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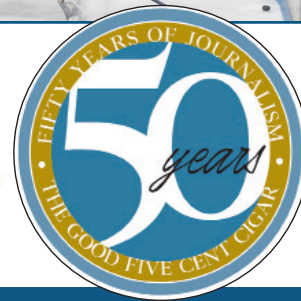
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THE GOOD FIVE CENT CIGAR



Volume 71 Issue 07 © | Thursday, October 21, 2021 | www.rhodycigar.com

THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND STUDENT VOICE SINCE 1971

Campus responds to student's racist message to NFL player

Liz Fusco | Staff Reporter
Christian Silvia | Contributing Reporter

This Sunday, President Marc Parlange sent an email to all members of the University of Rhode Island community addressing a racist direct message sent from a URI student to Miami Dolphins player Emmanuel Ogbah.

"I write tonight to underscore for every member of our community that the University of Rhode Island is an institution committed to rejecting racism in all its forms," Parlange wrote.

The student in question sent Ogbah a message over Instagram following the Dolphins' loss to the Jacksonville Jaguars on Sunday morning.

Both Almandrez and Dave Lavalley, URI's assistant director of external relations and communications, said that the University became aware of the post on Sunday afternoon and addressed it as quickly as possible.

The University is currently going through the student conduct process to address this case, according to Lavalley. Due to legal re-

strictions, the University cannot release the name of the student. However, according to the University website, the student is a graduate student and teaching assistant in the College of the Environment and Life Sciences.

Almandrez said that University administrators have been in contact with groups at the Multicultural Student Services Center (MSSC) to assess how they will deal with this incident going forward.

"We want students to know when these kinds of incidents happen—we take them seriously," Almandrez said. "Issues of accountability, as well as understanding the seriousness of this, is something that we are paying attention to and hear, and we need to send a message that that kind of behavior is not at all reflective of our values and that we care deeply about the safety and well being of all of our students."

Angelica Tyson, the cultural affairs committee chair of the Student Senate, was pleased with the University's quick response but hopes to see action and accountability going forward. *Continued on Page 3*

Campus Climate Survey reveals discomfort on campus

Nicole Wagner | Managing Editor

The results of the first-ever Campus Climate Survey, conducted in March of 2021, was published on Oct. 7, revealing discrepancies in perspectives between groups in the University of Rhode Island's climate.

"In March of this year, we invited students, staff and faculty to participate in the University's first-ever Campus Climate Survey," Associate Vice President and Chief Diversity Officer Mary Grace Almandrez said. "We asked you to speak your truth."

The greater than 430-page long report asked 119 anonymous questions about students, faculty and staff experience at the University. The report with the results of the survey was shared at the same time with the Climate Survey Working Group as it was with the entire community on Oct. 7, according to the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences Jen Riley.

"There is nothing being held back in any way," Riley said in regards to the results of the survey in the report.

Across the University, 4,555 surveys were completed between students, faculty and staff, for a total of 22.4 percent of the community taking the survey. Genevieve Weber, an executive associate and research associate for Rankin Consulting, the company that did the report, said that usually, the firm needs a 30 percent response rate to say that the results are "generalizable" across a university. *Continued on Page 4*

Tuition to increase next academic year

Morgan Maleonskie | Social Media Coordinator

The University of Rhode Island is expected to raise its tuition costs for the 2022-2023 school year due to inflation and the cost of on-campus renovation fees.

According to an article from the Boston Globe, the University of Rhode Island is looking at a tuition increase for both in-state and out-of-state students for the 2022-2023 school year.

President Mac Parlange announced this in an email sent out to the URI community last month.

"As part of the budget, the Board approved an increase of 2.5 percent in tuition for [the 2023 fiscal year] for both in-state and out-of-state students, a rate that will continue to promote access and affordability for our students and their families, while ensuring that the University can invest in strategic priorities and financial aid," the email read. "In addition, the Board approved selected fee increases to support critical facilities *Continued on Page 6*

A Native history of URI's Kingston Campus

University hosts panel discussion on local history

Leah Crowley | Newscast Editor Emerita

Lorén Spears, director of the Tomaquag museum, greeted the audience that gathered in Beupre Center for Chemical and Forensic Sciences last Saturday in her Indigenous language.

The audience was there to listen to a panel discussion entitled "Walking Through Time: The 5,000-Year History of the URI Campus." The event, hosted by a group of professors alongside Spears, focused on the Indigenous history of the Kingston campus and included a walking tour of the campus after the panel discussion.

"The campus has lots of hidden history," Rod Mather, a professor of history and the director of the archaeology and anthropology master's program, said before the event. "There are lots of things that are visible, and then there are things that are non-existent and invisible."

In their discussion, the professors discussed the history of multiple spots on campus including the Plains Road Parking Lot, the Watson House, the Niles Family Burial Ground and the large stone monolith outside the campus library.



What lies underneath URI soil comes with surprises and new findings of the land's long history. PHOTO CREDIT: Leah Crowley

Kristine Bovy, the chair of the department of sociology and anthropology, talked to the audience about what archeologists found in the lower areas of campus before the building of the Plains Lot and other infrastructure. Stone tools, knives and the remnants of hearths were uncovered, among other findings.

According to the historical walk's brochure, the archeologists "determined that the area was used by ancestral Narragansett for repeated seasonal camps, especially during the Late Archaic cultural period (5,000-3,000 years before present)."

The panel also drew attention to the Watson House, the

only building on campus that predates the formation of the University. It was originally home to the Niles family, plantation owners whose African and Native slaves worked the land. Since then, the house has been used as a daycare, an all-women dorm, a tea house and a museum.

Both *Continued on Page 4*

GOOD FIVE CENT CIGAR

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PUBLISHING INFORMATION

The Good 5¢ Cigar is published once a week on Thursdays during the academic year, except for vacations and holidays. The Cigar has a circulation of 3,000. The Cigar is printed by: TCI Press
 21 Industrial Court
 Seekonk, MA 02771

EDITORIAL POLICY

All signed columns, commentaries, letters to the editor and cartoons do not necessarily reflect the position of the Cigar, but are the opinion of the individual author. The staff editorial is the majority opinion of The Good 5¢ Cigar editorial board.

CORRECTION POLICY

The Cigar will gladly print corrections if the error is brought to our attention within seven calendar days of publication.

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Why The Cigar?

The University of Rhode Island's student news organization takes its tongue-in-cheek name from a comment made by Woodrow Wilson's Vice President, Thomas Marshall, while addressing the US Senate. Though the exact context of Marshall's comment "what this country needs is a good five-cent cigar," has been lost over the years, we, as URI's news organization, strive to emulate our quirky name and give just what this campus needs.



Quantum computing: a 'revolution beyond imagining'

URI starts new quantum computing conference

Mandy Koskela | Contributing Reporter

Rhode Island Senator Jack Reed spoke at the Frontiers in Quantum Computing Conference as the up and coming field of quantum computing has been added to the roster of master's programs at the University of Rhode Island.

This three-day conference, sponsored by D-Wave Systems and International Business Machines (IBM), was a celebration of the physics department's new quantum computing graduate program at URI. The program will focus on training a workforce to prepare for the "quantum revolution," according to Leonard Kahn, the chair of the department of physics.

URI President Marc Parlange introduced Reed at the conference with a speech focusing on the advancement of scientific computing at the University.

"The advances in quantum computing are going to profoundly change the way we think about computers and science in general," Parlange said. "We're at the frontier of some very exciting possibilities."

Reed began with praise for URI and its "ability to move forward and to aggressively go where no others have gone."

"We are on the cusp of a revolution beyond imagination," Reed said. "By exploring the properties of quantum systems, researchers here will reveal fundamental principles of the physical world, expanding the horizon of human knowledge."

Jake Taylor, a physicist at the National Institute of Science and Technology, was the event's keynote speaker. He discussed the concept of quantum information as being a "base" technology or "the technology upon which other technologies are built."

Taylor discussed what it can take to see progress in the evolving field of quantum computing.

"What we really need is people working hard, picking a systems engineering approach to building quantum machines," Taylor said. "You can achieve that, and you will see the transformation."

Similarly, Kahn described quantum mechanics as being "the foundation of everything that we do [in computer science]."

URI's quantum computing initiatives will establish a new hub for quantum information science in the Northeast, according to Reed. He believes that federal funding will be necessary to help this program develop to its full potential.

"We should do everything we can to continue to be the country where the most technically talented people are welcome," Reed said. "Where they can contribute to growing our economy and protecting our national security."

According to Reed, the potential uses for quantum computing are "far-reaching." Some of these uses include improving the military's ability to see enemy threats, being able to better break encryptions, better encrypting capabilities and protecting sensitive communications and even improving the precision of our navigation systems for ammunition.

Kahn acknowledged that the primary audience for this conference are the students and faculty on campus, including Parlange, and that their awareness and support of the program is necessary for its growth.

"There's going to be a variety of hurdles that we have going forward," said Kahn. "It's going to be interesting to see how those play out."

Blue Light Walk reveals seven nonfunctional lights

Christian Silvia | Contributing Reporter

Last Thursday night, the University of Rhode Island's Student Senate checked the functionality of the emergency phones on campus with their Blue Light Walk.

The Blue Light Walk happens both semesters of the academic year to make sure that the blue light phones, the emergency phones scattered throughout campus, are functioning properly for students who are lost or in danger.

According to Senate Campus Affairs Chair Emily Gamache, who organized the event, participants tested 25 of the 90 blue lights on campus. She said that approximately seven of the 25 lights were working incorrectly. Some of the issues included the speaker's response time on the lights being too long, the lights not blinking or the blue light not being on at all.

Gamache said that there was a delay though the speakers when audio would be transmitted to the server and the public safety official on the other end of the call.

The blue light system is designed in a way that students should be able to see at least one other blue light while standing at a blue light, according to Gamache. There was only one light in the Roger Williams Complex from which no other light was visible, which she said will be addressed in the future.

Gamache said that there have been more issues in some previous years. According to her, the lights were not used by the students due to fewer people being on campus during the COVID-19 lockdowns.

"The whole idea is if you're in a situation where you are not really sure where you are on campus, there's an ample supply of blue light bulbs that will assist you in contacting police dispatch," said Michael



Chalek, the administrative and satellite campuses commander.

During the examination of the sophomore residential area, some phones were difficult to find due to the lack of illumination, and Gamache said that the group almost walked right past these phones.

"It is important to see if all the lights are on because when they are not on we won't see them," she said. "We almost missed one last night because the light wasn't working, so we would have walked right by it."

