Alumni Updates

 ► Customize your weekend at the Big Chill Online registration is available for our Big Chill Weekend, coming up February 13-15! This cool new weekend offers a variety of great events, including the URI Athletic Hall of Fame Dinner on Friday night, a variety of Saturday evening events, and much more—all to raise funds for student scholarships!

 ► Is there hope for the Rhode Island economy? Find out the answer to this timely question by checking out the transcript of our December Web chat with Professor of Economics Len Lardaro.

 ► A perfect weekend getaway For a great Vermont weekend, escape to the Old Tavern at Grafton, February 27-March 1. Enjoy a Friday night dinner, weekend breakfasts, and great winter activities at Grafton Ponds, including cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and tubing. Whether you love ice skating, antiquing, or relaxing by the fire, this weekend package offers you a special weekend getaway. Learn more or contact Sarah Howard at showard@advance.uri.edu for details.

University News & Events

 ► SmartMoney magazine ranks URI 15th in nation for return on investment The January 2009 issue of SmartMoney magazine ranks the University of Rhode Island 15th in a nationwide study of public and private colleges that examines the relationship between tuition costs and graduates' earning power. The monthly magazine, published by The Wall Street Journal, specifically cites URI as a far better value than all the private institutions included in the survey. URI is the highest ranked institution in New England. More...

 ► University launches behavior change campaign to reduce energy use on campus Students living on campus take showers lasting an average of 13 minutes, and they typically leave their computers on for 16 hours a day, although more than one third never turn off their computers. Most also never turn off the heat, air conditioning, or fans when they leave their room. These findings, comparable to those at other universities, are among the results of a survey conducted last spring that has led to a unique behavior change campaign aimed at reducing energy use on the URI campus. More...

 ► URI taking national leadership role in mass evacuation planning The University of Rhode Island has been tabbed by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to develop a national training program for mass evacuation planning for institutions of higher education. Cmdr. Shad Ahmed, chief of URI Emergency Medical Services and director of the National Institute for Public Safety Research Training, is the principal investigator for the three-year, $1.9 million grant. Through the grant, URI will research and develop a training curriculum for homeland security planning officials to increase the survival rate in the event of critical campus incidents. More...

 ► Student unlocking secrets of Jamun berry to treat cancer As a summer research fellow, junior chemistry major Caroline Killian worked with Pharmacy Professor Navindra Seeram doing extensive tests to find the degree of anti-cancer activity produced by the purple Jamun berry, which is traditionally used as a pre-insulin treatment for diabetes. In collaboration with Lynn Adams, breast cancer researcher at City of Hope Hospital in California, Killian was able to test the effects of the Jamun berry on the growth of breast cancer cells in cell cultures, and found the berry had a strong positive effect. Killian continues to work with Seeram on the project. More...

 ► Economics professor examines employee exploitation in new book Richard McIntyre, professor of economics and director of the University's Honors Program, examines labor standards in the global economy in his new book Are Worker Rights Human Rights? "I argue that a prime and imminent tendency in the contemporary world economy is the lengthening of commodity chains through which the ultimate employer is able to wash his hands of moral responsibility for the conditions of
difference in the future of the University — and offers a range of member benefits.

▶ URI at Fordham The URI Alumni Association is hosting a reception before the URI-Fordham men's basketball game on February 21. Deadline to register is February 13, or until the event is sold out. Alumni wishing to purchase game tickets ($10 or $15) can do so by calling the Fordham Box Office at 718-817-4300. Get your tickets as soon as possible!

▶ 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.

▶ URI experience drove student to top URI academic award After six years of working 80 to 100 hours a week running the radio room aboard a U.S. Navy submarine, Alex Page learned about hard work and commitment. This fall, the Maine sophomore's work ethic and subsequent academic success as one of the top 10 students in his class led him to be named a University College Scholar. What made his achievement even greater is that he earned top grades while majoring in four challenging disciplines — computer engineering, electrical engineering, physics, and mathematics. More...

▶ On the calendar Get your men's and women's basketball game tickets today! 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...

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