-tech careers in the defense industry, and provide opportunities for engineers to obtain advanced degrees related to their work," said Shukla.

Commencement 22...continued from page 2

"Barnaby Evans has shown us that art has the power to uplift and inspire. His *WaterFire* has been a catalyst in transforming our capital city, making it a cultural destination and serving as an economic driver for our state that has helped reinvigorate our communities," said URI President Marc B. Parlange. "His work through the WaterFire Arts Center provides a showcase for Rhode Island and national artists and exposes local youth and school groups to the arts. His leadership and vision represent the very best of what we aim to instill in our students and it is an honor to welcome him to our campus and to bestow this degree."

Evans earned his bachelor's degree in biology and environmental science from Brown University in 1975. He has received numerous honorary degrees as well as Providence's Renaissance Award in 1997 and the 2003 Kevin Lynch Award from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He was inducted into the Rhode Island Heritage Hall of Fame in 2011.

Ballard's keynote comes as the University is undertaking a major effort to revitalize and modernize its Narragansett Bay Campus, home to URI's Graduate School of Oceanography. Phase one of the master plan for the campus includes a new pier to accommodate the arrival of the new \$125 million National Science Foundation Regional Class *R/V Narragansett Dawn* as well as a new ocean robotics laboratory and marine operations facility.

Ballard returned to URI as a faculty member in 2001 after spending 30 years at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. He directs URI's Center for Ocean Exploration and developed its Inner Space Center, an international hub for ocean science and education that uses cuttingedge technology to facilitate, support, and promote live ocean exploration around the globe. He also founded the not-for-profit Ocean Exploration Trust in 2008. A pioneer in the development of deep-sea submersibles and remotely operated vehicle systems, Ballard has taken part in more than 160 deep-sea expeditions throughout his career.

In 2019, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration chose Ballard and the University of Rhode Island to lead its \$94 million Ocean Exploration Cooperative Institute to support ocean exploration, responsible resource management, improved scientific understanding of the deep sea and to strengthen the nation's blue economy. Other cooperative members are the Ocean Exploration Trust, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, University of New Hampshire and University of Southern Mississippi.

"As our university and our state continue to move forward from the COVID-19 pandemic, I can think of no better person to address our students than Dr. Robert Ballard. The changes underway at our Narragansett Bay Campus will enable our university to build on its global reputation for oceanographic research and education and meet the evolving education needs of our students and future workforce, while continuing to support and build Rhode Island's blue economy," said Parlange. "Dr. Ballard's work has captured the imagination of the public and brought attention to all that is left to explore beneath the ocean's surface, inspiring the next generation of explorers, oceanographers and ocean engineers."

Newest Police Officer...continued from page 4

"Today's police officers have to be wellrounded," said Chief of Police Michael Jagoda, also URI's director of public safety. "I've gotten a lot of positive feedback about her work ethic. She's trying to enhance her skill set, and I find that very commendable. She really represents the community members we serve."

Despite being the youngest person on the URI squad, Wagner is determined to make an impact, vowing to learn as much as she can to enhance her policing skills.

She said she feels well-supported by her colleagues and fellow police officers with many years of experience under their belts. Nonetheless, Wagner is committed to making sure she is the best police officer for the URI community that she can be.

"I've always wanted to be the person that people can come to, not that people are scared of," Wagner said – a philosophy she works hard to maintain.

Kate LeBlanc, a senior journalism and political science major at the University of Rhode Island and an intern in the Department of Communications and Marketing, wrote this press release.



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...

Alan Ardito (CELS Academic Unit 3), Patrick Breshears (GSO Marine Office), Cheryl Burns (HRL Security), Danielle Butler (Kingston Library), Bonny Clarke (GSO Marine Technicians), Giovanna Czerkiewicz (Custodial Services), Ronald De Angelis (Facilities Other - Utilities), Ruby Dener (CELS Academic Unit 3), Donna Donilon (Nursing Instruction), Todd Dresser (Instructional Development Program), Jordan Frisella (Dining Board Operations), Samuel Greenfield (Athletics Strength Condition), Climaco Guzman (Custodial Services), Taylor Hanes (Training Room), Shelby Hillers (Undergraduate Admissions), Alexandra Hooks (CELS Academic Unit 3), Merilee Hosmer (Enrollment Services), Karen Houle (Communicative Disorders), Jason Huffine (Dining Board Operations), Jacob Jackson (Online Learning & Teaching), Michael Johnson (Elec, Computer & Bio Engr), David Kelvey (Dining Cafe Operations), Alexandria Knox (Dining Board Operations), Teryn Kogura (ATC - Academic Testing Center), Marshall Kormanec (GSO Marine Technicians), Linda LaPorte (CELS Academic Unit 3), Jennifer Lewis (Dean Pharmacy), Lita Lighty (Health Services), Jake Lima (Training Room), Jian Ma (Biomedical & Pharmaceutical Science), Casandra Manch (Dining Board Operations), Mary Mc Donald (Parking Services), James McNamara (Info Tech Services), Angela Miller (Controller), Ryan Miller (Men's Basketball), Sara Mitkowski (Dean Pharmacy), Justin Moore (CELS Academic Unit 2), Jason Mozzetta (Shepard's Security), Mary Mullane

