



Alumni Updates



► **Is a cruise in your future?** If you're thinking about a cruise for your winter getaway, don't miss our **December 12** online chat with [Howard Frank '62](#), Vice Chairman and Chief Operating Officer of the Carnival Corporation, who will offer expert advice for "sailing the seven seas."



► **A special holiday gift idea** Searching for a special gift for the URI grad in your life? A personalized brick to be placed on the Quad in the [URI Century Walk](#) is a gift to last a lifetime. You can [place your order](#) online today!



► **Call for nominations** Deadline for nominations for the [2007 University of Rhode Island Distinguished Achievement Awards](#) is December 29, 2006. The

awards 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.



► **Quad Angles Online** The December issue of *Quad Angles* will be in your mailbox soon. Take a look at the [online edition](#)

now!

► **Winter Gala** Get out your dancing shoes and register now for our 16th annual [Winter Gala](#) on **January 27, 2007**, at the Hyatt Regency in Newport.



University News & Events



► **Switchgrass research aims to create ethanol to power vehicles for \$1 per gallon** Switchgrass is recognized as a potential source of ethanol, but unlike corn, which is currently used for ethanol production, it can be grown on marginal soils, is useful as wildlife habitat, and requires little use of fertilizers, insecticides, or irrigation. Albert Kausch, a URI plant geneticist on the cutting edge of switchgrass research, has launched Project Golden Switchgrass, which he hopes will develop "the variety of enhanced switchgrass that everyone needs." He says that native switchgrass grown commercially today could produce ethanol for approximately \$2.70 per gallon, but by genetically improving a number of plant traits he believes the production price could get as low as \$1 per gallon. [More...](#)



► **URI to present first-ever student calendar** A student group at the University has produced a stylish calendar showcasing the diversity and involvement of URI students. Created by the Public Relations Society, the calendar features students from various fraternities, intramural and varsity athletics teams, the URI tour guides program, the Student Entertainment Committee, and the URI 101 mentoring program, among other groups. Fashion merchandising students styled and dressed the student models, who went through an interview process to be selected. Business major Joe Menassa was the photographer. Contact the Public Relations Society at prssa@etal.uri.edu if you are interested in purchasing a calendar. [More...](#)



► **School of Education aims to rewrite the book on science education, teacher training** The University of Rhode Island School of Education is studying and rewriting the book on how new elementary schoolteachers are taught to teach children about science. Education Professor Betty Young was awarded a \$2.25 million National Science Foundation grant to study what prospective and current teachers need to develop their teaching skills using exploratory and inquiry-based science lessons. She takes a "No Teacher Left Behind" attitude to teaching future educators the most effective ways to teach science to children. [More...](#)



► **China provides Chinese language instructor to URI** The Office of Chinese Language Council International, known in China as HanBan, has agreed to provide a Chinese language instructor to the University of Rhode Island for three years, the first time the Chinese government has sponsored a visiting professor at a university in the United States. Based in Beijing, HanBan is also considering an application to establish a Confucius Institute at URI, a non-profit educational institute designed to enhance the understanding of Chinese culture and support the teaching of the Chinese language. [More...](#)

Will your employer match your gift?

► **Will your employer match your gift?** This is the time of year when many of us make gifts to our favorite charitable institutions. If you are considering

Sponsored by the URI Alumni Association, the Winter Gala is an elegant, festive evening of dining, dancing, and silent auction fun held each year to benefit student scholarship and grant programs.



► **Atlantic-10 Tournament Packages**

Join alumni, family, and friends on a trip to Atlantic City! The University of Rhode Island invites you to the 2007 Atlantic-10 Men's Basketball Championship on March 7-10, 2007, at Boardwalk Hall in Atlantic City. Learn about [travel packages](#), or contact Gina Dei at gmdei@advance.uri.edu or 401-874-5808 for more information.

► **At the Chapters** Join the **Rhode Island Chapter** on **January 7** for the URI-Dayton men's basketball game at the Ryan Center. The **D.C. Chapter** is getting together before the Wizards-Celtics game on **January 20**. The **Southwest Florida Gators** are planning a luncheon in Ft. Meyers on **January 27**. [More...](#)

making a gift to the [Fund for URI](#) or the [Rhode Island Rams Athletic Association](#) by the end of 2006, did you know you could double or even triple your gift if you, or your spouse, works for a company that matches employee gifts to higher education? Find out if your company has a [matching gift policy](#).



► **Greeks raise \$10,000 for breast cancer awareness, prevention, and patient care**

The URI Interfraternity Council and Panhellenic Association, representing a Greek system with more than 1,300 members, have donated \$10,000 to benefit the Gloria Gemma Breast Cancer Resource Foundation. The foundation helps local breast cancer organizations raise awareness, work for prevention, and bring comfort and help to patients and their families in the Rhode Island community. The URI students, members of the fraternity and sorority systems, raised the money this fall during their annual Philanthropy Week, which was established in 2003. [More...](#)



► **On the calendar** The [URI Great Performances Series](#) kicks off 2007 with the LA Theatre Works production of "Private Lives," the acclaimed Noel Coward classic comedy, at the Fine Arts Center's Will Theater on **January 28** at 3 p.m. Coming up at the [Ryan Center](#) in the new year are the Harlem Globetrotters on **March 23** and the Doodlebops (two shows) on **April 13**. Tickets are now available. [More...](#)

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