THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND

50th REUNION
Class of 1974
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50th REUNION

Class of 1974

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The Class of 1974 dedicates this 50th Reunion commemorative Renaissance to all the veterans who have served our country.
Congratulations on celebrating 50 years as alumni of the University of Rhode Island!

We are thrilled to welcome your class back to Kingston for the 50th reunion. Those who have not been to campus recently will find many exciting changes—and many of the familiar places you knew from your student days. The Quad remains largely the same, although you might notice the brick-paved Century Walk across the center, a feature installed in 1993 to commemorate URI’s 100th anniversary. Perhaps you even have a brick of your own there.

You may remember the John H. Chafee Social Science Center and the Biological Science Center opening in the early 1970s. Now these buildings are surrounded by some of URI’s newest science and technology centers, including the Beaupre Center for Chemical and Forensic Sciences, Avedisian Hall (College of Pharmacy), and the Fascitelli Center for Advanced Engineering. Across Upper College Road, the Fine Arts Center, which opened phase two of its construction in 1971, is currently under construction again for much-needed renovations and enhancements.

Residential life is one of the most memorable parts of college—possibly more so than academics. In your student days there were 19 residence halls where students experienced, as an essay in the 1974 Renaissance yearbook suggested, “perhaps the most valid, tangible education a University can offer, exposure to our peers.” The residential experience of today’s students is likely quite different from yours (cell phones!) but in many ways the same. URI’s residential village continues to expand as enrollment grows, and students can now choose from both Butterfield dining hall and the newer Hope Commons dining facility opened in 2007.

Remember Project 70 in the new Gorham Hall? Your class was the first full cohort to go through all four years of this new “living-learning” arrangement, which even had its own class in the course catalog. You were the pioneers of today’s Living and Learning Communities (LLCs) where students can “live, learn, study, and get to know others who share [their] academic or other interests.” LLCs offer extra programs and support from Resident Academic Mentors (RAMs) in addition to traditional Resident Assistants (RAs). Gorham Hall still houses one of URI’s 14 LLCs, giving students from the College of Business a place to build lifelong friendships with their academic peers, just as you did.

In this special reunion edition of the 1974 Renaissance, you’ll find stories of those friendships and much more. I hope you enjoy reading the memories and updates your classmates have shared, and I look forward to hearing many more at the reunion.

Best wishes,

Michele A. Nota ’87, M.S.’06

Vice President, Alumni Engagement

2. The number one song of 1974 was “The Way We Were” by Barbara Streisand.

3. The top movie of 1974 was “Blazing Saddles,” which grossed $119.5 million at the box office.

4. At the 46th annual Oscars, a streaker ran across stage during the introduction of Elizabeth Taylor.

5. The average price of gas was around $0.50 per gallon.

6. The top baby names were Jennifer and Michael.

7. The first issue of *People* magazine was published.

8. *Dungeons & Dragons* was first released in the United States.

9. The Rubik’s Cube was invented.

10. Stephen King released his debut novel, *Carrie*.


12. West Germany hosted and won the 1974 FIFA World Cup.

13. On August 8, 1974, President Nixon resigned from office after the findings of the Watergate scandal.

14. The Privacy Act of 1974 was established.

15. The Emergency Highway Energy Conservation Act was signed, establishing a maximum national speed limit.
Class of 1974...

**Michael Battey**

Major: Zoology  
Spouse/Partner: Susan Battey  
Email: mabattey@cox.net  
Children: 3  
Grandchildren: 1  
Student Residence: Gorham-Project 70; Harbor Island

**Christine Benoit**

Major: Zoology  
Spouse/Partner: Bruce Gouin '74  
Address: 30 Cherokee Bend, Charlestown, RI 02813  
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Children: 2  
Grandchildren: 1  
Student Residence: Gorham Hall then moved into an apartment on Campus Avenue  
Student Activities: Tennis  
Fondest URI Memory: Fond memories of playing on tennis team and traveling to different schools for our matches. Made long-time friendships through tennis and URI educational experiences.  
Past 50 Years: Presently, I’m the International College of Dentists USA Section Foundation President. This organization supports US and global humanitarian, educational, leadership and public health initiatives. I received a D.M.D. from Tufts University School of Dental Medicine in 1977 and practiced general dentistry at Arrowhead Dental Associates in Charlestown, R.I. until three years ago. My husband Bruce Gouin and I have been married 47 years. My daughter Annick and son Brendan and his wife Katharine are well and live close by. We have one young grandson who is almost two years old and another on the way. I still play tennis and enjoy gardening, theater, and taking walks with our lively German Shepherd. Bruce and I have URI basketball season tickets and attend most home games.

**Daniel Callahan**

Major: Business  
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Student Activities: Football  
Fondest URI Memory: I played on the football team in 1973 as a walk-on punter and set a record for punting that stood for 25 years. I also made it to the pros, which I was very proud of. Our team played in Frankfurt, Germany against the Armed Forces all-star team. Our coach, Jack Gregory, was friends with a colonel there and organized the game on Thanksgiving Day. Surprisingly to nobody, it was called “The Turkey Bowl!”

**Robert Bert**

Major: English  
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Photo submitted by Dan Callahan
Strangely enough, one of the 50th Reunion Class of ’74 letters that I received in the mail had a photo of a young couple. The guy in the photo was my roommate, Tom DiPietro, and his girlfriend, Lee. (Second row, far right)

**Joan Chapdelaine**

**Major:** Microbiology  
**Spouse/Partner:** Bill Lazarus  
**Address:** 70 Montgomery Lane, Port Ludlow, WA 98365-9666  
**Phone:** 570.881.2099  
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Hopkins (senior year)  
**Student Activities:** Cheerleading (2 years)

**Fondest URI Memory:** I worked in the Microbiology Department in the media prep room. As a Micro major, I was therefore preparing the media for my own labs. One time while the lab instructor was describing the experiment we would set up that day, I realized I had not added the amino acids to the media. I jumped up and ran to the media prep room to see if my supervisor had added them. She hadn’t, so I had to go back to the lab and tell the lab instructor that the experiment would not work! Luckily she laughed it off and we went on with something else.

