High Falls Film Festival to showcase students’ work

Films produced by students, an alumna and a professor from RIT’s School of Film and Animation will be showcased at the annual Rochester High Falls International Film Festival. This year marks the seventh consecutive year of RIT’s presence at the international venue for women filmmakers.

The films—animation and live-action works that range from documentaries to fiction to experimental—and will be shown at 11:15 a.m. and 3:20 p.m. on May 4 at the Little Theatre, 240 East Ave.

The following will be featured at 3:20 p.m. as part of the program called “RIT Student Shorts: Women of SODIF:

• Jennifer Brodko (fourth-year student)—Remembering to Forget, a documentary in which Brodko conveys her grandfather to reveal his experiences in the Korean War.
• Melissa Fuss (third-year student)—Finding a man about visual odyssey inspired by something we do everyday.
• Liadya Gavrilenko (fourth-year student)—Good Hair Day, an animation about a young boy who learns that it’s not really how you look, it’s what you do with what you’ve got.
• Tristyn Pease (’07 BFA)—Antidotes from Inner Space, an animated tale about an alien that faces the most unexpected visitors from outer space.
• Elizabeth Phillips (third-year student)—Dreamtale, a visual and aural collage film that explores the perceptions of dream and the magical moment before one wakes.

• Lindsey Timko and Lauren Tracy (third-year students)—Breathe, a dream about young Ben, who is deeply affected by the irresponsible actions of his mother and the dynamics of his troubled family.
• Vanessa Ward (third-year student)—Water for Alpha, an experimental film of a patient observation that utilizes microphotography to reveal the beauty and complexities of fluid movement.

High Falls, page 4

State gives $12M to Golisano Institute

The 2008-2009 New York state budget includes two significant new investments in RIT’s Golisano Institute for Sustainability that will enable the university to initiate planning, design and a phased construction time line for a major new facility.

Funding secured by the Rochester state legislative delegation will support the development of a state-of-the-art “green” facility, which will be one of the first stand-alone centers dedicated to research and education in the field of sustainability. The building will be designed as a living laboratory housing research facilities, offices and classrooms, while also serving as a model demonstration of sustainable principles in all aspects of its design, operation and programming.

It will be the home of one of the world’s first Ph.D. programs in sustainability and the first to focus on issues related to sustainable production.

The Golisano Institute received a $10 million grant from the New York State Senate, which will be used toward building construction costs. “As we strive to stimulate the upstate economy, our best partners continue to be schools and universities like RIT,” says Sen. James Alesi, chairman of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Economic Development and Small Business and member of the Senate Committee on Higher Education. “In this instance, the Golisano Institute will accelerate education not only in the Greater Rochester area and upstate New York, but in fact, globally.”

Adds Sen. Joseph Robach: “The Golisano Institute for Sustainability will not only add to the academic landscape of Rochester but will generate outside economic development and career opportunities. I was proud to work with my Senate colleagues and President Destler to deliver this vital capital project to the greater Rochester area.”

RIT President Bill Destler is appreciative of the state funding. “We are honored to have this extraordinary support from our State Senate delegation for this effort, and we thank them most sincerely for their confidence in RIT and the mission and purpose of the institute,” he says.

Senate, page 4

McKenzie selected as 2008 Convocation speaker

Stanley McKenzie, RIT provost and chief academic officer, is the 2008 Commencement speaker. With 41 years of dedicated service to RIT, McKenzie has played a major role in past commencements, often behind the scenes, notes trustee Bill Destler.

“Now it is his turn to deliver this important address,” says Destler. “Dr. McKenzie is an RIT institution who has played a major role in the advancement of the university into the ranks of the nation’s largest and finest private universities.

Additionally, Dr. McKenzie has the ability to impart his quest for lifelong learning to our students, a quality we often seek for our speakers.”

McKenzie will speak at 10 a.m. May 4 at the Academic Convocation in the Gordon Field House and Activities Center.

