

## WHERE ARE THEY NOW? 20 @ WITH COURTNEY MCKENNA AND ROSIE LALLI



(Courtney/Rosie pictured left to right)

*Every spring*, a few dozen undergraduates leave the University of Rhode Island with a minor in Leadership Studies. Where do they go? What are they doing now? Our names are Courtney McKenna and Rosie Lalli, we graduated in May 2005 and we just wanted to drop in and say hi! We are loving life and pursuing our passion in the College Student Personnel Program here at URI.

Hopefully, the following interview will give you some insight into life after graduation, and you may even find some helpful advice!

*Little pearls of wisdom from two Rhody alumnae.*

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*Q1 Rosie: What is your full name my dear?*

**Courtney:** C'mon Rosie, you know this, Courtney Lynn McKenna.

*Q2 Rosie: Since we are getting older and older, and less and less undergraduate students in the leadership program know us, please share a bit about yourself.*

**Courtney:** Well I was born and raised in Rhode Island; the product of two wonderful parents who instilled a strong work ethic that I am now very thankful for and who showed me that work and play are both integral aspects to a happy life. Lately it's been more work than play, but I'm not complaining! I love the arts, and am passionate about various social justice and human rights issues as well as environmental issues, all which could take this interview in a MUCH different direction. (Laughs).

*Q3 Rosie: Where do you call home?*

**Courtney:** Home-home is Hope, Rhode Island, but I am currently living at my old sorority house on campus as a House Director.

*Q4 Rosie: What was your undergraduate major?*

**Courtney:** My varied path to choosing a major included such brief destinations as Art, Art History, and Interior Design, (again, you see my passion for the arts coming through here) but my ultimate ending point was a double major in Communication Studies and French, with completion of the Honors Program and (of course) the Leadership Studies Minor.

*Q5 Rosie: So now, what are you up to? Tell us about your masters program and assistantship!*

**Courtney:** My involvement in various programs like URI 101 Mentors, Varsity Cheerleading, Leadership Institute Small Group Leader and Co-Coordinator, Greek Life, and Orientation among many, ultimately opened my eyes to the opportunity of the College Student Personnel (CSP) Masters Program where I am currently working as a Graduate Assistant in University College as an Academic Advisor to Undeclared students. I love it. The faculty in the program are amazing, and the combination of required courses, electives, and capstone options have really allowed me to customize an amazing program for myself.

*Q6 Rosie: I hear you absolutely love your current internship! Where is it and what have you been doing?*

**Courtney:** I do! I am working at Brown University's Student Activities Office. I get to work with amazing people who are all passionate about empowering students to create safe and successful lectures, performances, and social functions. Some of my responsibilities include advising students and student groups, co-facilitating a weekly training on responsible event management, creating event management plans with some of the program and greek houses. I've even worked some of the weekend evening event manager shifts where I go around to all the events and work with the student event coordinators to make sure things are going smoothly.

*Q7 Rosie: How does your program of study now reflect who you were in your undergrad years? What did you bring with you?*

**Courtney:** As I mentioned a little earlier, my undergraduate years at URI were jam packed with different curricular and co-curricular activities. These experiences helped me to shift nicely into the field of student affairs. Honestly, I didn't know that a formal program like CSP existed prior to my senior year [of college] and was so excited when I had the *light bulb moment* and realized that I could help students to have great experiences and opportunities similar to the ones that I had while in school. To answer your question, I brought it ALL with me. And while I came in with a great deal of knowledge, I continue to learn new things everyday.

# I n s p i r e



(White Water Rafting at the New England Outdoor Center in Maine. Rosie is second in from the right and Courtney is the fourth from the right.)

