

URI Informed

Vol. 19 Issue 3 May 2013

THE URI EMPLOYEES' NEWSLETTER

Alex and Ani CEO Giovanni Feroce to speak at URI Commencement, May 19

Honorary degrees to be awarded to visionary, entrepreneurial leaders

by Jhodi Redlich

The University of Rhode Island will celebrate the achievements of its students, and salute the accomplishments of five distinguished citizens at its 127th commencement exercises on Saturday and Sunday, May 18-19, 2013.

In recognition of their unique contributions to the University, the people of the State of Rhode Island, and the nation, the University will confer Honorary Doctorate degrees upon Carolyn Rafaelian and Giovanni Feroce, the founder and CEO, respectively, of Alex and Ani. These well known entrepreneurs are affiliated with the University and are firmly committed to their home state, Rhode Island. Feroce, URI class of 1991, will address the graduating class and Rafaelian will share a few words with the graduates as well.

Honorary Doctorate degrees will also be conferred upon Mary Kennard, Esq., Vice President and General Counsel, of American University, who was a former vice president at the University of Rhode Island; Robert A. DiMuccio, Chairman, President, CEO, Amica Mutual Insurance Company; and Franklin Wallace Simon, President, The Simon Companies.

At the Graduate Commencement Ceremony on Saturday, May 18, honorary degree recipient Mary E. Kennard will address the graduating class. The award-winning attorney, who worked at the University of Rhode Island earlier in her career, specializes in areas of law related to higher education administration.

Giovanni Feroce, Chief Executive Officer, Alex and Ani: As Chief Executive Officer of Alex and Ani, Giovanni Feroce is well known for his entrepreneurial style and innovative leadership. A retired, highly honored United States Army Major who served two tours in Iraq and as an operations officer at U.S. Central Command, Feroce also has had more than 20 years of experience in the retail and consumer products industries. Before taking the helm at Alex and Ani in 2010, he was the Chairman and CEO of Retail Eyewear, Inc., and the developer of software for use by eye care professionals and suppliers.

A leading public speaker, Feroce is also nationally known for his efforts to reinvigorate American manufacturing and Alex and Ani is his role model for success. Even the White House has taken note of his efforts.



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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,
Suite 100, Kingston Campus
or contact us by e-mail at:
NGillespie@uri.edu

Our preference is to receive information through e-mail in word format as an attachment. Short items can be submitted in printed form. Because space is limited, 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.

Special Olympics of Rhode Island

**University of Rhode Island
Athletic Fields/Complexes**

Friday, May 31, June 1 & 2

This event comes to our campus once a summer and draws a great number of spectators as they watch the athletes compete in sports such as flag football, tennis and soccer.

The Special Olympics Rhode Island program is one of the world's most dynamic, providing over 1,600 year-round sports training and athletic competitions for more than 2,800 athletes and hosting over 40 local, regional, and state-wide tournaments and competitions each year in 25 official and demonstration sports.



**Special
Olympics**

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URInformed Word Search Winner

Congratulations to **Judy Smith**, Communications & Marketing. The Missing Town was FOSTER.

Please contact Michelle Curreri in the President's Office (4-4462) to claim your prize.

This month's Word Search is on page 9.

Commencement....continued from page 1

Feroce graduated from the University of Rhode Island in 1991 with a bachelor's degree in political science. One year after graduating, Feroce served as one of the nation's youngest state senators. He later attended The United States John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School; the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania, Advanced Management Program; and other academic institutions and leadership programs.

Under his powerful leadership, Alex and Ani has made a significant impact on the local economy, bringing renewed optimism to entrepreneurs, students, manufacturers, artists and more in Rhode Island and beyond.

In recognition of his years of public service and his innovative business strategies combined with his unwavering support for the people and the State of Rhode Island, Giovanni Feroce will be awarded the Doctorate of Business, *Honoris Causa*.

Carolyn Rafaelian, Founder and Creative Director, Alex and Ani: An innovative designer and trendsetter, Carolyn Rafaelian is building much of Rhode Island's future through its glittering past.

Having studied at URI for two years and at the American College in London, Rafaelian launched Alex and Ani in 2004. Her patented signature bangles, rings and necklaces soon caught the attention of major fashion magazine editors, celebrities and eager buyers across the country. Since opening her first store in Newport in 2010, Alex and Ani's presence can be seen worldwide.



Part of Alex and Ani's signature is the positive, empowering energy instilled in each creation. This positive energy has fueled the company's growth. What began as a business designing individualized pieces has grown into a true lifestyle brand, with a unifying, vital force enhanc-

ing everything from their products to marketing to education and more.