Multimedia

Image from the animation Good Hair Day, one of the RIT student films to be featured at Rochester High Falls International Film Festival May 4.

Student Spotlight

Sam Brougher has this advice for students looking for a full college experience at RIT. “Turn off your computers and go meet people.”

Brougher could have gone to Carnegie Mellon or Cornell, but the community aspect of RIT’s Honors Program clinched his decision. He liked the idea of being part of a group of busy, active, like-minded friends and the chance to take honors classes in subjects that interested him.

Brougher started his RIT career as a computer engineering major, but switched to psychology after his first year.

“I didn’t like technical writing or programming; I liked learning how people think,” Brougher says.

Now a graduating senior, Brougher is a research assistant for Nicholas DiFonzo, National Science Foundation-funded rumor research project. He will return to RIT next fall to begin graduate work under Ess Rantanen in the engineering psychology program and will continue as DiFonzo research assistant.

Brougher says the sense of community he cultivated at RIT initially grew out of living in the Baker dormitory with other honors students, as well as taking honors Student Spotlight, page 4

Art on campus

Photo school features contemporary exhibits, page 2

Awards, distinctions

Harvey Palmer earns engineering society award, page 3

Scholarship and Research

Students present research at communication conference, page 3

Viewpoints

Embracing a diverse campus community, page 3

April 17, 2008 | www.rit.edu/newsevents
NTID’s Dyer Arts hosts Rochester Artech 2008

Rochester Artech 2008 Digital Art Exhibition, featuring winning digital-media submissions from high school and college students, and amateur and professional artists from the Greater Rochester area, will be showcased at RIT’s Dyer Arts Center through May 4. Several grand prizes, ranging from $500 to $1,000, will be awarded.

"We hope to promote the expression of the arts through digital media and to increase Rochester’s recognition as a center for digital imaging," says Dean Ganospyl, a second-year information technology graduate student at RIT who founded the exhibition three years ago. Artech 2008 reception and award ceremony will be held in conjunction with the debut of Imagine RIT: Innovation and Creativity Festival on May 3. Keynote speaker Professor Jason Oehrle from University of Alaska at Juneau, will deliver an address at 2:30 p.m., followed by a brief reception, with the award ceremony scheduled for 4 p.m. "Oehrle, the author of Digital Storytelling in the Classroom, will deliver a virtual, interactive presentation about the necessity for art to become a fourth literacy," Ganospyl says.

"He says, in an era in which stu- dents design Web sites for homework assignments and integrate video, graphics, music and animation into school projects, art is fast becoming the new literacy for our times," Ganospyl explains. "According to Oehrle, the three Rs are now the 4 Rs: reading, writing, yIKI and art." The juried show will feature more than 70 pieces in graphic design, illustration, photography, printmaking and collage/montage categories. NTID’s Sculpture Gallery, located within Dyer Arts Center, will also feature a variety of free-standing and interactive exhibits. For more information, call 475-6885 or e-mail rita@rit.edu.

Learning about nanotechnology

RIT’s School of Photographic Arts and Sciences Gallery will showcase two contemporary art exhibitions: Human Figures, photographs by Rich- ard Gray, and artist David Taylor’s Working the Line: Riding with the United States Border Patrol, 2007. An opening reception is sched- uled from 5 to 8 p.m., April 18 in the SPAS Gallery. The show runs through May 9. Prior to the opening, an artist's discussion will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. April 17 in the Van Pearsall Auditorium, Gannett Building at RIT.

In Human Figures, Gray investi- gates the role of modern science in redefining human identity and the contemporary self. Gray worked in a pathology lab, photographing human cells with a microscope. He then combined the biomedical-oriented images with those of posed figures, creating pictures that draw upon photography's close ties to science and its consequence in new interpreta- tions of a person's essential nature and character. An alumni of the MFA in imaging arts program at RIT, Gray is associate professor of photography and director of the Center for Cre- ative Computing at the University of Notre Dame. He also serves as chair of the Society for Photographic Educa- tion, founded in Rochester in 1963. The exhibition Working the Line is one of several art projects David Taylor created by RIT illustration student Matthew Vinslak.

