RIT building shows its true color—green

RIT has opened its first ‘green’ building, as part of its ongoing sustainability efforts. The new College of Applied Science and Technology Building was designed to meet the standards of the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Rating System of the U.S. Green Building Council, the most widely accepted system for evaluating sustainable, high-performance buildings.

The building, which is currently undergoing evaluation to obtain its LEED certification, was officially dedicated during an April 18 ceremony.

“We’re extremely excited to have dedicated the college’s first building and RIT’s first LEED certifiable facility,” says Carol Richards, interim dean of the College of Applied Science and Technology. “The many environmentally friendly features and the technology used in this building will allow it to serve as a living laboratory for our students.

The building features controls that monitor building occupancy and reduce power demands accordingly. The improved systems provide an approximate 25-24 percent savings in electrical energy (estimated annual savings of $144,000).

State grant helps continue sustainability research

RIT’s Center for Integrated Manufacturing Studies, a unit of the Golisano Institute for Sustainability, will continue its research efforts in the areas of remanufacturing and technology transfer thanks to a recently announced state grant. The $1.2 million in funding, secured by New York State Assemblyman Joseph Morelle and included in the 2008-2009 State Budget, will be used to support and expand RIT’s efforts to help companies in addressing sustainability needs.

"This funding will enable us to continue our work with New York state companies in addressing competitive challenges, creating new business and economic development opportunities using ‘green’ technologies and other best practices, and enhancing the skills and productivity of our manufacturing workforce,” adds Nabil Nair, assistant provost for academic affairs and director of The Golisano Institute for Sustainability.

The Remanufacturing Assistance Initiative works with New York state companies to strengthen their global competitiveness and to improve their energy and environmental performance through the use of remanufacturing and recycling technologies.

The Innovation Test Bed and the Knowledge Clearing House partner with individual companies and cluster organizations to test, validate and implement new innovations and technologies.

RIT students capture top prize at U.S. Imagine Cup

An RIT student team won the Software Design Invitational at Microsoft’s U.S. Imagine Cup finals April 22 in Los Angeles. The team competed against 154 teams from throughout the United States and will represent the nation in the world finals this July in Paris.

Team members Ziyian (Joe) Zhou, a third-year computer science student from Gaugzhou, China; Adam Bai, a second-year computer engineering major from Essex Junction, Vt.; and Zachary Shivers, a second-year electrical engineering student from Kenosha, Wis., will share a $12,000 cash prize.

The students programmed and configured a network of sensors to take readings of such environmental variables as temperature, humidity, carbon dioxide and carbon monoxide, and set the system up to be accessible via cell phone.

"I would like to congratulate Joe, Adam and Zachary for this tremendous accomplishment and wish them the best of luck this summer in Paris," says RIT President Bill Destler.

"The Imagine Cup is all about igniting the imagination of tomorrow’s technology visionaries and leaders, and inspiring them to harness the possibilities of technology to build a better world,” adds Daril Lewin, corporate vice president of strategic and emerging business development at Microsoft Corp. "The contest provides student inventors and entrepreneurs with a launching pad for their ideas and access to key resources that can set them on the path to career success."
**Camera donations prompt Leica CEO visit, photography lectures**

Leica Camera Chief Executive Officer Andrea Kaufmann is personally donating refurbished Leica M4 cam-
eras and Leica Summarit-M lenses to RIT’s School of Photographic Arts and Sciences. Kaufmann visits the RIT campus on Tuesday, May 6, as part of Leica Day, to present the cameras and meet with photography students. Kaufmann will make a for-
mal presentation at 3 p.m. in Webb Auditorium in the James E. Booth Building.

In commemoration of the part-
nership, Leica and RIT will also host a lecture series featuring award-win-
n ing photographers Chris Usher and Alex Webb. The lectures are free and open to the public.

Usher will give a free lecture at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, May 5, in Van Pearsall Auditorium in the Gosnell Building. Usher’s award-winning photojournalism work appears regu-
larly in domestic and international monthly and weekly publications in-
cluding Time, People, Newsweek, US News & World Report, BusinessWeek, Der Spiegel and Sports Illustrated. His documentary exhibit — Behind the Velvet Rope—featuring behind-the-

**Leica Day, page 4**
Imagine RIT: Innovation and Creativity Festival is poised to become the new annual kickoff to Rochester’s rich festival season. Imagine RIT, which will take place from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m., Saturday, May 3, on the RIT campus, is designed to demonstrate what can be accomplished when, as RIT President Bill Destler likes to say, “the right brain and left brain collide.”

