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## **The Arts at URI Benefit from Several Key Gifts Totaling \$225,000**

KINGSTON, R.I. – May 5, 2008--Several University of Rhode Island alumni and friends who strongly value the importance of the arts have chosen to support programming in the Departments of Music and Theatre offered through the URI College of Arts & Sciences. Their recent combined donations and pledges total \$225,000 and are part of URI's *Making A Difference* capital campaign.

Sebastian and Marybelle Musco, California residents and supporters and friends of the university, recently donated \$100,000 as a gift to the URI Music Department. Their generous gift designates \$10,000 for the Musco Opera Workshop, \$15,000 to the Musco Voice Scholarship, and the balance of \$75,000 to establish the new Musco Endowment in Music, which will provide scholarships to students majoring in Music, and will help purchase instruments and music, and support student concerts. Sab Musco, a Rhode Island native and CEO of Gemini Industries who received an Honorary Doctorate from URI last year, said, "We gave this gift because we believe that music truly impacts everyone." He added, "I am also proud to honor, through this gift, my dearest friend and former University of Rhode Island Regent Dr. Richard Zorabedian." The late Dick Zorabedian, URI class of '65, Hon. Ph.D., '80, was Sab's best friend growing up in Providence, and they remained life-long friends.

G. Dickson and Virginia "Ginny" Stiles Kenney '49, donated \$100,000 to create the Kenney Endowment for Theater and Music. This generous endowment established by this Rhode Island couple will support student scholarships and student productions in Theater and Music including costs associated with costumes, scenery, visiting artists' fees, repair and purchase of instruments, publicity and other related expenses. Ginny Kenney, a former

member of the College of Arts & Sciences Dean's External Advisory Council, said, "My husband and I have a long-standing commitment to the University and have endowed a scholarship in chemistry which was my field of study when I was at URI. Music is also very important to our family; our son has always enjoyed playing the guitar and piano and our granddaughter is a professional bassoonist. We are glad to be able to help and support students who are working hard, and sometimes struggling, to develop their talents and to perhaps make a career in music or the theater."

Anthony Perrotti, '62, who received a Bachelor of Science degree from the College of Arts & Sciences, recently pledged \$25,000 to establish an endowment to support the Department of Music. The President of RI Analytical Laboratories, Inc., he is a Rhode Island resident and is a current member of the College of Arts & Sciences Dean's External Advisory Council. A valued supporter of arts programming at URI for several years, Perrotti said, "URI is a tremendous asset and resource to the state of Rhode Island. I believe that all Rhode Islanders, whether directly or indirectly, benefit from the outstanding work done at the University and I am proud to show my support through my gift to the College of Arts & Sciences."

Winnie Brownell, Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences added, "We deeply appreciate that these generous alumni and friends value the importance of the arts in our lives. The Muscos, Kenneys, and Anthony Perrotti have had the opportunity to attend some of the outstanding performances by our faculty, students, and guest artists, and understand how critical it is to prepare the next generation artists. Thanks to their leadership support, we will be able to strengthen our programs in Music and Theatre, enhance our public programming in the performing arts, and offer more opportunities to our students majoring in Music and Theatre."

*URI's Making a Difference Campaign seeks \$100 million to recruit and retain outstanding faculty, enhance the student-centered campus experience, provide undergraduate scholarships and graduate fellowships, and fund cutting-edge academic and research initiatives. Anyone interested in supporting the Arts at URI should contact Thomas Zorabedian, Associate Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences, at 401.874.2853. For more information on the Making A Difference campaign click on <http://www.urifoundation.org/>*

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