



Alumni Updates



► **Winter Gala online auction** A day of sailing on Narragansett Bay, a Mystic Aquarium adventure, and a visit by our very own Rhody the Ram are among the [Winter Gala online auction](#) items that could be yours! Bidding for the online auction continues through **January 24**. The 16th annual [Winter Gala](#) is held on **January 27**. [Register today](#) for this elegant, festive evening.



► **January Web chat features HBO exec** Coming up on **January 23** is our Web chat with [Tom Cerio '76](#), Executive VP of Program Distribution at HBO. His topic: [The World of HBO](#).



► **Young Alumni Weekend** If it's **February 16-17**, it must be [Young Alumni Weekend!](#) 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**. See [photos](#) from last year's event and [register today!](#)



► **Assistant Secretary of Defense leads February chat** URI alumnus and U.S. Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations/Low Intensity Conflict [Thomas O'Connell '68](#) will lead a Web chat on **February 1**. His topic is the War on Terrorism: The World of Special Operations.



► **Atlantic City,**

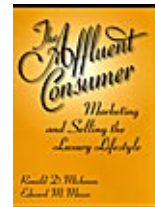
University News & Events



► **CVS chief makes \$2.5 million gift to URI** Tom Ryan '75, chairman, president and CEO of CVS Corp., and his wife Cathy have pledged \$2.5 million to the University's Making a Difference Campaign. The gift will support a variety of [initiatives in the College of Pharmacy](#), including a \$500,000 challenge grant that will match, dollar-for-dollar, donations of at least \$12,500 from other individuals wishing to establish an endowed scholarship for pharmacy students. The scholarship funds can be named for the donor or in honor of anyone the donor designates. In addition to this major gift, Ryan has agreed to chair the Making a Difference Campaign, the University's second comprehensive capital campaign, which will be launched in fall 2007. [More...](#)



► **Natural resource economics department ranked fourth in nation** The 2005 Faculty Scholarly Productivity Index ranked URI's Department of Environmental and Natural Resource Economics the fourth most productive research department in the country in the field of agricultural economics, which studies the interactions between economic and natural systems with the goal of developing a sustainable and efficient economy. The Index rates faculty members' scholarly output at nearly 7,300 doctoral programs around the country. Only Colorado State University, Iowa State University, and the University of California at Berkeley ranked ahead of URI. [More...](#)



► **Business professor co-authors *The Affluent Consumer*** Although most people don't consider themselves affluent, URI Distinguished Professor of Business Administration Edward Mazze has discovered a surprising trend. "Most people purchase high-end goods and services for special occasions, such as birthdays, weddings, anniversaries and graduations, which makes us all, at one time or another, affluent consumers." In *The Affluent Consumer, Marketing and Selling the Luxury Lifestyle*, Mazze and co-author Ronald Michman, professor emeritus at Shippensburg University, examine the exponential growth of the affluent sector. [More...](#)



► **Course to explore the impact of 9/11** This semester, Alain-Philippe Durand, associate professor of French, film media, and comparative literature, will teach an honors course exploring 9/11 through a study of fiction and non-fiction literature and films created since the deadly terrorist attacks. The course's objective is to identify common characteristics that shape these works and to study and discuss the various reactions to them. Durand will use three main questions to guide the discussion. Is there such a thing as a literature of 9/11? If so, how can it be described and explained? Who has the authority to write on 9/11? [More...](#)



► **Nonviolence leader talks about peace during time of war** He was beaten in Selma, had three ribs cracked in Montgomery, and was kidnapped in Colombia. Yet Bernard LaFayette has kept the flame of nonviolence burning for nearly a half century. The distinguished



anyone? 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**, at Boardwalk Hall in Atlantic City. Learn about great [travel packages](#), or contact Gina Dei at gmdei@advance.uri.edu or 401-874-5808 for all the details.



▶ **Globetrotter event**
Come to the Ryan Center and enjoy the Harlem Globetrotters-Washington Generals

game on **March 23**, at 7:00 p.m. Before the game, have dinner, meet the players, participate in a free raffle, and attend Globetrotter U. \$30 per person. [Register online](#) or contact Gina Dei at 401-874-5808 or gmdei@advance.uri.edu.



scholar-in-residence and director of the University's Center for Nonviolence and Peace Studies recently shared his thoughts on peace during this time of war. [More...](#)



▶ **READ/WRITE Series receives a donor's challenge** An anonymous donor to the URI READ/WRITE series, which relies exclusively on contributions for funding, has made a challenge. The donor will match any gift up to \$2,500, and the money will be used to bring nationally known and emerging poets, novelists, and creative non-fiction writers to URI's Kingston campus. The READ/WRITE series, which is free and open to the public, hosts a poet or prose writer once a month during the academic year. [More...](#)



▶ **On the calendar** Don't forget the "[Pink Out](#)" at the URI-UMass game on **January 24** at the Ryan Center. Coming up at the URI Fine Arts Center, an exhibit by painter Merrill Wagner entitled "[Looking at the Land](#)" on **January 23**, and on **January 24**, "[Motives for Writing: A Text in Five Movements](#)" by Irene Lawrence. The [URI Great Performances Series](#) presents the LA Theatre Works production of "Private Lives" on **January 28**. Events honoring the life and legacy of [Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.](#) will be held **January 29** through **February 1**. The [University Artist Series](#) continues with a **February 4** concert featuring harp, flute, and voice. See what's happening at the [Ryan Center](#). [More...](#)

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