More than 400 interactive exhibits and displays, including new ideas for products and services, creative arts and crafts, and faculty and student research, will be featured in various locations across campus.

The festival, which will be family friendly, includes traditional festival fare: carnival rides, music and inflatable fun for the kids.

The Imagine RIT experience will be divided into 10 themes, as festival-goers will be asked to Imagine…

A Communication Revolution: social networking and other new communication mediums

On Stage: musical and theatrical performances

Artistic Visions: woodworking, ceramic and glass sculptures, photographic exhibits, student-produced films and more

New Ventures: start-up businesses from RIT’s incubator, innovative marketing and business plans

WOW! Imagine That: top cross-disciplinary projects, featuring displays from each of RIT’s eight colleges, will be housed in the Gordon Field House and Activities Center

Here is some additional information that visitors may find helpful:

Parking: Visitors will be able to park free on the RIT campus on a first-come, first-served basis. Parking is also available at Monroe Community College, with free shuttle bus service to RIT. Once RIT lots are full, volunteers will direct all visitors to MCC.

Volunteers: Hundreds of volunteers, wearing bright orange T-shirts, will be on-hand to enrich the Imagine RIT experience. Twelve information stations will be sprinkled across campus to assist visitors and answer questions. A festival program will be available at all information stations, in addition to the Toyota Welcome Center in D Lot.

Interpreters: American Sign Language interpreters will be at the Toyota Welcome Center, outside the Student Alumni Union and the Wallace Library. They’ll be wearing navy blue T-shirts marked “Interpreter.” In addition, the main stages will have interpreters for all performances.

Exhibits: The Xerox WOW! Center, featuring more than 50 cross-disciplinary projects, will be a premier attraction. However, more than 400 other examples of innovation and creativity can be found throughout the campus. Visitors are encouraged to explore the entire campus. Wear comfortable walking shoes.

Carnival: RIT’s annual Spring Festival coincides with Imagine RIT and is located to the east of the Xerox WOW! Center. Rides and inflatables are available to visitors free of charge. Games and food are available for a nominal fee.

Food: Each of RIT’s dining facilities will be open to the public. Food will also be available for purchase at various food tents across campus.

For more festival details, visit www.rit.edu/imagine.

Georgi Unkovski created the winning YouTube video clip. His video focuses on a student “buried” in hundreds of crumbled pieces of newspaper representing information.

YouTube, poster contest winners revealed

RIT students have put their signature on preparations for the inaugural Imagine RIT festival.

Carly Schonberg, a fourth-year illustration major from New Rochelle, N.Y., is the winning artist of the official Imagine RIT poster contest. Earlier in the school year, all current RIT students were invited to submit designs, and 32 entries were received. Schonberg, who hopes to pursue a career in children’s books illustration, conceptualized the fusion of right brain thinking with left brain outcomes to highlight the festival’s themes of innovation and creativity.

“I took a bunch of techniques I usually work with (particularly collage) and had fun with them,” she explains. “I’m very happy to have this opportunity to show that I can do a different type of illustration and still have it recognized.”

Several of the entries were inspired by the theme of the festival, “A Communication Revolution.”

“One of the ways I thought about the theme was the collaborative process,” says student Eric Fuel, who created a poster featuring a group of scientists working together.

“I believe that information is what gives birth to creativity,” he states. “The more we see and the more we experi- ence, the more our minds have material to work with to guide our imagination and creativity.”

Schonberg and Unkovski were formally acknowledged during a pre-festival news conference on April 30.

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Sponsors help make event successful

Imagine RIT and its premier sponsor, PAETEC, was unveiled during a March 11 news conference.

“As there’s a reason we look to RIT for potential employees, and that is the ability those graduates have to approach problems from many angles and to not be afraid to try something new,” says Robert Moore Jr., chief information officer for PAETEC. “We are proud to support Imagine RIT and want the community to experience the innovation and creativity found on this campus.”

