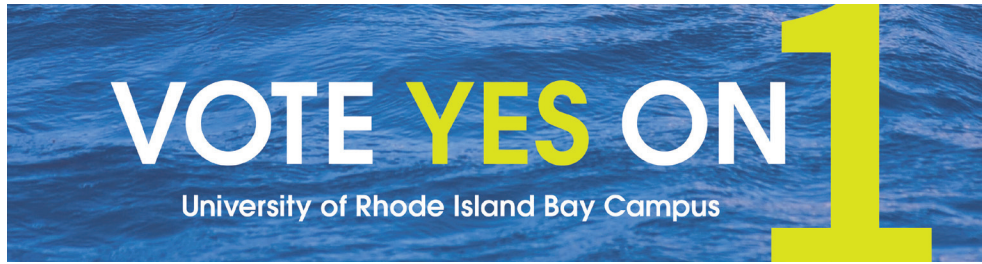


# URI Informed

THE URI EMPLOYEES' NEWSLETTER

Vol. 31 Issue 1

FALL 2022



## University of Rhode Island Kicks Off “Vote Yes on 1” Bond Campaign RI

by Matt McDonald

The University of Rhode Island announced the kickoff of the “Vote Yes on 1” campaign to promote approval of Question 1 on this year’s November ballot. Passage of Question 1 will provide \$100 million in bonds for much needed improvements to the University’s globally known Narragan-

sett Bay Campus, the leader of Rhode Island’s ocean economy.

“Rhode Islanders have a generational opportunity to position Rhode Island and New England as the global leader in a new Blue Economy with URI as the engine that fuels that activity,” said Marc Parlange,

*continued on page 2*



URI President Marc Parlange speaks during the “Vote Yes On 1” campaign launch. URI photo by Nora Lewis.

THE  
UNIVERSITY  
OF RHODE ISLAND

THINK BIG  WE DO™



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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:

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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.*

### **Vote Bond # 1**...continued from page 1

president of URI. "With the support of this bond, URI can create a thriving, modern Bay Campus that will spur critical job creation and economic development, drive innovation, and create sustainable and equitable career opportunities for all Rhode Islanders."

Gov. Dan McKee; Parlange; and business, community, and elected leaders gathered at a kick-off event on the University's Bay Campus Wednesday, September 28. Several speakers noted that the bond would position Rhode Island to continue as an international leader in the Blue Economy.

"As the state's flagship research institution, an investment in the University of Rhode Island is an investment in the state as a whole," said Gov. McKee. "This investment in the Narragansett Bay Campus will help us continue to

be a leader in the Blue Economy, leveraging partnerships with industry leaders, advancing scientific knowledge of our oceans, and creating good paying jobs in the process."

"So let's support this bond. I will be voting yes. I will be asking everyone to follow my lead. We can afford it and it's a good investment for the state of Rhode Island," the governor said.

The Blue Economy—which includes the defense industry, tourism, marine trades, fisheries, and soon, offshore wind—is a critical driver of the state's economy, generating more than \$5 billion every year. By 2030, that total is projected to double to \$10 billion.

"These investments are necessary to continue to position Rhode Island and URI as a leading international center of excellence for research and a hub of economic activity. The scientific discoveries and commercial applications being developed at URI are helping to address global issues including climate change and food security, support the Blue Economy and generate revenue for the state," said Laurie White, president of the Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce.

"To keep the momentum going and to capitalize on the opportunities URI's success has generated, the state must double down and ensure that the Narragansett Bay Campus has world-class labs and academic facilities that meet the standards of other competing research institutions. Rhode Island cannot afford to fall behind at a time when others are charging full steam ahead," White said.

*continued on page 3*

## **Table of Contents**

<i>URI Bond Issue #1</i>	<i>p. 1</i>
<i>Therapy Dog</i>	<i>p. 4</i>
<i>Word Search</i>	<i>p. 5</i>
<i>Comings &amp; Goings</i>	<i>p. 6</i>
<i>Word Search Winner</i>	<i>p. 7</i>
<i>Pets Corner</i>	<i>p. 8</i>
<i>Cook's Corner Recipe</i>	<i>p. 9</i>
<i>Lifetime Service Awards</i>	<i>p. 9</i>
<i>Vote Yes on #1</i>	<i>back cover</i>

**Vote Bond # 1...continued from page 2**

Oscar Mejias, president and chief executive officer of the Rhode Island Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, said that this bond would be an important investment for the Hispanic community.

