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SPECIAL
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URI AWARDED \$1.2 M FOR NSF'S ROBERT NOYCE TEACHER SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The National Science Foundation has awarded nearly \$1.2 million to Anne Seitsinger, Interim Associate Dean of HSS and Professor of Education, and her URI colleagues. The URI Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program will recruit undergraduate science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) majors and STEM professionals who might otherwise not have considered a career in K-12 teaching and support them through their induction years.

Specifically, this project will support 20 undergraduate STEM majors and 5 STEM professionals over 5 years. These scholars will be prepared to teach elementary, middle, and high school students in high-need school districts. In addition, 50 freshman and sophomores will be afforded paid summer internships in STEM education areas. URI will collaborate with five RI school districts as well as non-profit organizations.

"We have a great team of collaborative professionals who are excited to recruit and support talented students to become teachers in high-need school districts," Seitsinger said. The URI Noyce team includes David Byrd, Cornelis deGroot, Jay Fogleman, Jessica Libertini, Joan Peckman, and Kathy Peno. John Boulmetis will serve as the project evaluator. Christine Dolan will manage the project.

HSS LAUNCHES SPEAKER SERIES

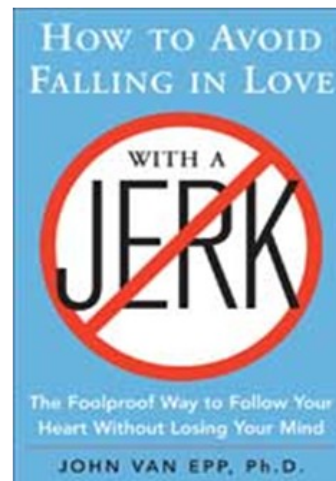
They are self-involved, inflexible, short-tempered, and lousy listeners. A 2-year-old? Nope, that's the description of a jerk, the kind of person John Van Epp, a nationally known therapist and author, is certain you can dodge if you follow his advice. He offered tips and more during a lively talk titled "How to Avoid Falling in Love with a Jerk or Jerkette" on March 1, 2013 in the Thomas M. Ryan Family Auditorium of the Center for Biotechnology and Life Sciences.

The talk was the first in URI's new College of Human Science and Services Speaker Series, which will showcase the range of the college's academic diversity while connecting alumni with students, faculty, staff,

and the community. Speakers will talk about issues involving health, education, and human science. "We are delighted to have Dr. Van Epp as the first in our HSS Speaker

Series," says Lori E. Ciccomascolo, dean of HSS. "His message about healthy relationships fits very well with the curricular priorities of our faculty in Human Development and Family Studies as they focus on how family and community settings improve the quality of life."

So, how do you avoid hooking up with a jerk? For starters, Van Epp says learn how to identify them. A jerk can be a man or a woman. Jerks are resistant to change their ways. They fail to see anything from anyone else's perspective and have trouble controlling their emotions and tempers. Jerks also like attention and the intoxication of infatuation. Unfortunately, nice people are drawn to jerks: (continued on page 2)



HSS SPEAKER SERIES (CONTINUED)



John Van Epp, nationally known psychologist and author

“How has the digital revolution transformed education and has our own teaching kept up?”

Julie Coiro, Associate Professor, School of Education (Photo by Michael Salerno Photography)



“Good-hearted people have the greatest risk for staying in a relationship with a jerk because good-hearted people so quickly forgive, overlook problems, minimize shortcomings, and give second chances,” Van Epp said.

Too often people

rush into romance. Van Epp suggests slowing down and taking relationships one step at a time. Strong love connections, he says, are based on five key areas: knowledge, trust, reliance, commitment, and sex. “A relationship is not just one thing,” he says. “It’s made up of those five key bonds between people.”

The new speaker series is part of an outreach campaign by HSS to spread the word, to the University

community and beyond, about the college’s unique and expansive academic programs.

Van Epp’s talk was sponsored by The Heditsian Family Endowment for Life Partner Preparation. Manoog Heditsian of Rhode Island is a 1947 graduate of URI, a past member of the URI Foundation Board, and an avid supporter of the University.

