

Paula Grammas, First Director of URI's Ryan Institute for Neuroscience

The University of Rhode Island has selected Paula Grammas, former executive director of the Garrison Institute on Aging at the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center and an international leader in the study of Alzheimer's disease, to be the inaugural director of The George & Anne Ryan Institute for Neuroscience. She will also become the Thomas M. Ryan Professor of Neuroscience at URI.

Grammas is best known for her pioneering research into the role that blood vessels and inflammation play in the development of diseases, including Alzheimer's and other neurodegenerative diseases. A former professor of neurology and holder of the Mildred and Shirley Garrison Chair in Aging at the Texas Tech School of Medicine, she has received numerous awards for her Alzheimer's research.

by Todd McLeish

"Dr. Grammas is a highly accomplished scientist who has made outstanding contributions to the field of neuroscience," said URI President David M. Dooley. "She is a respected leader, an enthusiastic educator, and the ideal person to serve as the first director of the Ryan Institute for Neuroscience. I look forward to working with her as we build an international reputation for the Institute."

Grammas has been the principal investigator or co-investigator on more than \$24 million in research grants from the National Institutes of Health, the Alzheimer's Association, the American Foundation for AIDS Research, and other agencies and foundations. She has published 141 peer-reviewed research papers. She is the recipient of the Zenith Award from the Alzheimer's Association in recognition of her ac*continued on page 2*



Pictured above: Paula Grammas (second from left) with Governor Gina Raimondo, retired CVS CEO Thomas Ryan, whose gift of \$15 million established the Institute, and URI President David Dooley. URI photo by Nora Lewis



URInformed

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

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

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

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

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

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complishments as one of the nation's leading researchers on Alzheimer's disease.

Prior to working at the Texas Tech Health Sciences Center, Grammas served as director of the University of Oklahoma's Center for Neuroscience and held the Presbyterian Health Foundation Endowed Chair in Neuroscience at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center. She earned a doctorate in pathology from Wayne State University, a master's degree from New York Medical College, and a bachelor's degree from Barnard College.

The Ryan Institute was established in November 2013 with a \$15 million gift from former CVS Health chairman and chief executive officer Thomas M. Ryan, a 1975 URI pharmacy graduate, and his wife Cathy. It remains the largest private donation in URI history. "Dr. Grammas is a renowned scientist and recognized leader in Alzheimer's research," said Ryan. "Her demonstrated ability to collaborate across multiple organizations and bring in a variety of perspectives is critical to finding a cure for these devastating diseases.

"URI's groundbreaking research in neuroscience already complements existing research programs at Brown University, Lifespan and Care New England. With Dr. Grammas leading the Institute, I believe we will advance the conversations with our partners in the state and beyond to position Rhode Island as a primary destination for research, therapies and treatments around neurodegenerative and neurological disorders."

Named for Ryan's parents, the Institute focuses its research, teaching, and outreach on neurodegenerative diseases and disorders, like Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and ALS. It draws on the expertise of more than 30 scientists from across the University who have been studying brain disorders and diseases from multiple perspectives and disciplines. The faculty – from pharmacy, engineering, psychology, chemistry, communicative disorders, cell and molecular biology, and more – participate in the URI Interdisciplinary Neuroscience Program, established in 2011 to conduct innovative neuroscience research and offer master's and doctoral degrees.

Grammas will be charged with building the Ryan Institute into an internationally recognized neuroscience center committed to excellence in research, education and outreach. She will lead efforts to establish a robust recontinued on page 6

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More than 1,000 gather for URI's Vigil for Remembrance, Peace

Amid poems recited in native tongues, a soaring rendition of the French national anthem, and a French hymn for peace, words denouncing terrorism echoed across the University of Rhode Island Wednesday, November 18.

"We want to convey the strongest condemnations of these acts," said Nasser Zawia, dean of URI's graduate school, a biomedical scientist and founder of the Muslim Community Center in Kingston, co-founder of the Islamic School of Rhode Island and founding member of the Rhode Island Council for Muslim Advancement.