According to Gamache, Chalek is in charge of resolving issues and overseeing the blue lights on campus. All issues and concerns were brought to him to further examine after the event. Because of this, all the Blue Light Walk tests and phone calls were recorded so he could pinpoint technical difficulties if they arose.

In addition to the Blue Light Walks, Chalek said that the URI Department of Public Safety will send out people to check

on the lights sporadically throughout the year. They sent out a handful of interns two weeks in advance of the walk to see whether the phones were working properly.

When the phones are not working they do their best to repair them, according to him, but they do buy new ones if the phone is "unsavable."

"Those blue light phones are costly," Chalek said. "As long as they can be repaired, we will repair them."

According to him, there are phones on the Providence Campus and Narragansett Bay Campus. These, however, are looked at separately and are not part of the Senate's Blue Light Walk.

He said that these light walks are very important, as they are also used as a way for the Senate and campus police to see if there are other safety concerns on campus.

"If we find sidewalks or some part of roadways that are in disarray, we will also make note of that," he said.

Letter from the Editors: Student's public racist comments

On page one of this week's newspaper, the Cigar covers a story about a racist direct message sent to a player on the Miami Dolphins from a University of Rhode Island graduate student.

First, the Cigar condemns the racist words and messages the student used. We do not tolerate racism at the Cigar. In the aftermath, we offer a platform for students to submit their thoughts and ideas around this issue through sending letters to the editor to uricigar@gmail.com.

Second, the University is legally obligated not to share the student's name due to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). It is unclear whether or not the Cigar falls under the same purview as student journalists. The Cigar has sought advice from alumni and journalists and received unclear answers. Out of fear of legal action, the Cigar will not publish the student's name at this time.

It was a challenging decision whether to proceed with naming the student or not to. Accountability is important in the discipline of journalism; it's our job to hold people responsible for their actions. The weight of refraining from publication is palpable, but the fear of legal repercussions is substantial.

We feel we cannot fulfill the entirety of our jobs as journalists in a situation like this. Because of this, accountability also needs to

be a priority we see from the University outright. The Cigar will continue to be vigilant in reporting on measures that are taken or not taken in the future.

The NFL player, Emmanuel Ogbah, tweeted a screenshot of the direct message the student sent him, including the individual's name and Instagram handle. While we cannot presently name the individual, we can say the student is enrolled in a graduate school program at URI and also serves as a Teaching Assistant for a class in the College of the Environment and Life Sciences. These comments should not be tolerated from any student and certainly not one in a leadership position.

URI President Marc Parlange highlighted important resources and means of community support in his campus-wide email sent out on Sunday night. We encourage any students that need support at this time to take advantage of these resources, and also read the comments from Chief Diversity Officer Mary Grace Almandrez in the news story on page one.

Normally, the Cigar would not run an editorial in response to an article, but in this event, the reasoning behind this situation needed to be addressed directly.

Signed,

Kate LeBlanc | Editor-in-Chief

Nicole Wagner | Managing Editor



Nick Tremblay | Contributing Reporter

From the Senate Chambers this week: Vice President of Administration and Finance Abigail Rider presented an update on campus parking, a senator was reinstated after the Assembly unanimously passed his appeal and the official senate elections were postponed indefinitely.

Rider delivered the response of Transportation and Parking, which she oversees, to an action bill passed by Student Senate. Rider said with the 1.9 spots to one commuter ratio, the Plains Road Parking Lot has yet to reach full capacity this semester.

"Plains Road Lot, which is the lot nobody wants to park in, but it is a commuter lot, would never [get] more than 80 percent full," she said. "I just wanted to start out to let you know that we do have enough parking."

Rider also encouraged the Student Senate to make "parking hacks at the University" TikTok videos to help the situation.

In the presentation, Rider admitted that a constraint arises on parking availability under the circumstance that Christ the King Church reclaims their 176 parking slots, which they normally permit URI students to use, to provide parking for funerals.

Rider highlighted that URI is presently negotiating with RIPTA to reinstate the U-PASS program as it continues its plans to fully digitize bus fares. The \$10,000 lottery of funds to provide free RIPTA passes, half of which the Senate donated from their reserve account, will be left to the student senate to appropriate for the accreditation of RIPTA accounts.

Transportation and Parking's response also included plans for a new Plains Road South parking lot. It will provide 415 new parking spaces and will be fitted with solar panels that are expected to generate a substantial amount of electricity for the University.

Speaker of the Assembly Christopher Bove announced today that because Vice President Madyson Ramsay has a concussion, the official Student Senate elections are postponed indefinitely.

A special order was issued to reinstate Senator Vincent Aidala, representing the College of Engineering, after he was expelled for his absence during general assembly meetings. The order passed with no dissenting votes and one abstention. The expulsion was mandated due to senate bylaws for absenteeism.

After Aidala was expelled, he tried to appeal his expulsion on the premise that his absences were excused because of a class scheduling conflict, but the bylaw also provides that a Senator cannot appeal expulsion for absence for any reason if it exceeds a certain threshold. Christopher Bove read Aidala's letter to the Senate, wherein he explained the circumstances of his absences.

During the debate of the order, many Senators defended Aidala, who said it is possible to be an involved, beneficial senator while not attending the general assembly meetings.

"I can speak from experience and from knowing [Aidala] for these last few weeks that he is very active in our committee and he does his part, and for that, I think that he deserves to have his position reinstated on Senate," Academic Affairs Committee Chair Kyra Shindler said.

"Our title is 'Student Senate', and 'student' has to come first," Senator Grace Kiernan added.

The Senate unanimously passed three new bills recognizing new clubs as well. These included the National Society of Collegiate Scholars, the Geology Club and "iGNiTE @ URI."

The National Society of Collegiate Scholars aims to provide more opportunities to high achieving students. "iGNiTE @ URI," a club that aims to "inspire and encourage womxn of all political affiliations to come together to learn about one and others viewpoints and build skills, knowledge and networks needed to be successful citizens, collaborators and office-elects post-graduation," according to their mission statement.

The Student Senate will reconvene in their chambers on Oct. 27.

Racist DM - Continued from Page 1

"I would like to first apologize to all those affected by the racist hate speech made by a fellow student at URI," Tyson said. "Until the student who made the social media post is faced with consequences and repercussions, the University will in turn indirectly support racism. We who are affected by racism do not seek an apology, but rather institutional change. If the University does not give appropriate punishment(s) for those who commit racist acts, then I, alongside other minorities, will believe URI does not value our voices, cultures and our being."

Almandrez hopes that by addressing the issue and having accountability they will not only prevent events like these in the future, but also allow the community to grow. They hope this will empower multicultural groups and minority communities at URI.

"Academic Affairs created this agenda for change to focus on anti-Black racism," Almandrez said. "We have new leadership at the Multicultural Student Services Center, for instance, and so part of this is to acknowledge that, regardless of what the circumstances are, this kind of incident causes harm. We need to really be responsive to what our students' needs are, and to be very vocal and unapologetic in our commitment to social justice."

The MSSC is important in situations like this, according to Almandrez, as they provide students with development opportunities and racial sensitivity training. She said that anti-racist resources are something URI wants to integrate into programs as early as orientation, and that residential assistants (RAs), resident academic mentors (RAMs) and orientation leaders need the information to peers towards professionals who can further help.

The University wants to emphasize to all community members that resources are available in these circumstances.

"At the bottom of the email [sent out by Parlange], you can see all of the resources we listed for

folks to reach out if they need to," Lavalley said. "And we also included a link to the Employee Assistance Program. We're certainly very concerned about our students because they are younger and there are certain pressures on them that are different than what exists for employees and seasoned professionals here at the institution, however, these kinds of things affect all of us, and so we wanted to make sure we didn't overlook any of our staff and faculty who could also be affected by this."

Some of the resources available to students and employees include the Dean of Students Office, the MSSC and the Psychological Counseling Center.

These comments made by the student comes after the recent release of URI's campus climate survey. Of the 4,555 surveys returned by students, only 69 percent said they felt "very comfortable" with the overall climate at URI.

Almandrez said that while this number is "pretty good," certain communities, such as students of color, don't feel like they belong at URI.

Almandrez encouraged all members of the community to be fully transparent towards the administration about how they are feeling about the campus climate after these events, as well as in general.

"One of the lessons that we learned from implementing the Campus Climate Survey was that there are some people in the community who were a little bit nervous about being fully honest in their survey," Almandrez said. "Some were concerned that if they reported something it may not actually be taken seriously. We want to emphasize that when a student experiences harm or observes questionable behavior that is hurtful or discriminatory to please be in contact with a non-bias resource team such as a mentor or advisor to report this. We want the University, for all of our students, to just be students in all of who they are and all of their passions and interests with all identities."

Campus climate - Continued from Page 1

Of the respondents, 58 percent were undergraduate students, 12 percent were graduate students, 18 percent were staff members and 11 percent were faculty members, according to the survey.

“What you’re going to hear today are many things about URI that [are] working, that people are saying ‘this is helping me succeed,’” Weber said. “You’re also going to hear things that tell us where the work needs to be done. And we will see particular differences based on identity — where those who hold marginalized identities have shared with us that their experiences are different [from] those who hold identities with privilege. That’s what this is about; this is an honest look at URI.”

Sixty-nine percent of survey respondents said they were “comfortable” or “very comfortable” with the overall climate at URI. However, respondents that identify as women, Black/African/African American and LGBTQIA+, as well as respondents with disabilities, were all less comfortable with the overall climate than their counterparts, according to the survey.

Places that student survey respondents said they felt unsafe were in athletics, Greek Life, academic environments and open walkways on campus, according to Weber.

There were discrepancies in the perception of academic success among different student racial demographics. Weber said that white students perceived their success academically at the University higher than non-white students perceived their success academically.

According to the report, not low-income students and non-first-generation students said they felt more academically successful than low-income students and first-generation students, respectively. Women also perceived themselves as more successful academically than men in their survey responses.

When it comes to a sense of belonging, Weber said that white students felt they belonged more than Black/African/African American students and multiracial students in their responses. According to the report, among students in the category of gender, women felt a stronger sense of belonging than men, and in the category of sexual identity, bisexual and queer-spectrum respondents felt they belonged at URI less than heterosexual respondents.

“Things happening here are not unique; they are reflective of what’s happening systemically and nationally,” Weber said.

One of the “biggest” questions asked in the survey was ‘Have you personally experienced conduct that has impacted your ability to thrive here?’ according to Weber. This type of conduct includes microaggressions, she said.

Fifty percent of respondents answered yes, which We-

ber said is “lower than comparable institutions.” Of those 50 percent, 30 percent said that they experienced this conduct five or more times in a year.

