



Alumni Updates



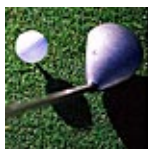
► **A great time** Young alumni danced the night away at the [Blue & White Ball](#), the highlight of [Young Alumni](#)

[Weekend](#), a special weekend for graduates of the last decade held February 16-17. Take a look at our [Photo Album!](#)



► **Chat news** Read the transcript of our recent Web chat with marine explorer and University of Rhode Island

Professor of Oceanography [Bob Ballard Ph.D. '75](#). Our next chat features Internet Safety Specialist Jessica Stratton '99 on **April 10**. Her topic: Do You Know How to be Saf Online?



► **Save the Date** Mark your calendars for great alumni events coming up in the next few months, including the [Alumni Golf](#)

[Tournament](#) on **June 5** and [Family Camp](#) on **July 27-29**. Online registration for both events will be available soon.



► **Time to expand your horizons?** Coming up this spring are two [exciting travel opportunities](#) sponsored

by the Alumni Association. You can cruise the Canary Islands, Madeira, and Gibraltar, or explore the Western Mediterranean, stopping at ports in Spain, France, and Italy. Maybe it's time to sail away!

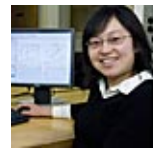


► **At the chapters** The **Southwest Florida**

University News & Events



► **Explorer Ballard to lead major ocean expedition** Renowned ocean explorer and Professor of Oceanography Dr. Robert Ballard and a team of scientists will explore the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary off the Texas/Louisiana coast from **March 3-9**. Named for its colorful corals and sponges, the sanctuary was selected because of its unique geology and biology. Thanks to a [partnership](#) between URI and the Smithfield (R.I.) School Department, students and teachers at Smithfield High School will be able to interact in real time with the scientists at sea. The public can also view [broadcasts of the expedition](#) free at the Coastal Institute Auditorium at the URI Narragansett Bay Campus while teachers and students in the state can view the broadcasts in their schools via Internet2 teleconferencing technology. [More...](#)



► **Engineering professor awarded \$400,000 NSF grant** Yan Sun, an assistant professor of computer engineering, has been awarded a \$400,000, five-year grant from the National Science Foundation to develop a systematic plan to build "trust infrastructure" in computer networks. Back when supercomputers controlled most computer networks, it was easier to trust the network, according to Sun. Now computer networks are decentralized and data transmission is collaborative. Sun is studying trust from a social science perspective and adapting it to computer networks to improve network security and performance. [More...](#)



► **URI wins fifth A-10 Indoor Track & Field Championship in seven years** The University of Rhode Island won its fifth team title in seven years on February 17 at the Atlantic 10 Men's Indoor Track & Field Championships in URI's Mackal Field House. Rhody junior Yudehweh Gbaa of Providence was named the Most Outstanding Field Athlete, while head coach John Copeland garnered his fourth Coach of the Year Award for the Rams. [More...](#)



► **University graduates first gerontological nurse practitioner** During two-plus decades as a nurse, Donna Rondeau-Marzullo was learning on the job. But when the University of Rhode Island introduced a new master's program to prepare nurses as gerontological nurse practitioners, she jumped right in. Last December, she became the first graduate of the 42-credit program. The wife and mother of three teenagers and full-time nurse at Roger Williams Medical Center said the two-and-half-year commitment was worth it. [More...](#)



► **Centreville Bank to deposit \$50,000 to its URI endowment** Centreville Bank has added \$10,000 to its [existing scholarship endowment](#), bringing its current contribution to \$42,000. The bank has also pledged an additional \$40,000. The scholarships are awarded to undergraduate students living in the bank's service area who show merit and need. The gifts are part of the University's Making a Difference campaign.



Gators will hold their popular Steak Out on **March 24**. On **April 1**, members of the **New Jersey Chapter** will take in the NJ Devils-Boston Bruins game. And on **April 20**, the **Boston Chapter** will enjoy a Beantown performance of the Big Apple Circus, and invite you to join them. Find out more about [these and other chapter events](#).



▶ **Last call for Globetrotter event** Get your tickets now for the Harlem Globetrotters-Washington Generals event at the Ryan Center on **March 23**, which will include great pre-game activities, including dinner, meet-and-greet with the players, raffles, and Globetrotter U. Pre-game events at 5 p. m., followed by the game at 7 p.m. \$30 per person. [Register online](#) or contact Gina Dei at 401-874-5808.

"We're a community bank and as such we want to give back to the communities we serve," explained Ray Bolster, Centerville president. [More...](#)



▶ **Alumnus wins major prize at Greek film festival** "Land of Nod," a film by Evangelos Giovanis '02, won first place in the digital wave category at the International Thessaloniki Film Festival. The award came with a 15,000 Euro prize and praise from film critics who hailed the 29-year-old as a "young Scorsese" and liken him to John Cassavetes. The festival, held in Thessaloniki, Greece, showcases the work of new and emerging filmmakers. "Land of Nod" will be screened this spring during URI's annual Visualizations Film Festival. [More...](#)



▶ **On the calendar** A photography exhibit by Frank Cordelle, [The Century Project](#), presented by the URI Body Image Acceptance Committee, will run **March 5-9** at the Memorial Union with the artist participating in four public discussions during the week. The [Piano Extravaganza! Festival](#), held **March 9-11**, will feature two concerts, a master class, and a piano competition. URI will host a panel discussion **March 13** on media coverage in the aftermath of the [Station Nightclub Fire](#). Janet Mancini Billson will deliver the annual Fredrika Wild Schweers Lecture on women and health, "[Female Well Being: Challenges and Power in a New Century](#)," on **March 27**. See what's happening at the [Ryan Center](#). [More...](#)

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