He joined other speakers and performers and more than 1,000 faculty, staff and students for URI's Vigil for Peace and Remembrance on the Quadrangle of the Kingston Campus. The French Section of URI's Department of Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures organized the program.

An American citizen and renowned Alzheimer's disease researcher who was born in Yemen, Zawia said Muslims are completely against such abhorrent crimes.

"ISIS has killed about 100,000 Muslims," he said as the soft glow of candlelight illuminated the faces of the crowd. "These are enemies of humanity. We Muslims living among you have nothing in common with these people. We have the same values as you. Everyone (in Rhode Island's Muslim community) is shocked by these events."

He said he has many colleagues and friends in Paris, and that he was deeply troubled and hurt by what is going on in that great city.

"An attack on them, an attack on Paris is an attack on family," Zawia said.

A subdued and somber URI President David M. Dooley offered opening greetings.

"I want to thank all of you for gathering together as a community," Dooley said. "This gathering has more power than you may know. This is the best way to overcome the hatred and horrors occurring in the world. We can collectively create a world where we no longer have to confront events like this by affirming our community and that all lives matter. We want to be a place where everyone is respected and cared for. Our community will not be defined by anger and fear, but by hope, trust, friendship and peace."

Gitahi Gititi, professor of English, film and media studies, and African and African American studies, discussed terrorism and violence in Africa, including last April's attack on a Kenyan university that resulted in the death of 147 students and scores of wounded, and many other incidents of terrorism and genocide across the continent.

"My country of birth (Kenya) is very well acquainted with violence," he said.

URI engineering student Asma Sammoura, recited a poem in Arabic in memory of the victims of the attack in Beirut, Lebanon, and URI graduate student Leah Crescenzo, sang France's national anthem, "La Marseillaise" in memory of the victims of the attacks in Paris. Several in the crowd joined Crescenzo in singing the anthem.

Nicolai Petro, professor of comparative and international politics, recited and translated a Russian poem in memory of the victims of the Russian plane explosion in Egypt.

Music student Andrew Gribbin sang "Priez pour la paix" ("Pray for Peace"), and was accompanied on keyboard by computer science major Tyler Sowers.

Winifred Brownell, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, closed the program by mentioning that this is International Education Week at URI. She told the crowd that through URI's international classes, study-abroad programs and its student and faculty exchanges, "We learn about other nations' cultures, people, values, customs, histories, religions and so much more. We have hope that thanks to international education, our students will help create a better and more peaceful world. And our understanding deepens.

"So I ask you now to observe a moment of silence, and then extinguish your candles, and then let's get on with creating that better world."

To view pictures of the vigil go to: https://goo.gl/ntnaEb photos by Nora Lewis by Dave Lavallee

URI Students First Fund

Winter 2015

Dear Members of the URI Community,

Hello! My name is Jessi-Lynn and I am a first generation college student from New Jersey. I am a senior, Journalism and Marine Affairs double major and my **lifelong career goal** is to become a professional broadcast journalist.

For the past two years, I have also been a member of the URI Student Philanthropy Council (SPC), a devoted student group that focuses on building a culture of **philanthropy, pride and appreciation** on campus. One of our goals is to help fellow students in need.



While I am only able to contribute a small amount at this time, I know that I am part of a greater network of alumni, staff, faculty, families and students whose generosity and dedication to URI maintain a strong and impactful annual giving program for the university. Working together, we provide financial support, funding and assistance for **treasured student programs** and **educational opportunities** that may not have otherwise been a possibility.

As a member of our URI family, you are part of a campus community that promotes the wellbeing and success of each and every student. One way to have an immediate impact on a student's life is by making a gift to the **URI Students First Fund**. This vital program helps students facing an emergency, personal or academic challenge, or unforeseen tragedy. This fund ensures that no URI student goes hungry or homeless by providing temporary housing and meals during a difficult time. It has also funded airline tickets for students to fly home to be with terminally ill family members. It's a fund that can help any student in their time of need, and that's why 700 of my peers and I were happy to support it last year.