**Q8 Rosie:** Think back now, what was your favorite aspect of the Leadership minor program?

**Courtney:** I think my favorite part, looking back now, was the delicate balance of challenge and support that seemed to be engrained in every aspect of the program. From classes, to other various leadership opportunities like the Challenge Courses, to the [First Year] Leadership Institute, to the senior expedition... nothing was easy, yet, at the same time, nothing felt out of my reach. The staff was another aspect of the program that will always be a fond memory for me. They were and continue to be some of the most influential role models of my college career

**Q9 Rosie:** Do you have any advice for the undergrads currently in the minor?

**Courtney:** Oh yes! I remember us senior year working feverishly together at my house organizing and constructing our portfolios? I would recommend to all students in the portfolio class to start constructing them sooner rather than later. Students in the minor are so involved and dedicated to the things that they are a part of, that it is hard to realize sometimes HOW MUCH you have actually done. Organizing all of those things into a comprehensive portfolio is not easy, not to mention time consuming!

**Q10 Rosie:** With all this said, where do you picture yourself in 10 minutes? 10 months? 10 years?

**Courtney:** In ten minutes I will be grabbing a coffee if you'd like to join, in 10 months I will be in my first full-time student affairs related position (location = anywhere in the world) in a student leadership/new student programs related department, and in 10 years, well, you'll need to give me some more time on that one!

## Let's Switch It Up!

**Q11 Courtney:** Okay, I am going to copy your first question, full name?

**Rosie:** Haha, Rosanna Lynn Lalli. There are a whole lotta ladies with "Lynn" in their middle name in our age group.

**Q12 Courtney:** If you were to describe yourself in three words, what would they be?

**Rosie:** Such a tough question...let me reflect...you leadership minors know all about reflection! I would choose-ambitious, compassionate, and creative. Haha, or I could say "I'm an ENFJ." (Myers Briggs Personality Indicator)

**Q13 Courtney:** What have you been doing since we graduated in May 2005?

**Rosie:** I graduated with my degree in Coastal and Marine Policy and Management and following graduation, I worked in the URI College of the Environment and Life Sciences (CELS) with students also pursuing their passion for sciences. In CELS, I worked in the Office of Student Affairs planning and evaluating recruitment and retention programs for the College, assisting in the coordination of the Coastal Fellows Program, academic advising for undecided CELS students, and all sorts of fun stuff. It was rewarding to be able to help students through their experiential learning experiences, academic endeavors, and personal triumphs or difficulties.

I truly believe that one needs to balance their passions, so I also began working on the side at "You've Got to be Beading" a create-your-own jewelry and bead shop in Mystic, CT. So awesome to be surrounded by incredible artists and designers and teach side-by-side with them! Court, you need to come visit! You too leadership minors!

**Q14 Courtney:** When did you know that you wanted to begin the CSP Program?

**Rosie:** (Bows her head) While you knew right from the start that CSP was the route for you, it took me a bit longer to realize that this was where I wanted to be. In my mind, going to law school for maritime law made sense to me, yet, what really energized me was students!! So much of what I did in my undergrad years revolved around the leadership development of students, coordinating events on campus, and helping peers realize their potential. Deep down I always knew that CSP was in my heart, I just needed to stop thinking so hard and just do it!!! Essentially, I am really grateful that I took off a year to explore and find myself a bit more.

**Q15 Courtney:** What are you doing for your assistantship and for your practicum?!

**Rosie:** I have a fantastic assistantship! I am a GA for the College of Business Administration and I work predominantly with the Business URI 101 Mentors. Not only do I have the support from the College of Business, but I am housed and work directly with the Office of Internships and Experiential Education in University College. A great combo! Fantastic mentors!

And oh my goodness, I am so excited, this spring semester I will be doing my practicum (10-hour/wk experience) at the US Coast Guard Academy! I will be assisting in the development of their Institute for Leadership as well as working with their cadets through teambuilding efforts.

**Q16 Courtney:** *How was your engagement in the [Leadership Studies] Minor affect your undergraduate career here at URI?*

**Rosie:** The minor created a support group of individuals I respected and trusted. Being side by side with devoted and spirited individuals always gave me energy (not to mention kept my sanity).

**Q17 Courtney:** *What was your fondest memory of the [Leadership Studies] Minor?*

**Rosie:** Without a doubt, my fondest memory was the white water rafting trip! It was absolutely the perfect way to bring our undergraduate experience to a close. Granted, I have never been so cold in my life...the water temperature was around 35 and the air temperature was not much better, but we laughed a lot, reminisced, and enjoyed each other's company. I heard it was a lot warmer and sunnier last year and I'm jealous!

