**Alumni Updates**

**RIRAA surpasses $1 million mark** The generosity of alumni and friends of URI Athletics put the Rhode Island Rams Athletic Association (RIRAA) over the $1 million mark during the 2003-04 fiscal year. The RIRAA brought in nearly $400,000 in unrestricted funds and $285,000 in restricted funds. More than $290,000 was raised for athletic endowments, scholarships, and capital projects, and through a variety of special events, the RIRAA and its affiliate booster groups took in more than $250,000. **Thanks for being a part of URI's success!**

**Homecoming 2004!** Mark your calendars for Homecoming 2004, with events and reunions on Friday, October 22, and Saturday, October 23. At noon on October 23 it will be URI vs. UMass, and runners (and walkers) won't want to miss the 4th annual Homecoming 5K before the game. [Register online today for the Homecoming 5K!](#)

**URI couples, make a date to come back to the Quad** Order a personalized brick on the URI Century Walk for you and your favorite fellow alum. Brick orders received by September 1 will be installed in time for Homecoming on October 23. Inscriptions are limited to two lines with a maximum of 14 characters per line. Your $150 will benefit the many scholarships, student development programs, and alumni programs supported by the URI Alumni Association, and is tax deductible.

**University News & Events**

**Professor boosts antibiotic strength with natural compound** While conducting research on infection prevention, URI Microbiology Professor Paul Cohen stumbled upon a natural compound that boosts antibiotic strength from 100 to 1,000 times. The compound, lysophosphatidic acid, is naturally produced in the human body in great quantities wherever there is inflammation. "In combination with this compound, even older antibiotics become much more powerful," Cohen said. "It not only makes older antibiotics useful again, but it also allows them to be used in reduced dosages." **More...**

**Oceanographers receive grant to improve predictions of hurricane intensity** Although impressive strides have been made over the last several years to improve hurricane tracking and intensity predictions, scientists are continually working to improve our knowledge of where a hurricane will go and how hard it will hit. Graduate School of Oceanography physical oceanographers Drs. Isaac Ginis, Il Ju Moon, and Tetsu Hara have received a three-year $412,000 grant from the National Science Foundation to incorporate into current computer models the impact of surface waves on the interaction between the ocean and the atmosphere, and, consequently, how this interaction affects hurricane intensity, track, wind waves, and ocean prediction. **More...**

**URI textile scientists build extensive fiber database for FBI** When URI researchers started building a fiber database for the FBI in October 2002, they were asked for 400 samples. By the time the project ended earlier this year, they had provided more than 1,800. Professors Martin Bide and Margaret Ordonez of URI’s Department of Textiles, Fashion Merchandising and Design teamed up on the $134,000 FBI contract after learning of research opportunities with the FBI through their participation in the URI Forensic Science Partnership. The FBI is interested in refining its textile analysis processes because fibers play such a critical role in forensic investigations, Bide said. **More...**

**New 3-D group helps students visualize careers** A URI computer engineering student and a RISD industrial design student are part of a new, innovative team that puts researchers’ ideas into visual form using 3-dimensional modeling, video analysis, and animation. The team, called the 3-D Group for Interactive Visualization, is one of three new partnerships at URI this summer given seed money through the President’s Partnership Program, which was designed to increase interdisciplinary efforts in areas of research critical to society. **More...**
Show your Rhody pride and have a great night out

Register now for Pride in URI Night on August 18!

Don't miss this great night out at the ballpark! Enjoy all-you-can-eat barbecue and a chance to meet Paws, Sox, Rhody, and PawSox team members. At game time it will be the PawSox vs. the Buffalo Bisons. Register online today!

Help us honor the achievements of your fellow alumni

The Alumni Achievement Awards are presented annually to alumni chosen for excellence and outstanding professional achievement in a variety of categories. We invite you to complete a nomination form. Deadline is August 13.

Upcoming chapter events

Alumni and incoming freshmen are invited to the New Jersey Chapter's 8th annual "Welcome Freshman" picnic at the Monmouth Park Racetrack on August 15. Online registration is available for this great afternoon. Take a look at what your chapter has planned in the coming months!

The next issue of inAdvance will be sent on August 12.

Parking, traffic changes set for Kingston Campus

Improving pedestrian safety, reducing traffic in the campus core and increasing the number of visitor spaces and parking access for persons with disabilities near the center of campus are among the major reasons for several significant changes in the University of Rhode Island's traffic and parking plan. The changes take effect Aug. 15. More...

Professor chosen for top leadership training program

Accounting Professor Judy Beckman has been selected an American Council on Education (ACE) Fellow for the 2004-2005 academic year. The former chair of URI's Faculty Senate, Beckman was one of only 34 ACE fellows chosen from a national pool of candidates. She will serve her fellowship at the University of Vermont, working with President Daniel M. Fogel and Provost A. John Bramley. More...

On the calendar

Starting August 2, the University's Library Gallery will feature an exhibit of Professor Roger LeBrun's photographic essay entitled "Fringes of War: Vietnam 1969." The Graduate School of Oceanography (GSO) and the Naval War College Foundation invite the public to a multimedia presentation of "On Top of the World: Arctic Ocean Explorations," given by GSO geochemical oceanographer Dr. S. Bradley Moran, on Tuesday, August 3, at 7 p.m. in Spruance Auditorium at the Naval War College in Newport. Science exhibits will be on view in the auditorium lobby prior to the lecture. On Saturday, August 14, the Army National Guard Leapfest will be held on the Kingston Campus (Plains Road). URI's Summer Gardening School concludes with Butterflies: The Basics of Butterfly Gardening Plants on August 16. More...

Congratulations to Bonnie, URI's famous guard donkey, who gave birth to baby Clyde on July 26! Bonnie and Clyde are housed at the University's Peckham Farm. URI uses the farm and its animals for hands-on teaching of its animal science students. More...

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