One need not look far to see the impact that this young company has had on its home state and beyond. Rafaelian and Alex and Ani are a testament to what truly happens "Only in Rhode Island."

In recognition of her entrepreneurial spirit, vision and commitment to sharing her creative energy with the people of the State of Rhode Island and the world, Rafaelian will be awarded the Doctorate of Business, *Honoris Causa*.

Robert A. DiMuccio, Chairman, President, CEO, Amica Mutual Insurance Company: Nationally recognized for his leadership in an industry built upon trust, Robert A. DiMuccio is well known for "doing the right thing" and inspiring all employees to do just that. This philosophy is what has helped Amica Mutual Insurance Company become a leader in the competitive auto and home insurance markets nationwide. It has also helped to reinvent the industry itself. He has testified before Congress on issues relevant to the insurance and financial services industry.

DiMuccio has served as President and Chief Executive Officer of Amica Mutual Insurance Company since 2005 and has held the title of Chairman since 2009. He joined Amica in 1991 as a Vice President and has held a variety of positions of progressive responsibility, including Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer.



Prior to joining Amica, DiMuccio was an audit partner with the public accounting firm of KPMG LLP, with experience in audits of public and non-public companies including banking and insurance companies. DiMuccio received a Bachelor of Science degree in accounting from Providence College.

In recognition of his leadership in Rhode Island and nationwide, DiMuccio will be awarded the Doctor of Business, *Honoris Causa*.

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URI celebrates opening of new pharmacy courtyard the Youngken Medicinal Plant Garden *Key part of new College of Pharmacy Building*

by Dave Lavallee

The University of Rhode Island and the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts celebrated the grand opening of the new Pharmacy Courtyard and Heber W. Youngken Jr. Medicinal Plant Garden, a beautiful public and scientific space built just steps from the college's new \$75 million home.

URI and arts council officials joined Friends of the Heber W. Youngken Jr. Medicinal Plant Garden, the Youngken Foundation, the URI Foundation, pharmacy students and youngsters from the URI Child Development Center during a ceremonial planting to open the courtyard and garden.

Developed by the College's first dean, Heber W. Youngken Jr., the medicinal plant garden has been a fixture for more than 50 years on the Kingston Campus in one form or another. A stunning example of public space that draws on nature, science, and art, the new site is a gathering place among the health and life sciences facilities in the north district of the Kingston Campus. It is located to the south side of the college and between Woodward and Tyler halls and is designed to be a place of research and respite from the demands of 21st century life.

The garden, which was located outside the college's former home, Fogarty Hall, for most of its life, was virtually hidden from the larger campus community and was primarily a resource for pharmacy students and faculty, as well as other researchers interested in the healing power of plants and natural products that come from them.

The new courtyard and garden has 200 medicinal plants, 500 ornamental plants, 9 birch trees, grassy areas, walkways, benches shaped in the form of birch leaves, and a translucent sculptural frieze featuring panels that depict plant life in laboratory slides.

"The University is justifiably proud of its interdisciplinary approach to education, and the courtyard and garden are excellent examples of our commitment to that approach," said Donald H. DeHayes, provost and vice president for Academic Affairs. "This

courtyard and garden illustrate the multiplicity of connections between nature and healing, research and teaching, and art and science. This is truly a place where one can learn about natural pharmaceuticals, nutrition, and aesthetics."

Robert A. Weygand, vice president for Administration and Finance, said the site is one element of a cohesive health and life sciences district. "As much as we have focused on making our new pharmacy and biotechnology centers beautiful teaching and research environments, we have also focused on creating a distinct and pleasing exterior neighborhood that includes welcoming open spaces that can be enjoyed by our entire community."

The entire 40,000 square-foot site was designed as a wellness garden with courtyard, terrace seating, and medicinal plant components. Stone and concrete walkways allow access to the interrelated adjoining spaces.

The courtyard and medicinal garden are URI's response to the state's requirement that each building funded by taxpayers have an element of art as part of the project. The Rhode Island State Council on the Arts supported a large portion of the project. Volunteers from the Friends of the Heber W. Youngken Jr. Medicinal Garden did much of the planting, under the direction of Peter Morgan, senior gardener for the College of Pharmacy.

"The Youngken medicinal garden is an important part of our rich tradition in pharmacognosy (the study of pharmaceuticals from plants), and honors Dean Youngken as a pioneer of the discipline," said E. Paul Larrat, interim dean of the College of Pharmacy. "But now with the wonderful support from the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts, the courtyard and garden are a combined resource for the entire University and beyond. It is more accessible, more functional and so much more a part of the interdisciplinary approach to learning here at URI." Dean Youngken's son, Richard Youngken describes the garden as: "a vision that my father endowed so that it would have life into the fu-

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Mary E. Kennard, Esq., Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary, American University: Kennard brings her years of rich experience to the University as chief legal counsel, to her students at the Washington College of Law, and also to college administrators nationwide.



