RIT earns spot in U.S. News rankings

RIT is among the top colleges and universities in the nation for programs in the fine arts, according to U.S. News & World Report’s 2009 edition of America’s Best Undergraduates. The university tied for 21st among institutions offering graduate-level studies in fine arts. The rankings are based solely on the results of a peer assessment survey, featuring input from art school deans and other top-art school academics at 220 master’s of fine arts programs in art and design across the country.

RIT’s rankings among fine arts specialties are as follows:
- Painting: Tied for 3rd
- Photography: Tied for 3rd
- Industrial design: Tied for 8th
- Multimedia communications: Tied for 10th
- Graphic design: Tied for 12th

RIT’s fine arts programs are housed in the College of Imaging Arts and Sciences. “RIT and its unique programs provide one of the world’s best centers for advanced study in the creative arts,” states Joan Stone, dean of imaging arts and sciences. “The results of the latest U.S. News survey reflect the validation of that opportunity to highlight this recognition of excellence is very gratifying.”

At the end of Wilmorite’s financial support, the park will continue to be owned by Rivers Run and will be the permanent home for RIT’s Osher Lifelong Learning Center.

Exhibit experience for visitors: The exhibit can appeal at a variety of levels, ranging from the pure enjoyment of the striking reflections, to the mathematical appreciation of symmetry and dualities of the regular polyhedra. How is the exhibit creative and/or innovative: This is a pedagogical innovation in that it provides a highly interactive, visceral experience of the consequences of reflection symmetry in three dimensions. The lessons involved can be presented to students at levels ranging from elementary school to college.

IMAGINE Festival

Imagine Innovation + Creativity Festival

RIT signs groundbreaking R&D agreement with PAETEC

RIT and PAETEC, the Rochester-based telecommunications company, have entered into a new research agreement that will enhance the transfer of technological innovations to industry and promote regional economic development. The partnership is part of a series of research- and development projects over three years and will involve faculty and graduate students from RIT’s colleges.

The project will be initiated out of the College of Applied Science and Technology.

The collaboration is the first project created under RIT’s new Corporate R&D program, which seeks to enhance cooperation and technology transfer between academia and industry by allowing businesses to retain rights to intellectual property generated during the research projects. The collaboration was created from concepts presented in a series of speeches, white papers and op-eds by RIT President Bill Destler, which focus on the need for new paradigms in university-industry collaboration.

“This program will work to change the way universities and companies do business and assist in creating enhanced opportunities for technology transfer, basic research and economic development,” Destler says.

Research conducted under the project will focus on PAETEC’s Advanced Solutions Group, specifically the PIN-NACLR Communication Management Suite and Allworx VoIP products.

IBM lab now open on campus

IBM has launched its first software Innovation and Collaboration Lab on the RIT campus to allow students to work on IBM enterprise technologies, including open collaboration products that harness Web 2.0 and social-networking features. Students of various majors will perform design, development and technical-support roles from within IBM’s labs located in the Center for Advancing the Study of Cyberinfrastructure. This lab draws on students from the B. Thomas Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences, Kate Gleason College of Engineering and the College of Imaging Arts and Sciences.

“For RIT, the lab provides an excellent opportunity for faculty and students who have expertise in open source to work together on real-world software engineering issues,” says Jorge Diaz-Herrera, Dean of the Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences. “As opposed to students who are doing co-ops away from the university, this brings industry and real work scenarios to the campus. This is a great example of how we can help companies like IBM in research and development. In return, we expose our students to real-world issues.”

IBM’s contribution to the development and design lab includes dedicated servers and laptops for student IBM.

Campus enhancements will total $125 million

RIT is growing by leaps and bounds overseas—the announcement of RIT Dubai and the steady partnership with Kosovo and Croatia are just a few examples—but there are also important changes happening at home.