Based on URI press release by Elizabeth Rau, Feb. 4, 2013.

EDUCATION PROFESSOR CAPTIVATES ACADEMIC SUMMIT

Do you know what gesture-based computing is? Are you familiar with the concept of “the internet of things?” What about geo-social gaming? If not, get familiar with them quickly, especially if you’re an educator who wants to keep pace with young people.

These were among some of the riveting issues covered by Julie Coiro, URI Associate Professor of

Education, during the first keynote talk at URI’s fifth annual day-long Academic Summit, *The Future of Learning* on January 18, 2013.

More than 200 faculty and staff members participated in lectures,

workshops and discussions. In her discussion, “Engaging Tomorrow’s Learners Today: Digital Trends, Learner Preferences & Next Steps,” Coiro described five key

trends shaping higher education practices:

- People expect to work, learn and study anytime, anywhere.
- Work demands digital and personal collaboration with an emphasis on process, product and multiple perspectives.
- A new emphasis on challenge-based and active learning.
- A shift to hybrid learning models that combine virtual with in-person learning where students can connect with each other and their professors, in or out of class.
- Roles must be revisited in the context of access to online information and relationships to best meet the needs of today’s learners.

Pointing to research, Coiro said students say that doing is more important than knowing, and so collaboration, discussion and action are central. “This is about real life,” Coiro said, “and all of these factors have a huge impact on teaching, learning and effective use of technology.”

Coiro asked URI faculty, “What is your role in preparing today’s

students to be lifelong learners in a digital age and how well are you meeting the education demands in this era of lifelong learning?” She added that digital trends would play a large role in teaching and learning and that rather than fight them, teachers must capitalize on the strengths of today’s learners and address areas of need. “We must re-design our teaching practices in the context of today’s rigorous expectations and important challenges while we monitor and improve our own abilities to meet changing demands in the era of lifelong learning.”

By the way, gesture-based computing uses a hand or finger to direct a computer, instead of using a mouse or touch screen. The Internet of things is a concept that involves connecting everyday physical objects to the Internet so they can communicate information to other devices. Geo-social gaming involves online gaming through mobile phones using social networking and geo-tagging technologies.

Based on URI press release by Elizabeth Rau, Jan. 22, 2013.

WHAT TO WEAR IN SPACE

You're packing for a long trip to Mars and suddenly the anxiety hits: What to wear? You could suit up in bulky white duds or consider the advice of a URI professor: washable, recyclable clothes.

Karl Aspelund, an assistant professor of design at URI, says we should start thinking about what kinds of clothes astronauts will need for decades-long space missions, considered the next phase of exploration to infinity and beyond. He is researching the apparel needs for travelers inspired by the 100 Year Starship Initiative, a joint Defense Department and NASA mission to encourage travel outside our solar system.

Questions that keep Aspelund up at night: How will astronauts do laundry in space? How can we recycle old

clothes in space? Is there a way to make clothes in space? Those questions might be answered soon. Aspelund just won a \$15,000 grant from URI's Council for Research to begin background research for the project, with the hope of eventually creating guidelines and prototypes.

Aspelund got interested in space apparel last year when he was sitting in his car listening to a National Public Radio report about the 100 Year Starship Initiative, a program aimed at inspiring travel beyond our solar system by 2112.

"It occurred to me as a designer and an anthropologist who focuses on clothing practices that I might be able to contribute to this," says Aspelund.

Mae Jemison, a former astronaut and leader of the Starship project, invited

Aspelund to attend a conference in Houston, where he intrigued engineers, astro-physicists and space-travel enthusiasts with his ideas. This past March he also talked about space attire at a science conference at the EU Parliament in Brussels and will speak again this fall at another Starship conference, again in Houston.



Karl Aspelund, Assistant Professor of Design.
(Photo courtesy of Michael Salerno Photography)

Based on URI press release by Elizabeth Rau, May 30, 2013.