I also remember a birthday cake we made for one of my suite mates in Hopkins. While putting the candles on the cake, the cake fell between my nightstand and the bed. We had a pile of crumbs rather than a cake, which was perfect for the birthday girl since she always loved eating the crumbs from cakes!
Past 50 Years: I received my Ph.D. in genetics from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in the Bronx, NY. After my post-doc in immunology at the University of Pennsylvania, I went to work at a pharmaceutical company in NJ. I then joined a pre-clinical CRO in Northeast PA where I established the immunology department. After 31 years, I decided to retire and move to Port Ludlow, WA which is on the Olympic Peninsula, northwest of Seattle. I am now happily enjoying retirement by knitting, spinning, weaving, and reading. I am also a trustee on the library board in Jefferson County.

I have also done quite a bit of traveling. My most memorable trip was three weeks to Australia, New Zealand and Fiji. Some of the highlights of the trip were petting a koala bear, seeing the penguin parade on Phillips Island and attending a ballet at the Sydney Opera House.

Victoria Baugher Clark

Major: Theatre
Spouse/Partner: David Clark
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Children: 3  Grandchildren: 5
Student Residence: Roosevelt Hall freshman year; Delta Zeta sophomore, junior, and senior years
Student Activities: Theatre (plays and musicals); musical groups; Greek life
Fondest URI Memory: I was from Chicago and knew no one at URI. Everyone was so friendly and welcoming. The Rhode Island accent was very different from the Chicago accent. And the vocabulary was different. I had no idea what a bubbler was or a grinder. It was fun!

Past 50 Years: My husband and I met in a singing group in Chicago 48 years ago. He proposed after 6 weeks of knowing me and we married quickly. After two years, we moved to his home state of Mississippi. Our three sons grew up in Mississippi but went to college at Yale, Cornell, and the University of Illinois. They now live in Connecticut, California, and Chicago.

Beverly (Schmidt) Di Carlo

Major: Textiles
Spouse/Partner: John Di Carlo '69
Address: 10540 Wagon Box Circle, Highlands Ranch, CO 80130
Children: 2  Grandchildren: 3
Student Residence: Hutchinson
Student Activities: College of Home Economics Textiles Club
Fondest URI Memory: Loved the country setting. Waking up, looking out the window and seeing streakers run by.
Richard Eidler

Major: English  
Spouse/Partner: Carol Eidler  
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Email: Richard.eidler@gmail.com  
Children: 2

Student Residence: Butterfield; Burnside; Scarborough Beach; Bonnet Shores

Student Activities: Varsity soccer 1970-1973; fraternity

Fondest URI Memory: Summer orientation 1970 is my earliest memory of URI. Lots of Long Islanders and kids from New Jersey. I fondly remember walking to classes through the Quad on snowy days. Movies at Edwards, concerts and basketball games at Keaney. The elephant walk, socials and Hazard Rock. All those great days at the Union and nights celebrating at the Pub. (I don’t recommend hitch hiking to NY on 95). I met so many great people, many have been friends for my lifetime. I played with great teammates on championship soccer teams. Most of them are even better people than players.

We went to college at a great time. Things were changing in the world. Professors and coaches taught and challenged us to grow. Looking forward to hearing about classmates and how they are doing. GO RHODY

Past 50 Years: I returned to URI and received my M.B.A. in 1977. I spent two years with some fantastic classmates. (We played a lot of basketball, too.) I joined Fieldcrest, an industry leader in home textiles. Promotions led to moves to Chicago, Philadelphia, and Los Angeles twice. Every opportunity widened my knowledge of business. A credit to the URI M.B.A. program.

I have traveled domestically and internationally for business. Family trips are even better. Carol and I have been married for 39 years and we have two children. We moved back to NY since 1988. I have been fortunate to get back to URI a few times. The memories are fantastic.

Diane (Chace) Fannon

Major: Education/English  
Spouse/Partner: S. Kent Fannon ’74  
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Student Residence: Weldin; Sigma Kappa; Down the Line
Student Activities: WRIU; sorority activities

Fondest URI Memory: Growing up in Barrington, RI, I attended elementary through high school with the same group of peers, and I was always a good, focused student. College was a whole new world for me. I think that’s why during my first two years at URI, I was a terrible student but I excelled at college life. Those first two years were more about discovery for me than learning, but I got around to learning eventually.

My best memories revolve around people at URI who made
my experiences meaningful and lasting. First was meeting my husband, Kent, when I was a work-study student at WRIU. I clearly recall accompanying my roommate to her interview for a secretarial job at the radio station. I was waiting for her to finish the interview and when she came out, she said the position wasn’t for her because it was a hectic, chaotic environment. It sounded perfect for me, so I interviewed and got the job. In addition to my paid secretarial duties, I became a volunteer rock and roll DJ and Kent was my boss. He was also a very serious student. Once we started dating, if I wanted to see him it would have to be in the library where he spent most of his time. Spending more time in the library helped me focus on my studies as well.

Another person who helped me find my path at URI was an associate dean in Education. I had originally enrolled as a math major in secondary education but decided that math wasn’t my future (though I often tease Kent that I aced accounting, which was his major!). I changed my course and became a double major in English and elementary education. Because I was on academic probation, I needed the dean’s approval to switch. He advised me that if I could raise my cumulative, he’d allow it. While I achieved a 3.8 the next semester, it didn’t raise my overall cume to the number he targeted for me and I thought I was doomed. But the compassionate dean said “we both proved our point.” He challenged me; I rose to it and I’m truly grateful for his advice and confidence in me.

