Alumni Updates

▶ Don't miss the party
The University of Rhode Island is celebrating! A special evening on October 13 at the Providence Westin Hotel will honor this year's winners of the University's Distinguished Achievement Awards and Dean's List Awards, and will kick off of the public phase of the URI Making a Difference campaign. We hope you will join us for this special evening for the University of Rhode Island. It's going to be a great party!

▶ Christiane Amanpour chat
Coming up on October 16 at 11 a.m. EST is our Web chat with CNN international correspondent Christiane Amanpour '83. Our online chat series, now in its fourth year, will feature URI Athletic Director Thorn Bjorn on November 6 and URI Men's Basketball Coach Jim Baron on November 19.

▶ 2nd annual Legacy Reception
All legacies (students or alumni with a parent, grandparent, or sibling who is a URI graduate) and their families are invited to attend a special dessert buffet on November 3 prior to the Bill Cosby show at the Ryan Center during URI Family Weekend. The Legacy Reception is hosted by the Alumni Association. Register now by contacting Gina Dei Simonelli at 401-874-5808 or gmdei@advance.uri.edu.

University News & Events

▶ Professor's meetings with Russian political, religious leaders provide unique insight into Russian culture
Political Science Professor Nicolai Petro returned recently from a week of meetings with Russia's religious and political leaders, including President Vladimir Putin, which provided Petro with a unique opportunity to "take the pulse of the Russian elite." Petro's meeting with the Russian leaders was part of the annual Valdai Club discussion, which brings together a select group of foreign academics, policy analysts and journalists to share ideas with their Russian counterparts. More...

▶ URI poet wins prestigious PEN award
Poet Peter Covino, assistant professor of English, received the 2007 PEN/Joey Osterweil Award for Poetry for his collection, Cut Off the Ears of Winter. The award, which was presented in May at New York's Lincoln Center, recognizes the high literary character of the published work of a new and emerging American poet and the promise of further literary achievement, according to the PEN American Center, an association of writers working to advance literature, defend free expression, and foster international literary fellowship. Covino teaches literature and creative writing, and coordinated URI's first Ocean State Summer Writing Conference this past June. More...

▶ China's Yue Opera to perform Butterfly Lovers
URI is bringing the dazzling Ningbo Yue Opera troupe to Rhode Island for a performance of Butterfly Lovers at the Veterans Memorial Auditorium on Oct. 27. Although the 40-member troupe has performed in Europe, this will be its first American appearance. The performance helps celebrate the opening of a Confucius Institute at URI and complements China Rising, URI's 2007 Honors Colloquium. Butterfly Lovers, sometimes regarded as the Chinese equivalent of Romeo and Juliet, is sung in Chinese, but will be translated in real time and flashed on a screen for its English-speaking audience. Prior to the performance, eight female URI students will be trained to participate in the opera in costumes created especially for them. More...

▶ Washington Trust invests $100,000 in URI students
The Washington Trust Charitable Foundation has made a 5-year, $100,000 commitment to support URI finance students enrolled in a three-credit advanced investment course. The gift from the charitable arm of the Westerly-based bank is part of the $100 million Making a Difference capital campaign at URI, and will provide scholarship money to students who participate in the Ram Fund. Established in the spring of 2001 with $100,000 in seed money from the URI Alumni Association, the Ram Fund gives students the opportunity to invest and manage money for the long term. More...

▶ URI appoints interim deans for pharmacy, engineering colleges
The University has appointed
Among the festivities planned for Homecoming 2007, October 12-14, are spectacular fireworks, the Homecoming 5K Road Race, the URI-JMU football game, Rhodyville, special workshops, and a variety of reunions, including the URI Football Player Reunion, the Class of 1962 45th Reunion, and the Class of 1982 25th Reunion. Don't miss this great URI weekend!

Solo Boomers kickoff event A group of URI alumni who are single baby boomers are interested in starting a Solo Boomers alumni group. Their main interest is to meet other alumni, make new friends, socialize, and, most importantly, to have fun! URI's Solo Boomers kickoff event will be held on Thursday, October 4, 2007 at 6 p.m. at the Bay Voyage Inn in Jamestown, R.I. Online registration is available.

At the chapters Two great URI chapter traditions are coming up in October. On October 21, the Arizona Rhode Runners are getting together for their Awful Awful bash in the desert, and on October 27, the Southwest Florida Gators are gathering at the Port Charlotte Elks Club for Oktoberfest. Find out more and see what your chapter is up to!

Solo Boomers kickoff event

Announcement of accreditation review of the University of Rhode Island URI will undergo a comprehensive evaluation visit October 21 to 24, 2007, by a team representing the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC), one of eight accrediting commissions in the United States that provides institutional accreditation on a regional basis. Accreditation is voluntary and applies to the institution as a whole. The University has been accredited by the Commission since 1930 and was last reviewed in October 1997. The public is invited to submit written, signed comments regarding the institution, which must be received by October 24, 2007. More...

On the calendar "CHINA seen by," an exhibit looking at China through the works of 15 contemporary fine art photographers, begins October 2 at URI's Fine Arts Center. The 2007 Honors Colloquium China Rising features New York Times Washington correspondent David Sanger on October 2. The URI Forensic Science Seminar Series features Mary Lou Fultz, of the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms on October 5. An Engineering and Technology Job Fair will be held at the Ryan Center on October 10. The URI Theatre production of Stuff Happens by David Hare begins its run on October 11. At the Ryan Center: the Business to Business Statewide Expo on October 3; the Lipizzaner Stallions on October 4 and 5; Playhouse Disney on October 28; and An Evening of Comedy with Bill Cosby on November 3, part of this year's URI Family Weekend. More...

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