Based on gender identity, Weber said the results of the survey showed that trans people experience this conduct more often than women and men, with one in three trans-spectrum respondents answering yes to the question asking whether this conduct was because of their gender identity. Additionally, women respondents experienced this conduct more than men.

In terms of position at the University, faculty said they experienced this conduct at the highest rate, but staff said that they experienced this conduct because of the nature of their position as a staff member, according to Weber.

“If you want to have some meaningful, impactful conversations-- talk to staff,” she said. “Staff will say, ‘you know I like it here, but there’s a hierarchy. I want to feel more valued.’”

When asked what this experienced conduct was based on in the survey, faculty said their gender and position most often, and students said because of their mental health. In Weber’s 16 years working in this kind of research, she said she had never seen mental health as the number one answer to that question.

Staff said this conduct was happening mostly in meetings or in a group of people, according to Weber. Faculty said it happened on phone calls, in emails and through texts. Students said this was happening in campus housing. Weber also said that the microaggressions reported in the survey were said to be within groups (student on student, staff on staff, faculty on faculty). Thirteen percent of those who experienced microaggressions said they reported that conduct.

For respondents with disabilities, the largest barriers to accessibility and thriving at the University were classroom buildings, Brightspace, learning technology, textbooks and accommodations from faculty, according to Weber. Signage, locker rooms and restrooms were another cited concern for respondents with disabilities.

In cases of “unwanted sexual conduct,” the four listed types in the report were relationship violence, stalking, unwanted sexual interaction (catcalling, whistling) and unwanted sexual contact which was defined as “more physical in the sense of assault, rape,” according to Weber.

Four hundred fifty-seven respondents said they experienced unwanted sexual conduct, according to the survey. The respondents were mostly students, but there were a few employees who also answered yes to this question, according to Weber. From all of the respondents, 1 percent said they experienced relationship violence, 2 percent said

“We asked you to speak your truth.”

**- Mary Grace Almandrez,
Associate Vice President and Chief
Diversity Officer**

they experienced stalking, 6 percent said they experienced unwanted sexual interaction and 3 percent said they experienced unwanted sexual contact.

Sixty percent of those who answered yes said they experienced this unwanted sexual conduct within the past year, and 72 percent said it happened as a first-year undergraduate student, according to the report. Weber said that the most vulnerable students for all four types of unwanted sexual conduct based on the survey results were first semester, first-year undergraduate students.

“We’ve got to protect our first years,” she said. “Still have to in the subsequent years, but that first year.”

Thirty-five percent of respondents who answered yes to this question said that alcohol and drugs were involved, according to the report. As for where these incidents occurred, 112 respondents said that it happened off-campus and 197 respondents said that it happened on campus. Weber said that 63 percent of respondents said that a URI student was the perpetrator.

Only 9 percent of respondents reported this conduct to authorities, according to Weber. Many respondents that said they experienced this unwanted sexual conduct said they handled it independently, and others said they reported it but “nothing happened, there was no consequence,” Weber said.

The main themes seen, according to Weber, are that, depending on what identities hold privilege and power systemically, are happier with their experiences here.

Virtual and in-person forums will be held throughout the month of November hosted by the Campus Survey Working Group, according to Almandrez. The faculty forums will be hosted on Nov. 2 and Nov. 17, the staff forums will be held on Nov. 2 and Nov. 9 and the student forums will be held on Nov. 4, Nov. 5 and Nov. 17. Further information on these forums is available on the campus survey website.

Native history - Continued from Page 1

Niles family and their slaves are thought to be buried just outside the Ryan Center, according to the tour. The space is acknowledged by a stone wall with a small white picket gate and a low-to-the-ground plaque.

“We were there a couple weekends ago at a football game leading a smaller tour,” Bovy said, “and you know, lots of people [are] around the Ryan Center, but I don’t think anybody really pauses to wonder, ‘why is there a plot of grass in a fenced area?’”

The plaque itself is also the subject of criticism, according to Mather, as it does not fully acknowledge the true history of the Niles family, referring to the people buried in the plot as “diverse settlers,” without any mention of slavery.

The only tribute on campus to the Narragansett tribe is the stone monolith outside the library, according to the tour. It is inscribed with the word “Nippenowantawem.” The published translation of this is, “I am of another language, I am of another language, remember me, remember me.”

“‘Remember me.’ It’s a powerful phrase,” Spears said to the audience, “but it also speaks to the memorialization and commemoration because it’s something that thousands of [students, faculty and staff] walk by every day that probably don’t even notice it. If they do notice it, they don’t know what it really is talking about or what it is reflecting on.”

More students may soon become aware of the Narragansett people’s connection to campus, as the Tomaquag Museum will be relocating to the Kings-

ton campus. Construction on the museum is scheduled to start in 2023. Bovy said she is excited about the museum’s move.

“I think there’s going to be all sorts of possibilities in terms of raising awareness about Indigenous peoples and Narragansett traditions and cultural events with the Tomaquag Museum so close,” Bovy said. “They haven’t started building yet, but I’m already excited about how we can do things with our classes, and perhaps even get to a Native studies minor.”

The University has also turned the tour into a new course that delves into the history of the Kingston campus. It will be offered as a three-credit honors-level course next semester. Previously, the tour was turned into a virtual one-credit course beginning in the fall 2020 semester.

The professors and Spears stressed the importance of learning about Indigenous history and Spears spoke about the importance of reparations, saying that they were important to the process of healing.

“There has to be restitution and reconciliation,” Spears said. “I think in the United States, we’re not moving fast enough on that in relationship to the real genocide that took place here.”

URI is currently working with the Native American Advisory Council to establish both a Native Youth College Prep Program for high school students and a URI Narragansett Undergraduate Scholarship for Narragansett tribe members, according to a community-wide email sent by President Marc Parlange.

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‘Out and proud’ on the Quad

Rhody community celebrates National Coming Out Day

Leah Popovic | Web Editor

Dozens of students made crafts and embraced their true colors on the Quad to celebrate National Coming Out Day.

The University of Rhode Island’s Sexuality and Gender Alliance (SAGA) organized the coming-out event held Oct. 11 in collaboration with the Gender and Sexuality Center (GSC). According to Annie Russell, the director of the GSC, this year marked the center’s 10th year celebrating being “out and proud.”

In the center of the Quad, SAGA welcomed students, faculty and staff to walk through a large door painted in rainbow colors in a show of support to members of the LGBTQ+ community.

In addition to this symbol of pride, students made bracelets, shared rainbow stickers and wrote about what coming out meant to them.

For Russell, this event is an important show of representation for LGBTQ+ community members on campus.

“We’re here, and we’re queer,” Russell said. “People can show their pride and a sense of who they are, knowing that they belong here.”

Russell said that the Coming Out Day event was geared towards education for students who might be unfamiliar with the significance of this day.

“We’re largely trying to focus on ally education and building allies for our community engagement,” she said. “That’s why we have the tagline, ‘You don’t have to come out to come in.’”

According to Russell, the idea of “coming out” has changed over time. She said that compared to her own coming out experience, positive progress has been made in supporting LGBTQ+ people and making them feel less pressured to put a label on themselves.

These changes, she explained, are essential in assuring the health and safety of queer students.

“We are growing and seeing positivity that is making sure our community has support and feels comfortable expressing who they are,” she said.

Manuela Vadis, the interim coordinator for the GSC, played a major role in organizing this celebration.

She said that their rainbow door stood out and proved how the LGBTQ+ community is gaining visibility.

“This right here is an icon of something that never could have happened in the past,” Vadis said. “It’s on campus at the heart of the Quad, and even if a student doesn’t feel comfortable walking through [the door.] seeing that others care is visibility in itself.”

SAGA set up lawn games, including cornhole



Community members of the URI community celebrate National Coming Out Day on the quad.

PHOTO CREDIT: Melissa Marchese | Staff Photographer

and Spikeball, to entertain and attract students to the event. Vadis said that most students talked about their coming out experience and embraced the true purpose of gathering as a community.

She said that she was happy with the event’s turnout and was impressed by how many students attended the event.

“I’m so happy to see a lot of SAGA members and other folks, even if they’re just smiling from afar and appreciating what we do,” she said.

Throughout the remainder of October, the GSC will host a series of events entitled “Sex Fest” to encourage open conversations about sex and many of the issues the LGBTQ+ community faces both on and off-campus. The month will conclude with their annual Drag Ball and a live screening of Rocky Horror Picture Show.

Students can visit the GSC Instagram page to learn more about upcoming events, including Sex in Music Day and Sex Toy Bingo.

Russell said that all students are welcome at these GSC events or at the center itself anytime, regardless of sexuality, at 19 Upper College Road.

“We’re about helping all people realize who they are and help them grow, regardless of their gender and sexuality,” she said.

A ‘Fresh Check’ on mental health

Event provides stress relief activities for community

Erin Brown | Staff Reporter

The University of Rhode Island’s Quad was filled with therapy dogs, a petting zone filled with bunnies and the smashing of scales for Fresh Check Day.

Held last Wednesday, Fresh Check Day is a day for students at URI to check in with their own mental health and others. It is a national program that connects college students with mental health resources at their universities, as well as raising awareness about suicide and suicide prevention.

Fresh Check Day was started by the Jordan Porco Foundation, which was started by two parents after losing their son Jordan Porco to suicide when he was in college, according to their website. Most of their outreach is directed towards high school and college students.

“One in ten college students contemplate suicide, so the idea is to know what resources are available if you are struggling with mental health,” Amy Albert, the community engagement coordinator for URI, said.

The Quad had a variety of activities and booths, each focusing on a different aspect of mental health tools and support.

The Counseling Center had a booth at the event which connected students with mental health resources, including a list of student therapy groups and the steps to get a therapist at URI.

The Health Services booth hosted a campaign called “Elephant in the Room,” where students could anonymously write down issues they were facing and hang them on a clothesline.

“Students can see that they are not alone in whatever struggle they are going through,” Erica Fontanel-

la, senior nursing major, said. “It’s important to get rid of the stigma or stereotype by starting a conversation about some of these heavy topics surrounding mental health.”

A table run by Fresh Check called “100 Reasons to Live” had a paper tree where students could write messages of encouragement or reasons to live for other students to see. The leaves of the trees included messages, such as “the sun always rises, even on a cloudy day,” and “just keep swimming.”

Students were also able to spend time sitting, petting and playing with dogs and bunnies. The two bunnies at the event, Churro and Bella, and the Counseling Center’s therapy dogs were surrounded by students looking to play catch or pet them.

Clubs focused on mental health were also present at the event, such as URI Eating Concerns Advisors (URECA).

“We promote body positivity on campus and do a lot of fun self-love activities,” Alexie Monti, president of URECA, said.