In a recent presentation delivered to the RIT community, James Watters, RIT’s Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration, outlined the nearly $125 million in campus renovations, updates and new construction that will occur over the next few years. Here is what the RIT community can look forward to:

- Park Point. Wilmorite is developing this mixed-use community, a major hub for retail businesses, combined with housing opportunities for 924 individuals, opening this fall. Retail giant Barnes and Noble—the current management arm of the RIT bookstore—will anchor the project. This summer, RIT’s bookstore will move from its home in the Student Alumni Union to the 40,000-square-foot facility at Park Point.
- "North End" on the former site of the RIT Racquet Club townhomes will become an RIT-affiliated retirement community. Rivers Run has currently constructed approximately 25 patio homes on site, with the developer currently building an additional 82 independent living apartment units. Rivers Run will also be the permanent home for RIT’s Osher Lifelong Learning Center.
- Construction of the RIT Park Point. Wilmorite is developing this mixed-use community, a major hub for retail businesses, combined with housing opportunities for 924 individuals, opening this fall. Retail giant Barnes and Noble—the current management arm of the RIT bookstore—will anchor the project. This summer, RIT’s bookstore will move from its home in the Student Alumni Union to the 40,000-square-foot facility at Park Point.
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Each issue of News & Events will feature a project to be showcased at Imagine Innovation and Creativity Festival on May 3. This week’s spotlight:

Walk-In Mobius Trihedral Kaleidoscope Presenters: George Thurston, Ronald Jodoin and Bernard Brooks; College of Science; physics and mathematics departments Brief description: Presenters will construct and display a large version of the Mobius trihedral kaleidoscope. An observer can insert a straight object, such as a stick, in alternate positions to form, together with its reflections, a cube, an octahedron or a tetrahedron. In addition to being startling, this classic demonstration commends symmetry elements of these regular polyhedra.

How is the exhibit creative and/or innovative: This is a pedagogical innovation in that it provides a high-
RIT freshman Kattyn Werner from the E. Philip Saunders College of Business, front, organized an alternative spring break program in March. A total of 18 RIT students, including Kattyn’s sister, a sophomore physics major, pictured in back, helped build a house for Habitat for Humanity in Mobile, Ala.

Freshman Kattyn Werner, who hail’s from Avonell Park just outside of Albany, doesn’t worry about handling an increased workload at RIT.

As co-leader of the Lawrizzed Group—a service and leadership organization within the E. Philip Saunders College of Business—secretary for RIT’s Habitat for Humanity club, Werner decided to hit the road on the head and enlisted students across campus to participate in their own kind of alternative spring break program.

So, instead of relaxing on a beach and building sand castles, a total of 18 volunteers picked up hammers and tool belts and helped build a home for Habitat for Humanity’s Gulf Coast project—an area that had suffered devastation from Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

“They initially were going to New Orleans, but only had two months to plan,” Werner says. “So, I contacted the coordinator of RIT’s Habitat, which is in Mobile, Ala., who was thrilled to have us come down for the first week in March.”

Mobile is also one of the Gulf Coast areas participating in the President Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Work Project in honor of their 25 years of dedicated service to Habitat for Humanity. Since the hurricane recovery effort, 1,300 Habitat homes have been built.

The students are planning a weekend event in May for students and volunteers to build many new houses.

“Their idea is that we can all make a tremendous impact and help change the world,” Werner says.

According to Werner, the RIT students were supervised by two Habitat site managers who were “incredibly helpful and inspirational.”

Each day we joined them in prayer before we started working and they were very upright, sort of like (ABC’s) Extreme Makeover: Home Edition,” Werner says. “The cement founda- tion was poured when we got there, but we put up all the walls, windows and doors. It was a very basic, low-income, four-bedroom home for a big family.”

Although it only took 18 hours for the RIT students’ four-car van to travel to the Mobile area, they spent 26 hours returning home. “We used GPS’ system and rerouted four times because of the severe weather through Buffalo and Ohio,” Werner says. “But both the group and individuals were such a worthwhile and rewarding experience—like nothing I had ever done before. I think we all felt the same way.”

Marcia Murphy | murphyma@rit.edu

Image-reproduction guidelines are the agenda for RIT researcher

It’s commonplace for cultural-heri- tage institutions to digitize images of their works of art for use in books, catalogues and online publica- tions, but there are currently no standard guidelines for image creators, publishers and users to follow to ensure the image quality is not compromised during the capturing and transferring process.

Franziska Frey, McNich Professor in the School of Print Media, has been awarded a $507,000 grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to research the benchmark of the art-image interchange cycle and to develop developing industry standards.

“It is a fact that most museum imaging personnel are not color- imaging scientists with a thorough understanding of all the materials and processes involved in the digital imaging and production chain, nor do they have to be,” says Frey. “However, the complex nature of the equipment and procedures involved makes it very difficult for the staff creating the images to design and establish practices that will produce digital images which will be of the best quality and that will maintain quality throughout the art image exchange cycle.”