Another group of people who made my time at URI amazing were my sorority sisters in Sigma Kappa, especially my roommate and lifelong friend, Debby Chiacu. I admit that when I first considered joining a sorority, I didn’t think it was for me. But that changed once I rushed and felt that I was truly a part of a family with this group of women who had each other’s backs. I loved the activities associated with my sorority, but I especially appreciated the leadership opportunities. As an education major, I knew how to lead six-year-olds but my role as president of Sigma Kappa helped me lead peers, and the lessons learned were invaluable to me in my career and life.

On the lighter side, some memorable experiences include lighting my roommates’ hair on fire from a lit cigarette and holding the title of the Memorial Union’s ‘pub beer chugging champion.’ (Part of my excelling at college life.)

After graduation, I was recruited by the East Hampton, CT school system when they came to campus to interview. They were impressed by my qualifications and credentials from URI, and they liked the fact that I wasn’t a CT native and could bring a different perspective. I taught first grade for two years there, right up until Kent and I married and moved to NY. There, I had to find a new job but teaching jobs were few and far between. I pounded the pavement in Manhattan and found a job as a secretary in an advertising agency (my skills from WRIU were put to work). While I always loved writing, I didn’t realize that I could make a career of it. But that love of writing combined with my English degree was extremely helpful in forging a new career as a copywriter and, eventually, a principal at a national agency. I also credit what I learned in my logic class, which was my favorite URI course, for setting me up well in my career in advertising and marketing. Logic was a mind-blowing class that asked rhetorical and provocative questions and made us think critically and strategically to make a case and defend our position. Those critical thinking skills proved invaluable during my 40 year career in brand marketing.

Today, we are still involved with URI and live close to campus for part of the year. One of the most fulfilling things we do now is give back to the University that gave so much to us. Through scholarships, we’re able to help students who may not have the family financial resources to fund their education. The letters we receive from the scholarship recipients are so heartfelt, we’re happy that an education at URI put us in a position to help set others up for success.
S. Kent Fannon

Major: Accounting
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Fondest URI Memory: I met my future wife, Diane Chace, halfway through my sophomore year at URI and that made me rethink plans for junior year. I was considering transferring to another university, but after meeting Diane I made the decision to stay at URI and that changed my path for life.

We met while working at WRIU. It’s ironic that my passion for broadcasting would be the place our paths would cross. From an early age, radio was a hobby of mine, so I knew I found my place at WRIU. I started as a rock & roll DJ and newscaster, then a sportscaster, and finally station manager. This extraordinary experience took me from the Yankee Conference to Madison Square Garden as well as to West Germany for a Thanksgiving Day URI football game in 1973. Working at WRIU built skills for my career and my personal interactions.

I remember a meeting Cigar editor Toni Grasso and I had with President Werner Baum that led to our West Germany experience. Toni and I were always asking for Student Senate support for our programs. Often competitive because of our media allegiances, this time we worked collaboratively to convince President Baum that both the Cigar and WRIU needed to represent the University. We were successful in persuading him (and Athletic Director Mo Zarchen) and joined the football team on this incredible trip. After the game in Frankfurt, Toni and I decided to head to Munich, and at the train station found 17 URI football players with the same plan. Using my URI COB skills, I was able to convince the ticket agent to give us a volume discount. This despite a language barrier!

My work with WRIU played a part in my life much later when I was CFO of KERA TV and Radio in Dallas, TX. I was invited to co-host a sports call-in show with a prominent sportscaster. That was a full-circle moment for me.

Other fond URI memories include forming great mentoring relationships with many of my professors, including Spencer Martin. I was a serious student and Professor Martin liked to tease me by reminding me that I wasn’t the top accounting student, I was second (to my friend Don Lan). When I last saw Spencer a few years ago before his passing, he reminded me of that again.

Dorm and campus life hold strong memories for me as well. I was part of the first co-ed dorm in just-finished Gorham Hall in 1970. In 1971, as a WRIU newscaster, I covered the one-year anniversary of the Kent State tragedy as well as a protest by a group of students of color who took over the administration building to bring attention to the lack of student diversity on campus. In my junior year I moved into Hopkins Hall with many of my friends. We’d sit for hours in the main suite talking about anything from the on-going war and our draft status to the next act Stu Fine’s Student Entertainment Committee had booked into Edwards Hall. All these experiences were enlightening and empowering. Like many others, senior year was spent “down the line” in Bonnet Shores.

Another URI experience that helped with my early career path was a unique summer job I held for four years, interning at American Airlines’ corporate headquarters in New York. My responsibilities grew each summer, including helping AA prepare fare filings in the pre-deregulated days. When the responsible executive suddenly left the company, American’s CFO asked, “where’s the college kid?” Having just started an MBA in Chicago, AA repeatedly flew me back to New York to make the filings and...
help train a replacement. And because Diane was teaching 1st graders in Connecticut, I was thrilled to be back in the Northeast at least twice a month! This led to my first full-time position with American after college, and our eventual move to Dallas.

All these experiences made my time at URI unforgettable. I met my wife, had the opportunity to travel throughout the country and overseas, and made a world of friendships including classmates, staff, professors, deans, and more recently, three URI Presidents (Robert Carothers, David Dooley, and Marc Parlange). Diane and I now spend summers in Saunderstown, RI, and being so close to campus pulls it all together for us.

Arthur Fiorenzano

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Children: 2  Grandchildren: 1

Michael Forte

Major: Political Science
Fondest URI Memory: I was not an enthusiastic student when I came to URI during the tumultuous Vietnam era. My Italian father and paternal grandfather drilled into me the importance of a good education. That and having draft number 78 encouraged me to follow their advice and continue on as the first full-time college student in my family.

My freshman year was a disaster as I sought to find my way, working at WRIU doing the news, getting involved in student government and campus entertainment, and attempting to pursue a career as a dentist although my mother had told me since kindergarten that I was going to be a lawyer.