"We have 800 businesses who are members of our chamber, from construction to professional service, in food and other industries," Mejias said.

"Our community wants to be an active part of this investment," Mejias said. "You have our commitment, and we have full confidence in this project. We want to be fully part of the Blue Economy and economic development overall. By working together, we can make big things happen."

Michael F. Sabitoni, president of the Rhode Island Building and Construction Trades

Council, started his remarks by talking about his pride in the University as an alumnus and the many family members, including his three children, who have benefitted from a URI education.

"This is a no brainer as an investment in the marine sciences here in the Ocean State," Sabitoni said. "I have been around a long time on a lot of different bond questions. I echo what the governor said. This is not just a one-off. This is a plan to continue investments that make sense. Yes, we can afford it, but we can't afford not to do this."

In addition to the Bay Campus event, the "Vote Yes on 1" campaign also launched its on-line and social media campaign. To get involved or find more information, visit [URIYesOn1.com](http://URIYesOn1.com), follow @URIYesOn1, and use #URIYesOn1.



*Rhode Island Gov. Daniel J. McKee, right, state legislators, business leaders and other officials on hand for the "Vote Yes on 1" campaign launch at URI's Narragansett Bay Campus. URI photo by Nora Lewis.*

**URInformed is now on the Web**

at

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

Browse the current issue of  
**URInformed**



# Meet Basil, the Adorable New Therapy Dog now on Campus

by Patrick Luce

Members of the University of Rhode Island campus community now have the opportunity to “paws and reflect,” step away from the stress of the day and spend a little time with Basil, the new therapy dog based in the campus Psychological Counseling Center (PCC).

Center Director Lindsey Anderson is always on the lookout for new tools to help her and other clinicians treat students, faculty, staff members, and clients from the community outside URI. After seeing a news report about a breeder in New Hampshire that had donated a therapy dog to the East Providence Police Department, and knowing the value a therapy dog would have on a college campus, Anderson reached out to Peggy Brogan at Boonefield Labradors, who agreed to donate one of their English Labrador puppies to the PCC.

“The goal is really to get animals into spaces where they are most needed. And there is no greater need than college campuses, given what’s happening with mental health among college students,” Anderson said. “So far everyone who has interacted with her is smitten.”

Basil, who came to campus in September as a 10-week-old puppy, has been an immediate hit, even before she began her work in the clinic. Students and campus employees alike already know her name and will yell it from across campus when out for a walk, said Anderson, who is caring for and training the pup to be a certified therapy dog after she turns one year old. Other students have stopped by the PCC in Chafee Hall just for the chance to meet her. In fact, the attention began on the first day, when Anderson first took Basil out of her car that morning and was almost immediately approached by a faculty member having a bad morning.

“She started crying and said this has been the worst morning, and she’s so grateful to pet Basil. We hadn’t even made it in the door on day one and she was already doing what she’s here to do,” Anderson said. “I knew she would be a hit, but I had no anticipation how great the need was here. There are students who become tearful saying how they miss their dogs and how happy they are to pet her. There’s just something about slowing down, and petting an animal who’s calm and who licks you and wants to be around you.”



**Lindsey Anderson**, Director of the Psychological Counseling Center and Basil. Photo by Patrick Luce.

Basil prompted a similar response from a student on a recent Friday morning. Margaret Lasky was walking across campus after a stressful class when she spotted Anderson walking with Basil and asked if she could pet the adorable puppy. “I just had a really bad class and was stressed out when I saw them,” Lasky said after spending a few minutes playing. “I would have been in a terrible mood the rest of the day, but this just made my day.”

That is the common response from just about anyone who encounters Basil, Anderson said. Research shows interactions with dogs boost cognitive and emotional activity in the brain. Physical contact with the animal further boosts brain activity and may stimulate a dopamine release in the brain, which lowers stress and increases a sense of well-being.