Border Patrol images, ‘human essence’ focus of photo exhibit and discussion

A popular annual RIT project will experience a “flashback” to life along the Erie Canal in the 19th century. On May 8, the world famous waterway along Schoen Place in Pittsford will be the subject of RIT’s 24th Big Shot, often described as a “painting with light” photograph. The Sam Patch, a replica of a 19th century packet boat, will be in the foreground of the photo and models dressed in period costume will be posed along the towpath. Various busi- nesses in Schoen Place, housed in converted barns, mills and canal-side structures, will fill the background of the photograph.

Faculty from RIT’s School of Pho- tographic Arts and Sciences and the National Technical Institute for the Deaf will lead volunteers in creating the intimate photographic portrait. While volunteers illuminate the subject area, RIT photographers will take an extended exposure. Hundreds of volunteers are needed to create the image. Participants should arrive by 7:45 p.m. and meet in Schoen Place by the Canal Tower. Volunteers should bring a camera flash unit or a flashlight and are asked to wear dark clothing.

“This is one of RIT’s signature projects and we are thrilled to be part of a community-wide event that will bring greater visibility to the can- nal,” says Victoria Schmitt, president of Corn Hill Navigation. “RIT has selected sites all over the globe for its Big Shot photographs, and the Erie Canal is a world-famous site right in our own backyard.”

Michael Peres, RIT professor of photography and one of the Big Shot organizers adds: “It is a great honor and a source of pride for the success of our Big Shot last year in Dubrovnik, Croatia, is excited to bring the project back to Roches- ter. We hope a lot of people from the community come out on the evening of May 8. Teams of volunteers will be needed on both sides of the canal to light the area. We want to thank the village and town of Pittsford, the Schoen Place merchants, Corn Hill Navigation and BGE for all of their support and help in making this Big Shot.”

Saunders College lauds Hammer

RIT’s E. Philip Saunders College of Business has named James E. Hammer, president and CEO of Hammer Packaging Corp., as recipient of the 2008 Herbert W. Vandeval Entrepreneurial Award. Hammer will be honored during an April 23 luncheon at Oak Hill Country Club. The award annually goes to a suc- cessful individual who developed a business that improved the Roch- ester economy or whose innovative management skills have changed the course of an existing business. Past recipients include Richard Kaplan of Pictometry International, Arunas Chenonis of PAETEC Corp. and Philip Saunders of Genesee Regional Bank and Griffith Energy Inc.

“I was very honored to be con- sidered for one of the Hammer awards,” says James E. Hammer, who has led the company for the past 25 years and represents the fourth generation of his family in the business, founded in 1912. “Clearly, our success is due in large part to having the right people and a culture that embraces change.”

Saunders College of Business Dean Ashok Ran says: “Jim Hammer is an unusually creative and innova- tive individual. He has survived and thrived.”

Each issue of News & Events will feature a project to be showcased at Imagine RIT: Innovation and Creativity Festival on May 3. This week’s spotlight:

Wind Power and Wireless Network Repeater

Presenter: Daniel Lampic, College of Optical Science and Engineering

Brief description: A homemade wind turbine built from an old computer tape drive motor will power two wireless access points providing internet access to remote areas where running electricity is not practical.

How is the exhibit creative and/ or innovative? It uses a completely innovative approach using one that is built with easily accessible, low- cost components.

Exhibit experience for visitors: Displays how wind power can be harnessed to allow a variety of activi- ties not usually possible in locations without electricity.

For more information on the festival, visit www.rit.edu/imagine.
Palmer honored as engineer of the year

The Rochester Engineering Society has named Harlan Palmer, provost and chief operating officer of the Kate Gleason College of Engineering, the 2007 Leo H. East Engineer of the Year. Palmer is the first engineering administrator to receive this award, which goes annually to an individual who has made significant contributions to the field of engineering and enhanced the understanding of engineering principles in society. Palmer, one of the nation’s leading engineering administrators, was recognized at the society’s 106th annual dinner in April.