I hope you will consider making a gift to this fund or to another program that matters to you. For your convenience there are a number of ways to give, including through payroll deduction. A payroll deduction form is available by clicking this link: *web.uri.edu/controller/forms/* If you prefer to make a secure online gift, please click here or visit *urifoundation.org/giveonline* Please feel free to call the URI Foundation at 401.874.7900 if you have any questions. If you have already made a gift, thank you so much for your support and dedication!

GO RHODY RAMS!

Sincerely,

Jessi '16 Bachelor of Arts in Journalism & Marine Affairs College of Arts & Sciences / Environment & Life Sciences

Freshman Village students at URI Feel Safer Thanks to Night Shift Officers

If you find yourself in Barlow Circle some evening, you might see students or resident assistants from the three freshman residence halls clustered there strolling in and out of the small police substation or chatting with officers on bicycles. The atmosphere is relaxed and congenial, and that's the idea.

Students, Housing and Residential Life personnel and officers are feeling the positive effects of two new components of the University of Rhode Island's community policing program. The program seeks to build trust among officers, students and housing staff on a daily basis, so when a crisis arises all parties can work together. Lauren Sperry, a freshman Weldin Hall resident said the officers' presence in Barlow Watch is a comfort to her. "I just feel safer with them around. I feel like nothing's going to happen with them there."

The officer's open-door policy in the Barlow police substation allows community members to communicate with them more frequently and openly. This allows officers to file better reports and deal with issues more effectively. "RAs and hall directors walk in here all the time to talk," said McCabe. "They'll tell us about an issue the first time it happens, so that when it happens the third time and we need to file a report, we already know

The program includes now two officers stationed at the Freshman Village, Barlow Watch police substation five nights a week and a rejuvenated bicycle patrol.

Both components allow officers to connect with students on a personal level, opening lines of communication.



"mmunica- Pictured above: Officers McCabe and DeTroia chat with Chelsea Martini, a senior from Warwick, R.I. and Zachary Smith, a sophomore from West "Now they Hartford, Conn. URI photos by Michael Salerno Photography.

can see our personalities, instead of just the uniform," said Officer Michael McCabe, who is one of two officers stationed at Barlow from 8:30 p.m. to 4 a.m. Tuesday through Saturday.

"We get a 'Hey, how are you?' from every group of students we pass when we're on the bikes," added Officer Nicholas DeTroia who is also stationed in Barlow. "We're young, we're proactive and we want to be here." able to discuss the issue with us. That level of interaction is so important."

URI Police Major Michael Jagoda is grateful to the officers for the hard work they have put in to making the community feel safe. "I have received numerous complimentary comments from staff, faculty and students about both of these officers' professionalism, partnership and service to the entire URI community. This is a true mark *continued on page* 6

it's been an issue."

He continued by saying that the open door policy at Barlow Watch makes students feel welcome. too. "We've had students come in just to ask questions. We had one student who had an issue in her dorm. She came right in here and sat down on the couch and was

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search program, build research collaborations with other institutions, develop neuroscience educational programs involving undergraduate and graduate students, and play a central role in seeking external funding to support the growth of the Institute.

"I'm excited about the opportunity to lead the Ryan Institute at URI and build collaborations with Brown University, Lifespan, Care New England and other partners in Rhode Island and beyond to study and look for the causes and treatments of neurodegenerative disease," said Grammas. "For me, this is a unique and special opportunity to capitalize on the growing expertise in neuroscience at URI and expand complementary collaborations with our strong and committed partners.

"I also appreciate Tom Ryan's vision and commitment to advancing research on these diseases. Without his foresight and generosity, this special opportunity to pull together all of these talented people and dedicated organizations might never have happened."

