Alumni Updates

It's Winter Gala time! It's not too late. Join fellow alumni and friends at the Hyatt Regency in Newport on Saturday evening, January 31, for the 13th Annual Winter Gala. Don't miss this great night of dining, dancing, and auction fun to benefit URI student scholarships. Register online now!

Don't miss Winter Homecoming! It may be cold outside, but it doesn't have to be dreary! Plan to take in Winter Homecoming on January 31-February 1, a special weekend of basketball and other great events. Register online today!

Learn more about the 2004 Alumni Achievement Award winners. Read about this year's distinguished award winners. Alumni Achievement Award recipients will receive their awards at a brunch on January 31, during Winter Homecoming.

Special alumni events coming up in Miami and Washington, D.C. There are some great events for alumni coming up on January 25 and 26 in Miami and on February 7 in Washington, D.C. If you are in the area, we hope to see you there!

University News & Events

URI chooses Robert Weygand as vice president for administration. Following a national search with more than 160 applicants, the University of Rhode Island has chosen Robert A. Weygand, president and CEO of the New England Board of Higher Education (NEBHE), as its new vice president for administration. Weygand, a 1971 URI alumnus, is a former Rhode Island congressman, lieutenant governor, and state representative. Read more...

Biotech students prepare to take on Rhode Island's fastest growing industry. Thirteen students have completed the first semester in the new biotechnology manufacturing program launched this fall at the Feinstein Providence Campus. The students, who are primarily adult learners seeking career change, are being prepared to be part of the state's growing biotechnology industry. Read more...

Nonviolence training helps students slow down and think. Students with speeding violations are finding out how learning about the history and practice of nonviolence can impact their own behavior. The nonviolence course is conducted at URI by Sgt. Linda Palazzo, a campus patrol leader at the University, who holds a training certificate from the Center for Nonviolence and Peace Studies. Read more...

FarSounder and URI researcher develop first sonar for marine navigation and obstacle avoidance. FarSounder, Inc. and a University researcher have begun commercial production of the FS-avoidance sonar for marine navigation. The device is projected to save the industry $2 to $3 billion in annual damages from collisions. Read more...

Willow Tree Farm owner establishes scholarship endowment. Chet Cekala '54, owner of the most successful poultry farm in the region, has made a $15,000 contribution to URI to establish the Chester Cekala and Eileen Cekala Endowed Scholarship. The scholarship will benefit students from the North Attleboro area. Read more...

URI business dean co-authors Lifestyle Marketing. Edward M. Mazze, dean of the URI College of Business, is one of three co-authors of Lifestyle Marketing: Reaching the New American Consumer. Designed to help marketers better reach consumers from different segments of the population, the book evolved from the authors' research on the impact of consumer lifestyles on purchasing behavior. Read more...

Teacher shares his vision with the blind. Tony Monahan, the coordinator of student teaching for physical education majors at the University and a URI-RIC Education Ph.D. student, was recently honored as he unveiled his three-dimensional work, "81 Squares In Braille," and donated it to the Helen Keller National Center for Deaf-Blind Youths and Adults in Sands Point, N.Y. Read more...

URI to celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Week. The University is honoring the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. with a series of events from Jan. 26 through Jan. 30. Sponsors include URI’s Multicultural Center, Office of the Chaplains, Center for Nonviolence and Peace Studies, Office of Health Services, URI NAACP, African and African-American Studies Program, and Great Performances series. The public is welcome to attend. Take a look at the schedule of events.

The next issue of In Advance will be sent on January 30.