Students could write down what they were insecure about and throw it in a giant trash can or swing a mallet at a scale in a way to relieve pent-up emotions at their booth.

Besides Fresh Check Day, URI also hosts the Be 5K Walk/Run for Mental Health Awareness and Suicide Prevention, an annual event to raise money for the Heather Fund. The 2021 Be 5K will be held in person on Oct. 23.

If you or another student you know here at URI is struggling with mental health, there are plenty of resources and people who want to help. Please reach out, your life matters. The suicide prevention lifeline is open 24/7 at 1-800-273-8255.



Fresh Check Day encourages students to check in with themselves and relax on the quad. PHOTO CREDIT: Noah Tolentino | Contributing Photographer

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Men’s Ice Hockey sweeps the ice against Drexel this weekend, evening up their record 3-3. PHOTO CREDIT: Greg Clark | Staff Photographer

Harrington School raises \$18,000 during Day of Giving

Juliana Lepore | Staff Reporter

The Harrington School of Communication and Media raised \$18,000 from the University of Rhode Island's Day of Giving, which will go towards funding scholarships, equipment and networking events for students.

Ammina Kothari, the new director of the Harrington School, said that much of the money raised will go towards new film and recording equipment, new editing software and other tools for Harrington students.

In honor of the Day of Giving, Kothari said that Dick and Jean Harrington, whom the Harrington School was named after in 2009, committed to matching every dollar donated to the Harrington School with two dollars of their own up to \$100,000.

"The Harringtons are very generous donors, and we are very thankful for their help this year," Kothari said.

The school will continue its fundraising efforts until June 2022 to raise as much money as possible to give

supporters who were unable to donate during the Day of Giving more time, Kothari said.

Most of the money raised during the day was from alumni and professionals looking to provide the necessary tools students need to enter their fields, according to Kothari. She said that "speaks volumes" to the impact that Harrington programs have on their students.

"The Harrington School is relatively new to URI, with this year only being its 13th year established on campus," she said. "Because of that, a lot of the alumni donate to their specific departments that they graduated from, for scholarships and other resources for students in their given field."

A large portion of the donations from the Day of Giving will go towards funding scholarships for Harrington students with specific needs, such as students with a deceased parent or students who are looking to pursue concentrated fields, she said.

Kothari said that some of the funds raised from the day will also go towards setting up networking events, paying speakers coming to the Harrington School, such as the annual Amanpour Lecture and other re-

sources beneficial to students looking to hear from professionals.

The Day of Giving raised money for more than just the Harrington School though. According to Jennifer Demeter, the associate director of RhodyNow, a program that gives immediate financial relief to students, the University raised over \$1.4 million from 2,900 donors this year.

She said that this is almost double the funds raised from last year's Day of Giving.

"These funds go towards all aspects of URI, from different academic schools to sports teams to religious organizations to other extracurriculars," Demeter said.

Demeter credits the success of the 2021 Day of Giving to URI's "amazing" alumni and the fact that there are only 24 hours to donate, which gives an extra "push" for donors to act. Additionally, she said that the large number of people donating also inspires others to give as well.

Kothari and Demeter both said that they are looking forward to using the money raised during the Day of Giving to benefit URI students as a whole.

Disability Services renames to Office of Disability, Access, and Inclusion

Adam Zangari | News Editor

For those at the Office of Disability, Access, and Inclusion (DAI), there is a lot of significance in their namesake.

The department was previously known as Disability Services for Students, and the name change became official on July 1, 2021. The change was spurred as a result of student feedback.

According to the DAI Director Paige Ramsdell, the old name of the department did not reflect the scope of their work.

"The word 'services' is passive; it's something that's done to you," Ramsdell said. "That's not our students. They are not passive, they are an active part of the process."

Ramsdell also said that the new name better reflects the values of the office, and she hopes that it will help the department to keep thinking about the future and designing buildings to be accessible.

This change was also due, in part, to the COVID-19 pandemic, which Ramsdell said provided an opportunity for the office to ponder their role and what they want to be known for doing at the University of Rhode Island.

"It was nice to have an opportunity to just think about who we are and who we want to be for our students at our campuses," Ramsdell said. "It was a moment where, for our purposes, our intentions and our name are finally more aligned than they've ever been."

DAI is not the only group making changes to better serve URI's community with disabilities. Students on campus recently formed Student Advocacy for Disability Awareness/Action (SADA), a new organization that advocates for students with disabilities.

Jewel Voyer, the founder and president of SADA at URI, said that the most important thing about it is providing a community and perspective from fellow students.

"Your peers are going to know exactly what you are going through, even more so than staff members who see it from a different side," Voyer said.

She also applauded the DAI office's renaming, saying that it was important that the new title emphasized both the access and inclusion that the office provides.

"It was a moment where, for our purposes, our intentions and our name are finally more aligned than they've ever been."

- Paige Ramsdell, DAI Director

Ramsdell said that DAI has provided SADA with help since the organization began, offering physical space for the organization and helping them recruit members.

Voyer's goal for the organization is that it will advocate for students who are disabled. Additionally, she is hoping to eventually hold a "Disability Week" event, similar to Diversity Week, and hold events to help raise awareness of different types of disabilities.

"We really want to focus on inclusion and disassembling stigmas at URI, and I think through that we can also create a really great community," Voyer said. "We don't want anyone feeling like they don't have a place and that their disability may bring them down. We want an organization that will help lift up any type of student."

The DAI is looking forward to a new future with a new name, and Ramsdell said that they are hoping to do so alongside this new student organization as well.

"At the end of the day, we are here for students, and it's really encouraging to hear their voices," Ramsdell said. "For me, that's the most exciting thing that's happening."

Tuition increase - Continued from Page 1

and programming."

Although Parlange briefly mentioned what the extra money would be going to in the email, the University realizes that students are seeking more concrete answers, Interim Provost Laura Beauvais said.

Beauvais clarified that the tuition hike will cover increases in inflation, a small increase in salaries, fee increases associated with the Mental Health and Wellness Counseling Center being built on campus and renovations being made to the Memorial Union.

Dean Libutti, the Vice Provost of URI, said that this tuition increase was proposed by the University before Marc Parlange became the new president of the University. According to him, the University looks at expenses and offsets them by raising tuition as needed.

The University is also annually funded by the state of Rhode Island, in addition to tuition, through

a state allocation.

"We get a state appropriation that we take into account, that helps alleviate the cost of education," Libutti said. "Our state appropriation for this year is \$82 million. The state of Rhode Island does a lot to support us, but the reality is they're unable to support it at the level that's needed so we don't have to raise tuition."

Between the University of Vermont, the University of New Hampshire, the University of Connecticut, the University of Massachusetts, the University of Maine and URI, URI has the lowest out-of-state tuition overall and the lowest in-state tuition in the New England region besides UMaine, according to Beauvais.

Beauvais said that URI regularly compares its prices to peer institutions in New England so they can try to keep their prices lower than the rest.

"We try to keep our [tuition] increases at the lowest level possible, but as [Libutti] pointed out, our state appropriations have been relatively flat over the last year," she said. "So we do have to have increases periodically to make sure that we're competitive, but also affordable."

According to her, the University submitted its budget to the state on Oct. 1, meaning it has not yet been approved, so they are not certain of the exact tuition and fees students will be paying next year.

Libutti said that this kind of information is not usually public until the spring semester, but they are working to bring it forward as soon as possible to provide flexibility to students.

"What our families often say is, try to keep as affordable as possible, let us know early what the plan is, help us understand," Libutti said. "I think what they're looking for is consistency."

Filmmaker shares Daniel Ellsberg's story

Morgan Maleonskie | Social Media Coordinator

Rick Goldsmith's documentary "The Most Dangerous Man in America" had students on the edge of their seats at Thursday's showing, as they got an inside look into the secrets hidden within the Pentagon Papers.

The documentary, released in 2010, follows the journey and actions of Daniel Ellsberg, the man that leaked the Pentagon Papers, which were top-secret government documents.

According to the film, the documents revealed information about the United States' involvement in the Vietnam War and proved that the government had been deceiving the American people during the war. Four presidents— Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy and Johnson— were involved in censoring news about the United States' involvement in Vietnam mainstream media.

By the time President Richard Nixon was in office, Ellsberg was ready to leak the 7,000-page document. He distributed copies to 17 different news sources, including The New York Times and The Washington Post, despite the Nixon Administration's best attempts to keep it under wraps.

Ellsberg was charged under the Espionage Act with theft and conspiracy, which, according to the film, led to him being seen as a heroic figure by the American people for preserving the First Amendment right of free speech despite the consequences he faced. The charges against him were dropped after a landmark Supreme Court case regarding government censorship.

According to Goldsmith, his inspiration to collaborate with Ellsberg in making this film started from reading his 2002 book "Secrets: A Memoir of Vietnam and The Pentagon Papers."

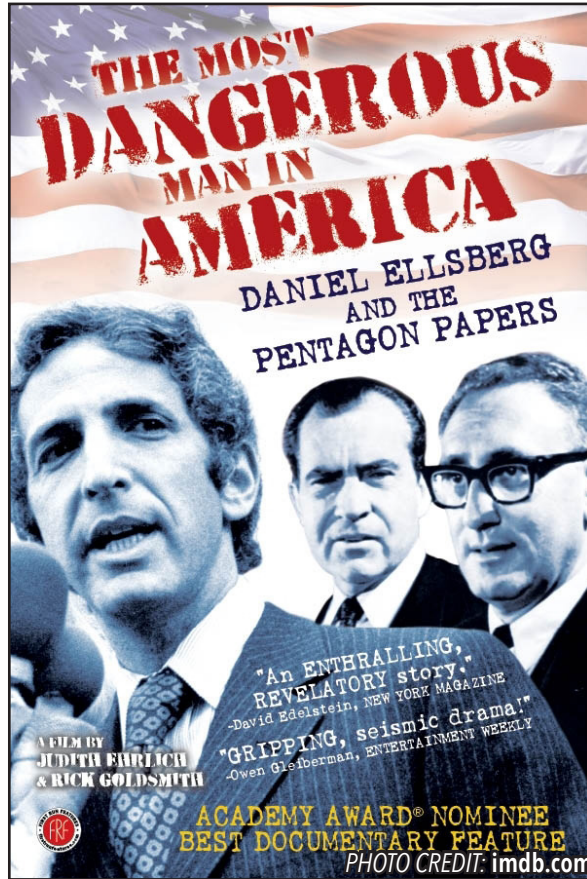
He said that knowing about the Pentagon Papers and other relevant history is important for Americans today, as it is relevant to our current political situation. He believes that his film has played a major role in educating viewers about the 1970s, a time when there was a lot of turmoil between the government and the American people.