Before joining American University in 1995, Kennard served for eight years as a vice president and general counsel for the University of Rhode Island. She was the University's first female African American Vice President and was actively involved in highlighting the value and importance of diversifying the campus.

Earlier Kennard had served as Howard University's assistant to the vice president for legal affairs and University of Pittsburgh's assistant university counsel. After earning her Juris Doctorate from Temple and Master of Laws in international and comparative laws from George Washington University National Law Center, Kennard started her career as counsel at the National Association of College and University Attorneys. She earned her Bachelor's degree from Boston University.

In recognition of her years of leadership in law and higher education, Kennard will be awarded the Doctor of Laws, *Honoris Causa*.



Franklin Wallace Simon '50, President, The Simon Companies: A highly decorated World War II veteran and real estate development entrepreneur, Franklin W. Simon of Milton, Mass., is well known for his vision and leadership in commercial and multifamily housing. He is the founder and president of The Simon Companies, an award-winning firm that has been instrumental in providing housing for the elderly, low-to-moderate income individuals and families during the past 50 years.



Simon established his companies in 1966 after earning his Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering with highest honors from the University of Rhode Island and his MBA from the Harvard Business School. Over the past decade, he has been responsible for developing more than 7,000 residential units and commercial properties; and today the company has some 70 employees.

Many years earlier, at 17-years-old, Simon had enlisted in the U.S. Army following the attack on Pearl Harbor. His service included the liberation of Mathausen concentration camp in Austria, and ending the war meeting Russian Troops in Piilsen, then Czechoslovakia. Simon received numerous medals for his service, including the French Croix de Guerre with Palm. In 2007 he became one of the few Americans to receive The Legion of Honor Medal, the highest honor bestowed by the French government.

In recognition of his accomplishments, leadership, and his bravery in serving our nation, Simon will be awarded the Doctor of Humane Letters, *Honoris Causa*.

Garden....continued from page 4

ture. He and his father before him (Heber W. Youngken, Sr.) devoted much of their scientific and academic careers to the study of medicinal plants and natural healing; the garden is an important means of educating scientists and the public about the history and value of botanical medicines in a serene and restful setting.

The design and installation of this new version of the Youngken garden carries the vision forward, front and center, in the life of the new College of Pharmacy building.”

Elizabeth Keithline, director of the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts One Percent For Art Program, said “It is always an honor to work with artists of this caliber and with our partners at the University of Rhode Island. We are so pleased to see this important project come to fruition.”

She described the project as one that “progresses rhythmically from more spacious and textural plantings at the south end to a secluded sanctuary of birch trees, seating and steps at the north. Gently arcing through the entirety, visually carrying the viewer and visitor from one end to the other is a translucent sculptural frieze of overlapping panels emerging from and then suspended above a sitting wall. The large

contemporary panels, the color of the sea and reminiscent of laboratory slides, create a quiet and vital energy that informs the Garden.”

Michael J. Smith, president of the URI Foundation, said the project illustrates the importance of long-term donor commitments to the strength and progress of the University.

“We are deeply grateful to the Youngken family for its long and continuing support of this beautiful garden, as well as the faculty and students of this great College,” Smith said. “Dean Youngken established a strong foundation for the College and then ensured its continuing vitality and position in the world with his generosity. It’s gratifying to see the beautiful results of the collaboration among the University, the state arts council and the Youngken Foundation.”

Navindra Seeram, assistant professor of pharmacy and head of the Bioactive Botanical Research Laboratory at URI, oversees the garden.

“This garden takes the University and the College back to their roots as leaders in medicinal plant research around the world,” said Seeram, who is renowned international-

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Youngken Medicinal Plant Garden

10th Annual Rhody the Ram Charity Yard Sale

Saturday, June 8th (rain date, Sunday, June 9th)
9 am to 1 pm – Keaney Parking Lot

Donate items or rent a table to sell your treasures!
\$25 per table – Reserve your space now.



URI Food Drive and Clothing Drive

Collecting from Dorms, Faculty & Staff

All food will be donated to South County Shelters

Clothing will be donated to the Jonnycake Center & Big Sisters

** Drop off Info:

Boss Arena Storage Room

(Use side door on right of building)

Thanks Boss Arena Staff!

