



Alumni Updates



► It's Winter Gala time

Don't miss our 16th annual [Winter Gala](#) on **January 27**, held at the Hyatt Regency in

Newport. [Register today](#) for this elegant, festive evening of dining, dancing, and silent auction fun held each year to benefit student scholarship and grant programs. Bidding for the [Winter Gala online auction](#) continues through January 24.



► **Young Alumni Weekend coming up**
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**.



► **January Web chat**

Coming up on **January 23** is our Web chat with [Tom Cerio '76](#), Executive VP of Program Distribution at HBO. His topic: What's New at HBO?



► **At the chapters** The **D.C. Chapter** is getting together for the Wizards-Celtics game and a pre-game reception on

January 20. The **Southwest Florida Gators** are planning a luncheon in Ft. Meyers on **January 27**. On February 21, members of the **Ohio Chapter** are getting together to watch the URI men's basketball team take on Xavier. [More...](#)



► **Nominations for Achievement Awards**
Deadline for nominations

University News & Events



► URI students and researchers to benefit from Champlin

Foundations grants The Champlin Foundations have provided the University of Rhode Island with \$450,000 to purchase high-tech equipment for scientific research and education. The [grants will fund](#)

new tools to provide students and faculty with interactive simulations of engineering models and processes, increased imaging capabilities of small animals used in biomedical research, and the ability to "see" through murky coastal waters. Funds will also be used to improve textile and apparel design training through acquisition of computer-aided design and production equipment. [More...](#)



► Student travels to the tundra to complete a non-traditional

pharmacy rotation Heather Mae Grant, a sixth-year pharmacy major, traveled to Alaska last summer for her pharmacy rotations in an effort to experience a minimalist lifestyle. Her Alaskan homebase was the small fishing village of Dillingham, a town accessible only by plane or boat. According to Grant, there were approximately 2,500 residents, no traffic lights, very little crime, and miles of tundra and mountain ranges. [More...](#)



► New England Lobster Research Initiative awards \$2.3 million in

research and monitoring grants The New England Lobster Research Initiative has allocated \$2.3 million for nine research and two monitoring projects that will examine lobsters and their habitats to study lobster shell disease. This funding is jointly managed by the

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service, the University of Rhode Island, and Rhode Island Sea Grant. The goal of this project is to describe the disease agent and how it works, and to determine the extent and severity of the disease in New England waters. [More...](#)



► Professor honored with USDA teaching excellence award

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has named Professor Roger LeBrun recipient of its 2006 Northeast regional award for excellence in college teaching. LeBrun, who researches arthropod-borne diseases, was also named a Fulbright Senior Specialist in Global Public Health in

2006, and will travel to Vietnam in 2007 to help physicians there understand how mosquitoes and other insects transmit diseases such as malaria and Japanese encephalitis. In addition to his teaching, LeBrun is director of graduate programs in the URI College of the Environment and Life Sciences and director of the URI Laboratory for Invertebrate Pathology. [More...](#)



► Student wins international scholarship to fund study in

Argentina URI senior Miranda O'Hayer will travel to Buenos Aires, Argentina, in February to study for five months. Although O'Hayer hasn't studied Spanish since high school, she will be immersed in the language in Argentina. "I wanted to do something that really scares

me," explains O'Hayer, who studied French at URI. "The trip will be a wonderful experience for me as a student, a traveler, and an admirer of Latin American culture,"



for the [2007 University of Rhode Island](#)

[Distinguished Achievement Awards](#) is **January 19**. These 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.

says O'Hayer, who was awarded a \$3,000 Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship, one of 400 to receive the award out of 1,189 applicants. [More...](#)



► **URI researcher among most-cited scholars** The Institute for Scientific Information has named Joe Rossi, professor of psychology and director of research at URI's Cancer Prevention Research Center, as one of the 250 most-cited authors of scholarly journal articles over the last two decades in the psychology/psychiatry category. The designation indicates the global impact of a researcher's work on other scholars. Rossi's work in health psychology and quantitative research methods has helped produce a revolutionary model of stage-based behavior change recognized internationally as one of the most promising approaches to health promotion. [More...](#)



► **On the calendar** The URI Cooperative Extension will offer its annual [GreenShare WinterSchool](#) beginning **January 16**. To support breast cancer awareness, join the "Pink Out" at the URI-UMass men's basketball game on **January 24** at the Ryan Center. The [URI Great Performances Series](#) kicks off 2007 with the LA Theatre Works production of "Private Lives" at the Will Theater on **January 28** at 3 p.m. Coming up at the [Ryan Center](#): Larry the Cable Guy on **February 8**; the Harlem Globetrotters on **March 23**; and the Doodlebops on **April 13**. [More...](#)

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