Alumni Updates

There's no place like home! At long last, we are at home in the new URI Alumni Center, located at 73 Upper College Road. The Alumni Center is home to the Alumni Association and the Division of University Advancement, and is designed to offer meeting and reception space in a gracious and comfortable setting. Thanks to all who have worked so hard to make the URI Alumni Center a reality and such a striking addition to the Kingston Campus. See photos!

Upcoming Web chat
Attention, gardeners. Here's your chance to ask an expert how to make your garden grow!
Our next online chat is 1 p.m. EST on Tuesday, April 19, with Rosanne Sherry, coordinator of the URI Master Gardener program. Our ongoing online chat series is sponsored by the Division of University Advancement.

University News & Events

URI first public university in New England to earn Truman Honor
Recent recipients of the prestigious Truman scholarship will return to their alma mater to celebrate the University's designation as a 2004 Truman Foundation Honor Institution. URI is the first public university in New England to receive this honor and one of three nationally selected in 2004. To celebrate, the URI's Honors Program, with assistance from the President's Office, plans a series of events on April 6, which will include a talk by CNN legal analyst Jeffrey Toobin, who serves on the New York selection panel for Truman Scholars.

Zeta Beta Tau Fraternity breaks ground for new chapter house
Zeta Beta Tau, a fraternity at the University of Rhode Island respected for its strong commitment to campus and community service and academic performance, recently broke ground for a new chapter house. Active brothers, alumni, and University officials participated in brief ceremonies to mark the first new construction of a fraternity house on the Kingston Campus since 1980.

Bernard LaFayette, Jr. to receive Diversity Award for Lifetime Achievement
Dr. Bernard LaFayette, Jr., distinguished scholar-in-residence and director of URI's Center for Nonviolence and Peace Studies, has been selected as the fourth recipient of the University's Diversity Award for Lifetime Achievement. LaFayette is being honored for his historic leadership role in the American civil rights movement, his tireless campaigning for peace, nonviolence and human rights in domestic and international arenas, and his contributions to social justice causes.

College of Human Science and Services and Habitat to welcome family to their newly built home
The URI College of Human Science and Services and South County Habitat for Humanity celebrate the completion of a new home in Westerly on April 2, the culmination of several years of volunteer work coordinated by the College with the help of the local Habitat chapter. The College initiated the construction as a community service project in celebration of its 25th year and took the lead in raising the funds and the person-power needed to build the home.

It's election time
We hope you will participate in the election of Alumni Association Executive Board committee members. You can review the nominees and cast your ballots online. Deadline is May 31. You may either vote for the nominee or write in the name of the candidate of your choice. To protect your privacy, log in is required. Thank you for taking the time to vote! Please
Make plans now for Alumni Family Camp
Spring is here, and summer's around the corner. For a weekend of great family activities held on the Kingston campus and other venues around South County, consider URI Alumni Family Camp, July 29-July 31. For details, please contact Jessie Kenyon at jkenyon@advance.uri.edu.

Special alumni events
Two special alumni events are being offered during school vacation week. They are the Family Skate held at the Boss Ice Arena on Sunday, April 17, and the Big Apple Circus at Boston's Bayside Expo Center on Friday, April 22. Take a look at the details about these and other special alumni events coming up soon.

Alumni invited to upcoming job fairs in April
Job-seeking alumni are invited to attend the Passport to Employment Job Fair, sponsored by the URI Office of Career Services, which will be held in the Ryan Center on April 30, and the CCE Job Fair on April 9.

Alumni Children Excellence Scholarship
The URI Alumni Association is now accepting applications for the Alumni Children Excellence Scholarships. Any alumni son or daughter currently enrolled at the University is eligible. All grades and credits must be earned at URI. Formal application is required. Application deadline is June 10, 2005. For details, contact Lisa Harrison at lharrison@advance.uri.edu or 401-874-2242.

Oceanographic instrument returned to URI by African fisherman after two years at sea
In early January 2003, 92 subsurface floats were loaded on a truck for the start of a long scientific voyage. One of them has unexpectedly returned to URI, thanks to a fisherman working off the coast of the West African country of Guinea. The floats' oceanographic instruments that measure water temperature, pressure and oxygen content every six hours, were being used as part of a National Science Foundation-funded research project.

Further discussion on URI's graduation rate
URI President Robert Carothers and Frank Caprio, chairman of the Board of Governors for Higher Education, responded to a recent Providence Journal article discussing graduation rates at Rhode Island's institutions of higher education. They write: "The recent articles on graduation rates at Rhode Island's colleges and universities raise some important questions. As the study by the Education Trust points out, the goal for students is not only admission but, more importantly, graduation. Commissioner Jack Warner is right when he says that the prize goes only to those who graduate. That being said, however, the study by the Education Trust has its limitations."

Graduate returns from Iraq, speaks to ROTC cadets
Lt. Nathan Seidell made a recent visit to his alma mater to speak to a group of Army Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) cadets, some of whom will head to Iraq or Afghanistan after graduation. A Ranger-qualified airborne infantry officer with the 2nd Brigade of the 25th Infantry Division, Seidell was in command of a platoon of 35 soldiers, leading patrols within three days of stepping foot on Iraqi soil.

URI award-winning trumpet player to hold concert in April
Nicholas Jemo began playing the trumpet at 11. Today Jemo, a junior music performance major, attends URI on a full music scholarship. He is also winner of the first $1,000 Kingston Chamber Music Festival Scholarship, awarded to an outstanding instrumental student entering the junior class. Coming up on April 9, Jemo will hold his junior performance recital at the Fine Arts Center Concert Hall and on April 16, he will be the concerto soloist in the URI Symphony Orchestra. He was given this distinction after winning a concerto competition in January.

On the calendar
Making Your Garden Work for You, a day-long seminar sponsored by the URI Master Gardeners Association and the Cooperative Extension Education Center, is offered on April 9. The Physical Therapy program's "Spring into Motion" celebration on April 9 will feature its 15th annual 5-mile Fun Run and 3.1-mile walk. URI's Spring Splash fashion show will feature a runway of fresh student designs on April 28. The URI Theatre production of "The Diary of Anne Frank" commemorates the 60th anniversary of the end of WWII and the liberation of the Nazi concentration death camps. The play will be performed beginning April 28 in the Robert E. Will Theatre. The URI Cooperative Extension and Gardening for Good will host two horticultural therapy workshops, April 28-30, designed to show teachers, health care and social service professionals, and others how to use gardening activities as therapy for a variety of populations.

The next issue of inAdvance will be sent on April 14.