Neuroscience is one of the last scientific frontiers where fundamental discoveries can still be made. Major advances in the understanding of the brain have been made in recent years, allowing for the development of innovative therapeutic solutions and treatments that were not possible just a decade ago. The Ryan Institute was established in the same year that the Obama administration unveiled a \$100 million brain mapping initiative and the Society for Neuroscience described the coming years as "a period of breakthrough discovery in brain science."

With more than 600 types of neurological disorders, the World Health Organization estimates that one in three Americans will suffer from a neurological disorder in their lifetime. Alzheimer's disease alone costs the United States as much as \$200 billion per year in direct and indirect health care expenses.

Grammas, who was trained as a vascular sci-

entist studying the blood vessels in the brain, has been researching Alzheimer's disease for more than 30 years. The challenge of finding a cure, she said, is that there are multiple causes of the disease.

"If there was one single cause for Alzheimer's, we would have had a drug for it 30 years ago," Grammas said. "With this complex disease, it has to be studied in a variety of ways. And that's what's so exciting about coming to the Ryan Institute at URI. A lot of different talented players with complementary expertise and perspectives are going to come together at URI, and from that we're going to get new approaches to treatments. I can't wait to get started."



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that they take their professional obligations very seriously and value our partnership with the URI community."

Freshman Weldin Hall resident Lexi Winnes appreciates having the officers close by. "They're really accessible," she said.

"The officers are very good at what they do," said Lt. Rich Moniz, who can be found popping in and out of Barlow. "Trust comes with time and getting to know students and their families. Being out of the cruisers and in Barlow Watch allows officers to build that trust."

Trust makes students and HRL staff more comfortable seeing officers out and about on campus, which further opens communication between the officers and the community they serve.

Emma Clarke, URI Marketing and Communications intern and a public relations and French double major, wrote this release.

URI rolls out refurbished barrels to enhance recycling Effort saves URI \$45,000

What do you do with old bait and fertilizer barrels? Well, the University of Rhode Island recycles them, of course. In fact it refurbished about 100 barrels during the summer, which now clearly delineate the difference between trash and recycling receptacles.

"We were finding that the lack of consistent color-coding and signage made it difficult for people to properly recycle, especially at field and special events," said URI's recycling and solid waste coordinator Mary Brennan.

Plus the initiative saved URI approximately \$45,000 by re-using existing containers. Sets of outdoor trash and recycling containers can cost \$800 to \$1,000, but URI spent less then \$50 per set to refurbish them.

The Facilities Services team scrubbed, painted, drilled holes in the bottom for drainage, added handles for lifting, as well as brand new labels to the recycling barrels. The blue recycling barrels also received special new tops.

"The addition of having clearly defined colors and new labels as well as the lids make it very easy for people to recycle. I think that if people are given the choice and if recycling is easy they are going to do it. It's going to make it that much easier for people when they have a choice of what to do with a bottle or can," said Brennan.

Although recycling has increased nationwide by 7 percent in the past five years, about 25 percent of Americans still don't recycle according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

"We all need to work to reduce the amount of waste we generate, re-use what we can, and recycle the remainder."

"We expect that these refurbished barrels will greatly enhance recycling rates, especially at football games and other high-profile events that are held at the University. I'm proud of all that URI has done regarding sustainability. Our students, faculty, and staff have been supportive and enthusiastic about becoming green."

What's next for our campus? The Facilities Services Department is now considering new labeling of the dumpsters stationed around campus. This will help make it easier for students to identify where to place trash and recycling.

This release was written by Caitlin Musselman, a URI Marketing and Communications intern and a public relations and political science major.



Pictured Above: Recycling and solid waste laborers Dave Morgan, Mike Joyce, Derek Groves and Gil Barnes join recycling and solid waste coordinator Mary Brennan (center) as they display the new recycling and trash barrels at Meade Stadium. URI photos by Jessica Vescera

URI ROTC Hall of Fame Ceremony Honors Men for Distinguished Service

The University of Rhode Island Army ROTC Alumni Chapter honored veterans for their service and sacrifice in the military during ceremonies in November.