**Q18 Courtney:** *How has completion of the [Leadership Studies] minor contributed to where you are today?*

**Rosie:** The entire process, meeting all of the requirements, proved to be very beneficial in gaining valuable leadership skills. There were so many opportunities to put into practice what we learned in the classroom. As a result of my experiences, I am a better communicator, a better facilitator, and more aware of my own strengths and weaknesses. Through this minor, I took advantage of the network of people involved who really opened my eyes to the world outside of the University.

**Q19 Courtney:** *What advice would you give to students in the minor?*

**Rosie:** Well Court, you hit the nail on the head- Keep everything you have ever done, you will need it in your portfolio or your journal! And don't forget to take advantage of the opportunities for you to practice what is being preached, from reflection to facilitation, to finding your style of leadership.

And on a more personal note, I want you all to take care of yourselves! Eat right, get enough sleep, and find time for you! You are caring, ambitious, extremely involved individuals that go above and beyond what is expected of you, for your organizations, your friends, your greek houses, etc. Take care of you!

**Q20 Courtney:** *Ok, now your turn; where do you see yourself in 10 minutes, 10 months, 10 years... go!*

**Rosie:** I'll take you up on the offer – I could go for some peppermint tea! In 10 months, I will be in my third semester of the CSP program and in 10 years, I can only hope for happiness. I see myself as a wife and a mom, an artist, and a student affairs professional somewhere in New England....we'll see! In 10 years, maybe we should come back and do this again!

There's a very good chance we may have you in class in the future or you may see us around campus or in University College! If you need us at anytime, please feel free to contact us! Rosie can be reached at [rlalli@mail.uri.edu](mailto:rlalli@mail.uri.edu) or 401-874-4038 and Courtney can be reached at [cmckenna@mail.uri.edu](mailto:cmckenna@mail.uri.edu) or 401-874-2963. Good luck with the minor!!!

*Congratulations  
Courtney McKenna*

**For receiving the  
NASPA 2006 Region I**

**Outstanding Graduate  
Student Award !**



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## Announcing the Center of Student Leadership Development's new Practicum Student for the Spring 2007 Semester!

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### Stacey Bush

Stacey Bush is a native Rhode Islander and a 2005 graduate of URI, with degrees in History and Anthropology. In addition to her academic pursuits, she also participated in many student activities including Student Senate, the Women's Rugby Club, Zeta Epsilon Tau Alpha, and the Resident Assistant Board of Advisors. The valuable skills and experiences that Stacey gained through these organizations helped her realize that she wanted to help create meaningful experiences for college students.



Currently, Stacey is in her third semester working towards a Master's degree in College Student Personnel. She is working with the Office of Greek Affairs through her assistantship, helping fraternities and sororities avoid the dangers of alcohol abuse. In addition, she is also a member of the Student Life Student Learning Outcomes Committee, as well as the alumni advisor for Zeta Epsilon Tau Alpha.

In her spare time Stacey enjoys reading, cooking, spending time with her family and playing with her six nieces and nephews. She is very much looking forward to completing her practicum with the Center for Student Leadership Development.

### Tripp Hutchinson

Hello fellow leaders! My name is Tripp Hutchinson and I'm currently a graduate student in the College Student Personnel Program. For Spring Semester 2007, I'm excited to be involved in a practicum that allows me to work with the staff of the Center for Student Leadership Development. Originally from Connecticut, I spent my formative years learning about leadership through a variety of youth programs. I especially enjoyed early scout summer camp experiences and eventually became a camp counselor for many summers extending well into (and even beyond) college. My undergraduate years of school were spent studying social sciences and music at Keene State College in Keene, NH, where I also worked as a student leader by serving as a Resident Assistant. It was through those combined experiences that I truly developed an appreciation and passion for working with diverse groups of people.



