

# CORPORATE AND FOUNDATION PHILANTHROPY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND

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THE  
UNIVERSITY  
OF RHODE ISLAND

A report of the University of Rhode Island Foundation Office of Corporate & Foundation Relations

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# A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

In calendar year 2014, the Office of Corporate & Foundation Relations raised over **\$2.6 million** to support a variety of projects, programs, and initiatives across the University. Another **\$1.7 million** in proposal requests remain pending, with a good portion of that expected to be received in the coming months. We are pleased to report that in 2014, we had a **63% success rate** in terms of the percent of proposals funded from the overall total number of those submitted to corporations and foundations on URI's behalf. This number is up from 60.4% in 2013.

Support from foundations this year come from both RI-based organizations such as the **Rhode Island Foundation**, the **van Beuren Foundation**, the **Champlin Foundations**, and national organizations including the **Rockefeller Foundation**.

We have also helped to increase corporate giving to URI with donations from long-time supporters and partners like **Taco Inc.** and **FM Global** supporting the College of Engineering, as well as from **Alex & Ani**, whose gift will partially support research taking place in the College of Pharmacy. The Chemistry Department also received a tremendous gift in-kind recently from the University's newest corporate partner, **Shimadzu Scientific Instruments**. We hope that you enjoy this report as we look back on 2014.

In addition, I would like to announce that the Office of Corporate & Foundation Relations has recently implemented a Corporate Affiliate Program for both the Graduate School of Oceanography and the College of Pharmacy. This new program provides business leaders valued access and an inside perspective into the groundbreaking research, technology and initiatives taking place at GSO, Pharmacy, and across the University. This program will not only help to connect more companies with URI, but it will also serve to benefit students and faculty.

We hope to make 2015 a record year and exceed our fundraising goals yet again. We believe that the work we do is critical in providing support for essential programs and initiatives that help elevate the reputation of URI, while supporting faculty and students, and enhancing the overall academic experience at the University. We also continue to focus on establishing new foundation relationships and new corporate partnerships through our Corporate & Foundation Relations Office and the Business Engagement Center (BEC) at URI.

We look forward to continuing to meet with administrators, faculty and staff so that we may work together to provide important and impactful opportunities for our students and all of URI. Please reach out to any member of my team if you have questions or would like to know more about what we do and the impact it has on URI.

On behalf of the entire Corporate & Foundation Relations team, I wish you all a happy, healthy and prosperous 2015!



**Katharine Hazard Flynn**

*Director, Corporate and Foundation Relations*

*Executive Director, URI Business Engagement Center*

## 2014 IN REVIEW

- Corporate & Foundation Relations submitted 57 proposals to foundations and corporations. This is up from 48 in 2013.
- Raised over **\$2.6 million** for initiatives and programs across the University.
- **\$1.7 million** in pending requests.
- **63% success rate**—this is up from 60.4% last year.



# GIFT PLEDGES HELP MAKE ENGINEERING COMPLEX A REALITY AFTER PASSAGE OF BOND REFERENDUM

*Rhode Islander voters give a resounding 'yes' to new engineering complex at URI*



*University President David M. Dooley speaks at the 'Yes on 4' campaign launch at Toray Plastics (America) in September.*

**O**n Election Day Rhode Island voters said “yes” to a 21<sup>st</sup> century facility for University of Rhode Island engineering students and faculty and a brighter economic future for the state.

The approval means that about \$8 million in private gift pledges that were contingent on the bond’s passage can now supplement the \$125 million. Among the top pledges was that of FM Global, Rhode Island’s largest private company and one of the world’s largest business property insurers. The Johnston-based company has a long history of collaboration with the University and College of Engineering through internships, employment, and research projects. The company’s \$1 million pledge for the engineering complex marks its largest gift to the University to date.

“The future of Rhode Island is knowledge-based,” said Shivan S. Subramaniam, chairman and CEO of FM Global. “Rhode Island must invest in higher education and encourage public/private partnerships with state schools to create the skilled workforce a knowledge-based economy demands. Investing in URI’s College of Engineering will help grow the supply of much-needed, well-trained engineers

that will benefit our state.”

