Alumni Updates

Distinguished Achievement Awards Celebration, Homecoming Weekend
The 3rd annual Distinguished Achievement Awards Celebration takes place at the Providence Westin Hotel on October 18. Join us in honoring these accomplished URI alumni and friends. The Distinguished Achievement Award event is a highlight of our 2008 Homecoming Weekend. Take a look at all of the Homecoming activities planned!

Women’s Council for Development sponsors job fair workshop
The Women’s Council for Development will host a job fair workshop on October 28 in the Alumni Center for seniors and young alumni women. The workshop, offered In preparation for the URI Fall Career & Job Fair on October 29, features recruiters and guest speakers, including Jodi Fournier ’82 of Taylor Grey in New York City and Lisa Ferns of URI Career Services. Online registration is now available for the workshop.

Learn to be an informed patient
Coming up on October 21 is our Web chat with Rebecca Burke ’76, senior vice president and chief operating officer/chief nursing officer at The Miriam Hospital in Providence. Her topic: The Informed Patient. Bring your questions and join the conversation. You may submit a question at any time. Our remaining chats this fall feature Professor of Political Science Maureen

University News & Events

Department of Homeland Security designates URI a Center of Excellence
On October 15, the Department of Homeland Security will officially launch a Center of Excellence in Explosives Detection, Mitigation, and Response at the University of Rhode Island. Department of Homeland Security Undersecretary for Science and Technology Jay Cohen will attend the ceremony. URI is one of five new Centers of Excellence, each consisting of teams of academic institutions that are leaders in their fields of study. The University was selected by the Department of Homeland Security's Science and Technology Directorate through a highly competitive grant process. URI and Northeastern University in Boston will be the Center's co-leaders. Each institution will receive a multi-year grant of up to $2 million per year over a period of four to six years. More...

URI, RIC awarded $12.5 million federal grant to boost science and math teaching, learning across state
Governor Carcieri recently announced that the University of Rhode Island, in partnership with Rhode Island College, has been awarded a five-year, $12.5 million National Science Foundation grant to transform the quality of science and mathematics teaching and learning at all Rhode Island middle and high schools. The new grant, titled the Rhode Island Technology Enhanced Sciences (RITES) program, is designed to reach all Rhode Island middle and high school teachers and students. Collaborating closely with the schools, the grant partners will develop an extensive series of short courses for teachers. More...

Marching Band showing strength in numbers
One band, one sound. Make that one big band, one big sound. The University of Rhode Island marching band is making big noise this season at Meade Stadium, where Brian Cardany is directing the school’s largest contingent in more than two decades. Cardany, now in his seventh year as the head coach for URI’s marching and pep bands, has 94 band members this year, harkening back to the late 1970s and early 1980s, when the band reached as many as 150 members. With a freshman class of 43, his largest ever, Cardany is steadily building membership back to where it was several decades ago. More...

Report outlines steps to make research a top URI priority
The University of Rhode Island Commission for Innovation and Research presented state leadership with a report detailing steps URI must take to become a nationally competitive research institution. Presented to the Rhode Island Science and Technology Advisory Council, the report recommends increasing the size and competitiveness of URI's research and development programs; producing a larger, better-trained science and technology workforce; and increasing industry engagement and commercialization activities at the University. An illustration of the University's commitment in this area is the appointment of David Sadowski as assistant vice president for intellectual property management and commercialization. His role is to foster entrepreneurship
Moakley on November 18 and Professor of Economics Len Lardaro on December 16. Take a look at our chat schedule, and plan to join the dialogue.

Big Thinkers 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 November 3 is the New York City event, featuring Wes Card ’70.

Rhode Island Chapter event Join the Rhode Island Chapter on November 2 for a wine and cheese pairing event at Farmstead in Providence. Taste a variety of artisan cheeses paired with boutique wines and craft beers. An expert will be on hand to discuss cheese, wine, and beer production and to offer pairing suggestions. Only 30 spots are available so register online today!

Membership benefit of the month Did you know that members of the Alumni Association receive a 10 percent discount on URI merchandise at the URI Bookstore? Find out more about this and all the benefits of membership and join today! Coming up on December 4 is a special Member Exclusive Event: An evening at PPAC featuring dinner and a discounted ticket to GREASE. Tickets are limited, so don’t delay.

URI launches program to train residents to save energy, protect environment The University of Rhode Island’s Energy Center is launching a new training program aimed at teaching local residents how to save money and protect the environment through energy efficiency measures and the use of renewable energy. The five-week Master Energy Program, which begins October 20 at 6 p.m., will be held at Weaver Auditorium in the Coastal Institute building on the Kingston campus. “This is a great opportunity for local residents who are concerned about rising energy costs and want to learn concrete steps they can take to reduce their energy consumption,” said Marion Gold, co-director of the URI Energy Center.

Students create therapeutic gardens to help improve seniors’ quality of life Combining their love of gardening with their studies, students Morgan Fielder and Wendy Baker built the Providence Therapeutic Garden at Golden Crest Nursing Home in North Providence. As part of their leadership project in the doctor of physical therapy program, Fielder and Baker worked with Shannon Izzi, the activities director at Golden Crest, to develop a program with a wheelchair-accessible garden. The gardening program was designed to help residents improve strength and flexibility and to encourage the social aspect of working on a group project.

On the calendar Get your tickets for upcoming URI football games. The 2008 Honors Colloquium Series, People and Planet - Global Environmental Change features Stephen Palumbi, author of The Evolution Explosion: How Humans Cause Rapid Evolutionary Change, on October 14. The next presentation in the 2008 Landscape Architecture Lecture Series is October 16. The URI Theatre season production of Small Tragedy continues through October 19. URI will host the 2008 Energy Solutions Expo on November 16. The College of the Environment and Life Sciences will host a live wolf program entitled Mission: Wolf on October 22. 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.

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