As a sophomore I did two things that changed my life dramatically. I changed my major to political science and I became a member of Theta Delta Chi fraternity. To this day my fraternity brothers have helped me in life and in my career and kept me connected to the University. I am forever
grateful to URI for the opportunity to participate in Greek life, and two of my sons are current members of college fraternities.

As much as it kills me to admit it, my mother was right, and I became a lawyer. After five years as a state senator where I actually got to put my political science degree to use, I became the youngest person appointed to the Rhode Island Family Court and seven years ago was appointed chief judge of that court.

My years at URI taught me to love learning and the art of networking, two important keys to success in any career. In addition to my legal work, I have also taught legal studies as an adjunct professor at Roger Williams University for almost 30 years, continuing to learn from the next generation of students.

Of my four sons, one has a Ph.D. from URI; one son has a URI undergraduate degree and worked for the University in computer security for a time after graduating until moving on to the U.S. State Department, and one is a junior while serving his country in the RI National Guard, currently stationed in Kosovo.

We are a true URI family. Go Rhody!

Scott Gottlieb

Major: Business/Finance
Address: Binghamton, New York
Phone: 607.343.1876
Email: countdcash@aol.com
Children: 2
Student Residence: Bressler Hall; Peck Hall (resident advisor)

Student Activities: Intramural Sports

Fondest URI Memory: Very warm and friendly student body. Loyal friends.

Past 50 Years: Graduated Syracuse University College of Law, 1977. Worked one year as an assistant public defender in Binghamton, New York. Started a private practice in Binghamton, New York beginning in 1978 and I’ve also had various partnerships and associations with other law firms. I remain in private practice today. I married in 1989 to Betsy Cadiz and we had two daughters, currently ages 25 and 33. Betsy passed away in 2016.
college instructor, principal, political/writing/educational consultant, newspaper reporter, syndicated columnist, and freelance writer. I’m currently writing a biography scheduled to be released in April of next year. Following URI graduation, I did graduate work at Boston College and subsequently earned my Ed.M. from Harvard.

My wife and I are the proud parents of children (now in their thirties) who are principled individuals of integrity as well as accomplished professionals: Greg of Tacoma, WA; Alexandra Lolli and Shayla Wilson of Massachusetts. We take great delight in them and our grandchildren: Aiden, 3; Adeline, 2; and Cameron, 1. For nearly twenty years, our family has vacationed on Block Island for a week each summer, and our growing family makes those enjoyable excursions even more memorable than ever. We’re all eager to return in July.

I am a voracious reader, have a passion for golf (though I’m still trying to break 100!), and foreign travel, especially to Italy. My wife and I are planning a trip to South Africa for safari, a visit to the West coast, a tour of Western Europe, and renting a villa in Tuscany for an extended stay. And then, God willing, some island hopping.

I continue to have fond memories of my years at URI and am proud to be an alum. Sincere best wishes for the future to all members of the class of ’74.

Thomas Gunning

Major: English
Spouse/Partner: Sally (Carlson) Gunning ’73
Fondest URI Memory: I met my future wife Sally here at URI. I remember going to the original Beachcomber on Friday afternoons, dancing at Shiller’s on Ocean Road, throwing parties “Down the Line,” drinking coffee on the wall in front of the Student Union, the antiwar rallies on the Quad, and sneaking into the pub and Keaney Gym. I remember the concerts held at Edwards and Keaney, of which there were quite a few classics: Joe Cocker, J. Geils, The Band, BB King, Chicago Transit Authority, The Beach Boys, Sly and the Family Stone, Cat Stevens, Lou Reed, and a young Bruce Springsteen to name a few. I also recall throwing snowballs at unsuspecting students from the roof of Edwards Auditorium and somehow during my time at URI, I attended classes where we were allowed to smoke in class!

Judith (Metz) Hay

Major: Sociology
Spouse/Partner: Steve Hay
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Children: 2  Grandchildren: 5
Student Residence: Tucker Hall
Fondest URI Memory: I loved to take the cafeteria trays and slide down the hills near our dorm when they were snow-covered. And the coffee cake in the cafeteria…it was my favorite breakfast food.

Past 50 Years: After earning a master’s degree in counseling at RIC, I had a couple of odd jobs then became
though this job didn’t work out as I had initially hoped, my degree did lead me to make a major life decision to apply to the U.S. Coast Guard Officer Candidate School. I was accepted, trained for several months in Virginia, was commissioned as an Ensign, and assigned to active duty in Miami Beach, FL. As the most junior officer, I was managing petty officers, those who had 20-plus years of experience, and who were “older and wiser.” They were looking to me for leadership and I quickly learned to step up to that role. That opportunity later led me to utilize my GI bill to obtain my MBA from the University of Rochester and to make a career change into finance. I worked for Chase for several years, moved to Texas, and then purchased a business in the event rental industry, which I am still involved in today with my son and daughter.

While at URI, I met my wife, Jullee and this was undoubtedly the highlight of my URI experience. I spotted her on the Quad, near Ranger Hall. Our perspectives on that first meeting are quite different. She tells me that she put herself outside of Ranger when she knew I’d be leaving class because she wanted to meet me. I just remember seeing her under a tree and was smitten. We’ve been married for 47 years.

Beyond my great appreciation for URI’s role in connecting dots that led to my family and career, a few fond memories and impactful impressions come to mind when I think about URI. (1) Feeling a bit overwhelmed as a freshman by the sheer number of students and their diverse backgrounds, especially as a student coming from the small town of Middletown, RI; (2) Completing a senior year study of the ecosystem in Succotash Salt Marsh under the guidance of Dr. Gould who was a wonderful teacher and mentor; (3) Being in awe of how empowered we felt as college students with a vested interest and the responsibility that came along with it.

Looking back on my time at URI, I can clearly see how these experiences were all part of my personal journey and the many friends I knew along the way who helped me grow as an individual. I appreciated all the experiences and people I shared them with at URI. They helped me connect the dots on my journey.