Along with PAETEC, other major sponsors for the festival include Toyota, Xerox Corp. and New York State Sen. Jim Alesi.

“As we’ve seen over the last year, a festival of this size and scope is a huge undertaking,” says Kimberly Shueser, chairperson of the festival’s fundraising and corporate support committee. “In addition to the volunteers mobilized, it requires substantial funding support and RIT’s corporate partners have answered the call. The interest RIT corporate supporters have shown in supporting this festival speaks to the strong relationships RIT establishes with industry, but also to those companies’ genuine desire to partner with organizations that are truly driving innovation and creativity in the workforce. Our partners helped us to exceed our goal by more than 100 percent, and that can be consid- ered a measure of the importance of this university to their success and to the economy’s growth.”

To see a complete list of sponsors, visit www.rit.edu/imagine/sponsors.html.
Innovation and creativity come to fruition

by Bill Destler

Imagine RIT

Interactive technologies use high-speed networks

Using a computer mouse, a boy and girl take turns controlling a camera-equipped robot at the Arctic Region Supercomputing Center in Fairbanks, Alaska. A variety of robot types is controlled as a shared whiteboard program waits and awaits a response from another robot at the National Library of Medicine in Bethesda, Md. A young boy makes facial gestures into a camera that superimposes a pig’s nose onto his video image and transmits it to the University of Paetsa. About 75 young participants were in the video collaboration session held April 24 in the Interactive Collaboration Environments Laboratory, part of Center for Advancing the Study of CyberInfrastructure in the R. Thomas Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences.

RIT’s Research Computing group uses the ICE Lab to engage in the research and development of interactive and multidirectional technologies using high-speed networks and high-quality video.

“Giving young kids hands-on experience with advanced compute, network, and video technologies expands their vision and gives them a glimpse into their future,” states Gurcharan Khanna, director of Research Computing.

Research computing will eventually connect all eight colleges on campus, Wallace Library and RIT’s overseas campuses in Dubai, Croatia and Kosovo with live, interactive video links over advanced high-speed networks.

Visitors to Imagine RIT are invited to submit sample technologies available in the ICE Lab.

‘Second Life’ aims to become the world of tomorrow

In my first year as president that this.

destler%20president%20of%20rit

by Anthony says. As class participant Ryland Barnes, academic, and characterized.

Intermediate Environments Laboratory, held April 24 in the Interactive Colle.

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Imagine a world without creativity. It is a dull and drab place, and one in which I would not want to live. Imagine a business always doing what they have done in the past. I see that business in peril. Therefore, I was thrilled upon learning that President Destler had a vision to create the fusion of art and technology. As President Destler has noted, this festival will help educate the community on the creativity and innovation that is produced by the students and faculty of RIT. Sponsoring an innovation and creativity festival may not appear to be an obvious choice for a company such as PAETEC, however, we would not have achieved the level of success we’ve experienced without strong doses of creativity and innovation. At PAETEC, our belief is that every customer has unique needs, and in order to help them, we need to have creative solutions. PAETEC’s success is primarily due to the creative approach our employees take when solving problems. A good portion of that creativity has come directly from RIT.

PAETEC currently employs over 100 RIT graduates in many different departments. There’s a reason we have this many RIT graduates to approach problems from many angles, and not to be afraid to try something new. One of the earliest PAETEC taglines was, “Where Communication has become an Art.” In our view, creativity doesn’t have to be limited to art or film studios; it can very easily come from a software or network engineer. Leave children on their own, and you will see them approach problems in ways that we, as adults, have somehow programmed out of our brains. Sometimes in the workplace, we get “frozen” upon learning that “I don’t know if this will work, but let’s give it a try.”

The truth is, innovation and creativity are attributes that professionals and prospective graduates must possess. The success of today’s companies in our global economy depends on them.

Many folks at PAETEC—including RIT alumni—look forward to visiting on May 3 to experience what can be imagined can become reality, quite possibly created by future PAETEC employees. Chesonis is president and CEO of PAETEC, and an RIT trustee.

RIT’s College of Science is immersed in creativity. A simple idea to wallpaper classrooms with images, movement and sound using digitally networked projectors has taken hold and is inspiring professors across campus to dive into a new way of teaching. Collaborations are ongoing with researchers in the B. Thomas Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences, the College of Imaging Arts and Sciences and the College of Liberal Arts. The approach is simple, flexible and easily adapted to traditional learning environments and more experimental, active classrooms that incorporate screen displays in either open or cube-like configurations.