Also among the top pledges to the engineering complex was the Taco White Family Foundation. Taco also has a more than 20-year-long history of collaboration with the University, and will donate \$300,000 in support of the project. The gift will establish the Taco/White Family Research and Innovation Laboratory, which will enhance innovation through research practices and engagement opportunities with industry. The named learning space will be interactive and cross-disciplinary and will serve to help attract both students and faculty to keep them at URI.

Other top pledges included a \$2 million commitment from Toray Plastics (America), and an anonymous gift of \$2.5 million from a URI alum and corporate leader.

“I offer my deepest thanks to the people of Rhode Island for their continuing commitment to the University of Rhode Island, and our efforts to make Rhode Island an innovation and enterprise leader,” said URI President David M. Dooley.

The College expects to break ground on the new complex within the next year.

*Revised from original article from URI News on November 5, 2014*

# SHIMADZU CORPORATION SIGNS AGREEMENT TO EQUIP NEW CENTER FOR CHEMICAL, FORENSIC SCIENCES

*Global scientific instrument maker to offer instruments at discount, including full service plan*

One of the leading scientific instrument makers in the world, Shimadzu Corporation, will provide the University of Rhode Island's new Center for Chemical and Forensic Sciences, currently under construction on the Kingston campus, with state-of-the-art instruments at a significant discount, including a full 5-year service plan, an in-kind donation valued at more than \$1.2 million.

If the University were to purchase the instruments through normal educational purchase programs, the cost could run up to \$2.8 million. The service plan covers technician visits once each semester to the teaching-learning labs and an additional visit each year to the research laboratories.

Based in Japan, Shimadzu Corp. posted \$3 billion in consolidated net sales in 2013. Its contribution to URI will ensure that the University has cutting edge instruments and the ability to maintain even heavy demand instruments used by thousands of URI students who take chemistry each year.

To celebrate the partnership, University and Shimadzu officials came together for a signing ceremony on September 10, 2014.

"As many Rhode Islanders who supported this project knew, the Center for Chemical and Forensic Sciences is central to the University's efforts to continually strengthen teaching and research and help build a strong economic future for the state based on discovery and innovation," said President David M. Dooley. "When the new building opens, thanks to this generous donation from Shimadzu, our students and faculty will have access to the most advanced laboratory instruments and a program to keep all of them operational. We are fortunate to be able to partner with a company like Shimadzu, which is committed to the success of our University."

"The University of Rhode Island has a dynamic science program focused on the future, and Shimadzu is pleased



*University of Rhode Island President David M. Dooley (left) and Shuzo Maruyama, president of Shimadzu Scientific Instruments (right) prepare to sign the ceremonial agreement between the company and the University.*

and eager to support such a research institution," said Shuzo Maruyama, president of Shimadzu Scientific Instruments (the American subsidiary of Shimadzu Corp.). "We are delighted to have the opportunity to catalyze the potential of this great institution and look forward to working together in the future."

Slated to be completed in the spring of 2016, URI's \$68 million Center for Chemical and Forensic Sciences will serve more than 7,000 URI students who take chemistry each year; about 40 percent of all URI degree programs require at least one chemistry class. It will provide chemistry instruction to approximately 1,400 students each day.

Among the instruments that will be found in the teaching and learning labs are: balances, mass spectrometers, gas chromatographs, spectrometers, and liquid chromatographs.

"I am very grateful to the Shimadzu Corporation for providing the students and faculty the instruments they need to engage in 21st century science," said Winifred Brownell, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. "This center and all of the instruments contained in it will benefit all Rhode Islanders as it serves as a catalyst for economic development and discoveries that will improve peoples' health and well being within our state's borders and around the world."

*Revised from original article from URI News on September 10, 2014*



# ALEX AND ANI DONATES \$1 MILLION TO URI

*Gift will result in the naming of a lab supporting life science research in pharmacy*

A new \$1-million donation to the University of Rhode Island from Alex and Ani, LLC will support natural product research and the discovery of plant-based molecules to improve human well-being. In recognition of the generous gift, the University will name a research lab in the \$75 million, state-of-the-art College of Pharmacy building on the Kingston campus, the Alex and Ani Impact Lab.