Shandelle (Newman) Kenler

Major: Psychology

Fondest URI Memory: I wasn’t the typical URI freshman entering college at the age of 18. I had a world of experience prior to starting at URI. I had already received a diploma from Bryant College in secretarial studies, was married, and
had two children. In the fall of 1966 URI offered the CED program, Continuing Education for Women, directed at women who could earn a degree. The program was offered in downtown Providence, RI and the hours were perfect so mothers could be home for their children’s lunches. When I saw that a degree in psychology was offered, I was hooked. I passed the admission test and was accepted. At first, I took just two courses and then added classes when possible. I think I took every psych course that was offered! I will never forget going to Bradley Hospital in East Providence, RI to observe firsthand. It was fascinating. In 1974 my husband and I attended URI graduation exercises.

Past 50 Years: Since an advanced degree, which was required to continue in psychology, was offered only at URI’s Kingston campus, I enrolled at Rhode Island College, where I earned a master’s degree in teaching. I went on to teach at the Jewish Community Center Preschool in Providence, and later became its director. During my career, I also conducted psychological testing at Butler Hospital in Providence, taught adults at the Opportunities Industrialization Center (OIC) also in Providence, and taught ESL in the Pawtucket School System before retiring. I am proud to say that I am a URI graduate along with my older daughter and my grandson.

Ernest “Ernie” Lefebvre

Major: Sociology
Spouse/Partner: Karen Lefebvre
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Children: 2
Grandchildren: 10
Student Residence: Theta Chi
Student Activities: Fraternity events
Fondest URI Memory: Happy hour at the pub. Bagels in the Union.

Photos submitted by Ernest Lefebvre
Frank Levesque

Major: Resource Development
Spouse/Partner: Judy Levesque
Address: 3892 NC Highway 903, Roanoke Rapids, NC 27870
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Children: 11    Grandchildren: 8
Student Residence: Several dorms and off campus my senior year
Student Activities: Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship

Stephen M. Lombardi

I have had a lifelong association with URI. I am in the middle of a triple legacy with my father, Nicholas Lombardi ’48; myself ’74; and my son, Bradford Lombardi ’06.

I was proud that my father was co-captain of the 1947 Ram Football Team after serving in the Pacific Theatre during World War II; I had the privilege of serving as URI Alumni Association President in 1994 and 1995; my son, Brad ’06, went on to graduate from both Pace University Law School and Boston University Law School.

I was proud to win the Ram Award in 2000. Pictured at the President’s House left to right: Brad Lombardi ’06, Nick Lombardi ’48, and Steve Lombardi ’74. Sadly, my father passed away one month after that award ceremony.

Vincent A. Marseglia

Major: Industrial Engineering  
Spouse/Partner: Patricia Marseglia ’72  
Address: 268 Merry Mount Drive, Warwick, RI 02888  
Children: 2  
Grandchildren: 2  
Student Residence: Theta Delta Chi Fraternity  
Student Activities: URI Wrestling Team

Fondest URI Memory: The first thing that comes to mind when I think about my time at URI is meeting my wife, Patricia. Growing up, she lived one town over; she resided in Warwick and I lived in Cranston, but it was URI that brought us together. We met in 1969 at my Theta Delta Chi fraternity open house where we were introduced by one of my fraternity brothers and her Alpha Chi Omega sorority sister. We’ve been together ever since and we celebrate our 50th wedding anniversary in January 2024. We married the year I graduated so we had many friends from URI in attendance at our wedding. Two of my fraternity brothers were in my wedding party, one as my best man, and we still have maintained a strong friendship to this day.

Another memory of my URI days is working summers as an ironworker building the Newport Bridge. Not an easy job, but it supported my college expenses and gave me an appreciation for what it takes to literally build something from the ground up. The job also gave me a deep appreciation for all the trades involved in such a huge undertaking. It was a learning experience that fit right in with my URI education as an engineer, making it more relatable.

I soon realized, as I started looking for my first job after graduation, that my URI engineering degree opened doors for me and provided great career opportunities in several companies, the last of which was CVS Health. Armed with my URI degree, I pursued an MBA, eventually leading me to serve as an adjunct professor for 10 years, five of which were at URI, where I taught industrial engineering. The IE degree that I received at URI provided me with the confidence to volunteer as the president of the RI Chapter of the Institute of Industrial Engineers and regional VP for the Institute (now the Institute of Industrial and Systems Engineers). While in this capacity I made it a point each year to have a joint meeting with the URI student chapter and award scholarships to deserving students. My volunteer work with the university has included serving on the advisory board for the Department of Manufacturing, Industrial and Systems Engineering, Alumni Association finance committee, and the URIFAE investment and finance committees.

Beyond my connections to URI, I spent years volunteering with the Boy Scouts, most recently at BSA Camp Yawgoog, as my son and grandson became Eagle Scouts. Over the years Pat and I led an active lifestyle, golfing, sailing, running 5Ks, studying foreign languages and traveling. We recently took a family vacation to Italy where, after over 100 years, three generations of the Marseglia family finally met their cousins in my father’s hometown of Vairano Patenora. Following that, we toured the beautiful surroundings of the Sorrento, the Amalfi Coast, Capri, Pompeii, and Naples!

Pat and I enjoy being a proud URI legacy family as our daughter graduated with a degree in accounting. We are looking forward to our grandson attending URI next year where he plans to enroll in the College of Business as a finance major.
Kenneth Osfield

Major: Health Ed/PE
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Student Residence: Heathman Hall
3 years; Point Judith 1 year
Student Activities: URI basketball team freshman year

Fondest URI Memory: I clearly remember my first day on the URI campus back in 1970. Moving into Adams Hall was very exciting for me, especially since I would be moving in with high school friends. Adams was an older residence facility, and I was hoping for something more modern. When a friend got in touch with me because he was looking for a roommate to join him in the newest dorm, Heathman Hall, I grabbed the opportunity and never looked back. I lived in Heathman for three years and thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

During my freshman year I played on the URI basketball team’s JV squad in 1970 and 1971. After 1971, colleges, for the most part, eliminated JV basketball. Playing basketball for URI was a great experience and gave me the opportunity to travel with the team. After my freshman year, I looked ahead to other opportunities.

