Alumni Updates

► Golden Grads celebrate Golden Grad Weekend is a special celebration for graduates who have already celebrated their 50th reunion. Our 2008 Golden Grad celebration will be held May 30-31. Take a look at the events we have planned for this special weekend.

► You are invited Join us for the annual Open Meeting of the Alumni Association Executive Board on June 3, followed by dinner under a tent on the Alumni Center lawn. In addition, if you have not yet voted in the election of Executive Board committee members, we invite you to review the nominees and cast your ballots online. Deadline is May 30. To protect your privacy, log in is required.

► Register today for Alumni Family Camp Online registration is available for Family Camp, which will be held July 18-20. You and your family can enjoy the 30th annual South County Balloon Festival, an authentic New England lobster bake, skating at Boss Ice Arena, and lots more. There is even an optional day trip to Block Island offered this year. Find out more and sign up today!

► Deadline approaching for Alumni Children Academic Excellence Scholarships The deadline to apply for Alumni Children Academic Excellence Scholarships is

University News & Events

► URI dedicates Swan building to long-serving provost The dedication ceremony of M. Beverly Swan Hall on May 14 captured the essence of its namesake. Amid uproarious laughter and heartfelt applause, the University recognized Swan by renaming Independence Hall in her honor. Built in 1961, the 18-classroom building with multiple faculty offices, a language lab, and a film screening room underwent a two-year, $9 million renovation, completed in 2006. Earlier this year, Swan announced she was stepping down as provost and vice president for academic affairs after serving 17 years in that post. Upon stepping down as provost, Swan became the Justin Smith Morrill Distinguished University Professor. Her retirement becomes official in June. More...

► At its 122nd commencement, URI celebrates the achievements of 3,514 new graduates The sun was shining in Kingston on May 17 and 18 as the University of Rhode Island celebrated the achievements of 2,871 undergraduate and 643 graduate degree recipients. Our congratulations go out to all the graduates and their families on this important occasion. Here's a chance to meet some of the accomplished members of the Class of 2008, the University of Rhode Island's newest alumni. More...

► China Earthquake Relief Committee formed to help victims The Confucius Institute and Chinese Students and Scholars Association at the University have partnered with the China Earthquake Relief Committee of Rhode Island in a statewide effort to aid victims of the May 12 earthquake in Sichuan, China. "URI has the largest number of Chinese students and faculty of all the higher education institutions in the state," says Yan Ma, who directs the University's Confucius Institute and is vice chair of the relief committee. "Many students, staff, and faculty have already reached out and have generously contributed to the relief fund, recognizing the urgency for help and showing their concern. We are happy to join the statewide effort to get more help to victims." More...

► Gala, documentary film, and wellness festival promote tick awareness and Lyme disease prevention The University of Rhode Island and the Tick Encounter Resource Center are sponsoring the Big Tick Gala on May 30 at the Botanical Gardens at Roger Williams Park. And on June 4, Hidden in the Leaves, a documentary film about ticks and Lyme disease, will premiere at the University. The film is a collaboration between entomology professor Thomas Mather, director of the Center for Vector-Borne Disease, and film media professor Mary Healy Jamiel, whose documentary Holy Water-gate: Abuse Cover-Up in the Catholic Church won a CINE Golden Eagle Award in 2004. The gala and documentary screening are scheduled to coincide with the third annual Tick Control Awareness Day on June 7, which will feature a wellness festival from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the URI athletics fields. More...
June 6. These scholarships, sponsored by the Alumni Association, are awarded to six alumni children each year on the basis of their academic achievement for the previous year. All credits and grades must be earned at the University of Rhode Island.

Show your Rhody pride Head to the ballpark on August 20 and enjoy Pride in URI Night at McCoy Stadium. Join alumni, family, and friends for a great night as the PawSox take on Syracuse. Gates open at 5 p.m. for all-you-can-eat burgers, hot dogs, and the fixings. The game begins at 7:05 p.m. Save the date for this popular Rhody summer tradition. Online registration will be available soon!

At the chapters On June 15, members of the Arizona Chapter are heading to the ballpark for a Diamondbacks game. And June 16-21, the Alumni Association is taking a Southern California road trip with events in Ventura, Los Feliz, Orange County, and San Diego. Find out more.

A golden anniversary for the College of Pharmacy This year the URI College of Pharmacy marked its 50th anniversary. In a piece that appeared on the editorial pages of the May 10 Providence Journal, Interim Dean Ronald P. Jordan shared his thoughts on the College's history as one of the state's most distinguished health science schools, including its significant past contributions, current vibrancy, and bright future. More...

On the calendar Art appraisal experts will visit URI on May 31 for an arts roadshow-style event, a fund-raiser for the URI Fine Arts Center Galleries. The annual Rhody Charity Yard Sale will be held June 7, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Keaney Parking Lot (rain date: June 8). Proceeds benefit the Rhody Scholarship Endowment. To learn more, contribute items, or rent a table to sell your own treasures, contact Gerri Beagle at gbeagle@foundation.uri.edu. URI will host a six-session summer gardening school for amateur gardeners beginning June 10. The ALS Association Rhode Island Chapter's 12th annual "Evening of Hope" on June 12 will honor URI Professor of Economics Yngve Ramstad. Registration is open for the URI Ocean State Summer Writing Conference, held in Kingston June 19-21. More...

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