Donate your unwanted treasures on

Tuesday – May 14th from 4 to 6 pm

Tuesday – May 21th from 4 to 6 pm

Tuesday – May 28th from 4 to 6 pm

Friday – June 7th @ Keaney Parking Lot from 9 am to 2 pm



Employee pre-sale*

Employee pre-sale*

Or by appointment by calling either number below.

To volunteer or for more information please contact:

Gerri Beagle – 874-2460 or Gbeagle@foundation.uri.edu

Anita Burke – 874-2899 or ABurke@uri.edu

AMRC stands for Big Strategic Thinking

by Jhodi Redlich

Last fall, President David M. Dooley called for a new committee to take on what he said would be "a demanding, and at times, challenging endeavor," with the potential to make substantial and long-lasting improvements for the University. With that he appointed the University's first Administrative and Management Review Committee, citing confidence in our administrative and academic leadership to work collaboratively on the university-wide goal to achieve improved efficiencies, services, and/or cost reductions.

Chaired by Assistant Vice President for Human Resources Ann Marie Coleman, a team of 15 faculty, staff and alumni representing the University across divisions, colleges, departments, and units began to review various services and processes. Subcommittees were formed to focus on five fundamental areas: Academic Programs, Administrative Processes, Information Technology, University Revenue, and Research. Each subcommittee will recommend improvements as the University grows in an increasingly competitive environment.

During the fall semester, the committee held open forums and developed an overall framework for gathering and sharing information within the committee and the entire community. Recognizing the scope and novel approach needed, the committee engaged the firm, Academic Strategy Partners, to map out the steps needed by all to prioritize and reallocate university resources.

Several of the firm's recommendations already have been implemented and others are being considered.

The AMRC website (web.uri.edu/amcr) provides access to all reports, meeting notes, and more that has happened since September 2012. It also includes an open format to encourage community members to share their recommendations and expertise regarding the focus of each sub-committee.

Internal e-mail notices and publication of this article in URInformed are part of the goal to help spread the word and shine a light on the committee's goals, work and progress.

"New broad-based committees like ours may seem like a mystery in the community. Yet just as the URI's successful Budget and Planning Council created by President Dooley in 2010

was unknown at first, it has since become a valuable resource. The AMRC is an open and responsive group. With input from the community, we will benchmark current practices and provide University leadership with novel ideas and approaches to improve university quality, productivity, and efficiency," said Coleman. "So we're saying 'Thank You' in advance for your participation and your great ideas!"

AMRC Committee Members include:

- Vice Provost Laura Beauvais
- Athletics Associate Director Susan Bergen
- Education Professor David Byrd
- Associate Controller Patricia Casey
- Chief-of-Staff, President's Office Michelle Curreri
- Director Sponsored Projects Mary Kate De Marco
- Oceanography Professor Steve D'Hondt
- Director Affirmative Action, Equal Opportunity and Diversity Roxanne Gomes
- James Hopkins '62 (Member URI Foundation Board)
- Environment and Life Sciences Dean, John Kirby
- Associate Director University Computing Systems, Michael Motta
- Kinesiology Department Chair Deborah Riebe
- Psychology Professor Lisa Weyandt
- Director URI Bookstore Paul Whitney



Garden....continued from page 6

ally for his discoveries related to blueberries, pomegranates and pure maple syrup. "The rededication of this garden emphasizes the importance of plant-based remedies over the centuries and their important role in contemporary medicine. We are delighted that even the casual visitor will now be able to learn about medicinal plants and the work we do at URI to make society healthier."



End of School



L S K O O B E T O N N W S C I J V B L M
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ACCOMPLISHMENT
 BACHELOR DEGREE
 BOOKS
 CAFFEINE
 CAP AND GOWN
 CELEBRATIONS
 CEREMONY
 COFFEE
 COLLEGE
 COMMENCEMENT

CRAM
 DEGREE
 DIPLOMA
 EDUCATION
 FAMILY
 FINALS
 FINEARTS
 GENIUS
 GRADES
 GRADUATE DEGREE

HONORS
 INTERNSHIP
 LAPTOP
 LATE NIGHTS
 LESSON
 LIBRARY
 NOTEBOOK
 PARENTS
 PROFESSOR
 QUADRANGLE

REDBULL
 REHEARSAL
 SCHEDULE
 SPEECHES
 STUDY GROUP
 STUDY GUIDE
 SUMMER CLASSES
 SUMMER JOB
 UNDERGRADUATE
 WRITING PAPERS

DIRECTIONS: The object is to find the **41** hidden words within the grid. Words can be found horizontally, vertically, diagonally, backwards or forwards. **BONUS:** There is one **SECRET WORD**. This secret word is horizontally, vertically, diagonally or backwards. **DO NOT** take the remaining letters to spell a word. **HINT:** secret word is part of the theme of the word search. Once you have found that word, please print it in the space provided below and return the completed wordsearch to Michelle Curreri, 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!