I fondly remember eating meals with my friends, old and new, in Butterfield Hall. I remember being part of the SEC (Student Entertainment Committee) and helping organize concerts with some great bands. I recall when the first snowfall hit and seeing students sliding down the elephant walk on cafeteria trays. What fun! Wet and cold with freezing hands and feet, we kept walking back up and sliding down. Those memories are still with me!

Without basketball I looked for other things, besides classes, to keep me busy. At some point I discovered photography and found myself taking photos, developing film, and making prints in a photo lab on campus. I spent many hours in a day in that lab.

One other very vivid memory was when I cooked a turkey dinner for 30 friends from Heathman for Thanksgiving during my freshman year. I cooked the entire dinner—a 25-pound turkey with all the fixings—in the dorm’s “tiny” kitchen. The dinner was a success and very much enjoyed by all. The interesting thing was that I had never cooked before, though there were many Sundays, growing up, where I would watch my Meme prepare meals for aunts, uncles, and cousins.
After cooking that meal, I continued to cook and still do. Looking back, the saddest day was when I decided to move off campus my senior year. To this day I wish I had stayed on campus. The campus was where I grew up and became part of the college environment and experience.

In all, I thoroughly enjoyed my four years at URI. It was where I developed and matured, and I will never forget my experiences. Go Rams.

**Past 50 Years:** After finishing my MS degree at URI I accepted a position as assistant dean of students at University of Florida. While at Florida I completed my doctorate in higher ed administration and worked at UF for 30 years.

**James Praski Sr.**

**Major:** Secondary Education  
**Social Studies**

**Spouse/Partner:** Karen Praski  
**Address:** 15 Power Avenue, Warwick, RI 02888  
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**Children:** 3  
**Student Residence:** Butterfield; Warwick

**Fondest URI Memory:** The campus was closed in the spring semester of 1970 when President Richard Nixon moved U.S. troops into Cambodia for the Tet offensive operation and the incoming freshman class (class of 1974) had to triple up in the Butterfield dorm because no one flunked out of school from that previous semester because URI went on strike before midterm exams were given. So the campus was loaded with students and my draft number because of my birthday (July 2nd) was number 61. I had a student deferment so I could continue my education at URI unless I had less than a 2.0 cumulative point average.

**Past 50 Years:** I had a 50-plus years career in the agribusiness (agriculture) arena and retired on December 31, 2021 from USDA/AMS/Specialty Crops Market News. When I retired, I was the officer-in-charge of the Boston, Massachusetts United States Department of Agriculture/Agricultural Marketing Service/Specialty Crops Market News office and the de facto national training officer for terminal markets operations (12 offices in all the major cities in the United States), with my base of operations in the Boston-Chelsea/Everett community area for 18 years. USDA/AMS/SCMN reports on all the sales and transactions encompassing produce commodities (fruit and vegetables, potatoes, onions, tropica, Asian, herbs, tree nuts, wine grapes, honey, flowers and ornamentals) on a daily basis for the time frame of 2003 through 2021. I additionally trained folks from throughout the USA as well as Canada, Eastern Europe, Latin America, Africa, and the islands for 18 years. I wrote the New England Honey Report for USDA for 18 years.

I worked in private industry for 35 years in both retail and wholesale in the produce industry with Almacs Inc. in Providence, RI (25 years), James Ferrara and Sons in Canton, Mass. (5 years), and Tourtellot Inc. Providence, RI (5 years). I had the opportunity to travel to USDA offices throughout the USA for my entire 18-year career. My wife Karen and I tragically lost our daughter and son to cancer in 1997 and 2007 respectively. We have our youngest son Sean Kory Praski now living in Warwick, RI. I currently work nonprofit with Center for Mediation and Collaboration (CMCRI) in the Rhode Island District Courts as a mediator. Additionally, I work nonprofit on the Advisory Board for Kent Hospital Care New England in Warwick, RI and nonprofit for the Senior Center Pilgrim/ Warwick, RI. I am a 25-year member of Smithfield Sportsmen’s Club and Rhode Island Beekeepers Association for the past 20 years and a beekeeper as well. I have two dogs (a black Lab and a golden retriever) and live in Warwick, RI with my wife Karen and son Sean. I enjoy gardening, boating, fishing, and playing drums as well as collecting specialty antiques especially cars.
Mark Richman

Major: Business
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Children: 4
Student Residence: Ellery
Student Activities: Football; Broadcasting

Fondest URI Memory: Loved picking up a grinder then we all watched Monday night football. Great fun.

Past 50 Years: Happily married with four kids, have traveled extensively including very often to the Orient for business. Have owned a glove and accessory business for many years under the brand name Hot Paws. Have stayed very active and fortunately in very good shape. Still live in Montreal.

Douglas Ritter

Major: Journalism and Communications
Spouse/Partner: Rosaria Silvano
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Children: 2  Grandchildren: 2
Student Residence: Fayerweather

Fondest URI Memory: I remember streaking through campus with hundreds of naked students. Those were the days!

Past 50 Years: After a 42-year career in advertising and marketing I retired to Rome, Italy, where I grew up. Also managed to author three books along the way. Two on Italy and one on how to succeed in business sales.

Paula M. Santos

Major: Sociology
Spouse/Partner: Stephen Bonzagni ’73, M.B.A.’84
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Children: 2  Grandchildren: 4
Student Residence: Merrow Hall

Fondest URI Memory: Many of my friends were already attending URI when I was a senior in high school, so I had the pleasure of spending a lot of time there prior to my enrolling as a freshman. I was fortunate to have established a pretty good social network. 4th floor Bressler, 4th floor Browning. Oh yeah, good times.