Frey has a long-standing involve- ment with many cultural institutions in the United States and around the globe. She is a member of the group ImageMuse, consisting of museum and publishing professionals dedicated to developing and disseminating guidelines for the use of digital files in art reproduction. The standards of the prestigious museums represented include The National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C., The Museum of Modern Art, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, The Art Institute of Chicago, The Paul Getty Museum, Yale University Gallery of Fine Arts in Boston and The National Gallery in London. Frey will work closely with the ImageMuse mem- bers to receive input on surveys, testing procedures and guidelines.

Frey will also consult with faculty and staff at RIT’s Munsell Color Science Institute to understand the scientific content of the project.

There will be various phases to the 30-month project including: questionnaire, case studies, workshops and a final conference to announce the findings and guidelines. The survey will target those responsible for art image interchange, for example, chief technology officers at digital-stock agencies to production managers at photographic studios.

“The survey and interviews with art-imagers, publishers and printers will enable a thorough discussion of the pros and cons of the various workflow scenarios,” says Frey. “Some of our questions will focus on technical aspects such as image reproduction, image-process- ing procedures, color management and output devices used while others look at personnel issues.”

The methodology of the study ultimately will be developed based on the survey results and the testing procedures.

Frey says, “It’s our goal to develop guidelines that will help cultural institutions work together with outside content providers, publishers and printers to maintain the highest image quality throughout the cycle.”

To disseminate the results, a conference will be held at RIT in the summer of 2010, and the guidelines will also be posted through a project Web site.

Frey’s latest grant expands upon a two-year study also funded by the Mellon Foundation, “Direct Digital Image Capture of Cultural Heritage—Benchmarking American Museum Practices for Planning Future Needs,” that she conducted along with Roy Bens, RIT’s R.S. Hunter Professor in Color Science and Technology.

Kelly Downs | kmdowns@rit.edu

Multimedia festival has plethora of performances

ImageMove’08 engages the imagination and the senses. It’s a festival that provides an opportunity for Rochester-area dancers, film and video artists, musicians, and media and graphic artists to come together to collaboratively create new works of multimedia art.

The performance is at 7 p.m. on Sunday, April 6, in Angell Auditorium. The program will consist of live video-and-performance works, along with several interactive installations. Tickets are $6 and can be purchased at the door. Students with ID are admitted free.

RIT will also host an encore pre- sentation of some of the best works from past ImageMovementSound festivals at RIT’s ImageMagnum Innovation and Creativity Festival on Saturday, May 10, at 2 p.m. to noon in Angell Auditorium.

Fifty-four students and faculty from RIT University’s Rochester Eastman School of Music and the river campus, SUNY Brockport, William Smith College and Visual Studies Workshops are the creators and performers of these diverse works.

Preceding the live performance on April 6, a live screening of works is on display for 10 days at the Rochester Contemporary Art Center, 137 East Ave. The exhibit runs through April 4. The interactive installations employ digital imaging and audio technology for a unique immersive experience for participants from various age groups.

Planned works for the April 6 premiere include:

• A contemporary abstract work, the artists create a tapestry of textures that emerge as washes of sound, color and movement and light flow following currents in evolving variations that coalesce in altering densities toward a final aura.

• Moving Parts, Emotive Fun- face—Emotive fantasy is a choreographic gesture of parts and the body to express the inherent ten- sion between the body as machine (set in motion with the advent of the Industrial Revolution and refers to Madonna’s Theory of Coping) and the body as a sentient whole (refers to MadSEN’s Theory of Feeling)

• Concocted Fusion—Features live dance, live music and animation. It focuses on a found object—any created thing to create a “being” in the projected imagery and the sound score. A live dancer explores a space which feels confined to and the space outside of her realm. The final result is a diadogual duet between the “being” and the live dancer about finding the self through a spiritual exploration of past and present experiences.

For more information about the festival, visit www.imagemagnum.org.

Kelly Downs | kmdowns@rit.edu

Young pianist to perform

Concert pianist Sopie Ahn will perform at RIT April 4 as part of the Performing Artists Concert Series. Ahn has won prizes in major international competi- tions, including the Gilmore Young Artist Award and the au- dience prize at the International Chopin Competition. The concert is free, but $20 for the public—can be purchased at the Student Union Union candy counter or by call- ing the Gordon Field House box office at 475-4121.