A special Hall of Fame induction and celebration honored the men of Rhode Island State College who distinguished themselves in the cause of freedom with extraordinary service in World War I and World War II. Family, friends and fellow alumni gathered at the Memorial Union in remembrance of the recipients.

The ROTC Chapter also honored the sacrifice of the following men who were killed while serving on active duty during the Vietnam War:

Maj. Walter J. Decota '54, U.S. Marine Corps Capt. Edward A. LaPierre '55, U.S. Air Force Capt. Robert L. Mosher '59, U.S. Army

- First Lt. Carl W. Myllymaki '65, U.S. Marine
- Corps
- Second Lt. William G. Schanck Jr. w/'70, U.S. Marine Corps
- Sgt. Danny V. Scurfield w/'67, U.S. Army Specialist Paul F. Little w/'70, U.S. Army

This release was written by Caitlin Musselman, a URI Marketing and Communications intern and a public relations and political science major.

The ROTC program involves students from URI, Roger Williams University, and Salve Regina University. The program is known as Cramer's Saber Battalion. The following URI alumni were also inducted:

- Maj. Gen. Rocco Negris, U.S. Army, Retired, '53
- Brig. Gen. Paul E. Casinelli, Medical Corps, Retired, '76
- Col. Nicholas H. Grosz Jr., U.S. Marine Corps, Retired, '62
- Col. William J. Lacey Jr., U.S. Army, Retired '63
- Col. James H.P. Kelsey, U.S. Army, Retired '65
- Col. John Petrella Jr., U.S. Army, Retired '68 Col. William A. MacKinlay, U.S. Army, Re-
- tired, '69
- Col. John Campbell, Medical Corps, U.S. Army, Retired, '81
- Col. Richard W. Brown, U.S. Army, Retired, '84
- Lt. Col. Milton F. McKenna, U.S. Army, Retired, '68
- Lt. Col. Paul L. McNamara, U.S. Army, Retired, URI PMS (Honorary)



Retired Col. Thomas Heaney, president of URI ROTC Alumni Chapter congratulates Gen. Paul Casinelli (right) as he accepts induction into the URI ROTC Hall of Fame. Photos by Mike Salerno

HOLIDAY UNSCRAMBLE





Directions:

The object is to unscramble the 20 words. Write the word in the spaces provided. After Unscrambling the 20 words there is a secret phrase that is made by the letters circled. Once you have found that phrase, print it in the space provided below and return the complete word unscramble to Joy Lewis, President's Office, 35 Campus Avenue, Green Hall. 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!



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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...

Cynthia R. Amundson (University Computing Systems); Lauren V. Bager (ASF CCE Child Development Center); Brooke Boening (Women's Softball); Jennifer L. DeAngelis (Pharmacy Practice); Agnieszka K. Dymowska (CELS Academic Unit 3); Susan A. Garner-Gilman (Custodial Services); William Healey (HRL Central Office); Karen L. Heine (CELS Academic Unit 3); Christopher L. Hemme (Biomedical & Pharmaceutical Sciences); Joseph A. lannelli (Recycling); Dulcie M. Ilgenfritz (Campus Planning & Design); Patrick S. Kelly (Pharmacy Practice); Angela D. Marshall (Dean Engineering); Shawn M. Miner (Memorial Union); Carla Molina (Enrollment Services); Korey Quinn (Custodial Services); Thomas J. Sharland (Mathematics) and Cheryl Taylor (Psychology.)

... and Say Goodbye to ...

