Alumni Updates

Chat with URI Director of Athletics
Our Fall 2008 Advancement Chat Series kicks off on Tuesday, August 19, with URI Director of Athletics Thorr Bjorn, who will join us to answer your questions about URI athletics in 2008-09. The chat will be held at 10 a.m. on August 19, but you may submit a question at any time.

University News & Events

Reed secures nearly $1.5 million to fuel URI’s alternative energy research
In an effort to help reduce U.S. dependence on imported oil, cut down on greenhouse gas emissions, and grow the economy, U.S. Senator Jack Reed joined leading URI scientists and officials this week to announce a $1.476 million appropriation he secured to help the URI Plant Biotechnology Laboratory develop renewable energy technologies and improve consumer access to alternative fuels. Reed discussed how this federal funding will help the lab continue its pioneering research on the genetic traits of switchgrass, which could increase the amount of fuel produced from renewable resources. More...

Hasbro’s Verrecchia pledges $250,000 gift to the University of Rhode Island
Alumnus Al Verrecchia, chairman of Rhode Island-based Hasbro, Inc., and his wife, Gerrie, have pledged a $250,000 gift to the University of Rhode Island. The gift, which is part of the Making a Difference campaign, will fund a challenge grant that will match, dollar-for-dollar, donations of $12,500 from individuals wishing to establish endowed scholarships for the College of Business Administration. Those gifts will be effectively doubled as a result of the Verrecchias’ generosity, creating scholarship opportunities for Rhode Island students in need of financial assistance. More...

URI men’s hockey coach named skipper for U.S. team in 2009 Winter World University Games
Joe Augustine, who won a national championship as coach of the URI men’s hockey team, has been named head coach of the 2009 United States University Select Team, which will compete at the upcoming Winter World University Games. The Games will be held in Harbin, China, February 18-28, 2009. The U.S. University Select Team is made up of players from collegiate ice hockey teams affiliated with the American Collegiate Hockey Association, the umbrella organization for collegiate club hockey in the United States. URI plays at the Division I club level. More...

URI EMS executes major incident medical plan at Seaside Classic
Treating everything from sprains to head injuries at one of New England’s largest soccer tournaments, URI Emergency Medical Services recently executed its first major incident medical plan in line with the National Incident Management System and Incident Command System. Led by Cmdr. Shad Ahmed, URI’s EMS coordinated coverage of this summer’s South County Youth Soccer Club Seaside Classic, working in conjunction with other public and private agencies and services. The event included more than 3,000 players, and featured squads from the Northeast and Canada. More...

Former URI professor becomes governor of a nation
Longtime Red Sox fan Ted Schmidt, a former URI professor and the founding director of the Schmidt Labor Research Center on the Kingston...
Leadership Rhode Island/URI fall breakfast The fifth annual Leadership Rhode Island/University of Rhode Island fall breakfast will be held on September 16 at the Waterman Grille, 4 Richmond Square in Providence, from 8-9:30 a.m., and will be hosted by President Carothers, the URI Alumni Association, and Leadership Rhode Island. Register online by September 9. For more information, contact Lisa Harrison at 401-874-4962 or lharrison@advance.uri.edu.

Enthusiasm for algae helps URI student bloom Senior marine biology major Emily Blair is spending her summer elbow deep in seaweed, also known as macro-algae. Her research project is to determine the effect snails have on the growth and recruitment of Neosiphonia, an invasive species from Asia, and the native species Ceramium. Invasive species often compromise the diversity of wildlife in the environment because they have no natural predators in the area. Blair's research is funded through the URI Coastal Fellows Program, a unique program designed to involve undergraduate students in addressing current environmental problems.

At the chapters On September 20, the Northern California Chapter is hosting its annual clambake in San Mateo. And on September 29, Phi Gamma Delta alumni and friends are invited to the third annual Phi Gamma Delta Charity Golf Classic, which will be held at Metacomet Country Club in East Providence. Learn more about these and other upcoming chapter events.

On the calendar Coming this fall, the URI Big Thinkers Series, with events in Los Angeles, New York City, Washington D.C., and Miami, will feature prominent alumni. On August 21 at the URI Bay Campus, Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse will chair a field briefing of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, open to the public, to discuss the implications of global warming for Narragansett Bay. The Fall 2008 Honors Colloquium Series, People and Planet—Global Environmental Change, begins on September 9. At the Ryan Center: Tickets are now on sale for the following concerts and performances coming up this fall—Carrie Underwood, Jeff Dunham, and Playhouse Disney Live! More...