“The basic simple idea is that surrounding people with big pictures and sound is a very engaging way of interacting with them,” says Ian Gatley, dean of the College of Science. “We can use it for teaching or for entertaining.”

Gatley first suggested the idea to the Rochester Museum and Science Center as a way to upgrade its planetarium projection technology. Gatley took a task force to the museum and science center, looked into the technology and saw potential applications at RIT.

“There’s more you can do within the spaces they’re used to working in,” says Mitchell Rosen, research professor in color science and director of the PiXLab, the Infinite Pixel Liberation Laboratory, where the projection technology is explored. A variety of immersive and wide-view large projection displays will be showcased at Imagine RIT. The Gossnell Building, for instance, will house the RIT Immersive Theater in the Van Peursem Auditorium and a huge flat screen over the atrium. Prototype immersive classrooms will be in the Link Building and in Wallace Library, A400, where the “Collaboratorium” will be on display.

“It’s very, very difficult to get high schoolers impressed by anything these days,” Rosen says. When using this technology for high school open houses, Rosen says, “we get an auditorium full of high school seniors who are absolutely engaged. This tells us we have stumbled upon something worth pursuing.”

According to Rosen, this kind of large projection technology is starting to attract attention from companies and other universities. RIT, he says, is ahead of the wave.
RIT helps make Brighton a ‘greener’ place to live

The Dominican Republic offers RIT scholarships

Corporations around the world employ environmental managers to help them make decisions related to their environmental policy goals. While there are a variety of associations that help environmental managers do their jobs better, no organization focuses solely on how the profession actually wants to achieve—until now.

John Morelli, the Russell C. McCormack ’63 Professor of Applied Science and Technology, is spearheading the Environmental Management Leadership Initiative. The initiative is designed to create a philosophical home for the profession. “Our goal is to provide environmental managers to collaboratively engage in research and discussion, in an effort to better define the profession,” Morelli says.

“Goal is to elevate and enhance the professional manage- ment profession,” Morelli says. “We want to take a step back from our daily work and look at the big picture where our profession is and where we want to end up.”

The initiative has two main components: the Environmental Management Leadership Symposium series and EnvironmentalManager.org.

EnvironmentalManager.org is intended to serve as an international research collaboratory for environmental management professionals, faculty and students to develop topics and issues for discussion at the symposia, and to provide continuity between events. It will also host published position papers and other working documents.

One of Morelli’s primary objectives was to start a conversation between environmental managers across the globe, with the goal of continuing it. “We want to start a dialogue among environmental managers in the field to discuss various topics and ideas related to sustainability.”

Morelli believes this initiative takes on added importance as the global community works together toward a more sustainable future.

“Sustainability has to be a multidisciplinary effort. Each profession should step back and examine where it can contribute,” Morelli says. “We want to determine what environmental managers should play in the sustain- ability effort. All environmental professionals are invited to visit www.environmentalManager.org and get involved in the discussion.”

RIT offers international music fest

In May, RIT will host its first international music festival, featuring Son de la Tierra, Urban Steel, the RIT African Percussion Ensemble and RIT World Beat, at 12:30 p.m. May 3 in the Student Union Auditorium.

Upcoming free performances include the RIT Singers’ Spring Concert at 12:30 p.m. May 3 in the Interfaith Chapel and the RIT Concert Band and Jazz Ensembles at 7:30 p.m. May 14 in Ingle Auditorium.

Three black holes create unique celestial union

The same team of astrophysicists that cracked the computer code simulating two black holes crashing and merging together has now, for the first time, caused a three-black-hole collision.

Manuela Campanelli, Carlos Lousto and Yosef Zlochower—scientists in RIT’s Center for Computational Relativity and Gravitation—simulated triplets black holes to test their breakthrough method that, in 2005, merged two of these large mass objects on a supercomputer following Einstein’s theory of general relativity.