"I think it put into perspective some of what was happening during those years," he said.

Paul Vozzella, a sophomore sports media and journalism student that attended the film screening, agreed that it's important for young people to learn about American history.

"I think it's important we learn about American history such as the Pentagon Papers because it influences Americans' morals and how they make life decisions," he said. "To me, Ellsberg was making the ultimate sacrifice to himself to benefit the citizens of the country."

Goldsmith said that he and Judith Ehrlich, who



co-produced the film, conducted all of the interviews featured in the documentary together. Because Goldsmith had already worked with Ellsberg in a previous film, it was easy for them to access the key interviewees, such as Ellsberg and his wife, Patricia Marx, he said.

Even though they had a previous acquaintanceship with Ellsberg, Goldsmith said that the goal of the film was not to show his "heroism" on things but to present all of the information to the viewer and let them come to their own conclusions.

Vozzella said he felt that Ellsberg was heroic due to the fact that "he sacrificed his own freedom for the benefit of all the citizens of America who were oblivious to what was happening with the Vietnam War."

He said that he chose Ellsberg as a subject because of Ellsberg's decision to put "conscience over his career." To Goldsmith, Ellsberg seemed like an important figure to display because he exposed the people in power that left the American people in the dark.

"I felt like we had a responsibility, not so much to say whether Daniel Ellsberg was right or wrong, a traitor or a hero, but for people to understand the journey that he took, from beginning to end and to understand it in the context of American politics," he said. "The fact that we admired what he did, I'm sure wasn't hidden in the presentation, but I feel like it wasn't what the presentation was about."

Goldsmith ended the night by announcing that his next project will be out sometime next year, he just does not have a set time frame yet.

'Lettuce' all go to the free farmer's market

Ronan Himelrick | Contributing Reporter

The URI Free Farmer's Market returned to the Quad on Thursday, distributing fresh produce, nutrition information and wellness tips to the URI community.

The farmer's market, which was initially piloted in the spring and summer, has quickly become a staple for many students on Thursday afternoons, according to event co-directors Amanda Missimer and Kelli Kidd. Students lined up across the Quad 20 minutes before the market opened at 11 a.m.

Missimer, a professor of nutrition and food sciences, and Kidd, a nutrition specialist, coordinate and run the event along with help from the Campus Recreation Department and Dining Services.

"Students on college campuses have really decreased access to fresh fruits and vegetables," Missimer said. "This is really just an effort to increase access to them."

According to her, a lot of planning goes into the farmer's market each week. The event is staffed by student volunteers, local farmers and faculty from the nutrition and food sciences department. They work together to sort through the week's harvest and move produce from the farms before the farmer's market starts on Thursday.

Last week, the farmer's market distributed hundreds of pounds of fresh produce, including beets, zucchini, apples, broccoli and fresh eggs, according to their Instagram. The food was sourced from three local farms, East Farm and Peckham Farm, which URI operates, and professor Rebecca Brown's teaching garden.

In addition to the fresh fruits and vegetables, Campus Recreation offered students health and wellness tips and created thank you notes for the event organizers and others involved such as Rebecca Brown, associate professor of the Department of plant sci-

ences and entomology, and Tim Sherman, a greenhouse manager at URI.

"We're just happy to be a part of it," Majo Muentes, a student employee at Campus Recreation, said. "It's a holistic approach to wellness."

Along with the Campus Rec, Dining Services provided a live demonstration of recipes and samples of food that could be made with the week's fresh produce.

Grace Kennedy, a senior at URI and volunteer at the farmer's market, noted how much she enjoys seeing familiar faces each week and being able to provide quality produce to students.

"Being able to give students an opportunity to come and pick out free produce and to use it and give them recipes and show them how they can make it at home is really, really cool to me," Paige Nickla, a senior at URI and a volunteer at the farmer's market, said.

Missimer said that the increase in food insecurity, especially since the start of the pandemic, was one of the major factors in pioneering the farmer's market.

"You would think 'Oh, there's so much food accessible, like through the dining halls and Rhody Market,' but things like that all of that cost money, and not every student has that \$3,000 to pay for the meal plan, and that's a very much a real problem that I've learned to notice," Nickla said.

Missimer stated that the farmer's market currently serves about 1.4 percent of the student population and would love for it to expand in the future.

Missimer and Kidd said that they plan to continue the market next spring and into the foreseeable future. They hope to expand their offerings to dairy products soon as well.

"Certainly we want to try to make this a centerpiece on Thursdays in the future going forward," Kidd said.

JOIN OUR TEAM

THE GOOD FIVE CENT CIGAR WANTS YOU!

Weekly meetings held on Mondays in the Memorial Union (MU 125)

Looking for photographers and reporters as well as students interested in joining the newscast.



URI Free Farmer's Market is here! It's mission? For students to gain an increased access to fresh fruits and vegetables. PHOTO CREDIT: James Singer | Photo Editor

THIS WEEK AT URI

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2021

NOURISHING YOUR BODY & MIND

11am - 3pm • URI QUAD • FREE

FREE campus Farmers Market that creates an opportunity for students to have more access & exposure to fresh produce & resources for optimizing health using available URI assets. An example of free items that may be available are lettuce, chard, broccoli, carrots, spinach, kale, bok choy, beets, radishes, peppers and tomatoes. Produce options will vary week to week based on availability.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2021

PUMPKIN PAINT NIGHT

8pm-10pm • MEMORIAL UNION BALLROOM • FREE

Join us in painting pumpkins with an element of breast cancer to show solidarity to those impacted by Breast Cancer within the URI Community. All participants can enter a contest for an opportunity to WIN a 25\$ amazon gift card alongside other goodies. All participants will be provided with pumpkins, art supplies, and snacks. With the opportunity to keep or donate the decorated pumpkins to Memorial Union for decorations.

WOMEN'S ICE HOCKEY GAME VS. SALVE REGINA

7pm • BOSS ICE ARENA • STUDENTS FREE

Come down to the Boss Ice Arena and cheer on our Rhody Rams Women's Ice Hockey team as they take on Salve Regina! The teams play again on Saturday, Oct. 23 at 4pm.

URI MUSICIAN'S GUILD CONCERT:

ELEANOR & THE PRETTY THINGS

6pm • MEMORIAL UNION ATRIUM 1 • \$3

With Special guests Grizzlies and Never Coming Home. Costumes encouraged!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2021

2021 URI BE5K

10am • URI QUAD/CAMPUS 5K ROUTE • \$Various

All proceeds from the event will support mental health awareness and suicide prevention efforts on the URI campus through the Heather Fund. Come to run/walk, volunteer, or to simply connect with the URI community around mental health awareness and suicide prevention and pledge to BE AN ADVOCATE. Race participation/registration is at raceentry.com/uri-be-5k/race-information. Race route volunteer registration will be on Handshake! \$15/\$20 Early Bird & \$20/\$25 Regular Ticket

MEN'S SOCCER VS. LASALLE

7pm • URI SOCCER COMPLEX • FREE

Cheer on our Rhody Rams Men's Soccer team as they take on Lasalle!

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2021

NATURE JOURNALING & MINDFULNESS OUTDOORS

10am-12:30pm • FINE ARTS CTR SCUPTURE • FREE

At the heart of nature journaling and the mindful outdoor experience comes an opportunity to get outside while going within. In the workshop, you will be guided through a mindful outdoor experience, a walk that includes invitations for observation, and a sitspot, all meant to deepen your awareness of your surroundings in nature's soothing atmosphere. You will gain inspiration from the living earth for your journaling. The second part of the program includes simple visual arts demonstrations capturing objects on paper, plus writing prompts. Please come with an open mind and curiosity about the ever-present moment and what it might have to offer! Instructor: Anni Barnard, Art Educator; Kripalu Yoga Teacher, Kripalu Mindfulness Outdoors Guide. CLASS LIMIT: 8 Register now on IMLeagues.com/uri

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2021

URI JAZZ COMBOS I - FALL 2021

7pm • FINE ARTS CENTER Concert Hall • \$Various

Emmett Goods, coordinator. See URI Jazz students at their best, in an intimate setting of small ensembles. \$12 General Admission; \$7 Students, Seniors (60 and over); Children 12 and under \$0

PIZZA & PUMPKIN DECORATING

6pm -8pm • GENDER & SEXUALITY CENTER • FREE

Join the Gender & Sexuality Center on Tuesday, October 26th from 6 to 8 pm for our annual pumpkins and pizza night! Stop by to eat some tasty free pizza while painting mini pumpkins, tis the season to be spooky!

Student bands bring the heat at 193 Coffeehouse

Leah Popovic | Web Editor

For their first concert of the semester, the University of Rhode Island's 193 Degrees Coffeehouse brewed up a rowdy crowd with student-led bands Amanita and Late Night Trip.

The cafe, located on the second floor of the Memorial Union, organized the tight-knit concert after experiencing a lull of live music during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Amanita, a trio of drums, guitar and bass, describe their music genre as "math noise." Formed in June, the band took the 193 Degrees stage for the very first time last Thursday, quite literally shaking the walls of the Memorial Union.

Their electric-rock sound had attendees on their feet, moshing and dancing for their continuous set of five tunes.

Electric guitarist Sebastian Toledo said that Amanita's music is different from most bands on campus, and they have gained popularity since their formation.

"It's hard to describe our music until you hear it," Toledo said. "There's no singing, but we create originals and have a lot of fun onstage, and so does the crowd."

Amanita put on an impressive performance filled with sonic sound and intense punk drumming, ending in a standing ovation and calls for an encore.

Late Night Trip is a veteran band of the coffeehouse, having played their first ever live event at 193 Degrees three years ago. The all-female group performed a mix of covers and original songs, some coming from their latest EP entitled "Unfurnished."

Five total band members make up Late Night Trip, including two guitarists and a singular bass player, pianist and drummer.

Bassist and vocalist Karla Gonzalez said that being back on the 193 Degrees stage was sentimental.

"It's definitely nostalgic to be back," Gonzalez said. "We'll be playing some of our old songs, like 'Auntie Orca,' mixed with new stuff and covers."

The crowd kept the momentum going throughout Late Night Trip's set, filled with strong vocals and guitar solos. For an encore, students sang along to the popular single "Take Me Away" from the 2003 edition of "Freaky Friday."

Typically, two open-mic events and two concerts are held monthly at the coffeehouse. Natalie Chasten, the 193 Degrees event coordinator, said that their schedule will become routine now that more bands are eager to perform.

"It's really welcoming here," Chasten said. "We have a really good atmosphere, and it's good for the artists to have an audience."

Chasten also said that the venue is a safe space for new artists and any students who want to enjoy music with their friends.

