

Fram Focus volume 5:7 - February 2020

In this issue:

Focus on RIT's College of Science

- Cosponsored Events:
 - **Solving Global Grand Challenges with High Performance Data Analytics.** Presented by Dr. David Bader, Distinguished Professor and Director of the Institute for Data Science, NJIT
 - **Graduate Student Mental Health: What Faculty, Friends, and Family Can Do.** Presented by Dr. Julie Posselt, Associate Professor of Education, USC
- A Few Thoughts: Dr. Sandi Connelly, Principal Lecturer, School of Life Sciences, and Dr. Jeffrey Mills, Senior Lecturer, School of Chemistry and Materials Science
- From Gene Fram: “**Steps to Sharpen Your Critical Thinking and Cut Through the Fluff**” by Morey Stettner

Focus on the College of Science

Take part in our innovative, world-class research projects and programs in our dynamic environment of faculty, staff and students that foster professional and personal growth while encouraging new ways of thinking and doing. Our partnerships with other RIT colleges provide you with an unrivaled selection of program options; committed, professional faculty; a myriad of undergraduate research and co-op opportunities; and access to state-of-the-art laboratory equipment and facilities. Realize your potential while acquiring essential scientific knowledge and developing new technologies.

Cosponsored Events

College of Science Distinguished Speakers:

Date: Wednesday, February 5, 2020

Time: 1:00 – 1:50 p.m.

Location: A300 Gosnell Hall

A reception will immediately follow.

In today's compute-intensive, data-driven world, critical thinking is the essential ingredient to addressing many global challenges. Dr. David Bader is a leading expert in the development of mathematical algorithms which can be efficiently implemented on the world's most powerful computing architectures, aiming to solve some of society's most challenging problems, including cyber-security and human disease prevention.

Dr. Bader will present on ***Solving Global Grand Challenges with High Performance Data Analytics*** on Wednesday, February 5, in A300 Gosnell Hall. All are welcome to attend. You can find the abstract and more about Dr. David Bader [HERE](#).

Date: Friday, February 28, 2020

Time: 1:00 – 1:50 p.m.

Location: A300 Gosnell Hall

Graduate Student Mental Health: What Faculty, Friends, and Family Can Do

A reception will immediately follow

Rooted in sociological and organizational theory, Dr. Julie Posselt's research program examines institutionalized inequalities in higher education and organizational efforts aimed at reducing inequities and encouraging diversity. She focuses on selective sectors of higher education including graduate education, STEM fields, and elite undergraduate institutions. One facet of this work focuses on graduate student mental health, with attention on how people in mentorship roles can effectively support the student's wellbeing. Dr. Posselt's work has been widely recognized, including a research fellowship from the NAE and appointment on a current NAS consensus study entitled "*Supporting the Whole Student: Mental Health and Well-Being in STEM Undergraduate and Graduate Education*".

A Few Thoughts

With this issue of the Fram Focus we meet two of RIT's notable critical thinkers, Jeffrey Mills and Sandi Connelly.

Jeffrey Mills is a Senior Lecturer in the College of Science's School of Chemistry and Materials Science. This month, he shares with us how important critical thinking is in the field of chemistry. Students need to be creative problem solvers reflecting on what they know and what they don't know. Without critical thinking, we are left with only procedural learning. Read his answers to a few critical thinking questions [HERE](#).

Sandi Connelly is a Principal Lecturer in the College of Science's School of Life Sciences. Critical thinking is an important skill but it is not something you can pick up from a textbook or watching a video. Critical thinking matters and everyone is doing some type of critical thinking, teaching, and learning every day. Read her answers to a few critical thinking questions [HERE](#).

From Gene Fram

“Steps to Sharpen Your Critical Thinking and Cut Through the Fluff” by Morey Stetter. Read more [HERE](#).

