Alumni Updates

Put on your running shoes Calling all runners and walkers for the eighth annual Rhody 5K Road Race on October 18. The newly USATF-certified 5K loop will take participants around the Kingston campus, starting and ending at Mackal Field House. Race proceeds benefit the Rhody the Ram Endowment Scholarship. Register online today and find out more about all the events planned for Homecoming 2008.

Fall 2008 chats Read the transcript of our recent chat with URI Director of Athletics, Thor Bjorn, who responded to questions about URI athletics in the coming year. Take a look at our 2008 fall chat schedule. Coming up on September 16 is a chat with Honors Colloquium coordinators, Steve D'Hondt and Art Spivak, who will be on hand to respond to questions about this fall's honors colloquium topic, global environmental change.

Big Thinker Series coming to a city near you Learn more about the URI Big Thinkers Series planned for this fall. Events featuring prominent alumni will be held in Los Angeles, New York City, Washington D.C., and Miami.

Rhody pride photo album It was a perfect summer evening at the ballpark for our recent Pride in URI Night at McCoy Stadium. More than 200 URI alumni, family, and friends attended this

University News & Events

URI fall Honors Colloquium to examine global environmental change The Fall 2008 Honors Colloquium, People and Planet — Global Environmental Change, will explore human-caused global change, its consequences, and potential responses through a series of lectures, films, exhibits, and a cabaret. The free, weekly events featuring international experts and URI faculty members will run from Sept. 9 to Dec. 9. "Humans have been affecting our environment on a global scale for millennia," says Steven D'Hondt, URI professor of oceanography, who is coordinating the colloquium with professors Art Spivack and Judith Swift. "This year's Honors Colloquium is going to examine those changes and outline the kinds of choices people might make collectively to minimize their effects." More...

President Carothers opposes effort to lower the drinking age President Robert L. Carothers has responded to the "Amethyst Initiative," a movement organized by presidents of about 100 universities nationwide calling on lawmakers to lower the drinking age from 21 to 18. Nationally known and recognized for his leadership and commitment to addressing the problems of college student alcohol and drug use, Carothers has recently discussed this initiative with regional and national media. More...

Dean of students turns retirement into opportunity to give back Initiative and leadership marked Fran Cohen's URI career, which was a model for the students she connected with over the last 37 years. Cohen retired in June and during her long tenure, she was at the center of many changes, including major increases in services for students with disabilities. She was also a driving force behind the University's nationally recognized effort to control alcohol abuse among undergraduates. In addition to the outstanding legacy of achievement she leaves, she and her husband Joel, a URI professor of history, created the Fran and Joel Cohen Student Affairs Fund for Excellence with a $25,000 gift to the University. More...

Weather balloons released by URI scientist document ozone levels in atmosphere If a small orange parachute attached to a white Styrofoam box drifts into your yard from above, don't worry. That's the word from John Merrill, an atmospheric chemist at the University, who releases a weather balloon from the URI Bay Campus every week as part of a research project to collect information about ozone concentrations in the atmosphere. "Ozone is an important greenhouse gas, so it's important to document its distribution in the atmosphere and determine how it moves," he says. URI is one of 30 sites around the world where weather balloons are released. More...

URI professor is No. 4-ranked powerlifter in the world As the newest member of the URI Department of Kinesiology, Disa Hatfield should not have any trouble carrying her weight. Hired in July as an
Rhody fans on the road Pre-game alumni receptions are planned for the URI football games at Fordham on September 6 and Boston College on September 27. One-day bus trips from Kingston are offered for each event. Take to the road to show your Rhody spirit and cheer on the Rams. Online registration is available.

At the chapters On September 20, the Northern California Chapter is hosting its annual clambake in San Mateo. On September 29, Phi Gamma Delta alumni and friends are invited to the third annual Phi Gamma Delta Charity Golf Classic, and on November 2, Arizona alumni are holding a "Thank You” brunch to honor Art ’51 and Laura Levin, Hon ’96 for their years of service as the Arizona Rhode Runners chapter leaders. Learn more about these and other upcoming chapter events.

On the calendar Get your tickets now for the URI football season. On September 2 and 3, the URI Theatre Department will hold auditions, open to the public, for its fall productions of Small Tragedy and Oklahoma! The 2008 Honors Colloquium Series, People and Planet—Global Environmental Change, begins on September 9, 7:30 p.m., Chafee Auditorium, and features The New Yorker staff writer and author Elizabeth Kolbert. But for the Grace, a play about hunger in Rhode Island, sponsored by the URI Feinstein Center for a Hunger Free America in collaboration with the Rhode Island Community Food Bank, will be performed on September 13 and 14. 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...

assistant professor, Hatfield is one of the world’s strongest women. A three-time USA Powerlifting national champion, she is ranked No. 2 nationally in her weight class, and is the fourth-ranked competitor worldwide. Though she is highly competitive in her sport, lifting is a hobby for Hatfield, and her strength in teaching and research made URI a great fit for her. More...

URI ecologist: Fear of predators may be a bigger killer than the predators themselves When biologists consider the effects that predators have on their prey, they shouldn’t just count the number of individuals consumed. According to a University of Rhode Island ecologist, they must also examine the effects of fear. URI Assistant Professor Evan Preisser says that fear of being eaten can reduce population densities as much or even more than the actual quantities of individuals killed by predators. More...

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