(Summer/Winter Session Admin), Jodi Norton (Dean Nursing), Jessica Olsen (Mech., Ind. & Sys. Engineering), Serita Outlow (Dean Nursing), Custavious Patterson (Men's Football), Sharon Pierce (Ocean Engineering), Emmanuel Pinywah (Info Tech Services), William Poole Jr (Dean Nursing), Coleman Replogle (Dean Environment & Life Science), Kylie Rezendes (CELS Academic Unit 2), Andrea Ritter (Emergency Management), Cathie-Anne Rossignol (Instruction Support), Aryan Safaie (GSO Research), Benjamin Sander (Men's Basketball), Jerry Sargent Jr (Human Resource Administration), Charles Slate II (GSO Marine Office), Devin Straley (CELS Academic Unit 2), Evelyn Valdez-Ward (CELS Academic Unit 2), Marissa Velie (CELS Academic Unit 3), Hogan Vivier (Women's Soccer), David Walzer (Harrington School), Rachel Zuercher (GSO Coastal Resources Center)

... and Say Goodbye to ...

Venkata Aditya Kiran Adiraju (Chemistry), Kim Andrews (Biomedical & Pharmaceutical Sc), Kellie Barnes (Research Office), Mayerlis Bouvier (International Education Office), Leslie Brazil (Purchasing), Kristine Buss (Dean Engineering), Lisa Marie Carbone (Dining Board Operations), Karen Carrigan (Physical Therapy), Castaldi (Alumni Relations), Joseph Heather Colby (Communications & Marketing), Jerrell Coleman (Men's Basketball), Kathleen Collins (VP Student Affairs), Marina Conner (Emergency Management), David Cox (Men's Basketball), Teresa Crean (GSO Coastal Resources Center), Leslie Cronan (Human Resource Administration), Michael Cuqua (Dean Pharmacy), Joshua Daly (Small Business Development Center), Candelaria Danicher (Nutrition & Food Sciences), Jennifer Darling (Health Services), Michaela Delaney (Dean Nursing), Alex Dias (Payroll Office), Jonathan Dolyak DiLuglio (Dining Cafe Operations), Meaghan Feeney (Nursing Instruction), Mark Flanagan (HRL M&R Facilities), Kyle Froberg (Men's Soccer), Joel Hague (CELS Academic Unit 3), continued on page 9

Comings and Goings...continued from page 8

Laura Holland (GSO Research), Bohvun Kim (Kingston Library), Douglas Kissick (Dining Board Operations), Spencer Leary (GSO Marine Office), Alexander Magidow (Languages), Megan Martin (Health Services), Gabriel Matthias (GSO Marine Technicians), Sharon Mc-Guire (Dean Pharmacy), Karla Misto (Human Resource Administration), Laura Motley (Publications), Haruki Mukohchi (Training Room), Ariel Neumann (DataSpark), Kimberly Pierson (DataSpark), Brian Preziosi (CELS Academic Unit 3), Matthew Rivard (Nursing Instruction), Von Marie Rodriguez-Guzman (Psychology), Stephen Rush (Facilities Other - Utilities), Anna Santucci (Online Learning & Teaching), Erin Spear (Dean Business), Margaret Teasdale (Biomedical & Pharmaceutical Sciences), Angel Terrana (Dining Board Operations), Aurielle Thomas (Pharmacy Practice), Ariel Valicek (Enrollment Services), Jean Van Couyghen (Provost for Academic Affairs), Donovan Varner (Men's Football), Kerri Viele (Purchasing), Yiwen Zhao (Biomedical & Pharmaceutical Sciences)