April 3, 2008 | 2 | www.rit.edu/newsevents
The importance of faculty-student research
by John Capps

RIT scientists ‘feel the burn’ of wildfire research

Scientists from RIT recently helped the U.S. Forest Service collect information about wildfire behavior, atmospheric dynamics and fire effects in controlled burns in Florida and Georgia as part of an exercise called Rx-CADRE.—Prescribed Fire Combustion—Atmospheric Dynamics Research Experiments.

Robert Kremens, research professor, and Jason Faulding, systems integration engineer, in RIT’s Chester F. Carlson Center for Imaging Science, joined wildland fire managers and researchers from around the country during the first week of March for wildfire experiments at Eglin Air Force Base in Florida and at the Jones Ecological Research Center near Newton, Ga.

The team designed and flew a variety of ground-based and airborne instruments to observe the controlled fires. Data collected from the experiments will help fire managers model and predict the behavior of fires influenced by fuel type, fuel loading, local weather and other variables.

“These experiments provided a real-world look at what I believe is the most instrumented wildland fire in history,” Kremens says. “Five fires were flown in one week, collecting what I believe to be the best data set ever obtained from any wild land fire experiment. I have no doubt we will be studying these events for a long time.”

RIT participation included the development and deployment of several critical ground-based sensor systems and an airborne fire-mapping camera system. Pre-positioned ground-based sensors monitored various fire parameters as the fires progressed, says Donald McKeown, distinguished researcher at RIT’s Combustion-Atmospheric Dynamics Laboratory for Imaging Algorithms and Systems.

Faulding operated the fire-mapping camera system from the back of a light aircraft flying over the fires and continuously photographed the progress of the burns. The camera is a lightweight version of the wild- fire airborne sensor program RIT developed for the U.S. Forest Service, and is dubbed “WASP-Lite.” It is equipped with color and thermal infrared cameras and an inertial navigation system to precisely map fire location. The WASP-Lite sensor is installed in an aircraft provided by Kucera International, an aerial mapping company, McKeown says.

RIT joined several other organizations who participated in this testing operation.

Enlightening our future engineers

“RIT’s New Master of Science in Clinical Research Management” speaker to be announced

RIT will host a daylong symposium on the current and future state of clinical research for practitioners and experts in the field.

The conference, sponsored by the Center for Bioscience Education and Technology, will be held from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Thursday, April 10, on the RIT campus, and will feature guest speakers from industry, academia and the FDA. Topics will include:

• Current Issues in Clinical Research
• Clinical Research Ethics
• Clinical Research at RIT
• Changes in the FDA’s Approach to Clinical Research, “speaker to be announced
• What You Didn’t Know Can Hurt You in Clinical Product Development,” by Lorraine Ellis, president and CEO, Research Consulting Group Ltd.
• Clinical Research Ethics, presented by Adil Shamoo, Center for Medical, Legal and Ethical Issues, University of Maryland, Baltimore County
• Career Opportunities in Clinical Research, “by Laurie Halloran, president and CEO, Halloran Consulting Group.
• Clinical and Translational Research in Rochester,” presented by Thomas Foggs, Clinical and Translational Science auditorium. Pretty sure phone calls over the Internet.

Another record RIT career fair

Ken Spencer, ‘84 (photo illustration) a veteran photographer at Newsday, described the light from a model barge during a studio-lighting workshop at the National Press Photographers Association’s Northern Short Course. RIT was the official host and one of the sponsors of the premier photojournalism conference held in downtown Rochester, March 13-15.

The conference featured keynote speakers, portfolio reviews and hands-on workshops in multimedia, lighting, ethics, business practices, audio, video and marketing.

Best of the best in photojournalism

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RIT athletics heat up winter season

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The women’s hockey team enjoyed a successful season, moving to the ECAC West conference. Four Tigers earned All-Conference honors, while senior Isabelle Richard concluded her career as the third-highest scorer in the program’s history.

Several school records were broken on both the men’s and women’s track and field teams. Senior LaGisola Perez and the men’s distance relay team of Mike Hardbarger, Ryan Warner, Andrew Viable and Marc O’Dell were selected to compete in the NCAA Championships.

RIT trustee John “Dutch” Summers has so demonstrated his vision and are confident. “This is just a tremendous vote of confidence.”

1. $7 million project will enhance RIT’s outdated electrical infrastructure in order to reassure uninterrupted service to the campus. University of officials are also moving forward with a $38 million program to replace heating and cooling plants at the university over the next 18 months. According to Watters, the project’s goal is to become more efficient and environmentally friendly while finding centralized solutions to RIT’s heating and cooling needs.

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Rochester Institute of Technology
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EVENTS

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