Excellence Awards

Annually, the URI Foundation presents four awards to most deserving individuals as a means of recognizing and encouraging those persons who contribute to excellence while at the University of Rhode Island. The process is initiated with a campus-wide call for nominations from which the finalists are chosen. Considerable campus-wide attention in the *5 Cent Cigar*, on *WRIU* and on *URITV*, as well as placing posters around campus and in the dorms provided for a healthy nominating process. This year we were particularly active in obtaining increased nominations. All nominees are carefully screened by committees of their peers—each committee includes four previous winners and one junior, senior, or graduate-level student.

Administrative Excellence Award
Eileen M. Tierney
Curator
Media Resource Center

Scholarly Excellence Award
Judith M. Swift
Professor
Fine Arts Center

Staff Excellence Award
Kim A. Bissonnette
Athletic Therapist
Keaney Gym

Teaching Excellence Award
Alain-Philippe Durand
Professor
Languages

For the sixth year running, the Foundation sponsored a recognition tea (at the University Club on January 15th) to recognize previous year's winners and heighten awareness of the selection process for 2002. Once again, this year's recipients were invited to march at Commencement. In addition, they are recognized each fall at Convocation where they receive a $1,000 check, a citation, and a recognition pin. These awards continue to be a source of great pride to the winners and are highly coveted. The awards focus attention on the Foundation and its many contributions to the University.

Winners are also invited to a post-Convocation reception and celebration at the President's house. Plaques listing all the past winners are currently displayed in the lobby of the URI University Club.

We are delighted to carry this very important tradition forward once again for another year. The program continues to offer significant benefits for both University employees and the Foundation.

Excellence Awards Committee: James A. Hopkins, Chair; Caroline T. Kaull, ex officio. Robert C. Coleman, Joy A. Lewis, Staff.

Competitive Grants Committee

The Competitive Grants Committee has awarded almost $1.3 million to deserving projects since 1982. Competition for these awards is traditionally very keen and requests continue to far outnumber available support. Once again, this past year was no exception, as 65 applicants requested more than $198,703 from the Foundation's Competitive Grants Committee via its three funding cycles.

Competitive Grants

	Number of Applicants	Amount Requested	Number of Recipients	Amount Awarded
Spring	17	$68,948	12	$38,639
Fall	23	$83,587	14	$31,885

Faculty Assistance Fund

	Number of Applicants	Amount Requested	Number of Recipients	Amount Awarded
Winter	25	$46,168	13	$20,700

Competitive grants are carefully designed to improve the classroom and educational experiences of students at the University, while Faculty Assistance Funds are intended to enhance both scholarly and research activities of individual faculty members. For the seventh consecutive year, $100,000 was made available by the Foundation for distribution to worthy projects and individuals. Members of the faculty and administration depend heavily upon the Competitive Grants Committee support. We anticipate that our fiscal 2003 budget will once again honor worthy requests amounting to $100,000.

Also, well deserved recognition to Provost M. Beverly Swan and members of the University Grants Advisory Committee who provide invaluable insight, advice and lively commentary to our committee deliberations.

Competitive Grants Committee: Mary F. Carmody, Chair; William Croasdale Jr., James E. Hitchen, Evelyn S. Kennedy, Mark H. Mainelli, Nancy A. Potter, Mary A. Ravin, Mary Ellen Wilson, Caroline T. Kaull, ex officio. Robert C. Coleman, Donna M. Judevine, Staff.

Annual URI Foundation Ball

More than 400 guests were treated to *"Dancing through the Decades"* at the 23rd Annual URI Foundation Ball held at Rhodes on the Pawtuxet in Cranston, Rhode Island on 11 May 2002. As has been our practice these past six years, the URI Foundation Ball highlighted "The Best and the Brightest," in support of academic excellence at the University of Rhode Island. The black tie optional evening began at 7:00 PM with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, followed by dinner and dancing to the ever so lively music of Steve Anthony & Persuasion. This year's guests enjoyed a very special treat—the URI Ballroom Dancing Club performed everything from the Charleston, Tango, and Waltz to the latest Hip-Hop during intermission. We all appreciated this demonstration and the night's activities only got better!

Foundation President Caroline T. Kaull acknowledged the many Patrons, Sponsors, Donors and Table Hosts, as well as members of the Ball Committee. Kathleen Yanity Duffy and Dennis Duffy & Mary and Manny Vales were singled out for their very special efforts as chairpersons. "Scholarship support for academic excellence will receive more than $35,000 from Ball proceeds," Caroline T. Kaull said. "This continued growth serves to increase contributions available to fund academic excellence on campus, absolutely necessary for the future of our outstanding student population."

President Carothers thanked those in attendance for their generous support of the University and in particular, their support of academic excellence at the University of Rhode Island. "This year the University will receive over $2.5 million dollars in endowment support, more than $1 million in income from patents, trademarks, and royalties, and contributions to University programs of more than $700,000, of which $450,000 is in direct support of the Advancement Team fund raising activities," Carothers said. "URI is indeed very fortunate to have the Foundation play such an active and supportive role in support of our mission."

The black tie optional reception and dinner dance was planned by a 22-member committee, which began its work last fall.

Ball Committee: Dennis J. Duffy, Kathleen Yanity Duffy, Manuel J. Vales IV, Mary L. Vales, Chairs; Gerri W. Beagle, Keb & Linda Brackenbury, Robert C. Coleman, Steven & Sharon DeLuca, Michelle & Alan Fonseca, Mary A. Gray, Mark & Donna Haskins, Ruth Jarrett, Donna M. Judevine, Ken & Marianne Holmes Knox, Peter & Sandra Miniati. Caroline T. Kaull, ex officio.

Our sincere thanks to our many generous supporters:

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SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Design of the postcard, invitation, and program courtesy of Images Design Inc.

Printing of postcards, invitations, and programs donated by Mike Christopher of E. A. Johnson Company.

Ball Favor, the Best and the Brightest pin, contributed by Kenneth E. Knox, Harbour Point Financial Group, and Robert W. Halstead, Parker Manufacturing.

Door Prize: Two complimentary tickets to any North American destination courtesy of [illegible]