“We are excited to have an association with a leading Rhode Island and world-class brand like Alex and Ani,” said URI

President David M. Dooley. “With our faculty, and our undergraduate and graduate students all contributing to ever expanding possibilities for research, innovation and discovery in this lab, we are confident that the internationally recognized work being conducted here will have a positive impact on our university as well as the state’s economy. We are grateful to Alex and Ani for its support of the University of Rhode Island.”

“The University of Rhode Island is one of the crown jewels of our state, as it educates our children, drives local economic development, and conducts ground-breaking research to improve the lives of Rhode Islanders,” said Carolyn Rafaelian, founder, creative director, and CEO of Alex and Ani. “We are honored to be able to support such important initiatives that will positively impact not only the URI students but the people living in our beloved state as well.”

Dooley noted that the gift will name an existing lab operated by Biomedical Sciences Professor David Rowley within the Pharmacy building, a 144,000 square-foot, five-story structure that opened on the Kingston campus in



*Carolyn Rafaelian, founder, creative director, and CEO of Alex and Ani, and David M. Dooley, president of URI, pictured in the College of Pharmacy building, which will house the Alex and Ani Impact Lab.*

September 2012. Built to support pharmaceutical teaching and research, it is the largest academic building at URI and is home to the University’s highly competitive and acclaimed pharmacy program.

“The Alex and Ani gift will enhance the work being done in the lab, such as natural product research and discovery of plant-based molecules for the purpose of improving human health,” according to E. Paul Larrat, interim dean of the College of Pharmacy. It could also support research being translated into products created for commercial use.

“This gift will enhance the capability of the laboratory,” said Rowley, who is now working with Ocean Spray to research the beneficial compounds in cranberries. “This will expand the scope and quality of the research being done here, which will ultimately benefit undergraduate and graduate students.”

“The discoveries made by researching these molecules could have far-reaching effects both at the early discovery phase and at the end use phase, including product usage,” added Larrat.

# RI FOUNDATION AWARDS \$125,000 TO FUND PROJECTS ON SHORELINE PROTECTION, SHELL FISH INDUSTRY

*Rhode Island community foundation supports work of URI Coastal Resources Center*



Source: [crc.uri.edu](http://crc.uri.edu)

The Rhode Island Foundation has awarded \$125,000 in grants to fund work on shoreline protection and the shellfish industry by the Coastal Resources Center (CRC) at the University of Rhode Island's Graduate School of Oceanography. The funds will be administered by the University of Rhode Island Foundation.

"These projects focus on the smart, long-term management and protection of our coastline and our aquatic natural resources. Both initiatives are coordinated, multi-stakeholder approaches that position Rhode Island to prepare for a changing coastline and enhance shellfish resources for the benefit of the state's economy, environment and quality of place," said Jenny Pereira, the Foundation's grants program officer for the Environment sector.

A \$75,000 grant will fund the work on the Rhode Island Shoreline Change Special Area Management Plan (Beach SAMP), which will improve coastal resiliency to erosion and flooding caused by storms or sea level rise by collecting new data and developing effective policies. The project's goal is to identify where and how the shoreline is changing and develop new and improve existing, state shoreline erosion and inundation policies while providing practical guidance for communities adapting to shoreline change.

The remaining \$50,000 will fund the second year of the R.I. Shellfish Management Plan, which will provide comprehensive policy guidance regarding state management and protection measures for shellfish resources, such as bay quahogs and oysters, in state ocean waters. The effort involves multiple state agencies and engages public, private, academic, and community stakeholders in identifying policies and practices that can support government, private, and community efforts to enhance the economic vitality of the shell fishing industry and its ocean-based resources.

The Foundation looked to several pools of funding in making the grants including \$25,000 from the donor-advised Spartina Fund.