“I am deeply honored to receive this important award from my peers in the engineering community,” says Palmer. “Throughout my career, I have sought to promote engineering both as a profession and as a tool to address the challenges facing society. The knowledge that my efforts have had some impact is extremely gratifying.”

During Palmer’s tenure, RIT’s College of Engineering has developed the world’s first doctoral program in microsystems engineering and leading master’s programs in sustainability engineering and mechanical engineering. Palmer has also worked to enhance the participation of women and minorities in engineering, including creating the Kate Gleason College of Engineering recruitment and outreach efforts. He has also played a major role in the expansion of RIT’s international collaborations, such as the creation of RIT Dubai, a new academic unit that will be run jointly by RIT and its partner, Dubai South, on the Arabian Peninsula.

“Harlan Palmer is a true innovator and thought leader,” according to an RIT colleague. “He is very knowledgeable and the RIT community is lucky to have him here.”

News briefs

$1.12 million for NTID

The Rochester Institute of Technology’s School of Media Science has received a $1.12 million grant from The Nippon Foundation of Japan. The award is the largest single grant to date for RIT and will be used to support the Center for Digital, Media, and Allied Arts. The center, part of the School of Media Science, focuses on the development and enhancement of media technologies and the formation of new media industries.

Students recognized

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News media talk kicks off lecture series

The transformation of news media is the focus of a new lecture series at RIT debuting on April 30, prior to RIT’s School of Print Media Industry Day event.

Michael Kane, president and publisher of the Democrat and Chronicle, will be the inaugural speaker of the Paul and Louise Miller Lecture Series. Kane will speak from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. at the Charles F. Carlson Center for Imaging Science auditorium.

“Kane is one of the most insightful and inspiring people to come from the newspaper industry,” says Michael Kane. “His expertise and care for the future of media make him the perfect choice for our opening event.”

Kane will speak on his personal journey through the newspaper industry and how to find new paths by taking what he has learned and applying it to the future of media. His talk will focus on the importance of finding new ways to reach audiences and how technology can help create new opportunities for media companies.

In addition, Greg Kacprzyk, who served as chief technology and media officer at RIT, will give a talk on the future of media and how to create a successful media company in the digital age. Kane will also discuss the importance of understanding the needs of different audiences and how to create content that resonates with them.

The lecture series will continue throughout the year with a variety of speakers from the newspaper industry. The goal of the series is to provide a platform for speakers to share their insights and experiences with RIT students and faculty.

Next-generation designers and developers

Madison Stack, a third-year new media design and imaging student, shows off her portfolio to Andrea Facini, vice president of product design for Serifco Network Interactive. Serifco was among the two dozen interactive design and development companies from around the nation that attended RIT’s sixth annual New Media Design and Development Industry Day. In addition to Serfco, it was the first time in attendance for Yahoo, American Greetings, Big Stash and IBM, among others. The companies are hiring new media designers, front-end and back-end developers and art directors. As a result of the event, several students were offered full-time positions and co-ops.
Rochester Institute of Technology
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Nabil Nase, assistant provost and director of the Golisano Institute for Sustainability, states “This fund- ing will significantly accelerate our ability to advance our program plans and visions in our outreach to business, industry and other orga- nizations that are engaged in issues related to sustainable production. There is no doubt that this resource will be a critical economic driver for our region that will yield magnifi- cent returns for the region and for the State as a whole.”

With continued development of the Golisano Institute, RIT will seek to become the first technology university to provide a full spectrum of career-focused, integrated and interdisciplinary programs that em- body the principles of sustainability in product development. “Through strategic investment today, we are building a strong foundation that will culminate in our region being at the forefront of the cutting edge research being done in alternative energy” notes Sen. Michael Nozzolos. Adds Sen. George Maziarz, “New ideas and new solutions will be much closer with this key infusion of state resources, and few institutions are better positioned to make a difference in our economy and on our planet than RIT.”

