



Alumni Updates



► **Announcing URI alumni children scholarships** Any alumni son or daughter currently enrolled at URI is eligible to apply. Six scholarships will be awarded. Application deadline is **June 8, 2007**. Learn more about the [Alumni Children Academic Excellence Scholarships](#) and download an application.



► **A gathering of golfers** Spring's here and it's time to register for the [URI Alumni Golf Tournament](#), held **June 5** at Valley Country Club in Warwick. Don't miss this annual URI tradition - great friends, great food, and a great cause. The URI Alumni Golf Tournament has raised \$120,000 for student scholarships and grants since 1995. [Register online today!](#)



► **Enjoy a fun summer weekend in South County** This will be the seventh year for URI Family Camp, which will be held **July 27-29, 2007**. It's not too early to register for this popular summertime event designed for adults and children of all ages. Take a look at what we have planned for our [2007 Family Camp!](#)



► **Fiftieth reunion celebration coming up soon** Members of the Class of 1957 will be celebrating their [50th Reunion](#) **May 18-20, 2007**. The committee has planned a weekend of interesting activities and opportunities



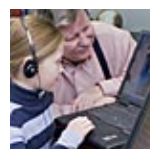
University News & Events



► Our hearts and prayers go out to the grieving families and friends of those lost at Virginia Tech last week. On April 18, the URI Student Senate passed a resolution to send condolences to the Virginia Tech community, and this resolution and a banner with words of support from URI students, faculty, staff and alumni will soon be sent to Virginia Tech. At this sad time, be confident that your University is active in ensuring the safety of our community and in seeking to address the violence, anger, pain and isolation that may lead to such incidents.



► **Donor gives Hope to inner-city students** John Murphy HON '05 grew up in Providence's Fox Point, graduated from Hope High School, and has built a successful business. He understands poverty and believes in the importance of education and hope. To demonstrate that belief, Murphy, founder, president and CEO of Home Loan Investment Bank, recently established the [John Murphy MTI Fund](#), which supports the University's Mentor Tutor Internship Program. The fund sponsors 10 students known as Murphy Scholars, recruited from URI's Talent Development Program, who work as academic mentors in a classroom or one-on-one at Hope High, becoming role models as well as cheerleaders for the students. His support is part of URI's Making a Difference campaign. [More...](#)



► **Researchers to develop and test substance use prevention program in middle schools** Based on decades of success in helping to change smoking and other high-risk behaviors of teenagers and adults, the URI Cancer Prevention Research Center will now bring tailored programs to younger children to prevent these behaviors from getting started. The University received a \$3.5 million, 5-year grant from the National Institute of Drug Abuse to support its innovative research for prevention of substance abuse and other high-risk behaviors. Led by Psychology Professor Wayne Velicer, the research will focus on prevention of health-risk behaviors among children in grades 6-8. [More...](#)



► **URI German professor's dog listens as schoolchildren read** When Sharif, a gentle, 136-pound Great Dane, strides into Room 12 at North Kingstown's Fishing Cove School, all heads turn. He stops at his blanket placed on the floor, turns, and looks at 23 wide-eyed third graders. His owner, Doris Kirchner, a URI German professor, signals him to lie down. Sharif obeys. Soon students, one at a time, begin reading books to their furry reading coach. "Reading researchers have found that children who are normally hesitant to read actually enjoy reading to a dog," explains Kirchner. "While therapy dogs have long been used in hospitals, senior centers, and as service animals, the idea of using them for reading is relatively new." [More...](#)



► **Student brings minister's perspective to biotechnology** Ademola Jonah grew up in Lagos, Nigeria, where he followed a calling

to reconnect with classmates, culminating with the 50th Reunion Class leading the University's 2007 Commencement march onto the Quad.



► **Healthy eating Web chat** Our next Web chat is on **May 15** with URI Professor of Nutrition and Food science

[Kathleen Melanson](#), an expert on energy metabolism, appetite physiology, and body weight regulation, who will address the always popular topic of healthy weight loss.

► **Wine tasting in Newport: a special member event** Alumni Association members are invited to a [special event](#) that will be held at Newport Vineyards on **June 15**. The evening will include a private tour of Newport Vineyards, wine and cheese tasting, and browsing the winery's 1,000 square foot retail shop. This event is offered exclusively to dues-paying [members](#) of the Alumni Association. \$20 per person. This event is sure to sell out. Register now by contacting Gina Dei at gmdei@advance.uri.edu or 401-874--5808.



to become a minister. That calling led him to Christ Gospel Church in Providence three years ago. That same calling has taken him into the complex world of biotechnology. Jonah is enrolled in the Biotechnology Manufacturing Program, a rigorous curriculum of biology, chemistry, mathematics and laboratory courses at URI's Alan Shawn Feinstein Providence Campus that begins with two semesters of full-time study followed by a summer internship at a biotechnology company. [More...](#)



► **New Student Philanthropy Challenge program initiates its Scrouge for the Lounge project** URI's Student Philanthropy Challenge is a new program designed to encourage students to raise funds and awareness for a specific campus project each year. The 2007 project, which is to raise \$20,000 to revitalize and improve the quality of the Student Lounge in the Memorial Union. The Challenge kicked off last month and continues through June 30, 2007. Improvements to the student lounge will be made in phases, and will start as early as this summer. Students will be updated by email during the summer months about the progress of the renovations. [More...](#)



► **On the calendar** The 5th annual **East Farm Spring Festival** on **May 12**, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., will feature plant sales, horticulture talks, children's activities, music, and demonstrations with URI experts. Email ceec@etal.uri or call 401-874-2900. Spring cleaning? Donate your treasures to the 4th annual **Rhody the Ram Yard Sale** to benefit the [Rhody the Ram Scholarship Endowment](#) that will be held **June 9**, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Keaney Parking Lot. Contact gbeagle@foundation.uri.edu or hawksley@uri.edu to learn more. [The Ocean State Summer Writing Conference](#) on **June 22** and **23** welcomes both novice and advanced writers and features workshops, panel discussions, craft talks, and readings by award-winning writers and poets. At the [Ryan Center](#): Tickets on sale now for **Vince Gill** and **Amy Grant** on **July 19** and two performances of the **Wiggles** on **August 7**. [More...](#)

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