According to the coffeehouse staff, the initial turnout of this concert was smaller than usual, which they attributed to it being a newly-added event. 50 to 60 students made an appearance in support of the musicians throughout the evening.

There was no mandatory fee to enter the concert, however, donations were collected in support of the bands' close friend looking to receive transition surgery. Coffee and tea were brewing behind the counter for patrons to enjoy, and the bands' merchandise was also available for purchase.

Sam Deforte, a senior barista at the coffeehouse, encourages all URI students to attend future music events held at 193 Degrees.

"It's a good way to get people to come out and meet people post-COVID," Deforte said. "We just really like having people here, and we always bring good vibes."

Music convocation features wide range of musical stylings

Mandy Koskela | Contributing Reporter

Juliana Lepore | Staff Reporter

Dazzling piano, guitar, bass and opera singing entertained students and staff at the weekly University of Rhode Island music convocation on Friday, Oct. 15.

Held in the Fine Arts Center Concert Hall, senior Tyler Vanable, the first performer of the night, played oboe alongside lecturer David Gilliland on piano to the songs "Andantino" and "Ab lithium - Allegro - ab lithium" by Camille Saint-Saens.

During the question and answer portion of the event following the performances, Vanable commented on the difficulty of the pieces performed, as both have a large range of notes to hit on the oboe.

"Some of the pieces performed had a very wide range," Vanable said. "At one point, I was springing from a low C sharp, to a low B, up to a C and D."

He then said that to hit such a difficult range of notes, he and his mentor worked together to organize the notes in a more reasonable fashion, and practiced the flow until they found a combination that fit right.

Ryan Savage, the second performer of the convocation, performed "Venezuelan Waltz no. 1 (Tatiana)," written by Antonio Lauro on the guitar. Savage emphasized the importance of using proper technique for the song he had performed.

"For most musicians, posture is really important," Savage said. "It's very important for high notes specifically, because in order to reach high notes you have to lean in order to get in the right position."

Makayla Lane, a senior vocal performance major, performed "Ach, ich fuhl's" by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and "Quando me'n vo" by Giacomo Puccini, with the help of David Gilliland again on piano.

Lane said it's important for her to get into char-

acter and tell the story of the song she is performing, especially because there is a language barrier between the song and the audience. Mozart's piece was sung in German, and Puccini's piece was sung in Italian. Lane said that learning to sing in a foreign language is a challenge, however she works with her vocal coaches and professionals to be able to use diction and sing, regardless of a language barrier. The movement was another challenge she pointed out.

"Singing and moving at the same time is really difficult, however I grew up doing theatre so I'm used to being able to sing and dance all at once," Lane said. "Slipping into character and being able to tell the story with my body language is crucial to my self expression."

Prior to performing "Quando me'n Vo," Lane utilized the prop of a feather boa to tell the story of the character Musetta in the Italian Opera "La Boheme." In this scene, Musetta is trying to catch the attention of her fling Marcello, and acts hyper-sexualized and flirty to do so.

Students Seth Russell and Johnny Santini were the last performers of the evening, performing "Con Alma" by Dizzy Gillespie on the bass and guitar. The duo were calm and composed throughout their performance, which carried on to the question and answer segment.

Russell and Santini are both soloists who decided to team up for their performance. When asked about the difficulty of working together, Russell took to the microphone.

"Just try to stay out of the way," Russell said. "Get out of the way [of the other soloist], play the chord tones, and that's it."

Music convocations are held weekly on Fridays at 1 p.m. at the Fine Arts Center Concert Hall.

The stars of 'Silent Sky' shine bright in season opener

Kayla Laguerre-Lewis | Entertainment Editor

An instrumental version of "Counting Stars" plays. Audience members settle into their seats. The bright lights begin to dim. Suddenly, we're transported back over 200 years, taken from J Studio in Kingston to Wisconsin, where we learn the story of an overlooked female astronomer who changed the field forever.

In the opening scene of the University of Rhode Island's production "Silent Sky," Henrietta Leavitt, expertly portrayed by senior theatre major, Carleigh Boyle, walks out through the audience to stand center stage and deliver her first of multiple monologues on the stars. When we first meet Leavitt, she's a brilliant young graduate of Radcliffe College, ready to start her career as an astronomer at Harvard College Observatory. She leaves her father and sister Margaret (junior Jenna Wentworth) behind, taking her dowry to follow her dreams. That is until she realizes she won't be an astronomer, as that is man's work, but a "computer," or as her boss Annie Cannon (senior Alana Parrott) explains, "someone who computes."

For roughly two hours — including a 15-minute intermission — the audience is treated to stunning performances by both the actors onstage and the team behind the scenes. Even the transition moments are entertaining, with the stage runners swapping out their traditional all-black outfits for period-specific vests and newsboy caps as they move and rearrange set pieces to diegetic music and vocalization provided by Wentworth, as her character is a composer.

One of the design highlights comes in the form of the costumes, designed by David T. Howard, the chair of the theatre department, and junior Riley Nedder, assistant costume designer. With a small cast of five, it's clear that Howard and Nedder were able to provide great attention to detail in these early-20th century period pieces. The designs help keep the audience immersed in the time while also allowing them to take a step back into their own and admire the beauty and accuracy.

Perhaps the most important and prominent design feat in this production comes from senior Audrey Visscher, who also served as the assistant director to URI lecturer Tracy

Liz Miller. Henrietta and her colleagues spend the show entranced with the stars, both the glass images of them being studied, and the ones hanging in the sky. Through the brilliant work of lighting design, including a particularly spectacular finale, the audience is able to admire, appreciate and learn to understand the stars along with the characters. I have to give additional kudos to the magnificent work from properties designers alumna Lily Ferreira '20 and Howard for the period-accurate hearing aid Henrietta wears throughout.

With a humorous and powerful script by America's most-produced playwright, Lauren Gunderson, the five actors have great material to work with and showcase their own talents. Rounding out the small cast are juniors Ben Perreira, who plays astronomer Peter Shaw and Henrietta's love interest, and Sarah Taylor, who puts on an impressive Scottish accent as computer Williamina Fleming. While much humor is derived from Fleming's accent, Taylor masters it in such a way that we're never laughing at Fleming, but rather with her. Perreira also shows a penchant for physical comedy throughout, emphasizing Shaw's awkwardness around Henrietta that only adds to his charm. Meanwhile, Parrott continues to prove that she can be an intimidating figure (following performances in "Richard III" and "She Kills Monsters"), taking charge, keeping everyone in their place and making sure the work gets done. Cannon's own work included the development of a star classification still used today but, much like Henrietta, she doesn't receive nearly as much credit as her male counterparts.

The Leavitt sisters may appear to represent two completely different types of women for their time, with Margie expressing her fear that her sister may never marry and end up a "pants-wearing spinster suffragette," while Henrietta is concerned primarily with her career, often caring of nothing else. Yet, Margie is supportive nearly to a fault and doesn't let Henrietta walk all over her or get away with implying that her work is inherently more important than hers as a mother, wife and composer. Wentworth plays the archetype of the quietly strong woman beautifully and powerfully, going toe-to-toe with the almost-domineering character work of Boyle.



The lights are back on in J Studio as URI Theatre welcomes live audiences again. PHOTO CREDIT: Greg Clark | Staff Photographer

From the second she steps onstage, Boyle commands and demands attention, just as Henrietta does, impressing with her abilities and range as both the bold genius in the first act and eventual vulnerable, sickly woman by the play's end.

While Perreira holds his own, this is a female-dominated production both behind the scenes and onstage. Henrietta and her colleagues are constantly fighting against sexism in the field to be given work, and then be noticed and rewarded for it. The play is at times both disheartening and inspiring, slightly depressing but almost always humorous. The cast plays the dichotomies perfectly.

If only to have an excuse to turn off all your devices for a few hours and laugh among a group of people in a theatre again, go see "Silent Sky" at the Fine Arts Center. Performances will be held Oct. 21-23 at 7:30 p.m., with a closing performance at 2 p.m. on Oct. 24. Tickets can be purchased at the box office or online at URI Theatre's website.

Getting the Ram Band back together

Nicole Wagner | Managing Editor

The University of Rhode Island's Ram Band has a new pep in its step, bringing fanfare and cadences back to campus after a year without fan-attended performances.

Getting to make music in front of a crowd has brought the Ram Band marching together again, according to Associate Director of the Bands Brian Cardany.

"It's been interesting, on top of everything, that the [football] team is doing really well, and they've been basically selling out their home games," Cardany said of the team's five-game winning

streak at the beginning of the season. "So there's a special energy to that, that's been nice to come back to as we get back into the sort of normal routines."

For Kirsten Sabia, a senior elementary education and special education major who plays the trumpet, the energy this year is "contagious" with the Ram Band being back in uniform.

Last year, according to Cardany, the marching band could not perform at athletic events with audiences but made videos to put online and give the band a chance to play together.

When performing and practicing last year, Cardany said that the band used personal protection

equipment (PPE) while playing their instruments. This included wearing masks, sometimes with slits, to play their instruments, and spacing out for social distancing efforts.

"Last year we had extensive PPE," said Danielle McClendon, a tenor saxophone player and senior marine biology and marine affairs double major. "I know I had to use a king-sized pillowcase on my tenor sax; so that was definitely an adjustment."

This year, when outdoors, performers do not need PPE with a return to a "little more sense of normalcy," according to McClendon.

Their week-long band camp was also unable to be held last year, where they usually receive their uniforms and learn marching drills, music and the fundamentals. They will also typically learn a full pregame show here. Cardany said this drove home how important band camp is, as it took two months for him to cover what is typically covered during that week.

"That week of band camp is really important for a functional reason as far as how much they learn, how much we learn and to get set up for the season," Cardany said.

The bonding experience that

band camp lends itself to for the Ram Band before classes start is a "really important" part of the marching band experience, Cardany said. Virtually every college is represented in the Ram Band, with majors from nursing to oceanography to engineering and beyond.

By the end of the week, those who attend band camp don their uniforms and can say they are a part of this "slice of URI culture," according to Cardany.

Some students who may not have come to the University with an instrument of their own are able to receive school-owned instruments to perform with the band on loan, Cardany said. Some of the instruments are marching band specific or specific to the University's athletic performances and need to be given out, such as marching baritones, the color guard flags and the drumline set.

McClendon said she was one of these students who needed to borrow an instrument from the University for the Ram Band. She recounted the story of meeting Cardany for the first time at band camp her freshman year, where he helped her as she was lost looking for a tenor saxophone.

"I will always remember that," McClendon said. "That ba-

sically just sparked a huge family feeling of being in the band and everyone that has joined the band has felt like this is one big family."