“It is simply about the connection,” Anderson said. “For people who are feeling heightened emotions in a particular moment, or in a lot of distress, it’s simply that connection to a calm animal that helps to bring down the emotional intensity and regulate some of the physiological responses that come from heightened anxiety and heightened stress.”

*continued on page 7*



# Seasonal Delights



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

- |                |                 |                |
|----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 1. Apples      | 10. Fall Colors | 19. Jacket     |
| 2. Autumn      | 11. Farm Stand  | 20. Mums       |
| 3. Beauty      | 12. Foliage     | 21. Ocean      |
| 4. Bonfire     | 13. Football    | 22. Pumpkins   |
| 5. Chill       | 14. Gloves      | 23. Raking     |
| 6. Cider       | 15. Gourds      | 24. Scarecrow  |
| 7. Corn Maze   | 16. Halloween   | 25. School Bus |
| 8. Decorations | 17. Harvest     |                |
| 9. Donuts      | 18. Hay Bale    |                |

**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...

Talvikki Ansel (English), Marissa Ardovino (CELS Academic Unit 2), Peter Axtman (Communication Studies), Jeffrey Barbieri (Writing & Rhetoric), Erin Bastien (Dean Pharmacy), Nicholas Bernardo Jr. (Mech., Ind. & Sys. Engineering), Caleb Bierman (Communications & Marketing), Kyle Black (HRL Residential Education), Lindsey Bond (Communications & Marketing), Ashon Bradford (Dean Health Sciences), Eliza Brennan (Child Development Centers), John Brindamour (Info Tech Services), Stephanie Carlile (Nutrition & Food Sciences), Christopher Cassaday (Kingston Library), Michael Christensen (Dining Board Operations), Anthony Coetzer-Liversage (Psychology), Betty Cotter (Journalism), Shantel Dahl (Dining Board Operations), Sharon D'Antuono (Communicative Disorders), Christina DeCesare (Info Tech Services), Megan Doner (CELS Academic Unit 1), Benjamin Dustin (Dean Nursing), Laura Eldridge (Writing & Rhetoric), Maruth-Shah Emilcar (Nutrition & Food Sciences), Allison Evans (Janitorial Services), Alexandra Frey (Dining Board Operations), David Germano (HRL M&R Facilities), Abbey Greene (GSO Coastal Resources Center), Jessica Greene (Health Education), Adam Hanna (Music), Jeffrey Hanson Jr (Mech., Ind. & Sys. Engineering), Vianka Hiciano (Undergraduate Admissions), Casey Johnson (CELS Academic Unit 1), Tara-Kay Jones (CELS Academic Unit 3), Hae Ree Jun (Languages), Sarah Kosha (HRL Residential Education), Julie LaDell-Thomas (Grad Library & Inform Studies),

Elena Lamont (Child Development Centers), Heather Lebovitz (Dean Nursing), Jordyn Leon (Research Office), Nicole Logan (Kinesiology), Gina Lopardo (Global Initiatives), Denise Males (Dean Nursing), Micah McAnany (GSO Marine Office), Kanika Mehrotra (Counseling Center), Jerrica Men (Human Resource Administration), Brandi Misiaszek (CELS Academic Unit 1), Irene Nagle (Kingston Library), Joseph Nardolillo (Pharmacy Practice), Nhu Nguyen (Mathematics), Courtney Oppito (Harrington School), Sarah O'Sullivan (Undergraduate Admissions), Oliver Palmer (Dean Environment & Life Science), Elizabeth Patty (Enrollment Services), Dorca Paulino (Office of Equal Opportunity), Robyn Perry (Nutrition & Food Sciences), Matthew Peter (Recreational Services), Kerri Pezzi (Dining Board Operations), Meinca Pinchinat (Undergraduate Admissions), Andrew Presley (CELS Academic Unit 3), Michael Puerrer (Info Tech Services), Devon Quinn (Interdiscp Neurosci Program), Kristen Riley (Dean Pharmacy), Julie Rousseau (Health Services), Olga Ruiz de Panciera (Languages), Tess Scavuzzo-Duggan (CELS Academic Unit 3), Andrew Short (Philosophy), Dolores Smith (School of Education), Jacob Smith (Mathematics), Riley Smith (Women's Lacrosse), Bethany Sorrentino (Philosophy), Terri Stafford (Kingston Library), Christine Stevens (Business Instruction), Michele Swallow (Dean Nursing), Jessica Taylor (Dining Board Operations), Karen Tulli (Communication Studies), Janitha Unagolla (Biomedical & Pharmaceutical Sci), David Weisberger (CELS Academic Unit 1), Sarah Wicker (GSO Marine Office), Thomas Wicker (GSO Marine Office), Emine Yalcin (Business Instruction)

