Alumni Updates

- **Globetrotter event almost sold out** Get your tickets now for the Harlem Globetrotters-Washington Generals event at the Ryan Center on **March 23**, which will include great pre-game activities, including dinner, meet-and-greet with the players, raffles, and Globetrotter U. Pre-game events at 5 p.m., followed by the game at 7 p.m. $30 per person. Register online or contact Gina Dei at 401-874-5808 or gmdei@advance.uri.edu.

- **URI debuts on Peace Corps annual top 25 ranking** The Peace Corps has taken notice of the increasing number of URI alumni volunteers, ranking the University 23rd in the Peace Corps' top 25 list for medium-sized schools. Since the Peace Corps' inception in 1960, 354 URI alumni have served as volunteers.

- **Chat news** Coming up on **February 28** is our Web chat with marine explorer and University of Rhode Island Professor of Oceanography **Bob Ballard Ph.D. ’75**. You can also read the transcript of our recent chat with U.S. Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations/Low Intensity Conflict **Thomas O’Connell ’68**.

- **A-10 travel packages** Join alumni, family, and friends for a trip to Atlantic City! The University of Rhode Island invites you to the 2007 Atlantic-10 Men's Basketball Championship on **March 7-10**, at Boardwalk Hall in Atlantic City. Learn

University News & Events

- **URI pharmacy grad honors mentor, helps students with $100,000 pledge** Paul Hastings ’84, president and CEO of OncoMed Pharmaceuticals, Redwood City, Calif., has made a 10-year, $100,000 pledge to bolster an existing pharmacy scholarship fund named after one of his favorite professors. His pledge to the Norman A. and Mary Campbell Scholarship will help support students who demonstrate academic proficiency and leadership in pharmacy student organizations. When the Campbell Scholarship fund was established in 2001, Hastings made a $15,000 donation. The gift is part of the University's "Making a Difference" campaign, a $100 million private fund drive to build the University's endowment. [More...](http://advance.uri.edu/inadvance/default.htm (1 of 2)2/28/07 1:47 PM)

- **Congressman Kennedy helps kick off school garden campaign** Congressman Patrick Kennedy (D-RI) recently joined local students and members of the Rhode Island Center for Agriculture Promotion & Education (RICAPE) to help plant seeds for "Campaign 2010: A Garden at Every School." The four-year initiative will provide Rhode Islanders an opportunity to learn valuable lessons while building the foundation for a garden at every school and youth organization in the state. The program is a collaboration between RICAPE, the URI College of the Environment and Life Sciences, and the Rhode Island Nursery and Landscape Association. The Children's Garden Network Team from RICAPE and URI will coordinate the campaign. [More...](http://advance.uri.edu/inadvance/default.htm (1 of 2)2/28/07 1:47 PM)

- **Student's veggie-powered car drives home environmental point** When sophomore Nick Russell needs fuel, he drives his 1985 Mercedes past gas stations and stops at the Two Little Fish restaurant in Westerly, where he fills a 50-gallon plastic drum with free, discarded soybean oil. "We have to preserve the planet. Vegetable oil is free. It doesn't pollute the environment or burn carbons, which raises the global temperature and it's clean," says Russell, a member of the Renewable Energy Club on campus. [More...](http://advance.uri.edu/inadvance/default.htm (1 of 2)2/28/07 1:47 PM)

- **Students, faculty celebrate opening of West Side Suites** This week, residents of the new URI West Side Suites celebrated the opening of the residence hall along with faculty, staff and administrators. This is the second of three new residence halls to be opened this academic year. At the North Woods Complex, Building A opened in the fall with Building B set to open in late spring. When Building B opens, the University will have added 800 beds of new housing on the Kingston Campus at a cost of $74 million. The three buildings are the first new residence halls since 1971. [More...](http://advance.uri.edu/inadvance/default.htm (1 of 2)2/28/07 1:47 PM)

- **URI begins search process for new director of athletics** President Robert L. Carothers has announced the appointment of a search committee for the position of URI director of athletics. "I am pleased that nine outstanding members of the University community have agreed to serve on the search committee," Carothers said.
about great travel packages, or contact Gina Dei at gmdei@advance.uri.edu or 401-874-5808 for details.

At the chapters The Southern California Chapter will take to the seas for a dolphin and whale-watching excursion on February 24. Phi Kappa Psi will hold its annual Founder’s Day Dinner on March 16, and on March 24, the Southwest Florida Gators will hold their popular Steak Out. What's your chapter up to?

Going once, going twice The Rhode Island Rams Athletic Association is sponsoring the 12th Annual URI Athletics Auction to benefit student-athletes. Find out more about the great items in this year's auction and how to participate. Questions? Call 401-874-2389.

Save the date Family Camp will be held July 27-29. Schedule of events and online registration will be available soon.

Soccer standout Jeffrey Gonsalves drafted By Toronto Rhode Island men's soccer standout Jeffrey Gonsalves of Markham, Ontario, was selected in the fourth round of the 2007 MLS SuperDraft, held Jan. 12 in Indianapolis, Ind. Gonsalves was picked 40th overall by the Toronto FC, which will kick off its inaugural season in 2007. "Playing professionally is something you always dream about as a kid," said the URI senior. "But being able to play at home, in front of your family and friends, makes it that much more special." More...

On the calendar The Princely Players Gospel Choir will perform on February 23 at the URI Fine Arts Center. Three URI music ensembles will perform in concerts on February 24 and 25. A lecture by artist Holly Laws will be held on February 28 at the URI Fine Arts Center. On February 21, the College of Engineering's Risica Endowed Lecture Series in Engineering Entrepreneurship will feature Bruce Wigton, founder of American Biophysics and inventor of the Mosquito Magnet. The URI Theatre Department's production of Buried Child will begin its run on February 22. The URI Providence Campus will an host a biotechnology manufacturing program open house on February 22 and March 15. Applications for the 2007 "Piano Extravaganza!" Festival Piano Competition for young pianists on March 11 must be postmarked by March 1. See what's happening at the Ryan Center. More...

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