Alumni Updates

A perfect winter weekend Graduates of the past decade, you definitely won't want to miss our 2008 Young Alumni Weekend. This special weekend, which will be held on February 22-24, 2008, is sponsored by the URI Alumni Association. Enjoy a beer tasting event, ice skating, the Blue & White Ball, basketball, and reconnecting with old friends! Online registration is now available.

Alumni of Color Coalition event 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 a 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.

Enjoy the Winter Gala and support student scholarships Our 17th annual Winter Gala will be held on February 9, 2008, at the newly renovated Hyatt Regency Newport. The Winter Gala is an elegant, festive evening of dining and dancing, featuring both a silent and live auction. Gala proceeds benefit URI Alumni Association scholarships. Register online today!

Expand your horizons If seeing the world is on your list of New Year's resolutions, consider one of the great travel

University News & Events

URI adds new chemistry major with forensics component Students can now choose to major in chemistry with a specialization in forensics. The new 130-credit major is the only forensic chemistry program in New England rooted in a bachelor of science degree accredited by the American Chemical Society. According to Bill Euler, chemistry professor and department chair, the new program is a core chemistry major first and a forensic program second. "Chemistry is key to forensic science," said Jimmie Oxley, professor of chemistry and an internationally-respected expert in explosives and pyrotechnics. "A major portion of chemistry is identifying and characterizing compounds. It's a puzzle and many of these puzzles apply to forensic chemistry." The new major was offered for the first time in fall 2007. More...

Student to help train elite athletes at U.S. Olympic Training Center Senior Derrek Douglas spent three years pursuing a professional hockey career after high school before landing at URI, where he led the University's club team to a national championship. Now he is on his way to spending his career with a different kind of elite athlete. Douglas was recently selected to intern as a strength and conditioning coach at the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Chula Vista, Calif., where the nation's best track and field athletes, as well as those competing in cycling, tennis, rowing, soccer, softball, kayaking, field hockey and archery, will prepare for the 2008 Olympics. More...

IBM strengthens URI-Central Falls High School collaboration through computer donations Through the efforts of a URI alumnus, IBM has donated 15 IBM ThinkPad computers to Central Falls High School: a University of Rhode Island Academy. The donation supports the partnership between URI and the Central Falls School District. The computers were distributed to the department chairs. "All departments will have to become more computer literate and proficient in submitting grades online and assisting students with portfolio development, which is necessary under the new Performance-Based Graduation Requirements," said Abu Bakr, executive assistant to the president and director of planning services at URI, who is helping lead the partnership. More...

Expanding interest in health careers fuels jump in enrollment in URI kinesiology program The University's Department of Kinesiology has experienced a 40 percent jump in enrollment in the last four years, fueled primarily by students' increasing interest in a broad range of health careers. Kinesiology is the study of human movement. Until 2003, the program had maintained a steady enrollment of about 350 students, half of whom were studying to become physical education teachers. "This year nearly 500 students are enrolled in the program, and the majority are studying exercise science and health fitness. More...
programs sponsored by the URI Alumni Association. Choices include a holiday in Tuscany, a Russian expedition, a new slant on the European Grand Tour, and a cruise down the Seine. How can you go wrong?

Getting involved 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 Alumni Golf Tournament committee is currently seeking members. If you are interested in getting involved in planning this great June event, contact Gina Dei Simonelli at gmdei@advance.uri.edu.

At the chapters On January 17, Missouri alumni are hosting an event prior to the URI-Saint Louis University game. On January 26, the Southwest Florida Gators are holding their January luncheon at the Fort Myers Yacht Club, and on January 25, Los Angeles area alumni are getting together for a special event at The Derby in Hollywood. Find out more and see what your chapter has planned.

Student combines love of the sea and political science A sophomore majoring in marine biology and political science, Ashley Stoehr is one of 10 University Scholars honored for high academic achievement in the freshman year. An advanced scuba diver, Stoehr participated in her first marine biology research project last summer, studying the mechanics of chewing and biting in little skates. She hopes to continue the research and looks forward to a Sea Semester in her senior year. "In the future I want to study the reproductive biology of marine mammals, and tie in the political science about how global warming or pollution might affect the animals. The two subjects fit together well," she says. More...

University one of only 13 U.S. schools recognized by CFA Institute The CFA Institute has named the College of Business Administration a Chartered Financial Analyst Program Partner. The CFA Institute’s partner designation means that the College of Business Administration’s bachelor’s degree in finance covers at least 70 percent of the CFA program candidate body of knowledge, the CFA Institute ethical standards and professional standards, and other requirements. URI is one of 13 universities in the United States to have been named a CFA Partner. More...

On the calendar On February 8, the Great Performances Series features legendary Persian percussionist Shamou, in collaboration with the URI Jazz and World Music Festival. The URI Theatre Department’s production of Amadeus begins its run on February 28. At the Ryan Center: John McEnroe vs. Jim Courier on February 10 and Will Ferrell’s Funny or Die Comedy Tour on February 12. More...

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