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

Alan Ardito (CELS Academic Unit 3), Jesse Bailey (Custodial Services), Kimberly Boisclair (Dean Health Sciences), Jessica Burr (CELS Academic Unit 2), Deborah Castrovillari (Dining Board Operations), Peter Charlebois (Dining Board Operations), Luke Croce (Dining Board Operations), Brenda Cullers (Dining Board Operations), Edcel

*continued on page 7*



### **Comings and Goings**...continued from page 6

Dinoro (Learning Assistance Center), Jacquelyn Fede (Psychology), Rebecca Fowler (Dining Board Operations), Susan Gardner-Gilman (Health Services), Richard Gillie (Undergraduate Admissions), Joshua Greenwood (GSO Marine Office), Daniel Hamlet (University College for Academic Success), Isabella Harris (CELS Academic Unit 2), William Johnson (Dining Board Operations), Krystal Johnson (Ocean Engineering), Michael Katz (Research Office), Arin Nelson (Research Office), Mindy Nguyen (Health Services), Andrea Paiva (Psychology), Peter Rakus (Dining Board Operations), Jane Shartenberg (Dining Board Operations), Jessica Smith (Health Services), Mary Turco (Dining Cafe Operations), Timothy Weir (Janitorial Services), Rachel Wolgemuth (Chemical Engineering)

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

Fatemeh Akhlaghi (Biomedical & Pharmaceutical Sci), Kathleen DeBartolo (Info Tech Services), Donald Dehayes (President's Office), Laura Gavitt (Property Control), Ann Morrissey (Provost for Academic Affairs), Carl Soares (HRL Business Operations), Jo-Ann Tarbox-Simas (Dining Board Operations)

### **In Memoriam**

- ❖ James T. Lewis, Professor Emeritus, Mathematics
- ❖ Mary Ellen Reilly, Professor Emerita, Director, Women's Studies
- ❖ Carolyn Livingston, Professor Emerita, Music



## **URInformed Word Search Winner**

Congratulations to **Angelique Beckmann, A&S Dean's Office!**

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

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

### **Therapy Dog**...continued from page 4

Basil is beginning her therapy job by working with some of the PCC's youngest clients, children as young as 7 who are experiencing anxiety or depression. Some of those clients have a fear of dogs, which Basil — an English Labrador known for its calm, peaceful demeanor — helps to dispel through gradual introduction. In addition to Basil's work in the clinic, Anderson plans to partner with groups on campus conducting mental health events or wellness events. She plans to have Basil available during Fresh Check Day on the Quad Oct.19, flu clinics in the Memorial Union and other scheduled events. She also plans to assign specific "office hours" when Basil will be available for meet-and-greets, necessary due to the pup's immediate popularity.

"We take her out to go to the bathroom or to walk, and it can take an hour, the students are so happy to see her," Anderson said. "We're a clinical space so we can't have people just walking into the clinic. But we very much want her to be available to people. We're working on setting times when she can be at specific places on campus — the library, the Union, maybe just the quad — where people can 'paws and reflect,' pet her, play with her for a few minutes and just step away from their work or their assignments for a bit. We're really excited for Basil to be here to help, not only with our pediatric clients but with our adult clients as well."

Basil is one of 11 English Labradors Boonefield has so far donated to police departments, schools, funeral homes, clinics and more throughout New England. "Therapy dogs volunteer in clinical settings, such as hospitals, mental health institutions, hospices, schools and nursing homes, where they provide comfort, affection, and even love in the course of their work," the organization's website reads.