Campuses across the country were vibrant during the late 60s and early 70s. As Bob Dylan wrote, “Times, they are a-changing” and we were living in that change. We were making the change. I was very politically active, especially
in my first two years prior to the end of the Vietnam War. We organized students to attend protest rallies, set up soup kitchens and went to Washington, D.C. a few times. We were a peaceful, nonviolent group who were passionate about our cause and believed we positively impacted the decision to withdraw our troops.

As many do, when you attend college, I fell in love for the first time—the minute he walked into my dorm room in Merrow. Unfortunately, it didn’t work out as first loves often don’t, but I got to meet some great new friends in Heathman where he lived. And then, as fate would have it, I met this really interesting guy in Travisano’s Sociology class (which was interesting in and of itself). Was broke and without a roommate so I spent a semester in third floor Adams. We dated for quite some time. Married, have two amazing children and are blessed to live on Narrow River in beautiful Narragansett (in a student rental that we later bought—a Rhody dream come true).

I had always liked sports, and being raised in Providence, I was naturally a PC fan. But I will never forget my first PC-URI game at Keaney. SRO. That was it. Bye PC. Go Rhody! And speaking of Keaney, what about the concerts there, Edwards, and even the Union ballroom? Stevie Wonder, Santana, The Beach Boys, Joe Cocker, Traffic, BB King, America, Peter Frampton, Lou Reed opening with the local band, Roomful of Blues, (who will be coming back to celebrate our 50th!) and so many more. Music was integral to our lives back then and we were so lucky to have a great student entertainment committee who brought in great bands.

Learning was important to me, and I was really looking forward to tackling different subjects. Given our freshman class was so huge, I vividly remember Intro to Sociology, which turned out to be one of my favorite classes. It was in Edwards with I think close to 800 students. But we had TA led breakout sessions and the small group conversations were intense, stimulating, and really enhanced my learning. I also remember taking an Early Civ class and I was home one day telling my mom what I was learning, and she asked me, rather perturbed, “what are they teaching you in that school?” And I said, “To think, mom. To think.” Best gift ever. I have many significant memories that bring a smile to my face even when they were not so pleasant, like waiting in multiple lines to register for classes in Keaney (groan) and the not-so-great food in Hope dining hall (now Mainfare); good times bouncing off the exterior walls of the indoor track bubble—especially in the snow; attending basketball games in Keaney and students occasionally sliding down the aisles on dining hall trays; supporting the takeover of Carlotti championing for more diversity on campus; great dances in the Ram’s Den; riding my bike with friends through the back roads; and watching Night Gallery in the Merrow Hall lounge. We were totally freaked out. We did not have TVs in our rooms—let alone computers or cell phones. Good record players, lots of vinyl, and each other.

I returned to URI and completed a masters in 1980. Although it was a great experience and set me up for a good career, it was all business and serious study and doesn’t compare to my undergraduate years. I have always had a deep affiliation for URI and I had always wanted to work at the University. I was very fortunate to secure a position in Student Affairs in the mid-2000s and eventually retired from the Office of University Events. We were the lead department for Commencement, which was always special to me. I really like pomp and circumstance and it is a powerful feeling being among your fellow graduates even though you’re saying to yourself “what’s next?” I hope we
continue to have a ceremony on our beautiful Quad. Walking across that stage is special even if you trip on your gown in your brown huaraches going up the stairs. Just another tucked away memory that makes you feel good when you think back about being lucky to have been a URI student.

Barry Schwabe

Major: Business
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Student Residence: Bressler Hall, Gorham Hall

Fondest URI Memory: I led URI’s team in the National Student Advertising Competition in 1974. We won the regional competition and a trip to the nationals in Washington, D.C. Although we didn’t take home the top prize, it was an experience that helped launch my career in advertising. Subsequently, I spent 12 years working for Needham, Harper & Steers Advertising, The Pillsbury Company, and Tonka Toys. Other memories include Friday nights in the Ram’s Den, Saturday morning walks on Narragansett Beach, and concerts at Edwards Auditorium and Keaney Gymnasium.

Past 50 Years: Highlights include joining Big Brothers in 1977 and maintaining that big brother relationship for 47 years; Becoming the first entrepreneur to sell products at the NYC Marathon that weren’t NY Roadrunner Club licensed products; Receiving two patents; Teaching economics at the graduate and undergraduate levels; Hiking in 75% of U.S. national parks; Working at the Super Bowl and Final Four.

Arthur J. Sepe

Major: Philosophy

Fondest URI Memory: I came to URI as a transfer student from Our Lady of Providence Seminary College in Warwick, RI, where I was studying to become a priest. I changed my life course and enrolled in URI’s College of Arts and Sciences, majoring in philosophy. I wanted to study philosophy because of my interest in theology.

I remember getting advice from family and friends to choose a major that would be helpful for my future. I’m glad I stayed the course with my major; it served me very well. In my early career I worked in social services within urban communities in RI and also with the Providence Housing Authority.

I received my master’s degree in counseling and have worked as a college and career counselor at the Community College of Rhode Island in Lincoln, RI for the past 19 years. I’m still working and I love every minute of it! Today, I like to advise my students to study what they love and their careers will naturally unfold. My URI philosophy degree, which examined the ‘why’ of life, was a strong foundation for my work in psychology/counseling, which examines the ‘how’ of life. These areas intertwine and provide a good perspective for advising my students. My work is rewarding and I am proud when my students come back to visit after they graduate and are in their chosen fields with very successful careers. I always think back to my own college experience and know I made the right choice at URI.

URI also provided a wonderful network of friends through my fraternity, Theta Delta Chi. I was glad to have been a part of this great group of hard-working students who supported each other and appreciated the opportunities we had at URI. These friendships and opportunities were all part of a memorable and successful college experience. In the photo, I’m in the line up (third from left, wearing pants and sporting a mustache) getting ready for a Greek Week run.

