Alumni Updates

A perfect evening at the ballpark Register now to attend this year's Pride in URI Night at McCoy Stadium on August 21. Cheer on the PawSox as they take on Syracuse, enjoy an all-you-can-eat barbecue, meet players, Rhody the Ram, and Paws. Don't miss this great annual summertime event.

University News & Events

URI launches new program in pharmaceutical engineering This fall, the University will offer one of the nation's first undergraduate programs in pharmaceutical engineering. "URI is one of the few universities in the country to offer both a pharmacy program and an engineering program, which has enabled us to create this new track within our chemical engineering major," said Professor Arijit Bose, chair of the department of chemical engineering. The program will be launched with the support of a $75,000 gift from Fougera, a New York-based specialty pharmaceutical company whose chief executive officer, Paul McGarty, is a URI alumnus.

University researchers observe reversal of Narragansett Bay nitrogen cycle Estuaries have long been considered nitrogen "sinks" or filters, whereby bacteria in the sediments remove substantial quantities of nitrogen through a process called denitrification. But a new study in Narragansett Bay by URI researchers, published this week in the journal Nature, has revealed a surprising reversal in the nitrogen cycle. Instead of removing nitrogen, the sediments have become a source of nitrogen through a bacterial process called nitrogen fixation.

Pharmacy and textile majors can now double-major in French URI pharmacy students and those majoring in textiles, fashion merchandising, and design now have the opportunity to simultaneously earn degrees in French. French is one of the fastest growing majors - if not the fastest - at URI. There were 30 French majors in 1999, and today there are 128. Most students double or triple major.

RIDOC names Ginette Ferszt 2007 RI Volunteer of the Year URI Associate Professor of Nursing Ginette Ferszt has been named the Russell E. Dixon Volunteer of the Year by the Rhode Island Department of Corrections. Ferszt, coordinator of the graduate program in psychiatric mental health nursing at the University, has volunteered as a counselor at the women's facilities since 1998. She was invited to bring her experience as a bereavement therapist to the female prison population and was so compelled and transformed by what she learned that she never left.

Education honor society receives international award The international education honor society, Kappa Delta Pi, will award its highest honor this fall to URI's Iota Sigma chapter. The international Achieving Chapter Excellence (ACE) Award will recognize the URI chapter for its contributions to Habitat for Humanity and Saint Jude's Children's Hospital, partnerships with inner-city schools, annual book and clothing drives for resources given to children's shelters, educational scholarships, and support of honors programming.

Alumni Chapter Leader Weekend coming up Our 2007 AAR & Chapter Leader Weekend will be held August 3 and 4 on the Kingston Campus! For more information, contact Kristal L. Cardone '99 at Kristal@uri.edu or 401-874-4536.

Homecoming 2007 Save the date for Homecoming 2007, held October 12-13. Plans are underway for a special, event-filled weekend that includes fireworks, the seventh annual Homecoming 5K, and Rhodyville, our first ever alumni tent village, and more.

Cherry Arnold discusses Buddy
Filmmaker and director Cherry Arnold ’87 will answer questions about her recently released film, Buddy, during an online chat on Tuesday, July 24 at 1 p.m. EST. Buddy documents the rise and fall of America's most notorious mayor.

**At the chapters** The New Jersey Alumni Chapter will host its annual Welcome Freshmen Picnic on August 7, and on August 23 the Chicago Alumni Chapter will head to the ballpark for a White Sox-Red Sox game and a pre-game party. Northern California Chapter members will gather on September 15 for their 12th annual San Mateo clambake. Find out more and see what your chapter has planned!

**On the calendar** The URI Feinstein Providence Campus presents "Origins," the first of a series of innovative individual and collective window installations by URI art professors, now through August 17. At the Ryan Center: Two performances of the Wiggles on August 7. An Evening of Comedy with Bill Cosby on November 3 will be featured as a part of this year’s URI Family Weekend, November 2-4. More...

**URI couple remember alma mater with bequest** Theodore “Ted” Clarke ’40 had a fierce loyalty to URI. A lifelong supporter, he served as president of the Alumni Association and the Century Club. When he died last year at 89, he didn't forget his beloved alma mater. He left an additional $116,000 to be added to an existing endowment he established with his wife, the late Elizabeth H. Clarke ’40. Seventy percent of the endowment income provides discretionary funds for the director of athletics and 30 percent supports the URI Library. The gift is part of URI's Making A Difference campaign. More...

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