



## Alumni Updates



► **Is today your lucky day?** If you renew your membership in (or join) the [URI Alumni Association](#) before April

6, your name will be entered into a special drawing for dues-paying members. The winner will choose from one of the following: Two season tickets for the 2007-2008 URI Men's Basketball home games; two season tickets for the 2007-2008 URI Great Performances Series; or a personalized brick on the URI Century Walk. [Become a member!](#) Today could be your lucky day.



► **Upcoming Web chat on Internet Safety** Don't miss our upcoming Web Chat on **April 10**, featuring Internet Safety

Specialist [Jessica Stratton '99](#), who will be ready to address questions on how to protect our children online, prevent credit card and identify theft, and keep our computers virus-free. Her timely topic: Do You Know How to be Safe Online?



► **Opening night at PPAC** Join alumni, family and friends at the Providence Performing Arts Center for the

musical play *Michelangelo* by URI alumnus Enrico Garzilli on opening night, **April 27**, and for a pre-show reception. The reception, which includes a cash bar and light hors d'oeuvres is free, and main floor tickets are discounted at \$45.25 per person. [Register online](#) or contact Gina Dei at 401-874-5808 or [gmdei@advance.uri.edu](mailto:gmdei@advance.uri.edu).

► **Get in the game** The [URI Alumni](#)



## University News & Events



► **URI breaks ground for construction of \$60 million biotechnology center** The University of Rhode Island held groundbreaking ceremonies this week for the Center for Biotechnology and Life Sciences, the largest academic building project in the University's history and a major center of education and research that will drive economic development in the state's growing biotechnology industry. At the ceremony, Amgen, the leading biotechnology employer in Rhode Island, committed \$1 million to the University's [Making a Difference Campaign](#). The gift will be used to support construction of state-of-the-art laboratories and endow academic programs in the Center. [More...](#)



► **URI is home to Billy Horrigan, the funniest college student in America** Senior philosophy major Billy Horrigan, winner of the American Eagle Campus Comedy Challenge, has been dubbed the funniest college student in America after a 12-campus search sponsored by American Eagle Outfitters, Inc. After Horrigan won

first place at URI on March 5, a video of his performance was posted on the American Eagle Web site where it received the most votes from thousands of online viewers. As a result, American Eagle Outfitters flew Horrigan to Cancun to perform before an audience of thousands of students on spring break. [More...](#)



► **Largest-ever job fair at Ryan Center on April 4** Welcoming 118 employers from the fields of business, financial services, non-profit, human services, government, retail, education, travel services, insurance, health, engineering and technology, the University of Rhode Island Career and Job Fair on April 4 will be the largest career event ever held on the Kingston campus. Offered by [URI Career Services](#), the event is free and open to the public. It will be held at the Ryan Center from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Members of the Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training will provide free resume reviews until 2 p.m. Fifty percent of the organizations slated to attend have corporate headquarters or primary offices in Rhode Island. [More...](#)



► **Capital projects director named to Wheelchair Sports, USA Hall of Fame** Paul DePace, director of Capital Projects at URI, was recently inducted into the Wheelchair Sports, USA Hall of Fame for his lifetime contributions to enhancing athletic opportunities for competitors in wheelchairs. "I wish I could have been inducted for my prowess as an athlete, but I was pretty mediocre," DePace joked. "It is an honor to be included with such a great group of people who have dedicated their lives to making life more fulfilling through athletics for those who compete in wheelchairs." DePace was paralyzed in a car accident in 1967. He began competing as a wheelchair athlete in 1968, the year he earned his bachelor's degree in engineering from URI. [More...](#)



► **Confucius Institute established at URI** The University has become one of 20 Confucius Institutes in the United States and one of

[Golf Tournament](#) will be held **June 5** at Valley Country Club in Warwick. This popular event is a great way to enjoy your favorite game, catch up with fellow alumni and friends, and raise funds to benefit URI students. The URI Alumni Golf Tournament has raised \$120,000 for student scholarships and grants since 1995. [Register online today!](#)

► **At the chapters** Join the **Boston Alumni Chapter** for a performance of the famed Big Apple Circus at Boston City Hall Plaza on April 20. And the **New York Metro Alumni Chapter** is inviting other URI alumni and friends to join them in Times Square on **May 5** for the the 10th annual Revlon Run/Walk for Women. Find out more about [these and other chapter events](#).

► **Down and dirty** Oozeball, a URI tradition since 1990, is a double elimination volleyball tournament played in inches and inches of mud. [Online registration](#) is now available for the 2007 Oozeball Tournament, which will be held on Saturday, **April 28**. The Oozeball Tournament is sponsored by the [Student Alumni Association](#), and a portion of event proceeds will go toward the [Rhody the Ram Scholarship Endowment](#).



150 in the world. This designation will promote and strengthen educational programs and exchanges between URI and China. URI's Confucius Institute will receive \$100,000 in seed money from Hanban, the teaching office run by the Chinese government. The money will be used to support Chinese language and culture programs. In addition, Hanban has agreed to fund two Chinese instructors for five years, and will donate 5,000 books, compact discs and digital video discs to the University Library and provide multimedia courseware and other teaching materials as well as online courses. [More...](#)



► **URI, City of Providence partner to offer educational programs at Roger Williams Park Botanical Center** Visitors to the Roger Williams Park Botanical Center now have access to high quality educational programs under a new partnership between the City of Providence and the University of Rhode Island. Under the terms of the agreement, URI will manage the Botanical Center's educational programs and provide faculty from the University's College of the Environment and Life Sciences and URI-trained Master Gardener volunteers to teach a wide variety of classes. In addition, URI will train volunteers to staff a Master Gardener Information Desk at the Center as well as provide information on how to access the services of the URI Plant Clinic in Kingston. [More...](#)



► **On the calendar** On **April 4** in Edwards Auditorium, Elizabeth Burke Bryant and Judy Langford, leading authorities and child advocates, will discuss major issues and developments facing [America's children and families](#). Bridget Dalton, chief officer of Literacy and Technology at the Center for Applied Special Technology, will give this year's [Robert and Augusta Finkelstein Memorial Lecture](#) on **April 4**, exploring the links between computer-based learning and literacy. It will be presented at 7 p.m., Marks Auditorium, Chafee Social Science Center. British art historian and author Helen Langdon will present a slide lecture called [Caravaggio: A Life in Art](#) at Cherry Auditorium on **April 12** at 4 p.m. The [Proteus 7 Brass Ensemble](#) will appear at the Fine Arts Center on **April 13** as part of the URI Great Performances Series. Tickets may be obtained by calling 401-874-2627. Take a look and see what is coming up at the [Ryan Center](#). [More...](#)

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