



Alumni Updates



► It's Winter Gala time

Get out your dancing shoes, it's time for our 16th annual [Winter Gala](#) on **January 27, 2007**, at

the Hyatt Regency in Newport. 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. [Register today!](#)



► Calling all graduates of the last decade

Our [2007 Young Alumni Weekend](#) will be held **February 16-18, 2007**.

Among the highlights of this special weekend is the sixth annual [Blue and White Ball](#) held at the Canochet Club on Narragansett Beach, on Saturday, February 17.



► Chat update

If you're thinking about a cruise for your winter getaway, read the transcript of our December online chat with [Howard Frank '62](#), Vice Chairman and Chief Operating Officer of the Carnival Corporation, who shared some expert tips with us.



► At the chapters

Forty members of the [Rhode Island Chapter](#) spent an evening sorting, stacking, and boxing

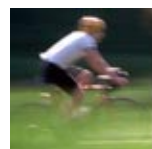
food at the Rhode Island Community Food Bank last month, an annual volunteer event for the group. The **D.C. Chapter** is getting together for the Wizards-Celtics game and a pre-game reception on **January 20**. The

University News & Events



► Feinstein students use charts, maps, and rap in presentations about Providence

Sixty Feinstein High School students participated in a forum titled "Understanding the Activity Patterns of Teenagers Living in Providence, R.I.," as part of a transportation project involving their high school, URI, and the Providence Plan, funded by a grant from the University's Transportation Center. Talia McCray, URI assistant professor of business administration, came up with the idea of enlisting Feinstein students in a research project on urban transportation issues. During a recent visit to the Kingston Campus, the students presented their findings and recommendations for improving their city in the areas of immigration, housing, the I-195 project, transportation, crime/public safety, and land use. [More...](#)



► Center for Wellness Research and Education to promote healthy lifestyles for Rhode Islanders

URI has established a Center for Wellness Research and Education designed to advance interdisciplinary health and wellness research and outreach aimed at improving the health of all Rhode Islanders. "The University is already a recognized leader in wellness and health promotion, and we bring to the table a distinguished faculty with expertise in such fields as pharmacy, nursing, nutrition, exercise science and cancer prevention, many of whom have been engaged in wellness efforts for decades," said URI President Carothers. The Center concept grew from Gov. Donald Carcieri's wellness initiative for state employees, Get Fit Rhode Island, launched in 2005. [More...](#)



► URI unveils new accessible Ram Van

The purchase of a new accessible van is the latest improvement in services for URI students with disabilities. University officials, students, faculty, and staff recently unveiled the new \$34,000, 2006 Ford E250 Extended van during a ribbon-cutting in front of the Memorial Union. The vehicle holds up to two persons in wheelchairs and five to nine passengers using regular seating. The Ram Van, operated during the week by URI Disability Services for those with permanent and temporary conditions, provides service to all residence halls and smaller areas of the campus. [More...](#)



► Alumni couple establishes fund to support students involved in campus activities

Peter Miniati III and Sandy (O'Brien) Miniati met as freshman orientation leaders at URI, and have now ensured that students who enrich campus life through their involvement in extracurricular activities will have financial support. Their \$25,000 gift to "Making a Difference, the University of Rhode Island Campaign," will establish the [Miniati Family Endowment](#) to support undergraduate scholarships for returning students who have demonstrated academic excellence and leadership in extracurricular activities. [More...](#)



► URI appoints North Dakota scholar, administrator to top research post

Peter Alfonso, vice president for research at the

Southwest Florida Gators are planning a luncheon in Ft. Meyers on **January 27**. [More...](#)

► **Call for nominations** Deadline for nominations for the [2007 University of Rhode Island Distinguished Achievement Awards](#) is January 19, 2007. 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.

► **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 all the details.



University of North Dakota and president of the UND Research Foundation, has been appointed vice provost for research, graduate studies and outreach, effective March 1. He is charged with providing the vision and strategic planning to develop and enhance the quality and visibility of the University's research, graduate education and outreach programs. Establishing a URI research foundation and laying the groundwork for the development of a commercial research park adjacent to the Kingston campus are among his priorities. [More...](#)



► **End of year giving news** During the remainder of 2006 and all of 2007, URI alumni and friends have an unprecedented opportunity to make a tax-advantaged gift to the University. Recent federal legislation permits [tax-free gifts from IRAs](#) to qualified charities. If you are **70.5 years old or older**, you may transfer funds from your IRAs to the University of Rhode Island without having to recognize the amount as income, thus avoiding the federal income tax liability that would otherwise accompany a distribution.



► **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: Larry the Cable Guy on **February 8**; the Harlem Globetrotters on **March 23**; and the Doodlebops (two shows) on **April 13**. Tickets are now available. [More...](#)

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