



Alumni Updates



▶ **A great weekend for graduates of the last decade** [Young Alumni Weekend](#) is a special weekend for graduates

of the past decade sponsored by the Alumni Association. Highlights include the [Blue & White Ball](#) on **February 24** at Newport's Hotel Viking and the URI/Xavier men's basketball game and pre-game buffet on **February 25**. [Register online today!](#)



▶ **Winter Gala festivities** Bidding for the [Winter Gala online auction](#) continues until January 25 at 2 p.m.

EST. There are plenty of great auction items, including a Napa Valley weekend, a trip to the Masters, signed sports memorabilia, and lots more. The [Winter Gala](#) will be held at the Hyatt Regency-Newport on **January 28**. [Register now](#), enjoy an elegant evening, and support student scholarships and grants.



▶ **Web chat on avian flu coming up** Our first Web chat of 2006 is on **January 24** with Pharmacy professor [Jef](#)

[Bratberg](#). His topic: Flu, avian or otherwise -- how susceptible are we? [Submit your question now](#) and see our [spring chat](#) lineup.

▶ **At the chapters** The **Southwest Florida Gators** are celebrating "February in Naples" on **February 4**. Special guest will be Bob Beagle, vice president of University Advancement. On **February 25**, **Colorado Chapter** members are volunteering at the Food

University News & Events



▶ **Recent gift, grant help to change the culture at the University for students with disabilities** Jay Kaiser '68 and his wife Jean have pledged up to \$75,000 to make it easier for students with disabilities to gain [access to assistive technologies](#). Pamela A. Rohland, assistant director of student life for disability services, said a portion of the funding has already been used to conduct research on and conceptualize a "virtual center" that students could access online at remote locations at any time of day. URI is currently in the final year of a seven-year U.S. Department of Education grant awarded to the University to change attitudes about people with disabilities. Among the most significant outcomes of the grant has been the training of faculty and administrators as disability resource mentors who help their colleagues better respond to students with disabilities. [More...](#)



▶ **URI to enroll full-time freshmen for programs at its Providence campus** For more than 60 years at its campus in Providence, the University of Rhode Island has opened its doors for adults returning to school to earn undergraduate or graduate degrees. Now those doors are open for new high school graduates to enroll as full-time freshmen. Students now applying for admission to some University programs for the fall of 2006 can choose to earn their degree at either the Kingston or the Providence Campus. [More...](#)



▶ **Professor's work contributes to passage of new law to crack down on human trafficking** After years of working on issues related to human trafficking, exploitation, and violence against women and children, Donna Hughes, the Eleanor M. and Oscar M. Carlson Endowed Chair in Women's Studies at the University of Rhode Island, recently attended a White House ceremony where President George W. Bush signed a new law that cracks down on human trafficking. "This new law represents to me the culmination of 17 years of research, writing, and advocacy work," Hughes said. [More...](#)



▶ **Amgen donates \$30,000 drug purification device to URI's Biotechnology Manufacturing Laboratory** Amgen, Rhode Island's largest biotechnology company, recently donated a \$30,000 drug purification device to the University of Rhode Island's Biotechnology Manufacturing Laboratory at its Feinstein Providence Campus. The equipment, called a Beckman-Coulter Array 360 Protein and Special Chemistry Analyzer, will be used to train students in protein separation and purification techniques used in biopharmaceutical manufacturing. [More...](#)



▶ **URI engineering partnership with Raytheon advances students, employees, research** A longtime partnership between the University's College of Engineering and Raytheon Co. in Portsmouth has blossomed in recent years and is helping both institutions succeed in an increasingly competitive marketplace for students and

Bank of the Rockies. On **March 4, Ohio Chapter** members are taking in the Dayton/URI men's basketball game. What does [your chapter have planned?](#)



▶ **Dinner and a play**
Plan to attend a special URI Alumni Association [member event](#) on **February 23**. Enjoy a delicious buffet at the University Club and walk next door for a URI Theatre performance of the Tony Award winning musical [Urinetown](#). Alumni Association members: \$26 per person includes dinner and theater (each member may bring up to five guests at the member price). Dinner at 6 p.m., play at 7:30. [Register online](#) by **February 17**, or contact Lisa Cugini '84 at lcugini@advance.uri.edu or 401-874-4604.



▶ **Up, up, and away**
Winter's a great time to plan your next vacation. Take a look at the [exciting trips](#) sponsored by the Alumni Association.

employees. The centerpiece of the partnership is an internship program that has allowed students to link classroom theory with practical engineering applications. [More...](#)



▶ **Student studies marsh birds to assess wildlife habitat quality**
Growing up in a Native American family, Cassius Spears developed a strong connection to the natural world and a passion for environmental protection, and as a sophomore environmental science major, he is already making his mark in environmental research. Spears just completed a six-month research project, in cooperation with Rick McKinney at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, assessing the value of wildlife habitat in Rhode Island salt marshes. [More...](#)



▶ **On the calendar** [The Iliad A New Translation](#), " an exhibit at the URI Library, features mixed media works by artist Merle Mainelli Poulton from **January 23** through **March 2**. On exhibit at the URI Providence Campus and The International Gallery of Heritage and Culture **through February 24**: "[Americans Who Tell the Truth](#)" by painter Robert Shetterly. URI Theatre will hold [auditions](#) for its spring production of "Angels in America Part I: Millennium Approaches" on **January 23** and **24**. The **Mosaic Dance Company** performs "Visions of the Near East," a program of North African, Middle and Near East dances, at the URI Fine Arts Center on **January 29** as part of the URI [Great Performances Series](#). URI Theatre will present the Rhode Island premiere of the Tony Award winning musical [Urinetown](#), beginning February 16. Tickets are on sale for the following [Ryan Center events](#): **Barney Live -- the Let's Go Tour** on **February 14** and **15**, and the **Harlem Globetrotters**, on **March 26**. [More...](#)

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