A lot of friendships from the Ram Band last a long time, according to McClendon, as alumni keep in touch and come back to visit when they are able to.

However, Ram Band alumni were unable to attend this year's Alumni & Family Weekend football game against Stony Brook University, as the school worried about selling enough seats, according to Cardany.

"That is an important part of the culture; keeping track of our alumni," Cardany said. "We often get 60, 70, 80 alumni to come back and perform with us at half-time."

By the time the Ram Band had found out that the game had sold out, Cardany said they were not able to tell the alumni to purchase tickets to attend the game. In the future, he said that he will push to ensure that there is a plan set in place to invite their alumni back.

"The alumni connection is really important," he said. "It's part of our culture, it's a history of our culture — it's our legacy you know."

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Providence campus exhibit embraces seasonal spirit

Liz Fusco | Staff Reporter

The University of Rhode Island is exploring the cultural side of Halloween and the supernatural this year through its exhibit “Spirits, Spirituality, the Supernatural and Steampunk” open through Oct. 31.

The exhibit is presented by the URI Providence Campus’ urban arts and culture program and opened on Oct. 4.

According to the event page, the exhibit is showcasing all types of media that explore forms of spirituality, religious ritual and connections between spirituality and steampunk. This includes science-fiction and fantasy, as well as late 19th century gothic and silent films and multimedia performances.

The exhibit starts with three pieces created by Susan Garland that are three-dimensional and abstract. The pieces display sculptures that are reaching out of the wall canvases they sit on, and explore colors of cool and earth tones often associated with steampunk culture.

The exhibit also has five unique pieces by Eran Fraenkel. These pieces use movement within drawing and black and white and line art to represent the spirit of the music that coordinator Steven Pennell, member of the urban arts and culture program at URI, said will be playing on the nights of the exhibit. Fraenkel used lines to create fluid motions to represent the feeling of the music, as well as images that look like instruments, such as piano keys and guitars.

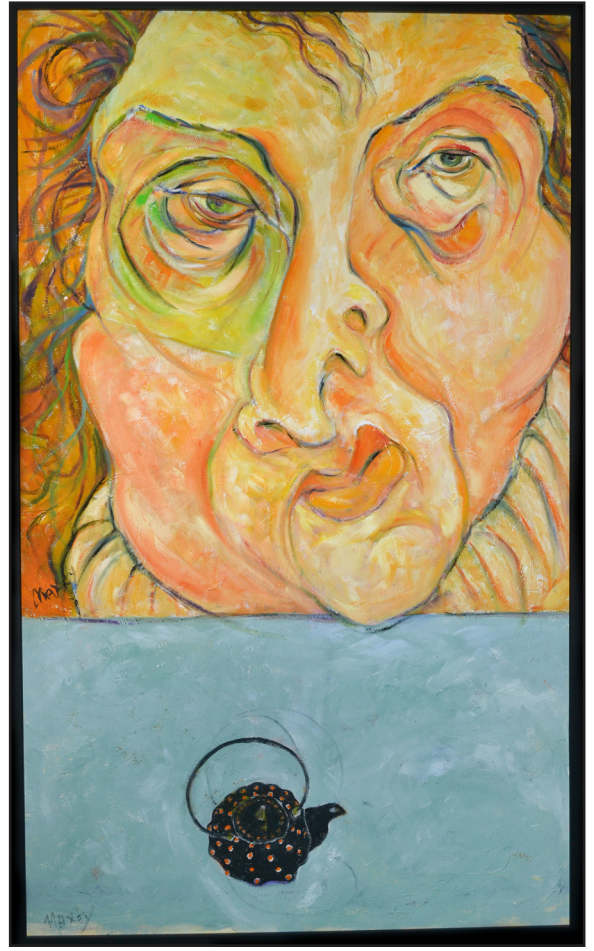
A part of the more spiritual side of the gallery is a two-dimensional mixed-media piece by Joanne Ficorilli. The piece, entitled “Being one with the universe,” depicts a character sitting cross legged with an open third eye in space surrounded by planets and stars.

There are a few art and media pieces featured in the gallery by artist Ted DiLucia. One of the largest is a piece that looks like a gathered rug standing vertically on the gallery wall. The piece is made up of warm colors, such as oranges and yellows, and displays different shaped faces all looking at one another with different expressions. The onlooker can interpret this to represent different spirits that we overlap with in everyday life and all the emotions we can and cannot see within them.

The piece featured on the webpage of the event is also available for viewing at the gallery. It is a painting by an artist known as Pop Icon and consists of a gray and dark purple background that, at first glance, looks like swirls, but is actually different eyes and faces. Featured in the piece are two blue and white skeletons looking at the face around them. The skeleton on the left is upside down and the one on the right is right side up. This piece perfectly encapsulates the darker, and even spookier, side to the concept of spirits.

The gallery features a wide range of three-dimensional art as well, specifically pieces that use lights to shed light on (no pun intended) the classic works of steampunk artists, displaying visions of space, earth and the ocean.

To learn more about these themes and see the beautiful art in this gallery, all are welcome and encouraged to visit the URI Providence Feinstein Campus from now until Halloween from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Fridays. Entry is free for all members of the URI community and the public. If you cannot make it to Providence, there is a narrated walkthrough of the gallery available on Pennell’s YouTube page.



Open through Halloween, this Providence art exhibit will get you in the fall spirit. PHOTO CREDIT: Nadia Sutrynal | Contributing Photographer

L.A. indie rock band releases debut album, pulls at heartstrings

Morgan Maleonskie | Social Media Coordinator

L.A. indie rock band Conditioner released their self-titled debut album last month, perfectly capturing the aura of being young, vulnerable and in love in only 25 minutes.

As a fan of indie artists like Maggie Rogers and Bon Iver, the vibes I received from my first listen of “Conditioner” were anything but unfamiliar, as they aligned perfectly with my music taste.

Starting the album off strong, “Leonora” takes the listener into the minds of band members Aaron Jeffrey Kirkbride and Riley Edward McCluskey. The opening lyrics, “you belong in a museum” are backed by a high-energy beat, which grabbed my attention right off the bat. The whole time I was listening to this song, I wanted to get away from my computer and ride down the coast with my windows down.

With far from basic lyrics like, “you turned hyenas into grinning debutantes,” this song was the perfect opener to drag me into the heart of this album.

The second song, “Terms of Surrender,” starts off with a lighthearted beat before it takes a turn into the depths of the artists’ minds. Released as their third single, the song takes on an unconventional rhythm as a conversation between lovers carries out. On my first listen, it seemed like the singer was debating with his inner conscience

over whether or not he can agree to “surrender” himself to love, but I am not sure if that’s what they were trying to convey through the seemingly rhetorical questions asked throughout the song.

Following this, “Til Tomorrow” starts with an upbeat, early 2000s country feel. While listening to the introductory instrumentals, I felt like Kenny Chesney was going to take over and start singing his hit “American Kids.” However, the vocalist of “Conditioner” transformed the vibe with his high-pitch melodies and laid-back lyrics.

Unlike the songs that came before it, “It’s Been Lovely” captured 2021 indie music perfectly. My first thought when this song came on was, “Harry Styles, who?” In just a few lines, “It’s Been Lovely” pulls the listener into what seems to be the unfolding of an unhealthy relationship, allowing the instrumentals to carry the song.

“Ripcord” was the first song on the album to provide me with the rock and roll vibes I expected at the beginning of the album. The song switches in and out of third- and first-person, following the insecurities of someone who feels like an alien in their own body. While listening, I couldn’t help but envision that this song is about one of those girls you see on alternative TikTok, complete with dark eyes, a nose ring and an “everything sucks” attitude.

The sixth song on the album, “Chewing Glass,” is backed with trippy-sounding string in-

struments and drums, which made me feel like I was in the bathroom at a wild house party. The instrumentals blended perfectly with the dark lyrics, making this song sound like something we’re going to hear in the second season of “Euphoria.”

Taking a complete 180 from the song before, “Hazard” reminded me of something I would hear in a Disney movie. Although I was not catching the rock vibes from this song, the non-repetitive lyrics, descending beat and the peak of the song made me feel like I was being told a story, complete with background, a conflict and a climax. The long instrumentals and beat drop really drew me in; to put it simply, this song is beautiful.

The final song on the album “Jelly Belly” was my least favorite of the eight, as it moved the album away from the darkness that surrounds love, and ended the album on a heartfelt note. Although this song was my least favorite, it still captured what it’s like to be in love; the type of love that convinces you to call someone else your “jelly belly.”

Just based on my first listen, I can tell that “Conditioner” is the type of band you would hear at a rooftop brunch and immediately fall in love with. Their self-titled album has already been added to my “let’s go for a drive” playlist, and I recommend that you give this underground band a listen for yourself.

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Men's Hockey sweep No. 21 Drexel in weekend series



Men's Hockey skated past Drexel to earn the sweep in their weekend series.

PHOTO CREDIT: Greg Clark | Staff Photographer

Steven Calise | Contributing Reporter

A good way to get out of a slow start to the season is by winning big at home.

The University of Rhode Island Men's Hockey team came into their home series versus Drexel University with a 1-3 record, contrary to Drexel's record of 3-2 and No. 21 national ranking. Friday's game featured the Ram's offense scoring in every period in a dominant 5-1 win in the first game of the weekend.

"I think it started off with a lot of people showing up to the game," senior forward Griffin Long said. "We had a lot of fans at that game, and it definitely helped the boys out, seeing a lot of support on campus."

Sophomore forward Thomas Fagan started the night off with the first goal, putting the Rams up 1-0 seven minutes into the first period. The power play, when one team goes down a man because of a penalty, was the biggest factor in the win, as the Rams scored on three of seven power play opportunities. Two goals came from sophomore defenseman Jonathon Shaw and Long added another to put URI up 4-1 after two periods.

"We had more power plays [Friday night]," Head Coach Joe Augustine on the difference in the two games. "They took a lot more penalties than we did, and we cashed in on three of them."

Junior forward Nick Ferarro finished the game with the final goal in the third period. Nine Rams players tallied a point via goal or assist in Friday's game, with Zachary Riccitelli scoring two points on two assists and Shaw collecting three points on two goals and an assist.

Saturday was a different story, shifting primarily to a defensive game. Sophomore goaltender Curtis Briggs got the start for URI. The Rams were in the penalty box six times, with half of them coming in the third period.

URI broke the scoreless tie in the third period after Drexel's Anton Kozitskiy drew a slashing penalty four minutes into the period. Ferarro scored only 19 seconds into the power play, giving the Rams a 1-0 lead. Shaw and senior defenseman Jake Durocher collected assists on the goal as well.

