Alumni Updates

Winter Gala wrap-up
The 17th annual Winter Gala was a great success. Take a look at photos from this signature URI alumni event.

Chat update
Read the transcript of our recent Web chat with Tom Silvia '83, group leader of the Bond group for Fidelity Management & Research Company, who responded to 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. It's going to be a great weekend—register online today.

University News & Events

Rhode Island Foundation awards more than $175,000 for URI-Central Falls partnership
The Rhode Island Foundation awarded the Central Falls High School: A University of Rhode Island Academy more than $175,000 to support the partnership's efforts to transition from a failing school to one that will be a recognized, high-performing school of distinction. The grant supports work planned for the first year of a three-year program. An additional planning grant of $50,000 was awarded in 2007.

Swim team captain aims to engineer assistive devices for disabled children
Maria Cieslewski will earn two undergraduate degrees from URI in December 2008, one in biomedical engineering and one in electrical engineering. Her goal is to design biomedical devices for children with disabilities. She is also captain of the URI Swim Team, which will compete in the Atlantic 10 Championships February 20 to 23. Cieslewski will be honored at halftime of the men's basketball game on March 8 as the URI scholar-athlete of the week, the only member of the women's swim team to be so honored this year.

Study tour to Germany provides engineering students with language immersion and cultural, career awareness
In January, a group of 22 students from URI's International Engineering Program spent 10 days in Germany to get a flavor for the experience they will have studying and working there following their junior year at URI. International Engineering Program students double major in an engineering discipline and a foreign language, and spend a year abroad taking classes and interning at a global company. According to Professor of German Norbert Hedderich, the trip included behind-the-scenes tours of the Lufthansa aircraft maintenance, the headquarters of Volkswagen, auto parts maker ZF Industries, power tool manufacturer Hilti Corp., and the classic car division of BMW.

Students help rebuild New Orleans
University of Rhode Island students from two faith-based groups, the Newman Club (Catholic campus organization) and Hillel (Jewish campus organization) spent a week during the semester break helping New Orleans as it is struggles to regain some of its equilibrium. "I gave my heart to this project and left a piece of it in New Orleans," says Pharmacy student Rebecca Davis, one of the 17 Newman Club students.

URI's part-time MBA program to give nearby Mass. residents tuition break
The University's College of Business Administration will offer residents of nearby Massachusetts a tuition reduction starting in fall 2008 for its part-time master's degree in business administration. Business Dean Mark Higgins said Massachusetts
University through their professional achievements, outstanding leadership, and/or community service. The deadline for nominations is **February 29, 2008**. The third annual Distinguished Achievement Awards will be presented Saturday, October 18, 2008, at the Westin Providence Hotel.

**Alumni Association group at the State House** On January 15, the URI Alumni Association Executive Board hosted a reception at the Rhode Island State House, giving board members and legislators a chance to discuss issues pertinent to URI and higher education.

**At the Chapters** On February 21, Southern California Chapter members will be getting together to take in the URI-UMASS men's basketball game. On February 27, D.C. area alumni are holding a gathering at McFadden's before the URI-George Washington men's basketball game at the Smith Center. On March 7, the Phi Kappa Psi Chapter will celebrate its annual Founders' Day Dinner. Find out more.

**Student fan sixth man on Rhody basketball court** Junior Jason Coppa is arguably the men's basketball Rams' biggest fan. A lifelong Rams' devotee, he was the team's ball boy for the 1997-98 season, which ended with the team's trip to the NCAA Tournament. Today Coppa is leader of the 100-member spirit group know as "The Mob," and can be seen running laps around the perimeter of the Ryan Center court, waving his arms, giving high fives, and getting the crowd off its feet. "The Mob" will be out in force for the URI-Xavier men's basketball game on February 18, which is also the 2nd annual **PINK OUT**, an event designed to raise breast cancer awareness and funds for the Gloria Gemma Breast Cancer Resource Foundation. More...

**On the calendar** The University will hold a **Chinese New Year celebration** on February 17, sponsored by the Confucius Institute. On February 19, Anna Everett, one of the nation's leading scholars on the effects of race, ethnicity, and digital media technologies on young people, will deliver the University's 13th annual lecture on multiculturalism. On February 19, Karen de Bruin, assistant professor of French, will present a talk entitled the "Superior Woman," sponsored by the URI's Women's Studies Program. The URI Theatre production of *Amadeus* begins its run on February 28. At the Ryan Center: **Sesame Street Live** continues through February 17. More...

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**PAST ISSUES** of inAdvance

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