



Alumni Updates



▶ Mark your calendars for Alumni Center official grand opening

Join us for the official grand opening and

ribbon cutting ceremony for the new [URI Alumni Center](#) at 73 Upper College Road in Kingston on Saturday, **September 17**, 3:30 p.m.

Complimentary hors d'oeuvres and desserts will be served. [RSVP online](#) by **September 2**, or contact the Alumni Office at 401-874-2242 or alumni@advance.uri.edu.



▶ Show your Rhody pride

Join alumni, family, and friends on **Tuesday, August 23**, for [Pride in URI Night](#) at McCoy

Stadium -- always a great evening of baseball, food, and Rhody fun, sponsored by the Alumni Association and Rhode Island Rams Athletic Association. The BBQ and tent will open at 5 p.m. and the PawSox vs. the Ottawa Lynx game begins at 7 p.m. [Register online today!](#)



▶ Calling all campers

There is still time to register for [URI Alumni Family Camp](#)! Come to campus **July 29-31**, and

enjoy a great summer weekend of fun activities for adults and children of all ages! Make this summer one to remember for you and your family. [Register online today!](#)



University News & Events



▶ **Tick abundance running well above average** Deer tick abundance in Rhode Island has skyrocketed this summer according to a University of Rhode Island researcher, despite early season predictions that tick numbers could be lower this year. Thomas Mather, professor of entomology and director of URI's Center for Vector Borne Disease, said that tick numbers are, on average, 30 percent higher than the same time last year. [More...](#)



▶ **URI to coordinate statewide wellness initiative** The University will take a leadership role in Rhode Island's new worksite wellness initiative. Governor Carcieri made the announcement at the "Get Fit, Rhode Island" kickoff on June 29. The Governor's wife, Sue, led the steering committee that developed the program, which will be overseen by the Department of Health and managed by URI. It will focus on behavior change related to stress, physical activity, and nutrition -- areas in which the University has significant experience in programs and applied research. [More...](#)



▶ State matching program for higher education passes General Assembly

A matching endowment bill for higher education passed the General Assembly in the final hours of this legislative session. The Endowment Incentive Program establishes the structure needed to encourage greater private giving to URI, RIC, and CCRI by providing \$1 in funding for every \$2 privately raised, with a cap for each institution. The program will require an annual state appropriation. No specific funds were provided in this year's budget for the state's share of endowment matching funds, but higher education advocates view the passage a major step forward. Governor Carcieri has until July 10 to sign the bill. [More...](#)



▶ University's research vessel serves state as part of Rhode Island Endeavor Program

URI's oceanographic research vessel, the *Endeavor*, recently took a trip to collect seawater samples for testing of possible distribution of the phytoplankton species that makes up red tide. The vessel transported officials from the state's Department of Environmental Management to an area between Block Island and Martha's Vineyard. It was the first time DEM had sampled offshore for red tide, and initial indications showed no toxins. The sampling was one of the many activities made possible by the Rhode Island Endeavor Program. [More...](#)



THE URI ENDEAVOR



► **Welcome new Alumni Association President** [Peter J. Miniati III](#) was elected in June to head the URI Alumni

Association for a two-year term. A 1985 business management graduate, Miniati is vice president of Washington Trust Co. and has been a member of the Alumni Association's [executive board](#) since 1997, serving as its treasurer from 2001-2005.



► **Author Mary Jane Clark to chat in July** Our next online chat will be with novelist and CBS writer/producer [Mary](#)

[Jane Clark '76](#) at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, **July 20**. Clark's seventh book, *Hide Yourself Away*, published last year, was set in Newport, R.I. Her eighth, *Dancing in the Dark*, is scheduled for release later this month.

► **At the chapters** The **Southern California Chapter** is planning an outing at the Del Mar Racetrack on August 7. On August 12, the **Southwest Florida Gators** are gathering in Rhode Island for a visit to the new Alumni Center and a reverse "Snowbird" event. Members of the **New York City Chapter** are getting together in Bryant Park on August 22 to picnic and watch the classic movie "Jaws." *Find out more and see what [your chapter](#) has planned.*



► **University awarded \$750,000 NSF alliance grant** URI was recently awarded a five-year, \$750,000 National Science Foundation grant to recruit, mentor, educate, and retain minority graduate students in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). "URI is seeking to remove social and educational barriers to careers in the STEM disciplines for members of underrepresented groups who bring different viewpoints, perspectives, skills, and values to the scientific table, which inevitably help broaden and integrate scientific practices with societal needs," said Lynn Pasquerella, interim vice provost for graduate studies, research, and outreach. [More...](#)



► **URI to host conference, 70th birthday bash in honor of "drugs from the sea" pioneer** What better way to celebrate the work of Pharmacy Professor Yuzuru Shimizu than to have lively, scientific discussions on such topics as marine toxins and red tides, natural products chemistry, and chemical oceanography? The Symposium on Natural Chemistry in honor of Dr. Shimizu's 70th birthday will be held **July 21**, at 10 a.m. at the Coastal Institute Building on URI's Narragansett Bay Campus. A reception and dinner will be held following the symposium. [More...](#)



► **Faculty member, students honored by URI thanatology program** Earlier this year, Gene Knott, associate professor of human development and family studies, a national leader in death education, was presented a plaque at the international conference for the Association for Death Education and Counseling. The University's interdisciplinary program in thanatology recently paid tribute to him and honored students completing their studies in the program. [More...](#)



► **On the calendar** URI Master Gardeners open their gardens to visitors **July 16-17**, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., for the [Gardening with the Masters](#) tour. The Feinstein Providence Campus is exhibiting the works of Anthony Tomaselli, now through **August 18**, with gallery night receptions **July 21** and **August 18**, from 5 to 9 p.m. Entitled "[WHAT CHANGE? CHANGE WHAT? Anthony Tomaselli's Art For Social Justice](#)," the exhibit features a body of large expressive canvases that have never been exhibited as a series. [More...](#)

The next issue of **inAdvance** will be sent on **July 21**.

OTHER NEWS SOURCES

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- [URI Calendar of Events](#)

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