HSS EMBRACES DIVERSITY

Dr. Annie Russell, Director of URI's Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Queer Center, and Emily Goupil, a graduate student in Human Development and Family Studies, facilitated a Safe Zone Training in a lecture hall of Ballentine Hall.

Nearly 50 faculty and staff of the College of Human Science and Services participated in the half-day session on January 17, 2013.

The Safe Zone Project is designed to increase awareness, knowledge, and support of LGBTQ people and issues; build a visible support network of LGBTQ Allies on URI's campus; and improve the campus climate for LGBTQ people at URI. Participants received the Safe Zone Sign, an active symbol of support

for the LGBTIQQ community, people, families and friends. The Safe Zone sign is posted publicly on HSS offices around campus.

Interim Dean Lori Ciccomascolo initiated HSS 270, ACCESS, in spring 2013. The goal of the course is to address the needs and concerns of first generation college students through peer mentorship. The successful course will be offered again during the 2013-2014 academic year.

As part of Women's History Month, HSS hosted a panel discussion and screening of the documentary, *Miss Representation*. "We're very excited about the film and the panel talk that will follow," said Ciccomascolo. "This film is a must-



see for anyone interested in women's issues in America today." (see story on page 7).

Kudos to William Molloy, lecturer in the School of Education, and Anne-marie Vaccaro, Associate Professor, Human Development and Family Studies, for being awarded Faculty Excellence for Leadership and Service at this year's 16th Annual URI Diversity Awards Banquet.

Emily Goupil and Annie Russell facilitate Safe Zone Training for HSS faculty and staff.

HSS AROUND THE WORLD



Jackie Sparks, Associate Professor in HDF, moderated a conference at the Vatican.

Dr. Jacqueline Sparks was a moderator at an international conference at the Vatican that focused on the health needs of suffering children. The Pontifical Council for Health Care Workers held a two-day meeting on June 15 and 16, 2013 in the

Vatican's Pope Pius X Hall. It drew 250 participants from 30 countries.

The conference, titled *The Child as a Person and as a Patient: Therapeutic Approaches Compared*, was designed to help the Vatican develop guidelines on how children, particularly those with mental disabilities or behavioral

disorders, should be treated.

Sparks was invited to the event in large part because of her investigations into the adverse effects that various drug therapies — including stimulants, antidepressants and antipsychotics — can have on children. She's been working as a family therapist since 1984 and teaches graduate students in URI's Department of Human Development and Families Studies.

The professor said her own research has concluded that society is becoming too prone to dispense antipsychotic and antidepressant drugs to children suspected of having a variety of problems, including attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, or ADHD.

"The research shows that children whose families are on Medicaid

are four times as likely to be given antipsychotic drugs than children on private insurance," Sparks said, "and there is evidence that children who are incarcerated or sent to training schools are often given drugs for oppositional defiance and ADHD. The problem is that the side effects are pretty serious. Children taking the antipsychotics risk rapid weight gain and metabolic changes that could lead to diabetes, hypertension and other illnesses."

Sparks said that she has been told the Vatican is planning to issue a report or guidelines that would be the direct result of the proceedings. Sparks noted, "I think the Pope is reaching out to children across the globe, especially in undeveloped countries."

Based on *Providence Journal* article by Richard Dujardin, June 20, 2013.

The Africa Teacher Foundation has trained 740 Kenyan and East African teachers and reached 29,000 students.

EDUCATOR TEACHES AFRICAN TEACHERS

When Bill Molloy took a trip to Kenya seven years ago, he was invited to go for a "feeding." He figured he'd be serving hay to elephants.

positive children who could barely do their ABC's or count past 10. Anywhere from 50 to 100 students are crammed into classrooms, which usually have one book and one chair, made of plastic. The rooms are so crowded students take turns sitting and standing — on dirt floors.

The teachers come away with a certificate in professional development; Molloy comes away knowing that he has done something worthwhile. Others must think so as well; he has raised \$200,000, mostly from friends and other teachers.

