

Mind-boggling

First Imagine RIT fest exceeded expectations

The “right brain” and “left brain” collided at RIT on May 3, and an estimated 17,000-20,000 people turned out to see it happen.

President Bill Destler has deemed the inaugural Imagine RIT: Innovation + Creativity Festival a rousing achievement.

“The festival was a success beyond my wildest expectations,” Destler says. “I was so proud of both the great turnout for the event and of the quality of creative and innovative work displayed by our faculty, staff and students. May 3, 2008, was, indeed, a great day for RIT.”

Student Government President Ed Wolf, who was an exhibitor at the festival, agrees. “There was definitely an electricity in the air. You could tell that a lot of people just didn’t know about all of these cool things that exist at RIT. The festival was a huge success.”



Visitors witnessed a robot that served hot dogs, a concrete canoe that floats and dozens of musical and theatrical performances. Children sampled ice cream produced by a liquid-nitrogen process, test drove Roomba Robots, stepped into a non-Newtonian fluid experiment made with cornstarch and water, or took a spin on a Ferris wheel.

It’s all happening again next year. The second Imagine RIT: Innovation and Creativity Festival will take place May 2, 2009.

Photos these pages by Ken Huth '88, A. Sue Weisler '93, fourth-year photography major Sarah White and ETC Photo.

WWeb extra: To view a slide show of the event, visit www.rit.edu/imagine. Visitors may add their own photos from the festival to the collection.



RIT’s Gordon Field House and Activities Center was transformed into the Xerox Wow! Center, where visitors explored exhibits from all of RIT’s colleges.



Clockwise from bottom left, this page: Youngsters learn about Swarm robots; more than 50 students prepared, printed and distributed multiple editions of a festival newspaper during the day; the “Fun with Fluids” exhibit proved irresistible to young visitors; Phi Sigma Pi fraternity presented Rube Goldberg devices; visitors walk through the “fringe” art gallery; hot glass demonstrations continued through the day.



This page, clockwise from above: Engineering students demonstrate a robotic hand; Formula SAE team unveils the 2008 racer; the automated hot dog dispenser was a crowd pleaser; visitors add personal touches to a painting-in-progress; the mobius trihedral kaleidoscope brought geometry into focus; a student shows the unique effects created by the fiery raku pottery technique.