I have learned that you are never too old to try something new. Four years ago, I fell in love with the ballet and have been acting and dancing with the State Ballet of RI. It keeps me involved in the arts and gives me one more thing in life to be passionate about. I look forward to hearing what my classmates have been passionate about these past 50 years!

Happy 50th to the Class of 1974!
William “Bill” Sepe

Major: Chemical Engineering  
Spouse/Partner: Betty Sepe ’74  
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Children: 3  
Grandchildren: 5  

Student Residence: Adams Hall; Hopkins Hall  
Student Activities: Student Advisory Board; intramural basketball; Resident Assistant in Hopkins Hall 1973-74  

Fondest URI Memory: I met Elizabeth “Betty” Callanan at URI during our junior year (1972-73) and she didn’t like me at first. We did become friends and hung out with a mutual group of friends. After graduation, I didn’t think that I would ever see her again, as my first job after graduation was in Delaware. A month after starting my job, she called me at work to tell me she was in Bucks County, PA chaperoning a group of 4-H students. We ended up getting together at the dairy farm she was staying at. We began dating shortly thereafter, starting with a return trip back home to R.I. to visit my parents and ultimately, fell in love with each other. We were married in July 1976 in Rhode Island and have been happily married now coming up on 48 years. So as I think back to my URI days, not only did I receive an education leading to a great career, but I was gifted with a wonderful life partner who made me a better person. It’s been a wonderful life!

Past 50 Years: My career as an engineer led to relocation several times, from Delaware, to Alabama, and ultimately Ohio, which has been our home since 1980. We raised three sons who are all married and have blessed us with five grandchildren. We have traveled abroad, and our favorite trip was to Hawaii to celebrate our 25th anniversary. Betty received her master’s degree in instructional technology at Kent State University and had a very successful career as a high school library media specialist. Betty and I served for several years as alumni chapter leaders with Tom Noyes here in Ohio. We now enjoy splitting time between our home in Ohio and wintering on Hilton Head Island, South Carolina.
Paul Sorrentino

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Children: 2  Grandchildren: 5

Student Residence: Butterfield; Hopkins; Burnside
Student Activities: InterVarsity Christian Fellowship (1-4); lacrosse (1-4); skiing (1); marching band (2); student government (4)


Past 50 Years: I have been married to my best friend Karen for 47 years. We have lived in Providence, Chicago, Kalamazoo, MI, Milford, ME and Amherst and South Deerfield, MA where we raised our adult children. I worked as a family therapist for several years and then transitioned to campus ministry with InterVarsity Christian Fellowship and later as a chaplain at Amherst College where I retired after 27 years. I did additional studies at U.Chicago, Bethel Seminary and Princeton Theological Seminary. I authored two books and am especially pleased with “A Transforming Vision: Multiethnic fellowship in college and in the Church.”
Timothy Tierney

Major: Psychology; Education  
Spouse/Partner: Eileen Tierney '75  
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Children: 1  
Student Residence: A semester in Gorham and then down-the-line in East Matunuck.  
Student Activities: Student Video Center; WRIU; The High Noon Club  

Fondest URI Memory: Hanging out in The Ram's Den is where I learned the most. Out of the classroom is where we connected best and those conversations over a cup of coffee have lasted half a century so far. The war was a heavy burden as we thought we had the obligation to get the politics to change. Music helped us the most in dealing with the pressures of that time. 

Met many interesting folks during my student years but perhaps the most memorable person wasn’t a current student at all: Who could forget Love 22? 

Past 50 Years: In ’72 five of us found the most incredible house to share. It was an old farmhouse on 35 acres of land and as working-class kids from Pawtucket we were spellbound by the beauty of the place. But more important was the way we worked out a cooperative living arrangement to share household duties, bill paying and party planning. With only one woman among the five we wanted to ensure an equal distribution of the work to be done. We had regular house meetings to work out any disagreements and had a joint checking account. After the first school year Eileen and I got married but continued to live there for another three years. 

We liked URI so much that we wouldn’t go away. Eileen stayed for 35 years because she had the coolest job on campus, curator of the library’s multimedia collection. After grad school I stayed another 41 years as Assistant Director for Audiovisual Production. I’m proud to have taught grad and undergrad education courses and for the film media program. For a while Eileen and I team-taught courses for the Graduate School of Library and Information Studies. My biggest moment came when the Board of Governors appointed me as Executive Director of the RI Higher Education Cable Television Council. I am also very proud of my work with unions on campus having served as president of the URI Professional Staff Association (NEA/NEARI) and the URI Part Time Faculty United (AAUP). The best part of it
all was meeting students as part of my production team and in classes. Students always provided the inspiration and that is what I miss the most.

David Todd

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Spouse/Partner: Lynda Todd  
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Bella Vista,  
AR 72715  
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Children: 2  
Grandchildren: 4  
Student Residence: Butterfield Hall, Burnside Hall, then down-the-line  
Past 50 Years: Moved to Kansas City upon graduation. My engineering career took me to Kansas City


Dante Votolato

Major: Business Administration  
Address: 6850 10th Avenue N, #404, Carlisle Building, Lake Worth Beach, FL 33467  
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Children: 4  Grandchildren: 4  
Student Residence: Phi Sigma Kappa

We waited 18 years before finally getting around to parenthood. Photos submitted by Timothy Tierney

Photo submitted by David Todd
You share a connection with more than 145,000 active alumni, found not only in Rhode Island and New England, but also across the country and around the world. URI Foundation & Alumni Engagement appreciates your 50 years of support and enthusiasm for the University of Rhode Island. We encourage the Class of 1974 to keep its spirit strong and its URI pride alive!

Keep in touch at alumni.uri.edu!
The alumni website is where you can find all the ways to stay involved in the URI community, including alumni events and reunions, alumni volunteer opportunities, the online alumni directory, and more. If your address or email changes, send us your updates at alumni.uri.edu/update-info.

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