Robin C. Baranowski (CELS Academic Unit 2); Christina M. Befumo (Biotechnology Manufacturing Providence Cohort); Kathryn L. Brennan (Parking Services); Katrina L. Dorsey (Student Life); Shelby A. Ferreira (Learning Assistance Center); Patricia J. Giarusso (GSO Housekeeping); Elaina K. Goldstein (Living Rite / Health Policy); Liangran Guo (Biomedical & Pharmaceutical Sciences); Philomena J. Hall (Publications); Iftheker A. Khan (Chemical Engineering); Connie L. McGreavy (Research & Economic Development); Jihan D. Minikon (Special Program for Talent Development); Robert Murtha (Police); Michael A. Ribera (GSO Marine Office) and Randell L. Stevenson (Communications & Marketing.)

... and Best Wishes To Those Who Retired

John D. Defeo (Automotive); Susan G. Golet (Human Resource Administration) and David C. Saraiva (Mail Services.)

In Memoriam

- Sona Aronian, Professor Emerita, Russian, Comparative Literature and Women's Studies
- Jon Boothroyd, Professor Emeritus, Geosciences
- Stewart Cohen, Professor Emeritus, Human Development
- John Knauss, Dean(retired), Graduate School of Oceanography
- Leon Goodman, Professor Emeritus, Chemistry
- Timothy Hennessey, Professor Emeritus, Political Science and Marine Affairs
- Helen Leeming, Secretary, College of Continuing Education



URInformed is now on the Web at http://www.uri.edu/newsletter/URInformed/

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Back issues are also available

Cook's Corner

Share your favorite recipes in the Cook's Corner

Sizzled Green Beans with Crispy Prosciutto & Pine Nuts

Ingredients:

2 pounds green beans trimmed
2 ½ teaspoons extra-virgin olive oil, divided
2 oz. prosciutto, thinly sliced, cut into ribbons
4 cloves garlic, minced
2 teaspoons minced fresh sage
¼ teaspoon salt, divided
Freshly ground pepper to taste
¼ cup toasted pine nuts. (See tip below)
1 ½ teaspoon freshly grated lemon zest
1 teaspoon lemon juice
Directions:

Bring a large pot of water to a boil. Add beans, return to a boil and simmer until crisp-tender, 3 to 4 minutes. Drain. (You can use 2 or 3, 12 oz, bags of steam fresh whole green beans. Steam them $\frac{1}{2}$ the time to package recommends.)

Heat ½ teaspoon oil in a large nonstick skillet over medium heat. Add prosciutto; cook, stirring, until crispy, 4 to 5 minutes. Drain on a paper towel.

Wipe out pan; heat the remaining 2 teaspoons oil over medium heat. Add the beans, garlic, sage, 1/8 teaspoon salt and several grinds of pepper. Cook, stirring occasionally, until the beans are browned in places, 3 to 4 minutes. Stir in pine nuts, lemon zest and the prosciutto. Season with lemon juice, the remaining 1/8 teaspoon salt and pepper.

Make ahead tip: Prepare through step 1 and refrigerate for up to 2 days

Tip: To toast pine nuts: Cook in a small dry skillet over medium-low heat, stirring constantly, until fragrant and lightly browned, 2 to 3 minutes.

8 servings, 3/4 cup each

Per serving: 99 calories; 5 g fat; 1 g Sat; 2 g Mono; 6 mg Cholesterol; 10 g Carbohydrates; 5 g Protein; 4 g Fiber; 264 mg Sodium; 196 mg Potassium.

Exchanges: 2 vegetables, 1 fat -- from Eating Well





Best Wishes for a Wonderful Holiday Season from the URInformed Editorial Board!





URInformed Unscramble Winner

Congratulations to **Charlene Lamoureaux**, CCE Enrollment Services. The secret phrase was **Go Rhody!**

Please contact Joy Lewis in the President's Office (4-2708) to claim your prize.

Check out the Unscramble puzzle on page 9!

URInformed THE URI EMPLOYEES' NEWSLETTER

URInformed 73 Upper College Road Kingston Campus





URI Livecasting

If you are interested in having an event Livecast, please call or e-mail Betty-Jo Cugini @ 874-4008, bcugini@uri.edu

