Alumni Updates

Upcoming chat
Confused about the real impact of the housing mortgage crisis? Join us on Tuesday, February 12, at 1 p.m. EST for a Web chat with Tom Silvia ’83, group leader of the Bond group for Fidelity Management & Research Company, who will answer questions about the mortgage crisis and its effect on the economy.

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

Alumni of Color Coalition evening at the Black Repertory Theater
The URI Alumni of Color Coalition is sponsoring a special evening at the theater on February 15. Enjoy the Providence Black Rep's 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, which includes the reception, the play, and a cover charge at the Xxodus Cafe after the play. For more information, please contact Michelle Fontes at 401-874-4854 or mfontes@advance.uri.edu.

University News & Events

URI forms School of Communication
The University of Rhode Island has formed a School of Communication, uniting the strengths of five academic units within the College of Arts and Sciences. The goal is to create national distinction, attract investment, enroll and retain gifted students, help recruit and retain talented faculty, and enhance the visibility and quality of the School's programs. The units are the College Writing Program, Department of Communication Studies, Department of Journalism, Graduate School of Library and Information Studies, and the Program in Film Media. More...

Pharmacy professor hunting killer diseases with novel research
A URI pharmacy professor is developing compounds that could play a major role in the fight against certain cancers, discovering novel compounds to fight the virus that causes AIDS and finalizing the development of a cream that could be used by women to prevent HIV transmission. Keykavous Parang, an associate professor of biomedical and pharmaceutical sciences, has been awarded more than $1.2 million during the last year for his promising cell- and chemistry-based research on two of the world’s major killers—cancer and HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. More...

URI joins 1,600 universities to 'Focus the Nation' on global warming solutions
The University joins more than 1,550 universities and other institutions on January 31 for the nation's largest teach-in in history. The event, called Focus the Nation, is a non-partisan educational initiative designed to engage educators and the public in developing solutions to global warming. At URI, more than 100 professors are involved in the event, teaching and leading discussions about climate change and how it relates to their fields of study including communications, textiles, economics, wildlife conservation, politics, and oceanography. More...

Donors support peace studies at URI with more than $425,000 in gifts
A number of recent gifts by alumni and faculty are directed to the support of nonviolence and peace studies at the University. Among them are gifts by Shannon Chandley ’83 and Tom Silvia ’83, who have designated $300,000 to establish the Silvia/Chandley Professorship in Peace Studies to support a faculty member committed to research or teaching related to peace, and E. R. "Sury" and Indu Suryanarayan, who donated $100,000 to the URI Center for Nonviolence and Peace Studies. More...

The University seeks Distinguished Achievement Award nominees
The University of Rhode Island is currently seeking nominees for its 2008 Distinguished Achievement Awards. This is the third year of the awards program, which honors alumni and friends of the University who have brought distinction to themselves and the University through their professional achievements, outstanding leadership, and/or community service. The deadline for nominations is February 29, 2008. More...
persons to serve as members of its Executive Board. Deadline for nomination is February 22.

Save the date for Family Camp Mark your calendars for our popular Alumni Family Camp, which will be held July 18-20, 2008. Details and registration information will be available soon. In the meantime, if you have questions, contact Michelle Fontes at 401-874-4854 or mfontes@advance.uri.edu.

Founders' Day for Phi Kappa Psi Fraternity The Phi Kappa Psi annual Founders' Day Dinner will be held on March 7 at The Firehouse, located at 90 Printery Street in Providence. $30 per person. Profits go to Phi Kappa Psi National for the RI Beta Scholarship Fund. Learn more.

On the calendar The Friday afternoon Forensic Science Seminar Series kicks off in February and covers such topics as SUV rollover accidents, serial killers, and Internet security. The annual Dana Shugar Colloquium will begin on February 5 with a talk by Assistant Professor Kim Hensley Owens entitled "Women Generally Didn't Survive: Misremembering the History of Childbirth." The University of Rhode Island will kick off its first Energy Lecture Series on February 6 with a presentation about the energy-related challenges faced by the state of Rhode Island. At the Ryan Center: John McEnroe vs. Jim Courier on February 10, Will Ferrell's Funny or Die Comedy Tour on February 12, and Sesame Street Live for eight performances that run February 14-17. More...

URI receives more than $500,000 from the Champlin Foundations The Champlin Foundations has awarded the University of Rhode Island $560,860 for six advanced technology projects in the areas of film studies, journalism and film media, underwater and coastal archaeology, environment and life sciences, physical therapy, and the honors program. The 2007 grant awards mark the 25th consecutive year that URI and its students have benefited from the generosity of The Champlin Foundations. More...

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