Basil is already meeting those goals at URI.

"We've seen a huge response already from our clinicians — who are also graduate students — who have a need to connect and need to have some of those neural pathways activated that research shows are super primed by the human-animal interaction," Anderson said. "Basil doesn't bark, and she doesn't make a lot of fast, sudden movements, which is consistent with the breed. That has been really helpful in therapy. She's just been a joy."



## 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



My name is **Libby**, I love all balls and toys, I try to play volleyball with my brother and sister but the volleyball is just too big for me, maybe I should take up tennis. -- Annie Jones , Executive Assistant to the Dean, College of Engineering



URI therapy dog **Basil**. Photo by Patrick Luce



# Cook's Corner

Share your favorite recipes in the Cook's Corner

## Easy Beef Chili

Prep: 30 mins, Total: 50 mins, Yield:  
Serves 6 to 8; Makes about 7 cups



### Ingredients:

- 2 pounds ground beef, preferably 85-percent lean
- 2 medium yellow onions, chopped (3 cups)
- 3 cloves garlic, finely chopped (1 table-spoon)
- 1 jalapeno (seeds and ribs removed for less heat, if desired), finely chopped (4 tea-spoons)
- Kosher salt and freshly ground pepper
- 2 tablespoons chili powder
- 2 tablespoons Dutch-process cocoa powder
- 2 tablespoons tomato paste
- 1 can (28 ounces) fire-roasted diced tomatoes
- 2 cups low-sodium chicken broth
- Sour cream and finely sliced chives or scallions, for serving

### Directions:

•**Step 1:** Place a large pot or Dutch oven over medium-high heat. Add beef and cook, breaking up with the back of a spoon, until cooked through, about 6 minutes. Using a slotted spoon, transfer beef to paper towels to drain. Discard all but 1 tablespoon fat from pan.

•**Step 2:** Return pot to medium-high heat. Add onions, garlic, jalapeno, 1 1/2 teaspoons salt, and 1/2 teaspoon pepper; cook until onions soften, about 6 minutes. Add chili powder, cocoa, and tomato paste; cook until fragrant, about 2 minutes more.

•**Step 3:** Add tomatoes, broth, and cooked beef. Bring to a boil, then reduce heat to medium-low and simmer, partially covered, until thickened slightly, 25 to 30 minutes. Season with salt and pepper; serve with sour cream and chives.

*Chili can be stored in an airtight container in the refrigerator up to 3 days, or in the freezer up to 3 months. You can also use ground pork or turkey.*

-- Martha Stewart Living, January/February 2019

## Lifetime Service Society Induction Ceremony

Since 2013, the University of Rhode Island has been honoring individuals who have dedicated their work lives to serving URI. Each year, during a formal induction ceremony, the University congratulates and thanks, its retiring staff, and faculty members who have been employed at the University for 40 years or more. Each new member is recognized and commemorative bricks, engraved with the retiree's name and years of service, are placed in the patio of the Robert L. Carothers Library and Learning Commons.

This year's ceremony will be held on Friday, December 2, 2022, at 10 a.m. at The Robert J. Higgins Welcome Center and will honor 12 Inductees.

2022 Inductees (retired as of December 2021)

- Linda A. Barrett, Director of Budget and Financial Planning • 48 years
- John Burkett, Professor, Economics, College of Business • 40 years
- Cheryl A. Burrell, Fiscal Clerk, URI Bookstore • 42 years
- Larry Englander, Associate Professor, College of the Environment and Life Sciences • 49 years
- Alan Haskins, Maintenance Superintendent, Memorial Union • 45 years
- Dennis W. Nixon, Director, RI Sea Grant Program, Graduate School of Oceanography • 44 years
- Ronald J. Onorato, Professor and Dept. Chair, Art, College of Arts and Sciences • 44 years
- Donna Schwartz-Barcott, Professor, College of Nursing • 46 years
- James F. Vincent, Jr., Tech Support Specialist, College of Engineering • 49 years
- Jerry Walmsley, Housekeeper • 45 years
- Karen F. Wishner, Professor, Graduate School of Oceanography • 41 years
- Raymond M. Wright, Dean, College of Engineering • 40 years



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