Sophomore forward Matt Smith added an insurance goal, assisted by Fagan, to secure the 2-0 victory for the Rams.

Sophomore goaltender Curtis Briggs, who was in goal Saturday for the Rams, was impressive between the posts with a 37-save shutout, despite the numerous times the Rams were on the penalty kill.

Augustine was impressed with how his team battled on both nights against a tough team.

"Drexel's very physical and they battled hard both nights, as did we," he said.

Long agreed with his coach and emphasized how the win helped with team morale.

"Everybody wanted and needed that win," Long said. "Definitely helped out the mood in the locker room."

The Rams are now 3-3 heading into their next series at Stony Brook University. The Seawolves are coming into the series 5-1 after beating the previously top ranked team in the country, Adrian College.

"[Stony Brook is] going to be a tough opponent, but in the past years they've had a tendency to come out laxed against teams they believe to be lesser opponents, and we've definitely squeaked out wins against them in the past because of that," Long said. "I think we're gonna catch them flat-footed, and they're not going to be ready for us. We know what we need to do, and we're pretty much going to have to play a flawless game against them."

The two-game set begins on Friday at 9 p.m., and the team will return for the series finale the following day at 5 p.m.

Swimming and Diving looking to start season strong with new coach

Kyle Standing | Staff Reporter

For the first time in 43 years, the University of Rhode Island Women's Swimming and Diving team will be under new management with new Head Coach Lilli Deering beginning her first year at the helm for Rhody.

Former Head Coach Mick Weskott has been an important piece of the swimming and diving program for nearly 50 years and will continue to do so, now as the associate head coach position in order to help Deering with the transition. Weskott had a combined 541 career victories between his work with the men's team before it was disbanded in 2008 (349 wins) and the women (191 wins).

Deering has been on Westkott's staff for the last five seasons, including two as his assistant and recruiting coordinator. She also swam for the Rams in her college days; Deering was a four-time Atlantic 10 All-Conference swimmer and was the most outstanding performer in the conference in 2010. She is still the school's record holder in the 200- and 400-yard individual medley races.

Westkott is the longest tenured coach within URI athletics and has been successful over the years. Despite this, Deering doesn't feel the pressure and is excited to assume the role of the person that helped throughout her own college career.

"It is an honor to step into the role of head coach and fill the shoes of my old coach," Deering said. "So far, it has been a good start for me and for the team."

Deering has already made plenty of moves as head coach, adding eight swimmers and one diver to the roster. These new additions come from all over the country, ranging from here in Rhode Island to Hawaii.

"While COVID-19 was crummy in a lot of ways, there were a lot of positives that came out of it from a recruiting standpoint," Deering said. "We were able to connect with the swimmers and divers via Zoom often because we were all home, and it helped create strong connections earlier in the process."

On top of that, Deering introduced new Assistant Coach Christo Law to the program. Law, an assistant coach at Bryant University last year, helped lead their women's team to wins and third-place finishes in both the 1-meter and 3-meter five at the 2021 Northeast Conference championship and their men's team to a sweep in both events. The addition of Law and numerous new squad members have been other changes made in the program.

Another key to making this transition effective has been Westkott's continued involvement as an assistant coach.

"I think having Mick here to guide me through it has been huge," Deering said. "I also think for the girls, it has been an easy change because we have both been here for a while."

Deering is optimistic that these new additions as well as Westkott's guidance will lead to a successful first season for her Rams who did not have a fall season last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"This last year has definitely shown us that we have to appreciate when we can be out here playing," Deering said. "We are having a lot of fun and are just focused on growing as a team this year."

Junior diver Marta Baumann shared that same sentiment and is looking forward to the season ahead with her new coaching staff.

"When I heard Coach Deering got the job, I was excited because she's been a great part of the team since I have been here," Baumann said. "The season has been a lot of fun and, as long as we keep working hard, it will be a great season."

The Rams start their season on Saturday at Tootell Aquatic Center, where they will take on Springfield College and the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in their first dual meet. The first race is scheduled for 12:30 p.m.

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Rams' win streak comes to an end, stunned at Towson

Aniekan Okon | Sports Editor

The 12th-ranked Rams had their five-game win streak come to an end on Saturday in a heartbreaking 28-7 loss against Towson University.

Rhody, held to a season-low 162 total yards, struggled to get anything going on both sides of the ball.

"We didn't play well enough," University of Rhode Island Head Football Coach Jim Fleming said. "We did things unrepresentative of our football team. We turned it over—couldn't convert, couldn't get off the field on third down. It's been a nice ride for the first five [games], but now you're back to reality, and we gotta go get refocused and go play Villanova."

The dreary, rainy conditions during the game matched Rhode Island's play throughout it. Towson came out to an early 14-0 start after running back Devin Matthews scored two rushing touchdowns, the first coming at the goal line and the second coming in the Wildcat formation after the Tigers recovered a Rhody fumble.

The Rams resorted to the run game and were able to get things going. A 24-yard run from running back Jaylen Smith sparked the drive and an 18-yard run from running back Justice Antrum got the Rams on the board with 21 seconds left in the first quarter.

Rhody had another opportunity to score at Towson's 8-yard line just before the half, but quarterback Kasim Hill was sacked for a 12-yard loss and kicker C.J. Carrick missed a 37-yard field goal wide right on the next play, keeping the score at 14-7 going into the break.

After the Rhody defense forced a three-and-out on Towson's opening possession of the second half, they took the ball down and moved it into Towson territory after a 10-yard holding call and a 24-yard reception from running back Ty Murphy. Unfortunately, these two plays would be meaningless, as their offense stalled at the Towson's 36-yard line, and they were forced to punt.

Receiving the ball at their own 20-yard line, Towson put together their longest drive of the game, a 14-play, 80-yard drive that spanned nearly eight minutes, capped off by a five-yard touchdown pass to the right corner from quarterback Chris Ferguson to receiver Jabari Allen with 2:04 left in the third quarter. The Tigers put the game away late in the fourth quarter when running back Jerry Howard Jr. ran up the left side for an easy one-yard score to make it 28-7.

Rhode Island tried to cut the deficit on the final play of the game, but quarterback Kasim Hill was picked off in the end zone by defensive back Brandon Shurman.



Despite the sour performance, linebackers Andre Blackett and Evan Stewart were stellar on defense, putting together career-highs with 17 and 13 tackles, respectively.

Before the game, the team was treated with a pleasant surprise from another local football team—the New England Patriots. The Rams were set to make the five-and-a-half hour bus trip to Baltimore before being surprised by the Patriots with an opportunity to fly on "AirKraft," the Patriots official team plane.

"It was very much appreciated by our football program and our kids," Fleming said. "It gave us the best opportunity to win, and we dropped the ball. Great amount of appreciation for what the Patriots and Mr. Kraft did for us, but we didn't take advantage of that opportunity and Towson had their way."

Things don't get any easier for the Rams from here. Rhody heads back on the road to take on fifth-ranked Villanova. The last time these teams met, Rhody escaped with a 40-37 win in overtime against the Wildcats in March.

"They are solid on all three levels, and it's going to be an extremely tough out," Fleming said. "Just looking at their scores, they've been in some battles, and we hope we can get ourselves ready and have another battle down there in Villanova."



Football's perfect start ended Saturday after disappointing 28-7 loss to Towson. PHOTO CREDIT: James Singer | Photo Editor

Kick off is scheduled for 3:30 p.m. and the game can be streamed on FloFootball.

Men's Soccer pick up points in battles against Fordham, UMass

Team beat Fordham on Senior Day, play scoreless draw vs. UMass

Kyle Standing | Staff Reporter

The University of Rhode Island Men's Soccer team, trying to hold their place ahead of the upcoming Atlantic 10 Conference tournament, were able to come away with a win and a draw in a tough stretch against Fordham and University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Rhody first took on conference rival Fordham on Saturday, but before the match began, the Rams celebrated their seniors on Senior Night. Goalkeepers Stefan Schmidt and Trevor Dalton as well as midfielder Igor Manrique and winger Hugo Guerra were honored before the start.

Once the match started, business began for the two sides, and it was a cagey, defensive affair. The Rams defense was led by Schmidt, who finished with five saves and a shutout, good enough to earn him his third Atlantic 10 Defensive Player of the Week award of the year. Schmidt was helped out at the back by defenders Alberto Molina and Vete Nielsen as well as fullbacks Cian Purcell and Zach Drayer, who locked down the wings. However, Fordham limited Rhody to just one shot on target in the first half and both teams went into the break tied at nil.

Rhode Island came out firing in the second half when, in the 47th minute, freshman phenom Isak Oystese shielded his man and spotted graduate transfer Jordan Koduah on the edge of the box. Koduah rifled the shot with his first touch and buried it into the bottom corner, giving himself his first goal of the season and the Rams the 1-0 advantage.

The Rams nearly doubled their lead when Purcell lined up a left-footed rocket from a free kick in the 74th minute, unfortunately, the ball rattled off the crossbar and kept the score at 1-0.

Fordham went all out in the last 15 minutes of play, committing men forward and getting crosses into the box. Schmidt and his defense were equal to anything that Fordham threw their way and were able to see out the 1-0 victory.

Koduah was thrilled to get his first goal but was even more thrilled about how much the goal meant for his team.

"Winning comes first for me and, while it was nice to get my first goal, I am much more excited that we got the win for the seniors tonight," he said.

That win makes it three in a row for the Rams, and Koduah has all the confidence that they can keep the winning going.

"Our conference is very tough," Koduah said. "We are very confident, though, and we are just going to continue to take it game by game."

While the goal from Koduah was crucial, Head Coach Gareth Elliott credited the team's ability to defend for the win today.

"Defending is always important," Elliott said. "I thought everyone worked hard today and it was ugly, but it was great to get the win."

The ensuing match against UMass was more of the same, with the two sides battling back and forth the whole way through. The first half was very cagey, with neither side able to generate much offense. Nilsen and Purcell were great in defense, keeping the UMass playmakers at bay, and Schmidt was equal to any chance from the Minutemen.

The second half opened up for the Rams as graduate student Edvin Akselsen was taken out inside the box for the Rams in the 68th minute. Akselsen lined up to take the penalty, but his shot sailed over the net.

Just 18 minutes later, a cross was rifled into freshman goal scorer Isak Oystese. His shot was deflected off the crossbar by UMass goalkeeper Marvyn Dorchin. Oystese also had the first chance of extra time, but was once again stopped by Dorchin.

After the Oystese chance, the two sides duked it out for the remaining 15 minutes, but to no avail. The match ended 0-0.

The Rams look to maintain second place in the conference when they face La Salle Saturday in their final home game of the season. Kick off is set for 7 p.m.