



Alumni Updates



► **Nomination deadline is November 30** The new University of Rhode Island [distinguished achievement award program](#)

will honor four to six distinguished alumni and/or friends who have brought distinction to themselves and to the University through their professional achievement, outstanding leadership, and/or community service. **Deadline for nominations is November 30, 2005.**

Ram Academy

► **Take time for yourself** Alumni and friends are

invited to participate in the next seminar led by [Gene Knott](#), a professor in the College of Human Science and Services, as part of the Ram Alumni Academy for Lifelong Learning series held at the Alumni Center. "[Coping with Loss](#)" is the focus of the **December 13** program. [Online registration](#) is available.



► **Time to hit the slopes** Start the new year with a great winter getaway. Our second annual alumni ski weekend will be held at Vermont's beautiful Mt. Snow, **January 6-8, 2006**. [Register online today.](#)



► **SAA celebrates 20 years** The [SAA Reunion](#) on Saturday, **December 3**, will include brunch at the UClub, taking in the URI/PC basketball game, and a reunion dinner at the Hyatt Regency-Newport. [Register online!](#)

► **At the chapters** On **December 27**,

University News & Events



► **Federal tax law changes to benefit donors** Charitable contribution incentives for cash gifts been increased **through December 31, 2005**. Through the passage of the Hurricane Katrina relief bill, Congress has taken action to encourage Americans to give generously, both for disaster relief and for the continued support of the nation's wider non-profit community. Outright cash gift donors have the opportunity to support the University of Rhode Island and other public charities with far larger gifts than usual while enjoying the full benefit of charitable deductions from their contribution. [More...](#)



► **Alton Jones Campus temporarily becomes Hollywood east** For four days this month, the University of Rhode Island's W. Alton Jones Campus became the backdrop for a new \$15.5 million action movie called *Hard Luck*. The film stars Cybill Shepherd and Wesley Snipes and is directed by Mario Van Peebles. *Hard Luck*, which is being filmed entirely in Rhode Island, will wrap up around Christmas and should be in theaters by spring. Van Peebles said the recent tax credit for filmmakers attracted the production to the state. [More...](#)



► **University groups continue fundraising efforts for Katrina relief** URI recently hosted a [silent auction](#) of works by well-known Rhode Island artists to support the University's fund to build a Habitat for Humanity house for Hurricane Katrina victims, raising nearly \$6,000. In addition, the URI Interfraternity and Panhellenic Councils combined their fundraising efforts during "Philanthropy Week," and raised \$6,500 for the Habitat for Humanity House Fund. The fund's goal is \$70,000 to sponsor the building of a home for a family affected by the Gulf hurricanes. Once the goal is met, URI students will participate in building the sponsored house. [More...](#)



► **Student merges multiple interests into success** Sophomore Alison O'Malley loves dance, Spanish, math, and science, and she's found a perfect home at URI. She is enrolled in the International Engineering Program, which requires that students major in a foreign language and an engineering discipline, and she is a member of the Ramettes dance team, performing at basketball games and other University events. O'Malley is also a College of Engineering ambassador, a Centennial Scholar, and a recipient of the Peter A. Pelletier Endowed Engineering Scholarship. [More...](#)



► **Honors Colloquium series concludes with head of President's Council on Physical Fitness, foremost expert on aging** Melissa Johnson, executive director of the President's Council on Physical Fitness, and Robert Butler, M.D., an internationally recognized expert on aging will speak about the importance of fitness on **November 29**, concluding this fall's Honors Colloquium, "Contemporary Sport: Healthy Pursuit or Obsession," which has examined some of the most important issues relating to sport and society. [More...](#)

the **Houston Chapter** is holding a pre-game reception before the URI/Houston basketball game. On **January 4**, the **North Carolina Chapter** invites alumni and friends to take in the URI/University of North Carolina men's basketball game at the UNC Charlotte campus and to attend a reception before the game. On **January 28**, the **Washington D.C. Chapter** will hold a pre-game reception before getting together to watch the URI/George Washington men's basketball game. What does [your chapter](#) have planned?

▶ **Chat update** Read the transcript of our recent chat with URI men's basketball coach [Jim Baron](#). Our **December 13** chat will feature James Campbell, director of the URI Counseling Center, and Brian Crawford of the URI Coastal Resource Center. Their topic: The [impact of the December 2004 tsunami](#).



▶ **URI Textiles Gallery explores natural dyes from around the world** Have you ever wondered why most historic flags are often a combination of red, white, and blue? It has to do with the use of madder and indigo: two of the world's oldest and most long-lasting natural textile dyes. Garments dyed with madder, indigo, and a variety of other natural dye displays are on exhibit through March 1, 2006, in the University's Textile Gallery in Quinn Hall on the Kingston Campus. "Nature's Dyes: Clothing and Textiles from Around the Globe," includes garments and textile fragments representing ancient cultures from Europe, Asia, and South America. [More...](#)



▶ **On the calendar** The URI Theatre production of "[Romeo and Juliet](#)" will be performed **December 1-3** and **8-10** at 7:30 p.m., **December 4** and **11** at 3 p.m. Landscape photographs of [Alan Metnick](#) are on exhibit at the Fine Arts Center **through December 18**, with a gallery talk by the artist on **November 30**. URI Feinstein Providence Campus will hold an [Open House](#) on **December 3**. See upcoming events at the [Ryan Center](#), including the Boston Pops Holiday Concert on **December 9**. [More...](#)

The next issue of **inAdvance** will be sent on **December 8**.

OTHER NEWS SOURCES

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