"These gifts from the Rhode Island Foundation address the very things people think of when they hear the words Ocean State: the bounty of our waters and the integrity of our coastline," said URI Foundation President Michael J. Smith.

*Revised from original article from URIFoundation.org on October 6, 2014*



# CHAMPLIN FOUNDATIONS AWARD \$421,795 TO URI

*Gift to support STEM initiatives across the University*

The Champlin Foundations have awarded the University of Rhode Island three grants totaling \$421,795 to purchase high-tech equipment to advance education and student learning. The three grants will fund new teaching and research tools for in-vitro testing of pharmaceuticals, advanced characterization of powders, and imaging of nanoscale materials and processes.

The Champlin Foundation's generosity toward URI spans more than 40 years. In 1970, the Foundations made their first donations to the University in the form of a scholarship grant for the College of Pharmacy. Since 1986 they have awarded annual grants to URI totaling more than \$13 million.

"These projects provide our faculty with state-of-the-art technology and facilities that expand opportunities for our students and position the University as a leading institution dedicated to active and engaged student learning," said Mike Smith, president of the URI Foundation. "We are very grateful to the Champlin Foundations for their continued support and investment in our teaching programs, faculty and students."

The three grants are:

***Augmentation of the Good Manufacturing Practice Laboratory with the addition of pharmaceutical in-vitro testing***, \$109,000.

The Good Manufacturing Practice Laboratory at the URI College of Pharmacy provides students with unique industrial experience in understanding the regulatory requirements of the manufacturing and testing of pharmaceutical products. Funds from the grant will be used to purchase in-vitro testing equipment for the evaluation of pharmaceuticals under simulated body conditions, which will enhance student learning in the lab. With the edition of this equipment, URI will be the first university to have an advanced in-vitro testing system coupled with pharmaceutical manufacturing capabilities in a GMP lab, providing students with skills in great demand in the bioscience industry.

*Champlin Foundations funding will be used to purchase new pharmaceutical testing equipment in the Good Manufacturing Practice Laboratory in the URI College of Pharmacy building.*



***Undergraduate training and research for advanced production and characterization of powders***, \$158,500.

The use of powders is of great importance to many industries, from pharmaceuticals and food science to manufacturing and nanotechnology. This grant will fund acquisition of equipment for the advanced production and characterization of powders that will complement existing laboratory equipment and benefit students in a variety of disciplines, especially pharmacy and engineering. It will make URI the only university to provide undergraduate students with access to this technology, and due to the widespread applications of powder technology, students will gain skills that will distinguish them in their field.

***An advanced hyperspectral imaging system to observe nanoscale materials and processes***, \$154,295.

Demand for skilled workers in the nanotechnology field is skyrocketing, and URI is working to meet that need with several courses and student research opportunities for those studying engineering, chemistry and other STEM disciplines. Funds from this grant will be used to purchase a hyperspectral microscope system that will allow students to gain fundamental insight into nanoscale materials, systems and processes with minimal time and training. The equipment can be used with ease in classroom and laboratories throughout campus, enabling new approaches to undergraduate education in many disciplines and making students more competitive for employment.

# ABOUT US

Philanthropic support from corporations & foundations takes many forms, including gifts for endowment, faculty support, facility construction, scholarships and fellowships, research, public outreach, internships, sponsorships, technology transfer, diversity programming, and access to education for under-served audiences.

As a major office within the URI Foundation, the Corporate & Foundation Relations staff offers expertise and guidance to members of the University community in funding strategies, prospect identification, proposal review, editing and writing, and in building relationships with corporations and foundations. We promote the development of interdisciplinary partnerships and help coordinate an effective, University-wide approach to corporate and foundation donors and prospects.

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This **URI Corporate & Foundation Relations Report** is a bi-annual report to showcase corporate and foundation philanthropy at the University of Rhode Island made through the URI Foundation office. This report is a compilation of news releases produced at the time that the gifts were made.

To receive weekly updates about available grant opportunities, please send an email to [kmcgwin@uri.edu](mailto:kmcgwin@uri.edu).

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