... and Best Wishes To Those Who Retired

Raymond Bagley (Dining Board Operations), Russell Beliveau (Maintenance & Repair), Sheleen Clarke (Landscape & Grounds Maintenance), Elizabeth Connors (Communicative Disorders), Doris DeSouza (Dining Board Operations), Carol Gibson (GSO Service Centers), Jacqueline Hughes (Info Tech Services), Tamura Leso (Dean Engineering), Joseph Mulcahey (Fire Life Safety), Franklin Olasanoye (Controller), Gerralyn Perry (Dean Pharmacy), Edwin Requintina, Sr (GSO Research), Kimberly Robertson (Publications), Paula Santos (President's Office), Maryann Scholl (GSO Public Engagement), Nicholas Shmaruk (HRL M&R Facilities), Susan Weaver (HRL M&R Facilities), Christine Wilkinson (Parking Services)

In Memoriam

Gerard Holder, Assistant Director, Office of Affirmative Action, Equal Opportunity and Diversity
Earl Smith III, Dean, Arts & Sciences

Ricci...continued from page 3

ty/Chief of Police Michael Jagoda, to assist with law enforcement operations as well as planning, organizing, directing and coordinating community policing and outreach events.

Ricci joined URI as senior information technologist for the Department of Public Safety in 2013. During his four years in that role, he developed policies for emergency alerts and for the campus security camera system. As supervisor of the public safety communications center (dispatch), he improved its operations and helped redesign the center.

He was hired as a URI police sergeant in 2017 and was promoted to lieutenant in 2019. In that role, he was the officer-in-charge for largescale events, such as Alumni and Family Weekend, commencement, athletic events and Ryan Center concerts. He streamlined the process for crime statistics reporting to the federal government and chaired the Public Safety Awards Committee.

Ricci served as the evening shift sergeant supervisor and later as the day shift lieutenant. He has chaired all search committees for University Police Officer 1 and 2 positions, and also supervised several complex and major criminal investigations.

He is an experienced grant writer and has extensive training, knowledge and practice with the federal Incident Command System and National Incident Management System. He earned a certificate in emergency management from the Community College of Rhode Island.

Ricci earned his bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Roger Williams University and his master's degree in education from URI.

Gianna Cardarelli, a University of Rhode Island Public Relations major and intern in its Department of Marketing and Communications, wrote this press release.





Pets Corner Invitation

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





Here I am with my 2 rescue girls, Honey & Penny. -- Frank Favino Jr, HRL Building Superintendent



Skipper is our golden retriever who will be 12 in May. -- Kathie McKinstry, Printing Services

URInformed Word Search Winner

Congratulations to **Jennifer Stich** from **Information Services**, Library! Please contact Shawn Simmons in the Provost's

Office (4-4410) to claim your prize.

Check out the Word Search on page 5!

Cook's Corner

Share your favorite recipes in the Cook's Corner

Shrimp Pasta Salad

Ingredients:

- •1 pound large raw shrimp, peeled and deveined
- •8 ounces fresh asparagus, trimmed and cut into 1 1/2-inch pieces
- •¹/₂ teaspoon ground pepper
- •1/4 teaspoon salt
- •12 ounces whole-wheat farfalle
- •1/2 cup thinly sliced shallots
- •1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- •2 tablespoons chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley, plus more for garnish
- •1/2 cup mayonnaise
- •2 tablespoons lemon juice
- •2 teaspoons minced garlic
- •1 teaspoon Dijon mustard
- •1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
- •Lemon wedges

Directions:

•Step 1 - Preheat oven to 400 degrees F. Spread shrimp and asparagus in an even layer on a rimmed baking sheet; sprinkle with pepper and salt. Roast until the shrimp are opaque and the asparagus is tender, 8 to 10 minutes. Let cool for 10 minutes.

•Step 2 - Meanwhile, cook pasta according to package directions. Drain; rinse with cold water.

•Step 3 - Combine the shrimp-asparagus mixture, pasta, shallots, Parmesan and parsley in a large bowl. Whisk mayonnaise, lemon juice, garlic, mustard and Worcestershire in a small bowl; add to the pasta mixture and toss to coat. Refrigerate, covered, for at least 30 minutes or up to 1 day. Garnish with additional parsley, if desired, and serve with lemon wedges.



Tip: To make ahead: Cover and refrigerate for up to 1 day. This dip reheats really well.

Serving Size: 1 1/2 cups, Per Serving: 429 calories; protein 25g; carbohydrates 45.6g; dietary fiber 7.2g; sugars 2.9g; fat 17.1g; saturated fat 2.8g; cholesterol 132.3mg; vitamin a iu 438.2IU; vitamin c 7.2mg; folate 94.9mcg; calcium 112.3mg; iron 3.6mg; magnesium 91mg; potassium 450.5mg; sodium 401.6mg.

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THE **UNIVERSITY** OF RHODE ISLAND

URInformed

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





Congratulations 2022 Graduates!