Alumni Updates

► Alumnus featured on "Made in America" show The works of ChemArt Founder and CEO Dick Beaupre ’62, will be featured on the nationally broadcast show, "Made in America," aired on the Travel Channel, December 10 at 4 p.m., December 20 at 9:30 p.m., and December 24 at 4:30 p.m. The program showcases ChemArt's design and production of collectibles, including the famous White House ornament, which ChemArt has produced for 25 years.

► Join the Alumni Association and win! If you join or renew your membership in the URI Alumni Association before January 16, 2006, your name will be entered into a drawing for dues-paying members. The winner will choose one of the following prizes: two season tickets for the 2006-2007 URI Men’s Basketball home games; two tickets for the 2006 Winter Gala on January 28; a URI Boston Rocker; or a personalized brick on the URI Century Walk. Join online today -- you could be a winner!

► Upcoming seminar at the Alumni Center Alumni and friends are invited to participate in the December 13 seminar, "Coping with Loss," led by Dr. Gene Knott. The program is part of the Ram Alumni Academy for Lifelong Learning series held at the Alumni Center. Register online today!

► Tsunami Late professor’s daughter leaves imprint at URI Octavia "Tavie" Abell, 14, is following in the footsteps of her late father, Paul Abell, a professor of organic chemistry at the University for more than 40 years, where his research included the chemical analysis of Apollo 11 moon rocks and studies in paleoclimatology. During his distinguished career, Abell traveled extensively. For 17 summers, he worked with Richard and Mary Leakey, the famed anthropologist/paleontologist team. Working with Mary Leakey in 1978, Abell discovered the now famous hominid footprint in Tanzania, which provided the oldest evidence of two-footedness. When the professor emeritus died in 2004, he left half of his estate to his young daughter for "educational purposes." Tavie decided to use some of it to honor her father with the establishment of the Paul I. Abell Memorial Honors Student Award.

► College of the Environment & Life Sciences receives $1 million federal appropriation for biotech, Lyme disease, and agriculture programs The University's College of the Environment and Life Sciences has been awarded federal appropriations totaling more than $1 million from the U.S. Department of Agriculture for research and outreach programs involving biotechnology, Lyme disease prevention, and agricultural literacy. "We are extremely pleased that the U.S. Congress provided this much-needed funding to enable us to continue our work in disciplines that are so important to the state of Rhode Island," said Jeff Seemann, dean of the College.

► URI scientists present tsunami expedition results The first research expedition to directly observe the seafloor near the epicenter of the earthquake that caused the December 2004 tsunami has revealed unexpected results that will dramatically improve forecasting of future tsunamis. These results were reported this week in San Francisco at the American Geophysical Union fall meeting. The 27-member international tsunami expedition was led by Kate Moran, a URI professor of oceanography and ocean engineering, and included other URI scientists. Moran and another expedition member, URI ocean engineering Professor Stephan Grilli, are also featured in "America's Tsunami: Are We Next?" an upcoming Discovery Channel documentary.

► URI to benefit from Feinstein Foundation Challenge Alumni thinking about making a contribution to their alma mater are being offered an incentive to donate before December 31, 2005. The Feinstein Foundation has once again challenged Rhode Islanders to give generously this holiday season. To promote philanthropy, the Foundation is giving away $100,000 to non-profit agencies and schools in the state, including URI. The $100,000 from the Feinstein Foundation will be divided among all the non-profits that promote the opportunity.

University News & Events

► University of Rhode Island in Advance December 8, 2005 Volume 2, Issue 25

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► HBO executive, J.P. Morgan official named Parents Fund
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.

At the chapters 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. On February 4, the Southwest Florida Gators will gather for a "February in Naples" celebration. What does your chapter have planned?

Save the date for URI Alumni Family Camp Mark your calendars for July 28-30, 2006, the 6th annual URI Alumni Family Camp, and plan to come back to Kingston for a weekend of family fun.

The next issue of inAdvance will be sent on December 22.

Student's research aids in understanding oyster susceptibility to disease Senior Rachel Hadley has become immersed in a world of DNA amplification, bacteria cultures, disease surveys, and histological investigations. These complex processes have helped the 22-year-old biology and psychology major play an important role in research to learn why some types of oysters are susceptible to disease pathogens. Funding for Hadley's research was provided by the URI Coastal Fellows Program, a unique initiative designed to involve undergraduate students in addressing current environmental problems.

On the calendar The URI Library Gallery presents "Bringing Thoughts to the Light" through December 23, an exhibit featuring artist Rick Devin’s acrylic paintings and soft sculpture. Gardeners interested in expanding their horticultural horizons may register now through January 1 for the 2006 University of Rhode Island Master Gardener training course, sponsored by the URI Cooperative Extension. Designed specifically for home gardeners, the class is held every Wednesday night from January 18 through May 3.

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