Imagine RIT packed with discovery

Annual Innovation and Creativity Festival

For the third time, the RIT campus swung its doors open to the community as part of the Imagine RIT: Innovation and Creativity Festival. And more than 32,000 visitors turned out to discover what its students, faculty and staff were able to come up with this year. “It feels like we’re at Disney World,” one visitor was overheard saying. Eighty percent of the more than 300 interactive exhibits, demonstrations and live performances that spanned the campus on May 1 were new to this year’s festival. The Gordon Field House and Activities Center again served as the festival’s epicenter. And they exist on the RIT campus. “It was great to have so many community members, many of them K-12th grade students, join us and see all of the innovative and creative talents that exist on the RIT campus.”

Information about all of this year’s exhibits is available at www.rit.edu/imagine. The fourth Imagine RIT festival is scheduled for May 7, 2011.

Alumni Favorites

RIT’s Alumni Association Board of Directors awarded Innovation & Creativity prizes and cash awards to creators of their favorite exhibits.

• Online Course Exploration with RIT
• Tiger Laundry: A system that displays the status of campus laundry machines online, so students can determine how much time is left on any machine or the status of campus laundry machines. This exhibit received the Alumni Association President’s Special Recognition (no cash award).

1. The third annual Imagine RIT: Innovation and Creativity Festival drew more than 32,000 visitors to the RIT campus. Festival organizers made a concerted effort to draw more kindergarten-to-12th grade students this year.

2. The Virtual Theatre was a popular exhibit of cross-disciplinary collaboration. The Department of Computer Science and the School of Design demonstrated the use of motion capture technology for real-time control of 3-D characters on a virtual stage.

3. Kodak Quad morphed into a radio-controlled vehicle track delighting children throughout the festival. The exhibit was created by RIT’s RC Club. (Photo by A. Sue Weisler ’93)

4. Who needs a mouse? The Eye-Pad allowed visitors to interact with common applications like Web browsing, simple games and applications in Windows with the use of their eye gaze instead of a mouse or keyboard. (Photo by Max Schulte ’97)

5. Printing has evolved enormously throughout the years and festival visitors got to see just how far the industry has come. Using print-on-demand capabilities, each visitor was able to produce a poster they could customize and take home. (Photo by A. Sue Weisler ’93)

6. Fluids Are Fun, one of the most popular Imagine RIT exhibits during the first two festivals, returned for a third time. Visitors learned by experiencing various fluids phenomena. (Photo by Matt Wittmeyer)

7. A team from the Department of Electrical, Computer and Telecommunications Engineering Technology was one of the groups that competed in Dr.

8. Innovation Hall of Fame

Ten members of the extended RIT family were immortalized as members of the first class of inductors to the RIT Innovation Hall of Fame. To be eligible, inductees must be either alumni, faculty, staff or affiliates of RIT whose innovative works have impacted society.

• John Jacob Bausch and Henry C. Lomb established the largest optical company in the world, Bausch & Lomb, and co-founded the Mechanics Institute, predecessor to RIT.

• Chester F. Carlson developed electrophotography, which is the foundation of the worldwide copying industry. His invention was the foundation for Xerox Corp.

• Wendell Castle, an American furniture artist often credited with being the father of the art furniture movement, taught at RIT from 1969 and is now artist-in-residence.

• James J. DeCaro, director of the Rochester Educational Network International (PEN-International), a network of universities around the world that educate deaf students. He currently serves as interim president of RIT’s National Technical Institute for the Deaf.

• George Eastman, Eastman Kodak Co. founder and benefactor of the Mechanics Institute.

• Kate Gleason, business leader, inventor and the first woman member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers.

• John Resig ‘05, creator of the processing algorithms that have been used in virtually every Kodak digital camera. A professor in RIT’s College of Science.

• N. Katherine Hayles ’66 (chemistry), one of the country’s foremost authorities on digital media and literary theory that encompasses new technologies.

• John Resig ’05 (computer science), created jQuery, which revolutionized the way Java-Script is written.