A documentary, created by Providence-based filmmakers John Lavall and Kate Kelley, chronicles the work of Molloy and his small staff of volunteer educators premiered March 1, 2013 at the URI Providence campus. Lavall and Kelley produced the film *Kujifunza: The Work of the Africa Teacher Foundation* after they traveled with Molloy to Kenya in June 2012. "Kujifunza," translated to English from Swahili, means "to learn."

Based on URI press release by Elizabeth Rau, Nov. 12, 2012.

On the flight home, he decided to start a non-profit to train Kenyan teachers to help those youngsters, herded into rooms to languish and, in at least one case, die. It was a lofty goal for the URI education lecturer, but not impossible.

The Africa Teacher Foundation has sent seven American teachers — some from URI — to Kenya to teach reading, mathematics, writing, and lesson planning. Molloy has trained 740 Kenyan and East African teachers and reached 29,000 students.

What he found instead were squalid classrooms in a Nairobi slum packed with hungry and HIV-



Bill Molloy, Lecturer, School of Education and founder of The Africa Teacher Foundation, sits in a classroom in a slum in Nairobi, Kenya.

TESTING TURF'S EFFECTS ON ATHLETIC INJURIES



Assistant Professor Disa Hatfield takes notes. (Photo by Michael Salerno Photography)

"People make decisions all the time that amount to spending thousands of dollars to buy artificial turf or to plant one kind of grass or another, but those

decisions are based mostly on cost," Hatfield said. "We think this study will answer a lot of important questions, especially about injury risk."

Hatfield and her students are testing four surfaces – a hard metal plate, artificial turf like that used in many National Football League stadiums, and grass planted on either a sandy loam soil or on peat soil.

"The problem is that maintaining artificial turf is much cheaper and easier than maintaining live grass. The cost factor is much less," she said. "But I'm hoping that we'll be able to show a decreased injury risk on natural surfaces, which have a higher capacity to absorb impacts."

Hatfield will spend the summer and fall of 2013 analyzing the data that was collected in the spring, and she hopes to have results to report at the end of the year.

Her research was funded in part by the New England Regional Turfgrass Foundation and with guidance from turfgrass scientists W. Michael Sullivan at URI and Jason Henderson at the University of Connecticut.

Based on URI press release by Elizabeth Rau, May 23, 2013.

A group of URI students jumped up and down for weeks on a variety of playing surfaces in a study to evaluate how each affects athletic performance and injury potential.

Disa Hatfield, Assistant Professor of Kinesiology, said little is known about whether athletes perform better or are more susceptible to injury on the various surfaces.

"It's a win for the

URI students

and the

children," says

Warford,

Director of Child

Development

Center.

EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER EARNS NATIONAL ACCREDITATION

Thanks to exceptional teachers, parental involvement and innovative programs, URI's early childhood center has earned accreditation from a national advocacy group for outstanding care of youngsters.

The National Association for the Education of Young Children has singled out only a handful of preschools in the country for their work, said Sue Warford, Director of the Child Development Center.

"It's an honor to be recognized by such a highly regarded organization," says Warford. "The accreditation lets families know we are always working on improvements so that children are getting the best possible care and education." The center went through a rigorous

process with more than 400 criteria, including teacher qualifications, family participation, and curriculum. The association also visited the center as part of the evaluation.

Jerlean E. Daniel, the association's director said, "Earning this accreditation is a sign that URI's Child Development Center is a leader in a national effort to invest in high-quality early childhood education."

The center, which opened in 1958 and expanded in 1980, has 30 children - 12 in kindergarten and 18 in preschool. Half are children of parents affiliated with the University. The others are from the community. The center also serves as a lab school for URI students obtaining degrees in human development or

early childhood education. About 100 undergraduate students have practicum at the center every year.

"It's a win for the students and the children," says Warford. "The URI students get hands-on experience and the children benefit from receiving a lot of close attention."

Based on URI press release by Elizabeth Rau, Sept. 20, 2012.



Children at the Child Development Center

HOLIDAY ADVICE FOR YEAR-ROUND HEALTH



John McLinden, Clinical Assistant Professor of Physical Therapy and his patient, Michaela Mooney, Assistant Dean, College of Nursing

"We are looking at the bigger picture and finding another type of therapy for children," says Clapham.

