Alumni Updates

Alumni of Color Coalition events On October 3, the Alumni of Color Coalition (ACC) is sponsoring a dinner-and-theater evening at the Providence Black Rep. On October 18, ACC alumni, families, and friends are invited to a pre-game Homecoming gathering in Rhodyville. To learn more about the Alumni of Color Coalition and these upcoming ACC events, please contact Michelle Fontes-Barros '96 at mfontes-barros@advance.uri.edu.

Class of 1978 reunion, Homecoming 5K, fireworks, football, and more On Homecoming Weekend, members of the Class of 1978 are celebrating their 30th reunion with events planned for October 17 and 18. Take a look at all the Homecoming 2008 activities, including the Homecoming 5K Rhode Race, Rhodyville, the URI-Villanova game, and much more. Don't miss this chance to come back to Kingston and get together with old friends.

Big Thinker Series coming to a city near you Learn more about the URI Big Thinkers Series! Events featuring prominent alumni will be held this fall in Los Angeles, New York City, Washington D.C., and Miami. Coming up on October 30 is the Los Angeles event, featuring Hal Katersky '64.

Join the conversation In our most recent chat, Fall 2008 Honors

University News & Events

URI President announces plans to step down President Robert L. Carothers formally announced that he would end his 18-year tenure at the University as of June 30, 2009. During his tenure as URI's 10th president, the University increased enrollment by about 33 percent; gained support to invest nearly $700 million in buildings and improvements at all four of its campuses; increased the diversity among students, faculty, and staff; became recognized as a "College with a Conscience"; enhanced its levels of alumni and private support; and increased its endowment funds almost 800 percent, from $12 million to about $95 million. Tom Ryan '75, CVS/Caremark Corporation chairman and CEO, has been named chair of the presidential search committee. More...

Students visit Belize to study microscopic organisms Five students and their professor spent time in Belize this summer collecting and studying single-celled organisms that could provide insight into evolution and contribute to the development of new drugs. The students collected water and soil samples in jungle pools, swamps, on the roots of plants, in rain gutters, and inside a Mayan temple, examining them under high-powered microscopes to identify various organisms. "Single celled organisms are the most highly evolved cells on the planet, and they may hold the secrets to the origin of stem cells," said Kenneth Uhnak, assistant professor of biotechnology at the URI Providence Campus. More...

Pharmacy professor is berry excited about medicinal plant research Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Navindra Seeram was recently selected the editor of a new book series exploring the uses and benefits of natural products in clinical pharmacy practice. Seeram says he responds to many media and publishing requests to get the word out about the importance of medicinal foods, particularly berries, in enhancing human health. "At URI, and other laboratories around the world, we are interested in compounds that make the blueberry blue and the strawberry red. Colors in plants protect them from solar irradiation. These are the anti-cancer agents we are paying attention to." More...

URI creating technologically-advanced classrooms With an eye toward helping educators keep all students actively involved in learning, the University is creating state-of-the-art classrooms. New technology is helping pre- and in-service teachers create more engaging and efficient learning environments for their classrooms. David Byrd, director of the School of Education, and David Porter, director of media and technology services, recently presented models of the classrooms - funded by a $5.6 million state grant for technology in education - to the Governor's PK-16 Council. More...

Ribbon cutting planned for newly renovated Lippitt Hall The University will hold a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the newly

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Colloquium coordinators, Professors Steve D'Hondt and Art Spivak, responded to questions about human-caused global environmental change. Our upcoming chats feature alumni and faculty experts on health care, politics, and the economy. Take a look at our chat schedule, and plan to join the conversation about these important topics.

**Legacy program breakfast** The URI Legacy Program is hosting a complimentary continental breakfast at 10 a.m. on Saturday, **November 1** at the Alumni Center. Online registration available. The URI Legacy Program recognizes families for their continued generational support, provides networking opportunities, and helps legacies stay connected through special programs and events.

**At the chapters** On October 11, Maryland alumni are getting together before the URI-Towson game. On **October 23**, the Colorado Chapter is hosting a Rhody "Rush Hour" in Denver, and on **November 1**, Arizona alumni are holding a brunch honoring 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.

**Students are part of the pollution solution** URI students are taking important steps to protect Narragansett Bay. As part of a community service program through a URI 101 class and the Feinstein Enriching America Program, students marked storm drains on the Kingston Campus and throughout Narragansett with blue and green "Don't Dump, Drains to Bay" labels to remind people not to dispose of pollutants or other materials into or near storm drains. A recent survey found that many Rhode Islanders mistakenly think that water entering storm drains leads to a water treatment plant. More...

**On the calendar** Get your tickets for upcoming URI football games. The 2008 Honors Colloquium Series, People and Planet - Global Environmental Change features "Hollywood Armageddon," a look at popular film vs. science on September 30; and on October 7, author Charles Mann will discuss "The Americas before Columbus." On **October 8**, the University launches the first in a four-part series called "Public Relations Summit: Making Connections." The URI Theatre season begins on **October 9** with the production of Small Tragedy by Craig Lucas. The next presentation in the"Pushing the Edges" 2008 Landscape Architecture Lecture Series is **October 16**. The 3rd annual Distinguished Achievement Awards Celebration takes place at the Providence Westin Hotel on **October 18**. URI will host the 2008 Energy Solutions Expo on **November 16**. At the Ryan Center: Tickets are on sale for the following fall concerts and performances - Carrie Underwood on **October 16**; Playhouse Disney Live! on **October 31**; and Jay Leno on **November 1**. More...

**Renovated Lippitt Hall** renovated Lippitt Hall on October 8. The $8.9 million, basement-to-roof renovation modernizes the building with wireless technology and updated classroom spaces, while restoring the exterior of the building in keeping its Tudor-style architecture. Lippitt will be home to the URI Honors Program and the Department of Mathematics. Lippitt Hall, which was built in 1897, is one of the oldest buildings on the Kingston Campus. More...

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