Name _____ Dept. _____
 Campus Address _____
 Phone Ext. _____ E-mail _____
 Secret Word: _____

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...

Mary L. Barlas (Nursing Instruction); Daniel W. Cartier (Maintenance & Repair); Susan Catalfamo (Custodial Services); Mary Jo Gonzales (VP Student Affairs); Caitlin F. Green (Honors Program); Jaime Jacob (Landscape & Grounds Maintenance); Angela O'Donnell (Custodial Services); Paula Pelcher (Custodial Services); Donald E. Shea (University Computing Systems); Allison J. Trotta (Custodial Services); Sandra Wilk (Custodial Services); Todd Young (Custodial Services)

... and Say Goodbye to ...

Camille Abdel-Nabi (Undergraduate Admissions); Samantha R. Albert (Undergraduate Admissions); Robert M. Hurley (Men's Basketball); Walter H. Johnson, Jr. (Maintenance & Repair); Rachel M. Jordan (Undergraduate Admissions); Rahul S. Kadam (Chemistry); Kathleen A. Meringolo (Gerontology); Katie Moulton (Undergraduate Admissions); Anthony F. Previti (Custodial Services); Jennifer Principe (Undergraduate Admissions); Meenakshi Sharma (Biomedical & Pharm. Sciences); Rakesh K. Tiwari (Biomedical & Pharm. Sciences); Arthur P. White, Jr. (Automotive)

No retirement news this issue.

2013 Ocean State Summer Writing Conference June 20-22, 2013

The seventh Ocean State Summer Writing Conference continues the tradition of offering writers of all ages and talents the opportunity to enjoy a weekend of lively interaction with professional writers on the University's picturesque Kingston Campus.

A number of prominent writers and poets fill the schedule. This year, the conference is introducing special segments of playwriting and screenwriting for people interested in those genres. There will be conversations, craft sessions, and master classes. An opportunity for one-on-one consultation is also available.

URI students, faculty, and staff will pay \$225 for the combination 3-day workshops and main conference, instead of the \$425 fee, a savings of \$200.

For more information go to the conference website:

<http://www.uri.edu/summerwriting/2013/>



Cook's Corner

Share your favorite recipes in the Cook's Corner

MACARONI PICNIC SALAD

Ingredients:

- 1-16 oz. package elbow macaroni
- 3/4 cup extra sharp cheddar cheese, cubed small
- 1 cup bread and butter pickles, chopped
- 1- 12 oz. package frozen peas, thawed
- 1 red bell pepper, chopped
- 6 green onions + green tops, chopped
- 2 stalk celery, chopped
- 1 large carrot, peeled and chopped fine
- 1 lb bacon, fried, cooled, blotted and chopped
- 5 eggs, hard boiled and chopped

Dressing:

- 1 package dry Ranch salad dressing mix
- 1 cup real mayonnaise (I use Hellmann's)
- 1/3 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 1/4 cup sweet pickle juice
- 2 tablespoons mustard
- 2 teaspoons Creole seasoning
- generous amount of freshly ground black pepper

Directions: Cook pasta according to package directions. Allow to cool. Boil, chop and cool eggs at the same time. Combine all salad ingredients. Combine all dressing ingredients. Mix together. Chill in refrigerator until ready to serve.



URInformed is now on the Web
at

<http://www.uri.edu/newsletter/URInformed/>

Browse the current issue of
URInformed

Back issues are also available



Your Chance to Be Published in URInformed!



The Editorial Board of URInformed is always on the lookout for URI employees in need of recognition by their peers.....you!

If you know someone that you think would make a great subject for a Page One profile in this newsletter....AND you're willing to write the profile, let us know.

Once your suggestion has been approved by The Editorial Board, we will contact the subject to ask if they agree to be featured.

An article of 500-1000 words is preferred. Editorial assistance and proofreading will be provided.

If you are interested in being published please contact Nancy Gillespie, editor, NGillespie@uri.edu



URI Livecasting

Are you interested in reaching your maximum audience without adding extra seats? Do you want to ensure that people who can't attend your program have the benefit of learning from your speakers even after the presentation is over?

If the answer is Yes to even one of these questions you should consider URI Livecasting. You may already have seen cameras set up at URI events and heard from people who watched an event online. Now you can offer that experience to your students and decision-makers who cannot be on campus for your event.

Please call or e-mail us for more information and to book your date TODAY! We already have dates secured for the remaining academic year, so don't miss out!

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