Alumni Updates

► URI November chats feature Bjorn and Baron
Read the transcript of this week’s chat with URI Athletic Director Thor Bjorn. Coming up next in our online chat series is our chat with URI Men’s Basketball Coach Jim Baron on November 19.

► Men’s basketball team in Daytona Beach tournament
Show your Rhody pride and cheer on the URI Men’s Basketball team at the Glenn Wilkes Classic in Daytona Beach, Florida, on November 16, 17, and 18. Learn more about the games, tickets, related alumni events, and accommodations.

► Save the date for Young Alumni Weekend
Make plans now to attend our 2008 Young Alumni Weekend, which will be held February 22-24, 2008. Sponsored by the University of Rhode Island Alumni Association, Young Alumni Weekend is a special weekend of great events for graduates of the past decade. Further details and online registration will be available soon.

► Like to ski? Our 4th annual Alumni Ski Weekend at Mount Snow, Vermont, will be held January 11-13, 2008. Enjoy two nights’ slope-side lodging at the Grand Summit Hotel and Conference Center and purchase a one- or two-day lift ticket at a discounted rate. This spectacular weekend will sell out fast, so register now.

University News & Events

► URI breaks ground for $15 million undersea exploration center, marine science library
On November 5, the University of Rhode Island broke ground on its Narragansett Bay Campus for the construction of a $15 million undersea exploration center and for the expansion and rehabilitation of the Pell Marine Science Library. The centerpiece of the 41,000 square-foot facility will be the Inner Space Center, which will use a satellite system and Internet2 to make it possible for URI scientists and students to participate fully in ocean-going research expeditions without leaving campus. More...

► URI shows affection for professor during ALS Walk
On October 17, members of the URI community participated in a special fundraiser to benefit the fight against Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS). The Walk Around the Quad was held in conjunction with the Walk to D’Feet ALS, and gave the University community a way to show affection and support for longtime Economics Professor Yngve Ramstad, who suffers from ALS. Donations to Ramstad’s Rams, as the walkers named themselves, brought in more than $10,000 for the ALS Association. More...

► National nursing leader pledges $150,000 to URI
Whether leading efforts to beautify the grounds of the College of Nursing or playing a critical role in the development of a new nursing student center, Cynthia Sculco ’65 has always remained close to her alma mater. Now she and her husband Tom have pledged $150,000 over five years to support student scholarships, faculty development, and dean’s initiatives at the College of Nursing. The Cynthia and Tom Sculco Challenge Grant will match other gifts to the College of Nursing. The gift is part of the University’s Making a Difference capital campaign. More...

► Two distinguished professors receive honors
University of Rhode Island Associate Professor Alain-Philippe Durand was awarded France’s highest teaching honor, the Palmes Académiques, for his distinguished service to French education. The award, established by Napoleon, was presented to Durand by French Consul François Gauthier during a pinning ceremony October 19. On October 24, psychologist Albert J. Lott, a URI Professor Emeritus and an advocate for social justice for more than a half century, was presented with the Musiker-Merenda Award for "Significant Contributions to Mental Health" by the Rhode Island Psychological Association.

► Cranston resident endows the arts, student scholarships at URI’s Feinstein Providence Campus
Gloria Buteau, who as a young woman became a single mother of two preschool-age sons, and who worked her way up to manager in the Rumford Post Office, has established two endowments of $25,000 each. One will provide
Joining an Alumni Association committee is a great way to meet fellow alumni and work together to make a difference for your alma mater. The Winter Gala committee is currently seeking members. If you are interested in getting involved in planning this great February event, contact Jessie Kenyon at jkenyon@advance.uri.edu.

At the chapters Join members of the Rhode Island Chapter, family, and friends on November 21 for an evening of community service and camaraderie at the Rhode Island Community Food Bank. On December 2, the Lambda Delta Phi, Phi Sigma Sigma, and Beta Epsilon sororities will hold a special alumnae brunch. And on December 8, the Southwest Florida Gators will gather for their annual holiday luncheon. Find out more and see what your chapter has planned.

Irish Famine Memorial to be unveiled November 17 in Providence The Irish who fled their homeland in the wake of the Great Famine poured into Rhode Island from the 1840s through 1850s, and by 1885, Providence had the sixth largest Irish population in the country. To mark the struggles and victories of the Irish in Rhode Island, the Irish Famine Memorial will be unveiled on November 17 in Providence. Scott Molloy, professor of labor and industrial relations at the Schmidt Labor Research Center and member of the memorial committee, said it was a 12-year project involving many dedicated people. More...

On the calendar Photographer Jess Raimondi explores post-Katrina New Orleans in "More Than Picking Up the Pieces" November 8 through December 9 at the URI Fine Arts Center. On November 13, Xu Wenli, exiled dissident and senior fellow at Brown's Watson Institute for International Studies, will speak on "Dissidents and Democracy" in the China Rising series. The URI Phi Beta Kappa Society's public forums on Nobel Prizes continues on November 14. The URI Landscape Architecture Lecture Series continues on November 15 with "Shaping the Public Realm Through Urban Infrastructure." At the Ryan Center: Third Eye Blind on November 18; the Boston Pops Holiday Concert on December 7; and Evanescence on December 8. More...

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