There's always time to chat This fall, we begin our third year of bringing you monthly online chats sponsored by the Division of University Advancement. So far we have introduced you to an Oscar-winning filmmaker, a foreign correspondent, and experts on Lyme disease and hurricanes. Take a look at who's coming up on our Fall 2006 Chat schedule.

Welcome to URI! First-year students and their families are cordially invited to the Alumni Center during Move-In Days on September 2 and 3, for refreshments and a break from the day's hectic activities. The Alumni Center will be open from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Students and parents can take a tour or just relax in the Center's spacious first-floor parlor. For details, contact Gina Dei at gmdei@advance.uri.edu or 401-874-5808.

Volunteer opportunity We are seeking alumni volunteers to join the planning committee for our 16th annual Winter Gala, which will be held January 27, 2007. Our next meeting is August 29 at 6:30 p.m. in the Alumni Center. For more information, contact Kristal Cardone at kristal@uri.edu or 401-874-4536.

Leadership Rhode Island The 3rd annual Leadership RI/URI Alumni Fall Breakfast will be held Thursday, August 24 at 7 a.m. in the Alumni Center. The event will feature a panel of experts discussing the challenges of leadership in today's world. For more information, contact Kevin Kavanagh at kkavanagh@advance.uri.edu or 401-874-5808.

Panel to discuss whether ports are ready for terrorist plots, natural disasters An international expert on catastrophic terrorism and transportation security who says the United States is failing to protect its citizens will moderate the opening panel of a two-day global conference at the University of Rhode Island. Stephen E. Flynn, author of the best-selling book, "America the Vulnerable: How Our Government is Failing to Protect Us From Terrorism," will join other transportation security specialists for the discussion "Risks, Vulnerabilities, and Readiness: The Challenges," Monday, Sept. 25. More...

URI chemistry professor and explosives expert in demand after thwarted London plot As soon as the news broke on Aug. 10 about authorities thwarting a terrorist plot in London, reporters from around the world were calling URI chemistry professor and explosives expert Jimmie Oxley to learn more about liquid explosives. Oxley, who works with the FBI, the Federal Aviation Administration, and police agencies across the US, the UK and Israel on research related to explosives and terrorism, is often a first choice of the media when explosives are involved in terrorist attacks. URI alumni and friends in the New York City area who want to meet and discuss these topics with Oxley will have the opportunity in her presentation "Forensic Chemistry: Using Science to Catch the Bad Guys" on Sept. 14. More...

Former Rhode Islanders pledge $800,000 Some talented Rhode Island students who choose to major in math, chemistry, physics, computer science, chemical engineering, or computer engineering at URI will receive scholarships covering full tuition and fees, thanks to longtime California residents Jim and June Diller. "The United States is not graduating enough technical talent," says Jim Diller, a 1957 URI physics alumnus and pioneer in the semiconductor field. The couple pledged $800,000 to establish a permanent endowed fund for future scientists, stipulating the scholarships go to the most talented Rhode Island students with the greatest financial need. More...

Honors Program gets A+ director Richard "Ric" McIntyre '79 has been appointed the new director of the URI Honors Program. McIntyre joined the University in 1987, teaching international and labor economics courses and earning the University's teaching excellence award in the process. "Professor McIntyre is a brilliant teacher and scholar who is forward thinking," said M. Beverly Swan, provost and vice president of academic affairs. "He challenges everyone to think in new ways. I cannot think of a better person to provide leadership for our honors program at this time. He serves the students--and the university--well." More...

Alumnus establishes $250,000 endowment for engineering student scholarships After a successful career in higher education, Steve Jonas '64 recently retired as vice president for administration at URI. In recognition of his service, Jonas established an endowed fund to provide scholarships for URI engineering students. The fund will support students pursuing degrees in engineering, computer science, and related fields. More...
September 14, 8-9:30 a.m. at The Gatehouse Restaurant, 4 Richmond Square, Providence. The breakfast is hosted by President Robert Carothers, the URI Alumni Association, and Leadership Rhode Island. R.S.V.P. online by September 7, or contact Lisa Harrison at lharrison@advance.uri.edu for more information.

At the chapters On September 16, the Northern California Chapter is holding its 11th annual clam bake in San Mateo. The Ohio Chapter's second annual clam bake in Fetzer's Woods will be on September 24. And on October 21, the Southwest Florida Gators are getting together for their annual Oktoberfest luncheon in Port Charlotte. Find out more.

A gift to last a lifetime Buy a brick on the URI Century Walk and give a gift to last a lifetime. Your $150 will benefit the many scholarships, student development programs, and alumni programs supported by the URI Alumni Association, and is tax deductible.

Sinclair Community College in Dayton, Ohio. He and his wife Jan have now established a $250,000 endowment through their will to provide scholarships to students in the URI College of Engineering. "The University provided me with scholarship help when I was a student, and without it there's no way I could have enrolled," he said. "We decided that because URI helped me when I needed it, maybe we could do something to help someone else who wants to attend." More...

Feinstein's $1 Million Challenge raises $159 million Alan Shawn Feinstein's annual spring million-dollar challenge helped raise $159 million during March and April, the largest amount raised since his challenge began in 1997. Forty-nine states participated in the challenge, and all of the money will be used to feed the hungry. "Given the current economic situation, more and more people are finding themselves standing in line at a food pantry in order to feed their families," said Kathleen Gorman, director of the Feinstein Center for a Hunger Free America at URI. The center handles the administration of the annual campaigns. More...

On the calendar URI's 75th annual Turfgrass Field Day will be held on August 23. Take a look at the 2006 URI Men's Soccer and Women's Soccer schedules. This fall's URI Honors Colloquium, "Songs of Social Justice: The Rhetoric of Music," begins its weekly series of programs on September 12. Amateur gardeners are invited to participate in an 8-week Fall Gardening School sponsored by the URI Cooperative Extension and held on consecutive Wednesday evenings from Sept. 27 through Nov. 17. More...

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