Join by December 31 and you may win! If you become a dues-paying member of the Alumni Association by December 31, 2007, you will have a chance to win your choice of one of the following: two tickets to the URI men’s and women’s basketball games from January–March 2008; two tickets to the men’s Atlantic 10 Basketball Tournament in Atlantic City during March 2008; two tickets for the URI Great Performance Series from January–March 2008; or a personalized brick in the URI Century Walk. Join today!

Celebrate Valentine’s Day at the Winter Gala
Our 17th annual Winter Gala will be held on February 9, 2008, at the newly renovated Hyatt Regency Newport. The Winter Gala, sponsored by the URI Alumni Association, is an elegant, always festive evening of dining and dancing, featuring both a silent and live auction. The Winter Gala is held each year to benefit URI Alumni Association scholarships. Online registration is now available.

Reception and play at Providence Black Rep
The URI Alumni of Color Coalition is sponsoring a special event on February 15, 2008. Enjoy the Providence Black Repertory Theatre production of The Bluest Eye and pre-show reception. Reception begins at 6:30 p.m., followed by the performance at 8 p.m. Tickets are $25. For more information, please contact Michelle Fontes at 401-874-4854 or mfontes@advance.uri.edu.

Men’s hoop team off to best start in 16 years
With the unofficial "first half" of the 2007-08 season fast coming to a close, the men’s basketball Rams are off to their best start in 16 years, winning 10 of their first 11, including the Glenn Wilkes Classic in Daytona Beach, Fla. and victories at home over PC and at Syracuse. URI is gaining plenty of attention around the country on the two Top 25 national polls, released this week. Rhody earned 41 votes on the ESPN/USA Today Coaches poll for 26th overall. On the Associated Press poll, the Rams sit in the 28th spot, registering 92 total votes. Rhody returns to the Ryan Center on December 22 when it hosts Hofstra at 2 p.m. More...

Artificial jellyfish, explosives sensor, seabed battery among projects being developed
When researchers at the Naval Undersea Warfare Center (NUWC) began to investigate how to create a covert network of widely-distributed underwater sensors, they imagined attaching the sensors to artificial jellyfish that could maintain their place in the water while passing information from one sensor to the next. The scientists turned to the URI Center of Excellence in Undersea Technology for help. The Center linked NUWC with URI oceanographers and a Providence College expert in jellyfish locomotion to explore this novel idea, one of a wide range of initiatives underway just nine months after the Center of Excellence was established. More...

University College Scholars demonstrate diverse interests
Last month, ten sophomores were honored as University College Scholars for high academic achievement during their freshman year. One such Scholar is Jennifer Halleran, an animal science and microbiology major who hopes to become a veterinarian. Only three semesters into her URI education, Halleran is responsible for teaching her fellow students about chickens, has personally delivered two litters of piglets, and is already an accomplished researcher. University College Scholar Brian Bonk, a chemical engineering and Chinese major, is participating in a competition to design a car powered solely by chemical reaction and is planning to visit China this summer to hone his language skills.

URI launches $18 million energy conservation, efficiency initiative
The University has entered into an $18 million energy performance contract designed to reduce its energy usage through the replacement of lighting fixtures, windows, heating/air conditioning systems and other equipment, as well as improvements to building energy management control systems. The upgrades will save over 7 million kilowatt-hours of electricity and 42 million pounds of steam per year. The cost of the two-year contract with NORESCO, one of the nation's leading energy services companies, will be paid over 12 years from the savings on the University's utility bills. More...
Don't miss our 2008 Young Alumni Weekend, which will be held February 22-24, 2008. Sponsored by the URI Alumni Association, Young Alumni Weekend is a special weekend of great events for graduates of the past decade. Enjoy a beer tasting event, ice skating, the Blue & White Ball, basketball, and more. Online registration is now available.

At the chapters On December 28 and 29, Texas alumni are getting together in Corpus Christi to watch the Rams play in the Island Invitational. On January 9, Ohio alumni are gathering in Dayton for a reception before the URI-University of Dayton men's basketball game, and on January 17, Missouri alumni are hosting an event prior to the URI-Saint Louis University game. Find out more and see what your chapter has planned.

Darren Rizzi named Rhode Island Head Football Coach At a press conference this week, Darren Rizzi '92 was named URI's 18th head football coach. A former All-American tight end for the Rams, Rizzi spent the last six seasons coaching at Rutgers. "We are so excited to have Darren Rizzi lead our football program," said Director of Athletics Thorr Bjorn. "Darren is an extremely well-respected coach, who not only possesses tremendous passion and enthusiasm for the sport of football, but even more importantly, for the University of Rhode Island. He is exactly the type of person we need to energize our football program and put us on the path of competing for a CAA Championship and beyond." More...

Allan Graham named first Vangermeersch Endowed Professor Associate Professor of Accounting Allan W. Graham, known for his high energy and love of teaching, has been named the first Richard Vangermeersch Endowed Professor. Vangermeersch, who retired in 2004 after serving the University for 34 years, was honored by friends and colleagues who established a fund for an endowed professorship in his name, which stands at $326,000. Interest income from the endowment is used to support the professorship. More...

End of year giving news Through the end of 2007, donors have an opportunity to make a tax-advantaged gift to URI. Legislation allows individuals aged 70.5 or more to transfer funds from their IRAs to charity without having to recognize the amount as income, thus avoiding the federal income tax liability that would otherwise accompany a distribution.