Alumni Updates

► All in the family Our 9th annual Alumni Family Camp will take place July 17-19! Save the date for this popular event that offers a variety of family-friendly activities for adults and kids of all ages. Event schedule and online registration will be available soon.

► Tee time Our annual Alumni Golf Tournament is on June 1 at Valley Country Club in Warwick. Participate in the longest running URI Golf Tournament and support student scholarships. Registration and payment is requested by May 15. Find out about our 2009 special registration rebate!

► Lighthouse cruise Join the Alumni Association on June 6 for a member-exclusive Lighthouse Cruise of Narragansett Bay. Enjoy a relaxing afternoon aboard the Millennium Ferry with a narrated cruise of lower Narragansett Bay, passing 10 lighthouses and 30 miles of breathtaking scenery.

► Rhody Ram Spring Caravan Series The Alumni Association and Department of Athletics are sponsoring the 2009 Rhody Ram Spring Caravan Series events in Rhode Island and beyond. Meet URI athletic coaches and staff and look ahead to the 2009-10 season. The first event is in Providence on May 13. See if there’s an event near you.

► Fiftieth reunion celebration

University News & Events

► Professor helps military create materials resistant to explosions For Professor of Mechanical Engineering Arun Shukla, the first microseconds after an explosion are the most important. That’s when the first hint of damage occurs to nearby structures. As one of the world’s leaders in the field of fracture mechanics, he can decipher a great deal about the explosion by those first tiny cracks. Shukla has been working since the early 1980s with the U.S. military and, more recently, with Homeland Security. More...

► Mario Family Foundation Makes $500,000 Gift to URI The University has received a $500,000 gift commitment from the Mario Family Foundation to support the construction of the College of Pharmacy’s new $75-million facility. The gift will, in particular, support the inclusion of a 167-seat 3D “visualization auditorium” within the building. Dr. Ernest Mario, the Mario Family Foundation’s president, received his master’s degree and doctorate from the College of Pharmacy in 1964 and 1966, respectively. More...

► Textiles students "Rock the Runway" at Spring Splash With the themes of music and fashion intertwined, students of the textiles, fashion merchandising and design program rocked the runway during the sixth annual "Spring Splash" fashion show on April 25. The show - held in the Memorial Union Ballroom - was titled "Rock the Runway" and featured more than 80 outfits designed by 18 students. More...

► Gail Rashed Faris named 2009 Woman of The Year URI Women’s Center Assistant Director Gail Rashed Faris has woven teaching and learning into nearly every part of her official and unofficial duties. Students and colleagues have called her a role model, an innovator, a motivator, a visionary, and a friend. For all of her contributions, Faris has been named the Association for Professional and Academic Women’s 2009 Woman of the Year. More...

► Fish researcher demonstrates first "non-visual feeding" by African fish Most fish rely on their vision to find prey, but Professor of Biology Jacqueline Webb and her colleagues have demonstrated that a group of African cichlids feeds by using its lateral sensory system, detecting minute vibrations made by prey hidden in the sediments. Cichlids in Lake Malawi feed by gliding through the water with their chins close to the sand, acting like metal detectors that can seek out twitching arthropods and other unseen prey. More...

► Alumnus Alfred Verrecchia spends semester with management class This spring, students in Professor Robert Comerford’s senior-level strategic management class learned from a leader who made Hasbro Inc. one of the world’s leading toy and
Members of the URI Class of 1959 will return to campus May 15-17 to celebrate their 50th reunion. A variety of events in Newport, Kingston, and Narragansett are planned for the celebration, which will conclude with the 50th reunion class leading the march onto the Quad for URI's 123rd Commencement.

At the chapters CCE alumni are getting together on May 7, and on May 14, Connecticut alumni are gathering in Middletown, and the Baltimore/D.C. Chapter is holding a Rhody Rush Hour. On May 27, the Massachusetts Chapter is planning an event at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, and Southern California alumni are getting together in Oceanside on May 29. What's your chapter up to?

May 9 East Farm Spring Festival
May 16–17 URI's 123rd Commencement
June 1 Ocean Science and Exploration Center and Pell Marine Sciences Library Ribbon Cutting and Open House
June 18–20 URI Ocean State Summer Writing Conference
July 6–17 Nonviolence and Peace Studies Summer Institute

More upcoming events at URI...