A mountain of snow is behaving badly on your front steps. You can grab a shovel and go at it like a frenzied ditch digger. Or you can heed the advice of URI physical therapist John McLinden: baby scoops, even if it takes all day. Your back will thank you.

If you take precautions, you can avoid a trip to the emergency room or an unwanted afternoon in repose, says

McLinden, a clinical assistant professor of physical therapy.

"It can be a stressful time of year physically and emotionally, but your body doesn't have to suffer. I've got tips to keep you fit."

Cooking and baking:

- Stand on a rug
- Stand with one foot on the bottom edge of an open kitchen cabinet

Shopping:

- Wear comfortable shoes
- Leave your "beach bag" purse at home

Shoveling snow:

- Avoid twisting motions.
- Use an ergonomic shovel
- Take breaks

Stress:

- Do a few stretches
- Take a deep breath,
- Go for a long walk
- Keep a sense of humor

McLinden's skills—and humor—are in demand on campus, where he runs the Physical Therapy clinic at Independence Square.

Based on URI press release by Elizabeth Rau, Dec. 4, 2012.

KEEPING NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

Taking specific steps can help you stick to your resolutions and achieve your goals, says Bryan Blissmer, a URI kinesiology professor and an expert on how to treat unhealthy behaviors, with a focus on exercise.

"People often create resolutions regarding their health, ranging from losing weight, eating right to quitting smoking and starting an

exercise program," he says.

"Regardless of what behavior you're trying to change, we've found common factors that help predict success."

Goals should also be realistic. It's also important to plan ahead before parties and other social events. Reaching out to other people is also a good idea. Finally, reward yourself for any accom-

plishments, even the small ones.

With funding from the National Cancer Institute and the National Institute on Aging, he has been involved in studies over the last decade that explore the best way to change behaviors, and maintain them in the future.

Based on URI press release by Elizabeth Rau, Dec. 5, 2012.

SURFS UP



Emily Clapham, Assistant Professor of Kinesiology, with a surfer
(Photo by Michael Salerno Photography)

Twenty-three local children of varying abilities are learning to surf at Narragansett Town Beach thanks to a community adapted physical education program called Surf Ocean Therapy Intervention led by Emily Clapham, Assistant Professor of Kinesiology.

"There aren't many activities for children with disabilities, and the result of the pilot surfing program we did last year showed so many positives," said Clapham, who created the surfing program.

"There was increased core and upper body strength, enhanced balance and just a better overall sense of wellbeing."

Children, ages 5-19, met at the beach twice a week for 8 weeks during the spring, wearing wet suits to keep warm.

Some of the children have Down Syndrome; others are on the autism spectrum, have Attention

Deficit Disorder, learning disabilities, or cognitive delays.

The surfers work one-on-one with kinesiology students. In addition to the children the program was designed for, Clapham said their siblings have been included and are participating.

"We are looking at the bigger picture and finding another type of therapy for children," she said.

Clapham teaches future physical education teachers. Her goal is to transform physical education into fun and engaging activities.

Based on URI news release by Erika Travares, June 20, 2013.

MISS REPRESENTATION SCREENING & PANEL DISCUSSION



HSS hosted a screening of the documentary *Miss Representation*, written, produced, and directed by Jennifer

Siebel Newsome. The film, free and open to the public, was shown on March 19, 2013 in the Agnes G. Doody Auditorium, Swan Hall, 60 Upper Col- lege Rd.

A hit at the Sundance Film Festival in 2011, the film explores how

media bias has led to fewer women in positions of power and influence.

A talk followed with three URI panelists: Laura Beauvais, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs; Judith Swift, Director of the Coastal Institute and Professor of Communication Studies; and Shima Young, a doctoral student in Education.

"We're very excited about the film and the panel talk that will follow," said HSS Dean Lori Ciccomascolo. "This film is a must-see for anyone interested in women's issues in America today."

Based on URI press release by Elizabeth Rau, Feb. 4, 2013.