I love the outdoors and appreciate all sorts of outdoor activities including running, hiking and camping. I also enjoy volunteering, and I've been fortunate to participate in several leadership experiences with Habitat for Humanity. One experience brought me all the way to Guatemala! Over the last eight years, I worked full time as a Residence Hall Director for both Roger Williams University and Keene State College.

This year, I decided to attend graduate school full time, working part time as a Graduate Assistant Hall Director for the Department of Housing and Residential Life. I look forward to meeting you, sharing with you, and learning from you!

## We are looking for a Asst. Challenge Course Student Manager !!!!

*Do you love the outdoors and adventure?*

*Do you find desk jobs a bore? - And do you love working with people?*

If you can answer **YES** to these questions becoming the next challenge course manager might be the job for you!



The Asst. Course manager will provide leadership training and adventure programming, while serving as a resource to various organizations. The Asst. manager will maintain a master calendar of challenge course programs being implemented and the course itself, including lands and grounds. Extensive outdoor leadership experience required. Must be physically able to climb and to accomplish heavy lifting, brush cutting, mulching, and earth moving, etc. Applicants must be currently enrolled as a URI undergraduate or graduate student.

Compensation -\$ 10 per hour/ 10 Hours per week

**Contact:** Melissa Boyd-Colvin for a detailed job description  
[mboyd@uri.edu](mailto:mboyd@uri.edu) | 401-874-5282

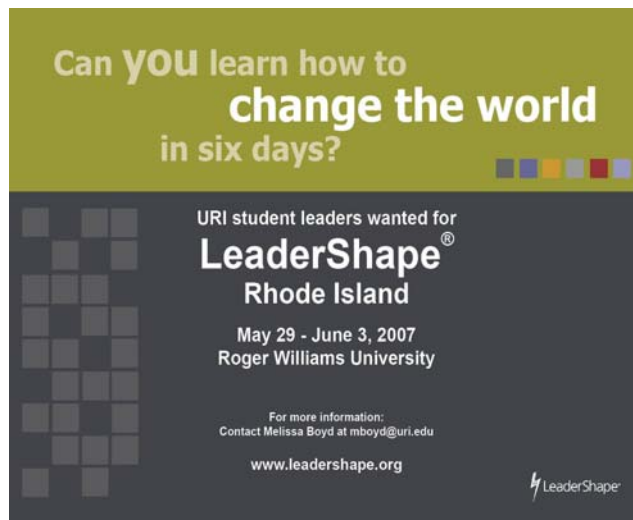
**Leadership Professional Development Day**  
**Saturday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2007**  
**12:30pm-8:00 pm**  
**University Club**



**Featuring: Ms. Teresa Brown, keynote speaker, for the Professional Etiquette Dinner**

Juniors and Seniors: Don't miss on this incredible opportunity to build and refine your leadership resume. The Center for Student Leadership is proud to offer this opportunity for you to learn to highlight your leadership experiences; both inside and outside of the classroom, in order to help you successfully take your first steps into your chosen field. In addition, you'll get personal feedback on your resume and cover letter, participate in a mock interview, network with peers and professionals, and learn the essentials of business etiquette at the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Professional Etiquette Dinner.

There is no cost for this event, however space is limited. Please RSVP by January 29<sup>th</sup> to Tina Neil at [cneil@mail.uri.edu](mailto:cneil@mail.uri.edu) or call 874-2726 in order to secure a space at this year's event. **Please note:** Participants are expected to wear business attire and to bring a current copy of their resume to the event.



**Application Deadline is February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2007 - Cost: \$300 per student.**

## **Upcoming Dates – Mark your calendars!**

- January 22nd: Classes Begin**
- January 23rd: FLITE Reception
- February 3rd: Leadership Professional Development Day
- February 10th: FLITE Retreat and Modern Leadership Class Retreat
- March 19th-23rd: Spring Break**
- March 28, 2007: Rose Butler Browne – Women of Color Conference
- April 10th: Rainville Awards
- April 15th-20th: Spring Fest**
- April 22nd: Senior Induction & Portfolio Review
- April 27th-29th: Senior Expedition
- April 30th: Classes end**

