Register now for the Big Chill! Online registration is now available for our Big Chill Weekend, coming up February 13-15! This cool new weekend offers a variety of events from Rhody basketball to the Blue & White Bash — and much more. You can customize your weekend and support student scholarships!

Economy Web chat Is there any good news about the economy? Find out on December 16 when our monthly Web chat will feature Professor of Economics Len Lardaro. His topic: The Rhode Island Economy and Beyond. Is there hope? You may submit a question at any time.

Tulip time? Explore the waterways of Holland and Belgium April 3-11 through our Alumni Travel Program. Discover the true character of the region found along its waterways, on the backroads, and around the local market squares.

Alumni of Color Coalition Forum Save the date for the Spring Alumni of Color Coalition Forum on February 26. You won't want to miss this career panel discussion and Q&A with light supper, followed by the URI-Dayton women's basketball game.

Off to see the wizard A special theater event for dues-paying members

Professor receives $2.4 million grant to study effects of premature birth through young adulthood Nursing Professor Mary Sullivan has received a $2.4 million grant to continue a unique long-term study tracking the health and well-being of premature infants from birth through young adulthood. Awarded by the National Institutes of Health's National Institute of Nursing Research, the five-year grant entitled "Risk and Protection in Trajectories of Preterm Infants: Birth to Adulthood," is the only study of its kind in the U.S. tracking such long-term health and developmental outcomes.

URI researchers help score knockout punch against birch tree pest The United States has been under assault for decades by a variety of alien plants and animals, and it is not often that one of these aliens faces a counterpunch. But in a collaborative project with several other institutions, URI has scored a knockout. The birch leafminer, an insect pest that regularly disfigures birch trees, has been virtually eradicated in the Northeast, thanks to entomologists from URI and other institutions who successfully introduced a biological control agent.

Greek community donates $12,000 to Jonnycake Center in honor of President Carothers The URI Greek Community presented a $12,000 donation to the Jonnycake Center in Peace Dale in honor of URI President Robert L. Carothers who has announced his plans to retire in June 2009. The money was raised during the Greek Community's annual Philanthropy Week, a series of philanthropy and community service events. All 13 fraternities and nine sororities participated.

Young Maine fisherman is oysters' best friend in Rhode Island A University of Rhode Island junior who comes from a long line of fishermen is playing a key role in helping the state's fishermen recover from a devastating oil spill 12 years ago. Patrick Shepard, who hails from the small island of Stonington in Maine, is using his knowledge in marine affairs to help restore the shellfish population damaged in 1996 by an oil spill caused by the North Cape grounding off East Matunuck State Beach.

Award-winning teachers bring innovation, personal touch to large classrooms Budget cuts and large class sizes don't necessarily lead to an inferior educational experience. In fact, at the University of Rhode Island, students in large classes often find the experience to be as positive as smaller classes, thanks to personal touches, hands-on activities, innovative technologies, and the engaging teaching styles of its award-winning professors.

URI pharmacy, nursing students join Brown medical students
of the URI Alumni Association is planned for March 1. Enjoy *The Wizard of Oz* at Providence Performing Arts Center and a pre-event reception. Save the date! Registration will be available soon.

**At the chapters** On January 6, the Ohio Alumni Chapter is planning a reception before the URI-Toledo men's basketball game. On January 22, the Rhode Island Alumni Chapter is holding a "Rhody Rush Hour" in Westerly, and on January 24, the Minnesota Alumni Chapter is hosting a wine tasting. Find out more about these and other chapter events.

**On the calendar** Get your men's and women's basketball game tickets today! The Fall 2008 Honors Colloquium concludes on December 9 with a coastal cabaret, "It's a Shore Thing," featuring a musical look at environmental change in coastal zones. Tickets are on sale now for these Ryan Center events: Sesame Street Live: When Elmo Grows Up on January 22-25 and the Harlem Globetrotters on March 26. More...

During two nights in late November, 100 students from URI's College of Pharmacy, 80 students from URI's College of Nursing, and 96 students from Brown University's Alpert Medical School got together to foster inter-professional collaboration. Their focus was to combat communication lapses that can lead to medical errors related to asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. More...