A new simulation of multiple black holes evolving, orbiting and eventually colliding could form a robust computer code free of limitations. The May issue of Physical Review D will publish the team’s latest findings in the article “Close Encoun- ters of Three Black Holes,” revealing the distinct gravitational signature three black holes emit produce. The story will run under the “Robotic Communications” section.

“These simulations are timely because a triple quasar was recently discovered by a team led by Caltech’s Ajay Samal,” said Carlos Lousto, a RIT astrophysicist. “With this tool, we can compare our computer code to real astrophysics phenomena.”

Guidance for environmental managers

The Dominican Republic government has partnered with RIT to offer scholarships to the island country’s best and brightest graduate students. James Miller, senior vice president for Enrollment Management and Ca- reer Services at RIT, recently signed the agreement with Ligua Amado Melo, secretary of state for Higher Education, Science and Technology in the Dominican Republic, as it RIT President Bill Destler during a visit to RIT in 2007.

To date, the secretary of Higher Education, Science and Technology has received more than 25 competitive applications for this upcoming summer quarter. An additional 25 to 40 graduate students from the Carib-
Black holes

Lofts, professor in RIT’s School of Mathematical Sciences, “This presumes the first observed supermassive black hole triplept.” For the triangular have a pattern in numerical relations, a research field dedicated to proving Einsteins theory of general relativity. Only supercomputers can simulate the force necessary to generate gravity waves—a war in the time that might provide clues to the origin of the universe.

domestic community.

RIT’s relationships in the Dominican Republic began in 1996 with Pontificia Universidad Católica de Puerto Rico. A small group of students from the university came to RIT to study in industrial engineering and business. Since then, more than 250 Dominican students have completed RIT degrees, and the university has increased the economic development of the country. There are currently more than 40 students from the Dominican

Rochester Institute of Technology

One Lomb Memorial Drive
Rochester, N. Y. 14623-5603

Green building

program within RIT’s B. Thomas Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences. Xerces is also a founding partner of the Printing Industry Center at RIT. Each year, Xerox employs more than 50 RIT students in co-op positions within the company, and more than 2,200 alumni currently work for the company. Plans for the construction of a 50 million green facility to house The Golisano Institute for Sustainability are currently in the planning phase. In Rochester, the Rochester-area Disabled Women’s Initiative is working to build a community building. Xerces’ leadership is sponsored by Leica in cooperation with Eastman Kodak.

Leica Day

Leica Day, shown page 2

scenography moment at the White House opens at the Smithsonian Museum of Photography in the fall of 2008. His focus of the last two years has been “One of us,” a personal project documenting people displaced by Hurricane Katrina. Usher covered Katrina for Time magazine and was profoundly affected by the survivors and their personal accounts as told to him during repeat trips to New Orleans and throughout the United States. His images are currently in development for a book and traveling exhibition. Usher’s lecture is sponsored by Leica in cooperation with Eastman Kodak.

Webb’s presentation will be Tuesday, May 6, at 6:30 p.m. in Lehigh Auditorium in the James E. Booth Building. Webb joined Magneto Photos as an associate member in 1976. He has published several photography books, including Hot Light/Dark Night, A Suite of Photographs from the Tropics, Crossings, and Istanbul: City of a Hundred Names. Articles about Webb’s work have appeared in Art in America and Modern Photography. His work has been on exhibit in the United States and Europe. Webb’s lecture is sponsored by Leica.

endowment to establish a vertically landscaped ‘green’ wall that will purify the air and build a small garden in the center of the building.

Black holes

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In order to confirm the detection of gravitational waves, scientists need the modeling of gravitational waves coming from specific black holes. Says Cambadelli, director of RIT’s Center for Computational Relativity and Gravitation: “They need to know what to look for in the data they acquire otherwise it will look like just noise. If you know what to look for, then you can confirm the existence of gravitational waves. That’s why they need all these theoretical predictions.”

Add Loucks’ “Gravity waves can also confirm the existence of black holes directly because we have a special signature. That’s what we’re simulating. We are predicting a very specific signature of black hole encounters. And so, if we check that, there’s very good evidence of existence of black holes.”

For more information, visit ccreg.rit.edu.


Correction

Due to a reporting error in the April 17 issue, the location of the emirate was incorrectly identified in a story about Harvey Palmer, the Leo H. East Engineer of the Year award recipient. The correct location is the Arabian Peninsula.