Manfredi studies how exercise - especially swimming - makes the heart stronger.

KINESIOLOGY PROFESSOR EARNS MAJOR SWIMMING HONOR

Tom Manfredi, 70-year-old Professor of Kinesiology swam 13 individual events in his 70 to 75 age group during the three-day competition at Harvard University and scored second highest in total points among 450 male swimmers, ranging in age from 17 to 85.

Manfredi swims nearly every day, and when he's training for a competition he swims even more. To prepare for the Masters meet, he swam 12 hours a week and lifted weights four hours a week.

Fitness is part of Manfredi's profes-

sional life too. He studies how exercise - especially swimming - makes the heart stronger. He has found that swimming enlarges the heart in a healthy way, reducing the risk of heart disease, high blood pressure, and heart failure.

For the past several years, Manfredi and other professors and students at URI have been studying the hearts of rats that swim and comparing the findings to rats with diseased hearts. Pharmaceutical companies are paying close attention to the results.

Like all great competitors, Manfredi is



already thinking about his next competition. Next year, he hopes to be the top scorer among men at the New England Masters meet.

Based on URI press release by Elizabeth Rau, May 22, 2013.

INAUGURAL AGING AND HEALTH WEEK

URI Human Development and Families Studies Professor Phillip G. Clark, director of the Program in Gerontology and the Rhode Island Geriatric Education Center, announced a new aging and health initiative during URI's first Aging and Health Week in March.

Guest speakers included Tim Carpenter, a pioneer in new housing models for successful aging called EngAGE,

gave a lecture and Rhode Island Lt. Gov. Elizabeth Roberts and state Department of Health Director Michael Fine took part of a panel that addressed aging issues in the state. Older adults from the community challenged URI students in Wii bowling and trivia games.

Clark said. "New faculty in the social sciences are being hired to work in the

areas of aging and health care policy, aging and health economics and aging and health disparity."

Based on press release by Dave Lavallee, Mar. 12, 2013.





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College of Human Science and Services
Improving Lives Across the Lifespan

With more than 2,400 undergraduate students, 400 graduate students, and six academic departments, the College of Human Science and Services is the second-largest college on campus.

HSS is comprised of the departments of Communicative Disorders; Human Development and Family Studies; Kinesiology; Physical Therapy; School of Education; Textiles, Fashion Merchandising and Design; and Interdisciplinary Studies in Gerontology and Health Studies.

Students study areas as diverse as textile chemistry, exercise science, teacher preparation, speech and hearing, global health, and college student personnel.

They go on to work as designers, physical therapists, teachers, health care employees, and college deans.



DEAN HONORED AS APAW WOMAN OF THE YEAR

Lori Ciccomascolo, Interim Dean of URI's College of Human Science and Services, has been named 2013 Woman of the Year by URI's Association for Professional and Academic Women.

Ciccomascolo says that this award is particularly special. "I'm so grateful to APAW, and to those who nominated me for this award. It means so much to me that this award is from my peers," she said. "I really didn't expect it. You work because you love to work, so to receive this award is humbling."

She says that much of the honor comes from looking at the women who have won previously.

As dean, Ciccomascolo is most proud of promoting the work of the College's faculty. "Human Science and Services is URI's best kept secret," she said. "We have incredible, high-level researchers on

our faculty. They're outstanding teachers who give back to the community."



**Interim Dean Lori Ciccomascolo
named Woman of the Year**
(Photo by Michael Salerno Photography)

The association was created in 1979 at URI in order to ensure that professional women at the University "are accorded just and equal recognition, treatment, and advancement," according to the organization's website. Some of its goals are to support women both collectively and individually, allow for opportunities for URI women to meet and work across departmental, college, and divisional lines, and to host networking receptions for new URI faculty and staff members each fall and winter. In addition, the group has named a Woman of the Year each year since its inception.

At the University Club reception in May, Ciccomascolo dedicated her Woman of the Year award to her mother. "She taught me the importance of advocating for myself and other women," she said. "

Based on URI press release by Dave Lavalley, June 18, 2013