Will Dube | jsl@rit.edu

Assembly from page 1

The construction phase and has the potential of generating $650 million in economic development and thou- sands of permanent jobs.

The Golisano Institute for Sustainable- ability was formed in 2007 following a $10 million gift from entrepreneur R. Thomas Golisano. The institute focuses on research and education in sustainable production, environ- mental policy, sustainable business development and alternative energy, building on more than a decade of applied research by RIT’s Center for Integrated Manufacturing Studies. RIT has earned a reputation as a world leader in sustainable develop- ment and production and has helped the Rochester/Finger Lakes region stake our claim as a leader in the trend toward a green economy,” says Assemblyman David Koons.

The institute’s doctoral program in sustainability anticipates admitting students by this fall. “The development of this facility is the next step towards providing cutting-edge programs that install the core concepts of sustainability in our next generation of engineers, sci- entists, business leaders and policy makers,” adds Nabil Nase, director of the Golisano Institute. 

RIT has marked momentous changes since McKenzie’s arrival, when the campus was still located in downtown Rochester. Enrollment has grown from fewer than 10,000 students to nearly 16,000. More than 100 academic programs, including 4 Ph.D. degrees (plus more under development) have been launched. College commencement ceremonies held on May 23 and May 24 will recognize graduates individually.

RIT’s Women’s Council hosted its Spring Fashion Show April 11 at Locust Hill Country Club in Pittsford. The event featured fashions and accessories from Jane Morgan Little House of Au- rora, N.Y., and pro- ceeds benefited the Woman’s Council of RIT Scholarship Funds for female students.

Assembly from page 1

RIT’s 2008 United Way Campaign kicked off with the 6th annual Mini Golf Tournament on March 19. Fred Hull, for the Facilities Man- agement Services team, took a shot at one of the imaginative miniature golf course holes de- signed by student groups for RIT departments.

High Falls from page 2

Tessa Zito (third-year student) — A Strange Love Affair, a filmmaker’s personal exploration of addiction and a lifelong friendship. “This festival provided our talented students a platform to show their films to an international audi- ence,” says Kat Ashworth, profes- sor in RIT’s School of Film and Animation. “The students get to see their films projected in a real theater, and throughout the six-day festival they have the opportunity to attend educational workshops, view films and meet with producers and direc- tors from around the world. RIT is honored to be a part of the festival year after year.”

Ashworth’s own feature length documentary, The Oldest Mothers on the Block, was selected to be part of the festival. It will be shown at 11:15 a.m. May 4 at the Little Theatre. The hour-long film follows three women over age 44 as they struggle to achieve a pregnancy and later as they cope with unique problems of being older moms. “The Oldest Mother on the Block honestly examines the complex tangle of emotions that late mother- hood raises,” says Jennifer Lovgilio, a freelance writer. “From fertility problems and in vitro fertilization to fears about the future and the exhaustion of chasing a toddler around, Ashworth offers an intimate, thought provoking look at a big topic.”

Ashworth produced the docu- mentary, a film that was submitted in 2003. The documentary won Best Documentary Film in the Ohio Independent Film Festival. A more information about the Rochester High Falls International Film Festival, visit www.rochest- ermoviefest.com.

July Downs | kaduns@rit.edu

Spring Fashion Show from page 1

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Golfing ‘fore’ the United Way

‘Big Shot’ from page 1

event possible.” Parking is limited in Schoen Place. On-street and off-street parking is available on Main Street and Monroe Avenue near Schoen Place.

The Big Shot event is sponsored by Nikon Inc. Participants will receive a memento print of the final photograph.

Past Big Shots have highlighted past Big Shots have highlighted the Apollo Moon landings.

“Big Shot” (from page 1)

A fashionable fundraiser

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Assembly from page 1

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News & Events

417, 2008 | 1 | www.rit.edu/news/events

Rochester Institute of Technology

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